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Through December 30, Catskill Mountain Foundation Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery, Friday-Sunday 10 AM-5 PM. Annual Holiday Exhibit “Home for the Holidays.” Local and regional fine art and crafts.

Saturday, December 7 12-5 PM, Greene County Council on the Arts, Catskill Gallery. Reception for “Handmade Holidays” and “Salon 2013,” affordably priced fine art and crafts by member artists. Magician & drop-in DIY earring workshop with Ellen Mahnken, part of A Day in December, Catskill’s village-wide Main Street holiday event with Santa, treats, caroling & shopping.

Friday-Sunday, December 13-15, 7:30 PM Friday & Saturday, 2:00 PM Sunday, Greene Room Players, Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center. The Greene Room Players present their annual holiday show, “Yo Ho Ho! A Pirate’s Christmas.”

Saturday, December 14, 1:00 PM-5:00 PM, Prattsville Art Center. Reception for “Made in Prattsville,” holiday installations and exhibition by mountaintop residents and NYC Artists in Residence.

Saturday, December 14, 1:30 PM, Catskill Mountain Foundation and Hunter Fire Department Company No. 1, Doctorow Center for the Arts. FREE holiday party featuring a showing of It’s a Wonderful Life, a visit from Santa & a Christmas light parade down Main Street at 4:30 pm.

Saturday, December 14, 3:30 PM, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Doctorow Center for the Arts. National Marionette Theatre presents “The Sleeping Beauty.” Told from the prince’s point of view, National Marionette Theatre’s newest production combines beautifully crafted marionettes with the timeless music from Tchaikovsky’s ballet.

Saturday, December 14 4-8 PM, Greene County Council on the Arts, Catskill Gallery. Open late with spiked cider & mulled wine for browsing “Handmade Holidays” and “Salon 2013,” affordably priced fine art & crafts by member artists, part of Catskill’s Second Saturday Stroll with over 30 Main Street locations lighting up with street with tastings, live music & special discounts.

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 PM, Doctorow Center for the Arts. A staged reading of Scrooge & Son: A Mountaintop Christmas Carol"

Friday-Saturday, December 27-28, Orpheum Academy of Dance, Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center. Participants in the Orpheum Academy of Dance’s Nutcracker workshop will perform “The Nutcracker” ballet in its entirety.

MAINLY GREENE IS A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH SUPPORT FROM GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS IN 2013 ARE:
THE ORPHEUM ACADEMY OF DANCE AND CREATIVE ARTS PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BALLET THE NUTCRACKER

By Garan Santicola

FRESH FROM THE CATSKILLS HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

By Tara Collins

“RECREATING” A VANISHED MOUNTAIN HAMLET: Research Reveals the Life of a Lost Community

By Steve Hoare

THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE CATSKILLS

By Jeff Senterman

BECOMING A CATSKILL 3500 CLUB MEMBER

By Carol and David White

DECEMBER AT THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

On the cover: The Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts will perform their annual holiday ballet, “The Nutcracker,” this December at the Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center in Tannersville. For more information about this performance, please see the article on page 6.

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THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN REGION GUIDE
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The Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts will put on their third annual performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Orpheum Film and Performing Arts Center in Tannersville, in two separate shows on Friday, December 27, and Saturday, December 28, on the weekend immediately following Christmas.

The Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts is run by husband and wife team Julia Vorobyeva and Konstantin Dournev, who are trained in the prestigious tradition of the Russian ballet. Konstantin toured as a principal dancer with the Novosibirsk Theater of Opera and Ballet, the Moscow Classical Ballet, and the Russian State Ballet and has performed at the Bolshoi Theater, the Mariinsky Theater, and the Vienna State Opera House. He was a guest star with the Russian Imperial Ballet under the direction of Maya Plisetskaya, and he won a silver medal at the Malika Sabirova International Ballet Competition in 1990 and a bronze medal at the Arabesque International Ballet Competition in 1992.

Julia has a Bachelor's Degree in Ballet Arts from the Bolshoi Academy, one of the oldest and most established schools for the study of classical ballet, and she has received much acclaim as a prima ballerina for performances in Giselle, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Macbeth, Spartacus, Romeo and Juliet, Sleeping Beauty, Allegro Brilliant, Conchettto Barocco, Sylvia Pas De Deux, Raymonda, and La Esmeralda.

In addition, Julia and Konstantin each hold a Master's degree of Ballet Teacher and Choreographer from the Russian Academy of Theatrical Arts, and Konstantin has choreographed classical productions of Macbeth, The Love and Death of Spartacus, La Esmeralda, The Nutcracker, Coppélia, and Swan Lake, and contemporary productions of The Neverending Story and Creation of the World. As instructors they specialize in choreographing performances that fit the abilities of their students, and Konstantin has arranged original choreography for the upcoming performance of *The Nutcracker*.

Piers Playfair, a major sponsor of the school, talks about their approach to mixing professionals alongside students in their performances: “The key to what they do is that they essentially give little kids the chance to dance with other professionals that come and visit as well as very high quality teenage ballet dancers who are probably training for competition. It’s quite an enchanting, quite energetic mix.”

Julia hopes *The Nutcracker* will raise awareness about their program and says, “We want local kids who are not involved in our school to come and see all our productions.” She highlights that there is something for everybody at their school, and they teach a wide variety of dance as evidenced by their performances. For instance, in this year’s *Nutcracker*, their son, who is a talented...
break-dancer, will blend traditional Russian dance into a break-dancing routine.

One of the unique aspects of the Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts is that they have sprung floors at the Orpheum Theater where they perform, as well as at their new studio across the street in a building renovated by the Hunter Foundation.

Julia talks about the importance of having sprung floors to practice and perform on and says it is a rare feature to find outside major ballet facilities. She and Konstantin danced for years with the New Jersey Ballet, and she says that even such a prestigious company would find themselves performing at times on inadequate flooring.

“It’s different for dancers,” she says. “It’s more dangerous. It’s hard and if you dance on that floor you feel like your legs are going to be in pain.”

Julia and Konstantin’s commitment to providing the highest quality facilities for dancers in the Catskills has caught the attention of some serious students from New York City. They recently opened a studio in Brooklyn and they now incorporate their students from the city into performances at the Orpheum.

Julia says, “In Brooklyn we have just one studio, not like this, just a little studio, and we have mostly Russian kids who take our classes and they really love it, and they were already here, and when they saw the place, they said, ‘Oh, if we had that place in Brooklyn, that would be great.’”

“What we have here is very exclusive,” she continues. “And that’s why we want to bring all our Brooklyn kids here. We already had that experience with our Halloween show, and they love to come here, they love this place, they love the theater, they love the studio. For The Nutcracker, all the families, not just one or two parents, but the families, they’re all going to come here.

They’ve already rented the space. They’re going to stay here for a few days because we have two performances and one rehearsal. So they’re going to spend a very good amount of time here because there will be snow and skiing and ice-skating, and they have all this time to be on stage and those kids love to be on stage.”

In their upcoming performance, Julia says they will display a broad range of talent, as a few professional dancers will be incorporated into major roles each night alongside 50 students who range in age from three years old all the way up to teenagers and adults.

Aside from Konstantin, who will join his students on stage, a different set of resident professional dancers will perform each night. The first night will feature Ekaterina Smurova, principal dancer for the New Jersey Ballet and a bronze medalist at this year’s Valentina Kozlova International Competition, and Otar Khelashvili, former principal dancer for the Georgia National Ballet of Eastern Europe and current principal dancer for ADACA. The second night will feature Oksana Maslova and Anton Kandaurov, principal dancers for the Connecticut Ballet.

The costumes and scenery are always of the highest quality, as they are supplied by Theater Ballet Premier, a company run by Julia and Konstantin, which imports handmade items for the ballet from Russia.

The Nutcracker remains one of the most enduring performances during the Christmas season. The Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts features the Russian version of this ballet, wherein the main characters take a more active role in their journey through a land of enchantment. It is the perfect show for this time of year as many seek diversion amid the winter-wonderland of the Catskill Mountains. The Nutcracker promises a timeless experience for all and a glimpse into the mission of two renowned dancers still making their mark on the ballet world.

The Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts presents

The Nutcracker

Friday & Saturday, December 27 & 28
7 pm both nights (Doors open at 6 pm)

Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center
6050 Main Street, Village of Tannersville

Tickets purchased ahead: $25 adults, $20 seniors, $7 students
At the door: $30 adults, $25 seniors, $7 students

For tickets: Visit www.catskillmtn.org, e-mail info@ADACAdance.com, or call 518 589 5999 or 518 263 2063

Visit the Orpheum Academy of Dance and Creative Arts at www.ADACAdance.com
On the heels of Small Business Saturday, holiday shoppers can continue purchasing local by choosing not-to-be-duplicated Fresh ideas, all raised, produced, made and created in the Catskills. Be it books or salsas, mittens or honey, baked goods or a party caterer using regionally sourced ingredients, you can find these (and more) with a quick look through the Fresh From the Catskills Holiday Gift Guide at purecatskills.com. Can’t find it online? Track it down at specialty retail outlets, farm stores and indoor holiday farmers’ markets.

Online Easy
To make gift-giving super simple, the folks at the Watershed Agricultural Council compiled the 2014 Fresh From the Catskills Holiday Gift Guide available online at purecatskills.com. “We’ve categorized our members’ products into 14 distinct gift groups,” says Pure Catskills Coordinator Kristan Morley. “If you know what you want, this list helps you find it. But if you’re not sure what you’re shopping for, the Holiday Gift Guide might just spark a few creative ideas from over 100 members.”

Know someone who just loves local beers? Places like Catskill Cellars (Downsville), Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard (Cooperstown) and Catskill Distilling Company (Bethel) offer an assortment of beers, wines, liquors and ciders made on premise or sourced from local brewmeisters. You can also find gifts guaranteed to inspire that “look of surprise” from Claryville Pottery, Dancing Star Studio (Margaretville) and Earthly Remedies by Erin (Richmondville).

Last year, the Pure Catskills Gift Pick for 2012 was Slickepott fudge and caramel sauces. This sweet treat found its way onto everything from pointer fingers to breakfast crepes. Available online or at local stores like Good Cheap Food (Delhi), a jar of Slickepott makes corporate gift-giving to secretaries, co-workers and bosses a cinch. Rarely does a jar last beyond New Year’s.

This year, the Pure Catskills Gift Pick is the handcrafted broom line from Catskills Broomworks (Bloomingburg). This is one gift no one will get two of, unless you choose to give a pair this year. Catskills Broomworks makes a broom for every price point and in a range of sizes. Go subtle with a pot scrubber or fly swatter, or be daring with exotic broom twists like turkey wing, hawk tail, and cob web. No two are alike and each is crafted from local materials when available.

Multiple Gifts, One Stop
You don’t have to drive all over creation to find what you’re looking for in the local genre. Markets specializing in homemade, regional and New York State products have simplified the search for gift ideas that stimulate the local economy. TheGreenSpace is a brick-and-mortar shop in the historic Rondout District of Kingston that offers high-quality foods and drinks produced in New York State. You’ll find everything from packaged goods like baking mixes, chips, and chocolate to specialty jams, jerky, and sauces. According to storeowner Craig Henkle, his interest in shopping small and buying local drove him to open the yearling retail store focused on shelf-stable New York products. “The idea for the store just kinda happened,” says Henkle. “I feature Pride of New York members and am adding Pure Catskills member products, too.” His most popular gifts include maple syrup, maple candies and hot sauces. “I stock over 50 flavors of
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hot sauce, every one of them made in New York.” Choose from Heartbreaking Dawn (Rosendale), Redhead Hot Sauce (NYC) or a Caribbean hot sauce made Hurley. Open daily from noon to 6 pm, TheGreenSpace preps holiday and hostess gift baskets, too. “No one likes to show up empty handed to a holiday party,” adds Henkle. “My favorite gift basket is one with extreme hot sauces called ‘The Gift From Hell.’” Get creative and compile your own hostess gift ensemble with tea samples from Harney & Sons Teas (Millerton), Divine Brine pickles (Kingston) and Cashewtopia made by Pure Catskills member Organic Nectars. Henkle is there to help. Other shops around the Catskills featuring local products include Callicoon Natural Foods, Mother Earth Store House (Kingston), Sunflower Natural Foods (Woodstock), and The Sheep’s Nest (Hobart). Pepacton Natural Foods (Roscoe) specializes too in grab-n-go gift baskets or gift boxes shipped safely to faraway places.

For the Voracious Reader

For those on your gift list watching their waistlines, satisfy their appetite for reading instead. Be it fiction or non, reflective or functional, you can’t go wrong with a gift bag stuffed with books, magazines, notecards and a mug and coffee from Java Love Roasting Co. Since the next best thing to eating is reading about eating, include the Farmstand Favorites Cookbook from Hatherleigh Press. Over 300 recipes help you navigate the “how to prepare” Catskills favorites like maple cheesecake. (See the recipe from Pure Catskills member Shaver-Hill Farm in the Dessert section on page 187.) Hatherleigh Press also features nonfiction books, like the recent release from local farmer Sylvia Jorrin, The Improbable Shepherd: More Stories from Sylvia’s Farm. A reflective collection about the wonders of farm life and operating one of the largest woman-owned livestock farms in the New York City Watershed, this book picks up where her first book, Sylvia’s Farm, left off. Together, these two books span nearly two decades of Jorrin’s rural experiences while sheep farming in Delaware County, a tale augmented with photos, artwork, and recipes. American history buffs will appreciate a copy of Burr, Clinton and the Falls of General Benjamin Hovey by Catskills forestry advocate, Karl Connell. This 194-page book “highlights the triumphs and falls of Vice Presidents Aaron Burr, George Clinton and a minuteman, Benjamin Hovey, as well as chronicling the land boom and canal mania that followed the Revolutionary War.” An easy read, this paperback looks back on a relatively obscure cast of characters who impacted New York’s early formation.

Also from the hodgepodge Catskills writers’ pool comes author Wendy Townsend of Callicoon. Townsend shares her love of nature and creatures of the wild in her books, The Sundown Rule and Lizard Love. Delaware County transplant Jim Mullen makes the stocking stuffer book list with his country-life inspired comedy embraced within Now in Paperback, Baby's First Tattoo and It Takes a Village Idiot. The collection of works by Writers in the Mountains Out of Our Minds gathers poetry, reflective essays and short stories compiled from nearly 60 aspiring local authors. And be sure to include a copy of the Catskill Mountain Region Guide, too, to top off your book-laden gift sack.

Direct From Your Farmer

Who can resist fresh foods straight from the farm? Make a quick stop at your neighboring farm for garland, wreaths, jams, jellies and chutneys. Grab a couple jars from Stone & Thistle Farm Store (East Meredith) while stocking up with a New Year’s Eve ham and The Day-After breakfast sausage. Team up those links with a Buck Hill Farm (Jefferson) pancake breakfast gift basket featuring farm-tapped maple syrup to round out New Year’s Day brunch. And it’s all about getting into the holiday spirit at Christmas on the Farm at Maple Shade Farm (Delhi) on December 14, where you can shop their market full of handmade items, local gifts, gift baskets, meats, cheese, syrup, baked goods and more.

You’ll also find farmers, artisans and producers huddling up at indoor and outdoor farmers’ markets this month. The Holiday Pop-Up Market at the Frank W. Cyr Center (Stamford) brings together local artisans and food products on December 19 from 2:30 to 6:30 pm (snow date on December 21). In addition to their storefronts in Delhi and Margaretville, the Catskill Mountains Artisans Guild hosts a Shop Local event at Belleayre Mountain (Highmount) on December 17 and 18. Farmers and crafters gather every Sunday in December from 11 am to 2 pm at the Sullivan County Farmers’ Market inside the Delaware Youth Center (Callicoon). In Otsego County, Oneonta Farmers’ Market moved indoors for country-style shopping on Saturdays in the Main Street Garage Walkway from 9 am to 1 pm. While on that side of the Catskills, visit Ideuma Creek Alpacas Holiday Store (Unadilla). Their shop stocks softer-than-soft mittens, hats and scarves the first three weekends in December; come meet the animals who supply the fleece for Ideuma’s knit products.

The Time-Crunch Default

If all else fails, go ahead and default to the gift certificate with a local twist. Restaurants like The Natural Contents Kitchen (Narrowsburg), Café Devine (Callicoon), Peekamoose Restaurant (Big Indian), Café on the Green (Delhi) and The Old Schoolhouse Inn & Restaurant (Downsville) are using local ingredients in the their menus. You know with a gift certificate, those you love will be eating well, compliments of you. Include a menu and map wrapped in a box with hand-stenciled wrapping paper, raffia and evergreen for a simply elegant presentation.

If “Fresh From the Catskills” is your M.O. this shopping season, add the “Made in New York” mantra to your holiday shopping list, too. Explore the many farms and small regional businesses offering handcrafted, raised and produced items hailing from the Catskills. Whether you shop Main Street or the Farm Fairway, gift dollars you’re spending give back to the communities where you hang your hat, coat and Christmas stocking. That’s the best gift of all!
Eastern New York State is fortunate to have vast tracts of near-wilderness, “forever wild” lands under the auspices of the state Department of Environmental Conservation or private preservation organizations. But anyone who has hiked these protected fields and forests knows they were not always “forever wild.” Stone walls receding into the forests even on some of the high peaks evidence boundary lines that separated farms. Foundations and abandoned stone-lined wells announce that people once lived there, and small, often stonewall-lined burial plots tell us that they died there, too. Rusty old farm equipment lies scattered in overgrown fields and within new-growth forests. Occasionally one finds remnants of old mills, dams, quarrying pits.

One can’t help but wonder, who lived there? How did they survive in that tough, isolated terrain? And what became of them?

Those are questions Bob Larsen started asking forty years ago when he became a ranger for the Mohonk Preserve, a privately administrated preserve open to the public in Ulster County’s Shawangunk Mountains. The preserve was carved from the once-vast domains of the famous Mohonk Mountain House, the last of the great 19th-century mountaintop hotels that were sprinkled throughout Ulster and Greene counties and made the region famous as a summer tourist destination.

One of Larsen’s early assignments at the preserve was to assist the surveyor in locating and marking over fifty miles of boundary lines, in the course of which Larsen came to know the region as intimately as anyone ever had. He came across cellar holes, abandoned wells, burying grounds, the foundations of a mill, and one remaining, dilapidated cabin (which has since been painstakingly restored). His curiosity aroused, he wondered, who were these people that once lived and died in this wild and beautiful place?

Thus began a forty-year journey that culminated this fall with the publication of his book, An Unforgiving Land: Hardscrabble Life in the Trapps, a Vanished Shawangunk Mountain Hamlet (Black Dome Press), coauthored by Robi Josephson. The authors pieced their history together from decades of research in libraries and archives up and down the Hudson Valley, and—most significantly of all—from interviews with the last generation to be born and raised in this now-vanished community.

It was known as The Trapps, named after the Trapps Gap, a cleft in the wall of the Shawangunk Ridge through which people could travel from the Wallkill Valley in the east, over the Shawangunks to the Rondout Valley in the west, a route traveled by early pioneers in the Hudson River Valley and by generations of Native Americans before them. The beginnings of the Trapps hamlet stem from shortly after the American Revolution when the seacoast-hugging new nation began its steady push westward. A pioneer settlement began to take hold and eventually grew into a hamlet of forty to fifty families who wrested a living from an unforgiving environment. Proud and independent, for generations they lived largely apart from the rapidly growing communities in the valley below, preserving “the old ways” of America’s first pioneers—scratching out a living by working their own subsistence farms and harvesting raw materials from the forest and earth.

In an age when a power outage can leave us helpless and vulnerable, it is hard to imagine living in a community where there is no power, where the “utilities” are a wood fire, a hand-dug well, and a water-powered mill. Where the food you eat is what you can raise yourself or gather from the fields and forests by hunting game and gathering nuts and berries. A cow or two and a few chickens provide milk, butter, cheese, eggs, and meat. Your only possessions are what you can make for yourself or purchase with the small amount of cash you can earn by shaving barrel hoops from tree saplings, cutting millstones from the mountains’ conglomerate rock and tan bark from hemlock trees, burning charcoal, logging, or harvesting the Shawangunks’ famous huckleberries.

Such was life in the Trapps, but with slight variations such was life everywhere in rural America until rapid industrializa-
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tion around the turn of the 20th century transformed the country from a rural nation to an urban one, while simultaneously bringing modernization to those who remained behind in even the most outlying rural regions.

Except for a few places like the Trapps, where few had electricity well into the 20th century and even fewer had a telephone or an automobile, where the children still attended a one-room schoolhouse but where there were otherwise no public services or institutions. All they had was their own skill for survival and their neighbor-helping-neighbor ethos.

For about 150 years the Trapps hamlet survived in its lonely mountain-top perch. The last resident moved out in 1950, and the forest gradually moved back in. Only a few vestiges of this tough and resilient community remain today. The rest has vanished along with the way of life that sustained it. The story of the Trapps mountain hamlet is a quintessential American story. As Glenn Hoagland, Executive Director for the Mohonk Preserve, wrote in his foreword to the book, life in the Trapps was a struggle from dawn to dusk and existence was, “dangling, uncertain, yet everyone had work to do and did it on his or her own terms while living and breathing the mountain’s free spirit.”

In recognition of both its uniqueness and its iconography as a pioneer American rural community, the Trapps mountain hamlet was singled out for placement on the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places. It is the first vanished, hardscrabble community to be so-honored, and An Unforgiving Land is its story.

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- First Floor: Open floor plan w/modern ss kitchen, full dining room, living room with wood burning stove, sunroom, huge master bedroom with Jacuzzi and steam shower and access to deck with hot tub. Additional bedroom & bath.
- Upper Level: Bridge overlooks living room. Sweeping oak staircase leads to two bedrooms, loft, bath, entry to huge bonus room above the three car garage.

Property: 180 acres includes house (on 40 acres) small barn, fully equipped cabin, trails for hiking or snowmobiling through woods, pond, fields, views. Excellent hunting. Year-round town maintained private road. Adjacent additional 75 acres of woods & farmed fields.

Town: Stamford, NY. Award-winning school district, village shops, restaurants, community pool & theater. 5 minutes to challenging 18 hole par 72 golf course.

Contact Owner for pricing options: (518) 947-4400 or email: mountaintophome@aol.com
As the year comes to an end, it is a good time to think back on the great adventures you have had in the past year in the Catskill Mountains and all of the hard work that has gone into making your experience more enjoyable. Hundreds of volunteers spend thousands of hours every year maintaining, building and protecting the trails and open space of the Catskill Park. These hardworking volunteers partner with land managers such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and many smaller landowners who open their lands to public recreation.

December can also be a great time to get out and enjoy the forests and mountains of the Catskills. Be aware of the ongoing hunting seasons and be careful, but get out and enjoy yourself. The deep winter snows generally have yet to set in and the woods is quiet and waiting for its winter blanket. There are opportunities to hike and explore and new vistas open up from the trails without any leaves on the trees.

Wrapping up the 2013 Trail Work Season in the Catskill Mountains!

2013 turned out to be a very busy year for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, our partners and the trails of the Catskill Region. New trails have been opened, trail crews have continued to build completely new trails, bridges have gone up, new maps and brochures are now available and all that’s just the tip of the iceberg. Here are some of the accomplishments over the last year that the Trail Conference is celebrating for 2013:

• The Kaaterskill Rail Trail (KRT) Committee opened the first phase of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail on National Trails Day this year. This project was supported by the Trail Conference through staff time, volunteer labor and materials that were purchased with funding from our Catskills Community Trails Fund. Dozens of volunteers helped clear, build and open the trail and then over 100 people joined in on the opening celebrations. The KRT has become an incredibly popular route following its opening and the Trail Conference and KRT Committee are working to fund Phase 2 which will connect the KRT directly to the trail system of the North-South Lake State Campground.

• The Trail Conference has been managing the continued construction of 9 ½ miles of new backcountry hiking trail between the Village of Phoenicia and the Burroughs Range Trail (Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail). Work this year has included technical rockwork to create a sustainable and enjoyable trail experience. The Trail Conference’s crew’s logistics have been managed by both volunteers and staff and through funding with the Catskill Community Trails Fund. The expected grand opening celebration for this new section of the Long Path will be on the 2014 National
Trails Day in June. The finished trail will provide a direct backcountry hiking connection between the Phoenicia and the trails of the Slide Mountain Wilderness. It will also remove about 7 ½ miles of the Long Path from its current route along roadways.

• Following the removal of the damaged original, the Trail Conference spearheaded construction of a 30-foot replica king post bridge for the Long Path in the Catskill Center's Platte Clove Preserve. 18 volunteers in a single day constructed the bridge, keeping opening a key connection for the Long Path through the Catskill Mountains. Funding for the bridge and the management time came from our Catskills Community Trails Fund.

• The Trail Conference launched five new brochures and maps for the restored Fire Towers of the Catskill Park. These brochures have become great tools for the thousands of visitors to the Catskills who climb to the five fire towers for their vistas. These brochures are distributed by Fire Tower volunteers, local communities and businesses and by other organizations promoting recreation in the Catskills. You can download your own copies of the brochures and maps at www.nynjtc.org/news/catskill-fire-tower-brochures.

• As one of the three co-sponsoring organizations, the Trail Conference took part in the 2013 Lark in the Park which was the biggest and best Lark in the Park event so far!

• The Trail Conference held a volunteer appreciation picnic for trail and lean-to volunteers in the Catskill Region, including volunteers from the Trail Conference, the Catskill 3500 Club, the Catskill Mountain Club and several other organizations who work in the region.

• The Trail Conference is co-chair of the Catskill Park Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Preserve Advisory Committee (which the Trail Conference is also a voting member). The committee discusses and works on issues related to the Catskill Park and the Catskill Mountain Region. Significant progress has been on several fronts including advocating for additional DEC resources, new ways to work on Unit Management Plan updates and how to utilize volunteers in areas where DEC has not had the resources to do work. It’s also become a great forum for communities to better understand how they can connect and use the forest preserve as an economic driver.

• The Trail Conference, along with the Catskill Center, the Catskill Mountain Club and local business owners took part in the first Catskill Park Awareness Day. The ongoing goal of the Catskill Park Awareness Day is to educate New York State Legislators on the importance of the Catskill Park recreational resources to the economic wellbeing of the region and for the Legislature to support the Park.

• As a member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Catskill Park Interpretive Center, the Trail Conference and all partners are very excited that by the end of 2014, the Catskill Interpretive Center will be constructed and open. The Interpretive Center will become a focus for tourism, visitors and information on the park, the outdoors, recreation and more. The Trail Conference will be helping to staff the center and is currently designing and building an interpretive trail network and bridge for the site.

• Due to the generosity of REI, the Trail Conference has been able to expand our Lean-to Maintenance Program. For more information on the program, please visit www.nynjtc.org/catskill-lean-tos.
All of these amazing accomplishments throughout the Catskill Region are thanks to the Trail Conference’s volunteers, members and supporters. If you are interested in supporting the Catskill Community Trails Program, please visit www.nynjtc.org/product/donate-catskills-trail-program and make a donation today. Your gift goes directly to the trails and the programs of the Catskill Mountains!

Be Aware of Hunting Season in the Catskill Mountains

Hunting is allowed on most Forest Preserve lands of the Catskill Park and rifle season for deer hunting runs through December 9. For details about hunting seasons, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains a website at http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/65231.html.

Hikers should always be aware of the hunting regulations in the area they are hiking and should wear blaze orange, even when hiking in areas where hunting is not allowed. Don’t forget your pets either! Dogs should have a blaze orange vest too!

Help Maintain Vistas in the Catskills with Photos!

The Trail Conference is working with the DEC to create a new crew that would work on maintaining vistas along trails in the Catskill Park. As part of this effort, the Trail Conference is looking for historical photos from viewpoints along the trails of the Catskill Park. If you have a photo, please send the photo along with location and date information to catskills@nynjtc.org and the Trail Conference and the DEC will use that to help determine the maintenance that could be completed in the future.

Join the Catskill 3500 Club’s Winter Weekend January 24-26!

Spend some time this January winter hiking with the Catskill 3500 Club! Do you want to climb a peak in the winter? Do you want to get more comfortable with snowshoeing? All four required winter peaks for 3500 Club membership, as well as some bushwhacks will be led by experienced hike leaders so you can pack in two fun-filled days in the outdoors and spend a great weekend in the beautiful Catskill Mountains.

As last year’s weekend was so popular, the group will once again be at the Frost Valley YMCA—a great setting not only for hiking, but also for cross-country skiing. There are three housing options available: the Friendship House, which is inn-like housing, rooms with double beds and private baths; the Castle, which has private rooms but shared baths; and Biscuit Brook Lodge, a large cabin with bunks and configurations of four or six beds to a room. It has a central meeting space with a fireplace (perfect after a day of playing in the snow!). Please contact Maria Bedo at 917 881 9272 or at winterweekend@catskill-3500-club.org for more information or if you’d like to attend. This event is sponsored by the Catskill 3500 Club and is open to the public.

Take a Hike!

If you are looking to get out on the trails, but need some help to get your bearings on Catskill Mountain trails, the region has several different groups that lead guided hikes. The Catskill Mountain Club (CMC) offers members and non-members the opportunity to go hiking, paddling, biking and skiing throughout the Catskills. More information on the CMC and schedules of their activities can be found at www.catskillmountainclub.org. The Catskill 3500 Club leads hikes up the 35 peaks in the Catskills that reach above 3500 feet in elevation. Visit the 3500 Club’s website at www.catskill-3500-club.org for information on their activities. The Rip Van Winkle Hikers also lead hikes throughout the region and you can find out more information about the club check out their website at www.newyorkheritage.com/rvw.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in learning more about hiking the Catskill Mountains, getting outdoors, joining a trail crew, adopting a trail for maintenance, or just finding out more information about stewardship of our recreational facilities in the Catskill Mountains, please contact the Trail Conference at 518 628 4243 or via e-mail at catskills@nynjtc.org.

Jeff Senterman was formerly an Assistant Forest Ranger for the DEC in Greene County, graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College, has worked in the Environmental Planning field, is currently the Catskill Region Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Catskill Mountain Club and the Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference partners with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of 2,000 miles of public trails, including 29 lean-tos and over 200 miles of trails in the Catskill Mountain region. We offer volunteer opportunities for people who love the outdoors, as well as publishing detailed hiking maps for the Catskill Mountain Region, along with a number of other regions. For more information on our maps and our Catskill Community Trails program please visit us on the web at www.nynjtc.org/catskills and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYNJTC.Catskill-Region.
The Greene Room Players present their annual holiday show

**Yo Ho Ho!**

A Pirate’s Christmas

Directed by Linda Nicholls

“Yo Ho Ho A Pirate’s Christmas” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

“Yo Ho Ho A Pirate’s Christmas” Book by James J. Mellon

Music and lyrics by James J. Mellon and Scott De Turk

What will happen when Santa Claus and the citizens of North Pole are kidnapped by a zany group of hilarious pirates? It’s up to a little girl named Eve to save Christmas for everyone! Black Eyed Johnny and his faithful sidekick, Tusk, will have you laughing hysterically when they encounter Mrs. Claus, Santa and their family of elves.

“A hidden treasure with something appealing for every age group. This is one family show that you won’t want to miss!” —Los Angeles Chronicle

Tickets: $25 adults; $20 seniors (65 & older); $15 students (18 & under)

Available at www.catskillmtn.org

Thanks to the Catskill Mountain Foundation, Town of Hunter, All Souls’ Church, and FOTO for their support.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DECEMBER 13-14, 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2:00 PM
ORPHEUM FILM & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
6050 MAIN STREET, VILLAGE OF TANNERSVILLE

TICKETS: $25 ADULTS; $20 SENIORS (65 & OLDER);
$15 STUDENTS (18 & UNDER)
AVAILABLE AT WWW.CATSKILLMTN.ORG

The Catskill Mountain Foundation presents Sleeping Beauty

National Marionette Theatre

A Weekend of Holiday Fun for the Whole Family

December 13-15, 2013

Villages of Hunter and Tannersville

The Catskill Mountain Foundation and Hunter Fire Department Company No. 1 present

**CHRISTMAS PARADE AND PARTY**

Saturday, December 14, 2013

1:30-4:30 pm

Please join us for a FREE Holiday Family Festival!

° Screening of It’s a Wonderful Life
° A Visit from Santa
° Refreshments

At 4:30: Christmas parade through the Village of Hunter, with Santa and Mrs. Claus, & a Christmas light parade

at Mountain Cinema • Doctorow Center for the Arts
7971 Main Street, Route 23A, Village of Hunter
518-263-2050 • www.catskillmtn.org

This concert is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts’ Presenting Program and REDC initiative with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Funding is also provided by the Greene County Legislature through the Cultural Fund administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts, and by the Samuel and Esther Doctorow Fund for Children.

Saturday, December 14, 3:30 pm

Doctorow Center for the Arts
7971 Main St., Village of Hunter

Tickets Purchased Ahead:

$10; $7 children under 12

Tickets Purchased At Door:

$12; $7 children under 12

Tickets: 518 263 2063 or www.catskillmtn.org
The Catskill 3500 Club now has over 2200 members and 870 of those are winter members, meaning that they have climbed the thirty-five peaks exceeding 3500 feet in elevation in calendar winter, December 21 through March 21. In the February and March 2012 Guide magazines, we recounted four of our first winter hikes, and you can read these stories at www.catskillmtn.org/guide-magazine/index.html. “Coldest Days Hiking the Catskill 35 Highest Peaks” recounts how Carol hung like a slab of meat in the butcher’s freezer from a cliff on 3,980-foot Black Dome. “Bitten by Jack Frost” describes a mountain climb beginning at minus 16°, and also describes our first bushwhack to a trailless peak during a mid-winter thaw that softened the snow, miring each step knee-deep even with snowshoes. Overnight the temperature plummeted, freezing the snow surface into virtual ice, so that nothing about the deep snow experience prepared us for the next day’s climb to Sugarloaf Mountain—

Reaching the Devil’s Path, with only 1.3 miles to Sugarloaf’s summit, how much trouble can we have? Soon, a lone man is coming down the trail.

“Hi, how’s the trail?” Dave asks.

“I left my buddies up a way,” he replies. “I’m comin’ down today, the trail is hard going.” Well, his buddies are going up. As we ascend, the snow surface becomes a hard glaze and the tracks of the men are barely discernible. It is nearly impossible to get a foothold, even with crampons on our snowshoes.¹ Ski poles do not dent the icy surface. Rounding a bend, we see two men descending.

“We saw your friend down below,” Dave opens.

“We’re packin’ it in, too,” one says. “It’s bad up there! My toes are getting sore knocking in footholds—areas up there are impassable.”

“Let’s at least go up as far as they did and look it over,” Dave replies encouragingly. “I can kick in steps for you to follow.”

He doesn’t believe the guys. “But if these three men give up, probably we should.”

“C’mon, we can always turn back,” Dave says nicely. Where have I heard that before? Resigned, I follow him up—turning back isn’t done lightly. The slight track ends and I look up at a

¹ Ski poles do not dent the icy surface.
near vertical rise ahead, where they must have turned around. I look below and see the hard-glazed snow steeply falling away, a few large trees the only features.

“I’m not going up—if we lose our footing there’s no way to stop ourselves. We’re looking at a dangerous situation here and I’m absolutely going back!” I assert in my most positive tone.

“I don’t think it’s all that bad,” Dave responds. “You can see where it ends up there, and I’ll dig in good steps all the way up to it.”

“It’ll take a long time to do it, and who knows how many more cliffs there are?” I argue strenuously. “And how do we safely get down here?”

“We’ve come up most of the way; part of the trail is level along the top. If we can maneuver this part safely, and we can, we can make it!” Dave insists. “And we just come down our steps backward.”

I can’t believe I’m going to go along with this. “Well, I’ll see whether you can make totally secure steps,” I growl. “Look how far we’d slide if we lose control and how fast we’d be going.” I counter in a last futile attempt to dissuade Dave. “We could hit a tree and be injured or killed!”

He begins digging out the first step, at first trying to kick into the hard, icy surface, and then taking off his pack and with his ski pole, gouging it out and flattening it with his boot. Many minutes pass as he laboriously gouges out level steps sizeable enough to accommodate his boots, and he eventually gets to the top of the cliff, descends and gets his pack.

“Oh, okay, these steps are really level and deep into the snow. I’ll go up and be right here if you need my hand,” he says, always confident and so sweet about my squeamishness that I hate to disappoint him by turning back. But I’m frightened, having had plenty of time as he constructed this icy stairway to imagine terrible possibilities on this hike. After all, Dave can only do so much. I have to walk the walk, as they say.

“I’m going to leave my pack here, okay?”

“That’s fine; we’ll be back here soon,” Dave agrees. I grasp a rock ledge to steady myself for the first couple of steps and wait to regain courage as I see the vertical stretch above with no trees or rocks. Dave hovers atop the daunting pitch.

“C’mon, it’s really alright,” he calls down encouragingly. I crawl up on all fours, leaving useless ski poles below, and he
reaches out his hand to pull me onto the top of the cliff. It is indeed the last dangerous ascent! We exalt as we hike quickly through the hemlock forest on now level trail—we are going to summit Sugarloaf today. But the bright morning sun has given way to clouds and views aren’t exquisite any more as we stand on the summit ledge. It is 3:00 pm; it has taken hours to climb, and night falls early in January.

“We can’t stay long,” I warn, alarmed. We must get down the steepest sections and reach the col by dusk. Quickly eating a very late lunch, we hurry off the summit. Dave takes the lead at the vertical steps, going down backwards, facing the snow. I turn around and put a foot into the first step; Dave holds the back of my boot. Very slowly and carefully, we descend. At the bottom of the icy stairs is a tense moment, having to turn around on the slippery steeply-sloped surface. Just by dark we are back at the trailhead.

Some of our adventures are comical. Having driven four miles on Spruceton Road to access the Devil’s Path to Southwest Hunter—a labyrinthine trailless peak described in a story titled “Lost” in Catskill Peak Experiences—we are stopped by a large downed tree across the entire road. A beaver has eaten through the trunk and the tree is resting like a seesaw on a steep snowbank. “Let’s break off branches,” Dave strategizes. “We’ll lighten it enough to push it over the snowbank.” After much sweaty labor, the plan works; the tree rises off the road like a railroad crossing gate. Someone has broken trail up Southwest Hunter, improving our chances of finding the elusive canister. Southwest Hunter took us four attempts to summit in summer! The tracks did lead to the canister, and we enjoy the sight of a porcupine at the top of a tree as we eat lunch. Nearby 4,040-foot Hunter Mountain is a winter delight. Trees are so completely covered with snow that no evergreen shows at all, just great shapely mounds blanketed with the fluffy stuff, creating a magical snow tunnel.

By March, ole man winter becomes almost welcoming; temperatures moderate and it’s light much longer. Pushing through evergreen on Table Mountain, though, we realize that we’re hiking through the upper branches of trees—on top of several feet of snow that have accumulated all winter. Sliding down through rock outcrops in open woods on nearby Peekamoose Mountain, the greatest elevation change in the Catskills at 2,623 feet, it’s one of the best descents yet. In this group hike, a young man covers twice as much territory as the rest of us, cavorting like a puppy up and down and exploring off into the woods.

Winter hiking has many rewards—excessive bodily heat generated on a mountain hike isn’t a problem. Rocky footing, roots, blowdown, and thick scrub can be covered with snow. New vistas are available through bare trees. Sunny, calm days can be downright warm; always check local weather before a hike. Drawbacks in winter include minimal ability to relax on summits or even to eat adequately, because extremities get cold quickly. Days are too short. Your pack must include everything to survive because hypothermia always lurks in the background. Avoid cotton, which clings coldly and does not dry; pack extra socks, mittens, hat, space blanket or sleeping bag, extra quick energy food and plenty of water. Crampons, snowshoes with crampons, and Microspikes are essential; Stabilicers are useful for in-between seasons.

In future articles we’ll recount other difficulties, but from all we learned and loved during our Catskill Mountain winters, we went on to climb the Adirondack 46 in winter and New Hampshire’s 48 high peaks also in winter.

¹ Our original snowshoes had inadequate serrated crampons; now we have good claws.

² Canisters with a notebook are on summits of 13 high peaks; climbers sign in, note the climb date on a climbing chart, and send the completed chart to Dave, Catskill 3500 Club membership chairman.

³ Visit HikeSafe.com

Carol and David White are authors of Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons (Adirondack Mountain Club, 2002) and editors of Catskill Trails, 4th edition: Volume 8 (Forest Preserve Series, Adirondack Mountain Club, August 2013). Catskill Trails is packaged with the new National Geographic Society Catskill Park Trails Illustrated Map #755, which they helped create in 2011. Carol is editor of Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club (Black Dome Press, 2008). Signed copies of all of these books are available at the Village Square Bookstore and Literary Arts Center in Hunter, NY. Carol’s new book, Peak Experiences: Danger, Death, andDar- ing in the Mountains of the Northeast (University Press of New England) is now available for purchase in bookstores and online. Two accounts are about the Catskills.
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A MOUNTAINTOP CHRISTMAS CAROL

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ADMISSION - A MERE $10!!
MUSIC!! LAUGHTER!! DANCES!! TEARS!! CAROLS!!
★ AFTER-PARTY AT THE PIANO MUSEUM ★
**WADJDA**  
**(RATED PG, 97 MINUTES)**  
**DIRECTED BY HAIFAA AL MANSOUR**  
Wadjda is a 10-year-old girl living in a suburb of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. After a fight with her friend Abdullah, Wadjda sees a beautiful green bicycle for sale. She wants the bicycle desperately so that she can beat Abdullah in a race. But Wadjda's mother won't allow it, fearing repercussions from a society that sees bicycles as dangerous to a girl's virtue. So Wadjda decides to try and raise the money herself, by trying to win a Koran recitation competition at her school.  
12/6-12/8. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15  
“Not only is this a deftly crafted and superbly acted film, but Wadjda sheds a powerful light on what women face, starting in childhood, in an oppressive regime.”  
—Claudia Puig, USA Today

**THE SPECTACULAR NOW**  
**(RATED R, 95 MINUTES)**  
**DIRECTED BY JAMES PONSOLDT**  
With sly humor and an intensity of feeling, *The Spectacular Now* creates a vivid, three-dimensional portrait of youth confronting the funny, thrilling and perilous business of modern love and adulthood. This is the tale of Sutter Keely, a high school senior and effortless charmer, and of how he unexpectedly falls in love with “good girl” Aimee Finecky. What starts as an unlikely romance becomes a sharp-eyed, straight-up snapshot of the heady confusion and haunting passion of youth—one that doesn't look for tidy truths.  
12/13-12/15. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15  
“The best American movie of the year so far.”  
—Richard Roeper, The Chicago Sun-Times
IN A WORLD...
(RATED R, 93 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY LAKE BELL
Lake Bell (Children’s Hospital) stars in In a World..., a hilarious romantic comedy about a struggling vocal coach who strikes it big in the cutthroat world of movie-trailer voiceovers, only to find herself in direct competition with the industry’s reigning king—her father. Written and directed by Bell, In a World... won the Sundance 2013 Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award for the script. 12/20-12/26. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15; Monday 7:15; Tuesday 7:15; Thursday 7:15

“A clever, likable comedy that sends up sexism, satirizes Hollywood, examines family ties and features a surprisingly tender romance at its core.”
—Claudia Puig, USA Today

DEAR MR. WATTERSON
(UNRATED, 89 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY JOEL ALLEN SCHROEDER
Calvin & Hobbes dominated the comics in thousands of newspapers for over 10 years, having a profound effect on millions of readers across the globe. When the strip’s creator, Bill Watterson, retired the strip on New Year’s Eve in 1995, devoted readers everywhere felt the void left by the departure of Calvin, Hobbes, and Watterson’s other cast of characters. It has now been more than a decade since the end of the Calvin & Hobbes era. Bill Watterson has kept an extremely low profile during this time, living a very private life outside of Cleveland. This film is an exploration to discover why his ‘simple’ comic strip made such an impact on so many readers in the ‘80s and ‘90s, and why it still means so much to us today. 12/27-1/2. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15; Monday 7:15; Tuesday 7:15; Thursday 7:15

“Schroeder tracks the end of innocence in much the same way that the strip captured it each time out.”
—Eric Kohn, IndieWIRE

INEQUALITY FOR ALL
(RATED PG, 85 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY JACOB KORNBLUTH
A passionate argument on behalf of the middle class, Inequality for All features Robert Reich—professor, best-selling author, and Clinton cabinet member—as he demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy. The film is an intimate portrait of a man whose lifelong goal remains protecting those who are unable to protect themselves. Through his singular perspective, Reich explains how the massive consolidation of wealth by a precious few threatens the viability of the American workforce and the foundation of democracy itself. In this Inconvenient Truth for the economy, Reich uses humor and a wide array of facts to explain how the issue of economic inequality affects each and every one of us. 1/3-1/5. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 4:15 & 7:15

“Enlightening, entertaining and seriously alarming.”
—Tom Long, Detroit News

JOFFREY: MAVERICKS OF AMERICAN DANCE
(UNRATED, 90 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY BOB HERCULES
Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance takes a look at the Joffrey Ballet, the groundbreaking cultural treasure known as the first truly American dance company. Narrated by Tony® and Emmy® Award winner Mandy Patinkin, the film documents how the Joffrey revolutionized American ballet by daringly combining modern dance with traditional ballet technique, combining art with social statement and setting ballets to pop and rock music scores. The film features rare excerpts from many seminal Joffrey works including Astarte, Trinity and Billboards. 1/5. Sunday 2:15

“Hosannas and hallelujahs for the new documentary on the Joffrey Ballet!”
—Dance Magazine

Ticket Prices:
$9 / $7 seniors & children under 11

Film schedule subject to change, please call ahead to confirm:
518 263 4702 (recorded messages)
or visit www.catskillmtn.org.
FROZEN
(RATED PG, 108 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY CHRIS BUCK, JENNIFER LEE
Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions, and a hilarious snowman named Olaf in a race to find Anna’s sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter. 12/6-12/13. Friday 7:00; Saturday 4:00 & 7:00; Sunday 2:00, 4:00 & 7:00

“As far as animated movies go, it doesn’t get that much better than Frozen. It’s a new Disney classic.”
—Drew Taylor, The Playlist

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
(RATED PG-13, 146 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY FRANCIS LAWRENCE
Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark become targets of the Capitol after their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem. 12/6-12/8. Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:30 & 7:30; Sunday 2:30 & 7:30

“Catching Fire is a monumental achievement, a massively entertaining crowd-pleaser that is thought-provoking and personally inspiring in all of the ways that it aspires to be.”
—The Playlist

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG
DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON
The dwarves, along with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey, continue their quest to reclaim Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug. Bilbo Baggins is in possession of a mysterious and magical ring. 12/13-1/2.
CHECK WWW.CATSKILLMTN.ORG FOR SHOWTIMES

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Films change every other week: please visit www.catskillmtn.org or call 518 263 4702 for the most up-to-date schedule.
**OPERA & BALLET IN CINEMA**

**Tickets only $12.50!**

**OPERA IN CINEMA**

**NABUCCO**
*TEATRO ALLA SCALA*
Sunday, December 8 at 2:15 pm  
CONDUCTED by Nicola Luisotti  
DIRECTED by Daniele Abbado  
CHOREOGRAPHED by Simona Bucci  
STARRING Leo Nucci, Liudmila Monastyrska, Aleksandrs Antonenko, and Vitali Kowaljow

**RIGOLETTO**  
*TEATRO ANTICO DI TAORMINA*
Sunday, December 15 at 2:15 pm  
CONDUCTED by Gianluigi Martinenghi  
DIRECTED by Enrico Castiglione  
STARRING Carlos Almaguer, Gianluca Terranova, Rocio Ignacio, and Gianfranco Montresor

**DON CARLO**  
*TEATRO ALLA SCALA*
Sunday, December 29 at 2:15 pm  
CONDUCTED by Daniele Gatti  
DIRECTED by Stéphane Braunschweig  
STARRING Ferruccio Furlanetto, Stuart Neill, Dalibor Jenis, Anatolij Kotscherga, Fiorenza Cedolins, and Dolora Zajick

**BALLET IN CINEMA**

**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**  
*BOLSHOI BALLET*
Sunday, December 22 at 2:15 pm  
CHOREOGRAPHED by Yuri Grigorovich (1973)  
after Marius Petipa  
STARRING David Hallberg and Svetlana Zakharova

**DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter  
Schedule subject to change. Please visit www.catskillmtn.org or call 518 263 4702 for the most up-to-date schedule.

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**CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION PIANO PERFORMANCE MUSEUM**

*Featuring the Steven E. Greenstein Collection*

Rediscover this extraordinary collection and its new positioning as a major venue for performance, music education and historical insights.

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When a small group of compassionate citizens came together some years ago, their purpose was quite simple: to enrich life on the mountaintop. This progressive group of second homeowners, soon to become the Windham Chapter, has taken many small steps to make great strides in our community. As a division of the Catskill Mountain Foundation, the Windham Chapter is committed to supporting projects in the arts, education, and recreation.

Their impact has been felt on many levels; from the very public to the intensely personal: radio and emergency equipment for local firefighters, medical care for families, band uniforms for WAJ students and college scholarships for deserving graduates. This group saw a need and made a commitment to help fill it. Since 2003, the Windham Chapter has awarded nearly two million dollars to local non-profit organizations.

Some people want things to happen, some people wish things to happen... The Windham Chapter makes things happen.

The Windham Chapter is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, governed by an all-volunteer board.

Windham Chapter • P.O. Box 600 • Windham, NY 12496  
www.windhamchapter.com
### DECEMBER 2013 MOVIES & EVENTS AT A GLANCE

**Films subject to change: please call 518 263 4702 or visit www.catskillmtn.org for the most up-to-date schedule. While there, sign up for e-mail updates so you can get the newest schedule delivered to your e-mail box each week!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CINEMAS 1 &amp; 3 - HOLLYWOOD FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW</th>
<th>CINEMA 2 - FOREIGN AND INDEPENDENT FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW</th>
<th>ORPHEUM - HOLLYWOOD FILMS AT THE ORPHEUM</th>
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<tr>
<td>M DEC 2</td>
<td>FROZEN 7:00 PM</td>
<td>THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE 7:30 PM</td>
<td>HAPPY HANUKKAH!</td>
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<td>W DEC 11</td>
<td>COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PARTY &amp; PARADE 1:30 PM</td>
<td>NATIONAL MARIONETTE THEATER: SLEEPING BEAUTY 3:30 PM</td>
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Sizzle in the Snow:  
Chris Washburne and SYOTOS  
Saturday, February 15, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Blues Hall of Fame Concert  
With Professor Louie & The Crowmatix  
Saturday, March 1, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

ZviDance  
Saturday, April 26, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Rakonto: A Sounding of Community Voices  
With Composer and Pianist Daniel Kelly  
Saturday May 17, 8:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

One Hour, Two Works: An Evening of Dance with Heidi Latsky Dance Company  
Saturday, June 7, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Catskill Jazz Factory Fourth of July Independence Day Jazz Concert  
Saturday, July 5, 4:00 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Japanese Taiko Drum Concert: OMNY Taiko  
Saturday, July 5, 7:00 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

National Dance Institute  
Summer Residency Performance  
Saturday, July 26, 7:00 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Manhattan in the Mountains  
“Masters at Play: From Classics to Jazz”  
Works by Gershwin, Earl Wilde, Milhaud, and Joplin  
Friday, August 1, 8:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Concerts & Conversations:  
Harpsichordist and Fortepianist  
Kenneth Cooper  
Saturday, August 2, 8:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Concerts & Conversations:  
Catskill Jazz Factory: The Anatomy of Jazz  
Thursday, August 7, 6:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Concerts & Conversations:  
Catskill Jazz Factory: Jazz Masters Concert  
Friday, August 8, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Concerts & Conversations:  
Catskill Jazz Factory: Live at the Orpheum  
Saturday, August 9, 7:30 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Concerts & Conversations:  
Catskill High Peaks Festival:  
Music with Altitute!  
“The Grand Italian Tour: Years of Pilgrimage” Works by Scarlatti, Boccherini, Rossini, Paganini, Verdi and Liszt  
Sunday, August 10, 2:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Concerts & Conversations:  
Catskill High Peaks Festival:  
Music with Altitute!  
“The Grand Italian Tour: Souvenir de Florence” Works by Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Valentini, Boccherini and Vivaldi  
Sunday, August 17, 2:00 pm  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Catskill Jazz Factory:  
Masters on the Mountaintop  
Saturday, October 11, 8:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra  
Robert Manno, conductor  
Music of Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart & Haydn  
Saturday, November 29, 8:00 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

National Marionette Theater:  
Beauty and the Beast  
Saturday, December 13, 3:30 pm  
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Performance Spaces  
Doctorow Center for the Arts  
7971 Main Street  
Village of Hunter  
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center  
6050 Main Street  
Village of Tannersville

Catskill Mountain Foundation is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the Greene County Legislature through the County Initiative Program administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts, by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, by Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO), by the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation, by Ulster Savings Bank, by Stewarts Shops, and by private donations.
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