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  • is the home of the Piano Performance Museum, a rare collection of playable pianos going back to the time of Mozart and Beethoven.
  • publishes the monthly Guide magazine, with a circulation of 7,000 each month, distributed throughout the Catskill Region and at New York State Thruway rest stops.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 THE ARTS

8 SCROOGE & SON: A CATSKILLS CHRISTMAS CAROL
   By Jim Milton

10 THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE CATSKILLS
   By Jeff Senterman

15 THE BEAR FACTS
   By Carol & David White

19 DECEMBER AT THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

On the cover: “Frozen in Time,” by Audrey Jurutka

4 THE ARTS

8 SCROOGE & SON: A CATSKILLS CHRISTMAS CAROL
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THE ARTS

Windham Chamber Music Festival 2015 Season Opens with Jazz in January

The Windham Chamber Music Festival is pleased to announce the opening of its 2015 season with a special winter concert on Saturday, January 3 featuring the return to the Northern Catskills of the acclaimed jazz pianist Lynne Arriale. A favorite of jazz and classical aficionados, Arriale will be joined by legendary guitarist Larry Coryell, one of the pioneers of jazz-rock, in his Windham debut. This will be Arriale’s fourth appearance at the Windham Festival, having appeared in 1999, 2003, and 2009 to great acclaim.

Lynne Arriale was the first prize winner of the 1993 International Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and soon launched her touring and recording career. Her tenth trio recording, LIVE (CD/DVD) was named one of UPI’s Best Jazz CDs and among The New Yorker’s Best CDs of the year. Throughout her school and college years, she studied classical music, earning a master’s degree before turning to jazz. “Discovering the unlimited creative potential and artistic freedom in jazz changed my life,” said Arriale. A devoted educator and Yamaha artist, Arriale continues to perform at such prestigious venues as The Spoleto Arts Festival, Ireland’s Cork Jazz Festival, The Montreal Jazz Festival, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, San Francisco Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival and other venues around the world. “I really can’t compare her to anyone,” said recent collaborator and multi-Grammy winner Randy Brecker. “Her music transcends the word ‘jazz’—it is just pure music.”

In the 1960s, Larry Coryell played electric guitar that owed as much to blues, rock and country as it did to jazz influences. A true eclectic and armed with a brilliant technique, he is comfortable in almost every style. Born in Galveston, Texas, Coryell grew up in the Seattle area where his mother introduced him to the piano at age 4. He switched to guitar and played rock music while in his teens. By 1965 he had relocated to New York and began taking classical guitar lessons. Although citing Chet Atkins and Chuck Berry as early influences, he also took cues from jazzmen such as John Coltrane and Wes Montgomery, working to meld both rock and jazz into his own style. The result formed what many consider to be the beginnings of the fusion jazz movement of the 1970s. David Miller, (All About Jazz critic), said of Coryell: “This was jazz at its finest—complex and virtuosic yet easily accessible, at times intense, at others fun-filled, and always with the feeling of the unknown that comes with truly spontaneous and inspired improvisation.”

Windham Chamber Music Festival concerts are held at the Windham Civic Center Concert Hall, 5379 State Route 32 (Main Street) in Windham, NY. Reservations can be made at 518 734 3868 or by sending an e-mail to: info@windhammusic.com. Advance tickets can be purchased in Windham at the Windham Library, Carole’s Emporium, and the Catskill Mountain Country Store. Ticket prices are $25 general admission, $22 seniors (65+), $20 contributors. Student tickets (ages 6-23) are always $5. For pre-paid tickets please mail a check to WCMF, 740 CR 32C, Windham, NY 12496.

The 2015 season is made possible in part with foundation support from the Willow Springs Charitable Trust Foundation, the Windham Foundation, the Peter R. and Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation, Suzy and Bill Vogler and with public funds administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts, as well as from business and private donations. For more information please visit the Windham Chamber Music Festival’s website at www.windhammusic.com.
Holiday Shopping at MURAL Gallery
Looking for the perfect gift at either a stocking stuffer price or a level of extravagance that expresses the depth of your feeling? The Mount Utsayantha Regional Arts League (MURAL) is expanding their regular gift shop offerings into a four-day Holiday Fair December 18 through December 21. Many local artists will display their work for sale and by combining items from several artists you can fashion your own unique gift baskets.

Dishes, candlesticks, and mugs by potters Rhonda Harrow Engel, Solveig Comer, and Alison Jones, pair perfectly with handmade soaps by Amy Morris Pickens, fragrant candles by Anna Krusinski, and organic teas by Terri Schlobohm.

Fantastic jewelry by Jill Tannone, Heather Roland, Tracy Jacknow, and Marie Cummings, felted scarves by Bobbi Goldman, as well as original paintings and an assortment of prints and cards by local artists will be for sale. A wide variety of crafts, including the creations of wood turners, quilters, and “wearable art” designers, round out the selections. Please stop in and “shop creatively” this year for your holiday gifts.

The Mural on Main Art Gallery is located at 631 Main Street in the Hobart Book Village (NYS Route 10, three-and-one-half miles south of the intersection with NYS Route 23). The Holiday Fair hours are Thursday, December 18 and Friday, December 19 from 12 to 7 pm. and Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21 from 12 to 4 pm. Please call the gallery at 607 538 3002 for more information.
The Bardavon Continues the Hudson Valley Philharmonic’s 2014/2015 Season with Handel’s Messiah

One of the Most Popular Choral Works of All Time in a Holiday Sing-Along Performance

The Bardavon is proud to continue the Hudson Valley Philharmonic’s 55th season on Saturday, December 20 at 2 pm, at the Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC) in Kingston with a special holiday performance of Handel’s Messiah with guest conductor Christine Howlett.

Guest vocalists from Cappella Festiva will join the HVP to perform George Frideric Handel’s most popular choral work, for a total of 150 musicians and singers on the UPAC stage. And audience members will be invited to sing along. A pre-concert talk with Maestro Howlett and members of the orchestra will take place one hour before the concert for all ticket-holders.

This series is sponsored by Rhinebeck Bank, the Dr. Jeffery Perchick Memorial Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Herzog’s & the Kingston Plaza and The Bruderhof. The promotional sponsor is WMHT FM 89.1 Schenectady and WRHV FM 88.7 Poughkeepsie.

Canadian conductor and soprano Christine R. Howlett is the Director of Choral Activities at Vassar College where she conducts the Vassar College Women’s Chorus, and Vassar College Choir, and teaches music theory and voice. Her choruses have sung at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and have toured in Italy, Turkey, Germany, Spain, and in the United States. The Vassar College Women’s Chorus performed at both the National Collegiate Choral Association at Yale University in 2009 and at the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Conference in Philadelphia in 2010.

Ms. Howlett is the Artistic Director of Cappella Festiva, an auditioned choral ensemble with a 35-year history of performing in the Hudson Valley. In 2006, she co-founded the Summer Choral Festival at Vassar College and the Cappella Festiva Treble Choir, an auditioned choral ensemble for treble voices ages 10-16.

Ms. Howlett is active as a soprano soloist and has performed in many works including Bach's Magnificat, Mass in B minor, St. Matthew's Passion, Actus Tragicus, Charpentier’s Les Arts Florissants, Mozart’s Coronation Mass, Britten’s Ceremony of Carols, Mass by Stravinsky, and Poulenc’s Gloria. She recently collaborated with the nationally acclaimed Chatham-Wood Duo on a series of recitals for voice, violin, and piano, and a recording project of the same repertoire.

Prices for Handel’s Messiah are $25, $35 and $50, depending on location. Student Rush tickets will be available one hour prior to the concert for $20 subject to availability. Take a bus from the Bardavon to UPAC for $20 round-trip. Contact the Box Office for details. Tickets can be purchased at: Bardavon Box Office, 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie (845 473 2072) or at UPAC Box Office, 601 Broadway, Kingston, NY (845 339 6088). Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster: 800 745 3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.
Salon 2014 and Handmade Holidays at the Greene County Council on the Arts

The Greene County Council on the Arts annual members’ exhibition features affordable fine art and craft collectibles for holiday gift giving. Every inch of wall space downstairs in the GCCA Catskill Gallery will display original works of art priced under $300. The Artful Hand’s Holiday Gift Gallery of fine crafts will expand to fill the entire upstairs gallery with gifts under $100. Come pick up a unique piece for that special someone while supporting local artists! Salon 2014 offers a wide variety of artworks; original drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures measuring 24 inches or less. Shop early! Purchases from this show come right off the wall for immediate gift wrapping. Salon 2014 will continue through January 3, 2015.

Upstairs, the Artful Hand Handmade Holidays Gift Gallery will be laden with locally made crafts in the GCCA’s second floor boutique; ceramics, wearable art, jewelry, toys and holiday cards made by GCCA member artists as well as books, CDs and films by area authors and musicians. This year’s selection includes ceramics by Judith Hugentobler, Yinka Orifidiyia, Ruth Sachs and Elizabeth J. Nields.

These one of a kind gifts will be treasured for years to come— including origami flowers and animals by Itoko Kobayashi and glass vases by Mark Sonzogni. Choose from Regine Petrosky’s handknit (and washable!) sweaters for adults and babies. How about a funky necklace by Sherrill Jacobson, a bird etching by Meryl Lernihan, or the picturesque book Farmhouse Revival by Steve Gross and Susan Daley? Don’t forget our GCCA swag, including the last few decks of cards from the Playing with a Full Deck fundraiser, shirts designed by Joe Stefko, prints by Polly Law and your very own GCCA beer and wine glasses!

The GCCA Catskill Gallery is located at 398 Main Street in Catskill. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Saturdays from noon to 5 pm. For more information call 518 943 3400, e-mail: gcca@greenearts.org or visit www.greenearts.org.

New Take on “Scrooge” Opens in Woodstock, December 12

Bird On a Cliff Theater Co. delivers a new take on an old classic. The group will perform *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* in the courtroom at the Woodstock Town Hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 12-14 and 19-21. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 pm; Sunday shows are at 2 pm.

Director Davis Aston-Reese describes this production as “The Trial of the Century!” A year after his miraculous transformation, Ebenezer Scrooge is back to his old ways and is suing Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future for breaking and entering, kidnapping, slander, pain and suffering, attempted murder and the intentional infliction of emotional distress. The ghosts employ Solomon Rothschild, England’s most charismatic, savvy, and clever barrister. Scrooge, that old penny pincher, represents himself. One by one, Bob Cratchit, Scrooge’s nephew Fred, solicitor and philanthropist Sara Anne Wainwright, and the ghosts themselves take the witness stand to give their account of the night in question.

*The Town Hall is located at 76 Tinker Street in Woodstock. Ticket prices are $15 adults/ $12 seniors & students ($10 children under 12). For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit www.birdonacliff.org, or call 845 247 4007.*

Magic Show in Windham!

Add some wonder to your holiday season with a night of magic and mentalism by Kent Axell of New York City and a special guest appearance by local magician Sean Doolan. The show will be held on December 13, 2014 at 8:00 pm in the Windham Centre Church located at Main and Church Streets (Route 23). Tickets are $15.00; please call 518 755 3433 for advance tickets.
Do you remember the first time you experienced *A Christmas Carol*? For me, it was the British black-and-white movie and it had a tremendous effect on me. The story that Dickens wove is a masterly mix of brutal real life and airy fantasy, a tale which conjures spirits and time travel as easily as it shows us the harshness of poverty and ignorance in Victorian England. Every era and every locality seems to need its very own *Christmas Carol*, from the original novel to a hilarious modern take like Bill Murray's *Scrooged*. And the root of its appeal is so simple: it holds out the promise to us all that, if we but look at our lives clearly and understand our flaws, we have a chance for redemption.

But do we really need another *Christmas Carol*? This country has hundreds of traditional productions every year, and there are decidedly non-traditional versions aplenty: a Star Trek version, with Scrooge as a Klingon, *Scrooge in Rouge*, an all-female production and, of course, the inevitable zombie Scrooge. It seems there needs to be *A Christmas Carol* for everyone (even Dr. Who has one), and so, I have to ask, why not the Catskills? If the Trekkies can have their own Scrooge, why not a Scrooge for our very own Mountain Top?

When my lovely wife, Gretchen, first came up with the idea, I immediately saw its appeal. I had just directed *Amelia—A Play of the Civil War*, and knew that the post-Civil War era was one of huge change in upstate New York. The rise of the tanning industry, the arrival of the Orphan Trains from New York City and the coming of ballet to America would be great historical taking-off points for my own version of the story.

I wrote the script in less than a week, although I then spent the next several months fluffing, fixing and futzing. Then, script in hand, I enlisted the terrific actors who had performed so wonderfully in *Amelia*. And having made dance an essential part of the show, it was my good fortune to meet Tara VanRoy, whose Petite Productions dance academy in Catskill supplies the child dancers and the ballet choreography for *Scrooge & Son*. Can a handful of orphan dancers, armed only with *The Nutcracker*, bring down the rich and powerful Ebenezer Scrooge and his cohorts? You will have to see the show to find out.

So, this is *A Christmas Carol* of the Catskills and for the Catskills. It takes place in Big Hollow, a real Greene County town that was re-named Maplecrest in the early 20th century. The show references important events in our local history, and yet I believe it to be wildly entertaining and, yes, very funny. Come and join us for one of the season’s most beloved and heartening rituals: the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Witness his journey from cheap to charitable, from covetous to compassionate. It is a journey that we all, in one way or another, need to take for ourselves during this sacred season.

And may God bless us, every one.

*Scrooge & Son* plays Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 14 at 2 pm at the Catskill Mountain Foundation’s Orpheum Film and Performing Arts Center, 6050 Main Street, Village of Tannersville. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children. For reservations, send an e-mail to ScroogeAndSon@yahoo.com or call 917 687 6646. Leave your name, the date of the show you want and the number of tickets. Reservations may also be made online at www.scroogeandson.com.

This is production is made possible in part with public funds from the Decentralization Program of NYSCA, administered through the Community Arts Grants Fund in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.
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As the year comes to an end, it is a good time to think back on Catskills adventures you have had in the past 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 spaces 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.

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 7. For details about hunting seasons, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains a website at 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—your dogs should have a blaze orange vest too!

Wrapping up the 2014 Season in the Catskill Mountains for the Trail Conference!
2014 was a very busy year for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, our partners, and the trails of the Catskill Mountain Region. New trails have been opened, trail crews have continued to build new trails and rebuild old trails, new maps and brochures are now available, new programs have launched 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 2014:

• We celebrated the opening of the newest section of the Long Path—nine miles of new backcountry trail connecting the Village of Phoenicia to the Catskill High Peaks and representing over 10,000 hours of work from over 100 volunteers.

• The Trail Conference was awarded the Catskill Conservation Corps contract by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and we now work as a partner with DEC recruiting and mobilizing volunteers region wide across a multitude of stewardship opportunities. As part of our work with the CCC in 2014 we launched a new website (www.CatskillConservationCorps.org); launched new social media outlets; held a
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Hunter – More challenging terrain, longer runs, a more yang experience. NYS Thruway, Exit 20. Fri, Sat, Sun

Happy Holidays

from the Catskill Mountain Region Guide and the Catskill Mountain Foundation
workshop training volunteer leaders; held two work trips, one building trail at the Catskill Interpretive Center and one picking up litter in Kaaterskill Clove; and celebrated volunteer accomplishments during the our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic for all volunteers on state lands in the Catskills.

- Our regional staff continues to work closely with local communities and the DEC to increase access to the Forest Preserve and ensure the communities can use outdoor recreation as an economic development tool.

- This summer we worked with New York State Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, Town of Hunter officials and the DEC at Kaaterskill Falls to bring Trail Conference knowledge and expertise to the safety, access and natural resource protection issues there. We are members of the Mountain Clove Scenic Byway and are working to tackle issues both at Kaaterskill Falls and throughout the Clove to ensure the success of the byway and the protection of the natural resources in the area.

- We celebrated the groundbreaking of the long awaited Catskill Interpretive Center in Mount Tremper along Route 28 and we are helping to build an interpretive trail network at the site. We look forward to helping staff the Center in 2015 after it opens.

- We launched two new roving trail maintenance crews, one in the Northeastern Catskills and one in the Southwestern Catskills, both of which are led by volunteers and were able to go out on a number of trips. Our Catskills Roving Maintenance Crew also continued to be very successful, working throughout the Catskills maintaining trails where individual trail maintainers need support.

- We partnered with Spillian in Fleischmanns to create a learning center for the Trail Conference in the Catskills. This spring we held a number of trail maintenance and trail building workshops that helped create a publicly accessible trail network on the Spillian property. We continue with monthly workshops on a number of different topics including map and compass skills, outdoor hiking safety, outdoor gear, trail stories and more.

- Our partnership with the Catskill Center continues to grow stronger as we work with them on a number of different activities, including co-chairing the Catskill Park Advisory Committee with them, partnering with them for the Catskill Interpretive Center, serving on the Steering Committee of the Catskill Park Coalition, and serving together on the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee to represent the interests of the Catskills and the Catskill Park.
• Our collaboration with local retailers, hotel owners and other businesspeople continues to grow as we provide more outreach, information and resources to these businesses for their customers to enjoy the Catskill Park. This work has involved in wider distribution of our Fire Tower and Kaaterskill Clove brochures, new retail partners, and opportunities for volunteers and staff to take part in events and activities.

• Our staff grew this fall when we welcomed a part-time, Assistant Program Coordinator for the Catskill Mountain Region, whose job will be to better support our existing volunteer programs and the Catskill Conservation Corps while allowing us to continue to grow our programs in the region.

• As a cosponsor of the annual Lark in the Park, we retained a website designer to redesign the Lark in the Park website, produced new advertising materials for the Lark and for the 2014 Lark, helped schedule and hold over 50 events with hundreds of participants.

And for 2015 just a few of the our plans include: Expanding the trails at the Catskill Interpretive Center site; establishing a Catskills regional office to better support our programs; securing long-term funding to support ongoing regional efforts; beginning to construct ten miles of new trail to relocate the Long Path in the southern Catskills; engaging more volunteers through the Catskill Conservation Corps; exploring ways to use the CCC to expand volunteer opportunities in the region, like resources stewards on Catskill Mountains summits and at other important and/or busy areas (like Kaaterskill Falls); and continuing to expand our maps and publications for the region to better educate and prepare visitors to the Catskill Park.

All of these amazing accomplishments throughout the Catskill Mountain Region and our plans for the future 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 Region! If you’d prefer to mail a donation, please make sure to include “Catskills” on the memo field of your check and mail it to:

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
PO Box 343
Tannersville, NY 12485

Membership in the Trail Conference is also a great way to support all of our programs on an ongoing basis. You can join the Trail Conference at www.nynjtc.org/membership.

Updated Trail Conditions for Catskills Trails
Conditions can change quickly in the Catskills. In the winter months, the mountains can be unforgiving with low temperatures, high winds and deep snowpack. For more detailed information on the condition and status of trails and trailheads in the Catskills,
the Trail Conference offers a page on their website with regularly updated conditions at www.nynjtc.org/content/catskill-trails-updates.

Tune Up Your Outdoor Skills

December 14
Winter Gear and Gab

Second Sundays at Spillian continues with a free and open to the public winter hiking for the new-to-winter hiker presentation, a short stroll around the Spillian trails and a shopping opportunity! Catskills hiker and Trail Conference Catskills Assistant Program Coordinator Heather Rolland will present a short program exploring getting started and getting inspired to get outside this winter, with a focus on gear, safety, and special concerns for kids and dogs while in the great outdoors. rolland, the NYNJTC’s Trails Chair for the southern Catskills, will lead a walk on the Spillian grounds, and discuss the many volunteer opportunities available on local trails. Local outfitters will be on hand to answer questions about winter gear, offer suggestions for must haves and stocking stuffers, and yes, they will have a wonderful array of great stuff to help you get outside and play. Refreshments will be served. Please register by calling the Trail Conference’s Catskills regional office at 518 628 4243.

January 23-25, 2015
Catskill 3500 Club Winter Weekend

The Farmer’s Almanac is saying we are going to have a real winter this year, so be sure to mark your calendars for the annual Catskill 3500 Club Winter Weekend January 23-25, 2015. As in the past few years, the event will be at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville and there will be a variety of excursions, from easier ones for those new to winter hiking or more challenging adventures for experienced members. Details will be on the 3500 Club website soon or contact Maria Bedo at 917 881 9272 for more information.

Love Trails?

Trails, trail construction and trail maintenance don’t just happen! In the Catskills much of this is work is completed by volunteers (with support from DEC Forest Rangers and Staff), but even then, financial support is needed to make these projects a reality. If you want to help with the protection of open spaces, trails and the natural resources of the Catskill Park, you can support Trail Conference programs in the Catskill Mountains. Your donation goes right to work on the trails and lean-tos of the Catskill Mountains, supports advocacy work for open space and the Catskill Park and supports staff who manage programs in the Catskill Mountains, aim to spur local economic development by making the public open space lands of the Catskill Park more accessible and appealing, and engage with local residents in the stewardship of Catskill Mountains Region’s trails and open space. To support the Catskills Trails Program visit www.nynjtc.org/product/donate-catskills-trail-program.

Take a Hike!

If you are looking to get out on the trails, but would like to go on a guided group hike to help you get your bearings on Catskill Mountain trails, the region has several different groups that lead guided hikes. The Catskill Mountain Club offers members and non-members the opportunity to go hiking, paddling, biking and skiing throughout the Catskills with a majority of the trips in the western Catskills (www.catskillmountainclub.org). The Catskill 3500 Club leads hikes up the 35 peaks in the Catskills that reach above 3500 feet in elevation (www.catskill-3500-club.org). The Rip Van Winkle Hikers also lead hikes throughout the region and you can find out more information about their activities at www.newyorkheritage.com/rvw. In addition, the Trail Conference will begin offering guided hikes throughout the Catskill Mountains and their schedule will be posted at www.nynjtc.org/view/events.

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 Senior Program Coordinator and Director of the Catskill Conservation Corps 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 30 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 programs in the Catskills please visit us on the web at www.nynjtc.org/catskills and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYNJTC.CatskillRegion.
A report from New Jersey this fall detailed the death of a hiker due to a bear attack. This is beyond unusual—to our knowledge, no one has been killed by a bear while hiking or camping in the Catskills or the Adirondacks. Stephen Herrero’s book, *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*, “mentions very rare cases of attacks by predator black bears, generally young males who will stalk humans, but this is an aberrant behavior,” writes a previous 3500 Club Outings Chairman. “One is far more likely to be hit by lightning than to be attacked, let alone killed, by a black bear. Had this group stayed together, most likely there would have been no attack and no fatality.” This occurrence demonstrates the need for broader wildlife education, because humans and bears are increasingly in proximity. The group of five hikers in this report made the key mistake of running. Do not run away from bears—they’re faster than you are, able to run 25 MPH briefly. Back slowly away. Note that bears are sexually active in June and thus more incautious.

The Catskill 3500 Club president posted: “Most sources I read say to stand your ground. Look large and tall. Actually hold each other around the waist to present a large mass. Bears have poor eye sight. Do not split up. Make a lot of noise. If attacked, fight back. Use sticks, rocks, fists, kicks, poke their eyes, whatever it takes. Fleeing triggers the bear to chase, and signals weakness. Bears may bluff charge, but usually back down if you do not move.”

The black bear is not predatory as the grizzly or polar bear can be, but black bears lose their fear of humans at camping sites and in civilization and have learned to do bluff charges to scare people away from food. Bears are always hungry! They are not interested in humans as food, but they are very interested in our food, so learning how to deal with food when camping (or living in bear territory) is essential. No food—or any clothes that you cook in—should be in a tent or lean-to, including scented items such as deodorant and toothpaste.

A bear canister can be rented or purchased that accommodates freeze-dried, ultra-packable food for five people over three days, plus snacks. Bears are amazingly intelligent, and one bear marked with yellow tags in the Adirondacks learned how to get into a BearVault canister (now redesigned). Bears will claw at them for up to an hour and fail to break into them.
ters were invented, a friend was awakened by rattling pots and the next morning all his well-hung food and stove were gone—but it was nice of the bear to leave the coffee.

We have encountered bears several times on day hikes in the Catskill Forest Preserve where we spend most of our outdoor time, including a mama bear and her cubs twice. We startled a bear family who probably couldn’t hear us approaching as we reached the swiftly flowing Roaring Kill (hopefully not a portentous name). Suddenly the mother bear lunged away from the water and whirled around. We knew that mother bears may attack if startled or provoked. Her two cubs raced up a nearby tree and she ran up the Sugarloaf Mountain slope. Bear mothers are very protective, so be especially careful not to come between cubs and mother.

“Let’s just keep moving,” I muttered.

“Okay, but I want to get a look at the cubs,” Dave whispered. “That circling was kind of ominous, though,” he added. Passing the tree, Dave confirmed that the big bear was still moving away, and for apprehensive but amused moments we watched the cubs clinging high up in the tree. One inched a bit higher and then they raced down and followed mama. Another time, we were climbing silently on pine needles on the Hill Road Trail near Margaretville; the mama and cubs did not hear us. They were all on one side of the trail, luckily, and the cubs climbed a tree. Does bear language tell cubs what to do when encountering man in the forest? We moved slowly back.

Two Catskill 3500 Club officers were early for a Hunter festival. They hiked and as they climbed along a snow fence “a bear popped out from behind it nearby, followed by cub number one, two, and three!” Don’t run they reminded themselves, and backed away. “The mother bear put her head down and the hair on her back stood up, starting from her tail and moving forward; she charged as we were walking backward to create more space, as she requested! Charge over, she then bit a water bottle on the ground; the cubs moved off to play. A sow with three cubs had to be put down for entering homes in the Hunter area and we suspected it was her. A typical wild Catskill bear would not be so close to persons in the light of day. I am always excited to get the opportunity to see a bear either in the woods hiking or en route to a hike. They are a beautiful animal and amazingly fast and silent for their size! Both my brother and my son have taken bear while hunting,” one of the Catskill 3500 Club officers continued. “It is a huge effort to get one out of the woods after harvesting it during cold weather.¹ I cannot imagine trying to get one out of the woods during the warm weather of the early bear season that started this year—I would not hunt then.”

A woman hiking in the Adirondacks in September 2013 saw three black bears. Most importantly, she did not run. She yelled, smashed rocks, played music loudly on her phone, and the bears stopped following her. But they would return and occasionally they got on their front legs and made guttural, huffing sounds. Provoked bears chop their jaws and exude a low woofing, growling sound. She considered throwing things at them, but decided against it until necessary; she retrieved a folding knife with a three-inch blade out of her pack. When it did charge, she stuck the blade in the animal’s jaw and it ran away. She reached a caretaker’s cabin some distance away and notified the Department of Environmental Conservation. Officers told her to get rabies shots, because though the bear didn’t touch her, its blood did. She helped them look for signs of the bears and they found paw prints of 150- to 180-pound bears. The DEC posted warnings at trailheads.

Another Catskill 3500 Club member posted: “I was biking in the woods and fell off, sustaining only two scratches. Suddenly in front of me was a bear—standing—eyes studying me curiously, so close I could touch it. It could have been attracted by the smell of my blood. Make noise!” I thought, “but, too late; our eyes are already locked; make myself bigger—bears judge who is who based on height. I could hit it in the nose. Then an idea; my bike was between us and I put it on the rear wheel, making me two feet higher! The effect was immediate—it’s eyes changed and became uninterested; it turned, went back on all four and walked away.”

“My granddaughter was on a class trip last week,” posted another club member. “A mother bear and a cub went by them about fifty feet away. The children were told to be still and not run. The bear spotted them and took off. I’ve encountered lots

Bear canister with hiker’s food; a bear attempted unsuccessfully to break into it for 45 minutes.
of bears and had no problem. The New Jersey bear attack is very unusual and only the person that died knows the real story. I love seeing wild animals and saw a bobcat recently.”

Many hikers are likewise happy to see a bear. To increase your chances of seeing one, hike solo on less popular trails midweek on cool, overcast, and breezy days. Bears avoid the heat of midday. Now you have tips on how to avoid them! If one appears, bears have sensitive hearing and whistle blasts can send them scurrying away. Bears are shortsighted, so hold your pack out to your side to look larger. If the five hikers had stuck together, they would have seemed more forbidding. Hornet/wasp spray is possibly more effective and safe to use than pepper spray. The bear snout is very sensitive, where all the nerves are that help bears with that incredible sense of smell, writes another club member, who noted that a woman hiking in New Jersey was approached by a bear and hit it on the snout with a stick, and he ran off.

While measuring trails we saw a large bear ahead. It looked at us briefly and then ran off; but it stood at the next junction and peered at us for long seconds. We felt apprehension because bears know when humans are present—so why hadn’t it run away, as black bears usually do? Bears are timid and avoid humans in the wild. They are curious, though. This big bear again ran away, to our immense relief.

¹ Firearms hunting season continues through December 7; wear blaze orange such as an orange cap, orange jacket, or orange vinyl vest.

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 6 of the 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 in Hunter, NY. Carol’s new book, Peak Experiences: Danger, Death, and Daring 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.
Catskill Mountain Foundation
And Victoria Rinaldi
Invite you to a

Holiday Dance Event

Featuring Two very talented local student dancers

Justin Valentine and Frieda Handelsman

And students from Valentina Kozlova’s Dance Academy, NYC
The short performance includes excerpts from “The Nutcracker”
A Festive Holiday Reception follows the performance

Saturday, December 20, 3pm

Catskill Mountain Foundation Red Barn
Rte. 23A, Village of Hunter, NY
RSVP: 518/263-2063
Dress: Festive!
Free admission
Seats are very limited.

Victoria Rinaldi is a former ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera. Valentina Kozlova is a former star of the Bolshoi Ballet and New York City Ballet. Most of these young dancers will have just completed their performance of “The Nutcracker” at Symphony Space, NYC where Justin Valentine is dancing the role of The Prince.

Catskill Mountain Foundation is pleased to provide support for these young dancers who are working with Victoria Rinaldi over the winter. Justin Valentine is preparing for an international ballet competition in New York City in May and will be traveling with Ms. Kozlova’s Ballet School to St. Petersburg, Russia where he will also participate in a major competition.

This event is part of a dance initiative by Catskill Mountain Foundation to provide support for emerging dancers and choreographers.
December Schedule for Screen Two, the only place on the Mountain Top to see the best Foreign and Independent Films

FORCE MAJEURE (RATED R, 118 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY RUBEN ÖSTLUND
A critical favorite at this year’s Cannes Film Festival, this wickedly funny and precisely observed psychodrama tells the story of a model Swedish family on a skiing holiday in the French Alps. The sun is shining and the slopes are spectacular but, during a lunch at a mountainside restaurant, an avalanche suddenly bears down on the happy diners. With people fleeing in all directions and his wife and children in a state of panic, Tomas makes a decision that will shake his marriage to its core and leave him struggling to reclaim his role as family patriarch. In Swedish with English subtitles. 12/5-12/7. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15


CANOPY (RATED PG-13, 84 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY AARON WILSON
Singapore, February 9, 1942. The Japanese invasion is underway. An Australian fighter pilot wakes up dangling from a tree by his parachute strings somewhere in the middle of a vast jungle overrun by hostile forces. He forge into the danger he must navigate in search of sanctuary when he encounters a Singapore-Chinese resistance fighter who, injured and frightened, also seeks to survive their tenuous surroundings and common enemy. The men realize that their only hope of persevering lies with each other as their journey begins the exploration of the collision of war, nature and its impact on humanity. 12/12-12/14. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

“Absorbing … a remarkable realism … gorgeous, almost unearthly cinematography.” —The Hollywood Reporter
**JINGLE BELL ROCKS!**  
(UNRATED, 94 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY MITCHELL KEZIN  
In *Jingle Bell Rocks!,* director Mitchell Kezin delves into the minds of some of the world’s most legendary Christmas music fanatics and hits the road to hang with his holiday heroes—including hip hop legend Joseph “Rev Run” Simmons of RUN-D.M.C., The Flaming Lips’ frontman Wayne Coyne, filmmaker John Waters, bebopper Bob Dorough, L.A. DJ and musicologist Dr. Demento, and Calypso legend The Mighty Sparrow. With rollicking live performances, intimate interviews, and a kaleidoscope of touching and rare archive footage, *Jingle Bell Rocks!* is a cinematic sleigh-ride into the strange and sublime universe of alternative Christmas music. It’s also a mix-tape of twelve of the weirdest, wildest, most poignant Christmas songs you’ve never heard.  
12/19-12/24. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15; Monday-Thursday 7:15

“The principal suspense in this fascinating movie is generated by the polite, and then not so polite, ferocity of the arguments between the two men.”  
—David Denby, The New Yorker

**DIPLOMACY**  
(UNRATED, 84 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY VOLKER SCHLON-DORFF  
As the Allies march toward Paris in the summer of 1944, Hitler gives orders that the French capital should not fall into enemy hands, or if it does, then “only as a field of rubble.” The person assigned to carry out this barbaric act is Wehrmacht commander of Greater Paris, General Dietrich von Choltitz, who already has mines planted on the Eiffel Tower, in the Louvre and Notre Dame and on the bridges over the Seine. Nothing should be left as a reminder of the city’s former glory. However, at dawn on 25 August, Swedish Consul General Raoul Nordling steals into German headquarters through a secret underground tunnel and there starts a tension-filled game of cat and mouse as Nordling tries to persuade Choltitz to abandon his plan. In French with English subtitles.  
12/26-1/1/15. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15; Monday-Thursday 7:15

“Amazing. Touching. Original. Psychotronic… Jingle Bell Rocks! is all that and a little more.”  
—La Presse

**ALIVE INSIDE**  
(UNRATED, 78 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ROSSATO-BENNETT  
This stirring documentary follows social worker Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, as he fights against a broken healthcare system to demonstrate music’s ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it. Rossato-Bennett visits family members who have witnessed the miraculous effects of personalized music on their loved ones, and offers illuminating interviews with experts including renowned neurologist and best-selling author Oliver Sacks (*Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*) and musician Bobby McFerrin (“Don’t Worry, Be Happy”).  
1/2/15-1/4/15. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

“Michael Rossato-Bennett captures some amazingly transformative results in the treatment of dementia through music.”  
—Rob Nelson, Variety

**Ticket Prices (Screens 2 & 3, and the Orpheum):**  
$9 / $7 seniors & children under 11  
3D Ticket Prices (Screen 1): $11 / $9 seniors & children under 11

Film schedule subject to change, please call ahead to confirm:  
518 263 4702 (recorded messages) or visit www.catskillmtn.org.
We show the best Hollywood films available each week. Below is the confirmed list of films that we will show during the month of December.

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

Ticket Prices (Screens 2 & 3, and the Orpheum): $9 / $7 seniors & children under 11

3D Ticket Prices (Screen 1): $11/ $9 seniors & children under 11

**MOUNTAIN CINEMA**

**DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

7971 Main Street
Village of Hunter

**ORPHEUM FILM & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

6050 Main Street
Village of Tannersville

At the Doctorow Center for the Arts, 7950 Main Street, Village of Hunter

**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART I**  
(RATED PG-13, 125 MINUTES)

DIRECTED BY FRANCIS LAWRENCE

Under the leadership of President Coin and the advice of friends, Katniss spreads her wings as she fights to save Peeta and a nation moved by her courage. Through 12/7. Friday 7:00; Saturday 4:00 & 7:00; Sunday 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00

**HORRIBLE BOSSES 2**  
(R, 108 MINUTES)

DIRECTED BY SEAN ANDERS

Dale, Kurt and Nick decide to start their own business but things don’t go as planned because of a slick investor, prompting the trio to pull off a harebrained and misguided kidnapping scheme. Through 12/7. Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:30 & 7:30; Sunday 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30; Monday-Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:30 & 7:30; Sunday 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY, 12/25

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

**BIRDMAN**  
(RATED R, 119 MINUTES)

DIRECTED BY ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ İNÁRRITU

A washed-up actor who once played an iconic superhero must overcome his ego and family trouble as he mounts a Broadway play in a bid to reclaim his past glory. 12/19-1/1. Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:00 & 7:30; Sunday 7:30

**THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES**  
(NOT YET RATED)

DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON

Bilbo and Company are forced to be embraced in a war against an armed flock of combatants and the terrifying Smaug from acquiring a kingdom of treasure and obliterating all of Middle-Earth. 12/17-1/4. Wednesday-Friday 7:00; Saturday 4:00 & 7:00; Sunday 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00; Monday-Friday 7:00; Saturday 4:00 & 7:00; Sunday 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY, 12/25

**THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING**  
(RATED PG-13, 123 MINUTES)

DIRECTED BY JAMES MARSH

A look at the relationship between the famous physicist Stephen Hawking and his wife, Jane. 1/2-1/4. Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:00 & 7:30; Sunday 7:30
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FRI. & SAT., DEC. 12th & 13th AT 7PM
MATINEE, SUN., DEC. 14th AT 2PM

The classic tale of Christmas Past, Present and To Come has moved to the Catskills during the post-Civil War era. Spirits, ballet, kids and everyone’s favorite Mean Old Man mix to make a special evening of local, old-time music and laughter.

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Or find the video at www.catskillmtn.org/about-us/projects/pianoperformancemuseum.html

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The CMF Piano Museum is funded in part by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation
CERAMICS BY
Susan Bogen
Susan Bogen creates functional pots that beg to be picked up and held. Pleasing to the eye as well as the touch, her pots have a strong Asian influence as she integrates geometric design with functional form. Susan’s work is made of porcelain and stoneware. She uses both a gas reduction kiln and a wood-fired salt kiln. All pots are food-safe, dishwasher and microwave safe.

HAND-CRAFTED WOODWORK BY
John Franklin
John Franklin is a wood turner from Kingston, NY. He is President of the KWA -Kaatskill Wood Turners group in Hurley, NY, a member of the NWA-Northeast Woodworkers Association, and a member of the AAW-American Association of Wood turners. John has been turning competitively for about 11 years and in that time he has earned more than 16 awards for his woodturning at the annual NWA Woodworkers Showcase held each year in Saratoga, NY. John chooses mostly local hardwoods for his artwork. His motto is “started by nature, finished by hand.” His favorite materials are Wood burls, Tiger Maple, Quilted Maple, Spalted Maple, Ambrosia Maple, Buck-eye Burl, Walnut, Ash, Chestnut, Purple Heart, Yellow Heart, Ebony, and Pink Ivory.

HAND-BLOWN GLASS
by Mary Certoma
Alan Barbier and Mary Certoma opened the Hot Stuff Glass Workshop and Gallery in the Catskills in 1989. Sixteen years in 2005 and many one-of-a-kind-blown-slumped-and-fused glass creations later, they closed their doors. Their love for the medium gave way to a unique, original style. In 2014, a limited number of signed-and-dated pieces still available at the Kaaterskill Fine Arts & Crafts Gallery in Hunter, NY.

JEWELRY DESIGNED BY
Liliya Kochergina
Liliya Kochergina is the maker of wonderful beaded jewelry that will capture your heart and won’t exhaust your wallet. Liliya’s necklaces, bracelets and earrings are constructed with Swarovsky crystals, semiprecious stones and lots of imagination.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

On Saturday, December 13, noon-3 pm, visit with master woodworker John Franklin in the Gallery lobby to witness a pen turning demo and learn more about his art.
DECEMBER 2014 MOVIES & EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Schedule subject to change: please call 518 263 4702 or visit our website 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!

- **CINEMA 2** - FOREIGN & INDEPENDENT FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW
- **CINEMAS 1 & 3** - HOLLYWOOD FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW
- **ORPHEUM** - FILMS AT THE ORPHEUM

(F) DEC 5 | (ST) DEC 6 | (SU) DEC 7
---|---|---
THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART I 7:00 PM
FORCE MAJEURE 7:15 PM
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 7:30 PM
THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART I 4:00 & 7:00 PM
FORCE MAJEURE 4:15 & 7:15 PM
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 4:30 & 7:30 PM
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 7:30 PM

(M) DEC 8 | (T) DEC 9 | (W) DEC 10 | (TR) DEC 11 | (F) DEC 12 | (ST) DEC 13 | (SU) DEC 14
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
SCROOGE & SON 7:00 PM
CANOPY 7:15 PM
SCROOGE & SON 7:00 PM
PEN TURNING DEMO WITH JOHN FRANKLIN 12:00-3:00 PM
SCROOGE & SON 7:00 PM
CANOPY 4:15 & 7:15 PM

(M) DEC 15 | (T) DEC 16 | (W) DEC 17 | (TR) DEC 18 | (F) DEC 19 | (ST) DEC 20 | (SU) DEC 21
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
HAPPY HANUKKAH!
THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 7:00 PM
THE HOBBIT 7:00 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 7:30 PM
JOYOUS KWANZAA!
THE HOBBIT 7:00 PM
DIPLOMACY 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 7:30 PM

(M) DEC 22 | (T) DEC 23 | (W) DEC 24 | (TR) DEC 25 | (F) DEC 26 | (ST) DEC 27 | (SU) DEC 28
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
THE HOBBIT 7:00 PM
JINGLE BELL ROCKS! 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 7:30 PM
THE HOBBIT 4:00 & 7:00 PM
DIPLOMACY 4:15 & 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 4:30 & 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 4:00 & 7:30 PM

(M) DEC 29 | (T) DEC 30 | (W) DEC 31 | (TR) JAN 1 | (F) JAN 2 | (ST) JAN 3 | (SU) JAN 4
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
THE HOBBIT 7:00 PM
DIPLOMACY 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 7:30 PM
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
THE HOBBIT 7:00 PM
ALIVE INSIDE 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 7:30 PM
BIRDMAN 7:30 PM
THE HOBBIT 4:00 & 7:00 PM
ALIVE INSIDE 4:15 & 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 4:30 & 7:30 PM
A THEORY OF EVERYTHING 4:00 & 7:30 PM
THE HOBBIT 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00 PM
ALIVE INSIDE 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30 PM
A THEORY OF EVERYTHING 7:30 PM
We Have Some Exciting Things Planned at the Catskill Mountain Foundation for 2015!
Bringing the Community Together through the Arts

CLASSICAL

Berkshire Bach Ensemble
6/13/2015 @ the Doctorow Center for the Arts
“So great was the rhythmic swing, pictorial effect and overall vitality that listeners near the stage seemed in danger at times of having the music dance right into their laps.”
—Berkshire Eagle

Manhattan in the Mountains:
Klezmer with David Krakauer
7/25/2015 @ the Doctorow Center for the Arts
“David Krakauer is such an overwhelmingly expressive clarinet-ist who moves so seamlessly between different genres that for a minute you’d almost think that there’s no appreciable difference between jazz, klezmer and formal classical music.”
—The Wall Street Journal, September 26, 2013

Four Nations Ensemble
8/30/2015 @ the Doctorow Center for the Arts
“From its first notes, the quieter sounds of the strings and fortepiano were perfectly balanced, and dynamic changes were not less dramatic in the hands of these players. It was wonderful to hear such an ensemble.”
—Howard Vogel, The Woodstock Times, NY

Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra
11/28/2015 @ the Doctorow Center for the Arts
“It was an evening of exciting musical joy and the standing ovation at the end gave expression to it.”
—John Paul Keeler, Columbia-Greene Media, reviewing the 2013 concert by the Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra at the CMF

DANCE

National Dance Institute Mountain Top Summer Residency Performance
7/18/2015 @ the Orpheum
“The arts open your heart and to possibilities that are limitless. They are pathways that touch upon our brains and emotions and bring sustenance to imagination. Human beings’ greatest form of communication, they walk in tandem with science and play, and best describe what it is to be human.”
—Jacques d’Amboise, Founder of NDI

LITERARY ARTS

While many independent bookstores have disappeared in favor of electronic devices, the Catskill Mountain Foundation still runs a brick and mortar bookstore, The Corner Bookshop, in—you guessed it—a corner of its Kaaterskill Fine Arts & Crafts Gallery. Five thousand titles of Catskills’ history, literary fiction, poetry, drama, mystery, and children’s books.

STUDIO ARTS

At the Sugar Maples Center for Creative Arts this summer, in addition to the ceramics courses, mosaic workshops, along with Chinese brush paintings, landscape paintings and printmaking workshops will be offered. The ceramics facilities are also regularly updated, with plans for the future, including expansion of the wheel room for throwing workshops, the formation of a hand-making studio upstairs and another kiln.

VISUAL ARTS

The Kaaterskill Fine Arts & Crafts Gallery in Hunter Village Square offers unique, one-of-a-kind handcrafted originals by Catskills’ artisans. The Gallery also features solo and group exhibits of individual area artists. We share Catskills’ art and crafts with the world.

WORLD CULTURE

Golden Dragon Acrobats
10/3/2015 @ the Orpheum
The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today.

Scottish Singer & Instrumentalist Julie Fowlis
10/10/2015 @ the Doctorow Center for the Arts
“...unerring vocal poise, her sheer elegance in interpretation and execution, and her knack for configuring exactly the right type and level of musical accompaniment for each ‘story’...”
—Fatea Magazine

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