

## A GIFT FOR THE COMMUNITY

### HPAC ANNOUNCES YEAR-END FUNDRAISING DRIVE

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre has announced its end-of-year fundraising drive with a three pronged outreach to the community.

The not-for-profit organization is soliciting memberships, sponsorships, and donations so that it can continue to bring cutting edge programming and popular movies to the area.

“When this year started, we had no idea what we were in for,” an Arts Centre mailing announcing the campaign begins. “This pandemic has upended so many families and businesses. It has also been, by far, the most destabilizing year for the arts in America in recent memory. But the arts become even more vital during times of great uncertainty—inspiring us and bringing us together to share and reflect.

“Thanks to the support of our donors, members, and sponsors, we were able to pivot quickly to

virtual programming. We produced more than 40 performances, workshops, interviews, and community discussions and offered online access to beautiful films you can’t find anywhere else.

“We are planning an even more robust and exciting 2021 season of both live and in-person programs. We can’t wait to share it with you, but we need your support to make it happen.”

The announcement, authored by Performing Arts Centre staff, including Dara Perlman, Ellyane Hutchinson, Erin Dudley, Janet Carrus, Michael Conney, and Tal Beery, goes on to outline the three ways the public can help support the venue, promising that “every dollar we raise, goes to paying artists and subsidizing tickets for those who can’t afford them.”

The three tax-deductible ways to support HPAC are:

1. Make a donation: Any amount helps.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

2. Become a Member. Get perks and discounts to programs.

3. Be a Business Sponsor. Support the arts &

get visibility for your business. (Contact Tal Beery—talbeery@haeny.org—for details.)

This past season, the

Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre held important public discussions on racial justice and transgender rights, broadcast a weekly

cabaret series from New Orleans, showcased emerging musicians, hosted photography workshops, and launched the inaugural In-

digenous Women’s Voices Summit with exhibitions, outdoor performances, a film festival, and live discussions.

“HPAC’s programs are as diverse as the communities we serve,” the announcement concluded. “We truly are a meeting ground for unlikely encounters—and this is as true in virtual spaces as it is in real life.

“We hope you believe that this mission is as vital for our communities as it is for our democracy. If you do, please donate, become a Member, or become a Business Sponsor today.”

The venue opened in 2016 on the site of a burned out restaurant, and was incubated by The Center for Discovery through its early years, establishing itself as the place to go in the region for first run movies, arts programming, and live programming. Earlier this year, the Arts Centre announced a rebranding, unveiling a new name and logo, and becoming an in-

dependent entity known as the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre. The plan was to continue as a linchpin of the main street redevelopment. The Center for Discovery has spearheaded over the past ten years, by continuing to offer all of the same programming, including the popular movies, while expanding its offerings. Then COVID hit, and everything changed.

Nonetheless, the Arts Centre remains one of the most valuable and visible assets to the community and is expected to open its latest addition, a restaurant and catering facility sometime in 2021, with the exact timing depending largely upon the arc of the ongoing pandemic.

HPAC founder Janet Carrus, who is the president of the non-profit’s Board of Directors, has pledged that the venue will remain “a hub for creativity for all residents of Hurleyville, Sullivan County, the Catskills, and beyond.”

## PIVOTING IN THE PANDEMIC

*TCFD Goes From Flexible to Agile*

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Amanda Ward says caring for staff—and attracting new hires—during the pandemic has required “a shift in traditional ways of thinking.”

Ms. Ward is the Chief of the Division of People Operations and Educational Sustainability at The Center for Discovery, where she heads the team that oversees recruitment and training of new employees and—just as importantly, she says—providing a stable, safe and upbeat work environment for existing staff, responsibilities that are challenging under the best of circumstances. Throw into the mix an ongoing pandemic of historic proportions, and the challenge becomes even more daunting.

“We have always been creative and proactive in our approach to caring for staff,” she says. “But no one anticipated COVID, and the ripple effects it has produced. People everywhere are facing new, unforeseen constraints that could not be planned for. We have had to respond to that, and continue to respond to the unpredictable.”

The response, reflecting the longstanding people-centric approach of TCFD President and C.E.O. Patrick H. Dollard, has included innovative ways to help The Center’s 1700 employees cope with the disruptions the

pandemic and its accompanying restrictions has caused in their lives.

“Staff well-being is always a priority,” Ms. Ward says. “But even more so now, with so much instability in everyone’s lives. The programs we have put in place have served to smooth out some of the bumps in our staff’s roads, so to speak.”

She cites The Center’s ongoing ride-share program and the staff co-op store that was available during the height of the pandemic earlier this year and then re-opened after Thanksgiving, as two examples that have proven particularly popular with employees. The Center has also instituted a free laundromat for staff and for a few months during the initial stages of the pandemic restrictions was providing free meals for its employees. The Center also provides employees with personal protective equipment, and perhaps most importantly, access to reliable up-to-date information about the pandemic.

The day-to-day uncertainty of how local school districts are dealing with the pandemic, particularly the reliance on remote learning and hybrid teaching models has made it difficult for some parents to juggle work and childcare. The Center has responded to that new challenge, as well.

“In addition to traditional



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Amanda Ward

daycare for the younger children of our staff, we are now offering school-age day care during the pandemic,” Ms. Ward points out.

Even in times of a contracting economy, The Center is hiring staff, she says. Toward that end, a new incentive program has been offered to current staff to help with the recruiting process.

“We have just begun a new Holiday Employee Referral Program, where all staff will have the opportunity to win a \$100 gift card,” she says. “Despite all this year’s challenges, we have felt the power of community and connection at The Center more than ever. And that community, connection, strength, and spirit come from our staff and for that, we are grateful.”

For the holiday season, The Center is encouraging employees to spread the word about the life changing work they do and to give others the gift of a career.

Here’s how The Center’s new Holiday Employee Referral Program works:

All staff will refer as many direct care candidates as pos-

sible in one month, starting on November 19 and ending on December 18, 2020.

Each member of the team\* or location\* with the most employees to successfully start base camp, will win a \$100 gift card PLUS any of the employee referral benefits he/she is eligible to receive.

The Center has also begun to offer new and existing staff Enhanced Pandemic Pay, a program that entitles Residential Associates working evening or overnight shifts to what amounts to the best hourly rate in the field.

“When it comes to attracting new staff and caring for existing staff, business as usual will no longer suffice,” Ms. Ward says. “Our People Operations office has had to shift from being flexible to being agile, and we will continue to search for and implement innovative solutions to make life easier for our staff. I firmly believe that when you tap into organizational intelligence and prioritize values, it allows creative solutions to emerge.”

## CLOSING IN

*Main Street’s Newest Building Moving Along*

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Construction continues to progress on the new Main Street Mews building at 234 Main Street. When completed, the building will include four retail or office spaces on the ground floor and eight apartments on the two floors above. The building is totally accessible and includes an elevator.

The four ground floor spaces are each roughly 1,000 – 1,200 square feet, while the eight apartments are all two-bedroom configurations of approximately 1,000 square feet, and feature a living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and laundry room in addition to a storage room and ample closet space.

The construction project will also include 11 parking spaces behind the new building and an ad-



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Construction continues on the new building at 234 Main Street in Hurleyville.

ditional 30 spaces nearby. The building is expected to be completed during the spring of 2021.

Meanwhile, word is expected shortly about the opening of Hurleyville’s other new building, the

3,400 square foot restaurant and catering facility constructed behind the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre which is positioned so that fronts on Main Street. Although no specific plans have yet

been made public, it is expected that the restaurant will have a soft opening shortly after the first of the year and then a more elaborate grand opening in the spring.

## GAME ON! Deck the Doors Contest Underway

HURLEYVILLE – The 24th Annual “DECK THE DOORS” holiday decorating contest sponsored by Hurleyville-Sullivan First is underway, with judging to be held on Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m.

Winners of the contest will be awarded prizes provided by Hurleyville business owners and members of

Hurleyville-Sullivan First.

Last year, there were ten winners, including Bari Al-lor and Angelee Santillo, the Ditchik family, the Drom-azos family, the Fairman family, Katrina and John Jaycox, Joyce and Lloyd Mackney, Terry McGrath, the Penn-Consentino family, Jakuin and Ken Saunders, and the Rose family.

Frankie & Johnny’s Presents Nardi’s, Fiber on Main and the Hurleyville General Store all received Honorable Mention in 2019.

All holiday-decorated doors in the hamlet, including residences and businesses, are eligible. Remember to turn your lights on!

The volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First con-

tinue to work on projects contributing to the revitalization of our hamlet. Anyone interested in the future of Hurleyville is encouraged to join the group.

For more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First, please visit us at [www.hurlevillenyny.com](http://www.hurlevillenyny.com) or on Facebook.



## The Inquiring Photographer

by Kathleen Sullivan



*Q. What is your one wish for the world during this holiday season?*

ROB KNIGHT



No matter how you come together with your family – virtually or in person – it’s important to be surrounded by your loved ones.

SHEILA GARFINKEL LASHINSKY



May we be blessed with good health, happiness, prosperity and be able to enjoy a return to “normalcy” in our lives once more – as soon and as safely as possible.



As I laid down on my pillow  
A dream came in my mind  
The tree was decorated  
With ornaments of every kind

Mom hung up sweet, sweet sugarplums  
And strands of tinsel, too  
The Christmas bulbs were colored  
There were bows of glistening tulle

And an ornament of Santa  
With all of his reindeer  
Strings of popcorn and a partridge  
Nestling in a tree of pears

As the scent of pine wafts through the room  
And we clip on Santa’s elves  
We step back to check our progress  
And feel so proud of ourselves

Now we’ve finished decorating  
It was cider that I smelled  
We’d picked apples at an orchard  
There were mugs that Mama held

The lights, oh, how they sparkled  
As the Angel took her place  
We added water to the tree stand  
And lit the fireplace

My face is in my pillow  
And I smile in my sleep  
Knowing that these Christmas memories  
I will forever keep

- Mimi  
December, 2020

## THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

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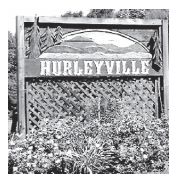
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## Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



### HURLEYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The annual election of the Hurleyville Fire District will take place on Tuesday, December 8, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Hurleyville Fire House.

The purpose of the election is to elect one Commissioner for a five-year term, beginning on January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2025.

All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 16, 2020 and residing within the Hurleyville Fire District are eligible to vote.

Social distancing will be observed and masks must be worn.

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The bells at the Hurleyville Methodist Church will ring at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve before an online Christmas Eve service that will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook.

The church is open for Sunday services. The Bible study group meets at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Protocols for social distancing, disinfection and cleaning are being followed. Masks must be worn.

Pastor Jorge is delivering sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The volunteers at the Bread of Life Food Pantry provide pre-made boxes of food to individuals and families in need. The food pantry will be open in December only on Thursday, December 17 from 3:00 until 5 p.m.

Personal hygiene products (masks, hand sanitizer and hand soap) are also being distributed at the food pantry.

You can pray with others over the phone on the church’s prayer line on Sundays from 7 to 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access

code is 251678.

“MESSY CHURCH”, Youth Group meetings and the women’s group meetings are cancelled for now.

Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information. You can also get updates from the church’s page on Facebook.

### THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sullivan County Museum and the Historical Society are still closed to the public because of COVID-19.

The Annual Theme Tree Exhibit at the museum will not be held this year.

Volunteers at the historical society continue to work on research requests.

The Sullivan County Historical Society will hold its annual election via mail this year. Members will receive their ballots in the next Observer newsletter.

Henry and Gordon MacAdam and their committee are working on a display that will encompass two projects: the Hackledam Dam Project that was proposed to be built near Bridgeville in the early 1900’s and One-Room Schoolhouses of the Town of Thompson.

Go to [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org) for more information on the Sullivan County Histori-

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



According to the website, International Cloud Atlas, a Snow Devil is a form of whirling column of air with varying height, a small diameter, and an approximately vertical axis.

The Snow Devil is a very rare phenomenon that occurs when surface wind shear acts to generate a vortex over snow cover, resulting a column of snow particles being raised from the ground into the air.

Snow Devils are so rare that only a few of them have ever been seen in photos or videos. A photo of one is included with this column. The photo was taken from a video shot in the Alps near Lessach, Austria in April of 2015.

Although Snow Devils are extremely rare, tornadoes during the winter season are not. Find out why in a future column from the weather center!



PHOTO BY HEINZ PETELIN

An extremely rare photo of a Snow Devil.

## BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
3:00pm – 5:00pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church  
263 Main Street  
Hurleyville

cal Society and the Sullivan County Museum. You can also visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook.

Please email Suzanne Cecil at [scecil@hvc.rr.com](mailto:scecil@hvc.rr.com) if you have any questions.

### COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The members of Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) continue to monitor the status of the Gan Eden project on Columbia Hill and other developments in the towns of Fallsburg and Thompson.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is still reviewing an application submitted by the developer of Gan Eden seeking the required approval of groundwater withdrawal to supply water to the applicant’s proposed public water supply system. The DRBC’s website to track this project (Docket #, D-2017-002 CP-1) is [www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/projects/pr/status-pg.html](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/projects/pr/status-pg.html).

Environmental elements and issues that the developer of Gan Eden must address and incorporate into the new DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) under the NYS SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) law include:

- water supply
- wastewater treatment plants – type, continued maintenance, disposal route of treated wastewater
- storm water runoff
- increased traffic
- noise and light pollution
- protection of wildlife and natural resources
- electric supply

The final document will be submitted to the Town of Thompson Planning Board and will be subject to public review and comment followed by a public hearing before the DEIS is considered for approval and acceptance. Then the Planning Board will begin to review the applicant’s site plan application which will require another public hearing before any approval to allow site work to commence.

Visit CHNA at [www.columbiacounty.org](http://www.columbiacounty.org) or on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

## The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

So much has happened since last we met! Some incredibly good, most dealing with our health and the spread of the virus, not good at all.

One of the brightest spots of November was the indictment and conviction of Joe Peters, who has mounted a campaign of harassment against the owners of CABERNET FRANK’S for several years. The sentence can be as steep as 5 years in prison (not jail) and a \$250,000 fine. What’s more, it is all over the internet news, as well as the newspapers. Their choice of renown Civil Rights attorney Michael Sussman was an excellent move. I’ve known Michael for a several years, having sat on the board of his EMPOWERING movement, the Ellenville chapter. No one fights harder for human rights.

For those who are not familiar with the story, it’s not what you think it would be. It wasn’t the noise from the best live music and most popular venue in Sullivan County. Peters alleged it was because they kill stray cats with antifreeze. There was no proof. To my knowledge, none of the deceased cats have ever been necropsied to prove the allegations. In fact, I have had conversations with persons who own farms in the area who told me they have trapped and moved “many, many strays” (their words) to their properties in order to alleviate the fact that that area of Parksville was overrun and giving these poor creatures a better quality of life. The harassment had taken many forms from the shattering of a front window with either a pellet gun or air rifle when people were sitting just beneath it, to the latest... running a chain saw nonstop. Videos showed nothing being cut. I’m proud of the support this venue is getting. Those, including myself, who stand WITH the owners and refused to be deterred from frequenting this venue.

Three days of 70-degree weather in NOVEMBER!!!

I ordered “to go” from Cabernet Frank’s after not having my car for two days due to necessary repairs.

And it didn’t quite go as planned.

First, it was It was Friday night not Thursday. Somewhere, I had lost an entire day.

NICK HEATHEN was on stage with his keyboard and his unique “in-your-face” style. Around the fire pit I met a great couple who bought a home in Parksville two years ago, coming from Brooklyn, and their two visiting friends from Brooklyn. And still another couple from the area. And then suddenly there was CASWYN MOON. And KATHY GEARY with KEVIN HANEK. And then another good friend, Amy Brightfield, (Health and Features Director for Better Homes and Gardens) whom I haven’t seen in quite a while.

The entire evening (didn’t leave until 9) was fun and uplifting, erasing the last two weeks of COVID stress and auto mishaps. Amy and I caught up with the duo of CASWYN and NICK in the background. Then CASWYN and I spoke to the duo of KATHY GEARY and KEVIN HANEK. I couldn’t help notice how much stronger KATHY’S voice has become and the lilt reminds me of Irish voices I’ve heard. She has come a very long way in just this summer and her first steps onto a stage with her originals.

Black Friday saw the only

indoor Craft Show I know of since last year. It was held at the CLARYVILLE EVENT CENTER. I’ve been to the Event Center and I know how large it is so social distancing will not be a problem. Masks were required and temperatures were taken prior to entry. Seven artists (hence the mini) including KATE’S HERBALS and KATHY JEFFERS POTTERY, displayed their works for gift-giving this Christmas season. It was good for the community and the soul of the artist.

Another artist friend, CHRIS PARROW, a watercolorist and potter, is opening her studio on the weekends for those looking for interesting handmade gifts. Masks and social distancing are required. The studio is located in Napanoch and for hours and address or directions, please call Chris at (845) 985-7564.

Please be very careful this Holiday Season. Even the small communities who saw almost no COVID cases in the spring have doubled or even tripled their numbers. Walmart in Monticello has reported that two employees that tested positive continued to work. This is not a hoax, people.

Have a lovely, quiet Holiday this December so we can gather together and celebrate next December.

Stay well, stay strong.

Until next time.....

**Young professional guy living locally in Loch Sheldrake / Hurleyville is looking for a gym partner with experience in fitness. Let's work out together 5-6 days a week. You'll be my guest at our beautiful private community gym, which has a bench press, free weights, and high quality machines. 3-minute drive from Hurleyville, perfect for when there's a storm and you still want to get a workout in without traveling to Monticello or Liberty. I teach online until 2 p.m. daily, so any time after 2 p.m.. Let's encourage each other and do this together! My goal is to get lean and build muscle and tone up. Contact Zel at 516-451-7021**

## THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON





# REMOVING BARRIERS ONE AT A TIME

## THINC Staff Continues to Innovate

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE — Imagine being very frustrated, feeling stressed out, but not being able to communicate. What reactions or behaviors might you develop if this happened multiple times a day, every day? Would you cry? Throw things? Hit someone?

Staff at The Center for Discovery (TCFD) are constantly studying how students with autism respond to their environments and how stress contributes to challenging behaviors. This work has offered insights into how students can learn adaptive behaviors to better manage stress and improve functioning, including communication. One strategy is called Augmented and Alternative Communication, or AAC.

There are three different

types of AAC devices: no tech, lite-tech and high-tech. Basic AAC devices involve very simple aided communication. People use basic AAC systems when passing notes or pointing to symbols on a board, for example. Both lite-tech and high-tech AAC devices, on the other hand, produce speech for the user, either by reproducing a recorded message with the press of a button or synthesizing speech on demand. Communication devices assist children and adults with a variety of communication needs by facilitating non-verbal communication. Typically, they allow a user, therapist or caregiver to record messages. Then, in order to play them back, the person using the device just needs to press a button or activate a switch.

That's where the innovators at the Technology Hub



PHOTO PROVIDED

Wrist Talkers innovated and fabricated at THINC.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A THINC wrist talker in use.

and Incubator (THINC) come into the research picture. There are several products available that have a button that when pressed, will play back a recorded message. But staff at TCFD found that they couldn't withstand a lot of wear and tear. In fact, most of the devices weren't wearable at all, had a high

price tag and were easily broken. THINC designers were able to source an AAC button that was sturdy with a smaller price tag, but it was a table top device. So, they designed a new back panel for the small, box-like gadget that could accommodate a Velcro wrist strap. They made a prototype of the back panel on

one of the 3D printers at the lab, and attached it to the box. The tabletop button device could now be worn. Success, even if it was a bit clunky and did not resemble any typical watch or jewelry worn on the wrist. The THINC team went a step further and created a whole new look for the button. They modified the device by taking it apart and cutting down the board component to fit into a new, round, flexible, tailor made housing — a bespoke wristwatch design. Nicknamed the wrist talker, the device now has a smaller profile and looks more like a colorful, stylish sports watch. The new housing was first 3D printed using flexible filament, which makes it possible to print objects that are completely malleable but snap back like a rubber band.

3D printing is very time intensive, though, taking many hours to print one housing for the wrist talker. So staff 3D printed a mold at THINC, allowing the housing to be made from even more flexible material in a shorter amount of time. After eight different iterations, the wrist talker meets the high standards of fit, form and function.

With an AAC device like the wrist talker, a person with a communication disorder or other disability can convey messages and get peoples' attention using sound, even if they're unable to do so using their own voice. While this is not the only way to reduce frustration or stress, it removes a huge barrier that stands between an individual with a communication disorder and the rest of the world.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## SCDW Presents "It's A Wonderful Life" A Virtual Radio Show

HURLEYVILLE — The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop will be presenting "It's a Wonderful Life," a 1940's Virtual Radio Show by Joe Landry, this month, bringing back the sparkle and the magic of the

holidays from days gone by.

George Bailey is a small-town man with so many problems he is contemplating a Yuletide suicide. George's life is played back in flashback - his dashed

hopes of travelling the world; his romance with childhood sweetheart Mary; his protecting the town from the avarice of the evil banker, Mr. Potter with his own savings and loan company. When his company is dashed to ruin, George is about to throw himself off a bridge, but his Guardian Angel, Clarence Oddbody, gives him the chance to see what the world would be like without him.

Directed by Harold Tighe of Monticello, the show features: Producer & Performer - Heather Strauss of Glen Wild, Stage Manager &

Performer - Hannah Veety of Tri-Valley, Sound Tech - Ethan King of Rondout, and a wonderful cast starring Shawn Bailey, Sr. of Mileses, Jean Eifert of Wolf Lake, Sally Gladden of Woodridge, Keith Prince of Woodbourne, Tim Reid of Liberty, Kristopher Rosengrant of Grahamsville and Charley Trowbridge of Jersey City.

Spend some family time this holiday season, and enjoy this exuberant, charming, and imaginative "live" show — a must see for all.

In keeping with COVID precautions and regulations, this will be a virtual production

Tickets are \$7.95 and show times are December 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and December 13 at 2 p.m.

The show will be broadcast thru [WWW.BroadwayOnDemand.com](http://WWW.BroadwayOnDemand.com). Tickets can be purchased thru [WWW.BroadwayOnDemand.com](http://WWW.BroadwayOnDemand.com) or [WWW.SCDW.NET](http://WWW.SCDW.NET) and login to "It's A Wonderful Life."

For more information, call 845-436-5336.

## FCSD and Sullivan County Community Provide Winter Clothing

FALLSBURG — With the current pandemic and resulting impact of job loss and financial hardship, the onset of winter is taking a toll on some families in the Fallsburg Central School District.

As she has done over the past several winters, NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther has answered the need by donating winter coats, hats, gloves and boots for fifty children and adults.

Just prior to the donation on November 10, Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School Guidance Office Secretary Kristen Meyer and Family & Community Liaison Dr. Aleta Lymon had compiled a list of families that were in need. These large families were selected for the coats based on requests from parents for food, clothing and other items that had been donated by Fallsburg school staff.

Assisting Assemblywoman Gunther and two of her staff people in bringing the clothing to the Fallsburg High School and sorting it

out were Dr. Lymon, FCSD Director of Physical Education and Athletics Suzanne Lendzian, and Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal Shana Bruestle.

In the latest Comet Newsletter that can be found on the FCSD web site, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sally Sharkey and Interim Jr/Sr High School Principal Frank Godlewski acknowledged everybody that participated in making this needed donation for school children and families. Dr. Sharkey thanked the Local Elks organizations and the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center for their generosity in provided needed clothing as well.

The families that received warm coats were very grateful, said Dr. Lymon. The need for additional clothing is still great. If you would like to help bring warmth at this time of Thanksgiving, please contact the High School Office at 845-434-6800.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Shown in front of the Fallsburg Jr-Sr High School are (left to right): FCSD Family & Community Liaison Dr. Aleta Lymon, Assemblywoman Gunther Aide Debra Levine, FJSHS Assistant Principal Shana Bruestle, NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, FCSD Director of Athletics Suzanne Lendzian and Assistant to Assemblywoman Gunther Rachael Steingart.

## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

A small tree at the turn of the drive held the last of our autumn leaves. Its branches were bright red on one side and bare on the other until one night in mid-November when a big wind stripped it completely and we woke to the dun-colored world of late autumn. Leaves and

color weren't the only things missing; we noted the conspicuous absence of the deer that had frequented our lawn through spring and summer. Maybe they've withdrawn to winter quarters. Gone was the young, near-domesticated stag who was so unfazed by our comings and goings that he'd cross the porch and peer through the kitchen window, looking for the scraps of apple we'd occasionally toss his way. Good tidings, young stag! I hope you survive hunting season and we meet again next year.

If history were pictured as a garden, we'd be in the Era of Mulch, a time to cover down and do what's needed to protect what we value. The prospect of crossing the finish line of 2020 with a hint of renewal in sight is moral fuel sufficient to power us to year's end. This mulching time, this interregnum between the passing of the old and the birth of the new, may present some morbid symptoms indeed, but they'll pass. It's taken us a very long time, this year, to arrive at this transition point. 2019's "Holiday in Hurleyville" feels like ancient history, the stuff of legend: "Come gather around, good people, and hear tell of Seasonal Celebrations back in the olden days..."

So we keep our eyes out for any sign of hopeful prospects. One evening there was a spectacular sunset behind our cottage; the profuse flush of it, breaking through the clouds, drew us out front

to watch the light play across the distant hills, gilding their crests while their bulk lay in deepening shadow. The peaks looked ready to detach and float off on their own. Then night fell so quickly it was like a curtain dropped. These types of signs don't linger, but they're not withheld.

I'm glad the year is approaching its end. I hope not to see another one like it. Yet it would be out of the nature of nature if so much havoc didn't open to possibility. Even this year's forest fires might well lead to the sprouting of those fire-activated seeds (from aptly-named pyrophile plants) that wait for the occasion that allows them to rise like verdant phoenixes.

In 2016 a wildfire broke out at Sam's Point Preserve, up the Shawangunks. A tract of blackened trees traces the course of it: black stumps on one side of the road, green dwarf pines on the other. The road acted as a firebreak and helped contain it. Now, four years later, there are signs of green among the blackened trunks, new spindly trees whose maturation I won't live to see, and, astonishingly, green sprouts emerging from the trunks and branches of what appears to be cindered wood. Repair is always a possibility. Approaching the new season, a new year, a new map of our civic landscape, we wait and watch. Approaching Thanksgiving, we plan to "gather together / to ask the Lord's blessing" in a scaled-down fashion (a meal for two, plus Zooms) and we hope our hymn will make up in urgency what it lacks in sonority.

Jonathan Shimkin, writer and editor, may be contacted at [jonathanshimkin@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanshimkin@gmail.com) or via his website: [jonathanshimkin.weebly.com](http://jonathanshimkin.weebly.com).

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# From the Firehouse

by Jack Halchak, Past Chief H.F.D.



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking for help, to fight fire or support those that do. We even supply all of the gear and provide all of the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

I would like to welcome aboard two new members that were voted in last month: Stephen Crown and Summer Sherwood. Welcome aboard.

Fire calls continue to climb county-wide. The first day of deer hunting saw three different structure fires involving multiple companies, a motor vehicle accident with entrapment and a fatality, and some other miscellaneous calls. A very busy day. Thanksgiving eve there were two more multiple company structure fires. In addition to calls in county, some Sullivan County companies have been called out of county for their assistance.

County-wide, there have been a number of furnace malfunctions that probably could have been prevented by cleaning the furnace. Have you had your furnace serviced yet?

There have been a number of high wind storms that caused power outages. Some for an extended period of time. Are you ready for a power outage?

Winter and the holidays are right around the corner. Are you ready?

Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. The kit should include:

- cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries;
- blankets;
- food and water;
- booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction);
- compass and maps;
- flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lucy's fundraiser was a huge success. Here the Hurleyville Fire Department gives Lucy's grandfather, Harry Barrett, a check for over \$5000.00. Thank you to all who came to the corned beef supper and supported this endeavor.

- batteries;
- first-aid kit; and
- plastic bags (for sanitation).

Is your home ready for winter?

Staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

- Winterize your home.
- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.
- Check your heating systems.
- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- If you do not have a working smoke detector, install one. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate

heating source and alternate fuels available.

- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

A little about Christmas tree safety:

- Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out. Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested

in a lab by the UL for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.

And finally a little candle safety:

- Trim wick to 1/4" before each lighting. This will give your candle a brighter, cleaner burn. Leaving your wick untrimmed and laden with leftover carbon leads to a duller light that's more likely to produce smoke.
- Always burn candles within sight. Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire such as furniture, drapes, books, paper, flammable materials, etc.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish flame(s) when leaving a room or before going to sleep and always be sure the wick ember is no longer glowing.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.



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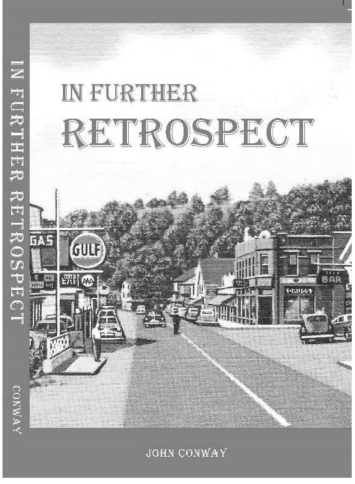
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FROM THE FILES OF...

# THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

December 27, 1930

## High School Notes from the Announcer

Outplaying Hurleyville from start to finish, the Roscoe quintet rang up its first victory in the Catskill Mountain League at Roscoe. Both teams fought hard, but Roscoe, the better team, won.

Hurleyville was the first to score when our dashing forward, Charles Yavorofsky made two foul shots. Immediately after this, Al Keating broke loose and made a nice hang shot making the score 4-0. At this point Roscoe began using its scoring ability and quickly sprang into the lead.

In the second half, our boys fought hard, but could not make their shots good. They kept Roscoe's scoring down, but could not add any points to their own score. The final score was 25-14.

There was a preliminary game between the girls of both schools with victory for Roscoe. Both teams, scrapping hard, made the game a treat to the eye. The score was 19-12.

## People You Know

Among those who attend college and are spending the Christmas vacation with their parents are: Rose Cohen, Sylvia Garelick, Rose Wizwer, Lillian Lawrence, Herbert Billowitz, George Schmuckler, Milton Schmuckler, Betty Simmons, and Paul Raskin.

January 2, 1932

## J. Maxwell Knapp Appointed

Attorney J. Maxwell Knapp of Hurleyville has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Commission on the Monticello-Bloomington Road. The position was made vacant by the death of William A. Williams of Liberty.

## Christmas Finds Children in Need

Children undernourished



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

## Rebecca Salon

and inadequately clothed were discovered by Probation Officer Alexander Conroy as they distributed 125 baskets of food provided by the Monticello Lodge of Elks.

The food baskets were distributed in Fallsburg and Monticello, Bethel, Lake Huntington, Glen Spey, Barryville, Bloomingburg, and Roosa Gap. Every family given food included from two to six children. One family had ten. In nearly every instance, according to Mr. Conroy, the fathers had been out of work for from two to three months.

## S.P.C.A. May Stop All Work in Sullivan County

For the first time in more than 25 years, the Sullivan County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is seeing the necessity of stopping all work because of the lack of funds to go on with. Already we have had to refuse to advance money to keep stock from starvation this winter, in more than one case. In some of these cases, there are little children who are depending on milk for a large part of their daily food, but as we are unable to furnish food for these cattle, they will have to be sold at a sacrifice, entailing additional hardships on both parents and children.

January 1, 1937

## Appointed Referee in Albany Cases

Special County Judge Henry F. Gardner of Callicoon has recently been appointed referee in eighteen cases commenced by different property owners in the City of Albany against the Commissioners of Tax-

ation and Assessment of that city. These cases have been commenced in the Albany County Supreme Court by those property owners, each of whom has valuable property interests in Albany. The order appointing Judge Gardner as referee direct him to hear the cases in Albany.

## Masonic Lodges Install New Officers

Masonic Lodges in Monticello and Liberty will install new masters and officers elected last week. Charles Horton was chosen Master of the Monticello Lodge, and Albert Hadden as master of the Mongaup Lodge, Liberty.

Wallace C. Budd, Summitville postmaster, was chosen to head Wawarsing Lodge, Ellenville, and was installed last week. Kiamesha Chapter, Eastern Star of Monticello chose Mrs. Edna Davidson, matron and Mrs. Harriet Knapp, associate matron.

December, 2016

## Hurleyville Native Gets Obama Appointment

President Barack Obama has appointed Hurleyville native Rebecca S. Salon to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Currently a resident of Silver Spring, Md., Dr. Salon is project director at the National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities, established by the National Disability Institute, and program specialist at the D.C. Department on Disability

## Senator Metzger Concedes



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

## State Senator Jen Metzger

ROSENDALE — By three weeks after Election Day, most of approximately 30,000 absentee and affidavit ballots had been counted in the contest for New York's 42nd State Senate District, and Senator Jen Metzger conceded the race. Senator Metzger picked up a majority of the votes counted after Election Day, and the final margin was less than one percentage point.

In conceding, Senator Metzger has issued the following statement:

"Serving the people of the Hudson Valley and Catskills as State Senator these past two years has been the great honor of my life. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to bring about positive change that improves people's lives in this unique place we all

love. I want to thank my dedicated and hardworking staff, as well as my campaign team and the hundreds of volunteers who made our people-powered campaign a purposeful and steady force down to the very end.

"In January, Mike Marcucci will take this seat in the State Senate, and I wish him the best in his new position, because we all deserve good representation, regardless of our political point of view. Until then, I will serve the remainder of my time in office with the same energy and commitment I've given this job for the last two years. We cannot stop fighting for the dignity and well-being of all people in our communities. Whatever positive change we make in the world, we make together."

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# SENTINEL SPORTS



## FOR ONE AND FOR ALL

### SAFE ENJOYMENT ON TRAILS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

by Emilia Benton

HOUSTON, TX – If you or a loved one are living with a disability, advanced planning is of the utmost importance when heading out on the trail in cold and winter conditions.

Ambika Rajyagor co-founded the Disabled & Outdoors Instagram account, after she was inspired by her sister, Devika, who has significant disabilities. The organization is planning to launch its website, DisabledandOutdoors.com, this winter. “Something that’s always frustrated me is the lack of disabled representation in the outdoor community, along with the lack of accessible resources for the disabled outdoor community,” said Rajyagor, who is based in the Los Angeles area.

#### Research Your Destination

As we go into the winter months, some tips that peo-

ple should keep in mind are to always be prepared for the weather, meaning to dress warm, pack extra supplies in case of an emergency, and always research the area you’re planning on visiting before you actually go, said Rajyagor.

“Last winter, we took Devika to Bryce Canyon National Park, and since it was very snowy, I called the visitor’s center in advance and spoke with someone on the phone about which trails they’d recommend as disabled-accessible, even in the snow,” she said.

She added, “As a caretaker for my sister, and as a disability rights advocate, I believe that it’s important to always be inclusive when planning your outdoor activities, and to communicate and provide options for your group when there are some activities that may not be completely disabled-accessible.”

Before every trip, Rajyagor plans out areas where



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Paved trails such as the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville are accessible to everyone looking to experience nature.

she knows for sure that her family can take her sister’s wheelchair with no issues. In addition to contacting the destination’s visitor’s center or other information ser-

vices department to inquire about accommodations, she researches options that are disabled-friendly.

“If there are places with extremely disappointing

accessibility options, like limited disabled parking, no accessible areas, etc., I recommend advocating for the future implementation of those things,” she says.

Further safety precautions depend on the activity, but it’s always wise to be as mindful as possible about what their limits are when it comes to outdoor activity in new climates.

#### Assisted Gear for Wheelchairs and Walking Aids

“The type of gear you may need would depend on the person’s disability, but if you are a wheelchair user aiming to go on rough terrain, we recommend inquiring about rugged tires for the chair,” affirmed Rajyagor. “There are some wheelchair brands that have these, but we’ve also read about some of our community members going to their local bike-shops and getting their chairs fitted there.”

If you require walking aids, Rajyagor recommends

getting slip-proof ends, and if you are trekking on snow, she suggests opting for spikes (micro or crampons).

“This would just be a start, but in addition to this, it’s important to thoroughly do more gear research for your chosen activity — stores such as REIs can be a great resource,” she says.

No matter your ability level, it’s possible to actively enjoy the outdoors this winter and fall. Just be sure to plan ahead—and do your research—with health and safety in mind for all parties involved.

*This text was originally published in November 2020 in Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s TrailBlog. It has been reprinted here by permission. Emilia Benton is a Houston-based freelance writer and editor who specializes in topics including in health, wellness, personal finance and social justice. Follow her on Twitter @emmiemarieB.*

#### MILK TRAIN TRAIL AWAITS

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Sullivan County has miles of trails, and there is none more universally accessible than the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville.

Rail Trails like the Milk Train Trail tend to be almost perfectly level in nearly every case, and when they are paved—like the more than three miles extending in either direction from Main Street in Hurleyville—they are the ideal place for everyone to travel through nature without missing a single bit.

And there is no question that getting out on the trail is good for whatever it is that might ail one, whether it be psychological or physiological. Sullivan County has been

known for the efficacy of its healing environment for centuries, and the rail trails are currently among the best ways to access the region’s curative properties.

For example, people suffering from tuberculosis flocked to Sullivan County for decades to partake of its clean mountain air and to be surrounded by its evergreen forests. Most of these people had their lives improved and prolonged by their time here.

But you don’t need to suffer from tuberculosis to benefit from time outdoors. More and more studies are showing the positive impact that being outdoors can have. So now, more than ever, get out and enjoy. The Milk Train Trail awaits!

## FIFTY YEARS AGO...

### Sentinel Editor Meets His Match

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE—Lowell Lange was one of the greatest wrestlers in NCAA history, a three-time national collegiate and AAU champion, and a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He was also the wrestling coach at Georgia Tech for more than 30 years.

That’s where Hurleyville Sentinel editor-in-chief John Conway met him in the fall of 1970, and 50 years ago this week wrestled in his first official college match wearing the black and gold singlet of the Yellow Jackets.

“Coach Lange was one of the quietest, most unassuming men I have ever met,” Conway said recently. “And while you could tell from watching him around the mat that he was a pretty good wrestler, I had no idea until many years later that he was one of the sport’s greatest of all time.”

Conway had been in contact with Coach Lange prior to arriving on the Georgia Tech campus in September of 1970, and then really got to know him when wrestling practice started in October.

“We had a grueling practice schedule,” he recalled. “Many days we’d have two practices, one at 6 a.m. and one at 4 p.m. Coach had a simple wrestling philosophy: constant motion, and constant forward motion. He never liked to see you take a step backward on the mat and you never retreated. It was attack, attack, attack, so you had to be in really good physical condition.”

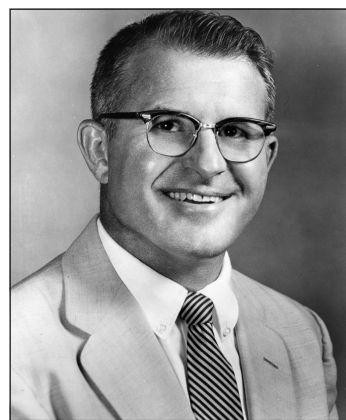


PHOTO PROVIDED

Longtime Georgia Tech wrestling coach and Hall of Famer Lowell Lange.

make the 118 weight limit for the tournament.”

Conway was moved up to the 126-pound class instead, and was matched up against an upperclassman from Troy State in Alabama.

“The guy was a monster,” he says. “I had met him earlier in the morning when we were both trying to cut that little bit of extra weight for the weigh-in, I was trying to get to 118 and he was trying to make 126. I guess he made it, but I didn’t. I wrestled probably the worst match I ever wrestled and he destroyed me.”

With the loss, Conway was out of the tournament. It was a valuable lesson, and the only match he would lose that year.

“I never missed practice again,” he says.

Lowell Lange died in November of 2018 at the age of 90. The impression he made on many of his wrestlers lives on.

“A few of us were chatting when we heard about Coach passing away,” Conway says. “Someone asked, ‘would you say that Coach Lange made you a better wrestler?’ and I said, ‘No, I’d say Coach Lange made me a wrestler.’ I was never a great wrestler, but whatever success I did have was because of him.”



#### BALLGAME BAFFLERS

BY BRIAN

Here are five ballgame bafflers for your consideration. The first person to email the most correct answers to hurley-sent@hotmial.com will win a prize. Have fun!

1. The longest game ever played in the National Football League was played on Christmas Day in 1971. Who were the teams and who won?
2. Who was the only National Basketball Association player to ever score 100 points in a single game?
3. In what year did the N.B.A. season start on Christmas Day due to a lockout?
4. What two teams played in the first regular season NFL Christmas Day game?
5. Only two players in NBA history have missed 5,000 or more free throws, and one did it on Christmas Day in 2008. Who are they?

Bonus: What NBA player scored 60 points in a game on Christmas Day in 1984, but his team still lost?

Last week’s answers:

1. What year was pro football’s very first “super bowl,” and who won the game? **The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10 on January 15, 1967.**
2. Who holds the NFL record of 55 touchdown passes in a single season? **Peyton Manning of the Denver Broncos in 2013.**
3. What NFL team moved to St. Louis from Los Angeles after the 1994 season, and moved from St. Louis back to Los Angeles after the 2015 season? **The Rams.**
4. What is the name of the NFL team that plays in New York? **The Buffalo Bills.**
5. In what year did the Jets win their only Super Bowl? **1969.**

Bonus: What pro football championship quarterback had a son who was also an NFL quarterback? **Jack Kemp (his son is Jeff Kemp.)**

We did not have a winner last month.

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## STILL RUNNING

### Pandemic Canceled 2020 Races

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Around Hurleyville, Brian Dennis is known as “the Running Man,” (as profiled in the sports section of the July, 2017 edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel) and while the ongoing COVID restrictions resulted in the cancellation of all of his planned races in 2020, he continues to train, with expectations to make further strides in the new year.

This was supposed to be a big year for Mr. Dennis, as he prepared to compete for the first time in the 40-and-over division and hoped to complete his first half-marathon, a grueling 13.1-mile race, in addition to his usual 5K and 10K schedule. COVID changed all that.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Brian Dennis

“I used to run almost every day, and did a 5K or 10K race almost every weekend,” Mr. Dennis said. “Most of the 2020 races were canceled due

to the pandemic.”

Mr. Dennis says that during the height of the pandemic earlier this year he ran every-day on the treadmill until he could resume running outdoors, but he misses the camaraderie and the excitement of running competitively.

“I did race in the Virtual Allyson Whitney 5K on the Hurleyville Rail Trail on August 22, and I turned in a personal best time,” he says, while noting that he particularly missed the 2020 versions of the actual Allyson Whitney 5K in White Lake, the Rhulen Run and Ramble 5K in Rock Hill, and the River Run 10K in Callicoon, which have become his favorite races over the past three years or so.

“Hopefully this COVID will be over and we can get back to a normal schedule,” he says. “I can’t wait to race again.”



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