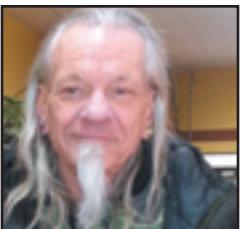


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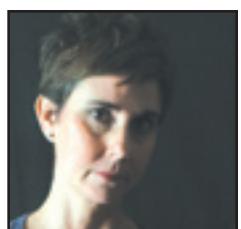
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By Sue Henninger

Despite the cold, a crowd filled the room at the Franziska Racker Centers in Ithaca on Feb. 12, eager to discuss their concerns with State Sen. Thomas O'Mara (R, C 58th District). Audience members' questions focused primarily on the economic outlook for Upstate New York in 2014 and concerns about Gov. Andrew Cuomo's educational agenda, particularly the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

The original purpose of the GEA was to reduce state support to public schools in an effort to help close the state's budget gap. However, it has resulted in many districts having to cut both educational programs and staff. Kathy Zahler, a member of Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES Board of Education, urged O'Mara to advocate for eliminating the GEA, explaining that, while she doesn't deny the importance of universal pre-K, there must be an equal focus on the K-12 population.

O'Mara said that he's working to eliminate the GEA because he feels it unfairly impacts poor, rural schools that receive a higher portion of their annual

budgets from state aid. "We need to get away from the one-size-fits-all mentality that unfairly burdens Upstate New York," he said.

O'Mara reported that he's advocating for job creation and retention in the state and fully supports giving tax breaks to manufacturers. "We're in a position to

improve our standing in the manufacturing world," he said. "It's finally more cost-effective to do business in New York than overseas."

He'd like to see the intellectual property that local universities like Cornell are developing impact the business market through start-ups and incubators, so

the production stays local. Mike Lane, chairman of the Tompkins County Legislature, and County Administrator Joe Mareane expressed concerns about a proposed property tax rebate by the state, claiming that it would entail digging deep into the county's financial reserves, which would in turn lead to increasing financial problems for local governments.

The county has already undertaken a lot of consolidating on its own, they say, adding that they've also done the arithmetic and believe that the rebate check amounts would be only in the single digits (about \$7). Mareane adds, "We believe that this proposal will have a disproportionately adverse effect on those who are the least able to pay it."

In response, O'Mara said, "I don't like the rebate check either. It seems like a political gimmick to me." O'Mara said he prefers to focus on mandate relief, which he's made some progress on, though he's aware that there's still a long way to go. He also criticizes Cuomo's position on consolidation. "The governor is trying to force consolidation by squeezing every

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Giant Steps



Photo by Kathy Morris

Members of Step Afrika! entertained an audience gathered in the Emerson Suites at Ithaca College on Feb. 18. The group, whose members come from throughout the U.S., features a cross-section of African-derived percussive dance forms, including step, gumboot (shown here), traditional tribal dances and drumming, as well as comedy, black history, and audience participation, to make for a high-energy evening.

Mentors Reaching Out to Youth

By Ann Krajewski

When educator Susie Kossack retired, she had no intention of leading a life of leisure. She decided that her many years of experience could still help students.

That's when she joined forces with Cornell Cooperative Extension to found the Mentor-Student program, which is now partially through its second year, having started at Boynton Middle School in 2012.

"I retired from being a guidance counselor and a special education and physical education teacher and I wanted to do something meaningful with this extra time I now had, and I decided to use my skills doing what I know works," Kossack says. "During my public education teaching career, I always made a point of reaching out to students who needed more attention, who I thought would benefit by somebody reaching out to them. I learned over time that the best way to make a difference in a young person's life is to have an adult consistently show up for them. That's why the Mentor-Student program is designed as a one-on-one, because we emphasize the individual attention."

Currently the mentors are working with students in grades six, seven and eight. "As we become more structured, I would like to move in to the elementary schools. Before last year we went to the elementary school social work-

ers, who were familiar with the students and their families," says Kossack. "They were familiar with the kids transferring from the relative comfort and security of the elementary school and after fifth grade coming in to the larger, more spread out middle school and the social workers were able to inform parents about our program and then the parents made the choice to contact us. We've reached out to parents and word of mouth also helped get the word out through some of the local churches."

With the mentors, it's not strictly academic. "Because we understand these kids may have had a rough day and we want them to look forward to spending time with their mentor, which they do in a public place, such as the library. We provide healthy snacks such as cheese, crackers, fruit and the like," Kossack says. "Maybe the kid wants to kick back and the mentor will read them a short story or maybe a chapter book such as a novel or the student can even read to the mentor if they prefer. It's really all about making the student feel relaxed. It's nurturing to the student, to say nothing of improving their comprehensive reading skills. There's no pressure, no questions are going to be asked after a reading session. If they want to discuss the story afterward, they certainly can, but only if they want to."

Later on, perhaps after the first few

weeks, the student and mentor will move on to academics after the mentor contacts that student's teachers.

"This way we find out if the student is behind on any subjects or needs extra focus on something whether it's math or reading comprehension, perhaps writing factual essays or social studies. And I would like to add that the teachers have been very gracious about getting right back to the mentors. Some of our mentors have ongoing communications with the teachers, which of course is very beneficial to the student," Kossack says.

She's actively working on building the roster of mentors, all of whom are volunteers. The most successful mentors have certain qualities. "Obviously they have to like working with kids. We want to stress that higher education is not required. Really we want someone who can read and speak English, but it doesn't have to be their first language, they just need to be fluent," Kossack says. "Reliability is key—we want to know that they're going to show up two afternoons a week. If there are people who want to mentor, but they have something like a nine-to-five job, it's possible for people to mentor in the evenings or on weekends."

Mentors must be over 21 and must complete a multi-hour training course and pass background checks.

The program comes at no cost to

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Methane Leaks Study Sparks Debate

By Sue Smith-Heavenrich

New research finds that methane leaks from the production and transportation of natural gas could be 50 percent higher than EPA estimates. It also warns that switching vehicles from traditional gasoline and diesel to natural gas will do nothing to slow climate change.

The study, "Methane Leaks from North American Natural Gas Systems," was published in the Feb. 14 issue of the journal *Science*. This policy paper is a collaborative effort by 16 academics who reviewed and synthesized data from 200 papers published in the past two decades.

The lead author is Adam Brandt, an assistant professor of energy resources engineering at Stanford University. In comments to the press, he explained that agencies such as the EPA are underestimating leakage of natural gas into the atmosphere. Brandt noted that leaked methane is a greenhouse gas, just like carbon dioxide, but is 30 times more potent.

He said that although converting vehicle fleets from diesel to natural gas sounds like a good idea (burning natural gas puts less carbon into the atmosphere than burning diesel), any potential climate benefits are negated by leaks from gas drilling and production.

The gas leaks are at well pads, storage tanks, old and abandoned wells, abandoned infrastructure and holes in pipelines. Brandt estimates that there are at least 400,000 gas wells—a low estimate given that the U.S. Energy Information Administration tallied more than 510,000 in 2010. As for pipelines,



Part of the infrastructure at Tennessee Gas Pipeline's compressor station in Bradford County, Pa.

"there are millions of miles," he said in a video released recently.

Brandt characterizes gas as "abundant, cheap and domestic" and seems to favor using it to replace coal in power production. But the gas industry must plug the leaks. It's in the industry's best interest, he says. Those emissions represent lost money, and if the country hopes to use gas as a fuel, "then we need to get leakage under control."

Tony Ingraffea agrees that there is more methane escaping into the atmosphere than is accounted for by EPA studies. But he criticizes Brandt and others for not going far enough in their review. Ingraffea, a professor at Cornell's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, co-authored an earlier study

warning that extracting natural gas could do more to aggravate global warming than mining coal.

The problem with Brandt's study, says Ingraffea, is that it ignores important data. In particular, he says, the authors eliminated data that seemed "too high," even though they were recorded measurements. Several recent studies have used airplanes and towers to measure methane in the air and found emissions to be much higher than EPA estimates, with some as much as 75 percent higher, Ingraffea says.

Brandt and his colleagues determined that those measurements were abnormal or came from production areas that weren't representative of the country as a whole, so they dismissed the data, says

Ingraffea.

He cited the study's authors for asserting that the 3 million or so abandoned oil and gas wells scattered across the nation are properly plugged and therefore probably not leaking. "The problem with that," he says, "is that they don't know where all those abandoned wells are, so they can't really measure whether they're leaking or not."

Ingraffea also takes issue with the study's claim that, if industry could plug up the leaks, burning gas in power plants would be better for the climate than burning coal. In order to make that claim, they stretch out their time frame to 100 years, he says.

"That's totally arbitrary," says Ingraffea, "and not based on science." The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives us about 20 to 30 years before we approach a tipping point, he says. "We can't wait that long to start decreasing the carbon emissions from fossil fuel." He adds that using a 100-year time frame is a policy decision that is "... perhaps based on faulty scientific understanding of the climate-change situation in which we find ourselves, or perhaps political wishful thinking."

While re-examining and summarizing previous studies has value, says Ingraffea, it's premature to draw conclusions—every year there are new studies by scientists collecting measurements in the air and on the ground. And the data from these new studies continue to show methane emissions at rates much higher than previously thought, he says.

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Documenting the Cooperative Movement

By Eric Banford

A new feature-length documentary called "Food for Change" is making its way to theater and community viewings, and Ithaca's GreenStar Natural Food Market is a big reason why. GreenStar was a generous donor to Home Planet Pictures, the producers of the film, along with other sponsors from all around the U.S.

GreenStar will host a free showing of the film on Friday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at The Space @ GreenStar, 700 W. Buffalo St. The film will be followed by a panel discussion featuring members of area cooperatives.

The premiere of "Food for Change" was held in October at the legendary Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, Minn., with a simultaneous webcast to roughly 75 co-op communities across the country. A 15-minute excerpt from the film was screened at the United Nations, where it was given an award.

The documentary tells the story of the co-op movement in the U.S. through a combination of interviews, archival footage and commentary by co-op leaders and historians. According to information from the filmmakers, "No other film has examined the key role played by consumer-led food co-ops during the decades-long debate over profit-driven capitalism vs. locally controlled economic enterprises. Born in the heartland, cooperatives were seen as the middle path between Wall Street and socialism."

12th Moon, GreenStar's council president, is participating in the panel discussion after the film. He's seen the documentary twice so far and is impressed with its message. "It starts with a little history and looks at the late 1800s to early 1900s as the Industrial Revolution was fostering a reaction by way of unions and some cooperatives. The Great Depression spurred a real growth in co-op networks, which lasted until the Second World War. After the war, lots of money went into shopping malls, moving out

into suburbia, moving away from Mom and Pop shops, moving away from co-ops which were all primarily based in cities," he says.

The push to expand suburbia into rural areas led to a reduction in co-ops, until the 1960s and '70s, when many people became concerned with how government and industry were affecting their lives. Chemicals were being used for pesticides and fertilizers, and people decided they didn't want that in their food, according to 12th Moon. "There was a wave of people coming together and starting up co-ops again," he says.

It's in this context that GreenStar got its start in the early 1970s as "The Grain Store" where people could buy bulk grains. In its almost 43-year history, GreenStar has grown to include more than 9,000 member-owners as part of an \$18.2 million a year business, with almost 200 staff members receiving a living wage and good benefits.

"A lot of the film shows the tug back and forth not just for consumer dollars but also between democracy in the workplace and in the shopping arena, in the food-equity supply system," says 12th Moon. "It's a big push for people to look at their local and regional environments and where they can foster more cooperation between not just individuals for one need, but groups and businesses for meeting the area's needs rather than waiting for when the trucks don't come one day."

Megan Kent has served as the manager of the Finger Lakes Organic Growers Cooperative (FLO) for the past year and will also participate in the discussion after the movie. "FLO is a small cooperative of organic vegetable farms," she says. "We have 16 member farms right now, and more joining this year."

FLO has been active in the Finger Lakes region since 1986 and has been through some changes recently. "A number of our small farms are working to grow," says Kent. "And we've expanded into the St. Lawrence region. We also have a



GreenStar council president 12th Moon will participate in a panel discussion after the Feb. 28 showing of the "Food For Change" documentary.

number of new Amish growers interested in getting on board this year."

FLO works closely with Regional Access, a distribution company located just north of Ithaca. "Regional Access is where all of our food gets pooled, at their warehouse," says Kent. "They manage all of the pickups at farms, and deliveries to customers for us." Locally, Regional Access is a major supplier to GreenStar, Maxie's, Moosewood, Collegetown Bagels, Ithaca Bakery and Viva Taqueria. They also deliver to the eastern and northern parts of New York, and to New York City.

Kent relates how difficult it is to set prices on organic food, trying to balance a fair price for the farmer with a price that consumers will pay. Customers tell her how important it is to them that their food is local. "I think organic is a good thing, and having it regulated, as much of a pain as that can be, is ultimately a good thing," she says. "But some people just care that it's

local; it doesn't even have to be certified organic."

In the film, Bruce Wooster of Picadilly Farm in Winchester, N.H., says, "The international economy, while it does give us the benefit of cheaper food at cheaper prices, that may come at costs that hurt us in the long run in terms of environmental degradation, social disintegration and personal alienation; all these things that people are hoping to remediate as they get back to local."

Therein lies the strength of co-ops, which by their very nature create wealth for the community, taking democracy and translating it into the local economy, supporters say.

12th Moon sums it up when he says, "The overall message is democratic control, community-environment involvement, keeping the money local, sourcing local and supporting your neighbors."

More information on the film can be found at <http://foodforchange.coop>.

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Town Welcomes New Board Member

By Patricia Brhel

There has been a recent change in the makeup of the Caroline Town Board and a change in membership of the town's planning board.

Tim Seely is the new town board member and Chris Payne has joined the planning board. The town board makes decisions about how the town functions, including how money is spent and what it is spent on and governs the town, including proposing and passing laws.

The planning board helps decide how the town should look. Currently the planning board is creating a site plan review law and has the final information session

scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Caroline Town Hall in Slaterville Springs. All Caroline residents are encouraged to attend.

Seely replaces Aaron Snow, who has resigned and whose seat will be on the local ballot in November. However, he's not a newcomer to the town board.

"After I'd finished my original term I thought, there, I've been on the town board, but I filled in after Dominic Frongillo moved to Germany with a few months still to go on his term. Then, when I heard that Aaron was resigning, I put my name in the ring for that position," he says.

"I was happy to be chosen, especially as the other two candidates

were both good prospects, too. I actually enjoy working with the town board and I've learned a lot from Don [Barber] and previously from Dominic," Seely says. "I respect the work that Don and Irene have been doing and I'm here to support them and the plans they've made to improve our town. I'm sure that I'll enjoy working with John and Mark, too. I'm interested in the fiscal aspects of running the town government, making sure that Caroline is a viable community well into the future. I also hope to relieve some of the work of the other board members by taking on some committee assignments. I'm interested in building and grounds, in the Caroline Youth Commission, in being a liaison for the planning board and/or being a liaison for the highway department.

"I just hope that they don't give me all four," he says with a laugh. "I'm fully in support of having broadband coverage in Caroline. It's as important now as electricity and the telephone were when they became available." Seely laughs again when asked if he'll run for the vacant seat in November's election. "I'm keeping an open mind, but I haven't decided yet."

Payne, a strategic planner and analyst for Gannett Health, the health care system at Cornell University, and member of the Health Planning Council for Tompkins County, moved to Caroline in 2006 because of the rolling hills and rural natural setting.

He replaces Bev Liddington on the planning board. She left with two years left of her term. One of his first contacts with town government was positive. Shortly after moving to Caroline he spoke with Barber about the geothermal heat at the town hall office building, as Payne was considering installing a similar system in his home.

Payne initially applied for the

town board opening but after talking to board members in the interview was asked if he'd consider the planning board.

"I've been on the watershed committee and originally thought that I'd like to be on the town board, as I could then be a liaison between the board and that committee, making for better continuity, so when I was asked if I'd be interested in the planning board I had to do a little research. The more I learned the more I liked the idea. I read the Caroline Comprehensive Plan and reading it thought, this is exactly the kind of town I'd like to live in," he says.

"I was also impressed with how much Caroline has already accomplished toward these goals. I feel that the planning board is the steward of the comprehensive plan. I enjoy planning and the town planning committee is doing on a larger scale and with more variables what I do at work. I enjoyed my first meeting and I'll enjoy working with the other people on this committee. Right now we're getting together to plan for the public hearing on the new site plan review law, which takes place on Thursday. It will be important to explain the proposed law to the people so that they can understand why it's important that we do this."

John Fracchia who was elected to the Caroline Town Board in November, says, "I'm very pleased to welcome Tim back to town council and Chris to the planning board. I am very appreciative of the candidates who applied and their willingness to serve our community as a councilmember. It was a very qualified candidate pool and the decision was extremely difficult. We are fortunate to have both of them serving our community whether it be through town government or committees. I also really appreciate the work done by the other candidate, Greg Harrington, as an EMT and ambulance volunteer."

"KJ" dazzles in Merlot taste-off

Northside Staff

Tasters: **Dave Pohl, ed.**, Dana Malley, Jason Wentworth, and Mark Britten

Despite the recent surge in the popularity of Pinot Noir, the oft-maligned Merlot has maintained its following. According to California's Wine Institute, as of 2012 Merlot maintained its status as this country's second most popular red variety after Cabernet Sauvignon with sales of 22 million cases in that year. The Institute attributes Merlot's continuing popularity to its soft, luscious character coupled with its appeal to both new and regular wine drinkers.

This appealingly lush character is particularly apparent in Merlot wines produced in California and other relatively warm wine regions such as Australia and Chile. These Merlots tend to be low in tannin and fruit-forward compared, say, to Merlot-based wines from Bordeaux, which typically show an earthier and more tannic profile.

The staff at Northside Wine & Spirits recently blind-tasted a group of 17 Merlots from California, all priced under \$25 per bottle. The tasters were curious to see if these wines would live up to their reputation

for soft, fruit-driven appeal.

Most of the wines in the tasting did, indeed, exhibit a straightforward, pleasantly fruity character. If there was a single fault with several of the wines, it was the overwhelming presence of oak that smothered the otherwise appealing fruit.

As enjoyable as many of the wines were, one really stood out from the rest of the group. The **Kendall-Jackson 2011 Grand Reserve Merlot**, \$24 per bottle, was the nearly unanimous top pick of the staff. In terms of balance, flavor interest, judicious use of oak, and lovely aromatics, it was in a class by itself.

The staff was not alone in its positive assessment. In its December 2013 edition, *The Wine Advocate* awards this wine a score of 91. Robert Parker, the *Advocate's* eminent lead critic calls the Kendall-Jackson "outstanding," and states, "Copious aromas of berries, mocha and chocolate as well as a hint of oak emerge from this full-bodied, opulent Merlot."

This beautifully wrought wine shows just how compellingly delicious a moderately priced California Merlot can be. Try it with chicken with tarragon, roasted vegetables, or a hearty beef stew at your next dinner party. Your guests will love you!

Northside Wine & Spirits is at the Ithaca Shopping Plaza on the Elmira Road. Phone: 273-7500. www.northsidewine.com



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Legislature Rejects Jail Project Delay

By Tompkins Weekly Staff

A proposal to authorize a one-year delay on the planned renovation of the county jail was defeated by the Tompkins County Legislature last week after a lengthy discussion that included impassioned comments by those urging the moratorium.

Legislator Leslyn McBean-Clairborne proposed the measure to delay the project to allow the Jail Alternatives Task Force, being formed through the county's Criminal Justice Advisory Board, to complete its work. While noting that Tompkins has been "at the cutting edge of counties" in the area of incarceration alternatives, she maintained the task force should do its work before proceeding with the capital project that would add seven beds to the jail.

More than 100 people packed the legislature chambers on Feb. 18 and at least 25 of them spoke, urging that the county not to move toward mass incarceration and maintaining that changes are needed in the local criminal justice system.

In the discussion that followed, many legislators noted that local residents have helped prompt a

renewed examination of ways to reduce the jail population. Ultimately, most lawmakers indicated that, while they support that review, they do not support a project delay.

The moratorium measure failed by a vote of 3-11, with McBean-Clairborne, Kathy Luz Herrera and Mike Sigler voting in favor. Several lawmakers pointed to the human costs of postponing the project, citing inmates boarded out for lack of space and removed from their families and services.

"If I thought this project would put even one more person in jail, I wouldn't approve it," legislator Dan Klein said. Public Safety Committee chairman Brian Robison maintained the project would reduce jail overcrowding, even with a reduction of the jail population, and he noted that the \$250,000 the county pays annually in inmate board-out costs could support some alternatives to incarceration.

County Administrator Joe Mareane said a bonding resolution for the jail project, and for \$1.5 million to renovate the county Human Services Building to provide a new home for the

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Winter's Big Chill Ideal for Home Ice

By Amanda K. Jaros

For some Upstate New Yorkers, this extra-cold winter is getting to be too long. For others, like Bill Ashdown of Varna, the deep and long cold is perfect. Perfect, that is, for ice. With one of the few home-made ice rinks in the Ithaca area, Ashdown has transformed his backyard into a playground for skaters.

Ashdown is a native of Ohio but has lived in Tompkins County for 35 years. He played hockey in the Ithaca Adult Hockey League for years. Eight years ago, he decided that he ought to make his own backyard rink "just because I wanted to work on my skating," Ashdown says.

What he has created is indeed a great place to work on skating, and for fun. Paths have been carved through the piles of snow to the backyard, where a large rink, approximately 50 feet by 100 feet, about one-third the size of a regular hockey rink, awaits eager skaters. A few steps away, there is a small garden shed that has been transformed into a warming hut—complete with offerings of hot chocolate and marshmallows—making the process of taking skates on and off more comfortable. The rink is edged by six-inch boards that create the form for the ice, and there is a tall net to one side to catch high-flying pucks.

Backyard rinks are very popular in Canada and the northern Midwest states where winters are long and the ice stays frozen for extended periods. Ashdown doesn't know of another backyard rink in the Tompkins County area offering open ice for friends and neighbors, and he is delighted to share his. "Just last night we had a bunch of games going. Then there were relay races. Then figure-eight races," Ashdown says. "Some of the best nights are the hockey games we play under the lights. I can't describe how fun it is."

When he began building his rink, Ashdown first had his backyard leveled. The earth was then covered

by a large sheet of plastic, which must be protected from developing rips or holes. If there are even the slightest punctures, the water hosed in will filter out of the bottom. Ashdown builds boards around the edges of the rink to create a form for the water and to keep hockey pucks in during playtime. When winter sets in and the temperatures drop to the low 30s, Ashdown fills the form with water, averaging seven inches deep, and waits for it to freeze.

Ashdown gets some of his materials from NiceRink, a business claiming to be "the world's leading manufacturer of outdoor ice-rink liners, ice resurfacers and ice-resurfacing accessories for portable home ice-skating rinks, backyard ice rinks and backyard hockey rinks." But he has incorporated his own innovations, including his own "Zamboni." Copper piping is melded together into a square shape, with tiny holes at the bottom and a cloth dragging behind the holes. Ashdown attaches a hose to the pipe, water flows through and drips out the holes as he pulls his own resurfacer across the ice.

Ashdown likes reminiscing about past skating seasons, and he seems to remember each one well. Four years ago was one of the best seasons. "We skated from Christmas into March," he recalls with a smile. In other, recent years, the ice fell into a cycle of freeze and thaw, allowing only short windows of good ice time. Now, because of the uninterrupted, "unparalleled, steady cold," Ashdown says this year has been ideal for ice. "The ice slab is seven inches thick; then beneath that the ground is frozen,"



Photo by Amanda K. Jaros

Bill Ashdown and Cedar Champion on the ice at Ashdown's carefully tended backyard rink in Varna.

Ashdown says. "We have our own small permafrost going on this year."

His passion for the rink is clear, though he says sometimes "it's brutal." He always has maintenance to do; keeping the lights in working order, replacing the wooden boards, or taking care of his hoses and tools. During a recent snowstorm, Ashdown shoveled the rink four times. Whether it's snowing or not, he puts time into working on it every day. When asked how much time, he laughs and shakes his head and says, "I just do what has to be done."

Ashdown strives to make his ice perfect. Despite all the work, "it's amazing how many times I accom-

plish that." He posts on his Facebook group Ashdown Rink, informing people when the ice is good or has just been resurfaced. When it is perfect, "It needs to be skated on right now!" he says, because "I can only adhere to what nature will allow."

And he is often inspired by nature. He is on his rink at all hours of day and night, and takes lots of photos. "We get these blue skies and cold fantastic dawns. The sun is peeping through the trees," he says. "It's so beautiful." With this cold winter being a boon year for skating, Bill Ashdown and the skaters at Ashdown's rink will be talking about the winter of 2014 for years to come.

Health Alliance Announces Programs on Lyme Disease

The Ithaca Health Alliance and Ithaca College present "Lyme Disease: Patient and Practitioner Perspectives on Acute and Chronic Lyme," a film presentation by Under Our Skin, on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cinemapolis.

This is a fundraiser for the Ithaca Free Clinic, with a \$5 to \$10 suggested donation. For more information go to www.underourskin.com/screenings.

A health practitioner panel discussion will be held

Tuesday, March 18, from 4 to 5:15 p.m. at the Tompkins County Library, Borg Warner Room, with clinical staff from the Ithaca Free Clinic and practitioners of naturopathy (Deanna Berman), herbalism (7Song) and acupuncture.

For information or special accommodations contact Brooke Hansen at Ithaca College at kbhansen@ithaca.edu or 274-1735; or go to www.ithacahealth.org.

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Loyal Opposition Needs a Makeover County Seat

By M. Tye Wolfe

When Ronald Reagan won 49 states, humiliating Walter Mondale in 1984, he received 59 percent of the white vote. When Mitt Romney was crushed in 2012, he also got 59 percent of the white vote.

Today, more babies of color are born than white babies, and the demographic problems facing the GOP will get worse every two years.

Demographic extinction is just one of the problems facing the Republican Party. Another is what political watchers say is internecine warfare. Some extreme Republicans in the House have been so self-righteous that, just to keep the country going, Republican Speaker John Boehner has been forced to pass bills using mostly Democrats and just enough establishment Republicans to have a majority. But these Republicans are now on a hit list and many will face primary challenges from the right. This infighting among factions is causing more damage to the GOP brand than anything the Dems have done.

The five factions are:

The business elites who started the party, run the party and raise most of its money to spend on electable candidates.

Libertarians (exemplified by Ron Paul and his father) who enchant many liberals with their relative secularism and views on personal rights until they explain why we shouldn't have a social safety net.

The Tea Party, a group which was

a blessing in 2010 could be a curse in 2014. They are angry and often racist, yet pretend they are motivated by the debt, even though the debt became a problem years earlier when George Bush created it. Posters like "Keep your government hands off my Medicare!" indicate the level of intelligence.

Christian conservatives, who were a major power under Ralph Reed's Christian Coalition but feel betrayed and used by the GOP for doing nothing about gays and abortion.

Moderates, who once held a stronghold in the Northeast (think former Governor Nelson Rockefeller) and appealed to Democrats on the issues of crime and job creation.

Since the untimely death of former Tompkins County District Attorney George Dentes I can't think of any Republican who has won a countywide office. The current sheriff, Ken Lansing, showed political acumen when, after losing the Democratic primary, he ran on the Independence Party line. I doubt he would have beaten the incumbent running as a Republican. A mayoral candidate tried that 10 years ago, and got clobbered.

Republicans in councils and legislatures around the county are disappearing like polar ice caps.

Certainly something could be done to revitalize this storied

brand.

Why rebuild the party from scratch? Isn't it better to have a dysfunctional GOP or a non-existent one?

Perhaps, if you think one-party rule was good for, say, Soviet Moscow. But even liberal Massachusetts had more than a decade of Republican governors because residents wanted to check the machinations of the Democratic legislature.

Western democracies have usually honored the idea of the "loyal opposition." This is the party out of power, fighting initiatives proposed by the majority but loyal to the country and one's countrymen, particularly in times of war.

The widespread absence of respect for the Obamas by the GOP makes them seem disloyal and puerile. The GOP must reboot the idea of comity—even if it means teaching freshmen lawmakers about the need to respect a president enough to stay for his entire State of the Union speech. They can't laugh with constituents who say in all seriousness Obama should be executed, as one did recently.

Next it has to fix its tin ear. I am sure Nixon could have exchanged ethnic slurs with Archie Bunker on live TV 40 years ago and people would have loved it. Today, being homophobic or racist is not cool to

young voters, the ones Republicans need.

Winning elections is about incorporating the best aspects of a faction into a platform that steals issues from the opposition. Attack Democrats from the left every time they demonstrate their statist impulses. Rand Paul made his first political breakout by filibustering on the issue of Obama's use of drones to kill Americans. The left should have done that before the Kentucky senator.

Democrats love to contend that conservatives on the Supreme Court gave corporations the right to contribute unlimited, undeclared donations to candidates. Well, if it is not corrupted by cash, why did the Obama administration recently nominate three men for ambassadorships to important countries (Norway, Iceland and Argentina) that none of them had ever visited? Because together they raised about \$2 million for his last campaign.

If Democrats feel it's safe to play by the rules they say they find offensive, then the GOP could expose this double standard and change their money-soaked image by supporting clean public financing for campaigns.

Marginalizing the modern麦Carthys, like Ike did, and proposing brave anti-corruption bills that co-opt Democratic issues will allow them to not just be the party of Lincoln, but to act like it.

M. Tye Wolfe is a columnist for Tompkins Weekly.

Syrup is Sweet, but How About Sap?

By Steve Gabriel

This is the latest installment in our Signs of Sustainability series, organized by Sustainable Tompkins. Visit them online at www.sustainabletompkins.org.

Living in the Finger Lakes, the change from winter to spring is often quite dramatic and welcomed by residents who may be weary after months of bundling up, scraping car windows and shoveling sidewalks. While the signs of spring come in many forms, there may be no better pulse than the process of maple sugaring, which ebbs and flows based on changing temperatures. Warm days above freezing, coupled with cold nights below 32 degrees F, mean the sap is flowing—and spring is coming.

Tapping trees is relatively easy and inexpensive. All one needs are a few sugar maple trees, a drill, a spout and a collection vessel. In a good year, a tree 12 inches in diameter or larger will produce about eight to 10 gallons of sap. At a

ratio of 40 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup, five or six trees could yield about a gallon of syrup per season. But in many cases the amount of time required to boil sap into syrup makes this process impractical for the homeowner on a small scale. Thus many people choose instead to support a local sugar maker for syrup.

Still, those with a few healthy sugar maples should consider tapping for the sap alone, to enjoy the seasonal health benefits and experience some potential ones. In fact, tapping trees and just drinking the sap may be one of the easiest and most nutritious things to do locally this time of year, especially in your own backyard.

Maple sap, as with other tree saps, has been viewed as a spring tonic by many cultures around the globe. It is usually about 98 percent water and 2 percent sugar, but it is also loaded with minerals, nutrients, enzymes, antioxidants and phenolic compounds. In Korea, there is a long history of sap consumption, and most comes from Acer mono, a maple called gorosoe,

meaning "the tree that is good for the bones" in Korean. This is likely due to the high mineral content in sap, most notably calcium, magnesium and potassium.

Koreans have weekend retreats, visiting the mountains and consuming as much as five gallons of sap per day while sitting on heated floors with conditions similar to a sauna. The idea is to detox the bad stuff and unclog the body from a long winter. In Korean markets, maple sap usually sells for \$5 to \$10 per gallon.

Most analysis of the health benefits of sap has been done on the basic content, which has over 50 vitamins and minerals and a number of probiotics similar to those found in yogurts and other dairy products. More research would be useful, but it's hard to argue against the idea of drinking sap as a healthy option for the springtime. After all, it is water filtered in a tree and loaded with a bunch of nutritional compounds. It may be the cleanest water some people will

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Plantations Receives Grant

What makes a winter garden beautiful? How did rhododendrons and azaleas from China make their way into Cornell's backyard? Why is a north-facing slope ideal for growing conifers? Besides love, what did the rose symbolize in ancient mythologies?

Answers to these questions and other fascinating stories can now be told by Cornell Plantations thanks to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust which granted Plantations \$20,000 to develop interpretive signs and books for their Botanical Garden. Over the course of the next year, Cornell Plantations will be adding six new interpretive signs around the Botanical Garden, and six new interpretive booklets in Plantations' Young Flower Garden.

The proposed project will allow for the installation of an introductory panel in almost all garden areas within the botanical garden and to develop interpretive books for one garden. The purpose of the introductory signs is to introduce visitors to the main idea behind the creation of each garden, orient them to what they can explore, and share fascinating stories behind the plants found in each garden. The interpretive booklets being developed showcase flowers found

in the Young Flower Garden and how they have been depicted in art and literature throughout the world and the cultural importance of the plants. Additionally, the new booklets are ADA compliant and weather resistant.

"Having a sign at the entrance of each garden is a way to 'greet' visitors and share with them what is unique about the garden and what they can experience in the garden," said Sarah Fiorello, interpretation coordinator for Cornell Plantations. "These funds will help Cornell Plantations complete the final set of interpretive priorities from our 2009 Interpretive Master Plan and we are thrilled that Stanley Smith granted us this award."

The gardens located in the Botanical Garden which are slated for interpretive upgrades are Conifer Slope, the Mullestein Family Winter Garden, Comstock Knoll, and the Young Flower Garden.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust was created in 1970 by May Smith, in honor of her late husband.

For more information call 255-2400, or visit cornellplantations.org.

good bacteria may be killed.

You can drink sap straight from the tree, of course, but a carbonated beverage can be created with a home soda-maker. Replace the water with sap, adding as much or as little carbonation as you'd like. It can be used for cooking soups, stews and other recipes that call for water. It also makes a good base for brewing beers.

Straight consumption of sap is a good option for people who want to tap some trees but aren't interested in the time, labor and fuel to boil it into syrup. It's an opportunity to harvest the fruits of a long winter and connect to the cycles of the season. While making syrup takes considerable energy, sap collecting is simple, requiring only the time to tap, collect and consume sap in a variety of ways.

Steve Gabriel is a local educator, author and farmer living in Mecklenburg, where he taps about 80 trees each year. More information is available at www.WellspringForestFarm.com.

Sap

Continued from page 6
ever drink.

In collecting and enjoying sap, it's important to note that while sap is essentially sterile when inside the tree, it can quickly become contaminated. The choice of container for collection is thus very important. Maple buckets and jugs (a milk jug can make a great collection vessel) should be thoroughly cleaned before use.

The best sap runs during the beginning and middle of the season, but as the temperature warms toward the end of March and into April, it's best to stop drinking it straight. Sap can be stored in the fridge (or outside if below freezing) for several days and should generally be treated like milk; it's best consumed within one week of it coming from the tree. Some people choose to boil the sap to effectively pasteurize it, though some of the

Street Beat

The word on the street from around Tompkins County.

By Kathy Morris

Question: How has the civil rights movement impacted your life?



"In St Louis, where I'm from, inner city kids had the option to go to suburban schools. Meeting them gave me a more classist, worldly perspective, and allowed me to have friends who were African-American."

- Amanda Morell, Ithaca



"The civil rights movement allowed space for me, and many others like me, to be able to begin a conversation about race."

- Dubian Ada, Ithaca



"I think civil rights have improved greatly. A lot has been legalized, like gay marriage. People are way more accepting of me, in general."

- Dorina Leon, Dryden/Bronx



"It's improved my work environment, and increased awareness of potential inequalities."

- John March, Ithaca

Submit your question to **Street Beat**. If we choose your question, you'll receive a gift certificate to GreenStar Natural Foods Market. Go to www.tompkinsweekly.com and click on **Street Beat** to enter.

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Readers' Theatre Finds a New Home

By Stephen Kimball

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca (RTI) has found a new home, setting up shop at Cinemapolis in the heart of downtown Ithaca. Its first production at the movie theater brings Neil LaBute's "In a Forest, Dark and Deep" to the stage in early March for a brief run.

RTI is a nonprofit organization whose mission is "promoting and fostering understanding and public interest in the field of live theater." It was founded by Anne Marie Cummings, whose theater career started when she was six. She started working professionally as an actress at the age of 17 and earned a degree from Carnegie Mellon University's conservatory school of drama before working professionally in regional theater.

She launched RTI as a way to present live theater that was affordable for patrons. "When I moved here, I was developing plays with actors that I was working with in New York City," Cummings says. "After four years of living here, I saw a need for a theater like The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca. The group was born during the 2009 U.S. economic downtown as I searched for a theater model that would adapt to the changes in the economy and the changes in people's wallets. The ensemble includes professional actors and musicians located in Upstate New York, performing the plays of esteemed and award-winning playwrights."

"In a Forest, Dark and Deep" was written by playwright/director LaBute. "We've established a growing relationship with him," says

Cummings. "He is my mentor, and his plays and his films are extremely interesting, which is why we present one of his plays each year. This play is a family drama about a brother and a sister, and it's also a psychological thriller. We've never tapped into that genre before, so for audience members it should keep them on the edge of their seats. It's quite a dynamic and powerful 100-minute play that moves fast once it begins."

The performance readings will run one weekend only: Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The play is directed by Cynthia Henderson and features Cummings and Evan Stewart Eisenberg. "I am usually in one play a year. Most other times I direct RTI productions," says Cummings. "Cynthia has performed with RTI twice, and she expressed interest in directing RTI productions since that's part of what she does as an acting professor at Ithaca College. This is the first RTI play that she has directed."

Local cellist Hank Roberts, who serves as music adviser to the Readers' Theatre, contributes his considerable talents to the production. "I was told about Hank and his music after moving here, and once I became familiar with his music, I was hooked into his style," Cummings says. "His music is very theatrical and dramatic, in a sense."

Cummings sees many benefits from using a movie theater as a performance space. "We are taking theater number one and transforming



Photo by Wendy Houseworth

Anne Marie Cummings and Evan Stewart Eisenberg are featured in the Readers' Theatre production of "In a Forest, Dark and Deep."

it with theater lights, a black screen—from ceiling to floor—as our backdrop, and we are using a two-foot-high platform to perform on."

She's confident that this is a smart move for RTI. "In many ways it combines the best of all the spaces we've used so far. We love the location; we love supporting Cinemapolis—our missions match somewhat. We love that now people can walk, take TCAT, have free parking. "With the help of Cinemapolis, we are offering tickets for sale online at www.thereaderstheatre.com. We owe a big thanks to Brett Bossard, Cinemapolis' executive director, for helping us make the online ticket sales happen."

As for running a nonprofit theater organization in Ithaca, Cummings says the city is an excellent place to operate. "I've lived in a number of cities around the U.S., and Ithaca is a great location for theater," she says. "I find that people who live here love the theater and enjoy the unique and new experience that the Readers' Theatre provides audience members."

"For me the most important thing is doing excellent work and finding an ensemble of local actors who love doing what we are doing—and so far I've met a stellar group of local actors who I work with regularly," she says. "Because there is so much theater in Ithaca, we limit our performances to only four plays

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The Past is a Foreign Country

By Nicholas Nicastro

★★★★ *The Past* (Le passé). Written and directed by Asghar Farhadi. At Cinemapolis.

Nothing is easy when it comes to the films of Asghar Farhadi. If their emotional power makes them sometimes hard to watch, and their persistent complexity hard to summarize, they're also hard to dismiss from one's mind. Many viewers in the West found this out when his last film, *A Separation*, earned wide attention (and the first Oscar for an Iranian film) in 2012. Farhadi is up to the same, brilliant tricks in his latest, *The Past*.

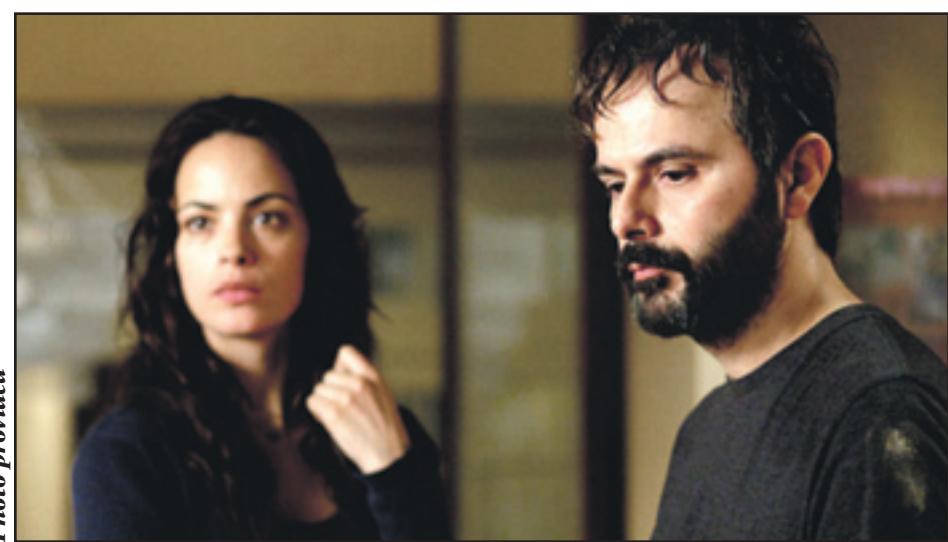
This one is set in a suburb outside of Paris. Marie-Anne (*The Artist's* Bérénice Bejo) welcomes her Iranian soon-to-be ex-husband Ahmad (Ali Mossafa) to town on the occasion of signing their final divorce papers. It's supposed to be a legal formality, maybe mixed with a little wistfulness, but matters soon become more complicated. Marie-Anne has conceived a child by her current boyfriend, Samir (Tahar Rahim) the French-Arab owner of a dry cleaning business. Samir, in turn, is still married to Céline (Aleksandra Kłebanska). Céline lies in a coma after attempting suicide—an act that may or may not have been provoked by knowledge of Samir's infidelity. That, at least, is the assumption of Marie-Anne's teenage daughter (Pauline Burlet), who is determined to sabotage her mother's engagement.

This may sound like the stuff of genuine soap-opera, but *The Past* feels like nothing of the kind. As Ahmad is drawn into the travails of the woman he once abandoned, the film becomes a kind of archaeological investigation of acts and feelings whose consequences are never

what they seem. In Farhadi's script, no momentous revelation supplies the final word. Each leads only to new puzzles, new layers of significance, that will frustrate viewers seeking faster, more conventional drama.

A social conservative, Iranian or otherwise, can find much to deplore in these characters' "European" disregard of traditional arrangements—the affairs, the out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the toll on the lovers' small children. Yet the modernist in Farhadi sees no easy solutions in the arbitrary strictures of the past, either. As in *A Separation*, there are only the inevitable passions that come with living with others, and the compromises we make to navigate them. In this, the melancholy and patient Ahmad, obliged to surrender the husband's prerogatives, yet sift through his ex-wife's emotional wreckage, seems to stand in best for Farhadi himself.

Following the silent-era antics she mastered for *The Artist*, Bejo shows mastery at a miniaturist's scale here. (She won the 2013 Best Actress Award at Cannes for this role). Farhadi likewise draws



Bérénice Bejo and Ali Mossafa go digging in *The Past*.

detailed, believable performances from the children in the cast (Burlet, Elyes Aguis, Jeanne Jestin). In a season of strong performances, you will not see a better acted/directed film this year, which makes its omission from the Best Foreign Language film Oscar nominees for 2013 especially puzzling.

In snubbing Farhadi, the Academy at least has something in common with the mullahs in Iran, who forced their countryman to

cancel the Tehran celebration for his 2012 Oscar win. Whether they're wearing Rolexes or turbans, swine have trouble savoring pearls.

Movie Ratings

★★★★★	Classic
★★★★	Excellent
★★★	Good
★★	Fair
★	Poor

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Joni Mitchell Tribute Concert Set

More than a dozen Ithaca area musicians will bring an evening of song to the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) on Saturday, March 8, for the fifth annual Joni Mitchell Tribute Concert.

The concert takes place in the third floor performance space of CSMA starting at 7 pm. Suggested donation is \$10, with all proceeds benefitting CSMA's scholarship program. CSMA welcomes the concert's major sponsor, Viva Taqueria.

Scheduled to appear are Jeannie Burns, Terry Burns & Ron Kristy, Joe Gaylord, Shauna Guidici, Colleen Kattau, Molly MacMillan, Sue Tierney McNamara, Nate and Kate, Sally Ramirez, Alice Saltonstall & Dana Paul, Elisa Sciscioli, Richie Stearns, and Maggie Whitehead.

According to concert organizer Joe Gaylord, "Local musicians deeply embrace her music, ranging from folk to blues to jazz to rock. Each year, I can't wait to see who will share their talents and what their vision of Joni Mitchell's music is."

A leader in community arts education and cultural programming, CSMA offers instruction in visual arts, music, dance, and theatre for all ages, and presents performances, gallery exhibitions, and events in its downtown facility.

For more information, visit www.csma-ithaca.org or call 272-1474.

Land Trust Creates Nature Preserve

The Finger Lakes Land Trust has accepted a land donation from the LUA Corp. of a 196-acre property in the town of Newfield. The property is located in the heart of the Emerald Necklace—a proposed greenbelt that will ultimately link more than 50,000 acres of existing public open space that extends in an arc around Ithaca from east to west.

The newly created Charles Spencer Nature Preserve harbors stands of mature forest, streams, wet meadows, and grasslands that afford sweeping valley views. The site is located in close proximity to Cornell University's Arnot Forest. After the Land Trust completes a management plan and fundraising campaign to support long-term management of the site, it will be opened to the public for visitation.

LUA Corp. formed in 1976, in the wake of the uncertain times of the oil embargo and long gas lines. Four friends decided that it was the right time to find some unspoiled land which they could rescue and preserve in its natural state. This land would also serve as a retreat



Photo by Andy Zapp

The newly created Charles Spencer Nature Preserve in Newfield

from a rapidly changing society.

Familiar with the scenic beauty of the Finger Lakes, the members found an exceptional piece of property offering both beauty and seclusion tucked away within the hills and hollows of Newfield.

LUA has requested that the land donation be named in honor of the members who maintained, to the end, the vision to protect and preserve the land. LUA Corp. believes

that by donating this land to the Finger Lakes Land Trust as a nature preserve it has successfully accomplished, for all time, what they set out to do in 1976.

LUA retained ownership of 24 adjacent acres which has been conserved through a conservation easement with the Land Trust. Conservation easements are perpetual legal agreements that limit development of the land while

allowing it to remain in private ownership, on the tax rolls and available for traditional uses such as forestry and agriculture.

"Both of LUA Corp's donations are wonderful additions to our conservation efforts in the Emerald Necklace," said Andy Zapp, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. "We are especially honored to receive the tremendous gift of land from LUA Corp and will continue their tradition of land stewardship and protection. We look forward to inviting the public to visit the Charles Spencer Nature Preserve upon the completion of our planning and fundraising efforts."

With the completion of this latest project, the Land Trust has secured more than 3,000 acres of significant open space lands within the Emerald Necklace, which is recognized as a priority project within New York State's Open Space Plan. This project is also located within the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay—the nation's largest estuary, which is the subject of both federal and state conservation efforts.

Best of Downtown Awards Announced

The Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA) has announced its annual Best of Downtown Awards. Honorees were presented with plaques by DIA Board President Michael C. Cannon and Executive Director Gary Ferguson at a dinner featuring food from a number of downtown restaurants, a keynote speech by urban design expert Joseph Minicozzi, classic jazz music by Doug Robinson, and special presentations by DIA staff.

Retail Business of the Year went to Mockingbird Paperie. When the owners of the House of Shalimar and Ithacards stores retired last year after forty years in the business, many wondered what would become of this key downtown space. Suzanne Loesch purchased Ithacards, rebranded it as Mockingbird Paperie, enlarged its selection of fine paper products, and expanded it into the exquisitely restored former Shalimar storefront.

Economic Development Projects of the Year went to Breckenridge Place and Seneca Way. Breckenridge is the affordable housing project across from the Dewitt Mall created by Ithaca

Neighborhood Housing Services and PathStone. Seneca Way is the new landmark building gracing the east entrance to downtown Ithaca; built by Newman Development and Warren Real Estate, it features 38 apartments and 9,000 square feet of office space.

The Community Achievement Award went to Jean McPheeters. In her 12-year tenure as President of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, McPheeters assumed the leadership of the business community with grace, insight, and an infectious can-do attitude. McPheeters has also worked to revitalize downtown Ithaca as an active member of the DIA Board, the Commons Rebuild Committee, and the Strategic Tourism Planning Board Beautification Committee.

Emerging Business of the Year went to Norabloom Botanicals. Owned and operated by Holly Green, Norabloom offers spa services like massage therapy, facials, and nail care in addition to Green's own signature line of paraben-free skincare products. After outgrowing a space in Fall Creek, Green rented the second floor of

the Mia Building at 132 The Commons and transformed it into a striking contemporary boutique.

The Business Achievement Award went to Jennifer Engel. For more than 30 years, Engel has been a fixture in the downtown Ithaca community. She launched Cat's Pajamas, the beloved children's toy and clothing store in the Dewitt Mall, in 1983 and has been a tireless leader and advocate for Dewitt Mall businesses ever since. She has also regularly volunteered her time for special downtown events.

The Tourism Achievement Award went to Argos Inn. When Avi Smith returned to Ithaca five years ago, he had a vision to create an urban inn with historic character and a unique flair. Smith purchased the former Duncan Hines building at 408 East State Street and painstakingly restored its stunning architectural elements; it now features ten guest rooms and a ground-floor pub featuring live music.

City Employees of the Year went to JoAnn Cornish and Phyllisa DeSarno. Cornish serves

Please turn to page 16



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Briefly...

Kitchen Cupboard Seeks donations

Every year during the months of March and April, the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard, along with a number of other area food pantries, participates in the nation-wide Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge. Any food or monetary donations received at the Cupboard during these two months will increase the Cupboard's portion of the Feinstein grant.

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard has been a program of Area Congregations Together since 1969. Every weekday afternoon the Cupboard is open to distribute three days' worth of nutritionally balanced groceries to eligible households in the City and Town of Ithaca.

Monetary donations (checks to Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard) are always welcome at: Joan Barber, Treasurer, 8 Hilltop Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Food items (valued for the purpose of the challenge at \$1 each) are also welcome, especially canned vegetables and fruits, dried and canned soups and pastas, canned dinners, meats and fish, and peanut butter. They can be dropped off any weekday, 9 a.m. to noon, inside the Salvation Army building, 150 N. Albany St., Ithaca.

Finger Lakes ReUse Holds Orientation

Finger Lakes ReUse is hosting a volunteer orientation on Monday, March 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the ReUse Center. Meet great people and help make donated items ready for sale. Anyone interested in volunteering at the ReUse Center, eCenter, or Deconstruction Services program should attend this meeting, which will cover details of operations and volunteer tasks.

Please RSVP to Anise Hotchkiss, anise@fingerlakesreuse.org, call 257-9699 or fill out the application at <http://fingerlakesreuse.org/volunteer.shtml>.

Farmers Invited to County Ag Summit

The 2014 Tompkins County Ag Summit seeks farmers working land in Tompkins County to review and provide additional comment on the work done so far to update the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The summit is Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dryden VFW. For more information contact Debbie Teeter at 272-2292 or DLT22@cornell.edu.

Legislature

Continued from page 4

Day Reporting program, will come through county committees and to the Legislature next month.

McBean-Clairborne said the issue of incarceration is actually a larger community conversation involving more than just the legislature, urging those concerned to become involved in the court system and to create a sustained movement to make change happen.

Grant Funds Accepted

The Legislature, without dissent, authorized acceptance of a \$100,000 grant from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (\$35,000 each year over three years) to support a defender-based advocacy sentencing initiative for criminal defendants in Tompkins County, in partnership with the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA), of Syracuse.

CCA will work in with the coun-

ty Assigned Counsel Office and defense counsel to provide training, consultation, investigation and report preparation services for identified cases, as well as referral information for relevant support services for defendants. Robison said the grant award is the first step in the county's study of additional alternatives, to be examined in depth by the new Jail Alternatives Task Force.

Shared Services Agreement

County lawmakers authorized a joint services agreement, under the New York State Real Property Tax Law, to provide assessment services to the Town of Covert in Seneca County. Through the agreement, the Tompkins County Department of Assessment will provide a full-time assessment office for the Town of Covert. That office will be staffed most of the time in the City of Ithaca, but there will be office hours of at least four hours per week at the Covert Town Hall.

The measure notes that the agreement is consistent with Gov.

Frozen Falls



Photo by Sue Henninger

The view of an icy Taughannock Falls, at Taughannock Falls State Park in Trumansburg, from the Gorge Trail. The trail is open year-round and hikers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers and dog-walkers have been enjoying the wintery landscape.

Andrew Cuomo's priority for shared services among local governments. The county will receive \$15 per parcel for some 1,500 parcels in the Town of Covert—Assessor's fees of \$23,160 for the first full year, which amounts to \$17,370 for the remaining ten months of 2014.

Courthouse Renovations

Andrew R. Mancini Associates of Endicott was awarded the contract to renovate the basement space of the county courthouse for use by the New York State Unified Court System. Mancini's bid was \$298,700 with a total contract cost of \$330,000. The project will renovate 3,000 square feet of basement space, most of it formerly occupied by the Office for the Aging, for new surrogate clerk offices, three holding cells and meeting room for the court system. The County will pay all design and construction costs and be reimbursed by the state court system.

IDA Members Appointed

Legislature chairman Mike Lane's

2014 appointments to the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency were approved. Legislators Nathan Shinagawa, Will Burbank, Martha Robertson and Jim Dennis will continue on the IDA for another year, with Dennis appointed as chairman, succeeding Martha Robertson. City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick will continue as an at-large member for the completion of his two-year term.

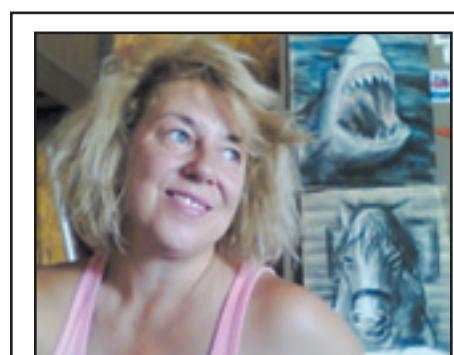
Theatre

Continued from page 8

a year—one weekend only—with one performance annually dedicated to our fund-raiser. All in all, the work we do here is great and the community has been very responsive to it. I think what's in our favor is that we are presenting theater in a different way than the others, and now even more so since we've moved to Cinemapolis."



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Tompkins County Community Calendar...

24 Monday

AI-Anon, 6:30pm, 518 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, Meeting open to anyone affected by another person's drinking. Info., 387-5701.

All Saints Bingo, 6pm, All Saints Church, 347 Ridge Rd., Lansing, 533-7344.

Art Exhibit Opening & Presentation, 7:30pm, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca. Artist and RIT Professor Denis Defibaugh is interested in the aesthetics and taxonomy of these specimens and feels they combine aspects of both art and science. Defibaugh uses film that is obsolete, allowing it to oxidize and eventually become a black sheet of film. His photographs of specimens are made during the deterioration process, creating moving images of preservation and decay—what he calls a "fading memory." This exhibit will be on display in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology auditorium through April. Admission: Free; Contact: 800-843-2473, cornellbirds@cornell.edu.

Baby Storytime, 10:30-11am, Tompkins Co. Public Library, Caregivers and newborns up to 15 months old are invited to join us each Monday in the Thaler/Howell Programming Room for stories, songs, and togetherness. October thru April, For more info, 272-4557 ext. 275.

Big Book Study, 7:30pm, Henry St. John Building, 301 South Geneva St., Basement Rm 103, (enter playground side, ramp door), Info., (607) 592-5574. Open to all.

"Black and Latino Greeks: History, Relevance & Responsibility", 7pm, Klingenstein Lounge, Phillips Hall, Ithaca College. Panel discussion on the role and relevance of historically African-American and Latino fraternities and sororities.

Breastfeeding for the Health of It!, 10am-12pm, Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Info., (607) 272-2292 or email TMF8@cornell.edu to sign up.

Dryden Senior Citizens Lunch, Dryden Fire Hall. Lunch is served at 12:15pm with announcements starting at 11:45am. Please bring your own table service. The meal cost for members is \$7 and \$8 for non-members. The menu will be macaroni and cheese, applesauce, tossed salad, beets, (vinegar on the side), and pie. Our speaker will be from the History House of Dryden.

Emergency Food Pantry, 1-3:30pm, Tompkins Community Action, 701 Spencer Rd., Ithaca. Provides individuals and families with 2-3 days worth of nutritious food and personal care items. Info. 273-8816.

Free GED classes, Tompkins Workforce NY, 5:30pm-8:30pm; Call 257-1561 to register.

GIAC Open Lounge, 3:30-6pm, 301 West Court Street, Ithaca, Game Room, Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips.

Grandparent's Group, 6:30-8:30pm, Family & Children's Service, 127 West State Street. Supportive and educational support group for grandparents who are raising their preschool & school-aged grandchildren. Free of charge. Meets 4th Monday of the month. Childcare can be provided, register 273-7494.

Harmony Falls Women's A Cappella Chorus, rehearsals 7-9pm every Monday at TBurg Seneca Rd Baptist Church. Women of all ages and singing ability invited to their special Summer Sing program. www.HarmonyFallsChorus.com.

IC Events, Lecture: "Mindfulness-Based Elder Care: A Model for Health Care Workers and Caregivers," a Gerontology Institute Distinguished Speaker Series talk by Lucia McBee, licensed clinical geriatric social worker and author of the book "Mindfulness-Based Elder Care"; 7 p.m., Emerson Suites, Phillips Hall.

ICG Winter Sprouts at Mama Goose, 10:30-11:30am, join us for stories about nature, gardens, and the seasons followed by hands-on activities for children ages 2-5 with a caregiver. FREE but donations are welcomed. No need to pre-register. Contact Leigh MacDonald-Rizzo at 272-2292 x186 for information or visit www.ithacachildrensgarden.org.

Ithaca Town Board Meeting, 4:30pm, Ithaca.

Landlords Association of Tompkins County will have its monthly meeting on Monday Feb 24th, 4:30 PM at the Ramada Inn on N. Triphammer Rd. This month's guest speakers will be attorneys Jeff Walker and Russ Maines, discussing legal issues important to landlords, and answering questions. Rental property owners interested in joining are invited to attend. For information email LATC@LandlordsAssociation.com or call 607-257-2382.

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County Meeting, 7-8:30pm, Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room, 101 East Green St. Ithaca. Info., Flo Smith flosmith42@aol.com 273-6147.

Lifelong Schedule, 8:30-9:30AM, Enhance Your Fitness, Lifelong, 119 W. Court St, Ithaca; 9-10AM, Enhance Fitness® Juniper Manor; 10-12:30PM, Clay Class; 10-11AM, Tai Chi, Titus Towers Apt., 800 S. Plain St., Ithaca; 10:15-11:15AM, Enhance Your Fitness, Dryden Veterans Memorial Home, 2272 Dryden Rd., Dryden; 12:30-1:30PM, Strength Training, Lifelong, 119 W. Court St., Ithaca; 2-3PM, Enhance Fitness®, McGraw House Annex, 211 S. Geneva St.; 2-3:30PM, Being Human: Life Lessons from the Frontiers of Science; 2-4PM, ESL; 2:30-4:30PM, Open Computer Lab, Info., 273-1511 or www.tclifelong.org.

Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen, 12Noon, St. John's Church, 210 N Cayuga St., Open to all, no limitations or requirements. Info., www.loaves.org.

"Mindfulness-Based Elder Care: A Model for Health Care Workers and Caregivers", Free and open to the public, McBee's talk will begin at 7pm, Emerson Suites, Phillips Hall, Ithaca College. For more information, contact the Gerontology Institute at 607-274-1607 or treinemann@ithaca.edu.

Muffin Mondays, 8am 'til gone! Dryden Community Center Cafe, 1 W. Main St. Dryden. Different homemade, from scratch, muffins every week. Muffin Monday special \$3.25 for a muffin & a 12oz. coffee. Info., 844-1500.

Open Family Swim, 6pm-9pm, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, Fee, 844-8222.

Out Loud Chorus, 7-8:30pm, Briar Patch Vet, 706 Elmira Rd., Ithaca, Urban Choral Music. No auditions, no experience necessary. Looking for new singers. All genders and sexual expressions welcome. Find out more at www.outloudchorus.org. Email outloudchorus@aol.com, or call 607-280-0374.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, or 7-8pm, Cortland Memorial Nursing Facility, 134 Homer Ave., Basement Conference Rm B, Info., (631) 804-8237.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, 7pm-8pm, Just Because Bldg., 1013 W. State St., Ithaca, email: ithaca@outlook.com, phone: 607-387-8253.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Meeting, PTSD Ithaca is a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder support group for individuals in and around Ithaca, NY who have been diagnosed with (or think they may have) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Please call 607-279-0772 for more information.

Spanish Conversation Group, 11:30pm, Ulysses Philomathic Library, 74 E Main Street, Trumansburg, Free, Info., 607-387-5623.

Tai-Chi, Increase your balance, sense of body awareness and well-being. Mondays 3:30-4:30pm. Registration required. Info., www.ithacaymca.com.

Tot Spot, 9:30-11:30pm, Ithaca Youth Bureau, October 21 thru Late April. Indoor stay and play for children 5 months to 5 years & grown-ups of any age. Children ages 5 months to 1 year: \$2; Children ages 1 year to 5 years: \$4; Adults always FREE! Frequent Visit Discount Passes Available for Recreation Partnership Residents, Info., 273-8364.

VOICES Multicultural Chorus Rehearsal, 7-9pm, Ithaca Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor, 208 E. Buffalo St., Ithaca, VOICES is a NO AUDITION choral project of the Ithaca Community Chorus singing songs from diverse & ethnic choral traditions. Come at 6:30 to register or on line at <http://ithaca-communitychoruses.org/g-voices>.

Workforce NY Workshop, Social Security Workshop, Monday, February 24th, 10:30-12:30

WORKSHOP TO BE held at Borg Warner Rm. Tompkins County Library; Info., (607) 272-7570 ext. 126, Email: Ramona.emery@labor.ny.gov.

25 Tuesday

Abovoagogo Classes, Abovoagogo Art Studio, 409 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, Mixed up Media, 3:30-4; Arte en Espanol 4:30-6pm; Info., 262-6562 or visit abovoagogo.com.

Academic Freedom and the American Studies Association Academic Boycott of Israel, 7pm, Klingenstein Lounge, Egbert Hall, Ithaca College. Free and Open to the public.

Alzheimer's Support Group, 1-1:30pm, Office for the Aging, 214 W. Martin Luther King Jr./State Street., Meets 4th Tues of the month. Open to those caring for someone with dementia, confusion or serious memory loss. Info 274-5492.

Baby and Toddler Playtime, 11:30-12:30pm, Thaler/Howell Programming Room, Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca. Playtime features a gorgeous fairytale-themed mural designed to encourage a love of books and imagination. For information, contact the Youth Services Department at (607) 272-4557 extension 275.

Board & Card Game Night, 6-9pm, Unwind Cafe, Ithaca Mall, next to Best Buy. We'll bring games on a rotating basis or bring your own favorite to play! Enjoy the great food, drinks & friendly atmosphere of the cafe. Open to the public.

Board of Education Commendation Ceremony, 5:30pm, Kulp Auditorium, Ithaca. If you wish to recognize the extraordinary achievements of students or staff, please submit a completed commendation worksheet (attached) via e-mail to jenny.bisha@icsd.k12.ny.us. Due to the preparation involved in organizing this event, the deadline for submission of applications is Friday, February 1 at 5 p.m.

Candor Library Story Hour, 10:15am, Candor Free Library, Bank and Main St., Info., 659-7258.

Cayuga Chimes A Capella Chorus Meeting, 6:45pm, Every Tuesday, Boynton Middle School, Music Room, Women of all ages are invited. No auditions required. Come join the fun. Info.: (607) 273-2324 or cayugachimes.org.

Cayuga Club Toastmasters, 6-7pm, meets every Tuesday, 6th floor of Rhodes Hall, Conference Room #655, Cornell University, Ithaca. Info., <http://cayuga.freetoasthost.us>.

Chamber Luncheon, 12noon-1pm, Glenwood Pines, 1213 Taughannock Blvd., Ithaca. During the lunch prep, Jim/Brett Seafuse will be speaking about The Shur Save expansion, which is slated to open on February 24, 2014. Fees/Admission: \$12.

Cub Scouts Pack 55, Ellis Hollow Community Center, Pack meets 5pm, every Tuesday, Contact Dawn Thornton at 277-1051 or neiko1999@aol.com for more information.

Emergency Food Pantry, 11:30am-2pm, Tompkins Community Action, 701 Spencer Rd., Ithaca. Provides individuals and families with 2-3 days worth of nutritious food and personal care items. Info., 273-8816. For a complete listing of daily pantries, see: www.211tompkins.org.

Family Reading & Discussion Group, 6-7:30pm, Southworth Library, Dryden. A book Club for caregivers and children 8-11 looking at home, community and friendship through engaging novels. A simple dinner will be provided. Registration required. Call the library for more information.

Free Karate for Adults and Children, Emphasizing natural focus, discipline, personal enrichment and performance. Instruction classes for students, as young as, 3.5 years old. Official Seishi Honbu Karate, 15 Catherwood Road, Ithaca, (607) 277-1047 www.seihiju.com.

Gentle Yoga, Meets every Tuesday 9:30-11:00am at Island Health & Fitness. A blend of stretching, relaxation, healing visualization & meditation in a supportive group environment. The class is offered free of charge to those with cancer. For more information contact instructor Nick Boyar 607-272-2062 or nickboyar1@yahoo.com.

GIAC Open Lounge, 3:30-6pm, 301 West Court Street, Ithaca, Game Room, Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips.

Head Over Heals Gymnastics Unstructured Play-Time, 10:30-11:30am, Sept.-June, 215 Commercial Avenue, Ithaca, Ages 6mo-5yrs, Cost: 6 Mths - 1 Year - \$3, 1 Year - 5 Years Old - \$5 for current members, \$7 for non-members; Info., 273-5187, www.flga.net.

Healing Ithaca Prayer Service, 5:15PM-5:45PM, First Tuesday of the month, First Baptist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, For more information, Myra Sabir at HealingIthacaNY@gmail.com.

Healthy Tuesdays, 6pm, Groton Public Library, Free fresh produce, Info., Ruth, <http://www.whole-share.com>.

Helping Hands Pantry, 3:30-6pm, Harmony UM Church, 726 Route 221, Harford, 4th Tuesday of the month, for town of Harford residents.

IC Events, LECTURE: "Academic Freedom and the American Studies Association Academic Boycott of Israel," a talk by Eric Cheyfitz, the Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters

at Cornell University; 7pm., Klingenstein Lounge, Egbert Hall; MUSIC: Faculty recital by trumpeter Frank Campos with bassist Nicholas Walker, featuring works by Adele, Bach, Granados, Carmichael, Jobim, Monk, Whelan and others; 8:15 p.m., Hockett Family Recital Hall, Whalen Center; READING: Distinguished Visiting Writers Series reading by poet and literary critic Elizabeth Willis, a winner of the National Poetry Series competition for "The Human Abstract"; 6 p.m., Handwerker Gallery, Gannett Center.

Immaculate Conception Church Food Pantry, 1-1:45pm, Seneca near Geneva St., Ithaca, Free, fresh produce, breads, desserts, dairy and deli. For low to moderate incomes, limit 1 pantry per week. www.friendshipdonations.org.

IC Event, Talk on Israel and Academic Freedom, 8pm, Clark Lounge, Egbert Hall, Ithaca College.

Karate, 5:30-6:30, Kwon's Champion School, 123 Ithaca Commons, Martial arts classes for all ages, children and adults, Never too old or too young. Info., Cjichi@Yahoo.com.

Lifelong Schedule, 9-12PM, Morning Watercolor Studio; 9-12PM, Open Computer Lab/Discussion; 10-12PM, The American Economy; 10:15-11:15AM, Senior Seated Stretch and Tone, Trumansburg Library; 11:30-12:30PM, Tai Chi, Lansing Community Library, Auburn Road; 1-3:30PM, Afternoon Art Studio; 1:30-3:30PM, Channel Your Heart's Intelligence; 2-4PM, Getting to Know the Microbes in Your Life; 4:30-5:30PM, Kundalini Yoga; 7-8:30PM, Ithaca Bipolar Explorers Club; Info., 273-1511 or www.tclifelong.org.

Little Voices Music & Motion, 10am, Ithaca Youth Bureau, Ithaca, or 4pm, Lansing Town Hall. Our music classes provide a wide variety of high quality music in a variety of tonalities, rhythms and styles. We sing, we dance, we play instruments and with movement props. Info., 227-7902 or www.littlevoicemusic.com.

Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen, 5:30pm, St. John's Church, 210 N Cayuga St., Open to all, no limitations or requirements. Info., www.loaves.org.

Pet Loss Support Group, talk with others who are dealing with the death of a beloved pet. Professionally facilitated by Jane Baker Segelken, LMSW, and Cathie Simpson, PhD. 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 316 E. Court Street in Ithaca (enter Linn Street side). For information and other details, call: Jane at 607-351-2740 or Cathie at 607-273-3063, or email petloss@gmail.com.

Preschool Story Time, 1PM-2PM, Lansing Community Library, 27 Auburn Road, Lansing, Join us for stories, songs, and fun! Different theme each week. Free and open to the public.

Preschool Story Time & Activity: Tactile Time, 10:30 am, Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to hear the story "A Color of His Own" by Leo Lionni and then make art with invisible ink. Scienteer, 601 1st St., Ithaca NY 14850. www.scienteer.org or 607-270-0600.

Pushing the Limits: Monthly Book Group, 6:30pm, Newfield Public Library, registration required.

"Sit, Stay, Read", 3-4pm, Thaler/Howell Programming Room, Tompkins County Library.

Tai Chi Classes at Lansing Library, 11:30AM-12:30PM, Lansing Community Library, 27 Auburn Road, Lansing. Tai Chi promotes balance, flexibility, coordination and can reduce pain. Tai Chi is also been shown to lower the risk of falls, increase energy levels, enhance sleep, and reduce stress and anxiety. 5/class (Scholar

book discussion group for middle and high school students. This program is free. Refreshments will be provided. For information, contact Teen Services Librarian Regina DeMauro at rdemauro@tcpl.org or (607) 272-4557 extension 274.

Teen Tech Club, 3:30-5pm, Newfield Public Library, Main St., Newfield. Teens, drop in after school to explore our new tablets and e-readers, and to share your favorite tips and apps.

Waffle Wednesdays, 9-11am, Dryden Community Center Cafe, 1 W. Main St., Dryden. Serving hot fresh waffles from scratch, served with either real New York maple syrup or fresh strawberries and whipped cream. Info., 844-1500.

Workforce NY Workshop, Tompkins Workforce NY, 171 E. State Street, Center Ithaca Building, Room 241, Ithaca, Civil Service Workshop, Wednesday, February 26th, 10:00-11:00am; Meet the Employer Session with Ithaca College: Wednesday February 26th, 10:00-11:30; Info., (607) 272-7570 ext. 126, Email: Ramona.emery@labor.ny.gov.

27 Thursday

Abovoagogo Classes, Abovoagogo Art Studio, 409 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, Imagine That!, 2:30-4pm; Art Agogo, 4:30-6pm; Info., 262-6562 or visit abovoagogo.com.

Anorexia Nervosa & Associated Disorders, 7pm, Cooperative Extension, 614 W. State St., for those in need of help & recovery. Info., 272-2292.

Beautification Brigade Volunteer training, 6-8:30pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Info., Martha Gioumousis at mg10@cornell.edu or 272-2292, extension 123.

Book Reading for Children (K-5), 3:30pm, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Adelson Library (second floor), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca. Title: A Place for Birds by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Higgins Bond, This clearly written, richly illustrated book explores some of the ways people are protecting birds and their habitats. Pointers on how youngsters can help birds in their own neighborhood are included. Hands-on activities follow the reading. Admission: Free; Contact: (800) 843-2473, cornellbirds@cornell.edu.

Community Police Board Meeting, 4th Thursday of the month at 3:30pm on the third floor of City Hall. The public is always welcome to attend. Minutes can be found on the City of Ithaca website.

Cornell Cinema, Willard Straight Theatre. 12 Years a Slave with post-screening panel, discussants TBA. 7:00pm. Info at cinema.cornell.edu or 255-3522.

"Eldercare and Mindfulness", 6:30pm, Lifelong, 119 W. Court St., Ithaca. The meeting is open to anyone caring for an elderly spouse, parent, other relative or friend. The group meets every week. For more information on the group, please contact Robert Levine at the Office for the Aging at (607) 274-5482 or at Rlevine1@binghamton.edu or view a flyer about the group on the Office for the Aging website: www.tompkins-co.org/cofa.

Film Presentation Under Our Skin, 7-9pm, Cinemapolis, fundraiser for the Ithaca Free Clinic (\$5-10 suggested donation) <http://www.underourskin.com/screensings>.

Free Karate for Adults and Children, Emphasizing natural focus, discipline, personal enrichment and performance. Instruction classes for students, as young as, 3.5 years old. Official Seishi Honbu Karate, 15 Catherwood Road, Ithaca, (607) 277-1047 www.seihiju.com.

GIAC Open Lounge, 3:30-6pm, 301 West Court Street, Ithaca, Game Room, Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips.

Galumph Dance Company, 8pm, Phipps Auditorium of Macmillan Hall on the Wells College campus. This event is free and all are welcome to attend.

Halsey Valley Pantry, 4-4:45pm, GAR building, Hamilton Rd, Halsey Valley, No pantry on the 3rd Thursday; Free, fresh produce, breads, desserts, dairy and deli. For low to moderate incomes, limit 1 pantry per week, Info., www.friendshipdonations.org.

Ithaca Fixers Collective, 6-8pm, ReUse Center in the Triphammer Marketplace, 2255 N Triphammer Rd, Ithaca.

Jared Campbell of the Blue Project, 7-8pm, Candor High School, The Blue Project gives a powerful message of positivity, overcoming obstacles, anti-bullying, respect and leadership through music and humor. Jared Campbell is an award winning singer/songwriter from upstate New York and has given presentations at schools and conferences around the country. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Presentation begins at 7 pm with a meet and greet to follow. Info., Carrie Coates Whitmore, candoryouthassociation@gmail.com, 607-857-5679.

Karate, 5:30-6:30, Kwon's Champion School, 123 Ithaca Commons, Martial arts classes for all ages, children and adults, Never too old or too young. Info., Cjichi@yahoo.com.

Lifelong Schedule, 9-3:30PM, RSVP Tax Clinic; 10:15-11:15AM, Senior Seated Stretch and Tone, Trumansburg Library; 12:30-1:30PM, Strength Training; 10-11:30AM, Asking the Right Questions; 10-12PM, NSSS Presents: Southern Cooking Made Healthy; 12-2PM, Kitchen Theater Presents: Cock, Matinee at the Theater; 12:30-1:30PM, Strength Training; 2-3PM, Lifelong Senior Theater Troup; 2-4PM, Getting to Know the Microbes in Your Life; 2-3PM, Internet Safety; 6-7PM, Beginner Line Dance Lessons; 6:45-8:30PM, Line Dance Lessons; Info., 273-1511 or www.tclfifelong.org.

Little Voices Music & Motion, 11am, Dryden Town Hall, Dryden and 5pm, Cornell Child Care Center (for CCC enrolled families ONLY), Our music classes provide a wide variety of high quality music in a variety of tonalities, rhythms and styles. We sing, we dance, we play instruments and with movement props. Info., 227-7902 or www.littlevoicesmusic.com.

Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen, 5:30pm, Loaves & Fishes, 210 N Cayuga St., Open to all, no limitations or requirements. Info., www.loaves.org.

Music&Motion, 10am & 1pm, Jillian's Drawers, 171 The Commons, Ithaca. Homegrown music classes for the young and young at heart! For kids up to age 5 (loosely) with parent. Puppets, instruments, parachutes! Participation encouraged! CD of original Kids Music included! Visit www.mumotion.com or contact Miss Angie at angie@mumotion.com (607) 319-4736.

Out of Bounds Radio Show with Tish Pearlman, will feature iconic pop/cultural artist PETER MAX; 7pm: WEOS-FM (90.3 & 89.7 Geneva region), Live Stream: WEOS.org.

Overeaters Anonymous, 7-8am, Unitarian Church Annex, 208 E Buffalo St., Rm 201, (enter through glass door, go to 2nd floor then through large room to last room on left), Eail: ithacaoa@gmail.com or phone: 607-387-8253.

Preschool Storytime, Tompkins County Public Library, 3:30pm, Thaler/Howell Programming Room. Pre-school-aged children (3-5years) are invit-

ed to join us for stories, songs, activities and fun, Info., 272-4557 ext. 275.

Pushing the Limits Adult Book and Film Discussion, 7pm, Dryden Southworth Library. Drew Montreuil, meteorologist, will join us for a discussion of nature as demonstrated in T.C. Boyle's When the Killing is Done. Principally set on the wild Channel Islands off the coast of California, the novel is a gripping adventure with a timely theme that relates a richly humane tale about the dominion we attempt to exert, for better or worse, over the natural world. An author interview with T.C. Boyle will follow and a film clip in which see through the life of a courageous young man, Cameron Clapp, how new technologies are pushing the limits of what it means to be human, as well as how Cameron's own intrinsic risk-taking nature is helping him push those limits. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Senior Dollar Day at Ithaca YMCA, YMCA of Ithaca, Graham Road West, On Thursdays Senior non-members (60+) are welcome use the facilities for a \$1. Info., www.ithacaymca.com.

Teen Thing, 3pm, Groton Public Library, Every Thursday for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders – parental permission required. Info., 607-898-5055.

Thursday Night Spaghetti Special, 5-7pm, Dryden Community Center Cafe, 1 W. Main St. Dryden. Our all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner comes with a side salad & Italian bread for just \$5.55, with meatballs just a little bit extra. Call for info., 844-1500.

Toddler Story Hour, 10:30AM, Lansing Community Library, 27 Auburn Road, Lansing, Join us for stories, songs, and fun! Different theme each week. Free and open to the public.

Tot Spot, 9:30-11:30am, Ithaca Youth Bureau, October 21 thru Late April. Indoor stay and play for children 5 months to 5 years & grown-ups of any age. Children ages 5 months to 1 year: \$2; Children ages 1 year to 5 years: \$4; Adults always FREE! Frequent Visit Discount Passes Available for Recreation Partnership Residents, Info., 273-8364.

"Triple Divide", 7pm, Unitarian Church of Ithaca (306 North Aurora Street), hosted by the FracTracker Alliance, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. For a detailed list of other screening times and locations, visit <http://tripledividefilm.org/screenings> or call 419-202-8503.

Zumba Class, 6-7pm, Newfield Fire Station, First class is 1/2 off, \$8 drop in or \$55 for 9 classes good for 2 months from date of sale.

28 Friday

Acoustic Open Mic @ Unwind Café in the Ithaca Mall (next to Best Buy) from 6PM to 8:30PM every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Bring your instruments. We have a keyboard for piano/organ players available. Any style music welcome (original music and covers). Call 607-266-9463 for details.

Baby and Toddler Playtime, 11:30-12:30pm, Thaler/Howell Programming Room, Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca. Playtime features a gorgeous fairytale-themed mural designed to encourage a love of books and imagination. For information, contact the Youth Services Department at (607) 272-4557 extension 275.

Baby Story Time, 10:30AM, Groton Public Library, Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the Month, Songs, Rhymes, Finger plays, Gross Motor Activities, Playtime. Come join us as we embark on this new adventure, For children up to 36 months.

Brothers4Brothers Celebration Banquet, 7pm, Emerson Suites, Phillips Hall, Ithaca College. An event to honor the history and legacy of Brothers4Brothers, a student organization at Ithaca College dedicated to the community, academic, political and social needs of men of color and all men on campus. Sponsors of Black History Month include the Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs and the African/Latino Society. For information, visit www.ithaca.edu/sac/osema/multicultural/months.

Climbing Wall "Kaylee's Climb", Friday 4-5+6PM. Sat 9:30AM-12:30PM; Beginner Climbing Fun, indoor individual / group instruction and parties. Seishi Honbu, World Seishi Karate Headquarters., 15 Catherwood Rd. Ithaca, Information call: (607)277-1047 or www.seihiju.com.

Cornell Cinema, Willard Straight Theatre. 12 Years a Slave. 7:00pm; Willard Straight Theatre. The Hunger Games. 9:45pm. Info at cinema.cornell.edu or 255-3522.

Cornell Games Club Weekly Meeting, 7-11pm, Goldwin Smith Hall, 232 East Ave., Central Campus, Cornell. They play board games, card games, miniatures games, and role-playing games (RPGs). Attendance is free and open to anyone. Rules are taught for most games. Info., 607-255-5980, <http://www.rso.cornell.edu/gamesclub>.

Feed Your Head, 7:30pm, Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts, A film series of great Sixties movies and recommended for grownups and older teens., Info., www.tbburgconservatory.org.

Friday Market Day, 9am-1pm, Triphammer Marketplace, Triphammer Rd., Ithaca. Every Friday local farmers and artists display their wares for your shopping enjoyment. Info., www.triphammermarketplace.com.

GIAC Open Lounge, 3:30-6pm, 301 West Court Street, Ithaca, Game Room, Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips.

Head Over Heals Gymnastics Unstructured Play-Time, 10:30-11:30am, Sept.-June, 215 Commercial Avenue, Ithaca, Ages 6mo-5yrs, Cost: 6 Mths - 1 Year - \$3. 1 Year - 5 Years Old - \$5 for current members, \$7 for non-members; Info., 273-5187, www.flga.net.

Improv Comedy Happy Hour, 6pm, Lot 10 Lounge, Ithaca.

Lifelong Schedule, 8:30-9:30AM, Enhance Your Fitness, Lifelong, 119 W. Court St, Ithaca; 9-10AM, Tai Chi, Kendal; 9-10AM, Enhance Fitness®, Juniper Manor; 9-10:30AM, Knitting Circle, All Levels Welcome; 9-12PM, Duplicate Bridge Class, Beginner and Intermediate Lessons and Practice Play; Seats Available; 9-12PM, RSVP Tax Clinics; 9:30-10:30AM, Strength Training @ St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, Room 3, 302 St. Catherine Circle, Ithaca; 10-11AM, Chair Yoga; 10:15-11:15AM, Enhance Your Fitness, Dryden Veterans Memorial Home, 2272 Dryden Rd., Dryden; 11:30-1PM, Tai Chi Class with Strength Training; 1-2PM, The Play's the Thing; 1-2PM, Hip Hop for Seniors; 1-3PM, Mahjong; 2-3PM, Enhance Fitness®, McGraw House Annex, 211 S Geneva St.; 2-4PM, English as a Second Language, Beginner/Intermediate FREE; 2-4PM, Square, Line, Polka Dancing; Info., 273-1511 or www.tclfifelong.org.

Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen, 12Noon, Loaves & Fishes, 210 N Cayuga St., Open to all, no limitations or requirements. Info., www.loaves.org.

New England Contra and Square Dance, 8-11pm, Bethel Grove Community Center, NYS Rt. 79,

about 4 miles east of Ithaca. For more information: Ted Crane, 607-273-8678 or visit www.tedcrane.com/TCCD.

NOOK Knowledge Night, 5-7pm, Every Friday, Barnes and Noble, 614 South Meadow, Ithaca, Curious about NOOK? Interested in new technology but don't know where to begin? Join us and let us show you how NOOK can work for you. We'll cover all the basics and even demonstrate exciting extras like using NOOK with your library card; Info., 607-273-6784.

Open Family Swim Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden. 6pm-9pm. Fee, 844-8222.

Preschool Story Time & Activity: Tactile Time, 10:30 am, Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to hear the story "A Color of His Own" by Leo Lionni and then make art with invisible ink. Scienteenter, 601 1st St, Ithaca NY 14850. www.scienteenter.org or 607-272-0600.

Preschool Story Time, 10am, Southworth Library, Dryden, For preschoolers and their caregivers. Come for stories, crafts and snacks. Info., 844-4782.

Richman & The Poorboyz 7-9pm, Dryden Community Cafe, Dryden. Eclectic mix of classics, Info., 844-1500.

Six Mile Creek Winter Music Series, 5:30-7pm, Six Mile Creek, 1551 Slaterville Rd (Route 79 East), Ithaca, Entertainment by: Jim Hull. Info., 607-272-9643 or email peter@sixmilecreek.com.

Take a Tour of the Museum, 11:30am, Museum of the Earth, 1259 Trumansburg Rd., The Museum of the Earth is pleased to offer exhibit tours included with admission. The tour is of the Museum's permanent exhibition hall, A Journey through Time, share the story of the Earth and its life. Info., 273-6623.

"Tuskegee Airmen", 12 Noon, Women's Rights National Historical Park Visitor Center, located at 136 Fall Street in Seneca Falls. All film showings are free of charge. The Winter Film Festival films are intended for a general audience. Visitors are encouraged to call if they are interested in a particular showing as film lengths vary.

"Triple Divide" Screening, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 306 N. Aurora St., Ithaca.

Wellness Retreat Weekend, 6:30 pm, The Aurora Inn, 391 Main Street, Aurora, Enjoy luxury accommodations & rejuvenating classes, Info., 315-364-8888.

Women's Noon Group, Meets every Friday 12:15-1:30 pm. Cancer Resource Center, 612 W. State St., For women with any type of cancer, at any stage of treatment or recovery. Light refreshments provided. Info., 277-0960.

Workforce NY Workshop, Tompkins Workforce NY, 171 E. State Street, Center Ithaca Building, Room 241, Ithaca, Job Search Tips for Older Workers: Friday, February 28th, 10:00-12:00noon; Info., (607) 272-7570 ext. 126, Email: Ramona.emery@labor.ny.gov.

"Wreck It Ralph", 7pm, Ithaca YMCA. get comfy in your PJ's, curl up with your pillows, cheer Ralph along with your family & friends, and enjoy some quality family time. or more information on Movie Nights at the Y, please contact us at info@ithacaymca.com or call 607-257-0101.

March 1 Saturday

Healing Meditation, 7-8pm, Ahimsa Yoga Center, Dewitt Mall, Ithaca, \$5 suggested donation, Info., www.ithacayoga.org.

IC Events, 4pm, Ford Hall, Ithaca College, Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert, 7pm, Hockett Family Recital Hall, Junior Recital: Hannah Cerezo, oboe; 8:15pm, Nabenhauer Recital Room, Elective Recital: Bingoho Li, piano; Info., 607-274-3717.

PIE 16th Annual Spelling Bee, Ithaca High School Wellness Center Gym, Ithaca. The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (PIE) Spelling Bee is a family-friendly community event run like an official spelling bee, with rules, a pronouncer, an MC, a timekeeper, and three judges. There are 24 spelling bee teams—three team members each—and the team entry fee is \$375, or \$125 per speller. Entry forms due February 10 are available at www.ipei.org as well as tips for finding team sponsors. Contact Spelling Bee Committee Chair Judy Stewart, jcs6@cornell.edu, with any questions.

Montessori School of Ithaca Open House, 2pm, 120 East King Rd., Ithaca. See complete Montessori environments for children ages 3-14. Meet with teachers discuss curriculum. Info., 277-7335 or www.eacmsi.org.

Music&Motion, 9:30AM, Hasbrouck Community Center, 121 Pleasant Grove, for CORNELL GRAD STUDENTS ONLY, Homegrown music classes for the young and young at heart! For kids up to age 5 (loosely) with parent. Puppets, instruments, parachutes! Participation encouraged! CD of original Kids Music included! Visit www.mumotion.com or contact Miss Angie at angie@mumotion.com (607) 319-4736.

Music at Cornell, Ensemble X, 3PM, Barnes Hall, Features two larger works: Luciano Berio's O King, with soprano Judith Kellogg and conductor Steven Stucky, and arrangements of Charles Ives's songs for chamber ensemble and three singers, led by guest conductor Sebastian Gottschick, as well as works by Nico Muhly, John Adams, and Anders Hillborg.

One Heart Community Drumming Circle, 3pm, Foundation of Light, Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca. All drums are provided, Info., www.oneheartcommunitydrumming.org.

Open Family Swim Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden. 1pm-4pm, Fee, 844-8222.

"Our Brothers, Our Sisters' Table" hot cooked community meal, 3pm, served at the Salvation Army, 150 N. Albany St. Ithaca. All welcome, No income guidelines.

Out of Bounds Radio Show with Tish Pearlman, will feature iconic pop/cultural artist PETER MAX; 11:30am: WSKG-FM 89.3 Binghamton, 90.9 Ithaca, 91.7 Cooperstown/Oneonta, 91.1 Corning/Elmira, 88.7 Hornell/Alfred) Live Stream: Wskg.org.

Overeaters Anonymous, 7-8pm, Cortland Memorial Nursing Facility, 134 Homer Ave., Basement Conference Rm B, Info., (607) 804-8237.

Overlook Apartments Food Pantry, 1263 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, Community Room, 12noon-12:30, Info., www.friendshipdonation.org for dates.

Reach Out to Christ Church Pantry, 12 to 2pm, Johnson Rd, Freeville. alternating Sundays. For a complete listing of daily pantries, see: www.211tompkins.org.

Recovering Couples Anonymous, 8pm, Downstairs @ 518 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, RCA is a 12-step group for couples wanting to restore commitment, communication & caring in their relationships. Open to all.

Sunday Salutations: Yoga and Art at the Johnson Museum, 2-3:30pm, Get a closer look at the works on view in the exhibit, "beyond earth art: contemporary artists and the environment," and then practice yoga in response to the piece with instructor Rachel VerValin. All skill levels welcome! \$12 for Johnson Museum Members, students, and Cornell staff / \$15 for the general public. For more information, please call (607) 255-6464 or visit museum.cornell.edu.

Western Square Dance Classes, Sunday evenings, 7-8:30pm, Temple Beth-El social hall (corner of Tioga and Court streets in Ithaca). This activity can be enjoyed by people of all ages. No special dancing skills are required. We'll have fun learning dance steps that are used worldwide. Free for all, Information, Richard Rosenfeld at 607-257-1638 or CANCALL10@gmail.com.

Zumba Class, 6-7pm, Newfield Fire Station, Open to the public- no dance/fitness background necessary, first class is 1/2 off, \$8 drop in or \$55 for 9 classes good for 2 months from date of sale.

3 Monday

Al-Anon, 6:30pm, 518 W. Seneca St., Ithaca. Meeting open to anyone affected by another person's drinking. Info., 387-5701.

All Saints Bingo, 6pm, All Saints Church, 347 Ridge Rd., Lansing, 533-7344.

Beautification Brigade Volunteer Training, 6PM-8:30PM, The Beautification Brigade takes care of public flower plantings in Ithaca. Have fun, learn gardening techniques, and keep Ithaca gorgeous! Free and open to anyone who wishes to volunteer with the program. Email mg10@cornell.edu or call 272-2292 for information or a volunteer application.

Big Book Study, 7-8pm, Henry St. John Building, 301 South Geneva St., Basement Rm 103, Info., (607) 592-5574. Open to all.

Dr. Seuss Read Across America 2014, 11am, Barnes and Noble, Ithaca. Join us Monday, March 3 for the NEA's Read Across America, featuring the exclusive Barnes & Noble edition of Green Eggs and Ham. Join us for Storytime and fun activities.

Drawing through Time, 2pm, Museum of the Earth, Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca. Cool down with drawing through times ice age series. Info., www.museumoftheearth.org.

Emergency Food Pantry, 1-3:30pm, Tompkins Community Action, 701 Spencer Rd., Ithaca. Provides individuals and families with 2-3 days worth of nutritious food and personal care items. Info. 273-8816.

Free GED classes, Tompkins Workforce NY, 5:30pm-8:30pm; Call 257-1561 to register.

GIAC Open Lounge, 3:30-6pm, 301 West Court Street, Ithaca, Game Room, Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips.

Harmony Falls Women's A Cappella Chorus, rehearsals 7-9pm every Monday at TBurg Seneca Rd Baptist Church. Women of all ages and singing ability invited to their special Summer Sing program. www.HarmonyFallsChorus.com.

IC Events, 7pm, Iger Lecture Hall JWCM 2105, Latin American Music Festival: Composer Ricardo Zohn Muldoon discusses his music; 8:15pm, Ford Hall, Brass Choir & Trombone Troupe; Info., 607-274-3717.

Infant Care Class, Cayuga Medical Center. The basics on the care and feeding of your little one in the first few weeks. Fee \$25. Information 274-4408 or www.cayugamed.org.

Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen, 12Noon, St. John's Church, 210 N Cayuga St., Open to all, no limitations or requirements. Info., www.loaves.org.

Monday Night Seminar & Book Signing, 7:30pm, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca. Title: Have Notebook and Camera Will Travel: Confessions of a Travel Writer Who Birds to Travel and Travels to Bird. Info., (800) 843-2473, cornellbirds@cornell.edu.

Muffin Mondays, 8am 'til gone! Dryden Community Center Cafe, 1 W. Main St. Dryden. Different homemade, from scratch, muffins every week. Muffin Monday special \$3.25 for a muffin & a 12oz. coffee. Info., 844-1500.

Open Family Swim, 6pm-9pm, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, Fee, 844-8222.

Out Loud Chorus, 7-8:30pm, Briar Patch Vet, 706 Elmira Rd., Ithaca, Urban Choral Music. No auditions, no experience necessary. Looking for new singers. All genders and sexual expressions welcome. Find out more at www.outloudchorus.org. Email outloudchorus@aol.com, or call 607-280-0374.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, or 7-8pm, Cortland Memorial Nursing Facility, 134 Homer Ave., Basement Conference Rm B, Info., (607) 804-8237.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, 7pm-8pm, Just Because Bldg., 1013 W. State St., Ithaca, email: ithaca@caap.org, phone: 607-387-8253

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Meeting, PTSD Ithaca is a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder support group for individuals in and around Ithaca, NY who have been diagnosed with (or think they may have) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Please call 607-279-0772 for more information.

Tai-Chi Classes, Increase your balance, sense of body awareness and well-being. Mondays 3:30-4:30pm. Registration required. Info., www.ithacaymca.com.

Tot Spot, 9:30-11:30pm, Ithaca Youth Bureau, October 21 thru Late April. Indoor stay and play for children 5 months to 5 years & grown-ups of any age. Children ages 5 months to 1 year: \$2; Children ages 1 year to 5 years: \$4; Adults always FREE! Frequent Visit Discount Passes Available for Recreation Partnership Residents, Info., 273-8364.

VOICES Multicultural Chorus Rehearsal, 7-9pm, Ithaca Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor, 208 E. Buffalo St., Ithaca, VOICES is a NO AUDITION choral project of the Ithaca Community Choruses singing songs from diverse & ethnic choral traditions. Come at 6:30 to register or on line at <http://ithaca-communitychoruses.org/g-voices>.

Zen Meditation Practice, Every Monday 5:30-6:30pm, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell, founders Room. Sponsored by the Ithaca Zen Center. Prior sitting experience or attendance of an orientation session required to participate. For information or to schedule an orientation, contact Tony @ 277-1158 or Marissa @ 272-1419.

Everyday

CSMA Classes, Please visit <http://www.csma-ithaca.org> for course descriptions, faculty bios, and to register online. Need-based scholarships are available. Enroll online, in person, by mail, or by phone (607) 272-1474.

Free Tax Preparation for ages 60+, 119 West Court Street in Downtown Ithaca. The program specially caters to seniors, but is also open to individuals

whose income is below \$31,000 and Families with income below \$52,000. This year, appointments are being scheduled all day Thursdays and Friday and Saturday mornings from January 30 through April 12 at Lifelong. Appointments are also being scheduled at the Southworth Library in Dryden and the Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg. As in the past, all preparations are done only by appointment and each appointment is one-hour in length. Complex returns may require two one-hour appointments, and some very complex returns may not be eligible for free preparation. Home visits can be arranged for taxpayers who are medically unable to travel. For an appointment at Lifelong in Ithaca, call 273-1511 any weekday from 9 to 4:30, or Ulysses Library at 387-5623 or the Dryden Southworth Library at 844-4782.

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am-5pm, Always free admission, museum@cornell.edu, www.museum.cornell.edu.

Lansing Jazercise Center, 3100 N. Triphammer Road, Lansing, for class times visit jazercise.com or call 218-4221.

Museum of the Earth, Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm, Closed Tuesday and Wednesday from Labor Day to Memorial Day, Closed Thanksgiving Day. Visit us on the web at www.museumoftheearth.org.

Tai Chi Classes, Monday through Sunday, Taoist Tai Chi Society 1201 N. Tioga St. (old Fall Creek Pictures bldg.). For health, healing and fullness of life try Taoist Tai Chi. For listing of class times visit us at <http://www.ithaca.newyork.usa.taoist.org/>, e-mail ithaca.ny@taoist.org or call 277-5491.

Volunteer Opportunities in Tompkins County, sign-up for various volunteer opportunities with flexible hours. Info., Toll-free: 1-877-211-8667, www.211tompkins.org.

Women's Opportunity Center Retail Training Program and women's clothing boutique at 110 West Court St. Check us out for great prices on new and used clothing. Shop local, shop green, support your community and our program! Call 256-9957, www.secsoncourt.com.

Submit Your Calendar Listing:

- visit tompkinsweekly.com and click on submissions
- deadline for submissions is Wednesday at 1pm
- email: jgraney@twcny.rr.com
- fax 607-347-4302
- write: Tompkins Weekly PO Box 6404, Ithaca, NY 14851



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Classifieds

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Dryden Community Cafe 1 West Main St., Dryden. drydencafe.org Volunteers wanted for a variety of shifts and positions at the community-center/cafè. Stop in for an application.

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Announcements

Women's Opportunity Center offers employment services and computer training to low-income women of Tompkins County. Contact us at 315 N. Tioga St., Ithaca, 607-272-1520 and www.womensopportunity.org to see if you qualify.

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Senator

Continued from page 1

one out of existence," he says. "I'm for local decisions. Tompkins and Chemung counties have done a good job of consolidating already. Hudson Valley and Long Island, with their huge layers of expensive government, are the ones that need to consolidate."

The conversations about economic development and education intersected when Douglas Ann Land, Board of Education trustee of the Trumansburg Central School District, voiced a concern that seems to be shared by many Tompkins County residents. "Our schools can't provide the technology courses that kids need to take on the jobs that are available these days," she said. In her opinion, this conundrum is related to funding, rather than the school's ability to educate the students.

O'Mara agreed, noting that workforce development is a huge issue. Jobs are available, but the skilled work force isn't. He noted, "We are preparing everyone to go to college when we need people to go to work. ... This often leaves kids with two choices, to fail or to go to college." Ithaca Fire Chief Tom Parsons also spoke to the two issues, saying that when cuts are made across New York State, they never hit fairly. "Our kids should have the same education as the downstate kids; they deserve it," he asserts. About consolidation, he surmises, "No municipalities around here want to consolidate. They don't want to inherit each other's debt."

A group supporting the Women's Equality Act (<http://nywomensequality.org/10-point-plan>) was also in attendance. When asked by an



Photo by Sue Henninger

State Sen. Thomas O'Mara addresses the crowd at a recent community meeting at the Franziska Racker Centers.

audience member what the holdup was in passing this proposal, O'Mara responded that nine out of the 10 points in the act had passed with no argument, but that the remaining point deals with abortion, which he believes is one of the most controversial and divisive issues in New York.

"It's a political hand grenade," he said, adding that there are more abortions in New York State than in most other states. Alicia Freedman, a spokesperson at Planned Parenthood of Ithaca, challenged this view. "If you want women to come to New York and stay here, then they need to have reproductive choices," she said.

O'Mara reminds his constituents that they don't need to wait for a town-hall meeting to talk to him. Visit <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara> for updates on O'Mara's positions and political activities.

Mentors

Continued from page 1

students or their families, but Kossack notes they do rely on some grants. Last year the program received funds from the Friends of the Library and the Ithaca Public Education Initiative.

"We don't need a lot of money, but it would be great to receive \$3,000 every year. We really just need enough for field trips to campuses in covering the cost of transportation. Many of the students, even though they've grown up in Ithaca, have never been on a college campus," Kossack says.

"It's really a privilege for an adult to come in and work with one of our students because you have this opportunity to influence a child, creating positive change and making a difference in their lives, so the mentor benefits greatly from this program as well."

For more information call 277-1236 or email student.mentor@yahoo.com.

Methane

Continued from page 2

Looking at the big picture, Ingraffea believes that the study asks the wrong question. Instead of trying to pin down an average emission rate of methane, they should be asking how much risk we are willing to take. "Risk is the key issue of any policy decision," says Ingraffea. "But this is one thing with a major consequence, so we have to be conservative in our risk taking."

Using the average value of methane emissions is inadequate, he says. Policy makers must peg

emission allowances closer to the lower end and even then acknowledge the uncertainties surrounding that level. "In the meantime, many of those crucial next 20 years are going by," Ingraffea says, "and we should have already started to reduce all fossil-fuel use, not increase it as this study proposes."

Downtown

Continued from page 10

as Director of Planning and Development for the City of Ithaca and DeSarno holds the position of Deputy Director for Economic Development. They have both worked closely with the DIA to improve downtown zoning and tax abatement policies, recruit retail tenants and developers, and advance the rebuild of the Ithaca Commons.

Volunteer of the Year went to Ashley Broadwell. Each year the Downtown Ithaca Alliance entertains over 100,000 people at its many events and festivals. A Tompkins County native and a co-owner of Ithaca Guitar Works in the Dewitt Mall, Ashley has been an indispensable sixth man for DIA special events, doing everything from coordinating midnight cleanups to serving wine to performing with his bluegrass band.

DIA board members of the year went to Michael C. Cannon and Tanya Vanasse. A commercial banker at Tompkins Trust Company, Cannon has served in a leadership position for most of his tenure on the board and is now completing his second and final year as President. Vanasse, a long-time downtown resident, has represented that increasingly important constituency for six years, also in leadership positions.



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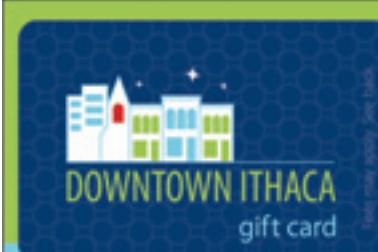
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