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2025



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calvin and hobbes

Bill Watterson, *Explorers*, *Indispensable C&H*, 1992. © Bill Watterson. Courtesy of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum; Bill Watterson Deposit Collection

SEPTEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 31

Explore Bill Watterson's beloved comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes* (1985–1995). This exhibit showcases his artistry through original daily and Sunday strips, rare pieces, and highlights from a collection of over 3,000 works.

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Fall entertainment & activities

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Sep. 27 • Cornell Creative Arts Center in Kingston

Non-instructional ceramics session where you pick a bisque piece, paint with provided glazes, and they handle the kiln firing. No experience needed; upgrades to larger pieces are offered on site.

Balkan Festival

Sep. 28 • Stone Mountain Farm in Rosendale

Afternoon celebration of southeastern European music and dance with participatory line-dance teaching and live ensembles. Family-friendly; expect food and a sunset jam to close the day.

Fur Ball



Sep. 28 • Ulster County SPCA in Kingston

Black-tie-optional animal-welfare gala with hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, silent



Vampire Circus.

auction, and live music benefiting the local SPCA. Honors a community "Humane Champion" and supports shelter programs.

Vampire Circus

Oct. 4 • UPAC in Kingston

High-energy cirque production blending acrobatics, aerials, and gothic theater for spooky-season thrills. Expect sinister clowns, dark carnival aesthetics, and impressive feats of athleticism and dexterity.

Fall Fest 2025

Oct. 11 • Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz

This family-friendly autumn celebra-

tion presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension features vendors, seasonal foods, local crafts, and plenty of outdoor activities for children and adults alike. There will be games, demonstrations, animal interactions and opportunities to enjoy the fall scenery. Don't sleep on the famous 4-H milkshake.

1990s & 2000s Dance Party

Oct. 11 • Bearsville Theater in Woodstock

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Woodstock Story Festival

Oct. 24-26 • Mountain View Studio in Woodstock

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Halloween Ball

Oct. 31 • Hudson House Distillery in West Park

Costume-heavy night with DJs, dancing, and cocktails set against a river-view backdrop. Prizes and photo ops are common; ride-share or designated drivers recommended.

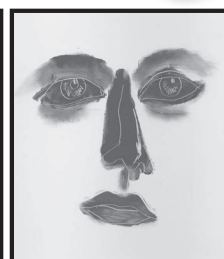
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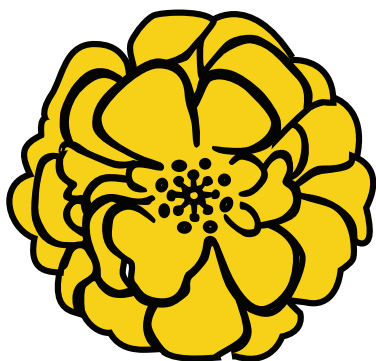


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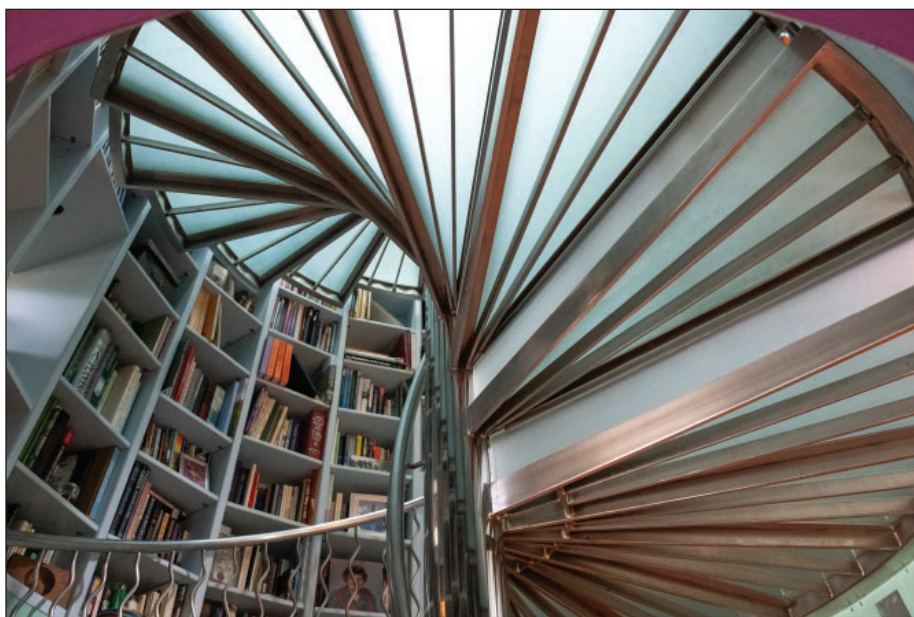
Stone and glass

The 45-acre Spiral House Park opens to the public

By Erin Quinn

SPROUTING FROM AN abandoned quarry overlooking the Catskills in Saugerties, NY is a 5-story cylindrical sculpture that spins its way from the earth to the sky like a seashell strung from an invisible wire. The Spiral House—designed and built by artist Tom Gottsleben (1950–2019) on a 45-acre parcel owned by Tom and his wife, Patty Livingston—is a rare feat of engineering ingenuity, functional artistry and whimsical abandon. It's literally a giant bluestone nautilus that when viewed from above appears like a giant shell.

Inside the home winds upwards with a spiral staircase leading to an octagon



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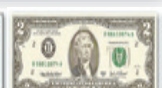
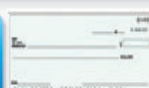
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The house itself is surrounded by more than 30 bluestone and crystal glass sculptures that bring light and color to every corner, dance along wooded edges and rise from the ground like a disco stage. There are giant crystal rainbows on bluestone patios that are assembled to reflect the artists love of sacred geometry. Chairs encircle one of these patios which is called the "Square Root" patio because each stone tile is the square root of the one next to it.

Joshua Cohen, the Executive Director of the HPS noted that "each story of the Spiral House is 50 percent the size of the one before it." Cohen can also point out spirals in almost every facet of the home including tiles in the kitchen, fixtures, faucet handles and the teal railings that wrap around the home and balconies like waves curving into themselves.

He explained that the late artist's work was inspired by nature and the fundamental patterns found in living things as well as the stone that resulted from geological evolution. According to Livingston, who serves as the park's founder and chairperson, it was back in 1997 when she asked her husband to design a guest house on the property for visiting relatives. At the time she had in mind a small, Woodstock-style cottage to pair next to their modest one-story

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ranch home. The artist was exciting about building a home, but certainly not a conventional house, nor one that had a traditional rectilinear structure. He'd been creating these bluestone walls and bridges and sculptures that balanced the weight and gravity of stone along with the light and feeling of ascension of brightly colored crystal glass throughout their

The house itself is surrounded by more than 30 bluestone and crystal glass sculptures that bring light and color to every corner, dance along wooded edges and rise from the ground like a disco stage.

wooded property. As his artistry and connection to the earth continued to deepen so did his fascination with the spiral form which can be found everywhere in nature both in patterns and in the way plants and animals grow and energy organizes itself. According to Livingston,

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Fall in the Valley

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her husband saw a metaphysical quality in the spiral's simultaneous expanding and contracting around a fixed center. He began to contemplate whether it would be possible to make a spiral large enough to live in.

Cutting a right angle out of foam core and scoring it with straight lines parallel to the tall side, he played with the spiral shape, modifying it with input from Livingston who had concerns about the darkness of a central stairwell and how they might fit furniture against a curved wall. Somehow, Gottsleben and his merry band of local stone masons who had a workshop on the property, were able to construct this living sculpture in the span of 5 years. It was completed in 2001.

The house is anything but dark. In fact, it seems to almost nourish anyone who



moves through it. The bathroom tiles and murals seem to transport one to Tuscany while the kitchen leans in as if to offer sustenance to all who might come in.

There is a sense of delight and wonder that is irrepressible when spending time inside or on the grounds of the Spiral House. It was this quality that made Livingston want to ensure that the SHP could be enjoyed by the public.

She has worked for the last several years along with her board to secure the proper permits and site-plans to al-

low the public to visit the house and the grounds. Livingston relocated to their couple's original home on the property, but said that she could not imagine the Spiral House becoming stagnant. It's

antithetical to the spirit in which it was created and lived in.

"Everyone who worked on this was from the area," she said. "Almost all of the stone was sourced from this area and it's part

of the landscape now." Asked what she enjoys about people visiting the home and parks she said, "seeing the joy on other people's faces when they first experience this. I still get it every day. I find myself

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laughing. The exuberance of these crazy sculptures with their rainbow glass and dancing forms. It just grabs you! He was such an out-of-the-box thinker... When my daughter (10 years old) comes to work with me she'll spend hours drawing the rainbow sculpture in her notebook or exploring in the woods, looking for hidden metal birds. There are 17 of them throughout the trail for kids to find!"

Cohen noted that the gardeners had been hard at work since the spring and are excited to have people see the work that they've done. "There was more of an emphasis on ornamental gardening as you can see," said Cohen, pointing to some of the decorative shrubs in front of the house. He noted that the team, led by Livingston, is keen to transition the numerous gardens on the property towards more native species and pollinator gardens to help enrich the park and supporting environment.

To that end, they've had a number of smaller events this summer and early fall including a geology walk, a bee and pollinator workshop, a series on ecological landscaping through the seasons and were able to have 30 volunteers at one event come to help remove invasive species.

Beginning in October, Cohen said, they will open the home and grounds up to the public on weekends. Livingston herself will be giving tours of the home.



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The grounds will also be open with a 1.5-mile path through the woods as well as a path that is ADA accessible (currently being finished) to allow for people to easily move around the main portion of the sculpture garden. They are also planning a big launch party on November 1st. They will have tents set up and live music near the larger rainbow sculpture to officially open The Spiral House Park to the public. "I am eager to welcome visitors to ex-



plore the park's magical grounds," said Cohen. "From contemplating Gottsleben's sculptures and the symbolic architecture of the Spiral House to wandering through pollinator gardens or finding a quiet moment among the meandering stone walls and woodland trails, the experience invites discovery and reflection. This is a place for all, a sanctuary to be enjoyed, to return to again and again, designed to build community and connections to nature."

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Livingston's hope is that the intersection of art and nature that informed the development of the property will also guide the Park's charitable mission: "to increase public understanding of environmental issues and create programming that celebrates art, nature, and their power to transform the way we see and care for the Earth." SHP has received non-profit status as an arts and



environmental organization.

Envisioned for the future, according to SHP Executive Director Joshua Cohen, are open days that allow visitors to enjoy the park at their leisure. There are also plans for environmental and art programs that explore nature's patterns; professionally guided walks and workshops on trees, managing invasive species, indigenous history, and more; painting, writing, and other creative workshops; seasonal events; and youth programs under the auspices of schools, camps, and youth organizations. Further in the future the park will host small performances and use three existing sculpture studios as space for community arts workshops and artist fellowships.

It's all in process and Cohen encourages everyone who is interested in visiting the SHP to go to their website, www.spiralhousepark.org, which has upcoming events, programs and tours listed. They will also continue to update the website as they develop their programming.

The magic that exists in and around The Spiral House is something to behold.

You can also visit Instagram @spiralhousepark or Facebook @spiral.house.park as well.



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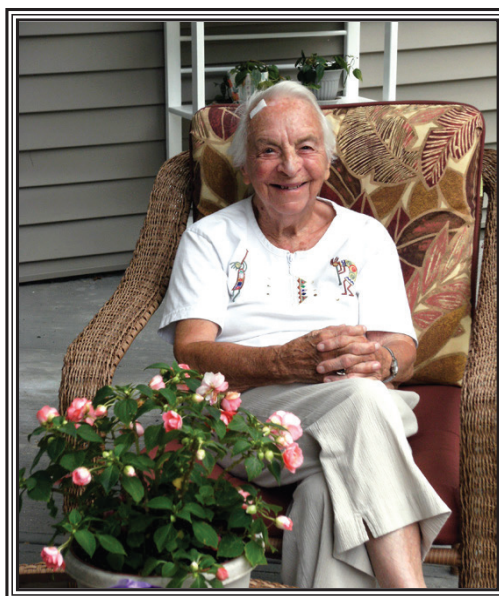
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Blaze a path through the night



By Genia Wickwire

IN THE LEGEND of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving, it is said of Sleepy Hollow that, "a drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over this land and to pervade the very atmosphere... the place still continues under the sway of some witching power that holds spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in continued reverie. They are given to all kinds of marvelous beliefs, are subject to trances and visions, and frequently see strange sights and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots and twilight superstitions, stars shoot and meteors glare more often across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with her ninefold, seems to

make it a favorite scene of her gambols."

In nearby Croton on the Hudson, current and future generations of the aforementioned 'good people' follow in this timeless tradition of mystical visions and haunted spots, only they do it all in the form of exquisite and lovingly carved pumpkins. Every fall, Historic Hudson Valley creates a magical and mystical land called The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze. 7,000 Jack O'Lanterns, most hand carved by local artists, light up the night with a spectral glow. The exhibits are influenced by local New York history, well known books & movies, nods to culture both inside and outside America, astrology, fairytales and, yes of course, there are several areas dedicated specifically to the Headless Horseman, the phantom that made this area famous in years

past and certainly for many years to come.

It is difficult to not walk in continued reverie as you wander in the dark night through winding trails of one magical creation after another. It all begins at the entrance gates with an ambient and eerie music playing, immediately placing you in a strange and excited trance. You enter through the gate which announces your arrival as it flashes rhythmically from one color to the next. Immediately you are met with a pumpkin Kraken which emits a bright shimmering mist. Continuing onward, you wind through a path lined with hundreds of bewitchingly hand carved pumpkins: haunting faces which growl and still others which scowl and a cavalcade of carved creatures which glint in the dark. Yet this is only the beginning....a bit further

on, a farm full of radiant sunflowers, a field of tulips leading up to a whirling windmill, Celtic knots glow with decorated details, a luminous lighthouse surrounded by the rise and fall of wild waves, drowning skeletons and a restless rowboat, ALL carved out of pumpkins.

You can purchase an upgrade to your ticket and take a break inside the Headless Horseman's Hideaway. This unique upgrade allows you to stop in this haunted tavern for a locally made beverage and pretzel snack. It also gives you the opportunity to encounter the most famous spectre in all of the Hudson Valley, the Headless Horseman himself.

Feeling rejuvenated from the imbibement of Hudson Valley refreshments, our adventure continues back outside as you wrap around towards another

glowing exhibit in which several regions of New York State are illuminated in pumpkin format. The Statue of Liberty looms large above it all. Next is a glowing tunnel made completely of pumpkins dancing and sparkling like a late night disco, followed by a field of historic gravesites of various famous figures from the area. Find your astrological sign lit up and represented with pumpkin animals and symbols, saunter past a display of full size dinosaurs, a dragon appears out of a sea of waves, and then you arrive at the yellow brick road. Yes, there are even a few scenes dedicated to the Wizard of Oz and the glowing Emerald City in the distance. It doesn't end there! An entire circus lights up the night. A fanciful carousel spins around, a festive ferris wheel, little pumpkin circus folk line the night aglow with anticipation as

they face the crowd that ogles at their carved figures. A train leads to your final scene.

Finally, you pass through an homage to the Headless Horseman himself, riding through the graveyard and towards the Headless Horseman Bridge. Wandering over the bridge, you once again follow a path lined with chimerical carved pumpkins, fearsome faces and awe-inspiring animals to complete the experience.

Whether you have little ones who will delight in being out in the dark in a glowing spectacle or an adult who wants to see the artistry of each and every carving, this event is fun for all ages! Make sure to make reservations as the event sells out and is reservations only. For more information go to: <https://hudsonvalley.org/events/blaze/>

Food & drink festivals

Hudson Valley Garlic Festival

Sep. 27-28 • Cantine Field in Saugerties

One of the biggest tributes to garlic in the entire world is something every fan of the “stinking rose” needs to experience at least once. Family-friendly and chock-full of vendors, activities and performances, expect massive crowds and \$15 admission.

Octoberfest

Sep. 27 • Rough Cut Brewing in Kerhonkson

German-style beer release with stein-holding contests, raffles, live music, and



OctoberFest at RMV Cellars.



Beer, Bacon and Bourbon Festival.

classic Bavarian food. Outdoor, family-friendly vibes on the Ridge will make for a relaxed, rustic, and welcoming transition to fall colors and flavors.

Oktoberfest

Oct. 4 • RMV Cellars in West Park

Celebrate the customs of Deutschland with live music from The Big Shoe, a special bottle release and other seasonal food

and drink. Sprawling and serene grounds make for a casual outdoor atmosphere that's fun and family-friendly.

Hudson Valley Apple Festival

Oct. 5 • Barton Orchards in Poughquag

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mass celebration of *Maluspumila*, which also features hayrides, a corn maze, a petting zoo and other all-ages, all-day entertainment.

Beer, Bacon and Bourbon Festival

Oct. 11 • Meadowbrook Farm in Leeds

Beer. Bacon. Bourbon. The holy trinity for sinners. This regional tasting fest pairs craft beer with bacon-centric bites and bourbon, plus a cigar lounge, artisans, pumpkins, and live bands. Held at a working farm venue with on-site



Hudson Valley Garlic Festival.

famous pickle celebration with 100+ vendors, tastings, contests, and family fun; expect big crowds. Free shuttle service connects nearby lots and town centers to the fairgrounds.

Fall Back Festival

Nov. 1 • Bad Seed Cider Company in Highland

vendors and ample parking.

Rosendale International Pickle Festival

Oct. 19 • Rosendale

All hail the salty green cylinder. Celebrate the 28th year of this area-

They say an apple a day keeps the doctor away... does the carbonated kind count? This daylong fall party centers around cider, with live music, food pop-ups, and seasonal activities for all ages. Expect indoor-outdoor spaces, lawn games, and market-style vendors.



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Connecting creatives

Redefining what a creative community can be in the Hudson Valley

by Karlie Flood

FOR ALMOST A decade, software designer and engineer Jordan Koschei was consumed by a relatable question that only grew more complex as an influx of people relocated to the Hudson Valley after Covid: “There are so many interesting and creative people in the Hudson Valley, but we’re all so spread out. How do we find each other?”

The result is ConnectHV. It started as an online directory, which Koschei designed and built himself, enabling anyone in the region to create a profile and showcase their work. Born and raised in Ulster County, Koschei was determined to make finding like-minded people in the region as easy as browsing the list or filtering by place and skill. One can search for “event photographers in Ulster



The last Craft HV.

County,” for example, or “tax accountants in Poughkeepsie,” and find a whole list

of qualified local people.

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include a community Slack group and monthly meetups held around the Hudson Valley that attract a wide variety of creatives, professionals, business owners, and local enthusiasts.

By day, he leads design at a cutting-edge tech startup, but by night, he's following his real passion: building a creative community in the Hudson Valley.

Karlle Flood: How did you start ConnectHV?

Jordan Koschei: I've been pursuing this idea for almost a decade in various forms: the Hudson Valley needs some way for all the interesting people who live here to find one another. I kept waiting for someone to build that, and eventually I realized, "Wait, that's what I do for a living. I'll just go build it myself."

KF: How did you start doing the in-person meetups?

JK: Early last year, I had a very strange week in which three separate people each independently asked me why ConnectHV



Jordan Koschei has created a library of free drone footage that people and businesses can download and use.

didn't include some kind of conversation feature.

I started a Slack group — Slack is a

team communication tool, sort of like Microsoft Teams or Discord — and figured we'd get a few dozen people using it. A week later, we were up to 350 people; now we're over 1,200.

A few weeks after the Slack launched, the owner of the Barnfox coworking space reached out and asked if I'd ever want to do an in-person meetup in their Poughkeepsie location.

The rest is history. Now we do events almost every month, rotating among different Hudson Valley towns and venues.

KF: This all started from hating traditional networking events, right?

JK: I hate networking with a great, fiery passion. I love meeting people, but "networking" feels so gross to me — like, "are you talking to me because you want to get to know me, or because you want to hand me a business card and pitch me on your business?"

I've worked hard to make ConnectHV a comfortable place for everyone, whether or not you're comfortable networking, and whether you're an introvert or extrovert or something in between.

KF: All ConnectHV events have been free. Do you plan to continue that?

JK: It's very important to me that the events stay free. Everyone should be able to attend, whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student.

KF: What is it about the Hudson Valley

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that makes it perfect for something like ConnectHV?

JK: If you live in a place like New York City or San Francisco and you're looking for a creative collaborator, you can just walk into the nearest coffee shop and throw a rock. Boom, there's your collaborator.

In a place as spread out as the Hudson Valley, it isn't so easy. I'm animated by the belief that we need "creative infrastructure" that's as distributed as our geography. The nodes-and-edges, networked model of the web happens to be a perfect match for the towns-and-turnpikes geography of the Hudson Valley. This is the rare case in which an online network can serve to unify, not divide, an in-person community.

KF: Did you always intend to stay in the Hudson Valley?

JK: I did! So many people I went to school with were desperate to leave, and I never understood it — from my perspective, the Hudson Valley is the nexus of the universe. We've got a shockingly good food scene, thanks to the Culinary Institute being nearby. Woodstock happened here. The Hudson River School of Art happened

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here. You can go hiking at Minnewaska in the morning and catch a Broadway show in the evening. It's perfect. One of my life goals is to die without ever having a mailing address outside the Hudson Valley.

KF: How did you end up having a library of free drone footage that people and businesses can download and use?

JK: I've always loved aerial photography, and I knew when I started building the ConnectHV website that I wanted to use aerials as a key piece of the brand identity.

Unfortunately, there just wasn't that much aerial footage of the Hudson Valley available online, and none of it was exactly what I was looking for. So I did what any self-respecting geek would do: got a drone, studied for the FAA exam, and got certified as a commercial drone pilot.

As I collect footage for ConnectHV, I've been putting it in the public domain so that other local creators and small businesses can make use of it too.

Better yet, thanks to the ConnectHV directory, whenever anyone asks how they can get drone footage of something more specific — their storefront, or a real estate listing, for example — I have tons



Participant getting crafty at the last CraftHV.

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of commercial drone photographers I can point them towards.

KF: You recently hosted your first “Craft HV,” a meetup revolving around crafting and have the second one coming up on October 15 at the Senate Garage. How did that happen?

JK: From the start of the ConnectHV events, people have been asking to have more niche events — things like workshops or topical talks. My wife Erin is always coming up with community-building ideas, and she thought ConnectHV should have a craft-centric event. Then, we met the lovely folks at Rewind Kingston, and realized that's also one of their interests! From there, it happened naturally, and our first Craft HV event was born.

KF: What does being a “creative” mean to you?

JK: I have a really broad definition of “creative.” There are the jobs that everyone agrees are creative — photographer, illustrator, musician — but I think that *any* kind of generative work qualifies. Running a small business is creative. Law and accounting and real estate are creative. As far as I can tell, almost any

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form of work that isn't actively destroying value is creative. Creativity is part of what makes us human. And ConnectHV is for creatives, which means that really, ConnectHV is for everyone.

KF: What part of ConnectHV are you most proud of?

JK: I know people who've hired someone they met through ConnectHV, or who got a job via ConnectHV. I've seen

people become friends at our meetups, and I've seen new topical groups form out of ConnectHV.

KF: What's next on your list for ConnectHV?

JK: I'm working on adding a job board, to make it easier for people to get work or hire someone directly through ConnectHV. Plus, continuing improvements to the on-line directory and conversation platform.

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Some samples of Jordan Koschei's free aerial photography.

Catch Koschei flying his drone over the Hudson Valley Sustainable Fashion Week runway show at Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook on September 26. The next ConnectHV meetup is Monday, October 6th at Newburgh Brewing at 6pm, and the next CraftHV will be at the Senate Garage on October 15 at 6pm. RSVP for free at connecthv.com.

Also, be on the lookout for an end-of-year holiday party – details are coming soon!



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Jean Shin, TEXTILE (detail), 2006, Photo by Seong Kwon

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Fall markets

Mower's Saturday Sunday Flea Market

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High Falls Flea Market

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Handcrafted October Festival at Rhinebeck by Quail Hollow.



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NYS Sheep and Wool Festival.

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Stormville Airport Flea Market

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Field + Supply Fall Market at Hutton Brickyards.

household goods, and handmade crafts. It draws a regional crowd looking for bargains and unique finds, with food stands and seasonal specialties adding to the atmosphere.

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Oct. 11-12 • Main St. in Windham

Artisan vendors, local food, seasonal specialties, hayrides, axe throwing, chainsaw

carving demonstrations and live music puts visitors in the heart of Catskill Mountain culture. The atmosphere mixes small-town charm with the energy of a bustling fall celebration, drawing families and visitors from across the region.

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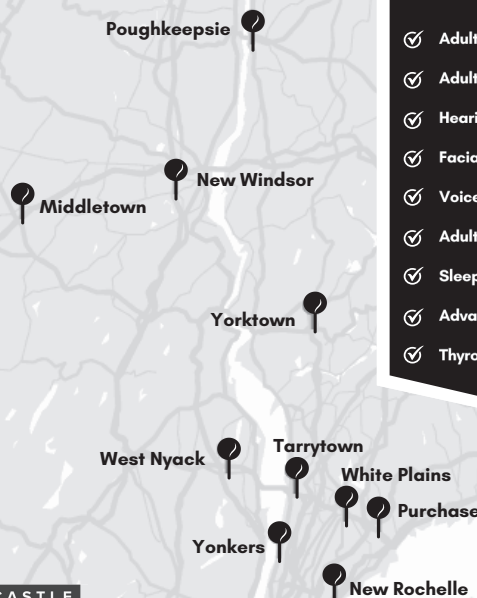
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Fall cookies and autumnal treats at Sweet Maresa's in Kingston.

Delectable autumn

Fall recipes from your favorite local establishments

by Cloey Callahan

THERE'S A PARTICULAR crispness to Hudson Valley mornings in the fall. It's the kind that nudges you toward the kitchen.

Farmers' markets brim with apples, pumpkins and late-season squash. It's a season that invites slower weekends, when the rhythm of cooking shifts to roasting, simmering and baking. From heirloom apple crisps to savory pumpkin

bread, fall here isn't just about watching the leaves change, it's about savoring what the harvest gives us and turning it into something warm, shared and memorable.

We spoke to several chefs, bakers and restaurateurs from our favorite local establishments to compile our favorite fall recipes that you can make right in your own kitchen. Here's what they have to share.

Succatash, by Tilda's Kitchen and Market

"This fall we've been making succatash a lot," said Chris Hewitt, owner of the Kingston-based nonprofit restaurant. "It's typically filled with corn, beans, carrots and celery with a variety of other veggies. I like to add some kind of squash to my succatash because it brings in elements of the three sisters



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of Native American cuisine (corn, beans and squash). I also add sunflower seeds to our recipe to bring in a cousin of the three sisters.”

Recipe:

2 large white onions, chopped
 5 cloves of garlic, minced
 4 large carrots, chopped small
 6 pieces celery, chopped small
 3 apples, cored and chopped small
 1/4 cup olive oil
 4 cups corn kernels
 3 cups cooked red beans
 2 cups cooked and cubed butternut squash
 2 cups veggie stock
 3 tablespoons chopped oregano
 1 tablespoon chopped basil
 3 tablespoons salt
 2 tablespoons black pepper

Sautee the onions, garlic, carrots, celery and apples in 1/4 cup of olive oil. Once the onions become translucent, add the corn and heat on high until it starts sizzling. Add the red beans and butternut squash and bring up to temperature again. Add salt and pepper. Then add the veggie stock and bring to a boil, finishing the dish off by combining the oregano and basil into the mixture. Voila! You have succatash for six to eight people. Enjoy with white rice to build a complete protein.

Tilda's Kitchen & Market prides itself on shopping locally, using a variety of local farms. Their favorite fall ingredient? Potatoes because they come in so many colors, shapes and sizes. They often source from Veritas Farms in New Paltz because they deliver for a wide array of local farms.

“The most important things in my dishes are seasonal produce, so our menu changes every month,” said Hewitt. “When I buy and share local seasonal produce, I don’t have to use heavy sauces or lots of salt or sugar. We allow the flavors of the vegetable to shine by using them at their peak flavor.”

Lemon Olive Oil Cake, by Camp Kingston

¾ cup good extra-virgin olive oil
 1 cup sugar
 2 large eggs



Pumpkin cheesecake danish and caramel apple crumb by Little Loaf Bakery in New Paltz.



Head to Camp Kingston for a cozy soup and sandwich any day of the week.

1 cup whole milk
 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
 2 Tbsp finely grated lemon zest
 2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 ½ tsp baking powder
 ½ tsp baking soda
 1 tsp salt
 ½ tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and line a 9” round cake pan with parchment.

In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

In another bowl, whisk olive oil, sugar, eggs, milk, lemon juice, zest, and vanilla until smooth.

Fold wet into dry until just combined.

Pour into pan and bake 30–40 minutes, until golden, pulling from the sides, and a toothpick or knife comes out clean.

Cool in pan 15 minutes, then transfer to a rack.

Roasted Plums & Concord Grapes:

4 ripe (black or red) plums, halved and pitted
 1 ½ cups seedless Concord grapes

2 Tbsp sugar
 1 Tbsp lemon juice
 ½ tsp vanilla extract
 Pinch of salt

Roast at 400°F for 15–20 minutes until jammy, bubbling, and caramelized.

Cardamom Whipped Cream:

1 cup heavy cream, cold
 1 Tbsp maple syrup
 ½ tsp ground cardamom

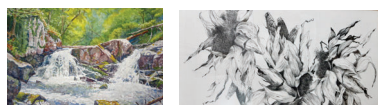


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½ tsp vanilla

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Assembly:

Slice the olive oil lemon cake into wedges.

Spoon roasted plums and grapes over each piece, with their syrupy juices.

Add a generous dollop of cardamom whipped cream.

Garnish with lemon zest and flaky salt

This special recipe isn't something you can find on the regular menu at Camp Kingston, and instead is available for catering only. But it's one of Lee Kalpakis'

favorites. He's the culinary director and says he "absolutely loves Concord grapes."

"I think maybe people don't realize, but grape season in the Hudson Valley goes straight through late October," said Kalpakis. "The heavy use of lemon lets the grapes and plums really shine and the cardamom makes it feel cozy and autumnal."

They get special produce from local farms like Adelaar, Davenport's, Migliorelli, and Fiddlehead at Camp Kingston. When he shops for home, it's always Story Farms or MX Morning Star. If you aren't a fan of grapes, Kalpakis suggests plums or quince, a pear-like fruit that must be cooked before eating. While he's a fan of pumpkin and apple, he says it's not the only thing this season has to offer.

"I think traditional fall recipes tend to be sweet, spiced, and a little dull," said Kalpakis. "I'm a real acidhead. I want citrus, vinegar, real brightness in everything I make. So I like to balance those sweet, nutty, earthy flavors with something with

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Tilda's says the most important thing in their dishes is using fresh local produce.

a little giddy-up in it. A butternut squash soup with a dollop of labneh or Greek yogurt, roasted carrots and sweet potatoes drizzled with chimichurri, crispy Brussels sprouts tossed in Dijon vinaigrette. I love traditional fall flavors but it's more fun when you wake them up a bit."

If you're not looking to cook at home, head to Camp Kingston for a cozy soup and sandwich any day of the week. This

year, they have a new seasonal beverage program at the cafe that offers roasted plum matcha, apple-infused chai and brown butter cold foam.

More fall favorites

This time of year, you can walk into any Hudson Valley restaurant or bakery and find fall-inspired bites. At Little Loaf Bakeshop in New Paltz, their caramel

apple crumb danish and pumpkin cheesecake danish are back on the menu.

"We are lucky to live in the Hudson Valley, where there are arguably some of the best apples in the world," said Colleen Orlando, co-owner and head baker.

Besides apples, they are also excited to work with quince from Liberty Orchards this fall. "Quinces have such an interesting flavor," said Orlando. "It's unique, but familiar. That's because it's in the same family as apples and pears, and it truly tastes like a cross between the two. It can pair well with both sweet and savory."

At Sweet Maresa's, they're lucky to have the Kingston Farmer's Market right behind their bakery every Saturday. They get as much as they can get, with most of their fall season fruit coming from Maynard Farm (sometimes in a trade for cookies). But what Maresa Volante, founder of Sweet Maresa's, especially looks forward to is a native blue corn flour from Hudson Valley Farm Hub, which comes freshly milled and has a deep corn flavor and turns a cake indigo blue.

"We've made a blue corn caramel apple cake with that flour, and that's the epitome of fall to me," said Volante.

Fall cooking doesn't have to be fancy. A pot of soup, a tray of roasted vegetables, or a fresh apple pie can bring the season right to your table. Using what's local and in season keeps things easy and flavorful, and it's a reminder that the best fall meals are often the simplest ones.

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