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*Spring in the Valley 2021*






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# Hudson Valley Book Trail

*A unique trip for locals and visitors alike*

by Cloey Callahan

**W**HETHER YOU'RE LOOKING for new or used, rare or a classic, the Hudson Valley Book Trail has it all. The book trail, which is made up of only independent bookstores, runs from Peekskill up to Hudson. While we only highlight six stops here, the trail has 17 in seven Hudson Valley counties. Just minutes away from each stop are other activities like unique restaurants, other shopping or even the Hudson River Skywalk.

## Little Red Book Shack

2710 Route 9, Livingston

Melanie Nelson of Livingston's Little Red Book Shack has been in the bookselling business for decades. Before Amazon kicked off, Nelson and her husband were selling books online. Before that, the pair sold books in the mail to local libraries who were missing what customers wanted.

"They would put a list in the magazine for the titles they were looking for for their individual customers," said Nelson.



Little Red Book Shack in Livingston



Inquiring Minds Bookstore in Saugerties.

"We would respond to that and sell books and catalogues in the mail."

Nelson and her husband both worked in New York City before entering the book

industry. When they relocated upstate, they found a piece of property with four buildings that were eventually renovated into one connecting bookstore, with all items being either 50 cents or one dollar – which allowed customers to "only consider if you want an item or need an item," rather than focusing on the price.

"When my husband passed away, I couldn't keep selling online," said Nelson. "I put some books in the first shed and put out a sign. That worked out. I knew how to do some construction, so I added on to other buildings."

Before the pandemic, Nelson only opened her doors between April and October (due to the lack of heat in the buildings). Now she's switched to a farmers' market model where customers are welcomed around the clock and asked to leave the cost of what they take in a jar at

the counter. Nelson still pokes in and out, and can ensure her presence if needed as long as she receives a call ahead of time.

Inside, all of the books are second-hand, ranging from geographical history to art exhibition catalogues to poetry to comics. One of the buildings is dedicated to a children's section, which has an open front for parents to check in on their kids. Nelson even uses her covered front porch to sell small goods like picture frames and other things that might come in.

Looking for a bite to eat? Nelson says to try Wunderbar Bistro on Warren Street in Hudson. Nelson suggested stopping by (also on the Hudson Valley Book Trail) Rodgers Book Barn in Hillsdale, which has been established 20 years prior to Nelson's opening. Nelson describes owner Maureen Rodgers as a "legend around here."

### Inquiring Minds Bookstore

200 Main Street, Saugerties and  
6 Church Street, New Paltz

Brian Donoghue is a retired iron worker who has "always loved bookstores." Now he is the owner of both Inquiring Minds Bookstores in the Hudson Valley.

"Even though I didn't have a clue or knew what I was doing, I was determined to open a bookstore," said Donoghue. "I was sitting across the street at Ann Marie's in Saugerties [now closed] and thought, that would be a good place for a bookstore."

The Saugerties storefront (which is notably larger, with a cafe serving fresh, organic, fair trade coffee and food inside) came to fruition in 2003, first as a children's bookstore "Raising Children,"



Barner Books in New Paltz.

before expanding to two other storefronts right next door.

It wasn't until three years later that the New Paltz location was created. While Donoghue was unsure about expanding his business, due to the rise of e-books, a mutual bookstore owner in New York City was closing its doors and had to donate its books. When Donoghue got the call,

he took it as a sign from the universe to continue building Inquiring Minds Bookstores.

Inside these shops, there is everything, both new and used, including \$3 books to \$500 books. Customers can also find vinyls, CDs and more.

"People are definitely trending back towards books, at least that's what we've

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Oblong Books & Music in Rhinebeck (left) and Millerton (right).

With more space at the Saugerties location, it is a true “community bookstore” with gathering space available. Live shows, book readings and more have been held there.

“The book trail is a great concept,” said Donoghue. “As a book lover, it’s great to go from one store to the next and work your way up the Hudson Valley

seen,” said Donoghue. “The new focus on vinyl has been amazing with that

comeback. It’s great to see how popular it is right now.”

and see the rest of what it has to offer.”  
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Left to Right: Joseph Belluck, Jordan Fox, Kristina Georgiou





Magpie Bookshop in Catskill.



Donoghue recommends checking out Emerge Gallery & Art Space, located just doors down. Violet's Bakery is another must-visit with "incredible goods." If you are hoping to get shopping in, try Montano's Shoe Store, "the best shoe

store in the country."

### Barner Books

3 Church Street, New Paltz

Barner Books, first established in the early 1990s, offers everything from chil-

dren's board books to rare, one-of-a-kind finds. Abby Chance, the store manager, has been at Barner Books since 2008. She works alongside Katherine Spelling, who has owned the bookstore for about a year now and has 20 years in the industry. Together, they create a thriving used-bookstore experience that they consider "a browser's paradise."

"In general, a used bookstore is a place [defined by] coming into the store rather than looking for a singular book or thing," said Spelling. "Even if someone comes in



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35 artist-painted butterflies will be displayed on the streets of Saugerties from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Walking maps will be available at various locations throughout the town and village.

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*Watch for details about the upcoming auction of the butterflies.*



## Hudson Valley Explore

*Spring in the Valley*

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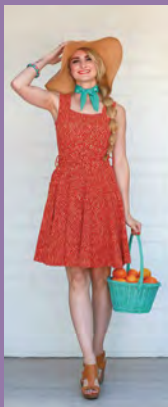
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looking for a certain title, we might have it, we might not have it, but we're going to do our darndest to make sure there is other stuff for you to look at, enjoy and browse."

The curation has everything from beloved authors to "weird and wonderful titles," with "a little bit of everything for every level of book-lover." Spelling compares Barner Books to a treasure hunt, where customers will leave finding something unique and special.

"When we buy books for the shop, we are buying things we know will be loved

by others," said Chance. "There is a real thrill and satisfaction with having the right person find a book that you've attached yourself to, and they find joy in it and take it home."

As well as a wide range of different authors and books, customers can also poke around the "non-book book swag," which includes everything from pencils, handmade journals, typewriters and more. The non-book items are sold with the intention of supporting other local artists and small entrepreneurs — meaning customers can find handmade book-

marks, greeting cards and pins made by other Hudson Valley residents.

Right now, Spelling and Chance are focused on having a consistently rotating selection of books in an effort to never have the same books sitting on the shelves.

"We want an active, lively turnover so people can ask hey, what's new at Barner Books this week," said Spelling. "That's the joy of a used bookstore. You never quite know what's coming around the corner. Part of our platform is to make sure people have access to finding things

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they never knew they were looking for.”

If you stop in Barner Books, Chance can give you a personal recommendation for other nearby must-sees according to your likes. However, her top-of-mind suggestions for food include A Tavola Trattoria for a fancy Italian dinner or Lagusta's Luscious Commissary! for a vegetarian bite. Spelling describes New Paltz as being a bookstore destination in its own, encouraging customers to stop in the other nearby stores.

### Oblong Books & Music

26 Main Street, Millerton and  
6422 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck

The start of Oblong Books & Music was in 1975, when Dick Hermans and his partner decided to create the Montgomery location. In 2001, the second location in Rhinebeck opened. Today, it is co-owned by Hermans and his daughter, Suzanna Hermans.

“I always loved being a bookseller and growing up in the store, but my dad never pressured me to take on the family business,” said Suzanna. “I went off to college and studied theater, which is my other love, but I realized I didn't want to

pursue it as my career, so I came back to the area and thought, well, I love to sell books and I'm pretty good at it, so let's try it. The rest is history. It's definitely my passion and the thing I love to do the most – connecting readers with their next favorite book.”

These two stores carry a large (over 30,000!) range of new books, with a strong focus on the children's section. Aside from books, there is a toy section and gift section as well. Lately, it has

been growing its online selection for customers to browse there. Everything is sold at retail price.

“We consider ourselves a community center and are connected with other businesses and community groups,” said Suzanna. “It's a cheerful, welcoming atmosphere that, no matter what kind of books you like to read, we will have books for you and help you find the next book you want to read.”

Right now, Hermans said Oblong

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Books is focusing on growing its business and also supporting other independent bookstores popping up across the area.

If you visit the Millerton location, Hermans encourages out-of-towners to try the new Candy-O's Sweet Shop, located right next door to Oblong Books, for ice cream and candy.

## Magpie Bookshop

392 Main Street, Catskill

Magpie Bookshop is a carefully curated store owned by Kristi Gibson, who has created a bookshop for readers rather than for collectors. Her aim is to sell used books in very good conditions for fair prices.

Gibson opened the bookstore seven years ago, after switching from being an urban studies and urban geography professor at the University of Connecticut.

"I did that for many years, and my background is really in urban geography," said Gibson. "I wanted a change of career, and I always wanted a bookstore. It seemed like Catskill could use a bookstore, so that's how it happened."

Starting Magpie Bookshop was made possible by advice from a friend who has managed a bookstore for ten years, plus leaning on the wisdom of the book-lovers community in the Hudson Valley.

"Within an hour and a half of Catskill, there might be 30 bookstores," said Gibson. "We have an amazing network of bookstores in this region. People don't realize - if you go to other parts of the country, you never find that density of bookstores, outside of New York City."

Magpie Bookshop is a traditional bookstore with nothing sold alone. Gibson

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wanted to emulate the best part about a bookstore – “the act of discovery,” calling customers to come in and browse and not know what they might find. Her 10,000-book collection, set mostly between \$6 and \$10, ranges with everything from literature to history to art and more.

“I’m in the middle ground, where I’m curated and I curate for condition and for topic, but the prices are still very reasonable,” explains Gibson. “My main customer is someone who reads a lot and wants to buy the book used because they read a lot of books, but not because they are collecting things that are first edition or rare.”

Gibson plans to continue to deepen her collection, while still staying carefully curated, heading toward the 15,000-or-20,000-book range.

Gibson recommends visitors stop by one of Catskill’s two Scenic Hudson open spaces, the RamsHorn-Livingston Audubon Sanctuary and the Mawignack Preserve. Gibson also recommends The Hudson River Skywalk, connecting Catskill’s Thomas Cole’s home and Hudson’s Frederic Church’s Olana, especially for this spring and summer.

## Rough Draft Bar & Books

82 John St, Kingston

Of all the gems on the Hudson Valley Book Trail, only two offer something to drink for the 21+ crowd. One is in Kingston, where Amanda and Anthony Stromoski, high-school sweethearts who transplanted from Brooklyn, leav-

ing their careers and deciding to pull inspiration from other book-and-bar joints. The other is Spotty Dog Books & Ale in Hudson

“People come in looking for a book and then they decide to get a coffee or a drink – or vice versa, they come in to get a beer and they end up browsing the books and

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picking out a book," said Amanda. "A lot of the purchases are kind of spontaneous here, which I think is really nice."

Amanda said the atmosphere is well worth it despite losing a few books here and there due to spillage. On tap are twelve beers from local breweries and wine. The coffee and food menu has full espresso service, plus savory hand pies from a bakery in Brooklyn, treats from their other joint Kingston Bread and Bar, donuts from Kingston Candy Bar, and scones from Meredith's Bakery.

Although there is a food-and-drink menu that you might not get at other bookstores, it doesn't surpass the Stromoski's commitment to books (for them, specifically new books).

"We try to keep a good balance between fiction and non-fiction, and we always try to stock new books around politics, policy, society, social justice," said Amanda.



Rough Draft Bar & Books in Kingston.



Rough Draft Bar & Books.





"Those have all been really good sellers, especially over the last year. We also try to have books for all ages."

They are working on growing their young-adult section, while also keeping the adult clientele happy. Rough Draft Bar & Books holds community events like monthly trivia, book readings and signings, book and writing club meetups, and even live music. With the warmer weather on its way, the pair plans to take advantage of its outdoor seating.

Half Moon Books, a used and rare bookstore, is located down the road from Rough Draft Bar & Books, and it is one stop Amanda suggests visitors to stop at. If you're looking for music and books, Amanda says to try Rhino Records. Sissy's Cafe is a sandwich and salad shop that Amanda "always sends people to."

To learn more about the Hudson Valley Book Trail, visit [hybooktrail.com](http://hybooktrail.com).

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## Kathy Goodell: Infra-Loop, Selections 1994–2020



Kathy Goodell, *Voyager*, 2020, courtesy the artist

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# Music returns to the Valley of the Purple Flowers

*A dozen spring shows in the Mid-Hudson Valley*

by John Burdick

**T**O HELP CATALOG music events in the mid-Hudson Valley this spring, I turned to a hip, connected, and mostly reliable guide: you, in your many-faced collective form, you the MHV music scene as constellated on my Facebook page. This is how we do it now. We aggregate your genius. I ask, "What's good?" And then I sit back as the hits roll in. I don't write much. I coordinate the dynamic allocation of organic content streams. The pay, alas, is competitive.

A local musician friend and I looked over the responses trailing below my Facebook post like the lappets of a ter-



New Bearsville Theater owner Lizzie Vann.

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rible local jellyfish. Surveying the spring schedule taking shape, he said, "My goodness, we've reverted to type."

Before we worry about "reverted" and "type," let us interrogate this friend's use

of the plural pronoun "we." My friend isn't from around here. He came up from the city, but of course he wasn't from *there*, either. What is the locus of identity with these people anyway, and its terms? Are

they born of pure, free moving capital? I'm almost sure of it.

When "you people" move up here from Brooklyn and the Lower East Side, you change us immediately, catalytically. It's



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like, “Oh, look, a new thing, and it puts avocado on toast and sings authentic Southwestern folk songs beautifully. I feel different.” But it benefits no one to paint with a too-broad brush, lest we mistake the relatively harmless grant-fed scribbling barn swallow for the more invasive and pernicious prickly-nape

equity-backed landgrabber. (Remember, stripes mean aggressive, plaid means conciliatory and respectful of regulatory. Be safe out there.)

It takes time, glacial time, but eventually we change them too. My friend is rolling up on two decades here, a sensible standard for being authentically “from

here,” one requiring only a few asterisks and need-to-know clearance restrictions. When he said, “We’ve reverted to type,” his barely nuanced implication was that, as we crawl out of the hole of year Covid, pallid and tenuous, and unsure how to even play the clarinet and dance any more. We may have lost some daring,

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Bearsville Theater.

some range, and especially some of the urban/global musical foment we worked so hard to tap into for so long. We may find we have leveled down, fallen back on our bedrock values and our timeless cultural verities: vegetables, roots music, multi-generational connection, affirmations of community and interdependence. You know, our type.

So have we? Was our edge a Covid casualty? Well, for the kids: community means people; people means bodies; venues are community factories that stuff people with music until their bodies poop money to make room for more music. As a result, we might observe a certain conservatism in booking in this transitional period. National tours are still grounded for the most part, though that is starting to change, and venues are looking for modest but blue chip gate wherever they can find it, perhaps accentuating the tried and true, the remembered and the longed for, reverting to type.

The 33/100 rule currently in effect, which allows venues to fill indoors to 33 percent capacity or 100 patrons, whichever is lower, has been a thanks-no-thanks olive branch for many of the region's leading music rooms. Mike Campbell, head of booking at Colony in Woodstock, said, "the risk/reward of opening at 30 percent capacity for a venue our size is not worth it. It's not worth potentially putting people at risk for little to no profit." We hear variations on that sentiment from all corners, and very little certitude about when the leash will lengthen and indoor music will return *as we once knew it*.

Music is a thing outdoors, but not always *the* thing. Outdoor music tends to keep company with other functions and

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other occasions. Consider the difference between an audience of passers-by at a farm market in broad daylight and an audience of decibel-hungry kids in a small, dark, unhealthy room at midnight, trying to find the pocket on the floor where the kick drum resonates at the same frequency as their sternum. There are certain kinds of outlandish music that only make sense inside, and only with complete, commanded attention.

And they are not much in play right now, unfortunately

Finally, let it not pass without notice that we lost BSP for good. The trailblazing uptown Kingston music club was not the only daring and outré venue around by any means (hello, Tubby's), but it was the flagship, the county seat of the alternative. The loss of BSP alone makes our region 20 to 30 percent more conservative musically than it was one

global pandemic ago. Venues come and venues go. This, my people, was a very big go. Take a moment.

"The future," as the great Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers recently said, "is a beautiful mystery." Just add "when you're rich" to any spiritual thing any celebrity ever says. Right now, it is us, not the blue flowers, trying to rise through the cracks in the pavement into the light.

What follows is a dozen handpicked flowers of springs. Some are shows; others are entirely new venues on the scene. Some are outside, some are inside, and some are, sigh, livestream, and that *still* doesn't mean live and next to a stream.

### The Bearsville Theater

291 Tinker Street, Woodstock  
www.bearsvilletheater.com

Good Lord, what a saga. No so long before Covid, Woodstock's long-struggling, venerable barn theater was bought, renovated, armed for bear, and ... introduced directly into the void. They are not the only venue with such a tale to tell; in fact you only need to walk a mile down the road to find another. But this is the Bearsville. Less steadfast ownership might have packed it in before the first frost. Not new owner Lizzie Vann. And now here it is, one of the freshest flowers of spring. It has, literally, been waiting here for you.

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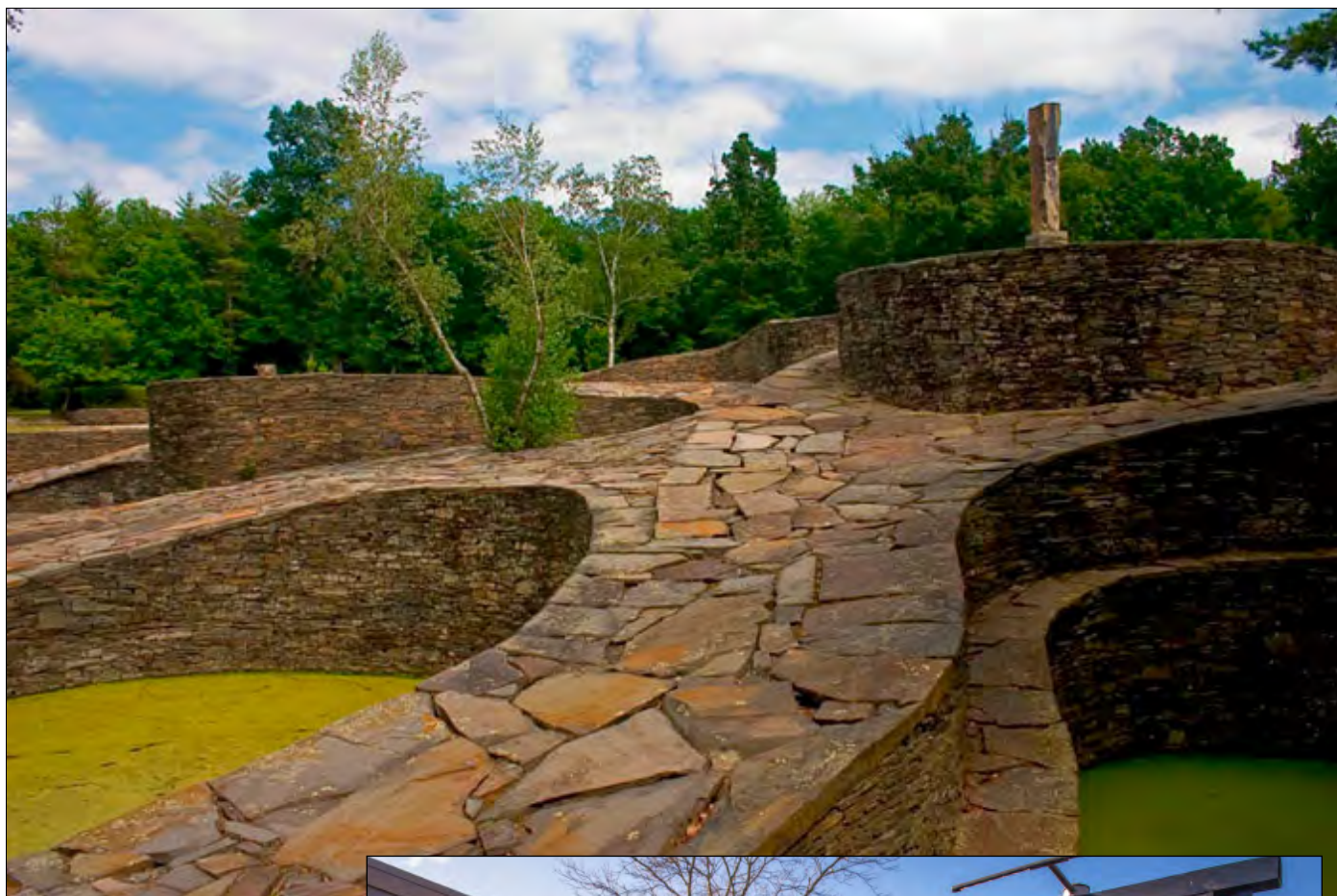
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Opus 40 in Saugerties.

number of local venues taking up the governor up on 33/100. “We will be requiring valid proof of Covid safety before anyone is admitted,” says Vann. The theater will produce music inside and in its spacious outdoor areas while continuing to stream content, for the time being.

About the months ahead, Vann beams with optimism and anticipation. “We have been hearing positive reports from artist representatives at labels, management and booking agencies, from across the nation, whose artists are beginning to work the road. And since our venue is a prime routing theater, many are eager to play the reborn theater they’ve been hearing so much about in the music trades and on satellite radio.”

The first few dates are names familiar to locals. The kids of Rock Academy present Seventies Gold on April 23 and 24, the first in a series of Rock Academy themed weekends. The guitar-free trio of local heavies the Restless Age perform



Pearl Moon in Woodstock.

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Colony in Woodstock.

their baroque groove pop on May 21. On May 22, internationally known soul/jazz singer/songwriter and area native Lindsey Webster brings her band in for a hometown show.

### Pearl Moon

52 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock  
<https://pearlmoonwoodstock.com/>

The Mitchells of Michigan moved to Woodstock to be near their grandchildren. They're not the retiring type. Pearl Moon is the gorgeously remodeled Harmony/Wok and Roll, designed and intended as an adventurous music venue from go, as well as an American diner-themed restaurant.

As of now, Pearl Moon appears to be offering "incidental music," a phrase we will never hear the same again, but a restaurant-to-music-club nightly conversion is ready to go as soon as a green flag is waved. Woodstock area singer/songwriter and cultural commentator Jules

Taylor already has a hand in booking out their beautifully mysterious future. In terms of size and booking purview, Pearl Moon fills a necessary niche between Woodstock's bookend larger venues. This place is going to soar. Daniel Marc performs originals and songs from the Hudson Valley songbooks solo on April 17.

### Green Kill

229 Greenkill  
 Avenue, Kingston

Galleries have always made excellent listening spaces, often ones with cultured audiences built in. Add a curtained stage, a lighting rig, a sound system and an elegant green room and can you even call it a gallery anymore when there is music

playing? Green Kill is nothing less than a micro-theater, adventurously booked. It is one of the places that I predict will, or will have to, pick up a portion of the BSP slack. Exhibits and streaming concerts are ongoing here. Follow on Facebook to keep up.

### Colony

22 Rock City Road, Woodstock  
[www.colonywoodstock.com](http://www.colonywoodstock.com)

Well, duh. When everything changed, the brain trust Woodstock's historic club already knew they had an outdoor venue ready to realize. In fact, an outdoor beer garden stage had been part of their long-term plan for at least a year. Covid hustled the Colony Beer Garden (TCBG) in to being, and Colony enjoyed one of the liveliest stages and biggest crowds of the 2020 temperate seasons.

It's up and running again, as Mike Campbell waits to get Neil and Alexa's nationally-focused indoor stage up and humming again. Most nights feature three or four acts, but here's a couple to bookmark: Surf legends Purple K'nif performs on Sunday, May 30 at 4 p.m. Lara Hope and the Ark-Tones celebrate their album release here on



Rail Trail Café in Rosendale.





The Falcon in Marlboro.

June 26 with Pitchfork Militia and Tonus Maximus.

### The Falcon

1394 Route 9w, Marlboro  
[www.liveatthefalcon.com](http://www.liveatthefalcon.com)

Temporarily losing its two full sized club stages hardly slowed the Falcon. Tony isn't one to wait around. He pressed the club's many terraces, patios, decks, and table boxes into service and fashioned one the very few HV venues that passed the first and second wave in style. There wasn't much any of us could do about that third wave. The Falcon is outside by the waterfalls until further notice, but you really won't regret that fact. The club still plays by the incidental rule. Go to the site and subscribe to the list.

### Elysium Furnace Works @ the Howland Cultural Center

477 Main Street, Beacon  
<http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org>

The indefatigable James Keepnews curates the avant-garde, the experimental, and the alien wherever he and EMW Co-founder Mike Faloon can find it. If there isn't enough edge in Kingston for my friend anymore, perhaps

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he should revert to Beacon, where he will find edge enough and time. The venerable Howland Cultural Center, a preferred venue and *ad hoc* recording studio for chamber music ensembles, lends itself to a broad definition of modern classical and vanguard music,

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**Towne Crier Café**

377 Main Street, Beacon  
<https://www.townecrier.com>

While Phil Ciganer and co. wait for their life blood to return, they have been doing the civilized thing: supplying free, high-grade music to diners. The practice continues on April 17 with the Daisy Jopling Band, Dan Stevens at brunch on Sunday, April 18, upcoming sets by Bruce Carroll, the Dan Brother Trio, and many more. See website for details.

**Rail-Trail Café**

Stone Mt. Farm, 310 River Road Ext.,  
 New Paltz  
<https://www.railtrailcaferosendale.com>

An actual trailside venue and eatery outside of New Paltz (culturally, seems more Rosendale to me), the Rail-Trail Café books music with vigor and imagination, tapping deep in the local ace player pool of which co-owner drummer Brian Farmer has long been a respected member. If you are thinking folk songs, well, yes, some of that but a lot more, much of with global character. Their season opens on June 17. You can't wait.

**Opus 40**

50 Fite Road, Saugerties  
<https://opus40.org>

All talk about cool outdoor spaces kind of begins and ends with this one, doesn't it? And Opus 40 is after live music in a big way. In fact, their seasonal schedule is the most loaded I have ever seen it — jazz, folk, chamber music, mixed arts, and more. Please consult the Website for the remarkable schedule. Here's a taste: the American Symphony Orchestra Wind Sextet on June 24.

**Unison Arts**

68 Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz  
[www.unisonarts.org](http://www.unisonarts.org)

Unison commences its outdoor concert series in late April, situated in an idyllic forested setting with a stage and full power. The New Paltz Arts Center has two to three shows a month booked through August. Highlights include the respected jazz and the experimental musicians/composer Gwen Laster band on Juneteenth (June 19), inaugurating Unison's Prejudice Project.

**Maverick Concerts**

120 Maverick Road, Woodstock  
<https://maverickconcerts.org>

Very good news. America's longest

running seasonal chamber music series, Maverick Concerts, has announced its intention to produce a limited 2021 season of performances at its heightened Woodstock location: nine concerts spanning July 18 to September 12. Typically,

the 19th and 20th century focused classical music series augments its season with jazz and children's programming. Within this reduced scope, it is uncertain yet what music will be presented. Keep tabs on the Maverick Web site.

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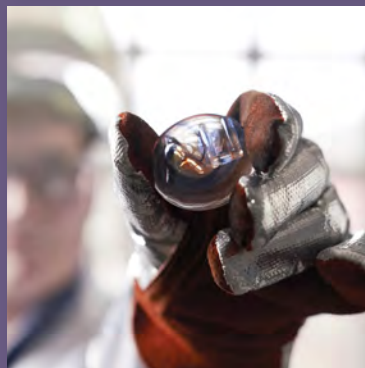
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# Phenology

*Nature's cyclical nature*

by Lee Reich

IT'S HARD FOR me to keep my wits about me when it comes to planting annual flowers and vegetables this time of year. Each day a warm breath of spring wafts through the air, I am sure that I have put off planting too long. On other days, icy chills remind me that I have plenty of time to plant. Or else, the icy chill goes right to my spine, and I fear I have planted too soon.

*The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.*

*But if you so much as dare to speak,  
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
A wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of March.*

— Robert Frost,  
“Two Tramps in Mud Time”

I curb my planting whims to some degree by watching the blossoms develop on trees and shrubs. Those blossoms know what they are doing. They respond to the general, rather than day-to-day, warming trends and, therefore, are good barometers of when and what to plant. For example, although apple trees do not bloom on exactly the same date each year, when they do bloom the weather finally

has warmed enough to plant snap beans.

I've maintained records for many plants over the past 30 years. My Liberty apple tree, for example, has blossomed as early as April 24th (in 2002) and as late as May 11th (in 2007). This study of the relationship between the climate and the cycles of plants and animals is known as “phenology.” It's also yet another barometer of global warming trends.

Not all forsythia varieties bloom at the same time, and the timing for an individual plant depends on whether it's in full sun or part shade and other things affecting microclimate. But generally, forsythia blooms are telling me that the hardest seeds can be sown. Crunchy radishes, fragrant sweetpea flowers, and



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delicate poppies — these seeds go into the ground as soon as forsythia gives me the go-ahead to plant them.

Other vegetable seeds that can be sown to the accompaniment of forsythia blossoms are carrot, chard, and parsnips.

Other flowers are calendula, allysum, cornflower, and baby's-breath.

And, of course, garden peas. Because they are such a treat and do best before hot, summer weather arrives, I rush them into the ground just a little before those

forsythia blossoms are about to burst open. Not, you may be surprised to learn, on what many gardeners believe is the perfect time for pea-planting, St. Patrick's Day. It can't be the same for gardeners

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## Spring lights in Catskill

ON MAY 9 enjoy a new outdoor nighttime walk-through experience at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill. Visitors with timed tickets will explore a one-way looping path to encounter a building-wide projection by the contemporary artist Brian Kenny and immersive light and sound environments designed by Clerestory Light, a leading “son et lumière” creative agency.



## Kingston spring stroll



ON THE MEMORIAL Day weekend, explore the heritage of Kingston, from dozens of historic sites and museums to bustling shops and restaurants in the city's business districts: Downtown's quaint Rondout waterfront, Midtown's busy Broadway thoroughfare, and Uptown's historic Stockade neighborhood.

Dine alfresco, stroll through the sidewalk sales of one-of-a-kind shops and local artists. Join the fun and camaraderie and say hello to friendly neighbors. Welcome in the warm season and summer breezes. Bike, ride, walk, hike, and stroll as Kingston comes together to support local businesses.

For more info go to: [kuba.network/springstroll](http://kuba.network/springstroll)

everywhere! It's early for here in the Hudson Valley and late for gardeners in Florida. Probably about right if you garden in North Carolina.

The next blossoms I keep an eye out for are those of the the shadbushes (juneberries), and the flowering quinces and cherries. As these blossoms unfold, I start planting out cold-hardy seedlings that have been growing indoors. Vegetable transplants that will tolerate the frequent freezing nights that still occur as the shadbrush blooms are cabbage, broccoli, onion, and leek. And I not to forget the flowers: snapdragons, dusty millers, salvia, pansy, and larkspur.

As early May rolls around, frosty nights become fewer. This is the time when clouds of white and pink blossoms blanket the rolling hills of local orchards. This is the one time when the common lilac earns its keep, in the form of fragrant lavender or white blossoms. Quick on the heels of apple and lilac blossoms will be the creamy-white or salmon-pink dogwood blossoms, and the blooming white spires of horsechestnut.

Apple, lilac, and dogwood blossoms herald the planting of cold tender seeds of annual flowers and vegetables. Although the air temperature might dip



occasionally at this time, the ground has sufficiently warmed to remain so. This is the time when oak leaves are the “size of mouse ears,” the traditional time when Native American planted their corn. Besides corn, seeds of beans, okra, and the curcubits (melons, squashes, and cucumbers) can be planted. The soil also will be warm enough to sow nasturtium, cockscomb, morning glory, sunflower, and the big three of American gardens: marigolds, zinnias, and petunias.

Finally, towards the end of May, I look along roadsides for pale blue blossoms dangling from wild black locust trees and the white mounds of Vanhoutte spireas in front yards. These blossoms are the natural signal that all danger of frost should be past and cold-tender plants can be set in the garden. Garden centers and nurseries will be overflowing with zinnias, marigolds, tomatoes, and peppers, neatly lined up in plastic trays.

Squash and cucumber plants can be set out at that time.

Nature sometimes leads us momentarily astray. Even though spireas and locusts are in bloom, late frost, which could spell death for the tender transplants, is not impossible. A simple covering of practically anything - newspaper, blanket, towel - will ward off any light frosts that occur.

Then again, sometimes I fool Nature and advance the season a little. I might plant on a south slope (my garden is flat, so that “slope” is the south side of a raised bed) to gain some extra warmth from the sun, and plant seeds a bit shallower than recommended. Some parts of the garden

I cover with cloches, which are much like miniature greenhouses

When catalpas burst into bloom and the fragrance of mockorange fills the air, the door finally has closed on the last vestiges of Old Man Winter. Even these late blossoms are a timely sign to sow seeds — in this case, cabbages and broccolis for the fall garden.

*New Paltz writer Lee Reich, PhD, is a garden consultant specializing in edibles, including using them as ornamentals. He also hosts workshops at his New Paltz farm den and webinars, via Zoom. For more information, go to [www.leereich.com/workshops](http://www.leereich.com/workshops).*

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# Enjoy art this spring!

## The Mohonk Preserve and Roost Studios & Art Gallery

The organizations are collaborating for the second time on a project that connects land, art and community. At the event on Saturday, May 22 (rain date May 23), 24 Hudson Valley artists will be stationed along the Testimonial Gateway trailhead and along Pin Oak Allee at 35 Route 299 near Gatehouse Road in New Paltz. Each artist will create one or more works in the medium of their choice, on site en plein air. The theme is nature and the outdoors. The process and finished artworks will be photographed throughout the day and will be included in an online auction through Mohonk Preserve's online auction platform. Artists will be set up and painting by 10 a.m. on May 22 and will be on site painting until 3 p.m. Social distancing will be in place.



The Mohonk Preserve and Roost Studios & Art Gallery.

## The Longyear Gallery

The members' group show at the gallery at 785 Main Street in Margaretville (586-3270) will be augmented by a paper-on-paper show through May 9 and solo exhibitions by Deborah Ruggerio and Gary Mayer from then until June 7.

## Samuel Dorsky Museum

There will be three shows through June 11 at the SUNY New Paltz art gallery. "Kathy Goodell Goodell: Infra-Loop, Selections 1994-2020" will be curated by Andrew Woolbright in the Morgan Anderson Gallery and Howard Green-

berg Family Gallery. "Lewis Hine, Child Labor Investigator," curated by Anna Conlan and Amy Fredrickson, will be in the Sara Bedrick Gallery. And "DIRT: Inside Landscapes," curated by Emilie Houssart, will be showing in the Seminar Room Gallery.



Some works from Woodstock Artist Association & Museum (left) and the Samuel Dorsky Museum (right).

The gallery is at 1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz. 257-3844.

### Woodstock Artist Association & Museum

The WAAM is celebrating its centennial with a show curated by Tom Wolf through September 12. *Re-Reading Disaster: For the past two decades, Maureen Cummins has been making artist's books, prints, and installations that investigate the nature and experience of disasters. Thw open through May 23. The Vision of Care. 23 artists making work about parenting, nature, and loss. Juried and curated by Robert R. Shane through May 23/ A show of small works as curated by Karen Quinn*

will also run through that date,

### 11 Jane Street

Artist Norm Magusson's pornweaving exhibition at 11 Jane Street in Saugerties

running from May 22 to June 27 will be opening on May 22 from noon to 6 p.m. 20 new works on the role of pornography in his life and in the lives of people worldwide will be featured.

Spring is in the air!



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