by Erin Quinn





















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The stillness of winter

Here's what you will need to take with you when you want to experience its magic

by Erin Quinn

HERE IS NO quietude quite like what one experiences hiking in the winter. The air tastes refreshing, as though the hiker is constantly inhaling a mint. Pine boughs are weighted in snow, branches are coated in gleaming rime. Everything appears brighter. It stretches shadows across a frozen pond, or cascades down an ice-encrusted hill.

Paths are smoothed out, their roots and rocks blanketed by winter. The trees are bare, their trunks like pillars or staggered fence posts. The landscape has been transformed by snow, cold and ice. Within it, the hiker leaves tracks — like a rabbit or deer or coyote does — imprinting the trails, forging ahead in the hope of discovering something for which they were searching.

While there is nothing more invigorating than a blustery winter hike after a snowfall, even the most avid outdoor enthusiasts need some essential pieces of gear, a winter-survival pack of sorts, to ensure that they come out feeling restored and not broken. For this, turn to Rich Gottlieb, longtime proprietor of Rock and Snow, now retired. He's someone who has spent most of his life rock-climbing, ice-climbing, biking, snowshoeing and hiking his way around the world, nowhere as deeply as in the Hudson Valley.

The most important thing, he said, is to know where you're going. "Winter can be disorientating," he said. "Get a map, print one out, go with someone who knows the area, or if you're going by yourself, make sure you start out with shorter, easier hikes."

Gottlieb suggested the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation trails just off Route 28 at Onteora Lake. There are approximately twelve



PHOTOS BY ERIN QUINN

miles of well-marked, single-track trails that can lead hikers (or some on fat bikes, as we witnessed) around Onteora Lake, through old quarries, past rocky shark fins of slate, and past Pickerel Pond and other wetland areas. While there are a few, short, steep climbs, there is not much elevation change, It's a great starter hike for those anxious to get out into the woods this winter.

The main game-changer for winter hik-

ing is having a pair of microspikes, yaktracks or some other sort of crampons that help you grip snow and ice. They slip on easily over a pair of sneakers (for runners) or hiking boots. They provide enough traction that you begin to think you're immortal on ice — which none of us are, but it does give you the feeling of having superhero power.

For those wanting a little more stability or grip, there are also trekking poles,

many of them collapsible and easily attached or shoved into a backpack. These, Gottlieb explained, help to take weight off the knees as you scramble downhill while providing more steadiness. They also help work the upper body to a degree and keep your hands warm as they are gripping the poles and in motion.

Must-haves, in Gottlieb's estimation are a form of microspikes. If the snow is too deep for those, then snowshoes. Second is a map. While we do rely heavily on smartphones and GPS or trail apps, they can run out of battery, particularly fast in the cold.

A headlamp is another important tool to have in your winter hiking arsenal as the sun can slip past the horizon faster than you think. That way, if you get lost, or miss a trail and are still trying to make it back to your car or starting point, a headlamp will help guide you back.

Matches in a waterproof bag are also a key component to Gottlieb's winter pack. "Stuff happens," he said, "and it's good to have the ability to start a fire if you need too. I've certainly been in that position before."

Water and calories are essential in any



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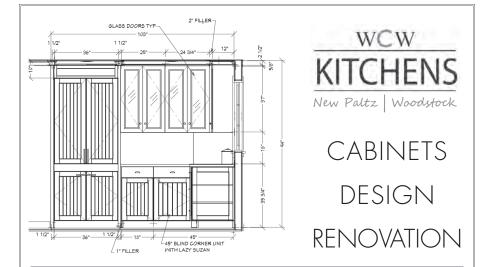


season if you're out trekking, as are layers of clothing, but not, what Gottlieb calls "death by cotton." Get yourself some wool, or go to an outdoors store and ask

for some base layers and shells that both keep you warm, wick the sweat away and protect the body from harsh winds.

A good pair of warm socks, hat and

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gloves are also key. Gottlieb points to his lobster-claw-shaped gloves and explains that these give him the ability to rock scramble, hold onto his poles, and also keep the fingers mostly together to generate heat.

Yet another item he says he always

Hudson Valley Explore

Winter in the Valley

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takes with him when out adventuring in the winter is a light down jacket that he can shove into his pack. "It's great for taking a break and making sure you stay warm, or if there's an emergency, someone turns and ankle, or you miss the trail," he said. "You have another layer if you're not moving as fast as you were or it's getting dark."

The great thing about this list is that, for the most part, it's very doable. Some sort of traction for your feet, warm clothes, a backpack, a map, water, some powerbars, matches and a headlamp. There are great map sets for the Catskills and the Shawangunks as well as for the Hudson Highlands that are put out by the New York, New Jersey Trail Conference, They can be purchased at Rock and Snow or by going to www.nynjtc.org

Hiking in the winter is really all about being prepared. If you have steady feet, a warm body, a map, a headlamp and some snacks, you should be good to go. When in doubt, start easy on rail-trails or well-travelled public parks.

Once you get your confidence and some experience, you may find that winter could be your favorite time to head off into the woods. The magic it holds is stunning. It's like walking through a forest of diamonds, or stepping into a silence that is so deep and so piercing that it awakens all your senses at once. The snow and ice wrap around the woods like a giant shawl, allowing everything to settle into itself, to regain balance, and to be revitalized

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LET'S GET THAT NEW PROJECT STARTED!





Winter in the Valley 2022 Hudson Valley Explore ULSTER PUBLISHING

Real-estate price explosion

There has never been a year like the one that just ended

by Geddy Sveikauskas

Now is the winter of our discontent, Made glorious summer by this son of York:

And all the clouds low'r'd upon our house

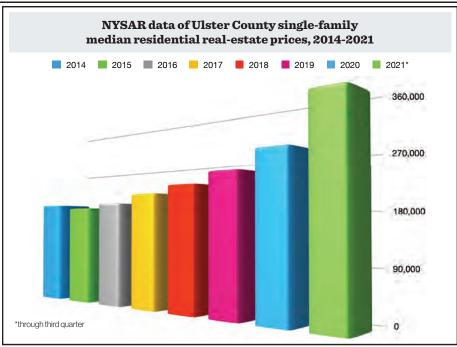
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried."
— Richard III,
by William Shakespeare

RICES OF SINGLE-FAMILY residential real estate in Ulster County took a big leap upward in 2020, increasing in value close to 13 percent. But new figures not yet released by the industry show that prices in 2021 blew the proverbial doors off 2020. According to data available from Ulster County's Multiple Listing Service, the median price of sold single-family homes increased from \$290,000 in 2020 to \$349,000 in 2021, a jump of 20 percent.

Working with a slightly different data base, the state association of brokers (Nysar) figured the median price in Ulster County at \$281,000 in 2020 and \$360,000 in the third quarter of 2021. The Ulster County MLS numbers and Nysar's lead to the same conclusion. Prices have been appreciating each year since 2015, with the lion's share of the increases coming in 2020 and 2021.

Ulster County prices have increased in the past five years at a faster pace than they have in all but seven of the 57 New York State counties for which Nysar has collected data (Columbia and Greene counties are two of the seven).

In the third quarter of 2021, Ulster County had a four-month supply of housing available for sale. In the third quarter of 2019, just two years earlier, the supply of housing for sale was double



In 2017, 17 milliondollar homes were sold. By 2021, there were 83, of which 16 were sold for two million dollars or more.

......

that, eight months.

The new numbers represent a new high-water mark in the upward march of Ulster County residential real-estate prices in the past four years. In 2017, four years before the year just completed, the median price – half the houses sold

CHART BY JOSH GILLIGAN for a lower price and half were higher priced – was \$212,000, according to the Ulster MLS.

The change in market value of an asset class that many tens of thousands of residents own has been enormous. Prices at the top and bottom of the price range illustrate the extent of the transformation of the marketplace.

Of the 1720 Ulster County single-family homes sold in 2017, some 235 sold for

under \$100,000. When 1882 homes were sold four years later, in 2021, only 25 sold for under \$100,000.

In 2017, 17 million-dollar homes were sold. By 2021, there were 83, of which 16 were sold for two million dollars or more — in today's marketplace, the

two-million-dollar house has become the million-dollar house of vestervear.

One house in every ten sold for \$750,000 or more in 2021. The localities of the top-end homes, which are tabulated by zip code, show the usual pattern. Woodstock has more than any other town. New Paltz and Marbletown come next. The Kingston 12401 zip, which extends to sections of several other towns, has quite a few. But a large number of the \$750,000-plus homes are scattered all over the county; practically every zip code seems to have at least one.

You might not know it from the state of New York State's housing market that 2021 was a boom year for owners of residential housing throughout the United States. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St, Louis, which keeps track of national median sales prices by quarter, the median price in the second quarter of 2020 - the quarter after we had just been introduced to Covid-19 was \$302,600. By the third quarter of the next year, 2021, the median price was \$404,700. That's an astonishing gain in five quarters (the St. Louis data includes only the counties which measure the data, which excludes many rural counties with low price increases).

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York publishes monthly home-price data for every county in the United States that keeps records. Though not as accurate as Ulster County's own Multiple Listing Service, it provides a reasonable overview of price changes, especially in urban areas. We applied the New York fed data for November 2021 to activity in 2021 for all the counties in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. This is what we found:

New York City may be recovering from the mass exodus it experienced after the

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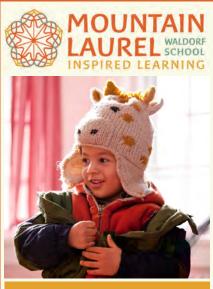


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first Covid-19 wave, but when it comes to housing prices the recovery is starting very slowly despite very low interest rates. On a year-to-year basis, home prices for the third quarter of 2021 increased in the single digits in Gotham as a whole, though of course some neighborhoods saw more price appreciation than others did.

The suburban New York counties closest to the city – Long Island and Westchester – did a little better. The exurban counties of the mid-Hudson region on average did a lot better. The counties with the highest price appreciation in November in the expanded metro region included Orange with 20.0 percent, Dutchess with 19.8 percent, Greene with 18.6 percent growth in prices, and Ulster with 17.6 percent. Rockland (16.8 percent), Putnam (13.9 percent), Columbia (13.1 percent), and Suffolk (11.9 percent) followed.



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The nation's high growth rate in property values in 2021 was mostly due to the explosion of prices in southern and western states. What seems to Ulster homeowners as unprecedented growth in this asset class is commonplace in other parts of the nation, especially the West Coast, the Mountain States, and Florida.

In some parts of California, astronomical prices, uncomfortably crowded housing, and punishingly long commutes have become the dominant pattern. The Golden State is no longer the promised paradise it seemed for generations to be. Out-migration now exceeds in-migration. California is becoming relatively

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more affordable as people move to more affordable competing cities.

According to UCLA researcher Jerry Nickelsburg, the housing premium increased when San Francisco was an epicenter of innovation and wealth generation. As Seattle and Austin began to catch up, San Francisco's housing premium decreased. As living costs rise

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Why is Ulster County so near the high end of housing appreciation in the greater New York metro area? It's probably due to a combination of the pandemic and the expansion of distance work. Many of the jobs leaving New York City have so far been going to the inner suburban ring of New York counties, to Fairfield County in Connecticut, and to northern New Jersey. Job growth outside this inner circle of



counties has been disproportionately in warehousing, fulfillment centers and leisure activities.

How that pattern evolves will be largely dependent on the ingenuity of the entrepreneurs in the different counties of the Hudson Valley and the localities within them. Eighty years ago, noted economist Joseph Schumpeter posited that entrepreneurship consisted not just of invention but of changes in new products, new methods of production and new forms of organization. His thinking is particularly appropriate in turbulent times such as the present.

The opportunities are there. The realestate boom is but a harbinger of what could be a sunny future beyond this winter of discontent. It's a signal that a significant portion of the new hybrid world values our real estate. But what does that mean for our future? We now live in world of greater competition in more dimensions than ever before. Will the Hudson Valley have the imagination and the resources to find its path to realizing its socioeconomic, environmental, cultural and most of all human potential?

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Winter projects

What have you been procrastinating about?

by Violet Snow

INTER IS A great time to do all those little chores, tasks, and even enjoyable projects that you have been putting off. They just aren't





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important enough when you're relentlessly busy, but as summer ends and fall winds down into winter, you tend to have more time on your hands.

Personally, I'm enjoying the slower pace of life this time of year, but there are days when I feel a bit aimless. Especially because the pandemic is limiting social opportunities, we all have to find constructive ways of filling our free time.

My remedy has been to make a list of activities I've been procrastinating on doing for the past year (or years) and try to do one of them each day. Some items on my list are not exactly what you'd call

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fun, but when I complete them I'll end up with a sense of accomplishment. Also there's a kind of shadow in the back of my mind about tasks I've been avoiding, and wiping away that shadow leaves me with a feeling of lightness and grace.

Here is a list of possible projects to get you started. But you alone are the one who knows what needs doing in your home and your life, so spend some time brainstorming, and you'll probably find items to add.

Start spring cleaning early

I like spring cleaning as a concept, but as soon as the weather warms up all I want to do is get outside. My curtains, for instance, basically never get washed, and moving the couch and beds to clean underneath - who has time for that? Well, right now we have time. I recently noticed the layer of dust on the bedroom curtains, shoved them into the washing machine, and now I have fresh, clean curtains. Next project - extracting the accumulation of dust from under the clawfoot tub.

Call people you've lost touch with

I'm not a big fan of conversing on the phone, but it's more personal than emailing, and when you haven't spoken to someone for six months it can be refreshing to catch up by phone. One person a week is probably enough. My friend Eifion calls me from Wales a couple times a year, and maybe one of these times I'll actually call him first. He'll be delighted.

Write a letter

If you want to go really retro, consider the lost art of letter-writing, especially suitable for reconnecting with people you haven't spoken to for years. They will be so thrilled to receive a letter in the mail. And they might send you one back!

Make a photo album

When I was 25, my mother collected photos of me from childhood and beyond, put them in an album (the kind with sticky pages and plastic cover sheets), and gave it to me for my birthday. Even though I was not getting along so well with my mom at that point (much better



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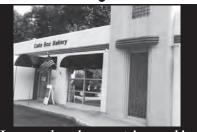
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nowadays, thanks), I was deeply touched. I still like looking at that album. You probably have boxes of unsorted photos in the back of a closet and/or a zillion.jpgs cluttering up your hard drive. Nowadays, if you have a smidgen of computer knowhow, you can make albums online and get them printed inexpensively, adding your own captions. It's actually quite creative and fun.

Cook up stuff squirreled away in the kitchen cabinets

Speaking of spring cleaning, now's a good time to go through the cupboards and make space by utilizing food you forgot you had. I have plans to cook up those two packages of butterscotch pudding, childhood comfort food I bought in a fit of nostalgia but never get around to making. Probably next week...

Watch videos of your friends' performances

In the world of Netflix, when a friend gives us a DVD of their performance art / poetry reading / play performance, it's likely to sit on a shelf for years. Why not take it down now and watch at least the first ten minutes? Your friend will be gratified.

Study a foreign language

Even if you don't have a penchant for languages, it can be great fun to learn a whole new way of communicating. Given that many Spanish-speaking people live in our region, why not learn to carry on a basic conversation in that soft, melodic language? Or enjoy bragging to your friends that you're learning something exotic, like

Norwegian or Kurdish? Duolingo is a free website that makes language learning fun and not intimidating. For some languages, you can get courses on CDs from the library.

Sew

We rarely mend our clothes these days because they're so easy to replace. But what about that favorite flannel shirt you just can't throw away, even though it's torn? Why not sew up the gap, or sew on a patch? Sewing machines are handy, but you don't really need one if you want to make an article of clothing, embroider a picture or pattern, or venture into quilting, starting small with a potholder. Needles and thread are inexpensive, and you can buy odd lengths of fabric at a thrift shop. I have a friend who addresses insomnia by hand-stitching quilts, an activity that contributes to her sanity.

Research your family tree

If you have any information about your ancestors, you have probably thought of going online to find out more. Family-Search.org is free and has lots of data, from census to military records. You can even build a family tree on the website,



American Driving School is Hiring!

Driving instructor needed for Lake Katrine office. 2 part time positions available. Flexible schedule.

Please call 845-331-2222 for more information.

Employment opportunities





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accessible to other family members. But be careful, it can become addictive. In short, a great way to pass the winter.

Relax

The other day, when I was staying with a relative and feeling restless outside my regular routine, it occurred to me that I could relax. Instead of focusing on boredom or anxiety, I could focus on the luxury of stillness. By bringing the wandering mind to the little tingly sensations of the body, we can create a bit of space in our thought, and into that space, ideas often flow. Maybe even ideas for new winter projects to inspire and entertain!

Help Wanted!

RADIO WOODSTOCK PART-TIME MORNING SHOW DJ OPPORTUNITY

Radio Woodstock is looking for a part-time DJ for its Morning Show. If you want to entertain listeners, enlighten us and enjoy yourself, then we want you! This is your chance to work for a locally owned company that believes strongly in local programming AND be part of an amazing team.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for prepping and executing a compelling on-air shift (i.e. news, weather, and sports) at the direction of the Program Director.
- Available for on-air fill-in work for holidays, middays, pm drive, evening, and weekends.

Experience preferred but not required. Abilities in audio/video production are helpful but not required.

Applications can be submitted at jobs@radiowoodstock.com [please provide demo and resume]

Please note: Radio Woodstock is looking for an individual in the Hudson Valley. Radio Woodstock is an equal opportunity employer.





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Winter in the Valley 2022 Hudson Valley Explore ULSTER PUBLISHING

Mid-Hudson libraries

Your gateways to mental exploration!

by Frances Marion Platt

our blood pumping, and seeing sights other than the four walls of our home or office are standard goals for wintertime exploration. But harsh weather can make that a daunting challenge even in a normal

year. With the Omicron variant of Covid-19 rolling over the land, there are even more excuses to rationalize hibernation.

What we need for focus and motivation are specific destinations and activities, but even these are being closed or canceled left and right. What to do? If we can't physically go exploring, then we must explore with our minds.

In normal times, mid-Hudsonites have long been able to look forward to a terrific lecture series beginning each January: Science in Your Life, organized by the Vassar Brothers Institute in Pough-keepsie. In 2021, the series went virtual, like so much other informational and entertainment programming. Will 2022 be the same? As of presstime, the VBI website (www.vassarbrothersinstitute. org/programs) hadn't posted a schedule – only a cryptic teaser: "2022 Science in Your Life programs will be posted soon."

Since we can't yet let you know which if any science lectures are in the offing, we'll have to direct your attention to another stalwart supplier of mental exercise: our region's many libraries. It's easy to forget what richness awaits us at these priceless community resources on a regular basis: storytime for kids, book talks, film screenings and discussions, knitting clubs, seed swaps, yoga and meditation classes, chess clubs, Dungeons and Dragons games, computer tech consultations, language and music lessons, tool-lending programs, writers' critique groups, math tutoring, nature and local history talks, art exhibits and so on and on. Typically, you don't even need to have a library card or live in the same town to participate; and most offerings are free, except perhaps a materials fee for crafts.

While pretty much all our libraries have reopened since the first peak of the plague in early 2021, some aren't currently presenting any live programming. The Highland Library, for instance, has canceled all on-site programs for the month of January, except for curbside pickups of kits for crafts projects. Still, nearly all our local libraries have scheduled plenty of virtual programming, and a fair few are hosting in-person gatherings, with masks required and all CDC-recommended social-distancing protocols in effect.

Below are some suggestions for programming coming up in the next month,

Car care







- Exhaust Systems
- Clutches
- Brakes
- Shocks
- Fuel Pumps
- Catalytic
 Converter
- Converters
- Water Pumps
- Plugs & PointsBelts, Hoses, Filters
- Batteries
- Wipers, Lights
- Distributors, Rotors
- Rebuilt Parts

both live and virtual, that seems intriguing enough to warrant our attention – and perhaps even an expedition out into the wintry gusts and gales. Please note that nearly all these programs require preregistration, Visit the individual library websites for links.

Poughkeepsie Public Library District

https://poklib.org

Generally, the libraries presenting the most live events these days are the larger systems with the most physical sites where attendees can spread out, the Poughkeepsie Library being the clear winner here. It appears to be the only one in our region with in-person author talks scheduled in the near future.

Meet the Author: Judith Paolercio, *Pas de Deux* (live)

Opt to Adopt!

We have the perfect pet for you!

Looking to adopt a dog or cat?

Thinking about volunteering your time or making a donation to help us care for over 200 animals waiting for homes right now?

Come visit us Tuesday - Saturday noon - 4pm.

Appointments required for volunteering and adoptions.

Masks are required at all times.

Visit our Adoption Center at PetSmart in Kingston



Visit our Gifts from the Heart Store, located on the shelter grounds.

P.O. Box 88 46610 State Hwy 10, Delhi, NY (607) 746-3080 info@heartofthecatskills.org Saturday, January 15, 2:30 p.m. Adriance Memorial Library

Paolercio studied dance and was taught by former professional dancers from the New York City Ballet. Many years later, it would be where the heart of her novel, *Pas de Deux*, was drawn from. She currently lives with her husband on the Hudson River in Dutchess County, in the small hamlet of New Hamburg.

Conversation with Gary Shteyngart, *Our Country Friends* (live)

Sunday, February 6, 2:30 p.m. Boardman Road Branch Library Best-selling author Gary Shteyngart brings his unique humor and satirical perspectives to this casual library gathering. Copies of his new novel set in the Hudson Valley, *Our Country Friends*, will be available for purchase and signing.

History: The Strange Disappearance of Captain William Morgan (virtual)

Tuesday, February 1, 11 a.m.

This program by Michael T. Keene describes how the alleged kidnapping and murder of William Morgan prevented him from publishing a book that would reveal the inner secrets of the Masonic order.



Mary Frank: The Observing Heart



Mary Frank, Head Series I, Alas, 2009, courtesy DC Moore Gallery, New York

February 5 - July 17, 2022

SAMUEL DORSKY MUSEUM OF ART STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ

www.newpaltz.edu/museum

Artificial Intelligence Yesterday-**Today-Tomorrow (live)**

Tuesdays, January 18, February 1, 2:30 p.m.

Adriance Memorial Library

Attendees will learn the most common AI applications and a brief history of AI. Over eight weeks, this tour will visit relevant topics in four class sessions with notes, selected videos, articles and suggested book reads. In between, you will watch four popular movies that document and fictionalize some of the topics presented during the seminars. The class format is designed to encourage discussion and sharing of views.

How to Talk with Family or Friends about Beliefs Fueled by Misinformation (live)

Saturdays, January 22 & 29, 2 p.m. Boardman Road Branch Library January 22: Having the Tough Conversation; January 29: Techniques for Navigating the Misinformation Landscape. Register separately.

Do you have someone in your life who shares misinformation online or in person? How do you respond? These programs will help you understand the misinformation landscape and give you tips for having productive conversations without a big showdown. Excerpts from

several practical webinars produced by the News Literacy Project and AARP will be presented and discussed.

Elting Memorial Library, New Paltz

www.eltinglibrary.org

The Elting Library has an active youth group, which often takes the lead in organizing its own events – even fundraisers for the library. Here's a gathering that ingeniously can happen live, despite the building's space limitations:

Teen Group Marshmallow Roast (live)

Sunday, January 30, 4 p.m. Field of Dreams Park

An annual Elting tradition is having community members, including children, decorate individual themed quilt squares that are then assembled into a Hope Quilt in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. This year, people who want to participate but not to attend the live group event in person were given the opportunity to pick up squares to take home on Friday, January 14.

Hope Quilt In-Person Decorating **Event for MLK Day (live)**

Monday, January 17, 2 p.m.

Esopus Library, Port Ewen

www.esopuslibrary.org

Something we haven't seen offered elsewhere can be found on the Esopus Library's teen events page: links to play digital versions of escape rooms by solving puzzles via Google Forms. Currently available are challenges with themes based on the Marvel Avengers, Alice in Wonderland and Star Wars. Adults might enjoy them as well.

Want some more serious food for thought? Check this one out:

Presentation: Food & Agricultural Systems and Climate Change (virtual)

Wednesday, January 19, 6 p.m. Steph Herbstritt, an agricultural engi-

neer and educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be presenting on the ways our food and agricultural systems (FAS) contribute to climate change and how FAS can be solutions for climate

KINGSTON SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

is looking for **new umpires** to work in Ulster County. We officiate High School, Little League and Travel Ball. There will be 4 classes (all must be attended). Location TBA for the classes. Cost will be \$50.00. Rule Books and Manuals will be supplied. If interested please contact Walter Bollenbach at wbollenbach@hvc.rr.com or 845-901-5196.





resistance.

Gardiner Library

www.gardinerlibrary.org

The Gardiner Library keeps a busy events schedule year-round, including nature walks that head out on the trail right from the building's doorstep. An exhibition of Stacie Flint's vibrantly colored paintings will be up for the rest of January and part of February, if your winter blues need an infusion of good cheer. Here are some other upcoming offerings, one live and two virtual:

How to Make Lasting Dietary Changes (virtual)

Wednesday, January 19, 7 p.m.

Dr. Leigh Ettinger will share insights into how to make lasting dietary changes based on an understanding of evolution, brain chemistry and goal-setting. Leave with a set of tools to help you plan and stick to a healthier eating pattern.

Lotus Lantern-Making Workshop (virtual)

Sunday, January 23, 4 p.m.

Learn how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern in this step-by-step class with a member of the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project and watch a short documentary film about Korean culture. It's for ages 10 and up, and there's a \$5



Weekends • Weekly • Monthly

material fee per kit, to be picked up at the library.

SexSavvy Hudson Valley Presents: How to Talk to Your Kids About Sexuality (live)

February 16 & 23, March 2, 7:30 p.m. This is a three-part series for parents/caregivers of children from birth to 12 years old, led by Elizabeth Greenblatt and Susanrachel Condon. Topics include

values about sexuality, parent/caregiver roles and communication skills, healthy child sexual development, the different parts of sexuality and how they are connected to who we are. The fee is \$35 for each workshop, \$95 for the full series.

Kingston Library

www.kingstonlibrary.org

Live programs at the Kingston Library





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44 Saint Nicholas Rd, Wappingers Falls, NY



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

contact us for further information on Pet Dental Health Month special pricing! are currently in low-profile mode, but the members of its youth group keep cooking up cool things to do on their own, on a biweekly basis. Here's a slightly macabre one coming up that really caught our attention:

Stuffed Animal Taxidermy

Thursday, January 27, 4 p.m.

You're never too old to have fun with stuffed animals! Use unwanted furry friends to create upcycled art. Mount the heads (or bottoms) onto wooden plagues you paint and design. Not for the squeamish, or those who don't have a sense of humor. The library will supply the materials.

Saugerties Public Library

http://saugertiespubliclibrary.org

Among other events, the Saugerties Library is still continuing its longrunning monthly series of local history talks, with A.J. Schenkman on hand on Saturday, January 15 at noon to talk about his newest book, Patriots and Spies in Revolutionary New York. Here are two other live events coming up soon:

Dogmania (live)

Wednesday, January 24, 4 p.m.



LAUREN THOMAS

Highland Library lends virtual reality headsets, modeled here by staffers (L-R) Lisa Gill and Caitlyn Stever.

For kids and other fans of *Dog Man*, the comedic graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey (of *Captain Underpants* fame) about a dog-headed cop protecting the city with his friends. Come out for a fun time fighting villains, creating flip-oramas and celebrating a hero who drinks from a toilet bowl.

Film Chat: West Side Story (live)

Friday, January 28, 6 p.m.

Theater director Sydney Grosberg Ronga will lead the discussion following a screening of the original film version of West Side Story.

Starr Library, Rhinebeck

https://starrlibrary.org

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up? (live)

Saturdays beginning January 29, 11 a.m. This is an ongoing series to be presented on the last Saturday of each month, for kids ages ten and up, along with their parents or guardians. These workshops will alternate between working with the exhibiting artist in the library and, the following month, learning about the career of a community member. Each Saturday will include an engaging hands-on activity. How do people know what they want to be when they grow up and what skills are needed? This is your opportunity to ask an adult any questions you like about a future career you may be curious about.

Note: The Starr Library is eager to hear from community members who'd like to do a presentation to this group about their career.

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