

# A TIME AND A PLACE

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FEB 2026



— SPECIAL FEATURE —

**Whiskey**  
the "warrior dog"  
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# A TIME AND A PLACE

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PUBLISHER



## FROM THE PUBLISHER

Nothing says "LOVE" like cat hair and sloppy kisses!

Once again we are pleased to be able to introduce you to some of the wonderful animals available for adoption at Heart of the Catskills. We hope you enjoy getting to know them, and will consider helping to support this tremendous organization... or maybe even adopting a furry friend.

We are especially proud of this edition and can't wait for you to read our Special Feature honoring Seuk Kim and "warrior dog" Whiskey. We are proud — and thankful — to live in the company of the many kind and selfless individuals who give of themselves to save animals from senseless euthanasia, to foster and care for them lovingly until they find a forever home, and who answer the call when help is needed. They are, "good people who just want to do good things" and we are blessed to call so many of them neighbors.

# Happy Valentine's Day

Gretchen  
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# NO ELECTRICITY?

## Don't be caught off guard!

Extreme weather, such as high winds, ice storms, thunderstorms and heavy rain can put the electrical grid to the test, causing short- or long-term power outages. Here are seven ways to help you get ready for the next time the lights go out.

1. Service your fireplace or wood stove, if you have one, so it's ready to take over as your main heating source. Keep a sufficient supply of firewood.
2. Buy a portable generator that runs on gasoline, propane, natural gas or a combination of fuels. A generator can power essential appliances and keep you comfortable and safe during an extended outage.
3. Create an emergency plan for your household. Talk with all members so everyone knows what to do if the power goes out.
4. Prepare an easy-to-reach emergency kit stocked with the following items:
  - ☐ Fire starters, like a lighter or matches
  - ☐ Candles
  - ☐ A flashlight or headlamp
  - ☐ A portable charger for your electronic devices
  - ☐ Warm blankets
  - ☐ A first aid kit
  - ☐ Cash, including small change
  - ☐ A contact list for emergencies
  - ☐ Bottled water
  - ☐ Non-perishable food, like canned goods, crackers, drinks and energy bars
  - ☐ A battery-powered radio with spare batteries
  - ☐ Scissors
  - ☐ A can opener
  - ☐ Essential medications for family members
  - ☐ Spare house and car keys



5. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly. These devices can save lives, especially if you use a wood-burning heat source.
6. Store important documents, such as passports, birth certificates and insurance policies, in a waterproof container.
7. Prepare entertainment like games or books to keep yourself and your family members occupied without the internet.

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# Frozen Phenomena in Upstate NY

## ICE VOLCANOS

In the spirit of this chilly weather, let's dive into our encounter with the rare phenomenon known as ice spikes, ice geysers, or ice volcanoes, depending on whom you ask.

Locals who have spent their entire lives in the Catskills might hear about a road they've never encountered and exclaim, "That's not a road around here!" But if you ask a Realtor, they've likely traveled down that road, either intentionally or due to a GPS mishap and we see a lot of crazy things out there in the depths of the hills of the Catskills.

A few years ago, we were driving along one of those little-known back roads when we stumbled upon something truly unusual. Through the trees, we spotted a towering monument of ice, about 25 feet high, shaped like a cartoon ghost, with water spouting from the top.

These intriguing geysers form under specific conditions and typically form around gravity-fed natural springs where geothermal heat from the Earth can warm the water. When this water rises to the surface during cold weather, it can freeze quickly, resulting in stunning ice formations.

Many ice geysers feature water spouting from their tops. This phenomenon occurs when pressure builds up beneath the ice, forcing the water out.

While ice geysers can be stunning to behold, they are often found in remote areas and may require some hiking to reach.



---

*Our thanks to the Catskill Dream Team  
for allowing ATAAP to share this  
interesting article with you.*



**Ever stumbled upon an Ice Volcano in the wild?  
Got pics or an epic tale to share?**

Drop the Catskills Dream Team a line at [info@catskilldreamteam.com](mailto:info@catskilldreamteam.com)

# Have a Heart for Animals

DO

## Support Heart of the Catskills Humane Society

Supporting your local animal shelter is one of the most meaningful ways you can give back to your community—and here in the Catskills, that support makes a real difference for Heart of the Catskills Humane Society.

This small, community-based organization cares for dogs, cats, and other animals who need safe shelter, medical care, and a second chance at a loving home. While adoption is the most visible way to help, there are many other important—and often overlooked—ways you can support their mission.

### Volunteer your time

From walking dogs and socializing cats to helping with cleaning, events, and administrative tasks, volunteers are essential to daily operations. Even a few hours a month can ease the workload for staff and dramatically improve the quality of life for the animals waiting for homes.

### Donate much-needed supplies

Animal shelters rely heavily on community donations to meet everyday needs. Items such as pet food, treats, litter, toys, towels, blankets, cleaning products, and office supplies help stretch limited budgets and keep the shelter running smoothly. Your donated items go directly toward improving comfort, cleanliness, and care for the animals. Clip our handy list and keep it with you. When you go to store, consider picking up a few staples to help the animals at HOC.

### Offer financial support—any amount helps!

Medical care, spay and neuter services, medications, building maintenance, and emergency rescues all come with significant costs. One-time donations, monthly giving, or sponsoring a kennel can provide steady, dependable funding that allows the shelter to plan ahead and respond quickly when animals arrive in need.

*continued...*

The following items are always needed at the HOC Human Society. Please be generous and drop off a few of these much needed items.

- ☐ Canned cat food (paté type)
- ☐ Bleach
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Dish detergent
- ☐ Cat treats
- ☐ Sturdy dog toys
- ☐ Dish washing gloves (Large)



Drop donations at the shelter  
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## Foster an animal temporarily

Fostering opens space in the shelter and gives animals a calmer, home-based environment while they wait for adoption. It's especially helpful for puppies, kittens, senior pets, and animals recovering from surgery or illness. Fostering can be a life-saving bridge between intake and adoption.

## Help spread the word locally

Sharing adoptable pets and fundraising campaigns on social media, in neighborhood groups, and through community publications helps connect animals with the right families. Word-of-mouth remains one of the most powerful tools small shelters have.

## Support local fundraisers and events

Bake sales, community days, raffles, and seasonal events not only raise money—they build awareness and strengthen connections between the shelter and the Catskills community it serves.

When you support Heart of the Catskills Humane Society, you are helping neighbors—both human and animal—by giving vulnerable pets the care, safety, and compassion they deserve. Whether you donate supplies, volunteer your time, foster a pet, or simply share their mission, your involvement helps ensure that every animal has a chance to find a loving home right here in the Catskills.



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to love you forever."

# Pet Me Please!

Heart of the Catskills  
Humane Society

by Laura Wright

## Harness & Collar Safety

Have you ever struggled with the variety of collar and harness choices available for your pet? Clip collars, buckle collars, martingale collars, front clip harnesses, back clip harnesses, step-in harnesses, anti-pull harnesses. If you are a new pet owner, this advice may be especially for you. There are pros and cons to all the restraints out there, but the key is finding out what is most appropriate, safest, and works best for your specific pet.

We will be talking mostly about dogs here. However, some cats do wear collars and harnesses. We 100 percent always recommend the safety collars for cats so that if your cat gets caught on something or manages to get their arm stuck through their collar (you know they can...), the collar will come open and free them. This is just as important for inside cats or outside cats. You should not rely on just a collar for your cat's identification. If they go outside, consider getting them microchipped. And generally, cats that wear harnesses only wear them while being supervised, while walking outside, or traveling in the car. It's best not to leave a harness on your cat all the time. The type of harness you use totally depends on what your cat will tolerate and what fits safely and securely.

For dogs there are many more options out there. We prefer collars that clip together over buckle collars for safety reasons. A regular buckle collar is good for calm, well behaved dogs to wear to display their ID tags. A hyper or anxious dog may need to have their collar removed at home, especially if crated or when not supervised, just to be sure they don't injure themselves.

Martingale collars gently tighten when a dog pulls to prevent them from backing out of their collar. Martingales are excellent for dogs that are shy and skittish outside and to help train energetic and hyper dogs. But never leave a martingale collar on your dog



at all times or use a martingale to display their ID tags, as they can strangle themselves if they get hung up on something when the collar pulls tight. Dogs that are very skittish or escape artists may need both a harness and a martingale collar, clipped together with a carabiner. This can prevent them from escaping in public and running away, being injured, or possibly injuring someone else out of fear. But once home, take that martingale off and hang it up until the next walk!

Harnesses are generally better for walking your  
*continued...*

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dog, especially if you have a dog that is brachycephalic (flat-faced) or a dog with trachea or neck/throat injuries or sensitivities. Harnesses distribute the weight of the dog more evenly over the chest and reduce pulling on the neck. A calm, well-behaved dog is fine with a harness with a back attachment for the leash. A wilder, more energetic dog that tends to pull may benefit from a harness where the leash attaches at the chest. This slows the dog down and pulls them to the side when they try to drag you, and they learn to walk at your pace so they can continue with forward momentum.

You should also take note of what is most comfortable for your dog and what types of harnesses and collars they tolerate. Some dogs at the shelter do not like the martingales that get put over their heads, so we use the ones that clip on. I have one dog that is able to squiggle out of normal harnesses with thin straps, so she wears a step-in harness that is fabric, stretches over her chest and clips at her shoulder blades. My other dog will wear any harness, but he is definitely more cooperative if it is a harness that slips over his head and clips around his body. He doesn't like to "step in" to harnesses.

Whatever collar or harness you use, make sure it fits properly and smoothly to your dog's body and that you leave enough space for just 2 fingers to fit between the collar/harness and the dog's body. If you leave more than that you risk them being able to get out of the apparatus. If you leave less, it may be too tight and uncomfortable for your pet. Ultimately you just have to try different things and see what is safest and most comfortable for your fur-kid.

Happy walking!



## HERE'S A TIP

*The living room set of "The Addams Family" TV series was actually pink.*

*About 1,350 potentially active volcanoes presently exist on Earth, with the majority of them found along a 25,000-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped ribbon bordering the Pacific Ocean that's commonly known as the "Ring of Fire."*

*Chopsticks in Asia are about 2,000 years older than forks in Europe.*

*The color red appears in nearly every shot of Stanley Kubrick's 1980 horror classic "The Shining."*

*Michelangelo only signed one piece of art, the "Madonna della Pietà," and that was supposedly because he overheard his work credited to a rival and sneaked back to include his name on the sash across the Virgin Mary's chest.*

*Philadelphia cream cheese doesn't hail from Philadelphia. It originated in New York.*

*\*Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting "The Last Supper" originally included Jesus' feet.*

*No American president has been an only child.*

*The U.S. Postal Service employs a sharp-eyed group of folks whose job is to determine where to send letters and packages with illegible addresses. They work their magic at the USPS Remote Encoding Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, the first facility of its kind and now the only one still standing.*

*Shaquille O'Neal missed 5,317 free throws over the course of his career.*

*Only three music companies are responsible for more than 80% of the music we listen to: Sony BMG, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group.*

*Spiders, like humans, can have arachnophobia. Small wonder, since certain species regularly eat each other: for food, after mating and for other reasons scientists don't yet fully understand.*

*The @ symbol was invented more than four centuries before email was.*

*The Statue of Liberty was originally brown.*



# ROXBURY BOTTLE SHOP

## *Every Bottle Tells A Tale*

by Iris Mead

The Roxbury Bottle Shop has new owners! Jennifer Rhodes and Caroline Fauvel became the owners in October of 2025. Former owners Peter Chen and Jeff Tichenor opened the Bottle Shop in 2012 and built it into a successful and busy Roxbury business. Jennifer and Caroline plan to continue providing area residents and weekend visitors with the same service.

Having been part-time residents of the area since 2015, they moved permanently to the area when Covid hit in 2020. Both Jennifer and Caroline have backgrounds in real estate and have brought that experience to managing rentals for area airbnbs and businesses.

This cozy well-stocked space is bright and cheery with many shelves displaying the large inventory they carry. An eye-catching wall display of over 80 bottles hanging on a wall makes it easy to spot your favorite wine or entice you to try something different. The owners are happy to offer suggestions for new wines they have found, explain the differences in brands or wine growing regions, and introduce new releases. Customers can always find their own favorite wines, hard ciders, and after-dinner liqueurs as Jennifer and Caroline are sure to stock local favorites. To date they have brought in 70 new items.

Monthly tastings are held at the shop, usually with a theme. February is, of course, Valentine's Day. It will be held on Friday, the 13th from 4 to 6pm. Sparkling wines and champagnes will be poured and discussed. These monthly tastings are free and welcome to all.

Resting on the counter when checking out,  
*continued...*

*Jennifer Rhodes, one of the owners of the Roxbury Bottle Shop, sits amid a unique display of some of the many products they offer, including wines, hard ciders, and after-dinner liqueurs.*



I discovered a cocktail recipe booklet called *On the Rox: A Cocktail Book made by the Community for the Community*.

Jennifer grew up moving around Europe as her father was in the wine trade as a buyer for the government's Class 6 stores, the military equivalent of wine shops. She became familiar with the wine trade then and is now putting that knowledge to work in her own store with a lot of guidance from her father.

Caroline grew up in Normandy and moved to the States in 2006 and will have become a US citizen by the time you read this. Congratulations Caroline. As a kid, she spent many fall days picking apples in her grandmother's orchard, fruits used for making cider, Pommeau and Calvados, Normandy's signature brandy.

Jennifer and Caroline invite you to check their Facebook and Instagram pages

### Roxbury Bottle Shop

53484 State Hwy 30  
Roxbury

607-326-6200

hello@roxburybottleshop.com

www.roxburybottleshop.com

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for the dates of their monthly tastings and stop by to check out their large inventory. They plan to soon launch an online shop so customers can order online for pickup at the store.

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## "To Build a Home"

February 14–April 4, 2026

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www.roxburyartsgroup.org

"To Build a Home," brings three distinct artistic voices together in a thoughtful and moving exploration of place, memory, and belonging. The exhibition of artwork by New York artists Katherine Chazwik, Maeve McCool, and Polly Shindler, is free and open to the public.

Featuring images of both interior and exterior spaces, the work of Chazwik, McCool, and Shindler offers an intimate look at what makes a home—from the objects, memories, and emotions that inhabit a place to the structures that contain them. Together, the artists explore questions such as: Where does safety reside? Where do we find shelter? And what truly protects us? The exhibition invites viewers to consider what creates the emotional and physical architecture of a place sacred enough to be called home.

Katherine Chazwik's work combines printmaking, drawing, and sculpture to construct spaces that reference local architecture. By layering imagery and materials, she weaves time and space into her pieces, reflecting the often conflicting feelings people hold about the places they live and remember. Chazwik is a mixed-media artist, curator, and art educator living and working in New York's Capital Region. She studied art and art education at The College of Saint Rose, founded Smallbany Gallery in 2020, and currently teaches middle school.



(Above Left) "Transient City", (Patridge) by Katherine Chazwik. (Above Right) "Workplace" by Polly Shindler



Maeve McCool presents an installation of found objects, sketches, and ephemera that points to the passing of time, the transience of memory, and the impermanence of treasured belongings. Her work examines ideas of decay and regrowth, as well as how rural American communities connect emotionally to industry and landscape. Based in Catskill, New York, McCool received her BA in Fine Art and Art History from the Corcoran College of Art and Design at George Washington University. She has participated in numerous residencies across the United States and has exhibited widely in solo and group shows throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Polly Shindler's paintings offer quiet, contemplative glimpses into everyday moments. Her work focuses on scenes that may feel ordinary in isolation, yet collectively form the fabric of daily life. Shindler received her MFA in Painting from Pratt Institute and a BA in History from the University of Massachusetts. She has presented solo exhibitions in New York City and participated in numerous group exhibitions nationally. Her work has been recognized with the Martha Boschen Porter Grant, and she has attended residencies at Yaddo, Vermont Studio Center, and the Wassaic Project. Shindler lives and works in Millerton, New York, in the Hudson Valley.

An artist reception will be held on opening day, Saturday, February 14, from 2–4pm.

### Want to reduce your grocery bills?

Along with housing and transportation, food is one of the biggest expenses for most households—and rightly so! If your grocery bills seem to be constantly increasing, you can try a few smart ways to save. Here are some proven tips.

#### Choose unaltered foods

Instead of buying convenience items, such as pre-cut vegetables or grated cheese, opt for them in their original form. Prepared or modified products can easily cost several more dollars than their unaltered counterparts.

#### Plan around current discounts

Take a few minutes to browse store flyers and search for online promotions to find the week's specials and deals. These resources will help you find the best places to shop, even if it means making an extra stop.

When you know what's on sale, you can build a focused shopping list and stick to it. Many mobile apps also show you the best prices for the items you're looking for.

#### Always eat before you leave

This one may seem obvious to some: never shop on an empty stomach. Satisfying your appetite before you go grocery shopping will prevent you from making impulse purchases, which can quickly drive up your bill.

#### Watch out for fake deals

In many supermarkets, it's not uncommon to see reduced price signs in bright colours and bold text. But don't be fooled! Compare the price per weight or unit with similar products. You'll often find that the so-called bargain isn't really cheaper at all.

#### Be open to substitutions

Canola oil is often cheaper than olive oil, as is store-brand mayonnaise compared to the name brand version. Small substitutions like these can add up to big savings over time.



#### Cook and store as much as possible

Ready-to-eat meals save time when you're in a hurry, but they cost a lot more than home cooking. You'll quickly see that buying all the ingredients and cooking your meals from scratch reduces your expenses.

Consider cooking larger portions and freezing individual servings. This will ensure you have quick, homemade meals ready on busy days.

#### Eat less meat

Plant-based proteins like tofu, tempeh and legumes are often much cheaper than meat. Replacing animal proteins with these options from time to time keeps your meals varied, nutritious and, above all, easy on your budget.

Remember that the goal isn't to deprive yourself, but to make informed choices based on your needs, tastes and means.



## Is it possible to save money on a modest salary?

Saving money sometimes seems accessible only to those with high salaries. Is it still possible to save even on a modest income? The answer is “yes”! Here are a few tips to help you do so.

### Make a budget

The first step to saving is to know where your money goes. Review your bank statements and make a list of the amounts you spend on your various expenses.

Financial experts often recommend the 50/30/20 rule:

- 50 percent of your income should go to essential expenses, like housing, food and electricity
- 30 per cent should go to non-essentials, like entertainment and leisure
- 20 per cent should go to savings

These percentages may vary depending on your situation. If your essential expenses take up more than half your income, look for ways to reduce them. For example, you may be able to switch to a cheaper mobile plan or use public transportation more often.

### Create habits

No matter your salary, set up an automatic transfer

of a small amount from each paycheck into a savings account. Over time, you’ll see your savings grow—money you might have spent without realizing it.

In addition, try to make a habit of waiting a day or two before making a purchase. Use that time to decide whether the item is useful, essential or simply unnecessary. A few hours of reflection may help you make better financial decisions.

Are you looking for savings strategies you can implement despite your limited income? Don’t hesitate to contact a financial advisor.



*New Mexico* “You look like I’ll be going home with you.”

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## “Are there ways to save on home insurance?”

Along with mortgage payments and taxes, home insurance can be a major expense for homeowners. Is this the case for you? Are you looking for ways to reduce your premium and minimize the strain on your finances? Here are a few tips.

### Increase your deductible

The deductible, the amount you pay out of pocket in the event of a claim, directly affects your premium. Depending on your insurance policy, you may be able to lower your monthly payments by opting for a higher deductible.

### Review the cost of rebuilding

Many homeowners get sufficient home insurance coverage for a rebuilding cost equal to their home's purchase price. Nowadays, it's not uncommon for a home to cost more to purchase than it would to rebuild in the event of a major disaster.

By assessing the realistic cost to rebuild your home and adjusting your policy accordingly, you may be able to get your premium reduced. However, take care not to underinsure your home just to save money. You may regret it if an accident occurs.

### Protect yourself from water damage

Water damage is the most common cause of insurance claims and can increase your premium. By protecting your home against water-related problems, you can help keep your insurance payments as low as possible.

For example, consider replacing old plastic pipes, which deform and crack over time, with braided steel pipes in your plumbing. This upgrade can significantly lower your home's risk of water damage. It may require an upfront investment, but it's well worth it.

Looking for more ways to save on your home insurance? Contact your insurance broker or a financial advisor near you.



**“Gaze into my eyes... you must take me home.”**

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WEST KORTRIGHT CENTER

## Jake Xeres Fussell

Saturday February 14 at 7pm

Doors open at 6pm

### West Kortright Center

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East Meredith

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info@westkc.org

www.westkc.org

American folk and blues singer-guitarist Jake Xeres Fussell brings new life to traditional Southern songs, reshaping old melodies and stories with warmth, depth, and imagination.



Opening the evening is Dougie Poole, a

Brooklyn-born, Los Angeles-based country and folk songwriter known for his wry storytelling and modern Americana sound.

Fussell has released five studio albums since his 2015 self-titled debut on Paradise of Bachelors. His most recent album, *When I'm Called*, produced by James Elkington, was praised by Pitchfork for its authority and originality in reimagining traditional material.

Fussell and Elkington also collaborated on the music for the film *Rebuilding*, with the soundtrack released in 2025 by Fat Possum Records. His work has earned wide acclaim, with NPR's Ann Powers calling him "maybe the leading interpreter of American folk music right now."

Food and drinks will be available at the concession stand. This is an indoor, general-admission concert. Tickets are \$30. Members receive a 10% discount, and children 12 and under receive 50% off. Purchase tickets at [www.westkc.org](http://www.westkc.org). Event schedules and guidelines are subject to change.

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The Devil's Bible by Steve Berry

When I Kill You by B A Paris

It's Not Her by Mary Kubica

Her Last Breath by Taylor Adams

Jigsaw by Jonathan Kellerman

Death of a Groom by M C Beaton

Wolf Hour by Jo Nesbo

### NON-FICTION

Art Cure: The Science of How Art Saves Lives  
by Daisy Fancourt

The Last Kings of Hollywood: Coppola, Lucas,  
Spielberg and the Battle for the Soul of  
American Cinema by Paul Fischer

### LARGE PRINT

The Devil's Bible by Steve Berry

## FEBRUARY Events

### JEWELRY MAKING WORKSHOP!

Thursday, February 19th at 3:30pm

A jewelry workshop for adults, teens and older kids. Call 845-586-3791 845 5896 3791 or email [director@fairviewlibrary.org](mailto:director@fairviewlibrary.org) for details

### ALIENS, ZOMBIES, OH MY!

Aliens or Zombies, Teleport or be invisible, time travel to past or future? Vote on our wall chart, drop your name in the jar, and you might win a great book prize. Open to adults and children.

### FIBER ARTS CLUB

Wednesday Feb 11 from 6 to 8pm

Saturday Feb 28 from 10 to 12pm

Work on your own fiber arts (knit, crochet, embroider, sew, etc) and meet other makers. All are welcome - beginner to expert. No formal instruction but we will help if we can.

### FPL BOOK CLUB Next meeting

Thursday Feb 19 at 2pm via Zoom

The book for August is The book is *Cakes and Ale* by Somerset Maugham. Contact the library director at 845-586- 3791 or email [director@fairviewlibrary.org](mailto:director@fairviewlibrary.org) for the Zoom link or more information.

### MAH JONGG every Friday 1 to 4pm

### Crafts with Miss Cherie

Video instructions will be posted on Facebook on the dates indicated below. Craft components available in the library at least 48 hours before the demo.

#### TO GO CRAFT:

Available February 12 - PomPom Owls

Simple crafts will always available in the children's room. These can be done any time during open hours using the directions and sample provided. Adult supervision is required.

#### SELF-GUIDED CHILDREN'S CRAFT

Feb 6 - Paper Punch Heart Artwor

Feb 20 - Personalized Bookmark





by CJ Karcher

Owner & Systems Administrator

**Level Up Tech Support**

## ***Tech From the Past***

I'm hitting the big 4-0 this year. I know that's not really that old—but realistically, it is "middle age." Other than the back pain, gray hair, and all the little "that wasn't there yesterday" surprises, I've caught myself saying things like "back in my day," or making references that leave the younger generation staring at me like... what?

Like everyone else growing up, I heard plenty of "back in my day" stories, too—but somehow they feel much more relatable now. Sure, our elders walking six miles barefoot in the snow, uphill both ways to school is still a classic, but for me it's more about how they didn't close school for cold weather and six inches of snow when I was a kid. You waited to see the school closings on TV or on the radio.

TV and radio...

Radio barely exists anymore, and TV these days usually means streaming — not shows being broadcast over the air.

I tell the kids in my family they have no idea what it was like to wait until Saturday to watch your favorite cartoon, or to wait fifteen minutes just to connect to the internet—and if someone picked up the phone, you got kicked off. Speaking of phones, most kids today have never even seen a landline.

I've written an introductory article about myself before and touched on my past a few times, including some of what I've shared here. This time, I'd really like to hear from you.

What technology did you grow up with?

*How does new technology impact your life?*

*And what are your thoughts on A.I.?*

I'd love to get a better sense of who reads my column. It's fascinating to hear from people who worked on the original computers—punch cards and all. Tell me what it was like to spend your day staring at a black screen with green text, typing DOS commands. And who else remembers the grueling sound of a dot-matrix printer churning through a ream of paper?

Email me at [Techtalk@leveluptechsupport.com](mailto:Techtalk@leveluptechsupport.com)—or snail mail me at 9 Railroad Ave, Stamford, NY 12167.

*continued...*

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I'll end with what is probably my biggest "I can't believe I'm around to see this" moment.

It's only been 22 years since iRobot came out, along with so many other sci-fi movies from that same era. In those films, everyone rides around in self-driving cars that make a high-pitched humming sound. Robots run around doing everyday tasks. A.I. takes over.

I remember watching those movies when I was about 10 to 14 years old and thinking, That's the future... but I'll never actually see it.

Now, almost-40-year-old me looks outside and sees electric cars quietly humming by. Some states already have self-driving cabs. Food is delivered by robots and drones. A.I. is literally everywhere.

Oh— and there are even several companies making personal flying vehicles.

I work in the technology field, and I'm not even sure my brain could handle what tech will look like 40 years from now.

Honestly... it's a little frightening.



*"Cell sold simply!"*



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# HEARTBREAK TO MIRACLE

by Suzanne M Walsh (©2026)

Whiskey, Pluto and Lisa are three puppies that fell from the sky a little more than a year ago over Windham, in Greene County NY.

Whiskey and Pluto lived. The third puppy, Lisa, died in the crash impact along with pilot Seuk Kim, who was transporting his canine cargo during the final leg of a rescue mission — one of hundreds performed each week by a large coalition of collaborative networks in this country composed of dedicated animal lovers/volunteer pilots who now call themselves “Seuk’s Army” in honor of their hero friend.

There are several loosely knit groups of volunteers throughout the country who have been working to lessen the burden on overworked, understaffed and overcrowded animal shelters in the South by transporting healthy animals tagged for euthanasia up to the North where shelters are generally better equipped with medical and animal adoption prospects.

The Schoharie County Animal Shelter (SCAC) here in Cobleskill is on the receiving end of many of these rescue missions. Under the direction of Executive Director Maggie Jackman-Pryor, the shelter has taken in, cared for and placed well over one hundred dogs in their “forever homes”. With way over 28,000 registered Facebook followers and adoption applications coming in from as far away as Niagara Falls, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, SCAC has had a 100% successful adoption rate due to the shelter’s very rigorous vetting process.

The puppies on board Seuk’s plane (a Mooney M20J aircraft) on the night described above had been tagged for euthanasia three days before their rescue. That’s when Maggie was contacted

*continued...*

*(Top) Seuk Kim, the volunteer pilot who lost his life flying the final leg of a canine rescue mission, along with a puppy named Lisa. (Middle) Whiskey. He was found laying in 2 feet of snow. He had been alone in sleet, rain and darkness for 8 hours. It was 29 degrees and both his back legs were broken. (Bottom) Whiskey with his adopted mom, RN and Veterinary Technician Cyndy Ross.*



and stepped in to claim them. She helped make arrangements for their flight from Virginia to New York, and was waiting at Albany International Airport for an arrival that never occurred.

Earlier, Whiskey had been rescued from an abuse situation and brought to the nearest animal shelter, an “open-admission” facility in Georgia. Originally designed to legally establish a safe haven for all animals, the open-admission shelter model had, in the beginning, been a very humane idea. In practice though, this same idea became that which forced these shelters to resort to needing to destroy animals in order to make room for the new intakes they were now required by law to receive.

This is a situation that’s hard to stomach.

Whiskey had been only three months old with a burn mark on his back leg when he had been rescued and brought to one of these open-admission shelters located in Georgia. By necessity, the shelter had marked this abused, but otherwise healthy, lab-mix puppy for euthanasia—an irony that was, and still is, hard to reconcile.

With the carefully coordinated effort of many caring people working ceaselessly all along the chain of his hoped-for survival, Whiskey was brought to the attention of Maggie in Schoharie County, whose unfailing intuition could feel the puppy’s excellent prospects of becoming a wonderful pet for a future special somebody.

Although to date the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued only their preliminary report on the tragedy Whiskey and Pluto had survived, media coverage at the time received nationwide attention which was carried

by most of the major news sources like L.A. Times, NY Times, CNN, and MSNBC, etc. Many of these outlets included interviews with the responders who witnessed the unfolding of events on site, in person.

“The weather was bad that night — ” said Greene County Sheriff Peter Kusminsky, during a phone conversation. Sheriff Kusminsky was the man in charge of the First Responders Team.



“It was already dark and there was deep snow already up there on the escarpment.” The “escarpment” is the dramatic cliff-like edge marking the end of the Catskill Mountains at an elevation of almost 4,000 feet. Its straight, steep downward slope faces east and the Hudson Valley floor below.

“Our search for the crash site was delayed because our snowmobiles couldn’t penetrate into the woods very far up there.” the Sheriff said. “We had to go back down to headquarters to get the

*continued...*

**“I hope we sit and stay together fur-ever”**




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**“Uh... my dish is only 87% full. What’s the holdup?”**



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search team outfitted with snowshoes.”

Another member of the Emergency Response Team—NYS Forest Ranger Fox (NYS Forest Rangers are sworn police officers under the DEC specializing in wilderness rescue) — was able to reach the crash site. The first thing she found was “Lisa”, the puppy who had perished in the crash.

“It was 2 in the morning by then, and very dark...” she later related to Operating Room Manager and Veterinary Nurse, Cyndy Ross, RN. “Using my headlight, I saw the dark body of this little thing near the plane wreckage in the snow and knew she was dead before even checking for a pulse.”

Ranger Fox then scanned her headlight about 30 feet beyond the back of the crashed plane, and saw two glistening eyes just over the top of a small crater of snow. “My heart leaped—” she told Cyndy. “I thought it was another of the three dogs reported on board, and thought that he too, was dead, but praying all the while it wasn’t so.”

As she got closer, “guided by those peaceful, unafraid eyes watching me approach, I fell in love...” she said. “I fell in love with two beautiful eyes of the bravest little dog I ever met.”

At 2am, Whiskey was found and alive. The little puppy had presumably been thrown through the windshield of the plane and, with two broken back legs, had either dragged himself 30 feet away or had landed on impact where Ranger Fox had found him.

It appeared his body heat had sunk him down through the 2 feet of accumulated snow to where he had been lying alone in the dark, in the sleet that changed to rain, having had no food since the night before (for health considerations, food and




***Whiskey was found close to 2am by NYS Forest Ranger Fox. He was severely hypothermic and had been without nourishment for almost 30 hours.***



know his back legs were both broken, she carried him gently back down to the trail where she covered  
*continued...*

**“I will never tell your secrets.”**



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**“I am a most excellent snuggler.”**



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him with blankets and made a fire to warm him.

As soon as Whiskey appeared somewhat stabilized, he was placed in the backpack of another responder, Ranger Allwine, and she and Ranger Fox got him down from the escarpment and back to Sheriff Kusminsky's car.

Whiskey never made a sound.

.....

The story from here on to the present is another chronicle for another time. Pluto, the second surviving dog, was found the next day running through the snow on the edge of the Escarpment with minor injuries and was adopted by a wonderful couple with a new baby. The family continues to keep in touch with Maggie.

The ongoing chronicle also covers the continuing miracle of Whiskey, the Maggie-dubbed "Warrior Dog" and his brave recovery, rehabilitation and adoption by Cyndy Ross, the emergency room nurse who was there from the beginning, falling in love through his eyes when he was first treated at the specialty animal hospital where Maggie had driven him for three straight hours, during what became the day after the crash, for his first of many critical emergency operations.

This incredible, ongoing story about what love can do, brings together the world of — as Maggie has said — "good people who just want to do good things".



## EVERYDAY HEROES

### "Good People Who Just Want To Do Good Things"



### May You Rest in Peace Seuk Kim

*Pluto also survived and was found running near the crash site the following day. He's been adopted by a loving couple with a new baby.*





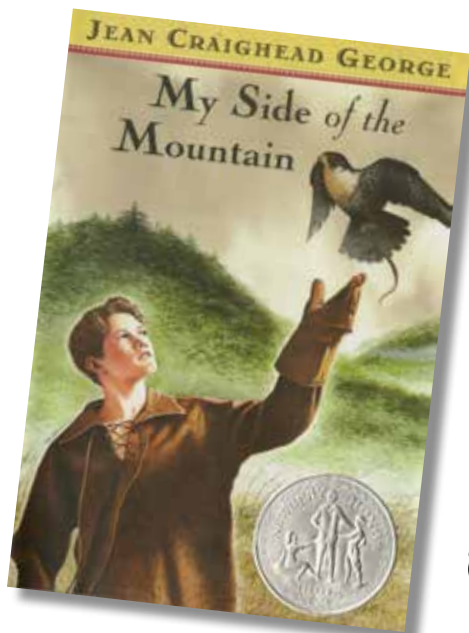
## *My Side of the Mountain*

Rereading a childhood classic is rewarding. Does it still invoke the same feelings? *My Side Of The Mountain* by the late Jean Craighead George, has thrilled children since its publication in 1959. By the time it won a Newberry Honor in 1960, it had flooded bookstores and school libraries finding its way into the hands of countless children, and no doubt being read under the covers by flashlight after bedtime.

George tells the story of twelve-year old Sam Gribley, a child so fed up of living in NYC with his eight siblings in an overcrowded apartment and the cloying sounds and congestion of the streets, that he runs away to higher ground. Upstate NY to be exact, to live alone in a hollowed-out tree on his great-grandfather's abandoned farm in the Catskill Mountains of Delhi. There he spends the next year without adult supervision, coming of age living off the land.

The secret to the book's enduring success is the subject matter and the writing. George chose a universal childhood theme, the desire to run away. Most kids have entertained the thought at some point of running away from everything and everyone. George, a professional naturalist, also shows her young readers that she trusts them to read mature material, avoiding a common temptation to overly juvenilize the writing. The illustrated maps and spot-on descriptions give this book an eerie realism. You can almost swear it really happened. Adding an animal, a falcon that Sam names Frightful, in which a symbiotic bond between boy and bird develops, was pure genius. Children understand animals.

What thrills me the most about revisiting this beloved book from my past, is that when I read it as a child, I lived far away in Idaho. But I never forgot Sam



Author: Jean Craighead George

Publisher: Puffin Books

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Gribley and Frightful. As fate would have it I now live twenty minutes from the book's setting in the town of Delhi, NY. My childhood self would be really proud.

Rereading the book was eye-opening as I had forgotten much of it, but the scenes that had been burned into my memory were still there waiting for me as if I had never left. Could this story happen today? No, not without hundreds of police officers searching for a missing child, and modern media flashing his face in front of the masses, making for a short-lived adventure. It just wouldn't be safe. This adventure must come from a book, all the more *continued...*

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# STRANGE BUT TRUE

by Lucie Winborne

*"For pastry cooking, try grating frozen butter into the flour. It cuts in better and will stay cool longer. This helps when I am making shortbread, as the flour and butter need to be combined. I don't end up having to put it in the fridge to cool it back down."* -- **C.S. in South Carolina**

*Freshen stuffed animals by securing a few in a pillowcase and adding a fabric softener sheet. Put in the dryer on low heat for 20 minutes, then remove and brush out the fur if necessary while still warm.*

*"Schedule important doctor's checkups, like your annual physical and dental cleanings, in the same month each year, so you will know when they are coming up. I use my birth month. My mom always has hers done in February."* -- **E.D. in Massachusetts**

*When you are finished pan frying something, add a bit of water to the pan and put it back on the still-warm burner while you eat. When you come back to clean up after dinner, the pan drippings will slide right off!*

*If you've been decluttering as a part of your New Year's resolutions and you came across old pairs of eyeglasses, know that you can donate them to any Lions Club in your area. They redistribute the glasses to those who cannot afford them. You don't have to know the prescription, and they take reading glasses too!*

*This tip will change your life when peeling eggs: After you have hard-boiled your eggs, drain them and leave them in the pot. Put the lid on the pot and shake. Shake in all directions for up to a minute. The eggs practically slip right out of their shells. Just rinse and prep.*

*"To mark the end on a roll of tape, save your bread tabs. Stick it on the end and it will be ready and easy to start the next time you need tape. If it's a thick tape, you can use two clips -- one at either side of the tape. This way, it won't split on you."* -- **M.E. in Maryland**

reason to read it.

The lesson that lasts forever is the importance for kids to put down their electronics, play outdoors again and observe nature. Sam ultimately learns that while alone time is important, it's equally important to spend time with family and friends.

The book is part of a trilogy and has been made into a movie. If you are a superfan like me, you can visit The Cannon Free Library in Delhi, which was designated a literary landmark in honor of the fictional library that Sam visited in the book and see the bronze plaque dedicated to the author. Jean Craighead George visited the library several times in her life. The library still holds *My Side Of The Mountain* events and children and adults still check out the book. Revisit the book in its pages or in person, the magic hasn't faded.

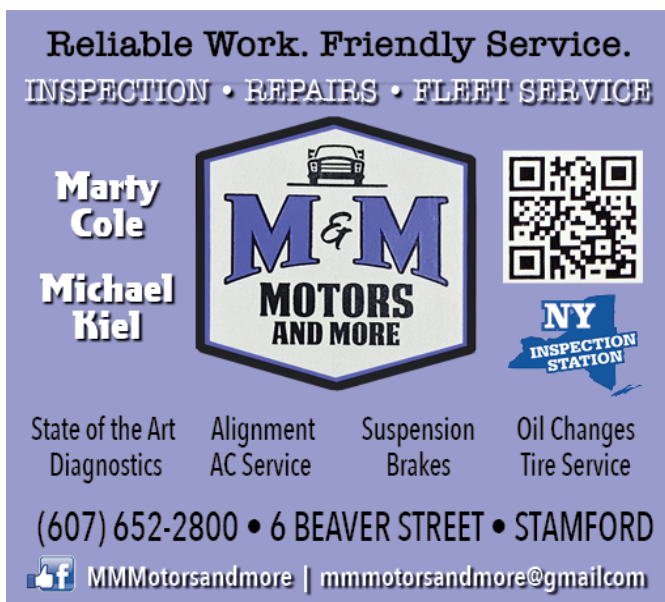


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## Grandma's Maple-Apple Upside-Down Cake

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 45 minutes • Servings: 4-6

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 apples, peeled and cored
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup maple syrup (preferably dark syrup for its robust flavor)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup maple sugar
- 1 egg
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup 2% milk
- Vanilla extract, to taste
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 pinch of salt

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375° F.
2. Peel the apples, thinly slice and place them criss-crossed in an 8-inch round or square baking pan. Set aside.
3. In a saucepan, boil the maple syrup with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter for 5 minutes. Pour over the apples.
4. In a bowl, whip the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of butter with the maple sugar. Whisk in the egg. Add the milk, vanilla, flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix well.
5. Cover the apples with this dough and bake for 30 to 40 minutes.
6. Allow to cool for 5 minutes and turn out onto a plate. Serve with crème anglaise or a little vanilla ice cream.





### Bengal

"I may be a fierce tiger, but I still love snuggles."

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"Just a goddess... who needs a good home."



# History of Our Hamlets

Photos and recollections courtesy of Diane Galusha,  
Historical Society of the Town of Middletown

History of Our Hamlets is sponsored by



Bob Wyer of Delhi took these photos in 1952 when Belleayre Ski Center was only a couple of years old. The clothing, the lifts and the lodges have changed, but the thrill on the mountain remains. Thanks to Delaware County Historical Association for the images.



"A person should have wings to carry them where their dreams go, but sometimes a pair of skis makes a good substitute."

— Duke's Avenue

"Come on man... throw me the bone!"

**Dutch**

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# Green living

## 4 great reasons to go thrifting

Want to expand your horizons and give thrifting a try? Here are four great reasons you should.

### To protect natural resources

Manufacturing new products requires large amounts of water and non-renewable resources. It also creates pollution. Buying goods used helps minimize the negative impacts of manufacturing them.

### To reject fast fashion

Fast fashion trends encourage over-consumption, thrive on planned obsolescence and pollute the environment. Frequenting thrift stores is a great way to vote for sustainability.

### To pay it forward

Many thrift stores donate a portion of their proceeds to charity. Therefore, you can feel good about where your money is going. You can also bring in items you no longer use to help give back to others.

### To save money

Thrift stores offer a wide variety of unique products and quality items at low prices. You can get everything you need without spending a fortune.



Visit your local thrift stores and get ready to make some great discoveries.

### Thought for the Day

You can make positive deposits in your own economy every day by reading and listening to powerful, positive, life-changing content and by associating with encouraging and hope-building people."

- Zig Ziglar

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