

Sports

New Paltz rolls over Red Hook



New Paltz

Better at both ends of the leash



Schools

Yes, more drama



Fundraiser

Carve for a Cause



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NEWS OF NEW PALTZ, GARDINER, HIGHLAND, ROSENDALE & BEYOND

One dollar
newpaltzx.com



Members of the One Book One New Paltz Committee with this year's pick "\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America" by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer. Pictured left to right are: Darlene Davis, Sue Books, Charlene Martoni, Myra Sorin, Shelley Sherman and Linda Welles.

The poorest of the poor

Study of living on almost nothing, a non-fictional account, is One Book/One New Paltz's featured volume this year

THIS YEAR'S BOOK selected by the One Book/One New Paltz Committee, "\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America," by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer, is a non-fictional account of the lives of people living in extreme poverty.

The committee looks for a representation of diversity in both topics covered and authors as well. The multi-tiered selection process starts each year around February, with a list of 50 or 60 titles suggested by members, derived from surveys of attendees at the previous year's events or added to suggestion boxes placed at the Elting Memorial Library, the Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY-New Paltz and local bookstores. The initial list is weeded down to about 20 semifinalists, then to five or six titles thought to be especially strong.

Certainly the long, slow recovery from the Great Recession and many of the topics in the air during a presidential election year make a book about the poorest of the poor in America a good fit with the current zeitgeist. "You know that saying

about how we're all one paycheck away from poverty? Well, most people are, to some extent," committee member Shelley Sherman notes. She says that the families profiled in the book often start out middle-class, but are struck by one or more turns of ill fortune, such as the catastrophic illness of a breadwinner or the need to take in other relatives who have a disability or an unplanned baby on the way. When the family's income is nearly nonexistent, efforts to improve their circumstances are often severely limited by such factors as the cost of child care, transportation and other logistical difficulties or simply the inability to afford to buy appropriate clothing for work.

Edin and Shaefer are sociologists who traveled around the country to spend time with 18 families, both urban and rural, to gain a better understanding of how the 1.5 million households living "under the radar" in such extreme poverty, including three million children, are able to get by at all. Some manage to get sporadic seasonal work; some collect

Continued on page 16

The crash that changed everything

Gaby O'Shea's father talks about his daughter's medical condition

STEPHEN O'SHEA HAD an accident while riding his bicycle this past summer. Turning onto South Putt Corners Road, he looked over his shoulder at just the wrong moment, hit the curb, and was rendered unconscious for a half-hour or more. He got back on his feet thanks to the tireless efforts of the staff of Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital, and after three weeks his daughter Gaby brought him home.



Gaby O'Shea on the Gunks.

O'Shea and other families' members are again spending their time at Helen Hayes now, at the bedside of Gaby, who was struck by a car along Route 299 on September 11. He and his daughter's mother, Blanca Babits, spend nearly all their waking hours there. Admitting that talking about his daughter is difficult, O'Shea agreed to speak about what's transpired.

"It's very, very difficult to see my daughter in this condition right now," he said. He and Babits have made the decision to remain upbeat, and celebrate her progress. After the crash, Gabriela was flown the Westchester Medical Center for treatment before being transferred to Helen Hayes for rehabilitation.

O'Shea said that his daughter has regained consciousness and is responsive, but has not yet spoken. "She is making steady improvement," he said. Moments to celebrate include giving a thumb's-up at the request of a therapist, and moving her left leg this Monday.

"We were worried that the leg was paralyzed," O'Shea explained, but after New Paltz massage therapist Marissa Pileggi worked on it she finally moved it on her own. "It was beautiful to see her facial expression after that," he said.

Among her injuries is a hairline fracture of the pelvis. O'Shea suspects his daughter hadn't moved the leg due to remembered pain.

Pileggi is only one of the people that O'Shea and Blanca are grateful for during this difficult time for their family. Blanca declined to be interviewed herself, but passed on through O'Shea her gratitude for the level of support received from community members, a sentiment with which O'Shea heartily agrees.

In addition to raising money for her care -- \$63,854 was contributed to an online campaign before it was shut down, and numerous other fundraisers have been planned - O'Shea said that individuals have offered to use their own talents to help with her recovery or with raising money to pay for them. Many of those stepping forward have never met Gaby, or anyone else in her family.

"We're also grateful to people like [bicycle-pedestrian committee chair]

Continued on page 16

PLUS: ALMANAC WEEKLY INSIDE



One Book/One New Paltz

(Continued from page 1)

cans and bottles for deposits; and one woman they interviewed periodically sells her blood plasma.

“\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America” can be found at local bookstores (Inquiring Minds and Barner Books, both on Church Street in New Paltz) and at the Elting Library and Sojourner Truth Library, as well as on Kindle.

The week of One Book/One New Paltz programming scheduled from November 13 to 20 will include more than a dozen events. There will be presentations on poverty as seen through the lenses of various academic disciplines, book discussions, an open-mic night for creative expression, discussions and perspectives on poverty by those experiencing it directly, and a workshop on résumé building and job search. Full program details are available at the One Book/One New Paltz website, www.onebookonenewpaltz.com.

Here’s a list of events:

Sunday, November 13

11 a.m., Jewish Center, 30 North Chestnut Street, book discussion, bagel brunch with rabbi Bill Strongin.

7-8:30 p.m., Sojourner Truth Library Lobby, SUNY-New Paltz. On Poverty, an open-mic night.

Monday, November 14

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Honors Center, SUNY-New Paltz. A small-groups discussion led by Peter Kaufman, professor of sociology.

4-5:30 p.m., Student Union Building, Room 409, SUNY New Paltz. The Media with Anne R. Roschelle, professor of sociology, and Lisa A. Phillips, associate professor of digital media and journalism.

Tuesday, November 15

1 p.m., Elting Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. The Land of Plenty with Anne R. Roschelle, professor of sociology

4-5:30 p.m., Student Union Building, Room 62, SUNY-New Paltz. Gender studies with Edith Kuiper, assistant professor of economics and women, gender and sexuality studies

Wednesday, November 16

1:30 p.m., Woodland Pond, 100 Woodland Pond Circle. Structured book discussion with Tom Olsen, associate professor of English.

5-7 p.m., Student Union Building, Room 100N, SUNY-New Paltz. DIY zine workshop with Sojourner Truth Library librarians Madeline Veitch and Lydia Willoughby.

Thursday, November 17

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Elting Memorial Library, 93

Main Street. Insights into poverty with reverend Steve Ruelke, a street minister in Newburgh, and some of his congregants

7-8:30 p.m., Elting Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Poverty in Ulster County with Casandra Beam, chief executive officer of the Ulster Literacy Association, Michael Berg, executive director of Family of Woodstock, and Amy Drayer, executive director of Ulster Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Friday, November 18

3-4:30 p.m., Sojourner Truth Library, Room M39, SUNY-New Paltz. Casual book discussion with Bruce Weisner, One Book/One New Paltz Committee member.

6-7:30 p.m., Sojourner Truth Library, Room STL18, SUNY-New Paltz. Résumé and job search workshop with Mark McFadden, director of the Career Resource Center at SUNY New Paltz.

Saturday, November 19

7-9 p.m., Elting Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Watch *Shameless* and discuss.

Sunday, November 20

1-2:30 p.m., Elting Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Wrap-up discussion and review.

— Frances Marion Platt



Gaby O'Shea

(Continued from page 1)

Peter Kaufman for trying to do something positive, so a tragedy like this doesn't happen again to somebody just out riding a bicycle. Activism is something that we support. I know Gaby will be so happy that people are doing something to change the situation

that caused this.”

Shoulder-widening along Route 299 as far as Butterville Road -- where Gabriela was struck -- started just two days after O'Shea, Kaufman and others met with county executive Michael Hein. “I went to that spot the following day,” O'Shea recalled. “I was so, so angry. The pavement just stops at the white line.” It drops off precipitously from there to the rocky shoulder. “As a cyclist, you do your best to ride on that white line, but it's very hard to do so. There is nothing provided for cyclists; this road is simply for

cars.”

The newly-widened shoulder gives him a “bittersweet” feeling, O'Shea said. “It's good, but why wasn't it done before? Peter [Kaufman] has been working on this for years.”

Gaby arrived at Helen Hayes still dependent on a ventilator, but has now been weaned off the machine. That can be a harrowing time for patient and family, as the body tries to re-assume a responsibility that it had never been intended to give up in the first place. O'Shea said that the first step was the replace the machine with a “trach collar” to assist in breathing. Now the opening in her neck has been covered by a plug, and it will be able to heal. Her father hopes she will soon be able to talk again. Her father has seen her move her lips at the prompting of a therapist.

Without verbal communication, family members and doctors have to rely on other cues. O'Shea said that he's been told his daughter's rapid heart rate isn't entirely unexpected. Gabriela is sometimes responsive. She tracks objects with her eyes, makes gestures and squeezes in response to questions, and on one occasion even cried for a few moments. At other times, she doesn't react. It's not yet clear why. “We'd like to see more responsiveness,” O'Shea said. “It could be that she's just tired of answering all the questions. We were told that she's expending more calories in that mental work repairing her brain than she would rock climbing. She's trying to re-create her world.”

Stephen O'Shea admits to sometimes feeling overcome. He's struck by a wave of emotion when he least expects it. One thing he struggles with is language. “It's devastating,” he said. “She's a vibrant person. I don't want to use the past tense, but she's not herself right now.”

That his daughter would choose, after a day's work at the Parish restaurant, to hop on her bicycle is entirely in her character, “We don't know where she was going exactly” that fateful day, he said, but if she was on Route 299 he firmly believes it's because that was the best route to her destination. Sometimes he asks himself, why he bought her “a nice bike for her graduation,” but then he thinks of the exhilaration she surely felt riding into the setting sun that afternoon. His daughter, like any bicyclist, has the right to roads that can be traversed safely.

“She was an English major,” Stephen O'Shea said. “I hate to have to speak for her.” That's why, even though “there is nowhere more important to be than at her side,” he is speaking for her in taking the time to push for bicycle-safety reforms. “I hope this movement doesn't lose gas, Mr. Hein does as he promised, and others continue their good work.”

— Terence P Ward

Air of expectancy

Water Street Market will push for greater bike awareness

By Terence P Ward

THIS SUNDAY WILL be Bike Awareness Day at Water Street Market in downtown New Paltz. The October 23 consciousness-raiser was organized in response to the injuries to Gabriela O'Shea, hit from behind by a motorist while bicycling along Route 299 on September 11. It will serve in part as a fundraiser for her care. Most of the events will be free of charge.

The day's theme will be “Expect a Bike.” Safety information will be available from employees of local bicycle shops. Village mayor Tim Rogers, well-known for using his bicycle to get nearly everywhere locally, will speak. Some business owners at Water Street Market, including Theresa Fall, who runs Parish and Jar'd, will be offering specials and donating proceeds to O'Shea's care.

The proceeds from a variety of group classes at Mosaic Movement, held hourly from 8 to 11 a.m., will also be donated to O'Shea; those interested should make reservations by calling 255-6563. Chair mas-

sages will also be offered under the auspices of Mosaic Bodyworks. Members of the Vanaver Caravan dance company will be performing at 12:30.

Participants will be invited to join a letter-writing campaign seeking safer roads for cyclists. Four-foot-wide shoulders along Route 299 from the Carmine Libertta Bridge to Butterville Road were installed soon after O'Shea's accident. Some organizers believe that only the public response led to progress on this long-promised improvement. Additionally, they believe that the shoulders should be six feet across and include a buffer for safety's sake.

County officials have promised to extend the widened shoulders to 44/55, a process which will involve the time-consuming task of securing rights-of-way or land from property owners. A letter-writing campaign is intended to continue pressure on officials to complete that task.

If parking at the market is a problem, either come by bike or walk from the free municipal parking near the village hall.

Culture has no boundaries.
The river has 2 sides.
We cover both of them.

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