

Future of the Wallkill River

The Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz will host an event to bring attention to the Wallkill River on Thursday, April 23 from 4 to 8 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Student Union Building. The conference is designed to build public support for restoration efforts on the Wallkill River and begin to define both a publicly supported vision for the future of the river and steps that can be taken in the short and long term to achieve that vision.

The Wallkill River flows from northern New Jersey, through Orange and Ulster counties. After joining with the Rondout Creek, it meets the tidal Hudson River at Kingston as the largest tributary to the estuary. The Wallkill River watershed -- the hills and valleys that channel streams into the Wallkill -- is vast, covering 785 square miles.

The event will include substantive talks and engage the audience in an exchange of ideas about the river and its future. "We are delighted to be working collaboratively with partners in government and in our communities to place the Wallkill River back at the center of our region and our lives," said Gerald Benjamin, CRREO director.

Registration is \$10, due at check-in on the day of the conference. Fee includes regionally sourced refreshments and all event materials for one person. To pre-register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8VRH9R7>.

Spring Dual Against Cystic Fibrosis

The fifth annual Spring Dual Against Cystic Fibrosis will take place on Saturday, April 25 at 8:30 a.m. The two-mile run, 12-mile bike, two-mile run begins and ends in front of the Reformed Church of New Paltz on Huguenot Street. Awards and prizes will be presented to top age-group winners.

This year's event also features the second annual kids' dual, beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m. Children ages seven and up will run a half mile, bike one mile and run a half mile, also beginning and ending in front of the Reformed Church. Awards and prizes will also be presented to age-group winners.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and are put towards raising money for a cure. Visit active.com or springdualagainstcf.com to register.

"Solar Connection" presentation on April 30

What would happen if all the area houses of worship converted to solar power? Would it be a sign that God's power of light is being accepted? Would it be an example of environmental sustainability? Would it encourage more people to take advantage of this green technology? Would it save these parish houses money, while saving the precious gift of God's creation?

These questions will be addressed on Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m., at St. Joseph's Parish Center in New Paltz. Presented by Pax Christi Hudson Valley, all clergy and lay people are invited to hear four presentations discussing the feasibility of converting to solar power. The program called "Solar Connection" (How God's Power Can Light Up Your World), is intended to introduce the region to the possibilities of converting to solar energy.

Presenting organizations include NYState Solar Farms Inc., Lighthouse Solar, Hudson Valley Solarize and Paradise Energy Solutions. Greetings and opening remarks will be made by Madeline Labriola, GreenFaith Fellow and coordinator of Pax Christi Hudson Valley.

For more information, call (845) 626-4804

Double the fun with The Wiyos at Unison Arts

The Unison stage will be awash in fedoras, vaudeville and washboards as the acclaimed acoustic group The Wiyos take to the stage this Saturday, April 18. The group will perform a kid-friendly show at 2 p.m. and a more adult-themed evening show at 8 p.m.

The Wiyos were one of the original "old-timey" bands to emerge on the national scene in the first wave of acoustic bands riding the renewed popularity of early swing jazz, rural folk, old-time blues and Appalachian music.

HIGHLAND | PEOPLE



American Legion recognizes Charles Busick

CHARLES BUSICK, A member of the American Legion Lloyd Post 193 in Highland, received a plaque from Ulster County Commander Ira Weiner at the Post Hall during the group's dinner meeting on April 1. The award recognized Busick's outstanding and diligent performance for the American Legion and community. Busick is chairman of the Post 193 baseball team.

During the matinee performance, The Wiyos will transport the audience back to the 1920s and '30s by inviting kids and adults alike to holler, stomp and sing along to old-time American folk music. Featuring an array of colorful instruments -- harmonica, washboard, kazoo, banjo and guitar -- these theatrical musicians fill the stage with rich textures and sounds that will get you and your kids on your feet clapping, singing and stamping along.

Tickets for the 2 p.m. show are \$12 in advance, \$8 for members and \$5 for children under 12. Door prices are \$14, \$10 and \$7 for kids under 12.

Tickets to the evening event are \$20 for members (advance) and \$24 for non-members (advance). Door prices are \$22 and \$26. Students are half price with a valid ID. To order tickets, visit unisonarts.org or call (845) 255-1559.

Unison is located at 68 Mountain Rest Road in New Paltz.

Spring brush cleanup to begin on April 21 in New Paltz

The Town of New Paltz Highway Department will be holding its annual spring cleanup starting Monday, April 27.

Brush should be placed with the thickest end facing the road and placed in a uniform pile. The town will also pick up leaves bagged in paper biodegradable bags. Biodegradable bags are still available at the highway garage.

Due to the Emerald Ashbore beetle problem with Ash trees, any ash wood must be put in a separate pile and will be chipped on site and removed. If any help is needed in identifying ash wood, please call the highway department for assistance.

All brush and bagged leaves must be placed out on April 27 to ensure pickup. The highway department will not be scheduling individually called-in pickups, as all roads within the town will be serviced.

Poné Ensemble for New Music to perform in New Paltz on April 19

The Poné Ensemble for New Music will present a concert this Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m., at the New Paltz United Methodist Church. The performance will feature an eclectic mix of tangos, folk and archaic dances by both local and well-known composers from the 20th and 21st centuries. The program will

include the premier of selected movements from the *Suite for Solo Cello* by Pete Cody, a New Paltz native, as well as music by local composers Shirley Warren and Bob Lukomski. Other composers to be featured include Charles Ives, Gregg Martin, Bill Delp, Erzsébet Szőnyi and Katherine Hoover.

Ticket prices are \$20 adults and \$3 for students with valid ID. The church is located at the corner of Main and Grove streets.

Women helping women on April 24

"Women Helping Women," an evening of music, dancing and laughter, will take place on Friday, April 24 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, located on Route 208 in New Paltz. Proceeds will benefit the Battered Women's Shelter. The event is for women only; music will be provided by The Mustangs and a cash bar door prizes will be available.

The cost is a requested donation of \$20; bring a finger food or dessert to share (A-M appetizer, N-Z dessert). Pre-purchase tickets by calling Jewell at 255-9675, ext. 103.

Highland Rail Trail learn-to-run lessons begin April 18

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association in Highland is offering its learn-to-run program for people who have never run before or who want to get back to running without injury. The spring class begins on Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m., at the Rotary pavilion at 101 New Paltz Road in Highland.

In ten weeks of lessons, participants will learn to run non-stop for 20 minutes. The program starts with short running increments that are within the ability of most people and help avoid injury and discouragement. The first week, participants do sets of running one minute and walking two minutes for 20 minutes; the following week it's sets of two minutes running and two of walking for a total of 20 minutes. Each week the running portion gradually increases. In the tenth week, participants will be able to run 20 minutes without any need to walk.

The only prerequisite is being able to walk briskly for 20 minutes. Participants need to be a member of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association in order to join the program, which can be done at the first lesson. A \$15 membership fee goes to support the rail trail and its programs. For further information, call Rafael Diaz at (845) 255-7742 or e-mail ralphdiaz@optonline.net.