

Kids learn about ecology while having fun

By Goldee Greene

Staff Writer/Arts & Entertainment

BEACON – Fun, earth-friendly music and puppetry is on tap Saturday morning at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. Award-winning Beacon singer/songwriter and puppeteer/improviser Lydia Adams Davis will present a Coffeehouse Concert centered around ecology.

Special guests Samantha the Chameleon, Rocco Raccoon from Canarsie, Beaver, Turtle, Iguana and Bumble-bee, as well as fellow puppeteer Paul Hudson and guitarist John Bruton, will also appear. Cost is \$8 for adults, free for kids 12 and younger. Be prepared for on-the-spot improvisation and sing-alongs in addition to lilting renditions of well-known ballads and new songs.

“The Howland is happy to welcome Lydia and her friends. They are sure to delight both children and adults, and to impart an environmental message,” said Howland director Florence Northcutt.

Davis will offer tunes from her acclaimed CD, “One Earth So Green and Round,” which won a recent Parents’ Choice Award.

“Pete Seeger has given me permission to use his song title,” said Davis. “He has

also endorsed me as ‘a wonderful performer.’”

Songs include “Song of Life,” “Lake Erie,” “In Alaska” and “Why Do Turtles Cross The Road?” The devastating downside of local urban renewal is explored in Davis’ compelling “Homes Along The River.”

“The City of Newburgh, for instance, used to be a wonderful place to shop, eat and browse,” she said. “Then came the malls drawing people outside the city limits. Local shops closed and the city’s character suffered immeasurably.”

“I’ve known Lydia for decades and decades, and she has produced some extraordinarily beautiful songs and puppetry,” said Connie Hogarth. “And her outreach to children over the years has been sorely needed in light of rampant arts cuts in the schools.”

“My work is all about communication through arts in education,” said Davis. “Music and puppets lend opportunities to get people creative and to sing together.”

Call 845-831-4988, or go to www.howlandculturalcenter.org or www.LydiaAdamsDavis.com for more information



Lydia Adams Davis is surrounded by her puppet pals as she prepares for a performance at Howland Cultural Center.

- Photo by Goldee Greene

Shakespeare romp set at The Beacon

Are you “up” for a theatrical blast? How about all 37 Shakespeare plays in 97 minutes with just three actors? It’s fast-paced, witty and fun – and you might even get to play a part or two yourself – impromptu.

If you love (or hate) Shakespeare and love the laughs that come with a clever and creative production, then “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)” is a “must see” rollicking performance.

The production runs from Jan 10-19 at The Beacon, 445 Main Street in Beacon. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Jan. 11, 12, 17 and 18 and at 3 p.m. on Sundays Jan. 12 and 19. Call 845-226-8099 or visit Thebeacontheatre.org for tickets.

Brian Apfel, Director of Social Media and Online Initiatives at Marist College, is directing this production by Adam Long, Daniel Singer & Jess Winfield. His goal is to “have dye-hard Shakespeare lovers and haters alike fall in love with the show. The most important thing to me is for the audience to have a fun, fast paced experience that stays true to the amazing

work of William Shakespeare.

“What would you prefer?” asks Apfel. “Three hours of one show with dialogue you do not understand, or all 37 plays in an hour and a half that leaves you falling out of your chair laughing and wanting more?”

Improvisations with the audience and even utilizing talents of theatre-goers themselves to fill a couple of roles will be the order of the day. So, come prepared to be part of the fun.

The cultural touchstone that is The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) was born when three inspired, charismatic comics, having honed their pass-the-hat act at Renaissance fairs, premiered their preposterous masterwork at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1987. It quickly became a worldwide phenomenon, earning the title of London’s second-longest-running comedy after a decade at the Criterion Theatre. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) is one of the world’s most frequently produced plays, and has been translated into several dozen languages.

Sloop Club talk to focus on bicycles

Beacon Sloop Club Winter Lecture Series begins on Thursday, Jan. 16 with Mark Roland discussing “Bikeable Beacon and Alternative Development Options.” The free winter lecture series is held on the third Thursday of the month through May.

Roland will be speaking on the role the bicycle might play in Beacon’s economic future. “Development” means many changes for the city. There will be more cars taking up more space. Roland will

discuss why people must get out of their cars and how the bicycle can be part of the plan.

He’ll look at ways people can live car-free and why the City of Beacon is already a great place to do this.

This free event will be held at 7 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Flynn Dr., Beacon. In the event on inclement weather, check the website at www.beacon-sloopclub.org. For further information call, 845-463-4660 or, 1-914-879-1082.

SBA to discuss financing opportunities

POUGHKEEPSIE – On Jan. 15, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Women’s Enterprise Development Center are co-sponsoring Business Seminar 2014, a half-day program for the business communities of the seven counties of the mid-Hudson Valley on the SBA’s Financing Programs and the Federal Government Procurement Programs. The event will be held at Marist College’s Hancock Center from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations are required by calling 845-575-3438 or e-mailing lrch@wedcbiz.org

The SBA provides financial assistance, business education and training and federal government contracting assistance. The SBA and its resource partners, including WEDC, one of 114 SBA Women’s Business Centers in the U.S., help millions of potential and current small business owners start, grow and succeed with their ventures.

This seminar, which is open to the public at no cost, provides small business owners and future entrepreneurs with an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of SBA financing programs and federal government procurement.




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