



DANBY AREA NEWS

KLEZMER CONCERT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 3PM ▸ DANBY TOWN HALL

The Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble will give a free concert at the Danby Town Hall as part of the Danby Community Council's concert series. The ensemble is directed by Joel Rubin, who also plays clarinet, and includes musicians Lauren Cohen (piano and voice), Ilana Goldowitz (cello), Rima Grunes (violin), Steve Hertzberg (bassoon), Karin Herzog (flute and piano), and Bob Wyttenbach (cello).

Klezmer was originally the ritual and celebratory music of the Yiddish-speaking Jews of Eastern Europe, where it developed over the course of many centuries. Brought to the US with the immigration wave during the period 1881-1924, a modern klezmer tradition developed in the urban centers. Since the 1970s, a dynamic revival of this tradition has been taking place. The recent popularity of klezmer music has brought it far from its roots and into the sphere of mainstream culture. If you haven't heard klezmer music yet, come for a new treat!

Joel Rubin is both a performer and scholar. He holds a PhD in ethnomusicology from City University-London for his pioneering work on klezmer music. He is currently a visiting scholar at Cornell and Syracuse universities. He studied clarinet with Richard Stolzman and Kalmen Opperman. He has directed several acclaimed klezmer ensembles, concertized in Europe, North America and Asia over the last 25 years, and records for Schott Wergo.

The DCC Concert series is made possible in part by public funds from the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization program, administered by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County. This is not the

last concert this year: on December 12th at 3, Bells & Motley will give a holiday concert of music from the Renaissance. More information in the December News.

Submitted by Bob Strichartz for DCC

MEET ITHACA JOURNAL EDITORS

The Ithaca Journal invites members of the Danby community for an informal "Coffee with the editors" meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, November 8 at the Danby Town Hall. This is your chance to meet the decision makers at your local daily newspaper. Journal editors host these meetings to learn what their readers want to see in their newspaper. Are there articles or features that you'd like to see in The Journal? This is your chance to share your opinions. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

LIBRARY NOTES

We want to thank the Danby community, the Danby Town Board and the Tompkins County Public Library for their continued support of the Danby Community Library. New collections arriving October 28: adult fiction(m-z), instructional videos; November 4: juvenile nonfiction; November 18: adult nonfiction. Thanks to our tireless volunteers who make these collections available to you. We also have some new materials in our permanent collection, thanks to the Friends of the Library book sale-thank you to Bill and Judy Cuyle! The book discussion group read *Three Junes* by Julia Glass in October and will discuss *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi in November. We are looking for historical fiction about the women's movement in Seneca Falls for our next selection. We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

DANBY AREA NEWS
November 2004
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GRAPHICS: TIFF, PDF, EPS or JPEG. If sending a file larger than 1MB, please check with us before sending.

Deadline is the 15th of the month. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed one page. We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

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TOWN COURT Tuesday eve, 7pm • 607-277-4788 • Fax: 607-277-0559

DANBY COMM. LIBRARY T&Th 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

COMMUNITY CHORUS PERFORMANCE

The Danby Community Chorus will be presenting "Christmas Classics," a collection of popular Christmas Songs and Carols, arranged by Don Marsh. The chorus, under the directorship of Roland Boda, and accompanied by Grace Payton, consists of 21 singers from the Danby Community.

The concert will be held on December 11, 2004 in the Danby Federated Church Fellowship Hall. Concert time will be 7:00 p.m. Concert will be free of charge. Seating will be first come first served.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Danby Community Council coordinates many activities in Danby involving youth and the general population of our town. We allocate money for programs, scholarships, concerts, and other special events. We help organize Danby Fun Day, write grants, and work with a variety of other organizations in the County with the aim of improving the quality of life for residents of Danby.

We are in need of people to assist with this work. At our annual meeting in January 2005, we will be seeking to replace several retiring members of our Board. No special skill or experience is necessary, just a desire to put in a little work to keep programs and activities going. We meet once a month, and most members take part in an additional committee or special project. **We are particularly seeking new members from West Danby.**

If you have any interest in helping your community in this way, please contact Dan Klein at 272-7582 or <danbydan@hotmail.com>. Thanks!

Dan Klein, Danby Community Council President

TASK FORCE UPDATE

The next meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force is at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday November 10. The open space protection strategies selected by the task force are being integrated into our laws and ordinances by Crystal Buck, county Planning Department professional and task force assistant. The task force met twice in October and is now focused on reviewing a rewritten version of the town's subdivision regulations. Crystal has inserted what is known as conservation subdivision procedures into our regulations in response to the guidance she has gotten from the task force. Those procedures amount to a new approach to subdivision outside the hamlets. The initial stage of subdivision would involve assessing the important natural features of a property and crafting lot creation in a way that minimizes negative effects on them. You can view the latest version of the proposed subdivision regulations on the town web site (<http://www.town.danby.ny.us/>), or get a copy from Carol Sczepanski, Town Clerk and Task Force Secretary.

Once we finish with the subdivision regulations, the focus will shift to the zoning ordinance, and then to a completely new Conservation Flag Lot Ordinance. These three items (reworked sub-regs, changes to the zoning ordinance, and the flag lot ordinance) will comprise the legislative package to be proposed to the Town Board, probably in January. Formal consideration will involve Planning Board review and additional opportunity for public comment before passage, projected to be in March.

Although the task force is currently absorbed in developing and proposing open space protection strategies to adopt prior to the April expiration of the moratorium on subdivisions and rezoning, the stage is being set for the next phase of the task force's work, which is to look at how and where to focus growth. As mentioned last month, the town has applied for grant monies that would enable us to hire a consultant to lead us through creation of a strategic plan for developing both Danby and West Danby. We will need to accomplish much of the work proposed with or without the grant, since revising our laws to support

continued on next page

development where we want it depends on resolving the question of how and where to grow the town. In the absence of the grant money, we will be forced to do the work ourselves, and in a somewhat scaled-back way. We should hear whether we succeeded in getting funded in January, which is when the task force will be freed up to proceed with that work in any event. Also to be done, and on a parallel track, is putting in place the structures and laws to enable the town to purchase development rights. A subcommittee of the task force, chaired by Ray Van de Bogart, has agreed on a framework for that effort and awaits the availability of staff support to move it forward. Much is happening. Why not be a part of it? *Joel Gagnon, Task Force Chair*

PERIODIC REPORT FROM FRANK PROTO

Our local bus system, TCAT, continues to log increased ridership in both Danby and Caroline. Due to the recent climb in gasoline prices and winter weather approaching we anticipate this increase to continue. Our board members have been strong supporters of the “one-zone weekend” fares, making it easier for mall-goers and riders working on weekends to get around. I’d appreciate your feedback on this, as we will be reviewing route strength as we do each year for budget consideration. The TCAT reorganization has been moving along in order to keep the timetable the state has directed. We’re striving to make this transition with as few rider and employee impacts as possible, while achieving the change by January, 2005. Your comments and advice are welcomed.

The County’s 2005 tentative budget has been released for public comment. It contains increases in capital spending for road and highway maintenance and improvements, developing plans for building a new and larger jail, and beginning the countywide communication system. The jail project will require another vote to actually go to construction, but the state corrections people wanted our commitment to proceed in order to extend the current variances. After reviewing the proposed communication tower project, I remain concerned over the extent of coverage to Danby in particular. As a result, I’ve asked for a meeting between our

town and county emergency people to understand what may be expected. The general revenue does contain a restoration of youth funding as many of you requested. We were able to reduce the rate by slightly over 4%, so barring any changes, the tax rate should be about 7.1%. It will be adjusted to reflect the sales tax credits for both Danby and Caroline, though Ithaca takes a cash contribution. To get a copy of the draft budget, please contact Jackie Thomas, Administrative Coordinator, at 274-5551. The budget hearing is set for 7 p.m., November 9 at the Town of Ithaca Hall.

The training the county is funding and sponsoring for those interested in establishing a rural small business and discussing micro-enterprise is going well. The sessions are full and well attended. If you have an interest in signing up call the Alternatives Federal Credit Union at 273-4611—they are organizing sessions.

The County Draft Comprehensive Plan is ready for public comment and will be available for review by 1 November. As with the budget, county executive proposal, jail project, and communications towers, I’d appreciate your feedback on this.

Our coffee sessions in Danby have been going well, and remain the Tuesday following Town Board meetings.

Should there be a matter you wish to discuss, please call me at my office (277-4875); the County Legislature (274-5434); or drop me a note at Cannonbrook Farms, Slaterville Springs, New York—or join me for coffee!

SERVE ON PLANNING BOARD OR BZA

The Danby Town board is seeking applicants from residents who would like to be considered for serving on the Planning Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Interested persons should submit a letter of intent and a brief resume to the Town Clerk no later than November 30, 2004 for the Town Board to review. The Planning Board meets monthly, generally on the third Thursday and the Board of Zoning Appeals meets when a request for variance has been submitted.

HISTORY NOTES

BY JOAN GRANT, DANBY TOWN
HISTORIAN

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BUTTERMILK CREEK AND JENNINGS POND

Buttermilk Creek

Buttermilk Creek has been an important water source for Danby since the late 1700's. Isaac and John Dumond built a sawmill on the creek in 1797 and Jacob and John Yapple built a gristmill on the creek in 1799. Both mills were adjacent to each other near Comfort Road. "Another mill, the Elm Tree Flour and Sawmill was organized in North Danby by Ellis, Johnson, Beers, and De Forrest in 1853 and became one of the most important manufacturing interests of the time. In 1856 ownership of the Elm Tree passed onto Thomas J. Phillips, who added steam power. The building was destroyed by fire in 1868 and the land remained vacant until 1875, when Frazier and Krum built a mill whose proprietor became W.R. Gunderman. In 1879 the mill had three runs of stone, ground about 50,000 bushels of custom work, and the sawmill turned out 100,000 feet of lumber a year." Buttermilk Creek is the source of water for the falls in Buttermilk State Park.

Jennings Pond

Lewis Beardsley originally owned the Jennings Pond property. In 1805 Mr. Beardsley sold his property, at the headwaters of Buttermilk Creek, to Joseph Judson who was then 24 years old. Judson had come to Danby in 1797, apprenticed to Dr. Lewis Beers. Young Judson dammed the creek to form Judson's Pond. He built grist and sawmills and operated them using the water of the Buttermilk Creek. Arriving in 1802, at the same location, Benjamin Jennings "secured the water rights." The pond continued to be called "Judson's Pond" until 1895 when the Ithaca Water Company bought the water rights from Benjamin Jennings. It was their intentions to develop an additional watershed for the city of Ithaca's water supply. The Ithaca Water Company drained the pond for easy removal of logs and stumps and made improvements to the land surrounding the pond. "A Crane's Hill reporter in 1895 suggested that Jennings Pond be called Jennings Lake...an unsightly old pond,

he declared, had been transformed into an respectable lake of 40 acres in area."

"In the early 1930's the Jennings family conveyed 10.75 acres to New York State. The parks commission built an earthen and flashboard dam, which they used to control the flow of water over Buttermilk Falls into the 751-acre Buttermilk State Park. In exchange, residents of Danby were allowed to use the pond for swimming, bass fishing, motorboats were prohibited."

In 1987 the dam on the Jennings Pond failed while being rebuilt by the state. "Engineers drained the inner pond in the fall but forgot to calculate the back pressure that it provided for a larger, semicircular earthen dam that held back the bigger pond. Under pressure from the spring runoff the dam collapsed, sending a wall of water '25 to 30 feet high' coursing through Danby, causing property damage." Today there is a new cement dam on Jennings Pond and swimming and fishing are still encouraged.

Resources: The Towns of Tompkins; J. Dieckmann, Danby Historical Sketches; T. Cortright, Four County History-History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York.

FIRE REPORT

3 fire calls in September=34 for year

6 rescue calls in September=60 for year

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee

THANKS...

The Danby Community Park Association extends its sincere appreciation for the help and work of numerous individuals who contributed to the Park Benefit Pork BBQ at the Common Ground on September 18, including Doug Miller and his Common Ground staff; Dee Specker and Swingsation; the Danby Community Quilters; Fred Cowett and his advisors at the Cornell Department of Landscape Architecture, for park designs; Sergey Belov and his advisors at the Cornell Department of Architecture, for community center designs; and Mike Miller, for video using photos of park site provided by Fred Cowett. The help of these groups and individuals has contributed significantly to the ongoing development of the park and community center.

Danby Community Council
Danby Area News
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TOWN BOARD AGENDA MEETING— Monday, November 1, 7pm, Town Hall.

ELECTION DAY— Tuesday, November 2, polls open from 6am–9pm.

DANBY SENIOR CITIZENS—Thursday, November 4, NOON, Danby Federated Church. All Danby seniors invited to attend.

COFFEE WITH THE ITHACA JOURNAL— Monday, November 8, 6-7pm, Town Hall. See page 1.

TOWN BOARD MEETING—Monday, November 8, 7pm, Town Hall.

MEET YOUR REPS—Tuesday, Nov. 9, 9:30–11:30am, Danby Market. Frank Proto and Ric Dietrich.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE—Wednesday, November 17, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

PLANNING BOARD—Thursday, November 18, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

KLEZMER CONCERT—Sunday, November 21, 3pm, Town Hall. See page 1.

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ONGOING

SENIORS STRENGTH TRAINING GROUP—Mondays, 9am, Danby Federated Church.

WEST DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY—Second Monday, 7pm, West Danby Fire Hall.

DANBY FIRE COMPANY—Mondays, 7pm, monthly meeting the second Monday at 7:30pm.

DANBY FOOD PANTRY—Third Friday, 4–6pm, 1859 Danby Road.

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY READING GROUP—Fourth Tuesdays, 7pm, Danby Library.