

CMF Hosts Programs for Local Students at its Sugar Maples Campus
Ritamary Vining, CMF educational liaison to the mountaintop school system



The CMF began its 2009-10 school year curriculum by hosting the HTC fourth grade at the Sugar Maples Center for Arts In Education for an environmental arts education program. Our fourth grade students shared their experiences at Sugar Maples on the following site: www.mrfletchersfourthgrade.blogspot.com. One student's response was typical, "I had a fantastic time at Sugar Maples." The trip to Sugar Maples was part of our Bring Your Own Bag campaign to reduce the number of plastic and paper bags we use when shopping....and inspire others to do so as well. I am very proud of the HTC fourth grade students, for working together to achieve outstanding results that will make a difference in the world in which we live.

A week later the local high school science teachers spent the day with their classes at the agricultural farm learning the ins and outs of daily operations, and we are very excited about the results. I am thrilled to report that the entire HTC faculty met in November to tour the CMF campus and take part in an informational workshop - the teachers were amazed that this resource is available in our community.

The faculty in both districts are designing program proposals that make valuable use of the CMF campus, implementing multiple learning activities to enhance instruction. Students will participate in a variety of arts, including dance, vocal music, visual art, and outdoor environmental education. Students will also attend plays and symphonies, visit the CMF gallery, and experience visits from famous authors. We will also have nationally renowned artists visit the foundation and provide instruction to the nearly 1,000 students who are participating in these programs.

March, 2010

Catskill Mountain Foundation Newsletter

Arts, Education and Sustainable Living on the Greene County, NY Mountain Top

ORPHEUM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO OPEN IN 2010

CWC Loan to Finance Renovations



The Catskill Watershed Corporation has approved an \$850,000 interest free loan to the Catskill Mountain Foundation for renovations at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center in the Village of Tannersville. With this financing in place, everything is on track for the CMF to open the facility to the general public this year, establishing it as the new home of its extensive performing arts program.

The 13,000+ sq. ft. Orpheum Performing Arts Center is the critical component of an ongoing campaign to establish the Greene County Mountaintop as a cultural center. The 270 seat theater is designed by renowned architect Hugh Hardy. Among the renovations completed to date are construction of a new stage-house, lobby, and backstage areas, and installation of new HVAC and electrical systems. CWC funds will be used to complete the auditorium, stage and ceilings, and to install the basic lighting/sound systems required to open the theater to the public.

Upon its completion, the Orpheum will be one of the few professional performing arts centers in the Catskill region. Its stage, technical equipment, and wing and backstage spaces will allow the Foundation to present performances in all the major artistic disciplines - dance, theater, film, and all types of live music – and to host performers and performing ensembles of the highest caliber. The Orpheum will also host in-depth performing arts educational programs for local and regional students, and will be made available to local performing arts groups.

"We are thrilled that the CWC has recognized the importance of this project to our community and is providing such vital support," said CMF Executive Director Peter Barker. "The Orpheum will enhance our mountaintop's growing reputation as an arts destination, and attract visitors and economic activity to the area, and we are very excited about planning the opening of the facility for later this year."

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SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 17, 2010
Catskill Mountain Foundation Annual Benefit
at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center

Ethel M. Slutzky 1917-2010

The Catskill Mountain Foundation mourns the passing of board-member Ethel M. Slutzky on January 3, 2010, following a long illness. Ethel was one of the first board-members of the Foundation and was with the CMF from almost the very beginning. Her support and participation were critical to the Foundation's success and helped it make the transition from a young struggling organization to a strong and vibrant part of the cultural and economic scene on the mountaintop.

Ethel was an important member of our community in so many ways and for so many years. A charter member of the Greene County Women's League; a fifty year member of the Mt. Star Oasis Chapter OES; board member of the Hunter Synagogue; treasurer of the Hunter Civic Association; member of the board of trustees for the Hunter Public Library and a major fundraiser on its behalf. Our condolences to her loving husband of 67 years, Orville, to her children, Carol (Peter) Slutzky-Tenerowicz; Paul (Amy) Slutzky; and Gary (Barbara) Slutzky, and to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. She will be deeply missed.

Catskill Mountain Foundation Expands Board of Directors

The Catskill Mountain Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of four new members to its Board of Directors in 2009 – Michael Magdol, Loring “Skip” Pratt, Charles “C. B.” Slutzky, and Tom Wilson. “These are all great additions to our decision making team,” said CMF Board Chairman Peter Finn. “They are long term contributors to the Catskill Mountain Foundation who are very well respected and will help us strengthen our relationship with our community while bringing new ideas and a lot of energy to the Foundation.”

Michael Magdol has been an active member of the mountaintop community for over three decades. A past President of Onteora Park, he is currently a director of All Souls Cemetery in Tannersville. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, his extensive financial experience includes positions as Vice Chairman and CFO of Fiduciary Trust Company International, Chair of the Risk Management Committee of Franklin Resources, and Executive Vice President and Director, J.Henry Schroder Banking Corporation. In the non-profit world he has served as the Chairman of the Ronald McDonald House of New York, Executive Vice President of Finance for the Greater N.Y. Councils of the Boy Scouts of America, and has been a trustee of the Lingnan Foundation and a board-member of the Mountain Top Arboretum.

Skip Pratt has been a highly visible and active presence on the mountaintop since purchasing his first home in Twilight Park in 1961, a few years before he restored and preserved the historical “Santa Cruz” property in Twilight. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and a Navy veteran whose distinguished financial career began at Morgan Stanley and continued with A.G. Becker. For the last 25+ years he has been back with Morgan Stanley where he is an executive director in the Private Wealth Management group. His many board memberships both past and present include Twilight Park, the Mountaintop Arboretum, the Hunter Foundation, the Pleshakov Piano Museum, Northfield Mount Hermon School and the Jewish Board for Family and Children's Services and Youth Counseling League.

C.B. Slutzky is a life long resident of Hunter and a key member of the management team of the family owned Hunter Mountain Ski Bowl. An alumnus of Boston University College and New England College, he is the current President of Construction Employers of the Hudson Valley, as well as the Greene County representative to

the Board of Directors of the Mid-Hudson Patterns for Progress. He is also a longstanding and active patron of the arts, whose many affiliations include membership on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Ulster County Performing Arts Center (UPAC), Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, and NYS Performing Arts Center, as well membership in the New York City Drama League.

Tom Wilson is a longstanding part-time resident of East Jewett, where he has been elected to the Town Council. He is the founder of Wilson Media Group, a full service media agency providing research, planning and buying across all traditional and new communications channels. Past and present WMG clients include (among others) Glaxo Wellcome, Novartis, Pfizer and Lilly. Prior to WMG, Tom was Director of Media Services at McCaffrey and McCall as well as a member of its Board of Directors, and worked with clients such as ABC TV, Exxon, JC Penney, Mercedes Benz, Tiffany and United Artists. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and has a graduate degree from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. A lifelong devotee and supporter of the arts with a degree in piano studies from the Peabody Conservatory Preparatory Department, he has provided marketing and fund raising advice to the American Ballet Theatre as well as Solisti New York Chamber Orchestra, and has served as Board President of the Key West Symphony.

World Premieres of Works by American Composers at CMF Concert



“Eric Ewazen rehearses the Catskill Mountain Chamber Orchestra.”

On November 28, 2009 the Catskill Mountain Foundation hosted an extraordinary all American concert featuring the world premieres of two new pieces as well as works by Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland and Robert Manno. Performed before an enthusiastic and appreciative audience in the exquisite Evelyn Weisberg Hall at Hunter's Doctorow Center for the Arts, the program was entitled A Hudson River Sampler and programmed by Robert Manno, music director of the Windham Festival and Catskill Mountain Chamber Orchestras, and co-founder of the Windham Chamber Music Festival. It demonstrated and celebrated the musical heritage of the Hudson Valley.

The highlights of the evening were two new works composed specifically for the CMF. New Work for Chamber Orchestra by Eric Ewazen was commissioned by the Doctorow Family Foundation to commemorate the Quadricentennial of the Discovery of the Hudson River. It is a remarkably exciting and lyrical work that vividly depicts the changing seasons in a Hudson Valley landscape. Also featured was the chamber orchestra premiere of Robert Manno's Elegy in Memory of Constance Doctorow, a piece of great elegance and beauty honoring the legacy of one of the generous benefactors of the CMF.

The rest of the program, Robert Manno's Adagio for Strings and Three Scenes from the Mountains, and Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland, played by the Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra, and Samuel Barber's Summer Music – featuring the Windscape ensemble, were all exquisitely played.

In his program notes for Three Scenes from the Mountains, Bob Manno wrote that the piece, “was inspired by views from my home overlooking a mountain range in the Northern Catskills.” What better way to celebrate our area than by giving musical voice to its exceptional beauty. The CMF looks forward to presenting more evenings of great performances such as this one that celebrate our mountaintop.