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# Tompkins Weekly

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## District Faces Racism Charge

By Glynis Hart

“We shoot n---s like you in the woods,” a group of boys riding the bus to Enfield told her. The girl riding the bus to Dewitt Middle School two years ago had been hearing racist taunts and misogynist curses since school began. She and her mother were strangers to Ithaca and knew almost nobody; her mother had just started studying at Cornell.

There were only three children of color on the Enfield bus, all girls. When the girls got on the bus in the morning or the afternoon, they knew this group of boys would be there to call them the worst kinds of names.

At first, the girl tried to handle it herself. The boys told her they had a gun with her name on it. One day a boy spat on her. Her bookbag was taken and spit upon, and when she confronted the boy who took it, he punched her. According to the girl and another girl with her, the bus driver recommended that the black girls find another way to get home.

Finally she grew afraid enough to tell her mother,

who complained to the school board, the superintendent and the principal and vice-principal at Dewitt. “I never received a response from any of those people, except Mr. Thomas, the vice-principal,” relates Amelia Kearney. “He said he would look into it. Then he said he did an investigation and he couldn’t find any evidence. The boy who threatened my daughter was not punished.” As for the bus driver, Kearney was never able to learn his name. “Where was he when she got punched?” she asks.

Another student who rode that bus describes everyday pandemonium: “The rednecks sat in the way back of the bus, the dorks or the regular kids sat in the middle, and the black kids sat up front. It was so segregated. Some of those kids are really racist.” Not only racist, but defiant and aggressive, says the student: “It was way too much for the bus drivers. At least twice a day [on the way home] we had to pull over to kick someone off the bus. They’d have to call someone to come take a kid off the bus and we’d have to sit there waiting for 15 minutes. One time we were

pulled over and the boys in the back started rocking the bus, to see if they could tip it into the ditch. And then the black kids up front, they were like, whatever, and they got into it, too.”

After the punching incident, Amelia Kearney called the police. Because the school could not insure her daughter’s safety, she tried to get the girl enrolled in tutoring as per district policy. “I requested a tutor, but they weren’t paying for

it,” she says. “They had a videotape of the events in the bus the [day the bookbag was taken] but they wouldn’t let me see it because that would be a violation of the other children’s confidentiality rights. The principal saw it and he admitted to me that the other kids were relentless in their teasing of my daughter. He said he heard them talking about a gun, but then he said that she

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Photo by Kathy Morris

**APPLE HARVEST ANTICS:** Zajal the Sugar Plum Fairy (AKA Katharyn Howd Machan), right, Dot Rudge of Longview, center, and Pat Haines dance in the finale of “Apple Pie for the Green Man and the Green Woman” during the Apple Harvest Festival Sept. 30 on the Ithaca Commons.

## Marcus, Makar Square off in Dryden

By Anthony Hall

With four candidates running for two seats on the Dryden Town Board this year, Tompkins Weekly will run issues-oriented profiles of two this week and two next week, choosing one from each of the major parties each time.

We will profile Stan Marcus, a Republican, and incumbent Dave Makar, a Democrat, this week and Joe Solomon (Democrat) and Walter Keeney (Republican) next week. For the following issue, we will profile candidates for town judgem Chris Clauson and Jason Leifer.

Formerly a chemist who worked at Cornell directing outreach educational programs, Stan Marcus “finally got old enough to retire,” he says, “and decided to enjoy life. Then I decided I should do some form of public service.” He joined Dryden’s Conservation Committee and the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council. His primary concern is the environment, he says, and he wants to push forward on environmental issues. “When you’re on the subcommittee, you get to



Stan Marcus

advise town board members. If I’m elected, I’ll actually be in the position to make the laws.”

He considers himself as much an independent as a Republican. He installed solar panels on his barn, he says, adding, “I don’t consider myself a right-wing conservative at all.”

David Makar is a self-employed Web site developer. When town councilman Michael Hattery defeated Michael Lane in November 2005 and joined the county legislature, the town board appointed Republican Dan Tier to fill Hattery’s seat on the town board. Makar, having lived in Dryden less



Photos provided

Dave Makar

than four years at the time, defeated Tier last November.

Makar has been on the town board for eight months. He’s learned, he says, that “it takes a lot of cooperation to get things done.” As an example, he cites the Housing and Urban Development Grant that was offered as a sizeable loan to Cayuga Press Of Ithaca, a Dryden company, six years ago. As Cayuga Press has been repaying the loan at a rate of \$2,500 a month, there is now some \$150,000 that the town can start loaning to local businesses.

Makar has worked with

the Tompkins County Area Development program and the Alternatives Federal Credit Union to figure out how to make the money available to the public. He also works on the town’s Loans and Grants SubCommittee with Republican councilman Steve Stelick Jr. There is only one problem, Makar says. The subcommittee has only met three times in the past nine months. “I’d like to meet once a month,” he says. Makar did not explain why the sub-committee has met so few times, but says he was “absolutely frustrated” with the hands-off style of the Republicans on the current town board. “The Democrats running for office want Dryden to be seen as a leader,” he says.

The party’s three-part platform includes economic development, climate change and environmental concerns and communication with constituents. For economic development, the town must re-work its zoning plan to create business opportunities near established infrastructure, help make the HUD grant accessible and work with Village

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# Groton Democrats Choose Candidates

By Tina Wright

Democrats in the Town of Groton have selected two candidates to run for seats on the Groton Town Board. At the party caucus on Sept. 23, Colleen Gloster-Gray and Kathy Howard began their campaign against Republican incumbents Sheldon Clark and Richard Gamel for the Nov. 6 election.

No Democrat has served on the Groton Town Board since the 1990s. Local Democratic Party chairperson Amber Cameron hopes that will change. "I'd like to get some Democrats in office, on the village and town board, so that things aren't routinely passed five to nothing."

Gloster-Gray, 44, lives at 913 Lick St. with her husband Daniel Gray and their three school-aged children. As a family educator working for Even Start in Groton, she enjoys the advocacy involved in the family literacy program. She is a SUNY Oswego graduate with a degree in elementary education and has lived in Groton since 1970. She is a volun-

teer in 4-H, the Cooperative Extension program for young people that she says has kept her children grounded and she serves on the board of the county's Youth Recreation Partnership.

Why is she running for the Groton Town Board? "I am a Democrat," she says. "We have an all-Republican [town] board and, as of March, there were 890 Democrats registered in the Town of Groton that aren't really represented. I think diversity is important. Probably my first and foremost reason is that I believe in public service. I feel it is important to give back to communities."

Gloster-Gray lists a few things she would like to accomplish, if elected. "Mobilizing the community to become more involved; giving a voice for all the citizens, welcoming and supporting everyone and looking for ways to increase cooperation between the town and village." She also emphasizes the area's economic viability and the need to promote Groton's growth while maintaining and protecting

agriculture and green spaces. She lives on a very small farm in a farming neighborhood. Her mother and children have sheep and goats. "I feel strongly that we need to protect the agriculture that is still remaining," she says.

"We all want lower taxes, but especially for our farmers," Gloster-Gray says, noting a primary concern that citizens are sharing with all the candidates. Currently, she is reviewing the town's work on the comprehensive plan and new zoning. Local citizens have spoken to her of the need for more transportation options. TCAT takes riders to Ithaca, but a sizeable number of Groton people work, go to school or do other business in Cortland. They would like public transportation too. According to the candidate, the community has an increasing senior population, as well as low-income individuals, and both groups rely on public transport.

Howard, 51, lives at 608 Cortland Road, where she and husband Steve run Howard Greenhouse and Landscape. They have three grown daughters. A graduate of Cornell's school of agriculture, she has worked for Cornell in the department of crop and soil science as a teaching support specialist for 25 years. She grew up on a local dairy farm, Carey Farm, now owned by her brother Dan Carey and his wife Ann. She belongs to the Groton Business Association, the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance and a garden club.

"I'm running for the town board because I've run a couple of busi-

nesses in the town," Howard says. "I want to be here to encourage small businesses but also to keep our rural ag environments. I'm hoping I can offer a different viewpoint. It would be nice to get some women on the board."

Regarding current town issues, she says, "Taxes are important. We have to be vigilant and keep trying to look for ways and be creative to keep taxes as low as possible." The candidate wants local zoning that is "conducive to agriculture." When the Howards began their greenhouse business they found they lived in a zone that prevented agriculture although it made no sense given their rural location. "Luckily, in the back of my mind, I knew we were in an agriculture district and I called (New York State) Ag and Markets and they said, 'We'll support you one hundred percent.' Zoning is a complicated issue."

So why are Democrats active now after years of dormancy in Groton? Howard suggests that new residents have helped energize the local party. "We're getting more active people who would like to see a two-party system actually operate," she says.

The Democratic candidates are setting up e-mail accounts to communicate with voters during the campaign and they are, of course, ringing doorbells and making phone calls. Howard says, "That's one of the big things I would like to run on, is just being accessible."

Next week: Groton Town Board Republican candidates, the incumbents Sheldon Clark and Richard Gamel.

## United Way Accepts Grant Applications

United Way of Tompkins County's Youth and Philanthropy Council has launched its 2007 grant application process.

The council, composed of 16 students from high schools in Tompkins County, developed the grant application and will review and award \$25,000 in one-time grants. All Tompkins County health and human service nonprofits are eligible to apply for Youth and Philanthropy funds.

Applications must be submitted to United Way of Tompkins County by noon on Friday, Oct. 12. Grant awards will be announced in late November.

For more information, or for an application, contact United Way of Tompkins County at 272-6286 or e-mail at [amunro@uwtc.org](mailto:amunro@uwtc.org).

To date, more than 145 Tompkins County youth have participated in the United Way's Youth and Philanthropy Program.

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# Smooth Transition Expected on Council

By Nate Dougherty

Though nearly half of the members Ithaca's Common Council won't be back in 2008, some familiar faces and active candidates could help to hasten the learning curve for city lawmakers.

Some of that change will come in November, when two districts elect new representatives to replace those who have chosen not to run for re-election. In Ward Four, Gayraud Townsend has stepped down, while in Ward Two Michelle Berry decided against another term. Two other seats will turn over due to resignations. Shane Seger left council in September to take a job in New York with Rep. Daniel O'Donnell, and David Gelinias has announced he will resign his seat at the end of December.

Two of those who will fill the places of those departing, Eric Rosario in Ward Two and Jennifer Dotson in Ward One, have experience working in city government.

Dotson is the vice chair of the Board of Public Works, while Rosario is an Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency board member and co-chair of the city's Economic Development Committee. Their knowledge of how the city administration runs will make it easier for council to get up and running once they are formally elected, says council member Maria Coles (D-Ward One).

"Their experience gives both of them an incredible head start," she says. "They already know so many of the important things that take time for newcomers to learn." Among those issues, Coles says, is how to pass along the requests and concerns of constituents.

"When one first is elected to common council, when a constituent calls with an urgent need for help with a problem of some kind, half of the struggle is knowing who to call and what to do," Coles says. "It's such a difficult thing to know for someone who isn't familiar with the city's hierar-

chy, but they already have that down."

Adding to the stability for next year is the fact that none of the city's elections will be contested by Republicans. Those running are all but assured of their seats. In Ward Four, Gelinias' resignation came too late in the election process for candidates to come forward, meaning a councilperson will be appointed by Mayor Carolyn Peterson and confirmed by the council.

With decisions like the future water source for the city in the hands of the new council, having members who are up-to-date on developments is key to have the process run smoothly, Coles says. Dotson is involved with many of the discussions regarding the water source through her position and Rosario has also stayed involved in the process.

"I've been attending every public meeting concerning our future water source for the city," Rosario wrote in an online election announcement. "(I've also attend-

ed) other key common council and committee meetings, to ensure I'm as well informed as possible. I've also been meeting with department heads, including the city comptroller, for their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities we're facing."

Even Svante Myrick, a junior at Cornell running unopposed for the seat in Ward Four, has attended a number of council meetings to keep on top of ongoing issues.

"It helps reassure me in that I've seen how interested [all the candidates] are and how hard they're willing to work," says Coles. "The fact that all three are so eager to be attending meetings is a great indication of their commitment, and I don't foresee a huge problem at all with acclimating them to council. I think we're very fortunate in who is running this year. For there to be members willing to do whatever it takes to get work done means there will be less of a burden on everyone in council."

# Public Lobbies Legislature for County Programs

County officials last week outlined Administrator Steve Whicher's proposed 2008 Tompkins County budget at a Community Budget Forum sponsored by the legislature. About 30 people attended the forum, held at Ithaca's Boynton Junior High School, some of them representatives of county departments and agencies.

Eleven citizens addressed legislators, nearly all of them calling for funding to be preserved for pro-

grams that provide valuable services, including the Tompkins County Public Library, Offender Aid and Restoration and the Drop In Children's Center. Several young people served by the Bridges Program for Youth and Families, operated by the County Youth Services Department, told legislators about how the program's Aggression Replacement Training has made a difference in their lives. An over-target request for an addi-

tional staff position for the Bridges program was not included in the administrator's budget.

Investigator Rick Tubbs of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office urged legislators to support the over-target request for an additional investigator's position, also not part of the proposed budget. Tubbs noted that there has been no increase in staffing in the investigation unit since he joined the department 12 years ago, while crime, par-

ticularly violent crime, has been increasing. Without adequate staff, he said, every complaint cannot be given the time that it deserves.

The \$72 million tentative budget increases local spending by 1.2 percent and meets the legislature's goal of no more than a 2 percent increase in the tax levy (the total amount of property tax revenue collected.) The tax rate would

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# Medical Practitioners Go Into the Wild

By Pamela Goddard

When a doctor prepares to tie something off, it's not usually a half-inch rope to a sturdy pine tree. But in late September doctors from all over the East Coast learned to tie knots used by rock climbers and other skills not taught in medical school — all in pursuit of better patient care under difficult conditions.

Attendees from Vermont to Virginia, and as far west as Colorado, gathered in Ithaca for the first Northeast Wilderness Medicine Conference. Urban, suburban and rural doctors, paramedics, and medical students studied a range of skills crossing the border from wilderness medicine to standard medical practice.

"We were able to combine our strengths to deliver what we believe to be the best wilderness medicine conference out there," says Jay Lemery, the conference's medical director and an emergency services physician at Cornell's Weill Medical College in New York City. "The medical knowledge of an Ivy League medical institution along with the backcountry experience of Cornell Outdoor Education, and all in conjunction with our partners at the Wilderness Medical Society. We are enthused about the participation of our NY-Presbyterian EMS Special Operations Team. Knowing that wilderness medicine and disaster response have a significant overlap, we appreciate their partnership as conference educators."

This was the first joint conference of its type. "That marriage of outdoor expertise with an Ivy League school really makes this unique," says Todd Miner, executive director of Cornell's Outdoor Education program, another conference sponsor. Cornell teaches both wilderness and traditional medical treatments, but in different departments and with little overlap.

The conference concept arose when physicians experienced unexpected challenges in medical care while assisting with the aftermath



Photo by Ted Crane

Wilderness medicine conference attendees rig a Tyrolean traverse across the Beebe Lake gorge and safely transport one simulated, unconscious victim.

of Hurricane Katrina. Weill Medical College contacted Cornell Outdoor Education seeking wilderness skills.

"They realized that disaster medicine and wilderness medicine have a lot in common, and that their medical students should be learning this," Miner says. Lemery adds, "These skills actually have a lot of practicality in disaster response; when systems break down, when you need to rely on improvisational skills, when people are under all kinds of stress and you're facing rather primitive conditions."

Bringing experts in medicine and wilderness exploration together to share their knowledge was a perfect match. "We get training from the paramedics from New

York City and they get the benefits from our outdoor skills. It's been a great partnership," Miner says.

Daniel Meisles, manager of the New York Presbyterian EMS Special Operations Team, led participants in a simulated disaster incident integrating conference sessions including Common Calamities on the Trail, High Angle Rope Self-Rescue, Wilderness Survival and Preparing for Backcountry Medical Issues.

The special operations team is trained and certified in a number of specialties, including hazmat and technical rescue. The team provided rescue and relief support in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and last summer's Midtown Manhattan steam explosion.

In parallel sessions, Cornell Outdoor Education director Dan Tillemans taught one group how to construct a Tyrolean traverse for use in medical evacuations, while Meisles and his team taught low-angle rescue techniques and their applications to urban and wilderness settings. "It's all about how we use ropes and technical equipment to extract a patient in a situation such as we've simulated here — 25 feet down a wooded incline when they can't get out on their own," Meisles says.

Outdoor recreational skills take on particular urgency when combined with medical emergencies encountered during calamities

such as hurricanes, earthquakes, explosions, ice storms and flooding. "These are skill sets you don't typically get in medical school," says Tim Fortuna, an emergency room physician at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. "If you have to respond to a disaster, when you might have to make your way through a collapsed building, or where there might not be electricity or water or help, these are the skills that could help save someone's life, maybe even your own."

The Wilderness Medicine Conference has direct benefits for Ithaca and Tompkins County. An influx of physicians from across the country is good for the local economy. "Conferences like this are important because they bring mid-week business to town," notes Bruce Stoff of the Ithaca/Tompkins Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ithaca's variety of natural environments made it a perfect place for this training. Our rugged terrain is "gorges," but the beauty includes potential hazards. Cliffs and waterfalls are all-too-frequent accident scenes.

"This low-angle rescue is the sort of thing that the local fire department does," Miner says. "We want to make sure that responding physicians are able to operate in that field and not be a danger to themselves or others. They're going to walk away with the skills to be able to help out whether they're part of a rescue group or on their own."

"A lot of this is prevention. Once somebody gets hurt in the wilderness it's a serious incident," Miner adds. "A lot of our training is making sure that people recognize that it magnifies whatever problem is out there when you're in a remote area and particularly if the patient is not mobile."

"Gorge safety is an important message for us," Stoff says. "Our gorges and waterfalls are beautiful, and an event like this reminds everyone how important it is to use good judgment while exploring them."

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# Town Official Touts Youth Empowerment

By Ann Krajewski

It is no longer considered far out to say that global warming is affecting all of us and that it's not going to go away, unless the policy and lawmakers of the world do something about it. Young people often feel helpless about this as most world leaders and elected officials are from a different generation and don't always include youth in the decision making process. Dominick Frongillo is one of a growing number of young people who are working to change that.

Arriving at an interview on his bicycle, Frongillo is, at 24, the youngest member of Caroline's town board and is part of SustainUS, a national network for sustainable development that is run by people ages 13 to 26. It was formed in 2001 at the International Youth Summit in Borgholm, Sweden, and is both non-profit and non-partisan.

"I'm really interested in empowering young people and SustainUS is doing just that by involving them in communicating to our world leaders that we have a stake in the future and our voices need to be heard," Frongillo says. "SustainUS formed because youth from other countries are already well-organized to make their voices heard at United Nations meetings."

Last year Frongillo attended a meeting of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development. He experienced international policy negotiations firsthand. "I saw an opportunity for youth to inspire our leaders to action. Our leaders must be shown how their decisions impact the world's children. SustainUS gives youth a direct voice in international policy that will decide our future."

The commission met in New York City and as a SustainUS member, Frongillo and his colleagues distributed what he called "talking points" to other youth delegates so they could stand up during the proceedings with con-



Photo by Ann Krajewski

**Dominic Frongillo will travel to Bali in December for international climate change negotiations as a member of a the SustainUS organization.**

fidence and deliver consistent messages. "In one instance, an 18-year-old girl used one of our talking points and gave a profound presentation to this roomful of dignitaries. It was amazing and very gratifying to watch," says Frongillo.

In December, SustainUS will send a delegation of 22 students and young professionals to the U.N. Climate Negotiations in Bali, Indonesia, and Frongillo will be among them. He was chosen from a pool of qualified applicants who are organization members from throughout the U.S.

"Since we are spread out across the country, we have 'virtual' meetings via the Internet, and our membership has a lot of really incredible people." They include Katelyn Keefe, who graduated summa cum laude from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and planning. Venezuelan-born Patricia Greenberg works in social marketing at an environmental consulting firm and committee mem-

ber Kahlil Kettering lived in Nairobi, Kenya, for 13 years and has worked in policy research and legislative development.

Of the Bali negotiations, Frongillo states, "This meeting is expected to be incredibly important because The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012, and our world leaders must act to avoid worldwide climate catastrophe. Nearly every country on Earth will participate — but key countries like the U.S. government are dragging their feet. The truth is that with existing technology, we can reduce the impact we have on the environment by 90 percent. Right now. It's only a matter of political will."

James Hansen, NASA's foremost climate scientist, has been with the agency for more than 30 years and has spent most of that time studying the Earth. In a recent television interview he said, "The speed of natural change is now dwarfed by the changes that humans are making to the atmosphere and to the sur-

face."

Frongillo points out, "Hansen tells us that we have only about eight years before we reach a tipping point." He continues, "Young people will have to live with the consequences of today's choices. Climate models predict 30 to 70 percent of all existing species will be extinct by 2200. Children born today will face massive flooding, social upheaval, millions of environmental refugees, stressed economic systems and failed states. We must take bold and comprehensive action on climate change to ensure a livable world for our children."

In Bali, the delegates will be "blogging like crazy," as Frongillo puts it. "We want this event to be a window into the negotiations and we want the world to understand that we are all at a critical point. With the U.S. producing nearly a quarter of the world's carbon emissions, it's really up to us to be at the forefront in handling this crisis and make our leaders understand that we need decisive action and cooperation."

All young people can get involved by joining the group's listserv and blog, and donations are needed to help send the delegates to Bali for this critical conference. Contact SustainUS at [www.sustainus.org](http://www.sustainus.org).

Caroline community volunteer Pat Brhel is getting the ball rolling by donating profits from her note card sales at the Farmer's Market in Caroline to help Frongillo and SustainUS with expenses for their trip to the U.N. Climate Negotiations.

**Around Town:** A re-election fundraiser will be held for Town Of Caroline Supervisor Don Barber at Six Mile Creek Winery on Sunday, Oct. 14, from 4-6 p.m. with special guest Rep. Maurice Hinchey. The reception will feature live music, homemade appetizers and a raffle of local products and services. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. For information call 539-6928.

# Letters

## MacCormick Builds Community Ties

The young men, who grow into adulthood behind bars at MacCormick Secure are eager to contribute to their local community. When MacCormick director Joseph Maffia heard that the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) was willing for the young men to do a community service project, an idea was hatched.

What if MacCormick dug beds for cutting flowers and vegetables, MacCormick teacher Demetria Schweizer guided the young men with planting, MacCormick Board members came out to join the young men in their upkeep of the beds and transport the veggies and flowers to the Brooktondale Farmers' Market, Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Services Manager Penny Boynton and her teens at the Market would sell the produce, Pat Brhel would step in and sell the remaining harvest after the Caroline Teen Project was over on Labor Day, and the proceeds and produce not sold would go to the Brooktondale Community Center and/or Caroline Food Pantry?

Turns out all the above was possible and we happily report that now the MacCormick Garden to Market program is in place, ready to get started earlier next year. Plans are afoot to keep the greenhouse occupied this winter.

While this deliciously healthy, fun and useful community project is winding down for the year, look for the MacCormick produce and flowers on Saturdays next spring, summer and fall at the Brooktondale Farmers' Market.

Any local neighbors wishing to tour MacCormick Secure are encouraged to contact MacCormick Board member and community liaison Teri Reinemann at [treinemann20@yahoo.com](mailto:treinemann20@yahoo.com), or 589-6570.

Marjorie Olds  
MacCormick Board member

## A Vote for Klein, Connors, Dietrich

Danby Community Council's ever-conscientious president, Dan Klein, is expert at ensuring its mission, mostly youth programming, be done in the fairest, most equitable manner. If elected to the board he will advocate for the underrepresented members of our community, be a consensus builder and always hear both sides of an issue without prejudice.

Leslie Connors is sincere, honest, compassionate, hard-working, and serious, especially when it comes to the treatment of the folks who receive care at the county Mental Health Department. On the town board, with that same dedication, she'd represent everyone in Danby, not just those in her party. She will have an ear for any constituent, and concern for those among us who have fallen upon misfortune. She thinks for herself and will act accordingly.

As for Ric Dietrich, I have seen him in action. He has presence — when he's in the room you know it. That's what enables him to run meetings where controversy dominates. When the tension is palpable, Ric doesn't shrink from it. He deftly takes hold and restores order. No one else running has the skill, talent, or experience he brings to the job.

These three folks share a great deal of experience in human service. They have character in spades. And they know that community building is done not with the blade of a bulldozer, but by inclusion of the people living there in the process of government and development by consensus.

Asher O. Hockett  
Town of Danby

# Briefly...

## Walk, or Run, for Breast Cancer Alliance

Supporting people living with cancer and their loved ones is as easy as taking a walk or running a race. The 14th annual Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance fundraising event will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, for the first time in the F.R. Newman Arboretum at Cornell Plantations.

Hundreds of runners, walkers and volunteers will make a meaningful difference for people with cancer, by supporting their family members or friends, or celebrating their own cancer survivorship. All proceeds stay local and benefit the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance.

Event-day registration starts at 7:30 a.m. The 5K race starts at 9:05 a.m. with the walk (approximately 2 miles) beginning at 9:06 a.m. After the walk and run, a pancake breakfast will be held, with music, prizes and raffles. There will also be an important announcement about the future of the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance and a drawing for the winner of the Mini Cooper raffle. The event concludes at noon.

Registration is available online through [ibca.net](http://ibca.net) or by calling the office at 277-0960. Registration for the Strength in Numbers 5K run is \$20 before the race or \$25 on the day; the fee for the walk \$10 before or \$15 on the day. Pre-race packet pickup and the last opportunity to pre-register will be at Napoli's Pizzeria, 335 East State Street, Ithaca, from 6-8:30 p.m. on Oct. 12.

Runners and walkers can sign up sponsors and collect pledges to raise additional funds to help IBCA provide free services to those affected by cancer in the area. For more information contact the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance at 277-0960 or visit [ibca.net](http://ibca.net).

## Chamber Honors Borg Warner, Challenge

The Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce will recognize Borg Warner Morse TEC as the 2007 Large Employer of the Year and Challenge as the 2007 Not-For-Profit of the Year on Friday, Oct. 12. The recognitions will take place at a luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. at The Country Club of Ithaca, 189 Pleasant Grove Road.

John Neuman, president and C.E.O. of the 1492 Consulting Group and former CEO of eCornell, will give the keynote address. Reservations may be made by contacting the Chamber at 273-7080.

Borg Warner Morse TEC employs 1,500 people in Tompkins County at a technical center and two manufacturing plants in Lansing. The company traces its Tompkins County roots to 1880, when the Morse Equalizing Spring Company was formed in Trumansburg. Morse later moved to Ithaca, joining with Borg Warner in 1929 and moving operations to Lansing in 1982. The Morse TEC facilities produce engine-timing systems and chain-based transmission drives. Borg Warner Morse TEC is one of five operating units that comprise the Borg Warner Corp., which has locations in 17 countries.

Challenge will celebrate its 40th year as a service provider next year. Its mission is to support individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers in developing their skills and talents to meet the needs of the workplace. Challenge serves between 600 and 800 people a year in that capacity, with a staff of just over 170.

## Cookie Sale Kicks Off on Oct. 12

What began in 1917 as a local service project in Oklahoma is now a top business and economic literacy program for girls across the country. Thousands of people in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions of New York, and into Pennsylvania, have supported the girls through the cookie program. The next opportunity to help in our area begins Oct. 12.

Through the cookie activities, girls learn to speak up, make decisions, set goals, solve problems and manage resources. These skills ultimately lead to girls being leaders in their own lives and in their communities, all part of Girl Scouting's leadership development program for girls.

Initial order taking of the cookies in Seven Lakes continues through Oct. 26. From Nov. 3 to 25, girls will be conducting point-of-sale booths where customers can purchase and pick-up cookies on the spot. Check the council website for locations ([www.girlscoutssevenlakes.org](http://www.girlscoutssevenlakes.org)).

## Kids Invited to Fall Harvest Festival

The annual Fall Harvest Festival for Kids will be held on Monday, Oct. 8, from 1:30-5 p.m. in the parking lot of the P&C Market at 212 Hancock St., Ithaca. The day is a school holiday in most local districts.

Festival events will include a farm animal display, pumpkin painting, and other hands-on craft activities for youth provided by 4-H and the Ithaca Children's Garden. Youth can learn about composting from Cooperative Extension educators, or make "Farm Critter Cootie Catchers" snack mix with the Tompkins County Ag-in-the-Classroom program. Other organizations providing displays or activities include Catholic Charities, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Multicultural Resource Center and the Tompkins County Dairy Princess program.

This annual neighborhood festival is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Eat Smart NY! and the Multicultural Resource Center, with the generous support and assistance of P&C Market. For more information, call Debbie Teeter at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 272-2292.

## Letters Policy

Tompkins Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. In order to run letters in a timely fashion, they should be no longer than 300 words. Letters should be e-mailed to [wrols@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:wrols@twcnny.rr.com), or mailed to P.O. Box 6404, Ithaca, NY 14851. Please include name, address and the best way to reach you for confirmation.

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# Briefly...

## National LGBT Advocate to Speak at IC

Former Ithaca Common Council member Roey Thorpe, who has worked on behalf of civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans for the past 20 years, will serve as the National Coming Out Day speaker at Ithaca College. Thorpe's talk will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in Clark Lounge, Egbert Hall. It is free and open to the public.

Thorpe currently serves as the advocacy services director for the Equality Federation, where she helps build the political power of grassroots LGBT organizations across the country. She has previously worked at Empire State Pride Agenda, Freedom to Marry and Basic Rights Oregon, where she played a large role in helping pass a state nondiscrimination bill and a comprehensive domestic partner bill. In 1994 she became the first openly LGBT elected official in Tompkins County when she was elected to Common Council.

Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, the observance of National Coming Out Day is intended to advance open and respectful dialogue about the lives of LGBT people and their family and friends. For more information contact Lisa Maurer at 274-7394 or lmaurer@ithaca.edu.

## Lifton Hosts Meeting on Redistricting

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton will host a "Roundtable on Redistricting" on Wednesday, Oct. 10, from 1-3 p.m. in the Ithaca Town Hall. She will be joined by Assemblyman William Parment, former co-chair of the New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Apportionment, who will give a brief presentation on the last redistricting cycle in New York State.

Also joining the roundtable discussion will be former Tompkins County Legislator Michael Lane. The event is free and open to the public. Audience participation is encouraged.

## County Democrats Re-Elect Officers

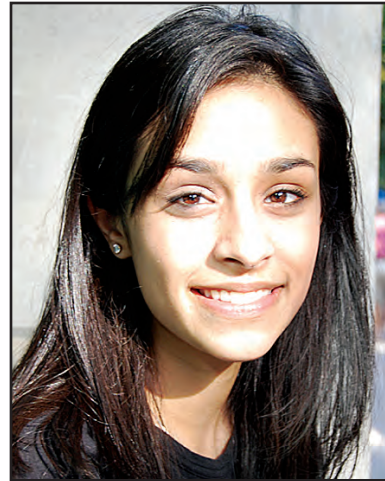
At their annual organizational meeting on Oct. 2, the Tompkins County Democratic Committee re-elected all four officers of the Executive Committee: Irene Stein, of the Town of Ithaca, as chair person; Renate Ferro, of the Town of Caroline, as vice chairperson; Diane Bruns, of the Town of Dryden, as secretary and Lori Gardner, of the Town of Groton, as treasurer.

# Street Beat

The word on the street from around Tompkins county.

By Kathy Morris

Question: What do you have to say about apples?



"I literally eat an apple a day — just ask my roommate!"

- Sameen Qadir, Ithaca/Corning



"They're a wonderful fruit, make great desserts and they're healthy."

- Shirley Loomis, Nichols



"A great fall snack."

- Paul Ruocco, Newfield



"Apples are a great nutritious snack. We have so many great varieties here."

- Nora Shang, Ithaca

Submit your question to **Street Beat**. If we choose your question, you'll receive gift certificates to GreenStar Cooperative Market and Ithaca Flower Shop. Simply log onto [www.tompkinsweekly.com](http://www.tompkinsweekly.com) and click on **Street Beat** to enter.

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# Film Fest Stretches Creative Boundaries

By Andres Perez-Charneco

Camouflage. Counterpoint. Games. Gastronomica. These are the four "content streams" for next spring's Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF). But before the festival kicks off on March 31, anyone with a flair for digital art can participate in this multimedia event.

FLEFF's "ubuntu.kuqala" exhibition invites digital and Internet artists to submit their work for consideration in the upcoming festival. "Ubuntu.kuqala," in the Xhosa language of South Africa, translates to "interconnectedness first," and curators are looking for trailblazing pieces that examine the broader definition of environment. Such pieces range from musical scores set to projected images flashed across a screen, interactive Web sites that encourage users to map their neighborhoods, collages of images pulled from random Internet searches, or computer animation.

The four streams help guide artists in crafting their works and viewers in picking what to see. "We have content streams to attract new viewers," says Tom Shevory, FLEFF co-director and politics professor at Ithaca College. Camouflage, for example, challenges the observer to disrupt his visual fields and re-interpret objects, while Games presents new ideas and concepts through dynamic exchanges. Gastronomica asks viewers to appreciate the mountains of information and evidence in each issue.

By counterpoint, the festival wants creators to defy expected styles and traditions. The "ubuntu.kuqala" digital exhibition further capitalizes on these streams by presenting familiar themes through avant-garde media. Interactivity often defines digital art, particularly the Internet-based art pieces that ubuntu.kuqala co-

both Zimmerman and Shevory in a welcome essay on the FLEFF Web site. "This limited definition of the environment represses the constantly moving vectors...of equality, freedom, social justice, aesthetic innovation, and access to health care."

Using the UNESCO definition, FLEFF pieces help viewers make

"We are trying to get people to see these as exciting new frontiers," says Zimmerman of the salon and the Games stream in this year's festival.

"We want this to be big and complicated," adds Zimmerman. "We are not Sundance. The purpose of our festival is to be provocative and get people to ask questions." Hoping to tap into the area's diverse community, organizers encourage entries from world travelers and foreign residents. "We are particularly interested in collaborative work, interactive work, multiscreen or multichannel work that prompts critical dialogues on the often-repressive aspects of globalization," says Dale Hudson, second co-curator of "ubuntu.kuqala."

Archived materials from last year's digital art exhibitions are available at <http://www.ithaca.edu/fleff/exhibitions.html>. Interested artists should e-mail their pieces to both Sharon Lin Tay and Hudson Dale at [s.tay@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:s.tay@mdx.ac.uk) and [dhudson@amherst.edu](mailto:dhudson@amherst.edu) before the Nov. 1 deadline. FLEFF will begin distributing 2008 festival materials in the early spring, about a week before the March kickoff.

FLEFF does remain active, however. It co-sponsored the Ithaca premiere of "How to Cook Your Life" on Oct 6 at Cinemapolis on the Ithaca Commons. The film about Zen cooking was followed by a panel discussion of local foods and their impact on the whole environment. The event was also meant to generate interest in the upcoming visit of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

*"We are not Sundance. The purpose of our festival is to be provocative and get people to ask questions."*

- Patty Zimmerman

curator Sharon Lin Tay develops. "The Internet offers artists, intellectuals, and activists — and users in general — a new medium for expression, one that is interactive and participatory, and offers simultaneous access to users across territorial boundaries," says Tay about her initial work with FLEFF last year.

IC took full control of the festival two years ago and has moved FLEFF into new areas using the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific (UNESCO) definition of sustainability. "It's not an old-fashioned Sixties hippie view," explains Patty Zimmerman, co-director of FLEFF and film professor at IC. Organizers feel many Americans limit the environment to the biological.

"These popular culture representations of the environment are too confining, too safe, too tame," say

these connections by showing that someone with no healthcare insurance has little reason to care about a grove of trees when threatened with cancer, or how political revolutions can relate to access to a limited natural resource. Both Zimmerman and Shevory believe this broad definition successfully carries the festival from year to year. "We have had several filmmakers tell us we were the most interesting environmental film festival in the country," adds Shevory. Aside from national praise, the festival recently announced partnerships with film festivals in Nigeria and India.

The digital exhibitions further this goal, presenting festival concepts in new media steeped in the information age. Last year organizers sponsored a digital salon where viewers and creators explored the interactive exhibitions and games.

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# Thin Thriller Delivers Promises, Promises

By Nicholas Nicasro

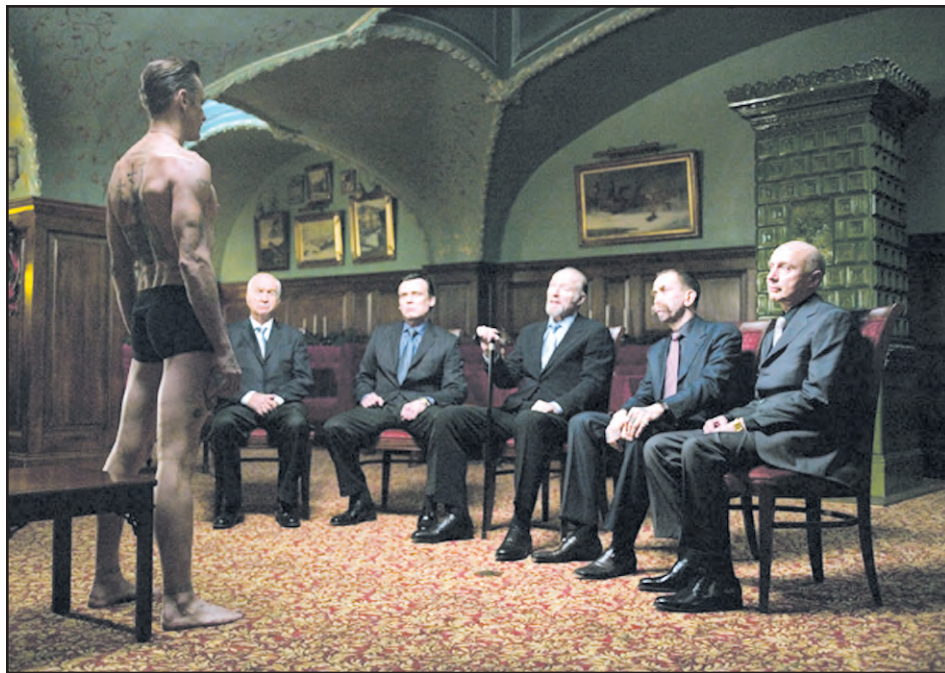
★ ★ 1/2 *Eastern Promises*. Written by Steven Knight. Directed by David Cronenberg. At Regal Cinemas.

I'll start this demurrer from David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* with a confession: I was not all that taken with his last effort, *A History of Violence*, either. Once upon a time, Cronenberg made his name with mordant, sophisticated, utterly satisfying horrors like *Scanners* (1981), *Videodrome* (1983), *Dead Ringers* (1988) and a surprisingly effective remake of *The Fly* (1986) — movies that reimagined the tricks and tropes of visceral horror to say interesting things about our precious, precarious mortality.

Lately he's gone suspiciously "mature" on us, turning out conventional thrillers that seem to crave mainstream respectability. *Spider* (2002), *Violence* (2005) and now *Promises* are, without a doubt, well-wrought, even admirable works compared to most of the Hollywood competition. What they lack are ambition and excitement. Full disclosure: I'd trade the thin pleasures of 10 *Histories of Violence* for 10 minutes of the kind of penetrating horror that was the trademark of early Cronenberg.

*Promises* is set in London — which is strangely empty-seeming here — inside an émigré Russian community now more famous for its organized crime than its beet soup. Anna (Naomi Watts) is a pediatric nurse one generation removed from the old country. When a pregnant Russian teenager (Sarah-Jeanne Labrosse) dies at the hospital after being severely beaten, Anna takes more than a professional interest in the fate of her premature infant. Her inquiries into the mother's life of prostitution lead her to a swank restaurant run by the grandfatherly Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl). Of course, there's something not quite right about the old man. The clan's hatchet-faced driver Nikolai (Viggo Mortensen), meanwhile, is so obviously creepy he must be something other than he seems. As Anna closes in on the truth about the dead girl, she gets unexpected help from Nikolai, who seems to have an agenda of his own.

More should not be said for risk of being accused of spoiling the end, but really, is there anything that isn't completely predictable about the "hood with a heart of gold?" With its deliberate pace, unsurprising menu and air of cool competence, *Promises* is like visiting an eastern European restaurant with a solid reputation, but slightly past its prime. The only truly eye-opening scene is set in a Russian bathhouse, where a buck-naked Nikolai brawls with a pair of blade-wielding Chechen assassins. Give Viggo (who is pushing 50) credit for a healthy body image — he appears to do the entire fight



Viggo Mortensen (left) gets the once-over in *Eastern Promises*.

without resorting to a double. Of his particular assets, there is no longer any dispute. The only question left is why Chechen assassins don't carry guns.

Unfortunately, Naomi Watts offers nothing like Mortensen's fearlessness. In fact, this is perhaps

the most underwhelming performance this talented actress has ever delivered; one imagines any number of other sweet-faced blondes (Diane Kruger, perhaps?) could have brought equal somnolence to the role. Too bad they don't hand out tattoos at pediatric nursing

school the way they do in the Russian mob.

While contemplating an après-film snack of pierogies and sour cream, it occurred to this writer how few of the leads in *Promises* are authentically Russian. Watts is British/Australian, Mortensen is Danish/American, Vincent Cassell (who plays Semyon's feckless son) is French and Jerzy Skolimowski (Anna's father) is a well-known Polish writer-director (*Moonlighting*). Only Mueller-Stahl, who has spent most of his career playing Germans, might be mistaken for a Russian (his hometown in eastern Germany was annexed by the Soviet Union when he was a boy). Perhaps this is just as well — for all it will do for careers of Mortensen and Cronenberg, *Promises* will do little to further the cause of Russian tourism.

To contact Nicholas Nicasro visit [www.nicasro-books.com](http://www.nicasro-books.com).

#### Movie Ratings

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| ★★★★★ | Classic   |
| ★★★★  | Excellent |
| ★★★   | Good      |
| ★★    | Fair      |
| ★     | Poor      |

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# Prepare Household for Sustainable Future

By Katie Quinn-Jacobs

This is the latest installment in our *Signs of Sustainability* series.

As the Chinese curse goes, we find ourselves living in interesting times, and it appears that the future will be even more interesting. Converging crises, known as the three Es — energy shortages, environmental degradation and a precarious national economy — confront us all with the need to change how we organize our households. PreparedTompkins.org is a local resource that can help people prepare for both the short and long term.

When individuals are prepared for

short-term emergencies they are in more control of their circumstances during a crisis; they are less of a drain on centralized disaster relief efforts and they are better able to assist others.

When a lifestyle is sustainable and self-sufficient, over the long term, individuals are better able to provide for themselves and their households; they reduce their ecological footprint and they model self-sufficiency and sustainable living for others.

Building resiliency into a household and sustainability into a lifestyle requires nothing less than a shift from a consumer mindset and dependence on vast global markets

and cheap fossil fuels to a more self-reliant lifestyle and dependence on the local area and community. This is no small transition. Like any significant challenge, it is best taken on in stages, and it can't be done in isolation. But start now by putting together a plan and looking for kindred souls to share the experience.

## The Big Picture

The first step is to take a good look at where you fit into the changing energy, environmental and economic picture. Finding good information is essential for forming a realistic idea about how the big trends will affect a household and how a household can help build the kind of world we'd like to live in. Many books on different aspects of the three Es exist. Be sure to put them to the common-sense test, as not everything in print is practical or constructive.

## Create a Household Plan

Evaluate your personal situation. Where do you stand financially? How large is your environmental footprint? What are your energy requirements? Once you begin to appraise your own circumstances, a clearer vision of where you want to be will emerge.

The purpose of a household plan is to guide these efforts. Write it in pencil, though; adjustments will be needed while moving along a path to a more sustainable future. Check out PreparedTompkins.org for suggestions on developing a household plan.

## Set Quarterly Projects

Changing too much at one time isn't good for a budget or for peace of mind. Follow your plan. Prioritize based on when you'll have the time and money to take on particular projects. Taking seasonal shifts into con-

sideration is important, too.

Having winter, spring, summer and fall projects keeps things manageable and keeps a plan on track. For example, put in a root cellar during the summer that you can use in the fall, prepare garden beds in the fall for planting next spring, assemble a pantry of dry foods in the winter and install an outdoor clothesline in the spring.

## Develop Awareness

Change isn't easy. As a co-worker once said in jest, "I tried change once, but it didn't work for me." Frequently people feel overwhelmed by a task when their awareness shifts.

See-saw reactions are also typical when the seriousness of the crises ahead takes root. Sometimes it feels like a great opportunity lies ahead; other times it feels like a lost cause. Or you may go through a period of feeling like you're overreacting. These are all normal responses to a growing awareness.

## Network with Others

No household is an island. Seek out others who are readying their households and encourage friends, neighbors and family to join in on making the transition. This is a defining moment for our society. Changes in the economy, the environment and the energy scene are going to happen. How we respond to those changes is up to us. The shift to a more sustainable future begins not from the top down, but from each of us taking on the pieces of it that we can so the home is a good place to start.

PreparedTompkins.org offers a number of resources to investigate, including books, Web sites and contacts for local organizations.



Photo by Kathy Morris

**NEARLY NEW:** Victoria Romanoff (left) and Sarah Adams carry two of Romanoff's sculptures into Tompkins County Library on Oct. 1, completing the installation of a new show at the library. Adams and Romanoff curated "Haven't We Met Before? A Personal Look at Recycling: Resurrected Materials, New Functions & Artistic Outcomes." Eight area artists are included, and "resurrected materials" range from broken toys to barnwood, security envelopes to corrugated roofing. The artwork will be on display through December.

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games by [playwithyourmind.com](http://playwithyourmind.com)

**Word Tease**  
 To play, tease apart the two words of equal length that have been merged. The letters of each word appear in correct sequence within the puzzle. Example: **GAME + TEST = GATESMET**

**Toggle**  
 To play, adjust each letter in the puzzle up or down one spot in the alphabet in order to make a word. For example: **SDTU -> TEST** (red = down, blue = up)

|                |        |        |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| GRUBOATY       | MJDT   | DSBVM  |
| SCHOOLSTE      | LHCODX | DPMTTF |
| SHOUTONGLUED   |        |        |
| ACIDCLEALAIMLY |        |        |

**Numbles**  
 To play, place each of the five numbers into one of the available slots such that the equation is valid.

2 3 4 7 9    8 + 6 - 7 0 + 1 - 5 = 6

answers available at <http://tompkinsweekly.com>  
 play original word games, logic puzzles & other brain games  
<http://playwithyourmind.com>

# 'Terrible Lizards' Still Drawing Crowds

By Larry Klaes

While our knowledge of the world as it existed millions of years ago is often incomplete at best, this has never stopped scientists and others from continuing to glean as much as possible from the remaining clues of those very distant eras.

This is especially the case when it comes to the age of the dinosaurs, which roamed Earth for over 160 million years, until a large planetoid or comet struck our planet 65 million years ago and ended the reign of some of the most amazing creatures to ever live.

Neither the deadly blow from a space rock nor the incredibly long stretches of time between the dinosaurs and our present day has dampened the palpable enthusiasm for these "terrible lizards" by young and old alike. This strong interest in the dinosaurs and their world was in evidence on an evening in September when a large crowd gathered under the Museum of the Earth's right whale skeleton for a lecture by John Gurche titled "Behind the Scenes in Jurassic Park."

Gurche, a world-renowned paleoartist and the artist-in-residence for the past year at the Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) and its Museum of the Earth (MOTE), was hired by film director Steven Spielberg to be the dinosaur specialist for his 1993 epic *Jurassic Park*.

To summarize the plot of the film for his listeners, Gurche chose a young boy from the audience to describe *Jurassic Park*. "It was a theme park with dinosaurs. The dinosaurs got out and started killing people," he child said.

While *Jurassic Park* was indeed a very action-oriented (and a very high-grossing) piece of Hollywood entertainment, there was more to the film than just watching animatronic and computer-generated dinosaurs chase after a bunch of actors. The film vividly presented to the mainstream public for the first time the "dinosaur renaissance"



Photo by Kathy Morris

**Paleoartist John Gurche answers questions following his slide lecture at the Museum of the Earth on Sept. 14. Gurche entertained and informed an audience of about 85 community members of all ages with tales from the set about his involvement in the making of *Jurassic Park*.**

that had begun with Yale University paleontologist John H. Ostrom in 1969. His papers on the dinosaur genus known as *Deinonychus* (better known as the raptors) began to change the prevailing view of dinosaurs as "big, slow, stupid, tail-dragging and cold blooded" Gurche said.

Instead, scientists began making discoveries that showed dinosaurs to be just the opposite of previous decades of thought on these "terrible lizards." The evidence being chiseled from the ground revealed a diverse group of creatures that were fast, smart and apparently warm blooded — not at all inferior to the mammals as some had speculated.

The creators of *Jurassic Park* were obsessed with making the dinosaurs in their film look and behave as they did during the Mesozoic Era. They had seen Gurche's artwork of two dinosaurs in battle on the cover of Robert T. Bakker's book "The Dinosaur Heresies: New Theories Unlocking the Mystery of the Dinosaurs and

Their Extinction," first published in 1986, and were impressed both with Gurche's artistic skill and his efforts to depict dinosaurs in a realistic fashion based on the current and sometimes controversial evidence about them.

Hired by Spielberg's film company, Amblin Entertainment, to be their dinosaur specialist, Gurche first began working on one of the most famous dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, and of all time — the *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

"This was the first time that a *T. rex* was portrayed in a film realistically," noted Gurche, who depicted the creature as a fast and dangerous predator that did not drag its long tail along the ground as once thought. The other popular dinosaur species in *Jurassic Park*, the Velociraptors, were also shown as swift, smart and deadly predators that hunted in packs. Gurche likened these two dinosaur species to "foul-smelling, nasty-tempered chickens with switch blades."

Of course, *Jurassic Park* was an action-adventure film, not a docu-

mentary, so not everything about the dinosaurs in this epic could be accurate. When the film was being produced in the early 1990s, all known Velociraptor species were actually smaller than an average human being, but Spielberg wanted the ones in his film to be larger in order to be more frightening. Ironically, a raptor species named *Utahraptor* was discovered during that time which was quite large in comparison to its brethren.

Another example of modern guesswork and the needs of Hollywood invading the film was prominently displayed with the *Dilophosaurus*, better known as the "spitting dinosaur." There is no scientific evidence for either the fan crest that ballooned around *Dilophosaurus*' head or its ability to spit poison to defend itself and catch prey. Gurche said these features came about from an earlier idea in the plot of *Jurassic Park* that was later dropped, leaving *Dilophosaurus* with its fan crest intact.

Thanks to the dinosaur renaissance and *Jurassic Park* bringing it to the general public, dinosaurs have received a new level of respect beyond their established place as creatures of fascination. New ideas about dinosaurs are also more readily accepted (or at least better considered) by the scientific community these days. The idea that certain species of dinosaurs did not die out but evolved into modern day birds is one prime example. Along the same lines, certain dinosaurs like Velociraptor may have actually had feathers, though it is conjectured these were for display rather than flight.

Projecting a small modern bird on the screen, Gurche ended his lecture by asking the audience: "Did this cute fellow come from a Velociraptor?" As science improves its investigative techniques and further opens its mind to the world of the "terrible lizards," these and other questions about everyone's favorite prehistoric beasts will be answered.

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# Tompkins County Community Calendar..

October 2007

## 8 Monday Columbus Day

7th Annual Fall Harvest Festival for Kids, P&C Market, 1:30-5pm. Festival events include farm animal displays, pumpkin painting, other hands-on crafts, learn about composting, make a snack & more. Info 272-2292. 212 Hancock St. Sponsored by 4-H, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Eat Smart NY, Tompkins County Ag-in-the-Classroom, P&C Market

Brain Gym 101, Ithaca, 9am-5pm. The training course is engaging and practical. It offers personal benefits to participants while they learn to help others. Location details upon registration. Fee. Info & reg 273-1456 or davidmumm@powerlearn.us

Cayuga Bird Club Meeting: "Song and Song Learning in the Tropical Mockingbird", Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Auditorium, 7:30pm. Carlos Botero will talk about his study of the evolution of song and song learning based on knowledge of the mockingbird's natural history, ecological environment, & genetic relationships. Free. Info 516-376-4587. 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd Columbus Day Grand Jam, Cortland Skate Park, Noon-5pm. Enjoy music by Unseen Reason and Uncle Greg, skateboard competition, bike demo, prizes, give-aways, wear a costume & be eligible for a prize. Fee. Inf753-3021 or www.cortlnad.org/youth/skatepark.htm

Community Walk, Lifelong, 1pm. The walk will be at South Hill Recreation Way-Burn Road, Gadabout will provide transportation. Info & res 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Dryden Senior Citizens, the Dryden Fire Hall, 11:45am. Please bring your own table service. In honor of Christopher Columbus and Columbus Day, the menu will be 4 kinds of pizza, 2 kinds of salad, cookies, soda, & water. The musical program will be presented by a quartet from the Sweet Adelines. Anyone who is 55 yrs or older is eligible to join Dryden Senior Citizens. If Dryden Schools are closed due to weather there will be no meeting. Info millionort@twcny.rr.com

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, 509 Esty St. Over 100,000 selections to choose from. Info www.booksale.org or 272-2223

Hatha Yoga w/Dr. Kasia, World Seishi Karate, 6-7:20pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Infant Care Class, Cayuga Medical Center. The basics on the care and feeding of your little one in the first few weeks. Fee. Info 274-4011. 101 Dates Dr.

Jazz Dance Classes with Nancy Gaspar, Finger Lakes Fitness Center, 7:15pm. Nonmembers & drop-ins welcome. Info 256-3532. 171 E. State St., Center Ithaca, lower level

Lecture: "Save a Forest, Plant Yourself-Toward Sustainable Burial", 201 Friends Hall, Ithaca College, 4pm. A Sustainability Cafe presentation by Joel Rabinowitz and Mary Woodsen from the Greensprings Natural Cemetery Association. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Lifelong, Enhance Fitness-Lifelong 8:30-9:30am; Clay Class 10am-Noon; Transformative Dialogue 10am-Noon; Enhance Fitness-Enfield -Community Center 10:15-11:15am; Open Computer Lab 10:30am-Noon; Enhance Fitness-Ellis Hollow Road Apts 10-11am; Intermediate French II 11am-Noon; Dryden Community Seniors Group (info 844-4454) Noon-2pm; Strength Training-Lifelong 12:30-1:30pm; Northeast Community Seniors Group (info 257-0756) 12:30-2:30pm; Enhance Fitness-Juniper Manor 1-2pm; Community Walk-South Hill Recreation Way (info 273-1511) 1pm; Taking a Closer Look at Internet Explorer 7.0 1:30-3:30pm; Senior Chorus 1:45-3pm; Enhance Fitness-McGraw House Annex 2-3pm; Beginning German I 1-2pm; Exploring Medical Issues Related to Aging from 4 Perspectives 2:30-4pm; Caroline Community Seniors Group (info 273-2029) 5-7pm; Ellis Hollow Community Seniors Group (info 272-0827) 7-9pm; International Folk Dancing 7-8pm; English Country Dancing 8-10pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

"Mandala Musings" Art Show, Lansing Community Library Center. The show will feature mandalas created by the Lansing High School art students in honor of the visit to Ithaca by the Dalí Lama. The show runs Oct 8 thru Oct 22. Free & open to all during regular library hours. Info 522-4939

Music, Hockett Family Recital Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Recital featuring premiere performances of student compositions. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

New Strength Training Class for Senior, Lifelong, 12:30-1:30pm. This class will be slightly more vigorous, hand weights & body resistance will be the main form of exercise. Mats & weights provided but bring own if you have. Info 273-1511. 119 West Court St. Personal Defense, World Seishi Karate, 7:30-8:30pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. Sciencenter Open on Columbus Day, 10am-5pm. Info www.sciencenter.org or 272-0600 or www.discoverytrail.com. 601 First St. Shakuhachi Flute w/Senpai Kim, World Seishi Karate, 6:30-7:30pm. Info www.seishi-

honbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Ulysses Historical Society, Weekly hours Mon 9-11am; Fri 2-4pm & Sat 2-4pm. Open until Dec 1st. Info387-6666

YMCA Basketball League Last Day to sign up, Ithaca YMCA. For adult players ages 18 & older. Games are weekly on either Tues or Thurs from 6-7pm. Session begins Oct 9 thru Dec 13. Info 257-0101

Yoga for Women in Midlife, Soma Living Arts, 7-8:30pm. Explore the possibilities for renewed strength and aliveness, calm and alert mind, with acceptance and compassionate awareness. Info 319-4138 or nishkala@twcny.rr.com 409 W. State St., Groundfloor (back of bldg)

## 9 Tuesday

3-6 Year Old Yoga, yogaAhanata, 3-3:45pm. Info 273-1673 or littlebuddhasyoga@gmail.com. 101 E. Linn St

Adult Basketball League, Ithaca YMCA, 6-7pm. You can build your team with up to 10 players. Games are weekly on either Tues or Thurs. Now thru Dec 13. Info 257-0101

Adult Racquetball League, Ithaca YMCA. The program schedules you against an evenly matched opponent once per week for ten weeks. Runs through Dec 16. There are four divisions based on skill level & experience. Info 257-0101

Diabetes Education Class, Cayuga Medical Center, 4-6pm. Check with your insurance company to be sure the cost of the classes are covered. Info & reg 274-4127. 101 Dates Dr.

Hatha Yoga w/Dr. Kasia, World Seishi Karate, 12-1:20pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Lecture, Clark Lounge, Egbert Hall, Ithaca College, 7:30pm. National Coming Out Day talk by Roey Thorpe, advocacy services director for the Equality Federation and former Ithaca City Council member. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Lifelong, RSVP Meeting 8:30-9:45am; Computer Discussion Group/Open Computer Lab 9am-Noon; Watercolor Class 9am-Noon; Gimme! Coffee Roasting Tour & Tasting 10-11am; The Pain Maze: Finding Your Way Out-Session 2 11am-12:30pm; Watercolor Class 1-4pm; The Bible: Yours, Theirs, and Ours 1-2:30pm; Computers 1 1:30-3:30pm; Science & Religion: A New Dialogue 3-4:30pm; Playwriting Course 6-8pm; Scottish Dancing 8-10pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Lime Hollow Birding Group, Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture, 7pm. Topics include bird sighting's, bird feeder season, Christmas bird count, trips & events. Annual membership fee. All ages welcome. Info 662-4632 or www.limehollow.org. 338 McLean Rd Movement, Music, & Me, YWCA, Cortland, 10:45-11:15am. Parents and their 2-4 year olds participate in fun and creative games, all centered on music. Info & list of classes 753-9651 or stop by 14 Clayton Ave Music, Ford Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Student recital by the chamber orchestra, conducted by Jeffrey Meyer, performing works by Hartke, Mozart, and Bartok. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Pilates, YWCA, Cortland, 6:30-7:30pm. Improve your mental and physical well being through controlled breathing and core muscle movements. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave Sciencenter Storytime! Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Sciencenter, 10:30am. Toddlers and preschoolers are invited for a story reading and related science activity. Included with admission. Children under 3 free. Info 272-0600 or www.sciencenter.org 601 First St Seven Valley Chorus, First United Methodist Church, Cortland, 7pm. Those who love to sing are invited to visit this Chorus who meet every Tuesday. Info 844-4155 or 844-9528. 734 Rt 222, Cortland

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous, 5:30pm every Tuesday. This is an anonymous 12-Step Group of men and women whose purpose is to recover from sexual compulsion. Email scaithaca@gmail.com for meeting info. Info www.sca-recovery.org

Shido-Kan Karate, YWCA, Cortland, 6-7pm beginners age 8-12yrs & 7-8:30pm for adult, ages 13yrs & up. Free week trial. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave

Story Time, The Lansing Community Library Center, 10am. Story Time will resume for children ages 2 & up. Free & open to all. Adult must accompany children. 27 Auburn Rd. Storytime Yoga, yogAhanata, 1:30-2pm. Birth to about 4-5. Info 273-1673 or littlebuddhasyoga@gmail.com. 101 E. Linn St

The English Country Dancers Group, Lifelong Senior Center, 7:30-9:30pm. Dancing every second and fourth Tuesday. All dances taught. Soft shoes recommended. Nominal fee. Info 257-6017 or sallycg@clarityconnect.com. Court St

Toddler Storytime, Tompkins County Public Library, 10:30am. Parents and caregivers with children from 16months-3 years. Every Tuesday. 272-4557 x275

Toddlers Yoga, yogAhanata, 2:15-3pm. Walkers-3. Info 273-1673 or littlebuddhasyoga@gmail.com. 101 E. Linn St

Toddler Time Storytime, Groton Public Library, 10am. Enjoy stories every Tuesday with Mrs. Radford. Info 898-5055

Tuesday Lunch Club, the Royal Court Restaurant, Noon. An informal lunch get-

together on the second Tuesday of the month for bereaved adults. Participants pay for their own food and beverage. Info email dgeorge@hospicare.org or 272-0212. 529 S. Meadow St

## 10 Wednesday

Bereavement Coffee Hour, Hospicare Center, 10-11:30am. Group focuses on the loss of a spouse or significant other; adult children welcome to accompany. Info email dgeorge@hospicare.org or 272-0212. 172 East King Rd., Ithaca

Bereavement Support Group, Hospicare Center, 5:30-7:30pm. For those who have experienced loss within the last 13 months. Free. Info email dgeorge@hospicare.org or 272-0212. 172 East King Rd., Ithaca

Bridging Worlds Interfaith Dialogue His Holiness The Dalai Lama, State Theatre. His Holiness will lead an interfaith session entitled Prayers For World Peace. Info 27-STATE or www.stateofithaca.com

Fearful Swim, YWCA, Cortland, 7:30-8:30pm. Do you have a fear of the water but always wanted to swim? Instructor Flossy Brush has taught for over 50 years. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave

Finger Lakes Fencing Society, Varna Community Center, 5-7:30pm. Meets every Wed. Beginners and Fencers of all levels and skills are welcome. First practice is free. Info 518-231-1091. 943 Dryden Rd.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services Building, 7-8:30pm. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Info 387-8329. Cm. State & Plain Sts.

Hatha Yoga Class, Newfield Elementary School, Rm 68, 5:15pm. The class will include stretching & yoga postures, also breathing & relaxation. Eight sessions. \$5 donation suggested. Info Cathy 564-9955 or Eileen 272-5048

Jazz Dance Classes with Nancy Gaspar, Finger Lakes Fitness Center, 5:45pm. Nonmembers & drop-ins welcome. Info 256-3532. 171 E. State St., Center Ithaca, lower level.

Lecture: "Eight Verses for Training the Mind", by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Time Warner Cable Channel 16 & at www.ithaca.edu, 2pm. The presentation has been sold out, but can be viewed live. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Lifelong, Enhance Fitness-Lifelong 8:30-9:30am; Health Insurance Counseling (call for appt 273-1511) 9am-Noon; Grandparents Helping Children Through Separation & Divorce 9:30-11am; Nurturing Your Creative Self: Landscape 10am-Noon; Enhance Fitness-Enfield Community Center 10:15-11:15am; Chair Yoga-St. Catherine 10:30-11:30am; Enhance Fitness-Ellis Hollow Rd Apts 10-11am; Lansing Community Seniors Group (info 533-4920) Noon-2pm; Intermediate German Group 1-3pm; Excel Class 1-3pm; Enhance Fitness-Juniper Manor 1-2pm; Crafting Circle 1-3:30pm; Shakespeare and Opera 2-4:30pm; Enhance Fitness-McGraw House Annex 2-3pm; Arthritis & Fibromyalgia 2-4pm; Long Term Care Planning Insurance Counseling (appt call 273-1511) 3-6pm; 2nd Wed Night Book Club 7-9pm; Nutritional Learning Exchange 7-9pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Little Explorers Storytime 11am. Borders Books in Pyramid Mall, 257-0444

Music, Hockett Family Recital Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Daniel Pearl Memorial Concert, featuring School of Music faculty members performing in remembrance of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was abducted and murdered in Pakistan. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Parenting The Hardest Job in the World, Dryden Elementary School, 6-8pm. Learn how to talk with your children using the skills Encouragement, Can Do, Choices, Self Control and Respecting Feelings. Lead by Mary Hicks and Judy Horn. Free classes, snacks and childcare (res childcare spot by 9/28). Info 272-2292. 36 Union St.

Seidaiko "Taiko" Japanese Drum Classes, World Seishi Karate, 7-8:30pm. For beginning students. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Sivananda Yoga, YWCA, Cortland, 6:15-7:25pm. This is an interactive stretching and strengthening class. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave

Skills Identification, Women's Opportunity Center, 9-11am. Discover the valuable skills you may have already developed from past career, school, and life experiences, and how they can serve you in your current career goals. No cost to qualifying participants. Reg req. Info & reg 272-1520. 315 N. Tioga St

Wednesday Breakfast Club, Friendly's Restaurant, 323 Elmira Rd., 8am. An informal breakfast get-together for bereaved adults. Participants pay for their own breakfast. Info Hospicare and Palliative Care Services email dgeorge@hospicare.org or 272-0212

Wednesday Night Drumming and Dancing, Moonlight Dancer Studio, 7-9pm. Exploring rhythms and expressive dance, come with your drums and desire to move, bring your friends and families. Info email jml11us@juno.com. 407 Taughannock Blvd

## 11 Thursday

AL-ANON Hope for Today, Meeting open to anyone affected by another person's drinking. 7:30pm 844-4210. 518West Seneca St., Ithaca, main floor

Art Trail Open Studio Weekend, all over Tompkins County, 11am-5pm. Explore art studios, talk with artists, learn how art is made, & buy art in a relaxed atmosphere. Info www.art-trail.com or 800-284-8422

Cover Letter Magic, Tompkins Workforce New York, 10-11am. Topics to be discussed: Traditional and emailed cover letters. Contents of an effective cover letter. Free. Reg req 272-7570 x118. 171 E. State St., Center Ithaca, Suite 241

Fall Foliage Gorge Tour, Robert H. Treman State Park, 11am. Info 387-7041 x131 or www.nysparks.state.ny.us

Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meeting, Human Services Building, Rm 142, Noon-1pm. The Tompkins County Department of Social Services will be holding a meeting open to anyone who may be considering becoming a foster parent and/or adoptive parent and wants more info. Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District and for families who will foster teenagers. 320 W. State St

Girls' Nighth Out, Main Street Cafe, Spencer. Women who want to socialize with their girlfriends in the company of other women are invited to come to the Cafe for dinner and drinks. Live music provided. Info www.mainst-cafe.net or 589-7400

Hatha Yoga w/Dr. Kasia, World Seishi Karate, 12-1:20pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Jubilee Swing, Carriage House Cafe, 305 Stewart Ave., 9-11pm. Bring a friend and dance to great music from the 1920's-1950's. Fee. Info info@jubileeswing.com or 280-9944

Kripalu DansKinetics, Tiamat Studio 139, The Commons, 7:25-8:30pm. Every Thursday. Info Sigrid Kulkowitz 272-0407 or www.flyingleaps.com

Kundalini Yoga Class, YogAnahata, 10:30am. Every Thursday. Info satnam12@hotmail.com. 101 Linn St

Lecture, Johnson Museum of Art, 5:15pm. Prof Ludo Beheydt, Univerite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, will consider the question, "How Dutch Is Dutch Art of the Golden Age?" Info 255-6464

Lifelong, Late-Life Difficulties and Dilemmas 9:30-11am; My Medicare Matters Navigator 10-11am; Poetry Writing Class 10-11:30am; Strength Training-Lifelong 11:30am-12:30pm; Northside/Southside Book Club Noon-1:30pm; Lifelong Senior Theatre Group 1-2pm; Ernst Ingmar Bergman Movie Series 2-4:30pm; Houseplant Care 3-4:30pm; Laureate's Firesides 6-8pm; Couples Pattern Dance Lessons 7:30-9pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Lynn Wiles, Watercress Bistro, Noon-2pm. Performing solo guitar every Thurs. Info www.watercressithaca.com or 257-0823. 2 Hickory Hollow Lane, Ithaca

Making Music Together Concert Series, The History Center, 7:30-8:30pm. Ithaca College concerts at The History Center featuring RAAJA Woodwind Quintet. Free. Info 273-8284. 401 E. State St

Music, Ford Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Student recital by the percussion ensembles, directed by Gordon Stout and Conrad Alexander. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Music, The Watercress Restaurant, 8pm. Every Thurs evening great music of all styles will be showcased with two 40 minute performances. Info 257-0823

New Strength Training Class for Seniors, Lifelong, 11:30am-12:30pm. This class will be slightly more vigorous, hand weights & body resistance will be the main form of exercise. Mats & weights provided but bring own if you have. Info 273-1511. 119 West Court St.

Open Computer Lab, Lifelong, 1-3pm Drop in for free internet access, one-on-one tutoring or computer help. Beginning and advanced learners are welcome. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Out of Bounds, WEOS-FM 88.1, 7pm. This weekly interview program will feature host Tish Pearlman in conversation with writer Thaddeus Rutkowski who is the author of two highly regarded novels, Roughhouse and Tetched. Info 277-4128 or www.outofboundradioshow.com

Pilates, YWCA, Cortland, 6:30-7:30pm. Meets every Tues & Thurs. Improve your mental and physical well being through controlled breathing and core muscle movements. Now Prenatal Yoga Classes 5:30-7pm. Diane Fine. Info fineyoga@yahoo.com 564-3690 or dianefineyoga.com

Preschool Storytime, Tompkins County Public Library, 11am. Parents and caregivers with children ages 3 yrs and up. Info 272-4557 x275 or www.tcpl.org.

Senior Theatre Troupe, Lifelong, 1-2pm. Meets every Thursday. Accepting new members, all levels of experience welcome, Instructor Sue Perlug. Info 273-1511 or www.tclifelong.org. 119 W. Court St

Shido-Kan Karate, YWCA, Cortland, 6-7pm beginners age 8-12yrs & 7-8:30pm for adult, ages 13yrs & up. Free week trial. Class run Sept 11 thru Nov 1. Held Tues & Thurs. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave

The History of Life, Museum of the Earth, 5:30-6:30pm. Week Six: Mammals Rule a World of Change: The past, present, and future of mammalian dominance of Earth. Info 273-6623 or www.museumoftheearth.org 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Route 96 Ithaca  
Writing Room-Writing Through the Rough Spots", 7-9pm. A 10-week workshop for men and women facilitated by Ellen Schmidt to help create clarity about challenging situations. Info, location, fee, reg schmidt.ellen@gmail.com or 273-4489

## 12 Friday

Art Trail Open Studio Weekend, all over Tompkins County, 11am-5pm. Explore art studios, talk with artists, learn how art is made, & buy art in a relaxed atmosphere. Info www.art-trail.com or 800-284-8422

Back to Democracy Presents: Michael Moore's SICKO, Trumansburg Fire Hall, 7pm. The words "health care" and "comedy" aren't usually found in the same sentence but in this movie they go together. Donations appreciated. Info www.BackToDemocracy.org. Main St., Rt 96  
Book Reading with Pratho Sereno, the Bookery II, 6pm. Pratho Sereno is on tour with her new illustrated gift-book, Causing a Stir: The Secret Lives & Loves of Kitchen Utensils. Info 273-5055

Lifelong, Enhance Fitness-Lifelong 8:30-9:30am; Coffee Time 9:30-11:30am; Strength Training-St. Catherine 9:30-10:30am; Chair Yoga-Lifelong 10-11am; Sports Technology 10am-Noon; Beginning Bridge Group 10am-Noon; Enhance Fitness-Ellis Hollow Rd Apts 10-11am; Enhance Fitness-Enfield Community Center 10:15-11:15am; Intermediate Spanish II 11am-Noon; Tai Chi Class 11:30am-12:30pm; Enhance Fitness-Juniper Manor 1-2pm; Line Dancing 12:50-1:50pm; Beginning Mahjong Class 1-3pm; Open Computer Lab 1-3pm; Enhance Fitness-McGraw House Annex 2-3pm; Square, Line, & Polka Dancing 2-4pm; Scrabble & Board Games 3-4:30pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Movie Night, Borders Books in Pyramid Mall, 6:30-8pm. We'll show movies that appeal to kids age 5-10. 257-0444

Music, Ford Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Shirley and Chas Hockett Chamber Music Concert Series presentation featuring the Kavafian-Schub-Shifrin Trio performing works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Bruch and Bartok. info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153  
Musicians Workshop and Contra Dance-with Randy Miller, Bethel Grove Community Center, 5-7pm. Miller will lead a Musician's Workshop. After a pot-luck supper, he'll join guitarist Tom Hodgson and caller Ted Crane to present a New England Contra and Square Dance at the same location, 8-11pm. Info 273-8678 or www.randymillerprints.com or tedcrane.com/TCCD/. 1825 Slaterville Rd. Rt 79  
New Strength Training Class for Seniors, St. Catherine of Siena Church, 9:30-10:30am. This class will be slightly more vigorous, hand weights & body resistance will be the main form of exercise. Mats & weights provided but bring own if you have. Info 273-1511. 302 St. Catherine Circle

Pajamarama Storytime, Barnes & Noble, 7pm. Join us for stories for preschool & elementary age children. Juice & snacks provided, pj's welcome. Info 273-6784 or www.BN.com

Preschool Story Hour at Southworth Library, Dryden, 10am. No sign-up required - just come and enjoy stories, activities and refreshments. We are also looking for volunteer readers for this program. 844-4782

Pumpkin Jam, Ithaca Children's Garden, 5-8pm. Bring a carved pumpkin to enter in a contest or buy one and carve at the event. Music by Sugar in the Raw. Free & open to all. Info lam26@cornell.edu or 272-2292

Rookie Reader Storytime, Barnes & Noble, 10:30am. Join us for stories perfect for infants & toddlers. Activities will follow. Info 273-6784 or www.BN.com

Silver Service Lecture Series, Dewitt Clinton Auditorium, Kendall at Ithaca, 2-3pm. Rob Mackenzie, MD President and CEO Cayuga Medical Center will present "State of the Medical Center". Info 274-4498

Story Hour at Lansing Community Library Old Town Hall, Lansing. 2 yr olds: 10-10:20am. 3 yr olds: 10:30-11am. All children with care provider. Info: Susan 266-0266

Ulysses Historical Society, Weekly hours Mon 9-11am; Fri 2-4pm & Sat 2-4pm. Open until Dec 1st. Info387-6666

Voter Registration Deadline, This is the deadline to register for a political party in order to vote in the Presidential Primaries in February, as well as the local Dryden Election in Nov. Info 274-5522 or www.tompkins-co.org/boe

## 13 Saturday

3-6 Year Old Yoga, Namaste Montessori School, 2-2:45pm. Info 273-1673 or littlebud-dhasyoga@gmail.com. 1608 Trumansburg Rd  
6-9 Year Old Yoga, Namaste Montessori School, 3-3:45pm. Info 273-1673 or littlebud-dhasyoga@gmail.com. 1608 Trumansburg Rd  
AARP Safe Driving Course, Lifelong, 9am-1pm. This course will teach defensive driving techniques & include info on age-related cognitive and physical changes that affect driving. Two 4hour classes. Pre-reg & info www.tclifelong.org or 273-1511. 119 W. Court St  
Apple Harvest, Bakers Acrea, 11am-3pm. Enjoy a petting zoo, Alpacas, CNC reptiles, wagon rides, cider press demonstration, pick apples, cider, & more. Info 533-4653 or

www.bakersacres.net. 104 Auburn Rd., Rt 34, N. Lansing

Archeology Open House, Robert H. Treman State Park, 1-4pm. Cornell students in archeology invite the public to come and watch a "dig in progress" at the Upper Park. Visitors can ask questions about what has been found. Fee for parking. Info 387-7041 x131. Rt 327, Ithaca

Art Trail Open Studio Weekend, all over Tompkins County, 11am-5pm. Explore art studios, talk with artists, learn how art is made, & buy art in a relaxed atmosphere. Info www.art-trail.com or 800-284-8422

Brain Gym 101, Ithaca, 9am-5pm. The training course is engaging and practical. It offers personal benefits to participants while they learn to help others. Location details upon registration. Fee. Info & reg 273-1456 or davidmumm@powerlearn.us

Craft/Rummage Sale, 51 Port Watson St., Cortland, 8am-2pm. The Holidays are coming, come shop and enjoy other peoples company. Coffee, donuts & lunch available for small fee. Crossing Borders, Upstairs at Pancho Villa, 8pm. Crossing Borders features the jazz styling of Trio East and Jeff Campbell. Performance airs simultaneously on 93.5 WVBR. Fee. Info www.wvbr.com or www.crossingborderslive.org. 602 West State St

Explorers Storytime 11am at Borders Books in Pyramid Mall, 257-0444

Families Learning Science Together, Thaler Howell Programming Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 2nd Saturday of the month, 1:00-2:00PM. (607) 254-8256 or kdilley@ccmr.cornell.edu

Family Storytime Tompkins County Public Library. 11:30am-12pm. Free. www.tcpl.org, 272-4557 x275.

Fossil ID Day, Museum of the Earth, 10am-Noon. Info 273-6623 or www.museumoftheearth.org 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Route 96 Ithaca

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, 509 Esty St. Over 100,000 selections to choose from. Info www.booksale.org or 272-2223

"Hormonal Imbalance, A Mood Swinging Muscial Revue", Center for the Arts Homer, 8pm. Described as "the estrogen fueled, hilarious new show that celebrates the best of Babes, Boys and Botox." Tix & Info www.center4art.org or 749-4900. 72 S. Main St., Homer

Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance Strength in Numbers Run/Walk, Cornell Plantations. Raise money to help people with cancer. Info & reg www.ibca.net or 277-0960

Jazz Dance Classes with Nancy Gasper, Finger Lakes Fitness Center, 11am. Beginners. Nonmembers & drop-ins welcome. Info 256-3532. 171 E. State St., Center Ithaca, lower level

Lifelong, Men's Group 9am-10am; AARP Safe Driving Course-pre-reg req 9am-1pm; Saturday Writing Group 1:30-3:30pm. Info 273-1511. 119 W. Court St

Luis Francia Presentation, Ezra Cornell Reading Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 11am-Noon. Luis Francia will present the lecture Longing and Belonging: the idea of Home in Literature. Free & open to all. Info 272-4557 x255

Morning Story Time 10am. Caroline Community Library 2670 Slaterville Rd. Slaterville Springs. www.tcpl.org  
Movement/Meditation/Poem-Making Workshop with Pratho Sereno, Eco-Village, 10am-4pm. For writers & non-writers alike-your poems will serve as messages to your from your own heart. Info 277-2483

Native Plant Society's Annual Seed Collecting Foray, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 1pm. Take part in this outing to gather native plant seeds that become plants for the May plant sale. Carpool to a determined location. Will be cancelled if weather is not suitable. Info 254-7235 or 257-4853. Free & open to all. 615 Willow Ave

Night of Great DJ'd Swing Music and Dance, St. Paul's Church, N. Aurora and Court St., 8:30pm-Midnight. Lessons 7:30-8:30pm. Enjoy an evening of blues, big band, smooth jazz, lindy, west coast, jitterbug, charleston, & balboa. Free lessons. Fee for admission. Info www.ithacaswing.org

Open Community Drum Circle, Stewart Park NW corner (warm weather permitting) or inside at the Alternative Community School, 111 Chestnut St., Ithaca, 6pm. Bring your family and friends, lots of extra drums available. Potluck optional. Info ecstacy2@earthlink.net  
Open Family Swim Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden. 11am-1pm. Fee. 844-8222

Piano & Guitar Lessons, YWCA, Cortland, 10-10:30am piano, 10:30-11am guitar. Lessons are for children ages 5yrs and up. Info & list of classes 753-9651 or stop by 14 Clayton Ave

Public Skating, Community Recreation Center, Ithaca, 8:30-10pm. 277-7465

Scarecrow Celebration, Ithaca Children's Garden, 1-4pm. Celebrate scarecrows & everything autumn. Create your own scarecrow, harvest-themed hands on activities, create a seed mosaic & more. Free. Info lam26@cornell.edu or 272-2292

Sciencenter Showtime! "Japanese Stories", Sciencenter, 2pm. Participate in a fun, interactive, science-themed presentation as part of the new fall exhibition "Japan and Nature: Spirits of the Seasons". Included with admission. Info 272-0600 or www.sciencenter.org. 601 First St

Seidaiko "Taiko" Japanese Drum Classes, World Seishi Karate, 4pm. For ongoing students. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in

Varna)

Self Defense for Women, YWCA, Cortland, 9:30am-12:30pm. This course is designed and taught by a woman. Learn the principles of self-defense at this one-day class. Info 753-9651. 14 Clayton Ave

Take a Shot at Hockey, The RINK, 9:30-11am. Ithaca Youth Hockey Association and Tompkins Girls Hockey Association have partnered to offer a special event for prospective hockey players ages 4 and up. Coaches will be available to answer questions and lead on-ice activities. Info 273-3921 or 539-6920. 1767 E. Shore Dr. Rt 34

The Art and Culture of Tibet, Johnson Museum, 1-4pm. In honor of the Dalai Lama's visit to Ithaca, celebrate Tibetan art and culture with performances, activities, and tastes. A shuttle from Cornell's A lot will run 12:45 to 4:30pm. Free. Info 255-6464

Toddlers Yoga, Namaste Montessori School, 1-1:45pm. Walkers-3. Info 273-1673 or littlebudhdhasyoga@gmail.com. 1608 Trumansburg Rd

Trail Blazers, Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture, 10am-2pm. 2nd Saturday of month. Teens help clearing, roughing trails & building bridges. Grades 6-12 age 11-18. Fee for pizza. Info 758-5462. 3091 Gracie Rd., Cortland

Ulysses Historical Society, Weekly hours Mon 9-11am; Fri 2-4pm & Sat 2-4pm. Open until Dec 1st. Info387-6666

Waldorf in Ithaca Open House, Ithaca Waldorf Initiative at Southside Community Center at 305 South Plain St., 10am-Noon and Stone Circle School at 399 Turkey Hill Rd., 1-3pm. Visit a mixed-age kindergarten in downtown Ithaca. There will be a simple craft, seasonal song & verse, free play, snack & story. In the afternoon visit Stone Circle School which focuses on the healthy development of the whole child. Info www.ithacawaldorf.org or 272-2221 or www.stonecircleschool.org or 273-5184

Wilderness Survival Day, Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture, 9am-2:30pm. Join the Boy Scouts of America & learn about basic wilderness first aid, edible plants, shelter building, water purification, ground to air signals, land navigation, proper outdoor recreation clothing. Also primitive cooking, deer hide tanning & more. Reg at Visitor Center. Info 662-4632 or www.limehollow.org. 338 McLean Rd

## 14 Sunday Earth Science Week

2007 Ithaca CROP Walk, DeWitt Park, Ithaca, 1:30pm. Help "Defeat" hunger locally and globally. Info pqmc@aol.com or 351-4760  
Alyssa's Run, Country Music Park, Cortland. 5K Run/Walk/Kids Fun Run in memory of Alyssa Marko. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Pediatric Oncology Unit at Upstate Medical University. Info www.ferroplusferro.com/alyssarun or rmarko@twcny.rr.com

Art Trail Open Studio Weekend, all over Tompkins County, 11am-5pm. Explore art studios, talk with artists, learn how art is made, & buy art in a relaxed atmosphere. Info www.art-trail.com or 800-284-8422

Bound For Glory: Dakota Dave Hull, Cul de Snack, the Cafe at Anabel Taylor Hall, 8-11pm. Welcome back one of the most tasteful guitarists. A charming, good humored performer. Free. Info 844-4535 or email pds10@cornell.edu. Listen to the broadcast on WVBR 93.5

Cayuga Bird Club Field Trip, Lab of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Rd., 7am. Meet at the visitor parking lot for an all-day field trip to where the birds are. Bring snack & lunch. Info tbj4@cornell.edu

Cayuga Chamber Orchestra Chamber Concert, Unitarian Church of Ithaca, 4pm. Martinu: Duo No. 2 for Violin and Cello, H331; Previn: Trio for Piano, Oboe, and Bassoon; Beethoven: Piano Trio in B Flat Major, Op. 97 "Archduke". Tix & info 273-4497

Cayuga Nature Center Butterfly Release, Cayuga Nature Center, Noon-5pm. A family-friendly Open House will include the staff releasing several varieties of butterflies, displays & demonstrations, take a walk on the trails, climb the four-story treehouse, & more. Free admission & refreshments. Info www.cayuganaturecenter.com. 1420 Taughannock Blvd., Rt 89N

Earth Science Week, Museum of the Earth. Oct 14-20. Celebrate the 10th annual Earth Science week with fun activities. Info 273-6623 or www.museumoftheearth.org 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Route 96 Ithaca

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services Building, 9am. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Everyone is welcome including those who think they may have a problem with overeating, bulimia, or anorexia, or are concerned about someone else. Info 387-8329 or www.foodaddicts.org. Crn. State & Plain Sts., Ithaca

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, 509 Esty St. Over 100,000 selections to choose from. Info www.booksale.org or 272-2223

Hike, Meet at Ithaca Shopping Plaza behind Taco Bell, 1pm. The Cayuga Trails Club will lead a 4.5 mile hike through Arnot Forest. Info www.cayugatrailsclub.org or 257-6906

Ithaca Community Drummers & Dancers, NW Corner Stewart Park, 2pm. Come share and help create an International Rythm Experience. Open to all who want to drum and dance as one

Lecture, Iger Lecture Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. Guest lecture by Karel

Husa, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and the 2007-8 Visiting Professor of Composition, speaking about his music. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Mother-Daughter Book Club, Tompkins County Public Library, 1:30-2:30pm. The group will meet once a month for seven months. The first title to be discussed is John Riley's Daughter by Kezi Matthews. Girls ages 10-13 and the special women in their lives. Info www.tcpl.org or 272-4557 x277

Music, Ford Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 4pm. Recital by the Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jeffrey Meyer, performing works by Lamb, Rimsky-Korsakov and Beethoven. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Wildlife Habitat & Fall Foliage Tour, Arnot Forest, 10am-Noon. Visit demonstration plantings of wildlife shrubs, & see examples of habitat management for grassland wildlife, & more. Fee. Info & reg 535-7161. Schuyler County Rt 13, 1 mile North of Rt224 between Cayuta & Van Etten. Sponsored by CU Dept of Natural Resources and Cornell Cooperative Extension

## 15 Monday Earth Science Week

"Conservation of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker: The power of science in an imperfect world", Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Auditorium, 7:30pm. Jeff Walters will discuss the plight of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the power that scientific knowledge has to win out over obstacles & push the species forward. Free. Info www.birds.cornell.edu. 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd  
Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale, 509 Esty St. Over 100,000 selections to choose from. Info www.booksale.org or 272-2223

Hatha Yoga w/Dr. Kasia, World Seishi Karate, 6-7:20pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Jazz Dance Classes with Nancy Gaspar, Finger Lakes Fitness Center, 7:15pm. Nonmembers & drop-ins welcome. Info 256-3532. 171 E. State St., Center Ithaca, lower level

Lecture: "Career Planning in the Environmental Field and Trends Affecting Environmental Careers", 201 Friends Hall, Ithaca College, 4pm. A Sustainability Cafe Serie talk by Bob Goldman, director of Global Environmental Programs for Arcadis. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

Music: "The Chamber Music of Karel Husa", Hockett Family Recital Hall, Whalen Center, Ithaca College, 8:15pm. A performance of works by Karel Husa, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and the 2007-8 Karel Husa Visiting Professor of Composition. Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153

New Strength Training Class for Senior, Lifelong, 12:30-1:30pm. This class will be slightly more vigorous, hand weights & body resistance will be the main form of exercise. Mats & weights provided but bring own if you have. Info 273-1511. 119 West Court St. Personal Defense, World Seishi Karate, 7:30-8:30pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd.

Safety in the Early Years, Cayuga Medical Center. Accident and injury prevention, first aid for choking and infant CPR. Fee. Info 274-4011. 101 Dates Dr.

Screening, Textor 102, Ithaca College, 7pm. Out of the Closet and onto the Screen Film Series showing of "Almost Myself: Reflections on Mending and Transcending Gender". Info www.ithaca.edu or 274-1153  
Shakuhachi Flute w/Senpai Kim, World Seishi Karate, 6:30-7:30pm. Info www.seishihonbu@verizon.net or 277-1047. 989 Dryden Rd. (in Varna)

Thriving With Your Spirited Child, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 272-2292. Learn about your child's temperaments and yours, how to develop effective strategies for dealing with temper tantrums, power struggles & other challenging behaviors. Info & reg 272-2292. 615 Willow Ave

Ulysses Historical Society, Weekly hours Mon 9-11am; Fri 2-4pm & Sat 2-4pm. Open until Dec 1st. Info387-6666

Weatherizing and Repairing Older Windows, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 6:30-8:30pm. Learn how to replace worn parting bead, repair sash-cords, re-glaze older windows, & energy efficient treatments. Pre-reg req. Info & reg 272-2292. 615 Willow Ave  
Yoga for Women in Midlife, Soma Living Arts, 7-8:30pm. Explore the possibilities for renewed strength and aliveness, calm and alert mind, with acceptance and compassionate awareness. Info 319-4138 or nishkala@twcny.rr.com 409 W. State St., Groundfloor (back of bldg)

## Submit Your Calendar Listing:

- visit [tompkinsweekly.com](http://tompkinsweekly.com) and click on submissions
  - email: [jgraney@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jgraney@twcny.rr.com)
  - fax 607-347-4302
  - write: Tompkins Weekly  
PO Box 6404,  
Ithaca, NY 14851
- Deadline:** is each Wednesday for the following Monday's paper.

# Genetic Testing Critical for Some Cancers

By Jennifer Moyer

No one will argue that early detection of cancer leads to better treatment and outcomes. Yet, can detecting risk alone be helpful, particularly when “preventive” solutions may include surgical removal of the breasts, ovaries and uterus?

BRACAnalysis is a genetic test that can detect if a woman carries a mutation in her BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes that puts her at higher risk for developing breast and ovarian cancer over her lifetime. Having a genetic mutation does not mean that you will definitely get breast or ovarian cancer, since there are many other cancer-causing factors, such as smoking, age, hormone therapy, radiation exposure, alcohol intake, physical activity, diet and a history of benign breast disease. However, those with a genetic mutation have a “35 to 84 percent probability of developing breast cancer by age 70 and a 10 to 50 percent probability of developing ovarian cancer,” which is considerably higher than the general population, according to a New York Times report.

Most cases of breast cancer do not involve inherited genetic mutations, as the mutations account for no more than 5 to 10 percent of breast and ovarian cancer cases overall, according to

the National Cancer Institute: “At most, about one in ten breast cancer cases can be explained by inherited alterations in BRCA1 and 2 genes.”

So why even consider the test? After all, the simple blood test that analyzes your genetic code will not decipher if and when you will develop cancer. Also, a negative test result doesn’t necessarily mean that cancer won’t strike. While an insurer may pick up the more than \$3,000 for the test, you’ll probably still be footing a \$300 bill after reimbursement. At such an expense, is the test really worth it?

When it comes to ovarian cancer, knowing one’s risk is winning half the battle. While it is not the most common cancer, ovarian cancer is one of the most fatal. Ovarian cancer is an insidious disease that has vague symptoms, making it difficult to diagnose. Usually, once it has been discovered, the cancer has typically already metastasized and three-quarters of all sufferers die.

Yet, “preventive measures” come at a high price to a woman’s body, self-esteem and reproductive functioning. In the largest study done of women with BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, a Journal of the American Medical Association report showed that women who carry

mutated BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes “can reduce by about 80 percent their risk of developing this and other cancers of the reproductive organs by having preventive surgery to remove their ovaries and fallopian tubes.” While having a total hysterectomy may appear to be radical, if a woman knows she has a family history of ovarian cancer at any early age, it can empower a woman to make medical and lifestyle choices, such as having children at any earlier age, or harvesting eggs for future surrogacy.

Research shows that a preventive hysterectomy also can cut the risk of breast cancer by 50 percent. Studies have shown oral contraceptives have reduced the risk of up to 60 percent in women with BRCA mutations. While increased monitoring through MRIs, blood tests and exams can help, these methods do not always provide 100 percent accuracy in detecting the disease.

Similarly, while the range of prevention measures for treating breast cancer — that doesn’t yet or may never exist in an otherwise healthy woman — appear to be drastic, the medical research shows that such radical measures can prevent the disease at a significant rate. Studies have shown that a “preventive” double mastectomy — when no cancer is present — may reduce the chance of developing breast cancer by 90 percent. Medications, such as tamoxifen has been proven to cut the risk in half for women with BRCA mutations. Increased monitoring of cancer through MRIs, ultrasounds of the breasts and ovaries, periodic mammography, blood tests and breast exams are also measures to constantly keep it on the radar.

Still, BRACAnalysis is not for everyone. The company that develops and markets the genetic test is under fire for a public awareness campaign it is conducting throughout the New York Tri-state area since the test is

applicable for a relatively small part of the population.

For those who are at risk, it is suggested that any woman who has the following characteristics discuss if they she is an appropriate candidate for genetic testing with her physician:

- Have a personal or family history of breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age.
- Ashkenazi Jewish descent with a personal or family history of breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age.
- Are male breast cancer patients

In addition to weighing the radical effects of surgery, medication and “wait-and-see” monitoring, psychological concerns also arise with genetic testing. Some may need to think how they will cope with positive test results since this not only affects an individual, but also a family, as others may be at risk. For those with a negative result, sometimes there is “survivor guilt” when other relatives test positive. It is important to consult with a genetic counselor and a licensed therapist specializing in such situations to help discuss the issues that may arise.

In addition, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) seeks to protect those who seek genetic testing. Technically it is still possible one could face employment, life and disability insurance discrimination in the form of higher premiums or cancelled policies.

While genes do not predestine people for disease, they do provide a map of our strengths and vulnerabilities. Not only is it important to know how to read that map, but interpreting and knowing what to do with the results can be even more valuable.

*Jennifer Moyer, BSN, RN is a frequent contributor to Tompkins Weekly. A former Ithaca resident, she now lives and practices nursing in the Boston area.*

## Cornell Earns ‘Best Employer’ Honors

Cornell has been named a “best employer” in 2007 for both working mothers and for people aged 50 and older, two national organizations announced today.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has placed Cornell on its list of “Best Employers for Workers Over 50” for the third consecutive year. “Working Mother” magazine named Cornell to its “100 Best Companies” for working mothers for the second consecutive year.

AARP cited the university’s programs and policies. For example,

Cornell employees over age 50 are offered pre-retirement workshops about planning for eldercare, investing, health and wellness. Cornell retirees can enroll or audit up to six credit hours of courses per semester at no charge, and they automatically become members of the Cornell Retirees Association, which provides numerous work and social opportunities.

“Working Mother” recognized Cornell for the university’s efforts in daycare, childcare and flexibility programs and family-leave policies.

## Halloween Parade October 27th

**A Spooktacular Time!**

Gather in front of the food court at 10am.

Registration is required at our Customer Service booth before the event. The \$2.00 registration fee for each attendee includes the Halloween Bag required for parade entry and trick or treating at the mall stores. Children do not need to bring a bag as they will receive it during registration. Registration begins Monday October 8th; and runs through October 26th. The Halloween Parade is being held in lieu of mall-wide trick or treating on Halloween night this year.



**Check out what else is NEW at the Mall**

New customer service center, now located in front of Borders featuring fax & copy service and mall-wide gift cards

**New Regal Cinema Stadium 14**  
featuring stadium seating and digital surround sound

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The word on the street from around Tompkins county.  
*By Kathy Morris*

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## Writers Wanted

Are you interested in writing for Tompkins Weekly? We are looking to expand our group of writers. Contact Editor Jay Wrolstad at 607-539-7100 or email [wrols@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:wrols@twcnny.rr.com)

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# District

Continued from page 1

must have imagined them threatening to use it on her. How could he tell? He couldn't hear everything clearly on the tape."

Christmas came and went, and in February 2006 one of the boys who called themselves the rednecks held up a sign: "KKK. I hate n---s." The other kids on the bus verified having seen the sign. Two of the boys were arrested, tried and judged to be delinquent. Kearney's daughter was granted an order of protection that should have prevented the boys from being in contact with her, but when she entered high school this fall, she was placed in the same class with one of them. "I gave the school a copy of the order," says Kearney. "It was my understanding that the DA's office sent them one, too. The school said they couldn't find it."

After a week the school district moved her daughter to a different class, but by this time Kearney had had enough. Convinced that Ithaca's school system is not serious about protecting her daughter, she contacted the county Human Rights Commission. "I didn't know any other option," says Kearney.

The HRC found probable cause in her petition and took her complaint to the state. The New York State Division of Human Rights also found probable cause and moved to prosecute the district. Recent moves by the Ithaca City School District Board of Education to claim that the HRC is out of its jurisdiction in investigating the school district have incensed the public and made a cause celebre of Amelia Kearney's case.

"This jurisdictional challenge will affect any school district in New York State," says Kearney. "It's not about race. If they succeed this will jeopardize the rights of kids everywhere in the state, no matter what reason they're being harassed."

ICSD Superintendent Judith Pastel contends that the district is protecting its students and that the district's equity report card addresses the issue of racism in the schools. However, protesters gathered at the Lake Street school board office and occupied Pastel's office for nearly an hour on Oct. 2 to demonstrate their support for Kearney and her daughter. The ICSD has requested an injunction from the Third Appellate Division to stop the Human Rights Commission action, and is awaiting a decision.

Meanwhile, at least on the Enfield bus, things have gotten better, either because the riders have changed, or because the new bus driver for the afternoon run is "nice but strict" according to one student. "What scares me," says another student, "is that our bus wasn't the worst."

## Dryden

Continued from page 1

of Dryden Mayor Reba Taylor to negotiate a town contribution to fixing or replacing the village's aging wastewater treatment plant, Makar says.

Currently, the village has declared a moratorium on adding new customers to the plant, which has stifled business growth around the village, Makar says.

Can Democratic candidate for town supervisor Mary Ann Sumner negotiate with Taylor? "I hope so," Makar says. "We don't want development on Yellow Barn Road or Ellis Hollow Road. We want it where the infrastructure already exists." Democrats, he adds, would like to see the town explore creating its own energy and switch to hybrid vehicles.

Makar opposes creation of a park around the new town hall. "It would cost \$800,000 to level the hill, and it's too far from most of the town," he says.

Marcus says he is not interested in partisan politics. Originally from Michigan, he moved to Dryden in 1973 to work for Cornell and says he wants to keep taxes down "or at least slow down the property tax increases." And, he adds, while the town has little impact on property taxes, access to county legislators would help him push that point across. He is also interested in helping the town preserve historical cemeteries and schoolhouses.

On conservation issues, Marcus says he helped assemble the town's first alternative energy ordinance. "That was to get something into place," he says, "so people could begin applying for NYSERDA grants for solar or wind power installation."

Marcus approves of creating a cross-country ski area at the newly donated land behind the Antlers Restaurant and would consider making a park at the new town hall, "if it isn't too costly."

Along those lines, he thinks Dryden should continue to work with landowners to extend the "linear parks," or walking trails, including the incomplete path that

connects the villages of Dryden and Freeville. The town is now negotiating with George Jr. Republic to obtain rights of way and he believes he can help.

If elected, Marcus says, he believes he can be an effective negotiator. He worked as a counselor and eventually as president of a chapter of the American Chemical Society, where he was frequently an intermediary among various interest groups. "I have negotiated for a number of different types of programs," he says.

Before becoming a chemist, Marcus sold shoes. He did this in high school and college, helping pay his tuition. "I liked that job," he says, "and I learned a tremendous amount about how to convince people to buy a pair of shoes," he says.

## County

Continued from page 3

increase by only six-tenths of one percent from the current-year level; the \$6.80 rate is four cents higher than in 2007, representing only a \$4.23 tax increase for a \$100,000 home.

Former long-time Dryden legislator Mike Lane suggested that the legislature repeal the local sales tax on clothing, as have many other counties, to preserve its competitiveness.

Residents still have the opportunity to comment on the budget at the Legislature's formal public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m.

The legislature is scheduled to approve a tentative budget on Nov. 6, with adoption of the final budget scheduled for Nov. 20.



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