



# Soundings

WINTER 2006

RADIO CATSKILL NEWS



Amy Goodman, host of *Democracy Now*, addresses a packed-house in Sullivan County Community College's Seelig Theatre on October 26th when she made a stop on her book tour. The event was sponsored by WJFF, Sullivan County Community College, and Hamish & Henry Booksellers.

## ***Art Blooms in Winter! The Art Party Returns Feb. 10th***

Following the success of last winter's first ever Art Party, WJFF and NACL Theater are teaming up again for another mid-winter art extravaganza on Saturday, February 10th from 7pm on at NACL's Theater in Highland Lake, New York. The Second Annual Art Party will include a silent auction of some incredible artwork donated by area artists, along with performance art and video installations. There will be a cash bar and some light refreshments. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and all proceeds from the event will go to support the work

of both WJFF and NACL Theater.

NACL's Theater is a unique performance space, home to the company's now year-round performances. It is an old church that was built in the 1920's. It has an ornate pressed tin ceiling that rises 26 feet and makes for not only outstanding acoustics, but a versatile performance space as well.

NACL was founded by artistic director, Brad Krumholz, and actor, Tannis Kowalchuk, to engage actors in a process of creating theater that uses

*Continued on page 8*

## **EMOTIONAL RESCUE CELEBRATES A DECADE ON AIR!**

Congratulations to Kae Kotarski, who is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her great eclectic music program, *Emotional Rescue*, this January. For anyone who's a regular WJFF listener, it's hard not to recognize the familiar strains of her theme music each Wednesday, knowing that Kae's unique mix of pop, rock, world and R&B is going to set things right.

Like many volunteers, Kae was a listener to the station who was drawn in and became a volunteer. It wasn't long before she took on weekly volunteer shift, and soon after that, began to help David Dann engineer the long running weekly live jazz program, *Live from Studio B*.

She began her well-loved eclectic music program—named after the Rolling Stones' song—on New Year's Day of 1997. Since then, she has shared her strong belief in the healing power of music each week. She was looking to produce a program that, as she likes to say, "could suit your mood, change your mood, or take you to another place and time." Kae's a big fan of Van Morrison, Sinead O'Connor, Dave Matthews, Talking Heads, Beth Orton, Michelle Shocked among others. Once a month she features some incredible world music,

*Continued on page 3*

## ***WJFF Welcomes New Members to Board of Trustees***

WJFF is pleased to announce the addition of three individuals to our Board of Trustees.

**Dawn Helms**, who joined the Board in March 2006, was born and raised in Matamoras, New York. She earned a BSW from Mansfield University in 1995 and an MSW from Adelphi University in 2005. She has lived in Roscoe since 2005 and is currently pursuing the next level of New York State Social Worker credentials.

**David Barnes**, who joined our Board in June, is a consultant and seminar leader in international banking, where he has developed expertise over a career of more than 30 years as an executive in major financial institutions including Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank. David is a graduate of Yale University and has an MBA from Columbia University.

**Sheila Dugan**, who joined our Board of Trustees in September of 2006 is a mother and a grandmother and lives in a big yellow house on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware with her cat, many, many books, and her gardens. A pacifist, she lived and worked with Dorothy Day at *The Catholic Worker* in the 1950s. She graduated from City University of New York Law School and became a lawyer at the age of 51. Currently she is a member of the Upper Delaware Writers' Collective, the ACLU, and the National Lawyers Guild.

Dawn Helms, David Barnes, and Sheila Dugan all bring their own passionate devotion and different areas of expertise to WJFF to the Board of Trustees. We welcome them aboard! They join current WJFF Board members Robert Rosengard, Marcia Dunsmore, Ellie Brey, Lisa Lyons and Steve Schick. The WJFF Board of Trustees meet on the second Monday of each month in the Community Room of the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library. The public is welcome to attend.

### **Contact WJFF•Radio Catskill**

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### **STAFF**

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Kurt Knuth	Volunteer Coordinator
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Lisa Lyons, Secretary  
David Barnes, Sheila Dugan, Dawn Helms, Stephan Schick

*The Board of Trustees of Radio Catskill meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Meetings are held at the Jeffersonville Branch of Western Sullivan Public Library on Center St. and begin at 7 pm. Meetings are open to the public (except for executive sessions) and time is provided for public discussion. For further information, call 845/482-4141 or send email to [wjff@wjffradio.org](mailto:wjff@wjffradio.org)*

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### **WJFF MISSION STATEMENT**

Radio Catskill is a non-commercial educational radio broadcaster whose mission is to make available to its community a broad range of ideas and ideals useful to a full and enlightened life. It also aims to involve the community in preserving and transmitting its own cultural heritage and artistic expressions in addition to those of the global community and to promote understanding among people of diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

## GUMBO SHOP'S MARIS HEARN WINS PEACE AWARD

Maris Hearn, host of WJFF's long running show, *The Gumbo Shop*, was one of 10 people honored by Sullivan Peace and Justice (SPJ) at their Fourth Annual Peace Awards Luncheon in November. Each year SPJ



selects a small group of people to honor for their contributions to peace and justice. This year's luncheon drew a packed crowd to King's Catering in Livingston Manor, New York, and Maris was in very good company among those being honored.

Others being recognized this year include: Beth Quinn, columnist for *The Times Herald Record*; Dan Hust, former editor and now writer; and Nathan Mayberg, writer, of *The Sullivan County Democrat*; Kathy Labuda, Sullivan County Legislator;

Al Leibowitz long time county fiscal advocate; L Monique, poet; Pat Pomeroy, Supervisor of the Town of Rockland; Carol Ryan, Director of Sullivan County Public Health; and Fran Hepburn long time

activist.

Maris has been a tireless peace activist and music lover her whole life. Her knowledge of folk music is extensive, and one of the regular features on her program each week is the calendar—an ever growing list of what's happened during the current week in history: births, deaths, significant dates in the peace and justice movement, holidays in many cultures and religions, astronomy happenings of note, and much much more. She's been the keeper of the calendar for

years, and it grows larger and larger all the time.

Maris has been the host of *The Gumbo Shop* since July of 1992. Whether on air or off, her energy is inspiring—doing her *Gumbo Shop* marathon on Thanksgiving Day when she plays music on air until 3am, riding her bicycle 40 miles (the day after undergoing chemotherapy treatment), hauling her own water to her cabin where she lives off the grid, or sitting in the front row of a concert, engrossed in the music. Maris lives life to the fullest—and we all have much to learn from her.

### Welcome Back, Dan!

We'd like to welcome Dan Loiola, host of *Dead Air*, back to the air, and congratulate him on the completion of hiking all 2,175 miles of the Appalachian Trail! He left this area, and his program, in May, heading to Georgia and the beginning of the trail. After crossing through 14 states, eight national forests, and six national parks he arrived at the top of Mount Katahdin in Maine in mid-September. The word is that it takes about five million footsteps to walk the entire length of the trail, going up as high as 6,625 feet and as low as 124 feet above sea level.

While Dan was away, a number of folks filled in as guest hosts for *Dead Air*, the Grateful Dead show that Dan hosts on Friday nights. We'd like to thank a whole crew of folks who helped fill his well worn shoes: John Gordon, Barbara Gref, Russ & Rich Johansen, Rob Lynch, Charlie Sanborn, and Aldo Troiani. Don't worry if you started to really love the selections they played—many of these folks will continue to be regular fill-ins for Dan.

### The Art of Being with Doctor C. Added to Schedule

WJFF Welcomes a new short segment, *The Art of Being*, to the airwaves. The piece is produced and hosted by Deborah Chandler, or "Doctor C", and focuses on psychology and personal growth. In this short segment, listen in for words about taking care of yourself, learning new techniques for communication or maybe how to recognize and deal

appropriately with your feelings. Deborah's long career as a psychologist comes to bear in this segment. And she even welcomes listener questions to address each week on the program. Listen in every Sunday night at 9pm. If you want to send her a question, or topic, to address email to: [heartofbeing@wjffradio.org](mailto:heartofbeing@wjffradio.org).

### 10 Years of Emotional Rescue, Continued from page one

and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is her annual "Show for the People", featuring the Native American music of many genres.

Kae has been actively involved with NAMA, the Native American Music Association, for the past seven years. She travels to the NAMMYS, the annual live awards show to honor the best in today's Native music and musicians, where she has been a regular production assistant for years. This involvement awards her an incredible chance to have access to some of the

best contemporary Native American artists around. And we're lucky enough that she shares these with us on her show.

When not producing radio, Kae teaches middle school, and volunteers with the ambulance corps in her Shawangunks town. We're so glad she finds the time to continue bringing some *Emotional Rescue* to the WJFF airwaves each week. Tune in for her program every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9pm, or listen in the WJFF archives at [www.wjffradio.org](http://www.wjffradio.org).

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### SATURDAY

6:00PM

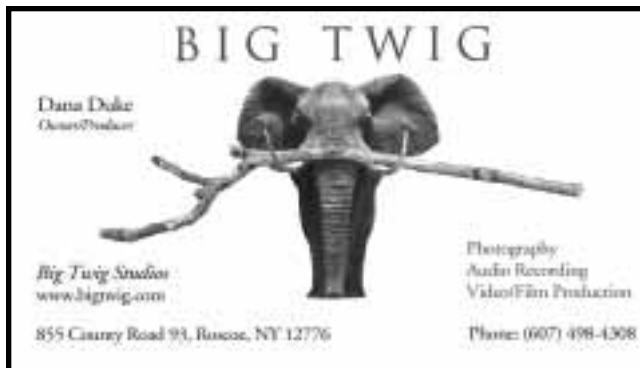
#### SELECTED SHORTS

- 12/9 "Mudder Tongue" by Brian Evenson, read by David Strathairn; "Mr. Badger" by Kenneth Grahame, read by Samantha Eggar
- 12/16 "A General in the Library" by Italo Calvino, read by Isaiah Sheffer; "Exchange" by Ray Bradbury, read by Rochelle Oliver; "A Backward Glance: Henry James" by Edith Wharton, read by Brenda Wehle
- 12/23 "The Long Way Home" by Jhumpa Lahiri, read by Shohreh Aghdashloo; "Indigestion" by Anton Chekhov, read by Bradley Whitford; "A Piece of Pie" by Damon Runyon, read by John Shea
- 12/30 "The Secret of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber, read by Dick Cavett; "Things in the Wrong Hands" by Roy Blount, Jr., read by Isaiah Sheffer; "Renescence" by Edna St. Vincent Millay, read by Barbara Feldon; "The Voter" by Chinua Achebe, read by Arthur French
- 1/6 "Pie Dance" by Molly Giles, read by Kate Burton; "Grandfather Knows Best" by Calvin Trillin, read by Isaiah Sheffer; "Why I Love Cookbooks" by Laurie Colwin, read by Jane Kaczmarek
- 1/13 "The Eyes" by Edith Wharton, read by Charles Keating
- 1/20 Selections from *Operation Homecoming*
- 1/27 "Justice Shiva Ram Murthy" by Risi Reddi, read by Aasif Mandvi; "Bullhead" by Leigh Allison Wilson, read by Dawn Akemi Saito
- 2/3 "The Debt" by Edith Wharton, read by David Strathairn; "Acqua Boulevard" by Maile Meloy, read by Isaiah Sheffer
- 2/10 "Taste" by Roald Dahl read by John Lithgow; "How to Tell a Fine Old Wine" by James Thurber, read by Rafael Sbarge
- 2/17 "The Secret Goldfish" by David Means, read by Charles Keating; "The Other Woman" by Sherwood Anderson, read by Keir Dullea
- 2/24 "The Trouble of Marcie Flint" by John Cheever, read by Fritz Weaver

7:00 PM

#### PIANO JAZZ

- 12/9 Jeremy Siskind
- 12/16 Christmas Special
- 12/23 Matthew Shipp
- 12/30 The Ashby Brothers Quartet
- 1/6 Keith Jarrett
- 1/13 Eddie Gomez
- 1/20 Diana Krall
- 1/27 Marie Marcus
- 2/3 Michel Camilo
- 2/10 Ellen Seeling



- 2/17 Carli Munoz
- 2/24 Ron Carter
- 3/3 John Stetch

### SUNDAY

10:00 AM

#### SUNDAY BRUNCH

- 12/10 Holiday Radio Reflections
- 12/17 Seasonal Sounds
- 1/7 That Was the Year that Was!
- 1/14 Valentinos & Vacissitudes
- 1/21 Yo! Yohannes!
- 1/28 Turandot Intro
- 2/4 American Composers Salute
- 2/11 Brunch Special
- 2/18 America's Songbook
- 2/25 Pipes & Strings
- 3/4 A Breezy Brunch

8:30 PM

#### WORDS OF WISDOM

- 9/3 Rabbi Lawrence Kushner: *Eyes Remade for Wonder*
- 12/3 Deb Shapiro: *Your Body Speaks your Mind*
- 12/10 Neil Douglas-Klotz: *Blessings of the Cosmos*
- 12/17 Shinzen Young: *The Science of Enlightenment*
- 12/24 James Finley: *Christian Meditation*
- 12/31 Pema Chodron: *Noble Heart*
- 1/7 Elisabeth Kubler Ross: *Is There Life after Death?*
- 1/14 Bruce Lipton: *The Wisdom of your Cells*
- 1/21 Delores Ashcroft-Nowicki: *Your Unseen Power*
- 1/28 Marc Gafni: *The Erotic and the Holy*
- 2/4 Eli Jaxon-Bear: *The Enneagram Tapes*
- 2/11 Elaine Pagels: *The Gospel of Thomas*
- 2/18 Gary Renard: *Secrets of the Immortal*
- 2/25 James Hunter: *The Servant Leadership Training Course*
- 3/4 Arjuna Ardagh: *Let Yourself Go*
- 3/11 Fred Kofman: *Conscious Business*
- 3/18 Caroline Myss: *Essential Guide for Healers*
- 3/25 James Finley: *Path to the Palace of Nowhere*

### MONDAY

11:00 PM

#### JAZZ PROFILES

- 12/4 John Coltrane (Part 1)
- 12/11 John Coltrane (Part 2)
- 12/18 Bill Evans
- 12/25 Billie Holiday
- 1/1 Mongo Santamaria
- 1/8 Sonny Rollins
- 1/15 Louis Armstrong: "The Trumpeter"
- 1/22 Ellis Marsalis
- 1/29 Buddy DeFranco
- 2/5 Herbie Mann (1930-2003)
- 2/12 Mel Torme (1925-1999)
- 2/19 Louis Armstrong: "The Duets"
- 2/26 Ray Barretto (1929-2006)
- 3/5 Chick Corea

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**WJFF**  
Community Radio

**Short Features**  
Make sure you don't miss the many excellent short features being produced at WJFF.

*Radio Catskill Cosmic Calendar* airs at 7:19 am on Mondays, 5:59 pm on Wednesdays, and 6:59 pm on Sundays.

*Borders with Ron Bernthal*, airs at 12:00 noon on Tuesday.

*The Art of Being with Doctor C.*, airs at 9pm on Sunday.

*From the Desk of...* with Patricia Adams 10am Monday.

*Take My Word for It* with Carol Pozefsky, 10am Thursday.

*Lost & Saved* with Ron Bernthal, 10am Friday.

\**Jambalaya* and *E-Town* air weekly except for the first Saturday of each month, when WJFF's *Open House*, hosted by Aldo Troiani, is aired.

**The Catskill Kids Show** airs the first Saturday of each month at 1pm.

Locally-produced programs are in grey.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 AM	BBC World Service Overnight						
6 AM	Morning Edition <i>News and Arts Features from NPR</i>					Ballads & Banjos with <i>Sonja Hedlund</i>	Millennium of Music
7 AM							Harmonia
8 AM	Democracy Now! with <i>Amy Goodman</i>					Weekend Edition <i>News with Scott Simon</i>	Weekend Edition <i>News with Liane Hansen</i>
9 AM	BBC News Hour From BBC World Service						
10 AM	Performance Today <i>Classical music, interviews and criticism</i>					Car Talk	Sunday Brunch with <i>Glenn Wooddell</i>
11 AM						Retro Radio with <i>Steve Van Benschoten</i>	
Noon	Afternoon Classics with <i>Gandalf</i>	Music from the Stage with <i>Muriel Goldrich &amp; Martin Sabowitz</i>	Afternoon Classics with <i>Cecily Fortescue</i>	Richter Scale with <i>Steve Richter</i>	Strings Attached with <i>Antoine Magliano</i>	Panorama with <i>Marco Bocanumenth</i>	
1 PM				Country Crossroads with <i>John Bachman</i>	The Friday Forum with <i>Christine Ahern</i>		Jambalaya* with <i>Jesse Ballew</i>
2 PM	City Arts & Lectures	Alternative Radio	Soundprint	Explorations with <i>Michio Kaku</i>	Counterspin	Portraits in Blue	
			Bookworm		TUC Radio		Community Voices
3 PM	Fresh Air <i>Arts Interviews with Terry Gross</i>					E-Town	Giant Steps with <i>Lance Brown</i>
4 PM	All Things Considered					Afropop Worldwide	Le Show with <i>Harry Shearer</i>
5 PM							
6 PM	Free Speech Radio News					Selected Shorts	This American Life
	As It Happens <i>News from Canada</i>						
7 PM	WJFF Connections with <i>Dick Rieling</i>	Crosscurrents Jazz with <i>David Dann</i>	Emotional Rescue with <i>Kae Kotarski</i>	Gumbo Shop with <i>Maris Hearn</i>	Dead Air	Plano Jazz	Gift of Peace with <i>Lisa Brody</i>
8 PM							
9 PM	Like Mother Like Son	Viva la Trance with <i>The Outlier and Nick Forte</i>	Soul Spectrum with <i>Liberty Green</i>	Out, Loud & Queer with <i>Kathy Rieser</i>	DJ Chucks' Old Skool Sessions	Classics for Voice with <i>Heinrich Strauch</i>	
10 PM	Power of Praise with <i>James Hinton</i>						Talking Sports with <i>Michael Barnofsky and co.</i>
11 PM	Jazz Profiles	Viva la Trance with <i>The Outlier and Nick Forte</i>	Soul Spectrum with <i>Liberty Green</i>	Out, Loud & Queer with <i>Kathy Rieser</i>	DJ Chucks' Old Skool Sessions	Classics for Voice with <i>Heinrich Strauch</i>	
Late Night							

## WJFF Staffmember Kurt Knuth Moves On to New Adventures

*Kurt Knuth, who has filled so many roles at WJFF—host of Terrascope, in-house musicologist, audio engineer extraordinaire, stand-in history or geography teacher as needed, and Volunteer Coordinator (the only position he was actually paid for)—has decided to move on to pursue more of his own dreams. We're sorry to see him go, but glad that he's not going far. You'll still hear him on the air as host of Terrascope, still be able to catch up with him for a great conversation, consult with him on some of your favorite music, or pick his brain on just where the headwaters of that obscure river are in the hills of Nicaragua.*

*Kurt has been one of the staff of three at the station, which includes Operations Manager John Bachman and Station Manager Christine Ahern. He was a great addition to the team, and his knowledge, humor, and willingness to pitch in on projects will be a loss in the day to day life of the station. Before he left, we sat Kurt down, and asked him to write a few words about his WJFF experiences.*

Somehow it all began on a cold November night in 1996. An early season snow was falling and the wild inspired sounds of late period John Coltrane filled the little hilltop wooden shack where I had spent my first year living and farming in the Catskills. The radio station was some funky grassroots outfit run by real people and a waterfall over on the other side of the county. As cold night air and sound waves crystallized, there was a moment of epiphany I'll always cherish of the possibilities of the freedom in music, the possibilities for a rich and diverse life in the foothills of these mountains, and of the unfolding possibilities for involvement with the community broadcast gem that is WJFF.

Some 15 months later, buzzing with new radio volunteer enthusiasm, I made my first on-air forays, moderating a dis-



Kurt Knuth

ussion of changing federal organic standards on *Making Waves*, shortly followed by a run guest hosting the Sunday afternoon Gospel program. Every visit to the studios added to the story of engaging personal encounters and the electricity of relevant, independent community broadcast.

The road traveled with Radio Catskill in the years since has had many a twist and turn, though through it all WJFF has remained a touchstone of constancy in my life. I first served as paid WJFF staff in the spring and summer of 2002 helping to organize the *7th Annual Grassroots Radio Conference*. By the beginning of 2003 I had joined the Radio Catskill staff

team permanently and thrown myself into the full complexity, challenges and satisfactions that are the day to day, year to year cycles of broadcast, training, fundraising and the like at WJFF.

At the heart of it, the source of WJFF's vibrancy and success lies with the scores of individuals who give so generously of their time, talent, energy and enthusiasm week after week. The WJFF family is a diverse and inspiring bunch, and it has been my good fortune and great pleasure to work alongside so many amazing individuals during these years. Together I believe we've learned much about radio, community, and friendship, and in turn I trust we'll continue to pass on the same.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to our Board of Trustees and Committees, to our amazing and tireless Station Manager Christine Ahern, staff fellow traveler John Bachman, our unparalleled community of volunteers and contract staff, and to you too, WJFF's dedicated listeners and supporters. It's been a wild and wonderful ride. Together, here's to wishing WJFF great future success!

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## WJFF's Annual Music Sale a Great Success!



Once again, WJFF's annual Music Sale has proven to be one of the station's most successful fund-raising events—and one of the most popular. Music lovers swarmed the White Sulphur Springs Firehouse Hall on November 18th in search of bargains and went home with armloads of records, CDs, musical instruments, stereo equipment and more.

A big thank-you to all who donated items for the sale and the many shoppers for your support!



## NEW TRAVEL BOOK BY RON BERNTHAL

Congratulations to Ron Bernthal, producer of *Borders*, and *Lost and Saved*, on the publication of his new book, *Off the Beaten Path, Puerto Rico: A Guide to Unique Places*. This is an *Insiders' Guide*, published by Globe Pequot Press, and co-authored by Tina Cohen.



tion issues both locally and around the country. *Lost and Saved* is heard Friday mornings at 10am. Both segments can be heard in the WJFF audio archive at [www.wjffradio.org](http://www.wjffradio.org).

When Ron is not traveling, or producing his two segments for WJFF, he is a professor in the business and culinary arts departments at Sullivan County Community College of the State University of New York.

WJFF listeners may be familiar with Ron's travel segment, *Borders*, that airs on Tuesdays at 12 noon. His more recent segment, *Lost and Saved*, looks at historic preserva-

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## RADIO CATSKILL NEWS

### *Art Party*, continued from page one

their impulse, craft and imagination in a process of shared work. They host and produce The NACL *Catskill Festival of New Theater* every summer, bringing original theatre creators and ensembles from across Canada and the United States gather to perform, teach, exchange training, and hold seminars. And now the theater is open year-round for performances of new works.

WJFF and NACL teamed up for the first time last year to present The Art Party. The event was a rousing success, bringing a sell-out crowd out on a wintery night for extraordinary art and performances. We hope you'll join us to benefit both organizations, and the local arts community on February 10th in Highland Lake, New York. For more information, call WJFF at (845) 482-4141.

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