

Alex's Restaurant: A Neighborhood Tradition of Hospitality and Great Food

By Carol Padron

With 100 years of history behind it, Alex's Restaurant, located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, offers a quaint, friendly atmosphere, a menu ranging from the traditional to the trendy – including its famous rice pudding.

Chef and current owner Dimitrios Pertesis purchased Alex's in 2002, after some coaxing from his son Michael, who had worked in the restaurant previously owned by his great aunt and uncle, Nick and Georgia Kapogiannis, since he was 15. Michael now helps his father run the business.

"I wanted us to continue a longstanding family

tradition, as well as to be a part of the renaissance taking place here on Main Street," said Michael Pertesis.

The origins of Alex's Restaurant can be traced back to 1906 when Christopher Pappas immigrated to the United States from Greece and opened a sidewalk fruit stand on Market Street. In 1912, Christopher's brother, Alex, emigrated from Greece and joined his brother. They gradually expanded, moved inside to 3 Market Street, and eventually opened a small restaurant, Alex's Grill.

The Kapogiannis bought the restaurant in 1961 and enlarged it, encompassing the

corner of Main and Market Streets, its current location. Michael fondly recalls learning the family's tradition of hospitality, and the warm relationships his aunt and uncle developed with their customers over the years.

It's that type of relationship that he and his father enjoy continuing with their customers today, and in addition to a warm atmosphere and great food, visitors can enjoy the considerable collection of historical photographs and memorabilia of the City of Poughkeepsie that decorate the walls of the restaurant.

Alex's Restaurant is open Monday–Friday, 6:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Saturday

7:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Take out and delivery services are also available. 452-1125. You can peruse their menu online at www.alexrestaurant.org.



Inside Alex's Restaurant

Mayor's Main Street Vision

As Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, I have many visions for the Main Street area. First, I would like to attract quality retail so that City residents do not have to travel outside of the City to obtain what they need. This will bring many good changes to the area. The additions of the Artist's Palate and the Muddy Cup have attracted visitors from other municipalities to experience all that the City has to offer. We are constantly striving to build quality, affordable housing, and new retailers will make the area even more attractive to those seeking

a place to live within the City. The revitalization of the Luckey Platt building is a much anticipated event and we have met with developers who have set a timeline for success.

Overall, I am looking for the City to be business friendly, homeowner friendly, and development friendly. This especially includes the Main Street corridor, which has so much to offer residents and visitors already and has the potential to offer even more in the future. The City of Poughkeepsie is also offering incentives to business owners

by sponsoring low or no interest loans to entrepreneurs. This is to attract business to the Main Street area and to create more jobs for local residents.

The Main Street corridor will consist of over 300 new residential apartments, planned to be completed in the next few years. It is quickly becoming a mixed-use neighborhood. Not only does Main Street have housing and retail to offer, but it is a cultural hub as well. The addition of several art galleries makes it an ideal place to learn and expose yourself and

family to cultural events.

Over 50 façade grants have been issued to date. I feel that this is imperative to the revitalization, as a fresh, new look will make us a cleaner, more modern City with rich historical roots.

Perhaps our biggest asset is our location. The Main Street corridor has so much potential because of its proximity to the Metro-North Train Station, and the Hudson River. Living, working, and playing on Main Street has never been easier and more beautiful thanks to a revitalized Waterfront and



City of Poughkeepsie Mayor
John Tkazyk

easy access to both New York City and Albany.

I hope that I have inspired you enough to share my vision for Main Street and to help me make that vision a reality.

Downtown News

By Roy Budnik

Welcome to the Spring issue of the newsletter of the Downtown Poughkeepsie Association (DPA). Our goal is to keep all of you who work, live, and visit downtown informed about the business and cultural happenings in the historic heart of the city.

The DPA developed from the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Main Street Revitalization and Economic Development Committees. Our intention

is to develop a sense of community downtown; to promote revitalization; and to act, in collaboration with other business, religious, and civic organizations, as an advocate over the issues that affect our area.

Our first initiatives include the beautification of downtown and the promotion of events. We believe that adding amenities, such as flower pots in warmer months, makes Downtown a more attractive place

to be. That, combined with letting people know what's happening in City restaurants, art galleries and other venues, encourages them to consider Downtown as a destination.

An increasing number of exciting events are held here, like the Barrett Art Center's emerging "Artists' Salon," which invites artists and art lovers to the Muddy Cup on the last Thursday of every month for what have been lively and well

attended performances and discussions. For a more complete list of events, check our calendar in this issue; and if your organization has something you would like to include, please make sure to let us know.

D o w n t o w n Poughkeepsie becomes a more vibrant place to work, shop, dine, live, and visit every day, but it takes the cooperation of everyone to keep it going. If you would like to join in the effort, call

me at (845) 485-6911. I look forward to seeing you downtown!

This newsletter provided by:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CUNNEEN HACKETT ARTS CENTER

June 21, 1-5 p.m. "Strawberry Festival" An afternoon of family fun with entertainment, food, games and activities. This is a fundraiser for the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center and will take place on the grounds of the Arts Center, rain or shine. Info 452-4225.

THE BARDAVON - 25 MARKET STREET

For Children
Young People's Concerts featuring the Hudson Valley Philharmonic
April 8-10
National Velvet (1944): April 18
Young Playwrights Festival: **May 2**
The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley: **May 12-13**
Concerts and Films
HVP IV Rach On!: **April 5**
An Evening with Richard Thompson: **April 17**
Shakespeare's The Tempest: April 26, **May 2**
Dickey Betts & Great Southern: **May 4**
HVP V Make Mine Mahler: **May 10**
Matinees & Music: A Tribute to Bobby Darin **May 22**

BARRETT ART CENTER - 55 Noxon Street

Photowork '08. National juried contemporary photography exhibit. Juror for this 21st annual show is Donna Ruskin, International Center of Photography, (ICP), New York. Opening reception Sat. **April 5, 4-6pm. Gallery hours: Thurs., Fri. 11am-5pm, Sat. 11am-3pm and by appt.**

Solo gallery, local photographer Buck Lewis: **April 5, 4-6pm**

THE CHANCE - 6 Crannell Street

Panic Rev w/ Put out last, Fisting Jesus, Laid to Waste, Catacomb, B.A D., Greg Rapaport Project: **April 4**
The Bo Deans: **April 5**
U F O featuring Vinnie Moore w/ Kristen Capolino Group, Analog Faucet, Livesay: **April 10**
Nevermind (Nirvana Tribute): **April 12**
Limelight (Rush tribute), Z02, Last Call: **April 19**
The Machine w/ Times Of Solitude, Bell Bottom Blues(Eric Clapton tribute): **April 25**
Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi tribute) w/ Nasty Bastard: **April 26**
Glamour Kills Clothing, The Daily Chorus and Jeff Menig Presents:

The First Annual Glamour Kills Pre-BamBoozle Bash: **May 2**
25th Upstate Reggae Anniversary: **May 3**

Rock And Roll For A Cause Part II Chowderhead w/ Bottoms Up, Joe Bouchard (Formerly Of Blue Oyster Cult), WopDonkey: **May 4**
Nightwish w/ Sonic Syndicate: **May 7**
Kashmir (Led Zeppelin Tribute) with David Powers Band, Achilles Heel, A New Theory, Times Of Solitude, Fifty Habit, Times Of Solitude: **May 9**

CUNNEEN HACKETT ARTS CENTER - 12 Vassar Street

An English "drawing room farce" - a classic murder mystery to savor in the mid-winter: **April 4-13**

KIDS EXPO 2008 - Market Street, City of Poughkeepsie - April 5 & 6

Kids Expo 2008 features new, big entertainment: a parade on Sunday, more booths, activities & food. Downtown is a wonderland of learning! Children and their families come together and enjoy interactive, hands-on learning experiences in a fun, safe and educational way. Benefits Rehab Programs; Mid-Hudson Children's Museum; Dutchess County

YMCA; and Jewish Community Center. 10am-4pm both days. \$6, under 3 free.

MID HUDSON CIVIC CENTER

Third Day: **April 3**
2nd Annual Silver Needle Fashion Show: **May 2**

MUDDY CUP, 305 Main Street

Artists Salon. Sponsored by the Barrett Art Center. Featuring artists and writers working in a variety of styles and media. 8 pm on the last Thursday of every month

RENAISSANCE KIDS, INC. - 12 Vassar Street

Musical theater production of "How to Eat Like a Child" - **June 13, 14, 15**
Chasing Daybreak w/ Wonderlust: **May 17**

CIBONEY CAFÉ - 189 Church Street

Jazz Fridays, every **Friday night from 6 - 10 pm**
Sunday Night Blues, every **Sunday from 7 - 10**

SPANKYS RESTAURANT - 85 Main Street

Karaoke: every **Friday night**
Open Mic: every **Thursday night**

SALVATION ARMY - 19 Pershing Street

Roller Skating Nights: **April 11, 25**