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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chamber Kicks off the 2011 Summer Season with a Trio of Special Events

Info Booth Opening, Concerts on the Green and First "Business of Art" Salon

Woodstock, NY—May 19, 2011—The Woodstock Chamber is celebrating three special events over the next couple of weeks:

On Friday, May 27, at 12 noon, the Chamber will officially open its information booth for the summer season. Located at 10 Rock City Road, the info booth is a popular destination for first-time and returning visitors to Woodstock. New this year is info booth manager Rowan Smith-Spanier, a 20-year-old Woodstock resident and May 13 graduate of Pratt Institute's upstate campus at Utica, where she studied painting. Smith-Spanier is pleased to be the new face of Woodstock: "I feel it's very appropriate that an art student will be representing the Colony of the Arts to visitors this summer."

On Saturday, May 28, Jeff Harrigfeld, owner of the Woodstock Music Shop, is set to launch the 2011 season of the Woodstock Chamber-sponsored *Woodstock Concerts on the Green*. Six groups will play on the village green, from 1 to 6 P.M.: Time Travels, Bill Pflieger, Gordon Wemp, Jeremy Bernstein, Doug Yoel and the Dharma Bums. Harrigfeld has booked concerts for seven additional Saturdays over the summer season: June 18 and 25, July 2 and 16, August 6 and 13, and September 3. The concerts are free and open to the public. For details and a complete summer schedule, stay tuned to Facebook, "Woodstock Concerts on the Green."

On Thursday, June 2, at 7 P.M., Lenny Kislin, Yale Epstein and Alex Kveton—in collaboration with the Woodstock Chamber, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) and local artists—will host a special presentation, *The Business of Art: Creating, Surviving and Succeeding as an Artist*. This salon, which the Chamber hopes will be the first of several, will take place at WAAM. Members of the artist community and of the general public are invited to view the world through the eyes of Kislin, Epstein, Kveton and other artists. According to Kislin, "There will be a free-flowing conversation that will touch upon the experiences, the concerns and the conceptual beliefs of those present. Who knows what mysteries lurk behind artists' studio doors?" In addition to the three artist/hosts, photographer Dion Ogust and *Art Times* publisher Cornelia Seckel will speak about their lives in art. Says Kislin, "We see this as a free exchange rather than a lecture. We want to share our surprises, successes and frustrations—to laugh and to moan in the company of other artists who know intimately what it means to be in this unique calling, trying to find ways to make a career." The purpose of the salon is to provide the space and time for artists to learn what they can from one another. It is *not* about critiquing anyone's art, or providing career advice to any artist in particular. While this is a free event, the Chamber suggests a donation to WAAM for generously offering its space to the community. The Chamber reminds artists and all Woodstockers that its new online calendar is an excellent resource to list upcoming shows and art-related events, free of charge. See www.woodstockchamber.com, Community Events Calendar.



Rowan Smith-Spanier



Concerts on the Green



Sofie by Lenny Kislin



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About the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce & Arts and the Town of Woodstock

The Woodstock Chamber (www.woodstockchamber.com) is committed to a leadership role in collaborating with area businesses, arts organizations and local/county/state government to promote Woodstock and the surrounding region as a premier four-season destination for cultural tourism. The spirit of Woodstock is a beautiful state of mind—visitors return again and again, and often make their homes here. Known as the “Colony of the Arts” since 1902, Woodstock is located in the Hudson Valley at the foothills of the Catskills. It’s less than two hours from metro New York and a little over four hours from the Boston area. Because of its prominence in the worlds of art and music, Woodstock is often called “the most famous small town in the world.”

The Woodstock Chamber is proud to welcome visitors to Woodstock with the 2011 Experience Woodstock Card (see www.experiencewoodstockcard.com).

About the Chamber’s 2011 Experience Woodstock Card Sponsors

TD Bank is “America’s Most Convenient Bank®,” providing customers with a full range of financial products and services at more than 1,250 locations throughout the Northeast, and south to Florida. For more, link to www.tdbank.com.

98.1 KZE is eclectic, innovative and independent, celebrating musical diversity in the Hudson Valley, Catskills, southern Berkshire County in Massachusetts, and the northwest corner of Connecticut. Link to www.wkze.com.

Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union is a community credit union serving Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties. The new Woodstock branch is located at 40 Mill Hill Road. For more, please see www.mhvfcu.com.

The **Woodstock Arts Consortium** is comprised of Woodstock’s not-for-profit organizations and is devoted to enhancing and promoting Woodstock’s historic identity as the Colony of the Arts. *The arts are always happening in Woodstock!* For more, link to www.artsinwoodstock.org.

Aspects Inn & Day Spa is a sensual retreat in the heart of Woodstock, owned and managed by artists Lio Magat and Sharon McGehee. For more, please see www.aspectsgallery.com.

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation strives to create value for its customers, fulfillment for its employees, and profitable growth for its investors. For more, see www.cenhud.com as well as Facebook and Twitter (“centralhudson” for both).

H. Houst & Son is a locally owned True Value hardware store with a Just Ask rental department. It’s been a source for quality products and great service for over 75 years. Link to www.hhoust.com.

KOSCO is a recognized heating and home comfort leader in the Hudson Valley. “Your Comfort is Our Concern®.” For more, see www.koscomfort.com.

Paul Alexander Construction Co. is a locally owned company that has been tastefully restoring Woodstock’s older homes since 1984. For more, link to www.paulalexanderconstruction.com.

River Rock Health Spa is an elegant, Zen-like sanctuary committed to natural wellness, custom service and natural products. For more, please see www.riverrock.biz.

Ulster Savings is a locally owned and operated bank with branches throughout the Hudson Valley. Every year Ulster Savings Bank supports hundreds of local organizations throughout the community, close to home. For more, link to www.ulstersavings.com.

Woodstock Chimes® was founded by musician and instrument-maker Garry Kvistad in 1979 with the single, great idea of making the world’s best-sounding windchimes. The company also offers a line of creative instruments for kids called the Woodstock Music Collection™. Go to www.chimes.com to find a store near you.