

THURSDAYS - SPRING 2026

TH41 Computer Fundamentals

Jesse Valhos

Thurs., Mar. 12; 2 - 3 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Cobleskill

This course, taught by The Bank of Richmondville IT department (Jesse Valhos with intern Christopher Outman), takes students through some of the fundamental computing skills needed in the modern world, along with a brief look at some introductory cybersecurity concepts. Students will learn the skills necessary to use their computer effectively, such as cyber hygiene, navigating office suites, the dangers of public Wi-Fi, file management, and password management. We will also go over Artificial Intelligence and how algorithms cause bias in the news we are presented. Additionally, a good portion of the class time will be spent answering student questions so please come prepared with a computer (optional, but a good idea) and questions!

Participants should bring: A Laptop (optional, but recommended) and Questions!

Bio: As the Network Administrator for the Bank of Richmondville, Jesse Valhos oversees the maintenance, security, and upgrades to the Bank of Richmondville's corporate network against both insider and external threats

Directions: CCE, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

TH42 The Magic of Collage

Beth Cash

Min 4 / Max 10

Thurs., Mar. 12, 19, 26 ; 11 am - 12:30 pm

Cobleskill United Methodist Church Library

Collage creates artwork using paper, photographs, fabric and ephemera that are glued onto a surface. The process is creative and relaxing. It can be combined with personal ephemera or writing. This class will teach the basics of collage.

Participants should bring: Instructor will provide materials but students are welcome to bring materials of their own to personalize their art.

Fee: \$5 per person for glue and supplies; payable to instructor.

Directions: CUMC, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY

TH43 Crochet Class

Margaret Defeldecker

Thurs., Mar. 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7; 1:30 - 3 pm

St. Vincent's Social Hall, Cobleskill

If you are interested in doing some crafting, consider joining us for a Crochet Class.

Learn, renew or revisit the basics in the art of crocheting. Try your hands at creating enduring crocheted items for baby/child such as clothing or toys/Amigurumi stuffed animals. Crochet items for the home: dishcloths, hand towels, coasters, placemats, doilies to larger projects such as blankets, comforters, tablecloths. Make clothing items for adults, including yourself. Try shoeless sandals.

The possibilities are endless, but the class time is limited. This class will get you started. If you have any started projects, by all means, bring them.

Participants should please bring one or two crochet hooks to the first class, Size D or E (#4 or 5) and / or G (#7 or H #8) as well as one or two skeins of yarn. Metal hooks are best.

Light color yarns are recommended. It is difficult to see the stitches with dark colors. Sports (#3) or Worsted (#4) Weight (WT) are easier to work with for beginners; D/E hooks for sports weight; G/H for worsted weight.

Directions: 138 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY

TH44 Social Engineering and How to Protect Yourself

Jesse Valhos

Thurs., Mar. 19; 2 - 3 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension- Cobleskill

In the context of information security, Social Engineering is defined as the use of deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information that may be used for fraudulent purposes. In today's connected world, when you receive a phone call from the bank, how can you be certain it was actually the bank calling you? The most experienced of us can be duped unless we are reminded often of their techniques - which are constantly getting better and more sophisticated. This course will go over the practice of social engineering, how malicious actors use it to take advantage of you, and how to protect yourself against it. Join Jesse Valhos and intern Christopher Outman as they update us on the latest and greatest criminal activity.

Participants should bring: A Laptop (optional) and Questions!

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Directions: CCE, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

TH45 The Ultimate Container Garden

Ron Ketelsen

Thurs, Mar. 26, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Zoom

Whether you have a window ledge or a large well-stocked garden, you can use containers to enhance your outdoor space. This presentation includes recipes and plans for over 30 container planting schemes. Step-by-step slides will show how to plant every kind of container, with tips on fixing and supporting heavy baskets and window boxes, decorating containers, training standards and topiary. A list of more than 1,000 plants will be provided to enable the participants to choose successful color combinations in every season.

Whether you're looking to enhance a small balcony, create a vibrant patio, or add greenery to your home, this presentation will help you make the most of your gardening endeavors. Dive into the world of container gardening and transform your outdoor spaces into lush, inviting retreats.

TH46 Intro to German

Jeannette Balins

Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16; 11:45 am- 1:15 pm

St. Vincent's Social Hall- Cobleskill

Start learning German through the Berlitz method. This is an immersive language learning approach that emphasizes speaking and practical application. (Only German will be spoken in class.)

Each student will need to purchase a textbook "The Berlitz Self Teacher - German". (available on Amazon)

Bio: Jeannette studied German in Germany and Austria. She also taught at the International School of Languages in NYC.

Directions 138 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY (lower level)

TH47 Did the US Government Steal the Tesla Files?

Ron Ketelsen

Thurs. April 2, 10 - 11:15 am

Zoom

The claim that the U.S. government "stole" Nikola Tesla's files stems from the circumstances surrounding his death on January 7, 1943, in New York City during World War II. Shortly after Tesla died alone in his hotel room, the FBI's Alien Property Custodian office seized his belongings, including notebooks, research papers, and various documents, citing national security concerns due to the wartime context and Tesla's work on potentially revolutionary technologies like directed-energy weapons and wireless power transmission. The government commissioned MIT professor John G. Trump (uncle of President Donald Trump) to review Tesla's papers, and he concluded that the materials contained "no workable principle or method" and posed no security threat. Most of Tesla's papers were eventually released to his family and later donated to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Serbia, though some documents remain classified to this day. While the government's actions were technically legal under wartime property laws since Tesla died without a will, the incident has fueled decades of conspiracy theories suggesting that the government suppressed revolutionary technologies, particularly Tesla's alleged "death ray" and free energy concepts, though no concrete evidence has emerged to support claims that groundbreaking inventions were hidden or exploited by the military-industrial complex.

TH48 The Battle of Cobus Kill

Ted Shuart

Thurs., Apr. 2, 4:30 - 6:00pm

SUNY-Cobleskill: RoomTBD

Often overlooked as just another frontier skirmish of the American Revolution, the battle fought at Cobleskill on May 30, 1778 marked the beginning of a new phase of the war: a campaign of terror against the vulnerable frontier settlements. The events leading up to the battle, the participants, and the outcome will be examined in some detail.

Bio: Schoharie County Historian since 2013; Director of the Palatine House Museum, Schoharie; Trustee of Schoharie County Historical Society; Interpreter at Old Stone Fort Museum; formerly Master Printer, Interpreter, and Teacher for 22 years at the former Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown, NY.

TH50 South Indian Herbs and Spices for Relief of Joint Pain

Fr. Joseph Arockiasamy

Min 4

Thurs. Apr. 16; 4 - 5 pm

St. Vincent's Social Hall- Cobleskill

South Indian culinary traditions utilize different herbs and spices to decrease joint pain, through the anti-inflammatory nature of these herbs and spices. Join Father Joe in learning how to use them in your home culinary endeavors.

Bio: Roman Catholic priest for over 40 years; Taught to cook by his Mom in India.

Directions: 138 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY (lower level)

TH51 Readers' Resources

Min 3 / Max 50

Thurs., Apr 23, 1 - 2:30 pm

Community Library- Pgm Room

This presentation by librarian Don LaPlant will introduce a range of apps, websites, and online platforms of interest to readers including book tracking tools, resources to help you find your next favorite book, places to download free books, and other tools for bibliophiles.

Bio: Don holds a Masters in Information Sciences and has worked as a librarian for the past 14 years.

Directions: The Community Library, 110 Union St. Cobleskill

TH52 The Palatines: From Rhineland to Schoharie

Ted Shuart

Thurs., Apr. 23, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

SUNY-Cobleskill: RoomTBD

By the early 17th century the residents of the Palatinate in the Upper Rhineland have been ravaged by war, brutally cold weather, and famine. Their year-long journey takes them first to England, then to the mid-Hudson Valley, and finally to Schoharie, where they find the native population helpful and their British governors less so.

Bio: Schoharie County Historian since 2013; Director of the Palatine House Museum, Schoharie; Trustee of Schoharie County Historical Society; Interpreter at Old Stone Fort Museum; formerly Master Printer, Interpreter, and Teacher for 22 years at the former Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown, NY

TH53 Cuisine of Portugal

Jeannette Balins

RSVP by 4/15/26

Thurs., Apr. 30; 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Min 5 / Max 10

Worcester, NY

MENU

“Caldo Verde”: Potato and Kale Soup with Sausage

“Bolinhos de Bacalhau”: Codfish Cakes with Coriander and Mint

“Lombo de Porco com Pimentos Vermelhos Doces”: Marinated Pork Loin with Sweet Red Peppers

“Toucinho do Ceu”: A rich Almond Cake

Participants should please bring an apron and small containers for the samples you will take home.

Bio: Formerly Chef/Owner of A Taste of Europe

Fee: \$35 per person; Payable to SCHOOL. Sign up and pay by 4/15/26. No refunds after that date.

Directions: 2607 County Rd 39 Worcester, NY

TH54 The Deadliest Flood in American History

Ron Ketelsen

Thurs., Apr. 30; 10 - 11:15 am

Zoom

The Johnstown Flood of May 31, 1889, stands as the deadliest flood disaster in American history, claiming over 2,200 lives in a matter of hours. The catastrophe occurred when the South Fork Dam, located approximately 14 miles upstream from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, failed after days of heavy rainfall. The dam, which had been poorly maintained by the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club—an exclusive resort owned by wealthy Pittsburgh industrialists including Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick—collapsed around 3:10 PM, releasing 20 million tons of water from Lake Conemaugh. A massive wall of water, debris, and wreckage up to 60 feet high roared down the narrow Conemaugh Valley at speeds reaching 40 miles per hour, obliterating everything in its path including entire towns, factories, homes, and railroad cars. When the debris-laden torrent reached Johnstown, it devastated the industrial city, destroying over 1,600 homes and leaving thousands homeless. The disaster drew national attention, prompted one of the first major relief efforts by the American Red Cross under Clara Barton, and led to increased scrutiny of dam safety and corporate responsibility in the United States.

TH55 Garnishes

Jeannette Balins

Thurs., May 7; 1 - 3 pm

RSVP by 4/23/26

Min 5 / Max 10

Worcester, NY

Food looks more appetizing when it is garnished. Join in the fun of creating garnishes from vegetables and fruit. Please bring a paring knife.

Bio: Formerly Chef/Owner of A Taste of Europe

Fee: \$10 per person; Payable to SCHOOL. Sign up and pay by 4/23/26. No refunds after that date.

Directions: 2607 County Rd 39 Worcester, NY

TH56 Connecting the Dots: Beginner Sewing

Ann Kelchlin

Thurs. May 7, 14, 21, 28; 9 am - 1 pm

Min 2 / Max 6

Cornell Cooperative Extension- Cobleskill

Looking to dust off that sewing machine and put it to use. Come join us in exploring the art of sewing. We will explore and learn the basics of sewing . What is the bias? Straight of the goods??? Or crossgrain? By learning basic sewing concepts no project is limited. How do you buy fabric or choose the appropriate fabric for the project? We will go to a fabric store and learn these skills. We will make several simple projects applying the learned skills.

Participants should please bring your own sewing machine, thread, pins and scissors. If you don't have a sewing machine or supplies let me know! No barriers!

Bio :Instructor has decades of sewing experience starting at age 8 as a 4H member and continuing on being a leader of 4-H, teaching my children, and now grandchildren how to sew and many life skills.

Directions: CCE, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

TH57 Alzheimer's Association Education Series

Ann Thayer

Thurs., May 14, 21, 28; 2 - 3 pm

Min 5

Middleburgh Library

Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body

At any age, there are lifestyle habits we can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve our health. These habits may also help to keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline.

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Learn the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease, hear from people who have the disease, and find out how to recognize the signs in yourself or others.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Learn about detection, causes, risk factors, stages and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Bio: Ann Thayer is the Associate Director of the Alzheimer's Association of NENY, and she has over 20 years experience as a memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's expert.

Directions: 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY

TH58 Revolutionary Veterans of Towns of Summit & Fulton

Karen Cuccinello

Thurs., May 28; 11 - noon

Schoharie Library

In honor of the 250th Birthday of the USA, Karen will review bios on the 24 or so Revolutionary Soldiers with connections to Summit & Fulton (& a few from other towns). There will be a slide show of some of the pension documents she used for research and photos of some of their gravestones.

Bio: Town of Summit & Village of Stamford Historian, APHNYC coordinator for Region 7 and historian at Stamford Library. Author of numerous local history books, genealogist and historian for a whole bunch of years.

Directions: 103 Knower Ave., Schoharie, NY

TH59 Home Composting & Demonstration Tour

Carole Henry

Thurs., June 11 at 10-noon

RSVP by 5/27/26

Min 10

Voorheesville, NY

Home composting is a simple yet effective way to contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle by reducing landfill waste and a household's carbon footprint. Using compost in your lawn and garden leads to healthier plant growth and saves money by eliminating needs for chemical fertilizers. We invite you to learn about tumbler, trench, 3-bin, stealth, heap, bokashi, digester, keyhole and vermicompost (red worms). Our tour of the compost demonstration garden will answer your questions. Join us to see which of our 9 methods of home composting is best for you!

Participants should dress for the weather.

Bio: Albany Master Gardener Compost Team led by Ronnie Siegel and Sarah Foster

Fee: \$10 per person; Payable to SCHOOL. Sign up and pay by 5/27/26. No refunds after that date.

Directions: Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville NY 12186

TH60 Thomas Burbine Forest Disk Golf Course

Nancy Gunther

Thurs., June 18 at 10 - noon

Raindate: Th June 25

Charleston, NY- Corbin Hill Rd.

Join us for a scenic hike through the Thomas Burbine Memorial Forest, home of Montgomery County's first disc golf course. Our route winds through a beautiful pine forest with rolling hills, a peaceful pond, and charming wooden bridges. The full 18-hole disc golf course stretches across two miles of natural, picturesque terrain- perfect for both outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.

Participants should please bring a water bottle, bug spray and wear sturdy footwear.

Directions: Corbin Hill Rd, Charleston Four Corners, NY 12066 (parking lot is a few hundred yards north of the Charleston Highway Dept.)

TH80 Venezuela - the Aftermath of the US Invasion

Salvidore Rivera, PhD

Thurs., April 30; 6 - 7:30 pm

Max 50

Community Library- Program Room

Professor Rivera will discuss the US invasion of Venezuela and the capture of President Maduro. He will focus on the aftermath of the invasion and its potential outcomes. The event will encourage questions and discussion from the audience.

Bio: Professor Salvador Rivera is an instructor of History and Sociology at the State University of NY at Cobleskill. He has also taught as an adjunct at SUNY Albany and Hartwick College. He received his PhD in History from SUNY Albany.

His most recent book, *The Fragmented Nation*, was published in October 2025. The book deals with Latin America's interaction with the world. He explains that Latin America's inability to totally control its destiny stems from the political fragmentation that emanated when the region became independent of the Iberian Powers.

Directions: 110 Union Street, Cobleskill, NY