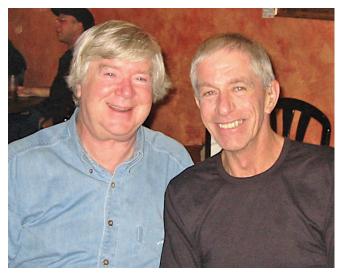
WRIP Celebrates 20 Years in Style



"Thank you" said hundreds of visitors to the 20th anniversary celebration for WRIP radio, many of whom gathered for a community photograph at Windham-Ashand-Jewett school, site of the party, last Saturday.. Photo contributed by Francis X. Driscoll



Not to be left out, Fran Driscoll, another local treasure, climbed the stairs to the second floor at WAJ for the historic community snapshot.



The original voice and "Morning Man" of WRIP (right), the late Guy Patrick Garraghan on the occasion of his 60th birthday party with station founder and licensee Dennis Jackson.

time for everyone else to talk, for a change, when WRIP radio celebrated its 20th Anniversary, this past weekend.

the mountaintop station are president and general manager Jay Fink, who is seemingly omnipresent, and Joe Loverro, his "Morning Man" sidekick munications. and host of the popular

lawn at Windham-Ashland-Jewett school for Christopher Tague. one simple reason.

"thank you for being tionally for exceptional here," and they did so in community service," sincere fashion, making Fink, Loverro and station founder Dennis Jackson

WINDHAM - It was know and feel how much they mean to the mountaintop community.

A proclamation was sent by U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado, The usual voices for praising WRIP for its tireless on-air efforts during Hurricane Irene, in the summer of 2011, when historic flooding virtually wiped out modern com-

Fink and Loverro, put-Friday Night oldies show. ting in 40-hour days Fink and Loverro were rather than 40-hour onsite and broadcasting weeks, were "credited near legendary local sta-tell you it's the people and became a big deal. "live," last Saturday, when with saving people's tus, setting the stage for hundreds of well-wishers lives," Delgado stated, showed up on the front thoughts echoed by New York State Assemblyman

"WRIP is recognized Folks wanted to say locally, statewide and na-Tague stated in an Assembly official Citation.

The government acco-



Joining forces, members of the Windham Foundation and Community of Windham Foundation hosted the big bash (left to right): Phyllis Parrish (Windham Foundation), John Quinn, Annie Jakubowski, Jeri Miltenberger, Denise Meehan and Lynn Verrengia (Community of Windham Foundation).

lades were appreciated but grassroots listeners in the mountains, throughout the Hudson Valley and far beyond have been well aware of what WRIP does every day for two decades and counting.

bang, on August 5, 1999, after Jackson astutely hired the inimitable Guy Patrick Garraghan as the original voice of WRIP.

Fink and Loverro who have not tried to match the unforgettable microphone musings and mischief of their predeces-

Instead, they have formed their own niches, ioined by a team of special programmers such as Sonny Rock, a native

CUGUST 17

son and talented drummer who made his mark on the rock 'n roll scene before returning to his hometown, creating the Tuesday night "Local Licks" music show.

Those three dudes are Things began with a kept in line by Patricia Morrow, the Windham town historian who doubles as WRIP office man-

Garraghan, prior to his said and done, however, han said. passing in 2010, rose to Fink will be the first to on the radio dial who count the most.

> Meehan, a faithful follower and devoted member of the Community of Windham Foundation. It other CWF colleagues, who came up with the idea for the anniversary

"Well, to be honest, this didn't start out as any big deal." Meehan dation regularly picks community projects to do so we thought it would

WRIP family (front left to right) office manger and

traffic director Patricia Morrow and president/general manager Jay Fink with (back) "Local Licks" show host Sonny Rock and "Morning Man" Joe Loverro.

be nice to have a WRIP "Appreciation Day."

"All of us remember Hurricane Irene and what the radio station meant to the community. It's a big thing, having them in our town," Meehan said.

"I asked Jay if that would be okay and he said 'Sure,' and then he asked, 'Did you know ager and traffic director. 2019 is our twentieth When everything is year?' and I said no," Mee-

"It took off after that who tune in to FM 97.9 It is amazing how many people feel the same way we do. The radio station One of them is Denise is such a connection. Anywhere you go, you can hear Jay and Joe," Meehan said.

"I could be coming up was Meehan, along with the mountain, going home, or coming down from Albany, and to hear Jay and Joe, it brings you home. It brings a smile to your face on any day," Meehan said.

"There is no more nosaid, smiling. "The Foun- ble a mission than dedicating oneself to keeping the public informed and at the same time provid-

ing an essential voice in our Democratic society," CWF member John Quinn said.

"We congratulate Dennis, Jay, Joe, Patty and everyone connected with this crown jewel on the mountaintop," Quinn said.

The Community of Windham Foundation teamed up with the Windham Foundation to help sponsor the shindig. Many local restauranteurs, area caterers and businesses owners gladly pitched in with food and festivities.

"Jay gives so much to our community," said Windham Foundation member Phyllis Parrish. "Whenever you need him, he's there. He helps the town in ways that go beyond the job and he asks for nothing back.

"Jay was one of those radio kids who grew up to do what he loves," Parrish said. "What a blessing it is for him to be able to follow his passion and for us to have him expressing his passion on our behalf."

Summer Movie Saturdays

SATURDAY MORNING

August 17 Gulliver's Travels (1939, 1hr 16min) This feature-length animated film from Fleischer Studios is a very loose musical adaptation of Jonathan Swift's 18th-Century novel.

Bridge Street Theatre

44 W. Bridge Street, Cat/kill, NY

BridgeStreetTheatre.org or 518-943-3818

Portraits of Nature

Paintings by Meryl Learnihan



Kaaterskill Gallery Columbia Greene Community College September 2nd to 28th, 2019 Opening - Thursday, September 5th from 5:00 to7:00pm