

# Mechanicville

## The Story of Scrooge at the Mechanicville Library

by Sandy McBride

**B**enezer Scrooge paid a visit to the Mechanicville District Public Library last Wednesday evening. The irascible, lonely, Christmas-hating man of means growled his “Bah, Humbugs!” with a snarl, grumbled at his nephew, berated his clerk Bob Cratchit and headed for home determined to forget there was a holiday after all.

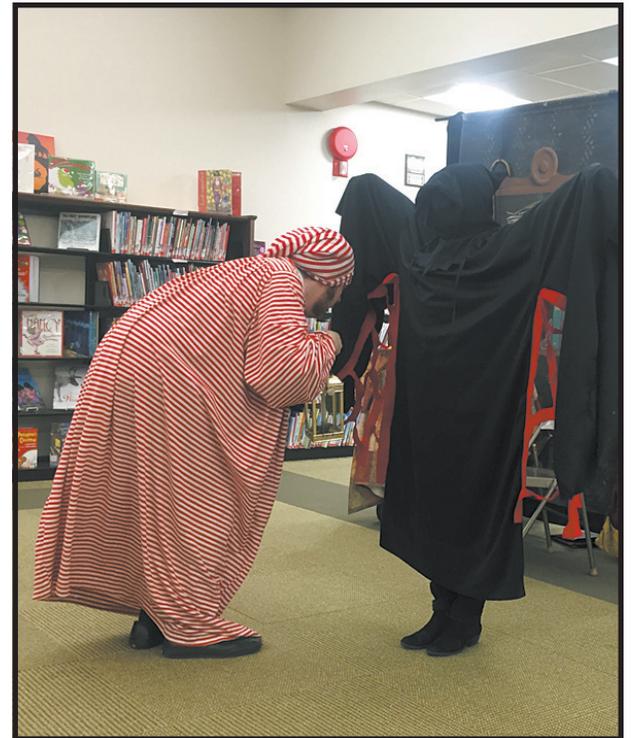
In a lively and energetic performance of “The Story of Ebenezer Scrooge”, adapted from “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, Courtney and D. J. of the Traveling Lantern Theater Company regaled their audience with the appearance before crotchety old Ebenezer of ghostly Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come. With D.J. creating a very believable Scrooge throughout, Courtney morphed from Scrooge’s nephew to Bob Cratchit to all four ghosts, an array of characters she played to perfection. At times, children in the audience were called on to play a part, with Kiley Morrison taking the stage as Scrooge’s little sister in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Past, then she and Ella Shanahan took the roles of two children on the street who showed Scrooge where to get a turkey for Cratchit’s family once he had come to realize that family was most important, and Christmas was a holiday meant for everyone.

With his visit to the Cratchit home in the presence of Christmas Present, Scrooge witnessed the warmth and love of Bob’s family in spite of their poverty and of Tiny Tim’s illness. Trevor Kern-Mochon took on the role of Tiny Tim, making his theatrical debut on his seventh birthday! His mom, Teresa, played Bob’s kindly wife.

And when the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come showed Scrooge the lonely, friendless end of life he was going to have, the old curmudgeon got the message and vowed to make up for his cold-hearted stinginess before it was too late. He would celebrate Christmas with his nephew, and he then gifted Bob Cratchit with a raise in pay to lift his family out of poverty.

The actors of Traveling Lantern involved the audience throughout, playing their characters with energy and verve, bounding across the stage, and cuing the spectators to call out significant responses, such as noting that Jacob Marley was “dead as a doornail”.

This timeless Christmas story was brought to us by the Friends of the Library. Traveling Lantern Theater Company is based in Portland, Oregon, with Courtney and D.J. making the trek to Mechanicville from the company’s base in New York City. Both experienced actors, D.J. says this is the second Christmas season he has played the role of Scrooge.



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## Southern Saratoga Art Society

**A**rtists and members of SSAS will be exhibiting during January and February, 2019 at various venues throughout the area. Stop in, enjoy the work of these local artists and support art in Southern Saratoga County.

Mechanicville Public Library, 190 N. Main Street will feature the works of watercolorist, Jean Skanes.

Clifton Park artist, Frank Coletta, will be featured at two different venues, Zion Luthern Church, 153 Nott Terrace, Schenectady for January and February and at the Clifton Park Senior Community Center, 6 Clifton Common Court for the month of January.

Catskill-Hudson Bank, Halmoon Branch, will host Mechanicville artist Jane Morrison and the Malta Branch will host artist Allison Croote for the months of January and February, 2019.



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