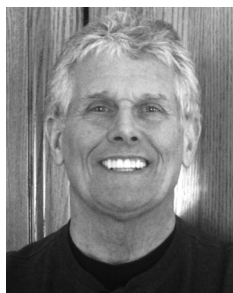


# CLINTON LOOKS TO SUE HYDE PARK OVER SCHOOL TAXES

BY ALYSSA KOGON  
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Clinton resident Daniel Wise is a determined man. As reported earlier by *Hudson Valley News*, Wise is advocating on behalf of Town of Clinton residents who

have homes in the Hyde Park school district. Approximately 800 properties in Clinton have an unfair school tax burden placed on them due to the fact that Hyde Park refuses to do a revaluation of their properties which currently stands at 62 percent compared to Clinton's rate of 100 percent. These Clinton property owners pay more than owners of comparable properties in Hyde Park.

Wise has spoken with representatives of the Orange County law firm of Gary Greenwald and Partners, who believe that this case has legal merit. According to Wise, there is a precedent at the federal level for a hearing using the complaint of unwarranted taxes in towns that use the same facility as other towns (in this case the school district), but are forced to pay unfair taxes for the same use. Greenwald and Partners would like the Town of Clinton to hire them to represent the town.

Unfortunately, the town does not have the necessary \$15,000 retainer fee, but that is not stopping Wise. He is hoping that 300 property owners will write a check for \$50 each to cover the expense of two paralegals and two attorneys to put the case together for federal court.

"As has been in the past, a few individuals cannot do anything without a legal fight. No action will be taken by the district and local superintendents without one," states Wise.

Additionally, Wise has not given up on his dream of establishing a new school district for the Clinton residents who utilize the four neighboring districts. However, he states that it is necessary to get this favorable tax judgement as a first step.

If you are interested in speaking with Wise or donating to his fund, you may contact him at [daniel.wise78@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.wise78@yahoo.com).



## CAMP RISING SUN TO SET? *Board votes to leave Red Hook after 85 years*

BY CAROLINE CAREY  
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The board of directors of Camp Rising Sun recently voted to sell its Red Hook and Clinton campuses and move the camp operations to an undisclosed location in Pennsylvania. The boys' camp, located on 176 acres in Red Hook, has operated at the location since its founding in 1930. Camp alumni, of which there are over 5,000 internationally, are working an online petition to stop the move.

The board of the Louis August Jonas Foundation, that operates the camps, announced on October 3 its intention to sell the Red Hook and Clinton (girls' camp) campuses and to move the operations to one location in a state "with lower operating costs" than New York to decrease expenses and ensure the camps' long term viability. The board's statement, issued on October 3, 2014, said, "A purchase of a newer and more modernized facility will eliminate our need to invest \$4-5 million in such capital projects" that are needed at its current locations.

But camp alumni are not taking this decision quietly. An online petition is in the works and is being organized by J.C. Calderón (AIA, LEED AP BD+C), of Beacon, a camp alum. Helping Calderon with the petition is fellow camper Darren Aronofsky, world-class film director of "Black Swan" and "The Wrestler." Ironically, the camp recently put Aronofsky on the front cover of its "Sundial" publication without a word on the cover about the impending crisis. Aronofsky said, "Why didn't they put a big 'help!' on the cover if in fact they wanted to make a real ef-

fort to raise funds prior to such a dramatic decision?"

The petition seeks to have the board "reconsider its planned actions and to communicate that alumni were not given ample warning or opportunity to influence this decision." It continues, "A large number of Rising Sun supporters around the world have expressed their concern that the decision to sell the properties has been taken in undue haste, that the expected price in today's market is too low, and that other avenues exist to solve the financial challenges that LAJF faces in the wake of the 2008 crisis and escalating costs (e.g., fund raising, cost reduction). In an effort to grow the impact of the organization, the board has in recent years authorized an unsustainably large percentage of spending from the Endowment. Much of this has gone to support an ever-larger percentage of overhead, which now stands at nearly 50 percent of annual expenditures. We believe such practice, however well-intended, lacks the fiduciary prudence needed by a charity that seeks our support. We do not believe that moving will solve the spending problem; and we believe that the board should focus on preservation of the camp's mission and organizational survival at this time." Alumni campers question the reasonableness of an organization for 120 campers that has seven full time staff members, an executive director that is paid approximately \$200,000 and lives in California, and an office on Madison Avenue in Manhattan.

Calderón, who until October 18 was the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for LAJH, told the *Hudson*

*Valley News* it is unclear where the board came up with the capital expenditure estimates. His committee had sent recommendations to the board that said, "We are not clear where the stated 'necessary deferred maintenance' costs originate from and would like more clarification on the basis of these numbers. The stated million dollar backlog for deferred maintenance (\$650,000 at Red Hook and \$350,000 at Clinton) does not correspond to our assessment of what is necessary for the properties. It may be a wish list, but we do not believe that it is a necessary amount. These numbers are new to us as a committee and we do not understand why these numbers were determined without our input." The report continued, "There are currently no major repairs or construction projects urgently needed – not even one roof. We believe the \$3-6 million plus estimated cost to renovate Red Hook is overstated. Again, while we recognize there are some legitimate deferred maintenance needs, we believe these stated amounts largely overestimate what is needed for the program to succeed and should not be the justification for the selling of assets."

Another reason to sell the properties often cited by the board is the camp's location on Oriole Mills Road, that goes through the campus to the Aerodrome. The board has suggested that local officials won't find a way to slow down traffic on Oriole Mills Road in the summer and that it's too dangerous. But in 85 years no one has gotten hurt.

In response to a request from Calderon as to whether the camp had requested help from the Town of Red Hook regarding traffic problems, Theresa Burke, Red Hook's highway superintendent, stated, "The Town of Red Hook Highway Department has not received any requests or correspondence that we are aware of from the Louis August Jonas Foundation (or Camp Rising Sun) concerning Oriole Mills Road. I have been the Highway Superintendent for five years and I have worked in the highway department for more than 10 years total."

### *Recent Developments*

The online and written uproar by camp alumni about the decision to sell the properties seems to have taken the board by surprise. On October 20, the LAJF president and executive director issued an updated action plan that read, "We appreciate all the feedback that we've received from alumni. We want to thank those who have vocalized strong support for the recent decision, as well as those who have expressed their concerns and shared their personal stories. After listening to the

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## SHERIFF'S OFFICE WARNS OF PHONE SCAMS

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office is warning the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about recent phone scams in the area.

During the daytime shift on October 19, the Sheriff's Office received four complaints from people who had been contacted under false pretenses.

In all of these calls, the people were called by a male who identified himself as a Sheriff's Office Detective, and then stated that he had a warrant for the person's arrest. The subject would then request that the person wire money to them or meet them at Rite Aid in the City of Poughkeepsie. None of the potential victims who had contacted the Sheriff's Office today had paid any money; all of them were suspicious of the calls and contacted the Sheriff's Office right away. At this time, there is no further information on the identity of the suspect(s).

If anyone thinks they may have been a victim of this type of scam in the past, or if they receive these types of calls in the future, they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3800 or via the tipline at 845-605-CLUE or dcsotips@gmail.com.

## HUDSON VALLEY NEWS

### arrested developments

#### 16-year-old arrested for making threats at school

On October 18, at approximately 9:36 a.m., New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation arrested a 16-year-old Dover Plains resident for making a terroristic threat, a class-D felony.

State police initiated the investigation on October 18, when they received a tip reporting a terroristic type threat made on Facebook. The tip alleged that the 16-year-old had made statements on social media that he planned on bringing explosives to the Dover Union Free School District, where he is a student.

The suspect was arraigned before the Town of Northeast Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail or \$50,000 bond.

#### High school student makes threats in Hyde Park

On October 17, 2014 at approximately 10:15 p.m., the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation charged a

17-year-old Poughkeepsie resident with aggravated harassment in the second degree, a class-A misdemeanor.

On October 17, the New York State Police received a tip called in to the New York State Intelligence Center reporting a threat of school violence was made on a social media account. Investigation revealed that the defendant used his Twitter account to make a threat directed at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, where he is a student.

The student was arraigned before the Town of Hyde Park Justice Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$5,000 cash bail, \$10,000 bond. He is due to reappear in the Town of Hyde Park Court at a later date.

#### Felony drug arrest

On Saturday, October 18, at approximately 6 p.m., City of Poughkeepsie Police officers conducted a vehicle and traffic stop in the area of 45 Franklin Street.

While interviewing Zaid Ali, 41, of Poughkeepsie, officers observed a quantity of prescription Suboxone in plain view inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed that Ali did not have a prescription for said controlled substance.

Ali was placed under arrest for criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree, a misdemeanor, and transported to headquarters without incident.

While at police headquarters, Ali informed officers that he had additional drugs secreted in his pants. The following was recovered from Ali's person: 30 decks of heroin, eight twist ties of crack cocaine, and eight Oxycodone 30mg pills.

Ali was subsequently charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the third degree, a felony. He was held pending arraignment.

#### DWIs in Red Hook

Red Hook Police arrested William R. Ovenstone, 61, of Tivoli, on Saturday at 11:45 a.m. on Church Street, and he was charged with two counts of drunken driving, both misdemeanors, as well as failing to maintain lane, an infraction. Police received a complaint reporting an erratically operated vehicle in the village leading to the traffic stop and arrest of Ovenstone. He was processed and released on tickets to appear in village court at a later date.

Red Hook Police also arrested Leonard G. Hummel Jr, 49, of Elizaville, on Saturday at 11:50 p.m. on Route 9, and he was charged with two counts of drunken driving, both misdemeanors, as well as speeding, an infraction. He was processed and released on tickets to appear in town court at a later date.



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## CAMP RISING SUN TO SET?

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suggestions, the board is taking the following measures to embrace our renewed alumni vigor for CRS," and that the sale of the Red Hook property would be put on hold for six months, while expenses would be reduced and fundraising efforts would be reinvigorated.

According to local real estate professionals the property has not yet been listed for sale.

### Camp History

Camp Rising Sun is an invitation-only, international, full-scholarship, leadership summer program for students aged 14-16. There is a boys' facility in Red Hook and a separate girls' facility in Clinton. Participants come from all over the world and are chosen by merit. Instead of being asked to pay for tuition, campers are requested to pass along to someone else the benefits they gained.

It was founded just after the stock market crash in 1929 by philanthropist George E. Jonas with the mission to "develop in promising young people from diverse backgrounds a lifelong commitment to sensitive and responsible leadership for the betterment of their communities and world."

The son of a successful businessman, Jonas grew up in privilege and wealth, but was troubled about the advantages he had in comparison to others. He grew dismayed at the world. Pondering what he could do to bring a measure of stability and peace to the world, he reasoned that hope rested in the youth of the world and he began to consider what might encourage, stimulate and motivate them. He got the idea to start a camp, one that "is interested not merely in the boy, but in the man the boy will become." He set up a foundation, naming it after his father; the foundation runs the camp. For decades, Jonas personally interviewed many prospective campers and he was fondly called by all by his nickname, "Freddie." Jonas remained closely associated with the program until the time of his death in 1978.

There are alumni organizations in numerous countries with more than 5,000 alumni around the world. Camp Rising Sun alumni include a United Nations Under-Secretary General, a president of Harvard University, a winner of the Intel Science Talent Search, a Foreign Minister of South Korea, two former Israeli ambassadors, an Under Secretary of State in the Carter administration and folk singer Pete Seeger.

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