

CUNNINGHAM'S CORNER

Slices of Time & Space

Saturday was one of those days that marked the compression of time and space, transferring any given slice to another place.

The building on Garrison's Landing that houses the Agnes Donohoe Preusser, Inc. realty firm and other businesses became, again, Vandergelder's, as it was in 1968, which itself was a recreation of 1890 Yonkers. And all of this was part of the *Hello Again, Dolly!* festival to mark the 50th anniversary of the filming of the iconic *Hello, Dolly!*, a good part of which took place in Garrison.

What a day: Hundreds of

— by —
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people, many in costume. A band, a mini-parade to the Depot Theatre (at the time, the train station). Singing. Dancing. A snippet: Christopher Radko, the festival

organizer and its main cheerleader, was interviewing Tommy Tune, one of the performers in the original film and later a considerable Broadway star. Tune, with local Joni Lanza as Dolly Levi, led the parade and singing Saturday.

The interview was low-key, after the high-energy parade; Radko and Tune were on stools at the entrance to Vandergelder's as they spoke about the filming, about Barbra Streisand, about Walter Matthau, about Gene Kelly. As they wound up, there came a voice from the side. We later learned it belonged to Evan Giammarco, there with his mother, Terese. They're from Garrison. "Can I do a dance?" Evan asked.

Tune was gracious, gesturing broadly with his arms that Evan could take the figurative stage in front of the building. When Evan doffed his boater hat after a few quick dance steps, the crowd roared. Dance and theater have always meant



a lot to him, his mom said. "He's been a thespian all his life," Terese said. "I would say he came out of the womb singing in the rain. He's always considered himself a dancer."

So this day, there was considerable emotion attached to the performance. Not just by Evan, you see, but by those who watched. Evan nailed it. He also has autism. "He was so kind to say yes," Terese said of Tune. "It was just so sweet."

It was a great day for Garrison. But also, for kindness and dancing and artistry. "This is his full expression," Terese said. "All of the arts, but dancing in particular. Dancing and performing."

Until next week.

Douglas Cunningham is publisher of the PCNR and its sister paper the Courier. Letters on this or other topics are welcome. Limit to 500 words. Send to editor@pcnr.com. To reach him, call 845-265-2468, or email.