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A weekly e-newsletter from the publisher of Chronogram containing: Up-to-date Mid-Hudson events, listings, selections of insight for conscious living, and social & political commentary.

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The Bookshelf > Short Takes

Short Takes

Every month, The Book Shelf receives many more books than we can review. Short Takes offers brief descriptions of notable recent books by local authors and publishers, plus other titles of special interest to Hudson Valley readers.

Ode to the Human Face

Frederick Franck, photography Luz Piedad Lopez, design Martin Moskof
Codhill Press, July 2004 (\$15.95)



A tiny book with tremendous impact. Stunning black and white photos of clay faces modeled over many decades by 95-year-old artist/visionary/humanist Frederick Franck provide a moving meditation on our common humanity, with thought-provoking text by a man of diverse and remarkable insights.

At Hanka's Table

Hanka Sawka, with Hanna Maria Sawka
Lake Isle Press, 2004 (\$21.95)



"It is easier to dream about lofty projects around a great dinner with friends," Sawka writes in this stirring memoir/cookbook. Exiled from Iron Curtain Poland with her artist husband Jan, the High Falls resident journeyed from Communist breadlines to a creative life overflowing with food, art and friendship.

Kaaterskill Clove: Where Nature Met Art

Raymond Beecher
Black Dome Press, 2004 (\$24.95)



Greene County Historian Beecher delves into the heart of the Catskills, detailing the mountain resort hotels and scenic wonders that drew 19th century travelers and artists to Kaaterskill Clove, then as famous as Niagara Falls. With over 175 illustrations, including rare photos, Hudson River School paintings and antique maps.

The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds

Amy Goldman, photographs by Victor Schrage
Artisan Books, 2004 (\$40)



This weirdly gorgeous coffee table book by a Dutchess County Fair Grand Champion grower and self-described "vegetable rights activist" covers every aspect of cucurbita culture, from heirloom seed-saving techniques to the pleasures of hand-pollination, with elegant photos and dozens of recipes.

This Book Is For the Person I Love

Christina Starobin
Shivastan Publishers, 2004 (\$18.95)



Starobin's simple and heartfelt poem, addressed to its reader, is calligraphed with slapdash panache and illustrated with graphic symbols. Craftprinted in Nepal on lushly tactile handmade papers by Woodstock-based Shivastan Publishing; contact shivastan@hotmail.com for info on more titles.

I am the cat, don't forget that: Feline Expressions

Photographs by Valerie Shaff, text by Roy Blount Jr.
Harper Collins, 2004 (\$19.95)



The fourth collaboration, feline edition, between Hudson Valley photographer Shaff and renowned humorist Blount, whose other titles include I am puppy hear me yap, If only you knew how much I smell you, and Am I pig enough for

Hudson Valley Living

Reader's Survey
Let us know more about you, and enter to win cool prizes!

Calendar
Don't be left with nothing to do.

Bestsellers
The Booksense Bestsellers list, updated weekly.

Directory
Business directory for the Hudson Valley and beyond.

Tastings
Eating out East and West of the Hudson.

Whole Living
Guide to products and services for a positive lifestyle.

Dwellings
Real Estate listings for the Mid-Hudson region.

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