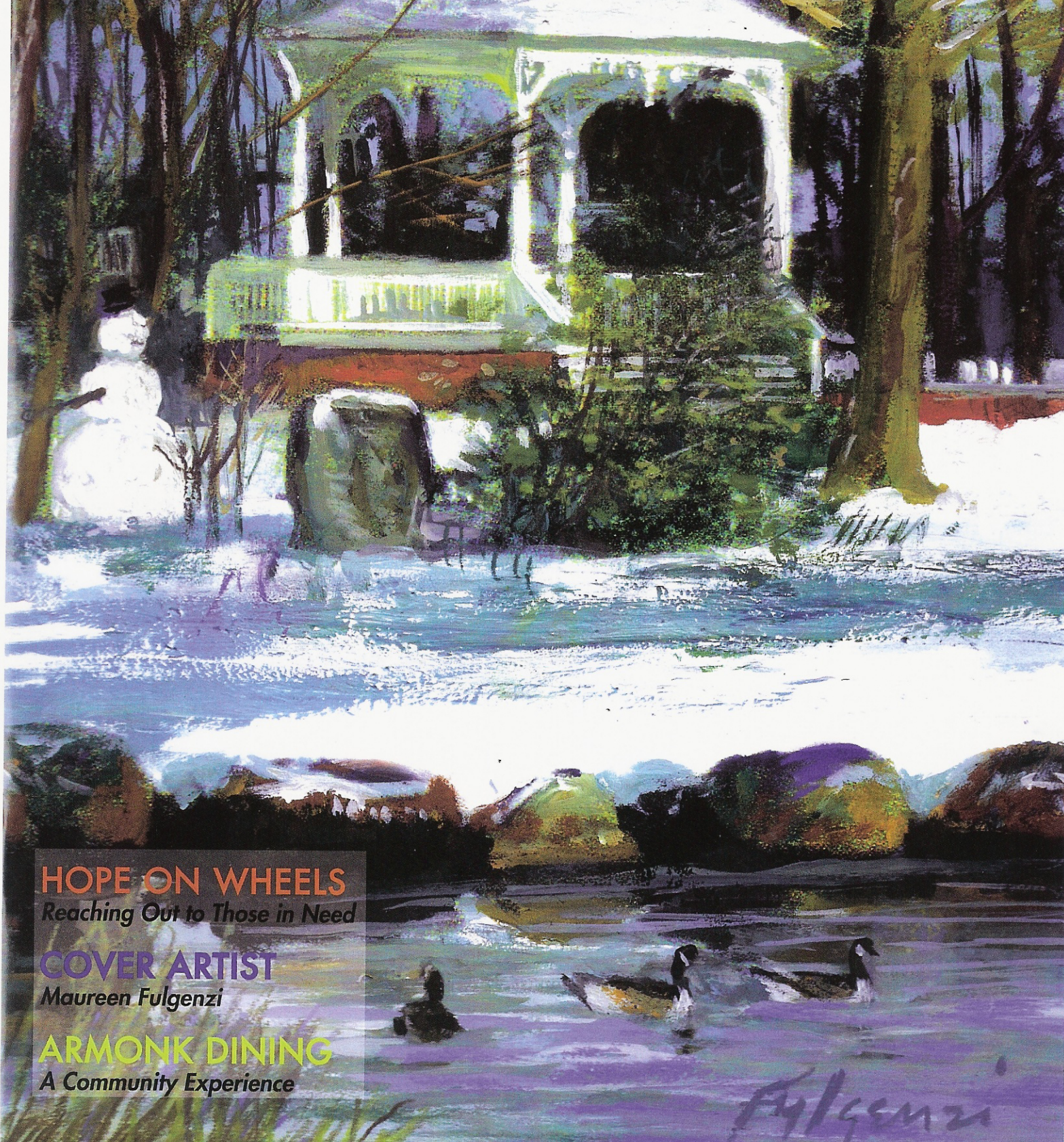# ARMONK
MAGAZINE

HOPE ON WHEELS
Reaching Out to Those in Need

COVER ARTIST
Maureen Fulgenzi

ARMONK DINING
A Community Experience

Fulgenzi

Off the Bus & Into Business

BY JOAN POTTER

Two Armonk teenagers, Greg Skloot and Jeremy Blum, have been successful business owners since they were 14-year-old freshmen at Byram Hills High School. Their business relationship started on a school bus when their conversation turned to computers. Jeremy mentioned that he had a job with a computer technician who operated out of a small shop in the village, and Greg soon started working there too.

Several months later their employer moved out West and the two decided to start their own computer company. "We discussed the idea with our parents and they encouraged us," says Jeremy, "but we planned and executed it ourselves."

Their company, Armonk Computer Solutions, operates out of the Skloot family's basement, which is crammed with computers, monitors, and file cabinets where the boys, now 16 years old, keep a neat arrangement of discs, software, and paperwork.

"We are both really organized," says Jeremy. "We both have the ability to run things on our own."

The success of their business proves his point. They offer complete computer tune-ups, reinstall operating systems, install upgrades, hook up new computers, and help computer owners solve a range of prob-

Zachary Lynn, Greg Skloot, Jeremy Blum

lems. With a partner, Zachary Lynn, they created Armonk Web Solutions, a web site design business to which they now devote more than half of their time. They have developed web sites for about 30 clients, including the Armonk Chamber of Commerce, Armonk Tennis Club, Armonk Indoor Sports Center, Home Buyer's Fidelity, and this magazine.

They also devote time to their charity program, donating refurbished computers and accessories to local nonprofit organizations. This year their rabbi at Congregation B'Nai Yisrael, Seth Limmer, suggested as a recipient Neighbors Link, a Mount Kisco center that provides services to Latino immigrants. They have repaired and replaced computers used in Neighbors Link's computer classes, donated computers to individual students, and set up a wired network throughout the center for use by staff members.

Their business has attracted clients from a number of sources: classmates, friends of their parents, and satisfied customers. The two continue to update their skills. "We are constantly doing research on new technology," says Greg. "And the more we do, the more we learn."

They recently became certified professional computer technicians after passing the CompTIA A+ certification test. "We are two of the youngest people in the world to have taken the test," says Greg.

Along with all these activities, they have had no trouble keeping up with their schoolwork. "We made a commitment that we would always put school first," says Jeremy.

"We work on weekends and vacations," adds Greg. "We can handle schoolwork and the business. It all balances out."

All the services provided by Armonk Computer Solutions are available in the shop or in the customer's home. But until they are old enough to have their senior drivers' licenses, Jeremy says, "our parents are stuck with the job of driving us around."

Joan Potter is from Mt. Kisco and has written for numerous magazines and newspapers, is the author of three nonfiction books, and teaches memoir writing at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow.