

GF grad is VP of Ralph Lauren Japan

By Gordon Woodworth
 Chronicle News Editor

Twenty-five years ago, Michael Kelley, now 41, was part of the first Glens Falls High School class to visit Saga City, Japan, as part of the Sister City exchange program.

That experience — and a subsequent job at the Polo Ralph Lauren outlet in Queensbury — started Mr. Kelley on a journey that now finds him Polo Ralph Lauren's Vice-President of Retail Operations in Tokyo, where he has lived for nearly seven years.

"I just remember being so fascinated by what I experienced in Japan in that short two-week period, and I think it just stayed with me," Mr. Kelley told *The Chronicle* the day after Christmas, while he was visiting his parents in Queensbury. He returned to Tokyo three days later.

"I believe in fate, and I think it all came full circle," he said.

"I'm really glad I had the opportunity to go when I was 16 be-

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**Saga City
 exchange
 was step
 1 for Mike
 Kelley**



Wedding photo by Daniel Reade/Reade Studio

Hudson Falls teacher turns her barns in Thurman into wedding venue > 20

Tough doing retail in an Amazon world

By Mark Frost
 Chronicle Editor

Overall, I think downtown Glens Falls is making progress. It's certainly a place where people want to eat, want to live, want to have the

downtown entertainment experience.

But retail — that's the toughest part of the downtown equation, not just here but nearly everywhere.

Christina Kaidas's announcement Monday that she'll close her gift business Sterling &

Company, coming not long after the shutdowns of Nine Authentic Goods and Uncorked Glens Falls, the wine and liquor

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**Thoughts upon the
 closing of Sterling,
 Uncorked & Nine in
 downtown GF**

'Downton Abbey' letdown

By Sandra Hutchinson
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Sure, 40 million people watched the football game, and even *The Simpsons* attracted more viewers, but Sunday night I and a record-setting 10.2-million Americans eagerly watched episode 1 of the fourth season of *Downton Abbey* on PBS.

After all, we've been waiting almost 11 months since the final episode of Season 3, when poor, distracted (and now dead) Matthew collided head-on with a delivery truck, on his way home after meeting his first and just-born child (who, interestingly, is named George, as is the baby of

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Smarty pants — WWE villain Damien Sandow talked music and theater with *Chronicle* arts maven Cathy DeDe.

WWE wrestler Damien Sandow, 'The Intellectual,' gets smart with our Cathy DeDe

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

Ah yes, mine was just another typical Monday afternoon here at *The Chronicle*, conversing on the phone with a WWE pro wrestling superstar about, you know, Shakespeare and Handel's *Messiah*.

Damien Sandow, age 29, is the WWE's self-proclaimed "Intellectual Savior of The Masses."

Turns out, sigh, that makes him the bad guy. "I used to try to educate the fans and tell them

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