



The Paper



Beacon's World Champ
See Page 20

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | philipstown.info



A huge tent has been erected at the Cold Spring Boat Club as part of the DEC coal tar remediation. Photo by M. Turton

Main Street Project Ready for Bids

Parents raise Haldane drop-off safety concerns

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring has received approval from the New York State Department of Transportation to proceed with construction for the Main Street project. Mayor Dave Merandy called it “very good news” at the Jan. 26 meeting of the village board, praising trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy, who have worked with state officials on the project details over the past several months.

The project will improve sections of sidewalk most in need of repair between High Street and the pedestrian tunnel under the Metro-North tracks, add curb cuts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and upgrade lighting along Main Street. Improvements will also be made on Furnace Street.

Early said that, depending on final bid amounts, work will also be undertaken on Mountain Avenue and Fishkill Avenue. Bids will be opened on Feb. 22 at village hall, with construction expected to begin by spring. The village had applied for funding for the project 10 years ago during Anthony Phillips’ term as mayor.

Safety concerns

Some Haldane parents raised concerns with the board about pedestrian safety in the area of Mountain Avenue, Locust Ridge and Craigside Drive, where many students are dropped off for school each morning.

Heather O’Neil, Heidi Stephens and Kathleen Foley, a member of the Haldane

Safety Committee, cited concerns with drivers who ignore stop signs, heavy traffic, confusing signage, cars blocking drive-ways and students being let out in areas where vehicles are not supposed to stop.

Early, who recently attended a meeting at the site with Foley and Paul Piazza, Haldane’s school resource officer, pointed out that the issues are exacerbated by the alignment of the streets. Locust Ridge and Craigside Drive intersect Mountain Avenue very close to each other, the former from the south and the latter from the north.

O’Neil described an incident that occurred while her (Continued on Page 5)

Maloney Expresses Regret on Controversial Refugee Vote



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney during an interview at *The Paper* offices in Cold Spring

Photo by K.E. Foley

Also discusses, national security, bipartisanship

By Kevin E. Foley

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Paper*, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney expressed regret over his “yes” vote in November on a House bill that sought to certify procedures for admitting refugees from Syria into the United States. The hastily written American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015,

passed by the Republican-led House but was never taken up by the Senate, came in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris that killed 130 people.

“Let me say something to my progressive friends,” said the Democrat, who represents the 18th Congressional District of New York, which includes Philipstown and Beacon. “I think I blew it on that vote. But what I want people to know is I thought there was a better way forward. We should be able to guarantee to the American people that refugees (Continued on Page 4)

Beacon Parents and Teachers Want Voices Heard

In charged meeting, parents and teachers ask for “seat at the table”

By Jeff Simms

The search for a new superintendent of the Beacon City School District has not yet begun to take shape, but on Monday, Jan. 25, hundreds of parents made it clear they want to be involved.

Around 300 people crowded into the Seeger Auditorium at Beacon High School for a Board of Education meeting — its fourth in two weeks, and first since the resignation of Superintendent Barbara Walkley on Jan. 21. The scene was reminiscent of Jan. 11, when hundreds of parents also filled the auditorium to voice their frustrations, despite the cancellation of

that night’s board meeting.

Once the lengthy public comment portion of the meeting began, it became obvious why many were in attendance.

“Do not rush this process, please,” implored Lori Merhige, who is involved with the parents’ group Advocates for Beacon Schools, as she spoke to the board. “We are calling for an end to the status quo. Give us a seat at the table as we proceed together to heal, restructure and re-envision what Beacon’s schools can be.”

Merhige was referring to Walkley’s abrupt departure — almost exactly 12 months into her contract, which was to have run until June 2018. Instead, she received a nearly \$63,000

buyout from the district, including pay for unused sick leave and vacation.

Walkley became the latest in a line of Beacon superintendents to resign without finishing their contracts. Since long-time superintendent Vito DiCesare re-

tired in 2006, the seat has switched eight different times. Of those who were not interims, three, including Walkley, lasted less than 18 months.

Walkley had been dogged by controversy since she was hired permanently in February 2015. In August, 27 district teachers were reassigned across various schools and grade levels,

and many speculated that the moves were politically (Continued on Page 7)

“We are calling for an end to the status quo. Give us a seat at the table as we proceed together to heal, restructure and re-envision what Beacon’s schools can be.”

Roots and Shoots

Seeing the Trees in the Forest

Tools available to manage wooded properties

By Pamela Doan

All around Philipstown, we live in the woods. For many transplants, it was our reason to move here. For others, it's the reason to stay. Being surrounded by trees yet having one of the world's greatest cities within commuting distance is a serious perk.

Forests aren't doing so well, though. There are numerous threats from pests and disease to canopy trees like maples, oaks, hemlock, ash and beech. Gypsy moths defoliate oaks and after three years of losing their leaves, the trees are so weakened that they die. The emerald ash borer, a nasty insect that girdles the bark of ash trees, also has been found locally. Anyone with a hemlock tree has probably had it diagnosed with an infestation from the woolly adelgid; it's been active in our area for three decades.

The understory trees like red bud, viburnum, spice bush and dogwood are also facing devastation from pests and

disease. The viburnum leaf beetle defoliates the shrub in a matter of days. Native dogwoods have been lost to the fungus dogwood anthracnose. Heavy browsing by deer destroys the seedlings and saplings of native understory vegetation and in their place we get invasive plants like Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, common buckthorn and mugwort, among others.

In addition, there is pressure on species from global warming. Heavier precipitation events, longer periods of drought and warmer temperatures weaken plant and tree populations. Changing conditions create opportunities for new pests. The Southern Pine Beetle is making its way north as is kudzu, known as the vine that ate the South.

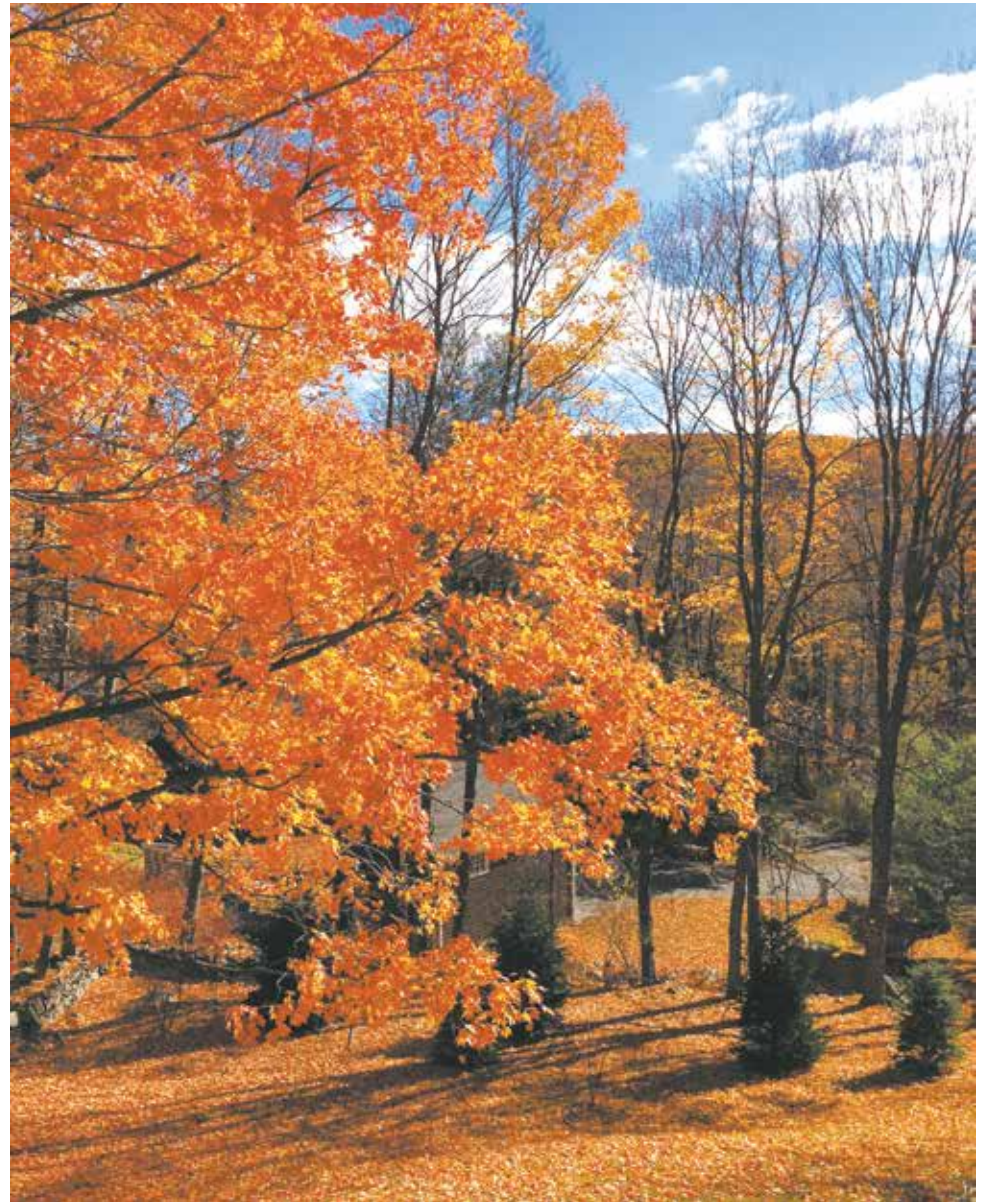
Chris Zimmerman, a conservation ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, has analyzed data from the U.S. Forest Service and projects that by

Chris Zimmerman ... projects that by 2027, eastern New York (which includes the Catskills and Hudson Highlands) will have lost 25 percent of its forest canopy.

2027, eastern New York (which includes the Catskills and Hudson Highlands) will have lost 25 percent of its forest canopy. Some of our native species, like the hemlock, may be depleted by more than 50 percent. The really disturbing news is that forests are having a difficult time regenerating because native plants are out-competed for light, water and nutrients by invasive plants.

Trees cover 63 percent of New York state and the majority of that land, 74 percent, is owned privately. This means landowners play an important role in protecting and conserving these resources. Zimmerman developed an online resource, the Decision Analysis Tool (ipmdat.org), to assist. The DAT can evaluate your strategy for controlling invasive species, including a cost-benefit analysis, the long-term viability of your plans and how effective the technique you've chosen will be.

"The rule of thumb is to manage smaller populations first and contain them from spreading to areas that aren't in-



A sugar maple's brilliant leaves on a fall day.

Photo by P. Doan

vaded," Zimmerman explained. "The DAT gives guidance on when eradication is more feasible, and then strategies on how to manage so you can get adequate forest regeneration, wildflowers, native plants, and be able to walk through it."

The DAT also helps determine if there is an unintended result from the effort. Zimmerman used the example of removing bush honeysuckle, only to have garlic mustard spread abundantly. He emphasized that it all comes down to what the landowner's goals are for the property.

The trick is to have enough knowledge and experience to come up with a strategy and many landowners don't have that knowledge base. Zimmerman acknowledged that the DAT is geared toward land

managers. As an alternative, he suggested MyWoodlot (mywoodlot.com), a project from the Watershed Agricultural Council that has more accessible information about how to care for a forest such as video tutorials on tree identification (a first step is to inventory the trees and plants in your woods), invasive species, setting goals and coming up with a long-term plan for forest management.

Asking yourself what matters most is the basic question. Do you enjoy wildlife? Birds? Do you want to be able to hike? Grow food? Create an income stream? Conserve the land for diverse habitats? All of these things are possible, but won't happen on their own with all of the encroaching problems.

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Haldane Hopes to Maintain What It Has

Haggling in Albany complicates district's budget

By Kevin E. Foley

Like most school districts around New York state, the Haldane Central School District is anxiously awaiting the outcome of budget deliberations in Albany between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Democratic-led Assembly and Republican-led Senate. The budget is expected to be completed by April 1.

Public school funding, the largest item in the state budget, is actually a small part of Haldane's finances compared to what the district collects in property taxes. But within a tight budget the state contribution can make a difference in which courses and services are offered.

Wading into the swamp of school financing requires high boots.

In 2011, school districts had their taxing authority sharply constrained by Cuomo's tax-cap provision, which puts a limit on what a district can assess property owners. Exceeding the limit, which is adjusted annually, can only be achieved by a referendum in which at least 60 percent of voters agree. This year the cap is expected

to hover between zero and two percent for many districts, including Haldane, making state aid all the more important.

The Haldane district, which serves about 850 students in grades K-12 and employs 74 teachers, has an operating budget of about \$23.2 million. It typically receives \$2 million or less from the state

because, while eligible, the district is considered fairly affluent. Some districts are considered so affluent they receive no state aid, while others receive more than half of their operating budgets from the state.

Districts that receive aid are hoping this will be the year the legisla-

ture agrees to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). Since 2008 the GEA has reduced state contributions using a byzantine formula that attempts to apportion funds relative to the state revenue shortfall caused by the national fiscal crisis.

Many school administrators, including the Haldane School Board and District Superintendent Diana Bowers, believe the GEA is no longer necessary because the state's finances have recovered from the financial crisis. Gov. Cuomo has proposed phasing out the GEA over two years; the Senate has already approved ending the GEA and the Assembly is expected to do the same.

Even if that happens, "eliminating GEA brings us to 2008 levels of state aid," Bowers said in an interview with *The Paper*. "People need to understand that inequities continue because the state has yet to give back our GEA [reduction]. The state is operating under a surplus but we are at a deficit."

For Bowers, recovering lost state aid is necessary only to maintain the status quo. "We are talking about keeping what we presently have," she said. Bowers said "inventive" financing is required for the district to maintain programs at 2008 levels. (The district's current budget can be viewed at haldaneschool.org under the "Board of Education" tab.)

The Haldane district will receive \$220,000 if the GEA goes away, instead of the \$67,000 proposed in Cuomo's budget. That would be in addition to the \$1.5 million the district will receive in "foundation aid," which is considered the actual aid the state apportions under its usual funding scheme. Many legislators, including Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the Assembly, and the state's education commissioner have called for an increase in foundation aid largely to assist poorer districts. But Haldane would also benefit if that were to happen.



Superintendent Diana Bowers

File photo by M. Turton

As a demonstration of the thin margins a school district works within, Bowers has to contend with a mistake in the "expense-driven aid" formula for 2015-16 that resulted in a \$125,000 shortfall. Expense aid is partial reimbursement by the state for certain services, in this case the district's purchase of Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) vocational and technical education programs for some students.

More than halfway through the current fiscal year, Bowers has announced a freeze on discretionary spending and a search for economies to avoid carrying the loss forward.

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Philipstown.Info, Inc.

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(1939 - 2014)

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Maloney Expresses Regret on Controversial Refugee Vote *(from Page 1)*

don't pose a threat. The people we have been admitting from Syria are mostly kids and old ladies and people with family here. There has not been a single incidence of violence from anyone we have admitted."

"I just didn't think it made sense not to certify that and stand behind it," he added. "And I thought the president was missing an opportunity to build bipartisan support for admitting more refugees as he wants to do to meet the need and do so with support from the American people."

The legislation would have further tightened the certification process for refugees from Syria and Iraq hoping to enter the U.S. by requiring three agencies (the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence) to affirm that a refugee applicant is not a threat to Americans. President Obama and refugee advocates have argued that stringent screening is already in place for refugees, with wait times approaching two years.

At the end of a discussion of the terrorist threat from ISIS and the refugee problem facing Europe, Maloney was asked about his position on refugees coming to the U.S. and his rationale for his vote. Maloney said his basic position that further certification would help convince a broader swath of the American people that admission of more refugees is doable hasn't changed. However, he said he regretted that his vote gave the wrong impression of his intent.

"What the issue became in the Congress was a symbolic debate between the two sides," he said. "I think I missed that. So, while I continue to believe there was a better way forward to stand behind the extensive screening process we already use and improve on it to help refugees who desperately need help, I think I missed the symbolic meaning to people and I am sorry about that."

Reviewing the year

Maloney is in the second year of his second term and faces re-election in November. He has told *The Paper* in the past that he is especially proud of his work in 2015 on federal road and rail infrastructure legislation as a member of the House Transportation Committee. The bill, which received bipartisan support, will fund a variety of projects to upgrade highways, mass transit systems and, Maloney stresses, local bridges, which he said he particularly advocated for.

Money for better train safety technology, another Maloney special issue, is also in the bill, which he said would benefit both the Metro-North system and the freight line on the west bank of the Hudson "where oil trains are a tremendous danger." Maloney stressed that the legislation is "fully paid for with real dollars," allowing state and local officials to propose and plan projects.

First responders

Healthcare provisions for first respond-



The Cold Spring railroad bridge might see repair from federal monies.

Photo by M. Turton

ers on Sept. 11, 2001 were made permanent in the last year's budget bill, another issue Maloney said he made a priority. "One of the worst things I've seen in Congress is them coming down to Washington and standing outside in the cold," he said. "Now they won't have come down and beg."

Maloney also heralded last year's Every Child Succeeds legislation, which he supported. He said it corrected the national approach to student testing and returned more control to the states. The bill replaced the No Child Left Behind law, which originated in the George W. Bush administration.

Bipartisanship

Throughout the interview Maloney made reference to working with Republicans to accomplish goals. "I made a decision at the outset to get things done," he said. "I chose imperfect progress over perfect gridlock," citing issues such as crop insurance, train safety and better care for military veterans where he said he was able to work across the aisle.

"Republicans run Congress [the party has a majority in both houses] and most local officials in the district are Republican so that's who I have to work with to get things done," he said.

Maloney said he was able to address the coordination of federal programs to combat Lyme disease, a growing problem in the Hudson Valley, by working with the Republican Chris Gibson, who represents the 19th Congressional District.

Maloney believes there is a bipartisan opportunity for progress on criminal justice reform in the present congressional term. He said he wanted to work on making progress on the use of federal dollars for more drug treatment options, such as in the pre-booking stage of a police action.

Further, he said he was supportive of state initiatives on reconsidering treating 16- and 17-year-olds as adults. He also favors increasing educational opportunities in prisons, but said he understood the

reluctance of many to use tax dollars to fund the programs. He supports New York governor Andrew Cuomo's proposal to use forfeiture money from the Manhattan District Attorney to pay for college classes in state prisons.

National security

The U.S. House traditionally has less influence on foreign policy than the Senate, although if a president wants to fund programs or wars he has to come to the House because funding bills originate there.

"Americans should not [have to] take all the casualties and spend all the money" in the battles for control of Syria and Iraq and to battle the Islamic State. "Our Syria policy is not working, said Maloney." He said he hoped the president could "rally the world to a true coalition" with "the moral authority to do something" toward destroying ISIS. He expressed regret the president had "missed an opportunity in the aftermath of the Paris attacks" in November to act toward this goal.

He did, however, praise the administration's nuclear deal with Iran, which he said was "going pretty well." He thought it vital to maintain strict compliance but acknowledged "we've made it much harder for them to get a nuclear weapon."

Local concerns

Maloney said he enjoyed good working relationships with Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea and Beacon Mayor Randy Casale. He said he was excited to see the progress being made in Beacon now spreading to Newburgh.

He said he had worked on land conservation language in the congressional agriculture bill (he also serves on the Agriculture Committee) and believes preserving open space to be a critical factor in creating economic opportunity.

The challenges of increasing rents and first-time home ownership are issues Maloney said he often hears about from residents. He said he is working on legislation that would allow a first-time homeowner to withdraw money tax-free from an IRA for the down payment.

Main Street Project Ready for Bids *(from Page 1)*

husband was walking their children to school. A car that had stopped to drop off a student backed up and bumped into the stroller that O'Neil's husband was pushing. No one was hurt, she said, but the incident underlined the seriousness of the concerns being raised. While the area includes a crosswalk at Locust Ridge, Stephens said drivers commonly ignore crosswalks throughout the village.

A number of potential solutions were discussed, including moving the crosswalk to a location west of Craigsides Drive; making Locust Ridge a permanent one-way street running south, and having a police presence during student drop-off. Merandy said that in the past, the Cold Spring Police Department has patrolled the area in the morning and said he would confer with Officer-in-Charge George Kane. It was noted that while Officer Pia-

za had attended the site meeting, his role at the school is to patrol the campus, not nearby streets.

The mayor said a public hearing would be held if required to relocate the crosswalk, a move he described as "common sense."

Parking fees

Plans moved ahead for installing a solar-powered pay station at the municipal parking lot on Fair Street. Trustees agreed with a recommendation from the parking committee that fees be set at \$1 per hour, payable with cash or credit card.

No fees will be charged during the winter between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. After some debate, the fines for failing to pay parking tickets were set at \$50, \$100 and \$150 for the first, second and third offense. Commercial vehicles will be allowed to park in the lot but buses and campers will be prohibited.

A public hearing to address related issues will be held on Feb. 23. Early said that after the final approval, installation of the pay station would take six to eight weeks.

Referendum wording

Trustees reviewed a proposition to be included on the March ballot asking voters whether they favor changing the date of future village elections. The draft, which was reviewed by village attorney John Furst, reads:

"Beginning in 2018, should the Village change the day of its elections from the third Tuesday in March to coincide with the regular general elections held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November?"

Early said she had hoped the proposition could be placed on the front of the ballot to make it more obvious to voters. However, election law requires it be put on the back, a practice she said is common, especially in school board elections.



Heather O'Neil was one of three parents who raised pedestrian safety issues.



Parents are concerned about safety in the Mountain Ave. area where students are dropped off each morning.

Photos by M. Turton

The board must now pass a formal resolution within 30 days of the March election in order for the proposition to be included on the ballot. The election will be run by the Putnam County Board of Elections.

Water meters

The board agreed with Superintendent of Water and Sewers Greg Phillips' recommendation that the village purchase new cellular water meters from Badger Meter, Inc. Because Badger is the only company that offers the technology, village attorney John Furst advised that a single bid was appropriate.

The meters will cost an estimated \$180,000 and replace 19-year-old devices that Phillips said are at the end of their effective life. The old meters must be read manually at each location, while with cellular technology monitoring can be done remotely. Competitive bids will be sought

for installing the Badger meters in nearly 900 locations in Cold Spring and Nelsonville, including all residences and businesses. The cost of installation is estimated at \$160,000, although Phillips said he is hopeful bids will come in at less than that.

No one attends hearing

A hearing was held as part of Tuesday's meeting to give those in arrears for payment of water bills an opportunity to plead their case, but no one appeared. Cold Spring residents who fail to pay have the charge added to their tax notice but in these cases the property owners live outside the village, mainly in Nelsonville. One delinquent bill is for more than \$7,000 for water supplied to four properties. The village will now send registered letters stating that the water will be shut off unless the bill is paid.




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Beacon Speaks Out, Moves Forward with Police Dialogue

Group focused on community/police relations to make public presentation

By Brian PJ Cronin

A year ago, as Americans grappled with the events unfolding in Ferguson, Cleveland, Staten Island and other places as a result of unarmed minorities dying at the hands of police officers, Beacon's mayor Randy Casale and police chief Douglas Solomon began to discuss how to make sure that the same things didn't happen in their city. After convening members of the local clergy and other community leaders together, a new group called Beacon Speaks Out was formed to examine ways in which relations could be improved between the citizens of Beacon and its police force. "Our goal was to be as proactive and as transparent as possible, so that mistrust doesn't grow or breed," said Chief Solomon.

Now, after more than a year of meetings and research, the community group Beacon Speaks Out will hold a public presentation and a workshop on Sunday



Members of Beacon Speaks Out prepare to present their plan to the public. Front (from left): Christine Galbo, Laina Mason, Deborah Bigelow; back (from left): Brooke Simmons, Barry Nelson, Mark Ungar, Joe Galbo, Lisa Brett-Chapin Photo courtesy of Beacon Speaks Out.

February 6th from 1pm to 3pm at the Memorial Building, 413 Main Street.

The group first held a public workshop back in May in order to examine the current relationship between the department and Beaconites. After soliciting comments, impressions, and ideas from the community, Beacon Speaks Out met weekly in order to distill that feedback into eight recommendations as to how the police department and the Beacon community can work together in order to improve relations. Once those recommen-

dations were formed, the group worked on developing steps that could be taken in order to make those recommendations a reality.

Changing the public's perception of the department was one of Chief Solomon's main goals when he took over as Police Chief four years ago, after serving as Police Chief in Monticello for almost ten years. "The Beacon Police Department had a negative reputation with a lot of members of the community when I got here," he said. "Whether that reputation was justified or not, isn't for me to judge. I've just had to know that it existed." Since taking over, Chief Solomon has sought to make himself

more accessible and visible than his predecessors, strolling down Main Street whenever possible and attending community events. "There was also an attitude here of 'That's the way we've always done it,'" he said. "That's not a good answer."

Chief Solomon admitted that some members of the department were suspicious of the program at first. "We're police officers, we're suspicious by nature," he admitted. "That's our job." But as the group continued working throughout the

"Obviously we're already try to de-escalate things as it is. It makes things easier. But some officers are better at de-escalating things than others, depending on their personalities and demeanors."

year, it soon became clear that the group and the department were on the same page. "There were no hard pills to swallow here," he said. "A lot of the things they suggested we were working on anyway."

Some of the suggestions have already been implemented. This fall, the department began sector policing, splitting the city into three sections (north of Main Street, South of Main Street, and east of Fishkill Avenue.) This will allow officers to concentrate on certain areas of town, and spend more time out of their patrol cars, walking the streets, and engaging with the community. The city also recently approved funding of a dedicated Main Street officer. Members of the department have already begun additional training in regards to crisis intervention, and will soon begin additional training in nonviolent conflict mediation. "Obviously we're already try to de-escalate things as it is," said Solomon. "It makes things easier. But some officers are better at de-escalating things than others, depending on their personalities (Continued on Page 14)

Congratulations to all participants in the annual 7th Grade Saunders History Contest!

Haldane School

Andrew Aiston
Brian Andersen
Daniel Bajsicki
Maria Barry
Emilia Barth
Erika Bauer
Frank Bentkowski
Johnathan Bradley
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Alex Carone
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Jack Jordan
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Graeme McGrath
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Christian Pezzullo
James Phillips
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Josh Reyes
Daniel Santos
Darrin Santos
Vincenzo Scanga
Andrew Scicluna
Sebastian Scott-Hamblen
Minori Shiga
Calvin Shuk
Andrew Silhavy
Zoe Silverman
Peter Smith
Grace Sporbett
Kevin Van Tassel
Sydney Warren

1st place: Carlo Cofini and Jack O'Hara, Haldane School, for "What was the impact that Robert Parrott and the Parrott gun had on the outcome of the Civil War?"

2nd place: Arden Conybear and Shannon Ferri, Haldane School, for "How and why did the Hudson Valley section become the first section of the Appalachian Trail?"

3rd place: Fallon Barry, Garrison School, for "Who was Isaac Garrison and what impact did he have on the American Revolution and current day Hudson Valley?"

Honorable Mentions:

- Sophie Stark and Ava DuBois, Garrison School, for "How did the Warner sisters' devotion to their religion affect the way they cared for the West Point soldiers?"
- Calvin Shuk and Andrew Scicluna, Haldane School, for "What secrets do the land and history of Denning's Point hold?"
- Ben Strol and Luke Wimer, Garrison School, for "What opportunities did Dunderberg Mountain offer to those who lived there and those who saw it from afar in the 1700s to the 1800s?"
- Patrick Reinhardt and Andrew Silhavy, Haldane School, for "How was Constitution Island important to the Revolutionary War?"

Thank you to the Desmond-Fish Library for hosting the contest this year. Thank you also to all of the judges.

Jane D'Emic	Christine Foertsch	Molly McCoy	Julisa Tomizawa
Karen Doyle	David Gordon	Michael McKee	Paul Tomizawa
Jonathan Duncan	Christine Johanson	Adam Osterfeld	Jackie Wlodarczak
	Jonathan Kruk	Christopher Raymond	

The Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring. For more information, please visit www.putnamhistorymuseum.org or call 845-265-4010.

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Beacon Parents and Teachers Want Voices Heard *(from Page 1)*

motivated.

A Beacon parent, Melissa Rutkoske, also filed a petition in December with the state Department of Education, asking for Walkley and school district attorney Michael Lambert to be dismissed, after a series of emails between district officials and former teachers' union president Kimberly Pilla were made public.

Rutkoske's petition, which she said was filed on behalf of "many concerned parents," alleged an inappropriate relationship between Walkley and Pilla, and that

each worked behind the scenes to further an "unethical" agenda.

Lambert has said, and repeated on Monday, that he expects Rutkoske's petition will be dismissed by the state. He was heavily criticized by speakers during the meeting for what they saw as his role in the board's alleged lack of transparency.

John Burns, the current president of the Beacon Teachers Association, said that in December the union had passed a vote of no confidence in Walkley. And while the board's inaction regarding Walkley "frac-

tured" both the school district and the board, he said on Monday that teachers are ready to move on — as long as they remain informed. "We are teachers and we just want to teach," he told the board. "All we ask for is a seat at the table."

Pilla was present at the Monday board meeting — which grew tense at times as speakers and audience members shouted back and forth — and she heard her share of support from the community.

Talaya Wilkins, a 2003 Beacon High School graduate who is now an associate producer at ESPN, said that she would forever be "indebted" to Pilla for mentoring her after Wilkins said her mother walked out on her life. "I was taught how to turn my pain into my purpose and never allowed to use my story as a crutch in life. I want to publicly thank her for showing me how to beat the odds," said Wilkins, who embraced Pilla as she returned to her seat.

Others simply seemed fed up with all the controversy.

"We have to lead by example," said Beacon resident Timoline Hall. "If we teach our children to be judgmental, then that's what they will do. We need to get away from the mudslinging."

As for replacing Walkley (the board last week appointed Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi as interim), there was some discussion about vetting processes that have and have not worked in the past. Ultimately, the board seemed unified that something must be done differently this time around.

"I agree [with a member of the audience]



Ann Marie Quartironi, Beacon's interim superintendent *Photo provided*

that we need to do a root-cause analysis as to why we're struggling here," said board member Christine Galbo, who advocated hiring a professional search firm to locate candidates. "I don't think as a group we have the skills needed to guide us through a search."

Although she did not comment directly on Walkley or any of the perceived actions of the board, Quartironi, the interim superintendent, spoke briefly about the 3,400 children who attend Beacon's six schools, echoing comments made by several audience members: "The real purpose for all of us to be here is the education and well-being of our students, and I hope that continues."

Trading Places



Robert A McCaffrey Realty Inc., above, and Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival have exchanged offices across from one another on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Photos by Michele Gedney

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Clearwater Looking for a Fair Wind

Executive director resigns after 18 months

By Kevin E. Foley

The environmental organization Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, founded and long inspired by folk singer Pete Seeger, has come into some stormy weather as it tries to develop a way

forward in the aftermath of Seeger's death two years ago.

This week the group announced it has parted ways with its executive director, Peter Gross, after only 18 months.

Last week Clearwater canceled plans for its annual summer Hudson River Revival, a weekend fundraiser of concerts, cultural events and environmental education featuring big-name acts from the world of rock and folk music.

When Gross, a lawyer and television production executive, was hired in May 2014, the Clearwater board, headed by Anne Osborn, heralded his "extensive nonprofit and business experience." The head of the search committee, Dr. William Frank, described Gross as a leader with proven management ability who would be able to...build and maintain financial stability and forge consensus for change while remaining faithful to our underlying values."

In a Clearwater statement on his resignation this week, Gross is quoted as saying he was stepping down because of "significant differences between his and the organization's vision to the path to building a stronger future for Clearwater and dealing with the organization's long-standing financial and structural challenges."

In the same statement, Clearwater said: "In light of the recent announcement to cancel this year's



The Clearwater

Photo by Michael Turton



Crowds at Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival, 2014, Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson. At right, Pete Seeger waves good-bye at one of his last Beacon performances

Photos by Kate Vikstrom

Great Hudson River Revival to focus on the restoration of the iconic sloop Clearwater, the search for a new executive director will be postponed."

The sloop is currently in Kingston undergoing extensive repairs to meet Coast Guard specifications for sailing on the Hudson River. The New York State government has awarded the organization a matching grant of \$340,000 with the obligation to raise the remaining \$500,000. In Clearwater's own words that "has placed a great financial burden on the small non-profit."



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The Calendar

George Knaus Retrospective Becomes Tribute

Artist who died in November gained admirers on Facebook

By Alison Rooney

On March 23, 2013, then 84-year-old George Knaus crossed the threshold into the land of Facebook. On April 1 he posted an etched self-portrait and updated not only his profile picture but the mode of bringing his decades of art to a wider audience.

Soon Knaus, a retired art teacher, was posting images of his work and conversing with a growing number of admirers. His sketches and oil paintings, usually given pithy and apt titles, appeared daily until mid-November 2015, just 10 days before his death. (His account, at facebook.com/george-knaus, remains a treasure trove not only because of his work but because of all the archived comments by him and those responding to his work.)

On Feb. 1, the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will showcase Knaus's work in an exhibit planned while he was still alive, and now presented as a tribute. Knaus's daughter, Lisa, who manages the pottery studio at Garrison Art Center, is helping to curate, along with Barbara Smith Gioia.

Born and raised in the Torrington, Connecticut area, Knaus also played the tenor sax and clarinet and, with his brother, formed the Knaus Twins Orchestra to play local events. He was drafted into the U.S. Air Force Band during the Korean War. After his service, he

(Continued on Page 12)



A Sunday in the Park with George, an oil painting by George Knaus

Image courtesy Lisa Knaus

A Song in the Making

Master class lets audience watch singer critiques

By Alison Rooney

Finding that fine balance between providing constructive critique while allowing a young artist to maintain composure and the self-confidence to absorb that critique is at the crux of a master class, particularly one conducted

in front of an audience of strangers.

This form is familiar to Gerald Martin Moore, the pianist, conductor and vocal coach, who will be returning to the Depot Theatre at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7, as part of their three-part Classical Music Series to work with three local singers who aspire to professional careers.

As each singer performs, Moore, who has worked closely with Renée Fleming for many years, will coach them as they go, stopping them with suggestions and

questions, all designed to get them not only to improve technique, but, as importantly, to inhabit the world of the song and convey its emotion and meaning more effectively.

Especially when working with young adult singers — the three, Laura Bach, Tess Dul and Tyler Mell range in age from 19 to 24, care must be taken, something Moore is always conscious of.

“There must be enough criticism to make the class practical, but not so much

that it inhibits the performer,” he explains. “It is not good to draw attention to too many shortcomings in public, so I try to make these criticisms apply to all singers while at the same time trying to personalize things for the individual, and take into account their temperament — trying to gauge what level of criticism they are comfortable with, and how much they might be capable of changing on the spot.”

“At the same time,” he added, “we are all vulnerable” *(Continued on Page 13)*



Tess Dul

Photo by Arthur Cohen



Tyler Mell

Photo by Arthur Cohen



Laura Bach

Photo by Frank Famularo



Gerald Martin Moore

Photo by Chip Tilden

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Haldane vs. Pawling (Boys' Basketball)
7:30 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Years of Living Dangerously, Part 1 (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

RiverWinds Gallery
10 a.m. iPhoneography Workshop
4 p.m. Artist's Talk by Galina Krasskova
172 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com | *Rescheduled from Jan. 23*

Valentine's Day Pet Pictures
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brewster Feed Barn | Route 22, Brewster | 845-225-7777 | puthumane.org

Army vs. Bucknell (Women's Basketball)
1 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Haldane vs. Beacon (Girls' Basketball)
1 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Easy and Fun Crafts for Adults
1 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Registration required. | *Rescheduled from Jan. 23*

Nicki Sizemore: The Food Processor Family Cookbook (Signing)
1 – 4 p.m. Cold Spring General Store
61 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5522 | coldspringgeneral.com

The Met Live in HD: Puccini's Turandot
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

West Point Band: "On the March"
2 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre | 655 Ruger Road, West Point | 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Garrison Art Center (Openings)
5 – 7 p.m. Kenny Harris: *A Lineage of Imagination*
5 – 7 p.m. Melissa Schlobohm: *Better Off Together*
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Prohibition and the Hudson Valley (Talk)
5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Silent Film Series: Wild Oranges (1924)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
With live music by Cary Brown

Mary Buser: Inside Riker's Island (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St., Beacon
beaconprisonaction.org | *Rescheduled from Jan. 23.*

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

Almost Queen

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley | 1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

Stephane Wremble / Sara Labriola
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio
9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St, Beacon
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Fareground Community Pop-Up Café
Noon – 3 p.m. Beacon Community Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon | facebook.com/fareground

Jean-Marc Superville Sovak: I Draw & You Talk (Closing)
Noon – 5 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
3 p.m. Artist's talk | 436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Live Art Fest
1 – 5 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

High School Art Exhibit (Closing) plus Cold Spring Caravan Band
3:30 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Jason Vieaux (Guitar)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Philipstown Community Center
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Cooking Dinner with Fernando Sinchi | 4 p.m. Paint Your World for Seniors
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors/Low-Income
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org
Dial 2-1-1 for appointment. | Continues weekly.

Garrison Fire District Meeting

7 p.m. Garrison Volunteer Fire Company
1616 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Haldane vs. Putnam Valley (Girls' Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Journalism 101 for Adults (First Session)
6 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Digital Salon
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come & Play | 10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales
4 p.m. Architecture/Building for Kids
4 p.m. Multimedia Animation (ages 10-15) (First Session) | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Pre-school Story Hour
3:30 p.m. Lego Club | 472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Auditions for The Glorious Death of Comrade What's-His-Name
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Army vs. Lafayette (Women's Basketball)
7 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Introduction to the Five Chinese Elements
7 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Putnam County Legislature
6:45: Public Hearing - Agriculture District
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse | 44 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel | 845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Town Board Pre-Meeting
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

Stew Cutler (Guitar)
8 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Lee Falco (Drums)
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnnsbeacon.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Auditions for The Glorious Death of Comrade What's-His-Name
12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Wednesday.

Estate Planning and Elder Law (Talk)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Wednesday.

Haldane vs. North Salem (Girls' Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Re>Think Local Town Hall
6 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | facebook.com/ReThinkLocal

Lives and Legends of Hudson River Fish (Talk)
6 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

Introduction to River Navigation Course
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Wednesday.

Kindergarten Parent Orientation
7 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Town Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | See details under Wednesday.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors/Low-Income
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday. | Continues weekly.

Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Card Games/Dungeons & Dragons Club
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Gallery 66 NY Openings
6 – 9 p.m. Group Show: Survey of Regional Artists
6 – 9 p.m. Cassandra Saulter: Delphine's World
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

George Knaus (1928-2015): A Retrospective (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Teen Intro to Pattern & T-Shirt Woodblock Printing (First Session)
6:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

August: Osage County
8 p.m. County Players | 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls | 845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Calling All Poets
8 p.m. Center for Creative Education | 464 Main St., Beacon | 914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

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Majestic Soaring on Display

Boscobel again a viewing site for EagleFest

Boscobel House and Gardens will again be a free viewing site for Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest, taking place this year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. (The snow date is Feb. 7.) An estimated 150 bald eagles spend the winter

along the Hudson River waterways.

EagleFest takes place at Croton Point Park with various viewing locations along the Hudson, including at Boscobel, staffed with birding experts and stocked with detailed maps. Boscobel is located at 1601 Route 9D in Garrison.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the activities at Croton Park, which include live music, bird shows and walks and children's activities, visit teatown.org/teatown-events/eaglefest.html. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 6 to 11, with discounted tickets available online until 5 p.m. on Feb. 3. A bus tour to all viewing sites is available for \$25 per person. No pets are allowed.

Night Owls Invited to HHNM

Owl Prowls scheduled for Feb. 5, 6

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum plans to host its popular Owl Prowl on Feb. 5 and Feb. 6. Both begin at 7 p.m. at the Wildlife Education Center, 25 Boulevard, in Cornwall.

Environmental Educator Carl Heitmuller will discuss the species native to our region and their adaptations. Participants will meet an owl from the Museum's collection before venturing into the woods to search for more of these nocturnal raptors.

Space is limited, so paid reservations are required. The program is suitable for children ages 7 and older. The cost is \$7 per person for museum members and \$10 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit hnhm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.



Screech owl

Photo by Jim Ridley

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Classical Music: Master Class with Gerald Martin Moore, Pianist Tom McCoy, and Vocalists, Laura Bach, Tess Dul and Tyler Mell
February 7, 4 p.m.

Play Reading: *Anne of Green Gables*
directed by Nancy Swann
February 13, 7:30 p.m.

I of the Storm, a one-man play with Richard Hoehler
February 20, 8 p.m.

Classical Music: An evening with pianist Jaiyan Sun
February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Classical Music: Opera with Neal Goren
February 27, 7:30 p.m.

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Support Groups

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George Knaus Retrospective Becomes Tribute (from Page 9)

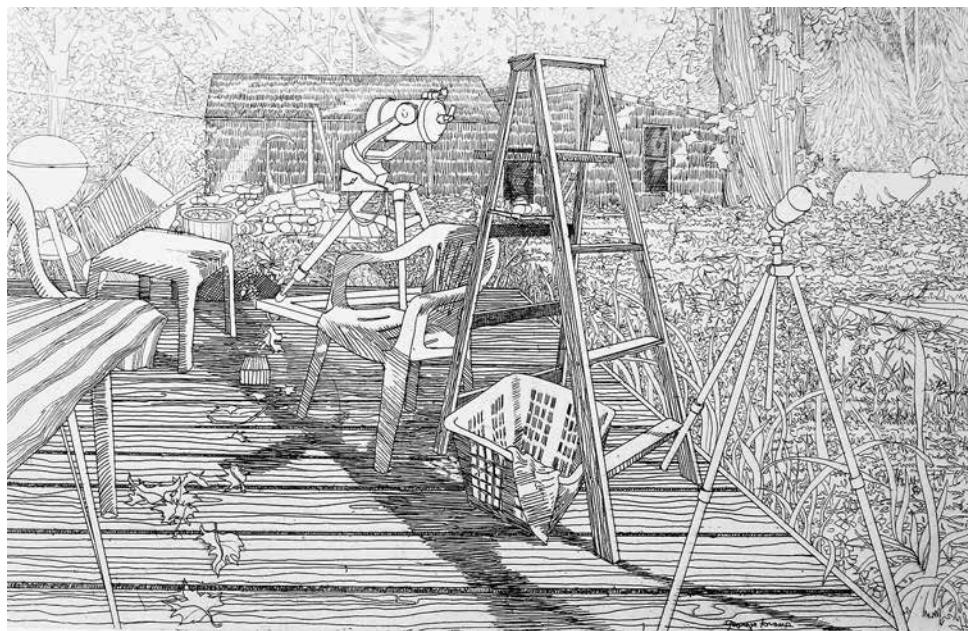
enrolled under the G.I. bill at the University of Hartford, where he studied art and music.

Living for a while in New York City, Knaus worked as a jazz musician and dipped into the art scenes all around him. Immersed in the abstract expressionist work of the 1950s, he embraced neo-realism in his own work, with much stimulation from shapes and color. Training as an art teacher exposed him to a broad variety of media and forms, many of which he continued to use through the years in his own creative work.

Lisa Knaus describes her father as

someone content to remain in his corner of the world. “He rarely traveled and, outside of his time in the Air Force, never got on a plane,” she says, noting this was reflected in his art. “His landscapes are local, places he would drive to and park at, in weird places, draw, then come back and paint from the drawings. His still lifes were usually from stuff around the house. At the prep school where he taught [the Kent School in Kent, Connecticut], he found there was enough to keep him happy. You can see his love for his home in his work.”

After retiring from teaching, Knaus



Back Deck with Telescope (etching) by George Knaus

Images courtesy of Lisa Knaus



Still Life with An Ace of Spades, a watercolor by George Knaus

moved in the mid-1990s to the New Paltz area and shared a home with his daughter and other family members for the duration of his life. Lisa Knaus says her father was able to stay at home, quite comfortably, until just a week before his death.

George Knaus did have aspirations to get his work seen by a larger audience, but “he resented the process and said, ‘Okay, then I’m just going to paint,’” said his daughter. “He painted for the sake of painting and wasn’t interested in going to the right opening at the right time ...

There was a pureness to his work, though he was never naïve — he had his cynical side. Humor was always present. He always had a twinkle in his eye, even when he was pissed off. He loved espresso pots — ours always went missing and then we’d find he used them in his still lifes. He was a very charming and old-fashioned gentleman, pulling out chairs for people when he could barely walk.”

Knaus’s adventures on Facebook began when he saw Lisa posting images of pots she had made. Soon he was a regular and made sure to post one image each day. It was on Facebook that Barbara Smith Gioia, then a colleague of Lisa’s at the Garrison Art Center, spotted his work.

“Barbara saw a painting one day, commented on it and texted me a few days later, after seeing more, saying she wanted to do a retrospective,” Lisa recalls.

Smith Gioia, a member of the Buster Levi Gallery collective, knew that two months out of each year were left open for non-members, and she proposed a show during one of them. When Smith Gioia learned from Lisa of her father’s passing, she urged her to continue with the exhibition.

Lisa Knaus says that when Smith Gioia came to the house to help pick out the work, she responded to it “as a painter — she saw the brushstrokes, the composition, beyond just the images. She said, ‘Let’s go on with this, it’ll be beautiful.’”

“George Knaus, 1928-2015, A Retrospective” will open with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, and continue through Feb. 28. In addition, a reception to celebrate George’s life will be held at the gallery from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. The Buster Levi Gallery is located at 121 Main St. and open from noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit busterlevigallery.com for more information, or call 845-901-2435.



Tree and Stream, a watercolor by George Knaus

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A Song in the Making *(from Page 9)*

when performing, so they have to be able to cope with a certain amount of criticism, but if I feel strongly about something that I might not want the audience to share, I may reserve that part for the singer in private afterwards."

Laura Bach, along with Mell, is a master class neophyte, but says she's been interested in doing one for a long time. "It's sometimes hard to separate yourself from the critique; it can feel very personal," she says. "But I also know that I'm going in to get that. If I come in and do flawlessly, I'm not going to learn much ... I'm nervous in a good way."

Dul has participated in a number of master classes and says he's hoping to "focus on the acting and conveying the story I know in my head to an audience. I tend to get wrapped up in technique and focus too much on the sound rather than the words; the words are just as important, if not more important than the music." The on-the-spot critique doesn't phase Dul, who notes: "I accept that I am still a student. My voice will not be fully developed until I am in my 30s, so I am happy to take any critique to improve technique, performance, diction, etc. I am used to singing in master classes in front of other students, so there is definitely an added sense of pressure when a paying audience is involved."

Mell, who plans on singing *O Del Mio Dolce Ardor* and *Per La Gloria*, calls himself "beyond excited to participate." The recent Haldane High School graduate anticipates that he will be "a tad nervous" but he nonetheless he hopes it will be "an enjoyable and educational experience."

Moore has led master classes for numerous opera companies, including the Washington National Opera, the Royal Danish Opera and the National Opera Studio in London. He has been vocal coach and assistant to Sir Charles Mackerras at the Edinburgh Festival and has performed around the world as a recital accompanist, including for Fleming in performance for President Obama in New York and for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

Moore says his desire is that students "take away from my class that they themselves are totally responsible for their voice and their artistry. They should be open to hearing all sorts of other ideas, but at the end of the day they must take responsibility for their own instrument, and if anything I have given them can challenge them a little to open their ideas and explore all avenues, then that's all one can hope to achieve in such a short space of time. Also, that one never stops working and improving, no matter what level of career you achieve."

Those "other ideas" are what Bach is seeking, too. "I always look forward to an opportunity to see things in a new way," she says. "A fresh perspective is invaluable. In short, I hope to grow."

As for the audience, there is always something compelling about watching a

skilled teacher draw new things from students then and there. Moore believes "audiences are always fascinated by the process that goes into something creative. How much is natural ability, and how much is consciously applied? Many of them think singers just stand up and sing, like amateurs, who of course do it when they feel good, but the process of how to make your voice work consistently under pressure, or on a bad day I think can be quite interesting for a lay person. I try not to get too technical for too long when it's a general audience as opposed to an audience of singers, but I do feel it's important for the audience to understand just how much physical and mental work goes into the preparation of singing."

Mell expects that the "audience will be keen to hear the slight changes in tone and technique that make the listening experience that much more enjoyable." For Dul, it goes beyond tones. "The audience will learn that singing classical repertoire is so much more than making beautiful tones; it involves studying different languages and diction, tongue placement, vocal anatomy, creative interpretation of recitative, putting your personal stamp on cadenzas, proper breathing, the list goes on and on," she says. "Everyone involved will certainly learn a lot of valuable lessons and leave with a heightened appreciation for the art form of classical music."

Adds Bach: "We expand upon our understanding of music, and our enjoyment of it, when we hear what the musician is playing to emphasize and perhaps learn why. Audience members might learn about the meaning behind hardly understood words, or the point of a certain phrasing or dynamics used."

She described her own experience watching a master class given by Paul Tortelier, who worked on Bach's *Prelude for Cello No. 1* with a group. "His playing of it is very unique for such a well-known piece and he invited the students to find new movement in it rather than just playing it straight," she recalls. "Now when I listen to it, I hear new undulations in the strings that is not unlike an ocean moving up and down, and it brings me a new joy like I'm hearing the piece again for the first time."

The Classical Musical Series at the Depot will continue at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, with a performance by pianist Jiayan Sun playing selections from Froberger, Schubert, Busoni, and Liszt. That will be followed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, by an encore of another of last year's concerts, *A Night of Opera* with operatic arias and ensembles inspired by Goethe's *Faust* from Gounod, Boito, Stravinsky and Schubert sung by soprano Maeve Höglund, tenor Terrence Chin-Loy and bass Matthew Anchel and accompanied by Neal Goren.

Tickets for all three events, which cost \$30 each or \$75 for premium seating, are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/2484025.

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Beacon Speaks Out, Moves Forward with Police Dialogue (from Page 6)



Beacon Police Department

and demeanors.”

The department will also be making their police blotter reports online in addition to their current weekly print incarnation in the *Beacon Free Press*. And thanks to a grant, the department will be rolling out body cameras over the summer that will integrate with the cameras that are currently installed in the patrol cars. “The officers actually want the body cams,” said Solomon. “We’ve had a number of situations in the past that ended up in personnel complaints and lawsuits that, if we had had body cameras at the time, would have been resolved.”

But the department will need the sustained help of the community in order to act on all of the recommendations, which is where the meeting this Sunday comes into play. In addition to simply presenting the recommendations and initiatives to the community, Beacon Speaks Out will be looking for people who can help them make those initiatives a reality. “If we’ve

learned anything in this past year, it’s that it takes a village,” says Beacon Speaks Out’s Brooke Simmons. “It takes having support from the broader community.”

Diversifying the police force for example, won’t happen unless the community gets involved. Of the 31 officers currently employed by the department (with 3 to 4 more due to be hired,) only one of them is female and only 5 are minorities. As of 2103, the city was composed of 43% minorities.

“The minority community has to buy into getting our young people involved in civil service careers,” said Chief Solomon. “Not just as police officers but government jobs in general. That’s something that I know the mayor has been pushing for, that the High School should be encouraging people to look into civil service jobs. Our ability to go out and recruit is limited. It’s a got to be on a community level with the school district involved and we need minorities to take the test.”

Simmons agreed that going forward, the Beacon City School District needs to be part of the initiative. “The youth are such a big stakeholder in all of this,” she said. One of BSO’s suggested programs, called “Get Home Safely,” would work on informing youth about their rights and responsibilities as citizens with useful tips on how to stay out of trouble. But BSO can’t put that program into place on their own.

“We’ll need volunteers to get this program up and running, and to make it sustainable,” she said. And that ties into the bigger challenge that both the department and

BSO faces: How to turn the current energy for reform into permanent change.

“When these issues come up, we make a lot of noise, and we get a lot of press,” she said. “But then how does that information and education move forward?”

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.

“When these issues come up, we make a lot of noise, and we get a lot of press. But then how does that information and education move forward?”

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Breakneck Mountain and Bull Hills

Cold Spring in 3-D, Circa 1900

NYPL posts dozens of stereoscopic views

The New York Public library has scanned and posted more than 40,000 stereoscopic images from the late 20th and early 21st century online,

including dozens of views of Cold Spring, Garrison and the lower Hudson Valley. A gallery of some of the images can be found at philipstown.info.

A stereoscopic image was created to be seen through a viewer that made it appear to be three-dimensional. The card shows two photos of the same scene tak-

en at slightly different angles to create an impression of depth. The library also has created an online "Stereogramator" that allows viewers to see the images in 3-D without a viewer (stereo.nypl.org).

The collection is part of 180,000 items posted by the library to its archive of public-domain material, which is no longer under copyright and free to share and re-use. It includes photographs, manuscripts, correspondence, sheet music, Lewis Hine's photographs of Ellis Island immigrants, Medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts from Western Europe and 20,000 maps and atlases. Visit nypl.org/publicdomain for details. To browse the library's digital collections, which contains nearly 700,000 items, visit digitalcollections.nypl.org.



View of Cold Spring



Crows Nest from Cold Spring



Above, Church of Our Lady; at right, Cold Spring(s) on the Hudson



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



An image from Cassandra Saulter's *Delphine's World*

Photo provided

Gallery 66 NY to Open Two Exhibits

Survey of Regional Artists and *Delphine's World*

Gallery 66 NY has invited an array of local artists to showcase their talents in a *Survey of Regional Artists* exhibit for the month of February. The exhibit focuses on artists and curators whose work has not previously shown at Gallery 66.

The gallery also will open an exhibit by Cassandra Saulter called *Delphine's World*. The installation began in 2009 when Saulter spotted a plastic bottle which she dissected; it evolved into 3D work and eventually the figurative pieces of Delphine and her family. In addition, Michelle Mercaldo will be exhibiting jewelry created by harvesting plastic and spinning gold from waste material.

An opening reception for both exhibits is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, and they continue through Feb. 28. Gallery 66 NY is located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring; its winter hours are Friday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.

Haldane Students to Play Gallery 66 NY

Gypsy jazz band will entertain at exhibit closing

Gallery 66 NY will hold a closing reception at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31, for its *My Best* exhibit of works by area high school students. It will include a performance by the Cold Spring Caravan Band, a gypsy jazz band comprised of Hal-

dane High School students Sara Labriola, Jeremy Roffman and Umru Rothenberg.

The gallery is located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring. Call 845-809-5838 or visit gallery66ny.com. The final viewing hours for the exhibit are from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, and Sunday, Jan. 31.

Watch the Super Bowl on 30-Foot Screen

Paramount to host free party for fans

The Paramount Hudson Valley Theater will open its doors on Sunday, Feb. 7, for NFL fans to watch Super Bowl 50 on its 30-foot movie screen. Admission is free but reservations are required by Friday, Feb. 5. Up to 10 people may be added to a single reservation.

The theater will be selling 16-ounce Budweiser and Bud Light aluminum bottles for \$4 each and raffling off a Budweiser leather recliner, Paramount memberships and tickets, coolers and other prizes. Food will be available for purchase. Doors open at 4 p.m. and kick-off is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

To register, visit paramounthudsonvalley.com/events/super-bowl-50. The Paramount Hudson Valley is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.



Art to the Rescue

Center will host cabin-fever workshops

The Garrison Art Center will host a series of Cabin Fever Workshops on Saturdays in February, as well as a two-day workshop for elementary and middle-school students over the President's Day school break.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, printmaker Melissa Schlobohm will offer in-

struction on how to cut, ink, edition and print relief prints on paper. Also at 10 a.m., photographer Ethan Harrison will lead a scenic walk around the grounds of Garrison Art Center to Constitution March and Arden Point so participants can practice using different lenses and settings for landscapes.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m., Ada Pilar Cruz will provide an introduction to linoleum printing with basic metal-smithing techniques and instruction on how to anneal and hammer wire into designs for pendants and earrings. Also at 10 a.m., Helen Michelsen will lead a workshop on decorating and pouring scented, soy wax Valentine's Day candles and collaged Valentine's Day cards and boxes.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, Linda Barboni will lead a class on wet-on-wet watercolor techniques working from still life. And at noon, Emmett McLaughlin will introduce the properties, concepts and effects of color, using paper (collage/simple designs) to study the interaction of color as taught by Josef Albers.

The winter workshop for kids in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15 and Tuesday, Feb. 16. The cost is \$50 per day.

Each adult class costs \$35 plus a \$5 materials fee, with discounts if you sign up for more than one. Visit garrisonartcenter.org to sign up, or call 845-424-3960. The art center is located at 23 Garrison's Landing.

Buddhist Monastery to Celebrate New Year

Chuang Yen ceremony on Feb. 8 open to public

The Chuang Yen Monastery on Route 301 in Kent has invited the public to attend its annual Chinese New Year Blessing ceremonies on Monday, Feb. 8.

The day begins at 5 a.m. with a ceremony to greet the New Year, followed by a morning service at 5:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. there will be Dharma talks, offering lights and a blessing by the Abbot. At 1:30 p.m. the monastery's clergy will lead the chanting of the Great Bright Mantra and tie Auspiciousness Blessing Threads to all participants. Finally, at 5 p.m., the monastery will close for the day with an evening bell and drum.

The monastery is also looking for volunteers to assist with traffic control, meal preparation and clean-up. Visit baus.org/en/?p=6754 for more information. Chuang Yen Monastery is located on a 225-acre campus at 2020 Route 301. For more information, call 845-225-1819.

Free Talk on Effects of Menopause

Physical therapist will explain pelvic floor rehab

Karen Michella, a senior physical therapist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital who has 13 years of expe-

rience in pelvic floor rehabilitation, will speak at The Garrison Café at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, on menopause and its effects on the body. Michella will explain the benefits of physical therapy to those suffering from urinary urgency and incontinence, pelvic pain and other pelvic floor muscle conditions. The talk is free but registration is required by calling 914-734-3557 or emailing ppelican@hvhc.org. The Garrison Café is located at 1135 Route 9D.

Cooking Classes in Cortlandt

Courses take place at Peter X. Kelly Kitchen

The Chef Peter X. Kelly Teaching Kitchen at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital has announced its cooking classes for February and March.

Each 90-minute class costs \$15 and include Vegan Cooking (4 p.m. on Feb. 5); Chocolate in the Kitchen (3 p.m. on Feb. 16); Using Whole Grains (4 p.m. on Feb. 22); Cooking with the Mediterranean Diet (4 p.m. on Mar. 8); Nutrition Month Meals (3 p.m. on Mar. 15); and Homemade Pizza (5 p.m. on Mar. 23).

The kitchen is located at Dempsey House, 1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor. To register, call Michael Bulger at 914-734-3780 or email mbulger@hvhc.org.

Piper Kerman to Speak at Vassar

Author of *Orange is the New Black*

Piper Kerman, whose memoir *Orange is the New Black: My Year in Women's Prison* inspired the popular Netflix series, will speak at Vassar College at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9. A Q&A session and book signing will follow. The free event will take place on the second floor of the Students' Building.

Kerman spent 13 months in a federal prison in Danbury, Conn. on money laundering charges following a brief dalliance into the world of drug trafficking a decade earlier. The book explores the lives of the women she met while in prison, including their friendships, families, mental illnesses, substance abuse issues and codes of behavior. (Continued on next page)



Wylie Thornquist and Ethan Gunther of Haldane High School have works in the Gallery 66 student exhibit.

Photo provided



Piper Kerman

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) She will speak as part of the annual Alex Krieger '95 Memorial Lecture. Krieger was killed in an automobile accident during his freshman year at Vassar. In consultation with his family, Vassar has invited a number of American writers and humorists to deliver the annual speech, including Tom Wolfe, John Irving, P. J. O'Rourke, Calvin Trillin, Jules Fieffer, Oliver Sacks, David Sedaris, Sarah Vowell, Gail Collins and, most recently, George Saunders.

The university is located at 124 Randolph in Poughkeepsie.

Learn the Craft of Journalism

Butterfield to host four-week workshop

The Butterfield Library will offer a program starting Tuesday, Feb. 2, for adults interested in learning the craft and art of news and feature writing. The workshop, So You Want to be a Journalist?, will consist of four 90-minute sessions on consecutive Tuesdays taught by Anita Peltonen. Each begins at 6 p.m.

The course will cover the basics of how to tell an editor and audience what's exciting about a story, find the most riveting and important facts, know the right and wrong things to do in journalism, build confidence in your lead sentence and story-writing, handle different delivery systems — print versus broadcast versus web-based venues — and approach a controversial subject. The goal is to end up with an edited piece and ideas for where to pitch it.

Peltonen has worked in journalism and photojournalism as a reporter, news editor, copy editor and foreign correspondent in print and radio. She also has been an adjunct in journalism at New York University for five years.

Registration is required at the library's online calendar at butterfieldlibrary.org. Call 845-265-3040 for more information. The Butterfield Library is located at 10 Morris Avenue in Cold Spring.

Nature Museum Sets Lecture Series

Scheduled for four Tuesdays in February

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum has announced the topics for its Tuesday evening lecture series to be held in February at the Cornwall Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. Each lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.

On Feb. 2, Frank DiLorenzo, a member of the Mt. Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society, will discuss the history of the railway, which opened in 1902 and carried thousands of visitors a year to the summit with its hotel and casino and sweeping views of the Hudson Valley.

On Feb. 9, the presentation will focus on the 300-year-old Gomez Mill House. Its executive director, Ruth K. Abrahams,

will discuss the landmark's importance to the development of the Hudson Valley as reflected in the lives and deeds of five of its owners: colonial Jewish merchant Luis Moses Gomez, Revolutionary and civic leader Wolfert Ecker, the Armstrong Family, Arts and Crafts paper artisan Dard Hunter and social activist Martha Gruening.

On Feb. 16, the naturalist and historian Donald "Doc" Bayne will discuss the rich history of Iona Island, located in the Hudson River just south of the Bear Mountain Bridge and now a nature preserve.

On Feb. 23, Richard and William Vacek will share their appreciation for William Thompson Howell (1873-1916), a Newburgh native who an inveterate hiker, diarist and photojournalist. His account of his hiking life had a great influence on conservation of the Highlands.

Cornwall Presbyterian is located at 222 Hudson St. Admission is \$7, or \$5 for museum members. For more information, visit hnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

HVCCA Plans "Live Art Fest"

Artists and performers will fill empty gallery

Get an inside look at the art-making process with painters, sculptors, dancers, musicians and poets at Live Art Fest, to be held at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31. (The snow date is Feb. 7.)

The museum has not yet installed its next exhibit, so the empty space will serve as a canvas for artists to paint, sculpt, dance, weld, make music and create installations for the public to watch and participate in.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$25 for families (up to five people), or \$5 per person and \$15 for families for museum members and Peekskill residents. The museum is located at 1701 Main St. in Peekskill. Visit hvcca.org for more information.



County Players Present Dark Comedy

August: Osage County won Tony, Pulitzer Prize

County Players in Wappingers Falls will present Tracy Letts' dark comedy, *August: Osage County*, over three weekends beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5.



Anna Marie Paolercio (Mattie Fae Aiken), Ann Citron (Violet Weston) in *August: Osage County*

Photo provided

The play won the 2008 Tony for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. When their father goes missing, the huge, dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly.

"It is a big play in many ways, with 13 characters, rigorous in its thought, vigorous in its language," said director Christine Crawfis. "The great pleasure for all of us working on this play has been to explore the insanities and complexities in our own families, including the unruly humor, and the surprising gestures of love and loyalty that dwell there."

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 20, with an additional performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14.

Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for seniors. The play contains strong language and adult themes. Call 845-298-1491 for reservations or order online at countyplayers.org. The County Players Falls Theatre is located at 2681 W. Main St.

Beacon

African-American Artists Exhibit at Howland

Opening followed by African drum and dance performance

The Howland Cultural Center will open its 21st annual celebration of African-American History Month on Saturday, Feb. 6, with an exhibit of artwork by African-American artists of the Hudson Valley. An opening reception is scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m. and the show will continue through Feb. 28.

The artists represented include Yvette Byrd, Josephine Green, Kyra Husbands, Robert Lewis, Richard Outlaw, Symantha Outlaw, Michael White, Donald Whitely, Ja-



Artwork by Richard Outlaw

cob Williams, Merv Willis and John Wynn.

The Feb. 6 opening will also feature a fashion show by Michi Knitwear by Michele Walden McGhee, beginning at 3 p.m. with models from the James Brown Family Performing Arts Center and Blue Ice Entertainment in Poughkeepsie and New York City. The cultural center, located at 477 Main St. in Beacon, is open Fridays through Mondays from 1 to 5 p.m. It will be closed on Feb. 14 and 28.

Following the exhibit opening, the African drum and dance ensemble Sankofa will perform at 8 p.m. A donation of \$10 is requested at the door.

Community-Police Group to Meet Feb. 6

Initiative produces updated complaint/compliment brochure

Beacon Speaks Out, a community group formed last year to improve relations between the public and the Beacon Police Department, will hold its second community-wide event from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Memorial Building/Bingo Hall at 413 Main St.

The meeting is designed to update residents on eight initiatives that resulted from the hundreds of responses collated from a public meeting held in May that was followed by weekly meetings from June through December between BSO members and government and police officials. For more information, visit beaconspeaksout.org.

Spending Dollars Close to Home

Group to meet to discuss promoting "localism"

ReThink Local will host a town hall meeting in Beacon at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, to discuss its mission to promote "localism" among businesses and consumers. The group works to help local, independent business owners in the Mid-Hudson Valley, including retailers, farmers, artists, man-

(Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) ufacturers, entrepreneurs, builders, service providers, restaurants, freelancers and nonprofits, bring sustainable practices to their work.

The event will take place at the Beahive Beacon, at 291 Main St. For more information, visit rethinklocal.org or golocal-hudsonvalley.org. Go Local Hudson Valley encourages businesses, individuals and non-profits to pledge to spend 10 percent of their dollars locally.

Blues Guitarist to Play Residency at Dogwood

Stew Cutler will perform Wednesdays in February

The jazz/blues guitarist Stew Cutler will play a Wednesday residency throughout the month of February at Dogwood in Beacon beginning on Feb. 3. Each performance begins at 8 p.m.

Cutler, who last year was inducted into the NYC Blues Hall of Fame, has performed as a sideman for Percy Sledge, Eddie Floyd, Wilson Pickett, Fontella Bass, The Fantastic Johnny C, Earl King, Jimmy Castor and, more recently, Queen Esther



Stew Cutler

Photo by David Landon

Marrow, the Harlem Gospel Singers and Sweet Georgia Brown. He has recorded a number of CDs, including *Trio Music*, *Insignia* and *After Hours*.

For more information, visit stewcutler.com. Dogwood is located at 47 E. Main St.

Historians to "Cold Read" Artifacts

Society launches monthly lectures

The Dutchess County Historial Society has scheduled the first of its series of monthly "Decoding the Past" lunches, which will continue through June, for noon on Feb. 8 at Locust Grove, on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie. The program will focus on how historians and curators "read" artifacts and the process that historical societies use to decide which objects to add to their collections.

The first program focuses on Dutchess County in the Civil War and will include "cold readings" by specialists of a manumission certificate, a recruiting poster and a soldier's leather bag. Light refreshments will be provided but participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

Future sessions, which take place on the second Monday of the month, will address local businesses, advertising artwork, portraiture and patriotic memorabilia.

Reservations are required. Tickets are \$10 for historical society members and \$15 for non-members. Series tickets are \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members. Locust



Image courtesy of Dutchess County Historical Society

Grove is located at 2683 South Road (Route 9). For more information, call 845-471-1630 or email dchistorical@verizon.net.

Fish, Wetlands, Bees, Eels

Scenic Hudson schedules four lectures

Scenic Hudson has announced a series of lectures to be held in February and March at its River Center at 8 Long Dock Road in Beacon. Each starts at 6 p.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, Tom Lake will discuss the lives and legends of Hudson River fish. Within the watershed, 224 species have been documented, and 171 are considered "native." Are these numbers significant — and what does native mean? Lake is a naturalist with the Hudson River Estuary Program of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, Laura Heady will talk about Hudson Valley wetlands, from its floodplain forests and vernal pools to emergent marshes and fens. They provide habitat for plants and animals, including many rare species, and furnish clean water, flood control and outdoor enjoyment.

Heady is the Estuary Program's conservation and land use coordinator.

On Thursday, March 3, Tim Stanley will discuss native pollinators, or what he calls "the unstung heroes." Most of the food we eat is the result of the endless labor of pollinators. Bees are designed for pollination, yet most go unnoticed and their work unheralded. Stanley, the founder of Native Beeology, will talk about ways to create habitat diversity within backyards and gardens.

Finally, on Thursday, March 10, Chris Bowser will talk about tracking the great migration of American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), which are born in the Atlantic Ocean and swim into North American streams as tiny, almost see-through "glass eels." The species is in decline over much of its range, and studies of its migration are considered crucial for survival. Bowser, who is a science education specialist with the Estuary Program, will describe when, where and how you can help catch and document these fascinating fish, providing biologists with vital information.

For more information, call Scenic Hudson at 845-473-4440, ext. 273, or email aconeski@scenichudson.org.

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Door-to-Door Dumplings

Go-Go Pops begins home delivery

By Alison Rooney

For those who live in a city, the array of home delivery options is inexhaustible. But in Philipstown, options seem limited to pizza, pizza and the other items on a pizzeria menu. Starting Feb. 2, Go-Go Pops in Cold Spring hopes to change that by delivering fresh, plant-based foods.

"A lot of people just know us for our pops and coffee, but we also focus on savory foods that are healthy," says Lynn Miller, who, along with her husband Greg, owns the Main Street establishment. "We're very, very excited to be bring wonderful food options — home meal replacements — to our friends in Philipstown."

The offerings will include some constants and some rotating items, most sourced from the many farmers' markets the Millers attend each weekend. The emphasis will be on more than just healthy ingredients, Greg Miller says. "It's all delicious, too; it looks healthy but it's also fantastic. Lynn and I both have vegetarian restaurant backgrounds and this is about great food that happens to be vegetarian." Lynn adds, "These are meals that you can feel good about eating."

The selections will usually include four soups, with two staples, chicken vegetable ("I just love our chicken soup

— it's truly good for whatever ails you — it's tasty and brothy," Lynn says) and vegetarian chili. Five salads will be offered, mixed greens and four "hearty" varieties (e.g., kale and wild rice, roasted tofu, and two types of roasted beet). Some of the salads can be heated up and served either as the focal point of a meal or as an accompaniment.

There'll also be items like bean burgers and stuffed potatoes with vegetables on the side, which Greg calls "a meal on its own." And, venturing beyond their own creations, Go-Go Pops will feature homemade steamed dumplings, made by a purveyor they met at a market. The Millers started bringing them home to enjoy after a long day's work. "They're like nothing I've ever had before," Greg says, "so flavorful, plump, wonderful." The dumplings will be available with chicken, pork or vegetable fillings with a side of Asian slaw, accompanied by a bowl of dressing.

Prompted by the difficult retail winters (especially last year), the Millers "decided to fill the 'I'm too tired to cook — or clean — need,'" Lynn says. "Also, one of the handicaps for local businesses is the perception of no parking. We thought we'd eliminate that roadblock by 'bringing it to you.'"

One positive by-product of the service will be to pro



Greg and Lynn Miller, proprietors of Go-Go Pops Photo by A. Rooney

vide jobs to local teenagers, something the Millers feel strongly about. "We're hoping people will recognize that we are your neighbors and we're able to recognize what the needs in our town might be, and are seeking to address that need," Lynn says.

Home delivery will be offered year-round Tuesday through Sunday, from 5 through 8:45 p.m., and is free on orders or \$20 or more. Each day's menu will be posted on the Go-Go Pops Facebook page, and payment can be made with cash on delivery or by credit card over the phone (845-809-5600). In addition to prepared foods, virtually anything else Go-Go Pops sells at its store at 64 Main St. can be delivered. "Of course we'll bring you pops," Greg says, "and chocolate, too, when you just have to have some."



Stocked shelves at Go-Go Pops. Everything sold in the store will now be available for home delivery.

Photo by A. Rooney



Clockwise from top, left: Go-Go Pops' chicken noodle soup, blackened tofu, black bean burger, and stuffed potato, just some of their prepared foods which are now available for home delivery.

Images courtesy of Go-Go Pops



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Sports

Beacon's World Champ

City transfixed by 1939 title fight

By Michael Turton

Long-time Beaconites are familiar with the story behind Melio Bettina Place, but many newer residents probably don't know that the street owes its name to a major figure in the city's history.

In February 1939, Bettina, a professional boxer who lived in Beacon with his parents and six siblings, defeated "Tiger" Jack Fox at Madison Square Garden with a sixth-round technical knockout to win the Light Heavyweight World Championship. It was a very big deal in Beacon. "That was before television," recalled Vinny Bettina, Melio's nephew. "Every radio in Beacon was tuned to that fight."

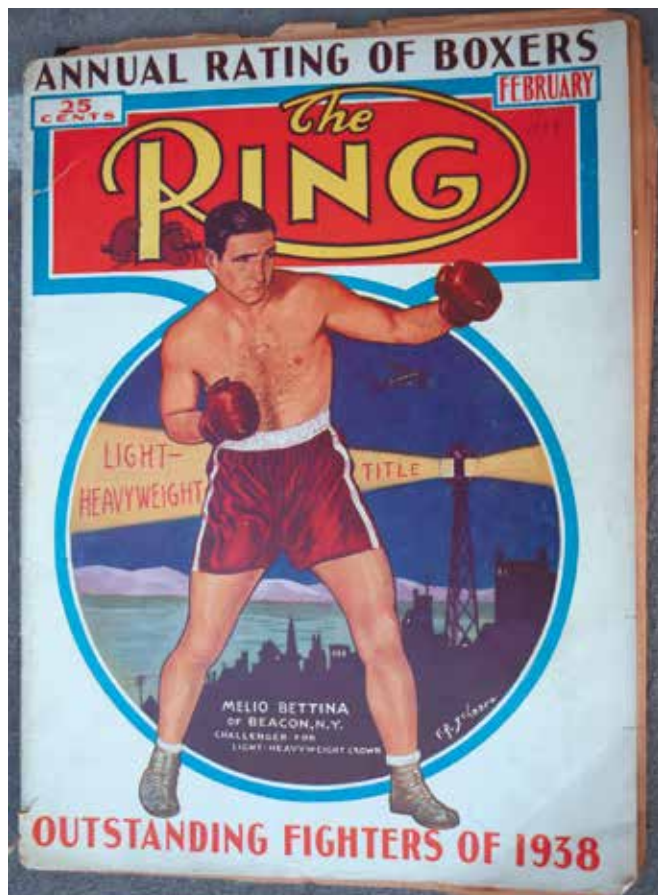
Many residents took special excursion trains to New York City to watch the fight in person, although a snowstorm hurt attendance. Bettina received \$750 for winning the title. The purse, which in that era was based on attendance and not television contracts, was always on Bettina's mind. "The only thing that ever frightened me when I entered the ring was seeing an empty seat," he told his nephew.

Melio began boxing during the Depression, in part because he could make more money in the ring than at the few, low-paying regular jobs available. His winnings helped support his extended family. His father, Vincenzo Bettina, worked on the Beacon ferry and at what locals called The Biscuit, the Nabisco printing plant that is now Dia:Beacon.

Vinny Bettina said his uncle was a big believer in education and paid for one of his sisters to attend college. "My uncle used to say, 'They can steal your girlfriend; they can steal your money; but they can't steal your brains — so get an education!'"



An autographed photo of Bettina in his prime



Bettina appeared on the cover of *The Ring* magazine in 1938.

Images courtesy of Vinny Bettina

Golden Gloves

Bettina's first big break came in 1934 when he beat Tony Zale to win the Inter-city Golden Gloves light heavyweight title, a competition that pitted New York's best young boxers against their Chicago counterparts. Zale went on to win the World Middleweight Championship multiple times.

Bettina turned professional and was managed by Jimmy Grippo. He split his training between Grippo's third-floor gym on Beacon's Main Street and a facility located at the base of Mount Beacon. Some believed that Grippo, who was also a magician, hypnotized Bettina before his 1939 championship bout. When Vinny Bettina asked Melio about Grippo's hypnotic powers, his uncle replied, "The only thing he ever hypnotized was the money."

Five months after defeating Fox, Bettina fought Billy Conn in a highly anticipated bout at the Garden. The fight would have unified Bettina's New York State Athletic Commission title with that of the National Boxing Association, but Conn won a unanimous but disputed decision. The New York Times had Bettina winning the majority of rounds. Bettina also lost a rematch two months later in Pittsburgh, again by decision. The victorious Conn went on to fight Joe Louis, losing to the heavyweight champion from Detroit. (Highlights of Bettina's bouts with Zale and Conn can be found on YouTube.)

Chasing Joe Louis

Vinny Bettina said his uncle also wanted to fight Louis but that the Brown Bomber declined to take on the southpaw, who had a reputation as a solid puncher. A fight between Louis and Bettina was scheduled in 1941 but canceled. Vinny recalled that his uncle once said of Louis, "He fought a lot of tomato cans." Vinny once said he had asked Louis why he never fought his uncle. The champ was said to respond, "It wasn't smart business to fight your uncle in those days."

Haldane Junior Varsity Basketball



Haldane's Bela Monteleone steps to the line in junior varsity matchup with the Ketcham Indians on Monday, Jan. 25, at the Haldane gymnasium. The Lady Blue Devils lost to the Indians, 42-27. Bela and her sister, Olivia, led the Blue Devils in scoring with 8 points each.

Photo by Peter Farrell

Melio Bettina did eventually meet Louis, although not in the ring. Both served in the military for a period during World War II and were stationed at Camp Shanks in Orangetown in Rockland County. The camp, nicknamed "Last Stop USA," was the largest point of embarkation for troops headed overseas. Professional boxers fought exhibition matches to entertain the troops.

Although Bettina probably never sparred with Louis, he did spar with numerous well-known fighters, such as Jake LaMotta, the inspiration for the film *Raging Bull*. "LaMotta could get a bit dirty," Bettina once told his nephew. Other notable partners included heavyweight champion Jersey Joe Walcott and light heavyweight champion Archie Moore.

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Countering Hitler

When Max Schmeling knocked out Joe Louis in June 1936, Adolph Hitler sent Schmeling's wife flowers and a message congratulating "our greatest German boxer." As part of a propaganda campaign to lessen the sting of Schmeling's victory, President Franklin D. Roosevelt posed in photographs with Bettina, who was seen as a rising star. Another Beacon resident, James Forrestal, the first U.S. Secretary of Defense, was also in the photos. Beacon's J.V. Forrestal School now bears his name, as does the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal.

A photo of Bettina appeared in *Cosmopolitan* in the early 1940s. The black-and-white portrait shows the boxer looking dapper in suit and tie and wearing an Adam's Hat, a fedora his nephew said was manufactured in Beacon, known then as "The Hat Making Capital of the U.S." Bettina also made the cover of *The Ring* magazine in 1938.

A solid record

Bettina's last title shot came in 1941 when he lost a decision to Anton Christoforidis in Cleveland. He entered the ring for the last time in 1948. The 5' 9", 175-pound leftie fought 100 bouts during



Wearing a fedora made in Beacon, Bettina was featured in *Cosmopolitan* around 1940.

his 14-year pro career, with 36 of his 83 wins by knockout. He suffered 14 losses and had three draws.

After boxing, Bettina turned to car sales to make a living. He managed Shaw Motors for many years, the local dealership that later became Healy Chevrolet.

Vinny Bettina said he asked his uncle why he had returned to Beacon. "He told me, 'If the Hudson Valley is good enough for Roosevelt and Vanderbilt, then why not Bettina?'" Melio listed St. Rocco's as his favorite Beacon hangout.

He loved Beacon

Melio Bettina was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame in Los Angeles in 1996 but was unable to attend due to poor health. His brother Joe and former Beacon Mayor Jim Fredericks, who was a cousin, stood in for him.

Bettina died on Dec. 20, 1996, at age 80. "He was a teddy bear," another well-known Beacon sports figure, former Notre Dame basketball coach Digger Phelps, told the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. "You never heard anything bad about Melio. He loved Beacon and Beacon gave it back to him."