Trio Triumphs in Cold Spring Vote

Merandy, Early and Murphy win election by wide margins

By Michael Turton

Dave Merandy won convincingly in the race for the mayor's office in Cold Spring's Wednesday (March 18) election, defeating his opponent Barney Molloy by a vote count of 454 to 261.

In the battle for two trustee seats, Marie Early, Merandy's running mate, collected 508 votes, the most among the five candidates. Fran Murphy garnered 500 votes to claim the second trustee seat.

Bob Ferris, who teamed up with Molloy, received 257 votes.

The vote totals are unofficial and will be confirmed by the Putnam County Board of Elections, which ran the Cold Spring election for the first time.

Road repairs continue

By Liz Schectehak Armstrong

As the flaky white stuff fell this winter, so did the levels of cash kept by local municipalities for snow and ice removal. The fallout continues, as highway crews repair roads damaged by the storms.

And when they remove snow, where do they dump it? Alongside roads or in empty lots but not in the Hudson River. Snow is considered stormwater runoff which can contain pollutants.

Philipstown

For snow and ice removal the Town of Philipstown budgeted $120,000 to cover personnel costs, and, according to Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico, that wasn't enough. "We went over by $8,500," Chirico said March 13, in an interview at his Highway Department office.

He recalled that the bad weather typically began on weekends, which meant more money spent on overtime pay for workers, who were often busy at all hours. "You have to keep going and going and going" to keep up with a heavy snowfall, he said.

The town similarly earmarked $395,000 for snow and ice control supplies and additional equipment but spent about $211,000, Chirico went on. "It's hard to estimate what kind of winter we're going to have" and how much will be required, he said.

He purchased 2,456 tons of salt, whose price rose recently, and used about 500 tons more salt this year than last. "Because of the price escalation, that put

Butterfield Library Seeks Funding Increase

Vote to be included on Haldane's May ballot

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring's Julia L. Butterfield Library is seeking approval for $73,150 in additional funding in a May 19 referendum.

Library Director Gillian Thorpe told The Paper that the increase is needed because in 2014 library expenditures totaled $368,088 while revenues amounted to only $310,625—resulting in a $57,463 deficit. The shortfall was partially offset by $15,000 in fundraising, and the library borrowed against its endowments "to get to January 2015," Thorpe said.

Financial support of Philipstown's two libraries—Butterfield and the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison—has become more complicated, and higher-profile, in recent years.

Historically, the bulk of Butterfield Library's operating budget has come from the Town of Philipstown, an amount that for several years totaled $212,000. Things changed substantially in 2006 when the library went directly to voters and, in a binding referendum, received approval to increase Philipstown's annual support to $276,000, a decision that was upheld by the New York State Supreme Court when the town protested. Under New York State law the town cannot reduce the annual allotment.

(Continued on page 3)

Local students are frequent library users.

(Continued on page 3)
Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Humbled and Crumbled

By Mary Ann Ebner

From love to money, any number of agitators can disrupt life, and occasionally, life bubbles over in the kitchen. Some households claim a member who consistently burns the toast or shirks doing dishes. It wasn’t dirty dishes that rattled our harmony, but herbs and spices.

Sugar and spice have long conjured images of everything nice, while herbs turn out favorable buzz for taste, color and health benefits.

Why the fuss? I was prepping dinner for a small party and came up short on cilantro. My husband offered to pick up a bunch and he was soon out the door and on his way to the market. Cilantro or coriander, Coriandrum sativum, is widely used in the Middle Eastern kitchen. We lived in the Middle East at that time, in a neighborhood with its own small kitchen. We lived in the Middle East at that time, in a neighborhood with its own small kitchen.

If the story ended there, we would have settled on one of many uses for the parsley family. But the same herb mix-up happened again, at least two or three more times. Purchasing cilantro went on to haunt us. We wedded our way through the herb confusion, only to enter a new chapter tenuously. At a women’s-only gathering where food pageantry was second nature, the shape of the leaves? I asked.

“How about the scent? Did you sniff it?”

If the story ended there, we would have settled on one of many uses for the parsley. But the same herb mix-up happened again, at least two or three more times. Purchasing cilantro went on to haunt us. We wedded our way through the herb confusion, only to enter a new chapter tenuously. At a women’s-only gathering where food pageantry was second nature, the shape of the leaves? I asked.

(Continued...)

Fatta

Serves 8

1 medium or 1 large eggplant, rinsed
2 to 3 pieces flatbread (or large flat pita bread)
16 ounces plain yogurt
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper
1 teaspoon sumac
1 teaspoon sesame oil
2 medium or 1 large onion, chopped
2 pounds minced meat (beef or lamb)
1 large onion, chopped
2 pounds minced meat (beef or lamb)

1. Remove stem and thinly slice eggplant no more than 1/8-inch thick. Sauté in oil. Remove from pan and set aside in warm oven. Fry flatbread on both sides until crunchy. Cool 2 minutes on paper towels, crumble bread into small pieces and set aside. (To avoid oil, toast bread 5 minutes in oven at 400 degrees or toss it on a grill for a few minutes.)

2. Mix plain yogurt with freshly squeezed lemon juice, a pinch of salt, a twist of ground pepper and the meat until it is browned through. If the meat is high in fat, drain excess.

3. Cook chopped onion, 1/4 teaspoon salt, a twist of ground pepper and the meat until it is browned through. If the meat is high in fat, drain excess.

4. Sauté pine nuts or sunflower seeds in 1 tablespoon olive oil for 2 minutes. Set aside.

5. In casserole dish or flat-bottomed pan, layer eggplant, meat and another eggplant layer. Top second eggplant layer with crunchy flatbread pieces. Spoon yogurt mixture onto top layer. Dust with sumac and sprinkle with pine nuts or seeds. Serve immediately with green salad and fresh flatbread.
Trio Triumphs in Cold Spring Vote

This time around, however, the vote on whether or not to increase funding would not include all Philipstown taxpayers. Instead it will be conducted in concert with the May 10 Haldane budget vote with only residents living within the Haldane Central School District taking part. The library referendum will be on the same ballot but will have no impact on the school vote and will have no impact on the school budget or potential school tax rebates. However, if the library referendum produces a “yes” vote, the school district would be responsible for collecting the funds on behalf of the library. Philipstown residents outside of the Haldane Central School District – in Garrison and Continental Village – would not be taxed as part of the Butterfield proposal.

The Desmond-Fish Library used the same method to secure approval for $875,000 in additional annual funding as part of the May 2014 Garrison Union Free School District budget vote. In that case, only residents within the GUFPS District were subject to the additional tax. Cold Spring and North Highlands taxpayers were not.

The Butterfield Library is required to submit a petition to the Haldane Central School District with 35 signatures in order to have its referendum placed on the May ballot. Thorpe said that 57 signatures have already been gathered and the petition submitted. Cost would be $27 per household.

“We asked for $250,000 in 2006 because that is what we needed for core services at the time,” Thorpe said. She said that at the time she thought a request for a subsequent increase would probably be made “in three or four years.” Instead, the library has gone nine years with no increase in core funding.

“We fought hard to secure baseline funding from town halls,” Thorpe said of the 2006 referendum, adding that because residents within the Haldane School District - “too much noise” - would be able to hold a referendum again a year later. “If the community doesn’t want to support [the library] at its current level of service then we’ll have to look at where to cut.”

2006 funding expanded programs, increased users

Thorpe, the library’s only full-time employee along with 10 part-time staff, said that the 2006 funding increase resulted in significant improvements, many of which were suggested in user surveys.

“The funds made additional staffing possible. Library hours were expanded by nine hours per week, including opening on Sundays for the first time and more than doubling on Saturday hours. The number of computers available to patrons increased from two to more than a dozen. Internet access and the library website were also improved. Free access to Ancestry.com was added along with passes to such sites as the Museum of Modern Art and Museum of Natural History in New York City as well as the Norwalk Aquarium. Programs offering training in CPR, defensive driving and babysitting were made available at affordable prices.

“The library’s philosophy is to make programs available to everyone in the community,” Thorpe said.

Things went very well for about four years, but Thorpe said that the recession soon began to take its toll. Costs continued to increase while revenue remained the same. “And we kept attracting more users than ever,” she said. Items borrowed by Butterfield patrons through the interlibrary loan service went from fewer than 350 requests in 2000 to more than 15,000 requests for materials in 2010. Circulation during the same period increased by more than 70 percent.

Recent years marked by cost cutting

In recent years the library has had to tighten its belt. Maintenance, including landscaping and carpet cleaning, was reduced. Book acquisition was cut by 50 percent and program spending by 60 percent. One staff position was eliminated. High-speed Internet access was replaced by a free but much slower service. The pace of replacing what are now aging computers slowed. And at a time when libraries are more and more technology-based, Thorpe said she is concerned about having funds to provide consistent staff training. When technol-

ogy has been improved, it has not been clean. Two Apple computers purchased recently cost $1,200 each.

“Our board of directors has been saying that we can’t go on this way for about the past two years, that we have to go to the community,” Thorpe said. Butterfield Library is overseen by a five-member board. President Judy Meyer, Vice President Dennis Gagnon, Treasurer Michael LaRocco and Secretary Pam Markano. One seat is currently vacant due to a recent resignation. Commenting on the proposed funding request Meyer said, “We have tried to keep it realistic.”

Public hearings set for April

In addition to annual funding from the Town of Philipstown, Butterfield Library also receives an annual contribution from Putnam County, which although not a guaranteed or fixed amount, totaled $32,867 in 2013. Other revenue that year included $14,568 from library fundraising, $9,766 from dividends and interest, $7,176 from the Friends of Butterfield Library, $7,010 in donations, $2,308 in miscellaneous grants, and $1,308 in fines. Fines are no longer levied for overdue material.

As she is confident that the library will receive a “yes” vote in May, Thorpe said: “We’re hopeful. We feel we’ve done a really good job in the community and that people like our services. But this gives people a chance to vote and to speak their mind.” Thorpe said that 97 of the 66 libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library system have received funding through a public vote.

Public hearings on the funding proposal will be held at Butterfield Library on Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m. Information on the referendum, including audit and annual reports, is available at butterfield.org. Click on “Vote Info” at the top right corner of the home page.
Property tax relief for middle-income households

To the Editor:

We have a real opportunity in this year’s state budget to adopt a new tax relief program to help those who pay too much of their household income for property taxes. If you believe that this could impact you and your family, I hope that you will be the strongest advocate for its adoption within the next two weeks. Gov. Cuomo introduced this program in his proposed budget as the Property Tax Relief Credit Program which was also included in the Assembly budget.

I introduce here a concept many years ago with Sen. Betty Little called the Circuit Breaker Program. The concepts are similar. I believe that this approach would help many New Yorkers who pay more than 6 percent of their household income for property taxes and have a total adjusted gross income of less than $250,000. As owners of homes, condos or co-ops, you would be entitled to an income tax credit on a sliding scale of property taxes you pay above the 6 percent level. On average, owners of property will receive a tax credit of between $781 and $1,500. That tax credit would be added to approximately 1.3 million middle-income households in New York. Those who do not owe taxes at tax time would get a reimbursement for their out-of-pocket Tax Department expenses.

This program offers middle class taxpayers a fair and balanced approach to property tax relief based on need and income. This really targets those who are struggling the most with their high property taxes and have less income to pay them.

I thank the governor and the NYS Assembly for being such strong advocates for this program, but he be aware that during budget negotiations this important new tax relief program could fall through the cracks. If you support the Circuit Breaker call your New York State Senator and urge them to support this new tax relief program in the 2015-16 State Budget. This tax credit will give tax help to many who will keep families in their homes.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef
NYS Assemblywoman, 58th AD

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash in Municipal Accounts to Pay for Removal

(From page 3)

In an email that he prefers drawing lots. Pack McCarthy however said that she will opt for a second election. “I don’t want this decided by chance,” she said in a telephone interview. “The real story here is how people came out to the polls. It wouldn’t be right to decide it by chance.”

The mayor’s race produced no such drama as incumbent Tom Corless officially ran unopposed, collecting 131 votes. However, even in that race there was a twist, with last minute write-in candidate Dave Moreoney receiving 35 votes.

Sandy Galef
NYS Assemblywoman, 58th AD

Sandy Galef
NYS Assemblywoman, 58th AD

Cliff-hanger in Nelsonville

Looks like a second election needed

By Michael Turton

When the tally was conducted after the polls closed in the Wednesday (March 18) election in Nelsonville, poll workers may have thought that absentee ballots would break the surprising 89-89 tie between Thomas Robert- son and Danielle Pack McCarthy that day’s voting had pro- duced. The two first-time candidates are vying for a single open trustee seat on the Village Board. As it turned out, the absentee ballots changed nothing, other than the totals. Only two such ballots were submitted, from both of which candidates collected one additional vote, leaving the final total as a 90-90 draw.

Nelsonville Village Clerk Pauline Minners told The Paper that under New York State election law, a second vote will be held to determine the winner, unless both candidates waive that option. If they do, the winner will be decided by drawing lots. If either candidate opts not to let chance determine the outcome, the second vote must take place. “I think this has ever happened in Nelsonville before,” Minners said. The candidates have until the close of business on Friday, March 19, to inform Minners of their decision, otherwise plans for a new election will proceed.

Contacted Thursday afternoon by The Paper, Robertson said in an email that he prefers drawing lots. Pack McCarthy however said that she will opt for a second election. “I don’t want this decided by chance,” she said in a telephone interview. “The real story here is how people came out to the polls. It wouldn’t be right to decide it by chance.”

The mayor’s race produced no such drama as incumbent Tom Corless officially ran unopposed, collecting 131 votes. However, even in that race there was a twist, with last minute write-in candidate Dave Moreoney receiving 35 votes.

Cliff-hanger in Nelsonville

Looks like a second election needed

By Michael Turton

When the tally was conducted after the polls closed in the Wednesday (March 18) election in Nelsonville, poll workers may have thought that absentee ballots would break the surprising 89-89 tie between Thomas Robert- son and Danielle Pack McCarthy that day’s voting had pro- duced. The two first-time candidates are vying for a single open trustee seat on the Village Board. As it turned out, the absentee ballots changed nothing, other than the totals. Only two such ballots were submitted, from both of which candidates collected one additional vote, leaving the final total as a 90-90 draw.

Nelsonville Village Clerk Pauline Minners told The Paper that under New York State election law, a second vote will be held to determine the winner, unless both candidates waive that option. If they do, the winner will be decided by drawing lots. If either candidate opts not to let chance determine the outcome, the second vote must take place. “I think this has ever happened in Nelsonville before,” Minners said. The candidates have until the close of business on Friday, March 19, to inform Minners of their decision, otherwise plans for a new election will proceed.

Contacted Thursday afternoon by The Paper, Robertson said in an email that he prefers drawing lots. Pack McCarthy however said that she will opt for a second election. “I don’t want this decided by chance,” she said in a telephone interview. “The real story here is how people came out to the polls. It wouldn’t be right to decide it by chance.”

The mayor’s race produced no such drama as incumbent Tom Corless officially ran unopposed, collecting 131 votes. However, even in that race there was a twist, with last minute write-in candidate Dave Moreoney receiving 35 votes.
Delivering her 2015 State of the County Address, County Executive MaryEllen Odell last week defended Putnam’s refusal to share sales tax and reveal gun-ownership data and highlighted the Butterfield project in Cold Spring as one of four ventures backed by her administration as a part of economic development.

In her March 12 appearance at the Putnam County Courthouse, she also discussed final 2014 county finances.

Like Odell’s 2014 address, this year’s, an hour and 46 minutes long, consisted of a PowerPoint slide show augmented by extemporaneous comments. Also as in 2014, this year’s talk featured a theme—the “Year of the Family,” with the repeated slogan, “Putnam County Is Everything”.

Last year it was the “Year of the Senior.”

2014 finances
Odell reported that 2014 expenses totaled $163.3 million, while revenue was $160.2 million. The largest income source was sales and use taxes—$57.1 million, or 40 percent of the total. Property taxes supplied the second-highest amount, $43.1 million, or 31 percent of total income. Departmental revenue accounted for $34.1 million, or 20 percent; other sources provided $11.1 million—1 percent of income; and state and federal aid of $24.8 million represented 18 percent of total income. State and federal governments “hand us a bill for 75 percent of our budget but they give us 18 percent,” Odell said, again protesting unfunded mandates—programs and obligations imposed on lower-level jurisdictions—long a county complaint.

According to Odell, mandates include various social service programs ($17.5 million), Medicaid ($10 million), the county jail ($80 million) and some school costs ($7 million).

Overall, in 2014 of total county outlays, sales tax, based on data for the sales-tax period of March 2013 through February 2014, thus, $2.6 million yearly in sales tax comes from Philipstown.

Butterfield
Odell included Butterfield in a quartet of significant pending projects undertaken by “our partners” in economic development. She described the four as “endorsed and promoted smarter economic growth and development in Putnam County” and an opportunity for “getting union families on these jobs and back to work.” Butterfield also is important, she said, “so the west coast” can have the services they’ve been underserved (with) for so, so long.”

According to Michael McKee, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT)
35B Garrison Landing
Garrison, N.Y. 10524
(914) 584-9352
info@McKeeTherapy.com
www.McKeeTherapy.com

Rescheduled Audubon Event
Plant it and they will come: native gardening for birds

In Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Howland Library in Beacon, The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society presents Todd Butterfield of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the New York and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Native Plant Center. She is an expert on lawn “meadow-scaping,” on healthy plantings for bees and pollinators, and on organic methods.

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash… (from previous page)
paved roads costs one-tenth as much as fixing dirt roads, or $100 a mile, and mainly involves such things as dealing with potholes. “A hard-surface road is a lot easier to maintain than a dirt road,” he emphasized. “We’re constantly on dirt roads, grading and grading and grading.”

Moreover, “dirt roads take 12 months a year, including the mixture used to wet them in summer for dust control, he stated. Nor can he use Philipstown’s share of about $304,000 annually in Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) funds distributed by the state, for ongoing repairs to dirt roads, he said. However, he observed, he could use CHIPS for long-term upgrades—like paving dirt roads.

State of the County: Odell Defends Sales Tax Non-Sharing, Opposition to SAFE Act
Talk includes 2014 financial overview; touts Butterfield project
By Liz Schetverbak Armstrong

The Howland Library is located at 313 Main Street, Beacon. The event is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit putnamhighlandsaudubon.org or ecoserviceful.com.

The Paper March 20, 2015

Rescheduled Audubon Event
Plant it and they will come: native gardening for birds

O

Overall, in 2014 of total county outlays, sales tax, based on data for the sales-tax period of March 2013 through February 2014, thus, $2.6 million yearly in sales tax comes from Philipstown.

Butterfield
Odell included Butterfield in a quartet of significant pending projects undertaken by “our partners” in economic development. She described the four as “endorsed and promoted smarter economic growth and development in Putnam County” and an opportunity for “getting union families on these jobs and back to work.” Butterfield also is important, she said, “so the west coast” can have the services they’ve been underserved (with) for so, so long.”

According to Michael McKee, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT)
35B Garrison Landing
Garrison, N.Y. 10524
(914) 584-9352
info@McKeeTherapy.com
www.McKeeTherapy.com

Rescheduled Audubon Event
Plant it and they will come: native gardening for birds

In Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Howland Library in Beacon, The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society presents Todd Butterfield of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Native Plant Center. She is an expert on lawn “meadow-scaping,” on healthy plantings for bees and pollinators, and on organic methods.

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash… (from previous page)
paved roads costs one-tenth as much as fixing dirt roads, or $100 a mile, and mainly involves such things as dealing with potholes. “A hard-surface road is a lot easier to maintain than a dirt road,” he emphasized. “We’re constantly on dirt roads, grading and grading and grading.”

Moreover, “dirt roads take 12 months a year, including the mixture used to wet them in summer for dust control, he stated. Nor can he use Philipstown’s share of about $304,000 annually in Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) funds distributed by the state, for ongoing repairs to dirt roads, he said. However, he observed, he could use CHIPS for long-term upgrades—like paving dirt roads.

State of the County: Odell Defends Sales Tax Non-Sharing, Opposition to SAFE Act
Talk includes 2014 financial overview; touts Butterfield project
By Liz Schetverbak Armstrong

The Howland Library is located at 313 Main Street, Beacon. The event is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit putnamhighlandsaudubon.org or ecoserviceful.com.

The Paper March 20, 2015

Legal Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that upon application duly made by Richard Shea, Supervisor of the Town of Philipstown for an extension of time for the collection of taxes in such town pursuant to §938 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York and it appearing to me that there are good and sufficient reason for extending the time for the collection of such taxes of Tina M. Merando, the Collector of Taxes of such town having paid to me, the taxes collected by her during the period ending on the first day of April, 2015 it is;

ORDERED, that the time for collection of taxes remaining unpaid in the Town of Philipstown be and the same hereby is extended to the first day of May, 2015.

DATED: March 18, 2015
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk
Zero to Go Wants to Create a Compost Culture in Beacon

Meeting on program at Howland Cultural Center March 21

By Brian PJ Cronin

Sarah Womer, founder of the education-based waste management company Zero to Go, has been trying to bring curbside composting to the City of Beacon for years. Now she’s about to roll.

“It’s been my dream for some time,” she said. “I can’t die until this is done.”

By mid-April, a select group of Beaconites will have their food scraps picked up once a week via cargo bike to be turned into compost, the nutrient-rich organic matter that farmers and gardeners alike refer to as “black gold” for the way it miraculously improves soil health. Womer is currently accepting applications to take part in the pilot program at zerotoogo.org, with two town hall meetings at the Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St. in Beacon to discuss the program further and answer questions. The first meeting was slated for Thursday (March 19), and the second meeting will be on Saturday (March 22), from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to a report from Mid-Atlantic Solid Waste Consultants, 291,000 tons of municipal solid waste is produced in Dutchess County each year. The EPA estimates that approximately 116,000 tons of that waste is compostable, but instead of being recycled and converted into compost in order to benefit the county’s agricultural health, it’s either hauled five hours away to a landfill or taken to an incinerator in Poughkeepsie with the rest of the county’s trash. Both the landfills and the incinerator produce an enormous amount of methane, the greenhouse gas that’s 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Add in the fuel that it takes to haul waste to landfills and the incinerator gas injected to the incinerator to make the fires burn hotter, and the county is spending a hefty sum and causing great environmental harm to dispose of something that farmers are willing to pay money to get their hands on.

In this light, it’s no wonder that Seattle and San Francisco have introduced mandatory composting into their waste management systems. Why pay money to have someone turn your trash into something harmful, when instead people could pay you to turn your trash into something beneficial?

“People don’t really understand what’s going on with waste in Dutchess County,” said Womer. “I do, because I was curious and I wanted to figure it out.” And once she figured it out, she drew up a three-phase plan to do something about it.

Under the first phase of the program, 30 homes and four businesses will be issued industrial-grade compost keepers. The home version contains a six-gallon compostable bag and a carbon filter to make sure that food odors stay inside the bin. Womer has been road-testing hers for over a month now, dumping fish in it, and can verify that the bins are indeed odor free. “These are serious containers,” Womer said. “I’m not messing around with cheap stuff and I don’t want any chance of restaurants being unhappy with odors.”

Once a week, bin owners simply pull out the bag, tie it up and put the bag in a special five-gallon bucket that Zero to Go will also be providing. The bucket then gets placed outside on the curb or porch. At that point, Womer or someone else from Zero to Go rides by one of the company’s custom-built electric-assisted cargo bikes, pulls out the bag, throws it in the back of the bike and peddles off.

After all of the week’s compost is collected, a hauler from the Albany-based compost management company Empire Zero will pick up the city’s compost and deliver it to farms and compost processing centers throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. So the carrot you dump into the compost bin this year could help to grow a carrot that you eat next year.

The initial monthly cost of taking part in the program will be $105 for restaurants, although those who take part in the program’s first phase will receive the compost keepers and buckets for free. Womer is expecting the costs to come down once the program ramps up in Phase II. By then, Womer will have collected and analyzed two months’ worth of data, worked out any problems that have arisen, and be ready to accept another 20 homes and six more restaurants.

At first, those taking part in the program won’t have access to the finished compost itself. That might make the program less attractive to Beacon’s current crop of backyard composters who are churning out small batches of compost for their own personal use, but Womer isn’t worried about that. To her, these people are already part of the solution. “I don’t want to tell people that are already composting that they have to stop what they’re doing and work with me now,” she said. “I want those people to tell their friends and their neighbors that they’re doing it and then get them to do it. I want to build compost culture here in Beacon.”

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

5th Annual Ariane
One Act Play Festival:
March 20 & 21, 8 p.m. • March 22, 4 p.m.
Tickets $15/$12

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is a tangible step closer to becoming a reality. On Thursday, March 19, workers began clearing trees and undergrowth across from Little Stony Point Park at the northern edge of Cold Spring. The work marked the beginning of construction of a new parking lot which will serve the trail. The Fjord Trail will run through the heart of Hudson Highlands State Park, connecting Cold Spring and Beacon while providing safe access to Breakneck Ridge — a recreation destination that has been described as the most popular day hike in the country.

Photo by Michael Turton
Micah Parker’s Fox & Castle Designs: There Needs to Be a Story

Cold Spring–raised jewelry and textile designer launches her own line

By Alison Rooney

Micah Parker did all the things that Philipstown children who lean toward the visual arts tend to do: She attended Garrison Art Center summer programs and was Mrs. (Jean) Cendali’s “art helper” during her years at Haldane. During high school, she worked at the Heaven and Earth boutique, then on Cold Spring’s Main Street, where the owner, Terah Cox, began selling some of the jewelry Parker made on her own at home. “It stuck with me that I could make things that sold,” she recalled.

After graduating, she migrated south to the city to study fashion design at Parsons, where a professor set her straight, saying, “This is not right for you.” Rather than seeing this as a setback, Parker readjusted. “He was right,” she said. “I switched to illustration and sculpture.” She later transferred to a joint liberal arts/conservatory program with Tufts and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, studying illustration, ceramics and graphic design. She began her career as a children’s book illustrator, teaching art on the side.

Throughout all of these art iterations, at home she continued to create jewelry, something she has done continuously since childhood. “Even though I loved illustration, I missed working with my hands,” Parker said. After a short stretch staying on in Boston after college, Parker returned to New York, first to the city and then, wanting more space both in and out of doors, coming back to the Hudson Valley.

With the advent of Etsy and the culture of the handcrafted, Parker revisited her avocation. “So many people want to buy something from someone directly, knowing what it’s made out of and why it is made,” she said.

Now as a young adult, along with teaching and the other miscellaneous things artists are prone to do, Parker has melded her training and her passions. After years of making gifts for her friends, which led to requests for more of these items for purchase, she has started her own line, Fox & Castle, which launched last fall and specializes in handcrafted artisan jewelry, textiles and housewares currently made in a Cold Spring studio.

Much thought goes into each object or design she produces. “There needs to be a story … I’m fascinated by any kind of traditional craft-making, and I incorporate...”

Above, tools of Micah Parker’s trade surround her horseshoe earrings. (Photo courtesy of Fox & Castle)

Fox & Castle leather bracelet designed by Micah Parker

Photo courtesy of Fox & Castle

Two Locals Involved in Films Screening at 2015 Tribeca Film Festival

Premieres by writer/director Ivy Meeropol and actor Charlie Plummer

By Alison Rooney

What are the odds of films connected with two local households gaining acceptance into the estimable Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) in the same year? Even acknowledging Philipstown’s roster of top-flight creative citizenry, those odds are slim. Yet the selections for this year’s festival include such a pair, with Cold Spring’s Ivy Meeropol and Charlie Plummer attached to films premiering at Tribeca.

Meeropol’s Indian Point

Documentary filmmaker Meeropol, whose community involvement extends to co-founding the Sunset Reading Series at the Chapel Restoration, and who serves as a member of the Depot Docs selection committee, will have her newest documentary, Indian Point, which she wrote and directed, shown in the World Documentary Feature Competition. An earlier film of Meeropol’s, Heir to an Execution, was shown at the 2004 TFF.

A still from Ivy Meeropol’s Indian Point Image courtesy of Ivy Meeropol

Charlie Plummer, left, and Cory Nichols in a scene from King Jack

Photo by Brandon Rout

A large contingent of female filmmakers will have feature films in this year’s festival (33 percent, a TFF record). Meeropol described Indian Point as a “feature documentary film about one of the most controversial nuclear power plants in the U.S., located just 35 miles from Times Square in New York City.” She said the story is told from the inside and out, and from all sides, and that “the plant becomes a microcosm from which we can better understand the impact of the events in Fukushima, the role of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the issues that will determine the future of nuclear power in the U.S.”

(Continued on page 11)
The Calendar

Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Kids & Community
Little League Registration Deadline
philipstownlittleleague.org
8 p.m. Beacon Little League
1464 Main St., Beacon
914-265-7471 | beaconlittleleague.com

Saratoga Lake Community Center Free Plant Sale
4 p.m. Saratoga Lake Community Center
224 Main St., Beacon
914-265-7471 | beaconlittleleague.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Cold Spring Community Center
118 South St., Cold Spring
914-938-9876 | coldspringfarmersmarket.com

Common Ground Farm Work Party
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 19 South Ave., Beacon
203-24-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Imaginative Species in the Hudson Valley (Forum)
9 a.m. - Noon, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
2801 Sharon Tumilka, Millbrook
845-877-7600, ext. 325 | caryinstitute.org

Spring Volunteer Landscape Day
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Manhattan | 584 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

12th Annual Fresh Air Fund Maple Celebration
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Speer Reservation
436 Van Wyck Lake Road, Fishkill
845-897-4320 | freshair@speer.org

Contemplative Mike
10 a.m. Little Story Point
3011 Route 90, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beacononcolorewallace.org

Snakes Alive Program
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhtunartemuseum.org

Child ID Program
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Main Rd. Library, Tarrytown
201 Academy St., Tarrytown
914-631-4400 | beaconlibrary.org

Maple Sugar Tours
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muier Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5056 | hhtunartemuseum.org

Westchester County Home Show
11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Rabbies Pet Vaccination Clinic
7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Cold Spring Animal Hospital
2308 Baldwin Place Road, Mahopac
845-808-1390, ext. 41217 | putnamcountyny.gov

Free Admission
5 - 8 p.m., Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Jazz Vespers
7:30 p.m. St. John’s Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Lady Golfs Chops Women’s Music Festival
8 p.m., BearRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Music
Unaka Hill (Drumming)
8 p.m., 201 Academy St., Tarrytown
917-671-7772 | facebook.com/embarkpeekskill

St. John’s Church
10 a.m. - Noon., Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
1451 New York 9A, Millbrook
845-473-7050 | hudsonvalleydance.org

Live Music
8 p.m., The Depot Restaurant
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringcafeandcoffee.com

Lady Golfs Chops Women’s Music Festival
8 a.m., BearRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Clancy Tradion
8:30 p.m., Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Live Music
9:30 p.m., Max’s on Main
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Brothers of the Road Band
9:30 p.m., 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

9:30 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 845-831-4988
13 Main St., Beacon
914-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Contemplative Mike
8 p.m., Little Story Point
3011 Route 90, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beacononcolorewallace.org

Snakes Alive Program
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhtunartemuseum.org

Child ID Program
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Main Rd. Library, Tarrytown
201 Academy St., Tarrytown
914-631-4400 | beaconlibrary.org

Maple Sugar Tours
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muier Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5056 | hhtunartemuseum.org

Westchester County Home Show
11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Rabbies Pet Vaccination Clinic
7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Cold Spring Animal Hospital
2308 Baldwin Place Road, Mahopac
845-808-1390, ext. 41217 | putnamcountyny.gov

Free Admission
5 - 8 p.m., Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Jazz Vespers
7:30 p.m. St. John’s Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Lady Golfs Chops Women’s Music Festival
8 p.m., BearRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Richard Shinell & Lucy Kaplansky
8 p.m., 201 Academy St., Tarrytown
914-265-5000 | coldspringcafeandcoffee.com

Clancy Tradion
8:30 p.m., Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Live Music
9:30 p.m., Max’s on Main
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Brothers of the Road Band
9:30 p.m., 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com
Soul Fusion
10 p.m., The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures
Legislative Forum for People with Disabilities
8 a.m. Registration | 9 a.m. Town Hall Meeting
Putnam Hospital Center
607 Stonewall Ave., Carmel
845-808-1641, ext. 46019 | putnamcountyny.gov

Environmental Threats, New and Old (Forum)
2 p.m., Beacon Scoop Shop
2 Red Fox Drive, Beacon
845-463-4660 | beaconscoopshopclub.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Kids & Community
Common Ground Farm Work Party
9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 19 South Ave., Beacon
See details under Saturday.

Maple Sugar Tours
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Westchester County Home Show
11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Westchester County Center
See details under Saturday.

Beacon Farmers Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Scarisbrick Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Winter Tree Identification
1 p.m., Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9K, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nycparks.com

Care of Trees and Shrubs (Talk)
2 p.m., St. Philip’s Parish Hall
364 Manitou Road, Poughkeepsie
914-747-5955 | burrslimmuseum.org

Music
Traditional Irish Session
6 - 8 p.m., Sky & Spoon Café | 124 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2525 | skyandspooncafe.com

Roosevelt Dime
7:30 p.m., Towne Crier Café
382 Main St., Beacon
941-766-8615 | roosevelt-dime.com

Finger Fables & Stories to Step Into With
Jonathan Kruk
1 - 3:45 p.m., Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Losing Ground
6:30 p.m., Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Kids & Community
Free Tax Assistance for Seniors & Low-Income
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Babies and Books Early Literacy Program
11 a.m., Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Developmental Check-up (ages 2-4)
2 - 4 p.m., Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Philipstown Adventures (grades K-6)
(First Session)
4 p.m., Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Film & Theater
Losing Ground (1982)
7:30 p.m., Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Kids & Community
Open House
9 - 11 a.m., Howland Cultural Center
7 Cozzens Ave., Beacon
845-466-6741 | josephinebauhhudsonvalley.com

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Knitting Club
10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 0-2)
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kids in the Kitchen (ages 3-5)
12:30 p.m., Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Losing Ground (1982)
7:35 p.m., Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Kids & Community
Annual Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale Deadline
845-679-7918 | beaconfarmersmarket.org/seedlingsale

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Child ID Program
3 p.m., Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
See details under Tuesday.

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music & Motion for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
3:30 p.m. Lugo Bulb Club
See details under Tuesday.

Intro to the Graphic Novel (First Session)
4:30 p.m., Ages 9-14 | 6:30 p.m., Ages 15+
Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-631-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Dog Obedience Classes (First Session)
5:45 p.m., Beginner | 7 p.m., Advanced
Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

New student special: 50% off for 1-month unlimited yoga
The Calendar (from page 9)

Flavors of Italian Wine Meal
6 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Caterina) 1246 Campus Drive, Hyde Park 845-471-6608 | ciaestaurantgroup.com

Introduction to Indian Cooking (Class)
6:30 p.m. HomeSchool at Home 269 Main St., Beacon | 917-803-6657 homecookingnyn.com/hudsonvalley

Health & Fitness
Living Well Workshop (First Session)
10 a.m. Putnam Hospital Center 845-569-3467 | msmc.edu

Film & Theater
The Films of Rubin Ostlund: Force Majeure (2014)
7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Kids & Community
Museum Stew for Toddlers
6 - 9 p.m. 12 Grapes 313 Main St., Beacon 800-453-4666 | beaconlibrary.org

Sports
Halfpenny vs. Beacon (Softball)
4:30 p.m. Halfpenny High School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Film & Theater
World Stage on Screen: A View From the Bridge
3 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center See details under Sunday.

Meetings & Lectures
Suicide Prevention: Means Matter (Forum)
9 a.m. - Noon. TOPS Building Auditorium 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Music
Joey Ray Band
8 p.m. BeaconRunner Café See details under March 20.

Matt Marshak Band
8:30 p.m. Towns Crier Café See details under March 20.

Support Groups
For a full list of area support groups, visit philipstown.info/sg

Health & Fitness
Navigating Healthcare Options
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 131 Main St, Beacon | 800-453-4666 main-rugy.org | Appointment required.

Film & Theater
International Film Night: The Lunchbox (India)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library 131 Main St, Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Visit philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
skills I’ve mastered to go into my final project.”

Fox & Castle’s line includes jewelry, along with block-printed textiles, including cloths and sachets filled with potpourri made from elements Parker has foraged in the woods.

and the world.”

Meeropol was “thrilled to be invited” to Tribeca. “Most of my crew and all but one of my key subjects are New York-based, so having them at the premiere and subsequent screenings and Q-and-A is a wonderful bonus to launching the film at a major festival like Tribeca.”

Right after its showing at TFF, Meeropol will be heading to Toronto, where it will screen three times at the revered all-documentary HotDocs Festival. “We have not sold any of the rights so our hopes out of the festival(s) are to find a home on television for the documentary films from 12 countries, all centered on the theme of identity. Two opposite things which are simple, revealing things, yet are not associated with any one thing.”

Right now Parker is selling largely online, through the contemporary marketplaces of sites such as Instagram. She also sells at some shows, including the WORK: SHOP Holiday Salon in Beacon last December. Asked to define her work, Parker reflected, “Simple, small things, understated but not basic looking; always with a bit of interest, complementing your own beauty or style.” Visit foxandcastle.net to see the full collection.

Lingering behind her work, philosophically, is Parker’s Cherokee heritage. “My dad was Cherokee. I’ve never been raised in a directly Cherokee way, and I’ve have a problem with cultural appropriation so I would never take a Native American theme approach — like I would never, for example, use a Navajo print or make a dream catcher; it can be a tough line to cross — but I try to stay true to the ideal of not wasting anything.”

This aim to never waste any element shows in Parker’s tassel necklace for example, which are made from the fringes of the European-milled linens she uses. Her “Northern Lights” brace-lets feature polymer stones on deerskin, the stone a byproduct of the metal. She’s not in a rush. “I’m still developing,” she acknowledged. “In fact it’s all developing faster than I thought it would; I’m really happy at the rate it’s going. Before releasing the line, it took five years to get to the point where I felt I could. When that happened, I bought a domain name and thought, ‘Let’s just do it.’”

As for the name, Fox & Castle was chosen, Parker said, “because it’s related to nature and also to something else: the grounded, structural, world. Two opposite things which are simple, revealing things, yet are not associated with any one thing.”

Holy Angels of the Hudson Valley

Offering
Pre-school age 3
7 Cozzavenna Avenue, Highland Falls
• Gifted and Talented
• Bussing available via your home district (must apply by April 1)
• Small class size (elementary grades)
• Special Education Teacher available for 504s and I.E.P.s

Two Locals’ Films Screening at Tribeca Film Festival

Charlize Plummer, 15, is the lead actor in the feature film King Jack, which will be shown four times (exact screening times had not yet been released at press time; tickets go on sale on March 22) in the Viewpoints section. The category features 27 films, a mix of narrative and documentary films from 12 countries, all centered on the theme of identity.

Plummer lives in Cold Spring when not residing in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he has finished filming the third season of the 20’s spy drama Granite Flats, working alongside such notables as “indie queen” actress Parker Posey and Back to the Future’s Christopher Lloyd, as well as his mother, Maia Guest. His father, John Plummer, wrote the entire season. In the early stages of his career (meaning about five or six years ago) — he could be seen learning his craft in many a Depot Theatre production.

Plummer taped his audition for King Jack while shooting season two of Granite Flats in Salt Lake City, and then was asked to come in for a callback. Once he returned to New York, he was asked to come in and audition a third time for the writer/director, Felix Thompson. Afterward, the casting director called to say that Plummer was her first choice, but that due to the size of the role and the intensity of the shooting schedule (Jack is in nearly every minute of the film), Thompson wanted to spend some time with Plummer to get to know him. They played basketball, walked around the West Village and had a long lunch. Shortly thereafter, Plummer got the call that he would be playing Jack.

King Jack was shot in Kingston, New York, with a few days in Hudson in the summer of 2014. Its TFF description reads: “Jack is a scrappy 15-year-old kid stuck in a run-down small town. Trapped in a violent feud with a cruel older bully and facing another bout of summer school, Jack’s got all the problems he can handle. Set over a hazy summer weekend, King Jack is a tough and tender coming-of-age story about friendship and finding happiness in rough surroundings.”

For more information on the Tribeca Film Festival and screening times and tickets, visit tribecafilmfestival.com.
Putnam County Gardens Needed for Fundraiser
Secret Garden Tour set for June 6

Partners with PARC, a nonprofit dedicated to securing the financial future of people with disabilities, will host its annual Putnam County Secret Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6, and gardens are needed.

This annual garden tour fundraiser, which supports programs and services for children and adults with autism, disabilities and special needs, was named “Rest Garden Tour in the Hudson Valley” by Hudson Valley Magazine and is esteemed and renowned throughout the area.

The tour, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 6, is a self-guided driving tour of gardens. Tour organizers are looking for unique, memorable and special gardens to profile.

A total of 12 gardens from across Putnam County are needed for this year’s event. Tour organizers are looking for formal gardens, charming country gardens, water gardens, alpine gardens, perennial flower gardens and rock gardens and much more. All garden owners on this year’s tour will be given a trip for four to Cancun, Mexico (accommodations only, for five days and four nights) as an incentive for being on the tour.

To make an appointment to have your garden visited by the Putnam County Secret Garden Tour organizers, call 845-278-7272, ext. 2387, or email garden photos to rand@putnamcarnag.org.

Putnam History Museum Holds Annual Meeting

The Putnam History Museum will hold its annual meeting Saturday, March 28, at 4 p.m., with a lecture to follow.

The meeting will begin with the election of new PHM board members and addresses by board Chairperson Bill Hicks and Executive Director Mindy Kramien. A lecture by Dr. James Johnson will follow.

Johnson, a retired U.S. Army colonel, is the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Chair of History at New York University. He served in Vietnam as a military historian, and is a retired Army soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He has served in several key leadership roles, and has held positions in the Pentagon.

The lecture will explore the history of the American Revolution, focusing on the role of New York State and how it contributed to the war effort.

The meeting will also include elections of new board members and the presentation of awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to the museum’s mission.

Community Briefs

Haldane Students Create Makerspace Sign

Haldane Elementary School Principal Brent Harrington recently commissioned his students to create a sign for the Makerspace. All Haldane students in grades K-5 worked together with Jean Cendali, their art teacher, to design the sign. After much brainstorming they decided to make cutout wooden letters that they would print on and then collage with meaningful objects.

The children brought treasures to school to embellish the letters. For example, The K is festooned with Legos because students can build their imaginations using them, and the E is collaged with keys since the Makerspace can be the key to creativity.

Haldane extended thanks to all the children, parents, teachers and staff members who took the time to collect treasures to enhance the Makerspace sign.

Mentor Show and School Invitational Opens

Student works on exhibit at GAC March 21-29

The opening reception for Garrison Art Center’s Mentor Show and School Invitational Theme Exhibition takes place Saturday, March 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at this opportunity to view the work of 18 mentees and student work from 13 area schools.

The Mentor Program was established 27 years ago. The program was developed as a means to identify, encourage and guide high-school-age students in the production and presentation of their own projects. Each year’s program culminates in an exhibition of student works in the galleries at Garrison Art Center.

Garrison Art Center’s School Invitational Theme Exhibition (SITE) is a school-based educational program that invites local public school art teachers to engage their students in a theme-based project to be exhibited at the Art Center. This program is designed to uphold educational directives that seek to enhance cross-curriculum learning. This year’s theme is Rollin’ on the River, using printmaking as the medium. Students were encouraged to explore the many aspects of the Hudson River through the lens of biology, history or engineering as it translates into a creative vision using a variety of printmaking techniques.

Both exhibitions will remain open until March 29. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Garrison Art Center is at 23 Garrison’s Landing.

Knights of Columbus Hold Easter Egg Hunt

Event for kids 8 and under, scheduled for March 28

The Knights of Columbus, Loretto Council No. 536, will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, (rain date April 4) at McEnville Park in Cold Spring at 11 a.m. Boys and girls age 8 and under are eligible to participate. Parents should bring their own baskets. For more information, contact Bob Flaherty, youth director, at 845-265-3191, or Dan Dillon, past grand knight, at 845-265-3902.

Ecological Group Speaks at DFL March 26 and 28

New initiative aims to catalyze the sustainability movement

The scientific community has argued that the Western economic and social model is directly tied to oncoming environmental catastrophe, yet political leaders and the majority of citizens have been unable or unwilling to take significant action to avoid predicted negative consequences.

This fundamental question led Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello to found the Ecological Citizens’ Project, a new initiative that aims to educate people about sustainability issues and the power of individual choices in contributing to progress, and to develop grassroots leaders to help push for systemic change.

“In today’s world, so many of the social issues we deal with are presented as if they’re separate from each other — climate change, economic injustice, political paralysis. As a sustainable farmer, you learn to see the interconnectedness between things,” said Angell, who co-operates Longhail Farm in Garrison with his wife, Apicello.

The Ecological Citizens’ Project will combine public education through presentations with small leadership retreats, as an incentive for being on the tour.

Tour organizers are looking for unique, memorable and special gardens to profile.

The meeting will begin with the election of new PHM board members and addresses by board Chairperson Bill Hicks and Executive Director Mindy Kramien. A lecture by Dr. James Johnson will follow.

Johnson, a retired U.S. Army colonel, is the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Chair of History at New York University. He served in Vietnam as a military historian, and is a retired Army soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He has served in several key leadership roles, and has held positions in the Pentagon.

The lecture will explore the history of the American Revolution, focusing on the role of New York State and how it contributed to the war effort.

The meeting will also include elections of new board members and the presentation of awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to the museum’s mission.

Community Briefs

Haldane Students Create Makerspace Sign

Braintorming leads to decorated wooden lettering

Haldane Elementary School Principal Brent Harrington recently commissioned his students to create a sign for the Makerspace. All Haldane students in grades K-5 worked together with Jean Cendali, their art teacher, to design the sign. After much brainstorming they decided to make cutout wooden letters that they would print on and then collage with meaningful objects.

The children brought treasures to school to embellish the letters. For example, The K is festooned with Legos because students can build their imaginations using them, and the E is collaged with keys since the Makerspace can be the key to creativity.

Haldane extended thanks to all the children, parents, teachers and staff members who took the time to collect treasures to enhance the Makerspace sign.

Allison Pataki, Beatrice Copeland to Speak at DFL

Author, filmmaker discuss recent projects April 10

T he Desmond-Fish Library will host New York Times bestselling author Allison Pataki and independent filmmaker Beatrice Copeland for Coffee and Conversation with the Artists on April 10 at 11 a.m.

Pataki will discuss and sign her historical novel The Accidental Empress, which debuted at No. 7 on The New York Times bestseller list in February. The book follows the turbulent and romantic life of “Sisi,” the Austro-Hungarian empress and wife of Emperor Franz Joseph, ruler of the Habsburg Empire. Pataki is also the author of the historical novel The Traitor’s Wife. The daughter of former Gov. George E. Pataki, she grew up in the Hudson River Valley. She is a regular contributor to The Huffington Post and FoxNews.com and lives in Chicago with her husband.

Photos provided
Boscobel Lecture Series Begins April 10
Members admitted free to all lectures

This year, Boscobel’s annual spring lecture series presents three topics of focus: historic house interiors, the landscape. The talks will take place in the grand entry hall of the mansion from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 10: Thomas Jayne of Jayne Design Studio
Living With Antiques, A Quarter Century Later

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of his New York design studio, Jayne will focus on his favorite interiors created between 1990 and 2015. The presentation will illustrate the core ideas that have consistently informed the designer’s work. From fancy private households to more formal historic house interiors, Jayne will discuss how objects, both antique and modern, can be successfully blended to create comfortable, beautiful and unique environments.

Friday, April 24: John Paul Hagley of Building Art, LLC, and the American College of the Building Arts
The Art of Building

During the last century, the art of building has suffered, due to the lack of skilled artisans and the introduction of cheap quality materials into the built environment. The erasure of skilled building practice has not only had a negative impact in the restoration of historic structures but has also adversely affected the way we build the structures in which we live and work.

Friday, May 8: James Doyle and Kathryn Herman of Doyle Herman Design Associates
The Language of Landscape: Simplicity, Scale & Structure

Doyle and Herman will share images and work from their new book, The Landscape Designs of Doyle Herman Design Associates. It features the firm’s varying projects that tell stories of their surroundings through the creation of high structural forms and clean geometry.

The Friends of Boscobel membership program includes free admission to lectures year-round. Lecture seating is on stairs and chairs, and a wine and cheese reception will follow in the Carriage House where guests may chat with the speakers and purchase books for signing.

Members can register at Boscobel.org. Admission for non-members is $20/lecture. Memberships, reservations and tickets are all available at Boscobel.org.

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergences, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.
Haldane’s 25 Years of Immersion

Full-day program aims to awaken a hunger for language and culture

By Alison Rooney

I t can be difficult for language stu- dents to push past the tedium of lan- guage learning, the drills and vocabu- lary retention, and into the exploration of language to a living, breathing culture—particularly so in high school, where curriculum standards often prescribe a course of study that separates the structure of the language from its spoken life. To take language away from the text- books, and to help students reared in the English language and culture related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.

Began over two decades ago as the brainchild of then Haldane Spanish teacher Phil D’Amato, who developed it along with his colleagues Kathrin Kob and Eva Cagianese, the program has evolved over time, but at its core the goal, said Nina Or- tiz, current Haldane Spanish teacher and foreign language chair, is exposure: “Even though it’s only a day, it’s a taste of what it’s like and hopefully awakens that hun- ger, which most of them already have, for language and culture. Hopefully they can continue being engaged in it and pursue it beyond high school.”

All three former teachers were present this year’s event March 6; they enjoy returning each year. D’Amato spoke of immersion’s beginnings: “The original need was there because kids didn’t travel a lot and they needed to come in contact with those who came from other coun- tries, in a way which didn’t take them out of Philipstown ... The first year was a shoestring with no budget, and volunteer presenters.”

Over the course of a breakfast-through- dinner-time day spent at the Taconic Out- door Education Center, host to the event each year, students rotate between talks given by guest presenters, performances by musicians from a country where the language is spoken and a presentation of their own in a student “coffeehouse” where they are able to perform or recite something of their choice. The center- piece is an “international” lunch, pre- pared by Mike Gasparri of the Taconic Center and his staff, highlighting dishes from the national cuisines of French- and Spanish-speaking countries.

The day is funded by the Haldane School Foundation; their grant is then matched by Haldane itself, with the stu- dents adding a small contribution.

About 50 students attend, with the lan- guage teachers choosing which students to invite, with enthusiasm and affinity for the language and culture. Hopefully they can continue being engaged in it and pursue it beyond high school. Beyond it, the Haldane language immer- sion program, a day of saturation in cul- tural activities and cuisine related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.

To take language away from the text- books, and to help students reared in the English language and culture related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.

Full-day program aims to awaken a hunger for language and culture

By Alison Rooney

I t can be difficult for language stu-
dents to push past the tedium of lan-
guage learning, the drills and vocabu-
lar- y retention, and into the exploration of language to a living, breathing culture—particularly so in high school, where curriculum standards often prescribe a course of study that separates the structure of the language from its spoken life. To take language away from the text-books, and to help students reared in the English language and culture related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.

Began over two decades ago as the brainchild of then Haldane Spanish teacher Phil D’Amato, who developed it along with his colleagues Kathrin Kob and Eva Cagianese, the program has evolved over time, but at its core the goal, said Nina Ortiz, current Haldane Spanish teacher and foreign language chair, is exposure: “Even though it’s only a day, it’s a taste of what it’s like and hopefully awakens that hunger, which most of them already have, for language and culture. Hopefully they can continue being engaged in it and pursue it beyond high school.”

All three former teachers were present at this year’s event March 6; they enjoy returning each year. D’Amato spoke of immersion’s beginnings: “The original need was there because kids didn’t travel a lot and they needed to come in contact with those who came from other countries, in a way which didn’t take them out of Philipstown ... The first year was a shoestring with no budget, and volunteer presenters.”

Over the course of a breakfast-through-dinner time day spent at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, host to the event each year, students rotate between talks given by guest presenters, performances by musicians from a country where the language is spoken and a presentation of their own in a student “coffeehouse” where they are able to perform or recite something of their choice. The centerpiece is an “international” lunch, prepared by Mike Gasparri of the Taconic Center and his staff, highlighting dishes from the national cuisines of French- and Spanish-speaking countries.

The day is funded by the Haldane School Foundation; their grant is then matched by Haldane itself, with the students adding a small contribution.

About 50 students attend, with the language teachers choosing which students to invite, with enthusiasm and affinity for the language and culture. Hopefully they can continue being engaged in it and pursue it beyond high school.

Beyond it, the Haldane language immersion program, a day of saturation in cultural activities and cuisine related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.
Happy First Day of Spring

By Pamela Doan

Daffodils are pushing up through the mud. I saw a purple finch at the bird feeder this week (they migrate through). Constitution Marsh posted a photo of skunk cabbage emerging (one of the earliest bloomers). There’s hope.

I’m frequently asked about how to learn more about gardening and where to buy plants. We’re fortunate to have top-notch resources nearby. Here are some places to look:

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Putnam County: The extension program exists to spread the knowledge from Cornell researchers to home gardeners and industry professionals alike. The best thing about their workshops is that everything is based on tested scientific principles, and they’re forward thinking, dealing with real-life issues about climate change and the ecological impact. Their garden and landscaping workshops are free or low cost. Monday, March 23, is Health Soil, Healthy Crops at the Mahopac Library. See the full schedule at putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

Stonecrop Gardens: This public garden here in Philipstown covers 12 acres and has diverse plantings, some very formal. You can learn a lot about design by visiting frequently throughout the season. They offer guided tours and classes, too. The garden opens for the year at the end of March. Check stonecrop.org for upcoming classes.

Putnam Valley Grange: Originally a fraternal order of farmers, the Grange is now a nonprofit open to anyone in the community. They offer a Backyard Farming Series that focuses more on livestock. The upcoming series in April includes raising chickens, turkeys and beekeeping. Details and registration are at putnamvalleygrange.org.

New York Botanical Garden: If you’re ready to study horticulture, gardening or landscape design in depth, the NYBG (nybg.org) has certificate programs on these and other subjects and is known for the quality of their education. The Hudson Valley Garden Calendar (hvgardencalendar.com) has listings for anything and everything related to gardening, including classes, shows, sales and seed swaps.

Resources for purchasing plants:

Plant sales are held by Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District March 25 (order deadline), Native Plant Center April 25, Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale April 25, Philipstown Garden Club May 9 and Master Gardeners May 16. All of these are plant sales that you can visit on the date noted except the Soil and Water sale. Their seedling sale is online or you can mail in the order form and then pick up plants in April. Every year they offer a great selection of seedlings and bare root plants, many of them native to our area. It’s affordable (less than $2 a bush for blueberries, for example) and an easy way to add value to your yard for birds and pollinators. Visit putnamcountry.com/keepputnamgreen.

For a better selection of plants than you’ll find at a big box store, I like to visit Sabellino Greenhouses in Hopewell Junction for their wide variety; many are natives, and many are grouped onsite in their own greenhouses. Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful, too.

Researching what to plant and where to plant it:

The Native Plant Center maintains lists of recommended native plants for our area. Wildflower.org has an extensive database of native plants. Gardening.cornell.edu has resources for vegetables, herbs, perennials, woody plants and trees. Every plant has specific requirements for maximum growth and yield; this website can help make that happen.

Roots and Shoots:

Happy First Day of Spring

By Pamela Doan

Daffodils are pushing up through the mud. I saw a purple finch at the bird feeder this week (they migrate through). Constitution Marsh posted a photo of skunk cabbage emerging (one of the earliest bloomers). There’s hope.

I’m frequently asked about how to learn more about gardening and where to buy plants. We’re fortunate to have top-notch resources nearby. Here are some places to look:

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Putnam County: The extension program exists to spread the knowledge from Cornell researchers to home gardeners and industry professionals alike. The best thing about their workshops is that everything is based on tested scientific principles, and they’re forward thinking, dealing with real-life issues about climate change and the ecological impact. Their garden and landscaping workshops are free or low cost. Monday, March 23, is Health Soil, Healthy Crops at the Mahopac Library. See the full schedule at putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

Stonecrop Gardens: This public garden here in Philipstown covers 12 acres and has diverse plantings, some very formal. You can learn a lot about design just by visiting frequently throughout the season. They offer guided tours and classes, too. The garden opens for the year at the end of March. Check stonecrop.org for upcoming classes.

Putnam Valley Grange: Originally a fraternal order of farmers, the Grange is now a nonprofit open to anyone in the community. They offer a Backyard Farming Series that focuses more on livestock. The upcoming series in April includes raising chickens, turkeys and beekeeping. Details and registration are at putnamvalleygrange.org.

New York Botanical Garden: If you’re ready to study horticulture, gardening or landscape design in depth, the NYBG (nybg.org) has certificate programs on these and other subjects and is known for the quality of their education. The Hudson Valley Garden Calendar (hvgardencalendar.com) has listings for anything and everything related to gardening, including classes, shows, sales and seed swaps.

Resources for purchasing plants:

Plant sales are held by Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District March 25 (order deadline), Native Plant Center April 25, Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale April 25, Philipstown Garden Club May 9 and Master Gardeners May 16. All of these are plant sales that you can visit on the date noted except the Soil and Water sale. Their seedling sale is online or you can mail in the order form and then pick up plants in April. Every year they offer a great selection of seedlings and bare root plants, many of them native to our area. It’s affordable (less than $2 a bush for blueberries, for example) and an easy way to add value to your yard for birds and pollinators. Visit putnamcountry.com/keepputnamgreen.

For a better selection of plants than you’ll find at a big box store, I like to visit Sabellino Greenhouses in Hopewell Junction for their wide variety; many are natives, and many are grouped onsite in their own greenhouses. Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful, too.

Researching what to plant and where to plant it:

The Native Plant Center maintains lists of recommended native plants for our area. Wildflower.org has an extensive database of native plants. Gardening.cornell.edu has resources for vegetables, herbs, perennials, woody plants and trees. Every plant has specific requirements for maximum growth and yield; this website can help make that happen.
Haldane basketball took a road trip to Suffolk County Community College located in Selden, Long Island, last Friday, March 13, to take on the Stony Brook Bears in the Class C regional finals. The 70-plus Blue Devils faithful who made the 2 ½ hour trek to Long Island to root for their team were stunned and could not recover. The start of this game was the equivalent to boxer Mike Tyson in his early days, running out from his corner at the opening bell, just like Tyson would. Tyson in his prime was unstoppable. The Blue Devils had a 13-4 lead after one quarter and a 22-9 advantage at the half. This was no easy task, since the Stony Brook Bears had some size and sharp shooters on their team. But Haldane didn’t wait to see if the opening bell was going to ring out for it at the opening bell, just like Tyson would.

When senior Garrett Quigley went down with an ankle injury with 3:30 left in the first quarter, the Bears would have a 10-3 lead going into the second quarter. This was no easy task, since the Stony Brook Bears had some size and sharp shooters on their team. On the Bears’ season, and Haldane knew that their defense would win the game, and they did, holding off the Bears to end 39-32. The Haldane fans and players celebrated the win court side and then packed up for the long happy ride back home to Cold Spring.

The leading scorers for Haldane were McCollum, followed by Zevic and Edmund Fitzgerald with 8 points.

Haldane will now head north to the New York State Class C Final Four, to be held on March 20 at the Glen Falls Civic Center in Glen Falls. The Blue Devils will play Lake George in the semifinal game starting at 5 p.m. The Haldane faithful will be making the journey once again to cheer their champions on to victory and help Haldane bring home the Class C title. GO BLUES!