

The HIGHLANDS Current

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tree?
See Page 20



FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com

Breaking Up The Concrete

*Start of village project
delayed a week*

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring's Main Street project is finally breaking ground — almost. More than 40 residents, landlords and shop owners filed into the firehouse at 154 Main on Monday evening (April 25) to hear when, where and how construction will proceed, and how it will affect them.

The project will replace the worst sections of decayed sidewalks and curbs between Lunn Terrace and High Street, making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Lighting will be enhanced and new trees added. Furnace Street will also be reconstructed.

Monday was supposed to be day one of construction on the five- to six-month project. Temporary "No Parking" signs had been erected the previous night from Lunn Terrace east beyond Rock Street, the first section to undergo improvements, with work expected to begin in early morning. But Mike Hurtt, senior vice president with CHA, the project consultant, and

(Continued on Page 5)



Parking will be restricted on blocks as they undergo construction.

Photo by M. Turton



Seven-year-old Chase Piotrowski of Beacon was awarded an honorary fire helmet from Beacon City Fire Department officials on Saturday, April 23. Piotrowski had discovered a forest fire and made sure the fire department was notified just two days earlier.

Photo by Jeff Simms

Four Seek Beacon School Board Seats

*Three seats open;
two incumbents
not running*

By Jeff Simms

Five individuals — actually, make that four — have filed petitions to run for three open seats on the nine-member Beacon City School District Board of Education. The election is Tuesday, May 17.

Incumbent Tracy An-



Meredith Heuer, left; Michael Rutkoske



Photos provided



Tracy Antalek Everett, left; Antony Tseng



Photos provided

talek Everett and first-time candidates Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng are running. Kristan Flynn filed to run before the April 27 deadline but withdrew her candidacy the next day.

In addition to Everett's seat, those held by Christine Galbo and board president Melissa Thompson will be contested. Galbo and Thompson are not running for re-election.

Everett, who works in human resources for Volvo, is completing her first term on the school

(Continued on Page 6)

Putnam Dems Subject of Investigation

*Questions raised over 2014
campaign funding*

By Kevin E. Foley

The generally quiet Putnam County Democratic Committee has moved to center stage in an unfolding investigation of possible violations of New York state campaign funding laws.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office is looking into the committee's conduct during the latter stages of two Democratic state senate races in 2014. In October of that year the committee distributed hundreds of thousands of donated dollars raised largely in New York City to the campaigns of then-state senator Terry Gipson, who represented District 41, which includes Philipstown and Beacon, and senate candidate Justin Wagner, who was running for the District 40 seat, which includes eastern Putnam County.

The money in question came to the committee from fundraising efforts by aides and associates of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. The mayor made clear in 2014 his goal of obtaining a Democratic majority in the Senate to further the city's agenda. The Manhattan DA's investigation also includes the involvement of other county Democratic committees as well as the mayor's office, professional fundraisers and campaign consultants.

The New York Times reported on Thursday (Continued on Page 3)



Then-Sen. Terry Gipson in Cold Spring in May 2014

File photo by Michael Turton

Small, Good Things

Adventures Close to Home

By Joe Dizney

As admirable as it is to have a healthy respect for American foodways and local bounty, sometimes what's called for is a culinary adventure, a break from the ordinary: dis-comfort food, if you will, something a little off the beaten track. Exploring new herbs, spices or culinary combinations keeps things interesting in the kitchen, on the table and in life.

But such detours from the routine don't have to be complicated, expensive or a chore. The basic ingredients of most recipes are reasonably universal and mutable within reason across international cuisines.

Take for instance the exotic sounding ghormeh sabzi, a recipe said to be "the national dish of Iran." Linguistically, ghormeh is Persian for "stew," while sabzi translates as herbs — what this adds up to is herb stew, nominally a pretty basic idea.

Among the many variations, the main ingredients are a mixture of herbs and greens — mainly parsley, leeks or green onions and coriander (cilantro) in quan-

tities greater than any single dish you're probably familiar with.

Regional interpretations will accommodate any dark or bitter green — spinach, kale, mustard greens, turnip greens — and in addition to (or in place of) the cilantro, herbs can include dill, mint or tarragon. This basic mixture of greens and herbs is sautéed (or, as is usually specified, "fried") then stewed with kidney beans — or yellow split-peas or black-eyed peas—and turmeric-seasoned yellow or red onions. Chicken, beef, lamb or heartier vegetables provide additional protein and bulk.

But the two defining ingredients — dried preserved limes (limu omani) and fenugreek leaves — are essential keys that unlock the distinctive flavors of the dish.

Limu omani are limes preserved by being boiled in brine and dried in the sun until hard. (They are identified as "black" or "white," based vaguely on color, but are essentially the same.) Limu omani are intensely flavored — slightly sour earthy, bitter and smoky and extremely fragrant — like citrus on steroids. Fresh lime juice

is an acceptable substitute, but pales in comparison.

Fenugreek (fenum graecum, "Greek hay") is an annual herb and member of the pea family: the seeds, sprouts and leaves (both fresh and dried) are used in most eastern Mediterranean cuisines for their sweet-bittersweet, slightly caramel flavor. Hard to describe, but once experienced, the fragrance and flavor of fenugreek is immediately identifiable in Greek, Indian, Moroccan, Persian and Turkish Indian cuisines. (It is an essential ingredient in most Indian curries.) There is no replacement.

Dried fenugreek leaves can be found locally at Saraswati Grocery, an Indian spice store at 1299 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls (845-297-9203), which can be a colorful field trip in itself.

The dried limes are harder to find but both ingredients are readily available — and this is where a real adventure comes in — from Kalustyan's (123 Lexington Ave. at 28th St. in New York, call 212-685-3451 or online at kalustyans.com). Kalustyan's is a New York City institution and virtual spice museum, well worth a visit for the experience of its two full floors of culinary exoticism.

You can, of course, get anything you want from Amazon.com, but how off the beaten track is that?

Persian Herb & Bean Stew (Ghormeh Sabzi)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 bunch flat-leaf parsley (reserve some for garnish) | 1 tablespoon ground turmeric |
| 1 bunch cilantro (reserve some for garnish) | 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped |
| About 12 medium scallions, green and white parts, root ends trimmed | 4 cups chicken stock |
| 3 tablespoons canola oil | 1 tablespoon dried fenugreek leaves |
| 1½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes | 5 dried Persian limes (limu omani) or ¼ cup fresh lime juice |
| Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste | Two 15-ounce cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained (I suggest Goya brand) |
| | Cooked Jasmati or Persian rice, for serving |
| | Pita, for serving |
1. In the bowl of a large food processor, pulse-chop to fine the scallions, parsley, and cilantro. (Remember: you can use the parsley and cilantro stems which add a lot of flavor, but don't over-process — you want a fine textured mince but not a paste.)
 2. Season the chicken with salt and pepper. In a large pot or Dutch oven, heat the canola oil over medium-high and add the chicken. Cook, turning as needed, until browned on all sides, 8 to 10 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken to a plate and set aside.
 3. Add the yellow onion and turmeric to the pot and cook, stirring often, until softened, 5 to 6 minutes. Add scallions, parsley, cilantro and fenugreek leaves; cook until greens are wilted (about 5 minutes). Add chicken stock and dried limes; bring back to a medium simmer for 5 to 10 minutes.
 4. Return chicken to the pot and bring all back to a low simmer. Cook uncovered until chicken is tender and liquid has reduced (about 25 minutes total). Halfway through cooking, pierce three limes with a paring knife; continue cooking for the full 25 minutes.
 5. Add kidney beans and cook until warmed through (about another 5 minutes). Serve in bowls over white or Persian rice; garnish with parsley, cilantro or a spoon of plain yogurt with pitas on the side.

Vegetarian Options

Substitute vegetable stock for the chicken stock; omit the chicken and substitute 1½ lbs. of waxy potatoes and/or squash, cut into 1½ inch chunks, added to the greens when the chicken would have been. A cup or two of roughly chopped spinach added when the beans go in might be nice too, in either version. Other suggested vegetarian additions are quickly sautéed or roasted mushrooms or tofu.



Persian herb and red bean stew with chicken. Black and white dried Persian limes — limu omani — are in the bowl to the left.

Photo by J. Dizney

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Putnam Dems Subject of Investigation *(from Page 1)*

day (April 28) that several people associated with the mayor and the investigation had received subpoenas.

The district attorney's probe began after the state Board of Elections referred the matter for prosecution with a report that concluded aides and associates of de Blasio had engaged in a coordinated effort to raise the money and distribute it through county committees. This was done, the board had concluded, in an effort to circumvent campaign contribution limits and disguise the names of contributors.

"I have determined that reasonable cause exists to believe a violation warranting criminal prosecution has taken place," wrote Board of Elections Chief of Enforcement Risa Sugerman in a document leaked to the *New York Daily News* and *The New York Times*. "The violations discovered by this investigation can only be described as willful and flagrant."

State law limits the amount of money to \$11,000 per general election cycle that individuals or groups can donate directly for a state legislative race. County committees, however, can receive contributions up to \$109,600 from a single source. They also are not limited in how much they can contribute to a candidate but are not permitted to accept donations that are earmarked for a particular candidate.

According to published reports, the Putnam Democrats contributed \$273,750 to Gipson's 2014 campaign and \$367,000 to Wagner's campaign. Both of these races



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio
Photo by Kevin Case



State Sen. Terrence Murphy
Campaign photo



Justin Wagner
Campaign photo

involved districts that cross Putnam County. (The Democrats had never raised more than \$10,000 for an election in the decade prior to 2014.) Gipson lost his seat to Republican Sue Serino but has announced he will challenge her again this fall. Wagner lost to Republican Terrence Murphy, who was among those who complained to the state Board of Elections and who says he has asked Putnam County District Attorney Bob Tendy to investigate.

Two Putnam County Democratic Committee officials contacted by *The Current* declined to do so citing the ongoing investigation, referring further inquiries to an attorney representing the organization. Margaret Yanco-Haines, a Philipstown resident and third vice-chair of the committee offered a statement attributed to attorney Justine A. Harris:

"The contributions the committee re-

ceived and the expenditures it made were in full compliance with the law. There was no intent to evade individual campaign finance limits, and the Committee accurately made public disclosures of each contribution and each payment by filing the appropriate reports with the BOE [Board of Elections]. The Committee is cooperating fully with the investigation."

Ken Harper, the chair of the Putnam County Democratic Committee, took essentially the same position in an email to *The Current*. He added that the Manhattan DA's office had asked the committee not to comment on the investigation. Harper also offered a copy of a legal memorandum sent to the state Board of Elections written by election law attorney Laurence D. Laufer on behalf of several parties in the investigation challenging the BOE's conclusions.

The Laufer memo argues that the state election law contemplates various entities and individuals, including state and county political party committees, working together to elect candidates representing a particular party. Laufer further asserts that committees are permitted to make unlimited contributions to candidates it decides to support.

"It is hard to conceive how a political party committee choosing to participate in the party's statewide effort to help elect the party's slate of candidates to the state Senate could be characterized as a mere straw donor in a conspiracy unless you found evidence that the committee's officers and members were held hostage and forced to deposit and disburse funds at gunpoint," Laufer wrote. "I am guessing that's unlikely."

The Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus R. Vance, will have to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to make a case for conspiracy to evade campaign laws involving a broad swath of political participants or whether the actions taken in public view and filed with the Board of Elections in 2014 rise to the level of criminality or violations of law.

Further complicating matters are questions raised as to the fairness of the BOE findings by Sugerman, an appointee of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, against Mayor de Blasio, with whom Cuomo has been at odds for some time. Sugerman's report did not mention the Democratic state committee, over which Cuomo has influence, which also received funds raised for state senate candidates from the same sources.

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New Proposal for Former Guinan's Pub

*Public hearing
scheduled for May 21*

By Michael Turton

The Philipstown Planning Board is again considering a proposal for the redevelopment of the former Guinan's Pub and Country Store on Garrison Landing.

The plan, submitted by Badey and Watson Surveying and Engineering on behalf of Garrison Station Plaza, Inc., which owns the 6.6-acre property, was received by the planning board on April 21 and mirrors an application it approved in 2012. The new proposal calls for a restaurant and wine bar on the main level with two apartments upstairs. A new wastewater treatment system would also be installed.

The planning board will hold a public



Guinan's Pub on Garrison Landing has been closed since 2008.

Photo by M. Turton

hearing on the proposal on Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Guinan's Pub and Country Store operated for 50 years. A popular gathering place, it was seen by many as an informal community center. In the morning, commuters picked up their newspaper and coffee

there while during the day the deli and store offered sandwiches, snacks and household necessities.

After work and on weekends locals often enjoyed a beer in the tiny pub overlooking the Hudson River. "Irish Nights," held on the first Thursday after each full moon, were a fixture for decades and attracted musicians and visitors from beyond the local area. The evening inevitably included a stirring rendition of *Danny Boy* sung by owner Jim Guinan.

In 2005, Garrison resident Gwendolyn Bounds chronicled the history of Guinan's Pub in her book *Little Chapel on the River*. The closing of Garrison's favorite watering hole in 2008 brought national media coverage.

Developers in the past have proposed converting the building to offices or an upscale restaurant and inn.

Cold Spring Police Discussion Postponed

*Fire Company declines
new sidewalk*

By Michael Turton

It seems that any public discussion of the status of the Cold Spring Police Department by the village board is at least a week away.

Last week, Mayor Dave Merandy declined to comment on an article in *The Current* that quantified CSPD activities during the past two years, including the number of parking tickets, moving violations and calls for assistance handled by Cold Spring's police officers.

At the time Merandy said he would comment on the police department at the next board meeting. However, when the board convened on Tuesday, April 26, the mayor said his comments would have to wait another week because he is in discussions with the village attorney regarding a number of CSPD issues.

Merandy said that, contrary to accusations on social media that the village board is paying little attention to the CSPD, "we are definitely interested in it" and, he said, in finding ways to "save money" for taxpayers.

Tuesday's meeting began with a 30-minute executive session which the mayor described as dealing with "the appointment of a particular person to a particular position." No additional information was provided when the regular meeting resumed.

Inspector moves on

Merandy announced that Kevin Donahue, building inspector for the Town of Philipstown, has resigned to take a similar position with the Village of Larchmont in Westchester County. Donahue has been conducting inspections at the Butterfield development as part of a joint agreement

between the village and the town.

Merandy, a former member of the Philipstown Town Board, suggested that the Village of Cold Spring might work with the town in filling the position. The possibility of merging the two building departments has been discussed a number of times in recent years.

No new sidewalk for firehouse

While most residents and storeowners are looking forward to the completion of the Main Street Project and the new sidewalks it will include, the Cold Spring Fire Company has requested that the sidewalk in front of the firehouse at 154 Main St. not be reconstructed. Deputy Mayor Marie Early said that CSFC Chief Steve Smith expressed concern at the project information meeting held on Monday, pointing out that a new sidewalk would not provide adequate clearance under the largest CFSC vehicles as they exit the firehouse.

Personnel changes

Village Accountant Ellen Mageean has resigned. Merandy said Mageean has accepted a full-time, better paying position closer to her home. The village accountant "is a part-time position but an important one and we have to fill it quickly," he said. Mageean has held the position since 2010.

Trustees approved hiring Russ Terio as a part-time employee working with the Recreation Commission. Terio will spend 20 hours a week mowing lawns in village parks and tending to the restrooms at Mayor's Park and at the Main Street information booth.

In other business ...

- Trustees passed unanimous resolutions approving the general fund, water and sewer budgets for 2016-17. Trustee Fran Murphy was on vacation and not in attendance.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Putnam

County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. As a signatory to the plan, the Village of Cold Spring will be eligible for related grants, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs.

- Delivery of the pre-programmed, solar-powered pay station to be installed in the municipal parking lot on Fair Street is expected on May 18.
- The Historic District Review Board is developing a new, more user-friendly application form for residents undertaking projects requiring HDRB review.
- Trustees approved an agreement with Bart Clark P.E., Oakwood Environmental Associates, to provide engineering services for the Fair Street and Market Street sewer rehabilitation project.
- An agreement was approved authorizing InvoiceCloud Inc. to provide credit card payment services for village water and sewer bills. The system is expected to be up and running in time for July billing.
- The board approved an agreement with Munistat Services, Inc. to provide municipal finance advisory service to the village.
- New York State's Clean Energy Standard (CES) program mandates that by 2030, half of the electricity used in the state will come from renewable sources such as wind, solar and hydro. Hearings on the CES program, including public statements, will be held throughout May. The hearings closest to Cold Spring are at Kingston City Hall on May 26 and the New York State Public Service Commission office at 90 Church St. in New York City on May 31. Information, including a CES white paper and cost study, is available at www.dps.ny.gov.

Breaking Up the Concrete *(from Page 1)*

Anthony Carino, project manager with Con-Tech, the contractor, said that the start was delayed because the New York Department of Transportation (DOT) had not yet inspected and certified the quarry stone to be used. If the village were to proceed with construction without DOT certification it risked losing project funding, Hurtt explained.

Carino told *The Current* on Tuesday morning that with the DOT delay and the day's rainy weather, jackhammers would likely begin to rip up the old sidewalks on Monday, May 1. Normal parking will be allowed until that time.

"Some hurt involved"

"There's going to be some hurt involved in this," Mayor Dave Merandy said in opening Monday's informational session, "But we're going to limit it as best we can."

Construction will take place Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., with no work on weekends. Merandy, Hurtt and Carino stressed that access to businesses, homes and driveways would be restricted for only short periods of time, especially when jackhammers are in use and concrete is being poured. Otherwise, gravel walkways or wooden walkovers will provide access. In some situations, pedestrians may be directed to use the opposite side the street or the parking lane.

One block will be under construction at a time as work proceeds east up Main Street. Parking will be prohibited in the block where work is taking place.

Furnace Street will undergo a make-over that includes new sidewalks and curbs, repaving and improved drainage. Parking will be restricted on construction days but available at night.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early said the schedule calls for work to be completed by Oct. 31 but that the project could be "substantially complete" by the end of September.



Project Manager Anthony Carino and Mike Hurtt, CHA vice president. Deputy Mayor Marie Early is seen in the background.

Photo by M. Turton

ber. She cautioned that progress could be slowed if Cold Spring has a rainy summer.

Con-Tech has a financial incentive to finish on time. Hurtt said the contract calls for fines of \$1,500 a day if construction goes beyond the end of October.

Make or break

Those in attendance peppered village officials, the contractor and consultant with questions for close to an hour. Tara Carol, co-owner of Old Souls, read a letter from the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce in her role as the organization's vice president. The concerns centered on parking, access to properties, impact on businesses, possible effect on special events, weekend and holiday visitors, emergencies and scheduling.

"This is make or break time for Main Street businesses," Carol said, adding that little information had been conveyed to business owners about how the project would proceed.

Merandy said that as soon as bids were received events had moved quickly. Commenting on the project schedule, which was announced this week, he said, "I found out about the same time you did."

Hurtt said that the project will unfold using a "look-ahead" schedule posted on the village website detailing areas to be affected two weeks in advance. He said he is confident the contractor will complete work quicker than the planned general schedule.

Craig Muraszewski, co-owner of The Cold Spring General Store, wondered

about the impact of flying debris and dust on storefronts. Carino said crews would protect store windows using plywood or other materials when jackhammers are in use and that a hose used to clean concrete saws could also be used to hose down storefronts. Hurtt added that photos of all Main Street properties would be taken before and after the project to determine if any damage occurs.

Parking solutions?

Two ideas were presented to counter the loss of parking spaces during construction. Cathryn Fadde, the owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill and a former village trustee, suggested parking normally banned on Fair Street be allowed during the project. Barbara Galazzo, owner of Gallery 66 NY, said that the parking lot at Our Lady of Loretto Church might also be used on weekdays. "There's 50 spaces there," she said. Fadde, who serves on the village parking committee, said insurance issues might prevent that.

Hurtt advised residents to contact the Cold Spring Police Department if an emergency arises during construction. CSPD will have all emergency contact numbers, he said, including the contractor who will be available 24 hours a day. Project headquarters is set up at the village truck yard.

Monday's session was videoed and will be available at coldspringny.gov and on Facebook at [facebook.com/vcs10516](https://www.facebook.com/vcs10516).

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Tax Scammers Hit Putnam

D.A. and sheriff issue warning

Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy and Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith are warning residents to be on guard against an IRS tax collection scam that has bilked victims here and throughout the nation. Several county residents have received calls from con artists identifying themselves as IRS officials and demanding tax payments. Many of those targeted are senior citizens.

In the scam, imposters pretending to be from the IRS or another agency telephone people and claim they owe taxes. The callers typically say that the persons must pay immediately or else face the loss of their driver's license or business license, face deportation or go to jail.

The callers may alter, or "spoof," caller ID services to make it look like they are calling from the agency. Scammers often research their targets online to pick up some personal details about them, such as their age and the names of other family members, to make the intended victim believe they have official access to their tax records. Callers may use official IRS titles and give out a badge number to identify themselves.

Scammers usually demand that the targeted person pay through an online

service or by using an untraceable cash or debit card, often directing victims to a bank or convenience store to make the payment through a wire service such as Western Union.

More recently, tax scammers have gone beyond using the phone. Last summer the IRS warned that con artists were copying official IRS letterhead to contact victims through email or regular mail. In another twist, the thieves provide a real IRS address and tell the victim to mail the receipt for the payment to the agency.

According to the IRS, the best way of dealing with the thieves is to hang up the phone. Actual IRS agents will not contact taxpayers by phone without first sending a written tax bill in the mail. Furthermore, the IRS does not demand immediate payment, nor will the agency demand just one type of specific payment or threaten to call the police for nonpayment of taxes.

The IRS advises taxpayers that the best defense against IRS scammers is to know your own tax situation. If a taxpayer filed a tax return that was accepted by the IRS, and even received a refund, any tax dispute would be about specific income items or deductions, and the IRS would contact the taxpayer by mail. If that has not happened, a taxpayer's tax status is not an issue.

Beacon Teacher Wants Board to Pay Bills for Defending Lawsuit

Sued by ex-superintendent and ex-wife

By Jeff Simms

A Beacon High School teacher has asked the school system to reimburse his legal costs as he fights a lawsuit filed against him by the district's former superintendent and the former Beacon Teachers' Association president, who is the defendant's ex-wife.

The school system's insurance carrier, New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal, has denied the request; it is unclear, however, where the Board of Education stands on the issue.

In a confusing sequence of events at the end of the April 26 school board meeting, Beacon board members failed to pass a resolution denying Robert Atwell's request for "defense and indemnification" in the lawsuit filed against him by Barbara Walkley, the ex-superintendent, and Kimberly Pilla, Atwell's ex-wife.

The resolution was situated on the

agenda just after the consideration of meeting minutes, personnel changes and committee recommendations — administrative items that are often approved with little discussion.

The failure to adopt the resolution denying Atwell's request was preceded by another motion — this one made by board member Anthony White, to table the vote on the resolution — which also failed. Board members Frank Garnot, Jose Munoz and Georgia Patchen were not present for the meeting, making it difficult for either motion to receive the necessary five-vote majority.

There was no discussion regarding the merits of Atwell's request, only whether it would be voted upon that night or at a later date. Because the nearly five-hour meeting ended with neither motion passing, the resolution is expected to be on the agenda again at the school board's next meeting.

On Wednesday, Mark Reisman, Atwell's attorney, said that his client's request was for the reimbursement of legal fees that will ultimately *(Continued on next page)*

Four Seek Beacon School Board Seats *(from Page 1)*

board.

Heuer, a photographer, is the chairperson of the Beacon Arts & Education Foundation and a member of the Advocates for Beacon Schools.

Rutkoske is a capital asset program manager for Entergy Corporation. He is the husband of Melissa Rutkoske, who last year filed a petition with the state Department of Education seeking the dismissal of then-superintendent Barbara Walkley and school district attorney Michael Lambert.

Tseng is an environmental engineer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps EMT.

The Current will run detailed interviews with each of the candidates in the May 6 issue. The three winners will join the board at its organizational meeting in July.

In addition to deciding the board seats, voters on May 17 will be asked to approve the 2016-17 district budget, which includes nearly \$67 million in spending offset by \$36.6 million in tax revenue and \$26.8 million in state and federal aid. The budget maintains all existing programs and staff and offers modest salary increases while staying within the state-mandated tax cap.

The tax cap requires school districts and local governments to raise property taxes each year by no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. This year's cap was 0.97 of one percent, the lowest it has been in years.

Voters will also decide whether to allow the district to spend \$385,000 on three 72-passenger buses and a 20-passenger van.

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HELP WANTED

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking a part-time treasurer for 21 hours per week. Responsible for oversight of all financial management including budget preparation, financial reporting, general ledger, payroll, accounts payable and tax collection.

Preferred Qualifications: Solid accounting background, proficiency in Excel, organizational skills, prior municipal experience.

Please send letter of interest and resume to:

Mayor Dave Merandy, Village of Cold Spring, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD SITE VISIT - MAY 8, 2016

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, May 8, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

Garrison Station Plaza, Inc., 7 Station Road, Garrison, New York
(Formerly Guinan's Store in Garrison)

Beacon Teacher Wants Board to Pay Bills for Lawsuit

(from previous page)

total “thousands of dollars.”

Walkley and Pilla filed suit against Atwell in February in U.S. District Court, alleging that Atwell, a math teacher, had defamed Walkley, who resigned as superintendent in January, and Pilla, who resigned as the head of the teachers' association in August 2015. Pilla is also a physical education teacher and Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Beacon High School.

Atwell and Pilla were divorced in June 2015 after five years of marriage. The school board on Tuesday approved paid family medical leave for Pilla from April 18 to June 24 of this year.

Walkley and Pilla's suit, which seeks unspecified monetary damages, alleges that Atwell violated the federal Stored Communication Act by accessing several of Pilla's password-protected email accounts and then releasing a series of private emails that Walkley and Pilla say subjected them to defamation.

Atwell allegedly used the emails to “maliciously” accuse Walkley and Pilla of “corruption and improprieties, inflaming an entire community against them,” the filing states. The suit further alleges that some of the emails were “doctored,” and that the “foreseeable public response to these false-

hoods” caused Walkley and Pilla to resign their positions, leaving their personal and professional reputations “in tatters.”

After assisting interim chief Harvey Hilburgh and then serving in an interim capacity herself, Walkley was named Beacon's superintendent in February 2015. Her tenure, however, was marred by controversy.

“(Atwell's) request was not just reasonable, it was spot on. He brought concerns to the Board of Education regarding inappropriate actions...”

In August 2015, 27 Beacon teachers were reassigned within the district, causing a number of parents to question whether the moves were political in nature. Last December, district parent Melissa Rutkoske filed a petition with the state Depart-

ment of Education that called for the dismissal of Walkley and school district attorney Michael Lambert.

Rutkoske's petition cited a number of emails between Pilla, Walkley and other district officials, and alleged that a relationship between Walkley and Pilla had resulted in “unethical, inappropriate and illegal conduct.”

Walkley and Pilla's lawsuit describes the Jan. 11, 2016 school board meeting — which was attended by nearly 400 parents and community members — as the “final act” that led to Walkley's resignation. When she left 10 days later, after roughly 12 months in office, Walkley became the



A Beacon waterfront scene

Photo by Ross Corsair

fifth fulltime (non-interim) Beacon superintendent to resign since longtime district chief Vito DiCesare retired in 2006.

Reisman said on Wednesday that Atwell “strenuously denies” the charges against him.

Reisman intends to file a motion to dismiss Walkley and Pilla's suit. That request must be made by June 3, he said, although it's unknown when a judge will make a decision on the motion.

The pending school board resolution states that the district's insurance carrier has determined that the “coverage” requested by Atwell is not afforded “pursuant to the district's school board legal liability and commercial general liability policies based upon the fact that the alleged acts

did not occur within the scope of (the) employee's employment in the district.”

Furthermore, the resolution states, the Board of Education “has concluded that there is no other legal basis to defend and indemnify” Atwell.

Current teachers' association head John Burns disagrees, saying that Atwell, a 20-plus-year veteran of the Beacon school system, deserves more support from district officials.

“(Atwell's) request was not just reasonable, it was spot on. He brought concerns to the Board of Education regarding inappropriate actions,” Burns said. “In that circumstance he's definitely entitled to indemnification.”



Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Get there early on May 14

The Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County will host a plant sale on Saturday, May 14, in the parking area in front of our office at 1 Geneva Road, off route 312, Brewster between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The sale features heirloom and hybrid vegetable selected by Master Gardeners for Putnam County gardens. Master Gardener volunteers offer perennials, annuals, herbs, bulbs and beautiful shrubs chosen to thrive in Putnam County. Plant sale will be held rain or shine!

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Help Wanted: Visionary Leader for Beacon Schools

Defining goals for a schools chief — and district

By Jeff Simms

Thinking outside of the box. Transparency. A people person. A diamond in the rough.

The search for a new superintendent for the Beacon City School District continued to take shape this week, as district officials solicited feedback from community members.

The school board meeting on Tuesday, April 26, included a brainstorming session in which community members rattled off the characteristics they want to see in a superintendent. Parents and other members of the audience were clear that they seek a person not just with the professional skillset but with the empathy and leadership skills to understand a diverse community in need of direction.

"What I hope for is a superintendent [who can be] both a leader and a manager," said Antony Tseng, who is a candidate for the board. "If you find somebody who does embrace the community ... that's the kind of diamond in the rough I would want to see."

Others stressed a penchant for the arts to reflect the growing community in which he or she would work. Craig Wolf, a

longtime Beacon resident, said he seeks "good, honorable character, and verifiably so."

On Wednesday night, community members got to work, gathering again at Beacon High School for a "visioning" forum to create a framework that a superintendent, whenever he or she arrives, will be able to work within.

"This was about getting our school district moving in the right direction," explained Ann Marie Quartironi, who was named interim district chief in January and has said she will remain in that position until a hire is made. "The parents have been asking for us to create a vision that reflects who we really are, and this is a process to make that more relatable."

The 90-minute workshop was a departure from previous superintendent searches. District officials, school board members and parents, around 40 in all, sat together at tables to create strategies, prioritize themes and help build a unified vision for a district and community.

Working in groups of seven or eight, attendees discussed core school system values and elected leaders to share each

"The parents have been asking for us to create a vision that reflects who we really are, and this is a process to make that more relatable."



Ann Marie Quartironi, interim Beacon superintendent

File photo

table's feedback. Whereas school board meetings have at times been marked by tension and confrontation, Wednesday's forum seemed like an important step in another direction, with the classroom-like format stressing teamwork.

"We want to be able to create pathways for all members of the community to come together and define who we are," said Cecilia Dansereau-Rumley, the director of pupil personnel services for the

school district. "You need to have a format like this, a work session, for us to work together to create a real partnership."

There's no timetable for hiring a superintendent, but the expected next official step is for the district to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a search firm to identify candidates.

Another community workshop will take place in May, with more likely after that. In time, the sessions "will allow us, with the leadership of a new superintendent, to say 'What's our five- or 10-year goal?'" said Dansereau-Rumley. "That will bring to life our plan to get to where we want to be."

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The Calendar

Project Hopes to Put Steamship Back on Hudson

SS Columbia being restored for day trips

by Alison Rooney

A mighty steamboat plies the waters of the Hudson, bringing city folk north to marvel at the scenery, revel in the region's history and savor the construction and stylishness of the vessel itself. If this conjures the maiden voyage in 1807 of the first of many craft produced by Robert Fulton, or perhaps 1863, which

saw the launch of the first Day Line sailings between New York City and Albany, fast forward to 2021, when the organizers of the SS Columbia Project (SSCP) hope to return this craft to the river.



Left, a period advertisement for the then just-completed SS Columbia and its sailings. Above, its many decks filled with passengers, this vintage postcard is from the SS Columbia's heyday, voyaging between Detroit and Boblo Island Park.



A photo of the SS Columbia before restoration work began

Photo provided

What started as a desire of the late art dealer and preservationist Richard Anderson to bring the excursion steamboat, built in 1902, back to life, has now been taken up by many. The effort is in the intermediate stages of a carefully considered timeline, with its goal to use the Columbia to carry tourists and students.

The vessel was restored in Detroit and now waits in Buffalo. If all goes well, it will be brought down the river to New York City for a celebration and then up to Kingston by the summer of 2017, where a four-year build-out restoration will begin.

The SS Columbia, the oldest remaining excursion steamship in the U.S., was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and designated a historic landmark in 1992.

The 208-foot-long, 60-foot-wide vessel was designed by naval architect Frank E. Kirby in collaboration with painter and designer Louis O. Keil and constructed by the Detroit Dry Dock Co.

Designed to carry 3,200 passengers on five decks, the Columbia was famous for its large open-air ballroom, mahogany paneling, gilded moldings and a grand staircase: the stuff of dreams, and yet accessible not just to the wealthy. In service for 89 years, most of those were spent ferrying leisure day-trippers on an 18-mile journey from downtown Detroit to an amusement park and dance hall on Canada's Bois Blanc Island (commonly known as, and

(Continued on Page 13)

From Food Truck to Beacon's Main Street

Chef returns to Hudson Valley with Kitchen Sink

by Alison Rooney

You know those field trips where kids seem more fidgety than focused? Where educators wonder if they've imparted any lessons at all? Well, sometimes they work. Brian Arnoff remembers one from when he was in second or third grade and his class went to Sprout Creek Farm in Poughkeepsie.

"I vaguely remember a project, planting pumpkins — it was very exciting," he says. "I took mine home and planted it in my grandfather's garden, where it grew the whole season."

Mix in a mother and two grandmothers who loved to cook and you have the recipe for the creation of a nascent chef. Arnoff, who began his culinary career at age 15 with a job in the prepared foods department at Adams Fairacre Farms, is the chef and owner of Kitchen Sink, which has been open on

the west end of Beacon's Main Street since August.

Kitchen Sink, which Arnoff describes as "great food, produced with great local products" is the culmination of a year of planning. The menu at the small restaurant (24 seats inside and a slightly larger seating area than that in the back garden) follows the trail of local produce, with items changed over seasonally and fine-tuned depending on what's abundant and savory.

After peeling a lot of potatoes and chopping up a lot of onions at Adams, Arnoff advanced to working in a pizza place, then a restaurant and a banquet/catering hall before heading to Boston University, where he studied hospitality management and got a background in marketing, accounting and law, all of which are useful in running a business, such as in calculating the cost of ingredients and "plate yields," Arnoff explains.

While at Boston, Arnoff spent a semester at the Apicius International School of Hospitality in Florence. He says the time in Italy had a profound effect on his cooking style, giving him a deeper appreciation

(Continued on Page 14)



Kitchen Sink's owner-chef, Brian Arnoff

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Arbor Day

At Home With the Foley Sisters (Talk)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Offset - The Film: Seeing Beauty Through a Brain Injury (Documentary)
5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Brian Nice exhibit at Garrison Art Center

Trumbo (Documentary, 2007)
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Birdwatching Tour with Scott Silver
8 a.m. Castle Rock, Route 9D, Garrison
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Ree-Play Children's Tag Sale
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Settlement Park
724 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon | weeplayproject.org

Earth Day Celebration & Annual Hike-A-Thon
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Into the Arms of Strangers (Documentary)
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Introduction to Babysitting (ages 10+)
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

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

A Revolution of Her Own (One-Woman Show)
2 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church
1200 Main St., Fishkill
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Haldane vs. Harrison (Lacrosse)
2 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Introductory Workshop for HVSF Our Town
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-809-5750 x20 | eknapp@hvshakespeare.org

Galina Krasskova Poetry Reading
4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Expansion Art Auction
5:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | randolphschoolgiving.org

A Taste of the Valley (Fundraiser)
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

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

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Talking Machine
8 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
beaconelks1493.com

The Hit Men
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Tony Savastano Memorial Kids Fishing Day
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cold Spring Reservoir
Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
Sponsored by Nelsonville Fish & Fur Club

Ree-Play Children's Tag Sale
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Settlement Park
See details under Saturday.

Loyalty Day Jamboree
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Veterans' Memorial Park
Gypsy Trail Road, Carmel
11:45 a.m. Parade and ceremony

Spring Splatt Mud Run
Noon – 4 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Narcan Training (Opiad Overdose Prevention)
2:30 p.m. St. Christopher's Inn
1350 Route 9, Garrison | 845-335-1035
atonementfriars.org | Registration required.

I'm Tired Project (Closing Reception)
3 – 5 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Shanghai String Quartet
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Aububon Center Spring Benefit
4 - 7 p.m. Private Garrison home
Call 845-265-2601 for information.

2,000th Show Celebration
4:30 – 10:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

MONDAY, MAY 2

One World Trade Center: Biography of the Building (Talk and Signing)
6 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Community Holocaust Commemoration
6:30 p.m. Dutchess Community College (Hall Theater)
53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Pete Seeger Open-Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

TUESDAY, MAY 3

Haldane Sports
4:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Lourdes
4:30 p.m. Softball vs. Ossining
4:30 p.m. Lacrosse vs. Pawling
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Acupressure Therapy Workshop
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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

Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)
10:30 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Free to Philipstown residents age 62 and older.

Saint John's Bible on Display
1 – 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Estate Planning Workshop
6 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Garrison School Board
7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, MAY 5

Tourism Rally and Awards of Distinction
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Grandview, Poughkeepsie
845-463-5447 | dutchesstourism.com

Mother's Day Tea and Craft Party
1:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Wednesday.

Community Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto (Parish Hall)
24 Fair St., Cold Spring | 800-933-2566

Mindful Lawyering Retreat (Opens)
3 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary's Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Haldane vs. Beacon (Softball)
4:30 p.m. Haldane School | Details under Tuesday

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

FRIDAY, MAY 6

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
See details under Wednesday.

Group Show: Spirits and Shadows (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Yoko Yoshimatsu / Setsuya Kotani (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery | 121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Comic Book Day Celebration
6:30 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Wednesday.

Meet the Makers (Forum)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Beatles Sing-a-Long
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church (Parish Hall)
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

Bas Relief with Stacey Farley (First Session)
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Desmond-Fish Library Associates Awards Dinner
7 p.m. The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls
East Main St., Beacon
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Step Afrika!
7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Annual Evening Frog Walk
7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

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

ONGOING

Art & Design | philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services | philipstown.info/services

Support Groups | philipstown.info/sg



Earth Day 2016: GUFS Kids Get Down and Dirty



The Garrison Union Free School marked Earth Day on April 22 by planting a vegetable garden on the school grounds with students from kindergarten through fifth grade taking part. Nicole Porto, a garden educator with Hudson Valley Seed which is partnering with GUFS on the project, told *The Current* that the garden will yield a bountiful variety of produce including potatoes, carrots, lettuce, beans, tomatoes, peppers and zucchini. Porto said the project can use some additional help, especially when it comes to watering the fledgling garden this summer. Anyone interested in lending a hand should email Porto at nicole@hudsonvalleyseed.org

Left, students helped build a vegetable garden at the Garrison School on Earth Day, Apr. 22. Above, Nicole Porto, garden educator with Hudson Valley Seed, enjoys a teaching moment with two GUFS students.

Photos by Michael Turton



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SEASONAL LAKE VIEWS \$525,000
This home offers 2700 sf of character. Bright, open floor plan gives a loft-like feeling. Wide-board floors, stone fireplace, curved stairway to second floor. WEB# PO1328102 | GARRISON



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SETTING \$400,000
Sunny Ranch offers wooded country setting, yet minutes to train. Updated kitchen/baths, new roof. Two-story family room with wood stove. Level yard. WEB# PO1293677 | GARRISON



GARDENER'S DELIGHT \$399,000
Cape-style home offers four bedrooms, dine-in-kitchen, living room with fireplace and dining area. Finished walk-out lower level. Enjoy inside/outside. WEB# PO1332151 | COLD SPRING



PRESERVE ON THE HUDSON \$375,000
Bright, sunny end unit Townhome offers first floor master bedroom suite. Fireplace. Breakfast alcove dining area, both with bay windows. Loft. Large deck. WEB# PO1298750 | BEACON

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A Taste of the Workplace

Haldane seniors take internships in final weeks of school

by Alison Rooney

It came across over and over again in most of the committees involved in Haldane's Strategic Planning Committee last year: our graduates need practical experience. Echoed at the collegiate level, where internships for students are part of the marketing arsenal of many an institution, there seems to be consensus that it is beneficial both personally and professionally to young people to "get out there" and sample a world beyond the classroom.

Haldane has had a senior internship

program for quite some time, on and off. With the advent of multiple Advanced Placement classes for some of the student body, their workload and presence in class stipulations (often put forth by the accreditors for the classes, which, in Haldane's case, usually means SUNY-Albany and/or Dutchess Community College), have placed limitations on students' ability to devote time and focus to internships. During the 2014-15 school year, the program took a breather as it was re-configured.

This year the program has returned. Haldane history department's Melissa Seideman is the coordinator and has been working with teachers, potential employers and students. Approximately half of this year's senior class has opted in, and quite a few students have fanned out

within the community and as far as New York City for 15 to 20 hours each week.

For non-AP students, the program runs for seven weeks, while the obligations of the AP exam schedule limit other students to half that, although extensions into the summer and/or a shift to paid employment are always possible. Students are required to approach places they are interested in, providing the company or organization with a list of site supervisor responsibilities and a commitment form. Employers are asked to provide written feedback for the students, who can be paid or unpaid, at the conclusion.

The students' responsibilities include several written assignments each week relating to what they're doing, maintenance of time logs, and a presentation addressing what

they learned. All interns are also required to complete an economics project related to their internship. The attendance requirements, particularly for AP classes, used to be more stringent, and negotiating for looser reins was one the changes this year to the program.

Two Haldane seniors are working in construction jobs in the Bronx which will provide them with various certifications, while another is working in Manhattan at a textile design firm and, also in the city, a fourth student is working at a soup kitchen. Closer to home, students are or will be helping at cultural institutions, including Gallery 66NY, the Depot Theatre and Hudson Valley Shakespeare.

Students interested in the teaching profession can tap into both Haldane and Garrison School classrooms, as well as pre-schools. Marley Chefalo is a few weeks into her internship at The Nest childcare in Cold Spring, and says she's loving it. "I intend to get a dual degree in Early Childhood Educa-



Marley Chefalo (left) demonstrates shapes at The Nest during her internship.

Photo by A. Rooney

tion and Special Education and it's a good idea to do an internship in the field and get a real idea of what it's like before starting to take classes," she says. "I did a lot of babysitting but I've been surprised at the difference, both how crazy everything can get in a room full of toddlers — one cries, the next one starts — but also the opposite — when they are all happy, that's the best part."

Chefalo has found juggling the internship, which fills 10 hours a week but will switch to 15 shortly, with her commitment as an athlete at Haldane has not been difficult. "I'm so happy that I chose to do this," she said. "To actually work hands-on in a field you want to pursue is so much better than sitting in a classroom." Chefalo is a Nest graduate herself (Class of 2003) and is working with the head teacher of the toddler room, Helen Homola, who calls Chefalo "awesome" yet nevertheless has enjoyed "embarrassing her from what I remember of her toddler years!"

Chefalo has yet to change a diaper, but she knows it's coming. For Sandy Timmons, who runs The Nest, hosting an intern has been enjoyable and easy. "It's giving Marley a lot of experience, and she's taking the demands of it in stride," she says.

For other students, the internship is a way to experi- (Continued on Page 19)

Maloney Visits Haldane for Documentary

Interviewed by students about human rights



Fifth-grade students at Haldane interview U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney for a documentary project.

Photo provided

On Tuesday, April 26, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents New York's 18th District, was interviewed by Haldane fifth-graders for their documentary project on the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The students covered topics such as the Syrian refugee crisis and women's rights.

Maloney said he was impressed with the students' interviewing skills and challenging questions. The interview was arranged by a Haldane parent, filmmaker Ivy Meeropol, working with fifth-grade teachers Kathy Battersby and Simon Dudar. Meeropol's colleague Rob Featherstone volunteered his time to film.

Constitution Marsh to Hold Benefit on May 1

Spring fundraiser focuses on commitment to conservation and education

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary's Annual Spring Benefit will be held on Sunday, May 1, from 4 to 7 p.m. They will honor The Philipstown Garden Club for their long-standing commitment to education and conservation of the natural world, and celebrate the remarkable value the marsh and its programs

provide to birds, other wildlife and people of the Hudson River Valley. Anne Endler, the president of the Garden Club, will provide comments.

The benefit will be held at the historic home of Jan and Suzanne Baker in Garrison, and will highlight ways we can all contribute to the protection of our

natural resources. The benefit provides essential funds that maintain and grow Constitution Marsh's diverse and successful education and stewardship efforts focused on the protection of this unique community treasure.

Please call 845-265-2601 for more information.

Project Hopes to Put Steamship Back on Hudson *(from Page 9)*

pronounced, as Bob-I-oh). That trip is entrenched as a fond, nostalgic memory of many middle-aged and elderly Detroiters.

As times and leisure pursuits changed, and with the vicissitudes of the economy, in 1991 Boblo Island closed. Over the next two decades the Columbia slowly deteriorated at a Detroit pier until Anderson discovered it while searching for a boat of that type that could be restored. Many Detroit volunteers, active in the historic preservation community there, helped launch the restoration.

An initial investment resulted in the installation of steel plates and the removal of zebra mussels from the hull. This enabled the Columbia to take the first step in the voyage east when it was towed to dry dock in Toledo in 2014. It was there for a year for hull restoration work before traveling to Buffalo, where this past year restorers replaced the rotting decking and framing and enclosure of the engine room casing. (To follow the progress, visit sscolumbia.org.)

What doesn't need extensive re-working is the steel skeleton of the vessel, which, according to SSCP Executive Director Liz McEnaney, is in great shape, along with the 1,200 horsepower engine. Though the boat originally ran on coal, it has not used that fuel since the 1930s and the SSCP is exploring environmentally friendly fuels.

The SS Columbia is attracting much attention in Buffalo. In addition to



A wooden staircase aboard the SS Columbia survives, but is in need of major restoration.

Photo provided

restoration work, the SSCP is running and testing educational programs in hopes of someday making the vessel a "floating platform for arts education," McEnaney says. The SSCP has partnered with the Buffalo Theater Company to develop a site-specific theater piece. "Buffalo is the first place where we can get people on board, in limited numbers," McEnaney says. "And

this boat is meant to have people on it — it transforms" when they are.

"This boat is meant to have people on it — it 'transforms' when they are."

All this costs a great deal of money, of course. The SSCP has raised \$4 million of the \$5 million needed to tow the boat up the St. Lawrence River (it is too large to pass through the Erie Canal) from Buffalo to New York City, according to McEnaney. Once docked in Kingston, another \$15 million will be needed to

complete restoration. In January the project was awarded a \$500,000 matching grant from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund Municipal Grant program.

If the project meets with success, the Columbia will be able to carry 2,000 passengers at a time up and downriver. McEnaney says the hope is that revenue from special events will offset the cost of programming and passenger trips. "We'll start slowly, test the operations of the boat, test the market," she says. "We'll begin with trips probably once a month before increasing that number."

Philipstown's Fred Osborn III is co-chairman and treasurer of the SSCP board (and also a board member of Highlands Current Inc.). His enthusiasm for the endeavor is palpable. "The SS Columbia Project has brought together an incredible group of accomplished people who share a dream of having a real steamship plying the waters of the Hudson once again," he says. "The dream is within reach."

McEnaney says the SSCP has been busy talking to the many river towns and cities where the boat can dock. "We see ourselves as one piece of much larger regional economic development," she says. "In Kingston there's a waterfront plan with hotels. We can move tourists from New York City to the Hudson Valley, recreating a mode of travel which existed through the greater parts of two centuries."

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From Food Truck to Beacon's Main Street (from Page 9)

for seasonal and regional cooking. As a college student, through a stroke of luck, as he describes it, he was able to work for James Beard Award-winner Barbra Lynch.

"I wound up working for her company for two years, starting in catering and winding up being a part of the opening team for her new restaurant, Sportello," he says. "It was entirely new for me, the first time working with fine dining, working with chefs who were very particular about how vegetables should be cut, where things were sourced."

After stints at the Four Seasons, first in Boston, and then Washington, D.C., Arnoff felt it was time for a change. "I couldn't spend five years being a sous-chef and then another five to become an executive chef," he says. "I saw an opportunity instead to open a food truck. I put together a business plan, created the concept and menus and bought a rickety old truck from my dad and had it retrofitted. We worked our way through the regulatory process — we were one of the first 10 food trucks in D.C. and it was uncharted territory."

Called CapMac, the truck specialized in macaroni and cheese and other pastas, and was "roving," parked in a different location each day, serving university students to federal employees.

After a couple of years, Arnoff, by then married, decided he wanted to return home to the Hudson Valley, an area where food was actually being

produced, and leave the narrow range of what he was able to cook in D.C. After a year-long search on both sides of the river, Arnoff found the right space at 157 Main St. in Beacon.

"I knew Beacon was humming, and being on Main Street, with its foot traffic, was a big benefit," he says.

From the start the food focus has been "locally sourced but globally focused," he says. "The menu has influences from my travels and also from my family background." That is reflected on the menu in the form of the kreplach appetizer (described as crispy brisket-filled dumpling, gravy), which is much as his grandmother used to make it, and a new one added for spring, fiddlehead fern toast, which combines the Challah heritage with of-the-moment ingredients like fiddleheads.

The menu changes depending on the ingredients available, and there aren't complete seasonal overhauls — it's more like an alteration of an item or two at a time, he says. Sometimes it's a partial shift: winter's fondue contained fingerlings, carrots and turnips while spring's features asparagus and spring garlic.

Current entrees include a popular beer-braised pork lasagna, cauliflower faux risotto, spiced lamb meatballs with ancho maple glaze, crispy panisse and sweet potato puree, as well as the 24-hour hanger Banh Xeo, a Vietnamese crepe, containing steak which has been cut in house, given a sous-vide treatment. The tender meat is then seared and served with a chili citrus glaze and a pickled vegetable salad.

Arnoff is looking forward to working with peas, fava beans and, a bit later, the 12 to 14 varieties of tomatoes grown on the small Hyde Park farm run by his mother, Lisa, who spent a season working with the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. "We're working to grow the restaurant and the farm in tandem," Brian says. "I knew that the farm was there as a



Kitchen Sink's entryway sign.

Photo by A. Rooney



On the menu at the Kitchen Sink: Top, Spring Cheese Fondue: Sprout Creek Farm Kinkead cheese, roasted asparagus, charred spring garlic; above, Steak Banh Xeo: Vietnamese crepe, chili citrus glaze, pickled vegetable salad

Images provided

resource waiting to be utilized."

Complementing all this is a selection of almost exclusively New York State wines, beers from the tri-state area, hard ciders, bread baked in-house and flowers from local purveyors. Desserts include beignets and a bourbon coffee-chocolate cake.

Kitchen Sink is open every day except Tuesday. Dinner service begins at 5 p.m., and on Monday it serves only a fried chicken dinner. Reservations for groups of five or fewer may be made online at kitchensinkny.com or by calling 845-765-0240 after 3 p.m.

Share Your News With Our Readers

Share news and announcements with the readers of *The Highlands Current*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to arts@highlandscurrent.com.

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Keanu (R)
FRI 2:45 5:30 8:15, SAT 11:45 3:00
6:15 9:30, SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
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WED & THU 7:30

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One Poem a Day to Conclude May 3

Popularity again extends online series

by Mary Anne Myers

Again this year, *The Highlands Current's* award-winning celebration of April as National Poetry Month will extend into May due to the number of people who wanted to take part.

Of 33 poetry lovers participating this year, 13 were newcomers. Twelve readers shared original work, beginning with Leonora Burton, owner of The Country Goose, reading "Marmite," a poem by one of her customers, Melanie Campanile.

Other selections spanned generations and crossed boundaries. Among the younger readers, Noah Bingham honored Shakespeare with an impressive performance of Puck's speech from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (April 9), Alex Danilov shared his own "Ode to Dark Chocolate" (April 23), and Chloe Rowe reminded us why kids have more fun than grown-ups with her rendition of Shel Silverstein's "Dirty Face" (April 11).

The oldest poem came from Anita Peltonen, who read verses translated from the Kalevala, the Finnish epic that existed for centuries in oral form before it was written down in the 19th century. Other international selections included "The Cinnamon Peeler" by Michael Ondaatje, read by Beth Vardy (April 3); "Lot's Wife"

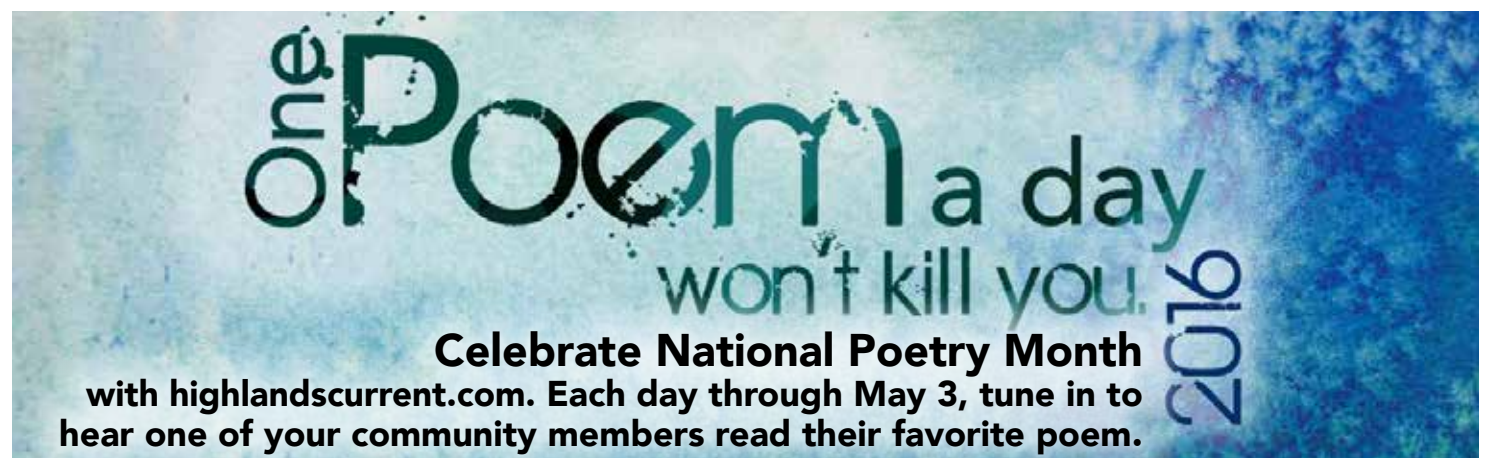


Clockwise from upper left: Leonora Burton, Heller Levinson, Lucille Merry, Neal Spitzer and Noah Bingham

by Wislawa Szymborska, read by Richard Cogliandro (April 7) and Pablo Neruda's "Ode to Broken Things" read by Christine Simek (April 8).

Beacon's Poet Laureate Thomas O'Connell connected poetry and April to baseball with "Dream of a Baseball Star" by Gregory Corso (April 21). The series closes with "The Poem You Asked For" by Larry Levis, read by Tom Carrigan (May 3).

The videos, plus those from 2014 and 2015, can be viewed at highlandscurrent.com. To see the entries, click on the menu icon in the upper left corner of the video frame. Thanks to all those who participated and watched, to Greg Gunder and Chip Rowe for making it all work and to Kate Vikstrom for sparking the original idea.



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Cold Spring \$525,000

Village colonial with 4 BRs, 3 full baths, new appliances, granite counter tops, tiled baths, C/AC and income apt. above the garage. Walk to village proper for all necessities and the commuter rail line.

Questions?

Contact Pat:

845.222.5820

LimitedEditionsRealty.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



A catch!

Photo provided

Registration Open for Fishing Clinic

June 11 event open to first 150 kids and teens

Registration is underway for the annual 4-H Fishing Clinic to be held at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Carmel on Saturday, June 11. The event is free to the first 150 Putnam County residents, ages 7 to 14, who register. Membership in 4-H is not required but participants from previous 4-H Fishing Clinics are not eligible. The clinic will take place from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., rain or shine.

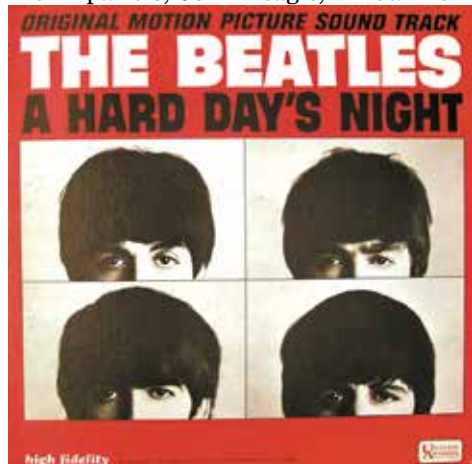
All participants will receive a free rod, reel, tackle kit, fishing directory and hat. Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development program and the Oasis Sportsmen's Club are sponsoring the clinic with support from the Jack Stewart Jr. Memorial Fund.

A parent or guardian must remain for the entire event. Registration is available at putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events. For more information, call 845-278-6738.

Beatles Sing-a-Long

"Never too early to learn the classics"

Beatles fans and musicians will gather at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 6, for a Beatles sing-a-long at the St. Mary's Church parish hall in Cold Spring. Raquel Vidal, Michele and Rick Gedney, Todd Giudice, Rick Aparicio, John Teagle, Linda Rich-



ards and Dar Williams will host the event. "The band — drums, guitars, bass — will be provided, and you provide 'the pipes,'" said Williams. "This is our chance to bring things up to full-shower volume, with the fabulous parish hall acoustics and three-part harmonies these songs deserve." All ages are welcome, she said. "It's never too early to learn the classics."

HVSF Lands Drama League Nod

Also announces "all-female reboot" of Macbeth

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's summer 2015 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Eric Tucker and co-produced by the Pearl Theatre Company, is one of 10 nominees for a Drama League award for Outstanding Revival of a Broadway or Off-Broadway Play.

The production starred five actors who played all 21 parts, never leaving the stage. After its summer run at Boscobel in Garrison, the production ran in September and October at the Pearl Theatre Company on 42nd Street in New York to rave reviews.

The winners will be announced May 20.

HVSF also announced the cast of its upcoming summer production of *Macbeth*, directed by Lee Sunday Evans. In an "all-female reboot" of the tragedy, Maria-Christina Oliveras, Nance Williamson and Stacey Yen will play all 34 parts. Previews begin June 8.

The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Photo by T. Charles Erickson

Riverside Auction Set for May 7

Art center benefit feature plein air works

The Garrison Art Center will hold its annual Riverside Art Auction benefit, formerly known as Artists on Location, on Saturday, May 7, at Garrison Landing. Founded in 1981 by plein air painter Donald Jurney, the auction quickly became a success and launched the idea of a "wet paint" auction. Nicholas Lowry and George Lowry, president and chairman, respectively, of Swann Galleries, will



Artwork by Bernie Kessler

bring their expertise and lively style to the auction.

The viewing reception begins at 3:30 p.m., with the live auction from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit garrison-artcenter.org.

Park Cleanups Set for May 7

Riverkeeper and state organize volunteers

Area parks and open spaces will receive a spring makeover on May 7 when Riverkeeper holds its fifth annual Riversweep Day and the New York state hosts its annual "I Love My Parks" Day.

Riverkeeper, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, hopes to attract more than 2,000 volunteers up and down the Hudson River for the cleanup. Last year volunteers working from Brooklyn to Troy removed more than 40 tons of debris and planted 1,150 trees and native grasses.

In Putnam County, sweeps will take place along the Manitou shoreline, Garrison Landing and Arden Point, Dockside Park in Cold Spring and Little Stony Point and the Cornish Estate/Northgate (Hudson Highlands State Park). Kayakers will clean the shoreline, Constitution Marsh and Constitution Island.

In southern Dutchess County, cleanups are scheduled for Denning's

Point, the waterfront and Lower Wappinger Creek.

To learn more, visit riverkeeper.org/news-events/events/rvk-events/5th-annual-riverkeeper-sweep.

There will also be events and cleanups throughout the day at state parks, including Bannerman Island, Bear Mountain and Walkway Over the Hudson. For more information, visit ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day.



Cary Institute Receives Grant for Lyme Study

Foundation provides \$5 million

The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation has given \$5 million to the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook for a study of Lyme disease in Dutchess County.

Disease ecologist Richard Ostfeld of the Cary Institute and biologist Felicia Keesing of Bard College will direct the five-year study. Residents of 24 neighborhoods in Dutchess County, which has one of the nation's highest infection rates, will be recruited by the researchers and the Dutchess County Department of Health. Each neighborhood will consist of 6 to 10 square blocks and roughly 100 properties. Interventions will target feeding and questing ticks using two commercially available products.

While there are pesticides that kill ticks, studies have found that piecemeal applications in yards does not lower the risk of infection. Instead, evidence suggests that the best strategy lies in targeting ticks and the mice that spread Lyme at a neighborhood level. This will be the first study using this approach.

The gift from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation accounts for more than half of the \$8.8 million that the Cary Institute hopes to raise for its Tick Project. For more information, visit tickproject.org.



A blacklegged tick

Photo by Robin Moore

Constellation Boat Tours Start May 7

Melissa McGill's land art project *Constellation* continues to light every night at sunset and is launching its second season of sunset boat tours. See the installation up close, tour the Bannerman Castle ruins on Pollepel Island and watch the project light while on the Hudson River aboard the Estuary Steward, the official tour boat of (Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Constellation by Melissa McGill

Photo by John Huba

Constellation.

Tours begin May 7 and run through October 2016, departing from Beacon. Individual and group reservations are now available online.

More information about the project, schedules and tickets, including artist-led tours and programs can be found on melissamcgillconstellation.com/visit/book-boat-tours/.

Art in America calls it "An unforgettable experience!" and an "extraordinary project." Anne Pasternak, director of the Brooklyn Museum calls it, "a deeply poetic and beautiful work."

County to Collect Hazardous Waste

Can be dropped off in Kent on May 7

Putnam County will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for county residents on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Canopus Beach parking area at Fahnestock State Park on Route 301 in Kent. Registration is required. Residents may dispose of toxic materials such as household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, oil-based paint, automotive solvents, thinners, mothballs, rodent poisons, gasoline, kerosene and propane tanks up to 20 pounds. For a complete list, visit putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam.

Items must be labeled and identifiable



Thousands of gallons of oil-based paints have been collected since Household Hazardous Waste collection days were started more than 20 years ago by the Putnam County Department of Health.

Photo provided

to be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include water-based paints (latex), used oil, lead-acid batteries, plastic bags, batteries, tires, electronic waste or any materials from commercial establishments. Latex paints can be discarded by routine means after they have been dried out. Call 845-808-1390, ext. 43150, with questions or to register.

Audubon Center to Hold Benefit

Philipstown Garden Club to be honored

The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary's annual spring benefit will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, at the historic Garrison home of Jan and Suzanne Baker. The center will honor the Philipstown Garden Club for its commitment to education and conservation of the natural world and to celebrating the remarkable value of the marsh and its programs. For more information, call 845-265-2601.

Blood Drive Has New Time, Day

Organizers hope to encourage commuters, residents

NY Blood Center will hold a community blood drive from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, at the Loretto Parish Hall, 24 Fair St., in Cold Spring. Walk-ins are welcome. This is a new day and location from blood drives in the past, and organizers hope it will encourage commuters and village residents to participate.

"Data Jam" Competition Opens

Students challenged to share Hudson River data

Now in its third year, the Hudson Data Jam Competition challenges students to creatively tell stories for a general audience using data from the Hudson River watershed. First prize is \$500. The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Marist College sponsor the competition, which looks for creative ways to present data-based stories about the river and its watershed. Students will use at least one data set to create a graphic, rap song, sculptures, puppet shows, children's book or other project.

Cash prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$100 will be

awarded to the top projects at both the middle school and high school levels. For more information, visit caryinstitute.org/students/ HUDSON-DATA-JAM-competition. Registrations and parental consent forms are due by May 6 and project submissions by May 27.



The Rainy Day, by Yoko Yoshimatsu

Image provided

Gallery to Showcase Japanese Artists

Reception at Buster Levi set for May 6

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will host an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 6 for an exhibit of new paintings by two Japanese artists, Setsuya Kotani and Yoko Yoshimatsu. It continues through May 22.

Yoshimatsu, who lives in a village near Osaka when she is not visiting the U.S. typically paints dream-like female figures. Her style recalls in mood and finish two artists of the French Symbolist period: Gustave Moreau and Odilon Redon.

Like Yoshimatsu, Kotani pays meticulous attention to brushwork, detail, and mood. A retired professor of painting and ceramics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, his abstract canvasses are subtle poetries with a glaze-like finish, obliquely telling tales of human relationship.

The gallery is located at 121 Main St. For information, visit busterlevigallery.com.



Volunteers roughed out a trail route at Watergrass Sanctuary in 2015.

Turkey Hunting Season Opens May 1

DEC asks hunters to also count ruffed grouse

The spring turkey season opens May 1 north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary and continues until May 31. Hunters must have a turkey hunting permit in addition to their hunting license, and shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to noon each day.

Hunters may take two bearded turkeys during the spring season, but only one bird per day. They may hunt only with a shotgun or handgun loaded with shot sizes no larger than No. 2 or smaller than No. 8, or with a bow or crossbow. Successful hunters must fill out the tag with their permit and immediately attach it to any turkey harvested.

Successful hunters must report their harvest within seven days. Call 866-426-3778 or visit dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html.

The DEC suggests hunters follow the cardinal rules of hunting safety: assume every gun is loaded, control the muzzle, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot, be absolutely sure of your target and what may be beyond it and don't stalk. Set up with your back against a large tree and call birds to you. To find a sportsman education class, visit dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html or call 888-486-8332.

The agency also is asking turkey hunters to take part in a ruffed grouse survey. Hunters can record the number of grouse they hear drumming while afield to help DEC track the distribution and abundance of the game bird. To get a survey form, go to dec.ny.gov/animals/48169.html or call 518-402-8886.

HHLT Receives State Grants

Funds help preserve Watergrass Sanctuary

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has been awarded two state grants to help conserve 50 acres in Putnam County. The grants support the protection of the O'Connell Boulder Preserve located within the watershed of the Peekskill Hollow Brook (part of the Peekskill and Cortlandt drinking water system), and the expansion of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society's Watergrass Sanctuary.

Both projects, completed in 2015, provide public access.

HHLT is one of 55 non-profit land trusts throughout the state to receive New York State Conservation Partnership Program grants, which totaled \$1.8 million. Funded through the state Environmental Protection Fund, the awards support an additional \$2.25 million in private and (To next page)

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

local funding. Conservation groups in the Mid-Hudson region were awarded 21 grants totaling \$480,550.

Stony Kill Plant Sale

Farm also will have activities

Stony Kill Farm will hold a spring celebration and plant sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. Admission is free. The farm will have vegetables, herbs and houseplants for sale. There will also be sheep shearing, kids' crafts, baby animals, local crafters and music by the Howland Wolves.

Visit stonykill.org for more information. The farm is located at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls. The rain date is May 8.

Nature Museum to Host Frog Walk

Mother's Day hike also on schedule

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall has two events scheduled for next weekend. At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 6, the museum will host its annual Evening Frog Walk at the Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road. Participants will learn to identify frogs by sight and from their calls. Wear appropriate footwear and bring a flashlight. The hike is for adults and children ages 5 and up.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 8, the muse-



Photo by Mike Adamovic

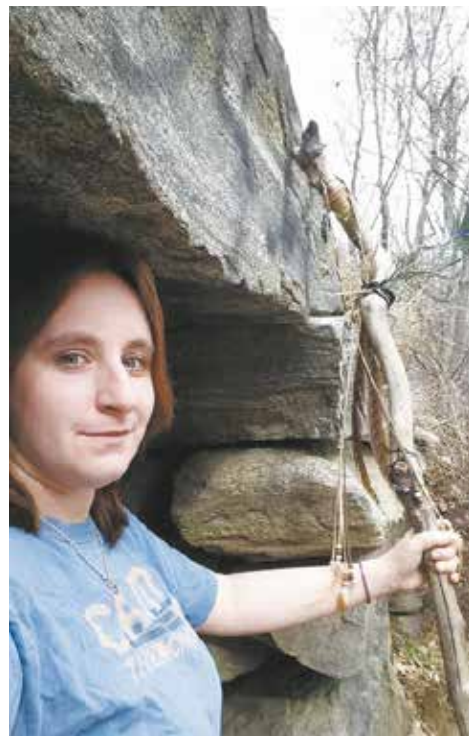
um will host a Mother's Day Nature Hike at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Join guide Carl Heitmuller for a morning of fresh air and sunshine on a guided woodland walk along the stroller-friendly trails. Along the way, children will collect items to make a unique craft. The event is for all ages.

Admission to each event is \$5 for adults who are museum members and \$3 for children, or \$7 for adults and \$5 for children otherwise. For more information, visit hhn.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

The Secrets of Stone Chambers

Grange will host talk on May 6

As part of its Putnam After Dark series, the Putnam Valley Grange on Friday, May 6, will present a lecture by Renée J. Fleury on Stone Chambers and the Megalithic Hudson Valley. It begins at 7 p.m.



Renée J. Fleury

Photo provided

Stone chambers are hidden in plain sight, obscured behind brambles and weeds, lurking in our own backyards. Who built them? How old are they? And why such an enigmatic surrounding culture?

Fleury is the founder of Keltic Energy Paranormal Research and Investigation. A \$10 admission fee to benefit the Grange is requested. The Grange Hall is located at 128 Mill St., at Peekskill Hollow Road. For more information, call 914-949-4679 or visit putnamvalleygrange.org.

Beacon

Remembering the Holocaust

Memorials in Poughkeepsie and Newburgh

A Yom Hashoah/Holocaust commemoration and lecture will be held at Hall Theatre at Dutchess Community College on Monday, May 2. The ceremony and candle lighting will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a talk by Hasia Diner, a professor of American Jewish History at New York University, titled Fitting Memorials: American Jews Confront the Holocaust, 1945-1962. Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance will offer the invocation. The theater is located at 53 Pendell Road in Poughkeepsie.

In Newburgh, Mount Saint Mary College will hold its 16th annual Holocaust Commemoration at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, at the Aquinas Theatre on campus, 330 Powell Ave. The event will begin with a prayer, followed by a ballet with musical accompaniment from the Newburgh Symphony Orchestra. The ballet, *The Secret Annex*, is based on *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Tickets are available for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children from newburghjcc.org or call 845-561-6602, ext. 4. The commemoration is sponsored by the college, the Newburgh

Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County.

Mount Gulian to Honor Mothers on May 8

Free admission and new exhibit

The Mount Gulian Historic Site will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8, with free tours for mothers and the opening of a new exhibit. Tours of the house, Dutch barn and restored garden will be given at 1:15 and 2:15 p.m.

The exhibit features vintage women's fashions from the site's collection. It will run through May 29.

For non-mothers, admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children and teenagers. Children under age 5 and Mount Gulian members are admitted free. The site is open during the season on Wednesdays through Fridays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with the last tour at 4 p.m. For more information, visit mountgulian.org or call 845-831-8172. The site is located at 145 Sterling St. in Beacon.

Library to Present Savoit Awards

Reservations requested by May 9

The Howland Public Library will honor Marcia Frahman with its eighth annual Helen Savoit Library Advocacy Award at a benefit scheduled for Saturday, May 21, at the St. Rocco Society, 26 S. Chestnut St. Justice McCray will also be recognized as the recipient of the Savoit Education Gift.

Tickets to the event are \$50; children ages 12 and under are free. It includes a buffet dinner from Papa Joe's and music by the Edukated Fleas. Proceeds will benefit the library's Helen Savoit Fund. RSVP by May 9 by calling 845-831-1134, ext. 100, or emailing amy@beaconlibrary.org.

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Sports

Mets Edge Yankees, 5-4

Nail-biter in Little League contest

By Mike Meeropol

On Saturday morning (April 23), as the weather brightened, banishing fears of a postponement due to wet conditions, two teams from the Philipstown Little League Majors division, the Mets and Yankees, treated fans to a thrilling game at the North Highland's Firehouse field.

After jumping out to a 4-0 lead, the Mets were held to only one more run by the Yankees' pitching staff of Terence Driscoll and Jonathan Bradley. Meanwhile, the Yankees cut the lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the 4th inning. The Mets' insurance run, scored in the top of the 5th, became extremely important when, in the bottom of the 6th, Evan Tighe worked a leadoff walk and scored the Yankee's fourth run

on a single by William Bradley.

Bradley represented the tying run at second base with two outs when Mets pitcher Julian Ambrose finished off a complete game — a nail-biter — for a 5-4 victory.

Ablly supporting their pitchers, catchers Gianni Carone (Mets) and Jonathan Bradley (Yankees) gunned down runners on the bases. Blake Bolte and Gianni Carone (Mets), and Jonathan and William Bradley and Dan McElroy (Yankees) all launched extra base hits into the outfield. Evan Tighe scored two runs for the Yankees, including the all-important fourth one in the 6th.

The fans, coaches and players all agree these teams are evenly matched. They play one more regular season game at 9 a.m. on May 21 with a possible playoff date anticipated in early June.



Image provided

Catherine Treuter Recognized for Garden Work

Receives award for beautification at Garrison School

The Garden Club of America awarded Catherine Treuter of the Philipstown Garden Club its Club Civic Improvement Award in recognition of her "leadership,

enthusiastic attitude, courage and commitment" to the beautification of the grounds of the Garrison School. From left, Dick Timmons (Garrison School's director of maintenance), Treuter, Superintendent Laura Mitchell and Principal John Griffiths are pictured above.

A Taste of the Workplace (from Page 12)

ence a field they are interested in but have no experience with. Allisen Casey will begin her internship with Garrison School psychologist Jessica Van Dekker in a couple of weeks, after the conclusion of her last exam. Casey plans to major in psychology but also has an interest in business. "It will be a great addition to not only my resume but my understanding of the field," she says. "The benefits of a hands-on experience are undeniable. You learn what you like, what you don't like, how you work in

certain environments, etc."

Already, Seideman is tweaking the program for next year, when she plans to add instruction in creating resumes and cover letters, interviewing and a database of companies willing to take high school interns. All seniors will also take a career profile test.

Businesses or organizations interested in working with a Haldane senior can email Seideman at mseideman@haldane-school.org.

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The Five Best Trees in Philipstown

For Arbor Day, our intrepid reporter makes his picks

By Michael Turton

Arbor Day is a two-pronged celebration of trees. On one level, Arbor Day, which this year falls on April 29, reminds us of the benefits that trees provide — the things that light up the practical side of our brain. The 1,000 tree species in North America (and 10,000 around the world) absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, cool our city streets, and conserve energy and water. They

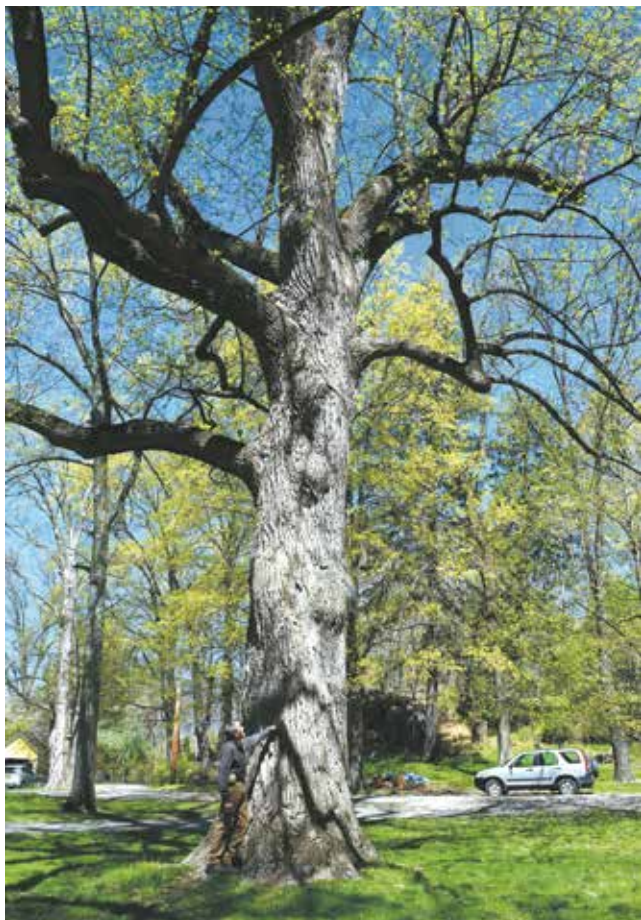
provide food — for humans and animals alike. They even bolster mental health. Studies have shown that just walking amongst trees reduces stress and anxiety within minutes.

And trees have economic worth. They increase property values. Research has shown that in business districts, tree-lined streets attract more customers. As a renewable resource, trees can be harvested and used to manufacture countless products from furniture to big league baseball bats. Walk into a local antique shop and it won't be long before you hear someone say, "Wow — that's made out of real wood."

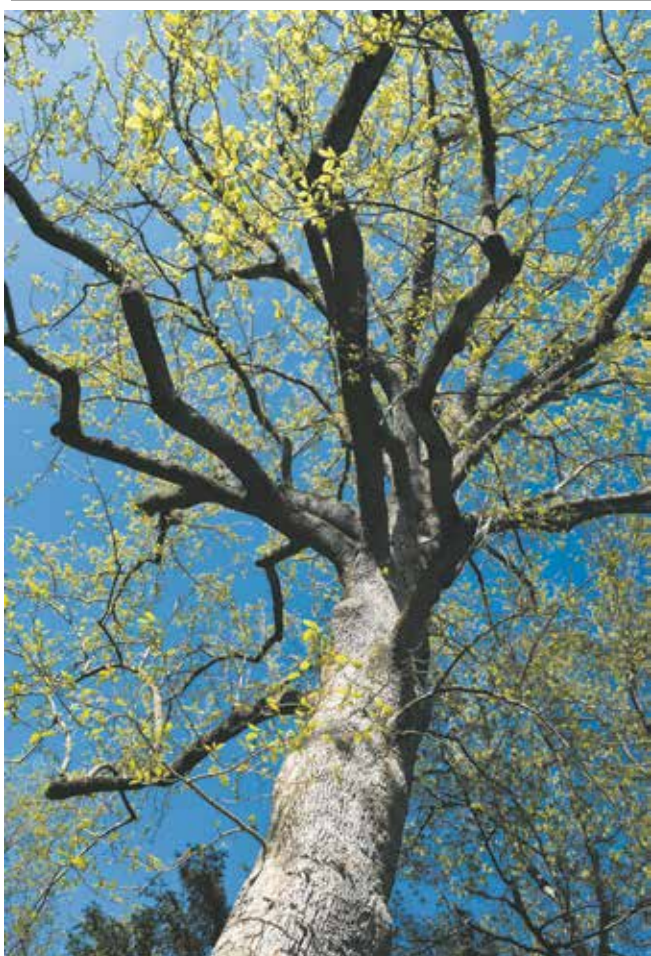
Everyone has a favorite

Practical considerations aside, people simply love trees. Ask 10 people if they have a favorite tree and nine if not 10 will answer in the affirmative. Author Sophia Newtown captured the affection humans have for trees when she wrote: "Trees are born, they develop their leaves and fruits, they grow and die. I can't ever understand why a tree is a 'what' and not a 'who!'" Turkish playwright and novelist Mehmet Murat İdan used humor to describe how important trees are to people when he wrote, "Why pay money for horror movies? Just go to a street without trees!"

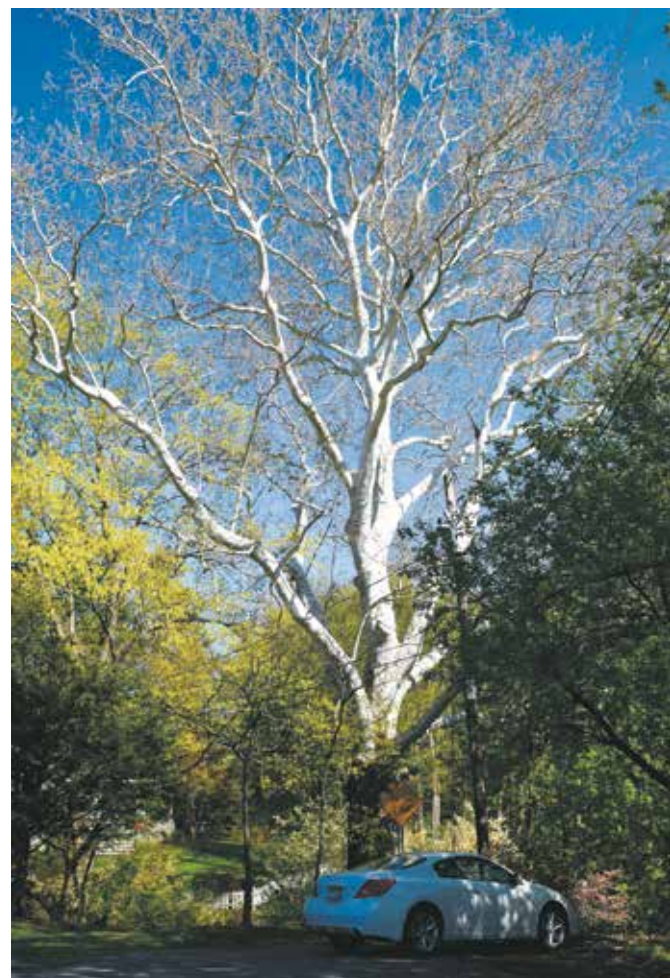
The first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska on April 10, 1872, the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist and politician. Morton, who also worked in agriculture, believed that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from wide-scale tree planting. His idea struck a nerve. More than a million trees were planted on the first Arbor Day.



#2. Arborist Lou Kingsley is dwarfed by this mammoth tulip tree located between Cold Spring and Garrison.



#3. Left, this beautiful magnolia tree lives in the heart of Cold Spring. #4. Above, this giant nikko fir is located in Garrison overlooking the Hudson River. #5. Right, great pains are being taken to protect the Copper Beech at the Butterfield development in Cold Spring.



#1. The massive sycamore behind Foodtown in Cold Spring might be the largest tree in Philipstown. Photos by M. Turton

In 1970, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. All 50 states celebrate it, but on dates ranging from December to May, depending on regional climate. Arbor Day is also observed in more than 30 countries from Australia and Namibia to Togo and Yemen.

Top five

As our tip of the hat to Arbor Day, *The Highlands Current* scoured the countryside and selected the five best trees in Philipstown. Readers are free to disagree, but only if they submit a photo of the tree that is arguably more deserving. Consider including something in the photo that indicates scale.

Send your photo as an attached file to toptree@highlandscurrent.com with your name, its location and your argument for its inclusion. The photo should be in a .jpg format and in the highest resolution possible. If the judges at *The Current* agree that a nominated tree deserves a top ranking, we will acknowledge and share the photo. Beacon residents are invited to submit photos of the best trees in their city as well.

