

# The HIGHLANDS Current



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FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

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A brief moment of evening glory on May 13 at Garrison Landing

Photo by Cathy Lilburne

## Challengers Prevail in Beacon Schools Race

*New board will be  
seated in July*

By Jeff Simms



Beacon High School

Photo by J. Simms

Three newcomers will join a revamped Beacon City school board in July, as voters this week overwhelmingly elected Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng to the city district's Board of Education.

Heuer, Tseng and Rutkoske each received more than twice as many votes as incumbent Tracy Antalek Everett, the fourth candidate in a race for three board seats.

Heuer, a professional photographer, received the most votes of any candidate with 1,310. She was followed by Tseng, who is an environmental engineer, and Rutkoske, an Entergy Corporation capital asset program manager, who received 1,257 and 1,252 votes respectively.

Everett, who is completing her first term on the board, received 483 votes.

While the winning trio did not officially campaign together, all three ran platforms focused on increased transparency

and accountability on the school board.

"It's a great vote of confidence," Heuer said. "I was encouraged to see that we all got around the same number of votes, because we've all been asking the same questions. We've come to the same place in terms of seeing the need for change."

The school board has been under intense scrutiny over the last 12 months, as parents and community members have questioned everything from its use of closed-door executive sessions to the district's legal representation and its hiring practices. The board is currently searching for a new superintendent — its ninth in 10 years.

The search for stable full-time leadership will undoubtedly be the new board's first order of business after its organizational meeting on July 1. Staff diversity and increased engagement with the public were also (Continued on Page 5)

## Butterfield Changes Argued

*Lawyers clash over need to  
re-examine parking*

By Michael Turton

A fundamental difference in legal opinions must be resolved before a long-awaited senior citizen center can move forward as part of the Butterfield redevelopment project. The Cold Spring Planning Board met on May 12 to consider an application by Butterfield Realty, headed by developer Paul Guilaro, that would see the senior center move from the previously proposed location in building number two, now under construction, to Lahey Pavilion, currently home to the village medical center. No changes to the pavilion were included as part of the project's approved site plan. In the swap now being put forward, the medical offices would move to building number two.

The switch came about at the request of officials from Putnam County, which will develop and operate the senior citizen center, after they determined that building number two is poorly suited for that purpose.

### Disparate legal views

As is often the case in Cold Spring, parking is again the central issue.

Planning Board chairman Matt Francisco set the stage for a long, back and

forth and often tense discussion when he told the standing room only audience that based upon advice from Building inspector Bill Bujarski and Village Attorney John Furst, the proposed change in uses is "obviously an amendment to the site plan and (as a result) the parking table (must) be updated." Plans currently call for 35 parking spaces at Lahey. Francisco later pointed out that a loading dock for the new post office, also slated to move into Butterfield, had been approved as part of building number two but would have to be reviewed as part of the new application which shifts the postal facility to the rear of Lahey.

Guillaro, the first of numerous speakers, calmly responded, "Whatever you want to call it ... we think it's a minor amendment."

Steven Barshov, Guillaro's attorney, was anything but calm and described himself as "agitated" more than once during the meeting. "This is a very clear situation. There is an error that has been made by your attorney. It is a clear error," he stated emphatically. "The language of the code is not ambiguous — it was written by the village board in order to give clear direction to the planning board," he said, later adding, "and it says no additional parking shall be required. It couldn't be clearer than that. This is not subject to interpretation."

Francisco and (Continued on Page 3)



## Roots and Shoots

## Start With a Box (Not Too Big), Add a Grid

## Square foot gardening

By Pamela Doan

Being a garden nerd, I read obituaries of gardeners even when I don't know who they are. Gardening inherently involves some kind of legacy and it's fascinating to learn about people through their approach.

Last week, Mel Bartholomew died. He was the founder of the Square Foot Gardening Foundation and worked for decades to bring his sustainable method of growing food to communities all over the world. The SFG Foundation continues his work with a focus on schools, kids and training volunteer instructors. Locally, the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Putnam County offered a class in April to teach people how to do it. They have a square foot garden set up outside their office in Brewster to demonstrate how it works.

Since I hadn't heard of Bartholomew or this method previously, I turned to Katherine Everitt, the CCE Community Educator, for an explanation and tips on how to get started. Everitt taught the class in April and began planning the garden in January. She is a big enthusiast of the method and said, "I like it because you can get a lot of food from a small space. My brain likes the science and struc-

ture. Measure out the garden, mark the squares, follow the formula for how many seeds to plant."

For anyone who is starting a garden or doesn't have a lot of time, this is a simple, straightforward plan. Build a box frame to make a raised bed. It shouldn't be more than 4 feet wide so you can easily reach any plants from the side. You won't be walking on it. Lumber comes in 8-foot lengths so 4 x 8 foot or 4 x 4 foot is a manageable size that doesn't involve a lot of cutting.

Once you've got your frame, fill it with layers of organic matter. On the SFG website, it says to use 1/3 compost, 1/3 peat moss and 1/3 coarse vermiculite. You can use other kinds of organic matter, though.

Everitt filled their bed with what they had on hand — non-weedy clippings, vegetable debris, dried grass, leaf mulch, and some topsoil. Either recipe makes for nutrient-rich soil that will hold moisture, and that's the key to success. This is an organic, sustainable approach to gardening that should use less water than a typical garden, not require pesticides or fertilizers, and it doesn't require tilling the ground. No tilling means less work, no machinery is necessary and soil microbes aren't disturbed.

Now comes the fun, math-y part. Measure and mark off the bed with string into squares that are 12 x 12 inches. Ever-

itt said, "Each square has its own plant and you can fit a different amount depending on how much space each one needs." Depending on the mature size of the plant, grow 1, 4, 9, or 16 equally spaced plants per square foot.

Check the growing instructions. If the space between plants is:

- 12 inches; one plant per square foot
- 6 inches; 4 per square foot
- 4 inches; 9 per square foot,
- 2 inches; 16 per square foot

Everitt planted the demonstration garden with onions, beets, carrots, peas, baby bok choy, lettuce, swiss chard and radishes. Everitt said, "I planned it out so I can do successive planting. I started with the first day I could plant, made a list of what I could use on that day. Then I counted out how many days each square would take to mature and planned what I could plant next. For example, the radishes will be ready in June and then I can plant carrots that will be ready before the first frost date." She also got a lot of impact from her choices. She could sow 16 carrots in a square foot.

I appreciated her sensible approach to growing lettuce. She planted the first of four squares on April 15, and then added another



The square foot garden at the CCE office has 40 squares sown from seed. Photo by P. Doan

square every two weeks. She said, "This way, you don't have all your lettuce ready at the same time but keep a steady flow."

Everitt's final words of advice were about being mindful of placement so that tall plants don't shade short plants. She said, "Put shorter plants on the west side and taller plants on the east side." For more information about square foot gardening, visit the demonstration garden at the CCE office or find the website at [squarefootgardening.org/square-foot-gardening-method](http://squarefootgardening.org/square-foot-gardening-method).

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## Butterfield Changes Argued *(from Page 1)*



Paul Guillaro (front row second from left) is flanked by former planning board chair Barney Molloy and attorney Steven Barshov.

Photos by M. Turton

Barshov stuck to their disparate positions throughout the meeting and clashed several times. "We are bound by advice of counsel and (his) interpretation of the code — and that's the way we'll proceed," Francisco said. "You follow the advice of your lawyer."

Speaking to Barshov, Furst said, "The problem is you've moved a medical use ... approved for 35 spaces (at) Lahey Pavilion. You've now moved that to another building."

"There's nothing in the code anywhere that says you can't move uses around," Barshov commented. "There's no prohibition against doing so."

### Motivation questioned

Barshov questioned the planning board's motivation for revisiting Butterfield's parking requirements. "The only reason I can think of," he said, "is because there are people that are not in favor of

this project or have wanted to frustrate it for a long period of time."

Francisco challenged Barshov, referring to a statement he said was made in another local paper by Mike Finnegan, a second attorney working for Guillaro, stating that the planning board was looking to thwart the project and that a possible result could be the complete removal of uses from the Butterfield site. "We do not have legislative power. We cannot remove uses from the site," Francisco said. "Nobody's trying to thwart anything."

### Original plan was ill-conceived

An unprecedented number of Putnam County officials attended the meeting including Transportation Manager Vinny Tamagna, Pat Sheehy, director of the office for senior resources, Legislator Carl Albano and others, each of whom in turn downplayed changes proposed in the new



The Cold Spring Planning Board

application and urged the planning board to move the senior citizen center project forward quickly.

Sheehy, along with Putnam County Commissioner of Highways and Facilities Fred Pena, outlined why building two was deemed ill-suited for the senior citizen center. Issues included the proposed second floor location which one speaker pointed out could not bear the weight of the required kitchen equipment. In addition the site design did not permit busses to drop passengers off at the building's front door. As a result, seniors, many of whom are frail and use canes or walkers according to Sheehy, would have to walk a considerable distance outside, then walk down a lengthy corridor to get to the elevator. The elevator itself also raised concerns regarding safe ingress and egress to and from the center. In addition the first

floor was not equipped with restrooms.

Francisco questioned how engineering studies that he said cost an estimated \$250,000 had missed so many shortcomings in the proposed building two location.

"The main reason is this," Guillaro responded. "Nobody believed this project would be approved." He said that both the county and the post office, also slated to be located at Butterfield, had indicated that they would wait for approvals to be finalized before looking at the site in detail.

### Integrity questioned

Resident Kathleen Foley was taken aback by what she heard. "Taxpayers in this village believed that these issues were being thoughtfully addressed under SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) ... thoughtfully and professionally addressed under the site plan review," she said. "I am aston- (Continued on Page 5)

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## Nelsonville Trustee Cries Foul

*Building department  
merger in limbo*

By Michael Turton

"Correspondence" rarely produces headlines at local government meetings but it did at the May 16 session of the Nelsonville Village Board. A letter to Mayor Tom Corless from village residents Sterling DeWeese and Mary Clancy-Pace raised allegations that verbal threats and acts of intimidation may have been directed at trustee Danielle Pack-McCarthy by fellow trustee Thomas Rob-



Nelsonville Trustee Danielle Pack-McCarthy



Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless, left, and Trustee Thomas Robertson Photos by M. Turton

ertson. "There is no place for this sort of behavior in our village," the letter stated. "In spite of witnessing Mr. Robertson's abusive behavior toward Mrs. McCarthy you have not only condoned it but rewarded it by naming him deputy mayor ..."

Pack-McCarthy and Robertson opposed each other in the March 2015 village election, which ended in a virtual tie. Pack-McCarthy then defeated Robertson in a runoff election. In March of this year, Robertson won a seat on the board running unopposed. Corless then appointed Robertson to replace Pack-McCarthy as li-

aison to the Town of Philipstown and also named him deputy mayor.

On April 26, Pack-McCarthy emailed village residents, outlining concerns about her relationship with Robertson and Corless. She stated that she and Robertson were respectful during last year's election campaign but that she has faced intense criticism from him ever since and that she has experienced "a lack of support" from the mayor.

### "Disrespectful and harassing"

"Mr. Robertson has conducted himself in a disrespectful and harassing manner," she wrote. "On one occasion, (he) waited for the PCNR to turn its cameras off at the end of a (village) meeting. He got up from his seat and aggressively approached me. Getting in my face he angrily pointed his finger at me and shouted, 'You better watch your mouth.' He continued this, following me as I walked home, (saying) 'You better watch what you say. This is only the beginning.'"

Pack-McCarthy said she was disturbed by Corless's response to the incident. "I asked (him) to address this. He refused. Mr. Robertson's harassing behavior during Village Board meetings continued ... I asked the Mayor to establish some order by standing up to Mr. Robertson's intimidation tactics, but again he refused."

Instead, she said the mayor did the opposite, appointing Robertson as deputy mayor at his first board meeting and also stripping her of her role as liaison to Philipstown, again appointing Robertson. "This is after I have been working with the town for the past year on solidifying our building codes to make our village safer and protect it from liability issues."

In the email, Pack-McCarthy asked residents to attend Monday's meeting, a factor that no doubt contributed to the room being filled to capacity.

"I want to make it clear that I am not going to accept being treated with a lack of respect for doing the work that I was elected to do," Pack-McCarthy said as part of an opening statement at Monday's meeting.

"We (the village board) are going to disagree ... and that is OK. In fact, it's more than OK. When handled with respect, it's a healthy, productive way to run a government."

(Continued on Page 8)



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## Butterfield Changes Argued *(from Page 3)*

ished to hear professionals stand in this room and say that you didn't realize what your needs were in these buildings that we have been talking about for years." She called into question the integrity of the SEQR process, the site plan process as well as "the integrity of the professionals associated with (the project) in every step of that process ... it makes me call into question their professional licenses."

### Mayor speaks out – as a resident

Dave Merandy, who said he was speaking as an individual and not as mayor, took exception to Barshov's suggestion that anyone was against the Butterfield development or trying to obstruct the senior citizen center. "This (planning) board is not, nor is Matt, delaying this project," he said. "It's the responsibility of this board to take a closer look if this switch happens."

Merandy said that for years the plan had been based on having the senior center in

building number two. "And now at the last moment we're switching it – and all of a sudden it becomes this planning board's problem. This board is not delaying it – they're doing what they volunteered to do. They represent the village. "Merandy said the project could have been built by now. "There's one building going up there that hardly anyone worked on all winter and that's fine ... but it's not the delay of the planning board. For all the county people to come over here and try to bully us because they think it's minor (the change to Lahey) – it's not right."

### Agreement

The meeting did produce one area of agreement – that if the senior center does move to the Lahey Pavilion, the impact on traffic and pedestrian safety will have to be addressed. "The last planning board put a lot of time into looking at how people would come and go ... now the uses of these two buildings are changing ... how people come

and go is now all of a sudden different," current planning board member Judith Rose said. "I need to see that every pedestrian and every car that enters that site is safe."

Barshov had no problem with that request. "I agree with that. All I'm asking is let's not open up the door (to) the number of parking spaces," he said. "(If) you want to look at site circulation ... you'll get a very warm reception from this very agitated lawyer."

### Next step as yet unknown

Furst suggested that the board review his memo outlining his legal opinion on how the code applies to the potential shift of the senior citizen center to Lahey, comparing it to a similar memo from Barshov that details a completely different interpretation.

After the public meeting adjourned, the planning board held a closed-door session to confer with Furst. Contacted by *The Current* earlier this week, Francisco declined to comment on next steps.

## Challengers Prevail in Beacon Schools Race *(from Page 1)*

themes repeatedly championed by the three winning candidates.

The new board's first regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13.

In addition to the school board members, voters on Tuesday also passed the school system's \$66,750,000 budget and a separate \$384,483 transportation proposition.

The budget, which was approved by the

school board last month, includes \$36.6 million in tax revenue and \$26.8 million in state and federal aid. It maintains all existing programs and staffing levels at the Beacon district's six schools while staying within the New York-mandated tax cap of 2 percent or less.

The budget does draw more than \$2 million from school system reserves, a move interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi said was necessary to stay within the tax cap.

The transportation proposition, now passed, will allow the school system to purchase three 72-passenger buses and a 20-passenger van.

This year's race drew

significantly more voters to the ballots than in recent years.

A total of 1,539 district residents voted on the budget proposition, compared to 1,290 in 2014 and 1,051 a year ago. The 2014 election also included a contested race with four candidates vying for three seats. Last year's race was uncontested, with three candidates for three seats.



From left, Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng

Photo by K.E. Foley



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## School Election Results

### Haldane Central School District

#### Budget

Yes: 451  
No: 147

#### Vehicle referendum

Yes: 429  
No: 164

#### Trustees (three open seats)

Laura Hammond: 509  
Jennifer Daly: 460  
Peggy Clements: 445

### Garrison Union Free School District

#### Budget

Yes: 134  
No: 39

#### School Bus Proposition

Yes: 134  
No: 39

#### Trustees (two open seats)

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Derek DuBois: 134

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# Building-Friendly, Beacon is a Destination

*Report cites gains*

By Jeff Simms

At nearly the halfway point of 2016, as its officials reflect on the past year, Beacon is, in many ways, a busy but still charming smaller New York state municipality.

Responding to 1,607 emergency, medical and fire-related incidents in an average of three minutes, the city's fire department in 2015 boasted the quickest response time of any fire department in Dutchess County.

In 2015, Beacon police responded to 300 various crimes, the bulk of them larcenies, and made 761 arrests. Crime was up just slightly from 2014 but overall has trended downward over the last five years.

Four parks are maintained citywide, and in 2015 over 4,500 adults and kids utilized the Beacon Pool, which was reopened at the University Settlement site after a six-year hiatus.

But nowhere is the city's expansive growth more evident than in its building department. Beacon's 2015 annual report, released this week, shows 669 permits issued in 2015. A year earlier, 683 permits were issued. Those figures include plumbing, rental and electrical and other permits, but the majority are for building.

"The city is in good shape," said Mayor Randy Casale. "We've got a good, smart

growth rate and our finances are good."

Indeed, Casale also announced this week that Moody's Investor Service has assigned Beacon an Aa2 bond rating, an upgrade from the previous Aa3 rating, which it received in Feb. 2011. The rating, which designates Beacon as "high quality and subject to very low credit risk," is particularly important as the city prepares to fund the construction of a new highway garage building, Rombout Avenue reconstruction and the city-wide LED street light project.

Citing prudent financial management,



Mayor Casale in his City Hall office.

File photo by Brian PJ Cronin



Beacon's waterfront by night

Photo by Kate Vikstrom

favorable reserves, moderate growth in its tax base and an increase in development activity, the rating places Beacon highest among cities and towns in Dutchess County and is also among the highest bond ratings in New York state, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said.

Numerous building projects are ongoing inside the five-square-mile city of 15,000-plus residents. In all, approximately 500 residential units have been approved and are in the city's building pipeline, with another 165 pending before the planning board.

At 151 Main Street, a 12-room boutique hotel with retail and gallery space below is being erected, while another modern, market-rate hotel is being built in the four-story, turn-of-the-century brick building at 428 Main.

The Roundhouse complex, which anchors the rejuvenated east end of Main Street, is slated to add 18 new hotel rooms in a former mill building, as well as additional live/work studio lofts. The Lofts at Beacon, a conversion of several former textile buildings, will add 114 live/work studio apartments on Front Street between Route 52 and Fishkill Creek. Twelve dwelling units out of a first phase of 50 are now complete and a greenway trail has been constructed and is open.

Four new residential buildings have been approved at the 248 Tioronda site along Fishkill Creek, several blocks south of Main Street. The complex will ultimate-

ly include 100 new two-bedroom units.

Construction has also begun to convert a former auto salvage site on Creek Road (and adjacent to Fishkill Creek) into loft-style condominiums. And the iconic former mill property on Beacon's east side known as "1 East Main" is being rehabilitated with commercial space on the lower level and condominium apartments above.

In March of this year, the planning board also approved the redevelopment of the historic Beacon Theater at 445 Main Street. Plans there call for 32 apartments to be built atop a new, 195-seat performance space.

Casale attributes the rapid growth to a turnaround in the economy and decisions to rezone parts of Beacon for more dense development, among other factors.

"People have seen how we're progressing," he said. "We're building-friendly. The building department is accommodating. And it's always been this way — we've got the natural resources and the train station, and the exodus out of Brooklyn has led people to this community. It's an attractive city."

The mayor said he doesn't see a pre-determined end in sight, particularly since the bond rating upgrade is a positive reflection on development in the city.

"According to our comprehensive plan [which is being revised this year], we can handle the growth," Casale said, "but it's got to be smart growth."



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# Beacon River Pool Still Seeks New Home

## Scenic Hudson declines request

By Jeff Simms

The Hudson River Pool at Beacon — a Pete Seeger inspiration gearing up to celebrate its 10th year of operations — will open as scheduled at Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park this summer, but plans for an expanded pool for both kids and adults are on hold.

River Pool management, a volunteer board of eight, had been in discussions with the Poughkeepsie-based Scenic Hudson land trust about opening a larger pool at Scenic Hudson's 15-acre Long Dock Park in Beacon, just downriver from Riverfront Park. After several years of discussion, however, Scenic Hudson has declined the River Pool's request to use its site, so the search continues.

"We've always wanted to have a larger pool," said River Pool board President Michael Gersh. "Pete's vision was to have these pools all over the place — and they would be big enough for adults and children."

The current pool, which opened in August 2007 and is available to the public for free, is about 17 feet across and 24 to 30 inches deep. The pool is actually a circular flow-through fiberglass structure with a netted floor that doesn't touch the bottom of the river. A larger pool would need to be in water at least six feet deep at low



The Hudson River Pool is growing out of its Riverfront Park home in Beacon.

Photo provided

tide, Gersh said.

The idea to open the pool came in the late 1990s from Seeger, the folk music legend and social and environmental activist who died in 2014. Since opening, Gersh estimates that just under 10,000 people have entered the river via the pool, which he says is a cost-free recreational option that teaches its users to care for the environment.

"Pete thought, 'Let's test the water and see about creating a pool.' If people are swimming in the river, they're going to really want to keep it clean. He felt that

was a good incentive," Gersh said.

With the current pool structure nearing the end of its design life, the River Pool board began discussing the idea of opening a second, larger pool and identified Long Dock Park — opened by Scenic Hudson in July 2011 — as the ideal spot along the Beacon waterfront.

Scenic Hudson Senior Vice President Steve Rosenberg says that the organization appreciates the River Pool's mission but ultimately doesn't allow swimming at any of its more than three dozen parks

and preserves.

"What the river pool does is very important in terms of connecting kids and families to the river," he said. "But the added risks to us of having swimming in a setting like that concerned us. Despite everyone's best efforts, you really have to be a guarantor of the (public's) safety (in that setting)."

In addition to the other activities at Long Dock — kayaking, fishing, festivals, environmental education and yoga classes — Rosenberg said that swimming would be too much for Scenic Hudson to manage.

For now, the Riverfront Park pool will open as scheduled at the beginning of July and close after Labor Day. Gersh says that the River Pool board may look into redesigning an enlarged pool at its current home or it could seek out a new site for a larger pool.

Where that might be, he does not know.

"We really wouldn't want to move out of Beacon," he said, "and we're going to do our best to keep it here. We are committed to keeping a pool in Beacon, at least for a few more years."

## NY Alert

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at [nyalert.gov](http://nyalert.gov).

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## Volunteers needed

The Putnam History Museum is now seeking unpaid volunteers and interns with availability between the hours of 11am – 5pm, Wednesday through Sunday. The opportunity is flexible in number of hours and days a month. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school or college students in need of volunteer hours. Please contact Rachel at [rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org](mailto:rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org) or 845-265-4010 for more information.

Putnam History Museum • 63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring  
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## Open House

Sunday, May 22nd | 12-2PM  
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## Nelsonville Trustee Cries Foul *(from Page 4)*

### Thicker skin needed?

The Current asked Mayor Corless to comment on Pack-McCarthy's claims during the public comment period.

"I'd rather not but I will. I think our trustees have a ... dispute going and it's not part of the Village of Nelsonville and there's no reason for it to be under this roof," he said. The mayor acknowledged that he had read Pack-McCarthy's email and the response from village residents. "I think for the most part we're talking about something that happened almost a year ago ... this is history as far as I'm concerned. I think we all need to have thicker skin. People (may) ask us questions we don't like. It is what it is. That's why we're here. Sometimes it's not that comfortable. It's part of the game." The mayor did not address any of the specific issues raised by Pack-McCarthy, including her assertion that he has not supported her.

Robertson had little to say as well, stating only that Pack McCarthy's comments were "totally untrue." He commented that residents can view village board meetings online.

Village resident Mary Rice addressed the board. "I'd just like to ask that you follow diplomacy and respect for reach other and have an open dialogue," she said. "We

need to be aware of how we are approaching each other .... I don't think this was just an issue one year ago; I've been to meetings. It's about how we speak to each other — just be open and respectful."

### Public hearing shifts to merger discussion

Prior to the regular meeting, a public hearing was held to consider the draft of an update to Chapter 77 of the Nelsonville Code. Nelsonville last revised the chapter in 1985. New York state updated its version of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code law in 2007. Nelsonville reviewed its code at that time but did not adopt an update. Village building inspector George Duncan said at the hearing that he follows 2007 state law and that the draft being considered will bring Nelsonville's code into compliance with it.

While a few comments were received during hearing regarding the code, the most significant discussion centered on a possible merger of building departments in Nelsonville, Cold Spring and the Town of Philipstown. Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, in attendance along with trustee Nancy Montgomery, said the merger would provide building department service to residents of all three munici-



A much larger than usual audience attended the Nelsonville meeting. Photo by M. Turton

palities on a full-time basis. Cold Spring and Nelsonville currently offer building department services on a part time basis. "The idea is to save money and give better service," Shea said. Trustee Pack-McCarthy had been working with Philipstown trustee John Van Tassel on details of the possible merger for the past year and Shea asked if that work would continue.

Corless said that Shea's inquiry was "completely off topic" for the public hearing and added that Nelsonville has had very limited discussion regarding consolidation. "I don't think we've actually hit that point — about what we're going to do about building departments or (local) courts. It's been drummed up for 10 years probably, back and forth with the municipalities," he said, adding that such details as cost and implement have not been looked at.

### Nelsonville's identity at stake

Robertson commented that Nelsonville "has only two entities left" — the court and the building department. "If we lose that we have no identity," he said, adding that the building department is not expensive and that he saw no need to have the village office open more than two or

three days a week. "People in this village are very fiercely independent," he said. "I would like to see us remain independent."

Shea responded that the intent is to keep Nelsonville's costs at the same level while offering full-time service. "With all due respect we were going down that road. Danielle (Pack-McCarthy) was working on it, we had ... multiple meetings ... and there was a feeling that we were progressing." Montgomery said that there was no intent to diminish Nelsonville's identity but that the village would be in a better position to receive state funding if services were consolidated.

Shea said he'd like to know if meetings will continue and whether or not Nelsonville has a real interest in pursuing consolidation. "It's going to be real work and it's going to be an investment of capital," he said.

"I don't see any reason not to continue to look at anything," Corless responded, but added that the issue would not be dealt with that night.

The draft code update will be posted on the village website. Corless said comments can be submitted until June 13. The public hearing continues at 7 p.m., June 30.

## MARCH FOR FARMWORKER JUSTICE



### Hudson Valley Farmworkers Deserve Equal Rights

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE FARMWORKERS AS THEIR MARCH TO ALBANY PASSES THROUGH PUTNAM COUNTY**

#### Tuesday, May 24 – 7pm

St. Philip's Church Parish House  
Rt. 9D Garrison

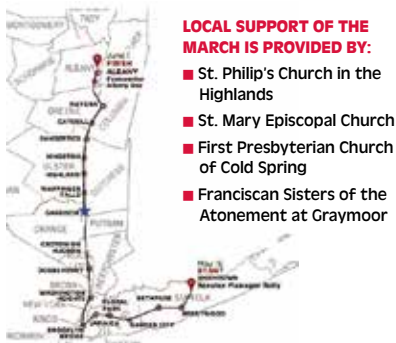
Hear from farmworkers and their supporters on "Why We March" plus music in the tradition of Pete Seeger by David Bernz and friends.

#### Wednesday, May 25

St. Mary Episcopal Church,  
1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring

**9am** – Assemble and support the March and hear from farmworkers and supporters

**9:30am** – March departs. Local group of supporters will join March for part of day and return home by train from Beacon



#### LOCAL SUPPORT OF THE MARCH IS PROVIDED BY:


- St. Philip's Church in the Highlands
- St. Mary Episcopal Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Cold Spring
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor



#### For more information:

[ruralmigrantministry.org/farmworker-march](http://ruralmigrantministry.org/farmworker-march)

or contact Katia Chapman, Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc. [ktchapman@gmail.com](mailto:ktchapman@gmail.com) or (845) 485-8627



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## More Than the Movies

*Newburgh theater serves as community center*

by Alison Rooney

Many moviegoers who have visited the homey, 55-seat Downing Film Center on Newburgh's waterfront compare it to a private screening room. Opened in 2006 by a former high school principal, the nonprofit theater not only exposes

audiences to independent cinema but has partnered with community groups, particularly those concerned with economic, education and social-justice issues.

Brian Burke, who, together with his wife Sharon, founded and manages the center, says he "grew up at the movies." He taught French at Monroe-Woodbury High School before becoming an assistant principal, then a principal at other schools. He retired in 1999 and returned



As if a whole bunch of friends cozied up in your living room: Downing Film Center's seating

Photo courtesy of Brian Burke



Downing Film Center's friendly concession area

Photo by Brian Burke

to Newburgh, where he was raised. There he began working with a nonprofit that assisted individuals with developmental disabilities while teaching French at Mount St. Mary's College.

In 2006, he and his son, Kevin, decided Newburgh could use a independent film center. At the time, the Yellowbird

building, a circa 1925 former furniture warehouse, had been restored by Dick Polich, owner of Polich Art Works Foundry. A gallery occupied the main level, but the lower level was empty. The waterfront location was critical, as it was near several restaurants, the I-84 bridge and the Newburgh-Beacon (Continued on Page 11)

## Newburgh's San Miguel Academy: Transforming Boys' Lives

*"Our character formation is a source of pride to us"*

by Alison Rooney

At Newburgh's San Miguel Academy (SMA), things happen a little bit differently than other middle schools. Inspired by and part of the Jesuit "Nativity Mission School" movement, which began in New York City's Lower East Side in 1971, SMA is emblematic of Nativity's focus, which is on breaking the cycle of poverty through character development as a means toward educational achievement.

Run by Rev. Mark Connell, a Catholic priest, SMA has 65 fifth- to eighth-grade boys from Newburgh families. The majority (70 percent) of SMA's students come from a Latino background; the remaining 30 percent are African-American.

Despite the cheery haven of carpeted hallways, lined with positive visuals reinforcing the school's core values of faithfulness, honor, truth, compassion and self-governance; weekly "creed award" winners (given to the student who displays the most "not quitting" that week); and a national map covered with pushpins indicating where SMA graduates have gone to high school, the knowledge of the difficult environments these boys have had to deal with is ever-present. The school's website describes Newburgh's struggle finding a place in the new economy — difficult when there's an average household income of "\$30,300 ... a stunning 35.35 percent of residents under the age of 18 live in poverty ... in short, there is perhaps no other population center in New York state with a greater need to provide its young people with an educa-



Two students of San Miguel Academy alongside volunteer Nat Prentice

Photo by A. Rooney

tional outlet ..."

As Fr. Mark, as he prefers to be called, puts it "There are complex issues involved here, and we can help them retain information for longer periods of time with experiential learning. Many of our boys have a lot of trauma-based disorders, which impede their learning. Brain

structure is altered by living in a violent environment." SMA, an independent, nonprofit school not under the guidance of either the diocese or the local school district, features extended (until 5:30 p.m.) school days, plus complementary activities taking place on Saturdays and over the summer, (Continued on Page 12)



FRIDAY, MAY 20

**Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social**  
4 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department  
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring  
Call 845-265-9595 for take-out.

**Beacon Fringe Theatre Festival**  
6 – 10 p.m. KuBe | 211 Fishkill Ave., Beacon  
thebeacontheatre.org/fringe-theatre-festival

**Beacon Open Studios Kick-Off Party**  
6 – 9 p.m. 2 Way Brewing Co.  
18 W. Main St., Beacon  
beaconopenstudios.org

**Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore***  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**Grand Funk Railroad**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SATURDAY, MAY 21

**Farm Store Opens for Season**  
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm  
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

**Native Plant Sale**  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

**Row of Honor Kick-off Breakfast**  
9 a.m. Carmel VFW Hall | Route 52, Carmel  
845-808-1620 | putnamcountyny.gov/roh

**Community Safety / EMS Appreciation Day**  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beacon Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | beaconelks1493.com

**Lanza Farms Community Field Trip**  
10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Margaret Fuller Marker Dedication**  
11 a.m. Polhill Park, Beacon

**Beacon Open Studios**  
Noon – 6 p.m. Various locations  
beaconopenstudios.org

**Assemblyman Frank Skartados Office Hours**  
1 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Frank-Skartados

**National Theatre Live: *Hangmen***  
1:15 p.m. Downing Film Center  
19 Front St., Newburgh  
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

**John Jay, Washington's Spymaster (Talk)**  
2 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church  
1200 Main St., Fishkill  
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

**Beacon Fringe Theatre Festival**  
4:30 – 11 p.m. KuBe | See details under Friday.

**Garrison Art Center Openings**  
5 – 8 p.m. *Chemistry: Explorations in Abstract Photography*  
5 – 8 p.m. Christopher Manning: *Mixed Media Works in 2D & 3D*  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Depot Theatre Cocktail Party Fundraiser**  
5 – 7 p.m. Riverfront Park, Garrison Landing  
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**Helen Savoit Literary Advocacy Award Dinner**  
5 p.m. St. Rocco Society  
26 S. Chestnut St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 x100 | beaconlibrary.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

**History of the Northgate Ruins/Cornish Estate (Talk)**  
5 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

**Jessica Nash: *Under the Glow* (Reception)**  
6 – 9 p.m. Blackbird Attic | 442 Main St., Beacon  
845-418-4840 | blackbirdattic.com

**Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore***  
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

**Hudson Valley Throwback Music Fest**  
7 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie  
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

**Middle School Teen Night (grades 6-8)**  
7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Community Center  
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**New Work by Danielle Martinelli (Opening)**  
7 – 9 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Silent Film Series: Buster Keaton shorts**  
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org  
With live music by Cary Brown

**Bob Baldwin & Friends: The Brazil Chill Experience**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

**Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue (Burlesque)**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

**Beacon Fringe Theatre Festival (Dance)**  
9 p.m. Center for Creative Education  
464 Main St., Beacon  
thebeacontheatre.org/fringe-theatre-festival

SUNDAY, MAY 22

**5k Run/Walk with Dogs**  
9 a.m. Memorial Park, Beacon  
arfbeacon.org/events/5k-run-with-dogs

**Community Blood Drive**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lewis Tompkins Hose Co.  
13 South Ave., Beacon  
Register at bit.ly/1b8C1sN

**Little Friends of Beacon (ages 2-11)**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Exploring Nature  
2 – 4 p.m. Art and Sensory Play  
Beacon Recreation Center | 23 West Center St., Beacon | littlefriendsofbeacon.com

**Beacon Open Studios**  
Noon – 6 p.m. Various locations  
beaconopenstudios.org

**Buddhism in Russia (Talk)**  
2 p.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery (Library)  
2020 Route 301, Carmel  
845-225-1819 | baus.org

**Dream Choir & People's Choir Concert**  
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore***  
3 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

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

**National Theatre Live: *Hangmen***  
6:15 p.m. Downing Film Center  
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, MAY 23

**Spanish Children's Story Hour (ages 0-5)**  
9:45 a.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Desmond-Fish Library**  
11 a.m. Babies and Books  
11:30 a.m. Toddler Story Time  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

TUESDAY, MAY 24

**Day Trip to 9/11 Memorial for Seniors**  
8:45 a.m. Philipstown Community Center  
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Write Your World with Susan Wallach (First Session)**  
10 a.m. Philipstown Community Center | See above.

**New Moms & Infants Group**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

**Board of Assessment Review**  
3 – 5 & 7 – 9 p.m. Town Hall  
238 Main St., Cold Spring | philipstown.com

**Coloring Books for Adults**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Monday.

**Zen and the Art of Coloring for Adults**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Monday.

**Whole Foods Plant-Based Living**  
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Monday.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

**Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill**  
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Historic District Review Board**  
8 p.m. Village Hall | See details under Tuesday.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

**Food Forum with Rebecca Weber**  
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Monday.

**Planning Board**  
7 p.m. Village Hall  
See details under Tuesday.

Revolutionary Campsites at Raritan Landing (Talk)

7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site  
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery | 845-446-2134  
nysparks.com | Reservations required.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

**Outdoor Club Opens**  
Noon – 7 p.m. All Sport | 17 Old Main St., Fishkill  
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

**Mayfest NY: Music / Art / Yoga**  
3 – 11 p.m. Surprise Lake Camp  
Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring | mayfestny.com

**International Film Night: *The Cuckoo* (Russia, 2002)**  
7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Monday.

**Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore***  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under May 20.

***The Power of Song / Clearwater, the Maiden Voyage* (Documentaries)**  
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

**Don Felder: An Evening at the Hotel California**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under May 20.

**Marye Lobb**  
9 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon  
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

**Today, Yesterday, Tomorrow (TYT)**  
10 p.m. The Vault | 446 Main St., Beacon  
845-202-7735 | thevaultbeacon.com

ONGOING

**Art & Design** | philipstown.info/galleries

**Religious Services** | philipstown.info/services

**Support Groups** | philipstown.info/sg

NEWBURGH “LAST SATURDAY” (MAY 28) EVENTS

**Art:**  
6 – 9 p.m. *Touching the Membrane*, curated by Heather Renee Russ with music by Nath Ann Carrera. Space Create, 115 Broadway.  
5 - 7 p.m. Julie Tremblay: *Strange Attractors*. Thornwillow, 7 S. Landers.  
4 – 7 p.m. *Scenes of Newburgh* with music by Joy Zelada. Mindy Ross Gallery and Lobby at SUNY Orange, Grand and First.  
Open until 8 p.m. *Thread* - a seven-week performance series. Safe Harbors Ann Street Gallery, 104 Ann. Ian Deleon and Nyugen Smith perform.  
Noon – 5 p.m. Group Exhibit with more than 40 artists. Chris Davidson Gallery at Regal Bag Factory, 302 Water., 4th Floor, entrance on Front St.  
6 p.m. to Midnight. *Summer Jams ReMix* - Mass Art + Live Music Showcase. Teran Studio, 119 Broadway.

**Dance Party:**  
9 p.m. Sancocho featuring Decora. Ms. Fairfax, 105 Liberty.

**Music**  
8:30 p.m. The Bar Flies. Newburgh Brewing Company, 88 S. Colden.  
**Open Mic:** 8 p.m. “We Don’t Want to Be Famous, We Just Wanna Be Heard!” 2 Alices Coffee Lounge, 117 Broadway. Sign up: 7:15 p.m.  
See facebook.com/NewburghLastSaturdays for updates.



## More Than the Movies (from Page 9)

ferry, making it accessible. Working with New England Theatre Service for design and implementation, they had a speedy opening, in July 2006. "We've been playing ever since," Burke says.

Fitting the space out as a theater involved a bit of trial and error. "There's an elevator used for handicap access, so that area was protected," Burke says. "There were also questions about affixing chairs to the floor. Originally we got straight-backed chairs, but eventually we decided to go and get black Ikea chairs and some tables, to make it more homey. We got pillows, too."

From 2006 through 2012, Downing ran 35mm, projected films. "It was wonderful, but tough," Burke says. "Around that time the film industry stopped mailing film reels out to theaters, because it was just too expensive. We had to convert to digital — we did a 'drive to digital' fundraising campaign and people really supported us, and now we have every movie on a computer hard drive. It was a big change for us, but now we have far fewer breakdowns." Burke has thought about expanding from time to time, but "we love our location."

Steve Florin at Florin Creative Film Services in Port Chester serves as Downing's advisor, watching the market for films he thinks will do well there. "He's a good

guy to work with," Burke says, "I'm more of the art person. He'll book anything I ask him to but he gives his opinion on the economics of it." The toughest months to attract an audience are May through August or September; October starts building and November through March is steady, with a supply of award-winners and people seeking more indoor activities in the colder months.

A number of films are shown in partnership with community groups. For example, Downing recently presented a documentary, *The Anonymous People*, about "people we see every day who are plagued with addiction," Burke says, with the Drug and Alcohol Council of Orange County. A discussion followed the film.

Downing also has worked with the local YWCA on a social justice film series, the Newburgh Symphony, land trusts, a hospice organization, Planned Parenthood, LGBTQ of the Hudson Valley, Safe Harbors (which works with veterans) and the Youth Council of Newburgh.

Burke says the greatest pleasure of running a movie theater is the "many wonderful people you get to meet. I'm always telling people that this movie



Downing Film Center on Newburgh's Front Street

Photo by Michele Gedney

theater belongs to you, not us." The center is a family affair, with Sharon handling the concessions: purchasing the

cookies and brownies, popping the inexpensive (\$3 a bag!) popcorn and maintaining a steady supply of Keurig coffees, along with teas and hot chocolate. She, Brian, Kevin (who lives in Brooklyn) and three members of the community make up the Downing board.

The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St. in Newburgh. Call 845-561-3686 or visit [downingfilmcenter.com](http://downingfilmcenter.com) for schedules. Ticket prices are \$9 for adults, \$8 for students and active military, \$7 for seniors (age 62 and older), and \$7 for children under 16. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, which generally opens a half hour prior to the first screening, or online. Patrons who purchase an annual membership pay \$6 for tickets.

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## Newburgh's San Miguel Academy *(from Page 9)*

thus giving the boys a support and structure sometimes lacking at home. The education program is designed to incorporate academic, social and spiritual dimensions, and the support of the students doesn't end with the handover to high school time, but instead continues through and beyond the transition to college and/or adult life.

Peering into the classrooms, one notes



San Miguel Academy students compare "notes" on their tablets. Photos by A. Rooney

the low student-to-teacher ratio (each grade constitutes one class of around 16 students), and the obvious engagement. The credentialed educators, each of whom holds a Masters degree, collaborate on an innovative cross-disciplinary curriculum. "The teachers are the biggest piece of the puzzle. They are stakeholders in the mission, and we have consensus leadership; they are very dedicated people. As an independent school, we have the luxury to innovate — we're not bound to the Common Core, and it's fun because we're innovating on behalf of a demographic that's underperforming ... None of this is seat of the pants, it's all research-based," says Fr. Mark, adding, "We encourage relationships between teacher and student that draw the best out of the boys. Voices aren't raised here; people talk to each other."

In a humanities class, literature supported the study of history, and a book was being read to the students. "Nobody reads to low-income kids when they're little, so they're mesmerized," Fr. Mark added. The teacher asked questions about reverse psychology and provided the students with thoughts on inference as a path toward understanding the main ideas. In a nearby math class, boys worked in pairs, using electronic tablets, while another grade was at work on CAD

(computer assisted drafting) project in the computer lab, which is outfitted with new desktops and three 3-D printers.

It's not just classroom learning at SMA. The school partners with many regional entities. The students visit Mohonk Mountain House once a week for outdoor activities tied in with the academic curriculum. The fifth-graders visit Sprout Creek Farm weekly, learning and working with the goats there. The frequent nature of these programs is intentional: "Most schools do field trips a few times a year and it's raucous, like a day off, but this is learning, for us, experiential; our boys are so engaged," Fr. Mark says.

To fund this nascent school, Fr. Mark turned to his Chappaqua congregation, and received an enormous outpouring of support, right from the start. This support continues to this day, as SMA is funded completely by donations from individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations. "One person doesn't start this. I had the blessing of being in the Chappaqua parish for decades. I realized a bridge had to be built between these two communities — and it has — most of the original founding council members are still on board. This has always been about collaboration. The school is owned by the board of directors — lay people. There is no church support." From idea to opening, which included obtaining state



San Miguel Academy students pictured after a calisthenics break

approvals, took around two years and SMA opened, in what had been another school building, in July 2006.

There are more applicants for SMA, which is free of charge, than available openings. Most of the parents, as described by Fr. Mark, are "the working poor. Many are doing several minimum-wage jobs. Built into our admissions process is building a relationship with the adult who is getting behind the kid. It may not be a parent — could be a grandmother or other relative who has custody. Some boys self-start, but most need an adult partner. Most of our parents are engaged and we have regular meetings with them. When we need them they are here to help

*(Continued on next page)*

## Many Philipstowners Volunteer Time and Expertise for San Miguel Academy

by Alison Rooney

About two years ago, several of the parishioners at Garrison's St. Philips Church sought to expand their outreach programs. Along with working with a program for the homeless and at a domestic violence shelter in Orange County, many had traveled, some several times, to work on the rebuilding of New Orleans, post-hurricane Katrina. Parishioner Jim Bopp was coordinating many of these efforts, which have attracted, by his estimation, about two-thirds "members of the church" and one-third others, under the St. Philip's volunteerism umbrella. The first St. Philips involvement at San Miguel Academy was in volunteering to paint the classrooms. Soon, this expanded greatly.

Philipstowners are now leading volunteer efforts at the school in myriad ways, including:

- Each Wednesday eight tutors, including two retired teachers, two nurses and a mother/teenage daughter pair head across the river to work with the fifth-graders.
- There's a monthly film-viewing/discussion club, which has now expanded into a book club, and the hungry viewers/readers are fed by more volunteers who have organized a cooking club.
- Between 7 and 12 leaders organize the outdoor club and take the kids hiking on 3 1/2 -hour long treks, all within a half hour of the school, trying to do things which have a focus, for instance learning to read a trail map.

Garrison's Nat Prentice helps out in a very specific way: he liaises with prep schools and other institutions, communicating information about San Miguel Academy and the kind of students it is producing, and he works with Fr. Mark to facilitate interviews and preparation for interviews for the boys. He says, "The boys seem to sense that they are the frontier. If you can crack down the door and get them through — take one of these kids — a tradition is born. We're looking to place boys in the same programs that other, similar demographics programs are chasing too. But there's something about our guys — they do so well when they go into these environments that the headmaster says "give me another one." They bring so much to the culture of the school. As tough as the streets are, they give these kids a skillset. They can be chameleons,

very good at adapting. We thought the transition would be tough for them but it's been easy."

More volunteers are always welcome, as Bopp explains, "A lot of the parents have two or more jobs so this gives the kids adults in their lives." Prospective volunteers usually "shadow" first, seeing what's entailed and what the best fit is. Bopp says everyone is happy to help, both to benefit the students and Father Mark, of whom Bopp says, "What I find so remarkable is that Fr. Mark never gives up. If kids are in distress, he doesn't give up, and he's so skilled and talented. There's a lot to admire."

To learn more, call St. Philips at 845-424-3571 — leave a message on the machine if it's unattended, or email office@stphilipshighlands.org



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Fr. Mark Connell, pictured in front of San Miguel Academy

## Newburgh's San Miguel Academy *(from previous page)*

us." SMA accepts IEP (Individualized Educational Plan) and 504 Plan (both relate ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law receive specialized instruction and related services) students; there is a special education teacher provided by the district.

When it comes time to move on to high school, the school meets with both the child and the supervising adult and a big "What do you want?" conversation ensues, as placements are made locally,

regionally and sometimes to boarding schools within a several-hour radius of home. "If a mom says 'I don't want him to go away' we honor that; at the end of the day it's a parent's choice." But most do, and then Fr. Mark calls upon his increasingly large network of colleagues at prep schools to interview select children and, hopefully, accept them. To assist students in the galvanizing transition to these vastly different socio-economic academic institutions, a

## Fullerton Center to Host Artist Talks

*First in series scheduled for June 5*

"The Inside Angle," a new series of discussions focused on the artist's perspective, will kick off in Newburgh at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 5, at the Fullerton Center for Culture and History, with performer Premik Russell Tubbs in conversation with composer Neil Alexander.

Tubbs is a composer, arranger, producer and instrumentalist who is equally adept in the jazz, pop, R&B, world and experimental genres. He performs on flutes; soprano, alto and tenor saxophones; wind synthesizers; and lap steel guitar.

The Fullerton Mansion is located at 297 Grand St. in Newburgh. A \$10 donation is suggested at the door. Videotapes of the discussions, which are made possible in part by 100 Years of Spring, will also be available at [concertwindow.com](http://concertwindow.com).



Premik Russell Tubbs *Photo provided*

special fund provides the boys with all of the material resources they need to "fit in," whether it be a laptop or a blue blazer. The biggest assist, though, comes in the interviewing counseling and other presentation of information to the boys who choose this route, so as not to have them be overwhelmed by the process and, if successful, during their first year of high school.

As for the religious component of the education, Fr. Mark explains: "It's Catholic because I happen to be a priest and our first benefactors are Catholic. But we have an open policy of faith affiliation. There's not a lot of catechism

here; we direct families to do it at home or church. What we are very strong on is character formation as an umbrella to all faiths. Becoming responsible citizens is our goal and our character formation is a source of pride to us at our 10-year-mark. Our boys are able to rise above what's happening around them. We give them very strong signals all day long on how we treat other. That makes our boys stand out. By getting them when they're young and more malleable that influences them time and again."

For more information on SMA, visit [newburghsanmiguel.org](http://newburghsanmiguel.org)

## CHEMISTRY Explorations in Abstract Photography



Photograph by S. Gayle Stevens

Curated by  
**Karlyn Benson**

Featuring artists  
**Ellen Carey**  
**Jill Enfield**  
**Anne Arden McDonald**  
**Amanda Means**  
**Wendy Small**  
**S. Gayle Stevens**

Alternative photographic methods developed by these artists over years allow them ways in which to create works that are strikingly varied and result in mysteries that are thought-provoking, asking the viewer to grapple with the question of what makes a photograph a photograph.

**Exhibition**  
**May 21 – June 19**  
**Reception**  
**May 21, 5–8**

**Garrison Art Center**

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## CHRISTOPHER MANNING



## Mixed media 2D and 3D

Curated by  
**Thomas Huber**

Chris Manning is a mixed media artist who works in sculpture, photography, drawing and collage. His work, which has a gnarly, worn surface, teeters on a balance of dualities such as truth and lies, light and dark, experience and memory, life and death.

The sculptures, which Manning calls chandeliers, are hanging lumps of tactile materials that appear to have a long, hard and well-used history. His 2D works, which often incorporate polaroid photographs and collage, explore themes of excavation and self cutting through caustic layers revealing what is hidden beneath the surface.

**Exhibition**  
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# Motorcyclepedia: Newburgh's Motorcycle Museum

*The world's largest Indian collection*

By Michael Turton

One of the best things about Newburgh's Motorcyclepedia is that you don't have to be a motorcycle nut to appreciate what a truly interesting museum it is. Make no mistake — motorcycle connoisseurs and those with a taste for two-wheeled motorized technology will drool when they enter the massive, two-level 85,000 square foot facility, home to more than 500 bikes of every size, design and color dating back to the late 19th century.

But even those with little interest in bikes who find themselves tagging along at the behest of their spouse or their overly insistent gearhead friend will leave hours later with a much greater appreciation of the significant role the motorcycle has played in American history and culture.

Motorcycles on display that are important way beyond their brand, vintage or top speed include this sampling of four iconic bikes: a 1964 Harley Davidson ridden by the Dallas police officer who put out the first call that shots had been fired during President John F. Kennedy's ill-fated motorcade; the 1964 Triumph TR6 ridden by Steve McQueen in *The Great Escape* — arguably the most famous mo-



Harley Ice Cream Bike

Photos by M. Turton

torcycle movie scene of all time; a 1914 Excelsior Velocipede that Charles Lindbergh traded in to acquire his Jenny airplane in 1923; and a 1939 Kleines Kattenkraft, a German combination motorcycle-

tracked military vehicle that appeared in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*.

## The Indian Timeline

For purists, Motorcyclepedia's Indian Timeline, which features examples of every Indian motorcycle manufactured between 1901 and 1953, is the star of the show and a destination in itself. Established in 1897, the Hendee Manufacturing predated Harley Davidson, adopting the name Indian as its flagship brand in 1898. The Newburgh collection, which includes more than 100 bikes, is reputed to be



Katie Doerlling

the largest in the world. One of the more noteworthy exhibits is the 1953, 80 cubic-inch Twin Chief that starred along with Anthony Hopkins in the 2005 movie *The World's Fastest Indian*.

If Harley-Davidson comes in second to Indian at Motorcyclepedia it's a close second. The museum houses about 75 Harleys with models dating as far back as 1907. A 1915 Dodge City Racer is one of the Harley highlights along with bikes that were custom built for Billy Joel and Patrick Harley. Harley-Davidson is also well represented in the police, military and chopper exhibit areas.

## 1897 France to Tron

The oldest bike in the collection is a 1897 De-Dion Bouton manufactured in Paris. The French trike is the oldest running motorcycle in North America. Even older in design is a meticulously built replica of a wooden (Continued on Page 19)



The museum's collection of Indian motorcycles may be the world's largest.

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# Going Toward Things We Can't See

## The macro and micro of Danielle Martinelli's paintings

by Alison Rooney

In shifting gears as a practitioner of one art form to another, Danielle Martinelli released the one in which she

had a rigorous formal training and embraced another, where the lack of same provided her with a wider freedom to explore. A former dancer and choreographer (she still choreographs) initially schooled in ballet, she is now a painter. "I don't have formal training in painting — I kind of love that. I like to explore things on my own, finding my way. I think there's a place to be that as a painter. I couldn't paint a decent replication of something but the abstract form is about communicating an idea," she explains. An exhibition of "New Works" by Martinelli will be on display at the Desmond-Fish Library from May 21 through June 4, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. This solo show explores "how systems form, when and where they break down and how the tension between growth and decay balance life," according to exhibition notes.

Martinelli's work, some done on canvas but most done on wood, is large in the most obvious scale — "They're pretty big considering how small the drawings are" (one is 6' by 4'; working on it consumed over a year), Martinelli says, but extremely detailed, intentionally so, as the yin and the yang between micro and macro: how systems form and then break down has always been at the root of Martinelli's curiosity, translated into her art. It started early, she recalls, beginning in her northern California childhood, "The micro/macro thread goes way back: seeing the veins in leaves — it was almost too much for me how interesting



Danielle Martinelli

Photo by A. Rooney

it was — pus and scabs too! I'm the kind of person who is always looking for commonalities, where things connect, how all forms of life come from the same compounds, how the same circle can make so many different patterns."

Art-making came naturally to Martinelli: "As a child I just painted, exploring how colors were coming together. It evolved into drawings on top of paintings. I love looking at things on a cellular level — at systems of circles which form a larger body of space. I'm

inspired by cancer histograms, am totally fascinated by astronomy, energy, dark matter, black holes — when you pull back and zoom in, unable to discern a difference. That's what I'm exploring right now with these current works."

Martinelli prefers working on wood, "it feels very stable, it presses back and the abnormalities of it: the grain, the divots remind me of working with dancers, because what it [the choreography] looks like on their bodies as opposed to my vision is always interestingly different. Painting on wood isn't tailored, it's unframed so paint drips over and down the sides which gives some sense of it continuing to go on — a limitlessness." The misperception of barriers extends beyond the physical realm, "I try to reach out of where things are similar and go toward things we can't see, which aren't empirical; trying to see 'beyond.' " The shift from canvas to wood echoes that of ballet dancer to choreographer, in a sense, as Martinelli defines it without stating it overtly, "I was very studious, yet always was that kind of dancer whose stood out because her hair was falling out of the bun. With choreography, all of a sudden I felt like I had a voice: I'm going to take this arabesque, tweak it, have it come out my way, and that's good."

Martinelli works on her paintings in her Garrison studio, always accompanied by music — "Bach or 2Pac, but my favorite is Philip Glass — with his music there's a theme, then there's oscillation, and I think that's what's happening in my brain when I'm working, as a choreographer and as a painter." Someday, Martinelli intends to combine the two art forms — at times she thinks about one while pursuing the other. "I have ideas for them to come together: a painting on a wall, a dancer comes in, in real time, and starts filling it out." Separately, though, there are more similarities than might be readily apparent, as she has noted, "essentially, painting and choreographing are one and the same. I am a human commenting on my human life. It's just a distinction of whether I'm working with bodies or paint."

Juggling the time and intense concentration her work demands with some work choreographing (lately short pieces and videos) in New York City, and the raising of two elementary school-aged children, makes for a divided life, as artist and mother, which, when there is



Danielle Martinelli, pictured in her studio

Photo by Lauren Coleman

truly a balance between these strands, suits Martinelli, who holds an undergraduate degree in political science from UC Berkeley and a Master's in dance from New York University, just fine. The length of time it takes Martinelli to complete a work precludes the production yield necessary to fit within the parameters of commercial success. But that's okay, because for Martinelli it's about the process. She explains, "It's not that I don't want to put the work out there or talk about it, but I want it to be authentic and I'm not 'efficient.' I enjoy the work and hate thinking about how to make it into a career. I'm a successful person because I'm doing what I want."

Martinelli and her family moved from

Park Slope to Garrison five years ago. "Even though we loved Brooklyn, we thought 'this is a paradise' when we visited and we never looked anywhere else." In almost-terrible timing, she was out experiencing the beauty of the area, hiking with her son last week, when, losing footing on a steep section of a trail, she wound up with a broken shoulder. With her right arm in a sling for the next two months, she is out of painting action for that time. Luckily, all of the works for the exhibition had already been completed.

For more information visit [daniellemartinelli.com](http://daniellemartinelli.com) and [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org) or phone the library, located at 472 Route 403, at 845-424-3020.



Color Grid 1, by Danielle Martinelli

Photo by Lauren Coleman

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



**Marching in support of farmworker labor rights** Photo courtesy March for Farmworker Justice

## Farmworker March to Stop in Philipstown

*Activists making their way to Albany*

Activists who are marching to Albany to lobby for the passage of a Farmworker Fair Labor Practice Act plan to stay overnight in Cold Spring.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison will host a dinner with music at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, after which the marchers will retire to Graymoor for the evening. They will gather again at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, for a 9:30 a.m. departure. Local supporters will walk with the group to Beacon and then return to Cold Spring by train.

The marchers hope to reach Albany on June 1. Farmworkers are currently excluded from state and federal labor law protections such as overtime pay, one day off per week, worker's compensation and unemployment insurance.

For more information, visit [ruralmigrantministry.org/farmworker-march](http://ruralmigrantministry.org/farmworker-march). Local support is also being provided by First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor.

## Dream/People's Choir to Perform Together

*May 22 concert in Cold Spring*

The Dream Choir and People's Choir will hold its annual joint community spring sing at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22 at the Church of the Open Door, 10 Academy St., Cold Spring. The suggested donation is \$5. "Sing along to songs from the great harmony groups of the '60s and '70s," says Cat Guthrie, founder and director. For more information, call 914-420-4515.

## For Pete's Sake!

*Clearwater to host benefit concert*

The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater will host "For Pete's Sake! A Concert for Clearwater" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, at the Tarrytown Music Hall to raise funds for the restoration of its namesake. It will take place on the weekend that the organization usually holds its Great Hudson River Revival, which is on hiatus this year.

The concert will feature Tom Paxton, Kate Pierson of the B-52s, Tom Rush, Holly Near, Willie Nile, Lucy Kaplansky, Peter

Yarrow, Tom Chapin, Livingston Taylor, David Amram, Josh White, Jr. and the Kennedys.

Tickets are available at [clearwater.org/events/forpetessake](http://clearwater.org/events/forpetessake) or by calling 877-840-0457. Prices range from \$58 to \$250.

The sloop Clearwater, launched in 1969 by Pete Seeger and friends, is undergoing an \$850,000 restoration of its hull at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston. Tarrytown Music Hall is located at 13 Main St. in Tarrytown, a short walk from the Metro-North station.

## StoryWalk Opens May 28

*Children invited to read along the way*

The opening day for StoryWalk at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will be Saturday, May 28. The walk, which highlights *Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow* by Joyce Sidman, with illustrations by Beth Krommes, will be open from noon to 4 p.m. at the Wildlife Education Center, 25 Boulevard.

StoryWalk is designed for children ages 2 to 6. Guided walks will take place at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org).



**StoryWalk features "Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow"**

Photo by Pam Golben

## Lions to Hold Pig Roast

*Fundraiser will take place June 4*

The Cold Spring Lions Club will host a pig roast at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center. The cost for dinner, tea, dessert, lemonade and one beer or wine is \$50 per person. The event also will have live music.

To buy tickets, visit [coldspringlions.org](http://coldspringlions.org) or mail a check to P.O. Box 308, Cold Spring, NY 10516. The center is located at 75 Mountain Laurel Lane.

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.

## Kent Library to Hold Book Sale

*Fundraiser set for May 27 and 28*

The Friends of the Kent Public Library will host a used book sale at the library from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on both Friday, May 27, and Saturday, May 28. Early birds may browse on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon for a \$10 fee.

More than 4,000 books will be for sale. Most hardcovers are \$2 and many paperbacks are five for \$1. CDs and DVDs are \$1 each. There will also be some collectibles.

Buyers are encouraged to bring their own bags or boxes. The Friends have traditionally held a large sale at Kent Town Hall on Memorial Day weekend but now hold more frequent, smaller sales at the library. The next sales will be in September and December.

## Farm Store Opens at Glynwood

*Produce, eggs, meat three days a week*

The Farm Store at Glynwood, which sells produce, eggs and meat, has opened for the season, with hours from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The farm is also open for self-guided tours during those hours. Maps are provided at no charge. The Farm Store is located before the Main House. Glynwood asks that visitors respect the 20 mph speed limit along its entryway.

Vegetable shares in the Glynwood CSA are still available for \$365 for a bi-weekly half share or \$700 for a weekly full share. The farm also has launched a "bread by subscription" service with Journeyman Bakery for bread to be included with each pickup for \$80 for a half share (12 weeks) or \$160 for a full share (24 weeks). For information, visit [glynwood.org](http://glynwood.org).

## Dance Studio to Offer Kids' Classes

*Summer sessions begin July 12*

The Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Cold Spring will offer a twice-weekly summer program focused on ballroom and Latin dance for students ages 4 to 17 starting Tuesday, July 12. It will continue for eight weeks.

The hour-long classes will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children ages 4 to 8 will meet at 10 a.m., children ages 9 to 13 at 11:30 a.m. and teenagers from 14 to 17 at 12:45 p.m. For more information, call 845-424-6353. The studio is located at 3182 Route 9.



**Hundreds of crosses and Stars of David on the lawn at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring in 2015**

File photo by Michael Turton

## Memorial Day Tradition Continues

*Great Lawn to again honor deceased veterans*

St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring will continue its longstanding Memorial Day tradition this year when 500 white crosses and Stars of David will be planted on the Great Lawn at the corner of Main and Chestnut streets. Each will bear the name of a deceased veteran to commemorate his or her service.

The memorial will be available for viewing from May 27 through June 5. The deadline for submissions is May 25.

To commemorate a veteran, send his or her name to St. Mary's Church, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 with rank, military branch and war in which he or she served, if applicable. Submissions can also be emailed to [rutheisenhower@gmail.com](mailto:rutheisenhower@gmail.com). This service is provided through the efforts of volunteers. No fee is charged but donations to the church are appreciated.

## British Forces at Raritan

*Archaeologist to discuss digs at site*

Archaeologist Richard Veit of Monmouth University will discuss the ongoing investigation of Revolutionary War campsites of the Crown Forces at Raritan Landing in Piscataway, New Jersey, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 26. The talk will be at the Fort Montgomery Historic Site near the Bear Mountain Bridge.

British and Hessian troops occupied the site from January until June 1777 and left behind a community that was a shell of its former self. Veit will share some of the finds at the site over the past 20 years and what they can tell historians about the organization and activities of the Crown forces.

Reservations are required for the talk, which is sponsored by the Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association. Call 845-446-2134. A \$5 donation is suggested.

## Mixed Media Exhibit Opens May 21

*Art Center presents works by Christopher Manning*

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center will host a reception for the



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



An untitled work by Christopher Manning

Image provided

opening of a new exhibit by Christopher Manning, *Mixed Media Works in 2D & 3D*, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. The exhibit, curated by Thomas Huber, continues through June 19.

Manning's sculptures, which he calls chandeliers, are hanging lumps of tactile materials that often have heavy wear — an unknown but evidently long, hard and well-used history. His flat works, which often incorporate Polaroids and collage, explore themes of excavation and self.

The artist, who lives in Yorktown Heights, is the exhibitions coordinator at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and a professor of visual art at Manhattanville College. The Riverside Galleries are located at 23 Garrison Landing in Garrison.

## Historians to Explore Cornish Estate

*Will discuss property's history and future*

Local historians Thom Johnson and Rob Yasinsac will share their research on the Northgate Ruins, including the property's history, at a lecture at the Putnam History Museum at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 21.

Over the past five years, Johnson has led cleanups and other projects at the Northgate site, known locally as the Cornish Estate. He also co-authored the book, *Bannerman's Castle*. Yasinsac is the co-author, with Thomas Rinaldi, of *Hudson Valley Ruins: Forgotten Landmarks of an American Landscape*.

Admission is \$5, or free for museum members. RSVP by calling 845-265-4010 or emailing [rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org](mailto:rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org). The museum is located at 63 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring.

## Writer to Discuss Buddhism in Russia

*Lecture set for May 22 at Chuang Yen*

The writer Nikolai Burlakoff will discuss the long history of Buddhism in

Russia at the Chuang Yen Monastery at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. Burlakoff, who is writing a book on the subject, will discuss Buddhism among indigenous peoples and its role in Russian scholarship, philosophy, politics and literature, and the formation of neo-Buddhist movements.

The lecture will take place in the Woo Ju Memorial Library. The monastery is located at 2020 Route 301 in Carmel. The talk is free but donations are welcome. For more information, call 845-255-1819.

## Board Games as Learning Tool

*Cold Spring shop owner guides students*

Students at Peekskill High School's Summit Academy recently completed a unit on making board games as a method to learn the content of their Global Studies curriculum. To make the games, their teacher, Anita Prentice, enlisted the assistance of Ian Groombridge, owner of Groombridge Games in Cold Spring.

"My students are very immersed in video games, and I was curious as to whether the process of developing a game based on some aspect of the Global Studies curriculum would help them do well on the Global Regents exam," said Prentice, who lives in Garrison.

Groombridge visited the classroom several times over the course of a month, helping students play and analyze games such as Diplomacy, Risk, Monopoly and Sorry. The students then began the process of creating their own games.

"Some students worked on their own, while one larger group wanted to work together," Groombridge said. "They developed a game based on Risk, but set in the Middle Ages, that turned out to be very interesting to play." Making games, he said, was much more difficult than the students expected.



Ian Groombridge assists students at Peekskill High School's Success Academy as they analyze board games.

Photo provided

Prentice said her students enjoyed the process so much they expressed frustration at having to end the games at the end of each class period.

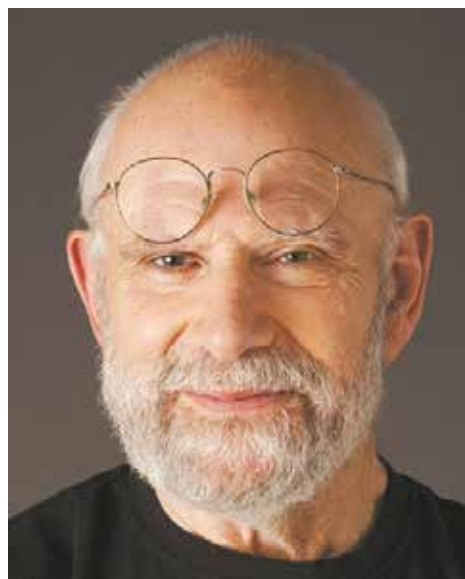
Groombridge's visits were made possible by a Pace University Teacher Inquiry project at Peekskill High School. Summit Academy is an alternative education program for Peekskill High School students.

## A Tribute to Oliver Sacks

*Local director's work will open science festival*

The World Science Festival, now in its ninth year, will open at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, at the NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in Manhattan with a multimedia tribute, *Awakening the Mind: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Oliver Sacks*, written and directed by John Christian Plummer of Cold Spring.

Tickets are \$45 (\$30 for students) at [worldsciencefestival.com](http://worldsciencefestival.com) or by calling 212-998-4941. The center is located at 566 LaGuardia Place. The science festival, which runs from June 1 to 5, will be streamed at [worldsciencefestival.com/live](http://worldsciencefestival.com/live).



Oliver Sacks

Photo provided



Evan Pohulchuk (left) and John Eng-Wong of Haldane's Blues Devils, closed out the Evening of Rising Stars arts awards show.

Photo by Ronan Wood-Gallagher

## Haldane Honors its Students in the Arts at Evening of Rising Stars

Haldane hosted its sixth annual An Evening of Rising Stars fine arts recognition awards evening this past Tuesday, May 17. The red carpet was laid out for a mixture of performances and the handing out of "Villantis," statuettes so named because former district superintendent Mark Villanti conceived of this event.

Two student extra-curricular music groups, the gypsy jazz trio Cold Spring Caravan and the hard-rocking Blues Devils opened the evening and closed it, respectively, and multiple awards were given in the categories of visual arts, instrumental, creative writing, musical theater and drama, theater tech, and choral.

Cassandra Traina read the Sylvia Plath poem with which she reached the state finals of Poetry Out Loud, and Brian Alm was given a special achievement award for his support of the arts. He, in turn, introduced Haldane's new high school principal, Peter Carucci, to the audience. The evening was emceed by seniors Lucy Austin and Dante Nastasi, and was produced by the Haldane Arts Booster Club, led by its president, Katie Bissinger.

## Beacon

## Funds Available for Farm Camp

*Dyson Foundation funds 26 scholarships*

The Dyson Foundation has awarded a grant to Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls to fund 26 scholarships to its (Continued on next page)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

2016 summer camp. It also will pay for two counselors-in-training and 10 sliding scale scholarships.

The weekly camps, available for children ages 3 to 12, run July 18 to September 2. Many of the sessions are full, but wait lists are available. For information, visit [commongroundfarm.org/Education/summer\\_camp.html](http://commongroundfarm.org/Education/summer_camp.html).

For a scholarship application, email Education Director Sember Weinman at [education@commongroundfarm.org](mailto:education@commongroundfarm.org).

## Dinner with Roosevelt

*Reservations for Mount Gulian event due May 27*

The Mount Gulian Historic Site will welcome President Theodore Roosevelt — or a close approximation — at its 21st Annual Historical Dinner from 5 – 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.

The fundraiser will include an early 20th century-inspired dinner and the presence of the author, explorer, naturalist and 26th president Roosevelt, as portrayed by Peyton Dixon of the American Historical Theatre.



Peyton Dixon as Teddy Roosevelt

Photo provided

Roosevelt will talk about his life, career and accomplishments, including his domestic political agenda known as the Square Deal and foreign policy. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the president and ask questions. Following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, Roosevelt, then 42, became the youngest president in history.

The dinner, catered by Bridgecreek Catering, will be based on recipes and foods favored by Roosevelt. Period music will be performed by Julie and Jim Paradies.

Tickets are \$150 and require a prepaid reservation by May 27. For more information, call 845-831-8172 or email [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org).

## Burlesque Returns to Towne Crier

*Dr. Lucky will host adult variety show*

Dr. Lucky's Blue Revue returns to the Towne Crier Café in Beacon on Saturday, May 21. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. The adult variety show features burlesque, circus and variety arts, comedy and music.

Popularized in 1868 by Lydia Thompson & The British Blondes, burlesque parodied classic plays, popular mores and gender



Dr. Lucky

Photo by Dale Rio

roles. The modern revue includes features Mat Fraser of *American Horror Stories: Freak Show*, dancer Darlinda Just Darlinda; musician Sabrina Chap and singer and dancer Melody Jane.

The evening is hosted by drag queen Dr. Lucky, who resides in Beacon. Tickets are \$20 in advance at [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com) or \$25 at the door. The club is located at 379 Main St.



Gwendolyn and Bill Stevens

Photo provided

## Beacon Hebrew Alliance Turns 95

*Will celebrate with potluck and service*

In 1894 Samuel Beskin, originally of Russia, showed up in Beacon, the first Jew to do so. He was followed by Affron, Cahn, Fisch, Ginsberg, Green, Lewis, Pearson, Ritter and Werber.

On May 27, 1921, the group incorporated the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, which then bought a Torah (1923), built a building (1929) and dedicated a cemetery (1930). They were followed by Breslauer, Pirie, Gross, Smith, Alperstein and then Morenoff, Davidovits, McCredo, Pincus, Slater and Harary.

On Friday, May 27, the Beacon Hebrew Alliance will celebrate its 95th anniversary with a New Members Shabbat and Birthday Party. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner and slide show, followed by learning at 7 p.m. and davening at 7:30 p.m.

### Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:  
[philipstown.info/sg](http://philipstown.info/sg)

## Founders of Music Circle to Retire

*Couple created Howland series in 1993*

Gwendolyn and William Stevens of Wappingers Falls, who founded the Howland Chamber Music Circle in Beacon in 1993, will retire after this season, the group announced.

Gwendolyn Stevens has served as music director and William Stevens as concert manager for the group. She also was for many years a private teacher of piano, and he had a long career with IBM.

The couple had already begun arranging house concerts when they happened upon an exhibit at the Howland Cultural Center.

"She was struck by the whole idea that this would be a great space for having chamber music," said Ed Loizides, president of the group. "Bill complemented her in organizing all the mechanics behind it." The first concert was held in the fall of 1993.

The couple will be recognized at the final concert of the season, by the Brentano String Quartet, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 22.

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## Newburgh's Motorcycle Museum *(from Page 14)*

framed 1885 Daimler Reitwagen whose 0.5 horsepower single-cylinder engine was capable of producing speeds of up to seven miles per hour.

Other motorcycles preserved in the collection are from such manufacturers as Pope, Iver Johnson, Husqvarna, Moto-Reve, Yale and Thor. A sleek Honda racing bike, the historic Flying Merkel and ultra-futuristic bike from the movie *Tron* add even greater variety to the collection.

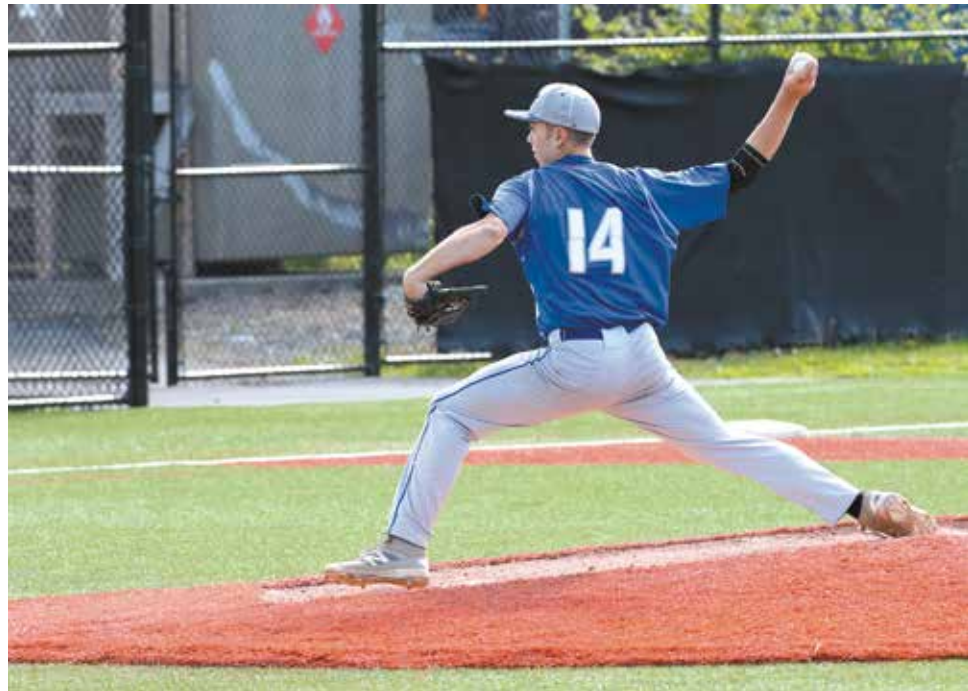
### Wall of Death

The museum is also home to three "walls of death" or motordomes. "Kamikaze Pit," a German rider, visits to put on performances several times each year. A wall of death is a large, upright wooden cylinder with a platform along the top that serves as a viewing area for spectators. A motorcycle rider enters the cylinder from the bottom — and then rides on and around the vertical walls at speeds close to 40 mph — held in place only by centrifugal force and friction.

Throughout the museum visitors are reminded of the motorcycles' place in American culture — from the *Easy Rider* soundtrack and *Mad Magazine's* front cover spoof titled "Sleazy Rider" to Batman comics, Prince's *Purple Rain* album cover and movie posters from Elvis Presley's *Roustabout* and Marlon Brando's *Rebel Without a Cause* — motorcycles as part of American entertainment line exhibit area walls.

Motorcyclepedia was established by

## Sports



Left, Beacon senior Rayvon Grey competes in the Triple Jump at the Glenn D. Loucks Games at White Plains High School on May 14. Grey won the event at 49-01.25. He also won the long jump at 23-06.00. (Photo by Peter Farrell) Above, Haldane Junior Brian Haines pitched 6 2/3 innings to lead the Blue Devils to a 5-2 victory over Poughkeepsie on May 18 at Poughkeepsie High School. The win advanced Haldane to the New York State sectionals. (Photo by Michael Haines)

Gerald Doerling in 2011. Now 89, he is still actively involved in the museum's operations. His wife Katie told *The Current* that her husband, an electrical contractor, began collecting motorcycles in 1947. "He didn't even ride motorcycles that much — he just liked how they looked," she said. Their son Ted now handles the bulk of the

museum's operations, assisted by Katie and daughter Anna Reinhard and numerous other volunteers.

A non-profit organization, Motorcyclepedia is located at 250 Lake St. in Newburgh. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children

4 to 12. The facility is handicap-accessible with scooter chairs available upon request. The building is equipped with an elevator.

Rental space is available for parties and special events. Phone 845-569-9065 for more information, including group rates. Additional information is also available at motorcyclepediamuseum.org.

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Laianna Ferruggia

Photos by Ross Corsair

# Beacon Open Studios

by Alison Rooney

The doors to the garrets and lofts and spare rooms and, yes, actual studios of over 60 artists who either live or make their art (or both) in Beacon will be swung wide open this weekend, during the annual Beacon Open Studios event. Headquartered at 18 West Main St., inside of 2 Way Brewing Company, where an exhibition featuring the work of many of the artists has already opened and runs through June 5, the actual studios are spread out across the city, though heavily concentrated at the the east- and west-end axis points. Many are located in the former Beacon High School at 211 Fishkill Ave., as well as at Spire Studios Gallery at 45 Beekman St., and at the Amity Arts Center, at 50 Liberty St.; individual artists' studios are dotted throughout the city as well.

A map giving details on all locations can be downloaded online and will be available for pick-up at some of the event's sponsors: Hudson Beach Glass, Riverwinds Gallery, The Lofts at Beacon, Beacon Music Factory, Max's on Main and Dennings Point Distillery. Visitors go on free, self-guided tours to the studios of their choosing. A kick-off party will take place at 2 Way Brewing on Saturday, May 20 from 6 to 9 p.m.

To check out the work of many participating artists ahead of time, or to help plan your route, much has been posted on the Instagram page: beaconopenstudios. Beacon Open Studios is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson. For more information, visit beaconopenstudios.org or the Facebook page.



Robert Rickard



Joseph Radoccia



Margot Kingon



Robert Brush



Rob Penner



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