

The HIGHLANDS Current

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Putnam's mysterious stone chambers [See Page 8](#)



An early scene in *As You Like It* at Boscobel

Photo by T. Charles Erickson

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's 30th Season Begins

"... a season with elements in conversation with each other ... how we live together"

By Alison Rooney

Repertory theater companies have much to consider when putting together a season. For Davis McCallum, artistic director at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, each potential candidate is examined both on its own merits and also in relation to its stablemates in the theatrical barn.

"I try to pick a season with elements in conversation with each other, yet different enough for people of different tastes or interests. Many of our audience members

want a joyful, exuberant comedy to combine with a picnic, so I try to pick a comedic tentpole. This year's is *As You Like It*; we started with that. Then, this being the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, or of Shakespeare's posthumous legacy, we wanted a doubling down of what we do best, so we departed from our previous two-plus-one (two productions of Shakespeare accompanied by one comedy by another author), and chose three Shakespeare masterpieces. Though it's hard to predict what the country will be thinking, these three plays are about how we live together. *Measure for Measure* begins with the line, "Of government the properties to unfold / Would seem in me to affect speech and discourse." Right there at the top of the play: What's a just society? How

do we live together? At the heart of *Measure for Measure* is a play about balance and imbalance. In a sense that relates to how a season is put together."

Macbeth, as performed by a three-woman cast, interpreting multiple roles completes the trio of Shakespearian plays, and this year's 'plus-one' is a new work, *So Please You*, which is being created while the season is in progress by Zach Fine, who is building it around the talents of HVSF's Conservatory Company, the young actors who study, learn and perform over a course of several months of training.

"After two years here it has become clear to me," McCallum says, "that all the leading lights of our company are clowns, playing with spontaneity and deep connection with (Continued on Page 12)

Compromise Ends Butterfield Dispute

Parking issue appears settled

By Michael Turton

An unusual Friday night meeting of the Cold Spring Planning Board on June 10 was a marathon, lasting more than three hours. It was a grueling session, marked by scenes that would have befitted the municipal planning version of Groundhog Day: opposing positions were stated, restated and then restated again.

But when adjournment finally came, everyone who attended the standing-room-only gathering seemed to agree it had been worth the time and effort. The debate over the amount of parking required at the multi-use Butterfield development project had been put to rest, and with it the possibility of an expensive court battle.

Going into the meeting, divergent interpretations of the village code by John Furst, the attorney for the Village of Cold Spring, and Steven Barshov, who repre-

sents developer Paul Guillaro, put the two sides at odds after Guillaro applied in April for a change in use between two of the project's buildings. The dispute became more entrenched when second legal opinions reinforced both sides' positions.

The new application called for a senior citizen center and post office to be established in the Lahey Pavilion, now occupied by a number of medical offices. As part of the swap those offices would move to Building No. 2, now under construction (Continued on Page 5)

Complaints by Former Union Chief Dismissed

Beacon school district drama continues

By Jeff Simms

An independent investigator has concluded that a series of harassment complaints by former Beacon Teachers' Association President Kimberly Pilla are largely "unfounded," closing the case on her complaint.

Pilla, who served as the BTA head from 2008 to September 2015, filed the complaint with the Beacon City School District on Dec. 14, alleging that six district employees and a school board member had harassed her in a "perpetual and consistent" manner over the preceding 16 months.

That same day, the school board voted unanimously to assign the investigation of Pilla's claims to an independent party — the arbitrator and mediator Melinda Gordon of Tarrytown — at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

"Typically our board attorney [Michael Lambert] would do that type of investigation," board President Melissa Thompson said on Wednesday, "but because he had already done an informal investigation of a similar nature, the board thought it was best to bring in an outside investigator who was not involved with any of the parties."

In the fall of 2015, the board asked Lambert to look into allegations that Pilla and then-Superintendent Barbara Walkley were involved in unethical behavior. Lambert reported that the allegations were without merit, Thompson said.

Gordon's 20-page report, obtained last week through a Freedom of Information Law request, states that the investigator interviewed nine people in January, February and March.

Much of the report focuses on Pilla's allegations against her former husband, Robert Atwell, who is a teacher at Beacon High School. Atwell is alleged to have made a number of statements to his ex-wife in violation of School Board Policy 6430, which allows the "reasonable restriction" of "district employees' constitutional rights to raise matters of public concern ... when the speech or action occurs on school grounds and/or during school times."

Pilla, along with Walkley, also filed a civil lawsuit against Atwell in U.S. District Court in February, seeking unspecified (Continued on Page 3)

Roots and Shoots

Adopt a Ladybug

Cornell project reestablishing dwindling natives

By Pamela Doan

The nine-spotted ladybug, *Coccinella novemnotata*, is New York's state insect. It's revered because of its usefulness in controlling pests on crops. It hadn't been seen in the eastern U.S. since 1992, though, until one was spotted in 2006. It's become very rare, to say the least.

The Lost Ladybug Project at Cornell University has been tracking it, searching with teams of volunteers throughout North America for the past eight years. Their citizen science-based research, which had more than 5,000 participants and has identified 37,000 ladybugs, concluded that the nine-spotted variety is mostly absent.

This spring it launched a reintroduction plan that starts in New York; larvae are available to anyone for a donation. (Visit lostladybug.org for information.) Rebecca Smyth, one of the entomologists and researchers from the Lost Ladybug Project, explained the project and the search.

Why has this been going on so long?

When you're looking for the absence of something, you have to take longer to make sure you've looked hard enough and you have to look extra hard. With citizen science, you're not in good control of the



Left, a nine-spotted ladybug larva. This is what you'll receive in the mail. (Photo by Rebecca Smyth) Right, a mature nine-spotted ladybug. (Photo by a contributor to the Lost Ladybug Project)

data and we were passively waiting for people to send us their info.

Why is New York the focus of the reintroduction effort?

The nine-spotted ladybug was abundant here before it declined and while we would love to get it beyond New York, we don't have that kind of production yet. This meant we could work locally and focus our efforts.

Why are native ladybug populations dwindling?

There are many causes. The separate introduction of two large and invasive ladybugs — the multicolored Asian ladybug and the seven-spotted ladybug which came from Europe — to address pest problems had a lot to do with it. They both grow faster and eat more. It also could be relevant that they develop faster and can eat the larva of the native ladybug. Even though we can't get rid of introduced la-



dybugs, neither population seems to be growing. Pesticides and less diverse landscapes also had an impact.

Why are they called beneficial insects?

They eat anything smaller than themselves and soft-bodied, which includes larvae early in the year and mostly aphids later in the year. Aphids are in clusters and it's a great food source. There are many different kinds of aphids and they can harm many different kinds of plants. Aphids suck the juice out of a plant and affect crops and flowers, bushes and trees. They're all over the place and not good for plants.

If the effort is successful, how will it be measured? Will people who buy ladybugs be asked to track their populations?

We are continuing the citizen-science part of the project and hope that people will start to see them. This can take a long time. The two species that were introduced 40 years ago and are the dominant species were not seen in significant numbers in 1985, when the most recent comprehensive book was published. It defined each species and concluded that attempts at introduction had failed. Now, 30 years later, they're the dominant species. It can take a while to figure out. We won't really know if this works for 20 years.

If I release 50 in my own yard, will they be there next year? Will they multiply?

It depends on how big the yard is; they move around a lot. If someone has a diverse yard with different kinds of plants that have aphids, then there's a better chance. They eat fast and need to find more food. If you don't see them quickly, though, it doesn't mean it failed. They should multiply.

What is a good habitat? For example, I live in the woods, have landscaped my yard with native plants and pollinator-friendly plants, but it's still surrounded by a sugar maple forest.

The key is some flowering plants that have different kinds of prey and that will give them a variety of foods. There's action in the woods, but we don't know as much about it. Mostly people study agricultural landscapes.

What about a community garden that hosts 30 10x20 plots?

That would be great, as long as it doesn't use pesticides. The only problem is that people are so attentive to their plots; they might go around squishing all the bugs.

How many ladybugs could my community garden support?

The more the better in terms of surviving. You could easily have 50 for every four plots.

In the winter, I have ladybugs inside the house. Two seasons ago, there were at least three times more than this past winter. Is that significant?

Given the data we're receiving, it's what we would expect. The Asian ladybug is the only one you're going to find in your home. What we expect from a species that's invading is that for a while it does great and then eventually it starts to die back and then they find their spot in the group. But even after it's kind of declined, the Asian ladybug is still dominant and that's happening all over the world. From a conservation standpoint, that's a disaster.

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Complaints by Former Union Chief Dismissed *(from Page 1)*

fied damages for his alleged defamation of both women. Atwell's attorney has filed a motion to have the case dismissed, with a response by Pilla and Walkley expected next month.

"Estranged domestic prism"

In Gordon's report, the investigator notes that there is "an insufficient nexus" between Board Policy 6430 and Atwell's alleged statements, as many of them were said to have occurred outside of school. Pilla and Atwell were married for 15 years before divorcing in 2015.

In addition, "given the estranged domestic prism" of the individuals involved, Gordon wrote, it is difficult to view the alleged comments as "being of political or of public concern rather than of personal animus."

Pilla also charged that Atwell had forwarded emails from Pilla's personal account to his own. However, Gordon's report states that while Atwell did have access to Pilla's emails, he did not appear to have "hacked" his ex-wife's email or violated the school board's technology policy.

Atwell declined to answer questions regarding whether he disclosed any of Pilla's emails to others, and Gordon wrote that, given her limited authority to order discovery or seizure of the computers at issue, she "cannot make a determination as to whether or not this act occurred."

Atwell was also alleged to have illegally accessed Pilla's school attendance record.

While he admitted to Gordon that he obtained the record from a "district secretary and administrator," Atwell would not disclose that person's name.

Whoever disclosed Pilla's record to Atwell appears to have violated the school board's ethics policy as well as a board confidentiality policy, Gordon wrote. She recommended the school district educate administrative and clerical staff about its privacy policies and consider disciplining the individual who gave Pilla's information to Atwell, if his or her identity can be determined.

Complicated history

The report goes on to dissect several other allegations that did not formally constitute harassment, including an accusation by Pilla against current BTA President John Burns. Gordon stated that Pilla and Burns appear to have a "complicated history," and that Burns believes the charges against him are retaliatory because of a separate harassment complaint he levied against Pilla during the 2014-15 school year.

Burns declined to discuss Pilla's allegations with Gordon, and the investigator noted that while his silence "raises an issue of credibility," it does not "constitute an admission that the allegations are true." Gordon concluded that she had insufficient evidence to determine the veracity of the allegations against Burns.

A Beacon school board member, con-

firmed this week by Pilla to be Anthony White, was also named in the complaint for allegedly interfering in her personal affairs and sharing Pilla's emails with members of the community and the board of education. White denied receiving Pilla's emails from Atwell, instead stating that a packet containing her emails was left in his car. White confirmed that he did share the emails with Lambert and later with the board during a closed-door executive session.

In her report, Gordon did not find that White had violated Board Policy 6110, the code of ethics for all district personnel. She concluded that "the majority of the allegations in the complaint are unfounded," noting they could in many cases more accurately be characterized as "petty gossip" not rising to the level of harassment.

In summary, Gordon wrote that it appears Pilla's "comfort level in the workplace and her relations with colleagues has deteriorated," and that conflict resolution training may help improve "the dynamics amongst district employees and the manner in which they interrelate with one another."

Reached on Tuesday, Stephen Bergstein, Atwell and Pilla's attorney, said that he doesn't consider Gordon's findings to be germane to the ongoing civil suit. "There's some overlap in terms of the same people being involved, but I don't see it as part of the federal lawsuit. They're really two separate cases," he said. Atwell's attorney,

Mark Reisman, did not return calls seeking comment.

Are legal fees covered?

During the June 6 school board meeting, Burns took the board to task for spending taxpayer money on the complaint while it has not, to date, responded to Atwell's request for reimbursement of the legal fees he's incurring due to the civil suit.

"Why would a board of education spend \$10,000 on a frivolous harassment suit but not indemnify a credible, 27-year veteran teacher who brought forward information about inappropriate actions by employees, as per your very own board policy?" Burns asked.

Thompson retorted that Pilla's complaint and Atwell's request do not "go hand in hand."

On April 26, the school board voted on but did not pass a resolution denying Atwell's request. The resolution stated that New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal, the district's insurance carrier, has determined that the "coverage" requested by Atwell is not afforded "pursuant to the district's school board legal liability and commercial general liability policies based upon the fact that the alleged acts did not occur within the scope of (the) employee's employment in the district."

On Wednesday, Thompson said that the insurance carrier is now reviewing the district's policy to see if any part of Atwell's fees are covered.

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Sealed bids must be received at the Clerk's Office, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, by 2 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016 when bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The village reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated: June 6, 2016
Mary Saari, Village Clerk

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local government did its job

Cold Springers following the latest changes to the Butterfield project once again have been subjected to the idea that something is wrong with the way local government works. But in considering the change-of-use request made by the developer, ("Compromise Ends Log Jam," posted June 13), government worked exactly as it is supposed to, increasing safety and convenience for seniors and other users of Butterfield.

Those looking for conflict and complaints about burdensome regulation or anti-senior citizen actions will surely have no trouble finding evidence to support their belief — they never do when it comes to the Butterfield development. This isn't the first time this developer has played victim to an imagined obstructionist or incompetent village government, and threatened to give up or sue. We can only hope it's the last time.

With favorable elected officials in place last year, the village adopted laws for Butterfield to go up as envisioned by the developer. When he changed his plans this year he came back to the planning board as the law required. The planning board considered the request and essentially bent over backward, giving up every last bit of wiggle room for parking on the site. Short of ignoring the law, as was requested by the developer, they can't further reduce the parking requirements.

The board also secured improvements for the project and its users that never would have occurred without this process including: a guarantee from the county to provide busing for all senior center events; reserved parking for patients at the medical offices (a necessity in this dense development with limited parking); signage for compact cars to free up space; signage about tricky flows to prevent snarled traffic.

It would certainly seem obvious that

for a project like Butterfield the developer would have thought more about how parking affects its users, and he should have. That's one role of the planning board — to help projects fill in the missing pieces on behalf of its users, who in this case will be mostly local residents.

Although I'm skeptical the development and surrounding streets will be free of parking and traffic problems, I applaud the planning board for not being intimidated by threats, representing village residents, and finding a quick compromise.

Aaron Wolfe, *Cold Spring*

Our Town wonderful for our town

Six hours and fifteen minutes. That is the amount of time that more than 100 people and I spent in workshops and a final audition to hopefully get a part in the Thornton Wilder play, *Our Town*, being presented over Labor Day weekend at Boscobel as part of the 30th anniversary of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

It was stressed that it didn't matter if you had never set foot on stage. This production is about community and non-actors were encouraged to audition. I did some acting in high school, and I performed monologues on stage after college (both many years ago). I do a fair amount of presentations at my job, and every time I do them, I prepare as though it's a "performance." So when I saw the articles about participating in this production, I knew I had to try out for a part.

I was fearless diving into this. The production is using only three professional actors. The rest of the casting (approximately 25 parts) is from the community. Indeed, introductory workshops were held in Newburgh, Peekskill, Cold Spring, and Beacon! Essentially, our town ...

I had no idea what to expect in the three workshops (the first was introductory and other two were mandatory). I must say

that participating in them was a transformative experience. Imagine bonding with complete strangers by staring into their eyes, by walking and stopping together (sometimes stopping intuitively), by laughing hilariously together and by wailing together, by encouraging each other to get through a jump rope, by feeding each other lines from the play. It was a powerful connection to be able to bond with absolute complete strangers and feel as one.

I took an unfortunate bad fall leaving the last workshop while going up a step, with the audition being the following day. I ended up breaking my foot, needing to wear a cast (black boot) and using a scooter to get around for eight weeks, followed by wearing a foot brace for the next six months! (Many of you see me daily on Metro North going to work on my scooter.) Yes, "break a leg" was not lost on me. I went to the 15-minute audition the next day with a temporary cast on and crutches. I gave it my all.

A week later I got a call that I was not selected for a part. I cried for three days ... I desperately wanted to be part of this incredible production and once-in-a-lifetime experience. No one likes rejection, but it's a part of life. Tears are all gone now and reality has set in. I would encourage everyone in town, along with friends and family, to attend this play over Labor Day weekend. The entire premise of casting those in our surroundings who are not professional actors is brilliant, given what this play is all about. And tickets are free. I know that I will be sitting front and center (albeit with a foot brace) to see this quintessential play. Kudos to John Plummer, Emily Knapp and Sean McNall for the powerful workshops you ran. No doubt this production will be beyond expectations and top rate ... undeniably our town ...

Mary "Scooter Girl" Schlitzer,
Cold Spring

Three Thousand Hikers Storm Breakneck

Public workshop scheduled for Fjord Trail design

By Michael Turton

Breakneck Ridge, the rocky peak between Cold Spring and Beacon, continues to draw record crowds. At the June 14 meeting of the village board Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy reported that officials with New York State Parks indicated that 3,000 hikers made the trek up Breakneck on Memorial Day weekend.

A workshop at The Chalet on Route 9D on Monday, June 27 will seek public comment on the "Breakneck Connector" portion of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail now being planned. The connector is a half-mile segment between the Breakneck trail head and the Metro North "whistle stop" platform just north of the tunnel. The 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. session will present three design options.

Town of Philipstown board member Bob Flaherty reported that second bids

will be requested for the expansion of the Washburn parking lot after initial submittals came in 20 to 25 percent over budget. The town of Philipstown is acting as lead agency for expansion of the lot opposite Little Stony Point at Cold Spring's northern boundary. The project is part of the Fjord Trail development.

Butterfield nears formal approval

Merandy thanked members of the village planning board for their recent efforts in reviewing the application for a change of use submitted by developer Paul Guilaro as part of the Butterfield project. The planning board and the developer reached a tentative agreement on June 10 regarding changes to the site plan, mainly parking and signage issues. The path to that agreement was marked by a number of long and contentious planning board meetings.

In his remarks the mayor put the responsibility for delays in the process on shoulders of Guilaro and his attorney Steven Barshov who he said had "continually fought the idea of even reviewing the

application." The planning board, he said, had done everything it could to keep the process moving ahead, including scheduling an unusual Friday evening meeting, and that once board members were able to actually work on the application an agreement was readily reached.

The mayor was especially critical of the *Putnam County News & Recorder* over reports that he said characterized him and planning board chair Matt Francisco as being against the Butterfield project. Merandy said the reports were unfounded, "but the PCNR keeps writing that and writing that and I guess if you keep writing it people start believing it it's basically a bold lie."

Merandy said formal approval of the revised site plan is contingent upon the Putnam County Legislature approving details regarding busing the county will provide in conjunction with the senior citizen center being developed at Butterfield. He added that approval is also dependent upon the planning board receiving neces-

(Continued on next page)

Compromise Ends Butterfield Dispute *(from Page 1)*

tion. In Furst's view the change called for more than 25 additional parking spaces; Barshov argued vehemently that no new parking was required. The disagreement played out in particular at the planning board's last two meetings.

Both sides gave a little

In the end both sides gave a little. Guillaro agreed to create four new parking spaces, bringing the total number of conforming parking spots to 211. The planning board agreed to increase the parking waiver from the previously approved 11.2 percent to 20 percent, reducing the amount of parking required by almost eight percent. The number of non-conforming spaces remained unchanged at 21. The new math got both sides to where they needed to be.

In addition, Guillaro agreed to improve signage on site, alerting drivers to a one-way street on the redeveloped site. Signage will also be added in the area of the

medical offices restricting parking to patients only, while signage for the compact car area will be enhanced. The developer also agreed to provide an updated parking table within a week, to include the location of the four new parking spaces in order that the revised site plan can be reviewed by the planning board prior to its next meeting.

As Friday's meeting wore on after argumentative introductory exchanges between the two sides, the tone of the dialogue changed. Comments about the need to "agree to disagree" and to "get to yes" were uttered more than once, as was the desire to avoid a court battle. A major factor in the shift came when Putnam County Deputy Executive Bruce Walker emphasized that all senior citizens would have the option of using county bus service to get to the new center.

The information had an impact on the board. Universal bus service would de-

crease the need for parking at the senior center. "You can't beat that," said board member Arne Saari, who also served on the previous planning board and cast the only vote against the parking plan approved last year. It was agreed that the long-term lease between the county and Guillaro would include the bus service as a requirement, as a protection against future county legislatures that might consider eliminating the service in order to cut costs.

"Let's make a deal"

The agreement reached Friday was also likely fueled in part by Guillaro's insistence that the matter be settled that evening. He hinted that he was willing to compromise while not discounting the possibility of legal action. "I want a decision; I want to work something out tonight," he said. "This is the last time I'm coming here on this project so tell me what we need to do. Otherwise you'll be dealing with Steve (Barshov) and not me. Let's make a deal."

After the tentative verbal agreement had been reached, some two and a half hours into the meeting, the planning board left the room and met with Furst for a final review of the proposed terms. Mayor Dave Merandy was invited to sit in on the closed-door session. The group emerged 22 minutes later.

After Furst reviewed the agreement the board waived holding a public hearing on the amended site plan. "The board is committed to approving it," said Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco.

Unless something changes, the board will vote on final approval of the amended site plan for Butterfield at its June 23 meeting.

After Friday's meeting, when asked how happy he was with the agreement on a scale of one to 10, Guillaro responded, "I'm at about nine and a half." Earlier, during the meeting, he said that as soon as building No. 2 is complete, the medical offices in Lahey Pavilion will move there, which will allow work to begin on the senior citizen center and post office.

Three Thousand Hikers Storm Breakneck *(from Page 4)*

sary information from the developer and the county by June 16 so that the board can give its formal approval at its June 23 meeting.

In other business ...

- Trustees approved the additions of Doug Price to the parking committee and Aaron Wolfe to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- (Jimmy) Hussein Abdelhady, owner of The Silver Spoon, has submitted a

request to purchase a small piece of property in front of the restaurant. The narrow strip of real estate is owned by the village. In a letter to the board, attorney William Florence pointed out that a previous administration had agreed to the sale but the transaction was never completed.

- The 2015 water quality report is being mailed to all households and will also be available on the village website and

at village hall. Greg Phillips, the superintendent of Water and Sewer, Phillips also reported that a 40,000 gallon per day leak in a private service line was recently repaired and that a second leak of 50,000 gallons a day is also being traced.

- Excavation of toxic coal tar is now complete at the Cold Spring Boat Club site. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) estimates that "substantial completion" of the project will be achieved by July 8.

- Resident Kathleen Foley voiced concern regarding a LED street light that was installed at the corner of Main Street and Locust Ridge. Foley said the light makes it look "as if we're lighting a movie set" and is "very very bright." She said that at night the light blinds drivers as they approach Main Street and creates a "very tremendous drop off to black beyond its very focused column of light."
- A Jaguar television commercial will be shot on lower Main Street on June 29.

Pastor Spots Intruder on Doggie-Cam

Was checking video when figure appeared

The Rev. Tim Greco, pastor of the Cold Spring Church on the Hill and a reporter for the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, did not expect to see anyone but his dogs at his Garrison home when he remotely checked his video surveillance system on June 9. So he was surprised when the footage showed a woman wandering around the home on Avery Road that he owns with his wife, Beth, director and vice president of the Walter Hoving Home. Greco indicated online that the intruder apparently spent about an hour inside the house.

Greco contacted the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and also posted a still image of the woman online. Police say a Brewster resident saw the photo and



Berit O. Okay

Source: Putnam County Sheriff

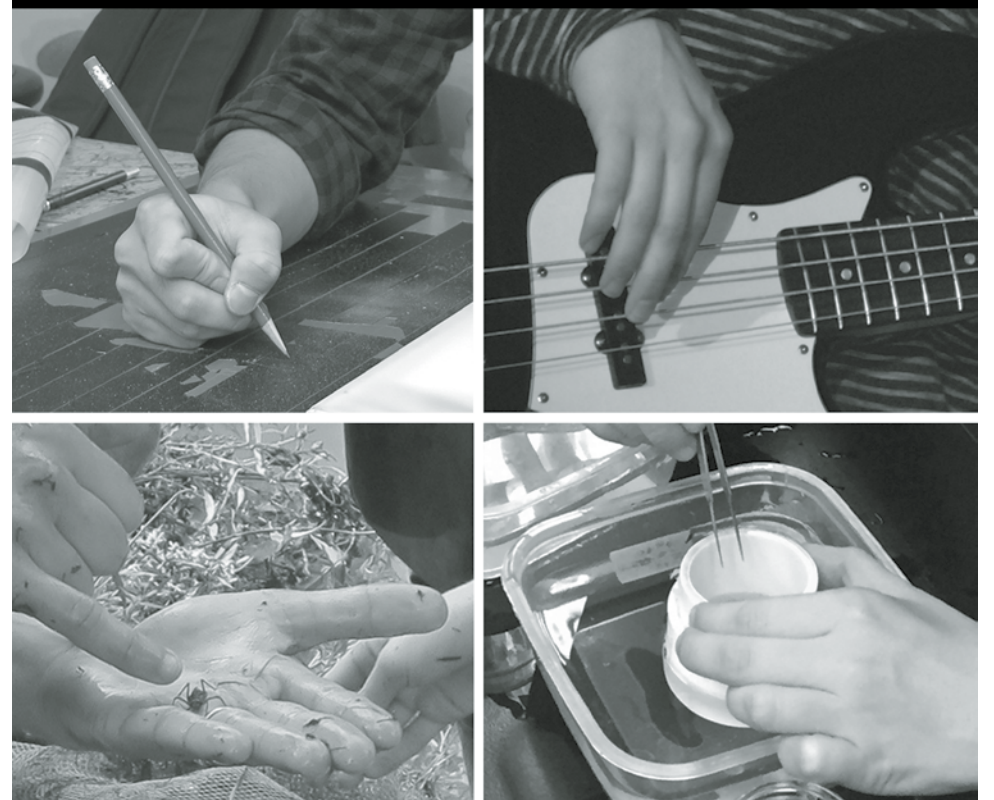
confronted Berit O. Okay, 52, who surrendered to police on June 10. She allegedly entered through an unlocked door and stole six rings and an iPad from an upstairs bedroom. Investigators said the jewelry and electronics were returned.

Okay was charged with burglary in the second degree, a class C felony, and criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, a class E felony. She was arraigned before Putnam Valley Town Justice Louis DiCarlo, sitting on behalf of the Philipstown Justice Court, and sent to the Putnam County Correctional Facility, where she remained as of June 14 in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail or bail bond. She is scheduled to appear in Philipstown Justice Court on July 13 to answer the charges.



An image captured by the video surveillance system was posted online.

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Discussions Continue in Beacon on Linkage, Tioronda

Afterschool program also moving forward

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will likely discuss the potential rezoning of seven parcels within the city's west side linkage zone next month before holding another public hearing on the issue.

A petition filed by residents in February contends that seven parcels — two on South Avenue and five on Wolcott Avenue/Route 9D — were incorrectly included in Beacon's linkage zone, which was adopted three

years ago to connect Main Street to the Hudson River by encouraging more dense residential growth. The city's idea was that added development along Beacon's west side would create a more vibrant, walkable community and increase support for businesses on Main Street.

At a workshop on June 13, the council asked city planner David Stolman to map out a handful of scenarios for rezoning the seven lots. Among the possibilities are medium-density rezonings for the



The 248 Tioronda development is expected to run along Fishkill Creek in Beacon.

Photo by J. Simms

site known as Parcel L (the three lots immediately south of the Reformed Church of Beacon on Route 9D). One option would allow 21 units to be built on Parcel L; another would allow for up to 24.

Unicorn Contracting, however, has proposed a 70-plus-unit development called the River Highlands for the parcels. While the planning board has not approved the Highlands development, the owner of the parcel has threatened litigation (and intimated that Unicorn may sue as well) to recoup expenses if the lots are rezoned.

City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said Tuesday that it's possible the seven parcels may not all be rezoned the same way. One proposal, for instance, shows the two lots adjacent to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on South Avenue going to medium density — but not the same level of "medium density" as Parcel L.

The remaining two lots — the Reformed

Church property on 9D and 1085 Wolcott Avenue, just south of the church on 9D — are proposed to be zoned for low density, Ruggiero said.

The Beacon planning board voted in April to support the citizens' petition, agreeing that the parcels' current zoning conflicts with the city's comprehensive plan. The petition asks for all seven properties to revert to their pre-linkage zoning. The City Council's next discussion of the issue could be at its July 11 workshop, Ruggiero said.

Creekside development

The 100-unit 248 Tioronda complex — a project nine years in the making — is expected to receive an extension, with another possibly to come, on its special permit approval as its developers continue negotiating for an easement on the property with Metro-North.

Jennifer Van Tuyl appeared before the City Council on behalf of Beacon 248, LLP on June 13 to request an 18-month extension, citing unexpected delays in negotiations for the easement on the Metro-North-owned railroad tracks along Fishkill Creek. The project, which is planned for nine-plus acres along Tioronda Avenue between the creek and the railroad, was granted a six-month extension earlier this year.

"[Another] six-month extension for a project this large is just not really workable. It has been very difficult to obtain financing" when the threat of revocation looms just a few months ahead, Van Tuyl told the council.

An 18-month extension would be the last one requested by Beacon 248, she added.

The council verbally agreed to grant a six-month extension that would be followed by another 12-month extension, provided that Beacon 248 resolves its issues with Metro-North during the first six-month period. Council members are expected to vote on the proposal during their next regular meeting.

"I want to see it get done," Councilperson Ali Muhammad commented. "This needs to happen for Beacon. People need to live somewhere."

The project is designed to include 100 two-bedroom units within four buildings as well as a 1,200-square-foot clubhouse and a pool for its residents, along with roads and parking areas. The developer has also committed to creating a publicly accessible greenway trail, with parking along Fishkill Creek.

Afterschool program still on track

While the City Council has yet to vote on a budget amendment to officially approve a trial run for a new afterschool program managed by the city's Recreation Department, city administrator Ruggiero indicated the proposal is moving forward.

The program is slated to begin a 17-week test run in September at the South Avenue, J.V. Forrester and Sargent elementary schools. It will run weekdays from 3:15 until 6 p.m. at a cost of around \$13 per day to participants. The city would fund the program with a budget amendment of about \$105,000, although organizers expect the program will pay for itself almost immediately upon its launch.

Ruggiero told *The Current* he expects the City Council to vote on the program in an upcoming public meeting.



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MON 7:00 7:30

TUE 2:00 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30

WED & THU 7:00 7:30

"Now You See Me 2" (PG13)

FRI 1:45 5:00 8:00

SAT 12:30 3:45 6:30 9:15

SUN 1:00 4:15 7:15

MON 7:15, TUE 1:15 4:15 7:15

WED & THU 7:15



Town Board Told Dirt Roads Need Better Gravel

Private consultant presents his findings

By Kevin E. Foley

If Philipstown wants to preserve its unpaved roads, it has to look at higher quality but more expensive road materials and plan for the long term, according to an expert in dirt-road construction and preservation who spoke to the Philipstown Town Board on June 15.

Ken Skorseth, a retired South Dakota State University road teacher and consultant, addressed the board and an audience of a few dozen residents. His presentation came three months after the self-confessed dirt road fan first visited Philipstown, taking a tour of the roads and the Highway Department facility and collecting samples of gravel for shipment back to a South Dakota laboratory.

The engineer completed his study at the request of the Garrison-based Old Road Society, headed by Terry Zaleski, which has long championed the preservation of the area's unpaved roads, citing their historical significance.

Plasticity

Skorseth's central point, resulting from the testing of samples, was that Philipstown's dirt roads lack "plasticity," meaning the materials used lack the capability for strong binding needed to hold the road in place. He said testing revealed zero plasticity. Skorseth said good plasticity means you can pick up the material and easily roll it into a ball.

He said he was sympathetic to the problems of obtaining good road materials from regional commercial suppliers that would rather sell materials that require regular replacement. Skorseth said there are suppliers further away who could create and deliver materials that would last considerably longer and require less maintenance.

Skorseth suggested possible solutions such as the limited use of bentonite, a substance derived from clay that acts as a binding agent. Bentonite is used in numerous products and industrial processes including cosmetics, cat litter and the making of white wine.



Ken Skorseth presents his findings to the Philipstown Town Board on June 15.

Photo by K.E. Foley

Erosion control

Philipstown's dirt roads are generally in good condition, Skorseth said, although he noted that some do not have a proper crown, meaning the height at the center is higher than the sides, allowing for water run-off, a critical factor in preserving roads. He also stressed that effective drainage systems are needed. He showed pictures of various roads he had worked on and the systems installed. He noted that Philipstown had some drains right on the road, making them vulnerable to damage by passing vehicles.

In years past some Philipstown roads have suffered extensive water damage, par-

ticularly during strong storms, which has led to sometimes heated debate about paving them. The Town Board has authorized paving on some roads after repeated damage from storms. "There are drainage problems on paved roads, too," said Skorseth.

He said he thought the town Highway Department, headed by Superintendent Carl Frisenda since his election in November 2015, had the right equipment for the job and seemed to have sound maintenance and repair practices.

The consultant said he had developed a spreadsheet that could predict expenses for road maintenance over a longer-term cycle, which he said would help in budget planning and the recognition of savings.

Skorseth, who is the author of a federal Department of Transportation manual on unpaved roads, is expected to deliver a final written report on his findings.

The Town Board members listened attentively to the highly detailed report. Supervisor Richard Shea thanked Skorseth and said he looked forward to further discussion. Deputy Supervisor Nancy Montgomery said that Skorseth's observations validated the path that Frisenda is on in his administration of the Highway Department.

For his part, Zaleski was ebullient over the event. "We are very excited we have the No. 1 expert in the U.S. here to talk about his solutions for maintaining our dirt roads," he said. "He has made good, realistic, practical, tested and cost-effective recommendations."

Obituary

Patricia Sexton

(1947-2016)

Patricia C. Sexton, 69, of Cold Spring, died peacefully on June 9, 2016 at New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor. She was born on March 20, 1947, in the Bronx, the daughter of the James and Margaret (Conaty) Downes.

A graduate from Bellevue Nursing School, Pat chose a vocation which allowed her to demonstrate her intelligence, care, compassion and kindness in an unassuming manor. While working at Vassar Brothers Hospital, she advanced her degree to Critical Care Registered Nurse. Pat was instrumental in organizing the registered nurses at Vassar Brothers Hospital to unite and join the New York State Nurses Association in 1983.

A dedicated community advocate, Pat served as president of the school board for Haldane Central School District, was a member of the Philipstown Planning Board and an associate member of the North Highland Engine Company No. 1. She held these positions with a sense of duty, integrity and honor.

Pat had a profound devotion to her family, friends, and community. Her presence touched the lives of all she encountered. Her insatiable appetite for knowledge and a love of learning established her role as a mentor and confidant.

Pat is survived by her husband Anthony, her daughter Kristina (Richard Rommel) Sexton and her son Keith (Jennie) Sexton, all of Cold Spring; her brother James (Annette) Downes of Newtown, Conn.; her sister Margaret Downes of Trumbull, Conn., and her aunt, Sister Catherine Conaty. Four grandchildren (Thomas, Brian, William and Elizabeth) also survive.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org). A Mass of Christian Burial was held on June 13 at St. Mary Mother of the Church in Fishkill. A private cremation followed, with burial at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were made by Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring.



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Mystery Shrouds Putnam's Stone Chambers

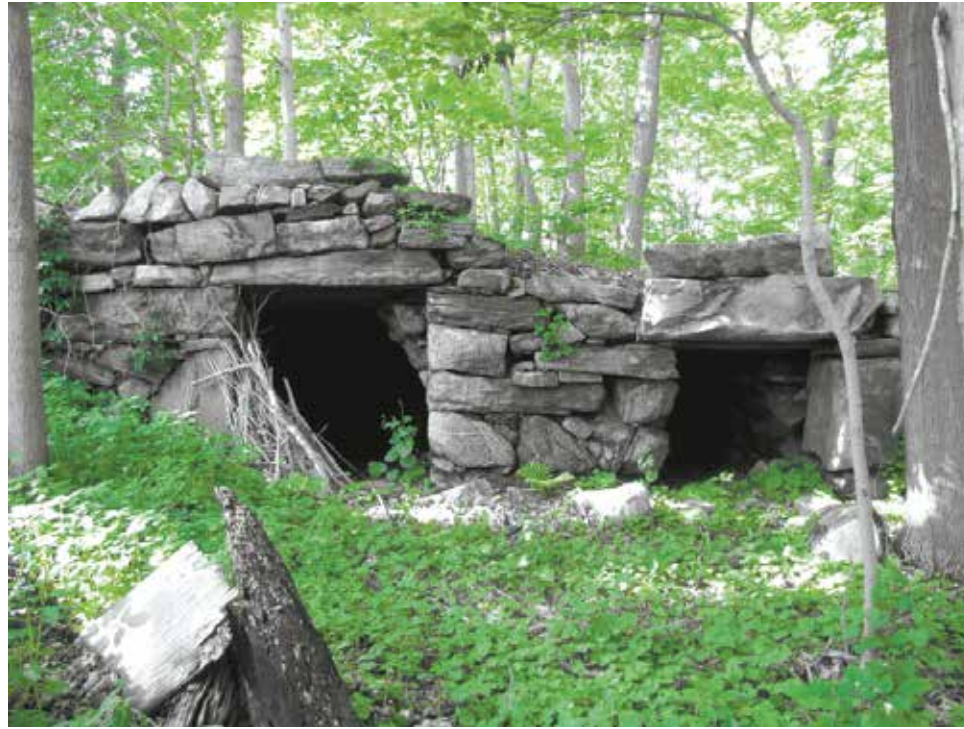
Or is there no mystery at all?

By Michael Turton

Compelling archaeological mysteries can spark centuries or even millennia of conjecture. And while they may be passionate, arguments often fail to produce definitive answers. What lies behind the building of the Egyptian and Mayan pyramids? How can the giant moai statues on Easter Island be explained? How and why was Stonehenge created?

Add to that list a more local and perhaps equally intriguing question: what is the true origin and purpose of Putnam County's stone chambers? Some feel they are as mysterious as Stonehenge. Others believe there is no mystery at all. The debate is centuries old, but, like its more famous counterparts in history, this is a continuing disagreement.

The most common theory is that the chambers, which are often built into hill-sides and feature a massive entrance, are root cellars constructed by colonial farmers who first settled in the region. Others strongly believe the structures had a religious or ceremonial purpose and are much older — constructed during pre-Columbian times by Celts, Vikings, Iberians, Carthaginians or Native Americans, or some combination.



These twin chambers are located near Oscawana Lake in Putnam Valley. Photo by Renee Fleury

Rare agreement

The one area of agreement is that the chambers are man-made and that the greatest number of them, up to 200, are in Putnam County. Within Putnam they are most common in Kent, Putnam Valley and Mahopac. Few are found in Philipstown. They are also located in Westchester County and parts of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Some stone chambers are quite small but others are more than 30 feet long and up to 10 feet wide. Their stone walls were built without mortar and are typically "corbelled," or curved inward toward ceilings that can exceed six feet in height and often consist of large granite slabs.

The case for cellars

In an article in *The New York Times* in 2001, Robert Funk, former chief archaeologist for the New York State Museum, said the chambers have never been seriously studied "because nobody has ever produced any evidence of anything but colonial origin." He debunked the notion that they were built by visitors from the other side of the Atlantic. "There are no Celtic ruins in the New World and certainly not in Putnam County. It's a romantic idea and people want to believe ... almost like a religion."

A decade earlier, in an extensive 1990 article on Putnam Valley's chambers published in the Hudson Valley Regional Review, Thaddeus Cook and Barbara Doyle took the same view, arguing that the colonial root cellar hypothesis "has been confirmed through oral traditions many times both in Putnam County and New England."

Questions raised — even in the 17th Century

However, in a recent presentation at the Putnam Valley Grange, Renee Fleury pointed to evidence that at least raises questions about the chambers' origins. Fleury founded Keltic Energy Paranormal Research and Investigation (KEPRI) in 2007 and has studied and led tours to the chambers ever since. She quoted a 1654 letter written by John Pynchon, founder of Springfield, Mass., in which he wrote of a "report of a stone wall and a strong chamber ... all made of stone ... I should be glad to know the truth of it from your self ... here being many strange reports about it."

The letter suggests that as early as the 17th century there was uncertainty about the chambers. Had the structure mentioned in Pynchon's letter simply been a

root cellar, it is unlikely to have fostered "strange reports."

And while Cook and Doyle wrote that "there are several compelling reasons to support the colonial origin theory," they too refer to Pynchon's letter, stating that it "leads us to believe there were enigmatic pre-colonial stone chambers." They noted that an excavation of two Massachusetts chambers similar to those in Putnam Valley unearthed Native American stone tools. The lack of pottery fragments at the site or other evidence of habitation implies that the chambers were likely used for religious or ceremonial purposes, they wrote. It has also been suggested that some chambers served as burial sites.

Fleury and other sources assert that some chambers bear markings that resemble Ogham, an ancient Celtic alphabet used between the fourth and 10th centuries. A number of chambers are also aligned with solar events such as the solstice, fueling speculation that they were used for celestial observation, a use consistent with Celtic or Native American traditions.

No plane ticket required

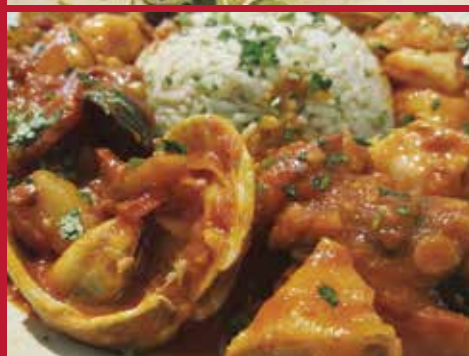
An incident in 1995 teased a connection between stone chambers and pre-Columbian visitors to North America. According to Fleury, an eight-inch obsidian blade was pulled from the walls of the King's Chamber in Putnam Valley. "The dagger was lab tested and dated at roughly 2,000 years," she said. "The obsidian was Icelandic." Unfortunately, she said, the artifact disappeared when sent for further testing.

Garrison resident Chip Marks has visited and studied more than two dozen stone chambers in Putnam County as well as in Connecticut and west of the Hudson River. He has also studied Egypt's ancient structures firsthand. "People have been moving immense weights and usually aligning them astronomically" for centuries, he said. "It's worldwide. I was intrigued by Stonehenge — then come to find they're all over the place right here. You don't have to buy a plane ticket. They're here locally."

Marks' opinion regarding Putnam's stone chambers is not ambiguous. "They're not root cellars," he said. "Not by any stretch of the imagination." While buildings erected by settlers and colonists had straight walls, chamber walls are corbelled "like igloos," he said. He believes the huge stones used in their construction and the arduous work involved points away from the chambers being built as root cellars.

"If you were a settler ... you're carving a homestead out of the forest. You're going to put your effort into building a house and a barn — not a root cellar that required the movement of massive pieces of rock," Marks said. "And most roots cellars would have been in the house." He also wondered why a colonial farmer would bother aligning a chamber with the solstice.

He acknowledges that chambers likely served as root cellars — but at a later date. "If a settler came across a stone chamber on his property, why wouldn't he put it to good use? It's (Continued on Page 18)



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The Calendar

Sara Labriola: Turning Pro

"I just want to practice and play Gypsy Jazz all the time."

by Alison Rooney

Sara Labriola was emphatic about not wanting to play music. "I'm not going to. I'm going to be the different one." That was her mindset during the earliest years she can remember (she doesn't have to go back all that many — being currently 17). Growing up in Garrison in a very musical family, her father Art, a Grammy-, Emmy- and Clio-award-winning composer and music producer, and her mother Stacy, a singer/guitarist and member of the MotherLode Trio, Sara took the requisite piano lessons, but didn't catch the bug.

As these things happen, though, when guitars are a part of the household landscape, at around age nine, Sara picked one up. "I was sitting around, and my mom showed me some chords. It just clicked; I learned so much and moved forward very quickly and decided it would be so nice to be awesome at guitar," she recollects. Awesome at guitar she did indeed become, and in fact in just a few short weeks she will be moving to Brooklyn and beginning her professional life as a musician specializing in Gypsy Jazz, joining the relatively few women playing in that genre.

The strumming and chord-learning wasn't just the passing fancy it can be for kids. By the end of middle school, Labriola could already see herself becoming a musician, despite having "no idea what it entailed." At first, she emulated her mother: "The folk, finger-style playing is what I did first. By around 12, though, I decided 'I'm going to play rock — it's cool, and you get to nail the solos! I really thought I'd be a rocker. But around 14 I got into classical guitar. I printed out a classical piece and decided to learn it. It really works your fingers, and helped so much with my development. I wanted to go to Juilliard, play at Carnegie Hall. But after a while, I wanted to be able to improvise more and just have more fun. It's not to say that classical isn't amazing, but I wanted to express myself a bit more. That's when I started Gypsy style."

Around 15 at the time, Labriola says that's considered old in parts of the world where Gypsy Jazz is most popular. In its stronghold of France, children begin early. "There are 9-year-old Gypsy kids, slamming out solos — a lot of young prodigies. It's very valued in the music to be young. I'm already considered too old to be 'young,' so I have to be 'good!'" Labriola notes.

(Continued on Page 11)



Sara Labriola

Photo by A. Rooney

Summer Movies at Dockside

Film Society announces schedule

The Cold Spring Film Society has announced its lineup for the sixth annual Summer Film Series, which begins Saturday, June 25. All films start at sunset in Dockside Park by the entrance north of the Cold Spring Bandstand.

- Saturday, June 25 (8:30 p.m.) *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (directed by Steven Spielberg, 1981)
- Saturday, July 9 (8:30 p.m.) *The Maltese Falcon* (John Huston, 1941)

- Saturday, July 23 (8:15 p.m.) *The Magnificent Seven* (John Sturges, 1960)
- Saturday, August 6 (8 p.m.) *Catch a Thief* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1955)
- Saturday, August 20 (7:45 p.m.) *The Shining* (Stanley Kubrick, 1980)
- Sunday, September 4 (7:15 p.m.) *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (Wes Anderson, 2009) and *The Matrix* (Wachowski Brothers, 1999)

The screenings are free; the Film Society will be popping fresh popcorn and there will be lemonade, movie candy, membership tote bags and T-shirts available for purchase. Visit coldspringfilm.org for more information. To make a tax-deductible donation to support the screenings, mail a check to Cold Spring Film Society, 192 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.



A Film Society showing at Dockside

File photo



Charlie Plummer in *King Jack*

Cold Spring Actor Wins Accolades

Charlie Plummer stars in newly released King Jack

King Jack, an independent feature film starring Cold Spring's Charlie Plummer, opened on June 10 at New York City's Cinema Village. The coming-of-age story was filmed in Kingston and directed by Felix Thompson.

Plummer, 17, whose performance received a rave review in the *Los Angeles Times* ("While it remains uncertain whether or not Jack will manage to stay out of juvie hall, it's a safe bet that Plummer, who was in the running for the upcoming *Spider-Man* reboot, has a promising career ahead of him.") was in attendance for a question-and-answer session. *King Jack*, which won the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, is available on demand and at iTunes and Amazon.

Plummer will next appear in *Behold My Heart* with Marisa Tomei and Timothy Olyphant; *Stargirl* with Joey King; and *The Dinner*, with Chloe Sevigny and Laura Linney. His past credits include recurring roles on HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* and the Cold War drama *Granite Falls*. He is the son of John Christian Plummer and Maia Guest of Cold Spring.



Charlie Plummer

Photo by Leslie Hassler

ONGOING

Gallery Shows

highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Aberdeen

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium

1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls

845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

Depot Docs: Mavis! (2015)

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison Landing, Garrison

845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Open-Mic Night

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St., Beacon

845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

HVSF: Macbeth

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring

845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

West Point Foundry Preserve closed today

Ultimate Family Yard Sale

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport

428 Route 216, Stormville

845-221-6561 | stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

Woodworking Demonstration Day

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring

845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Graduation Ceremony

10:30 a.m. Haldane High School

15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Founder’s Day

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fishkill Farms

9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction

845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Rescheduled from May 29.

Newburgh Illuminated Festival

Noon – 10 p.m. Broadway and Liberty

newburghilluminatedfestival.com

Worldwide Knit in Public Day

Noon – 6 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church

15 South Ave., Beacon

845-831-1369 | www.kipday.com

Assemblyman Frank Skartados Office Hours

1 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library

313 Main St., Beacon | assembly.state.ny.us

Construct a Bluebird House with Dad

1 – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm

79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls

845-831-1617 | stonykill.org



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Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Culinary Crawl Tour

2 p.m. Main and Cross, Beacon

845-249-6129 | hudsonvalleyfoodtours.com

Summer Solstice Celebration

5 – 9 p.m. Storm King Art Center

1 Museum Road, New Windsor

845-534-3115 | stormkingssummersolstice.org

Farmers & Chefs Dinner

5:30 p.m. Fishkill Farms

9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction

845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Sunset Tour

5:30 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison

845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

31st Annual Barn Dance

7 p.m. Saunders Farm

Old Albany Post Road, Garrison

For Pete’s Sake! A Concert for Clearwater

7 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall | 13 Main St., Tarrytown

877-840-0457 | clearwater.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium

See details under Friday.

Magician Michael Carbonaro

7:30 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center

14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie

845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

West Point Concert Band: Far & Away

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point

845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

HVSF: As You Like It (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on Friday.

Melissa Etheridge

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St., Peekskill

914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Father’s Day

Desmond-Fish Library closed

West Point Foundry Preserve opens at noon

Guided Canoe Trip

11 a.m. Constitution Marsh Sanctuary

Warren Landing Road, Garrison

845-265-2601 ext. 15

Gypsy Jazz Brunch with Sara and Art Labriola

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café

379 Main St., Beacon

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Mount Gulian Historic Site

1 p.m. Chris Sanders: Treasures of the Hudson Highlands | 1 – 5 p.m. Free admission for fathers

145 Sterling St., Beacon

845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Kids’ Open Mic

6 – 8 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill

914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

HVSF: As You Like It

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on Friday.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Howland Library closes at noon

It’s Not Camp! (ages 3-6) (First Session)

9 a.m. – Noon. Compass Arts | 395 Main St., Beacon

917-648-4454 | compassarts.org

Blood Drive

Noon – 6 p.m. All Sport | 17 Old Main St., Fishkill

800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Brad Wing’s Celebrity Softball Game

7 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium

1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls

845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

Full Moon Summer Solstice Hike

7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

100 Muser Drive, Cornwall

845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Nelsonville Village Board

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville

845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

Yoga with Kathy Barnes (First Session)

7:30 p.m. Old VFW Hall | 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring

845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Howland Library opens at 10:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring

845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison

Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Summer Solstice Yoga Mala

6 – 8 p.m. Long Dock Park, Beacon

nomadalwaysatom.com

Ancestry.com Clinic

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org



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Haldane School Board Workshop

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)

15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

HVSF: Macbeth

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on Friday.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

Leaf and Yard Debris Pickup (Cold Spring)

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring

845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Garden Tour: Shrubs and Vines

6 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens | 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring

845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

HVSF: Measure for Measure (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on Friday.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast

8 a.m. Putnam County Golf Course

187 Hill St., Mahopac | putnamchamberny.org

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)

9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse

845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Summer Reading Kickoff Party with Sciencetellers (grades K-5)

11:30 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring

845-265-304 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Auditions for the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison Landing, Garrison

Email Christine@Bokhour.com

Jayoung Yoon: Ephemerality (Artist Talk)

7 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon

917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

HVSF: As You Like It

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on Friday.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Preschool Community Garden Building Day

9 a.m. – Noon & 3-6 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance

331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon

845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Fellowship Supper

6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

845-265-2539 | stmariescoldspring.org

International Film Night: The Band’s Visit (Israel, 2007)

7 p.m. Howland Public Library

313 Main St., Beacon

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Sacred Run: The Lotus and the Feather (Documentary)

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church

50 Liberty St., Beacon

moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

HVSF: Measure for Measure (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details on June 17.

Paula Poundstone (Comedy)

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie

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Sara Labriola: Turning Pro *(from Page 9)*

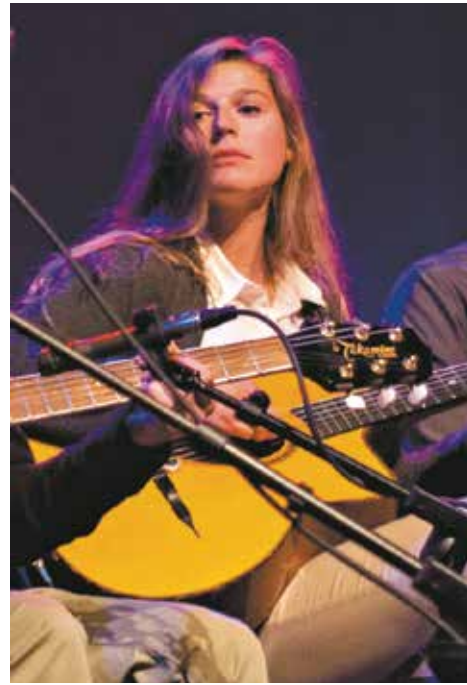
Happenstance played a part in all of this. Labriola found herself first intrigued by the form when she watched the Woody Allen movie *Midnight in Paris*, her interest sparked in particular by the theme song. Soon thereafter, Gypsy Jazz guitarist — and composer of that song — Stephane Wrembel appeared in Beacon at the Towne Crier, and Labriola attended. “He put on an amazing show, and I just decided to ask him if he taught. He answered ‘If you’re a serious student, I’ll take you on.’ He meant it. French-born, Wrembel is based in Maplewood, New Jersey, and I started going there every Saturday. First my parents brought me and now I drive there. My parents were thrilled — my dad was really pleased that I was learning jazz theory. At first I knew nothing, no technique, no major songs. I had done a lot of picking work, playing classical and had to switch to using my fingers.”

Gypsy Jazz requires a lot from its players, according to Labriola. “There’s an immense amount of skill that goes into it; you really have to put your hours in. It’s not going to sound great unless you have the technique in both improvisation and rhythm. You have to keep perfect time. I’m only now realizing the importance, now that I’m playing long gigs — it’s like running a marathon. It’s not always about playing super fast. Take [renowned Gypsy Jazz guitarist] Django Reinhardt — he doesn’t play incredibly fast, he plays differently to how Gypsy is played now

— his riffs are so poetic and beautiful, he has such grace in every note when he solos. He understands sound; he could hear so well and that is so important.”

Still studying with Wrembel, Labriola has begun performing with him as well, “learning while playing,” she says. “I didn’t play with him much before last year. I studied with him and sat in at Towne Crier, but when he understood I wanted to become a professional he started inviting me to sit in on his city gigs.” Now, while finishing up high school at Haldane, she has been doing some major juggling, often traveling into the city a few nights most weeks for gigs, sometimes even playing multiple gigs on a night.

It’s all a precursor to the next stage of her life, as a nascent professional musician. With imminent plans to move into a Brooklyn apartment and begin playing and touring, Labriola is foregoing college, perhaps permanently, despite being accepted at Boston’s Berklee College of Music with a talent scholarship. The decision, while it involved a lot of thought, ultimately came easily. “At the beginning of senior year I wanted to go to music school so badly, because I was scared of going into the world. But when I was touring schools I found none had all I wanted. I don’t want to go to another institution where I’m inundated with things I don’t necessarily want not to learn, but I don’t want to be tied down. I just want to practice and play Gypsy Jazz



Sara Labriola performing at the Django Festival at the Paramount Hudson Valley last year

Photo by Mickey Deneher

all the time. Schools teach standard jazz, and I’m not going to get professional help unless I’m studying with my teacher. He didn’t want me to go to school.” As a safety net of sorts, but one she doesn’t really see using, she has deferred her admission to Berklee for a year. Labriola’s parents have endorsed this decision. “My parents are so supportive of going out into the world. At first maybe we were all thinking college as a social norm, but I’m so relieved that I decided not to go.”

Amping up the number of dates she is

playing has already been a big change for Labriola, not just the playing itself. “It takes a lot of growing up to do this. Last night I drove into Brooklyn, helped someone move out of the apartment I’ll be moving into, went further downtown for a 3-hour gig, then went back up to Williamsburg for another 1-hour gig, then drove home. It involves a lot of willpower and a lot of coffee; it’s a test of endurance.”

Labriola can expect a lot more of the same in the near future. She’s spending some time over the summer recording demo songs. Meanwhile, Wrembel’s agent is currently trying to work out a touring group including Labriola, with the aim of booking shows up and down the East Coast and at festivals.

From time to time, Labriola duets with her father, Art, on piano. They play American jazz standards, and some Gypsy Jazz too — not a natural fit for him. “He has to work hard to play my rhythms. It’s a lot of fun, though. We don’t get that many opportunities. I love playing with him, because I’m not self-conscious. He gives me truthful feedback, but it’s never judgmental.” One such opportunity will come this Sunday, June 19, at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon, where it all began for Labriola, playing a Father’s Day brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., no cover charge.

Labriola is as ready as one can be at 17. As she puts it, “I really want to succeed more than anyone else wants me to succeed. Now I’m truly taking steps to succeed in what I want to do.”

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Shakespeare Festival's 30th Season Begins *(from Page 1)*

the audience — maybe that's an essential part of HVSF style. I decided to hire Zach Fine, asking him to make a show for these young actors, very specific to them, the tent and the audience, and to make it appropriate for kids, with lots of playfulness." Fine has devised a production upon the premise of 'A Servant Named Dennis,' that servant appearing very briefly in *As You Like It*, speaking his one line: "So please you, there is a wrestler at the door!" *So Please You* lets loose from there, with Dennis now a focal point, "an inverted idea, a little wormhole into a new world," McCallum explains. The August performances of *So Please You* are free of charge (however one needs to reserve early, through the ticket order section of the website) and designed to "pack the tent with families, turning them on to theater."

McCallum himself is directing *Measure for Measure*, his first time at the helm of this frequently designated "tricky" play. It's in the 'not quite a' category of drama versus comedy and can be perceived as difficult for contemporary audiences to relate to some of the behavioral choices made by some of the key characters. Of course, conversely, these questions spur McCallum on. "Audiences have to decide, 'Do you want us to make the leap? How does this relate to my life?'" he says, continuing, "Sometimes Shakespeare is universal: love, loss, family, politics, spirituality. You can't believe he wrote 400 years ago. This play is really timely. It comes down to 'How do we all get along?' People have extreme points of view in the play and Shakespeare collides them all together."

The short *Measure for Measure* program synopsis, with mentions of a hard-line deputy being put in charge of an unlawful state, with harsh penalties suddenly directed at what had been previously accepted sexual mores, morally compromised behavior by those in power, together with the more usual substitutions, disguises, twists and revelations doesn't completely convey all the goings-on, plot-wise and, more importantly, ethically. There are

some very *House of Cards* moments afoot, and the usual coterie of lobbyists — working hard on their own behalf and on behalf of others, sometimes for goals not immediately fathomable. McCallum describes the fourth act as "almost Coen brothers — a freight train runs into a brick wall, and then a huge and truthful thing happens ... It all builds to an amazing moment. It's all about a search for solution. We have to live where we are, not where we wish we were." McCallum also finds it interesting that this was Shakespeare's last "comedy" — "he didn't write another, and maybe he felt that the form of Elizabethan comedy could no longer be supported."

The community production of *Our Town*, commemorating HVSF's 30 years in the Hudson Valley, ends the season over Labor Day weekend. See related *Highlands Current* stories. As described by McCallum, "It has been our most ambitious project, in terms of scale and just so much that we haven't done before, such are never reaching out to some of the communities that are now involved. We've all found it very inspiring to see how fully embraced it has been; I think we're on to something — a need by people to be a part of something big and meaningful. At the beginning of each season we have a big company meeting under the tent. We just gather and look and consider what we're trying to create. This year the circle was bigger than ever before."

During the initial period of rehearsal with any of Shakespeare's plays, McCallum says he has the actors work on language first. "Characters and ideas come from that. Lately we've been reading the play together, not in the characters they've been cast in, but collectively hearing the play. It always brings up questions. The point of re-



Nance Williamson, left, and Maria-Christina Oliveras in *Macbeth*

Photo by T. Charles Erickson

hearsal is a group of people coming to a collective idea made from all the ideas. Our process is about letting go of the idea we had going in. Let us exist in a world where we can put the comedy and drama together."

For more information and to purchase tickets for the season, which has begun and runs through Labor Day weekend, visit hvshakespeare.org.

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Recognizing Childhood Anxiety

Presentation at Haldane stresses identification and management techniques

by Alison Rooney

What's the difference between stress and anxiety? What's developmentally normal and what's not? Learn to identify symptoms, handle anxiety-driven behaviors in effective ways and help mitigate its effect on child and adolescent physical well-being, academic learning, and socio-emotional growth. These words on the flyer previewing a Haldane-GUFS PTA Learning Differences Committee presentation on April 26 at Haldane drew a packed room full of parents, obviously concerned about these issues.

Presented by Dr. Katie Thorpe Blaha and Dr. Jarell Myers, both postdoctoral fellows in clinical psychology at New York Presbyterian Hospital in White Plains, the two speakers alternated in speaking to the group. After ascertaining that the attendees included both parents and educators, Blaha began by describing anxiety itself as a "naturally occurring emotion, which can be helpful and important, involving physiological, emotional behaviors and cognitive responses to a perceived existential threat." These perceived threats promote "flight, fight or freeze responses, designed to keep us safe," she said. While noting that some anxiety is good, in fact an "optimal level of arousal helps us reach peak performance," more than that can impair performance and it becomes a problem when it occurs in response to cues that aren't actually dangerous.

Getting down to the statistics cited: anxiety disorders occur in one out of five children, and up to one in four adolescents. The median age of onset is six, and 60 percent of children diagnosed have more than one diagnosis. In the seesaw of nature versus nurture, in terms of what causes anxiety disorder, nature can include a "slow to warm" temperament, behavioral inhibition and family history of anxiety disorder while nurture can contribute by well-intentioned but ultimately the wrong thing to do "rescue" of the child and "overlearning," or practicing shaping

behavior to avoid the triggers rather than dealing with them more directly. For instance, with "rescue," a child is promoted to engage, gets anxious, expresses that distress or tries to avoid it and an adult steps in and consoles or supports the avoidance and in this way, expressing distress or avoiding what's causing the fear is negatively reinforced. Negative reinforcement can cause a behavior to happen more because it makes an unpleasant stimulus go away.

Common anxiety orders with children include separation, school refusal, social anxiety, selective mutism, obsessive-compulsive disorder, the physiologically triggered panic disorder and more specific phobias.

Myers got more specific, mentioning that anxiety disorder can show up in the home or at school or in the community — anything from not sleeping in their own bed to no expression of wanting to go on playdates, not raising a hand in class, to generalized worries about something bad happening. Noting that "appearing inattentive or distracted in the classroom can be many things," he said that anxiety behaviors to look for include a child who is constantly scanning the room to make sure it's safe.

The discussion then shifted to the "What do we do if anxiety shows up?" mode. "The key is having kids face their fears. Model behavior, praise courage and briefly — emphasis on briefly — attend to a child in distress, or ignore the child when in distress," Myers said, with both doctors allowing that this can be very hard for parents to do. Nevertheless, said Myers, "Continue to hold reasonable expectations. Expect that the child will eventually be able to face and master their fears. Reach out to teachers and others involved adults to try to problem solve." Speaking to the teachers and school administrators in the room then, and in answer to a later question, Dr. Myers called it "important that you are giving the child the same advice as the parents are." Blaha discussed "scaffolding," which is making initial accommodations to empower the child to take steps to conquer anxiety, make things "a little bit safe."



Drs. Jarell Myers and Katie Thorpe Blaha spoke at Haldane's Recognizing Childhood Anxiety talk.

Photo by A. Rooney

The tools with which to do this are routines — developing them and sticking to them and creating safety in the structure of having that routine. Plan ahead and rehearse for any situation where the child may encounter a trigger. Make a script, practice it, let them feel they've mastered it. Parents were told to reduce accommodating their children. Stop making phone calls for them or driving them to school because being on the bus makes them anxious, insisting that they continue with soccer practices that they resist going to. Though not stated, it was obvious that the doctors were not talking about situations with a clear threat, like bullying or things like it, overtly causing a very real fear.

Addressing the 'How do we know when

a kid needs help?' question, Blaha answered: "If they're unable to fulfill their roles, they are functionally impaired, and we're talking about just during periods of transition, when fears naturally occur. As for treatment options, there are three routes: cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT); medication; or a combination of both, the latter having met with the best results. Blaha said the decision of which course to follow is a "totally individual one. Medication can be useful if CBT isn't helping, but we look at using in on a limited basis, time-wise, adjunct to CBT. Perhaps we think of one year of achieving milestones, a year which takes them through transformations, like the change of a school year."

Questions from the audience followed; one being: What if by pushing the child to face fears, they implode? Protocols can be remarkably powerful. Do it gradually, though. If your child is terrified of dogs, don't take them to a dog park. Get a sense of how scared they think they will feel, then see how scared they did feel, and talk about it, Myers suggested. For the teachers present, in reply to a question about how best to manage "a panic attack in the classroom when you're tending to 20 kids?" Myers advised that "the best thing is to cultivate a sense of predictability surrounding the anxiety: have a coping plan in place; it could be deep breathing, or limited sit-out time outside the classroom, although a safe place in the room is always better. Be sure to reward use of coping skills."

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Keeping Beacon Weird and Delicious

The Beacon Bite thinks globally, acts locally

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's an hour before service begins at The Beacon Bite, traditionally the most hectic time of the day for a restaurant, when employees are running around in a panic and maybe a plate or two is getting thrown. But the staff here is a model of calm and calculated efficiency, despite the fact that there's only two of them, and despite the fact that their kitchen is a cramped firetruck red trailer in the middle of the lot at the corner of Main and Schenck.

Right now there's only one of them inside, chef Josh Venne, who's serenely sautéing half a dozen aromatics to make the concentrated flavored liquid known in Japanese cooking as *tare* while simultaneously preparing a batter to fry bananas for an Indonesian-inspired dish and rigging together a simmering pot stuffed with eggs and thermometers into a contraption he refers to as a "ghetto sous vide." Venne's business partner, Dalton Edwards, who he met when the two were both students at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, is behind the trailer and dealing with the comparatively easy task of dropping a new 250-gallon wastewater tank into a freshly dug pit.

"I used to just haul away all of our wastewater, trash, recyclables and compostables," Edwards explains. "But I don't think my back can take it anymore."

Since the two men opened the Beacon Bite three years ago, they've been helping to push Beacon's culture forward one plate at a time, challenging both outdated laws and closed mindsets. Along the way, they've found themselves answering the same questions over and over again.

For starters: Yes, they're allowed to do this.

"I think people don't know that I own this land, we don't rent it from the city," said Edwards. "So when people see me out here making these infrastructure improvements," sweeping his hands to indicate the wastewater tank, the compost pit, the vegetable garden that Common Ground Farm

is helping him establish, the picnic tables, the outdoor sculptures, the strings of lights dangling overhead, "They say to me 'Do you have permission to do that?' And I tell them 'Well, I would certainly hope so. Because if not me, then who?'"

When Edwards bought the land three years ago, he and Venne dreamed of building a dine-in movie theater with table service, waiters, beer, wine, the works. They'd run it for 10 years and then flip the building to a developer, making their money back threefold.

The two men decided the market wasn't right for an upscale theater, but it felt it was overdue for the kind of funky food truck culture that has been a mainstay in Austin, Portland, Washington D.C., and other cultural hotspots outside of the northeast for years. Edwards himself is from Austin, and he recognized in Beacon a lot of what made his hometown so special — as well as what destroyed it.

"When I was growing up, Austin was a sleepy little college town with hippies and a mayor who played hacky sack," he says. "Then the developers found it. I go back there to visit, but the soul of the place is extinguished. It's now just Diet Los Angeles. I lived through that, and it feels like I'm starting to live through that again here."

There's a painting on the lot that Edwards had commissioned to inspire himself and others to not let what happened in Austin happen to Beacon. "Keep Beacon Weird" it proclaims, an homage to both Austin's famous "Keep Austin Weird" slogan and the work of one of Austin's most famous outsider artists, Daniel Johnston.

"People ask me, 'How weird do you want Beacon to be?'" says Edwards. "And I say 'I don't know, how many condos are you going to build around me? Because the more condos you build, the weirder I'm going to get.'"

But there's a difference between weird and unwelcoming, and the Beacon Bite is anything but unwelcoming.

"I know people can get intimidated by the long lists of ingredients on the menu, but I'm not snobby," says Venne as a classic Tribe Called Quest track booms out from the trailer's speakers. "I'm more than happy to explain anything to anyone."

Which leads to the second question they get asked over and over again: Please



Josh Venne and Dalton Edwards of The Beacon Bite

Photo by B. Cronin

don't ask for a hot dog.

"It sounds silly, but it's so annoying," says Venne. "I like hot dogs too, but we've got Frank down the street selling hot dogs," he says, referring to the ubiquitous hot dog cart in front of the post office. "Why would I want to compete with Frank?"

The Beacon Bite's menu changes every week depending on what's in season, what Venne can get his hands on, what the weather is going to be, and what his ever-changing whims are. The dishes are mainly inspired by his own globetrotting culinary adventures. After the Bite's annual six-month season closes, and after he spends a few weeks cooking for the special-needs Camp Jabberwocky in Massachusetts, Venne buys a whole bunch of cheap one-way plane tickets, flies out to the other side of the world, and spends the next five months eating his way home in the name of research.

"I'm basically just looking to try as many local things as I can possibly find," he says. "That means risking my health a lot, but it also means I'm eating pretty cheaply."

For the last three years Venne has been eating his way around Southeast Asia and Australia, which in turn inspired such dishes as the mashed sweet potato and yuca cakes topped with shredded coconut, chiles, limes, and a black tea reduc-

tion that came from his time in Sri Lanka. Or the scallion flatbread pork wraps, a mashup of Chinese scallion pancakes and Korean barbecue by way of Los Angeles. Or his riff on Malaysian fried chicken, in which chicken thighs are marinated in a paste of chilies cut with fermented anchovies and shrimp heads.

"You don't taste anything fishy," explains Venne. "It just has this pleasant, underlying salty taste that's really appealing but you can't figure out where it's coming from."

This year when the Bite closes up in the fall, he's headed south to reacquire himself with South American and Central American street food, brush up his Spanish with regional dialects and slang terms, and work his way up to Texas before returning to the Hudson Highlands. But in the meantime there's another season just beginning, more menus to whip up on the fly in a kitchen the size of a pantry with a sink the size of a lunch tray, more minds to expand, and more prejudices to take down as Venne and Edwards work to show the Highlands that sometimes the most inventive and innovative restaurant in town can be the one with wheels on it. It's not easy.

"Well, if it was easy, everyone would be doing this," Edwards says.

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Haldane Class of 2016 Valedictorian: Wylie Thornquist

I moved to Haldane in my sophomore year, after having attended Walter Panas High School for one year. During my following three years attending Haldane, I have run multiple seasons of cross country and spring track. I have found my own style in art and creative writing for Haldane's literary magazine while serving as the magazine's editor. I have picked up Spanish as a second language, and am very excited to have reached a point where I am comfortable with conversations held entirely in Spanish.

This year, I founded Haldane's Identity Interest Group, where students have a forum to discuss everything that affects how they see themselves, from gender and sexuality to race and religion, and served as co-president along with another student. I have participated in Haldane's Women Empowered Club, and am a co-producer, model and designer for Haldane's Fashion Show.

I have worked as a mentored artist for the Garrison Art Center's Artist Mentor Program three years in a row, and have been a part of their Summer Arts Intensive during my freshman and sophomore years. I have submitted my art to the Putnam Arts Council's student show for the past two years, and won best in show during my junior year. I worked alongside two other Haldane students in planning and creating a mural. As a student I have supported my friends involved with Haldane's theater productions in the best way I know how: by painting sets and working on makeup for their annual musicals and plays. Finally, I am also a member of the National Honor Society, and am involved with community service for various organizations in Cold Spring.

In the fall, I will be attending Williams College, where I hope to learn all that I can. I am currently interested in a major in Visual Arts or Creative Writing, possibly with a minor in Latin American Studies. I also hope to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country during my time at Williams. In the future, I would love to further explore folk art, its significance and its symbolism, especially as it pertains to Latin American countries.

I have been so lucky to have been a part of the Haldane student community, and I am so excited to bring all that I have learned here with me into my future at Williams and beyond. I couldn't have done it without the support of my teachers and other students, especially salutatorian Adele Westerhuis.



Wylie Thornquist



Adele Westerhuis

Haldane Class of 2016 Salutatorian: Adele Westerhuis

Adele "Addie" Westerhuis has been named salutatorian of the Haldane High School Class of 2016. Her academic accolades include best overall performance in U.S. History; best overall performance and most outstanding delegate in Model UN; highest average in biology; best effort in AP World History; and student of excellence in pre-AP Spanish. She spent multiple years in the Academic Hall of Fame and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Westerhuis was involved in peer mentoring, received the American Citizenship Award, sang in chorus and served as president of the Model U.N. club. She also participated in Fashion as Art; stage

crew and prom committee. She ran track for four years, also serving as captain.

Westerhuis will be attending Boston University in the fall and plans to major in international relations, while continuing to study Spanish and "hopefully picking up a new language as well."

She calls choosing Haldane "honestly one of the best decisions I've made in my 17 years of life. Haldane has been essential to my growth as a person, and to the development of my goals and passions. The teachers have encouraged me to push myself, and have helped me to achieve all the goals I set over the last four years. Haldane has helped me give back to the community and the people who have supported me, and I've learned so much about how we can help create change through the programs Haldane offers. The New Orleans trip was something especially unique and eye-opening, and has inspired me in so many ways."

Ziatün Makes its Debut

Kamel Jamal's fifth restaurant brings Middle Eastern cuisine to Beacon

by Alison Rooney

"This is it, definitely my last restaurant." So says restaurateur Kamel Jamal of Ziatün, his fifth and final child (for now, at least) and the establishment that hits closest to home, its Middle Eastern/Arabic/Palestinian (as it is billed) cuisine a replication of the home cooking he grew up on as the child of Palestinian immigrants. This place is special, because I have my wife and my sisters involved, too. The kitchen isn't 'my' kitchen, it's 'ours.' "

Born in in a refugee camp in Jordan, Jamal's family first moved, through a sponsored visa, to upper Manhattan, then continued north to Yonkers, eventually settling in Yorktown, where he grew up. Jamal has been hankering to serve the type of Middle Eastern home cooking he grew up on, and, finally, after stops at other ethnic cuisines along the way, he has the opportunity with Ziatün, pronounced "Zay-toon," which means "olive" in Arabic, his third current establishment in Beacon. Olive was chosen symbolically, as "the olive oil is the pride of so many countries, and the best is like a fine wine, and it's probably one of the most used ingredients on our menu. Also the olive branch means peace, and unfortunately we're living in a time of 'not peace,' having an Arabic restaurant touches people in

different ways," Jamal explains.

That menu focuses on middle eastern foods familiar to many: shawarnas, kebabs (all the meat served is Halal), hummous, falafel, tabouleh, baba ghanouj and other staples. Less familiar is mujaddara, brown lentils with rice and caramelized onions. Rosewater lemonade and Moroccan iced tea take care of the liquid side of things. "The menu is my mother's way of cooking. She taught my six sisters how to cook. It's food that we learned to love, food that we were fed when we came home from school. My mother's hand is in all of this, especially the way she puts spices together," Jamal recalls.

Very little is specific just to Jordanian or to Palestinian cuisine, in fact Jamal has relied on several cookbooks in devising and fine-tuning recipes other than those of his mother's. "We're going to have a signature dish for each week, and we will tell the story about it," says Jamal. Accompanying the entrees are side dishes, ranging from pickled turnips to zataar, a delicious blend of oregano, thyme and sesame.

It was a February trip to Jordan, which spurred Jamal on to open this kind of restaurant. "I knew I wanted to do Middle Eastern. I had already started infusing it into my other restaurants, for instance trying out falafel at Tito Santana's, more or less test marketing it. Then, my wife and I were walking down Main Street when I got back and someone came up to us and told us that the person running Gerardo's Sea-



Ziatün is Kamel Jamal's fourth restaurant, and the first to serve food reflecting his own heritage.

Photo by A. Rooney

food [the former tenant of Ziatün's space] wanted to give it up. So I decided to do this now. We got it open in two months."

During those months, along with menu development, the interior was redesigned. The staff are all local — "I'm employing seven people from the community," Jamal says proudly. Describing Beacon as a "food destination," Jamal notes there will soon be 41 restaurants just on Main Street alone. He feels that he jumped in at the right time, first with Tito Santana, five years ago, and then Beacon Bread Company, a few years later.

After cutting his teeth early on, owning and operating a deli while still in his teens, Jamal's first big project came with his takeover of Cold Spring's Angelina's, "bringing it up" as he says, as both a pizzeria and an Italian restaurant. He didn't want to do another pizzeria in Beacon — that market was saturated, and instead began "reading what was trending, which then was tacos. So we caught the wave."

His intent with Beacon Bread was to create something that wouldn't compete with other local restaurants, but would instead complement them. Hence a breakfast and lunch place with breads good enough that they could be exported to other establishments.

As of now, Ziatün is open Thursday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Everything is available for take-out, as well as dining in. But it won't truly be opened, as far as Jamal is concerned, until his mother, Kawzieh, comes to dine. She hasn't been well in recent years, but is on the mend. "She is finally able to walk again. I'm not going to consider this opened until she comes in and sits down."

Ziatün is located at 244 Main St., and the phone is 845-765-8268, Visit ziatun.com or its Facebook page for updated information.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



A monarch butterfly

Photo by Pam Golben

Butterfly Weekend

Nature Museum to hold annual event

On Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host its annual Butterfly Weekend at its Outdoor Discovery Center on Muser Drive across from 174 Angola Road.

The event will include a Butterfly Tent, Butterfly Bingo at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., butterfly-related workshops at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and guided butterfly walks at noon and 2 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children (members are \$6 and \$4). For more information, visit hhn.org.

First Presbyterian to Get Makeover

Phase one of repairs begins next week

The doors will be open, but the scaffolding is going up at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring. Phase one of its capital campaign begins next week on the exterior of the building with brick pointing, roof repair and repairs to the front steps. That will be followed by interior work on the sanctuary with plaster and paint and the floor of the community room.

Groups that use the church such as the Community Nursery School, the Girl Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous and Philip-

stown Food Pantry will continue to have access.

Many local businesses donated to a fund-raising raffle, and contractors who have been and will be part of the repairs and improvements are Ed Manz Masonry, Dave Maroney Roofing, Evan Chefalo Contracting, Jeff Toland Contracting, Pidala Electric, Dash Lock and Key, C&E Hardware and Downey Oil.

Summer Seafood Fry on June 25

Fresh Company, The Pantry team up

Fresh Company and The Pantry will host a Summer Seafood Fry at The Pantry on Saturday, June 25, with seatings at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. (The later seating is for adults only.)

The meal, which is being organized by Shelley Boris of Fresh Company in Garrison and Andrew and Samantha Lutzer of The Pantry in Cold Spring, will showcase early summer staples paired with craft beers and non-alcoholic selections of specialty coffee, sparkling teas and other elixirs. There will also be live music.

Tickets are \$45 for teens and adults and \$25 for children age 12 and younger, which includes one beverage. The Pantry is located at 3091 Route 9. Reservations are required at summerseafoodfry.eventbrite.com or by calling 845-265-2840. If there is space, standing-room tickets will be offered at the door.

Seafood Soiree Set for June 25

Constitution Island annual fundraiser

An extraordinary three-wheeled horse cart, a new Education Center and lavish seafood fare will all be part of the annual 1920s-style Seafood Soiree scheduled for Saturday, June 25. The fundraiser

benefits the Constitution Island Association, founded in 1916 which is kicking off its centennial year. The event features live music and dancing, a lobster feast and silent auction.

A rare 19th-century, three-wheeled carriage will be on display that was the property of the Warner family, owners of Constitution Island from 1836 to 1908. The "chaise" remained on the Island until the early 1980s, when it was sent to Pennsylvania for repairs. It was long believed to be destroyed in a workshop fire but recently recovered by a Litchfield County, Conn. craftsman.

Attendees will also get the first look at the progress of the education center funded by the U.S. Army. The project encompasses the design and construction of an Education Center situated on the existing footprint of the Warner greenhouse, incorporating as much of the remaining original structure as possible, along with the preservation of the existing carriage house and associated site work.

"It is just so wonderful to be able to celebrate our centennial year with progress on the Island," said Fred Osborn, board chairman of the Constitution Island Association.

The event chair is Jeremy Crandall of Garrison. Tickets are \$250 per person and a full range of sponsorships are available. Attire is 1920s costume or summer whites. For more information, call 845-265-2501 or visit constitutionisland.org.

Veterans Invited to the Game

Three Renegade outings planned

The Putnam County Veterans Service Agency and the PFC Joseph Dwyer Vet-2Vet program has organized three free opportunities at Dutchess Stadium for veterans and their family members to watch the Hudson Valley Renegades. On June 28, the team plays the Staten Island Yankees, on August 4 it takes on the Brooklyn Cyclones and on Sept. 3 it plays the Vermont Lake Monsters. All games start at 6:30 p.m.

Each outing is limited to the first 50 veterans to call 845-808-1620 or email putnamvets@putnamcountyny.gov for reservations. Besides tickets to the game, all food, soda, water and ice cream is included.

Summertime Reading

Children invited to log books

Cold Spring

The Butterfield Library has launched "Get in the Game: Read!" for students entering the sixth through eighth grades. Log on, register and build a character to play a game powered by reading time. Visit butterfieldlibrary.org to learn more. By registering, you earn a free book. Read a total of 1,800 minutes during the six weeks of the program and be entered to win a tablet.

Challenges include attending a library program, writing a book review, answering trivia questions or becoming a volunteer Reading Buddy. Book logging and challenges begin on Thursday, June 23.

Garrison

The Desmond-Fish Library will launch its summer reading program with a visit from the Hudson Valley Llamas at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 25. Students can stop by the library to sign up, pick up a calendar of events and win prizes for reading, including a gift certificate for the library's annual book sale.

Beacon

The Howland Public Library invites children ages 3 to 12 to participate in "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!" Children may keep reading logs, either paper or online, of books they've read or had read to them.

To register, visit beaconlibrary.org after June 21 and before August 1. A kick-off party for elementary school students will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22. Beacon neighbor and Empowering Clerk Ori Alon will distribute Refurbished Report Cards so you can get recognition for all the great things about you that regular report cards can't show.

The library's summer programs are supported through Friends of the Howland Library and the Wee Play Community Project.

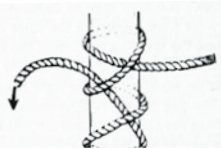
Depot to Hold Spelling Bee Auditions

Set for June 23 and 26

The Philipstown Depot Theatre will hold auditions for a production of *The 25th Annual Putnam* (To next page)

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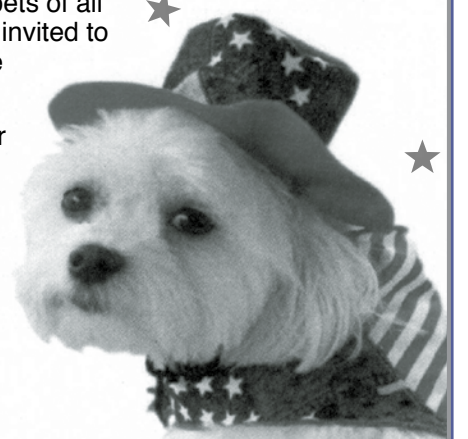
An Invitation from The Cold Spring Independence Day Parade Committee:

Friendly pets, and children dressed as pets of all shapes and sizes, and their owners are invited to join the Philipstown Patriotic Pet Parade Brigade, on July 3rd, 2016.

We will line up at 3:45 p.m. at the corner of Haldane Street and High Street for the 4 p.m. parade.

Patriotic accessories and costumes are optional.

The most patriotic, ugliest, prettiest and most original will receive gift certificates provided by over 70 local merchants.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

County Spelling Bee on Thursday, June 23 and Sunday, June 26. Rehearsals begin in late July and the show will be performed in late October and early November.

All children will be played by teenagers and adults, and you must be at least 16 years old to audition. All characters have movement and singing requirements.

Email christine@bokhour.com for an audition time and list of characters.

Expect Noise from Army Training

Summer artillery practice, low helicopter flights

Residents in the Hudson Highlands should expect noise through mid-August from training activities for West Point cadets at Camp Buckner and Lake Frederick. Training include infantry operations, artillery firing, weapons training, aviation operations, military engineering projects, training in field communications, demolitions and survival skills techniques.

Noise levels will be sporadic with increased activity associated with Air Assault School in June and during specialized training operations in July. Residents can expect to see and hear low-flying helicopters in and around the training and cantonment areas.

The training will not affect West Point recreation areas but may impact certain fishing and hunting locations. The training is designed to simulate the physical and mental challenges cadets will face when they become officers in the U.S. Army.

Fjord Trail to Hold Workshop

Public invited to share feedback

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will hold a public workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 27, at Chalet On the Hudson at 3250 Route 9D in Cold Spring to share three options on how the trail might look and solicit feedback on a final design. For more information and construction updates, visit hudsonfjordtrail.org.

Library to Offer Free Computer Clinics

Will cover genealogy, iPhones, website building

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will offer a series of free computer clinics on Tuesday nights over the summer. Each session begins at 6:30 p.m. On June 21, the session will explain the basics of using the genealogy pay site Ancestry.com, which is available free at the library.

On June 28, "cybrarian" Pam McCluskey will share tips on attaching pictures and videos to emails and text messages, using Facetime and improving your battery life of your iPad and iPhone. On July 5 she will offer instructions on building your own website using Wix and on July

21 provide tips on using Androids, Fitbits and smartwatches.



Soo Bae

Photo provided

Hymns as Jazz and Folk

Cellist and pianist to perform June 26

On Sunday, June 26, cellist Soo Bae and pianist Eileen Buck will perform a unique program at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring — a selection of hymns in various styles, from classical to contemporary to jazz and folk, as well as a composition written for Soo Bae by composer Shinuh Lee.

The free concert begins at 4 p.m.. Donations are welcome.

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St., adjacent to the Metro-North Train Station, where parking is free on Sundays. The 2016 Sunday Music Series is dedicated to the memory of Theodora J. Nichols, with a gift from her sister, board member Marcelline Thomson.

Volunteers Needed for Book Sale

Sorters, organizers and cashiers

The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library need volunteers for its annual book and media sale, scheduled to begin Friday, August 13. Proceeds from the sale fund programs and books for the library.

Volunteers sort donated books during the weeks before the sale, set up tables and serve as cashiers. In exchange, they receive free books and an invitation to a volunteer recognition party at the end of the sale. College-bound teens can earn community service hours.

For more information, email Book Sale Coordinator Emma Parks at dfbooksale@gmail.com.

Amateur Radio "Field Day"

Demonstrations of science and skill

Members of the QSY Society Amateur Radio Club, which meets monthly in Hopewell Junction, will participate in the national Amateur Radio Field Day on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26, at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie. The nation-

al event has been held annually since 1933.

The field day demonstrates ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions, from almost any location, and create an independent communications network. There are more than 725,000 licensed operators in the U.S., from ages 5 to 100.

Members of the QSY club will be offering demonstrations at Pavilion 4 on Sheafe Road from 2 p.m. on June 25 through 2 p.m. on June 26. The mobile command unit of the Dutchess County Office of Emergency Response will be on hand from noon to 2 p.m. on June 25. For more information, visit qsysociety.org.

Beacon

Celebrate Solstice on the Mat

14 studios taking part in annual Yoga Mala

Teachers from 14 yoga studios in the Hudson Highlands will lead 108 Sun Salutations at the second annual Summer Solstice Yoga Mala from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, at Long Dock Park in Beacon. The donation for the event is \$10, or for \$20 receive a pass for a class to any participating studio. Registration is required at nomadalwaysatom.com.

Compass Arts Camps Begin in June

Open to children ages 3 to 6

Compass Arts in Beacon has launched several week-long camps for children ages 3 to 6. The next session for It's Not Camp begins Monday, June 20 and for Tri-Arts Summer Workshop on Monday, June 27. They both take place from 9 a.m. to noon on weekdays.

Compass Arts is located at 395 Main St. (back entrance). Register at compassarts.org. The fee is \$155 for the first child and \$130 for siblings. Children must be potty trained. For more information, phone Gina Samardge at 917-648-4454.

Beacon Film Fest to Hold Fundraiser

Event on June 25 will honor Margot Kingon

The Beacon Independent Film Fest will host a fundraiser, Arts Go 2016, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, at The CineHub, 20 W. Main St. The event, with food by The Beacon Bite and music spun by Mr. Chips, Vicki the Bruiser and Jon "The Mayor" Miles, will honor artist and film industry professional Margot Kingon. It will feature the premiere of short film about Kingon, *Cascade*, directed by Kate Phelan, and an exhibit of Kingon's work.

Tickets are \$18 at biffartsgo2016.bpt.me, or \$20 at the door. This year's film festival will take place September 16 to 18.

Registration Open for Beacon Academies

Summer program for teens run by police and fire

Registration has opened for the annual Rpolice and fire academies in Beacon. The police academy, held at Beacon High School for students ages 14 to 17, takes place the week of July 25. The fire academy, held at Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. for students in grades 7 to 9, takes place the week of August 1.

The academies are designed to help students understand the role police officers and firefighters play in the community and the duties performed and requirements of becoming a police officer or fireman.

The registration deadline is July 15. An application form can be downloaded from cityofbeacon.org/CMSJavascripts/Police-FireRegForm16.pdf.

Beacon Photo Group Organizing Show

Music-themed exhibit on display in August

The Beacon Photography Group will be holding its third photo show, *Seeing Music: Photography and the Art of Sound*, in August at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon. The show is designed

(Continued on next page)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

to give members of the Facebook group an opportunity to display music-themed photographic works in a gallery setting.

To submit works, send up to five images in .jpg format to beaconphotographygroup@gmail.com. Works should be

titled. The deadline is July 10.

The Beacon Photography Group was created on Facebook in 2013 by Tom Conroy and Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh. Photographers interested in joining can visit facebook.com/groups/beaconphotogroup.

Beacon High School Art Exhibit



An exhibit of work by Beacon High School students continues through Saturday, July 2, at Beacon Bath & Bubble, 458 Main St. This painting from the exhibit is by Rachael Ng.

Mystery Shrouds Putnam's Stone Chambers (from Page 8)

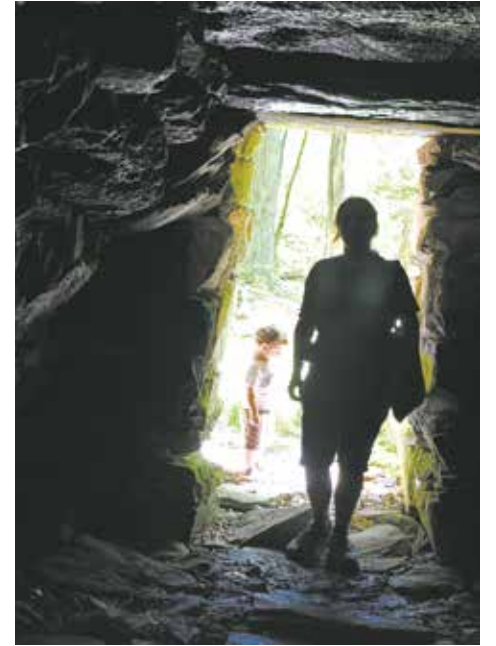
a gift," Marks reasoned. He also emphasized that the chambers' construction did not include a door but that they were added later for adaptive reuse, just as mortar was sometimes added.

Like others, Marks said he believes the chambers were used for spiritual purposes.

Preservation needed

The New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) was established in 1964 to promote "disciplined research" on the origin and function of lithic structures such as Putnam County's stone chambers. Polly Midgley, NEARA's representative in New York state, echoed the organization's open-minded approach. "The persistence of ... distinctive style chambers as well as chambers that mark the sun's calendar positions, and sometimes those of the moon, are noteworthy," she wrote in an email to *The Current*. "NEARA has interest in all possible chamber beginnings that range from the influences of very early arrivals in North America to the Native Americans to early local farmers. However, preservation is paramount."

Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio is passionate about preserving the chambers. "They were not just root cellars," he said. "Absolutely they should be protected." Several years ago he tried to do that as a member of the Putnam County Legislature but failed to garner enough support from fellow legislators. He is now helping to draft a local law to conserve the structures in Putnam Valley. "The double chamber is



Inside the Winter Solstice chamber in Kent
Photo by M. Turton

one of many in the town," he said. "It is exceedingly rare. It's mind-boggling."

Fleury doesn't lean totally toward any single hypothesis about the original use of the chambers. "Some probably were root cellars" she said, while leaving room in her mind for other explanations as well. "The best thing about them is that they remain a mystery."

Perhaps some questions will be answered this fall. Linda Zimmermann, author of *Mysterious Stone Sites in the Hudson Valley and Northern New Jersey*, published in April, is scheduled to speak at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring on Oct. 8.

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Sports

Haldane Athletes Medal at State Championships

By Peter Farrell

Theo Henderson and Abbey Stowell competed in Syracuse on June 10 and 11 at the state public high school track and field championships.

Henderson, a senior, competed in the 3000-meter steeplechase and finished in 9:30.30, beating his own school record by 11 seconds. He finished first in the unseeded section, third in Division 2 and 11th in the state. He also qualified to compete in national competition.

Stowell, a sophomore, finished with 2,714 points in the pentathlon, which placed her fourth in Division 2 and 14th in the state. She also broke her own school record.

Stowell's pentathlon

100m hurdles - 16.56 (school record)
 High jump - 1.36m / 4-5.5
 Shot put - 9.67m / 31-8.75
 Long jump - 4.80m / 15-8.9in
 800m - 2:39.12

Coach AJ McConville said both athletes had done "what Haldane track and field does best — peak at the right time and show up and shine on the big stage. Overall, it was great to have our Haldane athletes compete well and showcase the hard work the whole team puts in the entire indoor and outdoor season. And I can't thank the senior class we've had this year enough for their hard work and leadership over the last four years. We've had an unbelievable group that's been an honor to be a part of and help coach them."



Above, Abbey Stowell, second from left, medaled at the state track and field championships in Syracuse on June 11.

Photo provided

At right, Theo Henderson, second from right, finished third in the Division 2 steeplechase at the state track and field championships in Syracuse on June 11.

Photo provided

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



Coach PJ Keating, Abbey Stowell, Theo Henderson and Coach AJ McConville

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Purchase tickets at ticket offices/machines prior to boarding to save money, and be sure to check out Metro-North's discount Getaway packages and special fares for groups of 10 or more.

Go to mta.info/mnr for schedules and fares, or call 511 for more information (in CT, call 877-690-5114).