

The HIGHLANDS Current



Independence Day events
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FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016

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Frank Bugg

Photo by Michael Turton

Staff Diversity in Beacon Schools

New board members likely to tackle issue

By Jeff Simms

Six years into his crusade, Beacon resident James F. “Frank” Bugg isn’t losing any steam.

A 1961 graduate of Beacon High School, Bugg, now 73, returned to the area after retiring in 1996. Around 2010, he recalls casually looking at the Beacon City School District website.

“I just happened to see some data on there that in 2010 the city of Beacon had 266 instructional staff, and that only five of them were minorities,” says Bugg, who is African-American. “That riled me then and it still does.”

Looking further, he says that he found more data showing that just over 53 percent of the district’s roughly 3,000 students were non-white. Bugg says that he went immediately to a Board of Education meeting to address the lack of diversity, which he called simply “carelessness.”

“I knew that there was so much data to show that minority students perform better when they’re taught by people they can identify with,” he says. “This was a matter of educational equality.”

School board President Melissa Thompson responded to Bugg at that meeting, he says: “Her exact words were that something needs to be done about this. And she never did a thing.”

So began Bugg’s crusade. He has been a fixture at Board of Education meetings ever since.

According to enrollment data reported by the Beacon City School District to New York state for the 2013-14 school year (the most recent data available), its student population is 46 percent white, 27 percent Hispanic/Latino, 19 percent African-American, 2 percent Asian and 4 percent multi-racial — almost exactly the numbers Bugg says he found four years earlier.

U.S. census data shows a similar breakdown for the city of Beacon: 54 percent identified themselves as white, 23 percent as African-American, 21 percent as Hispanic/Latino, 2 percent as Asian and 5 percent multi-racial.

Startclass.com, a site that compares public school data, shows that while the race breakdown at Beacon High School is similar to other schools in New York, when it comes to math and reading/language arts test scores, African-American and Hispanic students lag behind white students, particularly in the latter category.

Finding diversity statistics on teaching and administrative staff within the school system is much more difficult.

Bugg says the diversity data he cites was erased from the district website after he began attending school board meetings. Interim superintendent Ann Marie Quartiroli said this week that the district is not required to report on staff diversity, but that the information will be required “in (Continued on Page 3)

Butterfield Development Change of Use Approved

Routine meeting after weeks of contention

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Planning Board at its meeting on June 23 approved what at times has been a contentious application for a change of use at the Butterfield redevelopment project.

Unlike several prior meetings that filled the room to overflowing and were long and often heated, the final session in the reapplication process was routine. A small audience watched quietly as board members spent most of the hour-long session verifying that revisions approved in principle at the June 10 meeting had been followed up by developer Paul Guillaro and would be accurately described in the resolution.

The key to the approval was the planning board’s willingness to grant an increase in the parking waiver, thus reducing the number of parking spaces required on the site by 20 percent, the largest reduction permitted under the village code. The developer agreed to create four additional spaces not included in the original site plan. Other revisions included signage improvements and setting aside a number of parking spaces for use by

medical personnel.

The fact that Putnam County guaranteed bus service to the senior citizen center to be created at the Lahey Pavilion went a long way toward the board’s agreeing to reduce the number of parking spaces required. “It’s not a magic bullet,” Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco said, referring to the reduction in parking. “What we’re trying to do here is ... apply the code and not get sued.” Two weeks earlier, Guillaro and his attorney Steven Barshov had threatened legal action if a deal could not be reached.

Francisco commented that a difference of opinion over the planning board’s jurisdiction resulted in a revised parking table not being submitted by the developer until May 20. He noted the board’s work on the application was done in three meetings once all required information was received.

Village building inspector Bill Bujarski must now determine if alterations to the exterior of the Lahey Pavilion would trigger a review by the Historic District Review Board. The pavilion was not included in the original approved site plan for Butterfield, but was added to the project as the location for the senior citizen center. The medical offices now located in Lahey will move to the project’s Building Number 2.

Walking Ward 2 in Beacon

Omar Harper hopes to bring new perspective to council

By Jeff Simms

Omar Harper, the Beacon City Council member who represents Ward 2, is quick to tell folks that he’s not

much of a politician. A Beacon resident since the age of 10 (he’s now 33), the first-time councilperson for the riverfront and linked areas says he instead attempts to bring an old-fashioned sense of values to the council.

“I came up here from the Bronx,” he recalled while walking through Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park. “My family tried to get me a better fit. There was a lot of negativity on the block I lived on and they were trying to get me away from that element. So, I think I bring a little bit of a different perspective.”

Harper was unsuccessful in his first bid for the council in 2013 but unseated longtime Ward 2 councilperson Charles Kelly last year. Now six months into his first term of elected office, what are his impressions of city government?

“My mother always taught me that if there’s a (Continued on Page 6)



Omar Harper

Photo by J. Simms

Roots and Shoots

Call to Arms: Fight the Invaders!

Citizen science a key tool in species control

By Pamela Doan

Invasive species in our landscapes and waterways threaten biodiversity of ecosystems, public health, property values and recreational pursuits while taking a lot of money to manage. A Cornell University study estimated in 1999 that this biological pollution causes nearly \$138 billion a year in environmental damage and losses in the U.S., or nearly \$200 billion in today's dollars.

A walk through any of our local forests and probably your own yard makes it easy to see the problem — Japanese barberry, mugwort, Oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, multiflora rose — these plants dominate. In the Hudson River, water chestnut and phragmites have taken over many areas.

The good news is that efforts to root out invaders before they can become established are well coordinated and becoming more visible, and more resources are going to controlling invasions in places that have rich biodiversity, and recreational or economic value. Our area is particularly important for detecting invasive species as a pathway for anything moving upstate. Invasive species like to settle here and continue north.

Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), funded by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, has eight regional chapters, including one in the Lower Hudson, that award grants (nyis.info). The money goes to tracking and stopping the spread of invasive species on land and in water and is focused on plants, although animals are problems, too. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Putnam County is one of the groups that has received a PRISM contract to recruit and train citizen scientists to map the distribution of a targeted list of 38 invasive plants.

The list includes mile-a-minute weed, black swallowwort, wineberry, Oriental bittersweet and Japanese barberry on land; and purple loosestrife, hydrilla and yellow iris in waterways. The lower Hudson Valley has been divided into three-mile-square blocks for mapping purposes.

"The focus is to get baseline data so that we and other organizations can allocate our resources more wisely," explains Jennifer Stengle, the resource educator at CCE Putnam. "We'll be doing education and outreach to the public, green industry professionals and municipal officials. We need to know where exotic species are or are not."

Stengle will lead a training session for volunteers who would like to participate in the survey at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.



Mile-a-minute weed

Photos by Leslie J. Mehrhoff / Bugwood.org



Wineberry flowers

Visit putnam.cce.cornell.edu to register. The Dutchess County CCE will hold training sessions on July 9 and July 12 in Millbrook (ccedutchess.org). Volunteers can use a smartphone or GPS unit to log information about where the targeted list of plants are found in the county.

Once more information is collected, areas can be targeted for removal and control. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has an Invasive Strike Team coordinating these efforts and is working in Putnam to remove giant hogweed, a plant that causes severe rashes and skin reactions that can last for months.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has also received PRISM grant money, which it is using to create a phenological database. "We have created a Google form that PRISM volunteers and interested citizen scientists can use to record sightings of invasive species, including what stage they're in their growth cycle (budding, flowering, etc.) and management tips," explained Kathy Hamel, outreach and public policy

manager at HHLT. She said the resource will be available to anyone who wants to control invasive species on their property.

The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater in Beacon will be leading aquatic efforts. Its PRISM grant funds a program to inspect watercraft entering the Hudson River at Newburgh, Staatsburg and Haverstraw. Many species come into the river from boats that were on other waterways. Samantha Epstein, the invasive species coordinator for Clearwater, said that as many as 10 percent of the boats it inspects carry a trespasser. The organization also has launched a public awareness campaign to remind boaters to clean, drain and dry their craft each time it comes out of the water.

Other funds support a Clearwater program to train volunteers to detect and track a priority list of eight aquatic species. Hydrilla, a plant that can live in brackish or freshwater, has been found in Croton River. Epstein leads weekly trainings for volunteers; the next is scheduled for July 7 at Black Rock Park in Croton. See clearwater.org/aquatic-invasive-species.

Other events during New York's Invasive Species Awareness Week (July 10 to 16) include a mugwort removal workday organized by Scenic Hudson on July 13 at Long Dock Park in Beacon (scenichudson.org) and an invasive species walk at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook on July 16 (caryinstitute.org/events/invasive-species-walk).



A Clearwater steward looks for invasive species trespassers on a boat before it goes in the Hudson River.

Photo provided

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Staff Diversity Beacon Schools *(from Page 1)*



Lorraine Hexstall, NAACP

File photo

the near future.”

As for the statistics Bugg claims disappeared from the site, Quartironi says she’s never been able to find them.

Meanwhile, Thompson offers a somewhat different perspective on the conversations she had with Bugg back in 2010. Diversity is “a huge issue to tackle, and it’s an issue everywhere,” she says. “There’s so many pieces to the puzzle.”

Thompson says that in 2010 the board established a committee to craft a school-system hiring policy that touched upon diversity, “as far as where we’re reaching out and who to target.”

Prior to those committee meetings, district job openings were only advertised in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and through the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). After the hiring policy was drafted, the district began advertising on the Online Application System for Educators (OLAS), which reaches a much larger audience, according to Thompson.

However, the lack of diverse candidates likely goes deeper than the outlets the dis-

trict uses to advertise its openings, Thompson believes. The OLAS filters candidates by grade-point average and other factors, which she says could eliminate some minority candidates who might work or have other commitments while in college.

In addition, Thompson said that district officials were instructed to begin attending job fairs at some of the more diverse SUNY campuses, but it’s unclear how or whether that’s been implemented.

Lorraine Hexstall, a Beacon resident who is the education chair for the Southern Dutchess NAACP, says that the notion of “minority” students or candidates is a misnomer in 2016.

From the economy to education, virtually all aspects of society are now global, Hexstall reasons, “and it would behoove us to create an education system that can facilitate and support mutually respectful cross-talk. The research bears it out plainly that everyone benefits from having diverse teaching and leadership.”

Hexstall said there are decades of evidence that point to academic, social and civic benefits for low-income students of color who attend high quality, diverse schools. In fact, the benefit goes both ways, she said, noting that white students have in many cases reported feeling better prepared for post-education working and social environments when they attended schools that were racially diverse.

Bugg, who worked for 35 years in various educational and training positions in the corporate and nonprofit fields, admits that he has become disruptive at times at school board meetings. He says two recent superintendents — Raymond Bandlow and Paul Dorward — showed interest in addressing the diversity issue. Neither, however, lasted long in Beacon. Bandlow resigned in 2012 after nine months, while Dorward left in 2014 after just over a year

on the job. In 2015, Bugg says he met for more than two hours with then-superintendent Barbara Walkley, who he believed was committed to confronting the issue.

“I felt somewhat hopeful that something would be done,” he said. “Subsequently, she seemed to be the worst offender.”

Bugg says Quartironi, who was named to the interim post after Walkley resigned in January, has been much more receptive to taking steps to diversify the district. But he remains frustrated.

Teacher tally still missing

“This is six years now, and none of the board members have ever taken the time to even look and see if my facts [on staff diversity] are correct,” Bugg says.

He says he’s found an ally of sorts in Mer-

edith Heuer, who, along with Antony Tseng and Michael Rutkoske, was elected in May to the Board of Education. They will join the board at its organizational meeting on July 5, replacing Thompson, Christine Galbo and Tracy Antalek Everett.

Heuer grew up in Detroit, where she says she was often one of only a few white students in her classes.

As she prepares to join the board, Heuer says that diversity is a critically important issue that must be addressed.

Students “need to see themselves in their leadership and in positions where they are thriving,” she said. “If they don’t see that, it’s something that is hard to compensate for.”

Heuer said she thinks the district should investigate more than just test scores and graduation rates. A revived diversity committee could study how far so-called minority students are getting before the school system “loses them.” Are they making it to advanced placement classes, for instance? And if not, why?

“Making sure that every student can take advantage of all of our offerings would be a good start,” she adds.

For Bugg, the campaign continues, but he can’t do it alone. He notes, for example, the consistently low attendance by non-white parents at school board meetings.

“I’m absolutely committed to doing what I feel is fair,” he says, “but as long as I’m the only black person speaking about the issue, they’re not going to do [anything] about it.”



Meredith Heuer

File photo



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Current Politics

Oliva to Face Maloney

Presidential politics may influence race

By Kevin E. Foley

Phil Oliva, a senior aide to the Westchester County Executive, won the Republican congressional primary on June 28 and will face incumbent Democrat Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney on Nov. 6. According to the state Board of Elections, Oliva defeated Kenneth Del Vecchio of Warwick by 878 votes, 3,228 to 2,352.

Oliva had broad support among Republican leaders in the 18th Congressional District, which includes Philipstown and Beacon.

The district is considered one of 43 (out of 435) "purple" swing districts that have a balance of likely Republican and Democratic voters, so presumably both national parties will be interested in the race.

The Republicans control the U.S. House but Democrats are hoping to gain seats if Hillary Clinton does well against Donald Trump in the presidential race.

More people vote in presidential years. Maloney, who worked as an aide in the Clinton White House, benefitted from the higher Obama voter turnout in 2012 when he unseated one-term Republican incumbent Nan Hayworth.



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney File Photo



Phil Oliva File photo

As of the last reporting period, which ended June 8, Maloney, in his second two-year term, reported \$1.7 million cash on hand compared to Oliva's \$77,000. If the national party and its big contributors begin to believe Oliva has a chance, the money may flow in.

Oliva favored the British withdrawal from the European Union and believes the Obama administration is not doing enough to combat terrorism, including the ISIS movement. Maloney lately has emphasized services for military veterans and was recently appointed to the Board of Overseers of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, which is part of his district.

Gun rights will be certainly be a fault line in the race. Maloney participated in the Democratic member sit-in on the floor of the House in the aftermath of the mass shooting in Orlando. Oliva mocked this effort on social media, calling Maloney "an out-of-touch Washington politician" and committed himself to protecting Second Amendment rights.

Maloney has championed train safety, working on legislation requiring new

technologies be installed to prevent accidents. The Metro-North system and a major freight line run through the district. He gained national attention recently when as co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus he fought for an amendment to prevent employment discrimination for sexual orientation or gender identity on federal energy and water projects. After initial defeat, Maloney prevailed with votes from 43 Republicans.

The issue of the moment for Oliva is the activities of an opposition research videographer apparently hired by the state Democratic Party. While recording opponents at their public campaign events has become standard fare, Oliva has claimed, in a blizzard of press releases, that Yougourthen Ayouni spied on his private residence, including looking in the windows at his wife in the kitchen. Maloney has urged the Democratic Party to release the raw footage to Oliva and said his campaign had not hired Ayouni.

On June 22, Oliva thanked Maloney for agreeing that he receive the tapes, but as of June 30 Oliva said he had not received any material and threatened legal action.

Main Street Project, Coal Tar Remediation Near Completion

Cold Spring, Philipstown to share building department services

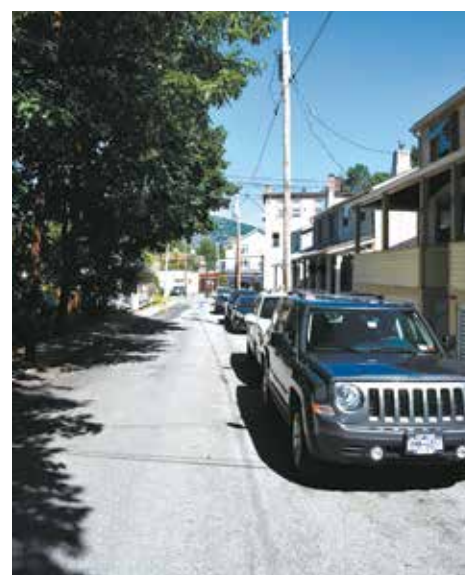
By Michael Turton

The sound of jackhammers has ended on Main Street. At the June 28 meeting of the Cold Spring village board, Deputy Mayor Marie Early reported that construction is "substantially complete" on the Main Street Project, at least on the thoroughfare. Landscaping, tree planting and lighting improvements are all that remain to be completed.

The last component of the project — extensive improvements to Furnace Street — will begin after Independence Day. The work will include drainage improvements, repaving the street and installation of new sidewalks and curbs. The overall project has been running on or ahead of schedule and is on track to be completed by the end of summer.

Sharing resources

The trustees authorized Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy to sign a letter of intent with the Town of Philipstown to share building department services. The move anticipates a possible merger of the departments. In recent months, the town's code enforcement officer has served as village building inspector on the Butterfield Project.



Major improvements will be made to Furnace Street.

Photo by M. Turton

Merandy also announced that Philipstown has hired Gregory Wunner, the former deputy building inspector for the Town of Fishkill, to replace Kevin Donahue as town building inspector. Donahue resigned recently after accepting a similar position in Westchester County.

The project to remove toxic coal tar from the site of the Cold Spring Boat Club is now substantially complete, Merandy reported. Final grading, landscaping and fencing is scheduled to be finished by July 8.

In other business ...

- Early reported that through the third week of June, \$2,000 had been collected at the newly installed pay station in the municipal parking lot on Fair Street. Early said complaints have been received regarding signage at the lot as well as the cost of fines for unpaid tickets. Parking tickets issued for violations in the lot cost \$50. If a ticket is not paid within 30 days the fine increases to \$75 and then to \$100 if payment is delinquent for another 30 days. Early said that 70 percent of the revenue collected at the pay station has been by credit card. Merandy indicated that the operation of the village's first parking meter will be reviewed after it has been in service for a few months.
- Trustees accepted the low bid of \$14,500 from SP Landscaping to complete drainage improvements on Grandview Terrace. Con-Tech Construction, the company completing the Main Street Project, also bid on the work.
- The board approved hiring Terry Cominsky as an officer with the Cold Spring Police Department. Merandy said that the hire was necessary because the resignation of another officer made it difficult to fill all shifts. With the hire, CSPD employs 13 part-time officers.

(Continued on next page)

Fjord Trail Design Options Aired

“Breakneck Connector” to be trail’s first leg

By Michael Turton

A workshop on June 27 gave the public a chance to weigh in on their preferred design for the Breakneck Connector, the first leg of a proposed nine-mile Fjord Trail that will link Cold Spring and Beacon while providing a safe route to Breakneck Ridge for hikers, cyclists and pedestrians. About 75 people attended the session, which was facilitated by Amy Kacala, senior planner with Scenic Hudson, the agency acting as project manager.

The workshop, held at Chalet on the Hudson, focused on the half-mile section of trail that will run from the Metro-North whistle stop north of the Breakneck tunnel to the trailhead. The proposed path will be 12-feet wide and include two elevated, railed sections with one segment built at grade. The length of the Breakneck Connector will be located on the river side of Route 9D.

Attendees attached comments on sticky notes to indicate what they liked and what they would change in three potential designs: Rustic Outdoors, Scandinavian Fjord and Rustic Industrial. Participants also were asked to vote for the design they preferred.

A small welcome center located near the tunnel is an integral part of each de-

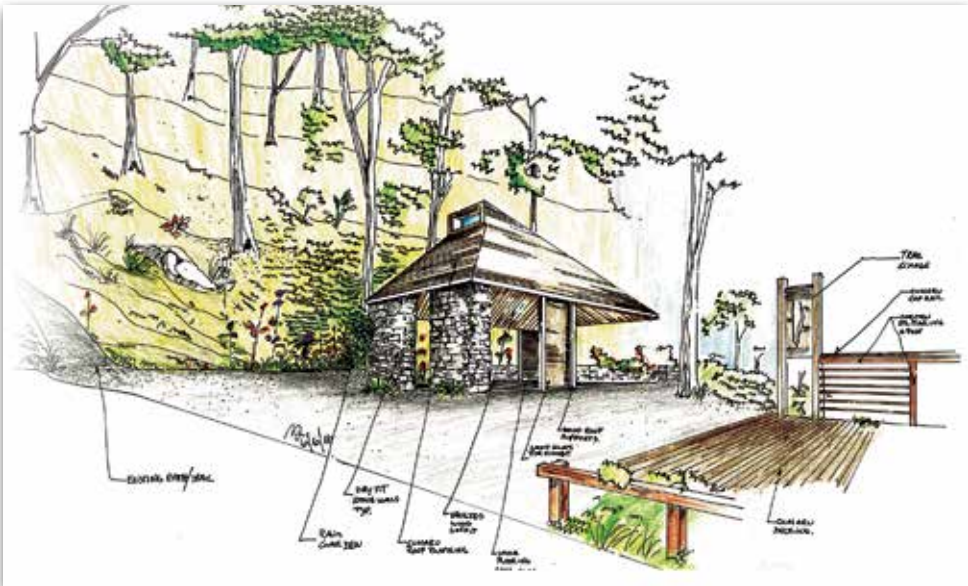
sign. Samples of materials to be used in the trail’s construction were also on display. While the evening dealt only with the Breakneck Connector, Kacala indicated that comments from the session will influence the design of the entire Fjord Trail.

“Parking chaos”

Kacala and Rob DeGiorgio of D&B Engineers and Architects described parking improvements proposed for the Breakneck area. Kacala characterized the current situation as “parking chaos” brought about by high volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, a limited land base and an ever-increasing number of visitors. Limited security features on the Metro-North property near Breakneck were also identified as a safety concern.

The number of visitors to Breakneck increased from 75,000 in 2014 to more than 80,000 last year and is expected to increase again this year, Kacala said, spurred on in part by social media. Over Memorial Day weekend, the hiking area attracted 3,000 visitors.

The proposal calls for 135 parking spots north of the tunnel, including marked, parallel spaces on both sides of Route 9D. The existing parking lot north of the tunnel on the west side of 9D would undergo extensive improvements, including an area for emergency responders who are called upon to rescue injured and lost hikers. The new parking lot will also include



A welcome center will be located near the Breakneck tunnel. Image provided by Scenic Hudson

a designated drop-off spot for the trolley that makes runs between Cold Spring and Beacon during the hiking season.

While the parking improvements would make more efficient and safer use of the available space at Breakneck, they would not reduce the traffic problem. Steve Smith, chief of the Cold Spring Fire Company, who attended the workshop, observed that on busy weekends 300 to 400 cars park along Route 9D between Breakneck and Cold Spring. Kacala said that bids are being solicited for improvements to the parking lot at the Washburn Trailhead opposite Little Stony Point. The capacity of that lot will be doubled to 55 spaces, with the lot targeted to be ready by October.

Reduced speed limit not enough

During the question-and-answer period an audience member asked why the speed limit along Route 9D at Breakneck could not be reduced from 55 miles per hour. Kacala said that the commissioner of New York State Department of Transportation plans to visit to Breakneck to see the situation for himself, but added: “You can’t just reduce the speed limit. People will still speed.” Instead, she said, traffic slow-

ing measures such as bump outs and more clearly defined parking can be used to create a sort of “friction” for vehicles passing through the area.

“You want to create a slower environment,” she said. “It has to ‘feel’ slower to drivers. A reduced speed limit is more likely to be considered after such measures are in place. Kacala also said enforcement is an issue, noting that as many as five law-enforcement agencies are involved at Breakneck.

Another attendee voiced concern about poor visibility inside the tunnel. “You can’t see!” she said. Kacala said that the state DOT is investigating lighting and other ways of improving visibility. The agency “really is at the table” for the Breakneck project, she said.

Next steps

Planners will now consider comments received at the workshop before selecting a design for the Breakneck Connector. Kacala said design revisions will be available for review and comment at hudson-fjordtrail.org. Preliminary signage will be installed in July and construction bids will be timed so that work can begin in the winter to reduce disruptions to wildlife.

Main Street Project (from previous page)

- The village board will hold a joint meeting with the Cold Spring Recreation Commission on July 2.
- The mayor congratulated the Cold Spring Film Society for the successful launch of its 2016 movie series at Dockside Park. The first film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, brought 1,200 people to Dockside Park on June 25.
- Cold Spring experienced an afternoon of life in the fast lane on June 29 when a Jaguar commercial was filmed on lower Main Street. The producers paid the village \$1,500 for the shoot and also absorbed the cost of policing and other expenses.

NOTICE OF FILING FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
WITH THE TOWN CLERK

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assessor has completed the Final Assessment Roll for the Town of Philipstown in the County of Putnam for the year of 2016. A certified copy will be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on the 1st day of July, 2016 where it will remain open to public inspection until July 31, 2016.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2016
Brian Kenney, Assessor

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, July 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison New York, to hear the following appeal:

Robert M. Manzella, 11 Mountain Drive, Garrison New York, TM# 91-1-17. Appeal # 893.

The Applicant is proposing a 14 x 24 foot accessory building and is seeking a side yard variance of 12 feet from section 175-26A(1) of the Town Code which requires a minimum of 20 feet from the side property line.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated: June 24, 2016
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

CHANGE OF LOCATION

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

meeting which will be held Monday, July 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, July 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison New York, to hear the following appeal:

Griffin’s Landscaping, Inc. (Glenn Griffin)
TM#27.20-1-14 Appeal # 895.

The Applicant is seeking an area variance to allow for outside storage on its lot in the amount of 40% of the lot area, whereas Section 175-65D(5)(b) of the Town Zoning Code limits outside storage to 20% of the lot area.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated: June 24 2016
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

Walking Ward 2 in Beacon *(from Page 1)*

problem, you try to find a way to resolve it, and if you have to, you find a way to compromise," he says. "That's the mindset I bring when I'm sitting up there. You're never going to make everybody happy, but you don't want anyone to feel shafted.

"Being able to have that thought process is huge. Everybody wants what they want, but you have to look at both sides of the coin, even if it's different than what I believe personally."

Harper admits he rarely rests. In addition to work and the council, he spends time either with his family or volunteering as a coach for local youth basketball and wrestling squads.

"The [new] afterschool program [at Beacon's elementary schools] is going to be huge for our younger [kids], and that was something that was missing for Beacon," he says. Thinking back to his own experiences in an afterschool program at the old Beacon Community Center, Harper believes the upcoming partnership between the city and the Beacon school system, which begins a trial run in September, will fill a critical need.

"I was there in the mid-90s getting help with homework and staying out of trouble," he says. "The next focus needs to be the transition age — sixth to eighth grade. That's where you can start to lose them.

Being able to give [those kids] something to grasp onto would be huge."

Harper speaks often of family, calling his mother his best friend and drawing frequently on values instilled in him as he grew up. While he believes Beacon is relatively safe for children — certainly compared to the block he lived on in the Bronx — an even greater sense of community could be helpful if and when those negative elements creep in.

"My parents had the mentality that it takes a village to raise a child," he says. "If you were a parent on my street and I'm acting up, you were allowed to tell me I was wrong. We could maybe use a little bit more of that, the understanding that no one wants to see the youth fail."

Ward 2 includes much of Beacon's riverfront as well as most of the city's river-to-Main linkage zone, which has been the subject of considerable debate lately. While walking along the river, Harper says he sees both sides of the linkage issue, which revolves around whether dense residential development is appropriate for certain neighborhoods within the zone.

Housing is obviously important, he says, but he doesn't believe the city's growth should proceed without limits.

"I think we have to err on the side of caution as far as the density," he says. "There has to be an understanding of working within parameters yet compromising. Housing is something that we need. It's a positive that Beacon is attracting development, but you don't want it to be out of control, either."

ON THE FLY

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Details: Tues. & Thurs. from Aug. 2nd thru Sept. 9th, 10:45 - 11:45 am. Cost*: \$320.

*Cost includes 2 indoor cycling classes per week to keep you moving forward throughout the week. Also included is an optional introductory session on Thurs., July 28th. For more info: onthefly3021@gmail.com or (646) 580-8241



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Beacon High School Graduates Class of 2016



Caps fly in time-honored tradition.

Pomp and circumstance at Dutchess Stadium

By Michael Turton

Beacon High School's 2016 commencement is now part of the city's history. The morning of Saturday, June 25, was warm, and featured brilliant blue skies as the graduates marched onto the field at Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls in two lines. The 221 seniors were welcomed by a large and enthusiastic crowd of family and friends in the grandstands. They were also greeted by the Beacon High School band as it performed the iconic graduation anthem *Pomp and Circumstance* under the direction of Stephen Pietrowski.

Principal Joannes Sieverding welcomed the graduates and their families and acted as master of ceremonies throughout the morning. Paige Baisley, the salutatorian, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an address by valedictorian Rachel Ng. Abby Antalek also spoke as class president.

Once Interim Superintendent of Schools Ann Marie Quartironi made it official, certifying the graduation of the Class of 2016, each student walked to the podium to receive his or her diploma. Quartironi was assisted by Sieverding and Melissa Thompson, president of the Board of Education.

A Beacon High School diploma was also presented posthumously to Donald Francis DeChent as part of Operation Recognition, a program of the State Department of Education that honors the contributions of veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Just before the band performed *Le Sabre* as the recessional that marked the end of the ceremony, the graduates enjoyed one last moment in the sun as 221 caps were thrown high into the air in celebration.



Photos by M. Turton

Left, Class of 2016 President Abby Antalek; at right, top, Valedictorian Rachel Ng; middle, Salutatorian Paige Baisley; below, the graduates



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Two Beaconites Graduate from Oakwood Friends

Miles Fah and Benjamin Whipple among class of 34



Miles Fah

Photos by Michael Gallo Farrell



Benjamin Whipple

Two residents of Beacon, Miles Fah and Benjamin Whipple, graduated from the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie on June 10 during a ceremony held under a sprawling copper beach tree. Both have been at Oakwood Friends since sixth grade.

They are among a graduating class of 34, each of whom spoke for a few minutes at the ceremony about their experiences at the school.

Oakwood Friends School, founded in 1796, is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day and boarding school serving grades 6 to 12.



Matthew Hard

St. Philip's Nursery Graduates 11

Four-year-old "Ducks" moving to kindergarten

St. Philip's Nursery School in Garrison celebrated its 55th commencement on a sunny morning on June 14. Eleven four-year-old "Ducks" are headed to kindergarten, and 19 two- and three-year-olds will move up in September to the next age group.

John Griffiths, principal of Garrison School, the Rev. Francis Geer, rector of St. Philip's Church, and Laura Mitchell, superintendent of the Garrison Union Free School District, congratulated the graduates in an address to their families.

St. Philip's Nursery School, a program of St. Philip's Church since 1960, holds morning pre-school for two, three- and four-year-olds. In addition to play, the nursery offers music and movement, science and Spanish.



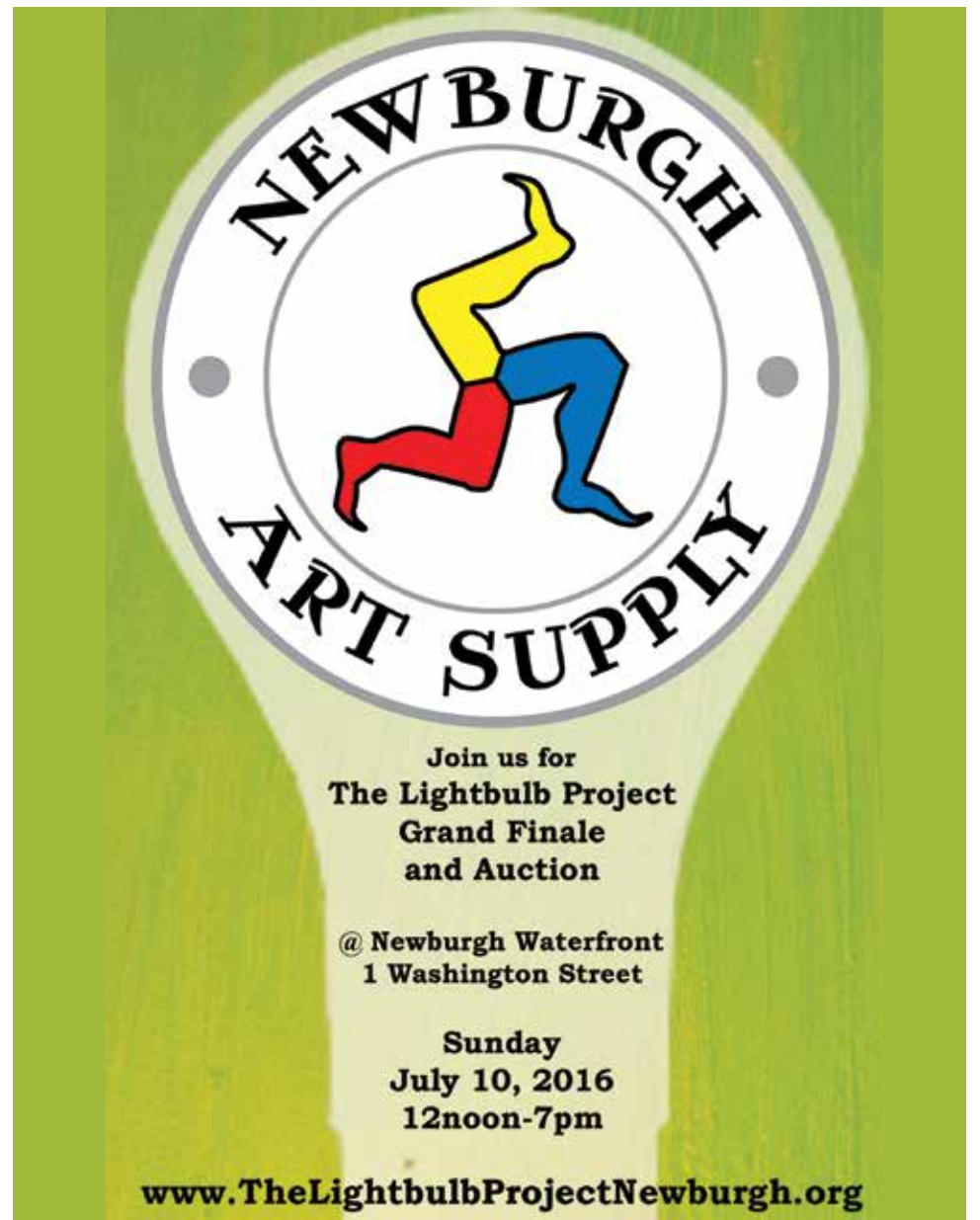
Graduating Ducks: First row: Akari Kawabata, Catalina Hussung, Natalie Taylor. Second row: Everett MacIntyre, Nicholas Gaugler, Teo Bon Tempo, Tyler Powers. Third row: Oliver Reich, Ossian Green, Hudson Schacht, Luca Weiland.

O'Neill Salutatorian: Matthew Hard

Garrison student receives PTA and Fire Company scholarship

Matthew Andrew Hard of Garrison has been named Salutatorian of the James I. O'Neill High School Class of 2016 in Highland Falls. Hard is the 2016 recipient of the Garrison PTA Scholarship, the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Scholarship and the Academic League

award in his junior and senior years. He has been a member of the National Honor Society, Youth in Government, science club and Student to Student. He played soccer for O'Neill since his freshman year, was captain of the junior varsity in tenth grade, a New York State Scholar Athlete in 11th grade and a member of the division champion team this season.



The Calendar

Jayoung Yoon at Theo Ganz Studio

Creating a space which invites people to pause and ponder

by Alison Rooney

Jayoung Yoon's show at Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon is called *Ephemerality*, yet in it and in her work as a whole, she captures ephemeral moments and makes them tangible. Raised in South Korea, Yoon relocated from New York City to Beacon not long ago, wishing to infuse her life with nature, as the natural world is the basis for her work.

Last week, in an artist's talk delivered to a packed room, Yoon focused on the cerebral, the ideas behind her work, rather than its equally intriguing methods of construction: Yoon works with human hair, her own, creating abstract and non-abstract sculptures, paintings, and videos.

Theo Ganz Studio director Eleni Smolen introduced the talk by noting that this was the first show in four years that gallery staff did not install, due to the nature of the work, which is both delicate and commanding in structure; Smolen noted that it took two days for Yoon to install, in what is a small space.

Calling Yoon a "powerhouse of talent — she covers a lot of categories," Smolen mentioned Yoon's most recent academic achievement, receiving an MFA in fiber arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. She also has an MFA in painting from Hongik University in Seoul.

Smolen suggested the audience delve into Yoon's website, which she described as containing "a luminous body of work, magnificently archived." The site does, indeed include documentation of all of the media Yoon works in, and also includes a number of her videos.

Press notes for the exhibit explain that it was at Cranbrook that Yoon first started to use human hair as a medium in her art work; "she spends countless hours hand-knotting strands of her hair, a tactile symbol of the spiritual and physical realms." Yoon creates shape sculptures from the hair, some existing independent of anything else, suspended from above, others more formally representative of real objects: a crown, a skull, a glove.

She then contextualizes some of these objects: the glove surrounds a hand, the skull, resting, then rising from a bed in one of her videos, embodies her thoughts. Sometimes the abstract sculptures actually stand in formally for her thoughts: in one

(Continued on Page 11)

Form and Emptiness #06, 2015. Human hair, glue

Photo by Zac Cam Studio

Story Slam at Butterfield

Community members share tales, and lessons

by Alison Rooney

For the Scheherazades and Garrison Keillors among us, the spinners of yarns, the tellers of tall tales, a pulpit of sorts awaits you: Butterfield Library's new Dragonfly Story Hour, a series of evenings for friends and neighbors to recount without notes a nonfiction story from their own lives, for up to four minutes.

The first of the "story slams" took place a few weeks ago, when four intrepid residents of Philipstown and Beacon spoke to a crowd of about 20. The second will happen on Friday, July 22, at 7 p.m. Butterfield's Luanne Morse, the head of adult services, is hoping to build upon the success of the first, drawing more readers (first-timers will be given priority) and a larger audience. Readers must be at least 18 years old.

Morse has previously organized Writers Reading at the Library, which each year features a nonfiction author, a fiction author, a playwright or two, and poets. She wanted to expand the series and thought storytelling would be a good fit. Modeling the series on National Public Radio's program *The Moth* (hence the similarities in name) and "Story Corps," Morse thought the library should give it a try. As far as she is aware, Butterfield is

the first in the Mid-Hudson Library system to offer storytelling in this format.

"In this information and digital age, it is refreshingly basic to have someone standing in front of you recounting events in their life that often had far reaching implications for the storyteller," Morse says. "Hearing these local voices is a fascinating way to learn how people navigate their way through life's situations. Done this way, storytelling is very powerful and immediate and really puts on display how complex the human experience is.... I find there is an emotional immediacy and an added complexity that is unique to nonfiction storytelling."

Butterfield staff member Anita Peltonen moderated the evening and said that she is pleased the series is continuing because "the feeling of community was extraordinary at the library that night. It seemed like people had a hunger for this kind of opportunity. Some told stories they'd never told before."

In her welcoming remarks, Peltonen noted: "Everybody loves listening to a good story. It's harder, perhaps, to tell one or write one. In fiction, if something is



Gordon Duggan tells how the G.I. Bill saved his life, at Dragonfly Story Hour at Butterfield Library, Cold Spring.

Photo by Anita Peltonen

awkward, you can whiff — you can make stuff up. A true story doesn't have such handy workarounds. That's why we're so happy you've taken on this just-for-fun challenge. P.S. You're among friends."

(Continued on Page 12)

ONGOING

Gallery Shows

highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Art by Robert Digiovanni (Opening)

5 – 8 p.m. Robert McCaffrey Real Estate
140 Main St., Cold Spring
845-249-2751 | mccaffreyrealty.com

Stephen Rose and Irv Suss: *Intuitive Visions* (Opening)

Kiley Ames: *States of Reality* (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Sheilah Rechtschaffer: *Threads* (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Tri-City

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

HVSF: *Measure for Measure*

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

Calling All Poets

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

Satisfaction: Rolling Stones Tribute

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

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Free Admission

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. FDR Library and Museum
4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
845-486-7745 | fdrlibrary.marist.edu
10 a.m. Family Fun Fest

Live Poultry & Farm Animal Market

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St., Putnam Valley | putnamvalleygrange.org

Free Guided History Tour

10 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | scenichudson.org

Cinema for Kids: *Matilda* (1996)

Noon. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh | downingfilmcenter.com
845-561-3686 | Free to children 12 and younger

Isabel Lewis: *Occasions and Other Occurrences*

Noon – 5 p.m. Long Dock Park | 23 Long Dock Road, Beacon | 845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Culinary Crawl Tour

2 p.m. Main and Cross streets, Beacon
845-249-6129 | hudsonvalleyfoodtours.com

Artist-led Tour of *Ecstatic Light*

4 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Katie Levinson (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon | 845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Tri-City

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *As You Like It*

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

Susan Wright / The Whispering Tree / Rick Aparicio / Laminated Menu

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Independence Day Events

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Cannon Firing Program

Noon. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Commemoration

1 – 3 p.m. Stony Point Battlefield
44 Battlefield Road, Stony Point
845-786-2521 | nysparks.com

Picnic

4 – 8:30 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Fireworks

5 – 11:30 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
61 Parker Avenue, Poughkeepsie
845-834-2867 | walkway.org

Celebration

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Commemoration

1 – 3 p.m. Stony Point Battlefield
See details under Saturday.

Celebration & Fireworks

3 – 10 p.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
cityofbeacon.org

Celebration & Fireworks

3 – 10 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring

Parade

4 p.m. Main Street, Cold Spring

MONDAY, JULY 4

Reading of Declaration of Independence

11 a.m. City Hall, Beacon | cityofbeacon.org

Bannerman Island Picnic Bash

Noon. Boat departs Beacon Institute dock
800-979-3370 | zerve.com/bannerman/july4

Commemoration

1 – 3 p.m. Stony Point Battlefield
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day

House, Studio & Landscape Tour

11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

HVSF: *As You Like It*

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

Geoff Vidal-Derrick James Quartet (Jazz)

9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnbeacon.com

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Don't Get Burned on the Fourth

Fireworks illegal, but sparklers okay

Fireworks that fly, such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles and spinners, are illegal in New York, no matter where they were purchased. But state law does allow counties to legalize sparklers, and both Putnam and Dutchess have done so.

Permitted sparklers include fountains (cylindrical and cone), sparklers on wooden sticks (but not metal), smoking devices, snakes, confetti-filled party poppers and paper-wrapped snappers. Sparklers can only be legally sold between June 1 and July 5, and you must be at least 18 years old to use them.



TUESDAY, JULY 5

Desmond-Fish Library

3 p.m. Invasive Species Survey Volunteer Training
6:30 p.m. Build Your Own Website Workshop
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Putnam County Legislature

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse | 44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel | 845-208-7800 | putnamcountynyny.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *Measure for Measure*

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Blood Drive

2 – 8 p.m. St. John/St. Joachim Church
31 Willow Dr., Beacon
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Summer Stories & Snack

3:30 - 5 p.m. South Avenue Elementary
60 South Ave., Beacon | hudsonvalleyseed.org

Garrison School Board

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

HVSF: *Macbeth*

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

Free Movie Night

8 p.m. Visitor's Center
Main St. at Route 9D, Beacon | 845-765-0444
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

The Beach Boys

8 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Adult Summer Reading Program Kick-off

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Senior Trip to Newburgh Waterfront

Community Center, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Vladimir Goes for the Gold! (grades K-6)

2 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Family Movie: *Beethoven*

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

Nature Journals Workshop (grades K-8)

4 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

HVSF: *Measure for Measure*

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

Philipstown Town Board

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

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Ready Readers Story/Craft Program

(ages 3.5 to 6)

11 a.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

HVSF: *Macbeth*

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

Ladysmith Black Mambazo (Clearwater Benefit)

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

Jayoung Yoon at Theo Ganz Studio *(from Page 9)*

video, a cone-like mass, symbolizing her thoughts, rises from the top of her head, much as thoughts enter and exit the brain.

Yoon was shaped by an upbringing which included eclectic influences (Christian, Buddhist and Pungmul, a traditional Korean ritual music, and Salpuri, a shamanistic healing dance her mother used to perform as a therapist and teacher). Traditional Korean embroidery with colorful threads and hand sewing were passed down to her, too; Yoon was taught the craft of repairing clothing and socks and making winter sweaters and scarves. "Threads were part of my aesthetic consciousness," she explains.

"I make sculptures and combine them with video and performance to heighten perceptions of space and time," Yoon stated in her talk, continuing, "When I was young, around fifth grade, I had an experience which made me very discouraged and frustrated. I asked myself 'Why did this happen?' This feeling is so universal. In college, using oil paint, I made images of traumatized female figures. My parents got worried and sent me on a retreat. There I was introduced to forms of spiritual practice, questions and answers ... I found that I had lost the ability to be present. After a couple of years I became interested in a diversity of spiritual practices."

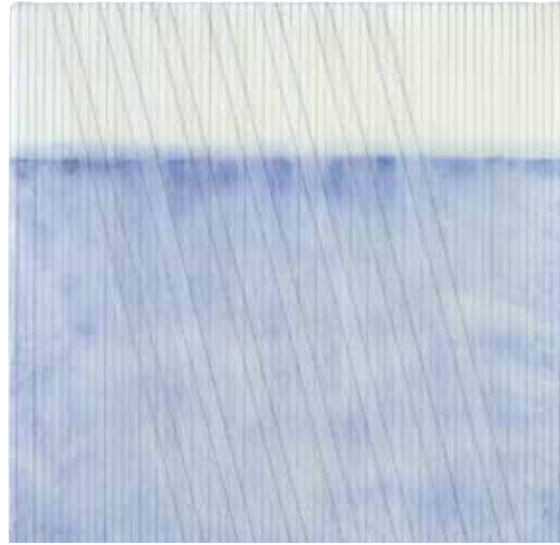
Yoon described her earliest work as "the building of invisible space, transforming negative memories to positive ones."

Shifting to working with human hair combined the physical and spiritual properties of it. "Physically, it lasts after death, and becomes an appropriate symbol of remembrance." Gallery notes provide a further explanation from Yoon on why and how she uses the material she has chosen:

"Human hair, at once tactile and ephemeral, has become my visual nexus for the intersection between the physical and spiritual realms. As a material, hair is intimately corporeal and focuses the viewer's attention on the body. As it grows, hair represents the accumulation of time. Weaving and knotting the hair by hand instead of using machinery creates unique, organic shapes both in the details and in the larger form ... The hair fibers move organically from the airflow created by a viewer's movements and from the environment. Those small movements in space, on an intricate scale, shift the awareness toward subtle perceptions that are often taken for granted."

Geographic shape-shifting

Yoon's attendance at many residencies in recent years has geographically shaped the components of some of her newest works. At one located in Maine, she constructed an outdoor space with a cut-out circular hole. She lay on the floor of the space for nine hours, while video documenting the changing light patterns.



Sensory Threshold #22, by Jayoung Yoon. Human hair, gouache, acrylic medium on canvas panel

Photo by Zac Cam Studio

Yoon then took the footage, and compressed it to three minutes, altering the perception of time, sun and shadow. At another residency, she created egg-shaped pottery vessels, each the size of her own body when curled into a fetal position. She arranged them, in the snow, into a clock-like circle, representing the passage of life. The endurance required to "perform" in the video was "a cleansing experience for the body and mind," Yoon explained.

Yoon herself appears in most if not all of her videos. In them, she is usually seen with her head shaved, without clothing, back to the camera, facing a white or grey emptiness in a meditative state. Calling the videos "ritualistic meditation ceremonies," she says.

"I'm embodying the detachment from gender, culture, thought, and ego." In her talk, Yoon noted "My non-displayed appearance invites you to inhabit my body."

Although raised in a Christian community in Korea, Yoon became interested in Buddhism there, but found the practice dominated by "a long history of complicated festivals and ceremonies. Here [in the U.S.], it's more of a daily practice. Yoon calls herself now influenced by many spiritual practices; she is also "impacted by Butoh performance."

White space for memory

With all of her work, Yoon is interested in "creating a space which invite peoples to slow down and pause. That's why I use a lot of white: snow, salt, white sand, white egg-

shells ... I like to convert space into something intimate and contemplative." Yoon's most recent work has involved "memory boxes." In one, a thorn is wrapped with hair and represents a painful memory. "Memories are altered by our perception, and perception changes our memories."

"Ephemerality" runs through July 10, including Second Saturday, July 9. Theo Ganz Studio is open Friday to Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. (longer on Second Saturday) and by appointment. The gallery is located in Beacon's west end at 149 Main St. For more information visit jayoungart.com and theoganzstudio.com or phone 917-318-2239.




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"Independence Day: Resurgence" (PG13)
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"The BFG" (PG)
 FRI 2:00 4:45 7:30, SAT & SUN 12:15 3:15 6:00, MON & TUE 1:30 4:30 7:30, WED & THU 7:30
"Finding Dory" (PG)
 FRI 2:30 5:15 8:15, SAT & SUN 12:00 3:00 5:45, MON & TUE 1:00 3:45 7:00 WED & THU 7:00



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AMERICAN SOUP
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LARRY MOSES'
LATIN JAZZ EXPRESS
 Saturday, 7/23 8:30pm
MAD SATTA
 Sunday, 7/24 7:30pm
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Story Slam at Butterfield (from Page 9)

Peltonen described telling a story to others as possibly revealing something about yourself you've never revealed, or "maybe reclaiming a part of yourself that had gone missing Without the love of storytelling, humankind may never have



As a young dancer, Beacon's Twinkle Burke shared memories of a dance audition that included a wardrobe malfunction!

Photos by Anita Peltonen

had the desire to invent the written word ... and look, here we are at the library, in a room filled with books."

After drawing names from a hat, the first storyteller up was Aaron Donato — "originally from Brooklyn, now from Cold Spring" — who told a story about the things he dared to do on the day the Mayan calendar was supposed to bring about the end of the world in 2012.

Donato said he had "to conquer some nerves" to tell his story, which was about a road trip to Atlantic Canada. "In the end I had a wonderful time and was happy to meet some very cool people from the community," he said. "As I am new to the area, the storytelling hour was a nice icebreaker for Cold Spring and a fun opportunity to make some new friends."

Following Donato was Mike Turton, a reporter for *The Current* who has been known to regale listeners with a good story or three. Turton sees as an antidote to how information is shared nowadays.

"People don't spend time face-to-face, or even on the phone anymore," he said. "Even writing is less human because there is less interaction. This is a sharing of what's going on or has gone on in someone's life. And you can intuit so much by hearing someone's voice and seeing their face as they speak, especially one-on-one in a very small setting; there's a real connection between the audience and the person telling the story. For the storyteller, because you can't use notes, it becomes more candid and very



Holding off older bullies that invaded the town pool was the theme of Mike Turton's childhood remembrance at Dragonfly Hour at Butterfield Library. It ended happily when a mysterious stranger interceded on behalf of the struggling younger kids.

real because there's no chance to edit — it's editing on the fly."

Turton pointed out that Jonathan Kruk, a professional storyteller who lives in Cold Spring, was in the audience, and that Kruk, despite his long experience, once said he found it very hard to tell a personal story, rather than using the voice of one of his characters. Turton thinks Dragonfly is perfect for this area. "Every community has stories — this one has tons."

Cold Spring's Gordon Duggan has had a lot of practice listening to people talk about themselves — he's a therapist. He thought being on the other side of the couch, so to speak, would come naturally, "I'm Irish, I love telling stories," he says. What happened to him as he spoke of his difficulties getting into college, was unexpected: "I love listening to *The Moth* and as soon as I heard about this I loved the idea. But when I started telling my story, the emotions became overwhelming, my legs were shaking. What I told was very different from what I had planned. After I sat down my back went into a spasm. My personal experience was mind-blowing in actually doing it;

there's a connection which takes place with the audience."

Despite the unexpected, Duggan's up for more: "It was a whole different ballgame from what I expected. Nobody could be more of a wreck than I was, and yet here I am, ready to go again!"

Twinkle Burke of Beacon closed out the evening, describing the competitive challenges of being a young dancer, replete with reference to a major wardrobe malfunction that occurred in her dancing youth.

Afterward, audience members were invited to ask questions or make comments. According to Peltonen, "there were tears and laughter along with snacks and wine. People asked for another, and now thanks to Luanne Morse and library director, Gillian Thorpe, we're going to do it again July 22. We hope people come both to tell and to listen."

If you have a story that takes four minutes or less to share, Butterfield is looking for eight participants for July 22. Send an email expressing your interest to Morse at jblhappenings@gmail.com with "Dragonfly Story Hour in the subject line.

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Having Some Fun with Retirement Living

Ned and Nancy Engel dip satiric pens in forgiving ink

by Alison Rooney

The idea sounded so appealing to the retired psychologist and professor and his wife, an editor and journalist: a retirement community created and run by academics, located in a canyon in the beautiful Southwest. They visited briefly, liked what they saw and decided on a big move. So they shifted from their snowy Hudson Valley home of many years, excited to partake of a laid-back life with like-minded seniors, all drawn to what was billed as “an exclusive enclave for retired educators, connected with a university and offering amenities such as concerts and access to the university library, rather than the more commonly-associated retirement community fixtures like golf.”

Then — wham! — they got there. What they hadn't considered beforehand is the subject of *Einstein Meadows: The Unspoken Perils & Thrills of Living in a Retirement Community*.

“When all the educators relocated ... they brought all of their old baggage full of intrigue, power grabs, endless backstabbing, insecurity and one-upmanship so prevalent in their prior work setting.” On top of that, one year after they moved in, the economy sank, and, in addition to

devalued property, the amenities began to be cut. That's when these “idealistic newcomers” started to shake things up.

All of this, and what transpired over the four years following “kind of happened” to Cold Spring's Ned and Nancy Engel. They decided to turn it into a book. Begun as a cautionary tale, it shifted from there into something entirely different, a rollicking, playful “any resemblance to real life is highly intentional” story. Replete with the tag line “Faced with a major loss of services, daring seniors throw caution to the wind and embrace ganjapreneurship,” the book, *Einstein Meadows*, contains not only plot developments swirling around the sales of medical marijuana but a secret underground cavern and whispered asides from a certain Dr. Freud.

There's also a Yiddish dictionary in the back pages, for easier reading.

Written to entertain

“In life one should learn from one's mistakes; we wrote this for fun, to entertain,” Ned says, noting that although the events in the first chapter actually happened, quite a bit of the rest of the book skirts the truth: “We made things happen in our book that we couldn't make happen in real life,” he says.

Ned began writing, then handed it off to Nancy after a few chapters, and they back-and-forth — amicably, according to both — all the way through. Now when they open the book, “most of the time, we can't

tell who wrote what,” they say, almost in unison. The authors (or a pair named Ned and Nancy who seem quite similar) are the protagonists. In the last chapter, residents of the (place name slightly changed) community in “character,” provide commentary and short reviews; copies of the manuscript were provided to all of them prior to publication, and even the disgruntled seem to feel affectionately toward it.

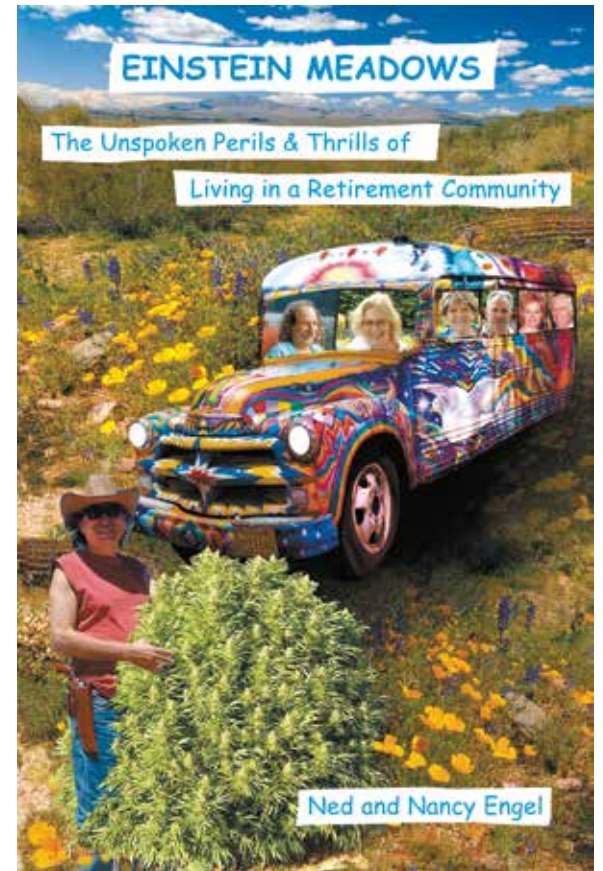
This has been the case ever since the Engels decided to self-publish their book. “We wrote it for the boomer population and maybe even their counter-cultural grandchildren,” Ned says. “We didn't do it to make money, but we're actually coming close to breaking even.” He notes “the amount of good feelings we've received has been overwhelming.” The couple has given two presentations in Florida, where they spend the winters — one attracted more than 80 people.

En route they hit the road with their R.V., a poster for the book in the window, then sold some copies to those whose interest was piqued. They've even bartered a copy of the book for pickles at Cold Spring Farmer's Market.

“This book is giving us so much plea-

sure,” says Nancy. For much of the year their main residence is in Cold Spring, in Philipstown's Lake Valhalla community, where they've lived since 1982, seeking a location somewhere between New York City (where Nancy worked — she was the managing editor of *Popular Photography*)

(Continued on Page 15)



The front cover of *Einstein Meadows*

Image courtesy of Ned and Nancy Engel

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Taste Your Way Through the Hudson Valley

Culinary Crawls begin in Beacon on July 2

by Alison Rooney

Visitors and residents alike are drawn to many of the same Hudson Highlands kind of things: natural beauty, colonial history and agricultural boun-



A refreshing salad sampled on a Culinary Crawl.

Photos by Jennifer Brizzi

ty. With villages and towns in the region showcasing these assets, farms and breweries see the value in welcoming the public to view their operations now that a tourism infrastructure has emerged.

Hudson Valley Food Tours (HVFT), a year-old company based in Rhinebeck, has noticed and already expanded its Culinary Crawls tasting tours into other parts of Dutchess and surrounding counties. In its words: "We think that the best way to discover a town or region, and have the richest possible encounter with it, is to do a behind-the-scenes culinary tour, as you learn about its culture and history and engage with the restaurateurs, artisans and farmers who are eager to share what they do and why." These tours, which sometimes tie together food taste with art gallery visits, are now being offered in Beacon, Hudson and Poughkeepsie as well.

HVFT founder Jennifer Brizzi, a food writer and cooking teacher — Poughkeepsie-born and a Rhinebeck resident for the past 20 years — sensed a growing interest in culinary tourism, and spent the better part of a year putting together her first program. At first she just focused on Rhinebeck, which operated successfully last year. This entailed going out and getting to know the farmers and restaurateurs she'd be bringing tour groups to.

Usually from two to four hours in length, with nothing more required than an empty stomach and the ability to gently stroll, each tour highlights a mix of restaurants, growers and others connected with the local food movement, all representative of the particular area being visited. There's always tasting involved, and a sizeable portion of local history and lore disseminated, with the aim of giving the food a context in terms of the character of the area.

For instance, the Rhinebeck tour, offered every Sunday through October, and guided by Culinary Institute of America graduate Pete Ramos, an award-winning chef and food service



Two guests enjoying their tastings at a Rhinebeck restaurant

manager, begins in the farmers' market there, where the first hour is spent visiting six or seven booths and hearing from the proprietors, who include a charcuterie provider as well as a blackcurrant juice maker. The tour then meanders through 30 locales: eateries, bakeries, wine shops and candy and chocolate stores. Your tour guide will help you touch down at the best of them, and get to know some of the chefs, owners and staff, who have stories to tell and will entice you with their tastiest treats ... bites of culture, history and Rhinebeck's best flavors, according to HVFT notes.

Other stops include Pure Mountain Olive Oils and Vinegars with specialties in infused oils, local beer, cider sampling at Grand Cru Beer and Cheese Market, and local meats house-seasoned and smoked at Smoky Rock BBQ, along with the hand-dipped chocolates at Krause's Chocolates.

Brizzi calls her new Beacon tour, "really fun — it's interesting and full of unusual experiences, particularly seeing people's vision." The tours visit the Dr. Who-themed Pandorica and Zora Dora's paletteria along with several of Kamel Jamal's establishments, a tasting at Artisan Wines, some Ella's Bellas gluten-free goodies and the healthy sodas at More Good. "There's a lot to pack in," Brizzi says, adding mentions of "yarn bombs, murals and of course lots of history and lore."

Multi-media tour of Poughkeepsie

The Poughkeepsie tour, which is a bit longer, at four hours, has a large art component, along with the food. It is a little more strenuous, owing to the hills. A visit is made to multi-media artist Franc Palaia's studio (he works as a painter, photogra-

(Continued on 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.

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Taste Your Way Through the Hudson Valley (from Page 14)



A tour group enjoys Italian pastries at Caffè Aurora in Poughkeepsie.

pher, muralist and sculptor, among other things) as well as to such urban art sites as the huge murals relating to the history of journalism in the foyer and stairway areas of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* building, and the upstairs murals at the post office. The tour then continues on to a variety of food establishments along Main Street, replete with tastings. "This tour is designed to show Poughkeepsie's potential and make people aware of how amazing it is," explains Brizzi.

The Hudson tour is more upscale. "We talk about and taste a lot of creative food there — it's become such a destination for city people now, many with money," Brizzi says. A healthy dose of history is included during the amble up and down Warren Street. There is also an occasional five-hour mini-bus tour offered to the Rondout Valley, visiting out-of-the-way farms and breweries and — why not? — a "delicious" pierogi maker, according to Brizzi. It ends at the Rail Trail Café, which Brizzi describes as "a teeny tiny food truck located in the middle of the woods." A Millerton area bus tour visits lots of artists' studios

and includes a big local-foods gourmet lunch. Private, custom-designed tours for individuals, groups and corporate groups are also available.

This year is a tester season for the Hudson, Beacon and Poughkeepsie tours. If all goes well, HVFT hopes to keep expanding, and Cold Spring is on the wish list, along with New Paltz, Saugerties and beyond. "I'm discovering more and more as I go along and it's all really exciting," Brizzi says.

Most tours have a maximum of 12 participants and run rain or shine, except in severe weather. Pre-registration is usually required because the food establishments need to allocate the right amount of provisions in advance (one can always make contact on the day, just in case a last-minute joining up is possible). Each tour description notes the fitness level involved (usually minimal) and the cost. There are discounts available for seniors over 62, military personnel and culinary students. All tastings are included.

Visit hudsonvalleyfoodtours.com for full details, costs, and to make reservations.



Ned and Nancy Engel, in the southwestern setting of their book, *Einstein Meadows*

Having Some Fun with Retirement Living (from Page 13)

and an associate editor at *Fine Gardening*) and Poughkeepsie (where Ned worked as a board-certified psychologist within the school system, and as an adjunct professor at Marist College).

The Engels are at work on a second novel, which they describe as being about epiphanies and adjusting expectations, which includes a talking Chihuahua.

Their next reading and signing is scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. on July 23

at Adair Vineyards, 52 Allhusen Road, New Paltz. Readings will take place at 1 and 3 p.m. and everyone is invited to bring a picnic. Reserve a place at eventbrite.com/e/einstein-meadows-book-signing-tickets-25880563462. Copies of *Einstein Meadows* are available for \$12 at einsteinmeadows.com or at The Country Goose in Cold Spring and Binnacle Books in Beacon.

Grants Now Open to Putnam Nonprofits

Dyson Foundation challenge raises needed funds



Members of the Community Foundation of Putnam County Advisory Board: T. Jefferson Cunningham III, Nancy Rossi Brownell, March S. Gallagher, Nathaniel S. Prentice, Frederick H. Osborn III, Anne Impellizzeri and Dr. Frank E. Lucente. Not pictured are Robert J. Cotter and Kenneth Kearney.

Photo provided

The Community Foundation of Putnam County will receive a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Millbrook, NY-based Dyson Foundation after raising that amount on its own, well ahead of a 2018 deadline. The funds will be used to provide grants to Putnam County nonprofits through a Community Response Grants program administered by its parent organization, the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, which serves Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster counties.

The foundation's goals are to increase philanthropy, raise funds for community needs, establish endowed funds and make grants to nonprofits that improve quality of life in Putnam County. It currently administers nine funds totaling \$246,000, but now has raised that to nearly \$500,000 with its own fundraising and the Dyson grant.

As part of an expansion of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley's activity in Putnam, teachers in the county this year became eligible to apply for grants through the Fund for Excellence in Education and Verizon Foundation STEM Grants. Seven teachers were awarded \$11,000 in first-time grants. Putnam nonprofits Green Chimneys and Hillside Food Outreach have received grants through other competitive programs.

"This is truly a fund by and for the people of Putnam County," said advisory board chair Nat Prentice of Garrison. Vice President Nancy Rossi of Cold Spring stressed that though the challenge has been met, efforts to grow the Putnam County fund are ongoing. "The larger the endowment, the larger the capacity to fulfill our donors' charitable goals by putting more back into Putnam," she said.

Nonprofits can access the Community Response Grant application starting Aug. 1 through the Receive tab at communityfoundationshv.org.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family Arts Fest Set for July 10

Will include puppets, music and art

On Sunday, July 10, the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley will host its first Funtastic Family Arts Festival from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The day will include a puppet show at 2:30 p.m., “One Earth So Green and Round,” with Lydia Adams Davis. Amy Hersh will sing original children’s songs. Music maker Caleb will show how to make finger pianos and other musical instruments. Maaike Hoekstra will present a pottery demonstration.

Tickets are \$20 per family (or pay what you can) at brownpapertickets.com/event/2565248. To register, email info@tompkinscorners.org or call 845-528-7280. Walk-ins are welcome but RSVPs are appreciated so enough art materials can be prepared. Bring your own lunch; snacks and drinks will be available.

The cultural center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road.



Lydia Adams Davis

Photo provided

Sunday Music Starts July 10

Series opens with Caravan of Thieves

The Summer Sunset Music Series, sponsored by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, kicks off on Sunday, July 10, at the gazebo at the foot of Main



Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni from Caravan of Thieves

Photo provided

with Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni from Caravan of Thieves performing gypsy, swing and folk. Each performance begins at 6 p.m.

- July 17: Scott Wolfson & Other Heroes (indie folk, rock, pop)
- July 24: Jessica Lynn (country)
- July 31: The Big Takeover (reggae, ska)
- Aug. 7: KJ Denhart Group (folk, soul)
- Aug. 14: Spuyten Duyvil (Americana, folk, bluegrass)
- Aug. 21: Murali Coryell (blues)
- Aug. 28: Acoustic Open Mic (all styles)

Star Wars Yoga

Author to share secrets of The Force

Cary Bayer, a life coach and author of *The Yoga of Entertainment: Higher Consciousness in Pop Culture and Higher Self Meditations*, will present a workshop at SkyBaby Yoga in Cold Spring at noon on Saturday, July 9 called “Star Wars Yoga, The Force & You.”

Bayer will share techniques to align your consciousness with The Force that was introduced to mass culture in George Lucas’s *Star Wars*. A former trainer of

teachers of Transcendental Meditation, Bayer will discuss how to meditate effortlessly. He will also discuss some of the abilities taught to Luke Skywalker by Yoda that were outlined in the ancient Yoga Sutras of Patanjali.

SkyBaby is located at 75 Main St. For more information, call 845-265-4444 or visit skybabyyoga.com. The cost of the class is \$25 if paid by July 6, otherwise \$35.



Cary Bayer

Photo provided

Garri*Con Returns to Desmond-Fish

Comics fest scheduled for July 9

The Desmond-Fish Library will hold its second annual celebration of summer and comics, Garri*Con, from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 9. The event this year will showcase an exhibit of comic art organized by the Garrison Art Center, featuring works by young artists. There will also be crafts, face-painting and creative writing and illustrating.

In addition, comic book editor and illustrator Chris Duffy will interview Deb Lucke, creator of the graphic novel *Lunch*

Witch, artist and illustrator Regina Gelfer will hold a workshop on how to turn yourself into a cartoon character, and author and illustrator Summer Pierre will organize a collaborative comic. Arts therapist Drena Fagen will present a pop-up coloring bar and Groombridge Games will offer lessons in Magic: The Gathering. The all-kid band Solar Sound is also scheduled to perform.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison.

County to Hold Rabies Vaccination Clinic for Pets

Also warns about risk of exposure from bats

The Putnam County Department of Health will hold a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 9, at Hubbard Lodge in Cold Spring. The clinic is open to all Putnam County residents who can provide proof of residency and written proof of a prior rabies vaccination. (Tags are not acceptable.) If you do not have written proof, the pet will receive a one-year vaccine.

All dogs must be leashed and well-controlled, and cats and ferrets must be in a carrier. For more information, call the health department at 845-808-1390, ext. 43127. Hubbard Lodge is located at 2880 Route 9.

Health officials notes that while a rabies vaccination is important to protect pets, the primary reason for rabies treatments in Putnam County remains bat exposures. In warmer weather, bats return to the area and are more active and likely to get into homes. If you find a bat in your house, capture it. If needed, the department will arrange to test the bat for rabies, since this is the only way to avoid a two-week series of shots. For more information, visit putnamcountyny.com/health/communicable.

The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis

Historians to share details of 1945 attack

As part of its ongoing Our American History series, the Putnam Valley Historical Society will host a presentation at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 9, on the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in July 1945 after it was hit by two Japanese torpedoes. The ship was returning from delivering to a U.S. base the enriched uranium and other components for the atomic bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima.

Michael Bennett and John Fiorella, who have both done extensive research on the subject, will share details of the attack in the Philippine Sea and the harrowing five days that followed, during which 900 surviving crew members waited in the Pacific for rescue, battling thirst, hunger, exposure and sharks.

The free program will take place at the Putnam Valley Grange (To next page)

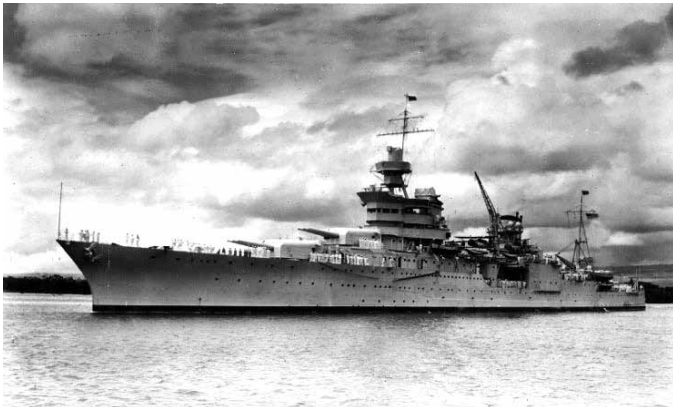
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The USS Indianapolis

(From previous page) Hall at 128 Mill St., Putnam Valley. A Hollywood film about the sinking, *USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage*, starring Nicolas Cage, is scheduled for release this year.

Registration Open for Dragon Boat Race

Team deadline for annual benefit is July 15

Teams that plan to participate in the annual Dragon Boat Race and Festival in Poughkeepsie later this month must register by Friday, July 15. The festival, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 23, rain or shine, features live music, events, food, arts and artisans in the area surrounding the Hudson River Rowing Association Community Boathouse.

Registration is available online at dutchessdragonboat.org. Vendors and sponsors also may register at the site. The race and festival are sponsored by Dutchess Tourism, with proceeds benefitting the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation and Arts Mid-Hudson.



Teams competing in the 2015 Dragon Boat Race on the Hudson River

Photo provided



Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Photo provided

Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Peekskill

Concert at Paramount to benefit Clearwater

In 2014, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the South African a cappella group made famous from its work on

Paul Simon's *Graceland*, was awarded its fourth Grammy for the album *Singing for Peace Around The World*. The group has recorded with Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Josh Groban, Natalie Merchant, Sarah McLachlan and many world music and African performers.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, July 8, the group will perform a benefit at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill to aid the Clearwater "Float the Boat 2016" campaign. Tickets are \$37.50 and \$47.50. Visit paramounthudsonvalley.com or call the box office at 914-739-0039. The theater is located at 1008 Brown St.

Scenic Hudson Announces Foundry Tours

Five scheduled over summer months

Scenic Hudson will offer free guided tours of West Point Foundry Preserve in July, August and September, as well as two evening lantern tours. The first 90-minute tour is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 2, and the first lantern tour



Gwen Laster working with students in Beacon

Photo provided

for 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19.

The foundry manufactured cannons known as Parrott guns that are generally credited with helping the North win the Civil War. It also made some of the nation's first steam engines and pipes for New York City's water system. The site includes life-size photographs that depict the interiors of several foundry buildings.

Other daytime tours will be held Aug. 6 and Sept. 3. The second lantern tour is on Aug. 18. Each tour is limited to 25 people; reservations can be made at scenichudson.org/events. A mobile, self-guided tour is available at foundrytour.org.

Beacon

Music Circle and Heuer Receive Arts Awards

Among winners of annual Dutchess County honor

The Howland Chamber Music Circle and Beacon photographer Meredith Heuer were among the recipients of the 30th Annual Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards presented by Arts Mid-Hudson. All the winners will receive their awards on October 6 at a reception at Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls.

The awards were founded in 1986 by then-Dutchess County Executive Lucille Pattison to recognize individuals and institutions that contribute to the area's artistic quality.

The Howland Chamber Music Circle, based at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, won the Arts Organization Award, while Heuer, who recently received a state grant for her Beacon Portrait Project, was recognized with the Arts in Education Award.

Youth Orchestra Begins July 9

Gwen Laster directing group for grades 2 and up

The Creative Strings Improvising Orchestra for Youth will hold its summer session beginning Saturday, July 9,

and continuing weekly through August 13 at the Center for Creative Education, 464 Main St., Beacon. Violinist Gwen Laster, the founder and artistic director of the orchestra, welcomes all levels of violinists, violists, cellists and bassists. Classes meet at 2 p.m. for beginners in grades 2 to 5 and at 3 p.m. for intermediate players in grades 6 and higher.

The program, which costs \$315, is designed to empower young musicians through traditional and contemporary music and engage them in orchestral playing as

(Continued on next page)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

Youth Orchestra Begins July 9

(from previous page)

models for academic and life skills, social organization and community building. For more information, email Laster at gwenlaster@gmail.com or call 718-930-3522.

Summer Reading for Adults

Howland Library kicks off annual program

The Howland Public Library's ninth annual Adult Summer Reading Program kicks off on Thursday, July 7. Stop by the library anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to get details about the four-week program, "Exercise Your Mind," which offers the chance to a win gift certificates for reading books of your choosing and completing short review forms. The more books you read, the greater your chances of winning.

The library has planned a number of events during the program, including workshops on painting on paper and wood parasols (July 9 at noon), making a coiled paper bowl out of magazine paper (July 12 at 6 p.m.), Stampin' Up card-making (July 18 at 2 p.m.), and kite making (July 27 at 1 p.m.). The summer also will include magic performed by Bob Conrad (July 13 at 1 p.m.), a group coloring of a super-sized mural (Aug. 1), and a finale party (Aug. 3 at 1 p.m.). A number of these

events require registration; visit beaconlibrary.org.

Matteawan to Feature Works by Susan English

Opening reception scheduled for July 9

The Matteawan Gallery in Beacon will host a reception to open an exhibit of paintings and works on paper by Cold Spring artist Susan English from 6 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, July 9. The exhibition runs

through August 21. English's work has been previously included in Matteawan Gallery exhibitions *Elemental* in 2014 and *The UV Portfolio* in 2013.

The exhibition's title, *Pourous Light*, refers both to the process of creating English's paintings and to the idea of putting oneself in the path of light. Her paintings have an unusually rich surface texture and color, which is created by pouring layers of tinted polymer on panels.

The poured polymer mimics nature: a layer of paint hardens like ice or mud, its thickness and viscosity impacting how the surface dries. Within the surface are small inconsistencies; paint collects and coagulates and cracks are formed.

These marks are the result of the process of pouring and letting layers of paint dry, and English embraces the delicate relationship between control and accident.

The Matteawan Gallery is located at 436 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, visit matteawan.com.



Near and Far, by Susan English

Photo provided

Show by Former Beaconite Opens at The Lofts

Alvarez-Ossa lived for 35 years in Paris

The artist Juan Manuel Alvarez-Ossa, a Beacon High School graduate, returns home this month to present works on canvas and paper at The Lofts at Beacon gallery. An opening reception for *Of American Perceptions: Studies* is scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 9 at The Lofts.

Born in Colombia, Alvarez-Ossa emigrated with his parents and siblings to Beacon in the early 1970s. He hoped to become a diplomat. But during this third year at Marist College, he visited Paris and realized he preferred literature and art and finished his degree at the American University there. In 2014, after 35 years living in Paris, he moved to Switzerland.

The show features works created a decade ago to the present. "Ten years ago, I changed dramatically from a baroque post neo-manieriste style to a simpler style of expression," he explained. The exhibit runs through Aug. 28. For more information, visit loftsatbeacon.com. The Lofts at Beacon gallery is located at 18 Front St.



Juan Manuel Alvarez-Ossa

Photo provided

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Sports

Comeback Falls Short

All-Star team nearly steals one from Hyde Park

By Mike Meeropol

The Philipstown 10-and-under and 12-and-under All-Star teams played two games this past week.

After losing its first game, the 10U team

put on a gutsy performance in a rain-plagued contest on Monday, June 27. After being down 3-0 it fought back to 4-3. Then, as the rain poured, their opponent, Hyde Park, brought home another three runs to go up 7-3.

However, stellar defense by Jeremy Hall at first and a 3-for-4 night at the plate by Hunter Erickson brought Philipstown

back. In the final inning the team scored three runs with two outs to get within one point of its rival. The bases were loaded when the Hyde Park shortstop smothered a hard grounder and threw to first just in time to salvage a 7-6 win.

The 12U team had a 2-0 lead for three innings in its first game before an eight-run fourth by Pawling put the game out

of reach. Philipstown scored two more on a home run by Darrin Santos in their last at bat but it wasn't enough, and they fell, 8-4. On Tuesday, June 28, they ran into a Fishkill pitcher who shut them out.

Each team has two games remaining, playing next on Friday, July 1, and Saturday, July 2.



Ryan Merritt at bat

Photos by Linda Bolte



Kevin Van Tassel pitching



Blake Bolte at third base



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The Towne Crier, Beacon File photo by Mickey Deneher courtesy of Towne Crier

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Marbled Meats, 3091 Route 9
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(Philipstown Square)
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(Philipstown Square)
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