Haldane’s Strategic Plan Takes Teaching and Learning in a New Direction

An interview with Superintendent Diana Bowers

By Pamela Doan

This June the Haldane Central School District Board of Education adopted a new five-year strategic plan that was the culmination of a yearend effort launched when Diana Bowers took her post as the new district superintendent. More than 50 parents, teachers, staff and community members participated in five subcommittees to explore four essential questions covering all aspects of student life, from the buildings, to the activities and readiness for life after high school, whatever path students chose.

Ten goals were distilled from the subcommittee’s work with the help of a facilitator. These goals will guide the district’s future choices and planning. The Paper talked with Bowers about the plan. The full document is available on the school’s website.

The Paper: What happens next now that the goals are finalized?

Bowers: When we come back in September, we’re asking the faculty and staff to focus their attention on it and launch our next process, the plan itself. We’ll be looking at the implementation and the level of efficacy that our teachers feel that they have to be able to implement it. We have a couple of new technology positions so that we have the staffing to support it as well.

The Paper: Can you share some examples of what will be implemented?

Bowers: A lot of the groundwork was laid last year in the training that our teachers had with project-based learning (PBL) and the Maker Space. We’re joining the New Tech Network, which is like-minded schools around the nation who have expertise in PBL, and they will share what it takes to bring the district to a higher level of implementation. That’s all happening.

Now we have the staffing, the training, the space and the beginning of an understanding of where to go to release the locus of responsibility to kids so that they know they have responsibility for their own education. We’re serving as the coaches and the people who introduce. We’re moving kids from passive learners to active learners.

The Paper: Can you describe what a passive learner is and the approach that’s changing?

Bowers: A passive learner comes in, sits down, they take notes. They’re just absorbing. The active participator.

Groundbreaking Day at Butterfield Site

Multiuse development to include post office

By Michael Turton

Groundbreaking ceremonies aren’t known for keeping participants on the edge of their seats, but the one held on Wednesday morning (July 8) to kick off the redevelopment of the former Julia L. Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring had more drama than most. Part of the excitement came during developer Paul Guillaro’s opening comments when he announced that the project will include a home for Butterfield’s groundbreaking ceremonies included Roger Ailes, left, Elizabeth Ailes, state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, state Sen. Sue Serino, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith and developer Paul Guillaro.

Justice Courts: Closest to the People

Cases range from traffic violations to landlord-tenant disputes

By Michael Turton

In a sense, local justice courts are the “entry level” of the New York State judicial system. There are about 2,200 such courts across the state, and collectively they handle close to 2 million cases a year. Separate courts are convened regularly in the Town of Philipstown, the Village of Cold Spring and the Village of Nelsonville. While they don’t handle felonies, crimes that include such serious offenses as murder or manslaughter, they sometimes conduct arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters before those cases go on to a higher court.

Civil litigation up to $3,000

Justice Courts do however deal with misdemeanors and violations and a range of offenses serious enough to land a person in jail for up to a year while also facing substantial fines. They also handle traffic violations, civil litigation up to $3,000, landlord-tenant disputes, family offenses — including issuing orders of protection, and
Keep Calm and Add Coconut

By Mary Ann Ebner

Occasionally we all have an unpleasant experience with a meal. Not full-on food poisoning, serious and often triggered by eating contaminated items, but mild cases of digestive distress and just enough of a nuisance to carve out a place in our memories for a painful recall each time the substance presents itself.

For a time, my family avoid coconut in any of its forms. The continuing ingredient aversion was all linked to a childhood fascination with a big brown coconut. During a visit to Florida to see their grandparents and numerous other extended family members, our sons managed to find a backyard coconut that they claimed with curiosity. It looked harmless enough but we had no idea when the filled fruit may have fallen from its palm tree. It wasn’t stamped with an expiration date but didn’t seem to have an odor, so we let the kids hang on to it. Soon enough, after tossing it around for the day, they wanted to crack it open for a tropical summer cocktail. With help from Poppy, their grandfather, who gave it two good whacks with his ax, the coconut cracked open and the boys were the first with their hands in the air to try the white flesh and the sweet clear liquid found inside. A couple of aunts and uncles joined them in the sampling, making the experience a true family affair. Later that evening, those who fell for the fruit of the coconut palm (Cocos nucifera) weren’t feeling too well, some necessitating emergency stops on the Florida Turnpike. Thankfully, the reaction was mild, but we took a break, even if unintentional, from coconut. No cream pies, no coconut-coated shrimp, not even a creamy tropical summer cocktail.

But that’s all changed and coconut is back on the menu, though we’re no longer collecting random coconuts that are just lying around going rancid. In the form of liquid to sweetened shreds, coconut. And consider shredding chunks of the fresh mature flesh or extracting liquid by grating small pieces of the fruit. The process of cutting the white flesh and sweetening it with a little warm water doesn’t take too much time, but you’ll also need to strain the liquid to remove any remaining pieces of fiber from the pressed coconut. Canned unsweetened coconut milk works well and minimizes prep time to create this delicate dish that can be served any time of day. If home cooks can make time to whack or drill a coconut, it’s probably wisest not to select those that may be found under a palm tree in someone’s backyard.

Coconut citrus flan

Serves 8

1 ¼ cups freshly squeezed orange juice
1 ½ cups sugar
¾ cup unsweetened coconut milk
1 ¾ cups whole milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
pinch of salt

1 teaspoon orange zest

3 medium eggs

3 medium egg yolks

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3. Heat coconut milk, milk and salt. Bring to a boil and remove from heat and dry completely before coating dish with syrup. Remove sauce from heat and pour syrup into dish, covering bottom completely. Set aside.

4. Sprinkle shredded coconut and orange zest over caramel sauce layer.

5. In mixing bowl (electric mixer for best results), beat remaining sugar, egg yolks, eggs and vanilla. Stir milk mixture gradually into egg mixture.

6. Purée over coconut layer in pie dish. Set pie dish in shallow pan filled with water to cover bottom half of pie dish.

7. Bake on center rack in oven approximately 50 minutes until flan is set. Remove pan from oven and carefully lift pie dish from water.

8. Run a thin knife around the edge of the dish to loosen the flan while still warm. After flan cools for at least 1 hour, invert onto a larger platter or rimmed plate to keep sauce contained. Serve at room temperature, chill for 2 hours or refrigerate overnight and serve next day.

Shredded coconut layer

Coconut citrus flan

Photos by M.A. Ebner

Serves 8

Coconut Citrus Flan

Shredded coconut layer

Coconut citrus flan

Photos by M.A. Ebner

Shredded coconut layer

Shredded coconut layer
Putnam County IDA Approves Butterfield Tax Abatements

Five-year deal involves two commercial buildings
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (PCIDA) Tuesday (July 7) unanimously approved an agreement lifting mortgage-record- ing taxes and sales taxes for five years for two buildings in the Butterfield redevelopment.

PCIDA Chairman Richard Ruchala estimated that the tax break would cost the Village of Cold Spring $87,500 and the Town of Phillipstown $15,000 in mortgage-recording tax income. The village and town get no sales tax revenue, because Putnam County does not return any to municipalities.

The action occurred in Carmel at a meet- ing that replaced one scheduled for June 23, postponed after local protests that a vote on that date would allow little time for submitting written comments follow- ing a June 22 public hearing on the matter. The IDA then rescheduled the vote for July 7.

When completed, the Butterfield re- development, undertaken by Paul Guillaro of Butterfield Realty LLC, the property’s owner, will consist of 90 buildings (in- cluding the existing Lahey medical offices and a range of buildings 4-5, plus a park, at the southern end of Cold Spring). The structures include three sin- gle-family homes and condominiums for middle-aged and older residents.

A symbolic “shoveling” of dirt occurred at the site Wednesday morning (July 8). The IDA defined an agreement with But- terfield Realty as a way to keep the firm from decamping to a tax-friendlier locale.

Groundbreaking Day at Butterfield (from page 1)

The deal reflects Butterfield’s interest in “financial assistance, primarily in the form of exemptions from sales and use taxes and mortgage-recording taxes” for two commercial office-retail buildings, one with 15,000 square feet and the other with 36,000 square feet, according to the seven-page resolution the PCIDA adopted Tuesday. Not available during the meet- ing, but provided to The Paper afterward, the resolution stated that aiding Butter- field Realty was “necessary in order to permit the company to preserve its com- petitve position in the industry and to maintain the jobs associated therewith by replacing obsolete and inefficient fa- cilities” — presumably, the derelict hospi- tal building, slated for demolition, “and in order for the project to be economically viable and to preclude the consideration of alternatives which would include the relocation of the company’s operations to a jurisdiction which would not impose so heavy a tax burden upon the purchases involved in the project.”

Under the tax deal, Butterfield Realty will lease land or one or both of the com- mercial buildings to the PCIDA, which then will sublease the holding back to Butterfield Realty. “The reason for the lease and sublease is [that’s] how the IDA gets its authority to give tax abatements,” Ruchala said Thursday. “By leasing on deed, the agency becomes the agent for the county and therefore can pass on its ability to not pay mortgage-recording tax and sales tax. The sublease allows the agency to pass these abatements to the developer, owner of the property.”

“Tax breaks and local good” Cold Spring officials have been con- cerned about the scope of tax breaks. “As stated at the public hearing” June 22, the village’s primary concern is the possi- bility of abatement of, relief from, or any other action, that would decrease real property taxes and the Fireman’s Service Award expected to be received by the village for the Butterfield proj- ect,” Trustee Marie Early told the PCIDA board Tuesday. She noted that Guillaro has promised not to “grieve” — try to lower — the property taxes and she pro- posed that the final legal documents “include wording that would prohibit Butterfield Realty LLC or PCIDIX from ‘grieving’ taxes or ‘taking any other action’ which would result in decreases in the amount of real property taxes and Fireman’s Service Award monies cur- rently expected to be received by the Vil- lage of Cold Spring.”

Ruchala urged everyone, “The items we have here relate only to sales and mortgage-recording taxes and ‘there’s only two buildings we’re concerned about,’ of the entire complex, he said. Moreover, Guillaro “was ada- mant about no property tax abatement,” Ruchala said Thursday. “There will be no prop- erty tax abatements.”

Furthermore, to successfully claim sales tax relief from construction expen- ses, Butterfield Realty will (To next page)

While Wednesdays’ event marked the beginning of a new era for the 5.7-acre site, the ceremonies also paid homage to local history. Guillaro presented Put- nam History Museum Executive Direc- tor Mindy Kramen with the contents of the cornerstone from the 1941 addition to Butterfield Hospital. The cor- nerstone itself will become part of the new senior citizen center. The developer also pre- sented Elizabeth Ailes with a copy of the Oct. 23, 1941, Put- nam County News that was discovered in the old hospital. Guillaro also highlighted the naming of four internal roads for the site. Julia Lane and Butterfield Road will honor Julia L. Butterfield, whose be- quest aided the construction of the hospital that bore her name from 1925 through 1993. Clark Drive will pay tribute to Dr. Coryell Clark, a physician who practiced in Cold Spring and at Butterfield Hospital for more than 50 years. Betty’s Way will be named in memory of Betty Budney, a beloved citi- zen, community volunteer and longtime member of the Philip- town Town Board who died in March of this year.

Toward the end of his remarks, Guillaro hinted at the rough road that his project ex- perienced as it wound its way through various local boards that dissected, reviewed and criticized it, while at times a vocal minority of residents op- posed it. The developer said that he brought to mind his last project in the village — the de- velopment of riverfront condo- miniums on the site of a long- ruined, eventually demolished old hum- beryard. “So many opinions, but once it was built they embraced it,” he said. “I believe the same thing will happen at Butterfield.”

John Cronin, left, holds a plaque honoring former New York Gov. George Pataki, after whom a one-acre park at Butte- rfield is being named. Developer Paul Guillaro looks on.
Justice Courts: Closest to the People

From page 1

Small claims actions of up to $3,000. The handling of small claims is unique in that cases generally don't include the use of attorneys.

Villages and towns in New York state are required to have two Justice Court judges. The Honorable Alan Steiner and the Honorable Stephen Tomann preside over the Town of Philipstown Justice Court. In Cold Spring and Nelsonville, the Honorable Thomas Costello and the Honorable Dennis Zens are the presiding judges. Tomann and Steiner also serve as acting village justices, assisting the Nelsonville and Cold Spring Justice Court judges respectively, when needed.

Justice Court judges are elected every four years with the vote held in conjunction with federal elections. Steiner, who received his law degree from SUNY Buf- falo in 1972, was initially appointed as a judge by the Philipstown Town Board in 2001, filling a vacancy after the incumbent judge moved on to a higher court. He has been re-elected three times since. Asked why he wanted to serve on the Justice Court bench, Steiner told The Paper: “I buy the line that Justice Court are the closest to the people. If you treat people with dignity and respect they'll have more appreciation and respect for the judi- cial system.” He also feels it takes a cer- tain personality to be an effective judge. “You have to have the right kind of tem- perament — you need restraint, to not go off and lose it with people,” he said. “On the other hand, you have to maintain or- der in your court room.”

A ‘foot for a client’

With the exception of small claims cases, which are set up for self representa- tion, Steiner goes along with the old ad- age that someone who represents himself in court “has a fool for a client” — even in Justice Court. “If you are charged with a crime, a misdemeanor, I think you’re foolish to represent yourself without at least speaking to a lawyer,” he said.

In his 15 years on the bench, Steiner has seen changes in the cases that come before him. On the plus side, he has no- ticed a decline in the number of DWI charges (driving while intoxicated), but said the DWIs he sees now tend to be more serious in nature. “Often it’s re- peat offenders, [having] prior DWIs,” driving while ability impaired, a lesser charge, he said. Steiner said he has also seen an increase in the number of non-working, professional women charged with use of heroin. The seven deaths by drug over- dose in Putnam County in recent years is evidence of a serious increase in the drug problem, he said. “It used to be cocaine. Now it’s more and more likely to be pre- scription drugs or heroin.” Steiner feels that the recent hard economic times have contributed to the problem. “It has had a negative effect on the things people do. They’re looking to deal with emotional stress.” That behavior he said can include theft in order to feed a drug habit.

Law degree not required

Many are surprised to learn that judges are not required to have a law degree. Steiner said that in New York state that is largely to accommodate small, remote communities. He said: “A town or village [there] may have only one law- yer — and they can’t be the judge as well.” Steiner said he was aware of two Court Judges in the past who were not also lawyers. Overall, though, he thinks it makes sense for judges to have a formal legal background in or- der to effectively handle trials and se- rious related legal issues, such as rules governing the suppression of evidence. “You lose the law a lot, it’s a lot of re- sponsibility,” he said.

The three local Justice Court are part of the 9th Judicial District, which includes all such courts in Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties. Recent court reforms included the appointment of a supervising judge for each district. The Honorable Charles Apotheker serves that role in the 9th District. Part of his duties include hearing any complaints filed against judges in the district. Complaints against judges can also be filed with the state-level Judicial Grievance Committee, which has the power to remove a judge from the bench if necessary.

Logical to consolidate?

Statewide, recent discussions regarding the need to streamline local govern- ment have often included the potential for consolidating Justice Courts. Steiner thought that might make sense locally. “I think it’s logical to consider [consolida- tion],” he said. “It should save taxpayers money.” He pointed to Ossining as an example where, although complete con- solidation wasn’t implemented, a certain amount of streamlining took place. “The town and village couldn’t agree on con- solidating courts. But they built a new court which is shared, so they save on the facility at least.” Currently, Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville each have a courtroom located in their respective municipal offices — three separate court- rooms on the same street, within a very short distance of each other.

When asked whether the fact that fellow Philipstown judge Tomann is a Republican posed a political problem, Steiner, a Democrat, said: “I don’t think so. Judges tend to stay; if they do a good job, they get re-elected,” regardless of political stripe. He also pointed out that locally, Democrats have chosen not to run a candidate against Tomann. He does, however, see merit in a modified system of determining judges, one that is used in some other states. Under “the Missouri Plan,” a nonpartisan commis- sion initially appoints judges for a single term; thereafter however, judges must go to the voters to be re-elected.

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have to submit substantial data, Ruchala said. “We actually have to review what they send us to get [a rebate]. It only goes to the two buildings and we have to ver- ify that he has sales-tax charge is not coming from the other buildings.”

He explained that in terms of the mort- gage-recording tax, for every $1 million in property value, $3,000 in tax would go to the town, and half that, or $1,500, to the village. Thus, with a property such as Butterfield, with a mortgage of some $5 million, for Cold Spring the abatement “would actually be a cost of only $7,500” (five times $1,500), he said. “The Town of Philipstown will lose double that, in five times $1,500,” he said. “The Town of Philipstown will lose double that, in five times $1,500), he said. “The Town of Philpstown Justice Court bench, Tomann said. “I’m glad everything went through with dignity and respect they’ll have a bit more appreciation and respect for the judi- cial system.” He also feels it takes a cer- tain personality to be an effective judge. “You have to have the right kind of tem- perament — you need restraint, to not go off and lose it with people,” he said. “On the other hand, you have to maintain or- der in your court room.”

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paint will be given a challenge based on who they are as an individual, and they will approach the challenge in different ways and they will construct meaning as they learn. When they are sharing information as they go along. They can create their own meaning by taking these pieces and then show the level of their understanding and outcome at the end by presenting whatever it is that they are creating. They can rise to the occasion without any problem.

The Paper: Creating versus testing? Presenting versus testing?

Bowers: It's not even testing. There's a theory which says non-constructivist mode of education, and you provide the students the information and the opportunities to construct meaning for themselves, and it's really a different way of learning. Kids love to be part of it.

I was in some of our sixth- and seventh-grade classrooms recently, and I walked into classrooms where you couldn't pull kids away from what they were doing. There was energy, appropriateness of the content, and they were trying things, making decisions on their own, understanding what they needed to do. I think the first thing we do in PBL is we have to activate their schema. Tell them what they already know about something and then they brainstorm what it is they need to learn in order to create meaning. It gives the teacher a template instead of teaching them things they already know; they have a good focal point that they can build from.

The Paper: Was any of this going by before you came to Haldane?

Bowers: No, this was our goal this year.

I'm sure people did projects and they were PBL, but this is a very systematic way to approach it so it's well managed. The template we got this year was how to run a PBL template for any grade.

Kids get so excited when they learn that they're going to have to figure it out on their own, they don't want to thwart their enthusiasm but you want them to stay focused. We established "must knows" and when they can demonstrate them, math, science and then they can go out and start bringing in tangent-type experiences and they learn more than the "must knows."

The Paper: Is this a trend in New York education? Something you have been pushing kids into 21st-century learning and skills, was confused with the implementation of Common Core. For what it is, it's a good document, but we want to give our teachers flexibility. Instead of totally adopting the modules, if they can use the good parts of that and retool it, then they can move what we think the Common Core should be and implement it well. If it's all test driven, then it's going to be problematic. PBL matches the goals of the Common Core, not necessarily the reform agenda, but we think if we're teaching what we need to teach and kids are learning it, it's going to take care of itself. Kids are going to be doing the work.
Burkelman Goes Brick-and-Mortar

First retail outpost of online, handmade home designs business opens in Cold Spring

By Alison Rooney

H ave a home crammed with things — whatever your various weak spots in things might be — which enticed you to make a purchase despite the lack of space to accommodate them? Have some degree of sympathy, then, for Kevin Burke and David Kimelman, whose business, Burkelman, grew out of this susceptibility. The two, who are married, have traveled extensively, and with that travel come things spotted while roaming. Added to that are the treasures found while roaming online, all fueled by the pair’s passion for home design. Handily, they have made these acquisitions the foundation for Burkelman, which, in its latest incarnation, has just opened its first brick-and-mortar store at 101 Main St. in Cold Spring.

With professional backgrounds complementing their interests, Kimelman — a successful photographer and Burke a buyer and merchandiser for leading fashion brands, they decided to essentially curate a collection and offer it online under their combined name of Burkelman. Establishing their brand online first seemed the most prudent step, and shopburkelman.com was launched, conceived of first from their then-apartment in Brooklyn, the carefully chosen objects residing, at that time, in a well-stocked room. Adding and abetting their new venture was Kimelman’s experience working in the famed Soho design store Moss during his college years, along with Burke’s expertise in corporate retailing, designing and setting up displays at literally hundreds of stores, including Henri Bendel, Bergdorf Goodman and Bloomingdale’s; his last position was in consumer engagement for Tommy Hilfiger.

By 2009, along with Burke’s expertise in retail design, which enticed you to make a purchase despite your particular weakness in things might be — it was determined that a website launch, they got the news that their baby was born to be expected. As with the website, which drew attention with the beauty of the squares and touching of the platters, it was determined that twins were being carried. With that, the website was delayed for six weeks, allowing bonding time with their newborn boys, who are now 14 months old.

Putting the retail side of things on hold for a while, the pair eventually returned to the hunt for the right space, visiting potential spots in Tarrytown, Beacon and Katonah before deciding that Cold Spring was where they wanted to be. The proximity to the train station, making it easy for people to come up from the city, was an important factor, as they hope to become a destination store, trading on the popularity of the site. They anticipated a clientele that would be a mixture of locals, tourists and those who journey specifically to see the store and then enjoy the rest of what Cold Spring and Beacon have to offer. “They can go hiking, eat out and not worry about anything because we ship — being an online retailer we’re used to that,” Burke said, adding that any order over $150 ships free to the tristate area.

Taking over what was formerly the warren that was Once Upon A Time Antiques (which has moved to another location on Main), Kimelman and Burke utilized their trained eyes to see how they could renovate the 1,500-square-foot space to create what they wanted. They visited several times before making the decision, and now the large airy room is the antithesis of what it was formerly. Burke’s expertise in design readily apparent in the choices made in display tables, some made out of beautifully gnarled tree stumps, alongside contemporary Danish shelving. As with the website, which benefits from Kimelman’s graphic and photographic expertise, there is an effort to avoid all hodgepodge, instead to set off objects with other carefully chosen objects and maintain a kind of retail design, which then dovetails with the merchandise itself.

Discovering that behind the pegboard walls lay a gorgeous, imperfectly perfect original, they were emphatic that their landlord leave it untouched. They have been told that their store was originally part of the original Palens Drugstore, next door, and that the soda fountain counter ran right along the shared wall area. Holes still visible in the floor are evidently where the stools for the soda counter stood — a detail they love. Mix in the antique hardwood floors, original tin ceilings, structural beams and expansive storefront windows, and the history of the space is evoked, complementing its now-contemporary aesthetic.

Their home still hosts many of their finds: “We have to restrain ourselves and remind each other that we buy these things to sell them,” Kimelman remarked ruefully. Their rotating collection of tables and other furniture is offered for sale, along with linens, tableware, jewelry, lighting fixtures, pillows, textiles, fine art (paintings and other artwork, including cut-out, single-sheet paper work designs of chairs by artist and Burkelman employee Trail Cunningham, are hung on the walls). The artisans come from around the world and include several from the Hudson Valley. Wedding and gift registries account for a lot of the sales volume, with Burke acting as personal registry consultant.

Most of the lines they carry, along with extensive photographs of what is available, can be found on Burkelman’s website, shopburkelman.com. The store is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment. For more information, phone 845-809-4844.
The Calendar

First Ever Beacon Jazz Festival Debuts July 25

‘If you think you don’t like jazz, maybe you haven’t heard the right kind.’

By Alison Rooney

Beacon obviously loves its festivals. There’s the Strawberry Festival, the Pumpkin Festival, the Corn Festival, RiverFest and more, but there hasn’t been a jazz festival until now, when the very first Beacon Jazz Festival comes to the Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park on Saturday, July 25, from noon to 6 p.m.

Along with a lineup of top-flight, New York–based musicians, many with long associations with Beacon and the Hudson Valley, the festival will also spotlight the burgeoning craft distilleries of the area, with offerings from regional brewer-ies, wineries and cideries. Foodies will have their appetites whetted by an array of locally made goods to eat, all prepared by area chefs. Plenty of nonalcoholic liquid refreshments will be available as well. Some of the local Beacon businesses providing virtuals are More Good, Tito Santana, Beacon Bread and the Hop Express, among others.

All attending are urged to bring blankets and sunscreen and are welcomed to bring their own food as well as availing themselves of the vendors. General admission is $34 when purchased up until a week prior to the event and $45 at the gate.

Everyone is encouraged to take the train, due to classic jazz selections all day between acts. Beacon DJ Grady Salter will be spinning seating closer to the stage and some festival swag, until a week prior to the event and $45 at the gate.

Top, guitarist David Torn; middle, saxophonist Tim Berne; and bottom, drummer Ches Smith, will perform as part of the Sun of Goldfinger Trio at the inaugural Beacon Jazz Festival.

Free Summer Sunday Music Series Returns to Cold Spring

Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce hosts concerts for July and Aug.

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will host its popular Summer Sunset Music Series, kick-offing on Sunday, July 12, and running each Sunday through Aug. 23. The series, hosted at the Village of Cold Spring’s riverfront bandstand, is now in its 10th year of bringing entertainment to the village for residents and visitors to enjoy free of charge. Concerts, which range in style from country to blues to Americana, run from 6 to 8 p.m. The series kicks off with some soul and R&B with the Bryan Lammers Band.

Lammers has performed with and provided musical support for many entertainers, beginning his career as guitarist for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees the Flamingos, as well as the Del-Vikings, Lou Christie, the Shirelles and others. Career highlights include a stretch as a touring member of the R&B band Heatwave, whose 1979 Grammy Award–nominated hits include Boogie Nights. He also served as musical director for vocalist Sara Dash, formerly of Labelle, and worked as session musician for such diverse artists as Robbie Nevil, the Cover Girls, DJ Grand Mixer DST and smooth jazz keyboardist Alex Bugnon.

Moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2005, Lammers was a featured performer for many corporate and private functions as well as casino venues on the Strip, such as Caesar’s Palace and the Bellagio. He performed as guitarist for the Platters, Coasters and Marvelettes production show located at the Sahara Resort Hotel. Before leaving Las Vegas, he performed with Rick James’ Original Stone City Band.

Now back in his hometown of New York City, Lammers continues to perform as both a soloist and with multi-musician groups, foremost of which is Soulsystem Orchestras. In addition to performing across the country, Lammers also makes time to provide music therapy programs for nursing homes, adult day care and assisted living facilities in the area, sponsored through such organizations as Hospital Audiences and Lee Perry Gross Music.

The other concerts this season:

• July 19 Tenbrooks Molly (Americana/ country)
• July 28 Brothers of the Road (Allman Brothers covers)
• Aug. 2 Saints of Swing (standards, swing)
• Aug. 9 Burr Johnson Band (funk)
• Aug. 16 Melissa Ferrick (folk)
• Aug. 23 Chris O’Leary Band (blues)

The Chamber encourages local residents and visitors to visit local shops and cafes before the concerts and stay for the rest of the evening enjoying the beauty of the Hudson River.

For information about the Summer Sunset Music Series, go to explorecoldspringny.com or the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce’s Facebook page.
The Hudson Beach Glass is one of Beacon's contemporary art galleries. Located above the main showroom and exhibition space of Hudson Beach Glass (one of the nation's premier artisan glass galleries), the upstairs gallery presents a continuous series of exhibitions by artists living in and around the Hudson Valley.

Join us on Facebook: Hudson Beach Glass, Follow us on Twitter: hudsonbeachglass

162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508
845-440-0068
Open daily 10am - 6pm, Sunday 11am - 6pm
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

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CATALYST GALLERY
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My Life With The Weather Beings
Paintings by T. Donovan
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gallery hours: wed-sat. 1pm -7pm

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SUNDAY, JULY 12

Kids & Community
Hudson Valley Balloon Festival
6 a.m. Dutchess County Airport
See details under Saturday.
Beacon Free Market
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. 6 Henry St., Beacon
845-202-0094 | beaconfreebgal.com
Kayak Tour
9:30 a.m. Bannerman Castle | 11 a.m. Nature Hudson River Expeditions
See details under Saturday.
Hummingbirds Program
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-634-6506 | hrtwomenature.com
Dog Wash Day of Summer
11 a.m. - 9 a.m. Putnam County Humane Society
845-265-5000 | puthumane.org
Beacon Farmers Market
11 a.m. - 9 a.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org
Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island
12:30 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370 | bannermanisland.org
15th Annual Croton Arabetum Garden Tour
12:30 - 5 p.m. St. Augustine’s
6 Old Post Road North, Croton
914-487-3930
Children and Families: Luke Stettiner Tour
1 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-632-1651 | stormking.org
River of Words Poetry Trail
4 - 6 p.m. Constitution Marsh Sanctuary
Warren Landing Road, Garrison
914-202-0094 | bannermanisland.org
SuNday, July 12
914-631-3390, ext. 100  tarrytownmusichall.org
Chris Robinson Brotherhood
7 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St. Tarrytown
914-631-3300, ext. 100 tarrytownmusichall.org
(TD page 10)
Mon, July 13

**Kids & Community**

**Time Travelers Workshop (ages 7-9)**
8:30 a.m. Noron, Boscobel
1604 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3618, ext. 140 | boscobel.org

Open Garden
9 - 10 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
hudsonvalleyspeed.org

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

**Health & Fitness**

**Yoga With a View**
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**Sports**

**H.V. Renegades vs. Batavia**
11:05 a.m. Dutchess County Stadium
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**Film & Theater**

**aery Theatre 20/20 Play Festival**
Submission Deadline
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
Philipstown Depot Theatre
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Tu, July 14

**Kids & Community**

**Time Travelers Workshop (ages 7-9)**
8:30 a.m. - Noon. Boscobel
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**
7:30 p.m. Tivoli Branch Library
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Film & Theater**

**The Puppets**
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**The Puppets**
11 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Howland Public Library**
10 a.m. Knitting Club
3 p.m. Family Movie: Big Hero 6
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Howland Public Library**
10 a.m. Knitting Club
Howland Cultural Center
417 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Film & Theater**

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Family Night)**
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Music**

**Old-Timey Southern Fiddle Jam**
7 - 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
417 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Film & Theater**

**A Winter’s Tale**
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Music**

**Dave Mason’s Traffic Jam**
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

**Film & Theater**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

**Kids & Community**

**Time Travelers Workshop (ages 7-9)**
8:30 a.m. - Noon, Noron, Boscobel
See details under Monday.

**Weed Not Read Story Time (ages 3-7)**
9 - 10 a.m. South Avenue School
9:30 a.m. | South Dock, West Point
845-265-2501 | constiuionisland.org

**Guided Tour of Constitution Island**
9:30 a.m. South Dock, West Point
845-265-2501 | constitutionisland.org

**Dessert-Fish Library**
10:15 a.m. | Music & Motion for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. | Preschool Story Hour
3:00 p.m. | Logo Club | See details under Monday.

**Howland Public Library**
10:30 a.m. | Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
3:30 - 5 p.m. | Children Read to Dogs
See details under Tuesday.

**Pokemon Trading Card Hour**
3:30 - 5 p.m. | Kitami at Canby’s
See details under Tuesday.

**Kids & Community**

**Time Travelers Workshop (ages 7-9)**
8:30 a.m. - Noon, Noron, Boscobel
See details under Monday.

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Library Board Meeting**
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**THIRD THURSDAYS AT CEIE**

**The Extended Brain: How Doing Makes Us Smarter**

**Dr. Stephen Uzzo of New York Hall of Science—a Beacon Institute for 26 partner—explores learning through hands-on science, the maker movement, virtual games and “high-tech” play.**

**Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m.**
Center for Environmental Innovation & Education (CEIE)
199 Dennings Avenue
Beacon, NY

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

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10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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845-265-3329 | philipstown.com
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A pre-k through grade 12 curriculum
Schedule a tour and ask about our transportation option.
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www.poughkeepsieday.org

Health & Fitness
Free Level 2 Yoga Class
9:30 a.m. Living Yoga Studios
See details under July 10.
Paddle Yoga
Noon, Foundry Dock Park, Cold Spring
845-265-4444 | skykayboga.com

Film & Theater
A Winter’s Tale
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under July 10.
Spiritualist James Van Praagh
8 p.m., Paramount Hudson Valley
10388 Brown St, Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Music
Annie Bacon: Folk Opera and Songs
8 p.m., Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | digwoodcc.com
Neil Young / Puss N Boots With Norah Jones
8 p.m., Bethel Woods | Details under Saturday

Film & Theater
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Tuesday

Comedy Night
8 p.m. The Hudson Room | 235 Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

Music
Jeremy Baumbum Trio
6 - 8 p.m, South Avenue Park, Beacon
beercentenfesto.org

Vinnie Ferrone
6:30 - 9:30 p.m, The Garrison
2015 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Jason Green & the labor of love
9 p.m. Whistling Willie’s | See details under July 10.

Derek Dempsey
9 p.m. Main St., Beacon | See details under July 10.

Live Music
9:30 p.m., 12 Grapes | See details under July 10.

Teri Lamar & New Company
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under July 10

Meetings & Lectures
Breakneck Ridge Info Meeting / Signing
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Beacon Jazz Festival Debuts July 25
(four page 2)

Festival co-producer Ricabono’s love of jazz developed during the 10 years he lived in New York City’s West Village, regularly hitting clubs like Smalls, Fat Cats and the Vanguard. Upon his move to Beacon in 2007 (he’s a Fishkill native), he found little jazz to be heard outside of Marlboro’s the Falcon. “Beacon wasn’t at capacity [in terms of people who would support a festival of this kind] until recently,” he explained. This year finally felt right, and Ricabono approached Jamais, who reacted, “I love it — let’s do it.” Finding a festival gap in July, Ricabono, whose “regular job by day is consultant to hof farms,” and Jamais agreed it needed to thread together more than just music, and that prompted the notion of a tasting event for distilleries. “By mixing it in with jazz, which it goes well with tradition- ally, it becomes a real event — and I’m not sure if this has ever been done before.” Ricabono said. Twelve distill- eries will be in attendance, with unlimited tastings offered. Jamais said there have “been opportu- nities before to do this type of festival, but the timing wasn’t right. This is the best chance to highlight what’s out there in jazz and move forward.” We also wanted to include as many businesses as possible in Beacon. As Saturday is their ‘bread and butter’ day, many were unable to commit this first time, so as we also wanted to give back to Beacon, we suggested that they host the after- parties, for people to trickle into after they leave the festival to places like Quinns’s and others.” Jamais added that there’s been a concerted effort to avoid the usual fried-food festival fare. “It’s about the music, and with that comes food, so we’re going to have things like museli- bakes and pulled pork along with good, homemade hot dogs, sausage and peppers. We’re going for a quality menu, recruiting chefs who know how to cook at a high volume.” The main sponsor is Jamais’s own Tito Santana. The organizers hope to attract a cross section of people of different backgrounds, ages and interests. Although they’ve done a lot of market- ing through jazz-related publications in the city, they hope to convert some others perhaps resistant to the musical form.

“If you think you don’t like jazz, maybe you haven’t heard the right kind. With this performance you will be able to explore and get to sample the breadth of a century,” Keepners said, acknowledg- ing that if one goes “strictly by statistics, jazz is one of the poorest selling” music genres today. “It’s very discouraging, because I feel it’s one of the most exciting times for music in general. At the same time there’s an explosion of jazz degrees in conservato- ries and universities, so there are thousands of kids playing the music pretty well. What is the solution? It’s something classical music has to face, too. ... There are a variety of ways of looking at it. Does it reach and reach a more specialized audience? Yes, but at places like Quinn’s there’s a younger, boisterous crowd which doesn’t leave when people start playing.”

Keepners stated he is “proud that this festival has uncompromising artists — very serious artists that people are going to have a lot of fun hearing.” Tickets and further details are available through the festival website, beaconjazz.com.
Opportunities to Donate Blood This July

Red Cross seeks donations to offset seasonal decline

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to help offset a seasonal decline in donations and prevent a shortage this summer by giving blood. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types AB, O negative, A negative and B negative — are needed to help ensure blood products are available to hospital patients this summer. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types. Plasma helps maintain normal blood pressure and supplies critical proteins for clotting immunity. It is often needed for burn, trauma and cancer patients.

Donation opportunities include:
- **Carmel:** June 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Putnam Hospital, 670 Stoneleigh Ave.
- **Castle Point** (just north of Beacon): July 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Veterans Affairs Hospital.
- **Hudson Valley Healthcare System, Route 5D**
- **Poughkeepsie:** July 24, 1 to 6 p.m., at Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road, and July 30, 1 to 6 p.m., at Arthron Professional Firefighters, 11 Burnett Blvd.

To find blood donation events in other locations or to make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-327). A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 18 years and older also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

**Desmond-Fish Presents First Garri’Con July 18**

**Comics, games, music and workshops scheduled**

The Desmond-Fish library will celebrate summer comics and the first ever Garri’Con, Saturday, July 18, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Comic lovers of all ages can engage in the comic book world with vendors, displays, crafts, face painting, as well as creative writing and illustrating opportunities. Participants can learn and play:

- Magic: The Gathering, at the Groom-age this summer by giving blood.
- Comics, games, music and workshops this summer. Morning programs are for ages 3 to 6 (children under 5 must be accompanied by a caregiver). Afternoon offerings are for older, school-aged children. Children should wear appropriate footwear for a walk in the woods or meadow, and dress for a mess.

The morning workshops for ages 3 through 6 include Create Birdfeeders, 9 to 10 a.m.; and Enchanted Forest with Lisa Mechaley, 10 to 11 a.m. The afternoon workshops for ages 8 and up include Create Birdfeeders with Barbara Galazzo, July 28, 9 to 10 a.m.; and Enchanted Forest with Lisa Mechaley, Aug. 4, 9 to 10 a.m.

For more information on all of the library’s programs, visit desmondfishlibrary.org.

**Joseph’s Fine Jewelry**

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Specializing in estate jewelry. We buy to resell, not to scrap.

171 Main Street
Cold Spring NY 10516

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* Saturday & Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Store: 845-266-2323  
Cell: 914-213-8749
GCEF helped fund this year’s Revolutionary War/Colonial Day living history re-enactment program at Garrison School.

Garrison School.

(from previous page) In addition to these new programs, GCEF also funded returning programs such as Hudson Valley Seed’s educational school gardens, a multidisciplinary art program with the Garrison Art Center, a workshop with the touring production of Macbeth from Hudson Valley Shakespeare Company, a Revolutionary War/Colonial Day living history re-enactment, School Forest Day, the all-year jazz and percussion ensembles, the Chef in the Classroom cooking program, a Clearwater Sloop sail, and visits to the Philadelphia Constitution Convention Center, the Challenger Space Center and Constitution Marsh.

GCEF welcomes grant proposals from any member of the GCEF’s community including teachers, administrators and parents. GCEF accepts grant submissions during fall and spring review periods. The deadline to be considered for the fall cycle is May 1 and the deadline for the spring cycle is Nov. 1.

For more information, visit gcef.net

County Players’ Summer Series Opens July 10

Big band music, readers’ theater and musical revue

County Players premieres its inaugural Summer Series with three consecutive weekends of performances in July.

Starting off on July 10 at 8 p.m. is Hollywood: Big Band Style, featuring the Big Band Sound 20-piece jazz orchestra and County Players’ vocalists. Based on the success of last summer’s performances of Broadway: Big Band Style, this summer’s program features the classic music of Hollywood.

Continuing the second weekend, Mohonk Mountain Stage Company presents a full weekend of readers’ theater programs. On Friday, July 17, it is Grounder by George Brant, a one-woman play about a hot rod pilot whose unexpected pregnancy ends her career in the sky. On Saturday, July 18, is The Language Archive by Julia Cho, an exploration of how language can sometimes be the greatest obstacle in communication. Summer Shorts, a collection of 10 comic plays, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 19.

The final weekend offers the musical revue A Grand Night For Singing, showcasing the music of Richard Rodgers and lyrics of Oscar Hammerstein, with performances starting July 24.

Tickets for all performances are $35. Call the box office at 845-298-1491 for reservations or order tickets online at countyplayers.org. County Players Falls Theatre is located at 2001 W. Main St. in Wappingers Falls.

World War I Program at Staatsburgh This Summer

August tours explore the end of the Gilded Age

Staatsburgh State Historic Site this summer will present a “World War I and the End of the Gilded Age” tour, which will focus on the impact of the war on the social elite and their way of life.

Staatsburgh was the home of prominent social hostess Ruth Livingston Mills and her husband, financier Ogden Mills. The 70-room mansion showcases the opulent lifestyle enjoyed by the wealthy elite of the early 20th century.

“World War I and the End of the Gilded Age” will explore how the cataclysm of World War I brought an end to the extravagant excesses of the Gilded Age. Revolutionary social changes in the war years — including the income tax — killed the Gilded Age and ushered in a new era. Staatsburgh remains a time capsule of the Gilded Age, with its original lavish furnishings intact.

“World War I and the End of the Gilded Age” will be offered on Sundays at 1 p.m. on Aug. 9, 16 and 23. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 845-889-8851, ext. 355. The admission charge for the tour is $10; seniors and students pay $8; children 12 and under are free.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site offers regularly scheduled house tours in addition to special theme tours. House tours are regularly offered Thursday to Sunday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. through October. The historic site and Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park are located on Old Post Road in Staatsburg, off Route 9 between Rhinebeck and Hyde Park.

Beacon

Paintings by Dana Wigdor at RiverWinds

Opening reception on Beacon Second Saturday

RiverWinds Gallery will at 172 Main St. in Beacon is celebrating its 12th anniversary and is presenting The Bubble Makers – New Paintings by Dana Wigdor, their July featured artist. The show opens on Beacon Second Saturday, July 11, with an artist reception from 5 to 8 p.m. The show runs through Aug. 2.

Wigdor states, “Paint is a perfect medium for capturing the invisible forces that surround us — where color and light build a bridge between what is tangible and the elusive place ‘beyond.’”

Wigdor was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and earned her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1990 and her MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2008. She has exhibited in U.S. and European cities including San Francisco, New York, Moscow and Berlin. In 2009 she received a National Endowment for the Arts Creation Grant to produce her solo exhibition Fugue. Her work, which features teacher’s talk, “The Anthropomorphic Machine,” where Wigdor introduced the mystifying creatures that populate her work.

RiverWinds Gallery is open Wednesdays through Monday from noon to 6 p.m. and on Second Saturday from noon to 9 p.m.

For more information, visit riverwindsgallery.com or call 845-838-2880.

Korean Film to Show at Howland Library July 24

Serenading of Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ... and Spring

The South Korean film Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring will be shown at the Howland Public Library on Friday, July 24, at 7 p.m. On an isolated lake in the Korean wilderness, a Buddhist monk raises a young boy to be full of compassion and wisdom. Love and passion lead him astray. The film runs for 103 minutes and is rated R. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film starts promptly at 7 p.m.

The Howland Public Library, at 313 Main St. in Beacon, showcases a different international film each month. All films are shown in their original language with English subtitles. Admission is free and no registration is required.

To learn more about all events taking place at the Howland Public Library, go to beaconlibrary.org and click on ‘Calen-
**Rincon Argentino**

**Cold Spring café brings South American tastes to riverfront**

By Alison Rooney

Though combining thoughts of “Argentina” and “food and drink” may immediately summon up succulent steaks, grilled on a *parrilla* and drinking gourds filled with yerba maté leaves, those who have been to that very southern of South American nations, home to a large population of Italian émigrés, pre- and post-World War II, will likely remember more than a passing acquaintance with the many pastry and coffee shops found on nearly every street in the major cities and towns there. Now this town has one, as Rincon Argentino opens its puertas down near the Hudson River on Cold Spring’s lower Main Street, 21 Main, to be exact.

Owners Marcos and Ramona Antonio are proud Argentines — he being more of a hybrid Argentinian-American: born in Santa Fe province, north of Buenos Aires, but coming to the United States at the age of 2 — and happy to have set-tled here, hence the two national flags on display. Fittingly, on Fourth of July weekend, they opened their café, serving those all-American, all-Argentinian staples of espresso and desserts. The espresso drinks include all the variants: cappuccinos, lattes, etc., and the desserts range from gelato to butter cookies and pastries galore. Eventually, the Antonios hope to further specialize and offer more specifically Argentine specialties, including empanadas, fried dough and, who knows, maybe even some *chimichurri* steak someday, but for now, “because of the difficulties of processing food, we’re starting...”

After moving to the States, Marcos grew up in the Bronx, then Mahopac and Carmel, and worked as a school bus driver. He also returned, for a spell, to Argentina, where he operated a deli. Time spent working in Garrison introduced him to Cold Spring, and the couple, along with their now 7-year-old son Ivan, settled here three years ago. They wished to open up a place for years; opportunity knocked when the Antonios met their current landlord and worked out a deal in which they would renovate the space and then launch their business. The interior decor has largely been handcrafted, with Marcos building all of the attractive chairs and tables and shelves, along with their now 7-year-old son Ivan, settled here three years ago. They wished to open up a place for years; opportunity knocked when they met their current landlord and worked out a deal in which they would renovate the space and then launch their business.

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Rambler roses are distinctive from climbing roses because they only flower once in a season, and climbing roses can flower more than once. They have similar tendencies when it comes to trellises and prodigious growth, though. A Dorothy Perkins bush near Szypula’s front door that he planted about 10 years ago is 8 feet high and sprawling. It was in full bloom during my recent visit and covered in bright pink flowers that attracted bees.

The blooms are thick and full — Szypula described them as “lush” as he pulled on a heavy glove and went to work clipping stems for me to take home. A perk of the job, lucky me. The thorns are not insignificant, though. Beware handling it without a heavy glove.

Szypula said: “I tried to root it and succeeded, and here’s one successful rooting that has now dominated the azalea bush underneath it. I noticed it had long tendrils and it was laying on the ground and in different places there were roots. It tends to root by itself.” He planted it at a house he owned in Bronxville, too. As far as pests or diseases go, he said that he’s been warned about mildew, but he hasn’t had a hard time with it. The deer leave it alone, too. A different variety of rose planted next to an -

### Rincon Argentino (from previous page)

Richard Szypula’s roses were originally planted by his family nearly 100 years ago. As he shows me around, he pointed out the perennial sweet peas and said: “They were planted here by my aunt about 75 years ago. Her niece came by one day and asked if she could visit. She said, ‘Oh, the sweet peas are still here. When I was a little girl, Aunt Catherine took me to plant the perennial, not annual, sweet peas so that they would bloom forever and ever.’ She came back 50 years later and they’re still here.”

A silver leaf maple hovering over a pond fed by the stream that flows down East Mountain sparked another memory. He said: “It was given to me by the father of a girlfriend 60 years ago; I remember her every time I walk by here. When the wind blows, it makes a beautiful, shimmering thing.” This tree has been shared, too. He propagated cuttings that he gave away to people.

He planted a lovely dogwood tree to frame the view of the pond he built in 1970 with help from his father. Szypula points out areas in the stream where he swam as a child and then made swimming holes for his sons to play in later. In one area along the stream, he pointed out where there used to be a sawmill and another area where he believes the original road was built over the stream.

Szypula’s relationship with his landscape is one of caretaker and history maker, as well as preserving a natural legacy of family history. Plants are a connection with the past and a gift for future generations.
A Walk in the Woods

The Beacon Institute’s ambiling lecture series returns to Denning’s Point

By Brian PJ Cronin

For six years the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries has offered an annual series of free lectures down at Denning’s Point in the form of leisurely strolls with a local expert in such matters as forestry, history and nature photography. But the circumstances surrounding the creation of the series were anything but relaxing.

In 2004 Jim Heron, a retired Episcopalian minister who had been working for the institute as a volunteer historian, uncovered an article from a 1930 edition of the now defunct Beacon News that referred to an ancient Indian burial ground discovered at Denning’s Point. It was a sobering discovery for the institute, which had recently announced plans to build a multimillion-dollar center at Denning’s Point. If the land had, in fact, been a sacred burial site, their plans for the future would come to a screeching halt.

“They asked Jim to do a little more research,” explained Michael Heintzman, the Beacon Institute’s public outreach coordinator. “He ended up doing it for two years and then writes a book about it.”

Heron’s book, Denning’s Point: A Hudson River History, begins with the quest to uncover evidence of Indian cemeteries at Denning’s Point. (Spoiler alert: no definitive evidence was found, which is why the Beacon Institute’s Center for Environmental Innovation and Education at Denning’s Point exists.) But it also reveals much more about the point’s historic past: the wealthy families who clear-cut the land for housing and farming, the almost daily trips that George Washington made to Denning’s Point from his headquarters in Newburgh, and how Alexander Hamilton began his early drafts of The Federalist Papers while staying at Denning’s Point in 1781.

After the book was published, Heron began leading informal tours of the point with those who had read the book and wanted to learn more. This led to a more formalized series of walking tours with other experts on different topics.

This year’s series kicks off on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m., with a forestry talk led by professional forester Ethan Pierce. For Pierce, the most interesting thing about Denning’s Point is how its history determined what is — and isn’t — growing there.

“When people dug up the land, they basically cleared the botanical slate,” he explained. “The majority of the native flora has been wiped out, and the majority of what has come back since has been non-native plants, a lot of invasive vines and shrubs, Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese barberry, Japanese stiltgrass. That’s one of their strong suits. They can colonize disturbed land where the top-soil has been removed and only the bare mineral soil is present. So they found it to be a ripe place to grow.”

Those dominant Asiatic and Eurasian invasive plants contribute to the particular feel that Denning’s Point has, and why walking along the shores feels very different than walking anywhere else in the Hudson Valley. “It’s sort of a jungle different than walking anywhere else,” said Pierce. “So it’s interesting to see how they’re interacting, and try and figure out what the future ecosystem there is going to look like.”

The most notable missing piece of flora from Denning’s Point is the Washington Oak. A legendary oak tree that George Washington used to tie his horse to when he would visit. Photographs and paintings prove that the oak once existed, but little trace of it remains. “But there are two other very large oak trees that remain,” said Pierce. “So you wonder if those oaks are the brothers and sisters of the Washington Oak. Early descriptions of the point talk about the numerous oak trees that lined the shore, so I think those two might be the last ones. It’s interesting that you can still find some remnants to connect you back to the 1700s.”

The next scheduled lectures in the series are geology on July 15, mushrooms on Aug. 1 and archaeology and history on Aug. 22. Although the lectures are free, preregistration is required at bire.org/events. Having experienced all of the lectures himself, Heintzman is confident that no matter which walks they go on, the public will enjoy taking the time to experience Denning’s Point in a way that they probably have not before.

“It’s like a little laboratory out there that we have, and it’s an easy walk,” he said. “It’s simple for people to get down there, do the walk and continue on their day.”