

The HIGHLANDS Current



Chocolate-covered
bacon
See Page 16

OCTOBER 21, 2016

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



The Hudson appears to "boil" below as early morning fog rolls up into the clouds over Storm King Mountain. Viewed from Mt. Taurus, Cold Spring.

Photo by Matti Peltonen

Will We Get Slammed?

No big snow until February — maybe

By Anita Peltonen

With sunbathers on the Hudson, and geese turning back from their flights south during a record-breaking "Hotober," it's hard to imagine your car buried in snow. But many of the most accurate long-term forecasters say the coming winter will be snowier and colder than last, thanks to a shift in the Pacific Ocean temperatures that largely control Highlands weather.

La Niña, the cooler sister of warm-ocean-current oscillator El Niño — which has held a tight grip on our weather for several years — appears to be taking her turn. If other La Niña-driven winters are any guide, you'll need a lot of cocoa and snow gear before April.

When will it begin?

Jim Witt, whose long-term weather calendar benefiting Hope for Youth is known for the daring precision of its predictions, says a white Christmas is probably out. The forecaster says the first snowfall to stick won't come before Dec. 27, and January will be "nothing spectacular."

"It's February that stands out in my mind," he says. "Middle or last two weeks of February are the tough ones for this winter." Nighttime temperatures will drop into single digits, he said, and February precipitation will be as much as 14 inches (Continued on Page 6)



Garrison firefighters roll out of the Upper Station Road garage to answer a call on Oct. 16. Photo by Anita Peltonen

Garrison Fire Company Spending Jumps 27 Percent

Commissioners argue increase makes up for past Philipstown cuts

By Michael Turton

The five commissioners of the Garrison Fire District have put together its first budget, which totals \$777,907, a 27 percent increase over last year.

The commission began its work Jan. 2 when it took over oversight of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company from the Town of Philipstown, which had set a \$610,552 budget for 2016, a 1 percent increase from the year before. (The fire company presented a "wish-list" budget at a public hearing in August (Continued on Page 8)

Beacon's Dormant Railroad May See New Life

MTA calls for proposals to develop abandoned line

By Michael Turton

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Metro-North Railroad have issued a "request for expressions of interest" for the development of the abandoned Beacon Line, 27.6 miles of track that run from the city to the Dutchess-Putnam county line.

The Beacon Line cuts through Fishkill at Route 9, then travels west past Glenham and through the heart of Beacon, where it closely parallels Fishkill Creek. It ends at the Metro-North line south of the Beacon station. The unused line offers scenic views of the creek, the Hudson Highlands and Mount Beacon, along with interesting glimpses of Beacon's industrial past. The last train rode the line in 1993, and Metro-North purchased the railway in 1995.

The MTA says proposals should support economic development and public use, preserve the line for possible rail operations and generate revenue for Metro-North. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 18.

Beacon Mayor Randy Casale said he'd like to see the line used for a light-rail passenger service and recreation. "It would be a real boost to the (Continued on Page 8)

Roots and Shoots

Lessons From a Community Garden

Hits and misses, and endless weeds

By Pamela Doan

This summer I jumped at the chance to have a plot in the community garden on Cold Spring resident Libby Healy's property, because my own yard has become too shady to grow vegetables. My husband and I were so enthusiastic that we asked for two 10 x 20 foot plots before reason got the better of us and we scaled back.

I wouldn't call it the best garden I've done, but we just used the last peppers in salads this week and I'm still ripening green tomatoes in paper bags. We kept it simple, planting the relatively few vegetables we most wanted in abundance. Tomatoes were our priority and we devoted a third of the space to them. We also planted three kinds of peppers, a few carrots, a row of mixed lettuces, a square of cucumbers, a row of eggplant and two kinds of squash. At home, I grew herbs in containers because I like being able to cut them at the moment I need them.

There were some misses. Some of the pepper plants I bought to transplant were mislabeled and instead of an abundance of green and red peppers, I had an abundance of mild, thin-skinned, pale-yellow peppers. I used them in salads but I wouldn't have chosen them. This is the result of plant shopping with a toddler. Trying to keep her entertained and making sure she didn't dismember any plants took up more attention than double-checking labels.

Life in general and hot, dry days got the best of us, too, and the garden felt it. Before a weeklong Memorial Day vacation, we sacrificed attentive watering for plant-



The last of the tomato harvest

Photo by P. Doan

ing before the trip and there was an early season heat wave while we were gone. The peppers suffered for it and it stunted growth and production.

The squash managed alright, but we didn't have enough time to thin the plants before they got too big. The seeds had a high germination rate (I've had good luck with seeds from Johnny-Seeds.com) and were too overcrowded to produce well.

The yellow squash did better than the

Here's the best part of the community garden experience: it's like being in dozens of backyard gardens. You get to see other people's methods and I loved the abundance of colorful flowers and different plants. Going there was a pleasure.

zucchini, which was a shame because we like zucchini better and I missed having that overflow where you have to get creative to cook it all. I wasn't crazy about the variety, either. No matter how small or big the yellow squash was when I picked it, it had a tough skin, was full of seeds and took a long time to cook.

The tomatoes were a hit, especially the cherry and grape varieties. Our toddler would pop down between the plants and eat


them faster than I could pick them. Good thing it's an organic garden and I didn't have to worry about residue from other plots because stopping her from eating them on the spot wasn't possible. We tried two methods of staking, using wire cages, which turned out to be too short and easily toppled, and using stakes and twine, copying a technique we saw at Fishkill Farms last summer.

The twine and stakes would have worked well but, again, we didn't have time to keep up with the growth. The plants overgrew the top layer and hung over it. We needed taller stakes and at least two more lines to keep them up. It was the more effective support, though, and we'll do it again.

The weeds were a serious challenge. At home, I use raised beds with soil that I created by layering in organic materials. It's been relatively weed-free all these years. Many of the plots at the community garden used landscape fabric and if I were to garden there again, I'd do that. With so many plots in one space, even if you keep up your own weeding, you're going to have weeds. I used shredded leaves as mulch for moisture and weed control, but it wasn't enough.

Here's the best part of the community garden experience: it's like being in dozens of backyard gardens. You get to see other people's methods and I loved the abundance of colorful flowers and different plants. Going there was a pleasure. It's the trade-off for the convenience of having the garden in your own yard and not having to make the effort to stop by when you can.

In the next Roots and Shoots, I'll share lessons from other community gardeners' experiences this summer.



Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a "natural finish" and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good. Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call the artful pruner.

Call Gregory, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

845.446.7465

The Figure Ground

studio

ARCHITECTURE &
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
PLLC

new construction & renovation
residential & commercial
ecologically minded & client focused

845-287-4889
info@thefiguregroundstudio.com

marbled

MEAT SHOP

New York State Farm Raised
Grass Fed Beef & Lamb
Pastured Poultry
Heritage Pork

Housemade Sausage - Charcuterie
Farmstead Cheese - Sandwiches
Grocery - Local Bread

3091 Rt 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 265-2830
marbledmeatshop.com

marbled

MARKET

Stock Up

eat-in and takeaway

Housemade and Locally Sourced
Delicatessen - Cafe - BBQ
Cold Cuts - Smoked Meats
Sandwiches - Rotisserie - Salads

Coffee - Espresso - Cold Brew
Soup - Stock - Brodo
Beer - Cider - Wine

29 Teller Ave, Beacon, NY 12508
(845) 202-7400
stockupbeacon.com



your source
for organic,
biodynamic &
natural wines

BEACON, NEW YORK

artisan wine shop

where food meets its match

180 main street / beacon, ny 12508
845.440.6923 / monday-saturday 10-7 / sunday 12-5
www.artisanwineshop.com

3-Time Winner: Best of Hudson Valley Magazine

Firearms Group Organizes Opposition to Proposed Gun-Storage Law

Gun owners attend workshop but no public comment heard

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A Putnam County gun-rights group asked its members to appear en masse at the Oct. 19 Philipstown Town Board workshop to protest its consideration of a proposed law requiring safe storage of guns in local homes. A number did, but public comment is not taken at workshops, typically, so no one from any side of the debate held forth.

Supervisor Richard Shea informed the audience that the workshop was largely on other issues, and the board would only be voting to send the proposed law to the town attorney for review, which it did, by a 4 to 1 vote. (Bob Flaherty, who voted no, said later he doesn't think it's the role of a town government to enact such laws.)

Shea took a few questions from gun-rights activists who asked why advocates for the safe-storage law were allowed to speak at the board's meeting Oct. 6 and how they could make their own presentation. Shea and board member Nancy Montgomery instructed them on how to request a spot on the agenda.

Advocates for the safe-storage law, which would require gun owners to se-

cure weapons when they are not in use, argue that it will protect children and save lives by preventing unauthorized use of guns, including in suicides.

In an "action alert" sent by email Oct. 17, the Putnam County Firearm Owners Association informed its members of "another Putnam town trying to infringe on our rights, making us less safe." It added: "We must show up in numbers to nip this in the bud before it spreads through our county like a cancer."

Advising firearm owners to "get there early" because of limited parking, the group stated, "It is critical all gun owners show up for this no matter what town you live in. Once it starts it will spread!"

Montgomery said before the workshop that she welcomed the interest of gun owners. "Citizen participation is the heart of democracy," she said. "It's nice to see people participating." She noted that the item was added to the workshop agenda at her request. "I could have done this last week," when the board held a budget preparation workshop, "but knowing what conspiracies would arise" decided "to give this time before moving it. I've been waiting a long time to do something about this."



The audience at the Town Board workshop on Oct. 19

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Proposed Safe Storage Ordinance -- Philipstown

1. No person who owns or is a custodian of a handgun shall store or otherwise leave such handgun out of his or her immediate possession or control without first having (a) locked such handgun in an appropriate safe storage depository which must be bolted to the floor or a wall and must have a combination lock or padlock and which would prevent unauthorized access to a firearm, or (b) rendered such handgun incapable of being fired by use of a gun-locking device appropriate to that handgun.
2. No person who owns or is a custodian of a weapon other than a handgun shall store or otherwise leave such a weapon out of his or her immediate possession or control without having first (a) locked such weapon in an appropriate safe storage depository which would prevent unauthorized access to a firearm, or (b) rendered such weapon incapable of being fired by use of a gun-locking device appropriate to that weapon.
3. For purposes of paragraphs 1. and 2., a handgun shall mean any pistol or revolver. A weapon shall mean a "rifle," "shotgun," "firearm," other than a pistol or revolver, or "machine gun," as those terms are defined in Section 265.00 of NYS Penal Law.
4. Any violation of paragraph 1. shall be a misdemeanor or shall be punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both.

Gergely Pediatrics

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

Dr. Peter Gergely, MD
Janet Eisig, CFNP
Danielle Chiaravalloti, CFNP

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
- Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavior issues

Meet with us for a **FREE** first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524
tel: (845) 424-4444 fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com



artful cooking / event planning

845-424-8204

www.freshcompany.net

GRANO FOCACCERIA RUSTIC ITALIAN FOOD

Lunch Specials 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$5 + tax
2 slices of Margherita pizza
with small Misticanza salad or 20 oz bottled soda

Fall & Winter

Monday: Family Pizza Day \$24.95

1 Margherita focaccia, 1 Large Misticanza salad
1 Large Arancine (8 rice balls); (savings \$18)

Tuesday: Buy 2 Entrees

Buy 2 entrees, get a free bottle of Pinot Grigio
Dine-in only (savings: \$26.00)

Wednesday: Buy 2 Panini

Buy 2 panini, get a free appetizer or salad. Up to \$10 value (savings: \$10)

Thursday: Buy Any Focaccia

Buy any pizza, get a free order of wings (savings \$9)

Sunday: Family Pasta Day \$24.95

Half pan of Casarecce Al Forno
(baked pasta, pomodoro, meatballs, ricotta, mozzarella)
1 large Misticanza Salad, warm focaccia

**All offers not to be combined with any other coupons or offers.
Sales tax not included. All offers available for takeout, except Tuesday**

3182 Route 9, Philipstown Square, Cold Spring, NY 10516
845.666.7007

The HIGHLANDS Current

**NYFA* Winner: 16
Better Newspaper
Contest Awards**

*New York Press Association, 2013 - 2015

PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
161 Main St.,
Cold Spring NY 10516-2818

291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart
(1939 - 2014)

MANAGING EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.com

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.com

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

Brian PJ Cronin
Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan
Mary Ann Ebner
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Jeff Simms

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584

ads@highlandscurrent.com

Review our rate sheet at
highlandscurrent.com/ads



**Institute for
Nonprofit News**

FOLLOW US



Updates and
a free daily newsletter at
highlandscurrent.com

© Highlands Current 2016

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher. Advertisements designed by *The Highlands Current* may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Affordable housing

Putting the words “developer” and “affordable housing” into the same sentence is an oxymoron (“Beacon Sells Land for New Affordable Housing,” Oct. 7).

When “artist lofts” first came to Beacon, it was a way for developers to acquire tax breaks, incentives and planning board approvals to exploit this quasi-loophole. Working artists couldn’t, and still can’t, afford the rents.

And now, under the guise of affordable housing, the City Council and mayor have surreptitiously pushed affordable rents totally off the board. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in Dutchess County is \$72,471. The median household income in Beacon is \$63,284. (It was long ago that this figure was in the \$40,000 range.)

Tying rent prices into a Dutchess median house income will allow real estate

developers to hold out for higher income earners to rent to and thus charge higher rents ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 in order to keep feeding their already heavy pocketbooks. Police, teachers, carpenters, the elderly, sales and almost all service employees are being locked out of the Beacon housing market because the City Council and mayor are letting it happen.

N. Canaan, *Beacon*

Gun safety

The proposed legislation in Philipstown to require gun owners to secure their weapons (“Philipstown Board Asked to Enact Gun-Storage Law,” Oct. 14) is unlikely to be effective, because it assumes that most gun owners do not already engage in safe-gun storage. If for no other reason, the severe legal and financial penalties associated with accidents due to careless gun storage make this assumption questionable.

For those unthinking gun owners who are not already aware of (or do not already take seriously) the possible dangers associated with unsecured firearms, is it realistic to think these individuals will take seriously a virtually unenforceable law attempting to regulate unseen behavior in the privacy of their own homes?

The proponents of this law anticipate “pushback” from gun owners, and they attribute this pushback to the influence of the National Rifle Association. This seems to imply that the NRA is somehow antagonistic to gun safety. Yet the NRA runs the largest number of gun-safety programs in the United States. This reflexive demonizing of the NRA creates a “good guy / bad guy” dynamic that is unnecessary.

Rather than concentrating on a law that won’t have much impact, the proponents of the legislation might consider putting effort into getting the town to sponsor gun-safety courses and seminars. Education is much more likely to have an impact than legislation.

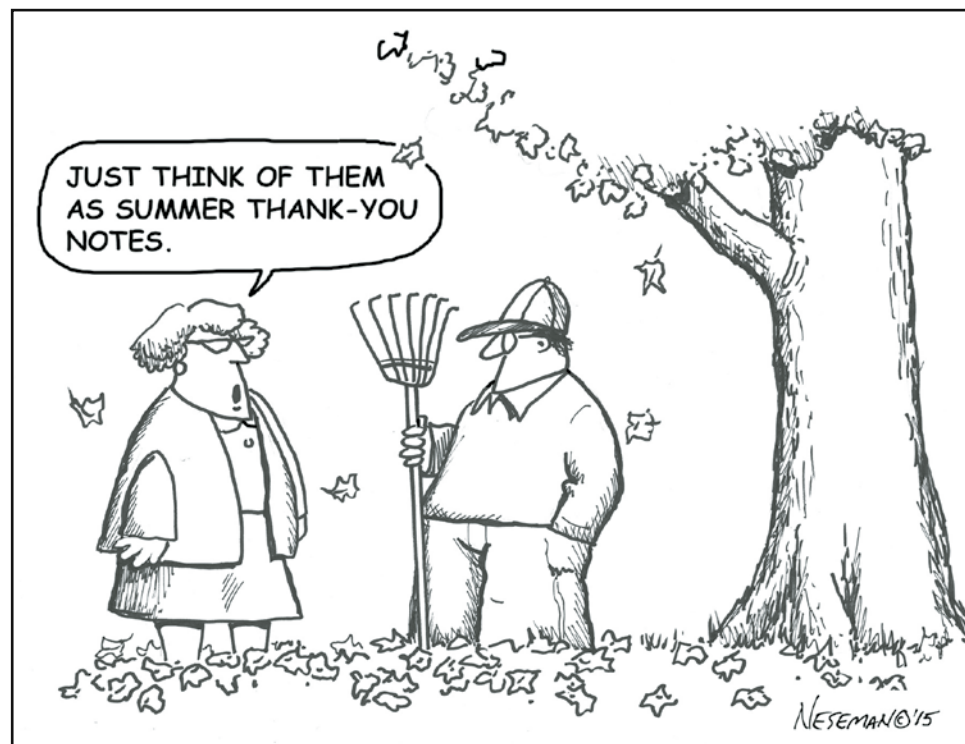
Donald Campbell, *Cold Spring*

Right-wing bias

Your report on the supporters of Donald Trump (“Local Republicans Stick to Trump,” Oct. 14) is at least the second article in the last few weeks where *The Current* has provided quarter and normalization for right-wing extremism. First by publishing, and then defending, dangerous and magical math conjured up by a known racist, Trump campaign CEO and Breitbart head Steve Bannon (“Can You Afford to Live Here?, Sept. 30) and now, with this article, allowing a clearly deranged person to go unquestioned, unchallenged and unfactchecked while accusing Hillary Clinton of being a murderer. That is really disappointing.

Christopher Daly, *Cold Spring*

(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonon

What are you most proud of?



“My four children. All they’ve accomplished. And how close they are to each other.”

~Peggy Milone, Poughkeepsie



“I’m proud that even though this is basically a white community, everyone accepts you no matter what — no matter what race you are.”

~Matt Ortiz, Cold Spring



“I’m proudest of my past career as a special-education teacher.”

~Kathy Bruce, Beacon



Veterinarian Dr. Peter Bach and "Sam"

Photo by M. Turton

Vet Warns of Potentially Fatal Disease for Dogs

Owners advised to vaccinate for leptospirosis

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring veterinarian Dr. Peter Bach is warning dog owners about an increasingly common bacterial disease, leptospirosis. Symptoms of "lepto," which can be fatal, include vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, lethargy and fever. It is the leading cause of acute kidney failure in dogs and also can affect horses, cattle and pigs. Cats are rarely stricken.

Bach said he has been alarmed because he's seen three cases recently, when in the past they have never been clustered to-

gether. A vaccine is available, which Bach gives routinely.

Lepto bacteria are transmitted in urine, often from wild animals. A common way that dogs pick up the disease is by drinking standing water, such as from puddles. The bacteria can survive for long periods in water and on wet grass. It can also enter through a cut or mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose or mouth.

Cases of leptospirosis have also been reported on Long Island and in New Jersey. Bach said lepto has been less common in the Hudson Valley but that growing populations of raccoons, skunks, opossums, squirrels and rats could be spreading the disease. There are 15 to 20 types of leptospirosis and vaccination protects dogs against most of them, he said. For more information, visit leptoinfo.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Barbara, Laura and both George Bushes are voting for Hillary Clinton. I assume these Republicans understand what being president of the U.S. demands in terms of intelligence, management skills and problem-solving abilities. If they are willing to cross party lines, that says far more than what local politicians say. My guess is local politicians who support Trump are more worried that they'll be out of their elected jobs.

Sarah Geer, *Garrison*

Endorsement: Gipson for State Senate

I am writing to convey my support for Terry Gipson for New York State Senate (District 41).

I have known Terry since 2011. As our state senator from 2012 to 2014, I saw Terry's great dedication to District 41 in action. He needs to return to office to continue fighting for a brighter future for all residents in the Hudson Valley and New York State.

We need a strong advocate in Albany. Ethics and campaign finance reform, job creation, tax relief for working families, improving public education and protecting public health and our environment are many of the critical issues Terry is passionate about defending. These are the issues that impact and determine the quality of life we all share in the Hudson Valley.

His opponent Sue Serino, lacks leadership, doesn't have my back and I don't believe she has yours. And her troubling support of Donald Trump, one of the most disastrous presidential candidates in our history, speaks volumes.

Terry Gipson has my vote and I hope he has yours.

Mara Farrell, *Fishkill*

Endorsement: Galef for State Assembly

We keep learning about some elected officials and employees in state government who have abused their positions and now face the justice system. It makes me cringe with disappointment and anger every time this happens.

But there is an elected official in our state government who upholds high ethical standards and is an example for others to emulate. That is Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

Throughout her many years in office, Sandy has followed certain principles that are admired by her colleagues and those she represents. From her first day in state office, she started the process of seeking reforms in the power structure, legislative transparency and ethics policies. Sandy continues to advocate for these changes so that abuses in government will stop and that state government will gain back respect from the public.

We are fortunate to have Sandy Galef in the New York State legislature and I encourage everyone in the 95th District to vote for her on Election Day.

Anne E. Impellizzeri, *Cold Spring*

Endorsements: Philipstown Town Justice

We have known Camille Linson, a candidate for Philipstown Town Justice, for many years. She is intelligent, hon-

est, compassionate and deeply passionate about her work. She is also a down-to-earth and relatable person with many years of professional legal experience.

Through her work ethic, hard work and dedication, Camille has gained our respect and admiration as well as the respect and admiration of many in our community.

Camille would be an excellent choice for Town Justice. We plan to vote for her Nov. 8 and urge all others to join us.

The Erichson Family, *Cold Spring*

I would like to encourage the residents of Philipstown to vote for Faye Thorpe for Town Justice. I have known Faye for more than 30 years and find her to be honest, reliable, intelligent, open-minded and energetic. She was able to earn her law

degree while raising three children who have had successful careers. She has volunteered many hours of her time to both community and professional organizations. She has the legal expertise and life experiences that will make her a fair and dedicated judge.

Faye will be committed to fulfill the requirements of being a town justice and will serve Philipstown well in this very sensitive and important position.

Please join me on Election Day and support Faye.

Dan Dillon, *Cold Spring*

**For more endorsements, see
highlandscurrent.com.**



P.O. Box 36
Cold Spring, NY 10516
Facebook: Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to host a moderated discussion on the future of the organization.

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016 The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will host its next Chamber Mixer at Glynwood beginning at 6:00 pm. Admission is \$10 and a light buffet will be served.

After a brief presentation, the focus of this event will be a discussion among the directors, chamber members, and guests as to the continued viability of the organization and its future direction.

As with many membership organizations, the Chamber has struggled to enlist the active participation of many members over the last several years. Although events and meetings are well attended, the work to maintain the organization, the scheduling, membership development, and event planning have fallen almost exclusively to shrinking base of board members and volunteers. This path is not sustainable in the long term and doesn't bode well for the continued health of our business or civic community.

With annual elections scheduled for year-end and several board members indicating that they will step down, the Chamber Board has determined that input from stakeholders is critical if the Cold Spring Area Chamber is to move forward. Therefore, we urge Chamber members, invite non-member local businesses, and other community organizations to participate in this important conversation with us. The Chamber actively promotes the Cold Spring and the Philipstown area as both a tourist destination and a thriving community in which to live and work. Now is the time for more of us to do the same, please join us and participate in this important community discussion.

www.explorecoldspringny.com

HUDSON HIGHLANDS
PUTNAM
HISTORY
MUSEUM
WEST POINT FOUNDRY

Putnam History Museum Reception

Join us in celebrating the public opening of
The World of Anna and Susan Warner
on Saturday, October 22, at 5:30pm.

The exhibition features photographs, drawings, books, manuscripts, and objects from the collection of Constitution Island Association. A second gallery will feature highlights of the PHM collection.

Please RSVP at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org. PHM Members are invited to a private, early welcome before the public reception. If you wish to become a PHM Member, please join on the website or call Rachel Ornstein at 845-265-4010 ext. 10.

This exhibition is co-organized by Putnam History Museum and Constitution Island Association, and is funded in part by our business sponsors: Central Hudson

• Health Quest • Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

Funding also provided by grants from:

Malcolm Gordon Foundation • Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

• New York Council for the Humanities

The Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring • putnamhistorymuseum.org



Susan Warner and Anna Warner in 1881.

Will We Get Slammed? (from Page 1)

above average. Witt sees our area getting a combined 28 inches of snow in the last two weeks of February, about 6 inches earlier in the month. This will be followed, by general consensus, with lots of cold rain in March and April.

On average, the first snowfall hits the Highlands in late November, according to the climate watchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last year, winter brought just a few pelts. This year it is expected to be delayed until nearly New Year's Day.

Will You Get Slammed?

Because of increased demand and higher fuel prices, the federal government is forecasting that average household spending for heating oil, propane and natural gas will rise considerably over last winter. It forecasts that heating oil costs could rise 38 percent, propane by 26 percent and natural gas by 22 percent.

That sounds nasty, but we're a long way from record heating bills. Energy prices have been low for several years, and although temperatures in the Northeast are expected to be about 17 percent colder than last year, it will still be 3 percent warmer than the most recent 10 year average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. It may be worthwhile to lock in fuel prices now, if your fuel company offers that type of contract.

If, and, buts ...

Forecasting the weather in the long term is both an art and science. Any twitch in the mercury or wind could paint a different picture, and the weather calls are especially tough in Putnam and Dutchess counties because we live on a major line of weather-region demarcation between the Berkshires to the north and the Atlantic corridor that stretches from New York to Philadelphia. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* says we'll have colder-than-normal winter if our pattern runs New England but warmer if it runs mid-Atlantic.

Any sudden changes in ocean temperatures can also invalidate predictions being made about the weather coming in January and February. In fact, that is happening now. "Instead of going to La Niña neutral, the Pacific [has suddenly] warmed up again," says Witt. "We've got an awful surprise Never seen a spike like this. Next month could be a rarity again. Could have been maybe a volcano in the ocean. It is not accounting for this week's very warm weather."

The science of forecasting

Given all the variables, how do long-range forecasters do it?

Witt, who attended college on a baseball scholarship and majored in physical education but switched to education and biology and got his first job teaching earth science, says he considers data from many scientific disciplines, including astronomy and lunar and solar behavior. Because the moon controls tides and the sun



Main Street in Cold Spring after a storm in February 2014

Photo by A. Peltonen

affects the energy received and stored by the earth, it seems reasonable to include them when looking for patterns.

One challenge is the lack of methods to measure key ocean temperatures with any precision, says Doug Smith of the Met Office (the National Weather service of the U.K.), who sees this winter as being much colder around the world.

To make good predictions, he says, you need to know the total energy of the planet, most of which is captured by the ocean. (Studies have shown that as much as 93 percent of the warming created by humans since the 1970s has been absorbed by the oceans, which has prevented air temperatures from jumping nearly 100 degrees.) New robotic "floats" that are placed into the sea at depths of up to 14,000 feet may help improve the data, and, in turn, the forecasts. A dozen are expected to be dropped into waters north of New Zealand by the end of the year.

Forecasters, start your deep-sea submersibles!

Snow Prediction Folklore

According to folklore, we will have a harsh and snowy winter if:

- You slice a ripe persimmon seed in half and see a spoon (shovel) shape.
- The black stripes on woolly bear caterpillars are thicker.
- Hornets, bees and wasps build their nests higher than usual.
- You see more mice and spiders inside your house.
- Moles dig their holes deeper than 2.5 feet.
- There are a lot of foggy days in August.
- You see more acorns than usual.
- The fall colors are particularly bright.

Desmond-Fish Library Annual Fall Luncheon

Sunday, November 6, 2016, 12:00 pm

The Road to the White House

Thomas Kean

Chairman, 9-11 Commission,
Former Governor of New Jersey

In conversation with

Richard Brodsky

Member of New York State Assembly 1993-2010
Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation

To purchase tickets visit

www.desmondfishlibrary.org/luncheon
or call the Library at 845-424-3020

The Garrison, 1 Snake Hill Road, Garrison, NY

Skiers' Delight; Shovelers' Woe

Jim Witt is not alone in his call for a snowy February. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* says Feb. 16 to 19 will be a "skiers' delight," predicting a storm that dumps 1 to 2 feet of powder. Paul Pastelok, a long-range forecaster at Accuweather, says areas such as southern New York "could see higher-than-normal" snowfall. And *The Farmer's Almanac* sees above-normal precipitation in the Northeast throughout the winter but "especially February."



John Greener, CPA

Investment
Counseling

Estate
Planning

Bill Paying

Bookkeeping

Taxes

GreenerCPA.com

845.424.4470 x2

John@GreenerCPA.com

Individual & Family Office Services

Michael McKee, PhD

Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral
Psychotherapy (CBT)

35B Garrison Landing
Garrison, N.Y. 10524
45 Popham Road
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

(914) 584-9352
info@McKeeTherapy.com

www.McKeeTherapy.com

Odell Proposes \$153 Million Budget for Putnam

Decries "misinformation" about senior center project

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

During her annual presentation of the county budget, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell not only discussed finances — she proposed spending \$153 million in 2017 — but took time to “set the record straight” on the planned senior citizens’ center in Cold Spring and other controversies.

Hours after her Oct. 6 presentation, the county legislature began reviewing the administration’s proposed budget. It scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, Oct. 26, with final deliberations and a vote Oct. 27.

Because of New York State’s cap on property tax increases, which in 2017 will be about 1 percent, the county has limited options to increase spending. As a result, the draft budget is \$1.7 million higher than last year, an increase of 1.1 percent.

Before turning to finances, Odell displayed several slides to “correct misinformation,” although she did not say where the information had originated. This included the charge that “county spending is out of control.” In fact, she said, Putnam County claims only 9.1 percent of a homeowner’s tax bill, “the lowest county portion of any tax bill in New York,” where the average is 21.52 percent.

Of the remainder, Odell said 71.2 percent of taxes collected from Putnam County residents went to schools, 18.5 to towns, 0.5 percent to villages and 0.7 percent to fire districts. (The data, which Odell also shared last year, come from a report compiled by the New York State Association of Counties.)

Senior center

Odell likewise targeted what she considers misrepresentations surrounding the planned senior citizens’ center at the former Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring. “Was Butterfield a backroom deal?” she asked, as a slide was projected showing a photo of old-time card sharks. “I don’t think so.”

She referred to criticism of county payment of some Butterfield property taxes. “The county was never paying 50 percent of the property tax for the entire Butterfield campus,” which covers 7.1 acres. Rather, she said, the payment involves “only the space we are occupying, which is 52 percent of the property tax on the Lahey Pavilion,” the site of the planned center. (Imprecise wording in a draft of the lease agreement from May was corrected in a revised version Odell signed in September.)

Moreover, Odell argued that “the county is not overpaying for the space. In fact, we are paying half of what the fair market value is.” Under the lease, the annual rent will be \$77,700, or \$12.95 per square foot, suggesting a fair-market value of \$26 per square foot. When the Village of Cold Spring and Town of Philipstown in 2011 signed letters of intent to lease space in what was then envisioned as a multigovernment facility including the senior center, the rent was estimated at \$12.75 per square foot.

Odell said Philipstown needs a senior center because it has “the highest percentage of seniors of its overall population, 23 percent,” and that population is “predicted to nearly double over the next 10 years.” Earlier, she recalled, the county spent \$11 million building three senior centers in other parts of Putnam. “We recognized that our seniors in the western



A sampling of how the county spends every \$100 it collects in property taxes. For more details, see highlandscurrent.com.

part of the county were underserved and the administration and the legislature addressed it,” she said.

The cost of mandates

As in prior budget presentations, Odell blasted the state and federal governments for mandating programs and then not paying for them, leaving the county to juggle costs while also being restricted by the state tax cap. “Try to balance a budget when you’re \$106.6 million in debt before you even start!” she said. “Mandated costs consume 70 percent of the total budget.”

Again as in the past, she focused on Medicaid, the federal health program for low-income people. It remains “the single largest line item in the Putnam County budget,” she said. “This year we saw the

number of Putnam residents who are Medicaid recipients almost double from 6,000 to 11,000.” She attributed the increase to the Affordable Care Act, which expanded the program.

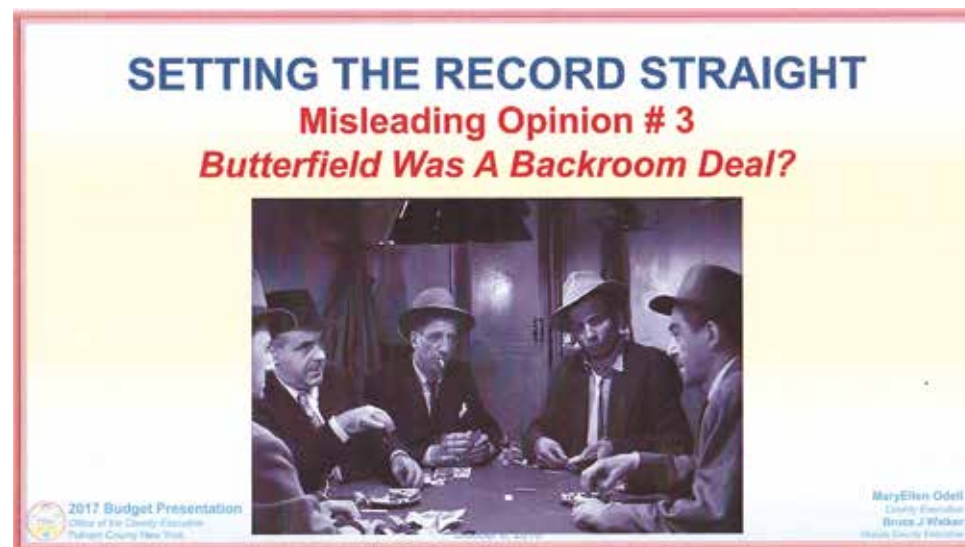
The county must spend \$9.54 million on Medicaid in 2017, or about 6 percent of its budget. Other examples of “more than 200” mandated costs Odell identified include \$18 million for the sheriff’s department and county jail, including probation services; \$12 million for highway and facilities; \$19 million for social services; \$8.8 million for preschool education and early intervention; \$6.3 million for loan interest; \$10.6 million for health and mental health services and \$1.6 million for the board of elections.

What Odell termed “quality-of-life services” total \$46.5 million, or 30 percent of the budget, including \$7.3 million for sheriff’s patrols, \$6.2 million for the Office for Senior Resources, \$4.5 million for emergency services, \$3.7 million for parks and recreation and \$1.5 million in aid to outside agencies.

Sales tax

Putnam has several revenue streams. The largest, Odell explained, is sales tax revenue, which represents 37 percent of the revenue for 2017. Without it, she said, property taxes would need to be higher.

The draft budget projects the county will collect \$57.4 million in sales tax in 2017. She said the county has taken in \$2.6 million more than it anticipated in sales tax revenue so far in 2016 and “we included that in the 2017 budget” projections.



A slide from County Executive MaryEllen Odell's budget presentation on Oct. 6



Susan Carroll Berck, PhD
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST


1111 Route 9
Garrison, NY 10524

Office: 845.424.6373

berckcounseling@gmail.com

www.susanberck.com

 Berck Counseling Center



Divorce Litigation and Mediation
NORAH HART, ATTORNEY

Hart-Smart® Divorce
Streamlined Litigation &
Expedited Settlements

Call for a Free Consultation
212-897-5865
www.hart-smart.com
nhart@hart-smart.net

Garrison Fire Company Spending Jumps 27 Percent

(from Page 1)

2015 that totaled \$821,204.)

On Oct. 18, about 20 people, many of them associated with the fire company, attended a public hearing to discuss the proposed 2017 budget. The commissioners could have approved the budget at the conclusion of the hearing but deferred in part because chair Sandra Bohl was not present. New York State law allows newly created fire districts to adopt their initial budget without voter approval. The initial budget also is not subject to the 2 percent state tax cap on spending placed on municipalities.

Residents of the fire district will go to the polls Dec. 13 to vote on whether to set aside \$40,000 in reserve funds. They also will be asked to elect five commissioners from a slate of candidates that may include some of the current, appointed commissioners. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Nov. 23 to submit petitions to secretary Maura Fronio with the signatures of 25 fire district residents.

In addition to Bohl, the current commissioners are Nat Prentice, David Brower, Joe Mercurio and Rodney Tudor.

Chair defends increase

In an email to *The Current* on Oct. 19, Bohl defended the increased spending. "After five years of insufficient funding [by the Town of Philipstown], we found it necessary to increase the budget to take care of infrastructure and equipment that has been neglected," she wrote.

Shawn Sullivan was the lone resident at

the hearing to voice concern over the increase. "I'm not sure anyone in this room got a 27 percent increase in their salaries or their budgets this year," she told the commissioners. "I would like the board to perhaps re-examine some of the items on the list. I'm all for the fire department ... but I also think they should be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Garrison."

Six other residents spoke in support of the budget, including Lee Erickson, a captain with the fire company. "The department was deprived of a lot of things when the budget went down into the \$500,000s," he said. "Bringing it up to \$777,000 puts [us] where we would have been had we gone up 2 percent a year back then. Reserve funds were completely cut from us in 2011 leaving us short on things we [needed to] replace or repair. Had the public come out to meetings they would have heard explanations for why the budget went up."

Steve Rosario, a former town board member, said the fire company was forced to absorb many cuts when Philipstown controlled the budget. "Yes, 27 percent sounds like a huge number but again it gets us back to where we should be today," he said. "Going forward it will level off ... I don't think we'll see this kind of tax increase again."

More details, please

Grace Wilkie said she supported the budget but suggested it should include explanations of large spending increases such as for equipment purchases. The



Firefighters from Garrison, Cold Spring and North Highlands trained at the Garrison station on Oct. 8 on the use of rescue jacks in auto crashes.

GVFD photo

budget distributed at the hearing and the version posted on the GVFC website contain no descriptive text.

Joe Regele, a longtime critic of GVFC spending, did not attend the hearing. But in an email to *The Current*, he agreed with Wilkie's assessment. "There are no specifics in the budget, nor are there any facts about what was spent in 2016 — so who knows what is out of line?" he wrote.

Regele added that bringing the district back to where it was several years ago "is silly and ego-driven," adding that the majority of reductions in the past came out of reserve funds. "The smaller reserves did not stop the purchase of new equipment — it just changed the method of truck financing."

When the fire district commissioners voted on Sept. 26 to put forward the proposed \$777,907 budget, Prentice cast the sole "no" vote. In an email to *The Current* Oct. 19, he said he voted against the proposal "because I feel that presenting the Garrison taxpayers with a 27 percent increase ... is not in the best long-term in-

terests of the District and the Company."

Prentice said that although a significant increase was called for, he believes the budget, "can be brought in [with] a meaningfully lower number and with greater transparency to the taxpayers." He added: "Cultivating a mutually beneficial relationship with the taxpayers begins ... with a budget discussion that is respectful of their ability to pay and helpful to them in thoroughly understanding how the budget was constructed."

Tax rates

The Town of Philipstown collects the taxes levied by local fire districts. The 2017 budget posted on the town website indicates that the tentative rate for fire protection for the Garrison Fire District will increase next year from \$1.60 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$2.03. By way of comparison, the rate for residents of the North Highlands Fire District next year will be \$2.53 per \$1,000. The final rates will be determined by Putnam County once all budgets are adopted.

Beacon's Dormant Railroad May See New Life

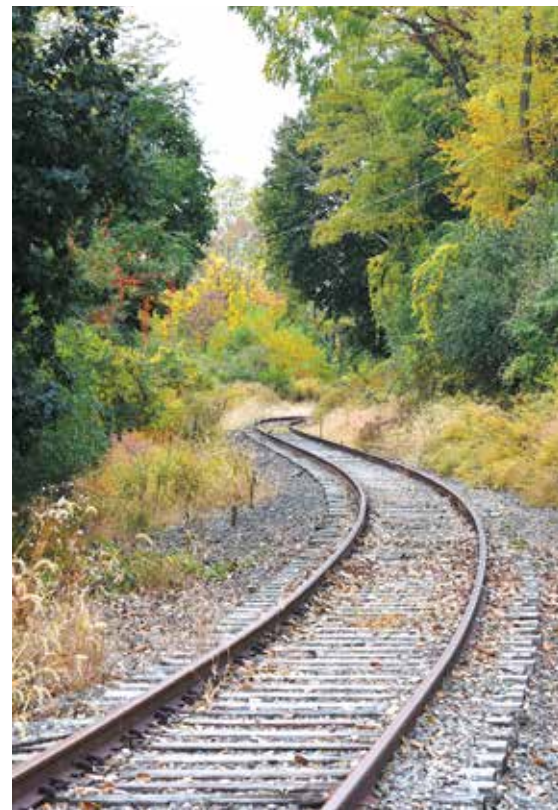
(from Page 1)

economy," he said, adding that developing the line for passenger service would also reduce the need to expand local roads.

Casale said he thinks light-rail and recreational uses can share the railroad right of way, and that ideally the Beacon Line could connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail that runs from Hopewell Junction to the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, and also to the Westchester County rail trail system.

Converting the Beacon Line to a rail trail would be in sync with a decades-long trend around the country. According to the Rails to Trails Conservancy, there are now 19,998 rail-trails in the U.S. covering 22,476 miles. New York State has 102 trails that total 1,034 miles. Another 62 ongoing projects will add 671 miles to the state total when complete.

Since 2012, funding has been available for rail trail and similar projects through the Transportation Alternatives program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration. In New York, these funds are distributed by the state Department of Transportation with grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$1.6 million.



The line winds its way from Fishkill to Beacon.

Photo by M. Turton

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BARRE-TY!

FREE INTRO CLASS
TEACHER MEET + GREET
APPETIZERS + BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 26 • 7PM
3021 RT 9 COLD SPRING

ON THE FLY
CYCLE • BARRE • SCULPT

ONTHEFLYCYCLINGSTUDIO.COM

The Calendar

Digital Brushwork

Carl Van Brunt, trained in tradition, now paints with a computer

by Alison Rooney

The “big birthdays” are often a time for reflection. For Carl Van Brunt, turning 70 has meant “there is another marker which is hidden but which is reflected in the work on view.” The work on view, at the Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon, is 13 limited-edition digital paintings, all created this year. The exhibit, *Blue Sky Mind*, continues through Nov. 6.

Van Brunt has been creating art digitally since 1980. An early adopter, he was inspired by his work in advertising, where he was exposed to computer-driven retouching techniques and mesmerized by the sight of an “original little Apple machine in a showroom — it only had eight [display] colors.” He says he “longed for the day when a personal computer would allow me to work on that level.”

Before the technology caught up with him, Van Brunt painted with oils and acrylics. Both parents encouraged him at a young age. His father was “very tuned into modern art; he turned me on to people like Pollock when I was around 12. My mother was musical and always had Bartok and Stravinsky playing. I feel that for most artists there’s a gene that’s been uncovered.”

Van Brunt studied art at Williams College, “more history than practice” and painted using standard tools such as palette knives and brushes. He was frustrated by the familiar effects they produced. At the same time, he was listening to jazz and “admiring the



Heat Combo by Carl Van Brunt

ability to make something up on the spot. You could perform something that could be a sign of expression of your inner life.”

When desktop computers became a reality in the early 1980s, Van Brunt jumped at the chance to use them to make art. “Simultaneously I was learning more and more about Buddhism and meditation, which I found to be like improv in the sense that it was not attached to a particular result, and so they dovetailed,” he recalls.

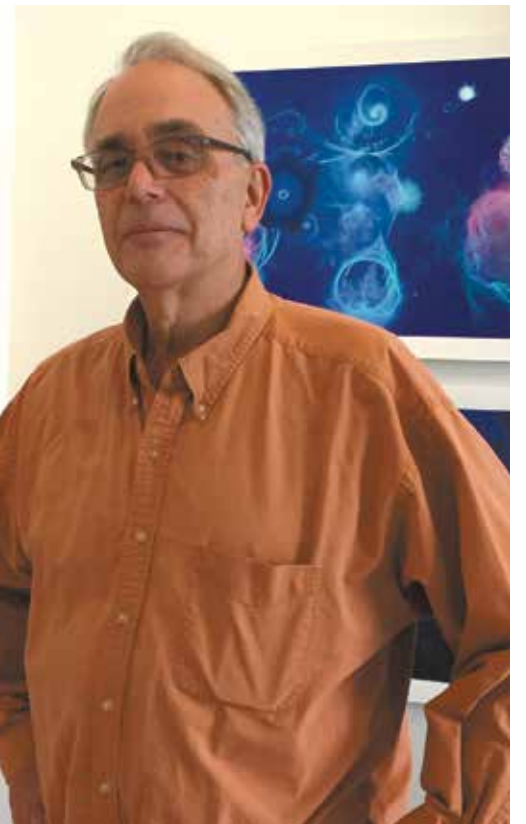
It took time for this to meld, and it wasn’t until the late 1990s that Van Brunt believed he was “getting to the point where I was genuinely expressing myself rather than being derivative.” This coincided with a 2000 relocation from New York City to the Hudson Highlands in pursuit of a place “where the rhythm was not so jolty,” he says. Soon after he and his family moved to Cold Spring, he opened the Van Brunt Gallery, which was

then one of the first in Beacon, on the east end of Main. (After moving further west on Main, it closed in 2011.)

Van Brunt, along with his wife, Suzanne Ball, then began Van Brunt Projects, which promotes regional artists at fairs and exhibitions. He is also gallery director of the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum.

Van Brunt created the digital paintings in *Blue Sky Mind* with what he describes as a “fractal generator” called Chaotica, a program that links “geometric numbers to a spectrum of colors,” he explains. “You put in values and the spectrum is linked to those values.” He admits knowing nothing about the math involved, but “someone created this and I learned how to play with it. I’ll choose a possibility and then work within the parameters to change it.”

Pointing to a leaf-like cluster motif repeated throughout one painting, *Older Than Time*, Van Brunt noted: “This is one fractal. I think of it as like a walk in the woods with a camera. You take photos then go through the images and one strikes you and that becomes the beginning. You then play with color for the background, generate or discover other fractal images that go with that background and overlap them. It’s a process of composing and layering — sometimes 20 or 30 layers — eliminating and adding. Finally you reach a balance,

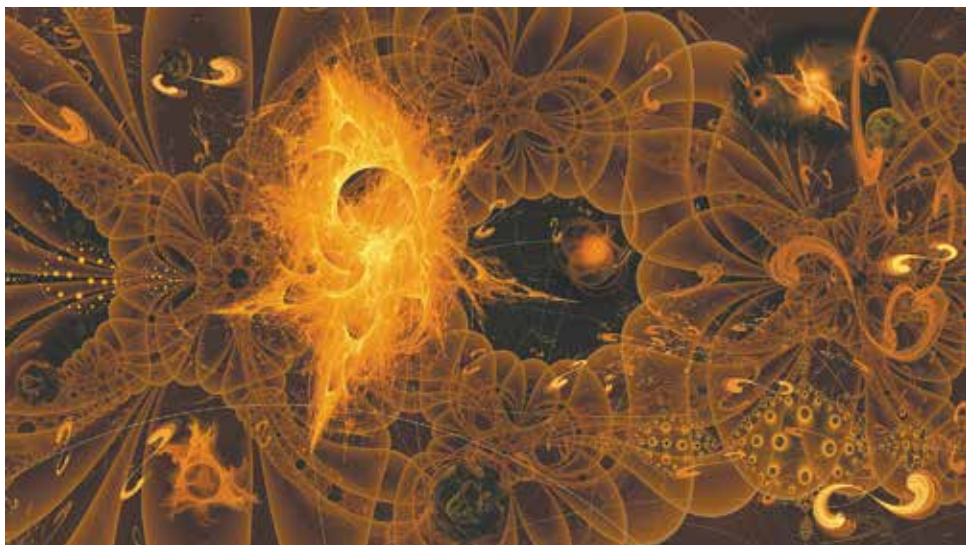


Carl Van Brunt at Theo Ganz Studio Photo by A. Rooney

expressive of a truth unable to be described in words or other forms.” The results from this process, he says, are “indeterminate, like music.... I feel like I’m discovering things rather than making things; I’m finding things that are there.”

Theo Ganz Studio, at 149 Main St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and by appointment. For more information visit theoganzstudio.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



Eye In The Sky by Carl Van Brunt

FRIDAY, OCT. 21

Pizza Night & Ice Cream Social
4 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
Takeout orders: 845-265-7285

Friday Night Enlght
7 p.m. Living Yoga
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | info@livingyogastudios.com

Open to the Sky Community Sing-a-long
7 p.m. Polhill Park, Beacon
beaconhebrewalliance.org

Open-Mic Night
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

Newburgh Last Saturday

Birds of Storm King Walk
8:30 a.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Defensive Driving Course
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Open to the Sky (Beacon Sukkah Project)
10 a.m. Cooking for the Week
Noon. Learn to Tap Dance
2 p.m. Tots Sing and Dance
4 p.m. Memories of Memories
7 p.m. Open Mic Story Share
Polhil Park, Beacon | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Aqua Zumba (First Session)
10 a.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
914-475-0493 | cityofbeacon.org

Beekeeping Program
10 – Noon. Cornell Cooperative Extension
1 Geneva Road, Brewster | 845-278-6738
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Upcycle Art Studio for Teens
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Sukkot Service
11:30 a.m. St. Mary's (Parish House)
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

People Against Domestic Violence March
Noon. Main Street, Cold Spring
914-646-1530 | ppadv.org

Calendar Highlights

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

Army Sports
Noon. Football vs. North Texas
7 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Loyola
West Point | 845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

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

Guided Tour
2 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

The World of Anna and Susan Warner (Opening)
5:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Dance Night
7 p.m. Red Pepper Bistro
1458 Route 9D, Wappinger Falls | 845-765-0667

Half Moon Theatre Anniversary Celebration
7 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion)
1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park
845-235-9885 | halfmoontheatre.org

Yesterday (Beatles Tribute)
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

HVSPCA Benefit: The Crow
9 p.m. Pandorica
165 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-6287

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

Kitchen Cuts for Kids
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. A Little Beacon Blog
291 Main St., Beacon | alittlebeaconblog.com

Open to the Sky (Beacon Sukkah Project)
11 a.m. The Book of Questions (Cello and Choreography)
1 p.m. Acceptance and Struggle
3 p.m. Speed Neighboring
5 p.m. Potluck Dinner
5 p.m. Simchat Torah Parade
Polhil Park, Beacon
beaconhebrewalliance.org

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

John Abercrombie and Putnam Valley Jazz Quintet
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Mo Yang (Violinist) and Renana Gutman (Pianist)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Havana Cuba All-Stars
7 p.m. Bardavon
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, OCT. 24

Seniors and Movement (Open to the Sky)
12:30 p.m. Polhil Park, Beacon
beaconhebrewalliance.org

Beacon vs. Sleepy Hollow (Volleyball)
4:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaoncityk12.org

Beacon City Council Workshop
7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School
845-838-6900 | beaoncityk12.org

Writing Workshop with Susan Wallach (First Session)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

TUESDAY, OCT. 25

What Exactly is Menopause? (Talk)
6 p.m. Butterfield Library | Details under Saturday

NY Citizen Preparedness Training
6:30 p.m. Fire Station No. 2
13 South Ave., Beacon
prepare.ny.gov

Beacon Historical Society
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

PTA Parent Support Group
7 p.m. Cold Spring Methodist Church
216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-424-6130 | facebook.com/PTALearnDiff

West Point's Landscape, 1802-1820 (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian Fellowship Hall
222 Hudson Street, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnrm.org

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26

The Gravedigger's Tale
7 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

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

THURSDAY, OCT. 27

Haldane vs. Putnam Valley (Volleyball)
4:30 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
haldaneschool.org

Farming: More than a Career (Panel)
6 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College (Dominican Hall)
330 Powell Ave., Newburgh
845-569-3222 | msmc.edu

The Gravedigger's Tale
7 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Wednesday.

FRIDAY, OCT. 28

The Gravedigger's Tale
7 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Wednesday.

Education, Inc. (Documentary)
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Beacon
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

NY Citizen Preparedness Training
7 p.m. United Methodist Church
216 Main St., Cold Spring
prepare.ny.gov | 845-526-3788

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
highlandscurrent.com/sg

Hudson Beach Glass

Glass Bead Making Weekend Workshop

All materials and tools are provided
Sign up on our website

TWO FULL DAYS
Nov. 5th & 6th

Blow Your Own Ornament
November
December
January
Sign up on our website
spots going fast

162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508 (845) 440-0068
Open daily 10AM - 6PM, Sunday 11AM - 6PM
www.hudsonbeachglass.com



The Gift Hut

Open Friday - Sunday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
86 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
Gifthut06@aim.com
Phone 845.297.3786

Fall Fragrance Bowls

now in stock
Made in the USA

SATURDAY, OCT. 22**Parent/Child Yoga - Halloween Inspired**

9:30 a.m. Beahive

291 Main St., Beacon | alittlebeaconblog.com

A Very Beacon Halloween: Psychic Fair

12 - 6 p.m. Chill Wine Bar

173 Main St., Beacon

845-765-0885 | chillwinebarbeacon.com

Dark Parade

7 p.m. Main Street, Beacon

Followed by party at Elk's Lodge

beaconchamberofcommerce.com

SUNDAY, OCT. 23**Children's Hocus Pocus Parade**

1 p.m. South Ave. at Route 9D, Beacon

facebook.com/A-Very-Beacon-Halloween

Presented by Chamber of Commerce

Pumpkins & Painted Faces Tour

1 p.m. Storm King Art Center

1 Museum Road, New Windsor

845-534-3115 | stormking.org

MONDAY, OCT. 24**Pumpkin Carving**

3 - 6 p.m. Long Dock Park

8 Long Dock Road, Beacon

845-473-4440 | scenichudson.org

TUESDAY, OCT. 25**Pumpkin Carving**

3 - 6 p.m. Long Dock Park | Details under Monday

Spooky Poems with Beacon Poet Laureate

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St.,

Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26****Pumpkin Carving**

3 - 6 p.m. Long Dock Park | Details under Monday.

Thrills and Chills (ages 7-10)

4 p.m. Howland Public Library

See details under Tuesday.

THURSDAY, OCT. 27**Pumpkin Carving**

3 - 6 p.m. Long Dock Park | Details under Monday

Family Movie: Hocus Pocus

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Halloween Dance Jam

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café

379 Main Street, Beacon

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, OCT. 28**After Hours at the Haunted Library (grades 6-8)**

5 p.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Pumpkin Lighting

6 p.m. Long Dock Park

See details under Monday.

Haunted Halloween Beauty Pageant Dinner

6:30 p.m. Hudson House River Inn

2 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-9355

A Night of Spirits with Medium Paul Coleman

7:30 p.m. Other Wordly Waxes

211 Fishkill Ave., Beacon

OtherWorldlyWaxes@gmail.com

Tarot Tales and Psychic Glimpses

7:30 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion)

1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park

800-838-3006 | halfmoontheatre.org

The Bride of Frankenstein (1935)

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center

729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley

845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

SATURDAY, OCT. 29**Halloween Spooktacular**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. John Jay Homestead

400 Route 22, Katonah

518-474-0456 | johnjayhomestead.org

Boo at the Zoo

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo

3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain

845-786-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

I Spy Halloween Trail

Noon - 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

Muser Drive, Cornwall

845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

Tarot Tales and Psychic Glimpses

5 p.m. Culinary Institute of America

See details under Friday.

Cold Spring Costume Parade

5:30 p.m. Route 9D and Main Street

coldspringareachamber.org

Lineup begins 5 p.m. at St. Mary's.

SUNDAY, OCT. 30**I Spy Halloween Trail**

Noon - 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

See details under Oct. 29.

Ghosts and Ghost Hunting (Talk)

2 p.m. Howland Library

See details under Oct. 25.

Pumpkin Glow

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

See details under Thursday.

MONDAY, OCT. 31**Children's Halloween Craft**

12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Fishkill Recreation Center

793 Route 52, Fishkill

845-831-3371 | fishkillrecreation.com

Halloween Dance

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St., Beacon

845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

LUXE OPTIQUE

Beacon

Free Eye Examwith the purchase of a pair of
glasses
or**\$50.00 off**
a complete pair of glasses

*

\$100.00 off*
your second pair!183 Main St
Beacon, NY
845.838.2020

luxeroptiquebeacon.com

Dita Oliver Peoples Lafont
Thom Brown Alain Mikli J.F Rey

TOWNECRIER CAFE

SINCE 1972

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. brunch/dinner
Mon. - Fri. 4 p.m., Closed Tuesday"A gem ... They take their
food seriously." ~ NY TimesFri., 10/21 8:30 p.m.
Lara Hope & Ark-Tones
guest Lipbone ReddingSat., 10/22 8:30 p.m.
John SebastianSun., 10/23 7:30 p.m.
Holly BowlingThurs., 10/27 7:00 p.m.
Halloween Dance JamFri., 10/28 8:30 p.m.
Paul ThornSat., 10/29 8:30 p.m.
Guy Davis
Professor Louie
& The CrowmatixBest of the
Hudson Valley®
2014 & 2016Sun., 10/30 7:30 p.m.
Karla Bonoff
guest David BuskinThurs., 11/3 7:30 p.m.
Brewer & ShipleyFri., 11/4 8:30 p.m.
Larry Carlton
guest Strato G
featuring Tony DePaoloSat., 11/5 8:30 p.m.
Shilelagh LawSun., 11/6 7:30 p.m.
The Cleverly Brothers
guest The Toland BrothersThurs., 11/10 7:30 p.m.
Molsky's Mountain
Drifters

379 Main St., Beacon • townecrier.com • 845.855.1300

Zombies to Invade Halloween Parade (Again)

This year, Thriller dance mob is no secret

by Alison Rooney

“Did you ever want to dress up as a zombie and dance to Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*?” asks the website of Thrill the World.

For many residents of Philipstown, the answer is yes. For the second year in a row, a whole lot of them will be making moves Oct. 29 at the riverfront bandstand at the conclusion of Cold Spring’s Halloween parade. Last year the “flash mob” dance was hush-hush, as the organizers operated in stealth mode. It worked. As Jackson’s 1983 hit began to play over the loudspeakers, about 30 people dressed as zombies stepped forward to replicate in unison the intricate choreography of the singer’s music video. They repeated the performance on Parrott Street on Halloween.

The dance and others like it around the world are inspired by Thrill the World, which began in 2006 as an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the “Largest Thriller Dance.” (The first event involved 62 people; last year there were 234 in Redmond, Washington.) Today it still does that but also encourages the activity as “a celebration of dance and community” that can be used to raise money for charity.

Over the past month or two, thousands of people worldwide have been getting together to learn and rehearse the *Thriller* dance. They’ll perform it together on the appointed day (Oct. 29), at the same time (6 p.m. in their local time). In Cold Spring it happens to fall at the time that the annual Halloween parade concludes.

Thriller came to the Highlands as a seed sown by Portland, Oregon, transplant Erin Muir, who had participated there for three years. She mentioned the event to friends Branis Buslovich and Luz Mejia Bailey and they ran with it, along

with Craig Roffman. Muir had a hand in teaching the dance and found the experience “awesome, because this place has such a strong community.” On the afternoon of the 2015 parade, participants banded together, getting in costume and helping each other with the final touches of “blood, dirt and the makeup to do our scary dead faces,” Buslovich recalls.

Buslovich says the covert operation involved “privately approaching people we thought would enjoy it.” She estimates it takes four or five lessons to learn the choreography. (The dance moves provided by Thrill the World are slightly reordered from the video.) It was all worth it, Buslovich says. “We surprised everybody; we pulled it off.”

It’s harder to keep a secret the second time around, and so this year it’s out in the open, with the news spread by social media and word-of-mouth. Skybaby Yoga Studio, the Fred Astaire Dance Studio and On the Fly Cycling are donating studio space for rehearsals.

Buslovich says she and Bailey — who was teaching a session recently one Sunday morning — found the idea “inspiring and uplifting; hopefully it will continue as a tradition.” Bailey recalled learning the dance in high school — it all came back to her quickly. “I was the bumblebee in front [last year], pulling the sequences,” she recalled cheerily.

At a recent rehearsal, Haldane fourth-grader Ranger McElhattan said that while he danced last year, this year he’s putting even more effort into his moves. “I’m going to experiment with



A scene from Michael Jackson's *Thriller* video



The *Thriller* flash mob at the bandstand after the 2015 Halloween parade

Photo by Maggie Benmour

different faces, with my eye pulled really out,” he said, demonstrating that special skill. Ranger’s mom, Tania Dirks, said the dance reminds her of “the crazy antics in *Gilmore Girls*, which takes place in a small town like this one, and it’s a great way to create our own wacky tradition.”

Although Halloween is fast approaching, the organizers say it’s not too late to

learn the choreography. Search for the “Cold Spring Thriller” group at Facebook for details. The remaining rehearsals are at 3 p.m. on Oct. 15 at Fred Astaire; 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 20 at Skybaby; 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 21 at On the Fly; 3 p.m. on Oct. 22 at Fred Astaire; 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 25 at Skybaby and 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 28 at On the Fly.



Luz Mejia Bailey, Erin Muir and Branis Buslovich

Photo by A. Rooney



Thriller dancers rehearse on a Sunday morning at Skybaby.

Photo by A. Rooney

The Money That Flows Both Ways

Could Beacon support its own currency?

By Brian PJ Cronin

Don't be confused if the next time you're at a coffee shop you overhear a customer ask the barista if he "takes Currents."

They're not talking about this newspaper but a monetary system known as Hudson Valley Current. Created three years ago in Rosendale, Currents are now accepted by more than 200 businesses, services and sole proprietors in Dutchess and Ulster counties. Organizers have begun to make their pitch in Beacon, where the money is accepted for payment at Ortnier Graphics and the Beahive. It was there on Sept. 29 that co-founder Chris Hewitt shared how it works.

Hewitt, publisher of *Country Wisdom News*, said the Current is not meant to replace the dollar. "Dollars are important for things like savings, college and vacations," he said. Instead, its goals are to spur the local economy, strengthen communities, help businesses get started with interest-free lines of credit and encourage the creation of a more just economic system. "I also like it because it



Chris Hewitt

Photo by Tom Eberhardt-Smith

teaches people what money is and where it comes from," he said.

Currents are not paper bills but entirely digital, like Bitcoins, although Hewitt says a paper version may happen eventually. He said he was inspired after attending a conference in 2006 at Bard College about local currencies and economies. He said it took years of

research, development and raising grant money to design and implement the system, which is run as a non-profit.

Hewitt and his collaborators didn't have to start from scratch, because the idea of local currencies operating within a national economy has been around awhile. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, towns and cities around the world experimented with printing money as the value of dollars and deutschmarks plummeted. The most famous of these currencies was Switzerland's WIR, created by small-business owners to give each other loans at a time when banks could not. The WIR is still used by more than 75,000 businesses, and trades the equivalent of billions in Swiss Francs every year. When the WIR was created, Swiss banks united to shut it down, but it is considered a stabilizing force on the Swiss franc.

By one count, there are more than 75 alternative currencies in the U.S. including at least four in the Northeast. For 20 years, the city of Ithaca printed a currency called Ithaca Hours, now a digital system called Ithacash. Glen Falls has Particle Notes. Residents of western Massachusetts use BerkShares, which organizers say keeps money in the community rather than sending it to the corporate headquarters of a national chain. Manchester, New Hampshire, has Shire Silver, which resemble credit cards but contain a small amount of gold or silver.

When a business enrolls in the Currents system, Hewitt or a colleague meets with the owners to match them with other vendors who use the system and to solicit ideas for businesses to recruit. For example, if a coffee shop tells Hewitt that a supplier is the coffee roaster two towns away, Hewitt said he



A recent gathering of Hudson Valley Current users

Photo provided

will contact the roasters so that each business can trade the currency. Hewitt then asks the roaster for its main vendors, and so on.

"That's why we call it Hudson Valley Currents," he said. "Like a river, it's stronger if it keeps flowing."

The system is used by a variety of business-to-business services such as designers, bookkeepers and consultants but also increasingly by restaurants, farms, electricians and mechanics. A plumber in Kingston has done so much new business since he began accepting Currents that he's now working with Hewitt to develop a system encouraging people to donate to charities. For example, a food bank could accept Currents and use them to purchase produce from farms and CSAs.

"He really wanted to find a way to give back to the community that has helped his business grow, so this is going to be his way to do that," Hewitt said.

Hewitt has spoken with Kingston about accepting Currents to pay parking tickets, and both Dutchess and Ulster County executives have expressed interest in the program. Hewitt would like to expand the program throughout the Hudson Valley but for now it is limited to how many people Hewitt can meet with. Naturally, he said, people have questions.

"I'm trying to sign up a restaurant where I live," he said. "And the owner told me, 'It's a great idea Chris, but what if 95 percent of my customers start paying in Currents?' And I said, 'I dream of that day. Because that means that everyone in our community has Currents to spend. Which means that you'd have plenty of places to spend those Currents you're getting paid in.'"



845-809-5174

HIGHLAND • PRINTMAKERS

COLD SPRING • NEW YORK

FINE ART PRINTING
SERVING COLD SPRING
BEACON
NYC & BEYOND
since 1997

ARCHIVAL GICLEE
PRINT ANY SIZE ART
from 4" to 64" wide printing
PAPERS & CANVAS

SCAN ANY SIZE ART

UPLOAD PHOTOS & ARTWORK &
Order Prints Online
NEW ONLINE PRICING!

MOUNTING & FRAMING

THEHIGHLANDSTUDIO.COM

C.&E. Paint Supply, Inc.

Tools • Hardware • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies



Monday - Thursday 8 - 5:30
Friday & Saturday 8 - 5

Tel. 845.265.3126

158 Main Street • Cold Spring, NY 10516



DOWNING
film center
19 Front St., Newburgh, NY
845-561-3686
www.downingfilmcenter.com

Now Showing
"Denial" (PG13)
FRI 7:30, SAT 2:30 5:15 8:00
SUN 2:30 5:15, TUE & WED 7:30
THU 2:00 7:30

National Theatre Live Presents
"Frankenstein" (NR)
MON 7:15

MONROE CINEMA
at TMACC
34 Millpond Parkway
Monroe, NY 10950 • 845.395.9055

Now Showing
"The Girl on the Train" (R)
FRI 2:00 5:00 8:00
SAT 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
SUN 1:30 4:30 7:30, MON 7:30
TUE 1:30 4:30 7:30, WED & THU 7:30

"Ouija: Origin of Evil" (PG13)
FRI 1:30 4:30 7:30
SAT 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
SUN 1:00 4:00 7:00
MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 4:00 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

"Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" (PG13)
FRI 1:45 4:45 7:45
SAT 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
SUN 1:15 4:15 7:15, MON 7:15
TUE 1:15 4:15 7:15, WED & THU 7:15

Finding Truth Before Fiction

Garrison resident publishes third historical novel

by Alison Rooney

During his frequent bike rides from Perkins Drive to the Bear Mountain Inn, Bevis Longstreth's curiosity was piqued by a series of stones along the path, each carved with "WPA," for the Works Progress Administration, a federal program that put masses of the unemployed to work in the 1930s during the Great Depression.

The stones inspired Longstreth's third novel, *Boats Against the Current*, in which the protagonist is a young, unemployed sculptor in New York City who lands a job with the WPA carving stones at Bear Mountain. On Saturday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m. the Garrison resident (and Highlands Current Inc. board member) will read at the Desmond-Fish Library from *Boats Against The Current* — its title taken from the closing sentence of *The Great Gatsby*: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past" — and answer questions about the extensive research that went into it.

"For sheer fun, nothing at my age beats reading history," Longstreth has written. "But I have found this pleasure to be greatly enhanced by braiding it with the creation of stories about people who lived through that history."

After setting his previous novels in antiquity (Scythia for *Spindle and Bow* in 2005 and the Persian empire for *Return of the Shade* in 2009), Longstreth says he found himself eager to explore an era of far more recent vintage.

"As with the other books, I had just enough knowledge to know I didn't know enough so would benefit from researching," says the author, who, at age 82, was born during the decade the Bear Mountain stones were made. "This gave me an entrance into the WPA. At the time I began working on [the novel], the economy had fallen out of bed." He even found himself writing an opinion piece about bringing back the WPA, which he calls "a tremendously effective program."

(Longstreth knows of what he speaks: in 1981 he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission, following a career specializing in corporate and securities law.)

As the retired attorney developed characters and formulated a plot, he spent time at the National Archives and the library at Kansas State University to examine the papers of an outspoken cattleman and "right-wing zealot" who hated President Franklin Roosevelt, who introduced the New Deal.



Bevis Longstreth, next to the stone that caught his eye.

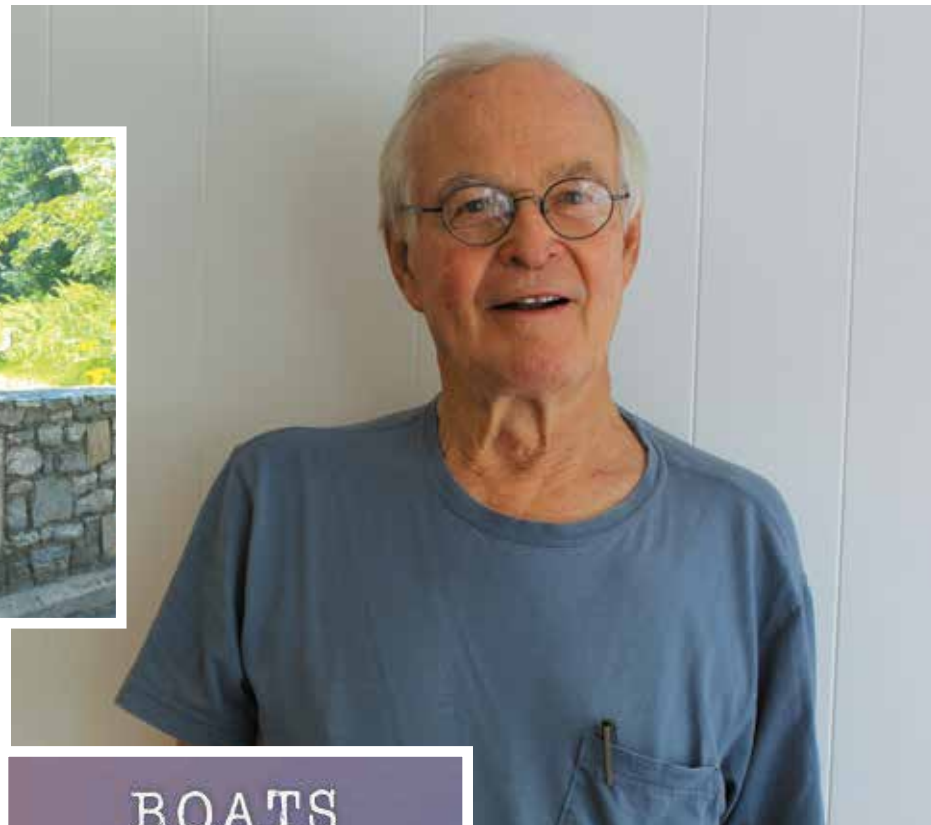
Photo provided

The story in *Boats Against the Current* takes shape around a fictional cattleman and his two sons, one a lawyer working for WPA head Harry Hopkins and the other the Bear Mountain sculptor. The Dust Bowl, another symbol of the period, is brought into the story through a character who flees her Texas panhandle home after a particularly severe storm and ends up in New York City, where she becomes a singer and actress. Longstreth said he found the Dust Bowl relevant "because of climate change and man's demonstrable ability to shoot himself in the foot."

Another character, a well-to-do woman uncomfortable with her wealth, brings into the story the real-life Huey Long, the Louisiana governor who was viewed as either a demagogue or a populist because of his "Share Our Wealth" redistribution program.

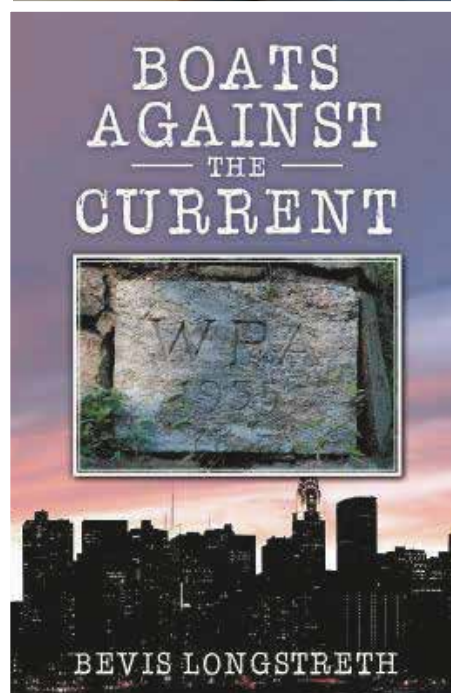
Longstreth also spent a week in the library at George Mason University listening to an oral history of The Theatre Project, a WPA program that created regional theaters and populated them with unemployed artists, writers and directors. (Given his dependence on these and other libraries, it's not surprising that Longstreth says he considers them to be "temples — the only temples, so librarians are the keepers of the temples.")

Despite the inclusion of prominent historical figures,



Bevis Longstreth

Photo by A. Rooney



Longstreth describes his book as also being "fashioned around history that isn't well-known." As an example, he notes *The Living Newspaper*, which was founded by Hallie Flanagan, who organized The Theatre Project. Because there weren't enough playwrights to keep all the actors busy, Flanagan would take a recent event, such as a Supreme Court decision, and "get someone to write up a play on what had just happened," Longstreth explained. "With little scenery they were produced just a few days after the event." One *Living Newspaper* presentation Longstreth includes in the novel was based on an incident in Newburgh (although he doesn't

mention the city by name) in which a woman enters a police station with a dead infant in her arms. She tells the officers she drowned him because she "couldn't feed him and couldn't bear to see him hungry."

Longstreth is already at work on his next book. "I don't have a story yet, but it's about the role of the Hudson River in the Revolutionary War," he says, clearly relishing the research ahead.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at the corner of Routes 9D and 403. Call 845-424-3020. For more information about Longstreth's novels, which are available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble, visit bevislongstreth.com.

Garrison Art Center Names New Director

Co-founder of Embark Peekskill to succeed Carinda Swann

The Garrison Art Center has named Katie Schmidt Feder as its new executive director. She succeeds Carinda Swann, who will retire in December.

For the past five years, Feder has been executive director of Embark Peekskill, which she co-founded. It provides space for artists and writers to teach, collaborate, create and perform.

Feder holds a bachelor's degree from

the University of Northern Colorado in musical theatre and dance with a technical emphasis in costume design and fine art, as well as a master's degree in arts administration from Goucher College near Baltimore. Her thesis focused on supporting self-taught, "outsider" artists.

After moving from Brooklyn to Peekskill in 2003, Feder worked as a director, designer and teaching artist in studios and schools throughout the Hudson Valley, including at the Garrison School, Peekskill High School and Hudson River Performing Arts in

Fishkill. Her professional life has ranged from theatrical performance, direction and choreography to jewelry, scenic, costume and graphic design.

The art center has also named Becky Gordon as its education and exhibitions coordinator, succeeding Melissa Schlobohm, who wanted to spend more time on her career as an artist but will continue to teach printmaking at the center.

Gordon, who has a degree in art education from The Ohio State University, was most recently director of sales and marketing at Niche Modern in Beacon.



Katie Schmidt Feder

Photo provided

Mending the Social Fabric (And Your Favorite Shirt)

Repair Café returns to Beacon Oct. 29

By Brian PJ Cronin

If you've got an old lamp or record player in the attic that's been broken for years, but you haven't been able to get rid of it for sentimental reasons, you're in luck. The Repair Café is returning the Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St. in Beacon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct 29. Experts in

woodworking, textiles, electrics, electronics, mechanics and other trades will be on hand to try and fix your broken but beloved items at no charge.

"That phrase, 'broken but beloved,' is what people relate to," says John Wackman of Kingston, who brought the Repair Café movement to the Hudson Valley in 2013. "You see people bringing in items like the stand mixer that their mother used when baking cakes for them while they were growing up.... There are tears of laughter and tears of joy when we get these things running again."

The first Repair Café took place seven years ago this month in the Netherlands. Its founders saw their event as a reaction against companies making products that are increasingly difficult to open and



Antony Tseng, one of the organizers of the Beacon Repair Café, works on a record player at the first Café in May.

Photo by Samantha Tseng

repair and then threatening consumers with voided warranties should they try to fix them anyway.

Under those circumstances, many people decide it's easier to just throw broken items out and buy new ones, despite the significant financial and environmental cost. The cafés also transform the once common art of repair into a radical act, one that Wackman feels is necessary in order to reduce the massive number of objects that make their way into the waste stream each year.

When Wackman learned of the movement, it hadn't made its way to the U.S. After he relocated to the Hudson Valley, however, he thought he had found the ideal environment to get it started stateside. "I'm continuously impressed by

the creativity of people living here, and the sense of community," he said. "There's also an extraordinary network of people here who are interested in some aspect of sustainability."

In addition to Beacon, Wackman helped start cafés in Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Kingston, Rosendale, New Paltz and Gardiner.

Those who wish to attend the café are asked to bring in only things that they can carry, and be prepared to stick around for a bit. That's not only so they can tell the technicians about the item's history and problems, but so they can watch and learn how to repair the item themselves. While Wackman can't guarantee that every item will be fixed, he says he will guarantee an interesting time for all those who attend.

While the repairs are free, attendees will be asked to pay for any replacement parts, although they are often not needed. "When we started it, I thought that most items we fixed would need a part replaced," says Wackman. "And I thought, 'How are we going to do that? We're not a hardware store, we don't have all these spare parts.' But, in fact, in most cases, the problem is that a connection has been lost, and it simply needs to be restored."

Wires aren't the only connection that gets restored. The reason why the events are called Repair Cafés, as opposed to Repair Garages, is that the restoration of

social connections the event provides are just as important. Free coffee and tea are on hand, baked goods are for sale, and technicians get a chance to have their skills and talents valued by the community.

"You're standing there shoulder-to-shoulder with your neighbor, you're both getting things fixed, and you're all trading stories," says Wackman. "The levels of gratification on both sides of the table are very high.... The phrase that people use most often to describe their experience at a Repair Café isn't 'I got something fixed,' or 'It was free,' but 'That was fun!'"

Joyce Hanson brought a broken lamp to the first Beacon Repair Café in May. "Within minutes the switch was replaced and I went home with a working lamp," she said. "There were many interesting things being repaired, great conversations and wonderful folks. It was so nice to see folks bringing stuff in for repairs rather than dumping them in the trash."

The Repair Café movement in the Hudson Valley has attracted enough attention that Wackman has been recognized as an "Environmental Champion" by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Lawmakers are getting in on the act as well. A Fair Repair bill, the first of its kind, is being considered by both the New York State Senate and Assembly. If passed, it would require manufacturers who sell products in New York to provide owners and independent repair shops with access to service information, replacement parts, repair information and the legal ability for consumers to attempt to fix their own products.

Beacon Student Will Take Trumpet to Texas

Among 99 musicians chosen to perform at bowl game

Beacon High School student was among 99 musicians from across the country chosen to perform Jan. 7 at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Benjamin Morgan, who plays trumpet, was chosen from among thousands of high school juniors who applied through their band directors. Each applicant submitted a performance video. In addition to the 99 musicians, a committee for the bowl game also selected 25 color guard members and a drum major.

Band members will spend a week in Texas and be paired with a member of the U.S. Army Band. The game will be broadcast on NBC.



Benjamin Morgan

BEACON TALENTS

160 Main St Beacon NY 845.661.3610 @ BeaconTalents.com

SHEARLING

Beacon Made
ACCESSORIES- THE FAST
WAY TO FABULOUS!

HOURS
Tu W :(
M Th F S
11-6
Sun 12-6

ZipFlat! Bags

Beacon LightSkirts
Silk & Leather Tops

TOWNE CRIER DANCE JAM

Costumes, Masks Or Come As You Are
Prizes For Best Costumes

Singles, Couples, Friends, Newcomers

Thursday October 27th 7:00

**HALLOWEEN
DANCE NIGHT**

Towne Crier Cafe

379 Main Street [845] 855-1300
Beacon Admission: \$10

Presented by H.V. Dance Beat • Info: [845] 765-0667

Warning to Chocoholics: Quickly Turn the Page

Story could lead to intense cravings, loss of concentration

by Alison Rooney

Is chocolate the stuff your dreams are made of? If so, The Chocolate Expo could make them come true. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, the event will include goodies produced by artisanal chocolatiers, old-fashioned candy shops, farms, bakeries, specialty food producers, wineries, distilleries and cider brewers.

Last year's expo at the Motorcycle Museum in Newburgh — the first in the Hudson Valley — drew more than 6,100 people.

Don't expect to lug home Halloween bags overflowing with samples. Instead, the expo is designed for people who are serious about, or at least are aficionados of, chocolate. Expo founder Marvin Baum describes the atmosphere as akin to a wine tasting, with vendors offering tasting portions. Talking to the purveyor is part of the attraction and, if after tasting something you like, you can purchase the product on the spot.

Many Hudson Valley vendors will take part, including More Good of Beacon (which will be selling chocolate soda and vegan egg creams), Hudson Valley Chocolates of Cornwall, Yankee Folly Cidery of New Paltz, Wild Coyote Hot Sauces of Glenham, and Oliver Kita Chocolates of Rhinebeck. Kita will present a talk on "the romance of cacao."

Beginning at noon, celebrity chefs such as Barret Beyer (*Hell's Kitchen*, Season 11), Tony Albanese (*Cake Boss*, Season 1) and Scottish Francis (*MasterChef*, Season 5) will offer demonstrations among the flowing chocolate fountains. Felicia Ramos Peters also will lead children's Halloween decorating activity.

For those with dietary restrictions, many vendors sell organic, vegan, salt-free, kosher, gluten-free and no-added-sugar products.

Baum launched The Chocolate Expo in a roundabout way. He had no experience in either the food or event industries but wanted to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Woodstock music festival.

Working with the New York State Museum, he organized a museum exhibit, but when he discovered the state had not budgeted any funds for an opening reception, he reached out to wineries, breweries, cheese makers and specialty food producers. After the successful event, Baum switched the focus of his company from digital technology to event production.

Soon after, he planned former Gov. George Pataki's annual holiday celebration to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation and created a chocolate event for the state's official holiday celebration in Albany. His experience with those events led to the creation of The Chocolate Expo in 2004.



Chocolates on display at The Chocolate Expo



A kebab of strawberries, dipped into a chocolate fountain

Photos by Chuck Fishman

Chocolate Gone Too Far?

Off-the-wall products at expo



A package of chocolate-covered bacon

- Chocolate-covered bacon (BaconBites)
- Chocolate-covered Belgian waffles (Pika's Farm Table)
- Chocolate balsamic vinegar (JD Gourmet)
- Chocolate-infused Brussels sprouts (An Artistic Taste)
- Chocolate nut butter (The Peanut Principle)
- Chocolate-covered Oreos (Chocolate Works)
- Chocolate-covered popcorn (Michele's Sweet Shoppe)
- Chocolate-covered potato chips (The Pretzel Princess)
- Cocoa-covered pumpkin seeds (SuperSeedz)
- Chocolate wine (Pazdar Winery)

The Chocolate Expo runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Expect crowds, particularly during the first few hours. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5 to 11 if purchased online; admission at the door is \$20 per adult and \$15 per child. Children under 5 are free. Tickets purchased online for admission during the expo's final two hours are \$10 each. For more information, visit thechocolateexpo.com. The expo will also be held Nov. 13 at the New Jersey Exposition Center in Edison and Dec. 11 at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Long Island.



Three varieties of hazelnut beehives

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Directed by Christine Bokhour
with Bobby Convertino, Fay Gerbes, Maia Guest,
Cat Guthrie, Andre Herzegovitch, John Lane, Jenn Lee,
Harper Levy, Asher Pacht, Lisa Sabin, Chris Whipple
and musicians: Nathan Perry, Mike Larocco and Gareth Guest

Performances: Oct. 21 - Nov. 6

Family Matinees: Oct. 29, 2 p.m. and Nov. 6, 4 p.m.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com (*Spelling Bee*) or 800.838.3006
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)



iGuitar Workshop

- Custom Guitars
- iGuitar USB
- Factory Direct Sales
- Expert Repairs & Setups
- USB/Synth Upgrades
- Lessons

Patrick G. Cummings

290 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
845•809•5347 x226

www.iguitarworkshop.com | sales@iguitarworkshop.com



A Lawyer Who Teaches Fifth Grade

Kristen Spooner took an unorthodox road to Haldane

by Alison Rooney

Most teachers start on the track early, earning degrees in education. But a few come to the profession from another. At Haldane High, chemistry teacher Michele Valenti came from IBM, where she was a chemist, and math teacher Christian Hoolan worked as an engineer.

They're joined this year in the district by Kristen Spooner, who teaches fifth grade but began her career as an attorney before being hired as a high school math teacher in the South Bronx. She ended up in Cold Spring in part because she married a Haldane grad; she says she and her husband, Ben (Class of 1998), who have two preschool sons, are happy to be here.

After graduating from Iona College at 20, Spooner says she wanted to become a police officer but was too young to take the test. So she went to law school at night. "I graduated, passed the bar exam and started working as a lawyer, but I found it grueling and not fulfilling," she says. Spooner began working as a substitute teacher at Peekskill High School and also found that work challenging but loved the interaction with the students.

That experience inspired her to apply to the New York Teaching Fellows program, which is designed for professionals who have no prior teaching experience. Those selected receive training and pursue a partially subsidized master's degree while teaching at a New York City public school.

Spooer says she loved the program but didn't feel she received enough training before being placed in a ninth-grade classroom in the South Bronx. "It was very much learning as you go," she says. She persevered and wound up staying at the school for eight years, teaching seventh, ninth and tenth grades and coaching the girls' basketball team. She also returned to school for certification to work with students with disabilities.

After moving to the Hudson Valley in 2011, the commute to the South Bronx, combined with new parenthood, began to wear her down. "Without these pressures, I probably would have stayed," she says. While home on maternity leave for her second son, Thomas, now 1 (his older brother Ryan is 4), she spotted a job listing for an opening at Haldane.

She's happy now to have made the move to Cold Spring, which she visited for the first time while on a date with her husband, who was a senior at Haldane. (He took her to Henry's, now Whistling Willie's.) "I'm absolutely thrilled to be in this amazing little community," she says, adding she "never pictured back then that we'd wind up living here."

In her first few weeks on the job at Haldane Elementary, Spooner experienced

both the benefits ("They are so excited to learn; the level of engagement is high; they want to be a part of everything") and the hurdles ("It takes a them a little longer to complete a task, because they're 10") of teaching at the elementary level. She's adjusting, too. "I'm learning to be a better hand-holder, especially emotionally, because they get upset more easily," she says. "With high school kids, if they don't want to do something, you can't talk them into it. This group is very willing."



Kristen Spooner

Photos by A. Rooney

Her classroom is outfitted with both a Smartboard and laptop computers, which Spooner said was similar to the setup at her South Bronx school. The desks are bunched together to encourage collaborative learning. "I had a lot of success setting things up this way at my previous school," she says. "There were a lot of kids with different skills. I learned if I got them to work together there could be five 'teachers' in the room."

Although she's a fan of using technology in the classroom, especially for math, a visit to her class found her students engaged with pencils, solving problems on paper most of the time.

At Haldane, Spooner has found deeper parental involvement. "I'm used to the other way: lack of it," she says, although parents of elementary-school students are more involved in general. Spooner says she was surprised and touched when asked to make a wish list for a school book sale so that parents could make purchases for her. "It blew me away," she says. "Getting books from parents made me feel so welcome, part of a community."

In her first days at Haldane, Spooner admits she felt "a little bit like a first-year teacher. It was a lot of little, silly, things, being new to the building, not knowing where to line up the kids in the hallways, not knowing I had to pick them up from the gym, putting them in the wrong spot for a fire drill. It was a little overwhelming. But I'm learning."

Spooer says that by the middle of the



Kristen Spooner with her fifth-grade class at Haldane

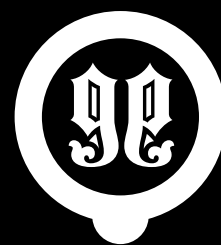
year she hopes and expects her students will be more autonomous, allowing them to work more at their own pace. Spooner also hopes to expose them to more diversity than they typically experience at Haldane. "When I mentioned that I had taught in the South Bronx, it felt like the other end of the earth," she says. "At the very least I'd like to start a pen-pal program with the sixth-graders at my former school. It's important for both sets of kids, but maybe those at Haldane in particular."

Working under the dictates of the Common Core is now part and parcel of teaching. "We have to follow it, but the way we present it is up to us," Spooner says. "Using some of the scripted lessons would be difficult. Students this age need to move around. Today we did [rotational] stations; other days are more traditional, but each is

targeting a standard in the Common Core."

Spooer says she finds it helpful to have taught older grades, in terms of knowing what to focus on. "You know what's coming, which is handy. I've seen the weaknesses in high school of the things they should have learned in earlier grades. There are particular things students have always struggled with, and now I'm able to focus on these."

All in all, Spooner says she is satisfied with her professional choices. "Some people look at me funny," she says. "I left being a lawyer to be a teacher in the South Bronx. But, outside of student loans, this was the right thing to do. I love being a teacher. I love all the things that come with being in a school: the sports, the plays, all that stuff. I'm very happy to be here, doing what I'm doing."



GROOMBRIDGE
GAMES

MAGIC: THE GATHERING
SATURDAY, OCT 22ND IS
GAME DAY

THIS WEEKEND'S TOURNAMENTS:

FRIDAY: STANDARD

SATURDAY: STANDARD WITH
SPECIAL GAME DAY PRIZES

SUNDAY: MODERN

ALL TOURNAMENTS START AT 6PM

165 MAIN STREET • COLD SPRING
(845) 809-5614 • GROOMBRIDGEGAMES.COM
VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/GROOMBRIDGEGAMES

This occasional series will follow Kristen Spooner during her first year teaching at Haldane Elementary.

A Television Series Designed to Change the World

Co-produced by Garrison resident, Season 2 of climate change documentary starts Oct. 30

By Pamela Doan

It's not a coincidence that season 2 of David Gelber's Emmy-award winning series on climate change, *Years of Living Dangerously*, premieres on the National Geographic Channel a little more than a week before Americans go to the ballot box. The Garrison resident says he wants these stories of how the world is changing here and now to influence the election.

Although neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump have made climate change a campaign issue in their stump speeches, whoever wins will have to deal with global warming during his or her term, and one of them has dismissed it as a Chinese conspiracy.

Gelber places accountability for averting the worst climate change disasters squarely in the hands of elected officials. "The reality is that the main obstacle to action on climate in this country is the congressional Republican caucus," he says. One episode of the series

"The local and regional level is the low-hanging fruit. To get something passed in New York isn't impossible and we could do it in many states. It's already a reality in California and other parts of the country."

will feature Bradley Whitford, best known for his role in *The West Wing*, examining political will in Congress and what it takes to influence Republicans.

The solution is carbon pricing, or charging corporations for the right to emit carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, Gelber says. Known as "cap and trade,"



David Gelber and co-creator Joel Bach at the premiere in September

Photo provided



In the first episode of season two, David Letterman gets his beard trimmed at a barber shop in New Delhi and also discusses his love affair with solar power.

it creates an incentive for the oil, auto and technology industries to find ways to lower the amount of carbon dioxide they release because it lowers their costs.

The *Years* project isn't just a television show; it's a mission and community. The production has partnered with environmental organizations like Connect for Climate and launched social media campaigns such as #PutPriceOnIt. "This is

designed to get legislators to commit on this issue," says Gelber. "The local and regional level is the low-hanging fruit. To get something passed in New York isn't impossible and we could do it in many states. It's already a reality in California and other parts of the country."

It doesn't hurt to have celebrities who have millions of social media followers telling the stories. Nikki Reed, from the *Twilight* movie series, and Ian Somerhalder, who stars in *Vampire Diaries*, are two of the younger correspondents in the series. Somerhalder also appeared in season one, as did other actors who are returning for the new season, including America Ferrara, Don Cheadle and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is also an executive producer. David Letterman and Cecily Strong lead off the first episode. Actors and comedians Aasif Mandvi, Ty Burrell and Jack Black also serve as correspondents in various episodes. "The main goal is tell a good story with strong characters so that even people who don't believe in climate change will engage," says Gelber.

Gelber created the series with Joel Bach. They worked together at *60 Minutes*, where Gelber was Ed Bradley's producer for 25 years, and both left the show to pursue it. After getting support from producer Jerry Weintraub, director James Cameron and Schwarzenegger, they were able to recruit talent and raise money to fund the first season, which aired on Showtime in 2014 and won an Emmy for Outstanding Nonfiction Series.

The National Geographic Channel will give the show a broader reach, making it available in 145 countries. "Nat Geo has been a great partner," Gelber says. "They really want to own this story and were willing to take risks."

Gelber connected his experience collaborating with the team to produce the show with his work as a member of the Garrison School Board. "It really intrigues me that [Superintendent] Laura Mitchell and [Principal] John Griffiths are emphasizing project-based learning, encouraging the kind of collaborative creativity that I look for as an employer."

The series involves a number of local residents. Radley Horton, a science adviser, and Arturo Aranda, whose company handles the social media campaign, are Garrison residents. Ivy Meerpool, a documentary filmmaker from Cold Spring, produced one episode. And environmental journalist Andy Revkin, who lives in Nelsonville, advised the college interns who worked on the series over the summer.

Gelber says he hopes there will be a third season. "I'm in a place where this is all I want to do anymore as journalist," he says. "This story isn't going away and it isn't going to get better. There isn't a single story on the planet right now that is bigger."

The first of the eight episodes of season two of *Years of Living Dangerously* premieres Sunday, Oct. 30, on the National Geographic Channel. For details, visit yearsoflivingdangerously.com.



The Finest Southwestern Cuisine

Paired with the area's Premier Selection of Tequila



328 Main Street, Beacon, NY
845.838.BAJA

www.baja328.com

Dain's Sons Co.
QUALITY LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
Since 1848

- LUMBER • DOORS • WINDOWS
- DECKING • FLOORING • ROOFING
- SIDING • HARDWARE • PAINTS
- KITCHEN CABINETS
- OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS
- CUSTOM SAWMILLING & DRYING
- LIVE EDGE SLABS • CUSTOM BEAMS

Visit our 2000 sq. ft. Deck Display open 24/7 and new Outdoor Living Area

(914) 737-2000
2 N. WATER STREET
PEEKSKILL, NY
MON-FRI 7:30 - 4:30
SAT 8 - 1
WWW.DAINSLUMBER.COM

Jaymark Jewelers Goes High-Tech

Software and 3D printing now part of design process

by Alison Rooney

James Matero learned the tools of the jewelry trade as his father and grandfather had before him — in fact, the set of tools that all three men learned with are displayed in a shadow box high on the wall at the family business, Jaymark Jewelry, north of Cold Spring.

The tools of the trade are changing rapidly for the latest generation of jewelers. While his grandfather chipped at wax to form ring shapes and stone settings, Matero constructs them with Computer-Assisted Design (CAD) software. He then creates a wax model using a 3D printer. It is only after this step that traditional methods of casting and finishing are employed.

The technology has made the craft “so much more exciting,” Matero says. In earlier eras, he says, there was more of an “I trust the jeweler, let’s just do it” attitude. Now, “we’re in the age of communication and instant gratification and people like to feel that they’ve designed things and this is a way to give the client exactly what he or she wants,” he says. “We get requests for everything from taking a photo off a beer napkin to scanning zillions of images to get the idea across. Once the initial design is done, people can see it in different color metals or change the stone, play around in the showroom.”

His sister and co-worker, Katie Szirmay, notes the “CAD gives people a way to really visualize the design they want, and the 3D printer gives them a way to actually hold a prototype.”

Matero says he has been doing CAD work for about nine years. Much more recently he and Szirmay added Skype consultations so that the initial work can be done without the client having to visit Jaymark’s Route 9 showroom and factory, its home for the past 33 years. (The business, one of the oldest in Cold Spring, was initially located a bit further south on Route 9)

Earlier this year Jaymark installed an Ember 3D printer, a prototype offered to



James Matero works on a Computer Assisted Design (CAD) rendering of a ring.

only a handful of jewelers across the nation. It slices designs into layers, with each “cured” by the light, i.e., the light shines in the pattern required for the next layer. A mold is created which is “grown” chemically, in stages. The casting is done elsewhere, as the resin cast is created in metal. They get back a raw cast, which Matero cleans.

For non-custom work, the jewelers put a mold on the piece so it can be replicated. For one-of-a-kind work, they sometimes

create the piece in silver. “It’s an extra step in terms of quality so that when we do it in gold or platinum it is perfect,” Matero explains.

A lot of items in the Jaymark cases are custom-made, which accounts for about half of sales. The CAD/3D process usually takes between six and 12 weeks, depending on how quickly the client approves the design. It can be as short as three weeks, one each for designing, casting and honing.

Matero and Szirmay are fourth-generation jewelers — their great-grandfather began as a hand engraver and charm-maker in Manhattan’s jewelry district and was known for creating intricate

miniature chairs and other items. “Miniatures with incredible workmanship,” Szirmay notes. Both siblings graduated from gemology school, although they had a jewelry education growing up.

“Dad gave us free rein and he was forward thinking,” Matero recalls of his father, Jim. “We had a computer system early on, in the late ’90s, and for a small independent store that was unheard of then. Dad instilled the desire in us to grow, change, improve.” Adds Szirmay: “I ask clients, ‘Listen, do you love this? If it’s not perfect, why are you doing this? I want you to not want to take it off.’”

Jaymark is located at 3612 Route 9 and is open Tuesday through Saturday. Visit jaymarkjewelers.com or call 845-265-9246.



Married 59 years and in need of a ring re-sizing for him, longtime Jaymark customers Jeanne and Michael McMahon are helped by Katie Szirmay.

Photos by A. Rooney

TIM BRENNAN
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

1975

brennanbuilt.com

DARMAN
CONSTRUCTION, LLC

General Contracting

(845) 204-5428

Building the future. Restoring the past.

•Additions •Renovations •Framing •Decks
•Siding •Doors •Windows and more

Visit us on Facebook, and on the web at
DarmanConstruction.com

★ VOTE FOR ★

Camille Linson

for Philipstown Town Justice

**Experience.
Integrity.
Commitment.**

Be informed before you vote!
Did you know that Camille Linson:

- Was born and raised here in the Hudson Valley.
- Has been an attorney in Philipstown for nearly two decades.
- Has been an active volunteer on the Board of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce.
- Is a Haldane mom, who jointly led the effort to design, install and finance the Haldane Elementary playground, at no cost to taxpayers.
- Has served low-income Philipstown residents with pro bono legal services.
- Was educated at Harvard University, Oxford University and other respected institutions.
- Is experienced in a broad array of legal subject areas that are tried before the Town Justice Court.

For more details of my professional experience and local volunteerism, please find me on **Facebook @ “Camille Linson for Town Justice”**

**Please VOTE in the General Election
Tuesday, November 8th**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Playwright Bertolt Brecht's work will be performed at Arts on the Lake.

Photo provided

Arts on the Lake to Present Brecht Plays

Single performance Oct. 28

Partnering with the Blue Horse Repertory, the Lake Carmel cultural center, Arts on the Lake, will present *The Informer* and *The Jewish Wife* by Bertolt Brecht, part of *The Private Life of the Master Race*, a longer play first produced on Broadway.

There will be a single performance on Saturday, Oct. 28. Tickets are \$15, with discounts for students and members.

The plays were written during Brecht's exile in America in the 1930s. Brecht is best known for *Mother Courage and The Good Person of Szechwan*, which was revived off-Broadway in 2013. To purchase tickets and get more information, call 845-228-2685 or visit artsonthelake.org.

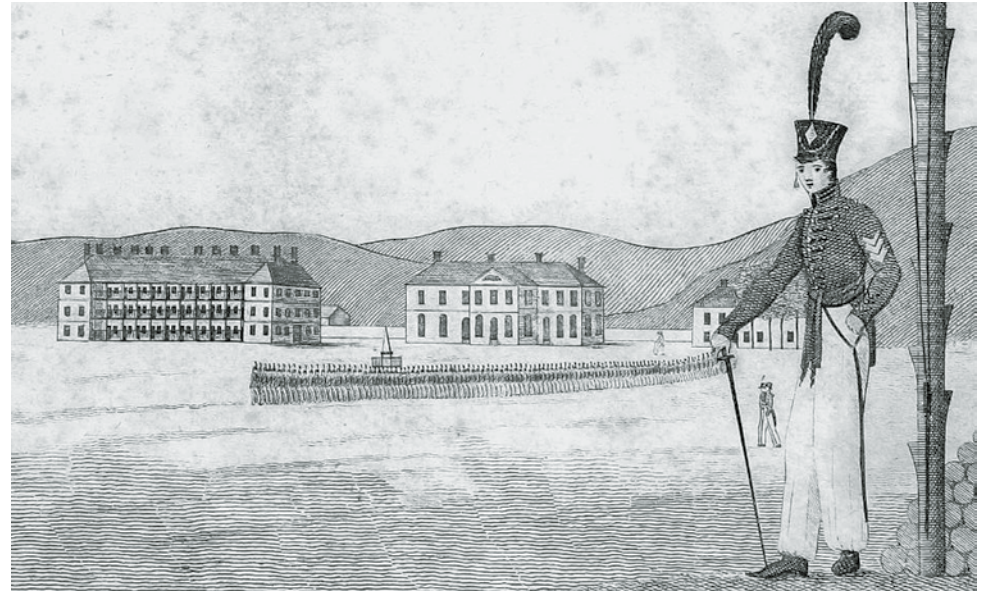
The Changing Hudson Valley

Series focuses on historical landscapes

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum and the Cornwall Presbyterian Church are hosting two upcoming lectures. On Tuesday, Oct. 25, Jon Malinowski, a professor of geography at West Point, will discuss "West Point's Landscape 1802-1820," including buildings present in 1802, the first stone buildings in 1815 and the construction of some early homes that still stand.

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Richard Hull, a retired history professor at New York University, will present "Dramatic Land Transformation in the Hudson Valley: Cause and Effect." Hull will discuss the impact of industry and farming in changing the landscape and how that impacted people and animals in the region over the past two centuries.

Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. at the



A view of West Point, circa 1820

Cornwall Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 222 Hudson Street in Cornwall. Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for museum members. Call 845-534-5506 or visit hnnaturemuseum.org.

Ready for the Big One?

New York State wants you to be

Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, chances are you've had experience with severe weather. At two events in Beacon and Cold Spring, residents will have a chance to learn about tools and resources to prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

The New York Citizen Preparedness Training program will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Beacon's Fire Station No. 2, 13 South Ave. Call 845-765-0899 to register.

The same training will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, at Cold Spring United Methodist Church, 216 Main St. Call 845-265-3788.

Fifty Years, Five Captains

Clearwater gala set for Nov. 13

At the annual Clearwater Gala on Nov. 13, you have a good chance of sitting at the captain's table. Current and former Clearwater captains will be helping a table at the benefit and greeting guests. Since the first crew sailed the Hudson River in 1969, captains have not only served in traditional duties of leading a crew but also as environmental leaders.

Clearwater will honor Capt. Jean Wort, secretary of the National Maritime Historical Society, with the Spirit of the Hudson award for her commitment to the river and the Hudson Valley. Wort has served on the boards of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, the Hudson Highlands

Nature Museum and the Constitution Island Association.

The gala will be held at The Garrison on Route 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$250, can be purchased at clearwater.org.

Planting for Spring

Last class of season at Stonecrop

Stonecrop Gardens is holding its last class of the season on Saturday, Nov. 5. "All About Bulbs" runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and attendees will go home with paperwhites and a bag of bulbs to plant. Bulbs are for some of the earliest spring flowers like crocus, hyacinths and daffodils. Most bulbs can be planted until the ground freezes. Tickets are \$40 (\$30 for members) and can be purchased at stonecrop.org.

Manage Your Land for the Birds

Turn your yard into a habitat

Experts from Audubon New York, the Black Rock Forest Consortium, the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Hudson Highlands Land Trust will share best practices on Saturday, Nov. 5, on making your yard or forest into habitat for bird species whose survival is at risk. The Highlands have many natural features
(Continued on next page)



A Cerulean Warbler

Audubon Society photo

FAYE THORPE

FOR

PHILIPSTOWN TOWN JUSTICE



EXPERIENCE

Experienced litigator and trial attorney with in depth knowledge of the court system

DEDICATION

Advocate for the protection of children, adults, senior citizens and victims of domestic violence

INTEGRITY

Committed to reviewing each case individually, and making fair and reasonable decisions

PLEASE VOTE ON NOV. 8TH

WWW.FAYETHORPE.COM

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

essential to Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and many other birds.

The program will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hubbard Lodge in Cold Spring. Register at ny.audubon.org/forestworkshop or call Eric Lind at 845-265-2601. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch and a forest habitat walk.

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Begins Nov. 1

Local establishments offer fixed-price menus through Nov. 13

Many Cold Spring and Beacon restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe menus for lunch and dinner as part of the upcoming Hudson Valley Restaurant Week. Lunch is \$20.95 and dinner is \$29.95, excluding tax, tip and beverages. Check valleytable.com for a list of restaurants.

Learn and Landscape at Manitoga

Final outdoor workday is Nov. 5

The Russel Wright Design Center grounds and forest, also known as Manitoga, are maintained with the help of volunteers. On Saturday, Nov. 5, Manitoga will host the final outdoor workday of the season. The event will include training on how to help with fall cleanup and prepare the landscape for winter. It runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes lunch and a bonfire. Manitoga is located in Garrison on Route 9D. For more information, call 845-424-3812.

Marathoner Raises Funds for St. Basil Academy

Father was president there for 10 years

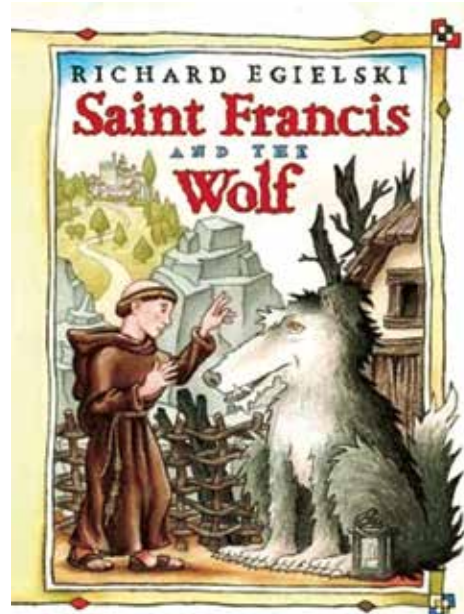
When the New York City Marathon kicks off on Sunday, Nov. 6, there will be one runner among the 50,000 international participants with an eye on Garrison. Andrew Gounardes is running his first marathon to benefit St. Basil Academy, a home for at-risk students run by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

where his father served as president for 10 years. "When I was growing up I spent a lot of time making friends with the kids at St. Basil," Gounardes said. "I also worked with the school to renovate and reorganize their library as my Eagle Scout project years ago, so I'm very connected." The Brooklyn resident, who had a goal of \$2,500, has so far raised more than \$4,000. Donations can be made at crowdrise.com/Andrews-first-marathon/fundraiser/andrewgounardes.

Illustrator's Work on Display at Graymoor

Richard Egielski known for children's books

Until Nov. 21 the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison will display illustrations by Richard Egielski from the children's book, *Saint Francis and the Wolf*. The Caldecott Award winner has illustrated more than 50 books and written and illustrated eight. *Saint Francis and the Wolf* is described as "a classic tale of love, friendship and living in harmony." Graymoor, a Franciscan ministry, is located on Route 9. Call 845-424-2111 for more information.



The cover of Richard Egielski's *St. Francis and the Wolf*

Raising Community-Minded Children

PTA group will next meet Oct. 25

Parents of school-age children from any district are invited to discussions about education and how communities can support different learning styles [organized by the Haldane-Garrison PTA Learning Differences group]. The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Cold Spring Methodist Church, 216 Main St. Visit the group's Facebook page, PTA Learning Differences, for more information.

Beacon

Free Sign Language Class for Children

First session set for Nov. 7

Students ages 9 to 14 can learn American Sign Language at free one-hour classes held at the Howland Public Library in Beacon that start Monday, Nov. 7, and continue weekly through the month. The classes include signing, finger-spelling and songs. Register by calling 845-831-1134, ext. 103.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Spooky Poetry

Poet laureate to share verse

Beacon's poet laureate, Thomas O'Connell, will get everyone in the Halloween spirit by reading poems about the supernatural and with an eerie theme at the Howland Library in Beacon on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The free event is appropriate for middle school-aged children to adults who enjoy a little literary scare.

"America's Stories" at Mount Gulian

Homestead has survived since 1600s

The Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon has stood since the 17th century as a microcosm of American history. On Sunday, Oct. 30, it will host "America's Stories" to honor people who lived and worked at the homestead. The event is designed for families and will include stories, talks from historians, Native American music and artifacts that aren't usually displayed. Storyteller Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi will talk about the Verplanck family, who owned the home.

Admission is \$12 for adults, with discounts for seniors and children. Members and children under 6 are free. Call 845-831-8172 or email info@mountgulian.org to register.



The Mount Gulian homestead was built in the 1730s.

File photo



PROpane ~ THE EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY:

- Versatile
- Economical
- Efficient

- Dependable
- Clean
- Safe

DOWNEY ENERGY

Oilheat • Propane • Diesel

P.O. Box 306, Cold Spring, NY 10516 • Phone: (845) 265-3663 • Fax: (845) 265-4024
www.downeyoilny.com



ROYALTY CARPET

YOUR FULL SERVICE FLOORING STORE

GIVE YOUR FLOORS THE ROYAL TREATMENT

Full service flooring:

- All types of flooring sales and installation — carpet, laminate, hardwood, ceramic tile, & resilient floors

Carpet, upholstery, ceramic tile & grout cleaning

Commercial janitorial cleaning

Damage restoration:

- Restoration of property damaged by fire, smoke or water

Call today to schedule affordable flooring services, occasional and specialty cleaning, or regular janitorial services. You always get a FREE estimate. Payment plans available.

Royalty Carpet • 288 Main Street • Beacon, NY 12508
845-831-4774 • royaltycarpetinc@gmail.com

Obituary

Bill Ochs

(1946-2016)

Bill Ochs, 70, a scholar, performer, and teacher of Irish traditional music who was called a "central figure in the renaissance of the tin whistle" by National Public Radio and "the leading tin-whistle teacher in North America" by the *Irish Voice*, died Oct. 5 in Mount Kisco.

Born May 14, 1946, in Newark, New Jersey, Bill was the son of Herbert and Betsy Ochs. He split his time between his New York City apartment in Hell's Kitchen, where he had lived since the 1970s, and the Hudson Valley, where he shared a home with his partner of 15 years, Margaret Vetare, first in Cold Spring and more recently in Beacon.

Bill studied French and theater as an undergraduate at Wesleyan University and earned his MFA in theater at Sarah Lawrence in 1971. Ultimately, though, he dedicated his life's work to playing, teaching and understanding the history of Irish wind instruments: the tin whistle, wooden flute and uilleann pipes. Drawn irresistibly to the pipes, he sought out teachers in the U.S. and Ireland at a time when almost nobody in this country was playing the instrument. His intense commitment to the uilleann pipes was furthered by a grant from the National



Endowment for the Arts to study in Ireland for six months in 1976. During this period he was also involved in the education programs of the Irish Arts Center in Manhattan, where he taught for more than 40 years from its founding in the early 1970s through 2015.

Throughout the nearly half a century of his career, Bill delved into many aspects of traditional music: performing; researching and writing; producing albums of other musicians; and creating meticulous and beautifully rendered transcriptions of tunes. He was especially inspired by the

music of Micho Russell, producing two CDs and a video documentary of the County Clare whistle player. He was perhaps best known as the author of *The Clarke Tin Whistle*, a history and instructional tutorial he published in 1988 that has sold more than 250,000 copies. But teaching was his passion, and it was as a generous and highly skilled teacher that he made the biggest impact. Most of his students were adults and whether they were advanced piping students or beginning tin whistle students who had never picked up a musical instrument before, he brought the same commitment to their success. Above all, he wanted people to be moved by the music and to experience the happiness that comes with creating something beautiful.

Besides his immersion in Irish traditional music, Bill was a political activist who in the past decade devoted tremendous energy to the campaigns of Democratic candidates for U.S. Congress in New York's 18th (and formerly 19th) district. He was also exhilarated by the outdoors and was an avid swimmer, hiker, cross-country skier, birdwatcher and canoeist. On the trail or in the canoe, he always wanted to see what was around the next bend.

Bill is survived by Vetare and her family and a sister, Sara Ochs, of Schenectady. A memorial service is planned for the spring. Memorial donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org).

Obituary

John A. Sullivan

John Allen "Sully" Sullivan, 73, of Poughkeepsie, died Oct. 7, 2016, in Staatsburg. He was born Nov. 25, 1943, in Asheville, North Carolina, to John and Pauline C. Sullivan, the youngest of their 12 children.



John attended Beacon and Wappingers schools, where he earned letters in football, basketball and track and played for the Dutchess County Scholastic League before serving in the infantry during the Vietnam War.

For 20 years he worked as a recreational therapist at Hudson River Psychiatric Institution, until his retirement in 2000. He owned and operated the Poor Man's Fish Market for 10 years, where he worked to feed the homeless. He also worked as an paraprofessional at Beacon High School until 2013, where he loved interacting with the teachers and students. He also was involved with the Boys Scout and AAU as a basketball assistant.

A memorial service was held Oct. 14 at Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Beacon, with burial at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

COME & PLAY: MAGIC: THE GATHERING
FRI: STANDARD, 6PM • SAT: DRAFT, 6PM • SUN: MODERN, 6PM



GROOMBRIDGE
GAMES

165 MAIN STREET • COLD SPRING
(845) 809-5614 • GROOMBRIDGEGAMES.COM

VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/GROOMBRIDGEGAMES FOR UPDATES

BARBARA SMITH GIOIA

BUSTER LEVI
GALLERY

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

NYS CERTIFIED READING SPECIALIST
AVAILABLE FOR TUTORING

MARY BOYLE

32 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
845-269-1206

BOYLEMARYALICE796@GMAIL.COM

Lynne Ward, LCSW

Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street Cold Spring, NY 10516
lynneward99@gmail.com
(917) 597-6905

Cold Spring Physical Therapy PC
John R. Astrab PT, DPT, OCS, MS, CSCS

Medicare, United Health Care, Railroad, Tri-Care, No-Fault, Workers Compensation Insurance Plans Accepted

1760 South Route 9 • Garrison NY 10524
845.424.6422

johnastrab@coldspringnypt.com
coldspringnypt.com

COLD SPRING
FARMERS' MARKET

is moving
indoors
NOV 5

NEW TIME! 9:30am-1:30pm
Saturdays @ the Parish Hall, St. Mary-in-the-Highlands

Kate Vikstrom
Artist, Designer, Vocalist
KateVikstrom@gmail.com
www.KateVikstrom.com
360.704.0499



pampetkanas.com

Pamela Petkanas, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist

Cold Spring Healing Arts
6 Marion Ave, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Phone: 908-230-8131
ppetkanas@gmail.com
Trained in DBT, Specializing in
Children, Adolescents, Young Adults,
Adults and Families

Cold Spring Video Services



Gregory Gunder
11 Orchard Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Phone (917) 572-4070
gagunder@gmail.com
www.coldspringvideo.com

Specializing in Non-Profits & Small Businesses



Winter Programming
at Philipstown Recreation Center
Registration opens October 31 for Residents
& November 7 for Non-Residents



Download our winter course guide at philipstownrecreation.com.
Call 845-424-4618 or 845-424-4662 to register
R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident

EARLY EDUCATION

Indoor Tot Park
T, TH 9-11 a.m. & M-F 12-2 p.m.
\$1 per session

Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)
Starts Jan. 10 or 12
\$85 R / \$100 NR

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS

Acrylic Paintings and Styles (Grades 3-5)
Start Date Jan. 12
\$90 / \$105 NR

Building Bonanza (Grades K-6)
Starts Jan. 6
\$55 R / \$70 NR

Art Adventures (Grades K-6)
Starts Nov. 10
\$40 R / \$55 NR

Lego Club (Grades K-4)
Starts Jan. 9 or 13
\$96 R / \$111 NR

Holiday Foods (Grades K-6)
Starts Nov. 15
\$40 R / \$55 NR

Youth Theatre Production (Grades K-6)
Starts Jan. 6
\$200 R / \$215 NR

Middle School Teen Night (Grades 6-8)
Nov. 5
\$5

SPORTS AND MOVEMENT

Beginning Ballet (Grades K-1)
Starts Jan. 10 or 12
\$85 R / \$100 NR

Beginning Ballet (Grades 2-3)
Starts Jan. 12
\$85 R / \$100 NR

Basketball (Grades 1-6)
Starts Jan. 7
\$75 R / \$90 NR

Indoor Boys Lacrosse (Grades 2-5)
Starts Jan. 10
\$50 R / \$65 NR

Indoor Girls Lacrosse (Grades K-6)
Starts Jan. 10
\$50 R / \$65 NR

Indoor Soccer (Grades K-6)
Starts Nov. 9
\$35 R / \$50 NR

Net Games (Grades K-6)
Starts Jan. 4
\$55 R / \$70 NR

Winter Baseball Clinic (Grades K-6)
Starts Jan. 29
\$40 R / \$55 NR

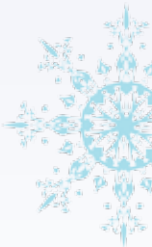
FAMILY

Gingerbread Houses
Dec. 4
\$40

Holiday Party
Performance of *ELF Jr.*
Dec. 10
FREE

Winter Break Open Play
Dec. 28 & 29
Free

Winter Carnival
Feb. 11



CERAMICS

Adults
Starts Jan. 10
Starts Jan. 12
\$360 R / \$365 NR

Afterschool (Grades K-3)
Starts Jan. 10
Start Jan. 11
\$240 R / \$255 NR

Afterschool (Grades 4-6)
Starts Jan 12
\$240 R / \$255 NR

Mudbunnies (ages 3-5)
Start Jan 11
\$180 R / \$195 NR

SENIORS

Chair Yoga
Continental Village Clubhouse
Starts Nov. 9
Starts Jan. 11

Philipstown Community Center
Starts Nov. 4
Starts Jan. 6

Fit for Life
Chestnut Ridge
Starts Nov. 9
Starts Jan. 11

Continental Village Clubhouse
Starts Nov. 21
Starts Jan. 9

Zumba Gold
Chestnut Ridge
Starts Nov. 1
Starts Jan. 10

Continental Village
Starts Nov. 3
Start Jan. 12

Paint Your World
Jan. 23
Feb. 27

Bus to Walmart & Shoprite
Dates: Nov. 9, 30, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 18 Feb. 1, 14

ADULTS – EDUCATION

Dog Obedience
Starts Jan. 11
\$135 R / \$150 NR

Write Your World
Starts Jan. 11
\$95 R / \$110 NR

ADULTS – EXERCISE

Ballet for Adults
Starts Jan. 10 & Jan. 12
\$130 R / \$145 NR

Basic Pilates
Starts Jan. 13
\$85 R / \$100 NR

Cize Live
Starts Jan. 9
\$85 R / \$100 NR

Intermediate Pilates
Starts Jan. 9
\$85 R / \$100 NR

Power Hour for Women
Starts Jan. 9 or 11

Yoga with Kathy Barnes
Starts Jan. 9
\$75 R / \$90 NR

Yoga with Kathie Scanlon
Starts Jan. 10
\$75 R / \$90 NR

Zumba
Starts Jan. 12
\$85 R / \$100 NR

SPORTS (18+)

Men's Basketball
Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
\$3 R / \$5 NR

Volleyball
Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Sundays 6 - 8 p.m.
\$3 R / \$5 NR

Sports

High School Scoreboard

Cross Country

Haldane at Burnt Hills Invitational
Saratoga Springs (3 mile)

- 4. Nick Farrell 16:28.26
- 5. Adam Silhavy 16:31.51
- 37. Jonas Petkus 17:45.77
- 69. Matthew Mikalsen 18:36.23
- 101. Ellis Osterfeld 19:29.58
- 117. Kyle Kisslinger 19:52.41
- 140. Brett Schwartz 20:30.10
- Team finish: 5 of 25

- 29. Shannon Ferri 20:56.34
- 34. Taylor Farrell 21:24.66
- 46. Olivia McDermott 21:45.06
- 51. Heather Winne 21:56.21
- 93. Ruby McEwen 23:57.76
- 101. Meghan Ferri 24:20.98
- Team finish: 7 of 19

In its most recent Class D ratings, the New York State Sportswriters Association (NYSSA) ranked both the Haldane girls' and boys' cross country teams as 15th best in the state.

Football

Somers 35, Beacon 6
The Bulldogs lost their Section 1 Class A state tournament qualifier to No. 3 Somers. Beacon's only score was an Alex Benson 50-yard pass to Forever Williams. Next: Oct. 21 at Lakeland.

Haldane 28, Roscoe 14
At homecoming, the Blue Devils got their first win. Next: Oct. 22 at Dobbs Ferry

Boys' Soccer

Haldane 1, North Salem 0
Coach Stephen Schweikhart: "Seth Warren took advantage of just the slightest of mistakes in the North Salem back line and deftly beat a defender and the keeper to a loose ball to slot home the winner with 11 minutes left in regulation. Considering North Salem has defeated powerhouses Valhalla and Rye Neck and only lost to Somers (the No. 1 team in the Hudson Valley) 1-0, the game shows how far the Haldane boys have come this season."

Beacon 1, Sleepy Hollow 0
Devin Lambe scored on an assist from Zack Kotzias to clinch the Bulldogs' first league title since 2011.

Haldane 5, Pawling 0
Warren scored twice and Andre van Dommele, Mike Harmancin and Tim McGovern also had goals.

Beacon 3, Putnam Valley 0
Kyle Davis had a hat trick and Lambe had two assists.

Haldane 1, Putnam Valley 1 (2OT)
The Blue Devils clinched the league title with the tie. Justin Villa scored on an assist by van Dommele. Schweikhart: "We knew going in that a tie was all we needed, and despite some injuries and illness, the boys were able to get the job done. Keeper Blaine Fitzgerald made a huge save in overtime." No. 3 Haldane next plays No. 2 Solomon Schechter on Oct. 26 in the Section 1, Class C tournament.

Beacon 2, Lourdes 1
Lambe had a goal and an assist and Davis also scored.

No. 9 Beacon 3, No. 24 Henry Hudson 1
Beacon advanced to face Nanuet in the first round of the Section 1, Class A tournament.

Girls' Soccer

Haldane 0, Briarcliff 0
Haldane 2, Putnam Valley 0
Arlington 3, Beacon 0
Beacon 2, Lourdes 1
Goals: Victoria Banks; Chloe Antalek on assist from Gabby Lucas in 64th minute.

New Paltz 2, Haldane 1 (OT)
Goal: Alzy Cinquanto. The Blue Devils (9-3-3) received an honorable mention in the most recent NYSSA rankings for Class C.

Beacon 3, Peekskill 0
The win gave the Beacon girls (11-5; 7-1) their first league title since 1989.

The Haldane girls, seeded No. 1 in the Section 1 Class C playoffs, on Oct. 27 will host the winner of North Salem vs. Hamilton, who play Oct. 25.

Girls' Swimming

Peekskill 93, Beacon 75
Ferrone, Kalafatic, Bien-Aime, Heady won 400 freestyle relay in 4:41.60; Bulldogs had a second-place finisher in 7 of 11 events.

Cornwall 82, Beacon 78

Volleyball

Haldane 3, North Salem 0
Beacon 3, Peekskill 0
Haldane 3, Albertus Magnus 0
Pawling 3, Haldane 1
Pawling won this showdown between the best Class C volleyball teams in the area, according to the *Journal News*.



Rachel Abrams takes her swing at the CannonBall game Oct. 16. Photo by Anita Peltonen

A Quick Game of CannonBall

On Oct. 16, about 100 people stopped by the Garrison School field to remember Jim Cannon, a school board member and sports fan who died May 28 of pancreatic cancer, with a game of "CannonBall." The rules of the Sunday afternoon softball game were slightly askew: Each batter came to the batter's box with a 3-2 count, meaning he or she received one pitch (a hit, strike or ball). Initially each team's turn at bat ended after 10 batters, regardless of outs. Each game lasted two innings. The fielders included a catcher, pitcher, infielders and seemingly unlimited outfielders.

The fundraiser for cancer research was organized by Tim Donovan and Bobby Hard,

who served as head umpire. Donovan says he wanted a way to remember Cannon with a community event and thought softball was appropriate since "everybody can play it." Allowing only one pitch "forces speed," he said, "and prevents anyone from getting too serious." He and Hard hope to repeat CannonBall next year over Columbus Day weekend with a barbecue and sponsored teams.

"We live in a small community," Donovan said. "When one or two people are not there, it makes a big difference." The event reflected Cannon's spirit, he said, because "everyone was laughing and we had a terrific afternoon." See more photos at highlandscurrent.com.



Ennie Akinwunmi (19) and Tessa Nilsen (6) at the net for the Beacon Bulldogs against Putnam Valley on Oct. 13. The Bulldogs won, 3-2. Photo by Allison Bierce

Beacon Volleyball Led by Kohli, Schetter

The Beacon girls' volleyball team (9-7, with two matches remaining) is led by Kajal Kohli (175 kills, 171 digs) and Lauren Schetter (187 kills, 197 digs). The most improved players this season, says Coach Ron Pagliaro, have been first-year setters

Briana Dembo and Sydney Dexter. "They continue to work hard everyday," he said. The Bulldogs' final game will be at home Oct. 24 against Sleepy Hollow, followed by the state tournament. See more photos at highlandscurrent.com.

Philipstown Soccer Club (Week 5)

Boys'

- Kingston 2, U16 Chargers 0
- Goshen 9, U14 Warriors 2
- U13 Arsenal 4, Orange County 0
- U11 Strikers 3, Cortlandt 2
- U9 Force 7, Eastern Pike 1

Girls'

- Washingtonville 4, U13 Raptors 3
- U9 Hawks 6, Carmel 2

For game recaps, visit
highlandscurrent.com