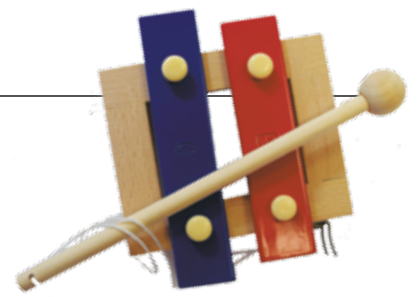


# The HIGHLANDS Current



Holiday Gift Guide  
See Page 10

DECEMBER 16, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)

## The Internet vs. Main Street

*Battling bargain hunters, shop owners emphasize unique gifts and service*

By Michael Turton and Jeff Simms

It's an annual small-town conundrum: the tactile experience and personal service of Main Street or the cut-rate pricing and delivery of the internet?

While some Highlands retailers who sell manufactured goods admit they feel the pinch competing with Amazon and other digital behemoths, those who offer locally made products are steadfast in the belief they can survive in an age of aggressive bargain hunters.

"We have a niche," said John Gilvey, a co-owner of Hudson Beach Glass on Main Street in Beacon. "Maybe you don't buy anything the first or second time, but down the road we'll come to mind. When they're giving a gift, they like to give something that was made here. Maybe they even saw it being made."

During visits to shops up and down Main Street in Cold Spring and Beacon, a number of retailers said they rely on relationships they establish with customers.

"The further we move into the tech revolution, there's something that will always attract people to the human experience," offered Sean Congdon, owner of the Audiocult record store in Beacon. "It's never going to get old."

Even in an industry heavily influenced by eBay and other sites that sell LPs, Congdon says he sees a sense of ownership among small-

(Continued on Page 5)



Jeanine Hill of Fountain Square Antiques

Photo by M. Turton



Christopher Radko's holiday decorations surround the fireplace and mantle in his previous home.

## The Ornament King

*Glass treasures designed or inspired by Christopher Radko, new to Garrison, may well be hanging from your tree*

By Alison Rooney

It could be an uplifting holiday television movie, complete with an unfortunate event, a twist of fate, redemption, success and, ultimately, reflection. Only this plotline did happen to Christopher Radko, a recent transplant to Garrison whom *The New York Times* once called the "Czar of Christmas Present."

Radko's name is synonymous with the hugely popular line of ornaments and accessories he designed and sold beginning in 1986. Although he sold the company 11 years ago, the brand, which still bears his name, is going strong. The earliest Radko-designed ornaments have become collectors' items, with some scarce sets selling for hundreds of dollars on eBay — a search there for "Christopher Radko ornaments" yields nearly 13,000 results.

The story of his early success began when a 14-foot-high tree crashed to the floor in his family home in Scarsdale.

"We had a cathedral ceiling and each year I would vie with the local police and



Christopher Radko at a Glynwood Farm gala earlier this year

Photos provided

fire departments for who would get the highest tree," recalls Radko, who was then in his early 20s. "I'd drag it in on the roof of my car, pull it in somehow and place it in the cast-iron tree stand. One year I hadn't got around to cleaning out the sap from the previous year so I decided to buy a spanking new one, two weeks before Christmas.

"I put the tree in it and decorated it; it looked great, with all of my grandmother's heirloom ornaments. The next day there was a giant crash; one of the legs cracked in the stand, and everyone's favorite ornaments were completely shattered.

"My grandmother blurted out: 'Christopher, what happened? You've ruined Christmas!' The tree was like a family diary, and I didn't know what to do. I scurried about, looking for ornaments, but everything was plastic or resin or Styrofoam."

The following spring, Radko was visiting a cousin in Poland and mentioned his Christmas saga. She noted that many Poles still hung glass ornaments. As they talked, they walked by a pharmacy that had, in its window, "beautifully blown testers and beakers for making moonshine vodka from potatoes," Radko recalls. The proprietor said he

(Continued on Page 7)

## Ailes Sells PCNR; Building Also on Market

*Weekly newspaper now owned by its editor*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Elizabeth Ailes, owner and publisher of *The Putnam County News & Recorder* in Cold Spring, announced (Dec. 13) that she has sold the 150-year old broadsheet and its 175-year-old sibling, *The Putnam County Courier*, which covers the eastern part of the county, to Douglas Cunningham, the papers' editor and associate publisher.

The building that houses *The PCNR* is also for sale through A.D. Preusser Real Estate of Garrison for \$1.15 million. Elizabeth Ailes and her husband Roger, the former chairman of Fox News, purchased the building at 144 Main St., in 2009 for \$628,500 and completed extensive renovations.

Cunningham declined to disclose the purchase price of the two weeklies but refuted a rumor (one of many buzzing about Philipstown over the last few days) that Roger and Elizabeth Ailes offered it as a gift. "My accountant and banker can tell you I'm putting cash into it," he said.

Roger Ailes, the Republican political consultant

(Continued on Page 6)



The PCNR building at 144 Main St.

Photo by Michael Turton



## Small, Good Things

## Gifts for the Cook's Kitchen

By Joe Dizney

As the physical and symbolic heart of the home and family, the kitchen sits firmly at the epicenter of any holiday. You can buy gadgets galore that will gather dust and clutter cabinets, but I believe the following humble gifts are essentials and mindfully wielded.

**One pot for all**

Outside of roasting flesh over a fire, most every cooking technique requires a pot. The ultimate utility player is the cast-iron skillet, in particular an extra deep model approaching Dutch-oven size that serves as a soup pot or braising dish. This is especially true when outfitted with a tight-fitting, domed, cast-iron lid.

Mine is an heirloom, 10½-inch Wagner that belonged to my south Louisiana grandmother, cured to a satin-black lustre. The cranberry upside-down cake I shared in the Dec. 2 issue was baked in that pan, as well as, over the past year, a pan-seared, oven-roasted salmon, fried chicken, a lamb-and-white-bean stew, risottos and too many other meals to mention. You can even fry a nonstick egg or omelet if you're faithful about cleaning (no soaps or heavy scrubbing) and a light re-seasoning immediately after each use.

My pick as a gift and heirloom is the Lodge 3-quart deep skillet with cover. It

comes pre-cured, though three or four cycles of a flax oil rub, followed by an hour in a 200-degree oven and cooling, will improve that surface demonstrably. Any novice or "seasoned" cook will be grateful: it's good enough for campfires, so just think of what can be done with a little imagination. The skillet is \$33 to \$56 online; Old Souls on Main Street in Cold Spring stocks Lodge cookware.

**A sharp knife (or three)**

Most kitchen time is spent cutting, chopping, mincing, peeling — almost nothing hits the pot without blade work that benefits from a sharp knife. In most cases you can get by with a so-called "chef's knife" (a seven-to-eight inch blade that widens from the tip to 1½-inch in width). The Japanese-style Santoku blade, with its signature "sheep's foot" downward sloping tip, has become an acceptable and occasionally preferred alternative. Most have hollow-ground divots off the edge to keep food from sticking. I lean on my seven-inch Wustof Santoku for almost everything.

I asked Harper Keene, a professional knife sharpener who services cutlery a few times each year at the Cold Spring and Beacon farmers' markets, how he would go about selecting a gift. Good steel (i.e., not anodized) is his prime consideration and he points to a number of manufac-



Gifts that keep giving: knives, spices, the only pot you need and one-of-a-kind spoons

Photo by J. Dizney

turers — Victorinox, Sabatier, Wustof and Henckels — as widely available and also sings the praises of the Japanese brand Global. He likes a rigid-but-thin blade but not surprisingly says of any brand, "sharpness is not inherent. If you like it and use it, have it sharpened."

He also stresses care: "Put them away dry, in either a knife block or on a magnetic strip." Do not use ceramic cutting boards, and your knives should be buffered by three-to-five passes at a 20-degree angle on a sharpening steel before and after use.

Keene and I agreed that a cook's batterie also deserves a three- to four-inch paring knife for trimming and peeling and a serrated bread or bagel knife with an edge of large-scalloped serrations not only for bread but for prepping tough cuts of meat and slicing tomatoes and vegetables with different outer and inner textures.

**The spice(s) of life**

There are only two spices you need: salt and freshly ground pepper. For the latter, I have spent far too much money on designer peppermills that have repeatedly broken my heart. But I will roundly sing the praises of the \$25 OXO Pepper Grinder. It features an easily adjustable grind, even easier filling and has a clear body so

you can see when you are running low.

The grinder comes filled with black peppercorn (and chunk sea salt if you buy the salt-and-pepper set) but if you feel particularly generous, spring for some Tellicherry or Malabar black peppercorns and Himalayan Pink Salt for finishing. For the truly generous, throw in a third grinder of Penzey's Sarawak or Indonesian Muntok white peppercorns.

**A spoonful of love**

I first came across Dan Dustin's hand-carved spoons at the New Hampshire Craftsman's League annual fair some 25 years ago. Each spoon is hand-split and hewn with handmade tools from cherry, apple, mountain laurel, driftwood — you name it. I cherish my small lilac wood cereal spoon and a salad set fashioned from a split walnut burl. Each piece is cured in warm beeswax and walnut oil to replace the sap and "ironize" the wood, making them both strong and flexible, and incredibly beautiful.

Dan usually exhibits in New York City at the St. John the Divine Christmas show, which this year is on hiatus due to construction. You can reach him at 603-746-5683 before 9 p.m.



**GLYNWOOD**  
CULTIVATING A VIBRANT HUDSON VALLEY

**STOP BY AND STOCK UP!**

<p><b>Winter Farm Store</b> Glynwood farm products + local purveyors Hours: Thursdays 3-6 pm Location: Farm Office (by the red barns)</p>	<p><b>Winter Meat CSA</b> Bi-weekly shares of pasture-raised meat + eggs 15% discount over retail Pro-rated per start date Contact: Ken Kleinpeter 845-265-3338 x128</p>
---	--

[glynwood.org/buy-our-products](http://glynwood.org/buy-our-products)

**FINE+RARE**  
Specializing in Fine+Rare Wines and Whiskeys  
OUTRAGEOUS WINES AND SPIRITS  
AT PRETTY GOOD PRICES



Now Open at 290 Main Street, Nelsonville  
Limited Hours and by Appointment  
Call 845-475-4093  
or write [info@fineandrarewineandspirits.com](mailto:info@fineandrarewineandspirits.com)  
Mark Mancinelli, Proprietor

**FRESH  
COMPANY**

artful cooking / event planning  
845-424-8204  
[www.freshcompany.net](http://www.freshcompany.net)



# Investigation of Beacon Schools Ends Quietly

## Former board president alleged discrimination

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District has reached an agreement resolving a federal Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigation of the school system, although the district has not released details of the settlement.

The investigation was prompted by complaints made earlier this year by Melissa Thompson, a former school board president. A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Education, which oversees the OCR, would not provide specifics but said it involved possible disability discrimination and racial harassment.

Thompson, a former nine-year member of the school board, filed a series of complaints with the OCR against the district in May, alleging racial discrimination and "carelessness" in its treatment of her special-needs son, who graduated in June from Beacon High School.

The agreement with the OCR was ap-

proved without discussion by the Beacon school board on Dec. 12 as part of a bundle of administrative items during its regular meeting. The board directed interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi to "take the steps necessary to ensure that the compliance activities required by the Resolution Agreement occur." *The Current* has filed a Freedom of Information Law request for more details on what the district is required to do.

Thompson said Dec. 13 that the OCR interviewed her son, who is African-American, on Nov. 8. Her complaint charged that he lost out on athletic scholarships after Beacon High officials failed to acknowledge a learning disability that led to falling grades and his removal from the National Honor Society. She also alleged that teachers and administrators failed to accommodate her son's "504" — a plan designed to help students with learning and attention issues participate in the classroom — even after it was brought to their attention.

While her complaints alleged discrimination based on her son's disability and race, as well as an unsafe environment

and retaliation, Thompson said the OCR was "only able to fully investigate" the charge of discrimination based on his learning disability.

In an interview with *The Current* in June, soon after she left the board (she did not run for re-election), Thompson called the Beacon school system "broken," saying it fostered a culture of discrimination. That, she said Dec. 13, was why she chose to file a federal complaint rather than pursue an internal investigation.

### Interim superintendent a while longer

The school district has extended its agreement with interim superintendent

Ann Marie Quartironi through June 30, unless a permanent superintendent is hired sooner.

Quartironi, who is also the deputy superintendent, was appointed in January after Barbara Walkley resigned from the post. She has performed both jobs since, receiving a stipend of \$200 per day as the interim chief.

The recruitment firm hired by the district to conduct the superintendent search has narrowed the field to 17 candidates, down from 48 initial applicants. The second round of interviews will begin shortly, board member Meredith Heuer said during the Dec. 12 meeting.



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



**DAVID CROSS**

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

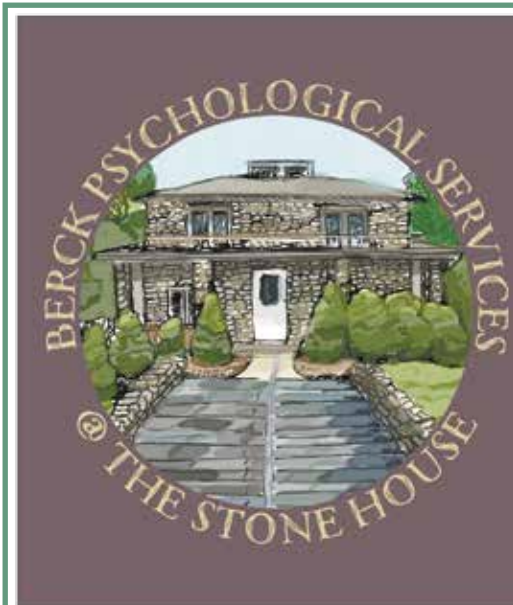
**WILLIAM RAVEIS**  
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE

*Integrity, Diligence, Knowledge - Working for You!*

Representing Buyers & Sellers in Cold Spring, Garrison & Beacon

Call for a FREE Comparative Market Analysis of your Home

917.370.7456 | www.davidcross.raveis.com | david.cross@raveis.com



Susan Carroll Berck, Ph.D., Psy.D.  
Psychologist and Clinical Director

Berck Psychological Services  
The Stone House

1111 Route 9, 1st Floor  
Garrison, NY 10524

845.424.6373

berckcounseling@gmail.com

BerckCounseling@1111Route9

www.berckcounseling.com

## Long Dock Expansion Approved

### Park is part of Beacon's waterfront revitalization

The Beacon Planning Board on Dec. 13 approved Scenic Hudson's expansion plans for Long Dock Park, clearing the way for the environmental organization to begin the final phase of construction at the park next spring.

The organization plans to add lawns and native-plant meadows, café tables and chairs, a boardwalk and infrastructure for up to two food trucks on a rehabilitated 4-acre parcel that will complement the riverfront park, bringing it to 19 acres in all. Eighteen parking spaces will also be added.

The project should be completed by early 2018, Scenic Hudson said in a statement, marking the end of more than a decade and \$16 million of work at the former industrial site.



**The Finest  
Southwestern  
Cuisine**

**Paired with  
the area's  
premier  
selection of  
Tequila**

www.baja328.com  
328 Main Street  
Beacon NY  
845.838.BAJA



**Thank you to our advertisers**

We are grateful for your support and encourage our readers to shop local.  
Contact us: ads@highlandscurrent.com

The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**



# 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

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

## Garrison Fire District Voters Turn Out Two Commissioners

*Nat Prentice, lone voice  
against budget, gets most votes*

By Chip Rowe

In the first election for the newly created Garrison Fire District, voters Dec. 13 voted out two of the five appointed commissioners and gave Nat Prentice, the only commissioner to vote against the district's initial budget, a convincing victory and a five-year term.

Prentice received 208 votes. He was the sole dissenting vote when the commission passed a \$777,097 budget for the fire company, a 27 percent increase over the last budget passed by the town board when it had oversight.

Challenger Stan Freilich received 182 votes and will serve a four-year term. David Brower, an incumbent and fire company member, received 161 votes and will serve a one-year term. Newcomer Linda

Lomonaco and incumbent chairwoman Sandra Bohl, also a fire company member, tied with 165 votes. A fire district official said the two were expected to draw lots before the end of the week of the vote to determine who serves a three-year term and who serves two years.

Voters were asked to select five of nine candidates. Challenger Joe Regele, a long-time critic of the fire company's finances, received 155 votes, seven votes shy of defeating Brower for the fifth seat and replacing three of the five current commissioners. Commissioners Rodney Tudor (153 votes) and Mercurio (121) were not elected, nor was challenger Joseph Fronio (148). The fire company had endorsed four of the five current commissioners, excluding Prentice, along with Fronio.

Although only 20 percent of registered district voters showed up, the turnout at the Garrison Volunteer Firehouse during the three hours of polling nevertheless

surprised election officials, who had to print 150 more ballots after the first 200 were used. Officials also shared print-outs of the candidates' responses to questions posted at highlandscurrent.com. Voting closed at 9 p.m., and it took election officials until 1:15 a.m. to conduct a careful hand tally of the 338 ballots, from among 1,760 potential voters. One ballot was discarded for an overvote.

Because it is the first year of the fire district, state law allows commissioners to set spending without voter approval.

The budget set aside \$40,000 for reserve funds and all three propositions to create those funds passed. The commission will now open accounts for equipment repair and replacement capital reserve (187-141), vehicle and apparatus repair and replacement (179-146) and building repair and replacement (177-148).

The new commission will be seated Jan. 1. On Dec. 12, 2017, district voters will decide on Brower's seat and also decide on a budget that will be restricted by a state-mandated tax cap to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2 percent.

Anne Osborn, one of the three election officials, thanked her co-workers and fire company members who stayed well into the morning to get the vote completed. "Counting everything by hand makes the electronic ballot machines look very efficient," she wrote in an email. "It was a great turn-out even if it took forever for three of us to check everyone in and count all their ballots. I would recommend more time for the voters, more staff for the canvass and carefully bound poll books."

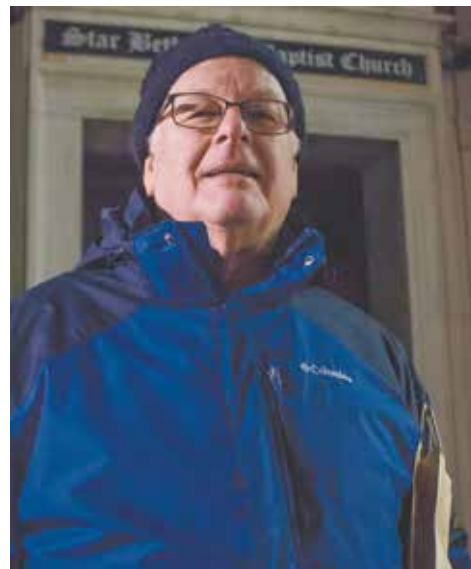
The Philipstown North Highlands Fire District also held a vote Dec. 13 for two of its five commissioners, Johanna Rupp for a five-year term and Amy Locitzer for a one-year term. Both ran unopposed. Thirteen voters turned out, of 1,938 registered. Rupp received 10 votes and Locitzer 11. There were also write-in votes for Joe Regele, Stan Freilich and Mickey Mouse, none of whom live in the district.



## Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

*What's in your bag?*



"Pinot noir I bought down the street at Artisan Wine Shop."  
~ Ewan MacQueen, Beacon



"Tea. Whistle slides for the kids in our life. Coffee tincture, from More Good."  
~ Erica Hauser, Newburgh



"Gloves that I had to put on immediately! Just bought them at Echo."  
~ Jon Reichert, Newburgh



## The Internet vs. Main Street *(from Page 1)*

town shoppers. "I've had more than one person during this holiday season buy a record from me rather than online, even if it's a few bucks cheaper, because they want to support local businesses," he said.

Tim Chevtakin, the owner of Archipelago at Home, has been selling gifts and home furnishings on Main Street in Cold Spring for 19 years. "I see my faithful customers all year, but especially at this time of year," he says. "They know they can't find the things they buy here at a mall."

He conceded that he and other retailers must compete with Amazon, but noted that customers face the risk that an item won't fit properly or looks different from the photos. "A lot of people end up wasting time, returning items," he argued. In contrast, he estimated that less than 1 percent of his sales are returned. "That says a lot about what I offer."

He also provides free gift wrapping. "People like that they can buy things here, leave them, and come back later in the day to pick them up, wrapped and ready to go," Chevtakin said. He uses the internet to his own advantage by posting photos of his products on Facebook and mailing orders. "You have to ship," he said.

By contrast, Caryn Cannova of Kismet in Cold Spring said Amazon represents "a huge problem" for her, especially its Prime service, which includes free two-day shipping. "There's nothing I can do about it," she said, although she has posted a "No Photos" sign that reflects the ongoing battle with customers who snap pictures



**Jim Farnorotto of The Gift Hut**

of items they like on their phones so they can more easily find them online. "They even took photos of my greeting cards," Cannova said.

Despite the challenges, the holiday season continues to be the most important time of year for brick-and-mortar businesses. The day after Thanksgiving is usually associated with early morning lineups at big-box stores, but Cannova said she too reaps rewards. "We had an amazingly insane Black Friday" this year, she said.

Jim Farnorotto, the owner of The Gift Hut, said he records 40 percent of his total annual sales during the holidays. He tries to stock items that aren't easily found elsewhere. Nevertheless, for some reason sales this year has been slow, perhaps because Hanukkah does not begin until Dec. 24. "Last year we were knee-

deep in customers," he said.

Jeanine Hill, who along with her father Walt Carmichael operates Fountain Square Antiques, has also noticed a slowdown. "November through February are usually strong, but not so far this year," she said.

Like many shops, Fountain Square relies on customer service to generate repeat business. But quality also helps. Seated at an antique roll-top desk, Hill commented: "They don't make furniture like this any more: pieces more than 100 years old and still useable. You can't buy antiques in a big-box store," and many of the products they do sell end up in landfills, she said.

Retailers such as Burkelman and Cold Spring Apothecary in Cold Spring that began online before opening a storefront seem to have struck a balance. Mail order at Cold Spring Apothecary, which was founded in 2010, accounts for 40 percent of holi-



**Natalie Amendola at Cold Spring Apothecary: "You can't buy our products on Amazon."**  
*Photos by M. Turton*

day sales, said manager Natalie Amendola. "I don't feel we're affected by Amazon," she said, in large part because the health-and-beauty retailer makes its own products.

At Mountain Tops Outfitters on Main Street in Beacon, as two customers took their purchases to the register, one asked how a particular garment fit after washing while the other inquired if her purchase could be returned if it wasn't quite right. Moments later, co-owner Katy Behney said the friendly, personal interaction summed up the benefits of shopping offline.

"Our customers can touch the item; we can talk to them about it," she said. "We're not getting rich, but the locals have been really good to us."



**Tim Chevtakin of Archipelago offers free gift wrapping.**

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

#### Town of Philipstown Highway Department

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 10 a.m. on, December 15, 2016 when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

- NEW CAB - CHASIS
- 4 WHEEL DRIVE, DUAL REAR WHEEL TRUCK

Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: December 7, 2016

Tina Merando, Town Clerk, Town of Philipstown

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

#### Town of Philipstown Highway Department

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 10 a.m. on December 15, 2016 when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

- NEW DUMP BODY/PLOW AND SANDER

Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

Dated: December 7, 2016

Tina Merando, Town Clerk, Town of Philipstown

**Happy Holidays!**

**Help us shine a light on the Highlands.**



**Support The Current**

**Donate today at**  
[highlandscurrent.com/support](http://highlandscurrent.com/support)

**Highlands Current, Inc., has tax-exempt status as a federal 501(c)(3) enterprise. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.**



# Ailes Sells PCNR; Building Also on Market (from Page 1)

and media mogul who was forced out of Fox News last summer after allegations of sexual impropriety, bought the newspaper in 2008 and Elizabeth Ailes became PCNR's owner and publisher. The enterprise expanded in 2009 with the purchase of *The Courier*. The couple has a home in Garrison. Cunningham said on Dec. 13 that he and Elizabeth Ailes "are finalizing the papers now" for the sale and would complete the transaction by the end of the week. "I'm thrilled," he said. "It's a great opportunity." During his years at *The PCNR*, he said he has come to greatly enjoy Cold



Douglas Cunningham, the new owner of *The PCNR*, at a Cold Spring Village Board meeting on Dec. 13 Photo by Michael Turton



Elizabeth Ailes File photo

Spring and what it offers for small-town journalism. Moreover, he said, *The PCNR* and *Courier* are "very sound newspapers," adding that both have strong readerships and advertising support. Cunningham said that "in general" everything at the papers would proceed as normal under his leadership and that he would retain key staff members. Cunningham, who resides in Milford, Pennsylvania, about an hour west of Cold Spring, said he and his wife, Sheila, plan to relocate to Garrison. They have three children, two of whom are in college and one in high school. Cunningham became the editor of *The PCNR* in 2011. A graduate of the William

Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas, he is on the board of the New York Press Association. He spent 20 years at the *Times Herald-Record*, based in Middletown, as a business editor and columnist before becoming campaign manager for Republican Nan Hayworth in her successful bid in 2010 to represent the 19th District in Congress, which then in-

cluded Philipstown. Following Hayworth's win, Cunningham was hired as public relations director of Focus Media in Goshen, which specializes in crisis management, market research and "representing developers in controversial land-use matters," according to a press release from the time.

## The PCNR: An Abbreviated History

- March 1866:** Charles Blanchard founds *The Cold Spring Recorder*, promising readers "a family journal devoted to the dissemination of general and local news, and the impartial discussion of questions of public interest." He unloads the failing paper 18 months later to a group of local residents who appoint village postmaster Sylvester Beers Allis as editor and soon after sell him the paper.
- 1886:** A county history reports *The Recorder*, still owned by Allis, "is independent in politics, fearless in expression of opinion and has an extensive circulation."
- 1938:** *The Cold Spring Recorder* merges with *The Putnam County News*, founded five years earlier, to form *The Putnam County News & Recorder*.
- July 2008:** Roger and Elizabeth Ailes purchase *The PCNR* from Brian O'Donnell. Ailes says of his wife: "She's the publisher. I don't run it, I don't own it, and I don't even read it until Saturday ... I'm busy doing my daytime job" as chairman of Fox News.
- 2009:** The Ailes buy 144 Main St. in Cold Spring and name Joe Lindsley, 25, as PCNR editor.
- July 2010:** Gordon Stewart launches the upstart *Philipstown.info*.
- April 2011:** Lindsley quits, later alleging that Roger Ailes was having him

- followed by Fox News security. He is succeeded by Douglas Cunningham.
- November 2012:** *The Pretend Putnam County News and Recorder (PPCNR)*, by an anonymous satirist, appears at ppcnr.com. Mimicking *The PCNR*'s claim to be "the only real newspaper" in Philipstown, it promises to be the area's "only real pretend newspaper."
- March 2014:** *The PCNR* hosts a forum before the Cold Spring Village Board election in which it asks questions "tailored" for each candidate. The following year, two candidates refuse to participate.
- April 2014:** Elizabeth Ailes and *The PCNR* threaten to sue Cold Spring Trustee Stephanie Hawkins for defamation after she shares a Facebook post by another trustee who wrote: "The Ailes newspaper and their candidates have gone too far. It is clear I'm being followed; my movements are being tracked and reported in their newspaper."
- August 2016:** Unhappy with *The PCNR*'s coverage of the Butterfield development, which it characterized as a "war" between the developer and village, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy declares, "The only war being waged is between *The PCNR* and fact."
- December 2016:** Elizabeth Ailes announces she is selling *The PCNR* to Cunningham and putting 144 Main on the market.

The Episcopal Church  
of  
Saint Mary-in-the-Highlands

WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY MASS AT 3:30 PM  
WITH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FESTIVAL MASS AT 10:30 PM  
WITH THE SAINT MARY'S CHOIR

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION AFTER MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS WITH CAROLS AT 10:30 AM

CORNER OF ROUTES 9D & 301 IN COLD SPRING  
(845) 265-2539  
WWW.STMARYSCOLDSPRING.ORG

PHILIPSTOWN  
DEPOT THEATRE

Philipstown Depot Theatre is seeking  
**P/T Technical Director**  
**16 - 20 hours per week**

For details visit: [www.philipstowndepotttheatre.org/td](http://www.philipstowndepotttheatre.org/td)

PHILIPSTOWN  
DEPOT THEATRE

Youth Players present Mark Twain's  
**A Connecticut Yankee  
in King Arthur's Court**

**Dec. 17, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.**  
**Dec. 18, 3 p.m.**

.....

**Tickets:** [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) • [philipstowndepotttheatre.org](http://philipstowndepotttheatre.org)  
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)



## The Ornament King *(from Page 1)*

made them once a year to sell at a market.

"Can you make me some now?" Radko asked, and the man asked him to draw some designs. "He looked at my designs, told me they were very old-fashioned, but he made them — there were about 24 — and they had beautiful hand-painted details of snowflakes and comets on them."

Returning to New York, Radko brought them into his office, which at that time was at the ICM talent agency. He was in the early stages of agent training, which began in the mailroom. When he showed them around and found everyone asking for their own, Radko had an inkling he was on to something.

He sold that first batch to his co-workers. "I made up prices!" he recalls. "I sent a cable to my cousin asking her to get more and suggested three sizes and colors. Two weeks later I got a huge carton. I created a little catalogue, using rub-on letters and lots of White-Out. During lunch hours I'd go to Royal Copenhagen, Bendels, high-end florists and better gift stores near 57th Street, where ICM was located. They all wanted them. And they'd report to me that celebrities were buying them: Katharine Hepburn, Woody Allen, Baryshnikov, Whoopi Goldberg, Bruce Springsteen.



A Christopher Radko ornament Photo provided

"We're such a celebrity-driven country that getting endorsements was important, and it led to hiring a publicist, who got the ornaments on *The Today Show* and *Oprah*. It grew from there. It was fun and boosted my own sense of self-confidence. I felt my ornaments had a purpose; they were objects which created connection for people."

His inventory expanded after Barbra Streisand requested Hanukkah ornaments and people asked for them for weddings and even the Fourth of July. Radko was hired to design mantel displays for the White House and to decorate the vice president's residence. Not yet 30, he found himself constantly on the road attending trade shows, signings and charity events, writing collector guides, and visiting manufacturers in Europe, while still drawing all the designs.

Radko says it never crossed his mind growing up that he'd be a designer or entrepreneur. Both of his parents were doctors. He studied English at Columbia and graduated "truly not knowing what I was going to do with my life." He worked multiple jobs. "I was in need of money, but I do believe that there's more to life than what you see in front of you," he says. "You write the script for your day." It was then that the toppling of the ornament- and history laden tree changed his life.

Today, despite his financial success at a young age, Radko is pensive about it all. "I love creature comforts, but if you succeed early — I had the Central Park West apartment, so many things — you begin to think, What do I do next?" he says. "One can spend the rest of life doing positive things, each in our own way, whether it's helping with homework, or doing charitable work." Raising money for charity was always threaded through Radko's work, with designs created for causes such as breast cancer and AIDS research and the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

"People don't remember you for how much money you made," he says. "If you've done something to encourage people to help lift people up, that's what matters. I try to put heart into my work and my relationships — that makes me happy."

After discovering Garrison and falling in love with its beauty and history (he is organizing a 50th-anniversary tribute to *Hello Dolly*, which was partially shot in Philipstown, for 2018), Radko searched for the right place to live, and found it, moving in a few weeks ago. He takes breaks from unpacking by leading his two Border Collies for long walks in the woods.



Ornaments designed by Christopher Radko Photos by James Angus

Two weeks before Christmas, he had not yet put up his tree; he confided that when he does, there will not be any Christopher Radko ornaments on it. There never have been, he says, as they symbolize work to him. Instead, he covers his tree with antiques, as his grandmother did.

Asked why his glass ornaments became popular so quickly and have remained so over the years, he says: "The ornaments have always been a tangible container of people's heart-based memories and emotions. The tree is a blank palette; there are stories behind each ornament; the tree is to be gathered around."

# LUXE OPTIQUE

## BEACON

Oliver Peoples  
DITA  
Lafont  
alain mikli  
ic! Berlin  
Thome Browne  
Rayban  
Oakley

183 Main St  
Beacon, NY

845.838.2020

Don't forget to use your FSA/HSA & out of network vision insurance  
\*We will submit all claims for you & 15% off your total\*

Free Eye Exam  
with the purchase of one or more pairs of glasses  
Can be combined with any other offer  
\*expires-12/31/16\*

## 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

**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



# Making the Season Brighter

*Philipstown couple molds 15,000 candles for holiday*

By Michael Turton

A Philipstown couple is doing all they can to make the season brighter — literally. By the time the new year arrives, their company will have produced and sold more than 15,000 holiday candles.

Shalant Candles takes its name from the husband-and-wife team of Davey Lant and Lilach Shani. In 2002 the Garrison residents began selling candles made in California at New York City's holiday markets. When the candlemaker retired in 2013, they decided to do it themselves.

Shani flew to meet with their former partner for a "one-day lesson in candle-making," Lant recalls. After some trial and error, Lant and Shani found the "magic numbers" for fragrance, pouring temperature and other aspects of production, he said.

Shalant produces mineral oil candles in six sizes and 10 designs that incorporate apples, pinecones, cranberries and "snow" made from sugar. Other designs include ocean shells, faux butterflies and oranges.

Lant said the products are unique because they can be reused by placing a tea

light in the center. "Only the center of the candle burns," he explained. "The design remains intact." The candles retail for \$12 to \$40 and last for up to 60 hours.

Sales so far have been limited to New York City's three prime holiday markets at Bryant Park, Columbus Circle and Union Square. It is not an inexpensive venture. A half-booth space costs \$7,000 from late October through the first week of January, while a full-size kiosk can run up to \$40,000 depending on location. Lant repurposed lumber from his Garrison barn to build three booths, one for each market.

The customers vary at each location, Lant said. At Bryant Park, they typically come from nearby offices, while Columbus Circle is dominated by tourists. Union Square, he said, "is where you find the real New Yorkers." The couple hopes by the spring to accept wholesale orders through its website at [chalantcandles.com](http://chalantcandles.com).

Initially they made candles at their home but now use a building just off Route 9 north of Cold Spring. Their three employees, who include manager Lisa Light, a lifelong Philipstown resident, work full time from September through the holidays. As demand grows, Lant hopes to make the operation year-round in 2017; every candle they're making before the end of the year is already spoken for.



Butterfly candles



Davey Lant and Lilach Shani with some of their holiday candles

Photos by M. Turton



One design features apples grown at a local farm.

*Russell Cusick Gallery 530 Main Street Beacon, NY*

**2016 Holiday Show Opening Reception**  
**December 17th, from 2-9pm**

(845) 729-9262    [www.reflectionsonthehudson.com](http://www.reflectionsonthehudson.com)    [therussellcusickgallery@gmail.com](mailto:therussellcusickgallery@gmail.com)



# The Calendar

## The Ravens

*After a move to Northern Ireland, painter finds light in blackness of birds*

By Alison Rooney

After living in New York City, then in Garrison, for 25 years, Wendy Lindbergh — a granddaughter of aviator Charles Lindbergh and author Anne Morrow Lindbergh — moved with her daughter to Northern Ireland two years ago to a place where the family of her husband, painter Hector McDonnell, has lived for generations.

The difficult dynamics of maintaining lives on two continents contributed to the move. Living in a rainy, windy glen on the North Channel between the Irish Sea and the Atlantic, water surrounds Lindbergh, and she has found that the change in geography has decompressed her sense of time.

She turned to painting to “open space” for herself, and a selection of her recent works, *Luminous Ground — the shared field*, will be on display at the Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon through Saturday, Dec. 31.

The show contains numerous images of birds, some of which are based on the work of noted photographers. Two paintings of ravens serve as centerpieces.



Wendy Lindbergh

Photo by Olivia Hughes

There are also landscapes of sea and sky, and depictions of droplets of water and pebbles.

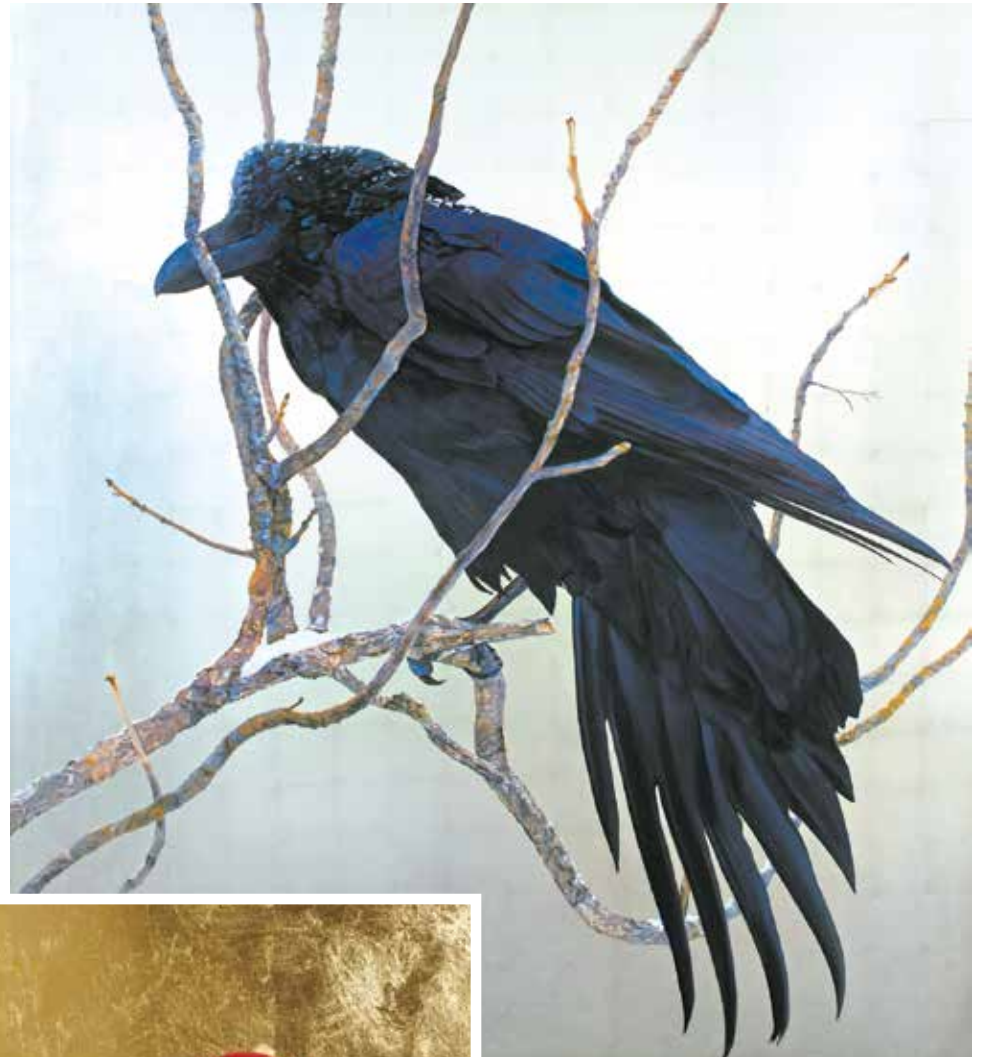
In expansive studio space borrowed from a friend, Lindbergh began painting on 4-inch by 4-inch blocks, envisioning, at first, a tribute to the song of the Swanson's Thrush, which she describes as a “haunting rising spiral of sound that echoes through the now diminishing forests of my childhood in the West.” But within the large space, Lindbergh says she found herself painting larger images, turning to corvids, the family of birds that includes crows, jays, magpies and ravens.

Lindbergh's admiration for the birds is “rooted in their canny ability to prosper alongside humans, reflecting us darkly,” she says. “Immersed in the iridescent inflections of their blackness, I came to understand that the greasy, colored shine of their feathers can signal a change of consciousness. And that darkness is a place where healing can be accepted.”



Autumn Raven, by Wendy Lindbergh, from a photo by Alan and Sandy Carey

Photo by Howard Goodman



Raven in Snow, by Wendy Lindbergh, based on a photo by Jim Brandenburg

Photo by Howard Goodman



Scarlet Tanager, by Wendy Lindbergh

Photo by Brian Tang

Most of the paintings in the show incorporate gilding techniques using gold and silver leaf, a skill Lindbergh learned while doing a decorative project. “All metals return light to our eyes in a way that creates a sense of space,” she says.

Having studied painting with abstract expressionists at the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford, where she earned a degree in art history, Lindbergh credits years she spent in Paris in the 1980s with her true education. “On a shoestring life, I devoured a huge amount of music and met the

*Lindbergh's admiration for the birds is “rooted in their canny ability to prosper alongside humans, reflecting us darkly.”*

informative painters R.B. Kitaj, Sandra Fisher and, most important, Avigdor Arikha,” she says.

These days, Lindbergh says she is inspired by the “mysterious candor” in late medieval and early Renaissance paintings and the stillness of 18th-century Japanese screen painting. She finds herself “drawn to subjects that seem to offer themselves as vehicles for further thought, or that might open a line of questioning.” For example, she says: “How can I keep steady in the midst of continuous fluctuation?”

Lindbergh invites viewers to experience her works by looking both at the details and the expanses. “The landscapes we inhabit are part of a huge breathing being,” she observes. “In the words of Wallace Stevens: ‘Among 20 snowy mountains, the

only moving thing was the eye of the blackbird.’ ”

Theo Ganz Studio, located at 149 Main St. in Beacon, is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment.

For more information visit [theoganz-studio.com](http://theoganz-studio.com) or call 917-318-2239.



# 2016 Gift Guide

**The Current** asked Madeleine DeNitto, who owns and operates Garrison Concierge and includes gift purchasing among her many services, to help compile a list of ideas for the holidays. She reported the most difficult part of the assignment was selecting only 20 items, but we held her to it.

## For Theater Fans

Honor a loved one for years to come by donating \$500 to the capital campaign of the Philipstown Depot Theatre to have his, her or their names inscribed in a brass plate on the armrest of one the theater's newly installed seats. Or for



\$100 give a membership to the Downing Film Center, which includes passes to two movies and discounted admission to all others.

**Philipstown Depot Theatre**  
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3900  
**Downing Film Center**  
19 Front St., Newburgh, 845-561-3686



## For the Chronically Stressed

To share the gift of peace and serenity, give a Badger Yoga & Meditation Balm with hints of cedar wood and mandarin from Beacon Natural Market (\$8), a Kikkerland Slim Bottle Water bottle from Utensil (\$18) and classes from a studio such as Living Yoga, SkyBaby or beBhakti.



**Beacon Natural Market**  
348 Main St., Beacon, 845-838-1288  
**Utensil Kitchenware**  
480 Main St., Beacon, 845-202-7181  
**beBhakti Yoga**, Beacon, 845-440-8855  
**Living Yoga**, Cold Spring, 845-809-5900  
**SkyBaby Studio**, Cold Spring, 845-265-4444

## For Coffee Lovers

Get your dearest caffeine addict in the holiday spirit with the aromatic Jingle Bells Java from Bear Mountain Coffee Roasters (\$10) or Eastern Shore Tea Company's Gingerman Tea, with vanilla, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger and cloves (\$6).

**The Country Goose**  
115 Main St.,  
Cold Spring  
845-265-2122



## For a Fresh Start

You can revive any room with natural room sprays in non-aerosol pumps from Cold Spring Apothecary. For cozy comfort, give Bergamot & Tobacco or Cypress Fig (\$25 each). For traditional, grab Lavender Room & Linen (\$18).

**Cold Spring Apothecary**  
75 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-232-1272



## For Jam Fans

Blueberry and strawberry are her best-selling jams but Jennifer Mercurio of the Nelsonville-based Eleanor's Best says ginger is her favorite and the (relatively mild) hot pepper and sweet onion have been surprise hits (\$8 each). They can be found online or at any number of Highlands shops.

**Eleanor's Best**  
eleanorsbest.com  
845-809-5621



## For Good Boys and Girls

For years, Crayon Rocks (\$8) have been a hit at Newburgh Art Supply. Their unique shapes help children develop dexterity.

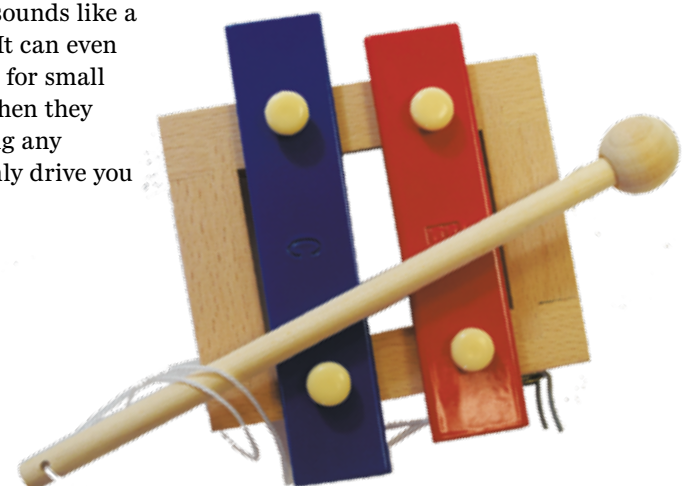
**Newburgh Art Supply**  
5 Grand St., Newburgh  
845-561-5552



## For Toddlers

The Ding-Dong Doorbell, available at Echo, may be one of the best noisy toys for children to explore, as it simply sounds like a traditional doorbell. It can even be mounted to a wall for small tots to "announce" when they are entering or exiting any threshold and will only drive you mildly crazy (\$11).

**Echo**  
470 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-0047

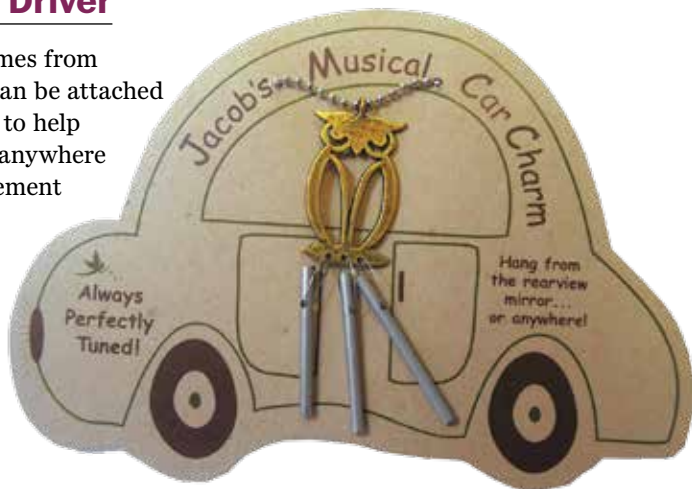




### For the Angry Driver

Personal wind chimes from Nature's Pantry can be attached to a rearview mirror to help control road rage or anywhere where constant movement brings on their faint sound. Choose from designs such as an owl, cat, dragonfly and angel (\$9).

**Nature's Pantry**  
1545 Route 52  
Fishkill  
845-765-2023



### For the Christmas Tree Artisan

There's nothing as lovely as hand-blown glass. These ornaments from Hudson Beach Glass catch rays of light that will keep you mesmerized throughout the holidays (\$35).

**Hudson Beach Glass**  
162 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-0068



### For a Change of Scenery

Jay Polefsky's interactive artwork is sure to please. At his studio shop you can slide panel after panel on each design to find a size and subject to suit most any taste (\$70 to \$95).

**Morphicism**  
444 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-3092



### For New Year's Revelers

Add some sparkle to a friend's new year with José Dhondt Blanc de Blancs Brut (\$59) or Domaine André & Mireille Tissot Crémant du Jura Extra Brut sparkling wine (\$25) from Artisan poured into lightweight glass flutes from Archipelago (2 for \$20). Or send them to the Towne Crier Café on New Year's Eve for dinner, a bottle of bubbly and performances by Chris O'Leary Band and Sari Schorr & Band (\$125 each).



**Artisan Wine Shop**  
180 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-6923

**Archipelago at Home**  
119 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3992

**Towne Crier Café**  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300



Towne Crier Café

### For the Pet Owner

Spoil a dog or cat with a colorful heavy bowl made of recycled glass (\$45 or \$60).

**Cold Spring Pet Supply**  
169 Main St.  
Cold Spring  
845-265-3239



### For the Aspiring Rock Star

So you know someone who missed a chance at stardom? For \$450, buy him or her a Stint at the adult rock band camp operated by Beacon Music Factory. Each 11-week session ends with a live performance at a local venue. Camps starting in January: The Doors, Curtis Mayfield, Bob Dylan's *Blonde on Blonde*, Alabama Shakes and Sly and Family Stone.



Beacon Music Factory, 333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon, 845-765-0472

### For the Breakfast Club

Gift your closest egg-lover with a subscription to free-range, organic chicken, quail or duck eggs from Cat Rock Egg Farm in Garrison (\$10 per delivery for a dozen chicken or quail eggs or \$8 per half-dozen duck eggs to addresses in Philipstown).

**Cat Rock Egg Farm**  
845-705-0259



### For the History Buff

A set of marble coasters from The Gift Hut featuring a map of the Hudson River passing by Cold Spring will give your home a sense of place (\$48).



**The Gift Hut**  
86 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-297-3786

Photos by Michael Turton except ornaments (Meghan Spiro) and Towne Crier (Mickey Deneher) and jams, artwork, band and eggs (provided).



FRIDAY, DEC.16

**Sparkle! Holiday Celebration**  
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**A Christmas Carol Dinner Theater**  
7 p.m. Hudson House  
2 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-9355 | hudsonhouseinn.com

**International Film Night: Gloria (Chile)**  
7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

**Caroling**  
8 p.m. Redoubt Wine Bar  
1135 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3463 | redoubtwinebar.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

**Santa Claus Visits**  
10 - 11:30 a.m. Drug World  
55 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
facebook.com/drugworldcsp

**Beary Merry Holiday**  
10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain  
845-786-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

**Cold Spring Fire Department Santa Run**  
Noon. See highlandscurrent.com for schedule

**Fishkill Farms**  
Noon – 4 p.m. Santa visits  
3 – 5 p.m. Wine glass painting, cider tasting  
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction  
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

BEACON  
FINE ART  
PRINTING

SPECIALIZING IN  
FINE ART · LARGE FORMAT · DISPLAY  
PRINTING  
RETOUCHING · IMAGE CAPTURE · MOUNTING

914.522.4736  
BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM

Calendar Highlights

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

**Build a Gingerbread House**  
Noon. Howland Public Library  
See details under Friday.

**Thread Girl the Brave (Reading and Workshop)**  
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**The Colonial Nutcracker**  
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

**A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (Youth Players)**  
4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**Sparkle! Holiday Celebration**  
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Jazz Nativity Service**  
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**Alexandra Kleeman, Annie DeWitt, Rebecca Schiff and D. Foy (Readings)**  
7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

**Kids' Reading & Craftmaking**  
10 a.m. Binnacle Books  
See details under Saturday.

**Brunch with Santa**  
Noon – 3 p.m. Highlands Country Club  
955 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3254 | highlandscountryclub.net

**Pre-Hanukkah Party**  
Noon – 3 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

**North Highlands Fire Department Santa Run**  
Noon. See highlandscurrent.com for schedule

**A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (Youth Players)**  
3 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Saturday.

**Dream/People's Choir Concert & Sing-a-long**  
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
See details under Saturday.

**Living Nativity**  
4 p.m. Saunders Farm  
Old Albany Post, Garrison

**Mount Gulian**  
4 – 7 p.m. Candlelight tours  
5 p.m. Storytelling  
145 Sterling St., Beacon  
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

**Cafe Sizzle: A Razzle-Dazzle Holiday Revel**  
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

MONDAY, DEC. 19

**Cold Spring Lions' Christmas Party**  
6 p.m. Bird and Bottle Inn  
1123 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison  
coldspringlions.org | Open to public

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

**Nelsonville Board of Trustees**  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville  
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 20

**Desmond-Fish Library**  
11 a.m. New Moms & Infants Group  
4 p.m. Kids' Craft Hour  
See details under Saturday.

**Candlelight Tours**  
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian  
See details under Sunday.

**Create Paper-Nesting Dolls and Coloring Books for Adults**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Friday.

**Haldane School Board Workshop**  
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)  
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring  
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

**Winter Solstice**

**Alzheimer's Association Virtual Dementia Tour**  
Noon – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3020 | Reservations required.

**Candlelight Tours**  
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian  
See details under Sunday.

**Beacon Music Factory Holiday Hoodang**  
6 p.m. 629 Route 52, Beacon  
845-765-0472 | beaonmusicfactory.com

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

**Candlelight Tours**  
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian | See details under Sunday.

**The Polar Express (Film)**  
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Saturday.

**Youth Open-Mic (18 and younger)**  
6 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

**Anime Club (grades 6 and up)**  
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Dec. 16.

**Andy Stack's American Soup (Holiday Edition)**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
See details under Thursday.

**Caroling**  
8 p.m. Redoubt Wine Bar | Details under Dec. 16.

The Figure Ground studio

ARCHITECTURE & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PLLC  
new construction & renovation  
residential & commercial  
ecologically minded & client focused  
845-287-4889  
info@thefiguregroundstudio.com



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





Discover the meaning of Bhakti at  
Beacon's new yoga center.

Bring this ad to the studio for  
10% off packages & classes.

beBhaktiyoga.com | 845.440.8855

89 Dewindt St., Beacon, NY



# Is *Cursive* a Dying Art?

*Public schools in the Highlands no longer teach it, and some parents object*

By Kimberly Hiss

**M**elinda Higbee has four children in the Garrison School District. The youngest, a fourth-grader, can't write in cursive or sign his name, and she's not happy about it.

"If his grandmother writes him a card in cursive, I want him to be able to read that," she said. "I don't think we should be graduating kids who can't understand a handwritten note from a future boss."

Since the statewide adoption in 2013 of the standard curriculum known as Common Core, many public schools have dropped instruction in cursive writing, citing time constraints. The curriculum, which has been adopted by 42 states and the District of Columbia, requires only that children know how to print by first grade and type by fourth grade.

The exclusion of cursive writing has sparked debate among educators, parents and politicians in New York and across the country. Nine states have added cursive instruction back to public school curriculums. In Ohio, one school district made it part of art class.

"I remember 30 years ago sitting in my own fifth-grade class, and after each lunch period we'd have our cursive instruction," says Brent Harrington, principal of Haldane Elementary. "Today, the writing that students and adults do is predominantly on the computer, so there's less of a necessity for cursive and the assessment of penmanship."

Still, he said, Haldane has chosen to retain some form of instruction, even if it's not a formatted part of the academic year. "We're not using a specific curriculum with set assessments and benchmarks," Harrington says. "But children are exposed to cursive writing in third grade with the goal of ensuring that they can at least sign their name."

If there are parents with concerns, Harrington says, no one has expressed them to him.

Beacon is taking a similar tack. "Our teachers may provide some exposure to cursive writing after students gain mastery of printing, typically around grade 3, based upon student readiness, but are not required to," interim superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi wrote in an email. She, too, said she has heard no complaints.

At the Garrison School, Higbee and other parents of fourth-graders who were not taught cursive in the third grade emailed their concerns in September to Principal John Griffiths. One parent called cursive a "fundamental learning tool" and expressed doubts that teachers did not have time to teach it.

Griffiths was sympathetic but said providing instruction would be challenging within the boundaries of the Common Core. "It had to be scheduled in a way that

may not have led to the most even implementation for all children, so some kids were getting it more than others," he said. The concerns expressed by parents "re-committed us to the importance of cursive writing," he said.

There has been discussion about the feasibility of adding cursive instruction at the end of second grade and the beginning of third grade, he said, as well as lessons in later grades to ensure that students practice. But he said that kind of instruction has to be balanced with other curriculum requirements.

"We need to make sure we're covering everything we're supposed to in terms of Common Core and other areas such as social-emotional learning and anti-bullying," he says. "As an administrator, I need to be careful not to stress the system so that whatever we do, we have time to do it well and impact students' lives."

## Is cursive good for you?

Advocates for the value of cursive point to research that suggests it helps the brain process information.

"Cursive is very important for a child's cognitive development because it allows the brain to integrate sensation, movement and thinking in a very efficient way," said Mercedes Burke, a pediatric occupational therapist in the Haldane school district. "Scientists have performed [brain scan] studies with children while they were doing cursive writing and, unlike typing, it activates multiple areas."

With cursive writing, she explained, the motor part of the brain, the cerebellum, is activated by the forward area of the brain, the frontal cortex. "Writing in general isn't being taught as it used to, and it's really affecting children later on," Burke said. "They have to write notes in class, and if they're not writing by hand, the cognitive integration that helps them digest and analyze information is missing."

Not everyone agrees with that assessment. Anne Trubek, author of *The History and Uncertain Future of Handwriting*, has written that "there are few instances in which handwriting is a necessity, and there will be even fewer by the time today's second-graders graduate."



A student practices cursive writing.

Photo by G. Johnston/Canstock

She and others argue that research shows no difference in the neurological benefits between printing and cursive; handwriting is beneficial, but it doesn't have to be cursive. And she notes that

keyboards are great for students with poor handwriting, who at least one study showed are often graded lower by teachers. Cursive survives, she and other critics contend, in large part because of tradition.

## The Cursive National Holiday

A large, elegant cursive signature of John Hancock, featuring a prominent loop and a decorative flourish at the end.

National Handwriting Day is celebrated Jan. 23, the birthdate of John Hancock.

## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine handmade art glass featuring internationally renowned artists

### JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW

Featuring jewelry for all occasions with  
**Jennifer Rutheny**

Come see what specials she has to offer  
**Saturday ONLY, 10AM - 8PM**



## The Flat File Show

Affordable drawings,  
prints, and photographs  
**On view through Dec 18**



**MATTEAWAN**  
GALLERY

436 Main Street, Beacon, NY  
845 440 7901  
[matteawan.com](http://matteawan.com)

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



# Legally Blonde

*Golden Retriever provides courtroom comfort for trauma victims*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Employees of the Dutchess County district attorney's office often work long hours, but only one of them is allowed to sleep on the floor.

That employee is Bosch, a service dog purchased by the DA's office in 2015 using funds forfeited in criminal-court proceedings. His wagging tail and slobbering tongue belie the important duty he's been assigned: to comfort the most vulnerable people in the courtroom.

The practice of using service dogs in court is fairly new, but for Bosch it's part of the family business. His great-grandmother Rosie, named in honor of Rosa Parks, made headlines in 2011 when she became the first service dog in the state to accompany a minor to the witness stand. In that case, Rosie sat silently at the feet of a 15-year-old testifying at the Dutchess County Courthouse after her father raped and impregnated her. As part of Rosie's training, the Golden Retriever could sense when the girl was under particular emotional stress and snuggle up to her.

"When Rosie was on the witness stand, she was extremely well-behaved," recalls Kristine Whelan, chief of the Dutchess County Special Victims Bureau. "She didn't bark or jump up. That's how she and Bosch were trained, for that purpose. She was very unobtrusive."

Rosie's turn on the stand resulted in a conviction but also controversy: The defense attorneys charged in their appeal that Rosie unfairly engendered sympathy toward the girl, swaying the jury. The appeal was unsuccessful, which helped to not only build precedence for the use of service dogs in court but acceptance of the idea as

well, as the judge noted that having Rosie on the stand was no different than a 1994 case in New York State in which a child witness was permitted to bring a teddy bear.

"We're about seeking the truth," Whelan says. "If a child is unable, due to fear or trauma, to articulate what happened to them, how is that seeking justice? How is that finding the truth? So I feel very strongly that whatever we can do for victims to make the process easier, for them to be able to tell what happened, then that's what we should do."

Bosch hasn't been on the witness stand yet but has appeared in court twice: To accompany a victim at a sentencing hearing and once when a victim watched the proceedings. Even when Bosch is not in court, he helps out at the office to comfort victims preparing to testify. Although state law only allows service dogs to only accompany minors to the witness stand (a law Whelan would like to see changed), he works with victims of all ages at the office.

"Any time we can make victims more comfortable with the process it's obviously a huge benefit for us and for them," Whelan explains. "Even the idea of coming to the district attorney's office is, for some victims, quite traumatic. Bosch does what he was trained to do: comfort them, and help them through difficult situations by being there for them, to pet or hug. Some of the kids get down on the floor and play with him."

On days when Bosch isn't needed, he is picked up by Kathy Peluso, coordinator of training and outreach for Family Services to assist with trauma counseling at its Poughkeepsie office.

"We love having him here," says Peluso as Bosch curled up at my feet. "And you see how he's sitting there with you, looking up at you? He's assuming because you're sitting here talking to me that you're a client."

Both Bosch and Rosie were trained by Educated Canines Assisting with Dis-



Bosch in his green service jacket

Photo by B. Cronin

abilities, an organization based in Connecticut. Although he can understand some 80 commands, the retriever's most impressive skill is the ability to sense changes in a person's emotions, even in a crowded room.

Peluso said Bosch once accompanied a Family Services therapist to a college where the therapist was giving a presentation on sexual assault and domestic violence. During the lecture a student who was a trauma survivor became upset and left the room, unnoticed by everyone except Bosch, who walked over to the door. When she returned, she found Bosch waiting for her. He walked her back to her seat and stayed with her for the remainder of the lecture.

Both Bosch and his handlers at the district attorney's office and Family Services must be recertified each year, a test that culminates with Bosch being walked through the Poughkeepsie Galleria to see if he can remain focused.

Bosch, who will turn four on Christmas Day, responds to commands as long as he's (Continued on next page)

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

**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

**C.&E. Paint Supply, Inc.**  
Tools • Hardware • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies

Benjamin Moore®  
Paints

Monday - Thursday 8 - 5:30  
Friday & Saturday 8 - 5  
Tel. 845.265.3126  
158 Main Street • Cold Spring, NY 10516

**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

**TIM BRENNAN**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

1975

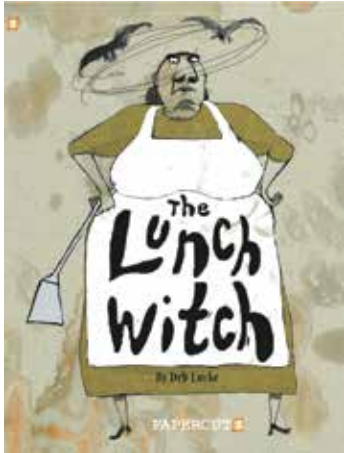
brennanbuilt.com



# SNL Star Cast in Adaptation of Local Artist's Book

Comedian Kate McKinnon will anchor *The Lunch Witch*

There was more good news this week for Deb Lucke, the Cold Spring author and artist who was profiled Oct. 9 in *The Current* after the rights to her best-selling graphic novel, *The Lunch Witch*, were acquired by Amblin' Partners to create a live-action film. Kate McKinnon, best known for her work on *Saturday Night Live*, has agreed to star in the film, which will be directed by Clay Kaytis, who previously co-directed *The Angry Birds*.



The first book in *The Lunch Witch* series

McKinnon, who has seen a lot of airtime on *SNL* portraying Hillary Clinton, starred in the recent all-female remake of *Ghostbusters*. She will take the role of Grunhilda, an out-of-work witch who takes a job in a school cafeteria.

"Who knew my doodles would have the power to turn a beautiful and talented young actress into a mean, old hag?" Lucke wrote in an email. "It's almost as if I cast a spell! I can't wait to see what she does with the character."



Alec Baldwin as Donald Trump and Kate McKinnon as Hillary Clinton on *Saturday Night Live* NBC photo



## Legally Blonde (from previous page)

wearing his green service jacket. When the jacket comes off, such as when he goes home with one of the assistant district attorneys at the end of the day or during lunch, the change is dramatic.

"I'll show you," says Peluso, carefully removing the dog's jacket. Bosch stands up, walks to the center of the room and lies down with his eyes closed. "He's relaxing now," Peluso explains. "He knows he's not working."



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

**"Manchester by the Sea" (R)**  
FRI 5:00 8:10, SAT 1:45 5:00 8:10  
SUN 1:45 5:00, MON 2:00  
TUE & WED 7:30, THU 2:00 7:30  
National Theatre Live Presents  
**"War Horse" (NR)**  
MON 7:15

**MONROE CINEMA**  
AT TMACC  
34 Millpond Parkway  
Monroe, NY 10950 • 845.395.9055  
www.monroecinema.com

**"Arrival" (PG13)**  
FRI 1:15 4:15 7:15, SAT 11:45 2:45  
5:45 8:45, SUN 12:45 3:45 6:45  
MON 7:30, TUE 12:45 3:45 6:45


**"Moana" (PG)**  
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

**"Rogue One" (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

**"Sing" (PG)**  
WED & THU 7:15

**"Passengers" (PG13)**  
WED & THU 7:30


**Poughkeepsie**



**Day School**

**PRE-K - GRADE 12**

**COME FOR A TOUR**



A Relevant Education that  
Prepares, Excites & Involves

www.poughkeepsieday.org 845.462.7600 x201



**HOULIHAN LAWRENCE**  
SINCE 1888



**SOPHISTICATED LIVING** \$1,795,000  
Contemporary home on five landscaped acres. Dramatic living area. Walls of glass, skylights and vaulted ceilings. Gunite pool and outdoor kitchen. Guest house. WEB# PO1295115 | GARRISON



**PERFECT GETAWAY** \$1,367,000  
River View Contemporary. Sixteen foot ceilings, glass walls and expansive decking. Finished lower level complete with gym, pool access and indoor golf range. WEB# PO1373821 | GARRISON



**MAGNIFICENT VIEWS** \$555,000  
Contemporary home offers mountain/sunset views year round. Perfect open floor plan for entertaining. Three finished levels nestled on almost four private acres. WEB# PO1363092 | GARRISON



**COZY AND WARM** \$439,000  
Love village life in Cold Spring – this home offers close proximity to trains and the Hudson River. Under one acre provides two bedrooms and stone fireplace. WEB# PO1367771 | COLD SPRING



**CHARM AND CHARACTER** \$359,000  
1920s Cottage-style Cape. Updated kitchen, living room/dining area surrounded by windows. Separate library/office. Standby generator. Gardens/babbling brook. WEB# PO1169856 | GARRISON



**RIVERFRONT RENTAL** \$2,900  
Direct access to the Hudson River. Two bedrooms. Sun filled, spacious living room, plus four seasons den, Master bedroom on first level with plenty of storage. WEB# PO1366904 | GARRISON

**COLD SPRING BROKERAGE**  
60 Main Street | 845.265.5500  
HoulihanLawrence.com



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The Virtual Dementia Tour attempts to reflect how people with the disease experience the world. Photo provided

## Understanding the Challenges of Dementia

Group will offer virtual experience

The Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will present a program at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Wednesday, Dec. 21 to provide a virtual experience of what it's like to live with dementia. It's designed to help friends, family and caregivers understand the challenges of the disease.

The Virtual Dementia experience takes 20 minutes and sessions are available by appointment from noon to 4 p.m. Participants will try to perform everyday tasks with impaired senses such as loss of central and peripheral vision and auditory interpretation. Reserve a time by calling Joan Carl at 845-471-2655 by Dec. 20.

## Local Dancers in Nutcracker

Garrison students perform in holiday classic

Sofia and Sebastian Rasic, both students at the Garrison School, will perform Dec. 16 to 18 as part of the ensemble in the Westchester Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker* at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Tickets are \$22 to \$32 at countycenter.biz.

## First Presbyterian Jazz Nativity Returns

Annual service set for Dec. 17

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring will host its annual Jazz Nativity service at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, with Tom McCoy, the director of music, on piano and vocalist Marty Elkins, drummer Mike LaRocco, bassist Lew Scott and Rob Scheps playing saxophone and flute.

The group will perform jazz renditions of familiar Christmas music and invite participants to sing along. There is no admission charge but contributions are welcome. A wine and cheese reception follows the music.



The Nature Museum's mini-camp gets kids outside during the holiday break. Photo provided

## Mini-Camp for Children at Nature Museum

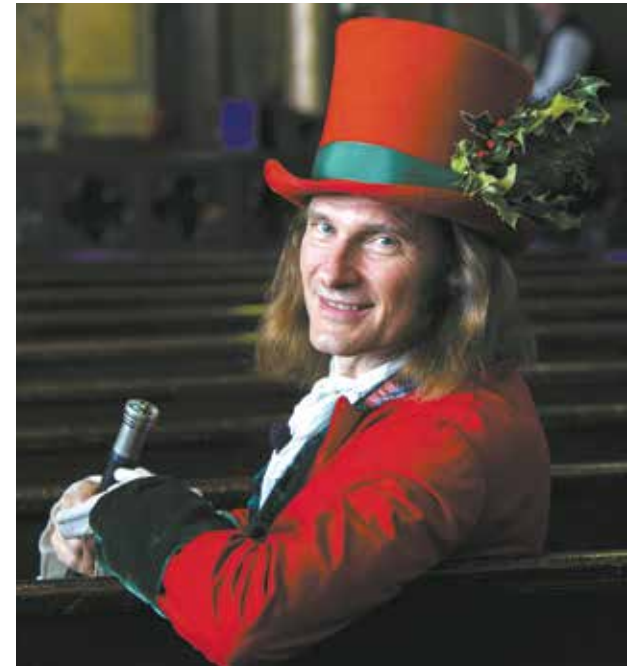
Students age 6 to 9 can participate over holiday break

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will offer a four-day camp for children ages 6 to 9 from Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Campers can join in hikes, crafts and learn about animals and how they live during winter. Campers can attend single or multiple days. Register at hhn.org. The cost is \$42 for museum members or \$48 otherwise.

## Scrooge as Told by Kruk

Storyteller to perform Dec. 28

Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will perform Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28. The suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Reserve tickets by calling 845-528-7280. The center is



Jonathan Kruk

Historic Hudson Valley

located at 729 Peekskill Road.

Kruk performs in an 1840s costume and is accompanied by Jim Keyes on the organ. The hourlong show is suitable for families.

## Randy Florke to Read Classic Tale

Best Christmas Pageant Ever at St. Mary's Church

On Thursday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., Randy Florke, founder and owner of the home-design agency The Rural Connection, will read Barbara Robinson's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring to get children and adults in the Christmas spirit. "It is funny, nostalgic and relevant," Florke says. "A great message for all ages, reminding us of the joy and importance of the season."

## Student Mural on Display at Foodtown

Haldane students collaborate on painting

A mural hanging at the exit of Foodtown in Cold Spring is the result of a collaboration (Continued on next page)

## SKYBABY TEEN CLASSES



6-WEEK SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 12TH, 13TH, 15TH

CHIVALRY & MARTIAL ARTS  
FOR TEENS BOYS GRADES 6-12  
THURSDAYS 3:30PM

YOGA FOR TEEN GIRLS  
FRIDAYS 3:30PM

PILATES FOR TEEN GIRLS  
SUNDAYS 6:30PM

Pay-What-You-Can  
Sponsored by SkyBaby.  
Must pre-register online  
www.skybabyyoga.com



75 Main Street | Cold Spring, NY  
skybabyyoga@gmail.com | (845) 265-4444



## 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



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



**Sky Burial, now on display at Foodtown in Cold Spring** Photo provided

(from previous page) between three Haldane students and high school art teacher Tom Locascio.

During the 2015-16 school year, working under the guidance of Locascio, Wylie Thornquist and Jonas Petkus conceived of and created *Sky Burial*, a 64-inch by 51-inch acrylic-on-canvas painting. Cameron Henderson provided artistic vision and support, and Paul Satkowski, the manager of Foodtown, worked with members of the Haldane Arts Booster Club to display it at the store.

Thornquist and Henderson are students at Williams College and Petkus is a junior at Haldane. Last year the piece was recognized by the Putnam Arts Council as Best Collaborative Work.

## Beacon

## New Digs for Beacon Farmers' Market

*Vendors move inside for the winter months*

Stay warm and dry while browsing for produce at the Beacon Farmers' Market, which has moved for the winter to the Veteran's Building at 413 Main St. It takes place each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with 18 vendors. The last holiday market of the season, on Sunday, Dec. 18, will include crafts such as handmade soaps, fiber goods, dried flowers and pottery. Visit [beaconfarmersmarket.org](http://beaconfarmersmarket.org) for a list of rotating vendors.

## Events for Book Lovers

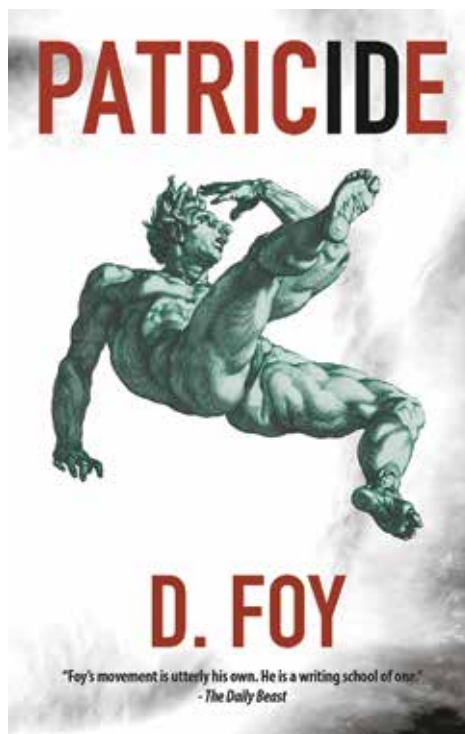
*Binnacle to host two readings*

On Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., four New York writers will read from their novels and short stories at Binnacle Books in Beacon: Alexandra Kleeman, author of the novel *You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine* and the short-story collection *Intimations*; Annie De Witt, author of *White Nights in Split Town City* and a forthcoming short-story collection, *Closest Without Going Over*; Rebecca Schiff, author of the collection *The Bed Moved*; and D. Foy, author of the novels *Made to Break* and *Patricide*.

On Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m., writer

and illustrator Jennifer Varn will perform a song from *My Day, A Long Distance Lullaby*, a new children's book that grew from Varn's attempts to stay connected with her nieces and nephews. The event includes a craft, cupcakes and a chance to win a signed book and stuffed animal puppy.

Binnacle Books is located at 321 Main St. Both events are free. Call 845-838-6191 for more information.



D. Foy, author of *Patricide*, is among four writers who will read at Binnacle Books on Dec. 17.

## Holiday Variety Show at Howland Center

*Concert will feature jazz, opera and gospel*

Christmas at Cafe Sizzle: A Razzle-Dazzle Holiday Revel at the Howland Cultural Center at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18 will feature jazz, opera, gospel as well as a "Silent Night" singalong. Tickets are \$10 to \$20, but nobody will be turned away. Make a reservation by calling 845-831-4988. Pianist Tom McCoy will accompany the Souls United Gospel Choir, Ed Vincent, the Goldee Greene and Friends Trio and young performers.



Goldee Greene

## 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](http://GROOMBRIDGEGAMES.COM)

VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/GROOMBRIDGEGAMES](https://www.facebook.com/groombridgegames) FOR UPDATES



**Pamela Petkanas, LCSW**  
Licensed Psychotherapist

Cold Spring Healing Arts  
6 Marion Ave, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
Phone: 908-230-8131  
[ppetkanas@gmail.com](mailto:ppetkanas@gmail.com)

Trained in DBT, Specializing in  
Children, Adolescents, Young Adults,  
Adults and Families

**NYS CERTIFIED READING SPECIALIST**  
AVAILABLE FOR TUTORING

**MARY BOYLE**

32 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
845-269-1206

[BOYLEMARYALICE796@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:johnastrab@coldspringnypt.com)  
[coldspringnypt.com](http://coldspringnypt.com)

**COLD SPRING FARMERS' MARKET**

Saturdays @ the Parish Hall, St-Mary-in-the-Highlands  
Indoor market is open from 9:30am - 1:30pm

Vegetables, greens, herbs, apples, berries, breads, cheeses, meats, fish, eggs, ice cream,	granola, pies, tarts, pretzels, pastries, gluten-free baked goods, jam, lavender, honey, plants, flowers,	mushrooms, olive oil, pickles, sauces, kombucha tea, ciders, wines, & wool.
--	---	---

[CSFARMMARKET.ORG](http://CSFARMMARKET.ORG) & [FACEBOOK.COM/COLDSPRINGFARMERSMARKET](https://www.facebook.com/coldspringfarmersmarket)



**Kate Vikstrom**  
Artist, Designer, Vocalist  
[KateVikstrom@gmail.com](mailto:KateVikstrom@gmail.com)  
[www.KateVikstrom.com](http://www.KateVikstrom.com)  
360.704.0499

**Cold Spring Video Services**



**Gregory Gunder**  
11 Orchard Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Phone (917) 572-4070  
[gagunder@gmail.com](mailto:gagunder@gmail.com)  
[www.coldspringvideo.com](http://www.coldspringvideo.com)

Specializing in Non-Profits & Small Businesses

**GROUP SHOW**

**BUSTER LEVI**

GALLERY

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
[BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM](http://BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM)



# Sports

## Varsity Scoreboard

### Boys' Basketball

Haldane 78, Edgemont 75  
Haldane 77, Hawthorne C.K 68  
Beacon 80, Peekskill 68  
Zamere McKenzie (21 points), Andre Davis (16), Alex Benson (12), Jemond Galloway (10)

### Girls' Basketball

Irvington 63, Haldane 28  
Haldane 48, Valhalla 47  
Abbey Stowell (12), Missy Lisikatos (11), Hannah Monteleone (10)  
Beacon 34, Putnam Valley 30  
Lauren Schetter (16), Raiven Encarnacion (9), Brianna Dembo (10 rebounds)

### Boys' Swimming

Beacon 97, Peekskill 70  
First-place finishers:  
200 Medal Relay: Patino, Oliva, Cordero, Patino (2:01.37)  
200 Freestyle: Lucas O'Blaney (2:04.67)  
500 Freestyle: O'Blaney (5:39.20)  
200 Freestyle Relay: Welsh, Oliva, Haran, Heady (1:51.54)  
100 Backstroke: Kent Patino (1:08.83)  
Beacon 88, Lourdes 88  
First-place finishers:  
200 Freestyle Relay: O'Blaney, Patino, Patino, Landers (1:43.64)

### Girls' Indoor Track

Beacon @ Jim Mitchell Invitational, The Armory

Top finishers:  
300-meter dash  
59. Summer Roberts 51.56

600-meter dash  
57. Jessica Hockler 2:10.53

1,000-meter dash  
43. Victoria Banks 3:37.39

4x200 relay  
21. Beacon 1:57.99

Long jump  
5. Jada Williams 14-09.25

High jump  
6. Jummie Akinwunmi 14-08.00

Triple jump  
12. Tiara Boone 29-10.00

Pole vault  
13. Anna Manente 6-00.00

### Shotput

18. Ennie Akinwunmi 23-06.00

Haldane @ Section 1 Kick Off, The Armory

300-meter dash  
19. Heather Winne 49.48

600-meter dash  
17. Heather Winne 1:52.91

1,000-meter dash  
14. Angel Zhang 3:34.70

Long jump  
5. Brittany Gona 15-03.25

Shotput  
10. Catherine Parr 27-00.00

### Boys' Indoor Track

Beacon @ Jim Mitchell Invitational, The Armory

Top finishers:  
300-meter dash  
9. Vincent Compagnone 38.07

1,000-meter dash  
52. Nick Lepere 3:09.07

55-meter Hurdles  
6. Ethan Burgos 8.58

4x200 Relay  
8. Beacon 1:36.90

4 x Mile  
13. Beacon 20:43.08

High Jump  
3 (tie). Simon Jefferson 5-03.00  
Xavier Collins 5-03.00

Long Jump  
4. Richard Kish 19-01.50

Triple Jump  
2. Richard Kish 39-07.00

Haldane @ Section 1 Kick Off, The Armory

300-meter dash  
15. Nick Farrell 41.14

600-meter dash  
64. Andrew Silhavy 1:59.21

1,000-meter dash  
2. Nick Farrell 2:42.15

Long jump  
13. Jose Mendoza 16-006.50

Triple jump  
9. Justin Gonzalez 35-07.00



Heather Winne

Photo provided

## Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Heather Winne, Haldane High School

Winne, a junior, set a personal and school record (1:52.91) in the 600-meter dash at the Section 1 Kickoff on Dec. 3 at the Armory in New York City. "She has a great combination of speed and strength and range," said Coach AJ McConville. "With continued work, she will make a splash at the state level." Winne also holds Haldane records in the 55-meter hurdle, 800- and 2,000-meter steeple and as part of 400- and 800-meter relay teams.



The Beacon Bulldogs bowling team

Photo provided

## Beacon Bowling Rolls On

*Fifteen students compete for boys' and girls' teams*

By Leigh Alan Klein

No matter their ability, many high school athletes dream of competing in college and even the professional leagues. The 15 members of the boys' and girls' bowling teams at Beacon High School don't expect that. The sport has limited television exposure, its professionals play in anonymity and only four Division 1 universities in the tri-state area have bowling programs.

The high school bowlers typically practice once a week and spend two days at matches. On Dec. 7, the boys won a game against bowling power John Jay, which had not lost in more than two years. (John Jay won the match to maintain its lead in the Dutchess Putnam Interscholastic Bowling League with 26 points won and 2 points lost, followed by Beacon with 21 points won and 7 points lost.)

Coach Brian Mahon, in his 19th season, said the assignment began as a favor to the athletic director but has become a true enjoyment. "The kids don't do it for recognition," he said.

Both the boys' and girls' teams are competitive this year, trailing only John Jay in the standings. This despite Beacon being the smallest school in the six-team league

and the challenge it faces recruiting bowlers. "We have a solid core," Mahon said, but "there are fewer kids coming out and our depth is lacking."

One reason for that is bowling has gotten expensive.

"Those who participate, the better bowlers, grew up in a family that bowls," Mahon said. "They started in the local Saturday morning leagues." Many of these bowlers, he said, join the varsity squad in seventh grade.

The Beacon boys bowling team is led by senior Peter Ostrow, who is averaging 186 and has bowled a high game of 278 and a 681 series. Other contributors include Matthew Maffei (186 average, 581 series); Tre Smith (195 average, 616 series); Vincent Bouderau (191 average, 654 series) and Kevin Murphy (184 average, 644 series).

The girls are led by sophomore Jenna Massei (192 average and 610 series). Her teammates include Selena Virtuoso (175 average, 565 series); Brianna Virtuoso (174 average, 540 series) and Alexia Alexander (157 average, 532 series). With 18 points won and 10 lost, they are second in the league behind John Jay, which has 28 points won and none lost.

The Bulldogs next face Ketcham on Dec. 21 at 3:30 p.m. at Fishkill Bowl and Carmel at the same time Dec. 22. The regular season continues through Feb. 1.

## Phil's List

FREE!

Free online local classifieds devoted to jobs, housing, tag sales, services, and more.

highlandscurrent.com  
click on "Free Ads"

## Coaches and Parents

We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos.

Email  
sports@highlandscurrent.com



# Shop Local ~ Shop Cold Spring!

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS  
AT **VALLEY RESTAURANT**

GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON  
WITH A GIFT CARD FROM THE GARRISON

GIFT CARD FROM THE GARRISON MAY BE USED  
PROPERTY-WIDE AT VALLEY RESTAURANT,  
GARRISON GOLF OR THE GARRISON INN

Visit or call us today to  
purchase your holiday gift card.

2015 US 9 Garrison, New York 10524 | 845.424.3604

**COLD SPRING  
GENERAL  
STORE**

HUDSON VALLEY ★ NEW YORK  
ESTD. 2014

**HOME GOODS, ARTISAN PROVISIONS, GIFTS  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**ARCHIPELAGO**  
AT HOME

Gifts † Wine Charms † Picnic Time † Marble Coasters  
† Bath Gels † Table Top † Glass Ware † Wine Glasses  
† Champagne Flutes † Martini Sets † Accessories †  
Lighting † Candles † Aromatherapy † Furnishings †  
Wall Tiles † Mirrors † Clocks † Tapestries † Kitchen  
† Table Cloths † Spoon Rests † Pot Racks † Eclectics  
† Garden † Torches † Sprinklers † Patio

119 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY  
845.265.3992

Unique gifts, games, puzzles,  
and wooden toys for the whole family  
Featuring many Eco-Friendly  
Made in USA products

**The Gift Hut**  
Open Friday - Sunday,  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
86 Main Street,  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
f GiftHut06@aim.com  
Phone 845.297.3786

**Highland Baskets**  
One-stop shopping for the  
entire family

**The Country  
GOOSE**

115 Main St.,  
Cold Spring, NY  
845.265.2122

highlandbaskets.com



# Shop Local ~ Shop Beacon!

**wickham**

Custom Woodwork Using  
Hudson Valley  
Hardwoods



wickham solid wood studio  
578 main street beacon NY 12508  
www.jessicawickham.com • 917.797.9247



BEACON, NEW YORK  
**artisan wine shop** *for the holidays*

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**

## Kringle's Christmas House



134 Main Street  
Beacon NY 12508  
845-765-0444

**f Follow us on Facebook**

## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine handmade art glass featuring internationally renowned artists

**LOCALLY BLOWN**



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

**MTA. TOPS**  
outfitters

Voted Best Outdoor Sports  
Store in the Hudson Valley  
2008 & 2012  
~Hudson Valley Magazine

5 - 50% off everything  
until December 24!

144 Main St,  
Beacon  
(845) 831-1997

## UTENSIL



480 MAIN STREET  
BEACON NY 12508

845.202.7181  
utensilkitchenware.com

QUALITY KITCHENWARE + BAKEWARE

**K/S**  
KITCHEN SINK  
**K/S**  
FOOD & DRINK

157 Main Street, Beacon  
Dinner at 5 pm  
Sunday Brunch at 11 am  
Closed Tuesday  
kitchensinkny.com



*RiverWinds*  
Gallery

172 MAIN STREET  
BEACON NY  
WWW.RIVERWINDSGALLERY.COM  
845.838.2880  
OPEN WED-MON, 12-6: 2ND SAT 12-9

