

The HIGHLANDS Current



How clean is your water?
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FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

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Site of new senior center/Ailes' name will be on the inside.

Photo by Kevin E. Foley

New Senior Center Will Be Named for Ailes

County legislature approves Butterfield lease agreement

By Holly Toal

The Putnam County Legislature last week approved a 15-year lease of property at the former Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring for a senior center for residents of Philipstown.

According to the agreement approved at the May 3 meeting, the county will lease 6,000 square feet of space in the Lahey Pavilion from Butterfield Realty, LLC, and developer Paul Guillaro. After the 15-year term, the county will have the option to extend the lease by 10 years.

Last year the legislature estimated the cost over 15 years at about \$3.5 million. The legislature also agreed to accept a donation of \$500,000 by Garrison residents Roger and Elizabeth Ailes, which will go toward renovating the space. Roger Ailes is CEO and chairman of Fox News, and Elizabeth Ailes is publisher of the *Putnam County News & Recorder*.

According to the PCNR, "the agreement between the county and the Ailes' family's 501(c)3 nonprofit stipulates how the renovation and outfitting of the center will proceed. ... Once completed, the like-new structure will be turned over to the county."

By accepting the donation, the legislature agreed to name the facility "The Roger Ailes Senior Center." In addition, a one-

acre park will be named for former New York Gov. George Pataki, also a Garrison resident. In addition, the agreement calls for a road within the Butterfield campus to be named Betty's Way after the late Betty Budney, a longtime town councilwoman and volunteer.

Legislator Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) voted against the lease and the acceptance of the Ailes's donation; legislator Kevin Wright (R-Mahopac) abstained.

"I believe this sets a dangerous precedent on any future negotiations for donation of property or money between a private individual and the county," LoBue said. "In effect, (Continued on Page 3)



Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon

Photo by Kevin E. Foley

Beacon School Board Challengers Push Agenda for Change



Beacon school board candidates, from left, Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng

Photo by Kevin E. Foley

Call for transparency, community involvement

By Jeff Simms

A philosophical change is needed, and the time for change is now. That was the message in Beacon on Wednesday (May 11), as three of the four candidates for the city's Board of Education answered questions in front of a sparse crowd. The election is Tuesday, May 17.

Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng, all seeking their first elected office, took part in a Meet the Candidates forum held at Beacon High School and organized by the district's parent-teacher organizations. Incumbent Tracy Antalek Everett, who is also running, did not attend because of a scheduling conflict.

The four candidates are vying for three seats on the nine-person board. Polls will

be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday. City of Beacon residents vote at Beacon High School and Fishkill and Wappingers residents vote at Glenham Elementary School.

At the forum, the three challengers spoke at length about their dissatisfaction with the current board.

"Our district is not really in a healthy place," said Heuer, who is a professional photographer. Referring to the district's ongoing superintendent search, its sixth in a decade, she said, "We need to find good leadership that can guide this ship and focus on the kids."

"The board and district were not operating properly," said Rutkoske, who is a capital asset program manager for the Entergy Corp. "We're wasting a lot of time, energy and money and not focusing on the kids."

Tseng, an environmental engineer, said that as he began attending school board meetings, he real-

(Continued on Page 3)

Beacon and Fishkill Discuss Sharing Police

A study underway

By Jeff Simms

Officials in Beacon and the neighboring town and village of Fishkill have launched a study of their police departments to find ways to cut costs, including consolidation, without cutting services.

The study, funded by a grant from the Dutchess County Municipal Shared Services and Consolidation program and conducted by Hudson Valley Pattern for

Progress, will include a number of forums to solicit public feedback. Its recommendations are expected in November.

"The thought is to look at efficiencies and cost savings," said Beacon City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero. "If there's a way to do things better, you want to explore that, especially with the tax cap."

"The public always wants to make sure that they're covered," added Joe Czajka, Pattern's senior vice president for research, development and community planning. "That's the biggest thing. And Dutchess County made these funds available because they want to help municipalities save money as well." (Continued on Page 4)

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Pickle Relishing

By Mary Ann Ebner

Whether kosher, old fashioned, garlic dill or bread and butter, when a crunchy layer of pickles stacked across a slice of bread turns a basic sandwich into a spicy snack, cucumbers deserve a nod. The crisp green vegetable rules the pickling palate with distinction, but pickles come in a variety of flavors, textures and types well beyond cucumbers. Nearly everything in the garden makes a pickled appearance.

The process of fermenting — soaking in salt brine — dates back to ancient times.

And pickling — preserving in a vinegar solution — has long enhanced a host of provisions, from carrots to cabbage. Foods soaked in a solution to prevent spoiling fall into the pickled family, but some pickle producers adapt recipes not only for preservation but to explore spice blends and flavors. Around the Hudson Valley, a wide selection of produce goes into the brine and small-batch pickled products tempt us at farmers' markets, in grocery aisles and on restaurant menus.

Perry's Pickles, a family owned pickler in Rosendale, offers more than 20 pickled products. Some of its selections are ready after five days while others may stand for weeks before they reach the perfect stage.

Now that the Cold Spring Farmers' Market has moved for the outdoor season to Boscobel, those partial to pickled products can find the Perry's Pickles booth at the market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Saturday.

"So many people say they try pickling and it doesn't go well," says Kathleen Perry, who owns Perry's Pickles with her husband, Keith. "But I tell them it's pretty basic if you're following a good recipe. You always want your pickles to have the

proper acidity. The point of a tested recipe is to guarantee a ratio of vinegar to water. Generally what I recommend is equal parts water to vinegar. The vinegar provides the safe zone in pickling and with fermenting, you need more salt."

The couple uses Ball jars and the hot-water-bath canning method, but this year plan to produce more raw items. "We use a lot of my husband's family recipes with all-natural products," Kathleen Perry said. "It's so funny because when we started [pickling] as a hobby we were just looking for a way to put a little more oil in the furnace in the winter."



Dill pickle potato salad

That hobby has blossomed into a love of pickling, fermenting and food preservation. One of their best-selling products starts with fresh cucumbers, feathery dill and garlic submerged in salt water for about five days. "Quite a few of our older customers remember growing up in the city and buying 'Jewish-style' [deli] pickles," Perry said. "It's a classic pickle that some people like even the next day. A lot of people are looking for a more natural pickle."

In addition to cucumbers, the Perry family pickles everything from beets to sweet cherries, mustard seeds and eggs. They also sell single pickles on a stick — traditional pickles fermented at different stages — at farmers' markets. The fermented variations are primarily a salt-brined pickle but Perry boasts that they're



Find Perry's Pickles at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market.

Photos by M.A. Ebner

packed with probiotics that benefit the digestive system.

For the shelf-stable pickles, white vinegar adds a tangy flavor. Perry says her customers enjoy their pickles eaten off the stick or out of the jar but many of her products find a way into dishes.

"A lot people love pickled products in salads," Perry said. "Our pickles are known as an ingredient in potato salad and pickled eggs are really good in salads. We have about 50 chickens and most of the eggs we pickle come from our own

chickens. We're actually going to be selling pickle juice for the first time this year as well. There are so many ways to use pickle juice."

Pickle juice works as a marinade for meats, as an ingredient in salad dressings and sauces, frothy summer beverages and even frozen as pickle pops, a cool treat with a puckered-up kick. The recipe shared here incorporates pickle juice and crispy dill pickles flavored with loads of pickling spices.

During peak growing season, Perry plans to pickle any vegetables that come her way, and she'll readily welcome a bumper crop of cucumbers.

Dill Pickle Potato Salad

Serves 6 to 8

6 to 8 medium potatoes (about 2 pounds)
1/3 cup sour cream
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons pickle juice
1 tablespoon horseradish
1 tablespoon mustard

1 small sweet onion, diced
2 cups fresh carrots, thinly sliced
1 cup radishes, thinly sliced
1 cup crispy dill pickles, chopped
sea salt
pepper

1. In large pot, bring salted water to a boil. Add unpeeled potatoes and cook until tender, about 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and cool potatoes. Gently remove skins and set potatoes aside.
2. Whisk sour cream, mayonnaise, pickle juice, horseradish, mustard and diced onion together.
3. Cube potatoes. Generously season with salt and pepper. Combine potatoes with mayonnaise mixture. Add carrots, radishes and pickles and coat evenly.
4. Cover and chill 4 to 6 hours before serving.

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Beacon School Board Challengers Push Agenda for Change *(from Page 1)*

ized “there were a lot more questions than answers.”

Beacon school board meetings over the last year have become highly charged affairs as community members have accused the board of unethical behavior and favoritism. In January, superintendent Barbara Walkley resigned ten days after nearly 400 community members converged upon a board meeting, demanding change.

By contrast, only a few dozen people, including several current board members, attended Wednesday’s forum.

In addition to discussing the superintendent search, all three candidates insisted the community must be more engaged once at least two new board members are seated in July.

“It was really fascinating to see [the community’s] questions not answered” by the board, Tseng said. “There has to be an exchange, and that exchange doesn’t happen under the current structure. Engagement isn’t just a box you check off.”

There has seemed to be “an effort not to listen to the public,” Rutkoske said. “Our district has been in a crisis, and in a crisis you really have to open your ears.”

The lack of staff and administrator diversity must also be addressed, the three candidates said, saying that a “can-do” attitude must replace what they perceive as the “can’t-do” mindset of the current board.

“Our staff does not reflect our student



Deborah Davidovits and Lorraine Hexstall moderated the Meet the Candidates forum Wednesday in Beacon. Photo by Kevin E. Foley

body,” Heuer said. As the city of Beacon grows, its diversity will become “one of the greatest things about this district. Beacon is such a perfect size to become a model. I would love to foster that” within the school system, she said.

The candidates also discussed school board spending, not critically, but within the context of the state-mandated tax cap, which many believe has handicapped schools and municipalities since it was put in place four years ago. Without citing specific line items, Heuer, Rutkoske and

Tseng all said they would work to cut “fat” and discretionary spending before student programming.

The three praised the teachers at Beacon’s six public schools as well as the dedication of its 3,400 students. “There’s still so much good,” Rutkoske said. “We need to keep that, as board members, in mind.”

Perhaps the most telling exchange on Wednesday came after intermission, when audience members asked the candidates questions directly.

With so much distaste for the perceived actions (or inactions) of the school board over the last year, current board member Georgia Patchen asked the candidates how they would be able to work with other board members if elected.

“For consensus building, I may have a position that I want,” Tseng said. Other board members may also have their own positions, but “if we can identify common ground and build upon that, we can come to a decision together.”

Said Heuer: “Learning to listen to each other and put those things aside is going to be really important. We have to look at each other again and try to make it ‘for the first time’ again.”

Rutkoske said that “if we follow the rules, the discussion will happen. We’re going to be forced to listen to each other. That’s how I see it.”

New Senior Center to be Named for Ailes *(from Page 1)*

this private individual is holding the government hostage and making the control over the project a condition of the donation.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) said that naming certain facilities, roads, or parks after donors is common practice as a way to recognize private contributors.

“If you walk into any hospital or any facility you will see that there are donations made for wings of hospitals or universities and the name is affixed to the wall of who that person is who donated the money,” she said. “This is just something that there really is no prompt to it other than to show our gratitude.”

LoBue countered that hospitals and universities are private organizations, and that the senior center will be a Putnam County facility.

“The donation is conditional,” she said. “The donation is made with strings attached.”

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said the county should gladly accept the donation.

“This family has been trying to donate half a million dollars to our seniors for years now, and it’s about time we say, ‘Thank you so much for what you’re doing for our community and for our seniors,’ ” she said.

The senior center is expected to be completed by the spring of 2017.

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Continental Village Residents Ask for Tax Relief

*Town hopes to consolidate
building inspection*

By Kevin E. Foley

Residents of Continental Village came to last week's Philipstown Town Board meeting with an old grievance that has fresh wounds. As empathetic as board members were, they could provide little balm for the residents' complaint that they are trapped in a geographic and bureaucratic quagmire of ever-rising school taxes.



Kathleen Kourie

Photo by K.E. Foley

Although located in Putnam County, residents of the unincorporated Continental Village are part of Westchester County's Lakeland School District, as are some residents of Carmel and Putnam Valley. As a result, Continental Village property owners pay a significantly higher property tax rate than they would within the Garrison Union Free School District.

Making matters worse, say residents, is that when the state's property tax equalization formula, intended to make taxes more uniform, kicks in, they get hit worse.

"Over 10 years Continental Village has seen a 34 percent increase in property taxes, averaging between 5 to 8 percent a year," said Michael Leonard, a town board member who owns property in Continental Village. He pointed to the Westchester towns of Cortlandt and Yorktown, which are also in the Lakeland district but have seen increases of only about 1 percent annually. Leonard compared the situation to two customers in a store paying different prices for the same product based on where they live.

Leonard recalled a comment made in 2011 by the regional director of the state's Department of Taxation and Finance, John Wolham, who called Continental Village "the poster child for what's wrong with the property tax system in New York."

The residents, including Kathleen Kourie, a real estate agent who has organized residents for several years, assert that the state's equalization program doesn't serve them because the formula involves averaging real estate values in Philipstown, including Garrison. "When they look at all the properties in Philipstown, they include a \$13 million estate along with our average \$300,000 home. We're not Garrison."

Both Leonard and Richard Shea, the Philipstown town supervisor, acknowledged the pain as well as past efforts the town has made to ameliorate the situation. But both emphasized that the state assembly in Albany, not the town government, is the place to seek relief.

"The long-term solution is equity between the towns of Philipstown and Cortlandt and Yorktown," said Shea. He also lamented the reality of school district lines criss-crossing town and county lines and said it might be desirable to have a single Philipstown school district instead of three. He quickly acknowledged such a solution (if even possible) was fraught with challenging implications, such as increased school populations and inadequate physical plants.

Shea said he and Leonard would arrange a meeting with State Senator Sue Serino (Assemblywoman Sandy Galef was acknowledged as already engaged) and have the town assessor review the state of property assessments and also send the state tax department a representative sample of

assessments to see if a special exemption might be possible for Continental Village. The last tactic has provided some limited relief in recent years but may be exhausted for the immediate future.

The residents generally expressed appreciation for the town board efforts amidst their exasperation with the situation.

Building inspector

Despite the recent resignation of the town building inspector Tim Donahue to take another job, Supervisor Shea expressed optimism that the town and Village of Cold Spring could consolidate their services to allow for one-stop shopping for all property owners in Philipstown. He said renovations would begin soon on the house behind Town Hall where the unified office would be located.

Shea said the office is still functioning with a part-time inspector who has taken on more hours. But he noted that without a certified code enforcement officer in place, the planned inspections of the Butterfield project were not being done.

Before a consolidated office could be established, negotiations must be completed with officials in Cold Spring and Nelsonville. Shea said he was open to representatives from the villages sitting in on interviews with building inspector candidates. However, Nelsonville trustee Thomas Robertson has said he believes retaining the position for the village is a key to maintaining a village government.

In other business ...

- Leonard reported progress on the restoration of cemeteries in Cold Spring that fall under town jurisdiction.
- An agreement was reached with the town of Cortlandt for the sharing of highway equipment.
- County legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said a county-led committee was going to meet with various groups to see what can be done to handle crowds in the area of Breakneck Ridge. There is hope the trolley travelling between Beacon and Cold Spring can be used to attract people, perhaps with docents on board to point out attractions. Lobbying the state transportation department to lower speed limits on 9D is also on the agenda.

Beacon and Fishkill Discuss Sharing Police *(from Page 1)*

The study will consist of three phases — an analysis this month and next, followed by identifying ways the municipalities might work together, and then presentation of findings to Beacon and Fishkill officials. Czajka says Pattern researchers are currently collecting data such as the number of calls the three departments receive, response times, personnel and shift structuring and training opportunities.

In Beacon and Fishkill, the comparison

is to some extent apples to oranges. The Beacon police force is a 24-hour operation with full-time officers, the town of Fishkill force is a 24-hour operation with part-time employees and police in the village of Fishkill — which sits inside the town — are part-time employees with part-time hours.

"Whether [consolidation] is possible is debatable, but we hope to gain some valuable information," said Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon. "We would be remiss to our

"Whether [consolidation] is possible is debatable, but we hope to gain some valuable information. We would be remiss to our constituents if we didn't take a good, long look at things."

constituents if we didn't take a good, long look at things."

At the very least, Ruggiero said, the study is likely to increase interaction between the municipalities. "That's invaluable," he said. "Better communication solves so many problems."

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CS Police Expand Monthly Reports

Village also hires new accountant

By Michael Turton

In the wake of criticism by Mayor Dave Merandy, the Cold Spring Police Department's report at the May 10 meeting of village board had a distinctly different look.

In the past, CSPD Officer-in-Charge George Kane had provided only a brief one- or two-paragraph summary of the tickets and calls for assistance made by the department during the previous calendar month. But his April report filled three pages and included a detailed spreadsheet.

In addition to statistics — the department issued 38 parking and 42 traffic tickets and answered 61 calls — the report described the CSPD's participation in a full-scale lock-down drill at Haldane School and a meeting with school officials regarding complaints over parking and safety issues in the area near the school.

The report also noted three arrests, one for an outstanding warrant and others for criminal contempt and disorderly conduct. While the report included considerably more information, the mayor noted it did not break down police activity by shift. At least one officer is on duty in the village at all times.

In other business, the board approved the hiring of Michelle Ascolillo as the new village accountant. A resident of Hopewell Junction, she currently works for the city of Yonkers. Ascolillo replaces Ellen Magee-an, who resigned earlier this month. She will work 21 hours per week at \$45 per hour beginning June 1. Because Ascolillo is expecting a baby at the end of June and will take a two-month maternity leave, the

board also authorized hiring a temporary accountant to begin as soon as possible and to fill in during Ascolillo's absence.

In addition, the board authorized village clerk Mary Saari to close her office for half a day on Mondays until an accountant is in place. Saari is handling the bookkeeping in the meantime and the temporary closure will allow her to focus on time-sensitive duties such as payroll.

In other business ...

- The parking committee is considering adopting a standard time limit for parking on village streets; permissible times now vary by location from two to five hours. The committee is also looking for a new member as the result of Gretchen Dykstra's recent resignation.
- Trustees approved the contract with Wappingers Falls-based Legion Fireworks to provide pyrotechnics at Independence Day celebrations on Sunday, July 3. In the event of bad weather, the fireworks will be postponed until September.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation granted permission to members of the Cold Spring Boat Club to install seasonal docks on the weekends of May 14 and 21. The club was required to vacate the site last fall during remediation of toxic coal tar which is expected to be substantially complete by July 1.
- Jennifer Zwarich, chair of the Tree Advisory Board, reported that a number of trees have been damaged as a result of Main Street Project construction activity. She cautioned that the damage could potentially lead to the loss of trees after the project is complete. The contractor is liable for dam-



New water lines at Butterfield will be flushed beginning May 16.

Photo by M. Turton

age to trees and Gordon Robertson, a TAB member also present at the meeting, recommended that the company be advised that the cost of replacing larger trees along Main Street can be in the thousands of dollars.

- Deputy Mayor Marie Early reported that sidewalks being installed as part of the Main Street Project could potentially be complete as far north as Furnace Street by week's end. Once construction is complete along the south side of the street, work will begin on the north side, with improvements to Furnace taking place later.
- Trustee Lynn Miller is researching ways to make Cold Spring more desir-

able as a location for movie and television productions. She recommended a streamlined and consistent application process for producers with forms made available on the village website. Miller said the improvements could increase revenue from video productions and also reduce the workload for village administration. A workshop will be held to explore the issue in more detail.

- Superintendent of Water and Sewer Greg Phillips reported that beginning Monday, May 16, the Butterfield project contractor will flush its new lines, resulting in discoloration of drinking water in the area below the project site.

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How Clean is Your Water?

Reports in Beacon and Philipstown show no concerns

On May 2, the city manager in Newburgh declared a state of emergency due to the presence of high levels in the municipal water supply of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), a man-made pollutant that was a key ingredient of the fabric protector Scotchgard and is still used in pesticides, cleaning products, and hydraulic fluids for aircraft. We asked our reporters to learn more about the water supplies in Cold Spring and Beacon.

COLD SPRING

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring regularly tests its water for 18 contaminants from coliform bacteria and fecal coliform and E. coli to inorganic contaminants and nitrates. Its most recent Drinking Water Quality Report, prepared with data collected during 2014, found all contaminant levels within the range required by New York state.

Lead, which has been in the news because of the situation in Flint, Michigan,

tested in Cold Spring at 1 part per billion. The highest level of lead allowable in drinking water is 15 parts per billion. (Several samples of Flint's water exceeded 100 ppb, and one sample collected after 45 seconds of flushing still topped 1,000 ppb. Lead typically gets into drinking water from corroding pipes.)

The Haldane Central School District recently completed its own analysis of its water quality. In an email to *The Current*, Director of Facilities Michael Twardy said



Greg Phillips

Photo by M. Turton



Part of the reservoir at the Cold Spring water system plant on Fishkill Road

Photo by Kevin E. Foley

that an independent lab was used to test for levels of lead and copper. "The amount [of both lead and copper] was so negligible that the lab stated they were not able to find any," he wrote.

Cold Spring's water quality report for 2015 comes out at the end of May. Superintendent of Water and Sewer Greg Phillips told *The Current* the report will again show no cases where contaminants exceeded acceptable levels. Monitoring is carried out monthly to annually depending on the contaminant, he said, with

most analyses conducted in independent labs approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The village does its own testing for chlorine and turbidity levels.

The biggest challenge in managing the village water system, Phillips said, is the age and condition of the infrastructure. "Fortunately, the issues we deal with such as seasonal discoloration are about aesthetics rather than health," he said.

Cold Spring's and Nelsonville's drinking water comes from two reservoirs on Lake (Continued on next page)



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Surprise Road about three miles above the villages. They are filled by rain and snow melt. Water flows from the reservoirs down Foundry Brook to a third reservoir and the treatment plant on Fishkill Road, where it undergoes coagulation, filtration, pH adjustment and disinfection as well as corrosion control, which protects against lead contamination. From Fishkill Road the water is piped into the villages.

A copy of the 2015 water quality report will be available at the village office and on the village website by June 1. Previous reports can be downloaded at coldspringny.gov/Pages/ColdSpringNY_Water.

BEACON

By Brian PJ Cronin

Go ahead and wash your car, Beacon. The drought is over.

Thanks to two weeks of heavy rains, Beacon's reservoirs are back up to 96 percent capacity, ending the severe drought that gripped the city during a hot and dry autumn.

Don't go too crazy with the hose, though.

"It's hard to know, at the time, what the anomaly is," explained Ed Balicki, the city's water and wastewater superintendent. "Was it the dry autumn, the winter without any snow or the two weeks of constant rain we just had? So you have to be careful."

While Balicki said water conservation is prudent no matter what the level of the reservoirs, Beaconites can at least be certain that the water coming out of their taps is clean. The city just issued its annual water quality report and, as expected, its water does not exceed any maximum contaminant levels or violate any other quality standard.

That includes tests for PFOS, the pollutant detected at high levels in Newburgh. The levels of PFOS in Beacon's water, as well as all other synthetic organic chemicals, are well below the maximum allowed, said Matthew Fezza, the chief operator at Beacon's Water Treatment Plant.

One of the many substances that the city tests for is fluoride. Unlike many municipalities, Beacon does not fluoridate its drinking water. "We believe fluoridation does more harm than good," said Fezza. "It's a known carcinogen. There's also a lot of cost involved, so we shy away from that." (A review by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found that "the evidence on the potential of fluoride to initiate or promote cancers, particularly of the bone, is tentative and mixed.")

The city's water comes from three reservoirs (the Beacon and Melzingah reservoirs in the Highlands and the Cargill reservoir off Route 9 in Cold Spring), two wells in Beacon and a well in Fishkill. Each source is tested annually. The water is processed at a water filtration facility on Liberty Street, where it is tested every Tuesday. The plant has the capacity to handle 4 million gallons of water a day, although the average last year was around 2.5 million gallons.

Balicki said that the biggest challenge his department faces is one that many other municipalities are dealing with: aging infrastructure. "The country went through a massive expansion after World War II," he said. "So a lot of infrastructure was built during that boom time, and a lot of that still exists. And it's costly to replace, renew, upsize or upgrade that."

This includes many old household plumbing systems that can introduce lead



At top, the Beacon Reservoir during the November drought. Bottom: The same spot on Wednesday, with the reservoir at 96 percent capacity.

Photos by B. Cronin

into drinking water. Although the city's tests for lead came out at 5 parts per billion, safely below the 15 parts per billion allowed by the federal government, the city still recommends flushing the tap for 30 seconds to two minutes if your water has been sitting for several hours before using it for cooking or drinking.

The city's water quality reports, includ-

ing the most recent, can be downloaded at cityofbeacon.org/Government/water-reports.htm.

Property Tax Appeals Due May 24

Philipstown will hold two "grievance day" hearings

As in many communities across the state, the Philipstown Board of Assessment will hear property tax appeals from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on "Grievance Day," Tuesday, May 24. All complaints must be in writing.

The 2016 tentative assessment rolls, which lists the assessed value of each property, can be reviewed at putnam-countyny.com/real-property or at Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring.

"It's up to you to ensure that the market value determined for your property is accurate," said NYS Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Jerry Boone. "Don't wait for your tax bill to arrive," as grievances

must be made by May 24.

When filing for assessment review, the board will want to see an estimate of your home's market value. To support that estimate, provide documentation about the sale of comparable homes or property in your community. Property owners can find forms, instructions and guidance at www.tax.ny.gov. Forms also are available at the Assessor's Office at Town Hall.

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Haldane Candidates, Running Unopposed, Look Ahead

Vote on board and budget is May 17

By Michael Turton

When Haldane Central School District voters go to the polls on Tuesday, May 17, the election of three school board trustees will be a fait accompli with three candidates running to fill three seats. However, the budget referendum, an annual requirement under state law, is seldom if ever a done deal. In the past votes on Haldane spending plans have run the gamut from easy passage to occasional defeat to approval by a single vote.

This time around voters will consider proposed spending for 2016-17 that totals just over \$23 million. That translates to a tax levy increase of 0.73 percent, an amount within a state-imposed tax cap. A separate proposition will ask voters to approve up to \$220,000 for student transportation vehicles.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Room 105 of the Haldane Middle School. The Haldane Central School District has 3,832 registered voters.

Returning trustees

The three candidates, Jennifer Daly, Peggy Clements and Laura Hammond,



From left, Peggy Clements, Jennifer Daly, and Laura Hammond

Photos by M. Turton

face no opposition as they return to office but they will have no shortage of issues to address, from education and infrastructure to safety and community relations. *The Current* spoke with all three about their experiences on the board to date and their post-election expectations. Daly, the current board president, was elected in 2013 and Clements in 2015. Hammond was appointed to serve the remainder of Peter Henderson's term after he resigned last fall.

Many of the challenges the board faces are "not very sexy," Daly said. Among them are aging infrastructure as well as safety concerns associated with parking and traffic at student drop-off areas — the latter a concern raised by residents to

the Cold Spring Village Board. The high school will welcome a new principal in the fall and Daly said helping a new hire integrate quickly into the Haldane community will be a priority.

Hammond agreed that infrastructure will be an important focus. "Facility projects are often pushed aside but there comes a point where they must be addressed," she said. Clements added that communicating with the community about changing educational opportunities offered to students also has to be front and center.

In terms of their personal interests, relative newcomers Clements and Hammond spoke in broad terms while Daly, who is second only to Trustee Evan Schwartz in seniority, zeroed in on specific projects. Clements said she wants to "help all students reach their learning potential, including those in the middle," while Hammond commented she would like to see the talented community outside the campus become more involved with enhancing education at the school.

"I really want to see how the before-and afterschool child care will affect our families," Daly said, referring to a program to be run by Philipstown Recreation next year. "I'm also very interested in the development of St. Basil Academy as an alternative high school in the fall." Daly said that eight to 10 Haldane students are expected to attend the satellite school, which will be overseen by the Haldane administration.

On the state's role

As far as Daly is concerned there is "a long list" of areas in which New York State's role in education could be improved, including the tax cap, which she described as "random" in terms of how it is imposed on districts. She was also critical of standardized state testing. "They need to get their act together," she said. "It [testing] keeps changing. It costs us money and causes stress in the community." She feels that the district needs to advocate strongly for increased foundation aid, which has been stagnant for years.

For Hammond, unfunded mandates are the big culprit. "All unfunded mandates [from the state] are unfair," she said. "What may seem like a small requirement often adds up to a significant amount of time and/or money."

Clements said she wants to see teachers and administrators get the professional

development they need to adapt to the changing standards.

On the arts

In recent years, both nationally and closer to home, concern has increased over the need for improved performance in math, science and English to prepare students for college and 21st-century jobs. Addressing that need is a major goal of Haldane's recently adopted strategic plan. Locally, however, some who feel that arts education is not emphasized enough have voiced concern. The three trustees were asked to comment on the arts as part of the educational mix at Haldane.

"Arts should be a core subject — it's not an extra curricular," Daly said. "It's challenging in a small school, but we have an athletic director — why not a fine arts director?" She pointed out that project-based learning is now strongly emphasized in education, and "everything you do in the arts is project-based."

Hammond added: "I believe we are doing the best that we can with our current resources to offer a wide variety of program options. It's important to recognize the strong community support [that is] helping arts programs flourish at Haldane."

Clements also feels Haldane has a solid arts program. "Students have opportunities to participate in as many artistic endeavors as they want to," she said. "The community and the district place a high value on arts education."

On self-improvement

With only five months experience as a trustee, Hammond said she has not experienced any surprises, whereas Daly commented that she has been "pleasantly surprised just how integrated our community is with the school — how people give their time to volunteer." For Clements, "being on the board is more complex than I expected it to be." She used the word "stunning" to describe the amount of work and responsibility taken on by Haldane's administrative staff.

Asked how she might improve her performance as a trustee, Daly commented, "I need to improve my ability to anticipate ... to pre-empt situations before they become a problem," adding that it's a skill that comes with time and experience. "I feel I'm getting better at it."

Curriculum is the key for Hammond. "I need to learn more about curriculum and how the path flows from K through 12."

Improved performance involves fiscal and community issues for Clements. "I've learned a lot about the district's financial operation, but I'd like to learn more," she said. Getting to know the community better is also a priority. "While my family has lived here for almost 15 years, I know fewer people in the community than my colleagues do," she said, indicating that commuting to Manhattan during much of that period has made community involvement a challenge. "I'm telecommuting now and thinking about ways to get out and about more."



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The Calendar

Seeing Inside the Paint

Peter Bynum's work on glass on exhibit at Manitoga

By Alison Rooney

Most visitors to Manitoga encounter the home of Russel Wright as he wished them to, spying it atop the rocks as they walk the perimeter of the pond. Now there will be even more to draw the gaze, as a site-specific installation of illuminated paintings by Garrison's Peter Bynum take up residence in both Wright's home and studio, marking the first time that non-Wright work has been exhibited inside the buildings. They're initially seen from afar, across the quarry pond, held in the light in the floor to ceiling windows. There's even an "immersion room" space created for several.

Bynum, whose studio is located in a capacious former umbrella factory in Peekskill, has contributed 12 works collectively titled Ecstatic Light in reference to the nature of the work, in which paint is pressed between multiple layers of glass. The result presents what Bynum calls "the secret life of paint." His paintings evoke the human nervous

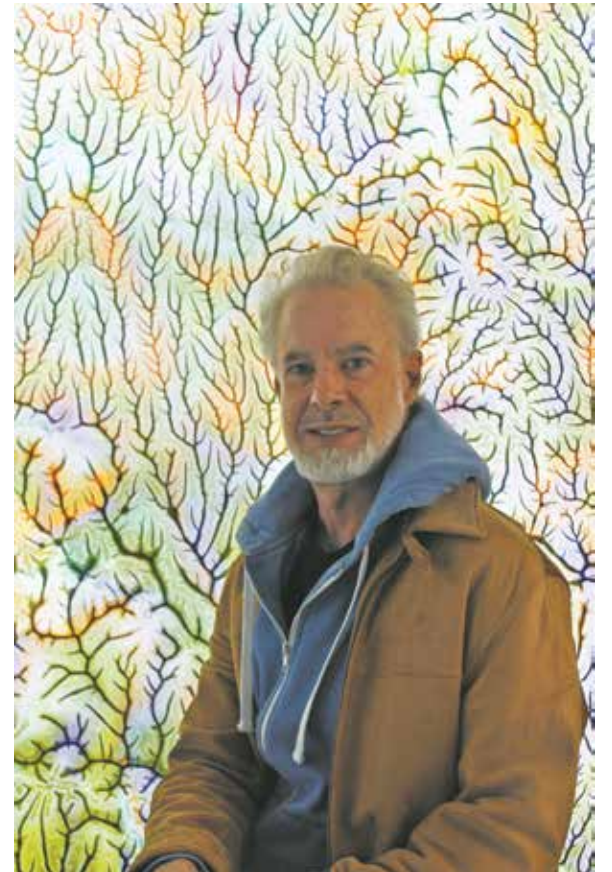
system, with thousands of arteries, capillaries and veins a conduit to life, while also appearing as coral, tree branches and aspects of other natural world realms.

The process begins with the artist placing a sheet of tempered glass on a surface, then laying paint onto the glass and moving the paint around using hands and arms to smear it. Another sheet of glass is carefully placed on top, at which point Bynum and his studio assistants "pressure" the paint, working with hands and knees, digging, walking over it. The top sheet is slowly lifted up, with Bynum controlling the speed of the separation.

"Finally, we grab ends, flip it over, move it quickly to the vent, where it dries in a day," he explains. "The pressure releases paint's primal energy, allowing it to have a life of its own. I have a good deal of input, but also no control. I can control color, and by adjusting the viscosity of the paint I can control how fine or large the boundary is,

but that's all — the nature of paint is to act like nature."

A finished work includes anywhere from two to 10 separate, layered sheets of glass and thus (Continued on Page 13)



Artist Peter Bynum, in front of one of his illuminated paintings
Photo by A. Rooney

Set Designer Parks Ship at Depot

Beacon's Alejandro Lopez recreates H.M.S. Pinafore

by Alison Rooney

After making a decision that changed the course of his working life, Alejandro Lopez can now — having just passed the union entrance exam — officially call himself a professional scenic artist. Philipstown's Depot Theatre is reaping the benefit of his skills for the Linda Speziale-directed production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which begins a three-weekend run on Friday, May 20.

In returning to this field after decades in the equally specialized field of fine art handling (packing, unpacking, installing and uninstalling for museums), Lopez is revisiting his Cuban youth. Lopez, who lives in Beacon, was born in Havana and studied fine art at the Escuela de Arte de San Alejandro. His early work was devoted to his own visual art and to scenic design and painting for Cuban theater companies. He left his homeland



H.M.S. Pinafore's scenic designer, Alejandro Lopez, holding a yet-to-be-hung portion of his work, is shown on stage at the Depot Theatre.
Photo by A. Rooney

for Venezuela for economic reasons (because he could not afford paint, he relied on powder mixed with glue), working in Caracas as a freelance set

painter.

After being invited to present two of his performance pieces at Rice University in Houston, he (Continued on Page 14)



A Peter Bynum luminous painting, which will be displayed at Manitoga

Image courtesy of the artist



A section of Alejandro Lopez's scenic design for *H.M.S. Pinafore*

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Peekskill Film Festival

6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. *But Not For Me* with Q&A
10 p.m. Live performance of film score
Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | peekskillfilmfestival.org

Gary Hilderbrand: Kindred Landscape (Talk)

6:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Altima (Documentary) by Peter Sanders

7 p.m. SkyBaby Studios
75 Main St., Cold Spring
To benefit the Garrison Art Center

Ordinary People with an Extraordinary Life (Documentary)

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon

Sacred Harp Singing

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Racing To Save Lives 5K & Mountain 10 Miler

8:30 a.m. Long Dock Park, Beacon
Register at active.com

Boating Safety Certification Course

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring the Kids! Tour (ages 6-11)

9 – 11 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Family Music Sing-a-Long

10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Forestry Walk and Talk

10 a.m. CEIE | 199 Dennings Ave., Beacon
845-838-1600 | bire.org

Hanging Captain Gordon (Talk)

10 a.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St., Putnam Valley | 845-528-1024
Sponsored by the P.V. Historical Society

Spring Herbs with Sarah Elisabeth

10 a.m. Sargent-Downing Gardens
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
Email sdgbeacon@gmail.com

Free Guided History Tour

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

Hudson Horror Show 13

11:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Silver Cinemas/South Hills 8
1895 Route 9, Poughkeepsie | hudsonhorror.com

Peekskill Film Festival

Noon. Film workshop
2 p.m. Independent film festival | 6 p.m. Reception
7 p.m. *La Jaula de Oro (The Golden Dream)*
Paramount Hudson Valley | Details under Friday

Joe Bagnato: Caitlyn's Fight (Talk)

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

Music for the Joy of It Benefit Concert

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

C'mon Beacon, Let's Dance

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Hudson Valley Philharmonic: Fantastique!

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Dia:Beacon Community Free Day

11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Free admission
2 p.m. Rattanamol Johal on Joseph Beuys
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Painter's Salon: An Art War – Realist or Modernist?

1 – 3:30 p.m. Atelier Room 205
211 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
646-705-3833 | atelierroom205.com

Between the Lines: Art From Beacon City Schools

4 – 6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org.

Maria Amor: Beauty in Everything and Everyone

5 – 7 p.m. St. Andrew's Church | 15 South Ave., Beacon | 845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

Spirit Dancing: The Art of Annette Jaret

5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Caren Benzer: Small Wonders

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Carla Golberg & Erica Caginalp: Eventide

6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Gabe Brown: Six Hits of Sunshine

6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery | 436 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Group Show: Bear in Mind

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

Group Show: Still Life in the Spinning World

6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Rise of the Mud Men

6 – 9 p.m. Dream in Plastic | 177 Main St., Beacon
845-632-3383 | dreaminplastic.com

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Gypsy Jazz Brunch: Sara and Art Labriola

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art

Noon – 4 p.m. Peekskill Film Festival
Noon – 4 p.m. *Visions from the Inside* (Opening)
4 – 6 p.m. Poetry with Gerald Stern & Cindy Beer-Fouhy
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Dowsing Workshop

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The Umbrella Event

2 – 6 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Armed Forces Day Concert

2 p.m. Ike Hall, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

Music as Art

3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Preschool Open House

4 – 5:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Rolf Schulte (violin) and Wayne Weng (piano)

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Teen Talent Showcase: Solar Sound Band / Skyline

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

MONDAY, MAY 16

Most Likely to Succeed (Documentary, 2015)

6:30 p.m. Haldane School (Auditorium)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldanepta.org

Nelsonville Village Board

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

Stargazing

8:30 p.m. O'Neill High School, Highland Falls
845-446-4914 | hffmcsd.org

TUESDAY, MAY 17

School Budget and Trustee Votes

Sushi Rolling with Sakura Ozaki

3 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Path to Entrepreneurship Program

5:30 – 8 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Whole Foods Plant-Based Living

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

7:30 p.m. LDS Church
204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie | dcgs-gen.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

NYMTC Regional Transportation Workshops

3 & 6 p.m. Cornerstone Park
1 Fair St., Carmel | 212-383-7200 | nymtc.org

Garrison School Board

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

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Haldane PTA

9 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldanepta.org

Free Hepatitis C Testing

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Putnam Health Department
1 Geneva Road, Brewster
845-808-1390 | putnamcountyny.gov

Budget Redecoration in Kid's/Teen's Room

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

Joshua Kogan: Microplastics (Talk)

7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon
845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Monthly Dance Jam

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Science Cafe: Where Engineers Order Their Water Straight Up (Talk)

7 p.m. The Hop
554 Main St., Beacon | bire.org/events

Philipstown Planning Board

7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

Zoning Board of Appeals

7:30 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Coffee & Conversation with Allison Pataki & Beatrice Copeland

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

Card Games/Dungeons & Dragons Club

3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

Beacon Fringe Theatre Festival

6 – 10 p.m. KuBe
211 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
thebeacontheatre.org/fringe-theatre-festival

Minecraft Mania (grades 3+)

6 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Thursday.

Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Grand Funk Railroad

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

ONGOING

Art & Design

philipstown.info/galleries

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philipstown.info/services

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philipstown.info/sg

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H.M.S. Pinafore

Directed by Linda Speziale
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Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

Beacon to Honor Early Feminist

Margaret Fuller pushed for equality in the 1840s

by Alison Rooney

Margaret Fuller might have covered this story herself, had she been reporting news locally in the fall of 1844. A pioneering women's rights activist, noted Transcendentalist and sometimes journalist, Fuller lived in Beacon for seven weeks that year, completing what some consider America's first feminist work, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, which would inspire the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls.

On Saturday, May 21, the city of Beacon will honor Fuller with the placement of an historic marker commemorating her stay at the Van Vliet boarding house, located in what was then called Fishkill Landing. The marker will be a component of the Women's Rights and Suffrage History Trail, an effort by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to document the role women played in the building of the state, through education, politics and the arts.

The 11 a.m. dedication, coordinated by the city, the Beacon Historical Society and Dutchess County Tourism, will be held at the Beacon Visitor's Center/Polhill Park at the intersection of Route 9D and Main Street. Michael Barnett, a scholar of Fuller's work who wrote the grant application that funded the marker, will speak about her legacy, and a Fuller poem set to music by Beacon's Debra Kaye will be sung by Kelly Ellenwood of BeaconArts. (A display on Fuller created by the Beacon Historical Society is also on exhibit at the Howland Public Library through May.)

Ellenwood was inspired to commission the song after learning that Fuller played piano and sang and was a great admirer of music, especially the works of

Beethoven. "She personally knew George Sand and Frederic Chopin, and wrote many essays and poems about music and its importance in our lives," Ellenwood says. "It occurred to me that a song set to Fuller's text would be absolutely appropriate for the occasion."

Ellenwood contacted violinist/violist Kathleen Bosman and Kaye, who agreed to the assignment; she chose "Freedom and Truth." BeaconArts assisted in raising funds for the commission.

Margaret Fuller documented her time in Beacon in letters. She wrote to her brother on November 23, 1844: "I have finished at leisure the pamphlet, and written one or two trifles, also studied much in the evenings. All the fine weather I have passed in the mountain passes, along the mountain brooks or the river."

Much of Fuller's work was dedicated to social activism and reform, particularly women's rights and poverty. According to Susan B. Anthony, Fuller "possessed more influence on the thought of American women than any woman previous to her time."

Fuller was born in 1810 in Cambridgeport, Mass. Unusually for the period, her father, a lawyer, later a Congressman, schooled her thoroughly and rigorously in the classics, though a change of fortune upon his death turned her from student to teacher. All through this time she was also schooled socially, with an eye toward increasing her "marriage-ability."

In her early 20s, she began writing criti-



A daguerrotype of Margaret Fuller taken in 1846

cism, with one of her earliest pieces published by the *Boston Daily Advertiser*. Soon other articles under her byline, generally falling under the category of criticism, began appearing in a variety of publications. She used some of her earnings from translating assignments (she spoke several languages) and teaching young women — among her classes was one on a historical exploration of female culture — to send her three brothers to Harvard. Later, she was the first wom-

an allowed to conduct research there.

Nearing 30, she began to hold "conversations" at a woman-owned Boston bookstore for female intellectuals and activists. These discussion groups, which continued for about five years, are now regarded as one of the launching pads of organized American feminism, as their content evolved toward the discussion of gender roles, suffrage, women's rights and abolition.

After hearing Ralph Waldo Emerson deliver an address at Harvard, Fuller visited him at his home in Concord, her intellectual cachet affirmed through her leading of the "conversations." This entrée

into the meetings of the Transcendental Club marked the first time women were allowed to be members of a major male intellectual society. Respected for her intellect and her exposure to a wide range of ideas and topics, she became a favorite of Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and others in the Concord/Boston nexus. She also spent time at nearby Brook Farm, the Transcendentalist utopian community.

From 1840 to 1842, she served with Emerson as editor of *The Dial*, a literary and philosophical journal for which she wrote articles and reviews on art and literature. In 1843, *The Dial* published her essay, *The Great Lawsuit: Man versus Men, Woman versus Women*, in which she called for women's equality and asked why the egalitarian ideals of the American Revolution did not apply to women, African-Americans and Native Americans. It was this work she expanded into *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*. Widely discussed around the world, it encouraged women to take up the cause.

In 1844, at publisher Horace Greeley's invitation, Fuller moved to New York and joined the *New-York Tribune*. Soon after, she traveled overseas as the first female foreign correspondent for a major American publication. She settled in Rome, where she lent support to intellectuals and agitators who desired a liberal government.

On a trip home in 1850, the passenger boat ran aground off Fire Island in a storm and Fuller, her Italian husband and their infant son were swept overboard and perished. Thoreau came to New York to search the shore, but her body was never found.

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How's Your Mental Health?

Specialists focus on overcoming stigmas

By Anita Peltonen

Mental Health America, a non-profit founded in 1909 that has chapters in Putnam and Dutchess counties, promotes May as Mental Health Month. The region is paying attention: In Putnam, according to a federal survey, residents reported an average of 3.1 "mentally unhealthy days," a 40 percent increase over the average of 2.2 days reported the prior year. (The survey asks, "Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?")

That number may even be low because of the stigma attached to mental illness. "Many people do not seek help because they are afraid of being judged," says Jane Wilson Cathcart, a clinical social worker and therapist in Cold Spring, "And usually they are their own harshest critics."

In Dutchess County, where residents reported about the same average number of mentally unhealthy days per month (3.3) as the previous year (3.2). The state average is 3.7 days.

Hiding deep

Everyone you know smiles or laughs. But that doesn't mean they're content.

"Some of us smile because we're scared that if we don't, someone will ask us what's wrong," explained a member of a Beacon recovery group who asked not to be identified for privacy reasons. "Then we might have to tell them: *Everything* is wrong."

What should friends and family watch for?

Depression is the most common and best-hidden mental illness, experts say. Bipolar disorder usually includes overt signs like long-lasting episodes of mania (emotional and energy highs). Schizophrenia brings hallucinations and delusions.

Self-imposed isolation can be a key indicator of depression, says clinical psychologist Michael McKee, who is based in Garrison at 35 Garrison Landing. When it's severe, "connecting with people feels painful," he



Michael McKee

Photo provided

says. Depression is a disorder of slowing. There is loss of appetite, and activity."

A lesser-known sign of depression is irritability. "It may reflect dissatisfaction with life and relationships that is coming out of a depressive process." According to the National Institute of Mental Health, about 7 percent of U.S. adults had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. The percentages are higher among young adults (18 to 25 years) and lower among those over age 50. Major depression also effects a higher percentage of women than men.

First responders

A primary-care physician is often the first point of contact for adults suffering from a mental illness. He or she "is supposed to address the issue, ask certain questions pointed at mental health," says McKee. "Most antidepressants are prescribed by primary doctors, not psychiatrists." However, if a specialist does not get involved, a follow-up to correct dosage may be overlooked.

Children as well as adults can suffer anxiety and depression. In those cases, the first responders are often teachers, says Cathcart. Local agencies have been increasing focus on children's mental health and have received praise from the state for their programs. Mental Health America of Dutchess offers many of its programs, including support groups and classes for children, their siblings and parents, at the Beacon Wellness PROS Center at 249 Main St.

Mia Bakan Clarke, a psychologist and art therapist who practiced privately in Beacon for five years, has found art thera-



Therapist Jane Cathcart in her Cold Spring office

Photo by A. Peltonen

py works well with children. "A lot of kids don't want to talk," she says. "Art comes from the same place as dreams, the unconscious If a certified therapist asks the right questions about what is going on in the art, and thus their psyche, a kid can break through faster than in talk therapy." Clarke reminds parents that if their gut tells them their child needs help, this is a decision they can't leave to the child: the parent must act on his or her behalf.

Friends and family are often first responders but might stumble on the approach, Cathcart says. "Kindness goes a long way, as does listening," she says. "What's not helpful? Telling people to 'Snap out of it.'"

For assistance, Putnam County maintains an anonymous helpline at 845-222-1222, says Megan Castellano, director of the Mental Health Association in Putnam. The Dutchess (Continued on Page 15)

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Seeing Inside the Paint

(from Page 9)

becomes multi-dimensional.

Bynum discovered the technique during a turning point in his own personal and artistic life. Coming to New York City to attend film school at New York University, he partook of the East Village art scene in the 1980s, living a block away from CBGBs at a time when the punk scene, manifested through music and art in particular, was at its height.

By the mid-1990s, “through life’s twists and turns, I had two young children and was working as a multi-media artist,” he recalls. After moving to the Hudson Valley in 1996, he narrowly missed possibly becoming a casualty on 9/11 (he had a 9 a.m. appointment in one of the towers) and, deeply affected, began to feel that painting was the “only thing that worked to express the range of feelings I had.”

Experimentation led him to the discovery that transformed his work. “One day I held a glass painting up to the light and saw that when the light suffused the paint it illuminated something hidden,” he says. Working with an optical scientist, he began with the question “Can we use LEDs to create a lighting panel that will be as thin as possible?”

He adds: “I felt when I discovered this that the very paint-replicated ecosystems found throughout nature ... this is a design that nature has evolved over a half billion years. Humanity is just a narrow slice of life upon the planet. So, I wanted to pursue that and illuminate it. No one has allowed paint to express its own intelligence.” Bynum appreciates that this process “dissolves the artistic ego by making the paint the prime agent.”

Bynum says that, as an idea, painting on glass tends to raise an inherent bias in the “crafty” vein, despite seeing that “glass makes sense for painting, as it breaks away from the tradition of light hitting painting on an opaque surface. Light has always been depicted in painting, but never used as an element in the painting itself. By having life behind the paint you double the amount of light available to the painting. So light almost lets you see inside the paint — it illuminates.”

Bynum feels that Manitoga, which he sees as Russel Wright’s expression of a Garden of Eden, is a perfect environment for his work. “Russel Wright wanted people to experience a deep intimacy with nature, and part of the goal of this work is to do just that,” he says.

Ecstatic Light will be on view through Nov. 14 and can be seen during public tours given at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday through Monday (admission is \$20 and reservations required). An opening reception for museum members will be held on Saturday, May 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Artist-led and sunset tours are also planned; visit visitmanitoga.org for dates. Manitoga is located at 584 Route 9D; call 845-424-3812.



Top, Peter Bynum's illuminated paintings, suspended in his Peekskill studio (Photo by A. Rooney) Above, Bynum's No. 334 (Image courtesy of the artist)

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Set Designer Parks Ship at Depot *(from Page 9)*



Depot Theatre Artistic Director Nancy Swann takes the wheel during set construction for *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Image courtesy of Amy Dul

settled in Miami, where he shifted into the art handling work. In 2000, Lopez moved to New York City, eventually working his way into the registrar's office at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which he describes as "a funnel through which all incoming and outgoing artwork has to come through." He handled everything from medieval manuscripts to impressionist paintings.

Four years ago Lopez and his family moved to Beacon. "My wife had gotten to the 'I want a yard' stage," he says. "We loved the fact that Beacon has an art museum" in Dia:Beacon. A year ago, Lopez decided to make a change and return to the theater. He spent three weeks taking an intensive course at Cobalt Scenic Studios in White Lake.

It was an injury sustained while painting in his basement which led him to the Depot. The theater's artistic director, Nancy Swann, received a call from her daughter, Casey Swann, who is a chiropractor, who said she had a patient who was interested in pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a scenic artist. He just needed a theater.

"She sent me a copy of his portfolio that included shots of scenic painting from his early days in Cuba," Swann says. "I sent it to board member Chris Nowak, who is a production designer in the film business. Chris knew right away this person had talent so we set up a meeting.



Alejandro Lopez surveys his set for *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Image courtesy of Amy Dul

"That is when Alejandro walked into our lives. It was obvious from his body of work, he was a gifted artist and his art pieces displayed talent for design. We asked Alejandro if he would be interested trying his hand in designing our next main stage production, and to our delight, he said yes."

Lopez says that first meeting "was all about the space. In scenic design there are two big aspects: the mechanical — the function and dynamic of the space — and the aesthetic, which is integrated into the mechanical. This particular set, as it has turned out, is not in any way what I had first envisioned, but you are working against time and certain other limitations. Nancy and I went over the numbers [measurements] so many times, together and apart, and then we built it."

In preparation for *Pinafore*, Gilbert and Sullivan's fourth collaboration, written in 1878 and set aboard a ship in the Victorian-era Royal Navy, Lopez researched the history of the play, the lingo and England in the late 19th century. To paint the drops, Lopez sketched, then painted them in black on a "marred" surface. He has only an 8" x 12" surface in his basement studio in which he can apply paint, so it is painstakingly done, one section at a time.

"When you put it up, it seems like nothing, but there is a lot behind it," he says. "I love to transform the space, make it look deeper."

Lopez calls his work nothing without lighting design, praising designer Donald Kimmel. "You can fill the stage with lots of objects but without proper lighting, it won't look good," he says. "Donald has done an amazing job setting up the scenery and he's been very supportive; Nancy has too. They're open to ideas and to the improvement of ideas. For instance we've used the metal pipes of the lighting grid for ships' rigging. You want to see how the mechanics of the scenery integrate with the show.

"It's a process, learning the dynamics

of doing a production with people who volunteer their time. There has to be a shrinking of ideas. I had a lot of them! I was envisioning dioramas outside the open windows of the alcove, but had to minimize that. In terms of a visual breakthrough, I'm not breaking my own sound barrier but hopefully it functions, looks good and is theatrically just right: the scenery, the drops and the magic of the black box and the light."

Swann guesses there'll be a next time. "It has been a fun collaboration working with this talented and kind artist," she says. "His design and scenic painting has transformed our little black box theatre into the deck of the *H.M.S. Pinafore* and makes one feel part of this comic opera from the moment you walk in the door."

Soon after completing the *Pinafore* work, Lopez was bound for Cuba, a trip he has, unlike other emigrants, made regularly since departing. "It's my mother's 80th birthday, and we have all eight siblings together for the first time in 20 years," he says. Of his homeland, he says, "Cuba needs a slow transition into a more self-defining society; they've been too controlled. Cuba can teach a lot of lessons to those in other countries, for instance relations between blacks and whites have never been an issue there. But then again, in Cuba it's hard to define your future."

Lopez's designs can be appreciated by many upon the opening of *HMS Pinafore*, which runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through June 3. The musical "is full of mirth and silliness and, yes, some absurdities," says Swann. "The adults in the audience might find some resonating lampooning about the rise of an unqualified official through the ranks of government who ends up as the head of the Royal Navy. Sound familiar? It's a comical upending of class distinctions and social norms."

Tickets and showtimes are available at philipstowntndepottheatre.org.

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How's Your Mental Health? *(from Page 12)*

hotline is 845-473-2500. Depending on what symptoms you report, they will refer you to mental-health professionals, non-profit agencies or support groups. A doctor or psychiatric nurse can help you vet a clinic, hospital or other facility. A friend can drive you. Call 911 if there's major distress.

Community learning

The more "psychoeducation" the community receives, the more likely people will come to realize mental illness is not a character flaw. Mental illnesses are as physiologically real as a heart murmur or failing kidney. It's biology and/or genetics and/or environment. Brain chemicals may malfunction due to inherited patterns, physical pain or illness. A death can create complicated (seemingly unrecoverable) grief. Everything from a divorce to a battlefield experience can cause lasting traumatic stress.

Many patients who have major depression — the enduring, tunnel-vision kind that can lead to suicidal thoughts — ultimately find relief, according to studies, whether from medication, talk and behavioral therapy or alternative therapies. Depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder usually call for adjusting, through medication, the cycles of brain chemical serotonin. Like an engine stripped of oil, without the right amount of serotonin, your brain can't run. A disrupted dopamine system is connected to psychosis and schizophrenia.

Teen "angst"

The teen years are prime time for experimental behavior with drinking, drugs

and acting out, and teens are good at avoiding scrutiny. Nonetheless, there are strong signs that may indicate mental health problems, such as loss of joy in favorite activities, friends or deteriorating appetite or hygiene. In this case, says Clarke, you should ask teenagers if they are in any kind of pain; if they're sleeping okay; if anything is stressing them out.

Eating disorders such as bulimia are tough disorders to detect. Usually, those who suffer from the illness "are pretty intelligent and can manipulate reality," she says. Food-hoarding, overeating and throwing up may be hidden, but you should be ready for the nitty gritty, too: "Swollen cheeks and a glandular-looking face" could indicate copious vomiting, and cuts on the fingers and knuckles may be the result of biting down when forcing vomit.

More services

Most mental-health services in Putnam County are concentrated in its eastern towns, notes Castellano of the Mental Health Association. The west side, namely Philipstown, is underserved, and Castellano says she would "like to know specifics" about the needs here, so it can be a catalyst. One new resource she is happy to see here is crisis-diversion center Putnam Rose House in Garrison, a "peer-operated" facility designed to prevent "psychiatric distress which may lead to hospitalization." People may stay for up to five days. For information, call 845-452-2728, ext. 401.

Mental Health Resources

By Anita Peltonen

- Mental Health Association in Putnam County: mhaputnam.org/
- Crisis Hotline: Putnam County Crisis Intervention Hotline 845-225-1222
- Putnam County Cares has suicide prevention and awareness kit. Go to putnamcountycares.com/ The S.P.E.A.K. App tops app list.
- Mental Health America of Dutchess County (MHADC): mhadutchess.org
- Crisis Hotline — Dutchess County Mental Health: (845) 485-9700; Toll Free: (877) 485-9700
- Beacon PROS Center (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) supports individuals who have been diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. PROS uses a psychological-educational approach in a classroom setting, and the programs aim to improve functioning, increase employment, promote education and reduce the need for inpatient and emergency services. PROS is also a clinic staffed by a psychiatrist, nurse practitioner and therapists. Phone 845-473-2500, ext, 1213. PROS is based at MHADC's Wellness Center, 249 Main St., Beacon.
- For members of the military: maketheconnection.net/ is a website-based exchange of information and veterans' stories, with rich video content.
- **Fundraising walks in May:**
 - namiputnam.org/event-registration/?ee=1410
Events: On Sat May 14 is the Third Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk, 9 a.m. to noon. Registration begins 8 a.m. at the Carmel firehouse, 94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.
 - mhadutchess.org/stompoutstigma/
Benefiting: Mental Health America of Dutchess County Inc.
Event Date: MAY 21, 2016, start time 10 a.m.
In 2016 we'll be in Poughkeepsie and Highland meeting up in the middle of the Hudson River on the Walkway over the Hudson on Saturday, May 21.
 - Putnam Rose House Crisis Diversion Center, Garrison, (set up by projectstoempower.org/) rosehouserespice.org/resources/information-on-the-crisis-stabilization-wellness-center/#
 - Dutchess Rose House, 803 Violet Ave. (with Pathways Community Services), Hyde Park, NY 12538
 - mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ gets you to their detailed Symptom Checker for mental and physical health

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Umbrellas as Art



From 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring will host *The Umbrella Event*, featuring rain shields decorated by Hudson Valley artists.

Photo provided

Library to Host Farm Visit

Maple syrup, goats and chickens on agenda

The Desmond-Fish Library will host a Community Field Trip to Lanza Farms in Garrison on Saturday, May 21.

Registered participants will meet at the library at 10:30 a.m. and travel together to the farm to see how maple syrup is collected and produced, cuddle with baby goats and collect chicken eggs. There will be a goat cheese tasting and a story on the lawn. To reserve a spot, call 845-424-3020.

Novelist and Filmmaker to Share Work

Pataki and Copeland to host coffee and conversation at library

Allison Pataki and Beatrice Copeland return to the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 20, for another “coffee and conversation.”

Pataki’s debut historical novel, *The Traitor’s Wife*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her latest book, *Sisi: Empress on Her Own*, follows Empress Elisabeth (“Sisi”) of mid-19th century Austria-Hungary.

Copeland will screen her most recent short film, *Evergreen*, which follows Sam, a young girl who is reluctant to throw away her family’s Christmas tree and with help from the neighborhood turns her backyard into a city of tree forts.

For more information, visit allisonpataki.com and beatricecopeland.com.

Powerhouse Tickets on Sale

Season includes 12-hour performance by Taylor Mac

Tickets go on sale on May 17 for the new season at Vassar’s Powerhouse Theater, which will run from June 24 to July 31.

Highlights include a musical workshop of *Another Word for Beauty*, with book by Academy Award nominee José Rivera; a reading series that includes *The Portuguese Kid*, a comedy by Oscar, Tony and Pulitzer winner John Patrick Shanley; “Inside Look” workshops with *Fingersmith* by Alexa Junge and *Fury* by Joanna

Murray-Smith; and performances of *Transfers* by Lucy Thurber and *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe.

There will also be a 12-hour marathon performance on July 30 by Taylor Mac of material from *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*; an adaptation by Santino Fontana of Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley’s *The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd*; a reading of Lorien Haynes’s *Good Grief* with John Slattery and Josh Radnor; and free performances of Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* and Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Visit powerhouse.vassar.edu for dates and tickets.



Taylor Mac

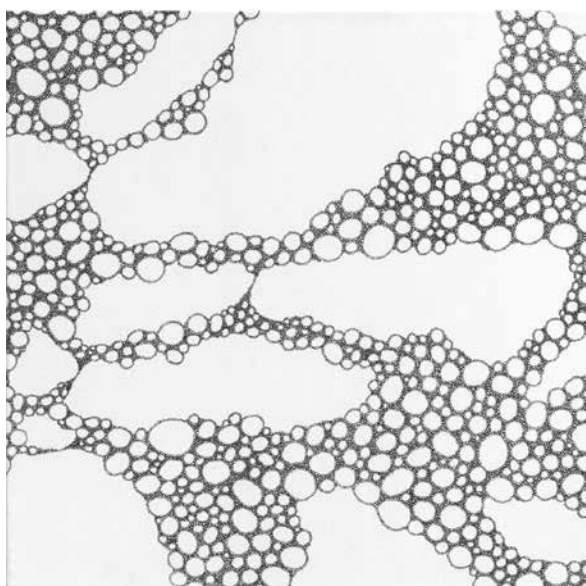
Photo provided

Art by Danielle Martinelli on Display

Exhibit opens at Garrison library on May 21

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will open an exhibit of new work by Danielle Martinelli with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 21. It continues during library hours through June 4.

Martinelli’s work explores patterns in



Artwork by Danielle Martinelli

Image provided

nature, from the micro (cells and growth) to the macro (cosmic constellations). It reflects how systems form, when and where they break down and how the tension between growth and decay balance life.

The artist, who began her career as a dancer and choreographer but from an early age gravitated to the abstract form, holds a degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and a master’s degree in dance from NYU. She lives in Garrison. For more information, visit daniellemartinelli.com. The library is located at the corner of routes 403 and 9D.

Heroes Bike Run May 21

Motorcycle ride benefits veterans

BG&G Advertising and Public Relations will host its second annual Heroes Bike Run on Saturday, May 21, in Montgomery to benefit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and Paws of War. The event features a scenic motorcycle ride through Orange County, free food, live music by Hudson Blue and raffle prizes.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at Thomas Bull Memorial Park at 211 Route 416, and the 60-mile ride begins at 11 a.m. followed by a barbeque from 1 to 3 p.m. Registration is \$25 for single riders, \$35 for double riders and \$10 for non-riders until May 20, then \$30, \$40 and \$10 on the day of the event. For more information, visit bbgadv.com/HeroesBikeRun.

Writing a Song That Matters

Dates announced for Dar Williams retreats

The Garrison Institute has announced two summer dates for Writing a Song That Matters retreats with singer and songwriter Dar Williams. The first takes place at the institute from June 27 to July 1 and the second from July 25 to 29.

“We’ll explore everything from the bag of tricks we use in songwriting to discussions of why we need to write in the first place, how we can stay the course in writing, and how we can finish our songs, no matter how discouraging the voices in our heads might be,” says Williams, who lives in Cold Spring and has recorded eight albums and performed nearly 2,000 gigs. “Our goal is not to write perfect hooks or formulaic hits. It’s to write anything from a stanza to a song and say, ‘That is what I wanted to write. Actually, it’s better than I thought it would be.’”

For more information and to apply, visit darwilliamsretreat.com. Early-bird pricing for applications and deposits received by May 15 is \$1,500, which includes the workshop, lodging and meals.

Drawing, Painting or Photo?

Exhibit at Garrison Art Center blurs boundaries

Karlyn Benson, director and curator of the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon, has selected six photographers whose work pushes beyond traditional photography for an exhibit at the Garrison Art Center starting Saturday, May 21.

The exhibit, *Chemistry: Explorations in Abstract Photography*, includes the work of Ellen Carey, Jill Enfield, Anne Arden McDonald, Amanda Means, Wendy Small and S. Gayle Stevens. The subject matter of the works is the process itself, which compels a viewer to question what makes a photograph a photograph. Is it a drawing, is it a painting, is it a photograph? Some of the work blurs that line to the point of near non-existence.

An opening reception is scheduled for May 21 from 5 to 8 p.m.; the show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday through June 19. The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison Landing in Garrison. For more information, visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.



S. Gayle Stevens. *Untitled triptych* (12-23-2014)

Image provided

Exercise for Prizes

Get Fit Hudson Valley returns May 14

The Get Fit Hudson Valley exercise challenge returns on Saturday, May 14, with more than 60 check-in locations and dozens of prizes for people who log their activity. For (Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

six weeks, Get Fit encourages people to stay in shape and be active.

Participants register at getfithv.com, perform 30 minutes of any kind of physical activity at a check-in location and log it through the #GetFitHV Twitter hashtag or at getfithv.com. The more entries a participant submits, the better his or her chances to win prizes such as an Apple Watch, NatureBox gift card and NutriBullet Rx.

Check-in locations in Dutchess and Putnam counties include Foundry Dock Park and West Point Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring, Madam Brett, Long Dock and Mount Beacon parks in Beacon, Fishkill Ridge Trail in Beacon, Manitou Point in Garrison, the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, Putnam County Trailway in Mahopac, Gold's Gym Fishkill and Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls.

Get Fit is sponsored by Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Northern Dutchess Hospital and Putnam Hospital Center. For information and a full list of check-in locations, visit getfithv.com.

Depot Theatre to Hold Benefit

Set for May 21 at Riverfront Park

The Philipstown Depot Theatre, which this year is celebrating its 20th anniversary, will hold its spring benefit from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, at Riverfront Park on Garrison Landing. Food will be provided by Jim Ely of Riverview Restaurant, with drinks by Tuthilltown Spirits and live music by fiddler Jim Garber. As a nod to the Depot's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which opens that weekend (including a performance after the benefit), the evening will have a nautical theme. Tickets start at \$125 and are available at philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Beacon

Library to Host Talk for Entrepreneurs

Learn what it takes to own your own business

A representative from the Women's Enterprise Development Center will be at the Howland Public Library in Beacon from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, to present a free program called "Path to Entrepreneurship" designed to explain the responsibilities of small-business ownership. Registration is required at wedcbiz.org/events. For information, call 845-363-6332.

Dance Jam Begins May 19

Will continue monthly at Towne Crier

DJ Rhoda Averbach has launched a dance jam that will take place monthly at the Towne Crier Café starting on Thursday, May 19.

"We mainly feature derivatives of many African and Latin genres from the '60s to present," Averbach said. "These include

R&B, soul, funk, blues, gospel, reggae and jazz, along with the gorgeous Latin sounds of salsa, cha-cha, merengue, bachata, samba, tango and others. We also add rock, disco and swing." The dances also will feature live performances; on May 19 Efrain "La Voz" Colon will be the guest vocalist.

The dance begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 and singles, couples, friends and newcomers are welcome. For reservations, call 845-855-1300. For updates, visit meetup.com/Towne-Crier-Dance-Jam.

Sending Water Up the Mountain

Engineer will discuss plan suggested by mayor

The second in a series of Science Cafés hosted by the Beacon Institute will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, at The Hop. In "Beacon, NY: Where Engineers Order Their Water Straight Up," Frank DiLorenzo and Jeff McHugh will outline an engineering case study that aims to send stormwater runoff up Mount Beacon to recharge the drought-prone Beacon Reservoir.

The study was inspired by a proposal by Beacon Mayor Randy Casale while meeting with DiLorenzo and McHugh to discuss erosion damage to Mount Beacon's emergency access road and the effect of drought on the reservoir. DiLorenzo, a retired Metro-North mechanical engineer, has drawn up a plan that could address both problems.

The Hop is located at 554 Main St. Registration is required by visiting bire.org/events.



The Beacon Reservoir

Photo provided

The Dangers of Microplastics

Specialist to discuss plastic pollution

Joshua Kogan, the regional coordinator for the Trash Free Waters Program at the Environmental Protection Agency, will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, at the Beacon Sloop Club on the impact of microplastics, or scraps of plastic smaller than 5 mm.

Microplastics have been found in oceans, streams and rivers (including the Hudson), lakes, drinking water, the bodies of various species, at the polar ice caps, in milk, beer and honey, and even the atmosphere. Kogan lives with his family in Beacon. The sloop club is located at 2 Flynn Dr., adjacent to the harbor.



A sampling of microplastics

Photo by National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

Run/Walk With Dogs on May 22

Race to benefit Animal Rescue Foundation

The first 5k Run/Walk with dogs to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation in Beacon will take place at Memorial Park on Sunday, May 22. All dogs must remain leashed and be current on rabies and distemper shots. They also must have excellent temperament with other dogs and children. Strollers are welcome in the run and walk.

The race begins at 9 a.m. To view the course map and to register, visit arfb Beacon.org/events/5k-run-with-dogs. The fee is \$25 until May 16, or \$30 afterward, including on race day. Volunteers are also needed for the event.

Ideas for a Teen's Room

Designer to share tips at library

Interior decorator Denise Gianna will speak at the Howland Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19 on re-decorating a child or teenager's bedroom without spending a lot of money. During her hour-long presentation, Gianna, the owner of DeniseGiannaDesigns in Bea-



Denise Gianna

con, will share ideas and tips for decorating on a budget. The library is located at 313 Main St.

Free Admission to Dia May 14

Museum to host tours and workshops

Dia:Beacon will host its quarterly Community Free Day on Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., during which residents of Dutchess, Putnam and nearby counties are ad-

mitted free. The day's events include a family program at 11:30 a.m., an "awareness and understanding" tour at 1 p.m., a tour of the works of Joseph Beuys at 2 p.m., and "dialogue duets" focused on two artists at a time at 12:30, 1:30 and 3 p.m. For more information, visit diaart.org/freeday. The museum is located at 3 Beekman St.

Finding Hope After Child's Death

Putnam Valley father will discuss battle and book

Joe Bagnato of Putnam Valley will share the story of his 15-year-old daughter Caitlyn's 10-month battle with Stage 4 liver cancer and his book, *Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T (Family Inspires Great Hope Together)*, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14.

After Caitlyn's death in 2009, Bagnato created a foundation to provide emotional support and financial assistance to children at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center who are battling rare forms of cancer and blood disorders. To learn more, visit caitlynsfight.org. The library is located at 313 Main St.



Caitlyn Bagnato

Brentano Quartet to Close Series

Will interpret Bach's Art of the Fugue

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will close out its current season at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, with a return engagement from the Brentano String Quartet, featuring Mark Steinberg and Serena Canin on violin, Misha Amory on viola and Nina
(Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)



The Brentano String Quartet

Photo provided

Lee on cello.

The quartet, founded in 1992, in 2014 became the artists-in-residence at Yale University after a 14-year residency at Princeton. For their performance at the Howland Cultural Center, the group has chosen a unique reading of Bach's *The Art of the Fugue*, an unfinished work of unspecified instrumentation. The performance will include readings by Beacon poet Roger Alpon and a play the quartet commissioned.

Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students) and can be reserved by calling 845-765-3012 or visiting howlandmusic.org. A reception will follow the performance. The cultural center is located at 477 Main St.

Blood Drive in Beacon May 22

Groups hope to collect 100 pints

The Beacon Hebrew Alliance and the City of Beacon Fire Department are co-sponsoring the annual "Units of Love" blood drive to take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, at the Lewis Tompkins Firehouse, 13 South Ave. Walk-

ins are welcome, or donors can make an appointment at bit.ly/1b8C1sN. The groups hope to collect at least 100 pints.

Boutique to Showcase Beacon Artist

Jessica Nash inspired by trip to Iceland

Blackbird Attic, a consignment Boutique in Beacon, will host a reception on Saturday, May 21 for the artist Jessica Nash, whose work is on display there through Saturday, May 28.

The exhibit, *Under the Glow*, showcases Nash's interest in light and landscapes. She was inspired by trips to Iceland and Germany. "I felt the sun so strongly after hiking in the cold Alps, or trekking through glaciers along the Icelandic coast," she says. "Just finding a bright spot in the clouds felt like magic."



Painting by Jessica Nash

Image provided

Nash, a SUNY New Paltz graduate and Beacon resident, is a high school art teacher in Westchester County. For more information, visit jessicanashart.com. Blackbird Attic is located at 442 Main St.

Beacon Open Studios May 21-22

Artists will welcome visitors

The annual Beacon Open Studios will take place from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22. A kick-off party is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at the 2 Way Brewing Co., 18 W. Main St., which is also hosting an exhibition from May 13 to June 5.

A free catalog that includes a map can be picked up at 2 Way Brewing, Hudson Beach Glass, RiverWinds Gallery, The Lofts at Beacon, the Beacon Music Factory, Max's on Main and Dennings Point Distillery. For more information, including a list of participating artists, visit beaconopenstudios.org.



Joseph Radoccia (Spire Studios) is among the artists taking part in Beacon Open Studios.

Photo provided



Justice McCray

Photo provided

Howland to Present Savoit Awards

Dinner will be held on May 21

The Howland Public Library in Beacon will present Marcia Frahman with the Helen Savoit Library Advocacy Award on Saturday, May 21 during a dinner at the St. Rocco Society. Justice McCray also will be honored with the Helen Savoit Education Gift. The awards are given annually to honor Savoit, a long-time volunteer and trustee who died in 2008.

Frahman has been a volunteer at the library for more than 15 years and served on the Board of Trustees for 10. In 2006, when Frahman was board president, she approached artist Rick Price about creating the mural that graces the facade of the library. As president of the Friends of the Howland Library, Marcia also manages Beacon Reads Bookstore.

McCray provides free technical assistance to patrons on most weekends.

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Sports

Top left: James Wynn defends the Dragon goal against a Newburgh attacker on May 8. Below: Frank Lanza and Scott Bailey race for the goal against Newburgh.

(Photos by Patrice Delabie)

Top right: Michaela Khadabux of Haldane competes in the 4x800m relays at the Somers Lions Club Invitational on May 7. Below right: David Adams of Beacon High School on his way to winning the 400m hurdles in 56.40 at the invitational.

(Photos by Peter Farrell)



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