



The Paper



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special section
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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016

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State Upgrades Status of Beacon Schools

Scores improve, but funding could drop

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District has been upgraded by the New York State Education Department from a district in need of attention to one in “good standing” based on improved test scores and graduation rates among students identified as having learning disabilities.

Beacon interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi credited the district’s teaching and administrative staff with its success implementing new state initiatives into the schools’ curricula, as well as improving their engagement with students. School Board President Melissa Thompson also pointed to increased parental involvement as a critical (Continued on Page 3)



St. Patrick’s Day Parade of Green in Beacon; see more photos on Page 20. Visit Philipstown.info to view a parade video.

Photos by Gary Ditlow

Voloto, Miller Win in Cold Spring Election

Village election will move to November

By Michael Turton

Steve Voloto and Lynn Miller won seats on the Cold Spring Village Board in a three-way election held on Tuesday, March 15. Voloto received the most votes, with 400, followed by Miller with 383 and Barney Molloy with 281.



Steve Voloto and Lynn Miller just after the vote count was announced on March 15.

Photo by M. Turton

In a referendum held as part of the election, voters said “yes” to moving village elections from March to November by a margin of 340 to 291.

Both results are unofficial until the Putnam County Board of Elections (BOE) counts absentee ballots on March 22. On Wednesday, a Board of Elections official told *The Paper* that 57 of the 73 absentee ballots issued had been returned. With the “yes” votes leading by 49 votes, it is possible that the “no” votes could prevail. Some ballots also may be outstanding; absentee ballots must be post-marked by the day before the election but can arrive at the BOE as late as seven days after the election (March 22).

If the referendum result is unchanged, the next village election will shift to November 2018. Next year’s election for mayor and two trustees will be held in March.

Moderate turnout

Voter turnout was moderate with 658, or 46.3 percent of 1,421 eligible voters. There were 88 write-in votes after Frank Haggerty and Charles Hustis III mounted last-minute campaigns. The BOE will tally the write-ins on March 22, along with absentee ballots. The number of write-in ballots is not large enough to change the election result.

Voloto was seeking public office for the first time, while Miller had served a partial term as trustee after being appointed in 2009 to fill a vacancy. She then ran unsuccessfully for trustee in 2010.

Molloy, who had served as chair of the village planning board, lost to Dave Merandy in last year’s mayoral election.

Changing demographics

The election on March 15 may represent a watershed moment in Cold Spring politics. It was the first election, at least in recent memory, that none of the candidates was a lifelong village resident. Miller has lived in Cold Spring for 12 years, twice as long as Molloy and Voloto. The vote in favor of moving the village election to November might be the clearest indication of the demographic shift. Anecdotally, longtime residents appeared more passionate about maintaining (Continued on Page 3)

Odell Promises “Year of Business Development”

But makes no mention of Philipstown or tourism

By Kevin E. Foley

Putnam County Executive Maryellen Odell presented her annual State of The County address at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac on March 10, proclaiming 2016 to be the “year of business development.” A video of the address can be viewed at putnamcountyny.com/soc2016.

Notably, neither Cold Spring nor Philipstown received any specific attention in the address, even in the context of tourism, for which the western edge of the county provides most of the revenue that in the past the executive has called a key component of the county’s economic engine.

Less surprising, Odell did not mention the Putnam tourism bureau, or its director, Libby Pataki, now the subject of an investigation by the state attorney general. Pataki was present (Continued on Page 4)

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Big on Beans

By Mary Ann Ebner

With his standard limit of one daily cup, Charles Day would rather skip coffee than drink it stale. The Cold Spring resident has tasted his way to faultless flavor not simply by sipping through a procession of espressos or lattes but by perfecting beans before the first pour.

Day started home-roasting coffee beans soon after he and his wife, Susan Wal-lach, relocated from his native England to Brooklyn.

"Susan's sister's husband got me interested in roasting 15 years ago," Day said. "He presented us a roaster as a gift."

The gift served them well but met its retirement. Now on his third roaster, Day, who moved to Cold Spring 11 years ago, uses a Gene Café CBR Model 101, made in Korea.

"It's been very impressive," Day said as he prepared to roast a batch of Sumatra Wahana Rasuna Honey beans. "You can get one for a few hundred dollars but this one was a little over 500 bucks."

The roasting area doesn't require much space. The roaster sits close to a basement wall with a window used for ventilation. Before Day begins the process, which is a full-on sensory engagement, he scans the raw beans and runs his hands through the tray to check texture and look for imperfections.

"Broken beans can lodge themselves into the little holes in the roaster and can burn," Day said.

"Then you get a bad batch."

He experiments with beans of various origins to make a balanced cup, purchasing from green coffee suppliers, including Roastmasters.com in Connecticut and Sweet Maria's in Oakland, California. Even the slightest change in roasting time can alter the profile of a batch as the process transforms the green coffee into powerfully aromatic brown beans.

Susan appreciates his darker range of coffees as well as an often-present warm aroma — roasty and earthy — wafting through the house. "He and I like different coffees," she explains, so the aroma is constantly changing.

Anyone who has savored a custom cup of the family's coffee (full disclosure: I enjoyed every drop) will never willingly return to mass-produced beans.

Day says coffee's distinct smoky scent takes him back to his youth in Rochester, Kent. Though tea was rather important, the smell of fragrant coffee reminds him of his teen years. "I used to change buses for school and where I changed buses there was a little store, a coffee and tea store, with a roaster," he said. "That's where I used to smell it."

Tea still matters to Day but since moving to the U.S., he drinks more coffee. He's been mostly vegan for three years, but emphasizes that "mostly" keeps him eligible for an occasional diversion with his coffee. "Susan makes a coffee icing on a chocolate cake," he said. "So sometimes, yes, I'm *mostly* vegan."

Day recently conducted a roasting demonstration at Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, where he works as the Ruth Rea Howell horticultural interpreter. As a member of Cold Spring's Tree Advisory Board, he pays precise attention to details in professional and personal endeavors.

In his roasting log, Day keeps a record of procedures, including dates, temperatures, roasting time, stages of the roast and overall taste. The roaster combines heat with an agitation method as well as a collection process to retrieve the chaff, the light husks that come off beans as they expand during



Coffee lovers know that freshly roasted and brewed wins in a good cup. Photo by M.A. Ebner

the roast. When the roasting begins, an audible crack sounds, similar to the sound of popcorn popping. "One of the most important points of having the log is it tells me details of cracks," he said. "Until that first crack, the coffee is not roasted. Immediately after that first crack is finished, the coffee can be withdrawn as a very light roast. You can continue to the second crack for a darker roast and beyond that, it can be roasted to black and very dark."

With this particular batch, Day estimated he would roast for 17 minutes with a peak temperature of 482 degrees Fahrenheit. As the first crack sounded, he dropped the temperature to 460 degrees and checked the remaining time for roasting: 6.5 minutes. Once the batch reached the desired stage, he recorded the time, temperature and crack

notations and transferred the beans from the rotating chamber to the cooling tray.

After cooling, Day stores his roasts in airtight jars and labels them. Within a week, he fires up his roaster to replenish the family supply for grinding, brewing and relishing, favoring the freshness over store-bought beans, which may age for months.

"The general recommendation is not to use the beans for 24 to 48 hours," he said. "It's best after 48 and we tend to make it by the cup with a filter throughout the week. After a week it's still perfectly drinkable but it's not quite as flavorful."

If you're not a home-roasting candidate, search for a respected roaster. Day enjoys the beans roasted in small batches by Coffee Labs Roasters in Tarrytown and sold at Bank Square Coffeehouse in Beacon. "When I roast it, I guarantee that it's fresh," he says, "but there's a good reason why there are professional roasters."

Coffee Cake

½ pound (two sticks) salted butter
3 cups flour
2¼ cups sugar
2¼ teaspoons baking soda

3 tablespoons ground cinnamon
3 tablespoons freshly ground coffee
(medium grind)
1½ cups buttermilk
2 eggs, lightly beaten

Mix flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and ground coffee. Add butter. Blend gently two minutes until crumbly texture forms. Reserve ¾ cup of dry mixture and set aside. Add buttermilk and mix thoroughly. Gently fold in beaten eggs.

Pour into a greased and floured 8-inch springform pan. Sprinkle reserved dry mixture over top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool, remove from pan and serve with coffee.

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State Upgrades Status of Beacon Schools

(From Page 1)

factor. “Engaging and educating parents so they can better work with their children — that has and will only continue to help our district,” she said.

That’s the good news. The bad news is that doing a better job may cost the school system money. Quartironi said the district may no longer be able to participate in state-sponsored reviews to improve its effectiveness or be eligible for a \$50,000 state grant available to what the state calls “focus” districts. In the past, she said, “transition” funding has been provided to newly upgraded districts, but the state has yet to determine if it will be available this year.

In addition, said Jeanne Beattie, a state education department spokesperson, the district will no longer be eligible for a \$50,000 federal grant for school improvement. The state does expect to inform school districts by the end of this school year regarding the availability of transition funding, Beattie added.

Beacon is not alone. Across the state, 27 districts were upgraded from “focus” to “good standing.” The accountability system judges districts and their schools on the performance of students in various demographics such as race, low-income, English-language learners and students with learning disabilities. When too many of these groups fail to make “adequate” annual progress in English language arts



Beacon High School

Photo by J. Simms

(ELA) and math, a school or district’s standing may drop. The Beacon system was identified as a focus district during the 2011-12 year based on the test scores of its students with learning disabilities.

During the 2014-15 school year, however, the Beacon district’s elementary and middle-school performance indexes among students with learning disabilities were well above the cut-off for identification as a focus district, according to Beattie. In

fact, its scores exceeded the performance of more than 300 of the total 700 districts in the state.

At the high school level, the test scores and graduation rates of students with learning disabilities were also above the cut-off, although the performance was not as strong as at the elementary and middle-school levels. Since the Beacon district was not identified as among the lowest-performing schools or those not showing

improvement, Beattie explained, its status was upgraded.

Because the district’s status is based on 2014-15 statistics, one or more of its schools may still qualify for a Local Assistance Plan (LAP). These schools are identified by the state annually and given a framework for improvement. The Education Department has yet to inform districts of school designations.

Voloto, Miller Win

(From Page 1)

March elections as a Cold Spring tradition. For many newer residents the election date seemed less about tradition and more about a potentially larger voter turnout and perceived cost savings.

Reporter’s perspective

In recent years, rancor among village trustees, candidates and members of volunteer boards has been attributed to partisan politics. But a case could be made that the acrimony has been as much to do with duration of residency. Often the less-civil disagreements have pitted a relative newcomer against a longtime resident. Think lifelong resident Michael

Bowman vs. relative newcomer Stephanie Hawkins, or lifelong resident Dave Merandy vs. newcomer Barney Molloy. Or, a bit further back, lifelong resident Anthony Phillips vs. newcomer John Teagle.

Some of the conversation on election night centered on the idea that the three incumbent members of the village board had “handpicked” Voloto and Miller, the result being a village government without dissenting voices. The board will be diverse in residency, at least, with two lifelong residents in Mayor Dave Merandy and Deputy Mayor Marie Early and three relative newcomers in Fran Murphy, Voloto and Miller. It is not clear if those perspectives will lead to any wide disagreements.

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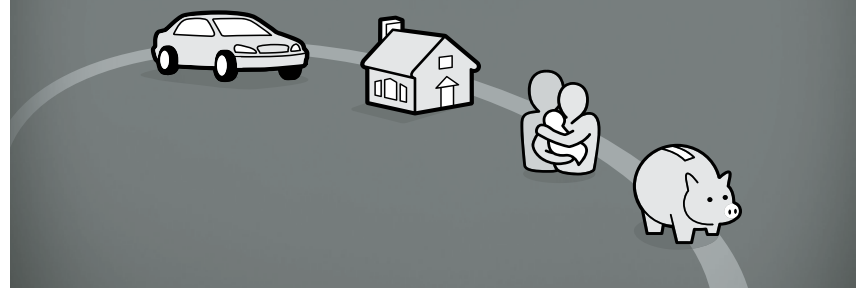
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Another Haldane drama triumph

It has been a magnificent thing to watch the young adults of Haldane High School act, sing and dance over the past few years. In December 2013, a time when Philipstown was in mourning, the students gathered themselves to present a flawless performance of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, a poignant story of death and dying in small town America.

The next year, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* was performed on a sparse set with disturbing, thought-provoking imagery enhanced by jarring lighting effects and powerful, startling background music. Every actor in that production delivered a memorable performance, captivating those in attendance from start to finish and leaving them contemplating the message of the play for days afterward.

Last autumn, Haldane Drama presented Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, a

comedy-drama with a wickedly complex plot line that our student actors executed precisely, hitting their marks and delighting the audience.

The dark dramas of the fall gave way each spring to the lightness and silliness of spectacular musicals, including Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* and Gershwin's *Crazy for You*, where fabulous singing and acting was on display. Both featured unforgettable chorus lines of tap dancers, mesmerizing the audience, which responded with thunderous applause. The spring 2015 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* was a triumph and most of us left the theater humming the tune, "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General."

And now this past weekend's musical, Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. This is a musical most high schools would not dare produce and speaks to the ambition

of Haldane's drama students and their extraordinarily talented director, Martha Mechalakos. The actors were more than up to the challenge, crisply delivering their lines in Italian, Irish and British accents. The witty, rapid-fire song lyrics came through loud and clear; we know because each exchange brought laughter!

We have come full circle with *Sweeney Todd*, more opera than musical, more darkness than lightness and simply more talent on and behind the stage than any small high school could possibly expect. To have a school district in the top tier of academics, sports and the arts doesn't happen by accident. The list of players responsible for this achievement is as long as the names of all of you who live and work in Philipstown. Go ahead, take a bow, you deserve a standing ovation too.

William and Mary Rice
Nelsonville

Odell Promises "Year of Business Development"

(From Page 1)



Odell presents her annual state of the county address in Mahopac on March 10.

Photo provided

at the address but resigned the next day. (See page 5.)

Working from slides projected on a screen behind her, Odell outlined several initiatives she hoped would "drive economic development, increase the property tax base and increase sales tax revenue" in Putnam, especially in the eastern part of the county, which is home to 90 percent of the population. Among the plans she announced were:

- Further development of the county-owned Tilly Foster Farm as an educational institution and job incubator for a "stronger agricultural business community."
- A partnership with the city of Danbury, Connecticut, to create better public transportation between the communities, mutual access to recreation areas usually reserved for only residents of their respective states and a shared upgrade of the sewer system that runs from Mill Plain Road in Danbury to Danbury Road in Southeast.
- A revitalization project for Brewster, including new housing, public parking and improvement of the village green.

Odell did not present any specific targets for job creation or revenue increases but did note the county has the lowest unemployment rate in the Hudson Valley. "We need to tell companies why they should call Putnam County home," she said. She later emphasized the low crime rate and her administration's commitment to keeping taxes as low as possible.

Reliance on sales tax

With a population of 100,000, Putnam is a relatively small entity, which limits its resources. It is further constrained by its reliance on sales taxes while keeping what it collects from property taxes low.

As Odell explained aspects of the county's \$151.4 million budget, which is quite similar to years past, she underscored that sales taxes pay for 36 percent of expenses, which is significantly higher than many counties in the state. Sales tax revenues go up and down based on factors such as lower gasoline prices or online shopping. To combat that uncertainty, Odell called for more diverse sales tax sources without specifying the possibilities.

Invoking "firmly conservative principles," Odell stressed that while property taxes provide 27 percent of the budget, the county's portion of a taxpayer's bill is only 9.1 percent versus a statewide average of 21.5 percent. A adjustable statewide cap on a local governments' ability to raise tax rates, this year at near zero, keeps the county from relying further on this source of revenue.

Referring to the combined impact of county, town, village and school taxes, Odell said, "We have to find ways to consolidate and work together."

Paying for mandates

As she has in the past, Odell complained about the shortage of state and federal funding for services the county must provide by law. She emphasized that 70 percent of the budget is spent on these services, which include Medicaid, social services, mental health, pensions, community college funding and legal defense for the poor.

The remaining 30 percent of the budget includes the sheriff's department, the jail and the district attorney as well as what Odell said were quality-of-life services such as programs for the more than 5,000 veterans in the county, local libraries and arts programs.

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Pataki Resigns as Tourism Head

Says she is a victim of "false accusations"

By Kevin E. Foley

Libby Pataki resigned on Friday (March 11) as Putnam County's tourism director, following a report in February in the Journal News that prompted an investigation by the state attorney general into the county's nonprofit tourism organizations.

There was no official news of her departure, but as in the past, she announced her plans to the Putnam County News & Recorder, a friendly venue that has chastised the Journal News and tax reporter David McKay Wilson for reporting the

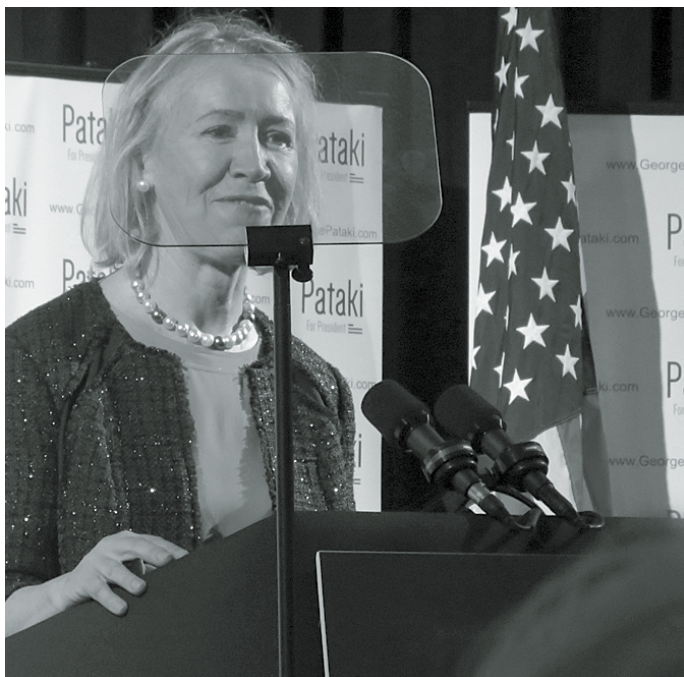
story. The Journal News documented that two non-profits set up to promote the county to tourists did not have functioning board of directors, an apparent violation of state law. Pataki was paid by both groups, including one that she established to accept tax-deductible donations.

In a previous interview with the PCNR, Pataki called the allegations "wrong and unfair," without elaborating on any inaccuracies. "I regret that my last months on the job were marred by false accusations by a single reporter out to promote himself and harm the county," Pataki charged in the PCNR on Friday. "Public life, as I well know, is rife with slings and barbs, but this has been disappointing."

The Putnam County Visitors' Bureau gets some \$250,000 a year in taxpayer funds annually and paid Pataki \$70,000 annually. The Putnam Tourism Corp., which Pataki established in 2012, ap-

parently without the knowledge of the county executive or legislature, paid her a second annual salary of \$50,000 as its part-time executive director.

"I respect Libby's decision," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell in a statement. "I thank her for her service, and I wish her well. I did not have any advance notice of this but I understand she has been under a great deal of fire lately, much of it unfair, but I understand."



Libby Pataki

Photo provided

Putnam Health Dept. Earns Accreditation

First health agency in Hudson Valley to do so

The Putnam County Department of Health on March 8 became the first health agency in the Hudson Valley to achieve national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The Carmel-based agency is one of fewer than 200 departments, among more than 2,500 nationwide, to receive the five-year designation. "This achievement is the result of four years of focused work by the health department," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "We should be very proud."

Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the county's interim health commissioner, added that "this is an important national designation. Hospitals need to be accredited; now health departments can take up a similar challenge."

The accreditation application began in 2012 and wrapped up in January of this year with a two-day site visit by the board examiners. In the meantime, more than 1,080 electronic files were prepared and submitted. Launched in 2011, PHAB was created to serve as the national public health accreditation body and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Police to Increase Patrols

Hoping to deter drunk driving

The Putnam County Sheriff and Carmel Police Department said they will increase patrols and establish sobriety checkpoints from March 17 to 20 to deter drunk driving as part of a statewide crackdown during St. Patrick's Day and the weekend following. The New York State STOP-DWI Association, which promotes the initiative, points to research that high-visibility enforcement can reduce drunk-

driving fatalities around holidays by as much as 20 percent.

"We are letting people know this in advance as a deterrent," said Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith, "and to remind folks that they must drink responsibly or make appropriate plans now to either have a designated driver or use a taxi."

The STOP-DWI campaign also targets Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the December holiday season.

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Beacon Preschool Seeks Zoning Relief

Officials serve notice after it sets up barn space

By Jeff Simms

Three weeks after its opening, a progressive preschool in Beacon is turning to its new community for support as it seeks a reinterpretation of the zoning code that would allow the business to operate as planned.

Bija Beacon opened Feb. 22 at 869 Wolcott Ave., which doubles as the home of founder and director Lauren Maples. According to a petition Maples posted online, Beacon officials sent the school a cease-and-desist letter and threatened a fine of \$1,000 for each day the school operates in a newly constructed barn in Maples' backyard.

The school, which offers a yoga- and nature-based brand of education for children ages two to four, planned to use the barn as a space for a library, dramatic play, a "sensory area" and for science, social studies and meals. In addition, a large yard is equipped for outdoor play and contains gardens where the kids will be taught to grow some of



Lauren Maples

Photo provided

the food they eat.

Maples declined to say whether Bija has used a temporary location since the conflict with the city arose. Her petition indicates that the school has moved inside her home on the property. It also states the barn was built "from the ground up," specifically for the school.

Beacon Building Inspector Tim Dexter said that a license issued by Dutchess County allows for "daycare" operations for up to 10 children in an individual home, but that Beacon's zoning regulations apply once the operation moves outside of the home.

"When you take it outside of the home, it becomes something totally different,"

Dexter said. "It becomes a nursery school by the city of Beacon's definitions."

Maples' lot is presently zoned for single-family residential use. The continued care or education of two or more children outside of the home qualifies the use as a nursery school, Dexter said.

Dexter said that he believes Maples will seek a "reinterpretation" of the code from the Zoning Board of Appeals, a body appointed by the mayor, possibly next month.

Maples' petition indicates that Bija Beacon spent a year "filing permits and a daycare license application" before receiving word from the city that it could not operate in the barn. The petition asks signatories to pledge their support of "progressive education options" as well as the creation of "more positive activities and experience for Beacon's youth."

It also states that signees "do not believe that this use will cause any disruption to the neighborhood."

By Wednesday evening, the petition had been signed by 105 supporters, and a dozen had posted comments in support of Bija. The petition has a goal of 300 supporters.

Dexter said that he has not seen the petition himself but agreed that "it could weigh in for the [zoning] board because they take into consideration the effect on the community." For instance, he said, "does it protect the character, health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood?"

Maples launched Bija Beacon this year after operating a preschool (also called Bija) for 11 years in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn school continues to operate and serves around 200 families.

Bija Beacon's plans have been to run its abbreviated first preschool session into June before hosting four weeks of summer camp in July and August, and then beginning its first full school year.

Beacon resident Ned Glaettli, whose son will start at Bija in September, believes the school fills a niche with its educational model, as well as the young children it accepts.

"Bija straddles the line between preschool and daycare," Glaettli said, "and it's a wonderful thing for Beacon. I support choice, and more options for kids is always better. That was one of the things I liked when we moved to Beacon."


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Sri Lankan on the Menu

A traditional diner reinvents itself

By Alison Rooney

When Saman Munaweera opened his restaurant, Red Pepper Diner, in October 2014, he presumed his potential customers would want “American” food rather than the cuisine of his native Sri Lanka. After searching high (the farther reaches of upstate New York) and low (Staten Island), and looking at around 50 properties, one situated at 1458 Route 9D between Route 52 and Dutchess Stadium, enticed him. He bought the business, which was formerly Salinas Tequilas, and renovated.

He filled the menu with traditional items, from griddle breakfasts to burgers and paninis. Munaweera, a gregarious host who would often chat with customers about his homeland and its cuisine, was surprised to learn they had an interest in what they hadn’t before tasted. Some asked if he would prepare some of his native dishes, and soon Munaweera was offering them to every customer, even though they remained “off menu.” Next he experimented with a



Saman Munaweera, his wife Thanuja and their children Photo by A. Rooney



Sri Lankan sweets dot the buffet table at Red Pepper RaSa. Photo provided

buffet with both Sri Lankan and traditional American foods, and the response was immediate: people loved the Sri Lankan dishes.

“People found the dishes to be very flavorful, and also very lean and healthy, cooked with very little fat, and not many processed ingredients,” he says. “Most people don’t know about Sri Lanka or the cuisine. So we worked on a menu, consisting of the traditional favorites — foods you always want when you go back home —

and also things people can identify easily.” The menu also has photos of the dishes.

Now every customer is handed two menus: one for Red Pepper Diner, with its traditional offerings, and the other for Red Pepper RaSa (rasa means “taste” in Sinhalese), with the Sri Lankan dishes.

“Every Sri Lankan meal has rice and at least two proteins and an assortment of vegetables: greens, carrots, beets and a savory melon,” Munaweera explains. “Everything is cooked on the day, and I make everything by hand, including the vegetable stock, using fresh ingredients. In summer we grow vegetables in the small yard out the back. Also, we’re not spice-heavy. In Sri Lanka you toast the spices first to release the fragrances, then build the

dishes from the ground up, around those.”

As Munaweera describes it, Sri Lanka, although small in area, has distinct geographic and climatic regions, as well as numerous ethnicities and religious groups (the vast majority of its people are Buddhist, but there are also Hindus, Christians and Muslims), and the cuisine reflects this. His home city, Kandy, is in hill country and has a mild climate, while the food of the south is far spicier. Sri Lanka’s colonization and trading history influenced its varied cuisine as well. As part

of the British empire from 1815 until gaining its independence in 1948, Sri Lanka was ruled and settled by the Portuguese and later the Dutch and was long described as “the spice island,” a focal point in trade routes worldwide.

The Sri Lankan menu offers appetizers like brinjal moju, pickled eggplant; shredded curry beets; lentil dhal cooked with coconut milk and regional spices; and a coconut, chili, lime and spices sambal garnish, each of which are \$3. As for main courses, most of which are \$12 to \$15, kothu roti provides an introduction to a dish popular at street markets all over Sri Lanka. It consists of shredded roti flatbread stirred with vegetables, onions, eggs and sometimes a protein, finished with a curry sauce. The clanging of the cleavers chopping the roti is a familiar sound throughout the country, Munaweera says.

In addition there are beef, chicken and goat curries and biryanis with saffron, cashew nuts, raisins and herbs, along with pol roti — pan-grilled flatbreads made with fresh coconut, onion and green chilies. Also featured are hoppers — crispy bowl-shaped pancakes made with rice flour, eaten for breakfast, lunch or dinner in Sri Lanka. There are different varieties, sweet and savory, some with an egg cooked in the middle. String hoppers are string mats of vermicelli, eaten with curry, chutney and sambols.

To finish the meal off there is watalappan, a custard dessert made from coconut milk, palm sugar, cashews, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom (Continued on Page 8)



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Sri Lankan on the Menu

(From Page 8)

and nutmeg. The restaurant also serves Sri Lankan beers, Lion Imperial Lager and Lion Stout, as well as Ceylon (Sri Lanka's former name) teas. The Friday night buffet provides two curries and rice and noodles, three or four vegetables and two desserts for \$14. A full bar is open in an adjoining room.

As the only Sri Lankan restaurant around this area, the expatriate community, including many doctors and dentists living near Newburgh, quickly discovered Red Pepper RaSa. It's far easier than making the trek to Staten Island, which has many Sri Lankan restaurants. That's good news for Munaweera, who first moved about eight years ago to New York City (which he calls "beautiful, I loved it when I saw it, seeing the world in the same spot, everyone from different cultures living together") with his family, which includes his wife, Thanuja, a beautician, whom he met in Dubai, and two children, ages 5 and 7.

"We're happy here," he says. "This is a better future for my kids." His plans include adding more décor reflective of Sri Lanka to the restaurant, including photographs; opening a summer patio and possibly expanding the buffet to Saturday night and/or a Sunday brunch.

Red Pepper is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner; the Friday buffet is served from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, visit its Facebook page or call 845-440-0020.

Obituary

Germaine Claire Keller, 77, an artist, art director, educator, gallerist and former resident of Garrison Landing, passed away on March 7, 2016, at the Westminster Retirement Community in Austin, Texas, after an aggressive battle with Parkinson's disease.

Germaine was born in Detroit and attended Fordson High School there. She married and had three children, then earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Wayne State University in sculpture and painting.

In 1977 she moved to New York City, where she taught at Parson's School of Design and New York University, and was a recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a MacDowell Fellowship, an Athena Foundation Grant and a Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) grant. She was also employed as an art director at *The Wall Street Journal*. She participated in many gallery shows and public installations, eventually opening her first gallery, St. Mark's Position, in 1994. There she found her life's work, curating shows and providing a venue for the discourse of modern art.

Actively engaging in that conversation was a deeply rewarding experience for Germaine, and from 1999 to 2005 she operated the Germaine Keller Gallery on Garrison Landing after relocating there. Germaine was loved and respected by many in the Philipstown area for her grace, energy, enthusiasm and intelligence, showing many local and nationally known artists and helping to create a vibrant local arts community.

Germaine Keller

(1938-2016)



In 2004 she moved to Austin to be near her daughters. There she taught at Austin Community College and Laguna Gloria and opened the 1305.3 Position Gallery in 2008. Germaine's work was acquired by numerous individuals and museums, among them Museum of Modern Art Archives, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Port Authority of NY and NJ, Sol LeWitt and the Detroit Institute of Art. Additionally, her work was shown at the Austin Museum of Art, Women and Their Work (gallery) Laguna Gloria Museum, Marfa, the Grand Rapids Museum of Art, the Kunstverein Firma Paradigma (Linz, Austria) and the Natalie Knight Gallery (Johannesburg, South Africa).

Germaine's survivors include three children — Sherry Keller of Austin; Bradford Keller of New York City; Dr. Cynthia Playfair (and husband, Dr. Paul Playfair) of Austin; two granddaughters — Emily Playfair and Katherine Playfair of Austin; a sister, Beverly Hedden of Cottonwood, Arizona, and a brother, John Goike (and wife Sharon Goike) of St. Clair, along with many nieces and nephews. Germaine also wanted to acknowledge her lifelong companion and fellow artist, Claude van Lingen, a large presence in her life and the community.

A memorial service will be held in the coming months. (For information, email cyndyplay@sbcglobal.net, brad@discabilities.org or Sherry_Keller@dell.com.) In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the MacDowell Colony, 163 E. 81st St., New York, NY 10028.

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SUMMER CAMPS



Children's Camps Gear Up For Learning and Fun

Diverse, creative programming close to home

By Michael Turton

Summer camp: two simple words that evoke crystal-clear memories for almost anyone who has ever attended one, even if it was decades ago. Allan Sherman captured the bittersweet recollections of camp in his 1964 Grammy-winning novelty that began with the verse, “Hello Muddah, hello Fadduh, here I am at Camp Granada. It is very entertaining — and they say we’ll have some fun if it stops raining!”

The lyrics were inspired by Sherman’s son Robert’s letters home, which initially described his less-than-great camp experience, though it turned out to have a happy ending. (“Wait a minute, it stopped hailing, guys are swimming, guys are sailing, playing baseball, gee that’s better, Muddah, Fadduh please disregard this letter!”)

According to a survey of more than 5,000 families by the American Camp Association, children’s most frequent comments about the benefits of summer camp are that it helps them make new friends, including those different from them, allows them to feel good about themselves and helps them try things they had feared.

Despite having to cope with challenges such as homesickness, bug bites, the fear of trying new things and meeting new people — or more perhaps because they learn to overcome such hurdles — summer camp remains an important step in the journey from childhood to adulthood. Not to mention it can be just plain fun.



Sailboats at Surprise Lake Camp

File photo by M. Turton

That surely explains why, according to the association, there are more than 7,000 residential camps and 5,000 day camps in the U.S. alone.

The evening campfire undoubtedly remains a time-honored tradition at many camps, but the thematic horizons have expanded exponentially since Robert Sherman lamented to his dad, “You remember Jeffrey Hardy? They’re about to organize a searching party.” Campers can now choose from themes that range from mad science, secret agent and movie stunts to wizards and warriors, circus arts and robotics.

Locally, rock ‘n roll, farming, ballet, Shakespeare, fitness and art are a sampling of the programs at more than 20 camps in and around Philipstown and Beacon.

Surprise Lake Camp, located high over Cold Spring, began as an experiment in

1902. It worked, and 114 years later, the camp, which markets itself to Jewish children, is the largest of its kind in the country.

To Jordan Dale, its executive director since 1986, what’s not at Surprise Lake is just as important as what is. “We create a world just for young people, a sanctuary that separates them from the world of adults,” he said of Surprise Lake, although the sentiment applies to summer camps in general. “We leave behind grown-up things like wars and depressions, financial pressures, and media messages that force kids to grow up too fast. Instead, we offer an oasis where kids can just be kids and where things are designed just for them.”

At Common Ground Farm north of Beacon, children are encouraged to explore their relationship to farming, food and nature. Campers get to know gardens, barns, fields, ponds and hiking trails. Ag-

For a listing of available summer camps, visit our website: philipstown.info

riculture melds with fitness, art, performance and nature.

Philipstown Recreation has offered a daycamp program for years, with baseball, swimming and summer snowball fights, cooking, life-size board games and trips to farms, bowling alleys, parks and New York City. Director Amber Stickle said one of the hallmarks of the Philipstown program for her is the number of children who return as high school or college students to work as counselors. “And I love it when kids sign up for only one week and by the end of that week are begging their parents to sign them up for more,” she says.

At Manitoga, on Route 9D south of Garrison, children discover nature in a magical setting. Campers explore nature trails as well as Russel Wright’s experimental house and studio. In a significant departure, the 2016 camp will consist of one two-week session, beginning in June. In the past, camp ran for five to six weeks beginning in early July.

The Beacon Music Factory’s camp is all about — you guessed it — music. Campers can choose from themes such as rock band, “on the musical nature trail,” a Bannerman’s Island band camp showcase, songwriting, string orchestra and chamber music. It may also be the only camp in the area that is not just for kids: Adults can attend their own week-long immersions in classic rock.



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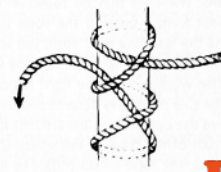


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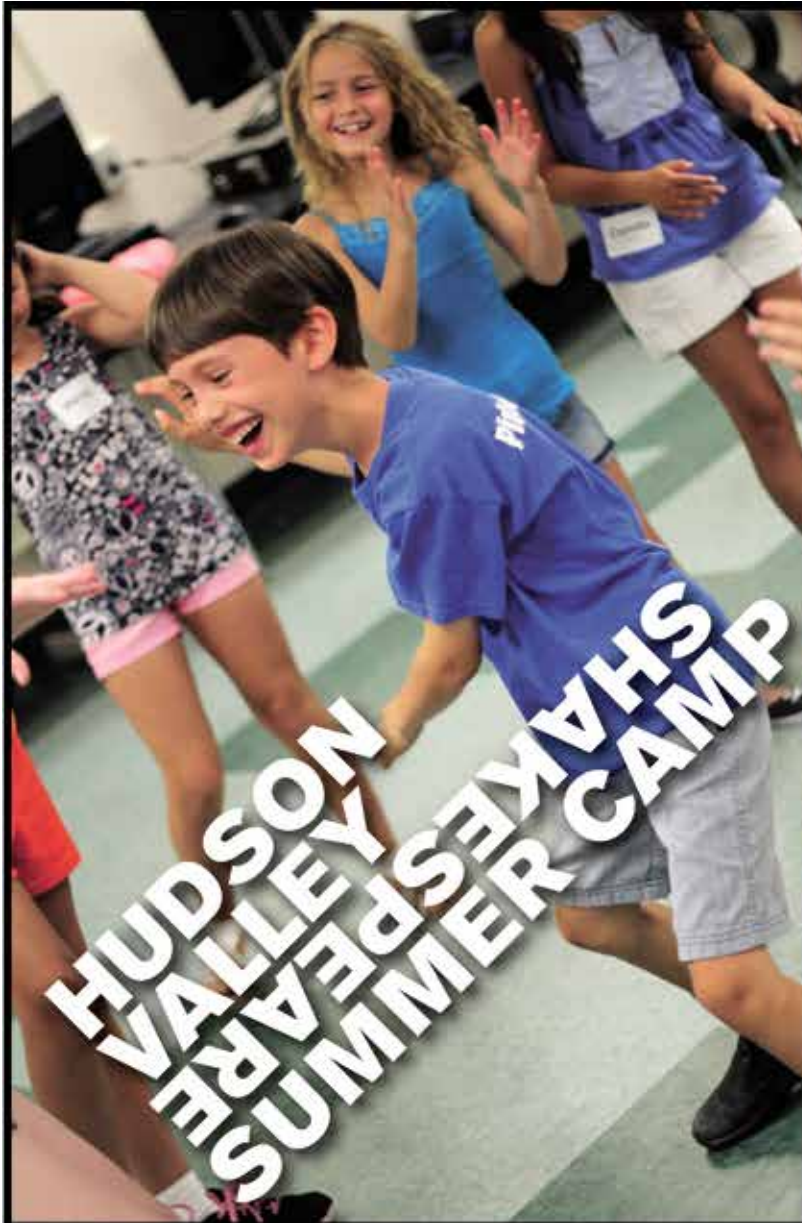


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The Calendar



Miranda Musso's *Vigilant*, her New York State Reflections contest-winning photograph.

Images courtesy of the artist

Haldane Student Wins State Photo Prize

Miranda Musso's shot selected from 455 entries

By Alison Rooney

In what amounts to a state championship for the arts, Miranda Musso, a Haldane tenth-grader, just won it, being named as the New York winner of the high school photography division in the PTA Reflections Contest. Her photograph, "Vigilant," was chosen from among 455 entries to receive the Award of Excellence. It now advances to the national level. Last year, one of her photos reached state-level competition.

Like much of Musso's photographic work, "Vigilant" is shot in black and white. Musso, working with her friend Amelia Hall as the subject, shot the photo in her basement, using light sources from a string of Christmas tree lights, wrapping them around Hall, and having them held in such a way that the "lights lit her face in a different kind of way," Musso explains.

That is also how Musso looks at the world around her. "I consider what can I do that's different, so that no one else

would be able to just hold up a camera and get the same picture," she says. "I tend to not go out specifically looking for a photo, but I just see things that interest me. I'm always seeing things that people look past. I want to capture the moments that are missed."

In this digital age, Musso has an affinity for shooting the old-fashioned way, using film, usually with her father's 1990s-vintage Minolta 35mm (Continued on Page 18)



Alli in Stripes, by Miranda Musso

Acting Her Own Life

Beacon's Brandy Burre "stars" in documentary

By Alison Rooney

Standing inside a roomful of toys, artfully arranged, a woman utters, twice: "I moved to Beacon. I'm not acting. So this is my creative outlet." So begins *Actress*, a 2014 documentary directed by Robert Greene.

The woman in the center of both the room and the film is Brandy Burre, actress by profession, mother of two

small children by other profession, and star of the film, which documents 18 months of her own life. That those 18 months coincided with the gradual deterioration of Burre's relationship with the children's father is just one of the compelling aspects of this slice of life.

The film is very Beacon-centric, from the scenes of a wintry Metro-North station and the river nearby, to the exteriors of Burre's home in the tangle of streets near Mount Beacon. Burre is in some ways a stand-in for women whose professional lives center around creativity but find, in their 30s, they must grapple with a new focus: children. As Burre says in the film, "Being a mom, switching gears, means being bad at both." Her presence in the film is a forthright one, and she's well aware of others' perceptions of selfishness directed at her own character, but also that she is emblematic of other women at the same juncture.

As the film is about to receive its local premiere, in an April 1 screening as part of Depot Docs at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison, Burre is girding for closer scrutiny from her Beacon neighbors. The documentary had a short New York City run two years ago, has streamed on Netflix and has traveled to film festivals and college symposiums around the world, with Burre frequently partici-

pating in panels and Q&As, but she has retained relative anonymity in her adopted hometown until now. She is bracing herself for the inevitable commentary which accompanies the showings, as she presents herself, unfiltered, on screen.

Burre was always a bit of an iconoclast. After growing up in Sandusky, Ohio, she tried the acting life in New York City, then landed in Washington, D.C., where, after an open audition, she landed the part of Theresa D'Agostino, a political campaign fixer on HBO's *The Wire*, a role she played for two seasons. Discouraged by the constant grind of securing new roles, she found herself, in reasonably quick succession, moving back to Manhattan, and then, seeking "a mix of quality of life and artistic inspiration," to Beacon with her then-partner, Tim Reinke (who, with colleagues, owns and operates Peekskill's Birdsell House and Gleasons) and their infant son Henry in tow, joined soon thereafter by sister Stella. They hung out with their friendly next-door neighbors; Burre, in particular, bonded with the distaff side of the pair, Deanna Davis. "We were almost co-parenting," Burre recalls. "I would tell her stories about my past and she was like, 'This is insane.' I knew [Deanna's husband] Robert just as an 'editor' and had no idea of what form

of editing he was doing."

It turned out that Robert Greene was a film editor, and that he was interested in directing as well. Finding the dichotomy of Burre's turn as a femme fatale on *The Wire* and her real life as the "housewife next door" tantalizing, Burre says it gave Greene "a perspective on how acting is actually a craft, and it gave him the kernel of an idea for a film depicting how someone who left the field behind would get back into it. Watching an actor going through the motions of acting. He kept trying to convince me to get back in front of the camera."

Propelled in part by Reinke not being around much due to the demands of running two new businesses, and spurred on by his advice to "go find your thing — what do you have to lose?" Burre agreed to work with Greene. (Notably, in the film Reinke seems, understandably, to shun the camera.) Burre says she didn't take it lightly. "We didn't know what it would lead to, and that's the risk," she says. "We weren't looking (Continued on Page 15)



Brandy Burre in a publicity photo

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
valleytable.com/hvrw

International Film Night: Central Station (Brazil, 1998)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Finnegan's Farewell
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

Open-Mic Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | howlandculturalcenter.org
845-831-4988 | Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Friends of the Desmond-Fish
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Garrison School Budget Workshop
10 a.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Filmmaking Workshop (ages 10-15)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | beaconindiefilmfest.org

Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt (ages 0-8)
11 a.m. McConville Park, Cold Spring
Children should bring baskets.

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506, ext. 204 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

4H Puppet Show
11:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Writing Workshop with Julie Chibbaro
Noon. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

HDR Technique Photography Demo
1 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Group Show: Fiber Art (Opening)
4 – 7 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon | 18 Front St., Beacon
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

Charles Luce / Juliet Martin (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Jazz Vespers with Sheila Jordan
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society Annual Dinner
5:30 p.m. Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane, Cold Spring
845 265-4432 | putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Family Bingo & Pasta Night
6 – 8 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Rescheduled from March 11

Silent Film Series: Way Down East (1920)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
With live music by Cary Brown

Atlanta Rhythm Section / Georgia Satellites
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Finnegan's Farewell
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

Hudson Valley Philharmonic: Aurora Borealis
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Maple Syrup Day
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring | littlestonypoint.org

Ultimate Garage Sale
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Adult Easter Egg Hunt (Benefit)
1 – 3 p.m. Putnam County Humane Society
68 Old Route 6, Carmel
845-225-7777 | puthumane.org

Prenatal Yoga & Massage Workshop
1 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga
75 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

Family Concert with Ezra Guitar
2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

National Theatre Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses
5:30 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Kids' Open Mic
6 – 8 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

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

Piff the Magic Dragon (Comedy/Magic)
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Saturday.

Vernal Equinox Dance Party
7 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | See above.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Red Cross Babysitter Training
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon
845-765-8440 | cityofbeacon.org

National Theatre Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses
1:30 p.m. Downing Film Center
See details under Sunday.

NYS Health Insurance Info and Enrollment
3 – 6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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

Yoga with Kathy Barnes (First Session)
7:30 p.m. Old VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Zen of Coloring for Adults
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Tales from the Ancient Documents: The Rombout Patent
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Children's Spring Tea
Noon – 2 p.m. Mount Gulian | 145 Sterling St., Beacon | 845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Dutchess Tourism Lunch & Learn
Noon. Hyatt House, Route 9, Fishkill
845-463-5447 | dutchesstourism.com

An Afternoon with Peter Pan and Friends
1 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Babe (1995)
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | Details under Tuesday

Chess Club
3:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

School Break Hours
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Cold Spring Area Chamber Mixer
6 – 8 p.m. Whistling Willie's | 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3200 | explorecoldspringny.com

Meditation and Modern Buddhism
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-856-9000 | kadampanewyork.org/beacon

Paid Family Leave Forum
7 p.m. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
1 Van Wyck St., Croton
Sponsored by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

Beacon Music Showcase: The Bo Peeps / Dead End Beverly
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Good Friday

Cold Spring Village offices closed

No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Last day to register to vote in presidential primary

School Break Hours
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Thursday.

The Newburgh Sting (Documentary, 2014)
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

St. Philip's Choir: Mozart's Requiem
7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

The Glorious Death of Comrade What's-His-Name
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

ONGOING

Art & Design | philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services | philipstown.info/services

Support Groups | philipstown.info/sg

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Acting her Own Life (from Page 13)

for what we found."

What ensued was 18 months of scrutiny, on a casual basis, with Greene the solitary crew member, spending much time in Burre's home, headset on, filming her as she went about her daily routines and her travels to the city for various pursuits, including meeting with an agent in hopes of regenerating her career.

The key question the viewer asks while watching the somewhat-heightened way Burre speaks, sometimes directly to the camera, is how much is she "acting" her own life? Burre's take on it now is that "you can sort of see how I relax into the camera. In the beginning it's like 'I have a camera on me now, and I became hyper-aware of my physical being,' but it eventually got to the point where I was just kind of talking to my neighbor, forgetting the camera was on."

Greene didn't know anything about her personal life when he began filming, and



Robert Greene

she says the first time she mentioned her relationship troubles with Reinke, which eventually led to a split that is shown in the film, he suggested shutting down the camera and keeping it out of the film. "That actually made me question what truth was; what was he looking for?" says Burre. "Because all documentary films are manipulated in some way. With this one it looked like I was crying for 14 months, because in the film I did. It was a great exercise for me as an actor because I constantly had to ask myself, 'What is my real self?' knowing that everyone is presenting a version of him or herself."

Actress has received a lot more attention than Burre anticipated while making the film. At screenings around the world, it has raised consistent questions on what it's like to be an artist, addressed concerns at the heart of feminism and, when shown in Sandusky, induced her mother's worries that Burre drops the F-bomb in the film with her children present. (Burre says her mother liked the film, overall.)

Now it's time to lay it all out in front of her neighbors, to those who know her as the mom down the street, or the woman who works at Echo Boutique on Main Street. But is she laying out her own life, an acted-out version of it, a hyperrealist take on it or some combination of the three? "It's the layering of meta," Burre says with a laugh, "and who knows what's next?"

Tickets for the April 1 screening of *Actress* can be ordered at brownpapertickets.com/event/2512690.

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Sunday, 3/20 7:30pm GIRLS GUNS AND GLORY	Friday, 4/8 8:30pm YARN
Thursday, 3/24 7:30pm BEACON MUSIC SHOWCASE feat. THE BO PEEPS: DEAD END BEVERLY	Saturday, 4/9 8:30pm GARLAND JEFFRIES BAND
Friday, 3/25 8:30pm LARA HOPE & THE ARK-TONES	Sunday, 4/10 7:30pm TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS
Saturday, 3/26 8:30pm ROOMFUL OF BLUES	Thursday, 4/14 7:30pm BASYA SCHECHTER & PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER
Thursday, 3/31 7:30pm ADAM EZRA GROUP	Friday, 4/15 8:30pm SHEMOKIA COPELAND BAND
Friday, 4/1 7:30pm HALDANE'S GOT TALENT SCHOOL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER	Saturday, 4/16 8:30pm TERRANCE SIMIEN & THE ZYDECO EXPERIENCE
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Land Trust to Host Forum

Experts will discuss yard and garden practices

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust on Sunday, April 3, will host a community forum, "Healthy Yards, Healthy Woods: Recognizing the Butterfly Effect — Individual Yard Maintenance and a Healthy Environment," at the Highlands Country Club on Route 9D in Garrison.

In the morning session, which begins at 11 a.m., a panel of specialists will share information on how yard and garden maintenance practices impact health and the environment. After lunch, workshops will allow attendees to learn about the topics in greater detail.

The forum, including lunch, is free but advance registration is highly recommended as space is limited. Email info@hhl.org.

Jazz Master to Perform

Sheila Jordan to sing at Jazz Vespers

Sheila Jordan, a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts' highest honor for jazz musicians, the Jazz Masters Fellowship, will perform at Jazz Vespers at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring. Jordan will appear with longtime colleagues Cameron Brown on bass and Tony Jefferson on drums, along with Jazz Vespers regulars Tom McCoy on piano and Rob Scheps on flute and sax.

There is no charge for admission, but donations are welcome. A wine and cheese reception will follow the performance.

Chamber Accepting Scholarship Applications

Available to high school seniors from Philipstown

High school seniors who are residents of Philipstown are invited to apply for the Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship, which is given annually by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Applications are due by Friday, April 15. The scholarship will be awarded on April

28 at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. Philip Baumgarten, along with his wife Ester, were longtime Chamber supporters and board members.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student who has shown community spirit and commitment by volunteering for a Philipstown non-profit or charitable organization and/or by working for or with a local business. Students are asked to submit two letters of recommendation with their application.

The application form is available from Carol Hopper at Haldane High School, Suzanne Schmidt at O'Neill High School or by contacting Nat Prentice (845-661-8937 or natprentice@mac.com).

Monastery to Offer Chinese Language Course

Open to students ages 6 to 18

The Chuang Yen Chinese School, which holds Chinese language classes for students ages 6 to 18 on Sunday mornings at the Chuang Yen monastery on Route 301 in Carmel, begins its spring semester on April 3. Instruction for all levels continues through June 19. To register, visit chuangyencs.org or email Principal Lu Liu at chineseschool@baus.org for more information. Classes take place at the Woo Ju Memorial Library.

St. Mary's to Hold Open Baptism for All

Will take place at March 26 service

As it has in the past, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring invites any adult who wants to be baptized, or parents who would like to have their children baptized, to attend the Holy Saturday service on March 26. It will be followed by a champagne reception to welcome the newly baptized and the arrival of Easter.

For more information, contact the Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen at 845-265-2539 or frshane@optonline.net, or arrive early for the 7 p.m. service to make arrangements. Everyone is invited to bring a bell to the service to "ring in" Easter.

Easter masses will be at 8 and 10:30

a.m. on Sunday, March 27, with an egg hunt to follow the second service on the great lawn. St. Mary's is located at the corner of routes 9D and 301.

St. Philip's Choir to Perform Mozart's Requiem

Good Friday concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The choir of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison will perform Mozart's *Requiem in D Minor* (K. 626) in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Good Friday, March 25. Composed in Vienna in 1791, the work was left unfinished upon the composer's death on Dec. 5. Generally believed to have been mostly completed by his friend Franz Xaver Sussmayr, the Requiem today is acknowledged as one of the masterpieces in classical choral literature.

The soloists will be Julianne Heckert, soprano; Terry Platz, alto; Wright Moore, tenor and Michael McKee, bass. Accompanying the soloists and choir will be the Hudson Highlands Chamber Orchestra. Durward Entekin, music director at St. Philip's, will conduct.

The concert is free, although donations are welcomed. St. Philip's is located at 1101 Route 9D in Garrison, opposite the Garrison School, where parking will also be available.

Beacon

Think Globally

Act Locally

Eco-entrepreneur Sarah Womer will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, at the Beacon Sloop Club about how to think globally, but act locally. Her Beacon-based company, Zero to Go, provides a bicycle-powered food scrap pick-up service for residents and businesses and has so far diverted more than 30,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills. Over the past four years Zero to Go also has provided waste management services at nearly 50 events in the Hudson Valley.

Womer's talk will be followed by a video that explores the lives of people who, like Pete Seeger cleaning the Hudson River, decided they could make a difference even with no resources. They include the "Forest Man" of India who singlehandedly planted a woodland the size of Central Park to shelter local wildlife; the "Water



Sarah Womer

Photo provided

Gandhi" of India, who uses simple techniques to bring back water to 1,000 villages and expanded forest cover from 7 to 40 percent; and Kenya's Wangari Maathai, who inspired a movement to plant more than 30 million trees and changed how people worked with the land.

The presentation will take place at the Beacon Sloop Club at 2 Flynn Dr. For more information, visit beaconsloopclub.org or call 845-463-4660.

The Newburgh Sting to Screen in Beacon

Documentary to be shown March 25

The Newburgh Sting, a 2014 documentary about four men lured into a plot to bomb Jewish centers in the Bronx, will be screened at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 25, at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon as part of the Movies That Matter Beacon series. The church is located at 50 Liberty St.

The documentary, directed by Kate Davis and David Heilbroner, was an official selection of the Tribeca Film Festival and later aired on HBO. The directors made extensive use of government surveillance video shot during the year in which an informant presented the plot to four Newburgh men, offering them \$250,000 and supplying them with the weapons to carry it out. The film builds a credible case for the entrapment defense.

A discussion will follow the film. The series is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Beacon, the Beacon Peace Awards Foundation, the Beacon Inde-

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

pendent Film Festival and the Southern Dutchess NAACP. The screening is free, although donations are accepted. For more information, visit moviesthatmatterbeacon.org.

Howland Library Board Has Three Vacancies

Petitions due March 29; vote on Apr. 28

Petitions are due by March 29 from candidates for three vacancies on the Howland Public Library board of trustees. Candidates must be U.S. citizens who have been residents of the Beacon City School District at least 30 days before the election. Trustees are volunteers who are responsible for the fiscal health of the library and its operations.

Candidates may pick up petitions at the library's front desk; the documents must be notarized and returned to the library clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, with the signatures of at least 25 people qualified to vote in Beacon City School District elections.

The trustee election and a vote on the library's budget will be held from noon to 8 p.m. on April 28 at the library, which is located at 313 Main St.

Kindergarten Registration Open in Beacon

Students must be five years old by Dec. 1

Kindergarten registration for the 2016-17 school year will take place at the Beacon City School District's central office during the month of April. Call the registrar, Gail Morgan, at 845-838-600, ext. 2002, to schedule an appointment. All new students entering kindergarten must be five years old by Dec. 1, 2016.

Prior to the appointment, registration packets may be picked up at the central office at 10 Education Drive or downloaded at beaconcityk12.org. (Click on the Parents link, then Kindergarten Registration.) Registration packets must be completed and brought with the required documents listed in the packet. Children cannot be registered without this information.

Kindergarten screening will take place during the summer, with appointments

made at the time of registration.

Pre-K students attending Beacon schools will receive alternate registration instructions from the elementary school they attend. This registration is for new students only.

Neverland Comes to Beacon

Students to perform Peter Pan

Cast members of the upcoming production at Beacon High School of the 1953 Broadway musical *Peter Pan* will visit the Howland Public Library at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, in a program designed for elementary-school children. The student actors will preview the show and read excerpts from J.M. Barrie's famous book. The library is located at 313 Main St.

The performance of *Peter Pan*, complete with flying, is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, and Sunday, April 10, at the school's Seeger Theatre. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For tickets and information, visit beaconplayers.com. A post-show meet-and-greet for third graders in the Beacon City School District will be held after the April 9 show. Advance registration is required; email the name of the child and his or her teacher to tinkdust16@gmail.com.

Photographer to Share His Technique

Specializes in "high-dynamic-range"

Photographer Rafael Quirindongo, whose work is on exhibit as part of the annual Artists Book Show at the RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon, will lead a demonstration of his high-dynamic-range (HDR) technique for processing photos on 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the gallery.

"I'd like to say I don't photograph things, but rather how they make me feel," Quirindongo says. "Technically, I strive for the perfect photo without compromising the all-important mood I am trying to convey."

RiverWinds is located at 172 Main St.



Leah Anne Siegel as Wendy Darling, Alexander Ullian as Captain James Hook, Rhiannon Parsaca as Peter Pan, and Emily Kidd as Tiger Lily

Photo provided

For more information, visit riverwinds-gallery.com.

Author to Discuss Inspirational Book Sale and signing set for March 31

Shadei Williams will discuss her new inspirational book, *I Have This. This Doesn't Have Me*, at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs-

day, March 31, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Williams will discuss how she rose above her physical challenges with a positive outlook. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing. The library is located at 313 Main St.

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit: philipstown.info/sg



Grand Central Terminal underpass

Photo by Rafael Quirindongo



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Haldane Student Wins State Photo Prize (from Page 13)

camera. Last year she took a darkroom class at Mill Street Loft, which appealed to her because "I'm all about the process, rather than the outcome. I love to develop a photo from a roll of film, then watch the paper letting the image appear. It's all closer to that real creative threshold I love ... I am passionate about film photography but just am not there yet with digital photography." Musso does have a yearning to learn more in Photo-shop, to "have more direction for the creative visions in my brain."

The young photographer says she particularly loves shooting in New York City, especially in Greenwich Village and Lower Manhattan. She took one of her favorite shots, a darkroom-developed, untitled image, at a Soho Café from behind her subjects. "I love nature and being outside, but I don't love doing nature photography because I'd rather 'be there' in nature rather than photographing it," she says. Oftentimes it's just happenstance, such as a photo of her friend Alii Sharpley taken in the gazebo at the foot of Main Street. "I saw the shadows from the bars in the floor of the



Untitled, by Miranda Musso

gazebo and saw the possibilities, saw the opportunity and took it by directing the pose," Musso says.

Although she enjoys photography, it's not the be-all and end-all in terms of

Musso's passions: snowboarding is, partially because it gives her that rush of energy. "I get to be outside, in the mountains, in the winter when people normally turn inwards," she explains, noting that she finds it an art form in its own way. "It's so expressive; people know it as a contest, but at its core it's so grassroots, and that core is having fun and expressing yourself ... The more I get into it I realize how well I fit into the culture. There's so much art influence there."

After participating in a snowboard camp last summer at Mount Hood, Musso will be returning to Oregon this summer

focused on photographing the action.

Musso says that her parents, Dani Locastro, a textile designer and Michael Musso, an environmental engineer, have "always let me foster my creativity and have let me really express myself. I can't imagine having parents who restrict that or don't value it. My mom is trained in art and for my dad, it's very much 'the earth is our home, we're here for the ride, not to take it over.'"

Looking ahead to life beyond high school, Musso says she is interested in the "art and design path. Photography will be present in that. I want to make as much art as I can, and be spontaneous and productive."



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Beacon Celebrates St. Patrick's Day



Bagpipers, children and leprechauns alike enjoyed Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green.

Photos by Gary Ditlow



Auxiliary to Host Bingo Night

Scheduled for April 1 at NHFD

The North Highlands Ladies Auxiliary will host a family bingo fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, at the firehouse at 504 Fishkill Road with

two callers, "Coach D" from Haldane and Kacey Morabito Grean from WHUD. The doors open at 6 p.m. and children must be accompanied by an adult.

The cost is \$5 per game booklet, and bingo daubers will be available for \$1 each.

Prizes will be awarded, and refreshments, including hot dogs, also will be available for purchase. Park in the rear of the building and enter through the rear door.

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Sports

Historic Win for Haldane Basketball

Fall to favorites in finals

By Peter Farrell

The Haldane boys' basketball team returned to the Glens Falls Civic Center for the second consecutive season on March 11 to compete for the New York State Class C Championship in a semifinal matchup against the Moravia Blue Devils. After falling short to Lake George in the last year's semi-finals, Haldane and its fans came to Glens Falls with one thing in mind: win.

In a defensive battle of the Blue Devils, Moravia took an early 3-0 lead before the Haldane offense came alive, closing out the first quarter leading 11-3. In the second quarter, Moravia quietly came back via the three-pointer and cut the Haldane lead to 16-14 with 30 seconds left in the half. Haldane led 18-14 at halftime.

After seeing both teams' defenses battle for every loose ball, rebound and shot, the second half was more of the same: intense defense, shots not falling. With Haldane clinging to a slim 29-28 lead and less than 5 seconds to go in the third quarter, Aidan Siegel, who Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo had just inserted in the game, hit a huge three-pointer that extended the Haldane lead to 32-28 and sent the Haldane players, coaches and fans smiling and confident heading into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter would not get any easier for Haldane, Moravia or the fans. As both teams defenses battled and offenses failed to take charge, everyone knew it would come down to the final few possessions, and possibly, another Haldane defensive stop would win the game. With Will Zuvic (12 points, 10 rebounds)



The Haldane Blue Devils celebrate their 36-34 victory over the Moravia Blue Devils in the N.Y State Class C semifinals on Friday, March 11th at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Photos by Peter Farrell

on the bench, Haldane was clinging to a 34-33 lead with 90 seconds to play. The Haldane defense would have to bring it home for their teammate and leader.

As the teams traded possessions and shots continued to come up short in the final minute, Haldane senior guard David Rotando stepped to the free throw line and hit two to extend the team's lead to 36-33 with 21 seconds remaining. After Moravia hit its first free throw with 12 seconds on the clock, Haldane senior Nick Chiera snatched the biggest rebound of his Blue Devil career and was quickly fouled.

With Haldane leading 36-34 and 10 seconds on the clock, Haldane fans could re-

lax a bit as they had a great chance to win this game. But not so easy, it's not their style. As Haldane failed to capitalize on the free throws, the Moravia Blue Devils had one last possession to tie or win the game. With the ball in their best player's hands and the clock winding down, the Blue Devils' defense had to make one last stand to make Haldane history by advancing to their first New York State Class C Championship. The defense did not disappoint. With Haldane denying the inside, Moravia attempted to shoot over a leaping Rotando.

When the ball sailed to the left of the basket, Haldane players jumped into each other's arms, coaches and fans leapt and danced in the aisles.

In the Class C finals on Saturday, March 12, Haldane faced a heavily favored Middle Early College team from Buffalo. Although the Blue Devils were huge underdogs going into the game, anything was possible based on the way their season was playing out. But winning was not going to be easy against a team that looked like it should

be playing in the NCAA tournaments instead of the New York state high school championships. Haldane pulled out to an early 5-0 lead, their only lead, but trailed for the remainder of the game and eventually lost 82-40.

The Haldane players never quit, always

determined on every possession, but the opponent was playing on another level — very fast, big and hitting every shot it threw up. Virgadamo played his entire bench for much of the fourth quarter, letting all of his players share in the experience of playing in a final. Haldane players, coaches and fans held their heads high, knowing they had come to Glens Falls to



Haldane senior Nick Chiera attacks on offense against a stubborn Moravia defense in the NY State Class C semifinals on Friday, March 11th at the Glens Falls Civic Center. Haldane's Historic 36-34 semifinal win over Moravia, sent the Blue Devils to their 1st ever trip to the New York State Class C Finals.



Haldane Blue Devil guard David Rotando goes up against the Moravia Blue Devils in the N.Y State Class C semifinals on Friday, March 11th at the Glens Falls Civic Center. A stubborn Haldane defense hold off Moravia for a 36-34 victory and historic first-ever trip to the N.Y. State Class C Finals.

win, and win they did. Coming home to Cold Spring with a second-place finish in all of New York State Class C is not a bad place to be. And who knows, maybe we get back there again next year and complete the journey. What if.