The HIGHLANDS Gurent



Welcome to Delusionville See Page 9

161 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com February 24, 2017

Nelsonville Mayor **Says Cold Spring Using Fire Company** as 'Cash Cow'

Says insurance and pension increases 'not our problem'

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

ncreased fire protection costs are causing friction between the Philipstown villages at opposite ends of Main Street.

On Tuesday night (Feb. 21), Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless accused Cold Spring of using the Cold Spring Fire Company as a "cash cow" to get money from his village, which contracts with Cold Spring for fire protection. In a several-minute blast delivered at the end of the Nelsonville Village Board's monthly meeting, he also criticized Cold Spring for ignoring Nelsonville's contributions to the wider community.

Responding on Thursday (Feb. 23), Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy termed Corless' assertions "absurd" and said Cold Spring merely charges fire company cus-



Hip-hop artist and social activist Decora, who lives in Beacon, has a new album. See story on Page 9.

tomers their share of rising costs.

Since being billed in October for 2017 fire protection, Nelsonville has withheld \$1,004.44 in payments to Cold Spring for CSFC workers' compensation costs and the Length of Service Award Program, or LOSAP, a pension for volunteer firefighters. (On Jan. 23, Nelsonville paid the main, uncontested part of the bill, \$20,674.95.) The total amount invoiced, \$21,679.39, included the first rate increase since 2012.

Like Nelsonville, (Continued on Page 3)

After graduating, she was a buyer at Bloomingdale's for seven years. "It was almost like running a small business within a company," she recalls. "Part of it was bringing in emerging brands, which is iust what I do now with Pink Olive."

Kang opened her first Pink Olive in 2007, a year before the economic downturn, and her second store just before it. "Babies kept us in business," she says. Although people did not have as much disposable income, "they are still buying, just more thoughtfully and intentionally."

Her Williamsburg branch attracts the youngest clientele, while Park Slope caters to parents in their 30s. The Manhattan stores focus on apartment decorating, with lots of affordable art prints. The Cold Spring store will lead with paper goods. "For this Hudson Valley store, I have ideas, but they are always malleable," she says. "You learn about the customer."

Once she decided to expand into the Hudson Valley (she and her husband have a weekend home in Warwick), she scouted a number of locations, including Beacon, but Cold Spring was always at the top of the list. When the Indigo Chic space became available, "you could see the potential," she says. "Plus, it has pink all around it: a good sign!" (Continued on Page 14)

Beacon Theater to Reopen

Three-screen cinema planned for space

By Jeff Simms

or the first time in decades, Main ◀ Street in Beacon will have a movie house.

The Beacon theater building at 445 Main St., built in 1934 to show "photo plays," will reopen, possibly as early as this summer, as a three-screen theater called Story Screen that will show classic and independent films as well as first-run movies.

The theater's owner, Highview Development, is constructing 30 residential units in the five-story building, said Brendan McAlpine, the president of Highview, which also restored the Roundhouse on the east end of Main.

Story Screen is the moniker for a film series launched in 2015 in Beacon by Mike Burdge, who is partnering with McAlpine, Jason Schuler and Scott Brenner on the theater project. Story Screen has operated as what Schuler, who owns More Good at 383 Main St., calls "nomadic pop-up theater," with screenings in restaurants and shops.

The main theater will feature 85 stadium-style seats, McAlpine said, while a second theater will have 25 and a third room - all on the ground floor - will beused for screenings, events and possibly live performances. The theater's lobby will have a bar as well as traditional concessions "with a twist," he said.

"You don't make the movie; you're just selling someone else's product," McAlpine said. "So what we (Continued on Page 15)



Brendan McAlpine and Jason Schuler outside the Beacon theater Photo by J. Simms

Pink Olive Arrives

Boutique with four NYC stores expands to Highlands

By Alison Rooney

race Kang says she has four "children" and on March 4 she will add a fifth in Cold Spring with the opening of her Pink Olive boutique. It joins two siblings in Brooklyn and two in Manhattan.

Pink Olive, which has taken over the former Indigo Chic location at the corner of Main and Fair streets, strives with its stock and décor to attain "relaxed happiness," savs Kang.

It will feature a curated collection of "little things" - paper goods, baby gifts, candles, bath and spa items and jewelry, most of it produced by designers who submit their products for consideration.

A California native who graduated from Cornell with a bachelor's degree in textile and business ("I created my own curriculum," she explains), Kang always had a passion for retail. She worked at The Gap when younger and says she "loved the vi-



Grace Kang

sion there and learned that things don't just happen to be in a particular store. It's a marriage of creativity and business acumen - you need both."

Small, Good Things

Home Cooking

By Joe Dizney

¶ating is typically a mundane activ- \bullet ity — in both senses of the word. "Three squares" can get mechanical and is definitely "of the world" (mundo) and body. Eating for sustenance is certainly a legitimate take on the process. but it does neglect a huge sphere of hu-

Shrimp Étouffée

1½-to-2 dozen shrimp, peeled (reserve the heads and shells for stock*)

- 1/4 pound butter
- 1 cup diced onion
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced green bell pepper
- ½ cup diced red bell pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon Cajun or Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

support capacity for probably my oldest friend. We grew up together in a small town in southern Louisiana and were later part

Recently I was called on to serve in a

man experience, history and spirit.

- of the diaspora of the 1960s. Dutch made a life in Seattle while performing charitable works in Afghanistan, Somalia and, most recently, Ghana, where he and his wife administer a charity (yekoanim.org) in a village called Kwahu Tafo. I somehow ended
- During a December vacation in the U.K., Dutch fell ill. Fortunately, he happened to be near the Royal Victoria hospital in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, home to a
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste

up in Cold Spring.

- 4 cups seafood stock (packaged clam broth will do; see Note* to make your own)
- 1 14-ounce can cherry tomatoes in sauce
- 1½ cup long grain rice (Jasmine or Jasmati are nice) prepared as per package directions
- 1 cup sliced green onion plus a bit more for garnish
- 1/2 cup chopped flat leaf parsley
- 1. In a large 3- or 4-quart saucepan, heat butter over medium-high heat. Sauté onions until translucent; add garlic and sauté another 2 minutes. Add 1/2 each of the celery, green and red bell peppers, seasoning and bay leaves and sauté until vegetables are just cooked.
- 2. Reduce heat slightly and sprinkle flour over the vegetables, stirring to cook for 2-3 minutes. Slowly begin to add the stock a bit at a time, stirring and scraping the bottom stock to achieve the consistency of smooth, thick sauce.
- 3. Add tomato paste and tomatoes and bring to a low boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 20 minutes adding more stock as necessary to keep the sauce from getting too thick. (In the meantime begin your rice.)
- 4. Add shrimp and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in green onions and parsley. Remove from heat and cover. Serve étouffée hot over rice, garnished with more green onions.
- *Note: In a large saucepan, heat ¼ cup olive oil over medium high. Sauté a handful of chopped onion, a couple of tablespoons of garlic and 1/4 cup diced celery until soft. Add reserved shrimp shells and heads if you have them; sauté for 5 to 8 minutes until pink and slightly opaque all the way through. Add 4 cups vegetable stock, clam broth or water and bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Strain stock and use as per recipe.

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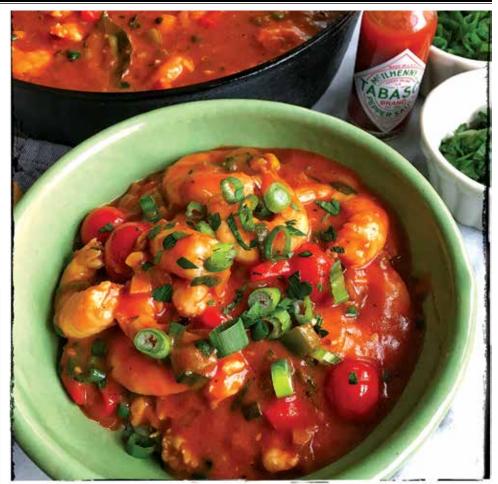
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Shrimp Étouffée

Photo by J. Dizney

world-class department of infectious disease and tropical medicine. The doctors saved him from a horrific case of malaria.

By the time I was called to duty in late January, Dutch was out of the woods but still in the hospital, facing multiple surgeries. He had lost 40 pounds and the immediate objective was to build his

I took on the assignment as his personal chef. When Dutch was asked what he most wanted, I was not surprised by his request for Shrimp Étouffée, a comfort food and language we share.

When referring to a cooking method, étouffée means "smothered." What it describes in practice is a stovetop shellfish braise. It is a staple in southwest Louisiana and New Orleans Cajun and French Creole cuisine. The braising liquid is a flour roux-based sauce seasoned with the trinity of Cajun ingredients — onion, celery and bell pepper - plus some de rigueur garlic and spices (thyme, oregano, cayenne). The difference between the Caiun and Creole versions is tomatoes.

Crawfish (or crayfish in the heathen North) is the most popular version of the dish, though shrimp runs a close second due to its availability. (Crab Étouffée is also a "thing," though less common.) All are served over rice with a garnish of green onions.

Even in Newcastle the ingredients were readily available, although I was handicapped by the prehensile hospital kitchen, pots and cutlery. I know for a fact this was the first roux I ever prepared on an induction stovetop. (And I strongly suggest vou take the time and trouble to make the shrimp stock described in the recipe note.)

Regardless, I believe I can say this was the most genuine if not the best shrimp étouffée ever produced in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, and judging from the reception in Ward 19 of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, it was the most appreciated. We moved on from here to oyster po-boys, braised lamb shanks with polenta and short ribs with risotto Milanese. Eating can be anything but mundane and home is where the hearth - and heart - is.



Nelsonville Mayor Says Cold Spring Using Fire Company as 'Cash Cow' (from Page 1)

Philipstown uses CSFC fire protection services. In November, without argument, the Town Board approved a 2017 budget that includes increases of 3 percent in CSFC workers' compensation and 35 percent in LOSAP charges. With those included, Philipstown is paying \$69,060 for CSFC protection in 2017.

Cold Spring's government oversees administrative matters for the fire company.

"The appearance is they're using their fire department as some kind of cash cow trying to make money off of either the village of Nelsonville or the Town of Philipstown," Corless said. A CSFC member for about 32 years, Corless said that "the fire company did not ask for any increases from the town or Village of Nelsonville. This is the Village of Cold Spring tacking on these fees."

Corless claimed that a higher workers' compensation charge should not be passed along to Nelsonville because the CSFC would incur it in any case and firefighters "do the same work wherever they go." Thus, he said, "no matter how many times they [CSFC] come to Nelsonville, their workers' compensation isn't going to go up." Similarly, the LOSAP charge "belongs to Cold Spring" because it "was their referendum" that established it "and their people voted for it. That's not our bill," Corless maintained. "This is not our problem. It's not our issue."

He recalled that after the Grand Union

grocery burned down in 2002, wrecking the U.S. Postal Service outlet as well, Nelsonville permitted establishment of a temporary post office in its old firehouse, until the USPS supplied a trailer. The old firehouse also has served the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, which assists Cold Spring as well as Nelsonville and Philipstown, Corless said.

Moreover, at no charge, Nelsonville allowed the CSFC to temporarily store a ladder truck in the old firehouse, although the truck primarily would have served Cold Spring, "where they've got 31/2-storey buildings. Nelsonville stepped up and we're not getting our return on our money for doing our part. Nelsonville has been more of a community than Cold Spring realizes," Corless argued. "They keep kicking it back in our face."

The disputed LOSAP and workers' compensation sum "is not a lot of money" but the sticking point "is just the principle that neither one of these issues are our issues" and that Cold Spring officials "forget what we've done in the past," Corless said. "They're just looking to get money from Nelsonville for no good reason."

Trustee Tom Robertson criticized Cold Spring for sending a bill without negotiating any increase. "It was so arbitrary it was offensive," he said.

Merandy told *The Current* Feb. 23 he is "not sure what to say to all the insinuations and accusations other than that they are absurd. We are proportionally passing on the rising costs incurred by the Village of Cold Spring for LOSAP and workers' compensation, to our neighbors, for services provided - nothing more and nothing less.

At the Feb. 21 meeting, Corless left room for maneuvering. "If we can come to a resolution with them, that's fine," he concluded. "But I don't think it's going to happen before we have a new budget and some discussions."

Cold Spring and Nelsonville adopt annual budgets in late spring.

5-member Nelsonville board

In other business, the Nelsonville Village Board agreed to let voters decide in the March 21 village election whether to add two more trustees to the Village Board, which currently consists of the mayor and two trustees. The board approved the text of a ballot proposition, which at Corless' suggestion will not only ask voters if they want a five-member board but inform them that each trustee earns \$2,400 annually, a reminder that board expansion comes with a price tag.

During a public hearing before the board meeting, no residents opposed the referendum or creation of a five-member board.



Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless in the village meeting room File photo by L.S. Armstrong

A \$50,000 Tree Trim

And other notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

old Spring's Tree Advisory Board is pursuing a \$50,000 grant to maintain village-owned trees, an undertaking described by one Village Board member as a matter of public safety.

At their Feb. 21 meeting, trustees authorized the advisory board's application to the Urban and Community Forest Program of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. If the grant is awarded, the village will have to ante up \$12,500 toward the project, an amount that can be reduced by in-kind contributions such as materials, equipment rental, volunteer labor and salaries as well as cash donations.

Citing a report from Advisory Board Chair Jennifer Zwarich, Mayor Dave Merandy indicated that of 233 villageowned trees requiring maintenance, 49 need immediate pruning or removal. "There are a lot of trees that definitely need attention," he said, noting that in 2016 a car was crushed and a resident struck by falling trees and limbs.

Trustees agreed unanimously. Steve Voloto pointed out the work would otherwise cost the village much more than \$12,500.

"I don't see how we cannot do this," commented Deputy Mayor Marie Early. "It's a question of personal safety. We have to find the funds."

After the Tree Advisory Board was



Highway Foreman Chris Hyatt

given the go-ahead to apply for the grant, Merandy said the board would be going into executive session. Asked by The Current if a closed-door session was warranted for a discussion of the village benefit package, the agenda topic listed on the village website, the mayor responded that the listing was incorrect. He said the executive session was to "discuss the employment history of specific employees ... and pending legal action." The law allows executive sessions for those issues.

At the board's Feb. 14 meeting, Merandy addressed comments by Alison Anthoine, who is running against him for mayor, who was quoted in the Putnam County News & Recorder as saving she hoped to "address and come up with a way to man-

age the increasing number of tourists without putting our head in the sand" on issues such as the Fjord Trail. Merandy said he took issue with that characterization. "We're a stakeholder [in the Fjord Trail] and I'm the representative," he said. "I'm at the table. I've been at the meetings." He noted that the immediate problem is the number of hikers and tourists visiting Cold Spring, before the trail has been developed.

Merandy compared the Fjord Trail to the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, which has attracted more visitors than anticipated. "If the Fjord Trail is publicized, it's going to attract more people," he said. "Can we handle more people?"

In other business ...

- A public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 at Village Hall on a proposal to join a Community Choice Aggregation Program, which seeks to offer residents reduced electrical rates.
- Superintendent of Water and Sewer Greg Phillips reported that the cellular water meter project will be substantially complete by March 17. About 240 of the digital meters must still be installed in Cold Spring and Nelsonville. "It's better to do it now when it's free," Phillips advised, noting that after project completion residents who did not participate will be required to pay the installation cost.
- Trustees approved changes to the village code dealing with fees associated

- with installation of meters. A fee of 6 percent per quarter will now be assessed on unpaid water bills.
- The board approved a \$169,166 bid from New Jersey-based National Water Main Cleaning Company for sewer rehabilitation on Fair, Market and Fish streets and Northern Avenue. Phillips said the project's total cost will be about \$288,000. "We budgeted \$296,000, so it appears we should be in good shape."
- Highway Department Foreman Chris Hyatt made his first presentation to the board, outlining the department's work in January. Hyatt was hired last fall and previously had submitted only written reports.
- U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney wrote the board to announce \$455 million in federal grants for dam safety projects, which Merandy described as potentially "a very good thing" for the village, which is planning repairs to its dams. Phillips said the design for repairs to the upper reservoir dam should be complete by mid-April.
- Officer-in-Charge George Kane reported that in January the Cold Spring Police Department responded to 74 calls and issued 42 traffic tickets and 77 parking tickets, including 29 for vehicles parked on village streets at night during snow emergencies. Another 46 tickets were written during snow emergencies through mid-February. Kane urged residents to call 845-747-SNOW any time bad weather is predicted to find out if overnight parking is prohibited.

Current

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*New York Press Association, 2013 - 2015

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sanctuary city

On Feb. 21, a number of Beacon residents attended a meeting of the City Council to ask that legislators designate Beacon as a sanctuary city. As in other locales across the country, Beacon would instruct the police department not to participate in immigration dragnets by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

One resident cited analysis of FBI data by a professor at the University of California at San Diego that showed counties designated as sanctuaries have significantly lower crime rates. In such areas, vulnerable residents appear more likely to turn to police for protection, to report crimes and to serve as witnesses because their immigration status is not in play.

Residents also wanted to make clear to the council how strongly we feel that undocumented individuals and families are neighbors who should not be living in fear, dreading a knock at the door or afraid to go outside. Four religious leaders from congregations in Beacon pointed to biblical reminders that we are all sojourners, as were all those before us.

There was also a reminder that immigrants make significant contributions to the economy. Farmers around the country, including in New York, worry about who will harvest crops. Our Main Street businesses provide employment to immigrants who pay taxes and spend dollars here.

Council members listened carefully to these arguments and will, in the next few weeks, begin the process of deciding on the nature of the safety to be provided to all residents of Beacon and whether to join the growing list of cities who have declared themselves sanctuaries.

Joseph Gilmore and Rachel Thompson,

Beacon

Dutchess update

Having just completed my first year representing Beacon and Fishkill in the Dutchess County Legislature, I wanted to share some of the great work that happened in 2016.



For far too long, the county had been forced to house inmates in other counties' facilities at an excessive cost, which forced officers to travel and also cut off inmates awaiting trial from their lawyers, the courts and their families. We were able to agree on a new facility that will keep inmates in Dutchess County and save more than \$5.3 million annually while expanding alternatives to incarceration that will drive down recidivism.

This fall, I was proud to sponsor a resolution that re-established the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission, which had been defunct for more than five years. The commission provides an integral function in fostering respect and understanding of people of all racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds. The commission has 15 members, including appointees from Fishkill and Beacon.

The capstone of the year was the adoption of the 2017 budget, which reduced both the property tax levy and tax rate, held spending relatively flat, and increased our investment by \$1.7 million in key growth industries such as tourism, economic development, agriculture and arts. It also set aside \$15.25 million for infrastructure improvements in addition to \$100,000 in Community Block Development Grant funding awarded to the City of Beacon for street rehabilitation.

Even with a strong budget, the legislature took its job in reviewing the proposal seriously and offered a few amendments, including increased funding to expand home-delivered meals to seniors, funding to assist and expand operations at a local shelter and an amendment I introduced to allocate an additional \$5,000 to the Human Rights Commission.

While we may not always agree on the issues, it is important that we listen to one another, understand each other and collaborate.

Jerry Landisi, Beacon

Taking it to the Street By Sheila Williams

What's your favorite comfort food?



"Mint chocolate chip ice cream. When I was nine I had my wisdom teeth taken out and ate a ton of it. That or grilled cheese and tomato soup."

~ Brian Kelly, Garrison



"Chocolate. The best is from Switzerland, where my son lives. And Cadbury from The Country Goose."

~ Diane Bauer, Cold Spring



"Pizza. Every memory with pizza is a good one. I grew up in Brooklyn and I remember going to Pino's Pizza a lot."

~ Jonathan Frith, Beacon



Galef to Hold Town Meeting in Garrison

Shares list of new state laws with constituents

andy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the State Assembly, will hold a town meeting at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 4. She recently shared a list with constituents of "new laws you should know about."

Move Over law

Currently drivers are required to slow down and/or move over a lane when approaching law-enforcement vehicles parked on the shoulder. The law has been expanded to require drivers to do the same when approaching a vehicle with flashing blue or green lights operated by volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers involved in a roadside emergency.

Operating a boat while intoxicated

A judge may consider previous driving while intoxicated offenses when sentencing an individual for boating while intoxicated.

Tinted windows and car inspections

Tinted glass will be added to mandatory annual vehicle inspections. Tinting

must be removed if it blocks more than 27 percent of light.

Saving for college

Taxpayers can transfer income-tax refunds directly into a college-savings account such as the New York State 529 program.

Lyme disease

The Department of Health will design a Lyme and tick-borne disease prevention program to promote the safe use of insect repellents, best practices for tick removal and reducing exposure to ticks.

Access to EpiPens

Public venues such as restaurants, youth groups, sports leagues, theme parks, sport arenas, day care facilities and schools are allowed to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) in an emergency to individuals who appear to experience anaphylactic symptoms brought on by an allergic reaction.

Feminine hygiene tax repeal

Feminine hygiene products such as tampons are now exempt from local and state sales taxes.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, March 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Olspan, LLC, 2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, New York. Tax Map # 38.-3-24.1. The Appellant seeks an area variance to maintain an existing structure that is set back 19.1 feet from a side yard lot line, whereas the minimum side yard setback requirement, in the OC Zoning District, as set forth in the Town of Philipstown Zoning Law, is 20 feet.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map and other related materials may be reviewed in the office of the Building Department at Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 2/16/17

Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

The HIGHLANDS CULTICE presents

Candidates Forum for Cold Spring Village Board

Mayor: Alison Anthoine Dave Merandy

Village Board:
Marie Early
Frances Murphy
Margaret Schatzle

Monday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Haldane School Music Room
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
(Election to be held Tuesday, March 21)

All are Invited!

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Town Hall Annex Town of Philipstown Putnam County, New York

The Town of Philipstown is seeking Contractors to register for the Alterations and Addition to the Dahlia House — Town Hall Annex. The open period of time to register is February 24 until March 3, 2017.

A walkthrough will be conducted on March 6, 2017 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the bid specifications and bid documents will be made available.

Sealed bids for *the Dahlia House-Town Hall Annex* will be received by the Town Clerk at the Town Hall at *238 Main Street*, *Cold Spring, New York 10516* until *2 p.m.* local prevailing time on *Wednesday, March 15, 2017* and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Request for Proposals, Bid Form, Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and other contract documents may be examined at the following location: *Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516.*

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Town of Philipstown, hereinafter called the Owner, reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any informality or technicality in any Bid in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

Bidders on the Contracts are required to execute a non-collusion bidding certificate pursuant to Section 103D of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown.

DATED: February 22, 2017

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Why Do Businesses Fail?

Passion doesn't pay the bills

By Jeff Simms

auree Ostrofsky, a life coach and author, is the founder of Hudson Valley Women in Business. In 2013 she published a memoir, I'm scared & doing it anyway, that chronicles an epiphany she had while recovering from a brain tumor. In December she released her latest book, Simply Leap, which addresses how to take the risks necessary to make changes in your life.

The Current asked Ostrofsky about some of the common questions she hears from entrepreneurs

Q: Why do so many small businesses fail?

A: When I see businesses open and close, I see people taking risks. What I like about what I'm seeing in Cold Spring and Beacon is the cycle. There are more entrepreneurs all the time and they're looking for opportunities or ways to solve problems. It makes me feel positive about what's happening in the area.

Also, when we think of Cold Spring and Beacon, we think of storefronts. We forget how many small businesses are service oriented, home-based or traveling. We don't always get a full sense of the businesses in our region by looking at store-



Q: What are some of the most common mistakes entrepreneurs make?

A: What does make a successful business is the idea itself and the clarity of the idea. Most business owners start out of passion for an idea or for serving a specific customer. That propels you a good part of the way but it can't sustain you the whole time.

Then there's the business plan and "how is this going to run?" You have to have the passion "hat" to begin with and then there's the completely different hat, which is the business hat. That is the ability to look at a spreadsheet, the ability to read numbers.

What makes someone more successful is having the passion and having the ability of separating themselves from their business — enough to see if it's viable or to ask what would make it more viable. Also, do you have the right structure in place, including people you can count on and advisors? Who you have in your corner is important.

Q: How can you tell if a smallbusiness owner will be successful?

A: One of the things I listen for is confidence - how you actually talk about the business. When we have something to give and we feel strongly about it, we don't always think about getting paid. There needs to be confidence in talking about the money side of things. You need



Lauree Ostrofsky

File photo by Alison Rooney

to know what your product or service costs and know that it's worth it. It's not just that vou're confident about your idea, it's that there's a worthiness to it, too.

When people are successful they have a strong foundation. They have strong and clear expectations, even energy- and timewise, in addition to financially. Sometimes

it's a surprise how much owning a business takes out of your mental, physical and emotional life.

Q: Can the Highlands sustain a small-business economy?

A: There is no way that my group would have gone from five members in December 2014 to nearly 800 if it couldn't. New people are coming out of the woodwork. I feel like small businesses are seeing the influx of people coming here and they're coming out to serve that.

As far as any closure that you see - I'm not seeing shut doors that stay shut. I'm seeing shut doors and then something else opening that's more interesting. It's people working out the ideas of what's going to serve the changing dynamic of our communities.

Businesses are a visible way that we can see the shift to serve the changing community. Business owners are learning by trial and error. That's what I see when someone's closing. I think, I wonder how

they're going to re-shape this idea. I wonder what their next business is going to be. When I see a closure I think that person isn't done. They're just tweaking this, or they're going on to something else. Once you've got that personality, you're going to do it again.

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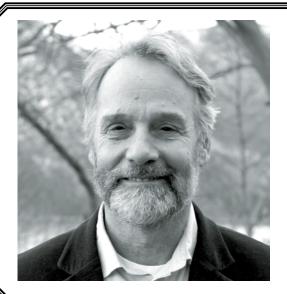
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March 21, Re-Elect Mayor Dave Merandy & Trustee Marie Early

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Why Do Businesses Succeed?

Small-business specialist to present free workshops

By Alison Rooney

artly in response to needs that arose during Community Conversations moderated by the Desmond-Fish Library, an economic development specialist with the Small Business Administration (SBA) will lead six free workshops at local libraries in March and April on planning, running and expanding a small business.

Man-Li Kuo Lin will give presentations at all three Highlands public libraries — the Desmond-Fish in Garrison, Butterfield in Cold Spring and the Howland in Beacon at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in March and the first two Thursdays of April. The topics are:

- Meet and Greet with Local Business Owners and an Introduction to the SBA. March 7 (Garrison)
- How To Start a Business, March 14 (Cold Spring)
- SBA Resources for Small Businesses, March 21 (Beacon)
- Business Plan Writing, March 28 (Garrison)
- Marketing Strategies, April 6 (Cold Spring)
- **Expanding Your Business Through** Government Contracts/Global Exports, April 13 (Beacon)



Man-Li Kuo Lin

Lin, who has an MBA in computer science, developed the workshops and has presented them in New York City for decades. She will bring them to Putnam and Dutchess counties for the first time after a request from Eliza Starbuck, a Philipstown resident who is launching a wine business on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Starbuck says she approached Lin after attending one of her workshops in the city. Desmond-Fish Director Jen McCreery was receptive to hosting Lin because the workshops meshed with feedback from the library's Community Conversations in which residents asked for support for local businesses.

Amy Raff, director of the Howland Public Library, and Gillian Thorpe, director of the Butterfield Library, also came on board. "Many people realize that libraries are constantly looking for ways to save taxpayers money," Thorpe says. "But we are also looking for ways to help people make money or improve their situation in life. I believe it's time that libraries embrace the small-business community."

Lin says, in general, most small-business owners don't do enough preparation. "They think so much about what they want to sell, but don't think enough about their [target] customers," she says. "Marketing and business plans are key. So many people are scared of doing it, and they don't use enough planning time to do sufficient research about the market and how realistic their idea is."

She noted the largest change in running a business has been the internet. "If you don't have a website, you don't have a business," she says.

Because more older people and retirees are launching businesses, either as a second career or for the income. Lin says the SBA works frequently with the AARP. "These people are often successful because they know the community well," she says.

Lin encourages business owners to attend her final session on April 13 when she will discuss government contracts and global opportunities. She notes that by law, 23 percent of government purchases have to be made from small businesses, 5 percent from femaleowned businesses and 5 percent from businesses owned by the socially and economically disadvantaged.



Eliza Starbuck and Eric Wirth at the future site of Flowercup Wine in Cold Spring Photo provided

Preparing for Profits

liza Starbuck and partner Eric Wirth plan to open their shop, Flowercup Wine, on Main Street in Cold Spring this spring to "provide the community with an unusual selection of wines from Europe and New York state, especially wines from small producers who aim to preserve the natural qualities of the grape."

When they first had the idea to start the shop, Starbuck says, she traveled all over the state to attend free Small Business Administration seminars, including one in Brooklyn by Man-Li Kuo Lin.

"The SBA seminars taught me what I needed to look out for and how to administer a business relatively painlessly," Starbuck says. "You have to follow regulations on taxation, bookkeeping, insurance, permits and licensing that can read like a foreign language. Hiring someone to take care of them can be expensive and risky. The more you understand, the better. The prize at the end is your independence and success."

Starbuck says the biggest challenge during the startup was "enduring months of stress as we confronted a stream of obstacles, some unexpected, and spent barrels of money without earning any. At the same time, we had some fun, learned a lot, and grew stronger through the difficulties. I would advise others not to start a business until you have an idea that fills you with enough passion to get you through the rough times.'

The federal government each year spends more than \$500 billion not only for its own operations but for schools, jails and other institutions. "Even artists can get a contract for work on federal buildings," Lin says. "A lot of people have never thought about it or assume it's too complicated, but actually the government tries hard to make it simple."

For global marketing and sales, Lin notes that any business that has a website is involved with international trade. By adding language translation to your site, "you can easily tap into the 96 percent of customers who live outside of the U.S."

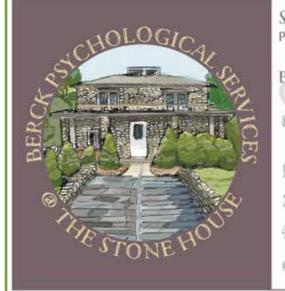
The SBA, created in 1953, is an independent agency that operates through field offices and partnerships. It makes low-interest loans and guarantees bank loans and contracts for small businesses and also provides counseling, technical assistance and training. See sba.gov.





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D.A. Wants Control of FOIL Appeals to His Office

Says it's illegal for county executive to review some requests

By Holly Crocco

utnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy asked county legislators on Feb. 15 to amend a law regarding Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests for information from his office. As written, the law is "inadvertently illegal." he said.

Tendy told lawmakers at the Rules Com-

mittee meeting that current procedure requires a person seeking information from the county to file a FOIL request with the county clerk. If the clerk determines the records are not public, he denies the request, and the person seeking the records must appeal to the county executive. The only exception is information requested from the Sheriff's Department. Those appeals go the sheriff.

While Tendy said almost every county in New York also has a similar exception for the district attorney's office, Putnam does not. The D.A. asked that the law be changed to allow him to consider appeals

for requests for information from his office, rather than the county executive, because most documents related to ongoing investigations cannot be legally viewed by anyone other than his office, the sheriff's office or the court, he said.

"This must be addressed," Tendy said. He said the issue came up after a reporter filed a FOIL request for a contract and report "from a confidentially-retained agency regarding an ongoing criminal investigation." The request was denied but Tendy said he released the information anyway because it was not worth the time and cost to answer any appeal made to the county's Supreme Court.

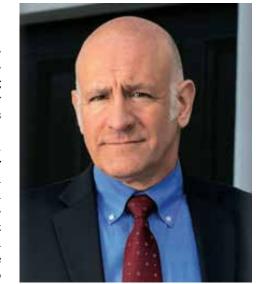
Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said the proposed change made sense.

"You're handling sensitive material and sensitive cases," she said. "Why would you put it out to the public? That would be a liability for the people involved."

But Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) expressed reservations, noting the law had been in effect since 1981. She argued that under state law, the contract - not the details of the criminal investigation - is public information.

Tendy disagreed. "Actually, you're not correct," he said.

This difference of interpretation is why the law should not be changed, LoBue responded. "This needs to be thoroughly vetted," she said. "As far as I know, we've never had an issue with it; the county hasn't been sued with respect to denial of



D.A. Robert Tendy

Photo provided

records through the D.A.'s office."

Tendy again disagreed.

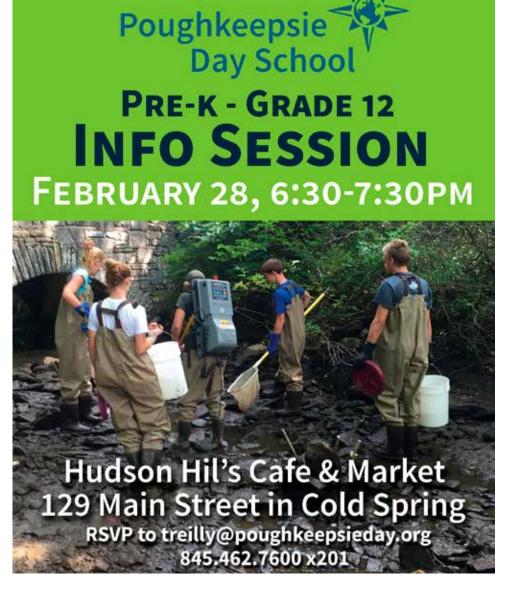
"Every county in the state — in fact in the country - has it this way" as proposed, he said. "To continue with a law that is manifestly illegal, I believe, is foolish. How am I going to give the county executive a sealed indictment?"

There was also a difference of opinion about how a change would be made. According to the law department, if the County Legislature approves the amendment, it would need to go to a public referendum in November because it "curtails" the power of an elected official. Tendy countered that the change could be made by the Legislature because the county executive doesn't have the power in question.





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only way to get the whole album is to

Incidentally, Decora's next show will be Thursday, March 2, at BSP in Kings-

ton. If you can't make it or any other of

his upcoming performances, you can still

get the album with a little work. Decora

come out to a show."

The Calendar

Sharing the Beat

Beacon rapper Decora is all about the hook (up)

By Brian PJ Cronin

ip-hop artist Decora is set to release his second album, *Beyond Belief*, but if you want a copy, you're going to have to get out of your chair.

"We didn't just want to let it go into



Decora's new album, Beyond Belief

the Spotify ether and disappear overnight," explains the artist, who lives in Beacon and works in Newburgh. "The



Decora at his Lincoln Center album release concert on Feb. 16

Photo by Ethan Harrison

will be releasing one song at a time, with each track tied to projects with other

"One of the tracks might be a collaboration with a muralist," explains the artist, who full name is Decora Sandiford. "So the mural would include some or all of the lyrics, and then the day the mural debuts is the day that track will be available online."

He's also working on a release tied to shoes in collaboration with an artist who designs cleats for Antonio Brown of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and another with the tech company Easy Tiger, which specializes in photo editing apps.

The campaign is designed to propel the album above the digital glut. But it's more than marketing. Much like the early days of hip-hop, when rappers spoke of the four interconnected elements of the genre (rhyming, DJing, graffiti and breakdancing), it gives Decora a chance to watch someone else work, such as when he visited Miami this past fall to help a graffiti artist create a mural at Hard Rock Stadium.

"It was cool to remove myself for 10 days and just assist someone else who was working 20 hours a day," he says. "He was working just as *(Continued on Page 11)*

Down the Rabb(b)it Hole with Ron English

Street artist will bring characters to life at Towne Crier

By Brian PJ Cronin

ost artists can recall the moment when they experienced the transformative and redemptive effect that making art can have. For Ron English, it came at knife point.

He had transferred to a new junior high school in Illinois when three bullies pulled a knife on him. He responded by offering to draw them a picture.

"So I drew a picture of the three kids who had pulled a knife on me," he said. "They looked at it and said 'Hey, this is pretty cool.' From then on, they protected me."

English, who lives in Beacon, grew up to become one of the world's most celebrated street artists. His cartoonish creations mash up corporate branding and pop-culture icons with skeletons, mutants and monsters into an instantly recognizable rogues' gallery. His work has been displayed in galleries and clandestinely installed on billboards and building exteriors all over the world.

Now, on Feb. 26 at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon, his characters will appear somewhere they've never been before: on stage. English and his rock band The Rabbbits (yes, with three b's) will be unveiling selections from a rock opera they've written called *Rabbbits in Delusionville*. The band is raising money via GoFundMe to record the project as a double album.

English wrote the music this past summer with two other Beacon residents: producer Joe Johnson, who has worked with everyone from Keith Richards to Daniel Johnston, and singer and photographer Russ Cusick, who owns the Russell Cusick gallery on Main Street.



Ron English and Russ Cusick with some of English's artwork

Photo provided

At first glance, Cusick and English appear to be unlikely collaborators. Cusick creates large-scale, bucolic landscape photos of the Hudson Valley, while English draws bloated and grotesque cereal mascots. But both come from a musical background, and both rented space at Spire Studios in Beacon, which is where they met.

Cusick said he had just watched Exit Through The

Gift Shop, the 2010 Oscar-nominated documentary about street art which features English when "the next day someone's knocking on my studio door and I look up and it's him."

Their first collaboration was the Walk Club, which is exactly what it sounds like: "a bunch of us old guys, out for a walk in the morning, for *(Continued on Page 12)*

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

International Film Series: East Side Sushi (U.S.)

6:30 p.m. Howland Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Dragonfly Story Slam (For Adults)

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

Lounge Dance Night

7 p.m. Elks Lodge 900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon beaconelks1493.com

Partner Yoga

7 p.m. Living Yoga Studios 3182 Route 9, Cold Spring 845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Through a Lens Darkly (Documentary) with Q&A

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church 50 Liberty St., Beacon moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Company

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

Seed Sowing Workshop (Part 1)

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 8454-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Volunteer Outreach Event

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center 8 Long Dock Park, Beacon 845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

Auditions for Anne of Green Gables

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.

Hapa-Zome Prints Workshop

11 a.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Beacon 3D Sale and Fundraiser

Noon – 5 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery 149 Main St., Beacon 917-318-2239 | beacon3d.org

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Calendar Highlights

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

The Met Live in HD: Dvorak's Rusalka

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

Compan

2 & 8 pm. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.

HSF Family Fun Night: Roll Back to the '80s

5 p.m. Hyde Park Roller Magic Albany Post Road, Hyde Park haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Cold Spring Film Society: The Great Dictator (1940)

7 p.m. Old VFW Hall 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring 845-424-4618 | coldspringfilm.org

Blue Oyster Cult

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

Sausagefest 2017

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Barb's Butchery 69 Spring St., Beacon 845-831-8050 | barbsbutchery.com

Tour of Nobody's Fool Film Sites

10 a.m. Lot behind Yankee Clipper, Beacon 845-249-5305 | christopher.cring@gmail.com

Beacon 3D Sale and Fundraiser

Noon – 5 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery See details under Saturday.

Healing the Heart of Democracy

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

Imani Winds Quintet

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

The Rabbbits with Ron English Art Show

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

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Al Di Meola's Elegant Gypsy 40th Anniversary Tour

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, FEB. 27

Auditions for Anne of Green Gables

6 – 9 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.

Beacon City Council Workshop

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

Beacon School Board

7 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon 845-838-6900 | beaconcityk12.org

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Saturday.

Climate Change and Small Farms (Talk)

6:30 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center See details under Saturday.

Garrison & Haldane School Board Joint Meeting

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room) 15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring haldaneschool.org | gufs.org

What is a GMO? (Talk)

7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian 222 Hudson St., Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)

7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance 331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon beaconsurj@gmail.com

Lacrosse Open Gym (grades 6-12)

8 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center 107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Senior Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

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Clay Chanchito Workshop

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Senior Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

9:15 a.m. Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Tuesday.

Baseball Skills and Drills (grades 2-7)

5:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Tuesday.

Lend Me a Tenor

6 p.m. Clove Creek Dinner Theater 18 Westage Business Center Dr., Fishkill 845-202-7778 | clovecreekdinnertheater.com

AWE Writing Club for Tweens and Teens

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

Town Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Town Hall 238 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Piff the Magic Dragon

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Saturday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)

10 a.m. Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Tuesday.

Shabbat Across America

6 p.m. St. Mary's Parish House Routes 9D and 301, Cold Spring philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Bernie Mindich (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery 121 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Group Show: Duality of Feminine and Feminist (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY 66 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Shabbat Across America

6:30 p.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley 362 Church Road, Putnam Valley 845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

Company

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Feb. 24.



Sharing the Beat (from Page 9)

hard and fast as I do but on a mural with spray cans." Collaboration is the most rewarding, he says, when two people who might never work together find they have much in common. "That's why I'm switching to live instruments, to include more people," he says.

Decora, who got his start in 2001 at an open mic at Orange County Community College and later toured and released two albums with the ReadNex Poetry Squad, believes hip-hop will become even more political as artists respond to Trump administration policies. But his own career has been intertwined with progressive projects for years, including urban farming in Newburgh, mentoring teens through hip-hop

workshops and supporting Clearwater (his first album, Bread and Oats, released in 2015, includes a rap, "Where Have All the Flowers

Pete Seeger's classic folk song). As Decora raps on his new album: "I was revolutionary way before I was teething."

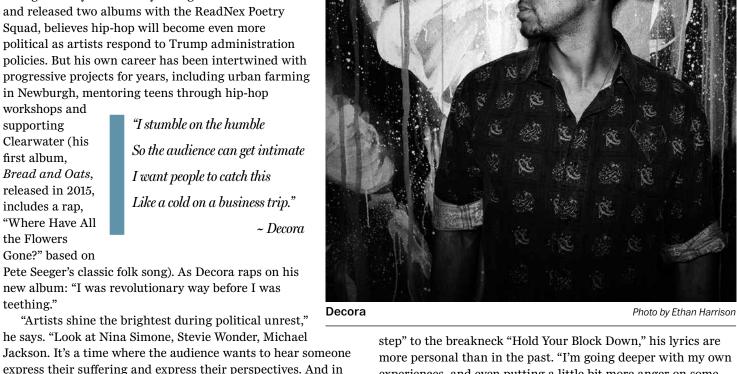
"Artists shine the brightest during political unrest," he says. "Look at Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson. It's a time where the audience wants to hear someone express their suffering and express their perspectives. And in hip hop, where you have people from underserved communities who feel or have been taught by society that they don't necessarily have a voice, it empowers them."

Although Beyond Belief mixes genres, from the '80s boom bap of "White Vans" to the smooth jazz of "Beyond My Door-



more personal than in the past. "I'm going deeper with my own experiences, and even putting a little bit more anger on some tracks," he explains.

Decora introduced the album with a free concert at Lincoln Center on Feb. 16. Five minutes before it began, the space had reached capacity, and by the time Decora grabbed the mic, a line of fans snaked down the street.





Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. brunch/dinner Mon. - Fri. 4 p.m., Closed Tuesday

> Fri., 2/24 7:00 p.m. Rob Daniels - Free

Fri., 2/24 8:30 p.m. Eric Gales Band **Patrick Stanfield Jones**

Sat., 2/25 6:00 p.m. East Coast Jazz - Free

> Sat., 2/25 8:30 p.m. Yarn

Sun., 2/26 7:30 p.m. The Rabbits Band

"Delusionville" Messiahsez

Thurs., 3/2 7:30 p.m. The Big Takeover

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Fri., 3/3 8:30 p.m. Téada from Ireland

Sat., 3/4 6:00 p.m. Tony DePaolo - Free

Sat., 3/4 8:30 p.m. The Prezence Led Zeppelin Tribute

Sun., 3/5 11:30 a.m. East Coast Jazz - Free

> Sun., 3/5 4:00 p.m. Shovel Ready String Band **Breakneck Annie**

Sun., 3/5 7:00 p.m. Whispering Tree - Free



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The LEGO Batman Movie (PG)

FRI 2:00 5:00 8:00, SAT 12:00 3:00 6:00 8:45, SUN 1:00 4:00 7:00 MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 4:00 7:00 WED & THU 7:00

Jackie (R)

FRI 2:30 5:30 8:30, SAT 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30, SUN 1:30 4:30 7:30 MON 7:30, TUE 1:30 4:30 7:30 **WÉD & THU 7:30**

Down the Rabb(b)it Hole with Ron English (from Page 9)

our health," English explained.

It was during a meeting of the Walk Club that Cusick suggested a collaboration with Johnson. English pitched forming what he called a "franchise band." Much like McDonald's operates in different locations with the same menu, English and his collaborators would write songs and franchise them out to regional bands with the same name all over the country who would draw from



One of the inhabitants of Delusionville, by Ron English

the same pool of songs.

"That was my big spiel," said English. "I delivered it to Joe, who said 'That's terrible. What else have you got?' He noticed a notebook of lyrics that I had and asked what they were. I explained that I write these songs that tell the stories of all my characters, the stories of how they try to start a revolution in their world. And Joe said, 'Well, these are good, let's do some of these.' "

The men spent the summer writing at breakneck speed. "We went into the studio early in the morning and didn't take drugs," he said. "When you do things during the day, you're a lot more professional. And in that weird period we got six to eight songs that are absolute fucking hits. They're world-class, hookyass songs. The other ones are good, too."

The trio has enlisted a cast of characters to join them onstage from singer Michelle Shocked to local bands such as The Package and Ate Bit, and the singing sisters Rhiannon and Rowan Parsaca.

English describes the rock opera as "Aesop's Fables on acid," in which alien rabbits create a psychedelic underworld that's soon populated with species of animals that devise systems to exploit each other, from "fact factories" to magical eggs that grant anyone who eats them the power to believe their own lies.

If the story seems especially relevant to the current political situation, that's not by accident. The songs were written

before the election, but English says he knew that Trump would win.

"My special insight came from Facebook putting me in touch with all my old friends from the Midwest," he said.

Rabbbits in Delusionville grew out of English's frustration in trying to convince his friends to not vote for Trump. "They'd get hostile," he said. "They're entrenched. The more you tell them that this guy is an idiot, the more they feel like you're calling them idiots, and then they like him more, and then A vision of Delusionville, by Ron English they have to defend him, and there's nothing you can do.

"There's no way we can talk about political or religious ideas without hating each other," he continued. "So I thought, what if we had a story about these other beings who had a religion, but it's not your religion, and they have politics, but it's not your politics? There's not a direct correlation, you don't think that anyone is specifically representing you. Then, hopefully, we can talk about these things."

Don't expect a happy ending. As with all of his art, English approached the story's structure in an unconventional way.



"There's only like eight different stories in the world," he said. "So we were wondering, what would a ninth story look like? We decided the ninth story is the one that's anti-climactic. It's sort of based on a lot of the old fables, but the old fables don't play out like this."

The performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will be preceded at 6:30 p.m. by an exhibit of English's Delusionville artwork. Tickets for the concert are \$15 at townecrier.com or at the door.



COMPANY

The Stephen Sondheim/George Furth Musical Directed by Maia Guest

February 24 - March 12

Dialogues with Drama Play Reading The Good Person of Szechwan by Bertolt Brecht

March 15, 7:30 p.m.

Depot Folk

March 25 ~ Beppe Gambetta **April 8 ~ The Mammals** 4 p.m. Workshop / 7 p.m. Concert

Depot Docs

Best of Enemies

March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Followed by Q & A and reception

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)



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Sara's Secret Love

Garrison resident lives double life as romance novelist

By Alison Rooney

eet Sara, who lets her imagination run wild, conjuring up resilient heroines who navigate a world of emotional landmines laced with simmering attraction.

There's also another Sara, a Vassar College graduate and mother of two who, until recently, limited her creative output to fleeting moments during nap time.

Both Saras live in Garrison. In fact, they live together, in the same home and body: Sara Tormey, the mom, and Sara Jane Stone, the steamy romance novelist.

Sara's latest book, released last fall by Avon Impulse, is Mixing Temptation, part of its Second Shot series. Her earlier works include Serving Trouble, Stirring Attraction, To Seduce a SEAL, Full Exposure, Caught in the Act, Hero by Night, Wild with You. She also wrote three novels for Harlequin, including Search and Seduce.

Her double life began when, working in the marketing department of a publisher on the advance mailing of a romance novel to booksellers, Tormey took a copy home. She found herself engrossed and began borrowing more books from the office.

Despite having no background in creative writing — she studied theater in



college and worked in sound design before shifting to publishing — she attempted to write one herself.

"It was much harder than I thought to start," the Florida native recalls. "When I signed with my agent, she told me, 'This will never sell, but you can write.' The characters were there but I hadn't yet figured out the structure. I needed to find those moments that readers expect," such as "that dark moment when it feels that all is lost."

Tormey says she "loves the challenge of how to put the book together. What's the

editor looking for? What does the agent want? What does the marketplace demand?" She was able to answer those questions after her children were born and she left her publishing job, giving herself a year to learn to write.

Using texts such as a book on screenwriting called *Save the Cat*, she worked assiduously on plot and structure. "It's about figuring out what publishers are looking for, which is often based on tropes, like 'We want a best friend's little sister story.' I love the focus on what the readers want."

Many of Tormey's books have a military theme, though she has no background in the service. Instead, she is drawn to creating "strong-willed heroes and heroines who have some history to them, someone who's willing to put service and duty above anyone else."

Sometimes she addresses contemporary issues. In one book, her heroine suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. "It's tough to be a young woman in a climate that doesn't acknowledge how women have been serving," Tormey explains. "They come back and are in



Sara Tormey, a/k/a Sara Jane Stone Photo by A. Rooney

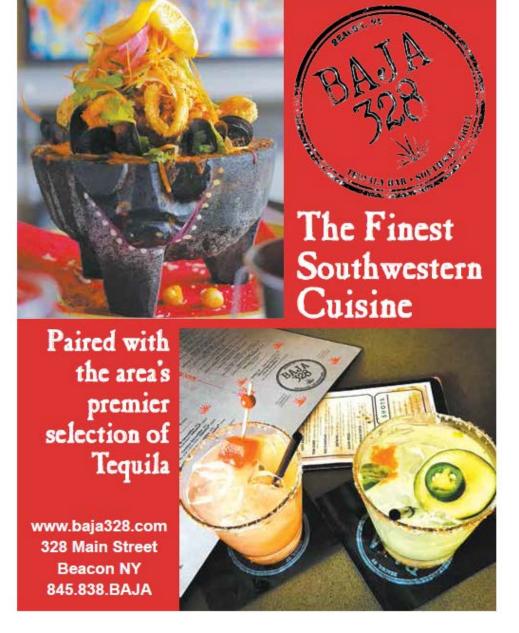
their early 20s trying to process all of it. It's hard for everyone, but for women in particular."

Another novel features "an AWOL marine who has been assaulted by her commanding officer and is hiding out, dealing with the issue that leaving the military is a bigger offense than 'being the rapist' — an intense situation."

Some of the (Continued on Page 14)







Pink Olive Arrives (from Page 1)

Kang is aware of the challenges of the winter months for Main Street merchants. "I'm going in knowing that," she says. "But, our city stores, especially Brooklyn, slow down in the summer, so I'm hoping the peaks and valleys will naturally alternate between the two."

While Pink Olive has an online store at pinkolive.com, Kang says her focus remains on brick and mortar. "It's easy to enter the online world, but harder to sus-



Jewelry is part of the mix at Pink Olive.

tain it," she says. "A lot of our customers are very tactile. They want to come in and take a look, reaffirming their purchasing decisions."

With five stores, Kang admits to being stretched thin. "In the beginning, I kept everything in my head, and you do need to get things onto paper and create processes," she says. "The second store pushed me to learn the ropes of relying on other people. The biggest lesson is allow-

ing your staff to make mistakes when you could have jumped in. If you don't, they wind up not trusting their own ability."

Kang insists there won't be a sixth Pink Olive. (Cold Spring in 2014 banned retail businesses that have 10 or more locations.) It's hard to imagine now, anyway, as she readies her latest for its opening.

"We'll be transforming the back into a garden,



Paper goods will "lead the way" at Pink Olive's Cold Spring outpost. Photos by Kevin Almeida

adding displays in the side window area, taking the awning down in front to allow more to be seen from the large windows a key factor — making it ours," she says.
 "We want it to be a calm place, whisking people away."

Sara's Secret Love

(from Page 13)

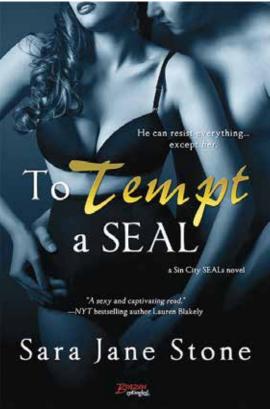
parameters are honed by readers, she says. "The one constant is that the lead character be likeable," she says. "There are certain things you don't want your character to do. I don't use cheating; my readers wouldn't get past that. Also, I emphasize consent; that's important to me."

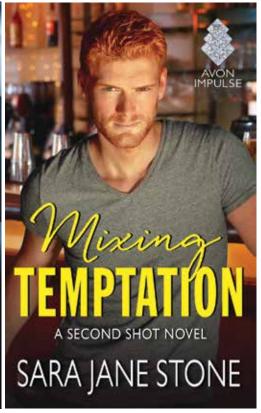
Tormey says she enjoys being a part of the community of romance writers. She sees them and her readers at conferences held across the country devoted to the genre. Romance readers have strong opinions, some of which are expressed on Amazon (all of the Sara Jane Stone books have four-star or better ratings there). One reader wrote of *Stirring Attraction*: "The minute this brooding alpha walked onto the page I was completely captivated."

The author says she hasn't worked out how to explain the adult nature of the stories to her children when they are old enough to start asking. "Still working on that one," she admits. "They know I write books and are fascinated by the pen name. They definitely know when I have deadlines."

Tormey and her husband, Brian, who works in title insurance, moved to Garrison from Brooklyn 18 months ago. Although she hasn't set any of her novels in the Hudson Valley (her latest takes place in New York City), she sees the possibilities. "There's West Point, of course, and there's charm here, and a sense of community, and I see a great deal of unique 'side' characters," she says.

For now, Garrison will have to compete with the wilds of Oregon, where her husband grew up, as a setting. "Lumberjacks, helicopter logging, timber country," Tormey explains. "All that good stuff!"





Never trust a man's smile.

The full moon shone down on the small clearing between the fir trees like a spotlight. Positioned high in the Oregon night sky, the beam of light narrowed in on the tall, broad-shouldered man with curly red hair. He wore faded blue jeans, a button-down green flannel, which hung open to reveal a white T-shirt, and a smile.

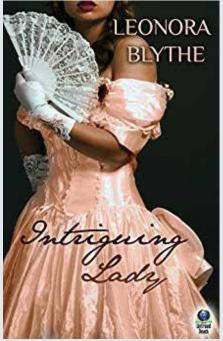
Run

Caroline Andrews glanced at the tattered black sleeping bag resting on the forest floor. Her backpack sat next to it. But her gun was safely tucked into the waistband of her black cargo pants.

"Evening, ma'am." The greeting slipped through his smiling lips as he raised his right hand. She reached for her weapon. But before her fingertips touched the barrel, the man's fingers brushed his red curls. Caroline slowed her movements. Still, she kept her hand close to her gun, ready to pull it free from her pants if he gave her cause.

Look at that smile ... You can't trust him.

~from *Mixing Temptation*, by Sara Jane Stone



Tormey isn't the only Philipstown author to make a name for herself in the genre. Leonora Burton, owner of The Country Goose, has written 11 romance novels since 1978, including her latest, *Intriguing Lady* (2014).



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Beacon Theater to Reopen (from Page 1)

have to focus on is making the guest's experience as great as we can from the minute they walk into the theater. We're trying to provide an elevated movie experience."

McAlpine bought the theater in 2015 from 4th Wall Productions and received Planning Board approval last year for its redevelopment. The plans went through several iterations before the group settled on bringing movies back to Main, he said.

"It was always important to me that there was a public-space feature to it," he

"The trend is moving away from cineplexes and you see more of these indie theaters popping up everywhere. I couldn't think of a better place for something like that."

said. "The one thing I thought was missing here was a movie theater. The trend is moving away from cineplexes and you see more of these indie theaters popping up everywhere. I couldn't think of a better

place for something like that."

The site originally housed an opera house built in 1886 that was torn down and replaced in 1934 with a 1,200 seat venue, according to the Beacon Historical Society. The city has had other movie houses: the Roosevelt Theater, once at 288 Main St., had 1,000 seats, and Family Cinema was located at Route 52 and



The Beacon Theater, renamed Story Screen, is expected to reopen in 2017.

Photo by J. Simms

Main Street. An establishment called the Apollo Theater is believed to have been in Beacon, as well.

The Beacon theater at 445 Main St. closed in 1968 and was shuttered to the public for more than 40 years until 4th Wall bought the building in 2010 with plans to create an 800-seat performance

space. But the group fell behind on its mortgage payments and faced foreclosure before Highview stepped in.

A community group called Save the Beacon Theater was formed after McAlpine bought the building and lobbied Highview Development to restore the theater as a centerpiece for Beacon's creative

McAlpine and Schuler said this week that they believe Story Screen will bring the building full circle. "It draws on the ethereal energy of what the space was intended for," Schuler said.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Madison Chiera, Camilla McDaniel and Fionnoula O'Reilly

Free Throw Champs Advance

Sharpshooters move on to regionals

 \mathbf{T} he Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 in Cold Spring sent seven

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boys and girls to the District 54 Free Throw Competition on Feb. 17 in Hopewell Junction: three advanced to the regionals, to be held March 11 in Poughkeepsie.

Camilla McDaniel of Cold Spring shot 13-for-30 and won a tie-breaker in the 10-year-old girls' bracket. Fionnoula O'Reilly of Garrison took the 12-year-old girls' bracket by shooting 19-for-25 and Madison Chiera of Cold Spring shot 17-for-25 in the 13-year-old girls' bracket and won two tie-breakers (shooting 5 for 5 in the second) to advance.

Photography Exhibit Opens

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will open a solo photography show of works by Bernard Mindich on Friday,



A photograph by Bernard Mindich that will be on display at the Buster Levi

Gallery Image provided

March 3 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Mindich, from Goldens Bridge, has been exhibiting since the 1980s. The show will be on view until April 2 and the gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. on weekends. See busterlevigallery.com.

Shabbat Across America

Local synagogues to celebrate

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will host a traditional Shabbat dinner with services led by Rabbi Helaine Ettinger as part of the Shabbat Across America celebration on Friday, March 3, at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Cold Spring. The suggested donation is \$20 per person at the door. RSVP to Cathy at 914-450-4188 or cathye95@aol.com. Nonperishable food items will be collected for the Philipstown Food Pantry.

In Putnam Valley, Rabbi Steve Altarescu and Rabbi Laurie Levy of the Reform Temple of Putnam Valley will host a Shabbat service and meal at 6:30 p.m. on March 3. The Reform Temple is located at 362 Church Road in Putnam Valley. For more information and to reserve a space, contact Temple President Roni Rodman at ronrod3@aol.com or call 845-528-4774.

Volunteers Needed for Fitness Study

Will involve two to three workouts per week

The All-Sport Health and Fitness Club in Fishkill needs 50 volunteers to participate in a three-week study of fitness and weight loss. The survey will include two to three supervised, 60-minute workouts per week and a fitness profile at the beginning and end of the study. Volunteers must not be current All-Sport members or exercising regularly. The study begins March 1. For information, visit allsporthealthand-fitness.com or call 845-896-5678.

Songs for Louie

Group to host fundraiser for local teen

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division No. 18 will host a fundraiser at the Quiet Man Public House in Peekskill on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., to raise money for therapeutic and medical expenses for Louie Weber of Cold Spring during his treatment at the WinGate Wilderness Therapy Program in southern Utah. The event will be an evening of music performed by local singers, with a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Weber has been at WinGate for three weeks of its 12-week program. The program addresses behavioral and substance-abuse issues.

The Quiet Man is located at 15 N. Division St. For information, email Noreen Hegarty at norluehw@gmail.com.

Beacon

Improve Your Driving

The Beacon Recreation Center will host a defensive driving class on Monday, March 6, from 6 to 9 p.m., with a mandatory second session scheduled for March 8 at the same time. Attendees can reduce points on their driving record and receive insurance discounts of up to 10 percent for three years. The fee is \$35, and registration is required. Call Jillian Bono-Kelly at 914-329-8226.

Innovative Quintet at Howland

A Grammy-nominated wind quintet, Imani Winds, takes the stage at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, March 5, at 4 p.m., for a concert presented by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. This will be the first performance in a series.

The quintet will perform *Red Clay* and *Mississippi Delta* by Valerie Coleman, *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov



The United Way of Westchester and Putnam donated 45 reading kits collected during its United2Read book drive to Putnam Family and Community Services for its newly remodeled children's therapeutic playroom. Shown are Jane Amsden of PFCS; Alana Sweeny of the United Way and Diane Russo of PFCS.

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The Imani Winds quintet

Photo provided

in an arrangement by Jonathan Russell, *Contabajissimo* by Astor Piazzolla, *Quintette en Forme de Choros* by Heitor Villa-Lobos, *Kites* by Paquito D'Rivera, and two traditional Klezmer Dances arranged by Gene Kavaldo. Tickets are available at howlandmusic.org.

Support Groups

brary.org.

For a full list of area support groups, visit:

National Pig Day. Debbie Lane will guide

participants as they create Chilean three-

legged clay pigs that are said to bring

good luck. The free class is for adults; ma-

terials are included. Register at beaconli-

highlandscurrent.com/sg

National Pig Day

The Howland Public Library is hosting a two-hour clay Chancito workshop on Wednesday, March 1, at 1 p.m. to mark



Chilean three-legged clay pigs

MOA/Vancouver



Justin Riccobono will be talking about hops at the Beacon Sloop Club. Photo provided

Hop Farming for the Future

Justin Riccobono has a mission: to return New York to its former status as a leading producer of hops. He heads up Hudson Valley Hops, a consulting, design and farm management company. On Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m., Riccobono will give a talk at the Beacon Sloop Club on the history of hops in the Hudson Valley. See beaconsloopclub.org. The club is located at 2 Red Flynn Drive.

NY Alert

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Beacon Train Station at Night, a photograph by Dakin Roy, an instructional media coordinator at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, was selected to be part of an exhibition at the Vermont Center of Photography that opens March 3. The show features 40 photos culled by a curator from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston from more than 800 submissions.



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Bits of Beacon History

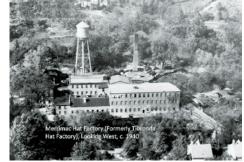
By Robert Murphy

A Good Rest

The Riverview Sanitarium opened in 1870 on Ferry Street (the building and street are both long gone). Over the years it was owned by a succession of psychiatrists. One of them, Dr. William Scollay Whitwell (1846-1903), would treat the establishment's most famous patient.

In April 1902, Whitwell, a graduate of Harvard Medical School who had a practice in New York City, began treating Frances Hodgson Burnett, whose children's books (Little Lord Fauntleroy, The Secret Garden and many more) were bestsellers in the U.S. and England.

Burnett, who came to New York to escape a failed second marriage, suffered



The Tioronda Hat Factory, circa 1940

from severe headaches and crippling muscle pain. Whitwell sent her to Riverview to treat her "neuritis" with rest.

Beacon's mountain and river scenery restored the author's health and creativity. The New York Times on April 24, 1902, described her remarkable recovery: "The authoress selects a spot near the sanitar-

> ium, where she delights to write. She has renewed her work on the book and play she started before leaving England."

> That play was likely A Little Princess, which opened in England in December 1902 and was published as a book in 1905.

The Hat Factory

One of Beacon's oldest hat factories was destroyed on Jan. 31 by an early morning fire. The building dated to 1879, when Lewis Tompkins, the man most responsible for Beacon becoming the hatmanufacturing capital of the state, built the Tioronda Hat Factory on South Avenue as an expansion of his Dutchess Hat Works on Lower Main Street.

The factory on South produced hats until 1948 (it was known then as the



Cleaning up after a Jan. 31 blaze that destroyed much of the old Tioranda Hat Factory

Merrimac Hat Company), after which the Atlas Fibers Company converted it for textile reprocessing. The property sat idle for decades, but a developer now plans to put condominiums on the site.

> How did one of the most celebrated female American artists of the late 19th century - Ella Ferris Pell - end up in a pauper's grave at Fishkill Rural Cemetery?

A famous Beacon painter

How did one of the most celebrated female American artists of the late 19th century — Ella Ferris Pell — end up in a pauper's grave at Fishkill Rural Cemetery?

Pell (1846-1922) was an accomplished painter, sculptor and illustrator. She spent most of her last years in Beacon, seem-



A self-portrait of Ella Ferris Pell

ingly well off, living in her home on South Avenue and painting local scenes. When she died, she lived alone in a rented room in a house on Ferry Street. She was buried in an unmarked grave beside her sister.

It's not clear what happened to her wealth and prestige. She graduated from

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mushrooms, olive oil, pickles, sauces, kombucha tea. ciders, wines, & wool.

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Bits of Beacon History (from previous page)



Salome (1890), by Ella Ferris Pell

the Design School for Women of Cooper Union in New York in 1870 and studied art in Paris. Her 1890 painting Salome drew attention to her talent. She also did the illustrations for the bestselling $Through\ the\ Invisible$ by Paul Tynan (1897). Many of her paintings are owned by the Museum of Fort Ticonderoga. If you ever come across a painting for sale signed "E.F. Pell," grab it — it is by a local master.



Kamp Upanuff on Mount Beacon

Howard's Path

One of the best hiking trails on Mount Beacon is unmarked and little used. It is Howard's Path, named after the cabin owner who created it in the early 1900s. It traverses the west face of the mountain, starting near the radio-aerial towers to the left of the railway powerhouse ruins and continuing to the reservoir.

Along the trail you will see the ruins of cottages once accessed by Howard's Path. In the heyday of the Mount Beacon Incline — from the early 1890s through the 1920s — the cottage colony on Mount Beacon was a bustling, seasonal community of about 20 families. The Incline Railway made cottage life on the mountain possible, delivering by trolley car everything from the lumber to build the cabins to the summer guests themselves.

Some owners gave their cabins whimsical names such as San Souci (owned by a U.S. senator from New Jersey) or Kamp Upanuff and Up-Hi-Er, (owned by mother and daughter Welton). Today only a single cottage remains, and it has been vandalized. However, hikers still can walk Howard's Path and see the ruins of a half dozen

cottages, with their quaint rockeries coming into seasonal bloom amongst the mountain laurel.

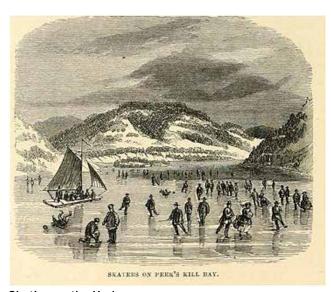
The icv Hudson

In January a century ago the Hudson River usually was frozen solid, open only to iceboats, sleighs and skaters. One winter's tale, recorded in the *Fishkill Standard* on Jan. 19, 1884, likely will never be repeated in our lifetimes:

"Robert Henry of this village [Beacon] left Peekskill on Friday morning at 7 o'clock and skated to Albany, arriving there at 5:12 p.m. the same day; the time 10 hours and 12 minutes. The wind was favoring. The distance is set down in the guidebooks as 101 miles.

"On Sunday, he left Albany at 6 a.m. and skated to this village, arriving at the Fishkill Landing [Beacon] dock at 4:20 p.m., just 10 hours and 20 minutes. Three times he was obliged to take off his skates and pass around ferry tracks. The wind was against him, and at Poughkeepsie he met a snow squall. The distance, as laid down on the railroad table, is 84 miles, and the entire distance skated both days is 185 miles.

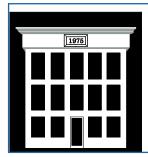
"Mr. Henry did not do this feat on a wager or to make a record, but simply to see if he could actually skate the distance mentioned."



Skating on the Hudson

Robert Murphy has been president of the Beacon Historical Society since 1998. These items were excerpted from his blog at beaconhistorical.org.

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Sports

Spring training begins, and life goes on

This could be the start of something big

By Jeff Simms

n early 1988, as I toiled in the eighth grade in faraway North Carolina, my grandfather, a retired gas station mechanic from Baltimore, traveled to Florida to watch his beloved Orioles in spring training.

The 1980s were funny for the Orioles. After running neck and neck with the Yankees and Red Sox throughout the '70s, the O's entered the MTV decade in much the same fashion, narrowly missing the World Series in 1982 before capturing the crown — the club's third overall — a year later.

By 1988, however, the team that my 69-year-old grandfather followed south bore little resemblance to the powerhouse Baltimore squads of just a few years earlier. My all-time favorite player, first baseman Eddie Murray, and shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. remained as the core of the team, but the supporting cast — solid but unspectacular role players like Rich Dauer, John Lowenstein and Rick Dempsey — had been replaced or moved on.

It was those hard-nosed guys, as well as manager Earl Weaver, who embodied the "Oriole Way" and made the late 1970s and early '80s a magical time in gritty, urban Baltimore. We would field a couple of decent teams by the mid-1990s, but soon after the club began a streak of 14 consecutive losing seasons that fans endured until 2010, when Buck Showalter took over as manager.

This week, like my grandfather 29 years ago, I will make the journey to the Sunshine State, where this time of year hope springs eternal.

The trip can't come soon enough, as I'm eager to escape the Northeast and feel

the sun's healing rays again. Even with milder than normal weather this year and last, I'm still aching for something to jolt me from my annual wintertime blues.

But this particular trip isn't all about baseball. Far from it. This month my wife celebrates her five-year cancer-free anniversary and that, beyond anything else, is the real reason we're spending a few bucks we don't have on a vacation.

While my wife's health today is good, the experience of the last five years has been, for me, a sobering reminder that life is both precious and fragile. I remind myself often, but probably not often enough, to live each

day as fully as I can. Anything else would be a disservice.

As for the Orioles, they've played well under Showalter but still haven't been back to the World Series since 1983. But for me, a slightly displaced fan who loves the Northeast but fondly remembers summers in Baltimore spent with my grandfather, what holds true in baseball does in life as well.

The season is long, so it's wise to keep perspective. A losing streak in May will likely be forgotten by August. Errors, too, will happen, even in bunches, but the game is forgiving. Even the best fielders—the Cal Ripkens and Derek Jeters—boot a ground ball every once in a while.

As we board a plane on Feb. 23, one day shy of the five-year anniversary, hope does spring eternal for me. Most prognosticators give the Orioles little chance for success this season. Our pitching is weak — especially now with our top starter out with an injury — and our offense too one-dimensional.

Yet I can't shake the feeling that somehow life and baseball are linked. The rollercoaster ride of the 162-game season is so lifelike that, as fans, we invest of ourselves in a contest played by athletes we'll never really know. We bring these teams and players into our hearts, and follow them religiously for years, maybe even a lifetime, enduring their highs and lows as if they were our own.

In that same way, there will always be a part of me that feels like the Orioles somehow truly understand me, just as they understood my grandfather many years earlier.

This year is hugely important for my family and me. Call it a hunch, but maybe this could be a special year for the Orioles, too.



Edmund Fitzgerald (33), a 2015 Haldane grad, had 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting and 11 rebounds in a 74-69 overtime victory by Division III Castleton University in Vermont over Maine Maritime on Feb. 10. The 6-8 sophomore is averaging 9 points and 7 rebounds per game.

Castleton photo

Castleton photo

Castleton photo

Girls' Hoops Teams Still Alive in Tournament

Haldane and Beacon boys eliminated early

s of press time, the Haldane and Beacon girls' basketball teams are still alive in the state tournament while the boys' basketball and hockey teams fell in the early rounds.

Beacon boys

Seeded No. 18 among Class A teams in Section 1, the Bulldogs upset No. 15 Nyack, 60-57, in their first tournament game on Feb. 16. Beacon got contributions from a number of players, including Brandon Evans (16 points), Zamere McKenzie (13), Alex Benson (11), Andre Davis (10) and Jemond Galloway (10).

Their next opponent, No. 2 Tappan Zee on Feb. 18, proved a tougher match-up, defeating the Bulldogs, 65-44. Benson led Beacon scorers with 16 points.

After forfeiting their first seven wins due to an ineligible player, the Bulldogs finished 8-14. "This season was certainly challenging, far beyond anything we ever expected," said Coach Scott Timpano. "Enough can't be said about how well our players responded and carried themselves."

Haldane boys

Haldane, seeded No. 5 among Section 1 Class C teams, lost on Feb. 22 at No. 4 Hamilton

(11-9) in overtime, 70-61, to finish 7-14. The Blue Devils trailed 22-7 after the first quarter and 39-19 at the half but roared back to trail by only a point to start the fourth.

Beacon girls

The Bulldogs, seeded No. 15 among Class A teams in Section 1, easily dispatched No. 19 Sleepy Hollow, 75-31, behind 30 points and 17 rebounds from Lauren Schetter and 18 points off the bench by Enita Rodriguez.

The team traveled to No. 3 Hendrick Hudson on Feb. 18, where they pulled off an upset, 44-42, behind 11 points and 10 rebounds from Schetter, 10 points from Raiven Encarnacion (who converted a four-point play with less than a minute left), 9 points from Anita Rodriguez and 7 points and 15 rebounds from Gabby DeMaria.

The girls next played in the quarterfinals on Feb. 23 against No. 6 Tappan Zee, who they defeated earlier this season, 45-40.

Haldane girls

Haldane (15-5), seeded No. 1 among Section 1 Class C teams, received a bye in the opening round and will play No. 4 Pawling at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the Westchester County Center. The Blue Devils defeated Pawling twice, by scores of 64-28 and 48-26, earlier in the season.

Hockey

The Haldane/Henry Hudson hockey team fell on Feb. 20 in the first round to Rye, 7-0, to finish 6-14-1 on the season.



A young Jeff Simms pitches to his grandfather, circa 1980.