



Softball Sisters  
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# The HIGHLANDS Current

JUNE 23, 2017

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## New Beacon School Chief on His Way

*A Q&A with the 10th superintendent in as many years*

By Jeff Simms

Matthew Landahl, hired in January as superintendent of the Beacon City School District, will assume the job on July 1. He succeeds Ann Marie Quartironi, who has been acting as interim superintendent since the contentious resignation of Barbara Walkley in January 2016. Quartironi will return to her job as the district's finance chief.



Matthew Landahl  
File photo by J. Simms

He next moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was an elementary school principal while pursuing advanced degrees in education administration at the University of Virginia. Landahl and his family moved to Ithaca in 2013 when he was hired as the district's chief elementary schools officer. In 2014 he became its chief academic officer.

Following Walkley's resignation, the Beacon school board hired a search firm, which created focus groups to compile a "leadership profile" of what the district and community were looking for. Landahl beat out nearly 50 other applicants. He spoke with *The Current* a few days before he was set to move to Beacon. His comments have been edited for brevity.

### What have you been up to since January?

I have been to Beacon several times for school visits and to spend time with principals and staff members. I've also been there to participate in some of the administrative hires, (Continued on Page 6)

Most recently a deputy superintendent for the Ithaca City School District, Landahl will become the district's 10th superintendent, including interims, in as many years. He will earn \$190,000 annually.

Landahl, whose mother was an elementary school teacher in Chicago, earned a history degree from Grinnell College before teaching fourth and fifth grade in Baltimore as part of Teach for America.



The Clearwater Festival on June 17 and 18 showcased many roving jugglers, including Allison McDermott. For more festival photos, see Page 15. Photo by Ross Corsair

## Cell Tower Proposed Off Route 9

*Neighbors express concern*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A proposal to construct a 180-foot cell phone tower on a hillside on Route 9 near Route 301 drew concerned neighbors to a Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals on June 12 and led the board to schedule a balloon test for June 23 to gauge the visual effect of a tower on the landscape.

Weather permitting, the four-hour test was scheduled for 8 a.m. at 2700 Route 9, located behind the Magazzino art space. Under Philipstown's zoning code, cell towers require a permit from the ZBA.

Chairman Robert Dee noted such reviews take months.

Homeland Towers, the firm that brought the proposal to the ZBA, in 2014 proposed a tower for a site about a third of a mile away at the Philipstown recycling center on Lane Gate Road. After (Continued on Page 2)



Catherine Parr, valedictorian of the Haldane Class of 2017, received a congratulatory hand slap as the seniors made their traditional march through the elementary school on June 16. (Photo by Maggie Benmour) The next day, Teresa Figueiras greeted a well-wisher at the Haldane graduation. (Photo by Anita Peltonen) For lists of local grads, see Pages 10 and 11.

## Sewer Dispute Leads to Lawsuit

*Residents want villages to take over pipe*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The village that largely lacks sewers is being sued because of one.

The Village of Nelsonville is fighting a lawsuit brought by six residents who demand that it and Cold Spring take over a sewer line installed under Pearl Street decades ago. Exactly how many decades ago is at issue. So is whether there are one or two lines.

The residents sued Nelsonville and Cold Spring in October in Putnam County Supreme Court, asking a judge to force the villages

to own and maintain the line. They also want local agencies to change any references to the pipe from "private" to "public."

The villages have both asked the court to dismiss the case, which Nelsonville calls "frivolous."

Although Cold Spring has a sewer system, including a treatment plant large enough to serve its neighbor, most Nelsonville residents rely on private septic systems. The Pearl Street line is an exception: Six inches wide, it runs down Pearl, turns onto Pine and connects to the Cold Spring sewer system at Parsonage just inside the village line.

Not all Pearl Street residents are parties to the suit. The six who are — Gary and Pamela Gunther, Eileen and William Kearns, and Stephen Van Der Merwe and Carla Goldberg Van Der Merwe — allege that:

- The sewer line runs beneath a street that Nelsonville (Continued on Page 2)



## Cell Tower Proposed Off Route 9 *(from Page 1)*

neighbors and others objected, the Town Board took no action. (The voluminous attachments to the ZBA agenda included a January 2015 letter from Vincent Xavier of Homeland Towers to Supervisor Richard Shea: "We will take the lack of response from you as being one of non-interest.")

Robert Gaudioso, an attorney for the new project, said the tower would primarily be for Verizon but could serve three additional wireless companies, as well as Putnam County emergency services and other first responders.

Based on photos submitted by Homeland Towers, the top of the tower would project above the tree line on the slope above Vineyard Road. That prompted ZBA Member Vincent Cestone to say he'd like to see plan for "visual abatement" and hear whether other technologies besides a tower could eliminate dead spots.

Dee sounded skeptical of the need. "How can you prove to me there's a lack of coverage?" he asked, noting there is another tower within half a mile.

Gaudioso said planners did not rely on consumer complaints about dead spots but instead use a standard industry calculation to determine the number of towers needed in a given area.

In May, Xavier of Homeland Towers said in a letter to the ZBA that two towers in the vicinity carry Verizon but, because of the terrain, cannot provide wider coverage.

Dee noted that the lengthy application submitted by Homeland Towers appeared

### Philipstown Area Towers

North Highlands: 3315 Albany Post Road  
Cold Spring: Grey Rock Road  
Cold Spring: Fahnestock  
Travis Corners: 1924 Route 9  
West Point: Goethals Trail  
West Point: 700 Mills Road  
Cold Spring: Vineyard Road (proposed)  
Nelsonville: 15 Rockledge Road (proposed)

place the tower much farther from a neighboring home than it would actually be. The tower representatives agreed to consult town engineer Ron Gainer.

The wooded site, once part of the Cyberchron property, is zoned office-commercial and owned by Christopher Fadden of CF Diversified Corp., who would lease the land to Homeland Towers.

Two residents of nearby Round Hill Road, Cali and Roger Gorevic, expressed concern for the wildlife and environment if the tower is installed. Cali Gorevic said that cell towers have been linked to forest fires.

Roger Gorevic said he and others "are worried about the endangered species. We're worried about turtles."

Homeland Towers was prepared for that objection. A study conducted for the FCC and reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the tower would have no effect on the threatened bog turtle "as



A photograph from a consultant's report shows where the top of the tower would be visible above the treeline at the intersection of routes 9 and 301.

no suitable habitat for this species was found within or near the project area." At the same time, the study found the tower "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" an endangered Indiana bat and the threatened northern long-eared bat. Fish and Wildlife cautioned that if circumstances warranted, it would reconsider its acceptance.

Roger Gorevic also raised the possibility

of the tower interfering with bird migration. He mentioned a hawk that lived near his house for years until someone erected a fence that snared and killed it. "This is what goes on," with seemingly routine changes, he said. "We have to be careful to protect our environment and very careful about what's a priority."

Dee said the ZBA would continue its deliberations at its July 10 meeting.

## Sewer Dispute Leads to Lawsuit *(from Page 1)*

owns and maintains.

- Cold Spring receives an unspecified tax benefit from the line.
- Both villages require homeowners to pay for permits to connect to the line.
- The villages both "on occasion" maintain and repair the line, as happened after a sinkhole formed in 2015 when it broke.

The residents argue that the case involves a case of mistaken identity. They assert that a homeowner installed the pipe in the 1930s, and that nearby properties tapped into it.

The villages regard this as a pipe dream. Instead, they point to a 1956 agreement between Nelsonville and Edward and Marguerite Bodge allowing the couple to lay a private pipe down Pearl and Pine to connect with the Cold Spring sewer. (The agreement described the pipe-laying as necessary because of "an emergency situation" with sewage on the Bodge property.)

The villages say this is clearly the pipe in question, and that the 1956 agreement "unequivocally states" that the residents are responsible for its maintenance.

Cold Spring argued that even if it helped with fixes, that didn't transform the pipe into taxpayer property. It also denied the village had ever issued permits to hook into the line. Nelsonville made similar points in its response.



A block of Pearl Street in Nelsonville, looking toward Main

Photo by L.S. Armstrong



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# New Tourism Chief Briefs Legislature

*Says report shows economic impact on rise*

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Visitors' Bureau plans to publish a visitor's guide, distribute online commercials and revamp its website in an effort to attract more tourists, Executive Director Bruce Conklin told legislators on June 20 during a meeting of the Economic Development Committee.



Bruce Conklin

File photo by H. Crocco

reau in regional publications such as *Hudson Valley Magazine*, *Chronogram*, *Upstater* and *The Valley Table* that direct visitors to [tourputnam.org](http://tourputnam.org) reach about 810,000 people, he said, and about three quarters of the people visiting the website are there for the first time.

The bureau is also targeting its ads to residents and visitors in New York City, and has hired a firm to place promotional cards in 10 kiosks in Manhattan for people "looking to escape the

city for a day" on Metro-North. He noted that funding the tourism office receives from the state as part of its "I Love New York" campaign must be used on advertising outside of the county.

Conklin said the visitors' bureau has produced a 30-second commercial to stream online and is working on seven 15-second clips to highlight activities in Putnam such as camping, kayaking, historical experiences and dining.

The printed visitors' guide and the revamped website should be ready by Sept. 1, he said. His presentation is posted at [tourputnam.org](http://tourputnam.org).

He said a consultant's report compiled for state officials found the economic impact of tourism in the Hudson Valley to have grown steadily between 2012 and 2015 (the most recent data available), including in Putnam County, particularly in the food and beverage, retail and recreation categories.

"This is illustrative of the farm-to-table movement, the trend toward supporting local craftspeople, and the increased popularity of outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking and cycling," said Conklin, a Putnam Valley native who was hired in March to succeed Libby Pataki. "These areas will be a point of focus in future advertising."

The nonprofit visitors' bureau is funded by \$141,996 from the county and \$60,000 from the state. Conklin earns \$60,000 annually and former interim director Frank Smith earns \$50,000. After claiming that the organization is a not a county agency, Smith and Barney Molloy, who chairs the volunteer board of directors, declined to answer questions in March when a legislator asked for details about its finances.

Conklin told legislators that, based on the consultant's report, the county tourism industry supports more than 1,000 jobs and saves each household an average of \$214 in taxes each year because of sales taxes collected from visitors.

Advertisements placed by the bu-

# Democrats to Challenge for County Legislature Seats in Beacon

*Hope to unseat Independence Party incumbents*

By Jeff Simms

Four candidates have announced plans to run for the two seats in the 25-member Dutchess County Legislature that represent Beacon and parts of Fishkill.

County legislators serve two-year terms and every seat is contested at the same time. It meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the County Government building at 22 Market St. in Poughkeepsie.

Candidates have until July 13 to collect signatures to appear on the Sept. 12 primary ballot. Signature requirements vary based on the number of registered voters in each district.

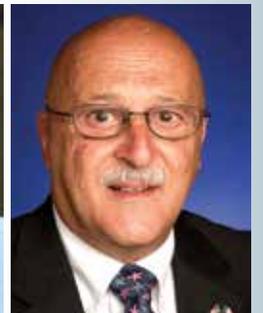
John Forman and Jerry Landisi, incumbents in the 16th and 18th districts, respectively, both say they will run to keep their seats. Each is a member of the Independence Party but has been endorsed by the Beacon Republican Committee.

Forman, who lives in Fishkill, seeks his seventh term. He is the chair of the Legislature's Environmental Committee and serves on the Family and Human Services Committee, as well as the Dutchess County Jail and Transition Center Advisory Committee.

He will be challenged by Frits Zernike, a Beacon resident who has been endorsed by the Beacon Democratic Committee. Zernike served on the Transit Oriented Development committee under mayors Steve Gold and Randy Casale. He ran



John Forman



Jerry Landisi



Nick Page



Frits Zernike

the St. Clair Ice Cream Co. for 10 years and holds a degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He has also been endorsed by the Working Family Party.

In the 18th district, Landisi, who lives in Beacon, is serving his first term. He previously served on the Beacon City Council from 2010 to 2011. Landisi is on the Legislature's Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, the Family and Human Services Committee, and is the liaison to the Criminal Justice Council, Hudson Valley Regional Council and Elder Abuse Council. He also was endorsed by the Beacon Republican Committee.

Nick Page, a Beacon resident endorsed by the Beacon Democrats, will challenge Landisi. Page rehabs homes and is pursuing a law degree at Pace University.

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## Sheriff settles

It seems like years since the defamation lawsuit by former Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy against Sheriff Don Smith has been reported or referred to ("Putnam Sheriff Settles Defamation Case," June 16). I was impressed with the clear and concise account by Liz Armstrong.

These two sad tales of misfortunate plotting would be a big draw on stage or screen. Whoever said that nothing exciting ever happens in Putnam County?

William Harris, *Cold Spring*

So the chief law enforcement officer of Putnam County admits he made false and defamatory statements about a political opponent. And, to avoid a jury verdict, he left us taxpayers on the hook for \$125,000, roughly equivalent to the annual tourist budget for Putnam County. Worst of all, he helped put an innocent man behind bars for 12 months to advance his political agenda. Why hasn't he resigned?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shouldn't we at least demand that?

David Gelber, *Garrison*

Smith appears to be the kind of sheriff you see in movies where the rich people are happy and the townspeople are afraid. His press releases about his drug-war arrests are laughable.

Bob McCabe, *Carmel*

## More on Breakneck

While there are more visitors to your charming village and the amazing cliffs of Breakneck, they are well behaved ("Breakneck Keeps Booming," June 9). I've never heard loud music or arguing, or seen fighting, drug use or anything untoward. Parking is mostly along Route 9D, single-file, away from traffic lanes, in areas that abut trees and forest and not in residential or commercial areas.

Wildlife on the white-blazed trail, e.g., birds, salamanders, insects (if you can call them wildlife) are not affected. Most hikers go up the steep, stony trail and hang

around one of the lookouts.

As for litter, there is very little trash, and what small amounts there may be are policed by trail stewards. Hikers cannot help but drop things occasionally. It happens to me, too, and I'm very careful. I've climbed this ridge more times than I can count. Before the stewards, I would do some litter cleanup detail myself but since they've been active, it isn't necessary.

Lastly, all that traffic results in many, many hungry and thirsty and curious hikers who will later in the day go to shops and restaurants in Cold Spring and Beacon and help keep the towns thriving. Hikers contribute vast sums to the local economy during the hiking season and ask very little in return.

It would be a shame if Parks had to start turning away people who want some honest exercise in nature because it was too crowded. Harriman Park is also getting extremely crowded. The actual trail traffic is okay; it's the parking that's not. These trails never were meant for hundreds of people at once. It's not Yosemite, after all.

So far, parking along the shoulder of 9D, as long as your vehicle is off the road, seems safe enough. There is a long section of road south of the tunnel to accommodate cars. I haven't had any issues in multiple visits, nor seen any. However, I don't appreciate cars driving recklessly fast where there are people. Unfortunately, I must be in the minority because, if I'm doing the speed limit on 9D, I'll have a car tailgating me, for sure. Even had a guy honk at me the other day because I slowed passing through a school zone.

Ronald Aponte, *Bloomfield, New Jersey*

It would appear that it's about time for all concerned men and women in Philipstown and Fishkill to launch a petition  
(Continued on next page)



## Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

*What advice do you have for 2017 graduates?*



"Be unafraid. And study hard."  
~ Kristin Celello, Cold Spring



"You get to decide what kind of person you're going to be."  
~ Jeremy Teperman,  
farm apprentice, Glynwood



"Think about a career in food and farming!"  
~ Kathleen Finlay, president, Glynwood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

drive to the state police, county sheriffs and state and local elected officials to come together and control this problem. Numbers speak louder than the occasional letter to the editor or comments on a message board. Limiting parking and the number of hikers and the duration of the hiking season seem a good place to start. The state parks people and the Trail Conference apparently don't have sufficient incentive or will to do so.

Local police, fire and emergency medical services are the first to get there, even if it means they stay out all night to rescue a lost or injured hiker. There's a monetary and social cost to that. Perhaps to defray at least some of it, volunteers could pass the hat along the 9D corridor and solicit donations from hikers who benefit from our taxpayer-funded first responders. If we can't charge them for parking, maybe we can shame them into considering the protective services that they get for free.

Carolyn Bachan, Cold Spring

Moth invasion

I walked the dog up Sugarloaf last week and it was totally infested - so many caterpillars munching away that I could hear an ambient crackling sound of them chewing as I walked ("It's Gypsy Moth Season," June 9). And the trail was littered with chewed bits of leaves.

Rebecca Reese, East Fishkill

Pushing for climate solutions

In your interview with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney ("Maloney on Opioid Crisis, Environment, Healthcare - and Trump," June 9), he said that "despite all the partisan heat and noise" on Capitol Hill, "there's a deep desire among many of us to work together on solutions."

I can say for a fact that this is happening in terms of climate change. On June

### Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer's full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer's name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

13, some 1,000 people from more than 400 chapters of Citizens' Climate Lobby met with their representatives in Washington, D.C., to talk about climate solutions. That includes reducing emissions of carbon dioxide through a proposal called Carbon Fee and Dividend, which places a fee on carbon-based fuels and the net fees collected are returned to U.S. households.

The lobby is also promoting the Climate Solutions Caucus launched in 2016 by two South Florida congressmen and comprised of 21 Republicans and 21 Democrats.

I met with Rep. Maloney's staff on June 13, along with five constituents from neighboring District 19. The meeting was very positive.

Polls consistently show a majority of Americans believe climate change is real. This is one issue that will impact us all; our economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply and public safety demand that we work together to find solutions. The next meeting of the District 18 chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby is at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, at the Howland Library in Beacon.

Krystal Ford, Garrison



### Help Wanted

Do you like gardens and plants? Are you a people-person? If so, a renowned public garden located in Cold Spring, NY, is looking for a friendly, take-charge person to help with visitor services; including check-in, visitor orientation, sales and questions. Part-time position; must be able to work all Saturdays and one Sunday a month. Please email letter of intent and résumé to garden@stonecrop.org.

# The HIGHLANDS Current

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First issue, June 1, 2012

Five-year anniversary issue, June 2, 2017

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## 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, July 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

**Martin McHugh, 200 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, New York.**  
Tax Map # 27-1-29 and 27-1-30. This application is a Planning Board referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The applicant seeks to subdivide the subject property, with a lot line change. With the proposed lot line change, one of the existing lots, which currently lacks the minimum road frontage of 250 feet, will have its road frontage further reduced to 157.43 feet. The property is in the RR Zoning District. The applicant seeks an area variance to allow for the subdivision and lot line change, with a resulting deficiency in the minimum road frontage requirement.

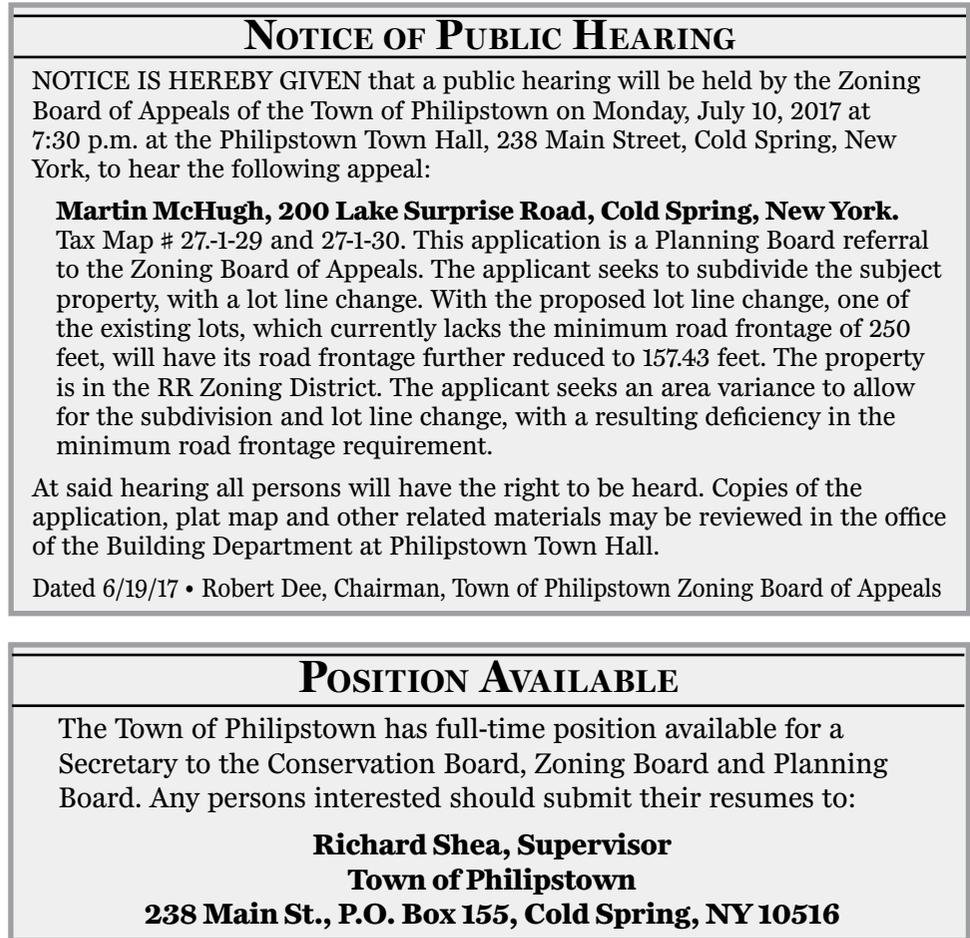
At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map and other related materials may be reviewed in the office of the Building Department at Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 6/19/17 • Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning and Board of Appeals

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has full-time position available for a Secretary to the Conservation Board, Zoning Board and Planning Board. Any persons interested should submit their resumes to:

**Richard Shea, Supervisor**  
**Town of Philipstown**  
**238 Main St., P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516**



## New Beacon School Chief on His Way *(from Page 1)*

and to buy a house. I feel like my car could do the drive on its own.

### What's your impression of the district now that you've spent time here?

It hasn't changed all that much, and I mean that in a good way. I see people with a lot of heart and passion for children. I see people who care about the district and the jobs they do. After I was hired, I spent a day and a half in the schools and classrooms, and I saw a lot of great things happening.

### Your boss in Ithaca, Luvelle Brown, in 2017 was named New York Superintendent of the Year. What have you learned working with him?

One of the big things I learned is to focus on getting to know the kids and the staff members, whether they're teachers or support staff. And just as important, getting to know community members. Over the summer and into the fall I'm going to have community conversations to hear what people love about the district and what they want to see improved. That's objective No. 1 — to get to know people and hear their stories.

### What can an outside hire offer a district like Beacon, which has seen its share of challenges over the last few years?

A lot can be said for a fresh perspective. I've worked in multiple states and a lot of

my career has been going into places that were struggling. You weren't involved with the history and you bring fresh ideas. But you need time to figure everything out. I'd love to be a part of changing the recent history in Beacon, and I'd love to be in the district for a long time.

### When you come into a district with some history, do you want to know every single thing that's happened, or is it more helpful not to know?

Whether you want to know, you end up finding out most of it. People like to share their stories and I don't discourage them from sharing with me. It's helpful to know some, but I'm not coming in to do a deep investigation on the past. From the interactions I've had, it seems like most people, if not all, are excited to move forward.

### What is your impression of the work being done inside classrooms?

I base a lot of my opinions on working side-by-side with people, so I prefer to withhold judgment about where we need to go until I can see that. So far, I see people who care a lot about kids — and that's not just teachers, but all the people who work in the district. But to base a plan on test scores or graduation rates isn't appropriate. You need to see a lot more than what I've seen so far to chart a course.

### Other than education, what are you passionate about?

My family. I have a 5-year-old son. We love hiking and exploring. I grew up out-

side of Chicago and am still passionate about Chicago sports.

### What album or movie would you bring to a deserted island that has a CD/DVD player?

I'll cheat a little and name both. First, U2's *The Joshua Tree*, because that was the first concert I went to as a teenager, and *Abbey Road* by The Beatles because I was a classic rock DJ in college. For a movie, it would be a triple-pack: *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.

### What are your priorities for the Beacon district?

This could be said for any district in the

country, but improving communication within the district and between stakeholders and the district. Also, increasing the use of technology and improving the teaching and learning experience. If you're not constantly working toward improving, you're going in the opposite direction.

### As a student, I remember having butterflies the night before a new school year began. Do superintendents get butterflies?

This school year will be my 25th as an educator, and I've had butterflies before the start of every one. It's nervous excitement, and I can't wait to feel that in Beacon.

## Haldane Has Its Principals

### District announces elementary, middle school hires

Superintendent Diana Bowers announced on June 21 that the Haldane Central School District has hired principals for the elementary and middle schools.

MaryAnn Seelke will be the middle school principal, effective July 1. She comes from the Hyde Park Central School District, where she was an assistant principal at Haviland Middle School. Prior to that, she was a health teacher for the district for 12 years. She is pursuing a doctorate at Long Island University.

Seelke succeeds Julia Sniffen, who will become the high school principal on July 1. Sniffen has been serving as interim principal there following the abrupt departure on March 31 of Peter Carucci after nine months on the job.

The new elementary school principal is David Wallick, who was most recently head of the Bicycle Path School for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students in the Middle Country Central School District on Long Island. Prior to that he was assistant principal at Wampus Elementary in the Byram Hills district and taught at the elementary level in the Briarcliff Manor, Katonah-Lewisboro and Ardsley districts, all in Westchester County.

Wallick succeeds Brent Harrington, who will leave Haldane on June 30 to become principal at Pocantino Hills Central elementary and middle school in Sleepy Hollow. Harrington has been with the district since 2011.



MaryAnn Seelke



David Wallick

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# The Calendar

## A Full Plate

*Beacon chef cooks on Mondays — but no one pays*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Nicholas Leiss works two gigs in Beacon that are a block apart and, at first glance, couldn't be more different.

Five days a week, Leiss is the executive chef at the Beacon Hotel, serving up morel mushrooms, foraged greens, ribeye steaks with a Middle Eastern carrot puree and, for adventurous diners, parts of the pig most of us can't envision on a plate (ears, heart).

But today Leiss is ladling piles of old-school Sunday gravy on a tray of eggplant parmigiana at the Tabernacle of Christ Church at 483 Main St. He's paid considerably less (\$0) than at the Beacon Hotel at 434 Main, and the diners pay considerably less, as well (also \$0). That's because each Monday, Leiss volunteers at the Beacon Community Kitchen, which opened 18 months ago at the church and serves lunch four days a week.

Leiss' game plan in both locations is similar: Use what's available, honor the ingredients, keep it simple, bring people

together over food, and make sure everyone leaves happy.

"This puts a smile on people's faces and gives them something to look forward to," he explains. "I like to see people happy."

Leiss volunteered at the kitchen for the first time on the day before Christmas Eve 2015. He says he had been

*"If you can take a few hours out of your day once a week to change someone's life, why wouldn't you?"*

though a bad breakup and was looking for something constructive to do. He figured it would be a one-time gig. But in the weeks that followed he couldn't stop thinking about how much he had

enjoyed the work, so he signed up to cook once a week.

"This is a good way to spend a few hours out of your day," says Leiss. "If you can take a few hours out of your day once a week to change someone's life, why wouldn't you?"

Leiss plans his soup-kitchen menu a month in advance with Candi Rivera, the head of the program, so little goes to waste. However, Leiss must be prepared to throw out his plan at a moment's notice if a food donation comes through



Nicholas Leiss, executive chef at the Beacon Hotel, tops off eggplant parmigiana while volunteering at the Beacon Community Kitchen.

Photo by B. Cronin

the door. "If I walk in prepared to make ham steaks, and Candi says that we need to make tuna melts, that's what we're making," he says.

Leiss maintains the same flexibility at the hotel. "I try to source everything within 60 miles," he says. "It's hard, especially now when the weather has been so cool that the growing season had a late start. But I want to support my farmers,

my friends and my neighbors who are growing things — people who I know are passionate about what they're doing."

Even when the menu gets exotic, it's typically a reflection of a desire to be thrifty and use every part of the animal. He fondly recalls eating pig heart, stuffed with rice, growing up in rural Pennsylvania. "If I get a whole animal, I need to use that whole animal" he says. "It gave

*(Continued on Page 12)*



Danielle Pece and Kathy Curto display a copy of the 2017 *This I Believe* book. Student Cassie Kubik designed the cover.

Photo by A. Rooney

## Finding Your Center

*Haldane students shape essays on a core belief*

By Alison Rooney

Seventh grade is the perfect time, says Kathy Curto, to figure out your foundation. And that's why, eight years ago, she launched "This I Believe" at Haldane Middle School.

The program is modeled after the popular National Public Radio program that began in the 1950s with Edward R. Murrow of CBS. At Haldane, the students, under the direction of Curto and English teacher Danielle Pece, spend three weeks shaping and then sharing an essay about a core belief.

Curto, who teaches creative writing at Montclair State University, said she had given the assignment to her freshmen and realized how appropriate it would be for students in middle school, who, at ages 12 and 13, are "thinking about things they value and why they value

these things."

Pece joined the Haldane staff four years ago and immediately took to the program. After explaining the assignment, Pece asks her students to answer a series of questions designed to help them select a belief to focus on. Then Curto visits each class, playing audio files of essays read by their authors on NPR and discussing writing strategies. (Full disclosure: I assist Curto with this part of the program.)

The students write and rewrite over the next few weeks. "Their first reaction to [being assigned] personal writing is sometimes 'no,'" says Pece, "but when Kathy comes in she does such a stellar job explaining it, and their reactions change to 'yes.' Going into eighth grade, they now have the maturity to be introspective."

The resulting short essays (and occasional poems) are compiled into a printed book, with a copy for each student. Publication parties (one of each class) are held each June with the students sitting *(Continued on Page 16)*

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

**International Film Series: Rudo y Cursi (Mexico)**

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

**H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

**HVSF: Pride and Prejudice (Preview)**

6:15 p.m. Prologue | 7:30 p.m. Performance  
Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

**Toto**

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24

**Newburgh Last Saturday****Farm Tour**

Noon. Glynwood Farm  
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

**Finding Dory (2016)**

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

**March for Truth Rally**

2 - 4 p.m. Polhill Park  
Route 9D and Main, Beacon  
marchfortruth.info



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SUN 1:00 3:30 6:00  
MON & TUE 3:30 6:15  
WED & THU 4:00 6:45

**Transformers:  
The Last Knight (PG13)**  
FRI 5:45 9:00, SAT 1:30 4:45 8:00  
SUN 12:30 3:45 7:00  
MON - THU 3:45 7:00

**Wonder Woman (PG13)**  
FRI 6:00 9:15, SAT 2:00 5:15 8:30  
SUN 12:45 4:00 7:15  
MON & TUE 4:00 7:15

**Baby Driver (R)**  
WED & THU 4:15 7:15

## Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).  
Send event listings to [calendar@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com)

**Seafood Soirée on Constitution Island**

4 - 9 p.m. Bus from Cold Spring  
4 & 5 p.m. Boat from Garrison  
845-265-2501 | constitutionisland.org  
Reservations required.

**Sunset Tour**

5 p.m. Manitoga  
584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

**Get On Up, Get On Down Dance**

7 p.m. Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon  
845-765-0667

**Gypsy Jazz Concert**

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

**HVSF: Pride and Prejudice**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

**N.Y. Bears vs. Queens Vikings (Football)**

7:30 p.m. Delano-Hitch Stadium  
401 Washington St., Newburgh  
[facebook.com/NYBEARS2017](https://www.facebook.com/NYBEARS2017)

**Steel Band: Music of the Caribbean**

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point  
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

**CSFS: Stand By Me**

8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring  
[coldspringfilm.org](http://coldspringfilm.org)

**Mostly Other People Do the Killing (Jazz)**

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

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25

**Family Fishing Day**

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall  
845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

**Beacon Wellness Commons**

1 - 4 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
291 Main St., Beacon  
[beaconwellnesscooperative.wordpress.com](http://beaconwellnesscooperative.wordpress.com)

**Listen. Open. Flow (Yoga & Music)**

3 - 5 p.m. Living Yoga  
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring  
[info@livingyogastudios.com](mailto:info@livingyogastudios.com)

**Pints and Prayers**

4 - 6 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St., Beacon  
[facebook.com/FPCBNY](https://www.facebook.com/FPCBNY)

**Bringing Broadway to Beacon**

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

**HVSF: Twelfth Night**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

## MONDAY, JUNE 26

**Beacon Pool Opens for Season**

Noon - 7 p.m.  
24 Wolcott Ave., Beacon  
[cityofbeacon.org](http://cityofbeacon.org)

**Yoga with a View**

6 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**Beacon City Council**

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

**HVSF: Book of Will**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 27

**Knitting Club**

10 a.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Friday.

**Computer Clinic: 3D and Virtual Reality Design**

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

**Vintage Postcard Panel**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012 | beaconhistoricalsociety.org

**HVSF: Pride and Prejudice**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

**Dancing with the Stars Live**

8 p.m. Westchester County Center  
198 Central Ave., White Plains  
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

**Reclaiming Your Health (Talk)**

1 p.m. Howland Library  
See details under Friday.

**Farmer Training: Holistic Planned Grazing**

6 p.m. Glynwood Farm  
See details under Saturday.

**Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases (Forum)**

6:30 p.m. FDR Library  
4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park  
518-455-2945 | nysenate.gov/senators/sue-serino

**BeaconArts Meeting**

7 p.m. Telephone Building  
291 Main St., Beacon  
[beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org)

**H.V. Renegades vs. Lowell**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Friday.

**HVSF: Twelfth Night**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Summer Movie: Cheaper by the Dozen**

8 p.m. Beacon Visitors' Center  
South and Main, Beacon  
[beaconchamberofcommerce.com](http://beaconchamberofcommerce.com)

**Joe Lovano's Trio Fascination (Jazz)**

8 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St., Newburgh  
845-391-8855 | atlasnewburgh.com

## THURSDAY, JUNE 29

**Two by Two Petting Zoo**

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Saturday.

**Examining Suffrage Through Political Cartoons (Talk)**

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

**Citizens' Climate Lobby**

6:45 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Friday.

**Calling All Poets**

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

**H.V. Renegades vs. Lowell**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Friday.

**Beatles vs. Stones Tribute Show**

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

**HVSF: Pride and Prejudice**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30

**H.V. Renegades vs. Lowell**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under June 23.

**HVSF: Book of Will**

6:15 p.m. Prologue | 7:30 p.m. Performance  
Boscobel | See details under June 23.

**Natalie Merchant**

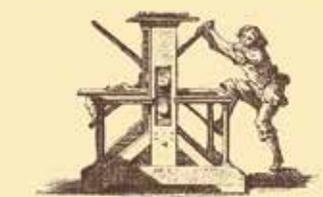
8 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Vomit Fist (Music)**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Tuesday.

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# Students Design Manitoga Sculpture

*Aspiring architects compete with Wright-inspired designs*

By Alison Rooney

Over the years, Manitoga has invited a number of artists to contemplate the landscape of the former home of industrial designer Russel Wright. This year it asked students pursuing their master's degrees in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design to weigh in.

The result is an installation referred to as "the pavilion," overlooking the quarry pool; it will be on view during tours through mid-November.

The artwork is the result of a two-year partnership between Manitoga and the university initiated by Associate Professor Andrew Saunders. He calls the resulting sculpture a "built dialogue."

The students were introduced during the fall semester of their first year to Wright and his designs and philosophy relating to man-made trails, architecture, furniture and homewares, Saunders says. During the spring, a competition to create the pavilion was opened to all students in the three-year program.

The winning concepts were developed by students in a structure-and-technology seminar. They determined the form, material, structure, size and budget.



The installation at Manitoga



Professor Mohamad Al Khayer, (center) and his architecture students install the pavilion at Manitoga.

These works were juried and given awards, with the winning design displayed on campus.

In the fall semester of the second year, parts of two concepts, *Hereafter* and *Devour(ing) the Dark*, were incorporated into a single piece, taking into account the site and desire for a minimal footprint. This part of the project was led by lecturer Mohamad Al Khayer. During the process, more than 150 students visited

Manitoga and participated in studio projects inspired by Wright's design principles.

The final sculpture was created with molded foam connected by metal rods. After the pavilion's display on campus, eight students and Professor Al Khayer took it apart and transported it to reassemble in Garrison.

Allison Cross, Manitoga's executive director, has been impressed. "Wright

## Manitoga Tours

Reservations are essential for the tours, which depart at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from Friday to Monday through Nov. 13. In addition, 3:30 p.m. tours will be offered on July 1, Aug. 8, Sept. 2 and Oct. 7, and sunset tours led by architect Tom Krizmanic are scheduled for June 24, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16 and Oct. 21. Admission is \$20 (seniors and students, \$15; children, \$10). See [visitmanitoga.org](http://visitmanitoga.org). The site is located at 584 Route 9D in Garrison.

material innovation, good design and harmony with nature," she says. "The striking creativity shown by the student work is an inspiring tribute."

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## College Graduates

### Assumption College (Worcester, Massachusetts)

Madeline Vitale, Garrison

### Eastern Connecticut State

Paulina Satsuk, Beacon (Communication)

### Ithaca College

James Moss, Cold Spring (Mathematics-Economics)

Anna Shorto, Cold Spring (Television-Radio, Cum Laude)

### Marist College (Poughkeepsie)

Bradley Lamitie, Garrison

(Computer Science)

Madeline Dondero, Beacon (Social Work)

Paul Grech, Beacon

(Business Administration)

Vincent Tamagna, Cold Spring (MPA)

Jindong Zhang, Beacon (MBA)

### Mount Saint Mary College (Newburgh)

Ashleigh Arena, Beacon (English)

Angelo Biondo, Beacon (MBA)

Chelsea Dexter, Beacon

(Interdisciplinary Studies)

Rebecca Forman, Beacon (Master's in Childhood & Special Education)

Brittany Hunt, Beacon (Business)

Patrick Junjulas, Cold Spring (Criminology)

Stephanie Molina, Beacon (MBA)

Emily Murnane, Beacon (English)

Anthony Musacchio, Beacon (Business)

Meribeth Sanjuan, Beacon (Nursing)

Sitora Scherer, Cold Spring (Nursing)

Kyle Sewing, Beacon (Business)

Kaitlyn Sudol, Garrison

(Master's in Literacy Education)

Kiana Sullivan, Beacon (Mathematics)

Meagan Thid, Beacon (Nursing)

Stephanie Triolo, Beacon (MBA)

Janet Vasquez, Beacon (Human Services)

Laura Wetherbee, Beacon (Public Relations)

### SUNY Potsdam

Joanna Battersby, Beacon (Theater)

### University of Scranton

Amanda Ragusa, Garrison (History)

### University at Albany

Brandon Cordero, Beacon

(Criminal Justice, Cum Laude)

Hannah Ricottilli, Beacon

(Information Science)

### University of Vermont

Milo-Ben Civita, Garrison

(Environmental Studies)

Nicole Pidala, Garrison

(Natural Resources, Cum Laude)

### United States Military Academy (West Point)

Kieran McEvoy, Garrison

(Chemical Engineering)



Kieran McEvoy

### Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut)

Lianna Culp, Garrison

(English and Government)

### Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Massachusetts)

Zachary Ericson, Beacon

(Mechanical Engineering, high distinction)

# Class of 2017



Joshua Katia Jeseck: bell rung, Haldane diploma received. Right, Hudson Lovell accepted the diploma of his friend, senior Adar Broshi, who is battling cancer.

Photos by Anita Peltonen

## Haldane High School Saturday, June 17

Lauren Agudo  
Amelia Allison  
Josephine Altucher  
William Bohl  
Morrigan Brady  
Adar Broshi  
Dylan Byrne  
Aidan Campbell  
Sophia Carnabuci  
Kyle Chason  
Alexandra Cinquanta  
Collin Downey  
Ryan Duffy  
Mary-Margaret Dwyer  
John Eng-Wong  
Amanda Erickson  
John Farrell  
Teresa Figueiras  
Blaine Fitzgerald  
Anthony Franzone  
Sean Gannon  
Mattias Gariepy

Rebecca Gore  
Brian Haines  
Brendan Hamel  
Michael Harmancin  
Will Heintzman  
Morgan Hotaling  
Joshua Katia Jeseck  
Michaela Khadabux  
Isabelle Laifer  
Jocelyn Lane  
Hannah Langer  
Alessandra LaRocco<sup>1</sup>  
Erin Ledwith  
Madison Lee  
Harper Levy  
Marissa Lisikatos  
Liam Macnamara  
Justin Maldonado  
Ruby McEwen  
Timothy McGovern  
Derek McMasters  
Andrew Mikalsen

Hannah Monteleone  
Kyra Moskowitz  
Apryl Norton  
Elizabeth Osborn  
Catherine Parr<sup>2</sup>  
Samantha Phillips  
Christopher Pidala  
Andrew Platt  
Dara Ricketts  
Jeremy Roffman  
Jaan Rothenberg  
Marco Scanga  
Corina Schmidt  
Evan Schweikhart  
Asami Shiga  
Cole Susmeier  
Cassandra Traina  
Hali Traina  
Edward Trimble  
Brooke Vahos  
Seth Warren  
Simon Whitson  
Ronan Wood-Gallagher  
1. Salutatorian  
2. Valedictorian



Above, Emily Murnane of Beacon received her English degree at Mount Saint Mary College on May 20. Murnane was president of the school's Essence of Poetry club.

Photo by Lee Ferris

At right, seven students graduated on June 14 from the St. Philip's Nursery School in Garrison and will enter kindergarten in the fall. Top row: Grayson Wik, Nate Speiser, Gio Mercurio, Oden Durette. First row: Emmie Choi, Mason Rosenberg, Perla Flores. Photo provided



# Beacon High School

Saturday, June 24

Sarah Abdo  
Tyler Acuti  
Justin Alston  
Joseph Antonio  
Tionne Arroy  
Kristina Ban  
Olivia Banks  
Julia Barnett  
Diana Barriga  
Emily Bautista  
Tamia Benekin  
Dennis Benitez III  
Alexander Benson  
Brittany Bethea  
Khadija Lela Bolding  
Michael Bonanno  
Tiara Boone  
Matthew Bozsik  
Kalina Brinas<sup>1</sup>  
Jah-Amor Brito  
Kendall Brooks  
Nyiem Brown  
Courtney Burke  
Jerome Burton  
Amber Butler  
Sierra Caban  
Alex Callaway  
Bradley Camacho Delgado  
Elena Camilo  
Jorge Campos  
Emilia Capalbo  
Angie Castano Giraldo  
Nina Catalano  
Mariama Ceesay  
Royal Ciancanelli  
Steve Coaxum  
Tyrese Collins  
Keyshawn Cook

Remy Coris  
Cassidy Coulter  
Amanda Creighton  
Giovanni Curtis-Dudley  
Izdihar Dabashi  
Andre' Daniels  
Andre Davis II  
Kyle Davis  
Gabrielle DeMaria  
Sydney Dexter  
Analiese Diaz  
Marcus Diaz  
Mateo Diaz  
Sydney DiGregorio<sup>2</sup>  
Sadie DiRubbio  
Amara Douglas  
Jalen Echandy  
Dean Eckert  
Scott Eickler  
Claire Emmett  
Raiven Encarnacion  
Esai Escoto  
Branden Evans  
Zuleyka Feliz  
Joseph Ferrone  
Matthew Foster  
Elyse Fox  
Deirdre Franks  
Amanda Fultz  
Francis Fusco  
Brandon Gacer  
Asa Garner  
Leah Garrett  
Arena George  
Markee Glover  
Alexa Glusker  
David Gonzalez  
Liam Green-Arnone

Janaya Hall  
Jordan Haran  
Andrea Hart  
Myles Harvey  
Oji Haynes  
Kevin Heady  
Emma Henderson  
Lauren Hernandez  
Symone Hinson  
Allyson Hockler  
Harold Hulse  
Ema Jacketti  
Simon Jefferson Jr.  
Krista Jemty  
Nikolai Jordan  
Bradley Karsch  
Richard Kish  
Kajal Kohli  
Sierra Kolozy  
Dionte' Komisar  
Adam Lagomarsini  
Travis Lagomarsini  
Alexander Laird  
Sean Landers  
Eric Landisi  
Mariah Leonard  
Dominique Lewis  
Ella Lewis<sup>3</sup>  
Savannah Lombardi  
Eliana Lotero  
Gabrielle Lucas  
Mark Luhcs II  
Andrew Lukan  
Carley Lyons  
Ashley Mangru  
Yarenis Marin  
Dillon Maupin  
Ryan McKeon  
Cheyenne McNeil  
Elijah McRae  
Lauren Mesorana  
Deanna Meyer

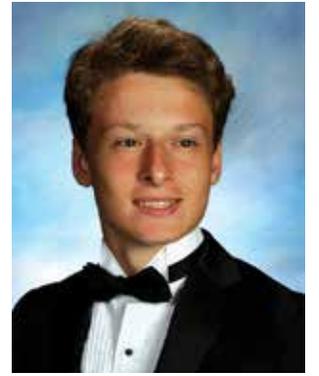
Destiny Minto  
Benjamin Morgan  
Michael Morrison  
Brittany Moschetto  
Marie Murnane  
Kevin Murphy  
Jessica Musacchio  
Gianna Notaro  
Neo Nxumalo  
Nicholas Oakley  
Davion Omari  
Peter Ostrow  
Heledy Pagan Quiles  
Jared Palm  
Jarek Panko  
Rhiannon Parsaca  
Michael Patchen  
Meera Patel  
Jean Pena  
Kaysea Pinczes  
Justin Plimley  
Destiny Plummer  
Autumn Purdy  
Gabriella Puri  
Isdrael Ramon  
Jamilyah Reed  
Keyshawn Reid-Espinal  
Mia Reid-Espinal  
Bianca Resendiz  
Christopher Richards Jr.  
Liann Romine  
Eboni Rowe  
Erin Rowe  
Michael Rutkoske Jr.  
Erick Samayoa  
Destiny Sanchez  
Jeremiah Santiago  
Matthew Santos  
Kathryn Scheppa  
Lauren Schetter  
Emma Schiffer  
Lauren Schneider  
Rebecca Scofield  
Casie Scully  
Stefon Seward  
John Sgorbissa  
Savannah Shields  
Cameron Shorey  
Madeline Simmonds  
Brandon Simon  
Tahmia Sims  
Shazeeq Smith  
Alayza Soto  
Samuel Soto  
Joseph St. George  
Halley Sylvester  
Elijah Szantyr  
Yvette Tirado  
Vince Trinajstic  
Cynthia Tseng  
Cassandra Ulrich  
Christopher Van Buren  
Adrian Vasquez  
Jose Vasquez  
Imani Washington  
Everton Watson  
Alandra Williams  
Forever Williams  
Joshua Yeaple  
Justin Young

1. Valedictorian  
2. Valedictorian, Career and Technical Institute (BOCES)  
3. Salutatorian  
*List current as of June 14.*

# O'Neill High School

Thursday, June 22

The list below is of Garrison residents who were among the graduates of James I. O'Neill High School in Highlands Falls. The class salutatorian is Edmund Northup IV, who will study neuroscience at Dartmouth College. His sister, Anna Northup, who will major in physics at Duke University, and Alexandra Vourliotis, who will attend Boston University to study human physiology, also were among the school's top 10 graduates.



Edmund Northup IV

Jacob Hard  
Sarah Kelly  
Anna Northup  
Edmund Northup IV  
Emma Parks  
Ethan Penner  
John Rodak  
Sophia Sbrulati

Emma Scali  
Kristin Scali  
Shawn Sharifi  
Isabella Tooth  
Alexandra Vourliotis  
Colin Waldron  
Paul Walker

# Garrison School

Thursday, June 22

Amy Albertson  
Fallon Barry  
Kayanna Bernard  
Robert Bohl  
Joshua DeHerrera-Ortiz  
Emerson Delmonte  
Saja DiGiovanni  
Ava DuBois  
Alex Ferdico  
Autumn Hartman  
Rachel Iavicoli  
Sasha Levy

Kyle Mayo  
Satchel Mulherin-Paquette  
Elizabeth Nelson  
Ty Sabatini  
Ariana Shahbodaghi  
Zachary Shannon  
Mason Sharpley  
Sophie Stark  
Benjamin Strol  
John Vogel  
Luke Wimer

# Oakwood Friends (Poughkeepsie)

Friday, June 9

Alice Flanagan, Cold Spring



Flanagan graduated on June 9 from Oakwood Friends, with her grandmother, Molly Lynn Watt, a member of the Class of 1956, in attendance. She plans to study politics and philosophy at the University of Sheffield.

*Photo by Lacey Fredericks*

## Beacon High School Names Top Students

Beacon High School will hold its annual graduation ceremonies at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, at Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls.

### Kalina Brinas, Valedictorian

Brinas will attend UCLA, where she will study the social sciences. Her artwork has been shown in several local galleries and she was recently recognized by the state Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with three gold and four silver keys.

Through high school, Brinas was a member of the youth ballet at the Hudson River Performing Arts Center in Fishkill and took part in its annual fall ballet production since she was a kindergartener at Glenham Elementary. In May, she played the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella, The Ballet*.

Brinas, who also excelled at mathematics, volunteered with the New York City Marathon and Project Linus and is a vegan activist.

### Ella Lewis, Salutatorian

Lewis will attend the University at Buffalo to study mechanical engineering.



Beacon High School valedictorian Kalina Brinas and salutatorian Ella Lewis

*Photo by Lori LaDue*

As a member of the Beacon Players, she was the stage manager for the club during her junior and senior years, managing five shows, including *Peter Pan* and *The Who's Tommy*. She also participated in band for four years as a flutist. Lewis also took ballet and modern dance classes for 10 years at Ballet Arts Studio and performed with the Dutchess Dance Company during her sophomore year.

### Sydney DiGregorio, Valedictorian (CTI)

DiGregorio studied culinary arts/restaurant management at the Career and Technical Institute at Dutchess BOCES, where she was a member of the National Technical Honor Society.

**A Full Plate** *(from Page 7)*

its whole life to sustain you, so you need to sustain yourself with the whole animal.”

For those who aren't ready to embrace offal, Leiss

offers another option at the Beacon Hotel: Family friendly fare in the early part of the week at a fixed price. Like Tuesday Night Ramen at the Roundhouse and Monday fried chicken at Kitchen Sink, Leiss on Monday nights serves three courses of rustic food such as chicken

*“That’s what I’d like to do here. Come in, relax, eat some pasta and spend time with your family.”*

cacciatore and polenta for \$25. He says it gives his staff a chance to relax and not worry about the full menu and his customers a chance to relax after a hectic weekend.

“It used to be that growing up, you’d all go over to your grandmother’s house for a big Sunday dinner and you’d just sit there and converse and enjoy each other’s company,” he said. “That’s what I’d like to do here. Come in, relax, eat some pasta and spend time with your family.”

**How to Contribute**

The Beacon Community Kitchen, located at 483 Main St., serves free lunches from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Monday to Thursday. To volunteer, visit [signup.com/go/7eRFCB](http://signup.com/go/7eRFCB) or email Candi Rivera at [incareof.beacon@gmail.com](mailto:incareof.beacon@gmail.com). Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 368, Glenham, NY 12527 (payable to Incareof with “Beacon Community Kitchen” on the subject line).

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**Putnam History Museum’s Annual Lawn Party**

**Saturday, July 8, 5 - 7pm**

Join PHM for cool drinks and canapes amidst river views at the home of the Pugh family in Cold Spring. Enjoy the company of friends, neighbors, and museum staff. Guests will also enjoy an intimate sneak-peek of staged scenes from the play *The General from America* by Richard Nelson, which will be presented on stage at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival August 8 – September 3. Best of all, ticket sales support the Putnam History Museum!



Thomas P. Rossiter, *A Pic-Nic on the Hudson*, 1863. Courtesy of The Julia L. Butterfield Library, Cold Spring, NY

**Tickets:** \$70 early-bird through July 3; \$80 after July 3 and at the door. Purchase online at [putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org), or mail a check to the museum. Call (845) 265-4010 for more information.

**Logistics:** This event is rain or shine. The Pugh family home is located at 3 Rock Street in Cold Spring. Valet parking is available on-site.

**Lawn Party Committee:** Christine Foertsch, Committee Chair, Jeremy Crandall, Mindy Krazmien, Frank E. Lucente, and Preston L. Pittman.



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The fourth- and fifth-grade classes at Garrison School on June 19 published the classes' annual newspaper, The Cougar Current, which was printed with a grant from the Garrison Children's Education Fund. Selected articles

are included here; for more, see highlandscurrent.com.

**Editor:** Ms. Kirkpatrick

**Reporters:** Cadan Alvarez, Jillian August, Vanja Booth, Joseph Carlos, Ty Collins, James D'Abruzzo, Declan

DuBois, Hunter Erickson, Martin Garnier, Jacob Higbee, Jordan Hankel, Alyssa Harris, Jack Hartman, Tozai Kawabata, Molly Kelly, Mac Lake, Frank Lanza, John Mangan, Bryan Marulanda, Michael Murray, Morgan

Murphy, Chase Nugent, Diego Ramos, Lola Rosenberg, Charles Rowe, Shaun Russell, Charles Schauffler, Erik Stubblefield, Jasper Timmer, Nellie Walker, James Wynn.

# The Cougar Current

Spring 2017 Edition

Putnam County, NY

**YOUR EXCLUSIVE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS!**

## The School Birds Are Chirping!

By Lola Rosenberg

A spring concert at Garrison School was held and practiced by fourth- and fifth-grade students on May 16. Led by the new music teacher, Ulysses Torres, for the 2017 school year forward, the students had been practicing and practicing and practicing.

During the time before the band concert, people could get some refreshments that were being sold. "The spring concert is like a celebration because it shows how hard the students have been working," said Ulysses Torres, the music teacher.

As mentioned before, the students had practiced and practiced for the spring concert, especially the trumpets, for they had a whole solo to do. They also had been going to extra lessons for practicing band.

These spring concerts have been going on for many years. Soon, the school has done these concerts while it still stands. There are also winter concerts, but only in winter. Many people come for entertainment, others for surprise by how good they are. These concerts will keep going for many years to come.

## Duck, Dive and Dodge!

By Hunter Erickson

On Tuesday, May 2, from 12:30 to 12:50 p.m., grades 3 to 8 competed against teachers in a dodgeball game. It was when grades 3 to 5 had recess and 6 to 8 came out of class to watch the dodgeball game. When it was over, people went back to class. The students vs. teachers dodgeball game has been going on for two years.

The kids won 3 games to 1. Everybody that played in the game, both students and teachers, played well. There were 12 students and 13 teachers who participated in the game.



## The June 10 Art Show

By Chase Nugent

On April 27, Chase interviewed Mr. Young about the art show. "This is my 12th time doing the art show," Mr. Young says. He will be selling the artwork for anywhere between \$150 and \$800.

The art show will be at the Catalyst Gallery in Beacon. Some of the items at the show will include robots that can probably move and there will also be landscapes. Chase asked Mr. Young, "Is the art show going to be around the world?" Mr. Young said, "No," which is what Chase thought. Chase says, "See you there!"

## The Blackout

By Jordon Hankel

On March 27, at Garrison School, there was a blackout. The power went out because lightning struck an electrical wire which caused a fire. Then the students of Garrison got off the bus. After the fire was over, the power was still off.

One of the students, Joey Carlos, said, "The entire school played duck, duck goose." They played for a while until the power came back on. According to Joey, "It was a two-hour delay and then after the power went back on, it was a regular day."



Sarah Garrison

## A Garrison at Garrison

By Jillian August

How many Garrisons are there in Garrison? In Garrison, a teacher named Sarah Garrison is filling in for Debbie Earle while she is out recovering from shoulder surgery.

Miss Garrison ended up being a teacher in Garrison because she came home from Hawaii and wanted a teaching job. Then, she interviewed and became a teacher here in Garrison.

Jillian August, fourth-grade student, asked Merrick Williams, "Does Miss Garrison do any differently than Mrs. Earle?" Merrick said, "Yes, she does. My most favorite thing that she does differently is her handshakes" like the Hawaii sign. This is a hand signal that means, "I'm ready" in Miss Garrison language.

## Book Madness!

By Michael Murray

The fourth- and fifth-grade of the Garrison Union Free School District did a fun competition. The competition was the same thing as March Madness in the NCAA. They did the exact same thing, except it wasn't for basketball teams, it was for books. It was called Book Madness.

If you don't know how it works, here it is. There are four rounds: Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, Final Four and the Championship game. Kids vote on Google Classroom for each matchup for the books and there are two books and the one with the most votes advances to the next round. The book Pax took down How to Steal a Dog in the championship.



Book Madness

(Continued on Page 16)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Women's Voting Rights

Professor will discuss suffrage cartoons

Susan Goodier, author of *No Votes for Women: The New York State Anti-Suffrage Movement* and co-author of the forthcoming *Women Will Vote: Winning Suffrage in New York State*, will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on the suffrage and anti-suffrage movements as seen through political cartoons.

## Grants for Artists

\$3,000 for supplies, instruction

Five Hudson Valley artists will each receive \$3,000 for supplies, equipment or career development as part of the Under-Recognized Artist Awards Program. Apply at [artsmidhudson.org](http://artsmidhudson.org) by June 30. Applicants must be 25 years or older, have enough visual art for a one-person show, and have had at least three gallery shows.

## Yoga with Live Music

Session and concert on June 25

Beth DeWitt will lead participants through a 45-minute Gentle Flow yoga session at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, at Living Yoga Studios, followed by live music from Open Book and Tony Jefferson. The cost is \$45 at the door. The studio is located at 3182 Route 9, north of Cold Spring.

## Junior Golf Camp

For ages 6 to 16 at The Garrison

The Garrison has opened registration for its annual Junior Golf Camp run by golf pro Joe Spivak for children and teenagers ages 6 to 16. There are two four-day sessions, one beginning July 10 and the other Aug. 7. The cost is \$350 per session. See [thegarrison.com/camps-outings](http://thegarrison.com/camps-outings).

## Afternoon Jazz

Lucky 5 band to perform in P.V.

The Lucky 5 Jazz Band will perform at the Tompkins Corner Cultural Center in Put-



A cartoon depicts the big winners on election day in New York in 1917 — women's suffrage and the Tammany Hall political machine, represented by the Tammany Tiger. *National Archives*

nam Valley on Saturday, July 1, at 3 p.m. The five-piece band performs swing and gypsy jazz from the 1930s to 1950s. Tickets are \$15 at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or at the door. Call 845-528-7280 for reservations.

## Beacon

### Crime Drama Filmed in Newburgh

Movie will be screened at Downing

A crime drama, *11:55*, which was filmed in Newburgh, will be screened at the Downing Film Center on June 24, 25 and 26. The film follows a Marine returning to his economically depressed hometown and the violent life he tried to leave behind. See [downingfilmcenter.com](http://downingfilmcenter.com).



The Lucky 5 Jazz Band will perform in Putnam Valley on July 1. *Photo provided*



WEDNESDAY JAZZ — Joe Lovano and his group Trio Fascination will perform at Atlas Studios, 11 Spring St., in Newburgh at 8 p.m. on June 28. *Photo provided*

## Calling All Poets

Open mic scheduled for June 29

Calling All Poets will hold an open mic and audience dialogue at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 29. It will be hosted by Mike Jurkovic, Beacon poet laureate Tony Pena and Jozi-ah Longo of Slambovian Circus of Dreams. See [callingallpoets.net](http://callingallpoets.net).

## Summer Reading

Howland kicks off program for children

The Howland Public Library will launch its summer reading program on Thursday, July 6, for children ages 4 to 12. Readers can track books in logs available at the library and collect prizes. Among the programs will be a weekly story-and-craft hour for children ages 4 to 6 on Fridays, a STEM drop-in for elementary students on Tuesdays and a teen podcast workshop that begins July 12. Call 845-831-1134, ext. 103.

## Registration Open for Theater Day

Annual Beacon event set for Sept. 16

On Saturday, Sept. 16, students from high schools in Dutchess and Westchester coun-

ties are invited to attend a free day of performance and technical workshops, including breakfast and lunch, sponsored by Beacon High School, Mamaroneck High School, Arts Mid-Hudson, BeaconArts and the Beacon Performing Arts Center.

Workshop topics will include disciplines such as acting, dance, auditioning, scenic painting and special-effects makeup. Teachers and directors are welcome to set up tables to promote their organizations or sell tickets to shows. Only 250 students will be accepted; register by emailing [beaconstage@gmail.com](mailto:beaconstage@gmail.com) with your name, grade and school.

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.



FIFTY YEARS AGO — On June 21, 1967, John and Elsie Benton (shown in an undated photo) opened the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison with 12 residents and four staff members. The ministry, which serves women who have been addicted to drugs or alcohol and/or involved with prostitution, has since opened residential facilities in Pasadena, California, and Las Vegas. It is named for Walter Hoving, the former longtime chairman of Tiffany & Co., who was an early supporter. *Photo provided*

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# Clearwater Festival Returns

Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival, the longstanding annual music and environmental festival that went on hiatus in 2016 as the organization focused on the \$850,000 restora-

tion of its namesake sloop, returned to Croton Point Park on June 17 and 18. The event, which was founded by Pete Seeger in the late 1960s as a fundraiser for the nonprofit, involves 1,000 volunteers. The

headliners this year included Lake Street Dive, a reunion of Cry Cry Cry (Lucy Kaplansky, Richard Shindell and Dar Williams), Nick Lowe, Los Lobos, Arlo Guth-

rie, Joan Osborne, Josh Ritter, Tommy Emmanuel and Alejandro Escovedo.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



The day of the festival was overcast with occasional heavy rain.



The sloop Clearwater on the right



A line of volunteers pass period trunks and barrels filled with letters addressed to Congress. The "cargo of concerns" was headed to Washington, D.C., aboard the Clearwater, but the sloop was forced to turn back due to bad weather on the Atlantic coast.



David Ross, Karen Brooks and Patrick Stanfield Jones of the Breakneck Ridge Revue aboard the Mystic Whaler



A couple who attended the festival, with the Clearwater in the background



A cloth backdrop of the Clearwater on one of the eight stages

## Finding Your Center (from Page 7)



After reading some selections aloud, students broke into smaller groups to read their essays to each other.

*Photos by A. Rooney*

in a circle, fortified by snacks, and those who are willing read their essays aloud.

The atmosphere is supportive, and some students change their minds about sharing their work. "It's a great opportunity for those kids who are ready to get it out there," Pece says. Every year students tell her they have nothing to write about. "Most students have had no 'big' thing happen to them, but they learn it's the details which can crack the ordinary open," she says. "It's not necessarily about the momentous moments. It's also about finding out how they connect and relate to other students."

At each reading circle, there are tears

and hugs over stories of loss and moments when it's evident that someone's honesty has opened their peers' and teachers' eyes, inviting a new way of perceiving a person.

"When you ask someone to sit and hear a story read out loud, it's different" than what we often encounter in the digital age, Curto says. "When you hand someone an actual book containing their words, it means something."

A number of students allowed *The Current* to share their essays, which can be found at [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com), along with videos of students reading their works.



The students eagerly looked through the pages of the *This I Believe* book to find their contribution.

## This I Believe

*My Nonno Is With Me*

By Sophia Scanga

I have a very tight family. The heart and soul of my family has always been my Nonno and Nonna. We all live on the same road and see each other just about every day. My Nonno passed away on March 5, 2015.

Before Nonno passed, every moment he spent with his grandchildren was a time when he would share with us his love for birds and German Shepherds. He had a chicken coop and a very big bird house where he raised many different breeds of birds, and we still take care of them even though Nonno is no longer with us. He had such a close connection with animals, that's why he had so many. Nonno would call me a chicken because I was so afraid to go into the coop. I know it sounds crazy but I'm still building up the courage to go close to the birds and chickens.

It was really hard for my family when my Nonno passed away. My dad had a hard time with the reality that his dad was no longer here with him, so we decided to go on a family vacation to Florida. My dad loves it there.

One day we were walking out of the hotel getting ready to go to the beach and sitting on a ledge high up on the roof of the building there were two beautiful bald eagles. Bald eagles are not birds you would see every day. We couldn't help but believe this was a sign. I believe this is true because as we turned the corner and made our way to the valet station at the front of the hotel sitting there was a German Shepherd. Just then we heard the owner speak to his dog, he said, "Look Hugo!" The dog's name was Hugo and my Nonno's name was Hugo. My mom and dad immediately started crying. I hugged my dad and he said, "Always remember Nonno is with you." This moment has always stuck with me. Every time I walk into my Nonna's, I know he is there. Every time I eat a bagel, I think back to when he used to get us bagels every Sunday.

Every time I see a bird or a German Shepherd, I know he is with me and it's him saying, "Hello, Bella."

## The Cougar Current (from Page 13)

### Food Vote 2017

By James D'Abruzzo

The fifth-grade students at GUF5 voted for their favorite hot lunch. Then one of them was asked what his thoughts of the results were.

Chicken tenders got the most votes and nachos and pizza were tied in second place. Fifth-grade student Mac Lake was interviewed. The first question was "Are you surprised by the results?"

Mac said "No, I thought chicken tenders would win." Next, he was asked if he could add another food item to the menu, what it would be. He replied with "empanadas."

Teriyaki chicken and baked ziti only got one vote.

Next there was a food survey for desserts. Everybody voted ICEEs, only ICEEs, nothing else!

The last question to Mac was, "Are you surprised everyone voted for ICEEs?" He said, "Nope, not at all."

### The Five-Story Building in Midtown

By Joey Carlos

ASC Remodeling and Carpentry Inc., a local company serving Putnam Valley, is going to work on one of the biggest buildings they have ever done. It is in Midtown, New York. Frederico Carlos said, "It will take about 10 months."

Also ASC Remodeling and Carpentry work together. In addition, it is historical. They will be adding an elevator and a piece of turf. The building is five stories high and on the fifth floor there are master bedrooms. Two of Joey Carlos' uncles are carpenters and he also said he worked with Acacia, the owner of ASC Carpentry, Inc. ASC stands for Acacio Silver Carlos.

For more of *The Cougar Current* see [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)



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## Join The Highlands Current Summer Photofest

*The Highlands Current* is collecting high-resolution, color pictures from local photographers of summer scenes and themes. We prefer photos taken this year. The best of these (in our opinion) will be featured in *The Highlands Current*. Limit: three photos weekly per person. Please title photo file with your name and photo location (for example: **JohnDoe-ColdSpringDock.jpg**).

Send photos by July 8 to [photofest@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:photofest@highlandscurrent.com).

## Small, Good Things:

## Strawberry Fields Forever

By Joe Dizney

As surprising as it may seem, strawberries are late-bloomers to the early summer larder and marketplace.

Widely celebrated and represented in early culinary, medical and popular histories, the fruit commonly identified as a strawberry (botanically, it's not a berry) was traditionally the wild woodland strawberry (*fraises des bois*), a delicacy as flavorful as it was rare. Impossible to cultivate and difficult to transport without turning to mush, they created a demand proportional to their scarcity, especially in France and England.

Concerted efforts to crossbreed New World plants with Old World varieties were to no avail until a brainy French researcher intuited that two American species were more likely compatible. This led to the modern garden strawberry of the 19th century.

Later "improvements" led to supermarket reds, but the 21st century appears to have us returning to a celebration of flavor. Based on a quart I bought from Liberty Orchards at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market, it looks to be a good season.

Not much is required from the cook to enjoy strawberries. A sprinkle of sugar and a dollop of cream is far more than enough and is surely the reason that "strawberry"

as a dessert flavor sits in the universal triumvirate of popularity alongside chocolate and vanilla. This week's recipes seek not to improve as much as accentuate that essence.

Admittedly, pickling seems counterintuitive, but acids (citrus, vinegar) emphasize the fruit's character. A "quick pickle" brine of vinegar (or here, white wine vinegar), water, sugar and spices (vanilla, black pepper and star anise), boiled briefly and poured over the cleaned fruit produces exceptional results overnight.

The berries maintain a firmer texture than a typical sugar-macerated preparation. The taste is sweet-sour-bright with a rich smoothness from the vanilla and exotic top notes from the pepper and anise. The similarly spiced pickled strawberry jam (adapted from a recipe by Christina Tosi, chef/owner of the Milk Bar restaurants) is a natural progression.

These pickles have affinities for both savory and sweet: add them to salads (arugula, shaved fennel and pecorino); and be sure to use some of the pickling juice for your vinaigrette) or make a fruit salsa (with onions, oranges and mint) for grilled pork, chicken, shrimp or scallops. Or serve them with goat cheese and crackers. You could even make a crafty cocktail (with gin, soda and lime juice) or non-alcoholic shrub.

By all means, serve them over ice cream, yogurt, shortcake or panna cotta, maybe with a drizzle of good aged balsamic vinegar, a sprinkle of fresh mint or a splash of the puréed jam. Try this on

Buttermilk-Sorghum Panna



Quick Pickled Strawberries served atop a Buttermilk-Sorghum Panna Cotta

Photo by J. Dizney

Cotta for a surprising Southern twist (see highlandscurrent.com for the recipe).

Spread the pickled strawberry jam on toast or use it as a filling for crepes, tarts or cookies. Mix it with a soft cheese (cream cheese, farmer cheese or mascarpone) to make a spread for bread or crackers. Mix it with an equal amount of butter for spreading on biscuits. You can even blend this strawberry butter with confectioners' sugar and a pinch of salt to make a frosting for cakes or pastries.

The pickles aren't for "putting up," i.e., long-term storage, but the jam will prolong your enjoyment at least into the long winter months.

## Quick Pickled Strawberries

Makes 1 quart

1 pound cleaned strawberries, halved if large	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup water
$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups good, varietal white wine vinegar (Chardonnay, Champagne, white balsamic or other)	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup pure cane sugar
	1 tablespoon kosher salt
	$\frac{1}{4}$ vanilla bean pod, split
	2 star anise pods
	10 black peppercorns, bruised

Prepare a 1-quart canning/pickling jar and lid for use. Fill it loosely with the prepared strawberries. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring vinegar, water, sugar, salt and spices to a boil. Remove from heat and pour over the strawberries to almost fill the jar. Allow to cool to room temperature uncovered, then cover and refrigerate for at least 24 hours before using. Pickled strawberries are best used within two weeks of preparation.

## Pickled Strawberry Jam

Adapted from Christina Tosi; makes about 3 cups

1 cup sugar	3 tablespoons varietal white wine vinegar (Chardonnay, Champagne, etc.)
1 tablespoon powdered pectin	$\frac{1}{4}$ vanilla bean pod, split
1 teaspoon salt	2 star anise pods
3 cups strawberries, hulled, quartered if large	10 black peppercorns, bruised

1. In a bowl, whisk the sugar, pectin and salt to combine. (If seedless jam is desired, purée the berries in a blender and strain through a fine-meshed sieve.)
2. In a medium saucepan, combine the vinegar and spices, bring to a quick boil over medium heat and immediately remove from heat. Strain to remove the spices and return to the saucepan, adding the dry ingredients, then stirring until blended.
3. Add the strawberries (or purée) and stir until the mix is liquefied and comes to a boil. Continue to boil, stirring constantly, until thickened (about three minutes).
4. Pour the jam into a heat-proof bowl and let cool completely. Store covered in the refrigerator. It can also be frozen for up to six months.



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**Obituary**

**Peter Knapp (1949-2017)**

*Former co-owner of Pete's Hometown Grocery*

**P**eter B. Knapp, 67, formerly of Nelsonville and Cold Spring, died suddenly on June 14, 2017, at his home in Fishkill.

He was born in Cold Spring on Aug. 22, 1949, the son of Douglas G. and Jane (Garrison) Knapp, and attended local schools. He was a longtime member of the Nelsonville Fire Department and during the 1970s served as a police officer for the Village of Nelsonville.

On July 8, 1973, he married Mary Jo Budney at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring. In 1987 they opened Pete's



Hometown Grocery in Nelsonville, which they owned and operated until 2014. For the last few years, Pete had been working as a greeter at Sam's Club in Fishkill.

He is survived by his daughter, Aileen Croft (Roger), of Clarksville, Tennessee, and his brother, Thomas Knapp (Deirdre), of Cold Spring. His wife Mary Jo died in 2014.

A graveside service was held June 19 at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Cold Spring United Methodist Church, 216 Main St., Cold Spring 10516.



**A WALK IN COLD SPRING** – More than 70 Labrador Retrievers from the Yorktown Heights-based Guiding Eyes for the Blind took to the sidewalks of Cold Spring on June 21 for a training session. It takes about six months to prepare each dog, said Training Supervisor Shannon Walsh, second from right. The other trainers are Megan Crowley, Nikki Went, Louise Thompson and Kathryn Poallo (left), who tends to a “distraction dog” that the labs are supposed to ignore.

*Photo by Michael Turton*

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# Sports



Hannah and Allie Monteleone will play for the Irish national team.



Chelsea and Samantha Lisikatos will play for Greece in the Women's Softball European Championship.

Photos by Michael Turton

## Haldane Softball, Italian Style

*Four former Blue Devils to play in European championship*

By Leigh Alan Klein

The biennial Women's Softball European Championship, which will be held June 25 to July 1 in Bollate, Italy, will feature 23 teams — and four Haldane grads.

The Lisikatos and Monteleone sisters will be representing the nations of their forefathers and mothers. For Chelsea (Class of 2011) and Samantha (Class of 2014) Lisikatos, that's Greece, and for Allie (Class of 2015) and Hannah (Class of 2017) Monteleone, it's Ireland.

The women have been training together with Nick Lisikatos, Haldane's coach (and Chelsea and Samantha's father), before their departure. The Lisikatos left Cold Spring for Italy on June 17 and the Monteleones on June 22.

The Greek and Irish teams play each other at 9:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m. EST) on Monday, June 26. Starting June 29, the championship rounds will be livestreamed at flosoftball.com.

Last year, when the Lisikatos sisters were playing for the Greek national team in the World Championships in Surrey, British Columbia, Nick Lisikatos told an Irish coach about the Monteleones; Allie had played for him and Hannah was entering her senior season. Video clips of the women hitting and fielding sealed the deal.

This is the first season that dual citizens have been allowed to play for the Irish team, which has five Americans. The Monteleones' maternal grandparents were natives of Donegal; the sisters say they have counted 89 cousins in Ireland. They will meet their teammates in Italy, practice for two days and scrimmage against England before the tournament begins.

Allie Monteleone played soccer, basketball and softball for Haldane and is a guard for the Pace University basketball team; Hannah also was a standout in all three sports and will play soccer for Pace in the fall.

The Lisikatos sisters, along with Alexis Bazos of Pound Ridge, an outfielder who plays for Notre Dame, are among 13 Americans on the 16-member Greek team.

Chelsea Lisikatos, 23, plays first and third base and pitches, and Samantha, 21, is a utility player but mostly plays right

field. Their dual citizenship originates with their great-grandparents, who were from the town of Leonidio, in the Peloponnese.

For Chelsea, the journey began when she made a 10-and-under softball team in Cold Spring as a pitcher. She later played six years on the varsity squad at Haldane, then four seasons as a scholarship player for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, starting all 51 games for the 49ers at third base as a senior.

In one game, she hit a home run off a pitcher who also played for the Greeks, which caught the national team's attention. A week after the season ended, she was offered a chance to play at the 2015 European championships.

The next year, the team invited Samantha, then a sophomore at SUNY Oneonta, to join the team. The sisters played in 2016 at the World Championships in British Columbia, where the Greek squad finished 19th of 31 teams. Chelsea batted .348 with three RBI. Sam batted .261 with six hits and two stolen bases.

"My grandmother always pushed us to find our culture," Chelsea says of her decision to play for the Greek team, which had folded after the 2004 Olympics but was revived in 2015. "For my dad, seeing us

represent the jersey, the flag of his blood, is such an honor. My grandmother cries seeing us in the uniforms. For them, we are representing villages and people. They took down the town flag [in Leonidio] to give it to us."

The championships last year in Canada were a great experience, the sisters say. "I am sitting there with girls from Israel," said Chelsea, "dancing with Team India and giving extra gear to Team Uganda. Sam got her hair braided by Team Kenya."

"Those moments all started with a little bit of softball," Chelsea adds. "Connecting with these women and holding clinics [for local girls, which they will do again in Italy] gave us the opportunity to share our culture and unite us as strong female athletes, and grow this beloved sport."

Funding is an issue for both teams, especially in cash-strapped Greece. The Lisikatos sisters raised \$2,250 online to help pay for their flights, hotels and equipment, while the Irish national team has done its own fundraising.

The goal for both squads is to be among the six teams worldwide to compete at the 2020 games, which will feature softball for the first time since 2008.

## Mets Defeat Marlins for Minor League Title

The last-place Mets upset the Marlins, 6-3, on June 17 to win the Philipstown Little League Minors title.

Ty Vilella threw a no-hitter against the first place A's in the playoffs to put the Mets in the championship game, where Jessica Tudor picked up where Vilella left off, striking out the side in the first inning.

Rhys Williams gave the Mets an early lead in the bottom of the first with a walk, two steals and heads-up base running.

The Marlins played smart defense to keep the Mets in check. With a runner on third in the second inning, catcher Zack Fox blocked the plate to tag out a run-

ner at home. Later, in the fourth, Marlins pitcher Daniel Campanile bolted from the mound to the third-base line to tag out a runner leaning toward a steal.

The Mets opened up a 6-1 lead in the third with a barrage of hits and walks from Tudor, Connor Keegan, Catherine Leiter, Zack Michalek, Ryder Griffin, Christian Hytiner, Merrick Williams, Jayden Gunther and James Frommer.

The Marlins threatened late, cutting the lead to 6-3, but Leiter took the mound for the Mets and struck out the last four batters to end the game and trigger a wild celebration around manager Rodney Tudor.



Three Minors players after receiving their medals

Photo by Paul Tomizawa

Giovanni Anselmo  
Marco Bagnoli  
Domenico Bianchi  
Alighiero Boetti  
Pier Paolo Calzolari  
Luciano Fabro  
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