

The HIGHLANDS Current



Independence Day
Page 16

JULY 6, 2018

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



Decorated bicycles added a splash of color to Cold Spring's Independence Day celebration on June 30. See Page 8 for details.

Photo by Michael Turton

Developer Sues Philipstown Over Denial of Variances for House

Dispute involves property split between town and Nelsonville

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Alleging that improper political influence thwarted her plans, a developer has sued Philipstown over the Zoning Board of Appeal's refusal to grant variances for her construction of a house on a 1.4-acre lot split between the town and Nelsonville.

Susan Green, of Essex Green Inc., based in New York City, brought the suit on May 18, claiming that actions by the town, abetted by Nelsonville, unfairly prevent the use of her sloping, kite-shaped property on Douglas Lane. A narrow, private road, the lane connects to Moffatt Road on a hillside above Route 9D.

Nelsonville is not included in the suit.

A preliminary court appearance on June 15 was adjourned until Aug. 3.

Because of the town ZBA, "my property cannot be built upon and has essentially been rendered valueless," Green alleged in an affidavit supporting the 37-page lawsuit.

Filed in White Plains, the lawsuit asks the state's county-level court to force the ZBA to issue the necessary variances.

Green's lawsuit contends that "adjacent neighbors to the property are local political figures ... who were determined to use their influence to block any development" on her parcel and that "the ZBA's irrational denial of largely technical variances from local zoning bulk requirements" undermined Green's property rights and occurred "as the result of generalized community opposition and undue political influence."

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney and his spouse, Randy Florke, and children, live on one side of Green's property. The Meyer family lives on Douglas Lane on the other side and Bill O'Neill, mayor of Nelsonville, lives across Moffatt Road from Green's land, which resembles an old farm meadow.

At a ZBA public hearing in February, Florke criticized Green's project. Josh Meyer, son of a former Nelsonville mayor, strongly opposed the house construction, and O'Neill

(Continued on Page 5)

Local Government Roundup

Beacon, Cold Spring still working through the summer

By Jeff Simms and Michael Turton

The summer months are often slow for local government, but Beacon and Cold Spring both addressed various ongoing projects at their most recent council and board sessions.

On July 2, the Beacon City Council accepted a report by Francis Griggs, a consulting engineer who specializes in the restoration of historic bridges, on the condition and options for rehabilitating the Bridge Street Bridge, a 19th century structure near Front Street. The council then approved an agreement authorizing Griggs to prepare a similar report on the Tioronda Avenue Bridge, which has also been pegged by the city for restoration.

The council also set public hearings for July 16 on several projects seeking special-use permits. The projects are the proposed expansion of the professional building at

1181 North Ave., the proposed expansion of the Hudson Hills Academy school onto the grounds of St. Luke's Church at 850 Wolcott Ave., and the Edgewater development near the Beacon waterfront.

In addition, the council accepted a \$14,500 proposal from One Nature and Hudson Land Design for restoration work at Green Street Park. The project would create additional parking and a formal entrance to the park, as well as adding trees, repairing fences and introducing other design elements. A timeline for the work has yet to be determined.

And in Cold Spring ...

On June 26, after a closed-door executive session on personnel and legal issues, the Cold Spring Village Board held a brief meeting.

In business that night, trustees approved revisions to an agreement with Managed Technologies for equipment and servicing of the village CCTV camera system. In addition to Village Hall and the Cold Spring Police Department office, security cameras now cover Mayor's Park and the Visitor Center and restrooms at



Beacon's Bridge Street Bridge

the foot of upper Main Street.

Renewal of workers' compensation insurance through the New York State Municipal Workers Compensation Alliance was approved at a cost of \$64,199, a 3 percent increase over the previous year.

Cadets from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department will be hired to enforce parking on Main Street this summer. Mayor Dave Merandy said the cadets can issue tickets but not summonses and will be paid \$13.50 an hour, about half the cost of hiring a second Cold Spring police officer for weekend parking enforcement.

The trustees also accepted Elliot Hammond's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective Aug. 1.



Five Questions: BILL ZOPF

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board meeting on July 2 was the first one in a long time not to include Bill Zopf, who did not run for re-election this spring after 24 years on the board.

Why did you choose to step down from the board?

Twenty-four years is a long time, and my kids have been out of school for a couple of years. There are a lot of new people in Beacon and I thought it was important to give them an opportunity. I'm not saying I'm stale, but when you're in something for such a long time, it's important to get some new people on the board.

What made you decide to run for the school board back in 1992?

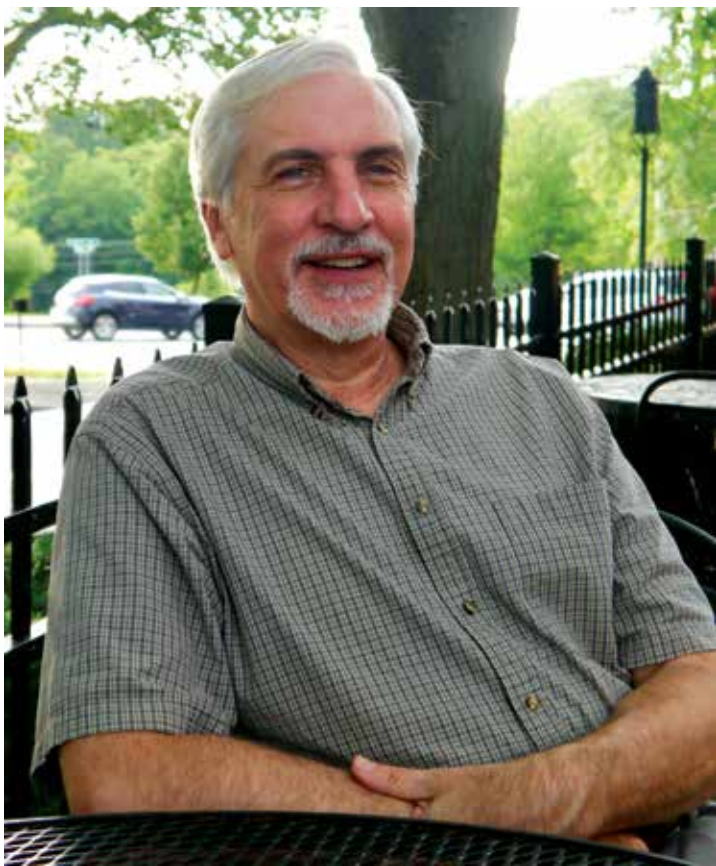
I got involved with the Board of Education when taxes went way up in Beacon and they eliminated all sports and after-school programs, as well as art and music. That to me was a real red flag. Why have such a tax increase and eliminate everything, too? I started questioning how things had gotten to that point from a financial perspective. Then, once I was on the board, I felt we were doing a lot of positive things for the district and I felt as long as I could see positive changes and I was a part of it, that was a good enough reason to stay on.

I think things are going very well right now, and that felt like a good time to get off the board.

Describe some of the changes you've seen over the years.

The district has grown quite a bit. While I was on the board we built a new high school. We put extensions on Rombout Middle School and three of the elementary schools. When I first came on the board the idea of using computers was having one basic PC in a classroom, and in the lower grades it was Reader Rabbit or something like that. There was no real internet that was being used for education.

The job of the school board, as well as administrators, has gotten a lot more complicated. There are a lot more regulations that affect what we can do, such as the state's tax cap. That's made it



Bill Zopf

Photo by J. Simms

more complicated and taken away some of the boards' local control.

What's a memory you'll never forget?

I'll give you two. The first year I ran, there were 11 people running for the board, and I was fairly new in the district. I didn't win that year but I decided to run again so when we did win, that felt really good. You could see there was going to be a turnaround on the board then.

The other was getting the new high school approved in 2000. Back in the '70s they put that up for a vote but it failed. The old building was antiquated and didn't meet the needs of the district, so it was time to do it.

What will you do every other Monday night from now on?

Probably for the summer, nothing. But I will look for other opportunities to volunteer.

People have asked me in the past to do this or that and I always said no. Now I don't have the school board anymore, so this must be what it feels like when someone retires. Part of your purpose in life is all of the sudden gone, and it feels odd. But I'm going to see what else I can do to help out the community.

Beacon School Board Reorganizes

The Beacon City Board of Education held its yearly reorganizational meeting on Monday, July 2. Newly elected members Elissa Betterbid, James Case-Leal and Flora Stadler were sworn in, while Anthony White was re-appointed as the board's president and Meredith Heuer was selected as vice president. The new board will hold its first regular meeting on July 16. Meetings will now begin at 6 p.m., an hour earlier than before.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is the best summer vacation you've ever had?



"My dream was always to visit Peru and I did last year. Machu Picchu was excellent. Nice weather and nice people, too."

~ Andrea Ferreyra, Beacon



"When I was 13 we went on a road trip from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Minocqua, Wisconsin. My parents didn't have a lot of money and there weren't many vacations like that."

~ Paul Markwalter, Beacon



"It was going to a great family camp called Timberlock in the Adirondacks. My father started going there when he was 12. And, I learned to live with spiders there."

~ Elise van Oss, Garrison

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Beacon Shows Up to Say Families Belong Together



"Hot enough to melt ICE!" The Families Belong Together rally in Beacon was one of more than 750 events nationwide on June 30 to protest immigrant family separation and imprisonment at the border. Despite mid-afternoon temps in the high 90s, participants filled Polhill Park and lined up along all four corners of Route 9D and Main Street.

Photos by Kate Vikstrom



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

Gun-rights rally

I found it sad to see the article "Gun-Rights Activists Plan Pre-Fourth Rally" (June 29, 2018) did not substantiate the claim that folks opposing his opinion regarding the 2nd Amendment are paid to protest. That statement was left to stand without fact or fact-check.

Bob McCabe, *Carmel*

This is a campaign rally for the current county executive of Putnam County courtesy of the PCFOA. Odell and Bartolotti have been their advocates locally for several years and this is their thank you.

Lithgow Osborne, *Philipstown*

I don't play politics, ever. But it's time to let the Republicans clean house in Cold Spring.

Tom Nastasi, *Cold Spring*

Edgewater development

Here's how this ("Downsizing at Edgewater," June 29, 2018) works for developers: They ask for way more than they wanted, but get what they want in the end! Back in the day, served 10 years on the Planning Board.

Christopher Bopp, *Beacon*

Accelerator project

Thank you to *The Current* for covering this development. ("Putnam Proposes 'Accelerator' Project in Philipstown," June 29, 2018)

Yes, this is a positive for the county and Philipstown.

The process was started by Richard Shea, the town supervisor. Richard arranged for me to meet Jill Marie Varrichio, president of the Putnam County Economic Development Corp. After a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) session facilitated by the Orange County Accelerator (Vince Cozzolino and his team) with the participation of many representative voices in the county, we zeroed in on this Hudson Valley International Business Accelerator.

J. Carlos Salcedo, *Philipstown*



The proposed Putnam County accelerator building

File photo by Michael Turton

Beacon solar farm

Regarding "Beacon Solar Farm Ready to Shine" (June 29, 2018): What was the cost of building this facility and what is the yearly cost for maintenance and management?

Ellen Pillersdorf, *Philipstown*

This was done by a private solar company that leases the land. Great re-use of a capped landfill that you can't do much else with.

Tom Cerchiara, *Beacon*

Central Hudson is a fixed-cost center. Any loss of revenue or credits to the city will have to be recovered elsewhere. In other words, rates will be raised, and unless you live in Beacon, you'll see no relief to your taxes. Thanks for nothing.

Ralph J. Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

With the closing of Indian Point and the never-ending increased need for energy, this is a huge accomplishment regardless of the amount of money saved. The fact that some people are searching for a reason to make this a negative is mind-boggling. We need many more projects like this.

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*

Covering the former Marathon Battery site with solar panels is a terrible idea ("Letters to the Editor," June 29, 2018). The Marathon site has been mostly cleaned up (see the EPA's five-year reports for details). It is close to Cold Spring's Metro-North station and Main Street businesses. Properly developed, with a mixture of residential and commercial uses, and with sensitivity to the village's historic character, the site could contribute greatly to Cold Spring's tax base and affordable housing. If we want to avoid the consequences of suburban sprawl, we'll need to be practical and reasonable about making use of existing infrastructure (the village's water and waste treatment facilities could easily handle the additional uses). I would urge the Cold Spring Code Update Committee to specifically prohibit using Marathon as a solar farm.

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*



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Developer Sues Philipstown Over Denial of Variances for House (from Page 1)

noted that the house would not be allowed on the Nelsonville end of Green's parcel. O'Neill and Florke also expressed concern about excessive stormwater run-off from a developed lot, saying that even without a house on it Green's property sheds water that pours into the Douglas-Moffatt intersection. O'Neill likewise raised fears of sewage-tainted water from a deluged septic system on Green's land reaching neighboring yards.

Green sought to build and sell a four-bedroom, 3,300 square-foot house on the .55-acre section lying in a rural conservation zoning district in Philipstown. The other, approximately .9-acre portion in Nelsonville would provide lawns for the house, which would also have a driveway. Town zoning law demands 10-acre house lots in the rural conservation district. Nelsonville's zoning requires 2-acre lots.

To build the house, Green needed at least two and perhaps five variances from zoning requirements. The reason for varied variance numbers lies in history. Once, when Philipstown required house lots of 1-acre each, Green's half-acre belonged to a 1.2-acre holding. In 1966, to obtain access to New York City's aqueduct, which the Cold Spring water system uses in emergencies, the Village of Cold Spring bought an approximately .67-acre section of the property. That left a .55-acre remnant, which Green eventually purchased (along with her contiguous .9 acre in Nelsonville).

In seeking approval for the house and



A developer is suing Philipstown over the ZBA's refusal to grant variances for building a house on a meadow-like property on Douglas Lane.

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

in the subsequent lawsuit, Green and her lawyer, Daniel Richmond of White Plains, have maintained that the Cold Spring land was "taken" for a public purpose. That means, they assert, that her piece, as the leftover remnant, became a legal, pre-existing lot that merely does not conform to zoning law. If her project is on a legal, pre-existing but non-conforming lot, it needs fewer variances than if on an illegal, pre-existing, non-conforming lot.

After months of public meetings, the town ZBA in a 3-2 vote on March 12 de-

termined that Green's lot was not "taken" for a public purpose, reasoning that "taking" means acquisition through eminent domain proceedings, or through a forced, hostile sale, while Green's parcel was created as the unwanted twin to land sold willingly to Cold Spring.

The lawsuit terms the ZBA's parsing of taken "arbitrary and capricious."

After dispensing with *taken*, the ZBA voted unanimously to deny all the variances Green needed — for the discrepancy (.55 acre versus 10 acres) in lot size, the

extent of impervious surfaces the project would create (25 percent, instead of the 10 percent maximum allowed by zoning law), and yard setbacks.

"I was continually ping-ponged back and forth between the village and town, in what now seems clearly to have been a coordinated war of attrition"

Along with the variances, Green wants the court to declare that the .55-acre lot is a legal, pre-existing, non-conforming parcel and to make the town pay her litigation expenses.

Initially, Green wanted to put the house on the Nelsonville end of the property. But the village denied her application because the Nelsonville section is too small; moreover, citizens objected to her plans, so she opted to put the house on the Philipstown section.

In her affidavit, Green complained that "I was continually ping-ponged back and forth between the village and town, in what now seems clearly to have been a coordinated war of attrition" by the two municipalities.

She said that while she had realized that her ideas "might require a few variances ... I never anticipated that the property would, in essence, be deemed not-buildable as the result of generalized community opposition, including improper political considerations."

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – July 19, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 19, 2018, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave. in Cold Spring, New York, to consider the following application:

James Copeland, 3052 Route 9, Cold Spring –

The applicant is proposing a change in use of the first floor to retail/office use and to utilize the second floor for office use. The property is approximately .93 acres with the building comprising approximately 4,000 sf. The property is situated in the "HC" (Highway Commercial) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 27.16-1-27.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 29th day of June, 2018.

Anthony Merante, Chairman

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

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The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 19, 2018, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave. in Cold Spring, New York, to consider the following application:

Garrison Property Holdings LLC, 88-92 Whipoorwill Pond Road, Garrison –

The applicant is seeking site plan approval for the construction of a new cottage residence and garage, resurfacing and improving a portion of the driveway and the installation of a septic system. Additionally, 3 buildings will be demolished; a cottage, a barn and a garage. The property is approximately 80.81 acres and is situated in the "RC" (Rural Conservation) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 90.1-21 & 90.11-1-6.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 29th day of June, 2018.

Anthony Merante, Chairman

Gun Violence Within Communities: A Discussion and Reading

Author Juska and Beacon community organizer Shiroishi lead Binnacle Books event

By Alison Rooney

Focusing on gun violence, a July 11 event at Binnacle Books pairs a reading from a novel with a conversation between its author and a Beacon parent.

For Binnacle co-owner Kate Ryan, a bookstore can function as a community center of sorts, bringing together ideas in print with people expressing views on a topic. Recent incidents involving gun violence in schools, offices, and other locations once thought unlikely to experience it have brought the issue to the forefront, and Ryan saw a need for a local discussion.

"As gun violence increasingly affects public life and political fervor in America, we need a plurality of approaches" to it, Ryan says. At the bookstore event, she says, Elise Juska will read from her novel *If We Had Known*, "an acclaimed new book that deals with how an entire community can be implicated when a young man commits an act of gun violence." After the reading, Ryan adds, Juska will talk with Julie Shiroishi, a local

organizer, parent, writer, editor and marketing consultant; they will lead an open discussion of gun violence in communities, taking note of the national activism inspired by student survivors from Parkland, Florida.

If We Had Known, which is fiction, is drawn from many all-too-familiar similar incidents: A young man, with no previous

criminal record, brings an automatic-style weapon to a school, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries. Inevitably, people wonder: Why did he kill?

In Juska's book, fingers can be pointed to a teacher exposed to the shooter's written work, perhaps years earlier. More questions arise: Did anything foreshadow his potential for violence? *If We Had Known* looks at the circle of gun victims, including those who, on social media, are deemed partially responsible for failing to notify law enforcement or school counselors of misgivings.

Juska, an associate professor and director of the undergraduate Creative Writing degree program at Philadelphia's University of the Arts, thinks there are pros and cons when teachers are given "metrics" or instructions on reporting student work that prompts concern. "Certainly there's comfort in knowing that, if I'm concerned about one of my students, there are reliable support systems in place, resources for getting help," she says. "But I do question the usefulness of metrics in evaluating student work. In my experience, reactions to student writing are difficult to quantify. Sometimes, of course, a student writes something unambiguously alarming. That clearly must be reported. But far more often, if I feel concerned about student work, it's not so simple. The concern comes from not only what they're writing about but also how they're writing about it — which can be a question of tone, language, emphasis — as well as my interactions with the students themselves.



Elise Juska

Photo by Dan Bernstein

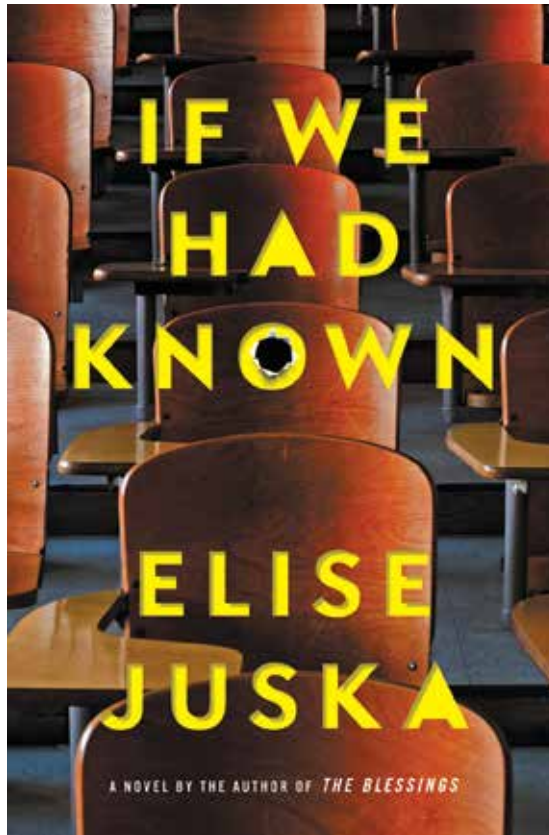
It's a complicated response to capture in a form."

This all hits close to home for Julie Shiroishi, whose husband is an English professor in New York City. "He is hyper-aware when students say or post problematic things. He tells the school now, but it's difficult — you want to be sensitive to them getting the help they need, but the students could also be dangerous to themselves."

She also recalls how Rombout Middle School in Beacon twice notified parents this year when someone wrote apparently threatening comments in a bathroom. None of it amounted to anything, but it had to be investigated, she says. "As a parent, I breathed a huge sigh of relief when the school year ended, and that's not the way it should be."

Shiroishi feels it's "unfair to shift the burden to the teachers. They are there to teach, yet it sometimes seems like that's not their primary role anymore. The way popular culture is, there are lots of fans of violence; society is fascinated by it." In mass shootings, she believes "it's the access to guns that's the problem. If you don't have access, that's going to diminish the likelihood that this will happen."

Juska says her novel looks at the role of the teacher, "a very real but, perhaps, under-discussed aspect of this current crisis." She said that in an interview after a shooting at Virginia Tech University, the gunman's creative writing teacher talked about disturbing material in his writing assignments, which she had read and reported. "After watching that interview — and feeling haunted by it — I began thinking about the (Continued on next page)



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Gun Violence Within Communities *(from previous page)*

premise of this book,” Juska says.

She also did not overlook social media. “I wanted the novel to not only consider the immediate aftermath of such a tragedy but also the long ripple effect, the impact it might have on different people, most of whom were connected indirectly to the

event. The online response and use of social media in general — whether isolating or comforting or perpetrating inaccurate and damaging information — felt like a necessary part of that broader picture.”

Shiroishi calls the misuse of social media “a parallel crime. ‘Trolling’ creates an arti-

ficial sense of divide,” she says, adding that “the people most active in posting on social media are often the least active in real life.”

Both think fiction can help tackle these divisive issues.

“This is such a fraught and present subject,” Juska notes. “The issues are so immediate. Emotions are so high.” But she put her own perspective aside. “With the exception of a few moments, the characters in the novel aren’t too explicit on the question of gun control, simply because that didn’t feel true to how these particular people would be reacting. So, although I’m strongly in favor of gun control, I had to keep my own opinions off the page.”

For Shiroishi, “fiction is a great way of diving deep into topics” and “can be more honest” than reacting to the news, “because we are less attached to the reality of a shooting.”

The reading and discussion is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, at Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., Beacon.



Julie Shiroishi

Photo by Adam McKible



Silkscreen logo made by Cappy Hotchkiss for an earlier Beacon anti-gun event

Photo courtesy of Cappy Hotchkiss

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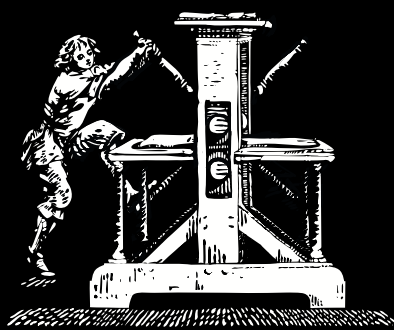
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Friday, July 6, 8:30 p.m.
Myles Mancuso

Saturday, July 7, 6 p.m.
The Toland Brothers ~ Free

Saturday, July 7, 8:30 p.m.
Brand X

Sunday, July 8, 11:30 a.m.
Tony DePaolo ~ Free

Sunday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Jimmie Dale & Colin Gilmore
Happy & Adam Traum

Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m.
Dan Brother ~ Free

Friday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Didi Pelled ~ Free

Friday, July 13, 8:30 p.m.
David Mallett

Saturday, July 14, 6 p.m.
Jerry Kitzrow & Friends ~ Free

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 p.m.
Marcia Ball

Sunday, July 15, 11:30 a.m.
Dan Stevens ~ Free

Sunday, July 15, 6 p.m.
Rob Daniels ~ Free

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6. GUMBO, 7. DISHIEST

Meet the Contest Winners!

From Cold Spring's Independence Day celebration on June 30th

Bicycle-Decorating

First Place: Parker Fyfe
Second Place: Daniel O'Sullivan
Third place: Wyatt Henrickson

Patriotic Pets

First Place: Hoss, Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong's blue and gold macaw
Second Place: Norah Hart's dog Stewie, a miniature pinscher

Pie-Baking

First Place: Peach Blueberry Crumb by Amelia Alayon
Second Place: Banana Cream by Drena Fagen
Third Place: Coconut Cream by Nadine Alayon



After winning first place in the Patriotic Pets category of the Cold Spring Independence Day parade, Hoss poses with his ribbon. Photo by L.S. Armstrong



Pie Baking Contest Winners (L to R): 1st place, Amelia Alayon for her peach-blueberry crumb; 3rd place, Nadine Alayon for her coconut cream, and 2nd place, Drena Fagen for her banana cream

Photo provided

The Winning Recipe: Peach Blueberry Crumb Pie

Pie crust (makes 2 disks)

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 sticks unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
¼ cup ice water (plus more if the dough is too dry)

Put the dry ingredients in a food processor and pulse until mixed. Add the cold butter and pulse until the mixture starts to come together. Add the water in

spurts until dough holds together without being wet or sticky; be careful not to process it more than 30 seconds. To test, squeeze a small amount together. If it is crumbly, add more ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time.

Peach Blueberry filling

3 pounds peaches, sliced (about 8)
1 pint blueberries
1 ½ cups sugar

5 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
½ teaspoon coarse salt
zest of 1 lemon
3 tablespoons lemon juice

Mix the dry ingredients together and then add the sliced peaches and blueberries.

Crumb topping:

1 cup flour
⅓ cup sugar

¼ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon coarse salt
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
1 stick unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces

Mix the dry ingredients. Add the diced butter and, with a pastry cutter, cut the butter into the dry mixture until it's in big crumbles. Sprinkle over the top of the pie. Bake for about 50 minutes at 425 F.

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Friday July 13th, 8:00pm

- Piero Manzoni, *Artista* (Piero Manzoni, Artist), Andrea Bettinetti, Italy, 2013
- Beuys and Beuys, Peter Schiering, Germany, 2006

Saturday July 14, 8:00pm

- Michelangelo Pistoletto – *Centro Mostre, Il Terzo Paradiso* (One Hundred Exhibitions: *The Third Paradise*), Matteo Frittelli, Italy
- Troublemakers – *The Story of Land Art*, James Crump, United States, 2015

Friday July 20, 8:00pm

- Giulio Paolini, Alessandra Populin, Italy, 2005
- Richard Serra – *To See is to Think*, Maria Anna Tappeiner, Germany, 2006

Saturday, July 21, 8:00pm

- *Prospettiva Vegetale* – Giuseppe Penone (*Plant Perspective* – Giuseppe Penone), Francesco Fei, Italy, 2014
- Sol LeWitt: *Wall Drawings*, Edgar B. Howard and Tom Piper, United States, 2010,

Friday, July 27, 8:00pm

- Jannis Kounellis, Alessandra Populin, Italy, 2004
- Louise Bourgeois, Nina and Klaus Sohl, Germany, 2007

Saturday 28, 8:00pm

- *Sull'orlo della gloria* – La vita e le opere di Pino Pascali (*On the Edge of Glory* – Life and Works of Pino Pascali), Maurizio Sciarra, Italy
- Bruce Nauman: *The Godfather of Modern Art*, Robin Dashwood, United Kingdom, 2004

Tickets available for purchase on <http://magazzino.eventbrite.com>
No tickets available at the door.
All proceeds will be donated to RxArt. www.rxart.net

The Calendar

Art to Calm the Artist, Excite the Viewer, and Connect Different Worlds

Expressive Outcomes returns to Howland Library

By Alison Rooney

“Art is best for me. Makes me calm down. When I make a mistake I get frustrated by, it helps me more to keep on going, going. The first time when you do art you're like, 'I don't like it.' But don't quit; just keep it up. I hope people feel excited when they buy my art.”

So says Edwin, an artist with autism, whose work appeared in a previous Expressive Outcome art exhibit. (Participants are identified solely by their first names.) Beacon's Howland

Library, among other institutions and galleries, is again showcasing art by adult clients in residency and daytime programs at the Anderson Center for Autism, in Staatsburg. The display, featuring 20 to 30 of their works, is



An Expressive Outcomes artist created this piece for an earlier exhibit.



Expressive Outcomes artist Bradley stands next to his work.

Photo courtesy of Anderson Center for Autism

slated to open on July 14, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

Expressive Outcomes was established in 2004 at the Anderson Center, which offers services to approximately 124 residents, most of whom live in group housing in Dutchess, Ulster and Orange counties. Residents come from all over New York state; a few come

from other states or even other countries. A similar number of non-residents also participate in the center's activities and therapies.

Its popularity proven, the visual art program continues to grow and the content has become more diverse in terms of media, textures, techniques and skill levels.

Some of the pieces are incorporated into exhibits held throughout the year in
(Continued on Page 11)

Raising a Glass to Tony Burton

JACKIE TRUE



July 14 gathering at Split Rock Books for tale-teller

By Alison Rooney

As he would have liked it, Tony Burton, who passed away on May 24, will be celebrated for and with his words at a gathering held at Cold Spring's newest bookstore, Split Rock Books, beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 14. Leonora Burton, Tony's widow, who runs The Country Goose, says she hopes to see their Philipstown-and-beyond friends at the party. "He would have loved this," she says.

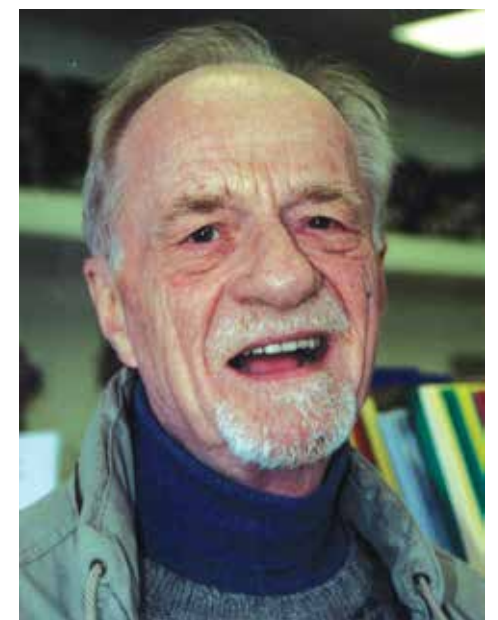
There'll be copies of Burton's final (and favorite) book on hand, and, ideally, an impromptu reading or two from it. Who can resist elaborating on this back-of-the-book preview:

"Jackie True revolves around an alluring refugee from Hollywood who

starts off running for a seat on a village school board in [ahem] Connecticut and ends up beguiling the nation and the president. Also in the cast are political operatives, a religion-driven drunk cop, a Mafia boss, squabbling federal agents and a wretched Washington reporter, the Weasel, whose work tools include lies, deception, crudeness and attempted but usually unsuccessful seductions."

The Burton's beloved dog and Country Goose mascot, Tara, will also have her voice heard at the gathering, in the form of a read-aloud of one of her "Sitting on the Bench" columns, apparently — it can now be revealed — ghostwritten by Tony, and always garnering multiple chuckles.

Burton knew of what he wrote. As noted in his obituary, he was born in 1929 in Birmingham, England, and upon leaving school became an apprentice reporter for a local newspaper there before landing a job at the *London Daily Mirror*. By the late 1950s he was a Big



Tony Burton

Photo provided

Apple transplant, working for the *New York Daily News* covering stories as disparate as the arrival of the Beatles in America to the Attica prison uprising. In 1983, seeking a small-town environment, the Burtons moved to Philipstown.

Tony Burton wrote four (To Page 11)



Art to Calm the Artist, Excite the Viewer, and Connect Different Worlds (from Page 9)

galleries in Chelsea in New York City and Rhinebeck, and at Poughkeepsie's Mill Street Loft and The Heritage Center.

Expressive Outcomes' offerings also include other disciplines, such as spoken word and the performing arts. Sometimes the courage and inspiration for trying those mediums comes from the confidence-boosting experiences artists first have with the visual arts. The opportunities introduce residents and non-residents to the full array of activities available, taking into account their widely varying non-verbal to highly verbal capabilities and allowing them to choose whatever interests them.

At the exhibit opening, artists willing to share personal insights intend to discuss their inspiration and techniques and the ideas surrounding their art. Every work is for sale, unless the artist wishes to keep it.

So far, Expressive Outcomes has come to the Howland Library four times. "We enjoy having their bright and expressive artwork at the library every summer," says Michelle Rivas, who handles Howland's community art programs. "I love meeting the artists." In fact, the relationship with the Anderson Center led her to shift the focus of the library's Community Art Program from exhibiting individual artists to partnering with community groups.

Rivas particularly enjoys the opening receptions because of the participation of the artists and their families. "While some of the artists are shy and some are non-verbal, there are a couple" who "are very outgoing and charming and proud of their work. They greet the visitors and tell them about their pieces," she explains.

As noted on the Anderson Center's website, the Expressive Outcomes program "connects the artists with other artists, arts organizations, and the broader community, widening our individuals' opportunities to our adults."

The Anderson Center's core philosophy is that "all people deserve to live a life of quality" and its day and residential programs are designed to "promote each individual's attainment of independence and a productive life full of enriching experiences." To achieve that goal, it provides educational, social and vocational activities, coordinated with an individual's home environment. Ander-



Another piece from Expressive Outcomes artist's style

son Center programs are funded and/or licensed and certified by the New York State Education Department, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Children and Family Services.

Expressive Outcomes runs through Aug. 4 at the Howland Library, 313 Main St., Beacon.

Raising a Glass to Tony Burton (from Page 9)

novels, and, though quite ill, was really hoping to have *Jackie True* published. "The hospice told me that sometimes people don't want to let go of life because they want to have something they really wish for, happen," Leonora says. "He wrote it 11 months ago."

"People at the nursing home helped him 'sign' copies, and the biggest thing is that he got to hold a copy of his book."

Knowing how much Tony wanted to see it in print, Leonora brought it to Kelly Preusser at Grey Printing, asking her to put it together. As she recalls: "Kelly did it right away and I showed Tony the proof, which made him really happy, except he demanded I change the photo! I asked Kelly to print 12 copies for the family. Then I posted on Facebook about how quickly Kelly was able to do this, and suddenly I got 50 orders for it, from local people and as far away as Australia. I told Kelly to make it 100 copies!"

"People at the nursing home helped him 'sign' copies, and the biggest thing is that he got to hold a copy of his book."

There'll be food provided by Juanita's Kitchen, and "everyone's invited," emphasizes Leonora. No reservations are required. Split Rock Books is located at 97 Main St., Cold Spring.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Highlands History

All about the Cornish Estate

The Putnam Valley Historical Society will present a talk by artist and educator Thom Johnson on the history of the Old Cornish Estate/Northgate, which is part of the Hudson Highlands State Park. Destroyed by fire in 1958, the site has had a long history and long intrigued visitors. The program will be held at the Putnam Valley Library on Saturday, July 14, at 10 a.m.; the suggested donation is \$5.

Jug Band and Comics Fest

Desmond-Fish Library Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m., Lisa Marie Martinez will lead a workshop on Five Everyday Things: 5 Cosas Cotidianas, for families, and form the Desmond-Fish Library Jug Band. The workshop includes storytelling, making instruments from disposable items, songs and rhythms.

Garri*Con, a celebration and festival of comics, takes place on Saturday, July 14, from noon to 4 p.m. Special guests include artists, writers and illustrators who have worked with DC and Marvel, Nickelodeon, and published books: Chris Duffy, Regina Gelder, Deb Lucke, Bob Sikoryak and Krio-

ta Wilberg. Attendees can wear a costume and join the parade to win a prize. Greg's Good Eats will have food for sale.

Both events are free. For details: desmondfishlibrary.org

Lawn Party at Local Residence

Summer event to benefit museum

The Putnam History Museum, based in Cold Spring, will hold its annual summer fundraiser on Saturday, July 14, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$75 until July 9 and then go up to \$85. The party will be held at a Cold Spring residence and the address is provided upon request. Tickets can be purchased at putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Energy Efficient Buildings

3 passive places in 1 community

River Architects has announced that three Cold Spring projects have received Passive House certification. The homes are notable for using 90 percent less energy than conventional buildings and are rated for performance by a third party for certification. River Architects, headquartered on Main Street in Cold Spring, provides details about passive homes on its website: riverarchitects.com.

Art Film Series

Cinema in Piazza

On Friday, July 13, Magazzino Italian Art kicks off Cinema in Piazza, a film series showcasing Italian and internationally recognized artists. Organized in collaboration with Artecinema and the Cold Spring Film Society, the series presents 12 films over six weekend evenings until July 28. Piero Manzoni and Joseph Beuys are the subjects of the first night. Michelangelo Pistoletto and land artists Robert Smithson, Walter De Maria and Michael Heizer will be featured on Saturday, July 14. Films begin at 8 p.m. with an introduction by art historian Francesco Guzzetti. Tickets are available at rx-art.net and cost \$5 to \$7 for single nights or \$25 for a festival pass. A full schedule and information on exhibitions can be found online: magazzino.art

Beacon

Come to America, Go to Prison

The Movies That Matter documentary film series will show *Immigrant Prisons* on Monday, July 16, at 7 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 50 Liberty St., Beacon. Admission is free. The movie explores conditions inside U.S. prisons

where nearly half a million immigrants are locked up and abuse is rampant. Details are available online: moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Concert Showcases Mridangam

Indian percussion instrument

Sanjay Natesan, a Dutchess county high school student, will perform a concert on the mridangam, an Indian percussion instrument, on July 14 at 3 p.m. at the Hindu Samaj Temple, 3 Brown Road, Wappingers Falls, as part of the Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program. Natesan's recital includes western and Indian music. Tickets are \$15 or \$35 for families and are available at artsmidhudson.org.

Collectors Wanted

Cards, ephemera and more

The Beacon Historical Society is sponsoring a Vintage Postcard, Book and Ephemera Show and Sale on Saturday, July 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Building. Dealers and collectors will have thousands of vintage postcards that depict scenes from Beacon and the surrounding areas. Admission is \$3 and benefits the Beacon Historical Society.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hudson Swims

River Pool ready

The River Pool on the north shore of the Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park is now open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. The floating pool offers a safe way to enjoy the Hudson River. Lifeguards are present and there is no fee.

On Saturday, July 28, the Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim takes place for its 15th year. Proceeds support the River Pool. Registration is \$75

and participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$100. Volunteers escort swimmers in kayaks. Details: riverpool.org

Beacon Library Programs

Kids, skateboarding, mini-books

Children ages 10 and up can learn how to care for young children at the Introduction to Babysitting course on Friday, July 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. They will receive a certificate at the end of the program, which is taught by Amanda Tucker, a kindergarten teacher. Register by emailing youth@beaconlibrary.org.

Teens and tweens gather for the Reel Life Film Series on Friday, July 13, at 6 p.m. to watch *Dogtown and Z Boys*, a documentary about skateboarding culture. Following the film, Joseph Linksman from the R.A.M.P. and Mark Price from the Beacon Recreation Center will talk about the new skate park set to open this summer. Pizza will be served at the free event. Those who plan to attend should email community@beaconlibrary.org to RSVP.

Creativity can produce a miniature book in a July 14 workshop with Maya Stein and Amy Tingle, co-founders of the Creativity Caravan. The hands-on workshop is open to ages 8 and up and includes everything needed to create a tiny book. Registration: community@beaconlibrary.org

Share Your News
With Our Readers

To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to calendar@highlandscurrent.com.

Support Groups

For a list of area support groups, visit: highlandscurrent.com/sg



Creative hands display tiny books like those that participants will be able to make at an upcoming Beacon Library event. *Photos provided*



The evolution of skateboarding will be explored at the July 13 film event in Beacon.

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Ant-Man and the Wasp (PG13)
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8:00, SUN 12:45 4:00 7:15
MON 4:00, TUE 7:15
WED 12:45 4:00 7:15, THU 7:15
**Jurassic World:
Fallen Kingdom (PG13)**
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8:15, SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
MON 4:15, TUE 7:30
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A Year of Healing

Finding beauty with Allison Pataki and David Levy

By Brian PJ Cronin

On June 9th, 2015, Allison Pataki and her husband, David Levy, were flying to Hawaii for their “baby-moon,” as Pataki was five months pregnant with their first child.

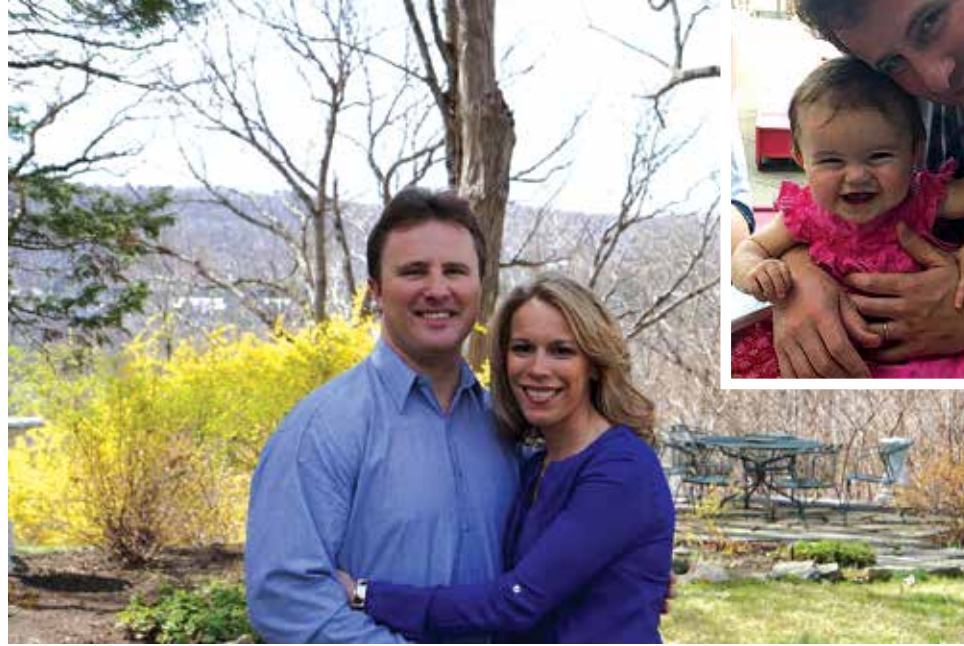
The plane never made it. Instead it was rerouted to North Dakota because on the flight, Levy — a 30-year-old former athlete who was completing a residency as an orthopedic surgeon — suffered a rare bithalamic midbrain stroke and lost consciousness, an event so rare in someone as young as Levy that the doctors in the Fargo hospital warned Pataki that even if her husband survived the event, there was no reference point as to what the long-term damage would be, or even who he would be after he awoke.

As Levy lay unconscious in the hospital, Pataki, an author of three bestselling novels, did the only thing she could. She began writing. *I’m still lucky to have you*, she wrote. *But I’m sorry that it took you having a stroke for me to realize that.*

Over the next 365 days, Pataki continued writing letters to her husband throughout his remarkable recovery. Those letters became the basis for her newest book, a memoir, titled *Beauty in the Broken Places*.

Speaking from their home in Philipstown, where the couple moved last year to be closer to Pataki’s family and for Levy’s job (he now works as a medical consultant) the events chronicled within the book seem no less miraculous three years later.

“When Dave woke up, he was less functional than a newborn,” Pataki said. “Newborns can breathe on their own, and Dave couldn’t. He couldn’t swallow. Every bodily function was either being regulated or monitored. Now I think anybody who met



Allison Pataki and David Levy

Photos provided

him would be hard-pressed to believe that he suffered as massive a stroke as he did.”

Even though Levy recognized his wife as soon as he awoke, and remembered other bits of his life, it was months before his short-term memory returned. But Levy was young enough and strong enough that his brain was able to adapt and essentially regrow itself, from a newborn brain to an adult brain.

“Neural plasticity is a remarkable thing,” said Pataki. “He went through an entire lifetime of growing a brain in a year.”

Although doctors warned Levy that he would never fully recover, today he feels fine. “I don’t know if there are any underlying deficits I still have that I’m just not aware of,” he said. “But things are going great.”

Today the couple marvels at how their lives have changed.

“Our priorities have shifted,” said Pataki. “Prior to the stroke, Dave was literally working himself to death. Sleeping for four hours a night. Working every

weekend, every holiday. This stroke has allowed Dave to take a step back, make a career transition, and we have a much better work/life balance and a deeper gratitude for the time we have as a family and what matters.”

Levy believes that one of the biggest factors in his recovery was that, as a doctor himself, he knew to trust his medical caretakers, even when he didn’t agree with, or understand, what they were doing. “Trust the process,” he said. “When I saw people recovering the least, it was because they were the most combative. You lose a lot of power, but if you embrace that, you can trust the system and let your [medical] caretakers do what they do best.”

Pataki said she learned throughout Levy’s recovery that, in the case of someone with a brain injury, the most important thing a family member can do is to not be afraid to ask for help. “A brain injury is a really hard injury to watch someone recover from,” she said. “It cracks you open and you need to be vulnerable in a way



David Levy with Lily

that maybe you haven’t been before. Lean on your network, admit when you are at your wit’s end and when you need support.”

One of the people that Pataki leans on in the book is Lee Woodruff, whom she met when the two women were working at ABC News. Woodruff’s husband, anchor Bob Woodruff, suffered a traumatic brain injury

in 2006 when he was hit by a roadside bomb while covering the Iraq war. Although the two women didn’t know each other well, Woodruff consoled and advised Pataki when the situation looked bleak.

At one point, Pataki asked Woodruff why she took so much time to help someone to whom she hadn’t been that close. Woodruff responded in the book that “someday, years from now, someone will need to hear from you about this moment. And so you’ll find yourself speaking to someone who needs you, and you’ll tell this person that they can get through whatever it is that they are going through. That’s all part of the deal, OK?”

With *Beauty in the Broken Places*, Pataki attempts to return the favor by providing an honest assessment of what it’s like when a loved one suffers a traumatic brain injury, either by stroke, injury or violence.

“We’ve been hearing from people opening up and sharing their own personal stories and reacting to it in an intense way,” Pataki said about the book’s reception. “You can relate to a fictional character and obviously an author puts pieces of his or herself into fictional characters, but this is on a whole new level in terms of being personal. It invites a reader to relate to both the material and relate to you, the writer, so much more.”

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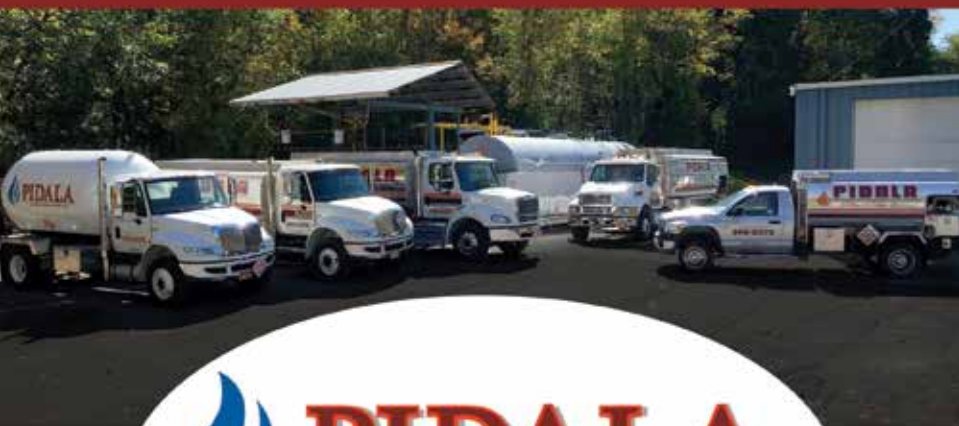
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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 like a defensive cobra (6)	_____
2 Kiev's country (7)	_____
3 1975 baseball MVP Fred (4)	_____
4 in a quandary (7)	_____
5 orb-shaped (6)	_____
6 Cajun stew with okra (5)	_____
7 most full of gossip (8)	_____

HO GL NE ED NN

AI GUM ST OB SH

ED DI ZZ LY UKR

PU IE OD BO LED

See answers: Page 7

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7/6



The Persisters Drum Band



The Fourth of July in Cold Spring

Happy 242nd Birthday America!

Cold Spring celebrated Independence Day 2018 on June 30, a sizzling Saturday. With temperatures well into the 90s, a parade led by 100-year-old World War II veteran Joe Etta kicked things off, followed by contests for pie-baking, bicycle-decorating and patriotic pets, live music and food and refreshments on the riverfront. A rousing fireworks display lit up the night sky to end the festivities.

Photos by Michael Turton



The pie judges: Zanne Early Stewart, Lori Ely, Kevin Lahey



Ice cream!



Breakneck Ridge Revue



The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band