

The HIGHLANDS Current



Amazing Stories
PAGE 7

JANUARY 4, 2019

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



On New Year's Eve in Carmel, Maureen Fleming, Kent town supervisor (right) administered the oath of office to state Assembly Member Sandy Galef, assisted by James Sherwood, a Kent resident.



Before taking the oath of office for her new term as Putnam County executive, MaryEllen Odell chatted with state Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell, who administered the oath.



Assisted by Chris Daly and his son Wyatt (behind the podium) new Putnam County District 1 Legislator Nancy Montgomery took the oath of office, administered by Sheriff Robert Langley.

Photos by L.S. Armstrong

Elected Officials Begin New Terms

Montgomery, Galef, Serino and Odell take oaths of office in Carmel

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Cold rain and darkness outside contrasted with the warm glow from sconces in the Old Court House on New Year's Eve, when Philipstown resident Nancy Montgomery took the oath of office as a Putnam County legislator alongside New York Assembly Member

Sandy Galef, state Sen. Sue Serino, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, and other victors of the Nov. 6 election.

Montgomery, whose District 1 covers Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, and Galef, whose 95th Assembly district includes Philipstown and other areas in western Putnam, are Democrats. Serino, of the 41st state Senate District, and Odell are Republicans.

Montgomery defeated two-term Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican; both served on the Philipstown Town Board before running for the county Legislature.

Another newcomer, Democrat Peter Harkham, also took the oath of office after beating Republican state Sen. Terrence Murphy in the 40th state Senate District, which includes eastern Putnam.

A standing-room-only crowd filled the restored 1814 court chamber in Carmel, where the newly sworn-in emphasized their intent to serve the public, regardless of political affiliation. Applause from

the audience and politicians from both parties congratulated each, and all the speakers avoided partisan digs (although an audience member softly grouched that the room contained too many Democrats).

As suggested by the "so help me God" plea in the oath they all swore, "service is the key to heaven," Montgomery said. "We all want the same things," across party and district lines, she added, citing the example of the Iroquois in emphasizing unity, mutual service, and the benefits of "getting to know your neighbor." County legislators convene on Tuesday (Jan. 8) for

(Continued on Page 3)



FIRST HIKE OF THE YEAR — Members of the Little Stony Point Citizens Association and the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks led hikes on Jan. 1 around Little Stony Point and to Northgate (the Cornish Estate). Here, hikers file into Little Stony Point.

Friends of Fahnestock

A Visit with the Beacon Elks

A cornerstone of the community since 1924

By Michael Turton

Atilano Rivera's title of exalted ruler leaves little doubt as to who is in charge of the 382-member Beacon lodge of the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks.

"The [national] Elks go back 150 years," to the founding in New York City in 1868, said Rivera, noting that his second-in-command, Robert Lanier, is known as the esteemed leading knight. "These titles were used back then, and we still use similar terms in our induction ceremonies."

(Continued on Page 6)



Atilano Rivera of the Beacon Elks displays a photo of the lodge's early members.

Beacon Historical Society

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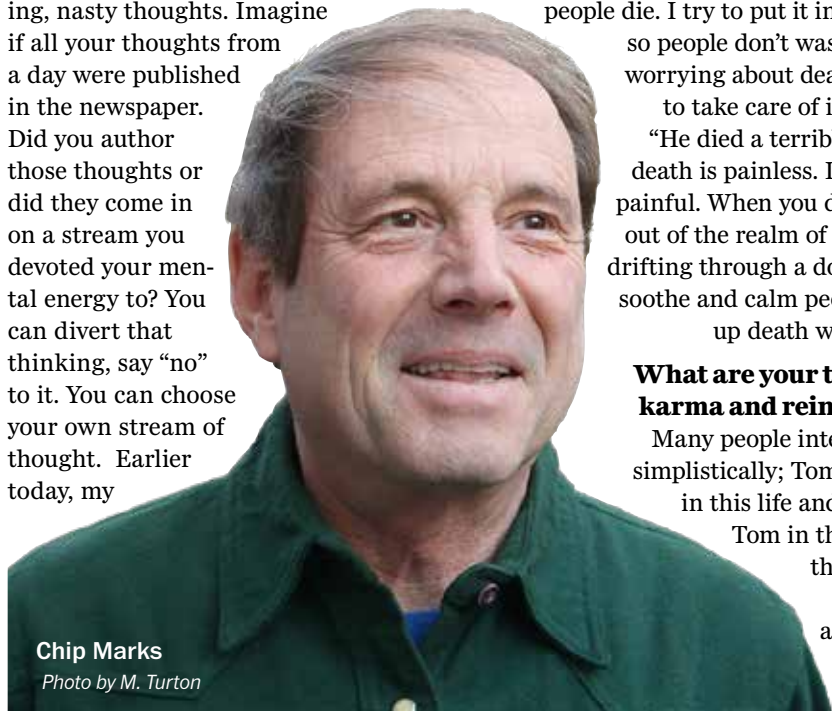
5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CHIP MARKS

By Michael Turton

Chip Marks, of Garrison, is the author of *A Modest Manual for Living on Earth*.

You devote a chapter of the book to the fact that we control our own thoughts. Isn't that obvious?

Most of the time people's thoughts are on autopilot, as though some entity has hijacked our brain. But we choose what we think about. We all have self-defeating, nasty thoughts. Imagine if all your thoughts from a day were published in the newspaper. Did you author those thoughts or did they come in on a stream you devoted your mental energy to? You can divert that thinking, say "no" to it. You can choose your own stream of thought. Earlier today, my



Chip Marks
Photo by M. Turton

thinking was negative — an oppressive situation. I decided I'm not going there, it won't do me any good. It's gone. I have better things to think about.

The book has two chapters on death. Why?

Because there is so much outside of this life, and because we have such fascination and fear about the end of life. People get so bent out of shape about death and how people die. I try to put it in perspective, so people don't waste their time worrying about death; it's going to take care of itself. We say: "He died a terrible death." Yet death is painless. It's life that is painful. When you die, you move out of the realm of pain. It's like drifting through a door. I want to soothe and calm people. We play up death way too much.

What are your thoughts on karma and reincarnation?

Many people interpret karma simplistically; Tom punches Ed in this life and Ed punches Tom in the next. I like the saying that "what goes around comes around." I don't need

vengeance; the universe has a way of evening things out. Reincarnation is a possibility, not a necessity. Some may want more than one go 'round. For others, one visit is enough. Some people come back to heal a relationship, or they want success. Almost everyone wants a perfect ride through life but nobody gets a perfect ride — nobody has it made.

What's the one thing you hope readers take away?

I hope people discover a way to understand and minimize their pain. I want people to see that life is not as horrible as it's portrayed every day. You'll survive all of this. You are indestructible. You are eternal. All this is temporary and you'll come through it unscathed. The essential thing is to keep your eyes open and experience it. You can get physical scrapes and bruises but you are always going to come out on the other side. You're going to be OK.

In the end, is living on earth simple or complex?

It's both. Life is a gas. And life is a bitch. Often both in the same moment. A trick to life is learning that it takes both sides in opposition. It's that yin/yang symbol. We usually think on only one side of that circle, yet we live on both. We get the ups and downs, the good and bad. It's always combined, always dynamic.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is one thing you hope for in 2019?

“

Reconciliation between people who think their differences are insurmountable; that they seek common ground.

”



~ Andrew Hall, Cold Spring

“

I wish the president would fix all the BS he is doing.

”



~ Shorty Gonzalez, Beacon

“

I hope to continue to stretch out each moment, to learn from everyone I meet.

”



~ Denise Friedly, Cold Spring

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New Terms *(from Page 1)*

their first 2019 business session and “I’m really excited to start,” Montgomery said. Her term lasts three years.

Saying she feels “so humbled and honored” to have been re-elected, Serino, who overcame a close challenge from Democrat Karen Smythe, expressed eagerness to work with colleagues on both sides of the political aisle and praised Galef for her expertise and cooperative spirit.

Galef likewise stressed the need for bipartisan cooperation and reminded everyone that “we’re only here because of the wishes of the public.” State-level legislators also must collaborate with municipal officials and citizens, she said, because achieving goals requires that “we don’t do it by ourselves.”

This year in Albany “we’re going to work on a lot of issues we weren’t able to accomplish [much on] in the past,” she added. Her examples include the continued repercussions of federal tax law changes; extending the statute of limitations on prosecuting child sex-abuse; health care; safeguarding the Hudson River and environment; and political ethics standards — “something we really have to work on.”

Moreover, Galef predicted, “I think this is going to be the year for election reform.” She urged residents to share their ideas with her, “because that’s how we learn.”



At a New Year's Eve ceremony in Carmel, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell (left) helps state Sen. Sue Serino get ready to take the oath for another term.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

The county-level agenda, Odell said, includes continued efforts to fight opioid abuse; addressing possible ramifications of statewide marijuana legalization; assistance to veterans and senior citizens, and completion of a “playbook” of policy initiatives to guide Putnam for the next 20 years.

Public service “is difficult, but oh so rewarding,” she noted, as she enters her final four years as county executive, prevented by term limits from running again.

Beacon Council, Planning Board Back into Swing

Reorganization, public hearings on agendas for first meetings of 2019

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold its first meeting of the year, a re-organizational workshop followed by a regular meeting, at 7 p.m. on Monday (Jan. 7).

The council is expected to renew the contracts for city planning consultants and attorneys, in addition to setting its meeting schedule for 2019, naming an official newspaper and other administrative tasks. The council will also schedule a public hearing for the city’s 2019 capital plan.

It will return with a full workshop a

week later, on Jan. 14.

The Beacon Planning Board will meet for the first time in 2019 on Jan. 8. Its agenda includes a public hearing on Industrial Arts’ request to amend its site plan approval for a brewery at 511 Fishkill Ave. and a public hearing on a request to convert the existing retail (and garage) space at 296 Main St. to a restaurant.

The board will also begin its review of the proposal to redevelop the former Beacon Department of Public Works site on Creek Drive to a mixed-use development with almost 14,000 square feet of commercial space and nine apartments. The city sold the property to developer Rodney Weber last year for \$150,000.

Weber has proposed that the parcel share an entrance with the adjacent Creek Drive apartment complex, which he also owns. Conceptual drawings also include access for the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail as well as a publicly accessible park.



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7 LITTLE WORDS

1. LANCES | 2. BEES | 3. CAPITALS | 4. SNEEZING
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ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLE ON PAGE 15

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Tell us what you think

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.org 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.

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nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

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nyassembly.gov/mem/Assembly-District-104

New York Senate
Sue Serino
nysenate.gov/senators/sue-serino

U.S. House of Representatives
Sean Patrick Maloney
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Reform in Albany

Speaker Carl Heastie announced on Dec. 18 that the state Assembly will consider taking up procurement reform in the next session. Procurement reform would regulate the process by which state economic development contracts are chosen. My bill (A9260B) addresses this issue by ending the "pay-to-play" system that has led to a number of corruption scandals in Albany.

Pay-to-play is the practice of a business entity or individual making a political contribution to an elected official to gain access and curry favor with those officials who can influence the awarding of lucrative public contracts. A9260B would prevent any business entity or individual that had a contract with the state for more than \$15,000 from making contributions to any candidate or political party in the 12 months before or after the contract is awarded.

The current system for assigning state contracts can promote corruption and bribery, and reforming the pay-to-play system would create a more efficient use of taxpayer money in choosing the most qualified contractors for public projects.

Heastie's comments on procurement reform are made in light of some high-profile corruption cases that have plagued Albany in the last few years. Most recently a former aide to the governor was found to accept bribes in exchange for economic

development contracts.

Laws that prevent pay-to-play politics exist in 15 states, dozens of localities such as Greenburgh and New York City, as well as the federal government, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It is not moral or ethical to buy business or policies from the state. A representative democracy should not be quid pro quo. Now is the time for reforms that stress the importance of decisions being in the hands of the representatives, not in the hands of the highest bidder.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*
Galef's district in the Assembly includes Philipstown.

Life-threatening

The end to all life on earth will be the result of the demise of phytoplankton ("State Confirms PCBs Return to Hudson," Dec. 28). Phytoplankton is absorbing PCB-laced marine microplastic and is in a 50 percent decline. As phytoplankton goes, we go.

Frank Mancuso, *via highlandscurrent.org*

For more comments, visit
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ANSWERS: 1A, 2C, 3E, 4B, 5D

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Elks *(from Page 1)*

The Beacon lodge was created in 1924 with a ceremony held in the Knights of Columbus Hall. It was the 1,493rd lodge of what is today nearly 2,000, with close to 1 million members.

Rivera said the 94-year-old Beacon club is always looking for new members who, according to the national Elks guidelines, must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, and believe in God.

The Beacon Elks host numerous social events for members, including dances, car shows, potluck dinners and an annual celebration of Flag Day, but the heart of this organization lies in its work in the community.

Rivera said he joined 20 years ago mainly to get involved with a club and to make friends. He quickly learned the lodge was more than a place to enjoy a cold drink at the bar. "I was surprised to learn the Elks support so many community organizations and causes," he said.

Until a recent storm ripped it apart, a banner in front of the lodge on Wolcott Avenue noted that in 2018, the Beacon Elks raised more than \$120,000 for projects that included:

- Supplying T-shirts and water bottles to participants in junior fire and police academies
- Funding a youth history program through the Beacon Historical Society
- Providing gifts and lunches to needy families and children during the

holiday season

- Financial support for youth soccer, football, softball, baseball and basketball
- Purchasing dictionaries for elementary schools
- Help and financial aid to seniors
- Financial assistance to the disabled
- Programs to assist military veterans
- Financial support for the Beacon food pantry
- Student scholarships
- Contributing to drug awareness programs at schools

"It was a great feeling to see the smiles of all the people we help and support," Rivera said.

Social club roots

After a British comic, singer and dancer named Charles Vivian moved to New York City in the 1860s, he established an informal social club where entertainers could meet on Sundays when bars were closed because of blue laws. They dubbed themselves The Jolly Corks, a nod to their practice of having each new member buy a round.

When one member died in 1867, leaving his family impoverished just before Christmas, the Jolly Corks established a more formal organization to help people in need. They called it the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Vivian was the first president.

When men in other cities expressed interest in forming a lodge, the New York



The Elks Lodge at 900 Wolcott Ave.

State Legislature granted the Elks a charter, authorizing the creation of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish local chapters. New York City's founding members became BPOE Lodge No. 1 in 1871.

The Beacon lodge

After the Beacon lodge was created, its first meetings were held above the Fishkill National Bank. The following year the club purchased a building at the corner of Wolcott and Tioronda Avenues. After renovations, it was dedicated as the Elks Lodge in 1927.

In one of its first projects in 1928, the Beacon Elks raised \$9,000 to purchase property on Matteawan Road that it donated to the Beacon City School District for the creation of Hammond Field. In the 1940s, the lodge purchased property on Fishkill Avenue and gave it to the city for the creation of Memorial Park.

On July 29, 2018, the Elks dedicated a memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The monument in-



The Sept. 11 memorial includes pieces of a girder from the World Trade Center.

Photos by M. Turton

corporates a piece of steel from the Twin Towers that weighs more than a ton and sat in a hangar at JFK Airport for a decade before it was trucked to Beacon.

"It's the last piece of metal given out from the World Trade Center," Rivera said. The Beacon Elks shared pieces of the girder with lodges in Wappingers Falls, Haverstraw, Yorktown, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie to create their own memorials.

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The Calendar

Amazing Tales

Story slam series to begin in Beacon

By Alison Rooney

Looking for a metaphor for his new storytelling series, Drew Prochaska contemplated the performers who start out rough but blossom during the telling of their tale.

They were, he decided, artichokes — a greyish green thistle with pointy leaves but a tender heart.

With *The Artichoke*, Prochaska plans to bring expert storytelling to Beacon every other month (increasing to monthly during the summer), beginning Saturday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m., at the Howland Cultural Center.

Prochaska, a two-time *Moth* StorySLAM winner, is importing (well, inviting up for the weekend) six of New York City's most popular speakers to perform in 10-minute blocks. They'll be joined by Beacon's John Blesso, who is bringing storytelling to Dogwood, and by Prochaska, who will also host the evening.

Such storytelling derived from the poetry slams of the 1980s, first in Chicago, then at Manhattan's Nuyorican Café. It took a similar form, with no notes allowed and the winner selected by people chosen from the audience.

Each storyteller is allowed five minutes (plus a one-minute grace period) to tell his or her tale. Typically the stories are built around an assigned theme. *The Artichoke* will not be competitive and it won't be themed. "I just want everyone's best stories," Prochaska says.

The essence of the best live storytelling is, says Prochaska, "short stories that actually happened to the storyteller, with stakes."

A web programmer for Ralph Lauren by day, Prochaska was drawn to storytelling while living in Brooklyn (he moved up to Beacon a year ago). He attended *The Story Studio*, a workshop facility, where he learned to avoid the most common beginner mistakes, such as telegraphing the climax early on. As an example of what not to insert into the early parts of a tale, he cites: "Then I woke up in a tub full of ice, my liver missing. How did I get there?"

In addition, "overwriting turns people off," he says. "We all tend to put in too many

details." Novices tend to tell their stories as lists, he says, and "the story should not sound rehearsed," although it's OK to practice.

A graduate in screenwriting from New York University, Prochaska says he usually structures his stories "like a three-act film." In a *Lord of the Rings* reference, he notes that "if at the end of the first section Frodo hasn't left the burning building — you're in trouble."

The Moth, which debuted in 1997 and is familiar to many through its podcast and *The Moth Radio Hour* on NPR, is the most widely known of the circuit events, but there are many others, among them *RISK!*, which Prochaska describes as "funnier and filthier than *The Moth*," and dozens of spin-offs held in bars and theaters.

They are popular, he says, because "everybody has a story to tell. Also, the people on stage aren't slick. They can sometimes even seem fragile or socially awkward. Public speaking is such a huge fear for many of us. So, there's an honesty to it, as opposed to the shtick of stand-up, for example. Be your honest self, and the audience will reward you."

Prochaska moved to Beacon because, after 24 years, New York no longer felt like the city he had moved to. "I wanted a house with a yard for my dog, and a place that is walkable and has an arts community," he says.

Still, he tries to participate in Brooklyn storytelling events once or twice a month. For the first Beacon show, Prochaska put out feelers to people he considers among the best of the city's talents. "Everyone said yes," he says. "We have a stellar line-up; they have put together the most amazing stories."

Besides Prochaska, the performers are Sandi Marx (a seven-time StorySLAM winner); Jeff Simmermon (GrandSlam winner, *The Moth*, *This American Life*); Richard Cardillo (*Risk!*, *Stories from the Stage*); Susan Kent (*The Moth*); Micaela Blei (GrandSlam winner, *The Moth*); Vanessa Golenia (*RISK!*) and Blesso, an author and now off-the-page storyteller, too.

Tickets for The Artichoke are \$10 at brownpapertickets.com/event/3920602.

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St.



Micaela Blei



Jeff Simmermon



Richard Cardillo



Sandi Marx



Drew Prochaska



Vanessa Golenia



Susan Kent

They were,
he decided,
artichokes
"— a greyish
green thistle
with pointy
leaves but
a tender
heart."

Dragonfly Stories

Inspired by *The Moth*, the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring two years ago launched a Dragonfly Story Slam for Adults. "In 2019 we are looking at more storytelling events that focus on the craft of storytelling and networking with organizations in the area, New York state and the Northeast," says Luanne Morse, the library's head of adult services.



(clockwise)

(1) Madiha, from *This Is Home*
 (2) Sedra, Yasmen and Khaldoun, some of the subjects of *This Is Home*

Gidalya Pictures

(3) Toby Shimin, photographed at the Sundance summer editing lab

Photo by Jonathan Oppenheim

Documentary follows refugees arriving from Syria

By Alison Rooney

Trying to remain friendly in the face of hard truths, caseworkers at the Baltimore Resettlement Center nonetheless spend a lot of time delivering disappointment as they help newly arrived refugee families.

“What they’ve done back home doesn’t

often translate to what they’ll do here,” explains one caseworker in *This Is Home*, a documentary edited by Cold Spring’s Toby Shimin. It will be shown on Friday, Jan. 11, as part of the Depot Docs series at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing.

Director Alexandra Shiva and producer Lindsey Megrue will answer questions after the screening, which will be followed

by a reception at nearby Dolly’s. Shiva came to Depot Docs previously with her film *How to Dance in Ohio*, which also was edited by Shimin.

At the time of filming in 2017, some 21,000 Syrian refugees had been accepted into the U.S., and 372 were settled in the Baltimore area. The Trump administration’s ban on further refugees entering the country from Syria occurred about halfway through the filming. The refugees are expected to be mostly self-sufficient after eight months, during which the Baltimore Resettlement Center helps with housing, jobs and finding financial aid.

This Is Home follows four families.

One man is shown being overwhelmed by the choices in a supermarket — “This is indescribable,” he utters — as he searches amidst the low-fat and acidophilus-enhanced choices for the yogurt most like the one he ate back home.

And there’s a learning curve in how to shake hands.

These smaller, sometimes funny, moments are interspersed with larger, sometimes darker ones: how a childhood spent in a war zone alters how a child plays. Sometimes, casual asides dig the deepest. Explaining why it will be difficult for him to take a job which entails standing for hours, Khaldoun shows a caseworker his leg, pointing out the results of torture, “with a drill, teeth and pliers.”

As the months go by, the families subtly change, particularly the women. Here, unlike in Syria, there is an expectation that they will work outside the home.

For Shimin, much of the challenge in editing was following conversations spoken in a language (Arabic) she doesn’t know. A translator provided transcriptions of whatever anyone said on screen, but Shimin and Shiva realized what was being spoken in the background was pivotal in capturing family dynamics. So they ordered a second translation of everything that could be heard.

The idea for the film came from an unusual source. Princess Firyal of Jordan, who is on the board of the International Rescue Committee, wanted to show the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis and

In editing the footage, Shimin says her goal was “knowing when to balance the ‘otherness’ with the ‘sameness.’ Also, looking for humor. And I wanted the audience not to be looking at them, but instead walking next to them.”

approached Shiva because she had seen and admired *How to Dance in Ohio*, a documentary about a group of teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum preparing for a spring formal.

The filmmakers were fortunate to meet their subjects the day after they arrived in the U.S. “Alexandra started right away,” says Shimin. “She filmed the orientation class, getting a sense of which families might be interesting, and receptive.”

In editing the footage, Shimin says her goal was “knowing when to balance the ‘otherness’ with the ‘sameness.’ Also, looking for humor. And I wanted the audience not to be looking at them, but instead walking next to them. It was difficult not to make them victims. I wanted to portray them with agency as well as dignity.”

What’s especially moving in the film is the refugees’ continuing attachment to their war-torn homeland. Khaldoun offered this: “I miss Syria; its soil. Childhood was beautiful. I fought until the last breath to stay. Like someone asking, ‘Where is my mother?’ I’d ask, ‘Where is my country?’”

Tickets for the screening, which begins at 7:30 p.m., are \$20 at brownpapertickets.com/event/3919401.

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Sunday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.
 Open Mic Finals - Invitational Round

Thursday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
 Lydia Adams Davis;
 also Ben Grosscup - Free

Friday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
 Russell St. George - Free

Friday, Jan. 11, 8:30 p.m.
 Joe Louis Walker Band

Saturday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.
 Sharkey & The Sparks - Free

Saturday, Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.
 Garland Jeffreys Band

Sunday, Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m.
 Dan Stevens - Free

Sunday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

TUES 8

Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Community Library
348 Route 376 | 914-962-6402
supportconnection.org

This monthly meeting is open to people at any stage of diagnosis or treatment. Pre-registration is required. *Free*

TUES 8

Men's 35+ Basketball

FISHKILL

6 – 9 p.m. Glenham Elementary School
20 Chase Drive

Residents of the Beacon City School District over the age of 35 can participate. Proof of residency and valid ID are necessary for registration.

WEDS 9

Chaotic Inheritance with Madeline DeNitto

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

Learn from an organizational expert how to manage tasks and decisions when a loved one passes away and tips to make things easier for your own loved ones.

WEDS 9

All Around Knitting

COLD SPRING

6 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Pat Angerame leads this

roundtable for all levels of knitters. Materials are provided. *Free*

THURS 10

Citizen's Climate Lobby

BEACON

7 p.m. Beahive | 291 Main St.
[Facebook.com/ccny18/](https://facebook.com/ccny18/)

The local chapter works within the congressional district to seek climate solutions. Meetings are open to anyone.

FRI 11

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship (ages 9-14)

GARRISON

6 p.m. Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries Gym
781 Route 9D | 845-265-3191

The Loretto Council No. 536 is hosting the local level of the statewide competition. Winners in each age category will advance to district, regional and state competitions. Proof of age is necessary at registration. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. and the snow date is Jan. 15.

FRI 11

Haldane Fundraiser: An Evening in New Orleans Dinner

COLD SPRING

7 – 10 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | tinyurl.com/noladinner

This benefit helps fund the senior class trip to New Orleans to build houses with Habitat for Humanity. Tickets include dinner, dessert, beer and wine. *Cost: \$50*

SAT 12

Yoga for Healing, Health and Happiness

BEACON

Noon – 5:30 p.m. | 4 S. Chestnut St.
Beacon of Light Wellness Center
beaconoflightwellnesscenter.com
Noon – 1 p.m. (Satsang/Lecture);
1:30 – 5:30 p.m. (Workshop)

Special guest teacher JLTg Holo leads a lecture with tips and insights for the new year and an intensive yoga workshop. *Cost \$65 (\$10 lecture only)*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 5

Monochrome Photography Show

BEACON

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

A reception will open this show, which is curated by Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh and features work by 18 artists. It continues through Jan. 27.

SAT 5

Kakizome: Japanese First Writing of the Year

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 – 4 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson
9 Vassar St. | 845-454-3222
artsmidhudson.org

Volunteers will guide participants in writing kanji, a New Year tradition in which people use calligraphy to craft poems that express hopes and aspirations for the year. According to Arts Mid-Hudson, “the poems were burned, to seal the fate of the hope, a practice reminiscent of blowing out candles on a birthday cake after making a wish.” *Free*

SAT 12

Amanda E. Gross: I Quit My Job to Draw

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St. | catalystgallery.com

The show by local artist Gross includes works on paper and continues through Jan. 17.



SAT 12

Group Show of New BAU Artists

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.com

Four new members, Jebah Baum, Elizabeth Arnold, Ilse Schreiber-Noll and Andrew Rust Barger, will exhibit work in multiple mediums in Gallery 1. A group show of work by all members is on view in Gallery 2. It continues through Feb. 3.



SAT 12

Quicks and HX Studio

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

MUSIC

SAT 5

La Familia

BEACON

8 – 11 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012
howlandculturalcenter.org

The “swinging blues band” will lead a dance party that also includes waltz and freestyle. Free lesson at 7:30 p.m. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 5

The Reveries

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St. | 845-476-8413
denningspointdistillery.com

The five-piece band from Fishkill plays jams. *Cost: \$10 donation*



The Reveries

SUN 6

Newburgh Chamber Music: Ceres Quartet

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George's Church
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

The program will include Beethoven's *Opus 130*, Béla Bartók's *Sixth Quartet* and Haydn's *String Quartet Opus 76, No. 5*. *Cost: \$25 (\$5 students)*

SUN 13

Howland Chamber Music Circle: Natasha Paremskil

BEACON

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

The Piano Festival begins with a talented young pianist. Her program includes *Visions Fugitives, Op.22* by Sergei Prokofiev, *Gaspard de la Nuit* by Maurice Ravel and *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky. *Cost \$30 (\$10 students)*



Natasha Paremskil

SPORTS

SAT 5

Army vs. Lafayette (Men's Basketball)

WEST POINT

1 p.m. Christl Arena | 845-938-2526
goarmywestpoint.com. *Cost: \$12*

SUN 6

Army vs. Loyola Maryland (Women's Basketball)

WEST POINT

1 p.m. Christl Arena | 845-938-2526
goarmywestpoint.com. *Cost: \$12*



Ceres Quartet

[THE WEEK AHEAD]

KIDS & FAMILY

WEDS 9

Pre-K Storytime

GARRISON

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 3 to 5 can listen to stories and work on reading skills. *Free*

THURS 10

Lego/Tech Club

BEACON

3:30 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

Elementary-age children can work alone or in groups to build with Legos and STEM materials. Younger children can work with blocks in the children's section of the library. *Free*

FRI 11

Reel Life Film Club: Pete Seeger: The Power of Song (Grades 6 and Up)

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The monthly documentary features the activism and music of local hero Pete Seeger. A question-and-answer session follows with David Bernz and Jeff Haynes, who both worked with Seeger.

SAT 12

Saturday Studio (Ages 5+)

BEACON

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St. | diaart.org

Join practicing artists for a free monthly workshop of art-making and play. Designed for all ages, this family friendly program is most suitable for children ages 5 and up.



This is Home documentary

TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 5

Extraordinary Wildlife Images

GARRISON

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

Ed McGowan will share photographs from a four-year project focused on animals drawn to deer carcasses placed in Harriman State Park.

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 11

Depot Docs: This is Home

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The documentary follows the stories of four Syrian refugee families

arriving in America and trying to start their lives over. *Cost \$20*

SAT 12

Survivors Guide to Prison (Documentary)

BEACON

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

This expose of the criminal justice system tells of two innocent men who spent decades in prison for murders they didn't commit. Jeffrey Deskovic, an internationally recognized wrongful-conviction expert, is the guest speaker. *Free*

SAT 12

The Artichoke Storytelling

BEACON

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

Hosted by Drew Prochaska, the

show features storytellers who have appeared on *The Moth*, *This American Life* and other popular programs. *Cost \$15 (\$10 advance)*

SUN 13

Get Lit Beacon Literary Salon

BEACON

5 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar
389 Main St. | Facebook: Get Lit Beacon

Established and emerging writers are invited to read 5 minutes of an original work. Brendan Kiely and Jessie Chaffee are the special guests this month. *Free*

CIVIC

MON 7

City Council Meeting

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 7

Organizational Meeting

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.
1616 Route 9 | 845-424-4406
garrisonfd.org

TUES 8

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School Music Room
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 8

Putnam County Legislature Organizational Meeting

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 8

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WEDS 9

Village Board Workshop

NELSONVILLE

6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

WEDS 9

School Board

GARRISON

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

Baby and Dog



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Lauren Hall and Nathanael Brotherhood of Cold Spring shared this photo of their son, Malcolm, with Toby. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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Out There

Unknown Pleasures

Tracking down secrets of Granite Mountain

By Brian PJ Cronin

Granite Mountain tops out at two peaks over 900 feet, which feature views of Putnam Valley and the higher peaks of the Highlands protectively looking down.



Scenes from Granite Mountain



Photos courtesy HHLT

A canopy of trees makes it a winter-only view, but that's OK with Nicole Wooten, the conservation stewardship manager for the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and a Yale School of Forestry graduate.

"It's never going to become a huge attraction, which is good for the wildlife," she said as we took in the view after bush-whacking to the peak.

Wooten's attachment to the 358 acres that make up the new Granite Mountain Preserve reflects her time getting to know this land over the past few years, watching the bobcat tracks in the winter snow give way to the red-spotted newts in spring's pools, and is backed up by what the land means from an environmental science perspective.

In 2011, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust conducted a Legacy Landscape Plan, scoring tax parcels throughout the Highlands for their conservation values based on criteria such as water protection, natural resources and biodiversity. The three parcels that now make up the preserve all scored incredibly high, which becomes apparent once you're standing in it.

"It's a core of interior northern hardwood forests that happens to still be intact," said Wooten as we stood near two brooks. The fact that the land has been relatively untouched, is high in elevation, and is adjacent to wetlands means that it's, as Wooten put it, "cleansing our water as we speak." The high number of those red-spotted newts, an animal that's especially sensitive to the effects of pollution, found here throughout the spring is a clear indicator of the land's health.

A few years ago, one of the three parcels that make up the preserve hit the market and was promoted as ripe for subdivisions. The owner of one of the remaining parcels was also considering building a few houses along the ridgeline.

Hudson Highlands Land Trust primarily deals with conservation easements and helping private landowners preserve their property for future generations, but the potential sale of Granite Mountain called for unprecedented action.

"We reached out to all the owners," said Katrina Shindledecker, the trust's director of conservation. "And we just started talking about what was in the realm of the possible." About \$1 million later, the trust had acquired all three parcels and the Granite Mountain Preserve was born.

The preserve, in Putnam Valley, is open to the public with a few caveats. It is located across the road from 500 Peekskill Hollow Road, but its parking lot has no address number. Once there, if you know your way around, knock yourself out. If not, it's best to do what I did: Contact the trust and ask for a guided hike. While the preserve has a patchwork of old woods roads and lines stomped down by locals, a new system adding up to five miles of trails is being put in place thanks to the trust, volunteers from the community and cadets from West Point.

So what now looks like a trail may lead to nowhere, while new trails are marked only by ribbons, hence our bushwhack to the peak. The lung-busting initial quarter mile of trail that leads away from the

parking lot will be re-routed into a series of switchbacks. A local Boy Scout is building an informational map kiosk in the parking lot for his Eagle Scout project, but for now it's a square of yellow caution tape. I like to think of myself as pretty handy with a map, but if Wooten hadn't been there to stop me from making wrong turns, I would probably still be there.

"Hopefully by this time next year we'll be handing out maps," said Wooten. "But for now, what we're telling people is: 'We love your interest, we want to get you out here, but for now, why not come out on a hike with us and then once we get it all marked up, we'll give you a map and you

can go explore to your heart's content.'"

The land remains quiet, ideal for the large mammals that pass through frequently. In addition to bobcat tracks, Wooten has found bear scat, and toward the end of our hike we stumbled upon a freshly tamped-down deer bed, tufts of fur still clinging to it. Even with the school groups that Wooten brings out here and the increased number of hikers that will soon be at the preserve, the hope is that Granite Mountain will remain serene for generations to come.

"This," said Wooten, looking out over the peak, "is a real-life manifestation of everything the trust has stood for over the past 30 years."

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Philipstown Obituaries

Lori Isler (1963-2018)

Lorraine Nancy Theresa "Lori" Isler, 55, who taught in the Haldane school district in Cold Spring for more than 30 years, most recently the second grade, died of cancer on Dec. 30, 2018.

Lori was born on Feb. 8, 1963, in Yonkers, the daughter of Frederick and Catherine Isler. She attended Our Lady of the Rosary School until 1976, when her family moved to Cold Spring. She graduated from Haldane High School in 1981 and earned a bachelor's degree from Marist College in 1985 and a master's degree in education from Mount St. Mary College. She was a member of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Cold Spring.

At Haldane, district officials brought in Addie, a grief therapy dog, to visit several elementary classrooms. A grief dog was scheduled to return to the school today (Jan. 4). "As expected, the stories that have been circulating about Ms. Isler were both inspiring and filled with love," Superintendent Philip Benante wrote on Jan. 2 in a letter to parents.



Besides her parents, Lori is survived by a sister, Jeanne Maletz (Oliver); a brother, Frederick Isler Jr.; her nephews Cooper Maletz and Frederick III, Derick, and Brett Isler; and her aunts and uncles, Alyce Barca, Dorothy Cunningham, Thomas Barca, William Barca and Patricia Barca.

A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for this morning (Jan. 4) at Our Lady of Loretto.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lori Isler Teacher Scholarship Fund, c/o Haldane Central School District, Attn: Anne Dinio, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Checks should be payable to Haldane Central School District with a note on the memo line, "for Lori."

Chip Kniffin (1948-2018)

Charles Richard "Chip" Kniffin, 70, a lifelong resident of Cold Spring, died on Dec. 31, 2018.

Born on Feb. 7, 1948, in Cold Spring, he was the son of Carl and Edith (Schickler) Kniffin.

Chip was a retired maintenance supervisor at St. Basil's in Garrison and a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.



Known for his skills as a handyman, Chip enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers and the University of Wisconsin football teams and especially enjoyed a good Army-Navy game.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Kniffin; his daughter, Donna Tice; and his stepchildren: Anthony Ferrara, Colleen Ferrara, Donna Ferrara and Paulette Ferrara.

He also is survived by his sister, Edythe Christie; his grandchildren Davey and Anne Marie Rivera, Corey and Tyler Swortfiguer; Meghan, Amber and Bethany Ferrara; Cheyenne and Trevor DeRonda; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were private. A memorial service is scheduled for April 21 at St. Mary's.

Robert Figarella (1962-2018)

Robert Allan Figarella, 56, of Hopewell Junction, and formerly of Yorktown, died at his home on Dec. 31, 2018.

Born in Mount Vernon on May 4, 1962, he was the son of Alfred and Helen (Bonnen) Figarella. Known to his customers and friends as "Figgy," Robert was a UPS deliveryman for 31 years, includ-



ing in Cold Spring, until his retirement in 2014. He was a parishioner of St. Columba Church in Hopewell Junction and a member of the Putnam County Fish & Game Association and the NRA.

On Sept. 24, 1988, in Bradley Beach, New Jersey, Robert married Jill Rebori, who survives at home. He is also survived by his sons, Nicholas Figarella and Daniel Figarella; his sisters, Nancy DiMuro and Linda Castriota; and a sister-in-law, Linda Berquist (Robert) and brother-in-law, John Rebori (Anna).

A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for this morning (Jan. 4) at St. Columba Church. Memorial donations may be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538 (dcsPCA.org).

Beacon

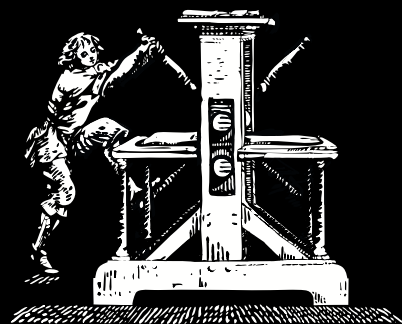
Mildred Grippio (1926-2018)

Mildred R. Grippio, 92, died at her home in Beacon on Dec. 28, 2018.

Mildred was born in Newburgh on Jan. 20, 1926, the daughter of John and Lena (Ferrara) Grippio. She moved to Beacon



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in 1947, where she became a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church. She married Henry Grippo, who died in 1998.

Mildred is survived by her son, Garry Grippo (Kim) of Beacon; her grandchildren, Christine Grippo of Poughkeepsie and Kimberley Mason (Mark) of Hidden Lake, Florida; and her great-grandchildren, Arthur Grippo of Newburgh and Ruth Grippo of Beacon. She was the last of nine children.

A Mass of Christian Burial was slated to occur at 10 a.m. today (Jan. 4), at St. John the Evangelist Church, 31 Willow St., in Beacon, with interment to follow at St. Joachim Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation (hvhospice.org).

Robert McNair (1940-2018)

Robert Lee Thomas McNair Sr., 78, died Dec. 18, 2018, at his home in Wallkill.

Known to his family and friends as “Cowboy,” he was born on April 10, 1940, in Moore County, North Carolina, the son of Tracy and Lessie McNair. On Oct. 18,



1960, he married Gloria Williamson in Beacon, where they raised their family.

Robert was employed by the Ford Motor Co. in Mahwah and Teterboro, New Jersey, for 37 years until his retirement.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was a co-founder of the Fisherman’s Net Club of Beacon. After retirement he became a full-time fisherman who made his own lures. As his love of fishing inspired others to fish, he was known as a “fisherman of men.”

Besides his wife, Robert is survived by his brother, Lenny McNair, of Walden, and his children: Robert McNair (Harriet); Terrence McNair (Susan); his sons Craig and Curtis McNair; his daughter Gloria McNair (Janeil) and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Dec. 26 at Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Jack O'Donnell (1935-2018)

John T. “Jack” O'Donnell, 83, a life-long Dutchess County resident, died on Dec. 23, 2018, at St.



Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

Born in Beacon on Nov. 6, 1935, he was the son of John and Anna (Schnetzler) O'Donnell. Jack served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict until his discharge in 1957 as an airman second class. He worked as a real estate agent for many years at Prudential Serls Prime Properties. On Oct. 6, 1957, he married Carol Betterton in Beacon.

Jack was an avid outdoorsman who liked to hunt and fish and also enjoyed golfing and bowling. More than anything else, he cherished spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons: Craig O'Donnell (Debra), John O'Donnell (Kim) and Sean O'Donnell (Dawn); his daughter-in-law, Jean O'Donnell; his grandchildren, Megan Mossey (Brian), Amy Eddy (Chris), Casey O'Donnell (Lauren), Joshua O'Donnell, Andrew O'Donnell, Travis O'Donnell, Taylor O'Donnell (Gianna), Dylan O'Donnell and Logan O'Donnell; and his great-grandchildren, Eve, Mae, Norah, Landon, Makayla and Dakota.

A graveside service was held on Dec. 27 at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Marcia Santovenia (1931-2018)



Marcia Santovenia, 87, a longtime resident of Beacon, died at home on Dec. 22, 2018.

Marcia was born in Banes, Cuba, on March 3, 1931, the daughter of Ricardo Gorrin and Leonida de la Caridad Almira. On Nov. 7, 1960, in Cuba, she married Rolando Santovenia.

The couple came to the U.S. as refugees and settled in Beacon. Marcia worked as a librarian at the Howland Public Library until her retirement. She was a devout Catholic and was a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church and attended Mass at the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon. She likewise belonged to the Hispanic Society and Comite Mi Gente.

In addition to her husband, Marcia is survived by her sons, Rick Santovenia, Ralph Santovenia (Effie) and Rei Santovenia (Erica); her grandson, Donovan Ellis; and her sister, Nilda Gorrin Almira.

Private funeral services were held at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

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Beacon Wrestler Finishes Second in Division in Regional Tournament

Chris Crawford, an eighth-grader at Rombout Middle School who wrestles for Beacon High School, finished second in the 99-pound weight division at the 53rd Annual Mid-Hudson wrestling invitational held on Dec. 27 and 28 at Arlington High School.

After going 5-0 in the preliminary rounds, Crawford advanced to the finals, where he was pinned at 5:22 by Colby Amell of Saugerties High School.

There were 311 wrestlers, from 25 schools, at the tournament and 863 matches.

In other competition, Javon Dortch, wrestling at 160 pounds, advanced after winning two of his three matches in the first rounds. He won his first finals match but lost the next two.

Dirani Haynes, after finishing 3-1 at 182 pounds in the preliminaries, lost his two matches in the finals. George Pinkhardt was 3-0 at 285 pounds and won his first match in the finals before being injured.



Although only an eighth-grader, Chris Crawford was named Most Outstanding Freshman Wrestler at the Mid-Hudson wrestling invitational held Dec. 27 and 28. He is shown with Beacon assistant coach Vin Grella.

Photo provided

Beacon Hall of Fame

High school to induct three athletes and two teams

The Beacon High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on Friday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m., before the boys' basketball game against Lourdes.

The 2019 inductees are Tori Alexander (Class of 2011), Tori Kerr (2012), Chelsea Dexter (2012) and the 1983 and 1984 girls'

spring track teams.

Alexander was the school, league and county record holder in the 55-, 60- and 100-meter dashes. She qualified for the state indoor and spring track and field championships in five events and was runner-up in the 55-, 100- and 200-meter dash.

At the state championships during her senior year, Alexander won the Section 1 sportsmanship award. She received a track scholarship to Northeastern University, where she recorded the Huskies' eighth-best time in the 60-meter dash and the seventh-best in the 200 meters.

Kerr is the first female lacrosse player and the first granddaughter of an earlier Hall of Fame member, Pat Kerr, to be inducted. Tori was a member of the inaugural girls' lacrosse

team in 2008 and played for four years on the varsity squad. In her senior year, she led Dutchess County in scoring with 80 goals. She went on to become a four-year starter at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where, as a junior, she posted 66 points, 56 goals and 10 assists and, as a senior, had 81 points, 50 goals and 31 assists.

Dexter earned letters in volleyball and basketball but will be honored for her accomplishments in softball. (She and her sister, Kristen, will be the second pair of sisters to become Hall of Fame members.) Dexter was a four-year starter at left field, second base and, during her senior year, at catcher, where she was named first team All-State. As a senior, she led the team to its first league and sectional championships in 13 seasons, hitting .409 with seven home runs, 32 RBI, 30 runs scored and an .851 slugging percentage.

After playing volleyball and softball at Dutchess Community College, Dexter was a two-year starter at Mount Saint Mary College and led the team in batting as a senior.

The 1983 and 1984 Bulldogs girls' spring track-and-field teams were unde-

Varsity Scoreboard

Girls' Basketball

Highland 61, Beacon 45
Millbrook 53, Haldane 31
Beacon 38, Haldane 36 (OT)
Dior Gillins (13) Beacon
Olivia McDermott (13) Haldane

Boys' Basketball

Chester 62, Haldane 60
Arlington 53, Beacon 49
Beacon 77, Millbrook 67

Boys' Bowling

John Jay East Fishkill 7, Beacon 0

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, John Jay East Fishkill 0

Indoor Track

Beacon @ Marine Corps Holiday Classic
Boys' long jump
4. Mark Guzman (19-01.75)
Boys' triple jump
3. Mark Guzman (39-01)
Girls' 55-meter dash
2. Jada Williams (7.70)
Boys' 800-meter run
1. Zachary Cader (2:05.97)
4. Evan LaBelle (2:08.76)

feated in dual meets and won the league championships. Nine members were selected All-League, including Beacon's first female All-American, Dorothy Vereen, who set four Section 1 records and was a state champion. In the high jump, the undefeated Brynne Ortquist was the region's best, setting the county record (5-6).

Vereen is already a member of the Hall of Fame as an individual, as is the 4x100-meter relay team from 1984 (Vereen, Rahmah Gray, Christina Rama, Della Porter and Sonia Johnson).

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Elijah Hughes, Syracuse



Tyrese Williams, Quinnipiac

BEACON STARS

A handful of Beacon basketball players are now playing at a higher level. After sitting out last season as a transfer student, **Elijah Hughes** is averaging 15 points and 4 rebounds for the Orangemen of Syracuse University ... **Tyrese Williams**, a freshman at Quinnipiac University, was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference men's basketball Rookie of the Week on Dec. 10 after scoring 26 points in two wins while shooting 50 percent from the floor. He averages 9 points and 5 rebounds per game ... **Leandra Echi**, a sophomore at Northwest Florida State College, was named the FCSAA State/NJCAA Region 8 women's Co-Player of the Week on Dec. 11. She averaged 9 points, 10 rebounds, 13 assists and 2.5 steals in two games for the unbeaten Raiders ... **Malachi De Sousa**, a freshman at the University of Albany, is averaging 9 points and 3 rebounds per game.



Malachi De Sousa, University of Albany

Photo by Bill Ziskin



Leandra Echi, Northwest Florida State College

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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

- 1 spears (6)
- 2 spelling competitions (4)
- 3 2018 NHL champions (8)
- 4 reaction to pollen (8)
- 5 like an attentive bookkeeper (10)
- 6 seeks to be mayor, perhaps (9)
- 7 DC big cheese (5)

SOLUTIONS

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CAPUSUSPU GNS

LOPAIING LS ES

EZPOTCES CAM SC

SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 3

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SPORTS



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Anita Rodriguez



Olivia McDermott

Beacon girls hang on to nip Haldane in tight game

Team effort overcomes halftime deficit

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School girls' basketball team rode a strong fourth quarter to a 38-36 victory over Haldane in the Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament at Spackenkill and Highland high schools on Dec. 28 and 29.

The Bulldogs, who trailed 17-13 at halftime, made a run with solid second half play, according to coach Christina Dahl.

"After trailing at the half, we came out and played well in the third," Dahl said. "In the fourth we put a little pressure on them; we played a little bit of man (defense), pressed full court and forced some mistakes. And we hit some shots."

Dior Gillins finished with 13 points and was named to the All-Tournament team for Beacon. Skyler Kurtz and Grace Afeldt each added eight points and Lejdina Gecaj had five.

"Dior really played well for us," Dahl said. "She handles the pressure well. And Skyler, Grace and Lejdina all chipped in with valuable contributions. Everyone contributed to the victory."

A day earlier against Highland, the Bulldogs came up on the short end of a 61-45 decision.



Analiese Compagnone (5) of Beacon dribbles around Haldane's Bela Monteleone.

Kurtz and Anita Rodriguez each had 11 points to lead the Bulldogs (2-7) in the loss.

"It was a five-point game at halftime, but it got away from us," Dahl said. "We ran out of steam and our shots were just not falling. Our defensive effort was not what it should have been. And Highland is a very talented team."

Haldane also dropped its first game in the tournament, falling 53-33 to Millbrook.

Beacon is set to open league play today (Friday, Jan. 4) at Poughkeepsie with a 4:15

p.m. game. The Bulldogs then host Hendrick Hudson on Tuesday (Jan. 8) at 4:30 p.m.

"We are improving," Dahl said. "We're seeing it in practice. Every day we're getting stronger, and every day we're getting more competitive. We're really looking forward to our upcoming games."

Haldane is scheduled to take on White Plains in the Peekskill Tournament on Jan. 10 at 4:30 p.m. The tournament continues on Jan. 12.

Haldane boys fall in heartbreaker

Chester hits game-winner in final seconds

By Skip Pearlman

It's never pretty when the home team gets out-worked in the final moments of a tough loss.

The Haldane High School boys' basketball team was not a happy bunch a week ago (Dec. 28), after they allowed the game-winning basket to fall on a third opportunity with just four seconds left in a 62-60 loss to Section 9's Chester. It was the Blue Devils' inability to body-up and grab a rebound in the waning moments of the Chester game that cost them at least a chance at overtime, coach Joe Virgadamo said.

"We've been practicing rebounding all year," Virgadamo said. "And after that we spent even more time on it. It's not helping

us in any situation — allowing second and third shots. We've got to keep working on it until that's a strength."

Matt Champlin led Haldane (5-3) with 17 points, Dan Santos added 15, and Mame Diba had eight points.

The Haldane coach took some positives away from the loss.

"Dan Santos had his best game of the year for us," Virgadamo said. "He's showing what he's made of with some good defenders on him. He's really been improving. Matt (Champlin) has also been coming around; he's improved quite a bit. Mame has also been getting better and better every day. He could be a big threat for us by the end of the year."

The Blue Devils are scheduled to visit Yonkers Montessori Academy today (Friday, Jan. 4) at 4:30 p.m., and the team faces North Salem in the Putnam Challenge at 4 p.m. on Saturday (Jan. 5) at Carmel High School.



Alex Kubik (3) of Haldane fights past a defender last week in the Blue Devils' loss to Chester.



Matt Champlin of Haldane rises to launch a jumpshot against Chester last week.

MORE SPORTS ON PAGES 14 & 15