

The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 25, 2019

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



Training Ground
Page 7



CALM AFTER THE STORM — Scott Snell ventured onto Main Street in Beacon a few minutes after midnight on Sunday morning (Jan. 20) to capture this snapshot of the city's thoroughfare cleared of snow, cars and people. For more wintry scenes, see Page 5.

Photo by Scott Snell

A Fire District for Cold Spring?

Village Board, fire company discuss option



The Cold Spring firehouse

File photo by Dave Lant

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Fire Co. has begun discussions with the Village Board regarding the formation of a fire district administered by elected commissioners. Unlike in Garrison and North Highlands, the company currently functions as a department of village government.

"The idea was to throw the idea out there to you," fire company President Matt Steltz told the board at its Jan. 22 workshop. "We're not here to convince you of anything." It was unclear how committed the company is to forming a district; its

membership has not voted on the issue.

One downside to becoming a district, according to Steltz, would be an increase in taxes within the company's fire protection area, which includes the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville and part of Philipstown. He and other company members who attended the meeting also expressed concerns over a loss of internal control because the district commissioners would closely monitor operations. The Village Board approves the company budget but does not get involved in its day-to-day workings.

(Continued on Page 13)

With Housing, What is 'Affordable'?

Applications available for Beacon workforce units

By Jeff Simms

Eighteen months after the Beacon City Council recrafted a program that provides below-market-rate housing with priority to volunteer emergency responders and city and school employees, the apartments are beginning to fill, although it may be too early to accurately measure how "affordable" they are.

According to a workforce housing law that was revised by the City Council in 2017, households earning between 70 percent and 80 percent of the Dutchess County area median income (AMI), which is currently \$75,585, are eligible to rent units. Priority is given to volunteer emer-

gency responders who have served at least five years, followed by municipal and Beacon City School District employees. Households earning between 90 percent and 100 percent of the AMI are eligible to purchase units that are offered for sale.

The monthly rent, including utilities, for apartments cannot exceed 30 percent of the figure that represents 70 percent of the Dutchess AMI. For a two-bedroom apartment, that would be a maximum of about \$1,258 per month. The maximum mortgage payment for an affordable unit can't exceed 30 percent of 90 percent of the AMI, meaning for a Beacon household it couldn't be more than about \$1,700 per month.

"These units are for the portion of the population that is working full-time but not making six figures," explained Lauren

(Continued on Page 6)



Neal Christensen

Photo by A. Rooney

Hands Across Howland

Master the game of bridge and you may never look back

By Alison Rooney

If anyone in Beacon is close to being recognized as a "bridge whisperer," it would be Neal Christensen.

The retired IBM engineer and former faculty member at Mount St. Mary's College is a regular at the Monday morning bridge gatherings at the Howland Cultural Center that have been going on for some 20 years. At a recent session, as players changed tables, many drifted over to Christensen, showing him their

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: SHAUNA RICKETTS

By Alison Rooney

Shauna Ricketts of Cold Spring, who graduated last year from SUNY Geneseo, is a Fulbright scholar sponsored by the America for Bulgaria Foundation. She teaches English at a high school in Pravets, a town about 40 miles from Sofia.

Fulbright places its scholars all over the world. Why did you apply to go to Bulgaria?

Having grown up in the Hudson Valley, with Pete Seeger and its folk activism, I was intrigued by Bulgarian folk culture and I hoped to learn more about the way folk cultures contribute to change. Folk culture in Bulgaria, given the country's Communist past, is fascinating. Also, I had worked for a documentary production company in New York City and some of my colleagues mentioned working with Bulgarian filmmakers, which put Bulgaria on my radar.

Beyond teaching, what is expected of you?

The cultural exchanges I experience are not formal. They

are casual moments that get me thinking about systems, and the creation of art and societies. My mentor at the school, Stefka, invites me to her home to roast peppers one by one to make *lutenitsa* (a traditional puree with eggplants and tomatoes), I shoot hoops with students while discussing the meaning behind American rap lyrics, and I sit at a health clinic with a student and compare the U.S. and Bulgarian waiting-room experiences.

How large is Pravets?

It's about 4,000 people. It's surrounded by mountains. There is fresh milk for sale out of the back of a 1972

Volkswagen hatchback, grapes on the trees lining the streets and herds of sheep in the distance. I live in a simple block building and listen to people reminiscence about how they enjoyed oranges and

bananas on Christmas before the fall of Communism. Generally, the towns and villages of Bulgaria are painted in yellow, which may because the country is said to have one of the lowest happiness ratings in the world. All the Bulgarians I have met emphasize family, relaxation and the importance of a good meal.

What is a good meal?

For breakfast or lunch, they enjoy *banitsa*, a salty pastry made from eggs, cirene [cheese] and filo dough. Many varieties exist which use ingredients such as pumpkin, cabbage and chocolate. A favorite for dinner is Shopska salad, with tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, onions and cirene. It's often paired with rakia, a brandy made from local fruit.

How does your Bulgarian school compare to Haldane?

A lot of my students are involved in basketball and their dedication brings me back to my days playing for Haldane. One of the major differences is that Bulgarian students are grouped into a class of about 20 kids from eighth grade until they graduate. And instead of moving from class-to-class each period, they stay in the same classroom all day and for five years of high school. This contributes to a camaraderie in each class rather than the grade as a whole.



Shauna Ricketts Photo provided

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Are you relieved or disappointed when a predicted snowstorm fizzles out?

“

A bit of both. The letdown is inevitable after the big buildup. Let's have some snow!

”

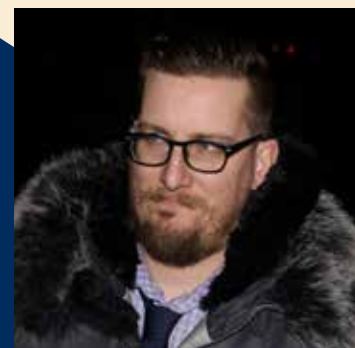


~ Hannah Kingsley, Beacon

“

Disappointed. I love inclement weather. It separates the weak from the strong.

”

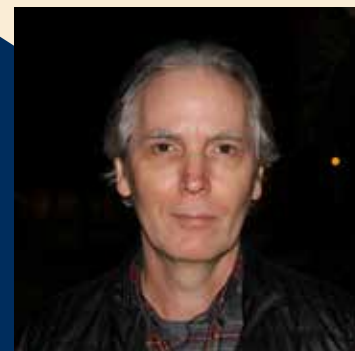


~ Travis Fyfe, Cold Spring

“

I feel vindicated. I seldom have much faith in the forecast.

”



~ Mike Farrell, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Central Hudson Offers Help with Heat

Assistance also available to furloughed federal employees

Central Hudson has a number of programs to assist customers who are struggling with their energy bills. See centralhudson.com/paymentassistance or centralhudson.com/specialassistance.

Home Energy Assistance Program:

This federal program provides qualified families using electricity or natural gas as their primary heating source a credit of \$350 or more. Households that use oil, propane, wood or wood pellets, kerosene, coal or corn are also eligible.

Payment Extension: Provides time to pay bills past the due date.

Deferred Payment: Extends past-due amounts when a customer stays current.

Budget Billing: Avoids seasonal swings in bills by dividing a household's average annual bill into equal payments. The final payment each year is adjusted up or down to reflect actual usage and market prices.

Good Neighbor Fund: Funded by customers and shareholders, this grant is available after all other forms of assistance are used. The fund also provides credits to qualified military families and veterans.

Finance Fee Waivers: The utility will waive finance charges for furloughed federal employees during the shutdown.

Haldane Foundation Awards Grants

Nonprofit raised nearly \$30K in fall

The Haldane School Foundation raised nearly \$30,000 at its fall fundraiser to fulfill grant requests from faculty and community members.

The funded projects are a service trip for the high school's seniors to New Orleans; a studio and production booth; a 10th-grade trip to Washington, D.C.; a music competition at Six Flags for seventh- and eighth-graders; a field trip to Frost Valley in the Catskills for eighth-graders; percussion equipment; a visit to the middle school by young-adult author Wendy Mass; and support for the school garden and the high school debate club.

The foundation also awarded funds to pay for a science field trip to the Quassy Amusement Park; a creative writing and poetry workshop for high school students; a sixth-grade trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; a stress reduction through yoga program for grades 5-6 and 11-12; character and social/emotional development assemblies for elementary students; garden recess for grades 4 and 5; a community edition of the high school newspaper in *The Highlands Current*; and a Black History Month assembly with Gwen Laster for the elementary grades.



EARLY TALENT — Young Beacon artists and their fans mingled on Jan. 19 at the Howland Public Library during the opening of its third annual *Art is Elementary* exhibit.

Photo by Michelle Rivas

Haldane Transportation Requests Due by April 1st

Haldane Central School District is accepting applications for Private/Parochial School Transportation for the 2019/2020 school year.

Completed applications should be mailed to

**Haldane Central School District
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
ATTN: Transportation Dept.**

and received not later than April 1st, 2019

Contact Elisa Travis at the Haldane Transportation Department at 845 265-9254 ext. 171 if you have any questions.

Applications can be found on the haldaneschool.org website

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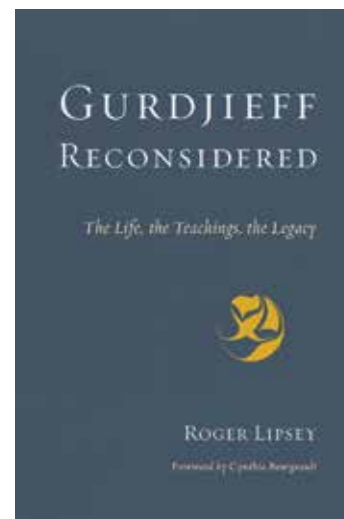
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GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT GARRISON, NEW YORK 10524

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES SET IN GARRISON

Garrison Union Free School will hold its Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year on **Tuesday, February 5** and **Wednesday, February 6** from **9 to 11 a.m.** and from **1 to 3 p.m.** on both days in the hallway outside of the Main Office. The child does not need to accompany the parent/guardian for registration.

Parents/guardians are required to bring the following:

- Original birth certificate - child must be age 5 by December 31, 2019
- Immunization records/Recent physical
- Proof of residency
 - > **OWNERS** - Signed contract of sale or deed, **AND** Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)
 - > **RENTERS** - Notarized affidavit of landlord, **AND** Rent receipt (within 30 days) indicating address, **AND** Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)

Information about the Tuesday, April 30th orientation for parents/guardians at 10:00 am will be given out at registration.

For additional information, call 424-3689 ext. 221

The HIGHLANDS Current

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Unfunded mandates

The state Legislature has returned to Albany for the 2019 session. With the new leadership, there will be a variety of new and creative initiatives for the residents of the state. One example of the many proposed initiatives is early voting, which was passed last week ("Voting Changes Coming," Jan. 18). Whether you are for or against it, this bill is an example of the financial concerns created by unfunded mandates. Unfunded mandates come from bills passed by the Legislature which place requirements on local governments without allocating funds to help pay for them.

In 2018, 70 percent of Putnam County's budget was state unfunded mandates, totaling nearly \$110 million. Additional costs associated with the early voting are staffing, securing voting locations, printing, counting ballots and securing elections are safe from threats, with an estimated cost to the county of about \$300,000.

The county's operational budget for 2019 has already been enacted. Where will this money come from? The State of New York should supply the funds if it expects local counties to carry out its mandates.

Records show that Democrats and Republicans, over the last several years, have voted for billions in unfunded mandates. The residents voted for change and expect a new era in New York. They want their government to lower taxes and understand the realities that everyday people face. Albany cannot ignore the burdens that unfunded mandates are placing on local governments.

Contact your state assemblyperson and senator and tell them you want unfunded mandate reform and you want the state to pay for the full fiscal impact that will occur with early voting and any other bills that are passed this year.

William Gouldman, *Putnam Valley Gouldman is a Putnam County legislator.*

5G concerns

Before approving 5G base stations, local officials need to consider the abundance of independent scientific studies showing its serious health effects ("Can You Hear

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Corrections

An item in the Jan. 18 issue stated that students who attend any church are invited to a weekly confirmation class at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown that begins in March. In fact, any student in grades 7 to 12 is welcome, not only those who are members of a congregation.

We reported in the Jan. 18 issue that Harry Leiter, a senior at Haldane High School, wrestles with the Hendrick Hudson team. In fact, he wrestles, along with junior Christian Alvarez, for the Putnam Valley team.

Me Yet?" Jan. 11). More than 31,000 people have signed an international appeal at 5spaceappeal.org to the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the governments of all nations to stop 5G on earth and in space.

The petition notes: "Despite widespread denial, the evidence that radio frequency radiation is harmful to life is already overwhelming. The accumulated clinical evidence of sick and injured human beings, experimental evidence of damage to DNA, cells and organ systems in a wide variety of plants and animals, and epidemiological evidence that the major diseases of modern civilization — cancer, heart disease and diabetes — are in large part caused by electromagnetic pollution, forms a literature base of well over 10,000 peer-reviewed studies."

Everyone is being harmed with no legal recourse due to the lifting of all regulations on the telecommunications industry by the Federal Communications Commission in 1998. All plant and animal life on earth stands to be devastated by pulsed fields from at least 20,000 satellites being launched without our consent to blanket the globe and the atmosphere.

Without access to our intended 7.83 Shumann Resonance, which has been called Mother Earth's natural heartbeat (see the documentary *Resonance — Beings of Frequency*), we will not be able to experience the health that is our birthright.

Hope Turino, *Garrison*

The KKK: No Percent American

Editor's note: The fact that the Ku Klux Klan was active in the Highlands (and across the country) in the 1920s might suggest its prejudice had strong local support. But this editorial, which was published by the Cold Spring Recorder in December 1922, belies that perception.

In defense of the Ku Klux Klan, its apologists sum up its activities as "100 percent Americanism." On this plea it seeks to extend its membership among Christian men, and has been so far successful that we have seen the published statement that the organization is practically made up of church members. They have been persuaded that by supporting and engaging in its activities that they are exemplifying the principles of Christianity and patriotism!

There could scarcely be a greater delusion. Whatever else the secret Klan may be or profess to be, it is known to be an organization which tends to destroy respect for law and constituted authority, and which is committed to policies which are the opposite of Christ's law of brotherly love. America is as much the land of the Jew, the Catholic, the African and the Mohammedan as it is of the Anglo-Saxon, the Methodist or the Baptist.

The law knows no distinction in their citizenship and should know none. They are all capable of being "100 percent Americans," whatever that phrase may mean, and many of them have proved it by the habit of their life and the sacrificial manner of their death. The descendant of the Mayflower pilgrim has no claim to a higher percentage of Americanism than the naturalized citizen who was born on the banks of the Liffey, the Danube, the Po or the Volga. The only test is the man's own loyalty to American principles and his service to the commonwealth. Nor is the man who regards Rome or Jerusalem as the hearthstone of his faith to be discounted in comparison to the Puritan, the Huguenot, the Lutheran or the Methodist.

To this doctrine we believe that thoughtful people will subscribe. But they should do more than give it their passive respect. Just now it is their duty to do their utmost to oppose and destroy the insidious propaganda of such organizations. In the land of the free there is no place for terrorists; in the home of the brave there is no room for masked cowards; in a church which preaches brotherly love there can be no tolerance for the man who proclaims a false gospel of racial and religious hatred.

(*The Christian Advocate*)



"WE'RE GETTING AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCES MAKING UNVERIFIED CLAIMS IN AN OUT-OF-CONTEXT VIDEO, WHICH-IF TRUE, IS HUGE NEWS, AND IF NOT-UTTER HORSE HOCKEY..."

Wintry MIX

What's a little snow without a little ice? These photos were taken Sunday (Jan. 20), after the storm had passed. Some forecasters say New York will be hit by more brutally cold days over the next few weeks, although temperatures are expected to be more temperate this weekend.



Winter Hill, Garrison

Photo by Sheila Williams



South Mountain Pass, Garrison

Photo by Sheila Williams



At Cold Spring Lawn and Tractor Service

Photo by Michael Turton



Looking east by drone over Beacon; for a video, see highlandscurrent.org

Photo by Scott Snell

Storm Prep (For Next Time)

How to receive updates

Beacon
Swift911 will call you in event of an emergency to share important information. Sign up at cityofbeacon.org. Updates also are posted at facebook.com/beaconny.

Cold Spring
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Housing *(from Page 1)*

McLaughlin, home ownership manager for Hudson River Housing, the nonprofit agency that administers Beacon's program. "It's for the nurse or schoolteacher who's not able to afford fair-market rent."

A recent notice on the city's website advertises studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments at two developments, at 7 Creek Drive and 344 Main St., with rents beginning at \$1,508 per month. The regulations passed in 2017 do not apply to these two projects, because their plans were approved by the Beacon Planning Board before the revised formula was put into place. Instead, they are being offered at the city's previous "affordable" standard: 30 percent of 100 percent of the AMI.

Two below-market rate units will also soon be available for purchase at the Beekman Street condo complex behind City Hall. A one-bedroom will cost \$192,760 and a two-bedroom, \$275,462. Some market-rate condos at the development, which is called The View, have been advertised

for more than \$1 million.

At a meeting of the Beacon City Council on Monday (Jan. 21), resident Michal Mart asked its members to revisit the housing issue. "If you're making \$66,000 a year, it's not affordable to pay \$1,500 in rent for a studio apartment," she said.

Council Member Jodi McCredo said she shared Mart's concerns. "It doesn't mathematically make sense to me," McCredo said. "I feel like the people who qualify for these apartments couldn't possibly afford them. There has to be a better way to help people in this community."

Mayor Randy Casale said he's heard good things about the program. "I know people have moved in and taken the benefit from it," he said. "I do know it's working but it's new. As more [units] come online, we'll have more available."

How it works

Five developments are part of the city's workforce housing program: 344 Main St. (two units), 7 Creek Drive (five), the Beacon Theater (three) and The Lofts

at Beacon (14), as well as four condos at The View, although about half of the total units aren't available yet.

Eligible residents must apply through Hudson River Housing. The developer may rank applicants based on a credit check or rent history, as long as fair housing laws are followed, McLaughlin said.

A common misconception, she added, is that workforce is part of the federal program that provides subsidized housing, such as Section 8. That housing is generally available to people making 30 to 50 percent of an AMI. The Beacon Housing Authority oversees more than 500 Section 8 units in Beacon at the Davies South Terrace, Forrestal Heights, Hamilton Fish Plaza and Tompkins Terrace complexes.

Another affordable complex outside of the workforce program, the West End Lofts, should be ready for occupancy by September, developer Ken Kearney said this week. Just south of City Hall, the Lofts will include 50 affordable artists' spaces, 22 middle-income units and 25 market-rate apartments within walking distance of Main Street and the train station. The development received \$4.5 million in state funding.

Statistics comparing Beacon's affordable housing stock with the rest of Dutchess can be misleading. The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development publishes an annual rental survey but its most recent data was compiled before Beacon's new formula was implemented.

The data, for example, show many more below-market rate apartments in other



A listing photo for 344 Main St.

I feel like the people who qualify for these apartments couldn't possibly afford them. There has to be a better way to help people in this community.

~ Beacon City Council Member Jodi McCredo

Dutchess communities and put the average market-rate rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the county at \$1,224 and the workforce rate at \$806, far below the rents being advertised in Beacon.

The Dutchess survey also indicates that

(Continued on Page 10)

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The Calendar



Model train club offers challenges, camaraderie

By Michael Turton

Peter Bach attributes his “near-obsession” with model trains to his German grandparents.

“When I was 6 years old they sent me a huge parcel at Christmas,” he recalls. “It was an HO scale [1:87] diesel locomotive and a couple of freight cars.”

For the past 16 years the Cold Spring veterinarian has pursued what aficionados claim to be “the world’s greatest hobby” through the Olde Newburgh Model Railroad Club. Founded in 1942, the club met in that city until 1998, when it moved

to Walden after the Masonic Temple that it called home was sold.

In the Walden space, at the VFW building, members have installed 400 feet of track to guide HO and N (1:160) passenger and freight trains through landscapes, towns and villages, with stops at depots, freight yards and sidings.

Bach, who also has a 100-square-foot layout at his home in North Highlands, has difficulty naming his favorite model but finally concedes it may be the American Locomotive Co. “Big Boy,” which was the world’s largest steam locomotive before World War II.



Peter Bach adjusts an HO scale locomotive.

Photos by M. Turton

For Bach, whose areas of interests include electronics, decoding and locomotive maintenance, the biggest challenge is to make the layout realistic. “The goal is to have it look so real that when photographed you can’t tell it’s a model,” he says. That process is not easy, but when it works, “there is a real sense of accomplishment.”

Several years ago, participation in the railroad club waned, and membership

dropped to the single digits. In recent years it has enjoyed a resurgence. While its 40 members are predominantly male, some women have joined, their interest typically fueled by their fathers when they were girls.

Changing technology

Tip Galyon has been a train modeler since 1951. “Everybody needs a hobby and there are so many aspects to this one,” says

(Continued on Page 9)



By Alison Rooney

Kathy Curto wanted to write a memoir of her growing up in New Jersey but had a concern: how would her three older siblings react?

So the Cold Spring resident sent them each the manuscript for *Not for Nothing: Glimpses into a Jersey Girlhood*.

“I asked them to read it so that we could all talk about it,” she says. “I made choices in how I would present scenes from what I remember of my family life. The word *agonized* is not too melodramatic in terms of my consideration of how family mem-

bers would feel.”

Her siblings were OK with her manuscript. Bordighera Press, a publisher of books on Italian and Italian-American culture, also liked it and agreed to publish the book, which Curto will read from at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, at Split Rock Books in Cold Spring.

Curto’s memoir contains about 50 stories from her Italian-American upbringing. They evoke a childhood full of ripe, nostalgic sensory memories but also the inevitable painful underpinnings of family life. Nothing is sugar-coated, including the difficult together-apart-together rela-

tionship of her late parents.

“The stories are scene-driven,” she says. “The textures were there: dancing on top of a counter, my mother’s handkerchief, an awareness of the affection between my father and my mother at that moment.”

Curto focused on sociology and creative writing while attending Sarah Lawrence College, and went on to become a social worker. But after her children had grown (the youngest is a senior at Haldane), she returned to the Bronxville campus to take a course at the school’s writing institute.

During one class, the teacher gave the students a prompt, which was to describe their earliest memory. “Something immediately came to mind,” Curto says. “It was music- and gas station-related and very sensual. ‘Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head’ was playing, there was humidity, sweat — particularly my father’s sweat and dancing. I was so ready to be writing. Now it’s the second chapter of the book. I had no idea at that point that I was starting anything but a classroom exercise.”

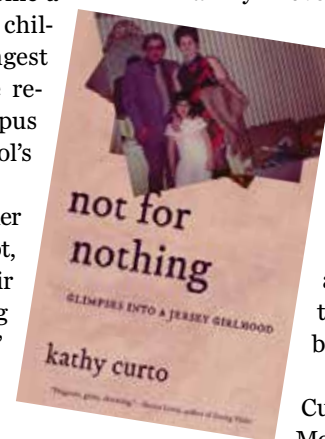
She kept writing and received a fellowship that “catapulted the process. It allowed me to continue writing these glimpses, focusing on memories. These glimpses became my thesis when I obtained an MFA in creative writing so that

I could teach at a college level.”

It was not until she had been working for a couple of years on what would become *Not for Nothing* that Curto started calling it a manuscript. “The whole ‘calling it a book’ was a hard thing for me,” she recalls. “I have a memory of being in the Ocean City Library, soon after my family moved [to Toms River, New Jersey], feeling dislocated. I was always all about the summer reading, and now I was in a new location. The bookshelves felt magnificent to me, and those people who wrote the books on the shelves seemed so far away from my world. Since then, I’ve been surrounded by books, teachers and authors.”

After toiling for a long while, Curto took a semester off from Montclair State University, where she teaches creative writing, to finish the book.

“I was just beginning to feel that indescribable feeling that I was never going to be finished, but that it was time for a close,” she says. She says it still feels surreal that her work is in a book. “With my creative writing students, at the end of the semester, I tell them to print everything they wrote for the class and hold it in their hands,” she says. “How heavy is it? That’s your body of work. This is mine.”



Bridge Club *(from Page 1)*

hands, seeking advice. The questions and his answers, as well as the conversation around his table, were foreign to anyone but bridge players:

"My partner opened with a club. Should I?"

"You should have played the king right away."

"I'm stuck with one no trump."

"I've got a balanced hand."

"Discretion says I should bail. I hate to bail. But I will."

"I'm a little overbid. Glad I passed."

"Ay caramba!"

Christensen's enthusiasm for the game is evident. "Bridge is the most complex card game in the world," he says. "It involves using logic and understanding probability. It's a game of partnership, built from communication and trust. The communication is all done through the cards."

Other players at a recent Monday session often used the word "addictive" to describe the game's appeal. The consensus was that once you got bitten by the bridge bug — you stay bitten.

Aspects of the game date to the 16th century, at least, and the first published rules of biritch, or Russian whist, from which the name *bridge* is thought to have evolved, appeared in the 1880s. It became popular in the U.S. and England a decade later as "bridge-whist." More fine tuning, particularly in bidding and scoring, followed, until the arrival of "contract bridge" in 1925.

Nowadays the most popular form of

bridge, and the type played at the Howland Center, is duplicate bridge, in which the same arrangement of the 52 cards into the four hands is played at each table and scoring is based on relative performance. The importance of skill is heightened while that of chance is reduced.

Bridge reached its zenith in the U.S. in the 1940s and 1950s, when "it was as popular as baseball," Christensen says. Today it's a challenge to get young people to take it up — although Kathie Munsie, who has been coordinating the Howland group for the past five years, says she has made inroads with her 11-year-old grandson.

At the Howland, players change partners every four hands, which "encourages camaraderie and the benefits gained from the sharing of knowledge," Munsie explains. Players come from Beacon, Cold Spring, Fishkill, Newburgh, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls.

Christensen learned the game from his wife Suzanne years ago but took a 30-year hiatus when their son was born. Now he's back at it with a vengeance. He considers bidding the game's most difficult aspect.

"Each bid is intended to communicate information about your hand to your partner, and that can be hard to do," he says. It's easier for those who think in certain ways. "A rational brain is better suited for bridge than an artsy one. Memory is important. You have to count cards, keep track of the four suits. Know what trump cards are still out there." Suzanne Christensen adds that bridge is hard to teach,

Join the Club

The Beacon bridge group plays most Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5, which includes refreshments, and the player with the highest score plays for free the next time. For information, email Kathie Munsie at riverwachr@aol.com. Neal Christensen, who is an accredited American Contract Bridge League teacher, conducts a series of classes twice a year; the next starts April 11 in Newburgh and April 12 in Poughkeepsie. Email ntchristen@verizon.net.

"because you have to learn it all at once; it's not progressive."

Even if they are perplexed by the more challenging game play, many new players quickly become converts. Harry Norman, who began playing 18 months ago, notes there is a "steep learning curve, but if you stick with it you'll start making breakthroughs. I especially like this group; other groups discourage socializing, but this group is very congenial."

Rose Clary-Droge hadn't played since her youth but was encouraged by a friend. "I took lessons from Neal," she says. "Although I remembered a lot, there were all these new rules. Now, it's like, 'Don't disrupt my bridge day!'"

Eldon Smith began about two years ago



Visual indicators eliminate unallowed communication (via tone of voice) between partners.

Photo by A. Rooney

and says he has fallen for the game hard. "My mother was great at it, but I was always too busy to learn," he recalls. "Now I have the time and willingness. And I'm learning more each time. I went to a place in the beginning, where, well, they didn't throw me out, but they did suggest I come back after taking lessons. I play several times a week, here and at Lagrangeville. I can get bridged out."

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The ad will be this size and appear in our Feb. 8 issue.

❤

TO Juliet

FROM Romeo

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The more I have, for both are infinite.

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All Aboard *(from Page 7)*

the Fishkill resident. "I like to work on track, switches and operational reliability."

Don't ask him to build a scenic backdrop, however. "I'd screw it up," Galyon says with a laugh. He believes one of the club's strengths is its mix of technically skilled and artistic members. "But between you and me," he confides, "most guys who are good with scenery — their trains don't run so well!"

The club has always mentored children and young people, Galyon said, noting that one boy who joined at age 16 is now a brakeman for the Pan-Am Railway in Massachusetts. "He was enthusiastic and passionate," Galyon remembers. "Now he's making a good living from something he started as a hobby."

Galyon, who went on a lengthy hiatus from model railroading while raising his children, found that the hobby had changed radically when he returned. "In the old days you had to have a central command station," he recalls. "Everything had to be cut up into blocks with toggle switches and switching was complicated."

Today trains are controlled through radio signals sent to a chip located in the locomotive. "You have to program it," Galyon says. "That takes certain skills." When those skills are not adequate it can lead to mishaps — including collisions.

A happy space

Last week, Norm Coard of the Town of Newburgh tested his trains on the club



Norm Coard tries out a new locomotive.

Photo by M. Turton

track for the first time. The locomotive he brought was as much a rookie as its owner. "It's a Penn Central D78 diesel locomotive," he explains. "I just figured out how to use the radio control today." He owns a handful of locomotives that he said cost up to \$300 each.

Coard is clear about why he joined the club. "I've worked a lot and I want to enjoy what I worked for," he says. "This is my enjoyment, my peace of mind, my happy space."

That sentiment was shared by other members, including Bach. "I enjoy the friendship, the camaraderie and sharing a good laugh," he says. "I get hardly any modeling done at meetings; we mostly sit around and talk."

The club meets Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the VFW Building at 8 Oak St. in Walden (ring the bell to enter). It also sets up layouts at malls, retirement homes and events such as the Kingston Model Train Show on March 24. See newburghmodelrrclub.org.



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? Suzanne Giachinta of Cold Spring submitted this shot of her granddaughter, Dakota Dubiel, with Brody. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
SINCE 1888



We are pleased to welcome Rudolf to our Cold Spring Brokerage

Rudolf van Dommele has lived in Cold Spring for the last 28 years. After graduating from the Photography Academy in the Netherlands he came to New York, via Milan and Paris, to work as a fashion photographer. He has raised his three boys in this wonderful community and continues to give back by teaching chess and volunteering as a soccer coach.



TRAIL'S END

Private gated drive leads to sprawling Contemporary with stone fireplaces. Deck and pool. WEB# PO1526490 | Cold Spring | \$1,050,000



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Total renovation on first floor. Country kitchen with wood cabinets and granite counter. WEB# PO1526881 | Cold Spring | \$379,000

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Chip Taylor

With guitarist John Platania

Feb. 1 at 7:30

Excellent Creature: Dialogues with Drama

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

By Moises Kaufman

Feb. 2 at 7pm

Depot Docs:

Far from the Tree

Feb 8 at 7:30pm

The Importance of Being Ernest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by
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March 1-17

TICKETS AT
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



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HUDSON HILLS



Two developments going up opposite each other on Main Street in Beacon

Photo by Robert Maddock

Housing (from Page 6)

a household would need to earn \$50,280 annually to afford the average one-bedroom apartment in a mid-sized (20 units or more) complex, which, it notes, could be a challenge for seniors, single-income families or entry-level employees.

A 2018 report by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a nonprofit that monitors housing costs, found the median renter in Beacon earned about \$34,000 annually, and that 50 percent of city apartments could be considered “affordable,” meaning the tenant paid less than 30 percent of his or her monthly income for rent.

Conversely, the group concluded that 25 percent of the apartments in Beacon were “unaffordable,” or requiring between 30 and 50 percent of a renter’s monthly in-

come, and 25 percent were “severely unaffordable,” or costing more than half of what the renter earned each month.

“It’s hard to get apples to apples” when comparing Dutchess communities, explained Mary Linge, the director of real estate development for Hudson River Housing. “Beacon just started its program to keep the people who are in Beacon,” whereas Fishkill and other municipalities have had affordable initiatives in place for a decade or longer.

Dutchess statistics also don’t yet include a non-workforce project like the West End Lofts, which will still add to Beacon’s affordable housing stock. But the various programs, Linge said, all have the same goal, which is “to make sure you’re preserving affordable housing for this income level for the long term.”

START READING NOW

Book clubs announce upcoming titles

Beacon Book Club

THURS., JAN 31, 7 P.M.

The Godfather, by Mario Puzo

Location available to members
meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub

Edible Book Club [New]

SAT., FEB 16, 1 P.M.

First book chosen at meeting
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison

Graphic Novel Book Club (for Adults)

TUES., FEB 19, 7 P.M.

One! Hundred! Demons!,

by Lynda Barry

Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

History Book Club

THURS., FEB 21, 7 P.M.

In the Garden of Beasts,
by Erik Larson

Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Butterfield Book Club

MON., FEB 25, 7 P.M.

The Leavers, by Lisa Ko

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Fiction Book Club

THURS., FEB 7, 7 P.M.

The Last Samurai, by Helen DeWit

Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Binnacle Book Club

THURS., FEB 7, 7 P.M.

Educated, by Tara Westover

Binnacle Books, Beacon

Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES., FEB 12, 1:30 P.M.

The Curious Charms of Arthur

Pepper, by Phaedra Patrick

Howland Library, Beacon

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Friday, Jan. 25, 8:30 p.m.
Gratefully Yours

Saturday, Jan. 26, 1 p.m.
Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra
Rompatom Ensemble

Saturday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.
Christopher Brown - Free

Saturday, Jan. 26, 8:30 p.m.
Rick Danko Tribute:
Prof. Louie & the Crowmatix w/ The Woodstock Horns

Sunday, Jan. 27, 11:30 a.m.
The Edukated Fleas - Free

Sunday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
The Blue Confusion
feat. Todd Mihan, Nik Rael & Jorge Pertuz

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m.
Jeremy Schonfeld - Free

Friday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.
Jerry Kitzrow & Friends - Free

Friday, Feb. 1, 8:30 p.m.
Robert Gordon
feat. Chris Spedding & Rob Stone

Saturday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.
The Costellos - Free

Saturday, Feb. 2, 8:30 p.m.
Driftwood
Hugh Pool

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2:30 p.m.
Youth Open Mic - Free

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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

SAT 26

Friends of the Library Holiday Party

GARRISON

6 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org/friends.html
RSVP by phone or email staff@desmondfishlibrary.org for this annual holiday party for members of the Friends. Rescheduled from SAT 19.

SUN 27

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Potluck Discussion

GARRISON

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

Bring a dish to share and participate in a discussion led by the Rev. Stephen Holton, interim rector at St. Phillip's Church in Garrison, about how to fight racism and promote civil rights and social justice. Rescheduled from SUN 20.

WED 30

Dog Training (First Session)

GARRISON

5 p.m. St. Basil's (Gym)
67 St. Basil's Road | 845-558-0608
coldspringdogsports.com

Working with the Philipstown Recreation Department, Morgan Stebbins continues the six-week classes led for 15 years by Gayle Watkins before her move to North Carolina. *Cost: \$150*

WED 30

Christmas Tree Pickup

COLD SPRING

Really? You still have your tree up? Drag it to the curb today and the Highway Department will help you move on.

FRI 1

Community Blood Drive

PHILIPSTOWN

2 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | 800-933-2566
nybloodcenter.org

Bring photo ID or donor card. Start now to build your hemoglobin by eating broccoli, almonds, apricots and spinach. Walk-ins welcome.

FRI 1

Paint and Sip

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2880 Route 9

This fundraiser for the Class of 2019, sponsored by the Haldane PTA, will include light refreshments and wine. RSVP to donnapidala@gmail.com. *Cost: \$50*

SAT 2

Tu B'ish V'at Service

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. St. Mary's (Parish Hall)
1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-8011
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will celebrate "the New Year of the Trees," a festive seder at which fruits and nuts are eaten, along with wine, to recognize the beauty and bounty of God's world. All are welcome to attend the service, which will be led by Rabbi Helaine Ettinger. RSVP by emailing cathye95@aol.com.

SAT 2

First Responders Recognition Dinner

BEACON

6 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 914-474-1891
facebook.com/groups/beaconelks1493

This 10th annual dinner will recognize Dale Plumer from the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Steve VanBuren from the Beacon Fire Department (Tompkins Hose Co.), Brian Lawrence from



Robert Gordon, Feb. 1

the Beacon Police Department and John Miller from the Dutchess Junction Fire Department, along with Doug Zukowski, Steve Buchman, Brian Marron, Mike Zingone, Kayleigh Maupin, Andrew Molitoris, Mark Matthews, Dennis Cable, Mark Mathews Jr. and Robert Dross. Tickets are available at the Lodge after 2 p.m. and usually sell out. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 2

Tuskegee Airmen Annual Dinner

NEW WINDSOR

6 p.m. Anthony's Pier 9 | 2975 Route 9W
845-838-7848 | tai-ny.com

Each year during Black History Month, the Stewart Airport-based chapter of this national organization hosts a fundraising dinner to present scholarships to 12 high school seniors. The Alva Nelson Band will perform. *Cost: \$150*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 26

Robert Storr on Dorothea Rockburne

BEACON

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-440-0100 | diaart.org

The curator will discuss Rockburne, whose work is on display in an expanded exhibit that opened this month. *Cost: Free with museum admission*

SAT 26

Sharon Lindenfeld: Iterations / Tad Wiley: Sewan

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Lindenfeld's printmaking features abstract etchings exploring the subconscious. Wiley's work on paper and paintings are inspired by his relationship to nature. Both shows continue through Feb. 24.

FRI 1

Drawings/Works on Paper I

COLD SPRING

6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St. | 845-809-5145
busterlevigallery.com

Twelve gallery members and guest artists display their work through Feb. 24. Part II will begin March 1. The gallery is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

SAT 2

Cabin Fever Workshop: Valentine Papercutting

GARRISON

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

After sharing a curated survey of valentines, instructor Jenny Lee Fowler will demonstrate papercutting techniques and design considerations for flat and folded work. Students can choose to work from Fowler's pattern or craft their own design. Registration required. *Cost: \$50 plus \$5 materials*

SAT 2

Cabin Fever Workshop: Needle Felting 101

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Learn the basics of 2D and 3D needle felting, a skill that can be used to make jewelry, figures, applique, embellishments, decor and patching. A variety of background fabrics and wool will be provided by instructor Erin von Holdt-Gilbert. Registration required. *Cost: \$50 plus \$20 materials*

MUSIC

SAT 26

New Cicada Trio

BEACON

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

The trio is Iva Bittova (violin,

voice and percussion), Timothy Hill (voice and guitar) and David Rothenberg (clarinets, self-floyote and "creatures"). *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 26

Rick Danko Tribute

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Professor Louie & The Crowmatix will be joined by the Woodstock Horns for a concert to celebrate the music and birthday of the late Danko, the lead singer, bassist and acoustic guitar player for The Band. In the 1990s, Louie performed on and produced three CDs for The Band and three solo CDs for Danko. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



Danko in 1971

FRI 1

Chip Taylor

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
brownpapertickets.com/event/3657497

Taylor, who wrote classics such as "Wild Thing" and "Angel of the Morning," and who has had 40 songs on the *Billboard* charts, will perform and answer questions about his long career. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 1

Robert Gordon

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

As a boy, Gordon was inspired to become a musician by hearing Elvis Presley sing "Heartbreak Hotel." He will be joined by guitarists Chris Spedding and Rob Stoner. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 2

Kofi & Sankofa

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
koficoncert.brownpapertickets.com

The drummers and dancers return to the Howland for another evening of traditional African folk and African-inspired contemporary music. "Sankofa" means "going back to the roots" in the Twi language of Ghana. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*



Paper Valentines, Feb. 2

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 26

Rompatom Ensemble and Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra

BEACON

1 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

The Compass Arts Rompatom Ensemble, directed by Gina Samardge, and the Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra, directed by Gwen Laster, will join forces for an afternoon of joyful music-making. The groups will be collecting non-perishable food or toiletry items for the Fareground Tiny Food Pantries. Reservations suggested. *Free*



SAT 26

Middle School Night

GARRISON

7 - 10 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

Philipstown students in grades 6 to 8 will play sports, pool, ping-pong and laser tag, and there will also be game-show challenges. Registration required. *Cost: \$5*

SUN 27

Great Westchester Toy and Train Show

WHITE PLAINS

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave. | 914-995-4050
westchestertoytrain.com

Enthusiasts, collectors and the curious will find new and antique models from hundreds of vendors.



Flor Bromley

SUN 27

Telltale Tracks

CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hhnm.org

Take a guided walk and learn how to identify and understand the signs of wildlife active in winter. Bring a white, washed T-shirt to make a "track shirt." *Cost: \$8 adults, \$6 children (\$5/\$3 members)*

MON 28

Sensory Story Time

BEACON

3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134, x103
beaconlibrary.org

This 45-minute session is designed for children ages 3 to 6 with special needs (intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental). It will feature simple stories, flannel boards, songs and movement activities that gently appeal to the senses with reduced outside stimuli. A social time will follow with toys that encourage small- and large-motor skills. This is an opportunity for children to socialize in a safe setting, and for adults to meet each other. Registration required. Repeats Feb. 11 and 25.

MON 28

Learning Differences Committee

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Music Room
15 Craigsides Drive

The committee is a joint project of the Haldane and Garrison school districts. Free childcare is provided.

TUES 29

Fiesta! With Flor Bromley

GARRISON

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

In a program funded by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Bromley returns to the library for her bilingual (Spanish/English) music and story program for children ages 5 and younger. Repeats weekly through May 28.

TUES 29

Traditional Lantern Making

GARRISON

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

Schoolchildren are invited to join Mrs. Merry and Ksenia Pitaleff for a family craft workshop to learn about traditions of lantern making, and to make one of their own to lighten the dark days of winter.

THURS 31

Christopher Robin

GARRISON

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

The library will screen this 2018 Disney film about the young boy who once embarked on adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood with his band of stuffed animals but has grown up and lost his way. Rated PG. *Free*

THURS 31

Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meeting

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School (Room 116)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org/elementary-school

This meeting is for parents who have children who will turn 5 by Dec. 31 and plan to enroll in kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. Contact Jodi Champlin at 845-265-9254, ext. 122, or jchamplin@haldaneschool.org to schedule an appointment for registration, which will be held Feb. 5 to 8.

SAT 2

Love Your Library Day Party

GARRISON

1 - 3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

This annual event will include crafts, treats and a scavenger hunt.

SUN 3

Youth Open Mic

BEACON

2:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-401-4062 | townecrier.com

Miss Vickie will host this open mic for students ages 18 and younger. There is a two-song limit. Registration by phone is required. *Free*

SUN 3

Confirmation Class Info Session

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Students in grades 7-12 and their parents are invited to this introductory session for Confirm Not Conform, a weekly course that will explore issues of spirituality and faith. RSVP requested by SAT 26 at ipresbyterian@gmail.com or by phone.

TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 26

Estate Planning Seminar

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Michael Martin, an attorney with experience in estate law, will cover topics such as handling assets, wills, advocacy and taxes. *Free*

TUES 29

Socrates Cafe

BEACON

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

Dan Fisherman, who teaches educational philosophy at Montclair State University and has a master's degree in analytical philosophy, will lead a Socratic dialogue that explores a philosophical, ethical or socio-political issue.

WED 30

Writer's Circle

GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary's Way | 845-424-4800
garrisoninstitute.org

The circle meets monthly for a collaborative writing workshop that includes time for meditation, reflection, writing and sharing.

WED 30

Funky Spunky Literature Night

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Join Beacon residents Donna Minkowitz, author of *Growing Up Golem* (at right), and Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi, author of *Wisdom in the Telling*, for an evening of zany, heartfelt memoir and fiction. After the readings, the hosts will guide the crowd in a Memoir Write-a-Thon with prizes for the best sentences and scenes.



FRI 1

Reading: Kathy Curto, Not for Nothing

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

The Cold Spring author will share stories from her memoir of growing up Italian-American in New Jersey. See Page 7

STAGE & SCREEN

THURS 31

Modfest

POUGHKEEPSIE

6:30 p.m. Vassar College
124 Raymond Ave. | 845-437-5599
library.vassar.edu/modfest2019

The opening reception for this annual exploration of the arts of the

20th and 21st century will feature the Vassar College Women's Chorus at the Loeb Art Center performing *Its Motion Keeps* by composer Caroline Shaw. The festival, which continues through Feb. 10, includes music, visual art, dance, film, workshops and lectures. *Free*

SAT 2

Open Auditions for Nunsense

GARRISON

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Jenn Lee, Christine Bokhour and Todd Hulet will hold auditions for this musical comedy, which begins rehearsals on Feb. 21 and performances in May. The cast includes five nuns in key roles and an ensemble of six nuns, and all performers must sing and dance. Email a headshot, resume and preferred audition times to toddhuletproductions@gmail.com.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

THURS 31

Freedom from Negative Emotions

BEACON

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

A Kadampa nun, Kelsang Chenma, will discuss how to use Buddhist meditation to overcome negative emotions. Weekly through Feb. 21. *Cost: \$10 per class*

SUN 3

The Ecstasy of Tantric Drawing

BEACON

Noon. Beacon of Light Wellness Center
4 S. Chestnut St. | 845-202-3515

Led by Diane Green and jLTg Holo, this introductory three-hour workshop will explore sensual (non-sexual) touch through Tantra. *Cost: \$50*

CIVIC

MON 28

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 28

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

SAT 2

Town Meeting with Sandy Galef

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 914-941-1111
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

Galef, whose district in the New York State Assembly includes Philipstown, will lead a discussion of issues being considered in Albany and the 2019-20 state budget.



Family Trails

A Treasure in the City

By Valerie LaRobardier

Wherever your ancestors may have lived, have you looked for them on Fifth Avenue?



There are a handful of spots that genealogists consider meccas for research — the Library of Congress; the Family History Library in Salt Lake City; the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana — and the Highlands happens to be about 50 miles from one of them, the New York Public Library at 476 Fifth Ave. That's a three-block walk due west from Grand Central Station, so there is no need to drive or let the snow keep you away.

Once inside, you'll make a beeline to the genealogy reading room on the first floor, which is the epicenter of the library's Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy. You will need a library card to request materials; it's available to any New York state resident. Create an account at nypl.org to apply.

Do your homework before you visit to maximize results; if something is confusing you can ask the librarian once you get there (or before by email or chat). There is so much to consider that Milstein can be overwhelming and intimidating if you are not a seasoned researcher. The library has posted a video (highlandscurrent.org/milstein) that I found to be a powerful incentive to explore Milstein.

Many of NYPL's resources for Dutchess and Putnam counties are available locally, but not all in one place, such as at Milstein. In addition, local families came from other places and then moved to other places, and there are many great resources at Milstein for immigrant research.

When visiting, cast a wider net than the published genealogies. For example, the Ferris family papers, compiled between 1865 and 1967, contain material about



A view of the Milstein genealogy room at the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street NYPL

many families from Dutchess and Putnam. Milstein also has the ledger of Dr. Elias Cornelius (1758-1823), who practiced in Yorktown and Somers but had many patients from southern Dutchess County (later Putnam). Using the microfilm printer, you can email PDF copies to yourself and view or print from home at your leisure.

With an account at nypl.org, you can create lists of books that you come across that might be helpful or useful for a quick look-up, then request them before your visit. Items stored offsite have a button on their catalog entry to place them on hold, which must be done at least two days in advance. Items located in the Milstein room can also be reserved. Why spend valuable time filling out request slips and waiting for the books to come up from the stacks under Bryant Park?

Although you can't eat or drink in Milstein, I step into the hallway for a quick energy bar and drink — no need to pack up my laptop and coat or lose my prime seat. I usually try for an end seat near the shelves I may need to go back and forth

to. Otherwise I go for an end seat close to the door and reference desk — but not too close. You don't want to listen to every other person describing his or her problems to the librarian.

Don't overlook the microfilm (which is nearby) and archival (third floor) collections. For the archives, you need to make an appointment and check your coat and bags. Many of the library's manuscript collections have finding aids so you can limit your search to specific boxes or folders.

If you're making a day of it and the weather is nice, you will find ample seating for lunch on the library terrace and at Bryant Park, along with an assortment of food trucks, concession stands and other eateries. The park also has free WiFi.

Once you have visited this amazing resource, you will immediately make plans to return.

LaRobardier is a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Questions? Email genealogy@highlandscurrent.com.

Fire District *(from Page 1)*

Mayor Dave Merandy seemed surprised that the company had no firm proposal. "I thought this was something you were going to bring to us, the pros of being a district," he said. "I thought you had figured out costs; do you have bottom line numbers?"

Merandy also wondered if the company would build a new firehouse if a district is formed, because it could be built outside the village but within district boundaries. Steltz said that could be considered "down the road" but that a new firehouse wasn't the only reason for considering the change. "We have a firehouse," on Main Street, he said.

The larger issue, he said, is that "we have concerns about finances and we're not sure if [the company] is going to be sustainable." All parties agree that the firehouse, which is owned by the village and recently underwent major roof repairs, needs further updates such as kitchen renovations, repairs to the brick façade and asphalt apron, and making its bathroom compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The company also would like a new fire truck (at about \$750,000), a state-mandated diesel exhaust ventilation system (\$40,000 to \$50,000), upgrades to its rescue boat and scheduled replacement of firefighting gear.

"We've talked to our attorney and he thinks a district is financially feasible," Steltz said. "But again, permission would be needed from the Village Board."

Merandy responded that he would "have to be convinced," citing concern over the potential tax hike for village residents. He pointed to the Garrison Fire Company's 2016 shift to a district that resulted in a 27 percent budget increase in its first year, before a state-mandated tax cap kicked in.

Ralph Falloon, the former Cold Spring mayor who is a longtime company member, said he could guarantee that if a fire district were established there would be no similar budget increase, a fiscal move he described as "insulting" to taxpayers.

Falloon and Steltz both said that under a district, there would be no need to increase the fire company's \$120,000 operating budget, which is not affected by major expenditures such as buying a fire truck; that is typically financed through a bond.

(Continued on Page 14)



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Fire District *(from Page 13)*

Another member of the company, Dan Valentine, told trustees that with a district the elected commissioners deal with administrative and budget matters, which allows members to concentrate on training and firefighting duties.

Creating a fire district would require the approval of the Nelsonville, Philipstown and Cold Spring municipal boards, and state law requires that Philipstown set it up. The town would also collect taxes on behalf of the district, just as it does for Garrison and North Highlands.

Merandy cautioned that a district could face an issue with Nelsonville, where offi-

cials questioned the cost of fire protection provided by the Cold Spring department, a dispute that took two years to settle.

The mayor asked the company to make its case more clearly. "If you want to go to a district give us what the [financial] starting point is going to be," Merandy said, even if it includes an increased operating budget in the first year. That way, he said, "residents will know what it will cost."

Apart from the district question, the board also asked the company to provide a prioritized listing of necessary expenses for the upcoming budget cycle, which begins in February. "I'll do a walk-through [of the firehouse] with Matt," Merandy said. "We may need an engineer."

The town would collect taxes on behalf of the district.



The Cold Spring Fire Co. would like to purchase a new fire truck, among other upgrades.

File photo by Michael Turton

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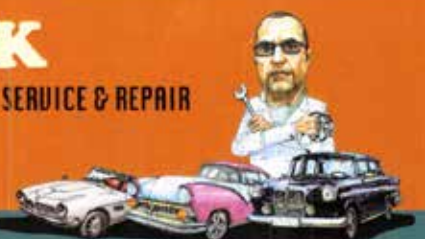
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LUNAR LIGHTS — In the midst of the storm, a super wolf blood moon lit up the sky from about 10 p.m. to 1:45 a.m. on Jan. 19 and 20, seen here in a series of photos taken in Garrison by Gary Ditlow. A blood moon (lunar eclipse) coincided with a super moon (the moon makes a close approach); it's also known as a wolf moon because it was the first of the year.

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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

1 breaks (7)

2 indigenous American ax (8)

3 clears window of frost, say (7)

4 Clapton & Cobain instruments (7)

5 assembled (9)

6 ability to foretell (10)

7 pour water into a pump, say (5)

SOLUTIONS

DA

ARS

WK

GES

RAP

AHA

NED

ME

FAS

NCE

HIO

CIE

GU

SC

TOM

ES

PRI

MA

PRES

IT

SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 3

SPORTS



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Nailbiters

Blue Devils nip Poughkeepsie, but nipped by North Salem

By Skip Pearlman

Three points can make all the difference. The Haldane High School girls' basketball team held on for a 47-46 victory over Poughkeepsie on Jan. 19 but dropped a 39-37 decision to North Salem three days later.

Hosting North Salem on Tuesday (Jan. 22), the Blue Devils had a strong fourth quarter, outscoring the Tigers, 10-4, but it wasn't quite enough when Bela Monteleone missed a contested layout with five seconds left that would have sent the game to overtime and a rebound attempt by Julia Rotando was off as well.

"We came out a little slow, made some mistakes and turned the ball over," Coach Tyrone Searight said. "We dug a hole for ourselves, but in the third quarter we changed our defense, tried some different things, and got some turnovers."

North Salem was up by five points with 40 seconds left, when Monteleone drained a three-pointer to make it a two-point game. After a North Salem player missed two free throws at the other end, Sofia Viggiano secured the rebound and Searight called two time-outs — one to stop the clock and the second to move the ball from the endline to half court and set up a final play.

"We gutted it out and played hard,"



Sofia Viggiano

Photo by S. Pearlman



Bela Monteleone eyes the basket as she attempts a layup to tie the score in the final seconds against North Salem.

Photo by Scott Warren

said Searight, who threw a clipboard to the floor after the horn in frustration. "A stop [one basket] ended up being the difference, but we played a decent game, and rebounded well."

Monteleone led the team with 19 points, and Rotando had seven.

Against Poughkeepsie, the Blue Devils were up by three points when the Pioneers made a mental error and shot and made a two-point basket with two seconds left, which was not enough to tie the game.

Olivia McDermott led Haldane with 17 points, Monteleone had 13 and Viggiano scored 12.

"Poughkeepsie is a big team, but we rebounded well and shot well," said Searight. "Olivia, Bela and Sofia all came out shooting with confidence, and Julia gave us good defense. Shianne Twoguns also had a nice steal at the end of the game."

The split left Haldane at 4-11 on the season, but Searight believes his team is headed in the right direction.

"It feels like we're coming together, catching our groove," he said. "We are shooting and rebounding better, and the team continues to improve."

Haldane was scheduled to host Putnam Valley today (Jan. 25) at 7 p.m. and will travel to North Salem on Thursday, Jan. 31, for a 6 p.m. rematch against the Tigers.

Beacon Grapplers Pin Victory at Yorktown

In earlier tournament, two wrestlers reach finals

By Skip Pearlman

Beacon High School's wrestlers admittedly weren't in top form on Wednesday (Jan. 23) but still picked up a 45-33 victory at Yorktown.

"We came out a little flat," explained Coach Ron Tompkins, but by the 152-pound match, "we started rolling. Our heavy-weights have been pretty consistent."

Chris Crawford, an eighth-grader, pinned his opponent at 113 pounds to improve to 26-4 on the season. At 152 pounds, Javon Dortch recorded a pin at 1:52, improving to 16-8. At 160 pounds, Adam Sovik had a pin, and Joe Maldonado, who returned from an injury to wrestle at 170 pounds (although he weighs 160), won by decision.

Dirani Haynes, who will wrestle next year for Sullivan Community College, picked up a win by pin at 182 pounds, lifting his record to 18-5, and Chris Barry earned a win by forfeit at 195. Damani Bellamy had a pin at 220 pounds.

"Crawford has been very consistent," Tompkins said. "Sovik and Dortch both wrestle up, giving up weight, but they find ways to win."

In the Beacon Bulldogs annual tournament, held at the high school on Jan. 18 and 19 with wrestlers from 16 teams,

seven of 14 Beacon wrestlers reached the semi-finals in their weight class, and Crawford finished second at 99 pounds and Haynes second at 182 pounds. Beacon finished eighth as a team.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to visit Walter Panas High School today (Jan. 25) to take on Lakeland/Panas and travel on Saturday to Washingtonville for a tournament.

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Haldane 96, Children's Village 39

Girls' Basketball

Haldane 47, Poughkeepsie 46
North Salem 39, Haldane 37

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Mahopac 0

Boys' Bowling

Mahopac 5, Beacon 2

Indoor Track

Haldane at New Balance Games
Boys' 1,000 meters

14. Adam Silhavy (2:40.43)*

19. Frank Bubbico (2:42.19)

*School record

Boys' Swimming

Beacon 95, Lourdes 75

Beacon 84, Nyack 68



ALUMNI MATCH-UP — Allison Chiera, a 2018 Haldane grad and 1,000-point scorer for the Blue Devils, is averaging six points and four rebounds per game as a freshman at SUNY's The College at Brockport. She saw a familiar face when the Golden Eagles traveled to SUNY New Paltz on Jan. 11: Samantha Lisikatos, a 2014 Haldane grad who played for SUNY Oneonta, is an assistant coach for the Hawks. Haldane girls' coach Tyrone Searight was at the game to watch his two former players. Chiera is shown in a Nov. 16 game against D'Youville College of Buffalo.

Photo by Sam Cherubin/Brockport