

The HIGHLANDS Current



Remembering
Pete Seeger
See Pullout

MAY 3, 2019

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

Beacon Farmers' Market Must Move Again

Also, council to hold hearings on Verizon, signs

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Farmers' Market will open on Sunday, May 5, at the Veterans Place site it has occupied since 2017, but only temporarily.

On June 2, the market — unable to convince the Beacon City Council to renew its one-year lease at the site — will relocate to the Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot at 223 Main St., about six blocks away.

The move will be the market's third in four years, and that upheaval may confuse casual customers, market organizers argued during the City Council's April 29 meeting.

The market was originally located at Veterans Place before moving to the Beacon waterfront in 2002. After becoming a project of the nonprofit Common Ground Farm, the market in 2017 returned to the Veterans Place block near Main Street and the post office. That allowed more people access, organizers said, and vendor sales increased 35 percent, with almost three times the number of low-income residents receiving discounted produce.

Yet even three years after moving, the market is still "getting people looking for us at the waterfront," said Paloma Wake, who manages the market for Common Ground. Another move would confuse the customers who have now grown accustomed to the Veterans Place location, she said.

Some nearby business owners, notably Phil Ciganer of the Towne Crier Cafe, say the market, which is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays from May 5 to Nov. 24, disrupts their operations by creating excessive noise, blocking parking spaces and selling products other than farm-grown food.

"I've shown up at work at 10 in the morning and I can't find a parking spot," said Ciganer, who voiced similar concerns a year ago when the market renewed its lease with the city. He noted that bands playing the Towne Crier have had trouble loading equipment into the venue when its side entrance has been blocked.

In the winter, the market moves indoors to the Memorial Hall building at 413 Main St.

(Continued on Page 5)



FILLING A NEED — Lincoln Wayland and Henry Hedlund were among the Scouts from Philipstown Pack 137 who joined Village of Cold Spring trustees, Tree Advisory Board members and Highway Department staff on Friday (April 26) in spreading mulch around an Okame Cherry tree planted on Main Street in front of *The Highlands Current* office to commemorate Arbor Day. The mulch was made by the Highway Department from recycled Christmas trees.

Photo by Jennifer Zwarich

Philipstown's Spanish News

Producer broadcasts programs around the world from Route 9

By Michael Turton

In a small studio in a blue building on Route 9 in Philipstown, Juan Carlos Salcedo broadcasts to the world.

Salcedo is the producer and host of the Spanish-language news and commentary programs *La Verdad Internacional* and *Punto Vida*, which are beamed via satellite to Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Colombia and Spain. The stories reach the rest of Europe via a program called *Aquí Latinos* (*Latinos Here*).

"We go deeper than the headlines," Salcedo says. "Our slogan is 'We look at



Juan Carlos Salcedo in his Route 9 TV studio

Photo by M. Turton

the DNA of the news.' "

Episodes of both shows are also posted on YouTube, and Salcedo brokered a deal with Optimum to show them on the local cable access channel in Putnam, Dutchess and Orange counties. "I wasn't seeing anything on Spanish-language television

locally other than soap operas," he said.

Locals do watch, he says. "It's not uncommon for me to go into a deli and have someone say, 'Hey, aren't you that guy on TV?'"

La Verdad Internacional (roughly, *The Truth International*) and *Punto Vida* (*Life*

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JEFF PLACE

By Brian PJ Cronin

Jeff Place is the lead producer and author of *Pete Seeger: The Smithsonian Folkways Collection*, a box set being released today (May 3) on what would have been Seeger's 100th birthday.

The set includes 137 tracks. How did you decide?

I was trying to only put stuff on that came out of the Smithsonian collections [of folk music]. But Pete did 70 albums for Folkways and a few more on other labels we own. And then there's 300 to 400 tapes of concerts and outtakes in our archives. I went through all of it, starting with his early recordings in 1942 through the end of his life. For the political songs, I wanted to focus on the ones he wrote, but he was involved in so many causes.

What do you think will surprise a casual listener?

The diversity. Disc 1 is the greatest hits, and the other five CDs are songs from around the world. Pete was doing multiculturalism in the 1950s before anybody else was even thinking about it.

How did you find the 20 unreleased tracks?

Pete was involved with *Broadside*, which

published political protest songs from the 1960s, and he also created a political music magazine called *Gazette*. He recorded a bunch of songs for those projects that didn't get on records. I found a couple of songs from the early 1960s where he sang about something that was perfectly timed for now. For instance, "The Ballad of Dr. Dearjohn" is about the battles going on in Canada at the time regarding socialized medicine. There are people in the song who are against it, saying, "It's going to ruin our country if we let this thing happen!" And I thought, We've heard this before!

Do you think Pete's work resonates in times of political upheaval, such as now?

Absolutely. I was once sitting in a room with Pete and some colleagues, during a time that was nowhere near as crazy as it is now, and someone asked Pete, "What do you



Jeff Place | Photo provided

think about now compared to World War II and the McCarthy era?" He said this stuff comes in cycles. This too shall pass. We'll get through this, and it'll change again.

Do you have a favorite track?

"Of Time and Rivers Flowing" — one of his Hudson River songs. It's an earworm. Even just mentioning it now, it's probably going to play in my head for the next three or four days.

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What trait usually associated with women should men try to adopt?

“

Humility.
Men tend to be more arrogant.

”



~ Sharon Verardo, Fishkill

“

Men could be more emotionally perceptive.

”



~ Nikki Polowski, Beacon

“

Admitting to being vulnerable at times. (1)

Empathy. (2)

”



~ Faye(1) & Lauren(2) Thorpe, Philipstown



Horses May Return to Tilly Foster

Philipstown legislator questions expense

By Holly Crocco

A pair of black Percheron horses may soon be visible from Route 312 grazing the pastures at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster — a sight missed by many longtime residents who have been awaiting the return of horses to the historic county-owned property.

Lou Albano, one of the caretakers at the farm, said at the April 18 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature's Physical Services Committee that while purchasing two horses would cost the county as much as \$30,000, a resident has offered to sell the county one horse for \$5,000 and donate the other, as well as a pioneer wagon and rigging so the horses can be exercised.

The first-year cost of purchasing the horses, providing veterinary services, buying feed (about 12 pounds daily), and purchasing other supplies, equipment and building materials is estimated at \$37,700. The cost in each subsequent year will be about \$15,000, he said.

The horses are 10 years old and typically live to be 25 to 30. While the animals are immense, weighing upward of 2,000 pounds each, they are known for being even-tempered and calm, he said.

A portion of the front lawn at the farm would be cordoned off to allow the horses to graze.

Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls) expressed concerns about a suggestion that the farm could offer horse or wagon rides,

and the liability that comes with it. "You don't know how they're going to act with a 2-year-old," she said.

Legislator Joseph Castellano (R-Brewster) called the purchase a great idea. "It would be a huge draw to the farm," he said. However, he noted that he would like to see an "exit strategy" spelled out if the county ever decided it could no longer care for the horses.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) criticized the administration for not having a master plan for the farm. In addition, she said she would not support the purchase of the horses because she is committed to holding off on any unnecessary purchases that would have a fiscal impact on the 2019 budget.

She noted that a week earlier, legislators had debated whether to change the title of a position in the Sheriff's Department based on the fact that it would be "adding" a position that was not in the budget.

"I look at this the same way," she said. "We're going to buy some horses, and I don't have any transportation in Philipstown."

However, Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) argued the purchase would be "an investment in the farm," he said. "People want horses."

The Physical Services Committee approved a fund transfer to purchase the horses, and the matter was forwarded to the Audit Committee. It will need to go before the full Legislature for approval.

NEWS BRIEFS

New Trustees for Howland Library

Voters approve \$1.2 million budget

Beacon voters on April 25 approved the 2019-20 budget for the Howland Public Library and elected two trustees to its nine-member board.

The budget passed, 172-15, and Kathleen Furfey and Diane Landau Flayter ran unopposed to fill two seats left open by the departures of Prue Posner and Donna Haynes. Trustees serve five-year terms. The other trustees are Jan Dolan (president), Karen Twohig, Stacy Christensen, Arabella Drouillard, Randy Lashua, Mark O'Malley and Tom Rigney.

The library's total spending for 2019-20 will be about \$1.2 million, nearly all of which comes from property taxes. The board voted in February to exceed the state-mandated 2 percent tax cap, which would have allowed it to raise its levy by \$21,000. Instead, it put a 5.5 percent increase, or \$58,000, before voters.

Most of the library's expenses are for

personnel costs (\$886,000) and administrative expenses (\$129,000). It also plans to spend about \$44,000 on books; \$13,000 on audio, movies and music; \$8,450 on databases, \$6,700 on magazine subscriptions; and \$28,000 on programming. Building and maintenance costs are expected to be \$72,000.

In a report, the library said it served nearly 11,000 people and circulated more than 101,500 items in 2017-18. It also hosted more than 250 events and programs for adults and more than 300 for children.

Boulder Blocks Breakneck Trail

State closes to assess potential danger

The popular Breakneck Ridge hiking trail closed this past weekend after a rockslide on Friday (April 26) left a boulder blocking the 8.6-mile trail.

Park officials, fearing other boulders might come down, closed the trail and, briefly, Route 9D. The trail remained closed as of Thursday (May 2).

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Second light

The seniors, who waited decades to get equality with the other towns in Putnam County and have their own taxpayer-funded center, can now wait even longer for a simple stoplight so they cross the street safely (“Does Cold Spring Need Another Traffic Light?” April 26).

I applaud Rena Corey for having the courage of her convictions to dare to confront the mayor and risk his wrath, which, as per usual, is directed at the taxpaying-resident who is simply asking government to do its job.

It is disgraceful that instead of acting like a responsible public official and working for the good of the community and the seniors who have done so much for Cold Spring during their lives, the mayor tells Ms. Corey to take a hike. It’s a mystery how this man can keep getting elected.

Why didn’t the mayor and other officials deal with this obvious problem during the many years that they were in negotiations and litigation with the developer? Thousands of dollars were spent by the village for planning and traffic studies, well before anyone put a shovel in the ground. Yet nobody could figure out that they were going to need a traffic light at the main intersection?

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

I submitted a nine-page public comment to the Planning Board challenging, among other points, the adequacy and accuracy of this site’s traffic and pedestrian plan. Many other residents were similarly critical, particularly of the scale of the development, but the approval process became a divisive political football, resulting in a wound that clearly has not healed.

Although undoubtedly he had his opinions, Dave Merandy was not the mayor at the time the Butterfield reports and plans were made. In any case, mayors cannot simply unilaterally override errors and insufficiencies in a report approved by the Planning Board. Mayors, while probably by charter more powerful than they should be, are not in the league of kings.

The pedestrian and traffic issues are going to get worse once all the construction is completed and the Butterfield site is fully occupied.

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*



Caught with *The Current* — Beacon Pantry, April 20

The traffic light would also be useful for the many who will be living at the Butterfield site, not just the seniors at Chestnut Ridge, to get to the pharmacy as well as the Foodtown plaza. A flashing caution light would be wonderful.

Donna Anderson, *Garrison*

Bravo to Officer Larry Burke for offering a smart solution that will burden no one. It is a dangerous crosswalk. My mom, 93, cannot cross there safely — after all, there is a reason that Downey Oil is a favored stakeout spot to catch speeders. But the village police cannot patrol that section of road 24/7. The services available on the east side of 9D should be an easy and safe passage for all, as should be the westward walk to the village proper. An on-demand traffic light is the answer.

John Cronin, *Cold Spring*

While we are on the topic of traffic-calming measures, what about the crosswalk at the intersection of Route 9D and Craigsides Drive? It is heavily used by children going to and from Haldane, and crossed by drivers at

speeds sometimes exceeding 50 mph. If our village’s seniors need help — and maybe they do! — what about our children?

Evan Hudson, *Cold Spring*

Looking back

Was the incident in which someone in 1944 yelled “Fire!” at the New Hudson Theater in Cold Spring the origin of that common anecdote (“Looking Back in Philipstown,” April 26)?

Ethan Timm, *Cold Spring*

The editor responds: There are new reports of people falsely yelling “Fire!” in crowded theaters that date to the 19th century — sometimes with deadly results — but the anecdote was popularized by a 1919 Supreme Court decision, written by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., in which the justices ruled that the defendant’s opposition to the military draft was not free speech. Holmes gave the example of “falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic” as being dangerous and not protected by the First Amendment. The court ruled that opposing the draft was similarly “dangerous” to the war effort.

Regarding the construction of Storm King Highway a century ago: During the summers while I was in college, I worked with an Italian-American stone mason, Joseph Chirella, who was born in 1900. He told me stories about working as a “water boy” for the laborers on the project. He also mentioned that there were several fatalities when workers fell over the side of the road.

Also in 1919, you noted that the Village Board asked the Army to release Dr. Ralph Hall so he could return to work in Cold Spring. His house was, for a time, the former Montessori school on Main Street.

Anthony Merante, *Cold Spring*

High praise

That was the best interview with novelist Tom Boyle ever published (“5Q: T.C. Boyle,” April 26). Bravo.

Dan Bloom, *via highlandscurrent.org*



No Challengers for Beacon School Board

Voters will consider \$73.6 million budget on May 21

By Jeff Simms

Three years after voters elected them as newcomers to the Beacon City Board of Education, Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng will each run unopposed on May 21 for a second term.

The candidates won easily in 2016, the first of three consecutive election cycles that have seen district voters install an almost entirely new school board.

In addition to the board candidates, Beacon voters will be asked to approve a budget for 2019-20 that includes \$73.6 million in spending, an increase of about \$3 million, or 4.3 percent. (The state-mandated tax cap for the district is 4.4 percent.) If adopted, it would increase the

taxes on a home assessed at \$300,000 by about \$200 annually in Beacon.

State aid (\$29.5 million) and the district's tax levy (\$40.3 million) make up the bulk of revenue, with about \$2.5 million coming from savings and \$1.1 million from a variety of other sources.

Expenses include \$4.6 million for building maintenance, \$586,000 for curriculum development and supervision, \$27 million for teacher salaries, \$12 million for programs for students with disabilities, \$2.3 million for computer-assisted instruction, \$563,000 for sports, \$3.3 million for transportation, \$2.5 million for teacher retirement costs, \$9 million for health insurance premiums, and \$5.8 million in payments on construction bonds.

The board approved the budget at its April 23 meeting.

While the tax levy — the total amount the district can collect through taxes — has increased, the tax rate by which individual homes are charged is expected to decrease for the third straight year when the city completes its assessments. That's because Beacon has more housing stock than a year ago, which allows the levy to be spread across more homes, Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi explained.

If approved by voters, the budget will pay for an additional elementary school teacher, new high school courses such as Introduction to Italian and a social worker who will be based primarily at the high school and specialize in the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

"We worked hard this year to create a vision of what we want to see in all of our graduates," said Superintendent Matt Landahl. "We feel this budget will help us begin to accom-

plish this plan by supporting more academic opportunities for our students, smaller class sizes, expansion of the arts and music, and more mental health support."

Voters will also be asked to approve a \$435,000 proposition to buy two buses and four vans for the district, and to allow the district to shift funds to increase the spending on a capital improvement plan approved in December from \$9 million to \$9.7 million. The board needs to move the money, the district said, because bids to install lights at an athletic field that will be constructed behind Beacon High School came in higher than expected.

The board will hold a public hearing on the budget on May 13.

District residents who are not already registered to vote with Dutchess County but wish to participate in the school elections may register at the District Office at 10 Education Drive on Tuesday, May 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. Residents must bring identification and proof of residency.

Beacon Market *(from Page 1)*

Market organizers sparred briefly with the council during the April 29 meeting, calling the move to the Dutchess County lot "abrupt and uncomfortable" for vendors and customers. But Mayor Randy Casale said Common Ground staff had dragged their feet after being notified that the change was imminent.

"The market knew it had a lease for one year," he said. "They knew the lease had to be renewed. It was your due diligence to come and get your lease done. It's not on us."

The City Council will vote on Monday, May 6, on moving the farmers' market for the upcoming season.

Public hearings

The council will hold a public hearing on Monday to discuss a request from Verizon to install a 52-foot wooden utility pole with a panel antenna on private property at 110 Howland Ave.

Verizon submitted an application last year to lease about 100 square feet on the property to erect the wireless antenna, but the company cannot proceed without a

special-use permit from the City Council.

The council has received highly disparate feedback on the proposal, including from consultants who've said the tower would safely address a gap in wireless coverage, and from residents who claim it will emit dangerous radio frequencies. The Beacon Planning Board has recommended the company construct a 6-foot fence around the facility and plant evergreens to hide the tower.

The Dutchess County Planning Board, in its review, suggested moving the tower to the east, closer to the Mount Beacon tree line.

A second public hearing will be held to discuss a recrafted sign ordinance that dates to last year, when city attorneys suggested Beacon's regulations were unconstitutional.

Since then, the council has debated numerous revisions, at times dissecting the drafts line by line. Council Member Lee Kyriacou has suggested adopting regulations that match the city's zoning districts — historic, Main Street, residential, and "everything else."

The most recent draft of the law was expected to be posted to cityofbeacon.org today (May 3).



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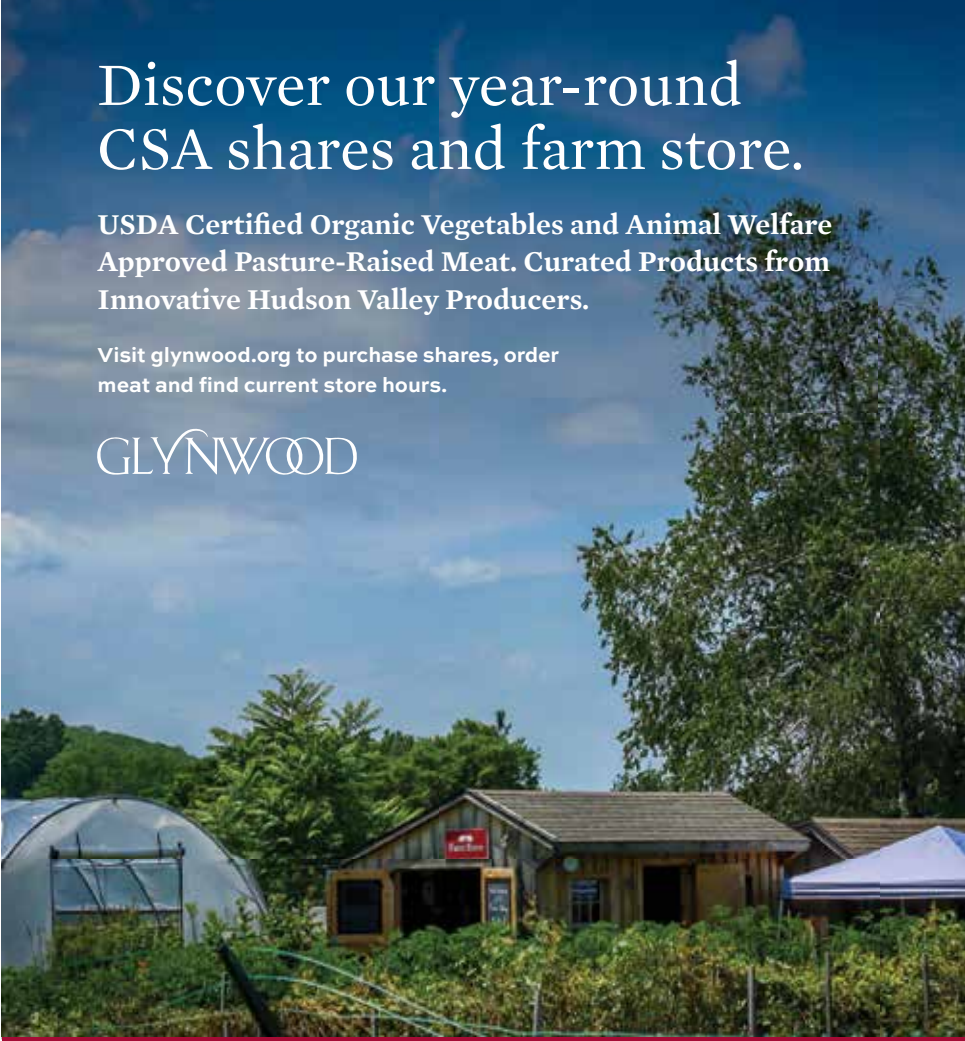
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AROUND TOWN



^ TEARING IT UP — During a cleanup in Nelsonville on April 27, Michael Young of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference shows a participant an invasive species that can be removed. The event was hosted by the village with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, the Open Space Institute and the Girl Scouts. Volunteers also installed protective tubes around recently planted native seedlings. *Photo by Dove Pedlosky*



^ BIRD WATCH — Ryan Bass of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society (holding tripod) led a bird walk on April 27 at Constitution Marsh in Garrison. Over two hours the 20 participants saw or heard 169 birds from 31 species. The group's annual Birdathon is scheduled for May 11. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



< HANDS-ON SCIENCE — Sixth- and seventh-grade students from the Manitou School in Cold Spring gave the Hudson River a helping hand on April 25 by cleaning up debris at Little Stony Point. The field trip was part of a science curriculum that includes the study of climate change, the oceans, plastic pollution and other environmental issues. *Photo by Michael Turton*

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BEAHIVE

Spanish TV *(from Page 1)*

Points) are produced by the Xtotv Enlace-Siscriscom network in La Paz, Bolivia. As a field producer, Salcedo works from his desk in Philipstown, assisting his South American counterparts in real time. (Although it is 4,000 miles from the Highlands, La Paz is in the same time zone.) The audio from both shows is also broadcast as radio content.

Much of Salcedo's work is done behind the scenes, but at least twice a month he hosts and conducts interviews for *La Verdad Internacional*.

He got his start in media at age 15, writing radio scripts in his native Bolivia. Salcedo also worked in television production in the 1990s and early 2000s. "This is my first time in front of the camera," he says. "I don't wear makeup, but I keep a comb close by!"

Since setting up his Route 9 studio in 2017, Salcedo has interviewed a number of important global news figures via satellite. Guests are shown with Salcedo on a split screen. His stories have included the NASA mission that discovered water on Mars; the arrest of Julian Assange of WikiLeaks; the Brexit controversy in the U.K.; the influence of Google and Facebook; the marijuana industry; and immigration.

"I find common ground in the issues we cover," Salcedo said. "This week it's a professor in public relations talking about how Boeing reacted to the problems with their



Salcedo speaks to a producer by satellite in La Paz, Bolivia.

Photo by M. Turton

757 Max 8; people fly that plane worldwide."

Next week Salcedo has arranged to interview two reporters and the deputy mayor of Christchurch about the recent killings at two mosques there and public attitudes in New Zealand toward guns. (If a guest doesn't speak Spanish, Salcedo conducts the interview in English and it is dubbed over with a translation.)

He says his most compelling interview was with Mohamedou Ould Slahi, a Mauritanian held in the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba without charge for 14

years until his release in 2016. Salcedo says his was the first Spanish-language interview with Slahi after the former prisoner, who wrote a memoir while imprisoned, appeared on *60 Minutes* in 2017.

Salcedo spoke with Slahi from Philipstown while the former detainee sat in his home in Mauritania in northwest Africa.

Slahi was tortured at Guantanamo, and a U.S. military prosecutor refused to try him for lack of evidence of terrorist activity. Salcedo says that he wanted to do the interview after seeing a video in which Slahi

thanked his U.S. lawyers and forgave his torturers. "It was pretty moving," Salcedo recalls. "He said the U.S. judicial system takes a long time — but it works."

Salcedo seems to relish the challenge of running a one-man shop but "it was a lot easier to write a script and work behind the scenes," he says. "Doing news and current affairs is almost like studying for an exam every week." That's in part because the experts he interviews for *La Verdad Internacional* know their subjects well. "They're savvy," he says. "It takes a lot of preparation."

At the end of each 26-minute show, Salcedo summarizes the news and offers commentary. "I don't pretend that I don't have opinions," he says.

Punto Vida also provides reports from around the world, but unlike *La Verdad Internacional* has no interest in headlines. Instead, it provides vignettes of day-to-day life in communities in Japan, Croatia, Ecuador, Spain and the U.S., among other countries. For the show, Salcedo works with "citizen reporters."

Salcedo also contributes content from the Hudson Valley. "I'll go somewhere live with a camera," he says. "At the Cold Spring train platform, I explained how commuters go to New York City or to a deli, to show how Americans grab their coffee and sandwich every morning before going on with the rest of their day." He also narrated a program about the building of the new Tappan Zee bridge.

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The Calendar



Marnie Hillsley

Photos provided



"Before Avalon," by Marnie Hillsley



"Ancient Landscaper," by Marnie Hillsley

A Celebration and Farewell

Former resident to exhibit artwork by late wife

By Alison Rooney

Simon Draper says many people don't realize that his wife, Marnie Hillsley, who died this month four years ago, was an accomplished artist.

"They knew her as a great neighbor, someone who loved singing in the St. Philip's choir, as a person who helped set up a community garden, as someone they'd see, always smiling, as Aidan's mom, or just as a good friend to folk," he says.

To celebrate his wife's life and work, Draper curated art and photos from her days as a fine-arts student through the time when cancer sapped her energy. They will be shown in an exhibit at the Create Community gallery in Nelsonville that opens with a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, and continues through June 2.

Draper has moved to California since his wife's death and plans to sell their Church Street home. They moved into it in 1997, a few months after Aidan was born. The

couple met in New York City after being introduced by friends.

"I was working as a crate builder and a fine-arts shipper," recalls Draper. "A few days later I got a call at work from a woman saying, 'I want to import a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig.' I recommended an expandable crate. She continued to ask me questions, until finally she broke down and asked me if I knew who the voice on the phone was. I said I did. Then she asked me when in the conversation I'd figured it out. I told her I knew it pretty much straightaway, and she couldn't believe I'd gone on with it for 10 minutes!"

Among other things, they bonded over their shared affinity for things discarded and together scrounged Brooklyn for scraps of wood and artifacts. "She loved detritus, rescuing old tables and chairs, exploring rooms full of errant objects, with the idea that they'd turn into artwork," he says.

Soon after they married in 1995, the couple moved to Cold Spring with an eye toward starting a family. "Marnie grew up

in Minnesota and I grew up in a small town in Wales, and that's what we were looking for," Draper says. They also wanted a property close to the train, with a shed or garage they could convert into a studio.

Hillsley had followed a boyfriend to New York City after earning a bachelor of fine arts from Montana State University and a master of fine art in sculpture at Virginia Commonwealth. She created what Draper describes as "ephemeral installations, made from alternative materials at a time when others — mostly men — were making heavy metal sculpture. She held her ground."

In Cold Spring, Hillsley spent more time outdoors than inside, Draper recalls. "She was fascinated with land usage and how the water moved through the landscape. Down at the shoreline she saw trees backlit by the blue water, which inspired her in a new direction with her art."

Hillsley started making assemblages, using the silhouetted branches in black-and-white photos of trees as references for

tracings on plywood that were cut out and painted to form layered objects hung as grids. Hillsley also worked with The Highland Studio in Philipstown to create digital prints from her sketches and watercolors so she could manipulate them and add layers.

The couple collaborated and did shows up and down the river. In her last years, as she fought cancer, she began making jewelry "because she could work more quickly and still use color," Draper says.

He says they loved their Church Street community. "Marnie kept her eye on the street," he says. "The Virgadamo brothers [Joe and Tom, now both teachers at Haldane] were teens when we moved in. We had the McCann family next door. Mackey Budney was the street granddad. When Aidan went to buy pizza on his own for the first few times, Mackey would tell me, 'Simon, we've got 'em — you're good.' We just loved that part of living here."

Aidan will graduate from college in a few weeks and move to South Bend, Indiana, to pursue advanced degrees in computer science at Notre Dame. "I was waiting to see what Aidan's next step would be" before selling the house, his father says. "I'm looking forward to seeing lots of people I haven't seen in a while, before both Aidan and I head off, along with getting Marnie's work back on the walls. So, this is a celebration and a farewell."

Create Community is located at 11 Peekskill Road. The exhibit will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from noon to 4 p.m. To reach Draper, email simoncpdraper@gmail.com or call 845-216-3507.

"I was working as a crate builder and a fine-arts shipper," recalls Draper. "A few days later I got a call at work from a woman saying, 'I want to import a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig.'"



Marnie Hillsley and Simon Draper

THE WEEK AHEAD

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



PLANT SALES

SAT 4

Farm Fest and Plant Sale POUGHKEEPSIE

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Farm Project
51 Vassar Farm Lane
farmproject.org/farm-fest

The sale will include vegetable starts, herbs and flowers, and there will be gardening activities, storytelling, farm tours, wildflower walks, food, live music and a craft market. Also SAT 11. *Free*

SAT 11

Verplanck Garden Club FISHKILL

9 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall
807 Route 52
facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub

Shop for flowering plants and herbs, get advice from Master Gardeners and bring the children, who can make crafts.

SAT 11

Philipstown Garden Club GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Garrison Firehouse | 1616 Route 9
philipstowngardenclubny.org

Perennial plants from the gardens of club members will be the center of attention, along with a selection of annuals, vegetables, native plants and baked goods. Consult with other gardeners who will be happy to share their experience.

SAT 11

Common Ground Farm BEACON

2 – 5 p.m. Cross and Main
commongroundfarm.org

The nonprofit will offer organically grown vegetable, flower and herb seedlings and starts.

SUN 12

Peekskill Garden Club PEEKSKILL

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Riverfront Green Pavilion
914-208-0293

Annuals, perennials, roses, herbs, vegetables and hanging baskets will be available.

COMMUNITY

SAT 4

Riverkeeper Sweep

HUDSON VALLEY

riverkeeper.org/sweep

The annual cleanup, organized by Riverkeeper, has over the past seven years removed 228 tons of debris from along the Hudson and planted 2,228 trees and native grasses while removing tons of invasive species. Check online for a list of morning meeting sites, which include Dockside Park, Little Stony Point, Garrison's Landing and Arden Point in Philipstown and Denning's Point and Riverfront Park in Beacon. The Hudson Valley Brewery and 2 Way Brewing Co. in Beacon will host meetups after the sweep.

SAT 4

I Love My Park Day

HUDSON VALLEY

ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day

Volunteer at Cornish Estate, Little Stony Point, Fahnestock, Bear Mountain, Walkway Over the Hudson and other state parks. Register online.

SAT 4

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

GARRISON

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | csfarmmarket.org

The market moves outdoors for the season. Tall County will perform at 10 a.m.

SAT 4

Cupcake Festival

STORMVILLE

Noon – 5 p.m. Stormville Airport
428 Route 216 | k104online.com

Sponsored by K104.7 and held last year in Beacon, the festival will bring together bakers and bakeries to showcase their confectionaries. *Free*

SUN 5

Tots Park Cleanup

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tots Park
4 High St. | bit.ly/tot-park-cleanup

Help tidy the park for the season by spreading mulch, tilling sand and clearing out broken toys. Bring tools and gloves with labels. RSVP online. The event was rescheduled from April 28 due to rain.

SUN 5

Pet Rabies Clinic

BEACON

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memorial Park

The Animal Rescue Foundation will offer rabies and distemper vaccinations for dogs and cats. Dogs must be leashed and cats in carriers. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 5

Spring Benefit

GARRISON

4 – 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The theater's annual benefit will celebrate 20 years of its youth program and honor pediatrician Dr. Peter Gergely. *Cost: \$50*

WED 8

Garden Walk

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Take a guided tour with a staff horticulturist and explore the wonders of the Woodland Garden in spring. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

FRI 10

Tree Pit Gardening Workshop

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. Firehouse
152 Main St. | coldspringny.gov

Hosted by the Tree Advisory Board and the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, this workshop will include a planting demonstration at Village Hall.

SAT 11

Audubon Birdathon

PHILIPSTOWN

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org/birdathon2019

The birdathon is an annual fundraising "competition" to benefit the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. Over 24 hours, four teams — the Beakin' Beginners, Garrison Gumshoes, Putnam Valley Bogtrotters and Wappingers Creakers — will seek out as many bird species as possible from Long Island to the Catskills. See the website to donate, or to participate, email Perry Pitt at perryppitt@yahoo.com.

SAT 11

Record and CD Fest

BEACON

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.

Browse analog and digital music, as well as paraphernalia, memorabilia and stereo equipment offered by 25 vendors from four states.

SAT 11

Blue Star Marker Ceremony

BEACON

11 a.m. City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza | 845-464-2111

For Armed Forces Day, the Tioronda Garden Club will dedicate a Blue Star marker — the first in Dutchess County — to honor everyone who has served.

SUN 12

Mother's Day Bird Walk

GARRISON

9 a.m. Constitution Marsh
127 Warren Landing Road | 845-265-2601
constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

Join a guided hike to look for nesting birds. Bring water and sun protection and dress for hiking. RSVP to cmacs@audubon.org. *Free*

SUN 12

Tours for Moms

BEACON

1 p.m. & 2:15 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | 845-831-8172
mountgulian.org

Tours of the house, barn and grounds. *Cost: Free for mothers. Otherwise, \$8 (\$6 seniors, \$4 children, ages 6 and younger free)*



KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 5

Kids' Fishing Day

COLD SPRING

8 a.m. Fishkill Road Reservoir

The Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club will host its 30th annual event to introduce children to fishing. *Free*

WED 8

Crafternoon

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring a T-shirt to make a bag for your mom, or bring two and make one for yourself. For students in grades 3 to 5. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4

Willy Wonka Kids

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Ave.
beaconperformingartscenter.com

A group of children win a tour of the Wonka Chocolate Factory and a lifetime supply of candy. Also SUN 5. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 seniors/students)*

THURS 9

Short Films

BEACON

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

Jon Bowermaster will screen three new films — *Growing with the Grain*, *Undamming the Hudson River* and *Source to Sea* — and Ron and Mars English will share their short, *Beacon Bigfoot*. *Free*

VISUAL ART

SAT 4

Celebrating Marnie Hillsley

COLD SPRING

3 – 6 p.m. Create Community
11 Peekskill Road
createcommunityspace.com

The late artists' painted assemblages and other works will be on display through June 2. See Page 9.

SAT 4

Time in Wavering Water Lies

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St.
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Susan Keiser's photographs will be on view until May 15.

SUN 5

Award-Winning Bird Photos

GARRISON

2 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The library is partnering with the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary to display photographs of birds chosen from the more-than 8,000 entries in the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards. Continues through May 20.

SAT 11

Riverside Art Auction

GARRISON

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

Observe plein air painters at various sites until 1 p.m., browse the paintings and enjoy refreshments at 3 p.m. and bid in a live auction beginning at 5 p.m.

SAT 11

Member's Group Show

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

The exhibit will include works by Carla Goldberg, Russell Ritell, Joan Phares, Pamela Zarella, Melissa Schlobohm, Eileen Sackman, Jebah Baum, Elizabeth Arnold, Ilse Schreiber-Noll, Andrew

Rust Barger, Samantha Beste and Faith Adams. Nitin Mukul will mount a solo show, *Ghosts in the Machine*, in the Beacon Room. Both will continue through June 3.



Eileen Sackman

SAT 11 Tools, Totems, Traps

BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

This group show will open the gallery's new space. See Page 13.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 4 Genealogical Research Using Local Collections

BEACON
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Discover how to use the resources and archives at regional libraries, including the Howland, and the Beacon Historical Society. *Free*

SAT 4 Sex and the Suffrage Movement

COLD SPRING
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Susan Goodier, a history professor at SUNY Oneonta who specializes in the suffrage movement in New York State, will ask, "What does sex have to do with voting?" *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

SAT 4 Murder and MAYhem

BEACON
6 – 9:30 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
17 South Ave. | 845-831-0514
beaconhistorical.org

Learn about Beacon's history as told by a Victorian gossip in this hourlong walking tour of sites with a murderous past. Tours begin every 30 minutes. Also SUN 5. For ages 12 and older. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 members, seniors, teens)*

SAT 4 Civic Pioneers

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

Gretchen Dykstra will read from her book, *Civic Pioneers: Local Stories from a Changing America, 1895-1915*, which focuses on lesser-known people who shaped the Progressive era. *Free*

TUES 7 Second Gathering of Laureates

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

Three poet laureates — Peter Ullian of Beacon, Robert Milby of Orange County and Bettina "Gold" Wilkerman, formerly of Dutchess County, will read selections of their work.

THURS 9 Public Financing for Candidates

CROTON-ON-HUDSON
7 p.m. Croton Free Library
171 Cleveland Drive | 914-941-1111
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, will lead a panel discussion. *Free*

THURS 9 Saving America's Last Great Revolutionary War Site

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org

Lance Ashworth, a West Point graduate and former Army

captain, will discuss the Fishkill Supply Depot, a key strategic center during the Revolution, its historical significance and efforts to preserve and study the site. *Free*

SAT 11 Hudson Highlands Poetry Reading

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

T.R. Hummer and Sean Singer will read and discuss their work. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 4 Michelle Alvarado

COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537
chapelrestoration.org

The pianist will perform Eric Starr's *Twelve Pieces for Solo Piano*. A Q&A with the performer and the Cold Spring composer will follow the concert. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 students)*

SAT 4 '60s Sing-a-Long

COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St.

The fifth annual community sing-a-long will feature favorites from the Beatles, Supremes, Monkees and Jackson 5. Bring a shaker and share a snack or drink. *Free*



SUN 5 Nightingales in Berlin

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

David Rothenberg and Rinde Eckert will perform to mark the release of their CD, *Nightingales*



Ernie Sites, May 11

in Berlin: Searching for the Perfect Sound. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 11 Singing the Stories of the West

PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road | 845-528-7280
tompkinscorners.org

Ernie Sites will sing about his cowboy life. He will be joined by poet Mark Munzert. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors/students)*

SAT 11 Redemption

NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
Aquinas Hall | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform monumental works by Shostakovich and Wagner. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SAT 11 Don McLean

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

The singer-songwriter known for hits like "American Pie" will perform his classics and new material. *Cost: \$50 to \$77.50*

SAT 11 Tito Puente Jr.

NEWBURGH
8 p.m. Ritz Theater
107 Broadway | brownpapertickets.com/event/3913865

Puente will bring his Latin jazz ensemble to the city in a benefit

for Safe Harbors of the Hudson. The dance party also will feature Aquila y Plata and the Dojo Dance Company. *Cost: \$35 to \$100*

CIVIC

MON 6 City Council

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

TUES 7 School Voter Registration

BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. District Office
10 Education Drive | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

TUES 7 Putnam County Legislature

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

TUES 7 Board of Trustees

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

WED 8 School Board

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

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Closer to Main

Beacon gallery hopes to draw more traffic

By Alison Rooney

Mother Gallery is on the move. The co-owners of the Beacon art space, which opened a year ago, will relocate from near the Metro-North station to North Avenue, closer to Main Street. Kirsten Deirup and Paola Oxo hope this will bring more visitors.

"It was hard to get local people to come down the hill" to the former location, Oxo says. "All of the people who purchased art this past year have been from the city or New Jersey or Boston. Last month we sold to our first local. I understand why Matteawan and Theo Ganz closed — it's hard."

Oxo and Deirup will open their new space with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, for a group show called *Tools, Totems, Traps*. It will include work by Caitlin MacQueen, Joshua Marsh and Carter Spurrier of Beacon; Jessica Gaddis of Kingston; and Alessandro Keegan and Yuri Masnyj of New York City, and continue through June 16.

Oxo says Mother Gallery hopes to engage the community with a "mix of very well-known and less-known artists. That combination has helped us sell the pieces. We need a handful of local collectors; perhaps it's just a matter of time."



The new location of Mother Gallery on North Avenue

Photo provided

The new space, which had been a car dealership and garage, "feels more dynamic," she says. "We'll be able to have more sculpture, performances, music. This room feels juicy with creative influences." She adds: "It's all about collaboration. It's like a big spider web, where we all figure out where we fit best. I've learned so much by talking to so many artists, visiting so many studios."

On the business side, there has been a learning curve. "We learned a lot about what *not* to do," Oxo says. "We've learned how to work with very tight budgets, such as less wine! But at any moment a piece can sell, and that changes the budget in a positive way."

Mother Gallery is located at 1154 North Ave.; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Parking is available at the municipal lot across the street. It is open Friday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment. See mothergallery.art or call 845-236-6039.



"Pursuit," by Caitlin MacQueen

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Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m.
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Marc Von Em - Free

Friday, May 10, 8:30 p.m.
James Maddock

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Roots and Shoots

Timberline Vista, Homemade Trough

By Pamela Doan



Lori Chips changed my ideas about hypertufa trough planting.

At a workshop at Stonecrop organized by The Garden Conservancy, the author of *Hypertufa Containers: Creating and Planting an Alpine Trough Garden* recently demonstrated the art and practice.

I was familiar with hypertufa troughs and had seen a demonstration of how they're made. My perception was that it took a bit of work but looked interesting and might be an addition to a container garden. I didn't see their potential as unique to alpine plants. I learned from Chips that, at their best, hypertufa troughs mimic the planting conditions of rocky, mountain sites and allow a gardener to create vibrant landscapes with tiny plants.

Let's start with the vessel and move on to the plants. Hypertufa is a handmade container made from portland cement mixed with peat moss, coarse perlite, water and fiber mesh. Anyone can make their own as a half-day project and hypertufa



A Lori Chips creation planted with alpine: *Tsuga diversifolia* (Loowit) underplanted with *Potentilla hyparctica* (Nana) and *Silene acaulis* (the cushion). In front of the rock: *Rosularia*; in back, *Sedum Borchii Sport*. The blue flower is *Scabiosa japonica var. alpina* (Ritz Blue). The peach color is *Lewis longipetala* (Little Tutti Fruttii), with *Lindernia grandiflora* at the right edge (the tiny blue flowers) and one rosette of *Sempervivum Chick Charms* (Gold Nugget).

Photo by Jeff McNamara

containers are sold commercially, too.

Chips, who is the alpine plant specialist at Oliver Nurseries in Fairfield, Connecticut (I recommend the online tour or a visit, it's beautiful!), traces the popularity of hypertufa containers to a time in England when stone troughs and sinks were replaced with metal and ceramic and people appropriated the stone for planting. "There weren't enough to go around and hypertufa was invented as a substitute," she says. Hypertufa is similar to tufa, a rock that's formed in waterways when minerals build up around organic matter.

While you can find instructions on the internet for mixing your own hypertufa, Chips' book has detailed information fine-tuned through experience; if you're going to

spend a few hours mixing fancy cement, take lessons from a pro. Once your materials are combined, the hypertufa is set into molds created from boards or other firm materials.

Hypertufa troughs breathe better than stone and don't heat up like other materials. "It's a porous substance and frost resistant," Chips says. "You'll have better luck growing tiny alpine plants where they aren't native."

The joy of making your own hypertufa container is the chance to be creative with shapes and forms that invite close observation of a palette of plants. Chips says to consider the plants you want before choosing a shape and to make the container at least 8 inches deep.

Chips also shared curious facts about alpine plants — which grow above the timberline or in other similarly harsh conditions with rocky soil, strong wind and high

UV light — that made me understand why these plants are so appealing to gardeners.

Alpines are known for evolutionary tricks that help them survive on mountainsides. The flowers grow close to the leaves, not usually on stems or stalks. The *acaulis* species epithet means "stemless," and denotes some alpine plants, e.g., *Gentiana acaulis* and *Stenotus acaulis*. The flowers also tend to be large for the size of the plant, which attracts the fewer pollinators found at higher altitudes.

Hypertufa troughs work in sun or shade. "The only limitation is your imagination and making sure the plants' needs are met," Chips says. While hypertufa is a cold-hardy container, in winter she advises that it should be protected from high winds and scorching sun. "An open north, northeast or northwest setting is ideal so it's not getting the harshest exposure," she says.

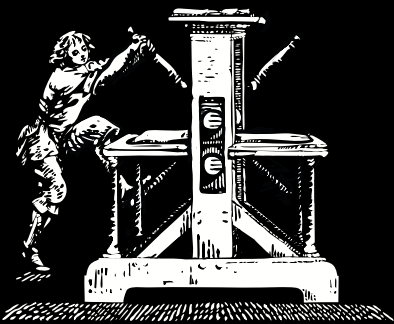
Chips calls this her list of "bulletproof" plants that would be the easiest for beginners. Many alpine plants are native to the U.S.:

Armeria — seathrift; Shade planting-dwarf *Astilbe*, *Hosta*, ferns; *Campanula*; *Dianthus*; *Gentiana*; *Sempervivum* — hens and chicks; *Penstemon*; Micro phloxes; *Saponaria* — soapworts; *Sedum*; *Thymus*; *Veronica*

What not to plant? Well, this is your choice, but to stay true to the form, annuals would be a waste of a cold-hardy trough and non-alpine plants wouldn't capture the intention of the style.

"What you're trying to achieve is for the viewer to suspend disbelief and be in that little environment for a moment," says Chips. Resources from the North American Rock Garden Association (nargs.org) can help you get going, too.

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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday

68/52

A shower early in the morning; otherwise, clearing

POP: 55%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 73/47

Sunday

57/43

Cooler with periods of rain

POP: 70%

NE 6-12 mph

RealFeel 55/43

Monday

71/46

Warmer with clouds breaking for some sun

POP: 25%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 75/47

Tuesday

75/52

Partly sunny

POP: 25%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 81/52

Wednesday

75/56

Some sun with a couple of showers possible

POP: 30%

SW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 78/55

Thursday

71/51

Overcast with a couple of showers possible

POP: 30%

NNE 4-8 mph

RealFeel 72/45

Friday

67/49

A thick cloud cover

POP: 25%

ESE 6-12 mph

RealFeel 66/44

Pollen

High

Moderate

Low

Absent

Grass

Weeds

Trees

N.A.

Molds

Source: National Allergy Bureau

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 5/4

5:50 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 5/4

7:56 PM

Moonrise Sat., 5/4

6:01 AM

Moonset Sat., 5/4

7:43 PM

New

First

Full

Last

May 4

May 11

May 18

May 26

POP: Probability of Precipitation; The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®** is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

CROSSCURRENT

By
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

ACROSS

1. pester like a ghost

6. non-clergy church person

10. begged or argued for

14. God, in Islam

15. ____ *facto*

16. hardly poor

17. Hawaiian porch

18. grain-grinder building

19. Norwegian capital

20. granted a brand-store status

22. cat's scratcher

23. packaged set

24. bedding or paper items

26. fire remains

29. in the lead

31. poet T.S.

32. joys

36. Caesar's dying query

37. heroic tales

38. cranks up

39. Agatha Christie play

41. update

42. mysterious

43. meaner; coarser

44. Cold Spring avenue

47. Greek letter

48. Catch

49. proclaimers

56. leer at

57. weirdo

58. states of unconsciousness

59. Welsh church site

60. fashion magazine

61. lift

62. loan out

63. horse color

64. World War I battleground

12. ostentatious promotion

13. Middle Eastern boats

21. ____ Master's Voice

25. owns

26. choir member

27. *in* ____ (not relocated)

28. coffee shop's own mix

29. pond scum

30. pile

31. Eur. Elec. Market, initially

32. ____-mutuel betting

33. Quebec Premier Levesque

34. always

35. opposite NNE

37. naked college runner

40. slippery Hudson-goer

41. lewd

43. Beacon gallery

44. hilltop

45. Highlands big bird

46. *Otello* opening city

47. symbolic coin

50. ____ *contendere*

51. New Orleans slang name

52. chicken house

53. Arabic official

54. archaic erasure

55. speedy, defunct planes

SUDOCURRENT

Answers for April 26 Puzzles

Answers will be published next week.
See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.

SPORTS



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Beacon Baseball Clinches Share of Title

League rival Hendrick Hudson could still tie

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School baseball team clinched at least a share of the league title this week with an 11-1 win Wednesday (May 1) over Peekskill, two days after beating Our Lady of Lourdes, 3-2, in a nail-biter.

Hendrick Hudson could still catch the Bulldogs (10-5-1; 5-1 league) to force a shared title.

Against Peekskill, Ty Long (3-1) picked up the win for Beacon, limiting Peekskill to one run on two hits in three innings of work. At the plate, Joe DeCandia doubled and drove in a run, and Andrew Schneider and Sean Lise each contributed an RBI.

“We knew we had to put pressure on them on the bases, and we did that right away,” said Manager Bob Atwell. “Ty threw strikes, he challenged hitters and pitched a good game. And we played errorless ball.”

Atwell said that along with the league title, his squad earned state academic honors.

“It’s always one of our goals to win the

league — and to make the All-State Academic Team,” he said. “We’re proud of both.”

Against Lourdes, Matt Monzoeillo [above] picked up the win, pitching six and two-thirds innings and striking out 10. Monzoeillo also drove in a run with a bunt single.

DeCandia picked up his first save of the season, and Besim Dika had a double and an RBI.

The previous week, Beacon defeated Peekskill, 14-3. Long pitched a complete game, scattering two hits and striking out six.

The Bulldogs have four games left before the playoffs. “We’ve won four in a row, so I think we’ve been coming around a bit,” Atwell said. “Our pitching has been dynamite all year. We’re getting better defense, and our offense is underrated. We went through a tough stretch earlier, so I hope we’re playing our best at the right time.”

Beacon is scheduled to play Yonkers today (May 3) at 7 p.m. at Dutchess Stadium and will honor its seniors. The team will take on Lakeland at 4 p.m. on May 6, also at Dutchess Stadium.

Beacon Golf Picks Up Two Wins

Girls defeat Arlington, Pearl River

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School girls’ golf team picked up its first two victories of the season, defeating Pearl River, 309-332, on Tuesday (April 30) at the Southern Dutchess Country Club after dispatching Arlington, 287-289, on April 25 for the first time in the golf team’s 13-year history.

The team is now 2-5 overall (1-3 league). It dropped a 258-302 decision to league leader Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday (April 29) at the Casperkill Country Club.

Coach Rob Balch was impressed with his team’s performance against Pearl River, considering conditions were not ideal. (The two squads played the front nine of the course, a par 35.)

“Often the conditions dictate how the girls play,” Balch said. “There was a tournament before our match, and the rough was extra thick, and the greens were incredibly fast. So I was impressed with how they stayed focused, given the conditions and cold weather.”

Junior Analiese Compagnone shot a 52 to lead the Bulldogs, followed by sophomore Brielle Travis (58), junior JoAnna Galbo (60), junior Diana Campos (61) and eighth-grader Addie Pagones (68).

On Monday against Lourdes (7-1, 4-0), Compagnone again led Beacon with a 54, followed by Campos (61), Galbo (62), Travis (65), and junior Elizabeth Herrera (67).

The week before, Beacon defeated Arlington for the first time in the 13-year history of the Bulldogs program, over 25



JoAnna Galbo

matches, Balch said.

Galbo led the way with a 52, and Compagnone shot a 53. Travis finished at 56 ahead of Campos (58) and Herrera (68).

“Not only was that one of our best performances, but from top-to-bottom it was our most complete performance,” Balch said. “It was also the closest match we’ve ever had, a nail-biter right to the finish.”

He said that with a core of experienced players, “this is the first year we can be a force to contend with in the conference.”

The captains are Galbo, Compagnone and Travis. “It’s great for others to see how hard they work,” Balch said, adding that “Campos, in her second year, is probably our most improved player, and Herrera is a force in just her third month playing.”

Beacon is scheduled to face Carmel (the defending state champion) twice next week, away on May 6 and at the Southern Dutchess Country Club on May 9.

The following Monday, May 13, the Bulldogs will host the Dutchess County Invitational, the first high school girls’ tournament held in the county. Besides Beacon, Arlington, Lourdes and Wappingers are scheduled to compete.

VARSITY
SCOREBOARD

Baseball

North Salem 11, Haldane 0
Beacon 4, Lourdes 2
Beacon 3, Lourdes 2
Beacon 11, Peekskill 1

Boys’ Lacrosse

Haldane 18, Croton-Harmon 10
Haldane 10, O’Neill 9

Girls’ Lacrosse

Beacon 14, Yonkers 3

Beacon 12, Yonkers 3
Ardsey 8, Beacon 7

Softball

Haldane 8, Pleasantville 2
Putnam Valley 10, Haldane 2
Beacon 25, Poughkeepsie 10
Beacon 3, Pawling 1
Beacon 22, Gorton 11
Mount Vernon 7, Beacon 0

Boys’ Tennis

Beacon 5, Mahopac 2
Beacon 4, Mahopac 3
Hendrick Hudson 5, Beacon 2

Track and Field

Haldane @ Kingston Tiger Relays

Girls’ 1,500 meters
10. Shannon Ferri (5:20.46)
Boys’ 2,000 meters
steeplechase
6. Walter Hoess (7:19.94)
Boys’ 1,600 meters
10. Adam Silhavy (4:46.04)
Boys’ javelin
7. Jake Patinella (92-09)
Beacon @ Jumpfest
Girls’ high jump
2. Tamar Adams (4-06)
Girls’ pole vault
2. Anna Manente (7-00)
Boys’ high jump
2. Jason Komisar (5-06)

Boys’ long jump
2. Tre Smith (20-05)
Boys’ triple jump
1. Tre Smith (43-0)
Beacon Boys @ League
Championships
1. Beacon 136.5
2. Brewster 121
3. Hendrick Hudson 73.5
(Beacon boys win fifth straight league title)
Boys’ 1,600 meters
1. Ryan Cory (3:35.11)
Boys’ 3,200 meters
1. Ryan Cory (10:00.08)
Boys’ 400-meter hurdles

1. Hassaan Burnett (1:06.64)
Boys’ triple jump
1. Nolan Hillhouse (40-11.5)
Boys’ shot put
1. Joshua Rivera (40-09)
Boys’ discus
1. Joshua Rivera (124-01.5)
Boy’s javelin
1. Mark Guzman (119-0)
Girls’ 100 meters
1. Jada Williams (13.02)
Girls’ 100-meter hurdles
1. Nathalia Thomas (18.33)
Girls’ discus
1. Sofia Gonzalez (62-04.5)

PETE SEEGER

★
Folk
Singer,
Activist,
AMERICAN
TREASURE

1919-
2019

BEING GENEROUS OF SPIRIT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO LIVE

Illustration by Grego Anderson

Moments from a Life

By Chip Rowe

1919

Pete is born in Manhattan to Charles Seeger Jr., a Harvard-trained composer with pacifist views, and Constance de Clyver, a concert violinist. He is the youngest of the couple's three sons.

1920

The family sets out in a Model T Ford hauling a homemade trailer to perform classical music in the rural South. Pete's mother ends the trip after she stops her toddler at the last moment from walking into a campfire.



Pete on his father's lap while mom plays the violin

1932

Pete buys a used, four-string (tenor) banjo while attending a private high school in Connecticut but eventually realizes he can't play folk music on it.

1936

Pete hears the five-string banjo when his father takes him to the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in North Carolina. "I discovered there was some good music in my country that I never heard on the radio," he recalled.

1938

Pete, a member of the Young Communist League, grows disillusioned at Harvard and drops out. His stepmother (his parents had divorced) tells him, "Peter, you have a talent for song-leading. I think you should develop it." He spends the summer traveling with the Vagabond Puppeteers.



Photo by Jennifer Lee Blakeslee

Remembering **PETE SEEGER**

Folk singer and long-time Beacon resident Pete Seeger would have been 100 years old today (May 3), and celebrations and sing-a-longs are scheduled across the country, as well as the release of a box set that spans his career and includes 20 unreleased tracks (see Page 2). We asked those who knew and encountered Pete and his wife, Toshi, to share stories. The contributions have been condensed for clarity and space.

For more photos and memories, see highlandscurrent.org.

Freddie Martin

On a Monday evening, Jan. 27, 2014, the day Pete died at age 94, I opened a letter from him containing the chord chart and lyrics for a song we had worked on together for some time, "Peace Will Prevail." It was based on an ancient Irish air.

In late 2013, Pete asked the song circle at the Beacon Sloop Club to practice civil-rights songs for a citizens' march on the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day. While rehearsing the songs with the Spring Street Baptist Church choir, I realized "Peace Will Prevail" needed a gospel ending, so I wrote Pete.

From his hospital room, Pete had penned a note atop the song sheet, referred to a chord change I had made, thanked me for "working on it" and encouraged me: "You keep on!" It was classic Pete, giving of his spirit and energy to others, giving until the end.

Florence Northcutt

Little did I think some 35 years ago, while on a ferryboat trip from Algeciras, Spain, across to Morocco, hearing a familiar song coming from the loudspeaker and singing along with a number of passengers who knew it as well as I did, that I would one day live in the same community as the song's performer. "We Shall Overcome" reached to the far corners of the world, and its message is as powerful as it was that day during the height of the civil-rights movement.

I feel privileged to have known Pete and to have seen him right here in our city working quietly, consistently and diligently to build awareness about our beautiful river and protecting our environment. He has raised our consciousness in his modest, humble way, and our world is a better place, thanks to Pete.

Erin Giunta

In 2013, I found myself in line behind Pete at the Beacon Natural Market. After he left the store, he got into his sticker-covered green SUV and sat there for a while. That's when I noticed something by my feet: Pete's car keys! I went outside and said, "I think these are yours, Pete." "Thank you," he said. "I thought I was losing my mind." "Not yet, Pete. Not yet," I said.

Later, within a week after Toshi died, I let him go ahead of me in line at Rite Aid. The clerk greeted him with a big smile and, "Hello, Mr. Seeger!" As he waited for the prescription to be filled, I said, "I'm so sorry about the loss of Toshi. I know she was a wonderful person." He took my hand and said, "Thank you. She's the reason I was able to do what I did. It was all because of her."

Sara Dulaney

Having been raised listening to The Weavers, I was excited to learn about 1981 that they would be singing at something called the Clearwater Festival. I made my way, solo, from Manhattan into the wilds of the Hudson Valley on a drizzly day.

I felt moved to write fan notes to each of them. To Pete, I wrote that

my late great aunt, Mabel Spinney, had run a school that he attended in Litchfield and that her sister, my Aunt Milly, had observed, "We never thought he'd amount to anything."



Pete as a boy at the Springhill School

A short time later, I got a postcard from Pete with a little banjo drawing. He said that Aunt Mabel's school had been one of the most important experiences of his life.

Pete said that Springhill School (now Forman School) encouraged him

to learn in his own way. He took up the job of running the newspaper, and he felt he had a voice.

The last time I saw Pete, he was putting his recyclables at the foot of his road. Pete answered his own mail. He emptied his own trash. And he amounted to something.

Linda Richards

When I was the education director at Clearwater, the nonprofit founded by Pete and Toshi, he called the office one January afternoon to talk about a tent idea he had for that year's Great Hudson River Revival. Pete was always thinking about more ways to get more people involved in *everything*.

As I took notes, Pete asked if I'd like to come over to talk more. "Do you have ice skates?" he inquired. "Ummm ... not on me," I replied. "No problem - we have lots of skates here."

So I went over to the Seegers' and ate dinner with Toshi and Pete and their granddaughter, Moraya. Afterward, I went over to the wood stove and saw a mountain of skates. Each winter, Pete would hose down the circular driveway (at 2 a.m.) to make a rink. Pete put on skates and we skated

Next Page ➔

1939

Pete takes a job at the Library of Congress in the Archive of American Folk Song. He meets Woody Guthrie when they both play the same benefit.

1940

Through a work connection, Pete performs on radio programs with Guthrie, Josh White, Burl Ives and Lead Belly.

1941

Pete is a founding member with Guthrie of the Almanac Singers, which releases an album, *Songs of John Doe*, that is critical of the draft.

1942

After the U.S. enters the war, the Almanac Singers release a new album, *Dear Mr. President*, on which Pete sings:

"Now, Mr. President, / We haven't always agreed in the past, I know, / But that ain't at all important now. / What is important is what we got to do, / We got to lick Mr. Hitler, and until we do, / Other things can wait." ... Pete is drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to the Pacific.

1943

Pete marries Toshi Ota. Their first son, Peter, dies at age six months while Pete is deployed. The couple will have three more children: Daniel, Mika and Tinya.

1948

Pete returns from the Army and, with three friends, forms The Weavers.

1949

Pete and Toshi, who are living with her parents in Greenwich Village, buy 17 acres at the base of Mount Beacon and build a two-room log cabin. Pete joins the Dutchess Junction Volunteer Fire Department, and quits the Communist Party. "I thought it was pointless," he said.



Pete works on the cabin in Beacon, circa 1950.

Photo courtesy Gene Deitch

December 1 2 018



Elise Dietrich @djsereia

Moments from a Life



Pete with Woody Guthrie, circa 1950

1950

The Weavers top the charts for 13 weeks with a cover of Lead Belly's "Goodnight Irene." Within a year, the group has sold 4 million records. Pete tells *Time*: "It's not so much fun now."

1952

The Weavers are blacklisted after an informant tells the House Un-American Activities Committee that three of its four members, including Pete, are Communists.

1955

Pete is ordered to testify before the committee.

MR. SEEGER: I feel that in my whole life I have never done anything of any conspiratorial nature and I resent very much and very deeply the implication of being called before this committee that in some way because my opinions may be different from yours, or yours, Mr. Willis, or yours, Mr. Scherer, that I am any less of an American than anybody else. I love my country very deeply, sir.

CHAIRMAN WALTER: Why don't you make a little contribution toward preserving its institutions?

MR. SEEGER: I feel that my whole life is a contribution. That is why I would like to tell you about it.

CHAIRMAN WALTER: I don't want to hear about it.



around to the music of steel drums he piped into an outdoor sound system.

I remember seeing the moon through the trees that cold evening and thinking this was one of those nights you cherish for a lifetime.

Tom Chapin

It began in 1957, near Andover, New Jersey, where we spent every childhood summer. Our Aunt Happy brought out an album called *The Weavers at Carnegie Hall*. We were hooked from the clarion bugle call of Pete's five-string banjo on the first song, "Darlin' Corey."

To our amazement, Grandma Chapin had a five-string banjo in her basement. We bought a copy of Pete's book, *How to Play the Five-String Banjo*. I got a cheap steel string guitar, memorized chords and started using fingerpicks because Harry was so loud on the banjo. At our first public performance as the Chapin Brothers, we played three songs by The Weavers.

In 1975 or 1976, I was backstage at Huntington High School on Long Island with Pete before a benefit concert. A reporter asked Pete: "You've spent your life doing concerts for causes. Has it made a difference?"

Pete thought a moment, then said in his calm, measured way: "I don't know. But I do know that I've met the good people, people with live hearts, live eyes and live minds." This was a quintessential Seeger answer, moving the conversation toward larger issues and the people he believed deserved credit.

Michael Bowman

When I was in college, I got lost hiking between Breakneck and Mount Beacon and ended up in some guy's backyard. A tall man came out asking if I needed help and with a smile pointed me down his driveway toward Route 9D. Only later did I realize who it was.

Jennifer Blakeslee

At the 2013 Strawberry Festival, I asked Pete if I might take his portrait. Afterward I thanked him for everything he'd done for Beacon and the environment, and he said, "Ahhh, but you don't know the foolish things I've done!"



Pete at the Clearwater Festival in 2012

Photo by Tom Chapin

Stacy Labriola

Many years ago Tony Trishka was recording a banjo retrospective and wanted to include Pete. So he invited Pete to come to my husband Art's studio at our home in Garrison. Pete came down from Beacon and regaled the group with hours of recorded stories and did some banjo playing, as well.

After a day of recording, Pete said his goodbyes and headed out. About five minutes later there was a knock and it was Pete with a broken headlight he had found when exiting the driveway. He handed it to us and asked that we recycle it properly. As he left, the engineer on the project, Joe Johnson, said, "There, you have your Pete Seeger story!" Happy birthday, Pete!

Michael Mell

We had just moved to Cold Spring and my eldest son was in grade school at Haldane. At a "Differences Day" celebration in the cafeteria, Pete Seeger walked in, banjo in hand, along with two parents who were musicians, as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

I was gobsmacked. The last Pete Seeger concert I attended was at Carnegie Hall. After that I would occasionally see him, with wool cap and plaid shirt, exiting Angelina's with a pie. I regret never having said hello.

Robert Cutler

In 2012, Toni Bryan and I interviewed Pete at Boscobel. We were

producing an audio tour that included stories about the river.

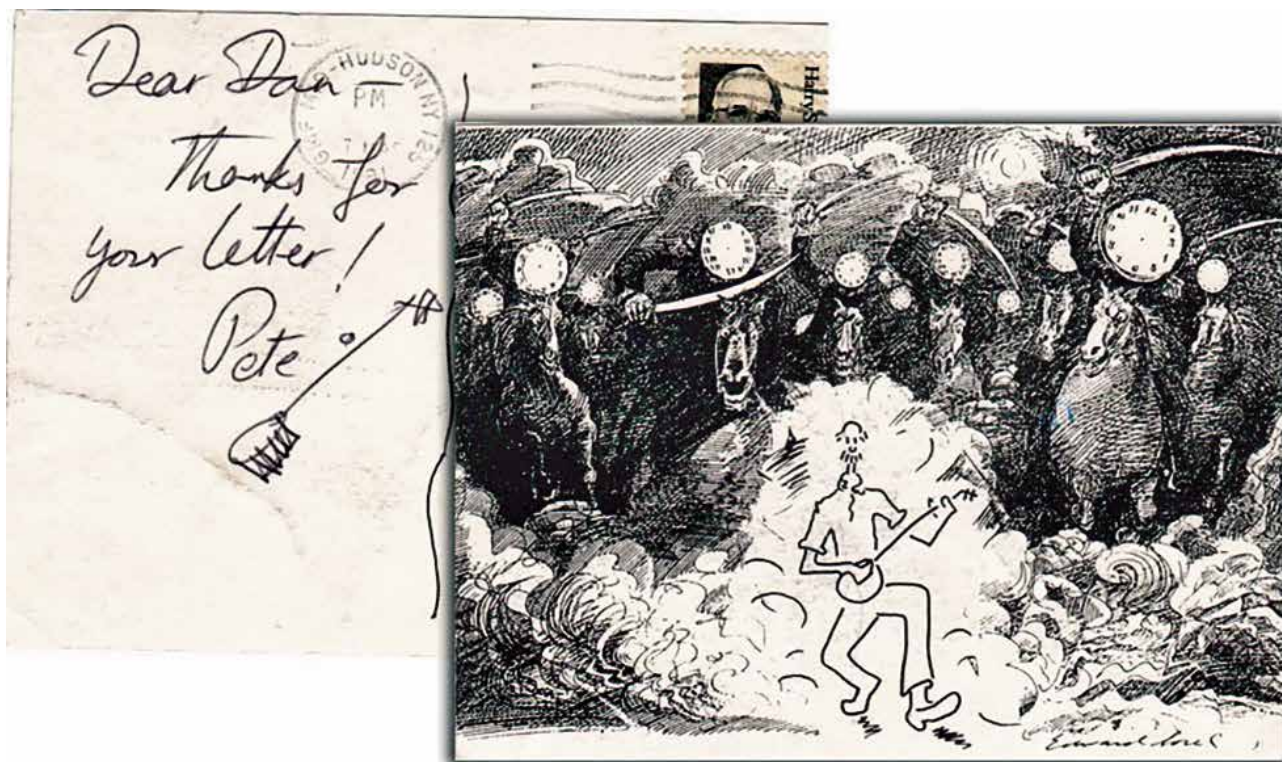
He drove down from Beacon on a snowy day with a banjo in his little black Honda. After about two hours, we had everything we wanted, including a performance of "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy." But as we wrapped up, he asked if we'd like to hear three new verses that Toshi had written for "Turn, Turn, Turn."

There we were, three of us in a tiny room, and Pete serenading us with one of the greatest songs of the 20th century.

Roger Coco

In the early 1970s, I led wilderness trips near the Hudson River for American Youth Hostels. The protest against a proposed pump storage plant on Storm King was in full swing. Pete had sent a postcard with a photo of the Clearwater to the AYH office asking if "Strider" (my nickname) could guide a group of protesters and reporters through the woods and valleys with Pete yodeling and singing against the echoes of the waterfalls of Stag-nun Creek, up and over Butter Hill and to the bottom of Storm King.

I had no idea who he was, and I don't know how he got my name. What would a peace-loving liberal want with an old-time conservative like me? We were lucky that day, there was no trouble. Instead, we stood victorious at the bottom of Storm King, and Seeger whipped a monopoly.



John Cronin

There we were, in Beacon in 1972, and this big boat comes sailing in, and, for God's sake, there's Pete Seeger on the bow, and he yells to the crowd: "We're going to be rebuilding this dock, so I'm looking for volunteers."

I thought, I get to hang out with Pete! The great thing about spending time with Pete Seeger is that being with Pete is pretty much like being at a Pete Seeger concert. If we started slowing down, you know, Pete would start singing a work song or a sea shanty to get us all banging away. When his back got stiff, he would stand up and turn toward the Highlands and start yodeling.

Between all these things, he'd give little homilies. He'd say, "Well, you know, if we all work together, we can clean up the Hudson River." And I thought, this guy is just out of his mind, because this is a damn dirty river, and it's an awful big river, and there's just no way.

He's like a combination of a Pied Piper and a Johnny Appleseed, and you couldn't spend that much time with Pete without him cajoling you into something.

Vickie Raabin

I was lucky enough to have been in several concerts with Pete so he knew me by sight, referring to me as "that little music teacher." I had bought a used banjo and had it sitting in my studio on Main Street when Pete walked by, stopped, came in and started playing it. He fixed the bridge and asked if I minded — of course not! To this day, whenever I get new strings the bridge is always put back the way he adjusted it.

Brent Spodek

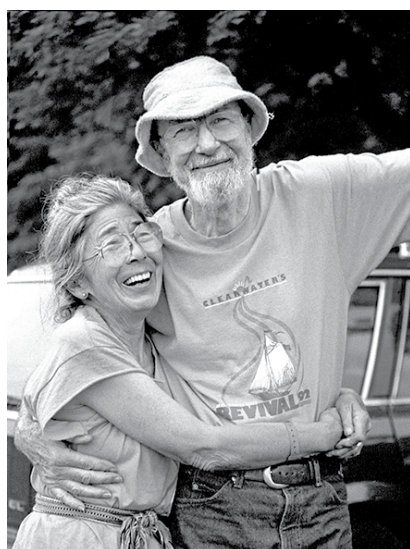
If you move to Beacon, or even think about moving to Beacon, someone will

tell you that this is where Pete Seeger lived. When I moved here, I knew where Pete's house was before I knew where the hardware store was.

Although I can't carry a tune, I organize a monthly adult sing-a-long. When I complained to Pete about my lack of musical leadership skills, he said, "It doesn't matter if you can sing; it matters if you can bring other people together to sing."

Steve Sherman

I had gone to the parking lot at the 1992 Clearwater festival and I saw Pete putting something into his car. Toshi drove up in a golf cart (she was running the festival) and I asked if I could take a photo of them. Unfortunately, Pete wasn't in the mood. After I said to Toshi that Pete looked tense, she grabbed his ass, he jumped, and she threw her arms around him.



James Gurney

Besides hearing him play at festivals in the Hudson Valley, my family got to know Pete through a tattered copy of his songbook. In 1991, when my son, Dan, was a 4-year-old budding

accordion player, he wrote Pete a fan letter, and Pete wrote back on a postcard with a drawing by Ed Sorel showing Pete with his banjo outrunning the Horsemen of Time [above]. At his concerts, Pete made every person feel that they had a good enough voice.

Marc Breslav

Pete hated being famous. I ran into him one day at Grey Printing in Cold Spring shortly after the Great Hudson River Revival had been closed in the middle of the day due to lightning.

"Hi Pete," I said.

He grimaced, avoiding eye contact. "How did Clearwater do money-wise with that storm?"

The grimace brightened to a frown. "You know, all we have to do is get a quarter-inch thick rubber carpet for the whole site," he said, still averting his eyes. "Just have to make sure it's recycled rubber, Pete!"

He looked me in the eye, smiling broadly.

Ellen Gersh

Pete was really involved in the local schools. He played for children because he was blacklisted and couldn't perform elsewhere. He realized that social music was dying, that people don't sing anymore since the invention of the phonograph.

People get caught up in the celebrity of Pete, but he hated people fussing over him. The best way to honor him is to sing and encourage young folks to sing. Also, to join the fight for equality for all people. If everyone put their energies into fighting the fight that Pete did, we would be on the right track.

Tink Lloyd

Pete knew my partner Joziah Longo and me by sight from the many

1955

The Weavers regroup to play a sold-out show at Carnegie Hall. But Pete leaves in 1957 after the other three members agree to do a cigarette commercial.

1957

Pete is indicted on 10 counts of contempt of Congress. He is convicted in 1961 and given a year in jail but the sentence is overturned on appeal.

1959

At the Newport Folk Festival, writer Studs Terkel introduces Pete as "America's tuning fork."

1960

Pete and others popularize the spiritual "We Will Overcome" as the anthem of the civil rights movement. Pete says he changed "will" to "shall" to make it easier to sing.

1962

The Kingston Trio has a hit with Pete's "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and Peter, Paul and Mary with "If I Had a Hammer."

1965

The Byrds top the charts with Pete's "Turn! Turn! Turn!"

1966

Pete and Toshi found Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

1967

The Smothers Brothers ask Pete to perform his anti-war song, "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy," during a taping of their variety show, but it is cut by CBS censors.



Pete Seeger performing at Yorktown Heights High School in 1967

Photo by James Kavallines/LOC

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Moments from a Life

1969

The Clearwater, a replica of a Hudson River sloop, is launched.

1982

Pete performs at a benefit concert for the Solidarity resistance movement in Poland.

1994

Pete receives the National Medal of Arts from President Bill Clinton, as well as the Kennedy Center Honor.

1995

Pete tells *The New York Times*: “I still call myself a communist, because communism is no more what Russia made of it than Christianity is what the churches make of it.”

1996

Pete wins the Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album for *Pete*. He also is inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

2009

Pete and his grandson, Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, sing Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land” with Bruce Springsteen at Barack Obama’s inaugural concert.

2009

Pete wins the Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album for *At 89*.

2010

Pete wins the Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children for *Tomorrow’s Children*.

2013

Toshi dies on July 9 at age 91.

2013

Pete is nominated for a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album for *Pete Seeger: The Storm King: Narratives, Poems*.

2014

Pete dies in a New York City hospital on Jan. 27 at age 94. After his death, he is named the inaugural winner of the Woody Guthrie Prize.



Pete studies posters in 1964 announcing his concerts in Prague. Photo courtesy Gene Deitch

concerts we had played together over the years [as The Slambovian Circus of Dreams], so he recognized us one day in October 2013 when we walked into the Foundry Cafe in Cold Spring. He had gotten off the train and needed a ride to Beacon, which we were happy to provide. As we drove, and at his home, he gave us an update.

He was doing another edit of his autobiography and had photos on the wall from his whole life. He shared the history of New York as we drove north on 9D, how the quarry at Breakneck Mountain provided the stones for the Brooklyn Bridge, the first trains into New York City, the beginnings of Smithsonian Folkways, the first time he met Martin Luther King Jr. at the U.N. (and saw J. Edgar Hoover drive by in a black limo), being blacklisted and Toshi having to become his booking agent (she built the performing circuit that was the foundation for Baez, Dylan, etc., to tour).

When we asked him what he thought we could learn from him and how to carry on, he said. “If you do what is right, it has an effect not only on the future, but on the past, like ripples in water.” That is the hope he felt just four months before he passed.

Phil Ciganer

In the early 1970s, when I came to the Hudson Valley to open the Towne Crier, I heard Pete Seeger lived in Beacon, and I hoped to meet the great man. Sure enough, when one of our first scheduled performers was detained by car trouble, Pete showed up and volunteered to “fill in.” That, I soon came to learn, was “typical Pete.”

As we got to know each other, I became involved with Clearwater and

Pete’s passion to reclaim the Hudson River. “Phil,” he said, “if you want to change the world, you start at home.”

One year, I helped book Pete at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. As we landed in New Orleans, I worried that I had blundered by bringing a folk icon with his banjo to a loud party of a festival. But sure enough, Pete charmed them immediately with his spirit and won them over with his songs. That’s when I realized how much he had come to mean to us all. Pete was that rare person who lived up to his ideals.



Phil Ciganer with Pete and a painting by Michael D’Antuono that hangs at the Towne Crier.

Dar Williams

Pete and I were doing a fundraiser and before I asked if he thought a recent biography of him had been accurate. He nodded slowly and said, “Yes, but there was one thing that didn’t seem right. He said I worried about my career. I never gave a shit about my career.”

I felt honored when Pete asked me to walk in the woods with him at a Clearwater festival. He wanted to point out the invasive species and alert me to events where people in waders pulled purple loosestrife out of the water. That was the day I leaned about the mile-a-minute vine.

Gene Deitch

Pete was an idealist, his mind sharply focused on brotherhood and sisterhood, and would barely discuss anything else. He was a pure propagandist for his ideals. He referred to himself as a “communist” in the purest Karl Marx sense. I loved him for his purity of heart and his idealism, as much as for his songs.

When he was on a world tour in 1964, about to come to Czechoslovakia, where I have lived since 1959, he felt he would be in a place of like-thinkers, and would be warmly welcomed in a Communist-ruled country. What he didn’t realize was that he was coming into a country that followed whatever was written in the Soviet newspaper, cleverly named *Pravda* (“Truth”).

Pete and his family were assigned to a hotel restricted to Western “capitalist” business people. He never had a chance to meet any Czech officials, and was booked into obscure venues and given virtually no press coverage. Nevertheless, his concerts were packed, due to word-of-mouth and a few posters. Pete was perplexed by the lack of official support, and I had to explain it to him in the most careful way. Ironically, four years later came the short-lived freedoms of the Prague Spring, and a label called Supraphon bought tapes I had made of Pete’s concerts so it could release them as an album.

Robert Murphy

In 1965 Pete was asked to perform a concert in the Beacon High School gym to benefit the scholarship loan fund of the Beacon Teachers Association. The Vietnam War was escalating and Pete was an early and vociferous opponent. A few weeks earlier, Pete had performed a few anti-war songs at Moscow University in the Soviet Union.

Feelings were still raw among some residents about the singer's failure in 1955 to assist the House Un-American Activities Committee. Immediately after the concert announcement, a committee of 12 civic, fraternal and religious organizations formed to stop it, criticizing the board for allowing a "figure of controversy" to appear before impressionable youngsters.

However, the letters that poured into *The Evening News* were about 5-to-1 in favor of the show. Writers invoked principles such as freedom of speech and the right to dissent.

On the night of the concert, Nov. 27, 1965, Police Chief Sam Wood and five officers patrolled the gym. There was no need. No one was there to protest. Instead, it was filled to capacity. Pete sang 25 songs over two hours, including "Old Dutchess Junction" sung to the tune of "Red River Valley," and the concert raised \$3,000 [about \$24,000 today]. Perhaps hearts and minds were changed by this concert, and soon a community was to learn more about Pete and that ... there is a time to every purpose under heaven.

Rob Abbot

In the early 1980s, a friend asked if I wanted to play with him at a folk festival at the Appalachian South Folklife Center. I agreed, although I only knew four or five chords.

I can't remember what songs we played, but I do remember my shock being told we were "opening" for Pete Seeger on the makeshift outdoor stage. I've since learned that Pete played thousands of gigs from such stages, entertaining college students or playing from the back of a flatbed truck for

farmworkers or serenading workers on the picket line.

I am proud to have shared a stage with this gentle man on a hot dusty Saturday afternoon in coal country.

Eliza Nagel

Here is Pete with my dad, Fred Nagel [below] in 2007 at a weekly peace vigil on Route 9 during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pete carried the flag when he crossed Route 9 to sing a few songs with counter-protesters. Their favorite was "This Land is Your Land."



Damon Banks

When we first moved to Cold Spring, my wife and I didn't feel entirely comfortable. There isn't a lot of diversity and the area has a lot of racist/anti-Semitic history.

Pete and Toshi saw me with my bass on the train platform one day, and Pete asked: "Do you live around here? Do you know about the history of this area?" I didn't know who he was, so I rolled my eyes and said, "Yeah, I heard about it."

He began to talk about how, because of his music, his political views and his "friends," this area made it difficult for him to live in for many years. He said he stuck with it because of its natural beauty, his family and the strong friendships that developed. He thought that my presence as a local resident (and an African-American musician/teacher) was a very positive development and it would be great if I "stayed in the neigh-

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Pete with photos he hung on the wall while writing his autobiography

Photo by Michael Bowman

When Pete Seeger Wasn't Welcome

Longtime residents recall Clearwater set adrift

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Remembered near and far for his folk music and political activism, longtime Highlands resident Pete Seeger nevertheless encountered hostility on the streets of Cold Spring in an era not all remember and few wish to discuss.

At the time, the environmental and civil rights movements had erupted, there were violent divisions over the Vietnam War, and political differences convulsed communities large and small. The unrest hit the Highlands, too.

In 1966, Seeger and his wife, Toshi, created the environmental group Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, which built a replica historic river sloop, launched in 1969 to promote environmental protection.

Barbara Lusk, who lives in Philipstown, worked in the Clearwater office from 1971 to 1973, and sailed with Seeger. On the water, Seeger "was absolutely terrific, very patient" and knowledgeable, she said. "He didn't talk that much about himself" but about the river and sloops, and "he did concerts along the way," inviting the public to sail with him.

Yet early on, the Clearwater was a target of local animosity.

So was Seeger.

On one occasion, several longtime residents said, after problems beset its rudder, the Clearwater tied up at the Cold Spring dock. That night, as the crew rested — but perhaps not with Seeger aboard — an angry band slipped down to the dock and cut the mooring lines, to set the boat adrift and into potential danger.

The vandalism, recalled Marie Early, was a serious transgression that troubled her father, who was mayor in that period.

"Cutting the mooring lines was a national offense," said Early, a current village trustee. "Why no one was prosecuted, I don't know. It was not a pleasant incident. The fortunate thing is no one was hurt."

In a letter to the *Putnam County News & Recorder* in June 1970, Cold Spring resident Yolande Slater Ogilby described a Clearwater concert stop the week before when "once again local yokels caused trouble, cut lines, threw beer cans and stones and used unprintable

language; called the captain and his crew 'Communists' and much more. Peter Seeger got more than his fair share of abuse, as usual. When is this going to stop?"

Jan Thacher lived in a home on Market Street at the time; his family rented rooms to the staff of Clearwater, whose office was then on Cold Spring's Main Street.

"Pete knew he was not wanted in town," Thacher said. "Every time he came, this group [of locals] would make his life miserable. He would hide his car in our driveway so no one would know he was here."

Thacher said friends would drive Seeger to the Clearwater office rather than have him walk the few blocks in the open. Toshi, who sometimes accompanied him, did not generate similar antagonism, Thacher said.

Seeger had been blacklisted, along with other left-leaning public figures, entertainers, and writers during the political persecutions of the 1950s led by Sen. Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee to root out alleged Communists.

After Pete got off the blacklist in the late 1960s, "one of the first concerts he gave was in Cold Spring at the bandstand" along the river, Thacher recalled. "After that, Pete basically came and went as he pleased. However, there were still times when he'd sneak into the village" because of opposition closer to home — his wife.

"Toshi had forbidden sweets, cookies in particular," Thacher said. "I'd often catch Pete exiting The Main Course with a bagful, saying, 'You can't tell Toshi!'"

While Seeger returned to Cold Spring, the Clearwater did not, for years. Because of a village law that banned visiting boats from using the dock, the sloop only returned in 2009, when it, like Seeger, came for the Fourth of July.

Seth Gallagher, who was then mayor, greeted Seeger, assuring him that he and the sloop were welcome in the village.

"Seeger was so important," Gallagher says now. "We were lucky to have him in our community. He did such good, especially for the river. We have him to thank for the much cleaner conditions we have."

borhood.” He finally told me who he was (which blew my mind) and the three of us rode to the Bronx together. That experience inspired us to stay.

Nell Timmer

From 2003 to 2008, I owned a coffee shop in Beacon. Although it was pouring rain on Spirit of Beacon Day in 2004, we saw a hunched-over figure in a yellow rain slicker in the empty lot next door picking up garbage.

We went out to see if the person needed help and there was Pete. He turned to us and said, “You know, if everyone picked up one piece of garbage a day, the world would be a much cleaner place.” Needless to say, we went back inside and returned with our rain jackets and a garbage bag.

Nathalie Jonas and Philip Nobel

Pete came to welcome The Living Room to Main Street in Cold Spring in 2011 and, in the course of the conversation, recited the Gettysburg Address for us.

Joe Neville

It was the spring of 1966 and I was failing high school English. The teacher said, “Even if you pass the Regent’s exam, I will have to fail you unless you do something about it.” For the topic of my final report, I chose American folk music. I had a brainstorm (very rare). Instead of spending hours in the library, I would talk to Pete. My father, Doug, owned the general store at the foot of Mount Beacon. All the “mountaineers” frequented the store, including Pete, so I knew him quite well. I drove up his hill and he was in his yard, holding a handsaw. He said, “Hi Dougie



Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger performing at the Newport Folk Festival in 1963.

Photo by Daniel Gómez-Ibáñez

[everyone called me that because of my dad], what brings you up here?” I told him and he said, “I don’t like that teacher, either; let’s see if we can’t get you an A.” And we did. Thanks, Pete.

Daniel Gómez-Ibáñez

I liked Pete Seeger. He and I corresponded on a couple of occasions, and once, at my somewhat presumptuous invitation in the early 1960s, he came to my high school in Middletown, Connecticut, to give a free concert. He was a big hit with everyone, students and teachers. The idea to invite him came out of a conversation with my music teacher when I asked why she didn’t include folk music as part of the curriculum.

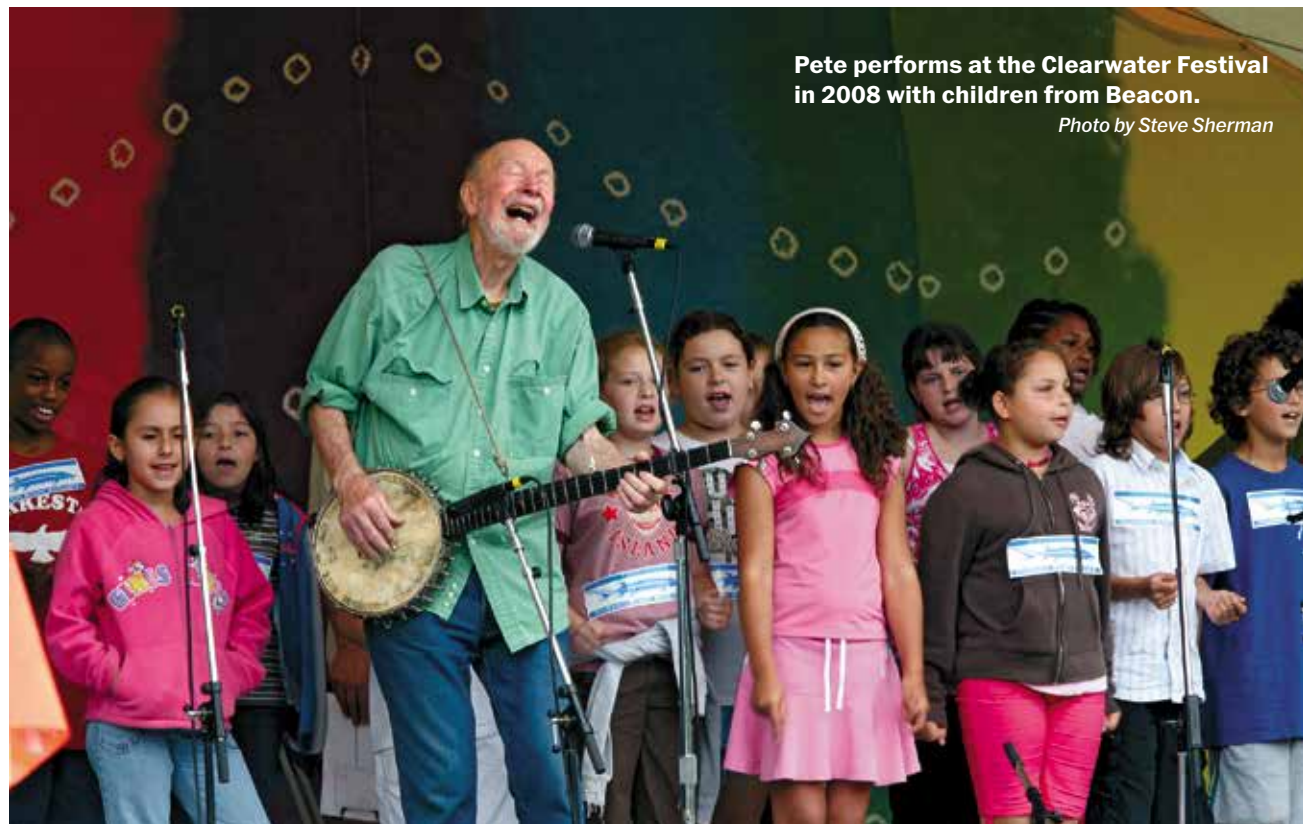
Al Scorch

Pete was born as broadcast radio ushered out the player piano and an infantile record industry played the

role of folklorist in trying to find the latest hillbilly and race hits. He stood up to things that usually break a man: political assassination at the hands of his own government and offers of big money. He left this world a better place but inequality and injustice remain in newer, slicker forms.

A lot of people think Pete was enraged when Bob Dylan “went electric” in 1965 at the Newport Folk Festival but he said he was actually appalled at the sound quality. The P.A. had to be cranked so loud that it began to distort and the vocals were rendered unintelligible. Pete was pissed that a song as good as “Maggie’s Farm” was being garbled to mush.

Another classic Pete moment of unwavering commitment to quality sound is him gently explaining mid-song to a massive crowd that clapping along at Carnegie Hall doesn’t work.



Pete performs at the Clearwater Festival in 2008 with children from Beacon.

Photo by Steve Sherman

Pete Events

ONGOING

Remembering Pete Seeger

BEACON

Howland Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconhistorical.org

The Beacon Historical Society has mounted an exhibit of photos of Pete’s life and times that continues through May. Open during library hours.

FRI 3

Open Mic

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Sign-up begins at 5 p.m. to honor Pete’s life and music.

SAT 4

“Oh, My Gosh!”

BEACON

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4614
brownpapertickets.com/event/4220280

This group show will feature works by 34 artists interpreting their experiences with Pete, along with a series of 12 paintings by Dan Botkin inspired by “Turn, Turn, Turn.” It continues through May 27.

SAT 4

Celebrating Pete Seeger’s Centennial

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4614
howlandculturalcenter.org

The tribute will include performances of Seeger’s songs by artists such as David and Jacob Bernz, Carolyn Doctorow, Lydia Adams Davis with Annalyse and Ryan, The Rix, R.J.Storm and Old School, and Spook Handy. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SUN 5

Pete Seeger Festival

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road | 845-528-7280
tompkinscorners.org

The fourth annual event will bring together friends who performed and worked with Pete. Donations will be collected for local organizations that Seeger created. *Free*

SUN 5

Turn, Turn, Turn!

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The Vanaver Caravan dance troupe will be joined by Maria Muldaur, Happy Traum, Tom Chapin and Seeger’s daughter, Tinya. *Cost: \$35 to \$45*