

# The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 29, 2019



See Our New Space  
142 Main St. – Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Support us at [highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)



**BACH ON SAX** — Four saxophonists — Brad Hubbard (left, playing baritone) and Chris Hemingway (alto), along with Amy Griffiths (tenor) and Wayne Tice (soprano) — performed at the Beacon Music Factory earlier this month in a tribute to J.S. Bach they called *Contrapunctus Among Us*. The concert was hosted by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. Photo by Ross Corsair

## Budget Time

### *Philipstown: \$11.5 million More spending, less revenue expected*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

By a unanimous vote, the Philipstown Town Board on Nov. 20 adopted a 2020 budget of \$11.5 million, up from 2019's total of \$11.2 million.

Taxes will account for \$8.19 million of the 2020 spending total, augmented by \$2.03 million in estimated revenue and \$1.28 million in reserves.

The tax share of the 2019 budget was \$7.94 million.

New York State caps annual property tax increases at 2 percent, with allowances for contingencies.

The five-member Town Board could have pushed the tax total higher but wanted “to try to show some good faith with the taxpayers,” Supervisor Richard Shea said. Overall, he said, the budget “is tight. It’s always going

to be tight.”

The 2020 adopted budget hews closely to the board’s draft budget, presented at a Nov. 6 public hearing, but exceeds the draft by \$12,299 after last-minute adjustments.

Anticipating changes in the Justice Court, the board created the position of chief court clerk, with a salary of \$48,000, while a deputy clerk will earn \$41,110. The draft budget had provided for two clerks, each receiving \$44,880.

(Continued on page 5)

### *Beacon: \$30 Million*

#### *Budget reflects higher assessments, lower rates*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council is expected to vote on Monday, Dec. 2, on the city’s proposed \$30 million budget, which includes a general fund and separate water and sewer funds, for 2020.

Because property assessments increased by 12 percent (residential) and 7 percent (commercial), the proposed budget includes tax rate decreases of 7.5 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

The proposal balances \$21.8 million of general fund spending with \$10 million in revenues, an \$11.5 million tax levy and \$380,000 in fund-balance spending, which is a slight increase over this year’s allotment. Projected spending for the water (\$3.8 million) and sewer (\$4.4 million) funds is unchanged. The tax levy, which includes an allowable growth factor based on new properties added to the city’s tax rolls, is within the state’s 2 percent cap.

Below are some significant factors:

- Health insurance costs increased significantly, by \$190,390, and continue to represent 15 percent of general fund expenses.

- Recycling disposal increased to \$100,000. In recent years the city has gone from receiving \$15 per ton for recyclables to paying \$83 to dispose of each ton.

- Three firefighters will be hired, bringing the number of full-time Beacon Fire Department members to 16. A three-year, \$537,423 federal grant will pay 75 percent of the new

(Continued on page 5)

## Minister Finds A New Home in Beacon

### *Historic church installs pastor with local ties*

By Jeff Simms

With stops in Milwaukee (10 years) and Lakeland, Florida (two years), along the way, the Rev. Daniel Blackburn, a Buffalo native with the ministry in his blood, has found a home in Beacon.

The fourth-generation pastor — his father, grandfather and great-grandfather have all been ministers in Buffalo — was officially installed on Nov. 23 and 24 at Star of Bethlehem, the historic Main Street church where Blackburn has been preaching since September.

Blackburn, 39, was one of the candidates invited to Beacon to replace the Rev. Frederick Mills, who led Star of Bethlehem for 10 years before accepting a call from a church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2016. After hearing Blackburn preach in February, the Star congregation voted in July to extend a call for him to become its new pastor.

His father and his wife’s father, who is a minister in Mount Kisco, both spoke at the church during the two-day installation ceremony. Those family connections — Blackburn’s father has also led seminars in the Hudson Valley during his 36-year career — made Beacon “an area that’s easy to transition into,” he said.



The Rev. Daniel Blackburn

photo by Meredith Heuer

Blackburn inherits a rich history at Star of Bethlehem.

The church, originally called Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church at Fishkill Landing, was founded in 1900.

(Continued on page 14)





## FIVE QUESTIONS: ALISON JOLICOEUR

By Brian PJ Cronin

**A**lison Jolicoeur of Beacon is the founder of Second Chance Foods (secondchancefoods.org), a nonprofit that combats food waste.

### What inspired you to create Second Chance Foods in 2015?

I saw a segment on *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* about food waste. I'm a health coach and I've always considered myself a foodie, but I had no idea that 40 percent of the food produced in this country ends up in the garbage. I started researching other organizations that were doing similar work, got some friends together — we're all home-schooling moms — and we incorporated.

### What were the early challenges?

I initially just thought about getting [surplus] food from stores and farms to soup kitchens and food pantries. But it soon became clear that this food needed to be processed right away. If you give a bruised apple to someone, it doesn't mean they're going to eat it. We were getting truckloads of tomatoes at the end of the season and we couldn't hand them out fast enough. That's when I passed the torch to Martha Elder, who is now our executive director, and she spearheaded a farm-to-food pantry project,

through which we process and preserve the food. Other organizations in our area do more of the redistribution work.

### We live in an agricultural area. Does that make the issue less visible?

Absolutely. People don't realize there are hungry people here — our friends and neighbors. Because we're able to grow so much food, it makes sense that we should do as much as we can to make sure that food gets to the people who need it the most.

### Is there a connection to climate change?

Yes. When food waste goes into a landfill, it creates an environment where pockets of greenhouse gas are produced. When people think of food waste, they think of restaurants and grocery stores, but a huge amount comes from homes. We educate people about what they can do with their food scraps, like composting. There are companies like Community Compost that will come to your house in Beacon and pick up your food scraps. It's all connected. Our tagline is "Elevating the health of people

and the planet through food rescue."

### How can people get involved?

We have lots of opportunities, whether in the kitchen or gleaning on various farms. It's very fulfilling to get together with people and do this kind of work.



## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

The big movies are coming out now; what's your favorite genre?

“

I'm a big romantic comedy girl.

”



~Julie Moore, Beacon

“

Probably an action-comedy or a psychological thriller.

”



~Aidan Cimino, Cold Spring

“

We're into kid movies; looking forward to *Frozen 2*!

”



~Kyle Leach, Beacon

**TOMPKINS CORNERS CULTURAL CENTER**

SUNDAY, NOV. 24  
**Art and Crafts Exhibit and Sale**

SUNDAY, DEC. 1  
**"It's a Wonderful Life" A Live Radio Play**

FRIDAY, DEC. 6  
**Jonathan Kruk's "A Christmas Carol"**

SATURDAY, DEC. 7  
**Cajun Jam**

SUNDAY, DEC. 8  
**Poets' Corner and Open Mic with Margaret Fox**

CLASSES WITH ONGOING REGISTRATION  
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- Almost Beginners - 10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Total Beginners - 11:30a - 12:30p

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Garrison Names Interim Superintendent

*Will serve from January to June during search*

The Garrison school board on Nov. 20 announced it has named an interim superintendent to succeed Laura Mitchell, who was hired in 2014 but announced last month she will leave the position on Dec. 31 after reaching an “amicable mutual agreement” with the district.

Debra Jackson, who is based in Newburgh and has been a superintendent in the Highland Falls, North Salem and Bedford districts, will serve from Jan. 1 to June 30. The board also said it hired District Wide Search Consultants of Woodbury to lead the search for a superintendent.

## Putnam Accepting Internship Applications

*Program for high school, college students*

The Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow (PILOT) program is accepting applications for internships during the summer of 2020 in areas such as finance, criminal justice, engineering, communications, information technology, law, health and psychology.

Applicants must be Putnam County residents who are college students or high school students in their junior or senior years. For

college students, a GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The deadline is Jan. 31. See [putnamcountyny.com/internapply](http://putnamcountyny.com/internapply).

## Groups Get Funds to Fight Substance Abuse

*Feds provide \$125,000 in grants*

The federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention has awarded \$125,000 in grants to the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, the Prevention Council of Putnam and the Tri-County Community Partnership in Orange County, according to the office of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney. The funds will be used for programs aimed at teens and young people in the Hudson Valley.

The Cold Spring Lions Club on Nov. 18 also donated \$10,000 to the newly launched Philipstown Hub, which provides mental health and addiction resources. “We hope this donation makes a big splash that ripples across Philipstown,” said Ginny Pidala of the Lions Club.

## With Putnam, Donate to Troops for Holidays

*County seeks funds for care packages*

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and United for the Troops are collecting donations for the annual Defend the Holiday program to send care packages

to members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving overseas. For each \$15 donation, a care package will be sent to a soldier. The deadline is Dec. 21.

United for the Troops was founded by Jim and Patty Rathschmidt of Mahopac to provide troops with comfort items such as cookies, DVDs, CDs, snacks and T-shirts. See [putnamcountyny.com/carepackage](http://putnamcountyny.com/carepackage). Cards and payment can be sent to Terry Oliver, County Executive's Office, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512.

## Electric Charging Station Opens in Beacon

*Soon there will be three*

A new electric car charging station has been activated at 13 South Ave., near the Beacon Visitor Center. Usage is \$1.25 per hour. The first electric charging station in Beacon, a Dutchess County-owned facility at the county parking lot on Main Street, is active, as well. A second city-owned station is expected to be active at City Hall in two weeks.

## Beacon Police Arrest Rape Suspect

*Held in Dutchess County Jail*

Beacon police on Nov. 9 arrested 27-year-old Joshua R. Stalter, a New Windsor resident, on third-degree rape charges. The

victim had reported the alleged incident on Nov. 11. Stalter was sent to Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 bond.

## Volunteer Tax Counselors Needed To Help Public

*Training begins in December*

Hudson Valley C.A.S.H. Coalition is looking for volunteers to help low- to moderate-income taxpayers at four sites in Putnam County to file their state and federal taxes.

Volunteers are required to complete 20 to 40 hours of daytime classroom and self-study education in December through the AARP Foundation, which is certified by the IRS. Volunteers must also commit five to eight hours per week from mid-January to mid-April in Brewster, Kent, Mahopac or Patter-son. See [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call Linda Eddy at 845-475-7500.

## Free Parking in Cold Spring

*Village Board to open Fair Street lot*


Thanksgiving weekend shoppers received an early holiday gift when the Village Board on Nov. 19 approved free parking in the municipal lot on Fair Street from Nov. 27 through 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 1.

# SAVE THE DATE



## DECEMBER 3

# GIVING TUESDAY



## The HIGHLANDS Current

# OPEN HOUSE & SHOW OPENING

Stop by 142 Main St. in Cold Spring on **FIRST FRIDAY, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m.** to see *The Current's* new office and for a reception to open a show of landscapes by Philipstown artist Rick Gedney.

## CHEERFUL STRENGTH

*Opportunities for growth in Consciousness & Community*



### Circle of Joy!

Consciously cultivating Joy  
Wednesdays, 7:00 — 8:30 pm  
December 4, 11, 18



### Past Life Regression Group Workshop

Saturday, Dec. 14 6:00 — 8:00 pm

### Gentle Yoga

Thursdays 11:00 am — Noon  
December 5, 12, 19

See our full schedule at  
[CHEERFULSTRENGTH.NET](http://CHEERFULSTRENGTH.NET)  
3182 US Rt 9, Cold Spring, NY  
[info@cheerfulstrength.net](mailto:info@cheerfulstrength.net)  
(845) 723-1314

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



**Fri. Dec. 6 – 8 pm \***  
**SHANA FALANA, KIDAUDRA, SONIC HUDSON**  
Rock, electronica and lights

**Sat. Dec. 7 – 2:30 to 4:30 pm**  
**“INCLUSION” ART SHOW RECEPTION**  
Celebrating Latino-American artists of the Hudson Valley

**Sun. Dec. 8 – 1 pm + 4 pm \***  
**NO STRINGS MARIONETTES**  
1 pm “Treasure Hunt” / 4 pm “Jack & the Beanstalk”

**Tue. Dec. 10 – 7 pm**  
**OLD-TIMEY SOUTHERN FIDDLE TUNES JAM SESSION**  
String players welcome; listeners too

**Fri. Dec. 13 – 7 pm**  
**HUDSON VALLEY POETS**  
Featured: Robert Milby, also open mic

**Sat. Dec. 14 – 8 pm \***  
**MIGHTY GIRL BAND**  
Catchy pop rock

**Sun. Dec. 15 – 6 pm \***  
**JINGLE ALL THE WAY TO CAFÉ SIZZLE**  
Goldee Greene's holiday variety show

**AND MORE**  
Sat. Dec. 7 – Tim Haufe postponed; to be rescheduled  
Mon. Dec. 16 – Cello Choir presents a concert  
Sat. Dec. 21 – Russell Cusick & Tony DePaolo concert  
Sun. Dec. 22 – “A Christmas Memory” play reading  
Sat. Dec. 28 – Cirque de la Lune musical

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508  
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\*Brownpapertickets.com, search Beacon Howland



# The HIGHLANDS Current

**NYFA\* Winner: 45  
Better Newspaper  
Contest Awards**

\*New York Press Association, 2013-18



**NNA\* Winner:  
31 Better  
Newspaper  
Contest Awards**

\*National Newspaper Association, 2016-18



**NYNPA\* Winner:  
8 Awards for  
Excellence**

\*New York News Publishers Association, 2017-18

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Beacon development

Regarding 296 Main St.: If you look at the photo, there are private residences immediately behind the “garage to be turned into a bar with patio,” so someone’s home now next to a very quiet-use building would be next to a bar (“Booming Beacon,” Nov. 15). How cruel to do that to homeowners? I do not know them. I just think it’s an example of what is happening to some people.

Karen Twohig, *Beacon*

*The Current* reported: “The council began a discussion about the amenities it could consider requiring — including public parking, affordable housing and public open space — as ‘trade-offs’ for developers who want to build four-story buildings (with a fourth-floor setback) on Main Street.”

What a bad idea. Main Street needs less parking if we want to keep it a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly destination. No one ever says, “Hey, let’s go to Beacon and hang out on the flat asphalt outside the DMV.”

At the Democratic candidates’ event before the election, City Council Member George Mansfield made the correct point that Beacon doesn’t have too little parking. Instead, it has a parking management problem, i.e., giving away public space to private vehicles for free. I hope he considers that in his votes.

If you think Beacon has become too expensive, you should support more development. More people want to live in Beacon, so it needs more housing. If we don’t build it, existing housing will get more expensive.

Brandon Smith, *Beacon*

It has become quite clear that the mayor,

### Tell us what you think

**T**he Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer’s full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

council, and Zoning and Planning Boards do not care about those of us who have lived in the city for decades, who stayed in the community through the hard times, who lived with the boarded-up storefronts and the graffiti. It has become too expensive and too crowded. We have lost our Beacon.

Georgeann Rutkowski, *Beacon*

### Early voting

New York State’s first year of early voting was successful and well-received. The new electronic polling books (iPads with voter registration information) worked as planned and expedited the sign-in process on election day.

Kudos to all at the Putnam County Board of Elections who rose to the challenge of implementing the new law.

Susan Anspach, *Cold Spring*

### Village parking

I wonder how the Cold Spring Village

Board arrived at \$40 for four months of parking in the Fair Street lot for residents when a \$3 annual fee was suggested at its Oct. 1 meeting (“Cold Spring Creates Parking Lottery,” Nov. 15). The Spring Brook Condominium held a meeting on Oct. 22, so residents could not attend the Village Board meeting that evening.

The Fair Street lot is mostly or entirely empty before 10 a.m., and after 6 p.m., all year long, a fact that myself and others brought to the board’s attention three years ago. It is just wrong to charge residents to park in a lot that would otherwise be empty. It’s disgraceful — another tax on the locals.

Roseanne Halpin, *Cold Spring*

The \$3 annual fee was for Monday through Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The \$40 fee for 24/7 parking from Dec. 1 to April 15 is based on costs of advertising the permit system, obtaining stickers to identify permit-holders, and lost revenue based on use of the municipal lot from Dec. 1 to April 15. The fee equates to less than \$10 per month. If less than \$10 per month is more than anyone wishes to pay for free, 24-hour parking: The Village Board extended free winter parking hours (Nov. 15 to April 15) to 10 a.m. daily. Parking meter data does not show that the lot is mostly or entirely empty every evening after 6 p.m. during the period in any year. Since parking is free Nov. 15 to April 15, there is no data to determine use from prior years.

*Cold Spring Village Board*



# We've Moved

*The Current* has  
relocated our office  
from 161 Main St.  
in Cold Spring to  
142 Main St.  
Stop by and see us!



## Philipstown *(from Page 1)*

Revisions to state law require the town Justice Court in 2020 to prosecute many minor traffic-law cases that had previously been handled by the Putnam County District Attorney's Office. "We're going to be stuck with more responsibilities" and "are going to be looking at more expenses, probably," Shea said.

He added that higher levels of government increasingly seem to impose extra burdens on municipalities, while not offering any relief. "We send out more money and we get less in services," he said.

Other changes from the draft budget include salary increases for the Climate Smart Communities program coordinator (from \$7,200 to \$8,200) and the addiction resources coordinator (from \$15,000 to \$17,500), as well as extra pay for the town Recreation and Parks director (from \$69,360 to \$70,500) to reflect her role in emergencies in managing the Recreation Center as a Red Cross shelter.

The final budget showed a reduction in the town clerk's salary from \$65,750 to \$61,000, with a new clerk taking over in January. After serving since 2004, Town Clerk Tina Merando was defeated on Nov. 5 by Tara Percacciolo, secretary to various town advisory boards.

Costs of services by the four fire departments serving the town will be nearly \$2 million in 2020. Of the total, \$279,600 would go to the Continental Village Fire Department, up 2 percent from fiscal 2019; \$796,882 to Garrison, a 1 percent increase; \$789,823 to North Highlands, also a 1 percent rise; and \$62,970 to Cold Spring, which covers parts of Philipstown, a decrease of 3 percent, which board members attributed to lower workers' compensation charges. Coverage by Philipstown's two ambulance services would cost \$603,466, an increase of 2 percent over fiscal 2019.

The 2020 budget also expects a \$9,605 decrease in revenue, to \$2,030,193. In part, that reflects a downturn in the town's portion of the state mortgage tax. The 2019 budget foresaw \$325,000 in mortgage taxes; the 2020 budget anticipates \$310,000.

## Beacon *(from Page 1)*

firefighters' salaries in the first two years and 35 percent in the third year.

• One police officer will be added, bringing the patrol division to 30. The officer will patrol

Main Street.

• A part-time Climate Smart Coordinator position is included for \$9,500.

• The Beacon Free Loop bus will receive \$12,100.

• Pension costs for police and firefighters increased 12 percent (\$111,407), while retirement for other city employees went up 5 percent (\$23,994).

• Workers' compensation costs decreased by 3 percent (\$11,891) for the city workforce,

and by 9 percent (\$6,409) for career and volunteer firefighters.

• The Beacon solar farm has completely offset electricity for city-owned buildings.

• Streetlight costs are down 98 percent from 2018, when the city spent \$75,308. The 2019 budget included \$55,000, but only \$4,480 had been spent by the beginning of October as a result of the conversion to LED lights and energy produced by the solar farm.

Real Estate				
Market Report (October)				
	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
New Listings	12	10	23	9
Closed Sales	5	11	10	6
Days on Market	79	86	118	74
Median Price	\$325,000	\$360,000	\$616,750	\$427,000
% List Received	94.7	93.9	96.4	90.8
Inventory	35	36	82	91

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison, and Nelsonville.

# CHORALE CONCERT

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Putnam Chorale

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## NOTICE

### NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN FOR THE YEAR 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Final Budget for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons during regular business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Dated November 27, 2019



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE  
SINCE 1888

HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

JOIN US FOR WINE AND CHEESE

## Philipstown Food Pantry Collection

Please bring your food contributions

FIRST FRIDAY IN COLD SPRING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019 • 5-7PM

Perishables are welcome. Please no expired food. Besides perishables, other requests are: canned veggies, canned fruit, canned soup, rice, cereal, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, pasta, coffee/tea.

The Annual Houlihan Lawrence Coat Drive is also accepting donations at the same time.



### RICH IN HISTORY

Circa 1884 Wicopee home. Potential for inn or horse farm. Includes Vintage barn. On 17 acres. WEB# PO1589433 | Hopewell Junction | \$1,300,000



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Rustic Log home offers three bedrooms plus bonus room. Vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace. WEB# PO1572791 | Cortlandt Manor | \$349,000

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## Youth Players: Elf, Jr.

Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15

2:00p.m. and 4:00p.m.

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)





## THAT TIME AGAIN

Ryan Biracree led a children's workshop on Nov. 12 at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison about snow, with experiments and crafts that revealed the mysteries of snowballs, snowflakes, crystals, people, and storms.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



## The Farnorotto Family and The Gift Hut

Wish to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this difficult time. We are grateful for the many ways the community has come together and rallied around us.

We were blessed by all the kind words and remembrance of Jim's joy and smile and hope it lives on along Main Street.

*"Smile and Be Happy"*

Fran, Christina, Mario, and Stevie



**Did you take care of your eyes this year?**

Use your 2019 vision benefits or FSA fund before expiration. New patients welcome.

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# What members are saying...



Today we need papers that will commit to telling the truth and sticking to the facts. Enter *The Current*. Its coverage of Cold Spring and Garrison municipal meetings is important to our communities, and I greatly enjoy the wonderful feature stories on the many artists and shops that have made the area so unique.

**Brian McNicholl**, Garrison / Los Angeles  
**New PARTNER Member**

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- Just go to [highlandscurrent.org/membership](http://highlandscurrent.org/membership) OR
- Send a check to *The Highlands Current* at our new address, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.



## AROUND TOWN

◀ **WELCOME TO NEWBURGH —**

Using 25 gallons of paint, Pat Nunnari, of the King Street Sign Co., this month transformed a blank concrete wall on Water Street into a 99-by-12-foot mural. Spearheaded by Naomi Herrson-Ringskog, founder of the nonprofit Dept of Small Interventions, the project was a collaboration between Nunnari; Central Hudson; the Orange County Citizens Foundation; and five local businesses. "Newburgh doesn't have a sign at any of its six entrances that welcomes visitors," said Herrson-Ringskog. "This is part of the city's renaissance."

◀ **NEW GUIDE —**

Curt Landtroop of Cold Spring, the immediate past president of the Cold Spring Lions Club and a board member of the nonprofit Guiding Eyes for the Blind, this month received a new guide dog, Quincy. It is the seventh dog Landtroop has received from the organization since 1973.

*Photo provided*

◀ **LUNCH DATE —**

Three members of the Philipstown Town Board and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery on Nov. 20 helped serve a holiday lunch for seniors at the Philipstown Recreation Center. From left: Linda Alfano of B&L Deli, Judy Farrell, John Van Tassel, Montgomery and Robert Flaherty

*Photo provided*



# PASQUALE GRASSO QUARTET

**Holiday Concert**  
**Saturday, December 14, 2019**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Magazzino Italian Art Foundation**  
**2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516**

**Stefano Doglioni** *Bass clarinet*  
**Ari Roland** *Bass*  
**Keith Balla** *Drums*  
**Pasquale Grasso** *Guitar*

**Tickets are available on Eventbrite**

**MAGAZZINO**  
**ITALIAN ART**



# The Calendar

## What Has Changed?

*Haldane Drama tackles a tough subject: the brutal death, 20 years ago, of a gay student in Wyoming*

By Alison Rooney

For many Americans, the death in 1998 of Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student, was a watershed in the gay-rights movement. The 21-year-old was beaten, tortured, tied to a fence, and left to die near Laramie, causing an outcry and a national examination.

Yet, two decades later, a group of Haldane High School students — all born in this century — admitted they initially had only a vague idea of what transpired.

"I had not heard of him," said Liam Mooney, one of eight actors who gathered at *The Current* to discuss an upcoming



Haldane Drama's Noah Bingham

Photo by Jim Mechalakos

Haldane Drama production of *The Laramie Project*.

Quinn Petkus added: "I had seen his picture, but that's about it."

The drama, which will be performed next weekend (Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7), is based on interviews that Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project conducted with a wide swathe of townspeople in the 18 months

following the crime. The interviews were edited together to form the play. Its selection for the school's fall production led to passionate discussion on Facebook, with some adults questioning whether it is appropriate for student audiences and other residents, including many Haldane students, defending its subject matter.

In a note to the Haldane students, Kaufman wrote: "At a time like this, when

our nation is in such turmoil, we need the play to show both where we are divided and how we can come together. I am always moved when I hear a high school is producing the play. You guys are the generation that we must nurture and bless, so you can create the world you dream about.

"The fact that you're doing this play shows a commitment to tackle difficult issues, and a willingness to look for hope. I stand with you in that search."

*The Current* spoke with the eight cast members about their reactions to the play. Their responses have been edited for brevity.

**What has been the greatest revelation for you from the play?**

**Celia Drury:** It's easy when you don't agree with someone to think about them as the enemy. I'm a liberal, but seeing the emotion behind what everyone, of different beliefs, said [about Shepard's death] affected me deeply. Understanding how society taught them to do this makes you think about your own actions.

**Maddie Barkman:** It's hard to hear that things like this happened, and that hate crimes are still happening. I grew up in a loving and open home, so it's jarring.

(Continued on page 12)

## Finding the Right Moment for Painting Hudson River Landscapes

*Gedney's works to be featured in exhibit at The Current's office*

By Alison Rooney

Rick Gedney's Hudson Valley landscapes can fool viewers — in the best way — into thinking they are photographs, not paintings. Typically river-scapes, his works also tend to evoke an awe that prompts a look at the actual setting. Perhaps it's because he waits for the most perfect light, or moment.

Gedney's paintings will be exhibited at *The Current's* new quarters at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, opening next Friday (Dec. 6), with an open house from 6 to 9 p.m., and continuing into January.

"I'm absorbed by details; how we see things, how light hits an object," says Gedney, who has "a particular love for where the sea, the sky and the air meet." He grew up in Port Chester and Rye and his earliest memories are of family visits to parks and beaches, "so there's an affinity for rivers, streams, and water."

After discovering art in Indiana at Franklin College, Gedney planned to combine a career in painting with teaching guitar. He recalls two Franklin teachers who "made

art come alive for me." One, Thomas Locker, a traditionalist who painted in the Hudson River School style, "insisted we needed to learn to draw, whereas" the other, Luigi Crispino, an Italian abstract expressionist, "was all about color — how reds balance against greens, darks against lights. I loved Locker's drawing and his representational work but I also loved Crispino's colors and

his brush work," Gedney says.

After earning a B.A. in arts and painting, Gedney moved back to the New York area, where he soon found himself mired in a bad economy, married, and unable to find teaching jobs. He turned to banking, initially as a teller because "it was kind of easy and I figured I would paint on the side." But "kids came along and I had to make a real living, so I didn't stick with art. I lacked confidence. I'm still self-conscious that I didn't follow my heart," he says.

Nonetheless, even as he moved into real estate finance, Gedney never entirely stopped painting. "I set aside a little space for myself in a corner of our family room. Since I worked with oils, which needed to dry, I was able to do a bit, then stop, deal with family life or go to work, then return to it."

Along with painting, Gedney loved playing guitar. "Music was much like art," he states. "I didn't play in bands anymore, but I always kept playing, privately."

Then the 2008 economic crisis brought a kind of forced retirement. "I was carrying on this dual career and I saw an opportunity to get out. I knew if I really wanted to paint, now was the time," Gedney recalls.

Living in lower Westchester, he traveled north, seeking places where Hudson River School landscape artist Sanford Gifford had painted. In 2009, he and his second wife, Michele (*The Current's* advertising director) relocated to Philipstown, lured by the area's beauty and an abundance of



Rick Gedney

Photo Provided

friends in the arts living nearby.

"When I was about 50 it all came together. I was so unhappy, because I had gotten so far away from who I was and what I wanted to be doing; there was no choice. Everything was pulling me away from the arts; I reached a point where I could continue on that path or finally get back on the other one. It took a few years, but once I made the decision, everything opened up."

Gedney returned to painting and to "a conflict inside my head — a battle between the left and right brain — the creative side, which wants to push the limits, and the left side, which loves technique and is more analytical." He also strives to simplify. "Because I love details so much, I tend to overwork things, every blade of grass," he explains. "I'm trying to pull back now. I'm on that line of trying to find out how to combine the abstract with the realistic."

(Continued on page 12)



"Dockside," by Rick Gedney



# THE WEEK AHEAD

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

## COMMUNITY

**SAT 30**  
**Holiday Pottery Sale**  
**GARRISON**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

The sale will feature works by more than 30 ceramic artists, jewelers and artisans, along with paper goods, soaps and toys. Also SUN 1.



**SAT 30**  
**Holiday Boutique**  
**GARRISON**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Shop for unique, handcrafted and locally made gifts from dozens of artisans. See the library website for a preview. Open Thursday to Sunday during library hours until SUN 15.

**SAT 30**  
**City of Beacon Tree Lighting**  
**BEACON**

4 – 6 p.m. Beacon Welcome Center  
Main Street and Route 9D

Make an ornament, enjoy hot drinks and cookies, hear carols sung by Scouts, and welcome Santa Claus. The tree will be lighted at dusk.



PHOTOCENTRIC: Kaitlin Sullivan

**TUES 3**  
**Ugly Sweater Holiday Workshop**  
**BEACON**

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Adults are invited to bring a sweater (or sweatshirt) to transform into an ugly sweater for holiday events. Registration required. *Free*

**THURS 5**  
**Tree Lighting**  
**GARRISON**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Winter Hill  
20 Nazareth Way | [hhl.org](http://hhl.org)

This annual family-friendly celebration includes a sing-along, warm drinks and seasonal refreshments. *Free*

**FRI 6**  
**Hard Hat Holiday Party**  
**COLD SPRING**

7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Enjoy cocktails, food, music and a silent auction to benefit the Jean Marzollo Children's Room and receive a tour of the renovations-in-progress. *Cost: \$50*

**SAT 7**  
**Christmas Fair**  
**BEACON**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. John the Evangelist  
35 Willow St. | 845-838-0195  
[stjoachim-stjohn.org](http://stjoachim-stjohn.org)

Shop for holiday gifts, breakfast and lunch foods and enter a raffle.

**SAT 7**  
**Atlas Winter Market**  
**NEWBURGH**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855  
[atlasnewburgh.com/market](http://atlasnewburgh.com/market)

Find artisan jewelry, pottery, fabric goods, holiday wreaths and flowers, as well as farm-distilled spirits. There will be crafts for the kids. Also SUN 8.

## STAGE & SCREEN

**SAT 30**  
**It's a Wonderful Life**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center | 729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | [tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

Judy Allen, Chris Blossy, Elizabeth Breslin, Nancy Maloy, Joe Niola, Simon Skolnik, Curtis Watkins and Lew Zwick

will bring the popular film to life in a live radio play by Joe Landry. *Cost: \$10 donation*

**THURS 5**  
**A Thousand Cranes**  
**PEEKSKILL**

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

This Dramatists Guild Footlight Series reading of a play by David Caudle will explore the response of a white Christian conservative politician when his daughter falls into a coma after being raped.

**FRI 6**  
**The Laramie Project**  
**COLD SPRING**

7 p.m. Haldane School  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Members of Haldane Drama will present this play about the aftermath of the killing in 1998 of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was beaten and left to die tied to a fence. Also SAT 7. See Page 9. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors free)*

**SAT 7**  
**Elf Jr., The Musical**  
**GARRISON**

2 & 4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900 | [brownpapertickets.com/event/4442944](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4442944)

In a tale based on the holiday film, Buddy the Elf goes on a quest for family and identity. Different casts perform each weekend. Also SUN 8, SAT 14, SUN 15. *Cost: \$12*

## KIDS & FAMILY

**SAT 30**  
**Alumni Basketball Game**  
**COLD SPRING**

5 p.m. Haldane School  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Watch former Haldane male and female players compete in the 14th annual game hosted by the Blue Devil Booster Club. If interested in playing, call Joe Virgadamo at 845-265-9254, ext. 129 (must have been on team during senior year). *Cost: \$5 (\$2 children; \$10 players)*

**SAT 7**  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
**BEACON**

9 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Hall  
413 Main St. | [bit.ly/beacon-santa-breakfast](http://bit.ly/beacon-santa-breakfast)

This inaugural event, presented by New Covenant Learning Center PTA, will include a buffet, photos with Santa and holiday crafts. *Cost: \$10 (teens \$5, children free)*

**SAT 7**  
**Nature in Winter**  
**CORNWALL**

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 ext. 204 | [hnhm.org](http://hnhm.org)

Learn during a hike how to recognize signs of animals and plants that stay green year-round and meet an animal to find out how it survives winter. *Cost: \$10 (\$8, children); \$7 (\$5, children) members*

**SAT 7**  
**McKrells' Christmas**  
**BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300  
[townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

Kevin McKrell (Groucho) and Brian Melick (Zeppo) will perform as the Marx Brothers in an interpretation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SUN 8**  
**Winter Celebration**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitou School  
1656 Route 9D | 845-809-5695  
[manitouschool.org](http://manitouschool.org)

Enjoy crafts and the immersive Crystal Cave. Shop for handcrafted gifts and greenery. There will also be a bonfire, hot chocolate bar, bake sale and lunch booth. *Cost: \$10 per family*



SUN 8  
No Strings Marionettes Co.

BEACON  
1 & 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson of Vermont will bring their hand-crafted puppets to life for a performance of *Treasure Hunt* at 1 p.m. and *Jack and the Beanstalk* at 4 p.m. *Cost: \$10 (children free)*

VISUAL ARTS

FRI 6  
Rick Gedney:  
Landscapes

COLD SPRING  
6 – 9 p.m. Highlands Current Inc.  
142 Main St. | 845-809-5584  
highlandscurrent.org

As part of First Friday, *The Current* will host an open house for its new offices and a wine-and-cheese reception for an exhibit of paintings by Gedney, a Philipstown landscape artist. See Page 13. Stop by to say hello.



SAT 7  
Inclusion

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

The annual exhibit will feature work by Latino-American artists who live in the Hudson Valley, including Jose Acosta, Salvador Arellano, Edwin Batres, Aurelio Castano, Rafael Figueroa, Audrey Francis, Jose Gomez, Jose E. Gonzalez-Soto, Maria Lago, Ramon Lascano, Raphael Lopez, Nestor Madalengoitia, Wilfredo Morel, Henry Nuhn, Joe Pimentel and Marisa del Pozo Slick.



SAT 7  
Cali Gorevic /  
PHOTOCENTRIC

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

Gorevic's solo show *Analecta: Excerpts from a Whole* includes her photography and ceramic

puzzle sculptures. See Page 9. In addition, Gorevic and Robin Rice juried the art center's biennial photography exhibit, selecting 50 works from more than 700 entries. Through Jan. 5.

SAT 7  
Small Works Show

BEACON  
6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844  
catalystgallery.com

Artwork submitted to this juried show could be no larger than 20 inches and no more expensive than \$500. Through Jan. 12.

SUN 8  
Art History with a Twist

PEEKSKILL  
3 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA  
1701 E. Main St. | 914-788-0100  
hudsonvalleymoca.org

In this presentation on social and political commentary in Western art, Marcy B. Freedman will discuss how artists such as Goya, Nancy Spero, David Hammons and the Guerrilla Girls have explored war, racism and gender inequality. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 members)*

MUSIC

THURS 5  
Altoism

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

Join musician and composer Travis Sullivan as he presents a concert and lecture on masters of the alto sax such as Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderly, Lee Konitz and Jackie McLean and their contributions to jazz. *Free*

THURS 5  
Hot Tuna  
POUGHKEEPSIE  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | 845-473-2072  
bardavon.org

Larry Campbell and Teresa Williams will join the blues artists Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady. *Cost \$49 to \$64*

FRI 6  
Westchester All-Stars  
and Friends

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

This annual holiday benefit concert for veterans organizations will feature Gene Cornish of The Rascals, rock drummer Carmine Appice (Ozzy Osborne/Cactus), singer and actor Vince Curatola of The Sopranos, Kristen Capolino, Pete Levin, MaryAnn Renza, Duchess Di, Tom Dudley, Scott Staton, Kathy Policastro, Bill Edwards and the Westchester All-Star Band. *Cost: \$35 to \$100*



FRI 6  
Sonic Hudson / Kidaudra / Shana Falana

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

This concert features performances by three bands whose members met at the Club/Draw picnic this past summer and knew they had to do another show. *Cost: \$12 (\$15 door)*

SAT 7  
Beatles vs. Stones

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

The tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction will stage a showdown. *Cost: \$30 to \$60*

SAT 7  
Tim Haufe with Strings / Whiskey Girls

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

The bands return to the Howland for an encore. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SUN 8  
Andy Grammer

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

The pop star will perform a holiday show. *Cost: \$30 to \$105*

SUN 8  
Phil Ochs Song Night

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

Phil's sister, Sonny Ochs, will host this show of emerging folk talent. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 30  
Twilight  
Tours

GARRISON  
3:30 – 8 p.m.  
Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D |  
845-265-3638  
boscobel.org

Tour the candle-lit mansion, stroll the lighted

Phil Ochs

grounds and enjoy music and a reception. Tours depart from 3:30 to 7:15 p.m. Also SUN 1, FRI 6, SAT 8, SUN 9. *Cost: \$26 (children \$16, 5 and younger free)*

SAT 30  
Spring Street Reading Series

NEWBURGH  
7 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855  
facebook.com/atlasnewburgh

Writers will explore their relationship to food in this month's event. The evening includes Emily and Matt Clifton, authors of *Cork and Knife: Build Complex Flavors with Bourbon, Wine, Beer and More*; Myra Kornfeld and Stephen Massimilla, authors of *Cooking with the Muse*, and poet Elizabeth Cohen, whose collection is *Patron Saint of Cauliflower*.

SAT 7  
Climate Change:  
Heading for Extinction

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

This presentation includes a discussion of ways individuals can push back against global warming.

SUN 8  
Birds, Climate Change  
and the Marsh

GARRISON  
9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Constitution Marsh  
127 Warren Landing | 845-265-2601  
constitution.audubon.org

The program features conversations on what residents can do for the future of local birds, with reference to a new Audubon report, *Survival by Degrees*.

CIVIC

MON 2  
City Council Meeting

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

TUES 3  
School Board

COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Haldane High School (Room 211)  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

TUES 3  
Putnam County  
Legislature

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

TUES 3  
Board of Trustees

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

THURS 5  
Philipstown Town Board

GARRISON  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center  
107 Glenclyffe Dr. | 845-265-5200  
philipstown.com

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

Start Reading Now  
December book club selections

The Split Rock Books and Butterfield Library clubs both will resume in January.

Helen Savoit  
Book Club

TUES 10, 1:30 P.M.  
*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, by Carson McCullers  
Howland Library, Beacon

Beacon Book  
Club

THURS 19, 7:15 P.M.  
*Mr. Dickens and His Carol*, by Samantha Silva  
Location available to members  
meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub



## Laramie *(from Page 9)*

It doesn't make me feel the safest about the world I'm about to enter.

**Curtis Huber:** All of us, or most of us, have grown up in a small-knit community, but there's so much going on in the world that we don't know about.

### How do you feel engaging in a dialogue with someone whose opinions diverge from yours?

**Huber:** My parents are very liberal, but some of my extended family is conservative and it's hard for me to take those opinions in. But it's important for me to know why they feel that way. There's a line between respecting and disagreeing.

**Sasha Levy:** It depends on if they're respectful of your opinion. I used to not be respectful — I'd yell if someone was homophobic. I can respect but disagree.

**Noah Bingham:** One of the detriments of living in a small community is we're not getting challenged about our beliefs.

**Drury:** I had a lot of prejudice about people living in small towns; I'd never been exposed to them. Moving here was hard but when I sat down and became friends with people who didn't agree with me, I felt more sure of myself.

**Barkman:** I was doing a project in my government class a few weeks ago. We had to come up with a survey — I did mine on a controversial topic. The majority of responses I got were aligned with my beliefs, but [on] the few that weren't I was able to

have a mature conversation about why we saw things differently. It is important to not always think you're correct.

### Can any place on earth assert, as some people in Laramie did, that it is "not the kind of town where this happens"?

**Bingham:** Laramie could be any small town. It's familiar but also seems so out-of-touch to think it could never happen [there]. But it did and it will happen again if we don't address the issues behind it, the irrational hate that people have, and bring that to light.

**Petkus:** Everyone assumes Cold Spring is a little bubble where nothing [bad] can happen. This shows that nothing is really sacred.

**Levy:** This play has to be produced 20 years later because we have to be reminded that it happens and that it will happen again.

**Maya Gelber:** If we don't own the hate that America has, there's no way that we can move forward.

**Petkus:** When you hear the premise of the play, you think Laramie is a backward, gun-slinging town. But then you meet all these people and understand that it's a good community for the most part, and the people there aren't all faces of what happened to Matthew Shepard.

**Gelber:** The priest tells them to tell the story right, make sure everything is truthful. He talks about how a crime like this is committed every time someone uses a slur. The [company members] were surprised by that.

**Levy:** They were expecting a homophobic

town and what they got was genuine love.

### Have Haldane students become more accepting of each other's differences over the time you've been a student?

**Petkus:** Every year it progresses, but it ebbs and flows.

### Are you glad *The Laramie Project* was chosen as the fall play?

**All:** "Yes, absolutely. Yeah."

*The Laramie Project will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7. Tickets are \$12 each (or \$5 for a student) and are available at the door, or in advance at [haldanedrama.ticketspice.com](http://haldanedrama.ticketspice.com). Senior citizens get free admission. The play is best suited for students in middle school and above.*

*For photos of the entire cast, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).*



Haldane Drama's Celia Drury

Photo by Jim Mechalakos

## Gedney *(from Page 9)*

When he comes upon a scene to paint, Gedney says, "sometimes I do a sketch on site, but usually I just take a lot of photographs. Then I compose the painting from multiple photos."

He often divides the canvas, "so things are balanced." Then he considers the mood to be evoked. "It's about seeing the beauty in that one little moment, when the wind has come down and the water ripples, and the sky is illuminated. It's about being observant, waiting. I look for those kinds of moments. It's not about painting a landscape for a view or a historic event, but instead a moment of peace and contemplation."

Musically, he also performs with Michele as Open Book, a singer-songwriter duo known for vocal harmonies, interwoven guitars, and stripped-to-the-core emotional content. Open Book has released three

albums and appears in the Hudson Valley and beyond.

The reasons for Gedney's painting and music are clear: "I don't do either to make a living. I pursue it because I have to; I can't not do it," he says. "It's about listening to your heart, then following your thoughts and your heart when they're aligned."



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# Analecta: From Pieces of Bark to Photos and Sculptures

*Gorevic collection debuts in Garrison*

By Alison Rooney

Known as a photographer, Cold Spring's Cali Gorevic has always been drawn to sculpting, too.

In fact, she says that "the clay came kind of first, but not in any formal way; I didn't have instruction." Instead, she initially played with pieces of bark she found while exploring the natural world. "I could always find ways that the scattered pieces fit together, in a sculptural way," she says. She reconstructed them as puzzles and then emulated those bark forms in clay and transformed them, over and over, into different configurations. Next, photographing these curving, organic shapes, she softened some edges and sharpened others, before altering them again.

Although they appear abstract, "to me they all have names," she explains. "Each piece, the entire puzzle, unintentionally seems to look like something real to me — a turtle, seahorse, a clown, the cosmos. But I don't tell people because I want them to

have their own fun with it, so the photographs have no titles other than numbers." *Analecta: Excerpts from a Whole*, a collection of black and white photos, plus a ceramic puzzle that served as a subject for some images, will be exhibited at the Garrison Art Center from Dec. 7 through Jan. 5, with a reception on opening day, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibit's title is the definition of the word.

Gorevic "grew up in Brooklyn, before it was Brooklyn," she notes wryly, and didn't set out to be an artist. "There was a very narrow focus then. My mother was one of those Jewish mothers who steered me to become a teacher, as something to fall back on. So that's what I did. I taught, brought my sons up, and once they were in school, started making things. I was 50 when I started taking pictures." At first, she worked with a darkroom, in black and white. Photo trips followed — to Iceland, Greenland, and "places with swamps and sand swirls; I like them," she says.

For 10 years, Gorevic has worked mainly in digital photography, though she feels the pull in both directions. It's not as if digital represents manipulation of images and darkroom its purist opposite, she says. "People don't realize it, but there are a lot of tricks in the darkroom — not as many as the 'buttons' on Photoshop, but plenty."

She admits that "I would have loved to have used film for this series, as it always feels like sculpting with light, but I couldn't, because, if you're taking a picture of something in which there's an opening, like the

small spaces outlining the puzzle pieces, it comes out very, very black and alters your intentions. With these photographs, I did miss the 'juice' of film negatives, but I worked digitally to soften them. Some of them are out of focus, but intentionally."

Now 75, Gorevic says she can't travel again for photography, because "I've wounded myself too many times. I've got a rod in my femur and I can't carry all the gear." Moreover, she has macular degeneration, which also affected, and eventually blinded, her mother. "I feel very lucky that I've been able to do all this work," Gorevic adds. "I am always making stuff" — tree sculptures that hold candles, a lamp — and she went through phases (horses and unicorns, for example). "I guess I make things every day. Nothing else is quite as much fun. It's very Zen-like to just sit and model clay. It's really the only way I can sit still. I keep the demons at bay by always moving."

Yet there's more to come. Gorevic has a photographic children's book, *Imagine That*,



Artwork by Cali Gorevic

photo courtesy of the artist

soon to be available as an e-book and paperback. Beyond that, there's PHOTOcentric, the national juried photography competition she founded. This year she shares judging duties with New York City gallerist-photographer Robin Rice. Fifty selected works will be exhibited, concurrent with *Analecta*, at the Art Center, where Gorevic has taught, managed film photography, and been a board member.

For more: [Caligorevic.com](http://Caligorevic.com);  
[Garrisonartcenter.org](http://Garrisonartcenter.org)

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## A New Home *(from Page 1)*

Its members first met in a small house on North Avenue, before relocating to a building on North Cedar Street.

In 1958, the church purchased its current location, a former bank building at 139 Main St. (The bank's original vault still stands behind the church altar.) Six years later, the Rev. Garfield Farley came to Star, where he stayed for 40 years, a period that would see significant growth of the congregation.

Traditionally a black church, Star of Bethlehem "has a long history of being a place of love, acceptance and encouragement to all people," said the Rev. John Rembert, a Beacon City Council member who is also a minister.

Once full every week, Star of Bethlehem, like many churches nationwide, has seen declining attendance over the last decade or so. Today, around 60 members attend most weekly services.

As social media and other modern communication technologies continue to become embedded in society, Blackburn says it will be his goal to go back to basics at church.

"We have to give people a reason for coming," the pastor said. "If you want to hear someone preach, you can pull up YouTube. If you want to hear good singing, you've got Pandora and all the other apps. What people need are personal connections. We want to be an extended family

where you can make real, lifelong connections. When you have a need, there will be someone who's not judging you and can pray for you or help you physically if there's a need for that.

"We have become self-alienated through social media," he explained. "There's an appearance of connection but there's no real connection. People still need a place to belong. They need to feel that they're wanted, and we want them here."

Blackburn said that church leaders have already begun planning field trips for next year to keep its youth engaged. He hopes to arrange trips throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond, "so they can experience not just church but culture, to broaden their horizons."

The move to Beacon represents a homecoming for Blackburn's wife, Ryanna, who is from Marlboro, and attended Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon and Ebenezer in Newburgh. She has already returned to a job as a teacher in the Bronx, where she taught for 12 years before the couple relocated to Florida. They have a 4-month-old boy now, as well.

Although Blackburn had never been to Beacon before, a family friend, a pastor from a church in Poughkeepsie, recommended him to Star of Bethlehem.

"It was warm and inviting when I came in here," Blackburn said. "There's great singing and a great worship experience here. It's a very positive place. I felt [upon] leaving here that I would be back."

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# 5 Terms as Mayor CLARA LOU GOULD: DOULA OF BEACON'S REBIRTH

THIRTY YEARS AGO, BEACON HAD A HUGE DEBT LOAD, A DRUG PROBLEM, AND A LOT OF BOARDED-UP BUILDINGS. ONE EVENING, CLARA LOU CAME HOME FROM PLAYING CARDS AND HER HUSBAND GREETED HER WITH THIS MESSAGE:



AFTER SOME THOUGHT, SHE DECIDED TO RUN.



ONE TERM LATER, THIS LETTER SHOWS UP IN THE ARCHIVES.

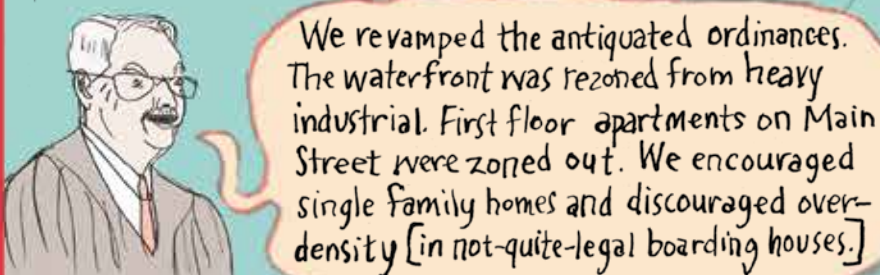
Letter to the Editor from the Commissioner of Finance

When Mayor Gould came into office, the city was in financial distress...had exhausted its constitutional taxing limit...reports not filed...even more bad things.

By the end of her first year, the finances were straightened out...an "A" bond rating...\$100,000 saved...even more good things.

TO COMBAT THE DRUG ISSUE, MAYOR GOULD REACTIVATED A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE, DECLARED 1,000-FOOT DRUG-FREE ZONES AROUND THE SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTED A HOTLINE TO REPORT DRUG DEALS. SHE CALLED IT ONCE HERSELF.

AS FOR THE BUILDINGS, PETER FORMAN (FORMER CITY ATTORNEY) SAYS:



I got people involved.

SHE WAS RE-ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED.

I feel I've been able to communicate with my constituents. I feel people are competent and make good and fair judgments over all.

SCENIC HUDSON PRESERVED LAND ON FISHKILL RIDGE, MT. BEACON, AND CREEKSID. CLARA LOU SAW THAT TRAILS WOULD MAKE OPEN SPACE ACCESSIBLE FOR RESIDENTS, BUT THAT IT WOULD ALSO BRING IN HIKERS.



SHE SAW THE POSSIBILITIES WHEN DEA INQUIRED ABOUT A FORMER FACTORY. SHE TOLD THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Art is a catalyst. People like to be around artists.

THE LONGED-FOR DEVELOPERS SHOWED UP. SOME CAME THROUGH, SOME OVER-PROMISED. AS FORMER CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOE BRAUN SAYS, "THE PROOF IS THERE TO SEE."



PROBLEMS WITH THE BEACON POLICE SURFACED. LAWSUITS WERE FILED FOR POLICE BRUTALITY. THE FEDS CAME IN. MAYOR GOULD CHARGED THE CHIEF WITH "GROSS MISCONDUCT." FEDERAL OVERSIGHT CONTINUED UNTIL 2016.

HER FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB WAS THIS:

Every year, I talked to the fifth graders about our government.

Can a boy be Mayor?



By DeFube



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## Roots and Shoots

# The Gardener's Gift Guide

By Pamela Doan

My holiday advice: skip the “something in a box” growing kits and coffee mugs with cat memes this year, and get gifts for your favorite gardeners that they’ll use and enjoy.

But if you’re short on ideas, here are some suggestions, from one gardener to another:



**Planting in a Post-Wild World**, by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer

West spoke at a conference I attended a few years ago about creating “layers in landscapes.” In my flowerbeds, I was neglecting the understory — that crucial groundcover beneath varying heights of perennials that suppresses weeds and adds texture and depth. The book goes in-depth on creating plant communities in which each plant brings something different to the soil and the setting, with lists to get you started.

The authors’ message is one of hope for all of us who feel demoralized by the rapid

spread of invasive species and the impact of climate change on the environment and wildlife. The book may be too technical for beginners, but for someone ready to get rid of a lawn and replace it with beautiful and useful plants this is both why and how-to in one package.

**Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses**, by Michael Dirr

Dirr, a well-known horticulturist, has published nine books that are better than any database you’ll find online to identify and learn about plants, trees and shrubs. This is the textbook version, not the glossy photo version, and it’s the most comprehensive and useful guide I’ve found.

**The Overstory**, by Richard Powers

Powers won the Pulitzer Prize for this novel with trees as central characters. It’s been widely reviewed and described in ways that are far more articulate and glowing than any copy I can write. Just read it. You’ll never look at a tree the same way again.

**Gardening gloves** by Foxglove

While getting your hands in the dirt is a nice metaphor, gardening without gloves isn’t. I usually end up with cuts, scrapes, broken nails and itchy skin. Designed by Harriet Zbikowski of Beacon, Foxglove gloves

are treasured by gardeners for their durability and comfort. I’m particularly excited about the gauntlet gloves for pruning and handling thorny bushes. Japanese barberry removal is an ongoing campaign in my landscape and these help me level the playing field. Retail stores in Cold Spring and Beacon carry the gloves, so you can shop local, too.

**Weed wrench**

Need to clear thickets of forsythia or buckthorn? Get ready to lose a weekend but gain a sore back. Enter the weed wrench, a standing tool that grabs the shrub by the trunk, and, when pulled back, will leverage it out of the ground with minimal soil disturbance. Check out the “Uprooter” online. It’s said to be made by someone who worked on the original weed wrench, which ceased production in 2013.

**Pansy Mix seeds**

Hudson Valley Seed, known for its original packaging artwork and dedication to preserving the diversity of plants through seeds, recently introduced a Pansy Mix. Founder Ken Greene published a personal and moving account of his experience as a queer person and the history and etymology of how “pansy” became a homophobic slur. In reclaiming both the word and the flower, Greene points out how hardy, beautiful and resilient pansies are in embodying the LGBTQIA community.

Artist Paul Harfleet, who designed the

artwork for the new pack, started the Pansy Project, and he plants the flowers at sites of homophobic hate crimes. Proceeds are donated to the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization. In the past I’ve dismissed pansies as uninteresting annuals, but you’ll be seeing them in my yard from now on.

You can also always support organizations like these with donations in the name of your favorite gardener.

**For the pollinator protector:**

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation ([xerces.org](http://xerces.org)) has led and coordinated research, conservation and advocacy to protect pollinators and endangered species and sound the alarm on pesticides.

**For gardeners who want to help birds:**

I suggest Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison and/or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. A study released this year found steep declines in nearly 30 percent of all bird species over the past half-century, including commonly seen birds like robins and sparrows.

**For the wildflower curator:**

Check out [wildseedproject.org](http://wildseedproject.org) for hand-collected seeds with detailed planting instructions, or purchase a gift certificate for your gardener to buy native plants next spring at a locally owned garden center.

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The HIGHLANDS

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7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday

38/21

Sunny to partly cloudy

POP: 0%

NNW 6-12 mph

RealFeel 37/21

Sunday

36/31

Cloudy and cold with a little ice, then rain

POP: 70%

ESE 4-8 mph

RealFeel 32/23

Monday

38/24

Cloudy with a rain or snow shower in spots

POP: 55%

NNW 8-16 mph

RealFeel 28/21

Tuesday

38/21

Partly sunny

POP: 20%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 37/21

Wednesday

38/27

Mostly cloudy

POP: 25%

WSW 3-6 mph

RealFeel 41/22

Thursday

40/27

Times of clouds and sun

POP: 0%

WNW 6-12 mph

RealFeel 36/24

Friday

39/27

Mostly cloudy with rain or snow showers possible

POP: 35%

NW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 40/23

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On Nov. 30, 1985, Rancho Mirage, Calif., had 1.56 inches of rain. This was 150 percent of the total rainfall for the first 10 months of 1985, and the most in November in 20 years.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 11/30

7:01 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 11/30

4:27 PM

Moonrise Sat., 11/30

10:44 AM

Moonset Sat., 11/30

8:16 PM

First

Full

Last

New

Dec 4

Dec 11

Dec 18

Dec 25

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By  
King Features

## ACROSS

- Lord of the Rings actor Ian
- Spigot
- Jet forth
- Cruising
- Court
- Baserunner's goal
- Locale for a 1920s "sitting" fad
- Settled down
- Kingdom near Fiji
- Creators
- "Carmina Burana" composer
- Directory data (Abbr.)
- Humorous utterance
- Temporary gift
- Scot's hat
- Illustrations
- Flower of New Mexico
- "I — Camera"
- Lingerie item
- Physical
- Vivacity, in music
- Genetic letters
- Ogler's look
- Jungle expedition
- Romantic dance
- Send out
- Worm holder
- Leftovers
- To and —
- Writer Angelou
- Wan
- Evergreen type
- Horse-drawn carriage

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34						35		
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

## DOWN

- Sword handle
- Norway's capital
- Slender
- Housefly larva
- Pair
- "You've got mail" co.
- Verse
- Drum major's hat
- Directing principle
- Eastern potentate
- Drenches
- Standard
- Pavlova or Paquin
- Change
- Central
- Poke
- Blunder
- Beachcomber's find
- Top
- Parisian pal
- Name in China's history
- Calendar quota
- Lullaby composer
- Smartly dressed
- Biblical verb suffix
- Antitoxins
- Iowa city
- Dubious
- Ark builder
- "The Naked Maja" artist
- Suitable
- Anger
- Piglet's mom

# SUDOCURRENT

				7				
3		4				6		8
		9		8	2		5	3
	9				7			
		7	1				9	
8					6		2	
1		5						6
	7	6			1	4		
						5		

## Answers for Nov. 22 Puzzles

M	E	S	H		W	H	O		C	R	A	B
A	C	H	E		H	E	W		H	O	S	E
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L		A	S	I	A
H	O	G		L	O	P		C	R	A	F	T
			C	O	P			M	A	Y		
O	U	G	H	T		B	O	M	B	A	R	D
P	L	E	A		Y	U	M		D	R	A	Y
S	T	E	R	N	U	M		G	I	M	M	E
			A	U	K			D	O	S		
T	R	A	C	T		O	R	E		D	U	O
R	I	O	T		C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G
A	C	N	E		B	I	G		A	M	I	R
P	E	E	R		S	O	S		P	E	T	E

8	6	3	7	9	5	4	1	2
9	7	5	1	2	4	6	3	8
1	2	4	6	3	8	9	5	7
2	1	6	3	5	7	8	9	4
5	8	9	2	4	6	3	7	1
4	3	7	9	8	1	2	6	5
6	5	8	4	1	9	7	2	3
3	9	1	8	7	2	5	4	6
7	4	2	5	6	3	1	8	9

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Answers will be published next week.  
See [highlandscurrent.org/puzzle](http://highlandscurrent.org/puzzle) for interactive versions.



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## SPORTS



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### ALMOST: Haldane Volleyball Takes Third Place

*Tiebreaker loss ends season*

By Skip Pearlman

Haldane High School's volleyball team had its eye on the ultimate prize at last weekend's NYS Class D volleyball championships at the Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls.

But after a heartbreaking 25-18 loss in a tiebreaker versus Section 4's Panama on Saturday (Nov. 23) the Blue Devils had to settle for third in the state. Candor, of Section 6, went on to win the title.

Haldane (20-6) opened Saturday play with a two-set win over Galway (Section 5), 25-11 and 25-23. The team then lost two

to Candor (25-21, 25-23), before splitting two sets against Panama (21-25, 31-29) to force the tiebreaker.

"After we lost that first set to Panama, we knew we had to win the next one, or our season was over," said Haldane coach Kelsey Flaherty. "In the second we rallied back and forth to 31 points — and that's unheard of."

But Panama scored the first seven points in the tiebreaker, putting the Blue Devils in a huge hole, "mostly due to unforced errors," Flaherty said.

However, "the whole experience was really awesome for the girls," she added. "It didn't turn out the way we wanted it to, but I'm so proud of how far they came. Third in the state is really impressive. I couldn't be more proud."

Haldane's three senior captains earned post-season honors. Grace Tomann, Melissa Rodino and Olivia Monteleone were all named All-Section, All-Conference and All-League. "All three brought so many different personalities and leadership qualities to the court," Flaherty said.

Senior Sofia Viggiano earned All-Conference Honorable Mention, and Junior Maria Barry was named All-League.

"Sofia was one of our better players," Flaherty said, "and I'm glad Maria will be back. She has a great personality on the court, and she's a hard worker."

Haldane will lose



The Blue Devils smashed their way to a 20-6 season.

Photos by Scott Warren

six players to graduation, including four starters. "We lose half the team, so there are some big shoes to fill," Flaherty said. "But I think we have some players back who can step up and be starters. We could have another good year, but it will take a lot of hard work."

Flaherty said this year's team had an idea when it began play in September and it came to fruition. "Even though we lost at states, from the beginning they had a goal of [reaching statewide play], so they knew what they were walking into," she said. "I'm

very proud of how they performed. It was their first state tournament, and they got themselves there and played with passion. I knew they could do it from the start, and so did they."



Members of the the Haldane volleyball team celebrate after winning the regional final on Nov. 15.

Photo by S. Pearlman



Senior captain Olivia Monteleone (11)

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