

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Easter in Isolation [Page 15](#)

APRIL 10, 2020

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Rebeca Garcia, a nurse with the Putnam County Department of Health, takes samples from residents at a drive-thru mobile clinic held in Brewster on Tuesday (April 7). Ninety-six people tested positive.

Photo by Ross Corsair



## Coronavirus Update

# Cases and Deaths Rise

By Chip Rowe

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (April 9), 438 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County, 1,493 in Dutchess, 17,004 in Westchester, 6,665 in Rockland, 460 in Ulster and 4,090 in Orange. Statewide, there were 159,937 positives, including 87,028 in New York City.

■ Statewide, more than 7,000 people had died as of April 9, including 21 residents of Putnam County and 19 from Dutchess.

■ Dashboards released by Dutchess and Putnam showed that, as of April 9, Beacon had 79 confirmed cases and Philipstown had 37. The Dutchess dashboard also has data on testing, hospitalizations, deaths and recoveries, and call volume. See [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](https://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and [putnam-countyny.com/covid19](https://putnam-countyny.com/covid19). On April 3, New

(Continued on Page 6)

# No More Speeding Trains

*Hudson Line finally has automatic brakes*

By Michael Turton

A technology that prevents trains from traveling too fast is operational on the 74-mile Hudson line of Metro-North, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which oversees the commuter railroad.

Congress mandated in 2008 that Positive Train Control be added to all commuter lines, but pressure mounted on the MTA to get it done following the 2013 derailment of a Hudson line train in the Bronx that killed four passengers, including Philipstown resident James Lovell. The line includes stops in Beacon, Cold Spring and Garrison.

The southbound train was traveling at more than 80 mph in a 30-mph zone early on a Sunday morning as it approached a sharp turn at Spuyten Duyvil. The engineer, William

(Continued on Page 8)



**LINING THE ROUTE** — Because of social-distancing regulations, there was only a private graveside service on Thursday (April 9) for Darrin Santos, a Cold Spring father of three who died on April 4 of complications from COVID-19. But many community members decorated their cars with signs of support for the family and lined the route from the funeral home to the cemetery. Here, Kristin Van Tassel hands out balloons before the arrival of the procession. For a story, see Page 6.

Photos by Ross Corsair

# New Life for the Fjord Trail

*Scenic Hudson says construction planned for 2021*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The days of seeing hikers walk along Route 9D may soon be over, according to Scenic Hudson, which plans to begin construction on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon in the fall of 2021, with a goal of completing the project by 2027.

The organization said it hopes, as part of the next phase of an initiative that began in 2006, to construct a bridge over the train tracks at Breakneck Ridge, eliminating the need for hikers to walk through the tunnel; increase the number of lots to reduce roadside parking, and add paths between Route 9D and the Hudson River to keep the road-sides clear of pedestrians.

Volunteers on the Philipstown Greenway Committee envisioned a pedestrian

(Continued on Page 20)

# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DAVID ESTEBAN

By Jeff Simms

**D**avid Esteban is a professor of biology at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie.

## What is a coronavirus and what makes this one so dangerous?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses, and there are seven of them that can infect humans: this current one, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and four that are seasonal and cause cold-like symptoms. Instead of DNA, some viruses have a related molecule called RNA for their genetic material. Coronaviruses have a somewhat unusually large RNA genome. What makes this virus different is that people can transmit it when they're asymptomatic. With SARS, which is about 80 percent identical to this current virus, transmission doesn't occur until symptoms show up, so it's much easier to control.

## Is it the effect of the virus or ease of transmission that's the issue?

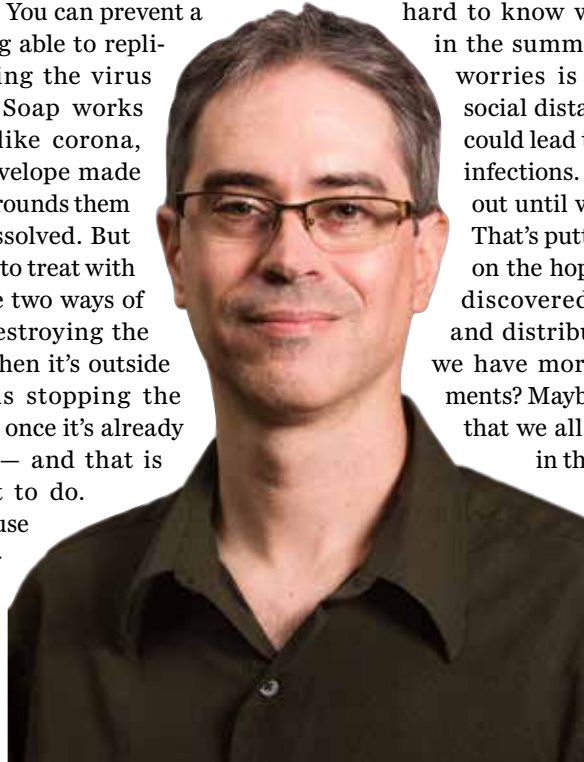
The case fatality rates for SARS and MERS are much higher than the virus that causes COVID-19, so ease of transmission is a major issue. But compared to the other viruses that cause cold-like symptoms, there's clearly a difference in the progression of the disease once you're infected. There are still a lot of unknowns, and that difference is one of them. We don't yet know the biological underpinnings for why this virus causes more disease, but in some individuals an out-of-control immune response seems to contribute.

## How does a virus originate?

Viruses that are new to humans come from other animals. The closest relative to this virus is a bat coronavirus, so it's likely there was a spillover event. There may have been some change in the virus that allows it to transmit from human to human, but this has exactly followed the pattern we would expect from a zoonotic disease. We saw the same thing with Ebola, the Nipah virus in Southeast Asia and the Hendra virus in Australia.

## Why are viruses so difficult to eradicate?

Viruses are not made of cells, so they don't grow and divide like cells, nor do they have any metabolic activity. They're entirely dependent on infecting a host cell to be able to replicate. You can prevent a virus from being able to replicate by damaging the virus particle itself. Soap works well for ones, like corona, that have an envelope made of lipids that surrounds them and is easily dissolved. But viruses are hard to treat with drugs. There are two ways of looking at it: destroying the virus particle when it's outside the body versus stopping the replication cycle once it's already infected a cell — and that is what's difficult to do. Because viruses use our cells to replicate, any drugs that block that process are likely to be toxic to our own cells.



## What's your best guess for the next six months?

This is going to last a long time. I have two kids in school and I'm not confident they'll go back this academic year. It's hard to know what will happen in the summer, but one of my worries is that if we relax social distancing too early, it could lead to another wave of infections. Do we wait things out until we have a vaccine? That's putting a lot of weight on the hope that one can be discovered, manufactured and distributed rapidly. Will we have more effective treatments? Maybe. But my worry is that we all go back to school in the fall and it hits us again. Increased access to rapid testing will be critical for keeping future waves of the disease under control.

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**Current**

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

If you could be anywhere right now, where would it be?

“My grandfather's fishing camp on the Louisiana bayou; the sound of birds and lapping water is sublimely soothing.”



~ Bo Bell, Cold Spring

“Coronado Naval Air Station, San Diego, to see my son Jared from 6 feet away.”



~ Jeff Wigdor, Cold Spring

“Right here in Beacon, but with a houseful of noisy people, clinking glasses and plenty of food!”



~ Fern Franke, Beacon

# objects

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# Nelsonville Rejects Cell-Tower Permit

*Bats, stay-home order also stall construction*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**B**ats, stay-home orders and an “incomplete” application have stymied efforts to start construction on a cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery.

In January, Nelsonville reached a legal settlement with Homeland Towers and its partner, Verizon Wireless, over the village’s denial in 2018 of a permit to construct the tower. Under the settlement, the companies can install a 95-foot structure disguised as a pine tree on a 9.6-acre lot off Rockledge Road. The settlement also requires the village, within 15 days of receiving a complete application, to issue a building permit.

Village officials say that Homeland submitted a permit application on March 16 and that Verizon filed additional documents on March 20. But a week later, Gov. Andrew Cuomo banned “non-essential” construction projects in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bats likewise complicated matters. At least a couple of species like to hang out in the Highlands, according to Department of Environmental Conservation. To safeguard one, the Northern Long-Eared Bat, the state

prohibits tree removal from April 1 to Nov. 1 within a quarter mile of a bat hibernation spot. That affects the Rockledge area.

And finally, on March 26, Bill Bujarski, the village building inspector, rejected Homeland’s permit application, calling it incomplete and inconsistent with plans presented to the federal judge who approved the litigation settlement.

Among other flaws, Bujarski said the fire department “turnaround” space in the plans does not meet state standards; that, contrary to village code provisions, the plans do not show two parking places; that the driveway grade is 14.9 percent but can only be 10 percent under state fire code; and that the application should show “the specific appearance of the [fake pine] tree branches.”

He ordered that, until a permit is issued, “no actions can be taken at the site.”

Homeland apparently responded in a March 27 email obtained by *The Current* claiming that Nelsonville’s village “code and the letter do not prohibit the removal of trees at this time” and that Homeland Towers was set to begin cutting trees on March 30. (Homeland’s lawyer, Robert Gaudioso, did not respond to questions about the email or the status of the project.)

The village replied that the state ban on non-essential construction included clear-

ing trees. “The proposed tree removal is not considered ‘essential,’ particularly because Homeland could have petitioned the DEC for relief” from the bat-protection restrictions, but failed to do so, and, further, because it “waited until the proverbial 11th hour” to submit its permit application, the village stated.

The village also asserted that “even if tree removal was ‘essential’ — which it clearly is not — the governor’s order requires that social distancing be maintained,” which means keeping a 6-foot distance between workers.

Richard Villella, whose home on Rockledge Road borders the tower site, said that when a tree-removal crew from Danbury showed up on Friday (March 27), the atmosphere “became pretty tense” when he confronted them about their plans.

No trees came down, “and we were on pins and needles thinking this huge crew of tree-cutters would show up on Monday,” Villella said. But only a team of surveyors arrived on March 30 and no one came on Tuesday, he said. On Wednesday, the bat-habitat restrictions kicked in until the end of October.

“My concern is oversight,” Villella said. “How many trees can they cut down? They said in their plan they wanted to cut down 22, but by my count it appears they have

35 marked.”

Nelsonville Mayor Mike Bowman said on March 30 that it seemed as if Homeland and Verizon were “trying to take advantage” of the coronavirus upheaval. “It’s frustrating.”

On Wednesday (April 8) at a teleconferenced Village Board workshop, Bowman said that in late March, “Homeland Towers was putting a great deal of pressure on us” to approve the tree-cutting aside from the building permit. But “we have never, in the past, issued a partial permit for tree removal,” the mayor said. “We only issue building permits for an entire project.”

Bowman said the matter now rests with the DEC, which would have to lift its bat moratorium to allow Homeland to clear the site.

“We’re not playing games” with the cell-tower companies, he said. “We’re not going to try to stop them from cutting trees.” Nonetheless, he said, “we’re being threatened with possibly more legal action. They weren’t happy with us. They’re claiming that we’re going to be costing them almost nine months of income from the tower because they weren’t able to cut those trees.”

However, he added, “I think we’re on solid legal ground,” because the issue is an incomplete permit application and that its plans differ from the terms spelled out in the legal settlement.

Bowman also noted that “people are worried about survival, not about the construction of cell towers.”

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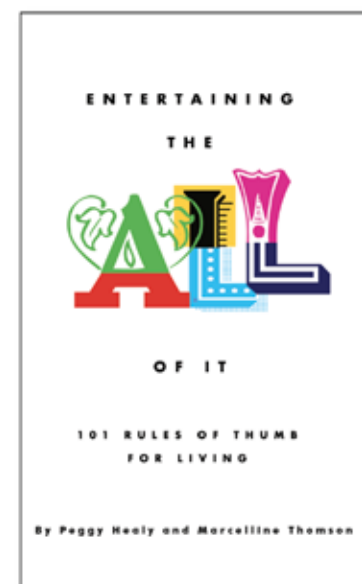
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**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers 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.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Maloney frustrations

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney expressed frustration regarding President Trump's response to the pandemic ("Maloney: Trump Response to Pandemic 'Frustrating,'" April 3). Why am I not surprised? Now is not the time for politics. The people need encouragement and hope, not partisan posturing.

All Americans are frustrated because their lives have been seriously affected, some tragically, by the COVID-19 scourge. My heart goes out to all. Unfortunately, there are those who continuously find fault no matter what decisions are made. Maybe Rep. Maloney should call President Trump and provide the benefit of his vast experience and knowledge of pandemics.

I wish Rep. Maloney well, and when he returns to Washington, D.C., at the first safe opportunity, he can continue the important work of the House in the form of another dubious investigation. Investigations are their primary engagement. They can also ponder ways to add party-agenda items to the next stimulus bills that have nothing to do with COVID-19 aid to the American people. Stay healthy and safe.

Don Gallo, *Beacon*

I'm tired of hearing the transfer of blame from Trump and the Republican Party to the media and Democrats.

If you voted for Trump, well, fine. But be prepared to take your share of the responsibility for his incompetence. Stop blaming educated people on the other side of the aisle and in the media for holding him accountable, because Republican voters and Republicans in Congress have done nothing to stop this trainwreck for the past three-and-a-half years. And now a large number of us are going to get sick and die because of the



**NOW IN HARDCOVER** — As the 10th anniversary of our nonprofit enterprise approaches (it was founded as a website, Philipstown.info, in the summer of 2010), we decided to have the 395 issues of *The Paper* (from June 1, 2012) and *The Highlands Current* (from April 1, 2016) bound into volumes. That's a lot of news.

greed and stupidity of the Republican Party, which has allowed this buffoon to remain in office, unchecked. Stop deflecting.

Leisa Lundberg, *via Facebook*

Viruses don't just "go away." They are here and will keep coming back every year or season. People will eventually develop stronger immunities to this virus and we'll hopefully have a vaccine and treatment in the next year. Science works, math works, facts matter. Stop listening to the fake politicians in the White House and rely on the experts/scientists.

As for testing, what's the point of knowing if you have it? There is no vaccine or treatment. Unless you are seriously ill and in

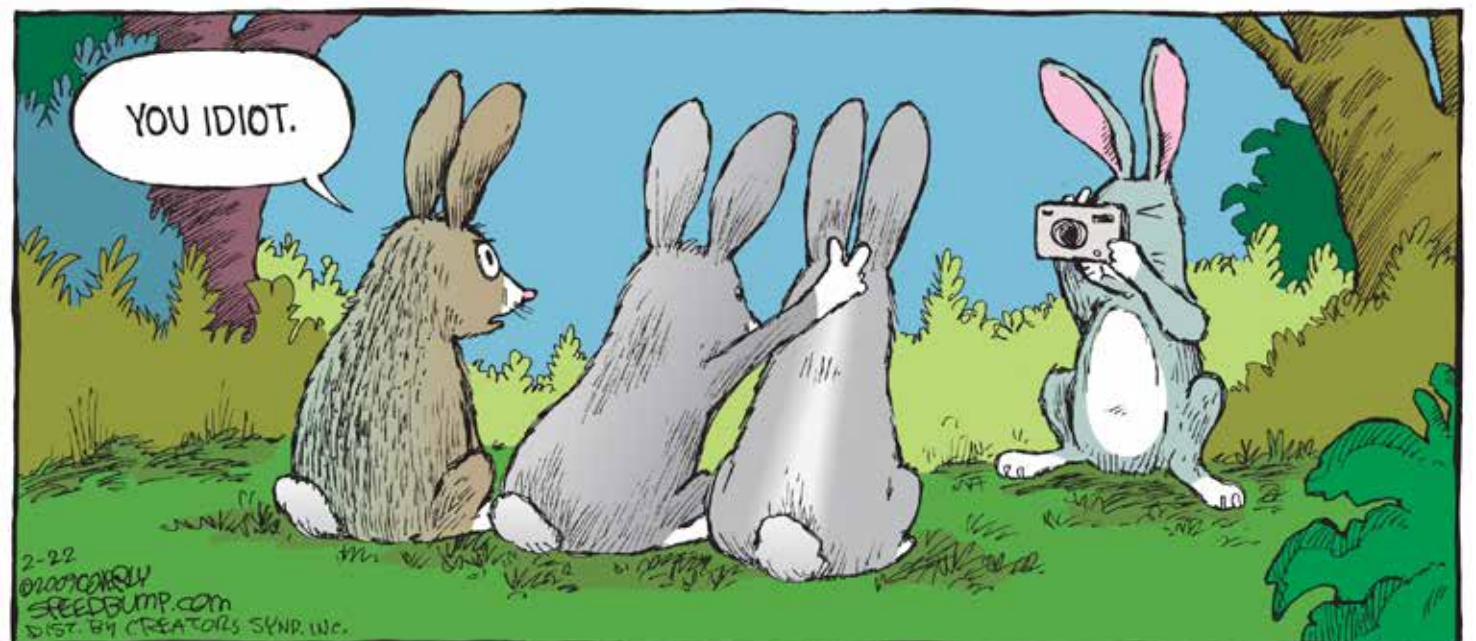
need of urgent medical care, you can pretty much assume you have it. Otherwise, people should continue to distance themselves from one another. There are too many people wanting to get tested when all they have is a cold or flu and are not even seriously ill.

Jay Dymond, *via Facebook*

The bottom line that Maloney fails to appreciate is that more people will lose their jobs than will die from COVID-19. The cure is worse than the disease, and he wants to make it worse! What in the world is he thinking? He needs to be thrown out of office before he can do any real harm.

Ed Dapice, *Putnam Valley*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

### Keep your distance

I am perplexed at the lack of so many people taking the current situation seriously.

On Tuesday (April 7), I got off the train in Cold Spring around 5:40 p.m., returning from my job at a hospital in the Bronx. As I walked up Main Street on my way home I encountered around 25 people on the sidewalk, not one wearing a mask. A few were individuals or couples. But more than half were in groups of three to five people (most appeared to be teens). Two cars cruised by, each full of teens. A small group of young adults were having “happy hour” on a front porch. And all this was being observed by a Cold Spring police officer parked on Main Street, with no response.

This may not be the end of the world, but it is a serious public health issue. Neighbors should be thinking of each other, taking responsibility for reducing the spread of the virus. It would be good if our local government (e.g., the police) were on the same page as the state. Politely reminding citizens that there are restrictions on being out in public, or even fining the most egregious offenders, is the responsibility of local law enforcement.

We are all in this together. Let’s try to act accordingly.

Wade Hathaway, *Nelsonville*

### Where is Odell?

One more thing on the COVID-19 threat (“Coronavirus Update: Putnam Has First Deaths,” April 3): It is curious that we hear nothing from MaryEllen Odell, the Putnam county executive. Every other surrounding county — Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Westchester — has a testing site, but not Putnam. The reason is that the other counties have contracted to have sites set up.

It would seem that the county executive’s sole job at this time would be to get a testing site. How that happens is by taking action, not hoping that either the feds or the state will come in and do it for you. I have been on every Putnam County Department of Health call with officials on COVID-19 and not once has the county executive participated. We get the number of new cases, the deaths and the fact that we have no testing. There needs to be some leadership at the top and that is not happening. How is Odell spending her days?

For God’s sake, Tompkins County near Ithaca has a drive-thru testing site. Monroe County has “strike teams” deployed to do in-home testing. This is because their county executives took decisive action and coordinated with their health departments to get it done. There are resources out there; you just need to do some actual work to get them.

Richard Shea, *Cold Spring*  
*Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.*

### Less-traveled trails

I enjoyed Brian PJ Cronin’s report on vernal pools and wood frogs and peepers (“Spring Awakenings,” April 3). My favorite vernal pool is on a trail leading from the copper mine down to Broccy Creek Reservoir and finally to the trail leading up to Anthony’s Nose from the south.

## Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of April 8, along with historical data, are at right. If a household doesn’t respond online, the agency sends a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response, a census taker will be dispatched over the summer to knock on the door, although those operations are now uncertain due to the coronavirus.

I also appreciated the letters to the editor defending Brian’s excellent article on “less-traveled” trails (“Out There: Trails Less Traveled,” March 20). A thing like COVID-19 exaggerates the best, but also the worst, of the sapiens breed. I wonder if this crisis will forever change our society for the better, i.e., that we will drop an emphasis on consumerism and use of carbon-emitting energy.

It is equally plausible that the reverse will be true. Consider how amazingly rumbustious the Scandinavians become when their long, hard winters break into spring. And consider how large the flora grows (compared to cognates here) that bloom briefly in the far north when finally winter is ended for the brief interval.

When COVID-19 comes to an end (only through a vaccine), we will be directed to consume like crazy, and it seems to me this is a far more likely outcome than one where we put solar everywhere, give up meat and search for fungi in the forest instead of paying for them in restaurants.

Bevis Longstreth, *Garrison*  
*Longstreth is a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc. and a former member of the state retirement fund’s Decarbonization Advisory Panel.*

### Craig House

This is indeed exciting news (“Hotel and Spa Planned for Craig House Estate,” April 3). We live nearby and have been concerned about what might happen to this historic property. I’m glad to hear that it will be restored into a happy escape, rather different from what it has been for much of its sad history.

However, I am not at all keen on the tree-house suites idea. It looks great from the inside, but the outside? Not so much. The rendering shows them nicely hidden by seasonal leaves, but what will they look like in winter? A set of square tubes pointing in every direction, like the ramps in which we enter airplanes? Back to the drawing board on those, please!

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

I like the idea that the space will at least be in use rather than boarded up or bulldozed. Actually, bulldozed would be a good option as it would keep things “wild.” Might make a nice gift shop. Hopefully, no snack

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	50.7	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	48.1	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	47.8	66.2	67	64
National	46.7	66.5	67	65
18th District	45.1	66.0	-	-
Beacon	44.5	67.2	65	61
Nelsonville	44.3	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	43.9	65.7	68	64
New York State	41.0	64.6	67	62
New York City	36.0	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	27.4	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

bar or food of any kind. Keep it simple.

Sean Seffer, *Highland*

### Long-lost books

For many years, before the invention of the computer, I searched for the book of my childhood, *The Giant of Apple Pie Hill* (“Reporter’s Notebook: Time to Lean on Old Friends,” April 3). Around 2000, I found it. Per the seller’s description, it was a heavily handled (and overpriced) copy. What matter? I had found it.

Why did my 8-year-old self love that volume so? I counted the days until delivery. And when I finally touched the pages, saw the illustrations and read the stories, I had no idea what my 8-year-old self was thinking.

Rena Corey, *Cold Spring*

### Earth Day prep

In these strange times, a walk in nature at the end of a long day in the hospital goes a long way to relieve my mind a bit.

During recent excursions with my husband, I noticed an abundance of trash along the roads and hiking trails within our neighborhood.

I recently started bringing trash bags with me when I go outside, to collect debris as I walk.

Today, I decided to drive to Snake Hill Road to collect discarded items. The result of 45 minutes of trash pickup is depicted in the photo above. (I had to leave other debris behind, after both of the large trash bags I carried were full.)

I would like to motivate people within our community, especially during these times of isolation, to start doing the same — if a few people do this on a small scale like I did, we can achieve a lot! School kids that have an abundance of energy and are home-bound might find satisfaction in contributing to the beautification of our community, and the protection of our environment.

Earth Day on April 22 is the perfect reason to mobilize as a community!

Dr. Sven Wenske, *Garrison*



## Update: Hike Near Home

On March 28, the day after Brian PJ Cronin reported in *The Current* about the mixed messages coming from local and state officials about hiking in the Highlands during a time of social distancing, the state parks department and the Department of Environmental Conservation created a hashtag, #RecreateLocal, to “encourage New Yorkers to get outside and discover open spaces and parks close to home.” They also posted guidelines. Among the provisions:

- Getting outdoors to walk, jog, hike, ride a bicycle or visit a park or state lands is a healthy way to stay active, spend time with your immediate household family members and reduce stress and anxiety while practicing physical distancing.
- While indoor spaces and restrooms at state parks and DEC public facilities may be closed to prevent community spread of COVID-19, parks, grounds, forests and trails are open during daylight hours, seven days a week.
- DEC and state parks encourage visitors to stay local and keep visits short; visit in small groups limited to immediate household members; maintain distance from others while in places where people tend to congregate, such as parking lots, trailheads and scenic overlooks; avoid games and activities that require close contact, such as basketball, football or soccer; avoid playground equipment like slides and swings and other frequently touched surfaces; and do not share equipment, such as bicycles, helmets, balls or Frisbees.
- If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or a different trail, or return another time or day to visit. If parking lots are full, do not park along roadsides or other undesignated areas. Return another time or day when parking is available.
- To encourage social distancing at popular parks, trailheads and scenic areas, state parks will reduce the number of available spaces on high-visitation days. Have a plan ready to visit a different park or park area. Visit [parks.ny.gov/parks](https://parks.ny.gov/parks) for a list. Maps are available on each park page.
- Parking spaces along Route 9D in the areas of Breakneck Ridge, Anthony’s Nose and the Appalachian Trail will be reduced, and parking will be converted to parallel parking to reduce density.
- The Metro-North parking area near Breakneck and the parking lot at Mount Beacon are closed. See [parks.ny.gov/parks/9/details.aspx](https://parks.ny.gov/parks/9/details.aspx).

In New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy on Tuesday (April 7) took a tougher approach, ordering all county and state parks and forests closed, saying he had received reports that people were not keeping a safe distance from each other.

# Cold Spring Man Dies of COVID-19

## Father of three lived on Parrott Street

By Chip Rowe

A Cold Spring man died early on Saturday (April 4) of complications related to COVID-19.

Darrin Santos, 50, lived with his wife and three children on Parrott Street. He died at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt.

A Navy veteran, Santos was a transportation supervisor for NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, he drove doctors between hospitals in White Plains and New York City. He also made deliveries to various hospitals.

"He was a great man — I want everyone

to know that," said Melissa Castro-Santos on Wednesday (April 8), the day before her husband was laid to rest at Cold Spring Cemetery. "I miss him so much."

She added: "I want to thank everyone for their prayers and kind gestures."

Santos also is survived by his sons, Darrin and Daniel, who are juniors at Haldane High School, and his daughter, Miklaya, who is a freshman. Santos was often seen in the stands at Haldane games, watching his children play football, basketball and baseball.

On Thursday (April 9), as the Santos family drove to the cemetery for a private



Darrin Santos

graveside service, mourners lined the streets, sitting in parked cars decorated with messages of support.

Santos-Castro said she was surprised that her husband became seriously ill from the virus because he had no underlying conditions that might have put him at higher risk. "He was very healthy," she said. "He never got sick."

The couple was married in 2000. "He grew up in Cortlandt, and I grew up in Newburgh, and we met at nightclub in Fishkill called The Brass Rail. He was leaning against a pole, yawning, when I first saw him," Santos-Castro recalled with a laugh. "He was the designated driver, watching over his friend."

The family has faced many recent challenges. In 2015, the family lost their Parrott Street home in a fire. Melissa is again undergoing chemotherapy in a long battle with cancer, and Darrin Santos' stepmother, Helen, was killed and his father, Miguel (Michael), seriously injured in a 2014 colli-

sion on Route 9 in which the other driver was charged with vehicular manslaughter.

A GoFundMe campaign at [gofundme.com/f/santos-strong-covid19](https://gofundme.com/f/santos-strong-covid19), established to assist the family after the fire, has been re-opened to accept contributions.

Darrin M. Santos was born Oct. 4, 1969, in Peekskill. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1989 to 1993.

Santos loved teaching his children when they were young how to play sports and was a coach in the Catholic Youth Organization basketball leagues and for Little League baseball, according to his family. He also was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys.

Along with his wife and children, he is survived by his father; his mother, Claudia Theriault (Dave Rosenthal); and his siblings, Joseph Montalto (Debbie), Claudine Beachak (Matthew) and Andrea Bunker (Scott). A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring once social-distancing restrictions are lifted.



## Coronavirus Update

(from Page 1)

York State also introduced an online dashboard at [ny.gov/covid-19tracker](https://ny.gov/covid-19tracker).

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered flags on all state buildings flown at half-staff to honor the dead. The county executives in Putnam and Dutchess also ordered flags on county property be flown at half-staff.

■ The Dutchess County health department on April 8 advised residents to wear face coverings anytime they are outside their homes.

■ The Town of Philipstown announced that, due to a private donation, it is providing assistance to residents in need, including Foodtown and Drug World gift cards. Call 845-265-5200 or email [townclerk@philipstown.com](mailto:townclerk@philipstown.com). It also is organizing volunteer drivers to deliver essentials. See [philipstown.com](https://philipstown.com).

■ On April 6, Cuomo ordered schools and non-essential businesses to remain closed through at least April 29. The New York State Board of Regents also said the Regents exams scheduled for June have been canceled.

■ Cuomo announced the state is increasing the maximum fine for violations of its social distancing protocol from \$500 to \$1,000 to help address the lack of adherence. Local officials have the authority to enforce the protocols, he said.

■ The state announced the creation of a fund to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including child care. The investment company Blackstone made an initial \$10 million contribution. See [healthresearch.org/donation-form](https://healthresearch.org/donation-form).

■ Jonathan Jacobson, whose district in the state Assembly includes Beacon, called for more protections for correctional officers and inmates, saying that more than 200 correctional officers and 30 inmates

have tested positive. "Reports have reached my office that potentially infected correctional officers are being ordered back to work after just three days without a fever," he said in a statement. He said the state is not providing guards with masks unless they work directly with prisoners who have COVID-19 and that he had "heard reports that inmates at Fishkill Correctional do not have access to hand sanitizer and that Green Haven Correctional is continuing its regular communal mealtimes."

In response, the Department of Corrections and Community Service, which manages the state's prisons, said essential staff who have COVID-19 are isolated for at least seven days after the onset of symptoms, per state Health Department guidelines. It also requires "for those with exposures, suspected exposures and confirmed cases, upon their return to work, to wear a face mask while working for 14 days following the last exposure." The agency said it provides face masks to those working with prisoners exposed to COVID-19 and allows other employees to wear their own masks. It also said it provides hand sanitizer to all its facilities.

In addition, the agency said, it has suspended the intake of any prisoners from county facilities; suspended visitation while allowing prisoners five free postage stamps per week and two free, 30-minute phone calls; required non-essential staff to stay home; released low-level technical parole violators from local jails; and suspended inmate programs, including academic and vocational education, drug treatment, sex-offender programs and religious services.

■ On March 30, Cuomo ordered that any school or library board budget and trustee vote, or any village election scheduled for April and May be postponed until at least June 1. This includes the Garrison, Haldane and Beacon district votes, and the Nelsonville village election, which had been previously delayed until April 28. The presidential primary scheduled for April 28 has been moved to June 23, the same day as congress-

sional and legislative primaries in New York.

■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley said on April 3 it had distributed the first \$50,000 in grants from its newly created Dutchess Responds fund, including to the St. Andrew's/St. Luke's Food Pantry in Beacon. Other recipients included the Dutchess Community Action Partnership, Dutchess Outreach and the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.

■ Bard College in Annandale announced it was re-opening its application process for admission in the fall, with a deadline of May 1, for residents of Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Greene, Columbia and Sullivan counties. It also created the Hudson Valley Scholarship, which will reduce the cost of attendance at the private school to the equivalent of a local state institution. Students can apply through the Common Application. Email [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu) with questions.

■ Putnam County installed its Row of Honor, a row of flags that is put up on Memorial Day and Veterans Day along the shore of Lake Gleneida in Carmel, along with a "God Bless America" banner, to recognize and thank to health care workers and first responders who are putting themselves at risk to help fight the COVID-19 outbreak. The flags will fly through Memorial Day, when two additional rows will be added to recognize veterans.

■ New York State extended the deadline for individuals to buy insurance through its health insurance marketplace to May 15. See [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov).

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](https://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at [putnamcountyny.com/health](https://putnamcountyny.com/health). New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at [ny.gov/coronavirus](https://ny.gov/coronavirus). The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov).

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**456**

Philipstown 37, Carmel 169, Kent 72, Putnam Valley 45

Tests administered:

**1,654**

Percent positive:

**26.5**

Number of deaths:

**21**

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**1,493**

Beacon 79, Fishkill 121, Wappingers Falls 26, Poughkeepsie 183

Tests administered:

**5,821**

Percent positive:

**26**

Number of deaths:

**19**

Source: Health departments. Data current as of April 9

# Help on Hold

Unemployed struggle to file for benefits

By Leonard Sparks

Sharon Cutler is unemployed, but goes to work each day. Hundreds of times since March 23 the Garrison resident has dialed a state Department of Labor number in hopes of speaking with someone to complete her application for unemployment benefits.

Hundreds of times, she has had to call back. “I tried about 135 times yesterday,” Cutler said on March 25.

Waiting is the only option for Cutler and many of the record 17 million Americans who have filed unemployment claims in recent weeks as businesses were ordered to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 22 ordered “non-essential” businesses, including retail stores, to close, and on April 6 renewed the order until at least April 29. As a result, many businesses began dismissing employees, at least temporarily.

Data released on Thursday (April 9) by the Department of Labor show that 347,573 people initiated claims statewide during the week ending April 4, compared to 12,971 at the same point a year ago. Another 369,025 people initiated claims the week ending March 28.

In the seven-county Hudson Valley region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam, 73,764 people have filed for benefits over the previous four weeks, compared to 4,679 during the same period last year.

Claims in Dutchess for the week ending April 4 totaled 4,459, compared to 150 a year ago, and in Putnam 1,516, compared to 58 last year.

Faced with sudden and widespread layoffs, on March 27, President Trump enacted a \$2 trillion stimulus bill that includes \$600 in additional weekly payments to people receiving unemployment; an extension of the period a person can be covered by 13 weeks, to 39 weeks; and a benefits program for those who would not typically qualify, such as freelancers.

On Wednesday (April 8) Cuomo ordered the state Department of Labor to make the extra payment available immediately using state money, rather than waiting for the federal government to disburse funding.

But New York’s unemployed have been stymied by computer and telephone systems overwhelmed by claimants.

Call volume was up 16,000 percent and website traffic up nearly 900 percent in recent weeks, according to the Department of Labor, which is racing to hire representatives and expand its capacity.

Cutler and Stacey Gibson, who also lives in Garrison, are among the people who have initiated their claims either online or through an automated phone call and were instructed to call the Department of Labor’s claims center to speak with a representative in order to complete the application.

	Week ending April 4	Previous Week	One Year Ago
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS*	Hudson Valley	31,759	34,251
	Dutchess County	4,459	4,925
	Putnam County	1,516	1,525
	New York City	147,658	143,798
	New York State	347,573	369,025
CLAIMS BY INDUSTRY**	Accommodation and Food Services	58,021	95,874
	Retail	49,160	44,759
	Health Care and Social Assistance	38,673	41,958
	Construction/Utilities	40,988	20,384
	Administrative and Support Services	29,788	32,130

\*Source: New York Department of Labor. The Hudson Valley region includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties  
\*\*Source: New York Department of Labor



Sharon Cutler of Garrison says she did not have a pleasant experience attempting to file for unemployment after losing her job because of the coronavirus shutdown.

Photo by L. Sparks

Gibson, who was furloughed for at least two months from a retail job, started her claim on April 1 and finally reached a representative on Tuesday (April 7). Before that, she called “at least 100 times” each day, starting five minutes before the claims center opened at 8 a.m.

“Just bypass Step 2 of this process [getting someone at the agency on the phone], even temporarily, to get people through the system,” said Gibson, who said she was not in immediate financial difficulty. “People need their checks.”

The state said the four industries with the highest number of claims are: accommodation and food services; retail; health care and social assistance; and administrative and support services. Still, workers from every industry are filing claims at a significantly higher rate, according to the agency.

Cutler was the surgical coordinator for an ophthalmology practice where she

worked for 23 years. The practice began canceling dozens of surgeries in response to the pandemic and then received notice that they could only see emergency patients as Cuomo ordered businesses to close.

Cutler’s last day at work was Friday, March 20. She began her unemployment claim the following Monday and says she has been trying since then to speak with a representative.

“It’s either busy or you get through to the menu and you enter your Social Security number and your PIN and it says, ‘We have an extremely high volume of calls; please call back’ and disconnects you,” said Cutler, who expects to return to the same job.

Cuomo on March 12 temporarily suspended a requirement that the newly unemployed wait seven days before applying for benefits. On March 26, the Department of Labor reported that it had received more than 1.7 million calls and 2.2 million website visits between March 16 and 21.

To meet the sudden demand, the agency expanded the hours for its claims center, and operates on Saturdays and Sundays. It also designated specific days, based on the first letter of the last name, for people to file (see top right).

On Thursday (April 9), the Department of Labor announced a “tech surge,” in partnership with Google Cloud, Deloitte and Verizon, that will result in a new online application system and a new “call back” system that will eliminate the need for people to reach a representative to complete their application.

Filers who need to supply additional information will instead be called within 72 hours by a state representative, the agency said.

Deloitte is opening an additional call center that will be staffed with hundreds of representatives. The state says it has 1,000 people answering phones and processing claims, with plans to add over 1,200 more.

## Lost Your Job?

### How to apply

The state Department of Labor has established designated filing days depending on the first initial of your last name.

- A–F: File on Monday.
- G–N: File on Tuesday.
- O–Z: File on Wednesday.

If you miss your designated day, file Thursday to Saturday. Claims will be backdated to the date you became unemployed.

Applications can be filed at [applications.labor.ny.gov/IndividualReg](https://applications.labor.ny.gov/IndividualReg). For instructions, see [bit.ly/UI-instructions](https://bit.ly/UI-instructions).

If instructed to call the Claims Center, the number is 888-209-8124. It operates weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### What’s new

- 39 weeks of benefits instead of the standard 26.
- An extra \$600 a week through July 31.
- The self-employed, freelancers, independent contractors and people with a short work history, who typically would not qualify, could be eligible for benefits if they are out of work for coronavirus-related reasons.
- Anyone who exhausted his or her 26 weeks of benefits after July 1, 2019, is eligible for the additional 13 weeks, plus the extra \$600.

For more information, see [labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/ui-covid-faq.pdf](https://labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/ui-covid-faq.pdf).

It has also expanded from four to more than 60 computer servers and is adding telephone capacity, with Verizon increasing the number of phone ports to 10,000 from 1,750.

On Tuesday (April 7), Gibson started calling again at 7:55 a.m. She got through, was placed on hold for 30 minutes and then spoke with a representative, who wanted to verify her Social Security number and address and get a phone number for her employer.

The call lasted five minutes, Gibson said. “I was glad — if it indicated that New York State had fixed the problem,” she said. “I was just concerned for the hundreds of thousands of people out there who are depending on these checks.”



## COPING WITH STRESS

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

To no one's surprise, no one is getting any sleep — good sleep, anyway. Even when there's no COVID, we are overscheduled and overstimulated to a degree that we are wide-eyed too late at night and then tired the next day.

HERE ARE THE BASICS ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR NIGHT'S SLEEP. THEY WILL HELP — THE TRICK IS GETTING YOURSELF TO DO THEM.

- ◆ Keep a steady schedule for waking and going to sleep. The power of habit and conditioning increases the likelihood that you'll be ready to nod off when it's time, so do this even on weekends or when you're working from home.
- ◆ Don't expect to storm through your day, make a flying leap into bed and then go to sleep. As you approach bedtime, make the approach gradual and make a soft landing when you hit the pillow. Don't bathe, eat or exercise too late in the evening. Don't overdo it with alcohol — it can wake you up later as it leaves your system. Spend the last half hour reading an actual book under low light, or just sit quietly and breathe.
- ◆ Associate your bed with being sleepy or asleep. When you return emails, watch videos and make phone calls, you're conditioning yourself to stay active, engaged and awake. Set the electronics aside, or better, put them in another room.
- ◆ If you awaken in the middle of the night and are flooded with worry, get out of bed, get out that book and read until you get sleepy. If you stay in bed taking an inventory of what troubles you, there's no chance the darkness will provide comfort or solutions. You can also use a set of neutral thoughts to shift your mind's focus: make an alphabetical list of cities, make a shopping list in Pig Latin, take a flight over Hawaii in your mind's eye.

I'll have more on how to deal with worry next week.

Michael McKee is a licensed psychologist with offices in Garrison who specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT). He can be reached at 914-584-9352 or info@mckeetherapy.com. For more information, visit mckeetherapy.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

# Putnam Approves \$221K for COVID-19 Supplies

*Also, OKs license-plate readers for Cold Spring*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (April 7) unanimously voted to allocate \$221,144 for medical and related supplies to assist county and municipal health care personnel and first responders in fighting COVID-19.

Participating in their monthly meeting from diverse locations via an audio hook-up due to social-distancing restrictions, the legislators acted after receiving a "letter of necessity" that County Executive MaryEllen Odell wrote on Monday. The item was added to the agenda shortly before the meeting adjourned.

The funding provides \$150,000 for medical items and gear; \$31,144 for related materials; and \$40,000 in cleaning-janitorial supplies for county employees who are first responders, as well as first responders in communities short on masks and other personal protective equipment.

Toni Addonizio (R-Kent), who chairs the Legislature, said the county expects to be reimbursed by the federal government for 75 percent of the expense, reducing the

Putnam share to about \$55,000.

Whether towns and villages would have to pay for equipment they receive was not clear. Addonizio said Putnam would track the supplies and account for the reimbursements "before making any assessment" on local municipalities.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) described the resources as "a long time coming."

"We needed them a month ago, when many first responders didn't have personal protective equipment," she said. "They're still kind of scrambling to get enough. We've needed it from the very beginning. I'm glad we're getting it now."

The time it took "is not the fault of Putnam County or anyone," Addonizio said, noting that every county is in the same position.

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) urged the county to give recipients flexibility in using the aid. "We can't hold them up when time is of the essence," he said.

He noted that decisions on equipment to counter the pandemic involved not only Odell but financial and purchasing officials and the law department. He also mentioned "how hard it is to get the proper supplies that are actually approved by OSHA [the

federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration] and all the right agencies, so that we're not picking up supplies from China that are not helpful to our employees or first responders."

Montgomery advocated that no cleaning supplies go to the Putnam County Golf Course but be offered instead to county-supported social service agencies that serve children and women at risk. "We're still not at the apex of this," she cautioned.

In other business, legislators unanimously approved allowing the Cold Spring Police Department to spend \$13,399 in county money to acquire four license-plate readers as long as the department follows a pending Sheriff's Department policy on utilizing, sharing and retention of the data. The arrangement, promoted by District Attorney Bob Tendy, uses funds from the DA's forfeited assets reserves.

The Legislature also unanimously approved a six-year contract with the Police Benevolent Association, the agency representing law enforcement officers in the Sheriff's Department, after three years of negotiations. The contract, which covers 2017 through 2022, provides an annual increase of 2.5 percent to the deputies and other officers.

## Putnam Settles Lawsuit Over Jail Job

*Woman says she was rejected because of assault allegation*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (April 7) unanimously approved a \$65,000 payment to end a lawsuit filed by a woman who claimed she was turned down for a corrections officer position because she earlier alleged she had been sexually assaulted by a co-worker at a state job.

The nine legislators, meeting through an audio connection because of social-distancing restrictions, voted without discussion to settle a lawsuit filed by Roxan Denton-Lotts in federal court last May against the county's Personnel Department and the Sheriff's Department, which oversees the jail.

In court documents, Denton-Lotts alleged that although she passed qualifying tests

in 2017 during the tenure of former Sheriff Donald Smith, jail officers "unlawfully retaliated" against her because the year before she had reported being assaulted at an Office of Children and Family Services facility in Red Hook, in Dutchess County.

According to Denton-Lotts, she promptly informed the police and the center director, and an internal state investigation later found her allegation valid.

About nine months later, according to the filing, Denton-Lotts passed a civil service exam and Putnam notified her of an opening for a position as a corrections officer. On her application, she disclosed she had been sexually harassed at a previous job and, as required for the position, shared details of a divorce, according to her lawsuit.

Denton-Lotts alleged that in job interviews and during a lie-detector test, she was asked about her complaint and whether she had engaged in sex with any colleagues, whom she was directed to name. She also was asked, according to her lawsuit, whether she had ever filed a false report and was told a law enforcement agency had informed the county it believed she was lying. She said that Putnam officials repeatedly advised her to withdraw her application.

She said she heard nothing about the job for more than a month until her husband, a Putnam County employee, was allegedly told by a Sheriff's Department officer that his wife was passed over because "something did not seem right," the court filing stated.

On March 2, a federal judge approved the terms of a settlement, clearing the way for the Legislature's vote. As is typical of court settlements, Denton-Lotts dropped her lawsuit and the county admitted no wrongdoing.

## Train Control *(from Page 1)*

Rockefeller, said he suffered from sleep apnea and fell asleep at the controls. Metro-North now tests its engineers for the disorder.

Positive Train Control uses onboard computers, GPS and wireless radio to slow or stop trains that are going too fast.

In a statement, MTA President Cathy Rinaldi said the upgrade demonstrates "swift and steady progress" by Metro-North, although Congress ordered the technology to be adopted 12 years ago after a collision in California killed 25 people. (In that accident, the engineer of a commuter train was sending and receiving text messages moments before impact.)

A Metro-North representative said that adding Positive Train Control to the

Hudson and the 82-mile Harlem lines, as well as the Long Island Railroad, cost the agency \$1 billion. Amtrak passenger trains and CSX freight trains using the lines are also part of the new system. Work on Metro-North's New Canaan line is expected to be completed by year-end, the MTA said.

Nancy Montgomery, James Lovell's widow, who has been pushing since his death for Positive Train Control to be implemented on Metro-North trains, said she believes it took so long because "the cost of lives did not outweigh the cost of implementing this technology — that is the bottom line."

Montgomery, who was a Philipstown Town Board member when her husband died and now represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, praised Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who repre-

sents Putnam County on the MTA board, and Sen. Chuck Schumer for their roles in advocating for the measure. "This would not have been accomplished without their determination and persistence," she said.

Zuckerman said that while he is proud of the work Metro-North has done in the past two years, "prior to that PTC was not a priority." He added: "Had there been simple speed enforcement in 2013, Jim Lovell would not have died."

Montgomery, who settled a wrongful-death lawsuit against the MTA for an undisclosed amount, believes the agency has more work to do. "The MTA must tell the public, in plain language, in black-and-white, how every detail of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 has been implemented and how it makes us safer," she said.



# Make Some Noise!

Residents of Garden Street in Cold Spring stepped outside their homes at 7 p.m. on Tuesday (April 7), as they have done each evening this week, to clap, cheer, bang on pots and play instruments for two minutes in appreciation of health care and other essential workers during the COVID-19 health crisis. The local effort was organized by the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub as part of an international #ClapBecauseWeCare initiative. The practice of clapping, cheering, singing and waving flags for a few minutes each day to thank those working on the front lines began in Wuhan, China, in January during the quarantine and took off as the virus spread through Italy and the world.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



# Municipal and School Staffs Forge Ahead

*Despite interruptions, work goes on*

By Jeff Simms

While unemployment claims in the state surge, no municipalities or school districts in the Highlands have yet furloughed any employees.

School districts have been extending pay for “non-essential” workers by two-week periods, while municipalities would seem to have no choice under an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 17 that states “any local government or political subdivision” must allow non-essential workers to work from home or take paid leave.

In Beacon, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said the city continues to pay all of its employees. Most of the office staff, he said, is working from home, while others, such as employees of the highway department, have been pared down, with some workers on standby.

At City Hall, “I’ll walk by and I see things happening on computers,” Ruggiero said. “It’s like an invisible person is there.”

The state gives city officials the authority to deem certain departments as “essential.” Some, like fire and police, are obvious, while there are others, including the highway department and water and sewer,

that are being staffed by skeleton crews, with other workers called in as needed. As those situations arise, employees are being “spread out,” Ruggiero said, with one person per vehicle and other modifications.

The Beacon Fire Department has kept its regular rotation of two firefighters and the chief on duty at the Tompkins Hose station and one firefighter each at the Mase Hook and Ladder and Beacon Engine stations. (The city tentatively plans to no longer use the Beacon Engine station after the end of this month.)

However, the department is not holding any of its regular social events and volunteer firefighters are not allowed in the stations, Chief Gary Van Voorhis said. Volunteers, many of whom are seniors at higher risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, may only respond to structure fires. In addition, the department is only responding to Level 1 (priority) calls. The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps responds to all emergency calls.

The department is also conducting training exercises using social distancing protocols or online, he said.

Beacon police are handling some non-emergency calls by telephone, while non-emergency calls that require a response are being conducted utilizing social distancing, Chief Kevin Junjulas said. Officers have also been provided protective equipment to use

for high-risk calls, for calls that require close contact, and for calls that require an officer to be inside with an individual, the chief said.

## Philipstown

The town is still paying all of its employees, said Supervisor Richard Shea.

“With all the stress of the current crisis, the last thing we want to do is add to it,” he said. Staff members are working remotely or, if at an office, are spaced apart. “Obviously, if there is an emergency all staff will be called in.”

Since March 18, town highway employees have been following a one-week-on, one-week-off schedule to comply with state demands that municipalities cut staff on duty by 50 percent. “Our goal is to stay vigilant and keep all employees safe,” Superintendent Carl Frisenda wrote in a report to the Town Board.

Frisenda also reported that crews have been taking advantage of what “looks like an early spring” for repairing potholes on dirt roads and paved roads alike, grading in select spots, “keeping pipes and waterways cleared” and replacing pipes along some roads in anticipation of black-topping over the summer.

## Cold Spring

Village Board members agreed that all employees will continue to be paid their full salaries, even if their work hours are

reduced. Employees based at Village Hall are working remotely or practicing social distancing while in the building.

School crossing guards will be paid based on the days they were scheduled to work, the village said. Police, highway, and water and sewer department employees are considered essential.

## School Districts

The Beacon City Board of Education at its March 23 meeting extended the district’s agreement with hourly and part-time employees through March 31 and is expected to approve a two-week extension at its April 14 meeting, Superintendent Matt Landahl said.

Teachers are working remotely, but “we need some people to come in for essential tasks,” Landahl said. “It’s mostly involved with food or bringing custodians in on a regular basis.”

The Haldane school board passed a similar resolution to pay its part-time employees through April 14.

In Garrison, Interim Superintendent Debra Jackson said that “our small size has everyone working.” (The district, one of the smallest in the state, has about 220 students in grades K to 8.) In addition to online learning, district staff are engaged with the child care program, or keeping up financial, training and other records, she said.

*Liz Schevchuk Armstrong and Michael Turton contributed reporting.*

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# The Calendar

## The Artists Next Door

# Emily and Will Brown

*Artists newly arrived in Garrison — then into isolation*

By Alison Rooney

A few weeks ago, *The Current* put out a call for stories. With the coronavirus prompting a nearly complete shut-down of the arts, we went looking for creative people willing to introduce themselves.

Emily Brown and her husband, Will, did just that. The couple moved to Garrison less than a year ago. “It was time for us to down-size and, after lifetimes in Philadelphia, we held our breaths and came north,” she wrote in an email, by way of introduction.

They met in art school 55 years ago. Will was initially a painter, and then a photographer; Emily is a painter. They moved to the Highlands to be near their daughter, Eliza Brown, and her husband, Christopher Wall, and their two grandsons, ages 6 and 10, who moved to Cold Spring six years ago.

For the moment, they can see their grandchildren only from a distance. “We wave at them across the driveway,” Emily says. “They’re

wonderful children.”

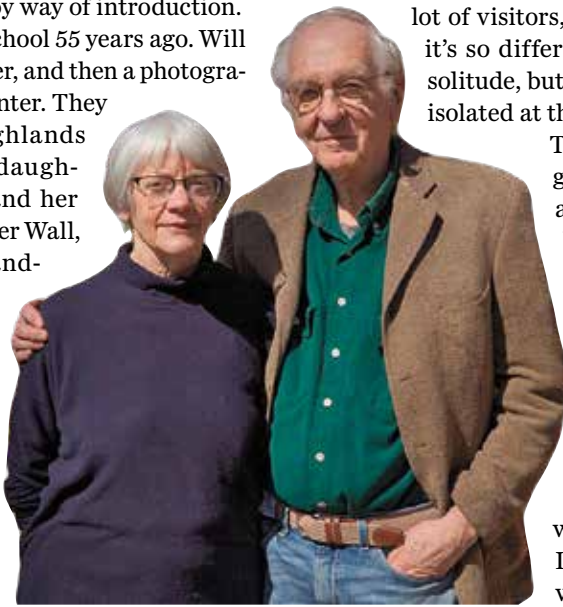
Other than that, social distancing hasn’t upended their Garrison lives too much.

“We both do a lot of work alone,” Emily says. “We have a barn where my studio is, so we don’t have to go anywhere else to do our work. But it is solitary. We were just developing friendships, but not to the level where you can just call someone up and joke, so for now we’re relying on old friends in Philly.

“Before this isolation we had a lot of visitors,” she says. “Now it’s so different. We like our solitude, but it is odd to be so isolated at this stage.”

Their backgrounds in art are extensive. A biology major in college, Will shifted to painting. “I went to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, but my work wasn’t well-received — I painted what I wanted to paint,

(Continued on Page 14)



Emily and Will Brown moved to Garrison last year  
Photo by Eliza Brown



“Fitzwater Street Caddie,” photo by Will Brown



“Fond Farewell,” ink wash on paper by Emily Brown



## Casting a Spell on Young Readers

*Peekskill author’s debut snatched up by Hollywood*

By Alison Rooney

Even before Claribel Ortega’s novel, *Ghost Squad*, written for students in middle school, was released on Wednesday (April 7), its film rights had been sold.

The Peekskill author’s debut is the May selection for the Middle Reader Book Club at Split Rock Books in Cold Spring. Anyone who orders the book at splitrockbks.com will receive a signed, personalized copy.

Set in St. Augustine, Florida, just before Halloween, *Ghost Squad* follows Lucely and her best friend Syd as they cast a spell that accidentally awakens spirits who cause a lot of trouble. As it happens, Syd’s grandmother, Babette, is a witch. She and her cat, Chunk,



Claribel Ortega

Photo provided

work to reverse the curse and save the town.

Ortega, who was a big reader from an early age (a favorite was Sandra Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street*), grew up writing poetry, song lyrics and stories which she put together in homemade books. Later,

after being rejected by several creative writing programs, she enrolled at SUNY Purchase and became a reporter.

Ortega says she didn’t seriously consider creative writing until after the death of her older brother from cancer. During his illness, she moved to Florida to help her parents with his care. After he died, and she returned home, she began commuting to a job in New York City, scribbling in a notebook to fill the time.

“It was a quick transition from losing someone in my life to having a high-stress job,” she says. “I got a big idea for a story, while I was on the subway, of a rebellious, lost witch. I envisioned her as a manifestation of all the things I was feeling. My brother had always encouraged me to write, so this was a method of honoring his memory, plus dealing with my own.”

(Continued on Page 14)

# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see  
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 11 One Poem a Day Won't Kill You

GARRISON

Desmond-Fish Library | bit.ly/read-poem

Last month, the library and The Current teamed up to revive this annual event to recognize National Poetry Month in April. The idea was that community members would be recorded at the library reading their favorite poems. Unfortunately, few recordings took place before the library closed. However, we are able to collect and share poem recordings online. Visit the link above and use your phone, tablet or computer to record a favorite poem to share with the community — something we all may need during this challenging and humbling time, notes Ryan Biracree, the library's digital services coordinator. If you have questions or technical difficulties, email him at ryan@desmondfishlibrary.org.

### SAT 11 Virtual CSA Fair

HUDSON VALLEY

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet farmers from the region and learn about options for community-supported agriculture shares. The Beacon area will be covered beginning at noon. Register at hudsonvalleycsa.org/csa-fair to receive the Zoom link.

### TUES 14 Knitting Meet-Up

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email Lucille Merry at lucille@desmondfishlibrary.org for registration information. Continues weekly.

WED 15

### Ecology and Activism Book Club

GARRISON

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

Email karen@desmondfishlibrary to receive the Zoom link to join the discussion of *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy*, by Joanna Macy (right) and Chris Johnstone.



THURS 16

### Paper Crafts Workshop

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary

The workshop takes place each week via Facebook.

THURS 16

### Earth Day Celebration

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Email karen@desmondfishlibrary.org to receive the Zoom link. Watch the 2009 documentary Earth free on Kanopy (desmondfish.kanopy.com), then join a discussion about the film, Earth Day and what we can all do.

SAT 11

### Plant Sale

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Common Ground Farm  
commongroundfarm.org/farm/spring-plant-sale

Order seedling vegetables and herbs to transplant into your garden by SUN 19 at 7 p.m. for pick-up on May 17. Most are \$3 per plant. See website for selection.

## HEALTH & FITNESS

MON 13

### Meditation Group

GARRISON

Noon. Garrison Institute  
garrisoninstitute.org

Via Zoom. Online registration requested. Offered weekdays.

MON 13

### Dealing with Cancer and COVID-19

YORKTOWN

1 p.m. Support Connection  
supportconnection.org

To register, call 914-962-6402.

THURS 16

### Resiliency Meditation

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Amy Soucy  
bit.ly/resiliency-meditation

Register to join a weekly 30-minute meditation via Zoom about turning fear into resilience.



Plant Sale, April 11

## KIDS & FAMILY

MON 13

### Story Time

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary  
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Lucille Merry and other members of the staff will read children's books aloud. Also WED 15, FRI 17.

TUES 14

### New Parents Support Group

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email beautifulmamas123@gmail.com for registration information. Continues weekly.

WED 15

### Youth Philosophers' Cafe

BEACON

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

Via Zoom. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org for details.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11

### Social Saturday

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
instagram.com/garrisonartcenter

Join a virtual open studio to stay connected with the arts community and artists. The Zoom meeting ID is 996 412 237.

SAT 11

### Magazzino da Casa

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino  
instagram.com/magazzino

This weekly series features discussions with artists, Magazzino leadership and collaborators, as well as lectures by leading scholars.

SAT 18

### Pop, Protest, and Politics in Early Arte Povera

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
magazzino.art

In this livestreamed lecture and Q&A, Tenley Bick will discuss Michelangelo Pistoletto's Comizi

series. It will be accessible on the website and Instagram.

## STAGE & SCREEN

MON 13

### Live at Five

BEACON

5 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center  
facebook.com/beaconperformingartscenter

Sing and dance for some fun relief. Offered weekdays.

## CIVIC

Meetings are closed to the public but streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

SAT 11

### Gov. Cuomo Daily Briefing

10:45 a.m.

twitter.com/NYGovCuomo

MON 13

### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 14

### School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School

845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 14

### School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 14

### Board of Trustees

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

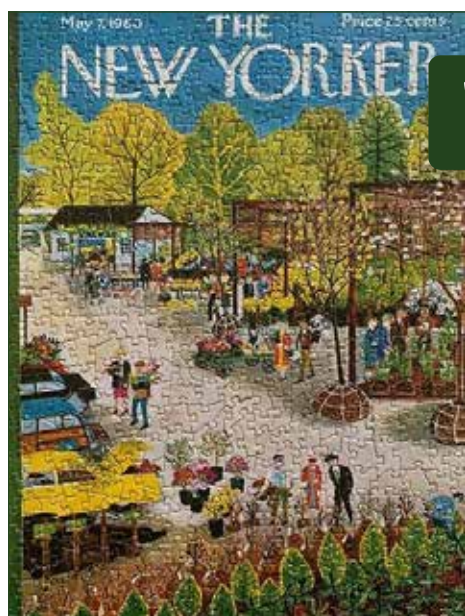
WED 15

### Board of Trustees

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

The board will review changes recommended by the Code Update Committee.



## The Gift Hut

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# Solstad House

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Visit us at SolstadHouse.com

While our doors are temporarily closed to help flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections, our website is buzzing with new visitors! Free shipping & delivery in Beacon for orders over \$20.

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@solstadhouse  
SolstadHouse1

## The Artist Next Door

## Anat Laytner

*Cold Spring artist: Draw some flowers!*

By Alison Rooney

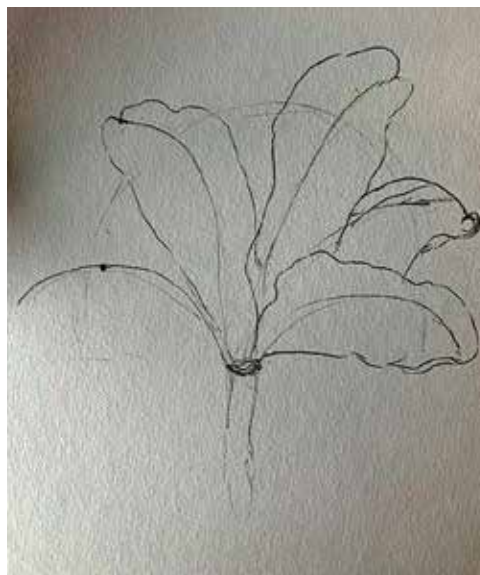
**G**ot some time on your hands? How about using those hands to draw a flower?

Anat Laytner thinks you should.

"You don't have to go out and buy a flower; just go outside, look around, slow down, bring stuff to your desk or table," says the Cold Spring resident. "It can be a pinecone, which are fantastic for drawing. Look at it closely, and admire. Or it could be anything outside — an interesting rock formation, a branch. It doesn't have to be an amazing flower."

Laytner's instructions are concise and spirited: "Have fun, put music on, give yourself permission to relax."

She doesn't believe in "people saying they can't do it. I have a bunch of friends who say 'I can't sketch for my life.' It's just learning how to look, to put thoughts and observations, something of your own, on paper. Just enjoy this; if you don't like the result, try again, it's no big deal. Anything but saying [about someone else's work], 'Oh my God, this is so perfect, I can never do that.'"



Three images from a sequence of how to draw a lily, by Anat Laytner. For the full series, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Laytner, who grew up in Jerusalem (and whose husband, Mel, is a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc.) enjoys working with multiple forms, including printmaking, embroidery, textile design, drawing and painting. She had no formal art education — "time and circumstances didn't allow" — until about 10 years ago, when she took courses in illustration at the Bronx Botanical Garden.

"The way I was taught was to be very precise," she says. "It's a formal kind of art, scientific, with precise measuring, because originally it was used for documenting. Travelers had notebooks and drew exactly what

they saw. It's a beautiful form of art, but my mind has moved to the most free-form of the same subject, because it's fine — you're the artist; you can do anything you want."

The couple are sheltering in Cold Spring, but in New York City Laytner led an informal, enthusiastic group for beginners. She says she had to lobby hard to get newcomers. "They claim they have two left hands, that they don't even know how to hold a pencil, but I tell them 'That's so silly — there is no wrong in art,' and they wind up loving it — they can't wait for us to meet. Two of the women have had major life issues, going through chemo, other things, and while working with me they said, 'it was the first time in a long time they weren't thinking about their pain.'"

Recently, Laytner made a series of step-by-step drawings of a lily flower to help members of the group and other friends who are trying to keep busy and learn at the same time. She agreed to share these with readers of *The Current*. (See [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).)

Laytner suggests, if possible, obtaining smooth "hot-press" paper for botanical illustration and HB drawing pencils (press lightly), and favors those made by Prismacolor and Faber-Castell. (Supplies for Creative Living of Cold Spring has both in stock. Order online at [suppliesforcreative-living.com](http://suppliesforcreative-living.com) for pickup or mail delivery.)

Laynter works in half of a garage that's been turned into a studio on her property.

She rarely has to buy materials. "I can use branches, old schmattes, bamboo sticks, old jeans, and turn them all into something new," she says. When it comes to casting her eye on spring flowers, she's particularly looking forward to tree peonies and daffodils. "They're both not that easy to draw, surprisingly," she says.

## Current Classifieds

### SERVICES

#### PROPERTY MANAGER AVAILABLE —

Caretaker with 20+ years of experience available to manage operations of property; maintenance, repairs, painting; gardening, landscaping; convenience services (errands); pet care. Loyal, trustworthy; flexible to a variety of needs; insured. Resume and references available. Contact Greg at 914-618-2779 or [gproth24@gmail.com](mailto:gproth24@gmail.com).

**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**



Anat Laytner with some of her subjects

Photo provided

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MAGNUSS Divorce Mediation

Diane Magnusson 914 382-3268

2537 Rt 52, Suite 1 Hopewell Junction NY 12533

[www.magnussdivorcemediation.com](http://www.magnussdivorcemediation.com)

# Gergely Pediatrics

It has been a busy few weeks here at Gergely Pediatrics trying to keep our doors open and everyone safe.

**As of Wednesday March 25, we will be open for telehealth appointments. Please call us if you have a sick child or have any questions. We are here.**

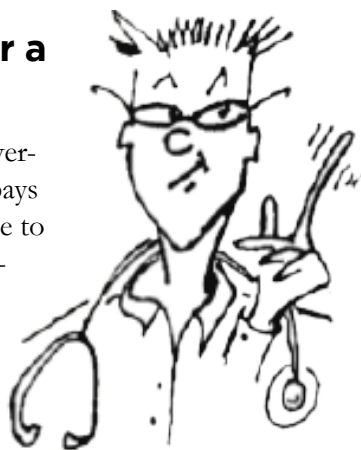
All physicals for children 3 years and older will be postponed and rescheduled for after April 20. If you have a physical in the next few weeks we will be calling to reschedule. If your child is younger than 3 years we will conduct a telehealth visit. Given the difficult circumstances, we will continue to offer the most comprehensive medical care possible for your children via telehealth. Also during this COVID 19 pandemic, office hours will remain as close to normal as possible, Monday through Friday. However we will be closed on Saturdays but still available by phone. If you should get the answering service and feel that you cannot wait until we open up again, please leave a message with the service. We will continue to keep you informed as events change, please continue to check our website for updates too.

## What is a Virtual Visit?

Instead of traveling to Gergely Pediatrics, you can video conference with a provider using your mobile phone, computer or tablet device (equipped with a camera) via Zoom or Facetime. You and your provider will be able to see and talk with each other in real time – so you can ask questions and have a conversation the same way you would in your provider's office. Your provider will review your condition, guide you in moving forward after a procedure or have a prescription sent to your pharmacy, or to a lab draw station as needed.

## Will my insurance cover a Virtual Visit?

Most insurance carriers are now covering this service, and are waiving copays associated with COVID19. Feel free to call your insurance company's member service number on the back of your insurance card to get exact benefit information for your own plan, as some company plans may vary.



**Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524**

**tel: (845) 424-4444 fax: (845) 424-4664**

**gergelypediatrics.com**

## The Browns (from Page 11)

and I was never very ambitious.” He continued studying, however, earning a BFA from the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania.

He landed a job teaching film and photography at Swarthmore College, and then became an assistant to Theodor Siegl, head of the conservation department at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. For more than four decades, Will was a freelance photographer, specializing, ironically, in taking photos of other people's art.

In 2009, a curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art invited Will to be part of a show. “So, I was rediscovered,” Will says. A gallery agreed to represent him, and his work is now in the collections of a number of museums, including the Yale University Beinecke Library, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. In 2014 he had a solo show at the Laurence Miller Gallery in New York.

Emily was also a teacher. “I always taught, at Head Start and Montessori, then as a middle school art teacher,” she says. “I also did costuming for theater

at a Friends [Quaker] school in Philadelphia. During the summer I would paint, working outside. I didn't have a studio, so it was very constricted. I began as a plein air painter, then adapted to working in a studio, though I've always loved the landscape and being outside.”

Emily's drawings and paintings are mainly based on the textures and surfaces found in the natural world. “Many materials interest me; these days the work is mainly ink wash on paper.” Her work most recently was included in a show at a small museum in Philadelphia. The show has been — of course — postponed.

Despite the unusual circumstances, Emily and Bill both say they're happy in their new environs.

“There's so much light, and all these birds to hear and see,” Emily says. “We enjoyed going to the Friday night soirées at Antipodean Books at Garrison's Landing, and the Desmond-Fish Library is a treasure. It's been warm and interesting, but in terms of being connected with other artists, it's been slow. We're looking forward to going up to the galleries in Beacon, Hudson and Poughkeepsie when they reopen.”



Concept art for the forthcoming animation and live-action film based on *Ghost Squad*

## Ghost Squad (from Page 11)

Eighteen months later, she found an agent. That draft is still on the back burner, but it helped her to begin writing for the middle grades.

“My voice really lends itself to that,” she says. “There's something charming and intoxicating about the possibility and magic of kids that age. While some middle grade books deal with heavier topics, for me the crux is finding your place in the world, plus adventure.”

*Ghost Squad* is based on Dominican folklore — “particularly the belief that fireflies are the ghosts of those watching us, protecting us,” she says. “That spoke to me, because my whole writing career has been inspired by the ghost of a loved one, and my brother and I used to catch fireflies together. In *Ghost Squad*, Lucely lives in a haunted house; fireflies live in Mason jars attached to a tree.”

Ortega's family moved from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. in 1984, a year before her birth. They lived in the Bronx until she was 14, then relocated to Yorktown.

“The neighborhood where we lived was getting more and more dangerous, with drug violence,” she says. “It was getting harder to go about our daily lives without

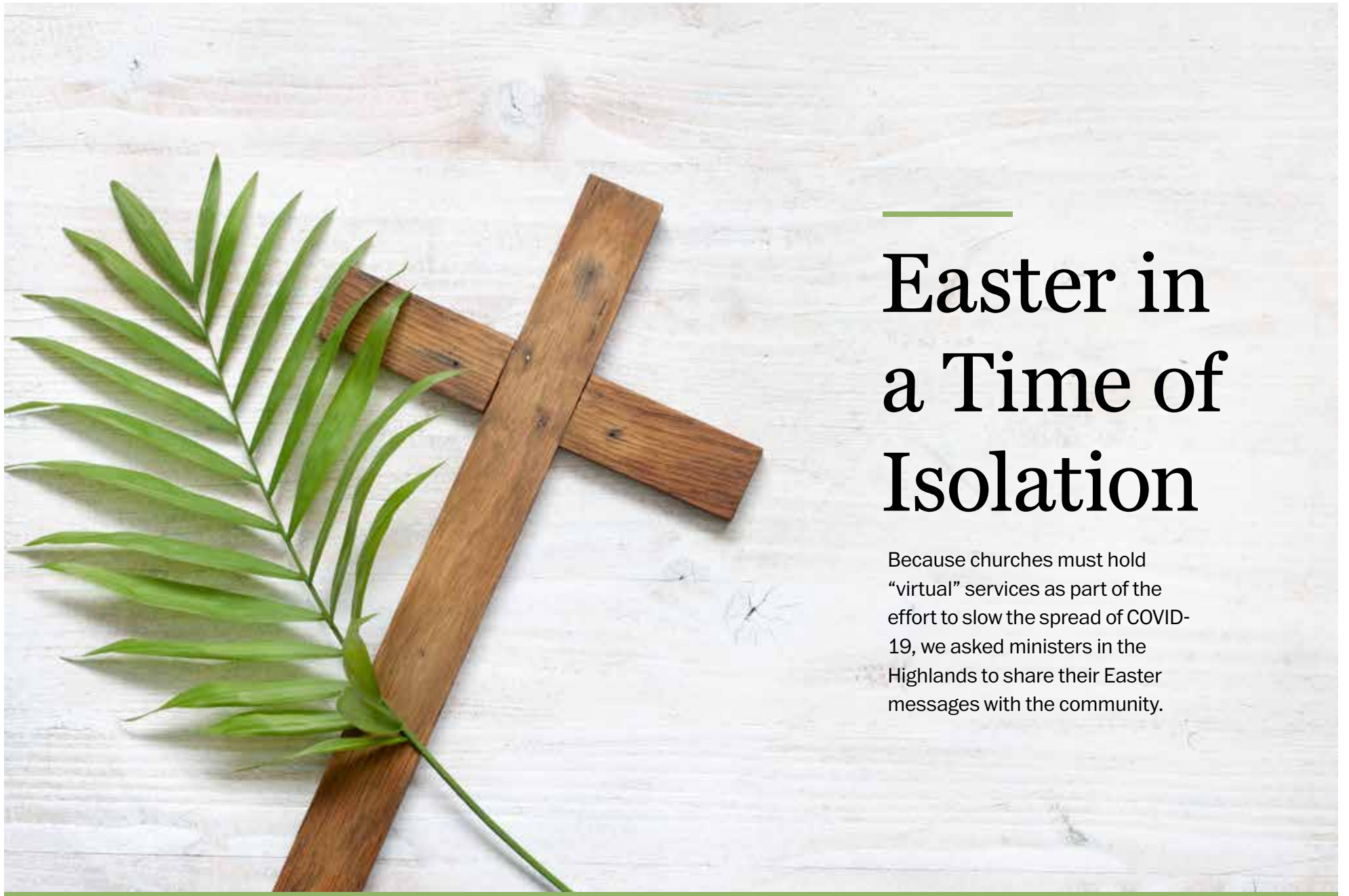
encountering horrible things. While I obviously understood the need to relocate, it was a culture shock. The way kids related to each other was very different. There were different social cues. It was a huge transition.”

Ortega says she is experiencing the strange pandemic lull of a book launch devoid of the usual engagement with readers through signings and readings.

“I had a whole calendar full of launch events canceled,” she says. “I'm still working with indie bookstores to do what we can in a virtual launch, but of course people won't be able to get to the shelves. But people are home and audiobook sales are up. There are a lot of things to be hopeful for.”

Surely that includes the film, which is being written and directed by Brenda Chapman, who directed *The Prince of Egypt* for DreamWorks Animation, *Brave* for Disney/Pixar and *Come Away*, with Angelina Jolie.

Ortega, meanwhile, is juggling projects, including a graphic novel called *Frizzy*, for which she's providing the text, and a middle grade and a young adult series. She also hosts a podcast called *Write or Die* and owns GIFGRRL, a graphic design business. “I love going to the Peekskill coffeehouse, sitting there and writing,” she says.



# Easter in a Time of Isolation

Because churches must hold “virtual” services as part of the effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, we asked ministers in the Highlands to share their Easter messages with the community.



## + The Rev. Micah Coleman Campbell

*Cold Spring/South Highland United Methodist*

Every Easter, Christians celebrate the “empty tomb,” where Christ once lay, but no longer! *This* Easter, with most of us quarantined in our homes, many others risking their lives daily, and the pall of COVID-19 hovering over everything, the irony of the moment is not lost on me. How can we celebrate resurrection when fear and death are everywhere we look?

Not easily, for sure. Nor should we, falsely. Plastering smiles on our faces because we think we ought to be happy on Easter would only be a temporary fix. Easter is about something greater.

That’s why I want to linger on the unbearable time between Jesus’ death and resurrection. The disciples didn’t know what would come next or the joy that waited for them in the morning. They only knew their grief and fears. What hope they had, if any, likely came from their memories of Jesus

— not just that he promised to return, but of all the times he brought forth life from death. When he raised Lazarus, yes, but also when he gave sight to a blind man, changed the heart of a tax collector, saved a woman from stoning, freed countless people from their demons and gave humble fishermen a greater purpose. Their past pointed to the Easter truth: that death does not have the final word. Life always comes after.

This Easter, I invite you to consider your own past, and recall the times when God delivered. Remember then, and trust that God will see us through these times, too.

*A service will be livestreamed at 10:15 a.m. at [facebook.com/fishkillumc](https://facebook.com/fishkillumc).*



## + The Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

*First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown*

“Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He [Jesus] has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to

Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” (Matthew 28:7, NRSV)

Saturday, April 11, is Holy Saturday. As Richard Lischer writes in *Christian Century*, Holy Saturday lacks the Good Friday darkness of Jesus’s death and the glorious light of Easter.

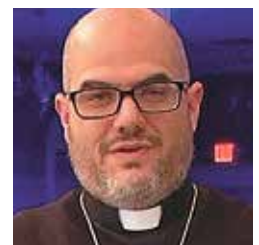
On Holy Saturday, we wait. We wait while Jesus is in the tomb; but this year we also wait during COVID-19. We wait for \_\_\_\_\_. How shall we fill in this blank? Are we waiting for the apex or the flattening of the curve of COVID-19 cases? For those on ventilators to breathe again on their own? For the national news to report every health care worker has Personal Protective Equipment? For every person to be tested for COVID-19? For a paycheck? For the Mets and Yankees to throw the first pitch of the season? For gathering again in church sanctuaries? For physical and social distancing to end? For the hugs of friends and family?

This Holy Saturday we wait in the sheer silence of COVID-19, silence replete with fear and doubts, silence packing the potential to eclipse hope. Not so fast! Hear these words: “He [Jesus] has been raised from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.”

Jesus goes ahead of us. When you bend the knees of your heart to pray, Jesus is already there. In every hospital and nursing

home, Jesus is already there. By the bedside of a COVID-19 patient, Jesus is already there. On the medical ship anchored off the shores of New York, Jesus is already there.

*First Presbyterian will participate in a service organized by the Hudson River Presbytery that will stream at 10 a.m. at [facebook.com/hudrivpres](https://facebook.com/hudrivpres).*



## + The Rev. Bill Dandreano

*Salem Tabernacle, Beacon*

To the isolated, quarantined community: Grace and peace.

Last Easter, I realized something that has been giving me hope as we approach this coming Easter. Remember, the events that happened yesterday are often provisions for events soon to come. Last Easter, I read the Easter story in all four Gospels. I realized that in all the narratives of the resurrection, there isn’t a story that talks about Jesus coming out of the tomb, but

*(Continued on Page 16)*



(Continued from Page 15)

solely stories about us going into the tomb only to find that it is empty.

This Easter, as we all live in isolation, broken off from routine, under the threat of disease, maybe even already suffering sickness or the tragic loss it causes, I realize what last Easter was trying to tell me. God invites us into the emptiness to show us that He now has filled that space with love. If you feel alone, hopeless, afraid, anxious or empty, please know God is to be found in those places we feel the most lost.

All the Easter stories tell of people running to the place that was meant for sorrow and death, and upon leaning in, they find that life can happen where death had full sway. Yes, people may pass away, and we will never understand that, but the “peace that passes all understanding” is that God has acted on death in such a way that death is now temporary. May Easter give us a hope that continues long after optimism runs out.

*A service will be streamed at 10 a.m. on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. See [salettabernacle.com](http://salettabernacle.com).*



#### + The Rev. Amanda Eiman

*St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Garrison*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Happy Easter and greetings. Easter, the season of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the most joyous time in the Christian year. This is the time when we celebrate that despite all logic, despite all doubt, three days after Jesus' lifeless body was placed in the tomb and sealed, the tomb was found empty and Jesus was alive! And through his resurrection, we are reminded that this physical world that we know now is not all that there is, because God rose to new life; God conquered death forever. All of God's people are promised new life.

The promise reminds us that there is more to come, and we will see one another again. The resurrection also reminds us that we don't have to wait until we die to experience resurrected life — every day we have the opportunity to be transformed, to let go of old ways and grab hold of new possibility. Even in the midst of this

pandemic, signs of new life are calling out to us. Spring is bursting forth before our very eyes. Communities are uniting. Creativity is abounding in the ways we teach our children, and in the ways we connect with one another.

In this tough time, I pray that the gift and hope of new life scatters some of the darkness around us. God always promises that it will. And may God's peace and grace be with you!

*A video of the service will be posted at [stphilipshighlands.org](http://stphilipshighlands.org) and on Facebook.*



#### + The Rev. Tim Greco

*The Church on the Hill, Nelsonville*

German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer met with evangelist Billy Graham for coffee one morning. Adenauer had witnessed the suffering caused by the Germans and to the Germans during World War II and its aftermath. During Hitler's regime, Adenauer was imprisoned for his opposition to Nazism. After the war, he assisted in the rebuilding of West Germany, serving as its leader from 1949 to 1963.

The chancellor asked the evangelist: “Mr. Graham, what is the most important thing in the world?” Before Graham could answer, Adenauer answered his own question. He said, “The resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is alive, then there is hope for the world. If Jesus Christ is in the grave, then I don't see the slightest glimmer of hope on the horizon.”

Christ dealt with the issue of man's sin on the cross in what the Apostle Peter described as “the just one dying for the unjust.”

The Old Testament had foretold that he would be wounded for our transgressions, have the iniquity of us all laid upon him, and heal us through his stripes. Three days later, the resurrection was God's “amen” to what Jesus had done.

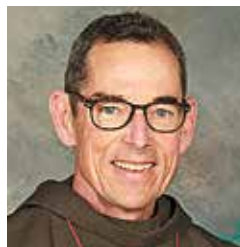
The cross and resurrection also provide hope for everyone who will trust him. The perfect, innocent one was nailed to a cross, suffering the most savage form of death and humiliation known to mankind.

On that day, we see God in the hands of

angry sinners. That blackest of Fridays, however, was transformed into Good Friday because of the resurrection. Therefore, God is more than able to transform our sufferings into glory.

During this time of tribulation in our world, I offer you hope that because He lives we can face tomorrow.

*A service will be streamed at 10:30 a.m. at [facebook.com/jesusunthechurchonthehill](https://facebook.com/jesusunthechurchonthehill).*



#### + Father Dan Callahan

*Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison*

Self-denial and discipline are the hallmarks of Lent practiced by Christians united in preparation for Easter joy. They are now being shared by people of every race and language, religion and way of life as an enforced necessity to prevent and contain the COVID-19 infection.

The self-denial and discipline we're called to employ involuntarily unites us in a shared purpose with people of all nations. But for all to be united in these efforts with spiritual awareness, gratitude and mutual regard for human dignity calls for a shared prayerful awareness among all peoples.

We, as a church, have a gift in our faith to bring this shared consciousness to all, confident that God is with us in the midst of the struggle, suffering and death brought about by this disease. In Jesus Christ, we find our hope. He, God's only son, exposed himself to our human struggles, injustices and suffering. He died and rose from the dead.

Easter is the celebration of this. Even if we cannot preach it directly, our shared attitudes of peace, patience, compassion, generosity and love grounded in faith can transform our personal struggles into the compassionate power that unites us in the shared purpose of giving life.

As Franciscan Friars of the Atonement — spoken “At-One-Ment” — we invite you to pray with us this Easter through Jesus Christ, who prayed at the end of his human life: That all may be one, that the world may believe.

*Graymoor does not have a public service planned but has posted a COVID-19 healing Mass at [atonementfriars.org/virtual-mass](http://atonementfriars.org/virtual-mass).*



#### + Pastors Ricardo and Marilyn Pacheco

*Tabernacle of Christ, Beacon*

In a season of unprecedented circumstances, sickness, fear, anxiety and loss, the message of hope is one that we can hold on to. John 3:16-17 teaches us about the ultimate sacrifice of love for all humanity.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

As we take a moment to reflect on the message of Easter, we commemorate the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who now sits in his throne, at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for you and for me. In the midst of all we go through, Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

As we all face the pandemic of COVID-19, we lean on the hope that this too shall pass. Let us draw closer to God and lay down our burdens. Let's stay connected with our community and demonstrate love to one another.

*A service will be streamed at 10 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. See [tabernacleof-christchurch.com](http://tabernacleof-christchurch.com).*



#### + The Rev. George Mangan

*Christ Church United Methodist, Beacon*

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12 NRSV)

These last 30 days or so have been a struggle. Who knew what COVID-19 was a few months ago, yet today it is all over the news. Certain words that are spoken bring a sense of foreboding: virus, infected, quarantine, mask.



Our schedules have been turned upside down. We can lose sense of time as we count the days in what seems like house arrest. We become more fixated in regard to our own health and that of family members. Personal relationships become strained as no more than two people can congregate together and “keep the 6” becomes a way of life. Wake me up when this is over!

Yet, as they say, “it is darkest before the dawn.” If Easter can tell us anything, it is that we believe in a God who constantly and perfectly loves us. Nowhere can such love be found than in our God, who conquered sin and death through the life of his son, Jesus Christ. Because of Easter, we have become a renewed people of the resurrection. We live our days knowing that we are not alone, because God’s spirit lives in our hearts. We have been given the promise of a life lived in God’s love today and for eternity. No longer can sin or death separate us from God’s love and his purpose for our lives. Truly, the grace of God is with us.

Why is this important to us? The promise and hope that God has gifted us makes all the difference. No matter how crazy, confusing or tiring a day might become, we know that God is beside us and hears our prayers for help. Moreover, most important, God loves you. The same love that many of us sang about as children — “Jesus loves me, this I know.”

And as the Apostle John said in his Gospel, Chapter 3:16, “God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believed in him would have eternal life.” Easter reminds us that tomorrow is a new day. We can live it in despair or in love. As God loves us, we are called to love. Easter people, take charge of your day knowing that you are loved by God. As the dawn rises, let the confidence of God’s love guide all that you do.

*A service will be held at 10 a.m. via freeconferencecall.com. Call 605-313-4427 and enter access code 242300#.*



#### + The Rev. John Perez

Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, Beacon

This invisible enemy, COVID-19, is impacting all of our lives. We’ve never seen anything like this. The entire world just stopped. No

more sports, commerce is slowed, and physical distancing is the norm. Despite all that is going on, hold on to hope. We are resilient and have confidence that we will come out on the other side.

How can we be so confident? Simple. Our hope lies in Jesus!

It’s amazing how the words in the Bible are coming to life. The prophet Isaiah foretold centuries ago that, “In His name the nations will put their hope.” The time has come. If you are going to cope with your reality, you have to put your hope in the right source.

Jesus came, he died, and on Sunday, we celebrate that he rose again to give us access to eternal life. Are you ready to meet your maker? Have you made the decision to follow Jesus? As you prepare for a very different kind of Easter this Sunday, let’s remember that Jesus is the hope of our salvation. In him lies our hope to cope!

*A service will be streamed at 9:45 a.m. on Facebook. See [ftbeacon.org](http://ftbeacon.org).*



#### + Pastors Leilani Rodríguez-Alarcón and Josue Alarcón

Salvation Army, Beacon Citadel Corps

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though they may die, shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26, NKJV).

During this time of uncertainty and chaos, we cling to Jesus’ words and have hope, knowing that ultimately He is in control of everything. We have hope in the certainty that Christ is alive, and that through Him, we can have peace. It is our prayer that you may feel God’s love and peace surround you during these uncer-

tain times, and that you will know how loved you are!

*A service will be streamed at 11 a.m. via Zoom and Facebook. See [facebook.com/thesalvationarmybeaconcitadel](https://facebook.com/thesalvationarmybeaconcitadel).*



#### + The Rev. Steve Schunk

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Cold Spring

These past several weeks, we all have faced an unprecedented period like none we have ever imagined or experienced in our lifetimes.

As our medical experts advised, civil leaders have implemented physical-distancing restrictions and isolating regulations designed to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus and prevent the overwhelming of hospital and health care facilities, and to keep us all safe and healthy.

While for our protection and safety, this physical distancing and shelter-in-place quarantine can and does feel restricting, limiting and isolating, which leads to feelings of depression, despair and hopelessness. As a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, we will gather together online to share in common prayer expressing our fears, laments and hope, knowing that we are not alone.

We also remember the scriptural events of the Holy Week and Easter, spanning 2,000 years, that are at the core of the Christian message:

- Unfair and even unjust disappointment, pain and suffering are part of our human condition;
- Our God promises to accompany us on our journey through this suffering and uncertainty;
- As we come to trust God on our journey, we learn valuable things about ourselves and about God; and

- God, in God’s time and way, brings us all through to the other side — in joy, peace and celebration — in perfect and unconditional love.

*A service will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. See [stmaryscoldspring.org/special-on-line-worship-page](http://stmaryscoldspring.org/special-on-line-worship-page).*



#### + The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink

First Presbyterian Church of Beacon

Easter — that hallmark of spring — won’t be the same this year. We will be missing favorite hymns on the organ, sanctuaries full of flowers, and seeing old friends at services. Even if Christianity isn’t your thing, you might be missing Easter egg hunts and family dinners.

Life in the midst of a pandemic has thrown us all for a loop. Some are exhausted essential workers. Some are on furlough, wondering if jobs will be waiting when it’s time to return. Some are stressed with family and school pressure at home. Some are lonely. Some are grieving loved ones who died alone. Most are scared, if not for ourselves, at least for someone we love. All are wondering when things will return to normal.

The life of Jesus Christ — as well as his death and resurrection that we celebrate on Easter — was anything but normal. It reveals to us that wherever there is suffering, God is there. It gives us hope that death does not have the final answer. On Easter, we celebrate that God’s love changed everything, even though the earliest followers didn’t understand it right away. The truth is, we’re still trying to understand this mystery.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. This year, there’s more darkness than the traditional pastels. Maybe that’s good news ...

May Easter come alive for you this year, not in spite of the pain, but because of it. May it be so.

*A service will be streamed at 10 a.m. at [facebook.com/fpcbny](https://facebook.com/fpcbny) and [youtube.com/user/beaconpresbychurch](https://youtube.com/user/beaconpresbychurch).*

“May Easter come alive for you this year, not in spite of the pain, but because of it. May it be so.

~ The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink



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Mouths to Feed

In Like a Lamb

By Celia Barbour

My youngest urged me to share this week's recipe for lamb and white bean stew with you. Under one condition.



"What's that?"  
"You can't say that I raved about it."  
"I never use the word *raved*."  
"Mom." He dropped his chin — kids these days! They're so strict with us. "You use it all the time."  
"OK," I said. "But can I at least write that the last time I made it, you spent the entire next day at school thinking about it and couldn't wait to come home so you could eat the leftovers?"  
"Fine."  
Thus released to go off and begin my assignment, I instead went off and ran a search on my computer for the word *rave*, because two decades of parenting have not yet rid me of my petty streak.  
(The result? Boo-yaa. I used it a mere four times in 120 of this column's previous incarnations, two of them in reference to the campers I used to cook for. So there, pipsqueak.)  
Yes, life under isolation grows ever cozier. Among other things, the pipsqueak's two college-age brothers are also home for the duration, so the house is jam-packed and each day delivers its blessings wrapped in paradoxes: How can five people eat like 20? How can a stockpiled kitchen always lack the one ingredient I need? How can life feel at once so urgent and so inert?  
Still, my rebellious streak prodded me to try and come up with my own idea for this

column, but I quickly gave up. After all, it's the perfect week to write about lamb, what with Easter and Passover upon us. According to Megan Wortman, the executive director of the American Lamb Board, U.S. consumption of lamb doubles at this time of year, and particularly good cuts are available right now because the restaurants that usually commandeer them are shuttered.  
Moreover, outstanding lamb is raised right here. Sheep thrive on hilly, rocky and even weedy terrain (hello, Hudson Valley), unlike cattle, who prefer vast acres of grasslands. In fact, sheep breeds are so adaptable, says Wortman, that lamb is raised in every state, including Hawaii. And we states are all in this together, yes?  
As it happens, this is also a perfect time to write about this particular lamb recipe, because I have made it with one third as much lamb and twice the beans, and it comes out just as tasty. I imagine you could make it with merely the bone left from a holiday leg-of, and that would be lovely, too. In other words, the recipe, like its star ingredient, is adaptable to various budgetary microclimates.  
Best of all, its flavor is a small miracle. The late Marcella Hazan, its creator, described it thus: "There are dishes in which the ingredients, when brought together, transcend the familiar extent of their single ability to please and generate flavor so powerfully thrilling that before it ... the palate [surrenders] to abandoned delectation." Oh my.  
So, yeah, I surrender. Inspiration has proved fickle of late, and whenever I run dry it's nice to remember that my family, even the youngest, will go on feeding me in so many ways.

Celia Barbour, who lives in Garrison, has been nominated for two national James Beard awards for food writing, including for her column in *The Current*.



Photo by Henry Weed

Lamb Stew with White Kidney Beans

Adapted from *Marcella's Italian Kitchen*, by Marcella Hazan. You can make the entire stew, up to the last two ingredients, several days in advance. Mix in the garlic and parsley just before serving.

Active time 45 minutes,  
Cooking time 2½ hours

Serves 6

- Vegetable oil
- 1 to 3 pounds lamb shoulder, cut in pieces, or other lamb stew meat
- 2/3 cup flour, spread on a plate
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2½ cups onion, sliced thin (roughly 1 large or 2 small onions)
- 1 teaspoon dried sage, crumbled, or 7 small fresh leaves, torn by hand
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 teaspoons tomato paste
- 1 cup broth or bouillon
- 2 (or more) 19-ounce cans cannellini beans or other white bean, or 1-2 cups dried beans, soaked overnight and boiled until soft
- 2 teaspoons garlic chopped fine
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Pour enough vegetable oil into a skillet to cover the bottom completely and turn the heat to medium high.
2. Dredge the lamb pieces in the flour, shake them off and, when the oil is hot, slip them into the pan. Do not crowd the pan. Brown the meat pieces well on all sides, then transfer them to a plate using a slotted spoon. Continue until all the meat is browned.
3. Choose a lidded pot or Dutch oven that can accommodate all the meat and beans. Put in the olive oil, sliced onion and sage, and turn the heat to medium. Cook, uncovered, until the onion turns light golden brown.
4. Add the meat, turning it two or three times. When it begins to sizzle, season with salt and pepper and add the wine.
5. Dissolve the tomato paste in the broth. When the wine has boiled away, add the broth, mix well, cover the pot, and place it on the top shelf of the preheated oven. Cook for 1½ hours, turning the meat once every 30 minutes.
6. Drain the beans and add them to the pot. Cook another 30 minutes.
7. Just before serving, mix in the chopped garlic and parsley. Serve piping hot.

Thank You to Our Members

As a nonprofit that provides quality journalism free to our community, *The Highlands Current* depends on its members for support. Today we welcome the following new names to our membership ranks. We are grateful for their recognition of the important role journalism plays in our community and in our democratic society.

FRIENDS

- Anonymous (2)  
Sharona Berken  
Rose Inman and Steven Garfinkle  
Roger and Deborah Keppel  
Elaine Leinung  
The Means Family  
Jay Saunders and Betsey Nevins  
Julie Winterbottom

PARTNERS

- Anonymous (1)  
Francesca Beghe and Ben Green  
Jean Blair  
Caroline Danford  
Howard and Randi Davis  
Glenn Rockman  
Marianne Sullivan and James Hoch  
Bev Taylor  
Chris Winward

Our membership program, introduced at the end of last year, is now the primary means of support for our newspaper and website. The full list of our members is on our website at [highlandscurrent.org/members](http://highlandscurrent.org/members).

To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, especially in this difficult time, visit [highlandscurrent.org/join](http://highlandscurrent.org/join), or write to *The Highlands Current* at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

## Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

trail from the Cold Spring to Beacon train stations nearly 15 years ago that would attract visitors and ease congestion. The project was taken up by Scenic Hudson, which, after years of public input, released a master plan in 2015.

Since then, the project has been idle, leading to speculation that it was a bust.

But Hank Osborn, who was on the volunteer committee and continues to work on the project as an employee of the nonprofit New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, said that nothing could be further from the truth.

“There’s so much happening, but it’s 100

percent behind the scenes,” he said. “Things are happening fast. I know it doesn’t seem fast because there’s still no trail. But to do it right, we need to do it carefully.”

Over the past five years, the project has been re-imagined from the ground up, said Amy Kacala, the executive director of a newly created nonprofit operating under Scenic Hudson’s wing called Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. The organization has its own board of directors and will conduct its own fundraising while working with the consortium of public and private groups on the project, she said.

The consortium includes volunteer groups such as the Little Stony Point Citi-

zens’ Association; state organizations such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and nonprofits such as the Lenape Center, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Riverkeeper and Open Space Institute.

Kacala said that crowding at Breakneck over the past few years made it clear that the original plan for the trail as a single track wasn’t going to cut it.

“There was this growing problem of congestion, congestion management and the rate of high visitation,” she said. “For a community like Cold Spring, receiving that much visitation becomes challenging. The solutions are significantly expensive, and it would be hard for the community to mobilize the resources to implement them on its own.”

The revised plans call for the project to be a wider, multi-use trail with destinations throughout to give visitors something to do besides visit Breakneck.

One example, Kacala said, would be increased beach access at Little Stony Point. For years, the Little Stony Point Citizens Association has wanted to create another beach area in the northeast corner of the park but been thwarted by invasive species overgrowth. The Fjord Trail project would remove the invasive species and create a family-friendly beach with a driftwood play area and more access for schoolchildren to study the river. That would allow Sandy

Beach, the existing river access, to become a quieter, more contemplative space, she said.

North of Breakneck, the trail would wind closer to the river and provide views of Bannerman’s Castle. Kacala said that she heard from locals who live near Bannerman’s that tourists, looking for a better view of the castle, have trespassed and in some cases even come onto residents’ porches.

A “Forest Nets” section closer to Beacon would elevate the trail along the tree canopies, overlooking restored native undergrowth. With its own parking, Kacala said that this section could become a community gathering spot.

Osborn pointed to the newly opened Ashokan Rail Trail as a model for the project, although he said the Fjord Trail will have its own character.

One way it will be similar is the extensive use of trail stewards. Visitors to the Ashokan Rail Trail are greeted by yellow-jacketed stewards who answer questions and provide assistance.

The present timeline calls for the Fjord Trail to be completed in 2027, Kacala said, although the fact that her staff can’t get in the field to do a new environmental review may cause delays. Once social gathering is allowed, she plans to host a series of public sessions.

“I had just started scheduling small group conversations about the project,” Kacala said. “But the first one had to be a video call.”



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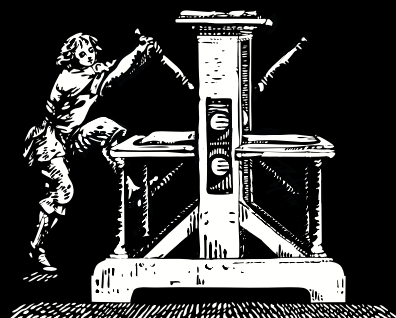
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It breaks my heart to see what the world has become.

- Suzanne Mancuso

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# Nonprofit Guide

*Charities are feeling the squeeze*

**T**imes are especially tough for nonprofits, many of whom, because of COVID-19, canceled fundraisers that account for much of their annual revenue. We thought it was an opportune time to share selections from a list of nonprofits that appeared in a "Last-Minute Gift Guide," in our Dec. 27 issue, as well as links for newly formed funds established to address community needs due to the shutdown.

As part of the recently enacted federal stimulus package, taxpayers who take the standard deduction on their 2020 tax return will still be able to deduct up to \$300 in charitable donations.

## COVID-19

**Dutchess Responds**  
dutchessresponds.org

**Mutual Aid Beacon**  
beaconmutualaid.com

**Community Cares Putnam**  
communitycares.org

**Putnam COVID Response**  
putnamcovidresponse.org

**First Responders Fund**  
healthresearch.org/donation-form

## ANIMALS

**Animal Rescue Foundation**  
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508  
arfbeacon.org

**Dutchess County SPCA**  
636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538  
dcspca.org

**Mid Hudson Animal Aid (Cat Sanctuary)**  
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508  
midhudsonanimalaid.org

**Putnam County SPCA**  
P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509  
spcaputnam.org

**Putnam Humane Society**  
P.O. Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512  
puthumane.org

**ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER**  
**Beacon Arts Community Association**  
P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508  
beaconarts.org

**Chapel Restoration**  
P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
chapelrestoration.org

**Garrison Art Center**  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524  
garrisonartcenter.org

**Howland Cultural Center**  
477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508  
howlandculturalcenter.org

**Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival**  
143 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516  
hvshakespeare.org

**Manitoga / Russel Wright Design Center**  
P.O. Box 249, Garrison, NY 10524  
visitmanitoga.org

**Philipstown Depot Theatre**  
P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

## COMMUNITY

**Habitat for Humanity**  
125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY 12550  
habitatnewburgh.org

**United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region**  
75 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
uwdor.org

**United Way of Westchester and Putnam**  
336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606  
uwwp.org

## FIRST RESPONDERS

**Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps**  
P.O. Box 54, Beacon, NY 12508

**Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1**  
154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

**Continental Village Volunteer Fire Department**  
12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, NY 10524

**Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps**  
P.O. Box 121, Garrison, NY 10524

**Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.**  
1616 Route 9, Garrison, NY 10524

**North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1**  
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

**Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps**  
14 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

## HUNGER

**Beacon Community Kitchen**  
c/o Multi-Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1285,  
Beacon, NY 12508  
Check: Multi-Services. Memo: BCK

**Fareground Community Kitchen**  
P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508  
fareground.org

**Philipstown Food Pantry**  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516  
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html

**St. Andrew & St. Luke Food Pantry**  
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508  
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

## LIBRARIES

**Butterfield Public Library**  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516  
butterfieldlibrary.org

**Desmond-Fish Public Library**  
P.O. Box 265, Garrison, NY 10524  
desmondfishlibrary.org

**Howland Public Library**  
313 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508  
beaconlibrary.org

## REHABILITATION SERVICES

**CoveCare Center**  
1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512  
covecarecenter.org

**In My Mother's House Resource Center For Women**  
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508

**Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub**  
P.O. Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
philipstownhub.org

**Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center**  
935 South Lake Blvd., Mahopac, NY 10541  
pnwwrc.org

**Support Connection**  
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
supportconnection.org



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## OBITUARIES

**Christine Barrack** (1987-2020)

Christine Barrack, 32, of Beacon, died March 24 at Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown.

Christine was born Oct. 7, 1987, in White Plains, the daughter of Rocco and Caterina (Greto) Panetta. She grew up in Harrison. On July 27, 2014, she married John Barrack, who survives at home.

Christine was an elementary education teacher for the Wappingers Central School District and a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon.

In addition to her husband and parents, Christine is survived by her sons, Edward and Matthew; her brother, Vincent Panetta (Yasmin); her brother-in-law, Robert O'Connell; her maternal grandparents, Antonio and Maria Greto; her uncles, Joseph Greto and Luci Greto; her aunt, Natalina Panetta; and her father- and mother-in-law, Gary and Pamela Barrack.

A private burial as held at St. Joachim Cemetery, and a Mass of Christian Burial will be scheduled. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church, 2 Oak St., Beacon, NY 12508.



remembered for her quick wit, love of life, sense of humor and natural curiosity that led to many adventures, outdoors, intellectual and otherwise. She loved nature, including bird watching, photography of nature and was always ready to embrace the outdoors whether biking, kayaking and hiking or visits to a garden or a wolf preserve. Rain or other elements never seemed to get in the way of her explorations and adventures, they said.

Ann is survived by her sister, Jody Floyd. Memorial donations may be made to any animal rescue organization. A service will be held at a later date because of the current health crisis.

**Howard Canaan** (1942-2020)

Howard Lionel Canaan, 77, of Cold Spring, died April 1, following a heart attack.

He was born in 1942 in Forest Hills, Queens, to Dr. Robert and Evelyn (Blum) Canaan. He grew up in Fairlawn, New Jersey. After graduating from Middlebury College in 1964 with a degree in English literature, he earned a master's degree and doctorate from Columbia University in 1965 and 1972.

Howard married Sibyl Heim on April 1, 1970, in New York City, where she was a student at Barnard, and they moved to North Woodstock, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where Howard taught English literature at Plymouth State College and learned to farm biodynamically.

After the birth of their first son, Nicholas, in 1979, Howard and Sibyl returned to New York and settled in Cold Spring, where their second son, Alexander, was born in 1983.

Howard was a distinguished professor of English Literature at Mercy College for



31 years. He received an honorary master's degree in pedagogy from the college in 2002 and retired in 2012.

His family said he was known for his wit, as well as his plays, epic poems and Christmas newsletters. Despite living with diabetes for 56 years, he enjoyed a vigorous and full life. His hobbies included gardening, playing bridge, reading, and film; he was known to enjoy competitive games of Go, chess, and Monopoly. He was a passionate baseball fan, rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers and later the Mets.

Besides his wife of 50 years and his sons, Howard is survived by his grandchildren: Benjamin, Theodore, Anastasia and Margaret, and a brother, Harvey Canaan.

A private service was held on April 6 at the Cold Spring Cemetery; a memorial will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to any charity.

**Ed Cleary** (1940-2020)

Edward William Cleary, 80, of Nelsonville, died on April 4 at Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation in Holmes.

Born on Feb. 24, 1940, in Newburgh, he was the son of Edward and Sadie (Warren) Cleary.

Ed was the owner and operator of Ed's Variety Store in Cold Spring and served as the mayor of Nelsonville from 1985 to 1999. He was a life member and past president of Nelsonville Fire Department and president of the McKeel's Corners Chapel Association. He attended the Cold Spring Baptist Church (later The Church on the Hill). Ed was an aging service aide for the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources for 13 years until his retirement in 2020.

He is survived by his son, Jeffrey Cleary



(Michelle) of Waterford; a grandson, Nolan Cleary of Waterford; and a cousin, Chester Warren of Nelsonville.

A memorial service will be held later this year. Memorial donations may be made to the Putnam County Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509-0850, or at spcaputnam.org.

**Donald McNeal** (1957-2020)

Donald C. McNeal, 62, who owned and operated the Beacon Barkery in Beacon, died on March 17 at his home in Hopewell Junction.

Donald was born in the Bronx on Aug. 26, 1957. On Aug. 21, 1982, he married Arlene Golpe at SS Philips and James Church in the Bronx.

He was an avid animal lover who bought the Beacon Barkery from Libby Faison and Nanci Pate in 2016. His son, Jonathan McNeal, an employee at the shop, which specializes in natural pet foods and treats, told him it was on the market.

"We always liked the store," McNeal told *A Little Beacon Blog* in 2016. "After Jon told my wife and I that it was for sale, my wife kept at me. 'When we going to buy the Barkery?'" In 2017, Don opened a second store, the New Windsor Barkery.

In addition to operating the stores, Don enjoyed playing the drums. He also had worked as an exterminator for Orkin/Craig Thomas Pest Control.

Besides his wife, he survived by his sons, Donald C. McNeal III (Julie) of Wappingers Falls and Jonathan McNeal of Hopewell Junction.

*Information provided by local funeral homes. For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obit.*



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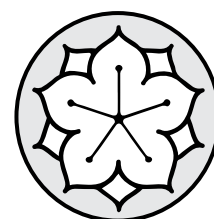
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Radius neighbor

5. Letterman's network

8. Atlantic food fish

12. Public disturbance

13. Have a bug

14. Dumbo's "wings"

15. Pace

16. Also

17. Greek vowels

18. Proofreader's finds

20. Lava rock

22. Army rank (Abbr.)

23. Cul-de- —

24. Make fun of

27. Small caterpillar

32. Literary collection

33. Actress Vardalos

34. Cattle call

35. Braised beef

38. Help in crime

39. Swiss river

40. Spring mo.

42. Walk quietly

45. Lengthy list

49. Defeat decisively

50. Bashful

52. Pelvic bones

53. "— do for now"

54. Not neg.

55. Punch

56. Partner

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

57. Nevertheless

58. Golf gadgets

**DOWN**

1. Incite

2. Taleteller

3. Bleak, in Hollywood

4. Assault

5. California island

6. Resume

7. Unkempt one

8. Playground favorite

9. Subterranean passage

10. Caspian feeder

11. "Hey, you!"

19. Gift-tag word

21. Baseball bat wood

24. Treasure hunter's aid

25. Yoko of music

26. Grenade hurler

28. Serbian city

29. Stimulus of a kind

30. Fish eggs

31. Witticism

36. Baby' toy

37. Acapulco gold

38. Sculptor, e.g.

41. "Life of —" (2012 movie)

42. Decorate

43. Tittle

44. Catch sight of

46. Lotion additive

47. Pleasing

48. Tibetan herd

51. Weeding tool

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

**CLUES**

1 real estate planner (9)

2 2009 Oscar winner Kate (7)

3 delicious (11)

4 dangerous (7)

5 a baseball game has nine (7)

6 expensive-looking (5)

7 it has a straining job (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for April 3 Puzzles

M	I	S	C		U	R	L		O	M	E	N	
E	V	I	L		Z	O	O		N	A	P	E	
M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E		A	G	E	S	
E	N	N	U	I				B	R	I	N	E	S
				S	P	A	Y		O	R	E		
D	A	M	E		P	E	S	T		T	E	D	
A	L	A			I	S	A	A	C		I	R	E
M	P	G			D	E	S	K		S	C	A	N
			N	E	E		T	I	M	E			
A	G	O	R	A	S				A	R	O	S	E
T	A	L	E			M	A	G	R	I	T	T	E
O	T	I	C			O	N	E		E	T	A	L
P	E	A	T			G	Y	M		S	O	Y	S

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

1. MOUNTAINOUS, 2. TICKETS, 3. PLUMBERS, 4. MODELS, 5. SANDALS, 6. PLANTED, 7. CAMERAS

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

## SPORTS



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### The Seniors: Girls' Lacrosse

By Skip Pearlman

While sports, and just about everything else, take a back seat to health during the COVID-19 crisis, area high school athletes — specifically the seniors — had high hopes for, and had long anticipated, the spring of 2020.

This week, *The Current* spoke with seniors from the Beacon High School girls' lacrosse team, along with Coach Brian Lange.

"We're still very hopeful that we will have some sort of season, whatever that may look like," Lange said. "We understand that in the larger scope of things, it's only a season, but it was their season. And the feelings of that being taken from them are valid. Many of these girls are multi-sport athletes, but this was their last season of their final year. Teams become families. I hope they get the chance to put it all on the field."

Lange said there were — and are — many hopes for the spring season, from individuals who have worked for years to reach this point, to the addition of a junior varsity team.

"This is the first season in program history that we would have had varsity, JV and modified teams," the coach said. "These girls have worked hard and fought against the odds for years. Many of them spent their first years of high school lacrosse as practice players, or small role players. They put in the time and effort over the last four years. They worked hard in the offseason, and there was a feeling in the air that this was our year."

"We had no seniors last season. We were a young team. This year, we have nine seniors, and most of them have been on the team since they were freshman. They deserve this opportunity to show the section all of their hard work."

While Lange and his senior players still hold out hope that part of the season will be played, optimism is fading. Section 1 and state officials said they will reassess the shutdown at the end of April.

**Tessa Nilsen**, a midfielder who last season was named to the All-Section team, said she had been looking forward to her senior season "since the day of my first practice on the team as a freshman. I started playing lacrosse in seventh grade and I immediately fell in love with the sport."

"I didn't want to believe that I played my last high school varsity lacrosse game last year without even knowing it," Nilsen said. "I can only describe the feeling as pure heartbreak."

**Olivia Lynch** also began playing the sport in the seventh grade and said she had looked



Tessa Nilsen scored four times against Sleepy Hollow.



Grace Affeldt (20) in a game last season against Sleepy Hollow. File photos by S. Pearlman

forward to this season "since we held Senior Night my freshman year. I would love to be practicing and playing. Winning some games would be nice, too, but as of right now, playing with my teammates is all I could ask for."

**Grace Affeldt**, a midfielder, said she was "completely devastated because my school and sports teams mean absolutely everything to me. Thinking about the possibility that I can't experience them for the last time ever makes me tear up every time."

**Skyler Kurtz**, the team's goalie, who hopes to play lacrosse next year for Manhattanville College, said she was especially

disappointed because, "after years of being a 'young' team, it was supposed to be our time to dominate" with nine seniors.

**Lila Young**, a defender, said it is hard to accept what might not be after she watched older teammates in past years "have their Senior Night, prom, graduation and class trips."

"It saddens me to think I was not going to be able to participate in any of it," she said.

"The hardest part is not being able to be with my 'lax' family," said midfielder **Nayelie Vasquez**. "We're this giant, goofy puzzle of a family, and we miss playing as the team we are."

### Lost Season

This is the second in a series of articles in which *The Current* will profile senior athletes at Haldane and Beacon high schools who are likely to miss their spring seasons.



Goalie Skyler Kurtz: "It was supposed to be our time."

Attacker **Victoria Albra** agreed: "The hardest part of this situation is realizing that I might never have the chance to play lacrosse again," she said. "It was all taken away very quickly."

Like many people during this stay-at-home time, the seniors said they have learned to appreciate things they previously took for granted.

"Lacrosse has taught me that dedication can get you very far," said midfielder **Siara Hernandez**. "When I first started playing, I didn't know how to throw or catch. I was shy. Throughout my years of playing, my sticks skills grew, my confidence grew. It gave me a sense of responsibility."

"I'm starting to realize how much I was taking for granted," added attacker **Samantha McDowell**. "I miss the practices with friends, the bus rides, us laughing together. And the hardest part is we can't do anything about it, and it's our last season. This is it for us."

Kurtz added that she's learned that "not everything is guaranteed. Things happen, so it's how you react and adapt that matters. Ever since I was a kid, 'Always look on the bright side of life' has been a motto of mine. A major part of my senior year has been stripped away, but it's for the greater good. We're all living through a huge part of history right now, and our lives will resume."