

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Attic Treasures  
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MAY 8, 2020

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**BIG THANKS** — In a COVID-19 newsletter he sends each weekday by email, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on May 1 named this drone shot by Scott Snell of Beacon as his “photo of the day.” It shows a message of gratitude on the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie to front-line workers in the pandemic.

## Pomp and Circumstances

*With schools shuttered, districts forced to pivot*

By Jeff Simms

After Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s announcement on May 1 that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the academic year, teachers and administrators in the Highlands face a new set of challenges.

Amid the COVID-19 shutdown, they’ve already been asked to keep students engaged over the internet. Now they must navigate year-end traditions — prom, awards ceremonies and, most notably, graduation — under social-distancing regulations.

“There isn’t a playbook for this,” said Elisa Soto, the principal of Beacon High School.

Statewide, the shutdown affects 4.2 million students at 700 school districts, along with 1,800 private schools and nearly 200 colleges.

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## State: Hudson Valley Not Ready

*Businesses worry about protecting customers*

By Leonard Sparks

The seven-county Hudson Valley region that includes Dutchess and Putnam has not met the criteria to begin a phased-in loosening of restrictions put in place in March to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Mid-Hudson, which has 2.3 million people, falls short on three of seven benchmarks: (1) sustained decreases in hospital deaths; (2) fewer than two new hospitalizations a day per 100,000 residents; and (3) a minimum of 30 people per 100,000 to trace those who come into contact with people confirmed positive.

Besides Dutchess and Putnam, the region consists of Westchester County, which has the most COVID-19 cases outside of New York City and Long Island; Orange and Rockland counties, which also have high numbers of cases; and Sullivan and Ulster. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Dutchess County Marc Molinaro and state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the

Highlands, have argued that the two counties should be considered “upstate” and not grouped with their neighbors.

New York, where infections and deaths are still high but declining, is one of about 30 states that have announced plans to begin removing restrictions on businesses. The shutdown, now in its eighth week, has led to widespread layoffs and severe revenue shortfalls for states, counties and local municipalities.

Despite the economic pressures, national polls have found a significant majority of Americans prioritize public health, and projections predict that infections and deaths will rise when people begin returning to workplaces, stores and restaurants in large numbers.

“There’s a cost of staying closed; there’s also a cost of reopening quickly,” Cuomo said during his weekday briefing on Tuesday (May 5). “That is the hard truth that we are all dealing with.”

He added: “Our reopening plan doesn’t have a tradeoff; our reopening plan says you monitor the data. If it goes up, you have a circuit breaker. You stop; you close

(Continued on Page 9)

## Enough Police in Cold Spring?

*Putnam legislator questions response to visitors*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, this week questioned whether Cold Spring has sufficient law enforcement to handle the crowds descending on the village despite social-distancing regulations amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Montgomery, the panel’s sole Democrat, raised the issue on Tuesday (May 5) at the Legislature’s monthly meeting, conducted via audio connection.

Even with the closing of nearby state park trails, the visitors “just keep coming,” she said. “Our Main Street was overrun” over the May 2-3 weekend, with many tourists failing to maintain a 6-foot distance, she said. She predicted the crowds would only grow.

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5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: RONZELL SMITH

By Brian PJ Cronin

Ronzell Smith, a chef at Dogwood in Beacon, has been spotted recently roller skating on Main Street in a giant-panda suit.

How long have you been dressing as a giant panda?

The panda is a variation of one of my many costumes. I dress up three or four times a week in a different “cosplay” [costume play] that I design myself. I also sell my designs at The Underground Beacon.

Why dress up?

I was part of the theater kids at Beacon High School and built a lot of props. I always liked to sew and make stuff with my hands; Halloween was always my favorite holiday. After I joined the military, I was stationed in North Carolina, and a friend said, “Hey, I’m going to a sci-fi convention,” and I thought “Cool, I love sci-fi.” I put on an X-Men T-shirt. We get there and there’s all these people dressed as their favorite characters, and I was like, “What the hell is this?” I had heard of cosplay, but I didn’t realize it was a real thing. Once I saw it, I thought, “Well, that’s my life now.”



What gave you the idea to roller skate on Main Street?

I wanted to get a little exercise, and I figured a good way to sweat would be to get in that super-hot panda suit. I also have a teddy bear suit. On Monday [May 4], I

dressed as Kylo Ren from *Star Wars*. Yesterday I was Raiden from *Mortal Kombat*. I was Elmo a few days ago. I put a little hat on him and some hip-hop clothes. I like to do my own version of characters, like when I dress as Wolverine, because I’m black, he’s Wolverine Black. It gives me a chance to express myself while we’re locked away.

How do people react?

People love the fluffy, happy costumes, but I have one costume that’s a bodysuit that shows the muscular system, and people aren’t so sure about that one. It’s nice to see the joy in everyone’s face when I dress as the bear. You can’t get that kind of love anywhere. People are so happy to see you. But that thing will suffocate you if you’re not careful. It’s really hot.

Where else do you go in costume?

I attend Hudson Valley Comic Con and New York Comic Con. I’m usually at The Underground Beacon once or twice a week. I’ll do karaoke at Quinn’s in a bear costume as Beary White and sing Barry White songs. Sometimes I go to work in a costume, although obviously I can’t wear the bear suit in the kitchen. Anything that’s flammable and bulky is out.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s your middle name – and are you fond of it?

I love and am proud of my three middle names: Anne Marie Aresdotter.



~ Bo Corre, Cold Spring

John. I love it because it’s my dad’s and my youngest son’s name.



~ Derek Kisslinger, Philipstown

Larson, my grandmother’s maiden name. People confuse it with larceny and arson!



~ Cadah Goulet, Cold Spring

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Hustis Case Delayed a Fifth Time

*Rescheduled for June 3*

The prosecution of Charles E. “Chuck” Hustis III, who was arrested by the FBI in Cold Spring on Dec. 16 and accused of soliciting a minor for sex, has been delayed a fifth time, until June 3.

According to documents filed in federal court on May 6, Benjamin Gold, who represents the former Cold Spring village trustee and mayoral candidate, is talking with federal prosecutors about “possible disposition of this case without trial.”

The judge released Hustis, 36, in December on \$150,000 bond but placed him under home detention with a monitoring device.

## Molinaro: Dutchess Finances Strong

*Says surplus will be essential to ‘restart’*

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro on May 4 said that the county ended 2019 with a surplus behind a 4.6 percent increase in sales tax revenue.

The Annual Financial Report that the county submitted to the state showed 2019 revenues of \$472.6 million, while expenses were \$471.2 million, for a surplus of \$1.4 million. Revenues included a \$9.1 million increase in sales tax revenue. State aid also rose by \$8.7 million, which included a one-time increase in the county’s foster care block grant.

Rising expenses included \$1.7 million in sales tax revenue shared with municipalities; \$1.8 million in funding for Dutchess Community College; \$2.7 million increase for state-mandated preschool special education; \$7.6 million for union contract settlements, positions, benefits and debt service; and \$3 million for mandated family assistance and safety net costs.

The report can be downloaded at [bit.ly/dutchess-report](http://bit.ly/dutchess-report).

Molinaro said that in response to COVID-19, Dutchess has suspended hiring for open positions, postponed non-essential travel and training and delayed all spending deemed “non-essential.” He said the county is keeping an eye on what the state may be able to provide in aid because it accounts for 16 percent of the 2020-21 Dutchess budget.

He said the county is lobbying the federal government to provide support for counties with fewer than 500,000 residents and has formed a fiscal/financial team to focus on local economic impacts.

## Beacon Receives Federal Grant

*Will defray cost of new water tank*

Beacon on May 1 announced it had received a federal grant that covers more

than half of the cost of a new water tank.

The \$856,467 grant, from an Environmental Protection Agency program designed to assist communities with their public water utilities, will pay for 58 percent of the \$1.48 million cost of replacing the Fairview Water Tank. The tank, which holds 1 million gallons and was built in the early 1980s, will be replaced by a new tank that can hold up to 1.5 million gallons.

The city said it has eight other grant applications underway for \$692,000 in funds for projects such as youth development, senior support, pollution prevention and firehouse enhancements.

## State Ends STAR for Some

*Those behind on tax payments won't get benefit*

The State of New York on April 1 changed the Basic STAR program, which provides homeowners with a break on their school taxes, so that anyone who is a year or more behind on payments will not receive the credit until they are paid up.

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell voiced her opposition to the change in a statement on April 30, saying “this is not a time to penalize homeowners who have fallen behind in their property tax payments.” She added: “These kind of budget shenanigans may make state finances look better, but they amount to nothing more than hitting people when they are down.”

The state Department of Taxation and Finance plans this month to notify those who will lose their Basic STAR credit. The Enhanced STAR program, which is for seniors, was not affected. Property owners who have an adjusted gross annual income of more than \$500,000 are not eligible for the credit.

## Putnam Names Youth Leaders

*County recognizes Philipstown students*

Four Philipstown residents were among 15 students honored last month by the Putnam County Youth Board and Youth Bureau for their volunteer work.

Gaetano Cervone and Adam Sharifi, Garrison residents who attend O’Neill High School in Highland Falls, Charlotte Dinitz of Garrison, who attends the Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock, and Alanna Moskowitz of Cold Spring, a student at Haldane High School, were each recognized with a Youth Award.

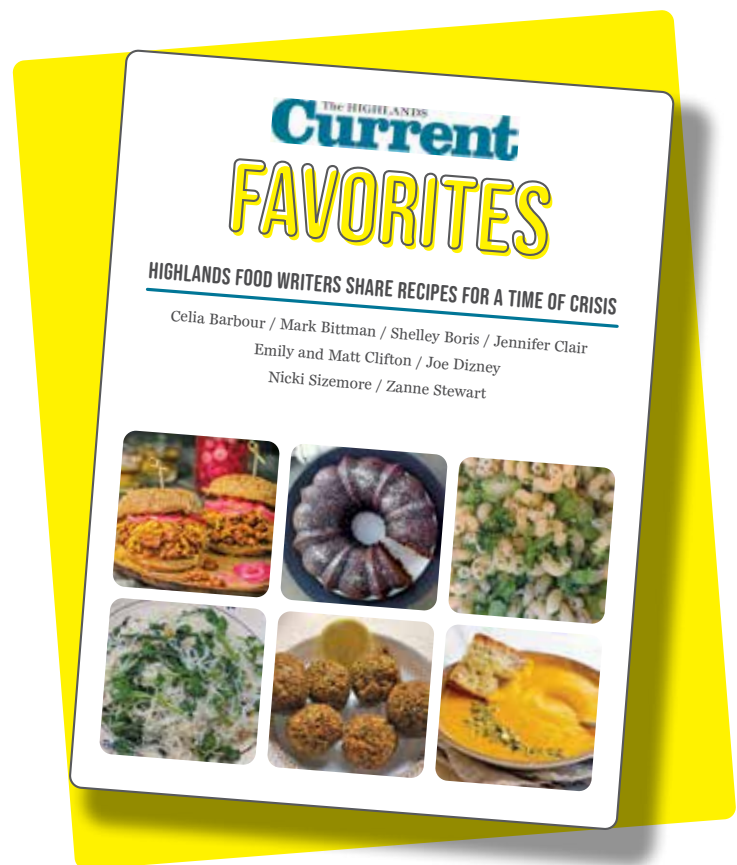
Nicole Kordoniaz and Spencer Smith from Putnam Valley High School, along with six students from Mahopac and three from Carmel, were also recognized by the program, which is in its 35th year. A dinner planned to honor the recipients was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# The HIGHLANDS Current

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

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## Tell us what you think

**T**he Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto: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

### Opening up

Slow it down, folks ("Dutchess, Putnam: Keep Us Out of It," May 1). Southern Dutchess has the next-highest number of positive cases after the city and town of Poughkeepsie. Why is the county number of reported deaths lower than the state's for Dutchess? Is the county not counting the deaths in prisons and nursing homes? Sen. Sue Serino, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell need to back off [with the push to reopen].

Ginny Buechele, *via Facebook*

The rule of thumb I like is: When hospitals start letting visitors in, I'll think about leaving the curbside.

Sara Gilbert, *via Facebook*

If it is OK for grocery and liquor stores to be open with safety guidelines, it should be the same for other businesses. Unfortunately, many businesses will not be able to hire everyone back due to the restrictions or be profitable enough to stay in business. A lot of information has become available since the beginning of this virus and I feel it is more about control than safety now.

Pamella Morales, *via Facebook*

Are flu deaths, dead-on-arrivals and

other deaths being counted in COVID-19 numbers? I think yes. Open it up and let us back to work.

Lynn French, *via Facebook*

We've barely tested in Putnam. Our residents have resorted to seeking tests in neighboring counties. It takes weeks to get tests back when people go to sites out of county. We have no idea how widespread the virus is in Putnam. Odell, as ever she does, will lead us down a ruinous path.

Kathleen Foley, *via Facebook*

I'm very happy Putnam has low numbers but we didn't do the whole lot of testing. And I'm pretty sure bringing crowds from New York City will bring COVID-19 to Cold Spring.

Not that there will be ships descending on Main Street anytime soon, but there will be increased traffic once the trails and businesses open. What infuriates me most is the fact that our household is running out of sanitizers and masks. That should be an absolute must for everyone, should we open for business. And yet, I can't get that stuff anywhere. And if I can't, I won't patronize any businesses until there's a vaccine. We have some masks from a friend in Hong Kong where everyone wears them every day. But the richest economy in the world

## Corrections

In our April 24 and May 1 issues, we reported that a member of the Beacon High School tennis team is the 2020 valedictorian at Beacon High School but identified the wrong player. In fact, the valedictorian is Patrick Lewis. Our apologies to Patrick. As we reported, Eric Ostrow, who is also on the tennis team, is the salutatorian.

In the May 1 issue, in a profile of talent manager Bernard Bunye, we identified a film by director Tom Gilroy as *Come Forward*. In fact, it is *Spring Forward*.

cannot provide stupid Purell? That's ridiculous, no? Beam me up, Scotty.

By the way, I witnessed at least three construction/landscaping companies working in Cold Spring this past week. There were several workers on each site and not one of them wore masks or even tried to move away when I was passing.

Maria Szulc, *Cold Spring*

Our experience in Greene County is that folks who travel to our amenities from harder-hit areas are more than willing to drive two hours to clean the shelves of toilet paper; bad at practicing the basic social-distancing and other health-related mandates; make most purchases from box stores, which does little to improve our local economy; and are unsettling to locals. All-in-all, a pretty negative experience. I would recommend not creating an attractive nuisance by offering services worth driving for.

Lea Boyer, *via Facebook*

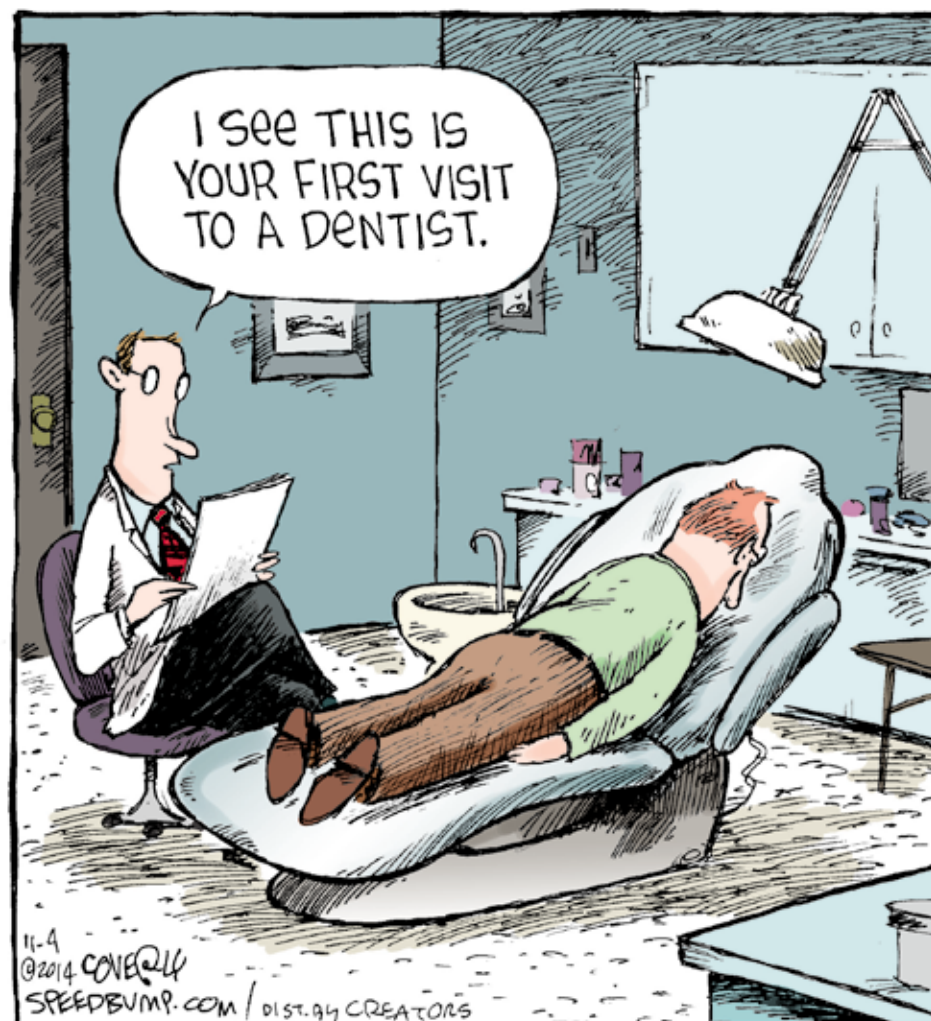
We are a short train ride away from harder-hit areas and we have had virtually no testing. The ignorance of these legislators is stunning. If MaryEllen Odell loves her seniors so much, she should probably try not to kill them.

Andrea Hudson, *via Facebook*

Everyone wants to get our businesses reopened as soon as possible. But the members of the Putnam County Business Council, with their businesses and livelihoods at stake, must surely want to see their businesses open to stay open, not to be closed down again in a couple of weeks when the infection rate spikes.

The way we do that is by being prepared,

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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with 30 percent vacancy of hospital and ICU beds, infection rate below 1.0 (or perhaps 1.1), hospitalization rates declining for 14 days, and testing, tracing, isolation and personal protective equipment stockpiles in place.

Are our elected leaders making a serious proposal to change this, or are they just pandering to business leaders? They claim to be pushing to keep Putnam and Dutchess out of the group of “downstate” counties. Will there be a new Putnam-Dutchess region, with our taxpayers burdened with funding a monitoring center and a corps of qualified testers and trackers?

Instead of grandstanding, our elected officials should try to accomplish something. For example, they could try monitoring and publicizing our infection rate, hospital vacancies and trends in hospitalization, the numbers that will actually be used to decide when we can return to “normal.”

Dwight Arthur, *Mahopac*

Has anyone noticed that the statistics posted by the Putnam County Department of Health show a disturbing incidence of COVID-19 among middle-aged and presumably male residents and not as many as would be expected in the senior category?

This fact has been consistent since the agency deigned to publish data in late March and yet there has been no explanation from the health commissioner, Dr. Michael Nesheiwat. I have filed two Freedom of Information Law requests. Should underlying health factors be associated with this swelling of numbers, it is incumbent upon him to divulge them to the general public so that it will be prompted to take appropriate measures.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

If half of the COVID-19 deaths were in Montana, would they have locked down New York State? Obviously, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for a state as large and diverse as ours.

The truth is that Putnam and Dutchess are not even in the same universe as downstate, which is New York City, Westchester, Rockland and Nassau, which collectively have a population of more than 12 million people. If you separate the number of down-

### Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of May 5, 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.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	63.4	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	60.9	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	59.5	66.2	67	64
National	57.3	66.5	67	65
Nelsonville	57.1	66.0	-	-
Beacon	56.8	67.2	65	61
18th District	56.8	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	55.7	65.7	68	64
New York State	51.6	64.6	67	62
New York City	46.1	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	33.5	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

state COVID-19 fatalities from the rest of the U.S., we would not even be in the top 10.

Be that as it may, our Main Street businesses in Cold Spring and Beacon have been knocked out by the crisis, such that many of us will not be reopening when and if we are allowed to. What sense does it make to allow people to shop in Walmart, ShopRite, Foodtown, CVS and other chain stores while the mom-and-pop boutiques have to keep their doors shut? Why is it OK to buy wine, booze and lottery tickets but not clothes or handbags or jewelry? This has gotten too absurd.

Worst of all is the fact that we have been put under virtual house arrest with no end in sight. We have done everything that was asked of us, including this horrible lockdown, so that we would not overwhelm our hospitals. We have lost our most basic liberties, freedom and civil rights based on “scientific” models that have proved to be wrong again and again.

While I am glad that Odell, Serino, Molinaro and the rest of them are finally starting to get a grip, where were they when the state Legislature gave Gov. Andrew Cuomo virtually unlimited power in March? It is time to reopen New York and let the chips fall where they may. The cure is so much worse than the disease ever was.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

While it might seem trivial, the guidelines regarding the playing of golf in New York are

an aspect to ponder. At county-owned golf courses, such as in Putnam County, players can use a cart as long as they don’t have passengers. At private courses, such as The Garrison, players must walk.

In my view, this is discriminatory, especially for seniors, many of whom cannot walk a course, particularly in the rolling hills of Putnam. What is the rationale for this duality? To me, it smacks of the “let the governors” decide. Or perhaps it is to fill the coffers of the counties? Might the restaurant at the county-owned Tilly Foster Farm reopen before privately owned restaurants? I have made numerous inquiries to the folks supposedly in charge in Albany and get confused and stumbling responses.

Phil Bayer, *Carmel*

According to state guidelines, courses can be open but carts are only allowed if a golfer is disabled. However, courses owned by municipalities and counties are exempt from the rule.

### School budgets

Taxpayers should get a property-tax refund; the schools have been closed for months (“Beacon School Budget Still Uncertain,” April 24).

John Ruseskas, *via Facebook*

Your children are being taught by a corps of dedicated teachers who are juggling their teaching work from home and their

own kids, just like most Beacon families. Be appreciative and supportive.

Paul Lenci, *via Facebook*

I hope everyone will be extra generous with their school taxes this year — the teachers are doing an amazing job in a tough situation, and this has made urgently clear we need an educated populace for the future.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

### Health act

COVID-19 and the economic crisis have thrown the dysfunctionality and injustice of our fragmented health care system into stark relief.

Hospitals are struggling to supply front-line workers with protective equipment; patients lay awake in intensive-care units wondering whether the treatment they are receiving will bankrupt them; structural inequalities amplify, ravaging low-income communities and communities of color; and hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are losing their jobs and insurance just when universal coverage is most needed as a moral right and as a matter of public health.

Even before the crisis, millions of New Yorkers were uninsured or underinsured, rural and public hospitals were struggling to survive, and local governments were being crushed under the weight of rising health care costs.

We can and must do better.

The New York Health Act is a state-level, single-payer health care bill that would guarantee comprehensive health care to every New Yorker, regardless of age, income or employment, with no premiums, copays or deductibles — and with no networks, so everyone has their choice of doctor and hospital.

The program would be paid for progressively, with the vast majority of New Yorkers paying less than they do now. In fact, multiple studies have shown that the bill would save the state billions of dollars each year. It would also save on property taxes — currently, 22 percent in Putnam and 38 percent in Dutchess County go toward Medicaid.

The act has already passed the Assembly four times and is one vote shy of majority support in the Senate. New York could pass the bill this year if we put enough pres-

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email  
KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM  
to request login information before 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2020.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 11th, 2020 virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email  
KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM  
to request login information before 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2020.





## COPING WITH STRESS

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

We're in a situation that demands that we accept a number of unpleasant realities. We can't go where we like, shop, drink or especially sing with whom we like. There is potential danger for our own health and the danger that we will harm others through contagion if we're sick.

We have to accept the restrictions on our behavior and actively adapt to them.

Psychologist Marsha Linehan advises taking deliberate steps to acceptance:

- ◆ Observe that you are resisting reality ("This whole pandemic thing just can't be happening").
- ◆ Remind yourself how things came to be this way ("This coronavirus is very contagious in a globally connected population, etc.")
- ◆ Practice accepting with the whole self: mind, body, spirit. Act as if you accept even if you don't yet.
- ◆ Cope in advance with what may seem at present to be unacceptable.
- ◆ Allow yourself to feel the emotions result from acceptance mentally and physically. Use the mindfulness and relaxation skills that work for you, and acknowledge that living life involves pain.
- ◆ Stay active and maintain a focus on the local, present moment. Set tasks for yourself that are specific, achievable and realistic and in your control. And do one thing at a time.

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](mailto:info@mckeetherapy.com). For more information, visit [mckeetherapy.com](http://mckeetherapy.com).

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### LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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sure on our elected leaders to summon the political courage to fix this broken system.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*

#### Motorcycle noise

As the warm weather finally arrives, it brings with it noise pollution from the deluge of wannabe *Wild Bunch* members descending on the town and village.

I have to ask why two-wheeled motor vehicles are not held to the same standards as four-wheeled and trucks? If my car or pickup made the kind of noise most of these motorcycles make, I would have a stack of summonses and never pass annual inspection.

It is not only noise. I have observed bikers casually exceed the speed limit countless times on Peekskill Road and even on Main Street in front of the police station.

I was a U.S. Air Force pilot, and most of us retired with a 30 percent hearing loss from engine noise during ground ops. Motorcycles make much more noise than an aircraft's engines. I am not in favor of infringing on the rights of motorcycle owners and operators. I just don't want them infringing on my right, or that of others, to a little peace and quiet. A few well-placed signs and a few well-placed summonses might work wonders to limit this annoyance.

Steven Sohn, *Cold Spring*

#### Thanks to workers

I would like to take this small space to give

huge thanks to all the Foodtown employees. In such a stressful environment during the COVID-19 shutdown, they have maintained a sense of calm and courtesy. It can't be easy wearing a mask and gloves at work every day and dealing with the public for long shifts.

Thank you for being there for our community. My family and many families we know are grateful.

Bill Coelius, *Cold Spring*

#### Staying home

The chart in the May 1 issue showing movement tracked by cell phones wasn't clear ("Moving Around"). Did phones not move more than 330 feet from some point, or 330 feet during the day? Despite being home all day, I am doing so much work around the house and garden, and going up and down stairs, that Google Fit is showing that I do at least 5,000 steps. Today, for example, it says I have walked 1.36 miles.

Kim Connor, *via Facebook*

*The editor responds: The data measured whether a person moved more than 330 feet in any direction. Cuebiq also calculated the percentage of people who moved less than a mile, less than 10 miles and more than 10 miles, but that seemed like apples and oranges to compare New York City with the Highlands, since here we must usually drive more than a mile to get groceries and other essentials. A note: We neglected to include the legend on the map. The darker the purple, the more people were staying put.*



## Election Update

Because of the COVID-19 shutdown, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has issued several orders delaying elections.

#### School Trustee and Budget

MAY 19 → JUNE 1 → JUNE 9

School votes will be conducted exclusively by absentee ballots mailed to each registered voter. Nominating petitions are no longer required for trustee candidates to appear on the ballot, but they must inform the district clerk by 5 p.m. on May 11.

#### Beacon

The seats held by Anthony White, Kristan Flynn and Craig Wolf will be on the ballot. Email District Clerk Kelly Pologe at [pologe.k@beaconk12.org](mailto:pologe.k@beaconk12.org). For budget details, see [bit.ly/bcsd-budget](http://bit.ly/bcsd-budget).

#### Garrison

The seats held by Courtney McCarthy, Matthew Speiser and Jocelyn Apicello are open. Email District Clerk Dusti Callo at [dcallo@gufs.org](mailto:dcallo@gufs.org). For budget details, see [bit.ly/gufs-budget](http://bit.ly/gufs-budget).

#### Haldane

One seat, held by Peggy Clements, is open. Email District Clerk Catherine Platt at [cplatt@haldaneschool.org](mailto:cplatt@haldaneschool.org). For budget details, see [bit.ly/haldane-budget](http://bit.ly/haldane-budget).

#### Library Trustee and Budget

APRIL 30 → JUNE 1 → JUNE 9

The Howland Public Library district vote will be included on absentee ballots distributed by the Beacon school district. There are five seats open. A self-nomination form and budget information are located at [beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org) under the About tab. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on May 11.

#### Village of Nelsonville

MARCH 18 → APRIL 28 → JUNE 1 → JUNE 23 → SEPT. 15

Mayor Michael Bowman, trustees Dave Moroney and Chris Winward, and Justice Court Judge Dennis Zenz are each running unopposed.

#### Primary elections

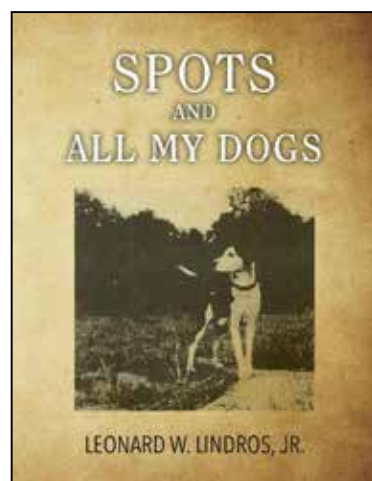
APRIL 28 → JUNE 23

The polls will be open, although the state Board of Elections will mail an absentee ballot application to every registered voter. (Check the box for "temporary illness" if you are voting absentee because of concerns about COVID-19.) Early, in-person voting is scheduled for June 13 to 21.

Democrats on the state election commission canceled the presidential primary, but on May 5 a judge ordered the vote reinstated following a challenge by candidate Andrew Yang.

There will be no local primaries in Philipstown. In Beacon, Green and Independence Party voters will decide between Peter Forman and Jessica Segal for those lines for Dutchess County judge, and Serve America Movement party members will select Eric Carter or Peter Bradley for SAM's state committee line.

## SPOTS AND ALL MY DOGS



Leonard Lindros

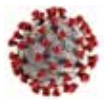


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## Coronavirus Update

By Chip Rowe

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (May 7), 1,066 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County; 3,233 in Dutchess; 30,708 in Westchester; 12,280 in Rockland; 1,416 in Ulster; and 9,328 in Orange. Statewide, there were 327,469 positives, including 180,216 in New York City.

■ Statewide, 20,828 people had died as of May 7, including 55 residents of Putnam County and 96 from Dutchess.

■ Dashboards released by Dutchess and Putnam showed that, as of May 7, Beacon had 137 confirmed cases and Philipstown had 107.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday (May 7) announced that a moratorium on COVID-related residential or commercial evictions would be extended 60 days, until Aug. 20. The governor also announced the state is banning late payments or fees for missed rent payments and allowing renters facing financial hardship to use their security deposit as payment and repay it over time.

■ Five of the state's 15 prison inmate deaths from COVID-19 have occurred at Fishkill Correctional Facility, which has the most cases and deaths of any prison as of May 6, according to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. In all, 85 inmates at Fishkill have tested positive for the coronavirus, up from 61 cases and one death as of April 22. Sing Sing has had the next-highest total of cases with 51 and deaths with 4. The Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women in Westchester County has had 39 cases and one death. Advocates and relatives of inmates announced a two-day vigil at the prison cemetery for May 7 and 8 to demand that prisoners vulnerable to COVID-19 be released.

■ Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, in a town hall on Facebook on May 6, discussed a goal of opening summer camps by July 1, based on state guidance and approval. He said the county Department of Behavioral & Community Health is developing guidance to assist camps in developing health and safety plans, including the measures they will take to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 and how they will respond to any confirmed cases. Camps will be required to submit these plans to the county with their permit applications, he said.

■ The state Department of Health this week began reporting "presumed" COVID-19 deaths, in addition to confirmed ones, at nursing homes. Through May 3, Dutchess had 19 confirmed nursing home deaths and nine presumed ones. The state reported nine confirmed fatalities and one presumed death at Ferncliff Nursing Home in Rhinebeck and five confirmed fatalities at Wingate at Beacon. Eight presumed deaths were reported at Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing at Pawling. Data for Putnam County showed 13 confirmed deaths at the Putnam Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Holmes



**FROM THE LAB** — The science department at Haldane High School donated 26 pairs of protective eyewear to Miller Francis (far left), a 2012 Haldane grad, and her team of intensive-care nurses at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. The donation also included cloth masks made by Maria Finucane of Cold Spring.

Photo provided

and three at Putnam Ridge in Brewster.

■ Rite Aid said it would offer free COVID-19 testing through its drive-thru windows for adults with or without symptoms beginning Monday (May 11), including its location at 709 Main St. in Poughkeepsie. An online appointment is required. Rite Aid said it has the capacity to conduct up to 10,000 tests daily across its New York locations. See [riteaid.com](http://riteaid.com).

■ Dutchess County said that, as of today (May 8), its dashboard at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](http://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) will include data, such as deaths, obtained from the state health department. Hospitals and nursing homes are not required to report to local health departments, and state data also includes presumed positive cases in its fatality numbers. "There is an enormous volume of data being generated daily, much of which local health departments do not have direct access to," explained Dr. Anil Vaidian, commissioner of the county Department of Behavioral & Community Health. "The state has been impressive, providing this aggregate data, by county, on a daily basis for the public, as this kind of data is generally only reported on an annual basis. However, it will take some time, likely several months, before all of the needed specific data is reported down to the local health departments."

■ On April 29, Cuomo said elective outpatient treatments could resume in counties "without significant risk of COVID-19 surge in the near term," including Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster but not Orange, Rockland or Westchester. He said a county must have hospital capacity of more than 25 percent and fewer than 10 new hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients over the past 10 days to qualify.

■ Although closed to the public, the Bosc-

obel historic site in Garrison is offering health care workers and members limited access to its grounds and gardens, if scheduled in advance for one household at a time. If you are a health care worker or member who would like to soak in the view, hike the Woodland Trail and see the gardens' blooms, email Ed Glisson at [eglisson@boscobel.org](mailto:eglisson@boscobel.org).

■ On May 1, Cuomo ordered schools to close for the rest of the academic year and their officials to submit plans for protecting students, faculty and staff when reopening in the fall. (See Page 1.) The New York State Public High School Athletic Association also canceled the spring sports season.

■ About 90 Democratic members of the New York State Assembly, including Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, signed an open letter to members of the state's congressional delegation requesting federal aid for local governments and for the state to offset budget cuts. It noted that Cuomo recently announced a revised budget plan with cuts to Medicaid, education and property-tax relief programs. "I am calling on our federal representatives to stand up for our first responders, medical staff and schools as we get through the worst of this public health crisis," Galef said in a statement.

■ The Cooperative Extension of Putnam County canceled its 4-H fair scheduled for July 24 to 26. The event had been held annually for 48 years. The Dutchess County Fair is scheduled for Aug. 25 to 30.

■ The Philipstown Food Pantry, where organizers say they have seen a 140 percent increase in clients since social distancing began, is in need of donations. Food can be

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**1,066** (+96)

Philipstown **106**, Carmel **396**, Kent **221**, Putnam Valley **149**

Tests administered:

**5,133** (+963)

Percent positive:

**20.8** (-2.5)

Number of deaths:

**55** (+10)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**3,233** (+307)

Beacon **137**, Fishkill **175**, Wappingers Falls **44**, Poughkeepsie **279**

Tests administered:

**17,477** (+2,835)

Percent positive:

**18.5** (-1.7)

Number of deaths:

**96** (+27)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes. Data current as of May 7.

(Continued on Page 8)





**ON THE FRONT LINES** — Rebeca Garcia and Denise Sheeran, nurses with the Putnam County Health Department, take a sample from a resident who came to a drive-thru testing clinic held on April 28 in Brewster.



**DRIVE-THRU TESTING** — Nurses and staff from the Putnam County Health Department held a mobile COVID-19 testing clinic in Brewster on April 28. One hundred and thirty people were tested.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



## Coronavirus Update

*(from Page 7)*

dropped off between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday mornings, or Saturdays between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Do not bring home-made food, food in bulk packaging or expired foods. See [presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html). Soho Salon in Cold Spring also collects goods for the pantry each Monday.

■ The 2020 Memorial Day parade in Cold Spring has been canceled.

■ Cuomo said the state is directing insurers to waive cost-sharing, co-pays and deductibles for mental-health services for front-line workers. The state also partnered with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide 24/7 emotional support for front-line health care workers. Text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741.

■ The Community Resilience Coalition hosted a webinar on April 28 entitled “Children of Putnam and COVID-19,” with panelists who addressed talking to children about

COVID-19; child care, school and summer camp concerns; meeting the need for social services; and handling domestic violence. It was moderated by Jonathan Sury, project director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, and included speakers from the Community Resilience Coalition, Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center, the county departments of social services and health, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES and Camp Herrlich. It can be viewed at [bit.ly/rcrc-cl9webinars](http://bit.ly/rcrc-cl9webinars).

■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced the second round of emergency grants from its Putnam COVID-19 Response Fund. The \$17,400 in grants benefited CAREERS Support Solutions, the Ecological Citizen’s Project, the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Putnam Community Action Partnership and Second Chance Foods. Donate or request funds at [putnamcovidresponse.org](http://putnamcovidresponse.org).

■ With assistance from Scenic Hudson, FeedHV is purchasing milk from Hudson Valley Fresh and milk, yogurt and butter from Ronnybrook Farm Dairy to donate to three food programs for children: The Kingston YMCA Farm Project, Dutchess

Outreach in Poughkeepsie and Friends of Hudson Youth in Hudson. FeedHV, which is a program of the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corp., links donors of prepared but unserved food and fresh produce with nonprofits and food assistance programs. The donation will include more than 12,000 gallon and 1,800 half-gallon containers of milk, 1,250 containers of yogurt and 210 pounds of butter in eight 8-ounce packages. Both dairies are selling their products at cost.

■ Jonathan Jacobson said his state Assembly staff can assist residents of Beacon and Newburgh, by phone or email, who are experiencing delays when applying for state unemployment benefits. Call 845-562-0888 or 845-763-7011, or email [jacobsonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:jacobsonj@nyassembly.gov).

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](http://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at [putnamcountyny.com/health](http://putnamcountyny.com/health). New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at [ny.gov/coronavirus](http://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](http://cdc.gov).

*Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.*

*What do you get when you combine Biology and Landscape Architecture?*



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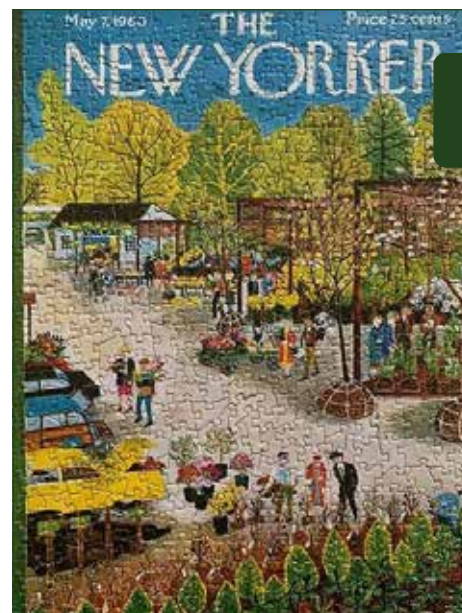
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# Not Ready (from Page 1)

the valve on reopening.”

A revised forecast released May 4 by the Seattle-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation predicts that nearly 135,000 deaths will occur in the U.S. by Aug. 4, including 32,132 in New York state. The forecast, more than double an estimate of just over 60,000 on April 17, reflects “rising mobility in most U.S. states as well as the easing of social distancing measures expected in 31 states by May 11,” it said.

A poll of 1,008 Americans conducted from April 21 to 26 by Marist College for NPR/PBS found that 85 percent of respondents believed opening schools without further testing was unwise, as did 80 percent when asked about opening restaurants for dining and 65 percent when asked about returning to work.

The only significant difference between those who identified with one of the two major political parties was on the latter question: 84 percent of Democrats wanted to continue work-from-home policies versus 51 percent of Republicans.

## Main Street waiting

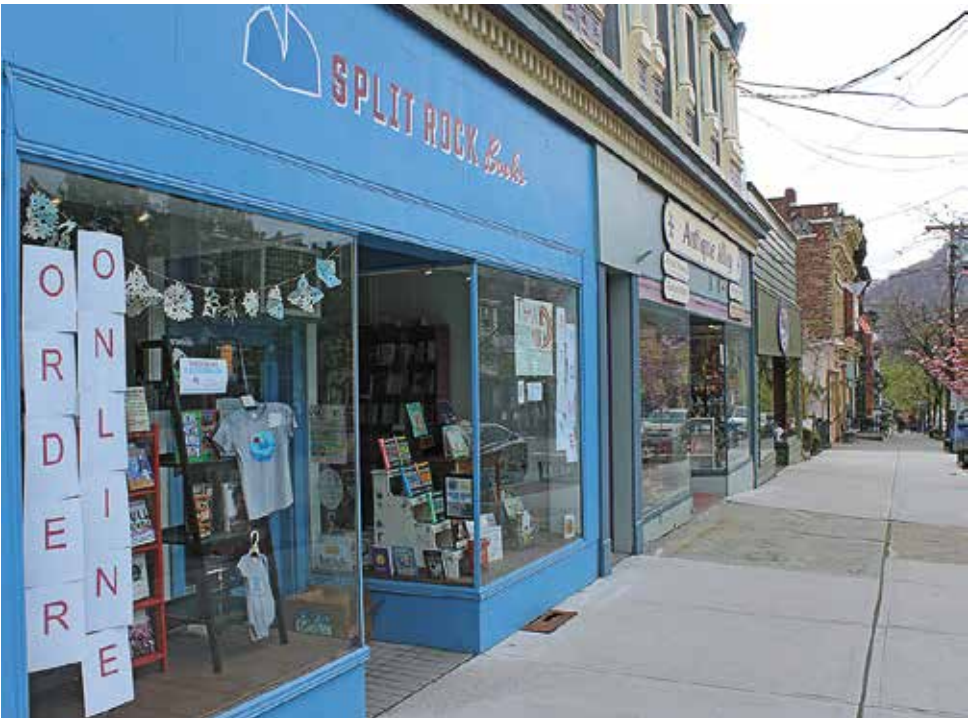
Split Rock Books in Cold Spring is typical of a business operating in the time of crisis. Orders can be placed online or by phone. Books are packaged and left outside the front door with customers’ names. Pickup times are staggered so that customers are not arriving at the same time.

Sales have fallen dramatically but owners Heidi and Michael Bender said they are not planning to allow customers inside their Main Street shop anytime soon.

On Sunday (May 2), the couple used a Facebook post to express sadness over the death of Cold Spring resident Bill Whipp from COVID-19 (see Page 22), as well as anger at the number of people not wearing masks while visiting the village over the weekend.

“We want to be able to pay our bills, but we’re not thinking about profit in that sense right now,” Heidi Bender said. “We’re thinking about our friends and our family and our community.”

In Beacon, Lauren and Todd Decker are also wary of reopening too soon. Their



Retailers such as Split Rock Books on Main Street in Cold Spring would be able to reopen under Phase 2 of the governor's plan. *Photo by L. Sparks*

jewelry business, King + Curated, has been closed since March 14.

Todd Decker said he wanted reopening to be “a marathon, not a sprint.” Both he and Lauren are waiting for more guidance on best practices for preventing infections, including social distancing, masks and the use of hand sanitizer.

“As much as it hurts the business to be closed, and the financial hit that we’re taking, I’d rather do it right the first time than go through a relapse,” Lauren Decker said. “We do want to make the right decision for not just our business, but for our customers, too.”

Pierre Vittori was stopped as he walked on Main Street in Cold Spring on April 29. His bike shop shares a space with his wife’s antique business and they also own the space used by the Side Effects boutique and gift shop.

Vittori believes reopening can be done safely, as long as people continue to give each other 6 feet of space and wear masks.

“If I have to live with my mask and keep my distance, I can live with it,” he said.

Retail businesses like Split Rock and

King + Curated would be able to reopen in the second phase of Cuomo’s plan, which gives first priority to construction and manufacturing. Professional services and real estate would also be among the businesses allowed to open during Phase 2.

Hotels, restaurants and food service would be in Phase 3, with restrictions. Schools and arts, entertainment and recreational businesses would be the last to reopen.

“Whatever reopening looks like, it needs to be slow, steady and careful,” Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive, said on Wednesday (May 6).

The state’s move toward reopening is being driven by data showing an outbreak in retreat.

Confirmed new cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been falling statewide — overall and as a percentage of people tested — since 11,571 new positive cases were reported on April 14. The state Department of Health said 3,491 people tested positive on Wednesday.

The number of deaths has also been falling since it peaked at 799 on April 8. The state reported 231 deaths on Thursday. Of

20,828 deaths around the state, 96 have been reported for Dutchess residents and 55 for Putnam.

As of Tuesday, the Mid-Hudson region had achieved the state’s other four criteria for reopening: a 14-day decline in overall hospitalizations; at least 30 percent of hospital beds available; at least 30 percent of intensive care unit beds available; and the ability to test 30 of every 1,000 residents monthly.

## More testing needed

Continued testing is the key to preventing a new outbreak as restrictions are removed, according to the governor and health officials.

Last month, the Garrison-based bioethics think tank, The Hastings Center, hosted an online forum about the need for more testing.

“This is pretty simple; if you want to open the economy, relax the closure of non-essential businesses, you have to be able to control the spread of this virus,” said Ezekiel Emanuel, vice provost for global initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania and a Hastings Center fellow. “And to control the spread, to know how much it’s spreading and where to focus resources, you need testing.”

New York State had tested 1.1 million people, or about 5 percent of the population, since the first test on March 2. Nearly 47,000 people were tested on April 24, the single-day high. In Dutchess County, about 6 percent of residents had been tested and in Putnam about 5 percent.

However, the number of tests and positive cases does not represent the scale of infections because an estimated 80 percent of people infected with the coronavirus will not experience symptoms or only feel mild symptoms, health officials say.

To get a truer estimate of the scale of infections, New York tested 15,000 people visiting grocery stores and community centers around the state for COVID-19 antibodies, the virus-destroying proteins whose presence indicates a past infection.

Antibodies were detected in 12.3 percent of those tested, the state said. In New York City, 19.9 percent had the antibodies, while in Rockland and Westchester counties it was 13.8 percent and in the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam, 3 percent. Twenty percent of those tested in New York City and about 11 percent on Long Island had antibodies.

Dutchess County officials last week announced a plan to test nursing home residents, starting with Wingate at Beacon, which has had five confirmed fatalities. The county also announced the launch of a van service to ferry Poughkeepsie residents to MidHudson Regional Hospital for testing.

More than 12,500 Dutchess residents were tested in April, as well 3,400 Putnam residents. Both met the state’s monthly goal of 30 tests per 1,000 for the month, but Molinaro is concerned that people’s “desire to get tested may begin to wane significantly.”

“Therefore, we might not meet that particular standard,” he said. “And worse yet, we might not know the breadth of the transmission of the disease as we enter a time when people are naturally going to want to move around.”

AREA	14-Day Decline in Hospitalizations OR under 15 new hospitalizations (3-day avg)	14-Day Decline in Hospital Deaths OR fewer than 5 deaths (3-day avg)	New Hospitalizations (Under 2 per 100k residents - 3 day rolling avg)	Share of Total Beds Available (threshold of 30%)	Share of ICU Beds available (threshold of 30%)	30 per 1k residents tested monthly (7 day avg of new tests per day)	At least 30 contact tracers per 100k residents	Metrics Met
Capitlial Region	NO	YES	0.58	41%	44%	NO	325	4 / 7
Central New York	YES	YES	0.47	49%	51%	NO	233	5 / 7
Finger Lakes	YES	YES	1.19	53%	64%	NO	361	5 / 7
Long Island	YES	NO	5.79	28%	26%	YES	852	2 / 7
Mid-Hudson	YES	NO	4.74	31%	35%	YES	697	4 / 7
Mohawk Valley	YES	YES	1.17	58%	64%	NO	146	5 / 7
New York City	YES	YES	5.41	26%	21%	YES	2520	3 / 7
North Country	YES	YES	0.08	53%	64%	NO	126	5 / 7
Southern Tier	YES	YES	0.11	58%	52%	NO	190	5 / 7
Western New York	NO	YES	2.20	46%	40%	NO	414	3 / 7

Source: Governor’s Office



## AROUND TOWN



▲ **MUSKRAT LOVE** — On April 24, Michael Hameline, an officer with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, responded to a call in Beacon that a muskrat was stuck in a chain-link fence. The critter was taken to Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Hunter to recover. *DEC photo*



▲ **NEW PANTRY** — Binnacle Books on Main Street in Beacon teamed up with Fareground Community Kitchen to convert its dollar shelves into a Tiny Food Pantry. Take what you need, leave what you can. *Photo provided*



▲ **CAUGHT IN THE ACT** — Cora McMahon and her brother, Andre (in background), fifth-graders at the Garrison School, donned their safety vests on April 26 to pick up trash along Avery Road near their home. *Photo by David Lilburne*

## MELISSA MCGILL: RED REGATTA

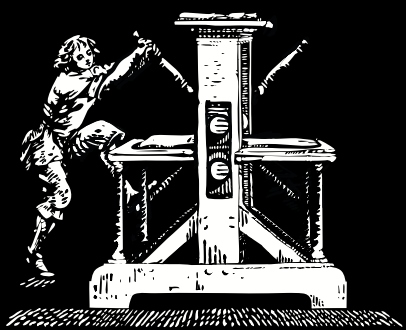
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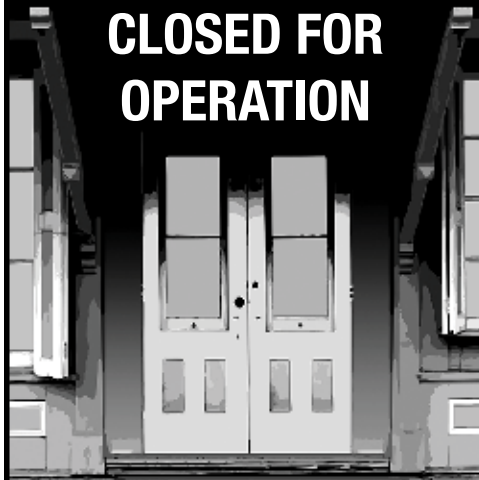
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# The Calendar

## Something You Don't Know About Me: Ivy Meeropol

As told to Alison Rooney

*Ivy Meeropol is a documentary filmmaker who lives in Cold Spring.*

“When I was a senior in high school, my grandfather, Abel Meeropol, was living in Florida and had Alzheimer’s. My family lived in Massachusetts, in the Berkshires. My father had to make the hard decision to bring him to a nursing home near us.

I was worried and upset about my grandfather. I decided I’d get a job at the nursing home to keep my eye on things. I knew I couldn’t work directly with him, but I could get the overall picture. I got this idea in my head. I hadn’t had an interest in the medical field or caretaking. But the way I thought about it, it would almost be like a volunteer position. I had this idealized vision that I would read letters to the residents, comb their hair, that sort of thing.

I somehow got hired. I was called a CNA — certified nursing assistant — but I was not certified. The job was helping people stay clean and comfortable, making sure they were eating enough, nothing medical.

On my first day on the job, there were other CNAs on the wing where I was assigned, and they were pretty cruel to me. They told me, “Sam needs help. Go to the bathroom.” The poor man was crying, covered with feces. They had played a prank on me. It became one of those moments in life where you’re confronted with an instant decision: Do I run out screaming? Or, do I tell myself, “I was hired and this guy needs me and he’s crying?” I talked to him, cleaned him up, got a diaper for him and settled him down. He was happy. I just knew, OK, I can do this.

That was the beginning. My grandfather died not long afterward. By then I had worked there for a few months. I went off to Sarah Lawrence College and, every summer, worked at a nursing home. I worked at different facilities, but everywhere there was something about that kind of work that just drew me.

I learned there are so many people in nursing homes who have nobody. People are just left. They are alone, sad, scared, confused. I knew that I could bring something more because I wasn’t beaten down by life yet. I became determined to spend more time with patients, to be the person giving them that extra care. I also started to develop quite a bit



Ivy Meeropol of Cold Spring, in college and today



Photos provided

of empathy for the nurses and nurses’ aides.

There was lots of humor, too. There has to be. There was this little old lady who I loved who was always waiting for her son to come visit. I’m not even sure she had a son. I started this whole thing where I would pretend — delicately at first; she had some dementia — she would come up to the desk where I was filling out paperwork, and she’d ask, “Has my son called today?” I started making stuff up. “Oh, you just missed him.” The nurses weren’t on board at first, but she would be so happy with what I told her that the nurses grudgingly accepted it and, when I was leaving, told me they were going to continue it.

There were also lots of, let’s say, “situations.” There was this woman who would yell at anyone who came into her room. I would try to engage with her. She introduced me to the word *whoremaster*. She’d scream it at us, and I’d say, “OK, I’m sorry you feel that way.” There were so many crazy stories of people escaping; we’d have to find them. But I found it to be gratifying work, trying to solve small problems. Maybe a tray was dropped off and they didn’t know what they were eating. I’d

cut things up, tell them what things were; they’d feel so much better.

Years later, as an adult, I was living on Cape Cod, and again I decided to start volunteering at this nursing home, in Provincetown. I’d gather a group together, read things from the newspaper, recite everyone’s horoscope and lead them in wheelchair aerobics to Perry Como. I was inspired to try to work on some fiction about them. There was this image that stayed with me, of two ladies at the nursing home who each held a baby doll. They sat together caring and fussing over these dolls. There was something so poignant about it. It gave me tremendous empathy for thinking about how we treat the elderly in this country.

There’s something about working at nursing homes that left me more alive and more purposeful, knowing that I’m someone who can handle caretaking, even in grim, gross and scary places. It’s what I do in my work now. I try to confront the thing that I’m literally afraid of confronting.

I’ve thought about a making a documentary about nursing homes. I’ve always admired good nurses so much, people who

care for people. For a while I pursued doing a documentary series following a diverse group of young and older nursing students at Mount St. Mary’s College in Newburgh. The group of students included a former chief of police from Newburgh who went back to become a registered nurse. The series didn’t happen.

One thing I enjoyed was at a fifth-grade Arts Alive day at Haldane. We did a documentary filmmaking workshop, where the subject was Donald MacDonald [the former Philipstown town historian, who died at age 90, in 2016], who was then in his 80s. The kids learned how to interview on camera. I wanted them to understand that this isn’t just an old person to ignore, that they shouldn’t feel scared, but should feel comfortable talking to him, I especially liked having Donald, because kids could benefit from talking to seniors.

*Is there something about you most people in the community aren’t aware of? It can be job-related, a hidden talent — basically anything, serious or funny. If you’d like to share your story, email [arts@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:arts@highlandscurrent.org) and we’ll get in touch.*

“I learned there are so many people in nursing homes who have nobody. People are just left. They are alone, sad, scared, confused. I knew that I could bring something more because I wasn’t beaten down by life yet.



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 9 Plant a Pollinator Paradise

**CARMEL**  
9:30 a.m.  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Learn how your landscape can be part of helping endangered pollinators such as butterflies, and how to create a pollinator garden and other useful habitats.

### SAT 9 Spring Bird-a-thon

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
Your backyard | bit.ly/phas-birdathon

Sign up to count species in a safe and convenient location for this annual fundraiser for the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. Also SUN 10.

### MON 11 Hudson Valley Women in Business

**ONLINE**  
1 p.m. hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com/events

Christine Gritmon will lead a discussion via Zoom about building an audience through social media. *Cost: \$10*

### TUES 12 Helen Savoit Book Club

**BEACON**  
1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
beaconlibrary.org

The group is reading *The Last Runaway*, by Tracy Chevalier. See the library's online calendar for four questions to answer about the book by email. The book selection for June will be *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott.

### THURS 14 Fiction Book Club

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

Join co-owner Michael Bender on Zoom to discuss one of his favorite books, *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page*, by G.B. Edwards.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### MON 11 Emily Music for Kids

**BEACON**  
11 a.m. facebook.com/emilymusic4kids  
Tune in on week days for a fun and funny program.

### MON 11 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 13, FRI 15.

### TUES 12 New Parents' Support Group

**GARRISON**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
Desmondfishlibrary.org  
Via Zoom. Email  
beautifulmamas123@gmail.  
com for registration information.  
Continues weekly.

### TUES 12 Kitchen Sink Science

**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary  
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary  
Digital Services Coordinator  
Ryan Biracree conducts science  
experiments. Continues weekly.

### THURS 14 Paper Crafts Workshop

**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary  
The workshop takes place  
each week via YouTube,  
Facebook and Instagram.

### FRI 15 Parents' Support Group

**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar  
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com  
for Zoom details.

## VISUAL ARTS

### SAT 9 Artist of the Week

**BEACON**  
baugallery.org  
Each week the gallery  
interviews a local artist and  
spotlights his or her work.

### SAT 9 Red Regatta

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art

As part of the Magazzino Da Casa series, Melissa McGill of Beacon will discuss on Instagram Live her public-art project in Venice. A documentary by Giovanni Pellegrini about the project is available at the museum website.

### SAT 9 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 ID is 996 412 237.

### SAT 16 Installing Magazzino

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art  
The museum's collection manager  
and chief registrar, Gabriella  
Perez, and its head preparator  
and facilities manager, Thomas  
Huber, will discuss a short film  
by Domenico Palma, *Installing  
Magazzino*, that takes viewers  
behind the scenes of the installation  
of its first exhibit, *Margherita Stein:  
Rebel With A Cause*. The film will  
be available on the museum website  
and Instagram beginning WED 13.

## MUSIC

### SUN 10 Clearwater Concert

**ONLINE**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Facebook Live  
clearwater.org  
This 12-hour online concert,  
a tribute on Mother's Day to  
Toshi Seeger, will be curated by  
Fred Gillen Jr. to raise money  
for Clearwater's environmental  
work. The performers will include  
David and Jacob Bernz, Mel  
and Vinnie, Kyle Tigges, Karen  
Brooks and Joe Kaminsky.

### MON 11 Quarantine Stream

**BEACON**  
6 p.m. facebook.com/SongSmithLive  
Three nights per week, Mark



Toshi Seeger Memorial, May 10

Westin hosts live performances  
streamed online by local musicians  
such as Jay Nicholas, Decora, Judith  
Tulloch and Steve Franchino, Mimi  
Sun Longo, Annalyse & Ryan and  
Jen Clapp. Also WED 13, FRI 15.

### WED 13 An Evening to #spreadHOPE

**GARRISON**  
8 p.m. Hoving Home  
hovinghome.org/spreadhope

The Christian pop duo For King  
& Country, which has won four  
Grammys and had six No. 1 singles,  
will perform as a benefit for the  
home, a nonprofit that helps women  
recover from drug and alcohol  
abuse. Register to receive a link.



### THURS 14 Open Mic

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier  
Walker May will host via Zoom  
with 12 performers. To perform or  
listen, email walker@townecrier.  
com. Continues weekly.

## TALKS

### MON 11 Transforming Stress Into Vitality

**GARRISON**  
4 p.m. Garrison Institute  
garrisoninstitute.org  
Gayla and Aaron Stiles will lead  
a massage and Taoist Mindful  
Movement workshop via Zoom.

### WED 13 Current Conversation

7 p.m. Zoom  
highlandscurrent.org/digital  
Join *The Current's* email  
list to receive an invitation to  
our weekly online discussion  
with a newsmaker.

### THURS 14 Deepening Your Meditation Practice

**GARRISON**  
3 p.m. Garrison Institute  
garrisoninstitute.org  
Lama Surya Das will lead a

Zoom presentation on how to stay  
balanced and mindful during this  
unprecedented time of uncertainty.

### THURS 14 Resiliency Meditation

**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. bit.ly/resiliency-meditation  
Register to join Amy Soucy  
via Zoom for a weekly 30-minute  
meditation about turning fear into  
resilience.

## CIVIC

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

### MON 11 Gov. Cuomo Daily Briefing

10:45 a.m. Weekdays  
twitter.com/nygovcuomo

### MON 11 City Council

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

### MON 11 Garrison Fire District

**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Firehouse | garrisonfd.org  
The meeting will be conducted by  
video conference via YouTube.

### MON 11 School Board

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
845-838-6900 | beaconfd12.org

### MON 11 Zoning Board of Appeals

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m. Zoom | philipstown.com  
The board is expected to  
discuss a disputed home plan  
for 529 Route 9D in Garrison.  
Email Kelly Macintyre at  
kmacintyre@philipstown.com  
for meeting information.

### TUES 12 Board of Trustees

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

### TUES 12 Conservation Board

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m. Zoom  
Email kmacintyre@philipstown.  
com for meeting information.



Red Regatta, May 9



## Roots and Shoots

## Compost for All

By Pamela Doan

As many new gardeners plan vegetable plots this season, I've been answering a lot of questions about composting.



Not only is it a resource for soil nutrients, it's an important part of managing your imprint on the planet. Are your fruit and vegetable scraps headed to a landfill in a trash bag mixed with plastic and other waste to decompose and release methane gas and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere? Instead, mix those materials with other carbon and nitrogen sources to become an organic amendment for your plants.

There are basic rules of composting. The main idea is that you mix browns (leaves, dead plants, newspaper, small sticks or wood chips) and greens (fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells or coffee grounds). By doing this, you're creating a space to speed up the decay with a mix of carbon- and nitrogen-rich materials that result in a healthy hummus to top-dress a garden.

Recognizing that everyone has varying degrees of complication in their stay-at-home lives, here are approaches that can be more-or less time-intensive to begin



The hardware cloth sides stapled to a wood frame made this compost container easy to build and give it good air flow and drainage. The front gates come off to easily empty or turn it. Photo by P. Doan

composting or to try a new approach.

**If you have an hour**

Make a pile in your yard that is conveniently located from your home. After many years of composting in many settings, this is a big consideration. If it's too much of a hassle to get

to in every season, it becomes another chore.

Collect small sticks, wood chips, dead plants and leaves for a base layer of a few inches. The sticks will help air circulation as the pile grows. Begin adding green materials on top of this. An ideal size for compost is 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet. When you've hit this shape, stop adding to it and let the microbes work. Make a new pile. Or set up a worm bin for vermicomposting. See [highlandscurrent.org/worming](http://highlandscurrent.org/worming).

**If you're ready for a half-day project**

Build a compost bin, or three. If you eat a lot of fruits and vegetables, have trees that drop leaves in the fall, and a lot of plant clippings, a three-bin system could fill up within a year. The goal is to always have one pile that you can draw from, one that is resting, and one that you're adding to.

My home composting includes chicken bedding and grass clippings, as well as vegetarian cooking and a yard full of mature trees. I can fill three bins in a season. Take those things into consideration when you choose a containment system.

Build the bins out of wood and wire, or buy a plastic compost bin. An affordable option is to use three wood pallets, which you can probably find for free. Make a three-sided bin with the front as the opening for adding material or scooping it out. It's easy to find DIY inspiration online.

If you're purchasing a bin, there are many choices and you could find one that meets a design or aesthetic principle for your land-

scape. Keep in mind how easy it will be to access when you want to empty it or turn the contents.

**Master composter (you have time and love science)**

I call myself a lazy composter. Before I had chickens and a bag for the lawn mower to collect clippings, my compost would take a year to break down. I didn't turn it or check the moisture or heat levels. I didn't balance ratios of greens and browns. I made a pile and was happy to keep my organic materials out of the landfill.

If that works for you, that's fine. This does not have to be an involved or intimidating project. However, if the science of carbon- and nitrogen-making microbes and creating new cells is interesting to you, it's possible to take a deep dive into perfect hot and fast composting.

By calculating the C/N ratio of each material you add to the bin, you can strive to hit a balance of 30:1 by weight. At this level, the pile will have optimal heat for quick decomposition. The moisture levels, temperature and oxygen can be measured and balanced, as well. The Cornell Waste Management Institute at [compost.css.cornell.edu](http://compost.css.cornell.edu) has calculations and formulas.

Last note: Don't add meat, sauces, fats or pet waste.

Gardening questions? Email Pamela at [rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org).



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**CURRENT CONVERSATIONS**

## Catching up with The Timmers

Garrison family discusses their pandemic-extended stay in Patagonia

**WEDNESDAY MAY 13TH 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.**

Register for the Zoom event at [highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations](http://highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations)



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# Artists in a Box

*Magazzino commissions works made at home*

By Alison Rooney

**M**agazzino Italian Art, the museum on Route 9 in Philipstown, this spring commissioned eight artists living in New York City to create works for a virtual exhibit called *Homemade*.

There were a few rules.

The artists, who are all Italian, had to create the work while sheltering in place, meaning they could only use materials available in their homes. They were asked to document their experience on Magazzino's Instagram account (@magazzino) and website (magazzino.art). They can speak to each other for inspiration and support over a two-month period through May 30 via Zoom.

Information about four of the artists is below. To learn more about each of the eight artists and follow their progress, see magazzino.art.



Andrea Mastrovito's workspace, shown at the beginning of *Homemade*



Davide Balliano opened up to working in color

Photo by Maria Spowls



Balliano working in color, at midpoint

Photo provided

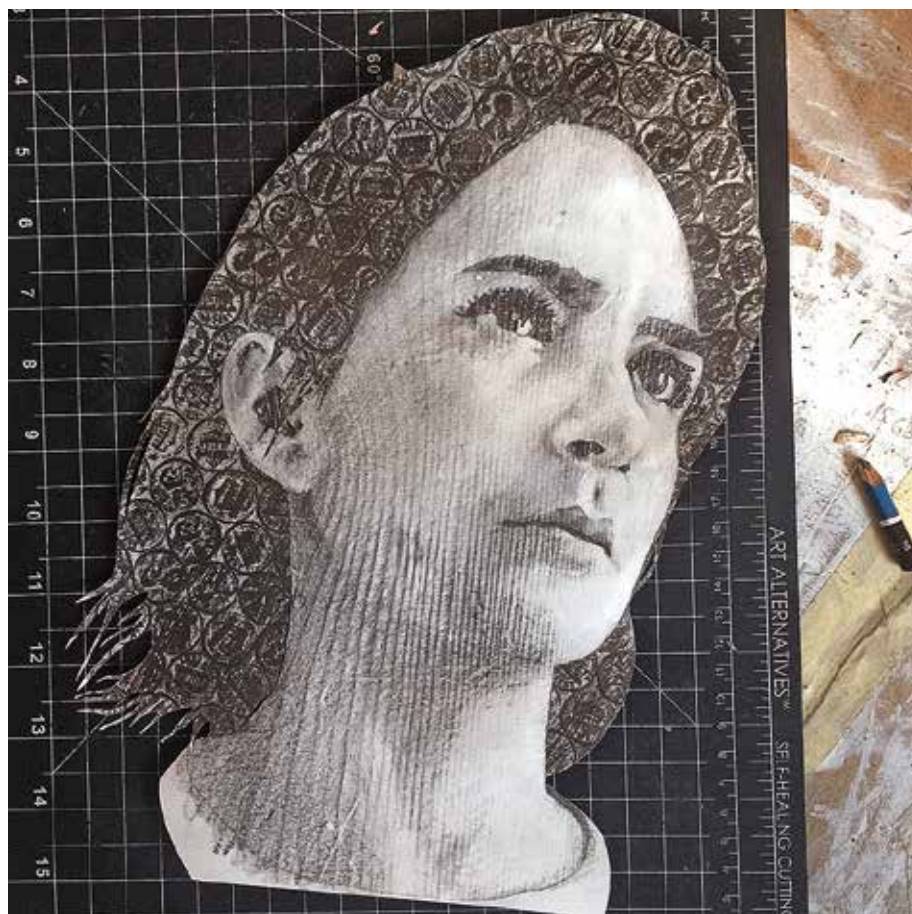
## Davide Balliano

Known for his black-and-white paintings and minimalist, abstract sculptures, Balliano in isolation embraced color.

At the beginning: "I intend to use the restriction imposed by this calamity as an opportunity to move into territories usually outside my daily gymnastics," he said. "Statistically, failure will be

the most predictable outcome, but I hope to meet it with joy, having peeked in a garden usually foreign to me."

At midpoint: "The tonal brainstorming makes me feel; I feel the ferocious greens of the forest of central Bali, the peach shades of a sunset over the bay of Naples, the red of my wife's dress in Avignon."



Mastrovito's *Homemade* work, at midpoint

Photos provided

## Andrea Mastrovito

Mastrovito will leave New York soon for his home in Bergamo.

At the beginning: Mastrovito said he would cover household objects with paper and rub a pencil over them to create "a lasting document" of the pandemic. The objects included "some coins, my son's toys, the floor, the curtains hanging on the windows," he said. "All this reality, in its rough-

ness, is recorded by the stroke of my pencil and frottage, through which it comes to life and forms new shapes, the shape of my small family: myself, my wife and my son."

At midpoint: Mastrovito has begun to combine the drawings of his wife and child with surface details of the floors, carpets, found coins and toys, constructing life-size collages of his loved ones.



Luisa Rabbia's desk as it looked in the first days of *Homemade*Rabbia's *Homemade* work, at midpoint

## Luisa Rabbia

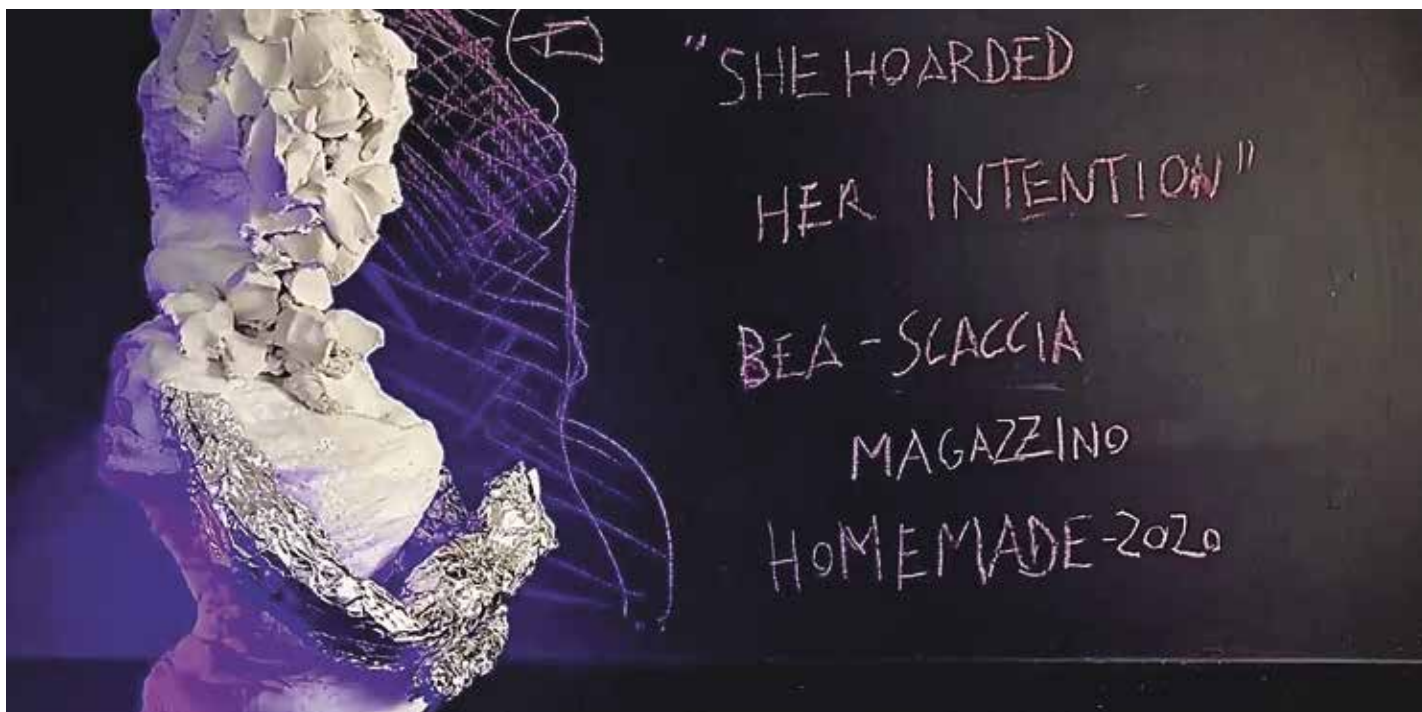
Rabbia typically examines bodily landscapes, such as veins and belly buttons, which she says chart essential forms of human connection.

At the beginning: Rabbia will involve her hand and leave traces through her fingerprints, adapting her work to a more intimate size to reflect the new domestic environment. "The precariousness of life, the connection between one and the other as small

particles in a vast universe made of time, experiences from the past to the present, from the personal to the collective; these have always been subjects at the core of my work," she said.

At midpoint: "The images I am presenting are a selection of small works, as well

as shots of a larger canvas I am preparing with impressions of fingerprints in wet gesso. Certain images, in my experience, require a large format while others work just as well in a small one, but what matters is the right format for the right image."

Beatrice Scaccia's work at the beginning of *Homemade*

Scaccia's character design, at midpoint

## Beatrice Scaccia

Scaccia combines painting, drawing, animation and writing to construct narratives that follow "identity-fluid protagonists through ambiguously defined worlds."

At the beginning: Scaccia said she would

create a stop-motion animation that explores the compulsion to hoard. She wanted to create a character "defined by the belongings they cling to for safety and comfort." She explained: "I understand way too well the mechanism behind the act of hoarding: the illusion of comfort, the need of being in control," she said. "Hoarding hides a void

and/or a fear. I will experiment in making a 3D bust with the materials I 'hoarded' in the last year."

At midpoint: "I keep thinking my bust will need some eyes. I moved it from my studio room to my bedroom three days ago; then back to my studio room last night. I've tried several settings, I even placed it in front of a

vanity mirror with orange lights. Yesterday, while listening to Gov. Cuomo, I considered adding more hair on its head — black or white, or maybe something colorful. Some foggy dreams have stayed with me for days. I'll write them down in fragments while wondering how to turn this bust into a soothing friend."





# Dining Out at Home

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## Mouths to Feed

## A Spring Canvas

By Celia Barbour

“No more excited bread posts” read the email’s subject line. It piqued my interest the moment it landed in my inbox, mostly because I misunderstood it. I thought its writer was expressing annoyance at the rash of sourdough upstarts who’ve been new-momming all over Instagram about their adorable leavens.

Yeah, enough already, I thought in (imagined) agreement.



## Rules of Thumb

Erin Detrick takes a different approach to focaccia than she does to loaves. Check highlandscurrent.org/focaccia for a basic recipe. However, if you’re interested in experimenting with your homegrown sourdough, here are some guidelines for evolving it into focaccia. (You can also skip baking altogether and order Signal Fire bread at [signalfirebread.com](http://signalfirebread.com))

1. Increase the water by 5 percent to 10 percent.
2. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil and ½ teaspoon sugar to the dough.
3. Increase the leaven. I added 100 grams of poolish in addition to my regular 200 grams of starter. Alternatively, says Detrick, you can simply throw a little yeast (2 or 3 grams) in with the starter at the beginning of the process.
4. Halfway through the bulk rise, transfer the dough to rimmed baking sheets coated with olive oil (one loaf = one focaccia), and stretch gently. It will contract at first; don’t worry. Just give it a gentle stretch every half-hour for the remainder of the bulk-rise period.
5. Cover dough for the 2- to 3-hour final rise.
6. Before baking, gently pock the surface with your fingertips, drizzle on olive oil and sprinkle with flakey sea salt.

In fact, the email’s author intended no snark. In an essay in a linked-to literary journal, she lamented her friends’ diminishing enthusiasm for baking; the upbeat sourdough posts that had proliferated on the internet in early April were being replaced by grimmer musings as the shutdown wore on. “No more” was merely a bleak observation: no more carrier pigeons, no more polar ice, no more excited bread posts.

Still, my reaction, though ungenerous, wasn’t entirely unwarranted. Home-grown sourdough has been the biggest trend of the stay-at-home period. King Arthur Flour reported that online sales of certain flours were up by 2,000 percent in March. And according to Nielsen data, mid-March yeast sales were up 647 percent over the same time last year. Quarantine sourdough even made it onto Fox News.

Truth be told, I am something of a sourdough upstart myself, having birthed my starter less than a year ago. Yet I find myself facing what must be a national dilemma at this moment. Because — did you notice? — it’s spring, glorious, bird-crazed spring. And while part of me absolutely does not want to abandon my baby-genius starter, the other part wants to be outside romping among the crabapple blossoms. I no longer find it cozy to have crusty loaves piling up in my kitchen. Soup season is over, and the kids are tired of me begging them to eat buttered toast for snack instead of Sun Chips.

My best-of-both-worlds solution has been to turn my sourdough into focaccia. The first time I tried this, in November, I simply stretched my dough flat instead of forming it into a loaf, then topped it with paper-thin potato slices and thyme, inspired by memories of the wonderful vegetable-topped focaccias at the old Sullivan Street Bakery in Soho. It came out tasty but tough. In March, I increased the leaven and water. Much better; the kids even deemed it “sellable.” In April, I added olive oil; better still. When May arrived, I finally consulted an expert.

Erin Detrick, founder and co-owner of Signal Fire Breads, has made a lot of focaccia in her life; she’s even developed proprietary focaccia recipes for restaurants. She says you don’t have to be a restaurant chef to get it right.

“Focaccia dough is forgiving; it can be mastered without years of practice or high-tech bread-making equipment,” she says. “And because the pan supports the dough, you don’t have to shape it as intensely as with a loaf, so you’re less likely to overwork it.” She also says the olive oil, extra water and extra yeast make focaccia tenderer, fluffier and more forgiving than other breads.

So yeah, focaccia is great for many reasons, but what thrills me most about it right now is that it lets bread become a canvas for all the amazing things arriving at the farmers market. Last week, I topped one with asparagus, wild mushrooms, ramps and green garlic. This morning, I tried rhubarb, ricotta, orange and mint.



## Asparagus and Mushroom Topping

½ pound asparagus, trimmed and cut on the diagonal

½ pound wild mushrooms, sliced

4 ramps (or substitute spring onions and green garlic, 2 of each), sliced thin

1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves

1 tablespoon olive oil

Salt and pepper

4 ounces fontina, grated

In a bowl, combine everything except the grated cheese. Before baking, sprinkle the vegetable mixture over the surface of the focaccia.

When the focaccia is done, remove from oven and immediately sprinkle on the shredded cheese; the heat from the focaccia will melt it. Serve warm or at room temperature.

The name focaccia comes from the Latin for “fire”: fuoco. But from now on, in my personal lexicon, I’m going to translate it as “excited bread.” Which means that this column right here? It’s my own excited bread post.



## Rhubarb, Orange and Mint Topping

⅓ cup sugar, divided

¾ pound rhubarb, cut in ¼-inch slices on the diagonal

2 teaspoons vanilla, divided

1 tablespoon olive oil, divided

2 oranges, zested, peeled and sliced horizontally

½ cup ricotta cheese

½ cup mint leaves, sliced or torn

Reserve 2 tablespoons sugar. In a bowl, combine the rhubarb, remaining sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla and half the olive oil. Sprinkle over focaccia.

Gently toss the orange slices with the remaining olive oil and 1 tablespoon sugar. Lay slices over rhubarb.

Bake according to focaccia recipe. Meanwhile, blend the ricotta with 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and 1 teaspoon orange zest until smooth. Set aside.

When focaccia is done, allow to cool slightly; serve topped with ricotta and mint.

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# Beacon Makes it Tougher to Build Four Floors

*Developers must now include 'public benefits'*

By Jeff Simms

With a proposal to build a 4-story building on next week's Beacon Planning Board agenda, City Council members on May 4 enacted regulations that tighten the requirements developers must meet to receive permits to construct such structures on Main Street.

Two years ago, the council adopted a law requiring a special-use permit to build four floors on Main. As of Monday, developers must add to their plans one or more public benefits — increased parking or affordable housing units, green building features or public spaces — that the council stipulates before receiving the permit.

"The amount of the public benefit — that decision is strictly within our discretion," Mayor Lee Kyriacou said before the council's unanimous vote. "You could offer a huge lot with a ton of parking or a public space and this council could still say, 'No, thank you.'"

"It's broad but it's also vague," added Council Member George Mansfield, noting that future councils may view a public benefit differently. "Whoever's on council, two years or 10 years from now, those are the ones that are going to interpret that."

A permit for a fourth floor must come from either the Planning Board or, when in or adjacent to the city's historic district, from the City Council. A setback could also be required.

If the council approves a list of 35 buildings that are being considered for the historic district, nearly all of Main Street would fall under its jurisdiction for the special permit.

All permits for fourth floors will also require that the development have no "substantial" negative effects on sunlight, parking, traffic or scenic views considered "important" by the city.

The new regulations will apply on May 12, when the Planning Board will begin its review, by video conference, of a proposal to combine lots at 416 and 420 Main Street. According to materials submitted to the board, a building constructed on the site would include nearly 5,000 square feet of retail space (a portion of which is occupied by the Kitchen & Coffee cafe — formerly Ella's Bellas — which will remain), along with nearly 8,000 square feet of office space on the second and third floors. The fourth floor would contain two apartments.

A second, two-story building in the rear of the lots would be a single-family home and an artist's live/work space. The development would also include "a large green-space area," according to the plans.

## Police *(from Page 1)*

"Our businesses need customers and our residents desperately need services," but constituents also worry about their safety, said Montgomery, who on Saturday (May 2) distributed masks on Main Street with Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley, who lives in Philipstown.

(On Wednesday, Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, said the Village Board has decided to close the bandstand and dock area as well as Dockside Park this Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. because of a lack of social distancing by weekend visitors. The 10 a.m. closure is to allow residents to walk their dogs at Dockside earlier in the morning, he said.)

Cold Spring has only part-time officers and limited coverage from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, which has one patrol that covers Philipstown and one that rotates between Philipstown and Putnam Valley.

That level of policing "is not enough with the influx of people we see every weekend, in the thousands," Montgomery said. "Law enforcement, both in the village and in the Sheriff's Department, have way too much to handle."

"I'm asking for more enforcement," she said. "I don't want to see a resurgence of infection even before we fully understand what our Putnam outbreak is" with limited testing and contact tracing. "I'm reaching out to my colleagues for help."

Her colleagues made no promises. But several expressed anxiety about the toll of the pandemic and restrictions, and praised residents for complying with the mask-wearing and social-distancing rules.

## Reopening

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) added his voice to those of the Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and state Sen. Sue Serino in urging his colleagues to lobby Albany to not group Putnam with Westchester and Rockland counties in the plans to slowly reopen the state.

On Monday (May 4), Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced plans to reopen region by region, based on certain criteria such as hospital capacity (see Page 1). Putnam is included in the Mid-Hudson region with Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties, its partners in the Mid-Hudson Economic Development Council.

Sullivan said the Legislature should tell state officials that "we don't think Putnam belongs" with Westchester and Rockland.

"We certainly do not have the number of cases and the illnesses or deaths" of coun-

## COVID-19 Spending

In early April, the Putnam Legislature allocated \$221,144 to purchase protective gear and cleaning supplies to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

On Tuesday, Bill Carlin, Putnam's finance commissioner, said the county has so far spent about \$69,000 of that money, with commitments to spend another \$77,000 as soon as more protective gear is available for purchase.

He said the county money has purchased 24,400 disposable face masks, 8,000 higher-grade face masks; 2,000 disposable gowns, 16,000 gloves and 1,300 face shields for distribution by the Bureau of Emergency Services.

ties closer to New York City, he said. "It's time to lessen the restrictions on our local businesses so they can go back to making a living and support their families."

Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) said everybody in Putnam "is wearing their mask. Everybody is social distancing. Everybody gets it here. That's one of the reasons we're on track to get our small businesses back."

Odell on Wednesday in a letter to state Sen. Peter Harekham, who represents eastern Putnam, urging the state to divide the Mid-Hudson group, with Westchester and Rockland forming a southern section and Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties remaining in a northern section.

"While all cases of infections and deaths from COVID-19 are undoubtedly devastating, our numbers in Putnam County are exponentially lower than our southern neighbors' and to a great extent have been isolated to our senior population with underlying health issues," Odell wrote. "Therefore, we should be placed in a position where we should be allowed to safely reopen and move toward dealing with the immense economic toll this is taking upon our families."

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, who has been critical of the county response, said in an email on May 7, "with the very limited number of residents that have been tested in Putnam, how can anyone say with surety that we don't have a higher rate of infection than neighboring communities? Without large-scale testing, tracking, and a clearly articulated plan, this is bound to cause much more suffering."

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# A Senior Year Like No Other

*We asked four local high school seniors how they are holding up.*

By Jeff Simms



## Anneke Chan

Chan, who is the Haldane High School salutatorian, says she had “a weird senior year.” She spent the first half working in an after-school art program and applying to colleges.

After being accepted at Tufts University, where she plans to pursue a dual degree in studio art and anthropology, Chan said she was looking forward to spending the final weeks of the year working at Dia:Beacon to fulfill an internship required of all Haldane seniors.

“It’s kind of like a reward for putting yourself through the stress of applying to schools and working hard,” she said.

But her internship, set to begin later this month, will now be done remotely. In the meantime, Chan reads, writes and paints at home to pass the time.

The closure of schools in New York State, she said, has made her feel guilty about graduation and getting into college — milestones that are normally cause for celebration.

The process “was more stressful because everything is already so uncertain,” Chan said. “You don’t know how you should feel about things. You shouldn’t be celebrating while people are dying.”



## Olivia Lynch

Olivia Lynch, a senior at Beacon High School, plans in the fall to enroll in the pre-physician assistant program at the University of Central Florida. She’s hoping that means moving to campus in Orlando rather than studying from home.

“I’ve tried to keep a positive mindset,” she said. “I’m trying to stay focused on the things I can control.”

As a member of the lacrosse team, Lynch said she is upset that she won’t have a senior season and can imagine that other students are feeling the same way, as four years of work on and off the field ends with a whimper.

Students “get to the point where you’re so excited” about what you’ve accomplished in high school, “and then not being able to be celebrated for all the work you’ve put in — it’s disappointing.”

She knows that district officials are scrambling to come up with a plan for graduation. “Anything that they can do to recognize the work we’ve all done — that’s all that we can ask for.”



## Richard Rinaldi

As senior class president at Beacon High School, Rinaldi had a hand in planning nearly every event scheduled for the end of the school year, from prom to the senior breakfast, field day and the senior trip.

“I just wanted to be a part of it, and end it all in a way that we’ll remember forever.” He conceded, “we will remember this forever,” but not for the same reasons. With Cuomo’s announcement last week that schools would not reopen, “I watched all of the ideas that we had fall apart,” Rinaldi said.

Rinaldi, who plans to attend Dutchess Community College, said that some students have rolled with the punches while others have been “gutted” by the shutdown. Some of his classmates “thought we were going to go back, but sometimes in life things like this happen, and you just have to adapt and overcome.”



## Adam Sharifi

When the schools closed in March, Adam Sharifi said he thought immediately about whether O’Neill High School in Highland Falls would hold graduation.

The Garrison resident said that while distance learning has its challenges, it can be a reasonable facsimile in some regards. But for events such as graduation, “you just can’t capture that moment of walking across the stage virtually.”

Sharifi ran track for three years but had to forgo his senior season. “We were trying to stay optimistic by going on our [practice] runs, hoping that maybe we could get in one race,” he said. “But once you know you won’t be able to run that last time, it’s heartbreaking.”

He had planned to spend his summer in an on-campus, pre-freshman course at Cornell University, where he will enroll in the fall, but it was moved online.

“It pulls the benefits out,” Sharifi said. “Now it’s just taking courses at home. I’m sad, but you have to put on a smile. All I can do is look toward college, and the fun I’m going to have there over the next four years, and hope for the best.”

## Graduation *(from Page 1)*

A week after Cuomo’s announcement, a few details have begun to take shape.

Soto said that she has been in “constant communication” with students and parents to hear what they need. “How else can I provide wonderful memories for our seniors?” she asked. (Online, a group is selling \$20 lawn signs at [bit.ly/bhs-signs](https://bit.ly/bhs-signs) to benefit and congratulate the Class of 2020.)

At Haldane High School, in Cold Spring, Principal Julia Sniffen said the district plans to hold a small ceremony near the end of June for its 65 graduating seniors. She said the district will reduce the number of people who can attend and enforce social distancing while broadcasting a livestream of students receiving their diplomas and recorded segments for award and scholarship presentations.

As for senior traditions, including the

parade-by-car that “scoops the loop” at the foot of Main Street, “we’re still looking to do some of those things that are by nature socially distanced” with new twists, she said. That could also include asking families to post stakes in their yards with photos of seniors and their yearbook quotes.

Academically, the work is far from over.

The state requires that officials at each school district and college get approval for their plans in the fall to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff. The plans must show how administrators will monitor the spread of COVID-19, house and feed students who live and eat in groups, educate special-education students and organize extracurricular activities.

Schools must continue to provide meals and child care, the governor said. A decision on summer school will not be made until the end of this month.

In Beacon, school officials have reached out to the DJ who typically provides music for the prom to move the event online. “Kids could dress up in their homes and we could all celebrate our prom virtually,” Soto said.

Similar plans are being made for the traditional senior breakfast, she said. Students would arrive at staggered times to receive their yearbooks and return home for a “virtual celebratory breakfast” with classmates.

The district has partnered with the Mediation Center of Dutchess County to create virtual circle meetings in which students can blow off steam. “Most of them just want to see each other” at this point, Soto said.

In a statement, Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl said he and district officials plan to organize a graduation ceremony that follows health guidelines but creates a memorable experience for students.

“We do want our seniors, even if it is just

in front of their families and everyone is safely social distancing, to walk across a stage,” he said. “If it takes 10 hours to do it safely and families come in shifts, so be it.”

For the six weeks that remain in the school year, teachers and students will continue to try to make the best of a bad situation.

“You get out what you put in,” said Sniffen. “If a student maintains the desire and they’re in the headspace where they’re continuing to push themselves, there will be some gaps, but there is some benefit to [the virtual] model as they progress.”

“Our kids have become the essential workers” in grocery stores and other businesses that remain open, added Soto. “They’re so used to walking into a school building and having someone check up on them; they miss that.”

“So we’re going out into the community and checking up on them.”



## Reporter's Notebook

## Coverage of a Locked-down World

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After about two months of the stay-home orders and lockdowns, I decided to review what's changed as we put together *The Current* each week.



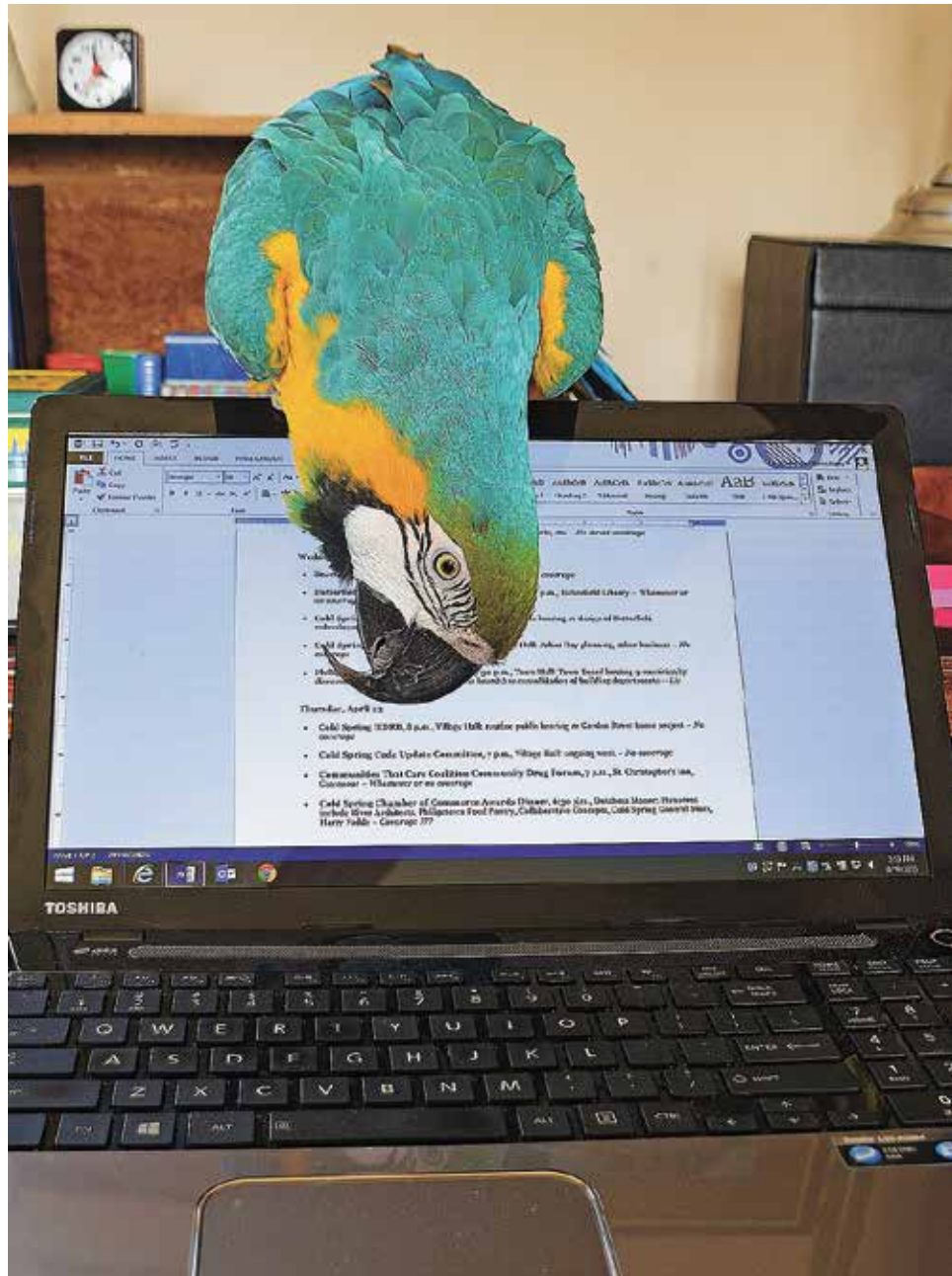
## Meeting coverage

It's gotten easier and harder. The Philipstown Town Board and the Nelsonville Village Board have adopted Zoom teleconferencing for their meetings and workshops. The Putnam County Legislature uses audio connections for its monthly meeting and committee sessions. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney holds telephone and Facebook town halls, as does Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, and local officials and others use teleconferencing and video for periodic updates.

**Advantages:** I don't have to leave my desk at home to attend a meeting. No more driving in the dark 20 miles to Carmel or down the road 5 miles to the Philipstown Recreation Center; no more walking up the hill to Nelsonville Village Hall or Philipstown Town Hall (if it reopens before the lockdown ends).

**Disadvantages:** It's more difficult, or time-consuming, or both, to ask questions of elected officials. Informal personal interaction is more limited and, after a meeting ends, I can't catch up to someone in the hallway or parking lot to ask a question or get clarification on some point that struck me only after the meeting had ended and it seeped into my mind more thoroughly. I have to follow up by an email or phone call, probably the next day, so I'm not disturbing someone at a late hour. Moreover, I don't get that exercise racing up the hill.

Then, too, because public officials and



Hoss helps with the editing.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

audience members at Zoomed meetings can see me just as I can see them, I've got to make sure that I look presentable, that my home office is not a mess and that my parrots have been evicted from the room, lest they decide to join in with raucous exuberance.

## Other coverage

Because everyone is hunkered down, like journalists elsewhere I have to chase around more — from a distance — to come

up with articles.

Just as town boards and county government, plus the U.S. House of Representatives, have suspended many sessions, the courts, at all levels, have mostly shut down. From local to federal jurisdictions, legal cases I was tracking and writing about hang in abeyance.

Likewise, the advisory boards that do much of the work of local government — planning, resolving zoning questions,

reviewing conservation issues and so on — have curtailed their activities, at least until more teleconferencing options become available.

All this means journalists often put in longer hours. That has financial repercussions when you're paid by the story, as most freelancers are.

## Production

A few reporters copy edit *The Current* before it goes to press. This process, too, has become both easier, in a sense, and more difficult, in another.

In the pre-pandemic days, we gathered every Thursday afternoon around the conference table in *The Current* office on Main Street in Cold Spring, using pencil on page print-outs to correct typos, factual errors, and garbled sentences. Admittedly, I frequently found this method cumbersome and rather archaic, since every other news organization for which I've toiled relied on making changes to copy on a computer screen.

Now, *The Current* team has been forced to complete much of the copy editing electronically. We work from our homes and Editor Chip Rowe and Layout Designer Pierce Strudler sit 6 feet apart at the office and pull everything together.

In many ways, it's simpler and faster: I can go from one article to another without pause, copy editing each, marking it as edited by me, and putting it back into our shared digital cloud folder. Two colleagues do the same. The challenges come when one or more of us is simultaneously editing the same story, or if questions arise. We can't just shove a print-out down the table and say: "Does this sentence make sense?" Or, "I don't understand your change."

It takes messaging back and forth to resolve the uncertainties and fill the holes and, again, all that takes time — especially if internet systems conk out (as mine does occasionally) or operate at a snail's pace. Frustrations ensue.

Furthermore, when you work remotely, you can't laugh and talk and swill coffee or eat home-baked cookies or candy from The Country Goose. So that interaction is lost, too ... one more example of the collateral damage from COVID-19.



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## OBITUARIES

**Dorothy Ferrone (1916-2020)**

**D**orothy Eileen Ferrone, 103, a lifelong resident of Beacon who was employed making equipment for the military during World War II, died at her home on April 30, surrounded by family members.



Dorothy was born Sept. 9, 1916, in Beacon, the daughter of William and Anna (Gray) Galbraith. After graduating from Beacon High School in 1935, she attended the Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie but left to work at the New York Rubber Corp. in Beacon during World War II, making rubber rafts, life jackets and other equipment.

On Feb. 11, 1945, she wed Joseph Ferrone at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon. He died in 2003, after 59 years of marriage. After raising three sons, Dorothy returned to work. She was employed by the Fishkill National Bank in Beacon from 1969 until her retirement in 1981.

Dorothy is survived by her sons, Gary Ferrone (Nancy) of Poughkeepsie and Gregory Ferrone (Diane) of Spring, Texas; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Her son, Brian Ferrone, died before her.

A graveside service for immediate family was held at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon on May 5. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church, 2 Oak St., Beacon, NY 12508.

**Betty McAndrew (1924-2020)**

**B**etty Ann McAndrew, 95, a longtime resident of Cold Spring, died at her home in Orange County on May 1, with her family by her side.



Betty was born on July 1, 1924, in Liverpool, England, the daughter of John and Mary Agnes Brown. She served four years in the British Women's Royal Air Force during World War II. In 1953 Betty immigrated to the U.S. with a friend and made a temporary home at the Martha Washington Hotel in New York City. She quickly found employment with Ziff Davis Publishing Co., where she worked for 25 years.

In 1955 Betty married Edward Sexton and the couple settled in Cold Spring. He died in 1967. In 1977, Betty married George McAndrew, and together they ran the George A. McAndrew Auto Parts store on Main Street until George's death in 1994.

Betty loved all things British, as well as animals, music, reading and sweet treats.

She is survived by her daughters, Margaret Sexton and Kathleen Harrison (Scott); four grandchildren, Richard Sexton, Stacy Kuenhlanz (Tim), Christine Foley (Kip) and Rebecca Roberts (John); and four great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Remembrance will be held at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring on May 1, 2021, the first anniversary of her death. Memorial donations may be made to the

Paralyzed Veterans of America (pva.org) or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspc.org).

**Robert Nowak (1945-2020)**

**R**obert Laramie Nowak, 74, of Cold Spring, died on April 23 at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor with his wife, Susan Early, at his side.



Bob was born July 22, 1945, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, the son of Edmund and Elizabeth "Betty" (Laramie) Nowak.

A 1964 graduate of Linden High School, he served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam as a coxswain on a riverboat. After his service, he worked at jobs requiring mechanical expertise, including at Anchor Motor Freight and Sears. He was a founding member of LZ Hope, a self-help group at the VA hospital in East Orange, New Jersey, for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bob lived in New Jersey for 57 years before moving to Cold Spring. In his earlier years he enjoyed taking family and friends out on his boat, riding his motorcycle and attending car shows with his 63½ Ford Galaxy.

He loved his dogs, Fords, frogs, Coca-Cola, mustards, chili, hot peppers, cheese and (sadly) the Jets. His family said he was a thoughtful and generous person.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a brother, Lee Nowak (Sue); a sister, Joy Kennedy (Tim); and a sister-in-law, MaryJayne Nowak.

Memorial donations may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America (vva.org) or any veteran's organization or charity.

**John Salvas (1960-2020)**

**T**he Rev. John Salvas, 59, who joined the priesthood after graduating from Beacon High School and served in parishes around the country, died April 21 at St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Hackensack, New Jersey.



John was born in Beacon on Aug. 26, 1960, the son of Walter and Barbara (Lyman) Salvas. He grew up in the family's "big brick house" on Wolcott Avenue in the shadow of Mount Beacon. He graduated from St. Joachim's Catholic School and, in 1979, from Beacon High School.

From a very early age, John developed a true love for nature and all of God's beautiful creation, his family said. He strived to live in the spirit of St. Francis in every way. He made his first Profession of Vows on Aug. 19, 1984, at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon. He made his final Profession of Vows on Sept. 19, 1987, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Orange, New Jersey. He was ordained on March 12, 1988, at Our Lady of Lourdes in Paterson, New Jersey, and recently had completed his 32nd year as a priest.

Following ordination, John served in parishes in the Bronx; Paterson, New Jersey; Atlanta; Tampa; Hendersonville, North Caro-

(Continued on Page 22)

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## OBITUARIES

(Continued from Page 21)

lina; and Hackensack, New Jersey. Among his favorite ministries was working with the Hispanic community, his family said, and he immersed himself in the Dominican Republic to become fluent in Spanish and loved ministering in that language.

John founded the Helping Hands food pantry and soup kitchen at Immaculate Conception Friary in the Bronx. He was also known for his stirring homilies, artistic abilities and parish dramas depicting scenes from the life of Christ, his family said.

John especially enjoyed nurturing the many gardens he planted, hiking, camping at Montauk, going to the ocean, traveling to various pilgrimage sites and music of all kinds. John always made it a priority to minister to the sacramental needs of his large extended family by performing numerous wedding masses, baptisms and funerals over the years. He was a true child at heart and loved seeing his many nieces and nephews at family gatherings, his family said.

He is survived by his father, Walter Salvas of Beacon; and his siblings, Paul Salvas (Carol) of Beacon; Martin Salvas (Kathy) of Rochester; William Salvas (Anne) of Ayer, Massachusetts; Mary Gagliardi (Joseph) of Poughkeepsie; and Jeanne Brunet (Paul) of Brookfield, Connecticut.

Interment took place on April 25 at St. Lawrence Friary Cemetery in Beacon.

**John Sheeran (1948-2020)**

John Denis Sheeran, 71, of Cold Spring, died on May 2 of complications of COVID-19 and a stroke he suffered in October.



John was born in New York City on July 5, 1948, the son of John and Jean (Pring) Sheeran. Over the course of his life he lived in various places throughout New York, including Riverdale, New City, Centerport,

Manhattan, Jeffersonville and Garrison. He also spent time at family summer homes in Montauk and Loch Sheldrake in the Catskills.

John received a bachelor of arts degree from Fairfield University in Connecticut and went on to work over 36 years in the financial services end of the insurance industry as a senior vice president in charge of directors' and officers' liability programs.

He enjoyed bringing his family on vacation to places like Newport, Rhode Island; Tybee Island, Georgia; and what he considered the perfect location, Martha's Vineyard.

John's family said he possessed a larger-than-life personality and will be most remembered for his sense of humor and playfulness. He was articulate and had a great love and appreciation for his friends and family. He organized many events to bring them together, such as annual trips to Austin, Texas, concerts, cocktail parties and corporate outings.

He was a lifelong fan of the Boston Celtics and also a self-acclaimed Celtic who lived a life focused on pride, loyalty and camaraderie. He enjoyed watching and playing sports, including basketball and tennis, and was interested in movies, books, art and, his biggest passion, music. He enjoyed fine wine and good food as well as a great pizza and a nice cold beer. In his later years, John found joy in decorating themed cigar boxes that he sold at galleries and markets.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Maureen; his daughter Brittany (Joseph) of Ashland, Massachusetts, and grandchildren Sienna, Tristen and Hayes; his daughter Mariel Cornell and grandchildren Dexter, Chase and Tatum, who live in California. His son, Cailean Walker Sheeran, died before him. He also is survived by his siblings, Peter Sheeran of Texas, Patricia Sheeran of Las Vegas and Claire Levin of Virginia.

A celebration of John's life will be held later in the year when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Donations in

memory of John and Cailean may be made to the Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases Research Center (columbia-lyme.org).

**Wayne Stephens (1961-2020)**

Wayne E. Stephens, 58, a longtime resident of Cold Spring, died April 18.

He was born Dec. 13, 1961, in Tarrytown, the son of Edmund and Rosemarie Stephens. He married Lisa Iacino on Oct. 3, 1997.

With his wife, Wayne enjoyed the arts, travel and driving up the New England coast. He especially loved birds. He would often be up early to catch the sunrise, his family said.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his siblings, Maryanne Heady (Kevin), Theresa Johnson (Roy), Gary Stephens (Sue Cristo) and Edmund Stephens (Sharon). He also is survived by his sister-in-law, Lorraine Iacino.

A service for family was held on April 24 at the Joseph F. Nardone Funeral Home in Peekskill, followed by interment at St. Augustine Cemetery in Ossining.

**Bill Whipp (1940-2020)**

William K. Whipp, 79, of Cold Spring, died April 25 at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital of complications of COVID-19.

Bill was born on July 8, 1940, into a family of nine children. Being the youngest, and with three deaf sisters, he began to understand life's injustices and developed a sense of empathy at an early age, according to his family. As a young man, he sailed the Caribbean, hiked to the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway and traveled to the San Francisco Bay area, inspiring a lifelong attraction to Northern California.

While working full-time, he attended



the University of Wisconsin and earned degrees in speech communications and physical education. He taught at schools in the Milwaukee area before fulfilling a long-held dream to move to Australia. He taught in Sydney for three years before returning to Milwaukee to care for his aging parents.

Bill was an admirer of Samuel Johnson, and traveled to England for a long walk through the countryside, pastures and villages — all haunts of the writer. He loved the experience so much he found a job at a village pub, living above it for nearly a year.

He later moved to San Jose, California, where he opened a coffee shop, among other ventures. He moved to the New York area to be closer to his family; his niece, Suzanne, introduced him as her Uncle Bill, which stuck as a nickname.

According to David Dickinson, his partner of more than 50 years, Bill was an uncomplicated man who was passionate about the injustices he saw. His smile made everything good, Dickinson said.

Besides David, Bill is survived by his sisters, Thelma Kamuchey and Evangeline Norton, both of California; a sister-in-law, Susan Kamuchey of Florida; and a brother-in-law, Stan Smith. Shortly before his death, Bill wrote a letter to *The Current* to thank Dr. Cynthia Ligenza and Terry Alexander for his care.

**Other Recent Deaths****Beacon**

Robert Kerby, 71  
Jon Osborne, 77  
Mary Rafter, 87  
Rosina Tyburczy, 79

For more obituaries, see  
[highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Kills, slangily

5. Make up your mind

8. Padlock fastener

12. Polio vaccine pioneer

13. Born

14. Sheltered, at sea

15. Reacted to sun glare

17. Hot dog holder

18. Sugar suffix

19. Charged bit

20. Chin indentation

21. Kreskin's claim

22. Montana or Namath

23. Baghdad resident

26. Feast

30. Frill for Fonteyn

31. Bear hair

32. Radius neighbor

33. In need of laundering

35. Bishop's headdress

36. Present

37. Corral

38. Engine

41. Fish's flipper

42. Fire residue

45. Pinnacle

46. Hotel chain

48. Enticement

49. Ostrich's kin

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

50. A bit too tight

51. Doctrines

52. "Gosh!"

53. Skillets

10. Ego

11. Hide

16. Unless, in law

20. Opposed

21. They occur

22. Pickle container

23. Monty Python opener

24. Trench

25. — standstill

26. Unopened flower

27. Last: Abbr.

28. Away from WSW

29. Pitch

31. Only a small number

34. Neither mate

35. Carte

37. Fit of resentment

38. Neighbor of Niger

39. Piece of work

40. Expression

41. Notoriety

42. Actress Paquin

43. Dazzle

44. Cronos

46. Journey segment

47. AOL, for instance

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Answers for May 1 Puzzles

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

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

1. SHRINKING, 2. WRECKS, 3. EATERY, 4. STRAYING, 5. TEXTBOOK, 6. PLASTIC, 7. PIVOTS

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

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 tries to win (8)

2 “down at the heel” implement (8)

3 crowds (7)

4 “10 o’clock scholars” (10)

5 suspicious (5)

6 irresistible deals (8)

7 presentation visual (5)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


COM	OME	ORN	ES	ON
EH	HY	ART	RS	INS
FIS	GA	LAT	THR	SHO
GS	CH	PET	BAR	EC

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SUDO CURRENT

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

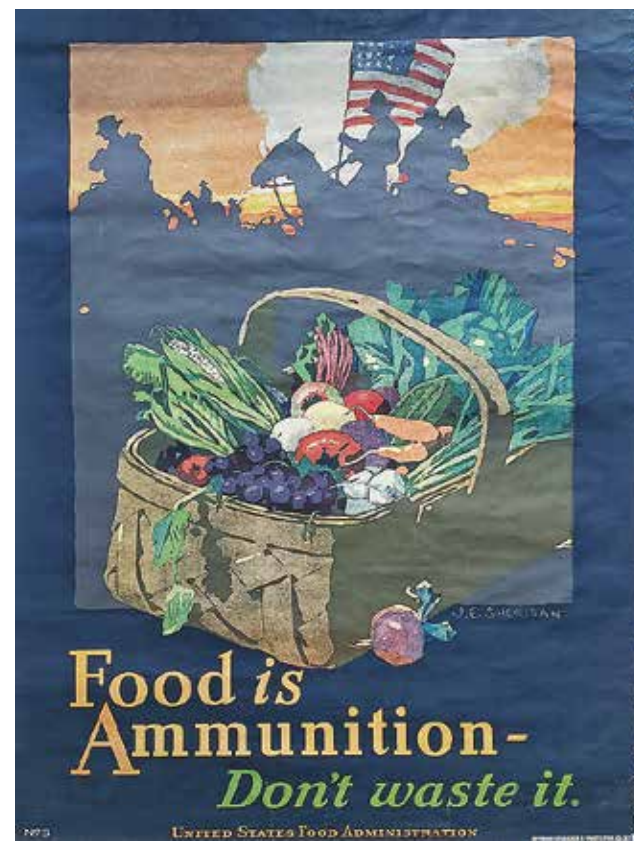
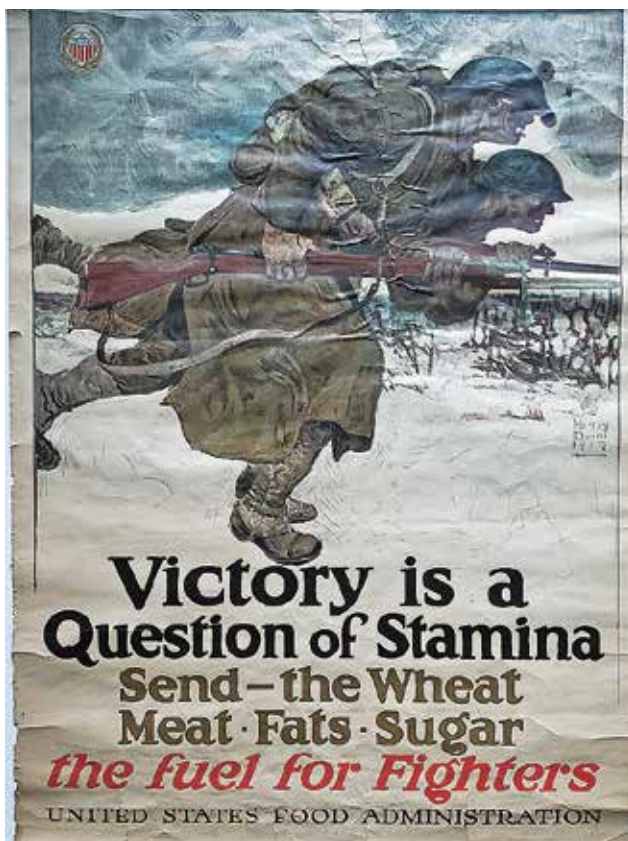
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## Attic Yields World War I Treasures

*Encouraged Americans to  
preserve food*

By Michael Turton

Jeff Wigdor credits his penchant for collecting family discards and the ongoing COVID-19 shutdown for his recent discovery of three World War I propaganda posters in the attic of his Lake Valhalla home in Philipstown.

“I was the one who’d keep things from ending up in the dumpster,” Wigdor said of his habit of collecting unwanted possessions after the death of a relative.

Over the years, his attic collection grew to include boxes he had not even opened. “The pandemic gave me time to do that,” he said.

One box contained a storage tube he didn’t recognize. Inside were the three posters, a little worse for wear.

Produced by the U.S. Food Administration, the agency responsible for feeding the American and allied military force overseas, the posters stress the need for stateside food conservation. As the U.S. entered “the war to end all wars,” posters featuring slogans such as “Victory is a question of stamina” encouraged Americans to eat less so more food could be shipped to troops. They also advocated planting “victory gardens” and canning fruits and vegetables.

In 2020 it’s hard to imagine posters as a primary means of influencing a nation. Not so in the early 20th century. According to the Library of Congress, which has more than 1,900 posters created by the U.S. and its allies in its collection, “during World War I, the impact of the poster as a means of communication was greater than at any other time during history.”

American artists contributed hundreds of designs. The best-known of them — an aggressive Uncle Sam pointing at the view and saying, “I Want YOU for the U.S. Army” — was created by James Montgomery Flagg. He adapted his design from a 1914 British poster in which Lord Kitchener admonished British citizens with “Your country needs YOU!”

Posters, including a version of Flagg’s Uncle Sam design, were produced in large numbers in the 1940s during World War II, as well, but by then much larger audiences could be reached through radio and film.

Topographic maps of Massachusetts, stored in the attic next to where Wigdor found the posters, provide a clue to the likely original owner of the World War I memorabilia. “The maps belonged to my grandfather, Palmer Day,” Wigdor said. “He last lived in Plymouth, Massachusetts.”

Day’s family was in the printing business, but markings on the posters indicate they were produced in New York City and Chicago.

His grandfather did, however, play a role in restoring the century-old printed materials. Wigdor used Day’s handmade T-squares to flatten the tightly rolled paper. (Wigdor said he would like to have the posters mounted and protected. One of his dreams, he said, is to own a pub. “I’d love to hang them there.”)

Day, who died in 1996, wasn’t a veteran, but Wigdor’s family has a history of military service dating to the Revolutionary War. During World War I, relatives served in the U.S. Signal Corps Balloon Group No. 3 and the 101st Engineer Battalion.

Finding the posters when he did was poignant, Wigdor said. His discovery came as his son, Jared, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, returned home after

a year of training in Florida and California.

Of the three posters, Wigdor is especially drawn to one bearing the slogan “Food is ammunition — don’t waste it.” He said, “I love the message, the vibrant colors and the silhouette of soldiers on horseback.

“The messages have such significance,” he said. “It’s humbling to be their steward, hopefully to preserve them for another 100 years.”



Jeff Wigdor used his grandfather’s handmade T-squares to flatten the posters.

Photo by M. Turton