

The HIGHLANDS Current

10
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

JULY 3, 2020

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SUMMER FUN — A boy and his bubbles waited on June 26 at Dockside Park in Cold Spring for the Clearwater to arrive from Beacon. For more photos from the sloop's stay in the village, see Page 24.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Editor's Notebook

10 Years Young

By Chip Rowe

A decade ago, tomorrow, a new venture on Main Street in Cold Spring was unveiled: a news site called Philipstown Dot Info.

Its driving force was Gordon Stewart, a corporate executive, former vice president at the American Stock Exchange and former speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter. He had moved full-time to Garrison from New York City with his wife and daughter three years earlier.

The first articles posted on July 4, 2010, covered an ongoing rezoning debate in Philipstown and upcoming hearings on Main Street parking and composting toilets. A story posted two days later profiled The Slambovian Circus of Dreams. (Michael Turton follows up with the band on Page 17.) Anyone who stopped by the office that hot day was offered a Philipstown.info bumper

(Continued on Page 11)

Drive-in Theater Planned for Beacon

Arts, cultural spots prepare to reopen in Phase 4

By Leonard Sparks

With indoor theaters shuttered because of the COVID-19 shutdown, including at Story Screen Beacon, drive-ins in Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie have been the only way to see a movie on the big screen. But Beacon may soon be an option.

On Sunday (June 26), Story Screen announced it is working with city officials to convert the University Settlement property on Wolcott Avenue into a drive-in theater for 40 to 50 cars.

The plan is to show two movies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, beginning in mid-July at a facility under construction. Concessions will be delivered to cars.

"We're absolutely thrilled to bring entertainment back to our community, who have done so much for us in our first year at Story Screen Beacon Theater," organizers wrote on Facebook.

(Continued on Page 6)

Donor Train

Kidney recipient part of a five-state swap

By Michael Turton

A meeting in which the recipient of a new kidney was able to meet her donor "face-to-face" was cathartic, despite happening over Zoom.

The Current has chronicled Leesa Thompson's journey from Feb. 23, 2018, when she learned she needed a new kidney or would face dialysis and a shortened life. More than 100,000 Americans are facing this dilemma.

Thompson, who lives in Cortlandt Manor and has been a member of the Beacon Sloop Club for more than 35 years, was lucky. A donor was found, and seven-and-a-half months later she underwent transplant surgery.

In the end, two people donated kidneys on Thompson's behalf.

Ed Holowinko of Norwalk, Connecticut,



Ed Holowinko, Leesa Thompson and Dr. Anthony Watkins in 2018 after her transplant.

File photo by M. Turton

didn't know Leesa but agreed to donate after learning of her predicament in an email blast sent by her partner.

Because their blood types didn't match, Thompson couldn't receive Holowinko's kidney, but he could still donate through what is known as a "paired exchange": Two people in need of kidneys who each have

incompatible donors "swap" the organs.

Meanwhile, in Peoria, Arizona, Dr. Kerri Tanner was about to become the other part of the equation. She had joined the paired exchange program as an "altruistic donor" — someone who offers a kidney without knowing who will receive it.

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CHARLEY KRACHY

By Leonard Sparks

Charley Krachy, of Garrison, is the owner of Old Dog New Saxophones.

How did you get introduced to the saxophone?

At the end of the school year, high schools have a presentation with the chorus and band. My parents took me to Croton High School to see it when I was 10 or 11. This kid came out with an alto sax. The next morning, I said, "I want to play the saxophone."

When did you decide to go pro?

It was always a hobby. I got a degree in finance [to pay the bills]. But in 1989, I did my first concert at the Greenwich House Music School. We recorded the performance and put it out, and this guy from *The Village Voice* wrote a review. A month later, we're at the Blue Note.

How did you wind up selling instruments made in Taiwan?

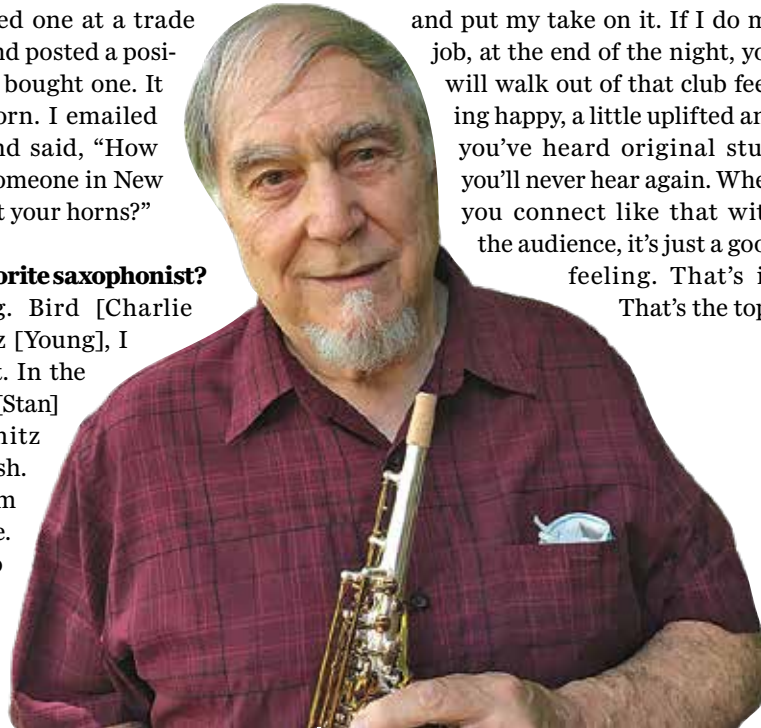
A guy had tried one at a trade show in China and posted a positive review. So I bought one. It was a quality horn. I emailed Gu Tai Corp. and said, "How would you like someone in New York to represent your horns?"

Who is your favorite saxophonist?

Lester Young. Bird [Charlie Parker] and Prez [Young], I came up on that. In the 1980s, I got into [Stan] Getz, Lee Konitz and Warne Marsh. That's where I'm at. I'm back there. Lester Young, to me: My God. One note. Just listen to one note.

What do you love about jazz?

What I do is I take a standard tune and put my take on it. If I do my job, at the end of the night, you will walk out of that club feeling happy, a little uplifted and you've heard original stuff you'll never hear again. When you connect like that with the audience, it's just a good feeling. That's it. That's the top.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

If you're in a funk, what music snaps you out of it?

“Rock-soul-funk, especially Lenny Kravitz and Erykah Badu.”



~ Meghan Spiro, Beacon

“I've been listening to Frank Sinatra lately for that exact reason. “That's Life” always puts a smile on my face.”



~ Stu McLaughlin, Beacon

“Cosmo Sheldrake and Clutch. Rock 'n' roll always works.”



~ Lucas Lange, Cold Spring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Hustis Pleads Not Guilty*Discussions continue about plea deal*

Charles E. "Chuck" Hustis III, a former Cold Spring trustee and mayoral candidate who was charged by federal authorities with the attempted enticement of a minor for sex, pleaded not guilty on Thursday (July 2) during his arraignment in White Plains.

Hustis was arrested by the FBI in December while authorities say he waited to meet a teenage boy after making arrangements online. A judge released Hustis on \$150,000 bond but placed him under home detention with a monitoring device.

The Thursday hearing took place by audioconference; Hustis, 37, was indicted by a grand jury on June 30. The next hearing will take place later this month, and Hustis' public defender continues to negotiate a possible plea deal.

Beacon School Board Member Resigns*Also: Superintendent contract extended five years*

Michael Rutkoske, who with Meredith Heuer and Antony Tseng was part of a first wave of newcomers elected to the nine-member board four years ago, said at its annual reorganizational meeting on Wednesday (July 1) that he will resign as of next week, citing work and other commitments.

The board will begin discussing how to fill the seat at its next meeting, which is scheduled for July 20. Its options include holding a special election, an appointment or sticking with eight members until the 2021 vote.

At the same meeting, the board elected Heuer as president. She succeeds Anthony White, who won reelection last month but chose to step aside as board head. Heuer had been its vice president for the last two years; Elissa Betterbid, a board member since 2018, was elected to succeed her.

Earlier this month, the board extended the contract of Superintendent Matt Landahl for five years, until June 21, 2025.

Landahl was hired in 2017 after a year-long search for a new schools chief. He will earn \$197,676 this year, and his salary in subsequent years will be based on performance evaluations.

Beacon Council Asks Police for Numbers*Weapons, calls, interactions all part of discussion*

As protests against police practices and spending continue nationwide, the City Council on Monday (June 29) continued its review of policies at the Beacon Police Department by sorting through its weapons inventory and reviewing calls that officers have responded to in the last 18 months.

Officers responded to 12,519 calls in 2019, with around 2,800 related to the patrol of various sectors of the city. More than 2,000 were traffic stops.

The department's inventory of firearms includes rifles, air guns that fire projectiles, pistols, shotguns and Tasers. Notably, the inventory also includes a fully automatic Thompson "Tommy" submachine gun that was purchased at a hardware store in Beacon in the 1930s but is not used by the department.

For the full story, see highlandscurrent.org.

Village Board Accepts Resignation*Officer was involved in 2012 shooting death in New York City*

The Cold Spring Village Board on June 23 accepted the resignation of Officer Scott Morris. He had been hired late last year but agreed to resign after residents protested his role as supervisor at the scene of a police killing of an 18-year-old man in the Bronx in 2012.

Morris was not charged but faced New York Police Department reprimands for "failure to notify police communications" and "failure to supervise members during a police incident." He agreed to resign from the NYPD in 2017.

The vote was 3-0. Mayor Dave Merandy was absent and Trustee Fran Murphy abstained, saying later that she felt the board had done its due diligence before hiring Morris.

"I didn't want him to resign; it wasn't fair to him," she said. Murphy said Morris, who provided details of the 2012 incident when interviewed by the board, had indicated he would resign if the incident ever became an issue.



10 Years, 10 Puzzles! Enter to Win!

Ten years ago on July 4th, "Philipstown.info" appeared on a storefront on Main Street in Cold Spring. It was the beginning of a new community news source that is now the independent nonprofit newspaper you're reading today:

The HIGHLANDS
Current

To celebrate our 10th anniversary and to thank you, our readers, for your support, we're giving away 10 puzzles featuring some of our most iconic photos.

The Puzzle Sweepstakes starts on Friday, July 3, and ends on Sunday, July 12.

To enter, just go to:

highlandscurrent.org/sweepstakes

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Looking Back 10 years

Join founding reporters as we look back at how *The Current* got its start in 2010 as Philipstown.info, and where it's going.

WEDNESDAY JULY 8TH 7:00 - 7:45 P.M.
Register to attend the live zoom event at highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations



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* New York News Publishers Association, 2017-18

Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Pride/Black Lives

I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to the organizers of the Putnam Pride/Black Lives Matter march and rally held June 22 in Carmel, and would especially like to commend the participants ("Two Causes, One Voice," June 26).

Living in small, tight-knit, rural towns like Philipstown and Putnam Valley, we often focus on the things that unite us as neighbors, unite us as friends, unite us as parents, and bring everyone together toward a common cause. But in pursuit of focusing on what makes us alike, we so frequently overlook all of the individual, unique differences each of us brings to the table. By taking an opportunity to celebrate and elevate those perspectives and identities, hopefully we can widen the lens of what makes Putnam County a great place to live.

One thing we have learned from this ongoing pandemic is the importance of relying on our neighbors and our community for support. But whenever anyone feels unsafe or unwelcome or unable to take advantage of that network, its connections are weakened for everyone. It is our responsibility as leaders, as allies and as neighbors to make sure everyone across Putnam County feels included and valued, and is

treated with the dignity that makes us all feel heard, connected and protected.

This work doesn't start in September and end in November every two years or four years. We can't wait for something horrible to happen here, or for some awful legislation to be proposed, to push us toward action. Let's take a proactive approach to inclusivity in our communities. We need to be working all the time, now more than ever, to make sure that everyone in Putnam County has a voice, and that when we envision what our communities look like and feel like, it is something we can all be proud of.

One way that we can work toward change today is by establishing a Human Rights Commission for Putnam County. We are the only county in the downstate area that does not have such a commission. In January, I sponsored legislation to establish one. Dozens of folks came out in support. Since then, the chair of the Rules Committee has been slow to answer my requests to put the proposal back on the agenda for discussion and a vote.

Now is the time. It's time for all communities across Putnam County to have a safe, formal venue to foster mutual respect and understanding, and to promote equity, acceptance, unity and humanity for us all.

Please help move this initiative forward.

Email Legislator Neal Sullivan at putco-leg@putnamcountyny.gov and demand he put the Human Rights Commission on the July agenda.

I am committed to continue this challenging, important work. With your help, we can get it done.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*
Montgomery represents Philipstown on the county Legislature.

Some thoughts from a veteran public school teacher on the Beacon school board adopting a statement supporting the Black Lives Matter movement (June 26):

Empathy, acceptance and understanding are essential factors to embed in relationships and the overall culture of a school. Change cannot be reduced to bullet points in a list of "to-dos," such as an updated reading list or minor tweaks to curriculum.

This is going to be a hard sell, and will take ongoing advocacy, commitment and time, but supporting real change in our schools will require comprehensive reviews of everything — including staffing diversity, class size and standardized assessments. These all play a role in how successful a student can be in our public school systems.

The only way forward is through fundamental reshaping of how and why we educate our children. I hope our communities are ready for the challenge and will support necessary changes.

Mai Jacobs, *Beacon*

Beacon police

Thirty people speaking out to cut police funding in no way represent the opinion of the 15,000 people who live in Beacon ("Beacon Police Face Scrutiny," June 26).

I've lived in the city for more than 40 years and have never had anything but positive dealings with any of the police officers (yep, even when I got a ticket years ago). Hopefully the City Council doesn't act erratically due to a few people who may have some personal issues when the majority is in support of our police.

Charles Symon, *Beacon*

Wanting more funds to go to our children and to strengthening the community does not necessarily mean people don't "support the police." It means we want to prioritize other things. We can still have a police force to respond to violent crimes with a fraction of what is spent now.

Spending 25 percent of our city's budget on policing is wasted money and an opportunity. I favor putting this to a citywide vote. What if we could vote on the police budget the same way we vote on the school's budget?

Kyra Stoddart, *Beacon*

(Continued on Page 4)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Upon consulting with and the agreement of the family involved, I want to announce that a bench placed in memory of Officer Dustin James outside City Hall will be moved to the entrance to the Beacon police station.

I want to thank the family for their gracious accommodation. Dustin James was a fine human being and a fine police officer. I attended his memorial service.

A portion of the bench reflects his career, which some members of the community may feel is inappropriate in front of the city courthouse and municipal entrance. It is more fitting and appropriate for this bench to be placed in front of the police station. As this is an administrative matter, this decision is made by the mayor.

As with most decisions in a democratic, pluralistic society, where people have diverse opinions, this may not make anyone fully satisfied, let alone everyone. I would encourage tolerance and respect for one another on this and all issues.

Lee Kyriacou, *Beacon Kyriacou is the mayor of Beacon.*

Be kind to cops and they will return the favor, regardless of pigmentation. Returning safely to their families is the prime objective.

James Rossouw, *via Facebook*

It's funny how everyone is protective of their tax dollars when it comes to the police. These officers put their lives on the line; we should pay them less? When crime increases and it impacts each person, critics will say the police aren't doing their jobs. Moving funds away from the police department will come at a cost to the community unless the community can maintain order and civility on its own.

Donald O'Sullivan, *via Facebook*

Pizza delivery is a more dangerous job than policing. If we're paying on a danger scale, let's pay groundskeepers, farmers, garbage collectors, truckers and fishermen more than police, who all do a heck of a lot more for this country anyway. The myth of policing as a dangerous profession gives cops the idea that their job is a battlefield, and a lot of innocent people have died for their war fantasies.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

It's ironic how we think of police as tough people and yet they completely melt down at any sort of criticism.

Steven Saltzman, *via Facebook*

What is happening in this country is disgusting. I can't believe that anybody would ever want to consider defunding the police department. We are a nation of law and order. Respect the law and there will be order.

Rose Scanga, *via Facebook*

The community is loudly saying that order and civility are not being maintained by the police departments of this country. The function of defunding departments is to reallocate tax dollars to *better* maintain order and civility.

Dan Breindel, *via Facebook*

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of July 1, along with historical data, at right. If a household doesn't respond online at 2020census.gov, the agency sends a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response, a census taker will be dispatched. Although "nonresponse follow-up" operations were delayed by the pandemic, the bureau's offices in Peekskill and Pawling have reopened.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	68.0	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	65.3	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	64.7	66.2	67	64
Nelsonville	62.1	66.5	67	65
18th District	61.9	66.0	-	-
National	61.8	67.2	65	61
Beacon	60.9	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	60.7	65.7	68	64
New York State	57.3	64.6	67	62
New York City	52.9	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	38.4	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

Short-term rentals

This is wonderful news ("Beacon Legalizes Short-Term Rentals," June 26). I am so glad I got involved in this matter, attending meetings in person and online. I am glad I emailed council members with my thoughts.

This is a huge win for all the people who rent Airbnb units, rooms or homes. Beacon needs what you have to offer our visitors, families and vacationers. They are coming here for weddings, reunions, to see their grandchildren's first birthdays, to look at real estate, to become homeowners. I have met so many wonderful people of all ages and have not had one incident in three years with anything due to Airbnb. Thank you, Beacon City Council.

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

Putnam land

As a resident of Putnam County and a homeowner, the last thing I would want is for the county to sell the land at Tilly Foster Farm or the golf club to developers ("Virus Takes a Divot at Putnam Golf Course," June 26). Both properties have beautiful green

space, and the farm is great for children to see, as well as for the high school students who attend programs there. Please do not sell this land.

Nadine Fletcher, *Carmel*

2020 grads

What a school year this has been! As parents, we anticipate certain rites of passage for our children, one of which is their high school senior year. We envision them dressing for prom, loading buses for senior trips and approaching a stage to receive recognition for academic and athletic achievements. The big finale is their graduation day ("Congratulations to the Class of 2020," June 26).

This year things were different, but our seniors were celebrated in new and creative ways. With much fanfare, Beacon High School teachers and administrators visited each senior's home to deliver a cap and gown. The Athletic Department orchestrated a tribute to senior athletes. Each senior had the chance to walk across the stage as their name was called and their

families cheered. They received scholarships with a virtual presentation and picked up their yearbooks and diplomas. The icing on the cake was the chance for seniors to see themselves on the big screen at the Hyde Park Drive-In Theatre.

They say it takes a village — and the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization can attest to that. Thank you to the entire Beacon City School District administration, faculty and staff for their efforts to work around the regulations and closures to provide opportunities for our kids to celebrate their graduation.

Thanks also to Key Food, Ron's Ice Cream, Libby funeral home, Melzingah Tap House, Antalek and Moore, Riverview funeral home, Slaterpalooza, Chris Bopp, Stintson's Hub and Dawn Sela Photography, as well as Rob Lanier, Suzi Higgins and Tim and Susan Pagones, for providing a personalized lawn sign for each graduate.

Thank you to community members for buying and displaying yard signs. In addition to raising spirits, the money raised was used to provide face coverings that read "BHS 2020" and a graduation movie-night goodie bag filled with snacks for each family.

Over their four years in high school, members of the senior class worked hard to raise funds to help pay for the events, as well. This money was used to rent the movie theater and for a group photo.

Although the seniors lost out on many traditional pieces of their final year, many traditions were created, allowing them to be loved and celebrated in new ways.

Christine Galbo, *Beacon*

This letter was also signed by other members of the Senior Parent Committee of the Beacon High School PTO.

Lee at West Point

What would Abraham Lincoln do with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney's demand to erase the memory of Robert E. Lee from West Point ("Maloney Again Asks West Point to Remove Lee's Name," June 26)? What would this assassinated president, who invoked the Christian virtue of forgiveness and permitted Confederate soldiers to return to their homes, do?

Remember his words: "With malice toward none and charity for all, for firmness in the right as God gives us the right to see, let us strive on to bind up the nation's wounds." Our nation was wounded and Lincoln was the healer. But those wounds are being reopened and deepened by the likes of the Maloney, whose rampage of moral arrogance is wrecking the foundations of our nation.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

Robert E. Lee was an honorable man. His accusers cannot say the same.

Nina Pidala, *via Facebook*

Lee was asked by Lincoln to lead the Union army and refused in order to lead an armed insurrection based on preserving and expanding the right to own other human beings as property.

Tristan Elwell, *via Facebook*



ONE-MAN STAND — A solitary supporter of President Donald Trump erected a banner on Route 9D in Cold Spring near St. Mary's Church on Tuesday (June 30), prompting four Philipstown residents to stage their own protest of the president a short distance away. No one would give his or her name. Some residents contacted Village Hall to question whether the banner violated local law because of its size, but the code only prohibits signs that block the street or sidewalk. The area between the sidewalk and Route 9D is part of the state highway right-of-way.

Photo by Michael Turton

Pick-Your-Own in the COVID Era

Farms balance high season with safety

By Leonard Sparks

At this time last year, members of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project's community-supported agriculture (CSA) program would socialize while on the farm to pick crops.

Executive Director Ray Armater likened it to "an open house on the farm."

"Folks would hang around in the shade and talk and wait for other friends to come," he said.

That was pre-COVID-19.

Now, socializing has been replaced by social-distancing. Local farms in the midst of their high season are running their pick-your-own programs in a new way — requiring visitors and CSA members to reserve a time slot so farms will not be overrun with people at a time when crowds are viewed as a risk for spreading the virus.

Fishkill Farms in Hopewell Junction is taking reservations to pick sweet cherries, raspberries and other fruits and produce.

"Demand has been great," said owner Josh Morgenthau. "We're getting the same type of attendance we would normally get but it's been spread out over more days and more hours, which is the goal."

With entry allowed for up to five people, ages 2 and older, picking at Fishkill Farms can still be a family activity. Among the changes, however, is a one-hour limit for picking and requirements that participants wear masks and attest that they haven't had COVID-19 symptoms in the past few weeks, said Morgenthau.

There is also a handwashing station that visitors must use before picking and a prohibition on eating fruit in the field.

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project is limiting picking to CSA members, who must also reserve a time slot. Entry is restricted to the individual and one family member. Like Fishkill Farms, the farm project requires that visitors wash their hands before picking.

"Our CSA members are great," Armater said. "They really get it."

Phase 4 (from Page 1)

Meanwhile, other arts and cultural organizations prepared to again welcome visitors under Phase 4 of the state's re opening plan, which could begin in the Mid-Hudson Region (including Putnam and Dutchess) as soon as Tuesday (July 7).

Businesses and organizations offering "low-risk" indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment, along with film and music productions, will be allowed to resume as long as employers monitor workers' health and adhere to guidelines for facial cover-

ings and social distancing.

The list of approved places includes botanical gardens, museums, nature parks, historic sites and outdoor zoos.

Professional sports, excluding auto and horse racing, can also resume in Phase 4, although without spectators. The state is asking higher education institutions to submit plans for reopening in the fall.

During Phase 4, social gatherings of up to 50 people and indoor religious services at up to 33 percent of capacity will be allowed, with social distancing restrictions. But movie theaters, gyms and shopping malls will not

be able to reopen, as some had anticipated.

In Garrison, Boscobel lost the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to COVID-19 when it canceled its 2020 season.

But over the last two months, Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist said this week, the organization also found something "life-affirming": the pandemic-weary doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health care workers given free access to the gardens, trails and grounds, along with their families, as a respite.

The ongoing program "kept us going when we were mourning," Carlquist said. "The pandemic has refocused us and shown us how incredibly lucky we are to have the resources that we do, and motivated us even more to share them in new ways."

The Boscobel mansion will remain closed, but the organization began offering a limited number of grounds passes last month. As Phase 4 begins, more people will be allowed on the grounds for self-guided and guided tours.

For \$12, a visitor can have the run of the property for two hours, whether hiking, picnicking or visiting its gardens, Carlquist said. "You get to essentially treat one of the most beautiful homes in America as your own front lawn," she said.

In addition to Boscobel, Magazzino Italian Art and Storm King Art Center are preparing to reopen to guests.

"I'm excited for Magazzino to go back to being an active member of the community," said the museum's director, Vittorio Calabrese. "I'm also careful because I see what's happening in other states."

Magazzino is planning to debut an exhibit, *Homemade*, with about 30 works created by eight New York-based artists during the pandemic.

In addition to requiring reservations and

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,332 (+21)

New Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

17,734 (+1,822)

Percent positive:

7.5 (-0.7)

Number of deaths:

63 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,225 (+49)

Active Cases in Beacon: 14

Tests administered:

61,625 (+6,068)

Percent positive:

6.9 (-0.6)

Number of deaths:

151 (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of July 2. New cases in Philipstown for week ending June 25.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – July 16th, 2020

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 16th, 2020 starting at 7:30 p.m. via zoom to hear the following appeal.

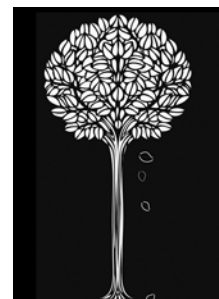
If you would like to attend, please email kmacintyre@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on July 16th, 2020.

CRS International Self-Storage Warehouse/Office, 2761 Route 9 TM# 38-3-64

(The applicant is seeking Amended Site Plan re-approval for the existing self-storage site plan, similar in scope. The property is approximately 2.47 acres located in the "HC" (Highway Commercial) zoning district.)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Building Department.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, June 18th, 2020



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If you are looking for a "natural finish" and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

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845.446.7465

Donor Train (from Page 1)

After two attempts to donate fell through due to the recipient's health issues, Tanner was matched with Thompson.

Because the psychological effects of



Dr. Kerri Tanner after her surgery in which she donated a kidney to someone who was then a stranger.

Photo provided

organ transplant can be challenging, the program doesn't allow a donor and recipient to learn each other's identities for at least a year. Thompson only knew her kidney was coming from California.

On Oct. 9, 2018, one of Tanner's kidneys was removed at UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles, flown to New York and implanted into Thompson the next day.

Simultaneously, one of Holowinko's kidneys was removed, sent to Massachusetts General Hospital and implanted in a recipient who has not been identified.

This week, Tanner, Thompson and Holowinko attended the Zoom meeting and invited a reporter from *The Current*. Ten days earlier, Tanner had introduced herself to Thompson in a letter. "I cried and cried and cried when I read Kerri's letter," Thompson said.

She said receiving Tanner's kidney was a huge relief, though mixed with months of frustration and depression, which is a side effect of the medications to keep her body from rejecting the organ. Thompson also had complications such as a hernia and a heart condition, which can't be treated until she is stronger.

She broke down while thanking Tanner for helping her, expressing guilt over her slow recovery. "I feel sad that I'm having all these complications," she said. "It's not your fault, Kerri; I wish I was better!"

"It's not your fault, either, Leesa," Tanner reassured her.

"I'm sorry I'm not fully able to appreciate the gift you've given me," Thompson continued, saying she has been unable to return to work.

While the coronavirus has kept Thompson at home, she walks regularly and has started an online fitness group that Tanner has joined.

Thompson said with a laugh that she had nicknamed her kidney "Baby Kerri."

Asked why she donated an organ to a stranger, Tanner, a senior team leader with OptumCare in Arizona, said: "I felt a calling. To feel you have helped someone in a way that 99.9 percent of the people will never know — that's elation. I'm incredibly proud of it. I'm ridiculously proud of my

children, but this is a close second."

Tanner said the long wait to learn who received her kidney was difficult. She was cautioned during counseling before being approved as a donor that she might never know. "Not knowing if my kidney made someone's life better was something I had to put out of my mind daily," she said. "But the pros far outweigh the cons."

Holowinko said it feels "a little strange" to still not know who received his kidney, although he recently learned the recipient is doing well.

Giving up a kidney "puts a different perspective on life," he said. "People waste their lives on stupid things. There's so much more we can do."

NOTICE

BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM | OPEN SITES

The Beacon City School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided, at a first come, first serve basis, at the sites and times as follows:

DATE	SCHOOL	BEACON	TIME
July 8 - August 19	South Avenue School	60 South Ave.	Mon & Wed 10 - 10:30am
July 8 - August 19	Beacon High School	101 Matteawan Rd.	Mon & Wed 10 - 10:30am
July 8 - August 19	Tompkins Terrace Apts.	194 Tompkins Terr.	Mon & Wed 11 - 11:30am

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:
(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – July 16th, 2020

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 16th, 2020 starting at 7:30 p.m. via zoom to hear the following appeal.

If you would like to attend, please email kmacintyre@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on July 16th, 2020.

**Slope Line, LLC C/O The Scenic Hudson Trust,
1 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200 Poughkeepsie**

**TM#16-1-19, 16-1-18, 16-1-11, 16.11-1-11, 16-1-12, 16-1-15, 16-1-14, 16-1-13,
16-1-20, 16-1-17, 16-1-16, 16.11-1-1, 16.11-1-2, 16.11-1-3, 16.15-1-40**

(Approval of the subdivision of the 770 acres into 3 parcels.
Parcel A - 520 acres is unimproved and will be protected by conservation easement or conveyed to New York State.

Parcel B - 190 acres is improved with small recreational structures. It will be conveyed to an HOA associated with the existing residential community surrounded by the Slope Line Land, and it will be subject to a conservation easement.

Parcel C - 50 acres is already improved with residential structure and outbuildings. If and when it is conveyed by Slope Line, it will be conveyed subject to a conservation easement.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Building Department.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, June 18th, 2020

NOTICE

THE PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on July 16th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email [KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM](mailto:kmacintyre@philipstown.com) to request login information before 7 pm on 16th, 2020.

NOTICE

THE PHILIPSTOWN CONSERVATION BOARD

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on July 14th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email [KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM](mailto:kmacintyre@philipstown.com) to request login information before 7 pm on 14th, 2020.

AROUND TOWN



◀ **CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT** — A reader catches up on the news at Dockside Park in Cold Spring.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **VIRTUAL HOLIDAY** — The annual Independence Day Celebration at Mekeel's Corners Chapel at Routes 9 and 301 in Philipstown will not take place this year, but organizers posted a 30-minute recorded program at bit.ly/mekeels that honors Ed Cleary, a former president of the chapel, who died in April. According to Town Historian Mark Forlow, the 1867 structure — shown here in the 19th century — was originally a fixture in what was known as Griffin's Corners, which included Griffin's Hotel, a school and a blacksmith shop.

Photo courtesy Mark Forlow



▲ **OFFICER AND PARTNER RETIRE** — Sgt. Scott Lombardo of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department retired on June 26 after 23 years in law enforcement. His partner, K-9 Char, also retired. Deputy Sheriff Michael Sutherland was promoted to succeed Lombardo.

Photo provided



◀ **BEAR RESCUE** — On Sunday (June 14), two state environmental conservation officers were called to Beacon to help a bear that had been seen wandering on North Walnut Street. Officers Mike Hameline and Kevin Wamsley found the bear in a tree, where it had drawn a crowd. A state biologist came to the scene to tranquilize the animal, which fell onto cushions set up below the tree. It was removed to a less-populated area of Dutchess County.

Photo provided



PAUSE
Looking Through
the Window

Barbara Smith Gioia

Lucille Tortora

Martee Levi

John Allen

JULY 1st - 31st, 2020



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The Calendar

'The American Dream Has Always Been Rigged'

New novel examines the downwardly mobile

By Alison Rooney

Warning: This book is fiscally explicit.

That cautionary note would not feel out of place on the cover of former Philipstown resident Lynn Steger Strong's latest novel, *Want*, which addresses the shame attached to precarious living and downward mobility.

Though written a couple of years ago, the novel explores realms tethered to the concerns that have arisen from the COVID-19 shutdown and, to some extent, from the Black Lives Matter movement. It will be published on Tuesday (July 7) and Split Rock Books will host a virtual event at 7 p.m. on July 22, with Strong in conversation with Cold Spring writer Virginia Sole-Smith. See splitrockbks.com to register.

The protagonist of Strong's novel is Eliz-

abeth, who has a multitude of wants that reflect the typical trappings of middle-class urban life as well as the wish to be an inspiring, responsive teacher and mother; to have increased connection with friends and family; and to be less tired.

Strong has at least a passing acquaintance with all those conditions. Since earning an MFA from Columbia University, she has not gotten rich as a writer and teacher. Like her protagonist, she grew up in Florida, is in her 30s, has two young daughters and has often worked multiple jobs.

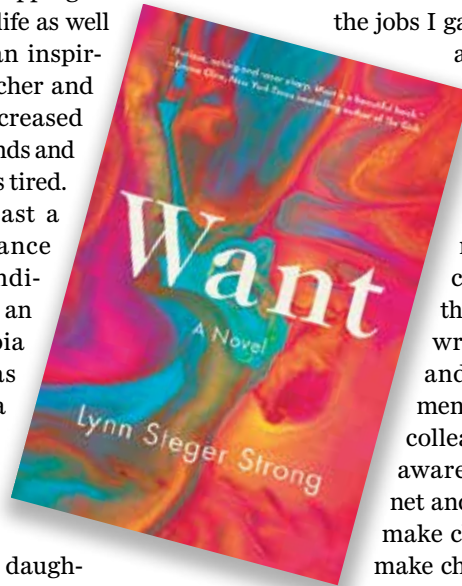
"The character is a good vessel," says Strong, who now lives in Brooklyn. "I wanted a self-knowing, fault-in-herself-finding narra-

tor. I opened at the beginning with the idea that she had the ability to disappear. One of the jobs I gave myself is that any time

a reader might say, 'I know who this person is,' I tried to throw in a curveball to call them out."

Economic insecurity hovers throughout the novel, both for people who come from privilege and those who have not. Elizabeth wrestles with her situation and her perception of judgments by her parents, friends, colleagues and herself, always aware of "the idea of a safety net and what that does when you make choices," Strong says. "You make choices while vaguely aware that a level of safety does exist, and that's hard to relate to from people for whom there is no safety net."

She adds: "The American Dream has



Lynn Steger Strong

Photo by Nina Subin

always been rigged. There has been a dream and a path, but they're only accessible to a very small group of individuals. A large swathe of individuals is told to 'pursue your

(Continued on Page 14)

Beacon to the Rescue

New shop survives because of early sales

By Alison Rooney

Like many others before them, Frankie Martinez and Steve Yount set their sights on having a weekend home in the Hudson Valley.

The couple had a look at Beacon and found it had a similar vibe to Asheville, North Carolina, the artsy city in the Smoky Mountains where Yount grew up.

They bought a house and soon the weekends expanded into the weekdays. Three years ago they left Brooklyn and came north full-time with their five dogs (now six).

Not long after that, they decided to open a business. Yount has experience in retail; he was an operations manager in the early days of Bed, Bath and Beyond, among other management positions. Martinez works in software development.

Their first thought was a restaurant featuring Venezuelan street food because Martinez is from Venezuela and his mother is an amazing cook, Yount says. But the licenses and paperwork were daunting. They reconsidered and settled on the idea of "a cute little shop" they could use to publicize senior dog rescue.

Their mutual affection for older dogs began with an 8-year-old who thrived in their care and lived to age 17. "This was a



Frankie Martinez and Steve Yount. "I promise you, behind these masks, we are smiling," Martinez says.

dog who had lived her whole life getting nothing," Yount says. "Once she got love, it doubled her life."

The retail concept was "a community general store that focuses on handmade products," Martinez says. They called it Solstad House after a band Yount played in while living in Brooklyn, which in turn was named for a character in the Paul Thomas Anderson film, *The Master*.

The shop, located across the street from The Roundhouse and down the hill from the dummy light, opened on Nov. 1. After strong holiday sales, it had to close to customers in March because of the pandemic. Fortunately, the early sales have helped them weather the shutdown.

Solstad House re-opened, with Phase 2

restrictions, in early June. What customers will find inside is a mix of "consumables, textiles, pottery, books, cards, apothecary items, personal-care products, puzzles and dog- and cat-related items," says Yount.

"We are very much skewed to locals, maybe because we're off the beaten path and there's no stampede of tourists, like on Main," Martinez says. "We've made so many great friends, human and canine. We've survived the past few months because the town decided we would survive."

The partners, who have been a couple for 20 years, find stock by scouring trade shows "for what could fall under a rustic Scandinavian aesthetic," Martinez says. "We want to feature mainly handmade artisan products, made in America, and preferably made



"The Lords & Ladies of Solstad House" — past or present members of Frankie and Steve's senior rescue "dog pack"

Photos by A. Rooney

in New York, from a good mix of minority-owned businesses — basically, small companies with people doing it themselves."

The rear of the store is home to an array of vintage lamps; 100 percent of each sale is donated to an organization based in Tennessee called Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary. "I'm part of a large Southern family and had to endure big family meals with crazy old lamps!" says Yount. "This started out as nostalgia, but we discovered each lamp had quirk and character."

Solstad House, located at 17 E. Main St., is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 845-440-7281 or visit solstadhouse.com.

Remember These 200 Headlines?*

*Or maybe you were there



Issue 100



Issue 200



Issue 300



Issue 400

2010

A Creative Dry Spell Led to Her Tamales • Cold Spring Village Board Passes Law Allowing Composting Toilets at Parks • Understanding Donald Lusk • Michael Bakker Wins Cold Spring Triathlon • The Sad Demise of the Once Proud Word *Awesome* • Cold Spring Board Meetings to be Televised • Three World War II Veterans Receive French Medal and Gratitude at Waterfront Ceremony • “Impeach Obama” Effort by LaRouche Group Draws Support, Debate, Near Foodtown Plaza • Leo the Cat Has Been Found • Cold Spring’s Radio Station • Serradas, Hustis Attack Mayor and Special Board Funding • Guy Fawkes’ Element Dropped from Boscobel’s Bonfire Night • John Adams Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom • Cold Spring Foresees Ending Fiscal Year with About \$40,000 Extra • Village Board Approves “Dark Skies” Lighting for Waterfront • Vincent Leibell Will Not Take Office as Putnam County Executive

2011

Another Great “Listening Room” Lineup at Philipstown.info • Rescue on Breakneck Ridge • Rezoning Brings Praise, Even from Former Critics, and Scattered Complaints • Draft Law to Ban Weapons from Town Property Draws Immediate Salvo from NRA Lawyer • PhilipsTalk with Richard Shea • Nelsonville to Hold Rare Event: A Contested Election • Will Route 9 Traffic Light Finally Become a Reality? • Dancing Boys Likely to Tear the House Down at *Grease* • New Sand for Tots Park Sandbox • NRC Declares Indian Point Safe • Dr. Peter Gergely and Stacy Labriola Join Phil Donahue as Desmond-Fish Honorees • World’s End Theater Debuts with *The Seagull* • Hockey Coming to Haldane? • Village Board — Skeptically — Weighs Idea of New Firehouse at Butterfield Site • Chapel Restoration First to Invite Local Same-Sex Weddings • Split Village Board Scuttles Bid to Allow Higher Fences • Philipstown.info to Host First Candidate Forum at Haldane • Fracking with Our Future • Philipstown Man and Companion Accused of Selling Heroin • Continental Village Residents Seek Help with Lakeland School Taxes • Haldane Girls’ Varsity Volleyball Team Brings Home Gold • Residents Tell EPA, Village Board of Ongoing Worries over Marathon Site

2012

Pop Warner Football Wants to Install Lights at Mayor’s Park • Online Petition Urges Repeal of Mayor’s Salary Hike • Mayor Faces Marion Avenue Wrath • Mining Returns to Philipstown? • Cold Spring Board Introduces Global Warming Pledge • Villanti Proposes Improvements to Haldane Football Field • Dunkin’ Donuts Study Predicts No Traffic Problems • Butterfield Committee Walks Site and Ponders • Cold Spring Says No to Fast Food • Cleanup Follows Hurricane Sandy Through Philipstown • Succimarra Defeats Rosario • Gallagher Says He’s Done with Mayor’s Job

2013

Putnam Clerk Says No to Gun-Info Request • Residents Ponder Local Solutions to Address Climate Change • Rector Sounds Alarm on Church Finances • Post Office at Butterfield or “No Place,” Warns Mayor • Town and Village Ban Firearms • Route 9 Biker Assault at Former Hardware Store • Charge Against Mazzuca Draws Surprise and Support • DEC Coal Tar Cleanup Question Looms Over Cold

Spring Boat Club • Little Enthusiasm Locally for School Consolidation • Concept of Linking Cold Spring and Beacon with “Fjord Trail” Advances • Mystery Point Sold to Billionaire Philanthropist • Our Lady of Loretto Says Goodbye to Fr. McSweeney • DA Sues Sheriff for \$5 Million • Constitution Island Education Center Proposed for Main Street • Ailes and Shea Discuss New Senior Center at American Legion Post • Manhunt for Suspected Murderer Unnerves Cold Spring • Towne Crier Cafe Re-opens in Beacon • Handel’s *Messiah* Comes to Cold Spring • Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board • Public Officials React to Train Tragedy

2014

Maloney and Florke Announce Wedding Plans • Weekend Residential Village Proposed for Philipstown • Diagonal Parking Proposed for Main Street • Bowman and Fadde Running as Team • Trustee Hawkins Receives Legal Threats • Library Turns a Page with New Director Jen McCreery • Shea Seeks Public Input into Cell Tower Decision • Emotional Haldane Budget Forum Outlines Program Cuts • Butterfield Zoning Approved • President Delivers West Point Commencement Address • Philipstown. Info Becomes Charitable Organization • Lost Hikers Pose a Challenge • Maloney Retains Seat in a Republican Year • Haldane’s Girls’ Soccer Wins First State Championship • Gordon Stewart, Our Founder, Dies

2015

Many Car Tires Cut at Metro-North Parking Lot • Beacon Pool to Reopen to General Public • Concept of Garrison Fire District Prompts Debate at Town Board • Town Board Urges Action to Prevent “Bomb” Train Accidents on Hudson • State Testing a Divisive Issue in Local Schools • This Romeo and Juliet Has a Very Happy Ending • State Police Say Kayaker a Killer • Pataki Declares for Presidency • Beacon 3D Sculptures Transform Main Street • Beacon Reviews Merging Fire Houses • Groundbreaking Day at Butterfield Site • Town Board Votes to Pave Part of South Mountain Pass • Six Alternatives to Breakneck • The Beacon Theatre Sold • Made in Philipstown Strikes a Chord • Santos Family Ready to Rebuild • Merchants Happy to See Seastreak Visitors • Beacon Will See More Hotel Rooms

2016

First Parking Meter for Cold Spring • Beacon School Leaders Under Fire • Questions Raised About Putnam Tourism Office • Parking Woes as Beacon Grows • *Our Town* Attracts Plenty of Local Characters • New Senior Center Will Be Named for Ailes • Beacon and Fishkill Discuss Sharing Police • Challengers Prevail in Beacon School Race • Pastor Spots Intruder on Doggie-Cam • Three Thousand Hikers Storm Breakneck • Late-Night Motion Stirs Protest at Beacon School Board • Coast Guard Proposes More Barge Parking Areas • Ailes Pulls Funds for Senior Citizen Center • Hello (Again) Dolly! • Modern Art Space to Open in Philipstown in 2017 • Feds to Beacon Police: You Are Free to Go • Beacon Historical Society Finds New, Larger Home • Garrison Fire Company Spending Jumps 27 Percent • Antidote Saves Two Heroin Users on Same Day • Neighbors to Ask State to Close Indian Brook Falls • Butterfield Developer Wants \$2.5 Million from Village

2017

Beacon Boys Must Forfeit Wins • GE on Hudson River Cleanup: We’re Done • New Superintendent in Beacon • Tourism Board Chair Charged with \$10 Theft • Major Crime in Beacon Falls to Five-Year Low • Rev. Geer to Retire from St. Philip’s • Cold Spring Mayor’s Race Too Close to Call • 300-Plus Unit Development Proposed for Beacon Train Station Area • Philipstown Forbids Aiding Immigration Arrests • Philipstown, Cold Spring Merge Building Departments • Putnam Sheriff Settles Defamation Case • Village Raises Concern About Herbicide • Craig House Sale Pending • Airbnb Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown • Nelsonville Residents Object to Cell Tower Plan • Beacon on Board for Skate Park • Too Many Visitors, or Not Enough? • Beacon Adopts Building Freeze • Langley is New Putnam Sheriff

2018

Development in Beacon: What Next? • Local Dreamers Fight to Stay • Are Schools Safe Enough? • Cell-Tower Company, Verizon Sue Philipstown • Philipstown Names Anti-Drug Coordinator • Students Protest Gun Violence • Philipstown Enacts Safe-Storage Gun Law • Beacon Police Add Body Cameras • Jean Marzollo, Children’s Book Author, Dies at 75 • Sign Lands Beacon Man in Court • Assemblyman Skartados Dies at 62 • Rise in “Vaping” Causes Alarm • Beacon Solar Farm Ready to Shine • Little Stony Point Gets a Facelift • Goose Problem Continues at Mayor’s Park • Grannies Head to the Border • Beacon to Consider Municipal IDs • Beacon Schools Taking Steps to Diversify Staff • Beacon Launches Free Bus Loop • Tires Dumped Into Indian Brook • Silver Spoon May Become Hotel • For Sale: Beacon Prison • Montgomery Take District 1 Seat • Beacon Council Reconsiders Pinball Ban

2019

Don Nice, Painter of the Everyday, Dies at 86 • Beacon Mayor Has Challenger • Anti-Abortion Draft Ignites Debate at Putnam Legislature • Challengers Sweep in Nelsonville • Could Parking Meters Come to Beacon? • Does Cold Spring Need Another Traffic Light? • New Nelsonville Mayor Says He Will Resign • Judge Reitz Dies at 57 • Putnam Passes Secrecy Law • Maloney Says He Would Vote for Impeachment, But Prefers Ballots • For Some, Vaccination Law Stings • Huge Fishkill Development Looms Over Beacon • Trolley Struggles to Get on Track • Putnam Visitors’ Bureau Disappears • Beacon to Add Three Firefighters • Mental-Health Hub Opens in Cold Spring • Haldane Coach Arrested • Beacon Has New Mayor; Philipstown, New Clerk • Three-Story Limit on Main? • Former Cold Spring Trustee Arrested by FBI

2020

Putnam Sheriff Releases Three Defendants Under Bail Law • ZBA Rules Against Rock-Crushing Firm • Whistling Willie’s Closes Its Doors • Nelsonville Approves Cell-Tower Settlement • Putnam Settles Hossu Case for \$750,000 • Route 9 Firm Sues Philipstown for \$50 Million • Coronavirus on the Move • Breakneck Burns • Students and Teachers Adjust to New Plan • Open Space Institute Buys Breakneck Chalet • Beacon Prison Virus Cases Highest in State • Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Cancels 2020 Season



Michele Gedney, composing



Deb Lucke draws her dismount

Something You Don't Know About Me

The Staff

Editor's Note: For the past few months, while COVID-19 has suspended in-person performances, Arts Editor Alison Rooney has been profiling residents who share unexpected stories from their past. We thought, for our 10th anniversary, we would ask the same of the people who put the paper together.

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

REPORTER (2010-PRESENT)

I have a master's degree in medieval history, specializing in 14th-century political-military history and the Anglo-Scottish borders, where *nocht* was "no" and *ne'er* meant "never."

That led to what is probably my best investigative reporting ever: a scholarly article revealing a 600-year-old cover-up by a corrupt king who promised to drain the political swamp but became a murderous despot. The sorry tale involves a tragic hero (Sir Harry Percy, aka "Hotspur," accused of treason and killed by the aforementioned king – the *real* Hotspur, not Shakespeare's make-believe version) and burgeoning sentiment for a proto-parliamentary democracy.

Brian PJ Cronin

REPORTER (2014-PRESENT)

Although I did write for the school paper in college, I assumed journalism was too fun to do as an actual job, so I majored in theater and made my living in my 20s as a theater technician. My main gig was running sound for the infamous, legendary, much-discussed-but-never-understood experimental playwright and director Richard Foreman in his tiny theater on the second floor of St. Mark's Church in the East Village.

As a big fan of Richard's work, this was a dream come true. He would create and rehearse a new show every fall. We'd open in the winter and play five nights a week until summer, then pack up and tour festivals around the world until it was time to create the next show.

Traveling the world ending up teaching me a lot about my current career: Namely that everyone, all over the globe, has a story to tell. It's just a question of being curious and respectful enough that they'll feel comfortable telling it to you.

Joe Dizney

FOOD COLUMNIST (2010-PRESENT)

In my 30s, I washed up in the East Village – by day, an art director; by night, a fledgling rocker. I played guitar for a nine-piece, instrumental-only art-rock band, The Ordinaires.

We had two violins, two saxophones, two guitars, cello, bass and drums. We were a mashup of Booker T. & the M.G.'s and The Mothers of Invention. Composer, saxophonist and fellow traveler Kurt Hoffman defined it as "a big, loud contrapuntal mess that you can dance to" – also apt, also limiting.

We shared stages with The Beastie Boys, Max Roach, They Might Be Giants and Camper Van Beethoven. We had an MTV video (a "Buzz Bin" cover of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir"). We haunted CBGBs, The Knitting Factory and The Bottom Line, and drove around the country for months in *two* vans. We rocked, we rambled, we fell apart. Words still can't do it justice – you had to be there. I'm happy to say I was.

Pamela Doan

GARDENING COLUMNIST (2013-PRESENT)

After years of anti-apartheid work and organizing a speaking tour in the Pacific Northwest for the African National Congress in 1993, I was invited to join an ANC Youth League Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

The conference was canceled days before I was to leave but friends there convinced me to come anyway. It was four months before the first democratic elections brought Nelson Mandela and the ANC into governing.

My trip included representing Seattle's sister community project and meeting with union organizers from the Domestic Workers Union as an exchange with my union, the Service Employees International Union. It was illuminating.

One of the highlights of my life was going out with ANC volunteers to do voter education in Cape Town. It's impossible to describe the energy and hope for a better future and the confidence that voting was a step to get there. The revolution was happening.

I wanted to stay. I wanted to return. I knew in my heart, though, that as a white American my work was here.

Michele Gedney

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR (2011-PRESENT)

I wrote my first song, "Runner," by playing the first string of an old guitar to harmonize with the melody. I saved the handwritten lyrics and, no, it wasn't any good.

Fifty-two years and hundreds of songs later, I have had the honor, for the past eight years, of helping others find their inspiration as a songwriting instructor at Dar Williams' "Writing a Song That Matters" retreat. We usually gather each summer at the Garrison Institute, but we'll meet virtually this year. We are a unique community, compelled to express ourselves through song, joyful at finding kinship in each other.

My songwriting journey has guided so many life choices and led me to my husband, Rick, my musical partner in our duo called Open Book.

Deb Lucke

INVESTIGATIVE CARTOONIST (2016-PRESENT)

I have fallen off horses a lot.

As an inexperienced but enthusiastic rider I found out that:

- Horses spook.
- Horses have saddles which can flip upside-down if the cinch is too loose.
- Horses play tricks. Like running under apple trees.

And then there are the horses that buck. I bought Sugar with my babysitting earnings. She bucked me off every day for a month. But I kept getting back on.

Finally, we compromised. We'd mince slowly away from the barn. If I squeezed hard enough, *maybe* we'd trot. The moment we turned around, she'd gallop back pell-mell. As the 5-foot-high gate that stood between us and the barn drew closer and closer, I'd rise up in the saddle preparing for the inevitable jump. At the last second, she'd skid to a stop and lift her hind quarters skyward.

Later, I played polo in college. One of our practice drills was dismounting at high speed. I excelled.

Alison Rooney

ARTS EDITOR (2010-PRESENT)

I was once a passenger-service liaison during an icebreaker expedition to Antarctica. During the three-week trip, my duties consisted mostly of checking with seasick passengers who hadn't emerged from their cabins during the first days of the journey in the Southern Ocean, when we passed

(Continued on Page 11)

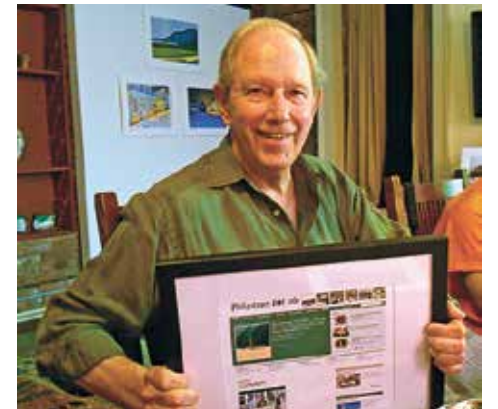
10 Years (from Page 1)

sticker and T-shirt.

Nearly two years later, Gordon decided Philipstown.info should have a weekly print edition. He called it *The Paper*. It launched on June 1, 2012, with the banner headline, "Bridge Snarl Ends This Month." The paper immediately began to win state and national awards – more than 80 so far.

After 10 years, 15,768 stories, 9,008 online comments and 421 weekly issues, we are grateful to be here. We hope we have built on Gordon's gift to his new community.

Chip Rowe, *Editor*



How It Began

For those unfamiliar with our origin story, which has been told in *The New Yorker*, a bestselling book, a documentary and elsewhere: In 2008, Roger Ailes, then the chairman of Fox News and a Garrison resident, purchased the 142-year-old *Putnam County News & Recorder*, based in Cold Spring, to the dissatisfaction of many members of the community.

Gordon Stewart would later say he wasn't as bothered as some. But there were meetings and talk of launching an alternative paper. It would be costly, and while many people wanted to write columns, few stepped up to cover the Village Board.

After mulling it over for about a year, Stewart decided to launch a digital news source, at his own expense, that he felt would better serve the community. He kept the site at philipstown.info a secret and covered the signs on a storefront he rented at 69 Main St. until shortly before the Fourth of July parade.

By that day, the site had three staff members: Michael Mell, the website editor; Joe Dizney, the lifestyle editor; and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong, the news editor. Soon after, former PCNR reporters Michael Turton and Alison Rooney came aboard. Dizney later recalled that the grand opening on a busy holiday had been "auspiciously commonplace," but added: "We were aware of being it in for the long haul."

Gordon died in November 2014, at age 75, but not before converting his enterprise into a nonprofit to keep it going with community support. In 2016, after expanding our coverage to Beacon, we changed the name to *The Highlands Current*.



Leonard Sparks in Iraq



Jeff Simms, punk rocker



"Maddog" Turton in 1987

The Staff *(from Page 11)*

through the "Roaring Forties" winds. Sporting a bulky parka — though I found the weather was less fierce than a typical February in the Hudson Valley — I was able to partake of all the history lectures and slide shows (that's how long ago it was).

For some people, traveling to Antarctica is a dream. It never was for me. I am not overly fond of winter. But I was amazed at how magical it was. We sailed from Tasmania and returned to New Zealand, using Zodiac craft to land at places such as Macquarie Island, where thousands of royal penguins packed the beaches. We visited scientific bases and explorer Douglas Mawson's perfectly preserved hut and saw the Ross Ice Shelf, which is sadly now melting. We encountered elephant seals, leopard seals and albatrosses, and the air and light felt as if they were from a different dimension.

Chip Rowe

EDITOR (2013-PRESENT)

I would like for the world to be organized, and so, when I was in elementary school, I fell hard into genealogy. It was appealing to fill in the names and dates, although you quickly learn the entire exercise is a black hole because you'll never finish. My local newspaper in Michigan profiled me — the 14-year-old family historian. I made several lifelong friends who were in their 70s — all of them long gone now, but we traded many letters. They liked giving me advice.



Chip Rowe and his files

The thing is, I was sloppy. Like many genealogists, I wanted so badly to believe. You can't imagine my joy when I was able to connect to the charts in an old book and extend my line to Adam and Eve. (Later, I apparently had doubts because I wrote along the top of my carefully typed line of descent, "Disputed.")

Once I became an adult and a journalist, I became more meticulous — and once I learned more U.S. history, I had to be honest about what I found. For instance, my grandmother was a descendent of Stephen Hopkins of the Mayflower, which is great. My grandfather was a descendant of a Kentucky slaveholder. Not so great.

After moving to Philipstown 14 years ago, I thought "Putnam County" sounded familiar and dug into my old charts. It turns out my ancestors had lived in Carmel — Joseph Hopkins (1751-1833) and his wife, Elizabeth Townsend, are buried near the historic courthouse. In fact, a fracture made in 1801 that lists their children was carried to Michigan and now has returned to Putnam. So I'm not a transplant at all.

Jeff Simms

REPORTER (2015-PRESENT)

In high school, I consumed nothing but punk rock.

My college applications would have surely looked better had I participated in a *single* extra-curricular activity at school, but I had no interest.

Beginning in 1990, my junior year, a handful of friends and I began booking punk

shows in our own makeshift "club." With the help of a friend who was a year older, we rented a small space in then-desolate downtown Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

It had most recently been a sweater shop. Once we took over, we painted the walls black and built a stage, calling the club New Start.

We printed and distributed flyers and charged a few bucks to get in. We never made enough to cover rent, so we pitched in with what we'd made working summer jobs. Sadly, none of this could ever happen today.

Avail, a Richmond, Virginia, band that last year sold out a reunion gig in less than a minute, played its first out-of-town show at our venue. Another band, Shelter, achieved commercial success by the mid-1990s, but in 1991 the band had to sleep on the floor of our dingy club because none of us could convince our parents to let them crash at our homes.

Leonard Sparks

SENIOR EDITOR (2020-PRESENT)

Who wants to go to Iraq amid an insurgency? I did.

There was no hesitation when my editor at the *Baltimore Afro-American* asked me, in 2006, to travel to Iraq under the Pentagon's "embed" program, which paired reporters with military units. In my case, it would be the U.S. Army Reserves' 298th Transportation Co., whose job was to truck supplies between bases in Iraq.

I met the soldiers in Pennsylvania as they trained. Once the unit was settled in Iraq, I hopped a flight to Kuwait International

Airport and was driven to Ali Al Salem Air Base. My baggage included far too many clothes, a portable satellite, a Kevlar helmet and a bulletproof vest.

Part of the adventure was getting to Camp Speicher, the base in northwest Iraq where the 298th was stationed. The only safe way to travel was by military transport, usually helicopters. It took days to catch a flight to Baghdad, where I had to get my press credentials. Getting to Camp Speicher took another two days.

After reuniting with the unit, I joined them for two supply runs — long, nighttime convoys of trucks accompanied by security personnel. On each trip the convoy stopped because of suspected improvised explosive devices. I also rode with soldiers from another unit to meet an Iraqi general. We stopped to meet some Iraqi children and see the ruins of Hatra, an ancient city, that were later razed by ISIS. I returned to the U.S. with a more informed perspective on the world.

Michael Turton

REPORTER (2010-PRESENT)

Until now it's been a well-kept secret: I answer to two nicknames. The staff at the Conservation Authority where I worked in Ontario for 25 years participated in numerous co-ed sports. When our overly competitive manager insisted our softball team have an overly serious name, a small revolt put me in charge of selecting a lighter, conservation-related moniker.

I considered The Little Brown Bats and The Least Flycatchers before selecting a native plant with an intriguing name. The team became The Mad Dog Skullcaps and I became "Maddog."

Around the same time, while golfing with three friends, I happened to be wearing heavy, salmon-colored denim jeans; a threadbare, fuzzy, mottled brown sweater; and a bright new multicolored paisley shirt. One of my golf mates suggested it was an outfit that only Ozzie Nelson would wear. "Ozzie" stuck, as did my fashion sense.

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 and we'll get in touch.



Alison Rooney atop a hill near Scott Research Base, Antarctica

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 4

Drive-In Fireworks

WAPPINGERS FALLS

9:30 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D | facebook.com/dutchesscogov

The gates will open at 7:30 p.m., with the first 500 cars admitted. No concessions or bathrooms will be open. No alcohol will be allowed. *Free*

TUES 7

Listening Town Hall

POUGHKEEPSIE

5:30 p.m. Dutchess County
bit.ly/2NlFYw

People of color are invited to share their experiences in Dutchess County via Zoom during a forum hosted by County Executive Marc Molinaro with U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, members of the Dutchess Human Rights Commission and the NAACP, and former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson. Register online.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11

The Donate \$10 Fundraiser and Arts Opener

BEACON

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

In its first exhibit since the shutdown began, BAU will offer its walls to any artist who donates \$10 to Community Action Partnership. Through Aug. 2. Gallery visitors must wear face coverings and keep social distance.



Whispering Tree, July 10

MUSIC

THURS 9

Drum Circle

BEACON

6 p.m. Long Dock Park | 23 Long Dock Road
facebook.com/beacondrumcircle

Bring your drums, percussion instruments and a chair. Participants must wear masks and observe social distancing.



THURS 9

Listening to Tom-Tom

KATONAH

7 p.m. Caramoor
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

In this livestreamed event, performers will present excerpts from the first opera written and staged by an African-American woman, Shirley

Graham Du Bois. There will also be a panel discussion on the work. Register online. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 10

Space Out, Outside

BEACON

6 p.m. Polhill Park

The band 4 Airports — guitarist Craig Chin and synthesist Nathan Yeager — will perform electronic music.

FRI 10

The Whispering Tree

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/townecriercafe

The folk-rock duo will perform songs from its latest album, *Invisible Forces*.

SAT 11

Judith Tulloch Band

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/townecriercafe

The band's sound has been described as "world-pop-fusion with a jazzy edge."

SUN 12

Decoda

KATONAH

3 p.m. Caramoor
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

The wind players will perform a family friendly concert. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 12

Robert Tellefsen

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/townecriercafe

The Brooklyn native grew up playing in Greenwich Village cafes with Bob Dylan and Richie Havens.

TALKS

THURS 9

Virtual Sanctuary

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Roshi Pat Enkyo O'Hara, the author of *Most Intimate*, a book on Zen practice, will lead a meditation on how we can respond to a changing world.

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 6

Mummies and More

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/MummiesAndMore

Experience ancient Egypt in this Zoom event.

TUES 7

Gender 101: Teen Gender Workshop

PUTNAM VALLEY

5 p.m. Putnam Valley Library
bookwhen.com/putnamvalleylibrary

Teens ages 13 to 18 are invited to register with a school email for this discussion about gender and identity led by Tony Arrien from the Loft and Gina Sanchirico from GLSEN, along with drag queens Angel Elektra and Shay D'Pines.

THURS 9

Robert Rivest

BEACON

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

In this one-man performance, Rivest will use mime and comedy to

tell stories designed for children in grades 1 to 5. Register for the Zoom event by emailing youth@beaconlibrary.org.



FRI 10

Tween Summer Book Club

GARRISON

5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/TweenSummerBookClub

Talk about what you're reading and find out what mystery novel will be discussed next time. The group will meet every two weeks through August.

CIVIC

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

MON 6

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 7

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

TUES 7

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WED 8

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

WED 8

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

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Gergely Pediatrics

COVID19 PANDEMIC

It has been a busy few months here at Gergely Pediatrics trying to keep our doors open and everyone safe. Our patient and staff safety remains our number one priority.

Since Wednesday, March 25th, we have been seeing all sick children via telehealth video appointments only and will be continuing to use telehealth for all sick visits until we feel it is safe to resume in office visits. We are now seeing well children ONLY in our office. Please call today to schedule your annual physical. We are following the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics to continue seeing all healthy, well children in our office.

We are taking the following precautions:

- Pre visit COVID symptom and history screening for all visits
- Modified Provider Schedules with reduced patient volume
- Remote Check-in: we will have a streamlined check-in process. Forms and co-pays can be processed remotely.
- Where possible, patients will skip the front desk and proceed directly to the exam room.
- Upon arrival, everyone who is 2 years and older (who will tolerate) will have to wear masks.
- In addition to prescreening for COVID-19 symptoms before arrival, screening will be done upon arrival, including but not limited to temperature screening.
- Social Distancing: We have changed appointment time slots in order to space out scheduled appointments
- Disinfection and Cleaning: Our locations are repeatedly and thoroughly sanitized after every patient is seen throughout each day. Exam rooms are cleaned with EPA approved wipes between patient visits.
- Staff and Patient Protection: Our care teams follow CDC guidelines, have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and wear it at all times. We have also established screening and testing protocols for our care teams.

We remain dedicated to serving our patients and community. From all of us at Gergely Pediatrics we thank you for your support and patience during this time.

We will be remaining closed on Saturdays but still available by phone. If you should get the answering service and feel that you cannot wait until we open up again, please leave a message with the service. We will continue to keep you informed as events change. Please continue to check our website for update: gergelypediatrics.com

What is a Virtual Visit?

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

Will my insurance cover a Virtual Visit?

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

COVID -19 Hotline at NY Presbyterian Hospital:

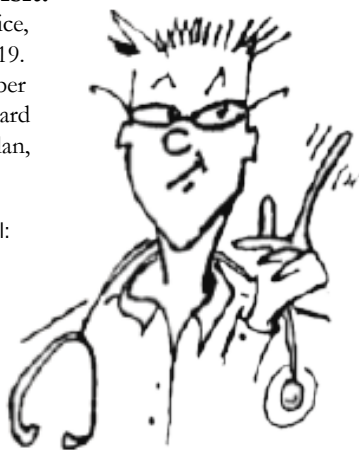
646-697-4000

Center for Disease Control:

CDC.GOV

World Health Organization:

WHO.INT



Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524

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

gergelypediatrics.com

Lynn Steger Strong (from Page 9)

dreams,' but I don't think that's ever been true. Elizabeth is exhausted because the dream is unattainable. Money as the ultimate determinate of value feels so pervasive."

For Strong, personally, "everything was pretty much check the boxes, the privilege of doors opening at Columbia." Yet, there were hiccups. "I found an agent through recommendations from professors. She sold my first book. There was a conversation about whether it would be marketable. It wound up not selling many copies.

"I wrote another book, and it didn't sell, largely because my sales for the first were so low. It was rough. Three years of work and I thought it was a big declaration of what I could do as a writer. At the time, it was like falling off a cliff, but in this case falling off that cliff was great because then I could write anything at all. I wrote most of *Want* at 4 a.m. — time that doesn't count!"

Strong says she avoids the "conflict then denouement" curve of many novels. In fact, she's been told "nothing ever happens" to her characters, which she says is not true at all. "A lot happens, though because of the specific shape of Elizabeth's life it stays in the same tone," she says.

Though releasing a long-awaited novel during a pandemic is a challenge, Strong says "it's very useful to have had a failed novel — two actually! I had to learn to find satisfaction and pleasure from individual readers finding something in the book that was valuable to them. We're at a point where I just want things to be OK, and my personal ambitions are small."

One thing that's interesting to Strong is that some readers who received advance copies of *Want* wrote that they found Elizabeth to be "crippingly depressed." Strong says she hears that less often now, post-quarantine, because readers seem more understanding of the roots of the character's frustrations.

Current Classifieds

FOR RENT

GARRISON — 2 Bed/1 Bath, 1st-floor apartment with eat-in kitchen, large living room with fireplace, new washer and dryer, freshly painted, new floors. No smoking,

no pets, all utilities except oil. Large private patio leading to a garden and brook. Private off-street parking for 2 cars. 1 month rent + 1 month security, lease, credit check and reference. \$2,000/mo. Email Ireland2312@yahoo.com.

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NOTICE

THE PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on July 13th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on 13th, 2020.

Mouths to Feed

Peas and Cues

By Celia Barbour

Among the new experiences 2020 has ushered into our lives is the tumble-jumble start of a Zoom gathering. One face after another pops onto the screen — hello, hello! — as someone begins talking with the mute on, forcing others to shout: “You’re muted! Hit the mute button!” while side conversations ignite about somebody’s brother or book club.

It was during such a spell the other day that I overheard one member thanking another for her delicious pea soup recipe.

What’s the Zoom protocol for barging in on others’ conversations? You can’t physically pull them aside, nor can you bang a trash can lid to hush the entire group in order to extract the tidbit you want. So, I had to shelve my curiosity. Meanwhile, just outside my window, my peas were fattening on their vines.

The purpose of our gathering was to write and decorate postcards encouraging people to sign up to vote by mail, since going door-to-door is no longer an option. Given our goal, the conversation naturally turned to the election and politics, then COVID-19. Our Zoom-lit faces grew dour.

All the while my peas were whispering, *Hey, hello? What about us?*

Finally, a lull. “Annette,” I ventured, “about that recipe you mentioned...” And relief! Not just for me, who was happy to learn that the soup featured fresh peas and not dried (as I’d feared), but for the group, which seemed delighted to drop politics and talk about peas for the next 10 minutes.

I’ve never grown peas before. I’ve never grown much of anything until this year, when we carved several garden beds into a sunny slope (the rest of our yard is quite shady). Ever since I popped my first home-grown pod into my mouth a few weeks ago, I knew I had to write about sugar snap peas this week. That first one I ate was not quite fully plump, yet already conveyed such an abundance of both sugar and snap that I vowed to take my snacks straight from the garden for the rest of the summer.

In France, sugar snap peas are called *mange tout*, which means “eat everything,” and is almost but not quite accurate, as the strings along the seams of the pod are often tough and worth tearing away. The pod, however, has a delicate shattering crispness that is sublime. And the little orbs of tender grassy greenness within are pure garden candy.

Yet after my 30th such experience, I started craving something a little less wholesome in which to dip my pea pods. Peas get along wonderfully with feta, mint and dill, so I pureed these last three in my blender and the pale-green result complemented the pea pods perfectly. Fiddle-dee-bingo, I



Photo by Henry Weed

Annette’s Fresh Pea and Mint Soup

2 tablespoons olive oil
3 shallots, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
3 cups shelled fresh peas or about 5 cups sugar snap peas, stems removed
3 cups vegetable (or chicken) broth
2 tablespoons fresh mint leaves
Salt and pepper, to taste
Lemon juice and mint leaves, optional, for garnish
Feta dip, optional, for topping (see below)

1. In a heavy-bottom saucepan over medium heat, warm the olive oil, then add shallots and garlic and sauté until translucent. Add peas. Cook, stirring, for 2 to 3 minutes.
2. Add broth, bring to a simmer, then reduce heat and cook just until tender, about 8 minutes.
3. Working in batches, puree soup with the fresh mint leaves, until very smooth. (If using a blender, make sure it’s never more than 1/3 full at a time).
4. Taste, and adjust seasoning, adding more mint, as well as salt, pepper, and lemon, to taste. Serve warm or chilled, topped with a swirl of feta, fresh herbs, and...

Feta dip

Feta cheese varies enormously in saltiness and intensity depending on its origin and the milk it’s made from. The best for this recipe (and my all-around favorite) is a French sheep’s-milk feta, such as Valbreso, which is milder and creamier than its tart, chalky cousins from elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

4 ounces sheep’s feta, crumbled (see headnote)
2 tablespoons roughly chopped mint leaves
2 tablespoons roughly chopped dill
1 to 2 tablespoons water, as needed to thin
½ teaspoon lemon zest, optional
1 tablespoon olive oil

Place the first 5 ingredients in the smallest bowl of a food processor and whirr until smooth. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil and puree just until combined and thick.

Anniversary Note: This is Celia Barbour’s 111th Mouths to Feed column. The first appeared in the July 1, 2012, issue. In 2013, Celia was a finalist for a national James Beard Foundation Award for best food-related column.

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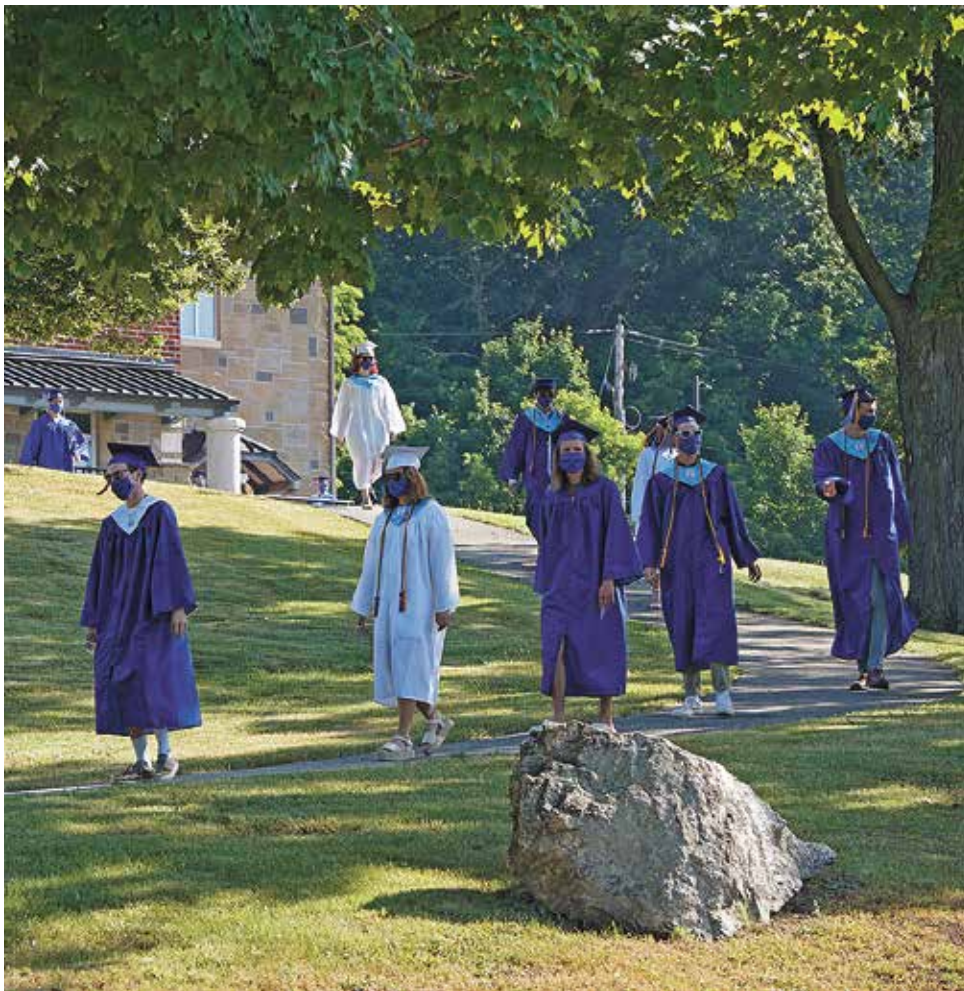
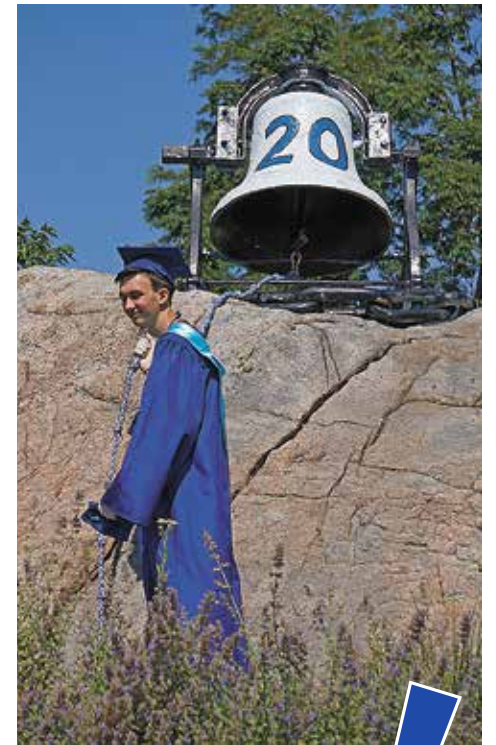
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Finally!

Haldane's Class of 2020 graduates

The 65 members of Haldane's Class of 2020 had to wait but, after two delays, received diplomas on Sunday (June 28). The ceremony had been scheduled for June 20 but was postponed because, under state COVID-19 restrictions, socially distanced commencements of up to 150 people could not take place until June 26. An approaching thunderstorm then pushed the event from June 27 to 28. The ceremony was split into two shifts; the valedictorian, salutatorian, class president, senior of the year, principal and superintendent each gave their speeches three times, including once on tape in the event the weather never cooperated. The photos here are from the first shift, for students with last names from A to L, which began at 9 a.m.

Photos by Megan Shields



The Circus Stays in Town

Tink Lloyd and Joziah Longo, who live in Cold Spring, are members of The Slambovian Circus of Dreams, a folk-rock group that formed in 1998 and also includes Sharkey McEwen of Cold Spring, Felipe Torres and Bob Torsello. The couple spoke with Michael Turton recently about how the pandemic has affected the band.

What was life like just before the shutdown?

Tink: We were taking a month or two off to be in the studio, not running around all over the place. The universe amplified the trajectory of our plans.

Joziah: We needed to hit the reset button, dig in on unfinished songs, videos and a couple of musicals. It took a lot of forced discipline. Then we found ourselves in a super-extended, slightly more fearful version of what we were already trying to do.

Are you booking shows?

Joziah: We schedule gigs a year in advance, but now everything is shifting to 2021. We were supposed to do Fairport Convention in the U.K. in August; they moved it to next year. We have to figure out how to survive for a year.

What's been most difficult?

Joziah: Worrying about everybody. We know what our friends are like, and we made a lot of phone calls to make sure they were locking down. We have five kids [now ages 30 to 36], all crazy in their own way. Once we realized they had figured out how to survive this, the kids became our parents.

Tink: Our kids became like hall monitors. They shopped for us, brought food. One of them got sick, but everybody is good now. We're lucky to be self-employed — except now we're self-unemployed.

How do you avoid driving each other crazy while stuck at home?

Joziah: We've been together since about 1982; the challenge for us is to work together. We can work on perfecting our relationship, making it more functional. Tink has been creating a production company; she gravitates toward the visual. We have a volatile relationship, even when times are good. I grew up in a neighborhood where there was constant fighting.

Tink: He's from Philly, which was a tough upbringing. I'm from Virginia but my family is Irish and they're feisty. It's a little tense, but honestly, that fuels our creativity. He can relax while performing and I can boss him around behind the camera. It kind of defines our teamwork. And I do the dishes!

What do you do to relax?

Tink: I've been doing Ancestry.com. I learned my ancestors were French Huguenots who founded New Paltz.

Joziah: We work until we're exhausted. We television-binge, like a slightly surreal, pretty extraordinary, Netflix series about Sigmund Freud.

Are the virus and lockdown teaching us anything?

Tink: Someone said Mother Earth told everyone: "Go to your room!" There's been too much of this cycle of hate, disunity and dysfunction. We've had to unplug. The good things that can come out of this will outweigh the difficulties. Joziah: We hope it slows us all down. We've been on a treadmill jumping through hoops, doing what we're told to do, going to school so we can get a job and work for the Man. We've never been able to break the cycle. This is the first time the world has been forced into asking, "What's it like without all that?" The worst virus is the never-ending political arguing, the addiction to being negative toward everybody. Shut up and do something! Don't blame others for every freaking thing you did wrong in your life. In a world of almost infinite abundance and resources, and our creativity, how can we make a world where things work?

What is the role of music?

Joziah: Musicians chronicle things but you also have to maintain a certain levity, to escape the anger. Musicians can create things out of nothing, cheer people on, lift them up off the ground. Our job isn't just to record the facts. It's to give hope.

What music takes you away?

Tink: Anything unrelated to my work, anything pre-1960s. I love early classical and medieval stuff, simpler chamber music. And old country. Simple is best.



Joziah Longo and Tink Lloyd in their home studio

Photo provided

Joziah: Escape for me is Pink Floyd and The Beatles. And Dylan, but not when I'm trying to relax and get refocused.

Will the Slambovians emerge in good shape?

Joziah: This is not pie in the sky. Some 20 years ago we were homeless with five kids. We want to tell people, even if you lost your savings, you didn't lose anything of essential value. You can come out of this with something better on the other side. As long as you're not creating negative panic that makes you do something stupid to yourself, you can always start again.

Tink: We had a major shutdown in our lives, but it gave birth to where we are now. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams would not

exist if we had not been homeless with five kids. The only way we ever overcome these things is with community. We had family and loyal friends. In this area, it's important we hang together, because without the support of community, the tribe can't survive.

You moved to Cold Spring in 2005. Has it influenced your music?

Tink: All the time. We love it here. Our dream when this is all over is to do another concert on the river.

Joziah: It's our Liverpool. This town is an amazing stage. When we've played on July 4, there was no higher or deeper thing for us. There is magic here.

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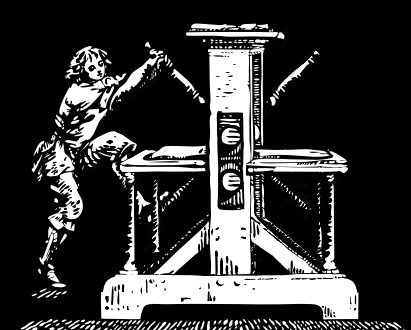


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Roots and Shoots

Weeds and Jumping Lilies

By Pamela Doan

Q: Weeds are out of control in my yard. The lawn, the flowerbeds, my new vegetable garden. I even have weeds in the cracks of a concrete walkway. Roundup has a bad reputation, but I'm not spending all my free time weeding. What can I do? Does Epsom salt work?



A: We're in the "Oh geez, this sucks" phase of the gardening season. It happens just before the tomatoes ripen and right after the excitement of seedlings and first blooms has worn off. July brings the full-on reality of what we committed ourselves to for the summer. If you got an "isolation puppy" and it's now a 60-pound animal with the energy and spirit of the puppy but the size and weight of a full-grown dog, it feels pretty much the same as trying to tame and train your garden.

I'm fascinated with flame-weeding and this week I found a tractor-pulled flame-weeder online that looks amazing. Fantasies aside, this is not a good method for

your vegetable garden. If you're trying to kill Japanese barberry, we can talk more about flame-weeding in a different column.

When controlling weeds, it's important to understand the weed. Know its name, its habits, its likes and dislikes, how it reproduces and when. Annual weeds could theoretically be eradicated in a season with controlled circumstances. Biennial weeds could be wiped out in two seasons. Perennial weeds are a longer-term project.

Removing weeds before they set seed obviously helps but many weeds spread by rhizomes and tubers. That's why it's important to know what you're weeding.

Disturbing the soil by tilling, digging or pulling weeds can bring weed seeds that were below the surface to the top where the light and air and water will help them germinate. When preparing to plant, try to go on top of the soil instead of into it and outsmart the weeds.

The problem with weeds is that they will take all the water, nutrients and sunlight from the plants you want to succeed. Annual vegetables, meant to grow and fruit and live their entire life in a single season, are the most susceptible to damage. Prioritize weeding the vegetable garden if you want to enjoy a harvest.

There are a lot of tools advertised for efficiency and effectiveness, but I hand-pull weeds. You could try a hoe if you have room to work it in. My raised beds are planted so tightly that it doesn't work for me. There's another secret. Plant densely, even with



Daylilies from my garden also show up in surprising places.

Photo by P. Doan

vegetables, to maximize space and minimize weeding. Any patch of bare ground will be filled by nature.

Covering the soil between plants using landscape fabric, cardboard or newspaper is another solution. I prefer newspaper because it's gone in a season. But in a high-volume situation, like a community garden or urban gardens where your neighbor's weeds become yours, tougher measures may be necessary. Row covers protect

gardens from seeds dispersed by the wind.

For both vegetable and flower beds, use mulch to suppress weeds. Straw is easy to buy and spread and I always have a lot of wood chips that have been sitting around at least a year to put on, too. Mulch holds in moisture for plants as another benefit.

For lawns, consider over-seeding in the fall to grow the grass more densely; make sure that the type of seed is right for the conditions; let the clippings sit in the lawn as mulch; and mow high at 3 inches or more.

Epsom salt is salt. It's adding salt to the soil and your plants will not like it at all. It is not an effective herbicide.

I have a patch of daylilies in my yard and I've noticed them appearing far away in places where they weren't planted. I thought they were bulbs. How does a bulb distribute itself?

The ubiquitous daylily isn't actually a lily or a bulb (aka a member of the *Lilium* family). Instead, it's *Heemerocallis fulva*, comes from Asia and grows from thick roots that spread to become colonies.

It produces seeds that disperse and germinate in the right conditions. Since this plant grows in poor soil and full sun to part shade, it can show up in many places.

Anniversary Note: This is Pamela Doan's 210th Roots and Shoots column. The first appeared in the March 25, 2013, issue.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

ACROSS

3. Mr. ___, TV's talking horse

5. Palindrome of 43-down

6. Dressed

8. Barks

10. First part of 2010
Highlands Current name

13. When repeated, fast dance

14. __ factor, blood quality

15. Nor's counterpart

17. Editorial nickname

18. Poet Cummings

19. Second part of 2010
Highlands Current name

21. Story

22. __ N, cable news organization

23. Short for Aemilia

24. Ancient, sometimes human-made hill

25. Common preposition

26. Graymoor initials

27. *Finding* ____, fishy film

28. Meditative mantra

29. Low number for Caesar

31. Town in Normandy

32. In __, memo alert

33. African antelope

34. One prefix

35. Common article

36. Opposite of 9-Down

37. Marginalia on documents

44. 45th U.S. vice president

45. City in Nevada

46. MD neighbor

47. German "you"

DOWN

1. Shop such as B&L on Route 9

2. Last part of 2010
Highlands Current name

4. Red lentil recipe in

Mouths to Feed

5. Meal scrap

6. Supervising teen dance, perhaps

7. Governmental department

8. Preposition, adverb, conjunction

9. Opposite of 36-Across

10. Female name

11. Marvelous set of things (lack nefarious plans)

13. French castle

16. Lettuce type

17. State next to NY

20. Asian-Pacific agave tree

27. State bordering VA

30. Big 10 univ.

38. Tissue lump

39. Mineral

40. Initials of 26th U.S. president

41. Makeshift lethal bomb, initially

42. Burden, responsibility

43. Palindrome of 5-Across

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

SOLUTIONS

1 John, Paul, George & Ringo (10)

2 spaces for outdoor sports (6)

3 dubious (11)

4 alight (7)

5 Shaq and Kobe's team (6)

6 check out (7)

7 comrades (7)

ENG

MI

LDS

SHM

OBL

FIE

ERS

LOWS

NG

CT

LAK

PE

TIC

PR

EN

EMA

FEL

LI

INS

FLA

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SUDOCURRENT

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

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Answers for June 26 Puzzles

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

2 4 9 3 6 1 5 7 8

1 7 3 8 5 4 9 2 6

6 8 5 2 7 9 4 3 1

5 3 4 6 9 2 8 1 7

9 6 8 1 3 7 2 5 4

7 2 1 4 8 5 3 6 9

3 9 2 7 4 6 1 8 5

8 5 7 9 1 3 6 4 2

4 1 6 5 2 8 7 9 3

1. MORGAN, 2. SQUEAKS, 3. AWAKENED, 4. SHANGHAI, 5. BALLGAMES, 6. QUIT, 7. NIGIRI

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



River Connection

The Clearwater, launched 51 years ago by Pete Seeger, docked at Cold Spring on Friday (June 26) as part of a journey from Albany to New York City to demonstrate that “our river connects us.” Due to stormy weather, the sloop tarried in the village a day longer than planned, but by Wednesday, it had reached Yonkers. At the Cold Spring stop, the crew invited children to touch a river eel.

Photos by Ross Corsair

