

The HIGHLANDS Current



Can You
Vote
Twice?
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SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

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Members of the Cold Spring Fire Co. outside the fire station on Main Street this week

Photo by M. Turton

Busy Month for Fire Company

Cold Spring firefighters answered 29 calls in August

By Michael Turton

Members of the volunteer Cold Spring Fire Co., who typically respond to 10 or 12 calls a month, won't soon forget August, when it had 29.

That many alarms are usually associated with an extreme weather event, such as Hurricanes Sandy or Irene. But Tropical Storm Isaias, which arrived Aug. 4, only accounted for six calls, said Chief Tom Merrigan, an 18-year veteran.

The month began with an unusual call on Aug. 1: A cat lodged in a mechanical chair. It was rescued, unharmed.

Merrigan chuckles about the call now but said his "firefighters had to leave work or home, get to the firehouse, put on their gear and handle the call; it was a real call, just like any alarm," he said. "You never know until you get to the scene."

Eight times during the month, firefighters responded to multiple alarms on a single day. On four occasions, they helped rescue lost or injured hikers. Other calls ranged from structure, utility pole and

(Continued on Page 15)

Second Beacon School Board Member Resigns

Says he should be replaced by person of color

By Jeff Simms

Beacon school board member James Case-Leal resigned on Tuesday (Sept. 22), creating a second vacancy to be filled on the nine-member board.

Case-Leal, who was elected in 2018, had about eight months remaining in his three-year term. His resignation follows that of Michael Rutkoske, who left the board in July, citing time constraints.

In a letter addressed to the board and Superintendent Matt Landahl, Case-Leal said he was leaving "in order to open an additional space for John Galloway Jr. and Jasmine Johnson, two well-qualified candidates of color, to both be appointed."

While the district has worked to correct racial inequities in recent years, Case-Leal said in his letter, "we must strongly acknowledge that the voices missing in our leadership are voices from the communities most affected by these inequities."

Galloway and Johnson were two of the four candidates interviewed by the board during its Sept. 14 meeting as potential replacements for Rutkoske. The board

(Continued on Page 16)

Virus Outbreak, Death Linked to Beacon Facility

Police to enforce two-week quarantine of residents

By Leonard Sparks

Residents at the Hedgewood assisted living facility in Beacon have been restricted to the property after 13 of them and 17 staff members tested positive for COVID-19 and one person died.

Dutchess County officials have ordered a two-week quarantine. While employees

who tested positive are staying home, residents with a confirmed infection have been isolated, said Dutchess Health Commissioner Anil Vaidian on Wednesday (Sept. 23).

Residents at the Fishkill Avenue facility who test negative must remain at the facility for two weeks, he said, which is the recommended quarantine period for anyone exposed to a person testing positive.

Beacon police officers have been notified of the order so they "can engage indi-

(Continued on Page 7)



The Mayor, aka Beacon Hood Chicken

Photo provided

Clucks and Clicks

Beacon chicken builds online following

By Jeff Simms

There are still three years until the next mayoral election in Beacon, but an early candidate has emerged. It's a chicken.

It lives in Fishkill, but rest assured, it's a Beacon chicken. Read on.

(Continued on Page 8)



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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DYLAN LEINER

By Michael Turton

Dylan Leiner is the executive vice president of acquisitions and production for Sony Pictures Classic. He splits his time between Cold Spring and New York City.

What does an executive vice president of acquisitions and production do?

My job is to try to find the best and most interesting independently made films around the world and acquire the distribution rights.

Has the job dulled your love of movies?

I was worried about that, but it's been the opposite. I love movies more because I've seen how difficult it is to make a good one. I'm always amazed at how many films there are that I hadn't known about. I've become more passionate about movies and more ambitious than ever about seeing them. At the moment my personal go-to genre is documentaries. Their quality has become so good. They leave me feeling entertained and educated at the same time.

Are there any distinct trends in film?

People are looking for something emotionally engaging. The Marvel movies



are amusement-park rides; people want a movie that's more thoughtful and authentic. There's too much nonsense in the media. Younger folks are going back to theaters more aggressively because they feel immune [to COVID-19]. Our key demographic — a little more sophisticated, generally college-educated audience — hasn't started going back but it is streaming voraciously. There's a hungry audience across age groups —

they're just seeing movies in different ways.

Is there a silver lining to the pandemic for the movie industry?

One of the challenges in the independent marketplace is that there are a lot of film festivals happening all over the world and we can't get to them all. But because so many have gone virtual, I've been able to participate in some I normally wouldn't attend. The New York Film Festival, which is going on right now, is for the first time open to people who aren't in New York City. The Sundance Film Festival has announced it will have screenings in major cities and will probably have a virtual element. While it's challenging for all of us, that inclusiveness will build an audience and an interest in independent films for the long run.

How does your love of soccer meld with your work in film?

It melds incredibly organically. I travel a lot for work. When I meet people from different cultures, we can talk about movies and we can talk about soccer. They provide immediate bridges. I created NYFest, a film-and-entertainment soccer tournament in New York City, to do that. It brings the film and soccer worlds together to bridge gaps and help underserved communities.

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

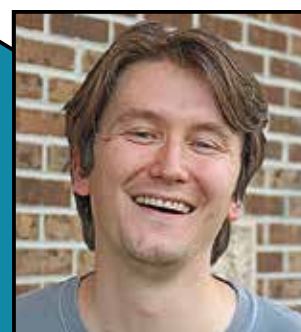
What's the last TV series you were hooked on?

“ *Ratched*. It's a little gory but an interesting take on Nurse Ratched [from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*]. ”



~ Alexis Osborn, Beacon

“ We're re-watching *Big Mouth*, an animated series for adults about the travails of puberty and middle school. ”



~ Billy Thom, Cold Spring

“ *Wild Wild Country*, a documentary series set in Oregon about a cult, a mystery and political power. ”



~ Karin Riedl, Beacon



A rendering of the north end of the proposed Continental Commons development, with the hotel at left, a visitors' center at center and the existing Safeway gas station at right.

Developer Loses Skirmish Over Continental Commons

Fishkill rejects water-sewer links to proposed complex

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After months of consideration, the Fishkill Town Board last week rejected extension of water and sewer lines to Continental Commons, a shopping-restaurant-hotel complex proposed for 10.5 acres in what once served as the epicenter of a Revolutionary War supply depot.

Although critics of the project have cited historical and environmental reasons for their opposition, the Town Board based its Sept. 16 decision on technical and legal considerations, as its lawyer had advised.

The site, once part of the Fishkill Supply Depot, sits across the highway from the Dutchess Mall and across Snook Road from the Van Wyck Homestead, a Continental Army headquarters from 1776 to 1783. Also known as Crossroads, it includes a cemetery that historical preservation advocates believe includes Revolutionary War dead, although others, including the site owner, developer Domenico Broccoli, disagree.

Broccoli has pledged to protect the graveyard. Around it he hopes to construct a 2.5-story, 90-room hotel; 5,000 square feet of restaurant space; 16,000 square feet of retail; and a 720-square-foot visitor's center, along with parking lots and walkways, all designed to replicate a colonial village.

To proceed, he wants the local water and sewer district extended to the property. The project would draw drinking water from Fishkill while sending its sewage and wastewater to Beacon's treatment plant.

The Fishkill Town Board reviewed the water-sewer extension proposal in 2019 and was on the verge of approving it but lacked a quorum at a Dec. 18 meeting. Subsequent legal maneuvering prevented action by the lame-duck board, and in January, the board changed from majority Republican to majority Democrat.

Early this year, led by the newly elected supervisor, Ozzy Albra, the reconstituted board began scrutinizing Broccoli's application and held further public hearing sessions, which led to last week's decision.

Albra, whom Broccoli sued for thwarting an eleventh-hour vote on Dec. 30 by the former board, abstained from the Sept. 16 vote. Town Board Members Kenya Gadsden, Jacqueline Bardini and Louise Daniele voted

against the sewer-water expansion. Ori Brachfeld, the lone Republican, was absent.

In a lengthy resolution, the board stated that "it is not in the public interest" to approve the water system because, among other issues, an existing water main and sewer pipe were never approved by the Dutchess County Department of Health. According to the board, the county has said that "a lot of unknowns need to be answered."

Before the vote, the board heard further public comment.

Theresa Kraft, Beacon's co-historian and a member of the nonprofit Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot, which opposes the project, noted that Beacon "is struggling with overdevelopment and water and sewer issues," and that pumping water out of one area can affect supplies in neighboring communities.

"In the grand scheme of things," she said, "all water flows from Mother Earth, and she is feeling the pressure of being tapped out."

Keith Riley, a Carmel public school teacher and Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot trustee, said that "with the amount of development in this area, we're really pushing capacity in terms of climate change, in terms of the stress we're putting on the environment. We have to put on the brakes."

Jaime Machado, whose architectural firm designed Continental Commons, said Broccoli's project generates "talk about not enough water," yet a development at the former Texaco research campus just outside Beacon might have 70,000 homes or at least, "several thousand," like a whole "little town or village" — a possibility that seemed to astound those listening.

The Texaco site "is another development citizens of Fishkill are very concerned about," Albra responded.

Stephen Riccardulli, Continental Commons' attorney, promised a lawsuit to overturn the water-sewer denials.

Broccoli said on Tuesday (Sept. 22) that he was "disappointed but not surprised" by the Town Board's stance. "This board ignored the well-documented facts that there is more than enough capacity to support both the water and sewer extensions," he said. He termed the vote "nothing more than a way to pay back a political favor to the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot for their support during a contentious election last year." He predicted he would prevail in court.

What Members are Saying...



Local journalism is the backbone to our community, feeding national democracy. We do not take for granted that our home is one of the few with surviving, quality local news, and we are committed to its sustainment.

Hannah and Heath Salit, Cold Spring
FRIEND Members



THANK YOU! TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

FRIEND

Anonymous (4)
Laney Gahagan
The Glauda Family
Brett Miller
Joe Neville and Joan Ehrenberg

PARTNER

Laura Schiller and David Ratner

ADDITIONAL GIFTS

Mel and Anat Laytner
Morgan and Jenn Stebbins

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

To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, especially in this difficult time, visit

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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

Remembering Bruce

I came to live in Cold Spring about 10 years ago. Because I had lived most of my life in the Washington, D.C., area and worked for the federal government much of that time, I was curious how a village government functioned. I decided to attend the meetings of the Village Board. I was impressed with Bruce Campbell — how he listened to other board members and tried to find workable solutions (“Bruce Campbell, Former Village Trustee, Dies at 67,” Sept. 18). I suppose I went to enough meetings that he and I would nod hello on the street. Although in time I came to appreciate that he did a lot more for the village than simply serving as a trustee, I was essentially a stranger to him.

So, it was a surprise when one day, a few years into my Cold Spring life and after a sizable snowfall, I was shoveling and a truck stopped at the end of my driveway. Out popped Bruce with a shovel. After a quick hello and dismissal of my protests, he shoveled around my car and did most of the sidewalk, too. He claimed that I worked all summer painting my picket fence (he noticed that?!) and someone should do something for me. And he was the guy to do

it. While I continued to shovel at my senior-citizen pace, I pondered this act of kindness and my good fortune to land in Cold Spring where there were people like Bruce.

Cathy Carnevale, *Cold Spring*

Power outages

In response to the prolonged power outages following Tropical Storm Isaias, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef proposes some meaningful changes (*Letters and Comments*, Sept. 11).

First, the creation of time-based goals for power restoration (and avoiding fines, presumably) by the utility and telecom companies makes sense. The proposal that at least 80 percent of customers have service restored within 48 hours is a great step, but perhaps the thresholds should be 90 percent and 24 hours.

The second proposal, directing the state Public Service Commission to study the feasibility of undergrounding the utility transmission systems, deserves support. After determining that undergrounding is feasible (which it is), the Assembly and Senate must produce a plan to get the job done. The economic dividends of the project will more than justify the substantial investment.

Galef's final proposal, that electric utilities should provide reimbursements for the foods and medicines of customers who are left without power for more than 24 hours, also stands to reason. It should be presumed that any customer left without power for more than 24 hours has suffered a financial loss. The utility should then reimburse each such customer promptly and automatically.

By “promptly,” I mean at the moment when the clock strikes 24 hours. By “automatically,” I mean a check or bank transfer payment going out by system design, independent of any manual process.

In what amount? I would say \$100 per household per occurrence. Do the utility companies not like that? Then they must try harder not to let the power go out.

Evan Hudson, *Cold Spring*

Police reform

In June, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered local municipalities and counties to review their police procedures. As other counties embark on the process, Putnam County has not involved the community at all, and just recently announced the details of its Police Policy Review Panel, which may be the least-diverse panel ever composed, with 17 men and three women, all white.

Several progressive groups wrote County Executive MaryEllen Odell in July to ask that we be part of the process. In addition, the county has not allowed the public to participate in legislative or other meetings since March due to COVID. While many other counties have allowed public comment via Zoom or other virtual means, Putnam for some reason is unable to figure it out.

All of this is extremely disturbing at a time where most counties and municipalities are genuinely reflecting on ways to bridge the racial divide in their communities. In Putnam, there have been protests, in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, for 16 weeks straight and violence on the part of counter-protesters has escalated, all with not a word of condemnation from anyone in a leadership position apart from state Sen. Pete Harckham.

In fact, the chair of the county Legislature, Toni Addonizio, is on video at a Back the Blue rally on Sept. 6 applauding a QAnon supporter who had described Black Lives Matter protestors and Democrats as “radical Marxist communists” before vowing to act as Trump's military.

All of this flies under the radar because Putnam is small and often forgotten. But there is a serious problem in Putnam.

Eileen McDermott, Brewster
McDermott is the organizer of Putnam Pride.



Can You Vote Twice?

Q: Last month, President Trump suggested that North Carolina residents vote by absentee ballot and also at the polls to “test the system” for fraud. What stops that from happening in New York?



A: Nothing. It’s not illegal in New York to vote by absentee ballot and then at the polls. Absentee ballots aren’t counted until after Election Day, so if you vote in person, election officials void your mail vote.

During the June 23 primary election, 22 voters in Putnam County who sent in absentee ballots also showed up to vote, according to Cathy Croft, who is the Democratic commissioner for its Board of Elections. Their absentee ballots were pulled. “We only counted one ballot for those voters,” she said.

According to the Dutchess County Board of Elections, 90 voters submitted absentee ballots for the primary and later voted in person. Their mail ballots were also voided.

The state Board of Elections notes on its website that “even if you request or cast and return an absentee ballot, you may still go to the polls and vote in person. The Election Law recognizes that plans change. The Board of Elections is required to check the poll book before canvassing [processing] any absentee ballot.”

A change of plans is a far cry from voting more than once through fraud, such as casting an absentee ballot for a dead person. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 31 states, including New York, consider it a crime to intentionally vote twice in the same election.

A database compiled by the Heritage Foundation lists 21 convictions in New York State since 1983 for election fraud, with two for intentionally voting twice and three for forging absentee ballots. In 2018, a Columbia County dentist pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct after he sent an absentee ballot for the 2013 general election to the county and voted in person in New York City.

Have a question we can answer?
Email: question@highlandscurrent.org

Counting the Highlands

Self-response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Sept. 23, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is sending enumerators to knock on the doors of households that have not responded to meet a Wednesday (Sept. 30) deadline.

| | 2020 | 2010 | 2000 | 1990 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Cold Spring | 73.3 | 69.1 | 71 | 72 |
| Putnam County | 71.0 | 66.8 | 67 | 56 |
| Philipstown | 70.8 | 66.2 | 67 | 64 |
| 18th District | 67.9 | 66.0 | - | - |
| Nelsonville | 67.7 | 65.8 | 54 | 66 |
| National | 66.3 | 66.5 | 67 | 65 |
| Beacon | 66.3 | 67.2 | 65 | 61 |
| Dutchess County | 66.3 | 65.7 | 68 | 64 |
| New York State | 63.2 | 64.6 | 67 | 62 |
| New York City | 60.4 | 64.0 | 55 | 53 |
| Newburgh | 44.9 | 50.2 | 45 | 44 |

Source: 2020census.gov

NOTICE

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL AND MAIN BUILDING

INVITATION TO BID CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Sealed Proposals for the:
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL AND MAIN BUILDING

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HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Administration Office
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Cold Spring, NY 10516

Proposals must be received on or before 3:00 PM local time on **October 22, 2020** and must be in accordance with the requirements of the Bidding Documents to receive consideration. Bids will be opened and read at that time. The opening of bids will be closed to the public.

Bidding Documents, including drawings and specifications, will be available beginning on **September 24, 2020** at the offices of:

FULLER AND D'ANGELO, P.C.
ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
45 KNOLLWOOD ROAD - SUITE 401
ELMSFORD, NY 10523

Proposals must be submitted on the Form provided by the Architect with all blanks appropriately filled in. They must be submitted in sealed envelopes bearing on the outside the name and address of the bidder and title of the Project as noted above.

All bid prices shall be filled in, both in words and figures. Signatures shall be in ink and in longhand. Proposals which are incomplete, conditional or obscure may be rejected as informal. Additional copies of the Proposal Form will be furnished by the Architect upon request.

No oral or telephonic proposals or modifications of proposals will be considered.

Bidding documents, on CD, in PDF format, will be available, at no cost, to all prospective bidders. The CD's will be available at Fuller and D'Angelo, P.C., 45 Knollwood Road, Suite 401, Elmsford, NY 10523; telephone number 914.592.4444. A \$15.00 shipping fee will be required for CD's requested to be mailed.

A walkthrough of the project can be coordinated by contacting Timothy Walsh, Director of Facilities, at 845-265-9254, ext 170 or twalsh@haldaneschool.org.

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A bid bond is required for this project.
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NEWS BRIEFS

Hustis Trial Set for April

Negotiations continue for plea agreement

Although negotiations continue for a possible plea agreement between federal prosecutors and Charles E. “Chuck” Hustis III, the former Cold Spring trustee and mayoral candidate who was charged last year with the attempted enticement of a minor for sex, a judge earlier this month scheduled a trial for April.

The next deadline in the case is Nov. 2, when the defense must present its motion to dismiss the charges. The government must reply by Nov. 23, and the defense must reply to the reply by Dec. 7. The federal judge, Cathy Seibel, will consider the arguments and rule by Jan. 8 whether to dismiss the charges or continue with the proceedings, according to the court schedule.

Hustis, 37, pleaded not guilty in July during his arraignment in White Plains. He 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.

Seibel scheduled jury selection to begin on April 12, which she said would give the parties more time to continue “discussions regarding potential disposition.”

Putnam Health to Offer Flu Shots

Clinic scheduled in Garrison

The Putnam County Department of Health plans to provide flu shots to residents during a drive-thru at the Garrison Fire Department on Oct. 7.

Appointments are required for the clinic, which will take place from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Residents are also asked to wear short sleeves to make it easier for the nurses to administer the vaccine.

The health department also plans to provide shots on Oct. 19 at its office in Brewster.

The clinics are open to all Putnam County adults. More information, and required forms to be completed before the



VIRTUAL HIKE — Volunteers from the Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardener program have filmed and narrated a 12-minute hike through the Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary in Carmel. See bit.ly/fred-dill-hike.

Photo provided

clinic, can be found at putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization. Appointments can be made by calling 845-808-1390, ext. 43262 and leaving a name and phone number. The fee is \$25, or free to those 65 years or older who have a Medicare card.

The county offers free flu shots to all school-aged children at school-based clinics.

Plastic-Bag Ban Begins Oct. 19

With litigation resolved, state to start enforcement

The state will begin enforcement of its ban of single-use plastic bags on Oct. 19 following the resolution of a lawsuit designed to stop it.

The ban, which went into effect on March 1, was not enforced by the state Department of Environmental Conservation because of a lawsuit filed by Poly-Pak Industries, Green Earth Food Corp. and the Bodega and Small Business Association, among other plaintiffs.

For more information about the ban or to file a complaint about businesses using single-use carryout bags, see dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html, email plasticbags@dec.ny.gov, or call 518-402-8706.

Magazzino Appoints Scholar

Also, accepting applications for 2021-22

Magazzino Italian Art, the museum in Philipstown, on Monday (Sept. 21)

announced the appointment of Teresa Kittler as its 2020-21 scholar-in-residence focused on postwar and contemporary works.

Kittler has a special interest in postwar art and the artists Marisa Merz and Carla Accardi. For the first part of her residency, she will work remotely from the University of York in England, where she is a lecturer.

As the scholar-in-residence, Kittler will collaborate with the museum on curatorial programs and organize its annual lecture series. She will continue her research on artistic responses in Italy in the 1960s and 1970s to habitation, ecology and newly available synthetic materials.

The museum also launched a call for applications for its 2021-22 scholar-in-residence position. See magazzino.art.

Putnam Launches Police Reform Page

Includes info and updates on panel’s work

Putnam County on Sept. 18 launched a webpage for its Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative at putnamcountyny.gov/policerreviewpanel.

“Public-service agencies, including police agencies, should always be transparent,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell in a statement. “This site, along with our regular meetings, will allow the public to better understand the policies in place as well as the training mandated for all our police officers.”

The panel was formed in August in response to an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo that local governments

perform a comprehensive review of police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices. Its next meeting will be held by audiolink at 10 a.m. on Tuesday (Sept. 29.)

Spirit of Beacon Day Online

2020 event will be distanced, virtual

The 43rd annual Spirit of Beacon Day will take place on Sunday (Sept. 27) with a virtual and safely distanced event, organizers said.

Due to pandemic health and safety guidelines, there will not be a festival on Main Street. Instead, community groups and first responders will drive through neighborhoods between noon and 2 p.m.

The caravan will include the event’s 2020 honoree, Tony Lassiter, who has been a member of the Spirit of Beacon Committee for more than 20 years. Lassiter, a Vietnam veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart, served on the Beacon Planning Board for 15 years and continues to serve on the board of the Beacon Housing Authority.

“Many of those in the drive-thru have been supporting our community during the pandemic and it will be an opportunity to show our appreciation and support,” organizers said in a statement.

A virtual concert will play between noon and 2 p.m. at spiritofbeacon.org, on the Spirit of Beacon Facebook page and on Channel 22. The Spirit of Beacon Day Committee has been meeting via Zoom since March to plan the events.

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Virus Spike *(from Page 1)*

viduals who may be straying from the facility to remind them that they have to be on the premises,” said Vaidian.

Dutchess County has recorded 156 deaths related to COVID-19 since March. It had no deaths for nearly eight weeks before two people died last week, including one from Hedgewood. Putnam County has not recorded a death since June.

“We’re considering the whole facility as exposed, even if they tested negative,” Vaidian said of Hedgewood.

The cases were uncovered after county officials, concerned after being alerted to a single case at the facility about a week ago, contacted the state Department of Health and collaborated with the agency to test every resident and employee, Vaidian said.

Hedgewood, in a statement on Thursday (Sept. 24) said the resident tested positive after returning to the facility following a hospitalization. In addition to COVID-19-positive residents being isolated in their rooms, visits have been suspended and meals are being delivered to rooms.

The state Department of Health, which licenses assisted-living facilities, said in a statement that it inspected Hedgewood for compliance with infection control requirements during an unannounced visit on Sept. 17 and helped the county test residents on Sept. 18. The department said it had no other comment because “this is an ongoing investigation.”

While there has been no evidence of “widespread community transmission” beyond Hedgewood, the presence of COVID-19 at the facility is a “critical concern,” County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday during his weekly Facebook town hall.

The virus has proved particularly deadly for the elderly and people with underlying health problems. Roughly 85 percent of the state’s 25,437 deaths have occurred in people 60 and older, and 90 percent of COVID-19 victims have had at least one underlying health problem.

“This is a population that isn’t all seniors because of the nature of an assisted living facility, but it is a much more vulnerable

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,589 (+22)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:

44,947 (+2,509)

Percent positive:

3.5 (-0.2)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

5,105 (+63)

Active Cases in Beacon: **48**

Tests administered:

164,216 (+8,525)

Percent positive:

3.1 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

156 (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Sept. 23. New cases in Philipstown for the week ending Sept. 17.

population,” Molinaro said of Hedgewood.

The outbreak had a significant effect on the number of active cases in Beacon. There were five active cases as of Sept. 8 and 11 on Sept. 16. As of Tuesday (Sept. 22), there were 48 active cases in Beacon, by far the most of any municipality in the county.

Philipstown Approves Lake Valhalla Split

Scenic Hudson will donate 520 acres for state park

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board last week unanimously approved a Scenic Hudson proposal to subdivide 765 acres of a 1,178-acre tract at Lake Valhalla, near the Putnam-Dutchess and Philipstown-Fishkill boundary.

Convening by Zoom on Sept. 17, the board approved the land division, also called a lot-line adjustment, without comment, following weeks of review, discussion and public input.

An alpine-esque blue jewel, Lake Valhalla has a small residential community and is set among trees and hillsides.

Scenic Hudson’s land borders Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, which is slated to benefit from the subdivision. The environmental organization intends to put 520.5 acres, known as Parcel A, under a conservation easement until the state can add it to the park system.

A second portion, Parcel B, about 193.5

acres, which contains a picnic area, tennis courts and trails, will be transferred to a Lake Valhalla homeowner association under a conservation easement.

The last piece, Parcel C, about 52 acres, with one or two homes, would be sold but likewise protected by a conservation easement. Lake Valhalla is in Parcels B and C.

At Planning Board hearings over the summer, some homeowners expressed fears that adding land around Lake Valhalla to the state park system would bring hordes of hikers to their backyards, replicating the congestion at Breakneck Ridge, about 3.5 mountainous miles away. Parks officials said they have no plans to add more trails, parking lots or any visitor-lures to land the state acquires.

Route 9 warehouse

In other action, the Planning Board continued, into October, a public hearing on a proposed 20,340-square foot warehouse, with offices, on Route 9 about a third of a mile south of the Route 301 intersection. The extension allows board members as well as the public more time to digest additional traffic-impact studies supplied by the applicant, CRS International, which is based in Philipstown.

Neighbors have told the Planning Board that they worry about the safety ramifications of having large tractor-trailers access the 2.5-acre site, which is zoned highway-commercial.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current

Beacon Chicken *(from Page 1)*

In May, a lone hen began wandering around Harbor Hill Court and Davies Avenue. A bit of a squawker, the red bird became a neighborhood favorite, accepting food scraps and laying eggs in front yards.

Karen Finnegan, who lives in Fishkill, learned of the hen in the Beacon, NY Facebook group, which has 11,700 members. Since she already owned chickens, she offered to give the bird a safe and permanent home if someone would catch it.

"I was like, 'Just put it in a box for me,'" Finnegan recalled this week. "People said, 'Don't worry, it'll be on the street.'"

So Finnegan drove to Beacon. "And no joke — the only two people on the street were the chicken and this little old man, feeding it a bagel," she said. "I walked up to it, picked it up, put her in a box and put it in the car."

Once at its new home, the chicken's personality began to shine, Finnegan said. She gave the hen a nickname: The Mayor.

"I'd never seen anything like it," Finnegan said. "She would follow me around, follow my husband around. She wants to meet everybody."

Finnegan posted a photo of The Mayor, along with an update, to the Beacon Facebook group. One member responded: "That's my chicken from the hood!"

One evening, The Mayor — who Finnegan estimates is about a year old due to her egg-laying proclivity — got through a screen door "and I turned around and she's just sitting there in the kitchen."



The Mayor recently visited the Beacon Farmers' Market and may return this weekend.

Photo provided

Once that photo was posted on Facebook, the same member wrote: "You can take the chicken out of the hood but you can't take the hood out of the chicken."

From that point, Finnegan said, The Mayor also became known as the Beacon Hood Chicken.

All kidding aside, Finnegan said, the chicken's arrival has been a ray of hope in an otherwise dismal year.

"Every night at about 8 p.m., The Mayor comes onto the porch to go to bed in her roost," she wrote on a Facebook page created for the hen (there is also a website

and Etsy store). "Same routine each time — big 'bakaw!' at the door (if the door is left open, she just waltzes on in), takes a drink from the dog dish, hops up the step and onto her branch."

The family has been livestreaming video of the nightly routine, and on some nights has received as many as 3,000 views from as far away as Puerto Rico and California. That hour, Finnegan said, has become the family's respite from the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic and online bickering.

"Everything is just so angry," she said of the current political atmosphere. "No. 1, this has been good for me. I was being pulled out of a depression because she made me laugh."

Finnegan and her husband have seven children, all of whom are attending school only virtually. The Mayor has helped lift their spirits, Finnegan said, noting that she's created internet "memes" for other children struggling with the difficult school year, saying "This chicken loves you!" or "Keep cracking the bawks!"

Finnegan recently brought the hen back to Beacon, visiting the Farmers' Market in a stroller. She plans to bring The Mayor with the family for dinner in Beacon tonight (Sept. 25), and may return to the Farmers' Market on Sunday, as well.

During the first visit to the market, "people were like, 'Oh my God, it's The Mayor!'" Finnegan said. "She's not a pet, and she's not a chicken. She's more like a member of the family. I'm trying to think of ways that she can support people and put a smile on their faces."

Shimin Wins Emmy for *Ernie & Joe*

Toby Shimin, who lives in Cold Spring, on Tuesday (Sept. 22) won an Emmy for Outstanding Editing: Documentary for her work on *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops*, a



Toby Shimin chronicle of two San Antonio police officers who specialize in helping people who are mentally ill.

The HBO film will be shown online tonight (Sept. 25) as part of the ongoing Depot Docs series affiliated with the Philpstown Depot Theatre in Garrison.

Shimin has been nominated twice for other Emmys: in 2019 for her work on the documentary *This is Home: A Refugee Story*, and in 2003 for Outstanding Picture Editing for Nonfiction Programming (Single or Multi-Camera) for "Seabiscuit," an episode of *American Experience* on PBS.

Virtual & Safe-Distance

Spirit of Beacon Day

Sunday, Sept. 27th, 12-4pm

spiritofbeacon.org  

Porch Celebrations : 12pm-4pm

Join together with family @home

Neighborhood Drive-Thru : 12pm-2pm

Cheer our Community Orgs & First Responders

Virtual Concert : 12pm-2pm

Enjoy contributions from across the community

Cold Spring Soundtrack
Marinella Senatore
September 9 - November 7, 2020
Organized by Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

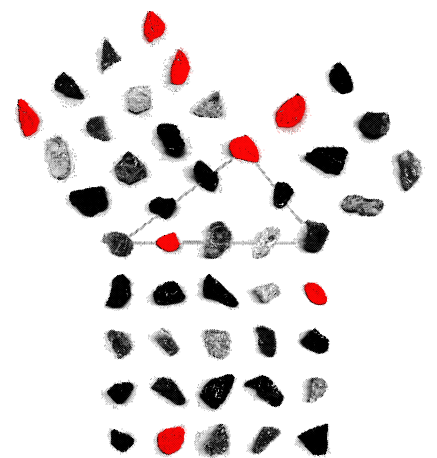
Community members are invited to share an audio recording capturing any sound reflective of their current moment. Each and every contribution will be incorporated into a symphony.

Volunteers can participate by leaving their recordings by calling +1 (845) 476-8409 and leaving a voicemail, or sending an audio recording via text message or email to opencall@magazzino.art.

For more information visit www.magazzino.art



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MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART

The Calendar

Familiar, Yet Different

Printmaker's process leaves much to chance

By Alison Rooney

People who have attended more than one of Jebah Baum's exhibitions often find them quite different from each other. This may be because Baum moves between media — his last show at the Beacon Artists Union, where he is a member, featured sculptures he made from downed trees using a wood mill on his Gardiner property, while his new show there, which opens Oct. 10, consists of prints.

"People often have the impression that one group of my work is different from the next, but I don't feel that myself," Baum says. "I tend to work in two lines: one is more reductive, minimal and geometric, though not terribly rigid or mechanical. There's also a lyrical, gestural side. Overall, I like balance, composition, line and body — all the elements of design."

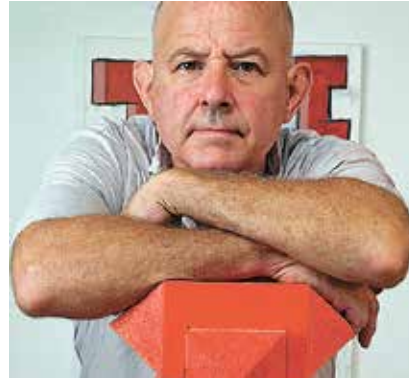
A thread running through all of Baum's art is spontaneity. "I'm always trying to subvert my own expectations and preconceptions," he explains. "For example, with the wood sculptures, I enjoyed flipping the pieces around, seeing how they worked three-dimensionally, then adding surface work to give them a feeling of both wood and another material at the same time. What emerges is a response to the process, rather than something pre-meditated."

It's important to Baum "to leave traces of the process — the story of my work is its own creation: how it was made, the material aspect of it, the choices that were made in the process: what's present and what's not present."

As Baum grew up, with a painter father and a dancer mother, the arts were front and center in the household, and he took classes at the Brooklyn Museum and the Arts Students League in Manhattan. Hoping to learn a trade in the arts, Baum earned a BFA in printing from SUNY Purchase, then worked at several studios, where he helped print work by artists such as Frank Stella, Helen Frankenthaler and David Hockney.

In quick succession, he went to graduate school at Cornell, then, fed up with the challenges of living as an artist in New York City, moved to Sweden for six years — where, he notes, he was able to live off selling his art. (He and his wife still own a small house in Sweden where they decamp each summer — except for this year.) Returning to New York, he became a teaching artist in the New York City public school system while developing Interart Space, a nonprofit gallery on Mercer Street that was open from 1990 to 1995.

Baum taught printmaking and art theory at Wagner College for a decade, then left to



Jebah Baum

Photo provided

focus on his art. "The last 10 years I've been cobbling it together," he says. "I have a small frame-making business, plus I build things for people. It generates income, and it's a creative tool and a good way to not waste materials that exist on my land," he explains.

In this latest BAU exhibition, Baum says he took the approach of "inventing — or reinventing — techniques that are themselves difficult to control. The images in this exhibition are made using lithographic plates that I made myself from paper. Although I can create many plates quickly, I am only able to achieve a few impressions from each before they start to degrade. As a means of reproduction this is a poor method, but I find the resulting images are stimulating and full of vitality."

Some of the works, such as a series called *Flaneur*, were the result of a collaboration with composer Steven Takasuga. The two met at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, where Baum was on a residency and working on developing his lithography, enjoying its qualities of "some nuance, but also a bit crass, brusque, so you can see a lot of artifacts: fingerprints and grease marks get in and they become part of the image."

After hitting it off, the artists began exchanging digital files. "It's been an exciting intellectual dialogue, involving sympathetic understanding of each other's work," Baum says. "He creates digital samples, and he was using coordinates to generate some of the files that I converted into plates, and responded to them, and added color. We've found that we had sympathetic ideas about expression and chance."

Overall, Baum says, "I don't tend to sit around thinking about things. I tend to respond to things, but this particular group of prints — they're an interesting reaction to what we're going through. We all are experiencing our lives; they're familiar, yet everything is different, and there's an ominous quality."

The BAU Gallery, at 506 Main St. in Beacon, is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Baum's show opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, Oct. 10.



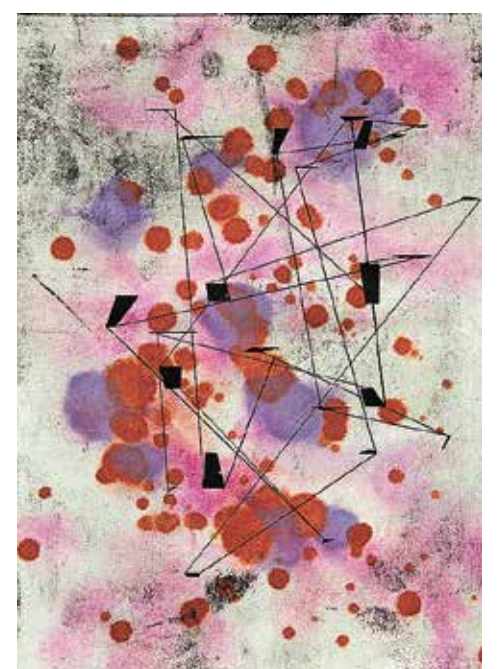
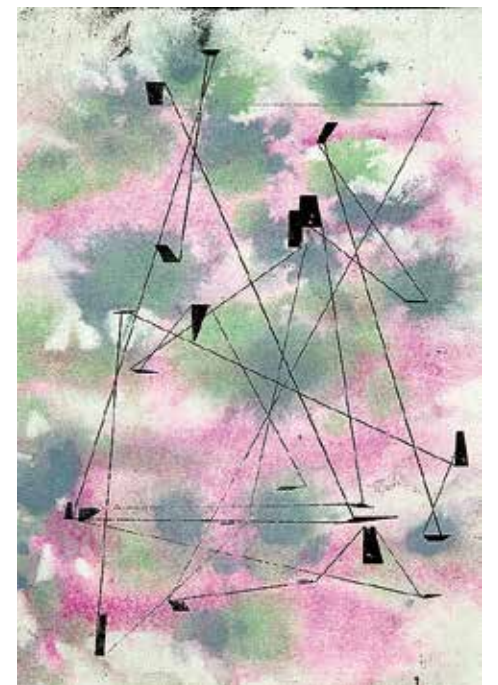
"Conference"



"Pod Stack"



"Torsion Object"



Prints from the *Flaneur* series

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 26

Tag Sale

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Nest
44 Chestnut St.

Small furniture, clothing, housewares, CDS and more will be for sale at this Cold Spring Lions Club fundraiser. Rain or shine.

SAT 26

Philipstown Bikes Day

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – Noon | Haldane High School

This annual event around a 1.7-mile loop will be hosted by the Philipstown Trails Committee and is open to walkers, bicyclists and other non-motorized movers. Email philipstowntrails@gmail.com for information.

SAT 26

Kemble House Tour

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Take a virtual tour of the historic Kemble House with owners Marianne Sutton and David Watson to support the museum's programs. *Cost: \$30 (\$25 members)*

SUN 27

Spirit of Beacon Day

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. | spiritofbeacon.org

Instead of a large gathering and parade, the community is invited to celebrate on their porches for this virtual event. Organizations and first responders will drive through neighborhoods until 2 p.m., and local musicians will perform online.

TUES 29

Blood Drive

PEEKSKILL

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St.

Register at redcrossblood.org with the sponsor code Paramount.

FRI 2

Fall Craft Fair

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St. | facebook.com/CSSHUMC

Find gifts, decor and other holiday treats at this annual event. Also SAT 3.

FRI 2

Starry Starry Night

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
walkway.org

In this virtual event, enjoy food and drinks from your choice of party boxes and watch Herb Alpert, Amy Helm, Dar Williams, Happy Traum and Mary Stuart Masterson while bidding in the online auction. *Cost: \$150*

SAT 3

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

KENT

9 a.m. – Noon.
Canopus Beach Parking Lot
1498 Route 301
putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam
845-808-1390, x43125

Registration required. Visit website for a list of accepted materials.

SAT 3

Voter Registration

GARRISON

4 – 6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Register to vote during this drive organized by the League of Women Voters of Putnam County.

SAT 3

Women's Suffrage Centennial Read-In

GARRISON

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

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Sentiments. Honor the 1920 suffragettes by wearing white or vintage apparel.

TALKS

WED 30

Halloween: A Haunted History

BEACON

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

Kevin Woyce will discuss skeleton decorating, pumpkin carving and other Halloween traditions in this webinar. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.

WED 30

An Ecological Approach to Wildlife Stewardship

MILLBROOK

6 p.m. Cary Institute
bit.ly/33XhHrb

In the first of a series of three weekly webinars, learn about local wildlife, its role in the ecosystem and what threats it faces. Whether you have a small yard or a large property, find out how to improve habitats, stay out of the way of wildlife and promote stewardship.

WED 30

Effortless Mindfulness

GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Loch Kelly will combine ancient practices and neuroscience with healing psychology during the first of this two-part online series.



WED 30

Fact Check Happy Hour

GARRISON

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

Learn how to spot and fact check information while analyzing examples of misinformation spread online.

THURS 1

The Golden Age of Hollywood

BEACON

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

Brian Rose, a professor of film and TV history at Fordham University, will discuss movies and studios from the late 1920s through the end of World War II. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.



John Lewis: Good Trouble, Sept. 30

THURS 1

Trivia Night

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Test your smarts in this Zoom event.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 26

4-H Family Guided Nature Walk

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. – Noon.
Fahnestock State Park
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

The easy 2-to-3-mile guided educational walk at Fahnestock Park is suitable for children 5 and older. Registration required. *Cost: \$10 per family*

WED 30

Learn to Knit

GARRISON

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

Learn how to knit a simple project during this biweekly Zoom session for tweens and teens. Needles and yarn are available for pickup. Through Nov. 25.

MUSIC

SAT 26

Ember Ensemble

GARRISON

4:30 & 6 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

The choral group will perform *Unfolding*. See page 11. *Cost: \$26 (\$16 for children ages 5-18; free for children under 5)*

SAT 26

iForest Sunset Concert

GARRISON

5 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Experience Pete Wyer's immersive, multisensory sound installation in the forest. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 members)*

WED 30

Daisy Joplin Band

BEACON

5 – 11 p.m. Bannerman Castle
bannermancastle.org

This fundraiser includes a concert, castle tours, a reception with Daisy and a lighting show. Boats leave the Beacon waterfront at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Also THURS 1, FRI 2, SAT 3, SUN 4. *Cost: \$250*

SUN 4

Great Hudson River Revival

BEACON

11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Clearwater
clearwaterfestival.org

This festival, broadcast on June 22, will be restreamed to benefit Sloop Clearwater. It features activists such as Leonard Peltier and performances by Tom Chapin and Peter Yarrow.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 26

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

8:30 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

The pop-up drive-in theater will screen *Shrek* (2001) and *Dumb and Dumber* (1994) this weekend and *The Addams Family* (1991) and *Evil Dead 2* (1987) next weekend. See website for showtimes and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 27, THURS 1, FRI 2, SAT 3, SUN 4. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

WED 30

John Lewis: Good Trouble

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave.
storyscreendrivein.square.site

The Beacon Film Society will present this documentary about the late Civil Rights activist, who died in July. *Cost: \$12 per person (\$20 per car)*

FRI 2

Hotel Transylvania

WAPPINGERS FALLS

6:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | dutchessny.gov/parksevents

See the 2012 animated film at a drive-in setting. Register online. *Free*

SAT 3

Poetry to Honor the Biosphere

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Register at bit.ly/DFPLEcopoetry The poets who will read include A. Anupama, Marcella Durand, E.J. McAdams, Mary Newell, Margo Taft Stever and Kathryn Weld.



Kemble House Tour, Sept. 26

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 10)

SAT 3

Once Upon a Wintertide

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Irene Pieza will discuss her book in an event for students in the fifth grade and older.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 26

Open Studios

NEWBURGH

Noon – 6 p.m. Newburgh Art Supply
5 Grand St.
newburghopenstudios.org

More than 60 artists plan to exhibit their work in their studios, alternative gallery spaces and outdoors during this 10th annual event. Pick up a map at Newburgh Art Supply; the tour is self-guided and within walking distance. New this year is the Newburgh Community Photo Project's exhibit of wheat-pasted photos on the theme of Unmasking the Truth. Also SUN 27.

FRI 2

Bochner Boetti Fontana

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

Art by Mel Bochner, Alighiero Boetti, and Lucio Fontana is on in this exhibit curated by Bochner.

SAT 3

Beacon Open Studios

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m.
beaconopenstudios.org

More than 50 artists plan to open their studios, and there will also be a virtual show. Also SUN 4.

CIVIC

Most meetings are being streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

MON 28

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 29

Village Board

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUES 29

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
845-838-6900 | beaconnk12.org

THURS 1

Philipstown Town Board

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Community Center
107 Glencliffe Dr. | 845-265-5200
philipstown.com



The Ember Ensemble, conducted by Deborah Simpkin King, is shown at a performance before the pandemic shutdown.

Photos by Dan Howell

Boscobel Returns to Live Performance

Choral group scheduled for Saturday

By Alison Rooney

For the first time in 2020, music will soar through the grounds of Boscobel when the historic site plays host on Saturday (Sept. 26) to the Ember Ensemble, which performs choral music by living composers that has a socially relevant message.

It is the first live concert at the site since the shutdown began in March. Like many other venues, Boscobel curtailed its slate of performances, including the full season of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, because of social-distancing regulations due to COVID-19. Its gardens and grounds have been open since spring, with guided landscape and landmarks tours added this month and Ascend yoga classes on the lawn, but other events were put on hold.

The Ember Ensemble, directed by Deborah Simpkin King, will perform a program called *Unfolding* at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"The ensemble approached us looking for a beautiful, outdoor performance site," says Jennifer Carlquist, Boscobel's executive director and curator. "All kinds of artists find inspiration in the site in all kinds of ways."

The performance will include some of Ember's best-received selections, including "Unclouded Day," arranged by Shawn Kirchner; Fred Rogers' "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," arranged by J. David Moore; "I Dream a World (after Langston Hughes)," by Dwight Bigler; and "A Million Dreams," from *The Greatest Showman*.

Ember is the performing branch of the nonprofit Schola Cantorum on Hudson, which King founded. It typically performs only in Manhattan and northern New Jersey, drawing singers from 11 counties

who must audition to join.

Masks and social distancing will be required, King says, and the singers will wear face coverings that allow them to perform but provide filtration of aerosolized saliva.

The decision to return to a live performance came after "months of research and discussions" about the progress of aerosol testing on singing. "All of us longed for the time when we could make 'actual' music together but no one wanted to return to live performance without documented evidence of what provides a safe and healthy experience for audiences and singers," says King, who cited a study released in August by the International Coalition of Performing Arts as being particularly helpful in providing the most up-to-date recommendations.

Boscobel is located at 1601 Route 9D in Garrison. Tickets are \$26 for adults or \$16 for children and teenagers (children under 5 are admitted free). See boscobel.org/events.



Deborah Simpkin King, who directs the Ember Ensemble



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Mouths to Feed

Overnight Sensation

By Celia Barbour

“Summer seemed to slip into autumn last night.”

Nigel Slater wrote that sentence. Upon reading it in *The Kitchen*

Diaries several weeks ago, I thought: Ooh, I might have to steal it when the time comes. Who'd ever know?

Luckily, the time did not come. I was thus saved from committing an act of crass plagiarism, not because I had an attack of conscience, but because there was nothing the least bit slip-y about the way summer's 70-degree mornings met with fall's 30-something contenders last weekend.

I puzzled over how to describe the shift. Did summer slam into autumn? Did it plummet into it? Collide headlong with it? After perseverating a bit, I realized that I was looking at the whole event backward — that, in fact, autumn had barged in on summer like an angry parent bursting into a teenager's bedroom: Party over.

Of course, the actual party is far from over. Not only is the temperature likely to bounce around the dial for a long while yet, but also autumn is arguably our region's most festive season — the year's splashiest party, at least as far as nature's concerned.

Still, for me, the seasons are marked as much by cravings and flavors as by dates and temperatures. And last week, I suddenly found myself eyeing the delicata, kabocha and sweet dumpling squashes at the market, whereas just the week before I'd only had eyes for zucchini.

The former are referred to collectively as “winter squashes,” a category which also includes acorn, butternut, hubbard

and various pumpkin kin; they generally have tougher skins and hollow seed pockets filled with inedible (unless roasted) seeds. So-called summer squashes, like zucchini and its ineptly named cousin, yellow summer squash, are eaten when young and tender from skin to core.

You may notice that, like our recent weather, these classifications skip a season, jumping from summer to winter without so much as a fare-thee-well. The garden, meanwhile, prefers not to slam through this transition. Winter squashes typically start showing up in late August, and summer ones ripen well into October (and are available year-round at the grocery store).

But most of us experience the difference between these categories on our plates and palettes, where winter squashes appear garbed in caramel-apple-worthy coatings of maple syrup and butter, whereas summer squashes prefer to doll about in claddings of basil leaves, tomatoes and mint.

Many years ago, I discovered an easy, delicious way to roast fall squashes by tossing them with a dollop of apricot preserves along with the usual olive oil, salt and pepper. The apricots introduce a bit of rich acidity to the sweet, mellow squash, and the preserve's sugars help the vegetables caramelize at the edges to a crisp-chewy golden brown. A few sprigs of thyme make the whole mess even better.

I began adding apricot jam to my basic roast squash back in the 1990s, around the same time that I first laid eyes on the Hudson Highlands. I clearly remember the autumn morning when I drove north on Route 9 from the Bear Mountain Bridge toward Beacon, en route to a photo shoot, through a tunnel of magenta, orange, crimson and gold — sugar maple, scarlet oak, ginkgo, copper beech. Wow, I thought: Remember this place. And I did, through many long years of city-living, family-starting and career-building, and through the writing (and ghostwriting) of hundreds of articles and cookbooks, many filled with sentences that, every once in a while, other people were tempted to borrow.



Roast Squash and Leeks with Thyme-Apricot Glaze

The roasting time will vary depending on the ripeness of the vegetables. This glaze is also good with any roast roots — carrots, beets, parsnips, leeks, etc. You can even layer the vegetables under a roast chicken, though the vegetables will cook faster than the bird, and should be added during the last 30 to 40 minutes of cooking.

2 delicata or 1 sweet dumpling squash, about 2 pounds total

1 large or 2 small leeks

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon apricot preserves

1 teaspoon salt plus pepper, or to taste

4 to 5 sprigs thyme, or 1 teaspoon thyme leaves

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Cut the squash in half lengthwise, stem to tail, and scoop out the seeds and strings. Place each half cut-side down on your work surface, and cut into ½-inch slices.

Trim the leeks, cut in half lengthwise, and place in a basin of water to soak out any dirt and grit, swishing now and then. Remove and pat dry.

In the bottom of a large bowl, mix together the olive oil, preserves, salt and pepper. Add the squash pieces and leeks, and toss to combine.

Spread the vegetables and the thyme sprigs in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Transfer to oven and roast until tender, golden and caramelizing in places, about 25 to 30 minutes.

“Autumn barged in on summer like an angry parent bursting into a teenager's bedroom: Party over.”



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Something You Don't Know About Me

Leonora Burton

Leonora Burton is the proprietor of The Country Goose in Cold Spring and the author of "Lament of an Expat: How I Discovered America and Tried to Mend It." She spoke to Alison Rooney.

I was in high school, at a private boarding school in Worcester, England. My oldest sister was a secretary for our father's transportation business. My two other sisters were nurses. I was in my final term of school and had been accepted at a teacher training college.

We were all in class, and someone came in and said, "Leonora, would you go to the headmistress' office?" There, the headmistress, Miss Roden — she had a twitch in her eye — said:

"I have some sad news for you: your father just declared bankruptcy. You'll have to leave the school."

"But he paid for my three sisters to come!"

I went back to my room and started packing; I was in disbelief. Then the housemistress came in and told me, "I have your father on the telephone."

"I'm so sorry," he said. "I've just found out my accountant for all these years has been stealing from me. Your mother and I are going to live with your grandmother in Wales — I'm coming to pick you up."

The accountant ended up in jail for many years. He'd never filed taxes for his clients, including my father, and had been pocketing the funds. My father had to sell everything. He had inherited the business from his father. Originally, it was a business where they collected bones from butcher stores and sold them to a glue factory. It was considered an essential service during World War II. My father had turned it into a transportation company.

Teacher training obviously was no longer for me. The only feasible career was nursing, which paid a salary during training. I applied to the Royal Masonic Hospital. It was June, and they accepted me for January. During the six months of waiting, I applied for a job in the accounts department at Monsanto Chemical in Newport, Wales, where we'd moved. The problem was, I was 17 and could never do math. It was obvious in the first month that I had no idea what I was doing.

The woman who hired me, Miss Drew, was helpful, though, and told me: "It's not working out for you, but my sister has a dry cleaning store and she's looking for a receptionist." At the dry cleaners, there was another Miss Drew — the first Miss Drew's sister. Soon after, she sat me down and revealed: "We're both your aunties, and you also have a great-aunt living here in Newport."

I was thoroughly confused. "What's going on?" I asked.

"Oh, so many years ago, your grandfather was still living in Yorkshire, and he was engaged to your grandmother, [also named] Leonora. When he was 20, he got



Leonora Burton outside her Main Street shop

Photo by A. Rooney

into some trouble and was sent to prison for two years. Leonora visited him every day. His sister — your great-aunt — decided to leave Yorkshire and set up a business here in Newport so that when he got out of prison, he could come to Wales, start a new life, and no one would know he had been in prison."

When my grandfather joined his sister in Wales, he met and fell in love with a Welsh girl, but his sister was adamant that he should marry loyal Leonora, who had stood by him while he was in prison.

They did get married and stayed in Newport. Their business flourished, and was handed down to their only child — my father — who did well until the crooked accountant came along. Not long after my father was born, my grandmother and my great-aunt had a huge argument and my grandmother severed the relationship.

After telling me that story, the second Miss Drew invited me to meet her mother, my great-aunt, who had stayed in Newport, married and had two girls. My great-aunt had kept an eye on her brother but never came forward to identify herself to her nephew (my father).

It was eye-opening — a whole branch of the family I never knew existed. My great-aunt was forthcoming, fully aware that she probably forced her brother into a marriage that was not going to be particularly happy for him; I think she regretted that. She must have been a stalwart lady to leave Yorkshire and come and start a business so her brother would have something to do when he came out of prison.

The question at that point became: What do we do with this knowledge? Despite all of us being in the same place, dad never knew they existed. Should we tell him about his great-aunt, who lived two blocks away? We agreed we should.

So, we all met and it went well. We have been friends ever since. The secret only came out because I happened to be work-

ing for the dry cleaners. They had never intruded. They always said, "We were just so happy we were able to help you."

My father was reluctant to talk about anything. He was devastated when the business went into bankruptcy. He found a job through a charity and dedicated the

rest of his life to raising money for the disadvantaged, including in New Delhi. My mother was strong — she helped him. My secretary sister stayed living with them.

We all adapted swiftly to all these changes. You have to — it's what life serves you up.

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Roots and Shoots

Foibles with Fungi

By Pamela Doan

After ending a 10-year role with a company and colleagues I loved, I was meandering through my what's-next-list when a local workshop about growing mushrooms on logs came through my inbox.



As a fan of the ideas in *Farming the Woods: An Integrated Permaculture Approach to Growing Food and Medicinals in Temperate Forests*, by Steve Gabriel and Ken Mudge, and agroforestry in general, the idea of becoming a mushroom farmer spawned.

Four years and 150 inoculated logs later, fantasy has met the backbreaking task of lifting a water-soaked log from a stock tank and carrying it around the yard. Here's how it works in a very undetailed summary:

(1) Find suitable species like maple, oak or birch. I used to know the harvest percentages off the top of my head but all I'll say now is that maple works better than birch and I won't use oak because oak trees aren't regenerating well in our local forests.



Grown on logs, shitake mushrooms have great flavor and nutrients.



Photos by P. Doan

(2) Drill many holes in each log. We filled the holes with shitake mushroom spawn and then covered them with melted wax to prevent other fungi from colonizing the log. Don't damage the bark while doing this.

(3) Ideally the logs are inoculated with spawn in the winter and early

spring, then left to sit until the following year when harvesting can begin as the temperatures hit the right zone for your mushroom strain to fruit. Around April or May, soak the logs in water for 24 hours, remove and wait for little mushrooms to start popping out. It takes about a week. I can usually harvest about a pound of shitakes per log.

I've fallen far from the perfect setup for a mushroom farm that I learned about in the workshop. Living in the woods isn't the only qualifying factor for success.

In my landscape, there are certain ways to get places and not many shortcuts from front to back or side to side. There are a lot of trees that I could theoretically cut into logs that are the right size for mushrooms but they are not easily accessed across a stream. Moving logs without some kind of motorized assistance isn't practical, especially on slippery, sloping ground in late winter. I was willing to get a draft horse but my family thought it was impractical.

Some lessons to note:

(1) Use small logs and don't let the person in the family who says "it's about 6 inches" and can't precisely measure things like tree trunks and branches be the one who determines which logs to use. Our logs are big and heavy, and during the process of drilling and inserting the spawn, stacking, soaking and harvesting — the logs get handled a lot.

(2) Have a strong core. A yoga or Pilates teacher, a good massage therapist and an orthopedist you trust are also good to have on hand.

(3) Set up your mushroom farm, aka "the stack," close to a water supply and electricity. High-quality hoses and extra-long extension cords aren't worth the time involved in spooling them out and collecting them.

(4) Make it convenient. If you take a course like I did, you'll learn about the spreadsheet where you calculate the profit

The Payoff

The yummy dishes my friends have reported making with our shitakes makes it all worth it:

- Shitake "bacon" (involves roasting and brown sugar)
- Stuffed shitakes
- Shitake tempura
- Shitake tacos
- Omelettes
- Risotto
- Paella

and loss and track the time you spend, since labor is a cost and you're supposed to pretend like you're paying yourself. That extra 5 to 10 minutes it takes to walk to your stack or move a log to the soaking tank or go back to the house when you forgot to bring enough bags for the harvest adds up, and your wages go down.

(5) Harvesting well and growing well require experience over and above what you learn from a book. I'm in my second season of harvesting shitakes and I'm still figuring out timing. On some humid days in July, I'd either not get around to cutting the shitakes off the logs or deliberately leave them one more night assuming they'd be fresher for use the next day, and then they'd be overgrown. During the past few weeks of dry weather and fluctuating temperatures, the shitakes are smaller and dryer and taking longer to grow.

(6) Have a support group. After attending the workshop, I joined a Cornell Small Farms email group with other New York mushroom growers. They are helpful and open to sharing their experiences and resources, and I'm grateful for it.

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My Name is Rachel Corrie

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Dance Performance

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| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SATURDAY, AUG. 1, 4:22 P.M. Public assistance, family pet stuck in chair FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 | TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 6:23 P.M. (ISAIAS) Mutual aid to Garrison Fire Co., structure fire FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 10 | MONDAY, AUG. 10, 5:18 P.M.* Lost hikers with minor injuries, Breakneck FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 7 | MONDAY, AUG. 24, 3:19 P.M. Activated fire alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 |
| MONDAY, AUG. 3, 5:30 A.M. Faulty residential fire alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 7 | WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5, 1:17 A.M. Carbon monoxide alarm, building evacuated FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 8 | TUESDAY, AUG. 11, 9:21 A.M. Carbon monoxide alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 | WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 3:19 P.M. Assistance to Philipstown EMS FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 |
| TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 8:57 A.M. (ISAIAS) Possible power wire/transformer fire FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 4 | WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5, 9:29 P.M. Two lost hikers at Breakneck FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 8 | WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12, 10:04 A.M. Carbon monoxide alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 | THURSDAY, AUG. 27, 9:28 P.M. Utility pole fire FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 13 |
| TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 2:19 P.M. (ISAIAS) Mutual aid to North Highlands Fire Co., leaking propane tanks FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 | SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 5:38 P.M. Residential fire alarm activated, no fire FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 4 | WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12, 9:55 P.M. Assistance to Philipstown EMS FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 7 | FRIDAY, AUG. 28, 9:23 A.M. Activated fire alarm (canceled after dispatch) FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 2 |
| TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 2:30 P.M. (ISAIAS) Elevator emergency at Butterfield project FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 5 | SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 6:53 P.M. Dehydrated hiker at Breakneck* FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 8 | THURSDAY, AUG. 13, 6:46 A.M. Mutual aid to North Highlands Fire Co., vehicle fire next to residence FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 6 | FRIDAY, AUG. 28, 9:25 A.M. Gas odor FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 9 |
| TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 5:25 P.M. (ISAIAS) Wires down FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 9 | SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 7:10 P.M. Injured hiker at Breakneck* FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 8 | FRIDAY, AUG. 14, 11:05 A.M. Activated fire alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 7 | SUNDAY, AUG. 30, 12:07 P.M. Motor vehicle crash FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 11 |
| TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 5:56 P.M. (ISAIAS) Wires down FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 10 | MONDAY, AUG. 10, 3:33 P.M. Mutual aid to Garrison Fire Co., residential fire alarm activated FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 4 | MONDAY, AUG. 17, 5 A.M. Activated fire alarm FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 8 | SUNDAY, AUG. 30, 3:35 P.M. Trash can fire FIREFIGHTERS ON THE CALL: 7 |
| <i>*Other agencies, including the North Highlands Fire Co., Philipstown EMS and New York State Police, also responded.</i> | | | |



Chief Tom Merrigan File photo by M. Turton

Fire Company (from Page 1)

vehicle fires to carbon monoxide alarms, motor vehicle crashes and assisting other first responders.

It was the kind of month that can wear down a company that relies on volunteers. “We have maybe 20 active firefighters,” Merrigan said. “Our constant challenge, our biggest need, is to recruit new firefighters.”

Although the company roll includes more than 100 residents — some of whom have been with CSFC for 50 years or more — most have long since ended their roles as active firefighters, Merrigan said.

Merrigan said even during such a busy month, firefighters are still required to complete six hours of training, which takes place on Tuesday evenings. They must also complete 10 hours of training annually with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

This month, Merrigan said training will include a detailed walkthrough of one of the largest structures in the village, the most recent residential building completed at the Butterfield redevelopment project.

Fire Company, No. 1: A Brief History

1896: A banker, David Harkness, proposes to a group of business owners that the village form a fire brigade, the Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1. Its first piece of equipment, a hose cart, must be pulled by the firefighters.

1898: A firehouse is built on Garden Street.

1899: A horse-drawn hook and ladder is donated.

1900: The hose company becomes the Cold Spring Fire Co.

1923: The company buys its first motorized equipment, a Brockway Chemical truck.

1926: The company moves into the new municipal building at 85 Main St., which is now Village Hall.

1952-64: The company provides backup ambulance service to Butterfield Hospital using a 1941 Buick donated by a CSFC captain, Francis Dale.

1974: The company moves to its present firehouse at Main and Church streets.

Source: CSFC

Fire Fighting Inventory (1920)

1 hose cart
1,100 feet ½-inch Maltese Cross Brand hose
500 feet 2½-inch linen hose
200 feet 2½-inch rubber-lined canvas hose
3 brass hose pipes
2 rubber hose pipes
1 Waldron controlling nozzle
1 hydrant gate
1 hook and ladder

For Emergency Use
100 feet 2½-inch hose with nozzles and wrenches at Old Homestead Club
200 feet 2½-inch hose with nozzles and wrenches at Bank and Parsonage
Electric fire alarm at Main and Furnace

Early Alarms

The Cold Spring Fire Co. was organized in January 1896. Here is a tally of the 104 alarms it answered in its first 24 years. (Its fiscal year ended April 1.)

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 1896-97: 3 | 1908-09: 2 |
| 1897-98: 3 | 1909-10: 5 |
| 1898-99: 4 | 1910-11: 7 |
| 1899-00: 1 | 1911-12: 4 |
| 1900-01: 9 | 1912-13: 0 |
| 1901-02: 4 | 1913-14: 3 |
| 1902-03: 8 | 1914-15: 6 |
| 1903-04: 8 | 1915-16: 2 |
| 1904-05: 6 | 1916-17: 3 |
| 1905-06: 6 | 1917-18: 3 |
| 1906-07: 9 | 1918-19: 1 |
| 1907-08: 6 | 1919-20: 1 |

Annual Meeting Highlights (1919-20)

Eleven applicants were elected. A proposal to purchase an auto chemical engine was referred to committee. The secretary reported that the company responded to one call, which took only about two hours because the building was already fully engaged. The company mourned the death of founder David Harkness.

Source: The Cold Spring Recorder, April 16, 1920

Beacon Schools *(from Page 1)*

also interviewed Barbara Fisher and Travis Fisher, who are married and each applied for the vacant position.

The board is expected to vote on a new member at its next meeting on Monday (Sept. 28). President Meredith Heuer said on Wednesday (Sept. 23) she was not sure how or when the second vacancy would be addressed.

If the board votes to appoint a member on Monday, the person will serve until the election in May, when the seat will appear on the ballot. With Case-Leal's vacancy, the board can hold a special election, make a second appointment or take no action until the 2021 vote.

The candidates

On Sept. 14, each of the four candidates made a brief statement and answered questions during the school board's videoconferenced meeting.

"I've watched this community pull together since March in ways that I would bet people wouldn't have considered possible," said Barbara Fisher, who owns Barb's Butchery on Spring Street. "I found myself drawn to the school board as a way to intersect myself."

Fisher taught high school and collegiate-level math and physics for 15 years, most recently at SUNY-Orange, before opening her business in 2014. She said she hopes the community spirit that has emerged in Beacon during the COVID-19 pandemic will "become the new normal," and not "come to an end when this crisis is over."

With a solid staff of employees at the butchery, Fischer said, "I actually have time to sit back and ask myself, 'What else can I participate in?' and this got me excited."

Her husband, Travis Fisher, said he's been following the school district since 2015, although he didn't have time to commit to run for the board then.

Fisher, who builds mathematical models for Barclays bank, said he believes the district has improved in the past five years, but "there's still some things flashing a bit of a warning sign, particularly that black students are not getting the same level of progress as white students. I worry that there is something the district should still be doing" to improve that.

In addition, he cautioned that "according to the data, the district is still a little on the weak side" regarding achievements with special education students.

While Fisher acknowledged that "I'm not sure that geeky white guys are that

badly underrepresented on the board," he added that "if our students feel like everybody in the district is supporting them and trying to help them succeed, they almost uniformly do very well."

"What kids need in order to grow and develop well is somebody to care about them," he said.

John Galloway Jr., a 2015 Beacon High School graduate, said that he would bring community involvement, which he believes is missing from the board. To improve the district, "you have to connect with the community. You have to connect with parents. You can't go making decisions for the entire district without consulting the community," he said. "I see myself being that bridge."

Galloway, who operates the Label Foundation, a youth development nonprofit, said that underrepresented communities don't attend City Council or school board meetings and "there's people like me who want to get involved but they don't have the confidence, because they think you guys do not care."

He alleged that the board had "wasted" \$380,000 in 2017 by installing a multi-sport turf field behind Beacon High School as part of a nearly \$9 million capital improvement plan, rather than creating a recreation center for the community.

Although board members pointed out that the district cannot spend its funding on a citywide project like a recreation center, Galloway charged that the board doesn't understand the community, saying "there are far more important things that are going on that you are clearly disconnected from."

Jasmine Johnson, a 2006 Beacon High School graduate, worked last year as a teacher's assistant at Hudson Hills Academy, a private Montessori school.

She said she is interested in fighting cyberbullying and promoting health and wellness, as well as trying to better connect the private and public schools in the city, "so they all can know each other and operate on the same level."

Johnson talked about being "nudged" by a teacher from Advanced Placement into a lower level math course while at Beacon High School, which has led her to seek "compassion-led teaching" for her daughter.

She also spoke about teachers that encouraged her, and the impact they had. "All the teachers can care if they want to," she said. While she said she may not remember everything that was taught, "I remember how [those teachers] made me feel, and that's what's most important. That's what the kids need."

Catching Up with the Garrison School Board

Highlights from recent meetings

By Chip Rowe

After interviewing three candidates, the Garrison school board appointed Madeline Julian to succeed Jill Lake, a trustee who resigned in June. Julian, an architect who is senior director of project development, planning design and construction for the Mount Sinai Health System, will serve until the annual meeting on May 18, and the seat will appear on the 2021 ballot.

On Sept. 2, with the board meeting in person for the first time since March, Superintendent Carl Albano said that 167 students, or 75 percent of the district's enrollment, returned to in-person instruction, and 48 students (22 percent) were receiving remote instruction through iTutor, a virtual instruction service with

state-certified teachers that the district will pay \$550,000 for in 2020-21. Another seven students are being taught through Individual Home Instruction Plans, he said.

The board appointed Allison Emig as principal for a three-year probationary period, effective Nov. 7, at a salary of \$155,000 annually.

Sarah Tormey was elected to succeed James Hoch as president of the seven-member board. Courtney McCarthy was re-elected vice president.

The board adopted a policy outlining parent and family engagement for Title 1 programs that serve low-income families, disabled students, those with limited proficiency in English or with low literacy, and racial or ethnic minorities. The policy says the district will conduct an annual "equity audit" to ensure that all programs, including student orientations, are inclusive; create a parent advisory board; pay "reasonable and necessary costs," includ-

ing transportation and child care, to allow families to attend school meetings and training sessions; and conduct in-home conferences as needed.

The board created a task force for anti-racism and equity that includes three teachers, three parents and three board members. It also approved a \$1,500 contract with April Equity Consulting for virtual diversity training.

The board moved \$129,000 from the district's Retirement System Contributions Reserve Fund and \$378,000 from its Debt Service Fund to use as revenue toward the 2019-20 budget.

The board awarded its 2020-21 contract for student transportation to Orange County Transit for \$600,300.

The board approved collecting \$9.5 million in taxes for its 2020-21 budget. Of that, \$8.96 million will come from Philipstown residents (at a rate of about \$21.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value) and \$542,000



Madeline Julian was appointed to Garrison board.

Photo provided

from Putnam Valley residents who live in the district (at a rate of about \$9.60 per \$1,000).

In addition, the district will collect \$300,000 for the Desmond-Fish Public Library (\$283,000 from Philipstown residents at the rate of about 68 cents per \$1,000 and \$17,000 from Putnam Valley residents at about 30 cents per \$1,000).

The next meeting is Oct. 7. The public can attend in person or via Zoom.

Catching Up with the Haldane School Board

Highlights from recent meetings

By Chip Rowe

The Haldane school board agreed to a settlement with the parents of a disabled student who said the district had not provided their child with the same level of public education given to other students. The district agreed to reimburse the parents \$41,350 for three years

of private-school tuition, as well as up to \$15,000 for counseling, transportation and attorney's fees.

The district's outdoor education committee created 18 classroom spaces, two tented spaces and areas for art and music to allow for social distancing. The Haldane School Foundation donated \$1,000 for picnic blankets.

Principal Julia Sniffen said the high school plans to test a program called *Facing History and Ourselves* in its English and history

departments. According to facinghistory.org, the program's curriculum "heightens students' understanding of racism, religious intolerance and prejudice; increases students' ability to relate history to their own lives; and promotes greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities in a democracy." The nonprofit, which was founded in 1976, also states that it believes "the bigotry and hate that we witness today are the legacy of brutal injustices of the past."

The board approved hiring two elemen-

tary teachers, at a cost of about \$180,000 with salaries and benefits, to provide support for students in kindergarten through third grade who are learning entirely from home.

The board agreed to a contract with Millburn Flooring to replace the school cafeteria floor for \$41,500.

The board approved instruction contracts with the Garrison district and St. Basil's Academy for \$13,980 per student. There are 45 students attending Haldane High School who live in the Garrison district and five who reside at St. Basil's Academy in Garrison.

(Continued on Page 17)

Haldane School *(from Page 16)*

The district awarded tenure to high school English teacher David Dougherty and English as a Second Language instructor Barbara Jennings. It also granted tenure to teaching assistants Carolyn Llewellyn and Alexis Smith.

Jen Daly was elected as president and John Hedlund as vice president of the five-member board.

The district signed an agreement with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department to have a deputy on campus for 2020-21 at a cost of \$61,690. A second law-enforcement position, for a school peace officer, was eliminated.

The district signed an agreement with Verizon to provide internet services for \$17,500 annually. It had been paying

Cablevision \$33,000.

The district hired Katie Boonshoft as a visual arts teacher for \$67,000 annually to succeed Tom Locascio. At the high school, it hired Kathleen DeSocio as an English teacher for \$69,000 and Rebecca Masback as a special education teacher for \$52,000. In addition, Travis Davidson was hired for \$48,000 as the music/choral teacher, succeeding Melissa Frabotta. The board appointed Jessica Stein as a music teacher for all grades at a salary of \$60,000.

The board voted to re-issue its call for proposals to paint the gym/auditorium after the low bidder failed to provide adequate references. It contracted with NRG Home Improvement of Cortlandt Manor to renovate the gym/auditorium bathrooms for \$27,640.

The board updated the district code

of conduct to apply to students taking part in distance learning. It also updated its athletic and extracurricular code of conduct to say that students are expected to "communicate with their coach or club advisor if they are having a problem or need assistance."

The board accepted bids from Pidala Oil of Cold Spring to provide heating oil and hot water service and from Sinon Farms of Poughkeepsie to provide milk.

The board approved transfers from the excess fund balance of \$50,000 to offset the 2020-21 tax levy, \$92,000 to the school lunch fund, \$100,000 to the TRS Retirement Reserve Fund and \$150,000 to liability reserves.

The board met in person on Aug. 22 for the first time since March. Its next meeting will be held Oct. 6.

Helping Parents Help Their Kids

Virtual classes pose a challenge for non-tech savvy

By Michael Turton

Even though home computers have been around since the late 1970s, when the pandemic closed schools last spring, it created a challenge for some parents trying to help their children navigate the new world of distance learning.

Enter the Haldane PTA Family Tech Support Committee.

"A lot of families were caught off-guard," said Aaron Freimark, one of the group's founders. "Their devices didn't work, they had trouble with their home network, or maybe they needed a printer and didn't have one."

Freimark, now retired, worked in information technology throughout his career.

"The problems are often small and can be solved with little experience and a lot of patience," he said. "But the idea of a kid missing a day of education because of a tech problem — that moved me."

Last August, when it became apparent many students would be returning to a virtual classroom, Freimark and other tech-savvy volunteers worked with the Haldane school district and the PTA to set up a support group for parents.

A live chat service offered by the group at the website haldane.help offered assistance to a dozen families during the first two weeks of the fall term, Freimark said.

Diana Hird was among the parents to reach out. "The tech support blew me away," she said. "I typed a question into a dialogue box and someone responded almost immediately."

Eliza Starbuck also benefited. "Three volunteers immediately responded to help me; they answered my questions and took the weight of figuring it out alone off my shoulders."

The site also includes a list of "tips and tricks," with topics such as "How do I send a



Owen Mekeel, who father, Tom, is a tech-help volunteer, works on his computer.

Photo provided

file to my student's school email account?"

Freimark said questions posed by parents have been all over the map, including complaints about internet speed. "Often the problem isn't actually the Optimum cable into your house; it's your computer struggling to keep up with too much demand," he said.

His advice to parents and students in that situation? "Turn off your fancy Zoom background, close apps you aren't using, stop multi-tasking. That often does the trick."

Cindy Cohen, another tech volunteer, said that during the first couple of weeks of school, parents spent a lot of time searching emails to find logins and instructions about how and when their children were supposed to sign on.

"Not all parents are tech-oriented," Cohen said. "It's a lot to learn because of the many different platforms being used in the schools."

Internet access, especially with Optimum the only option in Philipstown, is a common problem, Cohen said. "The service is less than ideal when so many people are videoconferencing at the same time."

Parents should not be shy about asking for assistance, Freimark noted, even if they feel they don't "get" technology. "It's always changing," he said. "People who get it one day are often left behind the next. We all feel left behind and dumb at some point; nobody should feel ashamed to ask for help, because at this point tech skills are life skills."

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State: Power Plant Project Needs Juice

Danskammer must show fit with climate-change goals

By Leonard Sparks

Danskammer Energy says its \$500 million proposal to upgrade a power plant 5 miles upriver from Beacon will be able to meet state greenhouse-gas-reduction goals by converting by 2040 to hydrogen or renewable natural gas derived from waste such as trash or manure.

The state Public Service Commission, which is reviewing the project, says it wants more details. The plant currently supplies electricity only during periods of high demand.

John Rhodes, chair of the PSC and its Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, said on Sept. 8 that Danskammer's application for a permit to build at the site, which is on the Hudson River in the Town of Newburgh, remains incomplete without additional information, including if the use of biomass or hydrogen would even be feasible.

The state also wants to know whether biomass and hydrogen qualify as renewable energy or a "zero-emissions" power source, and if the company is committing to their use.

Rhodes' letter followed a joint motion filed Aug. 28 by Sloop Clearwater, Scenic

Hudson, Riverkeeper and other environmental organizations asking the state to require Danskammer to provide details or remove references to biogas and hydrogen from its application.

While local labor unions support the project, which Danskammer says would create 450 construction jobs, environmental groups and local officials in Beacon, Newburgh, Cold Spring and Philipstown have asked the state to reject it. They cite the state's goal over the next 30 years of replacing (with solar, wind and other renewable sources of energy) fossil-fuel-burning plants that emit greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted in July 2019, the Public Service Commission and other agencies that issue permits must determine how proposed projects would contribute to getting the state to 70 percent renewable energy by 2030, 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040 and an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050, among other goals.

In a joint statement on Sept. 10, the environmental groups dismissed as "speculative" Danskammer Energy's claims that its

plant could be converted to use renewable energy sources.

The Siting Board first notified Danskammer in February that its application had "deficiencies," including how its proposed plant would meet state emission restrictions. The firm responded in July with a report prepared by a consultant that predicted that, in the decade after 2025, the plant's power consumption would drop by 196,000 tons and its greenhouse gas emissions by 261,000 tons. Further, it said, the plant would lower emissions outside New York state by 20,000 tons annually starting in 2040.

Danskammer on Sept. 8 argued that it does not need to "fully flesh out and commit" to biomass or hydrogen to demonstrate the proposed plant's "consistency" with the climate act. The company said its application met statutory and regulatory filing requirements and that the push-back by the environmental groups was "yet another attempt" to delay the process.

Michelle Hook, a representative for Danskammer, said on Wednesday (Sept. 23) that the company is "delighted" at the state's "interest in learning more about our efforts around green hydrogen and RNG," or renewable natural gas.

"We are working diligently to compile all relevant information that can illustrate our commitment to helping New York meet its climate targets and potentially be a national leader on green hydrogen power generation," she said.

The company is partnering with Mitsubishi Power, which is developing plants in Ohio and Virginia that would initially run on natural gas and transition to hydrogen. In response, Sloop Clearwater, which is based in Beacon, said the use of hydrogen is "a long way off" and its efficiency as a power source is "highly questionable."

In addition to predicting that the new plant would reduce emissions, the company says its turbines would no longer be cooled with water from the river but with air. Environmental groups have long expressed concern that the intake and resulting discharge of heated water kills too many fish.

Danskammer also says its project would generate more than \$50 million in tax revenue for local governments and school districts over 15 to 20 years.

The company submitted its application to the Siting Board in December. If and when the board, which includes Basil Seggos, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and Howard Zucker, commissioner of the Department of Health, determines the application is complete, it would schedule a public hearing.

“The environmental groups dismissed as “speculative” Danskammer’s claims that its plant could be converted to use renewable energy sources.

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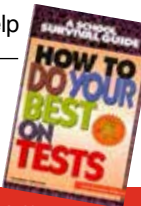
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Waller or Domino

5. “— not choose to run”

8. Stoolie

12. Hardly ruddy

13. Calendar abbr.

14. In due time

15. Noble gas

16. Born

17. Loosen

18. Cowpoke of the pampas

20. Get new actors

22. Car-pool lane abbr.

23. Profit

24. Elevator name

27. Crucial experiment

32. See 12-Across

33. Heavy weight

34. Mainlander’s memento

35. Midday party

38. Favorable votes

39. Raw rock

40. Boom times

42. Merry

45. This or that, it matters not

49. Sheltered

50. Possess

52. Legislation

53. Factory-fresh

54. Craze

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36 37 38

39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52

53 54 55

56 57 58

55. Malaria symptom

56. Automaton, for short

57. To and —

58. Egg part

DOWN

1. Vampire tooth

2. Cruising

3. Grand

4. Harmonizes

5. Start something new

6. Buck’s mate

7. Finished

8. Tap

9. From birth

10. Affirmative actions

11. Entanglement

19. Word after heave or gung

21. Finish

24. Night flyer

25. Greek cross

26. Guiltless

28. Bill and —

29. Sly slur

30. Glimpse

31. “— the season ...”

36. Vinegar bottles

37. Coop denizen

38. Off

41. *Life of —*

42. Door-frame piece

43. Hodgepodge

44. Remove, as a cap

46. *Les Miserables* writer

47. Hebrew month

48. Stench

51. Simple card game

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 plants (4)

2 in an elegant way (10)

3 minor rise in elevation (7)

4 using your index, perhaps (8)

5 alter (5)

6 one on the hunt (6)

7 increase sound (7)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | L | O | B | | S | A | C | | S | C | A | M | |
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| A | L | L | C | L | E | A | R | | B | E | E | T | |
| B | L | A | K | E | | | | K | A | R | A | T | E |
| | | | E | G | G | S | | C | A | R | | | |
| P | A | C | T | | A | T | O | M | | C | U | D | |
| E | M | U | | S | L | A | T | E | | U | S | E | |
| A | P | T | | P | A | N | T | | S | T | A | B | |
| | | S | P | A | | D | O | W | N | | | | |
| S | C | H | E | M | E | | | A | I | S | L | E | |
| E | R | O | S | | S | H | O | R | T | T | O | N | |
| T | O | R | T | | P | O | W | | C | O | R | D | |
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| 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 |

1. WORKOUT, 2. NOTEPADS, 3. OLDER, 4. MATTER, 5. REROUTES, 6. TWENTIETH, 7. SHELTERED



Bulldogs 10U Team Notches First Fall Win

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon Bulldogs 10U baseball team has been showing steady signs of improvement in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League.

The Bulldogs picked up their first win of the fall season, 9-8, against the Beekman Bombers on Sept. 6.

Justin Buchman earned the victory. “Justin has become one of our better pitchers,” said Coach Jed Varricchio. “He was gritty, pounded the zone, and our defense took care of the rest.”

Beacon came back from a four-run deficit. Jesse Apostolou went 3-for-4 with three RBIs, and Julian Rivers had four steals.

“The kids were psyched to get that win,” Varricchio said. “And now we’re not getting ‘mercy-ruled’ [when a lopsided game is ended early] but playing closer games.”

The Bulldogs also played well against Beekman in a game on Wednesday (Sept. 23), but came up on the short end of a 5-2 decision.

“We lost, but that was a phenomenal



Justin Buchman delivers a pitch against Beekman on Sept. 23.

Photo by S. Pearlman

game,” said Varricchio. “The boys are getting better and better. They’re coming together as a team, we’re making fewer errors, and they’re hitting well.”

In Wednesday’s loss, Buchman pitched five innings and struck out six. Caellum Tripaldi had a two-run triple and Gavin Troiano, Jesse Apostolou and Nolan Varric-

chio also had hits.

Beacon, which is now 1-6, is scheduled to play a doubleheader at 10 a.m. on Sunday (Sept. 27) at Memorial Park.

Preview: Beacon Cross-Country

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys’ cross-country team is looking for good things this fall, and that starts with returning All-Section selection and team captain Zach Cader.

Cader was the first Beacon athlete in several years to qualify for states last year, and he’s back for his senior season.

“He’s been running times that have been drawing Division 1 [college] interest,” said Coach Jim Henry. “There’s no state championship tournament this year [because of the pandemic], but we’re hoping to have

a sectional championship. I would expect him to be in contention to win that. He has great speed, and each season his endurance has increased.”

The Bulldogs also welcome back senior captain and All-League selection Stephen Schneider, who finished in the top seven at last year’s sectionals. “We’re hoping he can get a personal record in the 18-minute range,” Henry said. “He would be pretty happy with that.”

Juniors Evan LaBelle and Sal Migliore are back, as well.

“We were expecting big things in the spring from Evan” during track competi-



Stephen Schneider



Zach Cader

Photos provided

tion, Henry said. “But of course there was no spring season, so if he comes in in good shape he can pick up right where he left off. Sal is similar. He looks bigger, stronger and

faster. The two of them are important to the team’s success.”

The Beacon team has won the last two league championships but would like to step up to compete with programs such as Carmel, Brewster, Arlington and John Jay. “We can certainly compete with the upper echelon of Dutchess County,” the coach said.

The Beacon girls have traditionally had trouble maintaining a full team of five to seven runners throughout the season, but Henry is hoping to have one in place this fall.

“We have a couple of runners we’re hoping will come back, and we also had a good modified team,” he said, including Rachel Thorne, who last season ran 1.5 miles in 10:48.

Cross-country competition is expected to begin around Oct. 10.

Preview: Haldane Tennis

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School girls’ tennis team had a strong 2019 season, going 12-4 and sending two teams to the conference tournament.

But the Blue Devils lost five starters to graduation, including Natalie Sandick, Julie Geller, Anna Brief, Bridget Goldberg and Cassie Laifer.

Haldane does return a trio of talented sophomores — Amanda Johnson, Mairead O’Hara and Caroline Nelson — who Coach Simon Dudar is counting on to lead the team.

“Last year they all played doubles, but this year they’ll battle for a top-three singles spot,” he said. Johnson and O’Hara will be entering their fourth year on the varsity, while Nelson joined the team last

year from Garrison.

Also returning from last year’s squad are juniors Maya Osborn, Emilia Osborn and Betsy McBride, and sophomores Fiona Shanahan and Isabella Crofts.

“Hopefully, they can fill in the back of the rotation this year, and they may be our new doubles starters,” the coach said.

The Blue Devils play in a league with North Salem, Briarcliff, Pleasantville, Pawling, Croton and Valhalla. Teams will be allowed to begin practice on Tuesday (Sept. 29), and Haldane is scheduled to open its

season on Oct. 10 at Pawling.

“It will be a short and condensed season,” Dudar said. “We usually have 16 matches; now we’ll have 12. And because it will get dark earlier [because of daylight saving time], we will play eight-game pro sets [instead of the best of three]. There’s not as much time, so every point counts even more.

“Overall, this is a rebuilding year for us,” he added. “We hope to get the girls as much experience as possible with the hope of being competitive for the next few years.”