

The HIGHLANDS Current



APRIL 23, 2021

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG — Photographer Amy Kubik took a walk down Main Street in Cold Spring last weekend, including this stop outside Barber and Brew. See more of what she saw on Page 16.

Church to Be Sold for Bar, Hotel

Investors hope to open Beacon venue in 2022

By Leonard Sparks

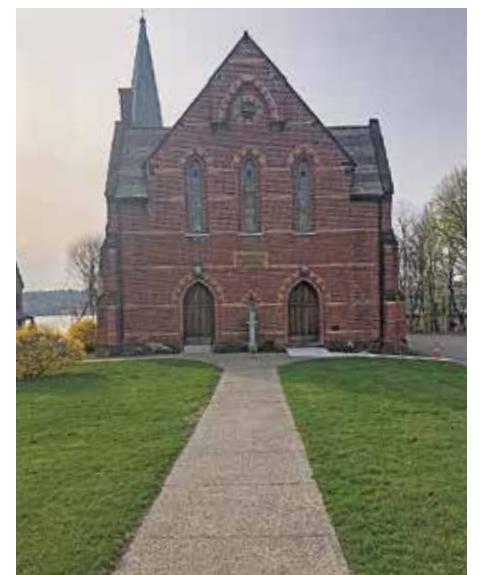
The Reformed Church of Beacon is in contract to be sold to a development group that plans to convert the 161-year-old sanctuary and its parsonage into a venue for music, theater and other performances, a bar and cafe, and a hotel.

Gavin Hecker said he and his partners, Josh Friedman and Lauren Walling, hope to finalize the sale in June and within a year open a 500-seat performance space and a bar and cafe at the former church, which sits on a strip of Wolcott Avenue between two new housing complexes: River Ridge Views townhouses and the West End Lofts apartments.

The hotel would come in a second phase, with the group envisioning a minimum of 25 rooms. The partners also plan to rehab the church's historic but neglected cemetery, which was the original burial site for William Few, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, but has become overgrown.

Hecker is a musician, promoter and post-production sound technician for film and television who moved to Beacon with his family two years ago. In 2010, he founded the PhilaMOCA performance space in Philadelphia, inside a former mausoleum showroom that dates to 1865.

(Continued on Page 22)



The Reformed Church of Beacon

Photo by Chip Rowe

Cold Spring Poised to Regulate Airbnbs

Public hearing scheduled for May 6

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Tuesday (April 20) made final changes to the draft of a proposed chapter of the village code that would regulate short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb.

Residents will have a chance to comment at a public hearing to be held via Zoom on May 6.

Short-term rentals have proliferated in the Highlands in recent years and only one Cold Spring resident spoke against

(Continued on Page 6)

Is Beacon Ready for a Crowd?

Also, city questions Henry Street apartment plans

By Jeff Simms

A festival promoter hopes to hold an outdoor event in Beacon next month — the first of its kind since the pandemic shutdown began more than a year ago — but the city is weighing safety guidelines.

Hops on the Hudson, which is organized by John Scherer of Cold Spring, asked the city in December for permission to hold a “maker faire” with jewelers, woodworkers, potters and other artisans at Seeger Riverfront Park on May 22 and 23. State guidelines restrict outdoor retail events to 50 percent of a site’s given capacity, and Scherer sought to bring as many as 1,500 people per day into the roughly 3-acre park, City Administrator Chris White told the City Council last week. (Non-retail public gatherings face different limits.)

White felt 1,500 per day was too large a crowd, but on Monday (April 19), he said

that Scherer had amended his request to permit 500 people in two, 3-hour sessions each day, for a total of 1,000 people per day. In addition, the festival would require ticket holders (no walk-ups would be allowed) to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result.

The event would be organized with vendors spread 3 feet to 4 feet apart and with 15-foot-wide walking aisles, said Scherer, who joined the council’s meeting on Monday by phone. Masks would be required. There would be more than 20 food and beverage providers in a food truck area, but no seating. The trucks will be positioned near the exit, so “you stop at the food trucks, you grab something and go,” Scherer explained.

All of the vendors will be from New York state, including from Beacon, such as RonzWorld Guitars and SallyeAnder. “It’s economic stimulus for businesses that have been starving for the past year,” Scherer said.

The Howland Cultural Center, Fareground and Arts Mid-Hudson are among

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JAMIE MARGOLIN

By Brian PJ Cronin

Jamie Margolin, 19, is the founder of Zero Hour, a climate-action organization based in Seattle, and the author of *Youth to Power: Your Voice and How to Use It*. She will speak at noon on Saturday (April 24) at Little Stony Point, just north of Cold Spring, as part of an Earth Day event organized by the Haldane PTA.

Is it easier to balance activism with college than it was to balance activism with high school?

Way harder in college because I have to balance taking care of myself, living alone and trying to find my footing in my community. The classes are a lot more work. I'm in film school, and you're always working on projects.

You became a climate activist at age 14. What would you tell your 14-year-old self now?

Pace yourself. You don't need to sacrifice hanging out with friends and loved ones for



the cause. You're going to burn yourself out several times and make yourself miserable if you don't learn to stop, smell the roses and be a kid sometimes.

Are you surprised the Biden administration has focused on climate policy?

No, that's what we've been fighting for.

They feel all this pressure from the activism we've been doing for so long. It should be the focus. As the Climate Countdown Clock in Union Square [in New York City] says, we have six years left to act [before scientists believe global warming will irreversibly alter the planet]. But I still don't think climate justice and the intersectionality of the climate crisis is being talked about enough.

What has the pandemic taught you about activism?

You can't plan for everything. Zero Hour had all of these plans for March 2020. We were going to go on a bus tour to get out the vote. There's the old saying: "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." That's what the universe was telling us in general. You have to learn how to roll with the punches.

What gives you hope?

The activism and the other people taking action alongside me. Knowing that I'm not alone, that there are people in this fight who have my back.

I still don't think climate justice and the intersectionality of the climate crisis is being talked about enough.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

The Oscars are Sunday; what has been your best acting performance?

“ One Halloween I stayed in character and played Wednesday from the Addams family! ”



~ Lianna Halko, Beacon

“ I played Hay Seed in *The Astronomy of Errors*, an independent film by John Christian Plummer. ”



~ Gareth Guest, Nelsonville

“ The closest thing was pretending to be a rock star in a heavy metal band in Japan. ”



~ Nick Lee, Beacon

Argument Erupts During Discussion Over Decorum

Legislator accuses colleagues of acting like royalty

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislators' efforts last week to promote "proper decorum" at their meetings produced anything but when shouting matches erupted.

Before they concluded, Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, had accused Republican colleagues of acting like "crowned" authorities – and got blasted, in turn, for allegedly producing "drama" and lobbing personal attacks. She is the only Democrat on the nine-member Legislature.

The topic landed on the Rules Committee agenda after Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson wrote to Legislator Neal Sullivan, who chairs the committee, asking for a refresher course on meeting decorum.

Nacerino elaborated at the April 15 meeting, held by audio connection because of the pandemic shutdown. "There are just too many meetings where legislators talk over one another, shout, make disparaging remarks and disrespect the authority of the chair," she said.

The Legislature's attorney, Robert Firriolo, outlined parliamentary procedure. After he ended, so did the decorum.

Montgomery observed that, earlier in the session, Sullivan had allowed a non-legislator or two to comment on routine agenda items, an unusual occurrence.

"We try to keep the meetings open to as many people [as possible] and I feel if people want to make a comment, they should be able to make a comment," he replied.

"I greatly appreciate that," Montgomery agreed, "because I think that is so important." But she contrasted the practice with what, she said, are routine interruptions by other legislators whenever she speaks. "So let's be clear here," she said. "We all know this isn't really about decorum" but about "discomfort with dissent. You don't like the questions I ask. You don't like that I pull back the curtain on expenses, mismanagement and favoritism" in county government.

She accused her colleagues of wanting to silence views that "are not part of the script that you guys craft in your caucus" – a secret meeting where the Republicans confer before a public session.

"If you were genuinely concerned about decorum, you would address the regularly occurring abusive language used toward me," Montgomery said.

Sullivan interrupted. "OK, now we're going off base here."

Montgomery continued, alleging that Sullivan and Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast "have told me to shut up, have called my input 'stupid' and said that it's not relevant and shouted me down – like you are doing now."

Again, Sullivan intervened. "We're not doing that."

"My constituents see what's happening here," Montgomery persisted. "They appreciate the truth."

"That's enough!" Sullivan interjected, after reminding her that he chairs the committee.

"You were not crowned king!" Montgomery retorted. "We're not crowned here. We are elected."

Jonke stepped in. "This is the kind of personal attack that's really inappropriate," he told Montgomery. "That's why this discussion was put on the agenda for tonight."

When Montgomery tried to reply, Jonke chided her: "There you go again. Can't you stay quiet for three minutes?"

A heated exchange over who "had the floor" ensued, before Sullivan permitted Jonke to proceed.

Jonke said the incident exemplified "the drama that comes with Legislator Montgomery – every week," often accompanied by "a personal attack. This is inappropriate. It's offensive."

"And I hope you learn from this," he said to Montgomery.

Montgomery attempted to answer, but Sullivan broke in. "I'm sorry. We're going to move on to the next topic."

"You think you are crowned," Montgomery shot back.

"No, I'm the chair," he said.

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING



“I moved to Beacon last year and love this paper!”

ALEXA BISHOP, BEACON



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MATT CLIFTON, BEACON

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Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Pauline Minners, Interim Village Clerk, Village of Nelsonville, 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, New York, 10516 or villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov

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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

Library plan

I write in support of the site plan for the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison (*Letters and Comments*, April 16). As a neighbor — I walk to the library from my home on Fox Hollow Lane several times a week — and as an avid organic gardener, I am looking forward to watching the library's vision unfold.

This is especially true of the solar array, which has inspired me to think about adding solar power to my own property. Solar power has always been appealing in concept, but the typical industrial solar field offends my sense of aesthetics. The library's plan solves this dilemma with a solar "ribbon" that will wind its way sinuously around the grounds. It should look like an outdoor art installation, which just happens to deliver electricity, too.

The library's vision seems to be inspiring other people, also. Major portions of the project are being paid for with private donations; most of the rest will be covered by state grants. That pleases me as a taxpayer, and (full disclosure) as a library trustee, charged with the stewardship of the library's resources.

I hope this plan for beautiful, responsible use of the library's grounds is approved by

the Town of Philipstown.

Elizabeth Anderson, *Garrison*

I understand people's frustration with solar panels, but what I don't understand is the "not in my backyard" mentality of neighbors. I hope to see solar panels on The Mall and on the White House lawn to show we're serious about correcting our planet's course.

We can't imagine what is or isn't in the spirit of the Desmond gift. I imagine it was designed for the betterment of the local area, which solar panels could certainly do to help. I would hope selling excess power, if any, could help the library to serve our community better. The addition of the technology lab in the basement has my mind at ease that the library directors have a great plan to stay relevant and serve the community in a time when libraries are losing funding around the country.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

If anything helps the public good, the rich will oppose it. Look at the outrage over the Shakespeare Festival's move.

Eric Szyzka, *via Facebook*

The Desmond-Fish Public Library solar ribbon array project is intended only

to meet a portion of the library's energy requirements. There has never been any plan or intention to sell energy. Full details of the project are available at desmond-fishlibrary.org.

Anita Prentice, *via Facebook*
Prentice is the president of the library board.

Best bar name?

The Short Snorter Bar might be the best name I have ever seen for a watering hole ("Reporter's Notebook: Philipstown's Lost Newspaper," April 2).

Julia Famularo, *Philipstown*

Groundworks

The impact of decisions our government has made with land use, banking and insurance have created substantial wealth and health gaps over generations. Thank you for the thoughtful article calling out the heat island issue, and the introduction to Groundwork Hudson Valley ("Out There: The Inequality of Heat Waves," April 9).

Judith Rose, *via Facebook*

Please call your state legislators and ask them to support the Climate and Community Investment Act. It would put a fee on corporate polluters and use the money to address the discrepancies created by locating polluting infrastructure in poor and in Black and brown communities.

It will also allocate money to support communities that are transitioning away from hosting power plants, and it will create a rebate that goes out automatically to all small businesses as well as the bottom 60 percent of New York state households to cover any increase in utility costs. We need to act to address both climate change and environmental racism, and the CCIA does both.

Tara Vamos, *via Facebook*

Shakespeare plans

To say that *The Current* persistently treats the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival-Garrison golf course development proposal with kid gloves does kid gloves a disservice ("Four Big Questions," April 9). Journalists come to their work with a healthy skepticism. They challenge claims. They make no assumptions. They ask follow-up questions. They don't lob softballs. Advocates do that. *The Current* is doing that.

Tim Nolan, *Garrison*

As a 40-year resident of Philipstown and a member of the board of directors of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, I am distressed at the controversy that has

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

erupted over the proposed move to The Garrison golf course, and am concerned that much of the objection is based more on emotion than reality. Simply objecting to change is not enough, since change is going to come.

I understand that golfers are upset that the golf course will be closed, but after many years of losses, the owner is unwilling to continue to subsidize the course. So the course will be closed, and the obvious question is what comes next.

Replacing a failed golf course with a housing development is the usual outcome. Fortunately, the owner is not planning that. Instead the plan is to convert most of the course to parkland, trees and meadows.

HVSF's footprint on the 200-plus acre site would be small: New structures, pathways and parking would occupy 5 acres, in addition to the 6 acres of existing structures. Today, none of the property is subject to conservation easements. The proposal calls for all of it to be protected. The HVSF tent will not be on the top of the ridge line, as some have claimed, and it would provide somewhat fewer seats than HVSF's current tent. After years of the site only being available to paying golfers, local residents will be able to enjoy the magnificent views from this property, and it is contemplated that the facilities, when not otherwise occupied, would be available for community uses. The reality is that since HVSF does not have the option of returning to Boscobel after its final season there this summer, it has to move somewhere.

Opponents of the plan are concerned that the site will turn into some sort of massive performance venue that will attract mobs of people. Nothing could be further from the truth. The proposal before the Philipstown Planning Board covers the next 30 years and does include the possibility of a small indoor venue, an outdoor community pavilion and in-season lodging for actors. (The site is already zoned for a 40-room hotel and spa.) But those are all well in the future, if they happen at all. And conservation easements and other deeded restrictions will prohibit anything beyond what is approved by the Planning Board.

Some who object to the plan say that it will reduce the amount of property taxes paid on the property, to the detriment of the community. This may be partially true, but HVSF will continue to pay property and other taxes on the commercial parts of the property that it will control, and if the commercial aspects of the property were abandoned and the property given to a tax-exempt entity, there would be no property taxes paid.

Great care has been taken in developing this proposal, both from an environmental and community standpoint, and both the owner and HVSF have made significant alterations to the plan to meet some concerns that have been raised.

I would hope that those who object to the plan for The Garrison think about what is actually being proposed, rather than objecting to what they fear might possibly happen if the myriad safeguards that are a fundamental part of this plan are somehow

evaded. Change is coming to The Garrison and to Philipstown, and if it is not this plan, it will be something else. If the "something else" does not include HVSF, then Philipstown will be the poorer for it.

Ned Whitney, *Garrison*

I am impressed by the HVSF's plans for their new home and the design professionals involved. I've heard that the Planning Board has received a stack of negative letters and relatively few from those who are positive. I have been positive all along and assume that many others are also, but it seems we need to speak up

I've lived here for 35 years. We are privileged to have this lauded professional theater company in our community. It is an economic engine for Philipstown. It gave summer jobs to my children and to many local teens. I am not a golfer, so I didn't often see the spectacular view, but I am glad that it will be available to all theatergoers and to those, like me, who will exercise on the planned walking trails.

Golf courses are notorious for being ecologically unsound. They use tons of water, pesticides and fertilizer. They are a food desert for animals and pollinators. The plan to replace grass with meadows and woodlands will be an environmental game-changer.

The time of most consistent traffic will be later in the evening, after the plays and when traffic on Route 9 is light, and the number of cars won't be any larger than the number now at Boscobel, as the new tent is a bit smaller. The Route 9 and Snake Hill Road intersection has seen fatalities. Because of the plan, it is much more likely that a traffic light will be permitted there.

Live theater companies are difficult to sustain. Expenses always outpace the income from ticket sales. It is brilliant that the expense of housing the actors will be lowered by building small cabins, increasing by only 14 rooms the number already approved for that property.

With 33 years in our community the festival is a textbook example of a local business worthy of our support. It is a far cry from a developer. Imagine what a real developer would do to that property. I'm surprised and saddened by the negativity around this generous gift to our important cultural institution.

Jackie Grant, *Garrison*

I recently had the pleasure of walking The Garrison golf course with a staff member from the HVSF. I heard about its vision for the property and we discussed the positive and negative feedback received by HVSF following the announcement of their plans.

It was clear to me that they are listening intently and addressing concerns through a thoughtful design process. They have engaged Nelson Byrd Woltz, a world-class landscape design firm. If you are unfamiliar with their work, take a minute to peruse some stunning examples at nbwla.com.

As someone who has spent 20 years working in sustainable land use, I can assure you that the vision is spot on. HVSF's new home will be an asset for our community. The performances, classes,

employment opportunities and visitor experience are sure to be first-rate. I am confident that their plans for managing traffic will be thoughtful and minimize inconvenience to residents.

Dave Llewellyn, *Nelsonville*

The price of plywood

Anyone who has been paying attention has probably noticed that the price of many goods are not only rising, but exploding. Food, gas and building-material prices have risen every month for nearly a year.

I am in the building trades and have never seen anything like the escalation of costs in the 35 years that I have been working. I keep hearing that this is being driven by the pandemic but at a certain point that is hard to accept. Did the American plantation forests disappear? Is every mill in the U.S. and Canada closed? Did Brazil, where most of our plywood is coming from, stop making it?

A year ago, my associates and I in the building trades were concerned when a sheet of three-quarter-inch plywood hit \$34. Currently, with tax included, it is more than \$74. It is the same with all the items that go into building a house. My question is, are companies taking advantage of the current situation and, if so, who will step in to put a stop to it?

The building industry is a leading economic indicator. New home construction drives a large segment of the economy. If prices do not revert to pre-pandemic levels it will hurt the nascent recovery. Without federal intervention I am certain they will not.

Richard Shea, *Cold Spring*

Visiting Cold Spring

My daughter lives in Brooklyn. I live in northwest Indiana, just outside of Chicago. When I go to visit her, we often take the train to Cold Spring for the day. We love it! We have made so many memories hiking Mount Taurus and shopping the unique shops in town. We always follow our hike with a burger at The Depot and, of course, an ice cream cone from Moo Moo's. It must have been amazing growing up there ("Reflections of a Cold Spring Native," March 19).

Leslie Benton, *Valparaiso, Indiana*

Poet Next Door

What a beautiful profile ("Poet Next Door: James Hoch," April 16). It's so interesting to read about James' writing process and how he helps others to find poetry within them. Too often, poetry is taught without including the vocal element of recitation. I don't recall ever, in my own education, having poems read aloud in class by either my teachers or classmates until a theater teacher taught us how to better understand Shakespeare by reading it aloud. It was like someone opened a window and the light streamed in.

James' poem, "Prayer for That Little Exhaustion of Light," brought tears for how accurately it describes the emotional toll brought by the times in which we live.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

ELECTION NEWS

Howland Library to Hold Vote

Three board seats, budget on ballot

The Howland Public Library district in Beacon will hold its annual trustee and budget vote on Thursday (April 29). The polls will be open at the library, at 313 Main St., from noon to 8 p.m., and absentee ballots are available.

There are five candidates for three vacancies on the board. The candidates are incumbents Janice Dolan and Sean Twohig, and newcomers Samuel Anderson, Elaine Leinung and Phoebe Zinman. The two candidates receiving the highest vote totals will serve five-year terms and the third candidate will serve the final two years of an existing term.

The \$1.29 million budget for 2021-22 includes a tax levy increase of \$46,976, which exceeds the state tap cap of about 1 percent, or \$14,445. The board voted in February to propose a 4 percent increase in the levy. See bit.ly/beacon-library-budget.

Howland Director Kristen Salierno said that if the budget passes, the library plans to convert a part-time librarian position to full-time and expand technology education, job-search assistance and resume-building classes, the Library of Things and e-book titles.

Any voter registered in the Beacon City School District can vote; absentee ballot applications are available at the library or beaconlibrary.org and must be returned by 5 p.m. on April 29.

Candidates Set for Haldane, Garrison

Beacon school board petitions due Wednesday (April 28)

Garrison will have five candidates for four vacancies on its seven-member school board, the district announced on Tuesday (April 20).

They are incumbents David Gelber, Madeline Julian and Courtney McCarthy, and newcomers Ned Rauch and Kent Schacht. Three of the four seats are for 3-year terms and one for a single year to complete the term of Jill Lake, who resigned. The candidate with the fourth-highest number of votes will fill the one-year term.

At Haldane, there will be three candidates for two seats on the five-member board. The candidates are incumbent John Hedlund and newcomers Mark Daisley and Mary (Maggie) Valentine. Margaret Parr is not running for re-election.

In Beacon, candidates for four open seats on the nine-member board must submit at least 50 signatures by Wednesday (April 28) to be listed on the ballot. (The usual number is 100 but the state has lowered the requirement in 2021 for small city districts because of the ongoing pandemic.) See beaconk12.org or call 845-838-6900, ext. 2032.

The budget and trustee votes in all three districts are scheduled for May 18.

Rentals *(from Page 1)*

allowing them at a packed public meeting in September 2019. Most commented on the need to regulate rentals, including the number of guests allowed.

“The proposed law was crafted with that [2019 meeting] in mind and I’m confident we addressed most, if not all, concerns,” Mayor Dave Merandy said on Thursday (April 22).

Cold Spring’s draft law would allow up to 34 short-term rentals in the village, and they would only be allowed in two zones: R-1 for single-family residences and B-3 for general business, which includes Main Street and most of the area west of the railroad tracks. The number is 5 percent of the tax lots in both zones.

The condominiums at Butterfield, Forge Gate and Spring Brook, and the apartments at Chestnut Ridge would not be eligible.

A lottery would determine who receives a nontransferable permit, which would be valid for one year. Applications would be accepted each year in August.

Other provisions in the proposed law include:

- A permit is required for each short-term rental unit.
- Short-term rentals are not allowed within a 300-foot radius of one that has been approved.
- In the R-1 zone, one off-street parking space must be provided.
- A unit can be rented out for up to 60



Short-term rentals would be allowed on Church Street, which is zoned R-1.

Photo by M. Turton

nights per year.

- Only owner-occupied structures can be used.
- Rentals must be for a minimum of two nights.
- Properties owned by corporations, LLCs or similar entities cannot be used.
- The owner or an agent must be available to respond on-site within 20 minutes.
- Two adults and one child are allowed per bedroom, with a maximum of four adults and four children in a short-term rental.

- Parties are not permitted; hosts must use “best efforts” to ensure guests don’t create unreasonable noise or disturbance.

- Check-in is not allowed between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

A series of escalating fines is proposed for permit holders who don’t comply: a first offense is \$250; a second offense is \$500 and forfeiture of the permit for the remainder of the year; a third offense is \$1,000 and forfeiture of eligibility for four years.

Operating a short-term rental without a permit would trigger a \$500 fine and a one-

year loss of eligibility. A second offense is \$1,000 and loss of eligibility for four years.

The village code enforcement officer would inspect units annually and the Cold Spring Police Department would handle day-to-day enforcement.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early said the board faced a challenge in determining a reasonable maximum number of short-term rentals for the village.

“STRs remove regular housing stock from the market,” she said. “That decreases the number of people who live in Cold Spring and contribute to village life — including volunteers all across the board.”

But she pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan recommends more accommodations for visitors.

“STRs are here to stay,” she said. “So why not put regulations in place that protect the community and provide additional accommodation?”

The resolution to take the proposed law to a public hearing passed by a 4-0 vote, excluding Trustee Heidi Bender, who resigned on April 15. Mayor Dave Merandy said on Tuesday he intends to appoint someone to the seat until a special election in November to fill the remainder of Bender’s term, which ends in 2022.

The proposed short-term rentals law, designated as Chapter 100 of the Village Code, is available at bit.ly/CS-STR, along with a permit application and additions to the village fee schedule.

ERIC ERICKSON

PAINTINGS

March 20 - May 2



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Garrison Art Center
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

Beacon Council *(from Page 1)*

the nonprofits that have signed up for information tables at the festival.

Hops on the Hudson has organized events elsewhere in the Highlands, including a craft beer fair in Cold Spring. Scherer asked the Cold Spring Village Board to permit another festival at Dockside Park last summer but the board declined because of trustees’ concern about a gathering during the pandemic.

Beacon council members expressed similar reservations.

“I don’t feel comfortable bringing a lot of people into town yet,” said Air Rhodes. “Maybe even just three months from now, but everything you’re saying just makes me think ‘disease vector’ and danger to the community.”

Two residents who called into the meeting also objected. “It’s too early to have an event like this,” said Arthur Camins. “It sends the wrong message to the public about the care that they need to continue to take.”

The city administrator can approve event requests without a council vote, but Mayor Lee Kyriacou said Monday he hoped to find consensus with council members. Both Kyriacou and Council Member George Mansfield said that unless Beacon creates guidelines, it will be inclined to follow state protocols. “We have to get it right the first time,” Kyriacou said.

White said he would continue discussions with Scherer, and would bring more detailed information to the Monday (April 26) council workshop, such as Dutchess County’s input on the proposed site layout.

5 Henry St.

Planning Board members had little positive to say during their April 13 meeting about a proposal to redevelop a one-story building into a three-story structure with retail space and 16 apartments, including a rooftop terrace, on Henry Street.

Described by the applicant’s attorney as an “adaptive reuse” that’s “more consistent with the character of the neighborhood,” the proposal would require four variances, including for the number of stories allowed in the city’s new off-Main Street transitional district, as well as for parking spaces and residential density.

The development plan does not include any spaces and is far beyond the four to five residential units that the zoning district allows at the site, said John Clarke, a consultant who advises the board.

“The context here is one of very low residential buildings,” said Chair John Gunn. “To simply build this out to its maximum and beyond, it feels completely out of context.”

100 percent renewable

The City Council on Monday (April 19) pledged to purchase 100 percent renewable electricity for municipal operations this year and beyond. It also approved an agreement with ELP Myer Solar to ensure that electricity used by the city is generated at solar facilities in the Hudson Valley.

About 60 percent of the city’s electricity is already generated at the solar facility at the former Denning’s Point landfill, which has saved the municipality \$80,000 annually since it was installed in 2018.

Pushback on Police Advisory Panel

Putnam legislators hit 'pause' on proposal

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After intense debate on Tuesday (April 20), a Putnam legislative committee pulled back a resolution on establishing a civilian police advisory panel and determined a proposal to sell Sheriff's Department Marine Unit boats needs more review.

During the nearly three-hour meeting, held by audio connection, efforts to adopt the resolution on the policing panel, an outgrowth of the state-mandated Police Policy Review completed earlier this spring, foundered over issues of its independence and the dismay of members of the People of Color subcommittee, which assisted in the police review process, that county officials had changed their proposal without their knowledge.

The draft resolution said the advisory panel would "work directly with the Sheriff's Office to share concerns of the public" and "address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color," as well as to "offer recommendations to the sheriff regarding police policies" and to promote openness, fairness and trust.

"I am so pleased the sheriff will have direct oversight" of the panel, said Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the committee. She called his participation the "most effective way for the panel to accomplish their objectives" without involving the Legislature or county executive.

“This advisory panel was going to be independent. Tonight, we are all very shocked at what's being said.

~ Ronald Reid, a member of the People of Color subcommittee

The People of Color subcommittee leaders objected.

One, Ronald Reid, said he and others had believed "this advisory panel was going to be independent. Tonight, we are all very shocked at what's being said."

"You certainly will remain independent" but by working with Sheriff Robert Langley can access law enforcement resources "and have him explain the policies," Nacerino replied. The panel will be "reporting directly to him," she said, although she later added that "he doesn't control the group."

Langley said the "intent is we have a direct dialog" about residents' concerns, especially among people of color, over "policies that impact them. Obviously, you are an independent panel," he assured Reid.

Scott Rhodes, who co-chaired the People of Color subcommittee, concurred that they had envisioned the panel, led by residents, as independent of the Sheriff's Department, Legislature and county executive.

"It's all bullshit!" he said. "We're not taking the lead on anything, guys" should the resolution pass. "They had a backdoor meeting with the sheriff and discussed and changed everything," he added.

"That is really unfair and not true," Nacerino protested. "I had no meeting with the sheriff."

Rhodes apologized for using profanity but explained that his group "put a lot of work and effort into this" and "I'm just extremely frustrated right now." He suggested the committee postpone action, which it did.

"It was a valuable lesson for us," Nacerino said. "Sorry for the confusion."

"We just want to get it right, that's all," Rhodes replied.

Marine Unit

When the committee turned to the issue of selling Marine Unit boats, more arguments followed, fueled by the revelation that the Sheriff's Department intends to continue patrolling the Hudson River despite the fact the Legislature defunded the unit last fall. There was also uncertainty about whether the county owns the boats.

Capt. Harry Tompkins, who heads the department's patrol force, said one boat, on loan at no cost from the state, will be deployed on the Hudson for the 2021 season, while another state boat, also a loaner, will provide backup.

"We defunded the Marine Unit," Nacerino said. "So I'm a little unclear where these vessels will be used when there's no funding."

Tompkins said the unit has some money left. "We have the equipment, we maintain it and we have a responsibility to the community and our visitors," he said.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, warned that levels of Hudson traffic remain unpredictable. "We have defunded public safety in Putnam," she said. "Let's not dismantle it now" by decommissioning boats, she said. She praised the Sheriff's Department "for continuing to provide public safety when you have no funding for it."

Any sales could be complicated by what Bumgarner described as scanty records on the ownership of several boats.

Langley noted that "we are reimbursed 50 percent by the state for all marine patrols." He also said that Rockland, Westchester and Orange counties do not patrol the river in Putnam County.

"If there is an incident and the Sheriff's Department doesn't have a boat, who are people to call?" he asked. Moreover, he said, Putnam has an agreement with the Coast Guard and port security authorities "that we will patrol the river and do security checks." He added that the Department of Homeland Security counts "the Bear Mountain Bridge" among the Mid-Hudson's "soft targets for terrorists. Who's going to address these issues?" he asked the committee.

Given the unresolved questions, Nacerino opted to "continue the conversation" in coming weeks.



We are proud to be a part of this community that we love and hope to continue to help all those who come here to succeed and be happy. Thank you to all who have supported us!

The Beginning, a Girl in a Man's World

Seeing the potential in Beacon in the late 1990s, broker Charlotte Guernsey in her early twenties invested herself in the city by purchasing and renovating a building on Main Street. Soon after, in 2001, she opened her own real estate company, Gate House Realty. She fought through the challenges of being a young woman starting a business and running a construction crew of men in a "man's world." She was told she didn't know what she was doing and that she would fail.

Rough Times

At that time, Beacon was downtrodden with many buildings boarded up. As former mayor Randy Casale would say, "our parking problem back then was that you could roll a bowling ball down Main Street and not hit a car," meaning there was very little business and those that came struggled to stay open.

Helping Shape the Development of Beacon

But even in its slump, Charlotte saw the natural backbone of Beacon that made it special- a beautiful historic Main Street, an easy commute to NYC and great potential for a wonderful lifestyle being nestled between the Hudson River and Mt. Beacon. She enthusiastically sold the vision of what Beacon would become and in return assisted in bringing in some of our most prominent staples of Beacon today such as: The Roundhouse, Beacon Natural Market, Town Crier, Beacon Theater, Rite Aid redevelopment, Sukhothai, Dogwood and redevelopment of 1 East Main Street and Creek Drive as well as many more.

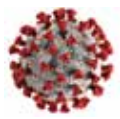
Experience and Enthusiasm

Today, Gate House Realty still rents and sells this beautiful city with just as much enthusiasm as 20 years ago. Charlotte leads her team of elite agents with the knowledge and experience of the history of the local market. Her background in fine arts and BFA from RISD help her see the vision in properties, spot market trends and assist our clients in maximizing their results.



In addition to real estate, Charlotte loves painting in oils. Many of her paintings are on display at Gate House Realty and Lambs Hill Bridal Boutique. You can also check online at www.charlotteguernsey.com. In 2017, Charlotte opened a second business on Main St. called Lambs Hill Bridal Boutique. The opening of this business was inspired merely by the desire to design a beautiful boutique but has since transpired into a very successful bridal shop already winning best of the Hudson Valley in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

492 Main Street, Beacon • 845-831-9550 • www.GateHouseRealty.com
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Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (April 21), 10,301 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 28,213 in Dutchess; 126,494 in Westchester; 45,922 in Rockland; 13,205 in Ulster; and 46,540 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 2,002,512 positives, including 900,336 in New York City. Statewide, 41,678 people had died.

■ Putnam had 145 active cases as of April 15, with six in Philipstown, 59 in Carmel, 22 in Kent, 21 in Patterson, 16 in Putnam Valley and 21 in Southeast. Five people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of April 21 stood at 3,567; the number in intensive care was 811; and the number of intubations was 499. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 45 percent of hospital beds were available and 41 percent of ICU beds.

■ The state is accepting applications from essential workers and first responders for its Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund. Households earning up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., \$125,470 for a family of four) are eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 for expenses like child care, lodging and transportation. See pandemicfund.ny.smapply.org or call 844-679-3369.



Family members and friends of art scholar and gallery owner John Driscoll planted a tree in his memory in Garrison on April 10, a year to the day after his death from COVID-19.

Photo provided

■ Vassar President Elizabeth Bradley announced on April 16 that the college will return to full in-person learning and require all students to be vaccinated (with medical or religious exceptions) for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 30.

■ Putnam County canceled a clinic at the Philipstown Recreation Center on April 13 as New York joined other states in halting the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine while the federal government investigates six cases of severe blood clots. Drug World

in Cold Spring also said it was canceling appointments.

■ St. Christopher's Inn, the residential treatment program run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, paused the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. "A single-shot is advantageous for the Inn because some of the men in recovery may not remain on site or in treatment long enough to complete the two-shot regimens," said Jonathan Holz, a Graymoor representative.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended his state of emergency order through May 6, allowing public meetings to continue to be held remotely.

■ The Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon had not had a resident test positive for COVID-19 in 115 days as of Thursday (April 22), according to data posted on the facility's website. The nursing home also had gone 50 days without a staff member testing positive. The facility has had 80 residents and 88 staff test positive, and 14 residents died.

■ The state announced that, effective Monday (April 19), the curfew for food and beverage establishments will be moved to midnight from 11 p.m. and for catered events from midnight to 1 a.m.

■ Split Rock Books in Cold Spring said that it will mark Independent Bookstore Day on April 24 with a return to walk-in browsing, initially only on Saturdays.

■ As of April 21, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 35 students and 14 teachers/staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported 13 students and seven teachers/staff; and Beacon reported 99 students and 45 teachers/staff. Among private schools, Manitou School in Philipstown reported six students and 1 teacher/staff as of April 6 and Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon reported zero students and 1 teacher/staff as of April 20.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,301 (+161)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 6

Tests administered:

209,130 (+5,144)

Percent positive:

4.9 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

46.4

Number of deaths:

91 (0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

28,213 (+493)

Active Cases in Beacon: 18

Tests administered:

678,169 (+17,565)

Percent positive:

4.2 (0)

Percent vaccinated:

44.8

Number of deaths:

439 (+6)

Source: State and county health departments, as of April 21, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of April 15. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.



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Register at www.philipstownhub.org/hubmarathon2021



■ New York is partnering with health departments and federally qualified health centers to vaccinate farm and food production workers by using mobile clinics. The governor announced the program on April 13 at Angry Orchards in Walden, which will receive an allocation of 500 vaccines.

■ Indoor and outdoor graduation and commencement ceremonies will be allowed as of May 1. Capacity will be determined by the size of the venue, whether the ceremony is indoors or outdoors, and the number of attendees, with limits ranging from 10 percent to 50 percent.

■ New York State is allocating 35,000 vaccines to SUNY schools and private colleges to vaccinate students before they leave for the summer. "The 18-to-24 population is growing in positivity, and many of them are in colleges and universities," said Cuomo.

Story Updates

Soup Man (June 2)

Only a year ago, Ed Currelly's soup company, Hudson Valley Frozen Fresh, was in the research and development phase.

It's now a reality.

Hudson Valley Frozen Fresh made its debut at The Cheese Shop in Cold Spring in October and can now be found in the frozen-food sections of Foodtown in Cold Spring, Key Food in Beacon and Adams Fairacre Farms in Wappingers Falls and Poughkeepsie. The Cold Spring resident said he hopes to soon add Whole Foods and ShopRite to that list.

The firm produces seven soups, including green split pea with carrot; golden split pea with red bell pepper; lentil with carrot; roasted tomato with basil, garlic and onions; and carrot ginger. Pumpkin squash puree will be added in the fall.

The soups, which use local produce whenever possible, are made at the Poughkeepsie Open Kitchen, a shared-use operation that supports entrepreneurs. They are cooked and immediately frozen and packaged in quart containers, he said.

Obdurate Beavers (May 15, 2015)

At a Cold Spring Village Board meeting, Greg Phillips, then the superintendent of water and wastewater, noted that beavers had constructed a dam on Foundry

Brook, which carries water to the treatment plant from the uppermost reservoirs.

"What you take out one day, they put back," he said. "It's hilarious" but frustrating because the dam hinders access.

Six years later, the beavers are still building dams, although Matt Kroog, who took over when Phillips retired, says he has taken a "live and let live approach," especially since the dam creates a pond that can be beneficial in times of drought.

He said he removes some of the material from time to time if it starts to prevent Foundry Brook from flowing freely to the water treatment plant.

Placed in Harm's Way (Nov. 20)

Last year we reported on a Philipstown girl who was sent by a Putnam County judge for mental-health treatment at Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents in Virginia.

In October, the girl had been among 20 former patients who filed a \$127 million class-action lawsuit against the hospital, alleging they suffered sexual and physical abuse at the hands of its medical director, staff members and other patients. The lawsuit is ongoing.

One of the psychotherapists charged in the case, Herschel "Mickey" Harden, 73, pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a teenage patient and, out on bail, was scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 22 for sentencing. He faced a life sentence. Instead, he killed himself that same day.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **REMEMBERING BRUCE** — Nicole Jones of Cold Spring takes a break on a bench at Cold Spring Village Hall newly dedicated to honor former Trustee Bruce Campbell, who died in September.

Photo by Michael Turton



▲ **BEACON MEMORIAL** — Residents gathered at Polhill Park on Sunday (April 18) for a candlelight vigil organized by Beacon 4 Black Lives for Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, George Floyd and other victims of police shootings.

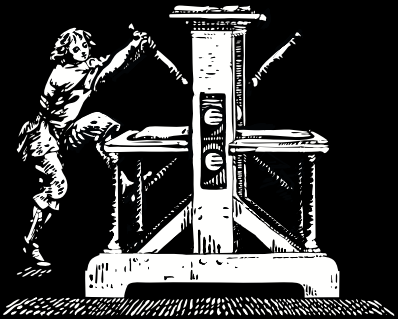
Photo by Alejandro Lopez



◀ **BRIDGE PROGRESS** — The New York State Bridge Authority shared this photo on April 16 of the ongoing replacement of the north span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, which is being funded by toll increases. The agency said the project is nine months ahead of schedule.

Photo provided

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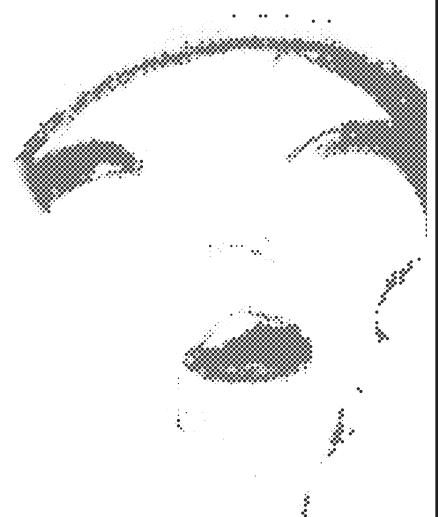
ANTHONY PEZZULLO, COLD SPRING
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PCC#5893 WC27102H12

ARTE POVERA: ART OF COLLABORATION

May 1, 2021, 12:00 p.m. EST
Communion and Prophylaxis:
Mario and Marisa Merz

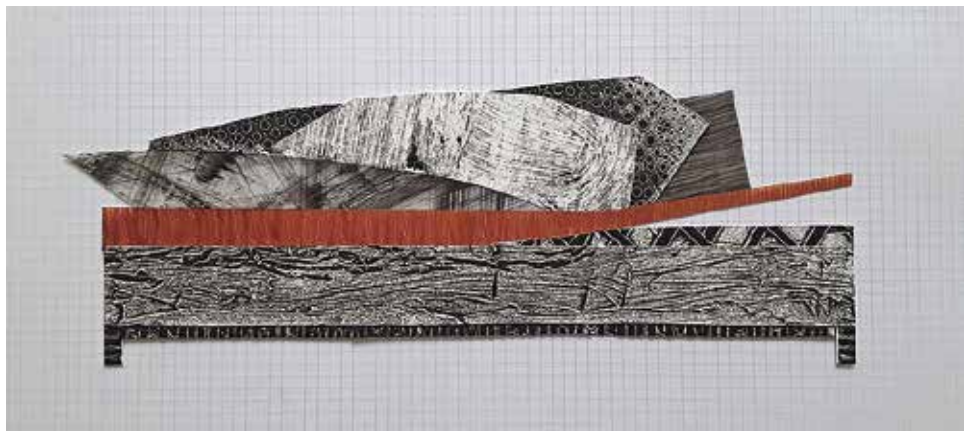
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**MAGAZZINO
DA CASA**

The Calendar



"The Weight #26," by Nanette Carter

Fridman Expands to Beacon

Gallery outgrew its Manhattan space

By Alison Rooney

In a vote of confidence for Beacon's role as a gateway to the greater art community of the Hudson Valley, Iliya Fridman is opening a second location for his eponymous Manhattan gallery in a space adjacent to the Howland Cultural Center.

Formerly occupied by Jeffrey Terreson, the gallery will debut on Saturday (May 1) with *Land Escape*, an exhibit featuring works by Nanette Carter, Athena LaTocha and Wura-Natasha Ogunji.

As part of the opening, there will be an evening performance by Victoria Keddie, who, as Fridman explains, "traces the location of space debris that is constantly orbiting the earth" and "by plugging in local coordinates into NASA's data" will identify "the specific space junk above Beacon."

"We'll project onto the brick outside walls of the gallery, where two lawns meet and where the audience will gather and watch," he says. "It's tied to the theme of *Land Escape*, which has three singular artists creating their own landscapes, on different types of paper."

Fridman says he hopes to feature Hudson Valley artists, and a selection will be the focus of the next local exhibit, scheduled for July 1 to Aug. 31. "We don't just want to come upstate and impose our own imprint on the community," he says. Fridman also hired Karlyn Benson, who ran the Matteawan Gallery until it closed in 2018, as his Beacon gallery director.

Fridman, a native of Russia, emigrated to the U.S. in 1991, when he was 17. Growing up in the Soviet Union made a deep impression on him. "There was no private property permitted and no public creative expression, so art was a private community outlet for expressing itself," he says. "It wasn't so much coming from a 'sell it' motivation, but it was about keeping us sane. That sensibility of a less commercial, more liberating artist practice informs who we are."

In college, he majored in philosophy, earned a law degree and spent 15 years advising creative agencies and tech start-ups. His first gallery was in a coworking space. He expanded as tenants left.

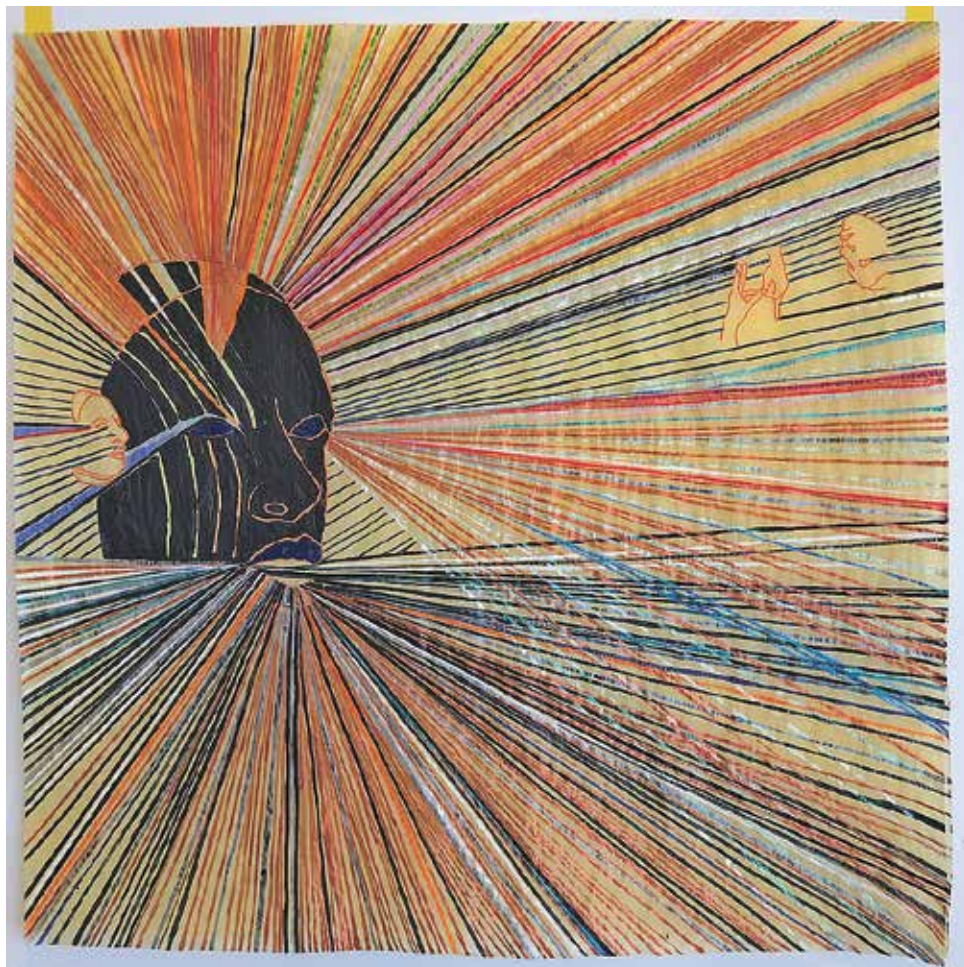
He opened the Fridman Gallery in 2013 on the Lower East Side. The creative community seemed to be moving out of Manhattan because of rising rents, and Fridman says he wanted to "create a space where creative expression had a ground-floor presence" in a space with columns and high ceilings.

"I fell in love with programming exhibitions and meeting artists," he recalls. "Over time it snowballed. The gallery started getting into art fairs, and there were more and more reviews in publications for our shows. Now we have a mix of promising artists and some older artists who deserve a bigger platform. Our artists are diverse in terms of both cultural background and also in the media employed." One of his goals, he says, is to "get performance art, sound art and installations to be considered legitimate art forms, on a par with painting, sculpture, drawing."



Iliya Fridman

Photo by Naroa Lizar



"Opening," by Wura-Natasha Ogunji



"Study for Bulbancha 2," by Athena LaTocha

No matter the medium, Fridman looks for "artists who use an innovative process in furtherance of conceptual depth. A lot of our artists are highly skilled craftspeople.

To me, a great artwork has to meet some basic criteria: surface quality, aesthetic beauty, layers of meaning, conceptual depth so you're incentivized to think about the work, and, finally innovation, which can be technical, or an innovative perspective — something that sets the artist apart."

Fridman says he opened in Beacon because his Manhattan gallery was running out of space. "We have a roster of 16 artists, and we give each a solo show every two years," he says. "We're also interested in expanding the visions and audience outside the confines of the traditional art world."

Already the gallery and Howland Cultural Center have become friendly, and enthusiastic, neighbors. Fridman says they're planning joint outdoor experiences on the lawn they share, with performances on the first Saturday of each month.

"It's nice to bring more art to Main Street," he says. "Every time I come up I feel better, receptive, especially with the cultural center cooperating with us. I have a real affinity for Beacon."

The Fridman Gallery, at 475 Main St., will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday through Monday, and by appointment. Masks are required. Call 646-345-9831 or visit fridmangallery.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 24

Drive-Thru Food Collection

BEACON

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Salvation Army
158 Fishkill Ave. | 845-831-1253
facebook.com/beaconlionsclub

The Beacon Lions Club and the Salvation Army will accept donations of canned and dry goods at the rear entrance.

TUES 27

Using Philipstown's Natural Resources Inventory

PHILIPSTOWN

6:30 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust
climatesmartphilipstown.org

The land trust and Climate Smart Philipstown will discuss, via Zoom, the town's recently adopted NRI and its practical use for residents.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 24

Child Car Seat Check

BEACON

Noon – 3:30 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-486-3602

Have a trained technician check your car seat and get tips on making your vehicle a safe space.

SAT 1

Kids' Cooking Class

BEACON

11 a.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

In the first of the series, children will learn how to make The Cutest Cupcakes and Cherry Jubilee Glazed Coconut Sprinkles from *Bagel in Love*, by Natasha Wing. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org to get the Zoom link and ingredients list.



SAT 1

Poetry Sculptors Poetry Circle

COLD SPRING

2:15 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Rain Lee, an eighth-grade

student, will lead poets ages 9 to 15 in this ongoing project, which features a Poet of the Month.

VISUAL ARTS

THURS 29

Louise Lawler

BEACON

Noon. Dia:Beacon
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Dia educators will discuss the artist and photographer's work.

SAT 1

Communion and Prophylaxis

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art
magazzino.art

In this Zoom presentation, Leslie Cozzi, curator at the Baltimore Museum of Art, will discuss sculptures and works on paper created by the wife-and-husband duo Marisa and Mario Merz.

SAT 1

Land Escape

BEACON

Noon – 9 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

The gallery's inaugural exhibit features Nanette Carter, Athena LaTocha and Wura-Natasha Ogunji. At 8 p.m. artist Victoria Keddle will perform using NASA's live feed of orbiting space debris. See Page 11.

TALKS & TOURS

TUES 27

Hydrangea Success

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134, x105 | beaconlibrary.org

Chris Ferrero, a master gardener, will discuss how to care for the popular shrub. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org for the Zoom link.

WED 28

Summer Camp and COVID-19

HIGHLANDS

7 p.m. Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations

What does camp look like during the pandemic? Join us for a *Current Conversation* with camp directors from Philipstown and Beacon. Register online.

THURS 29

All We Can Save

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m.
Philipstown Climate Smart Community
bit.ly/climateead4-29

The discussion will focus on *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and*

Solutions for the Climate Crisis, a collection of essays and poems by women leading the climate movement.

SAT 1

Electric Vehicle Show

GARRISON

2 – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
facebook.com/Climate-Smart-Philipstown

Chat with electric-vehicle owners and check out various models. There will also be demonstrations of electric lawn equipment.

MUSIC

SUN 2

5th Annual Pete Seeger Festival

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 – 5 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The performers will include David and Jacob Bernz, Betty and the Baby Boomers, Lydia Adams Davis, Patrick Stanfield Jones, Pat Lamanna, Sharleen Leahey, the Trouble Sisters, Andy Revkin and Sarah Underhill. Donations will be shared with organizations that Seeger supported.

SUN 2

Terrence Wilson

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
alivemusica.org

The pianist's livestreamed performance will include compositions by Haydn, Liszt and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$20 donation or pay as you wish*



NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 24

Earth Awakening Weekend

WAPPINGERS FALLS

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Rd | 845-486-2555
dutchessny.gov

Activities will include a story



The Farm is the Place to Bee, May 1

walk, art exhibit and sale, scavenger hunt, beekeeping demonstration, live plein air paint-out, chapel rededication, native plant education, kid's nature art workshop and more. Also SUN 25.

SAT 24

Earthfest 2021

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

The two-day festival includes guided hikes, seed planting, wildlife activities, a landscape painting class and a program with climate activist Jamie Margolin (see Page 2). Also SUN 25.

SAT 1

10th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep

HIGHLANDS

riverkeeper.org/sweep

Volunteers are welcome to help with projects and cleanup at sites such as Constitution Marsh, Garrison's Landing, Little Stony Point, Dennings Point and the Beacon waterfront. See the website for details.

SAT 1

Hike-a-Thon

CORNWALL

9 & 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Outdoor
Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnm.org

This fundraiser, now in its 14th year, benefits nature education and play for children at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum. Registration required. Also SUN 2. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 1

Cherry Blossom Festival & Plant Sale

PEEKSKILL

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Riverfront Green
peekskillrotary.com

Visit the riverfront for games, face painting, a craft market and food trucks.

SAT 1

The Farm is the Place to Bee

BREWSTER

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Visit the farm animals and enjoy

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 24

The Trojan Women & Helen / Eurydice

COLD SPRING

2 & 7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigsides Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Haldane Drama will perform plays by Ellen McLaughlin and Sarah Ruhl for a limited audience. Also SUN 25. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students and seniors)*

SAT 1

Into the Woods Jr.

BEACON

11 a.m., 1:30 & 4 p.m.
University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave.
beaconperformingartscenter.com

The Beacon Performing Arts Center returns to live performance with this fairy tale musical, which will be performed outdoors. Also SUN 2. *Cost: \$10*

CIVIC

MON 26

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov

TUES 27

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
845-838-6900 | beaconn12.org

The board will vote on the BOCES budget.

TUES 27

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 29

Trustee and Budget Vote

BEACON

Noon – 8 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Summer Camps Make a Comeback

Camp directors adjust to COVID-19 restrictions

By Michael Turton

Nothing can keep a good summer camp down for long — not even the coronavirus.

If anything, the pandemic has increased interest in long-standing camp traditions. After a sabbatical last year, most summer camps in the Highlands will return in 2021, with COVID-19 safety plans in place. There may be fewer participants allowed, but camps will again offer everything from nature, agriculture and dance programs to art, music and municipal day camps. Here's a sampling.

Stony Kill Farm

The Summer Explorers Camp at Stony Kill Farm just north of Beacon will stay true to its agricultural and environmental themes, but will host fewer campers.

"We'll do a lot of the same activities we've done for the past 11 years" but with only 20 participants, 10 fewer than usual, said Executive Director Erik Fyfe. "Our hope is the kids won't notice any difference from past camps."

Fyfe said campers, who range in age from 4 to 12, will be outdoors about 95 percent of the time, and that, if it rains, there is plenty of room indoors to practice social distancing.

The six, weeklong day camps will run from June 21 through the end of July, although weeks 2, 3 and 4 are full.

Call 845-831-3800 or visit stonykill.org. The cost is \$300 per week, or \$275 for members.

Beacon Recreation Department

Beacon Recreation Director Mark Price probably echoed camp directors everywhere when he commented that the biggest challenge in 2021 is preserving "the magic of camp" while keeping everyone safe.

Beacon's popular Camp@theCamp will include three, two-week sessions with attendance limited to two weeks per camper, he said. They are scheduled to begin July 5, July 19 and Aug. 2, and registration should open May 4.

"We hope all of our campers will get the opportunity to come out," Price said, though he anticipates a smaller number of children each day. The day camps are limited to Beacon residents.

Call 845-765-8440 or visit bit.ly/beacon-summer-camps.

Ballet Arts Studio

"There's a big increase in demand this spring now that COVID restrictions are lifting and more people are getting vaccinated," said Katie Bissinger, artistic director at Beacon's Ballet Arts Studio.

"Kids will definitely have fun in our programs despite COVID," she said. "There is a wonderful freedom and liberation in movement that heals a lot of the trauma and stress that the coronavirus has brought."

Summer dance programs include ballet and preparation for ballet, tap, dance explorations, dance foundations, contemporary / hip-hop, precision dance and theater dance.

Dance, Bissinger said, "is a great antidote to months of being forced to sit at home staring at computer screens."

Call 845-831-1870 or see balletartsstudio.com. The camps run from July 5 to Aug. 27 and the cost is \$180 to \$375 per week.

Philipstown Recreation Department

"I think parents and kids are excited to return to the 'normalcy of camp,'" said Amber Stickle, the director of Philipstown Recreation's summer programs.

Eight weeklong day camps will be offered at the Rec Center in Garrison but will operate at half capacity unless new guidelines from the state indicate participation can be expanded.

She and other camp directors noted that New York State has yet to issue new COVID-related guidelines.

"It will be mainly an outdoor camp program this year, with some special guests and activities," Stickle said. "We're super-excited to welcome the kids back and to make it the safest, most enjoyable experience we can."

Stickle said that while the day camp program is limited to Philipstown residents, the department's sports and theater programs are open to non-residents. While the eight weeks of day camps for children ages 3 to 14 are full, Stickle recommended adding names to the waiting list in case the state expands the number of children and teens who are allowed to attend.

Call 845-424-4618 or visit philipstown-recreation.com.

Beacon Music Factory

"People are champing at the bit to come back," said Steven Clair, the owner of the Beacon Music Factory. "We're going to get busy, especially as more people get vaccinated."

The Music Factory will offer a Rock Band Camp for teenagers in July and hopes to add two more band camps in late August. Clair will also host songwriting camps for teenagers via Zoom.

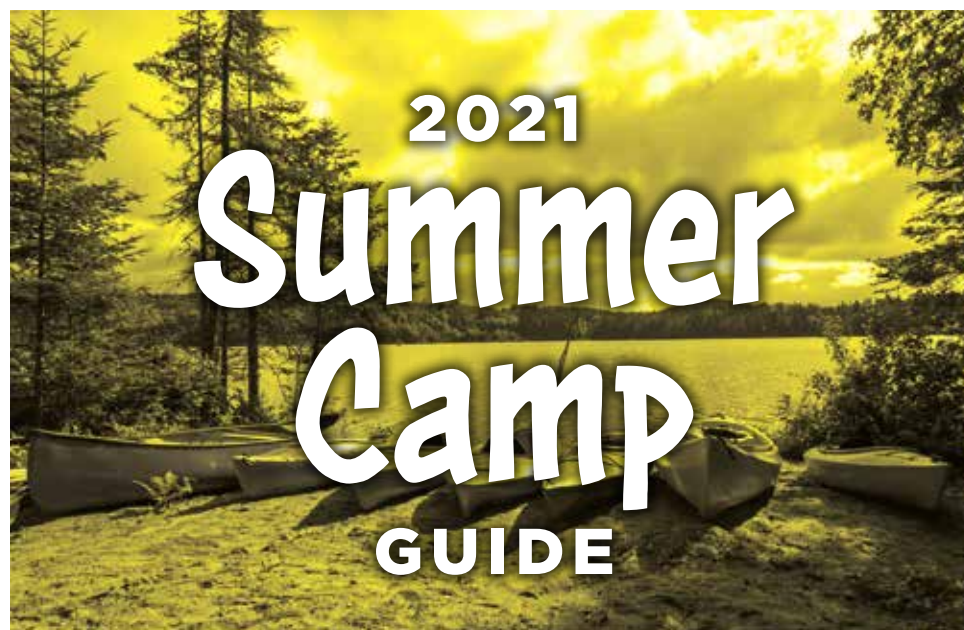
Call 845-765-0472 or visit beaconmusicfactory.com. The cost is \$275.

Garrison Art Center

Summer art programs are alive and well at Garrison's Landing. "We're full," said Katie Schmidt Feder, executive director of the Garrison Art Center, commenting on its K-8 Summer Arts on the Hudson Program. There are a few spaces remaining in its Summer Art Institute for high school students.

The center, which switched this year from a single 3-week session to dual 2-week sessions with the hope of accommodating more campers under pandemic guidelines, has long waiting lists for the K-8 camps. "Our hope is that state guidelines will soon allow more kids in each group," said Feder.

(Continued on Page 14)



St. Philip's Nursery School
SUMMER FLING 2021

Summer Camp Program for Preschoolers
Five Weeks June 28 to July 30
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Of Summer Band Camps!

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community & music meet.

www.beaconmusicfactory.com play@beaconmusicfactory.com 845-765-0472

More Summer Camps

4th Wall Theater Camp

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

845-702-2460 | 4thwallproductions.org

Seven weekly camps from July 5 to Aug. 3 for elementary, middle school and teens. Cost: \$145 per week (night), \$245 (day)

All Sport Camp Fit

FISHKILL

845-896-5678

allsporthealthandfitness.com

Nine weekly camps from June 28 to Aug. 27 for ages 4-12. Cost: \$290 per week (members \$260)

Army Sports

WEST POINT

845-938-2463 | info.abcsportscamps.com/army-west-point

Check online for updates.

Beacon Art Studios

WAPPINGERS FALLS

845-728-2542 | beaconartstudios.com

No camps in 2021.

Be Creative as Possible

BEACON

845-905-2338

becreativeaspossible.com

Five weekly camps from June 28 to July 30 for ages 3-6 (storytelling, dinosaurs, water, space and nature). Cost: \$250 per week

Black Rock Forest

CORNWALL

845-534-4517 x111

blackrockforest.org/education/summer-science-camp

Three weekly sessions of summer science at Black Rock Forest in Cornwall from July 12 to 30 for students ages 11-15. Cost: \$375 per week



Common Ground Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS

845-231-4424

commongroundfarm.org

Seven weekly camps from July 5 to Aug. 20 for ages 5-12. Information will be posted April 28 and registration opens May 5.

Compass Arts

BEACON

917-648-4454 | compassarts.org

No camps in 2021.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare

PHILIPSTOWN

845-809-5750 x13

hvsakespeare.org

HVSF hopes to hold its camps but plans are not finalized.

Manitou School

PHILIPSTOWN

845-809-5695 | manitouschool.org

No information has been posted about 2021 camps.

Renegades Baseball

WAPPINGERS FALLS

renegadesbaseballcamps.com

No information has been posted about 2021 camps.

School of Rock

BEACON

845-835-0001 | beacon.schoolofrock.com

Five weekly camps from July 5 to Aug. 6 for ages 7-18. Cost: \$500

St. Philip's Nursery School

GARRISON

845-424-4209 | stphilipsnursery.org

Five weekly camps from June 28 to July 30 for ages 2 to kindergarten. Daily from 9:05 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$120 to \$155 per week

Storm King Art Center

NEW WINDSOR

845-534-3115 | stormking.org

An onsite camp is planned but details and dates are not set. Check website for updates.

Summer Camps (from Page 13)

"We're lucky to have the landing right there" she said. "Kids can do projects and have lunch outside."

"We just have to make sure kids have the space they need; we'll probably separate the groups a little more separate than usual," Feder added.

She said while parents are "ready to get kids out there," a lot of thought is going into safety protocols. "We're not throwing caution to the wind."

Surprise Lake Camp

Sleepover campers will return to Surprise Lake Camp in Philipstown after a shutdown last summer. Executive Director

Bradley Solmsen said precautions are being taken to deal with the coronavirus, including working with a pediatrician and public health consultant experienced in camp medicine to develop safety procedures.

Surprise Lake Camp was established in 1902 and went coed in 1960. It usually welcomes close to 500 campers, with some arriving in early July and a second wave

coming in early August.

"This year we will have just one arrival date in July," Solmsen said.

The camp employs more than 200 staff and filling the positions has been a challenge. "Normally about 30 percent of the staff are international," Solmsen said, but because of the pandemic, the visas required for international staff have been less certain.

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blackrockforest.org

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WWW.PHILIPSTOWNRECREATION.COM OR CALL
845-424-4618 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.balletartsstudio.com | 845-831-1870

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CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Summer Camp and COVID-19

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Philipstown and Beacon.

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highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations



A Walk *on* MAIN STREET

Photos by
Amy Kubik





Out There

The Eel Question

Glass eels return to the Hudson

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's called a fyke net: A long cone made of mesh, staked into the creek bed in three places, with an entrapment near the base of the cone to catch anything small enough to swim into it. The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) places these nets every spring, with the wide opening of the net against the current.

That seems like the wrong way if you want to catch anything, but everything about the creature the nets are designed to catch seems improbable.

"Eels are amazing creatures," says Sarah Mount, a scientist with the agency's Hudson River Eel Project. She says this often. Swimming upstream is the least of it. Waiting for us in the net are "glass" eels, the second of the four major transformations the creature goes through. Each is few inches long, a few millimeters thick and clear as gin. They have already traveled more than 1,000 miles to get to this point in the Hudson.

Where did they come from? "The eel question" is one humans have been attempting



A fyke net at the mouth of the Fall Kill Creek in Poughkeepsie

to answer for millennia. Mount says that the best scientists can tell, all American and European Eels are born in the Sargasso Sea, northeast of Bermuda. The closer you get to the Sargasso, the smaller the eel larvae become. The working hypothesis, she says, is that when eels transform in the final stage of their lives (into silver eels) they swim back to Sargasso, spawn and die.

However, no one has ever seen eels mate. In fact, no one has ever found a silver eel in the Sargasso Sea.

Wherever they are born, eels float along

the ocean currents for six to 12 months and eventually become glass eels. One group makes its way to the East Coast and the other to Europe. We don't know how they decide. We also don't know why some of the American Eels head for the Hudson, or what drives them to Fall Kill, Indian Brook, Quassaick Creek or any other tributaries to transform into yellow eels and spend the majority of their adult lives there.

Further, we don't know what triggers yellow eels to — from 5 to 50 or more years later — head out to sea. Scientists do know that during this final phase they travel without eating because their stomachs shrivel and are replaced by reproductive organs.

"Eels are amazing creatures," says Mount, again.

Training day

"I can't not be here," says Mark Angevine, a science teacher at Poughkeepsie High School with a salt-and-pepper beard who is wearing a face mask that reads Black Sabbath. Angevine has volunteered with the Hudson River Eel Project since it was created in 2008. Some of his students call him "the Eel Man."

He's at Fall Kill with a fellow teacher, Lori Thompson, and three students to meet Mount for a weekly check of the fyke net.

The Hudson River Eel Project hopes to tackle a few problems. First, for some reason, eel populations have been crashing since the 1980s. The European Eel is considered an endangered species. It could be climate change, overfishing, habitat destruction and/or dams. Scientists need to know more about migration, and tracking glass eels is one way to do that. The DEC has a dozen nets in the Hudson but not enough staff to check them each spring, so they rely on volunteers.

Mount likes to tell students that, when she was a girl, she did not dream about becoming an eel scientist. But she liked animals and, in college, did a project with eels. "You never know what's going to stick with you," she said.

One of the Poughkeepsie students, Kevin, is a senior who has checked the nets before and is raring to go. Cynthia and Sheri, two



Counting glass eels

Photos by B. Cronin

sisters who came with their mom, are hesitant. After putting on waders and passing around a bottle of hand sanitizer, we gingerly step down the rocky embankment into the cold, rushing water. The tide is falling, so it's only knee-high, but the rocks are slippery.

Spottail shiners, which are too weak to fight the current, hover at the mouth of the net. One by one, everyone peers into the trap. Dozens of clear eels squirm in the folds. The students gingerly pick each one up and drop it into a bucket filled with river water while the teachers use brushes to clean algae off the netting. (The net also caught a tessellated darter and a small bluegill.)

When the trap has been emptied, Kevin and the teachers head to shore with the buckets to count eels, while the sisters recheck the net folds. The team moves the eels from one bucket to another while counting aloud. Onlookers peer into the buckets. "Thank you for taking care of our river," says a man passing by.

The final count is 192 — or 194, as Angevine at one point reached into the creek to catch two — and four "elvers," or older glass eels that are losing transparency. The eels will be driven upstream to make sure they don't end up back in the fyke net and get counted twice.

In addition to fyke nets, "eel ladders" are placed at some dams and waterfalls; they are tubes that lead to buckets on shore. Volunteers check the buckets a few times each week, count the eels and release them upstream. Even without that push, some eels reach and get over the Troy Dam. "We've found them in the Mohawk River and the Upper Hudson," Mount says.

They have been finding more eels everywhere. Although the glass eel population is only a fraction of what it was decades ago, the numbers have been growing in the past few years. As with many things involving eels, no one is sure why. Mount says she'd like to think it is the result of conservation and community engagement and advocacy. "That would be one great reason," she says.

Mount turns and calls to the sisters, who are still in the creek, telling them to come ashore. But they remain in the water, turning the folds of the net, looking for eels.

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Reading History During History

Split Rock book clubs survive the pandemic

By Alison Rooney

Where there are independent bookstores, there are usually book clubs, and Cold Spring's Split Rock Books is no exception.

Within months of its opening in June 2018, it had created five clubs, each of which has survived the pandemic by meeting via Zoom.

The fiction club is overseen by Split Rock's owners, Heidi and Michael Bender; Emily Dykeman leads Reading with Writers, which focuses on titles about the writing process; Heidi organizes a club for middle school students; Summer Pierre heads up a graphic novels club; and Michael leads a history book club.

When it began, the history group met once a month but now meets every other because its selections tend to be longer. "That makes it a little bit less of a race against time," Michael explains. Its next meeting is scheduled for May 20. The selection is the first volume of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, by Robert Caro.

Michael Bender, who majored in history in college, says he has always loved the genre, "although sometimes there's an amazing topic, with great research, but dry writing." He tries to avoid that combination when making picks, and to pick from various eras and perspectives, although the books are mostly American history. The topics, he says, are not typically those covered in school.

"For me, the purpose is to understand the world we live in," he says. "I think the people in the club feel that way also. A lot of it also results from curiosity."

His first pick for the club in 2018 was *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson, which is about the movement of some 6 million Black people from rural areas of the South to the North between 1916 and 1970.

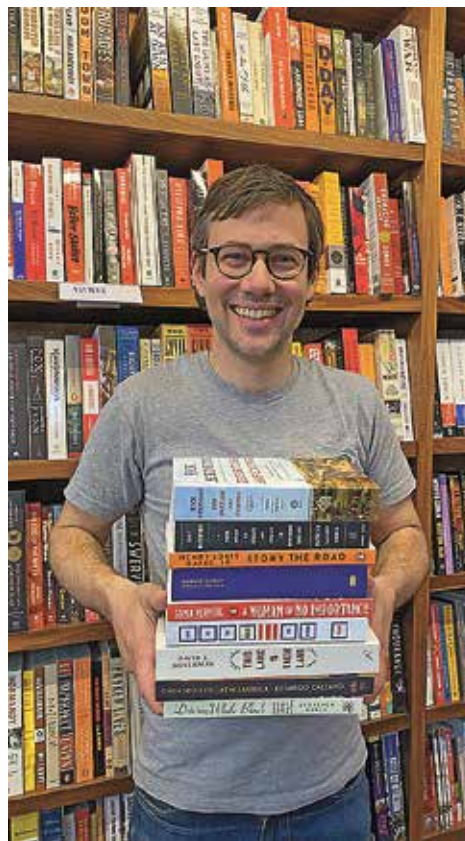
Other selections have included *Revolution on the Hudson*, by George C. Daughan; *Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese-American Internment in World War II*, by Richard Reeves; *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History*, by Kurt Andersen; *Reveille in Washington: 1860-1865*, by Margaret Leech; *The British Are Coming*, by Rick Atkinson; *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*, by Sonia Purnell; *This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving*, by David Silverman; and *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, by Eduardo Galeano.

Because he had never participated in a book club, let alone run one, Bender joined the fiction club at the Butterfield Library in 2018 while he and his wife prepared to open Split Rock.

While the history book club is "a little looser than some," he found that his initial idea to let members select the books didn't last long. "People didn't seem to mind me choosing them," he says, and it made it easier for Split Rock to have enough copies in stock. (The only requirement for membership in any of the clubs is to purchase the selections from Split Rock.)

Anita Prentice, who lives in Garrison, is an enthusiastic regular in the history club.

"The experience of reading a book is always enhanced by the experience of being able to discuss it with other knowledgeable



Michael Bender with some of his History Book Club selections Photo by Heidi Bender

readers," she says. "I've found those in the club. The choice of books is also rewarding because they are often titles I wouldn't just pick up on my own, and they are always worth the effort. And I've met some nice, thoughtful history-loving readers I would not have encountered otherwise."

Bender says he starts each meeting with a simple question: Did you enjoy the book? That's followed by discussion of the author's style, the subject and what stood out. "Topics connect with each other from previous readings, in the way history just does," he says. For instance, he said, the group found parallels between *Give Us the Ballot*, by Ari Berman,

Favorite History

We asked Michael Bender to recommend three favorite history books he has not yet selected for the club.

- *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy*, by Heather Ann Thompson
- *Dispatches*, by Michael Herr
- *From #Blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation*, by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

which focuses on voting rights, and *Driving While Black*, by Gretchen Sorin, which details how car ownership affected civil rights.

"The closest thing to debate is that sometimes the older people in the group may not particularly like the tone of a book — not necessarily the viewpoint, but the tone." For instance, with *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, "one person felt there were Socialist/Marxist viewpoints that he didn't agree with, while another person had a different take on it. I enjoyed their talk about this — there was nothing uncivil about it, and it didn't feel left versus right."

For Jennifer Howse, another member, who lives in Cold Spring, the discussions can be eye-opening. "I joined to counterbalance the 24/7 firehose of news, or 'history in the making,' with measured accounts of past events," she explains. "Our lively, insightful conversations help me understand what drives change and conflict in the world."

For more information on any of Split Rock's clubs, visit splitrockbks.com.

The Deserter Who Built the Chains

Garrison novelist tackles Thomas Machin

By Alison Rooney

When Bevis Longstreth becomes absorbed in a topic, he has a tendency to immerse himself in research.

"I suppose it's a lingering habit from being a lawyer," he says. "I didn't major in history, but I wish I had."

The Garrison resident has, in his retirement, published four novels, each an examination of a period of history. "The novel format gives you a freedom that you don't have in a history book: to make up facts when they aren't otherwise available," he says. "As far as facts are available, I've used them, then woven the novel around those facts."

His first attempt at a novel was never published, he notes. It was to be centered on beekeepers. "I signed up to attend a beekeepers' convention in Texas, thinking I would pick up all kinds of wonderful knowledge about this breed of human beings,"

recalls Longstreth, who is a member of the board of directors of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper. "I discovered that was not the case."

Instead, Longstreth's novels have addressed no less than the dawn of civilization (*Spindle and Bow*), the Persian empire (*Return of the Shade*), the Great Depression (*Boats Against the Current*) and, in the latest, *Chains Across the Hudson*, the American Revolution.

Longstreth will discuss the latter at 4 p.m. on Sunday (April 25), in a virtual event hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison. Register at bit.ly/chains3-25.

Chains centers on Thomas Machin, a British soldier who deserted to join the patriots. Noting his engineering skill and practical bent, Gen. George Washington ordered Machin to the Hudson River to imagine, design and install obstructions

to block the British armada that was gathering in New York Harbor.

It was Machin who installed a chain across the river at Fort Montgomery and, when the British overran the fort and cut the chain, another at West Point.

"There was so little covered about this man and what he did," Longstreth says. "It all happened right here, so it felt for me a little like Melville looking at Moby Dick from the bow of the Pequod."

Longstreth conducted research at the New-York Historical Society, the New York Public Library and regional museums, where he found the librarians "verge on being grateful that you're bothering them!" He also relied on *Chaining the Hudson*, by Lincoln Diamant.

Nevertheless, "at some point, you have to stop" the research and start writing. "In the case of *Chains*, most of what I said about Machin is accurate except his love life, which I put in the book to flesh it out — it is a novel."



"The most puzzling and remarkable thing about the man was he created a fiction about himself," denying he was a deserter until the end of his life. "It wasn't a helpful fiction to him, but it was to me. It's a character flaw that's useful in my novel, because I try to explain it."

Chains Across the River can be purchased online in hardcover or digital formats at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Walmart.

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (April 1871)

Plans were in the works to construct a new Presbyterian church at Matteawan at a cost of about \$30,000 [about \$650,000 today]. Its foundation would measure 111-by-67 feet and its spire rise 100 feet.

The Rev. Father Farrel of Matteawan was granted a vacation by his parish, which he will spend in England for the benefit of his health.

The Dutchess and Columbia Railroad Co. began making alterations at Dutchess Junction in anticipation of it becoming the terminus of the line rather than Fishkill Landing.

A man named Farmer was arrested in Newburgh for "preaching on the street on something besides a religious topic."

125 Years Ago (April 1896)

An inmate at the Matteawan State Hospital expressed no remorse for striking and fatally injuring another inmate, John Curtis. "I know Curtis is dead, and I'm not sorry," said William Kearney, during an inquest. An attendant testified that he had been passing the mess room when he saw Curtis turn and strike Kearney, who pushed Curtis over a chair. A jury found Kearney "irresponsible," or not guilty. Both men were said to be "quiet patients" who did not require restraints.

John Avenall, who had been confined to the Matteawan hospital as a teenager, was deported to his native France. He had

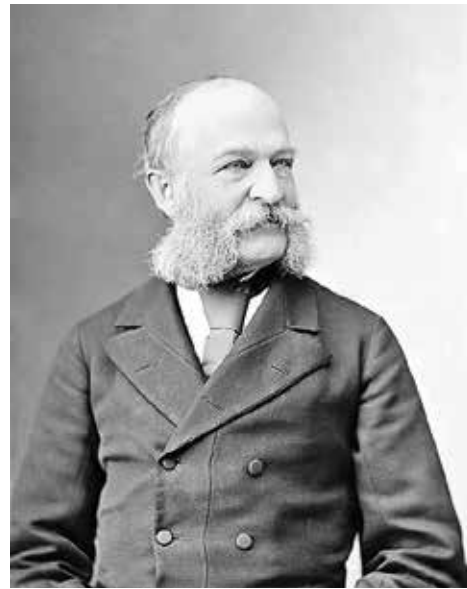
come to the U.S. alone at age 15 aboard a steamer but was arrested during the voyage for theft. After spending nearly three years at the Elmira Reformatory, he was ruled insane and sent to Matteawan.

To the surprise of many, Gov. Levi Morton commuted the sentence of Patrick McGuire, who had escaped the previous fall from the Matteawan hospital with train robber Oliver Curtis Perry. Although McGuire testified against a guard who aided the escape, the district attorney refused to recommend him for leniency, calling him a scoundrel.

A Fishkill Landing girl named Mamie Higgs, who was bitten six times by a snake that wrapped itself around her leg, was expected to survive after nearly a week of convulsions, chest pain and fever.

David Corwin, who was formerly employed at a railroad office in Matteawan, confessed in Boston to setting fire to the Hub Blank Book and Stationary Co., where he was treasurer. Corwin, 37, told police that "a sudden and unaccountable impulse came over him." A native of Newburgh, he had a troubled life there: both his parents committed suicide and his father-in-law was murdered by a "bridge gang." Matteawan authorities suspect Corwin may have set several suspicious fires that occurred in the village when he lived there.

Cortland Harris, 20, of Matteawan, who managed a minstrel troupe, was married in Cold Spring to Minnie Campen, 19, of Washington, D.C., the daughter of a wealthy lumber dealer. They had met when Harris was an advance agent for a circus coming to a western New York town where Campen was visiting relatives. They began a corre-



In 1896, New York Gov. Levi Morton commuted the sentence of a man who had escaped from the Matteawan State Hospital.

spondence, but when her father discovered the letters, he angrily confronted his daughter. Two days later, she appeared in Matteawan with a plan to be married but her father arrived the next day to take her home. Harris later received a telegram from Campen instructing him to meet her in Cold Spring, where they were married by the justice of the peace and wrote her father to ask for his forgiveness.

The fugitive Jeannette Hall, who escaped in January from the custody of the Matteawan police chief after being charged with bigamy, was arrested in Newburgh. She admitted to having four husbands but said two were dead.

Darby McGowan and Jerry Readle, both of New York City, met at the Opera House at Fishkill Landing at midnight for a clandestine boxing match with 2-ounce gloves.

About 400 tickets were sold at \$3 each. The fight lasted until the sixth round, when the police showed up.

A speaker at a meeting of the Hudson River chapter of the Knights Templar called for the creation of East Newburgh, which would include Fishkill Landing and Matteawan.

100 Years Ago (April 1921)

George Sheffield, who was taken from the train to Highland Hospital apparently suffering from alcohol poisoning, was ordered to leave town. He told officials he was a cattleman from Galveston, Texas, and that two of his companions had died in Albany from the same liquor that laid him out. However, when Beacon police officers visited the hospital, they recognized "Sheffield" as William Lunn Foshey, a Newburgh conman who had been arrested two years earlier for impersonating a West Point soldier. Foshey admitted faking his illness and was given five minutes to get out of town.

City and county officials called on Dutchess County judges to give jail time instead of fines to saloon owners who flouted state prohibition laws that allowed them to serve drinks that contained no more than 1½ percent alcohol. At the same time, an inspection by revenue agents of the Union Hotel, Savage Hotel and Ye Olde Fishkill Inn in Beacon failed to find any dry-law violations.

Plans were made to rebuild the convent of the Presentation Nuns on the banks of the Hudson, which had burned down the year before. The nuns had lived in the convent during the summer for 30 years.

Randolph Adams, a member of the Beacon Engine Co., suffered fatal injuries when his wishbone suspension broke and his car

(Continued on Page 21)

Current Classifieds

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We are open to various teaching methods and applications. Position is full-time; availability 5 days/week is optimal, but flexible for the right person. Email lara.tabatznik@gmail.com.

ASSISTANT GARDENER — Garrison/Cold Spring area, 3 to 4 days per week, available immediately to assist an experienced, knowledgeable gardener on a private estate (tasks include weeding, pruning, watering etc.). Salary based on experience. References required. Email resume and references to lisannpetrini@gmail.com.

COOK — Doug's Pretty Good Pub in Cold Spring is looking for a reliable cook for our kitchen 20 to 25 hours per week. Experience is helpful, but if you show an eagerness to learn we will train the right person. Good pay, weekly bonus, no late nights, or early mornings. Call 845-265-9500. If no one answers, please leave a message.

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TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Looking Back *(from Page 20)*

crashed into a ditch on Fishkill-Beacon Road. In a similar accident, the suspension broke on a car carrying a group of Poughkeepsie residents home from Beacon, causing one of the wheels to roll away and the vehicle to narrowly miss a tree.

The S.W. Johnson Five of Wappingers Falls defeated the Trinity Five of Beacon, 27-26, before “mobs of fans” who “kept yelling throughout the entire contest,” according to the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*. The paper said the game was rough, calling it an “imitation of football played indoors.”

There was a report that Beaconside, the 26-acre Burnham estate, had been sold to the owner of an Orange County military academy.

A judge awarded a disputed hound dog to Allison Ten Eyck, who said it was her Jack. The Nuccitelli family, however, claimed it was their Bounce. The hound wagged his tail when called either name or by either master.

A Yonkers man told police that while he was driving about a mile north of Beacon, two men stood in the middle of the road to stop his vehicle for what he imagined was a holdup. When he kept driving, they threw a rock that dented his car.

A jury awarded Katherine Gordon immediate possession of her Holland Hotel after she sued John Hyatt, who was leasing it from her. The rent included 20 percent of his weekly gross receipts, she said, but Hyatt refused to show his books. The jury deliberated for 20 minutes.

75 Years Ago (April 1946)

The state commissioner of housing visited Beacon to inspect proposed sites for housing units but was not impressed with a proposal to renovate a hotel at 631 Wolcott Ave. known as The Nut Club.

A mess attendant at the Castle Point Veterans' facility was killed at 1:30 a.m. when he was struck by a car on Route 9D. The 56-year-old World War II veteran was walking down the center of the highway in dark clothes, police said. The driver stopped, saw the body and drove to police headquarters to report the accident.

A Pawling High School student won the Dutchess County Short Story contest, although Beacon and five other schools did not submit enough stories to qualify. Beacon officials said none of its students' stories would have been competitive.

An early-morning fire destroyed Charlotte's Tavern and Restaurant on Main Street. Firefighters saved two families who lived upstairs.

A woman sued Pizzuto Bus Lines after she said she was sitting in one of its vehicles at a gas station when the driver disembarked and the bus started rolling down North Avenue. She said she was injured when she jumped from the moving bus and asked for \$30,000 in damages. A jury gave her \$1,100.

Beacon's mayor appointed Carl Cummings, manager of the Texaco laboratories at Glenham, to the nine-member school board.

A man from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,



In 1921, Katherine Gordon, the owner of the Holland Hotel, sued to break a lease with John Hyatt. The hotel stood on the site of the current DMV.

Shorpy.com

was arrested on charges of stealing neckties from W.T. Grant and Co. at 176 Main St.

Tatsua Abe was charged in Tokyo by Allied prosecutors with beating Corp. Joseph Carbonaro of Beacon while the American was a prisoner of war at Fufuoka 17. Carbonaro was captured in the Philippines and held for 42 months.

Jim Hurley, rod and gun editor of the *New York Daily Mirror*, spoke at a meeting of the Southern Dutchess and Putnam Sportsmen's Association at its club on East Main Street.

50 Years Ago (April 1971)

Six members of the Dutchess County Legislature asked the state to delay or abandon a plan by Penn Central Railroad to increase its use of the 12-mile Beacon-to-Hopewell Junction branch line.

Michael Scoba, a senior at Beacon High School, received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Mayor Robert Cahill called late cuts in the state budget a “debacle,” noting that the city had budgeted for \$191,000 in aid.

The Beacon Police Department reported investigating 56 offenses in March, including 10 shoplifting and nine harassment

cases. Officers investigated 604 complaints.

Martina Banks, 30, a mother of five, was sentenced to up to seven years in prison for the shooting death of her husband the year before. The judge said he had tried to squeeze the trigger of the .22-caliber pistol and found it hard to believe it could have gone off accidentally, as she claimed. The couple's home, at 9 Chandler St., was

demolished following her arrest as part of the city's urban renewal program.

The state announced plans to lay off the 300 employees of the Narcotics Addiction Commission at the Mid-Hudson Rehabilitation Center in Beacon. Its 400 patients would be “phased out,” its director said. The center had been created four years earlier on the grounds of the Matteawan State Hospital.

After assaulting his ex-wife at her home in Glenham, Vincent Pisco, the owner of Vince's Hideaway on East Main Street, led police on a high-speed chase before crashing on Liberty Street and firing two shots at officers. He then shot himself in the head. [Pisco survived and lost his liquor license because of the arrest.]

25 Years Ago (April 1996)

Dutchess Stadium agreed to host the Section I high school baseball championships and senior All-Star game. “We put the bug in people's ears last year, and this year it's become a reality,” said Beacon Coach Eric Romanino, whose team played eight games at The Dutch in 1995 and had five games scheduled there in 1996.

The Castle Point medical center held a ceremony to recognize 40 World War II veterans who had been prisoners of war, including Nicholas Magure, 82, of Beacon, who was imprisoned for nearly three years. “I weighed 174 pounds when I went in, and weighed 86 pounds when I got out,” he said. “It took six months to recover.”

NOTICE

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MECHANICAL UPGRADES AND RELATED WORK MAIN BUILDING

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Proposals for the:
MAIN BUILDING

Will Be Received By:

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Administration Office, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Proposals must be received on or before **3:00 PM** local time on **May 25th, 2021** and must be in accordance with the requirements of the Bidding Documents to receive consideration. Bids will be opened and read aloud at that time.

Bidding Documents, including drawings and specifications, will be available beginning on **April 26th, 2021** 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 Pre-Bid Meeting for Prospective Bidders will be held on **May 4th, 2021**. The meeting will start promptly at **3:30PM**. All bidders will assemble at the Administration Office, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

BONDS:

A bid bond is required for this project. The Owner will also require, prior to the execution of the Contract, a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond

LUMP SUM BIDS:

One bid will be received for:
Contract #1: HVAC including
General Construction.

FULLER AND D'ANGELO, P.C. / ARCHITECT AND PLANNERS

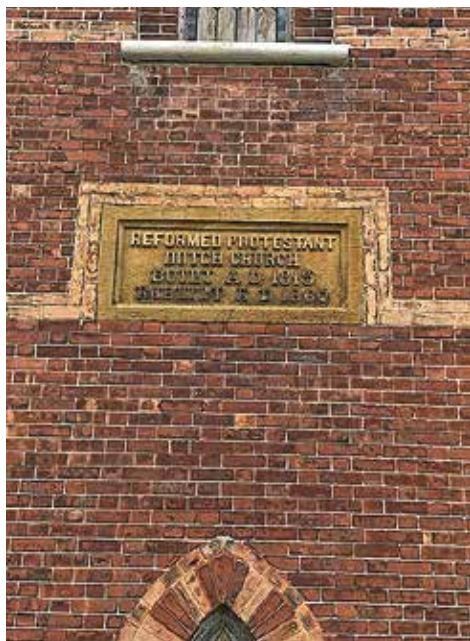
PUBLIC NOTICE

Spring, Easter and non-conforming decorations must be removed from graves/plots by

Monday, May 3, 2021.

Thereafter such items will be considered abandoned and removed by cemetery personnel.

Cold Spring Cemetery Association INC.
P.O. Box 30, Cold Spring NY 10516-0030



Church Sale *(from Page 1)*

He anticipates booking local, regional and national music acts, and offering events that could range from theater to comedy and family entertainment. The sanctuary would remain “pretty much as it is” with the possible addition of a deck on the back of the building, a new seating arrangement and bathroom renovations, he said.

The sales price was “in the ballpark” of the \$1.25 million listed by Houlihan Lawrence for the property, said Hecker. Another \$4 million to \$5 million will be spent to complete the project, he said.

“I love presenting new and innovative music and performance, and I feel that Beacon is the right spot to do that,” said Hecker.

The Reformed Church of Beacon was founded in 1813. Its original wood building was demolished in 1859 to make way for the current red-brick structure. Few, a Georgia senator, was buried at the cemetery in 1828 after dying while visiting Beacon, then known as Fishkill Landing. His remains were moved in 1973 to Augusta, Georgia, at that state’s request.

The church’s history also includes a visit

Saving the Records

Historical Society digitizing church documents

By Leonard Sparks

The documentary history of the Reformed Church of Beacon since its founding in 1813 as the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill Landing was stored in boxes that have since been removed, pending its sale.

The archives include 60 pages of handwritten specifications from 1859 by Frederick Clarke Withers, the architect hired to design the building.

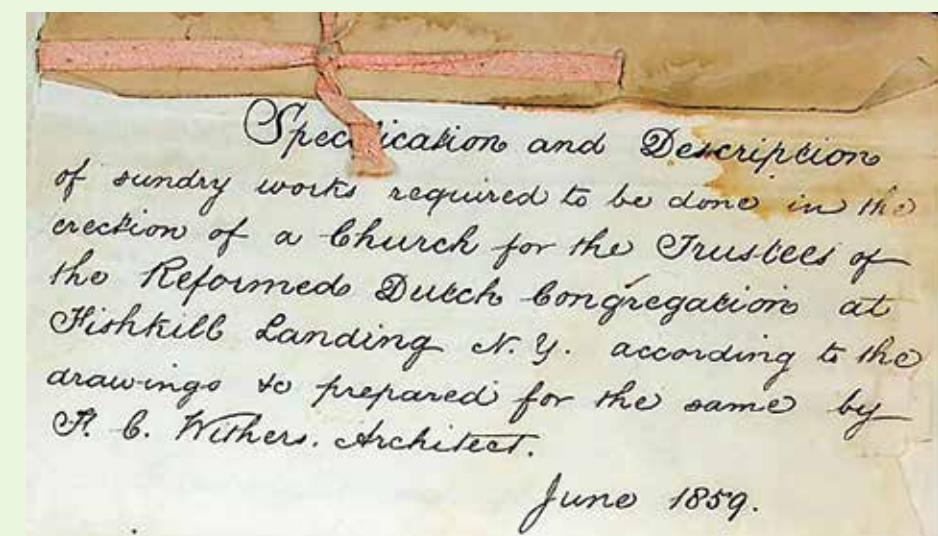
There were also birth, marriage and death records; children’s Sunday school assignments; personal letters; framed portraits of the pastors; and script written for an event organized by the women’s missionary group with a note to “Mrs. Reed” to “please play grandma.”

Emily Murnane, a Rombout Middle School teacher and Beacon Historical Society trustee, is sorting and digitizing the archives of what is considered the city’s oldest church to make them available to researchers and the public.

Usually, the records would have been sent to the Reformed Church in America’s theological seminary in New Brunswick, New Jersey, but the historical society received permission to take possession

from the abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher during the Civil War. In its heyday, attendance reached 200, said the Rev. Jan Fritzinger. But when she arrived in 2006 as a student pastor, turnout was considered good if 10 people showed up for the Sunday service. (Fritzinger returned as the church’s pastor in 2016.)

The city has discussed whether to take over the cemetery and add a walkway that



The church archives include handwritten specifications by its architect, Frederick Clarke Withers.

temporarily. Murnane, armed with a scanner, began her work in May 2020.

The undertaking represents “the project of a lifetime” and is the society’s first large-scale digitization effort, said Murnane. Although far from finished, she will discuss some of her discoveries during a Zoom presentation on Tuesday (April 27) at 7 p.m. Register at beaconhistorical.org.

“I’m hoping that I am honoring those folks at the Dutch church — honoring their love and their dedication to their church by bringing some of these stories back to the light, where people can know them and understand what a special place it was and what special people they were,” she said.



The current brick structure replaced this earlier one torn down in 1859.

space since June for services.

It was a classis, or governing body, of the Reformed Church in America that arranged the sale of the building, said Fritzinger. At 3 p.m. on May 23, before the sale closes, members of the congregation — including some who grew up attending the church — will hold a final, in-person service.

“It’s very sad for them because, obviously, there’s a strong attachment,” the pastor said.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Civil-rights org.

6. Crunchy sandwich

9. Eastern "way"

12. D-Day beach

13. Kanga's kid

14. Pirates' quaff

15. Stopwatch

16. *Charlotte's Web* author

18. Van Gogh painting

20. Black, in verse

21. Lass

23. Pouch

24. Raiment

25. "Rule, Britannia!" composer

27. Bush

29. Refines, as ore

31. Decrees

35. Void

37. Old U.S. gas brand

38. *West Side Story* song

41. Stashed

43. Science room

44. Shortly

45. Party snack

47. *The War of the Worlds* author

49. Did yard work

52. Enzyme suffix

53. Granola grain

54. Speak one's mind

11. Signs

17. Disney's *Love Bug*

19. Impudent

21. Ozone, for one

22. Branch

24. Flop

26. Broadway's Stitch

28. Pine product

30. TV schedule abbr.

32. *The Chronicles*

55. USPS delivery

56. "— Clear Day"

57. Egg holders

9. Navajo or Hopi

10. Ones for the road?

33. Airport screening org.

34. Weep

36. California peak

38. Taj —

39. Uneasy feeling

40. Crew member

42. Matt of Hollywood

45. Family

46. Francis, e.g.

48. Privy

50. Tolkien creature

51. — Moines

of *Narnia* author

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 ancient Egyptian king (11)

2 gave a big hand (9)

3 University of Texas athletes (9)

4 prominent family's heir (5)

5 Sneezzy and Doc (6)

6 Scottish Nobelist Alexander (7)

7 hooded snake (5)

SOLUTIONS

TU

SCI

LAU

KHA

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APP

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HOR

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COB

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NS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for April 16 Puzzles

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

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

1. SPRINGTIME, 2. GERVAIS, 3. RELEASES, 4. CHEERFUL, 5. STRUGGLING, 6. CARROTS, 7. TRICKSTERS

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

SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

GIRLS' SWIMMING

The Beacon High School girls' swim team completed a standout season, going 7-0 in league competition and finishing 7-1 overall. The lone loss came to Arlington.

"It was the smallest girls' team I've had, but they clicked together like a well-oiled machine," said Coach Larry Collins. "This wasn't the fastest team but the best in terms of how they got along and practiced. They all had personal bests," despite having to deal with pandemic safety protocols.

Leading the team were seniors Thandiwe Knox and Natalie Negron (both captains), Natalie Khalil and Dania Gillins. The team also included eighth graders Saniyah Wiltshire and Serena Stampleman, freshmen Isabella Haydt, Serena Jabar and Meara Kumar, sophomore Lillian Magurno and junior Kalyn Sheffield.

Collins liked what he saw from his young swimmers. "Haydt crushed every swim. Kumar also was fantastic." Both, he said, "can lead the way for us next year. Stampleman has a fantastic future. They give us a good foundation."

The Bulldogs did not have any swimmers qualify for this week's Section I championships, but Collins believes the district's move in the fall to Section IX will be good for his squad.

"It's sad we didn't get a chance to swim in the championships," he said. "But in Section IX, I think we'll have a chance to be even more competitive."

VOLLEYBALL

The top-seeded Haldane High School volleyball team earned a bye in the first round of this week's Section I regional play-off but couldn't get past No. 4 Croton, falling on Tuesday (April 20) in straight sets, 25-22, 25-23, 26-24.

"We didn't close it," said Coach Kristina Roling. "Their defense was more fine-tuned. We sent a lot of free balls over, and they converted those into attacks, while we were playing defense the whole game. They got us out of system a lot more than usual."

The Blue Devils closed a solid season at 13-2, with both losses coming to Croton.

"We had a good feeling going in," Roling said. "It's hard, especially for the seniors. But we had a solid season, the girls should be super proud. A lot of them had new positions, some were new to varsity. We'll have



Beacon quarterback Jason Komisar (5) was on the run from a tough Lourdes defense for most of Saturday's game.

Photo by S. Pearlman



The Beacon girls' swim team finished the season at 7-1.

Photo provided

a lot of returning players next year, so I'm hopeful we can be competitive again."

Haldane was led by Maria Barry (11 kills, 32 digs, 3 aces), Meghan Tomann (21 assists) and Jill Weinpahl (10 kills).

"Megan Farrell did a great job at libero," Roling said. "Because of their huge blockers, she got a lot more second touches and did a wonderful job controlling the ball and serve-receiving."

"Maria had her best serve-receive performance," Roling added. "Meghan ran every-

where to get second touches and had a lot more than usual. And Jill did a good job on defense. Kate Jordan and Zoe Silverman had big blocks and got the team up. All of the girls pulled together and did a great job."

The Blue Devils closed their regular season at home on April 16, defeating Carmel, 3-1. Barry led the team with 20 kills, 24 digs and 12 aces, while Tomann added 24 assists, 14 digs and 8 aces. Farrell added 18 digs.

Beacon, which finished 0-13 on the

season, did not make the Dutchess County playoffs, which included only the top five teams.

FOOTBALL

After a two-week layoff due to COVID-19 protocols, the Beacon High football team returned to its home field on Saturday (April 17) only to face one of the section's top teams, Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Warriors prevailed with a 42-0 victory, pushing the Bulldogs to 0-3. Beacon was scheduled to host Greeley on Thursday (April 22) in its final game of the season. Greeley was also winless at 0-4.

Beacon struggled to get anything going against a talented Lourdes team. Led by standout quarterback Brandon Jorgensen, Lourdes dominated whenever it had the ball.

"We competed a lot better than the score showed," said Coach Jim Phelan. "We had a couple of opportunities we didn't cash in on. We were at the goal line twice and got stopped."

Beacon's quarterback, Jason Komisar, completed 6 of 12 attempts for 55 yards. Running back Isaac Hanson ran 13 times for 40 yards, and Mark Guzman had three receptions for 30 yards.

"Jason played well," Phelan said. "A few times we let him down by dropping balls. Isaac and Mark also played well. Tyler Haydt played a great game at center and defensive end, and our defense was led by Jamaal Jackson Jr., who led us in tackles. Leibinson Perez Novas and Keiran Kacur also had a great game on defense."

"We also have a lot of freshman linemen who have been stepping up and working hard and pushing a lot of the seniors," he said. "Mike Varian, Jayden Quintana and Joe Battle all played well."

Haldane picked up its second win of the season on Saturday at Rye Neck, buoyed by a 24-point second quarter on the way to a 36-12 victory.

Quarterback Dan Santos had 137 yards and one touchdown passing, and 172 yards and two TDs on the ground.

Christian Pezzullo opened the scoring in the second quarter with a 16-yard fumble return. Santos followed with a 28-yard run for a 16-0 lead, and ran for another 3-yard touchdown later in the quarter to make it 24-6.

Ryan Irwin scored on a 51-yard pass from Santos in the fourth, and Pezzullo closed the scoring with a 40-yard fumble return. Irwin finished with 60 yards on two catches and Doug Donaghy had three receptions for 60 yards.

The Blue Devils (2-3) are scheduled to travel to Tuckahoe (3-2) for the Section I, Class D title game at 1 p.m. on Saturday (April 24).