

The HIGHLANDS Current



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A Full Slate

*Plenty of choices for
Cold Spring voters*

By Chip Rowe

Cold Spring voters will have a full slate of candidates to choose from in November, based on the nominating petitions filed by the Tuesday (May 25) deadline to appear on the ballot.

Mayor Dave Merandy will seek his fourth term against two challengers: Trustee Kathleen Foley, who was elected in 2020, and former Putnam legislator Vinny Tamagna, who is the county's transportation manager.



Foley

There will be three open seats on the five-member board (which includes the mayor), including one that had been held by Heidi Bender, who resigned on April 16, five months into her two-year term. Merandy on May 11 named Tweeps Woods to fill the position until Election Day on Nov. 2. Woods filed to run for the remaining year of the term and will face Yaslyn Daniels, who announced her candidacy on Monday (May 24).

(Continued on Page 3)



BACK TO BUSINESS — Brian Davis, the owner of Bongo's Fries, adds sauce to an order of his hand-cut, twice-fried potatoes during the Modern Makers Market held at Riverfront Park in Beacon on May 22 and 23. For more photos, see Page 9. Photo by Ross Corsair

American Legion and VFW Chapters Soldier On

But attracting new members is a challenge

By Michael Turton

The American Legion hall in Cold Spring recently underwent renovations. The organization hopes the improvements will attract weddings, banquets and other revenue-producing rentals. The real challenge, though, is attracting new members.

Tom Kivel, the commander of George



A. Casey Post 275, says the membership of both the Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars is around 100, but only about 20 are active. The Legion shares the building with VFW James Harvey Hustis Post 2362. Both posts are named for local men who died in World War I.

Other than for its meetings, the Legion has rarely used its own building over the past few decades.

"The Philipstown senior citizens were here for more than 25 years," Kivel said,

(Continued on Page 6)

Vaccinated, with Perks

Incentives grow along with privileges

By Leonard Sparks

The Dogwood Bar & Grill in Beacon has a new look: people sitting at its bar, elbow-to-elbow, without masks.

On Wednesday (May 26), they included Toniann Hallock and her aunt, visiting from Florida, who were sharing a meal and each other's company — perks of being vaccinated.

"It feels great," Hallock said. "I feel normal again."

It has been six days since Dogwood announced on Facebook that it would remove the plastic barrier from its bar and

allow patrons to take off their masks and sit close if they can show evidence of full vaccination against COVID-19, such as a paper record or Excelsior Pass on their smartphone. (Masks are still required when entering the restaurant and when not seated.)

Six months into New York State's inoculation effort, the shots are increasingly becoming a line of demarcation and a ticket for benefits.

On May 13, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that fully vaccinated people could safely take off their masks and forgo the need to social distance. The guidelines, quickly adopted by New York and other states, freed people who have received the shots

(Continued on Page 8)

★★★★ Philipstown Democrats Spring Fundraiser 4 – 6pm, on June 6, ★★★★★
at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center ★ R.S.V.P. at Philipstowndemocrats.org

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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: AMY KUBIK

By Alison Rooney

Amy Kubik, who lives in Nelsonville, will exhibit her photography at *The Current* offices beginning with an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday (June 4).

Did you always have a “photographer’s eye”?

I had years of fine art training, beginning in high school, so I understood composition and color, but not the technical aspects. My first camera was a Nikon, and so is my second, a D500, which I chose because it shoots fast, and I wanted to shoot sports. I took up photography because things were tough in my life in that point and I wanted to capture the joy of my children being young. I spent a lot of time on creativelive.com, which would show classes for free for one day before they started charging. I’d set my alarm, watch and practice. Once in a while a photographer would let me be the second camera at a wedding, which was like being taken on a bike to the top of a hill and told to let go. Over time, you develop a style and consistency. You’re always improving and changing what you want to say. I still feel I have a ton to learn. I consider myself a nurse



practitioner, but I want to be a surgeon.

What’s the biggest mistake people make with point-and-shoots?

Not understanding lens distortion. Phone cameras are on the wide side and distort faces. If you have a camera that you can set manually and you don’t learn the basics of setting things manually, you’re doing yourself a disservice. Go online to sites such as

phlearn.com or even YouTube. Then you have to practice, like anything else.

Why are lenses important?

It’s the quality of the glass; you can see the difference in the color, the crispness, the sharpness, plus you can tell a story with a variety of lenses. They say to start with a 50 [millimeter], but it certainly opens up your opportunities when you have different focal lengths.

What do you aim to capture in portraits?

I want my subjects to see themselves in a new way that they cannot un-see. I was a make-up artist for 20 years, and people would point out their perceived flaws. I’m no different — I’m a horrible subject. It’s about making the person see themselves in the positive way I want them to feel. I want people to say: “You know, that was actually fun and I feel better about myself after the experience.” That’s my goal.

What about this area resonates for you?

Growing up, my mom, who’s an artist, would bring me here. I chose Cold Spring as a home knowing I would feel comfortable here as an artist.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is the funniest conspiracy theory?

“That aliens might be interested in us. Why would they be?”



~ Frank Ricevuto, Nelsonville

“That Paul McCartney died in 1966, was replaced, and Sgt. Pepper is all about that.”



~ Brittany Polhemus, Garrison

“That the earth is flat.”



~ Brian Patrick Murphy, Beacon

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Full Slate (from Page 1)

The other two seats are held by Marie Early, who will seek her fourth term, and Fran Murphy, who is not running for re-election.

Daniels, who has an MBA from Howard University and works in the tech industry, will campaign with Tamagna and Cathryn Fadde and Jeffrey Phillips, who are seeking the full-term seats. Fadde is a former Village Board member and the owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, and Phillips is a carpenter who will be seeking office for the first time.



Daniels

Merandy will campaign with Early and Matt Francisco, a former trustee who chairs the Planning Board. Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of Flowercup Wine on Main Street, also will appear on the ballot for a full-term seat.



Starbuck

Merandy, a former member of the Philipstown Town Board and the Haldane school board, defeated Barney Molloy with 63 percent of the vote in 2015, Alison Anthoine in 2017 with 51 percent and Chuck Hustis in 2019 with 60 percent.

To appear on the Cold Spring ballot, mayoral and board candidates had to submit the signatures of at least 28 registered voters who live in the village to the Putnam County Board of Elections by Tuesday (May 25).

Thomas Costello, who has been the village justice since 2001, was the only candidate to file for the position. He is seeking his fifth, 4-year term.

Philipstown

Petitions for Town Board seats were due earlier this year. Deputy Supervisor John Van Tassel will run unopposed for supervisor to succeed Richard Shea, who will not run for a seventh, 2-year term.

The candidates for the seats held by Van Tassel and Michael Leonard, who did not seek re-election, will be Megan Cotter and Jason Angell (who were endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee) and Neal Tomann and Sarina Tamagna (who were endorsed by the Philipstown Republican Committee).

Putnam County

Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a first-term Democrat whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, will face Barbara Scuccimara, the Republican former legislator whom she defeated in 2018 with 58 percent of the vote.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., also a Democrat in his first term, will face Kevin McConville, a former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department who has run for sheriff twice before, in 2009 as a Democrat and in 2013 as a Republican. Both candidates live in Philipstown.

Two other incumbent legislators, both Republicans, will have Democratic chal-

Who's on the Ballot: Cold Spring

Mayor (1)

Kathleen Foley
David Merandy
Vincent Tamagna

Trustees (2-year) (2)

Marie Early
Cathryn Fadde
Matt Francisco
Jeffrey Phillips
Eliza Starbuck

Trustee (1-year) (1)

Yaslyn Daniels
Tweeps Woods

lengers. Ginny Nacerino, who is seeking a third term representing Patterson, will face Stacy Dumont, and Joseph Castellano, who is seeking a fourth term representing Brewster, Croton Falls and parts of Mahopac and Southeast, will face Scott Reing.

Dutchess County

Frits Zernike, a Democrat whose district in the Dutchess County Legislature includes one ward in Beacon, will not seek a third term. The Democrats endorsed Yvette Valdés Smith to succeed him, and the Republicans endorsed Ron Davis.

Nick Page, a Democrat whose district includes three wards in Beacon, will not have a Republican opponent as he seeks his third term.

Two candidates for Dutchess County family court judge, Rachel Saunders and Denise Watson, will appear on June 22 on a primary ballot for the Working Families line.

Beacon

Four of the six members of the City Council, comprised entirely of Democrats, will not seek re-election: Terry Nelson (Ward 1), Air Rhodes (Ward 2), Jodi McCredo (Ward 3) and Amber Grant (at-large).

The Beacon Democratic Committee endorsed Molly Rhodes (who is no relation to Air Rhodes) for the Ward 1 seat, Justice McCray for Ward 2, Wren Longno for Ward 3 and Paloma Wake for one of the two at-large seats. Incumbent Dan Aymar-Blair will seek his second term representing Ward 4 and George Mansfield will run for his seventh term on the council as the second at-large representative.

No Republican candidates filed nominating petitions for City Council.

Public defender Greg Johnston, who is challenging incumbent Timothy Pagones to become city court judge, must first win the Democratic primary on June 22. Johnston was endorsed by the Democratic and Working Families parties but Pagones, who was endorsed by the Republicans, filed petitions to force primaries.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Thanks to Haldane

This letter is long overdue, but I wanted to thank everyone associated with Haldane — the school board, administration, teachers and staff — for their heroic efforts during this time of pandemic to keep the school open for in-person learning. My two daughters have benefited extraordinarily, academically and socially.

According to the state COVID Report Card, in-person students at Haldane contracted COVID-19 at a far lower rate than students who chose to learn from home. This is an extraordinary achievement for everyone at Haldane who has worked so hard to make the school a safe place for children to learn.

To all associated with Haldane, I hope you enjoy a great summer vacation. You have earned it!

Peter McFadden, *Nelsonville*

Beacon court

As a resident of Beacon, and registered Democrat, I was very happy to read about City Court Judge Timothy Pagones opening a Recovery Court ("New Beacon Court Hopes to Prevent Overdoses," May 7). This problem-solving court is designed to assist those who are charged with non-violent

crimes and suffer from substance abuse. Instead of incarceration, treatment will be offered as an opportunity to prevent further criminal behavior.

I believe that most Beacon residents would agree this is the type of proactive approach that our courts should be developing as we deal with the opioid crisis. Thank you, Judge Pagones, for once again being at the forefront of such an important social program.

Matthew Naughton, *Beacon*

As the former chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee and a former candidate for mayor, I disagree with the sentiment conveyed by the chair of the Democratic Committee in her letter in the May 14 issue regarding the Democratic primary on June 22 for city court judge.

I am supporting the incumbent, Judge Pagones, who has served on the bench with distinction for more than 20 years. His record is impeccable. He has presided over a Drug Treatment Court that has helped many individuals gain life-changing treatment. Lawyers, probation officers and court personnel, regardless of political affiliation, support his candidacy.

We live in a small town. Party politics

should not dictate who our judges should be. As a community, we should demand that our local jurist be fair, ethical and hardworking. Judge Pagones checks all of these boxes.

On the other hand, his opponent is an unknown quantity. He certainly does not have the experience of Judge Pagones.

John Berry, *Beacon*

Judge Pagones has been accused of being "insincere" as a candidate for the primary election for the Working Families Party. What he is being insincere about I have no idea. It is clear he wants party members to vote for him and that he gathered enough support from party members to qualify for the ballot. He acted within the law. Any voter who has made any attempt to know the candidate can easily find anything they want to know about him.

That he is being misleading, disingenuous or insincere simply because he is offering a choice to primary voters is silly. I believe his critics are the ones acting to limit the choice of primary voters by casting suggestions and innuendo that his actions are improper.

Everything in the dialogue against him has been about partisan lines. None of it has focused on his qualifications, the pros and cons of his many years of service or where he stands on issues that relate to serving as a judge. The criticism is hypocritical coming from the leader of Beacon Democrats, whose predecessors have similar records of attempts to qualify candidates and/or disqualify opponents for the Working Families and Independence lines.

Cutting short the public service of an experienced, talented and civic-minded person on the basis of partisanship is irresponsible. May the person with the best qualifications win. I think that person is Tim Pagones.

Dan McElduff, *Beacon*

Police records

Incidents in 2004? Bad grammar in 2010? ("Beacon Releases Police Records," May 21). Horrors, disband the police as soon as possible and bring in community organizers. They will solve all of the problems that had arisen from this reign of terror two decades ago.

Herbert Simon, *Beacon*

Highway garage

This is a wonderful opportunity for the town to upgrade its Highway Department facility ("Philipstown Could Get \$2 Million to Replace Highway Garage," May 14).

(Continued on Page 5)





Photo by Ali Muhammad



Photo by Natasha Scully

LOCAL PROTESTS — Activists gathered on May 20 at the headquarters of the firm that owns the Danskammer power plant in Newburgh to express support for a bill proposed in the state Legislature that would prohibit the development of any major electric-generating facility powered by fossil fuels. Danskammer's owners are seeking approval to expand the plant's capacity. Two days earlier, protestors marched in Newburgh to express support for Palestinians in conflict with Israel.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

It is also a wonderful opportunity to question why Cold Spring must operate its own Highway Department yard just 1.5 miles down the road. Isn't it time these spaces were consolidated? We don't have to combine the departments, but can't they share a space?

The current location in Cold Spring, adjacent to Mayor's Park and near the public parking lot, could have a much happier and more productive life as a local amenity everyone can enjoy, overlooking the river. The salt shed could easily be adapted as a seasonal multipurpose space to host events, such as the farmers' market, within walking distance for everyone in the village.

Smartly implemented permeable surfaces could provide overflow parking during peak weekends or large gatherings occurring in Mayor's Park or elsewhere. And this is the most natural location for a foot bridge offering a second access point into Dockside Park. Are the dump trucks more deserving of a beautiful waterfront view than villagers?

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

Crosswalks

I've spent many years walking the streets of Cold Spring and not once have I seen a pedestrian blithely commit to a designated crosswalk without carefully observing the actions of oncoming automobiles (*Letters and Comments*, May 14). Why? Because we are not suicidal — in fact, we walk to improve our health, not be crushed by the drivers pointing 2 tons of metal at us.

The cheap and effective way to raise awareness of crosswalks is an orange traffic cone square in the middle of the road with a sign on it. That raises visual awareness and costs very little. And it could be done tomorrow.

It's commonly understood that the

jaywalker takes responsibility for their actions. Michael Armstrong's comments in the April 30 issue regarding crosswalks have nothing to do with jaywalking. Jaywalking issues should not be used to water down the legitimate issues surrounding designated pedestrian sidewalks.

Donald MacDonald, *Cold Spring*

Vaccinations

Is it possible to get vaccination information on a town-by-town basis? It would be interesting to see the numbers for Philipstown and Beacon.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, *Garrison*
The editor replies: We thought so, too, but both Putnam and Dutchess counties have told us that data is not available.

For those of us with children under the age of 12 who cannot yet be vaccinated, anywhere that still requires masks is a godsend ("Mask Distrust," May 21). Otherwise kids are shut out of safe participation in public life. Thanks to any business or institution still requiring them.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

I get the impression the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is sending a message to anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers that they have to make a decision. It's as if the CDC is saying: "We've done all we can to help you. You can now be free from masks and fear if you get vaccinated. If you don't want to get vaccinated or wear a mask, you're on your own. And good luck with that."

Jon Lindquist, *via Facebook*

It's still four people at a time, masks required, in my store [Archipelago in Cold Spring].

Timothy Chevtakin, *via Facebook*

Corrections

A story on local school district trustee votes in the May 21 issue stated that the Garrison board has nine members. In fact, it has seven. To clarify, Kent Schacht will complete the final year of the term of Jill Lake, who was elected in 2019 but resigned in June 2020. Madeline Julian, who had been appointed to fill Lake's seat until the election, and who won a full, 3-year term on May 18, will on July 1 take the seat of James Hoch, who did not run for a third term. Two seats will be on the 2022 ballot, those held by Schacht and Sarah Tormey.

In a story in the May 21 issue, we reported that the patio at Beacon Pantry's cafe was closed because of a shortage of employees. In fact, the patio is open Fridays through Mondays.

I'm not anti-mask — quite the opposite. But it's not fair to expect businesses to sort out this rule for one versus rules for others.

Raymond Martin, *via Facebook*

Help needed

It's interesting that not one of the business owners, besides the Roundhouse, mentioned paying their employees more ("Help Needed," May 21). Restaurant work sucks, and salaried chefs and managers don't get the tips that servers earn but work just as hard when it's busy. Servers can't pay the bills on a slow day. I don't feel bad for

any of these business owners. Either adapt or fail. That's capitalism.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

I read an essay recently by a veteran restaurant worker whose view was that the main reason former food and beverage workers were not returning was not the pay, the conditions or the hours, but the customers. A significant number of diners are rude, entitled and generally horrible people to deal with. And now they are back. And arguing.

Howard Whitehouse, *via Facebook*

Pay \$20 an hour and you'll have a line of applicants around the block.

Chris Nelson, *via Facebook*

Why go to work if you can't live on what you make?

James Larkin, *via Facebook*

A study released in January found that line cooks were at the highest risk of death from COVID-19 among working-age people. Maybe people no longer want to stand on their feet for long hours in front of a hot stove in a high-stress environment for a barely livable wage when they're treated with such indifference and expendability.

Heather Candon, *via Instagram*

Low turnout

School board elections should be combined with city elections so more people will vote ("School Board Budgets Pass," May 21). Fewer than 900 residents of the Beacon City School District decided on May 18 to approve the sale of 33 acres of district-owned land beneath and around Dutchess Stadium to the county for well below its market value.

Terry Hockler, *Beacon*

Garrison Library Drops Solar Array from Project

Desmond-Fish cites cost, search for new director

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison has dropped immediate plans to add a “ribbon” of solar panels to its landscaping but continues to pursue town approval for a walking path and enhanced gardens on its 11.5-acre campus.

In a May 13 letter to the Philipstown Planning Board, which is reviewing the project, Anita Prentice, president of the library board, attributed the removal of the solar installation to costs and delays in grant funding and to the library’s need to focus on hiring a new director after the

departure in April of Jen McCreery, who took a job in Chatham.

The design had called for placing solar panels atop poles arranged in a winding pattern on the library grounds.

“If we decide to proceed with solar in the future, we will come back to the Planning Board for approval,” Tim Rasic, a library board member, told the Planning Board at its May 20 meeting.

In her letter, Prentice wrote that library board members “remain committed to developing a strategy for renewable energy,” but decided in the meantime to contract with a regional solar farm “to purchase sufficient credits to offset the library’s full electrical requirements.”

Although a public hearing in February

produced only a few comments, mostly in favor of the project, residents at a second hearing in April expressed misgivings.

“We regret that the individuals so opposed to it now did not speak up two years ago when we invited comments” on the plan, Prentice wrote, observing that one critic was on the library board two years ago when the initial work was underway, and another had gone through the library’s request for proposals on the project.

She also expressed disappointment at critics’ charges that the library and Planning Board were ignorant of the scenic protection overlay on the property.

A 2006 Philipstown report on scenic byways suggests scenic overlay protection for sensitive areas and Philipstown’s 2011

zoning code includes it as a way to help preserve the land’s outstanding features.

The 2006 report “was never intended to prevent a solar installation such as ours,” Prentice wrote.

When the Planning Board met on May 20, critics of the solar array praised the decision to remove it. “I know this was difficult,” said Carolyn Copeland. “We are appreciative.”

“I believe this is the correct decision, and I thank you,” added Joe Regele.

The library plans continue to include a 3-foot-wide path accessible to those with physical limitations; benches; a small bridge over a stretch of wetlands; a reading garden; and cultivation of native shrubs and meadow grasses.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Veterans *(from Page 1)*

until they moved in 2019 to the county-run Philipstown Friendship Center at the Butterfield redevelopment project. More recently, the Town of Philipstown used the building for its Justice Court while Town Hall on Main Street was being renovated.

Since reclaiming the building, the Legion has redone the ceiling and floor, upgraded the kitchen and added a coat of paint. The materials cost about \$16,000 and Legion members provided the labor.

“The room has a capacity of 84 people,” Kivel said. “We hope it can become a rental space” once the post purchases tables and chairs. “People have been trying to donate their old couch with flowers on it,” he said, with a smile. “But we need furnishings.”

The post will accept secondhand pots and pans but they need to be large enough for parties and weddings.



Earl Gunderson, Ralph Garrison and Commander Tom Kivel inside the newly renovated American Legion in Cold Spring

Photo by M. Turton

marketing program” and other initiatives, he said.

MacEnroe thinks the question on the minds of potential younger members is: “Why should I join?” The answer, he says, is “because only veterans understand other veterans” and that organizations such as the VFW and American Legion provide “a safe space where people understand where you’ve been and what you did; veterans can talk if they feel like it, or not talk — and not be judged.”

MacEnroe said in addition to mitigating the effects of combat-related stress, the Beacon VFW also identified a long-term need that’s been overlooked: teaching younger veterans how to become older veterans.

“The Army teaches how to become a soldier, but no one teaches you how to become a civilian again,” MacEnroe said, adding that VFWs can provide that service. “Those of us who have been successful in our careers can help younger transitioning veterans enter the civilian world with less stress than we did.”

In the past, the Legion awarded \$4,000 in scholarships each year to graduating seniors at Haldane High School. Kivel wants the organization to return to that practice, but it won’t happen this year. Building renovations and the inability to raise funds through the Legion’s traditional poppies sale because of the pandemic shutdown left the organization with little cash. “We have to be careful,” he said.

The average age of American veterans is 65, according to the Census Bureau, but a youth movement would help rejuvenate Post 275.

“The future doesn’t look good if we don’t get some younger people, and they’re right here in the village,” Kivel says.

He believes the slow decline in members began when Vietnam veterans came home, tried to join the VFW and were rejected.

“So they started their own organization, the Vietnam Veterans of America. Veterans who served in Afghanistan and the Middle East also established their own organizations.

“They don’t want to join us,” Kivel said, “Yet the established organization is here and it’s theirs; in a few years they’d be running it. We’re too old. I’m one of the younger members — and I’m 73.”

Tommy Wills, 47, served in the Navy in the early 1990s. The former Cold Spring resident now lives in Beacon.

LIVING VETERANS		
	NUMBER	MEDIAN AGE
World War II	485,000	93
Korean War	1.3 million	86
Vietnam War	6.4 million	71
Gulf War	3.8 million	50
Post-9/11	3.8 million	37

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2018

“The Legion has always seemed like an older group,” he said. “By the time I get off work, do what I have to do, including coaching basketball and Little League, I’m exhausted; I don’t want to sit at an American Legion meeting.”

Wills says his station in San Diego, during peacetime, is another factor in not joining the VFW. “I wasn’t in the trenches,” he says. “It was a different time.”

Cullen Lyons, 32, lives in Beacon and is a member of the VFW. “I enjoy being part of it, but I’m a single dad with a 13-year-old and my schedule often makes it difficult to get there,” he said.

Lyons served in Afghanistan with the Army National Guard in 2012, deploying as a specialist and returning a year later as a sergeant. He works at the Veterans Administration hospital in Montrose and is a former director of veterans’ affairs for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands.

“It’s hard for guys my age” to be active in veterans’ organizations,” he said. “It would be good if they could offer more activities that could include families: I play in a horseshoe league and would much rather play at the VFW.”

John MacEnroe, a retired Army major, is the treasurer of Beacon VFW Post 666 and is involved in program development. As in Cold Spring, his organization not only shares a building with American Legion Post 203 (Memorial Hall on 413 Main St.), it shares many of the same challenges, including membership. He estimates the two organizations have about 205 members but only 35 active.

“We’re trying to address that with a



When asked about the future of the American Legion, John Raughter, a representative at its national headquarters in Indianapolis, cited an article in *The Wall Street Journal* that stated the Legion “is slowly fading away.” But, he notes, it was written in 1971. “I don’t know if the writer is still around, but the American Legion still is,” he said.

Raughter conceded membership has declined but noted that Legion membership peaked at 3.3 million in 1945, at the end of World War II, when there were 16 million veterans. In 1974, at the end of the Vietnam War, there were 2.8 million members. In 2019 there were 1.8 million.

“When you get out of the military now, you get a job or finish school,” he said. “Once you retire, you have more time to volunteer. Sometimes it takes a while for members to join.”

The Legion remains the largest veterans’ organization in the U.S., with 12,000 posts, or “twice as many posts as there are Walgreens,” Raughter said.

☆☆☆ MEMORIAL DAY ☆☆☆



In Memoriam

The men remembered here died during their wartime service, either during combat or from disease or accidents.

BEACON

The list was compiled by Robert William Phillips for the Beacon Historical Society, with additional names from state records and newspaper accounts.

World War I

John Bump
H. Gordon Deicke
George Delahay
George E. Deveson
Frederick A. Garrison
Frederick Harris
Frank Incarnati
Francis J. Murphy
Austin T. Robinson
Pasquale Salese
George Stafford
James J. Tomlins
Frank H. VanHouten Jr.
William Wilson

Ralph L. Fleming
David Fontaine
George P. Frederick
Saul Gerlich
Alexander J. Grudzina
Michael J. Groza
Joseph Halbosky
Gordon E. Hughes
Henry I. Idema
Edwin J. Johnson
John Keto
Albert A. Knight
Orville Kranz
Ernest H. LaChance
George LaChance
Arnold E. Lasko
Robinson C. Lent
Walter M. Lewis
Judah H. Lewittes
James J. Lockwood
Michael E. Maskewicz
Joseph McGaughan
Peter Menger
Howard G. Mitchell
John F. Mignault
George S. Mitchell
William T. Morrison
Patrick J. O'Brien
Francis G. Peattie
Guy D. Pendleton
George Perrault
Kenneth G. Perry
Dominick J. Phillipo
Carmen A. Ramputi

Robert V. Resek
Lester F. Roberts
Peter J. Seranto
Francis T. Splain Jr.
Burton Stevens
Stuart F. Stripple
Richard E. Sutton
William J. Tallman
Rody J. Tighe
Francis J. Toth
George P. Turiga
Andrew Urbanak
Joseph C. Usifer
Rosco L. Vaughn Jr.
James J. Walker
John P. Wasnorowicz
Louis J. Westerhuis
Rene' Zahner

World War II

Arthur J. Baxter
John H. Beattie
Robert A. Bennett
Luigi F. Bettina
William J. Brennan
John W. Briggs
Frederick H. Brewer
Thomas B. Carrol
Calvin Clensay
John Collins
Nicholas T. Coppola
Raymond W. Detweiler
Andrew B. Eichorn
George J. Eichorn
Paul L. Facticeau
Robert M. Faris

Anthony N. Scalzo

Korea

Anthony N. Scalzo

Vietnam

John J. Bennett
Thomas E. Devine
Everett Foster
Philip R. Mattracion
Terrence E. O'Neil
William R. Phillips
James S. Pittman
Emilio Rivera
Joseph T. Slinsky

PHILIPSTOWN

The list is taken from the war memorial at Main and Chestnut streets in Cold Spring, with the addition of Walter Croft.

World War I

Percy W. Arnold
Edward J. Burns
George A. Casey
Charles N. Clainos
Walter H. Croft
Charles DeRham Jr.
John R. Fischer
Clarence Fahnestock
James Harvey Hustis
J. Paulding Murdock

World War II

Martin E. Adams
H. Ellis Bowden
Edward Budney
Gerald Dale
Warren Eitner
W. Russel Farrell
Ralph Fleming
Arthur Gilman
Walter Glanville
Thomas Lutz

Stanley Matthews
Anthony Nastasi
Allen W. Olsen
Joseph V. Richardson
Lester B. Roberts
Arthur Warren

Vietnam

Aldon Asherman
John Bennett
Keith Livermore



MEMORIAL DAY 1958 — Minnie Gunther of Cold Spring shared this snapshot of Girl Scouts marching on Main Street in Cold Spring, led at right by Miss Davis, a third-grade teacher at the Garrison School. The three girls at center are Gale Rakshys, Karen Karlin and Susan Gunther.

“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God such men lived.”

~ Gen. George S. Patton



The ‘Lost’ Faces of Vietnam

In 2014, of the 58,300 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces (vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces), 24,000 had no photos.

After calls to the public to contribute, thousands of photos were posted. By 2019, only one soldier from Putnam or Dutchess counties remained without a photo: Michael Garlo, a Marine from Fishkill who was killed in August 1969. His image has since been added, along with that of Ramon Gonzalez of Newburgh, who was killed in February 1968, and Bruce Reed of Peekskill, who died in February 1969. Both served in the Army.

Today, only 57 service members remain without photos, including 17 from New York City and Long Island.



Garlo

Vaccinations *(from Page 1)*

from rules in place since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown and codified two protocols: one for the vaccinated, and one for everyone else.

Like Dogwood, other businesses in the Highlands have introduced policies that open doors to the inoculated.

At the Happy Valley Arcade on Main Street in Beacon, people who show proof of vaccination can go maskless. The Towne Crier Cafe plans to reopen its main stage on Saturday (May 29) with separate seating for the vaccinated.

Dogwood will soon restart its live music, manager James O'Connor said on Wednesday. Those who have proof of vaccination can watch without a mask. And at the Beacon Recreation Department, seniors in a Thursday painting class can go maskless with proof they have received the shots, said Heidi Harrison, a Beacon resident who works for the department.

"Now they're back with their friends and their family," she said. "They miss seeing faces."

New York also joined other states in offering an increasingly robust package of incentives to motivate those who have not been vaccinated, ranging from passes to state parks to lotteries for a \$5 million jackpot or a four-year college scholarship.

The full ride is the state's latest enticement, and is similar to a program in Ohio. It offers adolescents between 12 and 15 years old a chance to win one of 50 scholarships to any public college or university in the state if they get at least their first dose of the two-shot Pfizer vaccine by July 7. For five consecutive Wednesdays, starting on June 2, the state will hold a drawing to pick 10 winners.

Teenagers 16 and 17 years old had been the only non-adults eligible to be vaccinated until May 12, when Pfizer won approval for its drug to be used in people as young as 12. About one-fifth of adolescents between 12 and 15 years old in the state have received an initial dose as of Wednesday, including 20 percent in Dutchess County and 19 percent in Putnam.

While the scholarship initiative is just starting, today (May 28) was the last day of a program in which New Yorkers received a chance to win state lottery prizes ranging from \$20 to \$5 million when they got



20K — Dr. Linda Mueller, nurse Kathy Percacciolo and Putnam County Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat pose at the Philipstown Recreation Center on May 20 with Haldane High School student Nathaniel Stickle, who received the Health Department's 20,000th COVID-19 vaccination dose. The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for adolescents as young as 12. *Photo provided*

vaccinated at one of 10 locations. Residents vaccinated by Monday (May 31) will receive a two-day pass to any state park valid through Sept. 30.

While some venues such as the Towne Crier will offer separate seating where vaccinated people can remove their masks and sit close during performances, others, such as Radio City Music Hall in New York City, are requiring that everyone in attendance show proof of vaccination so they can operate at full capacity under state guidelines. (Children and teens under 16, if not fully vaccinated, can provide proof of a negative COVID-19 or antigen test.)

"It works for the venue; it also works for the public because it's another incentive to get vaccinated, and we're in the business now of creating incentives to get vaccinated," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday.

How to Get an Excelsior Pass

Like the paper Vaccination Record Card given to those who are inoculated, the Excelsior Pass provides evidence of COVID-19 vaccination. The pass is valid for 365 days after the final shot; a PCR Pass (for a nasal swab test) is valid until midnight on the third day after a negative test; and an Antigen Pass is valid for six hours after the test.

See epass.ny.gov or download the Excelsior smartphone app at the Apple App or Google Play stores. Along with the pass, you may need to present photo ID that shows your name and birth date.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,567 (+14)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

229,317 (+3,172)

Percent positive:

4.6 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

57.3

Number of deaths:

91 (0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

29,359 (+84)

Active Cases in Beacon: 6

Tests administered:

750,654 (+10,942)

Percent positive:

3.9 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

53.8

Number of deaths:

444 (0)

Source: State and county health departments, as of May 26, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of May 20. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.

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The first large community event in Beacon since before the pandemic shutdown was held May 22 and 23 at Riverfront Park when Hops on the Hudson promoted a Modern Makers Market. The artisan fair was limited to 1,000 visitors per day who could show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test.

Photos by Ross Corsair

By Jeff Simms

Opening Back Up in Beacon

City looks to build on success of Makers Market

The Modern Makers Market, the first large public event in Beacon in more than a year, went smoothly and could portend the return of a traditional Spirit of Beacon Day in late September.

The Beacon City Council enforced stronger restrictions than the state required for the event, including attendance limits of 500 people in each of two sessions per day and proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result within 72 hours. The market was held on May 22 and 23 at Seeger Riverfront Park.

Because of the pandemic shutdown, the Spirit of Beacon festival and parade on Main Street was reimagined last year as a drive-thru and virtual event.

Mark Price, the director of the Beacon Recreation Department, monitored the Makers Market and told the City Council at its meeting on Monday (May 24) that the regulations had been respected. About 300 people attended each session, City Administrator Chris White said, noting that state and federal guidelines are changing so quickly that the city's restrictions were "out of alignment" by the time the event took place.

There are two additional ticketed events planned for Riverfront Park this year — the

Hudson Valley Taco Fest on June 26 and the Hudson River Craft Beer Festival on Sept. 18 — along with events being organized by the Beacon Sloop Club, including the annual Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim in July.

The Makers Market, which was organized by Hops on the Hudson, would like to return to Beacon. White proposed that the council consider permitting three ticketed events at Riverside Park each year — one in spring, summer and fall. He also suggested the city follow state pandemic guidelines

without enforcing any of its own additional restrictions.

"Ten years ago, we just wanted to get people to come to Beacon," noted Council Member George Mansfield. "Now they're already coming to Beacon," and the public events create an additional infusion of shoppers coming to Main Street, where retailers and restaurants have been battered by the shutdown.

The council is expected to meet next month with the organizers of Spirit of Beacon Day, which will pose a challenge as far as enforcing social distancing or other public health recommendations. Still, White said he's hopeful that the parade will take place and that, 18 months after the shutdown began, it could be a "back-to-normal" celebration.



A Return to Tradition

Graduations will be getting back to normal

By Jeff Simms

A year after the Class of 2020 held commencement amid a pandemic, the Class of 2021 will bring another historic school year to an end with a return to something resembling normalcy.

Last year, over three days, Beacon High School graduates received their diplomas after walking alone across a makeshift stage on the athletic field behind the high school. Each student had the opportunity to make a statement with their families watching from the sidelines. The processions were recorded and shown for students and their families three weeks later at the Hyde Park Drive-in Theatre.

Haldane High School had its traditional outdoor ceremony on campus but split the class into two sessions and limited each graduate to two spectators. A parking lot was marked off to enforce social distancing and the ceremony was livestreamed for relatives and friends who could not attend.

This year will be far different. Beacon High School will return on June 11 to Dutchess Stadium and Haldane on June 19 will have its outdoor ceremony with fewer restrictions and, as customary, past graduates in attendance.

“Our students are excited to have a normal graduation — they are exhausted from COVID-19 and challenging courses,” said Beacon High School Principal Elisa Soto. “Their parents are thrilled that we have the opportunity to celebrate the culmination of a journey.”

Both schools will follow the latest state guidance, which restricts attendance at outdoor events based on the size of the venue. Neither commencement will require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test from attendees due to ample space for social distancing.

“It most certainly has been a very, very challenging year on many, many levels.

~ Haldane High School Principal Julia Sniffen

Each of the 220 graduating Beacon seniors will be allowed to invite five guests to the ceremony at Dutchess Stadium, which can seat 4,500 people. Masks will be required. In the event of rain, an open-air ceremony will be held at the high school on June 12 or 13.

Haldane’s 70 graduates will also be able to invite five guests, and masks will be required. The school will honor graduates from the classes of 1970 and 1971, as well. The rain date is June 20, also at the Haldane campus.

“Last year people were incredibly grateful for whatever could be provided,” said Haldane High School Principal Julia Sniffen. “Now, so many people are vaccinated and so many people feel like we should just be able to have a normal graduation. They’re just done.”

Graduation will end a school year that Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl said exceeded his expectations, despite seemingly endless complications. He recalled a push early on for schools to go (or stay) all-remote, “but we trusted our model” of contact tracing and quarantining after a positive test result, he said.

While the Beacon district has reported 159 positive cases among students and staff as of Wednesday (May 26), and Haldane 55, both schools managed to avoid sustained outbreaks or shutdowns.

“To the average person, [the school year] probably looked like a lot to navigate,” Sniffen said. “But unless you’ve lived it, you can’t even understand the day-to-day navigation. There were so many layers — I don’t even have a comparable to what’s gone into it. It most certainly has been a very, very challenging year on many, many levels.”

Both schools anticipate a full in-person return this fall. After the announcement on May 24 that New York City will abandon remote learning in September, guidance is expected soon from the governor’s office for the rest of the state.

“We’ve proven this past year that we can be flexible,” Landahl said. “We’re ready to be flexible again.”

Start Reading

June book club selections

Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 8, 1:30 P.M.

Lost Horizon, by James Hilton
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Meets at Memorial Park.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 21, 7 P.M.

The Indigo Girl, by Natasha Boyd
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Graphic Novel Book Club (for Adults)

TUES 22, 7 P.M.

Stone Fruit, by Lee Lai
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Fiction Book Club

THURS 24, 7 P.M.

Breasts and Eggs, by Mieko Kawakami
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Beacon Book Club

THURS 24, 7:30 P.M.

Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley
Register at meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

GRADUATES, The Current HAS A GIFT FOR YOU

All 2021 High School and College Graduates in Philipstown and Beacon will receive

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to help you stay connected to all that is happening in your hometown.

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Then every Friday for the next 12 months you’ll have a new digital *Current* in your inbox.

Questions? Email:

membership@highlandscurrent.org



HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. May 29 – 11 am to noon

CLASSICS FOR KIDS

Music in the Park, a Walking Concert
Please reserve a time slot at howlandmusic.org
Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park. Free



Sat. + Sun. May 29 + 30 – 1-5 pm

CONTEMPO EAST to PERFORM

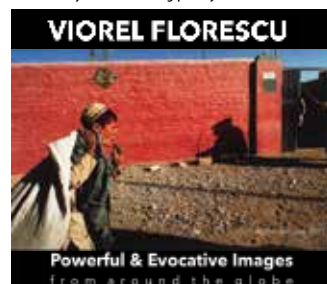
Art show with 18 Asian-American artists

Sat. June 5 – 1-5 pm

VIOREL FLORESCU: Retrospective 1970-2021

Mr. Florescu's artist talk: 7 pm

Art show by award-winning photojournalist - thru June



Sat. June 5 – 8 pm

Courtyard Concert

w/ LESLEY FLANIGAN / Thanks to Fridman Gallery
Electronic musician, vocalist (Weather permitting) Free

AND MORE

June 12, 8 pm: Lydia Adams Davis & Friends concert

June 13, 5 pm: Composers Concordance

There are no walk-up tickets at the door. In-house seating is limited and may be available online, if you're early to book.

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcentertix.com

NIVOLA: SANDESAPES

Curated by Teresa Kittler
May 8, 2021 - January 10, 2022
Magazzino Italian Art, Gallery 8



MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART

The Calendar



Mark Luedeman in his studio

Photo by Carol J. Barnstead

Artist Next Door

MARK LUEDEMAN

By Alison Rooney

Mark Luedeman's tendency to see value in scraps has served him well during this pandemic year.

As a high-end furniture designer whose clients suddenly found themselves with time to focus on their homes, the Beacon resident had plenty of work but "problems fulfilling it all. Some of my vendors couldn't deliver materials, and many of my clients' buildings were not allowing us in, so I couldn't deliver."

Luedeman began creating smaller items with the materials on hand in his shop, such as mosaic trays and a line of lamps. "Limits can be good," he says. "We have to find new markets. The last year has been a very creative time for me."

Shifting direction has been a hallmark of Luedeman's career. While studying biology at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, he developed an interest in plant physiology. He also taught himself black-and-white photography and created an independent study project on the chemistry and physics of photography.

He moved to New York City after a work-study program placed him with a theater and dance photographer there. After four years as a freelance assistant to professional photographers, he said he "stood back, watching the photographer talk to the client, and thought 'I want to be the one calling the shots.'"

That was during an economic downturn, however, with thousands of photographers looking for work. So, instead, Luedeman began to build sets and props for use by advertising and marketing firms and catalogues.

"I built their prototypes, which ranged from small objects utilized by a model to creating the back end of a boat for a shoot," he says. "For the first couple of years you're scared you won't make the rent. You just keep meeting people; stylists introduce you to people who own showrooms. It allowed me to be a good problem solver — to use my imagination."

Luedeman's career shifted again when he was introduced to a client who wanted themed furniture built for his 2-year-old son. That led to introductions to interior designers, and he began building for showrooms and private residences.

In 1999 Luedeman got married and, a few years later, tired of "trucking his designs all over the city — it was a lot of hustle," he and his wife moved to Beacon. "We wanted a garden, fresher air and a place with good driving routes to the city," he explains. With a newfound studio space, Luedeman was able to spend some time working on his own art.

The projects Luedeman was taking during this period were lucrative and rewarding in many ways but took their toll. "You're cranking away, go to bed at midnight, then you have to go to the city the next morning," he says. "After a couple of years, it's like — 'but I just want to build



furniture.' When you say what you want, when you declare it loudly to yourself, it happens. In that case, within two weeks I got a job building 10 pieces of furniture for a client on Park Avenue."

Over the past decade, Luedeman has continued to build furniture and objects for clients on both coasts. Most of his work comes through interior designers. He balances the commissions with creating smaller pieces.

His two favorite design periods are Art Nouveau, "for the organic shapes, especially the glassworks, the ceramics, the lamps," and Art Deco, because "it's bold, it's simple, and it works with glossy finishes and repetition." In terms of process, Luedeman loves veneer and figuring out its properties on surfaces.

Calling himself "analytical" and "logic-oriented," Luedeman says "when you start talking about curves, proportions, I didn't follow any recipes. Proportion is supposed



to come from the core." Some clients know precisely what they want; others want an existing design "10 inches longer and in a different color. Others just say 'Come up with something.'"

"I never get to a point of head-banging with clients," he says. "Some are so impressive in terms of knowing what they want. Some want more of my input. Sometimes it's good not to immediately have a plan."

Working in a studio two blocks from his home that he's had for 17 years, Luedeman knows he is fortunate. "It's a tough commute," he jokes, "but in my case it's because there is no excuse to not go in. It allows me to work in the evening until midnight if I want to, walk home in the quiet. I see beauty all over the place and just want to share what I see."

For more of Luedeman's work, see markluedeman.com or @markluedeman.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 29

Flea Market

STORMVILLE

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | 428 Route 216
stormvilleairportfleaemarket.com

Masks and social distancing required. No pets. Rain or shine. Also SUN 30.

TUES 1

Pride Flag Raising

BEACON

5:30 p.m. City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza
facebook.com/beacon.pride21

Mayor Lee Kyriacou and members of the Beacon City Council will raise a flag to honor Pride Month, celebrated each June.

TUES 1

Community Choice Info Session

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Hudson Valley Energy
hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com

Learn about community-choice aggregation and how it can save money on energy bills as well as access renewable sources of energy with a low-carbon footprint.

THURS 3

Ranked-Choice Voting

OSSINING

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

Susan Lerner of Common Cause New York and Peter Miller of the Brennan Center for Justice will join state Assembly Member Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, in a discussion about ranked-choice voting. If you do not receive an email with a link, call Galef's office at 914-941-1111.

SAT 5

Putnam Pride Celebration

CARMEL

1 p.m. Historic Courthouse
40 Gleneida Ave.

Drag queens Angel Elektra and Shay D'Pines will lead a march to the Gilead Church lawn during this second annual event.

SAT 5

Service Academy Info Session

NEWBURGH

1:30 p.m. Office of Rep. Sean Maloney
123 Grand St. | 845-561-1259
facebook.com/repseanmaloney

High school students are invited to learn more about applying to the

country's military academies. Each academy will be represented.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 29

Altered States

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

Works by Adriana Farmiga and Yuri Masnyj will be on view through June 27.

FRI 4

Amy Kubik

COLD SPRING

4 – 7 p.m. The Highlands Current
142 Main St. | highlandscurrent.org

View an exhibit of photographs by Amy Kubik at our open house. See Page 2.

SAT 5

Let's Make a Book Out of Anything

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Bring odds and ends and Christina Di Marco will show how to turn them into a book. Register online. *Cost: \$60*

SAT 5

Understanding Color in Watercolor

PUTNAM VALLEY

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Landscape painter Anne Johan will give an overview of watercolor painting as an introduction to a 4-week series of outdoor classes. *Free (\$140 for series)*

SAT 5

Viorel Florescu

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

See images by the photojournalist taken since 1970. Florescu will speak about his work at 4 p.m. Through June 27.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 29

A Walking Concert

BEACON

11 a.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | howlandmusic.org

In this Classics for Kids program, reserve a slot online to stroll around the park and enjoy live performances. *Free*



★ ★ MEMORIAL DAY ★ ★

SUN 30

Battlefield Cross Statue Installation

CARMEL

6 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road

The Putnam County chapter of the New York Riders will dedicate a monument to honor veterans and the lives lost in war.

SUN 30

Flag-Changing Ceremony

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
Parker Avenue | walkway.org

MON 31

Memorial Day Ceremony

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Main and Chestnut

MON 31

Memorial Day Ceremony

BEACON

11 a.m. 413 Main St.

MON 31

Convoy Around the County

BEACON

Routes 9D and 52

Following an 11 a.m. ceremony in Poughkeepsie, a convoy of first responders will drive to Beacon, making a loop on Verplanck Avenue and Route 52, before continuing in a loop around the county.

SAT 29

Colonial Blacksmithing

FORT MONTGOMERY

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery
690 Route 9W | 845-446-2134
parks.ny.gov

Watch craftspeople demonstrate how metal is melted and formed into tools.

MUSIC

SUN 30

Marianne Osiel

BEACON

1 p.m. Beacon Farmers Market
223 Main St. (DMV parking lot)

The singer and songwriter from Ulster County is a classically trained oboe player who also holds it down on the blues guitar. Osiel's performance is sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.



Marianne Osiel, May 29

SAT 5

Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan and Bruce Foley

PUTNAM VALLEY

4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Members of the Irish group Cherish the Ladies will perform. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 5

Viva the Divas

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Goldee Greene will perform classic jazz, opera and stage songs made famous by women singers, accompanied by Tom McCoy on piano. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Goldee Greene, June 5



Amy Kubik Photography Exhibit, June 4

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 29

Grease

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

The drive-in returns for a second season with this 1978 musical romance starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Also SUN 30. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

WED 2

Animal House

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

Follow college freshmen as they try to get into a fraternity in this 1978 comedy starring John Belushi. Also THURS 3. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

THURS 3

The Freedom Project, Part 2

GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

In the second online event pairing a contemporary play with a classic, see Maxwell Anderson's *Miracle of the Danube*, written in 1940, and *Expression of Regret*, written this year by Christine Toy Johnson. Watch until SUN 6. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members, \$10 students)*



Michael, June 4

FRI 4

Michael

COLD SPRING

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

Carl Theodore Dreyer directed this 1924 film about an artist's relationship with his model. Cary Brown provides live music as part of the monthly Silent Film Series. Register to watch online.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 29

France's Role in the American Revolution

NEWBURGH

2 p.m. Washington's Headquarters
facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters

In this virtual program, learn

why France came to our aid during the Revolution.

WED 2

Life After Capitalism

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

As part of the Pathways to Planetary Health Forum, economist and scholar Tim Jackson will discuss what a viable future looks like.

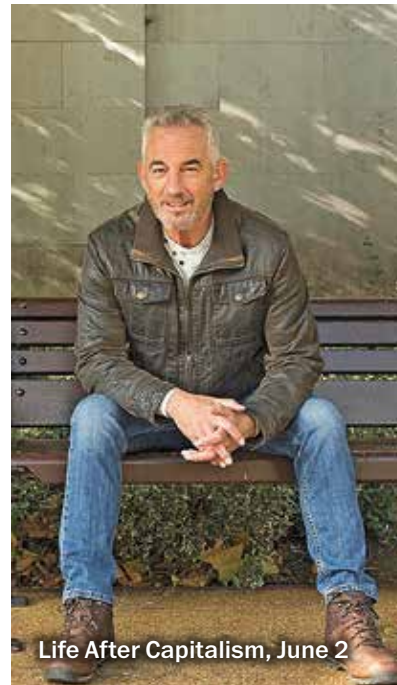
WED 2

Sell Your Things Online

GARRISON

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

In this Zoom webinar, learn how to use different services to sell items.



Life After Capitalism, June 2

SUN 6

Rowing Clinic

POUGHKEEPSIE

11 a.m. Hudson River Rowing Assoc.
270 North Water St. | bit.ly/rowing-clinic

Learn about rowing on the Hudson River in this workshop. Also SAT 12. *Free*

SUN 6

Bees in the Barn

BEACON

1 p.m. Beacon Farmers Market
223 Main St. (DMV parking lot)
Bees in the Barn, a bluegrass/

"newgrass" band from Beacon, will play in a performance sponsored by *The Highlands Current*. Fiddler and dancer Ian Moore will also wander the market.

CIVIC

TUES 1

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

TUES 1

County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via Audio
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

TUES 1

School Board

COLD SPRING

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

WED 2

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 3

Town Board

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

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Sculpture with a Human Touch

Beacon artist to open show in Cold Spring

By Alison Rooney

For Nancy Steinson, whose sculptures take shape as planar forms and linear edges, it's not about geometry as much as "subtle connections and relationships."

"It's an attempt to suggest personal meeting, as opposed to the impersonal simplicity of minimalism," she says. "Sometimes I use two or more forms together to emphasize this connection. Often some parts are open to the viewer, inviting, and others are closed off, private, bounded." She works with steel and aluminum "to symbolize the industrial energy of our time."

In an exhibit that opens Saturday (June 5) at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring, Steinson will show four sculptures: a two-part wall piece; two pieces that face each other at the center of the room; and a window piece.

"I would like to have had some of them in a plaza in a city but I never got into that market of things, say, 15 feet high, which people can walk through," she says. "I never had the high ceilings to make them. Instead, I focused on putting more of a human touch on the sculpture, using curved surfaces, curved planes that are simple and have clarity and emotional appeal."

The exhibit also includes eight drawings completed during a Brooklyn summer about 10 years ago. "I imagined I was underwater, playing with the idea of being submerged during a hot time," Steinson recalls. "Others have to do with going to New Hampshire in summer — my mother was from there — with abstract waterfalls, with what looks like water streaming from the surface."

Steinson, 85, traces her interest in forms to when she was 5 or 6 years old and would run around their home in Louisville and collect bars of soap to carve. She later was the only girl in her high school welding class. After briefly attending Vassar College, she graduated from the University of Louisville in 1957 with a degree in political science.



Nancy Steinson and a friend

Settling in New York City, Steinson found a job at Columbia University — where she would later earn a master's degree in art education — at International House, a housing complex for foreign students. There she met Raphael Lemkin, a refugee from Poland who had persuaded the United Nations in 1948 to adopt the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

"It was his mission in life to stop group killings, and he spoke often about prejudice being a pre-judging of people," Steinson says. "Meeting him was extraordinary — we would go to museums together and I helped him with his autobiography."

At one point, Lemkin referred to Steinson as an "artist," which prompted reflection on her part. "I feel that my interest in human rights, sculpture and art run side-by-side. Raphael mourned the disappearance of groups and their culture not only with a political or legal mind but as an archaeologist. This is where my love of art expression resides. I hope mine also makes an impact."

Reconsidering her earlier leanings toward representational and realistic,



Inside Steinson's studio

Photos by Eleni Smolen



"Falling Water #4"

Steinson became an abstractionist. "Small, ovular and curvilinear forms in my early work gave way to more liberating, purely geometric structures that were free to move

out of a central core and express movement, direction, space," she says.

During this period, Steinson married a singer from Canada. They divorced after five years and she married an architect from Austria who had come to the U.S. at age 17 to escape the Nazis. They lived in Brooklyn until his death in 2009, after which she relocated to Beacon, which she had heard "was quite the art town."

The Buster Levi show is Steinson's first solo exhibit in the Hudson Valley, more than 40 years after her first, in 1979 at Gallery 91 in Brooklyn. Despite her early departure from Louisville, the city is home to several commissioned works, including a memorial garden at Norton University Hospital and a sculpture at the children's hospital. She also has designed installations for Long Island University, the Vermont Arts Council and the New York City Parks Department, among others.

The Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. See busterlevi-gallery.com. The show continues through June 27.

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 14th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – June 14th, 2021

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday June 14th 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Seth & Kate Anderson, 34 Arden, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#82.20-1-7

(Applicants are seeking a variance to build 174 square foot addition and a 280 square foot porch.)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated May 10th, 2021, Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Mouths to Feed

A Dangerous Thing

By Celia Barbour

We all have a few useless gifts — talents in which we might take secret pride but that hold no sway with teachers, bosses, clients and the like.



Among mine is the fairly unremarkable ability to remember exactly when and where I first ate something. That's why it troubles me that I have zero recollection of my first encounter with sabayon.

All I can say for certain is that one cozy evening at the end of a dinner party several years ago, I decided to make it. To my knowledge, both the inspiration for this sabayon and the ability to execute it came out of nowhere. In all likelihood, I'd tasted it at some French bistro back when I lived in Manhattan, and had surely chanced upon zabaglione, its Italian *nonna*, at neighborhood trattorias. It did not make a strong impression.

The story my memory presents goes like this: I spent many eons in sabayon-free darkness. And then, bang, I found myself standing at the stove one night whipping the frothy egg-yolk-and-booze custard into a pale-gold glory.

Sabayon's subsequent ascendance to superstar status in my life was bolstered by the enthusiasm of one of our dinner guests that evening, a woman who adored it with such extravagance, and who enthused about it for so long afterward, that I feared my serendipitous little custard had done harm to her stability.

But sabayon deserves a place in anyone's dessert pantheon on its own merits. Addictive and versatile, it pairs wonderfully with cold-weather treats such as poached dried fruits and nutty cakes and biscuits. But it really shines in summer, as a way to showcase the season's delectable stone fruits and berries.

In truth, a little murky darkness also spilled over into the years following sabay-

on's appearance in my life. For starters, I had to grapple with its messy nomenclature. Preliminary research had led me to believe that "sabayon" and "zabaglione" were simply French and Italian names, respectively, for the same thing. They're pronounced the same (albeit with different accents if you have a talent, useless or not, for accents).

Furthermore, I'd heard that the spat over which country invented it first was simply another iteration of the silly rivalry between Europe's two historic culinary giants.

Not so. According to *The Joy of Cooking*, Italian zabaglione, "the mother of the sabayon sauce family," is a specific dish that can only ever be made with Marsala, and is only ever served warm. Sabayon, meanwhile, can refer to a whole host of variations and offshoots. It can be made with any sweet dessert wine, such as muscat or Baume de Venise, or with liqueurs such as St. Germain or Grand Marnier. It can include a blend of Champagne and brandy, or rum or whiskey; it can feature tequila and lime juice, or even just plain coffee if you like your desserts alcohol-free. Sabayon can be savory as well as sweet. And you can mix cool whipped cream into sabayon —

“The story my memory presents goes like this: I spent many eons in sabayon-free darkness.

never into zabaglione — and serve it chilled.

To my great dismay, my latest research also revealed that both sabayon and zabaglione are difficult to make. I had no idea. I thought they were just fun. Sure, they require vigorous whipping and some patience — talents that I happen to possess. But I did not realize they were daunting.

Now that I know, however, I will get busy worrying about whether I will ever be able to make a satisfactory sabayon again. Because one of my greatest unsung talents is coming up with new reasons to fret over perfectly fine, old things.



Simple Dessert Sabayon

Experts recommend using an instant-read thermometer to ensure your custard has reached a safe 150 to 160 degrees before you take it off the heat, but I find it nearly impossible to simultaneously whip the custard and take its temperature. I keep this in mind: 150-degree water is hot enough to cause a third-degree burn after 2 seconds of immersion; it's quite hot, in other words.

4 egg yolks	½ cup liquor or other liquid (I like ¼ cup prosecco mixed with ¼ cup brandy; see list below for other options)
¼ cup superfine sugar*	
Scant pinch sea salt	½ cup heavy cream, whipped (optional)

If using whipped cream, fill a sink or basin with 4 to 5 inches of cold water.

In a large, heatproof bowl, combine the egg yolks, superfine sugar and salt and whisk vigorously until thickened and pale yellow, or about 4 minutes.

Bring a large pot of water to a simmer then reduce the heat (it should maintain a steady simmer without boiling). Rest the bowl over the water so that it is suspended above it, rather than immersed in it. Whisking continuously, slowly and gradually add the liquid to the egg mixture. Continue whisking over gentle heat, rotating the bowl as it gets hot, until the mixture becomes light, fluffy and stable, about 15 minutes. Serve warm immediately, or transfer to the sink filled with cold water to stop the cooking. When cool, fold in the whipped cream. Serve topped with fruit.

*You can DIY superfine sugar by whirring granulated sugar in a blender for 1 to 2 seconds; don't blend too long or it will turn to powder.

Liquor/liquid options

Choose a liquid that complements your fruit, such as Calvados to go with an apple dish, kirsch for cherries or rum with roasted pineapple. If you want the flavor of liqueur or liquor with less alcohol, simmer it before combining it with the egg-yolk mixture (be sure to re-measure the volume after simmering).

- Madeira, Marsala, port or other fortified wine (omit the whipped cream)
- Dessert wine, such as Essensia or Muscat Baume de Venise
- Sweet liqueur, such as Grand Marnier, Kahlua or St. Germain
- Equal parts prosecco or other mild white wine and brandy, bourbon or whiskey
- Three parts rum to one part maple syrup
- Strong, sweetened espresso or decaf espresso, cooled
- Equal parts fresh lemon juice and sparkling apple juice

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FUTURE HOMES



McNurney atop the stairs leading to the sleeping area



Rick McNurney and Leah Milcarek outside their "tiny house"

Photos by M. Turton

By Michael Turton

Leah Milcarek and Rick McNurney's "tiny house" is slightly more than 400 square feet. And they both work from home.

Why did they choose to live so small?

"It was less about square footage and more about simplifying our lives; reducing our costs to work less, live more," explained Milcarek, who works in business development for an energy-efficiency company. "We liked that it reduced our environmental footprint."

"I didn't expect the emotional attachment I have to the house," McNurney added. "Every time I step in the door, it's like, 'Yeah, this is perfect.'"

But, Milcarek cautioned, if considering a move to a tiny house "think about the shape of the life you want to lead; not because it sounds cute or trendy. Living in this space requires a shift in perspective."

Milcarek and McNurney, a technology consultant, designed the house over the course of a year. The home and many of its custom furnishings were built over three months in 2017 by Liberation Tiny Homes in Leola, Pennsylvania, for about \$72,000. What distinguishes "tiny houses" from houses that are tiny is their size — 400 square feet or less, not counting lofts — and the fact they are on wheels.

In 2019, the couple pulled their six-room home, which is 28-feet-long and sits on a steel trailer bed, to East Mountain Road South in Philipstown, where they rented a small tract from the owners who live in a traditional home on the property.

"Putnam County allows you to have one mobile home, as long as the property also has a house on a foundation," McNurney said.

(Local zoning laws have been an obstacle for tiny-house owners across the country, who have formed industry groups such as the American Tiny House Association, the Tiny Home Industry Association and the United Tiny House Association to advocate greater freedoms for mobile homes.)

The home owned by Milcarek and McNurney has a living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, McNurney's office and record-

YOU THINK YOUR HOME IS SMALL?

"Tiny houses" suit an alternative lifestyle



Milcarek in her creative work space, which retracts toward the ceiling

ing studio and Milcarek's art loft. It was constructed with a wood frame, galvanized steel siding on the front and vinyl "cedar" shingles on the back. The standing seam steel roof is pitched to handle snow load.

The interior has birch plywood walls, walnut butcher block countertops and hardwood floors. It uses a heat pump and wood stove, standard A/C with a backup generator, an electric induction stove and a composting toilet.

At 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-4, neither McNurney nor Milcarek would be considered tall. But height is a consideration in tiny house design. The under-loft hallway clearance is 6-foot-2 but the ceiling is 11 feet. "That makes a huge difference for how the space feels," McNurney said. "Our builder did a house for a couple where the guy was 6-foot-4. They just made the ceiling higher."

Before ordering their home, the couple attended tiny-house industry events in

Colorado and New York and examined 30 models, McNurney said.

Milcarek added: "We also spent 10 days staying in a tiny house we rented on Airbnb to be sure we wanted to do this — and that we weren't going to kill each other."

The couple said part of their motivation to go small was the ability to relocate without all the fuss associated with changing traditional homes.

"I've lived in many places in the U.S. and am interested in continuing to do so," Milcarek said. "And Rick hates moving, having to pack everything up and create a new configuration in a new house." A tiny house solves that problem, she said, because the configuration doesn't change and packing is minimal.

Ironically, one of the things Milcarek said she likes best about their mobile house is having more space.

"I have a loft, a dedicated creative space

where I do watercolor painting and design and make clothes, something I didn't have in the past 15 years," she said.

For McNurney, it has been about simplifying things. "I didn't expect to figure out how to fit my life into such a small box," he said. "It's easy to get cluttered; you have to distill it down to just the things you really care about."

Outfitting and maintaining a tiny house does present challenges. "We spent an inordinate amount of time finding the right sized garbage can," Milcarek recalled.

The tiny house is the first they have owned, which presents the same challenges as homes of any size. "Things break," McNurney said, although the difference is that the house is "an out-of-the-box situation; you can't just go somewhere for a cookie-cutter solution — you have to get a creative."

The time spent carefully designing their house has produced some results they're especially proud of.

Milcarek's loft is above the living room on a motorized floor. When the loft isn't in use, the ceiling is raised, "so we got two rooms out of one space," she said.

Cleaning the entire house takes about 15 minutes, McNurney said. "Everything is so compartmentalized; a Swiffer and a vacuum cleaner, and you're done."

Considering the size of the house, storage space abounds. The queen bed lifts and opens like a clam shell, providing space for seasonal clothes. Every piece of furniture has storage cubbies. There are no hollow walls; they double as storage units. The steps up to the loft contain drawers. A closet, 2 feet deep, runs the length of the house and is used for hanging storage.

The small indoor space has increased the couple's appreciation for their outdoor space. They use their fire pit often. And because the house sits on a trailer bed, it can be realigned to ensure the deck is in the sun or the shade.

"You can change how you interface with your environment; big windows really help," McNurney said.

True to their perspective and their desire to be able to relocate easily, Milcarek, McNurney and their tiny house moved to Utah this week.

FUTURE HOMES



A rendering of the TERA pod that had been planned for Garrison and the site on Thursday (May 27)

TERA



SQ4D tested its 3D house printer on Long Island.

SQ4D

PRINTER POD

Could robots build your next home?

By Brian PJ Cronin

For a brief, shining moment, it looked as if Garrison would be the gateway to a utopian future of eco-friendly, multi-planetary living.

Eighteen months ago, *The New York*

Times published a story in its real estate section with the headline “A Printout You Could Call Home.” It was accompanied by a rendering of a two-story pod called TERA that a design firm named A.I. Space Factory said would soon be constructed on the Hudson River.

The 500-square-foot home would be built with a huge 3D printer, a technology that some consider to be the future of architecture and affordable housing. Once a design is finalized, 3D-printed houses made of materials that are durable, recyclable and compostable could be quickly created en masse.

If TERA seems more Tatooine than Manitoa, it's not by accident. The design came out of a NASA-approved design by A.I. Space Factory for housing on Mars. The company raised more than \$70,000 online by promising backers a stay in the Garrison pod beginning in March 2020.

But while TERA may have been designed to withstand the brutal atmosphere of the Red Planet, it was no match for COVID-19. The pandemic shut down the project, and the firm stopped responding to inquiries from *The Current*. And then it was gone.

“Early in the pandemic, the 3D printer

was loaded up and hauled away on a tractor-trailer,” said a neighbor, leaving behind no sign of the project.

In the meantime, another firm is moving ahead with the 3D printer concept in New York. SQ4D, located on Long Island, completed a demonstration home last year in Calverton before the shutdown and more recently secured permission from officials in Riverhead to print a three-bedroom, two-bath concrete home for the first person willing to pay the \$300,000 asking price. The house, the company says, could be completed in six to eight hours.

A HOME ATTUNE WITH NATURE

Passive Houses come into their own

By Brian PJ Cronin

Some architectural concepts are difficult to understand. Passive Housing is not. If you've closed the blinds on a summer day to block the midday sun from heating up your house, you have the basic concept down.

Passive Housing refers to positioning and designing a building to maintain optimal temperatures with a minimum amount of energy. That means everything from siting a building to face south with trees or other natural barriers to the north (to block winter winds) to thick windows and doors and extensive insulation to form an airtight envelope (to trap cool air in summer and warm air in winter).

There are limits: You can't make a house too airtight or “you'd be smelling your farts for days,” says Benjamin Fiering of Third Floor Corp. with a laugh. Fiering special-

izes in retrofitting homes using Passive Housing principles, including one in progress in Beacon.

To keep fresh air circulating, Fiering installed an energy recovery ventilator that also “exchanges the heat energy from the outgoing stale air to the incoming fresh air. You flip a switch in the summer and it does the opposite,” he said.

An industry group, the International Passive House Association, defines a Passive House as one that uses at least 90 percent less energy for climate control than typical of the neighborhood. Fiering says while that benchmark is a goal, there are other considerations. “I could build a Passive House with horrible materials like polyurethane foam,” he said. “It would meet the standard but drive the greenies crazy.”

The same goes for Net Zero housing, a similar concept in which a home generates more energy than it uses. “You could have a



Benjamin Fiering of Third Floor Corp. explains an aspect of a Passive House retrofit in Beacon.

Photo by B. Cronin

coal-fired furnace in a Net Zero house if you have enough solar panels on the roof,” Fiering explained. Instead, you have to consider the bigger picture. He cited River Architects in Cold Spring as being particularly influential in popularizing Passive Housing in the Hudson Valley.

As cutting-edge as the technology can

be, Fiering, a fan of classical architecture, draws inspiration from the techniques builders used in the 19th century. He points to the work of Catherine Beecher, the sister of novelist and abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe, who in the 1860s designed cottages with a ring of small rooms heated by a kitchen stove positioned at the center of the house. “I’ve torn apart a lot of old buildings, some of which were 200 years old,” Fiering said. “I’ve seen what works and what doesn’t and I’m always going to let that inform me.”

Buildings account for 40 percent of energy usage in the U.S., which means that if New York State and the country are going to meet aggressive clean energy goals, the effort will have to start at home. Fiering said that one passive house, or even 100, isn't going to turn the tide. But they will have influence.

“It’s about building a culture that impacts the larger industry,” he said. “It’s building a set of trial-and-error experiences and skill development, and training so the kids who are coming into construction and design today, who are interested in it, this is their first motivator. They’re going to go green and save the world.”

Roots and Shoots

The Plant Has a Point

By Pamela Doan

Some people binge shop on Amazon. I binge shop at online native plant nurseries. For many species, it's the only way to get certain plants that aren't available locally. Demand for native plants is growing but is still eclipsed by the popularity of ornamental and exotic plants.

It's also challenging to find straight species, instead of cultivars or "nativars" that have been bred to change the flower color, size or other traits. These plants don't reproduce when they go to seed, ensuring that gardeners will return for more. I can collect seeds from straight species, let them go to seed and disperse or propagate them in other ways, allowing me to effectively breed it for my microclimate.

This year's consumerism led me to a plant I saw during a walk in the Jamaica Bay Audubon Center, the only native cactus in the northeast, *Opuntia humifusa*, the Eastern prickly pear. While it grows well in sandy areas, it also grows well in rocky areas and I have a lot of those.



A favorite of native bees with large yellow flowers, it also produces edible fruit and the pads can be cooked and eaten. It's drought-tolerant and doesn't mind hot days or cold days. And get this, the deer won't eat it! On that chilly March evening when I clicked the buy button, it seemed like a brilliant plan.

While I have a lot of experience and knowledge about native plants, I have never grown cactus. The learning curve started as soon as I opened the box and immediately felt little barbs digging into my hands. I couldn't see the needles, but they were there. I tried washing them off. I tried plucking them out. They stayed. Then I touched my face and landed a few in my forehead.

They were there for at least a day. My daughter had a meltdown a couple of days later when she got one in her hand and another in her foot. I touched a doorknob that seemed coated with them. This was becoming a bad plan.

Since it's difficult to get a cactus expert to answer an email during a holiday week, I turned to my Master Gardener volunteer network. My chief concern was having these invisible needles blowing around my yard for eternity. With a child and dog, I couldn't even foresee a feasible location to plant it where someone wouldn't get mad at me.

Gardeners who have it in their yards said they started with plants, not the mail-order pads I received, and didn't have issues with the invisible darts. The hypothesis is that shipping had stressed the plant and it was shedding needles. Keeping it in the house and



The Eastern prickly pear in bloom; the flowers give way to bright red fruits.

Photo by Joanne Palermo-Schmitt

opening the box without gloves, touching the paper wrapping — all cactus-novice mistakes.

A gardener who works at Teatown Lake Reservation was reassuring. She planted

Eastern prickly pear cactus in a rock garden there. The turtles love it. When pads are pulled off, a colleague uses a lighter to burn off the invisible needles and the turtles get a snack.

I thought if it could be trusted in a public garden, surely my family and hound would be safe outdoors. Sort of. It's behind a fence.

Here are other tips I received:

- Use duct tape to get the invisible needles out.
- Wear gauntlet-style gloves used for handling rose bushes and other thorny plants and only touch the cactus with rubber-tipped tongs.
- If it's planted near other plants, use the gauntlet gloves while working around it. The invisible needles do let loose sometimes.
- One person I queried stepped on a prickly pear cactus as a child and had such a bad reaction that the skin on the soles of her feet had to be peeled off. An out-of-the-way location is key.
- Grow it in a large tub. That allows access to the plant on all sides and it can be moved if necessary.

After learning all this, I'm inclined to plant it. I'm not even sure how to get rid of it now — it certainly isn't going in the compost pile. If you see it come up as a giveaway on social media, learn from my mistakes.



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Anderson and Expression of Regret by

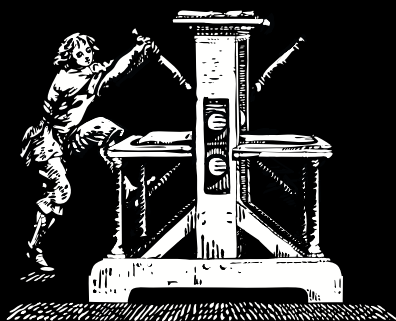
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NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular monthly meeting on June 8th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ulmxUqNeRvG29gCrXku2ow

Register in advance for this webinar:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on June 8th, 2021.

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**Sat. June 12th
9:00am - 3:00pm
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Maloney: 'More Danger Than People Understand'

At talk, says refusal to accept election results a threat to democracy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose U.S. House district includes the Highlands, warned this week that refusing to accept the presidential election results threatens democracy.

"We're in more danger than people understand in terms of democracy in the United States — I never thought I'd say that," he said at a "Speak with Sean" forum on Sunday (May 23) in Carmel. "Democracy does not work if you only believe in it when you win. It is over if we stop believing that when we lose an election we don't have to respect the results."

Maloney, a Philipstown resident who is in his fifth term, noted that he had been inside the House chamber with about 40 other members on Jan. 6 during the certification process of the presidential vote when rioters breached the building. He was positioned near the entrance when an officer fatally shot a rioter climbing through a window.

Hours later, he said, after the "lunatic" insurgents had been removed, "we're wiping blood off the floor, stepping over broken glass and shattered wood" to resume certifying the votes.

Maloney blamed former president Donald Trump for "telling an incendiary lie" about not losing and for summoning thousands of his supporters to Washington. He also faulted Republican colleagues who, months later, still "fall into line" about Trump's falsehoods. He said that he doesn't want "people coming through the windows" in the Capitol and those who defend them "making decisions for you and your families. It matters that you have responsible, decent, ethical people running government."

Many of his impassioned comments came

during an exchange with a constituent who challenged him to assist those who she said remained in jail after being charged only with entering the Capitol. (In fact, most defendants have been released pending trial except those charged with violence against police officers.) "That is not our freedom," said the woman, named Doreen. "How's the average citizen going to tell their House and Senate that they're unhappy?"

When Maloney asked if she believed Joe Biden had won the election, Doreen answered with a strong "no."

"I'm telling you, this nonsense you're spreading and reading is toxic," Maloney said. "You have got to get out of that bubble."

Maloney said that, since he joined Congress in January 2013, the atmosphere "has gotten worse," making "it tough some days." Nonetheless, he added, "it's possible for good people to make a difference. Everything in this world does not have to be red team versus blue team politics."

Maloney noted that he and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell have joined forces in seeking federal funding for the county. "She and I don't agree on anything" but can still collaborate on infrastructure initiatives, he said.

He weighed into foreign affairs when a constituent argued that capitalism in China has lifted up the Chinese people while U.S. capitalism benefits only certain wealthy individuals.

"There's all kinds of ways we can make American capitalism better," Maloney concurred. But he pointed out that China's accomplishments coexist with devastating pollution, financial scandals, human rights abuses and political disenfranchisement. "We need to cooperate with them, compete with them, confront them," he said.

Doreen joined in again, announcing that she shared Maloney's opinions on China. Other attendees applauded enthusiastically.

When asked after the event for her last name, Doreen demurred. "I'm the only conservative Republican here," she said. "I'm afraid of repercussions. There's a lot of crazies out there."



Maloney

Cold Spring Releases Police Survey Results

Also, begins discussion of Airbnb regulations

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Tuesday (May 25) released the results of a survey it conducted of residents and business owners about their relationship with the Police Department as part of a state-ordered review of procedures and policies.

Trustee Fran Murphy presented data from the 14-question survey, which was distributed over seven weeks. Murphy said 382 surveys were completed, or about 56 percent of the 700 distributed.

The results will be forwarded to the Community Stakeholders Group that the board plans to form as part of its review.

In other business ...

■ The board began discussion of the comments received in response to a proposed law to regulate short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb. More than 25 people shared their views at a May 6 public hearing and many others sent written comments. There was agreement among the board members to consider allowing occasional rentals of up to 14 days for scenarios such as West Point graduation or when homeowners go on vacation, with a permit and an inspection.

■ Lauren Drummond outlined plans for the

Police Survey

62 percent said the CSPD makes them feel safe

55 percent said they rarely interact with officers

52 percent said racial diversity is important when hiring

49 percent said body cameras are most important additional equipment

37 percent said officers try to get to know villagers

10 percent supported foot patrols

4 percent said the department should be abolished

The village received 382 surveys; 59 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 31 and 60; 84 percent were white; and 54 percent were female. The complete results are posted at coldspringny.gov.

Putnam County Wine & Food Fest she hopes to hold at Mayor's Park in August. Board members said they supported allowing the event but asked Drummond to meet with the Recreation Commission to discuss details such as parking and COVID-19 protocols.

■ Newly appointed Trustee Tweeps Woods was assigned to the Audit and Insurance/Risk Management committees.

■ The board approved a request from the Cold Spring Fire Co. to hold a fundraising event in front of the firehouse this weekend.



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Yuli Ziv and Yannis Legakis of Garrison shared this photo of their daughter, Alexandra, with Luna. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

NOTICE

The Village of Cold Spring Parking Committee Public Meeting

The Village of Cold Spring will hold a Public Meeting via Zoom to review and accept comment on recommendations developed by the Parking Committee.

DATE: June 3, 2021 **TIME: 7:00 PM**

All members of the Cold Spring community are encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/94086293122?pwd=eVJpUnFZRUt5K3A3anhFLzIERG9SQTO9>

or to Join by Phone: (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: 940 8629 3122 | Password: 259033

Materials will be available on the Village Website (coldspringny.gov) at:

Boards & Committees > Board of Trustees > 2021 Parking Committee (<https://www.coldspringny.gov/mayor-board-trustees/pages/2021-parking-committee>)

You can also contact the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 x1 or via email at vcclerk@coldspringny.gov to arrange to receive a copy.

HVSF Makes Revisions to Plan

Moves performer housing, Snake Hill Road entrance

By Chip Rowe

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, which hopes to move next year from its longtime home at Boscobel to donated land at The Garrison golf course, told the Philipstown Planning Board on May 13 that it had made a few modifications to the proposed expansion.

The HVSF is in the early stages of seeking town approval for its plans. The seven-member Planning Board is reviewing a state-mandated environmental assessment form, but the Town Board must change the zoning on the site, at Route 9 and Snake Hill Road in Garrison, to allow it to be used as a performance space.

At the Planning Board session, which was held by Zoom and lasted nearly three hours, board members worked their way through Part 2 of the three-part environmental assessment. The meeting was devoted to the HVSF project; the board will continue its review at its monthly meeting on June 17.

Chris Davis, who owns The Garrison, last fall donated 52 acres of the 200-acre site to HVSF. He initially planned to downsize the golf course from 18 to nine holes but last month announced he instead would close the course later this year and donate 74 acres to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust

for conservation. He also expanded his gift to the HVSF to 97 acres. The remaining 30 acres will be used for a private residence.

HVSF told the board that, based on feedback at earlier meetings, it had moved a proposed entrance on Snake Hill Road farther west to improve traffic sight lines. It also said that feedback and the additional land from Davis allowed it to reduce and split the number of buildings for performer and guest lodging.

The initial plan had called for the construction of 19 buildings in the northeast part of the property; that was reduced to 11 — six buildings in the northeast with 10 additional parking spaces and a single building with five units located on what is now the first fairway.

HVSF said it also plans to reconfigure the Route 9 entrance; devote more acreage to meadows and trees; and remove the golf course pro shop and cart barn and expand an overflow lot by 20 spaces.

Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the Planning Board, noted during the meeting that it had “received a voluminous set of memos” from residents in response to the HVSF proposal but that “no one is taking a tally of pro and con; that is not the purpose of this board. The purpose is that we get insight about the project. We are reading your memos for thoughts to help us think about the impact of this project.”

Once the board completes its environmen-



The revised plan reduces the number of performer lodging and splits them into two areas at upper right and upper left and creates a new Snake Hill Road entrance at bottom center.

tal assessment, it will hold a public hearing, he said. The board has hired a consulting firm, AKRF, to assist with its review of documents and studies submitted by HVSF regarding topics such as traffic and noise.

Kim Conner, a board member, thanked the HVSF team for being responsive to feedback. “I appreciate that you listened to the comments that we had and adjusted things like the housing and the Snake Hill Road entrance,” she said. “It’s not so common that an applicant actually listens.”

Davis, who attended the meeting,

responded that “we listen to the comments because we’re neighbors and know many of you in the community and as friends. We don’t want to embarrass you and we want to do something that we’re all proud of.”

If it can get approvals from the town, HVSF said that in May 2022 it would install a temporary tent at the site for the summer season; repair the entry roads; upgrade the parking lots; add lighting; and install basic landscaping.

With further permits, in 2023 and 2024 it would construct a permanent tent with slightly fewer seats than the Boscobel tent, which has 535; a 1,200-square-foot box office and welcome center; and a 4,000-square-foot “back of house” building with dressing rooms for the actors. It also plans to add a 20-room hotel.

The Garrison has a restaurant and events venue that will remain in operation. That part of the project would remain for-profit and stay on the property tax rolls; the remainder of the parcel — about 170 acres with a market value of about \$8 million — presumably would be removed because of the nonprofit status of the HVSF and the land trust.

For the 2021 season, HVSF will perform under its tent at Boscobel on Route 9D in Garrison, where it had operated for 32 summers through 2019 before its 2020 performances were canceled because of pandemic restrictions. It also is moving its administrative offices on Tuesday (June 1) from Main Street in Cold Spring to the manager’s office at The Garrison.

NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown Aging at Home Looking for Volunteers

Nonprofit assists seniors in staying in homes

Philipstown Aging at Home, which launched in February 2020 to assist local seniors hoping to stay in their homes, is looking for volunteers. Assistance can take many forms, including shoveling snow, buying groceries, doing home tasks and providing tech help, it said.

The nonprofit, which is run by a 10-member board, says it “aims to be a hub for a vibrant, senior-focused community providing practical and social support for its members.” Its inspiration was the “village” concept, or a community of neighbors-helping-neighbors.

To volunteer, or more information about how to use the group’s resources, see paah.net. The website also includes a list of resources for seniors.

Communities Renew Energy Contract

Nelsonville will join coalition in July

Nine communities, including Beacon, Philipstown and Cold Spring, renewed their contracts with Hudson Valley Community Power (HVCP) to provide residents and businesses with renewable energy at a fixed rate.



HAPPY DAY — The U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduated 995 cadets on Saturday (May 22), including 240 women, 148 African Americans, 78 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 88 Latinos and 10 Native Americans. The class also included four combat veterans. The ceremony was attended by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Acting Secretary of the Army John Whitley and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James McConville.

Photo by CDT Hannah Lamb/U.S. Army

HVCP is a “community choice aggregation” program that allows municipali-

ties to negotiate lower rates. Nelsonville is expected to join the coalition in July, along

with Rhinebeck, Gardiner and Saugerties.

The new contract will run for three years. Residents and businesses may withdraw at any time and receive service from Central Hudson at the variable rate. The utility handles delivery, repair service and billing for either option.

Beginning in July, the renewable fixed rate for residential customers under the CCA will be 0.06573 cents per kilowatt for renewable energy and 0.05968 cents for the standard rate. An information session is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday (June 1) via Zoom at tinyurl.com/HVCPJune1.

Application Open for Excelsior

Scholarship available to eligible students

The application for the state Excelsior Scholarship for the 2021-22 school year is open through Aug. 31 at bit.ly/excelsior-sch.

The scholarship pays the tuition for full-time students who are residents of New York state at a SUNY or CUNY two-year or four-year college. To be eligible, the student’s household federal adjusted gross income must be below \$125,000 annually.

The scholarship is open to first-time students entering college in the fall and college students who have never received the scholarship. The scholarship pays the tuition for nearly 230,000 New York residents attending CUNY or SUNY schools.

Putnam Lawmakers Assert Subpoena Power

Draft measure awaits action by entire Legislature

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam Legislature's Rules Committee voted on May 20 to claim specific power to investigate all aspects of county government and compel uncooperative officials to testify or provide documents under subpoena.

The three committee members voted unanimously to send a draft resolution to the full nine-member Legislature for consideration at its Tuesday (June 1) meeting.

The draft would not create "new powers" for legislators, said Robert Firriolo, the Legislature's attorney. The county charter authorizes the Legislature to conduct investigations "as it deems to be in the best interest of the county," to subpoena witnesses and demand documents, and state law allows county legislative committees to take on those functions. But it would consolidate responsibility in the Rules Committee, which Firriolo called the "catch-all" panel for legislative business.

"This is allowing the Rules Commit-

tee broader jurisdiction across any matter before the Legislature," said Firriolo. "It makes clear the delegation of authority to the Rules Committee."

The draft states that the committee acted because "recent formal requests" by committees for information and documents "have not been complied with."

The draft does not name any particular county department or employee. But several legislators have clashed with Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. over overtime pay and their access to sheriff deputies' disciplinary records, among other issues. All the legislators, except Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, are Republicans. Montgomery and Langley are Democrats.

According to Firriolo, along with its other provisions, the measure would permit the Rules Committee or any of its individual members to launch an investigation and issue subpoenas on behalf of any legislator on a different committee. The legislature has committees that focus on health, finance, economic development, personnel, protective services and other topics.

According to the proposed resolution,

witnesses who ignore a subpoena or refuse to provide documentation could be referred to the county attorney "with a request to initiate an action or special proceeding, as appropriate, in a court of appropriate

“How are we going to protect the privacy of our citizens in this resolution?”

~ Legislator Nancy Montgomery

jurisdiction, to compel compliance." As one option, Firriolo suggested an Article 78 case, in which a citizen or group such as the Legislature can ask a judge for relief.

He said the Rules Committee "is looking for a way to compel that information to be turned over, when there's been resistance."

"Hopefully we never have to get to that point" where subpoenas must be used, said Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, who chairs the committee. Legis-

lators Carl Albano of Carmel and Joseph Castellano of Brewster joined him in backing the measure.

The proposal cites as particular concerns unidentified lawsuits filed against the county and "incidents" that could trigger litigation. It claims that recalcitrant officials' withholding of materials have meant that "the Legislature has been prevented from performing its proper role."

During the discussion of the resolution on May 20, Montgomery said that "it appears it will make our jobs easier" because "we will have more information readily available."

However, she juxtaposed the resolution against the Legislature's previous passage of a confidentiality law and the county's denial of her request for a numerical breakdown of drug overdoses by ZIP code.

The draft measure "seems to be giving the Rules Committee more power than the other committees or legislators," she observed. "I'm not sure why that needs to be done." Moreover, she asked: "How are we going to protect the privacy of our citizens in this resolution?"

Albano dismissed her remarks. "We're going way off-track," he said, "and it's sad because we're wasting a lot of time."

State Approve Sale of Indian Point

Holtec will handle nuclear decommissioning

By Brian PJ Cronin

Holtec International cleared the final hurdle standing between it and the ownership of the Indian Point nuclear power facility last week when the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the transfer of the plant's license from Entergy, which has owned the

three reactors for 20 years.

Indian Point's final reactor was shut down last month. Once the reactor is emptied of radioactive fuel, Holtec will take over and decommission the plant, a process that the company estimates will take 15 years.

Local lawmakers, community leaders and environmental groups had opposed the license transfer, citing what they said was Holtec's relative inexperience in decommissioning plants, past legal issues and ques-

tions about its financial viability. When the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission neglected to hold a public hearing before approving the license transfer, state Attorney General Letitia James sued to stop the transfer.

A settlement was reached between the state, Entergy, Holtec, local municipalities and the environmental group Riverkeeper contingent on Public Service Commission approval. It requires Holtec to maintain a balance of \$2.1 billion in a decommissioning fund, help fund local and state emergency management and response, and allow the state Department of Environmental Conser-

vation to have an on-site monitor.

The agreement also calls for the formation of a Decommissioning Oversight Board of state officials, local leaders, labor leaders, scientific and technical experts and "a representative from the environmental community." The board will meet publicly at least three times a year and "make recommendations to the facility owner" and, "if necessary, for regulatory actions."

Clearwater, the environmental organization based in Beacon that had opposed the license transfer, called for the oversight board to be formed as soon as possible to review Holtec's plans.

Current Classifieds

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FARM HANDS — Davoren Farm is looking for two farmhands starting on 6/15 and running to the end of August. Hours are minimum of 25 up to 40. If interested, email davorenfarm@gmail.com.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE — The festival is seeking energetic, driven, and punctual staff members to fill multiple front-of-house positions. Appropriate candidates will have 1-2 years of prior customer service/public-facing employment. A passion for theater/performing arts is welcomed, but not required. Applications can be submitted at hvshakespeare.org/employment. Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is an equal opportunity employer.

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OBITUARIES

Chelsea Schiffer (1997-2021)

Chelsea Marie Schiffer, 23, a lifelong resident of Beacon, died May 17.



She was born on Oct. 8, 1997, in Poughkeepsie, the daughter of Michael and Maria (Sylvester) Schiffer. After graduating from Beacon High School, she worked as a counselor at St. Basil Academy in Garrison and also as program educator for Green Teen, empowering youth through farming and gardening.

In addition to her parents, Chelsea is survived by her siblings: Michael, Matthew and Emma; and her paternal grandmother, Rosalie Schiffer.

A funeral service was held on May 21 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey in Beacon, followed on May 24 by interment at St. Joachim Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Green Teen Cornell Cooperative Extension, 23 W. Center St., Beacon, NY 12508.

The Rev. William Drobach (1942-2021)

The Rev. William F. "Bill" Drobach, 78, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement and the former president and CEO of St. Christopher's Inn in Garrison, died May 20.



Father Drobach was born in Newark, New Jersey, on Sept. 17, 1942, the son of William and Grace (Culver) Drobach. After graduating from high school in Irvington, New Jersey, he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Seton Hall University in 1965 and a master's degree in divinity from

Washington Theological Union in 1988. He joined the Friars of the Atonement in 1982 and was ordained in 1988 at Graymoor.

For 16 years, from 2001 to 2017, Fr. Drobach ministered at St. Christopher's, first as counselor and vice president and then as president and CEO. He left in 2017 to serve for two years as the friars' novice director in Assisi, Italy, before returning to work part-time.

Previously, he served as pastor at Reconciliation Communities in Bridgeport, St. Catherine, Jamaica, from soon after his ordination until 1991. He was appointed director of novices at Graymoor in 1991 and in 1995 became pastor of a parish in South Central Los Angeles. He also was associate pastor at a church in Windsor, Ontario, for two years.

He is survived by his siblings, John Drobach and Nancy Ford.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on May 26 at Our Lady of the Atonement Chapel at Graymoor. Memorial donations may be made to St. Christopher's Inn (stchristophersinn-graymoor.org). The friars also plan to establish a Friends of Father Bill Memorial Fund.

Joan Palumbo (1931-2021)

Joan E. Palumbo, 89, of Pleasant Valley, a former Garrison business owner, died May 11 at MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, surrounded by family members.



She was born in Cold Spring on July 19, 1931, the daughter of Edward Mason and Maude O'Dell-Mason. On July 20, 1952, at St. John's Church in Beacon, she married Joseph Palumbo.

Joan prided herself in being an efficient homemaker with good meals that were always followed by dessert, her family said.

She and her husband owned the Better 'n' New Antique Shop and Palumbo & Son Refuse, both based in Garrison. They loved traveling north, and to the Blue Ridge Mountains, in their motor home looking for antiques and unusual finds. In her younger years, Joan was a singer for The Mason Sisters.

She is survived by her children: Victoria Spoleti and Joseph Palumbo (Theresa); three granddaughters: Jennifer Tubbs (Daniel), Gina Gallagher (Daniel) and Christina Spoleti; and three great-grandchildren: Gianna Artale, Lauren Tubbs and Daniel Gallagher III.

Funeral services took place on May 17 at St. Philip's Church in Garrison, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Pleasant Valley Fire Department (pvfdny.org) and Mobile Life Support Services (mobilelife.com).

Barry Skura (1947-2021)

Barry Robert Skura, 73, of Philipstown, died on May 17 of a stroke at Schunemunk State Park in Cornwall while doing one of the things he loved best: hiking on a beautiful late spring day with friends.



He was born in Brooklyn on July 6, 1947, the son of Jacob Skura and Edith Polykoff, and raised by his aunt and uncle, Helen and William Gladstone, in Valley Stream. After graduating from Stony Brook University in 1969, he earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1975.

Early in his career, Barry taught at the University of Minnesota and the University of Rochester. A constant theme throughout his career was involvement in social activism, most concretely during his work in

the 1980s as a community labor organizer in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Later, Barry took a job on the staff of the New York City comptroller's office and worked as an assistant director at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. While there, and until his retirement in 2015, Barry was a key player in developing systems to manage and assess governmental reimbursement.

Barry was known for his skill as a hiker and backpacker. He met his future wife, Kathy, on a skiing trip in Quebec in 2001. They married in 2004 and formed Hiking and Art, leading trips combining plein air painting and hiking in the American Southwest. After his retirement, Barry and Kathy moved to Glassbury Court in Philipstown.

Barry served on the boards of the Mid-Hudson chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Adirondack Mountain Club, Philipstown Aging at Home and the Philipstown Reformed Synagogue. He was a master storyteller and loved early jazz.

Along with his wife, he is survived by his stepchildren, Paul and Shalem Hughes, and his grandchildren, Leah, Kyle, Rainer and Anton.

Other Recent Deaths**Philipstown**

Leahann Merante, 61

Beacon

Evelyn Cruz, 63

Jozef Grznar, 75

Isabelita Hernandez, 81

Paul Leonardo

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Met melody

5. CS/ settings

9. Apply cream

12. Fender bender

13. Gumbo need

14. Mode lead-in

15. Instrument panel

17. Homer's neighbor

18. Thread holders

19. *Tiny Alice* playwright

21. "Heavens!"

22. Spud

24. Green gem

27. Church seat

28. Ken or Barbie

31. Glamorous Gardner

32. Shoe width

33. Teeny

34. Baseball glove

36. British "Inc."

37. — B'rith

38. Soil

40. Opposite of nyet

41. "Yippee!"

43. Vile

47. Ghostly greeting

48. Music group at a New Year's Eve party

51. Wall St. debut

52. Jacob's twin

53. Author Ferber

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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31 32 33

34 35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

54. "A mouse!"

55. Peel

56. Optimistic

10. Out of the storm

11. Ordered

16. Journalist Nellie

20. Started

22. Pearly whites

23. Dumbstruck

24. Bread spread

25. Bird (Pref.)

26. Appointment tracker

27. Hide

29. Meadow

30. Tiki bar necklace

35. Eastern path

37. Sweeney Todd, for one

39. Actress Winona

40. Female hare

41. Theater award

42. Aspiration

43. Gulf War missile

44. Pedestal part

45. Hostels

46. Crucial time

49. "— was saying ..."

50. Indian bread

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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 popular 1980s mattresses (9)

2 "out of this world" gem (9)

3 one who hems and haws (8)

4 group of voters (10)

5 making a faux pas (10)

6 crestfallen (10)

7 mixing together (11)

SOLUTIONS

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Answers for May 21 Puzzles

M	O	S	S		C	O	P		S	O	R	E		
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1. BARGE, 2. FLEETING, 3. NICKI, 4. APPLAUDING, 5. PROPOSAL, 6. EARFUL, 7. CAMBRIDGE

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

SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

HALDANE LACROSSE

Haldane got an epic performance on Wednesday (May 26) from senior Darrin Santos, who scored a school-record nine goals at North Salem in a 12-9 Blue Devils win.

Evan Giachinta scored twice and had three assists and Dan Santos added a goal for the Blue Devils (6-6). Andrew Aiston had 13 saves in net.

“That was one of the best games we’ve played this season,” said Coach Ed Crowe. “We did a nice job moving the ball and our face-off guys — Frankie DiGiglio and Dan Santos — did a great job,” winning 12 of 16.

“Darrin was unbelievable,” Crowe added. “He had nine goals on 10 shots. And Aiston, our goalie, came in for Jordon Hankel [who broke his wrist] and won his second varsity game.”

The week before, the Blue Devils topped Pawling, 10-4. Darrin Santos had a hat-trick and an assist, Dan Santos added two goals and Giachinta, Liam Gaugler, PJ Ruggiero, Soleil Gaines and Rhys Robbins each scored goals.

The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Putnam Valley today (May 28) and Eastchester on Saturday before traveling to Ketcham on Wednesday to finish the season before the sectional tournament begins on June 5.

BEACON SOFTBALL

The Beacon High School softball team has continued to take its lumps, facing bigger and more experienced programs. The Bulldogs fell to Arlington, 24-4, on Wednesday after taking a 16-0 hit on Monday from John Jay East Fishkill.

On Wednesday, Briana Jones went 2-for-2, Leanna Rinaldi drove in two runs and Christina Merola had an RBI. On Monday, Merola went 2-for-2 and Jade Matias and Kyla Richardson each had hits.

Coach Michael Carofano said his players have been more aggressive at the plate “and the past two games we have limited our errors in the field.”

The Bulldogs were scheduled to play at O’Neill on Thursday (May 27), at Arlington today and home and away against Ketcham next week.

BEACON TRACK AND FIELD

Beacon’s Zach Cader and Henry Reinke ran at the New York Relays at Randall’s Island on Saturday (May 22), with Cader clocking the second-fastest 800 meter time

in the state this year (1:55.63) and breaking the school record. Reinke ran his 400 in 52.66, which is the second-fastest 400 by a freshman in the state this year.

Beacon’s 4x400 relay team of Reinke, Sal Migliore, Evan LaBelle and Cader also took a first at Suffern on May 20. Beacon is scheduled to host the league championships on June 1 and 2.

Three Beacon alumni who graduated in 2016 — Rayvon Grey (Louisiana State), Terrel Davis (Hartford) and David Adams (Northeastern) — competed at the NCAA East Regionals in Jacksonville, Florida, on Wednesday. Grey qualified for the NCAA championship in the long jump and Adams qualified for the quarterfinals today (May 28) in the 400 hurdles while breaking his own school record. He must finish in the top 12 to qualify for the championship race. Davis just missed advancing in the long jump, finishing 19th of 48 competitors, 8 centimeters out of the last spot.



Beacon's winning 4x400 team: Henry Reinke, Sal Migliore, Evan LaBelle and Zach Cader

Photo provided

BASEBALL

Beacon High School faced off against Arlington on Wednesday (May 26) and found out why the Admirals are one of the best teams in Section I. But down by 13 runs, the Bulldogs (6-7) nearly stole a victory, loading the bases in the final inning before losing 17-15.

Tyler Haydt went 2-for-3 with a three-run homer; Matt Manzoello had a two-run double; and Jackson Jackson and Dillon Kelly each had two hits and an RBI. Owen Browne kept Arlington at bay with four innings of three-hit relief.

On Monday, the Bulldogs fell to John Jay



Leanna Rinaldi knocked in two of Beacon’s four runs in a loss to Arlington. *Photo by S. Pearlman*

of East Fishkill, 5-2, wasting a strong pitching performance by Matt Manzoello, who lost his first game of the season. Manzoello pitched six innings, striking out eight and not allowing an earned run. Tyler Haydt led the offense with a 3-for-4 performance, including a home run.

Beacon is scheduled to play at Arlington today (May 28) and host Somers on Saturday. It will play Ketcham twice next week before the Section I tournament opens on June 5.

Haldane lost 6-2 on Tuesday at Putnam Valley in what coach Simon Dudar called the team’s best game all season. “We’re starting to put all facets of the game together, and as I’ve said before, our goal was to always be improving with our young and inexperienced team,” he said.

John Dwyer went four strong innings on the mound, allowing two earned runs but escaping a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the third.

“That was his finest outing of the year, and he had some great defense behind him,” Dudar said. “Trajan McCarthy had a great diving play early on and was solid at third base.” McCarthy, John Bradley, Julian Ambrose, John Kisslinger, Jack Jordan and Jeremy Hall each had hits.

Haldane will visit Pawling on Saturday, play host Briarcliff on Tuesday at Dutchess Stadium and host Pawling on Wednesday.

BEACON BOYS’ TENNIS

The Beacon High School boys’ tennis team picked up 7-0 wins over Mahopac and Lakeland this week but lost to Ketcham.

Against Lakeland, the Bulldogs got singles victories from Alex Wyant,

Matt Sanderson and Jamison Sheehy. Jesse Campanella and Aidan Kidd, Jack Padoleska and Jimmy Kuka, Scott Bunker and Brock Barna, and Brody Timm and Daniel Barry won at doubles.

“That was one of our best matches of the year,” said Coach David Ryley. “We’ve been playing a tough schedule, and that’s making us a better team.”

Ryley said Wyant has “taken some lumps” at first singles but has improved and that his first doubles team of Campanella and Kidd “are probably our most improved players.” At second singles, Sanderson, a freshman, has also improved against strong competition, he said.

Beacon is scheduled to host Arlington on Tuesday (June 1) and Lourdes on Wednesday.

HALDANE HONORS

Maria Barry of Haldane was named to the All-Section volleyball team, and she and three teammates — Megan Farrell, Meghan Tomann and Jill Weinpahl — made the All-League team.

Eight Haldane football players were named All-League: Giancarlo Carone (28 tackles), Will Etta, Soleil Gaines, Soren Holmbo (16 catches), Ryan Irwin, Christian Pezzullo (four fumble recoveries and three defensive TDs), quarterback Daniel Santos (643 yards and five TDs) and Darrin Santos (411 yards rushing, four TDs and 30 tackles).

In soccer, a 2019 Haldane graduate, Devin Heanue, who plays for Binghamton University, was inducted into the 2021 National College Athlete Honor Society.