

The HIGHLANDS Current



Last Act
at Boscobel
Page 11

AUGUST 6, 2021

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Stuart Ginsberg at his bar mitzvah in 1968 at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, which is marking its 100th anniversary
Photo provided

Beacon Synagogue Turns 100

*Exhibit will tell story of
Beacon Hebrew Alliance*

By Leonard Sparks

A notice that appeared in the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* on June 1, 1921, announced that “a new Jewish congregation has been added to Dutchess County in the form of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, papers of incorporation for which have been received here.”

The application had been submitted to the county six months earlier, on Jan. 11, and six directors named: Samuel Snider [Snidaman], Hyman Pomeranz, Max Glick, Joseph Preisen, Louis Taub and A.J. Bernstein. Jews who lived in or near Beacon, who had been traveling to Newburgh or Poughkeepsie to worship, began raising money to buy a Torah, support refugees displaced in Europe by the world war, hire a rabbi and purchase a parcel to build a synagogue.

A century later, BHA is celebrating its beginning, and the changes that followed, with a series of events throughout the remainder of the year, including special services, educational programs and lectures, and an exhibit at the Beacon Historical Society of materials from its archives, oral histories and artifacts.

(Continued on Page 20)

Cold Spring Adopts Short-Term Rental Law

*Regulations enacted by
board on 3-2 vote*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board last week narrowly adopted a local law to regulate short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb. The resolution passed on July 29 by a 3-2 margin, with Trustees Kathleen Foley and

Tweeps Phillips Woods voting “no,” a development that appeared to surprise Mayor Dave Merandy. He and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy voted to adopt the regulations, which have been discussed and revised over months. Key provisions of the law include: ■ All short-term rentals must operate under a village permit, valid for one year. ■ Permits will be distributed by lottery, with up to 33 sites where the owner lives on

the premises and 16 sites where the owner is not present. ■ Rentals can operate for up to 90 nights per year. ■ Rentals for events such as West Point graduation will be permitted for up to two, 7-day periods. ■ Permits apply to only one short-term rental property.

(Continued on Page 9)



HAZY DAYS — Mike Daggs of Daggs Droneworks captured this sailboat last month gliding on the Hudson River near Beacon. He noted the “weird haze” caused by West Coast wildfires.

Back to the Masks

*CDC recommends facial
coverings indoors in
Dutchess, Putnam*

By Leonard Sparks

Stephen Clair just wanted to make it clear in a Facebook message he posted last week. Anyone eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine who had not received the shot could not enter Beacon Music Factory, the Fishkill

Avenue school where musicians teach adults, teenagers and children how to play a variety of instruments. All others must wear a mask, he wrote. The school’s instructors “felt relieved that I was making this clear,” said Clair on Wednesday (Aug. 4). Something else is apparent: The warnings about the highly contagious delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 have come true, and the strain is driving what

(Continued on Page 8)

Monthly COVID-19 Cases

	DUTCHESS	PUTNAM
JANUARY	6,917	2,447
FEBRUARY	3,091	985
MARCH	3,843	1,194
APRIL	2,468	864
MAY	696	150
JUNE	120	54
JULY	400	137
AUGUST 1 TO 4	190	40

Source: New York Department of Health. Vaccinations began in both counties in early January.

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MARGARET VETARE

By Alison Rooney

Margaret Vetare, who lives in Beacon, will perform folk music on the lawn of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15.

What makes a folk singer a folk singer?

How you define *folk* depends on where you hang out, what the crowd is. Around here, there's an earnest, long tradition of the folk revival movement. There's a bias for singer-songwriters who write original material, so singing a cover at an open mic might be perceived as "less than." *Folk* may well be a word that has lost its usefulness by being applied broadly. To the extent that I mostly play acoustic guitar and sing some traditional songs, I fit comfortably enough into many people's perception of the term. But I like to sing so many things: Neapolitan love songs, English and Irish and Appalachian ballads, Rolling Stones songs, Stephen Foster, songs by medieval troubadours; it's a long list.

Were you musical as a child?

I sang chorally from a young age, but I was interested in traditional music. As a teen I was discovering English ballads, listening to the English revival singers. I was checking out records from the Mount Kisco library, along with tomes of folk songs. I got deep



into that early on. When I turned 10, I was allowed to walk into town by myself and go to the library whenever I wanted. At Oberlin College, I majored in English literature, with a concentration in medieval studies, but the music conservatory on campus was a big draw, and there were lots of opportunities to sing with other people. I also studied North Indian classical music. I was musically omnivorous and still am.

Did you ever aspire to make music professionally?

I never harbored any fantasies of a career, but along with the natural world, it's a way

for me of making shape of life. My day job for 30-plus years has been in museum education. I spent most of that time at historic sites and, more recently, at an art museum. At the historic sites, I researched and performed period music. At the art museum, there was a lot of inspiration in being surrounded by visual art, the moods the art evoked and the stories of the artists.

This will be your first solo concert. How are you choosing the songs?

When I sing with others, it's about looking for songs with good potential for harmony, songs that work well with two or more instruments. Singing by myself, I'm thinking more of songs with strong words, supported by a strong melody, which also work well with my voice and its capacity as a solo instrument. I love to create a narrative around songs, giving them a sense of cohesion. I like songs that tell stories and convey something about being human. I'm very word driven. I love the economy that someone like Hank Williams uses to crystallize the human experience, but I love songs just as much that spin out language in poetic and expansive ways. I like to offer songs as a gift to move listeners to another reality.

How did this concert come about?

The library got in touch with me when I was working at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar to organize a virtual visit to the museum. I was helping coordinate that and, somehow, [program librarian] Karen Thompson stashed away that I was a local person who played music. Karen asked if I'd be interested and, in a moment of delirium, I said yes. Later, it dawned on me that much of the music I sing or listen to is the result of time I spent and savored at my public library when I was growing up. I still sing songs I learned decades ago from LPs that I checked out because I liked the album covers. I have set poems to music from poets whose work I discovered by browsing the 800s section as a teenager. I will be working some of those songs, plus others related to literature, into the program to celebrate the venue.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What Summer Olympic event is your favorite, and which would you eliminate?

“

Love soccer; I'd eliminate horse jumping.

”



~ Rodney Weber, Beacon

“

Gymnastics are great. Trampoline? What do they do, just jump up and down?

”



~ Meghan Sabas, visiting Cold Spring from Cortlandt Manor

“

Swimming and track are favorites; pingpong doesn't make sense.

”



~ Abraham Guzman, Cold Spring

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Ex-Commission Members Plan To Sue

Raise \$10K online to fund legal challenge

By Leonard Sparks

Members of a seven-person commission tasked with redrawing the legislative boundaries in Dutchess plan to sue the county to reverse a decision by the Legislature's Republicans to dismantle it and start over.

Republicans, who control the Legislature, 15-10, voted last month to disband the Dutchess County Independent Reapportionment Commission, which was created to redraw legislative boundaries based on forthcoming data from the federal census. All 10 of the Legislature's Democrats voted against the move.

Republicans cited the fact that one of the two members appointed by Democratic lawmakers is a school board trustee, which violated a provision that no member of the commission hold elected office. (Republicans also appointed two members, and the four selected the remaining three from a pool of candidates.)

Soon after, four of the deposed commissioners launched a GoFundMe campaign to finance a legal challenge.

It had already raised \$10,000 when the

county attorney and legislative counsel jointly sent a cease-and-desist letter to the platform. Dated July 22, the letter claimed that because the Legislature had voted to disband the commission, its members were private individuals and could not represent themselves as being affiliated with the county.

The lawyers added that even if the commission members were county officials, they would be prohibited from raising money without permission. They warned GoFundMe that the organizers lacked "legal authority to create the webpage."

John Pelosi, the other Democratic appointee to the commission, said GoFundMe temporarily cut off access to the funds but by Tuesday (Aug. 3) had resumed allowing withdrawals. He said the money was being used to pay a Poughkeepsie attorney, Dave Gordon.

"Despite their efforts to limit our ability to raise funds to support the legal action against their illegal action, GoFundMe said 'no,'" Pelosi said. "We've raised funds and we're going to use them for our legal defense."

The dispute began when Christian Cullen, the chief assistant county attorney, ruled in June that the months-old commission had to be dissolved because its chair, Richard Keller-Coffey, serves as an elected

member of the Webutuck school board in Amenia.

According to the law that created the commission, its members "shall not currently be nor have been for the three years preceding the formation of the commission an elected official, employee of New York State, Dutchess County or any town, city, or village in the county, or a member or officer of any political committee."

The law also specifies that a vacancy can "be filled in the manner that the vacant position was originally filled." It only calls for disbanding the commission if it fails to meet requirements for public hearings, its redistricting plan does not include evidence of compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act or it does not meet the statutory deadline for adopting and filing the plan.

However, Cullen argued that Keller-Coffey's position on the school board not only made him ineligible but invalidated his votes in selecting the commission's final three members, and that compelled dissolution.

Gregg Pulver, a Republican who chairs the Legislature, said in a statement that "not starting from scratch was too risky and would have left the adopted map open to lawsuits."

Shrinking the Legislature

On July 12, the Dutchess County Legislature voted along party lines, 15-10, to ask voters on the Nov. 2 ballot whether to reduce the body's size from 25 to 21 seats.

Both County Executive Marc Molinaro and Legislature Chair Gregg Pulver have declared their support. Republicans argue that the Legislature is too large, per capita, compared to other Mid-Hudson counties. Dutchess has 25 lawmakers for 294,000 residents; Orange has 21 for 385,000; Westchester has 16 for 968,000. (Putnam has fewer, with nine for 98,000.)

Not all Democrats oppose the idea but said the timing was suspect because the Republicans voted the same night to disband the redistricting commission, which would have drawn a plan for 25 seats.

If the release of federal Census Bureau data is delayed beyond September, and the referendum passes in November, the newly appointed reapportionment committee could find itself redrawing legislative boundaries for 21 rather than 25 members for elections beginning in 2023.

NEWS BRIEFS

Grants Galore

Dutchess, state award funds

New York State last month announced more than \$900,000 in grants to support nonprofit groups involved with stewardship of state parks and historic sites, including the Little Stony Point Citizens Association and the Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association.

The Little Stony Point organization will receive \$13,500 to make the trail to the overlook more accessible, while the Fort Montgomery group will receive \$33,300 to complete repairs on a trail on the western part of the historic site.

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association also received \$75,000 to repair and repave

one of the oldest sections of the trail, which is part of Taconic State Park.

In the first of four rounds of grants to support the return to live performances, the state sent \$9 million to arts organizations, including \$20,000 to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to support the summer productions of *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* and *The Tempest*.

In Dutchess County, officials announced \$397,500 in grants awarded to 13 nonprofits through its Learn, Play, Create program. The funds came from \$3 million sent to the county as part of the federal American Rescue Plan.

I Am Beacon will receive \$20,000 to purchase equipment such as a camera, microphones, computer, iPad and sound

board, as well as art supplies, for a youth-led creative expression and media initiative.

Cold Spring Train Parking to Close for Week

Lot will shutter Aug. 16-20

The parking lot at the Cold Spring train station will be closed from Aug. 16 through Aug. 20 so that workers can improve rainage, repave the asphalt and repaint the markings.

Monthly permits will be honored at the Garrison and Beacon stations, and the metered municipal lot on Fair Street is also available. Passengers can be dropped off at the foot of upper Main Street to reach the platforms.

Governor Enacts Sewage Bill

Allows Beacon to sell excess capacity

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday (Aug. 3) signed a bill that will allow Beacon to sell its excess sewer capacity to private firms and individuals outside of city limits.

"At every level of government, budgets have taken a hit from reduced sales tax and other negative effects of the pandemic," said Jonathan Jacobson, who sponsored the bill in the Assembly and whose district includes Beacon, in a statement. "This bill will allow the City of Beacon to make up a portion of that."

Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, sponsored the bill in the Senate. It passed unanimously in both chambers.

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leaving on the
table?



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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Green prices

Going green has its great points, but when you have to opt out [of paying a more expensive "renewable" rate for electricity] — that's not so good for us seniors ("Confusion Over Community Choice," *Letters and Comments*, July 9).

Many seniors I've talked to had never heard of the change they were put into. I did not receive a letter, nor did many of the seniors I asked at the Philipstown Friendship Center. Or they may have gotten one and thrown it out, thinking it was junk mail. The only information I saw was on Facebook, which is not right.

Donna Anderson, *Garrison*

Outreach worker

The senior program at the Friendship Center in Philipstown has a vacancy for an outreach worker. The position has been open for some time. It is important that the outreach worker be someone who is familiar with Philipstown.

Over the past few years it has become clear that one of the most important missing links in addressing the needs of seniors is in identifying "invisible elders" who are geographi-

cally and socially isolated. The job of outreach worker includes identifying seniors eligible for programs and/or services and providing home visits and phone calls, as needed.

As Philipstown pays half of the salary, we believe the town should have input into the hiring process to make certain the person has knowledge of, and commitment to, the town's needs.

Putnam County, which runs the senior center, has not publicized this position, so Philipstown Aging at Home has posted the job description at paah.org and the town has posted it at philipstown.com. We urge interested, qualified candidates to apply.

Sheila Rauch, *Cold Spring*
Rauch is the chair of Philipstown Aging at Home.

Marijuana shops

After reading the raft of letters and comments regarding whether towns and villages should "opt out" of allowing cannabis dispensaries, I was a little put off (*Letters and Comments*, July 30). If the authors of these letters care so much about the issue, why not come to the public workshops where you could have some effect on

the decision-making?

Instead, it's all about sound bites. Taking content and context from who knows where and spouting off is easy. Showing up to engage in a thoughtful and nuanced discussion takes effort.

We had two participants at our meeting on July 14. Maybe the rest of the "very concerned" were home stoned (a joke). If you're interested, you can view the discussion online, where most of the planet seems to reside now.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*
Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

Why a stoplight?

I hope that we can contain the development going on at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposed performance site in Garrison by not installing a traffic light on Route 9 at Travis Corners/Snake Hill ("HVSF Suggests Turn Lane, Traffic Light," July 30).

As HVSF surely knows, Route 9 is desolate at 10:30 p.m., except for the occasional deer, as is Route 9D. Its northbound guests will have no problem making a long line of uninterrupted left turns, just as exiting traffic enjoys at Boscobel. The reason that intersection remains so blessedly quiet at 10:30 each night is because there are no traffic lights, with their attendant convenience stores, billboards and congesting buildup.

The rest of us may like the idea of a green light protecting our crossing or left turns, but when we are north- or southbound on Route 9 it will just be one stoplight closer to the experience of driving in Fishkill and points north. And it will be a pointless holdup when we want to cross an empty intersection but have to sit at a red light.

Jacqueline Foertsch, *Philipstown*

Putnam politics

I would dispute Phil Bayer's claim in the July 30 issue (*Letters and Comments*) that Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell has been on the sidelines during the Legislature's attacks on Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. — in fact, she's been an active participant. She passes up no opportunity to take digs at Langley in the press, something that would have been unthinkable during his predecessor's "rule" over our county.

It's a shameful display of partisanship by the shameless Odell and her lackeys, who want to erode the sheriff's support so they can install their hand-picked successor.

Tom Weller, *Mahopac*

This is a disgrace ("Philipstown Officials Call for Return of River Patrol," July 30). Enough of Odell and the Republican

(Continued on Page 5)



Calls Grow for Governor to Resign

In Highlands, elected officials months ago said he should leave

By Chip Rowe

President Joe Biden added his voice on Tuesday (Aug. 3) to the chorus calling for Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a fellow Democrat, to resign following the release of a state attorney general's report that concluded he broke state and federal laws against workplace sexual harassment.

Three of the four state and federal elected officials in the Highlands were early members of the choir. Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon; U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands; and Sue Serino, a Republican whose state Senate

district includes the Highlands, each called on Cuomo to step down months ago, when the allegations first became public.

Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, at the time was among a group of Democratic women in the Assembly who advocated an independent investigation but did not endorse an immediate departure. On Tuesday, Galef said it was time for Cuomo to go. "With the time he will spend on defending himself, we will not have a governor concentrating on other issues, such as the pandemic impacting the health of New Yorkers," she said.

On Tuesday, Serino said in a statement that "there can be no question remaining that he is unfit to serve." She said if Cuomo does not resign, the Assembly should impeach him. "It is not enough for lawmakers to claim they support his resignation without now taking affirma-

tive steps to hold him accountable for these despicable actions," she said. "The only way to fully put an end to this culture of harassment and corruption is to rid the Capitol of the governor that allowed it to flourish."

In a statement on Wednesday, Jacobson said that "together with the evidence of the nursing home cover-up, the time has come for [Cuomo] to face the consequences of his behavior and step down. He no longer has the credibility to lead or to govern effectively." He said he would vote "yes" to impeach.

In Dutchess County, the comptroller, Robin Lois, a Democrat, said on Tuesday that while she had "strived to stay out of 'politics' and remain non-partisan in order to preserve and protect the independence of my office," she also felt the time had come.



Gov. Andrew Cuomo
File photo

The Current Wins 16 National Awards

Recognized for general excellence

The *Highlands Current* won 16 awards, including general excellence among smaller weeklies, in the annual editorial and advertising contest sponsored by the National Newspaper Association.

The awards were announced on Wednesday (Aug. 4). The contest received 1,409 entries published in 2020 from 83 papers in 33 states. The judges were current, retired or former community newspaper editors and publishers and journalism professors. *The Current* has won 71 NNA citations since 2016.

In addition, Jeff Simms was one of 12 finalists among 84 entrants in a national editorial-writing contest sponsored by the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors for "Are We That Far Apart?," a column about dueling protests in Beacon.

In the NNA contest, *The Current* received first place for general excellence among weeklies with circulations of 3,000 to 6,000.

Among papers of all sizes, Pierce Strudler won first place for front-page design and second place for best use of photography while Michael Turton received an honorable mention for his obituary tribute, "From One Paperboy to Another."

Among mid-sized papers, Brian PJ Cronin won first place for his sports column, "Setting the Bar," about an attempt to set a Fastest Known Time on a section of the Appalachian Trail; Turton won second place for his sports feature, "She Walked Away," about a Haldane basketball stand-out who decided 20 years ago not to play in college; the staff won second place for local news coverage; Ross Corsair won second place for his photo essay, "That Empty Feeling," published soon after the pandemic shutdown began; and Simms received an honorable mention for serious columns for "Are We That Far Apart?"

Among smaller papers, entries from *The Current* took first and second place for feature series — the staff's *COVID 2021* and Cronin's *The Fading Forest*.

Among weeklies of all sizes, Teresa Lagerman won third place for her reader-generated campaign, "Parade in the Paper."

Among midsized weeklies, Skip Pearlman received an honorable mention for his sports photo of a Haldane boys' basketball player leaping between defenders and Leonard Sparks received an honorable mention for his in-depth story, "Placed in Harm's Way," about a Philipstown woman navigating the child-welfare system.

In the advertising categories, Strudler won third place among small weeklies for a small ad designed for Juanita's Kitchen and Strudler and Michele Gedney received an honorable mention among smaller papers for their "Shop Local" holiday multi-advertiser pages.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

shenanigans going on at the county seat. Their ongoing juvenile behavior is unconscionable. Even worse, their actions are putting public safety at risk.

As Odell demanded the removal of the sheriff's boats with the support of the rest

of her contingent of bullies who call themselves legislators, they should all be held liable for the loss of life that has or may yet occur on *our* river.

I only hope the family of that 17-year-old requests an investigation into these legislators' actions and how their petty, politically motivated actions likely impacted the tragic loss of a child. The bullying of Philipstown by the legislators from the eastern side of this county needs to end. Too bad it may mean more loss of lives to achieve this.

Leisa Lundberg, *Cold Spring*

Complete Streets

The statements by Putnam County's legislative committee members and its transportation director quoted in "Putnam Backs Complete Streets Concept" (July 30) ring hollow. The county doesn't deserve credit in this area. Complete Streets means you are creating roads that are safe for all users, regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation. That means that you are making changes to your streets that will benefit everyone, including bicyclists, car drivers, pedestrians, motorcyclists, public transit riders, those requiring wheelchairs, walkers, etc. This planning model has nothing to do with solar panels, buildings, changing vehicle types or charging stations.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, is right when she says the concept requires not just "backing" or "behind-the-scenes" meetings. It requires collaboration, including community input, planning, transparency and adoption. If Putnam was serious about this, it would require someone other than Vinny Tamagna, the county director of transportation, to be successful.

I say this because I experienced the same equivocation as co-chair of a trolley committee formed by the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce. In 2019 the chamber asked Mr. Tamagna if a committee

Correction

A story in the July 30 issue about three candidates for the Cold Spring Village Board who announced they will campaign together neglected to mention a candidate for the second year of a seat formerly held by Heidi Bender. Yaslyn Daniels is challenging Tweeps Woods, who was appointed to fill the seat until the election.

could be formed to improve the service (it was notorious for its lack of ridership and unreliable schedule). He accepted, and a group of volunteers met weekly and studied other systems, surveyed 300 residents on the service, negotiated with village leaders on stops, designed signage and printed maps. All these were tasks that should have been done by the county years before the committee formed. The trolley continues to operate today as an unfortunate waste of taxpayer money and a shameful lost opportunity.

Putnam County rejected a call for a substantive Complete Streets policy like the one adopted in Dutchess County five years ago, but has proposed no actions of its own. Has anyone seen Complete Streets on any county meeting agendas?

New York offers funds to help communities adopt a Complete Streets program. If Putnam receives funds, we should demand more than the inertia and waste shown in the trolley fiasco. A few bicycle lanes, a couple of electric buses for Carmel and another crosswalk sign here and there will not make Complete Streets.

Rebeca Ramirez-Haskell, *Cold Spring*

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Beacon Roundup

- Apartments on the agenda
- Historic district expands
- Spirit of Beacon pivots

By Jeff Simms

Two projects under review

The Beacon Planning Board on Aug. 10 will continue its review of residential development proposals at 16 W. Main St. and 364 Main St.

The West Main project has not appeared on a Planning Board agenda since October. The developers propose demolishing a warehouse and auto repair shop at the intersection of Bank Street to make way for a four-story, L-shaped building with 62 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The board began reviewing the 364 Main St. project in June and panned many aspects of it. Developer Sean O'Donnell is proposing 27 apartments and nearly 8,000 square feet of retail space on the parcel, which he purchased in 2017. O'Donnell's proposal includes constructing a four-story building, a decision which, as of Monday (Aug. 2), rests with the City Council; see below.

Eight years ago, O'Donnell bought the parcel two doors down from his current proposal, at 344 Main St., from the city, received approval from the Planning Board to build 24 apartments plus commercial space and then sold the development while it was under construction to developer Bernard Kohn.

Kohn's 248 Tioronda Ave. project is also on the agenda, with a public hearing scheduled on amendments he has proposed to the approved site plan. The developer's requests include eliminating emergency secondary access to the site from Wolcott Avenue in

favor of a "hammerhead turn-around" at the north end of one of the buildings, "making a secondary entry unnecessary."

Kohn also seeks to adjust the route of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail, which will bisect the property. The final route has not been determined.

Historic district additions

The City Council on Monday (Aug. 2) unanimously approved adding nine Main Street buildings to the historic district, which prevents the structures and neighboring buildings from being altered in a way that the city judges will harm their historic appeal.

One of the properties is the Salvation Army building at 372 Main St., which is next door to 364 Main St. Because O'Donnell's project is now adjacent to a designated historic building, the zoning code shifts the decision on a proposed fourth floor from the Planning Board to the council.

According to the law, O'Donnell must offer a "public benefit" such as public green space, added parking or affordable housing if he wants a fourth floor, although the council could still reject the idea.

Decisions on the nine properties were postponed last month because the owners filed objections to the designation, which restricts what can be done with the buildings. The city voted on July 6 to add six parcels but tabled the remaining nine because a super-majority vote of five members is required to approve properties with objections.

Beacon's recently rewritten historic law gives property owners increased autonomy while allowing more diverse uses and money-saving opportunities, Council Member Air Rhodes said on Monday.

"The concern and trepidation that I hear [about the designation] is far outweighed by

the benefit to the city and, in many cases, the way we have rewritten the law actually assuages those fears," Rhodes said. "I hope that, in the implementation, everyone finds that it's not such a scary thing."

344 Main St. parking

The council approved a five-year agreement on Monday to lease 24 municipal parking spaces to Kohn, the owner of 344 Main St., for \$50 each per month.

Located in the lot between Eliza and North Chestnut streets and on Church Street, the spaces were leased by the city to O'Donnell in 2016, but the agreement was revoked after a dispute. After buying the property, Kohn rented spaces from O'Donnell at 364 Main St., which O'Donnell now plans to develop.

During a workshop in June, several council members voiced their frustration with the conundrum, and on Monday Jodi McCredo and Dan Aymar-Blair voted against the agreement.

The arrangement will earn the city \$72,000 over the course of the lease, which the council intends to earmark for long-term parking improvements.

"I'd like for us to start trying to think through this as the model for any building that lacks parking," said Mayor Lee Kyriacou. "Going forward, buildings that don't have parking should not be precluded from development on our Main Street. We're expecting the density [near Main], especially if we're hoping for affordability. I'm hoping this is maybe not the only answer but a step in that direction."

Spirit of Beacon

For the second year in a row, Spirit of Beacon Day will not take place as a parade and street fair because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers last fall held a drive-by event, with community groups and officials crisscrossing the city in school buses, along with a virtual concert. After infection rates

plummeted in late spring, the organizers were hopeful that a return to an in-person event was possible. But on Monday, they conceded that slowing vaccination rates and the rapid increase in cases fueled by the delta variant have stymied that plan.

The organizers said they have not come up with this year's Plan B. The event has been held in Beacon annually since 1977.

"Be creative," Kyriacou advised. "It's an unusual time. We'll be supportive, regardless of whatever your creativity comes up with."

A riverfront snack

The council approved a license for Mecca on Hudson to operate a food truck at Seeger Riverfront Park through October. The city recently issued a request for food trucks at the park, and Mecca on Hudson was the only applicant.

The company will bring its Number SEVEN Sandwich Hub to the park and, "if they do a good job," City Administrator Chris White said, the contract allows for two, 1-year renewals.

Community grants

The city has established a program that will offer grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 to local nonprofits for capital projects such as improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, improve public access and facade upgrades.

Funding is also available for buildings in the historic district, including the parcels added on Monday.

The program will use \$220,000 in funds remaining from a federal urban development grant that, from 1977 to 1988, allowed the city to make low-interest loans to businesses. The loans have since been repaid with interest.

During the pandemic, the funds were offered to small businesses struggling because of the shutdown. The City Council must approve grants. Requests can be emailed to White at cwhite@beaconny.gov.



Workers install a bump-out on Tuesday (Aug. 3) at Main and Walnut streets.



A completed bump-out at Main and Eliza streets

Photos by J. Simms

Beacon Bumps Out

City also plans to repave length of Main Street

By Jeff Simms

As part of a \$1.2 million project (80 percent of which is being funded by the federal government), workers in

Beacon last month began installing curb extensions, or "bump-outs," along Main Street at Veterans Place and Cross, Willow, Walnut, Cedar and Eliza streets.

The bump-outs reduce the distance that pedestrians must navigate to cross the street while moving walkers away from parked cars and other obstructions that

block drivers' views. The upgrades also improve accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers and encourage drivers to slow down, city officials said.

The bump-outs should be completed in September, City Administrator Chris White told the City Council during its Aug. 2 meeting. At the end of September, the city plans to remove the "parklets" that have been fashioned with orange traffic walls along Main Street for restaurants to provide outdoor dining during the pandemic shut-

down. The city will then mill, pave and restripe the length of Main.

"We're in a state of flux right now," White said. "But we're hoping that by the end of October, Main Street is tightened up and looks much better, and is safer."

In addition, the project includes the installation of countdown timers at five busy intersections: South Avenue at Wolcott (Route 9D), Verplanck at Matteawan and Fishkill avenues, and Main at Chestnut Street and Teller Avenue.



Needham

Photo by M. Turton

Update: Tanya Needham Headed to Marines

Will report to Quantico in the fall for training

By Michael Turton

In December, *The Current* profiled Tanya Needham, 21, a Cold Spring resident and recent graduate of Officer Candidate School who had to decide whether to accept a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps or to pursue a career in kinesiology.

She decided to complete her bachelor's degree at the University of Massachusetts before making a decision. Then, earlier this year, she chose the Marines.

"The more I thought about it, the more excited I got," she said. "There wasn't a doubt in my mind."

On Oct. 4, Needham — who is 5 feet, 2 inches and weighs 125 pounds — will join the Marines as a second lieutenant and report for six months of training at the Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. She expects it will be less grueling than the 10 weeks she spent in Officer Candidate School, which also took place at Quantico.

"Being a second lieutenant will be a little easier than being just a candidate and treated like a nobody," she said. "Physically, it won't be as strenuous; it'll be more spread out, with a lot more academic and leadership training."

Nevertheless, she has been running and hiking with rocks and weights to prepare. The four ligaments she tore at Officer Candidate School have healed. There should be familiar faces among the 200 or so officers at the training: classmates from candidate school.

As the six months wind down, Lt. Needham will be asked to rank her areas of interest within the Marine Corps, which are ground or air intelligence or logistics, she said. "I'm fluent in Russian," she noted. "Hopefully they will take that into account."

She also will be asked to rank her preferred destinations. "There are three bases in California and three or four in Hawaii," she said. "Everyone wants to go there!"

Needham will be making a four-year commitment, and perhaps a three-year extension, but said she doesn't plan to make the Marines a career. She'd still like to get a master's degree in kinesiology, "then see where it goes from there."

Putnam Adopts Climate Smart Proposal

Transportation director named coordinator

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Voting 8 to 0, the Putnam County Legislature endorsed a Climate Smart/Complete Streets proposal on Tuesday (Aug. 3), two weeks after rejecting Legislator Nancy Montgomery's call for a more robust version.

Montgomery, a Democrat whose district covers Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, was not present at the meeting in Carmel. The other eight legislators are Republicans. The Legislature's Physical Services Committee had approved the proposal in July; it closely resembles an earlier directive from County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

A day later, Vinny Tamagna, the county's transportation director, told *The Current* that Odell has named him as the Climate Smart coordinator, succeeding Lauri Taylor, who retired.



Tamagna

The Climate Smart effort includes the Complete Streets initiative, which is focused on making streets user-friendly to pedestrians, bicyclists and mass-transit users, as well as drivers in pollution-emitting cars. Municipalities that complete a Climate Smart checklist enhance their eligibility to receive state grants.

During the Tuesday meeting, Tamagna said that as transportation director he has developed a transit-oriented development and revitalization plan for Brewster and hopes to finish a Cold Spring counterpart this summer.

After the meeting, he elaborated, saying that the Complete Street possibilities for Cold Spring include a river walk from Constitution Island or Constitution Marsh to Dockside Park; more access for the physically disabled; bikeways and trails, including a sidewalk between the village and Boscobel (an idea already under discussion by the Town of Philipstown); better shoulders, curb cuts, parking for Springbrook apartments, and other improvements on Fair Street as it leads toward Route 9D; and fixing crumbling sidewalks and installing others in places lacking them, such as on High Street at the edge of the Tots' Park.

"Why not put a sidewalk where strollers travel across an uneven field of sometimes mud, snow or ice?" he asked.

The Legislature's resolution declares that Putnam's green infrastructure and energy-efficiency goals will consider the needs of all residents and visitors using roads, bike paths, walkways and mass transit, and acknowledge "connections across all modes of transportation." It also states that since 2018 Putnam has invested \$8 million in green energy, putting it "ahead of the curve."

In July, Montgomery urged the county to implement a more comprehensive plan, such as the one Dutchess County

enacted in 2016, which lists assignments to complete and checkpoints for tracking progress.

In other business...

■ Legislators authorized right-of-way acquisition, preliminary engineering and a public hearing for a bridge over Canopus Creek at Sprout Brook Road near Winston Lane, off Route 9 in Continental Village in Philipstown. The project includes widening the bridgeway to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. According to the Legislature, the project will be funded with federal money.

■ A household hazardous waste collection is scheduled for Oct. 9, following one in May that the county's solid waste management coordinator said drew a record 368 participants. The October event is expected to cost \$55,000, with half reimbursed by the state.

■ Legislators approved amending the budget to include \$2.1 million in federal funds to conduct COVID-19 testing in schools. Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac, who heads the Health Committee, said it was uncertain whether schools would be compelled to participate.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Double Duty

Vinny Tamagna, the county's transportation director and a former county legislator who represented Philipstown, is running for mayor of Cold Spring.

Asked if he intends to remain a county employee if he is elected on Nov. 2, Tamagna replied on Thursday (Aug. 5): "While the mayor's role is part time, I recognize that time investment is close to full time. I will remain an employee of Putnam County as I determine my time requirements and the impact of being mayor."

He added: "I am also close to retirement but will most likely remain in the Odell administration" until her term ends on Dec. 31, 2022. He noted that the previous Climate Smart coordinator, Lauri Taylor, is the mayor of Pawling in Dutchess County.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



Masks at School?

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week updated its guidance to recommend that all teachers, students, staff and visitors wear masks inside schools, including those who are vaccinated. It had previously recommended masks only for those who have not been vaccinated.

On Thursday (Aug. 5), Dr. Howard Zucker, the commissioner of the New York State Department of Health, said that when the state emergency disaster order was lifted on June 25, school districts were "re-established as the controlling entity for schools."

Therefore, he said in a statement, "schools and school districts should develop plans to open in-person in the fall as safely as possible, and I recommend following guidance from the CDC and local health departments."

Classes begin in Garrison on Sept. 2 and in Beacon and Cold Spring the following week.

Masks *(from Page 1)*

may be a third wave of the pandemic characterized by infections among people who have yet to be vaccinated.

As of Tuesday, both Dutchess and Putnam were among the U.S. counties where the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends masks be worn indoors in public because the level of community transmission is "substantial."

After dropping dramatically in June, infections in Dutchess and Putnam have been rising since last month, accelerating from the end of July into the first few days of August.

Active cases in Dutchess County have increased more than fivefold and in Putnam more than sevenfold since July 1, when the level of coronavirus transmission in both counties was rated "low" by the CDC.

The 76 cases reported for Dutchess on Wednesday was the county's highest one-day total since April 17, and it averaged 40 new cases a day for the previous week, compared to 3.4 during the first week of July. People hospitalized for COVID-19 in the county jumped from one on July 28 to 12 on Tuesday.

Beacon, where active cases had not exceeded five for a prolonged stretch and where the vaccination rate is below the state average, stood at 15 as of Tuesday, according to county data.

The news was just as bad for Putnam, which averaged 11.8 new cases a day during

the same week, up substantially from 0.5 during the first seven days of last month. Active cases in Philipstown, where the vaccination rate is well above the state average, were still at or below five as of July 29.

Alison Kaufman, an epidemiologist who was hired in March by the Putnam County Department of Health, said on Tuesday that "we were all hopeful that we wouldn't see another surge." But the county's seven-day rate nearly doubled to 83 cases per 100,000 people as of Sunday, from 42.5 on July 25.

"Unfortunately, all of our indicators are telling us the same thing," said Kaufman.

The delta variant appears to be more than twice as contagious as the strain of the coronavirus that launched the pandemic in March 2020 and is "causing large, rapid increases in infections," the CDC said on July 27. The variant is responsible for more than 80 percent of new cases nationwide, according to the agency, and 62.1 percent of cases in New York state in the four-week period ending July 17.

"The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates and among unvaccinated people," according to the CDC.

The number of Beacon residents who had received at least one dose of a vaccine stood at 56 percent on Thursday, well below the state average of 61.2 percent, according to federal data. Rates were much higher in Philipstown — 73.3 percent in Cold Spring and 68.6 percent in Garrison. Dutchess' vaccination rate was 60.7 percent as of Thursday and Putnam was at 65.3 percent.

There is some good news: a recent increase in vaccination rates after months of waning demand.

The state reported nearly 45,000 vaccinations on Wednesday, about 11,000 more than the previous day and 16,000 more than a week earlier. Vaccinations also rose slightly in the seven-county Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam. There were about 3,400 reported on Wednesday, compared to 2,915 on Tuesday and 3,137 seven days before.

Michael Nesheiwat, Putnam County's health commissioner, had one message for residents: get vaccinated.

"This is the best way residents can reduce their individual risk of post-COVID conditions and help reduce cases in our community," he said on Tuesday.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,808 (+141)

Active Cases in Philipstown: ≤5

Tests administered:

254,560 (+5,631)

Percent positive:

4.2 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

65.3

Percent in 10516: 73.3

Percent in 10524: 68.6

Number of deaths:

93 (0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

30,104 (+429)

Active Cases in Beacon: 15

Tests administered:

827,178 (+15,658)

Percent positive:

3.6 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

60.7

Percent in 12508: 56.0

Number of deaths:

447 (0)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Aug. 4, with change over the previous two weeks in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of July 30. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose.

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Village Board Has Final Parking Plan

Committee suggests Cold Spring monitor it for a year

By Michael Turton

After months of discussion and revisions, a plan to curb Cold Spring's often chaotic parking situation on weekends on and near Main Street is in the hands of the Village Board.

Jack Goldstein, a member of the six-person committee that drafted the plan, outlined its final recommendations on Tuesday (Aug. 3).

The influx of spring, summer and fall visitors to Cold Spring in recent years has produced traffic jams, frustrated drivers who must circle in search of parking, short tempers and idling, polluting engines.

The plan's core recommendations are essentially the same as in earlier drafts:

- A residential parking permit program on 11 streets east of the Metro-North tracks;
- Paid parking on Main Street via a smartphone app from the traffic signal to Depot Square, as well as at Mayor's Park and the municipal lot on Fair Street;
- Designated free parking areas;
- Reserved parking on The Boulevard and Kemble Avenue for business owners and employees; and

■ An extensive campaign to inform the public about the new system.

After recent public feedback, the committee made revisions that included:

- Limiting metered parking on Main Street to weekends and holidays;
- Eliminating paid parking within the residential permit zone; and
- Allowing renters in the residential parking area to obtain parking permits.

"There will be personal inconvenience for some individuals, but that must be weighed against the benefits to the quality of life for the community as a whole," Goldstein told the board. "There is always that balance at work."

He urged the board to give the plan a chance by monitoring its impact for a year. "If it's not working to the level you hoped, take input from the public again and modify it as needed," he said.

Goldstein said residential permits will require flexibility. More permits will be printed than there are spaces because, he said, there is no way to know how many residents who qualify will ask for one. A resident may have off-street parking, for example, or a family entitled to two permits may only need one.

He noted that, under the plan, visitor and daily permits for service workers will be available at the village office.

Goldstein said one of the challenges in drafting the plan was the divergent interests that it must serve, including residents, property owners and renters inside and outside the residential permit zone, as well as business owners, workers and visitors. "They are groups with very different points of view," he said.

He stressed that for the plan to be successful, people will have to "buy in to it," and, in some cases, change their behavior. He cited shop owners and their employees who have taken Main Street spaces, a habit, he said, that "ought to be curbed because it is unproductive for the overall economic viability of the village."

Goldstein said the route from the proposed owner-worker parking areas to Main Street takes four minutes. "We don't see this as a terrible burden," he said. "But it will make an enormous difference in terms of parking space availability and turnover on Main Street."

He conceded that the change will be less profound for newer residents than for those who have long enjoyed free parking 24/7. "If I lived on Main Street, on Friday night I would move my car off Main to one of the free spaces on a nearby side street."

The discussion on Tuesday included the possibility of the village entering into agreements with towing companies for the removal of vehicles guilty of serious offenses, such as blocking a resident's

driveway. "None of this works unless there is a commitment [by the village] for stronger enforcement," Goldstein said.

A resident with public relations experience has volunteered to help with a public information campaign and the Chamber of Commerce will create a page on its website to explain the system.

“If we don't begin to gain some control, it will simply be chronically chaotic the way it was last year.

~ Jack Goldstein

"There will need to be a wake-up call from the village that this is a serious matter," Goldstein said. "If we don't begin to gain some control, it will simply be chronically chaotic the way it was last year. This is a moment when the village has an opportunity to move forward on this previously elusive problem."

Mayor Dave Merandy asked the trustees "to digest this for a bit" before a workshop is held to consider the plan in detail. The board can accept, revise or reject the recommendations.

In addition to Goldstein, Merandy and Deputy Mayor Marie Early, the parking committee included Rebeca Ramirez, Dan Valentine and Evan Hudson. Its recommendations are posted at coldspringny.gov.

Rentals *(from Page 1)*

- Properties can only be rented to one party at a time.
- Short-term rentals cannot operate within 300 linear feet of each other.
- One off-street parking spot is required in the R-1 and I-1 zones.
- An LLC can only operate a short-term rental if the property is occupied by one of its owners.
- The host or an agent must be available to respond within 20 minutes.

After the vote, Merandy said he was disappointed "that this opposition [by Foley and Woods] wasn't brought up at prior meetings. The time to bring up objections was after the [July 27] public hearing."

Foley said she had raised concerns about the proposed regulations following the hearing and during a previous Zoom meeting that Merandy was unable to attend.

Reading from a prepared statement, Foley said she supports a number of the provisions, describing the law as "a step in the right direction." However, she said it needs to provide more flexibility for short-term rentals in which the owner lives on the premises. She advocated the approach used in Rhinebeck, which doesn't limit the number of hosted STRs or the number of rental nights.

Woods said she advocates establishing a committee to move the law forward, a measure promoted by a number of STR operators at the public hearing two days earlier. "That process could make this even

better," she said.

During the public comment period, resident Irene Pieza challenged the idea.

"Two years ago, there was a major public meeting on short-term rentals; why didn't the STR [operators] proactively create a committee then?" she asked. Instead, she said, "they punted the responsibility" of how to best manage rentals in the village.

Merandy defended the law as adopted. "This law is to stop the proliferation of STRs," he said, adding that short-term rentals are a business. "That's the bottom line. It's not in a business district, it's in a residential district. People in a residential area do not want to live in a commercial area."

He added that some STR operators want a committee because they aren't happy with the new legal restrictions. "They want to have what they have now," he said.

At the hearing two nights earlier, Kathy Bogardus, who has lived on Parrott Street since 1994, said she was unhappy that the board increased the maximum number of rental nights from 60 to 90 and the percentage of the village housing stock eligible to host STRs from 5 percent to 7.5 percent.

"That is a significant increase," she said. Bogardus also described the proposed fee structure as "woefully inadequate."

Longtime resident Lilian Moser said the problem with STRs is not noise or having strangers in the neighborhood. "It's about people looking for long-term rentals being boxed out," she said, adding that she and her husband are looking for a one-bedroom apartment but that available units are listed as STRs. "People who are willing to

give back to this village are being forced out; something needs to change."

In a letter to the board, James and Frances Pergamo objected to the permits, citing a lack of tax benefits, commercialization of residential areas and increased demand for village services. "We don't want to think

“This law is to stop the proliferation of STRs [which are businesses]. That's the bottom line.

~ Mayor Dave Merandy

that every weekend we won't know who is coming and going," they wrote. "This is a safety and security concern, plain and simple."

Evan Hudson wrote that "priority needs to be given to the needs of full-time residents over the pressures of short-term profit." Hudson said peace and quiet, security and neighborliness tend to be undermined by STRs.

Others were critical of the law's restrictions. "I have not heard an objective reason from the mayor or board that a responsibly hosted STR is harmful to the community, neighborhoods or character of the village," Marianne Remy wrote. "What I have heard are personal biases and instances of inconvenience, some of which are merely anticipated."

Remy and others spoke in favor of creat-

ing an advisory group to develop rules. John Lane submitted a four-page letter on behalf of the Cold Spring Union of Hosted-Airbnb Residents, objecting to several aspects of the then-proposed law.

Lane acknowledged that the board had relaxed a number of restrictions during its review but wrote that the group still believed the law would "prove detrimental to the community and expensive and problematic to implement and enforce."

He questioned the Village Board's legal authority, arguing that "the board is not a legislative body but an administrative one."

Lane said legal challenges to rules similar to Cold Spring's "have been recognized recently in at least two federal courts in New York." He also asserted that although the board had increased the number of nights STRs can operate, "there simply is no basis for limiting an STR operator's ability to offer accommodations for a fixed number of nights." Lane advocated "hardship exceptions" be included.

As he had at other meetings, Lane urged the board to set aside the issue until after the Nov. 2 election. Merandy, Early and Murphy are not running for re-election; Foley is a candidate for mayor, and Woods, who was appointed by Merandy, hopes to retain her seat for the second year of a two-year term vacated by Heidi Bender.

Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovich said the adopted revisions to Chapter 100 of the village code were sent to Albany on Aug. 4 and will become law when they are filed with the secretary of state. The text is posted at coldspringny.gov.

AROUND TOWN



HUDSON SWIM — The River Pool in Beacon raised more than \$33,000 on July 24 at its 17th annual Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim. Accompanied by a flotilla of volunteers in kayaks, 140 swimmers crossed the 1-mile passage from the Newburgh marina to the Beacon waterfront. The first arrived in 33:48.

Photos by Peter Thomas



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The Calendar



The HVSF production of *The Tempest* — its last at Boscobel — will open on Saturday (Aug. 7) after two nights of previews.

Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

After 34 seasons, HVSF presents its last play at Boscobel: *The Tempest*

By Alison Rooney

Two weeks ahead of opening night for *The Tempest*, the production he is directing for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Ryan Quinn voices a sentiment common to the juncture.

"I wish we had two years to work on it," he says.

He elaborates: "You get in a scene, and get a little bit of time to explore, but right about now it's feeling like ooh, it needs to start being this other thing. At this point in rehearsal our moments are very defined by movement, like choreography which helps us find the breath, which helps us expand on other things. It would be wonderful to be able to expand the exploration process indefinitely, but we have to forge ahead."

These are words of experience, as Quinn is an HVSF veteran. A native of Racine, Wisconsin, he first performed at the festival in 2003 in *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Antony and Cleopatra*, in repertory, soon after graduating from the Yale School of Drama.

In 2005, he performed in *The Tempest*,

and spent many other seasons acting under the tent. Quinn has since acted in regional productions around the country, shifting toward directing while continuing to act, and co-founding, with his wife Katie Hartke and others, a theater company called Esperance.

He has also worked extensively as an educator, teaching classes in acting, improvisation and stage combat, working with institutions such as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Vassar College and Phoenix House, an addiction treatment center.

Quinn's associations with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival include the romantic: he and Hartke met during that first season, when they were the only new people hired for *All's Well*.

"Katie and I were in both, and that was the summer that we fell in love," Quinn recalls. The couple later included a line from *The Tempest*, "Hear my soul speak," in their wedding vows.

The final production serves as a coming home of sorts for several actors who have appeared frequently at HVSF through the years, including Kurt Rhoads, Nance Williamson, Jason O'Connell, Zachary Fine and Sean McNall.

"It was intentional to have many people with connections to having their feet in the



Ryan Quinn, with his wife, Katie Hartke, in the 2009 HVSF production of *Pericles*

Photo by William E. Marsh/HVSF

dirt, plus having new people join," Quinn says. "I mean, Kurt and Nance, what can you say? It's amazing having them. They come in and they give it to you; they don't wait."

He says that on his first day back at the tent this year, to see a dress rehearsal of the earlier play, *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* (which remains available to watch online through Aug. 15), he noticed the conserva-

tory company "up in the corner, watching." Years ago, Quinn was the program director for the young actors, who understudy the lead roles while playing smaller ones.

"That was everything to me because I grew up here, chasing Kurt and Nance around," he says. "The conservatory company was the imprint of how I saw being an actor in a company; I soaked it up. Plus, Chris Edwards [the former director of education at HVSF], who played Caliban [in the 2005 production], pushed me forward."

When the festival's artistic director, Davis McCallum, approached Quinn about directing *The Tempest*, the production was a COVID-19 question mark. But McCallum said he wanted to present *The Tempest* as one of the plays during what will be HVSF's last season under the tent at Boscobel, its home for 34 years, before an anticipated move to land donated at The Garrison.

That Quinn had performed in *The Tempest* was both an assist, and intimidating. "I'd done it once, here," he says. "It's a neatly constructed play, and then expands. I started thinking about it in a way I always do, asking myself three questions: 'Why this play? Why me? Why now?' I let the responses turn into my ethos for the production."

"This one landed on Nina Simone. I can

(Continued on Page 16)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 7

Putnam County Wine & Food Fest

COLD SPRING

61 Fair St. | putnamcountywinefest.com

New York cider, spirits, wine and food will be available to sample and purchase at Mayor's Park. There will also be live music, artisan and craft vendors and other entertainment. For ages 21 and older. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$25 (\$10 non-tasting)*

SAT 7

Climate-Friendly Open House

GARRISON

Noon – 2 p.m.

bit.ly/climate-open-house

Tour a home that has a low-carbon footprint and receive tips about heat pumps, electric-powered engines and other climate-friendly practices. Address provided after registration.

TUES 10

Hospitality and Tourism Career Job Fair

FISHKILL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Dutchess Community College

461 Route 9

sunydutchess.edu/gofishkill

Learn about employment opportunities and the college's program for industry professionals.

THURS 12

Butterflies & Skippers

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Via Zoom

bit.ly/butterflies-skippers

The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host this virtual butterfly walk with naturalist Barry Haydasz. Learn about how seasons and climate change impact their life cycle. *Free*

SUN 15

Corn Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park

beaconsloopclub.org

Enjoy fresh corn on the cob,

music, entertainments and children's activities at this annual event.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 7

Batman

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In

724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706

storyscreendrivein.square.site

Michael Keaton stars in the title role with Jack Nicholson as the Joker in Tim Burton's 1989 retelling of the caped crusader saga. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

SAT 7

The Tempest

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D

845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

Ryan Quinn directs this Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance of the poignant and timely play about romance, connection and community. See Page 11. All attendees are required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test, and masks are required. Nightly except Tuesday. *Cost: \$20 to \$175*

SAT 7

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Dockside Park

coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society presents the 1969 depiction of a band of outlaws in the Wild West led by Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Bring blankets and chairs. *Free*

WED 11

The Pollinators

BREWSTER

7 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm

100 Route 312 | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

This 2019 documentary follows migratory beekeepers and their honey bees around the U.S., examining their role in the food system. A panel discussion with the director and local beekeepers will

follow the screening. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

WED 11

Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In

724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706

storyscreendrivein.square.site

An adultery scandal turns into a murder investigation in this 1988 film with a 'toon-hating judge. Kathleen Turner voiced the sultry Jessica Rabbit. Also THURS 12, FRI 13, SAT 14, SUN 15. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

FRI 13

Grease the Musical

BEACON

6 p.m. University Settlement Camp

724 Wolcott Ave.

beaconperformingartscenter.com

Two casts will perform the Pink Ladies and T-Birds' roles in this youth theater production. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Also SAT 14. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 ages 4-18, 3 and younger free)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 7

The Lattimore Studio

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

Work by current and former students of the Lattimore Fine Art Studio & School in Cornwall will be on view in this group exhibit. Through Aug. 29.

SAT 7

Lea Bertucci and Ben Vida

BEACON

8 p.m. Fridman Gallery

475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

The performance artists will each showcase their experimental sound works in this monthly series co-presented with the Howland Cultural Center.

SAT 14

The Fridge Show | Transitional Spaces

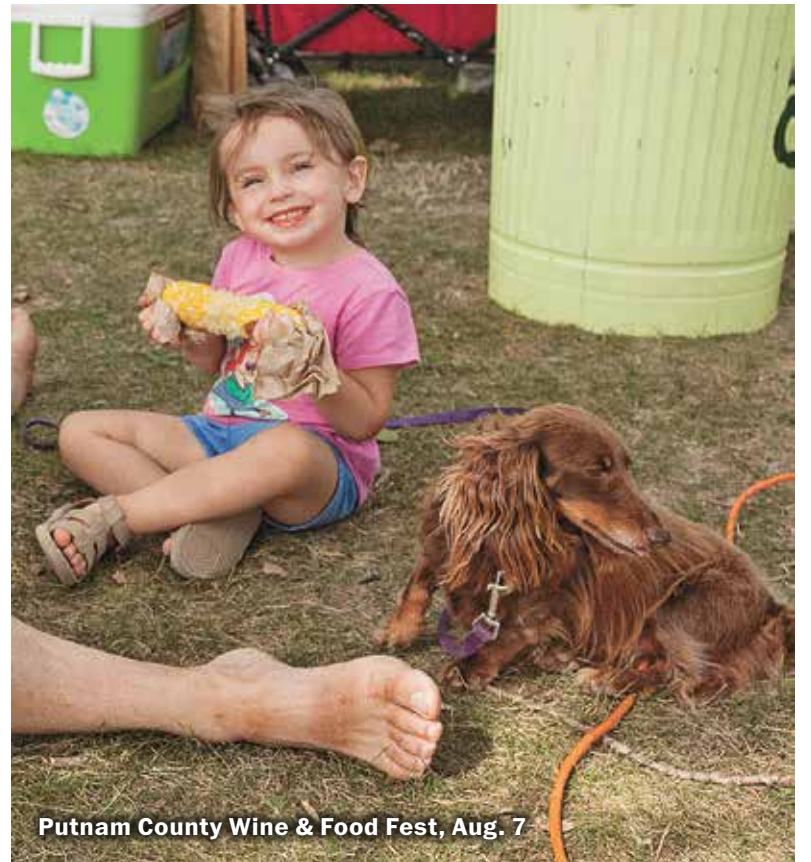
GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960

garrisonartcenter.org

The work of eight women artists will be on view in *The Fridge Show*. Steve Rossi's waterjet-cut aluminum and sculptures will be shared in the Riverside Galleries. Through Sept. 12.



Putnam County Wine & Food Fest, Aug. 7

SAT 14

Malgorzata Oakes | Group Show

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.

845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Oakes' prints, drawings, and paper installations will be on view in Gallery 1, new work by gallery members in Gallery 2 and *Growth*, an exhibit of Evan Samuelson's work (such as below), in the Beacon Room. Through Sept. 5.



SAT 14

Planet Rainbow Sparkles V | Arman Kendrick

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery

163 Main St. | 212-255-2505

shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

Work by more than 90 artists will be part of the fifth Planet Rainbow exhibit and Kendrick's appearance is the artist's first solo show.



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14

Guided Hike

KENT

10 a.m. Hawk Rock | Whangtown Road
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Master Gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension will lead this hike around a four-mile loop and discuss land use, history and vegetation. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 14

Painting With Natural Dye Pigments

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. Common Ground Farm

79 Farmstead Lane

commongroundfarm.org

Laura Sansone will demonstrate how to make and use thickened dyes made from plants grown on the farm and in our bio-region. *Cost: \$45 to \$65*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 7

Bird Festival

BEAR MOUNTAIN

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo

3006 Seven Lakes Drive

trailsidezoo.org

This celebration of New York birds, including bald eagles and wild turkeys, will feature a bird Olympics and a great migration challenge.

TUES 10

Sketching the Harvest

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 p.m. Common Ground Farm

79 Farmstead Lane | compassarts.org

Bring a sketchbook and Ed Murr will show families how to make a still life with veggies they harvest and use to make a dip. *Cost: \$20 to \$40*



The Pollinators, Aug. 11

THURS 12

Community Read

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 8 and higher will discuss the Haldane PTA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee's summer read, *Almost American Girl*, by Robin Ha.



THURS 12

The Sparrow Sisters

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive
compassarts.org/events

The folk trio will perform family-friendly music and Romina Robinson will lead an upcycled instrument-making workshop. Registration required. *Free*

FRI 13

Adult Summer Reading Olympics

COLD SPRING

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

Compete for prizes in giant jenga, cornhole and other games.

MUSIC

SAT 7

Wyndham Baird

PUTNAM VALLEY

6:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The singer, who has been called “the folk trajectory from Woody Guthrie to Bob Dylan,” will perform as part of a series honoring the cultural center’s co-founder, John Cohen. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 7

The Dark Horses

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

This George Harrison tribute band will perform songs from throughout his career. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 8

Mostly Bach and Mozart

BEACON

Noon. 4 Cross St.
facebook.com/beaconchambermusic

The Beacon Ensemble — Adrienne Harmon (violin), Jordan Shapiro (guitar) and Choi Fairbanks (cello) — will share their classical passions. *Free*



Toland Brothers Band, Aug. 15

SUN 15

Toland Brothers Band

BEACON

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Chris and Jeff Toland will be joined by Allison Jolicoeur as they perform original, classic and modern rock and folk songs, specializing in vocal harmony. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 children)*

SUN 15

Margaret Vetare

GARRISON

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

Enjoy a family folk concert on the lawn. See Page 2. *Free*

CIVIC

MON 9

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 9

Dutchess County Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

TUES 10

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 11

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

THURS 12

Public Hearing: Code Amendments

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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Mouths to Feed

You Must Remember This

By Celia Barbour

The other day, my sister-in-law Julie came back from the grocery store with a box of Devil Dogs. She and I have spent the past few weeks with extended family in rural New Hampshire, as we do every year. Because Devil Dogs are not sold in Seattle, where Julie now lives, she buys them whenever she comes East.

I couldn't remember the last time I'd seen a Devil Dog (which, for the uninitiated, is a kind of packaged, elongated whoopie pie), and I remarked on her purchase with interest. She told me that a Devil Dog plus a glass of milk had been a regular after-school snack when she was growing up. Personally, I was never a fan of Devil Dogs, not because I grew up on saintly fruits and seeds, but because I preferred butterscotch pudding in little disposable plastic cups and frozen cheesecake topped with neon-red goo.

I've spent a minimum of one week a year with Julie for the past quarter-century, but until now I had no idea she had a thing for Devil Dogs, or for their cousins, Ring Dings, Yodels, Ho Hos and Ding Dongs. (Here Henry interjects: "Wait, they had Ring Dings *and* Ding Dongs?" Yes, honey. Life was like that in the '70s.) Nor did Julie know of my penchant for packaged pudding. Why would she? Favorite foods aren't topics we necessarily discuss as adults.

Children, on the other hand, love to enumerate favorites: favorite color, favorite animal, favorite character, favorite cake. Perhaps it helps them feel themselves coming into focus as particular, distinct human beings. It's also a tool they use to understand us. "What's your favorite season?" an 8-year-old asked me the other day. Although I had a mere four options to



choose from, I struggled to pick one. She found my waffling unacceptable.

One thing we discover growing up is that favorites are fragile things. Eat the same food day after day and it stops tasting great. Over time, the whole idea of "favorite" may also become so diluted that it turns meaningless. I now have dozens of summer favorites, from corn on the cob to green gazpacho. I have June favorites and September favorites. I have once-a-year holiday-indulgence favorites, and favorite specialties from particular restaurants in certain obscure neighborhoods.

I've noticed another shift, too, now that I've grown so far up that I no longer think of it as "growing up" at all. The dishes I remember most fondly from childhood weren't necessarily my favorites at the time. Instead, they're the curiosities, the unusual things my mother cooked for company, foods that intrigued and excited my taste-buds but didn't necessarily rise to the level of adoration.

One in particular has been on my mind this summer, when berries and orchard fruits have been so abundant. My mother used to make a dish called Danish Dessert, a commodified version of the fruit soups that are a staple of Scandinavian tables. It came in little cardboard packages, and it had the consistency of pudding and the clarity of Jell-O. My mother served it to company in stemmed glasses with dollops of whipped cream on top.

Danish Dessert is still sold via the internet, but I can't bring myself to try it. The edible store-bought miracles of our youth seldom live up to our memories of them — whether because the company changed the formula or our taste buds matured. Who knows?

But I have taken a cue from the artisanal cooks who've started producing from-scratch versions of bygone delights like Snickers bars and whoopie pies. Recently, whenever our sour cherries, raspberries or blueberries have begun to go soft, I've made my own Danish-Dessert-inspired fruit pudding.

It may not be Julie's cup of tea, but I love it. Next summer, I'll get to work on Devil Dogs.



Blueberry Pudding

Serves 4

You can make this with any berries that have gone soft, but not moldy. If you substitute a different type of berry, you might need to adjust the sweetness and skip the spices. Taste after 5 minutes simmering in Step 1 (let it cool first!) and add more sugar or lemon juice, as needed.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 quart blueberries | $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon each cinnamon and powdered ginger |
| 1 cup water | 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon cornstarch |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, or to taste | Lightly sweetened whipped cream or crème fraiche, or plain yogurt, for serving |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh lemon juice, or to taste | |
1. Combine the berries, water, sugar, lemon juice and spices in a saucepan. Bring to a simmer, then reduce heat to medium-low and simmer about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until the fruit is so soft it begins to dissolve.
 2. Strain the mixture through a fine-mesh strainer (or line a wider-mesh strainer with a few layers of cheesecloth), pressing down gently on the solids. Discard solids.
 3. Scoop out half-cup or so of the strained berry liquid. Add the cornstarch to this cupful, and stir vigorously until there are no more lumps. Return the strained berry liquid and the cornstarch slurry to the saucepan. Place over medium heat, bring to a simmer, then reduce heat and simmer, stirring constantly, until the mixture turns translucent and begins to thicken, about 5 minutes.
 4. Transfer to serving dishes. Refrigerate until set, about 3 hours, or cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with lightly sweetened whipped cream and/or crème fraiche for dessert, or with plain yogurt for breakfast.

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Wet on Wet

Artist uses age-old method to produce 'new language' on canvas

By Alison Rooney

Although Heather Guertin paints with oils — an age-old method — much of what she's doing feels like a new language, says Jayne Drost Johnson of Ice House gallery in Garrison, which is showing Guertin's abstract works through Sept. 11.

Guertin, 39, lives and works in Red Hook. She received her master of fine arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has mounted solo shows in New York City, Puerto Rico and Mexico City.

Since 2019, Guertin has been “using a new style and language of painting that started from the collages she was making,” Johnson says. “She finds images from magazines, journals, discarded books — they could be of flora, the landscape, anything, as long as it has an appearance or a texture. She combines them into collages, then uses the collages as a guide, translating the colors, textures and forms.”

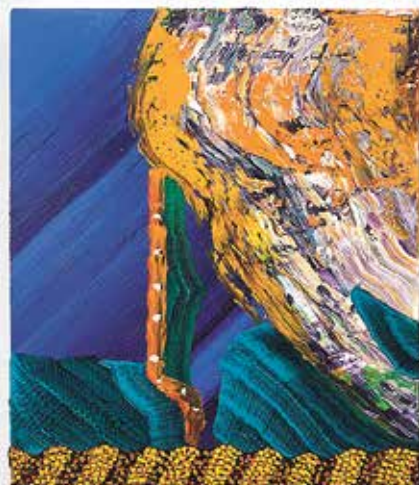
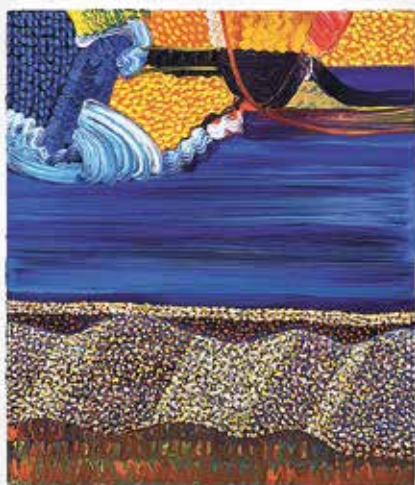
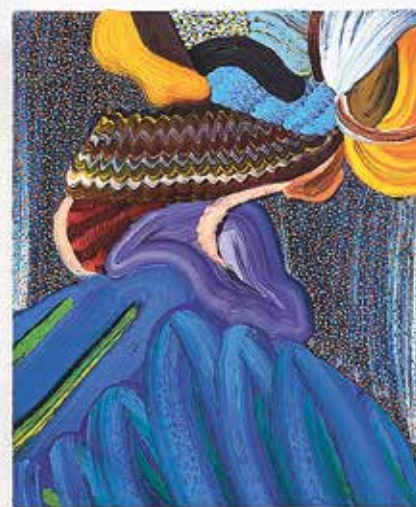
The artist calls how she works “wet on wet” because she adds to the oil paint while it's wet, which transforms the way paint sits on canvas.

It's up to the viewer to make sense of the image. “They have a Rorschach qual-



ity to them as our eye and mind try to put together the marks she's making,” Johnson says. Or, as Johnson writes in her notes for the solo exhibit: “What we think we see within the paintings is a creation of our mind's eye.” She adds that the paintings “activate more than just your sense of sight. The more sensors get activated, the more the work sticks with you.”

Ice House is located at 17 Mandalay Drive in Garrison. The gallery is open by appointment; schedule a visit at jdj.world. The show is one of more than 60 highlighted for the Upstate Art Weekend that will take place from Aug. 27 to 29. See upstateart-weekend.org.



Jayne Drost Johnson

File photo

JDJ Opens Tribeca Gallery

Jayne Drost Johnson, whose JDJ firm operates Ice House, has expanded with the opening in June of a gallery in Manhattan.

“I always thought I might like a satellite space in the city,” she says, although she had trouble finding a place with affordable rent before the pandemic shutdown.

“It's a more traditional gallery space [than Ice House], and it's nice to have the contrast,” she says. “There might be one show across both

spaces, we'll see, but I'm interested to use them in different ways. For some artists, it also presents an opportunity to work in a different scale. At Tribeca we did a show with all the artists who are in the gallery's orbit, some on our roster, others not — a real friends-and-family show. The two galleries have a nice, symbiotic relationship already.”

JDJ Tribeca, at 373 Broadway (B11) in Manhattan, is open during the summer from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. Call 518-339-6913.

“What we think we see within the paintings is a creation of our mind's eye.”

~Jayne Drost Johnson

The Tempest (from Page 11)

think of no other answer why, aside from it felt right. Something about her voice tapped into the culture. Her voice is that of an artist; she feels slightly outside of society. In *The Tempest*, the voices of the island are righteous and potent, but are also outside of society.”

Quinn says he also came up with two words as anchors for the production, one of which was *forgiveness*. “Forgiveness is like faith: we should believe in it, as a way through.”

The other word was *reckoning*. “It’s hard to want to even accounts, but it’s human. When we look at justice, social justice, it takes a long time for that to happen.”

The play’s central figure, Prospero, tethers the words to the text when he says, “The rarer act is in virtue than in vengeance.”

“When I did *The Tempest* in 2005, it was a different play for me,” Quinn says. “It surprised me then, and again now, particularly because now I have a 5-year-old daughter and I connect so much more to being a father raising a daughter, only to let her go,” as Prospero must do with his daughter, Miranda.

In addition to those Shakespearean mainstays of exile, peril, shipwrecks, nobility, scheming, banishment and the carrying out of orders, *The Tempest* mixes in spirits, slavery and family dynamics, plus a dollop of romance.

“The play can come so close to becoming a revenge tragedy,” Quinn says. Before the HVSF season began, the full company



Ryan Quinn is an HVSF veteran who performed in *The Tempest* in 2005.

Photo by A. Rooney

held a meeting in which “we focused on holding space for grace, for the possibility of forgiveness, which is so hard, especially between family. That’s when it becomes beautifully complicated and relatable.”

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare, is being performed at Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D in Garrison, at 7:30 p.m. each evening except Tuesdays through Sept. 4. Tickets are \$20 to \$175. See hvshakespeare.org or call 845-265-9575. Spectators must show proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test (from within 72 hours of the performance) or full vaccination. Face masks are required.

The HIGHLANDS

Current's

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Jacob Nawy and Maeve McGee at the Peekskill Regeneration Farm

Photos by B. Cronin



Anusha Mehar at Newburgh's Sanctuary Healing Farm

Regenerating Land — and People

Project revitalizes communities through farming, engagement

By Brian PJ Cronin

Stand at the shore of Crystal Lake and it feels like you are in the deep forest. A trail leads to the summit of Snake Hill, greenery abounds, and the din of insects and birds drowns out other sounds.

And yet, as Anusha Mehar points out, downtown Newburgh is two blocks away. “We’re hidden in plain sight,” says Mehar, who is one of two paid “regenerators” at the site, along with Katie Collins.

Seventy years ago, Crystal Lake was a hot spot for swimmers and boaters. But its fortunes, along with those of the city, began to decline in the 1970s. Ten years ago, a community cleanup removed more than 3 tons of garbage, including couches, refrigerators and tires. In 2017 Scenic Hudson entered into an oversight agreement with the City of Newburgh to guide its restoration.

Today, the land has become a farm — the Sanctuary Healing Farm — behind an effort led by the nonprofit Ecological Citizens Project of Philipstown as part of its Regenerative Communities initiative.

Jason Angell, who co-founded the Ecological Citizens Project with his wife, Jocelyn Apicello, said that while, on the surface, the initiative is about farming, “at its core it’s about regeneration, the idea of creating and adding to.”

The couple trains regenerators at its Long Haul Farm in Garrison to work at farms in Newburgh, Peekskill and Yorktown Heights. Along with agricultural skills, the training covers self-sufficiency, community organizing and civic engagement.

The Ecological Citizens Project hopes that the farms will not only revitalize urban plots but become a nexus of community and civic engagement. The Peekskill and Newburgh farms, which are in their first full growing seasons, are tended by dozens

of volunteers led by the regenerators. Volunteers help themselves to the bounty and also share produce with food pantries and others.

“It’s about bringing people here so that they can get a sense of what a full food cycle looks like,” says Mehar. “They can understand where it comes from and what it takes to tend.”

“It feels like something tangible,” says Jacob Nawy, who volunteers at the Peekskill Regenerator Farm. “I’ve been to a lot of protests, and a lot of it is immaterial. But this —” he said, looking at the kale he had just harvested. “At the end of the day, someone’s eating this.”

The principles of the project also apply to the soil. “Regenerative agriculture is about making it healthier after you’re done with

it,” explains Maeve McGee, the regenerator at the Peekskill farm. “Conventional farming depletes the soil of all of its life and nutrients.” The regenerators and volunteers use compost and cover crops, work the soil without tilling, and eschew chemical fertilizers.

These methods also prevent carbon from being released from the soil, which contributes to global warming. “These techniques have been around for a long time, through all different cultures,” says Apicello. “But the recognition of how important they are in trapping carbon is opportune.”

Angell and Apicello are forging partnerships with municipalities to provide land to farm, which is what happened in Newburgh and Peekskill and means that apprentice farmers “don’t have to wait or figure out how to get a bank loan to buy 20 acres,”

Angell said. “They’re thrown right into farming for their community.”

The couple also tries to recruit women and people of color to become regenerators, following the lead of Soul Fire Farms in Grafton and Rise & Root Farm in Chester, which are each run by African American women.

Collins, who is Black, and Mehar, whose mother immigrated from India, live in Newburgh. “In Punjabi culture, we’re used to being land stewards,” Mehar says. “It’s the bread basket of India. In my mom’s case, she said that growing up, if they didn’t grow it or skin it, they didn’t eat it.”

McGee grew up 10 minutes from the site of the Peekskill farm and this month will be passing her responsibilities to Aaron and Josh Mosley, brothers who are also locals. “There’s so many young people in this city who don’t have anything to do but walk around,” she says. “They said that when they were younger they would have loved to have had a place, nice and safe, where you can be sitting instead of Dunkin’ Donuts.”

One of the lessons for the regenerators and the volunteers is that farming can be challenging. The Newburgh farm has proven to be a welcoming sanctuary for groundhogs. Holding up a non-lethal trap, Mehar deadpans: “I’m hoping this will be a gentle invitation that they should be more regenerative in their own practice and buzz off.”

Earlier in the season, a sensory garden of native flowers and medicinal herbs was planted outside the fencing. Overnight, someone dug up and stole the plants. Community members urged Collins and Mehar to report the incident to the police, but, Mehar says, “that’s not the relationship we want to build with this land, or model with the community. Nothing about this space can be carceral.”

Instead, the regenerators and volunteers replanted the area with a “three sisters” system used by Indigenous peoples in which corn, squash and beans are planted close together to protect and sustain each other.

“It’s now a resilience garden,” says Mehar. “We’ll grow more food than we ever anticipated.”



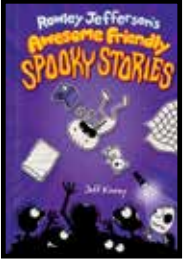
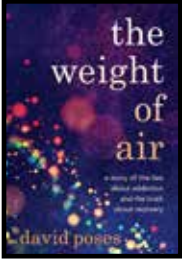
The Mosley brothers will soon take charge of the Peekskill farm.

Photo provided





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? Charmaine and Patrick Choi of Cold Spring shared this shot of their son, Kayland, with Elvis and Aretha. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for June and July by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.

Position	previous	TITLE	AUTHOR	
ADULT	1	-	<i>The Weight of Air: A Story of the Lies about Addiction and the Truth about Recovery</i>	David Poses
	2	-	<i>How to Raise Kids Who Aren't Assholes</i>	Melinda Wenner Moyer
	3	-	<i>Hudson Valley History & Mystery</i>	Michael Adamovic
	4	-	<i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel</i>	Ocean Vuong
	5	2	<i>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</i>	Robin Wall Kimmerer
CHILDREN	1	2	<i>Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories</i>	Jeff Kinney
	2	-	<i>Kiki's Delivery Service</i>	Eiko Kadono
	2	-	<i>Truly Tyler</i>	Terri Libenson
	3	3	<i>Claudia and the New Girl</i>	Ann Martin
	3	1	<i>Dog Man: Mothering Heights</i>	Dav Pilkey

NOTICE

2021-2022 School Year Public Announcement for School Meals Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program

Beacon City School District today announced an amendment to its policy for Beacon area school children for serving (breakfast and/or lunch) under the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program for the 2021-2022 school year, which would allow for all children attending the following schools to be served meals at no charge.

- Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon NY 12508
- Rombout Middle School
84 Matteawan Road, Beacon NY 12508
- South Ave Elementary School
60 South Ave. Beacon NY 12508

- JV Forrester School
125 Liberty St. Beacon NY 12508
- Sargent Elementary School
29 Education Drive, Beacon NY 12508
- Glenham Elementary School
20 Chase Drive Fishkill NY 12524

For additional information please contact the following person:
Food Service Department, Beacon City School District
Attention: Karen Pagano, Director of Food and Nutrition, 29 Education Drive, Beacon NY 12508
845-838-6900 X2012 | Email: Pagano.k@beaconk12.org

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

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

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

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Roots and Shoots

Ode to Mint

By Pamela Doan

My great-grandmother, a lifelong gardener who always had fresh flowers on her table, blew my mind when I was a kid when she pinched leaves off a plant in her flowerbed and we put them in our mouths.

It was mint. Slightly spicy, a burst of flavor came from the little leaf on the plant with the tall, spikey, pink flowers.

She showed me how to rub my fingers on a leaf to discover the scent. We identified rosemary and thyme, too, that she had planted among the dahlias, gladiolus, iris and roses. I learned about herbs and how they could showcase the more serious flowers surrounding them.

Many gardeners disregard mint for its cheerful propensity to make itself at home everywhere and anywhere once it is introduced to the garden. In memory of my grandmother, I've had at least a pot of it in all my grown-up homes. Now my daughter loves to pluck leaves from the mints, basil, sage, rosemary and other herbs that I mix into flowerbeds, as my great-grandmother did.

There are at least 600 varieties of mint, although I've never found more than five at any garden center. It's hybridized so often that its precise names are not as important as choosing one that has the flavor and scent that you love.

It's part of the Lamiaceae family, which has the distinct characteristic of four-sided stems. This family includes the genus *Mentha* (mint), *Monarda* (bee balm and bergamot), *Lavandula* (lavender), *Nepeta* (catmint), *Agastache* (anise hyssop), *Pycnanthemum* (mountain mint) and dozens of others, many native to the



Bees love mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*), shown here in bloom. Photo by P. Doan

Northeast. Each of them that I've listed adds scent and fragrance to any planting.

I have several *Menthas* and two *Pycnanthemums* in my landscape, sharing space with more common perennials. Bees love them. They are powerful pollinator attractions. I've counted up to 11 different types of bees, wasps and butterflies on the mountain mint at one time. Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) is the only other plant I've observed with such impact for diverse species.

Mints are forgiving when it comes to

cultivation. Most prefer full sun but will grow quite well in some shady spots. I've found that the pineapple mint left behind by the previous owner spreads enthusiastically while the spearmint stays in its place.

Mint spreads underground through rhizomes and when stems touch the ground they can form new roots. Removal isn't tragic compared to something like an invasive mugwort or Japanese barberry, but any bit of root left in the soil can form a new plant. It has an elaborate root system.

I cut it back where I'm concerned that pulling it will damage nearby plants in a dense layout. It will re-sprout and I typically cut it back a couple of times in a season.

Deer and other animal foragers don't like the scent or taste of mints. If you have a difficult planting location and heavy browsing, this is the plant for you. Planting it near roses can protect them from aphids.

I've dried it and stored it in dresser drawers and closets, made tea and cocktails, added it to salads and other dishes. I always have more than I need. It's a useful herb both fresh and dried.

A book by Lesley Bremness, *The Complete Book of Herbs*, describes many medicinal uses, such as using essential oils for cold relief, but I don't know if they are backed by any science. She advises cold mint tea to cure hiccups and flatulence. It's just mint; there's no harm in trying.

If you're still on the fence, safeguard your garden by using a pot to contain the mint instead of letting it roam. Maybe there are children who will have their senses awakened when they learn about the edible plant hiding in plain sight among the prize flowers.

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The interior of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance synagogue on Verplanck Avenue soon after its completion in 1929 BHA photo

Synagogue (from Page 1)

The congregation's growth paralleled Beacon's. The synagogue that was eventually built, at 331 Verplanck Ave., not only stood as a religious hub but hosted lectures and other community activities, and served as a base for charitable initiatives, such as supporting World War II veterans hospitalized at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls.

But BHA, like the city, also faced leaner times — when membership dwindled and the remaining congregants stepped up their efforts to keep the synagogue open, including leading services because they could not afford to pay a full-time rabbi. For a time, students from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City would stay for the weekend to lead services at holidays.

"In many ways, what stands out more than anything else is the dedication of the volunteers," said Brent Spodek, who was hired in 2010 as BHA's first rabbi since 1976. "It's been a tremendous presence and commitment from the laity that has kept the place going."

The fall exhibit, whose opening date has yet to be scheduled, will be mounted at the Beacon Historical Society's new home on Leonard Street before moving to the synagogue, said Diane Lapis, the historical society's president.

In addition to an opening reception, the society will host lectures and a walking tour of locations that were once the sites of Jewish-owned businesses, which included tailor shops, dry goods stores, pharmacies, laundries, a movie theater, restaurants, delis, toy shops and a kosher butcher.

"As we look toward the future, we want to embrace the rich cultural heritage of our past, and the story of Jewish life in Beacon has many valuable lessons to offer," Lapis said.

Ellen Gersh's grandparents, Barnett and Esther Pearson, are part of that story.

The Pearsons joined an influx of Jews, many of them immigrants from Europe, who moved to Beacon to work in the clothing factories. The couple were among the founders of the BHA in 1921.

Before the Verplanck building opened in 1929, members worshipped at the former Mechanics Savings Bank building on Main Street and in the Odd Fellows Hall over Schuman's Army & Navy Stores.

There was anti-Semitism. After raising the money to buy land for a cemetery in Fishkill, the congregation had to find a third party to purchase it because the owner refused to sell to Jews, said Gersh.

Gersh, who is BHA's cantor, leading the congregation in song and prayer, was born in 1960, at a time when the city was bustling and had many Jewish-owned businesses, including Schuman's, Fisch's clothing, Aero Leather and the Bank Square Tavern. "The community was very, very healthy," she said.

That was before malls siphoned customers from Main Street and the original members of the synagogue began dying.

To conserve funds, the congregation eventually sold a home it had purchased for its rabbis, renting an apartment instead, said Gersh. Many of BHA's members gave up vacations to finance the repair of the synagogue roof after a collapse in 1974. Gersh recalled that her parents, who both taught at Beacon High School, canceled a vacation

to Puerto Rico to contribute to BHA.

"People gave so much of their heart, of their finances," Gersh said. "They kept it going in difficult times."

Beacon's recent resurgence has brought new residents to the city and new members to BHA, which is holding services outdoors at the University Settlement Camp on Wolcott Avenue because of the pandemic. The congregation is growing out of the space on Verplanck Avenue, said Gersh.

Spodek and his family became members when they moved to Beacon after his wife, Alison, was hired in 2009 as a professor of chemistry at Vassar College. He was in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 27, 2018 — a Saturday — when a racist gunman killed 11 people at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

He returned to Beacon that night and arrived at the synagogue the next morning to find a gathering of clergy from Beacon's Christian churches and mosque and Sands Frost, then a lieutenant with the Beacon Police Department and now its chief. The clergy sang and handed candy to children arriving for Hebrew school, Spodek recalled. A week later, the Salem Tabernacle, a non-denominational Christian church on Delavan Avenue, hosted a rally attended by about 1,000 people to support the Jewish residents of Beacon.

"The white nationalists were, and are, terrifying," said Spodek. "At the same time, there was the tremendous sense, after Pittsburgh but also in general, of the love and support of this community."

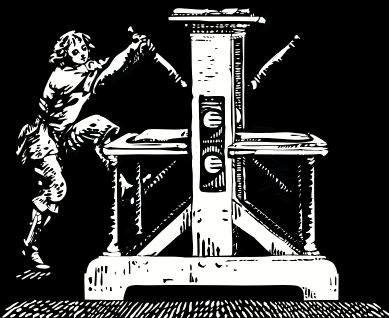


The Beacon Hebrew Alliance synagogue at 331 Verplanck Ave. Photo by L. Sparks



The synagogue opened a preschool in 2016. File photo

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Rabbi Brent Spodek and his family



Bonnie Barry, Ellen Gersh, Beth Pearson and Evelyn and George Pearson outside the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in an undated photo



Sarah and Jacob Ritter (at left), who owned a laundry on South Chestnut Street, were among the founders of BHA. They are shown in their shop in July 1925.

Photo courtesy Frank Ritter



Hannah Zollner's parents (left) at her naming ceremony

Current Classifieds

EVENTS

MODERN MAKERS MARKET – Free to the public, dog friendly and, more importantly, a fundraiser for St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Artisans, artists and makers are coming to Cold Spring on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come meet the makers and shop New York. The address is 1 Chestnut St. Who are these makers? Glassworkers, woodworkers, leather workers, jewelers, potters, food and beverage makers and artists.

SERVICES

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appointments, business support, admin, data entry or any local errands required in Cold Spring, Garrison, Beacon and Fishkill. I am happy to help whether for an hour or more; whatever your needs are. Email sandiafonso70@gmail.com or call 845-245-5976.

BOOST SOME SKILLS! – Summer's here, and this year, as never before, it's a good season to brush up skills and goals, to fill up last year's gaps or to prep for our new normal. As a writing and study skills coach with a master's degree from NYU School of Education, Mrs. G Tutor has the experience, the expertise and especially the caring concern to use her simply effective 3-step system to enhance writing, reading, studying and test-taking for success and self-confidence. Local references. Email Mrsgtutor888@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES



Leona Dushin

Leona Margaret Hauff Dushin departed this earth on Saturday, July 31, 2021 in Peekskill, NY at the age of 95. Leona was a colossal influence on the community as she touched the lives of thousands of horse lovers, mostly young riders, teaching on her farm in Garrison, NY for nearly seven decades. In the late 1990s, Leona was honored as a U.S. Pony Club Legend as the District Commissioner of the Garrison Horse and Pony Club which she founded and commissioned for 47 years.

Born to Frances (Chinery) and Leonard Hauff in Whitestone, NY, she developed an affinity for horses as a young girl while loitering at her grandfather's barns that housed his horse-drawn shipping yard. Much to the dismay of her parents, she took an adventurous year off college to join the Ringling Brothers Circus, doing trapeze acts, riding elephants and of course, horses.

Following her graduation from Queens College with a Fine Arts Degree, Leona began a career in interior decorating at B. Altman and Company in midtown Manhattan. Through a friend, she was introduced to Frank Edward Dushin, and after dating some time, she reluctantly followed him to Northumberland, England where he was an adjunct professor teaching architecture. They subsequently married there. After traveling throughout Europe in a camper van, they returned to the States and moved to Garrison, NY after the birth of their first child, Christine Frances. The property they purchased came with a horse, which propelled what would become her mainstay in the community as a riding instructor. Frank applied his craft to design their home—with Leona's input, of course—which is still perched on the hilltop at Manitou Farm. After four more children, she and Frank separated in 1971 and divorced in 1985.

Leona's life was filled with caring for horses, teaching riding, and embarking on fearless adventures with friends and family, locally and worldwide. Her favorite pastime was plotting new and engaging exercises for her students to gain mastery with horses. Her heart would sing when kids ran up to her, announcing how good their pony was after a lesson. She would retort with a great big smile, "It was you who was good... they listened to you!" In 1980, she established the Leonard Russell Hauff Foundation for Therapeutic Riding, an organization dedicated to teaching horseback riding to children and adults with emotional and physical disabilities, and which continues to be active today.

When she was not enmeshed with equines, Leona loved singing and playing classic tunes on her ukulele (often making up her own verses to add to an already amazing recollection of lyrics), painting, reading, visiting museums, learning history, traveling to remote places around the world, and of course, watching Jeopardy.

She will be missed by many and is survived by her children Christine, Karl, Russell, Frederick, and Margaret; her grandchildren, Cole, Sam, Eleanor, Alexander, Luca, and Clara; two sisters-in-law Dorothy Dushin and Theresa Hauff; cousins, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A wake took place at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St, in Cold Spring and a Mass on Friday morning, August 6, at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring. Read more about Leona's life and legacy at bit.ly/leona-dushin.

Carl Lucy (1929-2021)

Carl E. Lucy, 91, a lifelong resident of Beacon, died July 18 at his home.

Carl was born in Beacon on Sept. 17, 1929, the son of William and Anna (Zeyak) Lucy. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958. On Feb. 10, 1967, at St. Joachim Church in Beacon, he married Lucinda Letterio.

Carl worked as an officer at the Fishkill Correctional Facility until his retirement. He then worked for IBM in security for 10 years. He was a parishioner of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church, a member of Mase Hook & Ladder Co. and a longtime member of the St. Rocco Society.

Carl loved the outdoors — fishing, bird-watching, beekeeping and gardening. He had a passion for golf, and was known for his sense of humor, kindness and love of animals, his family said.

In addition to his wife, Carl is survived by his children, Celeste Ormerod and Matthew Lucy (Cheryl), and his grandchildren, Raymond Ormerod, Elizabeth Ormerod, Katherine Ormerod and Kyle Lucy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held July 23 at St. Joachim Church, followed by interment with military honors at St. Joachim Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation (arfbeacon.org).

Ed Seltzer (1938-2021)

Edward J. Seltzer, 83, who had lived in Cold Spring for the past 53 years, died July 31.

He was born July 10, 1938, in Philadelphia, the son of Joseph and Dorothea (Pompe) Seltzer. He married Eleanor Biedermann.

Ed worked as a personnel coordinator for IBM in East Fishkill for 25 years, until his retirement. He was a charter member of the North Highlands Fire Co. and was a hospice volunteer for 17 years.

Along with his wife of 60 years, Ed is survived by his sons, Randall Seltzer (Katherine) and Jerrold Seltzer (Samantha), and four grandchildren: Kasha, Kylie, Danielle and Parker. Services will be private.

Santos Viera (1931-2021)

Santos "Papi" Viera, 89, who was said to be the first Puerto Rican to buy a house in Beacon — in 1955 on Paye Avenue — died July 27.

Born Nov. 1, 1931, in Naguabo, Puerto Rico, he was the son of Elias Viera Alzuaga and Justa Ramos Viera. He married Gladys Viera in Beacon on Oct. 21, 1960; she died Feb. 3.

Santos was a machinist and foreman with Beacon Piece and Dye until his retirement. He also was a minister with the Spanish Eastern District Council of the Assemblies of God and a life member of the Tabernacle of Christ Church in Beacon, which had been founded by his mother and

friends. He was a founding member of the Hispanic Society of Beacon.

He is survived by his children: Erick Viera (Carmen) of Miami; Bethzaida "Betsy" Catalano (Danny) of Beacon; Marilyn "Nani" Ricottilli (Greg) of Beacon; and Wendy Viera Pitt (Nathan) of Cornwall; his grandchildren: Erika, Christina, Gregory, Dominic, Dylan, Priscilla, Joshua and Nina; his great-grandchildren: Jayden, Amani, Jesanna, Jacob, Joseph, Olivia, Sophia and Mariana; and his brother, Benny Viera.

A funeral service was offered on July 31 at Tabernacle of Christ, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Eric Wagner (1931-2021)

Eric Gerhardt Wagner, 89, a longtime resident of Philipstown who was a mathematician, computer scientist and painter, died July 26.

He was born Oct. 1, 1931, in Ossining, the son of Gerdt and Charlotte (Candee) Wagner, and grew up in Croton. He attended North Country School in Lake Placid; the Putney School in Vermont; Harvard College; and Columbia University, where he earned a doctorate in mathematics.

While at Harvard, Eric took a summer internship at the U.S. Bureau of Standards, where he worked on one of the world's first computers. This inspired a long career working with computers.

After graduating, Eric was drafted into the U.S. Army for the Korean War. Upon his return to the U.S., he began a 40-year career at IBM, first in Poughkeepsie as a "logical designer" in its nascent research division, and then at the Thomas Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, where he was a research mathematician and computer scientist. He retired in 1993.

He and his wife, Miriam, moved to Philipstown in 1961.

He loved hiking and climbing in the Highlands, and camping trips in the Catskills and Adirondacks in summer and winter. He earned membership in the Adirondack 46ers by climbing all 46 high peaks by 1969, when he was 37.

Eric served as a board member of the Garrison Art Center, where he took classes for more than 50 years, and of the Catfish Pond Association. He was the scoutmaster of Troop 4 in Garrison for 15 years.

In January 2018, when Eric was 86, the Garrison Art Center hosted his first solo show of paintings, which represent abstract mathematical themes. See bit.ly/eric-wagner.

Along with his wife, Eric is survived by his children: Benjamin, Matthew and Elizabeth; their spouses, Martha, Jessica and Daniel; five grandchildren: Ethan, Zoe, Sophia, Tor and Willow; and two siblings, Klaus and Kathrin.

Services were private. Memorial donations may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union (aclu.org), the Southern Poverty Law Center (splcenter.org) or the Garrison Art Center (garrisonartcenter.org).

Edward Preusser (1939-2021)

Edward F. Preusser a lifelong resident of Garrison NY, passed away peacefully at home on July 17th after a long illness.

He was born on May 17th 1939 the only child of Agnes (Donohoe) and Richard T. Preusser. Upon graduation from Haldane High School, he attended business school and became a licensed real-estate salesman working for the family firm which was started by his grandfather John P. Donohoe in the late 1890s.

The firm originally known as John P. Donohoe and Son is one of the oldest and continually operating family run real-estate offices in the Hudson Valley and is currently known as Agnes D. Preusser Inc. Real Estate located at 35 Garrison's Landing (originally owned and operated as a hotel by John P. Donohoe) and is carried on by his wife, Nora and their sons, Edward and John (fourth-generation real estate agents).

In the early 1960s, Ed joined the Army National Guard and was honorably discharged with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. While he worked on building up his hours as a private pilot, a lifelong career in aviation would follow, attaining the rank of Captain which spanned over 40 years until his retirement. Throughout his flying career he would travel worldwide attaining 16 different type ratings.

Ed's early years began with Zantop Air Cargo and moved onto Cluett Peabody, General Foods, Union Pacific and retired with Union Carbide (Dow). Ed was an admired and respected pilot by his peers and passengers and was jokingly known as "Captain Comfort" as he was known for his smooth landings.

Ed was also an avid golfer and the youngest Club Champion at the age of 16 at the Highlands Country Club in his hometown of Garrison. He would go on to win the championship there many more times. Ed was also an early member of the "Herd," a group of local gentlemen that played at their home course The Garrison Golf Club. Ed was known for his smooth golf swing. He shared his love of golf with his younger son John who would go onto a career in golf management at the Nantucket Golf Club.

He and his wife Nora (Nelson) spent many winters in Naples, Florida where he was avid golfer and member at The Eagle Creek Golf and Country Club for over 20 years. Ed and his golfing friends were known as "The Happy Group," which pretty much sums it up.

Another love of his was restoring, maintaining and driving vintage European sports cars as a hobby he shared this love with his eldest son Ed. Throughout the years Ed and his son enjoyed racing their 1956 Austin-Healey 100 Le Mans at Lime Rock Park and various other tracks in the Northeast.

Ed enjoyed working on their family home in Garrison and was an accomplished woodworker. Much of the renovations of their home in Garrison are a result of his skill. He also loved to garden and was one of the first male members of The Philipstown Garden Club. In later years some of his favorite times were spent with his granddaughters by his side reading books, telling stories and sharing his life experiences with them.

He was a man who enjoyed his family and lived his life to the fullest, a man of many talents who loved his home, he was a "man for all seasons" he will be missed by those he knew and loved.

He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Nora (Nelson) Preusser, his eldest son, Edward Nelson Preusser, his wife Kelly (Guinan), their two daughters Aurora and Olivi, all of Garrison, younger son, John Donohoe Preusser and his wife Jody (Walmsley) of Nantucket, Massachusetts.

As per his wishes, services will be private, but those wishing to remember him may make a donation to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or The Wounded Warrior Project. Funeral Arrangements were under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home - Cold Spring.



Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Glitz partner

5. Body powder

9. Use a straw

12. Andean land

13. Jannings of old films

14. Travail

15. Former Cubs slugger

17. Tolkien creature

18. Porgy's love

19. Witherspoon of *Wild*

21. Inventor Nikola

24. Pugilist's weapon

25. Yard tool

26. CSI procedures

30. Egg (Pref.)

31. Topped with froth

32. Picnic dessert

33. Like ghost towns

35. Dog's sure

36. Cambodia neighbor

37. *What the Butler Saw* playwright

38. Ink stains

40. Onetime *This Old House* host Bob

42. Back talk

43. "Georgia on My Mind," for one

48. Mine material

49. Sunrise direction

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27					28	29
30				31						32		
33			34						35			
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

50. Counterfeit

51. Petrol

52. Obligation

53. Meditative practice

9. Ideal place on a tennis racket

10. Charged bits

11. Seeger or Sampras

16. Verily

20. Jargon suffix

21. Walked (on)

22. Roof overhang

23. Aspen attractions

24. Notoriety

26. "— you're told!"

27. Rebel Turner

28. Ex-Yankee

Martinez

29. Beheld

31. Heeded dental advice

34. Feedbag morsel

35. Obstreperous

37. Flamenco cheer

38. Online journal

39. Turkish money

40. Expansive

41. — -bitty

44. Greek cross

45. Discoverer's call

46. Pester

47. *Today* rival, briefly

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Answers for July 30 Puzzles

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

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

1. NAYSAY, 2. UNTRUTHFUL, 3. JUSTLY, 4. PLUS, 5. GROOMED, 6. OXLIP, 7. PHONING

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

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 impedes (7)

2 long, loose robe (6)

3 winnings (7)

4 hygienist's target (4)

5 lakeside vacation dwellings (8)

6 detergent measure (6)

7 not infinite (9)

SOLUTIONS

HAM	TAG	TA	RS	GS
TAN	PF	LE	ES	NT
CA	COU	MS	KIN	CAF
GU	AB	PE	UL	COT

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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SPORTS



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Mikey Fontaine threw a no-hitter in a playoff game on Tuesday, sending the Beacon 14U team to the divisional title game.



Jack Antalek cruises into second against the Red Hawks.

Beacon Rides No-Hitter to Title Game

Fontaine shuts down Port Jervis for 14U win

By Skip Pearlman

Watching the first inning of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League playoff game on Tuesday (Aug. 3) between Beacon and Port Jervis, it looked like Bulldogs pitcher Mikey Fontaine might be in for a long night.

As it turned out, he wasn't.

Fontaine — who will be a freshman at Beacon High School next month — tossed a no-hitter, shutting down the No. 11-seeded Red Hawks in a 10-0 victory for the Bulldogs travel team for players 14 years old

and under.

With the win, the No. 2 Bulldogs (15-5-1; 12-2 league) advanced to this weekend's divisional championship. They are scheduled to face the winner of a Thursday game between No. 5 Brewster (10-2-1) and No. 9 Eastchester (7-7) on Sunday at 3:45 p.m. at Rogers Park in Danbury, Connecticut.

On Tuesday at Memorial Park in Beacon, Fontaine, who played on the high school varsity as an eighth grader this spring, pitched a complete-game shutout, with two strikeouts, utilizing a well-located combination of fastballs and curves.

"He had a rough first inning," said Coach Bob Atwell, who also coaches the high school varsity. "He had three base runners

[two walks and one hit by pitch] but he pitched out of it and cruised from there.

"After a 20-pitch first inning, he finished the game with 70 total," Atwell said. "He located the fastball and curve well, and credit our guys — they played solid defense behind him."

At the plate, Derrick Heaton went 3-for-3 with two RBI; Mercer Jordan was 2-for-4 and drove in two runs; Fontaine

went 2-for-5 with an RBI; and Jack Antalek, Austin Jorgensen,

Jackson Atwell and Ronnie Anzovino each drove in a run.

"Heaton has been on fire lately at the plate," Atwell said. "He's hitting over .500 in our last six games, and he's been hitting well all season."

This same Bulldogs team won a league summer championship two years ago. Last year it lost in the first round.

Derrick Heaton went 3-for-3 against Port Jervis.

Photos by S. Pearlman

State Tournaments Scheduled to Return

Officials still cautious with COVID resurgence

By Skip Pearlman

The opportunity to test your skills against the best is what any athlete hopes to experience.

After losing the spring 2020 season because of the COVID-19 shutdown, high

school athletes and coaches in the Highlands saw the return of limited competition in the fall and winter and the return of the sectional tournament this past spring.

But the missing piece was the state tournament. Teams that won a Section 1 title did not advance any further. But this week, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association said it was planning to again organize statewide tournaments

for 2021-22.

The association cautioned that its decision is contingent on mandates from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or state Health Department (see Page 1). But for now, the announcement by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in June that the state would lift its COVID-19 restrictions gave the association confidence it could restart state playoffs.

"I'm so excited for the girls, especially the seniors," said Haldane varsity volleyball Coach Kristina Roling. "It's sad that the last group missed out, but for the players they'll be so happy they can get the opportunity to move on to a higher level. It's great for

the coaches and the teams to see what's out there.

"Athletes are used to playing the schools in their section; they know what they're facing," Roling added. "But with states, they get to see teams from around the state, most of whom play at a super-high level."

"It's great for the kids to continue this movement toward a regular season," said Haldane varsity football Coach Ryan McConville. "It's great motivation. If you can win the section title, to be able to move on is a big deal."

"We've never won a state football title, but in our last appearance [in 2018] we reached the [Class D] semifinals," he said. "There are a lot of athletes who have never experienced that — if you win, to get to compete with the best in the state."

“It’s sad that the last group missed out, but for the players they’ll be so happy they can get the opportunity to move on to a higher level. ~Kristina Roling