

# The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 21, 2022

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## Leonora is Leaving

*After 40 years in Cold Spring, Country Goose for sale*

By Alison Rooney

Leonora Burton, proprietor of Cold Spring's Country Goose, who has served as an oracle of Main Street, holding forth and spreading the word on the street since 1985, announced on Monday (Jan. 17) that she plans to close her shop on March 31 and return to the U.K.

Burton, a native of Wales (in the event you hadn't heard), crossed the pond for New York City decades ago.

She said she began thinking about returning to the U.K. after her brother-in-law died in England from COVID-19 in 2020.

(Continued on Page 6)



Leonora Burton has operated her store on Main Street in Cold Spring for nearly 40 years.

Photo by Amy Kubik



Maya Fasulo sits at her mother's bedside earlier this month in the intensive care unit at Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut.

Photo provided

## Devastated By COVID

*Beacon native loses mother, grandmother*

By Leonard Sparks

Someone from Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut called to say that Cecile Fasulo's condition had worsened.

Maya Fasulo dressed and drove the 20 minutes to the hospital. It was Jan. 7, one month after her mother, 56, had been hospitalized with COVID-19 and two weeks after doctors induced a coma to insert the tube that carried oxygen from a ventilator to Cecile Fasulo's virus-ravaged lungs.

Maya had fought with the hospital to be there for this moment — to hold her mother's hand and talk to her. Covered in a protective gown, she called relatives so they could also speak to the dying woman. A day earlier, during a two-hour bedside visit, her mother's vital signs had improved, said Maya. This day, however, doctors issued a final forecast: The only thing keeping Cecile alive was her blood-pressure medications, including epinephrine and norepinephrine.

Maya, initially opposed, looked at the machines monitoring her mother's vital signs. "It wasn't fair for my mom, this

(Continued on Page 8)

## Little Hope for Missing Crew Member

*May have jumped ship at Cold Spring rather than return to Myanmar*

By Michael Turton

Seth Dinitz had no idea a trip to walk his dog at Dockside Park in Cold Spring would draw him into an international missing-person case that remains unsolved.

On Jan. 3, the Garrison resident spotted a red backpack resting on rocks at the edge of the Hudson River.

"It was clean on the exterior," he recalled this week. "Inside, everything was water-logged."

Its contents included two days' worth of neatly folded clothing, a wallet, cellphone, work documents, a mechanical engineering diploma, family photos and a photocopied passport. It also contained \$599 in cash and 8,500 kyats, the currency of Myanmar, worth less than \$5.

The documents belonged to Aung Phone San, 26, a Myanmar national and a cadet engineer aboard the M.V. Medi Hakata, a bulk carrier registered in Panama.

Dinitz was advised by the Cold Spring Police Department to alert the New York State Police, which in turn notified the U.S. Coast Guard.

(Continued on Page 7)



A selfie that Aung Phone San sent to his family; it was probably taken in Panama.

## The Slowdown Everyone Wants

- Beacon hopes to reduce speed limit
- Nelsonville calls for Route 301 changes
- Cold Spring, Philipstown also made attempts

By Jeff Simms and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

There appears to be plenty of local support for the Beacon City Council's push to decrease the citywide speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

But the city will need help from Albany

before it can make changes.

The council passed a resolution on Tuesday (Jan. 18) urging state lawmakers to adopt legislation that would allow cities, towns and villages to lower speed limits to 25 mph from the state-mandated minimum of 30 mph.

Municipalities can make changes to individual roads — New York City last year reduced the speed limits on 45 miles of high-crash corridors in four boroughs — but the state prohibits municipalities from setting default limits below 30 mph. Several bills have been introduced in the state Senate and Assembly that would lift the restriction.

Dan Aymar-Blair, the Ward 4 council member who last year suggested lowering the limit, says it's time for the change. "For three years I've heard from many people that they're worried about safety," he said. "We need to take action."

Dropping speed limits further, to 15 mph,

(Continued on Page 9)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: **ANDREW D'ANGELO**

By Michael Turton

**A**ndrew D'Angelo was appointed in August as executive director of the Holy Mountain Franciscan Retreat Center in Garrison, formerly known as the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center.

## Was it a personal or professional path that brought you to Graymoor?

A bit of both. I spent most of my career in Catholic education as a teacher, elementary school principal, high school principal and, ultimately, a high school president. I wanted to move away from education, but didn't want to work in a secular environment. I wanted something a little different, and this was the right fit at the right time. For someone who's worked in and for the Catholic Church for a long time, this is fantastic; all the stars aligned. And it was a return to New York after living in Pennsylvania for several years; I'm a native New Yorker.

## Do you plan to change the programming?

I'm looking to expand and diversify. The retreat center has a long history of serving people in recovery from alcohol and various forms of addiction. Things like Matt Talbot retreats [named for an Irish ascetic revered for his piety and charity], women,



couples, seniors in recovery. Because of our location and property, we're poised to also be a cultural center. I'm looking to bring in lecture series, symposia, music events, authors, book signings and art shows. I want to open up to a lot of those kinds of tools.

## What draws people to Graymoor retreats?

There's a deep spiritual connection here,

and not just for Catholics. Much of the friars' ministry has been ecumenical work, interfaith and interreligious. Even though we were closed during the pandemic shutdown, we encouraged people to enjoy the property; the grounds and chapels were open. It's people seeking a little respite, a little healing. They come up and turn off. There are no TVs in the rooms. We have Wi-Fi; people can be as connected or disconnected as they want. The retreat house is atop an 800-foot mountain. People sense a kind of peace when they're up there.

## Do you help people cope with issues that are different from 25 years ago?

Absolutely. People are dealing with much more complex and complicated issues and anxieties, particularly surrounding faith, spirituality and religion. They are asking more questions of themselves and of institutions than in the past. But once you drive onto that mountain, you could be anywhere. You don't realize you're just outside of New York City. It's a memorable place that, without being hyperbolic, can change people's lives. In fact, we measure success when people tell us at the end of their weekend that it has changed their lives. Some people have been coming here for 30, 40 or 50 years.

## How are you funded?

We get funding from a variety of sources. People pay for retreats. We don't turn people away; we have scholarships if somebody needs an opportunity they can't afford. We also have a sophisticated mission advancement and a mission support arm of the friars that does a fantastic job. We have generous benefactors who enable us to continue not just the work of the retreat center, but the work of the friars, St. Christopher's Inn [men's treatment program] and the sisters. The friars look at the retreat center as a ministerial opportunity, not as a moneymaking venture.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Amid winter and COVID-19, how do you relax these days?

"I'm a handyman. I never relax; I'm always on the go."



Ralph Carbone, Beacon

"I journal using a feather quill pen, about my day, poems and stories."



Athena Stebe Glorious, Putnam Valley

"I play a big post-apocalyptic survival game with friends on the computer; it's very therapeutic."



Jabes Vera, Cold Spring

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

**Sat. Jan 22 – 1 to 5 PM**  
ART SHOW: CELEBRATING ANIMALS  
And sale! Works by 29 artists!  
Continues most weekends through Feb 26

**Sun. Jan 23 – 4 PM**  
Pianist ROMAN RABINOVICH  
Howland Chamber Music Circle  
Tix: [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

**Fri. Feb 4 – 7 PM**  
LIT LIT, hosted by DONNA MINKOWITZ  
Info and sign-up: [donnaminkowitz.com/lit-lit](http://donnaminkowitz.com/lit-lit)

**Sat. Feb 5 – 8 PM**  
CONCERT: CHOBAN AKOUSTIK w/ DOLUNAY  
An evening of Balkan folk music  
Tix: [Howlandculturalcenter.org](http://Howlandculturalcenter.org)

**AND MORE**  
Feb. 19 – ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series  
Feb. 25 – Thom Joyce's Open Mic  
Feb. 26 – PopUp Theatrics - "LIAR"  
Classes: Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra  
Classes: Mid-Hudson Music Together

Please Note: Beacon Chamber Ensemble has been postponed TBA

Follow our web media for more info and updates

VAX: Gallery w/mask + Concerts for vaccinated persons w/proof

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# Cold Spring Rescinds COVID-19 Policy

## Board also hears presentation on tech updates

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Jan. 19) voted unanimously to rescind a recently created policy requiring COVID-19 testing or vaccinations for employees.

"We began this conversation at the height of Omicron, trying to create a safe workplace," said Mayor Kathleen Foley. "We're at a point now where there are only two staff [members] who have not been sick."

Foley said that during the time it took to draft the policy, the environment shifted, with

the number of cases beginning to decline. She suggested a shift to more "flexible, common-sense" safety guidelines such as mask wearing, social distancing and washing hands.

The mayor reinforced the need for workers to stay home if sick, get tested regularly and isolate if they test positive. A weekly update on COVID guidelines will be provided to staff, she said.

At the same meeting, Anthony Adamo, president of Carmel-based Managed Technologies, presented options for improvements in information technology at Village Hall and other sites.

Adamo covered a wide range of issues, from security, servers, backup systems and collaborative technologies to connectivity,

employees' and the board's ability to work remotely, email, internet speed and surveillance cameras.

Foley said once Adamo provides comparative pricing, his recommendations will be prioritized and considered as part of the upcoming budget process.

"We want to figure out what we can do better to make staff time and trustees' time more efficient, and to make sure we are properly securing files," Foley said.

### In other business ...

■ Trustee Joe Curto reported that he, Trustee Tweeps Woods and village employees met for 90 minutes with the owners of

Royal Carting to discuss having the firm collect garbage and recyclables, instead of having the Highway Department handle the job. Royal Carting will make a presentation at the Feb. 2 meeting. Its bid document is posted at coldspringny.gov.

■ The board approved performance reviews for all non-contract employees. Only workers in the water department have been receiving reviews. "Without performance appraisals, decisions to modify salaries could potentially be arbitrary," Foley said. "They need to be based on data." Woods noted that clear job descriptions are needed as part of the process.

■ Reconstruction of the stone wall on Main Street east of the traffic signal has been put on hold for the winter and will resume in March.

# Nelsonville Limits Short-Term Rentals

## Regulations will take effect in 2023

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

With a 3-2 vote on Tuesday (Jan. 18), the Nelsonville Village Board approved a law that will limit operation of short-term rentals to 100 days annually — or, alternatively, to two rentals of one week each — and require owners to make the property their main residence.

The vote ended several years of intermittent but intense debate over STRs, which are typically rooms, apartments, auxiliary cottages or houses serving as weekend or vacation accommodations for paying guests who book them through services such as Airbnb and VRBO.

The law, which takes effect on Jan. 1, exempts units rented for periods of 30 days or longer. It also excludes traditional bed-and-breakfasts, which usually provide a morning meal and fall under different regulations.

Mayor Mike Bowman and Trustee Kathleen Maloney voted against the law. Trustees Chris Winward, Dave Moroney and Maria Zhynovitch voted for it.

According to its preamble, the law is intended to preserve long-term rental housing; protect community character; and ensure safety through compliance with fire, health and other rules.

It demands that STRs undergo inspections and that owners obtain either a Class A permit to rent for up to 100 days annually or a Class B permit to rent twice a year for up to a week at a time. Under the law, Nelsonville can issue 15 Class A and unlimited Class B permits annually. The law also authorizes the Village Board to increase the number of Class A permits, if warranted.

"I've had some sleepless nights on this one," Bowman said, before voting. "I do have some reservations about the 100-day limit." Moreover, he predicted, "enforcing this is going to be a very hard task."

Maloney proposed a limit of 100 stays rather than 100 days, a change she said could assist residents who depend on STR income. She voted "no" on the law after her colleagues displayed no interest in revising it.

The law also provides that:

- Any STR must be an accessory function on a property, not the main use.
- No garage, shed, trailer, camper or tent can be an STR.
- A property with two STRs may list both under one permit, but the 100-day rule applies to both simultaneously.
- Owners must live on the property for at least one year before applying for a permit.
- If not at the property, the STR owner or an authorized agent must be able to reach the rental within 30 minutes.
- Each STR must have a bathroom containing a toilet, sink and bathtub or shower with hot and cold drinkable water.
- No more than two adults can occupy each STR bedroom.
- STR properties cannot be used for weddings, concerts or similar events.
- If an STR shares a driveway with one or more other properties, all the owners affected must consent in writing to its use by the rental.

During public comment, Rudy van Dommele, who offers Airbnb rentals, reminded the board of earlier comments by residents critical of regulations. "The board members work for the public," he said. "So, really, what's important is what the public thinks."

Tom Corless, a former Nelsonville mayor, said the law's provisions on ensuring safety make sense, but that the 100-day cap and granting only 15 Class A permits are a problem. Recalling that Nelsonville once had many rundown houses, he said that STR income can help owners maintain their properties.

Former Trustee Dove Pedlosky observed that village homes are often close together. In that setting, "100 days is a lot," she said, adding that a neighboring STR with renters coming 100 times yearly "would be problematic for me." Pedlosky also said that under the village code each existing STR operation probably operates illegally but the new law "makes it lawful."

Pearl Street resident Carol Thomas said, "I

bought my house because I want to live in a community with other homeowners. I'm not willing to live next to somebody who's got freaking people coming in the weekends."

Van Dommele and Corless tried to debunk fears.

"I don't know if there's anybody here who has even seen one of those Airbnbs who make our community unsafe," van Dommele said.

"I don't think there's a danger with transients, or whatever you want to call them," Corless added.

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The HIGHLANDS  
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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Shakespeare project

Deep in the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's Expanded Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) before the Philipstown Planning Board, which was prepared by six consultants, a project manager and lawyers, is the erroneous claim that HVSF will be saving us from suburban sprawl by moving its operations from Boscobel to the former Garrison Country Club ("Shakespeare Project Set for Public Hearing," Jan. 14).

The argument goes thus: The cost borne by the taxpayer is already high because the golf course was never developed with homes that would have generated property tax income. Therefore, the HVSF proposal will save money because the tax revenue that would have been generated by the handful of houses that could be built under present zoning would be less than the cost of the additional children who would live in those houses and attend the Garrison School, using statewide average costs.

Here HVSF claims that building houses would in one instance generate more tax income and in the second instance generate increased tax costs.

Aside from that, the Garrison School can absorb considerably more children per class than the current 13 at little to no cost; the

district does *not* conform to statewide averages. High school tuition paid by the district to Haldane and O'Neill has always been considerably reduced by a drift to private schools (currently about 40 percent of students when they complete the eighth grade). So this argument is null and void, victim to another instance where these top-class consultants have zero knowledge of our town.

Philipstown, according to pages 103/104, Tables 25 and 26 of the EAF, lost about \$155,000 annually in property taxes because the golf course was not used for housing. This proposal is asking us to increase that loss to about \$280,000 per annum.

At the same time, the festival will no longer pay large annual costs for rent at Boscobel or erecting, taking down and storing its tent. A gain for HVSF is a loss in tax income for the town, and especially Garrison, as school taxes are the major component.

I understand that the nonprofit Scenic Hudson makes a payment to the town in lieu of taxes for many of the areas it owns. However, I would be happy to bear the cost of extra taxes in return for a moderation in the scope of the HVSF plan.

We don't need to be saved from sprawl. We already saved ourselves nearly 20 years ago and re-committed ourselves with the

November update to the comprehensive plan. Please attend the Planning Board's public hearing on this project at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 27, in person or by Zoom.

Stan Freilich, *Garrison*

*A Life on Our Planet*, available on Netflix, is hard to watch, but please see it. What we have done to our planet is devastating. What we are leaving for our children to deal with is heartbreaking. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you that we are at Code Red on the planet.

So why is Garrison, one of the area's most privileged and sensitive to environmental stewardship on the planet, allowing HVSF to come in with a major commercial development and tear up what has been so hard won? With all of our smarts and wealth, we should be demonstrating the best green leadership — a pilot project of what is needed planet-wide.

I am not opposed to HVSF being here; I am opposed to the scale of what it is proposing. It is too much.

New York City is full of theaters that desperately need our patronage right now. We do not need to bring a regional center here. With the current plan, thousands will arrive daily, creating congestion and transforming our home into a tourist attraction.

Up to now, the community has had no opportunity to have a conversation about this except through indirect channels like this paper. Please come to the first public hearing on Jan. 27. We can shape what is happening. It is not a done deal, but once it is done there will be no going back.

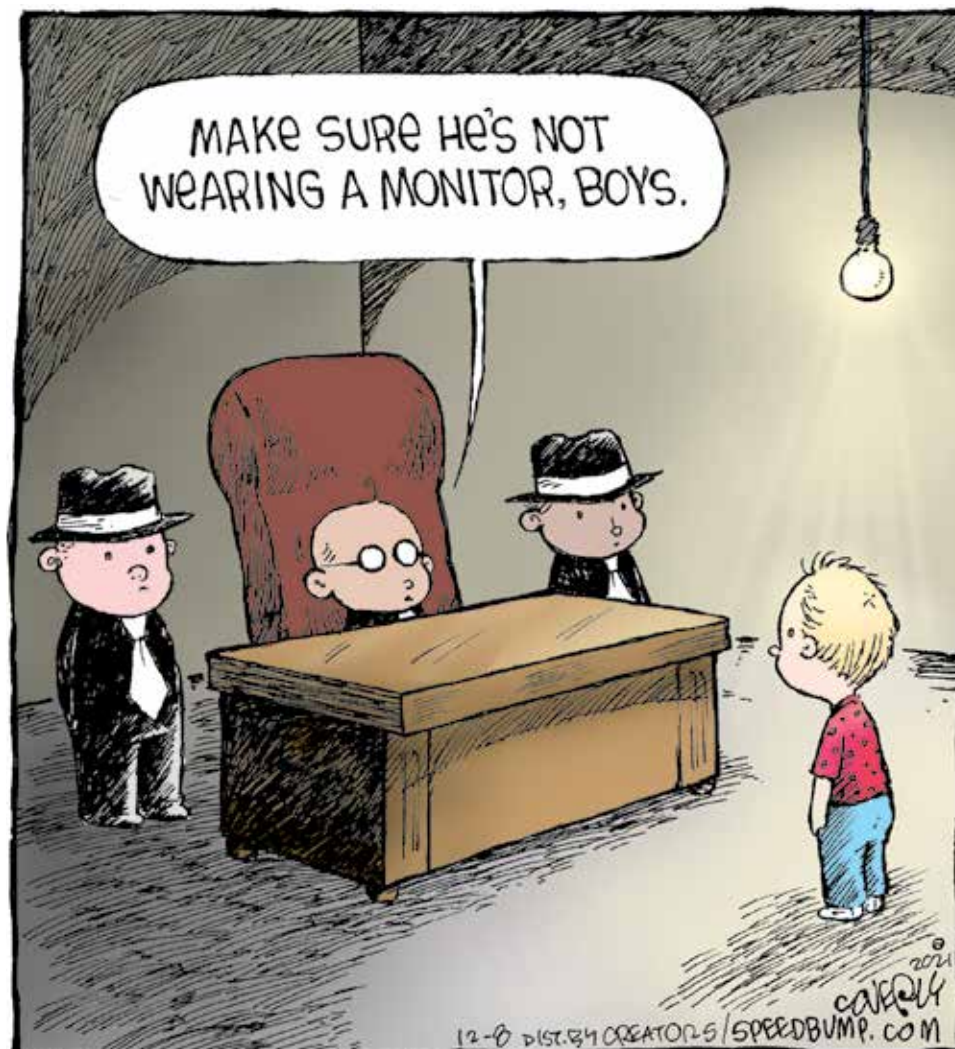
Susan Coleman, *Garrison*

Our Shakespeare Festival is at the heart of the Philipstown community. I have attended its performances for a quarter-century, observing HVSF as a splendid gathering of the full diversity of our people — children to seniors. Whatever enhances its ability to continue should be encouraged.

The proposed move to a site beside Route 9 is just that; it is a wonderful opportunity for permanent stability. With it will come new public access to Highlands vistas previously open to a few golfers. The privately heavily subsidized golf course is closed permanently, in any event.

The building site is on land already developed. It is modest in necessary scale and tiny in proportion to the tens of thousands of acres of permanently conserved public parklands to which it is peripheral, and adds substantial new area. A new traffic light at the theater's Route 9 entry will deliver safety and congestion improvement over prior irregular congestion at Route 9D

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

of the Boscobel site.

I urge our officials to approve HVSF's plans because of their many benefits to our community.

Leigh Seippel, *Cold Spring*

There was a timely section in *The New York Times* on Jan. 16 about "overtourism" and "sustainable sightseeing" that we as a community should take to heart. Our beautiful Philipstown is in danger of becoming a tourist destination that threatens to overwhelm the stated mission/vision of both our comprehensive plan and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust to preserve our rural character and scenic beauty.

Garrison has three major wedding venue destinations, a retreat center and potentially a major cultural center in its midst. Its 2,500 inhabitants, who opted for a quiet, rural home, are beginning to feel beleaguered. Hiking on a weekend or beautiful weekday is no longer a quiet walk in nature. Anthony's Nose is a zoo. Route 9 is horrible.

We need to weigh carefully the consequences, intended and unintended, on our community of overtourism and large-scale development, cultural or otherwise.

Carol Marquand, *Garrison*

## Mandates

In response to Alan Brownstein's letter in the Jan. 14 issue calling for "a unified, bipartisan voice to win what should be a winnable battle" against COVID-19, deaths and hospitalizations are way down in our county and state. Does that count as winning?

Australia sealed itself off from the world and China imposed martial law on some of its cities, and neither has eradicated COVID-19.

Zero cases of COVID-19 is not going to happen. We are not going to vaccinate or mask our way out of this. It's an upper respiratory infection with a 99.97 percent survival rate. Can we move on with our lives now?

Christopher Harrigan, *via Facebook*

Everyone does not have the right to infect others just because they feel like it. Your personal rights are not above the common good. If you are only interested in what you believe are your personal preferences, you have no interest in being part of a community.

We all live with the consequences of irresponsible "choices" in the form of death, disease, less health care and more restrictions on the society because of the selfish few who promote personal rights but show no sense of personal responsibility.

Lily Essely, *via Facebook*

## Climate action

It's nice to learn that, more than two years after passing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York State is starting to think about how to implement its ambitious goals ("Climate Plans Coming into Focus," Jan. 7).

But while the state and planet convulse from one climate disaster after another, we're not even close to being on track. Just 6 percent

of our energy is generated by wind and solar, risibly short of the 70 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040 mandated under the law. In her State of the State address on Jan. 5, Gov. Kathy Hochul sounded the right notes but did not propose anything remotely on the scale of what's needed to combat the greatest existential threat of our time.

The reality is that we are not going to innovate or incentivize our way out of this crisis. We need to rapidly and fundamentally change the way we generate, transmit and distribute energy, and the fastest way to decarbonize the state's energy system is to bring more of it under public ownership and democratic control.

The NYS Build Public Renewables Act would move us in that direction by empowering the New York Power Authority, created under Franklin D. Roosevelt, to build utility-scale renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure, essentially creating a "public option" that would supply 100 percent renewable energy to all state and municipal properties, selling the surplus directly to New York customers.

The Build Public Renewables Act is revenue-neutral and, by one estimate, would create 50,000 jobs. More importantly, it would give the state the resources and authority it needs to meet its own climate mandates and move us away from fossil fuels, which the market has utterly failed to do.

We need to move fast and think big to meet this generational challenge. New York can become a model for the rest of the country. Please urge our legislators and the governor to pass the BPRA this year.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*

## Tenant protection

What about landlord protection against bad tenants and paying the bills — mortgage, taxes, garbage pickup, repairs — that they incur? ("Beacon Tenant Protection Could Begin Soon," Jan. 14).

Ralph Basso, *via Facebook*

Landlords could stop hoarding essential resources and holding them hostage, and get a real job instead.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

It's time to start paying the rent again. We homeowners carried you long enough. It's not like the state gave us a break on our property and school taxes.

Tony Tuccillo, *via Facebook*

## Buried lines

It should have been done 50-plus years ago ("Should Power Lines Be Buried?," Jan. 14).

Dave Cataldo, *via Facebook*

What would be the "long run"? Nearly 10 years ago, the estimate to bury power lines was \$1 million per mile. Anyone know how many miles of roads are in New York state?

Steve Smith, *via Facebook*

In Holland, where I am from, they've always been underground. It saves a lot of money.

Esther Booth, *via Facebook*

It's long overdue, and time for some big digs

in many communities around here. Expensive? Yes. But so are the perpetually recurring repairs to our aging infrastructures.

Jon Lindquist, *via Facebook*

I wish we could do it in Beacon, and I bet it's more feasible here than in Philipstown. It makes more sense for a densely populated area.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

## Development

I like pushback for better planning but certainly don't agree with building more parking ("Beacon Planning Board Pushes Back," Jan. 14). We need people driving less in the Hudson Valley and better infrastructure for mobility. It would be nice to see leaders encourage institutions and cultural centers to promote the use of trains and Beacon buses.

Rebeca Ramirez, *via Instagram*

## Pedestrian death

The intersection at Main and Teller, where a pedestrian was struck and killed on Dec. 1, needs an "all-way" pedestrian light that stops traffic in all directions, as well as dedicated left-turn lights ("Police Release Further Details About Accident," Jan. 14).

I've seen many near-collisions between pedestrians who are following the walk signal and cars turning left that have difficulty seeing them while also trying to watch oncoming cars.

In general, Main Street in Beacon is a travesty. A lot of money seems to have been spent on bump-outs for crosswalks that are not painted and obscured by parking. Crosswalks also need to have accompanying flashing lights — one was installed randomly on Route 9D but none on Main Street? The speed limit needs to be lowered from 30 mph to 15 mph (there is no way a car can see a pedestrian in the unpainted "crosswalk" near Hudson Beach Glass when they take that curve at 30 mph), and the police need to be enforcing moving violations (illegal U-turns, speeding, not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks).

Main Street keeps getting busier and more crowded but no real efforts seem to be taken to avoid further tragedies like the ones we keep reading about.

Harper Langston, *via Instagram*



Natalie Diggins



Todd Haskell

# The Current Welcomes Two Board Members

*Will help guide nonprofit paper and website*

The directors of Highlands Current Inc., the publisher of this newspaper, recently approved the addition of two board members.

Natalie Diggins is a tech founder, executive, angel investor and adviser with over 20 years of experience in engineering, operations and product development; she focuses on emerging technologies such as machine learning, blockchain and cybersecurity. The California native is also a Broadway investor and a trustee of YoungArts: The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists. She and her husband, Oren Michels, live in Philipstown.

Todd Haskell is the senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Hearst Magazines, where he is responsible for the corporate marketing functions for 25 brands, including *Elle*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire*, *Men's Health* and *Good Housekeeping*. He was previously the chief revenue officer for Hearst Magazines Digital Media and group vice president for advertising at *The New York Times*. He and his wife, Angela, have lived full-time in Beacon since 2020.

The other members of the board are Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann, Gwendolyn Bounds, Susan Brune, David Duffy, Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner, Bevis Longstreth, Joseph Plummer, Rudolph Rauch and Michelle Rivas.

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## Leonora (from Page 1)

"My sister at that point said, 'Let me know, you can move in with me,'" Burton said. "She lives in a lovely house in Putney, in south London, near the Thames. My son, daughter-in-law and my two grandchildren, Eliza, who is 18, and Betsy, 12, live 10 minutes away. Eliza just started college. I missed them growing up, and want to be there for them now, to give them my pearls of wisdom."

She noted she has been in business for nearly 40 years, "so it's time to go back home. I have three sisters, there's just 4½ years between us and I'm the youngest; we all get on, which is great."

Burton and her late husband, Tony, and children moved to Cold Spring from New York City in 1985. Two years later, a woman whom Leonora knew through her twin sons' baseball team asked if she'd like to buy her business, a kitchenware store on Main Street.

Despite not having a whit of experience in retail, Burton decided to give it a go. She moved the store across the street in 1989 to 115 Main St., where it operates today, filled with gifts for kitchen and bath, candles, coffee and British goods — including the strategically placed chocolates by the register nook where Burton holds court — and continues to draw tourists and devoted locals who rummage through the shelves before having a chat with the proprietress.

Burton's accent and exuberant displays of Welshness betray her roots. Burton grew up in Newport, Monmouthshire, and made her way to London where she worked in the



The Country Goose is known for its eclectic stock of housewares.

Photo by Amy Kubik

film and television industry, including at Warner Bros. as its director of subsidiary rights. A two-year job posting as publisher of a Warner-owned magazine, *Coronet*, lured her to New York for an adventure. There she met Tony, an Englishman working as a journalist for the *New York Daily News*.

Her two-year American adventure turned into marriage and twin boys Robert and David. While taking time off to raise them, Burton started writing the first of what are now 11 romance novels set during the British Regency period of the early 19th century.

"I started reading them, as I always

loved that period, and I thought I could do better," Burton recalled in a 2015 interview with *The Current*. "I wrote them while the boys were sleeping."

Her first book, *Lady Tara*, published in 1978 under the pen name she still uses, Leonora Blythe, prompted five letters of complaint to the publisher about a passage in which she reported that a character's "manhood" had "stirred."

In 1983, when her boys were 5, Tony's mother needed to come to the U.S. to live with the family, and they were pressed for space in the city. The Burtons developed criteria for a new home: a village with a school that had at least two kindergarten classes (so the boys could have some independence from each other) and an easy commute. This brought them to Cold Spring, where they lived on Rock Street, and later to Garrison.

Burton initially ran The Country Goose with a friend, Ruth Eisenhower, who worked the register on weekends. Specializing in high-end kitchenware, the store was a draw for those unable to find items such as Calphalon and Bodum products, which hadn't yet established a foothold in department stores.

"It was a good business, and then Walmart opened, and overnight the business died," Burton said. It was saved by an ad Burton saw for a gift-basket seminar. "Ruth and I went off to Boston to learn, and we came back and formed Highland Baskets."

The Country Goose has lasted through the vicissitudes of time and the comings and goings of other businesses on Main. "When we came in, we were carpetbaggers and we were met with resistance," Burton said in 2015. Things changed when an auction hall opened and antique dealers followed, filling the storefronts. That became the identity of Main Street for many years, she said, although the "retail spirit" is returning. "It's essential for businesses to appeal not only to tourists but locals," she said, "especially as business is so dependent on the weather in the winter."

Tony died in 2018, and it was then that Leonora started to consider returning to England. "It's been in my mind since then," she says. "That's when I thought: 'That's it.' And everyone in England would say: 'You've got to come back.'"

She decided to try to sell the business last year, with a goal of closing at the end of 2021, then extended the deadline for a few months, before giving notice to her long-time landlord, whom she calls "very kind."

"I don't really want to go, but I do," she said. Not surprisingly, to anyone who has spent any time in the shop (meaning the vast majority of Philipstowners), she said she will miss "the people coming in to say hello, to talk about things — nothing malicious, more a little community center, where people can be free to talk about anything they want to talk about."

"I'll miss the doggies wanting to come in for a treat. That would be the thing: if anyone wanted to come in to take over this business they have to love dogs."

Burton's own beloved Lab, Tara, was a fixture on the bench outside the shop, and also somehow penned local newspaper advertorials, cunningly disguised as witty columns; a never-proved rumor has it that they were written by Tony.

Burton said she hoped to find someone to continue The Country Goose, and that still could happen, but she knows from experience it's unlikely.

"People have to know what they're in for," she said. "People want to have a store, but have no idea how to run a store. For them to rise to the challenge, they have to be themselves. I'm myself, and some people don't like me and walk out of the store, annoyed by me, but most people do."

"Through the years I've come up with things to draw people in: the coffee and tea clubs, letting kids come in and charging them less; all sorts of things to get people in."

As a Main Street fixture, Burton now greets people who bring their children in who've been popping in since they were children. "People love to chitchat, kids come in, muck around," she said. "We have a nice play space right outside where kids can be rude to people walking down the street! You're a big part of the community here."

For those who will miss The Country Goose's annual St. David's Day celebration in honor of the patron saint of Wales, not to worry. The shop will celebrate it early this year, at the end of February, rather than March 1.

There's much to look forward to in England, as Burton notes: "Just messing around with the grandkids, being nasty to my sisters again. I know a lot of their friends. We take the dogs to Richmond Park, we sit and gossip for three hours while the dogs run around."

And it's not like she won't be making regular trips to her "other home" in New York, where friends here will always have a place for her to stay, and to Florida, where one of her sons lives. Still, she conceded, "it's a tough decision for anyone to make."

The Country Goose will be open through the end of March, and everything will be on sale until then, though it is likely that most of the local customers will shop as they always have: spending 95 percent of their time chatting with Burton, then adding a bit of shopping.

Of this account of her nearly 40 years living and owning a shop in Cold Spring, Leonora said: "It's all true; just make up what you want."

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Applications are also available at Desmond Fish Library, Butterfield Library and the Philipstown Food Pantry.

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Aung Phone San at his graduation from engineering school; the photo was found in his backpack



The Medi Hakata

Ushaka/FleetMon

## Missing Man *(from Page 1)*

The Medi Hakata had arrived at Coeymans Marine Terminal, about 10 miles south of Albany, on Dec. 9, before heading back to New York City four days later.

After Dinitz had taken the backpack home and dried its contents, he discovered contact information for friends of Aung Phone San in Brooklyn. They told him the young engineer had been missing for more than two weeks and referred him to Haing Moe Than, a Colorado resident and close friend of Aung Phone San's parents, who has been acting as their representative in the U.S. since their son went missing.

Haing Moe Than said Aung Phone San had called his mother in Myanmar on Dec. 12, telling her he would not be returning home and that he planned to jump ship during the Medi Hakata's return trip along the Hudson to New York City. It sailed the day after the call.

Haing Moe Than said Aung Phone San feared for his life because he had been involved in anti-military activities in Myanmar. Some of Aung Phone San's friends had been arrested, tortured or killed for similar activities, he said.

Myanmar, which shares borders with India, China and Thailand, and was formerly known as Burma, has been ruled by a military junta since February 2021. The regime has been widely criticized, including in a United Nations report that said the military has used live ammunition against protesters.

According to the Medi Hakata captain's log, Aung Phone San was last seen in his cabin by two crewmates at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13. He was reported missing the next morning.

From New York, the ship continued to Baltimore, where, on Dec. 15, the Coast Guard confirmed that Aung Phone San was no longer on board.

Brian Linn, a friend of the family, traveled to Cold Spring from Los Angeles on Jan. 12, hoping to learn more about Aung Phone San's disappearance.

Linn met with Dinitz, visited the site where the backpack was found, posted missing-person flyers in communities up and down the Hudson and spoke with local



Some of the backpack's contents

Photo provided



police departments.

He also contacted the caretaker on Constitution Island and officials at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There had been speculation that Aung Phone San may have jumped ship in that area because it is

one of the narrowest sections of the river.

But his efforts proved fruitless.

Linn said in an interview that Aung Phone San had contacted Burmese people living in the U.S., asking for advice about jumping ship during the Hudson River passage.

"Most advised him against jumping into the cold river," Linn said. "He has never lived where there is a cold winter."

The average winter water temperature in the Hudson River at Albany is 37.4 degrees. A person can survive in 41-degree water for 10 to 20 minutes.

Dinitz returned the backpack and its contents to Aung Phone San's family and assisted Linn in his search efforts. "I'm hoping there's a happy outcome, but it's a long shot," he said. "There was a call from a young woman in Ossining who thought she recognized [Aung Phone San] on the street after seeing the poster."

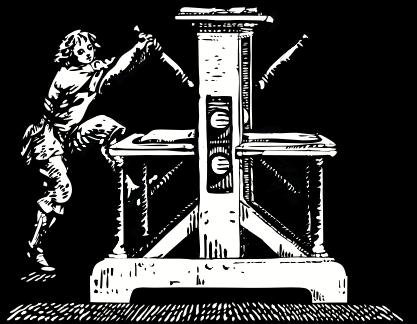
A Coast Guard spokesman said on Wednesday (Jan. 19) that it conducted a water search for Aung Phone San when the missing-person report was filed but the operation was suspended "after determining there was no longer a reasonable expectation of survival given the weather and temperature conditions."



Seth Dinitz found a backpack belonging to Aung Phone San along the Hudson at Dockside Park in Cold Spring.

Photo by M. Turton

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>21,931</b> (+1,260) <small>Active Cases in Philipstown: 234</small>	Tests administered: <b>387,725</b> (+7,425)	Percent positive: <b>5.7</b> (+0.3)	Percent vaccinated: <b>80.8</b> <small>Percent in 10516: 94.7 Percent in 10524: 87.7</small>	Number of deaths: <b>113</b> (+3)
DUTCHESS COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>58,736</b> (+3,727) <small>Active Cases in Beacon: 127</small>	Tests administered: <b>1,200,822</b> (+22,051)	Percent positive: <b>4.9</b> (+0.2)	Percent vaccinated: <b>75.1</b> <small>Percent in 12508: 70.4</small>	Number of deaths: <b>579</b> (+23)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Jan. 19, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.

**Maya** *(from Page 1)*

prolonging of suffering and pain,” she said.

At just 20 years old, the Beacon native and former Haldane student said goodbye that day for the second time in 26 days. On Dec. 12, in the same hospital, her grandmother, Marie Anne Halleux, had died from COVID-19. Because her father, Beacon photographer John Fasulo, died in 2014, and her other close relatives live in Europe, Maya is on her own.

A family friend helped launch a GoFundMe account to raise money for expenses, including medical bills ([bit.ly/fasulo-gofundme](https://bit.ly/fasulo-gofundme)), and supporters have rallied with donations. But each day Maya confronts absence. The apartment she shared with her mother and grandmother in Connecticut feels “quiet and different,” and each day she sees her mother’s Audi convertible parked outside. Maya admits that she is terrified.

“Nobody likes the unknown,” she said. “When people ask me how I’m doing, I’ll say, ‘I’m OK.’ But I’m not OK.”

Life was OK before Thanksgiving.

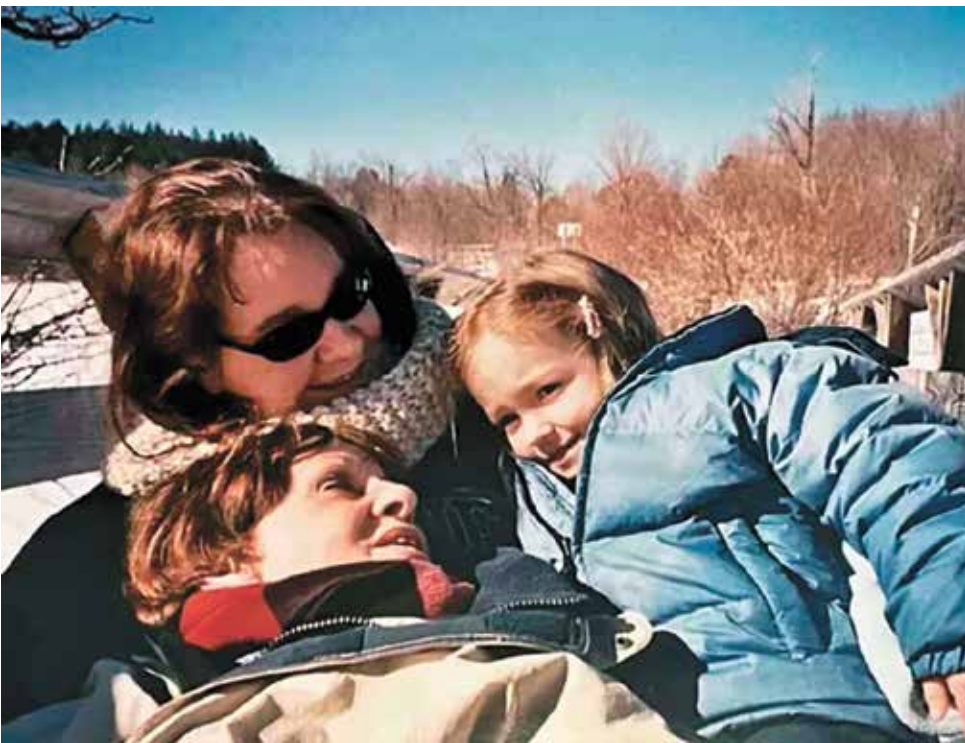
Marie Anne, nicknamed “Miane,” had left Belgium for the U.S. to help care for Maya, then 2, when Maya’s father was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. With her mother commuting to New York City, where she worked as a human resource manager for the European Union delegation to the United Nations, Miane became Maya’s primary caregiver.

“My grandmother was the one driving me to swim practice, soccer practice and taekwondo,” she said. “We were always together; she taught me a lot of important life lessons.”

Both Marie Anne and Cecile became sick the day after Thanksgiving. The initial symptoms — chills, coughing, fatigue — worsened. Marie Anne began having fainting spells, and both women found themselves short of breath. Cecile said the pain from headaches felt worse than labor, according to Maya, who did not want to say if either woman was vaccinated.

“My mom would be sitting on the bed with her head in her hands because that’s how debilitating the pain was,” she said. At the time Maya said she herself was still weak from a bout with COVID-19 two weeks earlier.

The virus took over Cecile and Marie Anne’s lungs. Maya, trained as an emergency medical technician, monitored her grandmother’s worsening blood pressure



Maya Fasulo as a child with her mother and grandmother. *Photo provided*

each day. On Dec. 4, she borrowed a pulse oximeter from a neighbor who worked as a nurse. Marie Anne’s oxygen level was 88 percent and her mother’s 78.

“Anything below 95 is critical,” said Maya.

An ambulance carried Marie Anne to Bridgeport Hospital that day and she was placed in an intensive care unit. Cecile was transported there the next day, and lay on a stretcher in the emergency room for more than two days before an ICU bed became available.

Three days after being admitted, Marie Anne was placed on a ventilator. On the day she died, Dec. 12, Maya had to say goodbye using Facetime because the hospital prohibited in-person contact. She also used Facetime to inform her mother of Marie Anne’s death.

Cecile’s screams “will probably never leave my mind at all,” said Maya. “It’s going to stick with me for the rest of my life, hearing that and trying to comfort her.”

Maya convinced the hospital to allow an in-person visit to Cecile on Dec. 18. She had stopped to buy broth to bring with her when the hospital called to say her mother had “taken a turn for the worse.” Maya sat with her mother for an hour. Before she arrived home, the hospital called to say Cecile needed to be placed on a ventilator.

During a Facetime call “to tell her that I loved her, that I was going to be OK,” Cecile

cried, said Maya. “It was a rough moment. I sat in my car for three hours,” she said.

There were moments of hope over the next 20 days, but on Jan. 7, Maya gave Bridgeport Hospital consent to end the heart medications. Healthy lungs appear black on X-rays, and white spots indicate areas that are infected. Cecile’s were all-white, said Maya. Her heart and kidneys were also failing. With the medications shut off, Cecile did not last a minute, said Maya.

There is one relief: that her mother was not alone, as so many COVID-19 patients were when they died. “If I were in her shoes, I wouldn’t want to be alone,” said Maya.

There are now possessions to deal with and finances to untangle, and Maya has to decide whether to move back to the Highlands, closer to friends. Even if she returns to the area, there will be at least one return trip to Connecticut — for a memorial in Cecile and Marie Anne’s honor at Penfield Beach, on the shore of Long Island Sound in Fairfield. Both women liked to walk the beach together each night, said Maya.

The tone of the service, she said, will be a “celebration of life,” befitting a mother who liked to drive with her convertible’s top off, even in the winter. Attendees will be invited to stay to watch the sunset, said Maya.

“My mom loved sunsets. That was her thing,” she said.

# Where to Get Tested

- PUTNAM COUNTY

**Philipstown Recreation Center**  
Route 9D, Garrison  
Saturday (Jan. 22): 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Beginning Jan. 24:  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Register at [app.rrtesting.com](https://app.rrtesting.com).
- Drug World

55 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
Schedule at [myrx.io](https://myrx.io).
- Paladin Center**

39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel  
Saturday (Jan. 22): 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Beginning Jan. 24:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday,  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Register at [app.rrtesting.com](https://app.rrtesting.com).
- DUTCHESS COUNTY

**Sun River Health**  
6 Henry St., Beacon  
845-831-0400  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday
- Excel Urgent Care**

992 Main St. Fishkill  
845-765-2240  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m. weekdays  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekends
- CareMount**

60 Merritt Blvd., Fishkill  
845-765-4990  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. weekdays
- Pulse-MD**

900 Route 376, Suite H, Wappingers Falls  
845-204-9260
- Dutchess County Health Department**

Poughkeepsie Galleria  
2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie  
Former JCPenney store on 2nd floor  
Schedule at [bit.ly/dutchess-test-register](https://bit.ly/dutchess-test-register).
- CareMount**

30 Columbia St., Poughkeepsie  
845-231-5600  
9 a.m. – 6:45 p.m. weekdays  
8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. weekends
- CareMount**

2507 South Road, Poughkeepsie  
845-471-3111  
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. weekdays
- Pulse-MD**

696 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie  
845-243-7100



## Speed Limits *(from Page 1)*

near schools and city parks at all times, not just during school hours, “would be all the better,” he said.

A lower limit would be good news for Nancy Koeber, a city resident who said she plans to mail copies of a recent Facebook post she made to Mayor Lee Kyriacou and Police Chief Sands Frost. It prompted more than 100 comments, most agreeing with her assessment that Beacon has become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians.

“It feels like there’s been an increase in aggressive behavior” by drivers, she said on Wednesday (Jan. 19). Koeber recalled one car that came so close to hitting her in a crosswalk that its fender brushed against her clothing.

Pedestrians take “an incredible risk crossing a street with drivers not paying any attention to the fact that there’s a person in the road,” she said. “I am so wary now at street corners to make sure that nobody’s barreling along.”

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle going 25 mph has a 25 percent risk of sustaining a serious or fatal injury. But the risk rises to 50 percent at 33 mph and 75 percent risk at 41 mph.

Last year, while installing “bump-outs” at six Main Street intersections, Beacon added signs warning drivers to watch for pedestrians. In addition, all Main Street crosswalks will be repainted in the spring.

Beacon’s Main Street Access Committee, a volunteer group that Kyriacou created in 2020, last year recommended that the city drop the limit on Main Street, where there are no speed limit signs.

“Our position was 20 mph on Main, because it is the densest and most-used road in Beacon, particularly in the summer months, when it’s packed with pedestrians,” said Stowe Boyd, the committee chair. “We were concerned that it is inherently dangerous to have cars tooling along at whatever the speed limit is in people’s heads, which is somewhat more than the city speed limits are, and occasionally it is ridiculously fast.”

Bystanders came to the aid of a 6-year-old boy whose foot was pinned beneath a vehicle’s tire after he and his grandmother were hit on Mother’s Day last year. Two vehicles crashed at the intersection of Main and North Cedar Street, with one careening into two unoccupied parked cars and the other jumping the sidewalk and hitting the pedestrians.

A pedestrian died after being struck Dec. 1 in a crosswalk by a driver turning from Main Street onto Teller Avenue, although police reports indicated the accident was not speed-related.

Boyd said the committee heard “endless complaints from residents about people breezing through the crosswalks and paying no attention to pedestrians who are already in the street.” In addition, drivers use residential streets such as Dutchess Terrace as cut-throughs to thoroughfares like Route 9D, where their speeds can easily reach 50 mph or more.

On the city’s east side, Washington Avenue’s long straightaway invites drivers to race through neighborhoods, as well.



**Beacon would like to lower its speed limit to 25 mph.**  
*Photo by J. Simms*

The Beacon Police Department on Wednesday said it didn’t immediately know how many speeding tickets officers had written in 2020 or 2021, but Frost said those two years would have been anomalies, with fewer cars on the road because of the pandemic. He said the department has increased speed enforcement recently and that he favors a 25 mph limit.

“On a lot of the side streets in Beacon, if you’re doing 30, it looks fast,” he said.

### Nelsonville

At its meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 18), the Nelsonville Village Board also discussed the perennially fraught topic of hazards that pedestrians face from speeding cars, non-existent crosswalks and signs with illogical limits.

Former Mayor Tom Corless said that traffic problems, and efforts to get the state Department of Transportation to take action, date to at least 1996. Main Street, which Nelsonville and Cold Spring share, is also a state highway, Route 301.

Trustee Dave Moroney pointed to inconsistent signage on Route 301 where it comes into Nelsonville. Drivers turning west onto 301 from Route 9, another state highway, soon see a sign with a 55 mph limit; that drops to 40 mph at the Jaycox Road intersection and does not drop to 30 mph until farther along in Nelsonville.

The 40-mph limit doesn’t slow drivers down,” he said. “It’s too fast going down that hill.”

Corless said the limit “should be 30 when you get to the village limit. We’re an incorporated village and there’s a [state-mandated] 30-mile speed limit in residential areas.”

Trustee Chris Winward observed that cars also travel on Fishkill Road, a county road, and cut over to Peekskill Road. (That allows drivers to race from Route 9 just north of Cold Spring and Nelsonville to Route 9D at the southern end of both villages, while avoiding most of Main Street and the traffic light.)

Winward said the village needs a pedestrian walkway near the bakery and shops at the intersection of Main Street and Fishkill Road, more law enforcement and village court attention to speeding tickets. “There’s multiple issues at play here,” she said.

In April, she and Trustee Maria Zhynovitch had warned of dangers at the Fishkill Road-Main Street intersection.

On Tuesday, Winward proposed that village officials ask Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville, a Cold Spring resident who took office last month, for more aid in catching speeders and seek help from elected state officials if approaches to the state for speed reductions and other improvements go nowhere.

Moroney said that the Sheriff’s Department “has been ticketing the last two weeks. They’ve been pretty active here lately.”

Mayor Mike Bowman agreed that “there’s been increased enforcement. But I don’t know if it’s translated into more tickets.”

Like Winward, resident Tom Campanile zeroed in on the Fishkill Road-Main Street intersection. “It’s hazardous,” he said, asserting that speeding drivers are usually not locals. He proposed installation of monitoring devices.

Bowman said that the village had requested speed-tracking equipment before, but the state wants a traffic study done first.

Corless said that some years ago, the state agreed to a crosswalk over Main Street at Peekskill Road, but nothing came of village hopes for another crosswalk on Main Street at Fishkill Road.

The mayor said that the Y-shaped Main Street-Fishkill Road intersection isn’t the only area of concern because farther west, where Main Street curves, he regularly sees drivers pass in a no-passing zone.

### Philipstown


Although there is no current campaign to lower limits, the Town Board has made attempts in the recent past. In 2019, it passed a resolution asking the state Department of Transportation to extend, for a quarter-mile, the 30 mph speed limit on Route 9 that passes the private Manitou School. The board also requested that the state lower the 30 mph limit on Winston Lane between Route 9 and Sprout Brook Road in Continental Village.

In 2017 in Cold Spring, the Code Update Committee suggested that references to a 15 mph limit be changed to reflect the state-mandated 30 mph minimum. That caused a minor uproar from residents who thought the village was raising its limit. Marie Early, then deputy mayor, explained that a previous board had amended the code, with the blessing of the village attorney, to lower the limit to 15 mph. But state law takes precedence, so that limit cannot be enforced, with school zones being one of the few exceptions.

Fran Murphy, then a trustee, said that previous boards had asked the state seven times to allow a lower limit but received no response.

Dave Merandy, then mayor, said the village could erect yellow, diamond-shaped signs to “suggest” slower speeds. They are common on state highways, particularly on turns, he noted, although they are not enforceable. Village officials decided that they could legally leave the 15 mph signs in place.

*Michael Turton contributed reporting.*



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Source: OKMLS, 1/1/21-12/31/21, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by company, Philipstown



## AROUND TOWN



◀ **EXTREME BIRDWATCHING** — On Saturday (Jan. 15), amid subzero temperatures, a dozen hearty souls from Philipstown traveled to Long Island at dawn to observe shore birds. The trip was organized by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. Over three hours, they spotted 31 species. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

*Photo by Ross Corsair*

▶ **FOOD DELIVERY**

Over two weeks, residents of Glassbury Court in Philipstown filled the bed of a pickup with food and paper products to donate to the Philipstown Food Pantry, which they delivered on Jan. 14.

▶ **SOLEMNLY SWORN**

Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel (right) swore in new board member Megan Cotter outside Town Hall on Jan. 6.

*Photos provided*



◀ **OWL PURSUIT** — On Jan. 6, Cassie Ward, director of the Putnam History Museum, made a trek to find a snowy owl. She began at 3:45 a.m. and, using the eBird app and snowy-owl alerts, drove to Bridgeport, Connecticut. No luck. From there she continued to a wildlife refuge in Newport, Rhode Island. But 200 miles and 12 hours after departure, still no owl — until she paused for one last look into the distance while returning to her car. With 15 minutes of daylight remaining, she was rewarded.

*Photo by Cassie Ward*



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# The Calendar

## BAND CAMP GRAD TAKES STAGE

*Beacon singer will debut EP at Dogwood show*

By Alison Rooney

Reeya Banerjee moved to Beacon in 2015 hoping for a better work and life balance. She also began to play the bass guitar.

"I remember listening to the Beatles song 'Paperback Writer,' hearing that throbbing, pulsating bass line that jumps in after the initial section," she recalls. "Although I didn't know it at the time, the function of the bass guitar and drummer in tandem lays the foundation for the whole band, which I wound up loving."

She adds: "Another thing that appealed was being half of the team that keeps everything moving smoothly when you're creating music. You have to have a two-body, one-brain connection."

Banerjee found work at the Beacon Music Factory and spent five years in various positions, including operations manager and overseeing its band boot camps, in which she also participated.

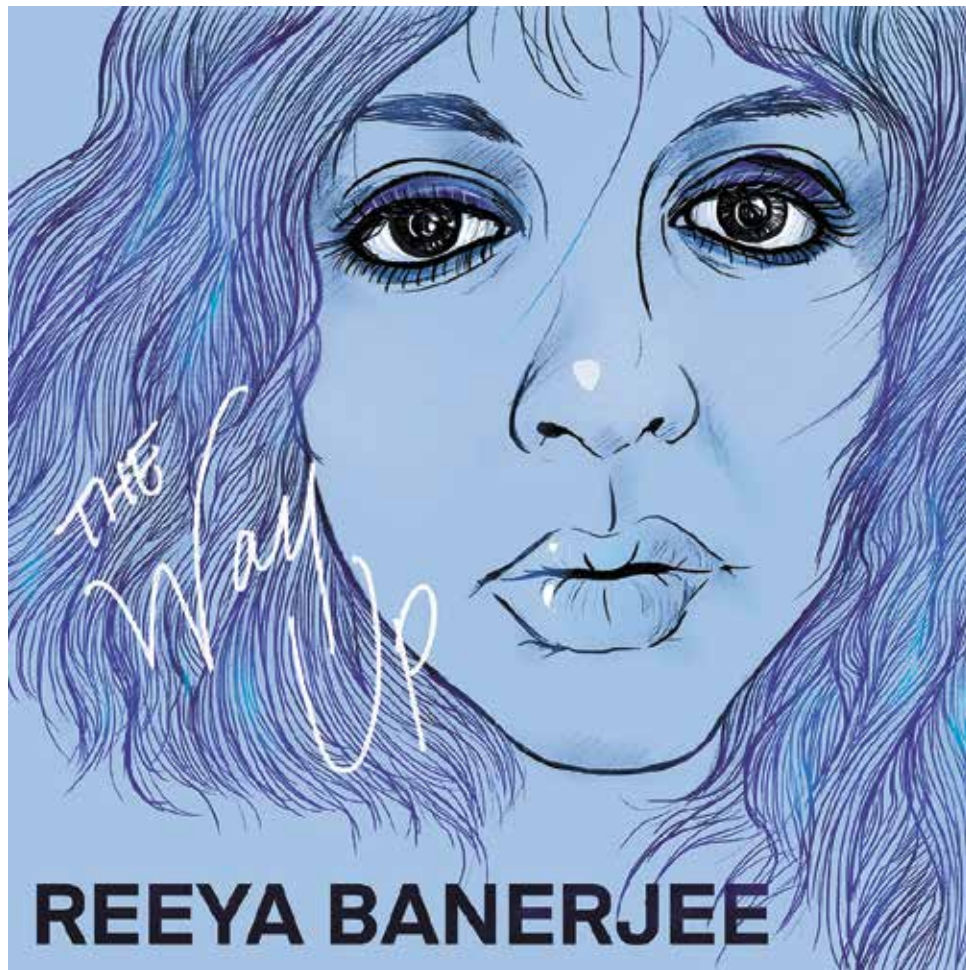
"Doing the boot camps [in which strangers come together to perform cover songs] was a great way to learn how to play," she says. "You learn the push and pull of being in a band, which is a practical component of learning the instrument. It stretched me a lot, because my music theory was grounded in piano. Here I was learning an instrument with a neck, frets, strings. I had to reinterpret learning scales, no keyboard."

Eventually, Banerjee says she felt "a little pigeon-holed into the classic rock zone." At 36, she is younger than the typical adult BMF student by about 15 years. When COVID-19 inhibited group rehearsals, she shifted her focus to singing and writing songs. She'll be performing at Dogwood in Beacon on Feb. 5 as part of a three-date series to celebrate the Jan. 27 release of her EP, *This Way Up*.

Banerjee will be backed by Tony Cenicola on drums, Daria Grace on bass guitar and James Rubino on guitar. During the lockdown, feeling stir crazy, she and Rubino recorded their own interpretations of songs by other artists they like.

"The original version is great, but we used different instrumentation," Banerjee says. "It was an experiment in creativity during a time of enforced stasis."

Friends had encouraged Banerjee to make an original recording. "They kept saying they had faith, but the idea terrified me, even though I'm a writer in another life," she says. "I was put in touch with Luke Folger, a drummer and composer who is a friend of a friend, who works for a company that makes jingles. He's a prolific multi-instrumentalist and knows how to write songs.



Reeya Banerjee

Photo provided

"We talked about what we would want the record to be about," she says. "At the time, I was starting intense grief and trauma therapy related to my mother's death when I was 12. It's a particularly hard time, especially for a girl, to lose your mother. My dad and I realized she didn't want us to wallow in grief, so it was 'carry on,' although we've

come to realize maybe we took it too literally and didn't fully process her death. It can be weird being in your mid-30s sorting through emotions you didn't have at age 12, but it's a necessary process."

Folger suggested she not worry about meter or rhyme but just write. "It kind of blew my mind — everything I was sending

him would come back as lyrics," she says.

After about a year of emails, Folger and Banerjee met in person in February for the first time, in the Bronx, to record the album. "We recorded the vocals in two marathon eight-hour sessions in an empty condo where we built a vocal booth," Banerjee says.

Describing her sound as "early '90s alternative pop-rock, like Red Hot Chili Peppers and Jamiroquai: a little funky, eclectic, a little dark," Banerjee says the next step following the recording became: "What can we do with this?"

Step One was the mini-tour. "I would not have been in a position to do something like this had I not done the five years at Beacon Music Factory," she says. "It's not just the training, but the guts to do it. Doing this is so unlike performing covers; these songs live in a different part of my brain; it's tapping into a different part of my repertoire."

Banerjee was born in Washington, D.C., to Indian parents who came to the U.S. to attend graduate school. Her father also studied classical violin and her mother studied voice in the Indian Classical tradition. Ravi Shankar was a family friend.

“It’s not just the training, but the guts to do it. Doing this is so unlike performing covers; these songs live in a different part of my brain; it’s tapping into a different part of my repertoire.”

After a childhood move to Chicago, Banerjee joined a touring children's choir, which she found to be a respite for the "racist xenophobia" she was experiencing at school. The family later moved to the San Francisco area, and Banerjee discovered musical theater, which she continued at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, where she majored in film and wrote her thesis on Bollywood.

"I came to New York to go to college and have never left; I fell in love with the Hudson Valley," she says. She worked at Mohonk Mountain House after graduating, then commuted to New York City before moving to Beacon, where she has been a writer and podcaster at Story Screen.

After accessorizing her debut album with all of today's marketing accessories, including videos released on YouTube, targeted ads and a social media blitz, Banerjee is ready for the core of it all: getting onstage and performing, something she hasn't done in a while.

*Dogwood is located at 47 East Main St. in Beacon. The Way Up can be purchased through [reeyabanerjee.com](http://reeyabanerjee.com), which also has links to her music videos.*



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 29

### Hudson Valley Motorcycle Expo

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. MJN Convention Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

Vendors will showcase custom bikes and accessories, and there will be a swap meet and live music. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 29

### Virtual Town Meeting

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Via Zoom

State Assembly Member Sandy Galef will discuss issues and listen to constituent concerns. Call 914-941-1111 or email galefs@nyassembly.gov for a link.

## STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 29

### Rigoletto

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch Bartlett Sher's version of Verdi's opera set in 1920s Europe starring baritone Quinn Kelsey, soprano Rosa Feola and tenor Piotr Beczala in the Met's livestream high-definition broadcast. *Cost: \$28 (\$26 members, \$12 ages 12 and younger)*

## KIDS AND FAMILY

THURS 27

### Kindergarten Parent Orientation

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Elementary School  
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org

Get information about kindergarten registration for children who will be 5 years old by Dec. 1. Visit the website for forms.

## MUSIC

SAT 22

### The Joni Project

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Katie Pearlman and her band will perform a tribute to Joni Mitchell. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 23

### Roman Rabinovich

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present the second concert in its piano series. The program will include Rameau, Schubert, Walker and Chopin. *Cost: \$40 (students \$10)*



FRI 28

### Starman

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This David Bowie tribute band covers all of his styles and periods. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



SAT 29

### Philippe Lemm Trio

BEACON

8 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

The jazz group will perform music from its latest release, *First Steps*.

SAT 29

### The Best of the '70s

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The band will perform the top hits from 1970s artists such as Cat Stevens, Pink Floyd, The Eagles, Billy Joel and The Rolling Stones. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

## TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 22

### Survivor Story

PUTNAM VALLEY

1 p.m. Putnam Valley Library  
30 Oscawana Lake Road  
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Nicole Berglas' mother escaped

Nazi Germany just before her Jewish family's arrest. Using visuals and historical documents, Berglas will discuss her mother's childhood and how she managed to flee.

SAT 22

### Owl Prowl

CORNWALL

7 p.m.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum  
25 Boulevard | hhnrm.org

Meet a live owl at the Wildlife Education Center and take a guided hike to look for a nocturnal raptor in the woods. For ages 7 and older. Registration required. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 members)*

MON 24

### Asset Allocation and Modern Portfolio Theory

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Mark Lange of the Society for Financial Awareness will discuss how to manage investments and allocate risks.

TUES 25

### Haley Mellin and Steven Brumby

GARRISON

Noon. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org

In this Pathways to Planetary Health Forum organized by the Garrison Institute, Mellin, founder of Art-to-Acres and conserve.org, and Brumby, co-founder of Impact Observatory, will discuss the half-earth pathway with a focus on biodiversity and visualization. Register online.

WED 26

### Electric Cars 101

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
bit.ly/electriccarsJan26

This presentation by Abdur-Rahman Morgan, an electric-vehicle advocate, will be followed by a panel

discussion with residents who own EVs. The event is being organized by the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

SAT 29

### Stargazing: Winter Constellations

CORNWALL

6 p.m.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum  
25 Boulevard | hhnrm.org

Dress warmly and come out to the Wildlife Education Center to view the winter hexagon — the brightest stars in the Northern Hemisphere. For ages 8 and older. Register online. *Cost: \$12 (members \$9)*

SUN 30

### Tracks and Traces in the Snow

OSSINING

11 a.m. Teatown Lake Reservation  
1600 Spring Valley Road | teatown.org

Learn how to understand marks in the snow and become aware of the movement of animals in the landscape. *Cost: \$8 (\$3 members)*

## VISUAL ART

SAT 22

### Cellar Door

GARRISON

JDJ/The Ice House  
17 Mandalay Drive | jdj.world

Samantha Rosenwald's paintings of the interiors of an apartment building create a narrative. By appointment; visit the website or text 518-339-6913. Through April 18.

SUN 30

### Free Dia Admission

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St. | diaart.org

On the last Sunday of each month, the museum waives its entrance fee for residents of the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam counties. Call 845-231-0811 or email tickets@diaart.org to reserve a slot. See Page 15.

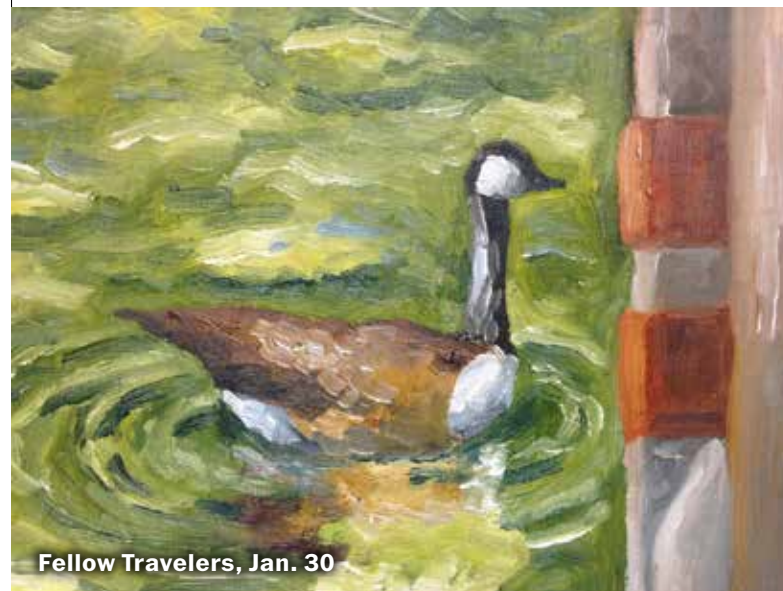
SUN 30

### Fellow Travelers

BEACON

2 – 4 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon  
18 Front St. | loftsatbeacon.com

Laurel Shute curated this exhibit of paintings by Andrea Anthony, Celeste Baxter, Alana Burgos, Rose



Conlin, Teresa Eckerman-Pfeil, Erika Nathalia Ordoñez Mahecha, Segundo Malaver, Angie Mora, Vinay Munikoti and Clarence Perkins. Through Feb. 3.

## SPORTS

SAT 22

### Westchester Fight Night 7

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Local amateur Muy Thai fighters and kickboxers will compete. *Cost: \$55 to \$75*

SAT 22

### Wrestlefest 26

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Convention Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The Lucha Bros., Thunder Rosa, Nzo and The Godfather are some of the performers scheduled to appear. *Cost: \$40 to \$100*

## CIVIC

MON 24

### City Council

BEACON

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

MON 24

### School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconf12.org

WED 26

### Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

THURS 27

### Public Hearing: HVSF

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5202 | philipstown.com

The Philipstown Planning Board will hear feedback about the application by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to move to the former Garrison golf course property. Email crockett@philipstown.com to attend by Zoom.



# Dia:Beacon Prepares for Spring

*Work by artists old and new will be on display*

By Alison Rooney

There is one advantage that Dia:Beacon, the contemporary art museum on the waterfront, has had during the pandemic: space.

Located for the past 19 years in a former Nabisco box-printing factory, it closed to the public when the shutdown began in March 2020 but reopened five months later after implementing safety protocols.

"We're lucky to have such a large facility that allows for social distancing," says one of its curators, Alexis Lowry. "We're able to control the pace of entry, so there's been no big unsafe buildup for either staff or visitors — and we have plenty of room for them. Once in the building, though, there are no time limits; everyone can proceed at their own pace."

Like most museums, Dia:Beacon had to make other adjustments, including to its exhibits. "We pushed out the dates of some programs, and kept some things on view longer than intended, which isn't necessarily a negative," she says. "Exhibitions are usually one to three years long, sometimes up to five. Anytime we can add on, we're happy about that."

She adds: "We've also been able to realize some big exhibitions: Joan Jonas, which

opened in October, and a couple coming in the spring. These are all collection exhibitions and include some artists new to the collection, in new dialogues."

Jonas' installations include drawings, sound, video and stage sets that can be activated by performances by the artist and collaborators, using props such as masks and mirrors. For this exhibition, Jonas reconceived three works for Dia's lower-level gallery, two of which had not been seen in the U.S. since 1976.

In early March, Dia will open an exhibit by sculptor Larry Bell, who works with glass and is a pioneer of Southern California's light and space art movement, Lowry says. The exhibit will highlight early sculptures from small cubes to one of his first freestanding pieces, "Standing Walls" (1968), which is in the Dia collection. These will be presented alongside "Duo Nesting Boxes" (2021), a diptych conceived for Dia.

In April, Dia will share works from its collection by Jo Baer, a leading figure among the minimalist painters of the 1960s and '70s. "She's thought a lot about the structure of the canvas," Lowry says. "She thinks about and articulates the frame of the canvas, drawing your attention to the edge and depth."

In May, the museum will display works by sculptor Melvin Edwards, who lived in Ulster County for many years. "We're doing an exhibition of his work in barbed wire,"



The main entrance to Dia:Beacon

Photo by Bill Jacobson/Dia

Lowry says. "He makes geometric shapes — 'drawings in space.' One thing his work does is create precarious settings that are unsettled and beautiful."

The works by these three artists are relatively new to the Dia collection, Lowry says. Works by others, including Fred Sandback, just returned to view — "so we have some old friends, some new." Sandback's installation, which uses spools of colored yarn to create shapes and construct illusions, had been on view after Dia:Beacon opened in 2003 until a three-year pause that ended in 2021.

Lowry says Dia values its ties to the community through programs such as its partnership with the Beacon City School District. "We have programs with second graders and others with upper-level students, working with our artist educa-

tors," she says. "It's work that we're doing to make sure we are making connections to local audiences, and it's work we've returned to during the pandemic."

*Dia:Beacon, at 3 Beekman St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday to Monday. Registration is required; see [diaart.org](http://diaart.org). Admission is \$15, or \$12 for students, seniors and visitors with disabilities, and free for members and children younger than 12. The Beacon Free Loop bus stops at the museum on Friday and Saturday. On the last Sunday of each month, including Jan. 30, Dia offers free admission to residents of Dutchess and Putnam and other Hudson Valley counties. To reserve tickets, call 845-231-0811 or email [tickets@diaart.org](mailto:tickets@diaart.org). Dia members are not required to make reservations.*

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6 CRANNELL ST., POUGHKEEPSIE, NY



## Mouths to Feed

## Corn in the USA

By Celia Barbour



I don't know anyone who hates cornbread. I also don't know anyone who loves it with a passion.

Cornbread is one of those dishes that's always welcome but seldom celebrated.

And that, my friends, is a crying shame.

For one thing, great cornbread has a sublime texture: little pips of custardy cornmeal held in light, crumbly suspension. Its flavor, too, is a quiet miracle, thanks to corn's natural sweetness and flinty-sunshine aroma.

Cornbread and its kin are arguably the most American foods that exist, long predating even the decision to slap the name "America" on this stretch of land. Indigenous peoples from Narraganset Bay to the Anasazi Pueblos were making variations on corn patties, breads and cakes thousands of years before European occupiers showed up. Their culinary ingenuity was taken up by the settlers, and it persists to this day in regional dishes such as hoecakes (cornmeal pancakes), hush puppies (fried cornmeal), corn pone (fried cornmeal pancakes) and

dodgers (boiled cornmeal dumplings).

In fact, the only thing non-native about cornmeal is its name — *corn* comes from the same Germanic root as the words *kernel* and *grain*. (Corned beef, interestingly, derives its name not from corn but from the grains or kernels of salt used to cure it.)

By comparison, there's nothing very American about our quintessential patriotic dish, apple pie. Both apples and pie crusts came here via Europe, the former having originated in Asia, the latter in medieval kitchens. Even at its height, apple pie was a regional dish rather than a national one. As for the phrase "American as apple pie," it didn't come into popular use until World War II.

Of course, recipes evolve and cornbread is no exception. Most versions (including mine) feature butter in place of the original animal grease, along with white flour, sugar and dairy. Yet even as its flavor and texture have likely improved, cornbread's stature has diminished. Early visitors to these shores raved about things like ash cakes (cornbread wrapped in leaves and cooked on embers) as if they were tasting truffles.

I suppose it suits cornbread's self-effacing nature that it sidled into this week's column meek as a kitty-cat. Here's what happened: I made a pot of chili. Because we had a lovely houseguest, I decided at the last minute to bake a batch of cornbread to upgrade the meal. The recipe I followed was a total plus-one — an afterthought to soft-shell crabs. Moreover, I didn't have all the ingredients called for, so I adapted.

The resulting cornbread was nothing short of extraordinary. Even so, it took me half a day to realize it was worth sharing.

“Cornbread and its kin are arguably the most American foods that exist.”

The last time I'd tasted life-changing cornbread I was in my 20s, sitting down to dinner at a now-shuttered Manhattan restaurant called America. The restaurant's menu featured foods from all 50 states. In its early, trendy days, it was the first place many New Yorkers encountered curiosities like fajitas and poke. Yet the only eye-opener I recall tasting during my handful of visits was its blissful cornbread.

I've made acres of cornbread in the years since, especially at summer camp, where it provided a useful calorie-bump to many meals. Campers were always happy enough when we served cornbread, unless we served it with honey butter, in which case they went berserk. Honey butter is nothing but honey blended with butter, but whenever we offered it alongside the much more labor-intensive cornbread, they looked upon us as if we were Prometheus returned from Mount Olympus with ambrosia stolen from the gods.

I offered honey butter to my family-plus-one last weekend, but no one went for it. They were busy quietly celebrating the best cornbread to appear in this little corner of America for a very long time.



Photos by Henry Weed

## Sour Cream Cornbread

Delicious straight from the oven, this cornbread is even better, in my opinion, if you let it sit for a day or two, so that the cornmeal grits absorb moisture and soften.

**Equipment:** a 10-inch cast iron pan

10 tablespoons butter	¼ cup sugar
2 cups cornmeal, stone-ground if possible	1 tablespoon kosher salt
2 cups all-purpose flour	2 large eggs
1 tablespoon baking powder	1½ cups sour cream
½ teaspoon baking soda	1 cup milk
	1 tablespoon honey

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. If you are comfortable browning butter, brown 8 tablespoons (1 stick) in the cast-iron pan over medium heat. If not, follow directions in the note below.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and salt. In a medium bowl, combine the eggs, sour cream, milk and honey and whisk until smooth. Whisk in the slightly cooled browned butter. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the sour cream mixture. Whisk briefly, using large, sweeping strokes, until just combined; do not overmix.
4. Heat the cast-iron pan over medium. Add 2 tablespoons butter, and when it's melted pour in the batter. Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden brown and firm, rotating the pan halfway through.

Note: Browning butter entails caramelizing its milk solids. It's not at all hard, but requires close attention. Using a small or medium-size stainless-steel skillet can help you keep an eye on the transition and keeps the butter from spreading too thin. Fill a pan bigger than your skillet with cold water and set aside. Cut 1 stick butter into pieces and melt it in the skillet over medium, then cook, stirring frequently for about 5 to 6 minutes. At first, the milk solids will rise to the surface and create a cloudy, curd-like froth. After about 4 to 5 minutes, they will drop to the bottom of the skillet. Soon thereafter, a clear, beer-like foam will begin to form on the surface. Watch attentively now as the foam thickens, stirring constantly until the solids in the bottom of the pan are a rich, medium-brown. Dip the underside of the skillet into the pan of cool water and set aside until ready to use.

## Honey Butter

- 4 tablespoons butter, at soft roomtemperature but not melted  
2 tablespoons honey

Using an electric mixer, blend the butter and honey in a small bowl until thoroughly combined.



## Haldane Transportation Requests

Due by April 1st

Haldane Central School District is accepting applications for Private/Parochial School Transportation for the 2022/2023 school year.

Completed applications should be mailed to

**Haldane Central School District**  
**15 Craigsides Drive**  
**Cold Spring, NY 10516**  
**ATTN: Transportation Dept.**

and received no later than April 1st, 2022

Contact Haldane Transportation Department at

845 265-9254 ext. 171

if you have any questions.

Applications can be found on the [haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org) website



## Roots and Shoots

# Zone in on Planning

By Pamela Doan

**W**hile laying out a map for where to plant each vegetable and herb is a worthy goal at this time of year, I've found that working with a master plan for the landscape can save a lot of effort, time and money. Whenever you have the impulse to start a project, whether it's adding a section for compost, a planting bed, a patio renovation or planting fruit trees, a master plan can help you assess priorities, build in sustainable systems, and stave off costly mistakes and future regrets.

A professional consultation can certainly get the work done but creating a master plan can also be a DIY undertaking that will make you much more connected to your landscape.

## Observe

Sit and look around. Make notes about what you see. Try drawing a simple sketch. It doesn't have to be accurately measured or to scale at this stage but include the relative space between all of the built and natural



Vegetable gardens can go in Zone 1 or Zone 2. Only nine weeks until spring!

Photo by P. Doan

features like trees. If there is lawn, describe it: dense turf grass, bare patches, weed patches, yellowing, etc. What can you note about where water flows in the landscape? Show where it settles or puddles.

Also include in your map how the sun moves across the area during the day with shady and sunny spots marked off. I've found that assumptions I made about how much sun an area receives are wrong and I need to visit a location frequently to get a better evaluation.

Go inside your house and look out your windows. How does the landscape contribute to nice views? Make notes on the drawings of where you spend a lot of time near windows and would appreciate flowers or foliage at different times of the year. Where do you want more or less shade?

Don't forget to notice how you feel. Does the landscape evoke wonder, peace or joy? Does it make you want to linger or be active? We can create landscapes that fulfill these basic needs for natural connections.

## Make zones

Visualize your landscape as five zones. The space that is closest to your home is Zone 1. This should include all the landscape features that need to be close and convenient. Primary outdoor entertaining and cooking spaces are here. If you love cooking with fresh herbs, locate an herb garden near the kitchen. A favorite fragrant plant could be situated near a window. Rain capture systems could be included here, as roofs provide a perfect place to collect runoff.

Zone 2 could be the best location for a vegetable garden, a chicken coop, compost, a garden shed and recreation like a swimming pool, children's play equipment or a hammock in a shady spot. Flowerbeds and aesthetic landscaping can flow in Zone 2.

Zone 3 could also be the vegetable garden, depending on your layout, but remember that grouping things together that you use frequently is key. In my landscape, the chicken coop isn't close to the garden or

compost. It's convenient for keeping an eye on the hens and gathering eggs but when we clean it out, we have to haul a wheelbarrow uphill to the compost pile. Not ideal.

In Zone 3 there might be fruit trees or a berry patch. A seedling tree nursery, pollinator gardens, a mixed hedge with habitat and food for birds and wildlife will happily exist here. The idea is that in each band or zone, you have features and plants that need less care and maintenance and become less cultivated.

The next band is Zone 4. Here things can go untouched and be wilder. This is a great location for a brush pile that wildlife can use and for leaf piles that can be added to compost in batches. And the best part is you can keep the lawn mower away. Overgrowth is OK.

Just keep an eye on this area to make sure that invasive weeds don't take over. It's a zone for natural systems, not neglect. Letting Japanese barberry, stiltgrass or mugwort dominate, for example, will lead to other landscape problems.

If you were including animals like goats, horses or cows, shelters and pastureland would be Zone 4 and Zone 5 would be the wild edge.

The sketches and zones can help you prioritize and make decisions about what you want in your landscape and provide a map for how to make it so. Hopefully your observations become valuable tools in understanding your yard and transforming it into a sustainable and productive space for you and nature to coexist.



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Department  
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Prevention



United Way of the  
Dutchess-Orange Region



# Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

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

## 150 Years Ago (January 1872)

A 15-year-old Newburgh Academy student disappeared while skating home alone across the Hudson River after meeting friends at Fishkill Landing, who had warned him to watch for air holes in the ice. The boy's father offered a \$100 reward for the recovery of his body.

A Methodist Episcopal revival at Matteawan saved more than 150 souls.

Writing in the *New York Observer*, a columnist praised a Hudson River Railroad conductor: "Some days ago, on my way down [to New York City], I implored the brakeman to make just a little fire, as our feet and noses indicated such a low degree of temperature that falling asleep might prove fatal. His uniform had not ruined him, for he was evidently affected by my remarks, and with gentle tone replied: 'I haven't a stick of wood since we left Poughkeepsie, but I'll try to get some at Peekskill.' This soft answer warmed me far more than if the man had given me an opportunity to become excited in discoursing upon railway management and manners."

## 125 Years Ago (January 1897)

An early morning fire tore through

the *Fishkill Standard* on Main Street in Fishkill Landing, destroying the editorial offices and damaging bound volumes that dated to 1862. The editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted with some admiration that the *Standard* appeared on time the next day as if nothing had happened.

A lengthy front-page story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* recounted a visit to the Matteawan state hospital by delegations from Pennsylvania and Connecticut that were interested in starting their own facilities for insane criminals. The superintendent led the visitors on a tour of the wards, each of which held about 80 men who sat playing cards, dominoes and checkers. An isolation ward for less-serene inmates had 16 men guarded by four attendants and the women's ward upstairs held 40 prisoners. The prison was so admired that officials at other New York state mental hospitals tried to transfer unruly patients there even if they hadn't been convicted of a crime.

William "Stovey" Catskill was arrested at Matteawan on a charge of illegal prize-fighting after he put his boxing opponent, Daniel Flanagan, into a coma in the ninth round during a midnight bout in Walter Hart's barn in Newburgh. Both fighters lived in Fishkill Landing; they fought with 2-ounce gloves, with the winner to receive a purse of \$400 and the loser the gate receipts. About 60 men from Matteawan and Fishkill were in attendance; each paid \$2 admission, along with their bets.



Notorious inmates at the Matteawan hospital for insane criminals in 1897, from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Mrs. Hart, whose husband was absent, threatened to go to the police but was convinced to stay quiet. After Flanagan was knocked out with two vicious punches, word spread that he was dead on the mat and the spectators scattered. (Within a week, 32 had been arrested.) Flanagan was a hatter with the Matteawan Manufacturing Co., and Catskill was employed by the builders Scofield & James.

About a week after the match, while out on bail, Catskill saved a 10-year-old boy who

had fallen through the ice on a mill pond at the Dutchess Hat Works. He skated to the edge of the hole, jumped in, lifted the boy out, then pulled himself out on a board.

## 100 Years Ago (January 1922)

The city attorney resigned a week after a City Council meeting held on Christmas Day at which he had what was described as "a violent disagreement" with the city admin-

(Continued on Page 17)

## NOTICE

### KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING



#### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Kindergarten registration process for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have a child who will be turning five on or before December 1, 2022 and you live in the Haldane Central School District, please fill out the registration forms on our website: [www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org). Click on **Quick Parent Links, Registration and Kindergarten Registration** to fill out and submit the required forms along with the supporting documentation. Then call Sue Hylka @ 845-265-9254 ext. 122 to set up an appointment Feb 7th-11th, 2022 from 8:15am-2:00pm to complete the registration process.

Parents registering children in person should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance and will be directed to the registration location. Registrants must have all forms completed and must bring or upload a copy of the child's **birth certificate**, his/her **immunization record** which has been signed by a physician, and all **Proof of Residency forms** indicating that the family resides in the Haldane School District.

If your child's fifth birthday falls between December 2 and December 31 and you would like to discuss your enrollment options please contact Christine Jamin, Elementary Principal 845-265-9254 ext 122.

Parents are invited to attend a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Thursday, January 27th, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Event details will be released on our website as we get closer to the date.

Please call Mrs. Hylka directly if you have any questions.

## NOTICE

### PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

#### Public Hearing – January 27th, 2022

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing regarding review under the State Environment Quality Review Act of the below described project on Thursday, January 27th, 2022 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 and virtually via Zoom to consider the following application:

#### Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 2015 Route 9 Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 60-1-59.2 & 59.3

SEQRA review of: Major Site Plan & 3-lot Subdivision; Modifications to the GGC PDD to permit relocation of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to the site, new theaters, outdoor pavilion and housing for artist and visitors (existing banquet/restaurant facility to remain).

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

If you would like to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom, see information below to register, or email [crockett@philipstown.com](mailto:crockett@philipstown.com) to request login information before 7:00 pm on January 27th, 2022.

#### Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_I\\_C\\_foYURI2ML5u4GrtStQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_I_C_foYURI2ML5u4GrtStQ)

Webinar ID: 879 2248 6749 Passcode: 507942

Please note if you plan to attend this meeting in person masks will be required. Also be aware that due to ongoing COVID changes and restrictions this Public Hearing may be rescheduled or moved entirely to Zoom. Please check the town website at [philipstown.com](http://philipstown.com) for any scheduling updates.

If you are unable to attend and would like your comments to be heard please email, mail or drop off your comments to Cheryl Rockett no later than January, 20th, 2022 to allow the Board time to receive and read your comments; or you may have your written comments submitted at the Public Hearing.

EMAIL: [crockett@philipstown.com](mailto:crockett@philipstown.com)

MAIL: Town of Philipstown Planning Board, 238 Main St., PO Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Drop off: Town of Philipstown Building Department, 2 Cedar St. Cold Spring, NY 10516

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of December, 2021.  
Neal Zuckerman, Chair



(Continued from Page 16)

istrator. John Donnelly said only that he was leaving because of increased responsibilities as deputy appraiser of the Port of New York.

John McFarlan, a druggist, was arrested for carrying a revolver with an expired license. Police were alerted following an incident in which McFarlan had shouted at another motorist because he did not have his headlights on. The men stopped and argued, and the complainant said he noticed the outline of a pistol in McFarlan's coat pocket.

Representatives of teams from Beacon, Newburgh and Wappingers Falls, along with two from Poughkeepsie, created the Central Hudson Valley Professional Basketball League. The teams agreed to play each other four times, with games in Beacon on Saturday or Sunday afternoons.

After a member of the City Council said that basketball games should be allowed on Sundays because baseball games and movies were permitted, the Rev. John MacCulloch, pastor of the First Baptist Church and a former college player, said he had never participated in a basketball game that was clean enough to be played on the sabbath.

William Toffey, who 20 years earlier had opened a sausage and frankfurter factory in Glenham, died at Highland Hospital.

A man was charged with stealing and chopping up a neighbor's boat for kindling. Police said the man appeared to have dragged the M. Maud, which did not have runners, for a quarter-mile before giving up and sawing the 30-foot cockpit into 4-foot lengths.

Dan Perrone, of Hudson Avenue, was arrested after firing 15 shots into the air. A neighbor, John Sarvennera, was also arrested for firing his gun; he said he thought Perrone was trying to kill him, so he returned fire. Perrone told police he was testing the revolver, which he had purchased to protect Mrs. Jerry Corrella from the Black Hand Society, which had allegedly been sending threatening letters written in red ink to Italians in Beacon.

After 24 state troopers conducted 16 raids, seized 15 barrels of illegal whiskey and made four arrests, questions were raised about the witness named on the warrants who claimed he had purchased drinks at each of the targeted establishments. No one in Beacon had ever heard of Thomas E. Shannon and the *Beacon Journal* protested that the raids had targeted "several reputable

businesses where everybody knows no whiskey" was ever sold. The police action was prompted by complaints from two churches that Beacon officers were unable or unwilling to enforce state prohibition laws.

#### 75 Years Ago (January 1947)

A Newburgh man sued Beacon, asking for \$25,000 in damages, claiming he had been assaulted by officers at the police station after being arrested for disorderly conduct.

A fourth grader at St. Joachim's parochial school in Beacon died when his sled was hit by a car after he coasted onto Route 52.

A 34-year-old presser at the Beacon View hotel was arrested on a charge of neglecting his family.

Two novice ski trails were opened on Mount Beacon, one heading toward Cold Spring and the other toward the reservoir. A two-mile professional trail, which included a 60-foot jump, was set to open once there was a base of at least 4 inches. Skiers on that trail could return on the incline railway or stop three-quarters of the way down to catch a newly installed, 600-foot tow line.

The number of Republicans in Beacon rose by 26 percent, to 2,459, from two years earlier, while the number of Democrats rose by only 1 percent, to 1,159. Voters not registered with a party grew by 23 percent, to 835, and the American Labor Party remained at 18.

The Chamber of Commerce presented the City Council with a draft ordinance that would divide the city into four zones: one-family residential, two-family or multiple dwelling unit, general business (Main Street and 150 feet on each side) and general industrial. Factories in residential zones would be grandfathered.

James Bruce Southard of Beacon was praised in *Art News* for his exhibit of paintings at the Ward Eggleston Galleries in New York.

#### 50 Years Ago (January 1972)

The City Council passed a resolution limiting, to 225 gallons per minute, the amount of water that the Dutchess Ski Area on Mount Beacon could draw for snowmaking. To get additional water, the lodge paid the city to have a Tompkins Hose Co. fire-truck pump from a private pond, drawing criticism from the Dutchess County Taxpayers Association. But the city said the truck was needed only in "extreme emergencies" and otherwise "just sits around."

The city held a hearing on a proposal to sell 19.2 acres of surplus property at the Matteawan State Hospital site to Chemprene Chemical Co. for \$140,000. The parcel was part of 64.5 acres the state had put on the market.

The chair of the Beacon Democratic Party urged the City Council to move the adoption of its preliminary budget from the end of October to after the election. Although Dutchess lawmakers had nothing to do with the Beacon budget, he said he was convinced one Democratic county candidate lost because of public anger over a proposed tax hike by the city.

Eight patients in the Tra-Nel Nursing Home on North Avenue who were receiving public aid faced a move to facilities in other states following the passage of strict restrictions on nursing homes constructed of wood. The home's 19 private patients would not have to move.

Digger Phelps, 30, a former Beacon High School star, had lost six of his first eight games as the new basketball coach at Notre Dame, including a 94-29 drubbing by Indiana. "We're not a good running club and we're not a good shooting club, and there's not much else," Phelps said.

A DeWindt Street man who was out on bail on a kidnapping charge was arrested in New York City when he was discovered in a car that had a machine gun under a blanket in the back seat. While searching the vehicle, police found six sets of handcuffs, 240 rounds of ammo, two pairs of gloves, a flashlight, 20 pieces of rope cut in three-

foot lengths and a roll of black tape.

Beacon schools closed for a day after nearly 800 of the district's 3,500 students were absent because of a flu-like illness.

Pete Seeger and Jimmy Collier performed at the Rombout School in a benefit for the high school yearbook and the Beacon Sloop Club.

The Beacon High School Dramatics Council presented an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s *Welcome to the Monkey House*.

A Holmes man was killed when the two rear wheels came off a tractor-trailer near the entrance of the Newburgh-Beacon bridge and crushed the roof of his car.

#### 25 Years Ago (January 1997)

John Spear Jr., a senior at Beacon High School, bowled a perfect 300 game at Fish-kill Bowl. He averaged 202 for the Bulldogs bowling team and held the top Section I scores for a game (257) and series (715).

Two men were charged with assaulting a Beacon man in an argument over money.

Patients at the Turning Point, the alcohol and dependency treatment center at St. Francis Hospital, donated a handmade dollhouse to the Grace Smith House, a shelter for battered women in Poughkeepsie.

Elton Brand, bound for Duke University (and the NBA), scored 15 points as the Peekskill boys' basketball team trounced Beacon, 96-39. Coach Tom Powers joked that he thought his team (3-10) was looking past Peekskill to its next game, against rival Lourdes.

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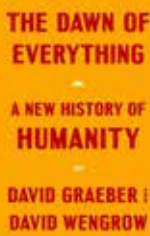
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**MAGAZZINO TO EXPAND** – Magazzino, the Italian art museum on Route 9 in Philipstown, has begun construction on a pavilion that it expects to open in 2023. The structure, designed by Spanish architects Miguel Quismondo and Alberto Campo Baeza and named for Robert Olnick, the late father of co-founder Nancy Olnick, will add 13,000 square feet of exhibition space (including a room devoted to decorative arts, ceramics and jewelry) as well as a 5,000-volume library, auditorium, cafe and shop.

Photo by Marco Anelli/Magazzino



## Local Bestsellers

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



	Position	last month	TITLE	AUTHOR
ADULT	1	-	<i>The Dawn of Everything</i>	Graeber and Wengrow
	2	-	<i>When We Cease to Understand the World</i>	Benjamin Labatut
	3	-	<i>Call Us What We Carry</i>	Amanda Gorman
	4	-	<i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i>	Anthony Doerr
	5	4	<i>The 1619 Project</i>	Nikole Hannah-Jones
CHILDREN	1	-	<i>Cat Kid Comic Club Perspectives</i>	Dav Pilkey
	2	-	<i>Charlie Brown's Christmas Stocking</i>	Charles M. Schulz
	3	1	<i>Big Shot (Diary of a Wimpy Kid 16)</i>	Jeff Kinney
	4	-	<i>Polar Express 30th Anniversary Edition</i>	Chris Van Allsburg
	4	-	<i>Stuntboy, In the Meantime</i>	Jason Reynolds

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Community Edition

# THE BLUE PRINT

Five times each year, the members of Ashley Linda's journalism class at Haldane High School publish a newspaper, *The Blue Print*. With support from the Haldane School Foundation, *The Current* is working with the students to share their reporting with the community. Selections from the October and December issues appear below.

## Hudson Hikes

By Zohra Kapoor

I have been hiking since I could walk and I've loved Storm King and The Popolopen Torne for as long as I can remember. These hikes are two of my favorites because they're placed almost perfectly in the valley where you get views of the river and the mountains surrounding.

Hiking is my favorite all-season activity as each season there is a completely different scenery. We have wonderful mountains all around us with trails on just about every one. If you're into scrambles and sweeping views these hikes are meant for you!

Trail safety is key. Research before you go, always carry directions and stay on the trail.

(Continued on Page 20)

## CLUB HIGHLIGHT: The Blues Devils

By Amanda Johanson

The pandemic halted many extracurricular activities, but emerging from their mandatory hiatus Haldane High School's band and club, The Blues Devils, have made a comeback.

The 18 students, ranging from ninth to 12th grade, find the club to be an enjoyable outlet: a place where they can hang out with friends, indulge in their love of music and cover songs by their favorite artists.

Many members of the club are multi-talented artists. Their diversity in skill is what the members say makes practicing as a group interesting as well as simply fun.

With a large number of participants and the imposing pandemic, formulating and organizing practices and rehearsals came as a challenge. "Practice is often a lot of sweat, hearing

(Continued on Page 20)



The mural at the Philipstown Depot Theatre

Photos by Kiera Shanahan

## The Spotlight

By Kiera Shanahan

*This article is the first of a series called The Spotlight in which I will be interviewing different artists throughout the school, to shine the light on them, their talents and all art has to offer. I hope this new series will inspire more artists out there to keep creating, writing and performing.*

The Philipstown Depot Theatre has been a part of the Hudson Valley community for 25 years. The theater was started in 1996 by a group of local visionaries and has been providing theatrical and musical entertainment for the community ever since.

This past September, two Haldane High School students put their artistic talents toward commemorating the theater's 25th anniversary in the form



Celia Drury and Olivia Flanagan

of a mural, featuring a silhouette of the theater surrounded by colorful designs.

Olivia Flanagan and Celia Drury (both grade 11), the artists behind the mural, say that they were given a logo to stick to, but were given free rein of interpretation

(Continued on Page 20)

## Remembering 9-11 and Veterans

By BluePrint Staff

Each year, Haldane's History Club marks the anniversary of 9/11, and this year, the 10-year anniversary was no different. The club places 2,977 flags outside the high school to represent the number of those who lost their lives that day. They also tie yellow ribbons around trees on campus.

To further recognize the sacrifice of veterans and to show their respect, the History Club asked members of the high school community to bring in photos of a loved one who is a member of the armed forces. They then posted photos on a bulletin board in the lobby for all to see and celebrate.

(Continued on Page 20)





Photo by Zohra Kapoor

## Hikes (from Page 19)

### Storm King

**Elevation** (feet): 1,385

**Ascent** (feet): 893

**Difficulty**: 6.4/10

**Length** (miles): 2.5

**Personal Rating**: ★★★

#### Trails:

Up: Orange → Blue

Down: Blue → White

Storm King starts off with a steep scramble but as soon as you've finished climbing, you'll be rewarded with immediate views of the valley. Since the hike starts almost halfway up the mountain, there are views around every turn. The real money spot is placed on the edge of the mountain with sweeping views of the river. It's a perfect hike for fall and for anyone needing to get some fresh air.

## The Popolopen Torne

**Elevation** (feet): 931

**Ascent** (feet): 1,308

**Difficulty**: 8.4/10

**Length** (miles): 4.7

**Personal Rating**: ★★★★★

#### Trails:

Up: Red → Blue

Down: Blue

The Popolopen Torne is a longer hike with some scrambles here and there, but rewarded with panoramic views of the river and the valley. The scrambles are steep and can be slippery, so bring shoes with good traction and be prepared for a climb! If you're not into a longer hike, or if you're in a time crunch, you can start from halfway up on 284 Mine Road on the blue trail. The Torne is one of my favorite hikes in the Hudson Valley as there's so much to see and do! Make sure you have directions, and have fun!

## Mural (from Page 19)

on bringing that logo to life. "We tried to represent the exciting artistic energy of the fine establishment of the Philipstown Depot Theatre," said Olivia.

*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* had just been performed at the theater, and Celia says this was a source of inspiration for them, as well.

"[The actor] was doing these really expressive hand movements throughout the whole show, and I feel like that kind of expressiveness, through body as well as words, was really fitting into what theater is all about," she said. She translated this expressiveness into their painting by an image of a hand featured at the right of the mural, right above their signatures.

For both artists, this is their first public mural. "A lot of my friends are involved there, and it's a really wonderful community," Olivia said. "It felt really good to be included and get involved."

Olivia and Celia say they have been painting murals together in Olivia's room for years, but this is the first time that their work has been exhibited

for all the public to see. "It was fun to finally do one for the public," Celia said.

Before we ran out of time, I had one final question for the pair. Did they have any advice for other artists out there?

Celia and Olivia took a moment to think. "I think making art with friends expands your artistic lens," Celia began. "It expands your artistic ability more than you think it would."

"Don't be afraid to take on big projects," Olivia added. "Because I think they transform you as an artist as much as they transform the community that they exist with."

"And don't be afraid to make art for yourself," Celia concluded. "Do things that you think are cool, just for you. You don't always have to have a greater purpose in making something. Making murals and doing things for the community and other projects is really fun, but it's also really fulfilling and important that you do art for yourself."

Art is something that is very important, something the world cannot function without. Too often it is overlooked or overshadowed by events like sports and trends.

## Blues Devils (from Page 19)

damage, unnecessary noodling from guitarists and a lot of laughing," says guitarist and singer Lucas Valdimirof.

"Practices are very chaotic, but in a sensible way," Alex Danilov, guitarist, added.

Putting aside the loud and joking nature of the practices, the internal support system within the group is very strong. "Everyone there is pretty chill about everything and very supportive about everyone playing and what-not," states singer Sam Bates.

Through use of instruments, including drums, bass and guitar, the music genre the band primarily focuses on is classic rock. "However, we have played blues songs, pop songs and other genres that we have enjoyed diving into," says Mr. Hoolan, the club adviser. "We always try to 'metallicize' songs we play by making certain parts heavier and giving them our unique spin."

Some students are also involved in Haldane's Drama Club, which helps students further develop their musical talents.

"Everybody in the club brings some-

thing unique to the band and I really rely on everyone to make it work," Mr. Hoolan says. "For instance, Matt McCoy has been handling the sound balancing for us for the last two years. I can easily say that there's no way this club would be functioning without his expertise."

"Haldane is such a small school, everyone knows each other and it is very easy to keep up with the other bandmates outside of rehearsal," Danilov says.

Mr. Hoolan says: "It's a lot of fun and I learn so much each year. It's really nice seeing students outside of the math classroom focusing on their hobbies and things they love. Being able to maintain continuity with the club last year and this year throughout the pandemic has been one of the highlights of my career."

Due to COVID the band will not have the ability to perform in concert over the winter months. However, the band anticipates releasing a video with three songs: "Seven Nation Army," by the White Stripes, "London Calling," by The Clash and "One Way or Another," by Blondie. "This is the first time we have made a video like this, and although it is not as exciting as performing live, it is a great alternative," says Sam Bates.



Members of ROAR (Reaching out for Animal Rights) collected Kong toys for dogs at the Dutchess SPCA.

## Honoring (from Page 19)

This November, the ROAR (Reaching Out for Animal Rights) and LEO clubs hosted a "Kongs-giving" event asking all Haldane students, K-12, to donate Kong toys and treats for the Dutchess SPCA.

Signs and donation bins were placed in the lobbies of all three buildings and students donated over 40 Kong toys.

A group of students visited the Dutchess County shelter in Hyde Park on Nov. 24 to ensure the dogs would have delicious Thanksgiving meals!



The History Club created this bulletin board honoring veterans.



# Current Classifieds

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**FARMER** — Position available beginning March 15. Looking for aspiring farmer to manage organic vegetable farm. Duties include planting, weeding, and harvesting. Must have own vehicle. Please send resume to [davorenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:davorenfarm@gmail.com).

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## A Shakespeare Festival that is Right for Garrison

There are conflicting narratives about Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposal to build a large regional entertainment complex at the Garrison Golf Course. The plan is NOT a done deal. **Please attend the Public Hearing on Thu January 27 at 7:30 pm on Zoom or in person at Town Hall.** (Email [crockett@philipstown.com](mailto:crockett@philipstown.com) for the Zoom link.)

Please take a moment to read so you can decide if you like the plan or would prefer a modified project. Your input will help decide our small community's future! According to documents submitted by the applicant on Philipstown.com, HVSF is asking for:

- **36 Buildings:** A permanent 530-seat 38 ft tall Tent Theatre atop a high point taking for itself the stunning view of the Hudson River winding between Storm King and Breakneck Mountains
  - a permanent 225-seat Theater
  - 26 Artist/guest residences
  - 20-room Hotel
  - Back of house building
  - Outdoor Pavilion
  - Concessions & Restroom buildings
  - Welcome Center/Box Office
  - Rehearsal building
  - Manager housing & office
  - Artist/Guest Amenity Building
  - a single family dwelling on 28 acres (Philipstown.com EAF Part 3 pp 19-22)
- **Parking Lots:** Double the parking spaces (631) at the Garrison Train Station (291) <https://maps.511mobility.org/parkAndRideProfile/show/253>
- **A new two lane bridge** off rural Snake Hill Road. <https://philipstown.com/pb/2021-12-16%20PB%20HVSF-GGC-EAF-Maps-Docu-Bridge-Prec.pdf>
- **Traffic Light:** Rt 9 & Travis Corners, Turning lane: Snake Hill Road (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x8YvscugUFWAkV2RtyIX6cOeaWJARtf/view> pp83-86)
- **Water usage:** HVSF estimates domestic water usage at 17,744 gallons per day vs. current 9,820 gpd. (Philipstown.com 9/21 EAF Part 3 pg. 70.)
- **Visitors:** Max 1,000-2,000 visitors per day, six days per week and until 11 PM. <https://philipstown.com/pb/2021-12-18%20PB%20HVSF-GGC-Saturday-Traffic-Memo.pdf> 12/18/21
  - **Plus:** Up to 150 weddings/banquets per year at The Garrison's 232-seat banquet hall/97-seat restaurant & bar. (EAF 3 Philipstown.com p.18.)

HVSF and our Planning Board can reduce the size of this project, and HVSF can remain a thriving theater organization - without overwhelming its quiet, rural host.

**Preserving our community character in a sustainable way is the overarching theme of the Comprehensive Plan. Philipstown is a unique place characterized by great natural beauty, historic places, and a sense of small-town community. This uniqueness is fragile and could be lost through a rapid influx of development.** (<https://sites.google.com/view/philipstown2020> Philipstown Comprehensive Plan adopted 11/17/21)

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## SPORTS

## Roundup (from Page 24)

## BOWLING

The Beacon boys defeated both Washingtonville and Highland last week by scores of 7-0 to improve to 6-4, while the girls defeated Washingtonville, 7-0, but fell to Highland, 5-2. Their record is now 5-6. Both teams will face Marlboro on Thursday (Jan. 27).

## WRESTLING

Beacon dropped a 58-12 decision to Middletown on Jan. 11 at Wallkill High School in a Section IX tournament.

The Bulldogs recorded a win from heavyweight Lou Del Bianco, who pinned his opponent at 215 pounds to improve his season record to 16-1. Isaac Hansen won by forfeit at 160 pounds.

Beacon fell to Cornwall on Jan. 13, 53-9, and was scheduled to host its own tournament on Jan. 15, but it was canceled due to concerns about COVID-19. Next up is a trip to Nyack on Tuesday (Jan. 25) and Red Hook at home on Thursday.

## BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon (1-8-1) came back from the break against Red Hook on Jan. 10 but fell short, 98-66, with eight second-place finishes. The Bulldogs defeated Marlboro (which had only four swimmers), 97-30, on Jan. 12 before losing to Newburgh Free Academy, 86-69, and Monroe-Woodbury, 97-71.

In that most recent meet, on Jan. 19, Hunter Ingold was second in the 100 free-style in 57.63 and second in the 50 free-style in 24.69. The Bulldogs host Kingston today (Jan. 21) and Franklin D. Roosevelt on Jan. 28.

## No Arrests in Vivo Killing

*Police continue investigation of Dec. 25 stabbing in Beacon*

The Beacon Police Department has not made any arrests in the Dec. 25 killing of Rene "Scout" Vivo, Chief Sands Frost said on Tuesday (Jan. 18).

Vivo was stabbed in an attack at about 4 p.m. on South Brett Street, near Main Street, the police said; an obituary said he died at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

According to a police blotter entry, Vivo was arrested on Dec. 15 and charged with second-degree assault following an incident on Main Street. It was not clear if that incident was related to the later attack.

## Dutchess Restarts Process

*Will select new redistricting committee*

Dutchess County said on Jan. 14 that it had received 243 applications to join the seven-member Dutchess County Independent Reapportionment Commission that will redraw legislative districts based on data from the 2020 federal census.

The commission had been formed last year but was disbanded by the Republican majority of the Legislature when a member appointed by Democrats was found to be ineligible. A state judge rejected a challenge last week.

The new candidate pool includes those who applied to serve on the commission in 2021. The Legislature will make initial appointments by Feb. 1, with two members appointed by the majority leader and two by the minority leader. Those four members will then select three members from the pool by Feb. 15. The new districts will go into effect during the 2023 election cycle.

## Putnam District Attorney Launches Two Units

*Will focus on 'special victims' and financial crimes*

The Putnam County district attorney announced on Jan. 14 that he plans to create two units within the agency, one to address "special victims" and the other financial crimes.

It follows earlier initiatives to battle illegal narcotics and address immigrant issues, said DA Robert Tandy.

Three assistant district attorneys will be assigned to the Major Financial Crimes Unit, which will prosecute cases involving theft, tax evasion, insurance fraud and other crimes. Two assistant DAs and an investigator will be assigned to the Special Victims Unit to prosecute cases involving children, seniors and sex-abuse victims.

## Groups Partner on Food Distribution

*Will purchase frozen products for pantries*

FeedHV and Scenic Hudson said on Jan. 6 they had agreed to purchase frozen products from the food distributor Hudson Harvest at a reduced cost to share with food assistance agencies, including in Beacon.

FeedHV operates in Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties, linking donors of prepared but unserved foods such as restaurants, farms, hospitals and universities with food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Hudson Harvest, based in Germantown, will identify excess products in its freezers.

## State Adds Land to Sterling Forest

*Purchases 130 acres for buffer, access point*

New York State has purchased 130 acres of open space that will be added to the 22,000-acre Sterling Forest State Park in Orange County, officials announced Jan. 12.

The property was part of Greenwood Forest Farms, which operated from 1919 until the 1960s as a resort for prominent Black families from Harlem and Brooklyn. A neighborhood to the west was founded by a group of prominent Black families from New York City.

The land will provide a buffer for wildlife and a new access point to the forest, the state said. The price tag was \$364,000.

## Recent Deaths

## Philipstown

Gloria DesMarais, 88  
Joseph Freda, 85  
Josephine O'Connell, 94  
Carolyn Ross, 86

## Beacon

Carlos Abreu, 70  
Ahmet Albra, 88  
Claver Allman, 69  
Susan Beckett, 69  
Kitty Butler, 90  
Colleen Dorian, 56  
Carolyn McIntosh, 75  
Arue Medley, 47  
George Mordas, 97  
P.J. Parker, 44  
Glenn Pennacchio, 65  
Ellen Quartironi, 84  
Vicki Zamudio, 92

For obituaries,  
see [highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Hula swivelers

5. Kvetch

9. Comedian  
Margaret

12. Inky stain

13. Stead

14. Bond rating

15. Sooner State  
native

17. *The A-Team* actor

18. Trails

19. Rose parts

21. Halloween  
disguises

24. Rating unit

25. iPhone downloads

26. Skunk relatives

30. "— was saying ..."

31. Passion

32. — tai

33. Olympic winner

35. Poet of yore

36. Dutch cheese

37. Arm bones

38. Peer in a box

40. The Emerald Isle

42. Branch

43. Intermediary

48. "Patience —  
virtue"

49. Thus

50. Corn recipe

51. PC linkup

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		

**DOWN**

1. *Veep* airer

2. Sort

3. D.C. figure

4. Celery servings

5. Drain blockage

6. Intends

7. Actor Stephen

8. Groan-inducing  
humorist

9. TV station  
employee

10. Injure

11. Feed-bag filler

16. Possesses

20. Tic- — -toe

21. Sir's counterpart

22. Church section

23. Peter Parker's  
alter ego

24. Coin aperture

26. Prudish

27. Takes too much,  
in med. lingo

28. Skater Lipinski

29. Faction

31. Fear-stricken

34. Big fuss

35. Censors

37. Internet address

38. Hoosegow

39. Celestial bear

40. Jittery

41. Altar vows

44. Roth svgs. plan

45. Extinct bird

46. Picnic crasher

47. Born

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 fixes typos (5)

2 distance from top to bottom (5)

3 sportscaster Albert (4)

4 pilot's lone flight (4)

5 thick, dark print (8)

6 ancient Greek philosopher (9)

7 Tobago's larger neighbor (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


EDI	CE	RV	DE	LO
MA	TOT	AD	AR	IN
IS	TR	LD	SO	PTH
BO	ID	TS	LE	FA

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Jan. 14 Puzzles

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

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

1. UPSCALE, 2. COLLAPSED, 3. GUIDEBOOK, 4. CLEARY, 5. PHILLY, 6. FELIX, 7. NOSINESS



## SPORTS



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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Reilly Landisi's 25-point effort led Beacon to an easy, 70-30 victory over Port Jervis on Tuesday (Jan. 18) in a game played at Beacon High School.

Landisi, one of five freshmen on the roster (along with five sophomores), also dished out seven assists as the Bulldogs improved to 6-4. Every player on the squad scored, including sophomore Shadaya Fryar with 10 and freshman Rayana Taylor with eight.

"We started off slow defensively, and didn't rebound well," said Coach Christina Dahl. "In the second half we had better effort and intensity on defense and controlled the pace of the game."

Dahl said she likes the progress she's seen in her young team.

"Reilly has grown tremendously," Dahl said. "We're lucky to have her three more years. She's tenacious and determined — two qualities that will continue to allow her to excel."

"Daveya [Rodriguez] has also been a presence on offense," the coach said. "Rory LaDue and Devyn Riley help control the tempo on defense and Shadaya gave us great rebounding. We also got great minutes off the bench from Rayana, Shy'anne Kush [seven points] and Kiarra Rodriguez [four points]."

On Jan. 14, Beacon won at Newburgh Free Academy, 48-44, behind a 27-point, 10-assist performance from Landisi. Rodriguez added 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Fryar had seven points and 11 rebounds.

"That was a huge road win," Dahl said. "Winning on the road is never easy, especially at Newburgh. They're an athletic team and well-coached."

Beacon is scheduled to host Marlboro on Monday (Jan. 24) and travel to Haldane on Wednesday for a 4:30 p.m. game that will be livestreamed at [events.locallive.tv/school/haldane-hs](http://events.locallive.tv/school/haldane-hs).

The Haldane girls picked up a 47-34 road victory over Rye Neck on Tuesday behind 24 points from Maddie Chiera. Camilla McDaniel added eight, Amanda Johanson had six and Mairead O'Hara scored five.

"Maddie hit some big three-pointers when we were down, which set off a 12-0 run to give us a lead in the first half," said Coach Jessica Perrone. "The girls stepped up on the press, which helped keep us in the game when shots weren't falling early."



**FRESHMEN POWER** — Reilly Landisi scored 25 points on Tuesday, and 27 on Jan. 14 in a pair of wins for Beacon; Lila Burke works in the paint in Tuesday's home win over Port Jervis; and Rayana Taylor rises for a shot in Tuesday's win.



Photos by S. Pearlman

Maddie led on offense, but it was a well-balanced game, with multiple players picking up a few points."

Haldane (5-6) is scheduled to travel to Croton-Harmon today (Jan. 21) and Valhalla on Monday before hosting Beacon on Wednesday and traveling to Pleasantville on Thursday.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

This year's Haldane team is one of the more balanced and talented units that Coach Joe Virgadamo has fielded.

The Blue Devils (10-1, 3-0 league) strutted their stuff on Wednesday (Jan. 19) at home, racing out to a quick lead against Pawling on the way to a lopsided, 95-31, league victory.

"We came out and did what we wanted to do," Virgadamo said. "We had 10 three-pointers, which is a huge positive. We shot well. We played disciplined, got second shots and we got better. Hopefully, that helps us in some tough upcoming games."

Ryan Irwin led the Blue Devils with 22 points and Ryan Eng-Wong came off the bench to score 17, followed by Matteo Cervone (14), Soren Holmbo (10), Rob Viggiano (10), Ben Bozsik (7), Tristen Reid (6) and Stefano Hammond (6).

"Eng-Wong has climbed the ladder this year," Virgadamo said of the junior. "To have 17 off the bench is a great night. Ben also played well at both ends and Irwin has been phenomenal for us — scoring and defense. Tristen has been great with the assists, steals and deflections, and Stefano played some of his best minutes."

Haldane was scheduled to host Croton-Harmon today (Jan. 21) and Franklin D. Roosevelt on Monday before traveling to Beacon

for the Battle of the Tunnel on Wednesday. Beacon won the inaugural game in 2020 in a 63-62 thriller at Haldane; last year, the teams played twice, with Haldane winning both and claiming the trophy. Check [beaconk12.org/athletics](http://beaconk12.org/athletics) for a livestream of the game, which begins at 6 p.m.

When Beacon hosted Port Jervis in December, the Bulldogs walked off with a two-point league win. The team wanted to send a different message on Wednesday at Port Jervis, and that message was defense.

Beacon (7-4, 4-1 league) held the Raiders to 13 points in the first half on the way to a 55-32 victory.

"Our defensive pressure was good," said Coach Scott Timpano. "We created havoc. They're a slow-it-down team, so we wanted to make them play faster. We forced a lot of turnovers that we scored from."

Adrian Beato led the Beacon attack with 14 points, followed by Chase Green (9), Darien Gillins (9), Leo Gecaj (8) and Jack Philipbar (7).

"Chase and Adrian kept everything going for us," the coach said. "They created a lot of pressure. Gavin LaDue also did a good job giving us a rebounding presence."

Beacon is scheduled to host Minisink Valley on Tuesday (Jan. 25) for senior night and Haldane on Wednesday. "It's too bad we can't have a lot of fans [because of pandemic restrictions], because the first game [at Haldane] was an incredible night of high school basketball," Timpano said. "Last year we had no fans, and unfortunately this year there will be very limited fans again."

(On Thursday, Athletic Director John Giametta said restrictions on the number of spectators at home games will be lifted as of Monday [Jan. 24], but masks will be required.)

## TRACK & FIELD

The Beacon 4x400 relay team — Henry Reinke, Evan LaBelle, Eddie Manente and Sal Migliore — won the event at the 46-team Suffern Invitational at Rockland Community College on Jan. 14, beating teams from Cornwall, Pine Bush, Irvington and Suffern.

Its winning time of 3:36.51 was the third best time recorded this season in Section IX, behind Newburgh Free Academy (3:25.94) and Washingtonville (3:28.34).

"We knew we could post a fast time in the 4x400 relay, but the chance hadn't presented itself," said Coach Jim Henry. "Now that we have a top-three, Section IX rank in both the 4x400 and 4x800, we have options heading into the championships next month."

Other top finishers at the event were Kyla Richardson, who was sixth in the girls' 55-meter dash in 8.07; Damani DeLoatch, who was fourth in the triple jump at 39-06.50; and Chase Green, who was seventh in the boys' 55-meters in 7.28.

Haldane also competed in the invitational; its top finishers were Luke Parrella, who was 16th in the boys' 1,000 meters in 2:54.52; Andriela Vasconcelos, who was 21st in the girls' triple jump with 25-06; and Eloise Pearsall, who was 24th in the girls' 1,000 meters in 3:45.93.

In the Section I league championships on Jan. 13 at The Armory in Manhattan, Haldane got top-10 finishes from Pearsall, who finished ninth in the 1,000 meters in 3:30.07; the girls' 4x400 relay team (sixth in 5:14.61); Vasconcelos in the triple jump (seventh with 28-04); Parrella in the 3,200 meters (10th in 11:14.15); and the boys' 4x800 relay team (ninth in 11:14.51).

(Continued on Page 22)