

The HIGHLANDS Current



Shakespeare's
New Season
Page 11

JUNE 3, 2022

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PART 2

Always Present, Never Seen

A Black history of the Highlands

By Chip Rowe

Most schoolchildren have heard the story of John Andre, Benedict Arnold and George Washington, three men whose actions during the Revolutionary War changed the course of history. Far fewer know of Jack Peterson, a 34-year-old Black patriot who changed the course of Andre.

A British major who conspired with Arnold to seize West Point from colonialist control, Andre received a map of the fort in September 1780 from the American general, then its commander. He planned to deliver it and other docu-

ments to his superiors in New York City. Had he succeeded, and the British taken West Point, they would have controlled the Hudson River, and the war may well have been lost.

Andre met Arnold in Haverstraw, on the western shore. He had been brought to the spot by a skiff from the 14-gun British sloop HMS Vulture — the same ship that would later rescue the traitorous Arnold from his headquarters in Garrison — and planned to return the same way. Instead, Andre

(Continued on Page 18)



A view of the Hudson River looking south from Croton Point. A British warship, the HMS Vulture, was anchored nearby when spotted by a Black patriot, Jack Peterson.

Photo by Erik Weiselberg

Veterans Court Approved for Beacon

Program prioritizes treatment over jail

By Leonard Sparks

Sometimes it can be something as innocuous as a white pickup truck, a common sight in Iraq, that triggers traumatic memories for U.S. veterans of the war fought there.

Such triggers can fuel drug and alcohol addiction and criminal behavior, said Harold Delamater, a Marine Corps veteran and former Beacon police officer who is commander of the city's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666.

"There is good in people; you just have to reach out and find it," he said. "Most veterans are really good people."

That will be a guiding principle of Dutchess County's inaugural veterans court, a program in Beacon and Poughkeepsie that will give former service members charged with misdemeanor and nonviolent felony crimes a reprieve from jail. Instead, they will be directed to addiction and mental-health treatment.

Beacon City Court Judge Greg Johnston

(Continued on Page 3)

Holtec Seeking Exemptions at Indian Point

Decommissioning firm: 'We're taking all the risk'

By Brian PJ Cronin

Tempers flared and technology failed at the most recent meeting of the task force overseeing the decommis-

sioning of the Indian Point nuclear power plant on the Hudson River south of Philipstown, which closed in April 2021.

The meeting, which took place on May 19 at Cortlandt Town Hall and lasted more than three hours, was beleaguered by connection problems for those watching online. This led to confusion when, after

one lengthy blackout, the feed returned to reveal members of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board and a representative from Holtec, the Florida firm hired to close the plant, yelling at each other.

The 26-member board includes Sandy Galef, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown; retired nuclear engineer David Lochbaum; Richard Webster, the legal director for the environmental group Riverkeeper; representatives from state agencies; local and Westchester County officials; and labor union leaders.

At the heart of the disagreement is a series of exemptions that Holtec is requesting from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for its emergency plan, off-site liability and property insurance requirements, and how long it can keep spent nuclear fuel exposed to the air instead of submerged in a cooling pool.

The NRC says spent fuel cannot be exposed for more than 10 hours because of the possibility that the zirconium cladding will overheat. Overheated cladding at the Chernobyl plant in Russia and the Fukushima plant in Japan produced steam that, when mixed with the zirconium, created hydrogen that led to explosions.

Rich Burroni, a Holtec executive who represented the company at the meeting, said the exemption requests were not unusual and no cause for alarm.

(Continued on Page 8)



A PAUSE TO REMEMBER — A parade of first responders, student musicians, bagpipers, veterans and residents walked up Main Street in Cold Spring and Nelsonville on Monday (May 30) to the Cold Spring Cemetery for a ceremony to honor those lost during war. For more photos, see Page 24.

Photo by Ross Corsair

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JULIEN ICHER

By Brian PJ Cronin

Julien Icher, a Frenchman who lives in Maryland, is the founder of The Lafayette Trail, which is documenting the “farewell tour” of the U.S. in 1824-25 by Marquis de Lafayette, a French military officer who led patriot troops during the Revolutionary War. On Monday (June 6), Icher will unveil a marker near the Beacon train station to commemorate a visit that Lafayette made to what was then known as Fishkill Landing.

Lafayette’s tour was wildly popular. What was the attraction?

He was the last surviving major general of the Continental Army. His tour told the story of the Revolution to a new audience, especially in regions that hadn’t been colonies during the war. He was a connection to the Revolution. It meant a lot to western states, in particular. The tour increased the sense of national unity, and helped bridge differences between the west and the east.



The street that Lafayette visited in Beacon happens to be called Lafayette Avenue. I assume that’s not a coincidence?

It’s not a coincidence. Many communities at the time looked for ways to commemorate Lafayette’s visit. If you were a new state, you could incorporate a city called Lafayette or rename a city for him. If you were an established town and people didn’t want to change the name, you added a street or a square or something else named Lafayette.

Lafayette didn’t hesitate to tell the Founding Fathers who enslaved people that if they believed in liberty they’d end slavery. What can we take from that?

What was unique to Lafayette is that nobody questioned that everything he did was with the best interest of the United States in mind. He gained that trust because he was not from here. He came to support the Revolution with his own funds, which later led to poverty for his family. Because of the project, I’ve been able to tell Americans about parts of his background

that they may not be aware of, such as that he was an abolitionist, that he advocated the rights of Native Americans.

Lafayette’s tour helped unite Americans after a contentious presidential election. How did he do it?

For the 1824 election, the country had four presidential candidates, from four regions. He made sure to visit every candidate who had been defeated — Andrew Jackson, William Crawford and Henry Clay — and he didn’t just meet them in Washington, D.C. He traveled to see them. That was indicative of his desire to unite; you cannot do that if you stay in one place.

Could the bicentennial of his tour unite us again?

I’d like to think he could still unite the country, because that’s what I’m trying to accomplish. I’m fascinated with the story surrounding the foundation of this country, and why people like Lafayette answered the call to create a new form of government in North America. That experiment is still being conducted by everybody who lives here. What also speaks to a lot of Americans is the fact that, again, he was not from here. He didn’t have to do anything he did. And nevertheless he did it, because he believed in what this country could become.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s your summer grilling strategy?

“I grill with gas, a nice sirloin, olive oil. Cooked medium, finished with butter and sage, while sipping a Pilsner.”



Tibor Antal, Beacon

“Grilled peaches are my favorite. Also tomatoes, vegetables, whole fish, chicken — with a glass of French rose.”



Jane Beller, Cold Spring

“I’m vegetarian. I love grilling celery root in foil, also radicchio, using a wood fire or charcoal, and with a Narraganset.”



Michael Hardman, Cold Spring



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Veterans *(from Page 1)*

will hear misdemeanor cases as part of the program, which was recently approved by the state. Dutchess County Judge Jessica Segal will oversee nonviolent felony cases in Poughkeepsie.

Built on the same carrot-and-stick model as drug courts, veterans court allows qualified defendants to get assistance with other challenges, such as housing, beyond whatever difficulties brought them before a judge. Participants are mandated to appear in court when scheduled, attend treatment and submit to random alcohol and drug testing.

Segal described the program, which

starts with a “soft launch” this week before going full-time in the fall, as “a team effort.”

In addition to the county Office of Probation and Community Supervision, partners will include Mental Health America of Dutchess County’s Vet2Vet, an advocacy and support program that helps veterans find housing and work and matches them with mentors who are also veterans.

“More than a guilty verdict, we are focused on rehabilitating these men and women who have defended our nation, giving them a second chance to turn their lives around and constructively contribute to their community,” she said in a statement.

The rates of addiction, mental illness and

homelessness are typically higher among veterans, especially men and women who experienced or witnessed trauma while deployed. Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder are 60 percent more likely to end up in court than other veterans, according to a 2020 report by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The first veterans court in the nation opened in 2008 in Buffalo. As of last year, New York had 32 courts in 24 counties, according to the Office of Court Administration.

Looking to expand that reach, Assembly Member Sandy Galef introduced legislation that was enacted in 2021 that allows ex-service members to have their cases

transferred to a county with a veterans court. For example, a veteran being prosecuted in Putnam County, which does not have a court, could ask that his or her case be moved to Dutchess or Westchester.

Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, recalled observing a court session in the Bronx and being impressed by the judge’s knowledge of the challenges facing veterans. She said she also was impressed by the number of veterans who volunteered to attend court in support of program participants.

“Instead of putting them behind bars, let’s see if we can solve that drug problem, which may have come about because of their service in Vietnam or wherever they were,” she said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Maloney Proposes \$34 Million in Projects

Submits 15 proposals for federal funding

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose House district includes Philipstown and Beacon, announced on Tuesday (May 31) that he had submitted 15 local projects that would cost more than \$34 million to the House Appropriations Committee for funding in the 2022-23 federal budget.

His proposals include \$2 million to renovate the Beacon Health Center and add an urgent care center; \$5 million for Newburgh piers for the Beacon ferry and cruise ships; \$500,000 for a study of cross-river transportation, including the feasibility of a light rail

line between the Beacon Metro-North station and New York Stewart International Airport; \$3.6 million to install a main and construct a water treatment plant in Putnam Valley; and \$1.6 million to complete the renovation of the entrance to Storm King Park.

Metro-North Opens Breakneck Station

Stewards in place on weekends

The Metro-North stop at Breakneck re-opened for weekend service on May 28, at the same time that the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference began staffing the trailhead with stewards.

The Breakneck station was closed in

late 2019 for safety improvements such as fencing and signage, and remained closed during the pandemic shutdown. The stewards will be on-site on weekends through at least early November.

Officials in Cold Spring and Philipstown had asked Metro-North not to reopen the station, citing concerns about overcrowding and the burden on local first responders to aid injured or lost hikers.

New Candidates for 39th

Beacon resident announces campaign

Julie Shiroishi, a Beacon resident who is chief of staff for state Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson and chair of

the Dutchess County Democratic Committee, announced last week that she plans to run for a state Senate seat to represent the newly redrawn 39th District, which will include Philipstown and Beacon.

Kevindaryan Lujan, a Democrat who represents Newburgh on the Orange County Legislature, earlier announced his candidacy.

Rob Rolison, the mayor of Poughkeepsie, will likely be the Republican candidate for the 39th after winning the endorsements of the party committees in Dutchess, Putnam and Orange counties.

Candidates who had not entered the Senate or Congressional races before the redistricting maps were finalized must submit petitions by June 10.

The HIGHLANDS

Current



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Black history

Thank you for your May 27 article detailing some of the history of slavery here in the Highlands ("Always Present, Never Seen," Part 1). White readers like myself would be wise to consider in what ways we behave like Madam Brett, who in her will gave one person she enslaved the right to choose her next master.

It almost sounds like compassion. But she did not free this person. Instead she continued to benefit from and uphold the region's "slave society." In what ways do we similarly claim solidarity when it's convenient and requires nothing of us, while openly benefiting from — and refusing to overturn — unjust systems that oppress our neighbors?

Joanna Castle Miller, *Beacon*

Fjord Trail

I'd like to respond to the response by Amy Kacala, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., to a suggestion that there should be no parking at Breakneck ("Fjord Trail Update," May 27). "That's aspirational," she said. "I don't think America is ready for that."

That's quite a statement. Transportation experts worldwide know that limiting parking is the single best way to force public-transit options. Yet the Fjord Trail plans to add 520 paid spaces.

When I lived in San Francisco, Bloomington wanted to build a store downtown and the city approved it but without any new parking. The store balked, but it's doing just fine. Further, when the new (gorgeous) baseball stadium was built on the Bay, the city added light rail and ferry service instead of parking. Now the owners of paid lots complain about a lack of business on game days.

Traffic north of San Francisco on Route 101 is horrendous and yet the people in those counties voted no on a referendum that would have added lanes. In addition, Richmond, California, and Treasure Island in the Bay area are in conversation with a ride-sharing service about setting up pickup services that will go to designated points, not unlike the dollar vans in New York City.

Knowing that "build it and they will come," one has to wonder if paid parking is being added to the Fjord Trail project because there is a concern about paying for long-term maintenance costs. There is reason to be to be worried, but more cars are no way to protect the environment.

Kill the parking, encourage more public transportation, endow the project and save the environment. It's a gorgeous design; let's make sure it works.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

Garrison School budget

It's shameful that the Garrison School budget failed; it reflects poorly on residents ("Garrison School Will Try Again," May 27). There's no better place to spend money than on schools — a community has a responsibility to provide for its children, and the district does this to a very high standard that warrants support.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

Please try not to make assumptions or listen to sources that do not have a deep understanding of the financial crisis the Garrison School is experiencing. As with businesses and households, costs have increased dramatically and there are some things that cannot be cut in order to cover those higher costs. The cuts the school

will endure if this budget doesn't pass will be truly devastating. There is no reason children's educations should suffer even further than they have these past couple of years because of the pandemic.

Chantelle Detweiler, *via Facebook*

I know the Garrison School has typically had small classes. A teacher making more than \$100,000 a year, with over 10 years' experience, should certainly be capable of teaching classes with 25 or more students.

Is it ideal? No. The smaller the class, the easier it is, and the less after-school work there is for the teacher. But with that salary, I expect the teacher to be able to handle it well. If the school wants to keep the classes small, perhaps it should have considered the high cost of doing so. Most of the budget goes to teacher salaries and benefits. The more teachers, the higher the cost, and each year the cost grows.

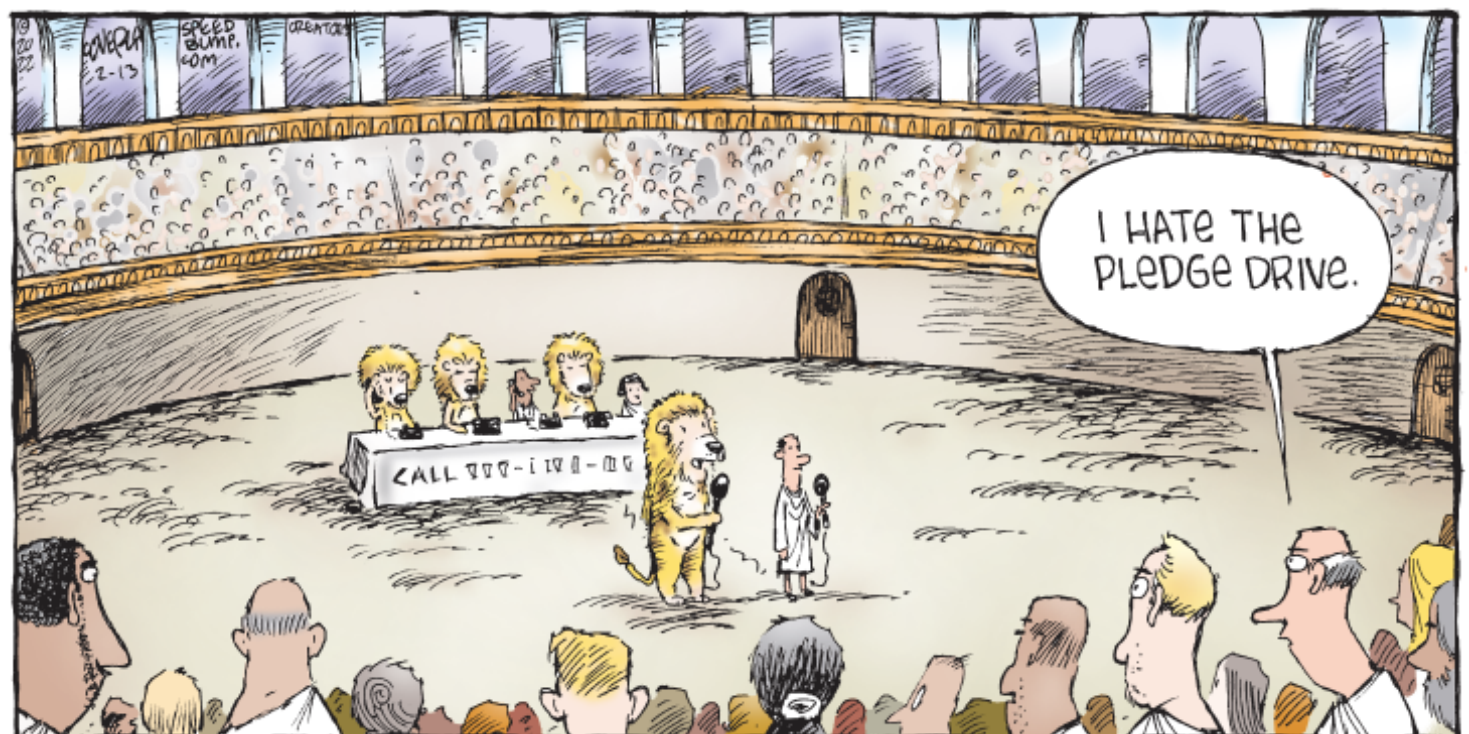
Many people in Garrison are well-off financially. An increase in their school taxes of several hundred dollars a year, or even more, doesn't present a burden. But some of us are being taxed out of our homes.

If the district can't provide a good education for the children with the budget it has, they aren't very good teachers, administrators or managers of finances.

We are all seeing the increase in the cost of living, and we all have to sacrifice some of the things we like and enjoy, and even some of the things we need. The Garrison School should do the same. Don't use scare tactics claiming the kids are going to suffer because of necessary cuts. The kids will be fine. The taxpayers are already suffering. We make do. The school can do the same.

Patricia Burruano, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

The editor responds: Garrison typically has one class per grade. On May 4, the district projected that class sizes in 2022-23 will be kindergarten (14), 1st (18), 2nd (23), 3rd (21), 4th (21), 5th (23), 6th (24), 7th (25) and 8th (27).

To say that the kids aren't going to suffer is not true. Right now our students receive gym, music, art and theater instruction. They have access to one school psychologist who is highly qualified in many programs to help support their mental health.

If we go to a contingency budget, students will, in a six-day cycle, have two gym classes and study halls for the other four classes. No band, chorus or music instruction. No art. Have you ever heard of a school without art? And no psychologist? We are going to have to pay BOCES to do student evaluations, and those in crisis won't have a trained professional to help them.

I don't know how anyone could say that's not going to hurt our students.

Debbie Earle, via Facebook

Earle is a teacher at the Garrison School.

Jay Brennan

It has been my good fortune to cross paths with Jay Brennan several times over the years: from his days at the deli that was near one of my first apartments; to the

seaplane base in Verplanck, where I lived when he was flying; to the boatyard in Montrose when he and some friends were outfitting a sailboat for a trans-Atlantic crossing; and most recently, running into him at Dain's Lumber in Peekskill, where he caught me up on his adventures sailing the Mediterranean ("Something You Don't Know About Me: Jay Brennan," May 13).

I have occasionally described him and what I know of his life to my friends, and always, at some point during the story, I find myself thinking how utterly fantastic and improbable it sounds in the telling. He is a most impressive individual and a truly nice guy.

Frank Farrell, Montrose

I'd love to walk through Jay's garage with him.

Tom Murphy, Philipstown

Power fight

I never liked this electricity deal ("Power Pact Threatened," May 13). I especially disliked when my home and business were automatically enrolled by the town and village. Then we had to opt out several times. The supplier claimed that all the power would come from green sources. I can't see how that's possible, since it's all the same grid.

As far as I can see, the company that managed it was out for profit under the guise of saving the Earth and customers

money. Too bad those in charge were duped by Columbia Utilities. Let's chalk this off as a learning lesson. Forgive them and move on.

Tony Bardes, Philipstown

Pride Month

Since the first anniversary of 1969's Stonewall riots, through President Clinton's 1999 White House declaration, the month of June has long been considered National Pride Month, acknowledging our country's vast and dynamic LGBTQIA+ communities, and honoring the important leaders and organizers who fought for the establishment and advancement of equality nationwide.

This June, Cold Spring and Philipstown will continue that tradition by celebrating our queer neighbors, workers and visitors through the month-long display of Progress Pride flags at Town Hall, Village Hall, McConville Park and the bandstand.

Four local businesses have generously donated the flags at no cost to the village or town: Amanda Amadei of Amadei Yoga, designer Charles Burleigh, Anthony Lise of Lise Law & Mediation and Michael Siebert of Houlihan Lawrence.

We would like to thank the town and village boards for their continued commitment to make sure everyone feels welcome in Cold Spring and Philipstown. Our hope is that the flags remain in use for years to come.

Sean Conway, Cold Spring

Teddy Nagel, Garrison



Current Wins Five State Awards

Recognized for reporting, design

The Highlands Current won five awards among newspapers with circulations of 10,000 or less in an annual contest sponsored by the New York News Publishers Association. The paper has won 22 NYNPA awards since 2017.

Michael Turton was recognized for headline writing for "The Long and Winding Code," which he wrote for a story about the lengthy process of revising of Cold Spring regulations; Brian PJ Cronin won for distinguished beat reporting for his coverage of the environment and for community service for his series, *Hunger in the Highlands*; Pierce Strudler was honored for his page design; and the staff was recognized for business reporting for the series, *Operation Infrastructure*.

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Cold Spring Halts Flag Displays

Also, village creates short-term rental committee

By Michael Turton

The members of the Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (June 1) voted unanimously to stop accepting requests to display flags on village-owned property, including Village Hall.

The village attorney, John Furst, advised the board to adopt the policy. He will now draft a regulation that will allow only the U.S., New York State and POW/MIA flags to be displayed.

The Cold Spring board earlier this year approved requests for Ukrainian and LGBTQ Pride flags to be displayed at locations such as Village Hall and parks.

"We didn't think through the Pandora's box that was being opened," said Mayor Kathleen Foley. "You get into that sticky area where you are acting as arbitrator of free speech."

The Ukrainian flag was removed from Village Hall a few weeks ago. Pride flags will remain on display through June, Foley said.

"Our facilities are places where the public comes for services," Foley said. "I don't want anyone to have to walk under a symbol that

they aren't comfortable with or that makes them feel unwelcome."

The Philipstown Town Board on May 25 adopted a similar six-month moratorium, with the temporary exception of an LGBTQ flag that is flying in June and a Ukrainian flag in a window, while it considers a policy.

STR committee

At the same meeting, the board appointed seven members of a newly formed ad hoc committee to provide recommendations on short-term-rental regulations.

Last month the board proposed a number of changes to an STR law adopted in 2021, including allowing rentals only if the owner lives on site, increasing the number of operating nights and revising fees and fines.

The mayor proposed nine people, including Branis Buslovich, Peter Farrell, John Lane, Maryanne Remy, Lara Voloto and Tom O'Quinn, each of whom operates an STR. (O'Quinn's is located in Florida.) The mayor also suggested Travis Fyfe, Megan Shea and Jennifer Zwarich, the only non-STR operators among the 15 people who applied.

Trustees Eliza Starbuck, Cathryn Fadde and Laura Bozzi suggested reducing the size of the committee. "Nine can be a lot;

even scheduling is tough," Bozzi said, while Starbuck suggested the committee had too many STR operators.

Starbuck suggested that because Lane had already provided extensive input on STRs, he didn't need to be on the committee. Farrell also has been substantially involved in discussions about the law.

"You raise a good point; we've had a lot of good feedback from them," Foley said. "This is an opportunity for fresh voices, creative approaches."

"I'm a little agnostic as to the number" of members, said Trustee Tweep Phillips Woods. "This is probably the best balance we're going to get. Being an STR operator doesn't mean you won't be reasonable and

balanced in your thinking."

The board agreed to limit the committee to seven members, and to not include Lane and Farrell.

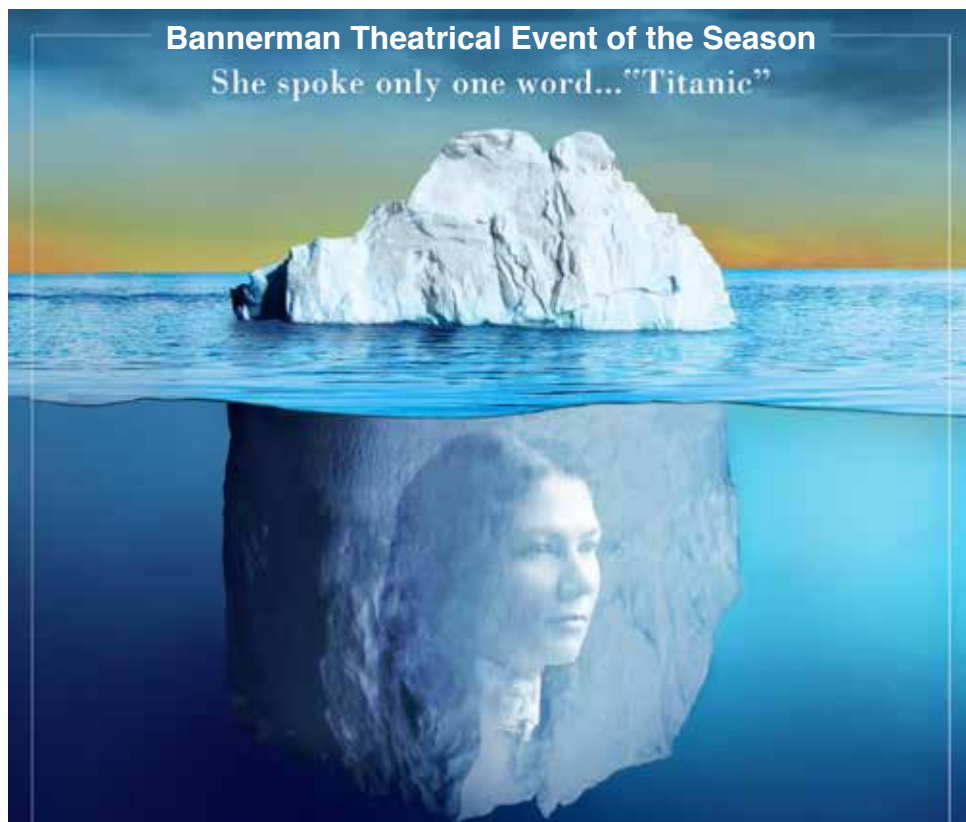
"I'd like more time to think about the chair; having a strong chair is important," Foley said, adding she would make a recommendation at next week's meeting.

In other business, the board continued discussions on the village parking plan, which was adopted last year by the previous administration but not implemented. The current board has agreed that the residential permit program, covering 11 streets north of the Metro-North tracks, will go into effect first, as early as this summer, followed by paid parking on Main Street.

"I don't want anyone to have to walk under a symbol that they aren't comfortable with or that makes them feel unwelcome.

~ Mayor Kathleen Foley

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The new owner on his stoop



Members of the Beacon Police Department outside the station in 1956

Old Jail to Get New Life

Beacon restaurateur ponders possibilities

By Michael Turton

It's not unusual for an old building to be repurposed: a firehouse becomes a glass studio; a blacksmith's shop becomes an architect's office; a barn becomes a house. But, what to do with a former jail? That's the creative challenge facing Beacon restaurateur Kamel Jamal, who in April purchased the former Beacon Police Department headquarters. Repurposing will be nothing new for the two-story brick structure at 463 Main St. During the late 19th century, it was the Matteawan Village Hall. When Matteawan and Fishkill Landing merged in 1913 to become Beacon, it became the police station. In 1935, the building was renovated by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a program implemented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the height of the Great Depression. During the makeover, which cost \$24,294 (about \$512,600 today), the police moved to the Beacon Engine firehouse on East Main, adjacent to present-day Dogwood. The department remained at 463 Main St. until 1996, when it moved to 1 Municipal Plaza. The building was sold and over the years was home to businesses such as, most recently, a vintage clothing boutique. Because Jamal owns Tito Santana, Ziatun, Wednesday-Thursday-Friday and the Beacon Bread Co., it is easy to envision 463 Main as a restaurant. But Jamal said he is still undecided about what to do with the historic building.

"A restaurant?" he said. "No, I don't think so; I'm tired." Then, seconds later: "I've always wanted to do Japanese. I'm not going to pass up a great sushi chef. But, you know, the stars all have to be aligned." During a tour, he pointed out some features, such as file cabinets in the basement that date to 1896, and jail cells. "I have all the keys," he said. "I was thinking of an Airbnb. You lock yourself up, and you have to pay bail to get out!" (Actually, he said, he plans to donate the keys to the Beacon Historical Society.) A nightclub with cells is another possibility, he mused. The second floor of the building, now an apartment, was once the courthouse. Jamal beamed when noting that part of the last episode of *Seinfeld* was shot in the building. But soon he returned to his creative predicament. "The building's history is a motivator for having it themed or putting an appropriate business here," he said. "You don't throw just anything in here, you want to choose your niche." He thinks the main floor could accommodate a second apartment, leaving the front of the building open for a storefront. "It has to be something cool and creative, something that complements Main Street and helps other businesses," Jamal said. "I could see a lounge here; a good whiskey bar. It could be a place where you just come and hang out, a tearoom even. "We've been approached by people about doing different things and even had to sign confidentiality agreements," he added. "There are possibilities I can't divulge."



Kamel Jamal Photos by M. Turton

There are a lot of creative people in town. This is going to be fun." Old buildings almost always produce surprises. One of Jamal's favorites is the vintage jukebox left behind by a previous owner. "I don't think it was in the jail!" he said with a laugh as he flipped through a box of thick, long-playing records. "Ever hear of Glenn Miller, or Patti Page?" There's no mystery about the basement's future. "It's going to be my man cave," Jamal said. "I'll have my tools, get back into different hobbies, working with wood, and I think I'm going to start welding." He isn't worried about ghosts. He said he brought a Quran when first exploring the building. "I said some prayers and walked around, giving good vibes, good energy, good prayers, and hopefully pushing out whatever evil spirits that are in here," Jamal said. "I like to look at a police station as a good place — unless you're a criminal!"



June Events at TCCC!

FRI., JUNE 4, 6:00 PM
Professor Louie and the Crowmatix

SUN., JUNE 12, 3:00 PM
Poets' Corner Open Mic
featuring Firas Sulaiman

FRI., JUNE 17, 3:00 - 6:30 PM
Farmers Market Opening Day
Live Music

FRI., JUNE 17, 6:30 PM
Celebrate Putnam!
Two Documentaries:
John Cohen's "50 Miles from Times Square" and "Life on the Lake" by PV Historical Society

SAT., JUNE 18, 6:00 PM
Out To Lunch

SAT., JUNE 25, 7:30 PM
Cortlandt String Quartet
With Andy Stein

SUN., JUNE 26, 4:00 PM
Grant Peeples and the Peeples
Republik Tour

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
25,742 (+220)	10.0% (-1.7)	82.7	125 (0)
		Cold Spring: 94.6 / Garrison: 86.6	
DUTCHESS COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
69,269 (+564)	10.9% (-0.7)	77.2	661 (0)
		Beacon: 72.2	
Source: State and county health departments, as of June 1, with totals since pandemic began and change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.			

Indian Point *(from Page 1)*

"We're not doing anything different from what any other nuclear plant in this country is doing," he asserted. But his presentation caused unease among members of the task force, especially in light of an investigative report by *The Washington Post*, published a few days before the meeting, that detailed accidents at other plants that Holtec is decommissioning and a lack of oversight by the NRC.

Many of the incidents and difficulties detailed by the *Post* were already known to members of the task force — the incidents prompted the creation of the oversight board on the last day of 2020. The task force was one of the many contingencies New York State demanded from the NRC during the process that transferred the ownership of Indian Point from Entergy to Holtec in May 2021.

Local lawmakers, community leaders and environmental groups opposed the sale, citing what they said was Holtec's relative inexperience in decommissioning plants, past legal issues and questions about its financial viability. When the NRC neglected to hold a public hearing before approving the transfer, the state attorney general sued to stop it.

A settlement was reached between the state, Entergy, Holtec, local municipalities and Riverkeeper that requires Holtec to maintain a balance of \$2.1 billion in a decommissioning fund, help fund local and state emergency management and response, and allow the state Department of Environmental Conservation to have an on-site monitor. The



The Indian Point nuclear plant closed in April 2021.

File photo by B. Cronin

agreement also called for the formation of the Decommissioning Oversight Board.

Webster of Riverkeeper said he believes that sort of diligence has prevented similar problems at Indian Point. "The NRC is not doing a very good job regulating nuclear plants," he said. "But we have a much better supervision approach because we have New York State supervising, as well as the NRC."

During the meeting, Webster took issue with Burrioni's insistence that if Holtec does not receive the exemptions, it will not be able to complete the decommissioning on time and within budget.

"We're following a process that the NRC gives us to file these exemptions," said Burrioni. "The state has all the right in the world to

comment on those and push back. And I'm sure they will. But at the end of the day, it's the NRC that will grant the exemption or not."

Webster accused Holtec of trying to unnecessarily speed up the process — expected to take 15 years — at the expense of safety so it can increase profits. "You can either meet the NRC regulations for defueled reactors and emergency planning, or you can file an exemption request, right?" he asked. "So why have you decided to file these exemption requests? As far as I can tell, it's because you want to save money."

"Absolutely," replied Burrioni. "We're taking all the risk. I don't see anybody else here taking on the risk."

The reply did not sit well with task force

members and some audience members.

"Don't go to the lowest common denominator," said Webster. "Be the best in the country."

Courtney Williams, a molecular biologist who gave a presentation to the board later in the meeting about the nearby Algonquin pipeline system and Indian Point's emergency plans, objected to Burrioni's contention that Holtec is taking all the risk.

"If the s-h-i-t hits the fan, it is most definitely the taxpayers that are going to be holding the bag," she said. "With our health, with our safety and with our pocketbooks, we are assuming that risk."

Lochbaum, the retired nuclear engineer on the panel, said that Holtec's reasons for seeking the exemptions stem from outdated NRC rules.

"In August 1999, the NRC staff identified 34 sections of the regulations that did not apply to permanently shut down reactors," he said. "It wasn't until 2015 that it started a rulemaking process to correct all those known problems. Then the NRC suspended that effort after collecting comments from the industry and the public and the states and so on, and they're still not done with it."

"As a result, Holtec and other owners are being forced to seek exemptions to rules that the NRC knows don't apply during decommissioning," he said. "It's an awkward process for everybody. But the bad guy in town is the NRC, who simply doesn't do their job."

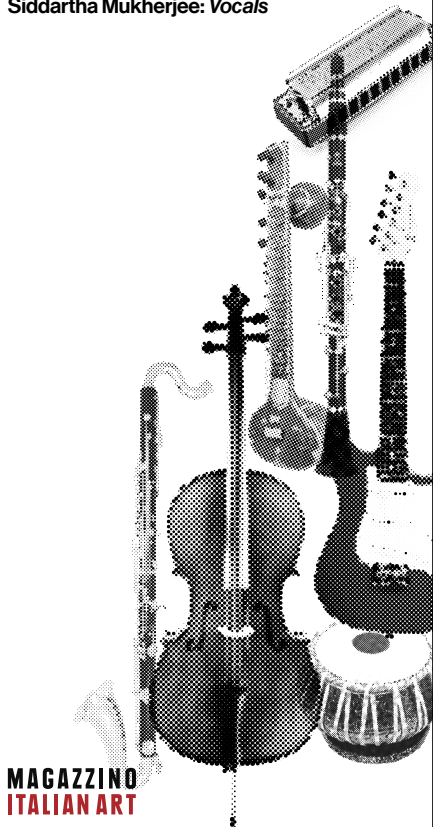
The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for July 27 and will allow questions from the public. See on.ny.gov/38H1Kvq.

JOG BLUES

Saturday, June 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Outdoor concert in the courtyard

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Tickets available on magazzino.art

Andy Biskin: Clarinet, Bass Clarinet
Ikhlaq Hussain: Sitar
Joel Bluestein: Electric Guitar
Jake Charkey: Cello
Jonathan Rose: Bass, Harmonica
Mir Naqibul Islam: Tabla
Siddhartha Mukherjee: Vocals



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Sat. June 4 + 5 – 1-5 pm
BeaconArts at the Howland - Art Exhibit
View works by 24 artists - Free - thr June 28



Sat. June 4 – 8 pm
Katie Rubin: WEIRD, WILD AND WISE
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Healer, humorist, human being
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Sat. June 11 – 8 pm
SERIOUS. COMEDY THEATRE
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Tix \$20 adv / \$25 door: howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

AND MORE

Sat. June 18: Beacon Songsmiths Band
Sat. June 25: Composers Concordance concert
Sun. June 26: Brasiles Ensemble

Follow our web media for more info and events

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

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<https://bit.ly/3wAr4v9>

Putnam Moves Closer to Body Cams

Also pushes ahead with license-plate readers

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A Putnam County legislative committee last week endorsed a plan to equip sheriff's deputies with body cameras and sent the measure to the full Legislature for consideration on Tuesday (June 7).

At its May 26 meeting in Carmel, the three-member Audit Committee approved spending \$131,000 on the cameras. It also supported allocating \$74,764 in state grant money for license-plate readers (LPRs). The Legislature agreed to obtain LPRs for the Sheriff's Department more than two years ago but the effort stalled as officials wrangled over a policy on safeguarding the data the devices collect.

In March, Sheriff Kevin McConville announced that he wants to supply deputies and investigators with body cameras by Jan. 1, joining at least 20 other New York counties that use the technology.

Locally, Cold Spring's 2022-23 draft budget included \$6,500 for body cameras. Beacon began using body cameras in 2018 and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney's earmarks for the federal 2022-23 budget include \$600,000 for body cameras for Town of Fishkill officers.

Equipping Putnam deputies with body cameras "will benefit the county as a whole," McConville told the Audit Committee. In particular, he said, they will provide deputies with protection against legal claims and assist in gathering evidence. At the same time, he said, "it will give the public a venue if they feel that they were wronged."

County Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin noted that while body cameras are expensive, deploying them was a leading recommendation in 2021 of a state-mandated panel created to review Sheriff's Department policies. The cameras will not only help the county in legal proceedings but "will help with safety for the public and for officers," he said. "We've been in favor of this for a long time."

License-plate readers — camera systems mounted in patrol cars or over the road to track vehicles — also earned high marks at the committee meeting. One of three read-

ers provided by the county, with federal aid, to the Cold Spring Police Department helped identify a suspect following the armed robbery of a Garrison gas station in February.

"LPRs are fantastic," said Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, an Audit Committee member. "They're working overtime."

Carlin agreed that an LPR is "great" but noted that, "if [the data] is not handled correctly, it can be a problem. That's why the sheriff and everybody's been so worried about a policy. That's been adopted, so now we're ready to go."

The Legislature voted in December 2019 to install license-plate readers and, in April 2020, accepted a policy created by then-Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. But several months later, County Executive MaryEllen Odell rejected the sheriff's policy and presented her own version.

Like the Sheriff's Department policy, Odell's text recommended that LPRs be used mostly in major crime incidents, such as homicides and shootings. Also like Langley's document, hers noted that they could be useful for tracking stolen vehicles, finding missing persons, conducting surveillance and locating suspects.

She added provisions requiring the sheriff to conduct quarterly audits covering the number of plates scanned, LPRs operated, images stored and similar details, and to deliver annual public reports to the Legislature. Her policy also gave the county information technology director access to the data and the power to conduct "auditing when required."

The county executive further advocated an LPR policy that applied "across county government" and not just to the Sheriff's Department. Langley objected to granting access to LPR data to anyone not in law enforcement.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, warned that Odell's various provisions might threaten the data's security and make it available to outside commercial firms.

The Legislature adopted Odell's revised policy, 8-1, in December 2020, with Montgomery casting the "no" vote.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **FOREST TRAINING** — On May 19 and 20, rangers from the state Department of Environmental Conservation led a navigation and search skills course for 19 members of the Putnam County Emergency Response Team. DEC



▲ **ART IN THE OPEN** — In an event organized on the last Sunday of each month by the Garrison Art Center, artists gather at various locations for *plein air* painting. They visited Garrison's Landing on May 29. Photo by Ross Corsair

◀ **FUTURE GIGS** — Beacon High School organized a career fair for students on May 27, where the Glenham Fire Department and other first responders demonstrated what they do and Twins Barbershop offered trims. *The Current* brought newspapers. Photos by Chip Rowe




◀ **HONORING THOSE LOST** — About 30 people held a candlelight vigil at McConville Park in Cold Spring on May 28 for victims of gun violence, including those in Buffalo and Uvalde, Texas. Photo by Ross Corsair

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Cold Spring, NY

11:00 – 5:00

Presented by
Hops on the Hudson

The Calendar

Shakespeare Fest Prepares for New Season, and Home

Romeo and Juliet returns,
starring Kurt and Nance

By Alison Rooney

Davis McCallum, the artistic director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, has spent many hours over the past year working to relocate the troupe from Boscobel to the former Garrison golf course. But, in the meantime, there was a summer season to plan. This year it will begin later than usual, on July 7, but extend past the traditional Labor Day weekend, closing on Sept. 18.

How did you decide on this year's shows?

We knew it would be our first season in our new home and wanted to give it a memorable and joyful kickoff. Typically, we start with a Shakespeare comedy — not always, but that's been an anchor: summertime, open air, comedy. But Shakespeare wrote many comedies, and it's like a pitching rotation, and the one coming back around might not be right for starting a new era. So, we asked what non-comedy could be a tent-pole.

We quickly arrived at *Romeo and Juliet*. But it is so familiar and best-loved, the challenge is, what's going to distinguish it? Ten years ago, Chris Edwards directed Carl Howell and Angie Janas in *Romeo and Juliet*, and the actors fell in love and got married. It's hard to top that.



McCallum

What do you have planned?

At our HVSF gala last fall, we honored Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson, who have both performed for 20-plus seasons at the theater. One person wrote that they were like Rosalind and Orlando [in *As You Like It*] meeting in the forest, where they taught each other how to play. They are star-crossed in the best sense: They kind of cracked the code.



Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in a 2021 production of *The Tempest*; the couple will play *Romeo and Juliet* this summer.



HVSF

We thought, "What would it mean if we cracked the code, and abandoned those ages and casting types most associated with those characters?" The prologue tells you everything that is going to happen. So in this way the play enlists the audience, alongside the actors, to imagine the world of the play rather than the kind of theater that presents you with a version of reality.

How did Kurt and Nance react?

They laughed. And they were puzzled, and curious, and ultimately excited. There was a recent *New York Times* article on the characteristics of happiness, and people who are happy were described as often having playfulness, connection and flow, all of which are characteristic of Kurt and Nance, so it felt like this was a recipe for good theater and good partnership.

People have asked if *all* the younger parts will be cast with older actors, and the older with younger. No. Each actor cast by [director] Gaye Taylor Upchurch was cast for his or her own essence. You meet them all as a kind of chorus in the prologue, and they step into the story.

Though it attracted much attention when it debuted in 2012, it's likely many audience members won't be familiar with *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*, which you're directing. It begins with a group of people trying to maintain some sort of stability after a series of nuclear meltdowns by retelling a *Simpsons* episode. How does it connect to 2022, and to *Romeo and Juliet*?

We had talked about *Mr. Burns* in past seasons but hesitated. In 2012 it might have felt like a futuristic sci-fi proposition borrowed from Stephen King's *The Stand*. But it's different now. Because of the global trauma we've experienced, it could be happening the week after next.

As in *Romeo and Juliet*, the story moves through time and media, and each successive generation has new ways of slipping into it. *The Simpsons*, probably more than anything else, is constantly alluding to other stories. It feels like fair game when [playwright] Anne Washburn says, "I wondered how a story would change after an apocalyptic event." Often people imagine that world as unrelentingly grim, with

no possibility for hope and beauty. Those are the questions Anne is playing with.

The third act of the play, which features music by the late Michael Friedman, is not just about survival, but resilience. Audiences have to stay through the second intermission to find the payoff, but it's profound. Britney Simpson, who played Ariel in *The Tempest* last year and the Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* a few years back, is playing Bart Simpson in the third act — it's going to be amazing.

How about *Where We Belong*, the third production?

It's a one-person play by Mohegan playwright and actor Madeline Sayet that is directed by Mei Ann Teo. It's about Madeline's journey as an artist and her lifelong relationship with Shakespeare and with settler colonialism. It feels like it's a crucial and important conversation for us, as a theater company moving to this land in the heart of Lenapehoking country. The show is going around the country to theaters like The Goodman [in Chicago], Seattle Rep, the Public Theater [in New York City]. Our production runs Aug. 13 to 22. We'll be doing lots of auxiliary programming, working with Indigenous writers, writing about land and colonialism in the Hudson Valley.

Any other changes we can expect?

We're still doing things audiences love, particularly picnics, including the first picnics catered by The Garrison. Or you can book a reservation in the restaurant for before the show. On weekends, the World's End bar will be open after the show, and, who knows, you might find some cast members there.



Britney Simpson, seen here in a 2019 production of *Cyrano*, will play Bart Simpson this summer.

Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

HVSF is located at 2015 Route 9 in Garrison. Its 2022 season begins on July 7 with a week of previews. For tickets, which range from \$10 for obstructed views to \$95 for center front, see hvshakespeare.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 4

Illuminated Festival

NEWBURGH

Noon – 10 p.m. Lower Broadway
newburghilluminatedfestival.com

Musicians will perform on three stages; there will also be craft vendors, performance artists, activities for children and a “Stella yell” contest (from *A Streetcar Named Desire*) at 5:30 p.m. Rain or shine. *Free*

SAT 4

Abloom at The Bothy

PHILIPSTOWN

5 – 8 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane
garrisonartcenter.org

Two dozen artists will share plein air paintings created at Stonecrop; the works will be sold during a live auction by Nicho Lowry of Swann Galleries to benefit the Garrison Art Center. *Cost: \$200*

SUN 5

Be the Match Drive

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | bethematch.org

Offer a cheek swab to join a network for blood-stem cell donations that can be used to cure blood cancer, sickle cell and other life-threatening diseases.

FRI 10

Make it Rain

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E. Main St. | commongroundfarm.org

Try a craft beer and your donation will help Common Ground Farm repair its irrigation system. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 11

City Wide Yard Sale

BEACON

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Consult the map and list at beaconnny.gov to find residents offering bargains and treasures at this annual



Strawberry Festival, June 12

event. To host a yard sale, register by WED 8 online or at the Recreation Department, 23 W. Center St.

SAT 11

Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com

Find handcrafted and artisan wares and art, and enjoy music at this pop-up event. A donation is suggested to benefit the church.

SAT 11

June Rising

BEACON

7 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | bit.ly/forbeaconschools

This benefit for the Foundation for Beacon Schools will include

performances by the Rhythm Rising Latin Jazz Band and Beacon Rising Women's Choir, as well as food and drinks and a raffle. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SUN 12

Strawberry Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconsloopclub.org

Enjoy strawberry shortcake prepared by members of the Beacon Sloop Club while listening to music on two stages and a performance by Arm of the Sea Theater at this annual event. Free sails on the Woody Guthrie begin at noon.

MUSIC

SAT 4

Fleetwood Mac Tribute

BREWSTER

8 p.m. Tilly's Table | 100 Route 312
845-808-1840 | tillystablerrestaurant.com

Rikki Nicks, featuring Rikki Lee Wilson as Stevie Nicks, will recreate the vocals and visuals of the band in this outdoor show. Bring chairs and blankets; food will be available for purchase. Rain or shine. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 door)*

SAT 4

The Best of the '70s

BEACON

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

The band will celebrate everything

about music from the 1970s with a diverse set list. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 4

Banned Jezebel

BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

The music collective will perform a blend of genres, including rock, funk, blues, rap and hip-hop.

MON 6

Paul Kogut Trio

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Kogut, Drew Gress and Vinnie Sperrazza will perform as part of Quinn's weekly jazz series. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 11

Forever Ray

PEEKSKILL

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

Shulton Whitly will portray Ray Charles performing his jazz, blues, country and R&B hits. *Cost: \$37.50 to \$49.50*

SAT 11

Bob Baldwin

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The contemporary jazz artist will perform music from his latest release, *The UrbanSmooth Suite*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4

Free and Fair Playwright Festival

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Theatre Revolution, directed by Gabrielle Fox and K. Lorrel Manning, will present this faux festival in which audience members will vote for the best faux playwrights. Also SUN 5. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 4

Weird, Wild and Wise

BEACON

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

This “comedic healing event” will feature stories and spiritual teachings from Katie Rubin's work as an energy healer. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 5

Terry Champlin, Katy Garcia and Nicole Bernhart

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Champlin will perform on classical guitar while Garcia and Bernhart dance flamenco-style. *Free*

FRI 10

Ailey

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Depot Docs will screen this 2021 documentary about the life and work of dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey (1931-1989). *Cost: \$20*

FRI 10

Friday Night Jokers

PEEKSKILL

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

Mark Viera (right) will headline this comedy show with Leighann Lord and John Iavarone. *Cost: \$22.50 to \$32.50*

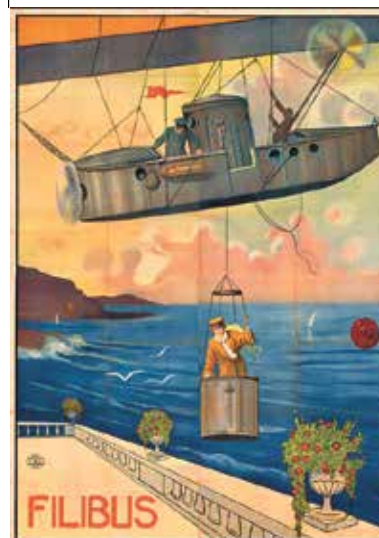
SAT 11

Filibus

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

As part of its ongoing Silent Film Series, the Butterfield Library will show this 1915 fantasy/sci-fi mystery about a sky pirate, with live musical accompaniment by Cary Brown. Register online.



TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 4

Garrison's Landing and Arden Point

GARRISON

11 a.m. Gazebo | 11 Garrison's Landing
putnamhistorymuseum.org

This guided hike by the Putnam History Museum will include discussion of the area's architecture, preservation and history. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*

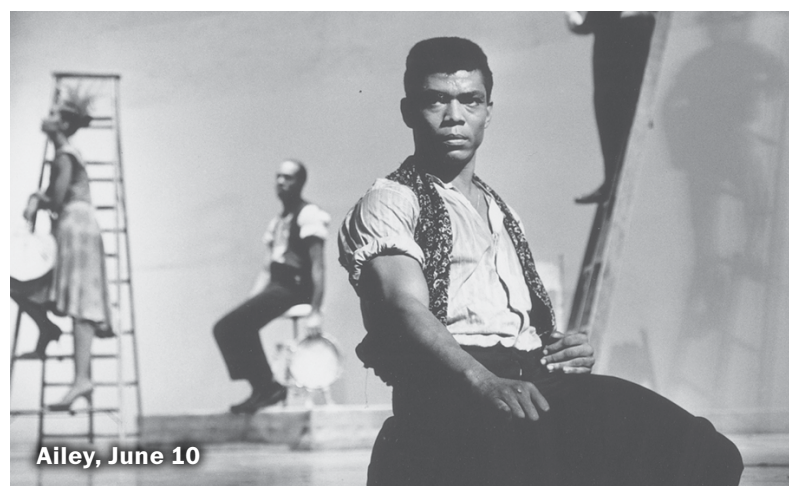
MON 6

Lafayette Farewell Tour

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconhistorical.org

Following the dedication of a marker at Long Dock Park at 2 p.m., Julien Icher of the Lafayette Trail will discuss the visit by the Revolutionary War general, Marquis de Lafayette, to Beacon in 1824. See Page 2. The event is hosted by the Beacon Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the City of Beacon.



Ailey, June 10



Mile Saula at KuBe, June 4

are released to represent tribute and closure, hope and healing. RSVP online or by calling 845-831-0179.

VISUAL ART

SAT 4

Open Studios

PEEKSKILL

Noon – 5 p.m. Various
peekskillartsalliance.org

View work by more than 100 artists in 30 studios, galleries and spaces during this 23rd annual event. Rain or shine. Also SUN 5.

SAT 4

BeaconArts at the Howland

BEACON

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

Members of BeaconArts will share their multimedia work at this show curated by Karen Gersch and Samantha Palmeri. Through June 26.

SAT 4

Birds of a Feather

BEACON

4 – 6 p.m. KuBe Art Center
211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270
ecfa.com

Curated by Joseph Ayers and Ethan Cohen, this show will feature the work of 80 artists. The gallery will also open *Dialogue with Nature*, an exhibition of nudes by Jim Peters and Gan Yu; a group show, *Under the African Sun*; the first U.S. solo

show by Serbian painter Mile Saula; and sculptures by Emil Alzamora.

SAT 4

Glacial Elegies

BEACON

6 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

During a performance and the launch of a monograph, Jaanika Peerna will ask guests to consider the question: What would you do if you were handed the last piece of natural ice left on Earth?

SAT 11

The Grand Buffet

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Fridman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

Following a three-month residency, German artist Alina Grassman will debut her work celebrating the organic architecture of Hans Scharoun. Through July 31.

SAT 11

Bannerman Island on the Hudson

BEACON

4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

Works by more than 30 artists created recently on the island will be on view. Through July 31.

CIVIC

MON 6

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 6

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

TUES 7

County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 7

School Board

COLD SPRING

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

WED 8

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

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

THURS 9

Energy Savings Town Hall

7 p.m. Via Zoom

This forum, hosted by Assembly Member Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, will discuss state programs and financial incentives available to homeowners in Putnam and Westchester counties. Join at bit.ly/galef-energy-savings.

THURS 9

Death Cafe

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave. | paah.net

Philipstown Aging at Home will host this informal discussion over coffee or tea about death and dying that “aims to shift the conversation from fear and avoidance to familiarity and comfort.” RSVP to celia@beaconhebrewalliance.org.

SAT 11

Daniel Nimham Statue Dedication

FISHKILL

11 a.m. Routes 52 and 82

The ceremony to dedicate an 8-foot bronze statue sculpted by Michael Keropian of Carmel will include a traditional Native American presentation with drums and music to honor the last sachem of the Wappinger, who was killed by British soldiers in 1778.

SAT 11

Butterfly Release & Memorial Service

BEACON

1 p.m. Elk Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.
libbyfuneralhome.com

Libby Funeral Home organizes this annual event, in which butterflies

SUMMER ART PROGRAMS

Summer Arts on the Hudson: Grades K - 8

June 27 – July 22, 2022

Monday through Friday, 9:30am – 3:00pm

Two & four week sessions

Summer Art Institute: Grades 9 -12

July 25 – August 5, 2022

Monday through Friday, 10:15am - 4:15pm

Art a la Carte: Grades 2 - 8

SESSION I: August 8 - 12, 2022

SESSION II: August 15 - 19, 2022

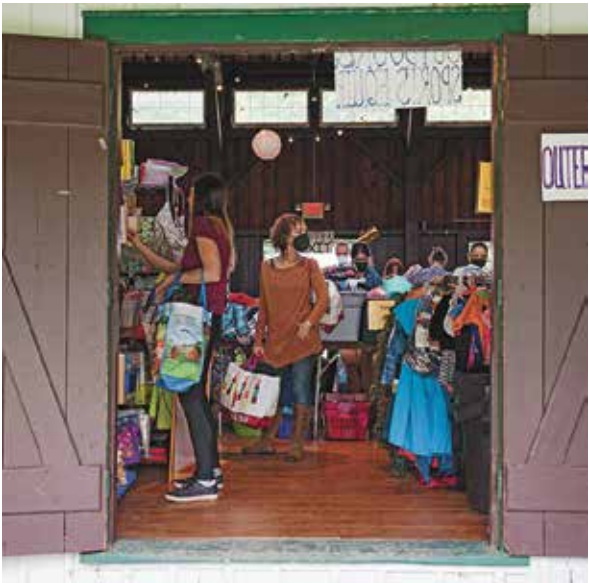
Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Half & full day options



Garrison Art Center

garrisonartcenter.org



Treasure Hunt

The Wee Play Community Project in Beacon raised more than \$20,000 at its 18th annual Ree Play sale of used children's clothes, toys, books and baby gear on May 13 to 16. The money will be used to continue the expansion of Wee Woods and for the upkeep of Toddler Park, as well as to provide support to organizations such as the Howland Public Library, Compass Arts and Fareground.

Photos by Valerie Shively





Community Edition

THE BLUE PRINT

Six times each year, the students in 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 March and April issues appear below.

IBM Chemist to Haldane Chemistry Teacher

By Mackenzie Warren

Michele Valenti was not always a teacher, nor did she always want to be a teacher. When she was little, she always wanted to be a veterinarian, but, she says, "I thought about the idea of putting animals to sleep, and I said I can't do that."

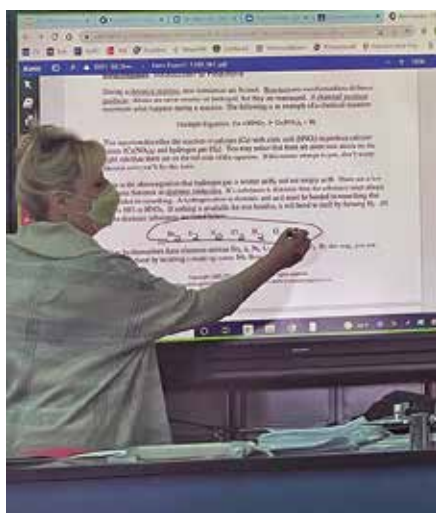
Obviously, Valenti is not a veterinarian, so I posed the question of when she wanted to become a teacher. When she was in high school, she really liked math and science, typical favorite subjects for someone who ends up becoming a chemistry teacher; however, she also had a love for art. She says that she was "very left

brain-right brain." But she never pursued art professionally because "I knew art was a really competitive field, and I just needed something a little bit more stable."

This led her to concentrate on science, which is when she realized she wanted to become a teacher. When Valenti was in high school, "there weren't enough jobs in the teaching field." Despite the demand for teaching not being high, she continued on the path of science — on what she called a "twisted road."

Going into college, Valenti "wanted to go into pathology" and find "cures for cancers" and things of that nature. During this period, Valenti was pursu-

(Continued on Page 16)



Chemistry teacher Michele Valenti



Rose LaBarbera

Haldane Community Responds to Humanitarian Crisis

By Zohra Kapoor and Gabe Reyes

Haldane may seem like a small place, sheltered from the world. But according to the students and faculty, that doesn't mean that the community can't come together to help the people of Ukraine during their time of crisis.

Michelle Cordaro, high school social studies teacher and History Club advisor, commented on the crisis and the drive, "It is great that the Haldane community can come together to help people in Ukraine. I felt hopeful that we helped in the small way that we could."

Together, Haldane High School's Student Council, Model United Nations and History Club, along with St. Basil Academy, created a district-wide drive for the people of Ukraine. Students, faculty and community

(Continued on Page 16)

Heard in the Hall

By Amanda Johanson

What song got you through the winter?



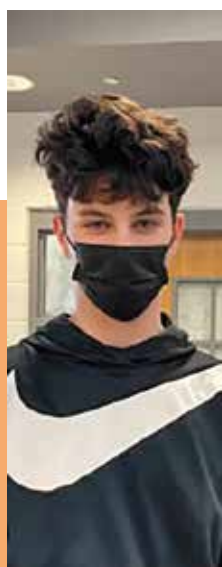
"Empire State of Mind,"
by Jay-Z

Matt McCoy
SENIOR



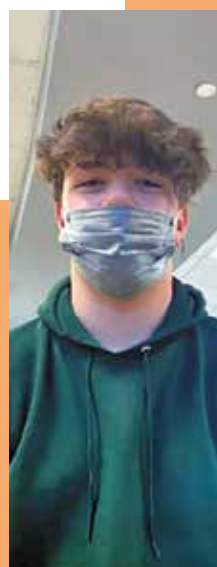
"Sorry Bout That," by Yeat

Madeline Knox
JUNIOR



"Parting Ways,"
by Polo G.

Michael Murray
SOPHOMORE



"Bohemian Rhapsody,"
by Queen

Jake Hotaling
FRESHMAN

The Spotlight: Rose LaBarbera, Makeup Artist Extraordinaire

By Keira Shanahan

My first memory of Rose LaBarbera is one from my elementary school years. It was Halloween, and she had gotten onto the bus with glass shards jutting out of her cheek, blood dripping down her face. It wasn't a real wound, however. She had created it using her makeup and prosthetic skills, but you wouldn't have known it was fake unless she told you.

I sat down with Rose for an interview a few weeks ago to uncover how she started doing this art, where she is now and where she plans to be in her future.

"I started when I was 7, for beauty," she said. She credited the television show, *Monster High*, with being her first inspiration for makeup. She recalls attempting to recreate a Draculaura look with the limited supplies she had.

(Continued on Page 16)

Response *(from Page 15)*

members donated boxes of bandages, gloves, baby formula, diapers, bottles, clothes, women's hygiene products and blankets. Students brought donations to the front entrances of the elementary, middle and high school buildings.

"Every time you look in the news, there's something else that has happened — a new development that could change thousands of lives," commented freshman Josephine Foley-Hedlund, a member of the Student Council. "It often feels like there's noth-

ing we can do to help; the drive was a great way to get people involved and an opportunity to spread awareness" about the war in Ukraine.

"It makes me feel so guilty after watching the news and being able to just click off and go about my life — being able to fundraise for people in need has made me feel useful," said Violeta Edwards Salas, another freshman on the Student Council.

Since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has asked European nations, as well as the United States, to help in any way possible.



POETRY OUT LOUD — This year the Poetry Out Loud competition took place on Jan. 11. The three student participants — junior Sam Bates and sophomores Camilla McDaniel and Percy Parker — chose poetry from the pre-approved *Poetry Out Loud* anthology. All three students did an outstanding job in their inflection and emotion when reciting their poems.

Members of the English Department, along with Principal Julia Sniffen, judged the competition. During this difficult time, we are very proud of our students for their participation and wonderful recitations!

Chemistry *(from Page 15)*

ing her biology degree in hopes of getting more into pathology.

Valenti worked at a pathology lab in the Bronx at the Montefiore Medical Center, but it was just a three-week internship. Valenti says that "I was putting myself through college, so money became an issue." Because Valenti had experience with electron microscopy, her professor was able to tell employers that one of her students who had just graduated was "really good" with electron microscopy. This became the start

of her job at IBM.

Ironically, Valenti says she "figured that this was going to be just short-term and that I would get enough money to get through college." She ended up being at IBM for 24 years.

Valenti realized that at IBM, she would not be promotable because she had a biology degree. That is how she ended up getting her chemistry degree. From that point, Valenti was working in a lab and she decided to begin to take engineering courses through one of IBM's onsite programs. This allowed Valenti to be promoted into engineering.

Makeup *(from Page 15)*

As she moved into the fifth grade, however, her interest evolved to special-effects makeup.

Halloween became the perfect opportunity for Rose to experiment with her skills. Special-effects supplies are expensive, but Rose didn't want to miss an opportunity.

"Every year I had to come in with something," she says, remembering the year she created a voodoo-doll look using toilet paper. She still practices this same resourceful creativity today, saying: "I use anything I have [at] my disposal; I don't limit myself."

Rose recommends Morphe as her go-to product for beauty, which is a brand favored for its quality products, accessibility and reasonable prices. If you're looking more for special-effects supplies, however, then Rose says Mehron is the brand for you.

When I asked her who her biggest inspirations are, she immediately named Greg Nicotero from the show *The Walking Dead*. She also mentioned Rick Baker, who does special effects for movies, and Tom Sabini, who has a makeup school that Rose dreams of attending.

"But my biggest influence in my life was Mykie, Glam & Gore on YouTube," she said. "I created most of her looks, [the ones] that I could; she was my inspiration for special effects."

Rose is top of her class at BOCES' morning cosmetology course, and despite makeup being her priority, she excels in hair, as well. She said one of

the main reasons she took the course was because it provided her with an opportunity to qualify for a cosmetology license. "I need to have a license. I can do makeup, but not in a salon."

Rose does makeup for her friends sometimes, and works backstage for Haldane Drama's performances. "I don't charge for anything — I just like to do it!"

Over the summer, Rose attended a master class at the New York Makeup Academy in New York City. The class was centered around blood and prosthetic effects, and through the program Rose produced a gnarly fake leg wound. She started her prosthetic by molding its most basic shape first, working side-by-side with people twice her age. It evolved into the bloody wound she sported on Halloween, which she then paired with some spooky white contacts, enhancing the creepy look.

As for the future, Rose knows that she wants to focus on special effects, and sees herself creating for movies or shows. She expects to travel a lot, working behind the scenes for big productions. "I can see myself working for a celebrity for events, or on Broadway," said Rose. She predicts that it's not going to be an easy road, however, due to the highly competitive environment. "I feel like this field is a very small field, so you have to work hard to get the job," she said.

Despite the challenge, Rose is excited to see where her skill will take her. Fans of hers are excited, too. As Christi DeRosa, an administrative assistant and high school guidance worker, said, "Rose is my idol, swear to God!"

I asked, if it was an option, would she still be a chemist? Valenti says, "No. When I was at IBM, I was caught in the downsizing in 2001 and I had a choice to continue to be a chemist in the industry. But because I had always wanted to become a teacher, I decided to follow that."

IBM gave laid-off employees about three weeks of help to find other jobs and write resumes. During that process, "a professor from Pace University came in and they had a program called 'Come Teach with Us,'" says Valenti.

She says teaching fits her better because "I really like working with my students, I

like helping students to realize that they can do it [chemistry] it and like it."

Valenti says she worked with 19 other people at IBM and how the job was team-based, but she also mentions that she was the only female in the department. "This was like pre-2000s, where you just went through all of the nonsense," she says.

"You got through all of the little cracks about being a female. I actually had a manager whom I worked for who said that females had no business being in the industry because they were taking away jobs that were for men."

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – June 13th, 2022

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 13th, 2022 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Stephen Spruiell, 16 Black Diamond Hill Rd., Garrison, NY 10524 TM#60.17-1-20

Applicant is seeking a special permit to construct a 987 square foot accessory structure with apartment.

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

Dated May 9th, 2022 Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, June 14th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516**

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting June 2022.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, June 16th 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board June 2022.

Start READING

June book club selections



Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

MON 13, 3:15 P.M.

Witches of Brooklyn, by Sophie Escabasse
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 14, 1:30 P.M.

The Paper Palace, by Miranda Cowley Heller
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Email community@beaconlibrary.org.

Reading With Writers

WED 22, 7 P.M.

The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion, by Tracy Daugherty
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Beacon Book Club

THU 23, 7:30 P.M.

These Tangled Vines, by Julianne MacLean
Location varies.
Register at meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 27, 7 P.M.

How Beautiful We Were, by Imbolo Mbue
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Small, Good Things

Tofu Twofer

By Joe Dizney

As far as I can tell, the main problem with tofu is taste: It has none to speak of.



The secondary problem is texture: It has one; it's just not very interesting. Despite soothing marketing adjectives like "silken" (*pahh!*), the overall effect is about as pleasant in the mouth-feel department as say, Jell-O. Hungry yet?

When looking to score humble bragging points with vegetable-forward friends, one can always drag out a classic Korean sundubu-jjigae (soft tofu stew), mightily seasoned with gochugaru, gochujang and kimchi — although my preferred version usually sports a discreet "whisper" of pork belly, just for taste, mind you.

But a recent *Voraciously* newsletter from *The Washington Post* presented a recipe for Herb-Marinated Tofu "Feta." The recipe comes from *Post* food and travel editor Joe Yonan's bean-centric cookbook, *Cool Beans*. (The irony quote marks are mine as the "feta" reference subsequently confused one too many dairy-phobic friends.)

The description was enough to make me give it a go: drained cubes of "firm" (a misnomer, if you ask me) tofu are marinated in olive oil, lemon juice and cider vinegar with white miso, salt, pepper, herbs, lemon zest and nutritional yeast (*warning sign!*) — unusual, yes, but very easy. The instructions said to marinate for at least two hours before using, so the commitment bar was set very low.

I assure you, as a former tofu skeptic, the return on investment is high. My first batch, a tentative pint jar, lasted all of one day. Scattered on a bed of arugula with some quartered Kumato tomatoes (a lifesaver until the "real" ones arrive) and diced avocado, with nothing for a dressing but a bit of the marinade, an extra squeeze of lemon and a drizzle of oil, it was an epiphany. This is a keeper, and the tofu gets *better* with age, keeping for up to two weeks.

The combination of Mediterranean (oil, lemon, herbs) flavors, the sweetness and umami of the miso, and the creamy-cheesy edge of the nutritional yeast (a curiously redeeming characteristic and one that is played for maximum effect here) was in fact reminiscent of feta but has an identity and virtues all its own.

In addition to numerous shares of the recipe to friends, it prompted the purchase of Mr. Yonan's cookbook, where I discovered my new favorite recipe unceremoniously buried in a very short final chapter titled "Condiments and Other Pantry Recipes." Go figger!

The book itself is a humble and unfussy ode to bean cookery of all stripes, and I've included, along with the "feta," a secondary recipe for three-bean salad with parsley and feta, which sports oven-roasted green beans and onions along with a combina-



Herb-Marinated Tofu and Bean Salad

Adapted from *Cool Beans*,
by Joe Yonan

For the Marinated Tofu

- 14 ounces water-packed firm tofu
- 4 strips lemon peel
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white miso
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 sprig rosemary or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 sprigs thyme or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 sprigs oregano or 1 teaspoon dried

For the Bean Salad

- 1 pound green (or yellow wax) beans
- 1 medium yellow onion, sliced thin
- 4 cloves garlic (unpeeled)
- 2 & 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ⅓ cup cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon raw sugar
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper
- 1½ cups cooked, drained red beans (kidney or a varietal)*
- 1½ cups cooked, rinsed and drained white beans (Great Northern, cannellini or a varietal)*
- 2 sticks celery, sliced thin
- 1 cup loosely packed flat-leaf parsley, chopped roughly

*Canned beans are OK if you must;
Brad's Organics suggested.

1. For the marinated tofu: Drain tofu, wrap in a clean kitchen towel and microwave on high 1 minute. Unwrap tofu and repeat with a fresh towel, then unwrap and cool, while you prepare the marinade. While tofu cools, whisk together the remaining ingredients (except for the lemon peel) in a bowl or measuring cup.

2. Cut tofu into ½ inch cubes; transfer tofu and lemon peel to a tall, lidded jar. Pour marinade over all. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before using. Turn jar occasionally to coat tofu. Keep covered and refrigerated for up to two weeks.

3. For the bean salad: Heat oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl, toss green (or yellow wax) beans, unpeeled garlic and sliced onion with 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil and a pinch of salt and grated pepper. Spread evenly on a large, rimmed sheet pan. Roast in heated oven for 20 to 30 minutes (until just beginning to char). Set aside to cool.

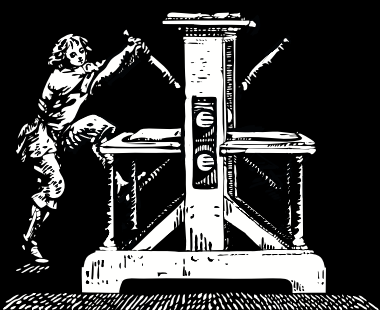
4. When garlic cloves are cool, squeeze the softened garlic from the skins into the same bowl the beans were tossed in. Along with the remaining 3 tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil and a pinch of salt and pepper, mash to a paste. Add the sugar and cider vinegar and whisk to dissolve the sugar. Chop the cooled green (or yellow wax) beans and onions to 1-to-1½-inch lengths and add to the bowl with the dressing. Add the drained red and white beans, celery and parsley, tossing gently to combine. Add ¼-to-½-cup herb-marinated tofu and lightly toss to incorporate. Serve alone or over greens garnished with more tofu if you like.

tion of red and white beans and an impossibly good and oh-so-simple sweet and sour dressing, finished with what I still consider

the main course.

And, just like this tofu feta, it's even better the next day — if it lasts that long.

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Testimony: Black Patriots

Benjamin Latimore

Benjamin Latimore enlisted in the Continental Army in September 1776 and by April was at Fort Montgomery on the Hudson River under the command of Gen. George Clinton.

"In the early part of [October 1777], some vessels belonging to the enemy came in sight and when within five miles of the fort, the wind having slackened, they disembarked at the place called Dunkerbarach [Dunderberg] or Thunder Hill and marched from thence to the fort," Latimore recalled in his pension application.

The British commander met with Clinton outside the fort. After the usual salutations, the British officer, Col. Mungo Campbell, was asked by Clinton the nature of his business, and he replied that he "came to demand a surrender of the fort, which if done within an hour and our troops grounded their arms they would be permitted to go as it was not wished to make them prisoners because they (the enemy) had more men with them than could be accommodated in the fort."

Latimore said that Clinton told Campbell that Fort Montgomery would not be surrendered "as long as he had a man able to fire a gun." Campbell replied that Clinton "would sleep in the fort that night, or in hell."

The fort held until 6 or 7 p.m., Latimore said. Campbell was killed during the attack, and Clinton escaped. But Latimore and others were held in the fort until October, when it was destroyed and the British soldiers and their prisoners sailed to New York City.

Latimore was forced to become a servant to a British officer until he was liberated by American forces and taken before Major Gen. Israel Putnam, who ordered him to rejoin the 5th Regiment at New Windsor.

Thomas Rosekrans

Thomas Rosekrans enlisted in the fall of 1778 at Continental Village in Philipstown. He was a substitute for Thomas Johnson and was assigned to serve as a waiter to his owner's son, Maj. James Rosekrans.

"At the time I enlisted I recollect that an officer took hold of my hand and made me write my name that I would serve during the war, that I would be true to my country and that when I had enlisted the said Thomas Johnson, whose substitute I was, was then discharged," Rosekrans recalled in his pension application. "I was then called Joseph Johnson on account (as I suppose) of my having Thomas Johnson's place."

Mary Dewitt, the sister of James Rosekrans, testified in support of the former slave's pension application. She remembered he "left Fishkill on



Detail from a 1781 watercolor by a French officer, Jean Baptiste Antoine de Verger, depicting members of the Continental Army, including, at left, a member of the First Rhode Island Regiment. The all-Black force was formed in 1778.

Sunday morning to join the army and that I furnished him with some food to put in his knapsack to eat by the way."

Like Rosekrans, other enslaved men who fought expressed uncertainty about what name had been assigned to them during their service. Marlin Brown, when applying for a pension in 1834, noted he was known as Marlin Roorback after his owner in Wallkill, who gave him permission to enlist, but that he was now known as Brown after a later owner, or more generally just as Marlin.

Charles Stourman

Charles Stourman enlisted in the spring of 1776 to serve under Col. Hugh Hughes, the commissary of the military stores at Fishkill.

"I entered immediately in the hospital service situated about three-fourths of a mile from Fishkill, acting as a waiter or assistant to Dr. McKnight, who was a surgeon at the hospital," he recalled. "During the summer and fall I attended on the sick. The hospital and barracks were full of sick and dying."

"I continued there during the winter, cutting and preparing wood for the hospital and sometime in the next summer [1777] I went to Fort Montgomery and was there at the taking of the fort. I took a team and baggage wagon and drove it up the river and saved it from the British. I went back to Fishkill and stayed there that winter and attended to the same duties I had formerly, to wit tending the hospital. The next spring [1778] I was sent by Col. Hughes with a team to get provisions and forage and followed that business during that summer and fall."

After serving for three years and receiving a discharge, Stourman fought for another eight months in Virginia.

Black History *(from Page 1)*

found himself walking in disguise through Westchester, with the incriminating documents in his boot. He was captured by three militiamen near Tarrytown on Sept. 23.

After dropping Andre at Haverstraw, where he and Arnold stayed overnight, the Vulture retreated south to the relative safety of Croton's Point. As it waited, about 20 British soldiers rowed in a skiff toward the east bank, accompanied by a small boat with a cannon at its bow.

By one account of what happened next, according to Erik Weiselberg, the principal historian of Revolutionary Westchester 250, Jack Peterson deserves credit for a small act of defiance that led to American democracy — for others. He was one of the many Blacks, free and enslaved, who aided the patriot cause in the Hudson Valley even though the freedom they fought and sometimes died for would not be their own.

The journey to shore of the soldiers on the skiff was interrupted by small arms fire from Peterson, a sharpshooter whose nickname was "Rifle Jack." This is according to an 1848 history that said Peterson and a 19-year-old white soldier named Moses Sherwood had been making cider when they spotted the Vulture. (The captain of the Vulture later alleged the Americans lured them to shore under a false flag of truce. "Surely the British were up to no good, but the claim does make the simple heroic narrative of brave shoreline defenders minding their own business a bit more complex," Weiselberg notes.)

Peterson, who grew up in the family of Job Sherwood in modern-day Sleepy Hollow, was described in his obituary as "mulatto," but it is unclear whether he had been enslaved. When Sherwood's son, Isaac, joined the Continental Army at Peekskill, Peterson joined with him and helped defend the city against a British raid in March 1777, the first of several battles he fought in over the next three years.

He left the army in 1780 but remained a member of the militia. On the morning of Sept. 20, he and Moses (a cousin to Isaac) spotted the Vulture. According to the 1848 account, the men hid behind rocks to fire. One shot from Peterson caused a Redcoat

to drop his oar; the skiff turned back while the gunboat lingered to provide cover.

Peterson and Sherwood traveled 5 miles north to Fort Lafayette at what is now Cortlandt to report the encounter. A colonel sent several cannons to Croton Point, where, at first light on Sept. 22, they bombarded the Vulture for two hours, forcing it to retreat downriver.

Without the Vulture, Maj. Andre was forced to walk. He was captured near Tarrytown and hanged as a spy on Oct. 2.

Jack Peterson was later taken prisoner by the British and held in a ship in New York harbor, according to his pension papers, but escaped by crawling down an anchor chain. He lived in Cortlandt and Peekskill, and in 1818, at age 63, received a pension but never owned the minimum amount of property required of Black men to participate in civic life. Despite his pinpoint shot that may have preserved a nation, Rifle Jack could not vote.

The white revolution

At the time of the Revolution, Fishkill was the largest village in Dutchess County, with two churches, a schoolhouse, a hotel and a printing press.

When the war began in the spring of 1775, anxious landowners organized a committee to monitor the "affairs of the Negroes." In Newburgh, the council imposed a sundown curfew for the enslaved on punishment of 35 lashes. Provincial lawmakers authorized the shooting of any slave found more than a mile from home.

Communities on both sides of the Hudson River became armed encampments. Fishkill was a major supply depot, hospital, prison and burial ground.

About a third of Dutchess residents refused to swear allegiance to the American cause, and the Continental Army was plagued by enlistees who came and went. Although nearly 400,000 men were recruited to fight, there were never more than 35,000 in the field. The British forces never exceeded 42,000, so the Americans could easily have overwhelmed them at even quarter strength, historians note.

"African Americans participated in the American Revolution from its first day,"

(Continued on Page 19)



The gravesite of Jack Peterson at Bethel Cemetery in Croton-on-Hudson

Photo by Erik Weiselberg

Escape!

“I prayed [for freedom] for 20 years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.”

~Frederick Douglass

The enslaved fleeing from their enslavers was a problem for white New Yorkers from the beginning. As early as 1705, the colonial legislature forbade slaves from traveling alone more than 40 miles north of Albany (i.e., toward Canada); in 1755, it added the death penalty. As late as 1775, in Newburgh, slaves found without a pass were to be whipped 35 times.

The descriptions in newspaper ads offering rewards for the return of escapees provide testament to the brutality inflicted on Black people, noting limps and scars. Most escaped slaves were described as highly intelligent or “cunning,” since doing otherwise would not reflect well on the owner who let them get away.

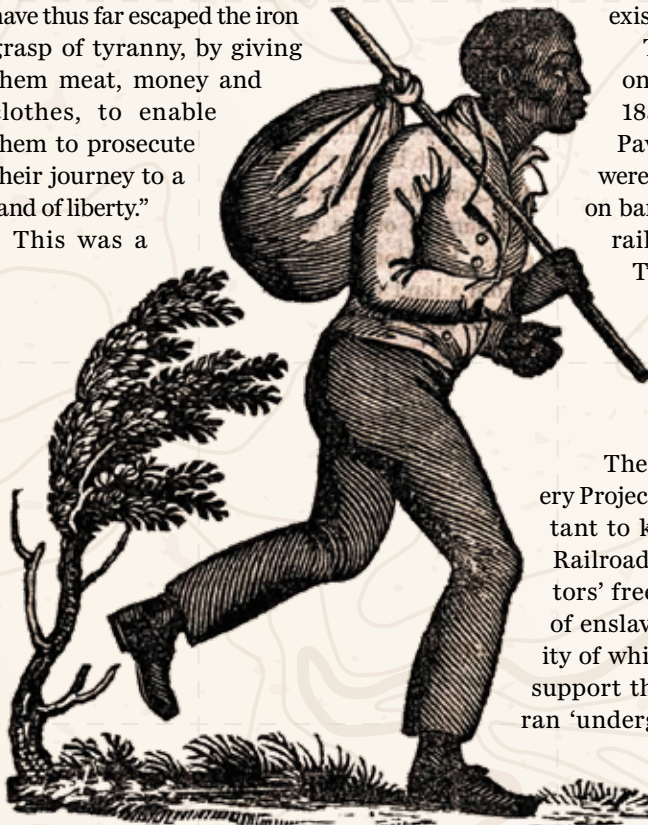
In a collection of about 600 advertisements published between 1735 and 1831 for escaped Hudson Valley slaves and collected by Susan Stessin-Cohn and Ashley Hurlburt-Biagini for their book, *In Defiance*, about two dozen were placed by residents of Fishkill. The earliest was from 1747 (Robert Shere seeking 40-year-old Harry), and the latest from the early 1820s, including one by Medad Raymond of Peekskill, who was looking for Sam, 17, who had been allowed to visit his enslaved parents in Fishkill but never returned.

There were no fixed routes but runaways tended to flee along the Hudson River or through the communities of Quakers (who opposed slavery) in the center of Dutchess County or near the Connecticut border. Enslaved people fleeing the South likely found refuge among the large Black population of Fishkill Landing (Beacon), which also had a Black church, St. James AME Zion, founded in 1844. Joe Collin or Collis, a Black fish peddler, is thought to have transported fugitives across the river to Newburgh, supposedly communicating

with horn blasts and lamps.

At its second annual meeting in 1840, members of the Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Society adopted a resolution vowing they “collectively and severally will do all in our power to assist those brethren, coming through this county, who may have thus far escaped the iron grasp of tyranny, by giving them meat, money and clothes, to enable them to prosecute their journey to a land of liberty.”

This was a



From *The Anti-Slavery Record*, 1837: “This picture of a poor fugitive is from one of the stereotype cuts manufactured for the Southern market, and used on handbills offering rewards for runaway slaves.”

Library Company of Philadelphia

reference to the Underground Railroad, although as historian Albert Bushell Hart noted, it was “not a route, but a network; not an organization but a conspiracy.” It was so underground, noted historian A.J. Williams-Myer, that many fugitives may not have been aware it existed.

The Quakers had stops on the railroad from the 1830s in Millbrook and Pawling. Many fugitives were also sent up the Hudson on barges and, after 1851, the railroad. In 1855, Harriet Tubman helped three of her brothers escape north from Maryland by buying them tickets at Grand Central Station.

The Mid-Hudson Antislavery Project notes that “it is important to keep the Underground Railroad in context. Its ‘conductors’ freed only a tiny fraction of enslaved people. The majority of white Northerners did not support the road, and it seldom ran ‘underground.’ Most tunnels or secret hideaways found in historical

properties probably had other uses” than hiding runaways.

Nevertheless, the Hudson River was a natural path to Canada, where escaped slaves would be outside the jurisdiction of an 1850 Fugitive Slave Act that required enslaved workers be returned to their owners, even from the free north.

This led to an unusual case in 1851 in Dutchess County, where John Bolding had fled from bondage in South Carolina a few years earlier and assumed a new identity. A Southern woman who had been staying in Poughkeepsie recognized him and notified his former owner, who obtained a warrant.

Bolding was arrested by federal agents and taken to New York City to be shipped south, but supporters managed to get him in front a federal judge. Two lawyers hired on his behalf argued that, in fact, the light-skinned Bolding was “as white as a great many white men” and so could not have been a slave. The judge ruled against them, but Dutchess abolitionists raised \$2,000 to buy Bolding’s freedom and he returned to Poughkeepsie, where he lived for the next 25 years until his death in 1876.

Black people in Dutchess County were in a precarious position during the 1850s as the country split apart, notes Michael Groth, author of *Slavery and Freedom in the Mid-Hudson Valley*. Merritt Green of Fishkill was so fearful of being kidnapped by slavecatchers that he attempted suicide, vowing that “he had rather die than be enslaved.” Black people, even in the North, had few allies. White immigrants from Europe were arriving in larger numbers, competing with Black residents for even meager housing and jobs. *The Poughkeepsie Telegraph* in 1851 told its readers that preserving the Union was more important than the “rescue of a few slaves from their bondage.”

notes historian Thomas Fleming, writing in the *Journal of the American Revolution*. “That is why it is shameful that for a long time, they received no credit for their courage and enthusiasm for liberty. The minutemen who fought at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, included at least nine Black soldiers.”

That was not Washington’s choice. Only days after he took command in June 1775, he decreed that no Black man could join the ranks. As a Virginian, he was reacting to a Southern fear that arming slaves would not be prudent. Many Black men contributed in other roles: as drivers, orderlies, waiters, cooks, bakers (especially at Tarrytown, Continental Village and Fishkill, which had bread ovens), craftsmen and laborers. They were also engaged at New Windsor at the iron works where workers forged the chain that was stretched across the river as a defense against British ships.

After Washington told his Black troops their service would expire on

Dec. 31, a group appeared at his headquarters outside Boston to protest. As a compromise — and because in November the British began offering freedom to slaves who joined his Majesty’s troops — Black soldiers were allowed to re-enlist. By 1777, there was such a manpower shortage that Washington required men to enlist for at least three years and each town was given a quota. New York had earlier authorized owners to send an enslaved worker to serve for them in the militia; in 1781, the Legislature promised to free slaves who enlisted for the minimum tour or until they were honorably discharged. Their owners received land grants as compensation.

Along with Peterson, there were many other Black heroes of the Revolution, such as Pompey Lamb. The capture of Stony Point in Rockland County in 1779 by Gen. “Mad” Anthony Wayne was the result of Pompey’s ability to move between his owner’s home and the fort to sell fruits and vegetables

to the British. He eventually acquired the password from the guards: “The fort is ours”; Pompey was among those who overpowered the sentries and allowed Wayne’s 1,350 Continentals (including many free Blacks) to take the fort on July 16.

Among the Black men with George Washington at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-78 were Philip Field of Dutchess County, the son of slave, and Henry Crandle, who was compelled to fight by his owner, John Crandle of Fishkill.

The Black people of the Hudson Valley during the Revolution had a choice to make. The historian Benjamin Quarles notes that the enslaved worker was most likely “to join the side that made him the quickest and best offer in terms of those ‘inalienable rights’ of which Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson had spoken.”

Male slaves who responded to the 1775 promise from the British that they would be freed for their service were

(Continued on Page 20)

Why This Series

History is a prism that can be viewed from many angles. The white wealthy men who forged the nation took one view, and Blacks, Native Americans, women and the impoverished took others. Sometimes the colors produced by the prism cross and blend. But any honest view of history must turn the prism now and again.

This series is designed to be an introduction to the Black history of the Highlands. For this early history, we are indebted to the research of historians such as late A.J. Williams-Myers of SUNY New Paltz; Michael Groth of Wells College in Aurora, New York; Myra Young Armstead of Bard College; and Dennis Maika of the New Netherland Institute in Pleasantville; among others.

The title is borrowed from historian Erica Armstrong Dunbar, who was referring to Black people during the time of the Revolutionary War, when Americans fought for white freedom. “They were always present, but never seen.” The first part of the series is posted at highlandscurrent.org.

Testimony: Nanna

In 1874, Henry Bailey recalled in a memoir the former enslaved woman he knew as a child, Nanna, who had been purchased in 1805 by his grandfather for £40. His grandfather was a newlywed and needed someone to keep house.

Nanna shared recollections with young Henry of the Revolutionary War, such as when the British fleet came up the Hudson River and everyone in the Van Voorhis family of Fishkill Landing (Beacon), which had enslaved her since birth, fled to Great Nine Partners [near Millbrook] except for the father. He said he would never leave his house, and Nanna said she could not leave him.

When the British ships arrived in Newburgh Bay, they began firing cannonballs at the Van Voorhis house. She and her owner went to the cellar kitchen until the fleet passed.

Nanna said she remembered Gen. Israel Putnam arriving at Fishkill Landing on horseback. She also saw Gens. Washington and Lafayette, and the American army camped on the flats north of the Highlands.

On one occasion, she helped prepare the home of Robert Brett (the Van Wyck Homestead on Route 9) for Washington, who was quartered there. She helped light the candles, she said.

Nanna, who could speak Dutch and English, was freed in 1827 when slavery was abolished in New York state. “Her son and daughter came to our house to take her home with them,” Bailey recalled. “My parents tried to persuade her to remain with them [with] what little time was allotted to her on earth, but the boon of freedom was too great for her. When she left the house, we all wept.” She did not know her age but was probably about 70, he said.

“Nanna found freedom far different than she expected,” Bailey wrote. “The colored people were poor, and there was no fuel in the country but wood,” which was expensive, “and she found that the fire of freedom did not suffice. She did not find wood and provisions as plenty there as she had in the days of slavery, and she wished herself back again in the old kitchen, a slave under her old master.”

He said the family sent for her but were told she had recently died in a little house near where the Dutchess Hat Works was later built [now Madam Brett Park].

Black History (from Page 19)

assigned to what became known as the Ethiopian Regiment; they wore sashes with the words “Liberty to Slaves.” In 1779, British Gen. Henry Clinton created the Black Pioneers, while also noting any Black man caught fighting for the Americans would be sold.

To gather support for their cause, America’s first leaders cited the prospect of hordes of free, angry and armed Black people should the British prevail. During the war, Congress assigned Benjamin Franklin to write a children’s book about the evils of British rule; in it, he claimed the British would pay slaves to kill their masters and kidnap white women and children. While imagining the engravings for the book, Franklin envisioned a scene of armed Black plunderers that he thought could be engraved on the first U.S. coins.

“The matter of choosing sides ultimately proved to be an agonizing experience” for enslaved people in New York, says historian Michael Groth, author of *Slavery and Freedom in the Mid-Hudson Valley*. “Practical considerations weighed heavily.” Most who escaped to New York City were young men, he notes; the majority of enslaved workers in the Hudson Valley seemed to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

Some white people, such as Abigail Adams, the future First Lady, recognized the hypocrisy of fighting for freedom from British rule, but not for Black people. “It always appeared a most iniquitous scheme to me to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have,” she wrote to her husband John in September 1774.

In fact, many American leaders during the Revolution voiced support for emancipation, but only in principle. As early as 1771 the delegates at the New York Constitutional Convention had voted 31-5 to abolish slavery, but no action was taken.

After the war, in 1785, the state Assembly considered a bill that would gradually emancipate the enslaved. However, the proposal awarded Blacks only second-class citizenship, denying them the right to vote, hold public office, marry white people or give testimony in court against white people. That didn’t fly in the more liberal Senate, and the bill died.

The Assembly, historian Edgar McManus observed, “feared Negro suffrage more than it desired emancipation.” In the end, the Legislature managed only to pass a law banning the importation of slaves.

The New York Manumission Society was formed in 1785, and by the 1790s, freeing the enslaved had become a common cause, with the editors of *The Poughkeepsie Journal* and other papers questioning the morals of slave owners. The economics of forced labor had changed because of an influx of white immigrants. Enslaved workers required capital investment and maintenance costs; not so the hired hand. With jobs harder to find, the working poor grew to resent slaves and former slaves. Even free Blacks were brutalized and excluded from skilled positions.



Gen. Washington and Billy Lee

Many years after the fact, John Trumbull painted this portrait of George Washington from memory. It depicts the general in 1780 on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River with his slave, Billy Lee, on horseback.

Lee, purchased by Washington in 1768, was the general’s valet during the Revolutionary War and the only slave he freed outright in his will. After the war, Lee broke both of his kneecaps in accidents, which ended his work as a valet (he took up shoemaking instead). He is buried at Mount Vernon.

Lee is probably the “domestic” involved in the court-martial of Joshua Hett Smith, who was accused of complicity in the betrayal by Gen. Benedict Arnold. Maj. Gen. Marquis de Lafayette attempted to interrogate Smith on Sept. 26, 1780, at the Robinson House, which stood on Route 9D in Garrison, but Smith was an experienced lawyer and apparently

embarrassed the Frenchman, who was teased by his fellow officers.

Smith, who was being kept in solitary confinement, learned of Lafayette’s discomfort from one of Washington’s enslaved workers, “who daily brought me provisions.” That person — certainly Billy Lee — said that Lafayette, when Smith’s name was mentioned, would bristle.

Smith’s account suggests Billy Lee was a part of Washington’s inner circle, notes historian William Ferraro. “He was trusted enough by Washington to spend time alone with an important prisoner.” In addition, the episode demonstrates “that Lee felt comfortable discussing a touchy subject with a highly educated professional.”

The portrait is now owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Fighting for freedom

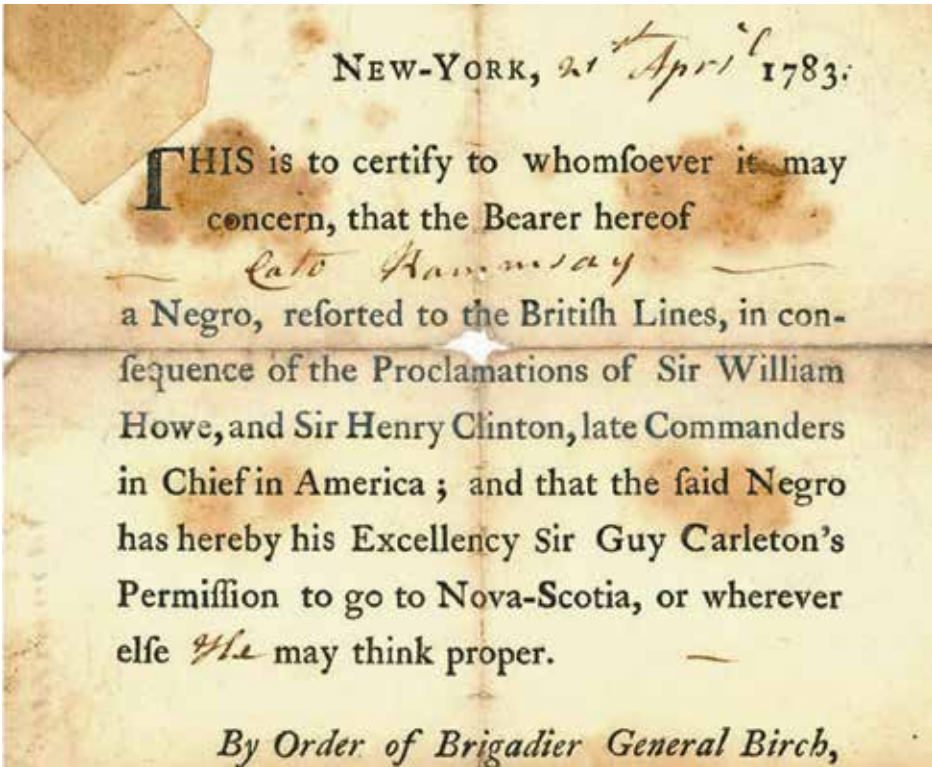
After Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in Oct. 19, 1781, the defeated British evacuated New York City. On Oct. 25, Gen. Washington issued an order that any “Negroes or Molattoes” be rounded up and put under guard so they could be returned to their owners. One condition of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that officially ended the war was that the British would not “carry away any Negroes or other Property of the American inhabitants.”

The peace agreement allowed that any enslaved person who had reached Brit-

ish lines before Nov. 30, 1782, would be freed, but only with restitution to his or her owner.

To determine which Black people were eligible, a group of American and British officials met each Wednesday for six months at a Black-owned tavern on Broad Street in New York City to compile what became known as the “book of Negroes.” It contained the name, age and date of escape of every runaway slave who had reached the city during the war, including at least four who had escaped from enslavement in Dutchess County:

(Continued on Page 21)



A passport issued in New York City by the British in 1783 to an escaped slave for his trip to Canada

(Continued from Page 20)

- ★ Ceaser Nicolls, 22, described as a “stout Blk Man,” had reached the British lines 3½ years earlier [in 1780] after fleeing from the Van Wyck family in Fishkill. He planned to travel aboard the Ann with his certificate of freedom issued by the British for a settlement in Nova Scotia called Port Roseway.
- ★ Bristol Storm, 40, a “stout fellow,” had escaped three years earlier [in 1780] from Garret Storm of Fishkill. He was destined for Annapolis/St. John, Nova Scotia, aboard the Clinton. Unlike Nicolls, he did not have a certificate of freedom.
- ★ Massey Asten, 31, a “stout wench,” had escaped six years earlier [1777] from her Dutchess County owner, Joseph Jenkins. She was headed to Annapolis, Nova Scotia, aboard the sloop Cato.
- ★ John Simonsbury, 43, “healthy,” from Fredericksburg [now Patterson in Putnam County], had fled from his owner, Charles Collins, four years earlier [1779]. He was headed to Port Roseway on the London Frigate.

In 1783, about 3,000 Black men, women and children with certificates were allowed to leave for Canada; another 400 sailed for London; and 1,200 journeyed to Africa to create a community in Sierra Leone. In addition, about 1,500 enslaved people are believed to have been taken to Canada by their Loyalist masters.

By one estimate, 5,000 to 9,000 Black men fought with the Continental Army. But another 20,000 fled to the British in a bid for freedom that wasn’t being offered by the men who produced the Declaration of Independence.

“Our revered founders — intent on rallying mass support for a revolt intended to replace one set of colonial

elites with another — indulged in egalitarian rhetoric that most of them did not believe,” observed historian Gregory Urwin in the *Journal of the American Revolution*. “What redeemed the Revolution is the fact that so many common Americans took that rhetoric literally.”

This series is funded by a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and contributions to our Special Projects Fund (highlandscurrent.org/donate).

Reparations

Beverley Robinson, the son-in-law of Frederick Philipse, a large landowner and early slave trader whose family is the namesake of Philipstown, was an active Loyalist during the Revolutionary War. (His home in Garrison was seized by the Continental Army for use by Gen. Benedict Arnold.) After fleeing to London at war’s end, Robinson was one of 50 men from Dutchess County who made claims to be reimbursed by the crown.

He estimated his losses at £68,784, which included 60,000 acres, two mills and eight enslaved workers he left behind: Harry, 19 (valued at £80); Rose, 20 (£60); Coobaugh, 20 (£60); Belinda, 18 (£60); Sarah, 18 (£60); Phillis, 15 (£50); Candis, 15 (£50); and Clarinda, 13 (£50).

By comparison, Robinson valued a pair of oxen at £18 and a bushel of wheat at £7. He was awarded £23,287, or about a third of his claim.



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Living Green

Youth in Action

By Krystal Ford

When I asked elementary school

students in a climate action workshop that I co-led on May 20 how they thought about climate change, they didn't hesitate to volunteer that they felt scared, sad and angry.

That's hard to hear as an adult, and we may instinctively want to shield kids from the climate crisis. But, we can't. Children and teens are hearing about climate disasters already on the news or experiencing them firsthand. We need to prepare kids, and that means creating a climate literate and empowered generation who understand the essential principle of Earth's climate system, and know how to communicate about climate and climate change in a meaningful way.

We also need to be giving kids solutions and tools in their toolbox, because the future will demand imagination and creativity on a large scale.

Enter the Youth Climate Summit, which was founded in 2009 at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, in the Adirondacks, with the goal to convene, engage, connect and empower young people around the world for action on climate change. As of now, more than 30 locations around the world have hosted a Youth Climate Summit.

In 2019 I helped organize a Youth Climate Summit for middle-school students at the Garrison School with since-retired science teacher Kevin Keegan. One hundred and thirty students from seven schools attended and we had plans to make it an annual event before COVID hit. I was beyond thrilled when Rachel Arbor, the environmental educator at the school, took up the mantle to revive the



Students at the Garrison School participated in a Youth Climate Summit on May 20.

Photo by Erin Wik

summit and expand it to all grades.

The day began with 11 student volunteers from the fourth to eighth grades working to lead a keynote speech about the local environment, the challenges it's facing and what they can do to help. Arbor said her goals for the summit were "to connect students to nature and the wide variety of careers in science — and empower them to understand climate issues so they could take climate action."

The day was full of hands-on workshops centered on nature, science careers and turning climate anxiety into action. Students foraged in the 181-acre Garrison School Forest, heard from a NASA botanist and a biomimicry engineer, interacted with birds of prey, reptiles and snakes, explored the Green Machine — a truck with a multitude of interactive forms of renewable energy — and learned about climate action from the organizers of the Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign (myself included).

Arbor said that, along with the content of the keynote, students helped choose the workshop topics. Students from a range of grades met nearly every day at lunch and recess in

May to create a 30-minute presentation.

"The highlight of my day was being inspired by our middle-school students who presented thoughtful and practical solutions to combating climate change, the single greatest challenge facing their generation," said Superintendent Carl Albano. "They give me great hope for the future."

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, June 13th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516**

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting June 2022.

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CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Scratch

4. Hosp. scan

7. Ashen

8. Ridicule

10. Director Forman

11. Seek, as office

13. Breakfast order

16. Simile center

17. Four-star reviews

18. FDR project

19. 107, to Cato

20. Actor Johnny

21. Velocity

23. Apple centers

25. And others (Lat.)

26. French cheese

27. Plopped down

28. Pink hue

30. Insult, slangily

33. Steakhouse order

36. Eucalyptus eaters

37. Start of a
supplication

38. Move furtively

39. Smile

40. Trail the pack

41. Thesaurus wd.

2. Oodles

3. Set aside

4. Bea Arthur sitcom

5. Littlest littermates

6. Data

7. Name of 12 popes

8. Fountain of Rome

9. Precisely

10. CEO's deg.

12. Answers an

invitation

14. Incursion

15. Phone bug

19. Cartoon frame

20. Rap's Dr. —

21. Desolate

22. Cookout spots

23. Beach crawler

24. Drilling platforms

25. Mentalist's claim

26. Invigorating

28. Salsa singer Cruz

29. Borneo ape, for
short

30. "Mack the Knife"
singer

31. "This — outrage!"

32. Pigs' digs

34. Teen hangout

35. Grand Ole —

DOWN

1. Island south of
Sicily

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 coffeemaker from the 1970s (10)

2 soft, plush fabric (6)

3 on one's guard (4)

4 adhesive quality (10)

5 former European republic (10)

6 not accountable (9)

7 tenon's woodworking partner (7)

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for May 27 Puzzles

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

1. DENOMINATOR, 2. MOLLIFYING, 3. BILLIE, 4. FRUGAL, 6. AFRICA, 7. PSEUDONYM, 7. ALLEVIATE



MEMORIAL DAY

The annual parade to remember those lost in war took place in Cold Spring and Nelsonville on Monday (May 30), followed by a ceremony at Cold Spring Cemetery.



Photos by Ross Corsair