

The HIGHLANDS Current



Congratulations Graduates
Page 16

JUNE 17, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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PART 4

Always Present, Never Seen

A Black history of the Highlands

By Leonard Sparks

On April 29, 1995, inside Springfield Baptist Church, Johnnie Mae Sampson mined her past as a gift to the future.

Then a 61-year-old employee of the Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Sampson was one of 14 Black residents of Beacon being interviewed by members of the Dutchess County Historical Society's Black History Project Committee.

She had come to New York 45 years earlier, in 1950, from segregated Asheville, North Carolina, when her father's

job as a nurse's assistant was transferred to the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls.

His odyssey would be his family's, including that of his teenage daughter. Before leaving, Johnnie Mae read about the Hudson River. "When I rode across the river on a ferryboat, I dropped a nickel in it," said Sampson, who died in 2012, during her interview. "I said, 'I'm finally getting to see the Hudson River.'"

The ripple she created was part of a larger wave.

(Continued on Page 22)



The first of a series of 60 paintings by Jacob Lawrence created in 1941, when he was 23, as part of his landmark Migration Series. "During the World War there was a great migration North by Southern Negroes." The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Study: Sheriff Patrols Required Overtime

Former Putnam sheriff claims vindication

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A report commissioned by Putnam County in 2020 but kept under wraps until now concluded that the relatively small size of the Sheriff's Department road patrols required deputies to

work overtime for 24/7 coverage.

The 56-page study by Bonadio Group consultants cost the county \$45,000. In undertaking it, County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell and Republican members of the Legislature cited concerns about the management of the department, especially overtime expenses, by then-Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., a Democrat.

However, "this type of overtime is to be

expected," under the circumstances, Bonadio reported. It predicted that if the Legislature funded more deputies, the amount of overtime would decrease while policing would improve.

Odell spent months in 2020 castigating Langley over overtime spending, although the Sheriff's Department generally covered it by moving funds between accounts. Bonadio scrutinized overtime practices from 2018,

when Langley became sheriff, through 2020. Langley left office after losing to Republican Kevin McConville in the November 2021 election.

At a March committee meeting, Legislator Nancy Montgomery asked if McConville had reduced the number of road patrols from six to five, as she had heard. The Legislature's sole Demo-



Langley

(Continued on Page 9)



MARCH FOR OUR LIVES — Beacon residents gathered on Saturday (June 11) to take part in a national protest against gun violence.

Photo by Valerie Shively

New Life for Dutchess Mall?

Developer proposes warehouse at Route 9 property

By Jeff Simms

A developer wants to revive the south end of the long-abandoned Dutchess Mall by building an industrial warehouse.

Crow Holdings Industrial, a Dallas-based firm that its attorney calls "one of the country's leading developers of industrial space," has applied to raze the abandoned structures and redevelop the mall, which is located on Route 9 just north of the Putnam County line. The northern part of the complex is occupied by Home Depot and the Fishkill campus of Dutchess Community College.

If approved by the Fishkill Planning Board,

CHI said it would construct a 350,000-square-foot warehouse with 215 parking spaces, 78 loading docks, four drive-in ramps and 30 trailer parking spaces. The company proposes to subdivide the 39-acre tract, with 29 acres to be used for the warehouse and the remaining 10 acres retained by another company, Hudson Properties of Yonkers, for possible development.

According to the Town of Fishkill, the development could create as many as 150 jobs with annual salaries estimated to begin at \$50,000. CHI also has developed projects in Texas, Georgia, California, New Jersey and other states.

The Fishkill project would use two existing entrances from Route 9, according to materials submitted to the Planning Board.

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: CHRIS MARRISON

By Chip Rowe

Chris Marrison, of Garrison, is the chief executive officer of Risk Integrated. He also owns seven Land Rovers.

Can you own too many Land Rovers?

They used to be quite cheap as military surplus — like \$2,000 — so you could get as many as you like. We have a large yard. One limit is how many you can keep running, and the other is the wife.

Which was your first?

It's a Series IIa from 1968. I acquired it when I moved to Garrison and needed a car. I searched the web and found these guys in Vermont who were selling Land Rovers. I realized they were getting them from the British Army. About that time, I did a project in the U.K. for a year, and the army was selling lines and lines and lines of them. I became a small expert in importing them. It cost about \$1,000 to put one on an Atlantic ferry.

What drew you to that Rover?

It's utilitarian; it's the one where you can throw wood in the back or the kids and you don't mind about it. It's a simple truck body with seats in the back for eight people. I drove it from Garrison to Guatemala at Christmas in 2000 to propose to my wife [Maria Stein-



Marrison, who was there to see her family]. I like the safari idea behind it; it's a truck of adventure. I was an engineer in the Royal Air Force, and these were the vehicles we used all the time. They are fairly simple mechanically. I've never had the need to take one to a garage, and it's satisfying when they don't start and then they do start. In the Air Force, we fixed tornado bombers, but you had a manual and machines. It wasn't just you and a spanner [wrench] and a coat hanger. When

a Land Rover breaks down, you usually think it's something deep down, but it's often that a wire has come off or — as I've found, standing on the side of the road, diagnosing the problem — you've run out of gas.

What are the others?

I have another Series IIa that was adapted by the special forces for use in the desert. It's got fuel tanks and smoke launchers and it's painted pink [for the Pink Panthers]. The other five are Series III, which were made until 1985. One is boxy and lightweight, designed to be slung under a helicopter. Another has camouflage nets — it's like a fluttering bush when you drive it. One has a winch; one was for reconnaissance and has radios in the back. The last one has a hardback.

Will there be an eighth?

I would like to get a Defender, which is the series after III. We drove one around Namibia on our honeymoon and on the penultimate day, it broke down, just as it should. The army is about to start selling their Defenders, and it's tempting. I think the kids need to get scholarships into university, then I can get it.



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ON THE
SPOT

By Michael Turton

What did you do
for summer fun
as a kid that was
a bit dangerous?

“ We used to hop
private and public
pools late at night;
the police chased us. ”



Tom O'Connor, Cold Spring

“ In Cameroon, I
poked a hornets'
nest with a stick. I
didn't get stung. ”



Carine Mbang, Visiting Beacon
from Brooklyn

“ In Kent, U.K., we used
to climb into sandy
caves once used to
store munitions. ”



Charles Day, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

No Arrests in Beacon Killings

Police continue to investigate deaths

Beacon police said this week that they have no updates to provide on the investigations into two killings that occurred within five months of each other.

The first was on Christmas Day, when Rene Vivo, 65, a veteran known as "Scout," was stabbed near the intersection of South Brett and Main streets. He died at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

The second killing took place on May 14 when Lionell B. Pittman Jr., 32, was shot in a parking lot at the Forrestal Heights apartment complex on West Center Street. Beacon police said officers responded at 6:50 p.m. to a report of shots fired but provided no further information.

Legislators Propose Warning Sign

Democrats want gun-safety message

The Democratic caucus of the Dutchess County Legislature on Monday (June 13) introduced a resolution that would require a warning sign to be posted anywhere a firearm can be purchased.

The sign would read: "Warning: Access to a firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide, death during domestic violence disputes and the unintentional death of children, household members or others. If you or a loved one is experiencing distress and/or depression, call the [hotline] or visit [website]."

"This measure is smart and easy to implement across our county," said the minority leader, Yvette Valdés Smith, whose district includes part of Beacon, in a statement.

Judge Upholds Denial of Power Plant Permit

Says state lawfully stopped Danskammer

A state judge in Orange County on June 8 upheld New York's decision to deny a permit for the upgrade of a gas-fired power

plant on the Hudson River north of Beacon.

Supreme Court Judge Robert Onofry said the state had the legal power to deny the permit under a 2019 law designed to lower greenhouse gas emissions and phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2040.

Danskammer had a \$500 million plan to upgrade its power plant in the Town of Newburgh. It argued that the Department of Environmental Conservation had no reason to deny the permit because the state had not issued any guidelines related to the 2019 law. The power plant currently operates only during spikes in electricity use.

Cold Spring Chamber Names Award Winners

Businesses, designer, Galef recognized

The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce presented its annual awards on Tuesday (June 14) during a breakfast meeting at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown.

The winners were Dr. Mary Costigan and her staff at Chestnut Oak Dental of Cold Spring (new business); Joel and Jade Giffen of Flex Physical Therapy (best service); Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (James Lovell Award for community stewardship); Boscobel and Cold Spring Farmers' Market (collaboration award) and Alex Wilcox Cheek (excellence in the arts, for his design of the chamber logo and a Highlands map and guide).

Evan Maasik, a Garrison resident who is a senior at O'Neill High School, received the Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship.

Dutchess Awards Grants

Two area nonprofits receive \$20,000

Dutchess County on June 9 announced the recipients of the latest round of funding from its Learn, Play, Create grants.

A total of \$362,250 was distributed to 21 nonprofits, including \$20,000 to the regional chapter, based in Beacon, of New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice for materials, signs and a youth fair, and \$20,000 to the Stony Kill Foundation in Fishkill for 20 weeks of summer camp scholarships and to fund field trips.



WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

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Drug World Pharmacy
Jessica Spiegel and Derek Enos
Jane Hanley
Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc.
Neil Janovic
Regina Kelley
Brad Kendall
Elise Knudson
Jozef and Eileen Kuczak
Catherine Law
Robin Licari
Mary Beth McDonald
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Debbi Milner
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Marieta Pergi
Eric and Amy Richter
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Dana Levenberg
Justine McGovern and Karl Klingbiel
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Christopher Davis
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All have joined since mid-March this year. Members total 867 as of June 15.

To join, go to: highlandscurrent.org/join



The HIGHLANDS
Current



The HIGHLANDS Current

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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Gun safety

I'm pleased that Putnam County issued a press release following my statement at the June full Legislature meeting calling on the administration to provide resources and funding for mental health services ("Putnam County Creates School Safety Team," June 10).

I hope the county executive's statement doesn't turn out to be like most of the county press releases and remain just that, a press release with no follow-up. No meeting was called or "convened" with districts for this "school" task force. Our local district had not been apprised of any plan or task force. Who is on this team? How will they chart its success? It will be interesting to see how Putnam's pro-gun administration will roll this out.

We cannot forget that Sheriff Kevin McConville, County Executive MaryEllen Odell and her presumptive successor, Assembly Member Kevin Byrne, have each been speaking at pro-gun events for years and speaking out against any meaningful gun-safety measures. In the state Assembly, Byrne has consistently voted in line with the positions of the National Rifle Association.

Putnam County could have taken action and supported Philipstown's gun-safety

proposals years ago. Instead, Republican leaders stood outside of Town Hall and rallied against our efforts to keep guns out of our parks and pre-school. To add insult to injury, the GOP legislators proudly hired a pro-gun "NRA expert" who attempted to stymie our efforts and rewarded him with a permanent taxpayer-funded role as the legislative attorney.

Is this task force taking cues from the NRA's own National School Shield Task Force? That dubious plan espouses an end to gun violence in schools using their tried-and-true business model: Sell more guns. They want to normalize an increase of armed security individuals in schools, so their corporate backers can push more guns, ammunition and tactical gear on cash-strapped districts. Their plan even goes so far as to advocate teachers and administrators carry firearms in school. More guns in schools equal more revenue for the people who sell them.

I'll remain cautiously optimistic about this "press release" but encourage the public to pay close attention and think critically about who will ultimately benefit.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*
Montgomery is a Putnam County legislator whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

Garrison School budget

Editor's note: We received many lengthy letters about the proposed budget for the Garrison School budget, which will be on the ballot on Tuesday (June 21) at the school. The district's first spending plan, which exceeded the tax cap with a request for a 9.18 percent increase, was defeated on May 17. A revised budget includes a 6.6 percent increase, which remains over the 2.2 percent cap for Garrison and so, under state law, will require approval by at least 60 percent of voters. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; voters who are not registered may do so at the school until 4 p.m. on Monday (June 20).

Below are excerpts from some of the letters received. The full letters and others are posted at highlandscurrent.org/gufs-vote.

In 1908, the *Cold Spring Recorder* published a celebratory account of the dedication ceremony for the Garrison Union Free School District's new stone building. The district was the successor to a free school originally started on the grounds of St. Philip's Church in 1793. The 1908 dedication was a community-wide, joyous occasion, with speeches from trustees emphasizing the importance of a high-quality education for a civil society. A musical concert by the 64 students honored the principal and teachers for their dedication and caring.

This strong tradition of the residents of Garrison coming together to support a school of quality is one that has continued for more than 200 years to the present day — at least until May 17. The excellence of the school has been a hallmark of our hamlet and a source of pride for students, graduates and neighbors. Over the years, there have been times when the taxes needed to support this K-8 school have had to increase by an amount that seems onerous — but the benefits to the community from a high-achieving educational institution available to all our households outweigh the costs. And we have benefited from the tax cap that has been in place for the past 11 years.

Please vote yes on Tuesday when the Garrison budget is presented again to voters with a 6.6 percent tax increase. And thank you for voting.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*
Prentice is a former president of the Garrison school board.

Many of us have heard the saying that a successful compromise means that neither side is happy. For the Garrison School budget vote on June 21, I am imploring every resident to vote yes for the scaled-back proposal, even if you are not completely comfortable with

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

the 6.6 percent increase. The alternative is too grim. This vote will reflect our community's character; let's show that we are a place that trusts our local institutions, prioritizes our youngest generation and can lock arms to do the right thing when called upon.

A story in the May 27 issue of *The Current* enumerated what we would lose by voting "no" this time around. Among the most jarring cuts: art class, music class, modified sports and the school psychologist. This is not hyperbole — it is what the school and the school board have carefully and reluctantly decided to cut if more than 40 percent of us vote "no." Despite some confusion, this is not a question of rampant administrative bloat. If you're still asking why the school couldn't have just stayed within the 2.2 percent, state-mandated cap, consider which of those aforementioned cuts you would deem acceptable to achieve that percentage.

School-related expenses are not exempt from the inflation gripping our country. Across our economy, the day-to-day things we buy cost 8.3 percent more than they did last year; with the proposed budget, the district will barely keep up. This fact is underscored by the pay freeze to which the Garrison teachers agreed after the initial 9.18 percent proposal was rejected. We should all keep in mind that those teachers' gas, electricity and grocery bills have also increased 8.3 percent over the past year, just like the rest of ours.

As we suffer these inexorable cost increases, it may be tempting to try to fight the inflationary tide in one of the only areas we feel we can control: the amount of school taxes we pay. But just because we can do that does not mean we should. Like so many of the choices with which we are faced, this is a question of choosing the hard right over the easy wrong. The school, Garrison's kids and the faculty and staff are at our mercy. We cannot let them down by letting the budget fall to the 0 percent-increase contingency, which is what automatically happens if we do not vote yes.

One caveat: I am not minimizing the pain that some will feel by paying an extra \$1 a day in taxes (\$1 represents the approximate increase for the median Garrison homeowner should the proposed budget pass). I cannot possibly speculate on how that increase will affect some of our community members. If you, in good faith, believe this "no" vote is crucial to ensuring your basic quality of life, it would be unethical and callous for anyone to criticize that decision. However, if you haven't substantially altered your life when gas prices rose from \$4 to \$4.50, or occasionally eat out at a restaurant without much concern, there is really no choice but to vote yes on June 21.

Chris Shaw, *Garrison*

As a single, working mother and small-business owner in Garrison battling Stage 4 breast cancer, I rely heavily on the support of the Garrison School. Since we arrived in the district, my children have reaped enormous benefits from the programs there, especially the school psychologist. She has

been there for us during some very tough times, when we didn't have a lot of support. I know firsthand how essential mental health care is at school.

I live beyond my means to keep my children in this school and will continue to work nonstop so that we can stay here. That others in our community would not approve a tax increase to keep vital programs for our children is unthinkable.

Please consider my children and all of the children here in Garrison. I cannot afford a tax increase, but I am voting yes and will do whatever I can for the sake of my community and my children.

Jennifer Colandra, *Garrison*

Anyone who thinks a \$100,000 salary for a person responsible for shaping the minds of children is excessive and can't swing another \$350 a year to contribute, maybe it's time to sell that \$700,000 house and head south.

Michael Detweiler, *Garrison*

Although we are retired public school educators, my wife and I voted against the Garrison School budget on May 17. It was the first time we had ever voted down a budget, something that was unthinkable to us in the past. We viewed the 9.18 percent increase as excessive, and felt that more should be done to rein in administrative costs. In short, we wanted to send the school board a message that it does not have a blank check.

In light of the new numbers, we both will vote in favor of the revised budget on June 21. A 6.6 percent increase is far more reasonable, especially when one considers the national rate of inflation. In addition, when schools operate on a contingency budget, children are deprived of several essential school services, and, as a result, their education is compromised. We strongly urge all voters to approve the budget on June 21.

Eric and Amy Richter, *Garrison*

My name is Sofia Rasic. I'm 14 years old and graduating from Garrison Union Free School this year. I am upset to hear that our school may be stripped of the arts, music and several other programs. Those classes are the ones that have made a large impact on me as both a person and a student. I have been playing an instrument at school for nearly five years, and became a part of the band. From music, I gained confidence in performing in front of people; it strengthened my character by challenging me to work through problems and forced me to feel good about asking for help.

Not only did I learn all of these things, but it allowed me to make friends that I wouldn't have had before. It gave me a passion for the arts, and because of that I will continue playing music throughout high school and hopefully beyond. I believe that by taking away the arts programs, including music, many children will be missing an essential part of school; making friends, learning through challenges and discovering one's passions.

Sofia Rasic, *Garrison**(Continued on Page 6)*

How They Voted (Update)

Governor signs round of abortion legislation

On Monday (June 13), Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a series of abortion laws. Below are summaries and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon). The laws:

■ Shield abortion providers from liability when working with patients who traveled from states where abortion may soon be limited or illegal following an anticipated U.S. Supreme Court ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Passed by Senate, 45-18

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 100-49

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Authorize a study of "limited-service pregnancy centers" to determine the ability of their patients "to obtain accurate, non-coercive health care information and timely access to a comprehensive range of reproductive and sexual health care services." These centers are typically operated by religious organizations that don't provide abortions.

Passed by Senate, 43-20

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 101-45

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Prohibit professional misconduct charges against health care practitioners who perform abortions on women who live in a state where abortion is illegal.

Passed by Senate, 46-17

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 103-46

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Prohibit medical malpractice insurance companies from taking action against health care practitioners who perform abortions on women who live in another state.

Passed by Senate, 41-22

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 103-46

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Allow abortion providers and their immediate family members, along with their employees, volunteers and patients, "to enroll in the state's address confidentiality program to protect themselves from threats."

Passed by Senate, 54-9

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 135-14

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Allow individuals who have been sued anywhere in the U.S. for providing abortions to countersue in New York for "unlawful interference with protected rights."

Passed by Senate, 41-22

Serino ☒

Passed by Assembly, 100-49

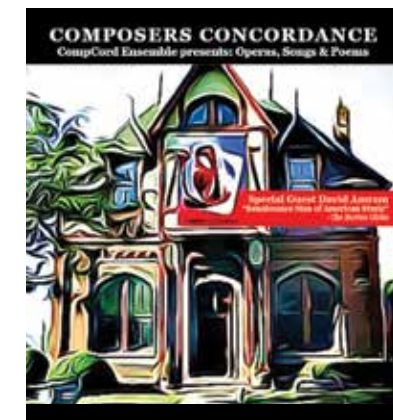
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

I have heard numerous times that the Garrison school board should have planned better or kept more reserve funds. It did. Our board has kept reserve funds at or above the legal limit of 4 percent of the operating budget for years. I urge you to check out the financial information, including the audit, posted at gufs.org if how your tax dollars are being spent is a concern.

How could anyone have anticipated the unforeseen costs of COVID and rising energy bills that impact the school budget and everyone's household expenses? Social Security recipients received a 5.9 percent increase in 2022 and most companies give a yearly cost-of-living increase, yet many seem to find it outrageous that our school needs to do something similar? Gas is the same painful price per gallon whether it's filling a car or a school bus. Our teachers and administration also face the same economic hardships, yet they agreed to freeze their salaries because the children mean that much to them. These incredible and caring people, most of whom do not live in this community, have families to support and have sacrificed so that our taxes can be lower.

Nobody wants to pay higher taxes, but everyone wants a strong home value. A family moving into the area will naturally look for the best school district for their children. We are surrounded by great towns with strong

districts, so why would families consider a school with, among others, no art or music programs and whose school ranking has tanked in part because of the loss of six excellent teachers and the school psychologist?

The law dictates that we have both a superintendent and principal. Contact Albany and express your concerns if you don't like it — as many seem not to — but please do not vote “no” to express your frustration with this law. Casting that “no” vote does not change it and you only hurt the children in our community. This is a free-market society, and everyone's salary everywhere reflects this reality, so why would salaries for them, as well as our teachers, be any different? As it is, our superintendent and principal's salaries rank at the bottom among school districts in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties.

The next time you are out in the community, look around at the children you see and keep in mind when you vote on June 21 that your vote has consequences for these children and others. It has consequences for the six teachers and school psychologist (plus their families) who have dedicated their time, energy and heart to teaching and supporting the children of GUFS. I urge you to join me in voting yes.

Julia Wynn, *Garrison*

Growing up in Garrison and attending the Garrison School in the 1990s, I always felt that it was a unique and special place. That small brick building was a place that

nurtured creativity, a sense of community, out-of-the-box learning and the passions of all its students and faculty members.

As our oldest child approached school age, I felt the urge to move from Chicago back to Garrison. I wanted my daughter to have experiences as enriching and enlivening as those that I knew GUFS would offer. The school has surpassed all my expectations. As our daughter entered kindergarten this past year, my husband and I were blown away by the enthusiasm of her teachers, by the approachable leadership of the school administrators and by the steady and comforting care of Nurse Melissa during the chaos of COVID.

So it's troubling, now, to see that the Garrison School could lose so much of what makes it an exceptional place, and one of the longtime hallmarks of our community.

Life is hard for so many right now. That's an understatement. I would ask you to consider, for a moment, how hard it has been for these kids and these teachers in recent years. Their flexibility and resilience have been inspiring. But they need us right now. There is no backstop after this budget vote. We cannot go back to the table to try again.

Allison Pataki, *Garrison*

Flag flying

I support the village in flying only the U.S. flag as a symbol of unity of all people, genders and faiths (“Cold Spring Weighs Flag Options,” June 10). It has flown since the inception of our country.

If additional flags are allowed to fly at the Village Hall, where would it end? How would other groups be treated? What if some groups, such as the Knights of Malta, National Rifle Association or Citizens of the Moon, would like their flags to fly? Would we say no to them, as well? Let's stop dividing the country over politics and special interests. If someone wants to fly a flag on their own property they should and are free to do so. But opening this up for all manner of flag-flyers will only cause more division among the populace and lead to more troubles.

Tony Bardes, *Philipstown*

I hope the Village of Cold Spring will choose to set a better precedent and come to understand how crucial public displays of Pride flags are for local LGBTQ+ people.

The government has historically discriminated against LGBTQ+ people, and with more than 300 anti-trans bills introduced in 2022 alone so far, it very much still does. To fly the Pride flag is a signal to the community that the local government stands behind LGBTQ+ people.

I know from personal experience that many on the Village Board do stand behind the community — they have supported Putnam Pride and made the decision to fly the Pride flags in the first place — but to now make the conscious choice not to fly the flags, before there has even been a complaint, just to avoid the discomfort of pushback, or work that Mayor Kathleen Foley has characterized as “a distraction,” is cowardly. And more than that, it is actively harmful to the LGBTQ+ community.

While other counties are falling all over

themselves to raise flags and show their support, I'm not aware that any municipality in Putnam has done so, except for Cold Spring. They should be commended, but to now walk it back for no good reason would not only be a shame, it would send a dangerous message to the people they're trying to avoid clashing with that the village can be bullied into doing whatever they want. I hope the village will reconsider its decision.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*
McDermott is the founder of Putnam Pride.

The idea that the Pride flag can't fly in Cold Spring because it would cause all kinds of groups to demand that theirs also be flown is a fabrication of the mayor's imagination. The only other request that has been made this year was to fly the Ukrainian flag. So where is the controversy that is causing this move, which will lead to the future banning of the LGBTQ+ flag?

It would serve the village well if our elected officials reach out to experienced officials in other local governments and learn how to do this without banning the flying of LGBTQ+ flags. If the governments of other municipalities have figured out how to do so, why can't ours?

If the mayor had simply allowed the Pride flag to fly without all this noise, very likely there would be no controversy. In fact, none existed before she decided to revise the flag regulation. Instead, her framing of this issue as being driven by an attempt to prevent requests for flag-flying from residents who support groups that she labels “abhorrent” (she's mentioned the National Rifle Association, National Right to Life and socialists) has drawn heat where there was none. The mayor has drawn these groups into the very war she says she wants to avoid. In the meantime, the Pride flag, which she has claimed she supports, will not fly again in the village, also drawing heat where there was none.

Now we are left with a situation that municipalities and states around the country have avoided by either having an approach of “all fly” or an approach with detailed processes to decide which flags fly. By banning all, the village hurts all — and we shall see if that means that neighbors turn on each other around these cultural issues or, perhaps, neighbors join forces across political differences to replace public officials who bungle the handling of issues that other local governments have figured out how to handle.

Gaston Alonso, *Cold Spring*

I would think that not allowing flags other than the U.S. flag to fly on village property would stop any culture wars among neighbors from ever beginning.

If you allow all flags to fly, you can't deny anyone. If you let each request become a community-wide debate, you'll create the unrest that we see now when this topic is discussed in local Facebook groups. Private homeowners and institutions should be able to fly whatever flag they want, and they do. Local governments saying we don't want constant debates about this, so let's limit it to the U.S. flag, is a wise decision.

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*



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Questions for Candidates: State Assembly Democrats

There will be three candidates in the June 28 Democratic primary for state Assembly District 95, which includes Philipstown. The seat had been held for nearly 30 years by Democrat Sandy Galef, who announced earlier this year she would not run.

Vanessa Agudelo (vanessaforny.com) is a former member of the Peekskill Common Council. She has been endorsed by the New York Working Families Party, Progressive Women of New York and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez.

Dana Levenberg (danaforassembly.com) is the Ossining town supervisor. She has been endorsed by Galef, as well as Philipstown Democrats and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

Colin Smith (colin4assembly.com) is a two-term member of the Westchester County Legislature, where his district includes Cortlandt, Peekskill and Yorktown. He is a former member of the Peekskill Common Council and has been endorsed by the Cortlandt Democratic Committee.

We asked each candidate to respond to two questions.

Why are you the best candidate for the Democratic line?

Agudelo: I'm the best candidate to face our district's challenges head-on because I'm the one with a record not just of progressive policies, but years of bold progressive action. I came into this work as an activist after watching the community I grew up in exploited, endangered and polluted for the sake of profit, all while working families like mine struggled to make ends meet.

Professionally, I have years of experience working in state policy and advocacy, and most recently led the successful fight to establish the Excluded Worker Fund, a historic statewide \$2.1 billion investment in pandemic relief for undocumented workers, made possible by raising taxes on the ultra-wealthy. Even as a city council member, I've creatively used every tool available to leverage my power and advocate on issues impacting our communities to move important legislation forward — testifying at state and federal hearings, lobbying state and federal officials, organizing protests and town halls with issue experts and those directly impacted. After



Vanessa Agudelo

years of organizing as part of a statewide movement, I believe our campaign is best positioned to usher in the kind of change working families need in this urgent moment, and we would make history by electing the first Latina outside of New York City into the state Legislature by doing so.

Levenberg: Voters who want a representative with the experience, knowledge and skills to hit the ground running on Day One and deliver results should choose me. For progress on all the issues voters in this district care most about — climate action, economic recovery, affordability, women's rights, gun reform and so on — you need an effective legislator. People who know well what it takes to be successful in this role, including the current Assemblywoman, Sandy Galef, have endorsed me for this reason. Indeed, of all the candidates in the race, I have the most endorsements from people and organizations who know this district, the candidates and the job.

My approach is very different from that of my opponents. I am an active and engaged leader; I'm the type to attend every meeting, ask lots of questions and pore over details. I also surround myself with people who complement my knowledge and skills, and build strong relationships and collaborations that endure over time and produce results.

I am in my seventh year as the Ossining town supervisor, following nine years as a school board trustee and eight years as Sandy Galef's chief of staff. I've accomplished a lot in my career, with a strong record of results on the environment, improving the fiscal health of Ossining, expanding affordable housing, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools and the community, and more.

Smith: My story starts in Peekskill, where I was raised in a union home by mixed-race parents — one Black, one white. Like many of our neighbors, my parents worked hard to make ends meet and afford me the opportunities to get a quality education. As a proud public school and community college graduate, I know that a good public education can level the playing field for every kid, no matter their background or ZIP code.

That's why I got involved in politics —



Dana Levenberg

Other June 28 Primaries

Governor (Democratic)

Kathy Hochul
Thomas Suozzi
Jumaane Williams

Governor (Republican)

Rob Astorino
Andrew Giuliani
Harry Wilson
Lee Zeldin

Lt. Governor (Democratic)

Ana Maria Archila
Antonio Delgado
Diana Reyna

first on the Peekskill school board, then the Peekskill Common Council, and now the Westchester County Legislature. I'm ready to bring that experience to Albany.

I was the first Democrat ever elected to my county legislative seat and will be the first person of color to represent the 95th Assembly District. I have made a career of giving voice to the voiceless and standing up for everyone from all walks of life. I hope you will join me in this historic campaign.

What do you feel are the two most pressing issues facing the 95th District?

Agudelo: Our district is facing the brunt of many overlapping crises: increasingly unaffordable housing pushing working families out of neighborhoods; the reckless greed of dirty energy companies threatening our climate, drinking water and safety; and the need to overhaul a broken health care system whose injustices and inefficiencies have been illuminated during this pandemic. Without recognizing the conditions that enable this growing gap of inequality in one of the richest states in the U.S., none of these issues is put in context.

Whether you are a renter or a homeowner, the costs of living are becoming impossible to manage for all of us. While billionaires get richer, the middle- and lower-income class are being squeezed out



Colin Smith

and forced to carry the brunt of running society. The wrong people are being taxed, but to change this we need bold leaders in Albany who are not beholden to corporate interests and who will fight to center the needs of the people and our climate. We must reform our outdated tax system, close unfair tax loopholes and make the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share to ensure the prosperity in our state is shared by all.

Levenberg: Everything I do is part of my mission to build healthy communities in every sense of the word — environmentally, economically, mentally and physically, all through the lens of equity. I list the environment first for a reason. Because the 95th is largely composed of river towns, combating climate change and promoting environmental resiliency must be a top priority for our next representative. And it is not enough for that representative to be able to describe the problem; they also need to be able to work productively with other legislators to get things done.

I am best positioned to deliver results in this regard. Economic recovery, housing and health care are also critical issues that need to be addressed — for all of these things, and more, we need a legislator who will be effective on Day One.

Smith: I ran for office to protect our kids, our tax dollars and our communities. As a county legislator, I'm proud of my record where I've (1) led the charge to create an office of police accountability, (2) sponsored a bill to increase penalties for trespassing and verbal attacks on women at abortion clinics seeking the necessary health care they deserve, (3) helped keep our community hospitals open in the height of COVID-19 and (4) worked with other local officials to electrify our county bus system.

We can build on these accomplishments for the 95th Assembly District. I'm running to bring my progressive values and results-driven approach to Albany. I'll work with my colleagues to provide necessary funding and broadband access to our schools, fight for high-quality health care for all New Yorkers and generate sustainable jobs to help our workers and environment.

Early Voting

Early voting for the primary election will take place daily from June 18 to 26. Philipstown residents can vote at the North Highlands Firehouse, 504 Fishkill Road. See putnamboe.com for hours. Beacon residents can vote at Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52. See elections.dutchessny.gov for hours.

Dutchess Mall (from Page 1)

The warehouse would have roughly the same footprint as the existing buildings, and a wetlands area at the rear of property would not be disturbed, the developer said.

The Town of Fishkill has long encouraged redevelopment of the mall, which has been closed since 2001. “The site has been abandoned and in a state of disrepair for decades, and prior administrations achieved nothing at this property,” said Supervisor Ozzy Albra in a statement. “I’m glad we’re now looking at a proposal for redevelopment, beautification and economic growth.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses

At the same time, a religious denomination has told the Planning Board it would like to construct a recreational complex just north of Beacon, about a mile west of Dutchess Stadium.

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York has applied for approval to build what it calls the Fishkill Support Center of Jehovah’s Witnesses, an office and recreational facility for volunteers and members. The site is at Chelsea Industrial Park, an area north of the I-84 interchange that on its west borders land owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Although the two parcels, which total about 57 acres, are zoned “planned industrial,” the Mount Gulian Historic Site and several residential developments are nearby.

The organization said it plans to construct a 47,000-square-foot, two-story



A developer plans to transform the abandoned southern end of the Dutchess Mall in Fishkill into a warehouse facility. *Photo by Chip Rowe*

office building and a 15,000-square-foot maintenance building. It would also reconstruct an existing 14,500-square-foot warehouse for storage and exercise use and add an accessory park with soccer and softball fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, and meditation areas.

A 247-space parking lot is also included in the plans.

Residents from Fishkill and surrounding municipalities have expressed concern about the size of the proposal and the traffic and noise it could generate.

Beacon resident Theresa Kraft warned the Planning Board at its June 9 meeting of the “proliferation of overdevelopment in southern Dutchess,” saying that “especially in the areas of Route 9D, it is imperative” that the town “scale back this extensive overbuild.”

Kraft said the proposed construction

“will forever change our historic viewsheds from the Hudson River and the future greenway trail proposed along the river.”


Faisal Beg, who lives in the nearby Holly Ridge development, wrote in a letter to the board that when his family bought its property in 2004, “we were promised waterfront development and a quiet neighborhood.”

With Brockway Road and Route 9D “so crowded in the evening, which is when most games would happen [at the complex], it will be a nightmare,” Beg said.


Residents have also said they’re worried that the project will disturb previous environmental contamination at the site.

In their project materials, Watchtower officials say the group has gone to great effort to “avoid disturbance of the environmental remediation area by proposing development that will maintain the 2-foot depth soil cap.” The plans restrict the installation of lighting, bleachers or sound stations in the areas of the softball and soccer fields. Backstops, goals and fencing will be placed on the surface of the ground, rather than underground.

In addition, fill from an “on-site spoils pile” will be used to increase the depth of the soil cap, using soil that has been approved by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, it said. According to the DEC, remediation of the site was completed in 2014; it was purchased by the Watchtower Society in 2015.




Real Estate



Market Report (May)

| | Beacon | | Philipstown | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 |
| New Listings | 11 | 19 | 14 | 16 |
| Closed Sales | 5 | 14 | 3 | 10 |
| Days on Market | 25 | 77 | 10 | 54 |
| Median Price | \$450,000 | \$609,000 | \$790,000 | \$677,501 |
| % List Received | 107.5 | 93.2 | 103.0 | 103.3 |
| Inventory | 18 | 19 | 47 | 33 |


Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



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Sheriff Patrols (from Page 1)

crat, she represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

McConville responded in April that, “contrary to past practices, I will not address any specifics regarding patrol operations, including the number or location of patrol posts, other than to assure everyone that patrols are assigned to provide effective and responsible public safety services in the towns that comprise Putnam County.”

When Montgomery later pressed for details, her Republican colleagues objected.

As the county launched the study, Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin noted that questions about deputy overtime did not originate with Langley. “We’ve been going back and forth” on overtime since at least the tenure of Sheriff Robert Thoubboron, who left office in 2001, he reminded legislators. “We never seem to get past the arguing and bickering about what is right, so we thought we’d bring in an independent analysis.”

A 2018 *Highlands Current* examination of overtime among Putnam County employees showed that seven of the top 10 earners were sheriff’s deputies. The others were two corrections officers and the highway crew chief. The nine officers applied for an average of 10 to 18 extra hours per week.

Following the November election, when *The Current* submitted a Freedom of Information Law request for the Bonadio report, the county said it was “not in possession” of the document. In December, after the paper filed a second FOIL request for any drafts of the report, the county said drafts were internal memos exempt from disclosure. It also ignored Montgomery’s requests.

Bonadio produced multiple drafts before Odell accepted a version completed Jan. 31. She provided it to legislators on June 8, asking that the Protective Services Committee, chaired by Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, discuss the document at its meeting on Thursday (June 23).

Road Patrols

The Bonadio report includes details about road patrols assigned to three shifts during the Langley administration.

Daytime/Evening:

Six patrols

- 1 Philipstown; 2 Putnam Valley;
- 3 Southeast; 4 Patterson;
- 5 Philipstown/Putnam Valley and backup to Cold Spring police;
- 6 Southeast/Patterson plus backup to Carmel/Kent/Brewster police

Overnight:

Five patrols

- 1 Philipstown; 2 Putnam Valley;
- 3 Southeast; 4 Patterson;
- 5 Southeast/Patterson plus Carmel/Kent/Brewster backup to local police. A sixth patrol was assigned to Philipstown/Putnam Valley on weekends.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Number of cases: | Positive Tests, 7-day average: | Percent vaccinated: | Number of deaths: |
| 26,132 (+173) | 7.7% (-0.8) | 82.9 | 125 (0) |
| Cold Spring: 94.7 / Garrison: 86.8 | | | |

DUTCHESS COUNTY

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Number of cases: | Positive Tests, 7-day average: | Percent vaccinated: | Number of deaths: |
| 70,276 (+448) | 8.6% (-0.4) | 77.3 | 664 (+1) |
| Beacon: 72.4 | | | |

Source: State and county health departments, as of June 15, 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.

In a letter to Nacerino, Odell complained that Bonadio’s study contains “factual inaccuracies and lack of correct data” and “faulty conclusions.” (The report and her responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org.)

But in a phone interview Wednesday (June 15), Langley said that the report “just reinforces what I’ve said all along: Putnam County needs to hire more deputies to serve those who live here, visit here and pass through here.” He said Odell had refused to let him fill some positions when vacancies occurred, “which left us short-staffed.”

Citing Justice Department sources, the Bonadio report said that, nationally, the average ratio is 2½ full-time officers for every 1,000 residents; Putnam has just under one officer for every 1,000 residents.

That shortfall means road-patrol members “don’t have sufficient backup to go on some calls,” Langley claimed. “I can’t even count the number of deputies injured while effectuating arrests because they don’t have sufficient backup.”

Bonadio pointed out that the Sheriff’s Department assigns 48 percent of its officers to road patrol, but that the average, according to a study it cited, is 60 percent. Putnam’s lower figure “may indicate that resources are under-allocated to road patrol,” the report said.

Langley asserted that McConville has, in fact, reduced patrols from six to five. Despite his successor’s claim, he said, the number and location of patrols “is not confidential information” and revealing it “does not hinder an investigation or an officer’s safety. We, as taxpayers, have a right to know: What do we pay for? How many cars do we have out there?”

Along with scrutinizing overtime, Bonadio looked at “workload saturation,” the amount of time a deputy spends answering calls for service. A study capped the desired maximum at 60 percent, but Putnam’s daytime road patrol spends 68 percent of its time responding to calls, Bonadio found.

Cutting road patrols from six to five would increase daytime deputies’ workload saturation to 81 percent, but if the county added a seventh deputy to the day shift, saturation would decline to 58 percent, it said. It cautioned that high saturation “may contribute to a less proactive, more reactionary style of policing.”

COVID-19 arrived in early 2020. Before vaccines existed, Odell excoriated Langley for directing deputies exposed to the virus to stay home to quarantine. County officials informed Bonadio of their doubts about the

Sheriff’s Department approach. Ultimately, Bonadio determined that only 7 percent of time off in 2020 involved COVID quarantines.

However, in her letter to Nacerino, Odell maintained that the impact of “COVID time” on overtime “was not addressed” by Bonadio.

Bonadio also wrote that, under Langley, the Sheriff’s Department seemed to schedule vacations and other time-off wisely to prevent overtime.

The consultants reported that Putnam allots 32 slots for road patrol deputies, but that during the review period four were vacant. By Jan. 31, three deputies had been added, bringing the patrol total to 31.

Among other recommendations, Bonadio advised that another deputy be assigned to daytime patrol, for six plus a backup; that evening patrols be reduced to five

plus a backup; and that the midnight shift continue on Sunday to Thursday with six deputies plus a backup and on Friday and Saturday deploy six deputies plus a backup. Bonadio likewise advocated increasing the patrol force to 33 deputies.

Expressing frustration with the report, Odell told Nacerino that “my office does not feel that there are any changes to the operations of the Sheriff’s Department which guarantee that the use of overtime would be reduced.” But she added that she felt “cautiously optimistic that new and effective management of the department [under McConville] and a better understanding of police procedures will assist the county in reducing the amount of overtime.”

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **PIANO PARTNERS** — Fifth graders Carla Coleman and Celest Marshall attend different school districts — Haldane and Beacon — but have played together for six years and last month performed “Upside Down Tango” at a New York State School Music Association festival, says their instructor, Sarah Terrell of Piano Adventures Beacon. The piece required the students to switch places on the bench while keeping the music going.

Photo provided



▲ **GIRLS ON THE RUN** — Third and fourth graders from the Haldane and Garrison school districts competed in a 5K run on June 4 at Rockland Lake State Park. The girls trained for two months at the Philipstown Recreation Center and were coached by Garrison teachers Sara Stevenson and Natalie Beglan and Cold Spring resident Julie Pearson.

Photo provided



◀ **PRIDE MONTH** — In Brewster, Putnam Pride on Sunday (June 12) held its third annual march and rally, with activists, politicians and performers. Here, Jill Paxton of The Monkeytown Milk Spillers and Bret Fox entertain the crowd of about 200 people.

Photo by Laurie Doppman

After a ceremony, ▶ Mayor Lee Kyriacou on June 4 raised a Pride flag outside City Hall in Beacon.

Photo by Valerie Shively



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BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

| PROPERTIES | CITY | BEDS | BATHS | SQ FT | SOLD! |
|--------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 89 Union St. | Beacon | 4 | 2/0 | 3,198 | \$595,000 |
| 156 Depuyster Ave. | Beacon | 4 | 2/0 | 1,816 | \$680,510 |
| 42 Rende Dr. | Beacon | 4 | 2/1 | 2,040 | \$706,000 |
| 33 N Cedar St. | Beacon | 3 | 3/0 | 2,808 | \$747,500 |
| 5 Dutchess Terr. | Beacon | 5 | 3/0 | 3,900 | \$835,000 |
| 82 Mountain Ln. | Beacon | 3 | 3/0 | 3,200 | \$1,225,000 |

PHILIPSTOWN

| PROPERTIES | CITY | BEDS | BATHS | SQ FT | SOLD! |
|----------------------|-------------|------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 6 Norwegian Wood | Philipstown | 2 | 2/1 | 2,800 | \$710,000 |
| 444 Sprout Brook Rd. | Philipstown | 3 | 2/0 | 2,594 | \$845,000 |

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Beacon, NY
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3/1 Bathrooms
3,000 Sq Ft
\$1,295,000



THE
GATE HOUSE
TEAM

COMPASS

The Calendar

The Art of Conversation

Show includes paintings created among friends

By Alison Rooney

Nearly every year from 2002 or so (no one was keeping track) until 2018, a group of Philipstown women gathered during the winter months to create art.

Most of the years the women met in the afternoons over five weeks, usually at the Garrison Art Center. “It has such beautiful views, but we never looked outside,” recalls Grace Kennedy, because of the intense afternoon sunlight, which compelled the women to close the shades. She recalls the sessions, which began in January, as “five weeks of want,” which she took from a Native American description of when the stored harvest ran out.

The other women called Kennedy, who has an MFA from the Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts), the class teacher, which she calls “insane. I’d set up, and we’d paint. There were lively conversations going on. I would walk around and ask each person about what they were doing. I can look at each painting now and tell you what we talked about.”

Kennedy’s paintings from the gatherings have been unrolled from the cylinders in her closet, framed and placed on display in a solo exhibition at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring that continues through June 26.



Grace Kennedy

“I would walk around and ask each person about what they were doing. I can look at each painting now and tell you what we talked about.”

Other members included singer Judy Foster, cakemaker and decorator Mim Galligan, author and illustrator Jean Marzollo and artist Sheila Rauch.

Kennedy has particularly vivid memories of Marzollo, who died in 2018. “Jean would use a whole table, and she’d move around it, working on multiple pieces, little bits of color she’d gel, or painting on paper bags, which she sometimes cut up,” she recalls.

Rauch, she says, “could do anything. She

Painted watercolors, with an amazing line. She’d paint the full three hours and finish it at home.”

Kennedy’s paintings on view at Buster Levi each center on the fruit, food or toys brought to the sessions as props. Once, it was a fish. “I bought it from [River-view restaurant proprietor] Jim Ely. He asked what kind I wanted, and I said it didn’t matter,” Kennedy says. “Sheila and I painted the fish; she was the only person there that day. I put it in this show; I still don’t know what kind of fish it is!”

While Kennedy says she typically works alone — “I’ll take advice and then regret it” — the sessions were freeing because they “made it feel like it didn’t mean as much, in a good way. It became an exercise.”

The group dwindled and stopped meeting when Marzollo became ill. Kennedy’s artwork might have languished had she not had a moment of worry

about her looming Levi show, which was first scheduled for July.

“I thought I’d be displaying what I was working on, a body of work,” she says. “When it switched to June, I panicked, of course, and started rooting around my studio. Jean had been bugging me for years to show them. I’d say, ‘But they’re just still lifes.’ Usually what I bring to show is still wet, or I’m still changing them. Once I committed, I got them all framed. It was helpful that years ago, if I didn’t like something I did, I tossed it, then and there, so those are long gone.”

Kennedy and her husband moved to Garrison in 1991, after spending a few months staying with friends who were caretaking a house at Mystery Point. Soon after, Kennedy and her husband were asked to become the caretakers of a different Garrison house that had a barn, perfect for painting. Eventually, they moved nearby.

Kennedy doesn’t paint all that often nowadays — her career as a garden designer has taken precedence. “It’s physically exhausting and ridiculously ephemeral, so if you don’t take care of something, things will go wrong,” she explains.

But she kept some of her paintings from all those years painting with friends. In an exhibition note, she calls them “time capsules and mementos of those lively days.”

The Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St., will be open in June from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. See busterlevigallery.com.



“Pears Relaxing”



“Fish on a Plate”



“Iron Bird and Orange”

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 18

Potting Event

GARRISON

10 a.m. – Noon. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way | bit.ly/potting-event

Members of Wild Woods Restoration, a volunteer network that is growing native plants for forest regeneration, will demonstrate how to transplant seedlings and care for them until they are ready for planting. Register online.

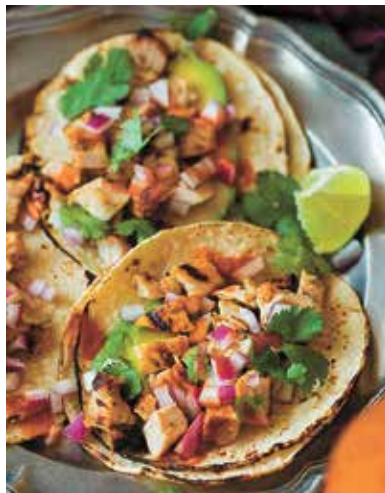
SAT 25

Hudson Valley Taco Fest

BEACON

1 – 5:30 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | hvtafest.com

Meat, seafood, vegetarian and vegan options will be available. Mariachi music, a DJ and drinks will fill out the afternoon. *Cost: \$20 to \$79*



SAT 25

Community Day

BEACON

1 – 4 p.m. Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9D | hhft.org

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will host this event with music by Hudson Lovell, art with Dani Locastro, free ice cream and family activities. There will also be information about the project.

SAT 25

NY Cider and Cheese Marketplace

GARRISON

1 – 6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Sample from more than 20 cider and cheesemakers and take self-guided tours of the historic mansion. *Cost: \$23 to \$38*

SUN 26

Say Their Names

BEACON

7 p.m. Polhill Park
Main and South | compassarts.org

A silent procession will begin at the corner of North Chestnut and

Main street and continue to the park. Suprina will lead the march with a sculpture of Themis, the blind Greek goddess of justice. Poet Gold and the Sounds of Heritage, a Newburgh choir, will perform “Say Their Names,” a work that honors Black, brown and poor people who have been killed by police.

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 24

Rear Window

BEACON

6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Bannerman Island’s summer movie series will begin with this 1954 Hitchcock thriller starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly about a man who spies on his neighbors while convalescing and becomes convinced one of them committed a murder. *Cost: \$40*

FRI 24

Film Festival

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
peekskillfilmfestival.org

There will be workshops, networking events and screenings of features, shorts, documentaries and animation as part of this annual event. Also SAT 25. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 25

Patti Murin

BEACON

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

Murin, a native of East Fishkill who played Princess Anna in *Frozen*, as well as other Broadway roles, will perform with Beacon Performing Arts Center students and alumni in a concert featuring familiar showtunes. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 students/children)*

SAT 25

Ghostbusters

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
Upper Landing Park | walkway.org

Movies Under the Walkway returns with the 1984 film starring Dan Akroyd, Ernie Hudson, Harold Ramis and Bill Murray as parapsychologists who offer a ghost removal service in New York City. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 25

A League of Their Own

COLD SPRING

8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society kicks off its summer season with this 1992 film directed by Penny Marshall set during World War II when a group

of women are scouted to step in for male baseball players. It stars Geena Davis, Madonna, Rosie O'Donnell and Tom Hanks. Bring chairs, food and insect repellent. *Free*

JUNETEENTH

SAT 18

Celebration with Jazz

GARRISON

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

Jasper Cain and the Rhythm Collective will perform during a program that will include a discussion about the meaning of Juneteenth and readings by students.

SUN 19

Family Story Time

COLD SPRING

12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Enjoy a reading and discussion about the meaning of Juneteenth.

SUN 19

Imani Perry

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Perry will read from and discuss her latest book, *South to America*, which attempts to shift the perception of the American South. *Free*



SUN 19

Celebration

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
facebook.com/beacon4blacklives

Beacon4BlackLives will host this community event with food, games, tarot readings and dancing. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 18

Summer Stories at Sunset

GARRISON

7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will share tales of nature and summer.



Mothball Fleet on the Hudson, June 18

Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$8 children/teens, free 5 and younger)

THURS 23

Summer Reading Kick-Off

COLD SPRING

Noon. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The theme for the 2022 reading contest will be Oceans of Possibilities. The kickoff will include crafts, food and carnival activities. Register online.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 18

Mothball Fleet on the Hudson

FISHKILL

3 p.m. Village Hall | 1095 Main St.
fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

At the end of World War II, the U.S. had thousands of ships to store. Eight sites were selected, and 189 were sent to the Hudson River near Peekskill, where they remained until 1972. Historian Tony Musso will provide details in this presentation hosted by the Fishkill Historical Society.

THURS 23

Online Privacy and Your Data

GARRISON

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

As part of its Digital Literacy series, the library will provide tips on how to protect yourself from having your personal information misused online.

SAT 25

Mason Bees

BREWSTER

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

These gentle, nesting, native, wild bees are extraordinary pollinators and there are some easy ways to support them in your landscape. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 25

Guided Hike

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Mark Forlow, chair of the Putnam History Museum and author of a book about the Foundry, will lead this tour and discuss the site's history. Register online. *Cost: \$10*

PATH THROUGH HISTORY

SAT 18

2,000 Steps

GARRISON

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Follow several mile-long loops that will feature staff from local organizations who will highlight historical, horticultural and avian connections. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$7 children/teens; free age 4 and younger)*

SAT 18

The Kembles and the West Point Foundry

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 20 The Boulevard
westpointfoundrybedandbreakfast.com

William Kemble, co-owner of the West Point Foundry, built “The Cottage” in 1826 as his elegant country home. Tour the home, which has been restored, and hear about the famous visitors whom Kemble entertained. Register online. *Cost: \$5*

SAT 18

Colonial Carpentry

FORT MONTGOMERY

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. | 690 Route 9W

Carpenters were working at Fort Montgomery throughout 1776 and 1777 constructing barracks, storehouses and fortifications. Try your hand with a froe and mallet and wood auger. *Free*

SAT 18

After Yorktown: Path to Newburgh

NEWBURGH

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

When Yorktown was captured by the Continental Army, it was viewed as the end of the Revolutionary War. Find out what Gen. George Washington did next. *Cost: \$7 (\$5 seniors, children)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 18

Open Studios

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 5 p.m. Various
poughkeepsieopenstudios.org

More than 40 artists will open their studios, along with dozens of art centers and galleries. See the website for locations. Also SUN 19.

SAT 18
Eric G. Wagner Memorial GARRISON
2 – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Wagner, a founding member of the art center, who died in 2021, will be celebrated with a collection of his paintings, sculptures and objects. Also SUN 19.

SAT 18
Design is One PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

The fifth annual Cinema in Piazza will feature a documentary about the Italian designers Lella and Massimo Vignelli. Director Kathy Brew and designer Beatriz Cifuentes will discuss the film before the screening. Artecinema and the Cold Spring Film Society are co-hosts. *Cost: \$10 (\$7 locals and seniors, \$5 children/students)*

SUN 19
Swept Away PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

Lina Wertmüller's 1974 film will be shown following an introduction by Elizabeth Alsop. *Cost: \$10 (\$7 locals and seniors, \$5 children/students)*

SAT 25
Zoë Buckman/Vanessa German BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

In *We Flew Over the Wild Winds of Wild Fires*, the artists' work creates a dialogue that reclaims their ancestral heritage. The artists will discuss their work at 4 p.m.



SAT 25
Summer Night NEW WINDSOR
5:30 – 9 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115
stormking.org

This after-hours event will include new art, a performance by Vagabon and food from Pizza Vitale and Farmhouse Market. *Cost: \$55*



Storm King Summer Night, June 25

MUSIC
SAT 18
Out to Lunch PUTNAM VALLEY
6 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Howie Bujese, Wayne Fugate, Michael Gold, Susan Sassano, Michael Sassano and Joe Selly will perform an eclectic range of music from classical to bluegrass. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 18
Tom Chapin & Friends BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The three-time Grammy winner will share his classic songs and folk stories. Food donations will be accepted for the St. Andrew's and St. Luke's pantry. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 19
Wild Irish Roses BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

As part of Bannerman Island's Third Sunday Music series, this Celtic family band (mom, dad and their eight children) will perform. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 children)*

SUN 19
Hot Club of Cowtown BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The band's music has been described as "where country meets jazz and chases the blues away." *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

MON 20
Jazz Night BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnnsbeacon

Richard Bonnet, Michaël Attias and Sylvain Darrifourcq will perform as part of Quinn's weekly jazz series. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 24
The Circus Does Dylan BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Slambovian Circus of Dreams will perform a set of Bob Dylan covers. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 25
Feel Good Music Series PEEKSKILL
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Charles Point
1 John Walsh Blvd.
facebook.com/feelgoodmusicpeekskill

Gillian Margot, Love Honey and Katy Maeve will perform at 11 a.m., followed at noon by a student band, string ensemble and dance performance. Also SUN 26, when Marion Cowlings, Reencuentro Andino and the Blue Chips will perform. There will be food trucks on site. *Free*

SAT 25
Cortlandt String Quartet PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

The quartet — violinist Andy Stein, cellist Leo Grinhauz and violists Rachel Evans and Sarah Adams — will perform a program of chamber music. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 25
The Swan Becomes the Sun NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave.
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a program at Aquinas Hall that includes works by Nielsen, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius. *Cost: \$25 to \$50 (students free)*

SAT 25
Composers Concordance BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

For this third annual event, artists, composers and performers from Beacon and New York City will perform new works, including David Amram's "Pull my Daisy Reimagined," Faye-Ellen Silverman's "Channeling Twain: Advice for Our Time," Debra Kaye's "Snow" and Gene Pritsker's "The Meeting." *Cost: \$20*

SAT 25
Sloan Wainwright Band BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The songwriter and singer will perform music from her latest release, *Red Maple Tree*. Trae Sheehan will join her. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 26
Bohemian Trio COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Yosvany Terry (saxophone), Yves Dharamraj (cello) and Orlando Alonso (piano) will perform classical jazz and world music. Donations are welcome. *Free*

SUN 26
Grant Peebles PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Bassist Erik Alvar will join the folk performer and poet. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 26
Brasiles Ensemble BEACON
4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The octet will perform music from the medieval, Renaissance and baroque periods with a fashion show of period pieces. The singers will be accompanied by Richard Kolb (lute and theorbo), James Fitzwilliam (harpsichord and organ) and Holly Mentzer (recorder, viola da gamba). *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 26
Chris Trapper BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and storyteller will perform an acoustic set. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

PRIDE MONTH

SAT 18
Pride in the Park NEWBURGH
Noon – 5 p.m. Downing Park
123 Carpenter Ave.
facebook.com/NewburghLGBTQCenter

There will be music, food and vendors at the city's first Pride festival.

SAT 18
Pride Dance Party BEACON
2 – 6 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ

Compass Arts, the Beacon Human Rights Commission, Beacon Queer Liberation and Mid-Hudson Proud Families will host this event with a DJ and art activities.



Bohemian Trio, June 26

CIVIC
SAT 18
Primary Early Voting PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road
845-808-1300 | putnamboe.com
Daily through SUN 26.

SAT 18
Primary Early Voting FISHKILL
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Town Hall
807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov
Daily through SUN 26.

TUES 21
Second Budget Vote GARRISON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689 x224
gufs.org

Voters will be asked to consider a proposed budget for 2022-23 that has a 6.6 percent increase in spending. Because that is over the state-mandated 2.2 percent cap for Garrison, 60 percent of voters must approve. The board will meet at 10 p.m. to certify the vote.

TUES 21
City Council BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 21
School Board BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

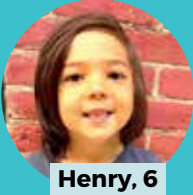
TUES 21
School Board COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 21
Village Board NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

WED 22
Village Board COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov



Zahara, 7



Henry, 6



Gabriel, 7



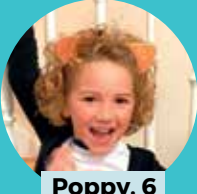
Evan, 17



Juliet, 4



Violet, 11



Poppy, 6



Aaden, 12



Emily, 13



Joey, 13



Perla, 10



Auggie, 4



Aviv, 10



Louise, 6



Rafi, 7



Axel, 10



Thomas, 6



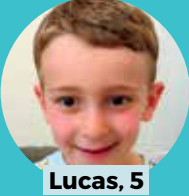
Sela, 13



Luca, 11



Evelyn, 7



Lucas, 5



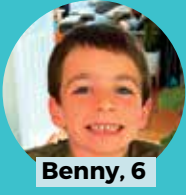
Jasper, 7



Archer, 13



Kaiser, 12



Benny, 6



Sofia, 14



Ari, 6



Colby, 6



Hudson, 7



Leah, 5



James, 15



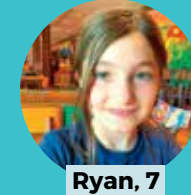
Juniper, 2.5



George, 15



Grady, 4



Ryan, 7



Elsa, 12

VOTE FOR
OUR FUTURE
APPROVE GARRISON SCHOOL BUDGET
6.21.22
7AM - 9PM | GARRISON SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
GARRISON COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Public Pottery

Beacon studio offers intro to ceramics

By Alison Rooney

For Dani Rzepnicki, the owner of Silica Studio in Beacon, ceramics is an art form but also something to put to use.

"If you interact heavily with what you're making, it brings up the quality of life," she says. Surrounding yourself with handmade items that are functional "gives you a healthy mindfulness."

Rzepnicki, who has been studying ceramics since high school, decided the time was right to open a public pottery studio — "a place for people to come in and get creative."

Since it opened in August, Silica has attracted mostly beginners, she says, including "people who are ex-corporate world — one was a foreign exchange hedge fund manager — who are trying to reinvent themselves and bring some vibrancy and creativity back into their lives." Potters with more experience typically need more space than the narrow gallery can provide, she says, and the artists who use the wheels are usually learning precise hand movements.

The studio is "curated to each person and their goals," Rzepnicki says. "I have a member who wants to practice by herself. Another wants to take as many precision learning classes as she can. Some people have tremors, some have long nails — everyone has different hands and movement. You can use a sponge, knuckles, fingertips in multiple ways to make the clay rise and make a piece. We're not a place where a teacher just does a demo for a large class."

Rzepnicki, who grew up in Kingston and spent a lot of time in New Paltz, says she has always been interested in art, despite prodding from her first-generation Mexican and third-generation Japanese families to pursue medicine or engineering.

"I remember talking to my family about wanting to go to Pratt Institute for an arts degree and my uncle said, 'We're Mexican; we don't do that.' For a while I was going to



Studio manager Rachel Miller and owner Dani Rzepnicki



Rachel Miller, Bob Rogers and Jill Facko work during a class.

Photos provided

go into medicine, but I knew I'd be miserable. Ceramics was my first and main discipline. I was an illustrator growing up, but I got fixated on clay in high school, mainly hand-building, which I honed."

Some family members were supportive, she says, "which I was thankful for. But I felt like it had taken so long for me to accept myself that I was complacent at moments that needed active decision-making, when I should have

been looking for schools and programs."

She wound up at a community college, where she usually spent all night in the art studio, "breaking curfew, because of my obsession," she says. She learned technique from potters such as Christine Owen and Joy Brown, and also "got a peek into their lives, which made me feel like this was the path I wanted to go on. After a while, whatever medium you practice, you get an eye for quality and begin to see the small imperfections that others may not. Being a master is being able to see the small details others may look over."

Rzepnicki moved to Beacon where a friend told her of a position at Niche Modern, designers of handmade lighting and chandelier fixtures, in which she could learn to blow glass.

"I picked it up pretty quickly, probably because I have a trained eye for centering," she says. "Your entire body has to engage — your mind and your fingers have to synchronize." She remains a glassblower and studio technician there.

In addition to the studio space, Silica Studio hosts a gallery that shows mostly ceramics by artists from the Hudson Valley, as well as Rzepnicki's pieces. The pieces are a mix — "elegant glasswork mixed with something comic," she says. "It's a culture clash, which is also me as a person: I've had identity crises my whole life!"

Silica is located in a narrow space, which can raise concerns about COVID-19, Rzepnicki says. The staff is vaccinated, and she tells clients Silica will do whatever makes them feel comfortable. "I was naïve in the beginning about when things would go back to normal, but we haven't had any issues," she says.

She says many people who pass by on Main Street "freak out with excitement — there's a space for people to make art. They can try it and don't have to commit." She adds that the studio is LGBTQ+ friendly and "a safe space for kids in the queer community to come and be comfortable."

Silica Studio, at 428 Main St., in Beacon, is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed except for private lessons on Monday and Tuesday. To book studio time or attend a class, visit siliicastudio845.com or call 845-546-5040.

JOBS!! JOBS!! JOBS!!

Community Services Programs, Inc., Owner & Manager of DiMarco Place I & II Senior Housing; Meadow Ridge I & II Family & Senior Housing; and, Highland Meadows Senior Housing seeks to fill the following FULL TIME employment positions located in Wappingers Falls and Beacon:

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN 1 Position

HOUSEKEEPER/JANITOR 1 Position

Positions have competitive salaries and excellent benefits!
Three (3) Years' Experience – 3 Employment References-Background Checks

Submit resume via fax 845.297.2080 or via email csphvhdfinc@aol.com

Community Services Programs, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EOE

FOR RENT

BEACON: Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence

Two (2) bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy.

Rent is \$1,260.00 and a month security is required. Tenants are responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (air conditioners provided) as well as cable and telephone. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older.

Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL

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Eden Feinstein
VALEDICTORIAN



Stephen Robinson
SALUTATORIAN

Ella Ashburn
Robbie Baker
Bozley Beachak
Ezra Beato
Maya Beck
Tim Ben Adi
Hannah Benson
Blake Bolte



Ryan Buhre
Katrine Buslovich
Owen Carmicino
Giancarlo Carone
Daniella Cataldo
Caroline Cates
Helen Chiera
Madison Chiera



Kyle Frommer
Soleil Gaines
Ryan Gray
Stefano Hammond
Bianca Harmancin
Zoe Harris
Aaron Hathaway
Soren Holmbo



Jenna Irwin
Ryan Irwin
Rose LaBarbera
Jaclyn Landolfi
Dominic Lyons-Davis
Camille Maglio
Mazzie Maxwell
Ada McBride



Matthew McCoy
Emma McGillicuddy
Elijah McKelvey
Ryan Merritt
Sydnee Monroe
Sharon Nieves
Emilia Osborn
Maya Osborn



Jesse Osterfeld
Luke Parrella
April Ransom
Robert Sahn
Per Sandlund
Harrison Sassano
Marisa Scanga
Sophia Scanga




Felix Schmidt
Marcel Schwarz
Katie Shields
Molly Siegel
Meghan Tomann
Robert Viggiano
Julian Zapata-Forcello



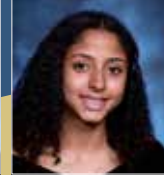
Not pictured: Casandra Kubik

O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL


Colin August


Madelyn Bartholomew


Daniel Carlos


Jayda Kirkwood


Evan Maasik



Chase Mayer


Zachariah McCarthy


Ella Schweizer


Lina Sharifi



Tomas Struck


Eva Turko


BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Elizabeth Albra
Gretta Anderson
Jayden Arroyo
Joseph Baffuto III
Brock Barna
Mya Bauer
Ahmir Bell
Bridget Bell
Lotus Blumenthal
Shiann Boyd
Owen Bozsik
Jeremy Brinas
Adrian Brown
Owen Browne
Devin Buggs
Jahmar Burgess
Tyler Burnley
Victoria Cameli
Makkaila Caputo
Bella Carassone
Dasani Carmichael
Christian Carvalho
Sulayman Ceesay
Ryan Chin
Alenah Christopher
Olivia Ciancanelli
Jack Cleary
Amare Coakley
Chloe Cohen
Olivia Corneyea
Allyson Correllus
Lindsay Darcy
Caliel Daughtry
Louis DelBianco

Claire Derrenbacher
Lucia Diebboll
Kirk Dyer Jr.
Kimberly Edge
Alexandria Faiella
Kelcy Fernandez Sanango
Alexander Ferris
Anthony Ferrone
Cleo Fiedler
Ian Fiorito
Thomas Franks
Cassandra Garrett
Isabella Ghent
Sarah Gibbs
Daniel Gilleo
Antonio Gonzalez
Ashley Gonzalez
Chase Green
Lucy Gunn
Ciara Hall
Jada Hambric
Isaac Hansen
Tyler Hanson
Samuel Harle
Tyler Haydt
Paul Henderson Jr.
Dylan Horton-Ungar
Garrett Hunter
Nature Ifill
Hunter Ingold
Jamal Jackson Jr.
Evan Johnson
Flynn Johnson
Synasia Johnson


Madeline Bobnick
VALEDICTORIAN

Catherine Johnston
Bradley Jolly
Briana Jones
Inessa Joseph
Michael Juzefyk
Dillon Kelly
Veronica Klein
Jason Komisar
Evan Kumar
Sydney Kurtz
Evan LaBelle
Maura Lane
Jada LaPorte
Rebecca Levy
Aileen Li
Cherlin Liao
Benjamin Lieblein
Andrew Lucas
Samuel Lunsford VI
Edward Manente
Simrat Mann
Christopher Marino
Jonathan Martinez
Erlona Mavraj
Daniella McCabe-Perez


Emma Sandison
SALUTATORIAN

Ryan McDermott
Renae McLeish
Christina Merola
Kailey Mesorana
Salvatore Migliore V
Maison Migliore
Michael Millan
Marilyn Monroe
Marissa Mora
Johnson Morgan
Amatullah Muhammad
Ava Muscat
Nina Negron
Daniel Nelson
Kimberly Nivicela Jarama
Rosa Nunez
Ayanda Nxumalo
Isis Ortiz-Whitehead
Genesis Osborne
Mia Osuba
Yahya Ouldane
Anastacia Ozkurt
Josalyn Pagan
Camille Pahucki
Joshua Papanastasiou

Kathryn Park
Alison Parker
David Perez-Cisneros
Nora Phelan
Jordan Phillips
Michael Pirrone
Collin Plimley
Tyler Plumer
Arielle Prince
Destiny Prothro
Alondra Ramirez Paredes
Austin Ray
Jose Resendiz
Anthony Riccoboni
Priest Richards
Robin-Caleb Richards
Leanna Rinaldi
Kyler Ring
Nalani Riquelme
Daniel Rivera
Jesus Rivera
Javon Robinson Jr.
Alianna Robles
Raymond Robles
Lesondra Rodriguez
Lulu Romer
Kenneth Rosa
Thomas Santoro
Mia Scarchilli
Braden Schetter
Keira Seaman
Alexia Segarra
Nazyr Segarra
Jamel Sellers-Blackwell
Stella Serpico
Lauren Shanahan

Ariana Shatlaw
Kalyn Sheffield
Cody Shields
Benet Shtanaj
Richelle Slosson
David Smith Jr.
Olive Smith Quiana
Connor Smith
Hannah Smith
Nico Smith
Trinity Smith
Carissa Smutny
Andrew Solcz
Samantha Sovik
Olivia Spiak
Andre Stackhouse
Destiny Taylor
Nicholas Thivierge
Brandon Thomas
Jake Titka
Caleb Ullian
Tyler Underwood
Joseph Urbanowicz
John Urban-Quezada
Saniyah VanDemark
Jennifer Velasquez
Niamarri Velazquez
Lucas Vermeulen
Daniel Way
Iyana Wigfall
Allura Williamson
Tess Wills
Cleveland Wright
Alexander Wyant
Jaylen Ynoa
Haleigh Zukowski

COLLEGE GRADUATES

BUFFALO STATE
Austin Gilligan, Garrison
(Urban & Regional Planning)

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY
Autumn Lennon, Beacon
(Civil Engineering)

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Business
Thomas Coulter, Beacon
Peter Fernandez, Beacon
Krenare Kaliqani, Beacon
Desarae Pesola, Garrison
Selena Virtuoso, Beacon

Communications & Media Arts
Miles McCabe, Beacon
Morgan Quintana, Beacon

Computer Information Systems
Maximillian Barkman, Cold Spring

Computer Science
Kenneth Rapp, Beacon

Criminal Justice
Isabella Nocerino, Beacon

Engineering Science & Technologies
Juan Cruz, Beacon
Miguel Dias Da Silva, Cold Spring
Patrick Lewis, Beacon

Exercise Science & Wellness
Lissette Tabales, Cold Spring

General Studies
Diana Campos, Beacon
Rayham Dabashi, Beacon
Rhan Dabashi, Beacon
Patrick Dambra, Beacon
Brianna DerBoghossian, Beacon
Lauren Fajardo, Beacon
Marianne Fultz, Beacon
Jolene Lagunda, Beacon
Ayren McNett, Beacon
Michael Morrison, Beacon
Claire Wood, Beacon

Human Services
Hanna Alfieri, Beacon
Carolina Foster, Beacon
Victoria Sanchez, Beacon
Emma Torres, Garrison

Liberal Arts – Humanities
Jethro Banks, Beacon
John Darcy III, Beacon
Kathleen Langer, Cold Spring
Richard Rinaldi, Beacon
Dylan Whalen, Beacon

Liberal Arts - Science
JoAnna Galbo, Beacon
Ila Harvey, Beacon

Nursing
Katherine Morello, Beacon
Jordanna Rabadi, Beacon
Clarissa Virtuoso, Beacon

LE MOYNE COLLEGE (SYRACUSE)
Annalise DiGiovanni, Beacon (Biology)

MOUNT SAINT MARY COLLEGE
Sophia Azznara, Cold Spring (Nursing)
Mikaela Burch, Beacon (Psychology)
Malik Cofield, Beacon (Business)
Joseph D'Alessio, Beacon (Education)
Kelsey Flaherty, Cold Spring (Education)
Ariel Forster, Beacon (Nursing)

Lauren Giacalone, Beacon (MBA)
Ryan Guarneri, Beacon (Business)
Savannah Lombardi, Beacon (Nursing)
Justin Maldonado, Cold Spring
(Education)
Colleen Malouf, Beacon (Education)
Morgan Reis, Beacon (Nursing)
Marcella Schiller, Beacon (Nursing)
Julann Schwarz, Beacon (MBA)
Jack Sheehy, Beacon (Business)
Nicolette Thompson, Garrison
(Education)

SUNY NEW PALTZ
Sophia Acquisto, Beacon (Early
Childhood & Childhood Education)

SUNY PLATTSBURGH
Aubrey Stowell, Cold Spring
(M.A., Speech Language Pathology)

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
Terrel Davis, Beacon (MBA)

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
Risa Repetto, Garrison (Business Admin)

Did we miss anyone? Email editor@highlandscurrent.org

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (June 1872)

The *Yonkers Gazette* published a lengthy account of a visit to Fishkill Landing (pop. 2,500), noting that, after ascending the hill a quarter-mile from the railroad station, a reporter found the plateau was mostly farm land, although the open space between nearby Matteawan was "closing up fast." Fishkill Landing had two churches, a bank, a public school, a military company (the Denning Guard), two fire companies and newly completed gas works with mains extending 5 miles.

About 75 people were taken into membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church and, through the exertions of the Rev. Thomas Lodge, the church's debt was paid off.

Henry Ticehurst, 12, of Matteawan, was accidentally shot in the face by a friend.

The Presbyterian Church at Matteawan took delivery of a new \$2,500 organ [about \$56,000 today].

Dr. Wilson, of Matteawan, "fastened a row of sharp-pointed iron spikes to the water table in front of his store to prevent



John Garvey, a "tramp," was found snoring in a bed in the Astor Mansion (right) on Fifth Avenue in New York City. He was later sent to the Matteawan State Hospital.

loafers from sitting," according to a newspaper report.

The New York Rubber Co. in Matteawan shipped a belt weighing 3,100 pounds.

H.N. Swift of Fishkill withdrew \$150, which he put in a wallet in his coat pocket. As he came out of the bank, a sudden gale startled his horse, which ran off with the wagon. Swift sprang into the wagon to regain control but, as he turned a corner,

his cash, in \$5 bills, scattered on the streets in the rain and mud. A group of boys hustled to recover the money, and all but one bill was returned to Swift.

125 Years Ago (June 1897)

A delegation from St. Luke's Club of Matteawan visited the Old Homestead Club on Main Street in Cold Spring, bringing a picture and easel as a gift.

Clifford Williams of Newburgh said he had been informed by a lawyer that he and his mother and brother had inherited \$75,000 [\$2.4 million] from an uncle who mined silver in Nevada.

John Mannix, 28, of Fishkill Landing, was found unconscious in the road in Matteawan and died soon after at the General Hospital. After the coroner concluded his skull had been fractured, three employees of the Low Point brickyard were charged with murder. Police suspected a brawl.

John Garvey, known as the "Astor tramp" because three years earlier he had snuck into the Fifth Avenue home of Mrs. William Astor and been found snoring in the laundress' bed, died at the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane at age 34. Garvey claimed he had mistaken the mansion for the Bowery lodging house where he usually slept. Authorities said Garvey had suffered brain damage when he was shot in the head while working at a gun range.

William Kerrigan died in a brickyard boarding house at Fishkill Landing while playing cards. He had recently been released from the hospital after being stabbed by an Italian laborer and may have suffered internal bleeding.

A doctor at the Fishkill Landing sanitarium saved a patient, Rose Gilbert, 33, with unspecified antidotes after she drank ammonia. The hospital notified police, and an officer arrested Gilbert for violating a

(Continued on Page 19)

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MAGAZZINO +  + artecinema

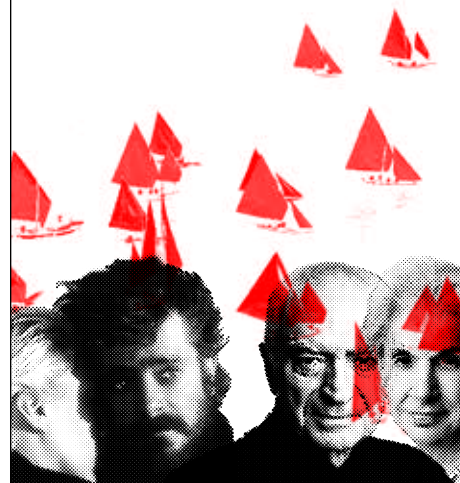
CINEMA IN PIAZZA

Friday, June 17, 2022
Melissa McGill: Red Regatta
Giovanni Pellegrini, Italy, 2019

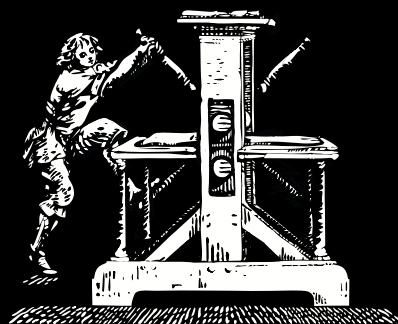
Saturday, June 18, 2022
Design is One: Lella & Massimo Vignelli
Kathy Brew and Roberto Guerra, USA, 2013

Sunday, June 19, 2022
Swept Away
Lina Wertmüller, Italy, 1974

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(Continued from Page 18)

law against attempting suicide.

Herman Inman, 14, of Matteawan, rode a bicycle for a half-mile in 1:02 at the Newburgh Wheelmen's meet.

Oliver Wendt, 24, who had been cured and released from the Matteawan asylum, stood up during a concert at a New York City saloon, waved to stop the music and swallowed a dose of carbolic acid he had poured into a beer. His last words were, "Friends, here's a go." His brother, Charles, said his brother had been OK until being slammed in the head with a club by a guard at Auburn state prison, where he was serving time for burglary.

A team of local doctors played a team of local lawyers at the Hilton baseball grounds to raise money for the General Hospital. The doctors prevailed, 23-19.

100 Years Ago (June 1922)

Work was nearly complete on a \$125,000 electric-powered plant at Dennings Point that was expected to turn out 70,000 bricks a day.

The 24 employees of the cord department at the Beacon Tire Co. went on strike, demanding a 10-cent raise per tire, to 50 cents.

By a 232-186 vote, residents defeated a proposal for a \$40,000 addition to the high school.

A man was saved by neighbors who happened upon him in his stable, standing on a box, with a rope tied around his neck.

The City Council declined to give the American Legion permission to hold a motorcycle climb on Mount Beacon because it was scheduled for a Sunday. The city attorney noted that, regardless, any exhibition of "skill, strength or dexterity" required applicants to pay a \$100 fee [\$1,700].

David Kenney, 55, of North Plainfield, New Jersey, the inventor of the vacuum cleaner and the flushometer, a device to flush toilets, was found dead at the foot of Mount Beacon, a few hundred feet from the incline railway. He had come to the city a few weeks earlier to visit a friend and rented a room at the Holland Hotel before he disappeared. A family member said Kenney had been depressed following the death of his wife on Christmas Day.

75 Years Ago (June 1947)

Although the Spring Street school



NIMHAM STATUE — The Town of Fishkill on June 11 dedicated a statue by Michael Keropian at the intersection of Routes 52 and 82 to honor Daniel Nimham, the last sachem of the Wappinger tribe, who fought with the Continental Army against the British in the American Revolution. Born in Fishkill in 1726, Nimham was killed in battle in 1778 in what is now the Bronx. Photo provided

building, constructed in 1870, had been condemned in 1939, the school board discussed whether to reopen its third floor for fourth- and fifth-grade classes. Insurers approved the use of two rooms but the state Education Department would allow just one, and then only if the district spent \$4,000 on renovations.

Durisol, which made lightweight construction materials, said it planned to open a \$500,000 plant at Dennings Point.

The school board approved a teacher pay scale of \$2,000 to \$4,300 [\$26,000 to \$56,000] annually.

Gloria Swanson appeared in a week of performances of *Goose for the Gander* at the Roosevelt Theatre. It was the first of 10 weeks that the Original Van Wyck Players,

(Continued on Page 20)

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Keep Cats Indoors

Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

Cats now function as introduced predators in many different habitats across the world. When outside, cats are invasive species that kill birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Because most cats—whether feral or owned by humans—receive food from people, they also exist in much higher concentrations than wild felines do. But despite being fed, they kill wild birds and other animals by instinct.

There are now over 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States; they kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making them the single greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds.

Free-roaming cats also spread diseases such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Feline Leukemia Virus, and face many more threats like vehicles and predators. Living outdoors shortens a cat's lifespan to just 2-5 years, whereas indoor cats can live to be 17 and beyond.

The easiest way you can help prevent needless bird deaths and keep you and your pet safe is by keeping your cat indoors.

** Paid for by a concerned citizen*

Looking Back *(from Page 19)*

a summer stock company of actors, some from Broadway, mounted productions at the theater, which usually showed movies. According to the *Beacon News*, hundreds of pedestrians and motorists paused to watch Swanson walk between the theater and the Dutchess Hotel, where she had a room.

A Beekman Street resident was charged with assault after striking another woman with a beer bottle inside a tavern. The woman had allegedly gone into the bar to discuss the victim's friendship with the woman's husband.

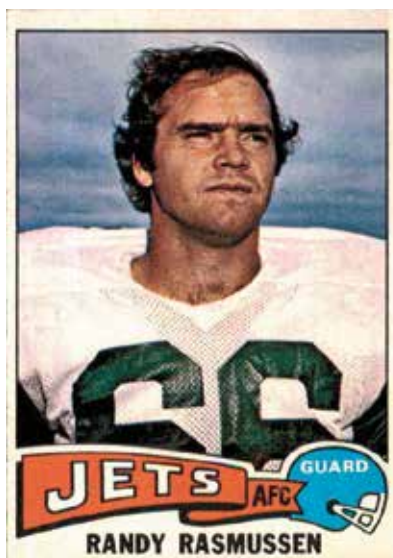
After Beacon completed a reappraisal of all the property in the city, the state tentatively allowed the city to raise its equalization rate for property taxes from 75 percent to 100 percent.

A jury awarded \$5,700 to the widow of a man who was struck and killed near the Groveville crossing. The defendant denied he was driving the car.

50 Years Ago (June 1972)

Dave Eraca hit a three-run homer and pitched 4½ hitless innings as the Beacon High School baseball team edged Peekskill, 5-4, in the Section I, Class B tournament. It lost at Rye in the next round, 11-6.

More than 30 civic, social and religious organizations took part in a Beacon Day celebration organized by the Jaycees at Memorial Park. Former New York Giants baseball player Monte Irvin was scheduled to attend, along with Jets offensive lineman Randy Rasmussen, folk singer Jimmy Collier, Jarito ("the Spanish Sammy Davis Jr."), magician George Post, country singer Red Bringham, Frivolous Sal's Banjo Band and the Grounders, which had won the local Battle of the Bands.



The Jets offensive lineman visited Beacon in 1972.

Students and parents submitted petitions to the school board asking it to reconsider a new policy that required administrators to live within 10 miles of the district. As a result, the high school principal, Morton Tannenbaum, who lived in Rockland County, had resigned. "The majority of taxpayers feel that an employee of the school district should have his children in the district and should spend money in the community," explained the board president. "The logic is that when someone works for

Texaco they buy Texaco products; when they work for General Electric, they buy General Electric." A resident responded, "The problem is that a Texaco employee doesn't get fired for buying Shell products."

A New Jersey man taken to Highland Hospital following a car accident was fined \$250 because a loaded revolver was found among his personal items.

The City of Beacon was recognized by the AAA for not having a pedestrian death in 11 years.

Eighteen school bus drivers walked off the job to show their disagreement with a tentative contract between the district and the Teamsters union that represented them. The drivers said they wanted to be paid salaries, not by the hour.

Construction plans were announced for 30 condos in Hammond Plaza, with priority for the \$24,500 units going to residents displaced by urban renewal.

Country singer Dick Curless agreed to step in for Elton Britt at the country and western show scheduled for the Rombout School after Britt suffered a heart attack.

The owner of a Main Street shoe store was arrested by the FBI and charged with threatening in phone calls and letters to blow up the Queen Elizabeth 2 and American Airlines planes and terminals. He demanded \$350,000 from Cunard Lines, prompting them to parachute in a British bomb squad to sweep the luxury liner at sea. From American he demanded \$300,000, which was to be left at a construction site on Henry Street. The dummy package was treated with a substance that showed up on the suspect's hands, police said. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The school board turned down an offer from the Martin Luther King Cultural Center to provide tutorial and library services. The school attorney said an agreement with the nonprofit would violate state law.

25 Years Ago (June 1997)

The prime minister of Portugal visited Beacon to view a monument being created at the Tallix Art Foundry to honor Catherine of Braganza, the Portuguese princess who married King Charles II of England and was thought to have inspired the name Queens County. When completed, the 35-foot statue was to be installed on the Queens side of the East River. [In 1998, the project was scrapped and the bronze statue melted for scrap after protests that Catherine should not be honored because she benefited from the slave trade. A smaller statue, made from the original mold, was later installed on the waterfront in Lisbon, Portugal.]

John Robinson, a senior at Beacon High School, won the state Class B title in the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.59 seconds. "He knew that we were going to be disappointed with second," said Coach Jose Rodriguez. "He went out in style."

Dutchess County held a naturalization ceremony at J.V. Forrestal Elementary School, where the second and third graders unveiled an 18-foot "mobile" mural painted on canvas that showed the school, Howland Cultural Center, Bannerman's Island and the mountains.

OBITUARIES

Connie Kelley (1952-2022)

Constance "Connie" Kelley, 70, who for 26 years owned The Country Touch shop in Cold Spring, died May 31 at Waterbury Hospital in Connecticut.



Born March 11, 1952, in Waterbury, she was the daughter of John Sr. and Nancy (Rio) Moschello. After earning a bachelor's degree from Good Counsel College in White Plains, she worked as a recruiter and international assignment representative for IBM in the human resources department for more than 20 years. She opened The Country Touch in 1992 after taking a buyout from IBM and operated it until her retirement in 2018.

In an interview at that time with *The Current*, Connie recalled seeing a gift shop that had impressed her in Carmel, California, during a business trip and decided to start one of her own. She launched The Country Touch in the corner property now occupied by Blue Olive. At the time, her products reflected the name: country-themed items such as wooden benches with carved-out hearts and dollhouse minia-

tures. In the intervening years The Country Touch moved west to 97 Main St. and its merchandise became more diversified.

Connie's passions included '60s music, traveling, trips to the casino, the Yankees, spending time with family and friends and the beach. The latter inspired her to retire to Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

Her husband, John Kelley, whom she met on a beach in Rhode Island, died before her. She is survived by her brothers, Tony Moschello (Barbara) of Boca Raton, and Dr. John Moschello (Judie) of Watertown, and her aunt Millie of Prospect.

A Mass was held June 3 at St. John the Evangelist in Watertown. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

Jessica Allison, 32
Ruben Arroyo, 79
Betty Harkins, 86
Lisa Harmon, 59
Dhalia Havens, 55
John Hetling, 88
Lorraine Koscal

Millie Lunsford, 81
Joanne MacDonald, 84
Julio Osuba, 70
Jane Raymond, 71
Dolores Sabol, 94
Les Shapiro, 76

Philipstown

Elaine Halnan, 80
Chester Warren, 79

For more obituaries,
see highlandscurrent.org/obits.



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Selection criteria will be based on knowledge of security protocols, as a safety/security training and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting rfp@edenvillagecamp.org.

Bids will be accepted until **June 17, 2022** and contract is to commence **by July 1** at the latest.

NOTICE

The Village of Nelsonville is seeking volunteers to fill two positions on the Nelsonville Village Zoning Board of Appeals.

If you are interested in serving in your community, please send a letter of interest to the Village Board of Trustees at 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, NY 10516.

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A Glimpse of Black Life in Beacon, 1941

In April 1941, Manet Helen Fowler (1916-2004) — later to become the first Black woman in the U.S. to earn a doctorate in cultural anthropology — visited Beacon and other Dutchess County communities to speak to African American residents about their views of the national defense (the Japanese would bomb Pearl Harbor in December, drawing the U.S. into World War II), race relations, migration and education, among other topics.

It's unclear who commissioned the typed reports, or if they have ever been published, but in 2020 the Fowler family put them up for auction with Swann Galleries in New York City. Bill Jeffway, president of the Dutchess County Historical Society, paid \$3,640 and donated the documents to the society. Below are excerpts from Fowler's report from Beacon.

• • •

Three or four blocks from the [Baptist] church we met the first Negro we had then seen in town — Mr. F., the handyman, who was dressed in a fisherman's hat, leather jacket and high boots, and who, after the "ground" was broken, talked willingly — on the street, in the rain — for more than half an hour. He is a tenant of Mr. and Mrs. A., living in a small shack in their backyard on Hudson Avenue, and he suggested that I contact them....

Mr. G. of the *Beacon News* was interviewed in his office. He was cordial, gracious and, though busy, typed out a list of "Negro" names who might be found helpful.

The first of these was that of Mr. and Mrs. W, of the Beacon Inn, described as a "restaurant," where we might be able to have dinner and to gain other contacts. At this Inn (referred to by Beacon Negroes as a "saloon" or a "beer garden," but never once as a restaurant!),

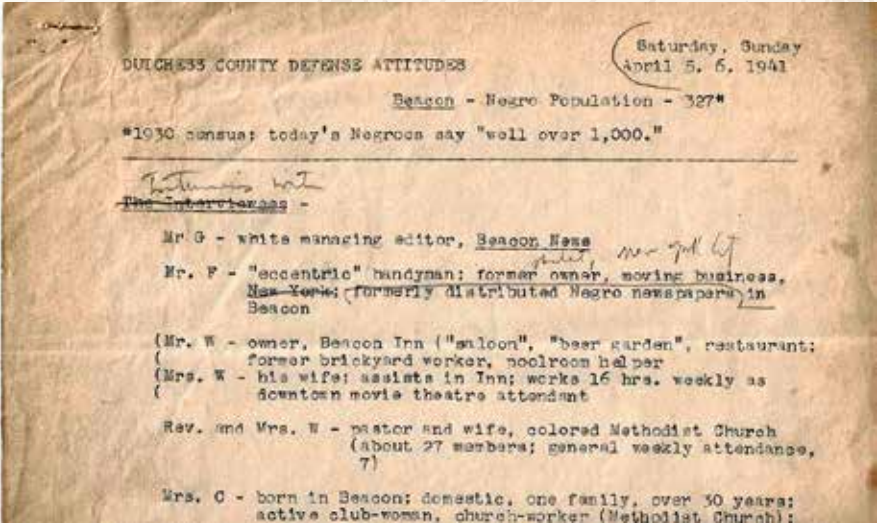
we were finally served dinner, cooked to order, having interviews meanwhile with Mr. and Mrs. W, the former brickyard workers, the aqueduct worker and the itinerant Philadelphia mechanic-carpenter.

The Inn is on lower Beekman Street, the "Negro" street up from the Hudson River where a large number of colored people live and conduct their limited businesses. Rev. and Mrs. W. and Mrs. C live on this street, diagonally across from the Inn, and they were interviewed in their homes. Mr. and Mrs. J, who maintain well-appointed rooms for transients, gave their answers in their home, where we stayed overnight....

Mr. B, on leave from Fort Dix, [was interviewed] in the Congo Inn, the town's other colored "saloon" "beer garden" "restaurant," which, as one interviewee put it, "appeals to the younger crowd," while the Beacon Inn is frequented by the older working class. Mr. and Mrs. T do not live on Beekman Street (those people who do have a complex about it, and feel that "the minute you say you live on Beekman Street in this town, you're disgraced!") but on Ferry Street, nearby; they were interviewed at home, after Mrs. C had invited us to Sunday morning breakfast.

In all cases, opinions were freely given, completely without reticence. Here there seemed little need to "feel the way" in view of being an "outsider"... Perhaps it was because, of the interviewees, only Mrs. C. (and a few of the younger people of high school age) had been born in Beacon — gaining thereby the true in-group attitude. The others were immigrants, mostly from the South, who had been in the town a long time or short, but had, nevertheless, an objectivity which was colored in large part by a sense of affiliation "at home," wherever

(Continued on Page 23)



Manet Fowler's typewritten report, with her corrections, is part of the collection at the Dutchess County Historical Society.



Connie Perdreau in 1957. Her parents left South Carolina and eventually bought a house on Beekman Street.

Black History (from Page 1)

Sampson's family joined an unprecedented exodus of an estimated 6 million Blacks from the segregated South — where they faced racial violence and limited economic, educational and social opportunities — to cities in the North, Midwest and West between the 1910s and the 1970s.

About 1.5 million came to New York state. In Beacon, the city's Black population more than doubled between 1940 and 1950, and rose another 50 percent by 1960. Men, women and families from North and South Carolina, Virginia and other Southern states squeezed into Beacon's West End, a section of Ward 2 between Bank Square and the city's waterfront industries.

For Connie Perdreau, whose parents left South Carolina and eventually bought a house on Beekman Street with a view of the Hudson River from its balcony, the West End was a nurturing place.

"Even at a young age, I thought to myself, 'We're looking at the same riverscape as the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts,'" she said in an interview. "We have the most valuable property in Beacon."

Searching

Black people left the South because, despite its own problems with discrimination, New York and other Northern states promised better-paying jobs and better housing, and opportunities to attend better schools, live with fewer social restrictions and vote without barriers or threats — especially for a generation born decades after the Civil War and the end of Reconstruction.

Young Blacks in the first wave, from roughly 1910 to 1940, "could see the contradictions in their world," noted Isabel Wilkerson in her chronicle of the Great Migration, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, which won a Pulitzer Prize. "Sixty, 70, 80 years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, they still had to step off the

Beacon's Black Population

| | Total | Black | % |
|------|--------|-------|----|
| 1920 | 10,996 | 187 | 2 |
| 1940 | 12,572 | 520 | 4 |
| 1960 | 13,922 | 1,800 | 13 |
| 1980 | 12,937 | 1,908 | 15 |
| 2000 | 14,810 | 2,713 | 18 |
| 2020 | 13,769 | 1,933 | 14 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

sidewalk when a white person approached, were banished to jobs nobody else wanted no matter their skills or ambition, couldn't vote, but could be hanged on suspicion of the pettiest infraction."

It was not just farm and factory laborers who left. Also making the journey from cities such as New Orleans, Montgomery, Birmingham, Savannah and Charleston were skilled Black mechanics and other trained workers, businessmen, ministers and physicians, according to a U.S. Department of Labor report on migration during 1916-17.

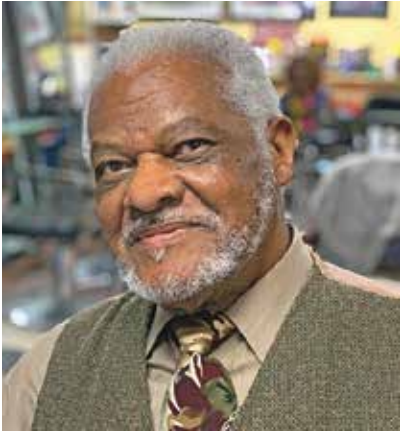
The movement alarmed the South. A leader of the Arkansas Republican Party complained in 1923 that Blacks were leaving the cotton fields half-cultivated, "selling what few goods they can and heading north." He suggested the Coolidge administration appoint a commission of five respected Black men to convince people to stay in the South, "the natural home of the colored man and his family."

Their pleas would have been wasted. The Department of Labor noted that those who heard the message from religious or

(Continued on Page 23)

political leaders to stay put “were likely to suspect that such men are in the employ of white people.”

The second great wave, during the 20 years following the end of World War II, drew 3 million Black people from the South. Alvin Bell, the longtime owner of a barber-shop on Main Street in Beacon, was one of them, arriving in 1959 from Virginia, where he had toiled on a tobacco farm.



Alvin Bell

Photo by Nancy LeVine

He didn't work “from sunup to sundown,” he noted. That was a misnomer. “Before the sun comes up, you're in the field, and when the sun goes down, you're in the field.”

New York was attractive because it was the country's leading manufacturing state between 1840 and 1960, notes Jennifer Lemak, chief curator of history at the New York State Museum. At the beginning of the Great Migration, African Americans could earn between \$2 and \$5 a day; as sharecroppers, they could expect 50 cents to \$2 a day, she said.

Most of the Black people who came to the state settled in New York City, but Albany, Buffalo and Rochester also drew their share.

Dorothy Medley, then 18, left Asheville, North Carolina, on Aug. 1, 1956, to stay with an aunt who lived in New York City so she could attend Apex Beauty School. Overwhelmed by the city's size, she returned to Asheville, but that only convinced her to leave again.



Dorothy Medley

Photo by Nancy LeVine

So, she called a friend from Asheville who had moved to Beacon to live with a sister and brother-in-law who were working at Castle Point. Medley disembarked from a train in Beacon and began walking up the hill.

“When I hit Ferry Street, I saw houses, I saw kids playing, I saw people sitting in their yards,” she said. “I was so impressed.”

(Continued from Page 22)

that might be, but of transition-residence in Beacon. No matter. Even though most of the opinions drifted in the same direction, the people — all of them — talked... .

Superficially, race relations offer no problem (this, in fact, was the opinion of Mr. G. of *The News*, in regard to Beacon: “Everybody got along fine; relief authorities made joblessness impossible — Negroes, everybody, always worked”); Negro and white boys and girls attend school together — but after school, with or without graduation, the future for the Negro boys and girls is limited. They are not accepted for work in downtown factories except at Gloversville, a non-union furniture factory out from town, which employs about 40% Negro men. (Miss H., a very light Negro girl with hazel eyes, a high school student now, and intelligent, made application at the National Biscuit Co. but has never been called, and was never allowed to speak with anyone in greater authority than a secretary-receptionist.)

The difficult thing with this non-acceptance, Beacon Negroes think, is that it is so rarely explicit, but subtle. Applications are accepted for jobs, but no one is ever called, nor is the applicant told that no disposition of his case will be made because he is colored. Miss H. felt that much could be gained in at least an understanding on both sides, if the Negroes could sometimes gain an audience with a personnel manager, instead of a receptionist, who, she felt, will often block the way. Two other Negro women have worked in downtown factories, however, but the other Negroes discount this as an achievement for the group proper — since, they say, “They were both so ‘pink’ nobody could tell the difference.”

As in Poughkeepsie, also, the housing situation is bad in Beacon, although recently there has been a sudden spurt of Negro homebuyers, mostly among Castle Point employees. Even so, on all streets — even Beekman — some whites live side by side with Negroes and, in some cases (varying, of course, with individual personalities), limited social relations are indulged. But among the Negroes themselves there is the old problem of disunity — stratification into brickyard and hospital worker classes; between church people and saloon people; between young people and old... .

As for the young people and the saloon, there are fewer other places for them to go. The Baptist Church has no Young People's Forum, no clubs, little but a Young People's Choir to sing hymns. Mr. and Mrs. A., from their meager funds, charter a bus each Sunday to gather young people for the Methodist Church Sunday School... .

In the town of Negroes, there are, therefore, the two churches, the two saloons, two barber-shop-beauty-parlor combinations, and one business headquarters, for a man who sells life insurance and exhibits colored educational films, for a New York company. At the moment, the young people are very anxious to have something in the nature of a Community Center, or clubhouse, or whatever — where they might meet and have meetings and programs of a progressive, civic nature... .

Economically, the Castle Point Hospital employees are the “upper class.” These live in nicer homes in town, if they do not occupy the attractive quarters furnished on the hospital grounds and many are now buying. One of the reasons for the inadequate Negro census figures for Beacon may lie in the fact that numbers of Negroes live “on their jobs,” as in the case of the Castle Point workers — numbering, according to vague estimates, almost “as many as 327 themselves.”



Manet Helen Fowler, in a 1951 painting by her mother

Yale University Art Gallery

The now-unemployed brickyard workers are the Beacon Inn nucleus — working men who pick up what they can, and their wives or sweethearts, who work as domestics. In all cases the idea proposed by Mr. G. that “there was no Negro (or any!) unemployment in Beacon — in fact, “too much work” was greeted with much cynical levity from interviewees. “Jobs,” they answer, “but what kind of jobs?” Relief authorities encourage work, it is true, they say, but “you must take what you can get — and, for the Negro, that is always next to nothing!”

The case of Miss H. — who “cleans a large, 8-room house each Saturday for a white housewife at a \$1 salary — excused because she is “a schoolgirl” is in point. Mrs. W., who works as the theatre attendant part-time now, was extremely bitter about the housework situation, and has resolved that “working for Jews at the theatre is better; they don't pay much, but at least they treat you right.”

At the time of the interviewing, some men were employed on the New York State aqueduct project, which was a union job requiring much standing in deep water and mud. Invariably, in regard to unions, there was much bitterness from the men, they are never called except for the dirtiest work, they are not allowed to join unions calling for skill: “Unions are controlled by Communists anyhow, Communists are white — no white man will give a Negro a job when he can give one to his own.” Although admitting that the best jobs open in Beacon to Negroes were the Castle Point Hospital jobs, the attitude of these laborers was that it was only because Castle Point is a tuberculosis hospital that Negroes form such a large percentage of the employees; orderlies and maids are Negroes and doctors and nurses white... .

[The uneven distribution of jobs] is continually resented. It should not be a surprise that this resentment is reflected in some quarters in a complete isolationist stand: “We got nothing from the last war — why fight in this one?” On the other hand, Mr. T., veteran of the last war, and now economically well-fixed, felt that “regardless of how we are treated in America, we are still citizens, and as citizens of this country, I think we should help if the rest do.”

The itinerant mechanic-carpenter from Philadelphia had traveled, after the last world war, in Europe, and had developed affection for the German people as a group. This man insisted that the greatest contribution the Negro in America could make to his own welfare was to stay out of this war, since he believed strongly that Negroes were being made victims of “propaganda” in regard to Germans. “Wherever an American or English white man had set foot in Europe, and I went there,” this man said, “I was discriminated against. But when I went to Germany, the Germans treated me just like any other man. Personally, I hope Hitler wins the war!”

This man, who served in the last war, felt that if Negroes did wish to participate in the defense industry, their only chance for equality would be if the government took over.

Another speaker believed that all anti-alien, anti-Red and anti-union drives would prove beneficial to Negro workers. “Whenever they throw out the foreigners, the Reds and the unions, there can't help but be room for Negroes, for we are Americans, and so few of us are either Communist, or allowed in the good unions. CIO [the Congress of Industrial Organizations, a union open to Blacks] is helping some, but [Henry] Ford has been better to Negroes than most unions, regardless of what they say about him and Hitler.”

(Continued on Page 24)

Beacon's Black Pioneers

1879 JURY

In December, the first all-Black jury was seated in Fishkill Landing to hear the case of a Black man accused of disturbing the peace while intoxicated. The courtroom was filled with spectators expecting a raucous scene, according to the *Fishkill Standard*. "They were disappointed, however, for the jury was very sober and sedate, evidently feeling the responsibility of their position." The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to pay \$5 or spend 10 days in jail.

1925 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

In June, **William Howes** became the first Black graduate of Beacon High School, one of a class of 36. According to a newspaper account, "none in that audience could fail to be impressed by this beautiful exemplification of the ideal upon which the American nation was founded."



William Howes (back row, third from left) was the first Black BHS grad.

1939 SCOUTMASTER

Ryland Myrick, a former Black amateur boxer, founded a Boy Scout troop for Black boys, the first of its kind in Dutchess County.

1944 WAR CASUALTY

On Feb. 25, Pvt. 1st Class **Roscoe Lee Vaughn Jr.** of 86 North Ave., died in Italy of wounds suffered during a battle in North Africa. He had entered the service on Sept. 24, 1942, and had been overseas for about a year. Born in Brockway, he attended grammar school there and Beacon High School. An American Legion chapter, No. 1440 in Beacon, was named for him and in 1955 was the only all-Black post in the nation.



Vaughn Jr.

1953 POLICE OFFICER AND CHIEF

Robert Epps was sworn in on Feb. 21 as the city's first Black police officer. In May 1979, Epps, by then a lieutenant, became the first Black chief when he was named on an interim basis to succeed Raymond Stewart, who retired. However, a white officer, Lt. William Ashburn, was the only candidate who passed the civil service exam for chiefs, and he took over in January 1982. (Epps died in 1996.)

The second Black officer was **William Penn**, who was hired in 1959. In 1975 he told the *Evening News*: "I was fortunate to have lived and grown up here. It has given me an outlook on life that probably influences the way I think today. In my early years in the city, I saw Italian youth in my neighborhood ostracized just because they were Italians. I can equate this to my being Black." In 1972, Penn and Ashburn received Life Saving Award citations after they rescued the occupants in a house fire on North Avenue. Penn died in 2019.

Black History (from Page 23)

A transformation

By the time Medley arrived in Beacon, Blacks had replaced many of the European immigrants who once lived in the West End and owned businesses there.

As early as 1930, census records show a smattering of Blacks born in the South living in Ward 2, whose remaining houses were owned or rented by a large contingent of people from Italy, mixed with Germans, Irish and Russian Jews.

For example, on Beekman Street, Evelyn and Angelo Puccini, the Italian owner of a shoe store, lived next door to Anna and John Rayston, a Black laborer from West Virginia. On River Street, Ela and James Shelton, a Black railroad laborer from Virginia, lived on the same stretch of homes as Jenny and Michael Litano, a railroad laborer from Italy.

Twenty years later, many of the single-family homes, apartment buildings and rooming houses that had been occupied by whites in 1930 had Black owners and tenants.

The house at 12 River St. in Beacon was no longer rented, as in 1930, by Louis Gerentine, a brickyard laborer from Italy, and his wife, Lucy. By 1950, it was owned by the Mississippi-born Miles Oliver and his wife, the Alabama-born Catherine Oliver.

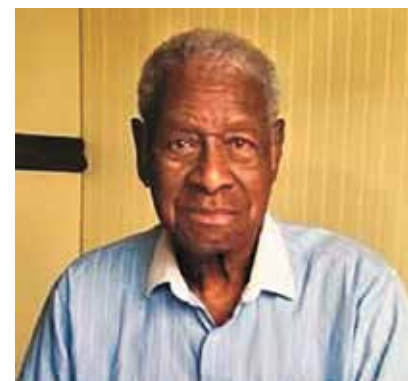
In 1959, the Olivers' daughter, Gussie Mae, and son-in-law, Arthur Elmore, moved into the home after being forced to leave Bishop, West Virginia, when the mine there closed. The Elmores arrived with their children, including an adolescent named Sharlene. "They had a gazebo on the property, they had all kinds of fruit trees and a big barn," recalls Sharlene Stout, now 73.

Blacks also lived in Brockway, a community about 2 miles north of Beacon that was named for the family-owned brickyard that employed many of its residents.

Henry Noble MacCracken, in his 1958 history of Dutchess County, noted that many of the Black laborers working at Brockway and Dutchess Junction's brickyards had been brought from the South to replace striking white brickyard workers; by 1932, the yards were bankrupt. Paul Williamson's father found work in the brickyards there when the family moved from Clarksville, Virginia, in 1921. The family raised their own food, including

chickens, said Williamson, who was one of the Black residents of Beacon interviewed in 1995 for the oral history project.

"I helped my father with the gardens and we'd have to cut wood in the fall of the year to survive in the wintertime," said Williamson, who died in 2016.



Paul Williamson

Anthony Lassiter also grew up in Brockway, where his grandparents moved after leaving Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His mother, Vera Lassiter, was born there.

Lassiter, 75, remembers a small community of two-story row houses that also housed Castle Point employees and their families. Like other children in the community, he attended a one-room school where the students in the same grade occupied the same row of desks. The community also had a church, Beulah Baptist.



Anthony Lassiter Photo by Nancy LeVine

It was also a "little tough," said Lassiter. Houses did not have indoor plumbing and families had to get potable water from a community pump, he says. But the community was also close-knit, said Lassiter, who

(Continued on Page 25)



Sharlene Stout

Photo by Nancy LeVine

was 13 when his family moved to 9 Academy St. — with indoor plumbing. “When we got into our new house, I took a shower — it had to be an hour,” he recalls.

From the brickyards to IBM

With her hands, Vera Lassiter earned that house with a shower.

Decades before her parents arrived in Brockway, brickyards along the Hudson River, mills powered by Fishkill Creek and manufacturers of household and commercial goods had been creating a demand for labor — first in Matteawan and Fishkill Landing, and then in Beacon, the city created in 1913 when the two villages merged.

The brickyards, which began operating in the 1830s, were one of the first industries to integrate, said Lemak at the New York State Museum. In addition, quotas that limited immigration from Europe opened up northern manufacturing jobs for Black Americans in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, she noted.

Vera Lassiter began working at the New York Rubber Co., whose products ranged from rubber balls to belting. During World War II, the company had contracts to make life vests, pontoons and life rafts for the federal government.

Sharlene Stout's father worked at Chemprene, which manufactured coated fabrics and rubber belts. Her mother was employed by Tuck Tape. Dorothy Medley's career included making electric blankets at Bobrich before holding jobs at the Dorel Hat Factory and Best Made Garments in Beacon, and Sonotone in Cold Spring.

Castle Point opened in 1924, and it drew Johnnie Mae Sampson's father and other Blacks from the South. Many of the families who arrived to work at the hospital lived on-site. Paul Williamson's father was eventually hired as a nurse's aide, and Connie Perdreau's father, Henry Whitener, landed a job there as a cook when he arrived from South Carolina.

The hospital's employees were considered to be the “upper class,” according to Manet Fowler, an anthropologist who visited Beacon in April 1941 to interview Black residents about racial attitudes and their views on the growing conflict in Europe (see Page 22). The employees “live in nicer houses in town, if they do not occupy the attractive quarters furnished on the hospital grounds, and many are now buying.”

Other opportunities came from IBM. In 1953, its president, Thomas Watson Jr., told managers that they were to hire based on “personality, talent and background” regardless of the applicant's “race, color or creed.”

Williamson became one of the first Blacks at IBM when he was hired at \$60 a week in quality control. He spent 28 years with the company, he said in his 1995 interview, which, like the others cited here, was recorded on cassette tapes that were digitized and transcribed last year by the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Vera Lassiter retired from the company, as did Anthony Lassiter. He joined IBM two months after returning, in 1969, from a tour of Vietnam. Stout's mother also moved to the company, in the mid-1960s. “Just about everybody ended up working at IBM,” she says.



WORKING UP NORTH — A group of migrant workers from Florida were photographed roadside in 1940 while heading to New Jersey to pick potatoes. Levi Horton, who grew up in Beacon in the 1930s and 1940s, recalled trucks filled with Black workers who traveled each summer from Florida to Fishkill to work in the bean fields. “That was an established way of life here in the Hudson Valley,” he told the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in 1997. “They were treated as second-class citizens. We, as young Blacks, figured that was a way of life and so be it. I wish I had the strength to do some of the protesting that came along with Martin Luther King.” Horton died in 2009.

Photo by Jack Delano/Library of Congress

Others worked for themselves. Perdreau's parents, Arthur and Mazzie Whitener, operated a restaurant called Little Manhattan for a short time, she said. Medley, who dreamed of being a beautician, returned to Apex when her husband suggested she use their tax refund for tuition. After graduating in 1968, she owned her own shop before retiring in 1997.

Other Blacks, such as Alvin Bell, opened barber shops, bars and convenience stores, or took advantage of their talents. Lillian Goodlette, who lived on Ferry Street, listed her occupation as music teacher on the 1950 census.

Integration

Along with better pay, Blacks migrating from the South found freedom in Beacon from legal segregation. Medley, newly arrived in Beacon, says she boarded a bus and walked by habit to the back, and was confused when she could not find the segregated seating on her first trip to see a movie at the Beacon Theatre.

“I could not find the stairs to go to the balcony, so I eased into a back seat just waiting for the usher to tell me I had to move,” she said. “Nothing ever happened.”

Blacks also attended integrated schools. Racial and economic diversity defined

South Avenue School in the early 1960s, said Perdreau, with the children of blue-collar workers sharing classrooms with students whose parents were white-collar professionals.

“I could not find the stairs to go to the balcony, so I eased into a back seat just waiting for the usher to tell me I had to move. Nothing ever happened.”

~ Dorothy Medley

Lassiter said he experienced culture shock when Brockway's one-room schoolhouse closed and he and the community's other students were transferred to the much larger schools in Beacon.

Before graduating from Beacon High School in 1966, he played baseball, football and wrestled.

One year, he was named the football team's quarterback, a position he believes one other Black had played before him at the school. In the mid-1960s, a Black quarterback was still

unusual at an integrated school.

“We played Poughkeepsie High School in Poughkeepsie and I could hear the folks on the sidelines yelling, ‘Hey, Beacon's got a Black quarterback!’” he recalled.

Away from school, Blacks “laughed [and] played games together on the playground” with whites and visited their homes, said Geraldine Flood, a Beacon native whose parents came from South Carolina, during her interview for the oral history project.

But Flood, who was born in 1938 and died in 2019, also could not remember any Black teachers in the district.

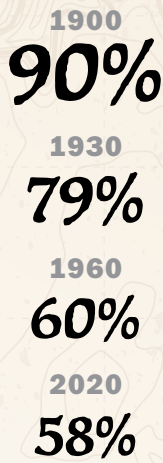
Despite the absence of Jim Crow, New York state and the Highlands were not without prejudice — the Ku Klux Klan had a presence in Beacon and Philipstown that peaked in the 1920s — and segregation took other forms.

European immigrants tended to establish themselves in a particular area, such as Beacon's West End, and then use higher-paying jobs and bank loans to move out, said Lemak. But Blacks who couldn't advance or get the same loans had limited mobility. “They were stuck, hemmed in, usually in the oldest sections of town,” she said.

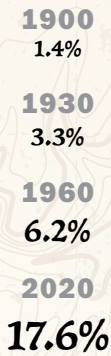
In Beacon, well into the 1960s, Blacks were largely kept out of the East End, according to Sandy MoneyMaker. Her husband, the

(Continued on Page 26)

Percentage of Blacks living in the South



Percentage of New York population that is Black



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Black History (from Page 25)

Rev. Thomas Moneymaker, became priest-in-charge at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in 1965, not long after it integrated and a year before a cross was burned in the parking lot. “If you were Black, you could not buy a house east of Route 9D,” she said.

Many jobs were off-limits to Black residents, said Lemak, particularly those requiring interaction with the public, such as working in banks or department store clothing sales.

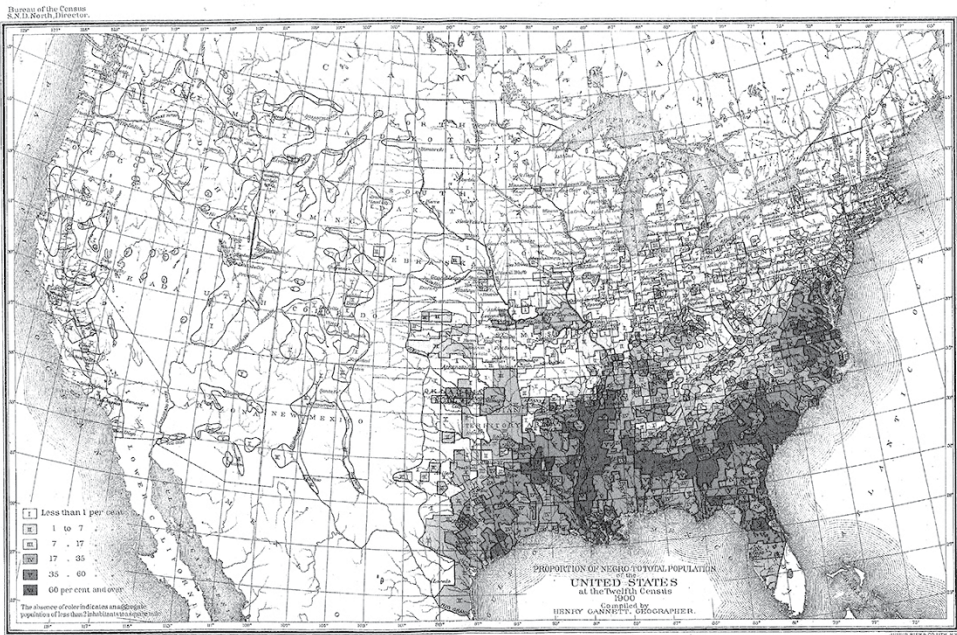
Manet Fowler, while interviewing people in Beacon in 1941 for her research, said Blacks complained that employers reserved the most menial jobs for them, and that the labor unions also discriminated.

Blacks hired as laborers for the construction of New York City’s Delaware Aqueduct from 1939 to 1945 said that “though it was raining constantly, and the work itself was ‘damp,’ the Negro workers were not given rubber boots and rain clothing, as the white workers” were, according to Fowler.

Paul Williamson, who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, said he encountered racism days before shipping out, when he stopped in a bar in Beacon to have drinks with two white friends.

The bartender said: “We don’t want your kind in here,” said Williamson. The police were called when he complained; he was issued a ticket that was thrown out by a judge the next day.

Casual racism was such in Beacon and in the country that, over decades, even local



Before the Great Migration: The Black population of the U.S. in 1900, according to census data

churches organized minstrel shows as fundraisers, in which performers wore blackface.

The First Presbyterian Church hosted one in 1948 and the city’s firefighters organized another in 1957 at Beacon High School. The Elks Club in Beacon held them, as did the Knights of Columbus in Cold Spring; the *Cold Spring Recorder* declared a 1921 performance to be the “blackest, funniest, most gorgeous of the brotherhood of burnt cork.”

By the early 1960s, according to the late Beacon historian Robert Murphy, the advent of the Civil Rights Movement had

made minstrel shows unacceptable.

That movement, fomented in the South, reverberated in Beacon, where Blacks began demanding access to jobs previously denied them, launched campaigns for the City Council and school board and demanded fair treatment as urban renewal began removing the Black neighborhood in the West End.

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 - 19. Neptune's realm
 - 20. Pale
 - 22. *Of — and Men*
 - 24. Kite flier's need
 - 25. Affectionate sign-off
 - 29. Flamenco cheer
 - 30. Bedouins
 - 31. Arthur of *Maude*
 - 32. Tennis shutout
 - 34. Taxpayer IDs
 - 35. Polite query
 - 36. Scarlett's Butler
 - 37. Bottom
 - 40. "Love — Leave Me"
 - 41. Awestruck
 - 42. Play-ending arcade message
 - 46. Thunder god
 - 47. Actor Jannings
 - 48. Tokyo, once
 - 49. "Ditto"
 - 50. Oahu souvenirs
 - 51. Lemon

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

- DOWN
- 1. Latin 101 word
 - 2. Dallas hoopster, briefly
 - 3. Soviet leader after Khrushchev
 - 4. Hawkeye
 - 5. Dr. McGraw
 - 6. Picnic crasher
 - 7. Homer's cry
 - 8. Postal delivery
 - 9. Ms. Falco
 - 10. Long story
 - 11. Yemen neighbor
 - 16. Clarinet insert
 - 19. Phil of folk music
 - 20. MP's quarry
 - 21. Missile shelter
 - 22. Dolphins' home
 - 23. "Let —" (Beatles hit)
 - 25. Fay of *King Kong*
 - 26. Saw
 - 27. Air outlet
 - 28. Right on the map
 - 30. Petri dish gel
 - 33. New citizen, perhaps
 - 34. "Scram!"
 - 36. Film spools
 - 37. D.C. baseball team
 - 38. Turkish title
 - 39. Unhappy destiny
 - 40. Roman 2,002
 - 42. Solidify
 - 43. Soul, to Sartre
 - 44. College URL ender
 - 45. Scepter

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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 | SOLUTIONS |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 safari sights, hopefully (8) | _____ |
| 2 Mary Jane Watson actress (5) | _____ |
| 3 fakes (6) | _____ |
| 4 according to rumor (10) | _____ |
| 5 surroundings in Paris, say (6) | _____ |
| 6 showing one's feelings (7) | _____ |
| 7 full of air (9) | _____ |

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| WIL | MI | FOR | IFE | SU |
| ST | EM | TIC | LI | PNE |
| EU | NG | SED | GES | DUN |
| PPO | UMA | DL | OTI | LY |

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | A | N | | M | A | V | | C | L | A | M |
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| W | R | I | T | | T | A | R | | I | N | O | N |
| N | U | D | I | S | T | | M | A | M | A | | |
| | | | C | L | O | S | E | D | B | O | O | K |
| C | A | S | E | Y | | Y | E | S | | L | I | I |
| U | S | E | S | | E | R | R | | M | I | S | T |
| J | A | R | | A | S | I | | M | A | N | E | T |
| O | P | E | N | S | T | A | N | C | E | | | |
| | | N | A | P | E | | A | S | S | I | S | T |
| A | V | I | D | | V | I | M | | T | H | E | Y |
| P | E | T | A | | E | R | E | | R | A | M | P |
| T | T | Y | L | | Z | E | D | | O | D | I | E |

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

1. REEKED, 2. BOOSTER, 3. PACIFIES, 4. VAPIDLY, 5. KENOBI, 6. OBSTRUCTING, 7. CARTOONISH

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.



OUT THERE

Swimming in the Hudson

By Brian PJ Cronin

As an environmental reporter, the most common question I get asked — right after “What animal did this?” followed by an emailed photo of a pile of scat — is, “Is it safe to swim in the Hudson?”

It depends on what you mean by *safe*.

In the 19th century and early 20th century, that question would have seemed preposterous. Millions of people cooled off with a dip. But as factories were built on the Hudson, the river became an open sewer. Paint poured in from the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, oil from railroad repair facilities in Croton and human waste from Manhattan. A resident who taught himself to sail along the Peekskill shore in the 1960s told me that anytime he fell in, he had to wipe sludge from his clothes.

But you can't swim in the same river twice, and a lot has changed in 50 years since the passage of the Clean Water Act, which required municipalities to upgrade their sewage treatment plans and tightened the regulation of industry pollution. Folk singer Pete Seeger, who lived in Beacon, founded Clearwater to encourage people to see the river as a public resource teeming with life rather than a dirty joke.

Science and culture changed with the tides. In 2015, members of the Croton-On-Hudson Police dive team conducted a training exercise at the site of a dock destroyed 50 years ago at Lewis Engel Park and confirmed that the debris had washed away, posing no underwater threats to swimmers. That same year a group of high school students working with Riverkeeper tested the water and found that it was clean enough for swimming, most of the time.

Dan Shapley of Riverkeeper says that about 80 percent of its samples taken on the Hudson meet federal standards for swimming. While the environmental group publishes the results of its sampling at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/hudson-river, Shapley advises not swimming a day or two after a heavy rain because many municipal sewers overflow into the river.

Shapley says he and his family like to swim near Sojourner Truth Ulster Landing County Park during low tide, when the water is shallow and the current is gentle. But there's no lifeguard, and Shapley says that anyone asking if it's safe to swim has to consider that as well as water quality.



Pete Seeger had hoped that Little Stony Point would someday be an official swimming spot on the river.

Photo by B. Cronin

HIDDEN DANGERS

In 2005, the state Department of Environmental Conservation identified potential spots for swimming facilities and what they would cost. Little Stony Point just north of Cold Spring made the list: The DEC said it would require a \$600,000 investment and \$30,000 annual operating budget to add the park to the small number of public swimming sites on the Hudson. (As of now, there are five.)

The scenery at Little Stony Point is stunning, and locals have enjoyed swimming at Sandy Beach for generations. In the 1980s, Seeger suggested a campground with life-guards but the idea crashed with the stock market in 1987. “All the money that was going to go to it disappeared,” said Evan Thompson, manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park, of which Little Stony Point is a part.

Although people do go into the water, swimming at Little Stony Point is not allowed. “We’re not trying to be mean,” says Thompson. “We’re trying to keep people safe.” The placid appearance masks dangers that have led to drownings, including as recently as last summer.

The first danger is the current, Thompson says, which can be hard to gauge. Anyone who sits on shore in early spring, when the ice begins to break up, will get a clear sense of how fast the current moves.

“The ice floes go by at 20 miles per hour,” Thompson notes. “There’s no way anyone can swim against that.”

The second danger is depth. This stretch of the river is known as World’s End because of a vast underwater canyon that makes it the deepest part of the river. It begins with a steep drop-off — imagine Breakneck Ridge, inverted — that starts along the shore and bottoms out at depths of more than 100 feet. People who can’t swim will wade into the water, assuming it won’t get too deep, then drop off the edge of an underwater cliff and never come back up.

Thompson says that the area’s surging popularity with hikers since 2005 makes the idea of turning Little Stony Point into a sanctioned public beach unlikely, in large part because of a lack of parking.

A few miles north, the River Pool in Beacon — also championed by Seeger — is one of the five sanctioned swimming spots on the river, inspired by similar pools in Manhattan, although it will be closed this summer. (The other spots are in Saugerties, Ulster, Kingston and Croton.)

“We’re trying to improve the flotation,” explains Alan Zollner, a member of the River Pool board. “Some of the wood inside the seats in the entry platform has gotten waterlogged.”

There are official swims happening this

summer that can get you in the river. On Sunday (June 19), the annual, seven-day 8 Bridges Hudson River Swim will begin, with swimmers covering the 120 miles from the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

“It’s a journey from rural to urban; sweet water to saltwater,” said David Barra, the co-founder of New York Open Water, which partners with Riverkeeper to run the event. “It’s epic and life-changing.”

Public access hasn’t gotten any easier on the river since the first 8 Bridges Swim in 2011, Barra says. “Waterfront development continues without any consideration for swimming access,” he says. “Even obtaining permission for loading and unloading small boats for swimmers is overly bureaucratic and restrictive.”

In addition, on July 30, boat traffic will be stopped for the mile-long Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim. The annual event, now in its 18th year, raises money for the River Pool.

“There’s an incredible connectedness that the swimmers have when they come out of the water,” says Zollner. “People undertake this swim to commemorate birthdays and cancer recoveries. And they come out so exhilarated and proud.”

For more information, see nyopenwater.org and riverpool.org.