

# The HIGHLANDS Current



From Fire to Festival  
Page 11

OCTOBER 28, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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**PRINCESS POWER** — While waiting for her pumpkin carriage, a local royal threw rings during a game at the annual Pumpkin Glow held at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison on Sunday (Oct. 23).

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Should Schools Change Columbus Day?

*Beacon district seeks input from residents*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board is considering renaming Columbus Day on the district's calendar to Indigenous Peoples' Day, a movement that has gained traction nationally as a means of honoring Native American tribes who predated Christopher Columbus.

The board is asking district residents to provide input on the proposal at its meetings on Nov. 7, Nov. 21 or Dec. 12. Public comment, which is limited to four minutes per speaker, is always the first item on the agenda at meetings, which are held at 7 p.m. at Beacon High School. Input can also be submitted to [bcasdboe@beaconk12.org](mailto:bcasdboe@beaconk12.org).

Jamie Mulligan, who is the husband of City Council Member Molly Rhodes, asked the board during a public-comment session last month to consider the change. While Mulligan didn't give a reason, other

(Continued on Page 16)

## Dutchess Sheriff Candidates on Bail Reform, Diversity

*Acting sheriff and retired deputy face off*

By Joey Asher

In the Dutchess County sheriff's race, voters have a choice between candidates who worked together for many years: acting Sheriff Kirk Imperati, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger, Jillian Hanlon. Both are experienced law enforcement officers who said in interviews they want to attack crime and its underlying mental health issues.

It will be the first contested race for sheriff in Dutchess County in 23 years. The winner



Kirk Imperati



Jillian Hanlon

will succeed Adrian "Butch" Anderson, who was elected sheriff in 1999 with 61 percent of the vote and subsequently won five, 4-year terms without opposition. Anderson died in September 2021 and Imperati, his second-in-command, became acting sheriff.

(Continued on Page 9)

## Two Assembly Candidates Each Hope to Succeed Galef

*Competing to represent district that includes Philipstown*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In discussing the issues facing the state and Assembly District 95, which includes Philipstown, two candidates hoping to succeed the retiring, longtime legislator Sandy Galef mention some of the same challenges.

But when it comes to solutions, Republican Stacy Halper and Democrat Dana Levenberg have differences.



Stacy Halper



Dana Levenberg

Halper, who grew up in Brooklyn, says on her campaign website that she pursued a career as a musician before joining Random House, where she worked in marketing. The Briarcliff resident later earned degrees from SUNY Purchase and Manhattanville

(Continued on Page 6)

WRITE-IN for VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING TRUSTEES



FRAN MURPHY & MARIE EARLY



PAID AD

EXPERIENCED WITH A LONG HISTORY OF COMMITMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MARYAM WOOTAN

By Chip Rowe

Maryam Wootan, a nurse and acupuncturist who lives and works in Beacon, is a native of Iran. On Nov. 13, she will lead a dance performance at the Farmers' Market and a musical performance at Polhill Park to bring awareness to widespread protests in the country triggered by the death of a 22-year-old woman while in custody of the morality police.

## When did you leave Iran?

I knew I had to leave when I finished high school in 1997. I was filled with so much rage at the regime that the meditation that saved me was lying down on the floor of my room and imagining myself running. When I went on hikes with my girlfriends, we would be searched by the morality guards. One time they broke a cassette tape of classical music I had in my Walkman, to humiliate us. Their name, *komiteh*, has given me chills since I was 8 or 9 years old.

I was born a year after the revolution against the shah and the thousands of years of monarchies. Monarchy was so deeply embedded that although we revolted, my people succumbed to a new form of monarchy under the mullahs. Although many groups worked to throw the shah out, the mullahs hijacked the revolution.

## What do you remember about school?

The curriculum changed to incorporate Islamic themes. We had classes dedicated to the Quran, the Arabic language and religious studies. We had to participate in the noon prayer to get a good grade in morality. We started our mornings by chanting slogans for the health of the supreme leader.

Outside school, we were constantly harassed by the morality guards and told not to wear colorful shoelaces or sweaters over our hijabs. Our bags were searched to see if we had music or books or magazines. They would even have us lift our pants to make sure we were not shaving our legs and would study our faces to make sure we had



all our facial hair.

My girlfriends and I would cry "Komiteh! Komiteh!" as a joke to scare each other. I remember changing my path when I saw their van from afar. I would be filled with anger: Why do I have to change my path because of someone else's bullying?

## How did this affect you?

The environment of fear surrounded us. As a teenager, if we had a party and the morality police showed up, we made sure to have cash to bribe them. Sometimes more than one group would show up in the course of a night. There were many incidents of people being jailed and receiving lashes for throwing a mixed party or serving alcohol. I remember sitting in a car with my boyfriend and having to lower my head every time a suspicious car drove by so we wouldn't get arrested. I was covering my head with a scarf, covering my mind, my hair, my body, my identity, having half the rights of a man at any moment.

This was a country I care for so much, with such an amazing history, poetry, architecture, food, jewelry, handcrafts and scenery, and such clear-hearted and generous people. But I couldn't stand living there. My father was a filmmaker but said that making movies in Iran was like walking a tightrope. Many of his movies were banned or heavily censored. My mom was an architect but most projects went to men and government organizations.

## Have you stayed in touch with childhood friends?

More than 90 percent of my classmates live abroad: artists separated from their roots, female performers exiled. Music was the art that the mullahs could not tolerate. We used to have an amazing philharmonic concert before the revolution, we had performers and artists and creators who were ready to blossom. That's not to mention the doctors, engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs who could have made my country a heaven to live in. They are contributing, but in other countries.

## Are you hopeful about the protests taking place?

In the 23 years since I came to New York, Iran has been in the news constantly. But this movement for freedom seems to be the most global. Millions of Iranians in exile are connecting to one another. The youth, the teenagers, the ones with ticking bombs in their hearts, instead of changing their path, are walking straight toward the morality guards, with their scarves in their hands and shouting "Women! Life! Freedom!"

For the first time in my life, I am imagining what Iran would look like as part of the free world, with women enjoying the same rights as men, both enjoying respect and the wealth of a nation. Women and men hand-in-hand, songs and laughter in the streets. Artists, journalists, social activists, athletes and others working, living, creating. Foreigners visiting my country with curiosity. I have hope.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## It's Halloween! What's your favorite horror movie?

"*Insidious*. I have to watch it alone; my boyfriend won't watch scary movies."



Amanda Quintana, Beacon

"I really like *Shutter Island*, with Leonardo DiCaprio."



Briams Beltran, Newburgh  
(visiting Cold Spring)

"*Scream*. I saw it with my dad and we both screamed!"



Sammy Smith-Coleman, Cold Spring



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## AWARDS

## Best Family

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

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**NYFA\*** Winner: 97 Better  
Newspaper Contest Awards

\* New York Press Association, 2013 - 21

**NNA\*** Winner: 93 Better  
Newspaper Contest Awards

\* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 21

**NYNPA\*** Winner: 22 Awards  
for Excellence

\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 21

## Tell us what you think

**T**he *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](mailto: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](http://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Village endorsements

Election Day is Nov. 8, which, I realize, might be hard to miss given the contents of our mailboxes and the signs on every street corner.

Did you know that the Village of Cold Spring has candidates? Village elections are typically lively and eventful, but this season you'd be hard-pressed to know who is on the ballot and for what.

Though she is running unopposed, I encourage you to vote for Tweep's Phillips Woods in her re-election campaign. I served with Tweep's on the Village Board for four-plus months and found her to be a keen listener, smart, undramatic and sound in her thinking. She's a strategic thinker who was extremely helpful finalizing our garbage contracts with Royal Carting and crafting a budget which didn't dump the burden on the taxpayer. She understands the need for revenue and a long-term vision for infrastructure repairs.

Though it may be easy to glance over the village portion of the ballot, I encourage you to vote for Tweep's.

Joe Curto, *Cold Spring*

Trustee Woods has been a steady hand in local politics during challenging times for villagers. She has shown in her work that she is committed to making Village Hall a place that gets business done.

Her clear explanations during meetings and genuine curiosity to search for results that are best for all residents has been the type of work that every villager can appreciate and admire.

Woods' approach to problems is both direct and results-oriented. She is not afraid to tackle tough issues head-on.

When you speak to her about a concern, her answers are no-nonsense and her solutions common sense.

That's the type of quality leadership our village needs and deserves. I look forward to casting my vote for Trustee Woods and encourage anyone who values our village and community to do the same.

Travis Fyfe, *Cold Spring*

### Transition team

In response to Michael Barr's letter in the Oct. 21 issue, Moms for Liberty is quite the misnomer. They are actually Moms for Censorship/Book Bans. What's puzzling is that so many conservatives, who spend much of their time these days wailing about "cancel culture" and censorship, are so supportive of them.

And let's be real — Kevin Byrne, who is running unopposed for Putnam County executive, did not choose the best people for the job for this transition team — he appointed his friends. "Many" residents of Putnam may share Byrne's views, as Barr claims, but many don't, and that number is growing. Any politician would be well advised to listen.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*

### Looking back

The item in "Looking Back in Philipstown" (Oct. 14) about the train wreck south of Garrison in 1897 that killed 19 people — including eight Chinese workers — reflected a larger part of history.

Between 1863 and 1869, about 15,000 Chinese workers completed the transcontinental railroad — 700 miles of tracks between Sacramento, California, and Promontory, Utah. More than 2.5 million Chinese citizens had come to the U.S. in 1864 after

a labor shortage threatened its completion, and were paid less than American workers.

Violence toward Chinese increased in the 1870s and many sought safety by making their way to New York to find work in laundries and restaurants, and as laborers. Today's anti-Asian racism is deeply rooted in this history. This tragic story from 125 years ago tells us so much.

Christina Moon, *via Instagram*

### Pride flag

The recent decision by the Philipstown Town Board to decline raising Pride flags on municipal property during Pride month in June is extremely misguided and obviously rooted in fear of standing up to bigots ("Philipstown Votes to Limit Flags," Oct. 14).

We are in the midst of a fight in our schools across the county and the country about whether we give in to bullies who are attempting to paint LGBTQ+ and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and people of color] history and experience as inappropriate for curriculums and libraries. What the board's recent decision has done is to bolster those bullies' arguments tenfold.

The board members, like the members of the Cold Spring Village Board, have caved to hate groups by implicitly suggesting that the LGBTQ+ Pride flag — which is flown on federal government property and symbolizes Pride Month, recognized via an official presidential proclamation in 2022 — is somehow on par with flags that represent private groups.

The board members have admitted that their motivation for refusing to fly any flags outside of the POW/MIA, U.S. and relevant town or village flags is to avoid controversy. One resident who commented during

(Continued on Page 5)





# Beacon Budget Hearing Set

*Proposal balances inflation with modest tax increase*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council has scheduled a public hearing for Nov. 7 on the proposed 2023 budget, a \$33.7 million spending plan that could include a modest property tax increase for homeowners.

The budget proposes a decrease of about 11 percent in the tax rate for residential properties. However, because assessed values are up nearly 18 percent for residences, the city estimates that the average home (assessed at \$400,000) will see a 2.9 percent tax bill increase, which amounts to about \$80 annually. With a 10 percent tax rate decrease proposed for commercial properties, those tax bills will likely decrease by about 10 percent.

The addition of \$26 million in new or improved properties to the rolls, as well as a renegotiated sales tax-sharing agreement with Dutchess County, will ease the impact on residents. The tax-sharing agreement, brokered by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, will bring more than \$1 million in added revenue next year.

"The sales tax bought us a number of things," said City Administrator Chris White. "One, we're reducing our reliance on the fund balance. Second we're able to continue investing in a few new positions and some initiatives. Thirdly, we're absorbing hits from inflation, particularly in insur-

ance and energy costs, and we were also able to mitigate the tax hike. If we didn't have the sales tax, that would be a lot higher."

As always, the budget is broken up into three funds: a \$24.6 million general operating fund, a \$4 million water fund and a \$5.1 million sewer fund. The proposal includes 3 percent increases in water and sewer fees to cover inflation and fund ongoing infrastructure investments.

The city is proposing a \$12.5 million tax levy, which is the total amount of property taxes it would take in. The proposal is about \$400,000 less than what the state's tax cap allows.

If approved, the budget will add two full-time positions to the city workforce — a firefighter and a water/sewer maintenance helper — as well as a part-time civilian dispatcher in the Police Department. Initiatives that would receive continued or added funding include a full-time mental health case manager in the Police Department, ambulance service, park bathroom cleaning, the continuation of the municipal compost program and expanded swimming pool hours.

Notably, the budget proposes drawing only \$200,000 from the city's fund balance, or savings. Last year the budget required \$585,000 to offset the tax levy. The year before, with sales tax and other revenues lost to the pandemic shutdown, the city spent \$2.3 million of its savings.

The City Council must adopt the 2023 budget before the end of the year.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

the meeting, and who is also a member of the Cold Spring board, went so far as to suggest it would be too problematic to have to choose between flying the Juneteenth and Pride flags, as if the option of flying both didn't exist.

Hundreds of municipalities around the country fly Pride flags without a problem and there is a clear legal path to do so, which Putnam Pride will be sharing with all local governments in the county as a guideline for future rulings.

These recent decisions on Pride flags by the two most progressive local governments in Putnam County are a true loss for LGBTQ+ constituents and residents. Businesses and citizens can still fly Pride flags, and we hope to see more of them in response to this decision, but that does not make up for our representatives drawing a false equivalence between an internationally recognized, affirming symbol and private organizations, or attempting to pit the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities against one another.

Gaston Alonso, *Cold Spring*

*This letter was also signed by Lloyd DesBrisay, Brad Gilley, Young Lee, Marko Wurm, Leonora Burton and Eileen McDermott.*

## Teacher burnout

As a teacher for 15 years, I was dismayed by your characterization of the solution for

teacher burnout as resting upon individual teachers and their habits, rather than systemic educational issues and administrative oversight ("Are the Kids Alright?" Part 3, Oct. 21).

When Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante states that teachers need to eat right and exercise to support work-life balance, he is ignoring the greater issues that place stress upon teachers. Teachers need more prep and planning time, not extra fruit in the staff lounge. Teachers need increased autonomy to teach the way they know children know best and reduced focus on high-stakes testing.

Teachers need space to let children engage in free play indoors and outdoors, which studies show increase children's focus, improve mood and reduce behavior issues in class — not new curricular initiatives designed to make up for "lost time" during the pandemic.

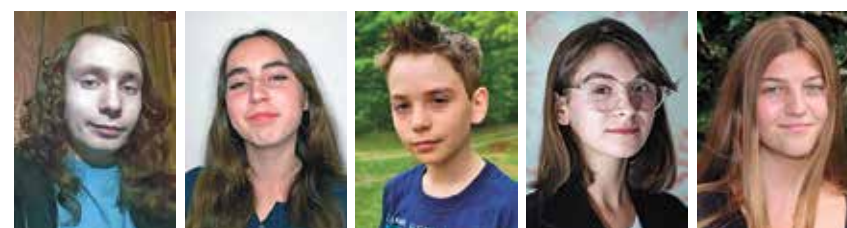
Wellness is not a day off here or there, but long-term, wraparound supports that address the daily struggles teachers face, which have only increased since the pandemic. Schools and school districts need to engage teachers in conversations about what kind of support would benefit them and their students.

Please stop perpetuating the idea that teacher burnout is a personal issue and discuss the larger institutional issues causing teachers to feel this way.

Katie Kunin, *Wappingers Falls*

## Current STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

## Current Names Student Journalists



Derasmo Tripp Wall Edwards Salas Zuckerman

## Five will participate in 2022-23 program

The *Highlands Current* has named five students as its latest correspondents for the paper and website as part of its Student Journalists Program, now in its third year.

The program, which is funded by gifts from The DJ McManus Foundation and members of *The Current*, provides students with an opportunity to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as paid correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper

and website. The correspondents will primarily cover their high schools and issues related to young people.

The correspondents for 2022-23 are Jason Derasmo, a senior at Beacon High School; Clara Tripp, who lives in Garrison and is a sophomore at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx; and Eamon Wall, a seventh-grader at Haldane Middle School. In addition, Violeta Edwards Salas, a sophomore at Haldane High School, and Lily Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison and is a junior at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, will continue with the program.

PAID AD

WRITE-IN

and ELECT

FRAN MURPHY

&

MARIE EARLY

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Stalwarts of the community, dedicating over 25yrs. of combined service to your Village

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F.  
Murphy

Write-in/Escribir-En

M.  
Early

\*Find boxes in the lower right-hand corner of your ballot  
Write-in: **F. Murphy** and **M. Early**. Boxes are small, so print small.

# Here Are Your Choices

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. In the general election, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of party registration.

BALLOT INITIATIVE

Proposal No. 1  
A Proposition

To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Act of 2022 authorizes the sale of state bonds up to \$4.2 billion to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency and clean-energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?

FEDERAL

U.S. Senate

Joe Pinion (R, C)  
Charles E. Schumer (D, WF)  
Diane Sare (LaRouche)

NEW YORK STATE

Governor/Lt. Governor

Kathy Hochul/Antonio Delgado (D, WF)  
Lee Zeldin/Alison Esposito (R, C)

Comptroller

Thomas DiNapoli (D, WF)  
Paul Rodriquez (R, C)

Attorney General

Michael Henry (R, C)  
Letitia James (D, WF)

State Senate (District 39)

Rob Rolison (R)  
Julie Shiroishi (D, WF)

State Supreme Court, 9th District  
(Vote for 7)

The 9th District (of 13) covers Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties. Judges serve a 14-year term.

John Ciampoli (R, C)  
- Private practice  
Robert Cypher Jr. (R)  
- Private practice, former Rye judge  
Sherri Eisenpress (D, C)  
- Rockland Family Court  
Joseph Farca (R)  
- Private practice  
Keri Flore (D)  
- Support magistrate, Cortlandt Manor  
Elena Goldberg-Velazquez (D, C)  
- Yonkers City Court  
Michael Grace (R)  
- Former Yorktown supervisor  
Richard Guertin (R)  
- Middletown City Court  
Anne Minihan (D, C)  
- Westchester County Court  
Linda Murray (R)  
- Court attorney, Poughkeepsie  
Amy Puerto (D)  
- Court attorney, Westchester  
John Sarcone III (R, C)  
- Private practice, Croton  
David Squirrell (D)  
- Putnam Legal Aid Society  
David Zuckerman (D, C)  
- Westchester Supreme Court

FOR VOTERS IN PHILIPSTOWN

U.S. House (District 17)

Mike Lawler (R, C)  
Sean Patrick Maloney (D, WF)

State Assembly (District 95)

Stacy Halper (R, C)  
Dana Levenberg (D, WF)

Putnam County Executive

Kevin M. Byrne (R, C)

Putnam County Clerk

Michael C. Bartolotti (R, C)

Putnam County Coroner (Vote for 2)

John Bourges (R, C)  
Michael Nesheiwat (R, C)

Highway Superintendent

Adam Hotaling (D)

FOR VOTERS IN COLD SPRING

Trustees (Vote for 2)

Laura Bozzi (Good Neighbors)  
Tweeps Woods (Service)

FOR VOTERS IN BEACON

U.S. House (District 18)

Pat Ryan (D, WF)  
Colin Schmitt (R, C)

State Assembly (District 104)

Jonathan Jacobson (D, WF)

Dutchess County Sheriff

Jillian Hanlon (D, WF)  
Kirk Imperati (R, C)

Assembly (from Page 1)

and became a music teacher in the Bronx until her retirement in 2019.

Levenberg, a native of Teaneck, New Jersey, holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Brown University. A former advertising and TV producer, she served nine years on the Ossining school board and is in her fourth term as town supervisor. She also worked for eight years as chief of staff for Galef, who has endorsed her.

Levenberg’s views were taken from her website, her responses to questions from *The Current* and her comments at a Democratic rally held in Philipstown on Sunday (Oct. 23). Halper’s views were taken from her website; she did not respond to emailed questions about her positions.

Economy

On her website, Levenberg recommends additional protections to those affected by the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plant and “smart re-utilization” of the site to avert “an economic crisis from the loss of revenue and jobs.”

She added on Monday: “I’m working for clean air, clean water and green jobs, to bring us into a future where we are no longer dependent on fossil fuels that imperil our planet and our security. I want an economic recovery that extends to everyone, not just the ultra-rich.”

She also said that she’s “on a mission to build healthy communities in every sense of the word — environmentally, physically and mentally,” as well as economically, “all through the lens of equity.”

On her website, Halper calls New York tax rates “outrageous”; blasts the use of state funds for a new stadium in Buffalo; asserts that state Attorney General Letitia James “wants to not only fund low-income women’s abortions but wants to also fund abortions from out-of-state women”; and claims that Sen. Chuck Schumer, “whose pandering knows no bounds, gave \$2 million to a religious group to build a fertility clinic,” a claim on which she did not elaborate.

Education

Levenberg said that “strong public schools are central to our communities” and that she wants “to fix the Foundation Aid formula and ensure that school districts in the 95th can be fully funded without breaking the backs of our local taxpayers” and that in overseeing town budgets, as a supervisor, and school budgets, as a school board member, she has “always found ways to stay within the tax cap” imposed by Albany on increases in property taxes.

Halper advocates that schools “prepare  
(Continued on Page 7)

★ PARTY KEY: DEM = Democratic | REP = Republican | CON = Conservative | WF = Working Families ★

## Early Voting

For Beacon

Fishkill Town Hall  
807 Route 52

For Philipstown

North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road

SAT 29: 9a – 5p

SUN 30: 9a – 5p

MON 31: 8a – 4p (Beacon)

MON 31: 9a – 5p (Philipstown)

TUES 1: Noon – 8p

WED 2: 9a – 5p

THURS 3: Noon – 8p

FRI 4: 9a – 5p

SAT 5: 9a – 5p

SUN 6: 9a – 5p



## Registration

The deadline to register to vote in the 2022 general election has passed. To verify you are registered and locate your polling place, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

## Results

Check highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. on Nov. 8 for unofficial results.

## Absentee Voting

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail or other means has passed, although you can apply in person at the county Board of Elections through Nov. 7. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 8.

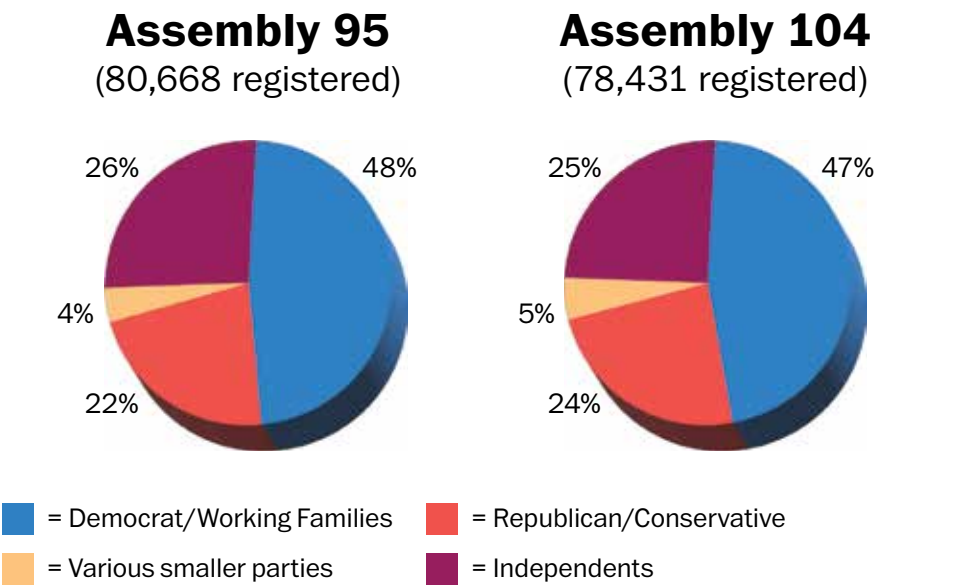
**Note:** Voters who have been issued an absentee ballot may no longer vote in person on a machine, regardless of whether the ballot was submitted. However, a voter who requested an absentee ballot but did not return it can complete an affidavit ballot at the polls.

## Assembly District 104 (Beacon)

Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat who represents District 104, which includes Beacon, is running unopposed for his third, 2-year term. In 2020, he defeated Republican challenger Andrew Gauzza IV, with 55 percent of the vote, including 71 percent of the vote in Beacon.



Party Lines



Source: NYS Board of Elections, for active voters, as of Feb. 21

(Continued from Page 6)

our children in math, English, languages, history and science. We cannot turn our art classes into courses in politics; or our music classes into negating all of Western music,” she said. She also alleges that “as young as kindergarten our children are being indoctrinated into questioning their gender, their value as a person based on race and religion” and proposes that “all instruction that mentions gender indoctrination be banned from our schools.”

**Elections**

Emphasizing that “we must ensure our electoral process is beyond reproach,” Halper endorses requiring that every voter present identification at the polls and that absentee ballots be restricted to the elderly, disabled, military, college students and people who are out of state or country. She supports a ban on ballot drop boxes and argues that ballots “must be followed at all

times until the final count, by officials of each party. Only in this way can we begin to have confidence again in our elections.”

Levenberg accused Halper of believing “people should only be allowed to vote in person on Election Day” and accused the Republican Party of “using conspiracy theories, misinformation, voter suppression and scare-tactics to push through unpopular policies that benefit very few people.” She described the GOP as having “been taken over by an extreme right-wing faction, the MAGA movement [Donald Trump’s Make America Great Again] that wants to turn back the clock to a time when most people — women, the LGBTQ community and people of color in particular — had fewer rights.”

On her website, Halper writes that “Sandy Galef has occupied this seat for 30 years, admirably. However, this is not the Democrat party of 30 years ago. The new Democrats are very far left and do not speak to the everyday working people.”

Campaign Spending 2022

	RAISED	SPENT	ON HAND
STATE SENATE 39			
Rob Rolison (R)	\$169K	\$85K	\$84K
Julie Shiroishi (D)	\$189K	\$108K	\$81K
STATE ASSEMBLY 95			
Dana Levenberg (D)	\$206K	\$136K	\$70K
Stacy Halper (R)	\$14K	\$0	\$14K
STATE ASSEMBLY 104			
Jonathan Jacobson (D)	\$37K	\$10K	\$105K
PUTNAM COUNTY			
Democratic Committee	\$20K	\$17K	\$11K
Republican Committee*	\$7K	\$13K	\$15K
DUTCHESS COUNTY			
Democratic Committee	\$26K	\$15K	\$32K
Republican Committee	\$42K	\$43K	\$5K

Source: State Board of Elections, through Oct. 8 \*As of July 25

**Other issues**

Halper advocates an end to “vaccine mandates,” saying that “even though the worst of the pandemic is over, the dangerous government precedents have been set,” and urges the state Legislature to repeal reforms that took effect in 2020 that eliminated cash bail for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.

Under bail reform, she wrote, judges are “encouraged to let them go” if defendants promise to return for future court dates. Given “reports of new crimes being committed” by these individuals, she said, the state “must either hire more judges” to conduct trials “or put these people behind bars while waiting.”

Levenberg said she would like to see more attention to sustainability and cited her record as town supervisor in establishing electric vehicle charging stations, requirements for constructing energy-efficient buildings, food-scraps recycling and other initiatives.

“We need to make sure that we continue to focus on our environment,” she said during a rally organized by Philipstown Democrats, “because we only have this one Earth. And if we don’t take care of it, we’re not going to be able to breathe the air, we’re not going to be able to drink the water.”

**PROPOSITION 1** — Eight months ago, Gov. Kathy Hochul visited Kingston to unveil the Sojourner Truth State Park. A collaboration between the state, Scenic Hudson and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the 500-acre park includes 17 ecosystems and a connection to the 750-mile Empire State Trail. Most of the park has been off-limits since. Starting with early voting on Saturday (Oct. 29), New Yorkers will be asked to consider a proposition that would authorize the state to issue up to \$4.2 billion in bonds to “fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency and clean energy projects,” including completing the park. For more details about the bond proposal, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

◀ The newly designated Sojourner Truth State Park in Kingston does not have river access, but that would change if voters approve a bond act on the statewide ballot.

*Photo by Brian PJ Cronin*

Former Trustees Launch Write-In Campaign

*Early and Murphy ask for Cold Spring votes*

**By Chip Rowe**

Two former Cold Spring trustees this week announced write-in campaigns to return to the Village Board.

Fran Murphy and Marie Early will ask voters to add their names to the Nov. 8 ballot.

There are two open seats on the five-member Village Board, held by Laura Bozzi and Tweeps Woods. Both incumbents filed

nominating petitions with the Putnam County Board of Elections by the May deadline and will appear on the ballot.

On Wednesday (Oct. 26) Early and Murphy issued a statement, which read, in part:

“During our seven years on the Village Board, we shared a strong work ethic and, with the rest of the board, accomplished much. Our hope was that the new administration would carry on the work we were so close to finishing.

“Unfortunately, this hasn’t happened. This is incredibly disappointing. The year

off has re-energized us and we need to complete what we started. Village residents will now have a choice.”

The former trustees are being assisted by former Mayor Dave Merandy, who, in June 2021, dropped out of what would have been a three-way mayoral race. Early also dropped out, and Murphy did not seek re-election.

The other three seats on the Village Board, held by Mayor Kathleen Foley and Trustees Cathryn Fadde and Eliza Starbuck, will be on the ballot in 2023.

Woods was elected in November 2021

to complete the final year of the 2-year term of Heidi Bender, who was elected in 2020 but resigned. Woods had earlier been appointed by Merandy to complete the first year of Bender’s term.

Bozzi was appointed in May to replace Joe Curto, who resigned, citing health reasons. He had been appointed to fill Foley’s trustee seat after she was elected mayor.

The two seats on the Nov. 8 ballot are for full, 2-year terms. To assist voters, *The Current* plans to ask each of the four candidates for responses to three questions and will publish their answers next week.

*Michael Turton contributed reporting.*



# Democrats Move Rally After Security Concerns

*Opponents grouched online event would attract 'Marxists'*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Democrats hosted a rally in Garrison on Sunday (Oct. 23) rather than Cold Spring after security concerns arose.

Critics online objected to the use of a village park for the event and claimed it would attract “Marxists,” “socialists” and “outside agitators.” The Democrats described it in posters and advertisements as a “rally for our rights” and push to get out the vote for the Nov. 8 election.

Citing “last-minute security concerns raised by village officials,” organizers moved the rally from McConville Park (“Tot Park”) to a private farm farther south on Route 9D, where Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, state Assembly candidate Dana Levenberg and others urged the 60 attendees to continue fighting for their causes.

Organizers said they reconsidered their plans after hostile reactions appeared on the Philipstown Neighbors page on Facebook and the Cold Spring Police Department took note. “We thank Mayor Kathleen Foley and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke for their close attention to this matter,” the Democrats said Oct. 22 when announcing the new location.



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney with Janice Hogan, who chairs the Philipstown Democrats, at an Oct. 23 rally in Garrison

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Foley said on Wednesday (Oct. 26) that the Village Board approved a permit for the group to use McConville Park, and that village officials, including Burke, “made no recommendations about the location.” She added that “officers were fully prepared to manage” security.

When the event attracted negative attention on social media, Burke scheduled additional officers “to ensure it could proceed

safely,” the mayor said.

However, the mayor said she asked organizers to pay for the extra officers. Moreover, the event changed from its permitted use when political candidates were invited to speak, she said. “Village taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize the costs of security for a campaign event.”

An image that appeared in promotions for the event apparently sparked the animosity. It featured a bright blue fist, which some Philipstown Neighbors members interpreted as a reference to Communism or socialism. According to the poster, the rally was intended to support “climate action, civic action, abortion rights, voting rights and more.”

Other naysayers predicted the rally would draw non-residents intent on transforming the way of life in Philipstown. “Activists not from the area are going to try to change the school district and community,” one person wrote. “Stand up against their propaganda or they will succeed.”

Someone else cautioned that McConville Park, which includes a 9/11 memorial, “seems to be the wrong place” for a political rally.

Janice Hogan, who chairs the Philipstown Democrats, said social media sniping usually is dismissed as “just people talking.” But when the committee learned of police concerns, it grew wary, she explained.

“Even though we’re a small community,” she said, “we don’t always know how riled

## COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

### PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases:  
**29,186** (+109)

Positive Tests,  
7-day average:  
**5.8%** (-1.9)

Percent vaccinated:  
**84.0**

Cold Spring: **96.1**  
Garrison: **89.5**

Number of deaths:  
**136** (+1)

### DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases:  
**78,548** (+345)

Positive Tests, 7-day  
average:  
**7.9%** (-0.4)

Percent vaccinated:  
**78.6**

Beacon: **73.9**

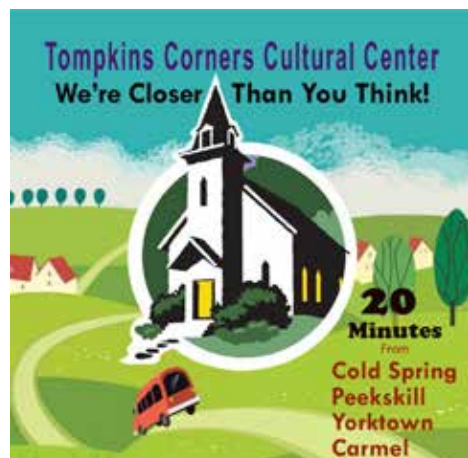
Number of deaths:  
**706** (+2)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Oct. 26, with totals since pandemic began and change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those who have received at least one dose as of Oct. 21.

up people are and what they may feel that they should do.”

She said a suggestion online that the event would “destroy” the park was “pretty out-there. And it’s exactly the kind of out-there thing that might cause people to do something really stupid. Officer Burke’s concerns were legitimate, and the concerns for the village are legitimate. And it made sense for us to not burden the village in that way.”

So they rallied down the road.



## November Events

SAT., NOV. 5, 7:30 PM

**Maeve Gilchrist**  
Celtic Harpist

SUN., NOV. 6, 2:00 PM

**Pay Dirt**

A reading directed by Alice Jankell

SUN., NOV. 13, 3:00 PM

**Poets' Corner Open Mic**  
featuring Tony Howarth

SAT., NOV. 19TH, 7:30 PM

**Nora Brown**  
**Down Hill Strugglers**  
Old-time music with youthful  
enthusiasm and age-old reverence

[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

729 Peekskill Hollow Rd.,  
Putnam Valley, NY

## IN FOCUS: JANNIS KOUNELLIS AS MENTOR

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 2:30 p.m.

Magazzino Italian Art

2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Seating is limited

Tickets can be purchased at  
<https://www.magazzino.art/visit/events/jannis-kounellis-mentor>

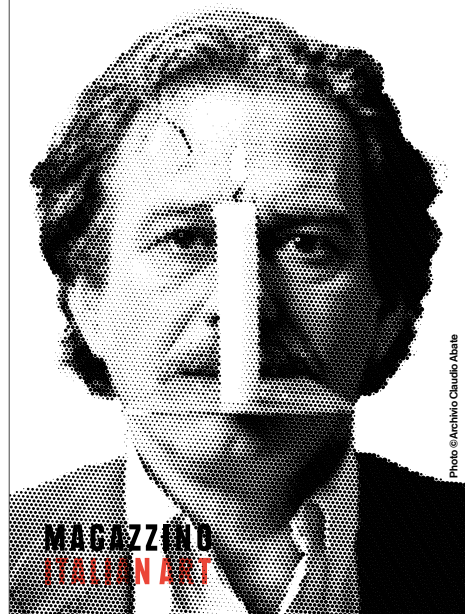


Photo © Archivio Claudio Abate

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## Sheriff *(from Page 1)*

Hanlon, who lives in Millbrook, is a Marist College graduate who became a sheriff's deputy in 1999 after two years as corrections officer. She retired in November 2021 and, if elected, would be the first openly transgender sheriff in the country.

"It is not relevant to whether I am competent to do the job," said Hanlon, "but representation matters. And it is relevant to every queer person who has ever been denied an opportunity to run for office, every queer person who has been afraid that they might not be able to be a police officer, every queer child in the country who has seen the right-wing Republican extremists who are trying to criminalize us."

She added, "We talk about improving and increasing diversity as an important public policy goal. Well, here I am."

Imperati agreed that improving diversity is an important goal for the office. A list of 148 positions provided by the agency last year showed its employees include 20 women, five Latinos, two Blacks and two Asians. White males held the rest of the positions.

The sheriff's office "has worked diligently to increase diversity within our agency to be more representative of the communities we serve," Imperati said in March at the graduation of the Dutchess County Police Academy, calling the class "the most diverse group of graduates" in the history of the academy.

That class included two full-time deputies, both men, one of whom is "multiracial," according to the sheriff's office. The class also included seven part-time officers: two Black men, two white men, one Black woman, one Latino woman and one Latino man.

### Backgrounds

Both candidates have long careers in public service and law enforcement.

"I'm everyone's sheriff," Imperati said. "I'm not a political person. This is a calling for me. I've wanted to be in law enforcement since I was in high school."

In his 29 years with the department, Imperati has held a series of positions, including road patrol officer, detective and supervisor of crime prevention programs in local schools and organizations. Most recently, he was undersheriff, overseeing day-to-day operations at the sheriff's office, including the

corrections, civil and road patrol divisions.

Hanlon's career included stints as a corrections officer, deputy and paramedic. "I have decades of real world experience," she said. "I have talked multiple people off the ledge."

She said that, while in high school, she decided to be a paramedic because of the television drama *Emergency*. She was hired as an ambulance driver in Hudson in 1984 and became a paramedic in Poughkeepsie in 1988. After working as a union organizer, she joined the sheriff's office in 1996 as a correction officer and became a deputy in 1999.

### Key issues

Imperati said that lobbying to reverse bail reforms tops his agenda. He expressed frustration at how quickly, under a law that took effect in January 2020 that eliminated cash bail for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, defendants are released after being arrested.

"We call the judge, they tell us to issue an appearance ticket and our people are processing paperwork while that person is back on the street committing the same crime," Imperati said. "It snowballs out of control where you have people committing these offenses six and seven times in one week or more and putting our community at risk."

(According to data compiled by the state, the effects of bail reform are far less conclusive. Generally, defendants are returning to court and not being arrested again while their cases are pending at the same levels as before bail reform. However, the figures

do not include town or village courts.)

Imperati also emphasized the need to fight the abuse of opioids and heroin. He said his office is putting together a response team with deputies and mental health workers to provide both policing and counseling to help people under the influence of drugs.

Hanlon agreed the department should address mental health issues. "The one thing that absolutely separates us is who is better qualified to address the mental health needs of the incarcerated, the staff and the public at large," she said. She pointed to her own role in 2002 in helping to create the county's Critical Incident Response Team, peer volunteers who help first responders deal with job-related stress.

Finally, Imperati said he hopes to build public confidence in law enforcement with body cameras for deputy sheriffs and correction officers.

Hanlon said she is running on an anti-crime platform that, for her, means attacking "poverty, desperation and trauma, particularly childhood trauma," she said. "The heart of my campaign is compassion."

In particular, Hanlon points to the need to improve management of the Dutchess County Jail, which is operated by the sheriff's office.

"If we want to get a handle on street violence, the way to do that is to address what is going on at the jail," she said. "We keep graduating worse criminals from our jail. If our jails have become de facto psychiatric hospitals, we need to start treating them as such."

Hanlon says the jail is understaffed and asks its correction officers to put in too much overtime. (The jail spent \$5.1 million on overtime in 2021 and budgeted \$4 million in 2022; by comparison, the Sheriff's Department spent \$2.1 million on overtime in 2021 and budgeted \$1.8 million for 2022.) The result, Hanlon says, is a failure to address the mental health needs of the inmates as well as the overworked correction officers.

"I intend to address the mental health needs of both the criminals and the staff," she said.

Imperati agrees the jail is understaffed. "We have a lot of mandated overtime," he said. While he has hired 38 full-time and 25 part-time correction officers this year, he admits that it's hard to retain them. "It's a revolving door," he said.

Imperati says staffing should improve once the county replaces the jail with its Justice and Transition Center, due to open in 2024. He said the facility — which will have 328 beds in 297,000 square feet — will allow the department to improve its inmate-to-correctional-officer ratio. Currently, because the jail population has been dropping, the ratio is 1.3 inmates for every officer, he said. Because of its more efficient design, the new facility will improve the staff ratio to 3 inmates for every officer.

Hanlon said the new facility alone will not fix the problem. "It boils down to an absence of leadership," she alleged. "If you have the exact same toxic organization moving into a new facility, it's like having the same hermit crab in a new shell."

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**

Sat. Oct 29 – 1-5 PM & Sun. Oct 30 – 1-3 PM  
**Faces of Beacon: Past, Present, Future**  
 Exhibit featuring 23 portraits representing different facets of Beacon's community

The Faces of Beacon - Silent Auction is our major fundraising event of the year. HCC does not receive any federal, state or county funding. It relies solely on donations, membership dues and private sponsorships from people like you. Please support the 150 year old "Jewel of Beacon". 100% proceeds from Silent Auction Sale will benefit the Howland Cultural Center. Exhibit & bidding ends Nov 12.

Sun. Oct 30 – 4-6 PM  
**NORTHCUTT HALL**  
 A Special Dedication Celebration!  
 The Howland Cultural Center and its Board of Directors are pleased to announce the naming of its main gallery to be forever known as the NORTHCUTT HALL in honor of Florence Northcutt, President Emerita. 95 years young and still on the Board of Directors.

Join us in celebrating Florence Northcutt and her lifelong dedication to the Howland Cultural Center and the City of Beacon with music, refreshments, family and friends - surrounded by art!

Fri. Oct 28 – 8 pm  
**THOM JOYCE'S OPEN MIC**  
 Sign-ups at 7:30, donation requested

Sat. Oct 29 – 8 pm  
**EVENING OF THE MACABRE**  
 TIX: \$15 ADV & \$20 DOS - [howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

AND MORE  
 Nov. 4: Lit Lit - Literary Open Mic  
 Nov. 5: QWANKWA - Ethiopian Band  
 Nov. 12: ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series  
 Nov. 18: Holiday Gift Show & Sale  
 Covid protocol - mask recommended

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508  
[www.howlandculturalcenter.org](http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org) (845) 831-4988  
[facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon](https://facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon)  
[howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

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**SYNCPATED**

**BUSTER LEVI**  
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GALLERY HOURS  
 FRI - SUN 12PM TO 5:00PM

**OCT 7TH - OCT 30TH**

## Call for entries Pandemic Passion Projects

Dabblers and dilettantes, professionals and amateurs encouraged to participate.

This group exhibition welcomes any visual project work that kept you sane in the midst of the pandemic. Open to drawing, painting, sculpture, written word, photography, textile and crafts. Artists can show 1 - 3 pieces of a similar style or technique.

**Submission Deadline**  
**November 7, 2022**

Opening reception 11/19/22  
 Closing reception 12/10/22

Send jpg samples of your work to  
[info@nyc creativetherapists.com](mailto:info@nyc creativetherapists.com)  
 Subject: "Pandemic Project Submission"

Open to Philipstown, Beacon, and surrounding community residents. Entry is completely free to artists and they can keep 100% of their sales. This is a curated show. Not all entries will be accepted due to exhibit space size, quality of work, and appropriateness for display in an all ages community space.



**GROUP ART SHOW**

*create community*

11 Peekskill Road, Cold Spring



AROUND TOWN



**FALL TRADITIONS —** Youngsters at the Harvest Fest at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on Oct. 22 found contentment in a pile of leaves. They were also entertained by storyteller Lou Del Bianco, shown at left during *Monsters I Have Known*, and by music from Tim Pitt, the Kitchen Table Band and the Catahoula Cajun Band.

Photos by Ross Corsair





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10:00-1:00**





## The Calendar



The Beacon Bonfire producers, from left: Kelly Ellenwood and Jeremy Schonfeld (seated); America Olivo, Christian Campbell and Tim Parsaca

## From Fire to Festival

*Pop-up pit evolves into event*

By Alison Rooney

There are many explanations of the origin of the word *bonfire*. Most early references associate it with “bone fires,” or ossiculum. In later centuries, and in many languages, the prevailing sentiment was more akin to feu de joie, or “fire of joy.”

Whichever meaning one ascribes to, nowadays most bonfires offer a communion, convivial and warm. For Christian and America Olivo Campbell, fire pits, the bonfire’s junior cousin, were a way of making it through the pandemic. Twenty people attended the first pop-up they organized, in March 2021, and they grew from there, taking place every few months in different locations.

Soon, the Beacon couple, who are producers, actors and singers and also renovating

a Victorian mansion, added entertainment. More recently, they decided to throw a bonfire, music and art festival. It will take place Nov. 4 and 5, rain or shine, with 18 hours of programming at venues throughout the city such as Dogwood, the Howland Cultural Center and the Masonic Temple, as well as outdoors.

It was at a bonfire that the plan was hatched, of course, when the Campbells joined forces with Kelly Ellenwood and her husband, Tim Parsaca, and Jeremy Schonfeld, who is overseeing the music.

“As a composer and pianist, he’s dialed into the extensive community of top-shelf musicians in Beacon,” Campbell says. “Kelly is our driving force and get-it-done person,” while Parsaca, who worked for Madison Square Garden for decades, is handling logistics, crew and project management.

(Continued on Page 14)



A pop-up bonfire with two staples: flames and music

Photos provided



Qwanqwa is Bubu Teklemariam, Selamnesh Zemene, Misale Legesse, Kaethe Hostetter and Endris Hassen.

## Playing with Tradition

*Ethiopian band to perform at Howland*

By Alison Rooney

A decade after its founding, Qwanqwa, a band that improvises on traditional African instruments, is finally bringing its music from Ethiopia to the U.S.

After a two-year-delay because of the pandemic, the four Ethiopians and one American who comprise the group are in the middle of a 23-state, 48-date tour, which includes a performance at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 that’s sponsored by Fridman Gallery.

Qwanqwa translates as “language” in Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia; its members chose the name because of their goal of “creating musical dialogues between cultures.”

Their instruments include masinko (a one-string fiddle), the lyre-like bass krar boom and kebero (a goat-skin drum).

“The repertoire that we draw from are public domain melodies and chants from ceremonies.”

~ Kaethe Hostetter, Qwanqwa

According to Kaethe Hostetter, the lone American, who plays a five-string electric violin, “we’re using additional instruments and a specific style of vocals, which comes from the Asmari [Ethiopian string players] tradition.”

She notes that they are rudimentary instruments, made of goat and sheep skins, horse hair, olive wood, oak, combined with guitar strings and metal for the stands and body of the drums. “Then there are pick-



Hostetter (left) with vocalist Selamnesh Zemene and Misale Legesse on the kebero

Photos provided

ups made from things we’ve found, like a bicycle bell,” she says.

“The repertoire that we draw from are public domain melodies and chants from ceremonies,” she explains. “We pull them apart, extend them. We’ll start with the melody and it becomes a noisy solo, without any notes. We innovate using tech pedals. We are playful onstage. We latch onto benchmarks in our songs. We have arrangements, but no one reads music. We know the next song on the set list but it can start in many unplanned ways.”

Qwanqwa has released three albums. They’ve played festivals in Europe but also venues in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia’s capital, that ranged from a club in a vintage hotel to spaces with dirt floors lit by a single lightbulb.

Craig Wolf of the Howland Cultural Center says he is glad the concert is finally happening. “I contacted Qwanqwa in November 2019 to book them for the fall of 2020. Along with the pandemic, Ethiopia is a war-torn spot on the globe. We could hardly be more thrilled than to have this amazing opportunity to bring in a hot band from halfway around the world.”

(Continued on Page 14)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SUN 30

### Castle to River Run

GARRISON

8 a.m. Philipstown Recreation  
107 Glencllyffe Dr. | 845-424-4618  
ultrasignup.com/register.  
aspx?did=97473

Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the half-marathon (\$50) kicks off at 9 a.m., a 5K at 9:30 a.m. (\$35) and a children's costume 1 mile (free) at 10:30 a.m.

SUN 30

### Dedication of Northcutt Hall

BEACON

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

Florence Northcutt, a volunteer and board member since 1994, will be honored with the renaming of a hall at the center.

TUES 1

### Community Conversation

GARRISON

8 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Join a discussion about what the community needs and how the Desmond-Fish Public Library can help. Also 7 p.m. THURS 3 via Zoom, 1 p.m. SAT 5 at Continental Village.

FRI 4

### Veterans Day Ceremony

GARRISON

10 a.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Veterans and community members are invited to celebrate together in the gym, after which the PTA will host a breakfast for veterans in the Learning Commons.

FRI 4

### Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival

BEACON

5 – 11 p.m. Various | beaconbonfire.com

More than 100 performers and artists will stage acts at venues and galleries. There will also be activities on Main Street. See Page 11. The website has a schedule. Also SAT 5. *Cost: \$19, \$39 or \$129*

SAT 5

### Rabies Vaccine Clinic

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Veterans Park  
201 Gipsy Trail | 845-808-1390 x43160  
putnamcountyny.com/health

Bring a dog, cat or ferret for a free rabies vaccine. Proof of residency and prior rabies shot required.



Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Nov. 4

SUN 6

### Daylights Savings

2 a.m. Move clock back one hour

## STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 4

### Anthony Rodia

PEEKSKILL

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

The comedian will do stand-up, including bits from his characters, Uncle Vinny and Zia Lucia, as part of his Road Rage tour. *Cost: \$39 to \$55*



FRI 4

### Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
countypayers.org

The award-winning Edward Albee play features an iconic dysfunctional couple, George and Martha. Also SAT 5. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, military, 12 and younger)*

SAT 5

### All-Star Stand-Up Comedy Night

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave. | 914-204-2300

This performance, in partnership with Crazy Gene's Comedy, will benefit local charities. Ages 21 and older. Visit the lodge or call for tickets. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 5

### Pay Dirt

GARRISON

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

The Putnam Theatre Alliance will stage a reading of plays by Vickie

Ramirez, Kate Moira Ryan and Nan-Lynn Nelson set in colonial times from the perspectives of Chief Daniel Nimham; Mary Philipse; and Caesar, who was enslaved by the Philipse family. Order tickets online. *Cost: Donation of any amount*

SAT 5

### Spoons, Toons & Booze

BEACON

8 p.m. Story Screen | 445 Main St.  
storyscreenbeacon.com

This watch party will feature more than 200 cartoons from 1940 to the 2000s, as well as a sugary cereal bar, cereal-infused cocktails and trivia. Also SUN 6. *Cost: \$16*

SUN 6

### Pay Dirt

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

See previous listing for description. Register online.

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 29

### Dry Ice Science Show

GARRISON

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

Talewise will perform an interactive story that includes science experiments with dry ice and audience participation.

TUES 1

### Dia de los Muertos Celebration

COLD SPRING

3 – 4:30 p.m. Haldane Garden  
15 Craigsides Drive | edithaldane.com

The celebration of the Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead, will include music, food, art, and honoring those who have died. Bring food, flowers, and photos of anyone whose life you would like to celebrate.

THURS 3

### Ice Cream Social & Volleyball

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. Haldane School  
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org

Following an ice-cream social in the cafeteria, students will take on faculty members in a friendly volleyball game at 6:30 p.m. in the gym to benefit the Class of 2024. *Cost: \$5 each (\$8 both)*

THURS 3

### Sustainable Craft Night

GARRISON

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

Turn plastic bags into "plarn" for a weaving project. Registration required.

FRI 4

### Young Writers' Workshop

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 and up are invited to receive guidance and feedback on any writing project from a published author. Registration required.

SUN 6

### Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney

GARRISON

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

The author and artist will receive the Alice Curtis Desmond Award for Excellence in Children's Literature in recognition of their more than 20 books, including a biography of Duke Ellington and *Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*. Andrea will read and Brian will demonstrate his technique.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 29

### All About Bulbs

PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stonecrop  
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000  
stonecrop.org

Find out everything you need to know to grow plants from bulbs in your yard, garden and indoors. *Cost: \$60 (\$40 members)*

THURS 3

### Anna Conlan

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
butterfieldlibrary.org

The author of *Life after the Revolution: Kate Millet's Art Colony for Women* will read from her book and discuss the colony near Poughkeepsie that was a haven for four decades. Register online.

FRI 4

### Lit Lit

BEACON

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

This monthly open mic features writers in all genres reading for 5 minutes each.

SAT 5

### Defensive Driving

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Nancy Costa will present a refresher course that can earn drivers a 10 percent discount on insurance and reduce points on driving records. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 5

### Walking Tour

GARRISON

2 p.m. The Garrison  
2015 Route 9 | hhlit.org

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will lead a tour of the 57 acres it preserves at the former golf course and solicit input on access and restoration. Register online. Also TUES 8.

SUN 6

### Ron Horning & Richard Stull

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. Holland Tunnel | 46 Chambers St.  
hollandtunnelgallery.com

The poets will read from their collections as part of an exhibit of works by Thornton Willis and Bix Lye. *Cost: \$10 donation*

## VISUAL ART

SAT 29

### Photographs by Brian Nice

GARRISON

Noon – 6 p.m. Davoren Farm  
8A Inverugie Lane

All proceeds from this one-day, pop-up art show by the Philipstown artist will benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry. A reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m.

SAT 29

### Pumpkid Custom Show & Bash

BEACON

6 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505  
clutter.co

Browse Halloween-themed custom figures by more than 30 artists. Costumes encouraged.

FRI 4

### Caroline Clowes

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 5 p.m. Locust Grove Estate  
2683 South Road | Igny.org/calendar

Twenty-five paintings of animals, along with dozens of sketches, by one of the first professional women artists will be on display in *Fertile Ground*, an exhibit organized by the Dutchess County Historical Society. Through Dec. 30. *Cost: Free*





**FRI 4**  
**Ursula Schneider**

**COLD SPRING**  
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
123 Main St. | [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com)  
The artist will share new paintings through Nov. 27.

**SAT 5**  
**BeaconArts Member Exhibition**

**BEACON**  
4 – 6 p.m. Ethan Cohen Fine Arts  
211 Fishkill Ave. | [beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org)  
This multimedia exhibition will include work by more than 60 artists. At the opening reception, Donna Mikkelsen will perform a live drawing and Donna Minkowitz will read from her work.

**MUSIC**

**SAT 29**  
**Jacob Aviner**

**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)  
The singer and songwriter will play his original music.

**SAT 29**  
**Acoustic Alchemy**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The contemporary jazz band is a three-time Grammy nominee. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

**MON 31**  
**Jazz Session**

**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.  
[facebook.com/quinnbeacon](http://facebook.com/quinnbeacon)  
Nico Soffiato, Josh Deutsch and other musicians will perform as part of Quinn's weekly jazz series.

**THURS 3**  
**Le Vent du Nord**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The Quebec band will perform francophone folk with a global twist. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**FRI 4**  
**Chris Pierce**

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *45 Jukebox*. *Cost: \$25*



Le Vent du Nord, Nov. 3

**FRI 4**  
**The Gibson Brothers**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Leigh and Eric Gibson will play music from their latest release, *Mockingbird*, a mix of country and soul. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SAT 5**  
**Maeve Gilchrist**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
The harpist, singer and composer will perform music from her most recent recording, *Harpweaver*, based on a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 5**  
**Qwanqwa**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
The five-piece Ethiopian string band will perform traditional music. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 5**  
**Rhett Miller**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Best known as the lead singer of the alternative country band, Old 97's, Miller will play music from his latest solo album, *The Messenger*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SAT 5**  
**The Association**

**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
This "sunshine pop" band, which had hits in the late 1960s with "Cherish," "Windy" and "Never My Love," will perform. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

**SAT 5**  
**Dead Unicorn**

**BEACON**  
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.  
[facebook.com/quinnbeacon](http://facebook.com/quinnbeacon)  
The band will play music from its latest release, *Overboard*. Black Mesa will open.

**SUN 6**  
**The Joni Project**

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Katie Pearlman and her band will perform the music of Joni Mitchell. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**CIVIC**

**SAT 29**  
**Early Voting**

**FISHKILL**  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall  
807 Route 52  
[elections.dutchessny.gov](http://elections.dutchessny.gov)  
For Beacon residents. Continues daily through SUN 6.

**SAT 29**  
**Early Voting**

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road | [putnamboe.com](http://putnamboe.com)  
For Philipstown residents. Continues daily through SUN 6.

**TUES 1**  
**Dutchess Budget Address**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
11 a.m. Legislative Chambers  
22 Market St. | 845-765-7121  
County Executive Marc Molinaro will discuss the county's projected spending and revenue for the upcoming year. He also will host a telephone town hall at 6:30 p.m. on WED 2; call to participate.

**TUES 1**  
**Putnam Legislature**

**CARMEL**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
[putnamcountyny.com](http://putnamcountyny.com)

**WED 2**  
**Village Board**

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

**THURS 3**  
**Town Board**

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | [philipstown.com](http://philipstown.com)

**HALLOWEEN FUN**

**SAT 29**  
**Boo at the Zoo**

**BEAR MOUNTAIN**  
10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive  
[trailsidezoo.org](http://trailsidezoo.org)  
There will be activities throughout the day, including pumpkin decorating, crafts, games and face-painting. Children are welcome to come in costume.

**SAT 29**  
**I SPY Scavenger Hunt**

**CORNWALL**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org)  
845-534-5506 x204  
Register to enjoy this hunt on the trails. *Cost: \$10 (free ages 2 and younger)*

**SAT 29**  
**Hocus Pocus Parade**

**BEACON**  
2 p.m. Main Street  
Line up at the Welcome Center for a walk to the Roundhouse, where there will be drinks, treats and music waiting. The rain date is SUN 30.

**SAT 29**  
**28th Annual Parade**

**COLD SPRING**  
4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
[facebook.com/coldspringhalloweenparade](http://facebook.com/coldspringhalloweenparade)  
Line up on the church lawn in costume. Pets welcome. The parade will proceed west on Main Street to the bandstand at the riverfront.

**SAT 29**  
**Undead Bazaar: Carnival of Terror**

**BEACON**  
6 p.m. – 1 a.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane  
This adult event will include live music, a DJ, costume contest and an oddities exhibit, sideshow and funhouse.

**SAT 29**  
**The Wolfman**

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St.  
[chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
At this screening of the 1941 film, Cold Spring resident Timothy Haskell and his production company, PsychoClan, will provide an immersive experience with organ music and appearances by a Wolfman. Also SUN 30. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 29**  
**Green With Hunger**

**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
[beaconplayers.com](http://beaconplayers.com)  
The Beacon Players will perform a play about the Wicked Witch of the West adapted by a local horror writer, Meghan Arcuri, from her short story of the same name. Also SUN 30. *Cost: \$5*



Spookytown, Oct. 31

**SAT 29**  
**An Evening of the Macabre**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Annalyse McCoy, Twinkle Burke, Dimitri Archip, Elizabeth Murphy, Gail Wauford, Ryan Dunn and Frits Zernike will read parts of "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Raven" and other tales by Edgar Allan Poe. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

**SAT 29**  
**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

**PEEKSKILL**  
8:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The Apoca-Lips Cast will lead the audience engagement during this 1975 cult classic starring Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry and Meat Loaf. *Cost: \$12*

**SUN 30**  
**Kids' Dance Party**

**BEACON**  
11 a.m. – Noon. Farmers' Market  
223 Main St.  
[beaconfarmersmarket.org](http://beaconfarmersmarket.org)  
Costumes encouraged.

**SUN 30**  
**HorrorShow**

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Story Screen | 445 Main St.  
[storyscreenbeacon.com](http://storyscreenbeacon.com)  
The annual film festival concludes with *Trick 'R Treat* (2007). *Cost: \$10*

**MON 31**  
**Trunk or Treat**

**COLD SPRING**  
3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Haldane High School  
15 Craigside Drive  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Members of the Class of 2023 will decorate the trunks of their cars for trick or treating as a fundraiser for senior class events. *Cost: \$5 per child*

**MON 31**  
**Spookytown**

**COLD SPRING**  
4 – 5:30 p.m. Chestnut Ridge  
Children ages 5 and younger are invited to trick or treat.





## 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*

## Bonfire *(from Page 11)*

"If it needs to be built or unbuilt, he's the man," Campbell says.

The organizers hope to spark "conversation, curiosity and collaboration." They chose the name "in a nod to the revolutionary fire that burned on the top of our mountain and gave the city its name, a beacon that celebrates the need we have as humans to come together, to tell our stories and to be inspired. Come gather around our fire and be in Beacon."

The Campbells moved to Beacon in 2016 from Hell's Kitchen — "skipped Brooklyn," says Campbell — and were quickly

converted. "We were taken, taken, taken with Beacon," he says. "Since then, we've had about 10 friends move here.

"My dream eventually is that people embrace the idea of setting up their homes as venues," he adds. "That would be an opportunity to get visitors off Main Street to see the other sides of Beacon."

*The Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday (Nov. 4) and begin at noon on Saturday (Nov. 5). Admission varies by venue, or a two-day pass is available for \$39 (\$19 for students and seniors, or \$129 with swag) at [beaconbonfire.com](http://beaconbonfire.com).*

## A Sampling

A detailed festival schedule will be posted today (Oct. 28) but here are a few events already on the calendar:

- Josh Geisler, a multi-instrumentalist composer and performer formerly of Cirque du Soleil, will present *Bansara* at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Masonic Lodge.
- Toybox, with musician and composer Rinde Eckert and storyteller and clown Richard Saudek, will perform at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the Masonic Lodge.
- Jess Linquist and the Full Circle Fire with Zeeliberation dancers and drummers will perform at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at Veterans Place.
- Lisa St. Lou will perform New Orleans-style blues at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday at Kube Art Center.
- The Whispering Tree will perform at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Towne Crier.
- Guitarist Andy Stack and his organ trio will perform at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday at Quinn's.
- Barnaby, with Mimi Sun Longo, will perform at 7 p.m. Friday at the Kube Art Center.
- The Wynotte Sisters will perform at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Masonic Lodge.



**Barnaby will perform Friday as part of the Beacon Bonfire festival** *Photo provided*

- Bagels and Ballads, a songwriter circle hosted by composer Jeremy Schonfeld, will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at Kube Art Center.
- Dancers and performance artists Skyla and Aaron will present *First Date Conversation* at 6 p.m. on Saturday at 364 Main.
- Keepin' it Real with Bridget O'Neill and Lance Horne will perform storytelling and cabaret at 7:15 p.m. Saturday at the Masonic Lodge.
- The Costellos will perform at 5:15 p.m. Saturday at the Dennings Point Distillery.
- Black Magic, a Santana cover band with Dan Garcia and Ryan Dunn, will perform at 1:15 p.m. Saturday at Quinn's.

## Ethiopian *(from Page 11)*

Hostetter says she discovered Ethiopian music in Boston through a friend, Danny Mekonnen, whom she knew from the free jazz scene and "who was on a journey of discovering the music of his parents. We started a practice group to learn the music, then make food, then play more music. This turned into a band [Debo Band] and we started touring and went on from there."

Hostetter moved to Ethiopia in 2009 to immerse herself in its musical traditions and lived there for 11 years. She returned because of the pandemic, which coincided with the outbreak of civil war. She's only been back to Addis Ababa once, to "officially move out, after leaving so suddenly," she says.

"I was there for a month, during a relatively stable period, but with the knowledge that ethnic clashes could arise at any time," she says. "Two days before leaving, places

where I'd been had turned into hot spots. It hit home when a friend said to me, 'It's good your flight is tonight.'"

Since then she's heard from friends that "music-wise, Addis is in some ways untouched, and they're playing their shows, but there's an underlying feeling [of dread] all the time."

That this debut U.S. tour is going well, with sellouts, is especially satisfying to Hostetter, she says, because it caps "a long period of anticipation, saying no to other things, getting the visa process underway, having so much momentum, and then it all came to a halt."

Along with Hostetter, the band's members are Endris Hassen (masinko), Bubu Tekl-emariam (bass krar), Selamnesh Zemene (vocals) and Misale Legesse (kebero).

*The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. Tickets to see Qwanqwa are \$20 at [onthestage.tickets/howland-cultural-center](http://onthestage.tickets/howland-cultural-center) or \$25 at the door.*



## Mouths to Feed

## Top Tuber

By Celia Barbour

This week's recipe has become such a familiar part of my autumn and winter days that I hardly think of it as a recipe at all — any more than you would think of adding butter and jam to toast as a “recipe.” However, when I served it as part of a simple lunch spread not long ago, my guests were so delighted with and curious about it that I thought it might be worth sharing.



I first encountered Japanese sweet potatoes at the Union Square Greenmarket more than 20 years ago. A brilliant, Korean-born farmer named Nevia No grew them at her New Jersey farm, now called Bodhitree. Everything she brought to the market was a delectable revelation, each vegetable so lovingly tended and raised that it completely humbled me regarding my own overwrought contributions to the success of my recipes. (I am not alone in my admiration; *New York Magazine* dubbed her “Greenmarket Goddess” in 2010; *Medium* compared her farming to an aria.) Nevia introduced many new vegetables to New York's chefs, and thus to American dining.

It was Nevia who first urged me to try the unfamiliar, deep-purple-red tubers she'd begun to grow. She described the flesh of Japanese sweet potatoes as firm, mild and dry; more like chestnuts than like the cloying, gooey sweet potatoes I'd known in my youth. I was sold.

For the first few years after we moved to Garrison, I would lug her Japanese sweet potatoes up from the city whenever I could manage it. But they've caught on — as all good things should, but not all good things do — and for many years now, they've been available locally.

I often roast them quite simply, with olive oil and sea salt, and maybe a dusting of smoked paprika, then store them in the refrigerator to snack on throughout the week, or to add to salads and grain dishes. They are a wonderful thing to have



on hand on those nights when you're feeling noshy and dinner won't be ready quite soon enough.

But they also take well to warm spices — including the so-called “pumpkin spices” (which used to be called pumpkin *pie* spices because they were added to pumpkin pies, but have now been orphaned from all frames of meaningful reference), which, minus the sugar, turn up in many of the globe's great savory dishes.

It's odd that we Americans think of cinnamon, for example, primarily as a partner to sweet treats like apple crisp and snickerdoodles. Around the world, it appears in Mexican molés sauces, Moroccan Ras el Hanout, Indian garam masala and Chinese five-spice powder. Ditto for most of its pumpkin collaborators, including ginger, allspice and cloves.

Some people glaze their Japanese sweet potatoes in honey or maple syrup, but to me that drowns out their natural, gentle sweetness. To the aforementioned smoked paprika, I'll sometimes add a faint sprinkling of cinnamon. I've also tried spice mixes, like curry powder or za'atar. But my new favorite way to eat them is dipped in a sauce of yogurt mixed with orange zest and cardamom and a little salt. Really, I think they are probably good with almost anything.

When I sat down at my desk this morning, I was planning to write about candy or cookies, given that Halloween is looming. But then I realized that roasted Japanese sweet potatoes are my favorite fall cookie, and why not share something I love — my own tricky treat for all you witches, goblins and pumpkin-heads out there.



## Roast Japanese Sweet Potatoes with Spiced Yogurt Dipping Sauce

Note: The sweet potatoes are nicest on the day they're cooked. Although they keep perfectly well in the refrigerator — up to 5 days in a sealed container — they lose their crispness. Note that the skins are tender and completely edible.

2 ½ pounds Japanese sweet potatoes

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Smoked paprika, optional, to taste

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Gently scrub the potatoes. Cut into ½-inch slices and toss with the olive oil, salt and pepper. (They will oxidize and start to turn gray as you slice them; it's a harmless reaction and will disappear once they're cooked.) Arrange on a baking sheet lined with parchment or a Silpat, and cook until golden on the bottom, 20 to 25 minutes; if using the paprika, sprinkle it over the slices about 5 minutes before they are done. Serve warm or room temperature with cardamom-orange-yogurt dipping sauce.

### Cardamom Orange Yogurt Sauce

½ cup Greek yogurt, preferably full fat

½ teaspoon ground ginger

Zest of 2 oranges (about 1 teaspoon)

Pinch salt

¼ teaspoon cardamom, or to taste

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl.



## BEACON FARMERS MARKET

**SUNDAYS**  
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.  
223 MAIN ST.  
(DMV LOT)

**UPCOMING MUSIC**

**OCT. 30:** Tony DePaolo / Halloween Dance Party

**NOV. 6:** The Library Band / Ian Moore

**NOV. 13:** The Freejays

**SPONSORS:**

Arts Mid-Hudson / Suncommon  
United Healthcare  
The Highlands Current

The market's mission is to feed and engage the community, support local farms and businesses and create a more just food system. See [beaconfarmersmarket.org](http://beaconfarmersmarket.org) for a schedule of vendors.

SNAP and FMNP/WIC accepted with programs provided to maximize your benefits.



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# Crowds Cause Chaos

*Cold Spring bombarded on Saturday (Oct. 22)*

By Michael Turton

“We had an unusually busy weekend; the village was very, very full,” particularly this past Saturday, Mayor Kathleen Foley noted at the Wednesday (Oct. 26) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board.

She described the weekend as “a confluence of events” that included a Seastreak docking, Family Weekend at West Point, a Haldane home football game, near peak-color fall foliage, hikers, buses, motorcycles, cars — and a lot of trash.

Garbage bins overflowed. Restaurants ran out of food. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic was intense.

“Cold Spring has been discovered on social media; there is no putting that genie back in the bottle,” Foley said, adding that a recent online video promoting the village as a day trip had 400,000 views and 48,000 “likes.”

“The village itself has become a destination; it’s not just the trails,” she said.

Cold Spring is working with Royal Carting to add more trash bins along Main Street, she said. Tour companies are being made aware of the difficulties created by buses attempting to drop passengers off on Main Street. And she is discussing with Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, adding more weekend policing to assist with traffic control.

As for long-term solutions, Foley said the village will look to the state Department of Transportation and New York Conference of Mayors “to see what our options are for limiting bus and truck traffic.”

Foley said she was not optimistic about help from Putnam County.

“The county budget cycle is just ending with no provision to help local governments cope with the tourism it promotes,” Foley said. The presumptive incoming county executive does not support such assistance, she said.

“We’re hoping to convince him that if he is not sending money back for the tax dollars we send over, that he will send services; we need them desperately,” Foley said.

Putnam does not share sales tax revenue collected in municipalities.

The weekend was “way beyond what we’ve seen before,” resident Dan Valentine said during the public comment period. “All these people coming in, leaving garbage for us to clean up, and we’re not seeing any benefits to the village.”

Valentine, who served on Cold Spring’s Parking Committee, urged the board to implement Main Street metered parking and the residential parking program the committee developed last year.

“And at least this time of year it may be beneficial to bring back a Highway Department worker or seasonal employee to help bag up garbage on weekends,” Valentine said.

Foley said the previous administration didn’t take into account spacing near crosswalks required by the state for pedestrian safety.

“That changes the calculation of the number of metered parking spaces,” Foley said, an issue Trustee Eliza Starbuck is working to correct.

She said increased parking revenue is essential, especially since Seastreak cruises haven’t visited Cold Spring as often as planned this year, which will reduce the docking fees paid to the village.

She added that once in place, the occupancy tax being added to short-term rentals in the village will improve tourism revenue.

The mayor said she hopes progress can be made on the Parking Committee’s recommendations by springtime.

Lloyd DesBrisay, a resident of the lower village, said trash is a problem most of the year there and advocated more bins.

Foley said underused cans at the far end of the dock have clustered at the most problematic area, next to the bandstand. A compacting trash bin is being donated but she said it will not be in place until next season.

Foley said the owner of Moo Moo’s ice-cream shop has not responded about having the shop assist with emptying trash bins, a practice that has been adopted by some Main Street shopkeepers. Moo Moo’s produces large amounts of trash but has only one small bin on the premises, she said.

For more news from the Village Board’s Oct. 26 meeting, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

## Columbus Day *(from Page 1)*

than to say he believes “it is wise for us to consider it,” many school districts have weighed similar requests. In some cases, the debates have become highly charged.

In the Hudson Valley, the New Paltz and Onteora (Ulster County) and Nyack (Rockland County) districts have changed their calendars to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Last year, public schools in New York City announced the same change but, after pushback, renamed the holiday “Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”

The school board in Randolph Township, New Jersey, last year voted unanimously to rechristen Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples’ Day but, after hearing from angry parents, agreed a month later to remove the names of all holidays from school calendars, instead referring to each of them as a “day off.”

Parents in the district then circulated a petition demanding that the superintendent and members of the school board resign.

If the Beacon board decides to make the change, its decision would only apply to the district calendar. New York State and the federal government recognize the holiday, observed on the second Monday in October, as Columbus Day.

Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl said during the board’s Sept. 27 meeting

that studying the history of Indigenous people who lived in the Highlands could also be integrated into schools’ curriculum. That’s “the point of all this” discussion, he said. “We do some things already, but there’s more to be done, for sure.”

The holiday commemorates the landing of Columbus, an Italian explorer, on Oct. 12, 1492, in the “New World.” However, Native American tribes had lived in what is now the U.S. for thousands of years before his voyage.

Their subsequent displacement makes it difficult to trace territorial lineages, but Mohican, Wappinger, Munsee Lenape and Schaghticoke people were believed to be living in the Highlands before European colonization. In 1683, Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck purchased 85,000 acres of Wappinger land in what is now Dutchess County for about \$1,200 worth of trade goods, including wampum, guns, gunpowder, cloth, shirts, rum, tobacco and beer.

According to the Mount Gulian Historic Site, it’s unknown whether the Wappinger people understood that they were giving up the land permanently. Twenty-two Native American leaders made marks on the deed because they could not write in English.

Around 1730, Gulian Verplanck, a grandson, built a home on the land that is now part of the historic site. The Madam Brett homestead in Beacon was also built on former Wappinger land.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Garrison Adds Putnam Valley as Option

*Graduates in 2023 will have three choices*

The eighth-grade graduates at the Garrison School will have three choices for high school in the fall of 2023: Haldane in Cold Spring, O’Neill in Highland Falls or Putnam Valley.

At its meeting on Wednesday (Oct. 26), the Garrison school board approved adding Putnam Valley in what board member Kent Schacht called “a foundational change for our school.”

Garrison educates students through the eighth grade, after which it pays tuition for those who attend a public high school. The board recently reached a one-year agreement to pay Putnam Valley \$16,500 per student, said Superintendent Carl Albano. The board could put a referendum on the May ballot to allow the districts to agree to longer-term deals.

After voters this year approved a proposal that allows Garrison to make a longer-term deal with O’Neill, the districts agreed on

a price of \$16,500 per student that can increase by 2 percent per year or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Haldane, which would like to increase the amount it charges Garrison to the maximum allowed under a state formula, agreed to accept \$16,500 per student for the Class of 2023 so the districts can continue negotiations.

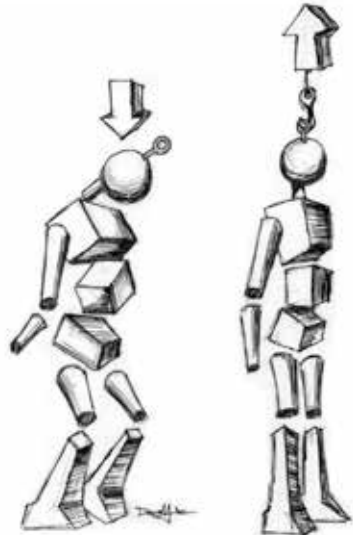
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# Cold Spring Musical Chairs

*Shops shift on Main Street*

By Marc Ferris

Property owners and store proprietors have always moved the chess pieces around, but as the fog of COVID-19 lifts, significant changes are coming to Main Street in Cold Spring.

Two of the tenants displaced by the recent sale of 81 Main St. — the building adjacent to Village Hall that housed the Knights of Columbus Hall, Cape Cod Leather, Cold Spring Sweets and Vintage Guitars of Cold Spring — will bring a dry goods retail store west of the railroad tracks.

Down and across the street, in the block between Depot Square and Doug's Pretty Good Pub, the jeweler Lewis & Pine opened in September at 38 Main St. and Cold Spring Apothecary opened this month at 40 Main after making the move from 75 Main at Rock Street. It occupies nearly half of the 6,564 square feet that has been empty since the Ellen Hayden Gallery and two antique stores vacated in 2020 after 34 years in the location.

The Knights of Columbus chapter, Loretto Council No. 536, had been at 81 Main St. since 1920, when it created a for-profit entity, the 536 Club, to buy the 1870 building. The cavernous upstairs room served as its headquarters until the pandemic and rising costs made it too expensive to maintain, said Dan Dillon, president of the 536 Club.

Going forward, the Knights will meet at

Our Lady of Loretto on Fair Street, where they will also resume in-person fundraising dinners and other events.

The new owners of 81 Main, which was listed for \$689,000, are a professional couple who plan extensive renovations to return the 2,856-square-foot space to its former grandeur, said Jonathan Miller, a broker at JonCar Realty in Beacon who handled the sale. The upper floor will become an apartment with exposed brick and a soaring ceiling. New retail will occupy the ground floor, he said.

Mary Zaslansky, who owns Cape Cod Leather, and Bobby Ginsberg, who runs Cold Spring Sweets and Vintage Guitars of Cold Spring, which had to leave 81 Main, have been friends and business partners for years. Mary's husband, Elliott Zaslansky, who died last year, sold Ginsberg his first guitar in 1975.

They wanted to keep everything under one roof, just as they had at 81 Main. When properties in Beacon failed to pan out, the odds seemed slim that they would find anything with retail space as well as a kitchen and space for refrigerators that Ginsberg requires to make fudge and chocolate.

But things gelled when a friend, Angie Laikin, a real-estate entrepreneur who lives in Newburgh, began looking for an investment property in the village. She had missed out on 81 Main, but when 11 Main came on the market at \$900,000, she jumped at the opportunity.



Bobby Ginsberg, who runs Cold Spring Sweets and Vintage Guitars of Cold Spring, and Mary Zaslansky, who owns Cape Cod Leather, at their new storefront at 11 Main St.

Photo by M. Ferris

"It was absolutely serendipitous the way everything worked out," said Zaslansky, who reopened Cold Spring Leather on Oct. 7.

The building at 11 Main, formerly a three-story brick home built in 1845 and renovated in 2009 as office space, was in turn-key condition, said Laikin. One nice touch is a stained glass panel above the doorway.

Leather products fill the ground floor with earthy aromas; the candy shop occupies a nook in the back. Another venture, Vintage Vinyl of Cold Spring, fills the

second floor with crates of records. An attic loft serves as a guitar gallery and offers an inspiring view of the pier and Crow's Nest.

After conducting their due diligence, Ginsberg and Zaslansky concluded that the location west of the tracks could be advantageous. "Almost everyone who visits Cold Spring walks to the river," said Ginsberg.

Laikin said she would have purchased the 1,910-square-foot building even if her friends decided against moving in. "I'm so happy about how this worked out," she said. "It's win-win, and it's fun. I mean, music, candy, leather? Come on."

When Ginsberg and the Zaslanskys opened in Cold Spring eight years ago, they were at 49 Main, west of The Foundry Rose cafe and the former home of Cold Spring Apothecary, which had expanded to 75 Main.

At 75 Main, the health-and-wellness Ascend Center, which occupies the second and third floors of the ivy-covered building, plans to open a retail collective on the ground floor devoted to goods made by women.

Just west of the new Apothecary site, Lewis & Pine has moved into 38 Main, most recently the home of Chapeau. Yali Lewis, who makes her own jewelry (some pieces require a blowtorch) opened in Beacon seven years ago but wanted a second location in Cold Spring.

She said she has fond memories, while growing up in Poughkeepsie, of frequent visits to the village. "It's amazing how many people tell me how glad they are that I moved in and helped transform the block," she said. "No one in Beacon ever thanked me for opening."

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## Something You Don't Know About Me

# Dinky Romilly

By Peter Stevenson

Constance “Dinky” Romilly’s story is typical, perhaps, in only one way: When the pandemic erupted in early 2020, she and her husband, Terry Weber, fled Manhattan to take up residence in the mountaintop retreat in Philipstown they have owned for more than 20 years.

The rest of her story is unusual. She grew up with five aristocratic aunts and a famous mother: Jessica Mitford, best known for her books such as the memoir *Hons and Rebels* (1960) and *The American Way of Death* (1963), an expose of the funeral industry.

Dinky’s mother and aunts, known as the Mitford girls, were raised as well-born wildlings in the English countryside outside Oxford and over the decades have been the subjects of a groaning shelf of documentaries and biographies. Besides Jessica, the best known was Nancy Mitford, author of the novels *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*. The most infamous were Unity Mitford, who became a close friend to Adolf Hitler, and Diana Mitford, who married fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley.

As a girl, Dinky says, her mother (known as “Decca”) was close to Unity. “Unity decided she was a fascist, so my mother decided that *she* was going to be a communist. They had these little competitions as girls where they would take their diamond rings and engrave hammers and sickles and swastikas in the windows” of Swinbrook, the family home.

Dinky, 81, shares the progressive politics of her mother, who died in 1996. “Right now, I’m involved in building a new chapter of the NAACP for Putnam County,” she says. “We just got chartered. You’ll be hearing more about us to deal with some of the issues that are already going on in some of our schools, for example teaching the real history of the U.S., not the fake history.”

Dinky was not close to her maternal aunts or cousins, in large part because her



Dinky Romilly (center) with her stepfather, Bob Treuhaft, and her mother, Jessica Mitford, in Paris in the 1980s

Photo provided

mother, as a teenager, distanced herself. Decca eloped at 19 with her second cousin, a left-wing journalist and nephew of Winston Churchill named Esmond Romilly. After traveling to Spain in the late 1930s to fight with anti-fascist forces there, the newlyweds moved to the U.S., floating between Greenwich Village, Miami and Washington, D.C. While pregnant with Dinky, Decca attended the 1940 Democratic national convention in Chicago with a friend, Virginia Durr, a civil rights activist whose husband, Clifford Durr, would represent Rosa Parks.



Dinky Romilly

Photo by Michael Turton

“They sat with the Texas delegation,” Dinky says. “My mother had morning sickness, and they would joke that the Democratic donkey was kicking up a fuss. So, they called me the ‘Dinky Donkey.’ That’s where my nickname came from, from some drunk Texan at the 1940 Democratic convention.”

Dinky never knew her father. A navigator with the Royal Canadian Air Force, he died in 1941 at age 23 when his bomber went down over the English Channel.

Decca relocated from D.C. to San Francisco, where she worked for the Civil Rights Congress and remarried. Dinky’s stepfather, Bob Treuhaft, was a lawyer who

fought against police brutality against Black people and represented union members. Dinky graduated from Oakland Technical High School.

As for her mother’s notorious sisters and their gilded world, “they were storybook people to me,” she recalls. “I knew some of the vague outlines. But I wasn’t raised that way. I was raised in this lower middle-class neighborhood with these parents who were radical activists who were threatened with jail, deportation and so on.

“We couldn’t travel,” she says. “First of all, my parents couldn’t get passports because they were communists. And we could never have afforded to; there was no money. The vacations we took were driving. We would drive to New Mexico, to some sort of a wilderness camp, or we would drive down to Mexico, to Cuernavaca.”

Dinky came east to attend Sarah Lawrence College but found herself miserable (she had never visited and thought the school was in New York City, not small-town Bronxville). She dropped out to become a fundraiser and coordinator for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta, which was fighting racial discrimination. She wrote news releases and worked the phones to drum up coverage.

“As a white person in a Black organization, one does whatever one’s asked to do,” she recalls. “Our office was open 20 hours

a day, with the time difference on the West Coast and even going over to Europe. It was all to attract the attention of the news media; that’s what life was all about in those days.”

While at SNCC, Dinky fell in love with its executive secretary, Jim Forman, who would become a prominent figure in the civil rights movement; they had two sons: James Forman Jr. is a professor at Yale Law School and Chaka Forman is an actor in Los Angeles. Jim Forman died in 2005.

When Dinky was in her early 20s, Decca decided it was time for her daughter to meet the extended Mitford family. Decca’s sister, Deborah “Debo” Mitford, had become the duchess of Devonshire and lived in a 300-room castle in Derbyshire, where her daughter Emma — Dinky’s cousin — was to be married.

Decca refused to go to the wedding because Diana Mitford would be there — the sister who in 1933 married the fascist leader; that wedding took place in Berlin at the home of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, with Hitler as a guest of honor.

Decca, however, was fond of her sister Debo. She told Dinky she could not be rude to Diana, although she didn’t have to be nice.

Was there a moment in the castle when Dinky wished her mother hadn’t turned her back on her aristocratic upbringing? Not at all, she says. “For me, what I was doing in civil rights was the logical thing that one does with one’s life. We lived then, and we live now, in a situation of gross inequity and inequality and starvation and oppression.

“If you believe in dialectical materialism, you know that history goes in a spiral. So, at any particular moment, you might be in a more elevated situation than you were before, but you’re passing over the same problems you passed over before.

“We used to sing about how freedom is a constant struggle. Equality is a constant struggle. There were moments of terror: If you’re about to be beaten or arrested, it’s very scary. But if you know you’re right, and you know this is what one must do in life, then you just carry on.”

*In a new episode of The Current podcast, Peter Stevenson speaks with Dinky Romilly about her famous mother and the fight for Black civil rights in the 1960s. See [highlandscurrent.org/podcast](https://highlandscurrent.org/podcast).*

## NOTICE

### Applications for Short Term Rentals in the Village of Nelsonville are now available.

Applications can be found on the Village website at <https://www.nelsonvilleny.gov/short-term-rentals> and are available at Village Hall, 258 Main Street.

Applications for Class A permits are **due by November 7, 2022 for the January 1, 2023 start date**, however applications will be accepted on a rolling basis as permits are available. There is no limit on the number of Class B permits but applications must be submitted at least 2 months prior to expected rental.

Please contact the Village Clerk at (845) 265-2500 or [villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov](mailto:villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov) with any questions.

## POSITION

The Village of Nelsonville is **seeking a volunteer to fill a position on the Nelsonville Village Planning Board**. 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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## NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516**

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



# Fourth-Grade Artist Creates Bestseller

*Zines by Haldane student sell out at Split Rock*

By Violeta Edwards Salas

**Z**ephyr Wayland began taking art classes at Supplies for Creative Living in Cold Spring and found one of her passions in a course for bookmaking.

Now Zephyr, a fourth-grader at Haldane Elementary, is the author of two bestselling zines at Split Rock Books.

First popularized by sci-fi fans in the 1930s, zines (pronounced *zeens*, from fanzines) are self-made and self-published booklets that typically contain art and writing. Often made using copiers and printers, and stapled together or folded, they can touch on anything, such as activism and poetry to music and cats.

Grace Lo, the owner of Supplies for Creative Living, suggested Zephyr sell her zines at Split Rock. On July 29, *Cat* reached second place on the bestseller list for children's books compiled every other month by *The Current* from sales at Split Rock and Binnacle Books in Beacon. Her zine *Dog* topped the list on Sept. 30.

Each zine sold for \$1 and Zephyr split the proceeds with the bookstore.

"I thought it was a joke," she said about her response when asked about selling her



Zephyr Wayland, a fourth grader at Haldane Elementary, with her zines

Photo by V. Salas

zines at Split Rock. "But they said it was serious, so I tried it."

Zephyr's zines are made using a single piece of paper that is folded into a booklet.

She writes poems, mostly about animals, with drawings that fit her theme and vision. She colors in the drawings and adds finishing touches before making copies and folding. She sold out the 40 copies she made of *Cat* and *Dog*.

"I really want to be an artist," Zephyr said. "In my free time, all I do is draw and sketch."

Zines are not always easy to find, said Stephen Duncombe, a professor of media and culture at New York University, who wrote a book about them.

"You had to know the cool record store. You had to know the person at the punk show who was handing them out," he told the news site *OK Whatever*.

Now, zines have been brought above ground, with a new generation of creators writing on subjects such as climate change, food and LGBTQ issues.

They are being promoted online and at festivals and being carried at libraries and bookstores. Zine artists are exhibiting at places like the annual NY Art Book Fair and July is celebrated as International Zine Month.

Zephyr, meanwhile, is working on a new zine. "I'm still deciding what it's going to be about," she said.

*Violeta Edwards Salas is a sophomore at Haldane High School and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program.*

## Start READING November book club selections

### Butterfield Book Club

MON 7, 7 P.M.

*Midnight's Children*, by Salman Rushdie

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 8, 1:30 P.M.

*The Night Circus*, by Erin Morgenstern

Howland Public Library, Beacon

Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Teen No-Book Book Club (Grades 5+)

TUES 8, 3:15 P.M.

Book of choice

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Pride Corner (Grades 6-8)

TUES 8, 4 P.M.

*Different Kinds of Fruit*, by Kyle Lukoff

Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

### Reading with Writers

WED 9, 7 P.M.

*Poetics*, by Aristotle

Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

### Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

TUES 15, 3:15 P.M.

*The Magician's Elephant*, by Kate DiCamillo

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Trophy Life Book Club

THURS 17, 6 P.M.

*A Little Devil in America: In Praise of Black Performance*, by Hanif Abdurraqib

Howland Public Library, Beacon

Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Beacon Book Club

THURS 17, 7:15 P.M.

*Unwind*, by Neal Shusterman

Register at [meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub](http://meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub).

### Harry Potter Book Club (Grades 4+)

FRI 18, 3:15 P.M.

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 5+)

TUES 29, 3:15 P.M.

*The Lost Hero*, by Rick Riordan

Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

### Book Buds Book Club (Grades 3-5)

TUES 30, 6 P.M.

*Swim Team*, by Johnnie Christmas

Howland Public Library, Beacon

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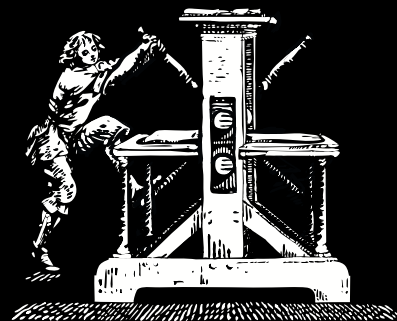
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## Roots and Shoots

## Life Under the Leaves

By Pamela Doan

I was an early adopter of the “leave-the-leaves” approach to the fall landscape, easily convinced that



gas-powered leaf blowers were polluting and unnecessary and that the time-consuming task of managing leaves on a heavily wooded property was damaging and futile.

As I’ve created more habitats for insects, birds and wildlife, I’ve become more curious about what and who is around and why they show up.

There’s a lot going on in what looks and sounds like a quiet yard out there. Beneath the leaves, in the soil, in the crevices of decomposing logs, invertebrates are finding their places to survive the winter.

By now, if you’re still insisting on a clean-swept lawn while all the evidence points to the necessity of leaf cover, this column probably won’t change any minds. For others who are simply following the pervasive culture of 40 million acres tended by American lawn owners, maybe understanding what’s at stake will help shift your practices.

First, understand that a layer of leaves doesn’t kill the grass underneath unless it’s thick, like more than 2 inches. A thick, matted layer of more than 2 inches left on the lawn in the spring when the grass is no longer dormant should be mulched in, loosened or raked away to allow for growth. Over the winter, though, it’s not a big deal. The grass is dormant.

Insects, the foundation of our ecosystem, many of which provide pollination for the majority of the food we need, use our lawns to survive the winter. The marvel of the



Lots of life is happening under those fallen leaves.

Photo by P. Doan

monarch migration is well known and understood, yet most of the butterflies, moths and bees that populate our landscapes have developed strategies to stay in place.

Fallen leaves protect insects in every stage of life — as adults, chrysalises, eggs and larva. The Xerces Society, in an online resource about overwintering habitat, shares an example of the red-banded hairstreak butterfly that lays its eggs on fallen oak leaves. When the caterpillars emerge in spring, the leaves are their first food source. If you’re bagging up all those leaves and dumping them at the curb, it’s unlikely the cycle will be completed.

The cocoons of luna moths and the chrysalises of swallowtail butterflies evolved to protect them during their winter hibernation by resembling a fallen leaf and blending in. Those cute woolly bear caterpillars need to hide in the leaves, too.

Spiders, millipedes and snails, all of which are food for wildlife, find spots under the leaves for the winter. During our ever more frequent cycles of freezing and thawing, they become important energy sources for any creature that needs invertebrates for survival, including chipmunks, birds and amphibians.

Under the soil, some bees will be found burrowed into the ground as well as in brush piles, tree cavities and decomposing logs. The dried out stalks of perennial flowers? Those are used for nesting and larva.

If tidying up a garden bed is important to your aesthetic, consider not cutting the

flower stalks to the ground and maintain a 6- to 8-inch border, instead. The dead seed heads also make a great food source for birds.

I love watching finches feasting on the globe thistle (*Echinops spp.*) seeds. While not native to our area, this thistle is a great source for pollinators and birds, and not invasive. Stalks from Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Joe-pye weed and many other plants will suffice, too.

Finally, here is a rundown of what else to do with your leaves while you’re leaving them alone.

- Mulch into the lawn while mowing to add organic matter to the soil and prevent moisture loss.
- Allow landscaped beds to be covered in leaves. The plants will find their way through in the spring.
- Let leaves be mulch around trees and shrubs to add organic matter to the soil, retain water and suppress weeds.
- Use leaves in the compost pile as a “brown,” a carbon-rich ingredient.
- Wait until late spring to move leaves around if you have to, but remember that there is always something living in that ground cover and try to disturb it as little as possible.

Now go enjoy the time that you aren’t doing fall cleanup in the yard and buy yourself some plants with the money you aren’t spending on a lawn service.

## Current Classifieds

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## FOR RENT

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Creche trio

5. Sheep’s cry

8. Espy

12. Optimist’s credo

13. Steal from

14. Texas city

15. Lost traction

16. *Madam Secretary* memoirist Madeleine

18. Dutch exports

20. Spanning

21. Demolish, in Dover

23. Jungfrau, for one

24. Tirana resident

28. Blathers

31. Meadow

32. Seafood selection

34. Gangster’s gun

35. Lincoln in-law

37. Tuna type

39. Sneaky chuckle

41. Son of Adam and Eve

42. You can count on it

45. Seduce

49. Prince of Monaco who is Grace Kelly’s son

51. Shark variety

52. Check

53. Rm. coolers

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54. Baby carriage

55. Golf stroke

56. Belly

57. Eyelid woe

7. “Waterloo” group

8. Making spiral patterns

9. Samoan port

10. Phil of folk music

11. Youngsters

17. — Victor

19. Skillets

22. British nobles

24. Flight stat

25. Zodiac cat

26. Vice

27. Mother Teresa, for one

29. Standard

30. Fr. holy woman

33. Social appointment

36. Not half bad

38. Victors

40. “Ben- --”

42. Seniors’ org.

43. – cheese dressing

44. Male deer

46. Scurry

47. Fine

48. Iditarod terminus

50. Post-op area

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Answers for Oct. 21 Puzzles

RECAP

STAVES

FORALL

ORTEGA

DEARIE

TEARAT

ASTO

TASK

YDS

BAHS

SAG

AMB

NOSE

TOWS

MOUNT

RUSH

MORE

POGO

ARCS

DYE

ABU

EATS

EBB

TBS

PUNT

TO

LIOTTA

INDOOR

LOOKER

SEADOG

ASSORT

TENET

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1. TREE, 2. FILTHIER, 3. BREAKOUT, 4. TOOLS, 5. BURDENS, 6. DASHI, 7. DIDDLEY

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see [highlandscurrent.org/puzzles](http://highlandscurrent.org/puzzles).

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 carried a load (6)

2 one out for a run (6)

3 like a very large home (8)

4 loud wail (4)

5 musical theater guru Stephen (8)

6 fictional tome (5)

7 one’s vocabulary (7)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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## SPORTS



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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### FOOTBALL

After getting outplayed in the first half, Haldane shook off the cobwebs and outscored Putnam Valley 24-0 in the second to pick up a 32-21 victory on Oct. 22 in Cold Spring.

Evan Giachinta scored on a 4-yard run in the second quarter and ran for the 2-point conversion to put the Blue Devils up 8-0. But Putnam Valley responded with three scores, including a 30-yard interception return by Ricky Meister and a 5-yard TD run by Thomas Cunningham, to take a 21-8 halftime lead.

"We got off to a slow start," said Coach Ryan McConville. "At halftime the guys knew we weren't playing well, so they stopped pointing fingers and we talked about making plays."

Haldane's defense stiffened and the offense found its rhythm. Luca DiLello picked up a fumble and returned it 38 yards for a score to make it 21-14, and quarterback Ryan Van Tassel scored the 2-point conversion on a run. Van Tassel followed with a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter (Dylan Horan ran for the conversion) and Giachinta delivered the final blow with a 15-yard run, after which Van Tassel ran for the conversion.

"Putnam Valley opened the second half with a fumble, and Luca's scoop-and-score got us going," McConville said. "Thomas Andrews got his first career interception, which led to another score, and our defense — led by Jake Mason, Erik Stubblefield and Dylan Rucker — picked it up."

"We did a much better job blocking and tackling in the second half and got big performances from Giachinta, Brody Corless and Horan, and two freshmen — Tomas Simko and Merrick Williams — both stepped up."

Giachinta finished with 113 yards on 18 carries and Van Tassel added 38 yards on 12 carries and 3 of 9 passing for 27 yards. On defense, Van Tassel and Andrews each had interceptions for Haldane.

The Blue Devils (5-2) play their final regular season game Saturday (Oct. 29) at 1:30 p.m. at Croton-Harmon (2-5), then are scheduled to take on undefeated Tuckahoe for the Section I, Class D championship at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 at Mahopac High School. The two schools have the only Class



Andre Alzate celebrates his game-winner against Goshen.

Photo by S. Pearlman

D teams in the section so face each other every season for the title.

The Tigers were ranked on Oct. 26 as the third-best Class D team in the state by the New York State Sportswriters Association, while the Blue Devils received an honorable mention.

Beacon lost to Lourdes, 45-0, at home on Oct. 21 to finish its season 0-7.

### BOYS' SOCCER

Beacon, seeded second in the Section IX, Class A tournament, defeated No. 4 Cornwall, 3-0, on Thursday (Oct. 27) for its second straight sectional title.

They reached the championship by edging No. 3 Goshen, 1-0, on Tuesday. The rivals played nearly 77 minutes of scoreless soccer at Beacon High School before the Bulldogs delivered a dramatic game-winner.

For most of both halves, Beacon had the better of possession and scoring opportunities — Andre Alzate drilled a dead-on blast that Goshen's keeper caught cleanly, and another shot in the second hit the post — but neither team could score.

With 3:21 remaining in the game, Alzate got another chance, and this time the Bulldogs senior captain delivered as he was falling to the ground, getting his right foot on a ball as the goalie dove to stop it. The score was assisted by Gavin Ladue.

The Bulldogs defense had a strong game, with keeper Matt Sandison needing to make only three saves. Goshen had only one loss all season, to Beacon. It also had one tie, also to Beacon.

"It was very evenly matched throughout," said Coach Craig Seaman. "Matt played an excellent game and both of our center backs — Gavin Ladue and Thomas Robinson — were excellent. Liam Murphy was excellent. Goshen is big, strong and physical, and I



Beacon's Henry Reinke and Jack Twining compete in the regional cross-country championships on Oct. 21 at Bear Mountain.

Photo provided

thought our guys in the middle did a great job with that."

Beacon (11-3-2) advances to regional competition, where it will face the Section IV champion.

Haldane (13-2) received the No. 1 seed in the Section I, Class C playoffs and a bye into the title game at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday (Oct. 30) at Lakeland High School. The Blue Devils will face No. 2 Hamilton (10-5-2), which defeated Leffell on Thursday.

### GIRLS' SOCCER

No. 3 Haldane picked up a 2-0 victory over No. 2 Leffell on Wednesday (Oct. 26) in the Section I, Class C semifinal, which was delayed for five hours and moved from Leffell to Edgemont High School because of a muddy field. The Blue Devils will face No. 1 Tuckahoe (12-3-1) at 8 p.m. on Saturday at

Nyack High School for the sectional title.

Finola Kiter scored both goals for the Blue Devils (6-10) on assists by Sara Ferreira and Chloe Rowe.

Beacon received the No. 4 seed in the Section IX, Class A tournament and blanked No. 5 Wallkill, 2-0, last week on goals by Reilly Landisi and Olivia Del Castillo before falling on Monday (Oct. 24) at No. 1 Goshen, 3-0. The Bulldogs finished the season at 11-5-1.

### VOLLEYBALL

Haldane (4-12), the No. 11 seed in the Section I, Class C tournament, put up a fight at No. 6 Valhalla on Thursday (Oct. 27) before falling in five games (25-22, 14-25, 25-21, 17-25, 5-15). Valhalla advances to face No. 2 Blind Brook.

Haldane lost its final two regular season matches last week — falling to Putnam Valley, 3-1 (16-25, 25-21, 13-25, 25-16), and Pawling, 3-0 (16-25, 13-25, 10-25). Against Putnam Valley, the team recognized its seniors: Mikayla Santos, Jillian Weinpahl, Madeleine Knox, Kate Jordan, Maddy Gardephe and Megan Farrell.

Beacon lost to Franklin Roosevelt twice and Monticello but defeated Goshen to finish the regular season at 9-9. In a 3-1 loss at FDR on Tuesday (Oct. 25), Kiki Rodriguez had four aces, Demi Sela had 11 digs, Mikayla Sheehan scored six kills and Allison Thomas had 17 assists. Against Goshen, the Bulldogs recognized their seniors: Sela, Sheehan and Sydney Jones.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

The Beacon boys placed eighth of 25 teams at the regional championship last week held Oct. 21 at Bear Mountain. Henry Reinke was 21st in 17:09.4 and Jack Twining was 22nd in 17:10.4, followed by August Wright (60), Rubio Castagna (68) and Harsh Gupta (70).

"I was reasonably happy with the eighth-place finish," Coach Jim Henry said. "We saw some big improvement from our 4 and 5 guys [Castagna and Gupta], with each running under 19 minutes for the first time."

Beacon will return to Bear Mountain on Nov. 2 for the Section IX championship.

Haldane hosted a cross-country meet on Tuesday (Oct. 25) on the property of the Philipstown Recreation Center and Highlands Country Club in Garrison, competing against Hendrick Hudson.

The boys won with Conrad White, John Kisslinger, James Frommer and Brendan Shanahan finishing second through fifth. Oliver Petkus rounded out the scoring in 10th place.

Hendrick won the girls' competition. For Haldane, Helen Nicholls finished fourth, Andreia Vasconcelos was fifth, Tyler Schacht eighth and Ada Caccamise ninth.