

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Sweet  
Spot  
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## Fjord Trail Drops Some Elements, for Now

*Says it will initially take 'trail-first' approach*

By Leonard Sparks

**H**udson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. announced on Monday (June 12) that it plans to remove some elements from its plans for the proposed 7.5-mile trail between Cold Spring and Beacon.

Citing a desire to ensure the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) does not “inadvertently add to visitation and congestion,” the organization said that an environmental impact study it is preparing will not include a play area and outdoor classroom at Little Stony Point, or a swimming area with a floating dock.

The organization is also dropping plans for “forest nets,” a system of elevated wooden walkways that were to carry visitors through forests and have hammocks where people could relax.

Amy Kacala, HHFT’s executive director, said in a statement that the nonprofit, a subsidiary of Scenic Hudson, is taking a “trail-first” approach that prioritizes managing the crowds that visit the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and the impact on Cold Spring. That will mean a focus on the main trail, parking areas, trailheads and a visitor’s center at Dutchess Manor on Route 9D.

In response to concerns expressed on Facebook that HHFT was removing features that would appeal to children, Lori Moss, a representative for the group, said “it is important to note that these features are not completely off the table, but rather they will only be considered after the main trail

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## BeaconArts Bounces Back

*Nonprofit working on recovery after pandemic*

By Alison Rooney

**S**mall businesses were not the only establishments hit hard by the pandemic shutdown. Nonprofits that depend on volunteers suffered attrition as well, emerging a touch stunned but also with pent-up energy ready to be channeled.

That’s the case with BeaconArts, the

20-year-old focal point of art and artists in the city. Matthew Agolia, its president, joined the board in January 2020, about two months before the shutdown. Like everyone else, he had no idea what lay ahead.

“Our organization depends on participation from the community to make its programs a reality,” he said. “That all went right to sleep when everyone had to focus on their own well-being.”



The immediate goal for BeaconArts, Agolia said, is to “design a stable infrastructure, to bring it back to where it was pre-pandemic. The next step is to come up

with a real vision for taking BeaconArts somewhere else with new programs rather than just maintaining the old ones.

“If you walk around town now, you can sense a frenetic energy,” he said. “People want to go out and do stuff, start something.

There are several initiatives around re-starting Second Saturdays [when

*(Continued on Page 16)*

Part 4 of a series



Three former Beacon mayors — from left, Randy Casale, Clara Lou Gould and Steve Gold — and the current mayor, Lee Kyriacou (right), gathered on June 9 at the request of *The Current* to discuss the city’s past and future. Photo by Valerie Shively

## Beacon: Then, Now and How

*We gathered the city’s four living mayors for a discussion about change*

By Jeff Simms

**O**n June 9, *The Current* invited Beacon’s four living mayors — Clara Lou Gould (1990-2007), Steve Gold (2008-2011), Randy Casale (2012-2019) and Lee Kyriacou (2020 to present) — to gather at City Hall for a discussion of the city’s recent past and future. Their comments have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**Let’s talk about how Beacon has changed over the past quarter-century.**

**Clara Lou Gould:** When I was mayor, I always wanted to get the community involved. As I would say to students who were learning about government, “This is your city.” I would ask: “Have you heard

that government is of the people, by the people and for the people?” They would say, “Yes.” And I’d ask, “So, who is the government?” Invariably, they would respond, “You are.” And I’d say, “No, you weren’t listening. We all are.”

If you see something that needs correcting or changing, you don’t just

*(Continued on Page 6)*

Out There

## Welcome to the Age of Fire

By Brian PJ Cronin



**I** woke up a week ago Wednesday and was confused as to why there was an intense orange sunbeam across the floor.

“How long have I been asleep?” I wondered. “And why is the sun setting in the east?”

My disorientation was the least-harmful effect of the three-day smokeout. Researchers at Stanford University calculated that June 7 was the worst day for wildfire smoke pollution in U.S. history. The day before, June 6, was the fourth worst. (Nos. 2 and 3 were caused by California wildfires over two days in September 2020.)

Outdoor air pollution contributes to the deaths of 4.2 million people annually, according to the World Health Organization, and wildfire smoke is one of the most toxic pollutants out there, partially because as forests burn, they often spread to houses and everything inside. Imagine huffing every cleaning product under your sink. Imagine doing it for every sink in town, plus everyone’s melting microwaves.

As I write this, the Highlands sky is again blue and the air quality map has returned to green, so it’s understandable if people are relegating the haze to another of those weird incidents, such as a world-

*(Continued on Page 12)*



An unfiltered view of last week’s unfiltered sky Photo by B. Cronin



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MIA NELSEN-CHEYNE

By Jeff Simms

**M**ia Nelsen-Cheyne, a junior at Beacon High School, is a member of the Students for Gender Equality Club, which in March opened a thrift store at the school.

## How did the idea for a thrift store come about?

I was at a party for my aunt's birthday and I was talking to her friends about clothes they had from their kids stored in their attics or basements. We talked about how it would be nice, especially for the formal wear, if those clothes got a second life. I went home, did some research and I found other schools that had put together thrift stores. I put together a slideshow, presented it to Mr. Dwyer [Corey Dwyer, the principal] and he was very interested. This summer, he and I are going to work on finding a permanent spot for the store, because now we share space with another school project and it's the size of a closet.

## What do you carry?

We have clothes that are both masculine- and feminine-presenting; shoes, ranging from sneakers to heels, flats, boots; flannels and T-shirts; leggings and pants. I'm



Photo by Una Hoppe

trying to get more formal dresses for next year. Everything is free. We also have a big stock of toiletries such as feminine products, deodorants, those sorts of things.

## What is the connection between thrift items and gender equality?

I want to make sure that all kids have access to everything they need, because they don't just deserve to have essentials

like toiletries and food, they also deserve the right to feel beautiful, especially at times like prom and formal events. Everybody deserves the chance to feel comfortable in their own skin. If I'm able to give kids clothes that they might not be comfortable asking their families for, or just helping them express who they really are, that plays a big part in gender equality by helping kids be themselves.

## Were you worried that students would feel self-conscious shopping there?

That was a concern when I was first starting. I didn't want kids to feel that, because they were coming here to get clothes, it was something to be embarrassed about. I try to make it open to everyone; it's an opportunity that everybody in the school has. It's also beneficial to the world around you because you're shopping sustainably, you're supporting your school system and you're supporting another one of your students. If I tried to make it more private, it would make people feel like it's something that needs to be private. I want it to feel like you have the right to get these clothes, and there's nothing to be ashamed of for that.

## What motivates young people to be socially aware?

It comes from a sense of watching history repeat itself and listening to the people around you. With access to social media, you're able to see more of the impact. We see so many people online talking about what the future holds with climate change or our political system. It does encourage kids my age to get more involved with our communities because, as much as you want to help your community, you also want to ensure a future for yourself. I am a big believer in sustainable fashion and I'm a believer in helping people around me. We were able to do a big donation for the migrants who came here recently. I worked with some of the custodians and we put together seven bags of clothes and shoes. So it's not only benefiting people at school, it's benefiting people around us.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

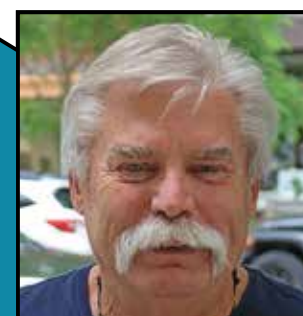
Do you still like going to the movies?

"I love the old theaters but haven't gone since pre-COVID."



Ellen Dare, Beacon

"I do — I prefer action movies like *Indiana Jones*."



Tom Monroe, Cold Spring

"I like Netflix because I can use subtitles!"



Louise Uribe, Beacon

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

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OPEN MIC NIGHT - June 23

Composers Concordance - June 24

NOGA - DEBUT EP Release Show - June 30

ERRANT SPACE - Immersive Sound - July 1

LIT LIT - July 7

HCC + Upstate Arts Weekend - July 21, 22, 23, 24

MIND READER - Vinny DePonto - July 22

PINOT & AUGUSTINE Show for Kids + Families - July 23

DAVID AMRAM & FRIENDS - Aug 12

Check our website + media for more info and events

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NEWS BRIEFS

## Proposed Fare Increases

	SINGLE PEAK	SINGLE OFF-PEAK	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
<b>BEACON → GRAND CENTRAL</b>				
Current	\$23	\$17	\$152	\$427.50
Proposed	\$24	\$17.75	\$158.75	\$446.50
<b>PHILIPSTOWN → GRAND CENTRAL</b>				
Current	\$20	\$15	\$140	\$393.25
Proposed	\$20.75	\$15.25	\$145	\$407.75

## MTA Sets Hearings on Fare Increases

*Monthly Metro-North tickets from the Highlands would rise 4 percent*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is holding a series of public hearings on proposed fare increases for Metro-North and New York City subways and buses.

Under the proposed increases, a monthly ticket from the Cold Spring, Garrison or Manitou stations to Grand Central Station would rise by about 4 percent, as would monthly tickets from Beacon to Grand Central. Single-ride tickets from Highlands stations would increase by 25 cents, 75 cents or \$1.

Because of a 10 percent discount implemented in March 2022, monthly and weekly tickets would remain lower than pre-pandemic fares, the agency said.

The meetings will take place at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday (June 22), at 10 a.m. on June 23, and at 6 p.m. on June 26 at MTA headquarters, 2 Broadway in New York City, and via livestream at [bit.ly/mta-on-youtube](http://bit.ly/mta-on-youtube) and Zoom. Anyone wishing to speak for up to 2 minutes must register at [bit.ly/mta-hearings](http://bit.ly/mta-hearings) or call 646-252-6777.

The MTA expects to vote on the changes during its July meeting and implement any fare increases no later than Labor Day, which is Sept. 4.

## Taser Taken from Student on Bus

*District: child had no ill intention*

A staff member at J.V. Forrestal Elementary in Beacon confiscated a taser from a student on Wednesday (June 14), although officials said the child “did not bring this object with the intention of harming adults or other students.”

The weapon was taken from the child on the morning bus, said Superintendent Matt Landahl, who told parents in an email that law enforcement was notified and that the incident was being handled by the district as a code-of-conduct violation. “I am sharing this with the wider district so you are aware of the situation and to prevent any rumors from spreading,” he wrote.

## Beahive Moves

*Opens co-working space on Eliza Street*

Beahive Beacon, the co-working space that since 2009 had been located at 291 Main St., has moved two blocks east to

three former storefronts at 6 Eliza St.

Unlike its former location, the new spot is at ground level and has a larger lounge and meeting space, said owner Scott Tillitt. It also has a kitchen, privacy pods, 10 desks and 14 offices. Beahive has a second location in Beacon, as well as offices in Cold Spring. Its new 4,000-square-foot space was formerly the site of Roma Nova, Batt’s Florist and the Beacon Barber Shop, which left after the building sold in March for \$2.3 million and the new owner asked for more rent.

## Desmond-Fish Continues Name Review

*Will hold public session on June 20*

The board of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison voted this week to create a working group to discuss whether the name of the library should be changed because of recent allegations about co-founder Hamilton Fish III’s support for Nazi Germany.

The board said a name-review working group will be created as part of the board’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee. Members of the community can apply to serve on the group through a form at [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org).

Community conversations on the issue are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday (June 20) at the library and for July 13 via Zoom.

## Assembly Member Hiring Interns

*Positions available over summer*

Dana Levenberg, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown,



**GROUNDBREAKING** — Beacon city and fire officials on June 5 held a groundbreaking for the \$14.7 million rehab of the Lewis Tompkins Hose fire station. The project is expected to take 14 months, during which South Avenue will be one-way heading south between Beacon and Main streets to create parking. Photo by Jeff Simms

is accepting applications for summer internships at her Ossining office.

Interns assist with a variety of tasks, such as logging constituent comments on pending legislation, drafting correspondence and attending press conferences and other events.

An application is available at [bit.ly/AD95Interns](http://bit.ly/AD95Interns), or email Victoria Cafarelli at [cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov](mailto:cafarelliv@nyassembly.gov) with questions. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Hours are flexible.

## Two Guardsmen Promoted

*Beacon residents earn new ranks*

The New York Army National Guard recently promoted two soldiers from Beacon.

Anthony Ricottilli, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, was promoted to sergeant.

Caleb Wilson, assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 369th Special Troops Battalion, was promoted to specialist.





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The HIGHLANDS

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\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 22

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

Was the Fjord Trail, now envisioned as a linear park, really “community driven,” as Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) board member Fred Rich claimed in his letter to the editor (May 19)? Wasn’t it actually the relatively modest 2017 trail that was community driven? It is the difference between the trail and the broad linear park starting at Dockside that has sparked worry, criticism and many questions.

Rich wrote that since the beginning, he and his colleagues have been asking the tough questions about impact and discussing options such as limiting visitation with methods like timed ticketing. This is news. I have heard three times — twice from HHFT staff and once from Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel at the May 8 meeting — that limitation is not an option. Why the discrepancy?

If the HHFT board has considered the tough questions — the ones involving the preservation of our historic village, the management of traffic and parking, the disturbance to river shoreline and animal habitats, the maintenance of this enormous project — why don’t we know how our concerns will be met?

With complete transparency, opposing sides in this debate can come together. Starting with the 2017 plan would be useful.

It’s a good idea to have a trail from Cold Spring to Beacon, but let’s keep it a trail. There isn’t room in the tight space between river and mountains for the railroad, Route 9D, a 14-foot-wide linear park and the life we love in Cold Spring and its environs.

Sheila Rauch, *Garrison*

Most residents in Cold Spring support the Fjord Trail, care about the environment and worry about traffic. You can put a sign on your lawn and wag your finger, or actually find out more about the nonprofit Scenic Hudson and become engaged in the process. Get the facts and get involved so others don’t hijack the conversation and ruin it for the rest of us.

Tom O’Quinn, *Cold Spring*

There seems to be less hostility toward the Fjord Trail here in Beacon. I and many of my fellow Beaconites look forward to family days planned around biking to Cold Spring and contributing to the commerce of our neighbor to the south.

Donald Arrant, *Beacon*

In his letter to the editor (May 26), Ned Sullivan explained the role of Scenic Hudson in the Breakneck Connector — Phase One of a three-stage project. Thanks to the Freedom of Information Law, some of us already

knew that “Scenic Hudson’s ally” had lunch in the city with the governor in early 2023. There he pleaded for \$35 million of state money for Breakneck, a project that would cost \$85 million. Gov. Kathy Hochul agreed to propose \$20 million in her 2024 budget. Scenic Hudson and its “allies” now must fill the gaping hole in costs for Phase One.

In that same letter, Sullivan wrote: “HHFT has created and will continue to grow a permanent operation fund to support ... restrooms, garbage, parking and landscaping.” Does he mean just for Breakneck? Because in an accompanying letter in the May 26 issue, Richard Shea, a board member of HHFT, wrote of the entire 7.5 miles, being “funded and maintained in perpetuity without taxpayers’ money.”

Shame on Shea. He knows full well that in April 2021 — a full year before the governor’s lunch — HHFT signed a contract with New York state parks, giving it the right to raise operating revenues anywhere along the entire project by selling concessions and advertisements. Shea is trying to neutralize the impression that taxpayers will pay, but they have already spent \$20 million (plus more to help renovate Dutchess Manor), and we still have not seen a preliminary capital budget for the boardwalk and potential sources for its construction. Nor have we seen a scintilla of information on the total operating costs.

During the budget negotiations in Albany, did the parks commissioner tell the governor and the co-chairs of the state Assembly and Senate budget committees that he had already given public lands away to possible T-shirt vendors and ice-skating rinks? So long, Dockside and Little Stony Point. Taxpayers deserve to know the truth. Anything less is an abdication of power.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

It’s bizarre that, in Gretchen Dykstra’s speculations, the completed Fjord Trail is a honky-tonk boardwalk through a park overwhelmed by T-shirt and souvenir vendors, advertisements and food trucks. What evidence does she offer of such commercialization at any of the other parks operated by state parks and Scenic Hudson? None.

As enthusiastic campers, our family has visited, hiked and camped our way through many New York state parks and Department of Environmental Conservation campgrounds over the last 25 years. We’ve never seen anything akin to the scenario Dykstra describes. When we first started our ice-pop business, we researched the possibility of selling our pops at parks and found there was no interest in expanding vendors of any sort beyond the concessions already established and operated by the park system.

Canopus Lake is a perfect example. The park-operated concessions offer rowboats

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

and kayaks, firewood for campers, a small snack bar during the summer months, winter sports equipment if the weather allows, and that's it. Concessions are professionally managed to assure safety and reduce the impact on the park's beautiful environment while catering to the needs and enjoyment of visitors. We've found this to be the case at every other New York State-operated park we've been to.

In my view, state parks shows exemplary stewardship of the lands comprising the park system established for all New Yorkers and visitors to enjoy. As locals, we are lucky these beautiful, natural spaces are located on our doorstep. Many New Yorkers who pay taxes, just like we do, cannot say the same and must travel great distances to experience the forests, rivers, mountains, lakes and fresh air. They have just as much right to enjoy these natural resources as we locals do. Improving and expanding park infrastructure so that everyone can enjoy them safely and reduce burdens on local municipalities makes perfect sense.

Monetary contributions from private individuals to help construct the HHFT should be lauded and met with gratitude, not suspicion, derision and fantastical speculation. Depicting efforts to build and manage this project through public-private collaboration as inherently corrupt and self-serving is deciding to view change only through a very dark lens: mean-spirited

and ungenerous. If we choose to assume goodwill and imagine the possibilities, these innovations will benefit our local community just as much as those who come to share in the beauty that surrounds us.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring***Putnam Valley dumping**

Many thanks to *The Current* for being one of the few news outlets that is reporting on this fiasco ("Putnam Valley Fire Sues Over Dumping," June 9).

I have lived in Putnam Valley for most of my life and been politically involved for decades; I have never seen such a cover-up, where even our elected officials are keeping mum.

Now that a lawsuit has been filed over dumping at the site of the new firehouse, there is at least some clarity that the Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department allowed John Adorno to unload 17,000 cubic yards of contaminated fill on its property.

Although there is only one firefighter named in court papers (Charlie Milo), who supposedly gave Adorno the go-ahead, it is clear that Milo was not responsible for the operation of a "solid-waste management" facility, as it was called by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Milo was not a fire department board member, nor did he have the authority to allow the dumping, according to a Putnam County lawsuit filed previously.

Although the dumping occurred in 2016, the PVVFD waited seven years to bring these lawsuits. No one seems to know why.

## The HIGHLANDS Current Wins Six State Awards

*The Highlands Current* was honored six times in the annual Awards for Excellence announced by the New York News Publishers Association on Wednesday (June 14) for work published in 2022.

Among NYNPA members with less than 10,000 circulation, Chip Rowe was recognized for headline writing; Brian PJ Cronin for beat reporting for his

environmental coverage; Joey Asher for sportswriting for "The Future of Football"; Rowe, Leonard Sparks and Pierce Strudler for community service for the paper's Black history series; Strudler for page design; and Teresa Lagerman for reader promotion for the Halloween costume contest.

The paper has won 28 NYNPA awards since 2017.

There are two people on the Town Board — Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi and Council Member Louie Luongo — who have been in power and known about this debacle for many years, yet they refuse to act. At the very least, Annabi should demand a full accounting from the fire department for the millions of dollars it has been given by taxpayers. Also, she should demand that the state comptroller audit the money spent on remediation, which is in the neighborhood of \$2 million.

This has gone on long enough and the politicians can no longer hide, because the facts are coming out. For our elected officials, their first allegiance must be to the taxpayers of our town, not the fire department. The people

of Putnam Valley deserve answers.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

**Puzzle protest**

Sorry to be blunt, but WordLadders is a poor substitute for 7 Little Words on the Puzzle Page. If you are tallying responses, please add me to the list of those who are retro and prefer our old favorite. Keep up the great work with the paper.

Guy Lester, *Philipstown*

*The editor responds: We anticipated there would be disappointed 7 Little Words fans but, frankly, the puzzle was too expensive. However, there is an app and a web version at 7littlewords.com to keep you going.*

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## Beacon: Then, Now and How

(from Page 1)

talk to each other, you call somebody in charge. You don't just say what you think is wrong, you suggest a solution. Same thing with the City Council. I would put time for public comment on the agenda so the ward representatives could take notes or say there was already a solution in the doing. It was just a sense of making it our community and not some people up here [on the council] and other people down there.

We tried to emphasize beautification and community involvement. That's when we did hanging baskets on Main Street. I remember the first year; they planted them in my front yard. Then we did the barrels on Main Street, and Texaco donated the barrels. We got that idea from Saratoga. People couldn't reach them to pull out the flowers, and, of course, Randy [who was the highway superintendent] watered them.



Clara Lou Gould

Before the beautification, we were made a Tree City by New York State. We got the merchants to do flower boxes. The boxes were made by the carpenters' union and the schools planted the seeds. The Garden Club also helped. We did the Welcome to Beacon signs. My husband and I used to have dinner at Dutchess Manor every Friday night, and the bartender was a guy from Cold Spring, which is where I grew up. He said that somebody came in and said, "Beacon is the pits," but I knew it couldn't be that bad if we plant flowers to welcome people.

**Steve Gold:** You're very modest, Clara Lou, because the heavy lifting of Beacon's renaissance took place during your administration. In these older cities, in the mid-1990s, it was hard to find somebody to refurbish a building, to make it look good again. Our Main Street was looking ragged, but during your term, Ron Sauers and Ronnie Beth Sauers and others took the East End and restored those buildings. You left the door open for them to do that and helped facilitate it with some aid from the county. That should be a big part of your legacy. I inherited that [in 2008]. When I took office, we had just passed the comprehensive plan, which was a major step for the city to update the way it was looking at development. My charge was to facilitate those changes, to bring the plan to life.

If you remember, in 2008 there was a severe economic downturn. What began as an effort to implement zoning became an

effort to keep Beacon looking good and safe, even though there was no revenue. We had four years of difficult finances, and we had to make some serious decisions on how to keep the city moving forward and not deteriorate. We wanted to be in a good place when the economy got better, so Beacon would be able to springboard from that.

We had one major development during my time — the MTA [Metropolitan Transportation Authority] wanted to put in a transit-oriented development by the waterfront — and the city decided not to accept it. We analyzed the benefits and the consequences. The public came out and said it was not right for Beacon. There was almost nobody in favor of this huge project that was going to transform the waterfront.

However, the other zoning that we put in seemed to be in line with what the city wanted to do. We became a government promoting Beacon as a place to come to, to enjoy. It's safe, it's clean, there are flowers on Main Street, the vibe is good.

Beacon does have a sense of identity, a sense of belonging. When people move here, they quickly take on this loyalty and pride in the city. That has never changed, even though the demographics are different and the people who are here don't always have the long roots of those who were here before. When people come here, they become involved and concerned quickly. I don't know whether that's true about most other communities, but it's true about Beacon.

The other thing I've observed is that you always get people coming to council meetings who are opposed to something that's going to affect them. One of the differences I've seen is that more people come to council meetings to advocate change they want to see that would make Beacon a better place. It's not so much of a reaction as it is a proaction. When Lee was leading the council on issues like police reform and good-cause eviction, the public came forward with ideas like having social workers go out with police officers to help de-escalate situations. Those are ideas that are centered around people's sense of identity of being a Beaconite and wanting Beacon to be an even better place.

**Randy Casale:** What Clara Lou didn't mention was, when she took office, we were a commission form of government. It took a heavy lift to make this a city manager/mayor form of government. The first time that came up, I opposed it publicly and it got voted down. It came back up and it went through, and it's probably the best thing that ever happened to the city. My concern was because I looked at Newburgh and Poughkeepsie and they were firing city managers every other year. To me, continuity is the key to success. Since we went to a mayor/manager form of government, we have had only a few city administrators. The first one was Joe Braun, who taught me a lot. Joe was here for 15 or 16 years, and then Meredith Robson came. When she left, Anthony Ruggiero came and now Chris White is here, and all of them were good administrators. They did the job in a business manner, not in a political manner, which helped the city.

Thinking about Main Street, people

complain about parking and about it being congested. When I was growing up in Beacon, Main Street had parking meters and it was still congested every day, and on Friday nights the stores were open until 9 p.m. When the industries closed, Main Street basically closed, too. Storefronts became apartments, which was not a good thing. When Clara Lou took over, both ends of Main Street were in rough shape.

Clara Lou would have a meeting every Friday in the old Lewis Tompkins firehouse, which is now Hudson Beach Glass, with all the Main Street business people, the chief of police, the Highway Department, and we'd go over whatever concerns they had and how we could improve Main Street. That's where the kickoff started. Everybody started working together to try to get Main Street going. Then Ron Sauers did the East End and it started snowballing.

When I took over as mayor, there was a Main Street committee and a river committee. I took the two and made one committee and we opened the comprehensive plan again [for the update in 2017]. Out of that we rezoned Main Street. At the time, you could build up to four stories, and the riverfront never had zoning. As Steve said before, when they were going to do the riverfront, the MTA was almost exempt from any of our zoning. They could plan whatever they wanted. We wound up zoning it so if anything goes up, it will only be on the east side of the tracks. Anything that goes up high would only be on the south end and the north end, where the cliffs are, and in the middle it would be no higher than the MTA police station so it wouldn't block views.



Randy Casale

What people forget is that when urban renewal [in the late 1960s and early 1970s] knocked all the buildings down, the city lost a good chunk of its tax base. They thought they could get industry to come, because the railroad was here, Nabisco was here, our sewage treatment plant was down there. But for 40 years, nothing came. Part of the misconception is that we're building on open space, but this was never open space. When I was a kid, there were buildings on every 50-foot lot all the way down to the railroad tracks. That's the tax base, and your government and your city is only as good as the income you can get from a tax base. You've got to provide safety, recreation, streetlights and garbage, and that all costs money.

It's nice to have open space. And believe me, we have a lot of it. Through development, we've got a lot more. We have a [greenway] trail from the river all the way around to Fishkill Creek, and now that

the MTA finally gave up the tracks [the dormant Beacon Line], we'll finally get a trail all the way up to the Walkway Over the Hudson. That will take you all the way up to New Paltz. That's all new open space, and the developers along Fishkill Creek have to pay for part of that trail and maintain it.

After we rezoned the river and Main Street, I put a building moratorium on. I wasn't sure we'd have enough water, so I wanted a study. It came back that we could build for up to 20,000 people, that we have plenty of water and our sewers have capacity. Then when the first [new four-story] building went up [at 344] Main Street, it was a mistake because they went out too far on the sidewalk. People got upset and started complaining about development. They started saying the schools are overpopulated, which is not true.

I'm a believer that the development that goes on in Beacon is good for Beacon, but it's got to be smart. We need to find a way to make it affordable for people to stay here, and that's easier said than done. When you build something that's good, people want to come. And when there's more people that want to come, prices go up. It's hard to control that.

During my administration, the police were also under the Department of Justice watch. We got Doug Solomon as our chief; he was the first chief that was from out of town, I believe. We started putting in rules and regulations based on what the DOJ recommended. I told the cops that I wanted them to wear body cameras. We were one of the first communities. The cops were a little upset about it, but to this day, I think the police believe it was the best thing they ever did. Our department has come a long way. It's community-oriented and I'm proud to say Beacon's Police Department is one of the finest around.

I tried to work on the firehouse over here [Tompkins Hose]. The first thing I did was hire a paid chief, which wasn't a popular thing to do. In fact, supporters of mine were against me when I did it, but I knew it was something that had to be done. I tried to put them all in one firehouse. I was told by the architect that we couldn't do it, it's too much money. Then I heard on the street that Tompkins Hose was selling its parking lot, and I told the city administrator to buy it. If we ever decide to put a firehouse there without that parking lot, we're done. And if we don't put the firehouse there, we've still got a parking lot for the public.

Beacon's on the right track. I've lived here all my life — I've seen it when it was great, I've seen it when it went down and I see it coming back. I know people are upset about costs because, believe me, I worked for public works. I'm not rich. One thing I'd like to see is affordable housing at Camp Beacon [the former Beacon Correctional Facility]. I don't know where else you would put it. I was talking to somebody the other day who tried to put a mini-house behind his house for his mom to live in and it cost him a ton of money. I give Lee kudos because the city is trying to streamline that process, to make it more affordable for people to live together without impacting the city.

(Continued on Page 7)



*(Continued from Page 6)*

**Lee Kyriacou:** This is really fun, right? I'm so pleased to listen to all this. I'd like to talk about an earlier period. As Randy said, post-World War II, the factory town went downhill. All the factories shut down, with Nabisco being the last one in 1986. Urban renewal came in, all sorts of homes and businesses were taken down and the expectation was it'd be rebuilt.

The master plan then said that Main Street was too long; we were going to turn Main Street into a pedestrian mall like Main Street in Poughkeepsie. We were going to build 13-story high-rises at Bank Square and in the curve, where the Howland Center is. That first renovation of Main Street by the Sauers was actually not consistent with the comprehensive plan, because that was exactly where the 13-story buildings were supposed to be. It was a disaster of a plan. But if you notice where there's single stories in the middle of Main Street, that was the mall concept. The wide Henry Street and one block of Church Street, those were the returns where the cars were going to be. That was the concept they were going toward, but only bits of it got done. The property we sit on at City Hall was urban renewal property that nobody was doing anything on.

I arrived in 1992 and got on the council in 1994. Steve and I were on the council with Clara Lou as mayor for a number of years. Randy was the head of the Highway Department. In '94, they had started working on code enforcement issues and thinking through Main Street. My first two months on the council, there were two proposals to allow conversions of single-family homes between Verplanck and Wolcott into multi-family for four and five families. That was permitted under zoning.

We started to look at housing and Main Street and a little bit on the industrial side, and we did several zoning changes. On Main Street, we phased out ground-floor apartments. Main Street wasn't ever going to come back unless we made that choice. We had no idea whether it would work, so we put a seven-year limit on it and said we were going to check in Year 6 to see how bad or how good vacancy rates were.

Then we said that between Verplanck and Wolcott, on either side of Main Street, heading up the mountain, we were going to eliminate the right to convert single-family homes into four and five apartments. But we created the first accessory dwelling unit law, probably in the state, and said, "If you're owner-occupied, you could have an accessory unit," because we wanted to help seniors and that was the way we could get the community on board.

That immediately changed who was buying those homes. We started getting young families fixing them up as opposed to someone out-bidding them because they could be converted into apartments. My home, which is a historic Victorian, was zoned for 15 apartments; the one next door for 18. The historic overlay came into place; we got rid of what was called RD-3, which allowed all those single-family areas to start going into multi-unit apartments and we started preserving historic structures.

We removed the 13-story high-rise zoning



From left, Randy Casale, Clara Lou Gould, Lee Kyriacou and Steve Gold

Photo by Valerie Shively

on Main Street. I wanted to do a comprehensive plan update in the 1990s, but I think Clara Lou knew that if we had done it then, we would still be a factory town. The community wasn't ready to move away from factories. Randy, you know, you grew up here. Everyone talked about, "Well, I worked here or my uncle worked here, what's wrong with factories?" It just wasn't forward-looking. It's not that it's a bad thing. It just wasn't going to come back, not at the scale that they had been built in Beacon.



Lee Kyriacou

The last major step we did was to think through the zoning along the waterfront. Actually, it was not a zoning issue, but the sewage treatment plant, that jump-started us. That plant was out of compliance. Initially, the mayor and the city administrator proposed that we build a new incinerator for our plant, for burning sludge. It took us a year to reach consensus that this wasn't the right thing to do. We realized it was cheaper to de-water the sludge and truck it out than it was to build a plant.

Within a few years, the adjacent properties were bought by Scenic Hudson [the Long Dock Park site]; [Beacon Institute for] Rivers & Estuaries, down by Dennings Point; and then, most importantly, the Dia site. They are all adjacent to the incinerator. Had we not done that, I don't think a lot of this would have happened. That good fortune and those three buyers jump-started our renewal.

There had been activity on Main Street but not a significant redo of a major industrial site. That site was zoned industrial until the day Dia came. The community hadn't been ready. I remember the head of Empire State Development, at the dedi-

cation for Dia, saying that they had a fish factory ready to go in the Nabisco site but Dia came along. We were fortunate because the site was being marketed as industrial.

We had a little bit of an arts community because of the Tallix Fine Art Foundry, and the Tallix board chair, Lee Balter, took a look at the Nabisco site and started talking it up in the arts community. Somehow that percolated over to Dia. Randy said something that was absolutely right, which is that the amount of change between one mayor and a second and a third or fourth has been quite small, in the general direction of, "We're probably not going to be an industrial community." It was little zigs and zags. And Randy mentioned the importance of the charter form of government with a mayor, council and a city administrator. For us to have four city administrators over 34 years is a statement as to the correctness of that form of government, and the importance of a professional administration to run the city.

Randy touched on the Department of Justice coming to look at our Police Department toward the end of Clara Lou's period. Clara Lou, if you remember, one thing that was wrong was that all of the jobs reported to the city administrator except one: the police chief. That was asking the mayor to do too much, especially if you have someone who needs to be professionalized. One of the first steps the council did was to change the charter to have the chief report to the administrator.

Steve mentioned the comprehensive plans, which were incredibly important. It's guided where development has gone for years. Randy, you mentioned [344 Main] goes up and it's, "Yeah, we need to make changes." So we made those changes. You mentioned that we weren't ready for the Metro-North proposal. We've done that zoning and I think we are ready now. It's a much more modest set of zonings, and we invited Metro-North to watch what we did.

**Casale:** When I put the committee together for the waterfront and Main Street, MTA had a person at every meeting, so it would have input from the beginning. If the partner that's down there doesn't have any say in the beginning, it might be hard to get him to agree with you. And we had public hearings. When the public says there's no sense

going to meetings because we're doing this — believe me, this government has listened to the people more times than not. It's not as easy as people think, that you just snap your fingers. But this government, over the last 30 years, has listened to the people, adapted and made changes. And, for the most part, the changes were the right changes.

When Clara Lou was elected, we had a mayor, a commissioner of public works, a commissioner of safety, a commissioner of finance. The commissioner of safety was in charge of the building inspector and the electrical inspector and the plumbing inspector, and they would give somebody a part-time job to do those jobs. It was, "Who do you know?" When Clara Lou's administration got in, they decided to clean up the city and adopted the New York State building code. She hired the first full-time building inspector and a deputy. Once they came aboard, we started seeing people do the right thing with their buildings on Main Street. Dan Betterton was the first guy and he was a great building inspector.

When I say the city went down when the industry left, I also believe the city went downhill when the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge was built. Back in the day, the only way you could get from that side of the river to this side was by ferry. Newburgh was booming, Poughkeepsie was booming and so was Beacon. Once the bridge went in and they built Interstate 84, the malls started opening up and the small businesses in the cities no longer got the traffic, and our storefronts started going out of business.

**Kyriacou:** The other thing I would mention is that fiscal caution across administrations was very much there. We had to be careful because our tax base had gone down so far that our tax rates were quite high. The two of you [Clara Lou Gould and Steve Gold] had to go through a stressful situation fiscally, and you lost the first sales tax deal [to receive funds from Dutchess County] at that time, which made it harder, but you got us through that. Now we're in a position where we've got the advantage of sales tax [Kyriacou recently negotiated a 10-year tax-sharing agreement with the county that will net the city \$20 million] this time. Our tax rate is substantially lower because of the increase in property values, while we've been careful with the pace at which we raise taxes.

**Gold:** The comptroller has always given us good ratings on our books. There were times, especially during that 2008 recession, when a lot of the neighboring communities found ways to get through it that were not so popular with the state comptroller, and they received some negative reports. But we did what we had to do to keep the city in good condition. Sometimes it hurt a little, because we had to raise taxes, but in the end, we got out of that recession in a good place for development to take place.

For a while I was working for the state and was involved in some of the Newburgh issues. One of the key things that they learned from Beacon was code enforcement. They realized that that's what they had to focus on, because a lot of the housing and commercial development there

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## Beacon: Then, Now and How

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would skirt the zoning and regulations, and the quality of the buildings and the neighborhoods went down. Our full-time code enforcer helped with situations where absentee landlords might have tried to get away on the cheap and let things fall apart. Beacon never got down to that level.

It was important when you connect the dots with the waterfront and the changes that we made there, particularly the smoke-stack for the sewage treatment plant. You see how that benefited the area for Dia to come in. While Ron Sauers and a few others were restoring buildings on the East End, the west end of Main Street still had a lot of problems. The middle was looking shabby with all the first-floor apartments, there was drug dealing, it was dangerous.

When Dia moved in and people started to walk up to Main Street, all of the sudden there was commercial value in those properties. They were converted before we even had to do any regulations. I hadn't thought about connecting those dots before but I think you're right. If the sewage treatment plant would have stayed, emitting toxic fumes through the incinerator, we wouldn't have had major development.

**Kyriacou:** It's hard because it was a factory community, and people would love to have had factories, but they're just not compatible. Think about the waterfront. It's no longer compatible with the waterfront uses that we look at today. Clara Lou, you were around when Riverfront Park was the dump and we had to cap it and turn it into a park.

**Casale:** We passed an ordinance during [Steve Gold's] administration that we wouldn't let [property owners] neglect industrial buildings. You had to get an inspection every year. I remember the guy from Craig House, when I became mayor, said, "You're killing me with this new law. I'm paying so much money." I said, "Sell the property if you're not going to develop it." He said he was trying to and I said, "No, you're not, not with the price you've got on that building. You're trying to appease us by saying you're trying to sell it." That's why we put the law in effect. We didn't want people warehousing old buildings so they get demolished.

**Gold:** After the Tuck Tape building on Tioronda Avenue was demolished because of neglect, we pulled in all of the major owners of industrial properties and sat them down with the code enforcer and identified what needed to be done with their properties to seal them up, so that they would be in good condition to be sold as is. That made all the difference in the world for the Roundhouse. It made all the difference in the world for the Hip Lofts.

## What are your hopes for Beacon's future?

**Gould:** I want to see people get involved.

When they are involved, the students and their parents get involved, you get things done in a positive way. A positive attitude is the best rule that anyone can have. It's important to keep getting people involved — people who have lived here a long time and people who have just come here.

**Gold:** The city is moving in the right direction. As it continues its development, we have to be concerned that it might reach a tipping point where it becomes too congested and the quality of life becomes too diminished. But we haven't gotten there yet. It requires some fine-tuning and cautious steps. I'd like to see more Main Street-type buildings on Beekman Street, so we have more of a continuous Main Street going down to the train station. As Randy was saying, that's what we had before urban renewal. It makes for a more interesting walk for people taking



Steve Gold

the train and coming up here.

The people who are moving in have a sense of involvement, similar to what Clara Lou was trying to build. That's natural for people who come to Beacon and love it; they want to be involved. The council has always been receptive to what the public has to say, and it's important that the council stays like that. Lee has done a great job in working with the public through some difficult times with COVID, with police reform and housing legislation. The other three mayors before Lee all had that approach of listening to the public and being professional. One of the things I've seen in Beacon is that there's a degree of civility and professionalism that takes place in council meetings that I haven't seen in too many other communities. There isn't any place I know where people work so well together, in a collegial effort to do what's best for the city, not what's best for themselves. I hope that continues, and I think it will.

**Casale:** Congestion in Beacon is not because of development. It's because we are driven through tourism from the arts. If you go down Main Street on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, it's not congested. When people say they don't want any more congestion, do you want us to tell the tourists not to come here? It's not from the development, and I can't emphasize that enough.

We have to get a recreation center. When I was the mayor, we went before the state twice and put in requests for \$10 million. One of our plans was to put a rec center on the lower half of Hammond Field [next to Matteawan Road]. I thought it would be good because you could put afterschool programs

for kids; both the middle and high schools are on that road; they could walk. You have the field there for recreation, and you could put a kitchen in for community and senior things. I thought it was the ideal place. Unfortunately, we didn't get the \$10 million, but I think that's the next improvement.

The next big hurdle for the city is ambulance service. Going from an industrial community where everybody worked here, and everybody was a volunteer fireman and everybody belonged to the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps — once the jobs left Beacon, and people began commuting, they don't have time for the mandates the state requires to be a volunteer. I'd like to see the county take a bigger role in managing fire and ambulance services. They need a coalition where the expense is spread.

**Kyriacou:** I don't think another community in the Hudson Valley has had as rapid and as thorough a success story, in terms of turning a pretty worn-out Northeast industrial city into a vibrant, highly attractive community. I'm not even sure in the country whether it's been done that quickly and comprehensively. The problems that we face going forward are problems of success, and those are much easier. A crowded Main Street — that's because we're attractive to tourists. That's wonderful, but we have to manage it. Affordability — it's because housing prices have gone up and because people with a lot of money want to rent and are willing to pay higher rents. On the other hand, 30 percent of our rental housing is in some form affordable or subsidized. That's a true asset for us as a community, because the towns [in Dutchess County] have almost nothing like that.

Moving forward, the issues are going to be how we connect our Main Street to our waterfront. How do we keep a long Main Street in business? In our comprehensive plan, it says Main Street suffered because we didn't have density. We need some density so that when the tourists go away, we can still have a Main Street that gets supported by the local community.

I'm with Randy, I'd like us to get to a community center. We're doing our firehouse. We're going to manage that carefully. We added \$200,000 — every time I say \$100,000, that's about 1 percent of our tax base. We added \$200,000 [in costs] for ambulance service. We added four and now a fifth career firefighter in the last four years. They're about 1 percent each. We're doing a firehouse, that's a \$14 million project, and it's not affecting taxes in a significant fashion.

Inflation is running 5 or 6 percent; our tax levy increase is 2 or 3 percent and is covered by new construction, which is incredibly important for us to provide the quality-of-life services that we want. We've been keeping the tax increase on existing properties as limited as we could. We're staying at or under the [mandated state] tax cap, because we've had these other sources of revenue. Let's be clear, if you're delivering services and you're not raising people's taxes, 90 percent of the problem [is solved] and the other parts we worry about. These four people sitting at this table have been doing that for a generation and a half, and I think we're going to keep doing that.

**Casale:** When I was the highway superintendent, I worked out of a building that was falling down even before I started. When we finally built a new garage on state property, we freed up a spot along Fishkill Creek that now has housing and one of the few industries that came here: DocuWare. We have to find some niches like DocuWare. You're not going to find the industry like we had in the old days, but if we can find some workplaces that bring 50 or 60 jobs, that will help Main Street during the week. We had all our marbles in the industrial factories. When that went out, we went belly-up. Now we've got most of our marbles in tourism through the arts, and we have to balance it out somehow.

**Kyriacou:** We've adjusted our zoning along the creek, which Randy set up, to require minimum 25 percent commercial. At the old highway garage, it's 80 percent commercial. That's new tax revenue without [adding] kids in the schools. If you think out 20 or 40 years, we're going to have to build out the housing shortage, and we're going to have to create affordability. So Beacon is probably going to get denser. We're just back to our density when Randy was a kid. We have to figure out how to do that effectively. It makes a ton of sense to have something down at the waterfront, at the train station, consistent with our comprehensive plan and the zoning that you all put in place.

**Casale:** I've been to a lot of places and Beacon has everything you need. You've got a river, a mountain, a creek running through the center of it, open space galore, trails going from the river to the creek. What more can you ask for? And it's only 5 square miles.

**Gold:** It's that special chemistry that makes the sense of identity that people have about Beacon work. It's because we have this secluded area in the midst of beautiful natural resources, and we've protected those resources.

## Why This Series

In the past quarter-century, Beacon has transformed itself from a city of boarded-up windows and crime to a vanguard of culture and environmental sustainability. But many residents feel the resurgence has come at a steep price, criticizing the pace and scale of development and arguing that housing prices are robbing Beacon of its diversity and working-class character.

Who has benefited most from this transformation? Who has been left behind? For this series, we're talking to people who live and work in the city as we attempt to address these questions, as well as document changes in housing and demographics, the arts, politics and activism. Earlier installments are online at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).



# Main Street Survivors

*For Beacon businesses, the community is key*

By Brian PJ Cronin

When the Thomas family opened Matcha Thomas at 259 Main St. two years ago, everything went right. They had delicious products (matcha beverages and homemade vegan snacks), an inspiring story (the family was able to reverse their father's type 2 diabetes with a healthier diet) and a built-in audience (the eldest sister Haile, then 20, is a well-known food activist and author of a vegan cookbook).

But the teahouse's instant popularity led to problems. The family was the only staff, and the 400-square-foot storefront was often filled with customers waiting for orders, far from the quiet, peaceful spot the family had envisioned. "We were completely in awe of how well things were going, but with only three people running the business we just couldn't accommodate everything," said Haile.

The family regrouped, found a bigger space at 179 Main and hired staff. Last month, they reopened with expanded hours and a room for people to relax, based on a customer suggestion.

It's been an eventful two years, but the family has learned two hard-won lessons: If you're a small business and doing everything yourself, you need to avoid burnout, and if you invest in the Beacon community, the community will invest in you.

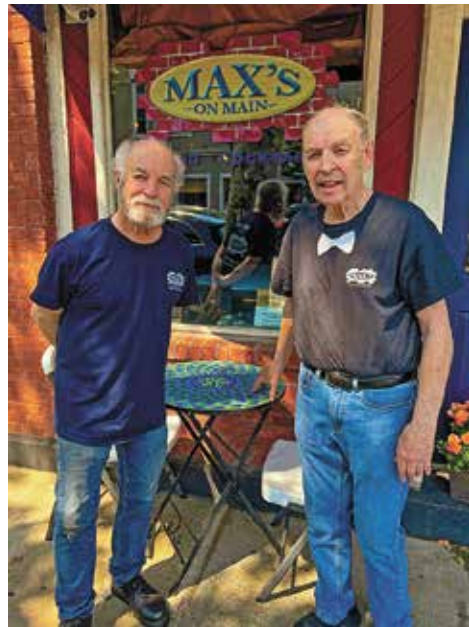
"Coming from a Jamaican immigrant family, we're bringing our own flavor to Beacon," said Haile. "At the same time, we want to respect the community that exists here and want to build in partnership with them. How can we root back into that foundation? How can our businesses become a co-creative space, rather than promoting cultural and communal erasure?"

Mountain Tops Outfitters went through a similar trajectory. Buddy and Katy Behney, lifelong residents who were high school sweethearts, opened it in 2006 at 143 Main before moving across the street into a space that had been a grocery store. As might be expected, the Main Street of 16 years ago was far different.

"It was strange when we started to see people walk by the store on the street, because for so long there was nothing on this side of the street until you got to Hudson Beach Glass," Katy said.

"We didn't start out with a loan and a ton of inventory," she recalled, so stocking a shoe meant spending thousands of dollars to have every size. The couple learned that there wasn't any point in selling anything they couldn't personally vouch for.

They also learned that they needed to keep costs low so they could build inventory. They moved into the basement of Buddy's parents and worked other jobs. When a coffee shop opened across the street, Katy applied and learned how to make coffee and how *not* to run a coffee shop. It became clear that the shop was not going to be open much



Richie and Harvey Kaplan of Max's On Main

longer. The shop had the same landlord as Mountain Tops, so Katy mentioned to him that, when the coffee shop closed, they'd like to take over the space.

Bank Square opened in 2009 with two bright rooms and a patio that became Beacon's unofficial front porch. In her 2017 book, *What I Found in a Thousand Towns*, Dar Williams, the singer-songwriter who lives in Cold Spring, explains why coffee shops with multiple rooms are integral to a community's health and well-being.

Speaking at the Howland Cultural Center that same year, Williams noted that at Bank Square, "the second room is where poetry readings happen and the depressed teenager can go to write in her journal and get hooked on caffeine instead of heroin." Bank Square opened around the time that Beacon's two community centers closed, and the coffee shop quickly became (and remains) one of the only places for Beacon teens to hang out.

Buddy didn't even drink coffee but is, in Katy's words, "a tinkerer." He became fascinated by the espresso maker, became an espresso drinker, grew fascinated with coffee roasters and realized that they should be roasting their own coffee. The Behneys opened a second coffee shop, Trax, at 1 E. Main St. in 2017, and a second Trax location at 469 Fishkill Ave. in 2020.

Katy said that while the growing numbers of tourists have been good for business, locals keep their shops afloat, which is why they are open seven days a week, a philosophy their old neighbor John Gilvey at Hudson Beach Glass shares.

"People come into town on a Tuesday and everything is closed," Gilvey said. "By the time they get to our store, they shop angry. If you're only open 20 days a month, your rent is actually a lot higher than you think."

"We stay open seven days a week because we have to pay rent seven days a week," said Richie Kaplan, who, with his brother Harvey, opened Max's on Main in 2006. (The bar is named for their immigrant father.) They attribute their success to one thing: "We knew we were never going to quit. We



Tim Buzinski and Mei Ying So of Artisan Wines



Charmaine, Nia and Haile Thomas of Matcha Thomas

Photos by B. Cronin

expected to still be here 17 years later."

They believe that businesses that have been around for years create a consistency on Main Street that reassures residents. That became clearer during the pandemic. People weren't allowed to come inside, but they were happy to order food, which Richie would deliver. He jokes that he finally learned where all of his customers live.

"A sense of community is important," Richie said. "During the pandemic, Beacon supported us, Brother's, The Yankee Clipper, because they wanted to keep us going."

From the beginning, Max's stayed open until 4 a.m. to give people somewhere to go, even if it meant Richie and Harvey walking customers to their cars at the end of the night. Richie dropped off free food to other businesses opening on Main Street. They rented a crash pad above Homespun Foods, a few doors down, so that Harvey, who insisted on closing on Saturday nights, would have a place to get a few hours of sleep before opening early Sunday morning.

"My wife decorated it," Harvey said of the apartment. "I don't know why."

They also have donated gift certificates to what they estimate is 99 percent of local



Brenda Murnane of Beacon Bath & Bubble



Katy Behney of Mountain Tops Outfitters

nonprofits and school fundraisers. It's not 100 percent, Richie said, because 1 percent haven't asked.

A similar philosophy is in place at Beacon Bath and Bubble, which Brenda Murnane opened in 2006. She took a break from renovating the interior recently to say she is always happy to donate a basket for a raffle. "I don't advertise," she said. "That's what I do instead. If I did not have my support from locals from Day One, I would not still be here."

Murnane, who has lived in Beacon since 1993, said she has watched the sense of community grow since her store opened. "There's more to do now," she said. "More clubs, more social activities, more to get involved in. When people move here, they're hungry to learn. They're asking me about all the things they can do here, how to get involved in the community. That's the best thing that's happened here, in my opinion. People are looking for community, and they're finding it."

The biggest boon is Main Street itself, she said. It's long, it's walkable and, as she pointed out, "you go out to get a bagel and see three people you know." It's also narrow, which, while being a problem for cyclists and drivers sharing the road, makes it easy to have a conversation with someone across the street.

"What you get when you invest in Beacon, whether you open a business here, move here or stay here, is Main Street," agreed Mei Ying So, who opened Artisan Wine Shop with Tim Buzinski in 2006. The two met while attending the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park; Buzinski now teaches there. "You don't have to go to a mall to entertain yourself. Then you have the mountain, the river, the creek. You're not just renting an apartment or buying a house — you're getting an entire ecosystem."

Owning a wine shop was not on their minds when they started to look at Beacon. Fancy sandwich shops were all the rage, but it looked like Homespun Foods had that market cornered. In one way, Artisan was like every other store that came to Beacon in the first decade of the 2000s and is still here: It's a small shop with a small staff that wanted to build a larger community. "We found so many like-minded people here who were committed to the same thing, to opening up a business and investing in the town," said Buzinski.

"We felt like we would do anything to help Main Street thrive," said So. "And now it's like a runaway train. There are other Hudson Valley river towns, but none like this."

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



## What's Online at Highlands Current.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under "Resources" and "Reader Guide."

### Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise, protests or ideas.

### Local Government

#### Video Guide

OK, it's not Netflix, but here's a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

### How They Voted (Congress)

This offers summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted.

### Storm Updates and Resources

Find storm-watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

### Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

### Community Calendar

This is the full monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

### Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to present, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

### Job Search

Provided by Indeed, these are continually updated listings for open positions in the Highlands and surrounding areas.

The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

## Seastreak Asks for More Cold Spring Cruises

*Requests as many as 30 summer and fall dockings*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board at its Wednesday (June 14) meeting began discussions on whether to allow an increase in the boat cruises that dock at the waterfront this summer and fall.

Seastreak, which is based in New Jersey, has proposed an expanded 2023 cruise schedule to Cold Spring to include Saturdays from Aug. 5 through Sept. 2, with a boat arriving at 11:20 a.m. and departing at 4 p.m.

The fall schedule would include Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 15 through Oct. 29, with additional dockings on Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 4 through 12. Each cruise would include a maximum of 400 passengers.

Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods said that 29 dockings "seems like a lot," and Trustee Eliza Starbuck added the board was hesitant to allow more but "we are very much in need of the revenue." The village budget projects receiving \$28,000 from Seastreak docking fees.

Starbuck said the village lost considerable revenue last year because of cancellations due to weather and inadequate passenger bookings. She proposed that this year the village retain half of Seastreak's deposit when cancellations occur.

Mayor Kathleen Foley asked that the potential for boats coming from West Point be factored into the Seastreak discussion. The military academy is interested in having its 120-passenger ferry dock at Cold Spring and carry passengers during major events at West Point.

"It's smaller boats with fewer people but similar revenue stream," Foley said. "If West Point is committed to doing that, we should look at that and get a sense of the revenue comparisons."

Starbuck commented that revenue from West Point boats wouldn't compare to what the village receives from Seastreak.

"I'd like us to reduce the impact of the boats as much as possible," Foley said. "We need the amount we budgeted for, but we want to balance revenue against possible impact."

The board agreed to remove Sept. 2 from the proposed Seastreak schedule to avoid conflict with possible Community Day events that weekend.

### In other business...

Foley said she met recently with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, of which Putnam County is a member. The council, in conjunction with Rutgers University, runs community workshops on such issues as traffic and pedestrian safety and helps municipalities hold public conversations about priority needs. It also helps identify state and federal grants. "They're very eager to work with Cold Spring and there is no cost to the village," Foley said. "I hope they will make a presentation to the



Passengers disembark in 2021 from a Seastreak cruise docked at Cold Spring.

File photo by M. Turton

board in August." The program could help the village build its own dataset on traffic and related needs, she said.

The public hearing on the update to Chapters 76, 104 and 134 of the village code, which deal with signs, noise and zoning, continued. Responses to comments and questions from the public through June 14 have been updated at coldspringny.gov, along with the environmental assessment form for state review. The hearing will remain open until at least the next board meeting, scheduled for Wednesday (June 21).

The state Legislature passed a bill allowing the village to advertise and hire a deputy clerk and to look beyond the village for candidates. The search would be limited to Putnam and adjoining counties. "That opens a lot of possibilities" Foley said, adding that "it's time for that position to move forward."

The Historic District Review Board adopted its new design standards on June 6. Foley commented that the update was "desperately needed" as the standards had not been updated since 1999.

The Cold Spring Police Department responded to 65 calls in May, and officers issued 11 traffic and 118 parking tickets. There were three arrests, including one under the mental health law and two after a disagreement in a village restaurant between two people who knew each other. One was charged with assault in the third degree and the other with harassment in the second degree.

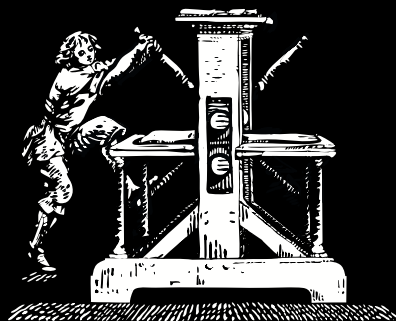
The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 14 calls last month, including the first mountain rescue of the season.

The pedestrian tunnel under the Metro-North tracks will soon be getting a colorful facelift. It was scheduled to be closed on June 15 and 16, allowing village crews to prime it for an abstract mural by Mary Mechalakos. A community group will be

formed to plan a longer-term mural treatment. A coating will be used to make the artwork less prone to graffiti.

Joule Community Power Coordinator Peggy Kurtz presented Cold Spring with an Eco-Action Award in recognition of its leadership in the use of clean energy. Joule presented Philipstown with the award on June 1.

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# NYC Sues Counties Over Migrants

*Putnam exec says city being 'dishonest'*

By Leonard Sparks

New York City last week filed a lawsuit against Putnam, Dutchess and 29 other counties that have issued orders barring the city from renting hotel rooms for migrants who have applied for asylum.

The lawsuit, filed June 7 in state court, alleges that executive orders issued by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil and other officials violate state law and regulations that allow municipalities with a shortage of temporary housing to rent rooms in hotels in other areas.

The city also accused upstate officials of disregarding state human-rights law, which bans discrimination in public accommodations based on "national origin, citizenship or immigration status," and of violat-

ing the migrants' rights to travel within a state under the U.S. Constitution. The legal action, which also names the Town of Riverhead on Long Island, is scheduled for a hearing on July 6.

"This lawsuit aims to put an end to this xenophobic bigotry and ensure our state acts as one as we work together to manage this humanitarian crisis fairly and humanely," said Eric Adams, New York City's mayor.

Although Byrne issued a state of emergency on May 22, no asylum-seekers have been relocated to the county. However, on June 8 Byrne said that a "permitted temporary residence" had been contacted about "a six-month to five-year contract" to house migrants.

No one from New York City contacted the county about housing asylum-seekers, Byrne said in a statement. He also defended his executive order because "it clearly states that 'absent a shared-services agreement'

we will not allow NYC to set up what will become essentially homeless shelters within the borders of Putnam.

"This lawsuit constitutes another dishonest attempt by New York City to foist its responsibilities on other localities," he said.

Dutchess became, on May 18, the third county to seek to prevent New York City from relocating migrants. That day, O'Neil declared a state of emergency and issued an order prohibiting any hotel from operating as an "emergency shelter, homeless shelter, rooming house or other overnight long-term shelter."

Dutchess also sued the Red Roof Inn on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, which was preparing to rent rooms to New York City to house asylum-seekers. In a partial victory for the county, a state judge on May 23 temporarily ordered New York City to stop sending migrants to Dutchess but allowed 86 then housed at the Red Roof Inn to remain.

New York City is calling the influx of more than 72,000 migrants over the last year a "humanitarian crisis" that forced it to open dozens of shelters to house indi-

viduals and families who, in many cases, have no local relatives or friends.

As of June 2, New York counted more than 45,800 migrants in city shelters, many of them sent on buses by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to protest federal immigration policies.

Hotel owners in Dutchess, Orange and Rockland have responded with their own federal lawsuit against the counties. The New York Civil Liberties Union filed a separate federal lawsuit against Rockland County and Orange County, where migrants have been staying in two hotels in the Town of Newburgh.

On June 6, Judge Nelson Roman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York issued a preliminary injunction against the executive orders in Rockland and Orange, ruling that the plaintiffs will likely succeed in proving the orders violate the U.S. Constitution.

But Roman's order was limited; it did not overturn temporary restraining orders issued by state judges in Dutchess, Orange and Rockland that bar New York City from placing more migrants at hotels in those counties.

## Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

is built. That is the priority at this point. School groups and families will continue to use points along the preferred HHFT route for recreation and learning."

Chris Davis, a Philipstown resident and philanthropist who chairs HHFT's board, said the "focused and strategic approach" will ensure the project provides "managed access" to the park.

"Many of the program spaces were included to accommodate existing local uses of areas within the park," he said in a statement. "But we want to proceed with care to ensure we don't inadvertently add to visitation and congestion."

Construction of the trail began in March. When completed by 2031, it is expected to include the Breakneck Connector, an \$85 million segment with a 445-foot span over the Metro-North tracks and a half-mile trail between the north end of the bridge and the train stop at Breakneck.

Another major element is the Shoreline Trail, a 1.5-mile segment along the Hudson River between Dockside Park in Cold Spring and Breakneck Ridge. Parking areas along Route 9D; two comfort station buildings and a trail steward station; and shuttle service for hikers and other visitors are also part of the plans.

The project, envisioned as a way to reduce congestion in Cold Spring and along Route 9D from visitors to Breakneck, has faced organized opposition from some Philipstown residents who formed a group called Protect the Highlands. Their chief complaint is that the trail will bring more people to the village, especially those wanting to access the Shoreline Trail at Dockside Park.

On May 8, residents filled Haldane's auditorium to air their concerns at a forum organized by elected officials in Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown. Kacala, officials from the state parks department and Richard Shea, the former Philipstown supervisor who is a member

of HHFT's board, responded to questions.

HHFT said on Monday that Philipstown and its two villages, along with the Town of Fishkill, have been asked to name representatives to a Visitation Data Committee that will review the project's traffic study, pedestrian counts and projections for numbers of visitors.

The committee will have funding to hire a third-party consultant to provide technical assistance for its reviews and will share its findings in a series of public meetings this fall, according to HHFT. At those meetings, residents can learn about and comment on alternative routes through Cold Spring, and be able to view live models showing how visitors would use each route, it said.

The meetings will take place before the project's draft environmental impact study is finalized and submitted to state parks, said the organization.

"HHFT is demonstrating through these actions the degree to which we listen to and incorporate community input," Shea said in a statement. "I urge all to join in these important conversations to find the best

solution for the villages, town and region."

On June 7, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley met with Metropolitan Transportation Authority legal and government-relations staff to discuss the proposed Dockside Park to Little Stony Point section of HHFT, which closely parallels the Metro-North

Railroad tracks. She said at the Village Board meeting on Wednesday (June 14) that the MTA reassured her it would enforce its safety requirements, which require that the trail be a minimum of 25 feet from the tracks and the fences be at least 8 feet high.

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The Highlands  
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## Fire *(from Page 1)*

wide pandemic or fish falling from the sky. But in many other parts of the country, wildfire smoke is more common, although still unexpected.

"I was talking to a colleague in Seattle, where they get smoke all the time," Winslow Hansen, a fire and forest specialist with the Cary Institute in Millbrook, told me when I called to ask him about our orange-out. "He said: 'Every summer, we're surprised by the smoke, too.' It's something about the annual cycle where you can easily forget about it."

A forest ecologist, Hansen directs the newly created Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative, a multi-year proj-

ect that's using fieldwork, remote sensors and simulation modeling to provide the best science possible to decision-makers "grappling with how to manage a fire regime that is increasing rapidly with climate change and increasing fuel loads." In addition, he said, it will provide guidance on "how to manage the forest so that we can live sustainably with fire rather than in opposition to fire."

Because Hansen's work is focused on the west, he said he was just as surprised as everyone else by the amount of smoke pouring down from Canada into New York state and the Hudson Valley. The boreal (cold weather) forests of eastern Canada generally aren't as vulnerable to massive, prolonged

fires as the temperate (seasonal) forests of the west are — not because they can't burn, but because they've been allowed to burn.

"The reason California fires are so challenging is that we've been suppressing fire for a century, which has led to a buildup of fuels," Hansen explained. Fire is an important part of the forest ecosystem. Some trees, like the pitch pine, need fire to reproduce. Indigenous cultures have long known the importance of setting fires intentionally in certain times and places to prevent woody understory from becoming denser and becoming fuel for more dangerous, out-of-control fires anytime lightning strikes.

Since the 1930s, U.S. policy has been to put out any fire by 10 a.m. the next day, which doesn't give fires the chance to clear out understory. Add in the hotter and drier summers that climate change has been bringing and you have an explosive combination.

The Canadian wildfires haven't been as big in the past because the fires were allowed to burn and the boreal understory isn't as dense. But once again, if the climate is hot and dry enough, anything will burn.

This could spell changes for the Catskills and Adirondacks, which haven't been prone to California-style wildfires because the understory is comprised of species that retain moisture well and are less likely to burn. If the warming climate dries that understory out, coupled with more summers of drought like we had in 2022, it could lead to wildfires the likes of which

New York hasn't seen.

Forest management policies are slowly changing, and Hansen said he is glad to see intentionally set, low-severity fires and mechanical thinnings of forests are being implemented more frequently and more thoughtfully.

"That's one of the most inspiring strands of this story," he said. "There has been an embracing of cultural burning in a way I couldn't possibly have anticipated. People are being empowered to reinvigorate cultural practices of burning that were largely exterminated in the 20th century."

But setting a prescribed burn is expensive: It takes a lot of people to treat the sections you want to burn while protecting the sections you don't want to burn. It gets even more complicated if you're setting a burn near houses — not to mention stressful for the people who live in the houses. This is where Hansen's work out west may prove vitally necessary if our local forests get hotter and drier. The 2019 Sugarloaf and 2020 Breakneck fires in the Highlands were relatively small. But with our population density, it doesn't take a widespread fire to put people at risk.

"We need to understand what our fire risk is, and how we can take proactive strategies to mitigate that risk," Hansen said. "We've been largely isolated from this fire crisis that's been unfolding around us, and we may not be in the future."

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18th	11:30am-1:30pm	Mario Rincon	
25th	11:30am-1:30pm	Tony DePaolo	
JULY			
2nd	10:00am-11:00am	Lyra Music Festival	
2nd	11:00am-2:00pm	Ian Moore	
9th	11:30am-1:30pm	Andrew Jordan	
16th	11:30am-1:30pm	Larry Locust	
23rd	11:30am-1:30pm	Evan Mason	
30th	11:30am-1:30pm	Hey Bub	
AUGUST			
6th	10:00am-2:00pm	Ian Moore	
13th	11:30am-1:30pm	Tony DePaolo	
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## The Calendar

# AN EYE FOR THE NEWS

## Photojournalist shares memorable shots at Butterfield

By Michael Turton

Few people can claim they've seen it all. Even fewer can say they've shot it all.

Charles Ruppmann, 80, who lives in Peekskill, did shoot it all, for 50 years, as a general-assignment photographer for the *New York Daily News*.

A collection of his news photos is on display at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring through June 30.

Ruppmann was a child when he took his first photo at a family Christmas celebration, using a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye. He says he had no idea he'd go on to photograph the good the bad and the ugly of New York City — everything from crime, politics and sports, to celebrities, riots ... and streaking.

He clearly remembers the date he started as a copy boy at the *Daily News*: July 5, 1960. "They wouldn't let me come in before that because they would have had to give me the July 4 holiday!" he recalls.

He soon moved to the studio, where he mixed chemicals, printed copies and learned the photographic process. Before long, he was a working photographer.

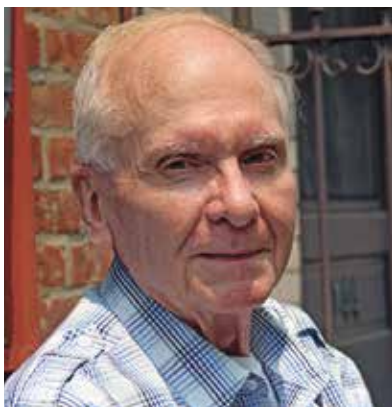
"When I went out on the street, they handed me a speed graphic," he said, which enabled single or multiple exposures to be removed without having to develop the entire roll. "I covered an eclipse from the top of the Empire State Building with that camera," he says.

In his first assignments, he traveled the city in a *Daily News* radio car with a former police officer as his driver. "His name was Harry; we'd listen to police and fire radios, go down by City Hall," Ruppmann said.

One of the first calls was to the collapse of scaffolding on 20th Street. "A guy was hanging from the 12th floor," he said. "My shot made the front page."

When he went to the 18th Precinct in 1970, he found trumpeter Miles Davis being

(Continued on Page 17)



Charles Ruppmann Photo by M. Turton



1972: John Wojtowicz peers outside of a Brooklyn bank while attempting to rob it. The incident inspired the 1975 film *Dog Day Afternoon*.



1977: Ed Koch makes his victory speech after defeating Mario Cuomo to become New York City mayor. His campaign manager, Bess Myerson, is at left.



1968: Police break through a student demonstration at Low Library at Columbia.



1975: Home-run king Hank Aaron (center) hangs out with Sandy Alomar Sr. (left) and his sons, Sandy Jr. and Roberto, both of whom also became Major League Baseball stars. It was Aaron's last trip to Yankee Stadium.

Photos courtesy New York Daily News



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## PRIDE EVENTS

SAT 17

### Family Pride

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane  
facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ

This community event will have food, games, activities, dancing and giveaways.

SAT 17

### Queer Dance Party

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Industrial Arts  
511 Fishkill Ave.  
facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ

Enjoy drag performances and a dance party to celebrate Pride Month.

SAT 24

### Putnam Pride Parade

BREWSTER

1 p.m. Old Town Hall  
putnampride.com

There will be music, dancing and speakers on the steps of the Old Town Hall at this fourth annual event, followed by a march to Wells Park at 1:45 p.m. Enjoy food, face painting, an open mic and shopping at dozens of vendors. Angel Elektra and Shay D'Pines will host.

SAT 24

### Family Pride

PEEKSKILL

1 – 6 p.m. Pugsley Park  
1036 Main St.

biggayhudsonvalley.com/events

The headline act is The Little Mermen — the ultimate Disney tribute band. Other activities will include drag queen story time, performers, a pet photo contest, crafts, games and food.

## COMMUNITY

SAT 17

### \$5 Book Sale

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com

To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the bookstore will offer a selection of hardcovers, paperbacks and new releases for \$5 each to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry. Local zine-makers will sell their publications from 1 to 4 p.m.

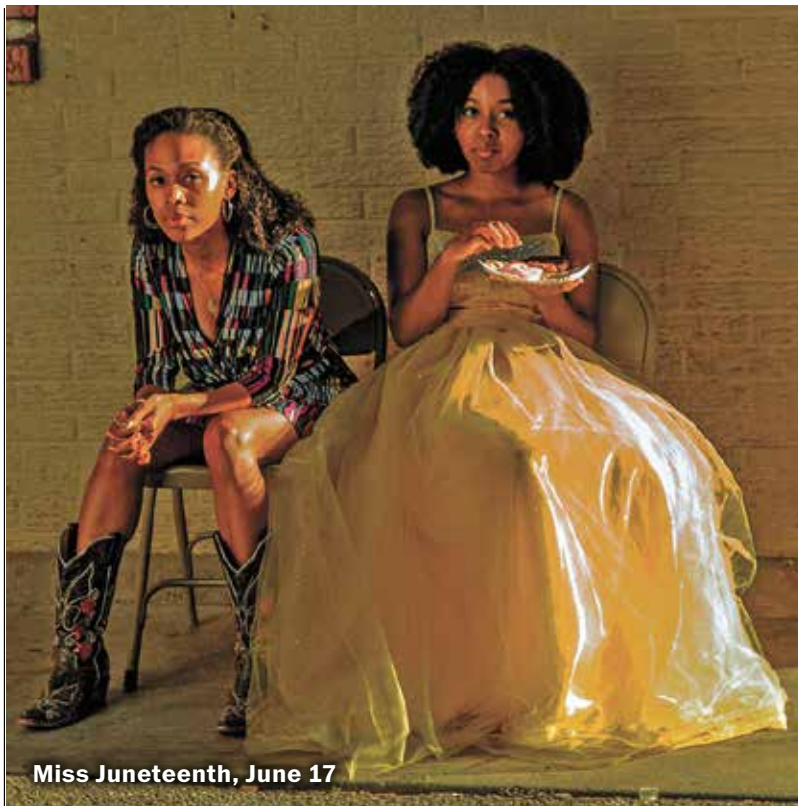
SAT 17

### Putnam Culture Fest

CARMEL

Noon – 5 p.m. Memorial Park  
201 Gypsy Trail Road

This annual festival, presented by the Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board, will have local vendors, live music, children's activities and food trucks. No pets. The rain date is SUN 18. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 children)*



Miss Juneteenth, June 17

SUN 18

### Beacon Curated

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. VFW Hall  
413 Main St. | facebook.com/beacon-toyandcomicshow

Find vintage and retro items, including toys, comics, records, clothes and art. *Cost: \$3 (free for dads with kids)*

SUN 18

### Highland Lights Processional

GARRISON

8 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare  
2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org

After two rainouts, the Ad Astra-themed processional will take place with community designed and constructed lanterns, followed by a fire with refreshments and stories. The rain date this time is SUN 25.

MON 19

### Juneteenth Festival

BEACON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Seeger Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive  
facebook.com/beacon4blacklives

Organized by Beacon 4 Black Lives and Bosco and The Storm, this celebration will feature performers, music, dancing and food.

WED 21

### Bad Art Night

COLD SPRING

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

To kick off its summer reading program for grown-ups, the library will host a workshop to create bad painting, sculpture or mixed media works.

SAT 24

### Taco Fest

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 7 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The event will feature tacos, burritos and corn, as well as music and drinks. *Cost: \$10 to \$109*

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 17

### Beacon LitFest

BEACON

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

Writers of all genres will share their work and insights during this two-day festival. The SUN 18 schedule includes three workshops. *Cost: \$25 or \$35 (\$30 or \$40 door)*

SAT 17

### Glass Ceiling Breakers 3

GARRISON

Noon – 10 p.m.  
Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This third annual, all-female festival will feature nine plays and 31 films. Also SUN 18. *Cost: \$10 to \$80*

SAT 17

### Miss Juneteenth

GARRISON

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

In this 2020 film, which stars Nicole Beharie and Liz Mikel, a former beauty queen prepares her daughter for a pageant.

SAT 17

### Henry V

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
hvshakespeare.org

HVSF presents the epic tale of King Henry at war to seize the French crown. Emily Ota plays the lead. Also THURS 22, FRI 23, SAT 24, SUN 25. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

FRI 23

### Songs of Slavery and Emancipation

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompskinscorners.org

This documentary tells the story of the discovery of a long-lost slave song from the Revolutionary era and its recording. It will be followed by a Q&A with director Mat Callahan. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 23

### Liberty Comedy

BEACON

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

Joe Matarese, Tom Ryan and Shaun Eli will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 24

### Clueless

COLD SPRING

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

The Cold Spring Film Society kicks off its summer outdoor movie lineup with the 1995 comedy starring Alicia Silverstone and Stacey Dash as rich Beverly Hills teens.

SUN 25

### Irene O'Garden

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompskinscorners.org

The poet and author will read from her work, followed by a poetry open mic.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 17

### Brutalism vs. Nature

COLD SPRING

3 – 6 p.m. Studio Tashtego  
160 Main St. | studiotashtego.com  
Ceramics by artist R.A. Pesce will be on view in the gallery's new space through Sept. 3.



Brutalism, June 17

SAT 24

### I Am The Passenger, Part 2

BEACON

3 – 5 p.m. Mother Gallery  
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039  
mothergallery.art

This exhibit continues the theme of capturing our moment in time through non-objective painting. It includes works by Lisa Beck, Trudy Benson, Seth Cameron, Mariah Dekkenga, Stacy Fisher, Rico Gatson, Russell Tyler and Susan Weil. Through July 29.

SAT 24

### Cheap Art Show

NELSONVILLE

5 – 8 p.m. Create Community  
11 Peekskill Road

All art will be priced between 25 cents and \$20.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 17

### William Kemble House Tours

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 20 The Boulevard  
westpointfoundrybedandbreakfast.com/historytours

Learn about the Kemble brothers and their role at the West Point Foundry, which supplied munitions for the Civil War, most notably the Parrott cannon. Registration required. Presented as part of Path Through History Weekend. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 18

### Women's Post-Incarceration Experiences

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. First Presbyterian  
10 Academy St.  
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Pamela Zimba, a former inmate, will talk about the challenges women face rejoining communities when released from prison. Zimba is the



Henry V, June 17



founder and executive director of The Lilac House, a transitional home that opened last year in Westchester County.

SUN 25

**Tempestry Workshop**

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org)

Emily McNeil and Asy Connelly, co-founders of the climate storytelling yarn-crafting project, will lead participants in knitting projects as part of the museum's current exhibit.

SUN 25

**Wildlife and Overtourism**

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

In this talk presented by Protect the Highlands, Pete Salmansohn will discuss species such as the peregrine falcon, northern long-eared bat and eastern fence lizard, that live in the path of the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 22

**Summer Reading Kickoff**

COLD SPRING

3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Elementary students can sign up for the library's summer reading program and enjoy a performance by Magic Jim.

FRI 23

**Escape Room**

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Students in grades five to 12 are invited to celebrate the end of the school year by solving puzzles and mysteries.

SAT 24

**Summer Reading Kickoff**

GARRISON

Noon. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Sign up for the library's summer reading program and wear a shimmering undersea or merfolk costume for a 1 p.m. parade around the grounds.



Bus Shelter Art Project Benefit, June 21

SUN 25

**Drag Story Hour**

COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
[splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com)

Enjoy books and songs with a glamorous host, drag queen Angel Elektra. "Drag Story Hour gives kids glamorous, positive and unabashedly queer role models and enables them to imagine a world where everyone can be their authentic selves!" Reservations required.

MUSIC

SAT 17

**Spring Music Festival**

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 10 p.m. The Chance | 6 Crannell St.  
[schoolofrock.com/locations/beacon](http://schoolofrock.com/locations/beacon)

Bands from the School of Rock in Beacon will play sets, including Best of the '90s, ska and reggae and The Beatles.

SAT 17

**Larry & Joe**

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

Larry Bellorín and Joe Troop fuse Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music. *Cost: \$20*



Aimee Mann, June 24

SAT 17

**Patti Lupone**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The singer will perform her show, *Don't Monkey with Broadway*, at the annual Bardavon gala. *Cost: \$75 to \$275*

SUN 18

**Tom McCoy**

BEACON

11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.  
Boats leave Beacon dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)

Take a self-guided tour of Bannerman Island and enjoy live music from the pianist. *Cost: \$40*

SUN 18

**New Amsterdam Singers**

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)

Musical director Clara Longstreth will lead the chamber chorus in a program that includes spirituals, carols and selections from Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera* and Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

SUN 18

**Jog Blues**

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art)

Abhik Bhai (sitar), Andy Biskin (clarinet, bass clarinet), Naran Budhkar (tabla), Joel Bluestein (electric guitar), Jake Charkey (cello), Pheeroan akLaff (drums), Siddhartha Mukherjee (vocals) and Jonathan Rose (bass, harmonica) will play Indian midnight raga and blues. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 regional residents and seniors, \$5 students)*

MON 19

**Bill Ware Quartet**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | [quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)

The vibraphonist and composer will be joined by Taru Alexander (drums), Eric Person (saxophone) and Robert Kopec (bass) for a Juneteenth commemoration.

WED 21

**Bus Shelter Art Project Benefit**

BEACON

7 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St.  
[facebook.com/beaconarts.org](http://facebook.com/beaconarts.org)

BeaconArts is hosting this fundraiser to install new artwork on city bus shelters. The Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble, Marsh Kings Daughter, Mimi Sun Longo, Tony DePaolo and Paul Byrne & The Bleeders are scheduled to perform. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 23

**Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters**

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The band will play music from its latest release, '69. *Cost: \$35 to \$57*

SAT 24

**Compcord Ensemble Meets Hot Wrk Ensemble**

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

New York City musicians Franz Hackl (trumpet), Gene Pritsker (electric guitar), John Kneiling (cello), Jai Jeffryes (piano) and Debra Kaye (piano) will collaborate with Beacon musicians Lois Hicks-Wozniak (saxophone), Brad Hubbard (baritone saxophone) and J. Brooks Marcus (percussion). *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 24

**Scott Seltzer**

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)

The singer and guitarist will perform classic rock and Americana.

SAT 24

**Aimee Mann**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The singer will play songs from her latest album, *Mental Illness*, which won a Grammy award for best folk album. *Cost: \$48 to \$73*

SAT 24

**Sharkey & The Sparks**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300  
[townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

Sharkey McEwen, a Philipstown resident, will play with his son, Ben, along with Felipe Torres, RJ McCarty, Quinn Petkus, Oliver Petkus, Luis Perez and Premik Russell-Tubbs. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 25

**K-Fest**

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 p.m. Heritage Financial Park  
1500 Route 9D  
[k104online.com/kfest-2023](http://k104online.com/kfest-2023)

The annual concert organized by K104 will include performances by Shannon, Corina, Quad City DJ's and Color Me Badd. *Cost: \$41 to \$89*

SUN 25

**James Keepnews /Billy Stein**

BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St. | [dogwoodbeacon.com](http://dogwoodbeacon.com)

The guitarists will play improvisational music.

CIVIC

TUES 20

**City Council**

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

TUES 20

**School Board**

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org)

TUES 20

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

TUES 20

**Village Board**

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | [nelsonvilleny.gov](http://nelsonvilleny.gov)

WED 21

**Village Board**

COLD SPRING

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

WED 21

**School Board**

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | [gufs.org](http://gufs.org)



Billy Bob Thornton, June 23



Matthew Agoglia, the president of BeaconArts

Photo by Valerie Shively



## BeaconArts (from Page 1)

galleries open exhibits and stores stay open late], but it has been difficult for BeaconArts to find a role for ourselves. We don't know the new shop owners much yet. Ultimately, maybe it's something for the Chamber of Commerce to take over and make it click. Though it would be great to pool our resources, we're never sure what they do, and when you're not sure, you tend to ignore it.

"I've heard the lament that Beacon has changed, that it used to be a community where everyone knows each other," he added. "The right word is *evolved*. Some opportunities have left, others have appeared."

As with any organization run by volunteers, the challenge is time. "Our board members are full-time professionals, usually with families, and it's difficult to do things like manage membership and come up with and organize events," Agoglia said. "But the board is dedicated and active. We have 12 business members, nine of whom are gallery owners — and that growth all happened in a little over a year."

Most of BeaconArts's projects are organized through a structure called fiscal sponsorship, in which the nonprofit partners with individuals, projects or organizations that are not tax-exempt so they can raise money through donations and grants. The sponsor can also provide governance, management and administrative oversight.

BeaconArts's current fiscally sponsored projects include the Beacon Film Society, Beacon Open Studios and the Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble.

Many perceive BeaconArts as an organization solely dedicated to visual arts, but "we have members from many art forms, including music and dance," Agoglia said. "We started out as a consortium of painters and sculptors, but, particularly now that KuBe has given us a physical home for events, workshops and lectures [in the old Beacon High School], we can sometimes bring in a mix."

BeaconArts is attempting to evolve in a community that "has grown tremendously in the past few years," he said. "Several high-profile musicians and dancers have come to us with their ideas. Sometimes a new organization is born through the process — Beacon Bonfires is one. BeaconArts doesn't have to be the only game in town. We're open to anyone in the community. Come in and tell us your idea. Hopefully that will continue, because as long as the community participates we'll remain a healthy organization."

Agoglia himself is an example of the breadth of the membership. He is connected to the arts through music. He studied music composition and ethnomusicology at Indiana University. In 2007, while working at Masterdisk in New York City, he found his calling as a mastering engineer. In 2013, Agoglia opened his own studio in Beacon (theranch-mastering.com). His wife, Christina Jensen,



A piano painted by Donna Mikkelsen in 2018 for Keys to the City

Photo provided

who manages classical musicians, served on the BeaconArts board for six years.

As with any collective group of people advocating and generating projects related to the arts, there are gaps to fill. Agoglia said the board would love to have more access to legal expertise, particularly with contracts. They also could use volunteers with talents in internet publishing and social media.

"The board has plenty of ideas, and the tools are there," he said. "It's having the time to do them. Outreach and creating a presence online — agreeing on aesthetics — is more complicated than you'd think."

The chief arts event in Beacon is the annual open studios, when artists open their workspaces to the public. It coincides with Upstate Art Weekend, from July 21 to 24. The Yard will serve as headquarters, with an outdoor concert planned for July 22 to showcase musical artists.

To make the project more accessible, BeaconArts tweaked some requirements for Open Studios in 2023, Agoglia said. This year, for the first time, non-members will be able to join BeaconArts and register for the event at the same time for \$60.

One project BeaconArts hopes to regenerate is the Bus Shelter Art Project, in

which panels of art were installed in partnership with the city. The project began in 2017 with five shelters. Their maintenance was derailed by the pandemic and the artwork, which was meant to be changed regularly, is in need of repair.

BeaconArts is looking for sponsors and donors to help with the cost of installing five new pieces, which will be chosen by committee from submissions by artist members. A benefit concert is scheduled for Wednesday (June 21) from 7 to 10 p.m. at Dogwood, 47 E. Main St.

The lineup will include the Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble, featuring Gwen Laster and Damon Banks (who is a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper); Tony DePaolo; Paul Byrne & The Bleeders; Mimi Sun Longo; and Marsh Kings Daughter, featuring Emily Hague, Jon Slackman, Rafi and Sekaya. See [beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org) for tickets.

To round out its 2023 calendar, BeaconArts will be presenting its annual Artist Member Exhibition in October, and begin accepting grant applications for the Clara Lou Gould Fund for the Arts in November. The group offers annual memberships that begin at \$25 for individuals, \$35 for artists, \$150 for galleries and \$240 for businesses.

# Take an Arts Walk in Newburgh

*Monthly open houses expand in second year*

By Alison Rooney

**N**BNY Art Seen, an initiative to draw visitors to Newburgh's galleries that is now in its second year, is simple but effective: On the last Saturday of the month, from April through October, each space hosts an afternoon exhibit and the Newburgh Arts & Cultural Commission publishes a walking map.

The galleries participating in 2023 are ADS Gallery, Ann Street Gallery, CMA Gallery at Mount Saint Mary College, Elijah Wheat Showroom, Grit Works Gallery, Holland Tunnel, Mindy Ross Gallery at SUNY-Orange Newburgh, Strongroom and

Visitor Center.

James Jackson, who took over this year as facilitator, says he has already learned from the April and May events.

The first Art Seen was "very successful, with quite a reasonable turnout," he says. But the second, held over Memorial Day weekend, was less so. "We realized that if it's held on a public holiday, nobody attends," he says. "It's so quiet, with nobody around."

The inaugural year of Art Seen in 2022 "proved it could be of value to the galleries by giving the Newburgh art scene more

publicity," Jackson says. "We have a large artist community here with a lot of exciting young artists and gallery owners. Together, we're all trying to create more special events to draw both visitors and residents."

Jackson said he hopes to create a video featuring interviews with gallery owners and artists that could be posted online before each walk. He also is working to partner with universities and colleges, which benefit from Newburgh being known for its up-and-coming art scene, and reaching out to "non-dedicated gallery spaces," such as coffee shops and libraries.

"We proved we could do it last year, and now we're trying to be more professional in promotion," he says. "Last year, we tried to do something more complex, with opening parties hosted by a different gallery each

month. It didn't really click. Now, we're trying to coordinate openings so they don't overlap. For example, next month, SUNY Orange and Visitor Center have openings on the same day. After conversations with both, one will host theirs from 2 to 4 p.m., while the other will be doing an evening presentation."

Gallery owners express satisfaction with the effort to bring visitors to their doorsteps. Eva Zanardi, proprietor of Visitor Center, says Art Seen has been "an amazing experience so far" and David Lionheart of Grit Works Gallery notes that "every gallery has something special to offer, and we are all rotating our shows."

*The next Art Seen is scheduled for June 24. See [newburghart.org/nbny-artseen](http://newburghart.org/nbny-artseen) for the walking map.*





# SWEET SPOT

## Beekeepers open Cold Spring pop-up

By Marc Ferris

With little effort, LoMar Farms has generated plenty of media buzz, including coverage in *People*, *The New York Times* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

"There aren't a lot of Black beekeepers, for one thing," says co-owner Brett Wright. "We also make a great product and people like my wife," actor Yvonna Kopacz, who has appeared on *Guiding Light*, *Days of Our Lives* and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

Last week, the couple opened their first pop-up boutique, at 167 Main St. in Cold Spring, to sell "farm chic" beeswax candles, honey, clothing, lip balm, body products and kitchen accessories. It shares the building with Wynono & Co. and Joseph's Fine Jewelry.

After moving from New York City to Rockland County, Wright and Kopacz made ice cream runs with their two daughters to Cold Spring in their 1957 wood-paneled Thompson motorboat. Now in college, Lola and Marley help out with the family business (except the beekeeping) and inspired the farm's mashup name.

"Cold Spring reminds us of Sag Harbor" on Long Island, said Wright. "But this is much closer."

LoMar established a toehold in Cold Spring in May when Mundane, a scent shop down the street, began carrying its tapered candles.



Brett Wright and Yvonna Kopacz with their daughter, Marley (center), outside their pop-up in Cold Spring

Photo by M. Ferris

The family's journey into farming began while Wright and Kopacz rehabbed a weather-beaten, 200-year-old farmhouse, barn and other buildings on a 5-acre property. The 2012 documentary *More Than Honey* inspired them to learn beekeeping.

"I was amazed at how fast he said 'yes' to keeping bees," recalls Kopacz, who grew up in Fresno, California, where she acquired experience in agriculture. At 18, she moved to New York City to work as a model.

Wright, who grew up in suburban New Jersey, had no farming experi-

ence. He began his eclectic career in marketing and business development at national magazines. Then, he worked at Uptown Records, one of the first hip-hop labels, and eventually owned *Vice* magazine — twice.

The couple began keeping bees to pollinate the property so that trees and plants would bloom while they renovated the house and barn. They also raise chickens and grow fruits and vegetables.

LoMar took off gradually after several celebrity friends began using their products, says Kopacz. Sales boomed during the pandemic shutdown when people nested with candles, and increased after the murder in Minneapolis

of George Floyd because people wanted to support Black businesses, she says.

Although new to Cold Spring, the couple say they are well aware of the challenges getting visitors to traverse Furnace Street, which Wright refers to as the Mason-Dixon Line.

"A lot of people park north of Chestnut Street, so they have to walk down and come back up, passing by twice," says Lindsay Fastiggi, owner of Spice Revolution at 161 Main St. "Other people just want to take their steps and breathe in the beautiful air."

To promote LoMar, which will be around until at least the end of the month, Wright plans to hand out honey sticks and other samples.

"This storefront has been empty for so long, lots of people who stopped in as we're setting up are happy to see the lights on," he said. "If we're successful here, we might expand to other destination locations."



Beeswax candle



Raw honey

Earth Mama beeswax candle

## Eye for News (from Page 13)

booked after being arrested for driving his red Ferrari without an inspection sticker, driver's license or registration, and for possessing brass knuckles.

"I took a shot of him just sitting there, looking at me," he said. "I felt so bad for him, though I'm sure he would have loved to kick my ass."

After thousands of photos, Ruppmann has no problem choosing his favorite. It shows police breaking up the 1968 demonstrations by Columbia University students who were protesting the Vietnam War and racial injustice. "I was there all week on the midnight shift; I should have received a degree for being there that long," Ruppmann said with a laugh.

He remembers the demonstrations for another reason: Famed columnist Walter Winchell was covering the story. "I was surprised to see him because he was elderly, like I am now," Ruppmann said.

In the chaos, he saw Winchell get hit by demonstrators running through a courtyard. "He went up in the air and came down hard," Ruppmann recalls. "I thought he was dead, but he got up and ran after them."

Celebrity assignments were considerably easier. He ranks his shot of Barbra Strei-

sand in a shoulder-to-shoulder crowd at the 1975 opening of her movie *Funny Girl* as one of his most memorable.

While not a sports photographer, Ruppmann had his big-game moments, including one at Shea Stadium during the 1986 World Series when he captured a home run swing by Lenny Dykstra in the bottom of the ninth that gave the Mets a 6-5 win.

A classic Ruppmann photo, if viewed without context, could be described as ordinary. But it is chilling when seen in light of the story behind it.

Taken in 1972, it shows a man peering from behind partially drawn curtains. He is John Wojtowicz, in the midst of robbing a Chase Manhattan Bank in Brooklyn, a crime that would be immortalized in *Dog Day Afternoon*.

"I had a long lens because we were cordoned off," away from the bank, Ruppmann said. "He looked out and I just happened to get the shot."

Ruppmann's satisfaction with a crime photo from 1979 may hint at his sense of humor, the sort likely required by his profession. It shows morgue attendants carrying the body of mobster Carmine Galante out of a Brooklyn restaurant. Above, a sign read: "We give special attention to outgoing orders."

"That's funny," Ruppmann said. "It was a natural; everybody liked it."

He photographed many politicians, but it was the aftermath of a group shot in the mid-1970s that included then-New York City Mayor Abe Beame that stands out.

After the photo he was approached by Roy Cohn, who had served as chief counsel to Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s and

became a mentor to Donald Trump.

"Cohn came up to me, put \$100 in my pocket and said, 'Cut Abe Beame out of the photo,'" Ruppmann recalls. "I told him I couldn't," adding that it felt good to give the \$100 back.

Ruppmann retired in 2010 but still shoots for a German newspaper. "There's no pay, but they use my stuff," he said. "And they always spell my name right."

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# Glynwood's New Harvest: Access

## Philipstown farm debuts 'sliding-scale' CSA

By Leonard Sparks

The Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming first moved to attract more low-income residents and people of color to community-supported agriculture in 2014, when the Philipstown farm allowed people to pay for shares of its vegetable harvests in installments.

Two years ago, Glynwood launched a CSA program that gives recipients of federal food benefits a 50 percent discount on its CSA, which in 2023 costs \$1,200 for 24 weekly pickups.

This year, customers for the farm's sold-out summer/fall CSA had another option: sliding-scale pricing that allowed those who could not afford full freight to pay \$600 or \$900 for 24 pickups, or \$350 or \$500 for 12 weekly pickups, which is usually \$650.

"We're trying to welcome more BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) and low-income folks to the conversation — to let them in on this abundant experience where you can become in community with your farmer," explained Ryan Stasolla, the CSA coordinator.

Glynwood is committed to expanding access even as it faces rising costs for seeds, equipment and labor. "We can acknowledge that, but we can also open the door to

accepting less money if it means extending this opportunity to folks that we may not otherwise be able to," he said.

CSA customers typically pay in full at the beginning of their season, which provides farmers with capital for the growing season. But that excluded people who could not afford the lump sum; sliding-scale systems at other Hudson Valley farms, such as the Poughkeepsie Farm Project and Rock Steady Farm in Millerton, were models.

Subscribers are free to choose what they pay, but those who own homes, have investments and retirement accounts, "have higher earning power due to race, class, gender or education" or meet other criteria denoting wealth are asked to consider paying the full amount.

People who receive public assistance, are supporting children or dependents, have higher debt and/or belong to a "historically marginalized group" are encouraged to consider paying less.

"We bring up a list of things that you will want to consider when reflecting on this decision," said Stasolla.

Most customers who signed up for this year's harvest chose the middle and lowest prices; those who opted to pay the full cost helped subsidize the two lower tiers and discounts for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, he said.

While vegetable shares are sold out for the summer and fall, Glynwood is still



Ryan Stasolla, the CSA coordinator for Glynwood, displays some recent selections.

Photo by L. Sparks

accepting subscriptions to its egg and meat CSAs, which run until November. Full shares of the egg program have sold out, but half shares (a dozen eggs distributed biweekly) are available for \$80, \$100 or \$120. Customers joining the meat CSA can pick up between nine and 11 pounds

each month for \$415, \$520 or \$625.

This month customers may receive lamb chops and chicken thighs; in July, the offerings could be grilling meats such as hamburger patties, hotdogs and chicken drumsticks. In the fall, the selection may include stewing meats.



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## CheAP Art Show

CALL FOR ENTRIES!!



Submission deadline: **Tues June 21**

Opening Reception: **Sat June 24, 5-8 pm**



This group exhibition at Create Community welcomes any art media: **MADE BY KIDS OR ADULTS**

paintings to sculpture, photography, poetry and even doodles you made in class

### Rules:

- 1.) Submission is open to all ages
- 2.) All art must be priced between 25 cents- \$20
- 3.) Items do not need to be framed
- 4.) You can show 1-3 pieces of art

### How to participate:

Drop off your artwork between 11 am - 7 pm any weekday or Sunday by June 21 at Create Community at 11 Peekskill Rd, Cold Spring. Put your name, phone number and email on the back of work.

### Questions?

[info@nycreativetherapists.com](mailto:info@nycreativetherapists.com)



Artists can keep the money from the sale of their artwork or can donate to support art therapy sessions for people without insurance coverage

We reserve the right to refuse artwork due to exhibit space size and appropriateness for display in an all ages community space.



# LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (June 1873)

A Yonkers police officer came to Cold Spring on a Sunday in search of Mathew Fitzpatrick, a former resident who had been staying with his sister in the village. He had last been seen the morning before at the post office with his daughter, Minnie. The officer said that Fitzpatrick's wife, Ellen, had been found dead in the couple's rented home in Yonkers on Saturday night. The *Cold Spring Recorder* expressed surprise, noting that while the couple had sometimes been heard quarreling while they ran a Main Street saloon in the village, "the impression was generally made that Mathew was the 'weaker vessel' from the fact that the woman usually managed to have her way in everything." That included banishing her sickly elder stepdaughter, Maggie, to the home of an aunt on Kemble Avenue, where she had died of consump-

tion. On Monday morning, Fitzpatrick turned himself in and confessed that he had strangled his wife a week earlier and gone in and out of the house for four days with her corpse on the bed.

Two years after its first appearance, the traveling show Washburn's Last Sensation returned to Town Hall. Its 23 performers included Native Americans and members of the Washburn family.

Martin Ward, the captain of a canal boat, died from an aneurysm while anchored opposite Cold Spring.

The Board of Trustees ordered the removal of fences and porches that extended onto the north sidewalk on Main Street from Fair Street to Pindar's saloon.

Main Street was in a cloud of dust for an hour or more while the mules, horses and wagons of O'Brien's Circus drove noisily to the river road on their way to Matteawan [Beacon] for two performances that same day.

After the propeller boat John W. Harring, loaded with quicklime and bound for Poughkeepsie, left the Cold Spring dock, a fire was discovered in the hold. It was supposed that water came in contact with the lime. About 50 damaged barrels had to be thrown into the river.

*The Recorder* noted with some relief that Patrick Duffy's rowdy saloon on North Market Street had relocated to Dutchess County.

The Saratoga Express broke an axle near Cold Spring; when the brakes were applied, it sent passengers flying. A girl broke her

ankle and a man bruised his hand.

J.C. Bates received a patent for his window ventilator. *The Recorder* noted that it was unusual because most local patents were granted to the West Point Foundry, "some for the purpose of destroying human life."

The streets were thronged with spectators for a Wednesday night pyrotechnics display over West Point, with President Ulysses Grant, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and War Secretary William Belknap among the visitors at the academy.

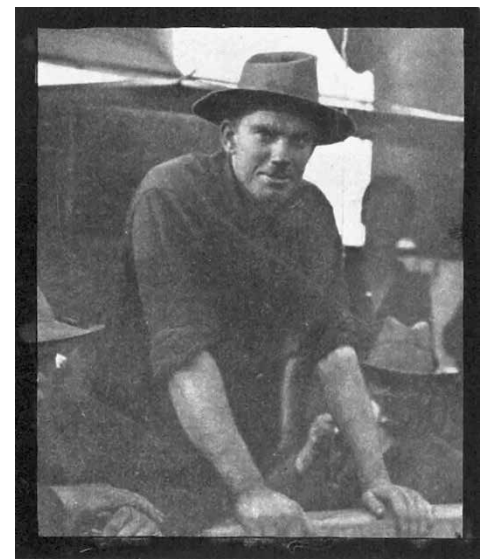
A two-horse wagon equipped with two water casks and a distributor sprinkled Main Street from the dock to Fountain Head to keep down the dust. The Village Board was making arrangements to purchase a sprinkler that would wet a track 12 feet wide and allow the waterman to reach the edge of the gutters.

Mr. Rumpf, while walking home from a late train on a Thursday night, was hit by a horse and wagon and run over while crossing Main Street at High Street but not seriously injured.

Joshua Knapp, who was born in Cold Spring but moved as a child with his parents to Illinois, graduated from West Point ranked No. 14 in his class of 41.

A vessel stopped at the dock with a load of pineapples.

Henry Matthews opened an ice cream restaurant at the corner of Main and Stone streets with strawberry, vanilla and lemon flavors. He also sold bottled soda, root beer, candies, nuts, cigars and tobacco.



Sgt. Hamilton Fish aboard the Saratoga, two weeks before he was killed

Photo by Burr McIntosh/Leslie's Weekly

## 125 Years Ago (June 1898)

Sgt. Hamilton Fish II, 24, who had volunteered to fight with Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" to liberate Cuba from Spain, was killed in action on June 24 while leading his men up a hill at Las Guasimas. The soldiers were ambushed and Fish, near the head of the column, was shot in the chest. According to Roosevelt, Fish sat against a tree and died. His remains were brought to Garrison and interred in the family plot at St. Philip's Church.

*The Recorder* reminded readers that, under

(Continued on Page 21)

# Wildlife & Overtourism

## Profiles of Threatened Species

with Pete Salmansohn

June  
25

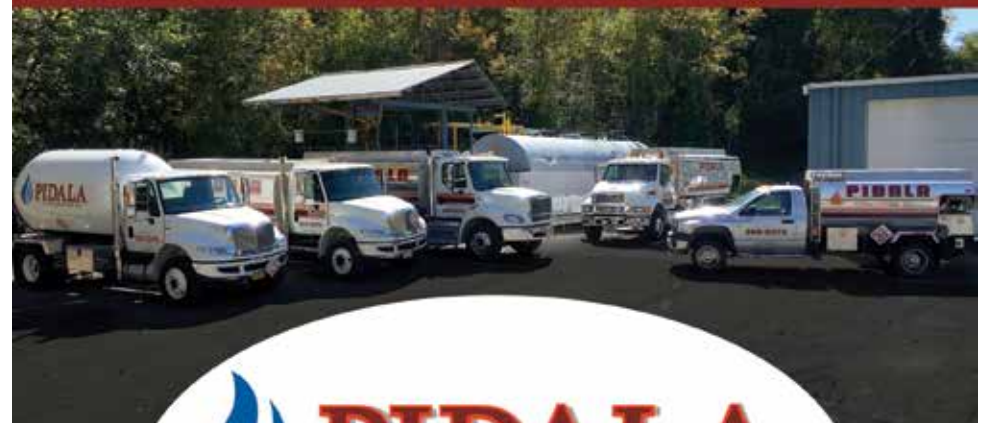
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(Continued from Page 20)

state law, “fowls of any kind, when beyond the limits of the owner’s property, can be treated as wild game and shot or killed.”

Capt. George Wise said that while he and his crew were loading wood at the furnace dock, a 5-foot copperhead (poisonous snake) with a head the size of a fist crawled out of the pile.

A bicyclist racing down Main Street who lost his seat steered into a gutter near Chestnut Street and grabbed a utility pole to stop himself.

S.L. Barriett, an electrician, demonstrated a 1,000-candle-power light at the corner of Main and Chestnut for the Village Board, and observers noted they could read their watches while located as far away as Paulding Avenue. At its next meeting, the board discussed giving Barriett a five-year franchise to build an electric plant, in return for his promise to provide street-light service each night until midnight. Barriett said the lowest price he could offer was \$60 annually for each of 30 lights. The board president, Charles Miller, said that he felt taxpayers should be consulted before spending \$1,800 [\$66,000 today] and instructed the clerk to send a letter to every resident with a reply postcard.

The board discussed at length whether to pay Officer McCaffrey a salary. He had been volunteering his services for two years while keeping fees for licenses, which amounted to about \$25 a year. McCaffrey said he was “tired of working for glory” and suggested a salary of \$25 per month [about \$900], to which the board agreed.

Charles Pelham Jr. won a 22-mile bicycle race from Main and Garden streets, along the river road to Matteawan [Beacon], through Fishkill Village and finishing in the village at Chestnut and Paulding, in one hour and 10 minutes.

The cadets at West Point, using 8-inch rifles and 185-pound projectiles, were supposed to fire at a mountain target on the west side of the river but somehow three errant shots exploded in Cold Spring. No injuries were reported.

*The Recorder* issued a correction to an earlier report that a former resident, John Goff, had died. Goff had written from Newark to say he never felt better.

Thomas Austin, whom *The Recorder* noted “is very particular as to the care of his wearing apparel,” reported the loss of a pair of fine trousers from his laundry line.

After 15 years as rector, the Rev. Dr. Walter Thompson gave his farewell sermon at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Garrison. The congregation presented him with a silver loving cup lined with gold and gave Mrs. Thompson a silver tea set, both from Tiffany’s.

Hamilton Fish and his family returned to Garrison after two years in Europe.

The Cold Spring Village Improvement Association began spraying the elms.

William Brown, known as Oklahoma Bill, was “giving entertainments” in a tent at Sandy Landing, according to *The Recorder*.

*The Recorder* quipped that the whistle of a locomotive could be heard up to 3,300 yards away, the bark of a dog from 1,800 yards, the roll of a drum from 1,000 yards, the chirp of a cricket from 800 yards and a call to get up



An example of a street sprinkler designed to keep street dust down, this one from Concord, Massachusetts, around 1900

in the morning up to about 3½ feet.

George Wright reported that a horse he purchased, when put before a plow, would only back up.

The West Point Foundry won a federal government contract to make 10,000 artillery shells.

Gen. Daniel Butterfield (below) presented the National Bank of Cold Spring-on-Hudson with a painting that depicted him leading troops into battle during the Civil War.

The Board of Water Commissioners approved a 2-inch pipe from Orchard Street to Mountain Avenue and a 4-inch pipe from Cedar and Main to Gen. Butterfield’s estate [now the Haldane campus], including two fire hydrants.

The New York Central introduced a commuter ticket that would no longer need to be punched during each ride. Instead, riders would be issued a pass, with the color changing each month.

Henri Miller, the son of Charles Miller, the president of Cold Spring, died at his parent’s home at Main and Fair streets of diabetes, two days shy of his 21st birthday.

Machinery was installed in the Naylor building on West Street to make frosting for use by bakers, hotels and families. It was said the frosting was far better than that made with eggs and would keep for years without spoiling.

The state superintendent of public instruction ruled that James Bailey could serve as a county coroner and president of the Haldane school board without conflict.

Dr. J.E. Price, scheduled to give a lecture at the South Highland Methodist Episcopal Church on “noiseless forces” (sunbeams, gravity and will power), canceled due to illness.

To comply with a newly enacted state law, the Haldane superintendent prepared



a student manual of patriotic exercises.

The northbound train, due in Cold Spring at 8:46 a.m., struck a cow north of the Breakneck tunnel.

Vredenburg, the butcher, closed his shop to take a job at the state asylum at Matteawan [Beacon], which he said paid better.

#### 100 Years Ago (June 1923)

Dorothy Andrews, supervisor of music at Haldane High School, directed a student production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Pinafore* and played the lead.

New York Lt. Gov. George Lunn and his wife traveled from Albany to spend two months at their summer home in Cold Spring.

#### 75 Years Ago (June 1948)

The Garrison school board received only one bid to enlarge the school building and, because of an acute labor shortage, it was \$33,000 more than the \$70,000 authorized by the district. The school faced record enrollment in the fall, and board members discussed sending the seventh and eighth graders to Haldane.

Syl and Nora Merante took over management of the confectionary and luncheonette owned by Jean Lisikatos at 122 Main St., at the intersection with Garden Street, and changed the name to The Corner, open daily from 9 a.m. to midnight.

#### 50 Years Ago (June 1973)

For the second summer in a row, Haldane varsity baseball players Jim Budney, Ralph Fleming, Phil Pellitteri and Terry Thorpe volunteered to manage Philipstown Little League teams.

By a vote of 399-342, Haldane voters approved a school budget that included a 7.62 percent tax hike, the smallest increase in more than a decade. Budget defeats had been a trend since 1969.

In Philipstown Softball League action, Pat Lahey of Jacks struck out the first 20 Geo. & Dees batters he faced before allowing a hit. One account deemed it “the greatest single-game pitching performance in

the history of the P.S.L.”

David Gordon Jr. was appointed as the third headmaster of the Malcolm Gordon boarding school in Garrison. He succeeded his father, who was headmaster for 21 years, and his grandfather, who founded the school in 1927 and had the job for 25 years.

At the Gordon School commencement, Jeffrey Williams of Garrison was awarded the International Composition Prize. The contest was judged by Taylor Belcher, who had been the first boy to arrive at the school on the day it opened and in 1973 was appointed the U.S. ambassador to Peru.

Frank Milkovich was named principal of Haldane High School. He had taught science and chemistry in the district for 16 years.

#### 25 Years Ago (June 1998)

Orphaned children from Russia visited Cold Spring on the first stop of a 10-day singing and dancing tour. Organized by Happy Families International, the visit was covered by a crew from *Good Morning, America* that met the group at the airport and filmed their show at Haldane. The children later performed in Fishkill, Kingston, Nyack and Brooklyn.

St. Joseph’s Chapel in Garrison held a Mass and pancake picnic to celebrate a century of worship. The site on Upper Station Road was purchased in 1871 and the church constructed about 20 years later. The organ was installed in 1894.

The Philipstown Players presented *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine* at the Depot Theatre in Garrison, directed by Joel Goss and Brian McConnachie.

The Haldane boys’ tennis team finished 7-2, its best record since 1987.

A 25-year-old Cold Spring resident was found guilty of punching a Garrison man at the Downtown Bar on Christmas Day in 1996. The victim suffered a broken jaw.

After months of discussion, the Garrison School’s building committee presented its recommendations to address the district’s space problems, including the construction of a gym/auditorium; converting the current gym into a library; and building five middle-school classrooms. The plan would increase the footprint of the school by 70 percent and cost at least \$5 million, it said.

Thomas Chefalo appealed to the state Board of Education to overturn the May election in which a write-in candidate won a seat on the Garrison school board. He charged that a billboard appeared on school property advocating the candidate and board members at the polls promoted his campaign.

Haldane High School said it planned to introduce varsity golf, boys’ lacrosse and girls’ field hockey during the 1998-99 school year.

About 3,000 people attended the annual Cold Spring Antique Dealers Association show at Mayor’s Park.

Following protests by parents, the Haldane superintendent reversed a decision to move an elementary teacher, Garry Hattersley, to a library position. Hattersley had taught at Haldane for 34 years.

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### Grace Garbellano (1930-2023)

Grace M. Garbellano, 92, a resident of Beacon since 1951 and the founder of Lady Gray Bridal on Main Street, died at home on June 5, surrounded by family members.



She was born Oct. 9, 1930, in Peekskill, the daughter of Vincent and Mary (Chindamo) Letteri. On May 15, 1949, she married Rocco “Rocky” Garbellano. He died in 2020.

Grace and her husband were entrepreneurs. In 1952, they opened Rocky’s Deli in Beacon. After 15 years, they decided to close the deli so that Grace could follow her passion: sewing. In 1967, she opened the Lady Gray Dress Shoppe on Main Street in Beacon. As the business continued to grow, it became Lady Gray Bridal.

Grace was an incredible seamstress, and she took unbelievable pride in fitting each Lady Gray bride to perfection, her family said. She shared her passion for her business and sewing with her daughter, Tina, and Lady Gray Bridal recently celebrated its 55th year in business.

As important as her business was to her, nothing compared to her family. Sunday was family time! Grace loved making her famous lemon ice for her grandchildren, and to them nothing was better than Nons lemon ice, her family said. They would spend their summer Sundays swimming in her pool, and she cherished her time with them. In addition to her famous lemon ice, she loved to cook and bake and was known for her delicious cream puff. She was an avid gardener and loved flowers.

Grace is survived by her children, Rocco Garbellano (Debbie) of Poughkeepsie and Tina Pomarico (Michael) of Wappingers Falls; and her grandchildren, Michael Pomarico (Ginny), Vincent Garbellano, Dominick Garbellano (Elissa), Danielle Pomarico and Christopher Garbellano (Ashley).

She is also survived by her great-grand-

children, Michael Pomarico Jr., Dominick Garbellano II, Savino Garbellano and Cole Pomarico.

### Terry Hirose (1936-2023)

Saneteru “Terry” Hirose, 87, of Beacon died May 17 of cancer at the Regional Hospice of Danbury.



Terry was born April 25, 1936, in Tokyo, the son of Sanehide and Aki Hirose. When he was an infant, his parents came to New York City by steamship so his father could work for the family business, which already had a presence in the U.S. They lived a privileged existence for several years until tensions between the U.S. and Japan escalated and they returned to Nagoya.

After the war, the family faced much hardship, with the destruction of their home and company buildings, as well as the illness and death of Terry’s father when Terry was 12. He and his mother and younger brothers moved to the home of Terry’s maternal grandparents in Tokyo.

Terry attended International Christian University in Tokyo, where he met his wife Hisako Shimazu. After graduating from college, he worked for Sony, which was then a startup. He was delighted to be transferred to New York in 1963, and Hisako soon joined him.

They loved the U.S., welcomed three daughters and decided to settle in Port Washington to raise their family. Terry ultimately left Sony to work for himself as an international trading consultant, a job that gave him the autonomy he valued. After he retired, Terry and Hisako moved to Beacon, where they made many friends.

Terry was a kind, good-natured and gentle, his family said. He was an introvert and happiest when working on projects around the house, tending to his plants and garden, caring for the family dogs and spending time outside, especially in the woods and mountains when he was

younger. Although quiet by nature, Terry enjoyed big family get-togethers and opera and lunches with Hisako and their friends.

In retirement, the couple traveled the world and he took up pottery, which paralleled his father’s family business producing fine china. Terry was proud of the life they created in the U.S., and of his children and grandchildren who would be his legacy here, his family said.

In addition to his wife of 63 years, he is survived by his daughters and grandchildren, Suki Blumenstock (Rob), and Arran and Kylie, of West Caldwell, New Jersey; Yuki Hirose (Eric Brenner) and Lucy, Sophie, Julian and Nico of Scarsdale; and Haruko Hirose (Joe McCauley) and JJ and Patrick of Tuckahoe. He is also survived by his brother, Hisakazu Hirose, of Tokyo. His brothers Masayoshi and Tsuneo died before him.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)) or the Regional Hospice of Danbury ([makingthebestofeveryday.org](http://makingthebestofeveryday.org)).

## Other Recent Deaths

### Philipstown

James DeGelormo, 94	Debbie Flaherty, 68
Josephine Doherty, 78	John Jesek, 82
Nancy Etta, 84	Thomas Robertson, 86
Anthony Falsarella, 64	William Sadler, 82

### Beacon

Lara Acampora, 54	Shirley Feldman, 92
Robert Adams, 88	Roberta Flandina, 86
Don Betterton, 76	Ann Maksim, 57
David Burke Jr., 83	Fran Mendes, 75
Dennis Bush, 77	David Miller, 94
Izedin Capollari, 79	Richard Morel, 92
Robert Chambers, 91	Linda Pagels, 73
Jan Cofer-Howard	Anthony Perpetua, 93
Theodora Coughlin, 87	Patrick Prosser, 64
Larry DeResh, 81	Don Raskopf, 64
Kathy Deutermann, 69	Pat Riley, 76
	Orville Smith, 92

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

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
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25				26		27		28		29	30	31
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46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53			54	55	
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
1. Potential syrup

4. Ship’s front

8. Dutch cheese

12. Family card game

13. One with will power?

14. Cover with blacktop

15. Kind of stove

17. Mid-month date

18. Solo of *Star Wars*

19. Pie chart divisions

21. Exact

24. Fan’s cry

25. *East of Eden* brother

26. Blend

28. Interior design

32. Curved molding

34. Signing need

36. Chicago paper, briefly

37. Irritable

39. “Mayday!”

41. Blackbird

42. Summer mo.

44. Orders of pancakes

46. Snarls

50. Annoy

51. Pulitzer winner James

52. Soup cooker

56. Katy Perry hit song

57. Hunt for

58. Wilder’s — *Town*

59. Leer at

60. Nashville venue

61. Dead heat
- DOWN
1. Dine

2. Year in Cancun

3. Driving hazards

4. Wunderkind

5. Seminary subj.

6. Monet’s supply

7. More ironic

8. Disparaging term

9. Pedestal part

10. Declare

11. GI dining hall

16. Slugger’s need

20. Scoundrel

21. Highlander

22. Senate staffer

23. Chill in the air

27. Ballot marks

29. Eccentric

30. Sty cry

31. Baseball stats

33. Curio cabinet

35. Refusals

38. Actor Brynner

40. Viscid

43. Bas-relief medium

45. Noah’s boat

46. Poi base

47. Awestruck

48. Patricia of *Hud*

49. Dance move

53. “— the ramparts ...”

54. Gigi’s “yes”

55. Three, in Rome

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDERS

Can you go from BLADES to SPIDER in 6 words?  
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLADES

SPIDER

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Elephant king of children’s literature

6. *Hillbilly* \_\_\_\_ (2020 Amy Adams film)

7. Loud trumpet sound

8. Belgian-French river

9. Tennis great Sampras
- DOWN
1. Dizzy Gillespie’s jazz style

2. Kate’s sitcom pal

3. \_\_\_\_ of burden

4. Be on the same page

5. Reuben sandwich slice

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

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

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

	L	O	C	H
H	A	R	R	Y
G	U	M	U	P
T	R	A	D	E
V	A	N	E	

VALUE  
VENUE  
VENUS  
MENUS  
MENDS  
MINDS

Answers for June 9 Puzzles

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

24 JUNE 16, 2023

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## AROUND TOWN



▲ **JAMBOREE** — The Manitou School in Philipstown hosted the Bokandeye African Dance Theater on June 9 to celebrate Juneteenth. Members of the Harlem-based group explained each drum and dance and invited students and teachers to participate. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



▲ **PLAY PREP** — About 30 parents, some with young children and some with children who have grown, volunteered on June 10 for the annual clean-up at Tots Park in Cold Spring.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



### ◀ **CLIMATE REPORTERS**

— Joey Asher, a reporter for *The Current*, led a workshop during the Youth Climate Summit last month at the Garrison School to assist fifth and sixth graders in creating their own website about the event. See [bit.ly/climate-journal](https://bit.ly/climate-journal).

*Photo provided*