

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Lady of  
the Rings  
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NOVEMBER 17, 2023

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A lethal dose of fentanyl, which is more plentiful than heroin

DEA

## Special Report

# Overdose Deaths Worsen

*Dutchess on pace to double 2019 total*

By Leonard Sparks

Yvonne Bateman used to meet her son, Jonathan, after he finished working out at a gym near the recovery house in Poughkeepsie where he stayed until spring 2022.

They would stroll across the nearby Walkway over the Hudson, talking “about everything — about his life and what he’s been through,” she said.

Jonathan Bateman’s last journey began in a detoxification unit at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, followed by treatment at St. Christopher’s Inn in Garrison and six months at the recovery house before he graduated in April 2022 and moved into his father’s house.

The John Jay High School alumnus had been “extremely happy” to return home and had more than a year of sobriety when he used the fentanyl-laced cocaine that killed him on Oct. 8, 2022, at age 30, said his mother, who lives in Fishkill.

“He was a very sensitive young man, but very caring, loving and funny — just liked to have fun, the best worker you could ever have and very loyal to his friends,” said Bateman. “His word was his bond.”

Her son became another victim of a drug crisis in which overdose deaths, after a downturn in 2019, began worsening in 2020. That year, the pandemic temporarily halted new admissions to treatment programs and prevented 12-step support groups from meeting in person.

Three years later, fatalities from opioid overdoses have been relatively stable in Putnam County but are at record levels nationwide and in Dutchess County and New York state.

Dutchess ended 2022 with the second-highest rate of overdose deaths among counties outside New York City. With 65 deaths in the first half of this year, the

(Continued on Page 6)

Editor’s Note: Six years ago, in September and October 2017, *The Current* published a four-part special report called *Fighting Back: The Opioid Crisis*, which is online at [highlandscurrent.org/opioids](https://highlandscurrent.org/opioids). The problem has not gone away. This week we revisit some of the issues from the 2017 series.

## In Cold Spring, A Price on Parking

*Residential permits, meters approved*

By Michael Turton

After years of discussion, debate and planning, the Cold Spring Village Board on Nov. 8 adopted amendments to the Village Code to create residential parking permits in the central village and add meters on Main Street.

Weekend and holiday parking on Main Street will now cost \$4 per hour, for up to three hours at a time. Residential parking permits — which will be indicated with stickers placed inside the driver’s side back

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## New Barge Anchorages Banned (Again)

*Coast Guard backtracks on recent river directive*

By Brian PJ Cronin

After issuing a bulletin that appeared to invalidate a 2021 law that prohibited the establishment of new anchorages in the Hudson River north of New York City, the Coast Guard has reversed its reversal — for now.

The Coast Guard’s latest bulletin, issued this week, suspended one it issued over the summer that changed where barges can park on the Hudson River.

In its latest bulletin, the Coast Guard (Continued on Page 9)



Dave Shelly, the pink unicorn at right, poses with admirers on Sunday. Photo by Valerie Shively

## The Power of Pink

*Unicorns crawl through Beacon in tribute to king*

By Marc Ferris

Drivers honked, phones clicked and a rousing cheer arose when the procession of pink unicorns passed the farmers market on Main Street in Beacon on Sunday (Nov. 12).

The promenade paid homage to David Shelly, 66, Beacon’s own pink unicorn guy, aka the Flower Guy, the Free Hugs Guy and the Ice Cream Guy.

Shelly began donning the costume nearly three years ago to spread cheer and became a fixture at the weekly flea market, the weekly farmers market and all of Beacon’s parades and events. He has even visited bars and restaurants.

He gave away coupons for free ice cream or distributed roses. Whether in costume or not, he gave hugs. He often hangs out at the Marion Royael Gallery, where he creates dance circles on the sidewalk and goads passersby to show off their moves. Shelly denies accusations of dancing in his underwear.

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# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: VARDIT RAVITSKY

By Leonard Sparks

Vardit Ravitsky in September became president of The Hastings Center, a bioethics think tank based in Garrison. She succeeded Millie Solomon, who retired.

## What were you doing before Hastings?

I've been teaching for nearly 15 years at the University of Montreal, and also for the last few years at Harvard Medical School. Before, I lived all over the world. I obtained my doctorate in Israel, my master's in Albuquerque and my bachelor's in Paris. I'm originally from Jerusalem, born and raised.

## Where did your interest in bioethics come from?

I grew up in a family of philosophers and educators; I was naturally attracted to conceptual thinking and asking big questions, but I had this sense from an early age that science changes how we live. We see daily how technology extends our life, gives us new information about pregnancies and allows us to create more food and put a pig kidney in a human body. The driving question for bioethics is: We can do it, but should we? Without the *should* question, technology can be used in intentionally or unintentionally bad ways.



I'm pro-tech and love scientific advancement and opportunities, but with responsibility.

## What are questions we should be asking?

Even if it's to find a cure for cancer, how is the research done? Does it only benefit certain populations? What risks are research participants taking so future generations can benefit? Sometimes scientists and clinicians look at bioethicists as if we're here to tell them not to do certain things. We're here to help them do what they're doing by adding that lens of responsibility. If you don't do that, you're going to get shut down

by regulation or have a societal backlash.

## In what ways has bioethics changed?

Historically, bioethics has focused on biomedicine. Our scope is expanding to include issues like climate change, our relationship with other species and the impact of technology on the planet and on communities. Artificial intelligence is here, but significant changes are still in the years to come. The Hastings Center is a relatively small organization with a huge impact, but we cannot do everything. We are thinking about how to prioritize our resources so we can develop advice, recommendations and guidelines to help anyone — from a legislator to a director of a hospital or clinic — tackle these challenges.

## What initiatives are underway?

We recently hired new scholars and are launching a long-term fundraising effort to build an endowment that will allow us to hire even more and do more public outreach. We have an online publication, a newsletter, we're doing webinars and we want to start a podcast. We're planning to host an open house for the community in the spring. We want to welcome people to the facility and make them more aware of what we're doing. We would welcome the support of the community.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Ever taken a great fall vacation?

“ No, but I'd love to go to County Tipperary, Ireland. ”



Josh Kirk, Beacon

“ New Hampshire was incredible last year, especially Mount Washington. ”



Olivia Mascatello, Cold Spring

“ I go to England a lot, but it's not really a vacation! ”



Jonny Andrews, Cold Spring



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## Wide Angle

## How to Cool a City

By Stowe Boyd

This year is likely to be the hottest since global records began in 1880, according to scientists at NASA, and projections from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suggest that the Northeast U.S. could see temperatures rise 4.5 to 10 degrees by 2080.



In an urban environment such as Beacon, is there anything that can be done to counteract this heat? Is it possible to cool a city?

One major factor is tree cover. The more trees, the more shade, which in turn stops light from hitting buildings, streets, parking lots and open ground. We should dramatically increase the number of trees being planted for that reason alone, aside from appreciating their aesthetic and ecological benefits.

The heat absorbed by parking lots can be significant. Paved areas can be 15 to 20 degrees warmer than tree-lined streets. These warm during the day and then release heat in the evening, driving up demand for air conditioning. Adding trees to their margins can be helpful, but an alternative is covering parking lots with solar canopies, which provide shade and solar power.

Solar panels on buildings have a similar effect, but alternatives for cooling buildings



are in wide use. Large, flat-roofed buildings can be painted white, with or without solar or other canopies. More architects are designing green buildings with gardens on their roofs (such as the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring), decreasing heat. Existing and new buildings can block sunlight hitting windows and exterior walls with structures designed to block direct sunlight while still admitting indirect light.

Homes share the same issues as larger buildings. Solar panels can block sunlight and create electricity. Studies have shown that painting dark asphalt shingles a light color is ineffective, and costly. However, light-colored, lightweight metal roofs reflect sunlight and cool down more quickly than asphalt. At the very least, homeowners should consider light-colored

shingles when reroofing.

There has been a recent breakthrough in what is the whitest of paints. A team at Purdue University has devised a paint that reflects 98 percent of sunlight. This paint can reduce surface temperatures by 8 degrees at midday and 19 degrees at night, which decreases air conditioning use by 40 percent. It can be painted on everything, not just roofs: walls, cars, trucks, streets, parking lots. It could be available commercially within a year.

Many groups are looking to reengineer air conditioners to decrease their power demands. Once they're on the market, government regulation and consumer incentives could lead to widespread acceptance, as with the movement to ban gas stoves and water heaters and to promote heat pumps.

Beacon has no canopies, solar or otherwise, for its many municipal parking lots. The only metal roofs I have seen appear to have dark colors. In discussion with the climate coordinators of Beacon and Cold Spring, I learned that zero projects of these sorts are happening locally.

Perhaps we've been lulled into complacency since we have so far been spared the devastating heat waves that have gripped other parts of the country. But our turn will come, and we'll wish (or our children will wish) we had acted earlier when the mercury passes 100 degrees for a few weeks — or months — in a row.

*Stowe Boyd, who lives in Beacon, specializes in the economics and ecology of work and the "anthropology of the future." This column focuses on the local impacts of larger trends.*

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

tors in designated lots. For instance, why is the old Marathon site, fenced off and vacant one block from Main Street, not used for parking? Access is awkward but that is the reality of Cold Spring.

Since Main Street is the only access to Metro-North and ends in what is effectively a cul de sac and can't be widened, the only way to speed traffic on Main Street is to eliminate parking, not meter it. If that isn't feasible, how about restricting parking to one side of Main Street using angled slots? The existing parallel parking on both sides multiplies congestion as drivers wait for cars attempting to park.

Signage directing cars to visitor parking, if it exists at all, must be improved. Half of the aimless driving is because no one knows where to go. Why not install electronic signs as you enter town, but well before Main Street, showing where designated parking areas are and which are open or full? With current technology, data from payment information can be relayed to provide real-time updates on capacity. Any airport uses the technology. Beach towns use it. Will this cost money to implement? Of course. But it will also raise revenue.

Cold Spring is the destination for thousands of visitors every weekend and has been

## Corrections

In the Nov. 3 issue, we reported that a 2016 proposal to increase the number of barge anchorages on the Hudson River north of Tarrytown from one to 10 had met resistance. In fact, the proposal would have created 10 new anchorage grounds between Yonkers and Kingston. In addition, we quoted an attorney at Riverkeeper saying that a legal challenge to the Coast Guard bulletin might involve the Clean Water Act. In fact, it might involve the National Environmental Policy Act.

In a story that appeared in the Nov. 10 issue, we reversed the identification of two members of the Fjord Trail Data Committee who spoke at the Cold Spring Village Board meeting. Statements attributed to James Labate should have been attributed to Henry Feldman and vice versa.

for years. I don't know if these ideas are practical. But to do nothing, or nibble around the edges like the Cold Spring parking plan

does means continuing a status quo which is unacceptable to just about everyone.

John Schieneman, *Cold Spring*

## Good-cause eviction

The most critical need is to rapidly secure alternate, appropriate housing for the tenant at 457 Main St. ("Beacon Good-Cause Eviction Law Challenged," Nov. 10). I understand that the waitlists at affordable senior housing facilities in Beacon are six months to a year. The Beacon Housing Authority has closed its waiting lists except for Tompkins Terrace.

The stock of affordable housing in Beacon for seniors who require homes with only a few stairs, and that are within walkable distance of groceries and other necessary items, is becoming more limited every day.

No senior should have to move out of the city in which they have resided for more than 20 years simply because an overheated market is eliminating affordable housing, and that's what's at risk here — that a 73-year-old who enjoys a modest apartment will be forced to relocate and rebuild his daily routine, or worse, be forced into a shelter, which would be devastating for someone who doesn't own a car or a cell-phone and relies on the bus and the mail to manage their affairs and health care needs.

Len Warner, *Beacon*

## Philipstown Community Thanksgiving Dinner Needs Your Help

The leaves are falling, and pumpkins have been carved, so we know that Thanksgiving will be here soon. As many of us plan our family feasts we know that others cannot do so whether for reasons of health, age, or finances. Missing out on a festive holiday can be hard. But here in Philipstown our Community Thanksgiving Dinner means that no one need go without a celebration. And you can help.

St. Mary's Church, Our Lady of Loretto, and Philipstown Reform Synagogue have again joined forces to provide a delicious Thanksgiving feast for anyone in our community, with considerable help from Riverview Restaurant. Even our community's schoolchildren are joining in, making Thanksgiving cards to read with each delicious dinner of butter-nut squash soup, turkey, gravy, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, cranberries, cornbread, and pumpkin pie.

- There are three options:  
If you would like to sit down with others to enjoy your meal between 11 AM and 1 PM Thanksgiving Day, Father Tom Lutz asks you to contact the office at Our Lady of Loretto at 845-265-3718.
- If you prefer to dine at home you may pick up your Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mary's parish hall on Thanksgiving morning from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.
- For the homebound, the Knights of Columbus will deliver your feast.

If you would like to pick up your dinner or receive delivery you must please contact St. Mary's Church in advance either by registering on their secure link, [bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023](http://bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023) or by calling organizer Tara Flagler at 845-265-3718 for those who prefer not to use a computer. "It is essential that everyone sign up in advance — if possible, sooner rather than later" explained Rabbi Helaine Ettinger, "Then we can be sure that everyone who would like to partake of the meal will have dinner reserved for them. This shared interfaith effort is a testament to our caring Philipstown community." Fr. Steve emphasizes, "Remember, a thanksgiving meal is available to anyone for the asking, we only need you to sign-up."

"We are confident that our most generous community will step forward with donations for this worthy effort," said Father Steve Schunk of St. Mary's Church. "I anticipate that many people would like to make a modest donation so everyone will have a wonderful, happy Thanksgiving."

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted at St. Mary's secure link ([bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023-donate](http://bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023-donate)) or by mail at St. Mary's Church, PO Box 351, Cold Spring, NY 10516, or at Philipstown Reform Synagogue, PO Box 94, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

PAID NOTICE





Yvonne Bateman's son, Jonathan, died of an overdose in October 2022. Photos by L. Sparks



Terasina Hanna is program manager for the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison.

## Opioid Update (from Page 1)

county is on pace to exceed last year's total. Twenty-three of those people have died in the City of Poughkeepsie and 20 in south-west Dutchess, which includes Beacon.

The opponent is formidable: Illegal fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times more powerful than heroin, has gone from a cutting agent for heroin and other narcotics to the drug of choice for many users. Jonathan Bateman's death highlights the increasing presence of fentanyl in cocaine, and the drug is also used to make pills that look like oxycodone and other prescription medications.

Not only does fentanyl raise the risk of overdosing, the drug is less responsive to naloxone, the overdose-reversal medicine that has become a primary strategy for keeping people alive.

Dealers are also peddling a new concoction: fentanyl combined with an animal tranquilizer called xylazine, also known as "tranq dope," that does not respond to naloxone because it is not an opioid. Heavy use causes open sores.

"The word I would use for the opioid epidemic is 'relentless,'" said Jean-Marie Niebuhr, who directs community services for the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. "Drugs are toxic in general, but right now they're so incredibly dangerous."

## Fentanyl's grip spreads

Terasina Hanna knows the toll. Hanna, who is eight years sober, is the program manager for the Walter Hoving Home, a decades-old Christian-based treatment program for women with a facility in Garrison. After graduating from Walter Hoving's program in Pasadena, California, she relocated east in 2017 to work for the organization.

"Since I've been here at least 15 women that have left and been struggling their whole lives trying to get sober have unfortunately overdosed," she said. "And the impact on the family is overwhelming."

Fentanyl is now the primary drug being

## Opioid Overdose Deaths

|      | DUTCHESS |       | PUTNAM   |       |
|------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|      | # DEATHS | RATE* | # DEATHS | RATE* |
| 2017 | 78       | 26.5  | 22       | 22.2  |
| 2018 | 83       | 28.2  | 18       | 18.2  |
| 2019 | 65       | 22.1  | 12       | 12.1  |
| 2020 | 102      | 34.6  | 16       | 16.2  |
| 2021 | 86       | 29.3  | 21       | 21.2  |
| 2022 | 114      | 38.8  | 20       | 20.2  |

Includes heroin and pain relievers such as fentanyl  
\*Deaths per 100,000 residents

## 2022 Overdose Rates

| COUNTY      | RATE* |
|-------------|-------|
| Sullivan    | 57    |
| Dutchess    | 38.8  |
| Broome      | 36.9  |
| Chemung     | 35.7  |
| Chautauqua  | 34.5  |
| Washington  | 32.6  |
| Ulster      | 32.5  |
| Niagara     | 32.3  |
| Cattaraugus | 31.3  |
| Monroe      | 30.9  |
| Putnam      | 20.2  |

\*Deaths per 100,000 residents  
Source: New York Department of Health

sold in the illegal opioid market, said Brandon del Pozo. The former Burlington, Vermont, police chief studies addiction as an assistant professor of medicine at Brown University, and sits on the board of the Philipstown

Behavioral Health Hub in Cold Spring.

Less than a third of overdose deaths in 2015 involved a synthetic opioid such as fentanyl, but nearly 92 percent did in 2022. Five years ago, medical examiners ruled heroin the culprit in 45 percent of overdoses in Dutchess and 39 percent in Putnam. Last year, heroin accounted for just 9 percent of the fatalities in Dutchess and 10 percent in Putnam.

"Anytime someone is taking an illicit opioid, whether it's a pill or powder, or they're injecting it or smoking it, the presumption is that that person is taking fentanyl," said del Pozo. "Anything else is an exception."

At St. Christopher's Inn, the summer months traditionally have brought fewer people into treatment, but "now, because of the opioid epidemic, it doesn't matter," said James Schiller, its executive director.

Kevin Douglas, the program's director of counseling and shelter services, said that some of the program's clients were injecting "straight fentanyl" before seeking treatment. He recalled someone who awoke from an overdose-induced coma to see his grandmother and other family members in his hospital room.

Despite being surrounded by supportive relatives, "He was like, 'I've got to get back and get more,'" said Douglas. "To be in that place, where all I can think about after surviving is to find the same stuff because it's so amazing — it's scary."

The scale of the deaths and the imperative to keep people alive has led to a greater embrace of "harm reduction," a constellation of responses that includes needle exchanges, naloxone, free strips that can be used to test drugs for fentanyl and xylazine, and addiction medications such as buprenorphine and methadone.

The medications prevent the debilitating withdrawal symptoms — muscle and stomach pains, nausea, vomiting — that opioid abusers can only cure by using more drugs.

One of the goals identified by the state Office of Addiction Services and Supports is to promote access to methadone and Suboxone, a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone, and to make more people aware of them as a treatment option.

Clinics dispensing methadone have long-

faceted obstacles to opening when local residents raise fears of addicts roaming their streets and drawing crime. Suboxone, which reduces cravings and withdrawal symptoms, can be prescribed by doctors, something most drug users and family members do not realize, said del Pozo.

"When it comes to reducing overdose mortality, and keeping people housed and employed, and out of the emergency department, Suboxone and methadone are by far the two most effective approaches," said del Pozo.

“Anytime someone is taking an illicit opioid, whether it's a pill or powder, or they're injecting it or smoking it, the presumption is that that person is taking fentanyl.”

Brandon del Pozo,  
Former Burlington, Vermont, police chief

## Telling their stories

The day before Jonathan Bateman died, his mother learned how to administer naloxone during one of the many free training sessions held locally and statewide. She intended to deliver to her ex-husband's house the naloxone kit she received for completing the training, which took place at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon.

Instead, eight days later, Libby hosted Jonathan Bateman's funeral. A laminated card from the service is attached to a wall in Bateman's living room. Surrounding it are dozens of pictures with Jonathan — posing with a horse, straddling a motorcycle, sitting in the cab of a UPS truck, holding an aluminum baseball bat aloft while fixed in a batting stance.

Bateman wants to use her story to help others. "I'm not ashamed of my son," she said. "He was one of the most beautiful, wonderful humans, and people need to know that these are the kinds of people who

(Continued on Page 7)



# Counties Deploy Settlement Funds

*Money prioritizes harm reduction, treatment*

By Leonard Sparks

As overdoses from fentanyl mount, New York and its counties are starting to deploy a new weapon: more than \$2 billion the state is receiving from opioid manufacturers and distributors to settle lawsuits over their role in the crisis.

In November 2022, the state's Settlement Fund Advisory Board recommended that first-year spending, \$192 million, prioritize harm reduction, treatment, hard-hit populations such as Blacks and Latinos, and housing and recovery.

One-third of that amount (\$64 million) has been distributed to counties for "regional abatement," including \$2.1 million to Dutchess County's Department of Behavioral and Community Health and \$600,000 to Putnam's Department of Social Services and Mental Health. Dutchess also received \$306,000 designated for street outreach.

On Oct. 10, the Dutchess Legislature approved spending \$551,250, between this year and 2025, to support the county's recovery coaches, public health education coordinators and its Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) team.

LEAD, a partnership with the City of Poughkeepsie's police department, focuses on outreach to people with severe mental-health and drug-abuse problems who generally do not seek out services.

Four recovery coaches based at Dutchess County's Empowerment Center in Poughkeepsie counsel people one-on-one, lead group sessions, distribute information at community events and visit "hot spots," said Jean-Marie Niebuhr, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health's director of community services.

"Places that we know where there are people who use drugs — in certain parks or in certain places — they [recovery coaches] go there regularly to engage with people," she said.

Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil said the county is also working with Oxford House Inc. to open self-run and self-supporting recovery houses based on the organization's model.

In addition, said Niebuhr, Dutchess has installed in Poughkeepsie a harm-reduction vending machine with free naloxone and fentanyl test strips, and is working on supplying information kits that first responders

## Opioid Settlement Distribution

| COUNTY      | AMOUNT (MILLIONS) |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Westchester | \$5.9             |
| Orange      | \$2.8             |
| Dutchess    | \$2.1             |
| Rockland    | \$2.0             |
| Ulster      | \$1.2             |
| Sullivan    | \$0.7             |
| Putnam      | \$0.6             |

Source: NY Office of Addiction Supports and Services

can leave with people who have overdosed but refused additional medical help.

Both Dutchess and Putnam have also joined EndODNY, which allows residents, including drug users and families, to register anonymously to receive text messages on subjects such as treatment options and instructions for using naloxone.

The system sends "spike" alerts, emergency warnings from county officials about bad batches of drugs and other dangers. Putnam issued one on Oct. 23 after paramedics responded to two non-fatal overdoses within 24 hours.

Text messages should be "a lot more convenient" than email alerts, and have been shown to "connect with more people who use drugs," said Niebuhr.

"If there's something going on, like a bad batch, like something has a ton of xylazine in it and it's taking out more people, we want to make sure that family members, loved ones, friends of people who use drugs, people who use drugs themselves, are aware," she said.

Putnam County awarded in April \$85,000 of its settlement funds to its Prevention Council and in August began inviting providers to submit proposals for the rest of the funds. The county has yet to announce awardees.

The state also announced in July an award of \$800,000 in settlement funds over four years to the Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education of Dutchess County (CAPE) to combat fentanyl, opioid and prescription-drug abuse. ■

(Continued from Page 6)

are being affected."

Hanna, who started using drugs at age 11, is open about her addiction to PCP and methamphetamines, which spanned more than 20 years and left her "hopeless" and "never thinking that it will ever stop."

The losses piled up — family, children, freedom, dignity. She almost lost her life to an overdose that caused her heart to stop. "I wanted to stop, but I just couldn't," she said.

Her life is so different now from the

one led by the version of herself who stole cars and IDs to support a drug habit, said Hanna. To prevent forgetting, she sometimes pulls out the mugshots taken when corrections officers booked her into the Los Angeles County Jail after repeated arrests.

Inside the eyes of that woman, she sees "death," said Hanna, who requested copies of the mugshots from the jail. "They remind me of how life can be if I ever go back." ■

## My View

# I Could Not Save My Addicted Child

By Lillian Rosengarten

My son, Philip, was 36 years old when he died of a drug overdose. That was 1996; he would be 62 now. He died shortly after leaving a rehab facility where he had lived for nine months.

Much later, I learned that, just when things were starting to look up, Phil would find a way to sabotage himself. He died alone in a fleabag hotel. He had money in the bank, a loving family, friends and counselors who wanted to help him. He was a charming, caring man, a talented musician, a son, a brother, nephew, cousin and an addict.

His addiction started at age 14. In his last two years of high school, he smoked pot and used uppers. He barely graduated and somehow managed to get accepted by a small college. He promised to not use more drugs, but during his first (and last) semester, he used LSD. This pushed him over the edge and began a series of hospitalizations. He was bipolar but, unknown to me, this could not be treated until he was clean. Psychiatrists and therapists tried but it did nothing.

While Phil was off drugs, I bought him an apartment in Greenwich Village. He loved the church down the street and converted to Catholicism. Christ became an important figure for Phil. After he began to use again, he would bring friends who were also addicted into the building. Water flooded the apartment and, eventually, he was told he had to leave. The only



way I could get him out was to change the locks. That put him on the streets.

In desperation, I joined Families Anonymous. Everyone's children were adults. Tough love was used. I had a sponsor, but I didn't know what I was doing. There were success stories in the group, but Phil got worse. He used more and more. He became a shadow of how I remembered him. One day I agreed to meet him at a restaurant. He begged to come home, but I followed the protocol and refused. As I left, he screamed that I had abandoned him. To this day, I still feel guilt at times.

I do not believe there is any one way, any one answer to handle an addicted child. I miss Phil every day. I did the best I could but I didn't know how. After Phil's death, I grieved for close to a year but finally accepted how powerless I was. The disease of addiction has its own life and nothing — not my education, my sensitivity, my love, my caring, Families Anonymous, tough love, psychiatrists — helps until the addict is willing, in some way, to stop using. It is then that a parent can, with luck, find a decent rehab and the psychiatric problem can be dealt with.

Phil's death taught me a lot about myself. I learned that I am not a bad mother and that I did not cause my child to use drugs. I will never stop missing Phil, but in time the pain softens and the heart opens. Confronting the death of my beloved son has been a confrontation with life. Allowing myself to feel the emotions that come up without self-criticism is a difficult road to walk. ■

Lillian Rosengarten is a therapist who lives in Philipstown.



A log walk was one of the trust-building exercises at the Comfort Zone Camp in Fishkill.

Photo by L. Sparks

# A Camp for Those Left Behind

*Therapy mixed with fun at weekend sleepaway*

By Leonard Sparks

This past September, children and teenagers hiked on a rainy Saturday morning past a pond and down a road leading from the cabins at Camp Mariah, one of the campgrounds at the Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill.

The campers were on their way to the

woods. The procession included Saul O'Brien, 10, who lost his father and an aunt and uncle to overdoses, all within a year. In a thicket of alder, ash and Spanish oak trees, he and other campers rotated through a series of trust-building exercises.

For Saul, who lives in Manassas, Virginia, it was his second visit to a camp for children who have experienced the sudden death of family members.

"It helps with grief," said Saul, whose

(Continued on Page 8)





Susan and Steve Salomone, shown here in 2015, lost their son, Justin, in 2012 to a heroin overdose.

Photo by Frank Becerra/Journal News

## A Shift in Focus for Nonprofit

*From prevention to working with families*

By Michael Turton

On April 23, 2014, in the music room at the Haldane school in Cold Spring, Susan and Steve Salomone helped lead a conversation with parents about overdoses.

They had become experts on the topic in the worst way possible: Two years earlier, their 29-year-old son Justin died of a heroin overdose.

Shortly after Justin's death, the couple created Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, a nonprofit designed to "bring awareness of the rampant use of heroin and opiates" in Putnam and Westchester counties. Susan retired as a teacher and devoted herself to the organization. "It's been all-consuming," she said.

Despite their efforts, and those of many others, the problem has not gone away. In fact, it has gotten worse.

There were seven deaths attributed to opioid overdoses in Putnam County the year of that Haldane meeting. Preliminary data shows 22 in 2022.

**“You have young, bored boys who want to try something new and they begin taking drugs at age 13 or 14.**

~Susan Salomone

Salomone said young men continue to be the most likely victims. "You have young, bored boys who want to try something new and they begin taking drugs at age 13 or 14," she said. "They're more likely to become addicted than someone who started at an older age."

The drugs of choice have changed since 2014, Salomone said. "The use of prescription opiates has dropped significantly, and

also heroin" she said. "Fentanyl has taken over." She said someone she is working with who is in recovery told her "you can't even find heroin," on the street because of all the fentanyl coming in from China, India and Mexico. Tranq, an animal tranquilizer, is used to extend the feeling produced by fentanyl.

"It's not that fentanyl is just being hidden in fake pills that look like Adderall or Percocet, and people die not knowing," she said. "Some seek out fentanyl; it's beyond me, really."

When the pandemic shutdown began in 2020, Salomone said Drug Crisis in Our Backyard lost momentum because the organization focused on outreach, giving church and community presentations, and training people to use naloxone, which can reverse an opioid overdose.

The organization shifted away from education and political advocacy to working directly with families in which someone is struggling with addiction. "There are two model programs, Community Reinforcement and Family Training and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy," she said. "Families play an enormous role in how to effect change in their loved one's behavior."

Drug Crisis in Our Backyard also recently merged with the Westchester-based Alliance to Save Kids.

Many organizations in New York and around the country are expected to benefit from billions of dollars that will be distributed as part of settlements with pharmaceutical companies. Asked how that money should be spent, Salomone replied: "Marketing."

"The opioid problem comes forward, then it goes away, then it comes forward, then it goes away," she said. "For a long period of time, you don't hear about it and, meanwhile, we have more deaths this year than in any other."

She also favors spending money on peer support so people in long-term recovery can mentor those just coming out of treatment.

"A peer can help someone in recovery walk the right path until they're on their own," she said. "It's a great use for the money — one of the best." ■

## Camp *(from Page 7)*

father, Steven, died in July 2022. "It helps with my coping skills."

Those are some of the gifts Lynne Hughes and other organizers of Comfort Zone Camp hoped to provide during a weekend sojourn that, from Sept. 22 to 24, drew 50 children and 12 of their parents and caregivers to Mariah.

Hughes knew the hallmarks and progression of grief when she founded Comfort Zone in 1998 after a career that included more than a decade leading medical nonprofits as an executive director, and a job coordinating volunteers at a hospice.

She was 9 years old when her mother died of a blood clot. A heart attack took her father three years later. The losses left her feeling marked with a "scarlet letter 'D' for death-kid," and withdrawing "to cover it up."

Few resources existed for her grief, said Hughes, but at summer camps she found "a bubble where you can step outside your loss and get back to being a kid again." More than 23,000 children have been able to do that since Comfort Zone, whose camps are free, held its first getaway in May 1999.

Specialized camps for children who lost people to the 9/11 terrorist attack, suicide and COVID followed. But the camp in Fishkill became the first organized for children scarred by an overdose. Applications to Comfort Zone increased by 30 percent last year, said Hughes.

Because of the stigma associated with addiction, those children have a "unique nuance to their grief — the shame that they feel," she said. Some of the children are being told that the person they've lost "died from a heart attack or some illness," instead of an overdose, said Hughes.

Camp is an opportunity "to bring them together and to break down those walls and break down that stigma — to talk about that shame and somebody else to lean in and say, 'Me too,'" she explained. "They blossom and grow and heal during the course of the weekend."

The schedule combined traditional camp activities — archery, field games, boating, a bonfire with s'mores — with trust-building exercises and "healing circles" at which campers are encouraged to talk about their losses.

Parents and caregivers attend a separate menu of activities and healing circles, reuniting with the children and teens on the final day.

Jenn Harris, a clinical social worker and mental health counselor from Boston, helped christen the camp on Friday, after the campers arrived and met their "Big Buddies," the adult volunteers who mentor and support them during the weekend.

After dinner and icebreaker games, Harris told of her brother's overdose death, in 2000, inside a hotel room in Texas after a yearslong struggle that included multiple rehab programs. He died two weeks before she graduated from Pepperdine University.

His struggle, she said, became the family's — the manipulation, the frustration at his inability to get sober, anticipating the call that finally came. She recalled tearful nights wondering: "Why couldn't he get sober? Didn't he know how much we loved him and didn't he love himself enough to want this?"

"What I love about this program is helping kids develop that resiliency — that you can keep living your life and still do the emotional piece of it," said Harris. "Those stages of grief are happening throughout your lifetime. You don't move through them and you're done."

Many of the campers bared those emotions during a memorial service on the camp's last day. Inside Camp Mariah's assembly hall, some children used music and poetry to pay a tribute to the parents, siblings, step-parents and others they lost.

A boy and his two sisters read a poem they wrote for their father: "Dad, you're great/I miss you/I love you." A woman played a song by her daughter, a singer and songwriter who died of an overdose.

After the service, Saul and his mother, Julie Nixon, prepared to leave. "He made a lot of good friends," she said of her son. "And from what he's told me, it's nice to not feel like you're the only one." ■

## Where to Find Help

### Treatment and support

- New York Office of Addiction Services and Supports: 877-846-7369, oasas.ny.gov
- Arms Acres (Carmel): 845-225-3400, armsacres.com
- Center for Recovery (Newburgh): 845-220-2146, cfr.care
- CoveCare (Carmel): 845-225-2700, covecarecenter.org
- Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub (Cold Spring): 845-809-5050, philipstownhub.org
- St. Christopher's Inn (Garrison): 845-335-1022, stchristophersinn-graymoor.org
- Walter Hoving Home (Garrison): 845-274-3812, hovinghome.org

### Naloxone and test strips

- Nasal naloxone (Narcan) is available at drugstores over the counter.
- Visit oasas.ny.gov to order free nasal or intramuscular naloxone kits (two doses per order) and free fentanyl/xylazine test strips (100 per pack).
- Residents with prescription-drug coverage are eligible for up to \$40 in co-pay assistance for naloxone.
- For free naloxone training: In Dutchess, call 845-486-2844 or email healthinfo@dutchessny.gov. In Putnam, call 845-225-4646 or email info@preventioncouncilputnam.org.

### Prevention and education

- Prevention Council of Putnam: 845-225-4646, preventioncouncilputnam.org.
- Dutchess Council on Addiction Prevention and Education: 845-765-8310, capedc.org

### Text alerts

Dutchess and Putnam residents can text EndODNY to 55753 to receive messages with information about opioid use, overdoses and treatment, as well as emergency alerts during spikes in local cases.



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Driver Faces Manslaughter Charge in Route 9 Crash

*Former Beacon resident dies, son injured*

A Hopewell Junction man is facing a manslaughter charge in a head-on car crash on Route 9 in Philipstown that killed a father and injured his son on Nov. 11, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

Marcos Martinez, 56, is accused of crossing the double yellow line while driving north on Route 9 near Stone Ridge Road at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday. According to the sheriff, his car struck head-on a vehicle being driven south by Joe Stubblefield, 52, a former Beacon resident who lived in Cortlandt Manor. He died at the scene.

Stubblefield is survived by his seven sons, including Justyn, 18, a 2022 graduate of the O'Neill district, and twins Sean and Erik, 17, who are seniors at O'Neill and Haldane high schools, respectively. Stubblefield on Nov. 10 saw Erik and the Blue Devils win the Section I, Class D football title, a family member said, and the regional game today (Nov. 17) will be dedicated to him by the team.

Stubblefield's 7-year-old son, riding in the rear seat, was taken by ambulance to Westchester Medical Center for non-life-threatening injuries.

A service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Nov. 25 at Salem Tabernacle Church in Beacon. A GoFundMe campaign has been established at [bit.ly/stubblefield-fund](http://bit.ly/stubblefield-fund) to help the family with expenses.

Martinez was charged with second-degree vehicular manslaughter, a felony; driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor; and failure to use designated lane, a traffic infraction, the Sheriff's Department said on Monday (Nov. 13). He was arraigned in Town of Philipstown court and remanded to the Putnam County Jail on \$250,000 cash bail or \$500,000 bond.

The accident shut down part of Route 9 until 3 a.m. Firefighters and paramedics from Garrison and medics from Philipstown also responded, said the Sheriff's Department.

## Breeze Airways to Fly from Stewart

*Low-cost carrier will serve Orlando, Charleston*

Breeze Airways announced on Nov. 8 that it will begin operating flights from New York Stewart International Airport in New Windsor to Orlando, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina, beginning Feb. 15.

The airline will offer flights to and from Orlando on Thursdays and Sundays from \$59 each way, and to and from Charleston on Fridays and Mondays starting at \$49 each way. The flights will use Airbus A220-300 planes.

Breeze also will fly out of Westchester County Airport two days per week to Vero Beach, Florida, and Charleston starting in December; and Jacksonville, Florida, and Savannah, Georgia, beginning in May.

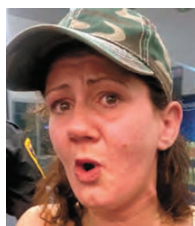
## Police Seek Info in Woman's Death

*Body found near Dutchess Mall, golf course*

The state police are seeking information in the death of a Middletown woman whose body was found in the area of the Dutchess Mall and Fishkill Golf Course on Nov. 2.

Jacqueline Orzeck, 37, was last seen on Nov. 1 near Hasbrouck and William streets in the City of Newburgh, police said.

Anyone with information about her activities or whereabouts can contact the state police at 845-677-7300, and reference Case No. 11693828.



Orzeck

## 16-Year-Old Shot Near Tompkins Terrace

*Victim wounded in arm*

A 16-year-old male was shot Nov. 10 near the Tompkins Terrace apartment complex, Beacon police said in a news release.

The police received multiple calls around 6 p.m. about gunshots in the area of Tompkins Avenue and Bank Street, near the apartment complex. Upon arrival, officers found the 16-year-old, whose name was not released, with a superficial gunshot wound to his arm.

The victim was transported to a local hospital in stable condition, police said. No further details were released. The department is continuing to investigate and encourages witnesses or anyone with information to contact the detective division at 845-831-4111.

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

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a license, number NA-0340-23-246457 for a Beer, Wine, Cider and Liquor has been applied for by Magazzino Italian Art Foundation to sell Beer, Wine, Cider and Liquor retail in a restaurant/museum establishment under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2700 Route 9 Cold Spring NY 10516 Town of Philipstown for on premises consumption.

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation  
dba Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

## Barge Parking *(from Page 1)*

wrote: "As part of the development of any new rules or regulations affecting the Hudson River, the Coast Guard will engage the public via notice and comment and continue direct liaison with all stakeholders through an open, transparent process.

"The Coast Guard is aware of the public's concerns regarding anchoring on the Hudson River and intends to issue a Notice of Inquiry in the *Federal Register* and undertake extensive public outreach opportunities to explore potential regulatory updates and limited access areas on the Hudson River."

No timetable was announced.

"We won this initial victory because our community stood up and fought together," said Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, in a statement. "But unfortunately, we know this success is temporary. Now is the time for all of us to double down on our commitment to stop big corporations from turning our Hudson River into a parking lot for dangerous barges."

In the meantime, Ryan is continuing to collect public comments on his own at [patryan.house.gov/hudson-river-barge](http://patryan.house.gov/hudson-river-barge).

The issue came to the forefront in 2015, when the Coast Guard issued a bulletin saying no barge could anchor in the waters of the Port of New York outside previously designated anchorage grounds, which included only one north of Yonkers, at Hyde Park.

The next year, the Tug & Barge Committee of the Port of New York and New Jersey

asked for more anchorages, citing an anticipated boom in the oil market because of the lifting of a federal ban on crude exports. In response, the Coast Guard came up with a plan for 10 new anchorages between Yonkers and Kingston, including in the river between Beacon and Newburgh.

“Now is the time for all of us to double down on our commitment to stop big corporations from turning our Hudson River into a parking lot for dangerous barges.

~Rep. Pat Ryan

After pushback, the Coast Guard suspended the proposal, and in 2021 Congress passed a ban that seemingly put an end to the matter. But over the summer the Coast Guard said its 2015 declaration was too expansive because Port of New York waters only extend north from Battery Park to the Mario Cuomo Bridge near Tarrytown.

Ryan asked for clarification. He pointed out that the change could mean that the 2021 Congressional ban of new anchorage grounds would not apply north of Tarrytown.

Two months later, the Coast Guard confirmed that to be the case, and announced that any barge could legally anchor anywhere north of Tarrytown for as long as it wanted if it had proper stadium-style lighting and space to turn around.



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# Putnam Legislators Override Veto of Raises

*Byrne had rejected increases for sheriff, clerk, coroners*

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam Legislature voted on Tuesday (Nov. 14) to override County Executive Kevin Byrne's veto of 2.75 percent cost-of-living raises in 2024 for the sheriff, county clerk and three coroners.

Six of the Legislature's nine members, all Republicans, voted to reverse Byrne's veto. Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley and is the Legislature's sole Democrat, and two other Republicans, Erin Crowley and William Gouldman, did not attend the meeting.

Sheriff Kevin McConville's annual salary will rise to \$170,376 in 2024 (from \$165,816) and County Clerk Michael Bartolotti's to \$148,312 (from \$144,343). Putnam's three coroners — John Bourges, Wendy Erickson and Michael Nesheiwat — will receive \$688 cost-of-living increases to bring their salaries to \$25,688.

Byrne did not include the raises in his initial \$195 million spending plan, but the Legislature's Republican majority added them to the budget adopted on Oct. 30. Byrne vetoed the additions on Nov. 8.

On Wednesday (Nov. 15), Byrne said in a statement that the county is negotiating contracts with the four unions representing employees and that it would be "unfair to grant pay raises to elected officials who negotiate or vote on these same contracts before an agreement is finalized."

But Ginny Nacerino, who represents the Town of Patterson and voted to override Byrne, said she was "taken aback" by the vetoes and accused the county executive of being driven by "politics." Byrne, she said, has approved cost-of-living increases and "cherry-picked merit raises" for the county attorney and other appointed officials.

"Elected officials feel the inflation squeeze just like everyone else," she said.

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

# Philipstown Approves Tax Hike

*Levy rises in 2024 budget by 8.3 percent*

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Town Board on Wednesday (Nov. 15) unanimously approved a \$12.9 million budget for 2024 that raises the tax levy by 8.3 percent after councilors voted to override the state's 2 percent cap on annual increases.

The budget for 2024 calls for an overall levy — the amount of total taxes to be collected from properties — of \$9.5 million, compared to \$8.8 million this year.

Individual properties will be taxed at a rate of \$3.385 per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 13.16 percent. The hike for properties outside the town's two villages, Cold Spring and Nelsonville, will rise by 4.4 percent, to \$3.799.

Supervisor John Van Tassel blamed the levy increase on a 30 percent drop in revenues from mortgage taxes; a decrease in fees collected by the Recreation Depart-

ment for its programs; and the cost of supplying water to the Garrison's Landing and Continental Village districts during infrastructure upgrades.

State law allows municipalities to exceed the 2 percent cap if 60 percent of their legislators approve. Van Tassel said he is "not pleased" with the amount of the tax hike. "I hope we're never going to do another increase like this," he said.

Van Tassel's salary will remain unchanged at \$27,000 in 2024, and the four Town Board members will each earn the same \$18,000 they were paid this year.

However, some officials and employees will receive raises. The salary for Tara Percacciolo, the town clerk and tax collector, will rise by 7.4 percent, to \$67,000, and for Adam Hotaling, the highway superintendent, by 5.3 percent, to \$100,000. Both are elected positions.

Van Tassel said last month that keeping salaries at 2023 levels makes only "a minuscule amount of difference," and he expressed fears that Philipstown could lose good staff without the pay boosts.

## Parking *(from Page 1)*

window — will cost \$50 annually.

An application will be posted at coldspringny.gov. Metered parking will begin after the residential program, which the village hopes to have in place by Jan. 1.

Here is a summary of the changes for what Cold Spring officials say is the first of three stages that will eventually regulate parking in the entire village.

### PERMITS Who can apply?

Residents of Church, Cross, Fair (from Northern to Main), Furnace, Garden, Haldane, High, Main (from Lunn Terrace to Route 9D), North, Rock and Stone streets and Kemble, Northern and Railroad avenues.

Residents of streets west of the Metro-North tracks (Main, New, West, Fish and Market) can also apply; the new law replaces an existing residential permit system there that the Village Board approved in 2005. Under that system, residents paid \$3 annually for permits to park between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week in spots that otherwise have a two-hour limit.

### Proof of residency

Applicants must provide a driv-

er's license, vehicle registration and proof of residency, such as a utility bill.

### Number of permits, cost and duration

Each legal residential unit is eligible for up to two permits at \$50 each valid between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 and prorated from when the permit is issued. Permits apply to specific vehicles and are not transferable. Permits should be placed on the inside of the driver's side rear window.

### Where are permits valid?

Residential parking permits are valid on any street within the residential parking area, from the river to Route 9D.

### Temporary permits

Temporary permits for visitors, service providers and contractors will be available through Village Hall.

### Disability parking

Residents considered severely disabled under state vehicle and traffic law do not need a permit.

### METERED PARKING

#### When, where, payment, cost

Metered parking will be in effect on Main Street from the river to Route 9D, year-round, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Payment will be by credit or debit card through the ParkMobile app, through a phone call or at kiosks in front of Village Hall and on Main near Church Street.

### Municipal lot and Mayors Park

Metered parking continues at the municipal lot on Fair Street and will be reinstated at Mayors Park after drainage repairs are completed.

### VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Under state law, 20 percent of spaces in the residential parking area (about 74 spots) must remain available to drivers without a permit, which limits the number of permits that can be issued. Every street is within a block of these spaces.

Vehicles parked in residential permit areas without a permit will be subject to ticketing and towing, as will vehicles parked on any street for more than 14 days without being moved.

The daily maximum parking time on Main Street has been reduced from four to three hours.

Free 15-minute parking is available on the northeast corner of Main Street at each intersection from Depot Square to Church Street.



No-parking areas at crosswalks and some intersections will be expanded to improve safety and sightlines.

The turning radius and exit space for fire company vehicles has been expanded at the firehouse.

Locust Ridge and Railroad Avenue are now one-way.

Parking will only be allowed on one side of Furnace Street, Haldane Street, Maple Terrace and Marion Avenue.

Parking that meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards has been increased from seven to 11 spaces.

Tour buses are limited to using Fair Street, Main Street / Route 301 and Route 9D, with a designated parking area on Chestnut Street.

The speed limit on village streets has been reduced to 25 mph but remains 30 mph on Route 9D/Chestnut Street/Morris Avenue and Route 301/Main Street east of Route 9D.

The village will consider "reclaiming underutilized village property" for parking, such as a lot at the riverfront near the boat club.



# Putnam Crisis Center Faces Backlash

## *Opposition to Brewster site forces new search*

By Leonard Sparks

**P**utnam County will renew its search to find a home for a drop-in center where residents can get help with mental-health and substance-abuse problems following a backlash to a proposed location in Brewster.

County Executive Kevin Byrne said in a letter to residents on Nov. 1 that he directed People USA, the nonprofit that operates Dutchess County's Stabilization Center in Poughkeepsie, to abandon plans to locate Putnam's version above a day care center in a Brewster shopping center.

In response to the organization's plan to lease space above the Over the Rainbow

Learning Center, the Southeast Town Board on Oct. 12 approved a six-month moratorium on permits for medical and mental-health clinics, specifically including a "mental health crisis or stabilization center." (The Village of Brewster is within the Town of Southeast.)

Twelve days later, angry residents attending a public forum on the center conjured images of drunk and drugged clients loitering outside, endangering children and littering the ground with drug paraphernalia.

Byrne said he remains committed to the project, to which his predecessor, MaryEllen Odell, directed \$2.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds.

"While it is unfortunate that this will likely delay the opening of the stabilization center in our county, we believe this is the best path forward to ensure its success in Putnam," Byrne wrote.

Along with Putnam and Westchester, two dozen New York counties are planning to open stabilization centers, said Michael Piazza Jr., commissioner of the Putnam County Department of Social Services and Mental Health. The interest comes amid a rise in mental health problems, drug overdoses and suicides.

People USA spent months looking for a location, said Steve Miccio, the nonprofit's CEO. Two properties were not zoned for 24-hour use, and a site at the Putnam Hospital Center fell through when hospital administrators decided they needed the space, he said.

Miccio said the facility would be quiet and safe.

Both Miccio and Piazza touted the benefits of Dutchess County's Stabilization Center, which never closes and is staffed by representatives from multiple agencies. It's an alternative to emergency rooms, where people often are sent home without being linked to any services, said Miccio. Most are struggling with anxiety, depression and trauma,

and half are children and families, he said.

"At the center, they can be seen and cared for," said Miccio. "What we do is guarantee that they're going to be in a service in the community that's going to address their needs."

Although Miccio described the facility in Poughkeepsie as quiet and safe, the proposed location of the Stabilization Center in Brewster was the chief concern of many residents who spoke at the forum.

Natalie Fleming said she is a teacher with three children enrolled at Over the Rainbow. She said the center's owner told parents that some people were pulling their children from the day care.

Although she said she believes that 99.9 percent of the people using the facility would be nonviolent, "with my children in the day care, 99.9 percent is not going to be good enough.

"It's not because the services you offer aren't valuable; I think they are hugely necessary," she said. "I do not think this is the appropriate location for it."

# Report: Cleanup Falling Short

## *In PCB mess, Hudson recovering too slowly or getting worse*

By Brian PJ Cronin

**E**ven as General Electric was dredging the Upper Hudson River from 2009 to 2015 to remove toxic chemicals it had discharged over a 40-year period, environmental groups predicted that the cleanup wouldn't succeed.

They warned that targets the federal Environmental Protection Agency had set for GE were based on inaccurate measurements that vastly underestimated the amount of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the riverbed. They said that GE wasn't dredging the most polluted spots, which would lead to recontamination.

A new report of sediment in the Upper Hudson, commissioned by Friends of a Clean Hudson, a consortium of environmental groups, including Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson and Clearwater, which is based in Beacon, has borne that out. Samples collected from spots that GE dredged, as well as samples of fish caught in the Upper Hudson, show that the contamination hasn't decreased as much as the EPA projected it would by this point. In the sampling spot that was closest to the dismantled GE plants that were the source of the PCBs, the contamination has gotten worse.

The conclusion, according to Tracy Brown, the president of Riverkeeper, is that the EPA needs to rule "that this remedy has not been protective."

(This past summer, after years of delay, GE began a review of the river south of Albany, including in the Highlands, to measure the extent of PCB contamination in the Lower Hudson.)

The release of the study of the Upper Hudson comes in advance of the EPA's next five-year review of the cleanup, which was supposed to be completed over the summer.

An EPA representative would not comment on the Friends of a Clean Hudson report but said the agency's five-year report will be released in early 2024.

The consortium members are concerned about the conclusions the agency appears to be drawing from the data. "We looked at the same exact numbers that the EPA is looking at," said Althea Mullarkey of Scenic Hudson. "They're just not giving it as much importance as we are."

She accused the EPA of "abandoning the goals that were laid out in the record of decision," which detailed in 2002 what GE had to accomplish, and switching the focus from risk reduction to risk avoidance.

The difference between the two is illustrated in the effects that PCBs have had on subsistence fishing, said Aaron Mair, a Peekskill native who is a former president of the Sierra Club. Many people still fish in the Hudson and eat what they catch, despite state restrictions. Risk avoidance means relying on people who fish the river to not eat their catch. Risk reduction is requiring GE to remove the PCBs that make the fish dangerous to begin with.

"What they're asking Americans to do is write off their river, write off their environmental assets and let corporations convert our most important waterways to a corporate sewer," he said.

He also pointed out that risk avoidance does not address the ecological damage of the contamination. Bald eagles and river otters, for example, are presumably not following the DEC guidelines.

Only the EPA has the authority to get GE to resume its cleanup, and only if the agency can prove that the dredging wasn't effective. New York State sued the EPA in 2021 to compel GE to get back in the river. Although the lawsuit was dismissed, the judge wrote that the language of the consent decree "leaves a clear opening for the government to come after the company with the full force of the law to get the job done."

The consortium believes its new data



## Don't Eat the Fish

**0.7 mg/kg**

Weighted average of PCBs, 2021

**0.4 mg/kg**

EPA target after 5 years of dredging (2020)\*

**0.2 mg/kg**

EPA target after 16 years of dredging (2031)

\*At this level, according to the EPA, it would be safe to eat ½ pound of contaminated fish every two months.

he couldn't say exactly why PCBs in the samples were rising, even after dredging.

He did rule out the possibility that they are coming from a source other than GE, although that is probably the case in the Lower Hudson. Manufacturers created distinct mixtures of PCBs during the 50-year period when the chemicals were legal in the U.S.; each has its own fingerprint. "In the Upper Hudson, there simply is no source of any significance compared to GE," Farrar said.

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said the consortium would like to see further reduction of PCBs in the river, "but we can't even begin discussing that until the EPA acknowledges the basic facts, and the failure of the remedy to meet their explicit goals."

It's possible the new report will influence the coming EPA five-year review. That's what happened with the last one, said Pete Lopez of Scenic Hudson, who at the time was a regional administrator for the EPA. He said thousands of additional samples provided by the state DEC and environmental groups painted a more complete picture of the state of the river and the extent of the contamination.

"The EPA was moved from intending to say the remedy was protective to saying that it's not yet protective," said Lopez. "This group made the EPA blink."

provides that opening, although Mullarkey said that, so far, the agency "politely agrees to disagree."

Kevin Farrar, an analyst who worked on the report, said that without more data

## WANTED

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED IN PHILIPSTOWN/COLD SPRING

Putnam County OSR and the Putnam SeniorCorps Volunteer Program needs your help in the Philipstown/Cold Spring area. If you are over 60 and enjoy driving, Putnam SeniorCorps is looking for volunteers to drive seniors to local doctor appointments.

As a volunteer driver in Philipstown/Cold Spring, you will pick up a county car at the Philipstown Friendship Center. The driver transports the client to and from their appointment and returns the County car back to the Friendship Center location. Trip times vary and are extremely flexible based on your availability.

You will be inspired to help others after just one trip! Please contact Irene Pawliczko of Putnam SeniorCorps at (845)808-1734 to volunteer.



AROUND TOWN



**VETERAN TRIBUTES** — (1) Daniel Campanile (right) renovated the Village Green as an Eagle Scout project before Nelsonville’s Nov. 11 ceremony. (2) At a ceremony on Nov. 11 at the Cold Spring Cemetery, a grave marker was dedicated for Carl Hansen, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea and died in 2012. His daughter, Lillian Moser, is at right.; and (3) Veterans and family members gathered at the war memorial at Main and Chestnut streets in Cold Spring on Nov. 11 for a Veterans Day ceremony.

Photos by Michael Turton



**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**  
**November 18 - 26, 2023**

OPEN DAILY 10 AM - 5 PM | Closed Thanksgiving

**Members Only Preview Sale:**

Fri., Nov. 17, 1 - 5 pm

**Members Only Reception:**

Fri., Nov. 17, 5 - 7 pm

Not a member? Join Garrison Art Center today to receive a 10% discount on Friday the 17th!



**Garrison Art Center**  
garrisonartcenter.org  
845-424-3960

Save the date

Winter Glow  
at  
WINTER HILL

Join us as we celebrate  
the winter holidays  
and light the lights on  
our 40 foot white pine.

November 30, 2023  
5:30 pm - 7 pm  
20 Nazareth Way  
Garrison, NY 10524

Hosted by Hudson Highlands Land Trust





Allison Cimino of RockLove, wearing some of her designs Photo by THEGINGERB3ARDMEN



Allison Cimino, who lives in Beacon, is the CEO and jeweler of RockLove ([rocklove.com](http://rocklove.com)), a company that, in her description, “marries precious metals, custom-cut crystals and fair trade genuine gemstones with lines designed for fans.”

RockLove’s licensed lines include Pokémon, Star Wars, Disney, Marvel, Indiana Jones, Star Trek, Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, League of Legends and Studio Ghibli, among others. She responded to our questions by email.

**Most of your designs and products tap into a market of fervent followers. How do you keep on top of what’s the latest in fandom?**

The licensing industry is typically invite-only, after a brand demonstrates not only an ability to execute on-trend and unique products, but also the consistency, quality, integrity and foundational stability needed for the largest franchises in the world to trust you with their intellectual property. RockLove became my full-time career in 2008 but it wasn’t until 2014 that I was invited by CBS to design for Star Trek and the path forward became clearer. While there is a constant stream of content being released, I only design for properties of which I am personally a fan, so that the jewelry I create remains authentic and inspired.

**What does RockLove mean?**

It’s a niche term in the performance-art community. Before jewelry, I was part of that community. I was a classically trained violinist, belly dancer and fire performer, and I was surrounded by multi-disciplined creators. The word describes the relationship between two artists who share a mutual admiration that leads them to collaborate. From the beginning with RockLove, I collaborated with musicians, authors and concept artists.

**You studied abroad in Florence. Did that influence your avocation?**

Oberlin College didn’t have a jewelry curriculum, but it did have an extensive study-abroad program that allowed me to have an old-world apprenticeship with a

jewelry studio in Florence. When I returned, I did an independent study to build a jewelry program. I also worked at a fantastic jewelry and bead store [Bead Paradise in Oberlin, Ohio] during my final semesters, and did an internship over the summer in the Diamond District in Manhattan.

**The Diamond District sounds like the antithesis of artisan. Was it a shock?**

It was a crash course in the business side of the jewelry industry. As the youngest and most inexperienced person in the office, I ended up wearing many hats in a short amount of time — while witnessing the shadier underbelly. It was exactly the education I needed to teach me how to run a company and what sort of brand I did not want to be.

**Learning skills like “the lost-wax casting method” through “ancient smithing techniques” sounds like a spellbinding fantasy genre all its own. What was the learning atmosphere like?**

Jewelry-making is a sort of alchemy. There are so many techniques, from wire-wrapping, beading, fabrication, repoussé, lampwork, lapidary, with most applying fire, water, solder, stone and acids. Many techniques have been around for thousands of years. Jewelers bend elements and follow the disciplines that inspire them most. The lost-wax casting method is sculptural, intended for duplication, and allows me to tell stories in three dimensions, which is pivotal when you are creating designs celebrating characters, props and artifacts.



Black Panther Kimoyo bracelet

## The Calendar

# Lady of the Rings

Beacon artist crafts jewelry for fans

By Alison Rooney

**What are the challenges of creating licensed jewelry?**

It has to not only be aesthetically pleasing but capture the essence of a world, character or moment. A good design is more than replicating logos or iconography; it has to tell the story in a precious metal miniature. The character must be crafted in a unique way, because many of these blue-chip licenses have been around for 40 or more years and there are countless renditions on the market. For me, that often means clever articulation to capture the charm and humor of a sidekick. So you have products such as Disney’s Ursula shell locket with a chain of linked music notes that is a transcription of Ariel’s aria or Star Wars’ R2-D2, BB-8 and Chopper droids with spinning, swinging and rotating components.

I’m a fan of *Encanto*, so I knew I wanted to represent multiple character doors articulated to open, paired with Mirabel’s golden butterflies as the core elements. We also needed a sculpted version of the magical house, Casa Madrigal, and I added Luisa’s flying unicorn donkey for a little levity. Disney reviewed and approved my sketches, and from there we began sculpting and sampling the jewelry. At the same time, we developed packaging designs, photo and video elements, product descriptions and marketing content. Each step involves submissions and approvals.

**You started as an artist but now describe yourself as an artist and entrepreneur. When did that happen?**

For many years, I described myself as a craftsperson, since so much of my day was about crafting duplicates at the jewelry bench, boxing them up and shipping them to customers. Then I began to add assistants and managers, so I felt I had graduated to businessperson. As I felt more confidence in negotiations, idea-generating and decision-making, I stepped into entrepreneur. Now, with 15 years of experience, I embrace designer, recognizing my evolution as an artist.



Allison Cimino’s designs begin with colored pencils and paper.

Photo provided



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 18

### Holiday Pottery Show & Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

Work by more than 30 regional potters will be available, along with jewelry and art. Daily through SUN 26, except Thanksgiving. Donations for the Putnam Community Action Partnership food pantry will be collected for the duration.

SAT 18

### Pet Rabies Clinic

CARMEL

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

Bring dogs, cats and ferrets for vaccinations. Proof of residency in Putnam County and prior rabies certificate required. *Free*

SAT 18

### Food Pantry Fundraiser

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com

Shop for \$5 books to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry. Through Nov. 22 or while supplies last. The spring sale raised \$800.

SAT 18

### Winter Craft Fair

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The fair will feature more than 75 vendors, along with an ice-skating performance, theme-tree raffles, photos with Santa Claus and other events.

SAT 18

### Holiday Gift Show & Sale

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Find crafts, jewelry, ceramics and artwork by regional artisans at this annual sale. Weekends through Dec. 22.



Community Meal, Nov. 23

SAT 18

### Pizza Benefit

CONTINENTAL VILLAGE

Noon – 4 p.m. Fire Department  
12 Spy Pond Road

Enjoy wood-fired pizza from Mommo Pizza Napoletana, with proceeds funding new equipment for the firefighters.

SAT 25

### Alumni Basketball Game

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Haldane Gym  
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org

Watch Haldane High School alumni compete after the varsity girls scrimmage at noon and the varsity boys scrimmage at 2 p.m. *Cost: \$5 (\$2 students)*

SAT 25

### Tree Lighting

BEACON

4 p.m. Memorial Park  
198 Robert Cahill Drive

The city will hold its sixth annual holiday ceremony with hot chocolate and cookies, carols sung by Scout troops and a visit from Santa Claus. The tree lighting will take place at dusk.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 18

### Bird Walk

PHILIPSTOWN

8 a.m. Fahnestock State Park  
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

A guide from the Putnam Highlands Audubon will lead a hike to look for raptors and other migrating species. Registration required. Meet at the Big Woods Trailhead parking lot off Route 301. *Free*

SAT 18

### Wreath-Making Workshop

PUTNAM VALLEY

10 a.m. Putnam Valley Grange  
128 Mill St. | cceputnamcounty.org

Supplies will be provided to create a natural and sustainable décor piece. Registration required. *Cost: \$40*

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 18

### Dinosaur Adventure

GARRISON

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

Led by paleontologists Mike and Roberta Straka, participants will dig for bones and construct a dinosaur. Registration required.



SAT 18

### Middle School Night

GARRISON

7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Recreation  
107 Glencliff  
facebook.com/philipstownrecreation

Students in grades 6 to 8 can play indoor gaga ball and dodge ball, sing karaoke and go on a scavenger hunt. Registration required.

TUES 21

### Electronics and Robotics Workshop

GARRISON

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

After a presentation, make your own project. Registration required.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 18

### Finding Nemo

BEACON

10 a.m., 12:30 & 3 & 5:30 p.m.  
Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Four casts of young actors from the Beacon Performing Arts Center will present the Disney hit about a clownfish who gets help from other

ocean creatures while trying to reunite with his father. Also SUN 19. *Cost: \$10 (\$7 seniors, \$5 students)*

SAT 18

### The Humans

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

The Stephen Karam play centers on a holiday dinner party. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, children, military)*

SUN 19

### Throwing Stones

PEEKSKILL

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

This staged reading of a play by Mona Z. Smith and Traci Mariano will feature Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads. *Free*

SUN 19

### Protest

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Cold Spring Dance  
82 Crest Road | coldspringdance.org

Dancers from the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Martha Graham Dance Company will perform a contemporary piece choreographed by Cally Kordaris. *Cost: \$100*

SAT 19

### Lucia Cherciu

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The former Dutchess County poet laureate will read from her latest collection, *Immigrant Prodigal Daughter*, followed by a poetry open mic. *Cost: \$10*

## MUSIC

SAT 18

### Down Hill Strugglers

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The old-time string band will play new interpretations of classic songs. *Cost: \$20*



## THANKSGIVING DAY

THURS 23

### Turkey Trot

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. Haldane Track  
15 Craigsides Drive  
bit.ly/CS-turkey-trot

The 5k race around the village will benefit the Haldane School Foundation. *Cost: \$40 (\$25 ages 18 and younger)*

### Thanksgiving Breakfast

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Faith Church  
245 Main St.  
faithchurch.cc/coldspring

All are welcome to enjoy a free breakfast.

### Thanksgiving Meal

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023

This interfaith offering by St. Mary's, Our Lady of Loretto and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue will provide free meals. Meals can be picked up at St. Mary's from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., request delivery by calling 845-265-3718 or eat with neighbors at Loretto (24 Fair St.) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SAT 18

### The Weight Band

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The tribute band plays music from The Band during the Woodstock era. *Cost: \$44 to \$54*

SAT 18

### The Dark Horses

BEACON

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

The band will play music by George Harrison. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 18

### Joe McPhee with Strings

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center  
12 Vassar St. | mcphee.eventbrite.com

Elysium Furnace Works presents the multi-instrumentalist with an ensemble band including Gwen Laster, Melanie Dyer and James Keepnews. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 door)*

SAT 18

### Herman's Hermits

PEEKSKILL

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

Peter Noone and the band will play their classics. *Cost: \$47 to \$67*





**SUN 19**  
**Elm Chamber Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
Joel Pitchon (violin), Anthony Berner (violin/viola), Volcy Pelletier (cello) and Yu-mei Wei (piano) will play a program that includes works by Mozart and Schumann. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SUN 19**  
**A Night of James Bond**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Hosted by Annalyse & Ryan, this soundtrack night rescheduled from September will include a 10-piece band. *Cost: \$30*

**FRI 24**  
**Joyful Christmas**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Eileen Ivers and her band, Universal Roots, will play Americana and Celtic holiday music. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 doors)*

**FRI 24**  
**The Bluechips**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The rock power trio will play music from its latest release, *What if it's over?* *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 25**  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
doansburgchamberensemble.org  
The featured artists are Christine Smith (flute), Joy Plaisted (harp) and Ina Litera (viola). The program will include works by Diabelli, Dubois, Debussy and Buendia. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 seniors, students)*

**SAT 25**  
**The Best of the '70s**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Eric Herbst and Dizzyfish will play timeless songs from the decade. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SAT 25**  
**The Fixx**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The band will play music from its latest release, *Every Five Seconds*. *Cost: \$37 to \$52*

**CIVIC**  
**MON 20**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

**MON 20**  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

**MON 20**  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

# Free Thanksgiving Dinners!

An Interfaith Community Event hosted by:  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Our Lady of Loretto Roman Catholic Church,  
and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue

## RESERVE A DINNER:

A meal, whether in person, or for take out, is available to anyone for the asking.

For in-person sit down dining from 11am to 1pm at Our Lady of Loretto Church, please call Fran at 845- 265-3718.

For Pick-up or Delivery, please fill out the online form at [bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023](https://bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023) click the QR code below, or call Tara at 845-337-0286.

To make a donation to help provide food, please use [bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023-donate](https://bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2023-donate) or use the QR code here.

**TO RESERVE:**



**PICK-UP 9:30 to 10:30**  
1 Chestnut St. Cold Spring

**DINE-IN 11:00 to 1:00:**  
24 Fair St. Cold Spring

**DELIVERY SERVICE FROM 10-11**

**TO DONATE:**





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# A Well-Traveled Novelist

*Philipstown author turns trips into fiction*

By Alison Rooney

Wanderlust has come in handy for novelist Barbara Linn Probst. She has dwelled in, among other places, a cabin in the California redwoods and in a converted sauna in Greenwich Village. Since 2021 Probst's residence has been on a dirt road in Philipstown.

Each of these domiciles has surfaced in Probst's stories, with assists from places she has traveled to, such as Egypt, Alaska and Iceland — the latter of which became the setting of her most recent novel, *The Color of Ice*, in which the protagonist's "carefully ordered life is upended by a charismatic glass artist." It shouldn't be surprising that Probst has taken glass-blowing classes at Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon.

Fortunately, with her wide-ranging professional background — teacher, researcher, therapist — to tap into for plotlines and characters, there's little likelihood of Probst running out of inspiration.

A writer since childhood, she initially

focused as an adult on nonfiction but, "at a certain point, I wanted to return to my early love, which was fiction." To do so, Probst found she needed "a completely different skill set." Taking workshops and classes was invigorating, she says. "I had been a college professor, and becoming a learner again was great."

She remembers her first attempt at a fiction manuscript as "terrible — luckily, no one read it." She adds:

"When you change careers and sort of inevitably write a bad first novel, eventually you embark on a new skill. The characters have to feel real, have to be people the reader cares about. We

have to feel a common humanity to connect emotionally. That is the core of good fiction. There's also an argument for writing once you have lived a bit."

Each of Probst's novels is centered around an art form. Her first, *Queen of the Owls*, took inspiration from Georgia O'Keefe. While Probst traveled to the Southwest to visit places where O'Keefe lived and worked, she became equally interested in the artist's time in Hawaii. "I would never have understood how different the Hawaii heat is



She says that as she has progressed, her writing has become cleaner. "There's less going on and on about the angst in my character's head," she says. "At the start, you're so anxious to put everything on paper. With confidence, you trust your reader more, and don't bombard her with how she's supposed to feel."

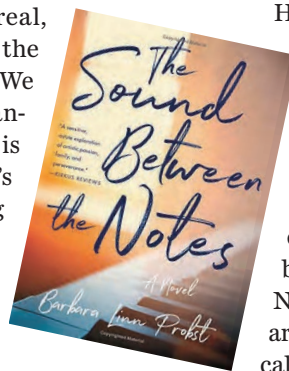
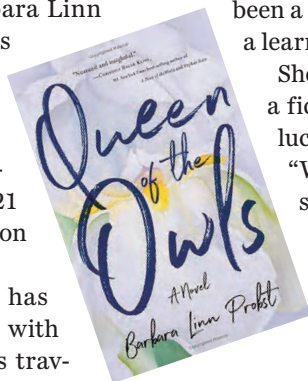
Probst's writing process depends on where she is in the story. "I love getting in an enchanted place — walking on a dirt road is one," she says. "When the iron's hot, I write all day, but I also know when things need to gestate." During the pandemic shutdown, Probst found herself "sitting on a deck for months — a writer's retreat of my own."

She has used the same publisher, She Writes Press, for all her books, which are available at [barbaralinnprobst.com](http://barbaralinnprobst.com). It's a hybrid publisher — not all manuscripts are accepted, but those that are receive promotional assistance. Probst has also been a guest in many online book clubs. "I love when people ask me things I haven't thought about, or see things I didn't know I did," she says.

Probst is halfway through a draft for her fourth novel. She's outlining, then filling in the blanks. "I know where I'm headed, but I write in spirals. By the time I come to the end of the first draft, the first few chapters have already changed. I don't find what I'm on until I'm on it."

to the New Mexico heat if I hadn't been there," she notes. (The novel was a silver-prize winner for fiction in the 2022 Nautilus Book Awards.)

Her second book, *The Sound Between the Notes* — selected by *Kirkus Reviews* as one of the Best Indie Books of 2021 and named the best contemporary novel by the Story Circle Network — is centered around music, and piano specifically. While writing it, Probst says she felt something wasn't right. "It was too busy, too angry," she recalls. "That summer, I took a music intensive and realized someone couldn't be bitter and play the way she did. I had to understand the piano better."



## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

**Additional evening hours**

Until Dec 30, 2023



**Open Thu, Fri, Sat 6 — 8:30 PM**

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068

[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](http://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)

## UPCOMING SHOWS at the Depot

Nov 17: Depot Docs Turn Every Page

Dec 2-9: The Wizard of Oz

Dec 17: Penelope

Dec 22: Cinema Depot White Christmas

For tickets & info:  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)





## ART BRIEFS

## Arts, Development Funds Distributed

*Highlands organizations receive state grants*

The New York State Council on the Arts on Wednesday (Nov. 15) announced more than \$46 million in grant awards to 1,021 nonprofit organizations and 504 artists.

About 70 percent of the funding went to organizations with budgets under \$1 million and 53 percent to those with budgets under \$500,000.

Among the recipients were the Be a Friend Project in Cold Spring (\$40,000), Boscobel in Garrison (\$30,000), the Garrison Art Center (\$25,000), Manitoaga in Garrison (\$40,000) and the Putnam Arts Council (\$25,000).

The Regional Economic Development Council Initiative also announced on Nov. 15 that it has awarded \$1.98 million to GarageWorks Studios in Beacon to convert a former auto garage into artist studios and an event space, and \$1.4 million to Dia:Beacon to transform its south lawn into a public park with trails.

In addition, the council gave \$250,000 to Boscobel to improve traffic flow and convert some of the site to a meadow with native plants; \$25,062 to the Bannerman Castle Trust for a feasibility study on stabilizing Bannerman Castle; and \$42,050 to Denning's Point Distillery in Beacon to expand production.



Kelly Ellenwood

## Bannerman Names Development Director

*Trust hires Beacon resident to expand giving*

The Bannerman Castle Trust said on Wednesday (Nov. 15) that it has named Kelly Ellenwood as its director of development.

The Beacon resident is a founder of the Bonfire Music + Art Festival and was recognized in 2017 by Dutchess County for her work with BeaconArts.

The Bannerman trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration of the castle on Pollepel Island in the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon.

On Nov. 30, Bannerman will host a benefit dinner and performance of *A Christmas Carol* at Mahoney's Pub in Poughkeepsie. See [bannermancastle.org](https://bannermancastle.org) for tickets, which are \$100 for adults and \$40 for children.



Associate producer Richard Peri and producer Phil Geoffrey Bond with the Grammy-nominated CD

*Photo provided*

## Garrison Producer Nominated for Grammy

*Phil Geoffrey Bond gets nod for Sondheim series*

By Alison Rooney

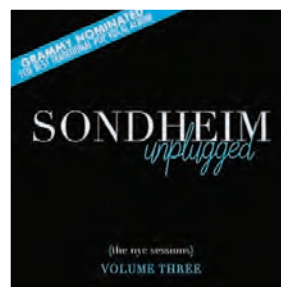
Producer, raconteur and expert on all things Sondheim, Phil Geoffrey Bond hasn't come down from the clouds since learning that the third volume of his three-set compilation, *Sondheim Unplugged: The NYC Sessions*, was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Traditional Pop Vocal Album category.

Produced by Bond, who lives in Garrison, the recording features highlights from the past decade of *Sondheim Unplugged*, the monthly cabaret show which Bond conceived when Stephen Sondheim turned 80. Bond produced and hosted it at several venues, most recently at 54 Below in New York City, where it has been running ever since.

During the pandemic, with venues closed, Bond shifted his focus to making a series of cast recordings, featuring highlights of the past decade of the show. Released in 2021 and 2022, the three recordings each reached No. 1 in their category on Amazon. Streaming sales continue to be robust, he said.

Several local singers, Natalie Arneson, Sally Mayes and Lisa Sabin, each of whom performed at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison, are featured on the albums. Another Depot performer, Liz Callaway, who did a one-woman show there in 2022 under the banner *Cabaret at the Depot*, was nominated in the same category. The other nominees are Rickie Lee Jones, Laufee, Pentatonix and a virtual unknown named Bruce Springsteen.

Bond was notified of the nomination by the president of his record company, Yellow Sound Label, and a text from a friend. The albums are available at [sondheimunplugged.com](https://sondheimunplugged.com). The Grammy Awards will be televised Feb. 4.



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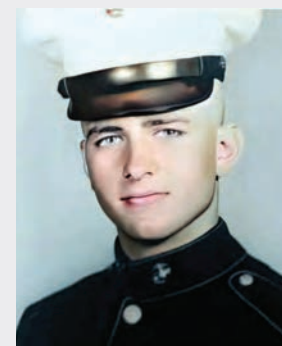
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## Anthony Phillips Sr. ( 1940 - 2023 )

Anthony C. Phillips Sr., a lifelong resident of Cold Spring, passed away peacefully on Nov. 9, 2023, at Phelps Memorial Hospital. He was 83.

He was born April 18, 1940, in Cold Spring to the late Ross and Lillian Raymond Phillips.

Anthony graduated from Haldane, Class of 1957, and attended William and Mary College. On Sept. 4, 1960, he married Deborah Gregory at Our Lady of Loretto. Anthony enlisted into the United States Marine Corp, where he proudly served his country from 1959 to 1963. After being honorably discharged, he was a carpenter until his retirement in 2001.

A lifelong member of the Cold Spring Fire Department, he was the former building inspector and then served as mayor of the Village of Cold Spring for 18 years.

Anthony was instrumental in bringing Pop Warner football to Philipstown and served as head coach of the Packers for 20 years alongside his good friend, Bruce Raymond, and several other Cold Spring sports enthusiasts.

He designed and built Mayors Park and was instrumental in refurbishing the Little League and Haldane fields. Also, Riverfront Park, the dock and bandstand were finished by him and many close friends and community members. He also served as the Recreation Chairman for the Village of Cold Spring.

Anthony is survived by his loving children, Anthony C. Phillips Jr., Gregory R. Phillips and his wife Karen, and Jeffrey D. Phillips and his wife Elizabeth, as well as his cherished grandchildren, Jeffrey, Kaitlyn, Samantha, Lindsay and James Phillips and his dear nieces, Kathleen Simonton and Eileen Medeiros. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Debbie in 2017, his sister Mary Villegas and his niece Marianne Villegas.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at Our Lady of Loretto, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Interment with military honors followed in Cold Spring Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anthony's honor to Toys for Tots ([toysfortots.org](https://toysfortots.org)).

PAID NOTICE



## 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 or protests.

### 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)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress is in session.

### Storm Updates and Resources

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

### Community Calendar

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

### Community Directory

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

### Shop Local Online

We created this during the pandemic; it's a list of local retailers that allow you to order online.

### Real-Estate Data

These graphs are created by a firm called Dataherald and include the number of new listings in Putnam and Dutchess counties, the number of home sales and median home sale prices.

### Job Search

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

### Back Issues

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

### Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

### 150 Years Ago (November 1873)

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher was reported to be so well-pleased with the architectural design of the Howland library building in Matteawan that he wrote Mr. Howland for information about the designer.

Charles Dickens, the orphan bootblack [shoe polisher] on the Fanny Garner at Dutchess Junction, broke his arm while going down the hatchway into the hold. His friends started him in the cigar business until he could resume polishing.

Edward Herriman, a deckhand on the steamer Union, nearly drowned at Fishkill Landing. The boat had backed a short distance from the dock but he didn't notice the plank and walked directly into the water. The pilot heard his cries.

A new stagecoach was put on the route between Matteawan and the ferry.

The Fishkill Landing Machine Works, located near the depot on the river, said it had not been affected by a national financial panic and continued to operate with a full complement of 100 men at full wages.

The Chicago Express hit some barrels of flour at Dutchess Junction, smashing one.

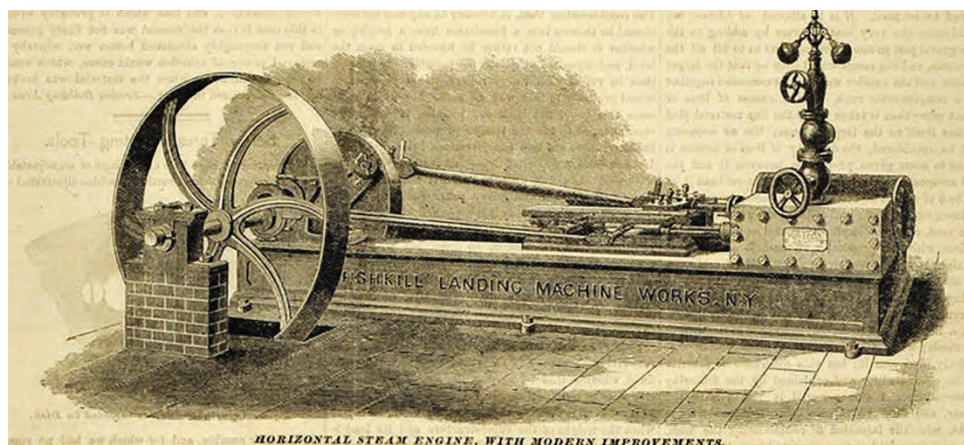
The construction of 27 lampposts was completed at Matteawan and the streets lit with gas for the first time.

The Dutchess County sheriff came to Matteawan to sell the stock and fixtures of James McGarvey's confectionary store, which had failed.

On a Wednesday morning there were 22 steamboats and tows in Newburgh Bay, which delayed the ferry by 30 minutes as it avoided them.

A man invaded the Matteawan home of Peter Evans, drawing a knife from his pocket and saying the devil had sent him to kill the entire family before fleeing into the woods.

Oliver Davidson, the agent at the Sylvan Lake Mining Co., deposited \$4,300 [about \$110,000 today] in the office safe for payroll and said goodnight to Charles Howard, the telegraph operator and bookkeeper. The next morning, he received a telegraph from Howard, sent from Fishkill Landing, that read: "Had to go away on business. Home tonight." Alarmed, Davidson rushed to check the safe and found it empty. The night operator at the Fishkill Landing station who sent the telegraph said that Howard's wife was with him. Howard's landlord said he had rented his tenant a



A horizontal steam engine made in 1873 by the Fishkill Landing Machine Works

horse and wagon, which was found at the Hopewell train station.

The baggage handler and American Express agent at the Fishkill Landing depot, identified only as Emmett, abruptly left town. An examiner from American Express came to check the books and found \$20 [\$500] belonging to Emmett in the safe and \$50 due him from the railroad company.

An advertisement from *The Fishkill Standard*: "The individual who lost his hat when being chased from the cabbage patch on the grounds of the Matteawan Manufacturing Co. can have the same by calling on the watchman."

A barn owned by Mr. Devereux on the east side of the creek at Matteawan burned to the ground, destroying 5 tons of hay. Arson was suspected.

### 125 Years Ago (November 1898)

A telephone cable laid in the Hudson River between Newburgh and Fishkill Landing was damaged by a schooner that hooked it with its anchor.

Three barns at a Dutchess Junction farm burned to the ground, killing three horses.

A large number of people at Matteawan became ill after eating headcheese that had been made in newly soldered tin pans.

Elijah Woodworth, 94, of Fishkill Landing, fell out of a tree and bruised his leg while picking apples.

A young mother in Matteawan attempted to take her life by slashing her throat and wrists with a potato knife while standing in front of a looking glass. No reason was given for her despair.

Peter Vosburgh, editor of the *Matteawan Journal*, was appointed postmaster.

A man's body was found by hunters in the woods near Matteawan with a pistol at his side and two bullet holes in his head. Authorities concluded he had killed himself.

A man detained in Hartford, Connecticut, on charges of forgery who gave his name as Norman Brown was, in fact, Gardiner Howell, who had been accused of deceiving a Matteawan woman into marrying him so he could have a share of her estate. (He was arrested with a letter from his mother in his pocket.) When asked by a reporter if he had been at Matteawan three weeks earlier, Howell responded: "They say so. I wouldn't care to state." The Pinkerton's Detective Agency asked the police chief to send a sample of the prisoner's handwriting to its offices in New York City, but Howell refused to provide one.

### 100 Years Ago (November 1923)

The appointment of a postmaster was delayed when a group petitioned Rep. Hamilton Fish to include at least one veteran among the candidates because neither of the two men who scored highest on the civil service exam had served in the military. Fish declined but said he would be happy to appoint a Republican veteran to another post. He suggested a vote for postmaster, open only to registered Republicans, but one candidate objected to the idea and withdrew.

The coroner said he initially suspected foul play in the death of Orvel Becker, whose body was found on the railroad tracks without his glasses or hat. However, when the items were found three-quarters of a mile down the line, the coroner concluded that Becker had been hit by a train and dragged that distance by the cowcatcher.

A Beacon Coal and Lumber Co. truck was struck by a freight engine. The driver said his view of the tracks was blocked by a parked car.

Construction began on the new Memorial Building at Main and Teller.

On a Saturday night in Poughkeepsie, a man who said his name was Percy Rough came into the Sheriff's Office wearing a pilot's uniform. He told the desk clerk that his plane had engine trouble over Beacon, forcing an emergency landing, and that he needed to borrow \$10 [\$180] to get to Buffalo to secure a propeller. The clerk provided the money in exchange for a pair of shoes as security but Beacon police said they had no record of a plane landing.

### 75 Years Ago (November 1948)

Anna May Leith, who became the first female court officer in the history of Dutchess County when she was appointed in 1932, died at age 67. She also had been a deputy sheriff and committee member for the 1st District of the 1st Ward since 1903.

Rear Adm. Charles Maiden Oman died at age 70, three years after retiring as one of the Navy's top medical officers. He commanded the Navy base hospital at Brest, France, during World War I and the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, during World War II. He also wrote a history of the U.S. Navy Medical Corps called *Doctors Aweigh*.

Gordon Williams, who had been the organist at St. Luke's Church for 43 years, died at his home on Prospect Street at age 78. On the Sunday before his death, his daughter, also an organist, led a program of his music at the Presbyterian Church but he was unable to attend because of his illness.

(Continued on Page 19)



*(Continued from Page 18)*

Voters rejected a proposal to switch from a board of supervisors to a city manager form of government with proportional representation, with 62 percent opposed.

Police officers fired three shots during two arrests on a Saturday morning. In the first incident, a 24-year-old cab driver from Garrison led police on a chase at 1:30 a.m. and stopped only when an officer fired at the car. In the second, the county district attorney and his wife had returned to their home on Sargent Avenue at 2 a.m. after a party when he heard a noise outside and saw a prowler. After calling for assistance, the DA took a flashlight into the rain and gave chase. Officers later stopped a car on a side street; the driver attempted to flee but stopped when an officer fired two shots into the air. The man was later identified as the suspect.

*The Poughkeepsie Journal* profiled Marcus "Capt. Mark" Lonsberry, who had operated the Beacon-Newburgh ferry for 52 years, following in the footsteps of his father, Albert, who operated the ferry for 45 years and lived at the end of Long Dock. Two weeks after the article appeared, Capt. Mark died at age 71.

A 22-year-old Main Street resident was charged with assault and attempted rape after he attacked a waitress as she walked home from work.

The heavyweight boxer, Melio Bettina, won a 10-round decision at St. Nick's Arena in New York City over Enrique Felpi of Argentina. It was the Beacon resident's seventh straight win in his comeback effort.

### 50 Years Ago (November 1973)

In a ceremony at the Italian Consulate in New York City, Vincenzo Montone was presented with the Cross of Cavaliere and DiVittorio for his service with the Italian Army during World War I.

Judge Austin Hoyt of the U.S. Tax Court, a native of Beacon, announced his retirement. He was appointed in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

The Democrats swept the mayoral and commissioner races. Robert Cahill won 60 percent of the vote, while the commissioners of accounts, finance, safety and public safety were each safely re-elected. The closest race was between Red Flynn, who had overseen public safety for 16 years, and Vernon Way, an independent and former police detective.

In the third escape in 12 years from the Correctional Facility for Medical Services, aka the Matteawan State Hospital, four inmates fled after cutting through steel window bars with a hacksaw. One was caught within an hour walking along Route 84; the other three — two men convicted in killings and another of robbery — remained at large for weeks. The captured inmate denied he was an escaped prisoner but had the letters MSH stamped on his shirt.

The Planning Board approved the construction of River View, a 52-unit townhouse complex off Sargent Avenue.

Two former Beacon High students, both 17, were arrested after they allegedly attacked the attendance officer in the school parking lot.



DEC biologist Dick Henry lowers a black bear in 1998 from a tree on Ralph Street.

*Poughkeepsie Journal*

The Beacon High School Dramatics Council presented the mystery *Night Must Fall*, with senior David Didio in the lead as a homicidal bellhop.

Because of the energy crisis, the Beacon-Fishkill Area Chamber of Commerce said the holiday lights on Main Street would not be turned on until Dec. 10 and then only from 6 to 9 p.m. daily through Christmas.

A 43-year-old Beacon man was shot dead in his parked car at Fishkill and Blackburn avenues at 2 a.m. Police said the victim, a former radio station general manager who lived four blocks away, was hit five times by

bullets from two weapons. The next day, the 17-year-old son of a Beacon police sergeant surrendered. Detectives also questioned a second, younger suspect.

A 34-year-old Beacon woman was accused of embezzling from the rental account of the Beacon Housing Authority, where she worked as a cashier.

In the first visit by a collegiate basketball team to the Fishkill Correctional Facility, the New Paltz State College junior varsity took on a squad of inmates, who won, 95-88.

### 25 Years Ago (November 1998)

The Cold Spring Antiques Dealers Association organized a benefit auction in Beacon for Rob Albracht, who owned the Matteawan Trading Co. with his partner, Joyce Lavin, and had been hospitalized with leukemia. The highlight of the evening was an appearance by Tony winner Harvey Fierstein, who donated a 5-foot kangaroo prop from *La Cage Aux Folles*.

A black bear known to the state Department of Environmental Conservation as No. 249 had to be rescued from a tree in a backyard on Ralph Street. The bear had been captured and tagged the year before when it interrupted a barbecue in Rockland County. No. 249 had been spotted earlier in the day running down Main Street. After the bear fell asleep, DEC biologist Dick Henry climbed a ladder and attached a rope to its leg so it could be lowered to the ground. One neighbor said: "This is the most excitement we've had in 16 years."

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## Small, Good Things

# It's All Relative

By Joe Dizney

When is apple pie more than just apple pie?



The story begins with a man who grows apples — in this case my neighbor, an undisputed and generous master of the orchard. Next there's the extended network of friends and family, adults and children, who gratefully harvest the fruits of his labor.

The choice of what to do with this bounty falls to the farmer's gracious wife, who

crowdsources recipes from another extensive group — including me — to land a selection that piques her interest.

A recent find, Mannheimer Apfelkuchen, or apple cake Mannheim-style, reflects an international scope new to the network, the recipe delivered in the form of a handwritten note from the German mother-in-law of a daughter, now living in Denmark with her German partner.

Here, a slight digression on apfelkuchen ("apple cake"), a family of recipes that includes suspiciously pie-like preparations differentiated by a shortcrust pastry dough more common to American pie, albeit in this case, with the addition of baking powder. The earliest reference that I could find in English was in a 1900 edition of *The Boston Cooking School Magazine of Culinary Science and Domestic Economics*, aka *The Fannie Farmer Cook Book*. It sketches more of a pie, in keeping with the use of the German *kuchen*, while the Mannheim adjective indicates a distinctive additional step.

Mannheim-style seems to refer to a relatively common fruit pie (as this seems to be done with peaches and other fruit as well) baked to a halfway point, pulled from the oven and topped with a poured custardy, sweet almond cream (*frangipane*), and returned to the oven to finish baking.

The finished Mannheimer Apfelkuchen doesn't require much in the way of accompaniment and is a perfectly fitting dessert to celebrate the opening salvo of the holiday season, centered on gratitude for the family and friends it took to make both a pie like this and life worth living.

## Mannheimer Apfelkuchen

Serves 8

### For the dough:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1 stick cold unsalted butter cut in ¼-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons ice water

### Garnish:

- 2 tablespoons sliced almonds

### For the apples:

- 3 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and quartered
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ¼ cup turbinado sugar mixed with 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

### For the almond cream:

- 6 tablespoons cream
- 3 egg yolks
- ½ cup almond flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon almond or vanilla extract

**For the dough:** (This can be done up to a day ahead.)

1. Put dry ingredients in the bowl of food processor. Add butter and lemon zest. Pulse all until mixture resembles coarse meal. Do not overwork the mix.
2. Add the ice water and mix briefly (about 30 seconds) to form a soft, workable dough. Remove from processor bowl and shape into a thick disk. Wrap the dough in plastic; refrigerate for at least two hours or overnight.

### To prepare the cake:

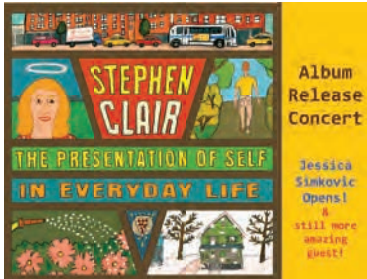
3. When ready to proceed, remove dough from refrigerator and allow to come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-inch springform pan. Set aside. Slice the apple quarters lengthwise into ¼-inch-thick slices. (A mandoline makes quick work of this.) Reserve in a large bowl and drizzle with the lemon juice.
4. Lightly flour a work surface and dust the dough lightly with flour. Roll dough to about a 10-inch round and press it into the prepared springform pan, evenly pulling up the edges. Sprinkle the surface lightly with some of the cinnamon sugar. (There should be plenty left and don't feel like you have to use it all.)
5. Place overlapping apple slices (like the scales of a fish) in concentric circles on top of the dough and sprinkle with some of the cinnamon sugar. Place the pan in the preheated stove on the middle rack and bake for about 25 minutes.
6. While the kuchen bakes, mix the almond cream ingredients by hand in a medium bowl until smooth and well-blended. After 25 minutes in the oven, remove the cake and spoon the almond cream evenly over the kuchen. Return it to the oven and bake for an additional 20 minutes. At the 15-minute mark, scatter the sliced almonds over the almond cream with a dusting of cinnamon sugar and return to the oven for the final five minutes.
7. Cool the cake in the pan on a wire rack. Once it's completely cool, run a blunt knife around the edges of the cake and remove the sides of the springform and slide the cake onto a serving plate. Slicing is a bit easier with a sharp, finely serrated blade and serving requires no further embellishment.

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## WANTED

### VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking residents interested in serving on the Historic District Review Board (HDRB). Please forward letters of interest and qualifications by November 29, 2023 to: Village of Cold Spring, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 ATTN: HDRB VACANCY or via email to [kherbert@coldspringny.gov](mailto:kherbert@coldspringny.gov).



## Unicorn *(from Page 1)*

But a month ago, he received a grim diagnosis: inoperable brain cancer. His friends, family and acquaintances held the gathering of the unicorns to honor all that he has done for the city, including his under-the-radar activities.

"Not a lot of people know this, but he is very supportive of the local music community," said Ryan Dunn. "He's always sponsoring and supporting events, but in a quiet way."

Guitarist Tony DePaolo calls Shelly "the most selfless person I've ever met. He does good things for people and expects nothing in return."

The impromptu unicorn crawl, with children in tow, attracted dozens of people and lots of attention. The organizers included Marko Guzijan at Hudson Valley Food

Hall and Chris Cimino, owner of the Last Outpost Store.

“Beacon is a little community with a lot of joy. We have to care for each other; it's not rocket science. It really is true that what you put out there is what you get in return.

~ Dave Shelly

With help from Brooklyn Press in Newburgh, they printed and sold T-shirts to raise money for Shelly's family. Other participants, including Happy Valley Arcade,

Denning's Point Distillery and Meyer's Olde Dutch served as stopping points and donated a share of the day's proceeds.

"Dave is really a performance artist," said Guzijan. "He helps keep Beacon weird."

By coincidence, Guzijan's beer distributor overheard a conversation and donated four cases of Unicorn IPA. Guzijan gave it away but gladly accepted donations.

During the procession, Shelly began skipping and singing "unicorn" to the chorus of "Jingle Bells." For someone with terminal cancer, he is rather upbeat. His memorial service is already planned and, of course, he wants people to "laugh, dance, talk and become friends with each other."

Shelly spoke about his desire to live every minute to the fullest, but his main goal is to leave a legacy, the Unicorn Foundation, which would function like a community bank and

give away up to \$300 to people facing small-scale financial pinches. "If they pay it back, great," he said. "If they don't, that's fine."

Standing at the cash register in the Last Outpost, he shared the story of his costume and his diagnosis, speaking in an earnest, blunt style devoid of complaint or self-pity. If anything, he was complacent.

"You can't cheat death; this was coming sooner or later," he said.

For now, he is content to enjoy the company of his wife, Jill Quaglin, and his two daughters and six grandchildren.

"The unicorn thing just evolved as I saw that it made kids smile and adults laugh," he said. "Beacon is a little community with a lot of joy. Even the tourists feel it. We have to care for each other; it's not rocket science. It really is true that what you put out there is what you get in return."

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### HELP WANTED

**CIRCULATION CLERK** — The Desmond-Fish Public Library seeks a friendly and enthusiastic person responsible for greeting patrons, assisting with requests & questions in a helpful manner as a part-time circulation clerk. Prior

experience working in a public library/customer service position helpful but not required. The schedule is 20 hours per week, with shifts available over the 7-day week, must include one evening and weekend day. Email cover letter and resume to [janice@desmondfishlibrary.org](mailto:janice@desmondfishlibrary.org). See [desmondfishlibrary.org/careers](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/careers).

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**SPANISH-LANGUAGE** — Former Wesleyan Spanish TA who has lived and worked in Latin America with experience teaching Spanish both in the classroom and one-on-one is available to tutor children and/or adults. I am deeply involved in the Latin American community and adore the Spanish language. I am also a

grammarphile, and, because Spanish is my second language, I feel I can understand what it takes to learn Spanish. I love watching my students grow. References available. Email [manyalasagna@gmail.com](mailto:manyalasagna@gmail.com).

**MATH AND PHYSICS** — I have a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in applied math, plus more than 10 years working in engineering/analytics. Email [samber.paul@gmail.com](mailto:samber.paul@gmail.com) for info.

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Lawrence Eaton, James Hartford, Mark Civita and Seth Gallagher during a rehearsal



Ed Howard (right) offers instruction to newcomer Jim Miller.

Photos by M. Ferris

## The Pipers of Philipstown

*After nearly disbanding, the kilts are back in formation*

By Marc Ferris

The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band almost disbanded during the pandemic, but they're back in the swing. To recruit members, pipe major James Hartford posted paper flyers around Cold Spring.

The tactic worked: He got 15 responses and the group is holding weekly practice sessions at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. It also designed a new tartan pattern for their kilts, booked gigs at parades and other community events and spruced up their logo, which features Bannerman Castle and the surrounding mountains.

The band's name is a double-entendre: Along with being based in the Highlands, it performs in the Highlands piping style, which refers to the hills of Scotland.

"It's always a challenge to keep newcomers engaged," says Hartford. "It can also be

tough to keep experienced players engaged."

To lure members, the band offers bagpipe and snare drum lessons, although both instruments can be daunting. Mastering the bagpipes requires incorporating unusual techniques: Just blowing up the air bag to start things off can be taxing for first-timers.

"The joke is, 'Are you seeing stars yet?,'" says piper Mark Civita, who has played since 2005, when the group started as the Cold Spring Fire Co. Pipes & Drums. Children as young as 8 and 9 are taking lessons with the goal of joining the band, rather than just carrying banners.

Holly Mentzer and Jim Miller, who moved to Nelsonville in 2016, saw the signs around Cold Spring and answered the call in August.

"We've been obsessed with this band since we moved here," says Mentzer. "We were having dinner at Cathryn's [on Main Street] and heard the pipes. My friend said, 'That would be Seth' [Gallagher, a former mayor]. I stalked them at that first Memorial Day parade and must have taken 30 pictures. When I saw the flyer, I figured, 'How can we not do this?'"

Mentzer has a degree in flute performance from Juilliard, plays guitar and piano and is a music therapist. Her background provides an advantage while learning the pipes, but "this is a 180-degree turn" from a lifetime of musical training, she says. "Usually, we learn the simple parts first, then build out skill, but with the pipes, you have to learn everything at once."

She says she is getting over the beginner's hump. The goal is to keep blowing air into the bag so that the player's arm can squeeze it up into the pipes while maintaining a smooth flow, similar to accordion bellows.

Beginners learn the proper blowing and fingering techniques, starting with a practice chanter. On a set of bagpipes, the chanter creates the melody, dangles below the bag and resembles a tiny recorder. Players cannot see the holes, which complicates the fingering.

Creating a dulcet tone on a practice chanter also can be challenging because the holes are smaller and players must maintain the proper air flow to make the two reeds inside resonate and stay on pitch.

"Offering the lessons makes it feasible to recruit beginners," says Mentzer. "You can't learn without a mentor, and they're very generous with their time."

Miller plays the drums, trumpet and cornetto, which resembles a recorder. He assumed the fingering would be simple to learn. Nope. Pipers use the bottom of the first and second joints rather than their fingertips.

"I had to unlearn everything I knew, but the instinct kept me going back to what I knew," he says. So he bagged the pipes, picked up a pair of thick, light drumsticks and began learning the intricate, repetitive patterns known as the rudiments for snare drum, which helps the percussionist perform in lockstep with military precision.

Even the drums are "like learning a completely new skill, but Ed [Howard] is a great teacher," says Miller.

Playing while marching presents further complications because it takes wind out of the pipers' sails and the drums weigh a ton. Drummer Lara Denberg Volotto notes that during humid Fourth of July parades it can be taxing to lug the snare drum on a metal holder that flanks the shoulders.

Knowing that a bad bagpiper can create one of the most grating sounds on the planet, the band has high standards. "We always need experienced players to pull it off," says Hartford. "Enthusiasm doesn't always carry it through — we have to sound good."

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    |    |    | 26 | 27 |    |    |    |    | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |
| 33 |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |
|    |    | 36 |    |    |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    |    |
| 38 | 39 |    |    |    |    | 40 | 41 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    | 43 | 44 |    |    |    |    | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 |    |    |    | 49 |    |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |    |    | 53 |    |    |

- ACROSS
1. Mausoleum
5. *Born Free* lioness
9. Branch
12. Ornamental jug
13. Jupiter counterpart
14. Sheepish remark
15. Famed diarist
17. Squeak stopper
18. Historic times
19. Grown-up
21. Town square
24. Tizzy
25. Occupy the throne
26. Imaginary
30. Right angle
31. Count with an orchestra
32. Simile center
33. Bloated, in a way
35. Computer brand
36. Literary Jane
37. Puccini work
38. Curry spice
40. Roundish do
42. Palindromic constellation
43. Yearly charge
48. Up to
49. Oboe insert
50. Cupid's realm
51. Compass dir.
52. Columnist Maureen
53. Milky gem
- DOWN
1. Earl Grey, e.g.
2. Have
3. Gents
4. Light wind
5. Poet Pound
6. Meadows
7. Day light
8. With suspicion, as a look
9. Complete reversal
10. Banister
11. Beer ingredient
16. Monk's title
20. Cato's 502
21. Get ready, briefly
22. Humdinger
23. Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
24. Use scissors
26. Lose color
27. Tempe sch.
28. Addict
29. Zhivago's love
31. Novelist Malamud
34. Memo letters
35. Lunar program
37. Mouths (Lat.)
38. Felines
39. *The Haj* author
40. From the start
41. Elmer of cartoons
44. *The Matrix* role
45. Dandy guy
46. Actress Mendes
47. Moray, for one

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

SEATS

SNOWY

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Grand \_\_\_\_ (Pontiac models)
4. Results of a close shave?
7. "All I want is \_\_\_\_ somewhere..."
8. Greta of *Ninotchka*
9. Hosp. scan
- DOWN
1. Scrambled wd.
2. *Monsoon Wedding* director Nair
3. Choir leader's reference
5. Basketball legend Bryant
6. Metropolitan haze

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |   |   |
| 4 |   |   | 5 | 6 |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |
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|   |   |   | E | I | N |   | S | A | S | H | A | Y |
| Y | E | A | R | N |   | D | E | C | K |   |   |   |
| A | S | H | Y |   | T | E | R | M | I | T | E |   |
| M | T | A |   | W | A | I | V | E |   | O | L | E |
|   | E | B | W | H | I | T | E |   | D | U | L | L |
|   |   | O | I | L | Y |   | B | E | T | A | S |   |
| S | N | O | O | Z | E |   | E | B | B |   |   |   |
| C | A | L | F |   | N | O | T | Q | U | I | T | E |
| O | G | L | E |   | D | O | E | S | G | O | O | D |
| T | S | A | R |   | S | O | S |   | S | U | N | S |

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

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| T | R | E | J | O |
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| N | A | T | A | L |
| G | L | O | S | S |

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SLATE  
SLATS  
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Haldane Quarterback Ryan Van Tassel looks to pass; No. 4 is Michael Murray.



Evan Giachinta ran for 202 yards in Haldane's win over Tuckahoe.

Photos by Skip Pearlman

# HALDANE WINS SECTION I TITLE IN THRILLER

## *Edges perennial rival Tuckahoe to advance*

By Jacob Aframian

In the annual Section I, Class D title game between Haldane and rival Tuckahoe, the Blue Devils won a thriller, 27-21, holding off a late Tigers drive with a diving interception by Michael Murray.

Haldane will play Section IX champ Burke Catholic of Goshen today (Nov. 17) at 4 p.m. at Mahopac High School. The New York State Sportswriters Association this week had the Blue Devils (7-2) at No. 6 among Class D teams and Burke Catholic (9-1) at No. 4. The winner advances to the Final Four on Nov. 24 at Middletown High School.

In the opening quarter of the Section I title game, played at Arlington High School, the Tigers' deep passing attack presented a challenge for the Blue Devils. After a 39-yard pickup from their own 11-yard line, Tuckahoe quarterback Jax Colacicco threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Jackson Snyder that put the Tigers up, 7-0, with 6:23 left in the quarter.

Brody Corless had a 38-yard return on the ensuing kickoff, putting the Blue Devils at midfield. On third-and-7, quarterback Ryan Van Tassel found Jake Thomas wide open in the middle, and he ran 47 yards for the score.

After stopping the Tigers on a fourth-and-3, Haldane began using running back Evan Giachinta continuously. He picked up 18 yards on his first carry. With 6:35 left in the half, on the same drive, Haldane found itself facing its own fourth-and-3 at the Tuckahoe 24-yard line.



Dylan Rucker holds up the Section I, Class D plaque.

The Tigers stuffed the run and took over. After a 36-yard pass put them on the Haldane 36, Giachinta sacked Colacicco for a 12-yard loss. Facing third-and-22, Colacicco rifled a pass to Connor Brice for a 38-yard gain. On the next play, the quarterback ran it in from the 2-yard line to put Tuckahoe up 14-7 with 2:26 to go in the half.

After a drive that included two passes to Giachinta that covered 38 yards, Haldane was at the Tuckahoe 4-yard line with 30 seconds left. Coach Ryan McConville opted not to call a timeout and, on the next play, Van Tassel scrambled left and threw an interception, keeping the score at 14-7.

McConville said he told his team at half-

time "what a great story it was going to be when we come back and win."

Tuckahoe started the second half with the football; Colacicco fired another deep pass to Snyder for a 38-yard gain that put the ball at the Haldane 15. After a sack and incomplete pass, the Tigers faced a fourth-and-29. Colacicco took a shot with a pass to the end zone, but Van Tassel picked it off to give the Blue Devils the ball at the 20-yard line.

On its first offensive play of that drive, Giachinta took a handoff, ran to the right side and, after beating the first few defenders, ran hard down the sideline, until he was tackled at the 10 — a 70-yard run. Soon

after, Thomas ran it in on an end-around for the score, tying the game with 9:39 left in the third.

On two touches — one pass reception and one run — Thomas had two touchdowns, but he wasn't done.

The Tigers answered with a drive that lasted nearly six minutes and ended with Colacicco finding Connor Benke for a 6-yard TD pass. Tuckahoe stopped the Blue Devils and got the ball back for another drive but missed a 30-yard field goal after the ball was tipped by a Haldane defender.

In the fourth quarter, Van Tassel kept the Haldane drive alive with scrambles behind the line. But with 5:59 left, the Blue Devils faced a fourth-and-4 from the Tuckahoe 26. Van Tassel once again avoided pressure and, moving to his right, found Thomas in the end zone, his third touchdown of the game. There was just under six minutes left.

With 3:49 remaining, on second-and-9, Colacicco was hit as he threw, contributing to an interception by Thomas, who ran it back to the Tuckahoe 42. On second-and-2, Giachinta powered up the middle for a 34-yard touchdown. The Blue Devils missed the extra point but had a 27-21 lead.

The Tigers had 3:04 to save their season. On second-and-10, Colacicco lofted one deep, but Murray made a diving catch for the interception.

With 1:04 left on third-and-2 from the Tuckahoe 41, Haldane needed a first down to seal the game. Giachinta got it and the Blue Devils ran out the clock.

Giachinta finished with 202 yards rushing on 23 carries and Van Tassel completed 11 of 17 passes for 156 yards.