Beacon Church Approved for Move

By Leonard Sparks

The Star of Bethlehem Church won approval to move to a former restaurant in Fishkill that will not only replace its longtime home on Main Street in Beacon but host Fareground, the local anti-hunger organization.

The Town of Fishkill Planning Board on Jan. 11 approved the church’s application to renovate 37 Lamplight St. near the Mount Gulian Historic Site. The building formerly housed a bar and restaurant called Mary Kelly’s and an eatery and banquet hall called the Chateau Beacon.

For more than 60 years, Star of Bethlehem held services at the former Mechanic Savings Bank at 139 Main St. It sold the building in 2021 to Hudson Todd LLC, one of Beacon’s largest property holders, for about $1.25 million.

(Continued on Page 7)

Spring Forecast for Landing’s Water Connect

New well awaits link to Garrison treatment plant

By Leonard Sparks

Philipstown is hoping by spring to activate a new water supply to Garrison’s Landing, where homes and businesses have been relying on trucked-in water that has cost more than $1 million over the last four years.

The town is preparing to solicit bids from contractors to connect a new well on property it owns at Routes 9D and 403 to the Garrison Landing Water District treatment plant on Lower Station Road, said Bob Flaherty, a member of the Town Board. Water from the well, which produces 90 gallons a minute, will run under Route 9D through the Highlands Country Club property to the plant, with Philipstown using a $750,000 allocation from its 2014 by folk singer Pete Seeger and the Beacon Sloop Club, and partnered with events organized by the Southern Dutchess Coalition.

(Continued on Page 5)
FIVE QUESTIONS: GEORGE MANSFIELD

By Jeff Simms

George Mansfield served seven, 2-year terms on the Beacon City Council.

You closed your restaurant and bar, Dogwood, in September and finished up on the City Council at the end of the year. Are you retiring?

I’ve worked for myself for the last 30 years, so there’s no retirement in my future. This will give me some time to think about what I want to do. I’ll get back into my studio and spend time making art.

For probably the last four election cycles, I swore I wasn’t going to run again, but when we’d get closer to the deadline, I’d decide to run. So no one believed me this time, but I thought it would tie in well with closing Dogwood. It seemed better to wrap up both things at once. I might return to the City Council, or even run for mayor someday; but at this point it’s not part of my plan. I’ve been making art for 35 or 40 years on and off — sometimes dedicated to it, sometimes in between jobs. It’s never been a career but it’s been a passion, and this is an opportunity to focus on something that I am passionate about.

Why is local government important?

It’s an opportunity to actually effect change. You can run for office, you can get up to the microphone and speak your mind or you can write a letter to the City Council. Sometimes we feel things are too big and you don’t think your voice counts. But you can see results in a relatively short amount of time on the local level. You get to meet your elected officials on the street or in the bar, that’s the level of accessibility. You see change happen much faster than on a national scale, or even on a county scale.

You visited Ireland recently. What was the occasion?

Three of my four brothers and I brought our mother’s ashes over there. That’s where our grandparents are all from. She passed away less than a year ago, so it was great to bring her back to a place that she loved dearly, to bond with my brothers and to connect to a huge extended family there. It was profound. It felt like a return to a place I’d never been. I’m sure it won’t be the last time I go there.

I’ve heard people refer to you as “the heart of Beacon.” How does that make you feel?

It makes me feel proud of what I’ve invested in Beacon and whatever I’ve done to help get it there. But there’s no one heart of Beacon; there’s thousands of people — 15,000, really — who are contributing to this unique and ever-changing place. We’re all the little heartbeats. I just might be a more public face to it.

Are you happy with Beacon right now?

It’s not a static thing. As elected officials, we respond to things as they come up, such as the Route 52 corridor. That’s not been on anybody’s radar for a long time, but it’s a huge and important entry into our community. It could be a new economic hub, but it was ignored because we’ve been addressing other things.

There’s a constant re-imagining of what Beacon can be, and new voices are added to the discussion all the time, which is great. Overall, there are some things I would do differently, in retrospect, but you govern for the present while keeping an eye out for the future. We worked not just for the people who voted us in; we were also responsible for the generations to come. I can say that everyone I’ve worked with has done their absolute best to make Beacon a better place, and I’m proud of the work that I put in.

What do you like about January in New York?

I’m not fond of it; the cold hurts my face.

I’m trying to embrace it, making soup, early to bed.

I like the cold. I get to stay inside and read my books.

By Michael Turton
Around the Region

Warwick: Farmers Suffer Fire Loss

The Cold Spring Farmers’ Market has organized a fundraiser for the owners of the Rogowski Farm in Orange County, one of its longtime vendors, who suffered a kitchen fire that destroyed their prep kitchen and much of their home.

Cheryl Rogowski and her sister, Sue, are the second generation of the family to run the 10-acre farm, which was founded in 1955. Known at the Cold Spring market as “the scone lady,” Cheryl received a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2014 for her work with community-supported agriculture. According to the Farmers’ Market, the $10,000 fundraiser at bit.ly/rogowski-benefit “will help to re-establish their kitchen equipment, pay some rent for a commercial kitchen space and offset the future cost of rebuilding their home and any living costs, such as new clothes, especially during the winter months.”

Orange County: Senator Alleges Corruption

The FBI has issued a subpoena to the administration of the Orange County executive as part of an investigation into contracts issued for information technology work, according to the Mid Hudson News.

In October, state Sen. James Skoufis alleged that the county improperly awarded $822,900 in no-bid contracts to the brother-in-law of the human resources officer. Skoufis said he filed complaints with the state attorney general and the FBI.

Skoufis alleges that the human resources officer, Langdon Chapman, hired Isaac Sacolick, president of a Westchester tech company, in a series of “quickly escalating and auto-renewing” contracts over eight months. He claims Chapman delayed hiring a chief information officer so the county could continue to pay Sacolick.

In a statement, Chapman said: “I was asked if I knew anyone in the digital transformation field. I gave the only name I knew and disclosed the relationship. I had no part in the actual decision to hire the vendor and Skoufis has not offered any evidence to the contrary.”

Mount Vernon: 2-Year Sentence for Conductor Assault

A 23-year-old Bronx woman was sentenced to two years in prison for assaulting a Metro-North conductor on the Harlem Line. According to the Westchester County district attorney, Alexis Adams, 23, pleaded guilty Dec. 7 to felony assault.

On Oct. 11, 2021, at about 6 p.m., Adams argued with a conductor at the Mount Vernon West station over a fare and struck her in the face with a pumpkin. Adams fled but left behind her purse and IDs. The conductor was treated for lacerations around her eye and ear.

Poughkeepsie: DA Names Chief Investigator

Anthony Parisi, the new Dutchess County district attorney, named a newly retired City of Poughkeepsie detective as his chief investigator.

Jeffrey Wright retired Jan. 12 after 28 years with the Poughkeepsie police to take the county job. From 2012 to 2022 he was part of a violent-crimes task force that worked with the FBI.

“I intend to devote resources to combat violent crime in the City of Poughkeepsie and Detective Wright’s knowledge and experience in the city will be invaluable in this effort,” Parisi told the Mid Hudson News.

Peekskill: Residents Bitten by Rabid Fox

The Westchester County Department of Health issued an alert after a fox that bit two Peekskill residents on Jan. 13 tested positive for rabies after being captured and killed. The victims, who were together, are receiving treatment.

The Health Department said unusual behavior in an animal, such as being abnormally aggressive or unusually tame, can be the first sign of rabies. They may also stagger and froth at the mouth. “If you see an animal that is acting aggressively, stay away from it and contact local police immediately,” said Dr. Sherlita Amler, the health commissioner.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

- After interviews conducted during an executive session on Wednesday (Jan. 17), the Cold Spring Village Board appointed Henry Fohlman, Hilary Hart and Kevin McGrody to fill three vacancies on the five-member Planning Board. In addition, the Village Board appointed architect Kate Van Voorhees to the Historic District Review Board.

- The board passed a resolution correcting an error in the update of the zoning code completed last summer. Buildings in the B-1 zoning district were incorrectly shown as limited to 1½ stories, rather than 2½ stories.

- A workshop scheduled for Wednesday (Jan. 25) to review details and answer questions about the residential parking permit program will now take place on Feb. 7. Applications are available at coldspringny.gov and will be mailed to residents who qualify. The restrictions will apply Friday through Sunday and on holidays; enforcement will begin in March.

- At the Jan. 10 meeting, Mayor Kathleen Foley noted that the previous few days of snow and rain had been “hard on everyone,” but especially highway and facilities workers. Foley said a crew of two was able to handle the weekend snow, working through the night on Jan. 6. The flooding later in the week caused more trouble, although “the village fared better than expected,” Foley said. With damage limited to the lower village and Cedar Street at the east end, Cold Spring, she said, has learned from recent storms, including torrential rains in July; and was better prepared. “The preventive measures we took, such as catch-basin clearing, extensive sandbagging and proactive pumping,” helped minimize damage on Cedar Street, she said. “It was amazing; a wall of water came down through the Nelsonville Woods.”

- Cold Spring Police Department Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke warned residents to be wary of tax-season phone scams from people who claim to represent the IRS or a bank and ask for personal and financial information. Burke said he was notified in December by M&T Bank of an unusually large cash withdrawal. It turned out to be a scam in which a resident received a call alleging that a family member needed $15,000 to be released from court. The Putnam County Sheriff’s Department was notified and, using undercover officers, arrested the courier who arrived to claim the cash.

For more notes, see highlandscurrent.org.

A Patterson man is accused of trapping squirrels and painting them red. Putnam County SPCA

Kingston: Molinaro to Run for Second Term

Marc Molinaro, the former Dutchess County executive serving his first term in the U.S. House representing the 19th District, announced Jan. 12 that he plans to run for re-election this fall.

The Republican will again face Democrat Josh Riley, whom he defeated in 2021 with 51 percent of the vote. But the boundaries could change after the state’s highest court in December ruled that the congressional maps must be redrawn. The Independent Redistricting Commission must present its proposed map to the Legislature by Feb. 28.

New Paltz: Boards Will Consider Merger

The boards of the town and village of New Paltz are scheduled to begin talks at a joint meeting on Wednesday (Jan. 24) about whether to consolidate. The issue would be placed on the November ballot, reported the Daily Freeman.

According to the proposal, after a merger one person would serve as town supervisor and village mayor, and a single board of trustees would be elected.

The building departments, code enforcement offices, planning and zoning administration, buildings and grounds offices, highway departments, financial administration and clerks’ offices would be combined. The town and village already share an assessor, fire company, police and court.
LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Tell us what you think

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

Hudson Line flooding

When the trains were stopped on Jan. 13 between Garrison and Beacon because of flooding, the MTA TrainTime app finally informed us at Cold Spring that buses would be substituted. But there were no details, and no announcements. Fortunately, an MTA police officer came by and advised everyone there were express buses from Croton-Harmon or Beacon.

I chose to go to Beacon and found the buses were actually shuttling between Beacon and Cortlandt. But there were only two buses running and they would be at least 45 minutes away. I decided to get back in my car and drive to Croton. I passed the buses south of Cold Spring, on their way back to Beacon. Other people decided to share cabs to Croton, at $20 per head.

I found a parking spot at Croton that was not underwater. Local service proceeded south from there. I got in close to noon. On the way back, after 5 p.m., service was close to normal, except I had to drive from Croton to the west parking lot should be closed and drivers should be allowed to park in any available space in any part of the lot.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Metro-North have been heavily subsidized by the state. In addition, Dutchess County is part of the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District, which means that employers must pay the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility tax. Borrowers in the district are also subject to an additional 0.27 percent mortgage tax, which is equal to $270 for every $100,000 borrowed.

Given the limited service that Dutchess County receives from Metro-North, and the extra taxes paid, the least we can expect is vehicles not being flooded at the train station.

Jonathon Jacobson, Albany

Jacobson’s district in the state Assembly includes Beacon.

Thanks to community

There is so much I want to say, and so many people to thank. I will do all of it soon. It’s hard right now to think straight.

From every family member, we thank our Homestyle Bakery customers, strangers and loved ones in our communities in Peekskill, Philipstown and Cortlandt Manor; the Haldane and Garrison school districts; New York State troopers; Cortlandt Manor, Garrison, Continental Village fire departments; Peekskill and Garrison ambulance corps; and staff at the Westchester Medical Center.

We truly appreciate all the prayers from all over the world. It helps so much and my daughter, Theresa, is fighting every single day to get better. Thank you for the cards, texts, gift cards, donations and phone calls.

The love and support has been more than anything we could ever imagine. Thank you all so much.

Laura Timmons, Garrison

Theresa Timmons, 16, a junior at Haldane High School, was critically injured in a car crash on Dec. 15 and remains hospitalized at the Westchester Medical Center.

Shoveling memories

Your article regarding the young people who used the snow to their profit brings back memories for us “old-timers” who many years ago used it for the same purpose (“More Snow, Please,” Jan. 12). Until I read your story, I had thought kids were not interested anymore.

When I was a kid, the moment the first flake fell, we were all over the villages with our shovels (metal — no plastic in those days) knocking on doors or helping drivers get their cars unstuck.

One particularly profitable place was the traffic light on Main Street. As cars stopped at the light, then attempted to resume when it turned green, the problems with rear-wheel drive made it clear that we had a client in hand (almost nobody had four-wheel drive). After spinning their wheels for a moment or two, the drivers saw us ready, willing and able to help, for a slight remuneration. With those big heavy old cars, sometimes the efforts of numerous people were needed. Then it was off to help the snowed-in homeowners.

Anthony Merante, Cold Spring

Growing up, I ate a lot of Cold Spring pizza and bought a lot of trading cards and jerseys shoveling snow in the village.

Robbie Cissney, via Facebook

COVID samples

Just saw this article while I was eating breakfast (“Local Sewage Tests High for COVID Virus,” Jan. 12). Good timing.

Brent Lagerman, via Instagram

(Continued on Page 5)
County Legislator Will Challenge Rolison

Yvette Valdés Smith represents part of Beacon.

Valdés Smith, a Democrat, is the minority leader in the county Legislature. Rolison, a Republican and former mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, won the seat in 2022.

Landing (from Page 1)

the federal American Rescue Plan Act to pay for the connection.

Despite the upfront cost, the line will save Philipstown money. Trucking in water costs $25,000 to $30,000 a month, said Flaherty. Under state law, the fees collected from the 84 water district customers for operations and maintenance are capped at $20,000 annually; the town has been spending reserve funds to cover costs.

Flaherty said the goal is to have the new water source connected before the Highland Lakes golf course reopens in the spring. “It’s going to feel great when it works, and it will be great to have the new source there,” he said.

“Gaza protest

We will continue to put a damper on all of Rep. Pat Ryan’s public appearances until he calls for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza (“Duly Sworn,” Jan. 12). There is hope that Beacon’s new City Council will lead by example and adopt its own resolution, although it’s not promising when the city administrator forcefully prevents constituents from silently protesting.

Donna Minkowitz, via Instagram

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Town halls

It’s about time (“Lawler Ends Restrictions at Town Halls,” Jan. 12). There is no reason to keep the press out of town halls.

What is Rep. Mike Lawler afraid of?

Mary Boyle, via Instagram

Gaza protest

We continue to put a damper on all of Rep. Pat Ryan’s public appearances

“We stand united for affordability, the protection of reproductive rights, the growth of our local economy, the advancement of education, and the preservation of our environment,” Valdés Smith said in a statement on Wednesday (Jan. 17) that announced she has raised $50,000 for her campaign.

The legislator, who lives in Fishkill, said she has been endorsed by the Communications Workers of America, Vote Mama, Rep. Pat Ryan, former Comptroller Robin Loist and District Attorney Anthony Parisi.

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MLK Jr. Essay Winners

Each year, the Southern Dutchess Coalition and the Beacon Sloop Club celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a parade, program and essay contest. For the 10th annual contest, the groups invited students in Beacon to respond to a quote from Dr. King: “Only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear. I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” Below are excerpts from the six winning essays. Each student received a $50 prize donated by Rhinebeck Bank.

From left: Evan Pantojas, Sam Mack, Suvi O’Shea, Conan O’Shea and Syeira Kozlik. They are shown with Matt Bowen and Bonnie Champion, contest chairs. Kevin Boyle is not pictured.

I love the game “Would You Rather?” You are given a choice between two things and you pick one and explain why you picked it. Martin Luther King’s “Would You Rather?” question is: Would you rather love or hate people who treat you badly? Hate is a poison! Martin Luther King said love is a weapon. Maybe it’s also a tool, used to inspire people and change their minds.

Conan O’Shea
Grade 2, Sargent Elementary

A lot of whites hated Martin Luther King. Like Gandhi, he believed hate and anger was not the answer. You can pick love which is a good option. Bitterness is bad and hatred is the worst. Fear is not very bad but I wouldn’t pick it. What you choose will change you and give you a reputation. I know some people who choose hate. I know people who choose bitterness, fear, and hate and now they have a reputation for that. But once I see them change, I will help them change. This may affect my own life because I choose love.

Evan Pantojas
Grade 5, Glenham Elementary

What I think the beginning of this quote means is that everyone is too focused on hatred. Maybe it is time to start forgiving. You should always forgive and if you do you will realize that loving is 100 percent better than hatred because inside everyone needs at least a little love. One little thing from someone makes a whole big difference. Even the toughest people need some love. The next time you see someone in distress or depressed give them some love and care. There are so many people who are sad, hurt, depressed and angry. They can use a little bit of love. When you have love in your heart, it frees you and lets you live.

Sam Mack
Grade 5, Glenham Elementary

How can you resist temptation to hate people who are so cruel? Loving people doesn’t necessarily mean liking them. It doesn’t necessarily mean being nice to them, either. What Martin Luther King is talking about is not a “nice” or a “polite” kind of love. It’s a strong love, and, as he says, “a demanding love.” He demands human decency, instead of demanding the suffering of humans who are not decent. Love should not be understood as a weakness.

Dr. King said in the same speech, “I’ve seen too much hate on the faces of sheriffs in the South. ... Every time I see it, I know that it does something to their faces and their personalities.” I haven’t seen those faces, but I picture a scrunched up, distorted, ugly mask over their face. Martin Luther King Jr. did not want to destroy the violent people who wanted to kill him. If he did, he’d be an assassin or murderer. He wanted to destroy the violent ideas they spread. He saw that love was the only way to do it. “Darkness cannot put out darkness, only light can do that.”

Syeira Kozlik
Grade 9, Beacon High School

If Martin Luther King did not say this, I might not have gotten the opportunity to have some of the friends I have now. They could have been sent away to a different school. Some could have been sent to a different state. If Dr. King did not say this, people could have lived shortened lives or they could have been abused their whole lives. Speak for what is right. We are all human; we all have rights. We must stand up for these rights. We have the right to equality. We have the right to justice. We are human beings, and we should act like it.

Kevin Boyle
Grade 5, Glenham Elementary

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Real Estate

Market Report (December)

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First Step (from Page 1)

Sargent, safety access routes, bathroom measurements and the district's electrical bills, to name a few of the requirements. “It was complicated because it’s not a language I normally speak,” Chadwell Dennis said. Half a dozen staff members from the state Education Department met with her on Zoom calls for months to help prepare the application. The approval letter arrived Aug. 25, a week before school began. “We are more prepared this year with learning disabilities in Beacon than the five in English’s class, but Chadwell Dennis said creating it was an important first step. “To a family of a 4-year-old experiencing learning difficulties, this class is like a gift,” said Superintendent Matt Landahl.

‘Like a classroom family’

On a sunny but cold Tuesday morning in December, English led the class through its morning meeting. The students, who are all 4 years old, briefly discussed the weather before beginning warm-up exercises. Following the teacher’s lead, the children played head-shoulders-knees-and-toes and then transitioned to jumping jacks.

To a family of a 4-year-old experiencing learning difficulties, this class is like a gift.

– Superintendent Matt Landahl

From there, they worked on the alphabet. English read a poem filled with “Q words” and the students took turns circling uppercase and lowercase Qs on a flip chart.

English admits she was nervous when Chadwell Dennis and Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi approached her last spring about leading the class. The idea for an integrated classroom is to keep the children with learning disabilities from feeling isolated while exposing general-education children to classmates with diverse needs.

Together, the children are learning basic concepts, such as sounds, letters and color within the lines, as well as how to clean up after themselves and treat others with respect, “almost like a classroom family,” English said.

Speech therapists visit three times every week, and occupational therapists twice weekly, to supplement English’s instruction and work privately with students who have individualized education program (IEP) plans tailored for their disabilities.

Other than the therapists’ visits, “it doesn’t appear like there’s anything different happening,” said Biordi. “But what people don’t see is the expertise in differentiating instruction.”

English and Jeanine Cruz, her teacher’s aide, also work with the children on sharing and communication skills. For example, if two children want to play with the same toy, they’ll use an hourglass to remember when it’s time to share with the classmate. Coping skills and self-regulation will be necessary next year in kindergarten, when the students will expand on the letters, rhyming and counting they’ve learned.

“If we can teach them to recognize how they’re feeling, to communicate with their peers and be kind human beings, those are the things they’re going to need throughout school,” English said. “The letters and sounds — that will all come.”

She noted that she knew the class was working when she heard one child politely ask another if they could take turns with a puzzle. “They’re trying, and that makes me happy to see that they are using the tools that you’re teaching them,” she said.

Ryan said her son has found the “niched space” he needed. “They’ve created a safe space for him to work through his challenges without as much of a risk of something going wrong,” she said.

She was quick to clarify that it hasn’t been “all roses and peaches” in the classroom. If her son drops a toy on the ground, for example, and a classmate picks it up for him, he is still prone to perceive that as the classmate taking the toy away from him, which could lead to an outburst.

But because of the small class size, English or Cruz can note what’s happening, watch her son for cues and report back to her.

“That way I can more effectively beat the same drum” regarding emotional regulation and coping when he’s at home, she said.

Ryan’s long-term goal is for her son to help choose his educational path — whether that’s in a school for special-needs students or in an integrated setting. But before that can happen, she needs to see that he can consistently apply the healthy protocols he’s learning at Sargent.

“I want him to have a choice, but I can’t give him that until I see that he’s in a good place to make a choice.”

– Shawna Ryan

A daunting task

Since starting the program, Chadwell Dennis has had administrators from many other districts call for advice on wading through the state’s application process. “When they see how big it is — the application itself is a barrier to these programs,” she said.

She still feels anxiety, as well. “It takes a lot of trust and I don’t want to let anyone down,” she said. “I’m feeling a little bit like I’m in the hot seat. But I believe all children have the right to the most inclusive educational setting, and Beacon supports that at a very high level.”

Beacon Church (from Page 1)

A lack of parking, especially for older members, precipitated the move that will not be an issue at Lamplight Street, which the church purchased. The two-story, 12,000-square-foot brick building has 79 spaces.

Star of Bethlehem, which has been worshiping at 9 Hanna Lane in Beacon, could be ready to hold its first service at the new building before spring, said its pastor, the Rev. Daniel Blackburn. With the Planning Board approval, the church can begin renovations, he said.

In pursuit of a new home, Star of Bethlehem lost out on a bid for the Reformed Church of Beacon building on Wolcott Avenue, which the congregation sold to a company that is developing the property into Prophecy Hall, a hotel and event space projected to open as early as 2025. The congregation also looked at a property in Wappinger.

In recent years, the previous owner of 37 Lamplight St. had marketed the building and its 2 acres as a prime location for a brewery, highlighting the site’s capacity to cater events for up to 200 people on the second floor, a 160-seat bar and restaurant on the first floor and a full kitchen on the basement level.

Fareground, which used to be a neighbor of the church on Hanna Lane, will benefit from the kitchen’s two walk-in coolers and its walk-in freezer.

Those amenities are “a game changer for us in terms of the amount of food we’re able to take in,” said Jamie Levato, its executive director. The organization has been operating out of a house on Cross Street in Beacon.

“We really need this space,” she said. “We are often offered a large amount of produce donations, especially in the harvest season.”

In addition to distributing food from local farms and the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Fareground operates a network of 11 “tiny food pantries” and two community refrigerators.

The kitchen’s appliances represent “huge potential” for Fareground, said Levato. “We will be working on getting the kitchen up and running at some point.”

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She still feels anxiety, as well. “It takes a lot of trust and I don’t want to let anyone down,” she said. “I’m feeling a little bit like I’m in the hot seat. But I believe all children have the right to the most inclusive educational setting, and Beacon supports that at a very high level.”
EARLY VISION — Members of the Cold Spring Lions Club recently visited two local preschools — The Nest and Foundry Montessori — to conduct screenings for vision problems that can lead to amblyopia, or “lazy eye.” Here, Carol Zaccara tests a child.

SHARP SHOOTERS — Eight boys and girls advanced to the district competition after winning their age divisions on Jan. 12 at the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship at the Philipstown Recreation Center. The annual event is sponsored by the Loretto Council No. 536. Front row, from left: Elizabeth Sexton (age 9), Jay Steltz (9), Winter Steltz (10); back row: Natalia Corless (11), Alain Swan (11), Lughan McIlwaine (12), Jack Fitzgerald (13) and Diarmuid Cotter (10).

TOYS FOR TOTS — The Beacon Engine Co. on Jan. 13 presented $650 it raised for the Marine Corps Reserve’s annual Toys for Tots program. The volunteer firefighters have been supporting Toys for Tots for 30 years to remember John Houghtlin, a former company member. Shown are Mike Angeloni and Joe Green from the Beacon Engine Co. with Sgt. Isaiah Calmese.

Photos provided
The Highlands Current

January 19, 2024

The Calendar

Local Playwright Revives 1983 Award Winner

Garrison resident will direct production at Depot Theatre

By Alison Rooney

Last summer, Hershberger — who retired to Garrison in 2018 with his husband, Kevin Green, after the couple had lived in Brooklyn for 26 years — read his 1983 work with fresh eyes. “It felt real and true for me,” he says. He asked a few people to read it and shared it with Amy Dul and Nancy Swann of the Depot Theatre.

Their response was to ask whether he wanted to do a reading or a full production. “I asked them who they had in mind to design the set and to direct it,” Hershberger recalls. “They said, ‘You design it, and we’ll build it.’ An incredible designer, Dana Kenn, painted the floor, and it’s so spectacular.”

Set in the early 20th century, the play centers on two women, each nearly 80 years old, who bucked convention in their 20s and bought a farm together. As one prepares to die, they share their last hours together, recalling their younger selves. The story is set against a backdrop of pacifist Mennonite culture clashing with the looming World War I.

(Continued on Page 13)

An Evening of Heavy Metal

The Yard to host festival of live music, art and weed

By Alison Rooney

This past November, singer Julia Zivic, who works at The Yard in Beacon; Brianne McDowell, its general manager, and Jason Hughes, its owner, hosted First Frost, which featured music, ink (tattoos) and art-making in a communal hangout full of good cheer amid bonfire warmth.

At the event, Noah Mandia mentioned to Zivic that his Beacon heavy metal band, Low Fiction, wanted to perform at The Yard. She passed the request to Hughes, and “it turns out Jason loves metal, which I hadn’t known.”

That led to a brainstorming session, which led to Heavy Metal Blaze: A Night of Cannabis, Music and Art, scheduled for Jan. 27.

“We’re always trying to find ways to connect with the community,” says Zivic. “Beacon lacks a great music venue, and

(Continued on Page 13)
TALKS & TOURS

SUN 21
Singing the Body
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave, | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Amanda Higgs, a biologist whose art was shaped by the murder of their adoptive Jewish family in 1944. Cost: $20 ($20 seniors and students, $5 regional residents)

SAT 27
Jenny Howe
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock
97 Main St. | splitrockbks.com

In a talk with Virginia Sole-Smith, Howe will discuss her romance novel, On the Plus Side, about a woman who gets picked for a makeover show and finds love. RSVP requested.

SAT 27
Play Sets
BEACON
10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diart.org

With families with children ages 5 and older invited to explore the galleries; in this session, Dia educators will focus on Robert Irwin’s work. The subject of the session on SAT 27 will be Maren Hassinger and on SUN 28, Andy Warhol. Free

SAT 20
Frozen
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

Children ages 5 and older are invited to design sparkly globes to take home. Registration required.

SAT 27
StarLab
CORNWALL
10 & 11 a.m., Noon & 1 p.m.
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnm.org

This play by Keith Hershberger is appeared 10 times on The Tonight Show. Cost: $74+

SAT 20
Beacon's West End Story
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

This will be the closing reception for the project, which portrays the neighborhood before it was altered by urban renewal.

SAT 27
Endangered Sturgeon in the Hudson
COLD SPRING
3 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Amanda Higgs, a biologist who works with the Department of Environmental Conservation fisheries, will talk about restoring the endangered fish, which has existed for 130 million years. Cost: $7.50 donation

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

SUN 21
Environmental Town Hall
DUTCHESS COUNTY
7 p.m. Via Zoom | dchshny.org/jan25
Dana Levenberg, whose state Assembly district includes Philipstown, will discuss legislation related to climate action and answer questions.

SAT 27
Climatization
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children ages 4 to 10 will hear the stories of reptiles who needed a human helper, as well as meet a snake. Registration required.

THURS 25
3D Printer Club
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children and teens ages 10 and older can design projects for printing and learn how it works. Registration required.

SAT 27
Beach Town Live
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Amanda Higgs, a biologist who works with the Department of Environmental Conservation fisheries, will talk about restoring the endangered fish, which has existed for 130 million years.

TUES 23
Baby Storytime
GARRISON
10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

Babies and toddlers and their caregivers will be introduced to stories, songs and bounces that highlight early literacy development.

TUES 23
Balloon Machines
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Experiment with balloons as a power source. Registration required.

TUES 23
Hudson Valley Reptile & Rescue
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children ages 4 to 10 will hear the stories of reptiles who needed a human helper, as well as meet a snake. Registration required.

SAT 27
Make Your Own: Snow Globes
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 5 and older are invited to design sparkly globes to take home. Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 20
Nate Bargatze
POUGHKEEPSIE
4 & 8 p.m. MJ Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonsoniviccenter.org

The comedian recently hosted Saturday Night Live and has appeared 10 times on The Tonight Show. Cost: $74+

SUN 21
Dinosaur World Live
WEST POINT
3 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Meet lifelike dinosaurs during this interactive prehistoric tour. Cost: $85

WED 24
Forrest Gump
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Harrison Ave | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This play by Keith Hershberger is based on the story by Winston Groom. Cost: $20 (1 child per adult)

SAT 27
Makerspace Open House
COLD SPRING
10 – 11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave, | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Find out about all the projects you can make in the library’s creator lab. Registration required.

SAT 27
Eagle Viewing At Boscobel
POUGHKEEPSIE
9:30 a.m. Boscobel House & Gardens
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonsoniviccenter.org

Meet eagles in this outdoor celebration. Cost: $19, children under 12 are free.

FRI 26
The Watched Pot
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Harrison Ave | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This play by Keith Hershberger is based on the story by Winston Groom. Cost: $20 (1 child per adult)

(Continued on Page 11)
about two unconventional women who look back on their lives as one lays dying. See Page 9. Also SAT 27, SUN 28, FRI 2, SAT 3, SUN 4.

Cost: $25

SAT 27
Met HD: Carmen
POUGHKEEPSIE
1 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org
The opera, staged in the present day and presented in a high-definition simulcast, stars Aigul Akhmetshina in the lead and Piotr Bezzala as Carmen’s lover. Cost: $30 ($28 members, $23 ages 12 and younger)

SUN 28
Hairspray
WEST POINT
5 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com
In this Tony-award winning musical set in the 1960s, Tracy Turnblad is determined to appear on a television dance show.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 20
Allie Tepper on Maren Hassinger
BEACON
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | diabeacon.org
Tepper, joined by the artist and curator Jordan Carter, will discuss Hassinger’s work that is on view at the museum. Free with admission. Cost: $20 ($18 seniors, $12 students, $5 children ages 5 to 11, Beacon residents free)

SAT 20
Wanted Dead AND Alive
BEACON
4 – 8 p.m. Changolife Arts
211 Fishkill Ave. | changolifearts.com
The Cuban artist Sheyla’s first solo show will include mixed technique works. Sheyla, 20, is a graduate of the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro in Havana.

SAT 20
Member Show
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
During this annual show, see work in all mediums. Through Feb. 4.

FRI 26
Drawing Night
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Split Rock
97 Main St. | splitrockbks.com
Bring your own materials and draw with the Eisner-nominated cartoonist Summer Pierre. Cost: $5

SAT 27
What the Flock
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co
The group show will feature works depicting birds by more than 30 artists. Through Feb. 2.

MUSIC

SAT 20
Tony McManus and Bruce Molsky
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The musical reunion will feature McManus, a Celtic guitarist, and Molsky, known for his interpretations of Southern Appalachian music on fiddle, banjo and guitar. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

THURS 25
Latin Dance Jam
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Beacon Dance Beat will play a variety of rhythmic styles, including salsa, merengue, bachata, cha-cha, rumba, bolero and MAS. Cost: $10 (members free)

FRI 26
Chris Trapper
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter plays acoustic guitar and tells stories through his performance. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 27
Paper Sun
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band plays the music of Traffic from the 1960s and ’70s. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

CIVIC

MON 22
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-9890 | beaconk12.org
The meeting will include a public hearing on a proposal to eliminate minimum parking requirements.

TUES 23
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Middle School
15 Craige Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org
Rescheduled from TUES 16.

WED 24
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Jan. 20 | 1:00 – 3:00p.m.
392 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Immerse yourself in the artistic ambiance of this 2-bedroom, 1 bath cottage nestled on a wooded lot overlooking a serene stream. Ideal location near the heart of Cold Spring offering easy access to vibrant art scenes, boutique shops, scenic trails, schools, and Metro-North. This turn-key home is fully updated and is perfect for a full-time residence or weekend getaway.

For more information contact:
Charlotte Brooks, Owner & Principal Broker
House Finch Realty
917-951-2241 charlotte@housefinchrealty.com
Small, Good Things

Provençal Comfort

By Joe Dizney

I’m just going to blame it all on Champêtre in Pine Plains.

This unassuming Gallic boîte rekindled an infatuation with unapologetically classic yet unabashedly authentic French food. The passion was originally ignited for me in the 1990s at Chef Michel Jean’s cozy Champêtre in SoHo.

In 2006, he and his wife, Patricia, decamped to open Stissing House in Pine Plains until it was time in 2021 to get back to their Provençal roots — steak tartare, duck confit with lentils, perfect seafood — with Champêtre.

I fell into a Proustian reverie thinking about the possibilities; the last time I was there, it was the cassoulet (which prompted last month’s recipe). A lively conversation with Chef Michel got me thinking about the brandade he would offer for the holidays, and the recent cold snap forced me into action.

Traditional brandade de morue comes from the Languedoc-Rousillon province of France, specifically the town of Nîmes, where cod and the preserved version, salt cod or morue, were the primary seafoods.

Brandade is an emulsion of this reconstituted salt cod and olive oil, with the possible addition of potatoes, garlic and/or cream. It’s a luxurious treat for winter holidays — the most extravagant version in Nîmes is augmented with truffles.

Even at its most basic, brandade served as a warm spread on garlic toast with a simple green salad is comfort food along the lines of raclette or fondu.

I should address confusion between salt cod (morue in French, bacalà in Italian) and stockfish (stockfisch or poisson stocké in French, stoccàfisò in Italian). Salt cod is made from North Atlantic cod, which is flattened, packed in salt and dried. Stockfish is the product of much colder climates, particularly the northern Atlantic, and is as much fermented as dried, making it closer to cheese than salt cod.

While useful in some recipes, it is no replacement for salt cod, particularly in brandade. In other words, don’t try this at home — or anywhere else.

To reconstitute salt cod, the heavy surface salt is rinsed off and the fish is soaked in fresh water for two or three days, with frequent changes. The flesh is simmered in water and spices (the addition of milk will mellow the fishiness) and can be used in soups, stews and casseroles much in the same way you would use fresh cod.

While the common professional wisdom is that salt cod from Scandinavia, the Netherlands or Spain is superior, I find Canadian versions to be “fresher.”

Brandade de Morue

Serves 8 to 10 as an appetizer

1-to-1½ pounds salt cod

1 cup whole milk

5 whole cloves garlic, plus 2 minced and reserved

3 sprigs fresh thyme

1 bay leaf

½ pound whole russet potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks

1¼ cups extra-virgin olive oil

½ cup milk, half-and-half or heavy cream (depending on your fat tolerance)

Kosher salt and freshly ground white pepper

Zest and juice of ½ lemon

2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, chopped fine

Garlic crostini for serving (see recipe note)

1. Rinse the surface salt from the cod under cold running water. Soak the filets in cold water in the refrigerator for at least two hours, drain and repeat in fresh cold water. This process needs to be done at least 4 to 5 more times before finally draining and patting the cod pieces dry.

2. Place cod in a medium saucepan and cover with cold, unsalted water. Add the milk, 5 whole cloves garlic, the thyme and bay leaf to the pan. Over medium-high heat, bring to a solid simmer and cook for 15 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove cod from the simmering pan and reserve to a small bowl.

3. Add potatoes to the still simmering saucepan and cook until easily pierced with a fork, about 30 to 45 minutes. While the potatoes cook, flake salt cod by hand with a fork, discarding any bones and silvery membranes.

When the potatoes are done, drain, discarding seasoning; in another bowl mash well using a food mill, ricer or potato masher until smooth. Reserve.

4. Transfer cod to a stand mixer fitted with the wire whisk or food processor; add the minced garlic and lemon zest and juice. With the mixer running at medium-high speed, drizzle in olive oil until incorporated. Drizzle in milk, half-and-half or cream until incorporated and fluffy. Add mashed potatoes and whip just long enough to incorporate. Adjust with salt and freshly ground white pepper to taste.

6. Serve brandade, garnished with minced parsley, at room temperature, or warm (as shown): Transfer to an oven-safe dish and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes until lightly browned on top. Serve with a lightly dressed, leafy green salad and warm baguette garlic crostini.

Note: To make garlic crostini, heat oven to 375 degrees. In a very small saucepan or butter warmer, heat ½ cup olive oil with 4 cloves of garlic, minced fine. When it starts to simmer, remove from the heat. Slice a good baguette at a 45-degree angle into long oval slices about ¼-inch thick. Lay them on a sheet pan and brush each with the garlic-infused olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and freshly ground black pepper and bake until they are lightly browned (no more than 10 minutes). Can be made ahead and stored in an airtight container.
Tension is provided by waiting — and unwelcome — family members. Only a 16-year-old nephew has genuine affection for the women and their relationship; he faces a coming-out process of his own.

Ultimately, “it’s an uplifting story of hope and resilience, with a lot of heartening interaction between the characters,” says Hershberger, who is directing. Each time it was produced, “it inspired people to tell me their stories.”

The story was inspired, in part, by Hershberger’s experiences growing up in Michigan. “When I was 10, my father came home from work as furnace man in Flint,” he says. “He had serviced the home of two women who lived as man and wife, which piqued my interest, trying to imagine their lives.”

In Rochester, Hershberger produced 21 plays for the Comundrum Players, which he founded. “I was invited to start a theater” at the church, he says. “It was a theatrical ministry: no preaching. We did secular shows.” He also acted and built sets for 17 productions as president of the Gratiot County Players.

Hershberger has written six plays and a musical. The first play, Home for Thanksgiving, is about a young man who comes home after attempting suicide. He is unsure how to talk to his parents about being gay.

“It was important to me to start telling these stories,” Hershberger says. “I was late in coming out — 27 — and I decided I wanted to help young people so they wouldn’t feel so alone.”

His other plays include Garage, about a 17-year-old boy who lives in an abandoned garage hustling to make a living (his girlfriend is unaware) and Cornucopia, about a gay couple with children who are visited by a long-distant brother who reveals that he has AIDS.

After moving to Philipstown, the first production that Hershberger saw at the Depot Theatre was Phil Geoffrey Bond’s My Queer Youth, “which helped me become part of the community, particularly the theater community, right away.”

The cast of The Watched Pot is Sybil Bell, Tyler Dehm, Patricia Fischer, Stephanie Hepburn, Elaine Llewellyn, Lucia Petty, Naomi Vogt, Amalia Timm and Laurence Wallace. Thai Dodge is the stage manager.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre was Phil Geoffrey Bond’s production that Hershberger saw at the Depot Theatre. It has been his inspiration. “It inspired me to start my own theater.”

The cast of The Watched Pot is Sybil Bell, Tyler Dehm, Patricia Fischer, Stephanie Hepburn, Elaine Llewellyn, Lucia Petty, Naomi Vogt, Amalia Timm and Laurence Wallace. Thai Dodge is the stage manager.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison’s Landing. The Watched Pot will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday over two weekends beginning Jan. 26. Tickets are $25 ($20 for seniors and students) at bit.ly/watched-pot.

Hershberger Photo by Linda Mire Speciale

Heavy Metal (from Page 9)

there are many bands that have no space” to perform.

Heavy Metal Blaze began as a concert but “we thought a lot of metalheads in Beacon classify themselves as ‘stoner metal’ and realized it would be fun to fuse the two — metal and cannabis,” Zivic says. “This night is about bringing together the cannabis community, the heavy-metal community and the music community in general. We want to attract people who are curious; there’s an art show, snacks, weed, a bonfire. We want to showcase how we can all come together.”

The alcohol-free festivities will begin at 4 p.m., rain or shine, when VIP ticket holders are welcome to collect a package that includes a joint, a THC-infused canned cocktail and a chillum glass pipe, “pre-packed to provide a couple of hits,” Zivic says. The packages will be assembled by Flower Hour, a group of “weed curators interested in normalizing mindful consumption,” she says.

General admission begins at 5:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be offered for sale at indoor tents, and vintage Nintendo and Sega Genesis games will be available for free play. Throughout, Sean Donovan will demonstrate and create art and signs.

At 6 p.m., Purple Lung, a “stonerdoom” metal band from Pennsylvania, will take the stage. It will be followed at 7 p.m. by Low Fiction — Mandia on guitar, Jack Kolodziejski on vocals and guitar, Bryan Caprari on bass and John Scelezo on drums — and at 8 p.m. by Shadow Witch from Kingston.

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January 19, 2024

13
Haldane Model U.N. Draws Ambassadors

Membership jumps after Connecticut conference
By Jude Morrison

When students from Haldane High School’s Model U.N. club traveled in November to the University of Connecticut’s annual Model United Nations conference, they documented the overnight trip on Instagram.

Those photos did more than just highlight a trip that included debates on real-world issues and simulations of U.N. committee meetings. They became a recruiting tool, according to club President Gabe Lunin-Pack and Treasurer Trajan McCarthy.

More than 15 students have joined the club in recent months, they said, many of them attracted by the photos Model U.N. members posted of their stay in Connecticut and competitions they participated in.

During the three-day conference, more than 1,000 students from schools in the Northeast assumed the roles of delegates to the U.N. and debated and attempted to resolve real-world problems.

Lunin-Pack joined Haldane’s club in 2020 and convinced McCarthy to join the following year.

The club is a “social and fun experience while remaining education-centric,” said Lunin-Pack.

It “teaches good lessons on being respectful to those with different opinions than yours,” said McCarthy. He added that arguing the ideals and principles of a country you might not agree with teaches how to view topics from different angles and viewpoints.

Members meet every Wednesday, and have practice debates during lunch periods. Lunin-Pack said he spent about eight hours preparing for the conference in Connecticut; McCarthy said he devoted five hours. During the bus ride to the university, they crammed in last-minute preparations.

At the conference, Lunin-Pack represented the U.S. on the Security Council committee, which examines past world crises and attempts to pass resolutions to address them. This year the conflict centered on the Suez Canal, a waterway in Egypt that is an important route for commercial shipping.

“\nThe club teaches good lessons on being respectful to those with different opinions than yours.\n
~ Trajan McCarthy\n
Lunin-Pack said he has learned to “combine history and debating tactics while working with others.” His experience with the club has led to a “better understanding of the historical context” of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, he said.

The Model U.N. club hopes to use its recent boom in membership to attend more conferences, such as those planned at Yale University, Dalton High School in Manhattan and in Washington, D.C.

Jude Morrison, who lives in Garrison, is a junior at St. Regis High School in New York City and a member of The Current’s Student Journalists Program.

Endless Questions
Beacon bars challenge with trivia

By Marc Ferris

If you think you know it all, there are plenty of bar stools in Beacon where you can prove it: At least seven taverns in the city and vicinity run weekly or monthly trivia nights.

For the hosts, the currency lies in the questions. Some skew toward the familiar, such as: “What is the name of the popular Russian ballet that takes place during Christmas?” Others are more obscure: “Name Santa’s super sled engine in the film *Elf*.”

There can be no repeats, insists Eddie Daniels, who runs Connecticut-based Immodest Trivia and organizes a weekly event at Industrial Arts Brewing hosted by Janine Rodriguez.

“If I use a question from two years ago, my regulars will remember it, so they have to be fresh and well-written,” said Daniels. “People can see through uninspired questions.”

While most hosts call out questions over a loudspeaker or distribute images of celebrities, paintings or famous buildings, Rodriguez displays her queries on a screen. One staple is to play a handful of songs to be identified by title and artist.

Mike Burdge of Story Screen hosts a monthly film- and video-oriented trivia contest at three locations: Obercreek Brewing in Wappinger’s Falls and Draught Industries and Pillow & Oats in Beacon.

Players form teams, usually with a limit of six, adopt funky names and try to win prizes. The teams write down and submit their responses after each round and groans usually accompany the announcement of the answers. Cellphone consults are forbidden.

Hosts take a break between rounds to score the answer sheets, like teachers grading an exam. Last month at Pillow & Oats, that gave beer-tender Alexa Akselband an opportunity to turn up the music as her husband, Erik Akselband, filled in for the regular host, Eric Newberger. One round centered on bestselling toys from 1995, such as: “If you do not cater to this toy, it will die.”

For many players, the reason to attend trivia nights is not to show off — it’s to socialize. “It’s something to do during the week and get out of the house,” says Christine Wightman, who was playing at Pillow & Oats with a team of six. “We could just have a conversations, but trivia is fun and it makes you think.”

Making the Rounds

Here is a list of regularly scheduled trivia nights. Denning’s Point Distillery also holds an event hosted by drag queen Pissi Myles a few times each year.

**TUESDAY**
- Happy Valley Arcade Bar, 6:30 p.m.
- Draught Industries (last of month), 7 p.m.
- Max’s on Main, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY**
- Obercreek Brewing, 6 p.m.
- Happy Valley Arcade Bar, 6:30 p.m.
- Two Way Brewing, 7:30 p.m.
- Pillow & Oats, 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY**
- Industrial Arts, 3 p.m.

Haldane Trivia

The Haldane School Foundation will hold its annual Trivia Night fundraiser at Industrial Arts on Jan. 27. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the trivia begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $80, or $640 per table. A bus will depart St. Mary’s Episcopal Church at 6:10 p.m. for $30 roundtrip. See haldaneschoolfoundation.org/events/trivia-night.
The building at 139 Rombout Ave., shown around 1908, nearly burned down in 1924.

The Wappingers Falls Chronicle called for the towns of Poughkeepsie and Fishkill to be divided, and a new town created, noting that Poughkeepsie had 20,000 people and six delegates on the county board, while Fishkill had 12,000 and one.

A musician who came to Fishkill Landing was arrested at the ferry station in Newburgh for a performance on the D.C.W. in a game of basketball. The home team prevailed, 9-6. The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News reported on a merchant who had formed a clothing club with 50 members who paid $1 ($37) per week. Each Tuesday evening, the merchant held a drawing and the winner received a suit worth $25 ($925) and left the club. The drawings would continue for 25 weeks, until 24 members had received suits at a cost of $1 to $24, and the 25 remaining would each receive a suit for the $25 they had invested.

While traveling by train along the Hudson, the Rev. Dr. Fritts of Fishkill Landing left his wallet with $60 ($2,200) on a seat. Five days later, an anonymous package arrived from a town in Ohio with the wallet and cash.

A Newburgh man and woman drowned while skating on the Hudson near Fishkill Landing. They were leading a group of friends when the ice cracked and they quickly sank out of sight.

Among the eight students receiving lessons at the private Mount Beacon Academy was a young Puerto Rican learning English. His father was a banker in Ponce.

Dr. D. Mandell, a chiropractor from New York City who specialized in chronic and nervous ailments, opened an office at 472 Main St.

Samuel Beskin, the former mayor, died at his home of a heart attack at age 59. He was born in Russia in 1864 and, at the age of 26 came to the U.S. to become a merchant and contractor. A Democrat, he was elected in 1917. All businesses in Beacon closed during his funeral, which was held at his home at 10 South Ave. and conducted by Rabbi Blatt of Newburgh.

Albin Boyce of Beacon, accused of abandoning his wife and five children, was arrested at the ferry station in Newburgh after being a fugitive for 14 months. After his arrest, Mrs. Boyce sued Louise Edgerton, a Newburgh widow, for alienation of her husband's affection, asking for $25,000 ($450,000) in damages.

Ludwig Ruf sued Beacon for $500 ($9,000), claiming its neglect had caused Asylum Brook to flood his gardens.

A county judge upheld the conviction of Antoni Brozowski on charges of operating a disorderly house where he sold whiskey. His attorney argued that witnesses only described seeing “something that looked like whiskey.”

(Continued on Page 17)
Charles Fisher, president of a toy block company based in New York City, purchased the estate of Charles Watson on Knwevels Avenue. Fisher planned to convert it into a studio for his firm's art department, which had 15 employees.

An amendment to the state constitution required Beacon and other cities to move their elections from March every other year to November of odd-numbered years.

With the temperature hovering around zero, fire nearly destroyed the Genuine Panama Hat Co. factory at 139 Rombout Ave. The building had previously housed four private schools between 1885 and 1920.

John Burns, the former superintendent of Hillcrest Farms in Beacon, was acquitted of carrying a concealed revolver. Three workers had alerted the owner of the farm, who filed a criminal complaint, but the judge cited a lack of evidence.

Dwight Clay made the game-winning shot when the Notre Dame team coached by Digger Phelps upset UCLA.

50 Years Ago (January 1974)
Beacon police arrested two men in connection with a burglary of a Church Street home and two teenagers accused of breaking into a dentist's office and a warehouse, where they stole a tape deck.

A representative from the Socialist Labor Party presented a lecture at St. Andrew's Church titled "Signs of Capitalist Collapse." Mayor Robert Cahill said the 50 row houses at the privately owned Groverville became a hazard for residents when the complex's owner, John Milano, closed the bridge over Fishkill Creek. The only other access to the community was from Mill Street, which was blocked whenever Penn Central trains passed by. Cahill said he hoped the freight line, which had been reactivated three years earlier, would be abandoned. He also noted that Tioronda Avenue was blocked at times by long freight trains as they proceeded slowly up the grade.

After missing three shots in the final 35 seconds against Kingston, junior Lewis Brown scored on a rebound with one second left to give Beacon a 68-67 home basketball win.

The change to Daylight Saving Time on Jan. 7 prompted the Board of Education to delay the start time at its six schools by 30 minutes so students would not have to walk in the dark.

Digger Phelps, 32, a Beacon High School graduate who coached the No. 2-ranked Notre Dame basketball team, led the Irish to a 71-70 win over No. 1 UCLA in South Bend, breaking the Bruins' 88-game winning streak. His father, Richard Phelps, an undertaker, said more than 400 people showed up at the family home to celebrate. Digger Phelps said he received many calls and telegrams, but one that stood out was from his high school English teacher, Margaret Forrestal.

25 Years Ago (January 1999)
Mayor Clara Gould, in an interview with The Poughkeepsie Journal, was optimistic about the city's future. "There's a much more upbeat attitude because people see we're moving along," she said. "But it's not easy. We're continuing to market the city — particularly the west end. It is a constant effort to have the retention and expansion of businesses."

Fugo Gomez, a native of Colombia who owned America's Bakery and Restaurant on Main Street, began a food and medicine drive for the victims of an earthquake there that killed more than 1,000 people.

Seventeen AmeriCorps volunteers with hatchets, chain saws and pruning shears cleared a section of Madam Brett Park of an invasive species known as ailanthus, or Tree of Heaven. The group was spending six weeks in the Hudson Valley working with Scenic Hudson. AmeriCorps was started by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to allow young adults to earn money for college through community service.

Current Classifieds

FOR RENT
BEACON — Private and professional offices for rent at 123 Rombout Ave. in a very quiet building with many amenities. Each of the offices includes electric, heat, 24-hour access with waiting lobby, kitchenette, off-street parking lot. You can combine offices for more space. All offices can accommodate multiple desks and employees. Center office is a conference room. Perfect for all therapists, designers, artists, accountants, attorneys. Flexible leases up to 1 year. Call/text 845-265-2330.

WANTED
GARAGE— Looking for a garage in the Cold Spring / Garrison / Nelsonville / Philipstown area to store antique car. Please call me at 646-207-5746.

SERVICES


DENTAL INSURANCE — Available from Physicians Mutual Insurance Co. Coverage for 350+ procedures. Real dental insurance — not just a discount plan. Call 866-564-2037 to get your free dental information kit with all the details, or visit dental50plus.com/current. #6258

PUBLISH YOUR BOOK — Dorrance Publishing has been trusted by authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive services: consultation, production, promotion and distribution. Call 855-879-7230 for your free author's guide or visit dorranceinfo.com/highlands.

FOR SALE
DON'T LOSE POWER — Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 631-498-7851 today to schedule a free quote. It’s not just a generator. It’s a power move.

VICTORY OVER STAIRS — Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide at 855-607-1518.

Kim Jackson (1960-2023)
Kim Lisa Jackson, 63, died Dec 30. She was born July 3, 1960, in Beacon, the daughter of Douglas and Pocahontas Jackson. Kim attended the Beacon City School District. She was a cheerleader in high school and graduated in 1976. Kim attended Dutchess Community College and worked for the New York State Bridge Authority. She later moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but returned to Beacon to care for her parents. She was a lifelong member of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. Kim had a bright smile and contagious laugh, her family said. She is survived by her son, Maxwell Mosley, her granddaughter, Madysin Dior Mosley, and her siblings, Carmen Smith, Tanya Horton, Barbara Anne Quinn, Christopher Horton and Douglas Jackson Jr. Her siblings Gloria Reed and Jack Pulliam died before her. She is also survived by her partner of 15 years, Curtis Thompson. A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday (Jan. 20) at St. Andrew’s, 51 South Ave. in Beacon.

Brian McConnachie (1942-2024)
Brian McConnachie, 81, a former Philipstown resident who wrote for National Lampoon and Saturday Night Live and founded and relaunched The American Bystander, died Jan 5 in Venice, Florida. Born on Dec. 23, 1942, McConnachie grew up in Forest Hills, Queens, and attended the LaSalle Military Academy on Long Island and the University of Dublin. After moving to New York, he began submitting cartoons to the National Lampoon. Soon after, the magazine offered him a job. He was hired away by Saturday Night Live and worked on its fourth season (1978-79), later contributing sketches.

He and his wife, Ann, moved to Garrison from New York City in 1988. “We’d heard there were good schools in Garrison,” McConnachie told The Current in 2017. They bought an 1890s farmhouse with a one-horse stable next to the Garrison School.

“The first day of school, we walked our daughter down this old ox-cart road, and horses were grazing,” he recalled. “It reached the point where I thought, ‘Oh, come on. Let’s tone down the Norman Rockwell.’” After the move, McConnachie continued to write comedy and act, including minor roles in seven Woody Allen films and classic comedies such as Caddyshack and Sleepless in Seattle. In 1983, he had founded a humor magazine called The American Bystander; he revived it in 2015 with Michael Gerber. In Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead, a history of the National Lampoon, Rick Meyerowitz writes of McConnachie: “He emphasized the illogical and the absurd, and he demolished the reader’s cozy expectations. He quickly became every other writer’s favorite writer.” He added that McConnachie’s work for the Lampoon “is well loved, here on Earth, and on his home planet.”

Along with Ann, his wife of 56 years, he is survived by his daughter, Mary, his son-in-law, Tim, and three grandchildren.

Thomas McCullough (1961-2023)
Thomas McCullough, 62, of Garrison, died Dec 15 at his home. He was born Aug. 1, 1961, in Brooklyn, the son of John and Dorothy McCullough. Tom attended Brooklyn College and went into financial services. In 1992 he married Carol Fetcho, of Douglaston, and soon after, the couple moved to Garrison.

Tom referred to Garrison as a little patch of heaven and appreciated everything his town had to offer, especially the little chapel by the water, St. Joseph’s. He was a lover of nature, hiking, biking, history, “dad jokes” and sharing stories of his family with others. Along with his wife of 31 years, Tom is survived by his children, Connor McCullough and Caitlin Horner (William); and his granddaughter, Brooke Horner, whom he called his “little princess.” He is also survived by his siblings: John McCullough (Amy Wilson), Dorothy McCullough (Gail) and Patrick McCullough (AnnMarie). A funeral Mass was held Dec. 22 at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring, followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne. Memorial donations may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering (mskcc.org).

Mike Serino (1934-2023)
Michael Anthony Serino, 89, a lifelong Beacon resident, died Dec 22 at his home. Along with Ann, his wife of 56 years, he is survived by his children, Connor Serino, Lucia Eustace and Rose Camp; his grandchildren; Carmen Smith, Tanya Horton, Barbara Anne Quinn, Chris
topher Horton and Douglas Jackson Jr. Her siblings Gloria Reed and Jack Pulliam died before her. She is also survived by her partner of 15 years, Curtis Thompson. A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday (Jan. 20) at St. Andrew’s, 51 South Ave. in Beacon.

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Go to highlandscurrent.org/join

The Highlands Current

January 19, 2024

Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Polynesian feast
5. Artist’s motivation, in slang
7. Sinks one’s teeth into
8. Collars for schoolboys
9. Actress Carter, who played Wonder Woman on TV

DOWN
1. Malign in print
2. A principle of Kwanzaa
3. ____ Martin (luxury sports car)
4. Overturn
6. Mountain in Thessaly

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
BOYS' BASKETBALL — The Bulldogs knocked off Pine Bush, 66-56, on Jan. 11 but then had its Tuesday (Jan. 16) home game against Port Jervis postponed due to bad weather. Beacon (4-7) traveled to O'Neill on Thursday (Jan. 18) and will host Cornwall Central on Tuesday and Haldane on Jan. 27 for the Battle of the Tunnel.

BOYS' BASKETBALL — The Bulldogs competed at an 18-team Section IX meet at West Point on Jan. 12. The top finishers for the boys were Damani DeLoatch, who won the long jump at 20.11-5 and the triple jump at 43-9.5; Henry Reinke, who was fourth in the mile at 4:55.07, while Fionn Fehilly was third in the mile (5:36.78) and 29th in the mile (5:59.87).

For the boys, Milo Pearsall was 20th in the 800 meters (2:01.83) and 22nd in the mile (5:36.78) and 29th in the mile (5:59.87).