

# The HIGHLANDS Current



JANUARY 19, 2024

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## Beacon Church Approved for Move

*Fareground will use  
former restaurant*

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 Mechanics 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.

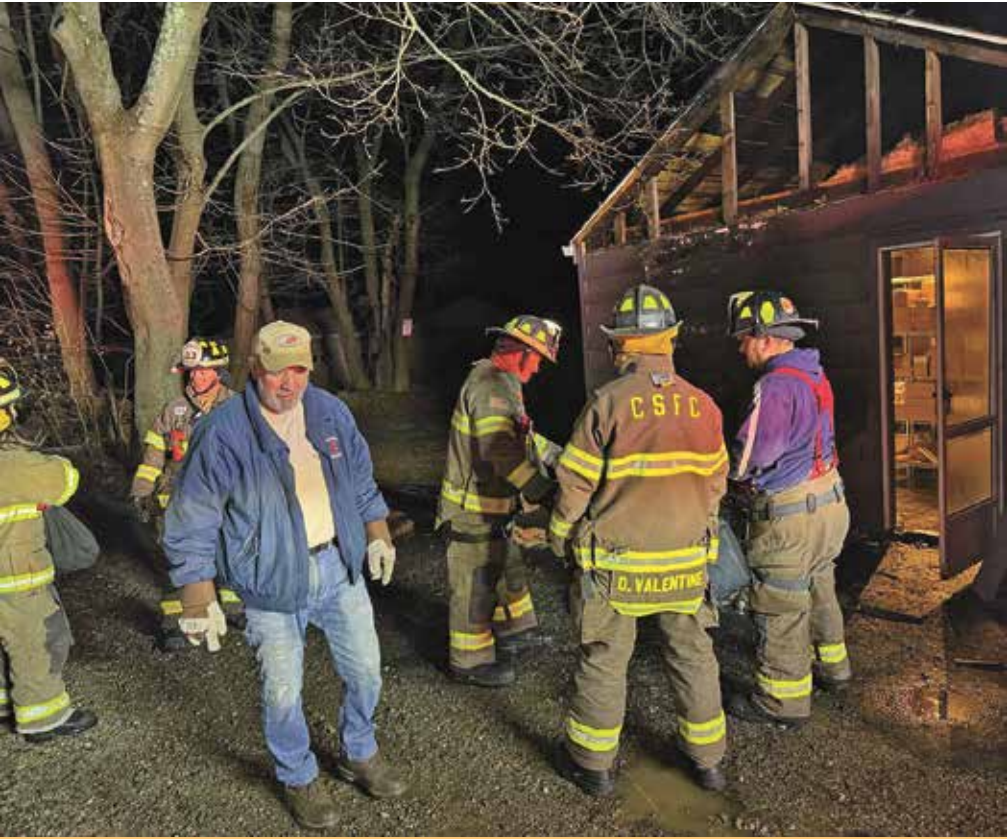
Water from the well, which produces 20 gallons a minute, will run under Route 9D and through the Highlands Country Club property to the plant, with Philipstown using a \$750,000 allocation from

(Continued on Page 5)



**MLK JR. DAY PARADE** — Hundreds of local residents turned out on a chilly Monday (Jan. 15) for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day "singing parade" in Beacon, which stepped off at 9:15 a.m. from the Springfield Baptist Church. The parade was founded in 2014 by folk singer Pete Seeger and the Beacon Sloop Club, and partnered with events organized by the Southern Dutchess Coalition.

Photo by Brian PJ Cronin



**MAIN STREET FIRE** — The Cold Spring fire department didn't have to go far on Jan. 11 to battle a fire that damaged the back office at Supplies for Creative Living, across the street from the station. When firefighters responded at 9:27 p.m., they found a brush fire had spread up the rear of 143 Main St. to the roof. The department said it took about 45 minutes to clear the scene. Grace Lo, the owner of Supplies for Creative Living, credited photographer Caitlin Chadwick, who has a studio at 147 Main St., with spotting the flames and saving the building.

CSFC

## A First Step

*Beacon schools launch pre-K  
special education program*

By Jeff Simms

Shawna Ryan's son is one of the children the Beacon City School District was hoping to reach.

The Beacon resident said she and her husband noticed that their son was having difficulty regulating his emotions and had "atypical" tantrums caused by stressors that "didn't align with what you would expect to upset a 3- or 4-year-old."

Early last year, the parents had their son evaluated by the school district, which admitted him to its pre-K program beginning in September. After a long wait, a pediatric neurologist diagnosed him as autistic a month later, on his fourth birthday.

Ryan didn't know it, but Heather Chadwell Dennis, the assistant superintendent of pupil personnel services, had been working for a year to launch a state-approved preschool special-education program.

The district already had plans to expand its full-day pre-K program to each of its four elementary schools (voters in May 2023 approved funding). But after joining the district in June 2022, Chadwell Dennis said she realized that Beacon needed to get creative to reach the youngest children with learning difficulties.

Many public school districts in Dutchess County offer pre-K classes, and some of those are "integrated," with children receiving general education and others with special needs in the same classroom. Typically they are taught by a teacher certified in general education with help from private therapists hired to visit the classroom.

Beacon stands out because it has a teacher, Tara English, who is certified in both general and special education. She has 11 pre-K students in her class at Sargent Elementary, including five with learning disabilities.

When discussing the program, Chadwell Dennis said she didn't have a model to follow while going through the arduous process of getting state certification. (Other than the school district, there are two private preschools in Beacon that are state-certified for special education.)

First she had to submit an 18-page document to argue there was a need in Beacon. A 59-page application followed. In addition, she had to provide floor plans for

(Continued on Page 7)



Tara English



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: **GEORGE MANSFIELD**

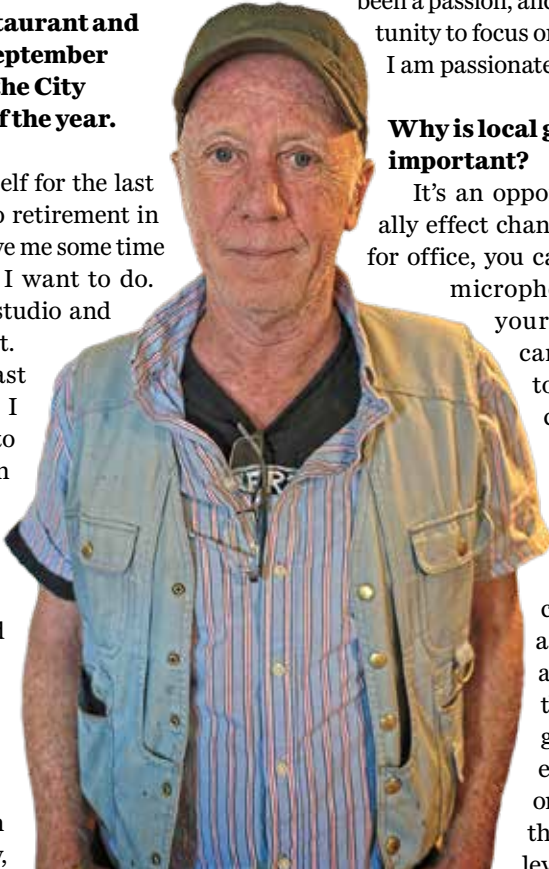
By Jeff Simms

**G**eorge 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 accessibil-

ity. 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.

Photo by Michael Isabell

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

**What do you like about January in New York?**

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



Lia Russ, Beacon

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



Tyler Rodriguez, Cold Spring

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



Kate Czajkowski, Poughkeepsie (formerly Cold Spring)

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Sandra Belitza-Vazquez

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## Around THE Region



Cheryl Rogowski at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market

File photo

### 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](http://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



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

and Detective Wright's knowledge and experience in the city will be invaluable in this effort," Parisi told the *Mid Hudson News*.

### Patterson: Man Accused of Painting Squirrels

The Putnam County SPCA on Jan. 13 charged a Town of Patterson man with three misdemeanors for allegedly catching and spray-painting squirrels.

Mark Kuhn, 62, was charged with poisoning or attempting to poison animals. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said he trapped squirrels on his property, placed them in wire cages and painted them with red Rust-Oleum before releasing them elsewhere in town.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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 Feldman, Hilary Hart and Kevin McGrory 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](http://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 every-

one," 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](http://highlandscurrent.org).







NEWS BRIEF

County Legislator Will Challenge Rolison

Valdés Smith represents part of Beacon

Yvette Valdés Smith, a Dutchess County legislator whose district includes Ward 4 in Beacon, has announced she will challenge Rob Rolison this year for his seat in the state Senate that represents the Highlands. 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.

“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 Lois and District Attorney Anthony Parisi.



Valdés Smith

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 Highlands golf course reopens in the spring. “It’s going to feel great once we get this 100 percent completed, because that’s going to alleviate a lot of fees,” he said. Created in 1998 to serve homes and businesses on and near Garrison’s Landing, the district formerly drew from three wells, but they more recently have been unable to meet demand. In its search for a new source, Philipstown considered spending \$800,000 to run a mile-long connection from its water tank at the Recreation Center. The town also drilled a 960-foot well that did not turn out to have sufficient water. Supervisor John Van Tassel said in March 2022 that the water purchases were “bleeding the town dry.” Flaherty noted at the time that the district had run out of water twice in two weeks. “There’s something strange going on there,” whether a hidden leak or malfunction or someone’s deliberate rerouting of water, he said. Last November Van Tassel cited the water district costs as one reason the town needed to raise taxes by 8.3 percent for 2024. This is not the first time that Garrison’s Landing customers have faced a water crisis. After the Town Board voted in August 1998

to create the water district and take over the century-old system, it discovered the supply pipe that runs along Lower Station Road was clogged with scale and rust. The Putnam County Health Department said the system had been in crisis for at least 10 years but that no one wanted to take responsibility for it. Garrison Station Plaza, which owned seven properties in the district, installed temporary above-ground piping, and volunteers and Philipstown Highway Department workers covered it with dirt, insulation and mulch to prevent freezing. A 5,000-gallon water truck brought to the landing by the New York Army Reserve National Guard allowed residents to fill their storage tanks; it was emptied in about three days. At the same time, Delmar Karlen, the acting superintendent of the district, told the Town Board that the low bid to clean, reline and replace sections of pipe and reline the cement reservoir was \$226,625, or about \$100,000 more than the board had approved for the work. Two decades later, in 2018, the town spent weeks searching for the source of a leak that cost 3,000 gallons a day. The search led to a corroded joint where a service line from a residence on Lower Station Road connected to the main. By September 2019, the system’s problems included cloudy water and a failed pump on one of its three wells. Philipstown began trucking in water. “That system has been the bane of my existence,” then-Supervisor Richard Shea said that month. “When it works, it works well,” but when it doesn’t, “it’s an impossible situation.” Last month, Cold Spring agreed in principle to conduct routine testing on the water supply until Philipstown can hire an outside firm to run the district.

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 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. Elisabeth Balachova, via Instagram It doesn’t seem very democratic to prevent peaceful protest at a public meeting. Donna Minkowitz, via Instagram

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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 Gandi, 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



Martin Luther King Jr. was put into so much trauma and unfairness just because of his skin color, and still decided to fight back with love. He believed that violence was not the answer and would march, protest and participate in civil disobedience.

Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested 29 times for fighting for civil rights. He wrote many books about how we should fight with love, not anger. This inspired many people, and many people of all races were fighting for those rights.

We should all learn, it's our differences that pull us together, into one nation under all. Millions and millions heard his famous speech and made a difference: “I have a dream.”

**Syeira Kozlik**  
Grade 9, Beacon High School

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.”

**Suvi O'Shea**  
Grade 7, Rombout Middle 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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[www.garrisonartcenter.org](http://www.garrisonartcenter.org)  
#GAC60

Real Estate

Market Report (December)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
New Listings	1	7	4	2
Closed Sales	4	3	5	9
Days on Market	56	38	51	95
Median Price	\$397,000	\$460,000	\$690,000	\$647,400
% List Received	93.8	92.2	95.7	95.8
Inventory	15	22	30	23

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



## 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.

There are more pre-K children 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 warmup 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



Tara English observes as a pre-K student identifies and circles a Q in a classroom exercise.

Photo by Una Hoppe

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 to 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

"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," she said. "Without a doubt, I'm seeing improvement on a day-to-day frequency. I'm noticing better communication skills and better awareness" of social cues and triggers.

### 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 worshipping 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 140-seat bar and restaurant on the first floor and a full kitchen on the basement level.

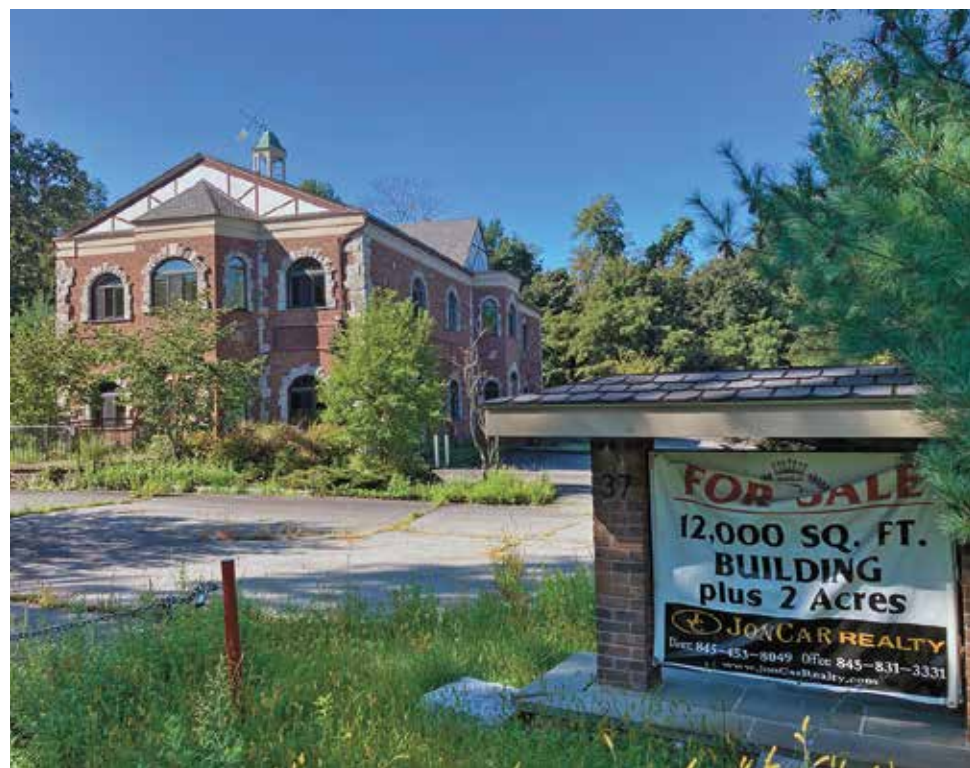
Fareground, which used to be a neighbor of the church on Hanna Lane, will benefit from the kitchen's two walk-in coolers and its walk-in freezer.

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 13 "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."



This building will soon house the Star of Bethlehem Church and Fareground. File photo



AROUND TOWN



▲ **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 Houghltin, a former company member. Shown are Mike Angeloni and Joe Green from the Beacon Engine Co. with Sgt. Isaiah Calmese.

Photos provided

McCaffrey Realty

Top Producer Award

Congrats to McCaffrey agent  
Rebekah Tighe!

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a floral patterned shirt and light-colored pants, is sitting on large rocks by a lake. She is looking towards the camera with a smile. The background shows a calm lake and a forested hillside.

The logo for McCaffrey Realty, featuring a stylized sun or moon rising over a body of water, enclosed in a circle.

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845-265-4113  
info@mccaffreyrealty.com



The Calendar



Laurence Wallace and Tyler Dehm, shown at rehearsal, play a father and son.



Lucia Perry, Stephanie Hepburn (in bed) and Patricia Fischer

Photos provided

**T**he *Watched Pot*, a play by Garrison resident Keith Hershberger, opens for a two-weekend run at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Friday (Jan. 26). Hershberger wrote the play 40 years ago. It has been produced three times, including twice in Rochester, New York, at Conundrum Players, a community theater in a church sanctuary. In 1983, it premiered as a staged reading in New York City after Hershberger won the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award presented annually by the Women & Theatre Program and the Association in Theatre in Higher Education for feminist plays.

# 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 produc-

tion. “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)



Purple Lung

Photo provided



Low Fiction

Photo provided



Shadow Witch

Photo by Kristin Troost Hall

# An Evening of Heavy Metal

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

By Alison Rooney

**T**his 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)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar).

## TALKS & TOURS

### SUN 21 Singing the Body

**COLD SPRING**  
10 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Francesca Genco will lead exercises paired with songs that engage the body and mind. Registration required.

### THURS 25 Environmental Town Hall

**OSSINING**  
7 p.m. Ossining Public Library  
53 Croton Ave.  
[nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg)  
Dana Levenberg, whose state Assembly district includes Philipstown, will discuss legislation related to climate action and answer questions.

### THURS 25 How the Automobile Changed the Hudson Valley Landscape

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**  
7 p.m. Via Zoom | [dchsn.org/jan25](http://dchsn.org/jan25)  
David Turner, a trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society, will illustrate his talk with vintage postcards.

### SAT 27 Beacon's West End Story

**BEACON**  
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://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](http://putnamhighlandsaudubon.org)  
Amanda Higgs, a biologist

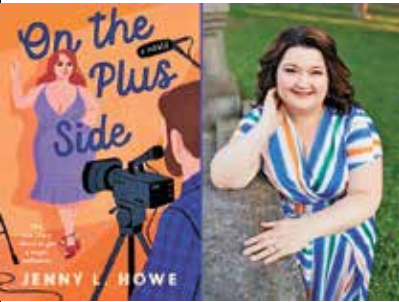


Dinosaur World Live, Jan. 21

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*

### SAT 27 Jenny Howe

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Split Rock  
97 Main St. | [splitrockbks.com](http://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.



### SUN 28 Art After War

**COLD SPRING**  
Noon. Magazzino  
2700 Route | [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art)  
For this International Holocaust Remembrance Day program, Alessandro Cassin and Davide Spagnoletto will discuss the lives of sisters Paola and Lorenza Mazzetti, whose art was shaped by the murder

of their adoptive Jewish family in 1944. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 seniors and students, \$5 regional residents)*

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SAT 20 Play Sets

**BEACON**  
10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | [diaart.org](http://diaart.org)  
Families with children ages 5 and older are 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  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
Watch the popular film and sing along with the soundtrack as sisters Elsa and Anna go on an epic journey to save their kingdom. Registration required.

### TUES 23 Baby Storytime

**GARRISON**  
10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403  
845-424-3020 | [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
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](http://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](http://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.

### WED 24 Make Your Own: Snow Globes

**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
Children ages 5 and older are invited to design sparkly globes to take home. Registration required.

### THURS 25 3D Printer Club

**BEACON**  
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)  
Children and teens ages 10 and older can design projects for printing and learn how it works. Registration required.

### SAT 27 StarLab

**CORNWALL**  
10 & 11 a.m., Noon & 1 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506  
[hnm.org](http://hnm.org)  
In this indoor planetarium, children will learn about constellations and hear stories from Indigenous people and Greeks about how they were named. Best for ages 4 and older. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 members)*

### SAT 27 Makerspace Open House

**COLD SPRING**  
Noon – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)  
Find out about all the projects you can make in the library's creator lab. Registration required.

### SUN 28 Storytime

**COLD SPRING**  
10:30 a.m. Split Rock  
97 Main St. | [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com)  
Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to read books, sing and move with Gwynne Watkins, a writer, theater artist and mom who lives in Beacon. *Free*

## STAGE & SCREEN

### SAT 20 Nate Bargatze

**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
4 & 8 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.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](http://ikehall.com)  
Meet lifelike dinosaurs during this interactive prehistoric tour. *Cost: \$32*

### WED 24 Forrest Gump

**COLD SPRING**  
5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)  
The library kicks off 12 Months of Tom Hanks with the 1994 classic about the life and adventures of an uncomplicated man who inspires others along the way. Enjoy trivia and pick up a stamp card.

### FRI 26 The Watched Pot

**GARRISON**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)  
This play by Keith Hershberger is  
*(Continued on Page 11)*



FEB. 3RD 10:00A - 2:00P

Eagle Viewing At Boscobel  
[www.boscobel.org/events/eagle-viewing/](http://www.boscobel.org/events/eagle-viewing/)

MARCH 9TH 2:00P

Desmond-Fish Library  
New England Cottontail Rabbits:  
Can They Be Saved?  
Dr. Susan Booth-Binczik

JAN. 27TH 3:00P

St. Mary's Parish Hall:  
Endangered Sturgeon In The Hudson:  
Secrets From Fisheries  
Biologist Amanda Higgs  
Register at [www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org](http://www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org)



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](http://bardavon.org)

The opera, staged in the present day and presented in a high-definition simulcast, stars Aigul Akhmetshina in the lead and Piotr Beczala 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](http://ikehall.com)

In this Tony-award winning musical set in the 1960s, Tracy Turnblad is determined to appear on a television dance show. *Cost: \$48*

**VISUAL ARTS**

SAT 20  
**Allie Tepper on Maren Hassinger**

BEACON

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St. | [diaart.org](http://diaart.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.  
845-765-0667 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

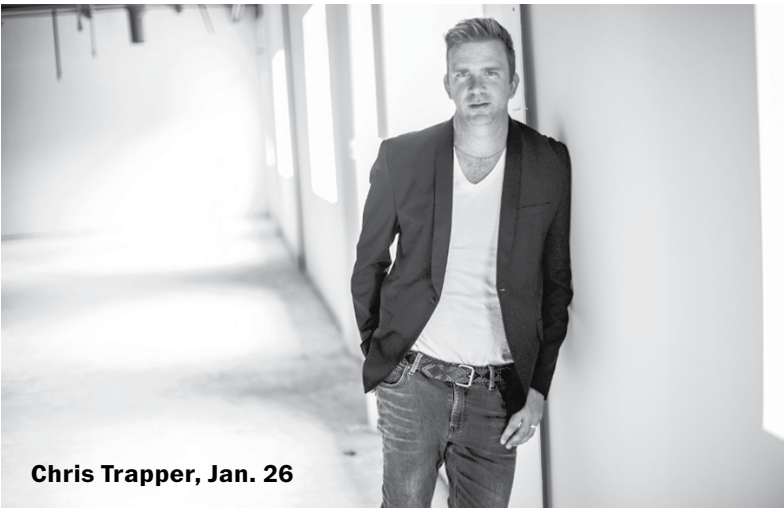
Beacon Dance Beat will play a variety of rhythmic styles, including salsa, merengue, bachata, cha-cha, rumba, bolero and MAS. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

FRI 26  
**Chris Trapper**

BEACON

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

The singer and songwriter plays



Chris Trapper, Jan. 26

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](http://townecrier.com)

The tribute band plays the music of Traffic from the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**CIVIC**

MON 22  
**City Council**

BEACON

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

The meeting will include a public hearing on a proposal to eliminate minimum parking requirements.

MON 22  
**School Board**

BEACON

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

TUES 23  
**School Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Middle School  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://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](http://coldspringny.gov)

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**HIGHLANDS CHAPEL**  
*Home of the Highlands Choral Society*

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**PETE SALMANSOHN**

**“FORTY  
YEARS OF  
HUGGING  
TREES”**

**JAN 21@11:00AM  
FOR WORSHIP  
REFLECTION  
& SONG**

**Jan 28** Richard Gerber

*The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization  
offering nondenominational services and community.*

**216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY**  
**HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG**

**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.

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# 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 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.

## Community Calendar

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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-Roussillon 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 fondue.

I should address confusion between salt cod (morue in French, baccalà in Italian) and stockfish (stockfisch or poisson séché in French, stoccafisso 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.





Stephanie Hepburn, Patricia Fischer and Elaine Llewellyn portray Sarah, Mary and young Sarah.

Photos provided

### Watched Pot (from Page 9)

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 Conundrum 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

Photo by Linda Milne Speziale

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 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](http://bit.ly/watched-pot).*



### 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 “stoner doom” metal band from Pennsylvania, will take the stage. It will be followed at 7 p.m. by Low Fiction — Mandia on guitar, Jack Kolodziejksi on vocals and guitar, Bryan Caprari on bass and John Scelzo on drums — and at 8 p.m. by Shadow Witch from Kingston.

*The Yard is located at 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon. General admission tickets are \$35 and VIP tickets are \$60 at [bit.ly/hmb-2024](http://bit.ly/hmb-2024). No one under age 21 will be admitted, and no smoking will be allowed indoors.*

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of new commercial windows. Selection criteria will be based on installation experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of an outdoor campus PA system throughout the physical campus. Selection criteria will be based on experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

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A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of an entrance barrier gate, prefabricated guard shelter, and access control. Selection criteria will be based on knowledge of security protocols, installation experience, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.



# 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 attempt 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.



Members of the Haldane Model U.N. club at the conference at the University of Connecticut

Photo provided

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 prepping for the conference in Connecti-

cut; 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.

**“The club teaches good lessons on being respectful to those with different opinions than yours.”**

~ Trajan McCarthy

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.*

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**The HIGHLANDS Current**





Erik Akselband presents questions during a trivia night at Pillow & Oats.



John Scelzo hosts a trivia night at Two Way Brewing.

Photos by M. Ferris

# Endless Questions

Beacon bars challenge with trivia

By Marc Ferris

## Test Your Metal

Eddie Daniels of Immodest Trivia agreed to share five trivia questions. The answers are on **Page 19**.

Winston Churchill first used this term, describing a metaphorical political boundary that divided Europe, in a 1945 telegraph to Harry Truman.

In American football, this term describes any defensive alignment using five defensive backs.

This 1989 comedy-drama film featured Academy Award winners Shirley McClaine, Sally Field and Olympia Dukakis.

This classic Christmas song was originally written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans for the 1951 film *The Lemon Drop Kid*.

This North American snake, named for its distinctive color, accounts for roughly half of all snake bites treated in the U.S. each year.

If you think you know it all, there are plenty of barstools 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

Photo by Diana DiMuro

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.”

At Two Way Brewing, John Scelzo attracts a big following. He likes to make his questions progressively more difficult and gives extra credit during the tougher rounds. Each member of the winning team is rewarded with a crowler of beer (a 32-ounce can, filled from the tap).

“The questions are a grab bag, like video games, state capitals, action movies,” says Scelzo. “I like to mix up pop culture and more academic topics to try and be middle-of-the road so it’s fair for everyone, younger or older.” In Beacon, for the most part, it’s younger.

Happy Valley Arcade Bar got into the game after meeting the owners of Geeks Who Drink at a restaurant and bar trade show in Las Vegas. Based in Colorado, the trivia company hires local hosts and pays careful attention to wording, much like Daniels at Immodest Trivia.

For example, instead of asking: “What new wave band did the song ‘Whip It?’” they frame it as: “‘Whip It’ was ‘a pep talk for President Carter,’ according to the

founder of what new wave band?”

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 conversation, 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.
  - 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](http://haldaneschoolfoundation.org/events/trivia-night).



# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

## 150 Years Ago (January 1874)

According to the *Fishkill Standard*, burglars attempted to break into the Coldwell & Tompkins hardware store opposite the Howland library in Matteawan by using an iron bar to jimmy the front door. A window in the door was broken and the knob inside had blood in it, but the rather ordinary lock held. A piece of muslin soaked in oil and resin was found on the stoop, suggesting the burglars intended to carry away what they could and burn the building down to cover up their crime.

The Fishkill Landing Machine Works was building two engines for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. and a 700-horsepower engine for a Chicago elevator. At the same time, its owners reduced wages by 10 percent.

Two men attempting to break into the Matteawan home of James Richards fled after a 15-year-old boy inside shot at them with a revolver.

*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 from New York City for a performance in Newburgh lost his bank book and \$30 [about \$800 today] on the train. On his return trip the next morning, when the conductor came around for tickets and was told of the loss, he produced the bank book and cash, which had been found by the brakeman while sweeping the car.

## 125 Years Ago (January 1899)

Samuel Stebbins, of the W.A. Jones fire insurance agency of Fishkill Landing, was distributing 1899 calendars to his customers.

The ferryboat to Newburgh was operating 5 to 10 minutes behind schedule because of ice in the river.

Grocers in Newburgh, Fishkill and Matteawan were victims of a scam by a man who claimed to provide Royal Silver soap at a discount. The product, which turned out to be washing soda and grease, crumbled when exposed to air. The fake soap was delivered by local truckers accompanied by men who collected the cash.

W.G. Gomersall, superintendent of the Sargent estate at Fishkill Landing, was elected secretary of the Dutchess County Horticultural Society.



The building at 139 Rombout Ave., shown around 1908, nearly burned down in 1924.

Beacon Historical Society

William Pollock, who started the first steam laundry in Cold Spring, went out of business after moving his plant to Fishkill Landing.

David McLaughlin died at age 65. He was a tobacco and cigar manufacturer, as well as the Fishkill Landing postmaster for 16 years.

The Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. reported that it had cost more than \$400 [\$15,000] to bring home the body of Sidney Scofield, who had been killed in Cuba while fighting in the Spanish-American War. The federal government offered to contribute \$35 [\$1,300], according to the *Fishkill Herald*.

The Rev. Edward McGlynn delivered a lecture at the Presbyterian Church in Matteawan titled "The Destiny of the English-Speaking Race." He said: "The ends of the world are coming together; even Japan is thinking of adopting English as a domestic language. Ours is destined to be the language of the world. It has strength, elasticity, [and] is sweet, admirable."



Rev. Edward McGlynn

John Howard, a gunner aboard the Princeton, had just left for Manila when his estranged wife showed up unannounced at the Matteawan school to inquire about the whereabouts of their 6-year-old daughter, who was living with her aunt and uncle. The woman had come to New York from

Cincinnati, having walked part of the way. Alarmed, the aunt hid the girl with a neighbor — taking her out the front door as the mother came in the back — and said a judge should decide. The mother said her husband had kidnapped their daughter and that if she wasn't give custody she would kill herself.

Matthew Herbert, 50, who drove the grocery wagon for Benjamin Deyo, was found lying on Rector Street at 7 a.m. on a Wednesday after suffering a fatal heart attack.

The Lady Washington Hose Co. from Poughkeepsie visited Matteawan to take on the D.C.W. in a game of basketball. The home team prevailed, 9-6. The Poughkeepsie team featured a 6-foot-4-inch center who, according to *The Fishkill Journal*, "seemed to wave the ball all the time, but the scientific play of our boys prevented him from making the coveted goals." The paper declared the freakishly tall player to be "both exciting and amusing."

Shortly before leaving office, Gov. Frank Swett Black pardoned John Dermody, a prisoner serving 10 years for robbing a man in Troy of a gold watch. Investigators determined that someone had slipped the watch into Dermody's pocket. He had served three years, including the most recent three months at the Matteawan asylum.

The Newburgh Mænnerchor [German social club] celebrated its 38th anniversary by entertaining the Matteawan Mænnerchor.

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.

The Fishkill Landing correspondent for the *Eagle-News* reported: "The rare sunlight striking our home mountains produces many beautiful colors. They are a constant source of delight to the lover of nature."

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.

## 100 Years Ago (January 1924)

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)



*(Continued from Page 16)*

Charles Fisher, president of a toy block company based in New York City, purchased the estate of Charles Watson on Knevels 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.

A Peekskill man who allegedly hit and critically wounded a pedestrian on the road between Fishkill and Beacon before fleeing the scene was arrested near the Beacon Hat Works while fixing a flat. Witnesses had described the car to police. The driver, a salesman for a national oil company, was released on \$3,000 [\$54,000] bail provided by his employers. When the victim died at the hospital, the driver was charged with manslaughter and his bail increased to \$10,000 [\$180,000]; he said the damage to his car was caused by a collision with a telephone pole.

#### 75 Years Ago (January 1949)

At a City Council meeting, residents protested a proposed law that would require mobile-home owners to pay an annual fee of \$150 [\$1,900].

The City Council approved the purchase of a Protectograph automatic check signer so the mayor and finance commissioner would no longer have to sign every city check, including those for payroll.

A North Street man said he was watching



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

*University of Notre Dame*

television with a friend on a Tuesday night when his car was stolen off the street. It was found the next day in Tarrytown.

The school board weighed a proposal to force teachers to retire at age 70.

The Kingston High School boys' basketball team won at Beacon, 50-32, for its 39th victory in a row.

The owner of the Watch Hospital at 161 Main St. said a couple stole a \$400 diamond ring after distracting him by asking to see watches stored in the back.

A guest at the Dutchess of Beacon Hotel was overcome by smoke, apparently after she fell asleep with a lit cigarette and caught the mattress on fire.

Based on a state recommendation that districts have 25 students per teacher, a survey concluded Beacon could cut 14 positions and save \$37,170 [\$480,000] annually in salaries.

#### 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 Groveville 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 freights 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.

Thirteen 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.

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OBITUARIES

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 1978.

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, Madyson 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, 15 South Ave. in Beacon.



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.

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



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 Eidinger (John), Cornelius 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.

He was born Feb. 16, 1934, at Highland Hospital in Beacon, to Tony and Anna (Fasano) Serino. After graduating from Beacon High School in 1952, Mike began his career at IBM in Poughkeepsie. In 1954, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a military police officer and served for two years.

After being honorably discharged, Mike earned a bachelor's degree in business administration (marketing) from the University of Bridgeport in 1959. He went on to earn a master's degree in education



(guidance counselor) in 1961, receiving the National Office Management Award.

In 1961, he married Joan Marie Baltich. That same year, he returned to IBM, where he worked as a systems analyst, and remained there until he retired in 1990 as an advisory resource planner in Fishkill.

Mike loved gardening, fishing, hunting, making wine, cooking for the guys at Gerry's Auto Body and hanging out at the Dutchess Boat Club or the East Fishkill Sportsman Association with his friends.

He is survived by his children, Jeanmarie Serino, Carmine Serino (Patricia) and Michele Serino-Rios; his grandchildren, Michael and Jenna Serino, and Alexandra and Emma Rios; his sisters, Mary Williams and Emily Forbes; and his sisters-in-law, Claire Serino and Carolin Serino.

His siblings, Geriaco Serino, Carmine Serino, Lucia Eustace and Rose Camp; former wife Joan Serino; and brothers-in-law, Charles (Chuck) Williams and Bruce Camp, died before him.

A graveside service with military honors was held Dec. 30 at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon.

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon	Philipstown
June Frisenda, 97	Margaret Budney, 90
Sister Jeanne	Francis "Terry"
Gonyon, 91	Lahey, 94
Richard Heady Jr., 63	Russell Mahood, 79
Sister Aletha Maher, 85	Vincent Perillo, 87
John Norton, 74	Matthew
Irene Pulcastro, 104	Rodzevik, 32
Ruth Rutigliano, 86	Brittney Turner, 45
Stephen Testa, 73	Peter Vetoulis, 74

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

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
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. Essence

5. Sprint

9. Weed whacker

12. Part of a French play

13. Draft status

14. Jackson 5 hit song

15. Bribe of a sort

17. Kanga’s kid

18. Hindu hero

19. Mature, as fruit

21. Laugh track sounds

24. Painter Joan

25. *East of Eden* son

26. College life

30. Kitten’s cry

31. Nearby

32. USN bigwig

33. Wagered

35. Shade provider

36. Candied veggies

37. Plano’s state

38. Recap

40. Wild hog

42. — pro nobis

43. Website assistance features

48. Motorist’s org.

49. Biblical grain measure

50. Slugger Sammy

51. Carrier to Amsterdam

52. Sean Astin film

53. Wan
- DOWN
1. “How frustrating!”

2. Hosp. section

3. Map lines (Abbr.)

4. Capital of Iran

5. Unhappy destiny

6. Editor Wintour

7. Observe

8. October outing

9. Brother of Groucho

10. Bassoon’s kin

11. Nobel Prize subj.

16. More (Sp.)

20. Fury

21. Soccer star Mia

22. Region

23. Cowboy’s greeting

24. Sail support

26. Priests’ garments

27. Runner Sebastian

28. Notion

29. Iowa city

31. Moth repellent

34. Vichy water

35. Nobel-winning Mother

37. Highland hat

38. Drench

39. Russian river

40. Ran in the wash

41. Nashville venue

44. Outback bird

45. Refusals

46. Show to a seat, slangily

47. Utter

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

ARMED

PILES

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- 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

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

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

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

S	A	M	B	A
A	W	M	A	N
M	A	D	R	E
S	K	I	R	T
	E	V	E	

Answers for Jan. 12 Puzzles

PLOYS  
PLOTS  
SLOTS  
SHOTS  
SHOPS  
SHIPS

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon had few problems this past week on the offensive or defensive end of the floor, outscoring their two opponents 120-33. In an 82-15 victory at Liberty on Jan. 12, Shadaya Fryar led the Bulldogs with 20 points and 13 rebounds, followed by Reilly Landisi with 13 points, Lila Burke with 12 and Rayana Taylor with 11. On Wednesday (Jan. 17), Beacon won at O'Neill, 38-18, behind 18 points from Landisi and 12 from Daveya Rodriguez.

The Bulldogs (9-1) will travel to Haldane on Saturday (Jan. 20) for the annual Battle of the Tunnel game at 1 p.m., host O'Neill on Monday at 4:30 p.m., travel to Middletown on Wednesday and host Port Jervis on Thursday at 4:45 p.m.

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The Bulldogs knocked off Pine Brush, 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' SWIMMING** — Beacon hosted a dual meet on Jan. 11 but suffered defeats by New Paltz (113-57) and Kingston (113-62). The 200 medley relay team had the best finish for the Bulldogs, coming in second in 1:54.07, while Fionn Fehilly was third in the 500 freestyle in 6:09.94 and Bryce Manning was third in the 100 breaststroke in 1:09.03.

Beacon traveled to Middletown on Wednesday (Jan. 17) for a meet that ended in a 90-90 tie. Manning won the 200 individual medley in 2:21.74; Ronnie Anzovino won the 50 freestyle in 25.33; Imroz Ali won the 100 fly in 1:06.30; Fehilly won the 100 freestyle in 57.72; and the 200 freestyle relay team won in 1:43.89.

The Bulldogs (2-5-1) will visit Cornwall on Saturday (Jan. 20) and Warwick on Wednesday.

**WINTER TRACK** — 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 1,000 meters in 2:42.90; and Jayden Mihalchik, who was third in the pole vault at 10-6. For the girls, Isabella Migliore placed ninth in the 1,000 meters in 3:23.63.

The team will compete again at West Point on Saturday (Jan. 20) in the divisional championships.

**BOWLING** — The boys' team won its sixth



William Hockler rolls for the Beacon boys' bowling team, which has won six straight.



Gavin Troiano competes for Beacon against Franklin Roosevelt.

straight, 4-1 over Middletown, on Jan. 11 to improve to 8-1-1, while the girls lost to Middletown, 4-1, to drop to 1-4 on the season. Both teams will face Middletown again on Monday (Jan. 22).

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — After recognizing its nine seniors — Ross Esposito, Matt Nachamkin, Ryan Van Tassel, Michael Murray, PJ Ruggiero, Dylan Rucker, Erik Stubblefield, Jordon Hankel and Evan Giachinta — the Blue Devils took care of business on Wednesday (Jan. 17), defeating Pawling, 66-47, for their seventh straight win.

Haldane never trailed, jumping to a 20-6 lead behind Nachamkin, who scored 18 of the Blue Devil points. (He finished with 23.) It was 32-15 at the half. The Tigers began

hitting threes and forcing turnovers in the third quarter but only managed to cut the lead to 14.

The Blue Devils (8-1) traveled to Putnam Valley on Thursday (Jan. 18) and will go to Arlington High School to take on Greenburgh-North Castle on Saturday (Jan. 20). On Monday they host the Leffell School at 5 p.m. and on Wednesday they travel to Croton-Harmon.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Haldane celebrated senior night on Jan. 12 — honoring Camilla McDaniel and Ruby Poses — with a 40-38 win over a physical Alexander Hamilton.

It was a back and forth affair. The Blue Devils had a 7-0 run to start the second quarter, giving them a 17-11 lead, but Hamilton had cut the deficit to three, 22-19, by halftime. Haldane had a six-point lead in the third quarter before Hamilton stormed back to tie the game at 30 to start the fourth.

Poses began the quarter with a three-pointer and Elaina Johanson also scored. But Hamilton put in six straight points and held a three-point lead with 2:10 left. A corner three from Poses tied the game at 38.

With 32 seconds left, Marisa Peters went coast to coast for the layup that gave the Blue Devils a 40-38 lead. They held Hamilton without a bucket on the next possession but gave the ball back on the inbound pass with 14 seconds left. With 3.5 seconds remaining, a jump shot by Hamilton rattled off the rim, and Haldane secured the rebound.

With the victory, the team doubled their win total from last year. Kayla Ruggiero led the scoring with 13 points, and Poses had nine points, seven rebounds and four blocks.

On Monday (Jan. 15) Haldane fell at Irvington, 60-35. "We gave up too many fast-break points," said Coach Charles Martinez. "That's something that we're struggling with, but we're better than we were in the beginning of the season."

Haldane (6-6) hosted Putnam Valley on Thursday (Jan. 18) and will host Beacon at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Jan. 20). On Monday the team travels to North Salem and on Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. will host Croton-Harmon.

**WINTER TRACK** — Haldane competed in the 55-team Steve Borbet Invitational at The Armory in New York City on Jan. 12. For the girls, Ashley Sousa finished 23rd in the 600 meters (1:50.76), 30th in the 1,500 meters (5:36.78) and 29th in the mile (5:59.87).

For the boys, Milo Pearsall was 20th in the 55 meters in 6.93; James Frommer was 20th in the 600 meters in 1:34.96; and Jack Illian was 23rd in the 800 meters in 2:15.18 and 22nd in the mile in 4:55.72.

The team will return to The Armory on Sunday (Jan. 21) for the Section I league championships.



Photos by Cadence Heeter

## Flag Football League Completes First Season

*Will return this summer  
to Beacon field*

By Nick Robbins

The Beacon Flag Football League completed its first season this past weekend at the Beacon High School field, crowning the team sponsored by Twins Barbershop as champions following its win on Sunday (Jan. 14) over Carter's Restaurant.

Along with Twins and Carter's, teams in the inaugural season were sponsored by Baja 328, Pacha Barbershop and Marcelo Home Improvement.

Rich Rinaldi and Shane Green, who played flag football while attending Beacon High School (both graduated in 2020), felt they could grow the idea. This past fall they put the word out and, after hearing from 70 interested players from ages 16 to 35, assembled a schedule, secured sponsors and held a draft.

"We are a very competitive league," said Rinaldi, the commissioner. "This is a great way to build a community and play some football."

Flag football is growing in popularity, including as a girls' varsity high school sport. The NFL has started investing in youth flag football and the sport will be part of the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. The NFL and flag football's governing body, the International Federation of Football, drafted rules.

The Beacon Flag Football League adapted those rules, which reflect tackle football with variations, such as, if the flag falls from a player with no contact, he or she is down at the spot. Each game consists of four, 15-minute quarters, with a running clock except for the last five minutes, when it stops on incomplete passes or if a runner runs out of bounds.

"We refer to ourselves as the flag family, because we are a big family," said Rinaldi. "Guys around town have become friends because we all have a common thing and that is football."

The league will play again in the summer. For information, see [instagram.com/beacon-flagfootballleague](https://www.instagram.com/beacon-flagfootballleague) or email [info@thebfft.com](mailto:info@thebfft.com).