

The HIGHLANDS Current



All
Natural
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FEBRUARY 9, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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PART II

TALKING TRASH

As housekeeping goes, trash is easy — you place it in a plastic bag and inside a plastic carton and a truck arrives and takes it away. But where those trucks end up is vital to the health of the Highlands, and to the planet. The hundreds of thousands of tons of garbage produced by residents each year that can't be recycled (or can be, but isn't) must be buried or burned, which contributes to global warming and air pollution. In the second part of our series, we examine composting as a method to reduce waste and what it would take for widespread implementation.

By Brian PJ Cronin

Recently, when my son was grumpily scraping what was left on his dinner plate into the compost bucket, my Buddhist wife told him not to think of it as throwing food away. She explained that the slice of tomato was returning to the cycle of death and rebirth by way of the bucket, so that it could come back to us next year as another tomato.

She meant it as a joke, but when I recounted the story to Matthew Hamm of McEnroe Organic Farm, he nodded his head. "There's no statement truer than that," he said.

The compost operation at McEnroe is located in Millerton on a hilltop with panoramic views. When Hamm makes a sweeping motion with his hands while explaining how Massachusetts and Connecticut tackle their trash problems,

it's not an idle gesture: Standing amid towering piles of what looks like garbage, you can see mountaintops in Massachusetts and rolling fields in Connecticut.

"It's a dirty job," Hamm says. "But people are starting to see the benefits."

Lean in close to one of the enormous black piles around the farm and you'll catch an earthy, slightly sour scent: Food scraps and decomposing plants are being slowly transformed into something greater than the sum of their parts. One of the first things that Hamm teaches new hires is that if the piles of rotting food smell like rotting food, something has gone wrong. "If you get the microbiomes right, it's not rotting," he explains.

Hamm did not dream of becoming a composter. He studied criminal justice in college and wanted to be a state

(Continued on Page 8)



Philipstown Residents Defend Legislator Montgomery

Putnam County chair threatens to end meeting

By Leonard Sparks

The chair of the Putnam County Legislature repeatedly threatened on Tuesday (Feb. 6) to end its monthly meeting as a train of Philipstown residents criticized his decision to leave Nancy Montgomery off the body's standing committees.

Under the Legislature's rules, residents are restricted to commenting on agenda items. Chair Paul Jonke grew frustrated

when defenders of Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley as the Legislature's sole Democrat, said they wanted to comment on a resolution appointing Legislator Greg Ellner of Carmel to the Capital Projects Committee.

After Janice Hogan, the chair of Philipstown Democrats, named that resolution as the subject of her comments before speaking about the treatment of Montgomery, Jonke threatened to end the meeting.

"That's not an agenda item," said Jonke, who represents Southeast. "If this is going

(Continued on Page 7)



CYO ACTION — The fourth-grade girls' basketball team sponsored by Our Lady of Loretto of Cold Spring in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) league hosted Church of the Resurrection from Rye on Feb. 3 at Philipstown Rec but fell short, 17-3. (Here, Winter Steltz looks for a teammate.) The boys' sixth-grade team played the day before, defeating St. Patrick's of Yorktown Heights, 31-24. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Beacon Residents Ask Council To Support Gaza Cease-Fire

Urge members to adopt resolution about conflict

By Jeff Simms

The City Hall courtroom was filled Monday night (Feb. 5) with residents asking the Beacon City Council to adopt a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Although Newburgh's City Council approved a cease-fire resolution on Jan. 22, the Beacon

council generally does not wade into national or international politics. On Monday, several people said it should change that approach.

Anything less than a cease-fire resolution "will be read by your community as an implicit support of continued violence at home and abroad," said Veekas Ashoka, who was among the protesters who interrupted the mayor and council's swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 6.

As Rep. Pat Ryan, whose U.S. House district

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: PHILIP WEISS

By Brian PJ Cronin

Philip Weiss, 68, of Philipstown, is the founder of Mondoweiss, a site that “provides news and analysis unavailable through the mainstream media regarding the struggle for Palestinian human rights.”

How did the site get started?

It began as a blog in 2005 at *The New York Observer*. My editor, the late Peter Kaplan, said: “You should just write about what’s on your mind.” He coined the name. What I cared about most at the time was the Iraq War and foreign policy. About 10 years ago, we began to focus on Palestine, largely with the inclusion of my partner, [executive editor] Adam Horowitz, who is more *menschy* than I am. I’m interested in the Jewish community and privileged America — the elites, the establishment. Adam is more of an advocacy, left-wing writer. He guided the identity but I approved his direction. There were people surprised and upset [at the focus on Palestine by Jewish writers]. I heard from friends — or former friends — who regard us as antisemitic.

How do you respond?

It’s foolish and unfortunate and a terrible smear against people who are concerned with human rights. I think Zionism, the project of Jewish nationalism in Israel and Palestine, is



dangerous to the Jewish people and Jewish life. I love my American Jewish secular culture. I grew up in an academic but not religious Jewish family; my ethical, intellectual and cultural concerns began in a very Jewish place.

What is it like coordinating with reporters and sources in Gaza?

It’s an extremely desperate situation. I’m spared a lot of it because I live here, but it’s awful for the whole staff. The fact that 50 percent of Biden voters say [in a poll] that there’s genocide taking place is a reflection of the broad understanding within the progressive community. I find the grassroots protests in the Hudson Valley to be deeply admirable. But as someone who has been supporting a boycott of Israel for close to 18 years, it’s hard to say what will move the needle.

You published an opinion piece by a refugee who refers to “the determination and courage of those young people who returned to their land on Oct. 7.” Were you concerned that could be seen as a justification

for the violence?

I am concerned by some of the left’s justifications for Oct. 7. Some of that is expressed on the site. I have a different attitude, which is harsh judgment. These are not actions I would have undertaken; I only support action that I would undertake, which is nonviolence. There’s a difference between publishing a certain attitude and embracing it. These views are widely held within the Palestinian community, and they’re also a reflection of how much violence has been visited on this community for decades. But there’s danger in some of those types of statements for the Palestinian solidarity movement.

At the same time, I think there is some ignorance about the causes of the Oct. 7 atrocities, this latest outbreak of violence, which is up there historically with the birth of Israel in 1948 and with the wars of 1967 and ’73. What Hamas did is horrifying but it must be understood in the context of apartheid. In that sense, our history of slavery and the slave revolts of the 1830s in the South are guides.

How do you see the current conflict ending?

Horribly. There will be a state of stasis that resolves none of the underlying and intractable and somewhat insurmountable issues. You have claims to the same land that appear to be irreconcilable. But stasis within a month, and then it will leave the front pages. My advice for [Secretary of State] Antony Blinken would be to not talk about big solutions. Let’s talk about enforcing violations of human rights in an international forum, standing by U.S. policy against human rights violations, standing by the rules-based order that has existed since World War II, call for investigations of war crimes by both sides and call apartheid what it is.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s a good setting for a romantic dinner?

“Not Valentine’s Day, but along the East River at a chess table. It’s beautiful.”



Julia Mills, Cold Spring

“A nice picnic somewhere down by the Hudson River.”



Michael Bender, Cold Spring

“Just somewhere important sentimentally to both people.”



Kye Golden-Johnson, Beacon



The Watched Pot by Keith Hershberger

Feb 2-9*

*two performances added:
Feb 3 at 4:00pm and Feb 9 at 7:30pm

CINEMA DEPOT

Victor/Victoria

Feb 16 at 7:30pm

DEPOT DOCS

I Like it Here by Ralph Arlyck

Feb. 23 at 7:30pm

Q&A with director, followed by reception at Dolly’s

DIRT

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Written by Nan Nelson-Ewing,
Vickie Ramirez and Kate Moira Ryan
Directed by Alice Jankell

Opens May 8-10 at Philipstown Depot Theatre
May 15-17 at Arts on the Lake
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Haldane to Discuss Tax Relief for Firefighters, Seniors

Would lower assessed values

By Joey Asher

Should the Haldane school district offer property tax relief for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers? Should it expand tax relief for low-income seniors?

Those are the questions that the board will consider at its Feb. 27 meeting, when it will likely hold a public hearing, said Superintendent Philip Benante.

The tax breaks can be adopted under state law but tax districts such as municipalities and schools must opt in. The state does not offer reimbursement, so the exemptions shift the tax burden to those who are not eligible.

Under a state law enacted in December 2022, a tax district can exempt 10 percent of the assessed value of property owned by volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers that is used exclusively for residential purposes. The district also can set a minimum eligibility requirement of between two and five years of service, with a lifetime exemption granted after 20 years.

For residents who are 65 or older, state law allows a tax district to provide a 50 percent reduction on assessed value for any senior earning \$50,000 or less annually, with a sliding scale that ends with a 5

percent exemption at \$58,400. Haldane offers a 50 percent exemption on assessed value for seniors with annual incomes of \$29,000 or less. Its exemption decreases on a sliding scale to 5 percent at \$37,400.

According to a presentation at the board's Tuesday (Feb. 6) meeting by Business Manager Catherine Platt, the district is considering phasing in higher income thresholds over three years. In the first year, the thresholds would be \$40,000/\$48,400; in the second, \$45,000/\$53,400; and in the third, \$50,000/\$58,400.

(The Garrison school district approved the same phased-in approach in February 2023 and a 10 percent exemption for firefighters and ambulance workers in June.)

Benante said the district won't know the impact of the tax breaks until they're offered. "Some taxpayers are going to pay a little less and some are going to pay a little more," he said. "What most districts are doing is adopting the exemptions on a low level and then using that base information of people who apply as part of their decision-making."

Board members seemed inclined to approve tax relief in some manner. "Many of these ambulance corps need volunteers and it's a way that the state has built in a decent enough carrot to try to help," said Trustee Ezra Clementson.

Philipstown Amends Proposed Shakespeare Zoning

Board would approve event permits

By Leonard Sparks

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will have to apply to the Philipstown Town Board for special events under revisions to a proposed law switching its Route 9 property's principal use from a golf course to a theater complex.

Supervisor John Van Tassel proposed on Feb. 1, during the continuation of a public hearing, several changes to the proposed rezoning of the 98 acres the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) owns at the former Garrison Golf Course.

Until the Town Board approves the new zoning, the Planning Board cannot continue reviewing HVSF's application to construct an open-air theater, performer housing and other amenities.

The present zoning requires that organizers of special events obtain a permit from the supervisor, which HVSF did each year it operated at Boscobel in Garrison with a seasonal tent. Board members voted unanimously to require that HVSF instead apply to the board for its permits and provide additional information such as hours of operation, anticipated number of guests and light and noise levels.


The Town Board also voted to add language clarifying that the artist apartments will be primarily for "temporary short-term housing," with the stipulation that they not be used as a primary residence for more than nine consecutive months.

Under the draft changes, which the board reviewed during its Thursday (Feb. 8) workshop, HVSF would be allowed to rent the apartments to guests but for no longer than a month. The board also defined "minor" structures, which can be overseen by the town's zoning administrative officer without going through the Planning Board, to also be "non-residential" to ensure they are not used as lodging.

The board will continue the public hearing on March 7.

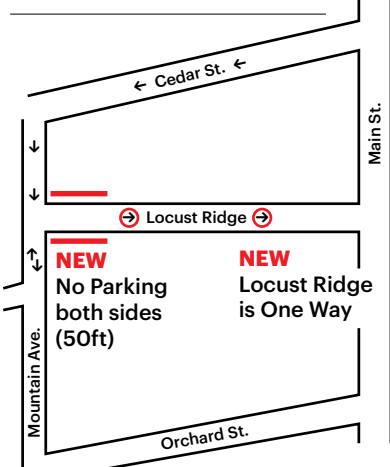
In other business ...

Philipstown is still trying to find a leak in the pipes sending water to homes in the Garrison Landing Water District as the town prepares to bore under Route 9D to connect a well that would replace trucked-in water. The search is complicated because, to fix a previous leak in a section of steel pipe, a crew inserted a plastic tube inside it. "So it could be leaking up there but it doesn't come out of the steel sleeve until it finds a hole in the steel," he said. "It's like finding a needle in a haystack."



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NEW No Parking both sides (50ft)

NEW Locust Ridge is One Way

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NEW Railroad Ave is One Way

NEW No Parking North side (20ft) and all of South side

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon protest

The comments offered by two residents at the Jan. 22 Beacon City Council meeting regarding the actions by demonstrators at the swearing-in ceremony of the mayor and City Council members are misplaced (Jan. 26). The free speech provisions contained in the First Amendment are not without limits. The text of Section 240.20 (4) of state penal law prohibits the intentional disturbance of a lawful assembly (disorderly conduct).

Had this group peacefully assembled outside City Hall, its actions would have been fully protected and respected by the Constitution. Instead, it adopted the trendy, and headline-grabbing, plan of disrupting public gatherings to further its cause. This conduct is rude and those who prevented their attempt to disrupt the ceremony should be applauded, not criticized.

Peter Forman, *Beacon*

The Garage

Could someone explain how a taxpayer-funded state grant is paying for artist studios ("From Studebakers to Solar Panels," Feb. 2)? I'm an artist and a youth educator and this seems a bit off. As a resident of South Chestnut, I'm concerned these kind of wealthy personal projects will

send our property taxes through the roof. Is the grant due to green energy, solar or other? How can we all get grants for these things or is it a privilege reserved for some? The "community" facing plan here feels very secondary or has the author of this piece minimized that information?

Lesly Deschler Canossi, *Beacon*

The editor responds: The \$2 million grant was from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's Carbon Neutral Community Economic Development program, which encourages projects that will operate at carbon-neutral or net-zero energy performance.

NYSERDA is happy to support plans that decrease a project's dependence on fossil fuels. This project does just that. The grants are open to anyone who applies. This space will enhance the city far more than the type of development that's been going on.

Patrick Freeman, *Beacon*

The rendering of this project seems accurate by development and local government standards, with no people of color.

Sean Breault, *via Facebook*

The way things are going in this country, sports, entertainment and the arts aren't going

to improve our way of life, although it's nice to see something nice being built. I used to go out every morning to paint over the graffiti there.

Dennis Hayes, *via Facebook*

Talking trash

Thank you for this great overview of our trash problem ("Talking Trash, Part 1," Feb. 2). It is complicated by anyone's standards. But taken in pieces, which is also how garbage is best managed, it is easier to see how moving to a zero-waste method is so doable.

Judy Malstrom, *Clinton*

Malstrom is the director of Zero Waste Dutchess.

Cooper's

One concern about Cooper's Bar is whether it will have live music, which can provide the heart and soul of a community ("A New Bar and New Faces," Feb. 2). Beacon has had that, and it's filled with fabulous talent. Losing a live music venue is not a positive development, no matter how historic the building or fine the Asian dumplings may be.

I'm not sure of the plans, but I was told by staff they "might consider" live music once a month, eventually. As a performing musician for more than 50 years, I know this game, and I'm not placing bets. It's a sad loss for Beacon if that is the case.

Scott Beall, *Beacon*

Beacon parking

I've noticed a number of the groups that advocate dropping parking limitations claim that more than 200 municipalities have abandoned minimum requirements for developments because they consider them an antiquated "blunt tool" ("Beacon Debates Parking Standards," Jan. 26).

However, once you dive in, you discover that these parking requirements often have been updated within the past 10 or 20 years and continue to be customized. There were changes made to Beacon's residential minimum parking requirements as recently as 2023. At locations in desperate need of commercial and residential revitalization, parking codes have been dropped or eliminated to favor development at the cost of almost all else. The current Beacon government was elected as a backlash to runaway development.

Kim Ward, *Beacon*

Radon levels

We had our radon levels tested before we moved into our home more than 20 years ago ("Free Radon Test Kits Available," Feb. 2). Four years ago we did it again and the levels downstairs were just above the "acceptable" number, so we had a mitigation system installed. Post-mitigation tests were much improved. Better safe than sorry.

Kendra Parker, *via Facebook*



Wide Angle

Why You Can't Fly From Stewart

By Stowe Boyd

I moved to Beacon in 2010, and because my job involves travel, one of the considerations in the city's favor was the proximity to a regional airport. New York Stewart International, located across the river in New Windsor, seemed to offer convenient access to the U.S. air traffic system.



Sure enough, I found that I could connect on American Airlines — through a daily flight to Philadelphia — to many of my most common destinations, such as San Francisco, Toronto and Florida. I accepted the fact that I had only limited options of airlines and flight times and that I had to travel to the Port Authority's other three airports (LaGuardia, JFK and Newark) for direct flights to most cities such as Austin, Texas, and for international flights to China, France and Ireland.

But then we had the pandemic, and the large carriers, Delta and American, dropped their flights to and from Stewart. Today there are only a handful of airlines operating, and the destinations are limited to a few locations in the U.S. (mostly Florida) and cheap flights to Reykjavik and the Faroe Islands.

And, of course, we are hearing the stories of near misses at airports, vacation snafus as airlines cancel thousands of flights because of too few staff and, most recently, a door "plug" blowing out in midflight. There's more at stake than the hours wasted driving to JFK to catch a flight to San Francisco.

The situation at Stewart is not unique. The deregulation of the U.S. air travel industry in 1978 has not led to any of the claims its advocates provided in support of dismantling the regulated competition model that had served the country for 40 years, since the 1930s, in which a federal Civil Aeronautics Board allocated routes to airlines, including those to regional airports, and the prices of flights.

Ganesh Sitaraman, a law professor at Vanderbilt University and the author of *Why Flying is Miserable and How to Fix It*, has said that "all the things that are a problem with flying are a function of public policy choices. We decide as a country that we want children's toys to be safe, that we want rural places to have electricity service, that we think banks should be able to function reliably. These are public policy choices to regulate or set up systems that advance goals we have as a country. When we have failures in these systems, it's a function of getting the policies wrong. What I found in doing the research for the book is that everything about what makes flying miserable today is a function of one big public policy choice: the choice to deregulate the airlines in 1978."

That decision led to the situation we are in now.

"The 1980s were defined by cutthroat



competition between the airlines," Sitaraman has said. "A lot of new entrants offered no-frills service, had no unions and took on the high-volume traffic and high-traffic routes, for example. This initially meant more competition and lower prices on those routes. But the big airlines fought back and pushed out a lot of these new competitors, raised prices afterward, and consolidated into large fortress hubs like Atlanta, Dallas or Charlotte."

"By the end of the decade, after dozens of bankruptcies and mergers, labor-management strife, declining service quality, congestion and lost baggage, there was a shakeout in the airlines that led to reconsolidation. The same big airlines that existed under regulation were still dominant, just without the checks of the regulated period. So, we moved from regulated oligopoly to unregulated oligopoly. Now what we have is more like monopoly capitalism, a system in which there

is very little competition and few choices."

Despite the airlines getting bailed out by the federal government during the pandemic to the tune of \$50 billion, the Highlands and even many mid-sized cities such as Dubuque, Iowa, and Toledo, Ohio, have few options for air travel.

The answer is obvious: reregulate the airlines. Sitaraman told *The New York Times* last month how this could be done: "In big cities, limit any single carrier to 30 percent of the flights. Require the big airlines to serve smaller markets. Require 'interlining,' in which airlines honor one another's tickets if one has a problem. Ban or regulate the offshoring of heavy aircraft maintenance, which is done in countries including China and El Salvador. Mandate minimum seat sizes and protect travelers from involuntary bumping."

That sounds good to me, especially the

Where You Can Fly Direct from Stewart

Allegiant

- ✈ Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- ✈ Orlando, Florida
- ✈ Punta Gorda, Florida
- ✈ Savannah, Georgia (seasonal)
- ✈ St. Petersburg, Florida

Atlantic

- ✈ Faroe Islands (seasonal)

Breeze

- ✈ Charleston, South Carolina
- ✈ Orlando, Florida

Play

- ✈ Reykjavik, Iceland

second point, which would bring back at least a few daily flights out of Stewart to connector hubs at a reasonable rate. That should be something all Americans would welcome if Congress would come together to enact it.

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



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Feb 25 Jeff Golden

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Two Open Seats on Beacon School Board

First-term member will not run again
By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board will have two open seats to fill in the spring after Board Member Yunice Heath announced this week that she does not plan to run for re-election after completing her first, three-year term.

The seats held by Heath and Flora Stadler, along with a third seat that has been vacant since John Galloway Jr. resigned last year, will be on the ballot on May 21, along with

the district's 2024-25 budget. The candidate with the most votes will join the board immediately to fill Galloway's seat and serve a three-year term. The other two winners will begin their terms on July 1.

Stadler said on Thursday (Feb. 8) that she plans to run for a third term.

The school board has been plagued by turnover in recent years, with five members resigning since 2020. In at least two of those cases — Michael Rutkoske in 2020 and Antony Tseng last year — outside work commitments played a role.

Statewide, about half of school board members serve less than six years, accord-

ing to the most recent data compiled by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). About a quarter serve 6 to 10 years and a quarter 10 or more.

While Beacon school board members have sporadically discussed shrinking the board, for a district of its size nine is "about the right number," said Al Marlin, a NYSSBA spokesperson. "It is hard work. It takes a lot of time, and outside of the major cities — Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse — these are unpaid positions."

Nominating petitions for candidates running for the Beacon school board are due May 1.



File photo

Beacon Council Member to Run for Comptroller

Aymar-Blair would forgo seat if elected

By Jeff Simms

Beacon City Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair, a Democrat who represents Ward 4, will announce that he is running for Dutchess County comptroller on Saturday (Feb. 10) at a campaign event at LaGrange Town Hall.

The comptroller is the chief accounting and auditing officer for the county. The seat will be contested in a special election in November; it is held by Gregg Pulver, a Republican and former chair of the county Legislature who was appointed in December by then-County Executive William F.X. O'Neil.

Pulver said on Thursday (Feb. 8) that he plans to run to keep the position. He succeeded Robin Lois, a Democrat who resigned to become New York State's deputy comptroller of local government and school accountability. The winner of the special election will fill the remainder of Lois' four-year term, which ends in 2025.

Aymar-Blair, who manages special education operations for the New York City Department of Education, said on Tuesday that he has 20 years of experience in government finance and operations, including a previous stint as the New York City department's senior executive director of operations for teaching and learning. "Pretty much every aspect of operational financial challenges — I've seen it," he said.

Aymar-Blair said he has watched Republicans "mismanage the county" through tax increases and irresponsible spending. "It's very obvious there needs to be a watchdog in place," he said. "It would have been irresponsible for me not to step up."

He was elected in November to his third, two-year term on the Beacon council. If elected as comptroller, he would vacate the seat, leaving Mayor Lee Kyriacou to appoint someone to complete the term.

Aymar-Blair must still submit a nominating petition with voters' signatures before he is added to the November ballot. The Dutchess Board of Elections has not said how many signatures will be required.



Protesters interrupted remarks by Rep. Pat Ryan at a swearing-in ceremony at the Memorial Building in Beacon on Jan. 6.
Photo by Una Hoppe

Cease-fire (from Page 1)

includes Beacon, spoke before the swearings-in, Ashoka and three other protesters attempted to unfurl a banner in the back of the room. City Administrator Chris White and several veterans from the Memorial Building, where the event was held, blocked the group and held the banner so it could not be opened.

Ashoka on Monday took Mayor Lee Kyriacou to task for saying that the protesters made elected officials and others in attendance that day feel unsafe. The mayor "compared nonviolent protesters to political murderers because of the masks and winter jackets that they wore," Ashoka said, call-

ing the comments "similar to Israel's multi-decade demonization of Palestinian people."

Kamel Jamal, who owns Ziatun and the Beacon Bread Company, also asked the council to pass a resolution. Jamal said he was born in a refugee camp outside of Palestine and has been threatened and beaten in Beacon for his heritage, but has also rallied behind causes including Black Lives Matters and LGBTQ rights in an attempt to leave a "positive footprint" on the community. "I hope that you see what I see," he said.

While a dozen people asked the council to adopt a resolution, not everyone in attendance agreed. Jacob Reckess, who said he came "in peace and for peace," asked the city not to go down "the very slippery slope of trying to get into a very complicated foreign policy."

Reckess said that Palestinian and Israeli leaders had both benefited from American aid, and asked the council to think about the complex history of the region. "To suddenly say, 'We should have a cease-fire,' and not look back is complicated," he said. "I'm nervous about what a generic resolution might say."

Theresa Kraft said the council would waste time and potentially taxpayer resources by engaging in the debate. "We need to put our resources into our 5 square miles," she said. "Paying the city lawyers to draft these resolutions that have no sway on world politics is just throwing money out the window."

Brent Spodek, the rabbi at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, said he has struggled with the dynamics surrounding Israel and Palestine for much of his career. He also acknowledged that a cease-fire resolution would have no impact on the situation in the Middle East.

Instead, Spodek gave his phone number and invited dialogue on the local level. "I would hope that we don't simply replicate the efforts to grasp for force, to use what force we can gain, to make our voices louder and the voices of our so-called opponents quieter," he said.

Following the public comments, Council Members Molly Rhodes and Paloma Wake, who has previously encouraged her colleagues to consider a resolution, asked to discuss the matter during an upcoming meeting. It is scheduled to be on the agenda for the council's workshop on Tuesday (Feb. 13), which begins at 7 p.m.

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WITCH  HAZEL

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Judy Farrell, a member of Philipstown's Town Board, and other town residents addressed the Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (Feb. 6). Legislator Nancy Montgomery is seated at right.

Photo by L. Sparks

Montgomery *(from Page 1)*

to be one after the other about something that's not on the agenda, we're either going to shut down public comment or shut down the meeting."

The confrontation was expected as Montgomery and the Philipstown Democrats urged residents to attend Tuesday's meeting to protest.

Although the Legislature's eight Republicans appointed Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, to several boards during an organizational meeting on Jan. 2, Jonke kept her off the Legislature's seven standing committees, whose rosters are filled by the chair.

Nearly all resolutions that reach the Legislature must first be approved by at least one of the three-person standing committees. While each Republican legislator received assignments to two or three committees, Montgomery will sit in 2024 only on the Budget and Finance Committee, which includes every legislator.

In a letter to Montgomery dated Jan. 25 that Jonke shared with *The Current* and read during Tuesday's meeting, he claimed she had an "inability to work collaboratively, and to act professionally and collegially."

He accused Montgomery of eight violations, including "flagrantly disregarding" the rules of order, "failing to confine your comments to the merits of the question"; "failing to maintain a courteous tone"; "injecting personal notes into debate, including personal attacks"; and "speaking more than once on a subject before every other legislator choosing to be heard on the subject has spoken without having received the permission of the chair to do so."

Further, he said, Montgomery had disparaged past actions by the Legislature and engaged in unspecified activities that "disturbed meetings or that hampered the transaction of business."

He also accused Montgomery of impugning the integrity of the Republican legislators by "accusing them of acting solely for political reasons, when it is glaringly obvious that so many of your actions are entirely political."

Montgomery proposed on Tuesday a

motion in which she would take Ellner's place on the Rules Committee, but the other five legislators present stayed silent when Jonke asked if anyone seconded the motion in order to bring it to a vote. (Legislators Toni Addonizio and Ginny Nacerino were absent.)

Montgomery called each of her colleagues "culpable" in the decision to exclude her from the committees. "These games that we're playing don't belong here," she said. "I've served this county and I've served it well."

Judy Farrell, a member of the Philipstown Town Board and the first person to speak, sparred with Jonke about the agenda rule as she spoke. At one point, Jonke told Farrell that "part of the problem is your legislator doesn't care about rules."

Farrell said that "by discriminating" against Montgomery, Jonke was "discriminating against every resident of Philipstown and Putnam Valley" who elected her to the Legislature.

"You need to do the right thing," she said. "If you don't, shame on you."

Hogan said the town needs "to be heard" when the Legislature is discussing the budget, health, infrastructure and other important topics. To exclude Montgomery from membership on any standing committee is the same as excluding her constituents, said Hogan.

"We need for you to set aside differences professionally and work together," she said.

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The Philipstown Food Pantry

The Volunteers & Patrons of the Philipstown Food Pantry would like to thank all of the community members who purchased the \$10 food bags at Foodtown, donated points, Turkeys & Hams. Our generous community helped so many celebrate the holidays with all the trimmings. Thank you to Philipstown Town Hall members past and present who made it possible for us to distribute Foodtown Gift Cards in December. We are extremely grateful to all, whether you stopped by to volunteer or drop off donations. It is with the donations of those listed below and those who remain anonymous that enable the Food Pantry to continue to serve 70 plus families weekly.

- Abby Corey
James Hustis VFW Post 2362
Alicia Dunn
Jane Wilford in honor of Sara Dulaney's Birthday
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Karen Petacchi in honor of Sara Dulaney's Birthday
Cheryl Rockkett In honor of Greta & Donald Graham
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Michael Mell
Dorothy (Dar) Williams
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Edward Doyle
Mr. & Mrs. David May
Dr. Frank Lucente
Nadine Topalian
Marie E. Early
Our Lady of Loretto Church & the Knights of Columbus #536
Ellen Cadwallader
Pamela Read
Friedrike Merck
Patrick Donahue
Gail Greet Hannah
Patti M. Smith, P.E.
Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corp
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Glennon & Abigail Watson
Ralph & Robin Arditi
Glynwood Farms
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Signal Fire Bread
Heidi Shira Bender
Split Rock Bookstore
Heidi Shira Bender
Stacey Farley and Peter Davoren
Humana Inc.
Susan Wallach
Irene O'Garden
Thomas and Erica Kivel
Jack and Linda Weinstein
Tim Sharpley
James Dye
Zanne Stewart

Thank you everyone!

TALKING TRASH

(from Page 1)

trooper. But one summer he worked at the McEnroe Farm Market and a manager told him they needed help with the compost. Hamm thought a front-end loader would be more interesting than a cash register.

He had never given much thought to food waste but soon realized the scale of the problem and the role that large-scale composting could play in solving a host of entangled issues. “It’s food security, it’s food safety, it’s environmental sustainability,” he says. “You’re investing in the future.”

That was 18 years ago. Hamm abandoned his policing plans and instead became the compost bagger at McEnroe Organic Soils & Compost, working his way up to manager.

McEnroe is the only large-scale compost operation in Dutchess County, producing 8,000 cubic yards annually. Hamm says he would welcome competition. “If 10 more compost facilities showed up, we’d still have enough for our share,” he says.

Moving the needle

There is no silver bullet for fixing the climate crisis, but composting comes close.

When food scraps are sent to a landfill, they end up in what’s known as an anaerobic, or oxygen-free, environment. As microbes break down the waste, they produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

If that same food waste is composted, it doesn’t produce methane.

Composting still produces another greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, but it’s far less potent. When Beacon recently updated its greenhouse gas inventory, it measured methane emissions from the capped landfill by the Denning’s Point transfer station for the first time. Although it’s been closed for decades, the landfill remains by far the city’s largest source of greenhouse gases, producing more than a third of Beacon’s emissions.

The benefits of finished compost are familiar to gardeners and farmers who use it as a nutrient-rich fertilizer that increases



Molly Lindsay of Community Compost with a handful of the finished product



Photos by B. Cronin

water retention and minimizes erosion. Those same qualities make it invaluable in restoration projects, such as rebuilding stream banks and revitalizing grasslands.

“As we apply compost to grasslands, we get more plant growth, but we also get more carbon sticking around in the soil,” explains Sintana Vergara, an engineering professor at Cal Poly Humboldt who studies waste management. “And that’s good news from a climate-change perspective, because we’re pulling carbon out of the atmosphere, where we don’t want it, and into the soil, where we do.”

As detailed in the first part of this series (see highlandscurrent.org/trash), most of the solid waste produced in Putnam and Dutchess counties is sent to incinerators.

But the high water content in food scraps reduces their efficiency while also releasing dioxin, a highly toxic pollutant that takes a long time to break down.

“There’s agreement across the industry that, if we’re going to move the needle significantly in terms of waste reduction, there are only a few areas that are going to have a serious impact,” says Lou Vetrone, a deputy commissioner at the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities. “One of them is food waste.”

Vetrone said that 25 municipalities in Westchester have drop-off food scrap recycling and two have curbside programs. County trucks pick up the scraps and bring them to a large-scale compost facility. The county also runs a compost garden to show school groups and municipalities who aren’t already on board how it works.

Westchester’s solid-waste management plan stands in stark contrast to those in the Highlands. Putnam’s plan expired in 2020 and there is no timeline for an update. In Dutchess, the City of Beacon in 2022 sent a letter to the county urging it to fund a study on whether composting could be expanded, including the creation of additional large-scale processing facilities. In its solid-waste management plan, released last year, the county says it hopes to complete such a study by 2033 and, according to Kerry Russell, deputy commissioner for solid-waste management, build on the success of local pilot programs in Beacon, Rhinebeck and Red Hook.

The lack of meaningful support at the county level has left the volunteers who created and operate drop-off food scrap programs feeling that their programs are succeeding against the odds. “We’re hoping to get some funding at some point,” says Karen Ertl of Garrison, who helped establish a food-scrap recycling program in Philipstown. “But we’re not holding our breath.”

A question of scale

In 2022, New York State enacted the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Act, which requires any institution that generates an average of at least 2 tons of food waste each week to donate any edibles and send the rest to be recycled if it is within 25 miles of a composting facility. The state Department of Environmental Conservation says that, as a result of the law, food-scrap recycling jumped more than 500 percent from 2021 to 2022.

“If 10 more compost facilities showed up, we’d still have enough for our share.”

~ Matthew Hamm

Composting advocates hoped that the law would encourage the creation of more local composting facilities, but so far that hasn’t happened. Yvette Valdés Smith, a Democrat whose district in the county Legislature includes Ward 4 in Beacon, has been pushing for a Dutchess compost plan, only to find that many of her fellow legislators don’t understand how composting works. She says some told her that they don’t want to spend money on something that people can do in their backyards.

That’s true, but backyard composting has its limits. Not everyone has a backyard. And not everyone has the time or physical ability to maintain a compost pile, which breaks down food scraps at a much slower rate than larger, hotter piles and can’t be relied on to decompose meat or

(Continued on Page 9)



Matthew Hamm of McEnroe Organic Farm stands in front of a compost pile which he estimated was “a little shy of 1,000 [cubic] yards.”

(Continued from Page 8)

dairy. Larger facilities can accept just about anything. “I always tell people, ‘If you eat it, we can take it,’” says Ertl in Philipstown.

Dutchess legislators did include \$200,000 in the 2024 budget for a grant program to assist municipalities in purchasing and installing “in-vessel aerobic composters,” enclosed devices that break down food scraps faster than an outdoor pile. But the grants can’t exceed 50 percent of the price, and Sergei Krasikov, the chair of Beacon’s Conservation Advisory Committee, says he’s not sure the program is as appealing to municipalities as the county might think.

“I doubt any municipality will — or should — jump at an opportunity to procure an in-vessel composting facility before doing a study and developing a plan,” he says. “How are food scraps getting picked up? Who pays for and provides containers for the households? Will there be a fee for residents? What happens to tons and tons of compost as it gets produced? What is the scalability of the system to increase operational capacity as participation grows?”

“It seems to make more sense to offer municipalities grants to conduct studies and draw up operational plans before offering to help them buy composters.”

Beacon’s drop-off composting program has collected more than 110,000 pounds of food scraps since it began as a pilot program in 2022. Faye Leone, the city’s Climate Smart coordinator, says that although the program hasn’t been made official, it’s hard to imagine that Beacon residents would let it lapse.

“We can’t go back,” she says. “The willingness and the commitment are there, but we have only the bare bones of what a program could look like. We’re not even making a dent in our total emissions.”

Krasikov says the program is great “in terms of changing behavior. But to reduce Beacon’s emissions by 20 to 25 percent with this, we need curbside composting.”

Without more large-scale processing facilities, Krasikov doesn’t see how that could happen. “If each municipality has to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to build a composting facility, it’s just devastatingly expensive,” he says. “This is where economies of scale could kick in. If the county had a facility that could service a few towns, the price drops for everyone.”

Without county support, Beacon is left to figure out how to expand its program while also minimizing emissions. That led to a recent change: Instead of being shipped to Westchester, Beacon’s compost is now picked up by the Community Compost Co. of Ulster County. The firm already offers curbside composting to businesses and households in Beacon for a monthly fee, so picking up Beacon’s municipal output on the same weekly trip eliminates the greenhouse gas emissions produced by the truck that came from Westchester.

“We’re already there,” said Molly Lindsay of Community Compost. “Might as well fill up the truck.”

Community Compost is smaller than McEnroe Farms, as Lindsay explains while walking among the piles on a cold December day. A light snow made it easy to see



A drop-off site for Beacon's municipal composting program

which piles were ready: The snow was sticking to them. A pile in the process of breaking down has to maintain an internal temperature of between 131 and 160 degrees — hot enough to kill pathogens but not hot enough to kill microbes. On the piles that were still cooking, the snow turned to steam as soon as it landed.

Lindsay says Community Compost would like to see more small sites than centralized processing. “Spread that compost around and then the finished product can go back into the communities where it’s produced,” she says. Customers in its curbside program get two bags of compost delivered per year.

As hot as its piles get, the company doesn’t

accept “compostable” bio-plastics such as plates and cups because they don’t break down fast enough. Vergara, the professor at Cal Poly Humboldt, has noticed the same thing at every composting facility she’s visited.

“Perhaps under lab conditions, these materials might degrade,” she says. “But under the timescales that we see in commercial composting facilities, these items just don’t break down. At the facilities that I have visited, they screen out bio-plastics and throw them away.”

Lindsay has been working for Community Compost for 10 years. In that time, mostly from speaking to people at farmers’ markets, she has noticed a shift in the way people

think about food waste. “There wasn’t a lot of awareness when I started” of food waste and its role in global warming, she says. “But people are figuring out that compost is a way to resolve this.”

Customers have told her that, since composting, they’ve become more aware of food waste and started spending less on groceries. “When they have to separate it, they’re seeing how much food they’re throwing out,” she says. “They’re saying, ‘OK, I never used those three cucumbers, I don’t need to buy that many.’ And then they’re changing their shopping habits.”

New York’s solid-waste management plan says the state won’t be able to tackle its massive waste problem unless it moves to a “circular economy” in which nearly all materials are reused in some form. Walking amongst the steaming piles in Ulster County, I couldn’t help but think that there was no better visual representation of this sort of economy than compost. Somewhere, in one of these piles, the tomato my son threw out a few weeks ago was in the process of breaking down to return to us in the spring as a bag of compost for our garden, in which we will grow more tomatoes.

“Instead of dumping your food scraps in one bin, you’re putting them in a different bin,” says Lindsay. “It’s a lot easier than people think.”

NEXT WEEK:

Plastics and the limits of recycling

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. Feb 10 + Sun. Feb 11 – 1-5 PM
“FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHERS”
 Featuring Photographers:
 William Snyder - David Burnett - Tony Cenicola
 Pierce Johnston - William A. Loeb
 Jane Soodalter - Sandra Belitza-Vazquez
 CURATORS: LARRY KERSCHBERG & RONNIE BETH SAUERS
 ON EXHIBIT THRU FEB 25TH MOST WKNDs, BY APPT. AND BY CHANCE

Feb 13 - Southern Fiddle Tune Jam
Feb 16 - JEREMY SCHONFELD
Feb 23 - OPEN MIC NIGHT

Esther Howland's Valentine card, "Affection" ca. 1870s

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **BALLOON POWER** — Ryan Biracree of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison led a Family Science Night on Jan. 30 featuring balloon-propelled helicopters, cars and water.
Photos by Ross Corsair



◀ **CAT AND THE CANARY** — Dancers, singers and a chamber ensemble performed on Feb. 4 at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as a benefit for its children's programming. The ensemble will bring Prokofiev's *Peter & The Wolf* to The Chapel on March 16.
Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **JOB WELL DONE** — Putnam County on Tuesday (Feb. 6) recognized Chief Robert Boddie (left) of the Continental Village Fire Department and Chief Jeffrey Phillips (second from left) of the Cold Spring Fire Co. for rescuing an adult and child from a burning building in Cortlandt on Jan. 15. To the right of the firefighters are Legislator Nancy Montgomery, County Executive Kevin Byrne, Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel, Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward and Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley.
Photo by Leonard Sparks

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 - Expanded mental health and disability services
 - Budgeted more to combat Opioid Crisis
 - Bolstered Tax Stabilization Fund



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The Calendar

STICKS
AND
POLES

Sculptor rejoins wood left by the wayside

By Alison Rooney

How did a Brooklyn girl get so attached to the woods? For Loren Eiferman, it took hold at the Brooklyn Museum Art School. “I took a class each week, then wandered the halls; the African and South American collections with their totem poles, the extraordinary Egyptian wing, the Georgia O’Keefe watercolors, it all resonated so deeply,” she says.

Soon after, she moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, into an apartment with three tiny rooms. “It was August and so hot, but I turned my bedroom into my studio and made large oil paintings with gesso, 5-by-4 feet, but nothing would dry in the humidity.”

So she started whittling balsa. “I’m wired to be constantly creating things,” she recalls. “After eight hours went by, I found I had made this totem pole and thought, ‘Oh my god, I’m a sculptor, not a painter.’”

Eiferman began collecting sticks in Central Park and bringing them home on the subway. Friends who had cars drove her to the woods.

Some of the results will be on display at the BAU Gallery in Beacon, starting with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday (Feb. 10), as part of a two-person show with Midori Furutate called *Alchemy/Paper and Sticks*.

Eiferman says a big shift in her work came when she realized she was more interested in the shape of the wood, not just its utility as something to carve. “I learned that I wanted the wood and the shapes to speak for themselves,” she says.

She explains her technique: “I start each day collecting tree limbs and sticks;

I never chop down a living tree or use green wood. Next, I debark the branch and look for shapes within each piece of wood. I cut and join these shapes. The open joints get filled with homemade putty and sanded. This process usually needs to be repeated at least three times.”

Each sculpture includes 100 to 200 pieces of joined wood and takes at least a month to build, she says. Or, as she notes, “it’s taken a lifetime to make them all.”

She hopes that viewers “have a sense of wonder and awe when looking at my work. We have all at one point or another picked up a stick from the ground, touched the wood, peeled the bark off with our fingernails. My work taps into that primal desire to touch nature and be close to it.

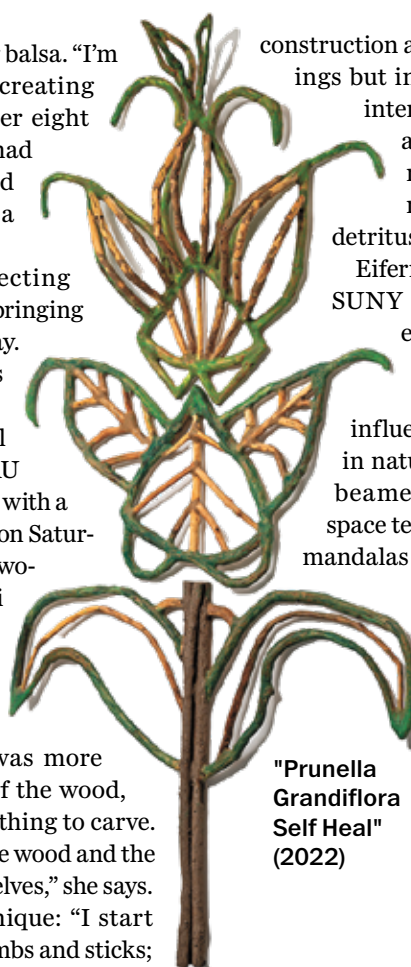
“The sculpture under construction appears like my line drawings but in space,” she adds. “I am interested in having my work appear as if it grew in nature. It’s the ultimate recycling, where I take detritus and give it a new life.”

Eiferman, who has a BFA from SUNY Purchase, takes a walk every morning from her Katonah home in search of material. She says her influences include the patterns in nature and plant life, images beamed back by the Hubble space telescope; ancient Buddhist mandalas and quantum physics.

Together with exhibiting this work at galler-



“New Growth” (2021), with 142 pieces of wood, is one of Eiferman’s pieces inspired by the Voynich manuscript.



“Prunella Grandiflora Self Heal” (2022)



Loren Eiferman in her studio

Photos provided

ies, corporate collections and alternative art spaces, Eiferman has had quite a few interesting commissions, including one from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan for seven sculpted clay heads honoring women who started or influenced a world religion, and a 2014 piece for the Pelham Metro-North station in which she created a metal sculpture based on the William Morris Arts and Crafts decorative movement. “There was a serious learning curve for that one,” she says.

Eiferman is currently taking inspiration

from the Voynich manuscript, which was written in a now-unknown language in the early 15th century and is filled with drawings of plants that don’t exist. For the past eight years, she’s been translating the images into sculptures. Another source of inspiration are the photographs of plants by Karl Blossfeldt.

She is not afraid to experiment. “I needed to finish off a sculpture with something translucent, with some stretch to it: I used pantyhose!” she says. “There’s always a discovery — new things are afoot!”

*The BAU Gallery, at 506 Main St. in Beacon, is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. See baugallery.org and loreneifermanart.com. The gallery also will exhibit *Elemental Conversations*, with wood-fired ceramics by Meg Beaudoin, who was the first-prize winner in BAU’s 2023 juried exhibition, and works by Mary McFerran. All three exhibits continue through March 10.*

“We have all at one point or another picked up a stick from the ground, touched the wood, peeled the bark off with our fingernails. My work taps into that primal desire to touch nature and be close to it.”

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

FRI 16 Harlem Wizards

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
bit.ly/wizards-beacon

The Wizards will take on a team of district teachers and staff as a benefit for the Rombout Middle School PTO, Beacon High School PTSO and Beacon High School National Honor Society. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 students, \$25 to \$125 for reserved seats, ages 3 and younger free)*

SAT 17 Spaghetti Dinner

COLD SPRING
5 – 7 p.m. American Legion
10 Cedar St.

Enjoy a meal to benefit the Auxiliary. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 for 6 to 12, free for 6 and younger)*

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 13 Teen Palentine's Day

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

Students in grades 6 and higher are invited to make friendship bracelets and enjoy treats. Registration required.

TUES 13 Black History Storytime

COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

In this program co-hosted with the Butterfield Library, children ages 4 to 7 can learn about Harriet Tubman and the local connection to the Underground Railroad. Registration required.



THURS 15 SEL Storytime

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

Students in kindergarten through second grade can enjoy stories about managing the grouches during this social and emotional learning time. Registration required.



Harlem Wizards, Feb. 16

THURS 15 Escape Room

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

Children and teenagers ages 11 and older will team up to solve clues and make it out in time. Registration required.

SAT 17 Washington's Birthday

NEWBURGH
Noon – 3 p.m.
Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/WashingtonsHeadquarters

The historic site will have reenactments, cake, music and crafts. Also SUN 18, MON 19.

SAT 17 Art Supply Swap

BEACON
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Pick up gently used supplies for arts and crafts projects. Drop off donations from noon to 5 p.m. on FRI 16.

SUN 18 Ollie Storytime

COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockbks.com

Nicole Vitale and illustrator Sarah Monck will share their illustrated book, followed by a craft.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 10 Open Barn

WAPPINGERS FALLS
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Visit the sheep, cows and other animals. Guides will answer questions. Also SUN 11. Continues on weekends through November.

SAT 10 Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnnaturecenter.org

Choose from a short walk at noon or 3 p.m. or a longer hike at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. to see the process of tapping trees and cooking sap to make syrup. Also SUN 11 and weekends through March 3. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members, ages 4 and younger free)*

FRI 16 Great Backyard Bird Count

birdcount.org
With 15 minutes of observation, share what birds you see and how many as part of this citizen scientists assignment. Watch a webinar and sign up online. Counts can be submitted through MON 19.

SAT 17 Winter Seed Sowing

COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The Philipstown Garden Club will have seeds and supplies to get a head start on the growing season. The snow date is SUN 18. Registration required.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10 Michael Raab: Summer of '66

BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

This display of photographs of the St. Andrew's youth summer camp by Michael Raab is part of the library's *West End Story* exhibits. Through March 3. See Page 15.

SAT 10 Dialogue in a Variable Key

BEACON
2 – 4 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com

Works by Eleni Smolen and Susanna Ronner will be on view in a curated experience that creates a conversation between their art. Through March 3.

SAT 10 Art of the Garden

BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

The group exhibit will include pieces by more than 20 artists. Through April 7.

SAT 10 5th Annual Glow-in-the-Dark Show

BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co

The gallery will be lit in black to showcase neon works that pop in UV light. Zimot will also have a solo show. Through March 1.

SAT 10 Animal Kingdom

BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
This show by Enne Tesse features her fabric and textile works. Through March 2.

SAT 10 Loren Eiferman / Midori Furutate

BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org
Meg Beaudoin's wood-fired ceramics will fill Gallery 1, while in Gallery 2, Eiferman and Furutate will mount *Alchemy / Paper and Sticks*. (See Page 11.) Mary McFerran's *Climate Line* will be in the Beacon Room. Through March 3.

SAT 10 A Hidden Quiet

BEACON
7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
Taj Campman's abstract paintings in oil, acrylic and pencil will be on view through April 6.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 10 Storytelling Class

BEACON
10:30 a.m. Beahive
6 Eliza St. | bit.ly/oneill-storytelling

Bridget O'Neill, a podcast host and *Moth* storyteller, will lead a series of four workshops on developing and delivering a story. *Cost: \$190*

SAT 10 Magnificent Menopause

COLD SPRING
11:30 a.m. Ascend Center
75 Main St. | ascendcenter.com
Dani Locastro and Katya Varlamova will lead this workshop, which includes yoga and herbal tonics

with a focus on menopause. *Cost: \$55*

SUN 11 Washington Project

NEWBURGH
3 p.m. Ritz Theater | 107 Broadway
facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters

Watch theatrical and musical performances created by Hudson Valley students about historical events involving George Washington. This event is a collaboration between the Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site and Safe Harbors. *Free*

THURS 15 To Salt or Not to Salt

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

Does adding salt to a cup of tea make it taste better? A chemist recommended it but many do not agree. Let's test it out. Registration required.

THURS 15 How Earth Scientists Learn About Climate Change

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org

Kirsten Menking, the director of environmental studies at Vassar College, will give a presentation on her work using sediment samples from Lake Minnewaska and Lake Mohonk to reconstruct the climate history of Shawangunk Ridge. *Free*



STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 10 Floencia en El Amazonas

POUGHKEEPSIE
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
See the Met premiere in a high-definition livestream of the Daniel Catán opera inspired by the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Soprano Ailyn Pérez will sing the lead. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 members, \$23 children)*

SAT 10 Cirque Zuma Zuma

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

The African performers will lead a cultural journey of awe-inspiring talent. *Cost: \$25 to \$40*

SAT 10 You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconplayers.com
The Beacon Players Younger Company will stage the musical based on the Charles Schulz comic strip *Peanuts*. *Cost: \$10*

MON 12

Love Songs & Lattes

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconplayers.com

The Beacon Players will host a Valentine's coffeehouse with music and songs. *Cost: \$10 (free for ages 6 and younger)*

TUES 13

Lines of Demarcation

BEACON

6 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
foundationforbeaconschools.org

This documentary, made by Beacon High School students with support from the Foundation for Beacon Schools and the Rise Up Project, includes interviews with Black seniors about their experiences in the city. *Free*

WED 14

You've Got Mail

COLD SPRING

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

As part of the 12 Months of Tom Hanks series, watch the 1998 film with Meg Ryan about competitors who fall in love through the internet.

THURS 15

Black Panther

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

As part of the Game Changers film series, see director Ryan Coogler's Oscar-winning film about protecting the kingdom of Wakanda from a challenger and war. *Free*

FRI 16

The Effects of Gravity

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Learn about the universe, galaxies, the planet, stars and solar system through science and art. *Free*

FRI 16

Victor/Victoria

GARRISON

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

Cinema Depot will screen

the 1982 Oscar-winning film starring Julie Andrews and James Garner about a female singer who impersonates a man impersonating a woman to earn a living. *Cost: \$15*



SAT 17

Love Party

BEACON

8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com

Celebrate love in all its forms with readings and reflections from literature, astrology and history.

SUN 18

Fortune Feimster

POUGHKEEPSIE

4:30 & 7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The stand-up comedian and actor will perform as part of her Live Laugh Love tour. *Cost: \$29 to \$65*

VISUAL ART

FRI 16

Meg Webster

BEACON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811

Webster's minimalist earthworks and sculptures will be installed for long-term viewing. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and visitors with disabilities, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for ages 5 and younger and Beacon residents)*

FRI 16

Winter Art Show

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com

Beacon Open Studios will host two DJ sets and a dance party at this opening reception; the show will be on view weekends through SUN 25. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 17

Stanford Kay | Tatana Keller

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Kay's work in *Painting Out Loud* explores the balance between the artist's unconscious and critical-thinking mind. Keller's paintings and prints in *Sideways Glances* contemplate contemporary issues through the lens of a childhood spent in communist Czechoslovakia as the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Through March 10.

MUSIC

SAT 10

Romantic Piano

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com

As part of the Music at St. Mary's series, Miles Fusco, pianist for the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet, will perform music for Valentine's Day on the church's Steinway grand. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 10

Willie Nile Band

BEACON

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

The "rock 'n' roll troubadour" will perform songs from his latest release, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*



SUN 11

C.J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band

BEACON

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

The Creole artist plays Zydeco and blues-driven music. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 16

Dar Williams

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | bit.ly/dar-can-2024

The singer and songwriter will perform to benefit the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. The show will be followed by optional training on how to administer Narcan, an opioid overdose antidote. *Cost: \$40*

FRI 16

Jeremy Schonfeld

BEACON

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

The composer will play music from his upcoming release, *The Father Who Stayed*, with Nate Allen and guest Gus Schonfeld. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 16

KJ Denhert and The New York Unit

BEACON

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

The singer and musician will play with her band and guests Michele Gedney, Judy Kass and Elly Winner. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

FRI 16

Naturally 7

PEEKSKILL

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

The a capella group is celebrating its 20th anniversary. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

SAT 17

The Long, Gray Line

WEST POINT

2 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

The West Point Band's performance will recount the history of the academy. *Free*

SAT 17

Concert of Concertos

NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's program at Aquinas Hall will celebrate Romantic period composers with selections by Rachmaninoff, Puccini, Mozart and

Handel. *Cost: \$30 to \$75 (students free)*

SAT 17

Music Collaborative

COLD SPRING

6 – 10 p.m. Foundry Rose
55 Main St. | 845-809-5480
thefoundryrose.com

Brian Grahn and Mike Casale bring together local musicians to play favorite songs. Bring an acoustic instrument and join in or request to sing. Reservations recommended for dinner.

SAT 17

Gratefully Yours

BEACON

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

The tribute band will recreate the experience and set lists of Grateful Dead shows. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 17

Turn Up Time

PEEKSKILL

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

The concert celebrates urban music with songs in Spanish and English. *Cost: \$65 to \$85*

CIVIC

TUES 13

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

WED 14

Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

SAT 17

Town Hall

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave.
nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg

Dana Levenberg, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, will host this question-and-answer session. She will also hold a virtual town hall on THURS 15. Register at bit.ly/February15TownHall.



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Roots and Shoots

Compost Tea

By Pamela Doan

The concepts of *living soil* and a *soil food web* are an approach to gardening and growing food that considers soil as a living ecosystem. Healthy soil has organic matter, nutrients and a balance of beneficial and predatory organisms, fungi and bacteria. When we pay attention to this as a vital system, we get better results with harvests and a more resilient landscape.

Monique Bosch is the soil health program manager with the Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association. I studied with her last year while completing its Organic Land Care course. She wrote the regulations about vermicomposting and compost tea, and has researched and practiced both for years.

How is compost tea distinct from other forms of compost?

Composting is the breakdown of organic matter with the help of microbes by heating it to a certain point. In a thermophilic process, it has to reach 131 degrees for 15 days. That's what you get when you buy it at the store. To achieve this, you need a

balanced carbon/nitrogen ratio mixed in the right proportion. The temperature kills pathogens and if it's heated to 143 degrees, then weed seeds will die.

In vermicomposting, worms do the work. The advantage is that you're not killing the "good guys" — the predator microbes and fungi — with heat.

With compost tea, you're taking the microbes and giving them a food source to multiply. Then you can apply it directly onto the plant. It's aerated — you need oxygen — and the goal is to multiply the microbes.

So what's the difference between compost tea and compost extract?

The process is different. If you have worm castings or compost and put them in a bucket of water and stir it, the microbes will be extracted and you can feed plants with it. It still works as a fertilizer, but you're extracting the microbes rather than feeding them and multiplying them.

Why would a gardener want to use compost tea?

Of all the methods we've covered, it's the most effective. The plant can immediately take it up. The microbes feed the plant sugars and the plant feeds on the nutrients. It improves water retention and plants need less water. With that immediate hit of nutrients, plants can resist pathogens more quickly. Plant roots have been found to grow deeper and decomposition of organic matter speeds up.

I've also used it to treat downy and powdery



A bucket of compost tea

Photo provided

mildew, rust and other fungal diseases. Spray it on the foliage and microbes feed on the bacteria. If you get rid of it and it's humid again, it might come back. But many times a single application is all I need.

How can gardeners make compost tea?

You'll need a 5-gallon bucket that is washed with hydrogen peroxide to remove any biofilm. An aquarium pump will aerate the mixture and can be held down with a rock. Tap water is fine. Add 1.2 teaspoons of fish hydrolysate (food for fungi), 1.6 tablespoons of kelp (food for bacteria and fungi) and 1 tablespoon of humic acid (it acts as a binder) to the water.

You can use compost, worm castings

or soil from around a healthy tree. Put 2 cups in a 400-micron mesh bag (available as a paint strainer) or cheesecloth and submerge it in the bucket with the pump running for 24 hours. The microbes will multiply by the billions.

What is important to know about using compost tea?

It can go anaerobic quickly. Use it immediately after brewing for 24 hours. Don't let it sit in the sun. I look at it under a microscope and can see the microbial activity and know when it's gone anaerobic and the microbes are dead. Without a microscope, just use it right away and don't let it sit around.

It can be sprayed on foliage or used as root drench. It's most effective to apply it at sunset and then the dew comes out to coat the leaves and it will last longer. Don't use it when it's hot and sunny. It can burn the leaves.

While it's good for any stage of growth, compost tea helps the most when plants are going through a major output of energy. When you're potting up seedlings, dip the roots in tea and the microbes will go right into the soil around the roots.

Can it ever be overused?

Not really. The plants will only take up the nutrients they can use.

For more information about the soil food web, Bosch recommends microbiologist Elaine Ingham's work and a course she teaches. See soilfoodweb.com.

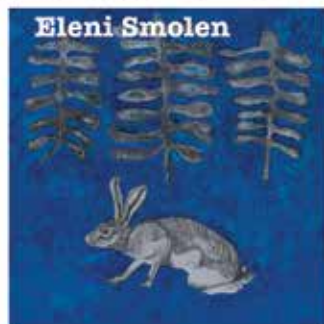
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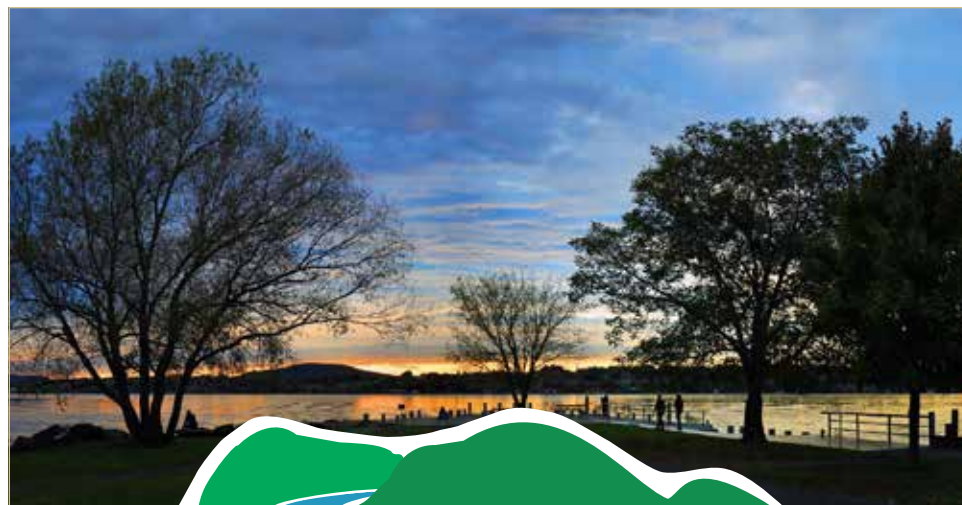
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Summer of '66

Exhibit showcases forgotten photos from Beacon summer camp

By Leonard Sparks

A *Village Voice* ad lured an aspiring photographer named Michael Raab from New York City to Beacon during the summer of 1966.

More than five decades later, a story in *The Highlands Current* brought him back.

Raab shot 35 mm film that summer while working as a counselor for a camp organized by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at its South Avenue property. The images will be the focus of an exhibit that opens Saturday (Feb. 10) at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.

It is accompanied by a videotaped interview with Raab and Sandy Moneymaker, the widow of the late Rev. Thomas Moneymaker, St. Andrew's former rector and a community organizer. It was Thomas Moneymaker who in July 1966 placed the *Village Voice* ad seeking people to work "in a racially-torn city" for \$20 a week plus room and board.

Raab, a supporter of the civil rights movement who traveled to Washington, D.C., in 1963 for the March on Washington, saw the camp as an opportunity to "be more of a participant" and decided to take a break from working as an assistant in a commercial photography studio.

The children in his black-and-white photos were mostly residents of Beacon's West End, a predominantly Black community whose homes and businesses were erased by Urban Renewal in the late 1960s and early '70s.

"What is so significant to me, and what I see in these pictures, is a sense of community," said Raab. "That really touched me."

The history of that summer had been packed away and forgotten by Raab, who forged a career as a commercial photographer and then in real estate. Those memories stirred in May 2023 when he and his wife booked a three-day trip to Beacon after reading about the city's evolution.

Raab said he searched Google for information on Thomas Moneymaker and discovered *Always Present, Never Seen*, a 2022 series by *The Current* on the history of Black people in the Highlands. The series included



an interview with Sandy Moneymaker about the integration of St. Andrew's and her husband's concerns about the impact of Urban Renewal on Beacon's Black residents.

Raab emailed the newspaper about his summer in the city, which led to a meeting with Diane Lapis, a trustee of the Beacon Historical Society. Lapis set up a meeting between Raab and Sandy Moneymaker, and that "touched off again all these memories," he said.

"Diane spurred me to go back and look and see if I had any pictures from then," said Raab. "I was shocked when I found them."

During his sojourn at the summer camp, Raab and another volunteer from New York City slept on mattresses in a small cottage on St. Andrew's property. They ate inside Moneymaker's residence. Most memorable, he said, were the experiences with the kids, which he captured with a Nikon camera during breaks.

There were activities like basketball and an overnight trip to a campground owned by the Episcopal Diocese in Bear Mountain Park. The trip had one "scary" moment, however, when someone yelled the N-word from a car that passed the children as they walked at night along a road inside the park, he said.

One of the photos that strikes him the most, said Raab, shows four campers interacting with each other as they sit on a bench. Another child stands beside them.

"They're all being together, being with each other — that sense of belonging somewhere," he said. "I got a lot out of that summer."

Beacon's West End Story: Summer of 1966 opens in the Howland Public Library's Community Room with an artist's reception on Feb. 10, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and continues through March 3. The library is located at 313 Main St.



MUSIC  ST MARY'S

Romantic Piano

Saturday, February 10th
2PM

Miles Fusco, pianist for the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet, will play romantic Valentine's Day music on St. Mary's Steinway grand piano.

Free. Donations are welcome



St Mary's Church in the Highlands
Rt 9D at Main St
Cold Spring, NY 10516

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

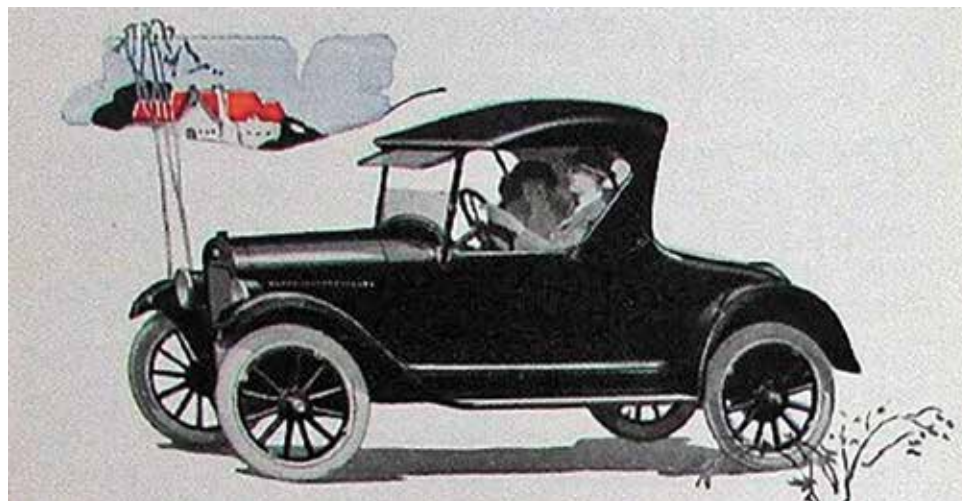
By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (February 1874)

Ingersoll Lockwood, the 6-foot-4 former U.S. consul to the Kingdom of Hanover [which became part of Germany in 1871] and the nephew of Cold Spring resident Nicholas Smith, spoke at the Baptist Church about women's faces, both ancient and modern, to benefit the Sunday School.

William Garrison, who represented Philipstown on the county Board of Supervisors, proposed that the town be split so it would have two representatives. He noted that, with six supervisors, the votes were often ties, and that Philipstown had a third of the county population but only a sixth of the vote.

The pastor of the Baptist church, the Rev. Benjamin Bowen, wrote a long letter to *The Cold Spring Recorder* in which he offered to pay the salary of the highest-paid teacher in Philipstown for one year if anyone could show him in the Bible a mention of infant



This 1924 Chevrolet coupe, sold by Mekeel Brothers in Nelsonville, had a list price of \$490.

baptism (which Baptists do not practice), or where someone had received communion before being baptized, or any documentation of infant baptism before the middle of the third century.

While Charles Warren was delivering milk, someone stole \$10 [about \$250 today] from the cash box on his wagon.

Alfred Little painted advertising "business charts" at the post office and railroad station with notices for 13 local merchants and mechanics.

While walking on the railroad track at Constitution Island, Arthur Naylor of B Street saw a fox walk out of the woods. He drew his revolver and fired; the trophy was on display at Mosier's oyster and fish store on Market Street.

Bernard Daley of Kemble Avenue lost a pig when it was struck by the No. 7 express train.

Bystanders with buckets filled at a nearby municipal pump managed to contain a fire at Mrs. McArthur's newsstand on Main Street.

S.B. Truesdell was circulating a petition to ask the state to extend the ban on shooting robins from Aug. 1 to Oct. 1, to allow the birds more time to mature.

The Recorder reported that, after a snowball fight in Nelsonville got out of hand, a boy complained to his father. The father confronted the first boy he encountered, which resulted in a lawsuit.

A farm dog belonging to B.A. Yonmans that followed the horses to church was found dead the next day in the churchyard. It was supposed he had been poisoned.

The Recorder reported that 8,100 men, 1,375 boys, 581 horses and 41 steam engines were employed along the river securing the ice crop. One crew managed to get 2,700 cakes into an ice house in a single day.

Thomas Avery and William West of Cold Spring, who had announced they would embark on the manufacture of paper bags in the village, were dissuaded by the high rents and instead leased a structure in Fishkill that was built to order.

The Wappingers Chronicle claimed that it was common to see men walking in Cold Spring stop suddenly, place their hands on their knees and groan. In response, *The Recorder* noted that "Cold Spring whiskey is stronger than that to which some visitors are accustomed."

The county school commissioner condemned the District 8 schoolhouse and estimated it would cost \$800 [\$20,000] to build a new one.

William Bennett of Nelsonville lost several toes after a 500-pound casting fell on his foot.

Members of the Ladies Aid Society and the Presbyterian Church held a masquerade with cakes and coffee at the West Street home of William Coleman.

125 Years Ago (February 1899)

At 10 p.m. on a Wednesday, young men walking the tracks from Garrison came upon four teenagers, ages 13 to 15, crying from hunger and cold. One of the boys told Officer McCaffrey that they had been playing at the freight yard near their homes at 32nd Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City when they climbed aboard a freight car for a ride to Spuyten Duyvil. But the train was going too fast for them to jump off and they had to wait

until it stopped at a switch near Garrison.

The Recorder noted that a bill had been introduced in the state Legislature to allow women to vote in villages and towns concerning matters of taxation.

William Pope, who was employed at a fish market on Market Street, had his foot crushed by a cask of oysters.

When John Clune opened his bottling plant on West Street on a Monday morning, he found more than 200 glass bottles of ale and mineral water had frozen in the cold weather and burst.

The Recorder reminded residents who had fire hydrants in front of their homes to keep them free of snow for 10 feet on each side.

The General Chemical Co., with principal offices in Philipstown, was incorporated with \$12.5 million in preferred stock and \$12.5 million [\$462 million] in common stock. The directors noted that the firm was a combination of 11 chemical houses that had reached an "informal agreement" to fix prices.

During a blizzard, the 138 passengers aboard the Chicago express were stuck on the tracks near Cold Spring for 14 hours. A few went into the village for provisions while every available hand was pressed into service for 20 cents an hour [\$7.50] to shovel the tracks.

John Cosgrove, who delivered milk in Garrison, pushed through before daylight in the minus 8-degree chill but took the next day off.

Common Wisdom

(from *The Cold Spring Recorder*, February 1899)

- It's surprising how easy it is to get something that you don't want.
- Falling in love costs nothing, but keeping up the delusion makes the money fly.
- The trouble with a great many young men is they don't like to work between meals.
- Where does the weather go when it clears up?

100 Years Ago (February 1924)

Members of the St. Luke's Tennis Club, from Beacon, performed a three-act comedy, *When a Feller Needs a Friend*, at the St. Mary's parish house.

Frances Kiernan, the Philipstown public health nurse, reported she had made 17 visits to the Haldane, Garrison and Loretto schools and recorded 111 defects in students, including five vision, 23 tonsils, 84 teeth, three posture, 28 nutrition and four scalp problems. She noted that underweight children could purchase a glass of milk at Haldane each day for a penny, and that the school had given her an exam room. When she arrived for a visit, the teachers were alerted by a gong.

Edward L. Post & Son, Cold Spring's "economy electric shop," connected a horn to a radio each evening and attracted a crowd of listeners. Its advertised models cost \$65 to \$145 each [\$1,100 to \$2,600], including installation and antenna positioning.

The Philipstown Garage in Nelsonville reduced the price of its Maxwell Motor Corp. vehicles to \$795 [\$14,000], while Mekeel Bros.

(Continued on Page 17)

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(Continued from Page 16)

Garage in Nelsonville offered the latest in Chevrolet sedans starting at \$490 [\$9,000].

Under a proposed law, fines imposed on motorists could no longer be pocketed by villages and towns but had to be deposited in the state police pension fund or the state treasury.

Patrick Clancy of Garrison was awarded workers' compensation of \$19.15 per week [\$344] for 61 weeks after he burned both of his hands while working as a watchman on a locomotive.

Professor George Anthony Morrison, the principal of the Nelsonville School, toppled dead from his seat while waiting for a train home at the Ossining station.

The Town Board agreed to purchase, for \$300 [\$5,400] each, the four voting machines it had rented in 1923. It also appointed the supervisor to investigate adding a fire escape to the west side of Town Hall.

The Cold Spring Village Board approved \$14,500 [\$260,000] in spending for 1924, including \$1,000 [\$18,000] for concrete sidewalks and \$500 for ice melt (calcium chloride).

75 Years Ago (February 1949)

Nearly 1,200 people attended two performances of the first annual Blackface Minstrel Show hosted by the Cold Spring Fire Co. at Haldane's auditorium.

The first of five state-certified firefighting classes held at the village municipal building covered knot-tying and ladder raising and climbing.

Loretto Hall hosted a night of boxing, with eight bouts. Tommy Loughran, a former world light-heavyweight champion; Arthur Donovan, who refereed 14 heavyweight title fights between 1933 and 1946; and George Bothner, a former professional wrestler, were in the crowd.

The Garrison School offered a fluoride dental treatment for students.

After Mrs. Saunders resigned from the Garrison school board, Mr. Ridgeway declined a nomination and Mr. Nelson asked if he could think it over.

The Cold Spring Lions defeated the Beacon Lions, 12-10, in a game of donkey basketball at Haldane.

Dr. Amos Squire, a Philipstown native who was the Westchester County medical examiner for 23 years, died at 72. Earlier in his career, Squire had been the chief physi-

cian at Sing Sing for 11 years, during which he witnessed 138 executions in Old Sparky despite his opposition to the death penalty. (His job was to tell the executioner to shut off the current.) He also examined at least 20,000 prisoners and, in his 1934 book *Sing Sing Doctor*, dismissed with his own statistics a popular belief that most criminals were left-handed.

Thomas Dale of Nelsonville was appointed superintendent of the new Durisol building panel plant in Beacon. He had been the zone manager for Venezuela and the Netherlands West Indies for the Ford Motor Co.

The Garrison Fire Co. met to discuss setting up a fire district.

50 Years Ago (February 1974)

The Haldane boys' basketball team defeated Dover Plains, 69-45, behind the defense of Kevin McConville and Mike Lyons, who combined for 11 steals, and the offense of Jerry Downey, who scored 21 points.

A barn owned by Henry Kingsley of Route 9 blew over in gale-force winds, although a doghouse a few feet away did not move.

Betty Ann and Edward Cleary prepared to open Ed's Variety Store in the former Glick's Hardware at 93 Main St.

The Haldane principal presented a report to the school board on the district's present and future needs, noting that it used temporary facilities to accommodate about 368 of its 1,026 students. The deficit was expected to rise to 700 students within five years. He recommended the district construct a 750-student elementary school, renovate the main building into a middle school and option a 17- to 25-acre site for a high school.

25 Years Ago (February 1999)

Lucio Petrocelli of Garrison donated \$12,000 [\$22,000] to the Desmond-Fish library for children's programming and to purchase a 19-volume set of poetry criticism.

James Endler of Garrison, a West Point graduate, was the author of a new history, *Other Leaders, Other Heroes: West Point's Legacy to America Beyond the Field of Battle*. After his military service, Endler became the executive responsible for construction management at the World Trade Center, the Renaissance Center in Detroit and Disney's EPCOT Center in Orlando.

Eight Philipstown residents filed a lawsuit in state court to overturn a refer-

endum in which voters approved an expansion of the Garrison School.

Nelsonville passed an anti-littering ordinance that banned throwing "advertisement publications," such as the *Money Saver*, on sidewalks or lawns.

The Haldane junior varsity boys' basketball coach was fired after being accused by the district of having a "social relationship" with a female Haldane High School student.

The sheriff reported that 292 bad checks had been passed the previous year in Putnam County, with a face value of \$144,770.05 [\$267,000]. Investigators were able to recover 76 percent of the funds.

In a case of road rage, a Croton man confronted a Garrison man at a gas station on Route 9, running toward him with a claw hammer. Unfortunately for the angry driver, the Garrison man was a retired police officer with a handgun. The Croton man fled but was arrested four days later and charged with menacing.

Thomas Murray, most recently director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Case Western Reserve, assumed the presidency of The Hastings Center in Garrison.

More than 30 residents attended the monthly meeting of the Continental Village Property Owners Association to protest a 74 percent increase in their water district tax rate because of bond payments on capital improvements two years earlier.

The Garrison school board hired Les Weintraub of Newtown, Connecticut, as superintendent for \$90,000 [\$166,000] annually.

There was a discussion at a Town Board meeting about the development of a 440-acre tract at Graymoor in Garrison. Two architects told the board the Franciscans had hired their firm to come up with ideas.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre reopened after renovations that included a lobby and concession area under raised seating. The first show was Joe Hartin's *Harley Holmes*, a murder mystery farce about Sherlock's brother.

At a special meeting of the Town Board, County Executive Bob Bondi proposed a county-funded property tax revaluation for Philipstown.

The Town Board rejected the design for a proposed 425-unit retirement village and luxury lodge on the Route 9D site of the Capuchin monastery. The buildings are "too big, too high and too many," said Supervisor William Mazzuca.



Hudson History

Sophia Acquisto, a 2018 graduate of Beacon High School who is pursuing a master's degree at Columbia University, is the creator of My Hudson History, a digital map that showcases locations of interest in 10 counties.

"History is usually taught as a broad narrative," she says. "All students, but especially those of under-represented backgrounds, are less likely to become interested in learning history when they can't see themselves in the stories they read."

Acquisto created the map while studying history education at SUNY New Paltz, where she received three grants to research and categorize 940 locations. See myhudsonhistory.org.

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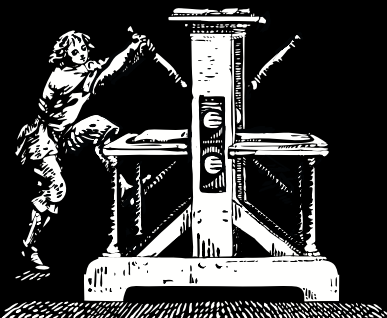
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

BID PERIOD EXTENDED

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. Bids will be accepted until February 23, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

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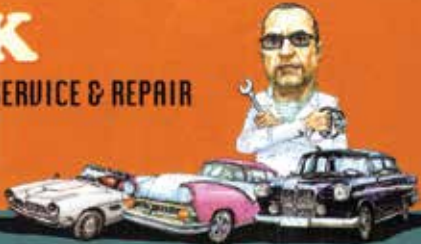


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Puzzles

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				54			
55					56				57			

- ACROSS
1. Pt. of a sentence

5. Skirt edge

8. Some Gls

12. Nest setting

13. Commotion

14. Inter —

15. Admin. aide

16. Prepared

18. Fake fireplace fixture

20. Baker Street sleuth

21. Competent

23. Roman 151

24. Started

28. Editor Wintour

31. Prior night

32. Wrap up by

34. Martini ingredient

35. Painter Chagall

37. Coexisted

39. Chinese chairman

41. “Not so fast!”

42. Pub game fodder
45. Honor

49. Matured

51. Jazzy James

52. Robert of *The Sopranos*

53. Census stat

54. Winter fall

55. Suffix with song or gab

56. Chic, to Austin Powers

57. Catches some rays
- DOWN
1. Men-only

2. — Major

3. Porgy’s love

4. Air travel fatigue

5. Negotiating a price

6. Tokyo, once

7. Closet invader

8. Spanish dish

9. Pink wading bird

10. Funny — (2003 Derby winner)

11. Utters
17. Sinbad’s bird

19. Slender woodwind

22. Fund

24. Jewel

25. Eggs

26. Little homewreckers?

27. Amassed

29. Diarist Anais

30. *Life of Pi* director Lee

33. New Mexico resort

36. Frolic

38. Most recent

40. Tin Man’s need

42. Pre-weekend yell

43. Actor’s quest

44. Driver of Logan Lucky

46. Sicilian peak

47. Thames town

48. Gulls

50. Conceit

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BLIND

SAINT

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. *Bohemian Rhapsody* star Malek

5. River through Stratford

6. Hospital divisions

8. “What ____ this time?”

9. Element No. 82
- DOWN
1. Like many salad veggies

2. Benefit

3. *Mad Men* actor Robert

1	2	3	4	
5				
6				7
	8			
	9			

4. Mumbai’s land

7. Norm: Abbr.

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

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

		B	L	T
F	R	E	E	R
I	H	A	V	E
R	E	N	E	E
E	A	S	E	S

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Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — After starting the season 2-7, Coach Patrick Schetter's team continued its turnaround, improving to 8-7 with six consecutive wins before a 51-44 loss on Tuesday (Feb. 6) at Marlboro. On Feb. 3, the Bulldogs defeated Red Hook, 58-54, in a matchup at Dutchess Community College for the Officials vs. Cancer Tournament. Sophomore Ryan Landisi led the way with 20 points and freshman Marci Rodriguez added nine. Beacon hosts Burke Catholic at 4:30 p.m. today (Feb. 9) before traveling to Liberty on Monday and hosting Chester at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Beacon was beaten at home by Wallkill on Tuesday (Feb. 6), 54-48, for only its third loss this season. Reilly Landisi had 20 points and Rayana Taylor scored 10, while Lila Burke grabbed 15 rebounds. The Bulldogs (14-3) traveled to Port Jervis on Thursday and will host Liberty at 5 p.m. on Tuesday (Feb. 13) in their last game of the regular season.

WRESTLING — On Jan. 31, Beacon defeated visiting Monticello 48-24, behind wins by Caellum Tripaldi at 131 pounds, Caeleb Smith (145), Jude Betancourt (152), Avery Davis (170), Nixon Salinas (190) and Owen Lynch (285).

On Feb. 3, Beacon lost to Saugerties, 38-19. William Flynn (124), Smith (145), Salinas (190) and Lynch (215) scored for the Bulldogs.

Sectional competition begins today (Feb. 9) at Monroe-Woodbury High School; Beacon is represented by Smith (seeded No. 8 at 145 pounds), Betancourt (No. 6 at 152 pounds), Davis (No. 7 at 170 pounds) and Salinas (No. 8 at 190 pounds).

WINTER TRACK — At the 76-team Purple Champions Invitational at The Armory in New York City on Feb. 3, Henry Reinke finished third of 78 runners in the 600 meters in 1:25.37 and Damani DeLoatch was third of 43 competitors in the triple jump at 44-0. For the girls, Chiara Fedorchak placed 19th in the weight throw at 18-10 and Isabella Migliore placed 18th in the 600-meter run at 1:48.54.

The Bulldogs will compete in the Section IX championships on Saturday (Feb. 10) at West Point.

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon began postseason competition on Feb. 3, in the OCIAA Division One Championships at Newburgh, finishing seventh of 12 teams with 141.5 points. The top finishers for the



Daveya Rodriguez (4) wins the opening tip against Wallkill on Tuesday (Feb. 6).

Photos by Cadence Heeter

Bulldogs were the 200-yard freestyle relay team, which came in fifth in 1:42.38, and Bryce Manning, who placed eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:06.96. Beacon will travel to Montgomery on Thursday (Feb. 15) for the Section IX championships.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' BASKETBALL — The Blue Devils defeated Spackenkill, 58-48, on Feb. 3 at the Officials vs. Cancer Tournament at Dutchess Community College behind 26 points from Matt Nachamkin. Haldane led by seven at halftime and began the third quarter with a 15-3 run to pull away. The Spartans came within nine late in the game, but Ross Esposito maintained the margin by scoring 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, many from the free-throw line.

Haldane followed that up with two dominant performances, beating Croton-Harmon at home on Monday (Feb. 5), 65-29, and Pawling on the road on Wednesday, 61-42. The Blue Devils had a 16-0 run to open that game and the closest the Tigers got was 12 points.

As the postseason approaches, "now is the time to execute," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "It's all about details at this time of year."

The Blue Devils (15-3) host Putnam Valley (10-8) at 6:30 p.m. today (Feb. 9) for the league title, which Haldane has won five



Reilly Landisi looks for an opening after coming off a screen by Devyn Kelly in the game against Wallkill.

years in a row. It will be a grudge match for the Blue Devils; the Tigers beat them, 48-45, on Jan. 18. Haldane's final regular-season game will be at home at 6 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 15) against Franklin Roosevelt of Hyde Park. As of Feb. 4, Haldane was ranked fourth in the state among Class C teams by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Haldane lost at Croton-Harmon, 46-38, on Monday (Feb. 5) in the teams' third meeting this season, but the game was closer than the score and, despite the loss, it showed the progress the Blue Devils have made this season. In the two previous match-ups, Croton won by 27 and 16 points.

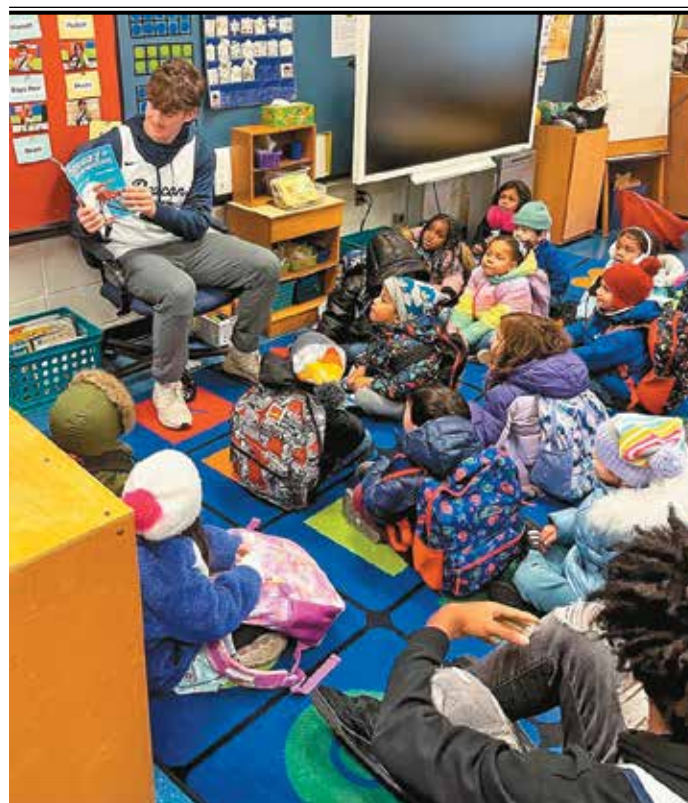
In this one, Kayla Ruggiero had eight of Haldane's 13 first-quarter points and the Blue Devils led by a point at halftime. The score was tied at 28 at the end of three and again at 38 with 3:25 left after Ruby Poses hit a three-pointer from the top of the key. But the Tigers managed to hold the Blue Devils scoreless the rest of the way. "We fought from start to finish," said Coach Charles Martinez.

Haldane (8-11) finished its regular season at Putnam Valley on Thursday (Feb. 8).

WINTER TRACK — On Feb. 3, Haldane competed in the Purple Champions Invitational at The Armory in New York City. For the girls, Ashley Sousa finished 27th of 80 runners in the 1,000 meters in 3:26.03 and 17th of 67 runners in the 1,500 meters in 5:16.83.

The top finishers for the boys were Dusty Berkley in the 200-meter dash (32nd of 120 runners in 23.89), James Frommer in the 600-meter run (20th of 78 runners in 1:32.95) and Jack Illian in the 1,600 meters (25th of 119 runners in 4:44.42).

The Blue Devils will compete on Monday (Feb. 12) in the Section I, Class C championships at The Armory.



PLAYER VISIT — Members of the Beacon High School boys' varsity basketball team visited South Avenue Elementary on Jan. 30 to visit with and read to the preschoolers, kindergarteners and first and second graders. Assistant Coach Matt VanVoorhis and South Avenue Principal Kelly Amendola organized the event. Here Jack Antalek shares a book with a class at the end of the day as the students prepare to depart.

Photo provided