

# The HIGHLANDS Current

Fabric  
Creatures  
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**LIGHT SHOW** — Greg Miller, a photographer who lives in Middletown, knew the Perseids meteor shower would be peaking overnight on Aug. 11. When he arrived at Little Stony Point at 10:30 p.m., the northern sky was cloudy — “not a promising start,” he says. But the clouds thinned and at 12:08 a.m., the first meteor appeared — “a beautiful fireball that took four seconds to cross the sky and left a glowing vapor trail that lasted another 10 seconds.” At 1:30 a.m., a faint greenish glow appeared: the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). “At 2:12 a.m., the intensity suddenly grew to what you see here,” with Breakneck at the right, Miller says. “It was visible to the naked eye, something I have never witnessed in the Hudson Valley.” *Photo by Greg Miller*

## Exit Interview: Vinny Tamagna

*Longtime legislator,  
transportation director and  
volunteer moving to Florida*

By Michael Turton

Vincent “Vinny” Tamagna, 65, represented Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Putnam County Legislature for 19 years, until 2013, when he left office and was appointed as county transportation director. He is also an active volunteer, including with St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, the Hudson River Valley Institute and the Constitution Island Association.



Tamagna

On Wednesday (Aug. 14), Tamagna resigned from his county position to become director and program manager of the paratransit system for Broward County Transit in the Miami area. He sat down this week with reporter Michael Turton.

(Continued on Page 9)

## Homespun Foods to Close

*Final weekend arrives for  
Beacon eatery*

By Jeff Simms

When Joe Robitaille bought Homespun Foods, a mainstay at 232 Main St. in Beacon, he didn’t plan to change much.

Offering an array of Mediterranean- and Middle Eastern-influenced soups, salads, platters and sandwiches, the previous owner, Jessica Reisman, had cultivated a dedicated clientele after opening the restaurant in 2006. Homespun seated about 40 customers in its cozy, cafe-like setting, with extra tables in a garden patio.

Robitaille, a sommelier for eight years in New York City before he moved to Beacon with his wife and three sons, took over in November 2019. He hoped to retain the down-home feel that Reisman had created while adding table service, dinner hours and an extensive selection of wine.

That was the plan until the pandemic (Continued on Page 8)

## Fjord Trail Foes Cross the Border

*Take aim at Dutchess  
Manor plans*

By Leonard Sparks

Before voting on Aug. 8 to accept an application from the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail to remake Dutchess Manor as a visitor’s center with offices and parking, the Fishkill Planning Board heard warnings from Philipstown residents.

Susan Peehl’s voice broke as she predicted that the Fjord Trail, a 7.5-mile linear park that is being proposed to connect Long Dock Park in Beacon and Dockside Park in Cold Spring, would draw more people to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and transform Cold Spring “from a village to a concierge service.”

(Continued on Page 9)

## Goddess Flora Moves on to New Plot

*Philipstown gardener has  
‘10 green fingers’*

By Joey Asher

What happens to a legendary garden when the legendary gardener who loved it for six decades moves away?

That’s the question on the minds of the Highlands gardening community as Miriam Wagner leaves her beloved home on Old Albany Post Road in Philipstown, where she cultivated a 1-acre plot that is listed in the Archive of American Gardens of the Smithsonian Institution.

(Continued on Page 20)



Miriam Wagner with her viburnum

Photo by Liz Wagner



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: RAYMOND CHEN

By Michael Turton

Raymond Chen operates the sushi concession at Foodtown in Cold Spring.

How did you end up becoming a sushi chef?

I grew up in China near Shanghai and moved to the U.S. when I was 7 years old, but only for a few months. My parents had to work so hard, they didn't have time to take care of me. So I was sent back to China and returned to the U.S. when I was 16. We didn't eat sushi when I was growing up; we ate a lot of rice. Making sushi isn't difficult but it takes a long time to learn. Years ago, I didn't have a job, so in the summer I learned how to make it from my friends. I've been doing it for more than 20 years.

What sushi is most popular here?

Probably vegetables, because they're healthy. Avocado with cucumber is popular, as well as salmon and avocado. Popular fish include tuna, salmon and hamachi, or yellowtail in English. My favorite is salmon with avocado. I also like it with avocado and eel.

Is there a proper way to eat sushi?

I always use my fingers. Some people use chopsticks or a fork. A lot of people like to add soy sauce, but I prefer the natural taste. I don't like a lot of sauces. The fish is usually eaten raw, but it can be cooked. With pepper tuna, I sear it. Don't leave sushi for tomorrow. Eat it fresh. I never sell sushi for tomorrow, although sushi with just vegetables is OK for two days.

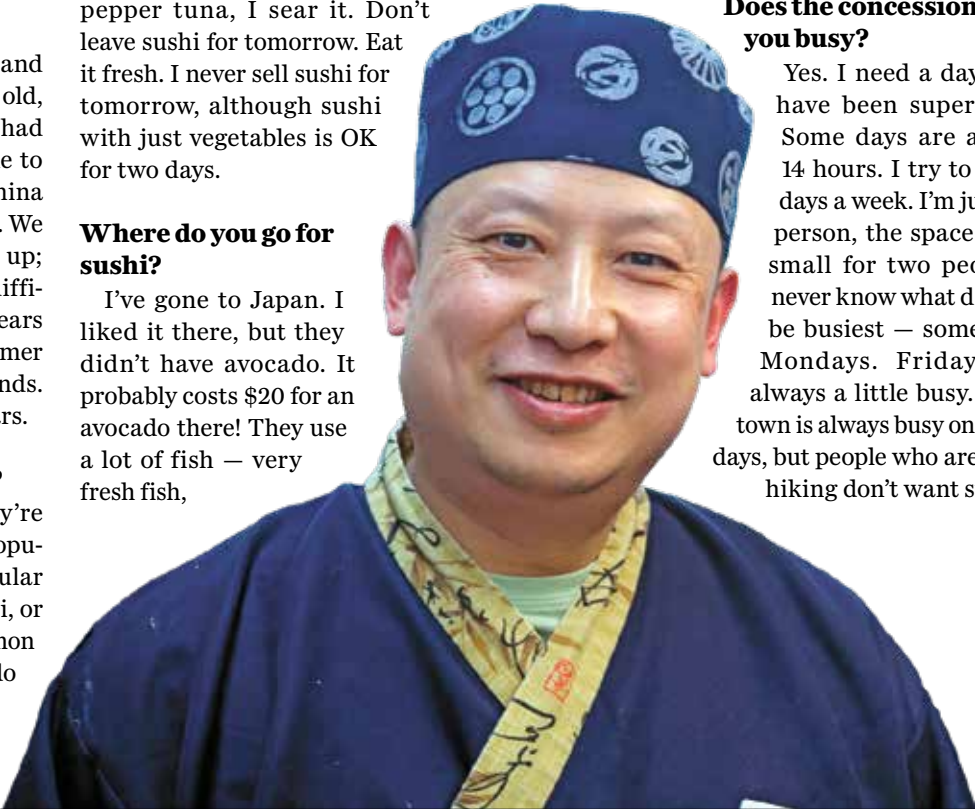
Where do you go for sushi?

I've gone to Japan. I liked it there, but they didn't have avocado. It probably costs \$20 for an avocado there! They use a lot of fish — very fresh fish,

which I liked. And the shrimp were still jumping. Usually I'd say I go to Manhattan restaurants for sushi, but I did that for 25 years. Sometimes I like different foods. I like steak!

Does the concession keep you busy?

Yes. I need a day off. I have been super busy. Some days are almost 14 hours. I try to do six days a week. I'm just one person, the space is too small for two people. I never know what day will be busiest — sometimes Mondays. Fridays are always a little busy. Foodtown is always busy on Saturdays, but people who are going hiking don't want sushi.



ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What are three must-haves for your picnic basket?

I'm an old-timer, so sandwiches, a bottle of wine and cheese.



Johnny Deese, Beacon

Mangos, local beer and a ham-and-cheese baguette.



Clara Guyot, Beacon

Fried chicken, chardonnay and watermelon.



Jeff Consaga, Cold Spring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Homeland Towers Offers \$10K for Trees

Some neighbors oppose Route 9 phone pole

As the Fishkill Planning Board completes its environmental review of a cellphone tower proposed along Route 9, the firm that wants to install it has offered to donate \$10,000 for tree plantings to shield it.

David Kenny, an attorney for Homeland Towers, said during a hearing on Aug. 8 that new trees could remedy the concerns of residents on Carol Lane who object to the 150-foot tower planned for a 4-acre property at 73 Route 9.

He said Homeland considered two alternative locations but found them unsuitable because of poorer signal coverage, the need to raise the tower by 40 feet because of lower elevations and the proximity of Clove Creek.

“Once they grow in, maybe they’ll provide some additional screening and help block or mitigate the views of the tower,” said Kenny.

Boscobel Names Assistant Curator

Will help with programming, collections

Boscobel House and Gardens in Philipstown announced on Aug. 5 that it has hired Riley Richards as assistant curator.

Richards is a Wesleyan University graduate who specializes in American decorative arts and material culture. She previously worked with the Tiffany and Co. Foundation.



Richards

Richards will assist Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist in expanding the organization’s collection of artifacts and creating exhibitions and programming. The historic site is recovering from the April collapse of the ceiling in the mansion’s library.

Dutchess Creates New Agencies

Separates health, mental health and veterans services

The Dutchess County Legislature on Monday (Aug. 12) approved the division of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health into independent agencies that address public health, mental health and veterans’ needs.



Niebuhr

The Department of Health will be led by Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, the Department of Mental Health by Jean-Marie Niebuhr and the Office of Veterans Affairs by Adam Roche.



Roche

Niebuhr has been the deputy health commissioner and director of community services since 2017. Roche, a former Marine, has served as director of veterans’ services

since 2020. The Department of Health, which has a satellite office in Beacon, will continue under Santiago-Rosado.

Philipstown Hub Hires Coordinator

Outreach position added to care team

The Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub in Cold Spring has named social worker Alex Clegg as its first community and crisis care coordinator.



Clegg

She joins Kyoko Gelber and Jessica Quinones to connect individuals with mental health and substance use disorders to providers and resources. Her priorities will include community outreach and education initiatives.

Clegg, who lives at West Point with her family, has worked with health care providers in Alabama, Georgia, Colorado and Tennessee.

Putnam Lauded as Safe County

U.S. News ranks it eighth safest in nation

U.S. News & World Report earlier this month named Putnam County the eighth safest county of nearly 3,000 in the nation based on factors such as violent and property crime rates, vehicle crash injuries, spending on emergency services and proximity to medical facilities.

The list of the “25 safest communities in America” included eight counties in New York state, including Rockland, Westchester and Putnam in the top 10 and Nassau County on Long Island at No. 1.

According to data highlighted by the governor’s office, reported crime statewide has dropped 6 percent since 2023, including 26 percent in Rockland County and 8 percent in Westchester. Putnam showed a 15 percent drop from 2022 to 2023, the most recent figures available.

U.S. News noted that Putnam spent \$478 per capita on health and emergency services and performed best in the violent crime rate. Nassau spent \$1,148 per capita, followed by Rockland at \$1,090 and Westchester at \$902.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Town Board will hold a Workshop Meeting on

Wednesday, August 21st at 7:30 p.m.

at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

column. Not only is it well-written and informative, it highlights a place that has brought me so much joy, exploration as a child and comfort as an adult — and opens up the idea of the cemetery as a local venue to respectfully learn, appreciate and enjoy.

Stephanie Logan Ruffin, *Cold Spring*

Beacon project

Michael Braden has received \$3 million in state grants for his art studio and gallery (“Beacon Project Awarded \$1 Million,” Aug. 2). I would like to understand more about the criteria the state uses to assess needs for funding. Casting this publicly funded project as one that will benefit a city where so many are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to live appears disingenuous.

Sam Bowe, *Fishkill*

*The editor responds: The City of Beacon, which applied for the grant on Braden’s behalf, received \$1 million for GarageWORKS Studios from the Restore New York Communities Initiative, which “encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures.” GarageWORKS won \$2 million in the state’s Building Cleaner Communities Competition, which supports the design and construction of carbon-neutral buildings.*

Good for GarageWORKS, although I have no idea how four artists moving here and making studios for themselves “restores communities.”

James Case-Leal, *via Instagram*

This is a weird project with money being thrown at it. As someone who has spent a career in the community arts space, I have not seen any signs of how the bridge from personal studios to community will work. It’s also on our street and we know what will happen to taxes. We need a teen center, a community center, a year-round public pool, more childcare options, etc.

Lesly Deschler Canossi, *via Instagram*

Can I just get \$25,000 to put solar panels on my roof?

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

Cellphones

As a high school teacher in another district, I see how disengaged and distracted cellphones keep everyone (“Beacon Schools Dialing Up Cellphone Rules,” Aug. 2). Even during a recent visit to the Beacon Pool, everyone who wasn’t in the lifeguard chair was hunched over a phone. Obviously, this is a problem. In fact, right now, first thing, I’m on my phone.

At school, parents are notified of emergen-

Corrections

In a story in the Aug. 9 issue, we reported that Tara Sweet-Flagler, who owns The Main Course and Sweet Harvest Cafe in Cold Spring, Hudson River Healing and Wellness in Nelsonville and Beacon D’Lites in Beacon, will be operating Nobody’s Deli when it opens soon at 72 Main St. in Cold Spring. In fact, her husband, Jonathan Flagler, will operate the deli. The Flaglers were co-applicants for Planning Board approval.

In the Aug. 2 issue, Rick Zolzer, who recently left the Hudson Valley Renegades after 28 years with the minor-league baseball club as vice president and announcer, recalled as a child seeing Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers face Tom Seaver of the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. In fact, as a reader pointed out, the pitchers never faced off: Koufax retired in 1966 and Seaver began his major league career in 1967. When asked about this, Zolzer said: “It would suck if that was my 9-year-old imagination — I’ve been telling that story for decades. It might have been [Don] Drysdale [against Seaver]. Once a year from the time I was 6, my Uncle Leo and Grandpa took me to Shea to see the Dodgers. I vividly remember Wes Parker playing first base, with Willie Davis in center field and [John] Roseboro behind the plate.” Don’t tell Zolz this — we’ll let him keep the memory of what would have been an incredible game — it wasn’t Drysdale, either. He pitched against the Mets at Shea on June 15, 1969, during his final season. But he faced Jack DiLauro. Seaver pitched against the Dodgers at Shea on June 2, 1969, but it was against Alan Foster.

cies. If every kid were calling their parents during an emergency, it would be a nightmare. I understand the desire for communication but, as a parent, if there were an event at my children’s school, I would race there from work and call parents who might already be there.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

It’s a great idea to ban phones. There’s no gain in having kids scrolling through Instagram while in class. Attention spans are shorter than ever due to cellphones.

Jon Lombardi, *via Instagram*

There are good reasons why kids should have their phones. God forbid something happens and we can’t contact our parents because a stupid school makes the dumbest rule without considering the outcome.

Leighann Moyer, *via Instagram*

By the Numbers

Growth Factors

By Floyd Norris

As people magnets, Dutchess and Putnam counties are not doing well. But they are doing better than most other counties in New York state.

Putnam County had a population of 98,060 on July 1, 2023, 0.3 percent less than a year earlier, the Census Bureau estimates in newly released data. Dutchess County had 297,150 residents on July 1, a drop of 0.2 percent.

Each of the two counties still have more people — amounting to just 0.4 percent more for each of them — than they posted in the 2020 census, which reported figures for May 1 of that year. Statewide, only 17 of the 62 counties have grown since the census.

The state had 19,571,216 residents on July 1, 2023, a decline of more than half a million people, or 2.7 percent, from the census.

The losses were most acute in the counties closest to New York City. Each of the five boroughs of the city — which are counted as separate counties — lost people. So did Nassau and Westchester counties, the suburban counties that border the city.

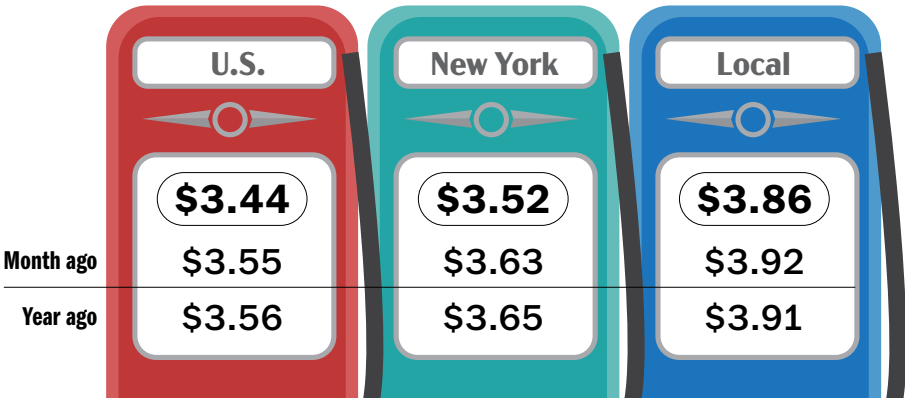
Suffolk County, on eastern Long Island, and the other five Hudson River counties closest to the city, showed gains.

	2023 Population	Change from 2020
New York City	8,258,035	-6.2%
Suffolk	1,523,170	0.1%
Nassau	1,381,715	-0.6%
Westchester	990,817	-1.1%
Orange	407,470	1.6%
Rockland	340,807	1.0%
Dutchess	297,150	0.4%
Ulster	182,333	0.6%
Putnam	98,060	0.4%

The New York-Newark Metro Area, the nation’s largest, lost 2.9 percent of its population since the census. The second and third-largest areas, anchored by Los Angeles and Chicago, also lost population. All of the other top 10 — based in Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Washington, Philadelphia, Miami and Phoenix, had gains.

Norris, who lives in Philipstown, is a former chief financial correspondent for the International Herald Tribune and The New York Times.

Gas Prices



Source: [gasprices.aaa.com](http://gasprices.aaa.com), as of Aug. 15. Prices are average per gallon for regular.

It should be up to the parents to permit their child to have a phone, not the district. Put the phone on the desk upside down and teach. If a kid cannot control their behavior (expectations should be set at home), create a system for effective discipline. The phone is a means of direct communication and an incredible way of gaining information.

Wendy Marz, *via Instagram*

The district should absolutely standardize this. Teachers can’t track phone permissions and police usage.

Jack McKean, *via Instagram*

This is long overdue. Hopefully the district won’t chicken out or soften. Smartphones have no place in schools.

Harper Sanchez, *via Instagram*



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# Beacon Drops (Some) Parking Requirements

*Planning Board will have final say*  
By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on Aug. 5 voted 5-1 to approve reduced off-street parking requirements for new developments and substantial reconstructions. Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair voted against the measure, saying he felt the council still had work to do on it. Pam

Wetherbee was not present for the meeting. For projects in the Central Main Street, Linkage and Waterfront Development zoning districts, seen as “core” walkable areas, the changes eliminate a minimum number of parking spaces required, replacing it with a maximum. The law gives the Planning Board authority to determine the number of spaces needed by weighing the parcel size, the proposed use, availability of nearby public or street parking and other factors. The board could also require elements

that encourage alternatives to driving, such as bike racks or storage facilities. In residential, industrial and business districts, as well as the Waterfront Park, Fishkill Creek and Transitional zones, reduced minimum requirements were retained with maximums added. Again, the Planning Board has the authority to determine how much parking to require. The standards are broken down further by building use. For example, a new residential building on Main Street would

have no minimum requirement but could not provide more than one parking space per unit. A restaurant in the Waterfront Development district, a sliver of a zone on the east side of the train tracks, would also have no minimum but would be restricted from supplying more than three spaces for every 1,000 square feet of construction. Conversely, housing in residential districts — whether a single- or multi-family structure — must provide at least one but no more than three spaces for each dwelling unit. Alternative transportation advocates in Beacon and the more than 200 other municipalities nationwide that have dropped minimum requirements say the changes discourage unnecessary car trips and could help lower housing costs. Studies have concluded that minimum parking requirements add significantly to the cost of new housing and hinder the development of affordable units. Below-market-rate development has increased in some cities where parking mandates have been lifted. The council added a provision to the law requiring the Planning Board to provide statistics within a year to measure its effectiveness. Several council members asked during the Aug. 5 meeting for more discussion of how the city can invest in or encourage alternatives to driving, such as biking, walking and the use of public transit. As a first step, eliminating Beacon’s decades-old minimum parking requirements in core areas will help shape “how we want the city to be,” said Council Member Molly Rhodes.

## Off-Street Parking Requirements

BUILDING USE	CMS, L, WD		R1, RD, LI, HI, WP, FCD, GB, T	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
Residential (Including accessory apartment)	–	1 space per dwelling unit	1 space per dwelling unit	3 spaces per dwelling unit
Lodging	–	0.75 space per guest room	0.5 space per guest room	1.5 spaces per guest room
Commercial (Retail / Office / Service / Food / Auto-Oriented / Social and Community)	–	3 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA	3 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA	5 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA
Health Care and Educational	–	4 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA	1 space per 1,000 SF GFA	4 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA
Industrial (Industrial or Assembly)	–	–	0.25 space per 1,000 SF GFA	2.5 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA
Other Uses	To be determined by the Planning Board or building inspector after considering relevant factors.			GFA= Gross Floor Area Source: City of Beacon


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## Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ A public hearing on proposed changes to Chapter 118 of the Village Code is scheduled for Aug. 28 at Village Hall. The revisions will enable the village to collect up to a 5 percent occupancy tax from hotels and bed-and-breakfasts. Mayor Kathleen Foley, at the Wednesday (Aug. 14) meeting of the board, indicated a similar tax on short-term rentals, such as those booked through Airbnb and VRBO, will be next on the agenda.

■ Foley reported that heavy rains on July 9 created three sinkholes, including around a stormwater drain near Fishkill Avenue and Main Street. “As we deal with our aging infrastructure, bigger and more regular storms, these pop-up issues are going to continue to happen,” she said, adding that there have been complaints about village crews falling behind on routine maintenance items, a situation made worse by reduced staffing in recent weeks. Foley said preparation for predicted storms is a priority for village crews. “I will take that use of their time any day over cutting the grass if it can prevent a resident’s house from flooding,” she said.

■ The board accepted a \$4,100 bid from Badey and Watson to survey Fair Street for stormwater drain repairs needed after the July 2023 storms. Foley said the job was awarded to Badey and Watson because it said the work could be completed in 10

days. Rowan Survey submitted a lower bid of \$3,000 but said it would need six weeks. Geological Land Surveying bid the project at \$9,000 with an eight- to 10-week timeline.

■ The village plans to apply for Pro-Housing Community Certification from New York State. The program recognizes municipalities that take action to support housing growth by making them eligible for related grants. By applying, the village pledges to enact policies that “encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units and supportive housing.”

■ Matt Jackson, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, reported that officers responded to 217 calls in July, including 56 traffic stops, 53 building checks, 17 assists to emergency services, nine welfare checks, eight fire department assists, six motor vehicle crashes, three reports of suspicious persons, two people in crisis, two disputes and calls regarding fireworks, assault, theft, a marine incident, a missing person, trespassing, disorderly conduct and an overdose.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. answered 25 calls in July, including three mountain rescues, two Hudson River incidents, two motor vehicle crashes and calls for a downed powerline, a boat fire and an open burn.





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presents a special fundraising event

**A conversation with**  
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**&**  
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## Homespun (from Page 1)

arrived four months later. On March 16, 2020, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered restaurants and bars to close, permitting only takeout and delivery. Homespun opted to shut down for 10 weeks while health officials scrambled to contain COVID-19.

By the end of June, the city had allowed restaurants to create “parklets,” or tables for outdoor dining in curbside parking spots. Eight months into the new gig, Robitaille found himself planting flowers to spruce up his outdoor dining area on Main Street. Indoor customers would return over the Memorial Day weekend of 2021, but nothing was normal.

After an 18-year run, Homespun will close its doors on Sunday (Aug. 18). An announcement of a new business in the space is forthcoming.

“We tried our best to make this thing work,” Robitaille said. “It’s been a hit on so many levels. We had a lot of great experiences with people.”

Robitaille, who has a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry and creative writing and a master’s in education, both from Brook-



Homespun Foods, a Beacon mainstay since 2006, will be closed after this weekend.

Photo by J. Simms

lyn College, plans to spend time with his family before re-entering the academic world. Before Homespun, he was an adjunct lecturer at Brooklyn and Lehman colleges.

While the early days of the pandemic seem in some ways like a distant memory, the ripple effects on small businesses remain.

“Costs are going up so much,” Robitaille

said. As consumers struggle with inflation, “going out to eat becomes more difficult. Restaurants are trying to figure out how to keep people coming back but not being too expensive.”

He noted that some business owners are experimenting with artificial intelligence and ordering by phone while in the restaurant as ways to eliminate employees and keep costs down. Although Homespun did not go in that direction, “unfortunately, that’s the trend,” he said. “It takes away from the human element of eating in a restaurant that we all love.”

George Mansfield, who closed his popular Dogwood bar and restaurant on East Main Street last year, said his business also never fully recovered from the shutdown. “In the best of times, the restaurant industry has very tight margins,” he said. A 10 percent profit would be ideal but 6 percent is more realistic, “and when you have all these other factors — the cost and availability of goods and labor, credit card fees — working against you, those margins become increasingly slim.

“If Dogwood had been making money, I would have stayed open,” Mansfield said.

Robitaille said he’s grateful to the chefs, sommelier Heather Barr and other staff who worked alongside him during challenging times. “It’s almost difficult to remember how hard 2020 and 2021 were for businesses, especially restaurants,” he said. “But our staff came together and persevered through it and we felt like we made something special here.”

“Costs are going up so much. Going out to eat becomes more difficult. Restaurants are trying to figure out how to keep people coming back but not being too expensive.”

~ Joe Robitaille, Homespun Foods owner

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Sept 4 - UNESCO STORY CIRCLES

Sept 6 - LIT LIT

Sept 7 - JAY STRAUSS Album Release Party

Sept 14 - CABOT PARSONS Adult Puppet Theatre

Sept 18 - HIT HOUSE Presents: MONARCHS

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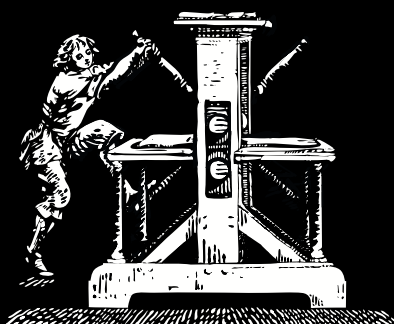
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## Dutchess Manor *(from Page 1)*

"I'm deeply afraid for the future of our village, the preservation of the Hudson Highlands and our quality of life," said Peele, who lives in Cold Spring.

Dave Merandy, a former Cold Spring mayor and president of the grassroots group Protect the Highlands, which opposes the Fjord Trail, said that HHFT's application for changes to Dutchess Manor is a "clear case of illegal segmentation," or dividing projects into small pieces to avoid a thorough review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Both Merandy and Andrew Hall, a Cold Spring resident, argued that the Dutchess Manor project should be part of the state park's environmental review of the Fjord Trail, which is expected to be released in the fall.

"This proposal, if approved, could possibly place your board in significant legal jeopardy," said Hall.

Despite that warning, the Planning Board voted 6-1 to proceed with a review of HHFT's restoration plan for Dutchess Manor, which merchant James Wade built in 1868 as a family home and the Coris family operated



**Dutchess Manor was built as a home in 1868.**  
*Photo by Daniel Case*

for decades as an event venue.

Elements of the plan call for demolishing three additions to the original structure built between 1947 and 2007, restoring a slate roof and other removed features, adding a parking area with 181 spaces, upstairs offices, bathrooms and an area where shuttles and buses can drop off and load visitors.

Approval of the project, which also involves creating an area for outdoor events and restoring the natural flow of a seasonal stream, will require an assessment of the project's environmental impact.

Helen Mauch, HHFT's attorney, said the restoration is independent of the Fjord Trail and would serve existing trail users and improve safety along Route 9D even if the full trail is never built. According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, that is one of the circumstances in which segments of multi-phase projects can be reviewed separately.

HHFT won separate state approval for the Breakneck Connector and Bridge. The Fjord Trail's first phase combines a trail running south from the Metro-North stop at Breakneck, a 445-foot pedestrian bridge over the tracks just north of the trailhead and new parking and sidewalks.

Like Dutchess Manor, the \$85 million connector and bridge, which is expected to open in late 2025 or early 2026, is considered a standalone element that by itself will reduce the vehicle and pedestrian congestion on Route 9D from hikers visiting Breakneck and the park.

"Environmental review is not being avoided here," said Mauch, adding that the state parks will consider the impacts of the Dutchess Manor project in its overall environmental review of the Fjord Trail. Once the draft is released, the agency will collect public comments.

Dominic Cordisco, the Planning Board's attorney, said its members lead the review "in almost all circumstances" for projects that require their approval and that the board cannot, under Fishkill code, "throw up its hands and do nothing."

HHFT purchased the 6.6-acre Dutchess Manor, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and a neighboring house at 14 Coris Lane for \$3.4 million in 2020 from the Coris family. It is also seeking approval to rezone the 5.6-acre Coris Lane property, which is being used as offices, and merge it with Dutchess Manor.

Erin Sine Whitson, one of the Fishkill residents who spoke and a resident of 233 Route 9D, said she and other neighbors met with HHFT as recently as May after learning that the organization planned to build parking across 9D, which she called "very alarming."

They then heard about the "expansive lot" proposed for Dutchess Manor, "less than 100 feet from our home," said Whitson. Her concerns range from increased noise, trespassing and light pollution to safety and the environmental impacts, she said.

"This has evolved into an enormous-size parking lot that has changed dramatically from the original plans," she said.

## Tamagna *(from Page 1)*

### Did you grow up in Philipstown?

I grew up in Continental Village, but on the Westchester side. I graduated from Lakeland High School. When I got married, we bought a house on Winston Lane.

### You've had a long career. Why not retire?

Well, my mother is 87 and still works full-time at ShopRite in Carmel! I still have a full career ahead of me. I want to apply everything I've accumulated, including my doctorate in public policy, leadership and values-based leadership. I'm a worker, and I can't wait to start the new chapter.

### How did you get into politics?

I was president of the Continental Village Property Owners Association. We wanted our flagpole painted but no one was listening to us at the Town Board. So, at age 28, I ran unsuccessfully for Philipstown supervisor and then ran unsuccessfully for a spot on the Town Board. But the third time was a charm, and I was elected [as a Republican] to the county Legislature in 1995.

### What did you find most challenging as a legislator?

I was always kind of the maverick — one of the biggest challenges was that District 1 only has one legislator. Every other district has at least two. It's difficult to convince people. But Sam Oliverio [a Democrat who represented Putnam Valley], who was also from western Putnam, was supportive and nonpartisan. We were able to initiate some great things: Preserve America, the industrial development agency, the first tourism promotion bureau, a domestic partner registry, an economic development corporation and agricultural districts. I led the charge for term limits. There should

be term limits at every level of government.

### Will Putnam ever share sales tax with its municipalities?

I don't think so. While there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax collected from car sales, we don't have a dealership in Philipstown. We have some good restaurants, but if you look at their sales tax receipts, we can't compete with the big businesses in the Town of Southeast, such as Home Depot and the like. While we are burdened with tourists, we don't have the same contributions in sales tax. It is really a false argument. If we want to be smart, we'd look at the tremendous amount of property tax that goes to the county. I believe that would be a stronger argument.

### You were appointed in 2003 as the Hudson River Navigator to promote the Hudson River Valley. What are some things that were accomplished?

Tremendous things happened. We brought in big grants for Scenic Hudson for the West Point Foundry Preserve. We got a Preserve America designation and the grants that came with that. When Mary Saari was clerk for the Village of Cold Spring, she wanted to digitize a collection of historic photos, and a grant came through for that. In Westchester, in partnership with cadets at West Point and Metro-North, we designed a way to remove derelict railroad ties from the little bay outside the Croton railroad station, enabling kayakers to safely use it.

### How have you been involved with St. Mary's?

In 2014, my friend and church treasurer Mary Powell asked me to join the vestry. Five years ago, I became the rector's warden. With my background in project management and construction, we put together a

five-year capital plan and tried to look at fundraising opportunities and the creation of new revenue streams. I'm happy many people have joined in. I think St. Mary's will be in great shape in the near future. People now see it as more than a church; the property is the heart and soul of Cold Spring.

"At age 28, I ran unsuccessfully for Philipstown supervisor and then ran unsuccessfully for a spot on the Town Board. But the third time was a charm, and I was elected to the county Legislature in 1995."

### What is your role at Constitution Island, and what are your hopes for it?

I became vice president of the Constitution Island Association in 2012 and its president since 2016; I'll stay until I finish my term at year-end. We received \$8 million in funding to restore the Warner House and create an education center. We're also preserving the three redoubts. I hope the island can again offer the educational programs it once had, including the significant history of Indigenous people. We want to welcome more visitors, especially during the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026.

### What changes have you seen in the county transportation system?

It's a different system than when I became director in 2013. It's well organized. It's passed five Federal Transit Authority audits. The fleet is wonderfully maintained. The contractor, MV Transit, could not be better. They worry about everything,

from being on time to how we get grandma to dialysis treatment. We're launching a micro-transit pilot in Patterson which I also had slated to put in Philipstown, Putnam Valley and Lake Peekskill soon. It's basically Uber for public transit. An algorithm dispatches vehicles to places where people want to go. It isn't fixed routes that are running empty. This will be different: If there's no demand, there's no vehicle.

### What is your view of the trolley?

I first saw a trolley in Savannah, Georgia. I went to Putnam County and said, "We should do something like that." We found federal funding and we did it. I'm proud of that. We were running well — not great — until the pandemic. Now we're creeping back again. We need to focus on promotion; it seems people like to fight it instead of promoting it! This year we've been featured in *The New York Times* twice. I get nothing but positive comments from the public. We need to do a better job of connecting it to places. Boscobel will be a hub for Fjord Trail sprinter vans and the trolley, with connections to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Magazzino, Manitoaga, the trailheads and the like. We're looking forward to supporting the Fjord Trail transportation plan, but I wouldn't change the trolley schedule until that plan is known. Otherwise, it's just guessing.











### How will you cope with the Florida heat?

It's probably in my DNA. My family is from the Mediterranean — Sicily — and I like hot weather. I've never been afraid of a hot seat! I don't golf, I'm not a boater, but I love music and like to travel a bit. My son Nicholas, a countertenor, performs internationally, including in Rome, Paris and Germany. After things are running smoothly in my new position, I'd like to be able to kick back and enjoy more of his performances abroad.



# Park it here for a minute... and **get the facts** on Fjord Trail parking plans

The Fjord Trail is designed to make travel along 9D safer for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists. That includes a parking plan that substantially moves current trail parking off-road and improves traffic flow.

Goals	Existing		Planned*	Change in # of spaces
 peak day, north of Breakneck	Use currently fallow parking lot at Dutchess Manor, plus additional lot, to increase parking supply north of Village of Cold Spring	8 on-road		0 on-road 80 in lot <b>+72</b>
	Remove on-road parking	180 (currently not available to public)		180 in lot <b>0</b>
 parking behavior at Breakneck	Make Route 9D safer and parking more organized	0		90 in lot <b>+90</b>
	Reduce on-road parking as much as possible  Better accommodate first responders in case of emergency	200+ on-road		34 in small lots 69 formal parallel spots on east side ONLY, with safe clearance from 9D <b>-97</b>
 peak day at LSP/Washburn lot	Move on-road parking into lot	48 in Washburn lot		96 in expanded Washburn lot
	Increase number of spots available for hikers north of the Village of Cold Spring	27 on-road across from lot		0 on-road <b>+21</b>
				
		<b>463</b> Existing	<b>549</b> Future	<b>+86</b> Change

\*Master Plan & DGEIS documents identify the *maximum* number of spots allowable for any given lot. In most cases, the planned number of spaces will be beneath those thresholds.

A Note About:

**Boscobel:** HHFT and Boscobel have been in EARLY conversation about shared parking, with HHFT shuttle connection, potentially reducing traffic by allowing some trail users arriving from the south to park BEFORE they reach Cold Spring.

**Metro-North Lots:** Train station parking in Beacon and Cold Spring is used by a variety of people on weekends. HHFT does not plan to promote the use of these lots for trail-bound visitors.



## AROUND THE REGION

## Beekman: New State Forest in Dutchess

The state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Trust for Public Land on July 30 announced the creation of a 505-acre state forest in southern Dutchess County.

The Grape Hollow State Forest adjoins the Appalachian Trail Corridor through the Town of Beekman. The Trust for Public Land bought two parcels in Beekman and Pawling in 2023 and sold the land to the state for \$1.3 million provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and private donors such as the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation.

## Newburgh: Art Supply Shop Faces Foreclosure

Newburgh Art Supply has launched an online fundraiser to help the shop pay its delinquent tax bill.

Michael Gabor, the co-founder of Newburgh Art Supply, Newburgh Open Studios and the Newburgh Lightbulb Project, said he fell behind on payments while caring for his business and life partner, Gerardo Castro, who died in March. The couple opened Newburgh Art Supply in 2008.

Gabor said that, although the taxes were being paid through an agreement with the city, foreclosure proceedings are underway. A campaign at [gofund.me/aaff4761](https://gofund.me/aaff4761) hopes to raise \$100,000.

## Carmel: School Board Member Accused of Antisemitism

James Wise is facing calls for his removal from the school board after he participated in a rally by Putnam for Palestine where he said, "From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free." He also has called Israel a "colonist, white supremacist" government.

Wise, who is Jewish, has said he is being targeted by the far right. Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Putnam County, and state Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, have both called for the state education commissioner to remove him for what Lawler described as "repeating the disgusting antisemitic lies of Hamas apologists."

In response, Wise said it was "absurd to accuse a Jewish man of antisemitism for holding a position [supporting a ceasefire] shared by the majority of American Jews." He said he "absolutely rejected" the idea that the phrase is antisemitic and said it instead reflects a desire for Palestinians and Jews to live together peacefully.

## Storm King: Workers Approve First Contract

After eight months of negotiations, union workers at the Storm King Art Center approved their first contracts, according to *Mid Hudson News*.

The art center has two Civil Service

Employee Association (CSEA) bargaining units organized in 2023 that represent about 75 workers.

Under the agreement, the average hourly wage will increase by 9 percent, union officials said. In addition, the contract includes a guaranteed employer contribution to retirement accounts, pay for shifts canceled with less than 24 hours' notice and the addition of two days of paid time off.

## Marbletown: Officials Looking for Aqueduct Leaks

Officials in this Ulster County town are asking nearly 600 property owners if they have been impacted by leaks from the Catskill Aqueduct, which supplies New York City with drinking water and also passes through the Highlands.

Supervisor Richard Parete told *The Daily Freeman* that residents have reported surface water, flooded basements and buckled driveways. "When New York City has done the shutdowns periodically to do some work, we have people's wells drop 40, 60, 80, 90 feet," he said. "Part of this project is possibly drilling deeper wells."

Marbletown has signed a \$1.25 million agreement with New York City to pay for studies and make repairs through 2027. *The Daily Freeman* noted that it wasn't until after a 2016 interior inspection of the tunnel and a 2023 federal review that New York City agreed to pay for property damage.

## Orangeburg: Audit Reveals Empty-Room Payments

Although it never housed any migrants, the Armoni Inn & Suites in Rockland County charged New York City \$833,340 for hotel rooms, according to an audit.

After New York City made a deal with the Orangeburg hotel, a judge blocked the plan. But the hotel still billed for the empty rooms during May and June 2023, according to the New York City comptroller. DocGo, the company hired to book and oversee the hotel, kept \$343,140 as its commission.

According to *The Poughkeepsie Journal*, New York City's housing department said it had paid the bills because the hotels might be needed on short notice. The city eventually placed 2,200 migrants in 14 hotels in seven communities.

New York City also paid \$569,500 for 335 empty rooms at the Crowne Plaza JFK and \$96,900 for nine days of empty rooms at the Crossroads Hotel in the Town of Newburgh.

## Rockland County: Legislators Approve Gun Warning Labels

The Rockland County Legislature voted unanimously to require a posted warning label wherever firearms are sold, according to *Mid Hudson News*.

The label notes that access to a firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide, homicide and death during domestic disputes, as well as the risk of accidental deaths of children. It includes contact infor-

mation for the National Suicide Hotline.

The warning also will be given to people who seek gun licenses. Westchester and Albany counties have similar laws.

## White Plains: Man Pleads Guilty in Fentanyl Deaths

A 25-year-old man from Rockland County pleaded guilty earlier this month in federal court to selling fentanyl to three people who overdosed.

Justin Turnick, of Congers, faces up to 40 years in prison. Prosecutors say he packaged fentanyl into pills that killed Gustaf Olsen, Jonathan Shashoua and Ione Koenig and poisoned three other people. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office assisted with the investigation.

## Chappaqua: Couple Accused of Removing Trees

A veterinarian and his wife are on trial after the Town of New Castle accused them of illegally cutting down as many as 560 trees on their property.

Dr. Yossi Haroush and Rebecca Marshall allegedly had the trees removed in 2019 and 2022 without environmental permits. The trial resumes on Aug. 29, and the couple could face a fine of \$500,000 or more.

The Saw Mill River Audubon is also suing

the couple, alleging that 8-foot-high piles of tree trunks were dumped on protected land adjacent to the property.

## Kingston: Group Says Straw Law Unenforced

Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution complained to the Ulster County Legislature on Aug. 6 that only a few restaurants were following local laws that ban plastic straws, plastic cutlery and single-serve condiment packets unless customers request them.

According to *The Daily Freeman*, Susan Murphy, the organization's president, told legislators she routinely chastised servers who gave her plasticware, warning them they were breaking the law.

## Brewster: Equestrian Wins Fifth Olympic Medal

McLain Ward, a Brewster resident who is a member of the U.S. equestrian jumping team, won his fifth Olympic medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The team won silver in the competition behind Great Britain and ahead of France. Ward has competed in six Olympics and won five medals, including golds in 2004 in Athens and 2008 in Beijing and silvers in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro and 2020 in Tokyo.

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AROUND TOWN



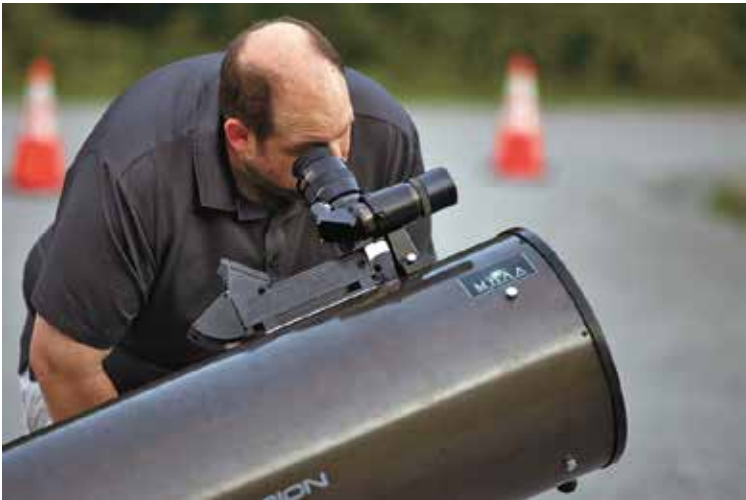
◀ **TOP READERS** — The Butterfield Library's High School Battle of the Books team finished third on Aug. 10 in the Mid-Hudson Library System tournament at Pawling, behind LaGrange and Kinderhook. The team met over the spring and summer to discuss five books chosen by librarians and practiced answering trivia questions. Shown from left are Leo O'Neil, Silvia Hardman, Jupiter Hutchison, Tanya Syan and Emma Cavanaugh.

Photo provided




▲ **BOOK SALE** — The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will hold its annual secondhand book and media sale beginning Friday evening (Aug. 23) for members and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the public. Co-organizer Rosalie Emerson Mewhinney, shown here, notes that this year's event includes 4,000 classical music and opera CDs from the collection of the late Gordon Stewart, founder of *The Current*. In addition, there will be 2,000 art and coffee-table books and, as usual, thousands of other titles. The sale will continue through Sept. 4.

Photo by Michael Turton



◀ **STAR PARTY** — The Little Stony Point Citizen's Association and the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosted a sky-gazing party at the Canopus Beach parking lot in Fahnestock Park on Aug. 10, offering glimpses of the moon, the Ring Nebula and the Andromeda galaxy, which is 10 million light years away.

Photo by Ross Corsair



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## The Calendar



Dolls created by Erika Barratt Photos provided



Erika Barratt inside Hunca Munca's in Beacon

Photo by L. Baldino

# The Dollmaker

*Beacon artist brings fabric to life*

By Lucy Baldino

Next month, dollmaker Erika Barratt will celebrate three years of bringing magic to all ages at her Beacon store, Hunca Munca's.

The name of the shop, at 145 Main St., comes from a Beatrix Potter book, *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*, in which Hunca Munca and another mouse breaks into a dollhouse to steal furniture for their children.

Barratt stocks books, miniatures and wooden toys made by artisans in Europe or by smaller companies. A handmade dollhouse in the window is a popular draw.

Barratt says there are no age limits on having fun. "I get little kids coming in to buy tiny things, as well as adults in their 20s or 70s. When older people come into

the shop, there seems to be a lot of nostalgia attached. The 'Oh, I remember this from my childhood,' she says.

Barratt, who grew up in Michigan, has worked with textiles since she was a child. She has a degree in textile fibers from Arizona State University and deals with companies such as West Elm and Anthropologie.

"I started out making rag dolls and little sculptural animals," she says. "While I was doing that, I was designing a holiday ornament collection for West Elm with super cool animals. They produced them for about four years. Around the time that we were finishing that up, I had just moved to Beacon" from Brooklyn, where she shared a studio with other artists.

"I didn't know too many people who were working with textile art," she says. "But once I came up here, I found this huge community of people doing cool stuff and interested in the same things that I was doing. I made a bunch of friends who were so like-minded."

Along with her store, Barratt sells her handmade dolls and animals — made from natural and recycled materials like buttons, lace and linens — at [erikabarratt.com](http://erikabarratt.com).

"A lot of the materials I use are natural fibers," she says. "I stuff my dolls with wool. I also use linens and cotton and things I have collected over the years. Sometimes I dye different materials with teas or natural dyes. I've even had customers mail me materials that they think I could use, like old men's wool suits, and use that to create the clothes for my creatures."

Barratt hand-sews the details, from embroidering the faces to stuffing them with wool and threading each strand of hair.

This fall, she plans to offer classes at Lucinda & Jean, a children's store she co-owns at 167 Main St. in Cold Spring.

"I feel excited about teaching other people to do it," she says. "It's fun and the skills can be passed down to others in the family."

Her own children have already started the journey. Her daughter, who is 6, advises her on which buttons or colors to use, although Barratt says, "If I listened to her everything would be pink. But she does push me to different creative heights, like adding more sparkle."

## Call of the Cicadas

*What would you ask the bugs?*

By Lucy Baldino

Tucked away in a cozy corner of Stanza Books in Beacon, David Rothenberg and Edwin Torres on Aug. 10 shared music and poetry that took their audience into the world of cicadas.

In June, Rothenberg and Torres visited central Illinois to experience the simultaneous appearance of broods of 13- and 17-year cicadas, which happens once every 221 years.

Guests at the Stanza event were greeted with refreshments and lured to their seats by recorded cicada calls.

Each species of cicadas has its own sound, Rothenberg explained, and while there are thousands of them above and below ground, they manage to find each other. He described it as "the most complicated acoustic mating ritual."

Rothenberg, who lives in Cold Spring, is a musician, philosopher and author who specializes in natural sounds. His books include *Bug Music: How Insects Give Us Rhythm and Noise* and *Why Birds Sing: A Journey into the Mystery of Bird Song*.

Using an iPad, Rothenberg played cicada sounds, as well as calls made by other animals, such as catbirds, accompanied by his own music on wind instruments.

As the calls played through the store, Torres read poetry that he had written in response to the Illinois trip. The Beacon resident is the editor of *The Body in Language: An Anthology*, and collections such as *Ameriscopica* and *XoeteoX: The Infinite Word Object*.

Torres passed out sheets to the audience with questions imprinted on them. Spectators were prompted to read the text aloud at the same time, which created an effect not unlike the overlapping sounds of the cicadas.

Torres and Rothenberg had earlier solicited questions online, asking people what they would ask cicadas. Some examples: "Any news from the Muses?" and "Did you know that Greek farmers relate your sounds to mature grapes?"



Edwin Torres and David Rothenberg at Stanza Books

Photo by L. Baldino



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



History via Kayak, Aug. 24

## COMMUNITY

**SAT 17**  
**Phoenicia Flea**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Parcel Flower Co.  
3052 Route 9 | [theparcelflower.co](http://theparcelflower.co)  
Hudson Valley makers and merchants will showcase their goods. Also SUN 18.

**SAT 17**  
**Brew, BBQ and Seafood Festival**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
1 – 8 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.org)  
More than 80 brewers and beverage makers will attend, along with pitmasters and seafood specialists. *Cost: \$12 (ages 12 and younger free)*

**SAT 17**  
**Butterflies & Blooms Festival**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
4 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | [stonykill.org](http://stonykill.org)  
Take a ride in the butterfly wagon, make crafts, play games and enjoy the Big Band Sound starting at 5:30 p.m. *Free*

**TUES 20**  
**Dutchess County Fair**  
**RHINEBECK**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
6550 Spring Brook Ave.  
[dutchessfair.com](http://dutchessfair.com)  
The annual event features 4-H projects and animals, rides, games, food and music at the grandstand, including Tracy Byrd, Rick Springfield, Bluffett, Kameron Marlowe and Kissnation. Daily through SUN 25. *Cost: \$18 (\$12 seniors and military, free ages 11 and younger, \$40 unlimited rides)*



Building Magazzino, Aug. 23

**TUES 20**  
**Collaborative Community Social**  
**BEACON**  
5:30 p.m. Beahive  
6 Eliza St. | 845-418-3731  
[beahivebeacon.spaces.nexodus.com](http://beahivebeacon.spaces.nexodus.com)  
Meet local businesses and neighbors. RSVP requested.

**SAT 24**  
**Free Paper Shredding**  
**NEWBURGH**  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Newburgh Mall  
1401 Route 300  
A shredder service will dispose of documents at this event hosted by state Sen. Rob Rolison.

**SAT 24**  
**Used Book Sale**  
**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
The library's annual secondhand

book and media sale will include books, CDs and DVDs in all genres. See Page 12.

## KIDS & FAMILY

**SAT 17**  
**Children's Business Fair**  
**COLD SPRING**  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn  
1 Chestnut St.  
[childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny](http://childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny)  
Young entrepreneurs will showcase their skills and products.

**SAT 24**  
**Back to School Block Party**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 3 p.m. South Avenue Park  
[facebook.com/iambeacon](http://facebook.com/iambeacon)  
I Am Beacon and Key Food will host this annual party to gather supplies for classrooms and students. There will be a DJ, activities for children and food. Bring donations to "stuff the bus" with school supplies.

## NATURE & OUTDOORS

**SAT 17**  
**Guided Hike**  
**GARRISON**  
9:30 a.m. Arden Point  
96 Lower Station Road  
[cceputnamcounty.org](http://cceputnamcounty.org)  
Master Gardeners will lead a 2.5-mile easy hike that will include part of Benedict Arnold's path and river views. *Cost: \$10*

**SAT 24**  
**Local History via Kayak**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
4 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D  
[hudsonriverexpeditions.com](http://hudsonriverexpeditions.com)  
Guides from the Putnam History Museum will share the history of the Hudson Highlands from the river. *Cost: \$95*

## STAGE & SCREEN

**SAT 17**  
**Medea: Re-Versed**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)  
This is a hip-hop version of Euripides's play with Sarin Monae West in the lead. Also THURS 22, SAT 24. Through Sept. 2. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

**SAT 17**  
**Cinema in Piazza**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art)  
This outdoor screening of biographical documentaries will include *ABOrismi*, *Aldo Rossi Design* and *Mimmo Paladino*. On SUN 18, the program will include Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Ettore Spallotti. *Cost: \$15 (\$40 includes barbecue)*

**SUN 18**  
**By the Queen**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)  
Shakespeare's story of the War of the Roses is retold through the perspective of Queen Margaret. Also WED 21, SUN 25. Through Aug. 31. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

**MON 19**  
**The Murder of Roger Ackroyd**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)  
This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel features Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in lead roles. Also FRI 23. Through Sept. 1. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

**WED 21**  
**Shrek**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. University Settlement  
724 Wolcott Ave.  
[facebook.com/beaconrec](http://facebook.com/beaconrec)  
As part of an outdoor movie

series, see the 2001 animated film about an ogre trying to achieve peace in his swamp.

**FRI 23**  
**Jurassic Park**  
**BEACON**  
6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)  
Visit Bannerman Island to watch the 1993 thriller about cloned dinosaurs released after a power failure. *Cost: \$40*

## VISUAL ARTS

**SAT 17**  
**Ronnie Farley**  
**BEACON**  
3 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St.  
[hudsonbeachglassshop.com](http://hudsonbeachglassshop.com)  
The artist will discuss her photographs on view in *The Alchemy of Water*.

**FRI 23**  
**Building Magazzino**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Magazzino  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art)  
Marco Anelli's large-scale photos of the museum's development over the past decade will be displayed through Oct. 14. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 seniors, students, visitors with disabilities, \$5 ages 5 to 10, free for Philipstown residents)*

**SAT 24**  
**Joseph Radoccia | Jackie Skrzynski**  
**GARRISON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)  
Radoccia's portraits of friends and elders will be on view in *Looking Back*, and Skrzynski will share her paintings of plants featured in uncommon ways. Through Sept. 15.



## TALKS & TOURS

**SAT 17**  
**Currents in the Electric City**  
**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](http://stanzabooks.com)  
Andrea Jade Talarico, Joe Kraus, Mandy Pennington, Dawn Leas and Bryan and Daryl Fanelli will read their poems from an anthology about Scranton, Pennsylvania.



SUN 18  
**The Brainchild of Harvey Eastman**  
POUGHKEEPSIE

2:30 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave. | [walkway.org](https://walkway.org)

Learn about the mayor who envisioned the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge built in the late 19th century.

MUSIC

SAT 17  
**A Celt in the Cotton Club**  
BEACON

6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](https://bannermancastle.org)

Tara O'Grady and Karl Scully will perform a Celtic jazz concert on Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 17  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167  
[doansburgchamberensemble.org](https://doansburgchamberensemble.org)

The string trio and flute ensemble's program will include works by Giardini, Lessel, Ben-Haim and Mercadante. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 seniors, students)*

SAT 17  
**Benny Havens Band**  
WEST POINT

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point  
[westpointband.com](https://westpointband.com)

The program, *Dancing Under the Stars*, will get everyone moving.

SAT 17  
**Manticore**  
BEACON

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

The tribute band plays the music of Emerson, Lake and Palmer. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



Benny Havens Band, Aug. 17

SUN 18  
**Emily Beck**  
BEACON

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bannerman Island  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](https://bannermancastle.org)

Take a self-guided tour of the island and enjoy the Third Sunday Concert. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 ages 11 and younger)*

SUN 18  
**Duo Calisto**  
COLD SPRING

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

Soprano Danielle Buonaiuto will perform with cellist Jules Biber. The program includes works by Debussy, Pauline Oliveros and Jessie Montgomery. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 18  
**North County Band**  
BEACON

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

The band will play music from its latest release, *Lay It on the Line*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

THURS 22  
**Guitar Duo**  
COLD SPRING

6 p.m. 10 Whitehill Place  
[bit.ly/house-concert-8-22](https://bit.ly/house-concert-8-22)

As part of the Hudson Valley House Concert Project, gypsy jazz guitarist Olli Soikkeli and Brazilian choro 7-string guitarist Cesar Garabini will perform. *Cost: \$25 donation*



FRI 23  
**Kieran Kane and Rayna Gellert**  
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](https://tompkinscorners.org)

The folk singers and songwriters



A Celt in the Cotton Club, Aug. 17

will play music from their collections, including *The Flowers That Bloom in Spring*. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 23  
**Vibeke Saugestad Band | Blue Museum**  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Happy Valley Arcade Bar  
296 Main St. | [happyvalleybeacon.com](https://happyvalleybeacon.com)

The power pop rock band will play with the alternative folk-rock band.

FRI 23  
**KJ Denhert**  
BEACON

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

The singer, guitarist and bandleader will perform with Debbie Lan. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 24  
**Paper Sun**  
BEACON

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

The tribute band will play the music of Traffic from the 1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 25  
**Fearless**  
PEEKSKILL

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

Rikki Lee Wilson will perform Taylor Swift's hits with a backing band. *Cost: \$49*

CIVIC

MON 19  
**City Council**  
BEACON

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

MON 19  
**School Board**  
BEACON

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

WED 21  
**Village Board**  
COLD SPRING

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

# Current Classifieds

## SERVICES

**HEALING BODYWORK** — Featured in NY Magazine as “one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy,” with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years’ experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit [Joymatalon.com](https://Joymatalon.com).

**BOUTIQUE PILATES & WELL-BEING COACHING** — Elevate your well-being in the breathtaking, lush Hudson Valley. Experience expertly tailored private and semi-private sessions in Balanced Body Reformer Pilates,

yoga, well-being strategies, mindfulness and breathing practices. Embrace a multi-dimensional approach to human health, emphasizing simplicity, consistency, and mindful movement. Studio Una caters to pre- and postnatal health, women’s health, injury recovery, and more. All bodies and levels of experience are warmly welcomed. See [studiouna.co](https://studiouna.co).

## EVENTS

**LOOKING FOR MAKERS!** — We are looking for designers, makers, artisans and artists to exhibit at our Modern Makers Market in Cold Spring. Our dates are Sept. 7/8, Oct. 5/6 and Nov. 9/10. There is no reselling at our markets. You can attend any weekend. If you are interested, please email us your business info.

and we will get back to you in a timely manner. You can always see our events at our Instagram or Website at Hops on the Hudson. Our website is [www.HopsOnTheHudson.com](https://www.HopsOnTheHudson.com).

## HELP WANTED

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS** — The Community Nursery School and Learning Center (10 Academy St., Cold Spring) is hiring teacher assistants and substitutes for the upcoming school year. School hours are mornings beginning mid-September. All interested parties are asked to reach out by email to [communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com](mailto:communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com).

**CHURCH GROUNDSKEEPER** — The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking for a part-time groundskeeper. The position requires weekly cleaning of the church interior and outside maintenance of the building and grounds. 15 hours per week at \$20 per hour. Interested parties are requested to email

[1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:1presbyterian@gmail.com) or call the church office at 845-265-3220.

## FOR RENT

**COLD SPRING** — Looking for a turn-key place to stay in the Hudson Valley? We offer furnished rentals in the heart of Cold Spring village. 2- and 3-bedroom units; WD/AC/DW; 4-minute walk to train; off-street parking available; 1 month security deposit; discounted utilities; no smoking. Call/text Jim at 917-348-3300.

**COLD SPRING** — Office space at Philipstown Square, 3182 Route 9, 200 to 1,500 square feet, private bathroom, parking, security, furnished or unfurnished. Call Ron at 914-490-9606.

## FREE STUFF

**LOCAL HOPS** — Free local hops (Cascade) are available at Davoren Farm in Garrison. Email [davorenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:davorenfarm@gmail.com).

**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](https://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**





Rieko Fujinami visits the exhibit of her late husband's photos at the Hammond Museum.

Photos by N. Revheim

Day Trip

# Hammond Museum

By Nadine Revheim

One of my favorite museums within an hour's drive of the Highlands is the Hammond Museum in North Salem. Its well-curated exhibits and Japanese-style gardens will beckon you to return. The museum and gardens were created in 1958 by artist and philanthropist Natalie Hays Hammond, whose former home is adjacent to the museum. Her vision of creating an authentic stroll garden and venue for increased understanding between Western

and Eastern cultures was enhanced by her own world travel, artistic study and acquisition of wealth as the daughter of a diplomat. The garden's unique design of stones, water, pine and bamboo, which appear along the winding paths across 4 acres, is calming. There are seasonal plantings and sitting areas for meditation. As it happens, the museum's current exhibit, *Caught Looking*, commemorates a former Beacon photographer, Dale Leifeste, who died in 2023. Leifeste was a fan of Japanese culture and taught workshops

at Hammond and curated an international show. He and his wife, Rieko Fujinami, lived in Beacon for more than 10 years and he had a well-received exhibit at the former River Winds Gallery in 2012 in the early days of Second Saturday. The exhibit, which continues through Aug. 25, includes a spotlight display of rare *yatate*, or Japanese writing implements, from the collection of Roland Flexnor. The Guild Hall has *Making a Good Impression: Art on Paper from Japan, China and Korea*, through Nov. 17. While the Hammond is known for its art exhibits, it hosts many events, such as the ritualistic moon viewing and tea ceremony, and workshops on traditional brush-and-ink painting, mindfulness through creativity, stone setting and rock placement in the garden and sound baths. You can reach the museum by a fast route (Interstate 84 east to 684 to Exit 7) or a slow route (Route 301 toward Carmel and some scenic backroads). I recommend taking it slow, which allows you to drive through backroads to the nearby Katonah Museum of Art, a perfect companion to the Hammond with its relatively small size, two larger exhibit halls and intimate space. An outdoor sitting area complements the modern structure. The current exhibit in Katonah, *Jonathan Becker: Lost Time*, highlights the work of the photographer. One gallery has black-and-white portraits and the other color images of cultural icons from the 1960s to 1990s, many taken for *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*. They can also be viewed as a tribute to his mentor, Brassai, the Parisian portraitist. *Lost Time* continues through Jan. 26. The museum includes a makeshift photo-



The Japanese gardens at the Hammond Museum are designed for contemplation.

booth and offers photography classes, social afternoons and artist conversations. On Sundays, a food vendor sets up in the garden. On other days, you will find an excellent Indian meal at Jaipore on Route 22 in Brewster, on the roads between the Hammond and Katonah museums.

*The Hammond Museum & Japanese Stroll Garden, at 28 Deveau Road in North Salem, is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday. See [hammondmuseum.org](http://hammondmuseum.org) or call 914-669-5033. Admission is \$12, or \$8 for seniors, students and veterans.*

*The Katonah Museum of Art, at 134 Jay St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. See [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org) or call 914-232-9555. Admission is \$15, or \$9 for seniors, students and persons with disabilities, \$6 for children and teens, and free for veterans.*

*Jaipore Royal Indian Cuisine, at 280 Route 22 in Brewster, is open daily for lunch and dinner except Tuesday. See [jaiporenyc.com](http://jaiporenyc.com) or call 845-277-3569.*



"Lotus (what is up now)," by Dale Leifeste



"Disney 7," by Dale Leifeste



# KuBe Gets New Director

*Artist has grand plans for former Beacon High School*

By Marc Ferris

If there's an artistic happening in Beacon, chances are that Donna Mikkelsen is making the scene.

A local fixture since 2011, she's the newly installed director of KuBe Arts Center, located at the former Beacon High School on Fishkill Avenue.

"I'm slowing down with the social appearances to focus on making this place more official," Mikkelsen says. "But I'll always be busy teaching, creating and building community."

Mikkelsen, who grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from the progressive John Dewey High School, ran an arts school in Westchester County on a barter system. When that folded, she moved north because of the arts scene here.

Since then, she has jumped into participatory projects such as coordinating a bicycle menorah event at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, serving on the board of BeaconArts and working with Beacon Bonfire.

Two years ago, Mikkelsen took a deep dive into local history and volunteered to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Howland Public Library by working on exhibits and developing programs.

Mikkelsen also teaches at the Manitou School in Philipstown, creating tools for students to draw with both hands simultaneously to create spontaneous, near-symmetrical images. She calls it "ambi arts," for ambidextrous, and even designed a logo.

Her involvement with the 120,000-square-foot KuBe dates to August 2023, when she helped organize *Back to School*, an exhibit from September through June that leaned into the surroundings. It culminated with a mock prom in the dimly lit, retro gym.

"This place matches my vision," Mikkelsen says about the old-school labyrinth, which opened in 1915 and closed in 2002. "People from all over always say, 'It's just like my



Donna Mikkelsen is the new director of the KuBe Arts Center in Beacon. Photo by M. Ferris



The KuBe Arts Center

Photo provided

school.' There's a lot of nostalgia vibes."

Around 60 artists, writers and musicians rent studios in the former classrooms. In addition to three recording studios, there's a barbershop (A Lucky Cut), a pottery center (Silica Studio 845) and a furniture and cabi-

netry woodworker (Rexhill Studios).

In 2011, Ethan Cohen, a gallery owner who specializes in African and Chinese art, opened KuBe, a contraction of Kunsthalle Beacon (a German word for *art shed*, or a shell filled with art).

Based in Manhattan, Cohen uses the Beacon site as a satellite, operating a gallery named after his parents in the former library and showing works in a warren of rooms in the one-time science wing.

Mikkelsen is slowly transforming one of Cohen's airy corners into a retail spot and whimsical exhibit space. A greenhouse on the terrace outside the store offers intriguing possibilities.

Sculptures dot the grounds, and a back-to-school bus designed by Ron English stands in the north parking lot. A paper sign taped to a wall outside a bathroom reads: "Please do not pour your paint or paint thinners down the drain. Thank you."

The brick building lacks air conditioning and has experienced minimal upkeep over the years. Despite its dark hallways, many studios take advantage of the large windows that overlook the residential neighborhood.

A library and archive include books, diaries, photographs and tens of thousands of slides that document and preserve Cohen's — and his mother's — life work.

Born in 1932, Joan Lebold Cohen traveled extensively throughout China, meeting with artists and filmmakers beginning in the 1960s and becoming an expert in Chinese and Asian art.

It's so easy to get lost in the KuBe maze that Mikkelsen plans to introduce directional signs. Another goal is a sound system in the auditorium.

"I'm a self-proclaimed historian and think about what's going to happen in 50 or 100 years," she says. "Will the building be standing? Will it be an art center?"

In addition to instituting a series of lectures, workshops, performances and exhibitions, Mikkelsen would like KuBe to become a nonprofit so it can apply for grants, offer artist residencies and raise money to maintain the building. She plans to institute a membership program similar to Dia Beacon and other nonprofits.

"I have many plans in my head, like building a website," says Mikkelsen. "But we have to raise some money first."

*The KuBe Arts Center, at 211 Fishkill Ave., is open to the public on Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m., with a tour at 2 p.m. Enter the blue door in the north parking lot.*



Join us for the 2024  
Friends of the Library

# Book Sale

**Saturday, August 24 - Wednesday, September 4**

**Members Only Night: August 23rd from 5-8 pm**

Please renew your membership at [desmondfishlibrary.org/friends](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/friends)

**Saturday: 10AM-5PM**

**Sunday: 12- 5PM**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1-5PM**

**Tuesday & Thursday: 4-8PM**



Located at the  
Desmond-Fish Public Library  
472 Rt 403 at Rt 9D  
[booksale@desmondfishlibrary.org](mailto:booksale@desmondfishlibrary.org)



# EXPLORE THE GROUNDS OF GRAYMOOR

Explore the history, mission and grounds of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. Based in Garrison, New York, our grounds and chapels are open daily to the public from dusk to dawn, and Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11am.



## San Damiano Farmers Market

Open every Friday  
June - September  
10am - 2pm



## "That Nothing Be Lost" Thrift & Antique Shop

Open Wednesday - Sunday  
10am - 5pm

Explore antiques, art, home decor, glassware, and more!



## Graymoor Book & Gift Center

Open Wednesday - Saturday  
9am - 5pm | Sunday 9am - 3pm

Shop our wide selection of books, greeting cards, gifts, devotional items and recovery support materials.





Super Secret Projects member Elin Lundman (left) and co-directors Allegra Jordan and Diana Vidal talk during the collective's inaugural show in January 2023.



The Super Secret Projects gallery launched as a co-op in 2023.

Photos provided

# A Framework for Artists

Collectives offer members space and support

By Marc Ferris

One way for visual artists to sell their work is to ally with a private gallery that promises to take care of everything, including finding buyers — at commissions that can exceed 50 percent. Another is an artist-run space, also known as a collective or co-op, such as the Beacon Artist Union (BAU) and Super Secret Projects in Beacon or the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring. Although these partnerships require dues to pay the rent, and volunteers to watch the store, a co-op provides exhibit space and support that might not otherwise be available. Each of the members at Buster Levi, which operates a gallery at 121 Main St., is

given space for a month-long exhibit every two years, says Ada Pilar Cruz, a sculptor who helped establish the gallery in 2010. During the winter, other artists are invited to exhibit or the gallery hosts group shows. Established 20 years ago by seven artists, the Beacon Artist Union gallery at 506 Main St. now typically has 12 to 15 members, says Eileen Sackman, who recently stepped down after a five-year term as president. Super Secret Projects, which opened in January 2023, displays member works and monthly shows in a cozy room tucked in the back of Hyperbole, a fashion and accessory shop at 484 Main St. in Beacon. It hangs on by a shoestring, says Diana Vidal, who co-directs Super Secret with Allegra Jordan. Before the launch, they held a fundraiser



Vidal

at Happy Valley Arcade Bar. Artist-run spaces emerged in New York City during the 1950s and became more common in the 1990s after the DIY (do-it-yourself) punk music ethos spread to the art world. Co-ops charge far less commission than private galleries: it's 20 percent for BAU members, 10 percent at Buster Levi and artists at Super Secret Projects keep 100 percent. But members are expected to contribute their labor and talents, like tending the website, updating social media, writing press releases, hanging shows and keeping the gallery open for visitors. It's also nice when artists show up at openings to support their peers, says Pilar Cruz. Buster Levi, named for director Martee Levi's dog, benefits from her leadership and desire to take on responsibilities such as paying the bills and ensuring professional hangings. For BAU artists,



Levi



The Beacon Artist Union gallery


Photo by Jeff Simms

has become "less and less positive" over the past 40 years. "Art can be anything these days," she says. "You can put dog shit on a plate and call it art. It should be about joy, aesthetics and a spiritual path." Galleries require cooperation to thrive, so having the right chemistry among members is important. Gallery 66 NY, founded in 2012 in Cold Spring, lasted only five years. "People didn't help out, they couldn't agree on how to run it, and after their lease came up, they moved on," recalls Pilar Cruz. By contrast, Buster Levi has been a pillar of stability for 14 years, although Levi worries that rising rents will imperil the gallery. Teaming up with BeaconArts allows Jordan and Vidal to take advantage of that organization's nonprofit status and apply for grants. "In the Beacon art community, everyone wants to help," says Vidal. "It's amazing what can be accomplished when people cooperate."

duties rotate. At Super Secret Projects, members often pitch in with bartering arrangements. "It's a lot of backend work, but we complement each other's strengths," says Vidal. "It's a good thing that Allegra's OK with finance because that is not me." In the early 2010s, more young collectors began buying directly from artists, fueling the growth of artist-run galleries, according to the *Journal for Art Market Studies*. Like any commodity, it notes, those buyers flipped works as prices rose. But a focus on lucre comes with its own price; Levi says her outlook on visual art


"Art can be anything these days. You can put dog shit on a plate and call it art. It should be about joy, aesthetics and a spiritual path."

~ Martee Levi




**Beacon Artist Union**

Robin Adler  
Karen Allen  
Bob Barry  
Jebah Baum  
Daniel Berlin  
Joel Brown  
Joan Harmon  
Nataliya Hines  
Linda Lauro-Lazin  
Mary McFerran  
Kelly M O'Brien  
Soli Pierce  
Eileen Sackman  
Ilse Schreiber-Noll  
Pamela Zaremba



**Buster Levi**

Ron Anderson  
John Allen  
Rick Brazill  
Ada Pilar Cruz  
Jenne Currie  
Eric Erickson  
Pat Hickman  
Gretchen Kane  
Bill Kooistra  
Martee Levi  
Maria Pia Marrella  
Ursula Schneider  
Lucille Tortora  
Judith Wilde  
Grey Zeien



**Super Secret Projects**

Chris Ams  
Ian Wilson Clyde  
Emma McDonald Diamond  
Allegra Jordan  
Laura Holmes McCarthy  
Elin Lundman  
Elizabeth Mihaltsse Lindy  
Kohar Minassian  
Negin Sharifzadeh  
Tom Stringer  
Diana Vidal





Mary Anne Manglass

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our mother, Mary Anne (Stevens) Manglass, on Aug. 8, 2024.

Born in Benton, Maine, she was one of six children born to Ruth (Fish) Stevens and Caleb Stevens — Caleb, Dodie (Lois), Jean, Barbara and Polly — all of whom predeceased her.

After moving to Newburgh, she met and married the love of her life, Ralph Manglass. No matter where they lived before or after, they always called Cold Spring their home, spending most of their 70 years together there.

Along with working with her husband at the pharmacy, Mary enjoyed many hobbies, including photography. She has had many of her photos featured in local displays over the years and many made into postcards. She also enjoyed being part of many community groups, such as the garden club, quilting and president of the seniors' group. She enjoyed spending time in Las Vegas with her husband and their many friends. Mary was a woman with a quick wit and a great sense of humor which she passed on to us all. When she smiled, she lit up the room!

Mary is survived by her loving husband, Ralph, and their three children, Ralph, Marie and Amy; their grandchildren, Kevin, Marykate, Caleb, Collin and Joel; and their great-grandchildren, Angelo and Lorenzo, all of whom will miss her dearly.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Community Room at Archcare at Ferncliff in Rhinebeck, New York, on Sept. 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to come and share memories, visit with friends and celebrate Mary.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home - Cold Spring.

PAID NOTICE



Barton Chew

Barton Norton Chew, 61 years of age, died on Aug. 12, 2024. He was the son of Barbara K. Chew and E. Norvil Chew, who preceded him, and his father's widow, Anne Chew.

He is survived by his two beautiful children, Eleanor Chew and Sam Chew of Cold Spring, NY; his life partner, Kay Petronio; and his seven brothers and sisters: Deborah Rotman (Sam) of Mesa, AZ, Richard Chew (Carol) of Allegany, NY, Janet Chew (Andrew Dickson) of Jamestown, NY, Mark Chew (Elaine) of Cincinnati, OH, Michael Chew (Christina Euston) of Olean, NY, Barbara Brady (Jim) of St. Petersburg, FL, and Charlotte Chew of Nashville, TN. He is also survived by his Aunt Lisbeth (Libby) Keenan of Olean, NY, and 13 nieces and nephews, nine cousins and a long-time friend, Carolyn Ernst of NYC.

Barton was an enthusiast. He didn't just love music, he worked in the music industry with the likes of Ozzy Osborne and Debbie Harry. He had an eclectic taste in music and shared those treasures with anyone who wanted to listen. He didn't just love films, he worked in the film industry. He didn't just love art, he created art from the dark room in his childhood home to building sets for his children's plays. He took his children to museums regularly to spread the joy of art and creativity.

He didn't just love to cook, he was a founding member of the Bake Sale Club (OHS), he graduated from culinary school and baked and cooked amazing dishes for friends and family. He didn't just camp, camping included finding the most beautiful areas to set up camp, hiking, canoeing, and cooking on an open fire. His sense of adventure had him skiing down black diamonds, donning hockey skates, and soaring like a bird navigating his hang glider. He loved his workshop as well and became a gifted woodworker.

A product of his parents, Barton had an amazing sense of humor. He always had an interesting perspective and commentary. He was a skilled craftsman. He ensured family recipes like salt-rising bread, scrapple, and jam would live on. His depth of compassion for others was unequalled. He regularly donated platelets. If any of his friends or neighbors needed a hand, he was there for them. He was loved by all.

Most importantly, Barton was a loving father, brother, uncle, partner, and friend. He was witty, funny and loved to make people laugh. To his children, he was their light.

Friends may call on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. Private interment will be at the convenience of the family.

PAID NOTICE



Miriam Wagner (left) in her garden during Rose Day in 2022 with fellow Philipstown Garden Club members Dawn Young, JoAnn Brown and Matthew Weigman

Photo by Kirby Brown

Garden (from Page 1)

“The Goddess Flora’ — that’s what I call Miriam,” said Matthew Weigman, honorary president of the Philipstown Garden Club. “Talk about green thumbs. She has 10 green fingers.”

Since the early 1960s, when Miriam and her husband, Eric, moved into the renovated 19th-century barn, those green fingers have cultivated a meandering country garden surrounded by a 7-foot-high fence to keep out the deer.

Wagner has grown hundreds of plants, shrubs, trees and flowers, including hydrangea, forsythia, Petasites, joe-pye weed, daylilies, grapevines, a dogwood tree, a lady apple tree, fruiting and ornamental quince, spirea, azaleas and flowering lettuce.

“I’m greedy for beautiful things,” said Wagner, 87, who has a degree in art history from Barnard. During her studies, she especially liked artists who filled their paintings with flowers. “Renaissance artists were good at putting Madonna and child with lovely blooming plants,” she says.

When the Philipstown Garden Club applied for the Smithsonian listing, Wagner suggested the garden be named Linnevoeld, her maiden name, but it’s never been called that outside of the application.

In the late spring and early summer, the stars of her garden are the antique roses with names such as Belle de Crecy, Duchesse de Montebello, Maiden’s Blush and Madame Plantier.

To celebrate those roses, every June for 40 years Wagner invited as many as 60 friends and plant lovers to a garden party to celebrate “Rose Day.” They would sip May wine and eat pound cake with butter frosting blended with rose water and topped with rose petals, which are “perfectly healthy to eat provided you don’t spray anything on your roses,” Wagner said. “I never use sprays, ever.”

This summer, for the first time in recent memory, there was no Rose Day celebration. Eric Wagner died three years ago, and late last year, Miriam decided to move to The Fellowship Community in Chestnut Ridge.

“It is hard, but I didn’t want to live here alone anymore,” said Wagner, speaking last weekend at her estate sale, where she sold, among other items, many of her gardening books. “This is me trying to make a good place for me to be healthy.”

While moving was necessary, her family didn’t relish the possibility of having a new owner bulldoze the old house, greenhouse and garden. “I wanted it to be in gardening hands,” she said.

As it happens, the property was purchased by the family of a Garrison resident and contractor, Javier Flores (yes, *flores* translates as flowers in Spanish), who had done work on the house over the years and expressed interest in buying it if the opportunity arose.

Flores’ wife, Janeth Martinez, said their family plans to move in after completing renovations in a few months. “The garden will stay because my daughter loves to garden,” said Martinez, whose two children attend the Garrison School.

Martinez and her mother, who lives near Corpus Christi, Texas, have long grown vegetables, including zucchini, tomatoes, cilantro, pumpkins, parsley and butternut squash. Martinez plans to bring along her five chickens once her husband builds a coop, a necessity since she’s had problems with bobcats.

She said she is not intimidated by the wide variety of plants to maintain. “I can learn,” she said. “Everything is online. I can take a photo of the plant and read about it.” Of course, she hopes to rely on Wagner for guidance, as well.

Wagner’s advice is simple. “Love the garden,” she said. “Make it grow as well as you can.” The family knows that the garden will change. “Gardens are always evolving,” said her daughter, Liz Wagner, an educator with the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar who grew up making forts in a giant forsythia bush.

Miriam Wagner’s life has also evolved. She is cultivating friendships at her new home while plying her old skills. “There’s a lovely courtyard garden here with shrubs and a crabapple tree,” she said. “I’m doing some watering and some weeding.”



# LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (August 1874)

When a traveler near the Pacific Hotel hired Theodore Morrison for \$1 [about \$28 today] to row him to Cornwall, Leonard Schegel offered to do it for 75 cents. The hacks argued; after Schegel struck Morrison with his cane, Morrison shoved him. That's when Schegel's son, James, threw a rock that hit Morrison in the forehead. James was charged with assault, but a jury found no cause for action against his father.

A granite crosswalk was laid across Main Street from Garden Street to Kemble Avenue. *The Cold Spring Recorder* soon after complained that the contractors had not removed the chippings and blocks, creating a hazard that required nearby store owners to keep their lanterns on.

Moyse opened a store near the Sunk Mine and, in a display of his service, pushed a barrel of flour and a ham in a wheelbarrow for half a mile to a customer's door.

Nine members of the Jubilee Singers of Wilmington, North Carolina, visited the Methodist Church. *The Recorder* assured readers that those expecting a "vulgar" minstrel would be disappointed; instead, the singers performed "those peculiar songs of the Negro camp meeting, which express a distinct religious idea, although grotesquely worded."

A woman who fell off the gangplank of an excursion steamer at the dock was quickly lifted from the river because the tide was high.

A rumor that James Ruddiman had drowned spread for four hours until he showed up.

A canal boat sank in 15 feet of water at the wharf. It required eight hydraulic pumps to raise but its coal remained on the deck.

At his discretion, the town assessor added \$30,000 [\$825,000] to the value of the New York City & Hudson River Railroad property.

*The Recorder* editor lamented that documentation of the early history of Philipstown was sparse. "Little can be found upon the records but the brief entries concerning the elections of officers and the laying out of roads," he wrote.

A Steiner Repeating Fire Extinguisher salesman left samples of its portable home unit with two merchants.

W. Foster, of the Kellogg Base Ball Club, was applauded after he leaped aboard a riderless wagon on Main Street, grabbed the reins and brought the horse to a stop.

After drinking three beers at a Cold Spring saloon and taking the train home to Garrison, Morris Osborne was struck

and killed while walking on the tracks. A station agent found his body at 4:30 a.m.

In a letter to *The Recorder*, a reader noted that Osborne and three other local "drunkards" had died since Jan. 1 and called on the village to enforce its temperance laws.

While playing with his children, John Hustis stepped on an iron garden rake and was severely injured by a tooth that went through his shoe.

E.J. Pierce, a female physician from the Highlands Medical Institute in Newburgh, delivered a "lecture for ladies" at Town Hall.

A young man named Levy was standing at the railroad station when a mailbag tossed from the 9:46 a.m. express knocked the pipe from his mouth.

Although the pump at the depot had been repaired, *The Recorder* noted that the cup was so often missing that thirsty travelers had to borrow the one in the ladies' room.

Harry Porter, 8, drowned after falling from the decaying dock on West Street. Three men dove into the muddy, oily water and Capt. George Wise threw a scap net until its iron ring caught on the boy's leg. He was pulled out, but 15 minutes had passed.

Isaac Finch, a former Cold Spring resident who moved to Oregon, mailed the editor of *The Recorder* 8-foot-tall spires of timothy grass.

An intoxicated Gilbert Christian was arrested after making a scene inside a Nelsonville store by insisting he could lick any Irishman in town.

Nichols and Mckeel constructed a black walnut numismatic cabinet for James Nelson that had 21 drawers.

Owen & Webb painted their store on Stone Street to resemble a brownstone.

## 125 Years Ago (August 1899)

While cleaning his bicycle, Fred Andrews lost the end of a finger in the rear sprocket.

A horse kicked Frank Warren in the face, breaking his nose.

A farmer named Light came to the village to sell a load of apples but instead "loaded up on apple juice," according to *The Recorder*, and fell off his wagon while turning at Parrott and Bank streets.

Isaac Lawrence of Jersey City visited Fishkill Landing [Beacon], where he and Cornelius Haight reminisced about attending the old red schoolhouse in North Highlands 50 years earlier.

William Pope learned from a traveler that his sister, whom he had not seen in 30 years, lived in Bay View, Massachusetts. He invited her to visit, and she came with her daughter.

The Haldane school board appropriated \$4,000 [\$151,000] for teacher salaries. It noted that, in the trustee elections, most of the 340 votes were cast by women.

Capt. Henry Metcalfe, who led a campaign to build a new Haldane school at a cost of \$26,505 [\$1 million], declined a suggestion that it be renamed for him. "I would as soon think of altering the name of that tomb in our cemetery in front of which I hope I shall someday rest," he wrote.

Ernest Baxter, 13, fell from the upper part of the wagon shed and caught his wrist on a grappling iron. He hung for a time before he was able to lift himself and extract the hook.

Howard Junior caught 16 trout in the

Continentalville brook in a single day.

Annie Morgan, 26, the daughter of financier J.P. Morgan, was camping in the Rocky Mountains along with other friends of Prof. and Mrs. Henry Fairfield Osborn of Garrison, who had a complete outfit for shooting and fishing.



Annie Morgan

A steamer captain predicted a severe winter because of the number of crabs being caught in the lower Hudson.

*The Recorder* advised: "There are two dogs roaming between the railroad and the dock which could be dispensed with. They are a menace to bicycle riders."

A shoeshine chair staffed by an Ethiopian man was installed outside Henry Ticehurst's barbershop.

Mary Bowne was sitting on her stoop on Market Street when she saw a man next door fall 20 feet to the sidewalk from a second-story window. It was Michael Carney, who walked in his sleep. He was not seriously injured.

Jesse Austin, who had ferried generations of West Point cadets across the river, died at 78 and was interred at St. Philip's Church in Garrison. In a tribute, a friend wrote that, at the beginning of the Civil War, "Austin felt sad when he saw upward of two score of them doff their uniforms in the cabin, and with cheers for secession cast the good old gray coats to Jesse, one of which he had until the day of his death." Later that year, Austin received a War Department telegram order-

ing him to keep up steam all night. At 4 a.m., President Lincoln and two officers got off a train at Garrison to be transported. Years earlier, in December 1853, Robert E. Lee, the academy superintendent, wanted to cross at 3 a.m. in a storm. The rowboat journey amid the ice took 90 minutes, but then Lee invited Austin to his quarters for a drink.

Michael Raftery of Cold Spring escaped from the Putnam County Jail by sawing through the iron bars of his cell window.

John B. Quirk, aka James Harvey Bennett, was one of 54 men awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for cutting a submerged cable to isolate Cuba from Spain during the Spanish-American War. Quirk, the chief boatswain's mate aboard the USS Marblehead, died in 1900 and is buried at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Four young women from Garrison who went to a bluff to watch the searchlights of passing ferries became lost in the woods on their return. A search party found them just before dawn.

The Board of Trustees ordered hackmen (taxi drivers) to stand on the opposite side of the street from the depot.

The Cold Spring Engineering Society held its first meeting.

Sheriff Donohue laid out a croquet ground at the Garrison Hotel and, according to *The Recorder*, was seen "teaching the young lady guests this fascinating and exhilarating pastime."

The cook on the USS Annapolis, anchored off West Point, drowned when he jumped into the river to bathe and was dragged under the gunboat by the current. He was buried with military honors in the post cemetery.

During the night, someone went through Joe Madonna's sweet corn crop on River Road and stole 600 ears — his entire crop.

John Smalley, a farmer near Sunk Mine, spotted a chunk head snake [copperhead] peeking from under a stone. He ran inside to get a table fork, which he used to stab the snake in the head. As he did, the snake wound itself around Smalley's arm and had to be cut to pieces to release him.

## 100 Years Ago (August 1924)

The Cold Spring Village Board awarded a \$38,000 [\$700,000] contract to Christopher Brothers of Peekskill to pave Main Street from the railroad to Fair Street

(Continued on Page 22)

## GARRISON ART CENTER

1964 • CELEBRATING 60 YEARS • 2024

Garrison Art Center's galleries are named in honor of two key contributors: Anita Hart Balter, a Hudson Valley artist and writer who established the GAC Scholarship and Mentor Program and was a founding board member of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival; and Henry S. Gillette, an artist and educator, a devoted participant at GAC, who supported GAC's arts education program through a generous bequest.

Join us from **August 24 - September 15**, with an opening reception on **August 24, from 5 - 7 pm** for the exhibitions

*Natural Selection* by Jackie Skrzynski in the **Balter Gallery** and *Looking Back: Portraits* by Joseph Radoccia in the **Gillette Gallery**.



Garrison Art Center's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

[www.garrisonartcenter.org](http://www.garrisonartcenter.org)  
#GAC60



Looking Back (from Page 21)

and construct a storm sewer from Fishkill Avenue to the dock. The firm stored its cement in a building at Main and Market, but the floor collapsed under the weight and 20 bags were lost in the flooded cellar.

The fire company reminded drivers that, in the event of an alarm, its apparatus had the right of way, and they should pull to the curb.

*The Recorder* alerted readers that child star Jackie Coogan, accompanied by Lt. Gov. George Lunn, would stop at the Cold Spring station at 9:15 a.m. on a Saturday on his way from Poughkeepsie to New York City for a benefit for Near East Relief. When the 9-year-old didn't show, disappointing a large crowd, *The Recorder* said its notice had been published in "good faith" after a Near East Relief representative came to the village to prepare. Jackie and Lunn apparently took the express.

The director of the Putnam branch of the state tax department announced that, under a new law, every motor vehicle operator must have a driver's license. At the same time, the state requested that police chiefs supply the names of reckless drivers so they could be "thoroughly investigated" before being processed.

*The Recorder* noted there was "great demand" for houses in Cold Spring and that owners who renovated would have no difficulty finding tenants.

Putnam County announced the results of its latest auction of Philipstown property seized for unpaid taxes, including a 38-acre tract sold for \$26.46 [\$486]; a Lake Surprise bungalow for \$20.15 [\$370]; and a 125-acre tract for \$32.46 [\$600].

**75 Years Ago (August 1949)**

Coach John "Chiggum" Merante announced the first practice of the Haldane alumni football team. Among the returning players were Joe "Moe" Mazzuca, George "Jiggs" Lyon, Roger "Hoot" Gibson and Bill "Frog" Mellravy. Nate Glick was named an official RCA



Jackie Coogan (center) in Times Square in August 1924

Television dealer. The 1950 models ranged from a 10-inch tabletop for \$199.95 [\$2,600] to a 16-inch console.

Mrs. Baruch, 74, was injured when, while sitting in the passenger seat of a parked car on Main Street, waiting for her daughter, the vehicle rolled from its spot and sideswiped a car across the street before drifting back and hitting a pole and a second car.

The Rev. Richard Addison Thornburg, the newly installed minister at the South Highlands Methodist Church in Philipstown, was visited by his twin brother, the Rev. Robert Watts Thornburg of Chicago, and his father, the Rev. Dr. Amos Thornburg of Hollywood, California.

Eddie Cantor visited Leonard Bloomer of Lake Surprise at the Butterfield Hospital. The comedian, who attended the Lake Surprise camp as a boy, had been a friend of the Bloomer family for 45 years. Nat Holman, the basketball coach at City College of New York, also visited with his brother, Jack, who had been a camp director for many years.

**50 Years Ago (August 1974)**

Dr. Rene Dubos, a microbiologist who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for his book

*So Human an Animal*, spoke at a Putnam County Historical Society picnic.

The fifth annual Arts and Crafts Fair at the Garrison Art Center included a folk concert with Nicky Seeger (nephew of Pete); Don McLean, known for his song, "American Pie"; and Mike Klubnick and the Chazy Band.

The Cold Spring Fire Department changed the time of its daily siren from 6 p.m. to noon.

A team representing Palen's Drug Store in Cold Spring won the Ladies Night Owl League at Fishkill Bowl.

Ed's Variety Store held its grand opening at 93 Main St.

**25 Years Ago (August 1999)**

Traffic on Main Street in Nelsonville was detoured onto Peekskill Road while workers installed a 48-inch water drain to replace a brick culvert that had carried runoff from behind Norm Champlin's ironworks to Foundry Creek for 100 years.

John Pierson of Grainy Pictures in Cold Spring was in the news because of his early involvement with a newly released blockbuster, *The Blair Witch Project*. Pierson provided \$10,000 in seed money for the film, which cost \$40,000 to produce and grossed nearly \$250 million. [One of the actors, Michael Williams, later became a guidance counselor at the Garrison School.]

After practicing for 15 years in New York City, Dr. Cynthia Ligenza relocated to the Medical Center at Cold Spring.

The Putnam County Board of Elections invalidated a petition to create the Philipstown Together Party because it lacked page numbers. The party would have given all Democratic candidates for office in Philipstown a second line on the ballot, which led one resident to file a challenge, saying a new party's purpose should be to present new candidates or a new platform.

In a letter to the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, a New York City couple who had visited Cold Spring complained that there were no taxis at the train station and no way to avoid the "distasteful" pedestrian tunnel.

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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			
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34				35				36				
37			38					39				
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48		49			
50						51			52			
53						54			55			

- ACROSS
1. Persian leader

5. Kipling hero

8. Dull sound of impact

12. Earring site

13. Enzyme suffix

14. Bagel feature

15. River to the Baltic

16. Boom times

17. Director Preminger

18. Spanish explorer

20. Some babies

22. Contemplate anew

26. Vatican VIPs

29. Televis

30. Italian article

31. Jazzy Fitzgerald

32. Automaton, for short

33. Farmland unit

34. Oklahoma city

35. Weir

36. Grove units

37. Contemplate anew

40. Eyebrow shape

41. Excuses

45. Pocket bread

47. Passing craze

49. Aloe —

50. Scott Turow book

51. German conjunction

52. Black, in verse

53. Go by

54. Nonclerical

55. Lairs
- DOWN
1. No neatnik

2. Today cohost Kotb

3. First victim

4. Chamomile product

5. Island of Hawaii

6. MSN, for one

7. Camper’s dinnerware

8. Daring swimwear

9. Tabasco, for one

10. Last (Abbr.)

11. “Gloria in Excelsis —”

19. Surprised cries

21. Rowing need

23. Model Campbell

24. Concerning

25. Burnsian turndowns

26. Bartlett, for one

27. Shoppe descriptor

28. Mollifies

32. Timid

33. Showed up

35. Pol. party org.

36. Business card no.

38. Face-to-face exams

39. — Warbucks

42. Actress Neuwirth

43. Press

44. Without

45. Soda

46. Chef Garten

48. Santa — winds

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

SPORT

CHARD

WORDSEARCH

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

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ARF

EWER

IRANI

TAKE

STE

MEOW

INSET

ODIN

FTC

TAKE

GELATO

SSR

CTIS

PLIES

SUPPLE

THESTAGE

BRADY

TRA

DEER

FAUST

ALTO

ASS

THEFIFTH

ECOLE

EURO

SSE

Answers for Aug. 9 Puzzles

GXBENYVTPM

XRECORDOTH

LSVEBRDHMP

ASTDTIAUGP

DBTAUETCAG

ENOMDILREX

MNRIJIIHIW

QUCIJSUMTR

BAHP EOKMIA

PKNPHCBOIX

YOLKS, FOLKS, FORK,

FORMS, FARMS, WARMS

361547298

924638517

587921436

849265173

215783649

736194852

672419385

153876924

498352761

For interactive puzzles and crossword answers, see [highlandscurrent.org/puzzles](https://highlandscurrent.org/puzzles).

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## Classic Wheels

# 1959 Corvette

By Michel Turton

Nick Squillace can't thank an old farmer with a barn for his pristine 1959 Corvette — instead, he's grateful for a marriage gone wrong.

"The owner wanted \$45,000; I got it for \$28,000," says the Wappingers Falls resident. "It was a Saturday, and he was going to divorce court on Monday. He needed the cash."

The purchase was like renewing a love affair. Squillace's first car, right out of high school, was a 1966 Corvette.

In 2003, Squillace thought he might like a Shelby Cobra. But when he saw the '59 Corvette on eBay, his son commented on the beautiful blue paint, and that was that. "If it had been red, I wouldn't have bought it," Squillace says with a laugh. A quick drive to Newburgh to inspect the car sealed the deal.

The Corvette was original other than the wheels and paint. It needed only minor maintenance, he says. "It had been



repainted crown sapphire sometime in the '90s. I'm likely the third or fourth owner." The odometer read 68,000 miles, but he has no idea if that was accurate.

He loves the car, although not for the way it handles. "It drives like a truck," Squillace says. "There's no smooth ride in it at all. It's just a cool old car, and I like all the looks it gets."

While the Corvette may not be silky smooth, it packs a punch: Squillace has taken it up to 110 miles an hour. The 283-cubic-inch, eight-cylinder engine produces 270 horsepower. That, combined with twin four-barrel carburetors, four-speed manual transmission and dual exhausts, yields, at best, 10 mpg. At worst, it's 6 mpg of high test, he says.

Squillace has a healthy collection of trophies from car shows from Bear Mountain to Rhinebeck. Lake George is the farthest he's ventured from Dutchess County. He's had several offers for the 65-year-old car but says he is not interested in selling. He

hangs on to his vehicles. "The newest thing I have is a 2013 Jeep," he said. He also owns 1939, 1957 and 1981 Harley Davidsons, a 1965 Chevy pickup and a 2004 Chevy SSR.

One of the Corvette's options must have been considered pretty cool in 1959 — the Wonderbar radio. "You push a button, and it finds the station itself," he says. "This car has every option you could get," including a parking-brake alarm, push-button door handles and a 24-gallon gas tank.

Squillace says his 1959 model stands out among Corvettes. It was the last year that Chevrolet made fewer than 10,000 Corvettes (9,670), and only 661 were produced of Squillace's model with a powered soft-top convertible roof. (He also has a hard top, manual mounted roof.) The only change he'd consider would be front disc brakes, for safety.

Replacement parts are not hard to find, although they are costly. "You pay big bucks for original parts," he says. "An original jack is \$1,700; a reproduction costs \$400."

The Corvette made its debut as a prototype at the 1953 General Motors Motorama in New York City. It had a fiberglass body, a 235-cubic-inch straight six-cylinder engine that generated 150 horsepower and a two-speed automatic transmission. Only 300 were built, but Corvettes have been offered for sale every year since, except 1983, when the

## The Specs

**Assembly:** St. Louis

**Total production:** 9,670

**Body:** 2-door coupe

**Engine:** 283-cubic-inch V8

**Transmission:**  
4-speed manual; 3-speed manual;  
Powerglide automatic optional

**Carburetor:** Twin four-barrels

**Horsepower:** 270

**Exhaust:** Dual

**Brakes:** 4-wheel hydraulic

**0 to 60 mph:** 6.6 seconds

**Fuel economy:** 6 to 10 mpg

**Curb weight:** 3,033 pounds

**Cost:** \$3,875 (\$41,836 in 2024)

company made 61 but destroyed all but one.

The 2024 Corvette E-Ray is a hybrid with a 6.2-liter V-8 gasoline engine and electric motor that produces 655 horsepower and propels the car to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds. Squillace's 1959 model needs 6.6 seconds.