



The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 6, 2024 NYPA Newspaper of the Year Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join

Clara Lou Gould, Longtime Mayor of Beacon, Dies at 97

City's first and only female mayor credited for vision

By Jeff Simms

By the late 1990s, Beacon had begun its turnaround from years of decline brought on by the illegal drug trade and the closure of factories, but the exclamation point on the city's resurgence was still a few years away. It would arrive in 2003, when the Dia Art Foundation opened a 240,000-square-foot museum at the former Nabisco manufacturing plant near what is now Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park. The agreement to bring Dia

to Beacon, reached in 1999, was negotiated by Mayor Clara Lou Gould, who was in office from 1990 to 2007 and is the longest-serving female mayor in New York state history. Gould died at her home in Beacon early Monday morning (Dec. 2) from natural causes. She was 97. Hospice aides were summoned 10 days ago to her home, where she said she wanted to die, rather than in a hospital, said Peter Forman, the city attorney for nine years while Gould was in office, who helped manage her care. Her passing was peaceful, Forman said. Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey will
(Continued on Page 7)



Clara Lou Gould

Putnam Reallocates Federal Funds

Also, legislators expand power over county attorney

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County legislators on Tuesday (Dec. 3) approved the reallocation of nearly \$2 million of the \$19.1 million it received in federal pandemic relief funds as a Dec. 31 deadline approaches to commit or lose the money.

Half of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding earmarked for the Sheriff's Office for school safety infrastructure projects will instead go to body-worn cameras, tasers and software (\$800,000) and the renovation of a building at the county-owned Tilly Foster Farm into a new home for Putnam's Youth Bureau (\$200,000).

Sheriff Kevin McConville had requested that the \$1 million be used to construct a building at Camp Herrlich, which is operated by a nonprofit on county-owned property in Patterson. But the request raised concerns with legislators, including whether it would be completed by Dec. 31, 2026, when all ARPA funds must be spent.

The Legislature also approved other ARPA redistributions, including \$400,000 to renovate the MacGregor Grill at the county golf course that will instead be set aside for infrastructure and design services for capital and paving projects; \$235,000 allocated to the Town of Patterson for a dam project at Putnam Lake will be spent on an emergency medical services building in the town; and \$130,000 appropriated to the Putnam Community Action Partnership for a mobile food pantry will cover administrative expenses associated with ARPA spending.

Jail contract

Legislators on Tuesday approved a five-year contract with the union representing correction officers, administrative staff and cooks at the Putnam County jail.

Under the agreement with the Putnam County Sheriff's Employees Association, jail staff will receive 2.75 percent raises for 2024 and 2025, 3 percent in 2026 and 3.5 percent for each of the final two years of the contract. The agreement will cost Putnam County \$162,000 this year and \$166,000 in 2025.

(Continued on Page 15)

State Parks Releases Fjord Trail Study

Also, Village Board continues STR discussion

By Michael Turton

The state parks department on Wednesday (Dec. 4) released its draft environmental impact statement on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail for public comment, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley noted at the Village Board meeting that evening. The report is available at hhft.org and printed copies will be available at Village Hall next week, Foley said. State parks has scheduled a public hearing for Jan. 14, and comments can be submitted through Feb. 2. The Current will have a story by reporter Brian PJ Cronin online and in next week's issue about the 709-page document. Fjord Trail representatives plan to attend the Village Board workshop on Dec. 18.
(Continued on Page 17)



BRIDGE CROSSING — On Nov. 24, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Bear Mountain Bridge on Thanksgiving Day, a motorcade of historic vehicles representing the decades since made the crossing. At a ceremony, a brass quintet from the West Point Band performed to honor the West Point musicians who played at the dedication ceremony in 1924, and descendants of the Harriman family, which financed the bridge, helped unveil a plaque.
Photo by S. Rimm/Continental Village F.D.

Aymar-Blair Declared Winner in Comptroller Race

Dutchess Board of Elections certifies 929-vote margin

By Jeff Simms

Dan Aymar-Blair, a member of the Beacon City Council, was declared the winner on Tuesday (Dec. 3) of a campaign to become the next Dutchess County comptroller. He defeated Gregg Pulver, the interim comp-

troller, by 929 votes of more than 154,000 cast, according to certified results posted by the Dutchess County Board of Elections. The comptroller is Aymar-Blair the county's chief accounting officer and is responsible for auditing its departments and outside agencies funded by the county.



Aymar-Blair

✓ Dan Aymar-Blair (D, WF)	72,752 (47.2%)
Gregg Pulver (R, C)	71,823 (46.6%)
Beacon	
✓ Dan Aymar-Blair (D, WF)	5,373 (76%)
Gregg Pulver (R, C)	1,683 (24%)

Aymar-Blair, a Democrat, resigned from his seat on the City Council on Monday
(Continued on Page 15)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: CAROLYN ROSSI COPELAND

By Michael Turton

Carolyn Rossi Copeland, who lives in Garrison, is the founder and executive producer of CRC Productions, which is staging *Annie* at The Theater at Madison Square Garden.

When did you realize that theater would be your life's work?

I was in the sixth grade. My family lived in Rome and I saw a friend play Laurey in *Oklahoma!* I was captivated. I always wanted to be in theater, but my parents were Italian immigrants and didn't think a girl could make a living that way. I majored in political science in college but did shows on the side. After graduating, I went to Washington, D.C., and worked for Rep. Peter Rodino, who chaired the Judiciary Committee during the Watergate hearings. I volunteered in theater every chance I could. A show I choreographed was written up in a magazine and included my picture. When the congressman saw it, he asked me if theater was what I really wanted to do. He said: "Carolyn, I'm a frustrated opera singer. You're 23 years old; you should do it."

What was your first gig?

I left my job on Capitol Hill and joined a touring company as an actor and choreogra-



pher, doing shows like *The Pajama Game* and *Guys and Dolls*. It was such a fleabag organization that the producer ran out with all the deposits he'd collected for bookings. I thought the tour was over. But I got the cast together and said, "If we work for 80 percent of what we were going to make, we could at least keep going." I became the de facto producer.

Annie has been done often. Why do it again?

It remains relevant because there's always a new crop of girls and a new audience. The last production on Broadway was eight years ago, and we felt it didn't represent the original creatives' vision. Jenn Thompson, the woman I hired to direct it, played one of the orphans in the original production and understands the vision. It is a beautiful production. It got rave reviews in Chicago and will be at The Theater at MSG until Jan. 5. Whoopi Goldberg will join the cast as Miss Hannigan on Dec. 11. After we close in New

York, we'll tour the country.

You founded Lamb's Theatre in Manhattan in 1978. Why did it close?

We did three or four productions a year, but when our long-term lease ran out, the building was sold [in last production was in 2006]. The exterior was landmarked, but because the interior wasn't, it became a hotel. We were doing local shows at St. Philip's in Garrison then and I called Claudio Marzollo [at the Philipstown Rec Department] to tell him everything in the theater was available. He and Chris Nowak loaded two trucks with everything they could for the Depot Theatre.

What do you recall about plays you've directed locally?

I miss the shows at the Garrison School and O'Neill High School so much. There's nothing like working with kids; they gave me so much energy. Theater gives kids and teenagers who aren't into sports an opportunity to be part of a community. And it's not just about the show: It's about building their confidence in the world. I did *Les Misérables* at O'Neill because I wanted them to understand the meaning of that show. The first show I did at Garrison was *Free to Be ... You and Me*. Jean Marzollo and I did *Godspell* at St. Philip's. Jean does not get enough credit for starting theater in this community. She wanted to bring kids from the village and hamlet together, so while we did shows in Garrison, we rehearsed in Cold Spring.

"Theater gives kids and teenagers who aren't into sports an opportunity to be part of a community."

Camille Saint-Saëns

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What kind of winter are you hoping for?

"

Good snow for sledding.

"



Patrick Edward, Cold Spring

"

One with lots of snow. I got snowshoes three years ago and haven't gotten to use them.

"



Beth Cronin, Beacon

"

A white Christmas and dry, magical, sparkling snow for skiing.

"



Katya Varlamova, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess Hotel Tax to Increase*State approves 5 percent rate*

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Nov. 22 enacted legislation allowing Dutchess County to increase to 5 percent its tax on stays at boarding houses, conference centers, hotels, motels and short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb.

The county estimates the increase, from 4 percent, will generate \$4.8 million in additional revenue annually.

Beacon received state approval in 2023 and Cold Spring in 2022 to increase local hotel taxes to 5 percent.

Dutchess to Launch Crime Center*Will allow officers to monitor video feeds*

Dutchess County announced on Nov. 14 that it will create a real-time crime center at its Law Enforcement Center in Poughkeepsie.

The center will be “a hub for law enforcement to monitor video feeds and other technology to respond to evolving and active crime situations quickly and efficiently,” the county said. The county Legislature recently approved \$200,000 to launch the center by the end of the year and the county secured a \$1.2 million federal grant for the first two years of operation.

A real-time crime center merges data from live video, cameras, license plate readers, body cameras worn by law enforcement, audio detection and other tools into “a cloud-based operational view,” the county said. It will be staffed by the Sheriff’s Office Special Operation Bureau and a crime analyst from the District Attorney’s Office.

Beacon Workers Agree to New Contract*CSEA agreement boosts salaries*

The Civil Service Employees Association, which represents about 60 Beacon municipal employees, agreed last month to a new three-year contract with the city.

The CSEA agreement, which takes effect Jan. 1, guarantees each worker a 4.5 percent raise or \$2,750 (whichever is greater) in 2025, 2026 and 2027. The city’s contracts with the unions that represent police officers and firefighters expire at the end of 2025.

Dutchess Transit Changes*Free Loop will operate Sundays*

Dutchess County Public Transit next month will begin offering Sunday service on the Beacon Free Loop, provide more frequent service along the Route 9

corridor and expand the hours of its curb-to-curb “flex” service.

The agency also is promoting a new mobile app, SPOT, that provides real-time schedules and tracks bus locations.

The flex service will expand to weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 845-473-8424 to book a ride. Along with Sunday service on the Free Loop (Route G), which begins Jan. 5, the agency will add eight trips between Poughkeepsie and Beacon (Route B) so that buses arrive hourly and extend service on Route F (Beacon to Hopewell Junction) until 10 p.m. The new timetables are available at dutchessny.gov/publictransit.

Need Heating Assistance?*State program benefits lower incomes*

New York State is accepting applications for the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which provides up to \$996 in assistance to caregivers and lower-income households.

Individuals caring for family members who are younger than 6 or older than 60, or permanently disabled, may be eligible. Benefits are also available to lower-income homeowners and renters, e.g., a family of four with a maximum annual gross income of \$76,681. The state also offers emergency benefits for families at risk of running out of heating fuel or having their utility service shut off. See ny.gov/heat. Older adults needing assistance with HEAP can call 800-342-9871.

Last winter, more than 1.8 million people in New York received HEAP benefits, including 111,000 in the Hudson Valley. The program also provides funding to fix or replace unsafe or broken heating systems.

Putnam K-9s Receive Armor*Protective vests donated to sheriff*

Two K-9 officers at the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, Harlin and Mikey, have received protective vests from a nonprofit organization called Vested Interest in K-9s with assistance from Robert Willens LLC, an accounting firm based in New York City. The vests protect against gunfire and knives.

Since its inception in 2009, Vested Interest in K-9s has provided 5,794 vests to K9s nationwide. Each vest costs about \$1,800.

The department also is mourning the death of K-9 Satch, who served with Deputy Christopher Tompkins from 2015 until Satch’s retirement in 2022. He was named for Lt. Michael “Satch” Neuner, who died in 1997 fighting a house fire in Brewster.

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YEARS

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Haldane vote

On behalf of the Haldane school district and the Board of Education, thank you to everyone who participated in the Nov. 19 vote on the capital project bond referendum ("Haldane Voters Approve Capital Plan," Nov. 22). We are especially grateful to those who took time to learn more about the project, ask questions, provide input or attend one of our tours or meetings.

This referendum emerged from a yearslong effort involving many dedicated individuals. We want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the 22-member Campus Master Planning Committee, as well as the many community members, teachers, staff and students who provided input throughout the planning process. We are particularly grateful to the Haldane PTA for doing a fantastic job communicating how the project will enable us to meet the needs of our students.

A special thanks goes to former Superintendent Phil Benante, whose vision and leadership laid the foundation for the project during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. We also thank the Philipstown Town Board, Nelsonville Village Board, Cold Spring Village Board and Chamber of Commerce for the opportunities to present and discuss the project during their public meetings.

Leading up to the vote, the district was committed to transparency and sharing information with as many people as possible. As we move into the design development phase of the capital project and initiate our search for Haldane's long-term superintendent, we remain dedicated to keeping you informed. As always, our twice-monthly board meetings include opportunities for public comment, or you may email us at board@haldaneschool.org.

Carl Albano, *Cold Spring*

Albano is the district's interim superintendent. The letter also was signed by Peggy Clements, the school board president.

I voted for the Haldane expansion capital budget. On purely selfish grounds, I should have voted no. My grandson has already graduated. My granddaughter will graduate before the new facilities come online. My daughter and son-in-law are taxpayers in Cold Spring and, although I rent an apartment, my landlord will almost certainly pass along tax increases in the form of a rent increase. Our expenses will go up and our personal benefits will not.

And let's face it: Most taxpayers do not have children or grandchildren poised to take advantage of the improved facilities at

the high school. So why did it pass?

I propose that the reason it passed, and the reason I voted for it, is the recognition that local infrastructure — whether sewers, paved streets, a fire station, a recreation center or an extension of the high school — contributes to our collective quality of life. It is hard to quantify how much value individuals realize from collective goods like roads, schools and sewers, but it is not zero.

A well-appointed school building with appropriate places for student activities (e.g., a lunchroom), combined with excellent educational services delivered within that building, is a major attraction for families thinking of relocating here. That increases the value of the property owned by everyone in town. Conversely, once a town becomes known for a failing school system, the reverse happens. People sell and move, people choose not to come and property values fall.

The people who voted yes — even to raise their taxes, even if their families will not directly benefit — understood this. Those who voted no will benefit from the long-term appreciation of their properties anyway.

Forgetting all the personal and collective benefits, let's remember that good public education is the essential foundation for knowledgeable and good citizens. As the French observer de Tocqueville wrote about 1830s Americans: "It cannot be doubted that, in the United States, the instruction of the people powerfully contributes to the support of a democratic republic." Our country has benefited from good public education since the first such schools were created.

Michael Meeropol, *Cold Spring*

248 Tioronda

I commend Jeff Simms for bringing to light the sordid saga of the 248 Tioronda development (Nov. 29). The Beacon Planning Board gave site plan approval for the project on Jan. 12, 2021, and construction began in June 2022 on the two residential buildings. The footings were not poured on the commercial building until two years later, in 2024.

Dave Buckley, Beacon's previous building inspector, determined that Code 223-41.14 was violated and that no certificate of occupancy could be granted until the commercial building had been constructed. After myriad meetings with the City Council and planning and zoning boards over the years, it was clear that the commercial building was to be built before or concurrently with the residential buildings. After 2½ years, the commercial building is a partial foundation atop footings with no construction activity.

The fine for not following the law, according to our city code and city attorney Nick Ward-Willis, is \$1,000 per day, beginning the first day the code was violated.

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

A certificate of occupancy should not be granted until the commercial building is constructed to the specifications of the approved architectural drawings and site plan. No relief, no concessions or excuses.
Bob Kacur, *Beacon*

Bear Mountain Bridge

Your article makes it sound as if New York State hired the Bear Mountain Hudson River Bridge Co. to construct it (“Bear Mountain Bridge at 100,” Nov. 22). In fact, the bridge was built by the Harrimans, a wealthy local family, and only sold to the state many years later.

Carolyn Bachan, *Cold Spring*
Editor’s note: The company was financed by the Harrimans but created by an act of the Legislature, partly because the state owned the land on both sides of the river. In 1940, the family sold the bridge to the state for \$2.275 million (about \$51.3 million today). Over the next five years, New York lowered the toll from 80 cents (\$18 today) to 25 cents (\$4.40).

Dunkin’

A Dunkin’ Donuts: Bravo to all involved (“Fishkill Avenue: Zoning Could Come First,” Nov. 29). We have a local coffee shop right down the street!
Robert VanCott, *via Instagram*

It’s about time we got a Dunkin’ — there isn’t one for 100 miles!
Steven Smith, *via Instagram*

Gas station

We don’t need another gas station on Route 9 (“‘Significant Concerns’ Over Route 9 Plan,” Nov. 29). That corridor is crowded enough.
Mary Boyle, *via Instagram*

Let’s require the gas station to have two to four EV chargers.
Tom Kenny, *via Instagram*

MTA project

This proposal begs the question: What is the goal for development in Beacon (“MTA Reveals More Train Station Project Details,” Nov. 22)? Is there a number of residences deemed to be the maximum for the community, considering its resources,

space, density, etc.?
Adding 1,000 residences in the last 10 years and considering 1,600 more from this project and a prison conversion equals roughly 50 percent more residences in a relatively short span of time. A clear goal with appropriate limits and designations (e.g., “affordable” as a high percentage of the total and not an afterthought) is something that the city leadership should communicate before more housing is proposed.
Jim Zellinger, *via Instagram*

Assessments

The Town of Philipstown flagrantly disregards tax fairness (“Philipstown Sued Over Assessments,” Nov. 22). It protects the wealthy so that more modest homes are taxed at a higher rate to take up the slack. Thirty years ago, the Philipstown revaluation provided relief to one-third of the taxpayers, one-third stayed the same, and one-third were assessed higher.
It’s time for the town to find ways to do a revaluation before others also sue. We may need our own full-time assessor, not a part-time assessor who works full-time for another town across the river.
Kathie Kourie, *Philipstown*

Twenty years ago in Beacon, my neighbor’s house was assessed at \$25,000 while mine was \$250,000. Now we are reassessed every year, which is fair.
Anna West, *via Instagram*

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Thru Dec 23 Fri, Sat, Sun & the week of Dec 15 - 21



Sat. Dec 14 – 8 PM
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Dec 6 - LIT LIT
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A HANNEHÖHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

5 Terms as Mayor CLARA LOU GOULD: DOULA OF BEACON'S REBIRTH

THIRTY YEARS AGO, BEACON HAD A HUGE DEBT LOAD, A DRUG PROBLEM, AND A LOT OF BOARDED-UP BUILDINGS. ONE EVENING, CLARA LOU CAME HOME FROM PLAYING CARDS AND HER HUSBAND GREETED HER WITH THIS MESSAGE:



AFTER SOME THOUGHT, SHE DECIDED TO RUN.



ONE TERM LATER, THIS LETTER SHOWS UP IN THE ARCHIVES.

Letter to the Editor from the Commissioner of Finance

When Mayor Gould came into office, the city was in financial distress...had exhausted its constitutional taxing limit...reports not filed...even more bad things.

By the end of her first year, the finances were straightened out...an "A" bond rating...\$100,000 saved...even more good things.

TO COMBAT THE DRUG ISSUE, MAYOR GOULD REACTIVATED A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE, DECLARED 1,000-FOOT DRUG-FREE ZONES AROUND THE SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTED A HOTLINE TO REPORT DRUG DEALS. SHE CALLED IT ONCE HERSELF.

I'd like to report suspicious activity outside Vogel's...

AS FOR THE BUILDINGS, PETER FORMAN (FORMER CITY ATTORNEY) SAYS:

We revamped the antiquated ordinances. The waterfront was rezoned from heavy industrial. First floor apartments on Main Street were zoned out. We encouraged single family homes and discouraged over-density [in not-quite-legal boarding houses.]



I got people involved.

I feel I've been able to communicate with my constituents. I feel people are competent and make good and fair judgments over all.

SHE WAS RE-ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED.



SCENIC HUDSON PRESERVED LAND ON FISHKILL RIDGE, MT. BEACON, AND CREEKSIDE. CLARA LOU SAW THAT TRAILS WOULD MAKE OPEN SPACE ACCESSIBLE FOR RESIDENTS, BUT THAT IT WOULD ALSO BRING IN HIKERS.



SHE SAW THE POSSIBILITIES WHEN DEA INQUIRED ABOUT A FORMER FACTORY. SHE TOLD THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Art is a catalyst. People like to be around artists.

THE LONGED-FOR DEVELOPERS SHOWED UP. SOME CAME THROUGH, SOME OVER-PROMISED. AS FORMER CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOE BRAUN SAYS, "THE PROOF IS THERE TO SEE."



PROBLEMS WITH THE BEACON POLICE SURFACED. LAWSUITS WERE FILED FOR POLICE BRUTALITY. THE FEDS CAME IN. MAYOR GOULD CHARGED THE CHIEF WITH "GROSS MISCONDUCT." FEDERAL OVERSIGHT CONTINUED UNTIL 2016.

HER FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB WAS THIS:

Every year, I talked to the fifth graders about our government.

Can a boy be Mayor?



By Deb Lucke

Gould (from Page 1)

host a wake from 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday (Dec. 9) and a funeral service will be at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard St., at 10 a.m. the next day, followed by interment at St. Joachim Cemetery.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who referred to Gould as “my mayor” after he joined the City Council in 1993, ordered flags in Beacon to be flown at half-mast for the week and held a moment of silence in her honor at the beginning of the council meeting on Monday.

“It was an absolute joy working with her,” said George Pataki, a Garrison resident who was New York’s governor from 1995 to 2006. “She was a wonderful person who completely loved Beacon.”

Gould, Pataki and Leonard Riggio, the chair of Dia’s board, convinced the other Dia board members to bring the museum to Beacon rather than the Berkshires, the foundation’s original choice.

Pataki, who had been mayor of Peekskill from 1981 to 1985 and was the first New York governor in more than 150 years with mayoral experience, took a particular interest in the former industrial city on the banks of the Hudson River. He said he remembered feeling like Peekskill was on its own when it struggled in the 1980s and used the power of his office to give Beacon a boost.

“Beacon was beginning to sense that it could have a very bright future, and Dia was something I thought would be a key component to bringing it further on its way back,” he recalled.

Three years after the Dia contract was secured, Pataki marched with Gould in the 2002 Spirit of Beacon Day parade, the only governor to ever participate in the annual celebration. “I thought the idea that the governor would march with the mayor would send the right message, that we were going to work together to make Beacon a better place,” he said.

Clara Lou was born in Cold Spring in 1927, the daughter of Michael and Clara Malone. In 1954, at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring, she married Robert Gould, a chemist at the Texaco Research Center in Glenham. He died in 1996. Gould’s stepdaughter, Becky McKenzie, died in 2010.

A graduate of the College of New Rochelle, Gould was employed by the publishing departments of Viking Press and Harold Ober Associates in New York City, where she met and worked with the mystery writer Agatha Christie.

In 1960, Robert and Clara Lou moved to Beacon, where both became active in the community. Clara Lou led the Highland Hospital Auxiliary for many years and the couple co-chaired several capital campaigns for the hospital. She was Beacon’s first representative on the Dutchess County Board of Health.

Gould was also president of the Tioronda Garden Club, a district director of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State and served on Beacon’s Beautification Committee.

A Republican, she was elected Beacon’s first female mayor on the same night in 1989 that voters approved a change in the city charter to a “strong mayor” structure,

The Mayors Remember Clara Lou

We asked Beacon’s three living mayors — Steve Gold (2008-2011), Randy Casale (2012-2019) and Lee Kyriacou (2020 to present) — to share their memories.

Gold: I worked with Clara Lou on the City Council for 10 years. Her default position was to be accessible, to listen and be open-minded. When someone disagreed with her, she defined what it meant to be respectful and professional, and when it was settled, she would turn the page.



I gained an insight into Clara Lou’s approach in a speech she gave in which she said she would assess conditions after every step and correspondingly adjust for the next step. That seems logical, but many people in politics are stubbornly resistant to change course.

Casale: I worked under Clara Lou as the superintendent of streets. She treated everyone with dignity. When she took office, she had a vision of rejuvenating our city, and she carried that vision through. She loved our city and, because of her vision and determination, we are the city we are today. May she rest in peace.



Kyriacou: The 1990s were a decade when Beacon needed to define a new vision for itself, when factories had shut down and malls were shuttering Main Streets. Clara Lou helped facilitate that vision by her willingness to listen to new ideas and to focus on zoning as a way to implement those ideas. She also wanted an open process and wanted to hear people out. I thought that was the right way to run a group. It was a collaborative style, which I appreciated a great deal.



with ward representatives elected to the City Council rather than commissioners in charge of specific areas, such as finance or streets. Administrative authority was given to the mayor, who appointed a city administrator to oversee day-to-day operations. Gould named Joseph Braun, and they worked together until her retirement in 2007.

The changes to the charter did not take effect until after the 1991 election, so Gould was forced to run again after two



Clara Lou during her childhood

Beacon Historical Society

years in office, rather than four. She was re-elected and went on to serve three more terms before retiring. She remains Beacon’s longest-serving mayor.

In addition to negotiating the Dia contract, Gould is credited with implementing a vision to revitalize Main Street, which was largely boarded up by the late 1980s.

Barbara Sims, the owner of BJ’s Restaurant, which opened on Main Street in 1978, recalled “drugs, fighting, breaking glass and everything.” On payday, Sims said, people in Beacon would use a bank with a drive-thru window to cash or deposit their checks because it was too dangerous to walk.

“Between Clara Lou and the Police Department, they did a beautiful job cleaning up Main Street,” she said. “She wasn’t a mayor who sat in her office; she was out walking the streets, talking to people. She stood out.”

There were plans in the early 1990s to construct Dutchess Stadium (now Heritage Financial Park) on the land now occupied by Beacon High School, and to construct the new high school, which would have been a regional facility, at the stadium site. When residents in Beacon objected because of traffic they feared the stadium would draw, Gould organized a “land swap.”

Other accomplishments included the construction of a new water filtration plant in 1996, a project made possible after Gould renegotiated contracts with the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to raise water and sewer fees for the Downstate and Fishkill correctional facilities without increases for city residents. The state Department of Health also lifted a moratorium on new commercial development in Beacon after the plant opened.

Gould oversaw the construction in 1997 of the Municipal Building, bringing the Police Department, City Court and City Hall offices under one roof for the first time.

In addition to those projects, under her leadership, the city’s finances were strengthened, long-neglected building and safety codes were enforced, zoning ordinances were revised to direct more passive uses to the riverfront, architectural review standards were added to the Planning Board’s authority and first-floor apartments on Main Street — commonplace during the

boarded-up era — were phased out, said Forman, who managed Gould’s 1989 campaign and was a Dutchess County judge for 21 years after his time as city attorney.

“She worked very hard for the city of Beacon, and she loved the city of Beacon,” he said during the council meeting on Monday. “The quality of her term in office is what people will remember.”

Yet Gould was never one for the spotlight, preferring to work behind the scenes. She was known to say: “It’s amazing what you can accomplish if you don’t worry about who gets the credit.”

In 2019, 30 years after her first election, Mayor Randy Casale and the City Council dedicated a park bench to Gould in front of the Municipal Building to celebrate her 92nd birthday and, in 2022, at 95, wearing a sky-blue I Am Beacon shirt, she threw out the first pitch at a Hudson Valley Renegades game.

Gould maintained season tickets after the Renegades moved to the area in 1994, rarely missing a game.

She will be most remembered for kick-starting Beacon’s renaissance and, with the notoriety that Dia brought the city, helping to reinvigorate Main Street. For many, she will be remembered as a friend.

“The more you knew her, the more you admired her,” said Denise Doring VanBuren, president of the Beacon Historical Society and a City Council member from 1992 to 1993. “She was warm, genuine and thoughtful. It would be difficult not to like her.”



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A person wearing a dark puffer jacket and a hood is crouching on a sidewalk, painting red text on a blue wooden wall. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The visible text includes "PAY EQU ORK" on the left, "ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF" in the center, and "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" on the right. Below the main text, there is a line of smaller text that reads "FOR 1933" and "2009". The person is holding a paintbrush and is in the process of painting the word "FEAR". The wall is made of vertical wooden planks. The scene is outdoors, and the sky is clear and blue.

Photo by Emill Alzamora





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The Calendar

Peace, Joy and Love

Beacon artist moving toward serenity

By Marc Ferris

For neo-hippie Jayln Thedford, art has been an effective coping mechanism since childhood. Now, she's drifting toward a life of serenity — the exact sensation she hopes people take from her work.

Thedford, 24, is settling into a groove, experimenting with subject matter and approach while moving from small watercolors to large oil and acrylic pieces with elements of collage. Four of her paintings are on display at Two-Way Brewery in Beacon.

Three focus on couples embracing, sometimes with eyes closed. “I want to show loving people who are Black, connecting and going back to our natural essence,” she says. “It’s as if they’re relaxing in perfect harmony and resting on each other.”

A prominent Black Power fist adorns her Martin Luther King Jr. portrait, and a more subtle one is placed at the end of an Afro pick handle. But the most important recurring themes in her work include celestial images, flowers pressed to the canvas and flora in the background to express her desire to get back to the garden.

Thedford grew up in LaGrangeville and often visited family in Beacon, where she moved in 2018. After earning a bachelor’s degree in fine art at Purchase College, she’s teaching the fundamentals to elementary school students in Manhattan.

She’d like to own a gallery, but for now, there’s time enough to create. Thedford’s latest shift is depicted by her drawing, “Gemini” (top left), which shows the left side of a young woman’s face in full color with the other half rendered on a black background in white painting marker, like a film negative.

As seen in the long, swirling lines of “Gemini” and others at Two-Way, Thedford enjoys getting lost in the process. “When I’m filling in the squiggly lines or doing a stringy hairstyle in one long stroke, it’s like going freestyle, and I’m so happy,” she says.

She demonstrates her technical command in a Beacon street scene featuring the big clock on the east end of Main Street looking northwest by depicting delicate fine lines to delineate the fence around its base and capturing the texture of

its body and brick base with minimal brush strokes.

One recurring element in her work that she says people often misinterpret is the wavy goo that oozes from arms and torsos. “It’s not blood — it proves our equality as biological beings,” she says. “For anyone who is cut open, the same thing comes out. It’s our essence, which connects humanity.”

The stark contrast between a watercolor completed during the pandemic and “Connect the Pieces” (at Two-Way) offers another indication that Thedford is in a good place. Many of her pandemic works featured people without faces, including a brooding self-portrait (top right).

“I knew a lot of people who died,” she says. “I was in my basement sophomore year, learning to paint online. I felt like I’d been robbed, it was such a dark time.”

Where the initial watercolor showed shards of her face arranged around the frame — an eye here, half a mouth there — the centerpiece remained black. But in the new, similar and sunnier work, pressed flowers and a corner of the universe occupies the space where the face would be. Dreadlocks that look messy up close cohere from afar.

“I’m just trying to spread peace, joy and love,” she says. “I want people who see my work and get a sense of calmness and tranquility — and know that I had fun making it.”



“I want people who see my work and get a sense of calmness and tranquility — and know that I had fun making it.”

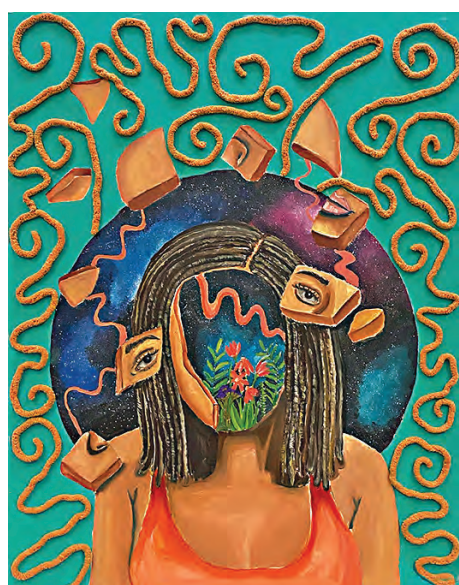


Photo by M. Ferris

[WEEK AHEAD]

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 7
Christmas Fair
BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim's
51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org
Check out our new Christmas items, treats, jewelry and raffles. Breakfast and lunch will be available.

SAT 7
Winter Craft Fair
POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Find local and regional handmade crafts by artisans. *Free*

SAT 7
Holiday Pottery Show & Sale
GARRISON
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
Browse works by artisans at the annual sale. Through SUN 15.

SAT 7
Gift Show and Sale
BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Find handmade goods from 25 Hudson Valley artisans. Also SUN 8, FRI 13, SAT 14 and Dec. 15-21.

SAT 7
Holiday Cookie Swap
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Bring two dozen homemade cookies and copies of the recipe to share.

SAT 7
Cold Spring Aglow
COLD SPRING
4 – 8 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com
Stroll sidewalks lit by luminaria and visit merchants staying open late and offering events or sales. Stop by the Gingerbread House (Visitors' Booth) for a treat. Also SUN 8.

SAT 7
Holiday Party
GARRISON
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Become a supporter at the annual Friends of the Library party.

SAT 7
Holiday Wreath Making
PHILIPSTOWN
5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The Parcel Flower Co. will guide participants in making holiday decor with locally sourced, foraged materials. Materials for an 18-inch wreath will be provided. *Cost: \$80*

SUN 8
Holiday Tours
BEACON
Noon, 1 & 2 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org
The historic home will have decorative Victorian styles in each room. Also WED 11 to SUN 15 and Dec. 18-21. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free ages 6 and younger)*

SUN 8
Candlelight Tour
NEWBURGH
Noon – 5 p.m. Crawford House
189 Montgomery St.
newburghhistoricalsociety.org
Eighteen historic homes and buildings will be open to visitors during this annual event. *Cost: \$35*

SUN 8
Tree Lighting
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Bandstand
coldspringnychamber.com/aglow
The Girl Scouts will lead caroling before Santa arrives on a fire truck. The Foundry Montessori will perform at 3 p.m. at 28 Main St. and the Highlands Choral Society at 3:30 p.m. at 74 Main St.

FRI 13
Winter Market
COLD SPRING
2 – 6 p.m. Glynwood | 845-265-3338
362 Glynwood Road | glynwood.org
Find farm fresh food and handmade wares.

SHOP LOCAL

SAT 14
Holiday Family Day
PHILIPSTOWN
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Visit with Santa, enjoy games and crafts and build a gingerbread house. *Cost: \$14 (\$7 ages 4 to 18, free for ages 4 and younger)*

SUN 15
Holiday Tea
PHILIPSTOWN
1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
Mark Rust will perform global holiday hits during this early-American-style tea with scones and finger foods. *Cost: \$60 (\$40 children)*

SAT 14
Gift Wrapped 12
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
139 Main St. | clutter.co
The annual holiday show will feature 2D and 3D works by more than 150 artists, all priced below \$350. Through Jan. 3.

SAT 14
Leonie Lacouette
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com
The exhibit *Holiday Time* showcases the artist's handmade clocks.

SAT 14
Monochrome
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Joel Brown's ceramics and Onaje

Benjamin's photographs will be on view in Gallery 1. The other galleries will show work by members.

SAT 14
Studio Work: Where Art Finds a Home
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
The group show features pieces usually not exhibited, either because they are experimental or the beginning of a new approach. Through Jan. 4.



SAT 14
Two Things Are True
BEACON
7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
In this group show, 16 artists recreate paintings by co-curator Sarah Hanssen's abusive father as part of her healing process. Through Jan. 31.

SAT 7
Macbeth
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigside Drive | haldaneschool.org
Haldane Drama will present Shakespeare's tragedy about a general given a prophecy that he will become king. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

SAT 7
The Nutcracker
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Queen City Dance will stage this family-friendly performance. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 7
Readers Theatre Mini-Festival
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | countyplayers.org
The CP2 festival features dramatic readings of *Babel* and *Marjorie Prime*. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

THURS 12
The Nutcracker
POUGHKEEPSIE
9:45 a.m. & Noon. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org
The New Paltz Ballet Theatre returns for its 28th season staging the classic tale. Dutchess County is hosting a free, sensory-friendly performance at 6 p.m. on FRI 13. Also FRI 13, SAT 14 and SUN 15. *Cost: \$7 to \$35*

FRI 13
How the (David) Lynch Stole Christmas
BEACON
6:45 & 7:30 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com
Hit House Creative imagines what would happen if David Lynch staged Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. A party will follow. Also SAT 14. *Cost: \$30*

FRI 13
Robert Kelly
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The actor, podcast host and comedian will share material based on his life. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 15
Cirque Dreams Holidaze
WEST POINT
2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre
655 Pitcher Road | ikehall.com
The daring circus-style performers tell a story of holiday cheer with original music and immersive sets. *Cost: \$39+*

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KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 7
Family Bingo
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Children ages 4 to 12 and their caregivers are welcome. Registration requested.

SAT 7
Learn Dog Language
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children can interpret the signs that dogs use to communicate.

SAT 7
The Day the Internet Died
GARRISON
2 & 4 p.m. Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The Depot Youth will stage a timely play about what happens when there isn't any WiFi. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$12*

SAT 7
Bear in a Bow Tie
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Barry Waldo will read from the

latest book in his series, followed by crafts. Registration requested.



SUN 8
Nutcracker, Short and Sweet
PEEKSKILL
1 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
This sensory-friendly performance will have more lighting and lower sound levels. Attendees may talk and move during the show. A standard performance will follow at 5 p.m. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 8
The Nutcracker
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
This Classics for Kids performance will include a narrator and a piano duo. *Cost: \$15 (children free)*

SHOP LOCAL

FRI 13
Teen Nailed It / Failed It
COLD SPRING
2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
For this event based on the popular Netflix show, students in grades 6 and higher can make snacks. Registration required.

FRI 13
Gelli Prints
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Ezra Heller will teach students in grades 5 to 12 how to create monotype prints on paper or fabric. Registration required.

SAT 14
Carnival of the Animals
COLD SPRING
1 & 3 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
This Camille Saint-Saens suite will be performed by musicians accompanied by cranky puppets. *Cost: \$25 (\$10 children)*

SAT 14
Jingle & Mingle
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation
107 Glenclyffe | philipstownny.myrec.com
Enjoy a performance of *North Pole's Got Talent*, followed by crafts, caroling and treats. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 7
Poetry &: Clear Air
BEACON
12:30 & 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org
Ben Estes and Ben Vida will perform a sound-and-text collaboration. Included with museum admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for Beacon residents)*

SUN 8
Botticelli's Secret
PHILIPSTOWN
Noon. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art
Joseph Luzzi will discuss his book about how the Italian Renaissance painter was lost to history despite his masterworks before being rediscovered in the 19th century. *Cost: \$10*



TALKS & TOURS

TUES 10
Digital Twilight Tour
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
While the historic home undergoes renovations, Jennifer Carlquist will lead a virtual tour for this annual event. Registration required. *Free*

WED 11
The Art of Songwriting
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
As part of the library's Creative Explorations series, Daniel Kelly and Dar Williams will discuss their craft and write a song with the audience.

FRI 13
Rupert Holmes
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
The author of *Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide* will read from his bestseller before attendees play a murder mystery game. Registration recommended.

(Continued on Page 12)

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WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 11)

SUN 15

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

In this talk presented by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, Suzie Gilbert will discuss her “encounters with temporary guests” over 30 years of rehabilitating injured and orphaned birds.

SUN 15

The History of Bannerman's Island
BEACON
3 p.m. The Factory Hotel
147 Main St. | bannermancastle.org

Thom Johnson will discuss the myths and legends, along with the facts.
Free

SAT 7

Holiday Concert
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com

Taghkanic Chorale's program will include works by Vivaldi, Bach, Purcell and Buxtehude. Also SUN 8. See Page 14. *Cost: \$25 (\$22 seniors, \$12 students, ages 12 and younger free)*

SAT 7

Ultra Klash / Electronic Music Expo
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | theyardbeacon.com

Two bands and DJs will play sets in this multisensory experience. Costumes encouraged. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 7

Christmas by Candlelight
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Natalie Forteza and her band will perform a holiday set. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 7

Mighty Girl & The Judith Tulloch Band
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

The bands will provide a musical holiday extravaganza. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 7

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

For her 25th annual holiday show, the singer and songwriter will be joined by the Sloan Flakes, Peter Linz and her granddaughters. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 14

Art Labriola and Friends
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com

Labriola will perform with Lew Scott and Mike Larocco and be joined by the Motherlode Trio (Stacey Labriola, Patti Pelican and Terry Platz). Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 14

Merry & Bright
NEWBURGH
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's concert at Aquinas Hall will include holiday favorites. *Cost: \$10 to \$80*

SAT 14

Beacon Rising Choir
BEACON
5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St. | compassarts.org

The choir's program promises to be uplifting and joyful. *Cost: \$20 (\$13 seniors and teens, children free)*

SAT 14

A Very Merry Classic Christmas
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Jessica Lynn returns with her holiday show that will include marching bands, dancers, choirs and effects. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$25 to \$45*

SAT 14

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

The singer, songwriter and guitarist will lead her band, the NY Unit, and be joined by Michele Gedney. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 14

Return of the Year-End Hootenanny
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

The folk collective Guthrie's Ghost celebrates the music and spirit of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 15

Shakedown Citi
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This jam band plays the music of the Grateful Dead. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 9

Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

MON 9

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

WED 11

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

WED 11

School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689
guhs.org

Edited by Pamela Doan
(calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

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DEC 14



ELIN LUNDMAN

The Artist Next Door

By Marc Ferris

An active member of Beacon's upcycling community, Elin Lundman is always on the prowl for castoffs around town, along with ephemera at flea markets, garage sales and vintage stores. Her house continues to absorb artifacts, some of which have been transformed into artworks.

Though chill and soft-spoken, Lundman's bold fashion style declares *artist*: she sports a military-grade hairstyle with skin-tight sides and a patch of peach fuzz atop her head that is maintained monthly and could be dyed any vibrant color in the rainbow. "It's my mood ring," she says.

Her journey into creativity began with hats, jewelry and other fashion accessories under the brand Super Happy Ghost, but she disdained all the plastic.

She picked up the brushes after discovering an acrylic paint designed for leather. When her first work offered for sale, an old black leather trench coat, zipped off the hangar at her premiere pop-up in the city, "I took that as an omen," she says. "It's so great that these reused boots, bags and jackets are circulating out in public and being used."

That early coat of many colors inspired the creation of a bunch of malleable and not-too-scary monsters. Over time, she



An example of Lundman's creatures; see highlandscurrent.org for more

whittled the group down to four characters that shape-shift and change the colors of their leopard-like spots: Abby, Baba, Darren and Scout.

Lundman also unleashes the customizable creatures on canvas, some of which she exhibited in past shows at Super Secret Projects.

In her basement studio, a cluster of boots, a pile of handbags and a clothes rack filled with about a dozen jackets await special treatment. "I can work with anything leather, no matter what it is," she says. "Everyone asks me, 'What if it rains?' There is nothing to worry about, this is



Elin Lundman

Photo by Darya Golubina

durable artist-quality acrylic."

She also interacts with other found surfaces. Now, in a reclaimed painting of a medieval-looking church courtyard, an orange and a green monster serve as inadvertent focal points that snake around the buildings like sea serpents in old maps and splash the drab frame with color.

Another piece adds a similar motif to a bald eagle painting. Amidst clashing colors, the monsters grin and their long tails form ribbons around the main image.

"I found it on the street in the city," says

Lundman. "A kid did it and even signed it, so it has a story and an effort to love it, so I wanted to bring it back to life."

Influences range from "trolls, cochina dolls, Mexican alebrije, creatures in the woods, Norse mythology," says Lundman, 36, who moved to Brooklyn from her native Sweden in 2014 and landed in Beacon four years ago.

Her monster quartet is "cute and cuddly, not spooky or angry," despite their sharp teeth. "They're dog-like extensions of me and over time, I'm getting to know them, though people interpret them in lots of different ways. Someone said they're singing and others think they look terrified."

Lundman snags online commissions (including clients in Idaho and California), along with shoppers at Hyperbole boutique on the eastern end of Main Street, a de facto art gallery that sells her one-of-a-kind line.

In part, her adopted artistic medium keeps trying to close the upcycling loop: "There is beyond enough clothing out there that there is no need to ever create another shirt or skirt, so I do what I can," she says. "But clients often buy their own boots because the fit of footwear is very personal."

Growing up on a farm with horses, she worked extensively with leather boots, reins, bridals and saddles to extend their longevity. Vegan leather, she says, "is made of petroleum products and will fall apart in a couple of years, but if you take care of a quality secondhand jacket or handbag, it can last a lifetime."

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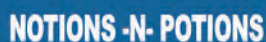
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Taghkanic Chorale Makes a Putnam Appearance

Choir will perform in Cold Spring on Dec. 7 and 8

By Marc Ferris

Founded by IBM employees in Mount Kisco and now based in Yorktown Heights, a portion of the Taghkanic Chorale's soul, and part of its future, is in Philipstown.

About 15 percent of the choir's singers live here, including 15-year-old Christopher Kordaris, the group's youngest member by far. And nearly every June since 2009, the chorale has hosted Music with a View fundraisers at homes in Garrison and Cold Spring that overlook the Hudson River.

"As long as I've been involved, there's always been a core part of the group from around here," says Cold Spring resident Priscilla Goldfarb, an alto who joined in 2002.

The group usually performs at venues in Westchester County but this year is bringing *Baroque Brilliance: Choral Masterworks for the Holiday Season* to St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring on Saturday (Dec. 7) and Sunday (Dec. 8).

Like the Carmel-based Putnam Chorale, the Westchester group focuses on the classi-



Kordaris



The Taghkanic Chorale will perform on Dec. 7 and 8 at St. Mary's Church.

Photo provided

cal canon, and the ensembles share the same music director, Jason Tramm. The repertoire ranges from Renaissance to contemporary music, including compositions by Ola Gjeilo, Morten Lauridsen and Gwyneth Walker.

The program at St. Mary's will focus on "the B-sides, if you will, of famous composers," says David Watson, a tenor and board member. "It's nice to flesh out the careers of a Bach or Vivaldi and not hear the famous works on repeat all the time."

The *Magnificat* being played is not Bach's well-known version — this one is

from Vivaldi (whose *Credo* will also be performed). The Bach piece is a Cantata, *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, with words by Martin Luther. The chorale will also perform short pieces by Henry Purcell and Dieterich Buxtehude.

Tramm, the music director, "loves to dig and find lesser-known works," says Goldfarb. "The Bach is unlike anything of his I've ever sung; it's so interesting. There are fascinating choral bits interwoven with the soloists in the Purcell piece and the Buxtehude is unusual, but like a carol, with a lilt-

ing and beautiful flow."

The chorale has 37 singers and will be accompanied by the church's digital organ, four vocal soloists and five period instruments (two violins, a viola, a cello and a bass).

Many classical music professionals fret over aging audiences, but last year Kordaris, a sophomore at Kennedy Catholic in Somers, joined the bass section.

The Cold Spring resident enjoys his time with his high school choir but "wanted to sing more," he says. "My mom and I went to one of their concerts last year; we looked at each other and I said, 'Oh my gosh, this is so beautiful. I have to give this a try.'"

He admits he was intimidated but says he warmed up quickly. "It's one of the best experiences I've ever had," he says. "I love classical music, and it's even better the more I learn about the works we're playing."

Kordaris credits Tramm and his fellow choir members for easing him into the fold. He plans to take a practical approach to his career and probably go to law school, but for now, singing and learning new music has "helped me expand my voice. I never want to leave and can see myself doing this for at least 20 or 30 years."

St. Mary's Church is located at 1 Chestnut St. Both performances begin at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 (\$22 for seniors, \$12 for students, ages 12 and younger are free) at dub.sh/chorale-concert-CS. Visit taghkanicchorale.org to watch livestreams of the concerts.

Handel's *Messiah* A Special Service

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Sunday, December 8, 10:30 am
The Church of the Open Door
First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
10 Academy Street, Cold Spring

Putnam (from Page 1)**Snake Hill culvert**

The Legislature on Tuesday declared itself the lead agency for the environmental review of the replacement of a culvert where Snake Hill Road crosses Philipse Brook in Philipstown. According to the county, the culvert “is showing signs of hydraulic inadequacy, scour exposure and deteriorating and broken headwalls and wingwalls.”

New director

Byrne announced on Nov. 26 that he had nominated Marlene Barrett as director of the Office for Senior Resources. Barrett, the deputy director, will succeed Michael Cunningham, who is retiring.

**Marlene Barrett**

Barrett joined the agency as a case-worker in 2011 and became deputy director in April 2023.

Veto overrides

On Nov. 25, the Legislature voted 6-3 to override County Executive Kevin Byrne's vetoes of a local law giving lawmakers the power to fire the county attorney at will and a resolution allowing them to appoint a law firm amid an ongoing conflict with Putnam's law department.

The local law amends the county charter to remove a restriction that allowed six of the nine legislators to dismiss the county attorney, but only if their interests and the executive's conflicted and the attorney refused to represent the Legislature. The change, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2027 and also prohibits the county attorney from outside employment, allows them to fire the attorney for any reason.

In his veto message, Byrne called the change “unlawful” and said it would “divest” county executives of their sole authority to initiate the removal of a county attorney. Legislature Chair Paul Jonke said lawmakers, who must approve the executive's nomination for the position, should have the right to hire and fire the county attorney. “He works directly for us, as he does for the county,” he said.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley as the Legislature's sole Democrat, voted against both overrides. Two Republican legislators, William Gouldman (Putnam Valley) and Erin Crowley (Carmel) also opposed the measures.

“It's concerning that we created this chaos during a time when we should have

been serving the people,” said Montgomery.

Livestreams

The Legislature announced on Nov. 21 that it would livestream all its committee meetings at putnamcountyny.gov/legislature. Until earlier this year, the meetings were available only as recorded audio files.

Antisemitism definition

On Nov. 21, Byrne enacted a resolution passed unanimously by the Legislature that adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism.

It reads: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

In a statement, Byrne said: “Putnam County has always stood for tolerance and respect, and this resolution is another step in ensuring all residents feel safe and protected.”

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown and Putnam Valley, has introduced legislation at the federal level to adopt the IHRA definition.

The Putnam resolution “directs the definition to be used exclusively as a tool for training, education and recognizing antisemitic incidents, ensuring its alignment with constitutional principles” such as freedom of speech, the county said in a news release.

Burn ban

A temporary burn ban enacted Oct. 28 by Byrne in response to the threat of wildfires because of dry conditions has expired. A statewide ban expired Nov. 30.

The county said that, between Oct. 23 and Nov. 18, its 911 Center received 152 calls about brush fires, open burns, outside smoke conditions and out-of-county mutual aid. This included 29 brush fire dispatches and seven deployments to Orange County to help fight the Jennings Creek/Greenwood Lake fire.

“The last six weeks have been a trying time for our local fire departments and first responders,” Byrne said in a statement. “We owe them all a great thanks for their vigilance, outstanding work and continued efforts monitoring the situation.”

Comptroller (from Page 1)

(Dec. 2), effective Dec. 31. He will serve the remaining year of the four-year term of Robin Lois, a Democrat who resigned a year ago to take a job with the state comptroller's office. The comptroller seat will be on the ballot again in November 2025, and Aymar-Blair said he plans to run for a full term.

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou will appoint a successor to serve the final year of Aymar-Blair's two-year term representing Ward 4.

Pulver, a Republican from Pine Plains, was named comptroller in December 2023 by then-County Executive William F.X. O'Neil to succeed Lois. He served 10 years in the county Legislature, the last six as its chair, before losing his re-election bid two weeks before the appointment. On Nov. 20, he posted a message on Facebook conceding what he called “an absurdly close race.”

Aymar-Blair is serving his third term representing Ward 4 on the City Council. He began his career with Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley before moving into the public sector. He has worked for the New York City Department of Education for 15 years and oversees business operations for its special education program. He said he would resign from that position.

Although Pulver led by 475 votes on Election Night, the Dutchess County Democratic Committee expressed confidence that Aymar-Blair would be the winner once outstanding mail-in and affidavit ballots were counted.

More than 9,300 voters, or about 6 percent, did not select a candidate. Aymar-Blair's margin of victory slightly exceeded the 0.5 percent difference that would have mandated a recount under state law. The results were certified by Erik Haight, the Republican election commissioner, and Diane Nash, the deputy Democratic commissioner. Lisa Jessup, chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee, has been nominated to be the next Democratic commissioner but does not begin her term until Jan. 1, pending approval by the Legislature.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



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Author and Wildlife Rehabilitator

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NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – December 19th, 2024

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 19th, 2024 at the Planning Board’s regular monthly meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Hudson Highland Reserve, Route 9 & Horton Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM# 17.-1-76, 17.-1-77.2, & 17.-1-39

Project: Conservation Subdivision (see Zoning Code Sections §175-19 thru §175-21) on 210 acres; 24 residential lots, each approximately 1 acre, served by individual wells and community wastewater treatment facilities.

SEQRA review has been completed and Preliminary Subdivision Approval has been granted. At the Public Hearing, the Planning Board will accept comments from the public regarding Final Subdivision Approval only; particularly in regard to the applicant’s satisfaction of all conditions of preliminary approval and any additional conditions which may be placed on Final Subdivision Approval.

The application materials on the project are available in hard copy format at the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, NY. Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202. The most recent materials may also be viewed in electronic format on the Town of Philipstown’s website at the following links:

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/september-2024

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/october-2024

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/november-2024

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. There will be a 3-minute time limit on all speakers.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 21st day of November, 2024

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – December 19th, 2024

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 19th, 2024 at the Planning Board’s regular monthly meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Garrison Properties LLC /Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 2015 Route 9 Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 60.-1-59.2 & 59.3

Garrison Properties, LLC and HVSF (the “Applicant”) are seeking site plan approval for construction of 32 units (of the overall 44 units of artist housing proposed in their master plan) that are to be located in the northwest portion of the site (near Snake Hill Road). The artist housing involves four 4-bedroom units and sixteen 1-bedroom units. The 4-bedroom units are proposed within four individual cottages, while the other 16 units will be contained within a separate large structure that will also include amenities and storage space. The artist housing proposed is in general conformance with approved Master Plan.

At the Public Hearing, the Planning Board will accept comments from the public regarding Site Plan approval for Phase 2 described above.

The application materials on the project are available in hard copy format at the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, NY. Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202. The most recent materials may also be viewed in electronic format on the Town of Philipstown’s website at the following links:

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/october-2024

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/november-2024

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. There will be a 3-minute time limit on all speakers.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 21st day of November, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

State Environmental Quality Review

Notice of Completion of a Draft GEIS

Date of Notice: December 4, 2024

Lead Agency: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Title of Action: Development of the core elements of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

SEQR Classification:Type I

This Notice is issued pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617, the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, found at Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

A Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and accepted for the proposed action described below.

Location of Action: A 7.5-mile long non-motorized shared-use (pedestrian and bicycle), publicly accessible linear park along the eastern shore of the Hudson River, connecting the Village of Cold Spring (Putnam County, New York) with the City of Beacon (Dutchess County, New York) and partially running within or adjacent to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

Description of Action: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT, Inc.), (the “Applicant”), proposes to construct the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (“Fjord Trail”), a non-motorized, shared-use (pedestrian and bicycle), publicly accessible linear park along the eastern shore of the Hudson River, bookended by the City of Beacon on the north and the Village of Cold Spring on the south. The Fjord Trail would be partially within the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve (HHSP), which is owned and managed by OPRHP, and would extend through other public and private lands. The action under review solely includes the development of 7.5 miles of Main Trail, 2.8 miles of Trail Meanders, Trail Banks, Water Trail Connections, 2.2 miles of Regional Trail connections, two new parking areas (The Notch and Wade’s Hill), expansion of the Washburn lot parking area, restroom buildings at five locations, and a maintenance facility in Beacon. The component parts of this action described above were part of the Applicant’s 2020 Draft Master Plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Potential Environmental Impacts: The development of the core elements of the Fjord Trail is an action which may have significant impacts on the environment. The trail corridor is adjacent to the Hudson River and wetland complexes and crosses Fishkill Creek. The corridor contains significant natural and scenic resources. There are multiple significant ecological communities noted in the trail corridor as identified by the New York Natural Heritage Program. There are also several endangered, threatened, or special concern species known to occur in or near the trail corridor. The project area is located in the Hudson River National Heritage Area and a Scenic Area of Statewide Significance. There are many sites in the vicinity of the project area listed on the National Register for Historic Places, and there are documented archaeological resources. The DGEIS addresses the potential impacts of the proposed Fjord Trail and mitigation measures, as needed.

Public Hearing and Comments: Public hearings will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Registration information is below.

Afternoon Session (2:00 pm):
Date and time: Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Register link:
https://meetny-gov.webex.com/weblink/register/rbfeea7a65433599546e0c2bec2d4ce92
Join by phone: +1-415-527-5035 United States Toll
Access code: 2831 020 5910

Evening Session (6:00 pm):
Date and time: Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 6:00 PM Eastern Time
Register link:
https://meetny-gov.webex.com/weblink/register/r5d3bf55361c95affccf766b51b2412ce
Join by phone: +1-415-527-5035 United States Toll
Access code: 2828 052 7848

Persons may provide verbal comments at a public hearing. Comments may also be provided by email or in writing no later than the end of the public comment period – Sunday, February 2, 2025. Comments can be emailed to: hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov or mailed to the Agency Contact:

Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst | NYS OPRHP, DESP
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12238 | Phone # 518-486-2699.

Availability of the DGEIS:

- The online version of the DGEIS is available at the following publicly accessible website: https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx.
- Also available on the website are the 2020 Draft Master Plan, 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, and Final Scoping Document.
- The 2020 Draft Master Plan and DGEIS are also available here: https://hhft.org/

A hard copy of the DGEIS will be available for review at the following locations:

Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 / **Beacon City Hall**, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508 / **Fishkill Town Hall**, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524 / **Cold Spring Village Hall**, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 / **Nelsonville Village Hall**, 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, NY 10516 / **Blodgett Library**, 37 Broad Street, Fishkill, NY 12524 / **Howland Library**, 313 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 / **Desmond Fish Library**, 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524 / **Butterfield Library**, 10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516 / **OPRHP Taconic Regional Office**, 9 Old Post Road, Staatsburg, NY 12580 / **Office of HHFT, Inc. c/o Scenic Hudson, Inc.**, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Ste 300, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 / **HHFT, Inc office**, 14 Coris Lane, Beacon, NY 12508

Cold Spring (from Page 1)

Foley said the board hopes to learn more about HHFT's commitment to mitigating the trail's impact on the village, as well as construction planning details.

Also on Wednesday, the board continued its discussion of potential revisions to Chapter 100 of the Village Code, which regulates short-term rentals. The local law has been deemed too complicated and difficult to enforce.

Several aspects are yet to be resolved before a revised draft law can go to a public hearing, including use accessory structures as STRs, the permit process, fees and fines, frequency of inspections and potential use of software to monitor operations.

During public comment on Wednesday, Phil Heffernan said that, before he began operating an Airbnb in the village, he often lost money renting out an apartment in his building long-term. He expressed concern that proposed changes to STR operations will cut his retirement income by 75 percent, which he described as a "real-world hardship."

Vlad Musk, another STR operator, said he is "trying to play by the rules" but that proposed changes will impact his operation directly, adding that operators who have violations should be penalized.

Peter Farrell said his STR is "helping me pay my bills" and "allows me to keep my home and remain in Cold Spring." He suggested the STR law not require two-night

stays, pointing out that about 70 percent of his guests book for only one night.

In other business...

■ The board approved a proposal from Public Sector HR Consultants LLC to assist in updating the employee handbook for \$6,500.

■ The board approved a request for a letter of support by Scenic Hudson for its application for a state grant to restore the banks of Foundry Brook and remove a small dam at the West Point Foundry Preserve.

■ Foley noted that yard waste pickup by Royal Carting is finished for the year. There was confusion, she said, because an additional pickup was being done in Nelsonville. Residents can take yard waste to Royal's transfer

station at 409 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction.

■ The Cold Spring Police Department had 215 calls in October, including 41 traffic stops, 15 assists to local EMS agencies, seven reports of suspicious persons, two incidents of trespass and single incidents of a missing person, motor vehicle accident, lost hiker, theft and a person in crisis.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. answered 25 calls, including nine for mutual aid from the North Highlands Fire Department; seven activated fire alarms; four mountain rescues; and single calls for a motor vehicle accident, river-based response to Newburgh, mutual aid to Garrison Fire Co. for a brush fire and mutual aid to Continental Village.



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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- ACROSS
1. Winter coaster

5. Gear tooth

8. Guesser’s words

12. “Arrivederci!”

13. Notre Dame coach

14. German refusal

15. Well-known

17. Body powder

18. “Now, where — I?”

19. Novelist Deighton

20. One of the Kardashians

21. Squeak stopper

22. Golfer Trevino

23. Lake flock

26. Neighbor of Germany

30. Penny

31. Physique

32. Sci-fi race

33. Boise native

35. Labor group

36. Work unit

37. Prof’s degree

38. Presentation aid

41. Romance

42. “Right you —!”

45. Petty of *Tank Girl*

46. Working

48. *Topaz* author

49. — Dhabi

50. Roman censor

51. Ordered

52. Prof’s helpers

53. Strong farm team
- DOWN
1. Garbage barge

2. Director Wertmuller

3. Comestibles

4. Homer’s lament

5. Caravan beast

6. Algerian port

7. Hiatus

8. Getting better

9. Authentic

10. Missile shelter

11. Formerly

16. Yale students

20. *Community* actor Jeong

21. Up-and-coming

22. Guided

23. Biol. or chem.

24. Marry

25. Santa — winds

26. Mafia boss

27. Foreman foe

28. Aussie hopper

29. Family

31. Satchel

34. Scrap

35. “Oops!”

37. VIP on Air Force One

38. Sandwich type

39. Circle dance

40. Bone-dry

41. Connecticut Sun’s org.

42. Trojan War hero

43. Memory method

44. Black, in verse

46. Feedbag tidbit

47. — -friendly

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BRAID

GAINS

WORDSEARCH

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

EFTTWABRUT

BORG R IC R O L E

BOER A SH A C M E

STEAD HORN

NIA O L D H A T

SUNDECK S L O P E

OREO T E D O P E L

AGAPE GRUYERE

REPELS SPA

NICE S L U M P

CHAI R D A T H A I

BARN ANY Y U L E

SNAG PAN H I T

Answers for Nov. 29 Puzzles

BYP P C P Q A G D

B A A Z U M O N T M

R A T H L N K W W O

J G U T T Y D U I N

E K K Y L Z K W S O

N P S R J E E U T P

G T I R K D S E E O

A S R O Y K Z H R L

J Y N S H D U G I Y

O P E R A T I O N P

FLIPS, FLIES, FLEES,
FLEAS, PLEASE, PLEAD

137294865

489165372

265783914

941637258

372518649

856429731

524976183

713842596

698351427

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, December 19th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Planning Board December 2024.

Although I have eschewed tools and gardening gloves in past gift guides, this year I'm going back to basics. Many accessories are supposed to make gardening easier, but I've found that a few quality, well-maintained (i.e., sharp) tools make all the difference, and you don't need a huge stash.

I've used my Foxglove gauntlet gloves for many tasks. While the gloves are effective against thorny plants, they reach nearly to my elbow and also protect my arms from scratches when I'm pruning or weeding. They do not do well when wet, however. As I was soaking roots and preparing trees for planting, it took a few days for them to forgive me and dry out.

The gloves are "thorn resistant," but if you grip anything too tightly, you'll feel a poke. They are a must-have for hand-pulling mean plants such as barberry, multiflora rose or wineberry. The beloved Country Goose in Cold Spring used to stock these, but with Leonora decamped to England, now you must order online. See dub.sh/fox-gloves (\$39). ①

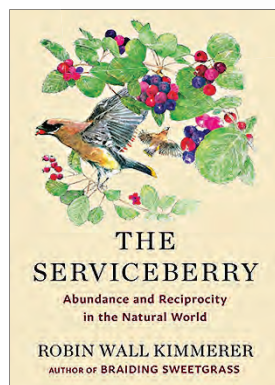
I have two suggestions for trowels. One is this indestructible digger by Wilcox. It has measurements for planting depth and sharp edges that will cut into compacted soil. I appreciate the angular shape for planting bulbs. See dub.sh/fedco-trowel (\$35). ②

The Gardener's Supply Co. trowel I use for 90 percent of my planting work has a serrated edge on one side, which allows me to use it like a knife to cut open bags and ties or saw whatever is in the way. See dub.sh/trowel-knife (\$15). ③

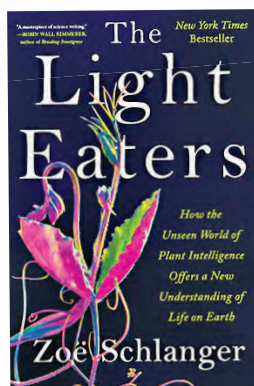
Every gift guide needs books. The ones I recommend here reveal a way of interacting with nature and the environment. As the impacts of climate change advance, these are hopeful resources to reimagine our world.

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World, ④ by Robin Wall Kimmerer (\$20)

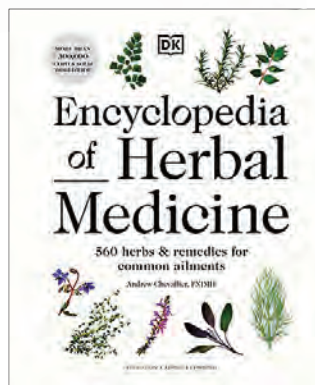
The Indigenous scientist, professor and author (*Braiding Sweetgrass*), has a new book using the relationship of the serviceberry in nature as a lens for understanding



④



⑤



⑥

how to repair our economy with interconnectedness. The serviceberry is a native understory tree, *Amelanchier* spp. I can see three in the yard from my window and look forward to knowing them better.

The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth, ⑤ by Zoe Schlanger (\$30)

Plants communicate with each other! They react and change their behavior! This book made my winter reading list after I heard several interviews with this author when it was released. Schlanger approaches the subject of plant sentience with scientific rigor and wonder.

I always have more herbs than I can use in a season and have tried using a dehydrator, hanging them from the ceiling with string and thumbtacks, and an oven-drying method. I have this aspirational vision of an elegant approach that none of these methods has satisfied so far, so I'm coveting a rack.

There are many varieties. Some hang on the wall or ceiling, and others are freestanding. The key attributes are easy installation with a minimum number of wall holes, easy storage and good air circulation.

Pair a rack with a guidebook such as *Encyclopedia of Herbal Medicine: 560 Herbs and Remedies for Common Ailments*, by Andrew Chevallier (\$40), and you have given someone all the implements for a hobby beyond the culinary. ⑥

I've been sketching leaves to improve my ability to identify plants and trees. Drawing something makes me look carefully and deeply. I notice more details than using an ID key from a book. A shout-out to Lori Sandford-Ross, who taught my drawing workshop at the Garrison Art Center, for introducing me to Derwent graphic pencils and the luxury of a sketch pad. The pencils come in various densities and make drawing more tactile. Printer paper and #2 pencils, no more. Add a good eraser, too. ⑦

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