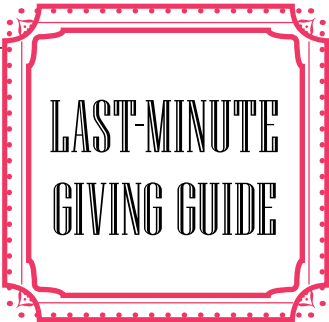


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Current



DECEMBER 27, 2024

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How They Voted

Governor signs round of bills passed by state legislators

By Chip Rowe

As of last week, Gov. Kathy Hochul had enacted 1,378 bills passed in the 2023-24 legislative session, which ended in June. She had vetoed 213. Below are summaries of select laws and the votes cast by Republican Rob Rolison (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Dana Levenberg (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

Climate fund

On Thursday (Dec. 26), Hochul enacted a law to create a Climate Change Adaptation Cost Recovery Program, or Climate Superfund, that will require fossil-fuel energy companies to collectively contribute \$3 billion annually to projects that mitigate the effects of global warming. According to the bill, the funds will be used to pay for coastal wetlands restoration, storm water drainage upgrades, energy-efficient cooling systems, public health programs and responses to extreme weather events. Passed by Senate, 43-17 | Rolison ☒ Passed by Assembly, 92-49 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

STR registry

Hochul on Dec. 21 enacted a bill that will create a short-term rental registry, the first of its kind in the nation. Under the law, which takes effect April 20, booking sites such as Airbnb will be obligated to remove listings that have not been registered. Book- (Continued on Page 7)



Martee Levi and Meghan Sabas with Gracie

Photo by M. Turton

A Little Help from Above

Dayslong search for dog gets assist from drone

By Michael Turton

Drones have gotten a lot of bad press over the past few weeks, but don't malign them around Martee Levi. Earlier this month, a drone helped find her Boston terrier, Gracie, after the dog spent several freezing nights lost in the woods. Levi's previous Boston terrier, Buster — the namesake of Buster Levi Gallery on Main Street in Cold Spring — died three years ago. Gracie arrived in Philipstown on Nov. 5; the 3-year-old was adopted from a breeder in Oregon.

For Gracie, Levi's home and studio on Jaycox Road "was a whole new world," Levi says. But the terrier's curiosity nearly led to her demise. Around dusk on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Levi opened her front door to retrieve a package; Gracie bolted past her and disappeared into the woods. The effort to find Gracie is a tale of community, hope and despair, technology and canine camaraderie.

Saturday (Nov. 30)

Levi and her resident studio assistant, Meghan Sabas, immediately run to Jaycox Road, but Gracie is long gone. It's one of the first cold nights of the season. Sabas has a first date planned for the evening. She cancels it. The women search the road, with Sabas on foot and Levi driving slowly. Neighbors join the effort, but at 11 p.m., the searchers give up for the night. (Continued on Page 8)

EXIT INTERVIEW

Dan Aymar-Blair

Beacon council member to become comptroller

By Jeff Simms

First elected in 2019, Dan Aymar-Blair has served five years as the Ward 4 representative on the Beacon City Council. He will leave the council on Dec. 31 (its last meeting of the year was Dec. 16) to become the Dutchess County comptroller on Jan. 1. Mayor Lee Kyriacou will name a replacement to serve the final year of his term. We asked Aymar-Blair to talk about his time on the council and what's to come.

How are you feeling about your new job?

I'm excited and a little jittery. Anytime you start something new, you're a little nervous because you want to do a good job. I've made some appointments for my new team, and we've been having meetings to talk about how we can hit the ground running.



Aymar-Blair

Do you inherit a team or assemble your own?

There's a team of about 12 people, mostly auditors. I get to appoint a couple of the positions.

To what extent does the comptroller interact with the county executive or the Legislature?

I expect most of the work I'll be doing will be with department heads. I would work with the county executive for higher-profile things, [such as] if we're doing an audit and we need her cooperation or if we're following up on a report from the state, anything that she ought to know about. With the Legislature, they're passing the policy that I eventually review and make sure it's all being implemented appropriately. I don't have a say in policy, but if there's something before the Legislature that will put the county's finances at risk or jeopardize the long-term financial health of the county, I'll speak up and share my opinion.

You said before the election that you wouldn't be coming in with an agenda, (Continued on Page 9)



A 2017 assessment estimated it would cost the Village of Cold Spring \$4 million to repair the Upper Dam. The price has since risen to nearly \$8 million. (File photo)

Cold Spring Gets \$2.5 Million for Dam Repair

State money will help secure drinking water supply

By Michael Turton

New York State announced on Monday (Dec. 23) that it will send \$2.5 million to the Village of Cold

Spring for repairs to one of the two dams at its reservoirs. The money is part of \$225 million from the state Department of Environmental Conservation for 165 projects across New York to update aging infrastructure, improve water quality and protect drinking water. The village submitted its application, written by Trustee Laura Bozzi, in July. "While this grant is only a portion of the nearly \$8 million needed to complete the Upper Dam repairs, it is a significant boost for the village," said Mayor Kathleen Foley (Continued on Page 8)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: KACEY MORABITO-GREAN

By Michael Turton

After nearly 40 years in radio, Kacey Morabito-Grean, who lives in Philipstown, recently left WHUD to become executive director of the Holy Mountain Retreat Center at Graymoor.

How did you get your start in radio?

I studied journalism and media at Mercy College. I needed an internship to get my degree in 1985, but *The Evening Star* in Peekskill had just closed and I ended up going to WLNA-AM 1420. I was terrified my first time on air. I'm forever grateful to the listeners in Peekskill who tolerated me until I figured things out. Fifteen years later, they moved me to the morning show on WHUD — and I was still terrified! This past April marked my 24th year on that show.

What do you remember most vividly?

I had only been at WHUD for a handful of months on Sept. 11, 2001. I was ... I had ... no words. My background is journalism, and I was a cautious broadcaster; I didn't just read things randomly off the internet. I verify everything. I was displeased that people were calling in, saying it was a terrorist attack, even before news stations did. I didn't say anything, which angered

my cohost. He wanted me to comment but I wanted a greater news authority to interpret what was happening before I jumped in. Circumstances were strange that day. We were disconnected from our network news and couldn't just throw it over to them. I didn't think we had the authority to use the word *terrorism* yet. But, of course, that's exactly what it was. Those days were horrifying.

What prompted this dramatic career shift?

In 2015 I began creating events for women: lunches, seminars, outings, hikes and labyrinth walks. Later I started giving retreats at Graymoor and Mariandale [in Ossining]. That side of my life really grew. When I heard there was an opening at Graymoor, I had a funny feeling it was a great opportunity to try something new, something special. I love radio and I'm not saying goodbye to it. I still pre-record "The Health and Happiness Minute," which airs three times on Fridays, and "Shine! The Health & Happiness Show" on Sunday mornings.

Are retreats still relevant?

I knew women's retreats are still needed, that we moms and grandmas are changing careers, looking for jobs, and need to gather. My biggest shock

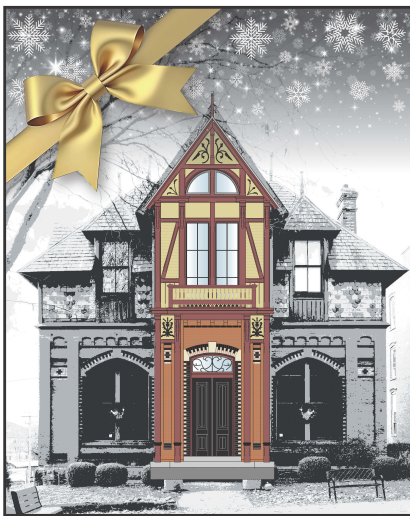
and education have been that retreats for men, families and the general public are so popular. I had no idea the rest of the world was still gathering in this way. The first retreat I witnessed at Graymoor was for 75 men from a church in New Jersey. Why are they still relevant? They may be a hidden aspect of society, that people everywhere are looking for respite, a place where they can shut off the world for a weekend, be with like-minded people and practice their faith, whatever it may be. Graymoor is ecumenical and interreligious; we host retreats for all faiths as well as recovery retreats for people in AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] or other 12-step programs.

What kinds of retreats do you want to develop?

I want to see grief retreats and joy retreats. I want retreats that allow people to excavate their buried emotions and live a little healthier and freer. A lot of people have buried their trauma. They may think it was something that happened only once, but it informs all their decisions. They're not even aware of it sometimes. Those are the kinds of retreats I'm working on.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite meal over the holidays?

Turkey, mashed potatoes, carrots and apple pie.



Jennifer Memon, Cold Spring

A Burger King Whopper with everything but pickles!



Skippy Newton, Beacon

Glazed ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli with cheese sauce, and cheesecake.



Lisa Padavan, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Cold Spring Ends Water Restrictions

Beacon's reservoirs still refilling

With village reservoirs topping 80 percent capacity, the Village of Cold Spring has ended its emergency order for mandatory water conservation measures.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Matt Kroog noted on Dec. 11 that the reservoirs were at 64 percent capacity. But by the Village Board's Dec. 18 meeting, they had reached 82 percent. The restrictions were put into effect in early October.

Beacon declared a water emergency on Nov. 18 when its reservoirs fell below 60 percent capacity. That declaration remains in effect, although nearly all Stage 1 restrictions are for warm-weather usage, such as washing cars or outdoor areas or watering lawns.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation on Dec. 16 lifted its drought warning for New York City and 10 upstate counties, including Putnam and Dutchess, although it still urged conservation.

Putnam Jail Hires Two Guards

Recent graduates of Dutchess academy

Two guards have joined the Putnam County Correctional Facility in Carmel. Samantha Mastropietro and Jake Dushaj were among a class of 17 corrections officers who graduated in November from an eight-week program at the Dutchess County Correctional Academy in Poughkeepsie.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the officers received instruction in correctional procedures, crisis intervention and de-escalation, physical fitness, defensive tactics and firearms and will receive further training at the jail.

Congestion Pricing Begins Jan. 5 in New York City

Drivers charged in lower Manhattan

As of Sunday (Jan. 5), vehicles entering Manhattan below 60th Street will be charged a toll as part of the city's congestion pricing program.

Drivers that enter the Congestion Relief Zone will be charged through E-ZPass or Toll by Mail. The daily toll for passenger and small commercial vehicles paying with E-ZPass will be \$9, or \$2.25 overnight. Taxis will add 75 cents per trip and other hired vehicles such as Uber will add \$1.50. See [\[zone.mta.info\]\(http://zone.mta.info\).](http://congestionrelief-</p>
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There are discounts and exemptions for low-income and disabled drivers and vehicles with E-ZPass that travel through the Lincoln, Holland, Queens-Midtown or Carey tunnels will receive a credit of up to \$3.

The state hopes the toll will reduce vehicles in the zone by at least 80,000 per day. It will increase every two years until it reaches \$15 in 2031. Tunnel credits will also increase.

Putnam Gets Security Grant

\$235K will go to emergency services, sheriff's office

Putnam County has been awarded \$234,731 from the federal government for terrorism prevention and emergency services.

Jackie Bray, the state's commissioner of homeland security and emergency services, informed County Executive Kevin Byrne of the grant, noting that, under federal guidelines, 35 percent, or \$82,156, must be spent on terrorism prevention and at least 30 percent (\$70,419) on cyber security or to protect "soft" targets and crowded places, intelligence sharing, combat "domestic violence extremism," improve community preparedness and/or election security. The deadline is Aug. 31, 2027.

The Legislature on Dec. 11 proposed sending \$82,156 to the Sheriff's Office (\$52,000 for overtime, \$15,156 for body armor and \$15,000 for a license-plate reader) and \$152,575 to the Bureau of Emergency Services (\$95,575 for an emergency response vehicle, \$45,000 for personal protection equipment for residents, \$18,000 for a respirator fit-test machine and \$25,000 for emergency response training supplies).

Chorale Welcomes Singers

Spring rehearsals begin Jan. 7

The Taghkanic Chorale, which performed at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring earlier this month, will begin rehearsals Jan. 7 for its spring season.

The season will culminate with concerts in May in Mount Kisco and Irvington with Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*.

Founded in 1967, the nonprofit choir welcomes singers of all ages, vocal ranges and skill levels. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown. For more information visit taghkanicchorale.org.

Cold Spring Fire Elects Officers

Matthew Steltz becomes chief

The Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 elected new officers during its 129th annual meeting on Dec. 3 and named Shari Alexander as firefighter of the year.

Matthew Steltz, a 25-year-member, is the new chief, succeeding Jeff Phillips. The department named Josh Dinardo as assistant chief; Christopher Godsey as captain; Travis Fyfe as first lieutenant; and Aaron Leonard as second lieutenant. Lillian Moser was named president and Matthew Woods as vice president.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Firehouse sale

The two decommissioned Beacon firehouses are more than just bricks and mortar: They're a part of the city's history and hold potential for its future ("Beacon Seeks Broker for Firehouse Sales," Dec. 20). While selling the properties outright might seem straightforward, there is an opportunity that benefits everyone by adding a long-term lease option.

A long-term lease would reduce the upfront financial burden for developers, making the properties more accessible to a wider range of proposals. A triple-net lease would shift the responsibility for property taxes, insurance and maintenance to the lessee, ensuring a steady income stream for the city without operational headaches. If needed, the city could even outsource lease administration.

Leasing the properties would allow the city to retain ownership, preserving their long-term value. Predictable lease revenue could be leveraged for low-cost financing, providing a smarter alternative to bonds or other debt. By retaining ownership, the city can repurpose the buildings, such as for recreational spaces, small business incubators or emergency services. For residents like me who live in Ward 3, this is particularly important given the increased

response times caused by the fire department's relocation to the other side of town. This proposal isn't about replacing the sale option but about flexibility. I trust the city has done a comparative analysis of sale versus lease. Transparency in these discussions is essential for building trust and ensuring the best outcomes.

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

Snow and salt

A few inches of snow arrive in December and you would think it was the end of the world. Modern weather forecasting is accurate enough to look to the following day, which in this case called for a temperature of 57 degrees with no temperatures below freezing for the next three days. I'm not a scientist, but last I checked, snow melts at 57 degrees.

When I was young, people had real snow tires and sometimes studded ones. People were prepared and they didn't anticipate racing down the road at 60 mph 10 seconds after the last flake hit the ground. Somewhere along the line we got litigious and soft. There was personal responsibility and that involved preparation.

Instead, the forces are assembled, overtime is paid, thousands of gallons of diesel are burned, dry roads are repeatedly plowed,

the pavement is torn up and tens of thousands of dollars are spent on removing what would have melted in a few hours. Not to mention the fact that tons of salt are mainlined into all our streams and, ultimately, the Hudson River. Western states do not do this, nor do any of the Nordic countries.

I understand that children need to get to school, and we do have the dreaded East Mountain roads to contend with. A better way to deal with this is the use of magnesium brine, which is often applied before the storm for small snow events like this week. Magnesium is still toxic, but less than sodium, so it is not a long-term solution. There are many ways to lower the cost and impact of winter weather. We can do better.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*
Shea is the former town supervisor.

Arts therapy

Thank you for Yasmine Awais's informative and touching column about how creative arts therapy can make a marked impact on folks who need more creative, flexible approaches ("My View: Let's Cover Art Therapy," Dec. 20). New York State already recognizes the value of creative arts therapies. Why prevent access instead of expanding it?

Kas Burok, *Philadelphia*

Fjord Trail

We elected Eliza Starbuck to the Cold Spring Village Board to have our backs. But here she is encouraging us to understand parks, a state agency, and the needs of 19.5 million others (*Letters and Comments*, Dec. 20). What we're asking for is time, long denied, to comment on the substantial issues that we are now seeing for the first time, including budget. This project looms larger than any other this village has seen, and we need her help.

Starbuck doesn't represent parks or 19.5 million others. Her job is to represent us, the 1,800 villagers who will be directly impacted, especially as taxpayers and voters. We are long past mitigating. We are done with discussions about exaggeration, speculation, fearmongering and innuendo that prove to be real. Now is the time for the trustees to have our backs.

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

Starbuck wrote: "I don't believe that suspicion and aggression are the best strategies for shaping this project to our best interests."

This is an inappropriate viewpoint when it comes from an elected official. Indeed, the opposite is true. We have learned that to remain sanguine about projects of this scope is to be dangerously passive. The onus
(Continued on Page 5)



is on us to be proactive, including educating ourselves and questioning aspects of any plan that we feel might negatively affect our hometown. That includes the ability to be heard by those we have elected.

It is unfair to couch the widespread concern over this project as “suspicion and aggression.” It should be viewed as the citizens doing their due diligence, and I am under the impression that as an elected official, Starbuck should not be discouraging dissent but listening to it. No one is right about everything, and that includes me, and it includes her, as well. If we dismiss the concerns of others out of hand, we run the risk of becoming dangerously out of touch.

Beth Cody, *Nelsonville*

The Current reported: “The increase in visitors is not expected to have much traffic impact in Beacon, according to the report” (“Fjord Trail State Report Released,” Dec. 13).

This is such a fantasy I can’t believe it was put on paper. Have the authors of the report tried driving down Main Street in Beacon on a weekend after 10 a.m.? The Metro-North’s Hudson line only runs north and south. Anyone coming from any place other than those with proximity to the stations is going to drive. People from New Jersey aren’t going to drive into midtown to grab a train to Beacon or Cold Spring.

Ed Mancari, *Beacon*

Here’s your headline: “Fjord to Village: Drop Dead” (“Fjord Trail Postpones Cold Spring Meeting,” Dec. 20).

Tom Campanile, *Nelsonville*

What most seem to overlook is the fabricated premise that the exploding visitation in the villages has always been an issue. The promotion and marketing of both a fictional fjord and its multimedia assault on a quiet community is what is fueling this boondoggle.

We just need to look at the marsh walk on Indian Brook Road and then-Supervisor Richard Shea’s threat of litigation to get it all under control only a few years ago. We saw what a short notation in a national publication can do to a small community. This makes me question how village trustees can support a project before remedies to questions are yet to be presented.

Remember, this Fjord Trail is the result of visions of our community by individuals who do not reside here or by those who feed at the feet of these people or incestuous, so-called nonprofits. Look at the salaries and at the past employment. When we have state government working with groups that segment projects to avoid transparency, we have a problem.

This is an attempt to turn our tiny community into the gate of an economic engine for the state. It’s sad to want the destruction of one’s home, and they didn’t even ask. So much for home rule. I blame our governor for not protecting our community and signing on just two weeks into her tenure. Why didn’t she sit with our community before selling us out?

Gordon Robertson, *Cold Spring*

Putnam politics

Why is it the soap opera that is Putnam County politics is constantly a race to the bottom with citizens, taxpayers and voters losing out (“Putnam Executive Sues Legislature,” Dec. 13)? We live in such a beautiful place, but the politics are so ugly. When is enough enough?

Stephen Wallis, *Philipstown*

248 Tioronda

A commercial requirement in the Fishkill Creek district could threaten Main Street, according to the mayor, but the transit-oriented development at the waterfront won’t (“Beacon Grants Developer’s Request,” Dec. 20)?

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

Central Hudson

This article was of great interest to me, especially the note that community choice aggregation customers were transferred back to Central Hudson (“Judge Approves CCA Utility Settlement,” Dec. 13).

Now, can we please get some justice from Central Hudson? I’ve been stuck in an endless circle of a billing/meter-reading dispute with the company. When resolved, Central Hudson suddenly finds new charges. At one point, it sent me 16 months of “duplicate” bills, while our meter reader has been accurately reading our meter every month. I’ve been paying the monthly bill every month on time, while Central Hudson tacked on \$1,500 in “past due” charges.

I’ve been seeking the assistance of local legislators with some success. However, I’m wondering if I’ll have to take Central Hudson to court, which, of course, would be far more costly than the \$1,500 it claims I owe. I can’t even compute the cost to me in hours spent preparing spreadsheets and letters, fruitless conversations with representatives of the corporation and complaints filed with the state Public Service Commission. Perhaps others are in the same bind, and we can approach the state court.

Constancia Romilly, *Philipstown*

Recovery

This was a wonderful article on family, strength and survival (“A Life Renewed,” Dec. 20). Theresa Timmon’s journey is truly miraculous. This miracle is due to her first responders, her family and their belief in God and her caregivers at the Westchester Medical Center and Blythedale Children’s Hospital.

I am in awe of her family’s love and constant support and the people who continue to surround Theresa with love and care. Although I and many others don’t know her or her family, we pray daily for continued healing, strength and courage. Keep working hard, Theresa, we love you!

Patricia Wienecke, *Mahopac*

Spring Street

The Spring Street situation has been discussed for years (“Nelsonville Bans Parking on Spring Street,” Dec. 20). Good on the Village Board for doing something.

The curve is an issue, as is the lack of a clear line of sight when turning onto Main

Street from Spring. Speeding on the curve is common, as well. At one point I advocated making it one-way from Main along Secor Street to Pearl. I am not sure what happened to that fabulously good idea. Maybe it can be reconsidered!

Alan Potts, *Nelsonville*
Potts is a former village trustee.

Why didn’t your story have one mention of the roomful of residents who attended the Dec. 16 Village Board meeting to discuss the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail DGEIS [Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement]? It would be wonderful if *The Current* could actually attend these meetings and report, rather than write articles based on transcriptions or minutes.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

Concrete plant

The Town of Fishkill will approve this because its residents don’t see it (“Concrete Plant Proposed for Route 9,” Dec. 20). Those of us who live nearby get stuck with all the noise and dust.

Camille Papineau, *via Facebook*

Diplomat

Thank you for highlighting the contributions of this dedicated public servant and for emphasizing President Joe Biden’s concern

for our climate crisis (“5 Questions,” Dec. 20). Our country is fortunate to have individuals like Will Marsh in our State Department.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*

Bridge barriers

Every time I cross the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon or Mid-Hudson bridges, I always wonder why there aren’t barriers or netting (“Bridge Barriers,” Dec. 20).

Andrew Gauzza, *via Instagram*

Correction

Due to an editing error, the status of bills before the governor was misstated in a *My View* column in the Dec. 20 issue. When the Legislature is in session, the governor has 10 days (excluding Sundays) to sign or veto a bill or it becomes law without her signature. If a bill is sent to the governor when the Legislature is out of session, she must act within 30 days or the bill is considered vetoed. The bill discussed in the column, to allow licensed creative arts therapists (LCATs) to bill Medicaid for their services, was passed in June but not sent to the governor until Dec. 12. She vetoed it on Dec. 21.

	U.S.	New York	Local
Gas Prices			
	\$3.04	\$3.13	\$3.10
Month ago	\$3.07	\$3.16	\$3.15
Year ago	\$3.13	\$3.38	\$3.36

Source: gasprices.aaa.com, as of Dec. 26. Prices are average per gallon for regular.



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Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
Garrison, NY 10524



Depot Theatre Seeks Project on Town Site

Would house costumes, sets and theater classes

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Depot Theatre has proposed building a two-story facility on town-owned property on Route 403 for costumes and prop storage, set construction, rehearsals and theater classes for high school students.

The project, introduced to the Planning Board on Dec. 19, would include public restrooms, and the theater would donate the 3,675-square-foot building to Philipstown and lease it for 40 years. Its classes would cover stage direction, costume, lighting and set design.

Stephen Ives, the Depot board president, said the structure would consolidate “scattered” operations. Its costumes are “wedged into a room” at the Philipstown Recreation Department on Route 9D; props are kept in “moldy, mildew-infested” outdoor containers; and the scene shop is “jammed into a garage” at Winter Hill, he said. Larger props are stored at the town dump on Lane Gate Road.

“That’s been a huge handicap for the theater to try and operate efficiently,” said Ives. He said the theater hadn’t found a

suitable building to renovate.

Because the property is within the Scenic Protection Overlay District, evergreens would be planted as screening along Route 403, said Margaret McManus, an engineer with Badey & Watson. Six parking spaces would be created in front of the building, she said.

Water would be supplied from a well the town dug for the Garrison Landing Water District before determining it was inadequate. The theater would install a septic system.

The Open Space Institute donated the property, which has frontage along Route 9D, to the town for recreational use. A conservation easement allows for a storage structure of up to 4,000 square feet and 25 feet high. The nonprofit “has some issues” with the project because it is “slightly too high, slightly too long and the use is not purely storage,” said Ives. “We are in conversations with them about trying to align with their easement.”

Ives said the Philipstown Town Board has endorsed the project for fundraising purposes. The Planning Board scheduled a site visit for 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 5.

Shakespeare housing

The Planning Board closed a public hearing on Hudson Valley Shakespeare’s



A sketch of the theater’s proposed facility

application to build a 32-bed residential compound for its performers and will consider a resolution granting conditional approval at its Jan. 16 meeting.

HVS wants to construct five residential buildings forming an L-shaped compound in the northwest section of its 97-acre property at the former Garrison golf course. Four of the buildings — two-story cottages totaling 1,000 square feet each — would have two separate bedrooms with a private bath on each floor and a kitchen and living area off the entrance.

Joe Regele, a Philipstown resident who was one of several people who spoke during the hearing, asked how the housing would be used when not occupied by artists. Town law would prohibit artists

from occupying the housing for more than nine consecutive months, and during its offseason, HVS would be allowed to rent the units for stays of less than a month. Any offseason lodgers would probably be guests attending weddings at the property, said Adam Stolorow, a representative for the project.

In its application, Hudson Valley Shakespeare said it wants to build the residences at the same time it is constructing a theater complex so they would be ready for the 2026 summer season. With 12 fewer units than the 44 approved in the master plan, the impacts will be “either the same or less as what was previously studied,” Stolorow told the Planning Board at its October meeting.

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NOVEMBER Real Estate Market Report

Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	14	9
Closed Sales	6	3
Days on Market	73	53
Median Price	\$525,000	\$1,117,000
% List Received	96.5	95.9
Inventory	52	25

Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	2	0
Closed Sales	2	1
Days on Market	280	13
Median Price	\$390,250	\$685,000
% List Received	98.8	100
Inventory	12	6

Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	5	7
Closed Sales	8	6
Days on Market	125	65
Median Price	\$620,000	\$720,000
% List Received	99.1	91.7
Inventory	40	39

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

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, January 6, 2025 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, search for Philipstown Zoning Board January 2025.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on **Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at 10:30am** to inspect the following site: **Philipstown Depot Backstage, 982 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524**

TM#71.-1-38

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on **Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at 9:30am** to inspect the following site: **KPB Properties, 201 Old West Point Rd., W Garrison, NY 10524**

TM#71.20-1-4

How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

ing sites also must report quarterly to the state how many bookings they facilitated in each county, including the location, nights, guest counts and room taxes. According to the bill’s authors: “Municipalities need better tools to understand how this economic driver can help without displacing local residents and compounding an already growing [housing] problem.”

Passed by Senate, 41-20 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 101-40 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Fracking ban

The governor signed legislation on Dec. 21 that expands the state’s fracking ban to include injecting carbon dioxide into rock at high pressure to extract oil and natural gas. New York already bans hydraulic fracking, which uses water.

Passed by Senate, 46-16 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 98-50 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Workers’ comp

On Dec. 6, Hochul enacted a law that will allow anyone — not just first responders — to file for workers’ compensation because of a “mental injury” caused by “extraordinary work-related stress.”

Passed by Senate, 41-19 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 101-44 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Demographics

Hochul on Dec. 20 signed a bill requiring state agencies that collect data about ancestry or ethnic origins to add categories for Middle Eastern (e.g., Iranian, Palestinian, Israeli, Syrian, Saudi) and North African (e.g., Egyptian, Sudanese, Libyan) groups.

Passed by Senate, 57-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 101-45 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Specialized care

On Dec. 18, Hochul signed a bill that allows patients to remain at pediatric nursing facilities until they are 36. Previously “medically fragile” young adults had to move to adult care when they turned 21.

Passed by Senate, 60-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 140-0 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Excess food

The governor on Dec. 13 enacted legislation that will gradually increase the number of businesses and institutions required to donate excess edible food and recycle food scraps if they are within 50 miles (increased from 25 miles) of a recycler. The current law applies to firms that produce at least two tons of food each week at a single location; that will drop to a half ton on Jan. 1, 2026.

Passed by Senate, 49-10 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 99-46 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒



Levenberg



Jacobson



Rolison

able to get orders of protection for herself and Melanie’s 4-year-old son, but Melanie was ineligible because she was 29.

Passed by Senate, 60-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 143-5 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Lease fees

Hochul on Nov. 25 signed a law that bans “turn-in” fees at the end of a car lease unless they are related to mileage or damage.

Passed by Senate, 41-20 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 100-47 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Telemarketers

On Nov. 25, the governor enacted a law that requires telemarketers, within the first 30 seconds, to state the purpose of the call and any request for personal or financial information.

Passed by Senate, 59-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 147-0 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Religious clothing

Hochul on Nov. 26 signed legislation to classify the removal or threat of removal of religious clothing, such as a yarmulke or hijab, as aggravated harassment.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 147-0 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Melanie’s Law

Hochul on Nov. 25 signed legislation that allows protective orders in domestic violence cases to include all family members of the victim, regardless of age. The law is named for Melanie Chianese, who was killed in 2022 by her mother’s ex-boyfriend while he was awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to domestic violence. Her mother was

Inspection grades


Hochul on Nov. 25 signed a bill that requires restaurants that offer online ordering for delivery to post a link to their most recent sanitary inspection grade. The law takes effect on May 12.

Passed by Senate, 55-3 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 140-5 |

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

(Continued on Page 8)




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Jan 12	Erik Lenhart
Jan 19	Constant Baker Motley
Jan 26	Megan Cali

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

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Sunday, DEC 29,
at our 10:30 am service

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Dam Repair *(from Page 1)*

in a statement. “It will enable us to bond [borrow] less and keep water rates a bit more stable during the construction.

“The condition of the dam is a critical public safety issue, and it is a relief that we finally have resources and momentum to see necessary repairs through,” she said.

Foley praised Bozzi, “a public health research professional [who] has brought her grant-writing prowess to bear for village projects time and again,” she said.

Located off Lake Surprise Road on Foundry Brook in the North Highlands, the two reservoirs provide water to Cold Spring, Nelsonville and some parts of Philipstown. The 270-foot Upper Dam was constructed in 1934 and the 328-foot Lower Dam in 1942; each is about 25 feet high.

The Department of Environmental Conservation rates both as “high-hazard” — a measure of the damage, including loss of life, that would result from their fail-

ure — and “unsound,” which is worse than “deficiently maintained” but not as bad as the lowest rating, “unsafe.”

The reconstruction will raise the Upper Dam by 2 feet to improve spillway capacity, install a waterproof membrane on its face and improve the outlet and abutments. In 2017, an engineer told the Village Board that the repairs would cost between \$3.8 million (a single spillway requiring the reservoir to be lowered by 1.2 feet) and \$4.2 million (multiple spillways). The latter estimate has nearly doubled over the past eight years.

In January 2023, Foley said an engineering firm told her that, once the design was complete, it would take eight to 12 months for the dam to be repaired. A 2016 assessment of the dam conditions is valid until 2026.

During the repairs, Cold Spring will likely need to tap into the Catskill Aqueduct; in 2023, after 15 years of negotiations, the village reached an agreement with New



A view of Cold Spring's reservoirs, which are north of the village

Google Earth

York City to create the connection. If Cold Spring taps into the system, it must pay \$2,450 per 1 million gallons, Foley said last

month when the reservoirs dipped because of drought. The system requires about 300,000 gallons per day.

Drone Rescue *(from Page 1)*

Sabas and Levi's friend, Grace Kennedy, post missing dog alerts on social media.

Sunday (Dec. 1)

The next day, “people started coming to help; it was amazing,” Levi says. “Many were strangers.”

Sabas contacts Michael Coyne, who operates Heat Seeker Drone Services in Carmel. When he first bought his drone, Coyne charged a fee to help find lost pets to recoup the cost, but it's paid off, so he works for donations. He's found nearly 100 pets.

Sabas's dog, Amy, an Australian cattle dog known as a blue heeler, joins the search. Amy and Gracie played together and developed a bond. Amy picks up Gracie's scent from her toys and bedding.

After his afternoon shift with the Scarsdale Police Department, Coyne arrives close to midnight. He conducts an aerial search but finds no trace of Gracie.

Monday (Dec. 2)

A hunter tells Karen Jackson, Philipstown's animal control officer, that he saw a dog fitting Gracie's description on Sunday near Grey Rock Road off Route 301. Neighbors and social media responders are joined by Levi's son and daughter-in-law. Coyne is unable to do a drone search that night.

Tuesday (Dec. 3)

The search continues. Levi and Sabas fear that if Gracie is alive, she is suffering. The nights have gotten even colder. Coyne says he can return that night, but by 6 p.m., Levi has given up. “We're not going to find her — forget it,” she says.

At 7:30 p.m., Coyne texts to say he is at Country Hill Lane, near where the hunter spotted Gracie. His drone is aloft, using thermal imaging, which captures the heat of warm-blooded animals, including humans and dogs. During the day, animals are difficult to discern because the sun warms the landscape, objects and buildings.



An image from Coyne's drone shows Gracie at center, in white, settled in the exposed roots of a tree.

Photos provided

Fifteen minutes later, Coyne texts again. He has spotted Gracie, deep in a wooded marsh. The women are heartened but cautious. After spending three nights in freezing weather, they assume that the 15-pound dog is barely alive.

At 8 p.m., Levi and Sabas, with Amy, meet Coyne at the foot of Country Hill Lane. The drone hovers, its spotlight beaming into the woods. Using the light as a beacon, Sabas and Amy head into the marsh. But the spotlight fails. There is no moon. It is pitch dark.

Coyne calls Sabas and puts her on speakerphone, using the image on his video screen to guide her. With Amy tugging, she steps into the water several times. In the dark, Sabas says she feels like “coyote food.” Levi responds: “Don't worry — you'll get a medal in the morning!”

An hour later, as Sabas gets closer to the location of the thermal image, Coyne instructs her: “Follow your dog!” Amy leads her to Gracie, who is huddled in the root system of a tree, her tiny, black-and-white face poking out.

Thankfully, she stays put. “I couldn't chase her in that terrain,” Sabas says.

Half an hour later, safe and warm back home, Gracie devours her food. “There wasn't a scratch on her — her feet weren't



Michael Coyne and his drone

even dirty,” Levi marvels.

Levi orders an Apple AirTag to attach to Gracie's collar. Sabas reschedules her missed date. It goes well enough, and there's a second.

How They Voted *(from Page 8)*

Veteran tuition

The governor on Nov. 11 signed a law that makes veterans who served at least four years eligible for tuition assistance, regardless of whether they were in combat.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 140-0 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Disaster abatements

Hochul on Dec. 21 signed legislation to allow municipalities to offer property tax refunds and credits to homeowners who suffer damages from natural disasters, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2020.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 141-0 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Legalizing adultery

On Nov. 22, the governor signed legislation to repeal a statute that criminalized adultery.

Passed by Senate, 57-4 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 137-10 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Election boxes

Hochul on Nov. 22 enacted a law allowing boards of elections to use secure drop boxes to collect mail-in ballots.

Passed by Senate, 41-21 | Rolison ☐

Passed by Assembly, 89-52 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Debt collection

On Dec. 24, Hochul signed a bill that prohibits debt collectors from contacting people through social media.

Passed by Senate, 58-1 | Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 99-47 | Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

For more votes, see highlandscurrent.org.

Aymar-Blair *(from Page 1)*

but is there anything that feels pressing to address?

I don't have a political agenda, but I do have an agenda in that I kept a list all year of the things that voters wanted me to look into, or that people thought the comptroller should be interested in — issues facing them. That's the list that we are working through. Some of the issues that are all over the news are eventually going to beg our attention. One would be the homeless shelter [in Poughkeepsie], looking at the history of the acquisition of Oakley Street [Housing Support Center] and what is being done to lower the cost. I don't think it was handled well, and it came at a cost to the county. I also spoke to a lot of veterans this year who were concerned about the services they were getting, and not just from the county. There's a long list. The question is: What's appropriate for the comptroller to look into, and how do we prioritize?

When I first met you in 2017, you were organizing the People's Committee on Development. How has Beacon changed since then?

It feels like we're still on the same trajectory. The City Council has had a lot of conversations about development, afford-

able housing and zoning. The last vote I made [on Dec. 16] was related to 248 Tioronda Ave., and it felt fitting because that issue highlights some of the things we were working on with the committee. To a certain extent, the city is still playing catch-up with developers. We're not asking for enough public benefits. We still have a long ways to go.

Are you satisfied with the five years you served on the council?

I am. I wish I could have done more on development because that was the issue that got me involved in politics. But I'm one of seven people on the council. I was there for five years, and if the only thing that we got done was the firehouse and capital projects, I would be proud. The firehouse is something we're going to be proud of for generations to come, and we got it done so quickly and efficiently. It's such a state-of-the-art facility. I'm also proud of the electrification law that we passed [in March 2023]. I wish I could have done more on development, but you can't do it all.

Were there other highlights?

I did a lot of work for improvements at Green Street Park, trying to lay the groundwork for creating a new park by Fishkill Creek and getting a stop sign at the inter-



The City Council recognized Aymar-Blair at his last meeting on Dec. 16. From left: Paloma Wake, Pam Wetherbee, Molly Rhodes, Mayor Lee Kyriacou, Aymar-Blair, his son Henry (in blue), Jeff Domanski, Aymar-Blair's wife Monika, Amber Grant and his son Leo (in red). Photo provided

section of Washington Avenue and East Main Street. That's not headline material, but those are the things that people say "thank you" for. That's the most rewarding part of the job.

What was still on your to-do list?

I didn't finish helping the council put

together a law to protect Fishkill Creek from overdevelopment. I hope that work continues. We talked about affordable housing for a long time, and I don't feel like we made a whole lot of progress, or any progress. I'm a self-critical person, so on the way out, I'm thinking about everything I didn't get done. That's just my character.

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club
THURS 2, 7 P.M.

The Red Badge of Courage,
by Stephen Crane
Lincoln Depot Museum, 10
S. Water St., Peekskill
Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Lit Book Club
TUES 7, 7 P.M.

The City and Its Uncertain Walls,
by Haruki Murakami
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Graphic Novel Book Club (Adults)
MON 13, 3:30 P.M.

The Avant-Guards (Vol.1), by Carly Usdin
Monica, by Daniel Clowes
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Fantasy Book Club
TUES 14, 7 P.M.

Emily Wilde's Map of the Otherlands,
by Heather Fawcett
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

History Book Club
TUES 14, 7 P.M.

Debt: The First 5,000 Years,
by David Graeber
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.



Queer Book Club
TUES 14, 7 P.M.

My Government Means to Kill Me,
by Rasheed Newson
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Mystery Book Club
WED 15, 7 P.M.

I Know She Was There, by Jennifer Sadera
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Page-to-Screen Book Club
THURS 16, 3 P.M.

If Beale Street Could Talk,
by James Baldwin
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Mystery Book Club
THURS 16, 7 P.M.

You'd Look Better as a Ghost,
by Joanna Wallace
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Sci-Fi Book Club
TUES 21, 7 P.M.

Seveneves, by Neal Stephenson
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Wednesday Book Club
WED 22, 2 P.M.

Salt House, by Hala Alyan
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Beacon Book Club
THURS 23, 7 P.M.

Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End

of the World, by Haruki Murakami
Wood Fired AMA Kitchen, Fishkill
Register at meetup.com/beacon-bookclub.

High School Book Club
MON 27, 2:30 P.M.

Caraval, by Stephanie Garber
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Butterfield Book Club
MON 27, 7 P.M.

Drive your plow over the bones of the dead, by Olga Tokarczuk
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Horror Book Club
WED 28, 7 P.M.

Our Share of Night, by Mariana Enriquez
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Family Book Club (Ages 4-12)
TUES 28, 6:30 P.M.

Yours Sincerely, Giraffe, by Megumi Iwasa
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Gather and Grow
THURS 29, 5 P.M.

The Serviceberry, by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

AROUND TOWN



PLASTIC CHALLENGE – After sixth-grader Susannah Biniaris led a campaign at the Garrison School to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic bags, bubble wrap and other soft plastics for the NexTrex Recycling Challenge, the Trex company donated a bench made of recycled plastic composite for students waiting for the bus. For its plaque, Susannah chose a quote from Helen Keller: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”



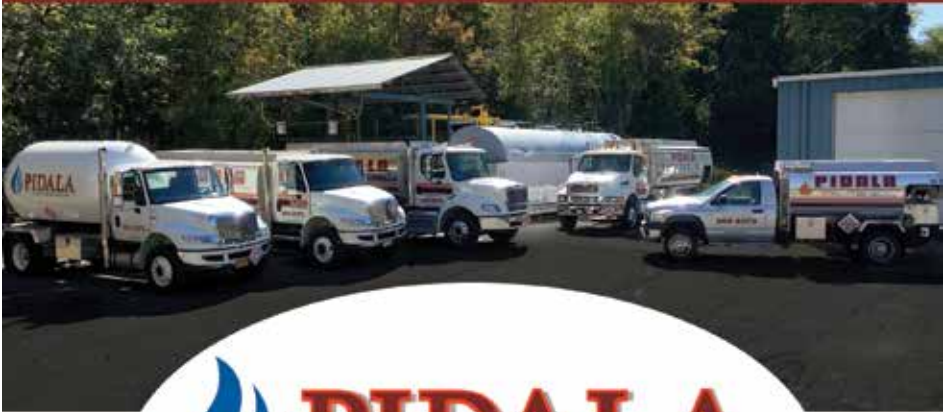
ELF RETURNS – The Nelsonville Elf each year leaves nutcrackers for winning light displays in the village. Here is the “most magical overall”; see others at highlandscurrent.org.




TOP MUSICIANS – Two Haldane High School students earlier this month participated in the winter conference of the New York State School Music Association in Rochester. Oliver Petkus (right), a senior who had a perfect score at the NYSSMA spring solo festival, was selected for the All-State Mixed Chorus and Vocal Jazz Ensemble that performed at the Eastman School of Music. For the second straight year, sophomore Delia Starr (left) won the Young Composer Award, this time for her piece, “Radclyffe Manor.”

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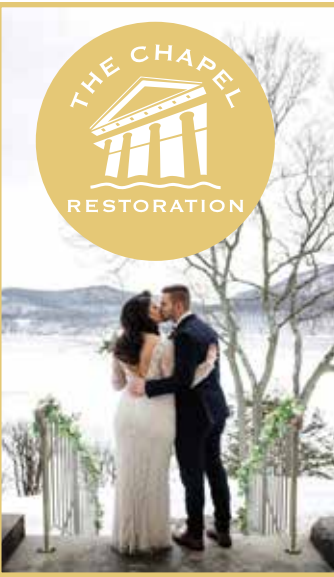
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The Calendar



"Nantes Spirals"



"Score No. 4b Has your skin been caressed today?"



"Score No. 1a Your favorite tree asks you to dance."

AN ARTIST in MOTION

Beacon designer has show at Mount Saint Mary

By Marc Ferris

Angela Lian can barely sit still. She doesn't stand still, either. It only seems like she's fidgety because, at age 12, competitive gymnastics caused a stress fracture in her back that reverberates through her art.

An essay accompanying Lian's first solo show, *Moving Making Moving: Embodied*

Ecologies, suggests that some of her work imbues themes like "memory loss, chronic pain and loneliness with tenderness and play." In person, the Beacon artist is cheery and upbeat. Except for the constant motion, there's no indication that she suffered a debilitating injury.

The exhibit at CMA Gallery at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh occurred by happenstance. The gallery director, Christopher Neyen, read an article on a design website and contacted her.

"She's a commercial graphic designer who creates in many media and lives nearby, so I thought it would be good for the students to interact with her work," he says.

Lian, 25, spoke to the students about her artistic journey. She is a graphic designer for Baggu, a firm that makes handbags and accessories.

The rest of her energy and movement is spent dancing, knitting, crocheting, drawing, creating digital collages, striking yoga poses and exploring the great outdoors.

Just inside her front door is a 'zine rack.

The gallery show boiled her elaborate Bachelor of Fine Arts thesis, a nearly 500-page, two-volume series, down to a teaspoon.

The backgrounds of eight digital design works are lush with what resembles moss, rocks and green foliage. Seven of them feature an image of the artist, sometimes in multiples. In one work, she's surfing on a tabby. In another, she adopts a dance-like pose with arms akimbo as two leaves replace her hands.

Movement is captured in a short video that explores her cultural identity as an American with a father born in China and a mother from Taiwan (the couple met in the U.S.).

Another project addresses the May Fourth Movement in China, a post-World War I upheaval that embraced modernization while trying to preserve ancient cultural values.

Lian is a fan of "scores," or slogans designed to whack the creative process. At

the gallery, she hand-painted "Scores for Dreaming" in black on two white walls. Its questions include: "When was the last time you danced?" and "How can you support Mother Nature? How can Mother Nature support you?"

Other statements offer a directive: "Sit in front of someone. Without interruption, start with 'I want' and share for three minutes. Switch roles and repeat."

Lian has a strategy for time management. "Instead of focusing intently on one thing and getting it done, I engage in more limited but intense creativity episodes with multiple projects," she explains. "That way I can take time away from something to gain perspective. I call it slow-motion multitasking."

The CMA Gallery, located on the campus of Mount Saint Mary College, 330 Powell Ave., in Newburgh, is open on weekdays. See msmc.edu/cma-gallery or email cma-gallery@msmc.edu. Moving Making Moving continues through Jan. 10.

25 Years of Year-End Gigs

It's another New Year's Eve on stage for Judith Tulloch

By Marc Ferris

As a college student, Judith Tulloch enrolled in a nursing program. One day, her professor asked her to stay after class. "She told me, 'I heard you singing and playing guitar in the courtyard, and there are other ways to help people beyond medical care.'"

She changed her major to music and became a teacher and performer. "She was telling me that I wasn't cut out to be a nurse," says Tulloch. "Imagine how different my life would have been."



Judith Tulloch and Stephen Franchino

Photo provided

For 25 years, Tulloch has performed on New Year's Eve with her husband, Stephen Franchino; this year, they'll be at the Towne Crier in Beacon for a dinner show at 7 p.m. "Some people don't want to stay out late so you can come out, get dinner and a show and head home, or get into the spirit and head to another party," she says.

Raised in Brooklyn, Tulloch moved to

Middletown with a friend, settled into teaching and gigged relentlessly. "Walking to the general store was the only exciting thing, but the situation inspired me to write songs on a Wurlitzer keyboard," she says. She visited Beacon, which felt like New York City, and she and Franchino moved in 2011.

Tulloch is a fixture at benefits for Clearwater, the Beacon Sloop Club and other nonprofits. For the club, she wrote "The River Song." The couple performs as the Storm King Duo and were married at the Towne Crier's previous location in Pawling.

Her music is an amalgam of pop tunes sprinkled with jazz and Latin/Brazilian pixie dust. She often uses percussionists rather than a drum set and sings samba and bossa nova in Portuguese. She also vocalizes in Spanish and, although still suffering from stage fright, belts out tunes with a husky, midrange voice.

The distinguishing feature of the band's

sound is Franchino's serpentine flute, which floats over the chords and adds a jazzy accent. Playing live, the band is on top of timed parts within tunes that require abrupt stops, starts and dynamics. Many endings feature elaborate lead-ins and latex-tight finales.

An animal lover, Tulloch has performed at zoos and the New York Aquarium on Coney Island. She wrote "Lemur Song" for the Bronx Zoo's grand opening of its Madagascar exhibit and "Snow Monkey Song" for the Central Park Zoo.

She soldiers on at breweries, restaurants and festivals. "The music business has its ups and downs," she says, "but I'm out there because music lifts our spirits, and we need that now."

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. The Tuesday (Dec. 31) show is free with dinner or drinks. Reservations are suggested; call 845-855-1300.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

HANUKKAH

SAT 28

Community Menorah Lighting

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Memorial Park
Robert Cahill Drive | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Hosted by the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. Daily through WED 1.

SUN 29

Menorah Lighting

BEACON

4 p.m. Polhill Park
South Avenue at Main Street
dub.sh/chabad-lighting

Hosted by Chabad of Beacon. Registration requested.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 28

Christmas Bird Count

PHILIPSTOWN

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Email birds@putnamhighlandsaudubon.org to participate.

FIRST DAY HIKES

WED 1

Little Stony Point

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. 3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Chose a 1-mile or 3-mile naturalist-led route at this annual community event, which includes hot cocoa and live music.

WED 1

Stony Kill Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 79 Farmstead Lane
stonykill.org

Meet at the Woodland Trailhead. Bring water and dress for the weather.

WED 1

Walkway Over the Hudson

POUGHKEEPSIE

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Parker Avenue
walkway.org

Choose a short hike to the flagpole or a 3-mile loop over the river.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 28

Play Sets

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Children ages 5 and older can make art and explore the works of Louise Bourgeois. Sol Lewitt will be

the focus on SUN 29. Registration required. *Free*

TUES 31

Glowing Rock Storytime

COLD SPRING

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

Children ages 4 and older are invited to learn about fluorescence and its mysteries.

THURS 2

Toddler Storytime

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Children ages 1 to 3 accompanied by an adult are invited to join Aurora for 30 minutes of stories, rhymes and play. Also Jan. 16, Jan. 30.

SAT 4

Thank You Cards

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Children ages 4 and older can show their appreciation for holiday gifts with handmade cards.

ARTS & CRAFTS

SAT 4

Shibori Silk Scarf

GARRISON

10 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Learn to fold, bind and dye a silk scarf using Japanese Shibori techniques. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 4

Shibori Silk Throw Pillow Cover

GARRISON

1 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Learn to fold, bind and dye a silk throw pillow cover using Japanese Shibori techniques. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 4

Snow-Dyed Tea Towels

GARRISON

1 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Learn how to ice dye and fold a geometric kaleidoscope or mandala-patterned tea towels. *Cost: \$65*



Shibori Silk Scarf, Jan. 4

VISUAL ART

SUN 29

Free Admission

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

Admission to the museum, usually \$20 for adults, is free for Putnam and Dutchess residents on the last Sunday of each month. It is always free for Beacon and Newburgh residents. Request tickets at dub.sh/free-dia.

SAT 4

Photos of Myanmar

OSSINING

2 – 4 p.m. Ossining Library
53 Croton Ave.

In this exhibit, Ron Hershey of Cold Spring documents his travels in 2016 to the country formerly known as Burma during a brief period when it opened to Western visitors. RSVP to ronhersh57@gmail.com. Through Jan. 29.

TALKS & TOURS

THURS 2

Creative Calm Hour

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Use materials provided in the creative calm station to unwind.



The Chanticleer, Jan. 5



Photos of Myanmar, Jan. 4

SAT 4

New Year's Intentional GARRISON

10 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Work on "intention setting" for the new year as part of the art center's Cozy Crafting workshops. Bring a notebook and any personal painting or art supplies. *Cost: \$65*

SUN 5

A Stop at Chanticleer

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The Philipstown Garden Club will host this presentation about the Pennsylvania estate.

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 3

Friday Night Live: 2025 Hilarity

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Move
34 Chestnut St.
dub.sh/2015-hilarity

The fundraiser for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, rescheduled from December, will include comedians Amy Foster,

Gina Ginsberg, Pete Smith, Patrick Keane and Alex Kollar. *Cost: \$35*

FRI 3

Lit Lit

BEACON

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

Sign up to read work in any genre at this literary open mic hosted by Donna Minkowitz.

SAT 4

ACW Rumble

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
845-454-5800

midhudsonciviccenter.org

At this all-ages show, Awesome Championship Wrestling will present a 20-man, over-the-top-rope rumble to crown its inaugural champion. *Cost: \$40 to \$77*

MUSIC

SAT 28

Adam Falcon

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

Falcon will perform on the Salon Stage for diners and bar patrons. *Free*

SAT 28

The Big Takeover
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Nee Nee Rushie fronts this seven-piece band, which performs Jamaican pop. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 29
Chihoe Hahn & Los Chinese
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Tex-Mex-Americana group includes Andy Stack, Patrick Stanfield Jones and Craig Sheppard. There is a \$15 food and drink minimum. *Free*

TUES 31
Judith Tulloch Band
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will perform pop, jazz and world music on the Salon Stage for diners and bar patrons. See Page 11. *Free*

TUES 31
Mania
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Celebrate the new year with an ABBA tribute band. *Cost: \$59 to \$79*



Adam Falcon, Dec. 28

TUES 31
Chris O’Leary Band & Robert Hill Band
BEACON
9:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Ring in the new year with dinner, champagne and live music. *Cost: \$60 to \$150*

THURS 2
Open Mic Night
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Salon Stage is the site each week for performers to show their talents. Sign up online from noon to 3 p.m. by emailing openmic@townecrier.com, or in person from 4 to 6 p.m. *Free*



Mania, Dec. 31

FRI 3
Jacob Bernz
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Bernz, who helps his father run Jake’s Main Street Music in Beacon, will perform for diners and bar patrons. *Free*

FRI 3
Buffalo Stack
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Hudson Valley band features Andy Stack. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 4
Rob Cannillo
BEACON
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Cannillo and his wife, Susan, will perform a mix of original songs and covers for diners and bar patrons. *Free*

SAT 4
Funky Dance Night
BEACON
7 – 10:30 p.m. Elks Club
900 Wolcott Ave.
facebook.com/BeaconDanceBeat
Dance to a vibrant mix of R&B, Latin, soul, funk, reggae, rock, disco and hip-hop played by DJ Rhoda. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 4
SoulShine
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band celebrates the music of the Allman Brothers. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC
THURS 2
Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St. | 845-265-5200
philipstown.com



Riverview
RESTAURANT



New Year's Eve
Reservations 4 pm - 9:30 pm

New Year's Day
Reservations 5 pm - 9 pm



845-265-4778 Riverdining.com
45 FAIR STREET COLD SPRING



BEACON'S GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING

SUNDAY, DEC 29 | 4:00 PM
AT POLHILL PARK

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
UNITE TOGETHER AS A BEACON OF LIGHT!

FIRE SHOW!



CHOCOLATE GELT | DONUTS | LATKES | CRAFTS

RSVP CHABADBEACON.COM/MENORAH
845-288-0170



ANIMALS

Animal Rescue Foundation
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
arfbeacon.org

Dutchess County SPCA
636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538
dcspca.org

Friends of Beacon Dog Park
beacondogpark.org

Guiding Eyes for the Blind
611 Granite Springs Road,
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
guidingeyes.org

Mid Hudson Animal Aid
54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
midhudsonanimalaid.org



Putnam County SPCA
P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509
spcaputnam.org

Putnam Humane Society
P.O. Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512
puthumane.org

Putnam Service Dogs
P.O. Box 573, Brewster, NY 10509
putnamservicedogs.org

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Beacon Arts
P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconarts.org

BonfireWorks Foundation
8 Hillside Road, Beacon, NY 12508
bonfireworksfoundation.org

Chapel Restoration
P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516
chapelrestoration.org

Cold Spring Film Society
192 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfilm.org

Collaborative Concepts
collaborativeconcepts.org

Dia Art Foundation
535 W. 22nd St., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10011
diaart.org

Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org

Howland Chamber Music Circle
P.O. Box 224, Chelsea, NY 12512
howlandmusic.org

LAST-MINUTE
GIVING GUIDE

While charitable donations help critically important community resources operate year-round, there are only a few days left to contribute to your favorite nonprofits.

By one estimate, 30 percent of donations in the U.S. are made in December and 10 percent in the last 48 hours of the year. The deadline for 2024 is 5 p.m. on Tuesday (Dec. 31) if you are dropping a check at the Beacon or Garrison post office (or 12:30 p.m. in Cold Spring) or midnight if you use a credit card or online payment.

Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley MOCA
P.O. Box 209, Peekskill, NY 10566
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
P.O. Box 125, Garrison, NY 10524
hvshakespeare.org

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
magazzino.art

Manitoga / Russel Wright Design Center
P.O. Box 249, Garrison, NY 10524
visitmanitoga.org

Philipstown Depot Theatre
P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524
philipstowndepottheatre.org

CHILDREN & TEENS

Beacon Performing Arts Center
327B Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Beacon Soccer Club
P.O. Box 802, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsoccerclub.org

**Boy Scouts of America,
Greater Hudson Valley Council**
18 Westage Dr., Space 19, Fishkill, NY 12524
ghvscouting.org

Denniston International
256 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
dennistoninternational.org

Friends of Philipstown Recreation
P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson
30 Scott's Corners Dr., Montgomery, NY 12549
girlscoutshh.org

Hope for Youth Foundation
P.O. Box 8, Buchanan, NY 10511 | hfyf.org

Land to Learn
P.O. Box 223, Beacon, NY 12508
landtolearn.org

Philipstown Little League
P.O. Box 347, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownlittleleague.com

Putnam County Children's Committee
P.O. Box 187, Carmel, NY 10512
pccchildren.org

Sports Bra Project
369 Main St., No. 1082, Beacon, NY 12508
thesportsbraproject.org

Surprise Lake Camp
382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516
surpriselake.org

COMMUNITY

Be A Friend Project
P.O. Box 30, Beacon, NY 12508
beafriendproject.org

Beacon Community Lions Club
P.O. Box 83, Beacon, NY 12508

Beacon Unicorn Fund
beaconunicorn.fund

Cold Spring Farmers' Market
P.O. Box 325, Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfarmersmarket.org

Cold Spring Lions Club
P.O. Box 308, Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringlions.org

**Community Action Partnership for
Dutchess County**
77 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
dutchesscap.org

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
25 Van Wagner Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
communityfoundationshv.org

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Dutchess County**
2715 Route 44, Suite 1, Millbrook, NY 12545
ccedutchess.org

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Putnam County**
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509
cceputnamcounty.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh
125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY 12550
habitatnewburgh.org

Highlands Current Inc.
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
highlandscurrent.org

I Am Beacon
P.O. Box 265, Beacon, NY 12508
iambeacon.org

River Pool at Beacon
P.O. Box 173, Beacon, NY 12508 | riverpool.org

Spirit of Beacon
P.O. Box 821, Beacon, NY 12508
spiritofbeacon.org

United Way Dutchess-Orange Region
75 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
uwdor.org

United Way Westchester and Putnam
336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606
uwwp.org

EDUCATION

Beacon High School PTSO
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508
bhspsto.square.site

Foundation for Beacon Schools
P.O. Box 456, Beacon, NY 12508
foundationforbeaconschools.org



The Sports Bra Project



- Garrison Children's Education Fund**
P.O. Box 262, Garrison, NY 10524
gcef.net
- Garrison Institute**
P.O. Box 532, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisoninstitute.org
- Garrison School PTA**
1100 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
gufspta.org
- Glenham Elementary PTO**
20 Chase Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524
- Haldane Arts Alliance**
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanearts.org
- Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club**
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
bit.ly/blue-devil-booster
- Haldane PTA**
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanepta.org
- Haldane School Foundation**
P.O. Box 364, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldaneschoolfoundation.org
- JV Forrestal Elementary PTSO**
125 Liberty St., Beacon, NY 12508
jvftpto.com
- Rombout Middle School PTO**
84 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508
romboutpto.org
- Sargent Elementary PTO**
29 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508
sargentpto.org
- South Avenue Elementary PTA**
60 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
southavenuepta.com
- Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps**
P.O. Box 54, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconvac.org
- Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1**
154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfireco.org
- Continental Village Fire Department**
12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, NY 10524

- Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps**
P.O. Box 121, Garrison, NY 10524
- Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.**
P.O. Box 252, Garrison, NY 10524
- North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1**
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516
- Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps**
14 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownvac.com
- Bannerman Castle Trust**
P.O. Box 843, Glenham, NY 12527
bannermancastle.org
- Beacon Historical Society**
P.O. Box 89, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconhistorical.org
- Boscobel Restoration**
1601 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
boscobel.org
- Constitution Island Association**
P.O. Box 126, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionisland.org
- Dutchess County Historical Society**
6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
dchsny.org
- Garrison's Landing Association**
P.O. Box 205, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonslanding.org
- Madam Brett Homestead**
50 Van Nydeck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
- Mount Gulian Society**
145 Sterling St., Beacon, NY 12508
mountgulian.org
- Putnam History Museum**
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhistorymuseum.org
- Beacon Community Kitchen**
c/o Multi-Services Inc.
P.O. Box 1285, Beacon, NY 12508
Check: Multi-Services. Memo: BCK
- Common Ground Farm**
P.O. Box 148, Beacon, NY 12508
commongroundfarm.org

- Fareground Community Kitchen**
P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508
fareground.org
- Glynwood Center for Regional Food & Farming**
P.O. Box 157, Cold Spring, NY 10516
glynwood.org
- Philipstown Food Pantry**
10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html
- Second Chance Foods**
120 Marvin Ave., Brewster, NY 10509
secondchancefoods.org
- St. Andrew & St. Luke Food Pantry**
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

LIBRARIES

- Butterfield Public Library**
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516
butterfieldlibrary.org
- Desmond-Fish Public Library**
472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524
desmondfishlibrary.org
- Howland Public Library**
313 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconlibrary.org

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Beacon Sloop Club**
P.O. Box 527, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsloop.org
- Constitution Marsh Audubon Center**
P.O. Box 174, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitution.audubon.org



- Ecological Citizen's Project**
69 South Mountain Pass, Garrison, NY 10524
ecologicalcitizens.org
- Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks**
friendsoffhh.org
- Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail**
c/o Scenic Hudson
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
hhft.org
- Hudson Highlands Land Trust**
P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524
hhlt.org
- Hudson River Sloop Clearwater**
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
clearwater.org
- Little Stony Point Citizens Association**
P.O. Box 319, Cold Spring, NY 10516
littlestonypoint.org

- Natural Heritage Trust**
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
naturalheritagetrust.org
- Open Space Institute**
1370 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10018
openspaceinstitute.org
- Protect the Highlands**
P.O. Box 216, Cold Spring, NY 10516
protectthehighlands.org
- Putnam Highlands Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

- Riverkeeper**
20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562
riverkeeper.org

- Scenic Hudson**
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
scenichudson.org

- Stonecrop Gardens**
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
stonecrop.org

- Sustainable Putnam**
P.O. Box 412, Mahopac Falls, NY 10542
sustainableputnam.org

REHABILITATION SERVICES

- CoveCare Center**
1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
covecarecenter.org
- Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation**
80 Washington, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
hvhospice.org

- Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub**
P.O. Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownhub.org

- Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center**
935 S. Lake Blvd., Suite 2, Mahopac, NY 10541
pnwwrc.org

- Support Connection**
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
supportconnection.org

- Topfield Equestrian Center**
115 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
topfieldcenter.org

VETERANS

- American Legion Post 203**
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
- American Legion Post 275**
10 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
- Guardian Revival**
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
guardianrevival.org
- Marine Corps League**
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666**
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2362**
10 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Small, Good Things

This Spud's for You

By Joe Dizney

You Don't Have to Be Jewish to Love Levy's went the famous 1960s advertising campaign for Levy's Jewish Rye, a Brooklyn brand. It's not a stretch to say that the sentiment



applies to many examples of Jewish cooking — none more so than potato pancakes, or *latkes*, the Yiddish (actually, eastern Slavic) word for small fried pancakes that are the mainstay of Hanukkah dinners.

There is little agreement about what constitutes a traditional latke; the formula has taken on regional preferences over the centuries — onion or no onion, flour or no flour, oil or schmaltz (rendered poultry fat). Nor are potato pancakes exclusive to Yiddish cuisine. For instance, Ireland has over 90 terms relating to potatoes and quite a few pancake recipes. German *reibekuchen* and French *paillasson* are other variations. Latkes — at least the one I'm familiar with

— are a central element of the menu to celebrate the liberation of Jerusalem from the Greek Macedonian empire. Grated potato shreds bound lightly by eggs and seasoned simply with salt and pepper, with grace notes added by familial traditions (e.g., onions, matzo), are fried quick and hot. The result is a crisp, filling medium for accompaniments such as applesauce, sour cream, lox or caviar. It's a textbook example of comfort food.

The goyish rendition is close to my friend Rob's preferred recipe, which he admits is from *The New York Times*. I've altered it a bit, following John and Matt Lewis Thorne's suggestion to soak and drain the grated potatoes, reserving and using the condensed

potato starch as an additional binder. As I couldn't immediately locate matzo meal, I substituted panko crumbs for extra crispness and added baking powder to lighten the batter.

I'm partial to a 4- to 6-inch pancake, but a blini-sized latke could be a great delivery system for New Year's Eve caviar. Fried and drained latkes can be frozen and reheated straight from the freezer on a parchment-lined sheet pan in a hot (400-degree) oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Let us all celebrate this humble and crispy slab of tradition, family and comfort, 'cos you don't have to be Jewish to love latkes.

Goyish Latkes

Makes 12 to 16 pancakes

2 large russet or Idaho potatoes (about 1 pound total), scrubbed, peeled and cut into quarters

1 medium large onion (about 8 ounces), peeled and cut into quarters

2 large eggs, beaten

½ cup matzo meal or panko

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Canola or grapeseed oil for frying

Optional garnishes: applesauce, sour cream or crème fraîche, lox/gravlax, smoked salmon or salmon roe (or even caviar), chopped fresh dill or capers

1. Heat the oven to 250 degrees and prepare a sheet pan lined with paper towels. Grate the potatoes using a food processor with a coarse disc, or by hand. Transfer the grated potatoes to a bowl and cover with cold water for 20 minutes.

2. Line a basket strainer with a clean dish towel set over another large bowl. Drain the potato-water mixture into the strainer, reserving the water. Twist and squeeze the grated and soaked potatoes in the dish towel, wringing as much water as possible



into the drained water bowl. Pour off the potato water from the draining bowl, reserving only the heavy sludge of potato starch at the bottom, and keep it.

3. Dry the original bowl and add the drained grated potatoes. Add the grated onions, eggs, matzo or panko, baking powder, potato starch "sludge" and salt and pepper.

3. Heat ¼ cup oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, drop a heaping ¼ cup of the batter into the hot pan, lightly flattening it once with a spatula. Work in batches of four to six pancakes, frying them until the edges are brown and crisped (about 5 minutes). Flip the pancakes and cook until the other side is browned (another 5 minutes).

4. Transfer the latkes to the sheet pan and sprinkle with a bit more salt and pepper, keeping them warm in the oven while you cook the rest. Serve warm with the garnishes of your choice. Cooled latkes will freeze well and can be reheated effectively in a hot oven (but not microwave).



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BREAKING BEACON



Eight times each year, the members of Kelly Hamburger and Jacob Arbor’s newspaper club at Beacon High School publish *Breaking Beacon*, the first student-run publication at the school in more than 30 years. Here, we share excerpts from the November and December issues.

Editors-in-chief: Annabelle Notarthomas, Kayla Selander. **Writers:** Maddy Abrahamson, Nadeen Ahmed, Kiera D’Ippolito, Marisah George, Everly Jordan, Ela Lyons, Mikaela Sanchez, Liliana Rybak, Eliza Verdichizzi, Addison Zittel. **Photographer:** Aron Li

The Impact of No Phones in Class

By Marisah George

We’re all familiar with the new cellphone policy. It’s no surprise to be asked to place our phones in our class pouches; in fact, it’s become a habit by now. But how did this policy come about? Whose decision was it? And what do students in our school think about it, whether it be the freshmen experiencing this in their first year or the juniors adjusting to the new change?

Over the summer, there was discussion by Gov. Kathy Hochul about placing a ban on phones in school. She held multiple meetings with superintendents around the state, discussing the policy, saying: “We can help our young people succeed in the classroom by ensuring they’re learning and growing, not click-

(Continued on Page 18)



Trading Countries

By Annabelle Notarthomas

Have you ever wondered what daily life is like in a different country? For the third consecutive year, students at Beacon High School had the chance to experience this firsthand through an exchange program with the Max Born Gymnasium secondary school in Germering, Germany.

In October, BHS sophomores hosted their German counterparts for two weeks, giving them a glimpse into U.S. culture. The visiting students experienced things that many Americans take for granted, such as riding school buses, celebrating Halloween (American style), and witnessing breathtaking skyscrapers.

In June, the Beacon hosts will become the

guests in Germering for two weeks. They will experience the German school systems and culture and take visits to Neuschwanstein Castle (the inspiration for Disney’s Sleeping Beauty Castle) and Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp, which now is a museum dedicated to history and education.

Max Born Gymnasium School connected with our community through DocuWare, a software company that originated in Germering and opened its first North American office in Beacon in 2023.

While families cover the cost of travel, participants have opportunities to fundraise and apply for financial assistance to help offset expenses. Although the program primarily involves sophomores, exceptions have been made for students in other grade levels.

Cracked Up

By Nadeen Ahmed

Beacon High School’s tennis courts suffer from major cracks that run from one end to the other. This can affect tennis players for various reasons: It can change the path of the ball if it lands on a crack, courts can become unusable due to weeds growing from them, and it could pose a danger to people playing on the courts.

Students from the girls’ tennis team were asked about their views on the cracks. Freshman Claire Cumming stated: “They’re irritating because plants grow out of them, and you can trip and fall.” Some described how it can affect their play. Freshman Maysie Doyle said: “Occasionally, balls will land in the cracks and go in a crazy direction.” Junior Isabella Galbo noted she has lost points because of this.

Cumming stated that she’d almost sprained her ankle multiple times while doing laps

(Continued on Page 18)



(Continued on Page 17)

The Beacon Players Do It Again

By Kiera D’Ippolito

The Beacon Players put on yet another fantastic show on Nov. 8–10 with *Man of La Mancha*. The story follows Don Miguel de Cervantes (junior Jonah Espinosa) and his servant (senior Evelynn Moreno), who are imprisoned by the Spanish Inquisition. Fellow prisoners The Governor (senior Messiah Gardner) and The Duke (sophomore Atlas Baltz) hold mock trials for Cervantes to determine who will get the contents of his trunk.

Cervantes pleads guilty to the charges but, as his defense, he tells his story to the prisoners through a dramatic performance, using props and costumes from his trunk. He recounts the tale of Alonso Quijano, a wealthy man who goes mad after reading too many books about knights and transforms into the Knight-Errant, Don Quixote. Cervantes plays the role of Quixote, with his servant taking on the role of Quixote’s squire, Sancho, as other prisoners assume various parts of the story.

Everything about this production was ex-

(Continued on Page 18)

Renovated and Ready to Run

By Annabelle Notarthomas

The Beacon City School District’s track and Hammond Field underwent a much-needed renovation over the summer of 2024. In addition to resurfacing the track, the jumps and field event structures were updated. The track closed on May 20 with hopes of reopening before cross-country practice began on Aug. 26, but it officially opened on Sept. 20. The track is open to the public.



No Phones *(from Page 17)*

ing and scrolling.” She continued to mull over the idea of an official law banning phones but has since left the specifics to schools.

On Aug. 20, a superintendent update was sent, which put the phone policy in place. Dr. Landahl shared in the update: “Personal electronic devices will be restricted from individual classrooms at Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School.” As we all know, this has been implemented via pouches.

This huge change brought reactions from the students. Piper Bruno, a junior, was initially annoyed by the policy, but since then, her opinion has changed. She shared that it’s helped her improve her grades given the minimization of distractions. She acknowledges that the policy has increased socializing among students. While one may think reactions would differ between classes, there wasn’t a significant difference. Hayden Wilson, a freshman, also had a negative initial reaction, saying she was upset. However, over the past month, her feelings have changed, stating that she’s “glad to have it” and has been doing “better work.”

In a survey of 44 students, the consensus of thoughts at the beginning of the school year was negative: 60.5 percent said they didn’t like it and deemed it unnecessary. However, as of Oct. 4, that number has decreased to 53.5 percent, with indifference coming in at 37.2 percent. Some students, while disagreeing with the policy, said it helped with screen time and attentiveness.

Students have also proposed alternative ideas, such as allowing students to have their phones in their backpacks but being stricter if they use them, like docking points or having them taken away. What were your initial thoughts on the policy? What are your thoughts on the policy now?

Beacon Players *(from Page 17)*

traordinary — from the acting, singing and orchestra to the set design. Praise is due to all the hardworking people who brought this show to life, including the cast, crew, orchestra members and advisors who made it all possible. Bravo!

BREAKING BEACON



Club Highlight:
Coolin’ Out

Coolin’ Out is an afterschool club where students can be with friends, play games, do homework, make TikTok videos, draw, dance, talk, or just hang out. We meet every Wednesday in the cafeteria at 2:15 p.m. with Ms. Driscoll.

Did You Know?

By Nadeen Ahmed

- Ms. Fisher was born in Milwaukee but moved to Peekskill in third grade. The Peekskill kids laughed when she asked to use the “bubbler.” In the Midwest, a bubbler is a water fountain.
- Mr. Haughie worked at Walt Disney World before becoming a teacher (not as a character!).
- Ms. Veltri went to SUNY Purchase to study physical therapy but switched to accounting at WCC in her sophomore year. She later changed to teaching at New Paltz (undergrad) and UAlbany (grad).
- Mrs. Laurelli worked for AMC Networks before becoming a teacher.
- Mrs. Ryan-Ferry has performed in arenas like Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, Barclays Center and Gillette Stadium (hooray for pep bands!).
- Ms. Alvarez (ELA teacher) was on a dance team in college for four years.
- Ms. Driscoll has hiked all the Catskill peaks with her husband, which earned her the 3500 Club official patch last autumn.
- Mrs. Hoben was a ballet dancer in New York City and still dances, acts and sings in community theater musicals and professionally with a murder-mystery theater company.

Boo Bash Concert

By Eliza Verdichizzi

The Boo Bash was certainly a spectacular experience, held on Sept. 29 in the cafeteria. Many students participated, with at least 13 performances.

Jacob Signorelli served as the MC and introduced each performer. He kicked off the night by introducing senior Messiah Gardener, who sang “Fly Me to the Moon.” Evelyn Moreno sang while playing her acoustic guitar. Atlas Baltz performed on ukulele. Charlie Klein and Molly Lyons sang a duet of “Misty,” with Charlie playing the piano. Charlie also performed a solo. Briana Perez-Sample delivered an inspiring original poem, “Am I Good Enough?” Skylar Clair played the piano, as did Alex Browning (*Liebestraum No. 3*, by Liszt). Ayden Hooten sang and played guitar (“I Am Falling for You”).

Dakota Barden sang “Dream a Little



Dream of Me.” Eliza Verdichizzi performed “Wildflower,” by Billie Eilish, on guitar. Everyone’s favorite janitor, Figs, performed poetry and percussion. Desirae Smith sang along with karaoke. And, finally, the band Trip Sitter performed songs by Joy Division and Foo Fighters (“I’ll Stick Around”).

Cracked *(from Page 17)*

around the courts.” She feels that they are “unsafe and also just ugly.”

Beacon High School’s tennis teams are proud of their eight courts, which is more than any school they play. However, it’s difficult to showcase them if they can’t all be

used. While weeds have been less of an issue this year, problems can still escalate, making some courts unusable.

Perhaps the tennis courts should be considered this year while the Board of Education makes decisions about the budget. Or maybe, because the courts are open to the public, this should be taken up with the city.

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CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
18							19	20				
			21				22			23	24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49						
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

ACROSS

1. Airport screening org.
4. Out of control
8. Appear ominously
12. Pioneering ISP
13. Kid's plea
14. *The Music Man* setting
15. Oafs
17. Daniel Craig role
18. *Homeland* star Danes
19. Devious
21. ER workers
22. Persuades
26. Track races
29. Wee dollop
30. Goat's plaint
31. Symphonic gp.
32. Sleep acronym
33. Dick Tracy's love
34. Consumed
35. Chignon
36. Walking sticks
37. Persian king
39. Mined-over matter

40. Ordinal suffix

41. Blue hue
45. Hoodlum
48. Defeats cleverly
50. Mexican money
51. Worry
52. TV's Longoria
53. Mideast gulf
54. Belongs
55. Knight's address

DOWN

1. Body powder
2. Satan's purchase
3. — mater
4. Squirrel's stash
5. High points
6. Low digit
7. Big-screen airer of stadium smooches
8. Tripoli's land
9. Tic-tac-toe win
10. Possess
11. Irate

16. Wharton's *House of* —

20. Arcing tennis shot
23. Marvel superheroes
24. Lighten
25. Get lippy
26. Deception
27. Deco artist
28. Computer brand
29. Lion's home
32. Exit in haste
33. Cardio-boxing routine
35. Wager
36. Seals and — (soft rock duo)
38. Noble gas
39. Group of eight
42. Chopping tools
43. Jeans maker Strauss
44. Romanov ruler
45. Transcript no.
46. British ref. work
47. Sugary suffix
49. Swiss canton

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BLAME

TRACE

WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Dec. 20 Puzzles

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

WATER, LATER, LITER, LIVER, LOVER, LOWER

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

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Out There

Reflection Deficit Disorder

*Will we ever
process the
pandemic?*

By Brian PJ Cronin



I made it across the river to the Storm King Art Center in New Windsor to see Arlene Shechet's *Girl Group* exhibition before it closed.

Much as I enjoyed the main part — Shechet's fluid pastel sculptures thumbing their noses at the more austere, rigid works in the distance — it was the smaller, nubby ceramic pieces at the indoor gallery that got me thinking. All had the word “together” in their title — “May Morning: Together” or “December Dawn: Together,” for instance. The wall text said that the ceramics were created “during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic to convey a strong sense of a life force that seemed to be gone during that time.”

This is probably why I found these smaller pieces moving. They did something radical: acknowledge that the pandemic happened.

You won't find many references in pop culture to the pandemic, despite being the most significant global event since World War II. Fiction editors have told writers they're not interested in novels set



“Dawn,” a sculpture by Arlene Shechet, on display at the Storm King Art Center

Photo by B. Cronin

during Covid. The only movie I've seen that acknowledges it was *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*. There's a scene early on where you glimpse a handwritten list of questions that young journalist April O'Neil wants to ask the titular turtles, including “Have you caught Covid?” and “Are you the source of Covid?”

These throwaway lines single-handedly make an animated film featuring a 100-foot-tall housefly with a live blue whale attached to its head the most realistic American film in four years.

I was in Manhattan on 9/11. By 9/12, with smoke still rising from the rubble, there were already calls for monuments. Network TV dramas about cops and firefighters had worked the attacks into their plots within two weeks. There were Oscar-bait movies, chart-topping country songs, swelling

orchestral works, multi-hour disintegrating ambient soundscapes and coffee table books.

For the pandemic, which killed over 1 million Americans, broke families, closed schools, destroyed businesses, ended careers and tore the fabric of society, there are no monuments and no calls for reflection. All we have is a handful of ceramics and a movie in which Jackie Chan plays a talking rat.

There are probably other cultural examples I've missed — I work multiple jobs and spend what little free time I have alone in the woods — but it seems like the country has decided to bury the trauma. Ask any therapist how well that works.

Ashish Jha, the physician who led the White House response to Covid in 2022 and 2023, said that, initially, he suffered from what he called “reflection deficit

disorder.” He was so overwhelmed dealing with day-to-day emergencies that he never had a chance to process what he was going through. When you don't give yourself a chance to catch your breath, it becomes harder to accept new information and develop empathy for what others are going through.

Covid, of course, hasn't gone away. Hundreds of Americans still die every week, and hundreds of thousands more suffer from long Covid, which we don't know much about. But the pandemic, as we knew it, is over. This long, dimly lit hallway of a week between Christmas/Hanukkah and New Year's is an optimal time to begin addressing our collective disorder. Since neither the government nor popular culture seem interested in assisting us (cartoon turtles notwithstanding), we have to do it ourselves.

Storm King has closed for the season, but we can head out into the snowy quiet with friends and family and ask: What have we lost? How can we mourn?

Since I don't like to end any column or any year on a down note, I'll mention what else came out of the pandemic. We discovered the power of caring for our community, of making masks and delivering supplies to the homebound. Healthcare professionals committed countless acts of heroism. We reconsidered who was “essential.”

Some of those discoveries are still with us. There's the ongoing work of Beacon Mutual Aid, which was created on the first day of the pandemic. And those graceful sculptures by Arlene Shechet, unlike anything she had done before, were inspired by the intimate ceramics she made in the deep and unnerving isolation of the pandemic's early months. They opened new worlds for her.

What new worlds can we create from what was gained?

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — On Dec. 19, Haldane played Port Chester for the second time in a week. The Blue Devils had fallen on Dec. 14 by 22 points but got revenge with a 43-32 win. Kayla Ruggiero scored 13 points, Marisa Peters had 10 and Miley Pena-Rider added nine. The Blue Devils (2-3) are idle until Jan. 6, when they travel to Beacon for the Battle of the Tunnel.

WINTER TRACK — On Dec. 21, Haldane competed at the Coach Saint Invitational at The Armory in New York City. For the girls, Samantha Thomas won the 55-meter dash in 8:07 and Anna Nelson was 12th in the long jump at 14-6.25. For the boys, Owen Powers finished ninth in the mile (4:36.61) and Rhys Williams was sixth in the long jump (19-11.75), a school record. Williams also broke his own school record in the 55 meters in 6.86, finishing 10th. Silas Emig was ninth in the high jump at 5-3 and fourth in the 600-meter run at 1:41.08. The

Blue Devils return to The Armory for a meet on Jan. 3.

FOOTBALL — The Section I coaches on Dec. 8 named senior wide receiver/safety Brody Corless to the All-Conference team. He also was named All-League, along with Tomas Simko, Alex Gaugler, David Powlis, Nate Stickle, Mikey Philips, Fallou Faye and Jake Thomas.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — Beacon moved to 5-2 after an easy home win on Dec. 19 over Port Jervis, 74-46 (Michai Thompson led the team with 22 points) and a tough 75-63 loss upstate on Dec. 21, when they visited the much-larger Albany High School (Thomp-

son scored 19 and Jacier Ballard had 14). Beacon will compete in Poughkeepsie today (Dec. 27) and this weekend in the Lourdes Holiday Basketball Tournament.

BOYS' SWIMMING — The Bulldogs slumped to 0-4 with an 85-66 loss at Pine Bush on Dec. 19. Despite the slow start, Beacon continues to dominate in relays, picking up another gold, this time in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:48.46. The Bulldogs had two individual wins: Jayden Concepcion in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:27.61) and Kiran Kumar in his first victory of the season in the 100-yard backstroke (1:08.92). Beacon will face Valley Central on Jan. 7.

BOWLING — The girls picked up their first win of the season, sweeping Highland, 5-0, on Dec. 19, while the boys fell, 3-2. The boys (1-4) and the girls (1-2) will take on Marlboro on Thursday (Jan. 2).