

The HIGHLANDS Current



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Philipstown OKs Fjord Trail Response

Renews support for Cold Spring 'pause'

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Town Board on Wednesday (Feb. 26), by a 4-1 vote, approved more than 100 comments on a draft environmental impact statement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and a letter renewing a request to pause construction of a boardwalk between

Dockside and Little Stony Point parks. In addition to an 18-page document containing its comments about the state's Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), the Town Board approved, by the same 4-1 vote, comments crafted by the Conservation Board in response to HHFT's proposal. Board Member Judy Farrell, who said she does not support delaying or paus-

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Beacon Awarded Housing Funds

Applicants could receive up to \$125K for dwelling units

By Jeff Simms

Beacon and seven other municipalities in Dutchess County have been awarded \$6 million from a state program to help low- and moderate-income residents construct or upgrade accessory dwelling units. Applications for the funding from Plus

One ADU should be available later this year, after the Poughkeepsie nonprofit that will administer the program locally finalizes contracts with the state and municipalities. Single-family homeowners who qualify will be able to apply for up to \$125,000 per project. The other Dutchess municipalities awarded this funding are the towns of Amenia, North East, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Stanford, Union Vale and the Village of Rhinebeck.

(Continued on Page 9)



LET THERE BE LIGHT — To welcome the Year of the Snake and the coming of spring, a group of residents paraded along Main Street in Beacon on Feb. 22 with lighted paper lanterns, such as this creature supported by Clara Masters. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

'This Feels Reckless'

Local environmental groups react to freezes and rollbacks

By Brian PJ Cronin

In a whirlwind of executive orders on his first day in office, newly re-elected President Donald Trump ordered that the U.S. drop out of the international Paris Climate

Agreement, end subsidies for electric vehicles, halt approval of new wind farms, block the enforcement of environmental justice laws, shut down the American Climate Corps and to reconsider whether the greenhouse gases that drive climate change are pollutants, settled science for over a century. "The failure of a lot of people was believing that Trump's campaign rhetoric was

more exaggerated than what his actions would be," said David Toman, executive director at Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. "Nobody in the country should assume differently anymore." Officials at Clearwater, Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper — three major environmental nonprofits based in the Hudson Valley — said they knew from Trump's first term support for fossil-fuel energy and his promises and affiliations on the campaign

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Little Red Schoolhouse Reborn

Officials envision replica of lost structure

By Leonard Sparks

As her finger slowly moved over each face in a 65-year-old photo of 10 children inside a classroom, Maryanne Cavaccini began reeling off names. Her cousin Joanie, Evelyn, Marie, Billy, Peter, Lenny. She named three more before stopping at a little girl in a print dress, a second grader. "Yeah, that's me," she said. Memories, photos, news clippings and an empty lot are all that remain of the Little Red Schoolhouse, which stood for 129 years at Route 9D and Red Schoolhouse Road in Fishkill, just north of Beacon. At the time it closed in 1959, when its veteran teacher retired, the one-room structure held seven grades — "pre-first" to six. Students continued their education in the Beacon school district. The building was torn down in 1971,

(Continued on Page 6)



A student stands in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse, which was demolished in 1971. Stony Kill Foundation

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: MOHIB RAHMATI

By Joey Asher

Mohib Rahmati owns Nansense Afghan Burgers and Bowls in Beacon.

Your family is from Afghanistan. How did they come to the U.S.?

My parents and two older brothers lived near Mazar-i-Sharif, a major city in northern Afghanistan, near Uzbekistan. My father taught Farsi in a local high school. My mom was always known as the best cook. When the Soviets invaded in 1979, they fled with two suitcases through Pakistan to India and then to Arizona. They eventually came to Woodside, Queens, where I was born. Working odd jobs, my father saved enough money to buy a taxi medallion. He still drives his cab. He enjoys it.

How did you start your business?

I was doing the 9-to-5 thing as a personal banker at a Citibank branch in Manhattan. One of my favorite parts of the day was going out for lunch at the food trucks around Chelsea. These guys always had smiles; they loved what they were doing. I always thought what was missing was Afghan food, and that my mom's recipes would do well. In 2018 I took all my savings and purchased a used mail truck from Pennsylvania and got it retrofitted



with kitchen equipment. I opened in front of the Blick Art Supply Store at 20th Street and Sixth Avenue, three blocks from my bank branch.

What was on the menu?

My first menu had mantu dumplings and kormas: chicken, beef and eggplant. The first day we only had two or three customers. It was discouraging. But after a month or so, through word of mouth, we started to get business. After a few months, we added Afghan burgers and fries. We started doing outdoor festivals and were featured in *The New York Times*, which helped a lot.

What is an "Afghan" burger?

In Afghanistan, it's flat bread wrapped around hot dogs, french fries, lettuce and tomatoes. My burger is a patty made of chapli kebab, which is a blend of ground beef, vegetables and spices. We cook it on a flat-top grill with cheese and put it on a potato bun with cilantro green chili mayo. The fries are coated with a blend of cumin, coriander, paprika, salt and other spices. We also make a red-chili garlic ketchup that goes well with the fries. The burger and fries are our most popular dish.

How did the business survive the pandemic?

In late 2019, I had been invited to take a prime spot at The Deco, a new food hall in midtown Manhattan. It was elegant, with blue marble tile and brass. But I needed capital to build out a kitchen and buy equipment. I sold my food truck and gathered up whatever money I could. Things were going great until COVID hit. Still, we had a great brand and food that people loved. In 2021, after people were comfortable being together outdoors again, I got calls from markets at Rockefeller Plaza and the Queens Night Market, and we rebounded. About 18 months ago I got married and my wife, Komel, and I moved to Newburgh. I was looking for a place to open a restaurant. Komel said: "Why not Beacon?" We opened in August. Now, I'm looking around the Hudson Valley for other locations. I may also work my way downstate. Maybe back to the city. Maybe into Jersey. Who knows?

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What was the best thing about high school?

“ Graduating and looking forward to something new. ”



Brendan Press, Beacon

“ I was able to skip my second year of Latin! ”



Debby Dichter, Cold Spring

“ Finding my people and understanding that being kooky was a benefit. ”



Marc St. Aubin, Cold Spring



MICHAEL WOLFF TRIO - JAZZ PIANIST
w/Andy McKee, bass & Steve Johns, drums
bit.ly/michael-wolff-trio

Sat - March 1 - 1-5 PM
EXHIBIT - REALISM ON THE HUDSON
Opening & Awards Reception - 1-3 PM
Exhibit & Art Sale - Thru Apr 13 - Most Fri/Sat/Sun
SPECIAL EVENT - Saturday, March 22, 1-3pm
Still Life Painting Demo with Brian McClear
Plus demo table sponsored by Vasari Classic Oil Colors
Feb 28 - Howland's Open Mic Nite
Mar 7 - LIT LIT
Mar 8 - ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series
Mar 15 - Rodney & Juliets Wedding - HCC Fundraiser

UPCOMING CHILDRENS PROGRAMS - FREE
Made possible by a NYSOCFS grant
Mar 9 - One EARTH, so green and ROUND
With Lydia Adams Davis and Friends!
Mar 29 - PAPER HEART PUPPETS
Cardboard Explosion! With Brad Shur
Visit; website, social media for more events, info, tickets

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
Listed on the NRHP - 477 Main Street, Beacon New York



The House of Lattisville

Written by Nan Nelson Ewing
Directed by Shona Tucker
Performed by Richarda Abrams
and Genevieve Ngosa

March 7-16

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



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NEWS BRIEFS

School Board Petitions Available

Due by late April for May election

The budget and trustee votes for the Haldane, Garrison and Beacon school districts are scheduled for May 20.

Under state law, to run for a school board position you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and qualified voter who has lived in the district for at least a year. Board members serve three-year terms.

At Haldane, two of the board's five seats — those held by Sean McNall and Ezra Clementson — will be on the ballot. The other members of the board are Peggy Clements (2026), Maggie Valentine (2027) and Michelle Kupper (2027). For a nominating petition, email mshields@haldane-school.org. The deadline is April 21.

At Garrison, two seats on the seven-member board will be the ballot. They are held by Sarah Tormey and Kent Schacht. The other members of the board are Dan Jasnow (2026), Eric Arnold (2027), Peter Lesser (2027), Jocelyn Apicello (2026) and Jennifer Harriton-Wilson (2027). For a nominating petition, see dub.sh/gufs-petition-2025 or email dcallo@gufts.org. The deadline is April 21. The district is also looking for three election workers.

At Beacon, three of the nine seats will be on the ballot, those held by Meredith Heuer, Alena Kush and Semra Ercin. The other board members are Flora Stadler (2027), Kristan Flynn (2026), LaVonne McNair

(2027), Anthony White (2026), Eric Schetter (2026) and Christopher Lewine (2027). For a nominating petition, email jackson.v@beaconk12.org. The deadline is April 30.

Astor Services Home Care Expands into Putnam

Already serves Dutchess County

Astor Services, which provides mental and behavioral health and educational services for children and young adults and their families, on Feb. 10 said it has expanded its Home-Based Crisis Intervention Program (HBCI) to Putnam County. The program is already available in Dutchess County.

Funded by the state Office of Mental Health, the program focuses on preventing psychiatric hospitalizations. During four to six weeks of treatment, services provided include intensive counseling, family therapy, parental coaching and care coordination. Additionally, 24/7 crisis support is offered. See astorservices.org.

Candidates Emerging for House District 17

Contenders test waters for 2026 race

Beth Davidson, a Rockland County legislator, announced plans to run for the Democratic Party ballot line for the U.S. House seat held by incumbent Rep. Mike Lawler. The district includes Philipstown.

Lawler, a Republican in his second term, may not be on the ballot if he decides to run for governor against Kathy Hochul in 2026.

Jessica Reinmann, who founded the nonprofit 914Cares in Westchester County, also declared her candidacy. Both Davidson and Reinmann have created websites to promote their campaigns.

On Feb. 18, *The New York Times* floated the names of two other Democrats: Effie Phillips-Staley, a former director of Hudson Valley MOCA in Peekskill and a Village of Tarrytown trustee, and Neal Zuckerman, a Philipstown resident and West Point grad who is managing director at the Boston Consulting Group and Putnam County's representative on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board.

Zuckerman said on Wednesday (Feb. 26) that "wallet issues" would be his focus if he ran. "Right now, I'm enjoying having conversations across our diverse district," he said. "I'm hearing what needs are and seeing if I have something to offer from my experiences in business, local and regional government and the Army."

Howland Center Names Four Board Members

Increases size from 7 to 11 people

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon expanded its board of directors from seven to 11 seats with the addition of four

members: Terry Nelson, Lena Rizkallah, Brandy Burre and Elizabeth Barrett.

Nelson is a film and television producer who founded the Beacon Independent Film Festival and served two terms on the City Council; Rizkallah is a financial planner, speaker and storyteller; Burre is an actor and educator at The Foundry Montessori and the Tioronda Learning Center who appeared in the 2014 documentary *Actress*; and Barrett was vice president of communications and marketing at the West Point Association of Graduates and editor of *West Point* magazine.

The other board members are Theresa Kraft, Thomas de Villiers, Craig Wolf, Ron Iarossi, Anda Onesa Lieberman, Ronnie Sauers and Jay Strauss.

Beacon School Board Launches Quarterly Newsletter

Will include district news and updates

The Beacon school board on Thursday (Feb. 27) published the first of what it said would be quarterly newsletters.

The first issue, which can be downloaded at dub.sh/BCSD-feb-25, includes information on board committees and an update on the state education budget.

The district also publishes a newsletter called *Bulldog Bulletin* with news from its schools. The February issue is online at dub.sh/bulldog-feb-25.



MARDI GRAS SUNDAY!

March 2, service at 10:30 am
The last Sunday before Lent

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord
Shine a light in dark times

Jazz Band – Beads – Tiny Umbrellas – Gumbo after Church



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 7:00 pm

A quiet, contemplative beginning to the Season of Lent

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
ALL are welcome, always
10 Academy Street, Cold Spring, NY

42 SPRING VALLEY STREET, BEACON NY 12508



Saturday, March 1, 1:00-3:00p PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Welcome to 42 Spring Valley Street, a beautifully updated Civil War-Era home, built in 1860 and preserved and modernized for the present day. This 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,256 sq house is located in the heart of Beacon and set on an expansive corner lot. This residence offers an open, sun-filled floor plan on the main level. With a handsome new shed and an inviting raised garden area, the private, oversized yard offers a welcome space for green thumbs. Located on the gorgeous, quieter "mountain end" of Beacon, the home is just steps from the vibrant shops, cafes, and restaurants of Main Street, while also two blocks from a picturesque waterfall and a short walk to iconic hiking trails. The fully finished, walk-up third floor offers approximately 500 sq for bonus space. An ideal home for those who are looking for the serene beauty of the Hudson Valley while also wanting immediate access to the charms of Beacon and the convenience of the Metro North train, with an easy commute to Grand Central.

Listing presented by
Charlotte Brooks.

\$1,150,000



42 Spring Valley Street



For more information contact:
Charlotte Brooks, Owner & Principal Broker
House Finch Realty
917-951-2241 | charlotte@housefinchrealty.com

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Current

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon growth

The Eliza Street development should be torn down ("Lender Sues Over Beacon Development," Feb. 21). It sat through too many winter cycles unprotected without windows or a weather barrier.

James Petty, *via Instagram*

The fact that the city did not protect the residents of small houses on this street is awful! What an eyesore for an otherwise adorable stretch of Eliza.

Nicole Tori, *via Instagram*

I wish someone would report on gentrification and conduct street outreach and talk to the real residents of Beacon. Gentrification has become a growing issue in the city, where longtime residents are being priced out as the cost of living continues to rise.

Once a quiet and affordable town, Beacon is becoming a hotspot for wealthy newcomers, many of whom are driving up property values and rents. This influx of affluent individuals is pushing out families and workers who have called Beacon home for decades. The charm of a close-knit, small-town community is being replaced by luxury developments and high-end businesses catering to a wealthier population.

What was once a peaceful haven is rapidly transforming into a place that feels more like Brooklyn — no longer accessible to those who have lived here for years but increasingly catering to millionaires looking for a weekend getaway or second home. This shift is raising concerns about the loss of Beacon's unique identity and the displacement of its original residents.

Sarah Brittain, *Beacon*

Perhaps the main issue is not gentrification, which is sadly inevitable in any city like this, but rather that, for years now, every one of these news stories contains a paragraph letting us know that the lovely folks at the town/zoning board "granted the developer a variance" for whatever it may be (zoned for single-family, but you want a multi-unit building? No problem! Zoned for six units, but you want nine? No problem! Zoned for a smaller building, but you want larger? No problem!). This happens way more than it should, and it smells more and more like corruption every time it does.

Gregory Anderson, *Beacon*

Household income

To clarify, the Beacon and Philipstown figures you shared in the Feb. 21 issue ("By

the Numbers: Household Income Growth") represent only "family" households and fail to account for the significant number of "non-family" households, defined as people who live alone or share their residences with unrelated individuals.

The newly released 2023 census data indicates that Beacon had 3,703 family households with a median income of \$118,159 and 2,617 non-family households with a median income of \$64,492. The overall median household income was \$93,347.

Philipstown had 2,666 family households with a median income of \$163,036 and 1,222 non-family households with a median income of \$70,222. The overall median household income was \$133,672.

I've included links to the data at git.beaconny.net/-/snippets/4.

Derek Enos, *Beacon*

Central Hudson

Central Hudson keeps fleecing ratepayers and lining the pockets of its executives and shareholders ("Central Hudson Faces Audit," Feb. 21). I support the bill introduced by Assembly Member Sarahana Shrestha and Sen. Michelle Hinchey that would create a Hudson Valley Power Authority. We deserve a nonprofit utility controlled by the people.

Niklas Moran, *Beacon*

Overdose deaths

Two deaths is still too many, but it's a relief to see the numbers drop ("Overdose Deaths Fall in Putnam," Feb. 21).

Craig Watters, *Philipstown*

Nelsonville

There is something wonderful about Nelsonville's elections in that each candidate must be nominated by an independent party ("Two Candidates Seek Nelsonville Seats," Feb. 21). They cannot run as Democrats, Republicans or independents. As a result, we are able to mostly avoid the shenanigans that sometimes accompany elections involving the big parties. Our elections are about neighbors voting for neighbors — what a relief and a blessing.

Alan Potts, *Nelsonville*

Potts is a candidate for the Village Board.

Fjord Trail

This is exactly why I left Philipstown and moved to Beacon ("Beacon to Fjord Trail: 'Enthusiastic' Support," Feb. 21): Philipstown is the most small-minded, backward community I've ever encountered.

Anthony Lise, *Beacon*

It is disingenuous of *The Current* to place the headline that Beacon is gaga over the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail on the top
(Continued on Page 5)



AROUND THE REGION

Fishkill

Town Names Police Commissioner

A veteran Police Department officer who left the agency in 2019, citing a hostile work environment, and lost his certification to work in law enforcement was recertified by the state this month and named to the newly created position of town police commissioner.

The Town Board voted, 3-2, on Feb. 5 to create the part-time position and, by the same vote, to appoint Scott Bierce. His state records were updated to show that he resigned rather than being fired for cause.

Supervisor Ozzy Albra said Bierce had been decertified despite a lack of due process. “This is what ‘backing the blue’ is all about,” Albra told *Mid Hudson News*. “I stuck with him, and we were proven right.”

Louise Daniele, a retired state police commander and former Town Board member, offered to serve as commissioner without pay. Bierce will earn \$35,000 annually.

Poughkeepsie

District Changes School Names

After creating an ad-hoc committee and surveying the public for ideas, the city school district on Feb. 18 approved new

names for two schools and an administration building.

The Samuel F.B. Morse Elementary School was renamed the Sojourner Truth Elementary School, the Gov. George Clinton Elementary School became the Roberto Clemente Elementary School and the Columbus School, used by administrators, is now the Jane Bolin Elementary School.

The board said it wanted to change the names because Clinton and Morse supported slavery and Columbus contributed to its spread. Truth (1797-1883), a former slave, was an abolitionist from Ulster County; Clemente (1934-1972) was a professional baseball player and humanitarian from Puerto Rico; and Bolin (1908-2007) was a Poughkeepsie native and Yale Law School graduate who became the country’s first Black female judge.

White Plains

Lawler Comments Prompt Outcry

Democratic leaders criticized Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, for remarks he made at a meeting on Feb. 20 with the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

Legislator Jose Alvarado asked Lawler about fears in the Latino community concerning the U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement Agency. “When somebody like me is approached by ICE, what should I carry on me to demonstrate that this immigrant is the vice chairman of this board?” he said.

“If you are asked for information, cooperate,” Lawler responded. “I wouldn’t expect you are, I don’t know, I assume you’re a citizen. Maybe you are not, maybe you are.” After people began to laugh, Lawler added: “You are telling me that ICE was approaching you.”

“That’s the point that I’m making,” said Alvarado, who came to the U.S. in 1982 from Honduras and became a citizen in 1989. “Do you walk about with your birth certificate? I don’t, and I am a citizen. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be duly elected to serve on this board.”

In a statement, Lawler’s office called the criticism “overblown and hyperpartisan,” adding that “those engaging in this absurd character assassination only do so because they can’t debate immigration policy or defend their own radical beliefs and votes.”

Hyde Park

Martial Arts Instructor Arrested

New York State Police troopers on Feb. 5 arrested a martial arts instructor on allegations that he sexually abused children.

Tyler G. Leclerc, 28, of Staatsburg, was

charged with a felony and two misdemeanors and remanded to the Dutchess County jail. Police said Leclerc is accused of abusing multiple children over several years.

The school, which had six locations and students as young as 3 years old, has deleted its website and social media accounts. According to *The Daily Catch*, the school founder, Leclerc’s father, was convicted of raping a minor in 1998.

In Albany, a state senator said she would introduce a bill to require background checks for instructors in afterschool programs such as martial arts academies, dance studios, tutoring centers and art schools.

Putnam Valley

Firefighter Loses Home in Fire

A Putnam Valley firefighter and his family lost their Peekskill Hollow Road home and possessions in a fire on Feb. 10.

Fire Police Officer Juan Garcia and his wife, Linette, had lived in the home for 30 years. Everyone escaped injury, although the family dog, Loki, was killed.

A clothing drive organized by the town was suspended after two days because of the outpouring of support. A GoFundMe account at dub.sh/garcia-fire has so far raised more than \$34,000.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

of Page 1 yet bury the critical and concerning comments of veteran planner Ted Fink, who is advising the Cold Spring Village Board, on Page 9.

Additionally, on Page 8, *The Current* introduces a piece about the Town of Fishkill’s worries about this proposed mega-development with the headline, “Supervisor: Fishkill ‘Favorable’ to the Trail,” yet in the article, the reporter lists concern after concern that the Town Board outlined in its three-page letter to state parks regarding the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS).

These editorial actions appear to show a clear and transparent bias toward the Fjord Trail. Shouldn’t *The Current* just come out and say what it’s been hiding all along, instead of manipulating the ways news is displayed each week?

Pete Salmansohn, *Philipstown*

The editor responds: Our Fjord Trail coverage, dating to 2012, is collected at highlandscurrent.org/tag/fjord-trail.

Consultants hired by municipalities to attack a project have free rein to come up with just about any critique under the sun (“Consultant Critical of Fjord Trail Report,” Feb. 21). They have no accountability and are naturally conflicted. It’s one of the reasons I quit this business.

Tim Miller, *Garrison*

Tim Miller is spot on. And we, the taxpayers, both in Cold Spring and Philipstown, are paying for these “studies” at the behest

of some of our elected officials in the hope they will endorse their agendas. Rather than loosely and irresponsibly claiming that “the people” want something, let’s hold a referendum — an objective survey — to understand what we all want. That would stop a lot of wasted time and taxpayer dollars. It’s time for transparency in our community.

Larry Wiesler, *Philipstown*

Suggesting that the Fjord Trail should be put up for a referendum ignores state law. The draft generic environmental review process is governed under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). The SEQR handbook states: “SEQR establishes a process to systematically consider environmental factors early in the planning stages of actions that are directly undertaken, funded or approved by local, regional and state agencies. By incorporating environmental review early in the planning stages, projects can be modified as needed to avoid adverse impacts on the environment.”

To this end, the planning firms hired by the Village of Cold Spring and Town of Philipstown — which are listed as involved agencies in the DGEIS and, for better or worse, would be directly impacted by construction of the Fjord Trail — have a directive to provide objective feedback about the prospective ways that building the Fjord Trail could impact local communities and the environment.

The DGEIS is neither a public referendum nor a popularity contest. Rather, it is a codified public comment period under state law. I am grateful for the expertise that the village and town boards have invested in

this process. We elected them to represent us and our collective interests.

Jon Erickson, *Cold Spring*

Do you know what would be expensive for taxpayers? Being financially responsible for a deteriorating boardwalk that begins falling into the river after repeated storms and flooding due to climate change.

Katherine Lukacher, *Cold Spring*

Mental health

Thank you for sharing your experience, David Brewer (“First Responders Sound Alarm,” Feb. 14). It takes real courage to admit we can be vulnerable and need help. That article may well save lives. The extensive listing of ways to deal with emotional pain is a terrific resource, and I respectfully add to it the practice of Metta meditation and the related writings of Sharon Salzberg.

Friedrike Merck, *Philipstown*

Beacon music

I encountered Cosmokaze quite by accident (“Guitar at the Bar: Rik Mercaldi,” Feb. 14). I was a pandemic transplant from New York City and still only knew a handful of people. One evening after a hectic workday, I popped into Quinn’s for a quick beer. As the band began to play, I was surprised at the sounds that emerged. This was a rock trio, but they flowed like a jazz combo. Visions of Tangerine Dream, prog rock, Krautrock and other freeform but disciplined groups swirled before me.

I stuck around for the entire set — and the following third Thursday, and the third

Thursday after that. The music inspired me to design a flyer for the trio, followed by more graphics, including album cover art. I’ve recorded and edited a few performances, including a fantastic set at Bethel Woods before Yes and Deep Purple played.

It was amazing to make this artistic connection here in Beacon, and it continues to reverberate. I’m still excited every third Thursday because I don’t know what will happen on that small, magical stage. But I know Rik, Todd and Josh will go somewhere I, and they, have never heard before.

Tim Hall, *Beacon*

Town Board

I was happy to hear this big news (“Two More Candidates for Philipstown Board,” Feb. 14). I’m proud to say my friends Nat Prentice and John Maasik are throwing their hats in the ring of democracy for public office. I cannot think of two more caring, kind, courageous and capable men for the job.

The rules around petitions are a bit confusing. When signing petitions, make sure you don’t sign for more than two candidates running for Town Board, because there are only two positions up for election this year. If you sign more than two nominating petitions for Town Board seats, all your signatures will be invalidated. However, you can still sign for John Van Tassel because he is running unopposed for a different position, supervisor.

I hope everyone will join me in signing the nominating petitions for Nat and John. They are what excellent leadership looks like.

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring*
Starbuck is a member of the Village Board.

Should This Be a Law?

Bills focus on childcare, pollution, elections

By Leonard Sparks

A truth mandate for political candidates, new standards for technologists who treat people with sleep disorders and money to help childcare providers renovate and expand their businesses are among the proposals submitted by Beacon and Philipstown's state representatives during the legislative session that began Jan. 8.

Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, has introduced 34 bills; Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon, has introduced 64 and Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, has introduced 32.

Here are summaries of a few of the bills. To become law, legislation must be approved by a committee to be sent to the full Senate or Assembly for consideration; be approved by the Senate and Assembly before the session ends June 12; and be enacted by Gov. Kathy Hochul by the end of the year.

You can learn more about the bills at nysenate.gov/legislation or nyassembly.gov/leg using the bill number provided and sign up for updates.

Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson (D)

■ Allows local Board of Election employees to retain their jobs while running for office, as long as both election commissioners approve. According to Jacobson, in rural areas, the change will improve the ability of boards to recruit and retain employees. A version of the bill has passed in the Senate and been approved in the Assembly by the Election Law and Rules committees. A1015



■ Bans the use of sewage sludge and wastewater as a fertilizer or soil amendment and sets a fine of up to \$10 million for each violation. Citing the Sierra Club, Jacobson says the state Department of Environmental Conservation found high levels of perfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) in the sludge of eight treatment plants in 2017 but did not test properties where the sludge was spread or inform landowners. Maine has passed a similar ban, he said. A2738

■ Adds New York Stewart International to the list of airports required to pay supplement wages for baggage handlers, cleaners, food service workers and other hourly employees covered under the Healthy Terminals Act. Enacted in 2020, the law

mandated a \$4.54-per-hour supplement for employees who work at least 30 hours a week at Kennedy and LaGuardia for health insurance premiums. A5025

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg (D)

■ Requires that candidates for elected office attest to the biographical information provided to voters, including work and military histories, and academic accomplishments. This "will allow for early identification of candidates that are misleading the public, or who do not qualify for office they are pursuing based on residency requirements," said Levenberg. A3653



■ Allows people without an associate degree but a certificate from a training program to work as polysomnographic (sleep) technologists and authorizes the state to accept out-of-state certifications. New York has more than 100 accredited centers to treat people with sleep disorders but issued only 15 licenses for technologists in 2022 and 14 in 2021 as degree programs decreased, according to Levenberg. A5337

■ Grants volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members who have attended 25 percent or more of emergency calls the previous year an exemption from fees the state charges for custom license plates for those professions.

Volunteers are charged \$43.75 to register and ambulance corps members pay \$15 annually to renew plates. Levenberg says the waiver would help understaffed volunteer departments recruit and retain members. A5673

Sen. Rob Rolison (R)

■ Appropriates \$250 million to create a tax credit that childcare providers can claim for money spent to improve or expand their businesses. Rolison says the credit would create more childcare slots and reduce waiting lists. S968



■ Establishes the Safer Communities Grant Program and appropriates \$300 million over 10 years to help police agencies recruit and retain detectives and investigators and process evidence in homicide, kidnapping, non-fatal shooting, rape and sexual assault cases. The program's goal, said Rolison, is to improve clearance rates for serious crimes. S996

■ Renews for another two years the 3.75 percent of sales tax charged that Dutchess County receives — an increase of 0.75 percent first approved in 2003. The current two-year extension expires on Nov. 30. Dutchess collects 8.125 percent on most purchases, with 4 percent going to the state and 0.375 percent to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. S5492

Philipstown Reform Synagogue Shabbat Across America Celebration

Turn an ordinary Friday night into something extraordinary!

On Friday night, March 7, 2025, hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages.

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue (PRS) will be celebrating **Shabbat Across America** at 5PM in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring. You are invited to bring your Shabbat candles. The service will be lead by Rabbi Helaine Ettinger.



Those who plan to attend the service, which begins 5PM, are asked to RSVP by February 29, 2025 by visiting www.philipstownreformsynagogue.org/untitled-sitepage_4 with your name, phone number, and the number of guests.

PAID NOTICE

Red Schoolhouse (from Page 1)

but there is talk of building a replica — if anyone can figure out who owns the property. A title search by the state in 1977 failed to identify the owner, but the Town of Fishkill has renewed the effort so it can preserve the site for visitors. "The more attractions we have, the more we can celebrate our history," said Town Supervisor Ozzy Albra.

The school's history began with its construction in 1830 on property owned by the Verplanck family, large landholders who also donated the property for Stony Kill Farm, which sits across Route 9D. Elizabeth Travis, a Glenham native and Beacon High School graduate, was the teacher for 47 years, from 1912 until it closed in 1959. With children in seven grades occupying one room, Travis called one class at a time to a front bench.

"When she was doing a lesson with one grade, we had to be quiet and do our studies," said Cavaccini, then known as Maryanne Greggo.

Cavaccini entered as a kindergarten student in 1956, when the Little Red Schoolhouse may have been the only remaining one-room school in Dutchess County. Her brother Frank also attended the school, which drew students from Baxtertown, Red Schoolhouse and Stony Kill roads, as well as Route 9D.

On Tuesday (Feb. 25), Cavaccini recalled the DeSoto that her teacher drove, the potbelly stove that provided heat and a swing students hung to fling themselves into a pond. One newspaper report credited Travis with saving the structure from a fire by organizing a bucket brigade of students



Maryanne Cavaccini (front row, third from right) was among the last students to attend the Little Red Schoolhouse before it closed in 1959.

Photo provided

armed with water from a stream.

A truck filled with candy once overturned outside the school, spilling its contents and drawing students outside, said Cavaccini. "We were screaming, 'We got the candy,'" she said. "The teacher came out screaming, 'You can't do that.' Well, we did it."

When the school closed, Cavaccini was about to enter the third grade. She transferred to South Avenue Elementary and later graduated from Beacon High School. Her career included stops in the San Francisco area and jobs at Central Hudson, the Stewart Air National Guard Base and the Castle Point VA Medical Center.

Five years after the schoolhouse was demolished, Elizabeth Travis attended a

ceremony marking the installation of a sign made by students at Glenham Elementary School in Fishkill, which is part of the Beacon district. She died in 1984 at Highland Hospital in Beacon.

Last week, a photo posted on Facebook showed students standing outside the school. It drew nearly 100 comments, including from Cavaccini and people whose parents or other relatives attended. Someone remembered their family buying strawberries in the summer from Travis, who ran a farm with her husband. Many of the commenters denounced the decision 54 years ago to demolish the school.

"That could have been a historical building," said Cavaccini.

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

ing the Dockside-to-Little-Stony Point segment, cast the lone “no” votes. Completion of the southern end would boost accessibility to the riverfront and there are “a lot of people in the community who have been waiting a long time” for the trail, she said.

“Of course there are going to be problems with this project, but I think we can work them out as it progresses,” Farrell said.

The HHFT plan comprises a 7.5-mile trail between Cold Spring and Beacon, with a segment containing a boardwalk elevated over the river between Dockside and Little Stony Point. It also includes a bridge over the Metro-North tracks north of the Breakneck tunnel, new platforms at the Breakneck train station, expanded parking and the redevelopment of Dutchess Manor into a visitor’s center.

State parks, which is the lead agency for the project, released the 700-page draft in December and set a deadline of Tuesday (March 4) for public comments.

Neither the town nor the Conservation Board shared the documents with the public or *The Current*. (Supervisor John Van Tassel said the paper could file a Freedom of Information Law request, and that the town would have 60 days to respond.) But a consultant with Tim Miller Associates, which reviewed the DGEIS for Philipstown, on Feb. 19 shared some of its concerns, which largely mirror those expressed by elected

officials in Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

Primarily, the DGEIS is “lacking in details,” said Steven Marino, a senior environmental planner with the firm. For example, he said the document does not sufficiently address increased traffic as the Fjord Trail draws more visitors or the dispersal of sediment when more than 400 concrete pilings are installed in the Hudson River for the section between Dockside and Little Stony Point.

Marino also said that HHFT’s conclusions about the boardwalk’s impact on riverfronts along Fair Street and Route 9D between Breakneck and Cold Spring “don’t seem to tell the whole story” and need more analysis. He said there are questions about whether the width of the walkway will accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists and other users traveling in both directions at the same time.

“It is our feeling that, in some ways, the presented DGEIS is too lacking in details or so interested in moving the project forward that some aspects of the plan, especially the potential impacts on community character, congestion and quality-of-life issues are overlooked or downplayed,” he said on Feb. 19.

On Feb. 26, Van Tassel read a letter the Town Board approved sending with the comments. It reiterates the town’s stance that the southern segment should end at Little Stony Point. The town also requested that HHFT pay for emergency services along the trail and calls for a two-year

Cold Spring to Finalize Fjord Trail Notes

Meeting scheduled for Monday at Village Hall

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Monday (March 3) to finalize its comments on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail that are due the next day.

The board continued discussions of the DGEIS at its Wednesday (Feb. 26) meeting and Planning Board Chair Jesse St. Charles presented its draft comments on the DGEIS that include concerns such as the impact of the proposed trail on village resources and emergency services and the lack of a detailed traffic analysis.

Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark said the Planning Board

comments should also include the benefits to the village that HHFT could provide. St. Charles said the Planning Board would finalize its comments at its Feb. 27 meeting.

On Monday, the Village Board will consider an updated analysis of the DGEIS by consultant Ted Fink, which he will complete by today (Feb. 28). It’s also anticipated that traffic engineer John Canning will present his analysis of how the DGEIS addresses the impact HHFT might have on village streets.

Village Attorney John Furst on Wednesday advised that the board comments to state parks should focus on what is missing from the DGEIS and what needs to be studied further, including alternatives. “You should be focused on spotting the issues, and have them explain why it’s not an issue,” he said.

“purpose pause” after the phases north of Breakneck are completed to assess their effect on reducing congestion and traffic.

“If the train station and Breakneck work,

if Dutchess Manor works, we come back to the table and say, ‘Let’s see how we can bring the trail to Dockside in a reduced version, in a full version,’” he said.



HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

4TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND LIGHTS

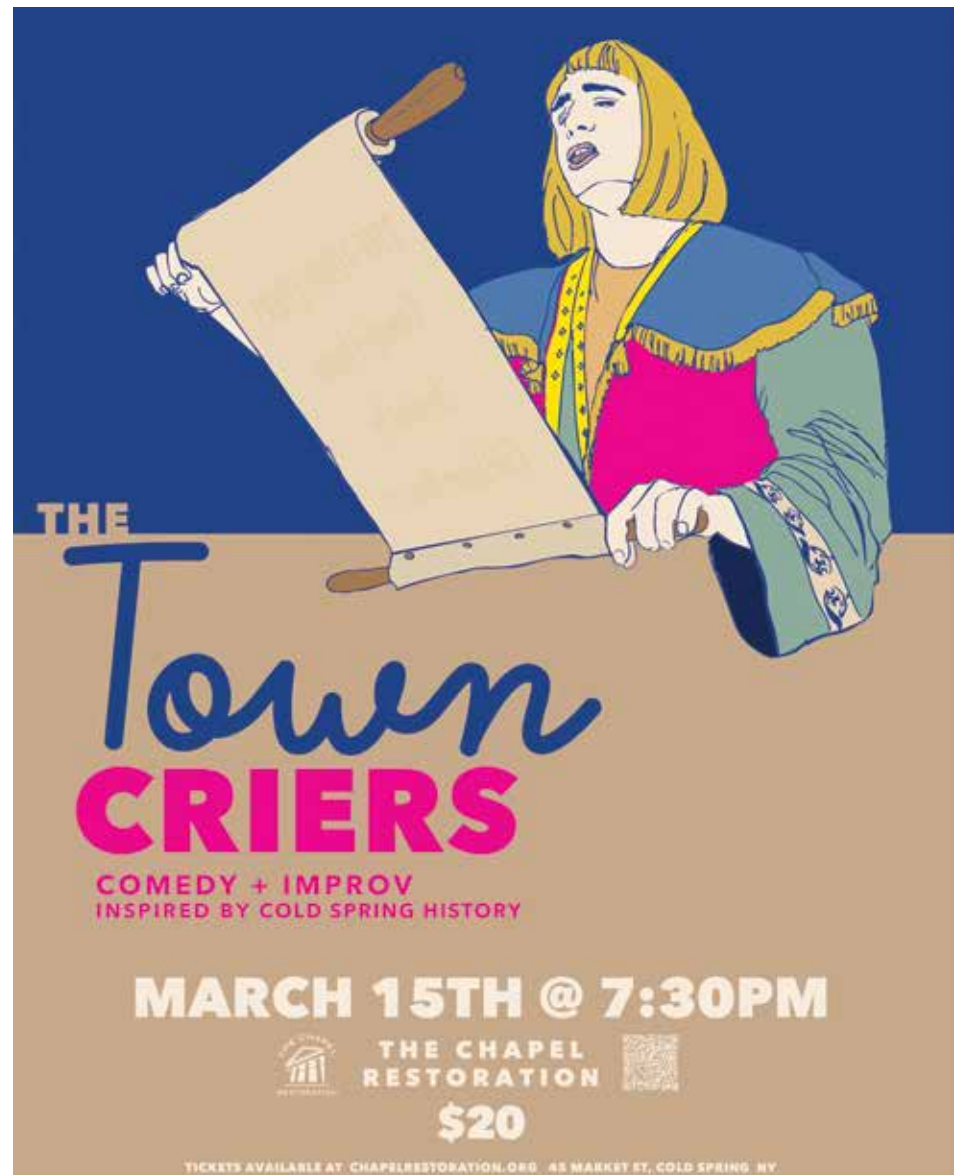
HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST

WORKSHOPS BEGIN MARCH 22

Highland Lights Procession will take place at Hudson Highlands Land Trust’s Humble Bee Hollow on April 26

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
hvshakespeare.org

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THE Town CRIERS

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MARCH 15TH @ 7:30PM

THE CHAPEL RESTORATION

\$20

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: CHAPELRESTORATION.ORG 45 MARKET ST, COLD SPRING, NY

You shouldn't have to pay the newspaper to print the news.

Over the past few weeks and months, a growing number of local community leaders, representatives, boards, and professional planners hired by municipalities to review the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) have publicly stated serious concerns about the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT). Protect the Highlands is paying for this page in *The Highlands Current* to highlight both the breadth and convergence of their concerns, and give their concerns the collective attention they deserve.

☞☞ The DGEIS fails to provide sufficient analysis and proposed mitigation of the impacts regarding wildlife and habitat destruction. At a minimum, additional study, including a long-term study of such impacts is necessary.

– **Public letter from Fishkill Town Board to New York State Parks, February 19, 2025**

☞☞ The power to define the community character is a unique prerogative of a municipality acting in its governmental capacity. . . . That's where I found the community character discussion in the [DGEIS] to be lacking in that they did not rely upon the village and the way that the village has defined itself in its comprehensive plan. This is a typical way that community character is determined in any sort of environmental review.

– **Presentation by Ted Fink from Greenplan, an independent planning firm hired by the Village of Cold Spring to review the DGEIS, to the Cold Spring Board of Trustees, February 19, 2025**

☞☞ Police, fire, and EMS have all expressed concerns that the implementation of this proposed trail will not only put a strain on these departments but also will impact the residents of Cold Spring by depriving them of these emergency services should a situation arise on the trail. . . . All the agencies in this area have indicated that there will be a strain on these resources.

– **Public comment by Cold Spring Officer in Charge Matt Jackson to Cold Spring Planning Board, February 6, 2025**

☞☞ More traffic will result in the need for these students to cross even busier streets. Haldane has an open campus at lunch; crossing guards must be available during that time. Who will be responsible for the extra crossing guards? . . . Who will be responsible for ensuring there is no trespassing on the school grounds?

– **Public comment by Julia Sniffen to New York State Parks, January 14, 2025**

☞☞ Riverkeeper is especially concerned that the DGEIS dismisses the impact on endangered shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon species, which would be impacted by construction and the shading caused by the walkway over the Hudson. The project proponent writes that the shoreline in the area is 'not within [sturgeon's] preferred habitat.' This is not accurate. . . . To wholly avoid these impacts, Riverkeeper requests that the Fjord Trail avoid in-water and overwater structures.

– **Public statement by Riverkeeper, January 14, 2025**

Paid for by:



ProtectTheHighlands.org

Housing Funds *(from Page 1)*

On Wednesday (Feb. 26), City Administrator Chris White said he was unsure whether the state or the nonprofit, Hudson River Housing, would evaluate applications. The city's role will be to promote the program, he said.

The \$6 million award, announced Feb. 14, is part of the third round of funding for the Plus One program; the state allocated \$85 million in the 2022-23 budget. Applicants who receive funding will be required to confirm for 10 years or longer that the ADU is being used as housing and not short-term rentals, with site visits every two years.

Gov. Kathy Hochul has supported ADUs as a relatively easy way to create affordable housing. They are often used to house an older relative but can provide income if used as long-term rentals.

The City Council on Monday began a discussion of ways to further simplify Beacon's ADU approval process. In 2022, the council approved zoning-code amendments to streamline the lengthy Planning Board review that had been required for ADUs, but permits have been issued for only four units since then. Twenty-nine were approved in the three decades after the city began allowing ADUs in 1989.

"We are not seeing the uptake of ADUs that was maybe thought [would happen] when these regulations were originally developed," said Natalie Quinn, the city's planning consultant. "I think there was a thought that it would be hugely popular and there would be one on every other lot." Because of the low participation, many municipalities are trying

to make approvals easier, she said.

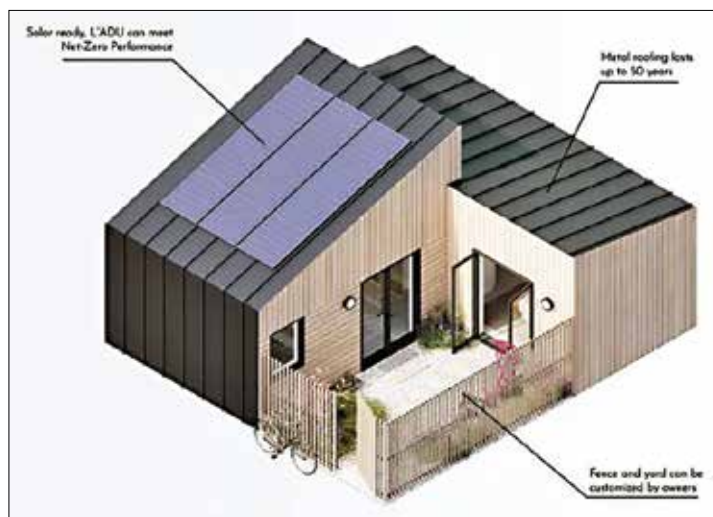
Monday's meeting gave council members the opportunity to weigh in on several questions about regulations and ways to simplify them. The council seemed inclined to allow ADUs on any lot with a single-family structure. Currently, accessory units are not allowed in the Linkage or Fishkill Creek Development zones, among other areas.

Council members appeared OK with keeping a requirement that the property owner must live in the primary structure or the ADU. They agreed to lower the minimum accessory apartment size from 200 square feet to match the state building code, which is 150 square feet. The city's current maximum is 1,000 square feet.

The council also seemed to agree that some applications — for example, those for ADUs above a certain size or requiring a new structure rather than a renovation — should require Planning Board review.

Council members leaned toward eliminating the requirement of one parking space per unit but said that, if an application must go to the Planning Board, a parking requirement should be considered. Finally, they agreed to continue requiring a \$750 application fee and \$3,000 escrow payment for Planning Board applications to cover the time of city attorneys and planning and engineering consultants.

Despite those restrictions, by streamlining the process so that the building inspector can review and approve most applications, "you're removing the application fee, the escrow and engineering fees" for applicants, noted City Attorney Nick



Beacon officials said they would investigate whether Hudson River Housing can create free, code-compliant ADU designs, as Kingston did last year.

Ward-Willis. "That's where you're getting your most significant savings."

Ward-Willis said he would bring a draft law to the next council workshop on March 10. If the council approves, it would schedule a public hearing for feedback before voting.

East Main rezoning

The council could rezone the mixed-use building at 1 East Main St. from Light Industrial to the adjacent Central Main Street zone. The change was recommended by former building inspector Bruce Flower, who left this month for a job with the Town of Poughkeepsie. Flower noted in a memo that restaurants and coffeehouses, such as Trax Coffee Roasters, are permitted in the Main Street zone but not Light Industrial.

In addition, he wrote, the condos at 1 East Main are "more in line with multi-family dwellings," which are not permitted

in Light Industrial, than artist live/work spaces, which are allowed.

If the proposed conversion of the dormant railroad line to a trail proceeds, businesses along its path would become better connected to Main Street under new zoning, Flower said. The railroad right-of-way in the area is already zoned Central Main Street.

Building inspector

The council is expected to vote Monday on whether to hire Bryan Murphy as building inspector. He has been the building and fire inspector for the Village of Wappingers Falls for 12 years and owned a construction company for 14 years. He is the best-qualified candidate on a list provided by Dutchess County of people who passed the required civil-service exam, wrote Human Resources Director Sara Morris in a memo to the council.

Environmental *(from Page 1)*

trail, that a second term would be difficult for the environmental movement.

There was also concern about Project 2025, which many felt provided an outline for what a second Trump administration would undertake, said Pete Lopez of Scenic Hudson, a former regional director for the Environmental Protection Agency. An online project called Project 2025 Tracker estimates that a third of the plan's objectives have been enacted since Trump returned to the White House on Jan. 20, including eliminating the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

Local environmental groups were prepared to see regulatory rollbacks. But funding freezes and layoffs — Trump said in a cabinet meeting on Feb. 26 that EPA staffing will be cut by 65 percent over the next month, although the White House said he meant to say the budget would be cut by 65 percent — had led them to reconsider what they will be able to accomplish.

"This all just feels really reckless," said Tracy Brown, the executive director of Riverkeeper. Her organization had finally started to get federal funding for an ongoing project to remove the thousands of abandoned dams that litter Hudson River tributaries, hampering fish migration and water quality. "These are expensive to remove," she said. Thanks to a \$3.8 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,

Riverkeeper has begun work on the removal of a dam in Quassaick Creek in Newburgh.

But with this type of grant, the government doesn't provide the money up front. Instead, groups pay for the work and are reimbursed. Brown said they heard the funds were frozen, and then that they weren't. "We won't know for sure until we submit our next round of expenses," she said.

Riverkeeper's annual operating budget is \$5 million, so spending \$3.8 million to remove the dam and not being reimbursed would be disastrous. "This starts to create a real risk for groups," she said.

Toman decided the risk was too great for Clearwater, which abandoned its efforts to secure federal grants to pay for maintenance that the Coast Guard requires on its eponymous sloop every five to seven years.

Lopez said that Scenic Hudson is trying to figure out what promised funds it still has access to. One project in jeopardy is the connection of the Westchester RiverWalk to the Tarrytown MTA station.

There's also indirect funding. Much of Clearwater's revenue comes from schools that book educational sails. The group is only now pulling itself out of a tailspin caused by schools canceling trips after the 2008 financial crisis and the pandemic. Trump has said he plans to block any federal funding to schools that have vaccine mandates and to eliminate the Department of Education. Toman and others fear that could create funding squeezes that eliminate student excursions.

Lopez said that Scenic Hudson is structured so that none of its employee salaries are dependent on federal grants. The same can't be said for the agencies it works with. The federal government provides about 30 percent of funding for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said Brown. Any EPA cuts could at best severely limit — and at worst, end — work to clean up the Hudson River.

The EPA said last year it was expecting to make a determination in the next few years if General Electric needs to continue dredging for the PCBs it dumped into the water over decades. The agency two years ago began monitoring the Lower Hudson to determine the extent of the contamination in the Highlands.

Riverkeeper is planning to unveil an expanded version of its public monitoring program at more than 200 locations this summer, but the program is dependent on a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a federal agency that Project 2025 says should close.

"People just aren't so aware of what they do," said Brown, referring to research to maintain and restore the Hudson's marshlands, such as Constitution Marsh, monitor water quality in the river, run the Norrie Point Environmental Center in northern Dutchess County and provide weather forecasts.

Some local environmentalists wonder if Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a former attorney for Riverkeeper who is now head of Health and Human Services, will prove to be an ally for

the Hudson Valley. But Brown, speaking shortly after Kennedy was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, said he has had no contact with the organization since leaving in 2017. "I don't anticipate any collaboration," Brown said.

A few days after being sworn in, Kennedy defunded the National Institute of Health's climate-change programs.

There was also hope that Lee Zeldin, a New Yorker confirmed Jan. 29 to lead the EPA, might be sympathetic to the Hudson River Valley. When he was a member of the state Assembly, Zeldin championed cleaning up the Long Island Sound and its waterways.

Lopez, who served in the Legislature with Zeldin and knows the EPA well from his own time as Region 2 administrator, said that he had spoken to Zeldin recently and was optimistic. But in the past few weeks, Zeldin has attempted to claw back \$20 billion in funding from environmental groups and is seeking to overturn a 2009 finding that gave the EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

Tomlin finds some encouragement in history. The EPA was created by a Republican president, Richard Nixon. The Clean Water Act was passed with a bipartisan supermajority that overrode a Nixon veto — he thought the bill would be too expensive. And Clearwater's founder, the folk icon Pete Seeger, was able to win over skeptics on both sides of the aisle. "The people made noise, and change happened," Toman said. "And it happened in a bipartisan way."

AROUND TOWN



YOUNG STARS — Students representing the Beacon Performing Arts Center were recognized at the 2025 Junior Theater Festival West on Feb. 9 in Sacramento, California. BPAC was named All-Festival Performance Group, Anthony Landry was honored for Outstanding Individual Performance, Caroline Sottile and Lilly Martin were named All-Stars and Sottile, Martin, Landry and Brandon Melendez received callbacks for a project promoting musical theater in schools. The festival included 54 groups from the U.S. and four other countries.

Photo provided



EAGLE SCOUT — Victoria McKay, a sophomore at Beacon High School, in December became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting, and is pursuing a Gold Award, the highest rank in Girl Scouts. She joined Pack 3001 when the Scouts first began allowing girls and later became a member of Troop 86. For her Eagle project, Victoria and a group of volunteers built a 9-foot-long, three-compartment compost bin for Stony Kill Farm in Fishkill. Her older brother, Allen, is also an Eagle Scout.

Photo provided



BOWL-A-THON — Building with Grace, created by Peter and Janice DiNatale of Philipstown to honor their late son, Alex Dengler, a former Marine who died of cancer in 2017 at age 30, held a fundraiser on Feb. 21 at Spins Bowl in Wappingers Falls. The nonprofit raises money to build or renovate homes for veterans with cancer.

Photo by Ross Corsair



SHARPSHOOTERS — The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 sent six boys and girls to the district free-throw competition on Feb. 23 at Hopewell Junction and all six advanced to the regionals on March 9 in Poughkeepsie. From left are Jack Fitzgerald (age 14, who made 23 of 25 shots), Diarmuid Cotter (11), Cormac Cotter (9), Bennett McConville (10), Alivia Amato (10) and Natalia Corless (12).

Photo provided


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March 7–June 23, 2025

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NOMINATION CATEGORIES:

• ATHLETE: 5+ YEARS POST GRADUATION

• COACH/ADMIN/TEACHER: 5 YEAR MINIMUM

• HONORARY: SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HHS/SPORTS

• ATHLETIC TEAM: 5+ YEARS POST GRADUATION



Nominations close April 1, 2025:

-Scan QR Code

-Haldane Website, Athletics, Hall of Fame



Chris Dingman



"Sentence of Trees," by Jenn Wiggs



Jenn Wiggs

Photos provided

The Calendar

Good Vibes in Beacon

Artists and musician team up for BAU show

By Marc Ferris

There's plenty of cross-pollination behind the scenes at the *Poetry of Place* exhibit scheduled to open March 8 with a reception at the Beacon Artist Union (BAU) Gallery.

Next month will be mixed-media artist and BAU member Karen Allen's turn to display in the showcase gallery visible from the street, and she invited Jenn Wiggs, who lives in Missouri, to share the space.

"Jenn said that she always wanted a show in New York, so I found one," says Allen, who resides in Westchester County.

Allen discovered Wiggs' work online during the pandemic, and they gelled. During regular virtual visits, they discuss approach, technique and philosophy.

Another of Allen's partnerships will also be on display — with vibraphonist Chris Dingman. They met in October at an Ossining art fair after Dingman paused to study one of Allen's pieces. "I saw him ponder it for a while and then circle around it like a shark," Allen says.

For their collaboration, she lends the musician a piece of her art and "I connect with it and visualize the energy," says Dingman, who lives in Nyack. He improvises tones, splices them together and drenches the mix in effects, resulting in experimental ambient sounds.

Dingman will perform at the gallery during the opening reception with a hip-high vibraphone, a cross between a piano and a percussion instrument. His 4- to 6-minute compositions will be accessible through QR codes.

The Dingman track responding to Allen's "Shadow Hamadryade" stacks layers of cascading notes over a propulsive rhythm.

Intertwining drone tones and a prominent hum compete for attention. After the emergence of a throbbing vocal, the song builds to a crescendo.

Another piece of music is inspired by Allen's "Third Eye of Hook Mountain," which augments the vaguely discernible features of the Nyack landmark with an underbelly of what could be a river of darkness or primordial layering. As Dingman's tones unfold, dynamics swell, notes seem to play at random intervals and an electronic, Morse Code-like tone chimes.

Allen's artistic vision began with a real-

istic bent: landscapes, figuratives and still lifes. But after meeting Wiggs, she dug into her feelings and "let the spirit take control." According to her website, Allen follows "visual intuitions" and explores a "poetic vision" to convey moods, rather than objects, as she turns toward abstraction. With that approach, "it's easy to start getting into a canvas or montage," she says. "The hard part is knowing when it's done."

Some abstract artists are averse to interpreting their work. Others say they want only to know how a piece makes viewers feel — ask at your peril if that cloudy figure

in the corner is a bird.

For Wiggs, "if someone tells me they see a squirrel and I recognize the squirrel, I'm painting it out," says Wiggs. "Everyone wants to know the meaning behind an edgy piece of art or music. The question is often the answer because sometimes words fail us, and it's just about how we respond emotionally."

A joint opening reception for Poetry of Place; Translucent Hues, by Eileen Sackman; and a member group show is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on March 8 at the BAU Gallery, 506 Main St. The exhibits continue through April 6. BAU Gallery is open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., and by appointment. See baugallery.org.



Karen Allen in her studio

Photo by Philip Jensen-Carter

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

TUES 4
Poem for a Pickle
GARRISON

5 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Record yourself reading a poem for a National Poetry Month podcast and receive an edible or stuffed pickle.

FRI 7
Ecstatic Dance Beacon
BEACON

7 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | dub.sh/ecstatic-beacon

After a guided movement exercise led by Dee Yergo, enjoy the space and dance with DJ aGave and soundscapes by Metta Chase. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 8
Parade of Green
BEACON

Noon. Main Street
facebook.com/paradeofgreen

The 10th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will begin at Route 9D and proceed to the dummy light.

SAT 8
Time Machine Dance Party
COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Move | 37 Chestnut St.
dub.sh/move-dance-party

This Haldane Arts Alliance fundraiser will jump ahead a musical decade every hour. *Cost: \$45 (\$75 for two)*

SUN 9
Daylight Saving Time Begins

2 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour

SUN 9
St. Patrick's Day Parade
MAHOPAC

2 p.m. Lake Plaza | 987 Route 6
facebook.com/NWP.
St.PatricksDayParade

Park at the shopping center and take an event bus from Stop and Shop to the 48th annual Northern Westchester-Putnam parade, which proceeds along Route 6.

VISUAL ART

SAT 1
Realism on the Hudson
BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Small works by members of the American Artists Professional League will be on view through April 5.

FRI 7
Lucio Pozzi
PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

Thirty figurative and abstract works by Pozzi, who lives in the Hudson Valley, will be on view through June 23. Highlights include

Elbow (1963) and *Quartet* (1984). *Cost: \$20 (\$10 seniors, students, disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 10, free for Philipstown residents and ages 5 and younger)*

FRI 7
Paradise
POUGHKEEPSIE

5 – 7 p.m. Hancock Gallery
12 Vassar St. | cunneen-hackett.org

The exhibit will feature oil paintings by Selva Ozelli of Philipstown and photos by Ian Hutton, curator of Lord Howe Island Museum in Australia. Through April 30.

SAT 8
Poetry of Place
BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Karen Allen and Jean Wiggs share a conversation through their paintings. See Page 11. In *Translucent Hues*, Eileen Sackman exhibits hand-carved porcelain reliefs with celadon glazes (below). A member show, *Passages*, is in Gallery 2. Through April 6.



KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 1
Read to a Teen
COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Beginner readers can practice with a teen volunteer. Sign up to be matched and schedule a time slot.

SAT 1
So You Want to Adopt a Guinea Pig?
GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 3 to 10 can learn about what guinea pigs need and how to care for them. Registration required.

TUES 4
The College Process
GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
desmondfishlibrary.org

In this program hosted by the Desmond-Fish library, Mollie Reznick of College Connection will take high school sophomores and juniors through the steps of researching colleges. Register online. *Free*

SUN 9
One Earth So
Green and Round
BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
bit.ly/earthsogreenhcc

Puppeteer Lydia Adams Davis will be joined by guitarist Elly Winninger to tell musical stories in this interactive show. Registration required. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 1
Wicked
GARRISON

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

Watch the 2024 blockbuster starring Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba and Arianna Grande as Glinda. Registration required.

SUN 2
The Cher Show
WEST POINT

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

This musical includes 35 of the diva's hits — and lots of sequins. *Cost: \$39 to \$89*

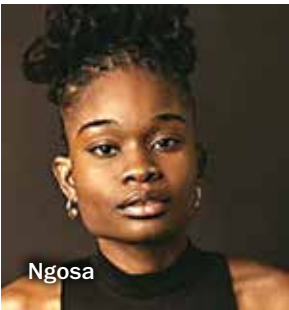
FRI 7
The House of Lattisville
GARRISON

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

This new play by Nan Nelson-Ewing, directed by Shona Tucker and starring Richarda Abrams and Genevieve Ngosa, is set in a Harlem brownstone owned by elderly woman after a young woman breaks in. Also SAT 8, SUN 9 and weekends through March 16. *Cost: \$30*



Abrams



Ngosa

FRI 7
Broadway Leading Ladies
PEEKSKILL

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

Ta-Tynisa Wilson, Emily Bautista, Keri Rene Fuller, Judy McLane and Jill Paice will celebrate iconic roles and songs. *Cost: \$44 to \$58*



Jive Poetic, March 1

FRI 7
CP2 Series Readers
Theatre Mini-Festival
WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org

Actors will perform readings of *Witch*, by Jen Silverman, and *The Burdens*, by Matt Schatz. Also SUN 9. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 8
The Irish Comedy Tour
PEEKSKILL

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

Derek Richards and Michael Malone will perform stand-up about Irish culture and stereotypes, accompanied by musicians. *Cost: \$30 to \$45*

SAT 8
The Artichoke
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com

This month's featured storytellers are Andrew McGill, Bailey Swilley, Jack Blankenship, Britt Genelin, Johanna Gohmann and Neil Intraub. *Cost: \$25*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 1
Jive Poetic
BEACON

2 p.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

The DJ and educator will perform selections from his memoir, *Skip Tracer*. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for ages 5 and younger and Beacon residents)*

SAT 1
The Hidden Meaning of
Plants in Florentine Art
GARRISON

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

Patricia Berwald, a member of the Philipstown Garden Club, will share floral and artistic highlights from a recent visit to Italy. *Free*

SAT 1
Twilight of the Gods
BEACON

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

Kurt Baumeister will share his latest novel about the gods, told from the perspective of Loki.

SUN 2
Let's Talk Monsters
BEACON

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

Dennis Mahoney (*Our Winter Monster*) and Robert Ottone (*Nocturnal Creatures*) will read from their new novels.

WED 5
Pet First-Aid Training
BEACON

7 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.

Veterinarian Paul McNamara will lead this workshop on recognizing symptoms of illness in pets and demonstrate lifesaving skills. Email mrc@dutchessny.gov to register.

THURS 6
Navigating Misinformation
Online
GARRISON

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

This program hosted by the library and Philipstown Aging at Home will explain how to interpret and analyze information on the internet.

FRI 7
Lit Lit
BEACON

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

Read original work in any genre for five minutes at this monthly literary open mic.

SAT 8
Dark Spores
BEACON

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

Carol Gyzander, who co-edited this anthology of horror stories inspired by mushrooms and fungus, will host readings by five writers who contributed.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 1
Maple Sugar Tours
CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hnnaturecenter.org

Tours, which begin hourly until 3 p.m., include a short walk to Maple Lane or a mile hike to the Sugar Bush Shack. Also SUN 2, SAT 8, SUN 9. *Cost: \$18 (\$15 members, free for ages 4 and younger)*

SUN 2
Rattlesnakes and Reptiles of the Highlands
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
In this program hosted with the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, a state wildlife biologist will discuss the history of local reptiles.

MUSIC

SAT 1
Winter Music Festival
MONTGOMERY
11:30 a.m. – 10:45 p.m. City Winery
23 Factory St.
Bands from the School of Rock in Beacon will perform, including those focused on hard rock, indie rock, R&B and hits from the 1970s and '80s. *Cost: \$16*

SAT 1
Breakneck Boys
BEACON
8 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing
511 Fishkill Ave.
industrialartsbrewing.com
The Americana band will perform.

SAT 1
Dave Burrell
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke
15 South Ave.
daveburrell.eventbrite.com
This is the first of five solo jazz piano concerts in March hosted by Elysium Furnace Works. Burrell is a free jazz performer who has recorded over 40 albums. See Page 15. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 1
Feast of Friends
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Doors tribute band will perform the hits and deep cuts. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 1
Michael Wolff Trio
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The jazz pianist will perform with Andy McKee (bass) and Victor Jones (drums). *Cost: \$20*

SUN 2
Shai Wosner
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
Wosner's program is part of the Howland Chamber Music Circle's annual piano festival. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

THURS 6
Cherish the Ladies
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Irish American group is celebrating its 40th anniversary. *Cost: \$50 (\$55 door)*

FRI 7
Mardi Gras Celebration
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Soul Purpose and Trojan Horses will play New Orleans funk, classic and swing. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 8
West Point on the March
WEST POINT
2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre
655 Pitcher Road | westpointband.com
The West Point Band program will include classics from the American military genre. *Free*

SAT 8
Hudson Valley Freestyle Jam
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Group such as TKA, George Lamond, The Cover Girls, Cynthia,



West Point on the March, March 8

Johnny O, Coro, Lisette Melendez and C-Bank will perform to celebrate the 40th anniversary of freestyle. *Cost: \$65 to \$158*

SAT 8
Bruce Foley and John Nolan
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Foley (guitar, uilleann pipes) and Nolan (button accordion) play traditional Irish music. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 8
Kris Davis
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke
15 South Ave. | krisdavis.eventbrite.com
The pianist and composer, who won a Grammy in 2023 for best jazz instrumental album (*New Standards Vol. 1*), will perform as part of a series of solo concerts hosted by Elysium Furnace Works. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 8
Tom Chapin's 80th Birthday Bash
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The three-time Grammy winner will be joined by Michael Mark and

Jon Cobert, as well as other friends and performers. Non-perishable food donations will be collected for Fareground. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 9
Jim Messina
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The former member of Buffalo Springfield and Poco and bandmate of Kenny Loggins will play music from his album, *In the Groove*. *Cost: \$30 to \$48*

SUN 9
Kevin McKrell
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter plays American Celtic music, mixing Irish, bluegrass styles. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

CIVIC

SAT 1
Assembly Town Hall
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, will meet

with constituents and discuss her priorities in the legislative session. Rescheduled from Feb. 15.

MON 3
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 4
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 4
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountynyny.com

WED 5
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 5
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 6
Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

SUN 9
Fishkill Avenue Corridor
BEACON
2 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing
511 Fishkill Ave.
The Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee will present its recommendations and hear feedback.

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Jamie Saft



Eri Yamamoto



Alexis Marcelo *Photos provided*

FROM CLASSICAL TO JAZZ

Beacon concerts showcase five innovators

By Marc Ferris

James Keepnews always wanted to curate a solo piano festival and now the wish comes to fruition. On each of the five Saturdays in March, his production company, Elysium Furnace Works, will present an eclectic collection of performers at St. Andrew and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Beacon.

On Saturday (March 1), the first concert will feature Dave Burrell, 84, a pioneer with Archie Shepp, Pharoah Sanders and David Murray, who steered jazz in new directions from the 1960s to the '80s.

After bouncing around the Hudson Valley over the decades, Keepnews landed in Hyde Park. But he lived in Cold Spring for a spell and served on the board of The Chapel Restoration and was in Beacon for six years until 2018, where he founded the Monday jazz series at Quinn's. "People think of me as a jazz person but put me in a box and I'll try to break out," he says.

Drawn to the avant-garde, Keepnews helped establish Elysium Furnace Works eight years ago with Mike Falloon and Steve Ventura, a former co-owner of Quinn's, who moved west last year.

Over time, Keepnews and his partners promoted shows at the Howland Cultural Center, worked with Story Screen before it moved to Catskill and rented a Main Street yoga studio because of its great acoustics. "DIY 'til I die!" he says.



Kris Davis

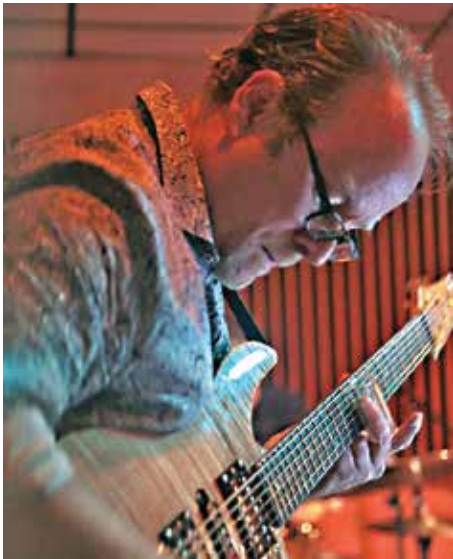
The church sanctuary is another beautiful space with a nice piano, he says. "We tune it before every show and that's it, there's no other equipment necessary."

The performers booked for the March series are associated with jazz and its improvisational, free-form underpinnings.

Kris Davis (March 8) won a Grammy in 2023 for best jazz instrumental album. After transitioning from classical to jazz, she recorded 24 albums as a leader or co-leader, some of which draw from rock, R&B, electronica, spoken word and free improvisation, returning to her classical roots as a composer.

Also veering from classical to jazz (and African music), Bronx-based Alexis Marcelo (March 15) has collaborated with GZA, a member of rap group Wu-Tang Clan.

Another pianist who switched from classical training to jazz studies, Eri Yamamoto



James Keepnews *File photo*

(March 22) toured the world and earned praise from Herbie Hancock. Jamie Saft (March 29) played with rocker Iggy Pop and experimenters John Zorn and Marc Ribot.

Pursuing his offbeat bent, Keepnews knows that "non-commercial music suffers in today's marketplace. The culture on our screens comes in bubbles: social media bubbles, ideological bubbles and musical bubbles because Spotify and other delivery systems are too curated," he says. "We're dedicated to popping as many bubbles as possible."

The Beacon festival will be followed by six concerts produced by Elysium Furnace Works at the Cunneen-Hacket Arts Center in Poughkeepsie between May and December.

St. Andrew & St. Luke is located at 15 South Ave. in Beacon. Each show begins at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$20 at dub.sh/efw-beacon.

Current Classifieds

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FACILITIES TECHNICIANS — Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison is looking to expand its facilities team. Duties include site stewardship of the 112-acre site, security, supporting programming and event setup/breakdown, equipment maintenance, custodial duties, supporting collections/museum care and landscaping. Several full-time positions are open at \$18-21/hour, with occasional overtime available. Medical, dental, life insurance, 401k, PTO and professional development opportunities available. Email Kevin Cancel, Facilities Manager, at communications@boscobel.org.

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 11th, 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 Conservation Board March 2025.



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From Software to Sawdust

Former engineer pursues passion for wood

By Leonard Sparks

John Lee warns about the messiness of his garage-based woodworking shop, where the floor is covered with sawdust and shavings. On an upstairs table lies a copy of *The Intelligent Hand*, by a British furniture designer — the February selection from a woodworking book club.

Less than two years ago, employed as a software engineer, Lee says he reached a point when he couldn't stop thinking about woodworking. In 2023, the Philipstown resident left his job to found Bevel-Up Woodworks (bevelupwoodworks.com), which last year was named the best new local business by the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce.

"I didn't want to wake up 30 years later wishing I had at least tried," he says. "I also wanted more contact with the community and to spend more time with my daughter, which I couldn't do with a two-hour commute into the city."

Bevel-Up satiates Lee's passion for using



John Lee in his Philipstown workshop

Photo by L. Sparks

his hands, turning North American hardwoods like cherry, maple and oak into furniture and household objects. His first-year projects ranged from pencil boxes to a wall cabinet to an 8½-foot-long dining table and seating for an outdoor classroom at Haldane.

The transition began years before it happened, when Lee started watching YouTube videos created by Ishitani Furniture, a Japanese company that shows its craftspeople transforming boards into benches, chairs and tables.

When Lee's wife, a physician, began working at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, the family decided to relocate from Manhattan. Notably, a house in Garrison they toured before buying their Philipstown home in 2018 had a barn with a furniture-making shop. "I had no idea what any of the machines were, but I saw the models the owner had made," he says. "When we moved here, I started doing [projects] around the house."

His first commission at Bevel-Up was a garden bench for his daughter's pre-K school, the Little Friends Learning Loft in the City of Newburgh. After Lee began building a dining table, other requests came in, including one for the octagonal seating area for an outdoor classroom at Haldane.

Lee collaborated with his neighbor, woodworker Dan Upham of WoodSuit, on the project, a commission from the family of Lori Isler, a 1981 Haldane graduate who taught in the district for 30 years before she died of cancer in 2018.

In addition to furniture, Lee has constructed picture frames, including tiny ones for an artist whose oil paintings are as small as 1-inch squares. "Some people know exactly what they want, and they're looking for a fabrication partner," he says. "Some people don't know, and they're coming to



A maple and oak dining table with pierced top



A cedar garden bench



A cherry, ash and ebony wall cabinet

Photos provided

me because they're looking for a design partner and a sounding board."

With a few commissions completed, Lee says he is still figuring out the types of furniture that buyers want. He would like to sell at craft fairs, where people can see examples of his work rather than just photos.

The move to woodworking has not been easy but was worth it, said Lee. "For me, taking something from an idea to completion does it," he says. "I live for that moment."



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An Unexpected Warhol

Dia Beacon mounts (most of) the artist's 'Shadows'

By Marc Ferris

In the winter, Dia Beacon closes at 4 p.m. because most of its contents are illuminated by natural light, which pours in from the pointy, serrated rooftop windows along with other gaping openings that punctuate three of the building's outer walls. Once the sun dips, the interior goes dark.

The museum, which opened in 2003, is dedicated to large-scale contemporary works, some of them site-specific. One prized possession, "Shadows" by Andy Warhol, has traveled the globe. After a year-long hiatus in 2023, most of the concept is back on display with plans to let it hang for at least a few years, says Donna De Salvo, a Warhol expert and curator at the museum.

This time, 72 of Warhol's 102 panels, which he considered to be one item, are displayed at Dia Beacon in roughly the same order as they appeared during the 1979 premiere. Back then, the de facto Dia gallery in Manhattan only had room for 83.

Few venues in the world are large enough to show the entire creation, although the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., pulled it off managed it in 2011 along a long, curved interior wall.

According to the gallery notes, Warhol wanted the panels displayed "edge to edge and low to the ground, but not too low to be kicked." At Dia Beacon, the harmonious hanging draws the eye around the room.

Dia bought the silkscreened canvasses coated with sponge-mopped acrylic paint right after the premiere ended. "Shadows" is the only artifact of the pop artist that Dia retained after donating more than 200 works to the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, his birthplace, which opened in 1995.

Warhol, who died in 1987 at age 58 after a botched gallbladder operation, dismissed "Shadows" as wallpaper. "Someone asked me if they were art and I said, 'No,'" he wrote in *New York* magazine. "You see, the opening party had disco. I guess that makes them disco decor."

Each panel measures 52 by 76 inches, or roughly 4-by-6 feet; the series suggests mass production because the images are repetitive, yet they convey distinctive color or texture. A few are rendered in smooth matte; others are covered in bumpy splotches.

The main design in the frame's left edge, almost always rendered in black, looks like a ragged capital L or an exaggerated wolf's head. A recurring jagged peak resembles a flame or floating lighthouse. Often offering contrast is a bright-colored negative space toward the top right, which is unusual because darkness often creates the voids in paintings.

In the current configuration, six panels convey a nearly complete dark monochrome. Two lack any black and three others pair the lower-left blotch with a

jammy purple that exudes a fingerprint pattern vibe. In other places, it's easy to see where Warhol dragged the mop.

After ditching depictions of Elvis, Mao and Marilyn, Warhol turned to abstracts. Based on "a photo of a shadow in my office," he wrote in *New York*, these color studies use hues like aubergine, chartreuse, carmine red, cadmium yellow, cobalt blue, phthalo green and his signature silver.

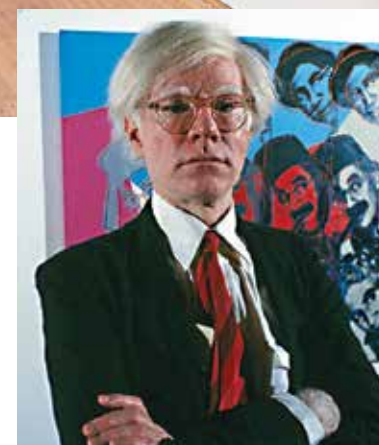
"He's one of the great colorists — I liken him to Matisse," says De Salvo.

In her view, the pieces look like sound wave blips and "have a cinematic quality, almost like being inside an old zoetrope," a pre-film animation machine.


There is nothing quite like "Shadows" in contemporary art, De Salvo says. "It's an immersive installation that rewards repeat visits," she says. "It's amazing to watch first-timers. Many are puzzled and ask, 'This is Andy Warhol?'"



"Shadows," by Andy Warhol, at Dia Beacon
Dia Art Foundation



Dia Beacon, located at 3 Beekman St., is open Friday to Monday. Winter hours end today (Feb. 28); beginning March 1, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See diaart.org. Admission is \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for ages 5 and younger). Beacon and Newburgh residents are admitted free, and Putnam and Dutchess residents are admitted free on the last Sunday of each month.



PUTNAM HIGHLANDS AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society Presents

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Their Natural History, Threats, and Conservation


Led by Lisa Masi, Wildlife Biologist

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Garrison, NY
(845) 424-3020



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
KURT STEGER

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MAR 2 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG

March 9 John Pielmeier

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

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG

Always Present, Never Seen: A Response

By Daniel Pruitt

Editor's Note: Born in South Carolina, Daniel Pruitt attended school in Brockway, Beacon and Glenham before graduating from Beacon High School in 1965 and earning degrees from SUNY Stony Brook and The New School for Social Research in New York City. Retired from IBM, he lives in Dunedin, Florida.

Below are excerpts from an article that Pruitt researched and wrote in response to our five-part series on the history of Black



people in the Highlands, Always Present, Never Seen, published in 2022. Pruitt felt the series could have included more about local Black history from 1850 to 1930.

"I felt a personal need to connect the present, which I knew, with the past, which I did not," he wrote. "This past history was never present and never seen as such over my lifetime."

His full report, which he describes as part memoir and part scholarship, is available online, along with an earlier installment we published in August. Both are excerpted from his book, Lost and Found: Beacon's Black Community 1850-1930, which will be published in June.

I grew up in Brockway, a company town for a brickyard that didn't roll out its first products until 1888, 50 years late to the brickmaking party in the Hudson Valley. Edwin Brockway earned his reputation for brick manufacturing in Haverstraw; his purchase of William Mortimer's country seat in 1886 in Fishkill was supposedly for retirement, but his sons pushed him to open another brickyard.

Likely inspired by what Homer Ramsdell was doing with the excavation, landfill and physical plant construction at Denning's

Point, Brockway built a peninsula on 48 acres of Hudson River surface, using New York City garbage as landfill, and topped it with clay pits, brick machines, kilns and drying yards.

He likely filled his workforce with seasonal Black sharecroppers and tenant farmers from North Carolina and Virginia. After brickmaking became year-round, he coaxed those workers to work year-round. He limited their interaction with the white residents of Fishkill Landing (which was combined in 1913 with Matteawan to create Beacon) by building a village to house and tend to their basic needs (school, store, post office).

Today, nothing remains of Brockway except the railway trestle that once brought excavated clay drawn by a small locomotive (we called it a "dinky") into the brickyard. Brockway's beginning was secretive, its existence plantation-like and its end by bankruptcy a loss for owner and worker alike.

My parents came to Beacon in 1946 to work at the Castle Point VA hospital. My dad's parents, losing the family home in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to a suspicious fire, joined them shortly after. Brockway provided not only Black jobs but Black housing in those duplexes with small areas to garden for the industrious. Pregnant with me, my mom went back to her home



The author in Brockway in 1950. "I was soon riding two-wheel bikes much larger than myself. The only way I could safely mount and dismount were via the stoops seen to the right, conveniently located in pairs on all duplexes," he recalls.

in Helena, South Carolina, in 1947 for my midwife birth and first months of life.

When my family arrived, Brockway was full of chamber pots and outhouses where toilets were flushed — not often enough — with lye. Water was gathered by the pail from a pipe protruding from a hill and drank at home from dippers. The main road turned to dirt as it snaked down from Route 9D. Clothes were washed in tubs and hung on lines, leaving them with a pinkish tint from the brick dust. Saturday night baths were taken outside in galvanized tubs, heated with kettle water; showers were taken in the rain with a bar of soap.

On my first day of kindergarten, my dad gave me a Mickey Mouse watch that, under no circumstances, was I to take off my wrist. He told me I would be late for school once Mickey's big hand got to the 12 (I was not yet able to tell time). After a playmate asked whether the watch was waterproof, I found myself sticking my arm in the bucket that caught water at the spring that afternoon. Mickey was not waterproof.

The school in Brockway was not a one-

room schoolhouse, although I thought so for most of my life. There were three rooms manned by three teachers at an earlier time. When I attended, there was only one room in use, overseen by Mrs. Sarah Taylor, future mayor of Fishkill. All the big and small kids were in that room, grouped by class or ability. A paddle or brush wasn't required to maintain order, but that was to change at the South Avenue school.

The families living in the nine brick duplexes provided most of the students at the Brockway school, with a few from the closed Martin brickyard. The school sat in the middle of a natural playground with walnuts to crack with bricks, although the delicious nuts left stains on your hands. A wooded stream disappeared into a shaded marsh, with frogs, snakes and skunk cabbage. Clay banks were through the woods to the left, with crystal-blue ponds of rainwater, and the clapboard housing of the Martin Yard a way to the right. Sounds and sights were all around: the caw of crows, the scamper of squirrels, the gliding of

(Continued on Page 19)



NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – March 10th, 2025

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 10th, 2025 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Sandy McLeod, 45 Manitou Woods Road, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#89.11-1-21

Applicant proposes a two-car garage that will require two variances. One for a front-yard setback proposing 36'- 4" where 60' is required and a second for bulk lot coverage of 13% where 10% is allowed.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/feb>

Dated February 10th, 2025

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – March 10th, 2025

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Amanda Vasta, 9 Cliffside Court, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#82.20-2-38

Applicant is seeking a variance for bulk lot coverage of 19.6% where 10% is allowed.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/feb>

Dated February 10th, 2025

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

(Continued from Page 18)

hawks. There were strawberries, blackberries and mulberry trees that served snacks.

The school itself was on the verge of closing. Mrs. Taylor, in her fight to keep it open, pleaded her case to the parents. My dad was one of the few who kept their children at Brockway the following year, and I basically had Mrs. Taylor as a private teacher for the second grade. I suffered momentarily every morning as the bus to the South Avenue school pulled off with my classmates. The next year, the Brockway school closed. My dad bought into a small store on Beekman Street and moved us to Beacon and me to South Avenue.

There was something magnetic about Brockway. There were always visitors, especially on weekends: brickyard workers, former residents and such, hanging out. While Brockway wasn't patrolled, behavior was scrutinized but maybe not severely judged. The river and woods were at our fingertips, not to mention a few home gardens and chicken coops and Mr. Baxter's pigsty and cow. There was always a bottle of Fleischmann's or some other brown liquor to be passed around a fire or burn barrel after dark.

"My dad and uncles played, but the softball stars of the family were my mom and my aunt Ellen, who played for the Brockway Lassies."

Fire was Brockway's garbage disposal, a fire pit in every yard. Clambakes brought crowds, gambling and more brown liquor. Weekly paychecks gave these sons of sharecroppers easy access to booze, if not much else. Cars weren't a necessity but a source of pride. In the 1950s, a group of Brockway's young men formed a social club around their love for cars, with pink satin jackets that read "The Rickshaws" and "Brockway, NY." The west end of Beacon, when necessary, was a short walk down the tracks through a makeshift hobo village.

We had a softball diamond with a boulder in left field. It was the era of Jackie Robinson. A decade earlier, Brockway would have been filled with makeshift punching bags. That was Joe Louis's time. The Black kids in Brockway, like Black kids all over, were trying to punch or swing their way out of poverty.

At the time, the City of Beacon recreation leagues were segregated, up until Castle Point would no longer field teams without their Black workers. This would have been after 1948, the year President Truman desegregated the military. Brockway fielded a men's fast-pitch team known as the Setters. Its best players were coveted by other teams, especially pitcher Skippy Eggleston. My dad and uncles played, but the softball stars of the family were my mom and my aunt Ellen, who played for the Brockway Lassies. My aunt pitched and my mom caught and roamed the infield and outfield. She was smooth on the bases and

never an easy out.

The difficulty for most Brockway students at South Avenue wasn't learning the lessons but the micro-aggressions endured from other students and teachers. An uncombed head, an unwashed face, high-water pants, a wrinkled dress or a torn shirt were daily occurrences in Brockway that didn't go unnoticed at South Avenue. Many Brockway students quit to help their families or take jobs at the brickyard, but three of the four Black graduates in the Beacon High School Class of 1951 were from Brockway.

There was at least one Brockway brick worker — there may have been more — who survived the brickyard bankruptcy, the Depression and the relief rolls, and came out still a Brockway brick worker, even after the purchase of the yard by David Strickland of Denning's Point Brick Works, who in 1925 instituted a no-Blacks policy. According to census records, Roscoe Vaughn worked at Brockway from 1920 to 1940. In 1944, his son, Roscoe Jr., was killed in action during World War II in North Africa. He sent his son to war from 86 North Ave.

There's another noted Brockway veteran of World War II, perhaps the least known and the most heroic. He was Frank Cochrane Jr., a member of the 761st tank battalion. The Black battalion was destined to spend the war training in Louisiana and Texas, but in the summer of 1944, following heavy American casualties in France, it was called into action. The authors of a history titled *Brothers in Arms* recount:

"In the tank commanded by Staff Sgt. Frank Cochrane, a direct artillery strike killed driver James Welborn. A second armor-piercing 88 blasted through one side of the turret and out the other," injuring gunner Frank Greenwood. "Greenwood didn't feel any immediate pain but looked down at a slight tickling sensation to see that both his feet were gone." Cochrane pulled Greenwood out of the tank and, stumbling, carried him to a roadside ditch. "Greenwood had lost consciousness from shock; Cochrane rested Greenwood's head on his boot to keep it from being submerged in the cold, muddy water."

German artillery observers spotted the ditch where Cochrane, Greenwood and dozens of infantrymen had fled. "Mortar teams began 'walking' [blasting] the ditch at evenly spaced intervals. They walked up the line to within 30 yards of Cochrane and Greenwood."

The more I look back, the more I get it: Black folks battered by a past that they had little control over, continuing to play the game, knowing the game was rigged; trying to make the best of their present situation (little money with mouths to feed, little education when getting more didn't help, little mobility when the only help may have been to head back home, to the South). They wanted to live the lives seen in *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines, and those in *Life*.

All that remains of my childhood is that rusted, dinky trestle. It's like Brockway never existed. Was it real?

To read *Always Present, Never Seen*, visit highlandscurrent.org/black-history.



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OBITUARIES



Jean Brady
(1939-2025)

On Feb. 20, 2025, Jean E. Brady, long-time resident of Cold Spring, New York, peacefully entered eternal rest at the age of 85 with her family by her side. Jean most recently moved to Saugerties, New York, to be closer to her family.

Born on June 2, 1939, in New York City, Jean was the eldest daughter to the late Walter K. and Mary (Alesi) Schmager. Jean’s sisters, Tina Merando and Francis Thorbjornsen, survive, while Jean was predeceased by her brothers Phillip and Walter Jr. Jean was also predeceased by her best friend and confidant Helen Corso.

On Feb. 10, 1957, Jean married her high school sweetheart, Brian M. Brady, who passed in 2015. With young children in tow, on weekends and with the help of their best friends (Joe and Helen), Jean and Brian built their home together in Cold Spring, New York, where they raised their five children: Kevin, Dennis, Terry, Joanne and Stephen. Jean is also predeceased by her daughter, Joanne (1990).

Early on, Jean was most proud to raise her five children as a stay-at-home mom until she joined the team at Hudson Highlands Veterinary Hospital, where she ultimately became hospital administrator, a position she held until her retirement.

Jean and Brian shared many years of love and interests together — from gardening to fishing to painting and the culinary arts. Jean thoroughly enjoyed seeing her interests shine through her 16 grandchildren. Jean was also blessed with seven great grandchildren!! Family was always the most important to Jean.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrot St., in Cold Spring. Interment will be privately held.

PAID NOTICE

Hisako Hirose (1936-2025)

Hisako Shimazu Hirose, 88, formerly of Beacon, died Jan. 29 in Ardsley, surrounded by her three daughters.

She was born July 19, 1936, in Tokyo, the eldest of the six children of Koji and Chieko Shimazu. She lived in Rhinebeck and Port Washington before moving to Beacon. In 1960 she married Saneteru (“Terry”) Hirose, who died in 2023.

Hisako was an intelligent, strong and worldly woman who broke the mold for Japanese women of her era, her family said. A decade after the end of World War II, as a high school student in Osaka, she won a contest to represent Japan at the 1955 *Herald Tribune* World Youth Forum. As part of this experience, she spent three months in the U.S., living with host families while attending high school in New York, and visited the White House, where she met President Dwight Eisenhower.

This experience changed the trajectory of her life, exposing her to a world beyond Japan that she would explore for the rest of her life. After high school, Hisako attended ICU — the International Christian University — a prestigious private university in Japan, which offered courses in English and Japanese and had a diverse student body and faculty, representing many countries. At ICU,



she met her future husband, Terry. When his company sent him to be stationed in New York early in their marriage, Hisako demanded that it send her along — an unusual arrangement in those years.

Hisako and Terry loved life in the U.S. and decided to stay. After having three daughters, they moved to the suburbs of Long Island. As the girls got older, Hisako became a working mom and commuted for many years to Manhattan, working at Standard Brands on Madison Avenue and Citibank on Wall Street. She spent evenings and weekends earning an MBA at Adelphi University, again defying expectations for Japanese women at the time. Hisako continued to work into her 70s as a freelance translator for financial institutions and law firms.

Hisako loved books, films and music, not just in Japanese and English, but also in French, which she studied throughout her life. She left behind bookcases filled with novels in all three languages. She loved to travel, exploring the world with Terry and with friends. After moving to Beacon, she and Terry became friends with other like-minded Japanese immigrants in the Hudson Valley.

Hisako is survived by daughters Satsuki (“Suki”) Blumenstock (Rob), Yuki Hirose (Eric Brenner) and Haruko Hirose (Joe McCauley), and her grandchildren: Arran, Kylie, Lucy, Sophie, Julian, Nico, J.J. and Patrick. She is also survived by four siblings in Japan. Along with her husband of 63 years, Hisako’s brother, Shunichi Shimazu,

died earlier. Memorial donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders (doctorwithoutborders.org).

Joe Wright (1941-2025)

Joseph J. Wright, 83, a jazz drummer and English professor who performed on weekends at the Depot Restaurant in Cold Spring, died Feb. 16 at his home in Fishkill.



Joe was born in Manhattan on Aug. 7, 1941, the son of John and Delia (Laffey) Wright. He pursued his passions for jazz and writing throughout his life.

After completing his master’s degree in 1983, he taught English and music history at various colleges, including Marymount and Mercy, and for the prison programs at the Sing Sing and Bedford Hills correctional facilities. He retired in 2017 from the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

For over 50 years, he played drums professionally in jazz groups throughout New York City and the Hudson Valley. His last gig was summer weekends at the Depot Restaurant; it lasted 30 years.

He married Teresa Hood on Sept. 5, 2020; she survives him. He is also survived by his niece, Julie Bilgrav.

Calling hours are scheduled for 4 to 6 p.m. on March 7 at McHoul Funeral Home, 1089 Main St., in Fishkill. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association (act.alz.org) or the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation (louisarmstrongfoundation.org).

Other Recent Deaths

<i>Beacon</i>	
Richard Bosque, 38	Cathy Prescott, 68
Joseph Coviello, 93	Jay Provnick, 65
Alfredo Ingles, 77	Phil Randazzo, 81
Joey Marinelli, 52	Patsy Romine, 58
Martha Mastrantuono, 78	Norton Segarra, 74
Valerie McKinstry, 78	Sandra Weed, 73
Paul Nuccitelli, 82	Daniel Yanarella, 78
<i>Philipstown</i>	
Matthew Bowen, 59	Beth Murphy, 70
Frederick Isler, 85	Betty Ann Shields, 84
Jimmy Markey, 63	Guy Toscano, 86

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, March 10th, 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 March 2025.

NOTICE

BEAR MOUNTAIN BRIDGE PROJECT
PUBLIC MEETING

The **New York State Bridge Authority** invites you to a public meeting to learn more about the Bear Mountain Bridge Deck Replacement Project and to share your input on the project’s concept designs!

DATE: **Thursday, March 13, 2025** TIME: **6:00 PM**
LOCATION: **Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524**

The **Bear Mountain Bridge** is a vital connection carrying NYS Routes 6 and 202 and the Appalachian Trail over the Hudson River. Opened in 1924, this 2,255-foot-long suspension bridge has served vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists for a century.

The **Bear Mountain Bridge Deck Replacement Project** will:

- **Replace the aging bridge deck** to enhance **safety** and extend the bridge’s lifespan.
- **Widen sidewalks** for improved **accessibility**.
- **Improve barriers** and **enhance scenic overlooks** for safe, accessible viewing areas.

Visit our website to learn more at **www.bearmountainbridgeproject.com** or
REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND: **http://bit.ly/3EWZwI0**

Have questions or want to request interpretation during the public meeting?
EMAIL US: **bearmountainbridgeproject@gmail.com.**

¿Tiene preguntas o desea solicitar interpretación durante la reunión pública? **Envíenos un correo electrónico.**

Roots and Shoots

New Plants from Old Plants

By Pamela Doan

In December, I wanted snow cover so I could stop gardening. Milder temperatures and late ground freezing allow for more projects both in my yard and professionally, but I was ready to move on.

Indoor winter work involves paper and pencil to create ideas for gardens and a focus on research and writing. January was a perfect blend. Then, in February, that creative energy was building up but stymied by snow cover. The ice melting this week feels right and I'm ready for new shoots.

As the soil slowly thaws, I want to take advantage of the wet conditions by pulling out a periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) planted by a previous owner that has invaded a flower bed. I worked on controlling it last season and will certainly be doing it for years.

I wouldn't use that plant in any situation.

"The ice melting this week feels right and I'm ready for new shoots."



While it isn't listed on the state's prohibited or regulated plant lists, it should be. The vine roots every 6 inches or so, making it tenacious. It creeps along the ground and forms a dense mat. It was bad enough when it was covering a swath in the woods, but now it's coming for a lovely perennial garden. Because it has evergreen leaves, it blocks other plants from sprouting, sparing only the most competitive and reshaping the little ecosystem I began 15 years ago.

More elderberry, please

Our native elderberry is *Samubucus canadensis*, or black elderberry. It's a multi-stemmed large bush that grows up to 10 feet tall. In mid-summer it has clusters of delicate white flowers that pollinators love. The berries set in late summer. Let them ripen completely before eating or using them in jams or wine.

I picked up elderberry seedlings from a Putnam County sale awhile back and have been delighted by the quick-growing, low-maintenance and landscape-enhancing results. Birds love them. Dozens of species eat the berries and use the bushes for cover and nesting. Northern cardinals and scarlet tanagers, for example, eat the berries, and the elderberry is a host plant for 29 cater-



The opposite leaf arrangement and shape make elderberry easy to identify.
U.S. Forest Service

pillar species that birds feed to their young. Pretty and impactful is my kind of plant.

I have the perfect area to expand the patch and I'm going to use cuttings to propagate it. Now is the right moment, before bud break, to cut pieces with two to four leaf nodes from the bush. Since my elderberries are more than three years old, I want to cut my pieces from the newest, most vigorous sections.

The pieces can be placed directly into the soil, if it's thawed enough, but I'm going to experiment and put a few in pots on the

patio in regular soil and try others indoors in a soil-less medium. The main thing is to keep the soil moist but not let them sit in soggy areas where the stems will rot.

Place the cut piece in soil buried up to the top node. In many instances, rooting hormones will help the process, but research hasn't shown greater success for elderberries, so I'll skip that. It takes about six weeks for root growth, but leaves will sprout before that. Give them time to root and don't disturb them too early.

During my first elderberry planting, I didn't protect the 12-inch seedlings and they became deer snacks. A wire enclosure around each seedling will suffice until the shrub is tall enough to withstand munching.

Hardwood propagation also works for blackberries, willows, grapes, currants, honeysuckle and others. I can't cover the process in depth here but Lee Reich, who has an upstate "farmden" (not quite a farm but more than a garden) and taught agriculture at Cornell University, has a helpful guide at dub.sh/hardwood-cuttings with more information. I refer to his website often for advice on growing fruit. He's generous with his knowledge and experience.

Once the seedlings are a go, I have rain barrels to install, along with better irrigation lines for the vegetable garden. The chicken coop got cleaned recently and all that bedding and poop can be mixed into the compost. Good days ahead, and I'm eager to get outside and play in the mud.

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NOTICE

The Beacon City School
District: Soliciting Proposals
From Qualified Firms

The Beacon City School District is soliciting proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit the Beacon City School District's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

To be considered for this engagement, please email quartironi.a@beaconk12.org for full instructions. Your firm must meet the qualifications and satisfy the requirements set forth in the RFP.

Completed proposals must be received at the following address by **March 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** local time and addressed as follows:

Beacon City School District
10 Education Drive,
Beacon, NY 12508
Attn: Ann Marie Quartironi,
Deputy Superintendent

Unless otherwise noted in this proposal, all questions and correspondence should be directed to Ann Marie Quartironi in writing and emailed to quartironi.a@beaconk12.org. All questions will be addressed appropriately by addendum.

Sailing on Thin Ice

Mild winters spell trouble for iceboating

By Michael Turton

John Sperr, 75, doesn't need scientific reports to understand how climate change has affected iceboating on the Hudson River.

"This year we've gone out seven or eight times," says Sperr. In the "good years" — three to four decades ago — he would sail 35 to 40 times per winter. "I could depend on the pond in my backyard freezing by Dec. 9, but as time went on that was no longer true. We rarely get a good season of ice."

The Rhinebeck resident began iceboating in 1982, "a particularly spectacular year on the Hudson," he recalls. "We could sail on 26 miles of ice from Hyde Park to Germantown," in Columbia County.

When the ice is good, the experience is amazing, he says. "You have to be smart, making your own decisions about how to get from point A to B. You have the wind in your hair, you hear the clickety-clack as you move along, you're having a good time with friends, enjoying the beauty of the river."

There has been good ice this season near Athens, in Greene County, in the western channel around a small island off the City of Hudson, across the river. The U.S. Coast Guard breaks the ice in the eastern channel.

The mile-wide Orange Lake, northwest of Newburgh, is another popular site. It freezes more consistently than the Hudson, Sperr says. Tivoli Bay in Dutchess County was an iceboating center, although not in recent years.

Iceboats date to the 17th century in the Netherlands and the Gulf of Riga between Latvia and Estonia, where they transported goods before becoming popular as pleasure craft that Europeans dubbed "ice yachts." In the 18th century, Dutch settlers along the Hudson added runners to their boats, enabling winter transport of goods and people over the ice. In 1790, Oliver Booth of Poughkeepsie added runners to a wooden box and a rudder to create what many consider the prototype for recreational ice boats.

The Poughkeepsie Ice Yacht Club, founded in 1861, was the first of its kind in the U.S. Within five years, a local newspaper reported there were more than 100 ice yachts on the Hudson, with clubs from Newburgh to Albany. In 1885, after a dispute, members of the Poughkeepsie group left to form the Hudson River Ice Yacht Club. Its first commodore was John Roosevelt, an uncle of future President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

John Roosevelt and his Hyde Park neighbor, Archibald Rogers, were among the nation's best iceboat builders and captains. Two of their boats, Icicle and Jack Frost, won the sport's most prestigious competition, the Ice Yacht Challenge Pennant of America, nine times between them after The Phantom, sailing out of the New Hamburg Ice Yacht Club, took home the 30-foot silk banner in the inaugural race in 1881.

The years 1880 to 1910 are considered the golden age of Hudson River iceboating. During that era, even in a moderate breeze, iceboats sped along at speeds of 70 mph, outracing trains on the riverfront tracks. For a brief period, iceboats were the fastest vehicles in the world. By 1908 the Hudson River Ice Yacht Club had 52 yachts, including The Hawk, owned by the club's vice commodore, FDR.

The wooden boats gave way in the 1920s to streamlined craft developed in the Midwest around the Great Lakes. In the early 1960s, the club enjoyed a resurgence led by Ray Ruge, a Cornwall resident who rescued old boats. Today, the club has about 30 yachts, including Spider (Sperr's 26-footer) and the Jack Frost, which has 800 feet of sail. Its body has been rebuilt but the cockpit is original. (Its companion, Icicle, is owned by the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston.)

During one outing on the Jack Frost, on the river in Columbia County, "the wind came up suddenly and threw the two guys out of the cockpit" onto the ice, Sperr says. The men scrambled back aboard and yelled to Sperr and others in nearby boats to join them; they needed more weight.

"Four of us jumped on," he says. They turned the boat downwind, "accelerated



Iceboats on the Hudson in Greene County in January

Photo by Julian Diamond



John Sperr on the ice in 2014

Photo by Chase Guttman

through a broad reach, the runner plank went up in the air and, all of a sudden, we were going 80 mph."

The Hudson River Ice Yacht Club (hriyc.org), which today has about 50 members, races other clubs when conditions permit, and has "a keen rivalry" with the North Shrewsbury Ice Boat and Yacht Club, from Red Bank, New Jersey, Sperr says. But climate change has made it a challenge to recruit members.

"The reward is learning to sail, in the sailing and being out on the ice," he says. "But it's hard to get young people interested when you can't sail very often."



Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1905 aboard his ice yacht, The Hawk, at Hyde Park

FDR Library and Museum

Roundup (from Page 24)

County Center in White Plains. Haldane (4-14) lost twice to North Salem (4-16) during the regular season by scores of 49-42 and 62-14.

WINTER TRACK — Haldane was at the Section I state qualifier on Feb. 23 at The Armory in New York City. For the boys, the 4x200 relay team of Milo Pearsall, Jake Thomas, Merrick Williams and Rhys Williams finished second in 1:33.78, qualifying for states and the Adidas Nationals in Virginia. Other top performers included Owen Powers, who qualified for states with a fourth-place finish in the 1,600 meters (4:26.37); Merrick Williams, who was ninth in the high jump (5-6); and Pearsall, who was

12th in the 55-meter dash (6.78). For the girls, senior Ashley Sousa finished 21st in the 1,500-meter run (5:35.76) and the 4x200 relay team was fifth (1:56.05). On Tuesday (March 4), the Blue Devils travel to Staten Island for a meet with the Section I state entrants.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Beacon closed its regular season on Feb. 20 by knocking off Wallkill, 54-51, after several key defensive stops late in the game. The Bulldogs were led by Reilly Landisi with 15 points, Rayana Taylor with 14 and Lila Burke with 10. Beacon (15-5), which has won 12 in a row, awaits its

opponent for the first round of the Section IX, Class A tournament, which begins Saturday (March 1). See highlandscurrent.org for details.

WINTER TRACK — Beacon sent 10 athletes to the Garden State Open at The Armory, a warmup event to the Section IX state qualifiers. Jayden Mihalchik was third in the weight throw at 55-1; Zachary Schetter and Elijah Epps tied for 21st in the long jump at 18-11; and Caellum Tripaldi placed 20th in the 800 meters at 2:05.05. For the girls, Katherine Ruffy was fifth in the weight throw (33-10.75) and eighth in the shot put (29-6.25); Lily Mack placed 11th in the high jump (4-4) and Mikaela Sanchez finished 22nd in the 800-meter run (2:31.28). The

Bulldogs will compete in the Section IX state qualifiers on Saturday (March 1) at The Armory.

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon (1-5) ended its season at the Section IX championship meet Feb. 20 to 22, finishing 17th. Fionn Fehilly had the top finish for the Bulldogs, placing 15th in the 100-yard freestyle (53.61).

WRESTLING — Jude Betancourt (36-3), seeded No. 15 at 152 pounds, competes today (Feb. 28) at the state finals in Albany against No. 18 Tyler Ritter of Chenango Forks (21-11). The winner advances to face No. 2 Anthony Tresch of Minisink Valley (41-2).

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
1. Doubtfire or Dalloway

4. Pesky insect

8. Blaze

12. “Alley —”

13. Verdi heroine

14. Booty

15. Sugar suffix

16. Some online essays

18. Doppler device

20. “Diamonds” singer

21. Brzezinski of MSNBC

24. Group character

28. Coin that keeps turning up

32. Stitched

33. Artist Yoko

34. “— luck!”

36. Actor Stephen

37. Euro fraction

39. Pub game

41. Cognizant

43. “No seats” signs

44. Olympics chant

46. Loan shark’s crime
50. Ginsberg and Kerouac, for two

55. — Maria

56. Eyebrow shape

57. Microwave, slangily

58. Request

59. Citi Field team

60. Love god

61. “— a Rebel”
- DOWN
1. Heath

2. Activist Parks

3. Raced

4. Angel with a trumpet

5. Zero

6. Commotion

7. Labels

8. Parade attractions

9. Cyclades island

10. Decay

11. UFO engineers

17. Diner dessert

19. Sound booster
22. Handle

23. Poker payments

25. Medal earner

26. Actor Clive

27. Hitch

28. — Raton, Fla.

29. From the start

30. Lady of Spain

31. Belgian river

35. Stirrs up

38. “We hold these — to be ...”

40. Letter addenda, for short

42. Sixth sense

45. Top-notch

47. Beehive State

48. Get up

49. Tibetan herd

50. “Kapow!”

51. Before

52. Play segment

53. Where Lux. is

54. Ring decision

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BRAND

TRAIL

WORDSEARCH

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

TERISLIMASP
ULANLINAPOO
BOYFRIENDPBS
LOTSOPRAH
AARONINRE
SLEWBUNNYHOP
TLC LANKA EDO
ISOLATESMNOP
MAYSPADRE
TEMPESEAT
OLETRANSCEND
LIN TUFTHAIR
LAD ETESARTS

Answers for Feb. 21 Puzzles
DGEYFCMBWS
EEMHGSSADU
VMTYNNHLS
IUMESYJIGP
DRLOCTQBPI
EDMPTTEIXC
NEDUBIIROI
CRCLBQVVYO
EDYYOKKEEN
EKRELTUBWA
BRACE, BRAVE, CRAVE,
CRATE, GRATE, GRAPE

396517824

582493176

147628359

978345261

651982743

423176985

819754632

234869517

765231498

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Sports

BALL IN THE FAMILY

The Landisi siblings are hoops standouts for Beacon. Their mom was among the best ever to play for Haldane.

By Michael Turton

Certain things run in families. For the Landisi family, the running has been on a basketball court.

Jen Moran Landisi, 48, oversees Beacon's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball program, which has 200 players in kindergarten through the eighth grade. Otherwise, she is probably watching her daughter, Reilly, and her son, Ryan, play for Beacon High School. The girls' and boys' teams compete beginning this weekend in the first round of the state tournament.

Jen knows a bit about being a standout. By the time she graduated from Haldane High School in 1994, she had set a scoring record with 1,776 points that held for 14 years until Brittany Shields scored 1,945. (Reilly has 1,293 points for Beacon; she is also an All-State soccer player who will compete this fall for SUNY Oneonta.)

Described as a "whirlwind of hustle" when she was inducted into the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017, Jen led the Blue Devils to three state Final Fours. Her teams went 97-15. She began playing for the varsity in eighth grade, was named first-team All-State as a senior and went on to score nearly 1,000 points for St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill.

"I remember the gym [at Haldane] was always full — that's not always the case for girls' games," Jen recalled. She said a running joke at the time was that the best time for burglars in Cold Spring was during state finals weekend, when the entire

village decamped to Glens Falls. "It was the community support I remember most," she says, "and having a really great coach."

That was Ken Thomas, who, she said, "knew the game, made us love it and didn't put up with much." She and her teammates were inspired by the 1989 girls' team, which won the school's first state title. (Haldane also won in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2008.) "We wanted to do just as well," Jen said. Young fans also helped motivate the team. "Win or lose, they'd ask for our autographs," she said.

Jen began playing at age 5 in the Philipstown Recreation League, with her mom and dad as coaches. "I don't know if I had a choice, with them coaching," she said. "But there was no question I loved it."

Her children also began playing at an early age in the Beacon CYO program. "I loved it right away," says Reilly, 18. "I always wanted to go practice, looked forward to games and my best friends were on the team."

While Reilly feels ball handling and play-making are her strengths, she needs to "pull up and shoot more, instead of always driving to the basket." The Bulldogs enter the tournament at 15-5, with a 12-game winning streak that included a win at previously undefeated Pine Bush after losing to the same team by 20 points earlier in the season.

Reilly said she especially appreciates rival games, such as the Battle of the Tunnel series against Haldane. "That game is always fun," she said. "There's a larger than usual crowd, and if we win, we get a big trophy!"

She was diplomatic regarding whether



Ryan, Jen and Reilly Landisi

Photo by M. Turton

she or her younger brother, a junior center who averages nine points and 5.5 rebounds for the 16-4 boys' team, is the better player. "We play different positions," she said.

Ryan also started basketball in Beacon's CYO, during the first grade, and also loved the game immediately. "It's fast-paced, so it can't really get boring, plus I've been playing with the same group of kids since I was little," he said. "It's fun when you have a team that's good and knows how to play together."

He said Beacon's biggest rival is New Paltz, which beat them 73-66 early in the season. New Paltz was also the opponent in the game he remembers most after 2½ years on the varsity, in the state tournament when the Bulldogs won despite having one of their best players out sick.

He concedes his sister is probably the better ballplayer. "I'm just bigger," he said, with a smile.

Mom said she squirms a bit when watching her kids play. "I'm a nervous wreck because they're my babies!" she said. "I just want them to do well, for themselves."



Jen Moran in her playing days at Haldane

Photo provided

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' BASKETBALL — The Blue Devils' season came to an abrupt end on Wednesday (Feb. 26) when they lost badly in the Section I, Class B playoffs at Briarcliff, 59-29. Seeded No. 6 in the 10-team field, Haldane was looking to upset the No. 3 Bears but held the lead only once, at 4-3, early in the first quarter before Briarcliff went on an 18-0 run. The Blue Devils scored only 11 points before half-time, while the Bears hit seven 3-pointers.

In his final game at Haldane, senior Fallou Faye led the team with 14 points. "We got a lot of new guys, and they all

stepped up," said Faye, reflecting on the season. The Blue Devils finished 13-8 in their first year playing at the Class B level.

"If 13-8 is a down year, I'm excited," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. His team will lose four seniors — Faye, Nate Stickle, Andalou Frezza and Brody Corless — to graduation but return juniors Zane Del Pozo and Luke Bozsik, who this week was named by the Lower Hudson Basketball Coaches Association to its all-star team for Conference III.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The Blue Devils, seeded No. 3 in the four-team Section I, Class C tournament, face No. 2 North Salem at 5 p.m. on Monday (March 3) at the Westchester

(Continued on Page 22)



Zane Del Pozo drives past two Briarcliff defenders.

Photo by Skip Pearlman