

The HIGHLANDS Current



Five Point Fest
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Philipstown Primary Could Be a Wash

*Also, two candidates for
two Cold Spring seats*

By Chip Rowe

Although four candidates will compete in a Democratic primary on June 24 for two open seats on the five-member Philipstown Town Board, all four candidates could still appear on the November ballot. That's because the two candidates endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch, filed independent nominating petitions before the Tuesday (May 27) deadline. Assuming the petitions are validated by the Putnam County Board of Elec-

(Continued on Page 3)



With help from a cane and her mother's boyfriend, Mike Raguso, Theresa Timmons left the hospital on Thursday while staff, family and friends applauded. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Booming Beacon

*Updates on development
projects in city*

By Jeff Simms

Construction is ongoing all over Beacon — from primary thoroughfares like Route 9D, Main Street and Fishkill Avenue to at least a half-dozen side streets and pockets in between. Our last of these updates, in July, noted that many approved projects had been delayed for one reason or another. Most have since gotten off the ground, and more applications are making their way through the review process.



45 Beekman St.
Number of units: 64 apartments
Status: The Planning Board has been reviewing this application since December 2023 to build two 4-story, mixed-use buildings along the north side of Beekman Street, from High Street to the corner of Wolcott Avenue (Route 9D). The buildings are proposed to include 13,670 square feet of first-floor commercial space with one- and two-bedroom apartments above. A garage beneath one building would include 41 parking spaces, while a lot behind the buildings would have 50 spaces.

At its May 13 meeting, the Planning Board completed its environmental review, certifying that the project should have no negative effects, including through added traffic or impacts on historic resources. The latter has been a sticking point with neighbors who believe the development is out of scale, particularly with the historic Victorian homes on High Street. More than 350 people have signed a petition in protest. Project officials say their plans meet the high-density criteria of the linkage district, which connects Main Street and the waterfront. A public hearing will continue next month.

(Continued on Page 8)

Out There Bird Count

By Brian PJ Cronin

In retrospect, it would have been embarrassing not to have noticed the black vulture and its 6-foot wingspan soaring over the Boscobel ticket office.

It was just before noon on May 17 and five members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society were halfway through the annual Birdathon, in which Audubon chapters race to see how many species they can identify within 24 hours. "It's like a walkathon but with birds,"

(Continued on Page 21)



Injured Garrison Teen Returns Home

Recovery from crash called 'miracle'

By Leonard Sparks

Laura Timmons always believed that her teenage daughter would recover from the traumatic brain injury she suffered in the car accident on Route 9 that killed another Haldane High School student in December 2023. During Theresa Timmons' 15-month rehabilitation at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, Laura Timmons chronicled each "big thing" in her daughter's recovery: the first time she swal-

lowed drinks and food; the first time she responded to questions with gestures; and progressing to writing and talking. "I knew in my heart we would get there, and I never felt any negative," said Laura Timmons, whose family owns Homestyle Bakery in Nelsonville and Peekskill. Her faith received another reward on Thursday (May 29) when Theresa, wearing a shirt filled with signatures from well-wishers and supported on one side by a cane and the other by Laura's boyfriend, Mike Raguso, walked across Blythedale's lobby on her way home for the first time since the accident. A gauntlet of family, friends and Blythedale staff and patients clapped and cheered as Theresa headed through the front door. Outside, Theresa began crying as staff assembled around her to take pictures and say goodbye. First responders from the Continental Village Fire Department, Cortlandt-Peekskill Paramedics and the state police assembled to escort the ambulance carrying her home to Garrison. "Awesome," said Theresa, now 17, when asked about Thursday's sendoff and returning home. "I felt like someone famous."

(Continued on Page 20)



IN MEMORIAM — Philipstown firefighters marched in the annual parade in Cold Spring on Monday (May 26) to remember those who lost their lives in war. From left are Mike Savastano (North Highlands Fire Department), Alex DeSousa (Cold Spring Fire Co.), Michael Lisikatos Jr. (NHFD) and Shari Alexander (CSFD). For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: SARAH BARTLETT

By Michael Turton

Sarah Bartlett, the retired dean of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, is the editor of *Watching Putnam Valley* (watchingputnamvalley.com).

You reported for many years for national publications. Is writing about Putnam Valley much different?

I covered parts of New York City for *The New York Times* and sometimes freelanced for the local newspaper in Tribeca, so I was used to covering community board meetings and city council issues. For nine years, I taught student journalists how to cover the city. In many ways, it's a natural transition. It's work I knew how to do before, and I still really enjoy it. I focus on facts. I don't write opinion pieces, although if I think an argument is not strong, I indicate that. I try to make sure I'm accurately representing a point of view.

Why did you launch *Watching Putnam Valley* in 2023?

I retired to Putnam Valley, but I'm not used to living somewhere where I don't know what's going on, and it was driving me crazy. The beauty of Putnam Valley government is that it's transparent: The town livestreams, records and archives every public meet-

ing. I started watching on my laptop while cooking and discovered they sometimes proposed things that seemed odd.

For example, there was a proposal to change taxation related to solar panels. In New York state, there's a guarantee that if you add solar panels, your assessment won't increase. Putnam Valley wanted to opt out of that, which seemed counter to state policy and good environmental policy. My neighbors and I showed up at a Town Board meeting and persuaded them to remove the resolution.

What issues are on residents' minds these days?

I'd say property taxes and school taxes. Initially I focused on the Town Board, but I started covering the school board, as well, because it's such a big chunk of people's taxes. Also, people are concerned about development and policies around land and land use; there's a real commitment to ensuring that the rural nature of Putnam Valley doesn't get eroded. There's limited commercial activity, and I think people would love to see that increase, to help share the tax burden.

How does the lack of a central village affect Putnam Valley?

That's one of the reasons I started the blog. The three large lakes are the town's main feature: Lake Peekskill, Lake Oscawana and Roaring Brook Lake. What struck me was how little communication there was across them. A Roaring

Brook Lake resident might never hear about something that's important to a Lake Peekskill resident. Topography, water quality, regulations and congestion differ from lake to lake. I'm trying to identify those issues. I'd love to see an organization unite the lake communities in terms of the environment; there's a missing element there.

What's the state of politics in the town?

It's about a third Democrat, a third Republican and a third independent, with tiny Conservative and Working Families parties, as well. Four of the five Town Board members are Republican and, for the first time in more than 40 years, there's a Republican primary for supervisor [on June 24]. In January, a school board bond proposal was rejected by 42 votes. Parents have been inactive; the vote had only 25 percent turnout. The vote triggered a lot of self-reflection; there's been a lot more community organizing and activism since.

You're seeing that reflected in new leadership in the Putnam Valley Democratic Party, which is fielding candidates in the November election — a new development. National politics may be driving more people to care, but there isn't the intensity and the polarization you see at the national level. There's more civic dialogue here. There's a commitment to the town that seems to cross parties.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you like cowboy boots?

"I've never owned any but would love a nice snakeskin pair."



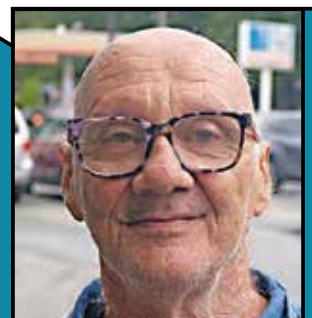
Nick Rivera, Beacon

"I like the idea — they're beautiful. But as a New Yorker, I just can't do it."



Christine Pascarella, Beacon

"Yes! I have a pair and they're very comfortable."



Bobby Corrigan, Cold Spring

Elections *(from Page 1)*

tions, Cheah and Rauch will appear on the November ballot representing the Philipstown Focus party, regardless of the outcome of the primary vote. The other two Democratic candidates, John Maasik and Nat Prentice, must win on June 24 to compete again in November. There are no candidates from other parties.

Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, Democrats elected to the Town Board in 2021, are not seeking second terms. John Van Tassel, who is running unopposed for his third, 2-year term as supervisor, will appear on the Democratic and Philipstown Focus lines.

Cold Spring

Mayor Kathleen Foley will appear on the November ballot for her third, 2-year term on the Forge Ahead line. There are also two candidates for the Village Board seats being vacated by Aaron Freimark and Eliza Starbuck. John "Tony" Bardes will appear on the Garden Party line and Andrew Hall on the Village Party line. (Village elections are officially non-partisan.)

Bardes, who has lived in Cold Spring for 42 years, runs a landscaping and property management company based in Philipstown. He serves on the village's Tree Advisory Board and previously was a member of the Philipstown Conservation Board, the Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension board and the Putnam County chapter of the American Red Cross. In 2008, he helped establish and served as president of a grassroots group called Citizens of Philipstown.

Hall, a resident of Cold Spring since 1998, is a graduate of the London School of Economics and works in the production finance division of MGM Amazon Studios. He is also a founding member of the Depot Docs series and served on the infrastructure and transportation committees for the 2012 comprehensive plan.

Putnam County

In the race for sheriff, Larry Burke, a Cold Spring police officer, submitted an independent nominating petition by the Tuesday deadline to run on a ballot line for the Serve & Protect party. If his petition is validated, he will compete in November with incumbent Kevin McConville, who is seeking his second, 4-year term on the Republican and Conservative lines.

There will be three open seats on the nine-member Legislature, which has eight Republicans and one Democrat (Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley).

In District 5, which includes the hamlet of Carmel and eastern Lake Carmel, Brett Yarris will appear on the Democratic and For the People lines and Jake D'Angelo on the Conservative line. The Republican line will be determined by a primary on June 24 between D'Angelo and incumbent Greg Ellner.

In District 6, which includes Southeast, Thomas Sprague will appear on the Democratic and Serving Southeast lines, while there will be primaries for the Republican (Tom Brann and Tommy Regan) and

Primary Election June 24

Because there are four Democratic candidates — Ben Cheah, John Maasik, Nat Prentice and Ned Rauch — for two open seats on the Philipstown Town Board, a primary is scheduled for June 24.

The election — open only to voters who are registered with the Board of Elections as Democrats — will be held from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The polling sites are the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department at 1616 Route 9 (which Continental Village voters should use) and the Cold Spring Methodist Church at 216 Main St. (which North Highlands voters should use).

Registered Democrats can vote early from June 14 to June 22 at the Putnam County Board of Elections, 25 Old Route 6, in Carmel. See boe.putnam-countyny.gov/early-voting for hours.

The last day that the Board of Elections can receive an application for an absentee or early voting ballot is June 14. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by June 24. See boe.putnam-countyny.gov/absentee-voting. The voter registration deadline for the primary is June 15; the deadline to change party registration has passed. See boe.putnam-countyny.gov/voter-registration. You can check your registration status, including party affiliation, at voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Conservative (Brann and John O'Connor) lines. The winner in the general election will succeed Paul Jonke, who did not seek a fourth, 3-year term.

In District 9, which includes the Town of Carmel and Mahopac, Lenny Harrington will appear on the Democratic, Working Party and A Better Putnam lines, while incumbent Erin Crowley will have the Republican and Conservative lines.

Michael Turton contributed reporting.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, June 9th, 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 June 2025.



The HIGHLANDS
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One free copy per week per person. Additional copies are \$1 each.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

May 30, 2025
Volume 13, Issue 22

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Firehouse sale

My comment at the Beacon City Council meeting on May 19 was taken out of context (“Beacon Firehouse Sale Pending,” May 23). Here is what I said:

This is a difficult situation, and it saddens me — and many other residents of Beacon — that tonight’s agenda includes a vote on selling Mase Hook & Ladder. This building is a vital historical public asset in our city that must be preserved, recognized and maintained. A “yes” vote tonight could label you as a traitor, a crook or a pawn in a larger game. Choose wisely. Many of you have already decided not to run again because of the pressure you’re facing. Don’t let this decision be the one that haunts you on your way out.

The low sale price of this property undervalues its true worth and serves to cover hidden expenses from another project. It’s like pawning your grandfather’s gold watch to pay a bill — the bills keep piling up, and once the watch is gone, you lose a cherished family heirloom, leaving you heartbroken by a poor decision every day. We must not rush into a situation that could permanently scar and haunt this city. Let’s avoid making a deal with the devil.

This is one of the last remaining publicly owned buildings in the area. Why doesn’t

the taxpaying public have a say in its future? The sale of this invaluable building must be stopped and put to a public referendum immediately.

Even if the city were to include a requirement for the building’s perpetual historic preservation, mandate immediate stabilization of the structure and stipulate that the agreement would be nullified if the developer opts out of historic preservation, there is no guarantee these clauses would be upheld once the building is transferred to a private developer.

Theresa Kraft, *Beacon*

Editor’s note: A longer version of this comment is posted online.

It’s pathetic that this firehouse would be sold off to the highest bidder rather than given over to the retired firefighters as a thank you for their century of service and repayment of the costs of many years of caring for their firehouse. As is usually the case in Beacon these days, it’s all about money.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Hospital cuts

I’m guessing that while firing or reassigning 1,000 employees because of “macroeconomic realities and anticipated challenges,” the executives and majority shareholders of NewYork-Presbyterian did not take a financial hit (“NewYork-Presbyterian to Cut Staff,” May 23).

Staff cuts are not the solution. According to the hospital’s most recent nonprofit filing with the IRS, President and CEO Steven Corwin earned \$14.6 million in salary, benefits and perks in 2023, and Laura Forese, the chief operating officer, earned \$7.7 million.

Jim King, *via Facebook*

Putnam taxes

Respectfully, I did not and have not commented on any other proposed use of county surplus or unassigned fund balance to support our partners in local governments (“Putnam Legislators Endorse Current Sales Tax,” May 23). At no point have I said or signaled that I would veto another proposal to partner with our local partners.

In 2023, I introduced a program (Municipal Partnership Initiative) to fund local government projects that provide strategic value to Putnam County. The Legislature eliminated it in favor of a property tax cut which I then celebrated and approved as county executive. We continue to remain focused on delivering tax relief to our residents where it matters most to them.

This administration is responsible for the first tax cut in the budget in 25 years. We, the executive and Legislature, have already lowered the property tax levy and slashed the rate to its lowest level in 18 years. We also opted for a sales-tax exemption that eliminated sales tax on clothing and footwear under \$110 to provide meaningful relief in a targeted way that minimized financial risk. These are all tremendous accomplishments.

This new and historic sales tax compromise allows us to continue these important achievements, while supporting our towns and villages in a new and creative way, and it has a commitment by me to reduce the county property tax levy by at least \$1 million in the upcoming county budget.

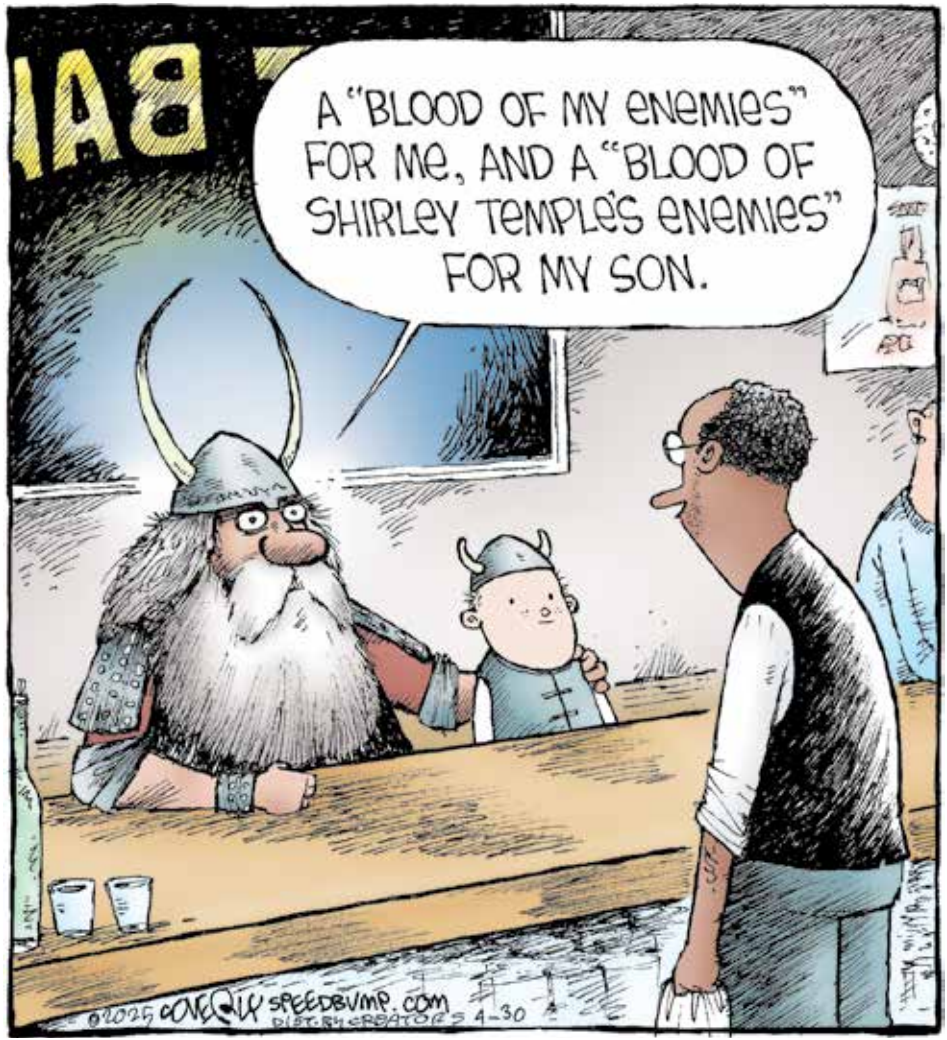
I could not have done it alone. Many people were involved, including members of the Legislature as well as leaders in state, town and village government, regardless of party. I thank them all.

Kevin Byrne, *Carmel*
Byrne is the Putnam County executive.

Indian Point

The Current should not take the statements of Holtec at face value and should not print Holtec statements about risk — that is the job of the state Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation, and Holtec has a major conflict of

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

interest ("Holtec Investigating Contaminated Soil at Indian Point Site," May 23). We have state cleanup standards from the DEC and the test results are either above those standards or not. If Holtec is going to clean it up, it appears they are above the standards.

Radioactive pollution has been discovered and needs to be remediated. The official policy of the state Department of Health and World Health Organization is that any exposure to radionuclides causes an increased risk of cancer as they are known carcinogens.

Anne Rabe, *Castleton*

Rabe is a member of the Prevent NY Nuclear network.

Philipstown board

The Philipstown Democrats consider the endorsement process for our town candidates a serious responsibility we take on for the benefit of our community — and after much consideration, discussion and thought, we endorsed Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch for the Philipstown Town Board.

Four candidates sought our endorsement — we interviewed all four, read their statements and carried on a highly engaged discussion within the committee about each potential candidate. And then we voted.

The results were clear. A supermajority of the committee supports Ben and Ned. Although there was some dissent by a small group (and we welcome a variety of opinions), the ultimate committee decision was to support Ben and Ned, based on their skills, passion for service and the totality of the value they had to offer to Philipstown.

An important consideration in our decision-making was the belief that, in all matters, a Town Board member has a broad responsibility for the welfare of our community. If, instead, the member viewed service on the Town Board as an opportunity to further their personal advocacy, rather than the town's best interests, that would do us all a disservice.

The non-endorsed candidates decided to run for office anyway — which is absolutely their right. So, Democrats in Philipstown will have a Democratic primary on June 24.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, *Garrison*

I've been asked why I'm supporting candidates outside the Philipstown Democratic Committee's official slate. For me, it's simple: After working side by side with John Maasik and Nat Prentice for many years, I've seen firsthand the kind of leaders they are. They listen. They show up. They get things done.

Democracy is about choice. And this year, on June 24, we're fortunate to have a primary that gives every Democrat in Philipstown the opportunity to make their voice heard and to choose the candidates they believe will serve our town best.

I've been proud to stand with Democrats in Philipstown for a long time — as a committee member, a member of the Town Board and now as a Putnam County legislator. I strongly believe in a local government that works for all of us, across neighborhoods, across experiences and across every level of our community; a government that listens widely, collaborates



PRESIDENTIAL PROTEST — Wearing a red Make America Great Again hat, Donald Trump gave the commencement address on May 25 at the U.S. Military Academy. He told the 1,002 members of the Class of 2025: "We're getting rid of distractions and we're focusing our military on its core mission: crushing America's adversaries, killing America's enemies and defending our great American flag like it has never been defended before." Demonstrators gathered outside campus and at Garrison's Landing (shown here). Trump last gave the West Point commencement speech in 2020. For more coverage, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Leo Grocott

openly and serves the whole town.

That's why I'm proud to support Nat Prentice and John Maasik, two candidates who have already been doing this work.

John and Nat have long been dedicated to public service. They've been doing the real, often invisible, work of local government for well over a decade. They've advised local leaders, volunteered, led and consistently stepped up, from the Recreation Commission to fire services, from supporting small businesses to helping shape long-term planning for Philipstown's future.

They've built up programs for our youngest residents, like the Haldane field initiative to Boy Scouts and youth soccer, while also building strong, respectful relationships with community-based organizations and elected officials at every level of government. Their track records reflect a deep and lasting commitment to strengthening the fabric of our community.

I wasn't alone on the Democratic Committee in this decision. Several of my fellow members — including the two former chairs, Janice Hogan and Julia Famularo, and my

colleague Judy Farrell, the only other elected official on the committee — support Nat and John. We believe in their integrity, their local experience and their commitment to practical, responsive government.

This primary gives all Democrats in Philipstown the chance to be heard and to choose the kind of leadership we want for our future. I'm voting for John Maasik and Nat Prentice on June 24. I hope you will too.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*
Editor's note: For more endorsements, see highlandscurrent.org/town-board-25.

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June 10 - FIDDLE TUNES 2nd Tues
June 13 - BLF event at the Center - WOMEN IN NOIR
June 20 - KEY OF Q
June 21 - HAPPENSTANCE THEATRE - Pocket Moxie
June 22 - SAINT RITA
June 25 - STANZA CAMPERS
JUNE 27 - Howland's Open Mic Night
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Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Invasives Strike Force is back this summer to continue removing invasive plant species in the Breakneck Ridge corridor. We are looking for volunteers (ages 16 & up) that can help out **once a month for 3 hours from June thru September 2025.**



Monthly Sessions

Saturdays, 9 am -12 pm on:
6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/27

Sign up at qrco.de/hhft-isf



Sign up!

My View

Letter from Lyuboml

By Michael Reisman

Shivering in a freezing April rain, I said Kaddish at a mass grave in northwestern Ukraine. On Oct. 1, 1942, the Nazis marched thousands of Jews from the town of Lyuboml to the forest, made them strip and lie in a ditch, and shot them. The victims included children and probably some of my relatives. They rest under a faded plaque.

I wrote in *The Current* in November about my trip to heavily bombed Kharkiv in northeastern Ukraine, which I took in part because my grandfather, Sam Reisman, was born there. But I was wrong, so I began my fifth volunteering trip to Ukraine during the full-scale Russian invasion in a town not far from the Polish border. In a 2010 book, the historian Timothy Snyder called that region the Bloodlands.

Before the trip, when I showed my wife Michelle my itinerary, she laughed. Over two weeks, I planned to lead 17 drama therapy workshops with 300 teenagers, psychology students, veterans, health care workers and artists in the Carpathian Mountains and, as I had on past trips, in Lviv, Kyiv and Kharkiv. But first I needed to explore my newly discovered Ukrainian roots.

Sam, who died before I was born, emigrated to the U.S. in 1921 from Lyuboml, which was part of Russia when he was growing up and Poland when he left. Most of his uncles, aunts and cousins perished during the Holocaust.

My pilgrimage kicked off with a seven-hour border crossing aboard a grungy bus that dropped me at a gas station on the Warsaw-Kyiv highway — not exactly the luxurious Jewish heritage tour depicted in the 2024 film *A Real Pain*, but the toilet was clean.

There I met my guide and translator, Alex Dunai, who drove me into town. Before the pandemic and the invasion, Jews looking for their ancestral Ukrainian shtetls kept Alex busy most of the year. But he said I was only his fifth customer since 2020. Now he raises money for military and civilian assistance and,



Reisman said Kaddish at a mass grave in Lyubomi, Ukraine.

Photo provided

with his daughter, runs a bagel cafe in Lviv.

The directors at the Lyuboml History Museum warmly welcomed me with sandwiches, sweets and coffee. Its three rooms are stuffed with fossils, photos and nationalistic fervor. A modest display about the history of local Jews is tucked into a hallway. Someday it will be bigger, they said.

Mr. Ostapiuk, a septuagenarian, proudly displayed his collection of dozens of original, multicolored labels from vodka bottles produced by the distillery owned by my great-uncle Moshe Rajzman in the 1920s, one of the biggest in Poland at the time. Sam must have left just before business took off, which for my sake is probably a good thing.

After gifting me a few labels, Ostapiuk led me around town, pointing out the site of the majestic synagogue built in the 17th century (destroyed by the Soviets in 1947), remnants of two Jewish cemeteries (one destroyed by the Soviets in 1939, the other recently fenced but overrun by weeds) and the still-intact distillery.

To reach the mass grave, we had to drive down a long dirt road that probably doesn't look much different than it did on that day.

Afterward, we returned to the museum for a much-needed drink. I gave Ostapiuk a copy of my grandparents' wedding photo, taken in New York City in 1928, with Sam posing like

a swell and my nana Anna like a flapper. You can't tell that they were poor Jews only a few years off the boat who had lived through violence and deprivation as children on the Eastern Front during World War I.

I visited with Mykola Dzei, who for more than 30 years has interviewed locals and published articles about the fate of Lyuboml Jews during the Nazi occupation. Full of nervous energy, he is not afraid to dive into the extremely touchy subject of what Ukrainians did during the war. Some helped Jews;

most didn't. Some collaborated with the Nazis, sometimes under fear of death, sometimes not.

History is not documents or objects in a glass case but about connecting to people and learning who we are and how we should live.

The next day I rode the train to the Carpathians, where I led drama therapy sessions in an art retreat for children from frontline towns. The retreat had been organized by a nongovernmental organization (NGO) called Art Therapy Force. We improvised scenes and expressed intense emotions through physical sculptures and a vocal orchestra but did not enact their experiences during the war. They preferred to ride the magic carpet to New York City, which made me think of my grandparents.

After 10 days in Lviv and Kyiv leading 10 workshops, the Russians "welcomed" me back to my new favorite city, Kharkiv, with an overnight missile and drone attack while I hunkered in a basement hotel room.

In the morning, the clerk (Oksana) and clinic director (Alex) greeted me with bloodshot eyes. In between workshops, I visited the zoo and a beautiful park.

After my last session, I made a beeline to the Sumsky Market, a light-filled, upscale shopping mall across the street from the military hospital. It had been damaged by Russian strikes since my last visit, but the raw bar was still intact. Sitting among defiant Kharkivites, I ate oysters. I barely made the night train to begin the long journey home.

Reisman is a lawyer who lives in Cold Spring.



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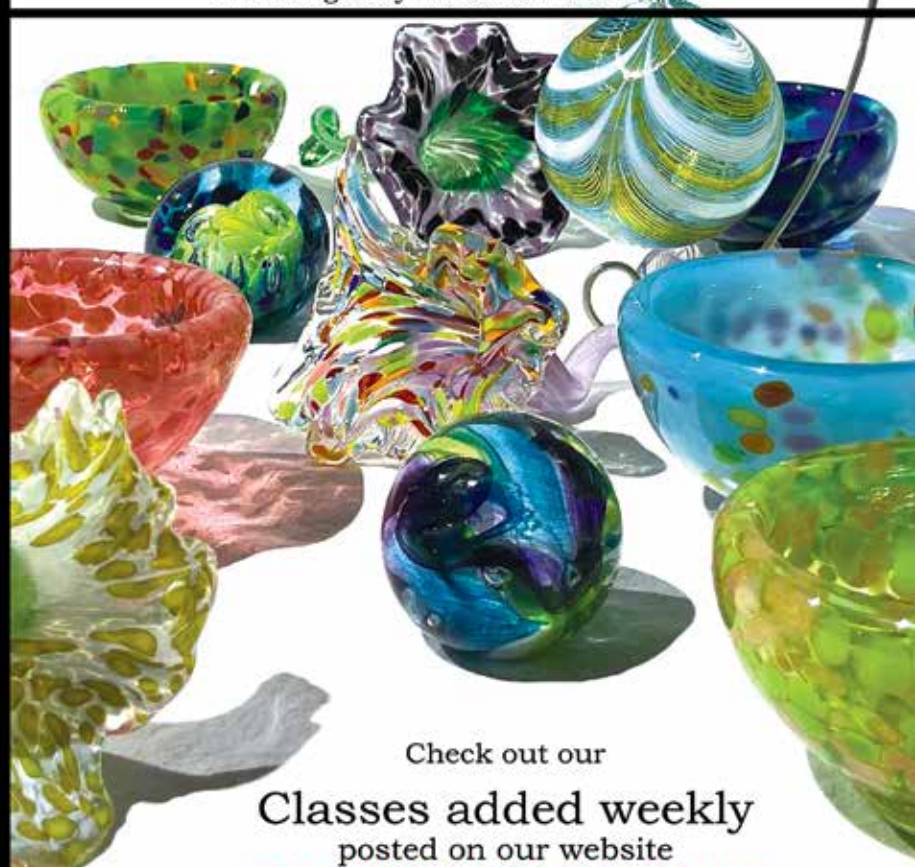
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Booming Beacon *(from Page 1)*



291 Main St.

Number of units: 3 apartments

Status: Feedback on a proposal to build an L-shaped addition onto the historic Telephone Building has been almost entirely negative — from both the public and Planning Board members. During the board's meeting this month, John Gunn, the chair, acknowledged the talk of not letting the proposal proceed. "If there's any mechanism that's going to strengthen the case for not allowing it," he said, "it needs to be tied back to the law and the [zoning] code." To prepare for the June meeting, board members agreed to review the design standards of Beacon's protected historic district. They asked the applicant to do the same.



The Mews at Beacon

Number of units: 9 condominiums

Status: A lender sued the developer of this Eliza Street project in February, alleging that he had failed to repay loans of more than \$4.6 million. While the litigation is pending, a project official said this week that "we are back at the table with the lender" to discuss repackaging the loan. Plans approved in 2019 call for loft-like condos around a landscaped courtyard. The project official said that infrastructure has been completed on the three buildings and construction should be complete by October. Insula Capital Group, the lender, in February asked the court to force the sale of the development to pay the debts, plus interest and fees. The developer responded in March, asking to have the suit dismissed.



14 North Cedar St.

Number of units: 4 apartments

Status: This proposal for a two-story building on a mostly empty North Cedar Street lot was introduced in June 2023. It returned to the Planning Board last fall and again this month. The design, which calls for using a modular building, has been reoriented to face Church Street, and a parking area with five spaces is included in the plans. Board members, critical of the design, asked the applicant to refine the proposal before they schedule a public hearing.



Beacon Commons

Number of units: 62 apartments

Status: The development team has begun removing trees and setting up erosion-control systems for this project at West Main and Bank streets. A project manager said this week that he had no details on the construction timeline.



Prophecy Hall

Number of units: N/A

Status: The Planning Board this month approved the developer's request to amend its plans for the former Reformed Church of Beacon on Wolcott Avenue. Approved in 2023 for conversion to a hotel, cafe and event center, the development group will open a 150-seat restaurant instead of the event venue. The 30-room hotel planned for the parsonage will be downsized to 16 rooms. The restaurant will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Mirbeau Inn & Spa

Number of units: N/A

Status: Mirbeau is restoring the 64-acre Tioronda Estate, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital, and plans to open a luxury spa and hotel at the site in March. The historic Howland mansion, the centerpiece of the site, will have a restau-

rant and kitchen on the ground floor, with four guest suites on the second floor and three suites on the third. An adjacent hospital wing was demolished; a chateau with 65 guest rooms and 20 spa treatment rooms is being constructed in its place. A network of walking trails on the property will include a publicly accessible segment of the city's Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail.



Beacon Views

Number of units: 37 townhouses

Status: We reported last year that the developer of this project near Conklin Street had secured a permit for construction from the Army Corps of Engineers, which regulates activity in waterways and wetlands, and was working with the Dutchess County Health Department on approval of sewer and water connections. The Planning Board this month granted two 90-day extensions of site plan and subdivision approval — at least the sixth and seventh extensions the project has received since 2022. Litigation ensued following a dispute with a neighbor over an access easement, a project representative said.



300 Main St.

Number of units: 8 apartments

Status: The Planning Board began its review this month of an application to convert the existing structure at 300 Main into a three-story, mixed-use building with eight 1- and 2-bedroom apartments above a first floor with five retail stalls. Plans call for eliminating a driveway to create a parking space on Main Street. A walkway along the east side of the building would provide pedestrian access to the retail spaces. "This has a lot going for it," said Gunn.



193-195 Main St.

Number of units: 5 apartments

Status: The Planning Board began its review this month of a proposal to construct a three-story building with one- and two-bedroom apartments in an undeveloped area behind the Beacon Bread Co. The existing development, including the restaurant, in the front of the property would remain. The new building would be accessible by a driveway that opens onto Cliff Street. Planning Board members expressed concern about emergency access. "It definitely needs work," said Gunn.



536 Main St.

Number of units: N/A

Status: Construction is expected to begin in the fall now that the developer has secured access agreements with neighbors. This vacant lot on the east end of Main Street will contain a three-story commercial building with showroom space for Warp & Weft, a custom and designer rug business.

**409 Fishkill Ave.****Number of units:** N/A

Status: A Buddhist organization, Soka Gakkai International, is leasing and renovating a building owned and used by the Healey Brothers auto dealerships. An SGI representative said this week that while work at the site has been delayed, the organization hopes to open its worship center by the end of the year.

**364 Main St.****Number of units:** 20 apartments

Status: Construction stalled after the former Citizens Bank building was razed more than a year ago. However, it began in earnest after 364 Main BCN bought the property from O'Donnell Construction Corp. in July for \$1.3 million. The three-story building will feature retail on the ground floor and apartments on the second and third floors.

**2 Cross St.****Number of units:** 18 apartments

Status: The foundation has been poured for this three-story building at the corner of Main St. It will include retail on the street level and 18 apartments on the two top floors. Rental schemes have changed as the developer has sought funding. Eleven of the apartments will be below market rate, and nine of those will be for tenants who need social services support. The project, which received \$2.25 million in state funding last year, is scheduled for completion by summer 2026.

**Rose Hill Manor****Number of units:** N/A

Status: The owner of Rose Hill Manor Day School, a preschool located for 40 years at 1064 Wolcott Ave., proposed in February redeveloping the site as a three-story, 42-room hotel with a gym, spa and 56-seat restaurant. The owner said he plans to relocate the preschool, which has seen enrollment decrease since the Beacon City School District launched a pre-K program. Planning Board members called the proposal, including a 2½-story addition linking the school buildings, “massive.”

A second draft of the plans was presented in April but did little to allay board members' concerns. “There's nothing residential that has this kind of scale anywhere in the city,” said Kevin Byrne. The parcel, which sits on a hill overlooking Wolcott, is in a residential zone. It is also part of Beacon's protected historic district, which requires a special-use permit for some commercial uses, including hotels.

**Edgewater****Number of units:** 246 apartments

Status: Three buildings with 106 apartments are complete and nearly full at this complex overlooking the Hudson River. Two buildings with 68 additional units are under construction, with two more buildings (and 72 units) to follow. The developer hopes to complete the project, which will be Beacon's largest residential development, within the next two years.

Does Beacon Need a Historic Review Board?

Dana Rubin was one of about a dozen people who spoke during the Beacon Planning Board's May 13 hearing on a proposal to build two 4-story buildings on Beekman Street with 64 apartments and nearly 14,000 square feet of commercial space.

“I understand the importance of growth and I welcome it,” she said. But, like most residents who spoke that night, she said the project, at one of the gateways to the city, is too big for the space it intends to occupy.

Noting that it abuts a cluster of historic homes on High Street, she rattled off 15 municipalities in the region, including Cold Spring, Poughkeepsie, Hudson, Kingston and New Paltz, with boards or commissions that review development proposals involving historic sites.

“Even White Plains has a Historic Preservation Commission that meets monthly and reviews applications and makes recommendations to the planning commission,” she said. “They see the need to welcome and encourage growth and at the same time to safeguard their historic and cultural heritage. In Beacon, we give all that work to you [the Planning Board]. We should be thinking about how to restructure this process, to bring in more expertise to support you.”

“I couldn't agree with you more,” responded Planning Board Chair John Gunn. He encouraged Rubin and others in the audience to lobby the City Council.

If Beacon had a historic review board, what would it do? More than a decade ago, Cold Spring's Historic District Review Board voted 4-1 to permit demolition of the former Julia L. Butterfield Hospital building and reviewed designs before redevelopment of the site was approved by village officials. In March, the Cold Spring board

submitted comments to New York State on the potential impacts of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

In Kingston, a Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission reviews projects involving the publicly visible exterior of historic properties before a building permit is issued.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said this week that he would rather tweak Beacon's zoning than add another layer of government oversight. “Once the zoning is right, it's just a matter of implementing,” he said.

The City Council attempted to do just that, Kyriacou said, in 2020, when it rewrote Beacon's historic preservation guidelines to mirror the state code. The city regulations now identify architectural features, such as historic storefronts, porches or cornices, that it seeks to preserve while spelling out details like window size or the finish materials required for new construction or renovations in the historic district.

Gunn also pointed to zoning as Beacon's best long-term solution. Although people often ask the Planning Board to “just say no,” it cannot arbitrarily deny code-compliant applications, he said, so “if the community feels Beacon needs stronger regulations for developing historic properties, this is something the City Council would have to address through zoning.”

As Gunn had suggested, Rubin spoke about other municipalities and their historic projects during the council's May 19 meeting. She asked the council members to meet with the Planning Board to discuss convening an independent group of experts on historic properties.

Kyriacou responded later that evening, saying the Planning Board and City Council would hold a joint meeting in September.

**GarageWORKS****Number of units:** N/A

Status: Construction is ongoing at the site, a former auto repair shop at 3-5 Henry St. being converted into carbon-neutral, solar-powered artists' studios along with gallery

space. New York State last year awarded the project \$1 million through the Restore New York Communities Initiative. Property owner Michael Braden said that construction is about two months behind schedule. He hopes to open in mid-2026.

AROUND TOWN



AT REST — A U.S. flag is folded during the interment on May 24 for U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Eugene Darrigan at the Church of St. Mary in Wappingers Falls. Darrigan was buried in his hometown after his remains were recovered recently from a World War II bomber that crashed into the water off the coast of New Guinea on March 11, 1944. For the story, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Heather Khalifa/AP



DAISY SCOUTS — Daisy Scouts from Troop 1362 gathered May 25 at the Cold Spring and Nelsonville cemeteries to plant flags on the graves of veterans. Back row, from left: Peyton Dubiel, Charlotte Leonard, Aurora Frisenda and Sybil Henderson. Front row: Melina Faust, Josephine Gogola and Penelope Anduze.

Photo by Leonard Sparks



MEMORIAL DAY — At left, veterans and other local residents gathered on Monday (May 26) to remember those who lost their lives in service to the country. In Cold Spring, a parade began at the foot of upper Main and proceeded through Nelsonville to Cold Spring Cemetery for a ceremony. In Beacon (above), John MacEnroe unveiled a plaque to mark the 100th anniversary of the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair

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The Calendar

Festival of Misfit Toys



Beacon artist Ron English's booth at the 2019 Five Points Festival



Live painting at the 2019 Five Points Festival



Riisa Boogie during the 2019 Five Point Festival

Photos provided

Clutter moves Five Points from Brooklyn to Beacon

By Marc Ferris

After Miranda O'Brien and Josh Kimberg moved to Beacon from Brooklyn in 2011, they opened Clutter Gallery at 163 Main St., named for a glossy magazine O'Brien founded in England 21 years ago that ceased publication in 2017.

Clutter is the only gallery in the country dedicated to weird and wonderful designer toys for adults, says Kimberg. Earlier this year, the couple moved from their Main Street space, a popular gathering spot on Second Saturdays, to the KuBe Art Center, where they plan to add an art toy museum operated by a newly created nonprofit, the Designer Toy Foundation.

At the same time, the couple is transplanting their annual Five Points Festival of "designer toys, indie art, weird monsters and underground culture" — scheduled for June 7 and 8 — from Greenpoint in Brooklyn to The Yard in Beacon.

Jesse DeStasio, a Philipstown resident who hosts his own festival, Toy Pizza Expo, which met at the Happy Valley Arcade Bar in Beacon and merged this year with Five Points, will be there with Knights of the Slice, an action-figure line he created in 2015. Ron English of Beacon, a longtime toy designer and muralist under his Popaganda

umbrella, created the event poster.

"This town takeover goes against the grain," says Kimberg. "We put together a roster of complete weirdos and fans of the bizarre."

Five Points, which began in 2017, attracted 6,000 people in Greenpoint last year. The first Beacon event will include live music, painting, tattooing and promised "oddities." The Beacon Theater will show sci-fi flick *Dune* (1982), the original *Godzilla* (1954) and *Ghidorah* (1964), the "three-headed monster."

Inspired in part by Japanese manga and anime, collectible designer items range from \$20 to hundreds of thousands of dollars, says Kimberg. Made mainly with resin and soft vinyl, the irreverent totems stem from street and underground art. Though some small runs are handcrafted or 3-D printed in people's basements and garages, most items are imported.

Small-batch, handmade toys created by popular artists are obviously more cherished than a run of 500 made in China, says Kimberg: "What's most important is the name value, not a brand or even what the figure depicts. It's like Andy Warhol's silkscreens and Toulouse Lautrec with the printing press, creating multiple copies of works with a mechanical means of production and building a reputation."

Some artists in the free-for-all subculture create original designs and others reference pop culture, a la Warhol. Homer Simpson is a popular subject, but almost all designer toy representations of familiar figures distort and take liberties with the original form, signifying that the work is unlicensed.

"There is a conversation over whether this is fair use, and thus legal," says Kimberg, who once received a cease-and-desist letter but rebutted it with a 20-page reply. "We outlined the work's transformative nature, and they went away," he said.

The Yard is located at 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon. Tickets are \$30 or \$40 per day (\$20 students, free for children ages 12 and younger) or \$50 for both days (\$130 VIP, \$30 students) at fivepointsfest.com, or at the door. Use code HVLOCAL for a discount. Doors open for VIPs at 11 a.m. and for others at noon. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Ron English and Czee13 at the Five Points Festival in 2022



Josh Kimberg and Miranda O'Brien at Clutter

File photo

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 31
Twilight Memories
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. Mesier Park
East Main Street | strayhelp.org
The volunteer cat rescue organization, Stray HELP, will provide candles to light in honor of a beloved pet. *Cost: \$10 per candle*

SUN 1
Queer Liberation March
BEACON
1 p.m. Main Street
facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ
The march, organized by Beacon LBGTQ Liberation, will be followed by a community celebration with a DJ, vendors and organizations at the VFW Hall. See the Facebook page for details.

SUN 1
Repair Cafe
BEACON
1 – 4 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 West Center St.
Bring clothing, furniture, lamps and other broken items to be fixed by volunteers. Email beaconfishkill-repaircafe@gmail.com to volunteer.

WED 4
Social Security Seminar
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Learn how to file, who can file, when to file and how to get the most from your benefits.

SAT 7
Centennial Picnic
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
The library will celebrate 100 years with dramatic readings by actors portraying Daniel and Julia Butterfield, music by Lüsh Life and the Foundry Four, a 1920s cooking contest and a children's book sale. Rain date: SUN 8. *Cost: \$5 donation*



SAT 7
Modern Makers Market
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com
Browse the creations of dozens of artists, jewelers and other artisans. Rain or shine. Also SUN 8.

SAT 7
Five Points Fest
BEACON
Noon – 9 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | fivepointsfest.com
Clutter Gallery has organized a community art and toy con with artists, exclusive toys, vendors, hangouts, music, food trucks, pop-up galleries and film screenings. Also SUN 8. See Page 11. *Cost: \$50 weekend (\$20 students, ages 12 and younger free, VIP \$130)*

SUN 8
Strawberry Festival
BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org
This annual Beacon Sloop Club event will include performers and bands on two stages, strawberry shortcake, games, crafts, activities and displays. Donations welcome. *Free*



NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 31
Master Gardener Hike
CARMEL
9:30 a.m. Fahnestock State Park
1498 Route 301 | cceputnamcounty.org
The moderately strenuous guided hike will cover 4 miles with views of Breakneck Ridge, Mount Beacon and Storm King. Register online.

SAT 31
History Hike: Denny Mine
PUTNAM VALLEY
10 a.m. Fahnestock State Park
Sunken Mine Road
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Guides from the Putnam History Museum will discuss the local discovery of iron and the role of mines. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)*

SAT 7
Litter Cleanup
PHILIPSTOWN
11:45 a.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
Help the Garrison School's Civics Seal group beautify the park. Trash bags provided. Bring gloves if possible. Rain date: SUN 8.

SAT 7
Secret Gardens Tour
BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. Various
Pick up a map at the Howland Cultural Center (477 Main St.) for a self-guided tour of unique gardens organized by the Tioronda Garden Club. Email fullergeri@yahoo.com or gbarrack1@gmail.com for tickets.

VISUAL ART

SAT 31
Adult Prom
BEACON
7 – 11 p.m. KuBe Art Center
211 Fishkill Ave. | ecfa.com/kube
Dress up and dance in the art-filled halls. *Cost: \$25 (\$50 with after-party)*

SUN 1
Luthier's Dream
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 – 4 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Pallas Athene will speak about her exhibit of stringed instruments transformed with elements of nature. There will also be live music.

THURS 5
Readers of Beacon
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Photographer Sandy Santra captures the writers, readers and literary community in this exhibit. Bring a book to swap during the reception.

THURS 5
Figure-Drawing Night
BEACON
6 p.m. Dennings Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St. | garrisonartcenter.org
Join the Garrison Art Center for creative fun with two models. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 7
Gretchen Kane | Maria Pia Marrella
COLD SPRING
4 – 7 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com
In *Shifting Ground*, both painters will share landscapes. Through June 29.



SAT 7
Art Bloom
BEACON
6 p.m. Blooming Heart Studios
41 Mason Circle
supersecretprojects.com
To launch their Art CSA, Super Secret Projects and Blooming Hearts Studios will host a silent art auction and soundscape experiences. *Cost: \$75*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 31
Once Upon a Dance
POUGHKEEPSIE
2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Ballet Arts Studio dancers in tap, ballet, modern, jazz and other forms will stage their annual recital with a fairy tale theme. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, students, children)*

SAT 31
The Bald Soprano
BEACON
7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org
The new theater will present a “ludicrously staged reading of the absurdist classic” by Eugene Ionesco. Also SAT 31. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 31
Comedy Weekend
BEACON
8 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org
Hosted by Jay Lawrence, this stand-up show will feature Linette Palladino and Jad Sleiman. Also SUN 1. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 1
Love Fest
NEWBURGH
6 & 9 p.m. Newburgh Brewing Co.
88 S. Colden St.
dub.sh/passion-love-fest
Passion The Adult Dance Studio in Beacon presents its fourth showcase of “epic love stories told through the art of movement and dance.” Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$30*

THURS 5
Hive Mind Improv Jam
BEACON
7 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
dukecomedytheatre.com
This comedy jam, presented by Duke Comedy Theatre, is open to anyone who always wanted to try improv, get more reps or watch a live comedy show happen on the spot. An improv team will close out the night. *Cost: \$5*

FRI 6
Romeo and Juliet
BEACON
6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Visit Bannerman Island to watch the 1996 film of Shakespeare's best-known play starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. *Cost: \$45*

FRI 6
Lit Lit
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Read work from any genre at this literary open mic. *Cost: \$5*

FRI 6
Glass Ceiling Breakers
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Watch plays and films by women presented by Theatre Revolution. See the website for the titles in each block. Also SAT 7, SUN 8. *Cost: \$27*

FRI 6
The Comedy of Errors
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Shakespeare's comedy includes two sets of twins separated at birth all on a search for soulmates. *Cost: \$15 to \$75*

SUN 8
The Matchmaker
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Nance Williamson stars as Dolly Levi in the Thornton Wilder musical that inspired the 1969 film *Hello, Dolly!* *Cost: \$10 to \$75*

SUN 8
Michael Ian Black
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The actor, writer and comedian, known for the CNN show, *Have I Got News For You*, will do stand-up. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 31
Family Nature Day
GARRISON
2 – 4 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way | hhlt.org
Brian Robinson will share a presentation on the world of animals. *Free*

SUN 1
Laurie Berkner
PEEKSKILL
11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The musician and performer will play her greatest hits. *Cost: \$28 to \$101*

SUN 8
Youth Business Market
BREWSTER
Noon – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | putnamcountyny.gov
Shop for crafts, art and food made by young entrepreneurs.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 31
Hello, Cruel World!
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Melinda Wenner Moyer, a Philipstown-based journalist, will discuss her new book on “science-based strategies for raising terrific kids in terrifying times.”

THURS 5
Brain Health
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
In collaboration with Philipstown Aging at Home, the library is hosting this workshop about supporting cognitive function as you age.

THURS 5
Simple Steps for Starting a Business
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
Via Zoom | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
George Joiner of Putnam County SCORE will discuss how to get

going with your business idea, from planning to funding.

THURS 5
12 Oxen Under the Sea
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com
Craig Bernardini will read from and discuss his new collection of stories.

SAT 7
Giant Love
GARRISON

3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Julie Gilbert will talk about her new book on author Edna Ferber, her Pulitzer-winning novel about Texas and the making of the Oscar-winning film adaptation.

SAT 7
Things Become Other Things
BEACON

7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.
binnaclebooks.com
Craig Mod will discuss his “walking memoir” of Japan with Sam Anderson. See Page 14.

SUN 8
Ruth Danon
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The Beacon and Dutchess County poet laureate will read from her collections, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

MUSIC

SAT 31
Don McLean
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The songwriter and musician, best known for “American Pie,” will perform as part of his *A Night of Hits and Stories* tour. *Cost: \$68 to \$88*

SAT 31
Back to the Garden 1969
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
For their 16th anniversary show, the Woodstock tribute band will play hits by the performers from the iconic concert. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 1
Dream Choir
COLD SPRING

3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St.
For their spring concert and sing-along, the choir will perform a diverse collection of hits, from the Beatles to Broadway. Donations welcome. *Free*

THURS 5
Ignite a Noise
BEACON

7 p.m. Savage Wonder
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org
Rich Johnson, a “one man jazz-fusion orchestra,” will perform on trumpet, electronics and pedal steel guitar. *Free*

FRI 6
True North Jazz Project
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Joe North (saxophone), Ryan Cerullo (piano), Buddy Griffith (bass) and Ryan Odell (drums) will play a range of music that includes bebop, classic rock and pop. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 6
Southern RockFest
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
A Brother’s Revival (an Allman Brothers tribute band) and Southern Steel (Lynyrd Skynyrd) will perform. *Cost: \$44 to \$58*

FRI 6
Willie Nile Band
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer and songwriter will play rock music from his 14th album, *The Day the Earth Stood*



CompCord Ensemble, June 8

Still. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 7
Fibers and Filaments
NEWBURGH

7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra’s program at Aquinas Hall will include works by Yoshimatsu, Beethoven and Bartok. *Cost: \$55 to \$80 (\$35 seniors, students free)*

SAT 7
John John Brown
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Brown will play guitar and sing during his solo show, *Songs, Stories, & Art – Lessons from Strangers*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



SAT 7
The American
Pink Floyd Show
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will recreate a live concert experience. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 8
Brazilian Choro Concert
COLD SPRING

4 p.m. 10 Whitehill Place
dub.sh/choro-cold-spring
Catherine Bent (cello) and Ian Coury (Brazilian mandolin) will perform as part of Sandy McKelvey’s Hudson Valley House Concert Project. Bring a drink or dish or beverage to share. Reserve a seat online. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 8
CompCord Ensemble
BEACON

5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Presented by Composers Concordance, this concert will also feature B3. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 students)*

SUN 8
Big Band Night
PHILIPSTOWN

6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
Big Band Sound, a 20-piece jazz band, will play standards of the Great American Songbook. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 4 to 18)*

CIVIC

MON 2
City Council
BEACON

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

MON 2
School Board
BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

TUES 3
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 3
School Board
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 4
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

WED 4
School Board
GARRISON

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

THURS 5
Town Board
COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Week Ahead edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a full listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.



BOSCobel HONORS THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GILMAN S. BURKE, ESQ. THROUGH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

This resolution was adopted by the Boscobel House and Gardens Board of Directors on the 20th day of May 2025, and printed here publicly in honor of the life and service of Gilman S. Burke.

WHEREAS Gilman S. Burke served with considerable distinction on the Board of Directors of Boscobel Restoration since 1997, and

WHEREAS Mr. Burke brought his legal expertise and broad knowledge to bear in his work on personnel issues, program matters, and, most impactfully, in chairing the Buildings and Grounds Committee for many years, and

WHEREAS Mr. Burke earned the respect and admiration of his fellow directors and Boscobel’s staff for his quiet wisdom, thoughtful summation of complicated matters, and earnest attention to detail,

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of Directors hereby salutes the life of Mr. Burke, gives thanks for his many contributions to the thriving success of Boscobel, keenly mourns his passing on Christmas Day 2024, and extends its appreciation and affection to his widow and his family.

Thank you Gil for a lifetime of dedication and service to our community!



Photos from Japan by Craig Mod. For more, see highlandscurrent.org.

Craig Mod

Photo provided

The Path Forward

Writer to discuss 'walking memoir' in Beacon

By Brian PJ Cronin

Craig Mod's first book tour across America has so far been a resounding success, much to the confusion of bookstore owners.

"All the bookstore people have been freaked out," he said a few days after his stop in San Francisco had a line all the way down the street an hour before the event began. "Booking this tour has been difficult, because in their experience, if they

don't recognize the name of the author, they're going to get seven people."

Mod will finish up his tour promoting *Things Become Other Things: A Walking Memoir* at Binnacle Books in Beacon on June 7, in conversation with Beacon resident Sam Anderson, a reporter for *The New York Times Magazine*. Although this is his first title for a major publisher, Mod has built a following with his lavishly designed, self-published books, online newsletters, photography and travel writing about Japan.

"I have absolutely no sense of who's out there reading my stuff since I'm kind of

alone and isolated on the other side of the world," he said. "People are shaking as they bring me books to sign. It's bizarre, but everyone has been so sweet."

Mod grew up in a Pacific Northwest town that was slowly being hollowed out with drugs and violence in the wake of local factories closing. Once he graduated high school, he knew he needed to get as far away as possible. With scholarships, home-stays and the exchange rate at the turn of the millennium, Tokyo was the cheapest option at the time.

Mod found in Japan what he'd been missing back in America. "There was an overwhelming shock of seeing people being taken care of by a greater whole," he said. After buying a used camera, Mod fell into two of the central tenets of his work: photography and exploring Japan on foot.

He began with long, late-night walks throughout Tokyo. "I'd be in this kind of romantic haze of listening to all these lives and these families functioning," he said. "Tokyo is so transparent. If you walk in certain neighborhoods, you just hear everything."

He befriended John McBride, an older Westerner with an encyclopedic knowledge of local history. Accompanying McBride on walks led to Mod making longer journeys across the county on his own. *Things Become Other Things* recounts in words and photographs one walk in 2021, during the pandemic, when he traced the historic 300-mile Kumano Kodō pilgrimage routes across the Kii peninsula south of Kyoto, with McBride emailing him historic details

along the way.

"Most of the inns I stayed at, I was the only one there," Mod recalled. "It felt like the end of the world."

The rainy, lush and desolate landscape of the Kii peninsula reminded Mod of his hometown, both filled with poverty, loneliness, trash-strewn yards and hostile dogs. But Japan's safety net and tight-knit society means that the people Mod encounters don't fall through the cracks. Central to this is yoyū, which is often translated to mean "breathing room." In *Things Become Other Things*, Mod defines it as "the excess provided when surrounded by a generous abundance. It can be applied to hearts, wallets, Sunday afternoons and more."

Mod said he began to truly understand the term when he started walking with McBride. "It's the space in your heart to be able to accept someone or something else without being stressed out by it," said Mod. "John is a person of essentially infinite yoyū."

"As the political climate has changed in America, it feels increasingly like folks are being pressed against the wall," Mod said. "Political decisions are being made from this lack of openness or empathy. It emphasized what it meant to feel yoyū in the Japanese countryside. It's hard for folks who don't live in a place that has that to imagine what it feels like to look around at everyone you pass by, and know that if some medical calamity hits them, they can't fall that far."

Binnacle Books is located at 321 Main St. in Beacon. The event begins at 7 p.m.



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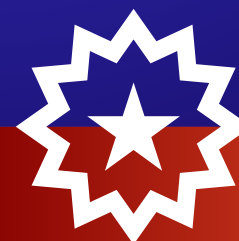
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Last Call for Shakespeare Tent

Final summer of shows before new theater debuts

By Marc Ferris

Beyond the new theater rising on a ridge above the river, things are percolating as the acting company now known as Hudson Valley Shakespeare prepares for its 38th and final season under the tent.

After a rebrand, the “festival” suffix moved down the road. “We’re more permanent than ever,” says Davis McCallum, the artistic director, explaining the change. “Festivals are associated with a defined time period and then they head off, like the circus, but we still want to have that celebratory, freewheeling exuberance.”

The Samuel H. Scripps Theater Center is part of a \$58 million project that includes the ecological restoration of the former golf course that is now the Hudson Valley Shakespeare campus and the addition of actor housing.

This season, the company’s full-production plays include Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors*, opening June 6, and *The Matchmaker* (June 8), by Thornton Wilder, which evolved into the Broadway musical *Hello, Dolly!* and the 1968 film shot in part at Garrison’s Landing.

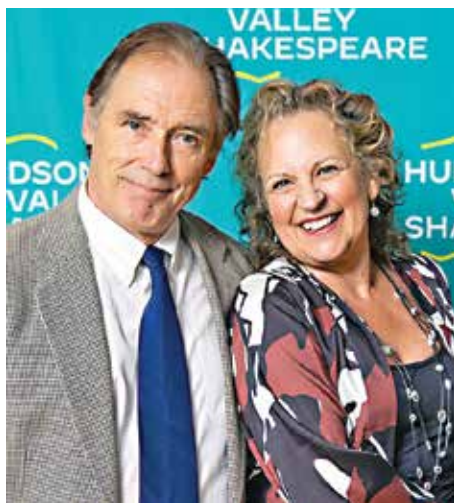
Will and Wilder alternate through Aug. 3. Then *Octet*, written by Beacon resident Dave Malloy, takes over the tent from Aug. 11 to Sept. 7. McCallum pursued the rights to the Tony-nominated play for five years; Hudson Valley Shakespeare is the first company to mount a full production after the show’s Off-Broadway run in 2019.

“The original rights-holders planned a commercial Broadway production and a film, but COVID hit, and it’s only been shown twice since then in limited productions,” says McCallum.

Malloy’s local ties extend to writing the music for *Beowulf — A Thousand Years of Baggage*, the greatest hit so far by local house-party hosts Jason Craig and Jessica Jelliffe at Banana, Bag & Bodice productions. The following year, 2011, Malloy collaborated with Craig on *Beardo*, a rock musical about Rasputin. Hudson Valley Shakespeare recently commissioned a work from Banana, Bag & Bodice that’s about halfway completed, says McCallum.

Octet is billed as a “chamber choir musical” that references tarot cards and explores internet addiction and human alienation in the digital age through dialogue and an eight-part acapella harmony score. Only three of the troupe’s regulars could pull off the singing-and-speaking task, so McCallum imported “ringers,” he says.

When the tent goes dark for a week to prepare the production, the company will roll out HVS Cabaret, which transforms The Valley restaurant into a 45-seat cabaret (Aug. 6 to 9). Performances include a solo work-in-progress musical, *Fathertime: Birth, Death and Songs*, the return of former troupe member Bebe Nicole Simpson and



Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson will play lead roles in *The Matchmaker*. HVS photo

a performance by composer Alex Bechtel.

In addition, a new production of *Julius Caesar* plays Sept. 9 and 10 for students and the public, with a stripped-down version moving to Bannerman Castle Trust on the island (Sept. 11 to 13).

For the first time, the Shakespeare company will send teaching artists and actors to nearby schools for three weeks in September instead of in the spring. Next year, after the Scripps Theater opens, the company will continue to visit schools



The 2025 season will be the last under a tent before the opening of a new theater, shown here in a rendering. StudioGang

and, for the first time, bring students to the grounds.

McCallum, who worked on *The Matchmaker* 30 years ago in London, considers Wilder to be “the best American playwright. He won two Pulitzers for drama and another one for a novel — the only American author who achieved that.”

For *The Matchmaker*, wife-and-husband team Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads, who live in Philipstown, star as Dolly Levi and Horace Vandergelder. Although over-

shadowed by the Broadway and movie adaptations, the original play complements *The Comedy of Errors*, McCallum says.

“It’s uncanny how much these two farces share structure, energy and momentum,” he says. “Our actors are feeding off each other as they go back and forth working on them.”

Hudson Valley Shakespeare is located at 2015 Route 9 in Philipstown. For a schedule and tickets, which range from \$10 to \$100, see hvshakespeare.org or call 845-265-9575.



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When Food Becomes the Enemy

A young woman chronicles her battle with anorexia

By Michael Turton

In January 2017, Sandra Slokenbergs wrote in her journal: “I have a sickening feeling my daughter is dying.”

Her fears were well-founded. A week later, her daughter Lidija, 17, a Haldane junior, was rushed to a hospital, suffering from severe anorexia.

Anorexia nervosa is an eating disorder which, if not treated, can cause serious medical conditions associated with starvation. Anorexia is second only to opioid overdoses in deaths tied to mental illness, including by suicide. Its causes are not fully understood but are thought to involve genetics, psychological and social factors and major life transitions.

In a newly published book, *Hold My Hand*, Sandra and Lidija tell their story in detail from each of their perspectives.

By age 16, Lidija had experienced more life changes than most. When she was 6 and about to enter the first grade at Haldane, she and her family moved to Latvia. Both sets of her

grandparents had emigrated to the U.S.; her parents were born in New York, but Latvian was spoken in their Cold Spring home.

During the 10 years they spent in Latvia, Lidija changed schools five times. Although Latvia became independent from Russia in 1990, many schools still followed the rigid Soviet system, with multiple daily tests, teachers

calling out students' grades, waiting for permission to sit and an intense level of competition.

“I didn't feel I could keep up,” she recalled. “I knew I was smart, but I was made to feel stupid a lot of the time.”

Lidija loved to dance but was told at age 12 by her ballet instructor that she danced “like a bear.” She came home crying, feeling “intimidated, ridiculed and never good enough.” There were cultural differences, as well. Although Lidija spoke fluent Latvian, it was with an accent. She was “the American,” an outsider.

The Slokenbergs returned to Cold Spring each summer. Lidija said that was “paradise”: swimming in her grandparents' pool, her July 3 birthday parties, camp and ice cream. Although she loved Latvia and had friends there, returning was always difficult. Sandra remembers the end of the summers as full of “anxiety, sadness and dread” for her daughter.



Sandra and Lidija Slokenbergs

Photo by M. Turton

Red flags began to appear by the time Lidija was 14. Once, she stood by her bedroom mirror in Latvia sobbing, unable to decide what to wear to a birthday party. Sandra coaxed her to go, but it was a struggle. For a yoga class where everyone wore a T-shirt and leggings, Lidija agonized, rejecting one combination after another.

Sandra noticed her daughter's movements had become less natural. She had begun to dislike aspects of her body. “Clearly, self-esteem was seeping out of her,” Sandra said. Lidija developed an uncharacteristic interest in Sandra's treadmill and worked out on it obsessively for several weeks. She later

admitted hating every minute of it.

Ironically, a permanent return to Cold Spring in 2016 fueled what would soon be diagnosed as anorexia. “I was happy because I'd have two years left at Haldane,” Lidija said. But other thoughts were troubling. “I felt I had the chance to reinvent myself, to become someone I liked more, someone who was smarter and prettier,” she said. “I had been holding in a lot of stress, a perfect time for anorexia to swoop in.”

Anorexia, she said, makes many false promises: “You'll be happy if you lose a bit of weight. You'll be happy if you control your food more. You'll be happy if you get to the desired weight.”

Lidija's 16th birthday included a trip to Dairy Queen and an ice cream cake. It would be the last time Lidija ate without feeling the need to greatly restrict food. After eating leftover cake the next morning, she obsessed over the thought that she had already consumed more calories than she should for an entire day. She vowed to take control, to get skinnier, to be prettier. She thought, “Maybe I'll feel better then.” Her mother recalled: “I saw her change into someone I didn't recognize.”

Lidija became obsessive-compulsive. She'd swim 100 laps in her grandparents' pool, even in bad weather or when sick. Soon 100 laps became 120.

Good things happened at Haldane, including a strong performance in the school musical, but to Lidija it felt like “too

(Continued on Page 17)

Garrison Art Center

Garrison Art Center x Segundo Beso
Urban Jungle
May 30 - July 13, 2025

Opening Reception: Fri., May 30, 5 - 7 pm
Segundo Beso
65 Main St
Cold Spring, NY 10516

All images are courtesy of and © the artists.
From left to right, starting at the top: Sandra Beltrán-Vázquez, Enne Tesse, Heather Brown, Luis Fonesca, David Link, Mitchell Brozinsky, Jane Soodalter, Lisa Knaus, Kara Wilson, Maxine Feldman, Robert Olsson, and Vivien Collins

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(Continued from Page 16)

little, too late.”

She went to a number of counselors without finding a good fit. One, after hearing Lidija’s symptoms, said: “I’d never have guessed — you seem like such a happy person.”

“That comment made me nauseous,” Lidija recalled. She needed someone who specialized in eating disorders. “My body had been slowly crumbling,” Lidija said. “I had been getting dizzy more often and was consistently low on energy.”

In January 2017, a social worker finally recognized what was going on; she said Lidija needed immediate inpatient treatment.

The next evening Lidija remembers a strange blurriness, a feeling of being disassociated from her body and a severe panic attack. Her legs and hands began to tremble. Her father called 911. She would soon spend three weeks at the Center for Eating Disorders at NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester in White Plains.

“I was forced to undergo this massive transformation,” she said. “It didn’t heal me, but it put things into perspective.” Breakfast on the first morning was more than she had been eating all day. Patients earn points for finishing each meal, which allows them to leave their room to participate in programs such as art or yoga.

After being discharged, Lidija continued therapy. Eight years later, “I feel more like myself than I ever have,” she said on Monday (May 26). “I feel more passionate about the things I do, the activities I’ve tapped into. I even speak with more confidence than I used to.”

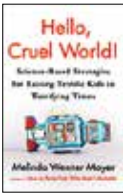
At the same time, like an addiction, “it’s very easy to slip back into unhealthy behaviors. You have to learn to live with thoughts that don’t always go away.”

Hold My Hand is available at dub.sh/hold-my-hand. If you or someone close to you may have an eating disorder, the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders operates a weekday helpline at 888-375-7767.

More Notable Books by Local Authors

Hello, Cruel World!

Melinda Wenner Moyer, a Philipstown resident, follows up her 2022 book, *How to Raise Kids Who Aren’t Assholes*, with a guide to “science-based strategies for raising terrific kids in terrifying times” that she wrote after interviewing specialists in psychology, education, information literacy, technology, business and addiction. Moyer will speak at the Desmond-Fish library at 2 p.m. on Saturday (May 31).



Barbara Linn Probst is about “a woman’s struggle to face her reckless history, with its trail of damage and deception, and her quest for the redemption that might still be possible.”



Spatial Alchemy

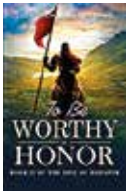
Olga Naiman, a Philipstown resident, blends her expertise in interior design and clinical psychology with spiritual practices to create an approach to “home transformation.” The manual includes instruction on how to harness color, texture and



symbolism to “shift the energy” in your home and how to select an “emotional regulation chair,” among other tips.

To Be Worthy in Honor

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong, a retired *Current* reporter who lives in Cold Spring, won the 2024 Chaucer Award for the best historical novel set in the Middle Ages for *To Remain Vigilant: Book I of the Epic of Hotspur*. Its protagonist is Sir Harry Percy, considered England’s greatest knight in 1399, who raised a crucial question that still resonates: Is the king above the law? The story continues in the newly released *To Be Worthy in Honor: Book II of the Epic of Hotspur*.



Start Reading Now

June book club selections

High School Book Club

MON 2, 2:30 P.M.
Gwen & Art Are Not in Love, by Lex Croucher
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Lit Book Club

TUES 3, 7 P.M.
Someone Like Us, by Dinaw Mengestu
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Queer Book Club

TUES 3, 7 P.M.
Imogen, Obviously, by Becky Albertalli
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 5, 7 P.M.
Seward: Lincoln’s Indispensable Man, by Walter Stahr
Lincoln Depot Museum, Peekskill
Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Fantasy Book Club

TUES 10, 7 P.M.
A Night in the Lonestone October, by Roger Zelazny
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Wednesday Book Club

TUES 17, 2 P.M.
The House in the Cerulean Sea, by TJ Klune
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at beaconlibrary.org/calendar.

Middle School Book Club

TUES 17, 3:15 P.M.
We Were Liars, by E. Lockhart
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Sci-Fi Book Club

TUES 17, 7 P.M.
Dawn, by Octavia Butler
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Feel Good Book Club

MON 23, 7 P.M.
Illegally Yours: A Memoir, by Rafael Agustin
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at stanzabooks.com/book-clubs.

Science & Nature Book Club

WED 25, 7 P.M.
The Monster’s Bones: The Discovery of T. Rex and How It Shook Our World, by David Randall
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at splitrockbks.com/event.

Page-to-Screen Book Club

THURS 26, 3 P.M.
Small Things Like These, by Claire Keegan
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Beacon Book Club

THURS 26, 7:15 P.M.
The Emperor of Gladness, by Ocean Vuong
Tanjore Cuisine of India, Fishkill
Register at meetup.com/beacon-bookclub.

Community Read

MON 30, 2 P.M.
Go Tell it on the Mountain, by James Baldwin
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 30, 7 P.M.
Memorial, by Bryan Washington
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Current Classifieds

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EVENTS

MAKERS MART & CRAFT BEER — Three amazing events produced by Hops on the Hudson are happening in Cold Spring in June! June 7/8: 60+ designers and makers will be at our Modern Makers Market; June 21: Get your tickets for our NY Craft Beer Tasting and Market (30 NY breweries under one gigantic tent, plus food trucks, live music and a market); June 22: Cold Spring Art, Wine and Spirits Show (over 50 artists, six wineries and six distilleries). Free admission. For more information, see hopsonthehudson.com.

NOTICES

BEACON CLASS OF 1965 — We are searching for our Beacon High School classmates to hold our 60th reunion in Beacon on Oct. 4. If you graduated with us, we’d love to hear from you. Please reach out to one of the following: Linda

Salvatore Beasimer (lbeasimer@gmail.com), Barbara Conley Gosda (bgosda4765@gmail.com) or Connie Perdreau (corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com). Please feel free to share this information with other classmates from the Class of ’65 so we can reach everyone. We also welcome suggestions for a venue and other comments.

LOST ON METRO-NORTH — Silk Hermes scarf, Sunday afternoon, April 27, on northbound train (4:50 from Grand Central). Got off at Garrison. Blue, red and beige. Was my mom’s. Heartbroken! Cash reward + good karma. Thank you. Call 914-643-2710.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

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Rain or Shine



June 12 - June 15

Feast of St. Anthony at Graymoor

Thursday, June 12

Jubilee Mass at 4:00pm with Bishop Gerardo J. Colacicco

Outdoors at St. Anthony Shrine

Friday, June 13

Feast of St. Anthony of Padua Celebration

11:00am | Trilingual Mass & Exposition at
Our Lady of Atonement Chapel
(English, Italian and Spanish)

3:00pm | Novena & Benediction

Saturday, June 14

Our Lady of Atonement Chapel

Mass Schedule

11:00am | English

12:00pm | Creole & French

4:00pm | English & Spanish

Sunday, June 15

Our Lady of Atonement Chapel

Mass Schedule

11:00pm | English & Italian

1:00pm | Creole & French

4:00pm | Novena and Benediction



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This Gallery Specializes in One Artist

Joe LoGuirato pays tribute to family and life

By Marc Ferris

Unlike most art galleries, Christopher Stella at 456 Main St. in Beacon represents just one artist: Joe LoGuirato, who owns the building.

Yet his work is so varied by medium, material, subject matter and artistic approach that visitors always think there's a group show going on, LoGuirato says. "I like to explore and experiment. One thing leads to another, and I never know where I'm going."

A few weeks ago, LoGuirato emptied the gallery — which is named in memory of his son and wife — transferring its contents to his home in Kent and refilling the space with new works that will remain at least through the summer.

In the back garden, a more permanent install features his lanky blue man sculptures. The grotesque but beguiling works wear deadpan expressions and strike awkward poses.



Joe LoGuirato at his Christopher Stella Gallery in Beacon

Photo by M. Ferris

One 5-footer, chained to the gallery along the sidewalk, palm extended, attracts plenty of attention. A few days ago, a girl held its hand, looked up and said, "You must make a lot of friends — what's your name?"

Because people constantly rub the figure's whiskers, made from paintbrush bristles, LoGuirato keeps refurbishing the chin. He once found the 75-pound thin man several storefronts down Main Street after someone attempted to steal it.

One example of his sense of humor is the

gag he plays with an outdoor sign depicting Vincent Van Gogh: "I'm going into this art gallery. I think my ear is in there." Indeed, there's an artificial ear taken from the largest sculpture in the garden, a blob face that seems to melt into the landscape.

"He never listened to me, anyway," he quips. One of the appendages, painted in the vivid style and colors of the Dutch master, hangs on a gallery wall.

Recurring abstract motifs include patterns that resemble veins, along with the roots of

flowers and plants. One painting looks like an anatomical study superimposed on the body of his wife, Stella, who battled cancer for three years before her death in 2011 at age 58.

One portrait hangs above the gallery's desk. On the diagonal wall, a drawing of the establishment's other namesake depicts his son, Christopher, playing the flute. He died at age 13.

As Stella struggled with her illness, Joe created a visual journal of their final years, including paintings of the last restaurant they visited, the final Broadway show they attended and a detailed pencil drawing of a roller skate that references her running joke with the oncologist about getting ready for a roller derby.

In 2014, he aggregated these and other pieces into a show titled *Stella: Homage to a Cancer Patient* at the Urban Folk Art gallery in Brooklyn, donating the proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

Some of that exhibit's works are now in the Beacon gallery, including a collection of used syringes titled "Lovenox," for the anti-clotting medication Stella injected every day, and a bronze bust with a mirror blocking her face.

"The gallery pays tribute to my wife, my son and to life — it's not sad," LoGuirato says. "Life is full of transition; you never know where it's going."

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SUNDAY, JUNE 22 11:00 - 5:00PM

Garrison Teen (from Page 1)

Katherine Ingrassi and Mary Kate Filos used the word “miracle.”

Ingrassi, a speech-language pathologist at Blythedale, said that Theresa could not eat or talk, and breathed using a tracheostomy tube inserted in her neck when she arrived at Blythedale. Theresa had “a lot of things to overcome” during the hospitalization and made tremendous progress from initially communicating solely through gestures, said Ingrassi.

One day, “I walked in and she looked up at me and said a full, beautiful sentence,” said Ingrassi.

That progress owed much to Theresa, who Filos described as a “fighter” and hard worker. Filos also credited the family and friends who supported Theresa’s recovery by donating money, visiting and sending cards and gifts.

“They had somebody at the bedside around the clock; Theresa was never alone,” said Filos. “So we bonded not just with mom, not just with dad, but with so many extended family members and friends.”

Also attending the sendoff were some of the Continental Village firefighters and paramedics who responded to the tragedy: a Dec. 15, 2023, car crash on Route 9 that claimed the life of Vlad Saban, a 17-year-old Haldane High School senior, and left Theresa, then 16 and a junior at the school, in critical condition.

Chief Joseph Maffettone said in September 2024 that firefighters responding to the accident found “complete wreckage.” Attacking the doors and bottom of the wreck with cutting tools, they found Vlad already deceased and Theresa in the rear — unconscious and laying on her left side, protected in a “cocoon,” according to Maffettone.

“There was a complete tunnel around her,” said Maffettone, whose family has been buying baked goods from Homestyle for years and knew the Timmons family. “How she was positioned, it was amazing.”

Jennifer Hunt, a paramedic with Cortlandt-Peekskill Paramedics, described Theresa’s physical condition as “multi-system” trauma.

“She had anything and everything that could possibly be wrong with a patient going on,” said Hunt last September. “We had a lot of



Theresa in May 2023, about seven months before the crash Photo provided

decisions to make in a very short timeframe.”

Hunt said that she and a colleague, Richard Blackley, sedated Theresa and inserted an endotracheal tube, which is used when patients cannot breathe unaided. With her breathing stabilized, they decided to drive Theresa to Westchester Medical Center rather than wait for a helicopter that had been standing by.

By February 2024, Theresa was responding to commands. The following month, a contingent of family, first responders and friends lined a hallway at the Westchester Medical Center. A stretch of red carpet covered the floor as a paramedic wheeled her bed across a red carpet on the way to Blythedale.

While the inpatient stay is over, the recovery continues. On Monday, Theresa begins outpatient rehabilitation at Blythedale and continues her education as a student in the Mount Pleasant Blythedale Union Free School District. Blythedale is the only hospital in the state with its own school district.

At home, the family installed an elevator, combined two rooms to create a bigger bedroom for Theresa and turned a laundry room into a bathroom, said Laura Simmons. To help with Theresa’s ongoing care, a fundraiser with food, music and a raffle is planned from noon to 4 p.m. on June 8 at the Redline Roadhouse, 5739 Albany Post Road in Cortlandt Manor.

Theresa, who loved working at Homestyle’s bakery and ice cream shop, wants to attend college and obtain a job.

“She’s 100 percent determined to get better,” said Laura Timmons.



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From left, Steve Rappaport, Anthony Macchiarola, Kyle Bardwell and Michael Curtis search for birds at Boscobel on May 17.

Photo by B. Cronin

Birdathon (from Page 1)

said PHAS President Sean Camillieri. Donors make pledges, and each chapter sets a goal (for PHAS, it was 100 birds). Each Audubon chapter also can define boundaries. One year, the Putnam Highlands chapter said the entire state was fair game; some members went to Long Island and Central Park. This year the birding was restricted to Putnam County.

To lock down maximum funding, you must put in maximum effort. The team's 18-hour schedule, which began at 4 a.m., required military precision to reach 16 viewing locations. A brief but intense rainstorm had put the group behind by the time it pulled into Boscobel. Camillieri ran into the ticket office to secure six passes. It was while we were standing around, and not technically birdwatching, that the vulture flew overhead.

It's a common bird — there may be one near your house right now, feasting on a flattened squirrel — but the group hadn't seen one, so it added to the total.

As if to drive home the point that there's no timeouts during Birdathon, a Cooper's hawk swooped behind us while we walked with our gear toward the bluff overlooking Constitution Marsh. Another point.

The event takes place in mid-May because it's the height of spring migration. Some species, such as Baltimore orioles and scarlet tanagers, are moving here for the summer. Others are making pit stops on their way to the Adirondacks or Canada. It's also the heat of mating season, and the birds are desperately trying to be noticed. Their plumage is more colorful, their songs louder. When they return to the Highlands in the fall, they'll be duller, quieter and easier to miss.

Constitution Marsh at low tide was a chance to spot shorebirds, which is more difficult in Putnam than in Dutchess or

Westchester, said Anthony Macchiarola. Because of the rain delay, the team arrived as the tide was rising. Time was of the essence.

An osprey was seen at the far end of the marsh. The team deduced that a tiny black dot in the distance was a fish crow and not an American crow. It turns out the fish crow's nasally call was the giveaway. Under the rules of Birdathon, you can identify a bird by its call even if you can't see it.

The Putnam Highlands team defied the stereotype of birding as an activity for retired folks. Four of the five members were younger men. Camillieri is a wild-life biologist in New York City, so the hobby comes naturally. Steve Rappaport came to it through photography: He was taking photos of hummingbirds in his yard. Macchiarola is a Carmel High School teacher who built campus bird feeders with his students and became curious about the many species that visited.

In the end, the men observed 114 species over the course of the day (see dub.sh/phas-checklist), including a cerulean warbler, a threatened species that is known to have a half-dozen seasonal nests near the Washburn Trail parking lot.

The day was a success, although Camillieri said participation in the Birdathon has declined. Birding enjoyed a boom during the pandemic, but people have returned to their routines, he said.

That's bad for birding and for science. The team's observations were shared with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, providing data for researchers around the world. With cuts to federal funding for scientific research, as well as grants to research universities, citizen science projects like Birdathon have become more important. They might be the only large-scale projects undertaken for the foreseeable future.

If you hung up your binoculars after the pandemic, consider this a call to return to the flock. The birds, and your country, need you.

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AROUND THE REGION

Albany

State Assembly Passes Aid in Dying Act

The state Assembly on April 29 passed legislation that would legalize assisted suicide for terminally ill people.

The Medical Aid in Dying Act passed, 81-67. Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, both voted "yes."

If passed by the Senate and enacted by the governor, the act would allow a mentally competent, terminally ill adult with six months or less to live to request medication from their physician. The legislation requires an oral request and a witnessed written request, as well as at least two physicians to determine that the patient is making an informed decision.

Amy Paulin, an Assembly member from Westchester County who chairs the Health Committee, introduced the legislation after her sister died of ovarian cancer. Medical aid in dying is permitted in 10 states and Washington, D.C.

Newburgh

Aquatic Center Opens

Season passes are on sale for a new, \$15 million aquatic center through June 23 for city residents before they are made



available to the public.

The center is part of the 27-acre Delano-Hitch Recreation Park at 401 Washington St. Funded entirely with state and federal grants, it opened May 24, continuing for 12 hours daily except Mondays through Labor Day.

The center includes a six-lane pool and 7,500-square-foot splash pad with a tipping-bucket tree, rainfall showers, spraying rings, water canons and fountains. There are also family restrooms, a concession stand and individual storage lockers on the pool deck.

Newburgh

Lobby at the Ritz Reopens After Renovations

The nonprofit Safe Harbors of the Hudson held a ribbon-cutting last month for the reopening of its renovated Lobby at the Ritz.

The renovation included a new sound and lighting system, an updated HVAC system, added storage space and cosmetic improvements.

The Ritz Theater, built in 1913, is best known as the site of the stage debut of Lucille Ball, in a sketch comedy with Desi Arnaz. Safe Harbors purchased the abandoned theater and adjoining hotel in 2002 and transformed it into a mixed-use development that includes 128 apartments, an art gallery and commercial space. The Lobby at the Ritz began programming in 2007. See safe-harbors.org.

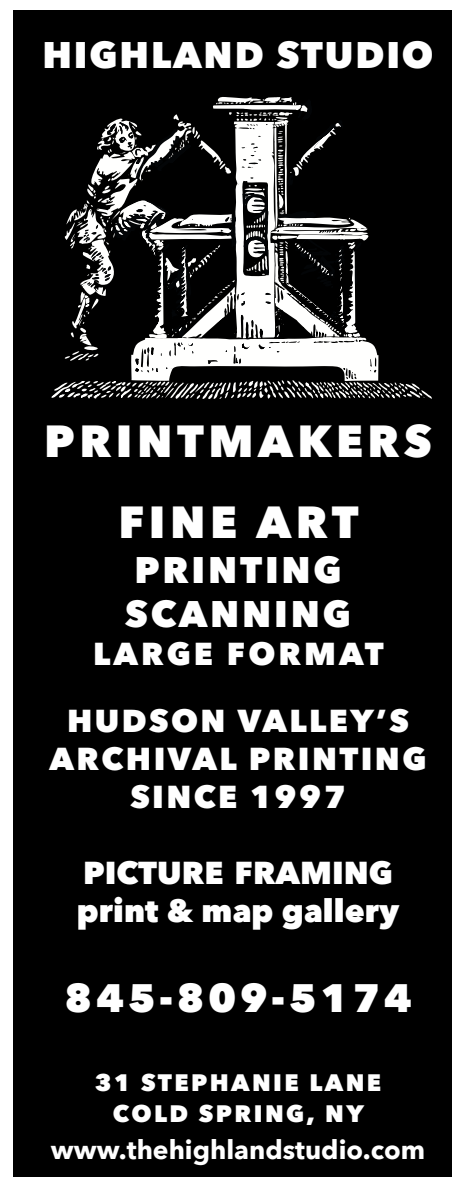
Fishkill

Former HR Director Sues Town

A former human resources director has sued the town, claiming she was improperly fired. Suzanne Puma held the job from May 2022 until Jan. 2, when the Town Board eliminated the position.

In her lawsuit, Puma charges she was dismissed because she pointed out salary discrepancies between male and female employees. She said she met with Supervisor Ozzy Albra on Oct. 16, but that he refused to review a chart she had made. At a Town Board meeting, she suggested the board go into executive session to review the chart, but it did not.

Puma alleges in court documents that the Town Board diverted her duties to another position in violation of civil service rules. Albra told *Mid Hudson News* that he offered Puma a part-time position, but she did not respond. "This was a cost-saving measure implemented by the town," he said.



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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Sprint

5. Dalai —

9. Humorist

12. Twice cuatro

13. Done with

14. Here (Fr.)

15. Impulsive

17. Born abroad?

18. Sweetheart

19. Sequence

21. Freudian concept

22. Ersatz chocolate

24. Lascivious

27. “Wham!”

28. Rain-delay cover

31. MSNBC’s Melber

32. Night before

33. “Gosh!”

34. Gasp for air

36. Scale members

37. Despot

38. Tub outlet

40. Battery size

41. Laugh track sounds

43. Author Lurie

47. “I love,” in Latin

48. Tropical cooler

51. Writer Harper

52. Theater award

53. Length times width

54. “For shame!”

55. Frees (of)

56. Legendary loch
- DOWN
1. Columnist Maureen

2. Massage target

3. Actor LaBeouf

4. Dreadful

5. Actor Rob

6. Bird (Pref.)

7. Gents

8. Passion

9. Motormouths

10. Frozen drink brand

11. Level

16. Cover

20. Hogwash

22. Witch group

23. Dazzles

24. Napkin’s place

25. Geological period

26. Namibia’s capital

27. Gilpin of *Frasier*

29. Actor Stephen

30. Apiece

35. — -la-la

37. East Asian country

39. Silents star Mary

40. Hearty brew

41. Sentry’s cry

42. Iowa city

43. Citrus drinks

44. Beget

45. Small bills

46. Secret-protecting docs

49. Slugger’s stat

50. Succor

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

FIVE SPOT

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

O	T	H	E	R	Not these
					Loam
					Get thinner
					Extra
					Hogwarts professor
					Blueprints

ADAM PCT ACME
REBA ERA NOAM
GRANDEUR GIGI
ONDECK PROFIT
TIS SERF
MDS IAN TAEBO
IRAS TUB SURE
REBUS BLT RAD
OMAN AUG
POTATO REREAD
ABET MONSIEUR
TOUR ARE NORA
SERA DEY SCAT

Answers for May 23
S R X T E T U L A S
P A L A I R O M E M
C E C E R G S J B K
M D K R G V G Z C P
O A W K I A X C G O
D R D X U F R K D P
E A H Q R P I U Q P
E P Y M S S Q C O Y
R Q U Z G M N C E C
F M I L I T A R Y C

CHUMP, CHAMP, PEACH,
RECAP, PARED, TRADE

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

NOTICE

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

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' LACROSSE — In the first round on May 23 of the Section I, Class D Playoffs, No. 7 Haldane defeated visiting No. 10 Dobbs Ferry, 16-4. The Blue Devils led 6-1 after the first quarter, 10-2 at halftime and 15-3 after the third quarter. Fallou Faye led the charge with five goals, followed by Brody Corless with three, Alex Gaugler with two and David Powlis, Lugh Hartford, Nate Stickle, Sam Poses and Cooper Corless each with one.

Haldane was no match in the next round for No. 2 Bronxville on Wednesday (May 28), falling 17-6 on the road. The Blue Devils kept it close in the first quarter, trailing 4-2, but the Broncos took a 10-4 lead into halftime. Faye had three goals and Stickle, Corless and Gaugler each had one. The Blue Devils, who finished the season at 9-7, will lose seniors Faye, Stickle, Brody Corless and Gabriel Reyes to graduation.

GIRLS' LACROSSE — The Blue Devils, seeded No. 7 in the Section I, Class D tournament, were upset on May 22 by No. 10 Croton-Harmon, 15-11, at home. Croton-Harmon led 4-2 early in the second quarter, but Haldane answered with two goals within a minute from Kayla Ruggiero to tie it.

The Tigers led again with two minutes left in the third quarter, 11-8, but another goal by Ruggiero and two by Samantha Thomas in 11 seconds tied the game again. Croton-Harmon then held Haldane scoreless for the entire fourth quarter. Ruggiero ended with seven goals and Thomas had four.

The Blue Devils, who finished 10-7, will lose seniors Amelia Alayon, Josie Foley-

Hedlund, Scotia Hartford, Martha McBride and Micah Morales to graduation.

BASEBALL — Haldane (4-13) began a best-of-three series for the Section I, Class C title at Tuckahoe on Tuesday (May 27) but fell short, 7-1. Tuckahoe (13-7) took a 3-0 lead in the first inning and coasted the rest of the way. Milo Pearsall pitched five innings for the Blue Devils, recording four strikeouts. Haldane had no answers against Tuckahoe starter Connor Brice, who gave up only two hits while striking out 14. Game 2 was scheduled for Thursday at Purchase College.

SOFTBALL — The Blue Devils, who finished the regular season 10-7, lost in the first round of the Section I, Class C tournament on Tuesday (May 27) at home, 13-1, to North Salem. The visitors got off to a fast start, scoring three runs in the first inning. Haldane loaded the bases in the bottom half of the inning with no outs but could only manage one run. Allegra Clementson retired the side in the second inning but, in the third, the Tigers scored 10 runs on seven hits. The game was called after five innings.

"We have a nucleus" for next season but "need defensively to be a bit more solid," said Coach Jeff Sniffen. The team will lose only two players — Callie Sniffen and Judine Cox — to graduation.

TRACK AND FIELD — The Blue Devils competed in the Section I, Class C steeplechase championship on Tuesday (May 27) at Montrose. The Haldane girls, who competed at 2,000 meters, took the top spots, with Hazel Berkley finishing in 10:05.30 and Kate Resi in 10:43.70. For the boys, Owen Powers finished second (10:32.06), Jack Illian was fifth (10:50.21) and Henry Amadei was 12th (11:42.06). The Blue Devils compete today (May 30) in the Section I, Class C championships at Pawling.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

GIRLS' GOLF — Ninth-grader Heidi Maeng played her way into the state tournament, finishing fifth in the sectional qualifier. She and nine other golfers from Section IX will compete on June 8.

BASEBALL — The Bulldogs, who finished the season 16-4 and received the No. 1 seed in the Section IX, Class A playoffs, made quick work on Wednesday (May 28) of No. 5 Red Hook, winning 5-0. Derrick Heaton threw a complete game with six strikeouts. At the plate, Ryan Smith had two RBIs and



Ryan Smith waits for the throw as a Red Hook runner scampers it back to the bag.

Zachary Schetter scores for the Bulldogs.

Photos by
Cadence Heeter



Heidi Maeng (right), a ninth grader on the Beacon girls' golf team, qualified for the state tournament. She is shown with Coach Jeanmarie Jacques. Photo provided

Ryan Landisi a double and single. On Saturday (May 31), Beacon travels to Saugerties to play No. 2 Marlboro (12-6) for the sectional title. The Bulldogs lost to Marlboro in last season's title game, 7-6.

SOFTBALL — Riding a four-game winning streak to end the regular season, Beacon couldn't keep the momentum going in the Section IX, Class A playoffs, falling in the opening round to No. 2 Saugerties, 10-1, on Monday (May 26). The Bulldogs (6-11) were seeded No. 7. Beacon struggled to get the

bats going and were unable to overcome an early deficit.

BOYS' TENNIS — Three Bulldogs competed in the Section IX tournament. Beckett Anderson defeated Jack Kurlander of Red Hook (6-3, 6-2) in the first round on Tuesday (May 27) but lost to Henry Goings-Perrot of Newburgh (6-1, 6-1) on Tuesday in the quarterfinals. At doubles, Frank Zezza and Charlie Klein advanced by forfeit before losing in the quarterfinals, 7-5, 7-6 (8-6), to Nathan Steckman and Rehan Shah of Spackenkill.