

# The HIGHLANDS Current



FEBRUARY 17, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

Support our nonprofit: [highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)



**MADE WITH LOVE** — Emilia Costa, a native of Argentina who runs Heirloom Fresh Flowers in Putnam Valley with her father, led a flower arrangement workshop at the Ascend Center in Cold Spring on Sunday (Feb. 12). Each participant chose a vase and blooms to use. Participants then took their creations home for Valentine's Day.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Beacon Installs License-Plate Readers

*Cameras to record vehicle data at entries to city*

By Jeff Simms

The City of Beacon is installing license-plate reading cameras at four locations entering the city, with three of the cameras likely to be operational by next week.

The City Council last month approved spending \$21,400 on a two-year agreement with the Flock Group, an Atlanta-based firm, for the solar-powered license plate readers (LPRs).

Police Chief Sands Frost said Wednesday (Feb. 15) that the cameras, which will record plate data but not drivers' faces or other information, will be installed on utility poles on Route 52, northbound and southbound Route 9D and Washington Avenue. Three of the cameras are up now and being tested by Flock; the fourth will be installed once Central Hudson approves the location, Frost said.

According to the chief, the cameras will  
*(Continued on Page 9)*

## Should Cold Spring Police Stay?

*Reform committee recommends referendum*

By Michael Turton

Should Cold Spring have its own police department? That question could be put to village residents in a non-binding referendum in 2024 if the Village Board follows a recommendation from its Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Community Policing.

Victor Burgos, the AHAC's chair, addressed the recommendation before the Village Board at its Wednesday (Feb. 15) meeting. The committee also suggested that, before a referendum, the board develop a plan to "impartially educate" residents on the pros

“ In light of everything that was going on nationally.

We thought it was a relevant conversation to have and a relevant question to pose to the community. ~ Victor Burgos

and cons of keeping or dissolving the Cold Spring Police Department.

The CSPD review is part of a plan adopted by the Village Board in March 2021 in response to former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order in June 2020 requiring all municipalities to assess their police forces.

He issued the order in response to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in May 2020, and other high-profile, racially charged killings involving police and the nationwide protests that followed.

Burgos said while not everyone on the committee agreed a referendum is needed, "in light of everything that was going on nationally" at the time of Cuomo's executive order, "we thought it was a relevant conversation to have and a relevant question to pose to the community."

Mayor Kathleen Foley leaned toward keeping the CSPD intact, saying that the possibility of disbanding the village's police force "is not a small question, not a decision to be made lightly" and that having a locally accountable department

*(Continued on Page 9)*

## Local Teachers See Opportunity in Artificial Intelligence

*Not overly concerned about ChatGPT and cheating*

By Joey Asher

Will ChatGPT kill high school English in the Highlands?

If you believe the hype, it's possible. School districts and universities from New York City and Los Angeles to Bangalore and Tasmania have banned the artificial-intelligence platform because it seems to enable cheating.

But local school administrators are taking a more measured approach, saying they have no plans to restrict use of the technology.

"We view this as a teachable moment," said Carl Albano, the superintendent for the Garrison district. "We want our students to understand the benefits as well as the potential risks associated with using the technology."

Corey Dwyer, the principal at Beacon High School, said it was important to learn how to use the tool in ways that might benefit learning.

"AI [artificial intelligence] programs such as ChatGPT are not going anywhere," he said. "And technological literacy is itself an important skill that students will need to succeed. The challenge for schools is how we balance the two."

ChatGPT was released in November by San Francisco-based OpenAI. The free tool allows users to type prompts and receive an original, and fairly coherent, piece of writing in return.

Earlier this month, James Yap, the Garrison district's director of technology and innovation, demonstrated ChatGPT for the school board. He typed: "Can I have an essay on the Roman Empire?"

The technology quickly generated a remarkably well-crafted essay. Yap  
*(Continued on Page 9)*



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: GASTOR ALMONTE

By Alison Rooney

**G**astor Almonte, a comedian from Brooklyn who was recently diagnosed with diabetes, will perform his one-man show, "The Sugar," on Feb. 25 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon to kick off a new series of solo storytelling by The Artichoke.

**How does comedic storytelling differ from stand-up?**

When I do stand-up, I'm letting you know what's going on in my head now. Storytelling is why I think that way. It's telling you about something that might have happened before.

**Is timing innate, or something you can learn?**

Timing and comedy are skills, and those who are best at it have an innate ability to do it better and get to a better understanding of how it works. It's something you're good at, but you can always improve. For me, I've been funny my whole life. I grew up telling stories I learned from family members. On Sundays, my uncle and my dad told stories to each other, and then to my cousins and me, separately. Growing up, if I was cool and funny, they'd let me hang out with them in an informal way I normally didn't get access to.

**Your stories are autobiographical. But are they embellished?**

Every story I tell is 100 percent true to how I feel, but I'm not presenting a police report. For example, I have a story about my grandfather coming over to this country and buying a bunch of chickens, which then turned into 1,000 of them. As an adult, looking back, there were probably no more than 100 or 150, but for 7-year-old me who never grew up on a farm, a hundred felt like thousands. My worldview is part of it; I don't know how to change that. My outlook is positive. I don't look to color the stories; that's just how I see things. I lived these stories, reflected and learned from them, and I want people to enjoy that I'm here and want to share them.

**Do you use humor to cope with life's challenging moments?**

I don't necessarily set out to write a story about everything that happens to me, but I end

up having to process it and see how I feel about it. Getting diagnosed with diabetes is the first time I felt mortal. I needed to tell it out loud to a bunch of people first. Before I spoke to my wife about it, I had to tell the story onstage so I could understand how I felt about it and then tell her about it.

**You seem so comfortable onstage. Do you ever get butterflies?**

I feel more comfortable the second I step out onstage than when I'm just walking around. The only exception is a new thing, like my first TV taping, my first time performing in a stadium. By my third, fourth, fifth time, I felt uber-comfortable. "The Sugar," which is my longest piece, is my new nerves challenge, but I'm gaining comfort: The nerves go away and my favorite feeling happens. I'm at ease, I know where my brain and my heart are going to go and I'm sharing it with an audience.



**PENSIERO PLURALE  
PRESENT MEMORIES:  
ON THE POLITICS OF  
IMAGE-  
MAKING**

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 12:00 p.m.  
Curated by Ilaria Conti featuring Dawit Petros  
in conversation with Teresa Fiore and  
a lecture by Mistura Allison

Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516  
Seating is limited, tickets can be  
purchased on [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art).

**MAGAZZINO  
ITALIAN ART**

— BEACON, NEW YORK —

**artisan wine shop**

where food meets its match

**[www.artisanwineshop.com](http://www.artisanwineshop.com)**

**845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon**

**your source for organic, biodynamic &  
low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006**

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

**What was your first car?**

“It was a late '80s, black Audi wagon. It was a great car, built like a tank.”

Adrian Da Delia, Beacon

“It was an early '90s Dodge Omni, four on the floor. I loved it.”

Joanne Hinkel, Cold Spring

“A blue 1970 Dodge Dart hardtop with a 225 slant six engine and a bench seat. I loved that car.”

Coulter Young, Garrison



# One Of The Last To Go?

*Developer submits plans for vacant Main Street lot in Beacon*

By Jeff Simms

A developer is planning to build a three-story retail showroom at 536 Main St. in Beacon, one of the few remaining vacant lots along the city's mile-long central thoroughfare.

The proposal, presented to the Planning Board on Wednesday (Feb. 15), is to construct a 13,500-square-foot building that would include retail showroom space on all three floors for Warp & Weft, a custom and designer rug business. There would also be office space on the second and third floors, but no apartments.

The vacant lot, on the east end of Main Street, is in the city's historic district and is close to restaurants, apartments and other mixed-use buildings. According to materials presented to the board, Warp & Weft plans to construct a brick building with glass "showroom" doors.

The developer's attorney noted on Wednesday that Main Street zoning permits the Planning Board to waive parking requirements for a building if there is sufficient public parking available within 800 feet. The developer's traffic study showed 375 parking spaces nearby, with 50 of them available during "peak" hours.

However, John Clarke, the city's planning consultant, said that the Main Street Access Committee studied parking conditions for all of Main and found the east end "pretty much locked down," with little availability.

## Prophecy Theater

The Planning Board continued a public hearing for a special-use permit and site plan approval of the proposal to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon into a hotel and event space with a restaurant and bar.

The proposal, first introduced in 2021, has been downsized numerous times after pushback from the board and nearby residents. It now calls for a maximum capacity of 180 attendees at the event space, down from the original plan of 500.

There will be no events on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, and there would be a maximum of 160 events per year. Events on Fridays, Saturdays and the night before a holiday would end by 10 p.m. Events on other nights would end by 9 p.m.

The restaurant would also be closed if an event with more than 100 attendees is taking place. Project officials said on Wednesday that only 40 events per year would qualify for maximum capacity and only 80 would go later than 9 p.m.

In addition, "acoustic glass" will be installed over the church's stained glass windows to help eliminate noise "leakage."

While project officials stressed several times that Prophecy will not be a concert venue, they may not have swayed the public or the Planning Board. Clarke said "it's going to be impossible for the city to keep track" of the various times and types of events, while noting that the hours of operation seem to indicate Prophecy will be a live music venue, not a conference center.

Gina Samardge, the founder of Compass Arts in Beacon, submitted a letter in favor of the proposal, saying it could become "a vital resource for us and the greater community" that could host multi-day conferences for artists and other groups. But many others spoke against the project during the hearing, with most saying it would be an intrusion for residents of neighboring apartment and condominium complexes — The View, River Ridge and the West End Lofts — as well as the homes on the other side of Wolcott Avenue.

"What are we doing with this thing in a residential area?" asked John Bono. "I didn't work and save all those years to have some nice church turned into whatever it is. I know it's going to end up being a rock 'n' roll joint anyway." For those supporting the project, "What would you do if this damn thing was in front of your house?" he asked. "How would you deal with the noise? That's not why I moved to Beacon."

After 2½ hours of debate, the board agreed to ask the city's Traffic Safety Committee to look into ideas such as valet parking at the site. The Planning Board will continue its review of the other elements next month.



This vacant lot in Beacon could become a showroom for designer rugs. Photo by J. Simms

## Highland Place

The developer of 12 Highland Place, who planned to subdivide a 1-acre lot with an existing home into five lots, with four new houses, announced Wednesday that the project had been reduced to four lots, essentially combining two of the new lots into one.

The change was made in response to public feedback during previous hearings, the project attorney said. The four homes would still be accessed through a driveway on Highland that will be converted to a private road.

The announcement seemed to catch residents off guard who had come to the meeting planning to speak about the five-house plan. "We should have known about this change prior to today's meeting," said Paul Lyons, who lives across the street on High-

land Place. "I really don't know what to say, because this changes all the points I had."

A public hearing on the subdivision will continue next month. The Planning Board, which has already approved the environmental review of the project, will likely amend the approval to account for the new plans.

Neighborhood residents had previously questioned whether fire trucks and other emergency vehicles would be able to reach the subdivision via the private road, but Planning Board Chair John Gunn read a letter from the Traffic Safety Committee indicating that the planned road will be sufficient.

The traffic committee does not recommend requiring the developer to build sidewalks on Highland Place. Parking can also continue on both sides of Highland, the committee said.

**Mr. Cheapee INC.**  
CARTING

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1994

**GOT RUBBISH?**

10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL  
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES • DEMOLITION SERVICES

37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562  
MrCheapeeInc@aol.com  
914-737-0823

[www.MrCheapeeInc.com](http://www.MrCheapeeInc.com)

**BEACON FINE ART PRINTING**

Specializing in digital fine art, large format and display printing, mounting, scanning, retouching and framing for artists, photographers and all fine art professionals.

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

FEB. 24<sup>TH</sup> THRU MAR. 12<sup>TH</sup>

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE  
PHILIPSTOWNDEPOTTHEATRE.ORG

TICKETS & INFO:

Directed by Isaac Byrne

**GOD OF CARNAGE**

A Tony Award-Winning Comedy

**BY YASMINA REZA**  
Translated by Christopher Hampton

SPONSORED BY ALISON ANTHOINE, HENRY & NADINE FELOMAN, DR. PETER GARDNER, TARA SWEET-FLAGLER, AND:

THEATER DESIGN  
NEW YORK Council on the Arts  
PHOTO BY CAROLINE RAJE



# The HIGHLANDS Current

## PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.

142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819  
291 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508-2899

## FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

## EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.org

## SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

## BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

## ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.org

## REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong  
Celia Barbour • Brian PJ Cronin  
Joe Dizney • Pamela Doan  
Deb Lucke • Skip Pearlman  
Michael Turton

## STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Jason Derasmo (Beacon)  
Violeta Edwards Salas (Haldane)  
Clara Tripp (Fieldston)  
Eamon Wall (Haldane)  
Lily Zuckerman (Masters)

## LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

## ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584

ads@highlandscurrent.org

highlandscurrent.org/ads

## MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare

membership@highlandscurrent.org

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman

events@highlandscurrent.org



Institute for  
Nonprofit News

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

February 17, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 8

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.

Mail delivery \$30 per year.  
highlandscurrent.org/delivery  
delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the  
Circulation Verification Council

© Highlands Current Inc. 2023

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

**NYFA\*** Winner: 97 Better  
Newspaper Contest Awards

\* New York Press Association, 2013 - 21

**NNA\*** Winner: 93 Better  
Newspaper Contest Awards

\* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 21

**NYNPA\*** Winner: 22 Awards  
for Excellence

\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 21

## Tell us what you think

**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Indian Point

Your article was accurate in reporting what was said at the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board on Feb. 2 ("Holtec to Release Radioactive Water," Feb. 10). With that said, I would like to make some clarifications.

Richard Webster of Riverkeeper did ask me during the meeting if Holtec would not release effluents to the river (my words) until the state Department of Environmental Conservation "gave its final support." I respectfully said, "No," but I want to be perfectly clear that we have the necessary approvals to discharge to the river per regulations imposed by the DEC, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency. Support is granted by these organizations. The meeting is available for review on the Decommissioning Oversight Board website (bit.ly/indian-point-dob).

Your article states that "the firm says the release will cause minimal problems." I don't disagree with this statement, but after reviewing the tape, I can't see where this was said or what exactly is the "firm."

Lastly, we don't "dump" to the river, we "discharge" to the river. That's not a play on words. Dumping would imply that we, along with all other nuclear plants in the world, simply open a couple of valves and dump effluents to rivers, oceans and lakes. As I've stated

at previous meetings, and what the oversight board's technical expert described, was that all effluents are treated and analyzed before being released. In future coverage, please use the word *discharge* when talking about effluents to the river at Indian Point.

At these meetings, as with all communication with local, state and federal officials, I am as transparent as I could possibly be. Please continue to ask questions following these meetings if the need arises.

Richard Burroni, *Buchanan Burroni is the site vice president at Indian Point for Holtec Decommissioning International. The firm is Holtec, of course, and it has said on multiple occasions that the release into the river will cause minimal problems. The article doesn't state Burroni said it at the Feb. 2 meeting.*

Tritium, which has a half-life of 12½ years, will become one-sixteenth as concentrated in 50 years. That's worth the wait. It also reinforces the lesson that the area generating the waste should be responsible for absorbing the full consequences of their failure to stop the plant from being built in the first place. The local community reaped the so-called benefits of the plant. It's the best of a bad bargain to not deliberately release radioactive waste.

Arnold Gore, *Brooklyn*

When safer alternatives were proposed, Burroni replied: "That's not our business model." Between that and some of his other comments, I feel like this guy should be twirling his mustache and clutching moneybags like a cartoon villain.

When the public face of Holtec is this smug, this condescending and this open about putting profit before people, it says everything about the company and its trustworthiness.

Rebecca Reese, *via Instagram*

So tanks to store the water are a bad option because they could leak the radioactive water into the river? The solution is to put the radioactive water directly in the river?

Something tells me that humanity in 2023 can figure out tanks that don't leak and leak-detecting gauges that have redundancies.

Frederick Dennstedt, *Peekskill*

*The editor responds: The argument is that while a controlled discharge could be done slowly to minimize impact, a leak would be uncontrolled.*

### Beacon Loop

I was surprised and upset to read that the Beacon Free Loop Bus is underperforming. It would be a shame to discontinue this valuable service to our residents after five years, especially coming out of a three-year pandemic.

Perhaps the routes should be tweaked to reach outlying residents? Perhaps a very visual ad campaign could help reinforce and remind residents of the service?

In times of crushing and escalating expenses, the Beacon Free Loop Bus provides a rare and valuable benefit.

Eleni Smolen, *Beacon*

I live in Beacon and have a mobility issue: no car. Hundreds of people each week rely on the bus. The A and B buses to Poughkeepsie are irrelevant.

Try living without a car and with chronic mobility issues without the Loop bus for a year or two — or six, as I have. Then come back and publish an "article" rather than a poorly written opinion piece. A senior or persons with reduced mobility — even commuters working outside of the cost-crippling "city" of Beacon — need this bus (not just tourists). Add that actual financial cost for working people to your ethical and moral imperative to weigh what is true, useful and kind.

Marc Steier, *Beacon*

All they have to do is extend the route to include about a third of Beacon's residents and businesses on Fishkill Avenue. There's a brewery, three restaurants/bars, a deli, a laundromat and about 300 people in that



(Continued on Page 5)



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*(Continued from Page 4)*

area that would love to take the bus into town. But it also has the Hedgewood Home for Adults, and God forbid that the public see its residents on a bus.

The bus could go to the Beacon train station for people who ride the train or need to get to town. Instead, the bus turns at Memorial Park and goes up to one corner store near the mountain, then back to train station.

Dennis Moroney, *via Facebook*

The Beacon Free Loop bus has been an unequivocal success despite *The Current's* withering and out-of-context sub-headline. Between 2013 and 2018 the G Route had approximately 3,000 riders per year. In 2019, the first full year of the rebranding of the G Route to the Beacon Free Loop, ridership was more than 38,000, which was an increase of over 1,000 percent. To compare the Free Loop to the A and B routes is apples to oranges — those two lines do not run as frequently as the Loop (three to four times per day versus three times per hour) and serve a different function.

I am disheartened to read *The Current's* weak reporting surrounding the genesis of the Beacon Free Loop. The project was an intensive collaboration between the county, the City of Beacon and BeaconArts, with assistance from the Marist College student-run marketing and PR firm NorthRoad Communications. Indeed, the project would never have happened without the catalyst of BeaconArts and those “local artists” who had been paying attention to the city’s strategic plan and the directive of providing a working shuttle from the train station to serve visitors and residents.

In addition, NorthRoad Communications is still involved and is developing a ridership survey that will be implemented this spring, as well as an ongoing social media campaign to help boost ridership and to inform visitors and residents alike about schedule changes and the underutilized and under-publicized DoubleMap app that the county launched a few years ago that shows the bus routes in real time.

Although I agree with City Administrator Chris White that the route could be examined more closely to serve more people more efficiently, dropping the route to Mount Beacon would be a mistake and result in serving many fewer residents. The county should consider expanding the Beacon Free Loop service to Sundays, as well as expanding service on the F and B Routes — I have heard from many Beaconites praising the Beacon Free Loop as a lifeline, but that the B and F routes are not adequate, in the same breath.

I also appreciate White’s comment that funding is not being pulled: Why would we go backward just as momentum for fare-free transportation is happening all over the world? Further, why not make the F and B routes (or all bus routes) fare-free? In Beacon, the cost to the city for the Free Loop is less than \$1 per year per resident. That seems like a pretty good deal to me. I invite your readers to take advantage of the Beacon Free Loop — it truly works for everyone.

Kelly Ellenwood, *Beacon*

That was a poor editorial choice on the headline — it is not supported by the numbers, or the impact of the service.

Kevin Byrne, *via Facebook*

*The editor responds: The Dutchess County director of public transit — not The Current — called the Beacon Loop bus “underperforming” based on the number of passengers it carries, although we could have made that clearer in the subhead. The story was not meant to recount the origin of the route, which we have reported in the past. While we didn’t mention the F line, it runs five times a day, Monday to Friday, between Beacon and the A&P in Hopewell Junction. You can find route maps and times at [bit.ly/beacon-bus-routes](http://bit.ly/beacon-bus-routes).*

So many times I’ve waited 15 minutes at a bus stop for a ride to the train station, only to have to run to catch the train anyway when the bus never shows. In the last five years, I’ve gotten the station-bound bus only once, in spite of a posted schedule.

Likewise, arriving by train at the station, will it still be there once we get through the tunnel? That’s a 50/50 bet. Worse yet, for those getting off an afternoon train, the bus could arrive immediately. And then the driver exits the bus, saying it departs in another hour! The schedule is disconnected from what commuters need.

To those who complain that the bus is there just for commuters: If it were, it should

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**



**Sat. Feb 18 – 1-5 PM**  
**BEACON PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**  
2023 Members Showcase with 28 photographers  
Exhibit runs through Feb 26 open most Sat + Sun



**Sun. Feb 19 – 4 PM**  
**Drew Petersen - Piano**  
Howland Chamber Music Circle  
Tix: [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

**Fri. Feb 24 – 7-10 PM**  
**Open Mic Night**  
Music, Poetry & Spoken Word. All encouraged!  
Lottery begins at 6:45 - Performers start at 7 - Doors open at 6:15

**Sat. Feb 25 – 8 PM**  
**The ARTICHOKE Presents**  
**Gastor Almonte - The Sugar**  
Tix: [Artichokeshow.com](http://Artichokeshow.com)

**Sat. Mar 4 – EXHIBIT 1-5 + CONCERT – 7 PM**  
**Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections**  
w/live performances JEFFREY LEWIS + INDIGO SPARKE  
Tix: \$30 adv / \$40 door: [howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

**Sat. Mar 11 – 8 PM**  
**The {Vagina} Monologues**  
Performed Reading  
Tix: \$20 adv / \$25 door: [howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

**Weekly Programs**  
**Kid's After School Art + Mid-Hudson Music Together**  
Check our website + media for more info and events  
**Covid protocol - mask recommended**

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508  
[www.howlandculturalcenter.org](http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org) (845) 831-4988  
[facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon](https://facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon)  
[howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

# The HIGHLANDS Current

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING



“Excellent coverage of an excellent town!”

**Nicole Jones and Jess Reaves**  
COLD SPRING

# STAY CURRENT AND CONNECTED

in 2023

With *The Current* in your mailbox, inbox or newsbox, you will be sure to know the news of the week for Beacon and Philipstown each Friday! Support our nonprofit paper by becoming a member for as little as \$2 a month.

Join at

**HIGHLANDSCURRENT.ORG/JOIN**

Or scan here



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

be better at doing it. Today, I got off the train arriving at 3:16 p.m. The bus was at the station, but no driver was around. Six of us (four with luggage) waited, but three got fed up and walked toward the cabs.

The driver reappeared at 3:33 p.m. but said he wasn't scheduled to leave until 3:37 p.m. (They track the bus by GPS and know when he's off schedule.) In that 21-minute wait, he lost three riders. But why did the bus have to wait 21 minutes, anyway?

Brian Kenny, *via Facebook*

Why don't they use a smaller bus?

Paul Yeaple, *via Facebook*

The editor responds: Dutchess County Transit told that us the bus used for the Beacon Loop is the smallest it has in its fleet.

I love the Loop. I don't know why more people don't use it.

Mike Diago, *via Instagram*

I've seen the Loop pull out of the Metro-North lot while a train is arriving!

Melissa Nastasi, *via Instagram*

If the Loop got more love — a better schedule, Sunday service and a smaller vehicle to fit Main Street — it would get more riders. It would also help if the drivers would reliably stop when you wave at them. If the entire bus system could stop charging, we could take advantage of transfers.

Carolyn Glauda, *via Instagram*

Step 1: Increase buses for higher frequency. Step 2: Allow well-behaved dogs to accompany folks. Step 3: Communicate arrival times at the stops.

Brett Miller, *via Instagram*

**Philipstown trails**

We appreciate that the Philipstown Trails Committee's work is being broadly discussed in the community ("Not a Tourist Attraction," Jan. 27). We believe this is an important conversation to have. We are proud of our all-volunteer committee's work following up on the Philipstown Community Congress in 2017, in which increasing opportunities for biking and walking was voted the top community priority.

As we bring our feasibility study of a path between Cold Spring and Garrison (and important amenities in between) to a close in the coming months and work with the Town Board on possible next steps, we offer the following observations and clarifications.

We are in the early stages of planning, and are just moving toward completion of the feasibility study. The purpose of the proposed path has evolved somewhat over the years to focus squarely on our community's need for transportation alternatives for residents — specifically to create safe biking and walking connections between important community amenities.

That is the main reason that, fairly early in the feasibility study, we moved away from recommending a path along the waterfront. It did not meet the goal of increasing our community's ability to walk and bike safely to community locations such as schools,

parks and cultural destinations.

A path along Route 9D would meet this goal, but would need to fit within the existing right of way. We are not considering any route alternatives that would extend south beyond the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison. That is well beyond the scope of the PTC's feasibility study and work.

We encourage everyone to learn more about the potential path, our community-engagement process and the draft feasibility study at [philipstowntrails.org](http://philipstowntrails.org).

Rebeca Ramirez, *Cold Spring Ramirez is a member of the Philipstown Trails Committee. The letter also was signed by Marianne Sullivan and Laura Bozzi.*

**PILOT project**

Re: "Beacon Spa Agrees to 'Community Fund,'" Feb. 10: So, it's a payoff and a slush fund? Who will determine how those funds gets used? Who will keep track of the spending? Who will be the beneficiary? Any

accountability?

These "proprietors" will be charging top dollar for their products and services, and they want a tax break. I am all for making money but our elected officials are selling our souls. The traffic we are dealing with now will be worse. The quality of our lives will be even more diminished with the crowds.

Joseph Zukowski, *Beacon*

Now that companies are developing these long-fallow spaces, the City of Beacon decides to stick it to the school district by giving away the store. A community fund is great, but paying your fair share of taxes for 15 years would be much better.

Lori Merhige, *via Instagram*

**Climate bills**

The recent Town Hall held by Rep. Pat Ryan in Beacon was a disappointment for anyone who thought they had elected a representative who would take urgent action

to address climate change. Despite listing "safeguarding our environment" as one of his top priorities on his campaign website, Ryan was unable to provide a single climate bill that he supports, although he has been serving in Congress for five months.

There is no shortage of visionary legislation that addresses the climate crisis while creating good jobs and improving the quality of life in our region. For example, the Farm System Reform Act would allow local small farmers to compete with corporate factory farms, and the Green New Deal for Public Schools would invest in creating safe and effective learning environments for our children and greatly reduce carbon emissions.

Beacon needs a representative who follows up his campaign promises with action to create good jobs and protect the environment. If he believes in safeguarding our collective future, then I challenge him to take action to do so.

Julie Winterbottom, *Beacon*

**Certified Results**

On Dec. 15, the New York State Board of Elections certified the vote from the November election, based on results submitted by counties, including Putnam and Dutchess, the latter of which released its district results this month. Here is a breakdown of the official vote for select races in Beacon and Philipstown.

	Putnam	%	Philipstown	%	Dutchess	%	Beacon	%	Total	%
<b>CONGRESS</b>										
<i>District 17</i>										
<b>Lawler</b>	24,071	57.8	1,834	35.3	11,335	61.2			143,550	49.3
<b>Maloney</b>	16,933	40.6	3,306	63.6	6,771	37.4			141,730	48.7
<i>District 18</i>										
<b>Ryan</b>					50,270	51.5	4,197	74.4	135,245	49.6
<b>Schmitt</b>					45,854	47	1,437	25.5	131,653	48.3
<b>STATE SENATE</b>										
<i>District 39</i>										
<b>Rolison</b>	4,494	44.3	1,783	34.3	42,087	52.4	1,468	26.2	58,132	51
<b>Shiroishi</b>	5,127	50.6	3,166	60.1	35,789	44.6	4,136	73.8	51,394	45.1
<b>STATE ASSEMBLY</b>										
<i>District 95 (Philipstown)</i>										
<b>Halper</b>	1,833	36.5	1,833	35.2					17,150	36.1
<b>Levenberg</b>	3,190	63.5	3,190	61.3					28,495	60
<i>District 104 (Beacon)</i>										
<b>Jacobson</b> (unopposed)					9,841	75.5	4,444	99.6	24,411	60.8
<b>COLD SPRING</b>										
<b>Bozzi</b>			596	25.2						
<b>Woods</b>			616	26						
<b>Early</b>			133	5.6						
<b>Murphy</b>			132	5.6						
<b>DUTCHESS SHERIFF</b>										
<b>Hanlon</b>					47,268	40.8	3,897	71		
<b>Imperati</b>					64,581	55.8	1,586	28.9		
<b>PROPOSITION 1</b>										
<b>Yes</b>	22,011	52.8	3,521	67.7	67,612	58.4	4,459	82	3,522,141	59.1
<b>No</b>	16,147	38.7	1,310	25.2	41,077	35.5	977	18	1,686,300	28.3

<b>TURNOUT*</b>	56.3	70	58.4	60.3
-----------------	------	----	------	------

Percentages do not always add up to 100 because some voters did not make a selection in the race. Sources: Dutchess, Putnam and state boards of elections

\*Statewide turnout was 45.5 percent.





## Market Report (January)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
New Listings	5	7	4	6
Closed Sales	12	4	11	6
Days on Market	38	33	67	60
Median Price	\$525,000	\$342,500	\$619,000	\$785,000
% List Received	107.6	98.4	96.8	96.9
Inventory	19	14	23	24

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



SPONSORED BY

**ELAINE THOMAS** | CENTURY 21 ALLIANCE REALTY

CELL: 845-590-6450 EMAIL: [elainethomasrealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:elainethomasrealestate@yahoo.com)

### NEWS BRIEFS

## Central Hudson Replaces CEO

*Change comes amid billing debacle*

Central Hudson replaced Charles Freni as president and CEO as the state weighs a fine against the company over its new billing system, which has caused widespread errors on customers' bills.

Christopher Capone, who has held positions in accounting and risk management since joining Central Hudson in 2003, will replace Freni, the utility announced on Monday (Feb. 13).

Capone said his "key priority" will be addressing frustrations about the billing problems, and that employees are working "around the clock" to fix the system. "More must be done, and my commitment to you is I will be transparent about the progress we are making," he said.

The decision to replace Freni, who will help with the transition before retiring, follows Rep. Pat Ryan's call, during a speech Feb. 1 on the floor of the House of Representatives, that he resign. Ryan, a Democrat, represents New York's 19th Congressional District, which includes Beacon.

"I am encouraged that Central Hudson took this first step toward rebuilding public trust," said Ryan on Tuesday. "Now they must take urgent action to fix their broken systems and repay customers who were wronged."

## Lawsuit Moved to Federal Court

*Putnam Valley blames firms for chemicals at school*

The Putnam Valley school district's lawsuit over the contamination of the well that supplies drinking water to its

elementary school was transferred on Feb. 3 to federal court.

Filed Dec. 21 in state court in Carmel, the lawsuit names 3M, DuPont and other firms that manufactured products containing polyfluoroalkyl substances. This class of chemicals is used in nonstick and stain- and water-resistant coatings, and in foams used by firefighters to suppress blazes caused by liquids like jet fuel. The materials have been associated with illnesses such as kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol.

The lawsuit traces the source of the contamination to the use of firefighting foams at the Putnam Valley Fire Department's firehouses — one 4,600 feet from the school's property on Oscawana Lake Road and the other 4.6 miles away.

## Putnam Valley Drops Opposition

*Had questioned tax break for solar*

The Putnam Valley supervisor said on Feb. 8 that the Town Board will no longer consider opting out of a state law that grants a 15-year tax break on increases in a property's assessed value attributed to the installment of a green-energy system powered by solar, wind or farm waste.

Jacqueline Annabi said that because the town hasn't been assessing property improvements that occur when solar panels are installed, there is no need to move forward with a resolution. As a result, the item was removed from the agenda for the board's Feb. 15 meeting.

Annabi earlier expressed concern that the exemption would encourage commercial entities to "come in and tear up our lands [for clean-energy projects], not be invested in our community and then not be taxed on it."



## The Real Estate Market is Booming!

Contact these top local agents to see the latest listings, or to sell your home



### Abbie Carey

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

845-661-5438 | [acarey@houlihanlawrence.com](mailto:acarey@houlihanlawrence.com)  
[www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com](http://www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com)



### Melissa Carlton

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

914.474.0111 | [MCarlton@houlihanlawrence.com](mailto:MCarlton@houlihanlawrence.com)  
[melissacarlton.houlihanlawrence.com](http://melissacarlton.houlihanlawrence.com)



### Carlin Felder

LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON | EXP REALTY

845-554-7345 | [carlinfelder@gmail.com](mailto:carlinfelder@gmail.com)  
[www.search-find-home.com](http://www.search-find-home.com)



### Claudia Dizenzo

ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY

646-354-9842 | [claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com](mailto:claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com)  
[www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com](http://www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com)



### Ann McBride-Alayon

HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY | PRINCIPLE BROKER, OWNER

718-637-3143 | [ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com](mailto:ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com)  
[www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com](http://www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com)

Advertise your real estate business here.

CONTACT:

**Michele Gedney**

845-809-5584 | [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org)  
[highlandscurrent.org/ads](http://highlandscurrent.org/ads)



# 52 ACKERMAN STREET BEACON, NY



**OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 2/18/2023 Noon to 2:00 p.m.**  
**You are cordially invited to preview THE ENCLAVE AT BEACON.**



**The Enclave At Beacon**

This intimate cluster of three exquisitely renovated town homes around a central courtyard will seduce you with its infinite lifestyle possibilities:

- A family compound for cross generational living.
- Live in one, rent out the others.
- Rent out all three for hassle free passive income.
- Perfect for a group of friends aging in place with a shared caregiver.

We've only scratched the surface. We're sure you'll come up with your own genius idea regarding this truly unique opportunity.

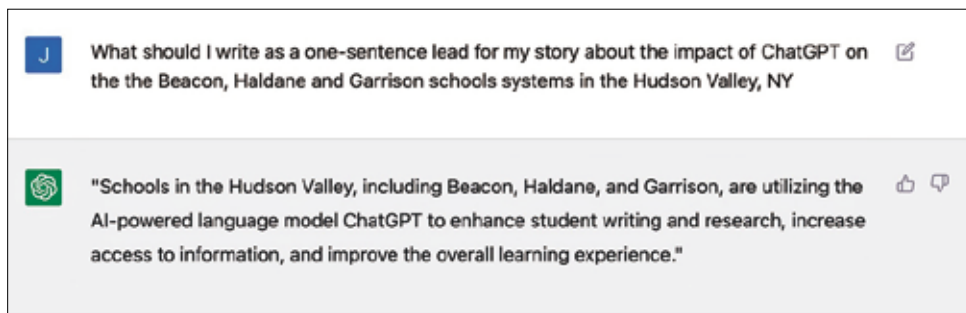
## WWW.THEENCLAVEATBEACON.COM



CALL OR TEXT:  
DANIEL AUBRY **917 647 6823**  
RON DONOFRIO **845 202 0758**







Here's a query from reporter Joey Asher to ChatGPT, and its response.

## Teachers *(from Page 1)*

explained that since it was an original essay, it would not be detected by anti-plagiarism software that many teachers use.

That's why the tool has spawned such angst among educators. In December, *The Atlantic* published an essay by Daniel Herman, a teacher in California, in which he lamented "the end of high school English."

Herman wrote that ChatGPT "may signal the end of writing assignments altogether — and maybe even the end of writing as a gatekeeper, a metric for intelligence, a teachable skill."

But a sampling of local English teachers found them to be more sanguine.

"It's the early days," said Nancy Martinez, who chairs the English department at Haldane. "We're just kind of feeling our way through it."

Despite what she called "the initial hysteria," Martinez said ChatGPT may offer benefits. For example, the tool could be used as a "thought partner" to help students generate ideas. Or teachers could have ChatGPT generate an essay and ask students to critique it.

Martinez said she was less concerned about the technology being used to cheat because of the way she and her colleagues teach writing. Teachers typically work with students through the process of outlining, editing and the final work. "If you see a paper grow the



whole way, there's no way for them to fake it."

Maura Shanks, who teaches English at the Garrison School, also said she doubts students will use ChatGPT to cheat because most students don't want to cheat. "The large majority of students want to learn," she said. "They want you to see them grow."

When she discussed artificial-intelligence technology with her students, she said many instinctively understood the problem of using it to write essays, especially for standardized exams where they can't rely on a robot. "I don't think this will help prepare me for the Regents," the

annual state exams, a student told her.

Teachers should also be able to discourage cheating by making sure that their assignments are unusual enough to stump ChatGPT, said Yap.

He noted the technology would have a hard time writing an essay about the Roman Empire if it had to use information not readily available on the internet.

For example, he said, if a teacher assigned a student to write an essay on the Roman Empire and its similarities and differences to the Hudson Valley, especially Garrison, "ChatGPT would struggle with that."

## Plate Readers *(from Page 1)*

help police identify suspect vehicles. For example, if the police have a description of a vehicle or a partial license plate, they can search data recorded by the LPRs. Once they get a plate number, it can be fed into a state database to identify the owner of the car.

"It gives you a direction to go in," Frost said.

The recorded footage will only be used to identify suspect vehicles, he said. "There's no want to know or the manpower" to cull the footage for any other information, Frost said.

Beacon City Administrator Chris White told the council last month that data

recorded by the Flock cameras will be deleted every 30 days "unless we have some circumstance that causes us to download" it, such as an active police investigation.

Cold Spring police installed LPRs near three entry points to the village in 2021 following a protracted discussion by members of the Putnam County Legislature over how the camera data would be used. The police faced further pushback from residents who felt the devices were an invasion of privacy, but Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge, said this week that the cameras had more than once helped Putnam County sheriff's deputies track vehicles that had been stolen from nearby municipalities.

"It's a tool that's used to give us information more than anything else," he said.

In 2012, the New York Civil Liberties Union took issue with LPR devices affixed to Beacon patrol cars. Between 2012 and 2014, the NYCLU sent Freedom of Information Law requests to more than 70 municipalities in New York State to better understand their use of LPRs.

The organization analyzed data from the Beacon police and, after reviewing a week's worth of license plate readings for one vehicle, noted that LPRs captured the car's location 24 times over that period.

"Even this small piece of information paints a detailed portrait of the car owner's

comings and goings, including the nights that the driver parked on Main Street and likely spent the night nearby," an NYCLU report said.

According to the report, "this one example shows the potential to collect embarrassing information, even though the driver did nothing wrong as far as we can tell" because the car's license plate did not match any listed as a "plate of interest."

Beacon Det. Sgt. Jason Johnson said on Thursday that the patrol officer likely drove Main Street multiple times during that week, passing the parked vehicle frequently. There is only one Beacon patrol car currently equipped with an LPR, Johnson said.

## Referendum *(from Page 1)*

is "for me very important."

She suggested that the committee can help by asking "hard numbers questions" and developing data to assist in decision-making.

"Deterrence is an element," she said of the police. "We need to do a better job communicating what our officers do and what their value is; that's on us as a board."

Trustee Eliza Starbuck also expressed reservations about a referendum, saying it would be "dangerous without proper data and information" to aid residents in making "good decisions."

She encouraged the committee to begin gathering statistics and data that the public needs to be well informed. "The longer question is much larger; it's not 'yes' and 'no,'" Foley said, adding that the impacts that needed to be considered ranged from fiscal to quality of life. "It's not black and white," she said. The AHAC report addresses a wide range of topics, from improving CSPD information on the village website and developing a record-keeping system integrated with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department's system to improving domestic violence reporting and

increasing post-traumatic-event support in conjunction with the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub.

In addition to Burgos, village residents Gretchen Dykstra, Sean Conway, Lithgow Osborne, Doron Weber and Karen Jackson serve on the AHAC. Their report is available at [bit.ly/coldspring-police-reform](https://bit.ly/coldspring-police-reform).

### Fjord Trail

In an update, Mayor Foley clarified that neither the Village Board nor Planning Board is currently reviewing the planned Fjord Trail, an 8.5-mile linear park between Cold Spring and Beacon.

The project's first phase, the Breakneck Connector and Bridge, which includes a span over the Metro-North tracks, received a negative environmental impact declaration under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (meaning it would not have adverse effects). The declaration cleared the connector, estimated to cost \$85 million, for construction.

Unlike the Breakneck Connector, Cold Spring is identified as involved in the broader environmental review of the entire trail, which has already received a positive SEQRA

declaration, triggering a more-detailed environmental analysis that is underway.

"That means our local land-use regulations and comprehensive plan have to be considered" as part of the project design review, Foley said, adding that the analysis is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

But she pointed out that the state parks department is the lead agency for the overall trail project and raised concern that it can potentially argue that it "is completely exempt from local land use laws," leaving the village "little or no say."

Foley and Starbuck said they met with officials from state parks and Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., the project's developer, on Jan. 27 to clarify roles and responsibilities. They also asked for details about the legal relationship between HHFT and state parks, said Foley, and are awaiting a response.

During the public comment period, Nelsonville resident Heidi Wendel suggested a public meeting be held with officials from Nelsonville, Cold Spring, Philipstown, HHFT and state parks so residents can give input and ask questions about the trail.

Residents complained that recent open houses held by HHFT at Dutchess Manor

and the Cold Spring firehouse were ineffective because there was no presentation or public question-and-answer period.

“ I think it's important that the board go on record either supporting or not supporting the project, given that it changed so drastically since 2017.

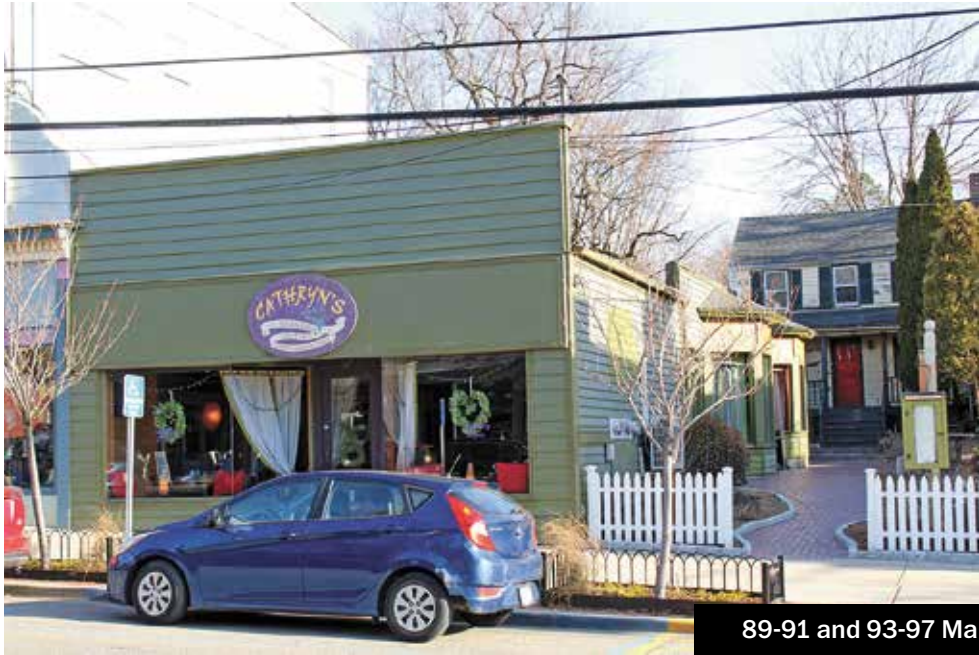
~ Michael Bowman  
Former Cold Spring trustee

Former Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy described the sessions as a "divide and conquer" strategy by HHFT and urged the Village Board to state its position on the trail project. Former Nelsonville Mayor Michael Bowman, also a former Cold Spring trustee, agreed.

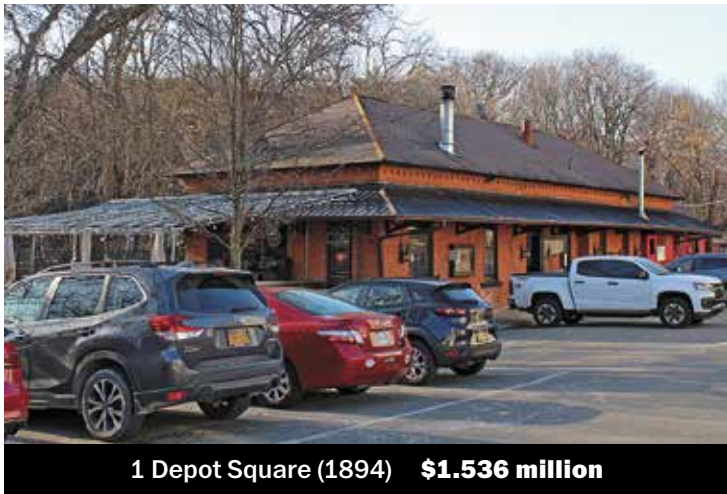
"I think it's important that the board go on record either supporting or not supporting the project, given that it changed so drastically since 2017," he said.

MJ Martin, director of development and community engagement for HHFT, attended the meeting virtually but did not comment.





89-91 and 93-97 Main St. **\$2.72 million**



1 Depot Square (1894) **\$1.536 million**

# Restaurant Owner Buys Main Street Properties

*Tenants include Cathryn's, Split Rock*

By Leonard Sparks

The owner of the Depot Restaurant has purchased eight buildings on Main Street in Cold Spring for \$8 million, making him the largest property owner on the village's commercial heart and landlord to some of its most-popular businesses.

In a deal with Love Realty Management Corp., Greg Pagones bought 1 Depot Square, which houses his restaurant, for \$1.5 million and 93-97 and 89-91 Main St. for \$2.7 million, according to deeds filed on Feb. 9. Tenants in the latter two buildings include Antique Alley, Split Rock Books and Cathryn's Tuscan Grill.

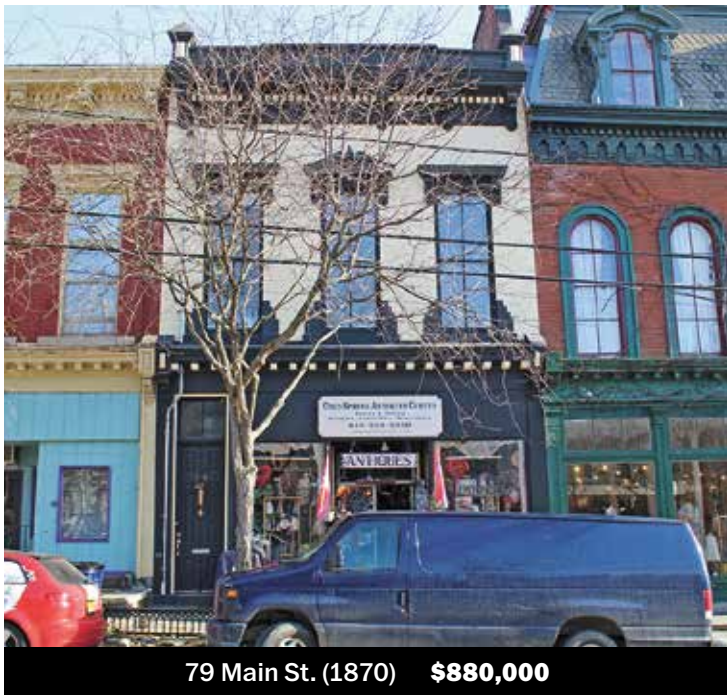
Pagones, who declined an interview, also acquired the buildings containing the Cold Spring Antiques Center, The Foundry Rose, Old Souls and Pink Olive, and a garage at 57 Main St. He also owns 155 Main St., whose first-floor tenant is the Romeo and Juliet salon.

The sales represent a divestment by Love Realty, a White Plains company that is managed by Steven Handelsman and Sharon Stocker and acquired its Cold Spring properties between 1988 and 2004. Steven Handelsman and Stocker are the children of Burton Handelsman, a real estate mogul who died Jan. 5 in Florida.

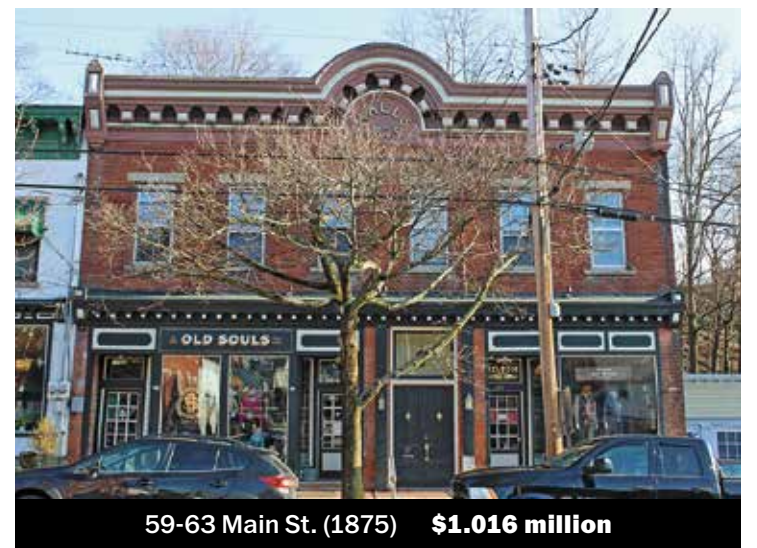
Burton Handelsman amassed holdings from New York to Florida whose value was once estimated at \$550 million. His family still owns 72-76 Main St. in Cold Spring, which is valued at \$1.2 million.



55 Main St. (1880) **\$920,000**



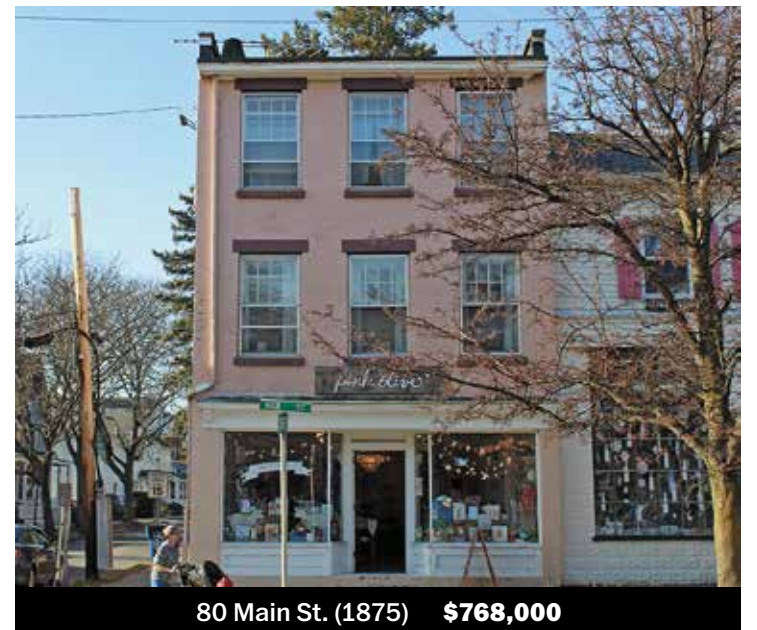
79 Main St. (1870) **\$880,000**



59-63 Main St. (1875) **\$1.016 million**



57 Main St. **\$160,000**



80 Main St. (1875) **\$768,000**

Photos by L. Sparks



# Assembly Member Holds First Local Town Hall

*Levenberg discusses issues at forum in Garrison*

By Joey Asher

**D**ana Levenberg, the newly elected state Assembly member whose district includes Philipstown, took her listening tour on Feb. 11 to the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, where residents and politicians discussed issues ranging from radioactive water disposal at Indian Point and climate protection to affordable housing and potholes.

Levenberg, a Democrat, lives in Ossining, where she had been town supervisor. She succeeded Sandy Galef, who retired after holding the Assembly seat for 30 years.

## Indian Point

Levenberg shared several attendees' concerns about plans to release radioactive water into the Hudson River from the former Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill as part of its decommissioning by Holtec International.

"Unfortunately, they meet all of the federal requirements for the release, so they're allowed to do it," said Levenberg. "I don't know how much power we have because it's the federal government."

However, she said she would like more information. "We're going to try and get some data about what has been the impact over the



Assembly member Dana Levenberg held her first town hall in Philipstown on Feb. 11.

Photo by J. Asher

years" from previous releases of radioactive water into the Hudson River, she said.

Levenberg said her office is considering a letter-writing campaign "to get enough noise made" to slow or stop the release, which is scheduled to happen before autumn.

## Affordable housing

Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel expressed concern about a sweeping proposal by Gov. Kathy Hochul to address

the state's housing crisis. Dubbed the New York Housing Compact, Hochul's plan would see 800,000 new homes built in the state through a range of incentives and mandates.

Levenberg said she agreed with the overall intent of the plan. "We know we have an affordable-housing problem," she said. "Our workforce can't afford to work here."

However, Levenberg added that she has heard a lot of opposition from constituents. "The pushback in my district has been

universal," she said.

She said that she feels that the proposals are too general and need to be tweaked to fit each community. "One size fits all doesn't fit all," she said. "We have to find something that's more nuanced."

She had particularly harsh words for aspects of the proposal that would encourage more housing near transit stops. "It's basically a giveaway to developers," she said.

## Road maintenance

Levenberg heard concerns about New York's road maintenance strategy and funding, and agreed that the state should do better. "It's never enough," she said.

She said she would like to propose a bill that would allow local municipalities to fill potholes and repair roads and bill the state for reimbursement. "If they don't get to the potholes within two weeks after they are reported, we can go out and patch them," she said.

That proposal drew a thumbs-up from Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley. "Super duper," she said, with a smile.

## Climate protection

One resident asked about Levenberg's support for climate protection bills, including proposed legislation to allow the New York Power Authority to build and operate renewable generation facilities to meet state goals.

"I am generally in support of anything that is going to make our environment better," she said. "I haven't said 'no' to any of those bills."

## Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

**\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE**

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

**(631) 498-7851**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\* – A \$695 Value!

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

## GENERAC®



## Custom Glide-Out Shelves

for your existing cabinets and pantry.



Easy access, less stress, everything within reach.

**ShelfGenie®**  
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH™  
a neighborly company

Call for Your **FREE** Design Consultation:  
**(888) 981-8937**

\*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Glide-Out Shelves. EXP 4/30/23. Independently owned and operated franchise. ©2023 ShelfGenie SPV LLC. All rights Reserved. CT0624564 WC22211-H09 Yonkers 5015 Rockland H12089-04-00 PC6564



AROUND TOWN



◀ **HONORING TOOT** – Friends and family members honored Carl “Toot” Giordano at the Beacon Elks Lodge on Feb. 11. At age 101, he is believed to be the last living World War II veteran in Beacon, where he grew up as the youngest of 12 children. He received his nickname from his mother, who took it from the 1922 flapper-era hit, “Toot, Toot, Tootsie (Goo’ Bye).” Photo by Ross Corsair



◀ **LOVE FOR THE VETS** – Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, delivered more than 9,000 cards on Tuesday (Feb. 14) to the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie as part of his inaugural Valentines for Vets program. The cards, written by area schoolchildren, were also delivered to veterans service organizations. Photo provided



▲ **RETURN TO STAGE** – For the first time since before the pandemic, the Beacon Rising Choir performed live, under the direction of Gina Samardge, singing to a full house on Sunday (Feb. 12) at the Towne Crier. The group is one of the “resistance choirs” formed after the 2017 Women’s March. Photo by Ross Corsair



**CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT** – (left) Alexandra Juby, a second-grader at Haldane Elementary, reads the paper in the school library. “I like looking at the pictures,” she said. Photo by Barry Goggin



(right) Meanwhile, 3-month-old Bridger Kiely, shown with his dad, Tim, catches up on the news at the Yankee Clipper. Photo by Kat Merry

# AMAZING IS COMBINING GREAT CARE WITH CONVENIENCE.

## NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group Hudson Valley

Many of our offices accept most insurance and have same-day, early and late appointments, and some even offer weekend availability. Or, if you can't make it in, we offer video visits.\*

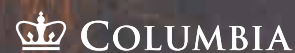
Make an appointment at [nyp.org/medicalgroups](https://nyp.org/medicalgroups)

\*Restrictions apply.

**STAY AMAZING**

**NewYork-Presbyterian**

WITH WORLD-CLASS DOCTORS FROM







"Cinema Tarot II of Swords," by Sarah Halliday



"Altar," by Michelle Silver



"Misplaced," by Kolt Reagle



"Rainbow Sisters," by Laura Byrne

## The Calendar

# Open Studios Tackles Winter

*Annual Beacon show launches February event*

By Alison Rooney

Particularly during this mild winter, that urge to get out on the weekend is strong. The Winter Weekend Art Show, which unspools Saturday (Feb. 18) and Sunday (Feb. 19) in Beacon, will attempt to satisfy that craving.

The free event will take place at The Yard, with 70 to 80 works curated from submissions chosen by Darya Golubina, director of Beacon Open Studios, and her colleagues. As with the larger summer Open Studios event, the winter show gives visitors the opportunity to meet and engage with the artists.

Golubina, who revived the summer event in 2022 after it became a casualty of the pandemic and burnout, hopes the winter show also will become a mainstay. Over the past few months, BOS has organized several figure-drawing sessions to raise funds, and BeaconArts is also providing support.

For \$10, artists were invited to submit up to five pieces. Golubina and other organizers chose pieces they "felt could be shown in conversation. While we won't be announcing a theme or a title for the show, we did look for a common thread, or a relationship within the chosen work," she explains.

They tried to include "a bit of everything," including painting, photography, sculpture, conceptual installation, ink drawing, collage and mixed media.

Artists set their own prices (as they do for all Beacon Open Studios exhibits). The organization does not take a percentage and "if we provide a space for a show, we make sure the gallery cut is minimal and in the artist's favor," says Golubina.

Even with all that is going on, Beacon Open Studios is already planning its July event. This year's schedule will include a ticketed concert and a mini-film festival, and also "promises to be even more expansive," she says.

*The Yard is located at 4 Hanna Lane, where parking is available, or it's a short walk from the east end of Main Street. See [beaconopenstudios.com](http://beaconopenstudios.com). The exhibit will be open from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Singer and songwriter Julia Zivic will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday.*

# Searching for Civility

*Depot Theatre to stage 'God of Carnage'*

By Alison Rooney

Those expecting a genteel drawing-room comedy from *God of Carnage* might want to check that notion behind the brownie counter at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, where the play, which debuted in Paris in 2006, begins a three-weekend run on Feb. 24.

Written by Yasmina Reza, *God of Carnage* won the Tony Award in 2009 for best play. Though it's set in some of Brooklyn's toniest precincts, the gloves are flung off from the get-go as two sets of parents — one played by the married couple of Christine and Ray Bokhour, and the other by Maia Guest and Gregory Porter Miller — attempt to address with civility a "playground incident" involving their respective 11-year-old sons.

Yet civility and dramatic productions don't always mesh terribly well, do they?

Offstage, it's a different story, as the four performers could not be more gracious if they tried.

Knowing how eager actors usually are to discuss their roles, *The Current* selected what appeared to be — though may not actually be — a telling bit of dialogue by each character and asked each respective actor to comment. The actors, and director, seem to have gone all-in; any resemblance of the actors to their characters is purely intentional.

**Maia Guest (Annette)**

*"We're making a mistake not to take into account the origin of the problem."*

Guest: "Great quote! It reminds me about how surprised I was to work with Ray in this scene. In most scenes, actually. I'd thought he'd be a generous scene partner. Turns out, not so much. He's ignored me the whole time, and when the director tries to give him a note, he just brushes him off and tells stories from his childhood."

**Gregory Porter Miller (Alan)**

*"You know, speaking personally, my wife had to drag me here. When you're brought up with a kind of John Wayne-ish idea of virility, you don't want to settle this kind of problem with a lot of yakking."*

Miller: "That's a great quote, but that Ray guy I'm stuck with, bless his heart,



Maia Guest and Gregory Porter Miller

thinks he *is* John Wayne. He's all swagger, utterly oblivious to anyone else onstage. Where did they find this clown?"

**Christine Bokhour (Veronica)**

*"We're living in America according to the principles of Western society. What goes on in Cobble Hill Park reflects the values of Western society! Of which, if it's all the same to you, I am happy to be a member."*

Bokhour: "I wish my husband would spend as much time with research as you do, Alison. He's not putting in the effort and doesn't seem to care how it affects the process and the other actors. He's just impossible to work with. Watching his rehearsal habits is annoying enough, but then everyone else gets to leave it in the theater. I have to go home and put up with his egocentric nonsense around the house."

**Ray Bokhour (Michael)**

*"My home, the doors of which I have opened, the doors of which I have opened wide in a spirit of reconciliation, to people who ought to be grateful to me for it!"*

Bokhour: "I'm having the time of my life! I'm doing my best work ever, and that's saying a lot! Never felt more free! Able to give full play to my considerable talents, with no complaints whatsoever from the extras. Frankly, they seem in awe, and who can blame them? They just stare at me in disbelief! Lucky them."

**Isaac Byrne (director)**

*"Rehearsals are ... fine, totally ... fine. I do wish we spent more time on the play and less on Ray telling long stories about his childhood 'triumphs.'"*

Though it may not be evident, the actors and director, along with scenic and lighting designer Joshua Rose, cordially welcome you to their production!

*The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison's Landing. *God of Carnage* will be performed on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 4:30 p.m. through March 12. Tickets are \$28 at [philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org).*



Christine and Ray Bokhour

Photos by Caroline Kaye



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Celebration of Light, Feb. 25

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 18 Polar Plunge

**FISHKILL**  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sharpe Reservation  
436 Van Wyck Lake Road  
bit.ly/fishkill-polar-plunge

Gather sponsors for your plunge into ice-cold water to raise money for the Special Olympics.

### SUN 19 Community Lantern-Making

**BEACON**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Beacon Farmers' Market  
223 Main St.  
facebook.com/beaconspring

Make a lantern for the Spring Celebration of Light parade on SAT 25. Materials will be provided.

### SUN 19 Vintage & Handmade Fair

**BEACON**  
Noon - 6 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.  
facebook.com/beacontoilandcomicshow

Dealers will be selling vintage clothing, jewelry, toys, accessories and records at this event organized by Beacon Curated. *Cost: \$3*

### WED 22 Central Hudson Billing Issues

**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall  
238 Main St. | philipstown.com

Residents of Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville are invited to share their experiences with elected officials and the Public Utility Law Project. Central Hudson representatives also have been invited.

Following the meeting, members of the town and village boards will discuss efforts to resolve the issues. Email townclerk@philipstown.com if you plan to attend.

### SAT 25 Wine for Whiskers

**GARDINER**  
1 - 4 p.m. Whitecliff Winery  
331 McKinstry Road  
tinyurl.com/27jn9vey

Sample a \$15 flight with proceeds benefiting Mid Hudson Animal Aid. There will also be a raffle.

### SAT 25 Celebration of Light

**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Polhill Park  
facebook.com/beaconspring

Gather at Polhill Park for a parade up Main Street led by the Street Beat Brass Band to The Yard at 4 Hanna Lane for activities, music and refreshments. Bring a lantern.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### TUES 21 Mardi Gras Masks

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

Children ages 3 and older are invited to create masks to celebrate the festival.

### TUES 21 Owl Pellets

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

For Family Science Night, learn

about owls by dissecting a pellet, the regurgitated mass that the birds spit up after feeding.

### WED 22 The Rattle Bag

**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com

This poetry meet-up for teens will discuss *The Carrying*, by Ada Limón, and use prompts to write poetry. Registration required.

## TALKS & TOURS

### SAT 18 Plant a Succulent Garden

**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Alste Holmgren will teach participants how to mix soil, sow succulents and care for your new plants. *Cost: \$25*

### SAT 18 Maple Sugar Tours

**CORNWALL**  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506  
hnm.org

Visitors can choose a sugar-bush tour at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. that includes a moderate 1-mile hike, or a maple-lane tour at noon or 3 p.m., which is a short walk. Also SUN 19, SAT 25, SUN 26 and continuing weekends through March 19. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 members, free ages 4 and younger)*

### SAT 18 Washington's Birthday

**NEWBURGH**  
Noon - 3 p.m.  
Washington's Headquarters  
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/washingtonshheadquarters

A re-enactor will cut a birthday cake, and there will be demonstrations of camp life, music and crafts. Also SUN 19, MON 20. *Free*

### THURS 23 Rebecca Henderson

**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org

This installment of the Pathways to Planetary Health Forum, hosted by the Garrison Institute, will feature a conversation with the Harvard economics professor about her book, *Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire*, which notes small changes that can change lives. Register online.

### THURS 23 Stephen Mallon

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
beaconsloopclub.org

The photographer and filmmaker will talk about his industrial landscape photography in the series *Sea Train: Subway Reef Photos*. Rescheduled from THURS 16.

### THURS 23 The Great New York Fire of 1776

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Via Zoom  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

In this Zoom presentation organized by the Putnam History Museum, Benjamin Carp will discuss his book about the fire that broke out after British forces

captured the city, and the mystery of who started it. Register online. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

### SAT 25 A History of Strollers

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

Amanda Parrish Morgan will discuss her new book, *Stroller*, a history of baby movers and what they reveal about parents and children.

## VISUAL ARTS

### SAT 18 Winter Weekend Art Show

**BEACON**  
Noon - 9 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.com

Works by local artists will be on view and available for purchase. See Page 13. Also SUN 19.

### SAT 18 Anna West | Lindsey Guile

**GARRISON**  
5 - 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

West's solo show, *Blue Edge*, is a series of paintings of swimming pools. Guile's *Uncensored* includes drawings of bodies that don't conform to traditional concepts of the "right size." Through March 19.

### FRI 24 Drawing Night

**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Spend time drawing with Summer Pierre, an Eisner Award-nominated cartoonist. *Cost: \$5*



### SAT 25 Gelli Plate Printing

**GARRISON**  
9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Ada Pilar Cruz will lead this workshop on using gelatin plates to press-print nature images. *Cost: \$75*

### SAT 25 On the Politics of Image-Making

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
Noon. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

As part of the museum's *Present Memories* series, artist Dawit Petros, scholar Teresa Fiore and curator Mistura Allison will lead





sessions exploring historical memory and identity in connections to Italy. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 local residents, seniors, students)*

**SAT 25**  
**Inventing Stories in Paint**  
**GARRISON**

1 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | [garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Anna West, whose paintings are currently on exhibit at the art center, will lead this workshop on painting book covers to tell a story. *Cost: \$75*

**MUSIC**

**SAT 18**  
**Concert of Concertos**  
**NEWBURGH**

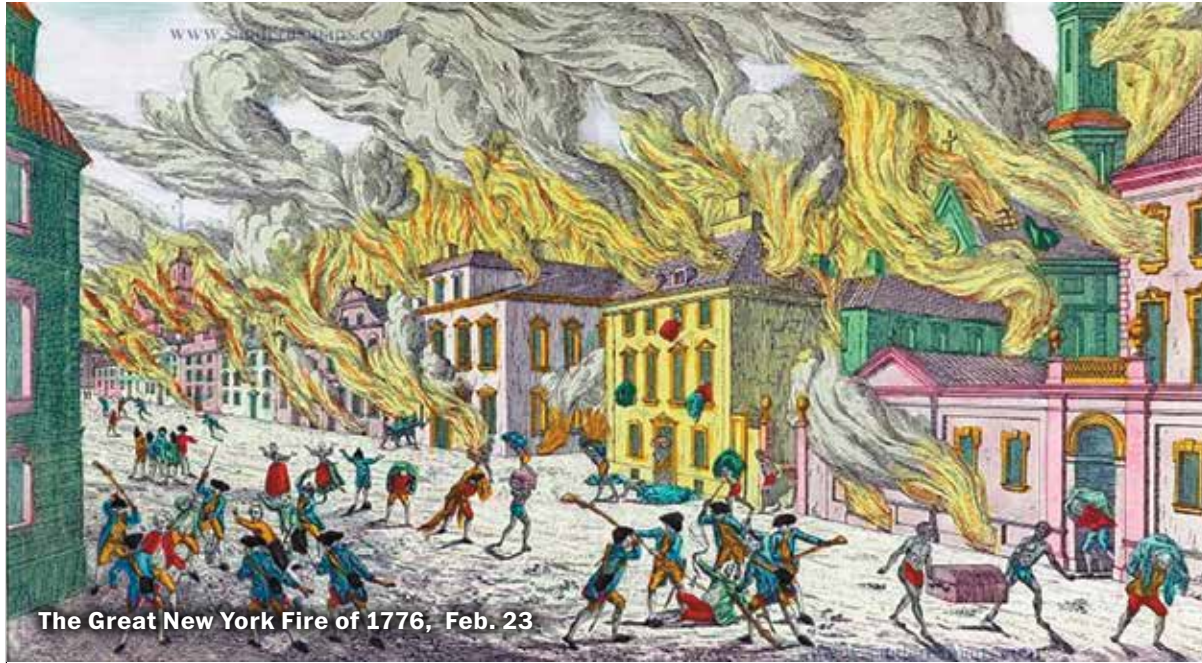
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157  
[newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform at Aquinas Hall with pianists Alan Murray, Janet Wu, Stanley Sisskin and Frank Siegel playing concertos by Mozart, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$25*

**SAT 18**  
**Special EFX**  
**BEACON**

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

Guitarist and composer Chieli Minucci will perform with his jazz-fusion group, including music from his solo project, *Someone's Singing*, and a 40th-anniversary project, *Twenty Twenty 2*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*



The Great New York Fire of 1776, Feb. 23

**SAT 18**  
**Freeways**  
**BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | [quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)

**SUN 19**  
**Drew Petersen**  
**BEACON**

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

The Howland Chamber Music Circle continues its annual piano festival with Petersen performing a program that includes works by Corigliano, Chopin, Ravel and Robert Schumann. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students ages 25 and younger)*

**SUN 19**  
**Damn Tall Buildings**  
**BEACON**

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

Avery Ballotta (violin), Max Capistran (guitar, banjo) and Sasha Dubyk (bass) will play music from their latest release, *Sleeping Dogs*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 25**  
**The Dark Horses**  
**BEACON**

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

The tribute band will perform music by George Harrison. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SUN 26**  
**Cherish The Ladies**  
**BEACON**

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

The Celtic group will play traditional Irish music and step dance. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 18**  
**It's Only a Play**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
[countyplayers.org](http://countyplayers.org)

Kit Colburn directs the staging of the Terrence McNally comedy about a Broadway opening-night party. *Cost:*



Paula Poundstone, Feb. 25

*\$22 (\$20 seniors, military, children)*

**FRI 24**  
**God of Carnage**  
**GARRISON**

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Isaac Byrne will direct the Yasmina Reza play with Christine Bokhour, Maia Guest, Raymond Bokhour and Gregory Porter Miller. See Page 11. Also SAT 25, SUN 26 and weekends through March 12. *Cost: \$28*

**FRI 24**  
**The Irish Comedy Tour**  
**PEEKSKILL**

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

Derek Richards, Patrick Garrity, Michael Malone, Damon Leibert and Derrick Keane will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$24 to \$35*

**SAT 25**  
**The Sugar**  
**BEACON**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [artichokeshow.com](http://artichokeshow.com)

In this comedic storytelling show, Gastor Almonte will talk about his recent diagnosis of diabetes. See Page 2. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 25**  
**Broadway Perspectives**  
**PEEKSKILL**

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

In this concert to celebrate diversity, Broadway performers Major Attaway, LaVon Fisher-Wilson, Medda Larkin, Brennyn Lark, Jelani Remy, Kissy Simmons and Asher Denburg will perform scenes and songs from shows that highlight artists of color. *Cost: \$32 to \$50*

**SAT 25**  
**Paula Poundstone**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The humorist and host of the podcast *Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone* will perform her one-woman show. *Cost: \$43*

**CIVIC**

**TUES 21**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**

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

**TUES 21**  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**

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

**TUES 21**  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**

7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | [nelsonvilleny.gov](http://nelsonvilleny.gov)

**WED 22**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**

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



Damn Tall Buildings, Feb. 19

**PUTNAM HIGHLANDS AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS**



**Getting to Know the Eastern Coyote, with Dr. Ed McGowan**

SATURDAY  
FEB. 25. 2.00 PM  
St. Philips Parish Hall



**Building Backyard Habitat for Wildlife, with Janis Butler, Cornell Coop. Extension**

SATURDAY  
MARCH 4. 2.00 PM  
DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY

Co/sponsored by Philipstown Garden Club

To register and for more information, go to [www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org](http://www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org)



## Mouths to Feed

# My Chocolate Heart

By Celia Barbour



In the quiet wake of Valentine's Day, I have been thinking about the curious connection between food and love.

"Curious" not because it is strange or unusual — in fact, it is among the most tenacious and universal of human bonds — but because, despite its ubiquity, we have such funny ideas of how to express it. Popular culture only confuses the matter, encouraging us to communicate our love via everything from candy hearts to oysters, and boxed chocolates to steak-and-cabernet dinners by candlelight.

Love and nourishment are linked from Day One for most of us, fed as newborns by a smitten (if exhausted) parent. But within a year or two, that safe, intimate exchange is replaced by a vast network of total strangers — farmers, field laborers, harvesters, packagers, transporters, retailers, corporate wonks, cooks and food-service workers, to name a few — each of whom plays a role in getting food onto our plates.

From an evolutionary perspective, it's



## Chocolate-Pecan Granola Bars

- ¼ cup coconut oil or melted butter
- 2 cups rolled oats
- ½ cup pecans
- ½ cup flaxseed meal
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup chopped bittersweet chocolate or bittersweet chocolate chips
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 3 dates, finely chopped
- ½ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup dried cherries, optional

bizarre that we do this. Every day, we trustingly consume food that comes to us from humans whom we might think of as adversaries or even enemies if we knew their political or social views. And even the simple act of inviting friends over for a homemade dinner has no equivalent in the animal world. Biological anthropologists have long recognized that non-kin food sharing is a hallmark of humanity.

Yet on we go, celebrating the intuitive connection between food and love — not just on Valentine's Day, but throughout the year. Because despite the complexities of our food system, it is possible to invest food with genuine love and care. We cook for the people we love, and show love, affection and gratitude through food, and over food.

Which brings me to Peter, my husband of nearly a quarter-century. He loves chocolate; I love him. And so, for his birthday and other red-letter days, I've usually made him some kind of rich and decadent chocolate dessert. But we are both starting to get long in the tooth, and to notice the unfortunate impact of that richness and decadence.

Peter also loves hiking. Every afternoon,

no matter what, he'll head deep into the woods, often not returning until after it's pitch black outside. "There is no bad weather, only bad gear," he'll say before lacing up his boots and setting forth on

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a non-stick baking mat. In a large bowl, toss together the melted coconut oil or butter, oats and pecans. Spread on the baking sheet (don't rinse out the bowl) and toast in the oven until the oats begin to smell nutty, about 8 minutes, tossing the oat mixture halfway through.

Reduce the oven heat to 300 degrees. Transfer oat mixture back into the bowl, setting aside the baking sheet. Add the flaxseed meal, cocoa powder, cinnamon and salt, and mix well to combine. Stir in the chopped dates (you may need to work them into the dry ingredients with your fingers).

In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, heat the honey to a boil, then allow it to boil for 4½ minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the molasses and vanilla. Pour over the dry ingredients, stirring until evenly mixed. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then stir in the chocolate and dried cherries.

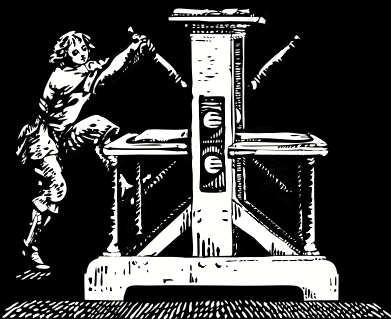
Spread the mixture on the prepared baking sheet, pressing down firmly so that it feels compact. It may not fill the whole sheet; if not, use a butter knife or bench scraper to press the edges straight. Cut the mixture into bars, then transfer to the oven and bake 18 to 20 minutes. Allow to cool, then break into bars.

a day when the thermometer has dipped below zero. On such days, his backpack includes a thermos of hot chicken broth along with his usual granola bar.

I've written in the past about my search for a good granola bar recipe. Some years back, I found a great one for a chewy bar, and tweaked it to suit my youngest son's tastes. Last week, I went looking for a recipe for a crispy granola bar recipe that would travel well in a backpack. I found one, but the first batch was a disappointment — so hard you had to gnaw on it or soak it in coffee to make it palatable. Undaunted, I made a few adjustments, one of which resulted in loose crumbs — granola, not bar.

At last I came up with the one included here. It's got a nice mix of flavors, from the dark chocolate, cherries and pecans, and an intriguing depth thanks to the molasses and cinnamon. And best of all, Peter likes it, so now he can carry a little bit of my love with him wherever he may wander.

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



## PRINTMAKERS

**FINE ART  
PRINTING  
SCANNING  
LARGE FORMAT**

**HUDSON VALLEY'S  
ARCHIVAL PRINTING  
SINCE 1997**

**PICTURE FRAMING  
print & map gallery**

**845-809-5174**

**31 STEPHANIE LANE  
COLD SPRING, NY  
www.thehighlandstudio.com**



Beacon Elks Lodge  
#1493

900 Wolcott Ave.,  
Beacon

845-831-9746

Proceeds To Benefit  
Elks Charities

## Friday Night Lent Dinners

# FISH FRY!!!

DATES: FEB. 24 - MAR. 31 TIME: 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

- Fish & Chips W/Coleslaw \$15.00
- Senior's \$13.00
- New England Clam Chowder
  - Pint \$5.00 / Quart \$9.00

Eat In Or Take Out, All Are Welcomed!

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.



Community Edition



# THE BLUE PRINT

Six times each year, the members of Ashley Linda's journalism class at Haldane High School publish a newspaper, *The Blue Print*. With support from the Haldane School Foundation, *The Current* is working with the students to share their reporting with the community. Selections from the October and December issues appear below.

**REPORTERS:** Savannah Duggan, Jenny Knox, Giovannina Manfredi, Eloise Pearsall, Kayena Pierre



Haldane students traveled to the University of Connecticut for Model UN.

Photo by Amelia Kupper

## Haldane Model UN

By Eloise Pearsall

On the weekend of Nov. 4, Haldane's Model UN club traveled to the University of Connecticut to participate in the conference held for high school students.

Haldane's Model UN Club has been a consistent club for many years, but they hadn't attended the UCONN conference since 2020, when they participated virtu-

ally. Students like junior Lily Benson joined the club to "learn about the process of [Model UN] as well as expand my leadership and problem-solving skills."

Two days before Haldane's Model UN club would leave for the conference, their adviser, Mrs. McGrath, was hit with COVID. Luckily Ms. Seaholm was able to step in.

When Benson arrived at UCONN, this being her first trip, she "felt more comfortable than I expected." Because of COVID,

many of the students there were also experiencing the conference for the first time.

For three days, each group of students represented delegates of different countries, discussing problems relevant to today. The goal was to come to an agreement that would solve the issue at hand.

If you're looking for a club to join at Haldane, Benson shares that she would recommend people join Model UN because it is a "great learning experience and it was interesting to meet new people from all across the country and hear new perspectives on current world issues."

## Haldane's Club Fair

By Kayena Pierre

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, I attended Haldane High School's Club Fair. I'm a freshman, so this was my first in-person school event since fifth grade!

The Club Fair took place outside of the high school and in the main lobby during 10th period. Upperclassmen set up tables providing information about their clubs and trying to recruit members. There were display posters and Google Classroom codes for students to join and get more information.

It was hot and humid outside, and chaotic, but everyone was friendly. I attended by myself and thought I would be pushed aside since I was a freshman but it wasn't like that at all. Everyone who was representing their club at each station was welcoming. I went to seven stations to interview clubs and they were all interesting. There were new clubs starting this year, along with more-established clubs.

### March For Our Lives (New!)

Conrad White, founding member

• **Things to know about the club:** "I started this chapter over the summer and hopefully, the chapter will last longer than me. It's inspired by the actual March For Our Lives movement that started in 2018 after the Parkland shooting" in Florida.

(Continued on Page 18)

## Garrison Students Visit

By Giovannina Manfredi

On Nov. 9, Garrison students toured Haldane High School. When students enter ninth grade, they have the ability to choose their high school: Haldane, Putnam Valley or O'Neill. Upon arrival, the Garrison students were divided into groups with two to three Haldane tour guides. They toured for an hour through the high school and middle school. Then everyone met up in the gym in the middle school for pizza and to talk more about what Haldane is about.

We proceeded to go through some slides

about the school's academics and sports, then introduced some of the teachers and the principal, Mrs. Sniffen. Being a tour guide reminded me of when I toured Haldane last year in my eighth-grade year.

What makes Haldane stick out to them compared to their other options? Ester Amato said: "It was a nice experience to go on the tour and it felt you were a part of the high school when you were there." She felt like the tour guides were very helpful and knew what they were talking about.

Another eighth grade student from Garrison stated: "It's small and everyone heard they

have a good theater and music program. Their sports are pretty good." This student, who preferred to stay anonymous, felt like the environment was small, but if that's what you're looking for then Haldane is a nice choice.

Not everyone walked away from the experience thinking Haldane was the best fit. One student, who wished to stay anonymous, said: "The teachers seem nice, but I didn't like the school."

The tour guides felt the visit went very well. One of the students who helped guide the Garrison students stated: "It gave a chance for the students to see everyday school life for us at Haldane. They were able to see what the school really is without everything being glorified, which I think is important."







# Students vs. Faculty Volleyball

By Savannah Duggan

On Nov. 3, the annual Student vs. Faculty volleyball game occurred in the big gym. Students from grades 9 through 12 could attend this event. Also, any staff members could participate. Before the game, there was an ice cream social in the cafeteria. This was where students and staff bought ice cream and bonded.

This fundraiser was for the Class of 2024. Some students came to play in the game and others just came to watch. “I enjoyed watching everyone having

fun; we should do more fundraisers like this,” said Jayden Treloar, a sophomore.

Mrs. Seholm, who is the new foods teacher at Haldane, said: “It was thrilling to have the opportunity to play with my fellow colleagues.”

The whole point of these events are to strengthen relationships and even meet new people. In high school, new students come from different schools, including Theo Baranszky-Job, who is a freshman and came from Garrison: “Man, it was great. I love the faculty versus student atmosphere; it feels friendly yet competitive.”

## Club Fair *(Continued from Page 17)*

**• What inspired you to start this club?** “I wanted a place where I can talk and teach about gun violence. And I wanted to give myself and other students a place where they can.”

### Yearbook Club

Mrs. Peparo, faculty adviser

**• Things to know about the club:** “We document everything that happens in a school year and provide an amazing memento for anyone that’s interested.”

**• Are there any requirements to join?** “Can work, have a positive attitude, and can meet deadlines.”

### Future Business Leaders of America (New!)

John Kisslinger and Charlie Keegan, founding members

**• Things to know about the club:** John: “It’s been a work in progress for years now. A student came up with the ideas originally a year before COVID.” Charlie: “The club is geared toward someone who has a slight interest in business or doesn’t have a plan after college. It’s good to experience many different types of majors that you can’t really experience here at Haldane.”

**• Topics:** John: “You don’t have to know the big topics of business by the way. There are many activities and competitions, such as public speaking, graphic design and even political science. So anybody can be a crucial member of this club.”

### Women Empowered

Ms. Linda, faculty adviser

**• Things to know about the club:** “Women empowerment club is a safe space and a breaking space for all students to share ideas, discover, and communicate on topics that affect their lives in and out of school. It’s a student-led club, so the students decide on the topics.”

**• Topics:** “Sometimes we talk about gender and sports, the importance of women being represented in the STEM field. We talk about body positivity, the idea, and the importance of consent. We have some guest speakers, and we also sometimes watch films/TV shows. There is just a wide range of things students that year want to do or talk about.”

### Environmental Club (New!)

Ms. Branco, faculty adviser

**• Things to know about the club:** “This is my first year teaching this club; in order to make this a student-driven club I’m going to wait until we have some meetings and see what the students are interested in.”

### • What inspired you to start this club?

“I’ve always cared about the environment since I was little. It has just been in the back of my head. So I wanted to bring this to other people.”

### Debate Club

Colin Hopkins, member

**• Things to know about the club:** “What we do is go into other schools and debate students on a variety of topics. It’s a very fun experience. It teaches you how to debate, how to form any arguments, and engage with other people.”

**• Topics:** “Policy proposals, abolishing the Olympic Games, world policies, and just morals or beliefs.”

### Poetry Club

Samuel Bates, member

**• Things to know about the club:** “Our club is not meant for writing poetry — it is meant for people who enjoy it, and read it, and people who want to show their own work. We have a new theme every week.”

**Topics:** “You’re going to discover new poets, up-and-coming poets, and some major historical ones.”



Anne Cabot, who co-founded the Topfield Equestrian Center, is riding for the first time since she lost her sight.

# Reuniting With an Old Friend

## *Equestrian center co-founder rides again*

By Leonard Sparks

Anne Cabot talked and smiled as Ola, the Norwegian fjord workhorse she considers an “old friend,” recently carried her around the oval-shaped indoor arena at Topfield Equestrian Center in Philipstown.

Wendy Terebesi, Topfield’s horse trainer, held the reins as she led Ola, and Amy Berg, a volunteer, walked alongside with Sarah Uzelac, the executive director.

Cabot has spent a life carrying others: providing the land that holds the center, and the neighboring Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming and Stonecrop Gardens; and supporting other conservation efforts in Philipstown with money and time.

But now, on Feb. 11, she was being carried — not just by Ola, owned by her family for 25 years — but by Topfield, the organization she co-founded to provide therapeutic riding lessons to children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

Nearly three years ago, Cabot, 93, lost her sight, as well as her ability to mount a horse for the first time since her parents introduced her to a pony at 3 years old. Her return to riding this year is a product of prodding by friends and the existence of the center whose board she still chairs.

“All the more reason to get back on once I was blind,” said Cabot, referring to Topfield. “I never would have if this hadn’t been here.”

Cabot had already lost sight in one eye when the vision in the other disappeared at the beginning of the pandemic. It happened “suddenly,” she recalled, on the day she moved into a one-room cottage in a retirement community in Connecticut. Cabot returned to Philipstown after spending one night there.

Her figure atop Ola is a victory for Cabot’s friends, who had been urging her to get back on a horse. Several times last year, she tried to mount from the ground but could not.

At the center, she can be lifted onto Ola, part of a herd of Norwegian fjord ponies Cabot and her husband bought from a man in New Jersey after falling in love with the breed during a trip to Norway.

Having Ola at Topfield helped because he is already familiar with Cabot’s body and because older horses tend to be calmer, said Uzelac. “She served us for so long; now we get to serve her,” she said. “It’s really wonderful.”

Cabot is still giving to Topfield. Equipment that she owns will be used to launch a program offering lessons in driving horse-drawn carts. It is a part of equestrianism that has been difficult for people with disabilities to access, said Uzelac.

“What Ann has made available here, I can’t tell you how many times a week people just marvel that this is for their child or for their family member,” she said.

## NOTICE

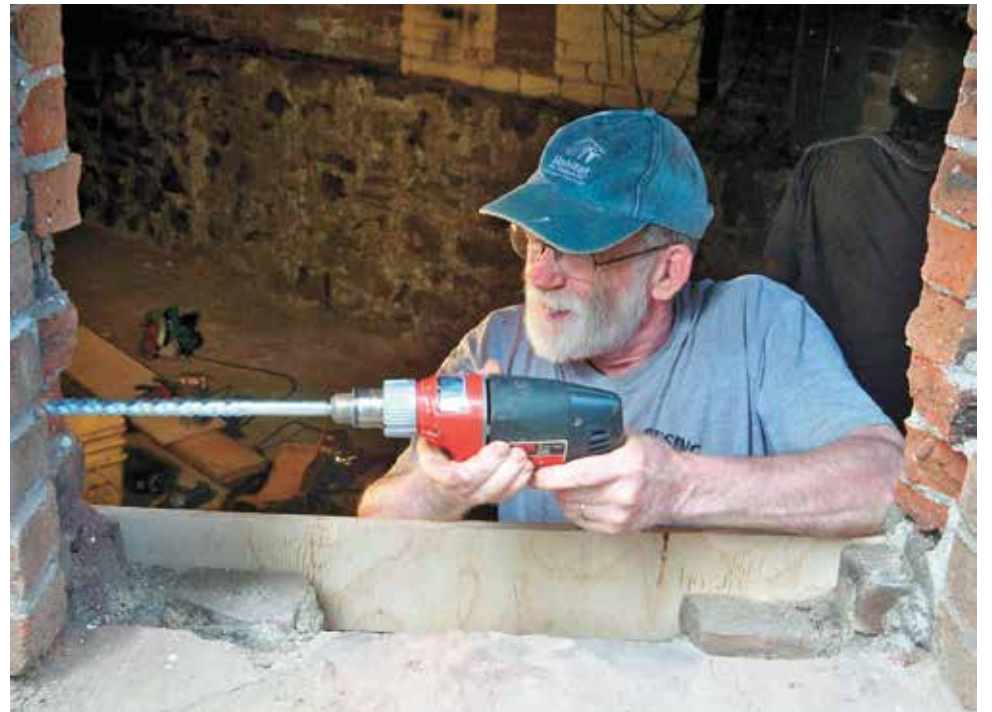
### John Levine (1963-2023)

A memorial service for John, Catherine and John Francis Levine, previously scheduled for Jan. 21, has been rescheduled for Saturday (March 4) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., in Cold Spring, followed at 1:30 p.m. by a committal service at Cold Spring Cemetery.





Dave McTamoney during his time in Vietnam



McTamoney volunteers in Newburgh with Habitat for Humanity.

Photos provided

### Something You Don't Know About Me

# Dave McTamoney

By Michael Turton

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, Dave McTamoney graduated from Manhattan College with an English degree and enlisted in the U.S. Army rather than wait to be drafted.

By enlisting, he was able to request an assignment, and journalist seemed a logical choice. After 10 weeks of basic training, and 10 weeks of instruction, he was designated a photographer.

"I didn't want to be just a grunt with an M-16 and two pairs of boots," recalls the lifelong Newburgh resident, now 76. "So they gave me an M-16, two pairs of boots and a Nikon."

Before being deployed, he was allowed to return home for a few days, and during that time, he got married. He had met his wife-to-be, Mary, in the fourth grade.

In April 1969, 10 days after his wedding, McTamoney landed in Saigon, assigned to headquarters for the 5th Battalion, 42nd Artillery Unit.

He says most of the photos requested by superiors were not of combat, but of the results of combat. "Guys might have been driving down a highway and run over a landmine," he recalls. "They wanted pictures of that."

But he also went into combat, such as during the bombardment of Viet Cong hillside positions. "It's bad enough to see what an M-16 does to somebody, but what a 155-millimeter artillery round does when it explodes in the middle of a group of soldiers..."

During one firefight, he recalls, he and the other soldiers hid behind tombstones. He also photographed Viet Cong prisoners, "with ropes around their neck, being marched off with their hands behind their back."

He had the chance to take scenic photos in small places, too, he said, such as near the border with Cambodia at Núi Bà Đen (Black Lady Mountain), where the troops encountered girls planting rice seedlings, he said.

McTamoney said he was frustrated by editors who declined to use some of his better shots in *Stars and Stripes*, the military affairs newspaper. "I took a wonderful picture of a GI holding a baby while taking it to the medic," he says. "They wouldn't use the photo because

he had cigarettes in his helmet!"

McTamoney's nickname in Vietnam was "The Professor" because he was a college graduate. He said he was often surprised by the lack of education among his fellow soldiers. "I met people in the Army who had never been inside a school building," he says. He sometimes read them the letters they received from girlfriends.

"One guy opened his letter, and a ring fell out," he recalls. "We knew what it was going to say."

When his tour of duty ended in April 1970, McTamoney was ready to board a plane to Germany, where he would complete his service with an office job. At the checkpoint, a military police officer

asked him to hand over his negatives.

"What negatives?" he asked.

He had wrapped them around his ankles under his socks, a common ploy, apparently, by Army photographers hoping to take some of their official work home. He was told if he wanted to get on the plane, he had to throw the negatives into a burning barrel.

During two much-quieter years in Germany, McTamoney taught English at a home for disabled children. He had never contemplated being a teacher; as a freshman at Manhattan College, he had joined the Future Lawyers of America, whose chapter president was Rudy Giuliani. "He was a very straight-laced kind of guy," McTamoney says.

When McTamoney returned to Newburgh

in 1971, he worked as a substitute teacher at a public school known for its rough reputation. "They said they hired me because I had combat experience," he says. He soon returned to school, enrolling at SUNY New Paltz to earn a master's degree in teaching. "New Paltz was not a nice place for Vietnam veterans in 1971," he says. "It was ugly, the things professors said."

With his degree, McTamoney was hired at Monroe-Woodbury High School in Central Valley, where he taught for 30 years.

Even with counseling, the impact of what he saw in Vietnam was not easily overcome. During his first night back in Newburgh in 1971, he was awakened by a siren. He rolled out of bed, crawled across the floor to a used Army locker his wife had bought and began searching among the coats and dresses for his rifle.

"It was a real panic moment until I realized I wasn't over there anymore," he recalls. "In Vietnam, you didn't shower without your M-16."

In 2018, McTamoney helped bring a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Newburgh riverfront. While there one rainy night, he had a panic attack. "I had this awful feeling of being unprotected," he says. "And I didn't have my M-16."

He now helps other veterans who exhibit signs of post-traumatic stress syndrome get professional help. Since retiring as a teacher in 2001, McTamoney and his wife, who is the City of Newburgh historian, have focused on community service, including work with Safe Harbors, a housing and arts redevelopment project, the Orange County Veterans Memorial and Habitat for Humanity.

"I met people who joined the Army because there were bathrooms in the barracks," he said. "At Habitat for Humanity, we're making something possible for people who have nothing."

McTamoney, who wore his front door key on a chain around his neck during his time in Vietnam, says he wouldn't mind visiting the country again, as a civilian.

"I'd like to see what they've been able to do, to see progress," he said, "not to go just to say: 'This is where my foxhole was.'"



In a photo that McTamoney was able to mail to a relative, Army medics treat local Vietnamese villagers during the war. His other photos were kept by the Army. Photo by Dave McTamoney



# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

*Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.*

## 150 Years Ago (February 1873)

The Phoenix Manufacturing Co. of Fishkill contracted to build 20 brick machines of a new patent for a gentleman in Newark. At the same time, the machine shop at H.N. Swift in Matteawan was manufacturing an invention by a South Carolina man that, using a spring, could run a sewing machine for 90 minutes without winding.

A ferry was under construction that would be capable of transferring a full train's worth of passengers from Fishkill Landing to Newburgh.

J.G. Murphy, principal of the Matteawan Union School, was being investigated because he allegedly improperly punished a student.

L.G. Contarini, the former editor of the defunct *Matteawan Chronicle* who was serving a two-year sentence at Sing Sing for bigamy, said he had given up on receiving a pardon from the governor, although Wife No. 3 was still working to procure one.

While cutting wood on a Philipstown estate, the son of Joseph Wood of Fishkill Landing struck his ax on the instep of his right foot. A co-worker helped him to a temporary hut and bound his foot with rope.



The steamboats Newburgh and Ramsdell, which rescued staters on the Hudson River in 1898, dealt with winter's hazards.

Hudson River Maritime Museum

At daylight, another crew member begged a passing farmer to take Wood on his wagon to Cold Spring, but the farmer refused, saying he had a full load. Finally, Wood found a ride in the afternoon, nearly 24 hours after the accident, where surgeons Lente and Murdock reconnected the artery. Wood then took the late train home from Cold Spring.

The editor of the *Fishkill Journal* said he would no longer be lending books because his library had been reduced to dictionaries and government documents.

Prof. J.W. Doughty and members of his class at the Academy "chained" the distance from the Newburgh dock to Pollopel's Island [later Bannerman's] and found it be 3 miles and 37 hundredths.

A party of ladies and gentlemen hired a sleigh to take them from Glenham to Wappingers Falls, returning by way of Fishkill. It appeared the drivers indulged too freely in gin in Wappingers and Fishkill, which,

according to *The Cold Spring Recorder*, "made them rather talkative." They "commenced using insulting language, whereupon the gentlemen gave them a sound thrashing" and took over the sleigh and horses to drive the remainder of the route without them.

A uniformed body was found on the tracks just south of Fishkill Landing. It was surmised the man had been hit by a northbound train and thrown onto the opposite track, where the body was hit by a southbound train.

A couple was arrested at Fishkill Landing for shoplifting. Henry Wilson and Mary O'Neil visited the dry goods store of J.E. Member & Sons, where Wilson purchased an undershirt while O'Neil purportedly secreted three shawls and three rubber dolls. The couple next visited Lester & Harrington, where they allegedly stole two coats, and T&J Ambrey, where Wilson was measured for pants while O'Neil reportedly lifted blue

cloth, cassimere (a tightly woven fabric) and silk. Suspicious, the tailor followed them across the river, where he found O'Neil in a clothing store on Front Street, trying on a coat. Wilson was arrested at a nearby saloon.

Thomas Thorne, the milkman, was driving from Fishkill Village to Matteawan when three men asked for a ride. When Thorne refused — the conditions were poor and he had a heavy load — one of the men grabbed a cover from a milk can and struck him in the head. Thorne managed to whip up his horse and escape. Authorities suspected the same men broke into Tallmadge & Williams' market at Matteawan the next day.

*The Poughkeepsie Journal* ran a correction to a report that had stated that Charles Francis Green had been arrested in Matteawan for abandoning his wife and children. The paper said the report had done an injustice to the hard-working Green, for it was Mrs. Green who abandoned him, then sued him for child support.

## 125 Years Ago (February 1898)

While rushing in the dark to the window at the sound of an outside alarm on Fishkill Landing, Mrs. J.W. Spaight, the wife of the editor of the *Fishkill Standard*, stepped off the upper step of the staircase, falling and breaking her wrist.

Nehemiah Place, the oldest resident of Fishkill Landing, died at age 92. Born in 1806, he served as postmaster for 12 years.

Fire destroyed the Osborne House, known as "The Fort," about a mile outside Fishkill. Built in 1752 by Daniel Budd, it was used as a blockhouse or outpost to defend against Native Americans and later as a stagecoach relay house.

A well-dressed man appeared at the Delaware House in Port Jervis, giving his name as C.W. Sterling and saying he was the advance man for a theater company then in Middletown. He inquired about the cost of rooms

(Continued on Page 21)

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

architecture  
landscape architecture &  
sustainability consulting

residential &  
commercial

renovation &  
new construction

cold spring, ny  
ethan@thefiguregroundstudio.com  
845.287.4889

**The  
Figure  
Ground**  
studio

Liz Foulks  
CORPOREAL LANDSCAPE II  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

**BUSTER LEVI**  
GALLERY

121 MAIN ST. COLD SPRING, N.Y.

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, 2/4 5PM TO 8PM  
GALLERY HOURS: SAT. | SUN. 5PM TO 8PM  
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

**DR. K**  
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR

15 TIORONDA AVE.  
BEACON, NY 12508  
DrKImportedCar.com

Phone/ 845.838.0717  
Fax/ 845.440.7541  
E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com

**Lynne Ward, LCSW**  
Licensed Psychotherapist

*Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children*  
*Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation*  
*Addiction Counseling*

75 Main Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com  
(917) 597-6905

**ALLENS  
DUMPSTER  
SERVICE**  
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646) 772-2673  
allens-dumpster-service.business.site

**Wellspring**  
RESOURCES LLC

Wellspring Resources, LLC  
Your source for recovery support

**Sara Dulaney** MA, CASAC, CARC  
Certified Recovery Coaching

Professional, experienced guide for a  
rewarding life free from addictions.

coaching10516@gmail.com | 914-443-4723 | Call for initial free evaluation

↑ HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS CARD ? You can advertise your business here starting at \$20. ↓



*(Continued from Page 20)*

for 12 people for two weeks, then presented a check for \$86.50 [about \$3,100 today] drawn on the First National Bank of Fishkill. The proprietor telegraphed the bank to make sure the check was good. The reply came: "Check is no good. Hold the man. Don't let him escape. Officer will go for him." Officer Moshier of Fishkill Landing arrived that evening, arrested Sterling at the concert hall and brought him to Matteawan. Sterling pleaded guilty to defrauding the Grand Army of the Republic (by keeping money collected for its production of *The Prince of Liars*) and a jeweler (by providing a worthless \$50 check as security for three gold rings).

The deckhands on the Ramsdell threw ropes from the side of the ferry to rescue four skaters on the Hudson River who were adrift on a cake of ice.

George Bonticou of Matteawan said he had obtained options on most brickyards along the Hudson River to form a brick trust with capital of several million dollars. The only holdout was the Rose Brick Co. of Roseton, 4 miles north of Newburgh.

A wood-sawing contest for charity between young women was such a hit that organizers arranged for them to return to the Dibble Opera House the next day for a nail-driving contest. Pieces of joist were arranged on the stage with seven hammers and a pile of 10-penny wire nails. The winner was Belle Moshier, who drove 20 nails to the heads in four minutes. She also won the sawing contest.

Mark Lounsbury Jr. won a wager when he crossed the river to Newburgh by jumping from one floating ice cake to another. It took 45 minutes.

### 100 Years Ago (February 1923)

A Beacon man was granted a divorce after two private detectives he hired to trail his wife told a judge she had stayed with another man overnight in a rooming house on Catherine Street. The wife offered no defense, and the husband was given custody of their 13-year-old son.

John Cronin, who was defeated in the Republican primary for commissioner of public safety, said he would not run as an independent. He had been a city official since Beacon was incorporated in 1913.



John Cronin Beacon Historical Society

In a special election, voters approved a proposal to spend up to \$60,000 [about \$1 million] to build a Memorial Hall in remembrance of the great war. It would include an auditorium for concerts and a floor for dancing and basketball.

Ogden Seaman, 15, a Beacon high school student, died of a "lingering malady" at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie. Three classmates had each donated a pint of blood for transfusions so he might have the strength to sustain an operation.

The coach of the Beacon High School basketball team kicked four players off the team, saying they had played in a game not sanctioned by the school.

William Conzelman, a resident of the Gallaudet Home for Deaf Mutes in New Hamburg, died at Highland Hospital at age 78. A native of Bavaria, he came to the U.S. in his late 20s.

Raymond Delehay, a Beacon native who was serving in the U.S. Navy, was seriously injured when his Curtiss N-9 seaplane overturned in San Diego Bay. A chief machinist's mate was killed in the crash.

The Young People's Local Union of the First Baptist Church began a petition drive to ban movie theaters from operating on Sundays.

A 4-year-old boy lost an eye and two fingers when the kitchen stove exploded in his home on Hudson Avenue.

Lewis Ebert, who commuted daily from Beacon to lower Manhattan for 25 years, calculated that he had spent nearly five years in transit, covering 39,000 miles annually, and spent \$3,000 [\$52,000] over the years on fares. His 2½-hour trip each way included the Beacon trolley, the New York Central and the subway. Ebert managed a commission house that dealt in butter, cheese and eggs.

### 75 Years Ago (February 1948)

A 24-year-old man was charged with assault following a knife fight at Brooks' Tavern on Main Street. The victim, an attendant at the Matteawan State Hospital, needed 27 stitches in his forehead.

A man loitering at the train station at 7 a.m. apparently stole an idling Palisi Brothers taxi and drove it to the Peekskill station, where a conductor said he boarded a train to New York City.

A Wolcott Avenue man was arrested for petty larceny after his wife told police she had given him \$3 but that he grabbed her purse and took another \$15.

A varsity basketball game in which Beacon hosted Commerce High School of Yonkers ended in the third quarter when the referee declared a forfeit by the visitors. He had just tossed Commerce's leading scorer and its coach from the game for protesting a foul call, but they kept arguing. In the junior varsity game, a Commerce player accidentally struck a Beacon player in the face while waving his arms in celebration of a 22-20 win, leading to a scrum with fans.

Under a formula devised by Gov. Dewey's Committee on State Education, Beacon would receive \$212,000 [\$2.6 million] in state aid, or 50 percent more than the year before.

Peter Idema Jr. narrowly escaped being electrocuted after his truck skidded and knocked down an electric light pole on East Main Street. When he attempted to push

the pole off the truck, he came in contact with wires carrying 2,400 volts. He fell to the pavement with the pole on top of him; two co-workers traveling with him managed to lift it and take him to Highland Hospital.

### 50 Years Ago (February 1973)

The Beacon boys' basketball team, under first-year coach Rick Pam, was 17-0 before falling at home to Poughkeepsie, 79-68, in the final game of the season.



Coach Rick Pam

The state Assembly unanimously passed a bill to relocate a proposed arterial route through Beacon. Democrats initially objected because they believed the route was being changed to demolish more low-income housing. But Beacon officials said the change would reduce the number of relocations. A Democratic member from Manhattan said he was a friend of Pete Seeger and he "didn't want to vote for a bill that would railroad his house down," although the folk singer lived on the top of a mountain south of Beacon, nowhere near the proposed route.

The Planning Board said it favored two of the seven proposed routes for the artery, one that made Main Street the thoroughfare between Route 9D and Interstate 84 and the other that designated Church Street.

Mayor Robert Cahill announced a crackdown on unpaid parking tickets, noting that 55 percent of the 257 tickets issued in January remained unpaid. The City Council also approved the purchase of a speed radar gun for \$985 [\$6,600].

The Beacon-Fishkill Chamber of Commerce announced the formation of the Beacon Retail Association to distribute brochures and promote Friday night shopping.

The Planning Board turned down a request from taxi company owner Edward Morgan to open a gas station at Main and Elm streets. Morgan protested that a lumberyard had been allowed to build on the site of the demolished Dutchess Hotel across the street, without any oversight by the board.

A fire that shot through the roof of Bernstein's Toy Store, at 472 Main St., spread to the upper floors of 468, 466 and 462 Main before firefighters could contain it.

The Beacon school board's building committee presented a \$4.5 million proposal [about \$30 million today] to add 17 classrooms to three elementary schools, convert Rombout Middle School to a high school and renovate the high school into a three-year middle school. State aid would cover 60 percent of the cost.

## Current Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**SYSTEMS & MAINTENANCE TECH** — Not-for-profit center seeking a fulltime building systems and maintenance technician. Looking for an energetic, experienced candidate with a hands-on aptitude for maintenance and building upkeep. Candidate will have proven expertise working with various building systems like HVAC, plumbing, hands-on facility repairs, at a commercial setting for 5+yrs. Good communication and customer service skills. Some late evenings, weekend work. Apply to: [recruitment@garrisoninstitute.org](mailto:recruitment@garrisoninstitute.org) or fax 845-424-4900.

### FOR RENT

**BEAIVE OFFICES** — 1 studio available in each of our Beacon and Cold Spring annexes, suitable for 1-4 people (or just 1, you baller). "Resident studio" members have 24/7 access to all of our hives, shared lounges and open coworking spaces, kitchen, meeting rooms, shared kitchen appliances and equipment like Wi-Fi and printer, and amenities and are all-inclusive with flexible terms. Beahive is a pioneering space for work and community and possibilities, born in Beacon in 2009. Email Scott Tillitt at [scott@beahivebzzz.com](mailto:scott@beahivebzzz.com).

**OFFICE SPACE** — 3182 Route 9, Philipstown Square. Second floor, 400 to 1,200 square feet. Private bath & parking. Call Ron at 914-490-9606.

**PARKING SPACE** — Private space available within a 5-minute walk to Metro-North train station and Main Street, Village of Cold Spring. \$150 monthly. E-mail [luke1958@optimum.net](mailto:luke1958@optimum.net).

### SERVICES

**SKILLS BOOST** — Pro for writing, study and test-taking skills boost. In-school or home-schooled, students at all levels can benefit from the simple and effective 3-step system offered by an expert writing and study-skills coach. Local professional, in-person or remote. For free evaluation, contact [Mrsqtutor888@gmail.com](mailto:Mrsqtutor888@gmail.com).

### FOR SALE

**DON'T LOSE POWER** — Generac standby generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value). Request a free quote today. Call for additional terms and conditions. 631-498-7851.

**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**



## Roots and Shoots

## Sowing Seeds of Resilience

By Pamela Doan

Even though it seems like we can begin planting our vegetable gardens in this mild weather, keep it to planning instead. With another three months until the last frost date, a lot can happen outdoors before spring arrives. In the meantime, make lists, draw layouts and read seed catalogs.



Since last season's drought, I've given a lot of thought to what foods I will try to grow this year. Despite all the right preparation with soil and mulch, vegetables still need constant watering and care. Our summer will most likely be hotter, judging by recent trends. (I feel confident that I don't need to include statistics to show that our weather is weird. We all remember that 80-degree day last November, right?)

For these reasons, I'm being choosier about vegetable varieties, focusing on ones that can withstand harsh conditions — hot or cold, dry or wet — and diseases. Many commonly planted seeds aren't used to this new normal. So, when an email about Carol Deppe's climate-resilient varieties popped up in my inbox from one of my go-to sources



Even though there are signs of spring, like these snowdrop and crocus blooms, don't start planting yet.

for seeds and plants, it felt fortuitous.

I'm familiar with Deppe's work from her book, *The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-Reliance in Uncertain Times*. Written in 2010, her message is even more urgent now, when natural disasters are becoming weekly or monthly events rather than annual or 10-year ones.

Fedco Seeds is stocking six of the varieties that Deppe created during four decades of breeding, and they are the foundation of her survivalist gardening method. She identified ways to have a balanced, nutrient-rich diet by growing corn, beans, squash and potatoes while raising chickens. Her book includes methods for storage and drying for a garden that feeds people throughout the year.

Fedco is offering four different kinds of



Photos by P. Doan

beans, corn and squash from Deppe. The Open Source Seed Initiative has an additional 15 types that she dedicated to sharing. OSSI, a nonprofit that Deppe chaired in recent years, advocates sharing the genetic material of plants. At a time when patenting seeds for maximum profit is the norm, growers have pledged 600 different types of seed as a world seed-bank source.

Deppe intended for gardeners to purchase a seed once and then save seeds from the harvest for another season, thus continuing the cycle of breeding for local conditions through selection. I've got Fast Lady Northern Southern Pea seeds on my garden list for this year. They can be picked to eat fresh in just two months, or left to dry over three months for harvest.

As some of the earliest plants that can be sown, peas thrive in cooler temperatures. It also makes them susceptible to mold from spring's dampness. Deppe's peas, however, are a bush style that lets air flow around the plants more easily, keeping foliage drier.

I'm also intending to plant her Goldini II, an organic golden zucchini. She described it as "possibly the fastest germinating and growing, and most-productive summer squash on the planet, including hybrids." In the Northeast, it should be ready to harvest in 45 to 55 days. In the Pacific Northwest, where Deppe lived, it was a mere 35 days. Techniques for drying and using it throughout winter are in the book.

This year I'll try growing beans to dry and store for the first time, using White Candle Gaucho beans. Deppe bred them from an Argentinian heirloom variety. Ready to harvest in 88 days, the beans go from green to dry quickly on the bush, an advantage when rainfall could damage the harvest. And that harvest? The yield is listed as 20 pounds per 100 feet of plants. While I won't be planting that many, it's good to know I could.

From her writing, I know that Deppe valued flavor and versatility as much as disease resistance in her plants. Do all gardeners love food? I'm not sure, judging by the state of grocery store produce. Deppe definitely did, and I hope to taste the results in my garden this summer.

And finally, a tribute to Deppe, who died last year. She found immortality in gardening, and her contributions to the world will last as long as anyone keeps planting her seeds.

DEEP WINTER HEALING  
+ RESTORATIVE YOGA

WORKSHOP:  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
10AM TO NOON



RESERVE:  
BEACONWINTER.EVENTBRITE.COM

WITCH  HAZEL

176 MAIN STREET, BEACON, NY

Making  
Travel Plans  
this Year?

Give yourself and your loved ones lasting peace of mind.

Lifetime coverage when you are 75+ miles away from home.

CALL TODAY TO  
LEARN MORE:  
(845) 831-0179



**LIBBY**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

55 Teller Ave. Beacon, NY, 12508  
LibbyFuneralHome.com

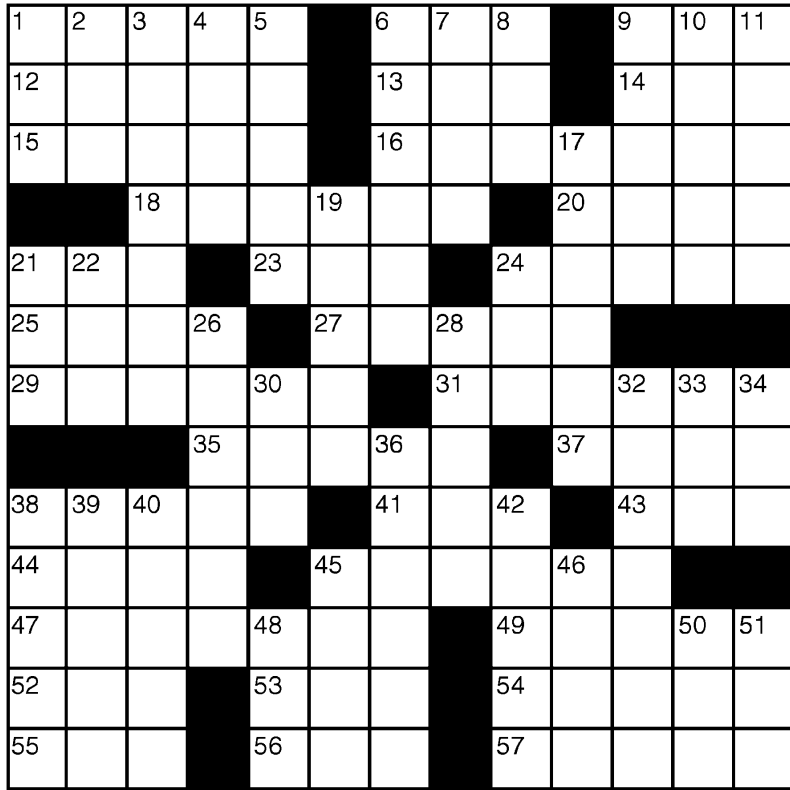


# Puzzles

## CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

- 1. Sailing vessel
- 6. Clear the deck?
- 9. Kitten's cry
- 12. A Marx brother
- 13. Low digit
- 14. "Xanadu" band
- 15. Baby hooter
- 16. Florida city
- 18. Handsome guy
- 20. Convent dwellers
- 21. Brooch
- 23. Tool set
- 24. March honoree, for short
- 25. Fed. food inspector
- 27. Grinding tooth
- 29. "At once!"
- 31. Attention-getting call



- 35. Senior member
- 37. Lingerie fabric
- 38. Houston player
- 41. Sports drink suffix
- 43. TV spots
- 44. Foolproof
- 45. Go places
- 47. Florida city
- 49. Revise
- 52. Tokyo, once
- 53. "Humbug!"
- 54. Keaton of *Annie Hall*
- 55. Lair
- 56. Bikini top
- 57. Old anesthetic
- 9. Convened
- 10. Justice Kagan
- 11. In the — way (very much)
- 17. Preambles
- 19. Spock portrayer
- 21. Young seal
- 22. Leb. neighbor
- 24. — Paulo
- 26. President Jackson
- 28. Carter of *Wonder Woman*
- 30. Overly
- 32. Florida city
- 33. Vintage
- 34. Approves
- 36. Sultry singer Kitt
- 38. Queried
- 39. Soft leather
- 40. Check the fit of
- 42. Dodge
- 45. Russian ruler
- 46. Send forth
- 48. Flow out
- 50. Away from SSW
- 51. Aachen article

**DOWN**

- 1. HBO competitor
- 2. Attorney's field
- 3. Florida city
- 4. Pundit's piece
- 5. *The Chosen* author Chaim
- 6. Cuban rum cocktail
- 7. Burden
- 8. Zing

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

- 1 unloads in a hurry (9)
- 2 they may be domed (8)
- 3 out of touch with reality (5)
- 4 cracker in a s'more (6)
- 5 unmasked (7)
- 6 Siberian sled dog (7)
- 7 Zendaya's last name (7)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

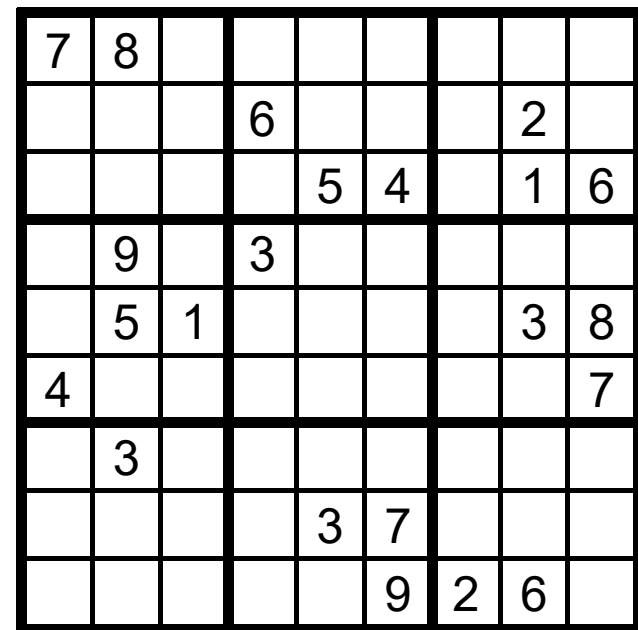
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



© 2022 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

## SUDO CURRENT



**Puzzle Page Sponsored by**

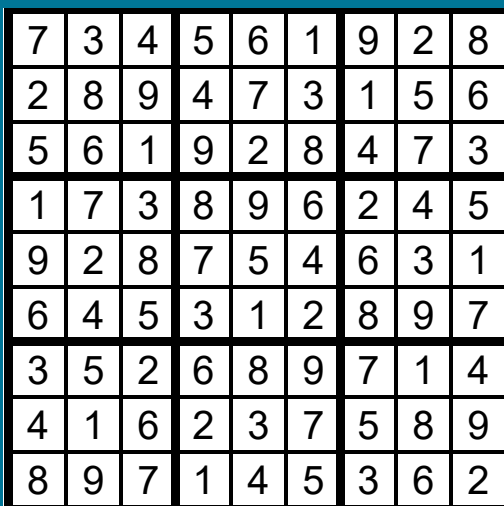


86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516

Shop in store or online at [www.thegifthut.com](http://www.thegifthut.com)

Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family

**Answers for Feb. 10 Puzzles**



1. BENCHES, 2. HEIRLOOM, 3. GUESTS, 4. CHAGRINED, 5. BOPS, 6. KAZAKHSTAN, 7. BRATTY



# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Haldane overwhelmed Pawling, 69-31, at home on Feb. 11 to claim its fifth consecutive league title, then defeated Briarcliff, 66-51, Tuesday (Feb. 14) on the road for the team's 10th straight victory.

In Tuesday's win over the Bears, Matteo Cervone had a big night, scoring 32 points. Ben Bozsik added 10 and Will Bradley and Matt Nachamkin each had seven.

"We played a little sloppy, but any win on the road is a beautiful win," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Our half-court defense was very strong in the fourth, and Matteo had a beast of a game. It's a nice win-streak we have going."

At Pawling, Michael Murray led Haldane with 12 points, followed by Ryan Van Tassel (11), Bradley (11), Nachamkin (9), Bozsik (7), Jesse Hagan (6), Evan Giachinta (6) and Thomas Rockett (4).

Haldane (15-4) is scheduled to finish its regular season today (Feb. 17) at Franklin Roosevelt in Hyde Park. The Blue Devils then advance to the Section I, Class C semifinal on Feb. 28 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, where they will be the No. 2 seed and face No. 3 Alexander Hamilton (14-5). In the other semifinal, No. 1 Tuckahoe (13-6) will play No. 4 Leffell (8-12). The seedings are based on wins and strength of schedule.

Beacon, meanwhile, ended its regular season on a sour note with a 58-52 loss on Feb. 10 at Monticello. For three quarters, the Bulldogs were in charge, with a 28-18 halftime lead and a 40-34 lead going into the fourth quarter.

But Beacon got sloppy, giving up 24 points in the fourth.

The Bulldogs (14-6) are expecting the No. 4 seed in the Section IX, Class A play-offs, which begin Feb. 25 with a home game against a lower-seeded team.

"We were up for the entire game, until about three minutes left," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "Turnovers cost us. That left a bitter taste, but I think it put some fire in their bellies going into the playoffs. We had won four in a row, so losing that last one hurt."

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon recorded a 48-23 victory over host Cornwall on Tuesday (Feb. 14) behind Reilly Landisi's 18 points. Daveya Rodriguez added 10 and Devyn Kelly had eight.

"We started off timid offensively, but made adjustments in the second half," said Coach Christina Dahl. "We went on a 20-2



Camila McDaniel (3) drives around the defense and Mary Peters (23) glides past an O'Neill defender.



Photos by S. Pearlman

run in the third and never looked back."

With the win, Beacon (13-5) clinched the league championship, its first since 2014.

Beacon also defeated Monticello at home, 55-22, on Feb. 9. Landisi led the Bulldogs with 19 points, followed by Shadaya Fryer (11), Kelly (11) and Rodriguez (8).

Beacon is scheduled to open the Section IX, Class A tournament on Feb. 25.

For Haldane, however, wins have come at a premium this season, and the Blue Devils had one in sight on Tuesday, holding a 26-23 lead over visiting O'Neill at halftime.

But the Raiders went to work in the third and took a four-point lead midway through the period. O'Neill led 38-31 at the end of three and never trailed again en route to a 51-39 victory.

O'Neill's defensive intensity after halftime led to many turnovers for the Blue Devils that the Raiders converted into points at the other

end. O'Neill held Haldane to five points in the third quarter and eight in the fourth.

Marisa Peters had 10 points for Haldane, Betsy Cates had nine, Mairead O'Hara finished with eight and Kayla Ruggiero delivered a pair of second-half 3-pointers.

"We're playing better defense," Coach Ed Crowe said. "And we've been working on our shooting — that's one of our big pieces."

"We've come a long way from the start of the season," he said. "At times it's been a struggle, but we played a very tough schedule — the 10th-toughest in the section. I think we're ready to make a run and compete for a sectional championship."

Haldane, which finished 3-17 (1-5 league), will face No. 1 Tuckahoe (12-8) in the Section I, Class C semifinal on Feb. 28 at the Westchester County Center. No. 2 Hamilton (11-9) and No. 3 Leffell (6-12) will compete

in the other semifinal.

### WINTER TRACK

Damani Deloatch was Beacon's lone winner at the Section IX, Class A championship on Feb. 11 at West Point, winning the triple jump with a total of 43-9. He also placed fourth in the long jump.

Henry Reinke was fifth in the 1,000 in a personal-record time of 2:38, which was also the fourth-best time in school history. Thomas Rapp pushed his shotput personal record to 34-5.

Beacon heads to The Armory in Manhattan today (Feb. 17) for the North Shore Pre-National Invitational. Deloatch will compete in long jump and triple jump, and Reinke in the 200- and 400-meter races. The team will be at state qualifiers on Feb. 25.

Haldane competed Feb. 8 at The Armory in the Section I, Class C championships. For the boys, John Kisslinger finished seventh in the 600-meters in 1:29.62; Merrick Williams was seventh in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.47 seconds; and the 4x200 relay team finished fourth in 1:39.47.

For the girls, Samantha Thomas was seventh in the 55 meters in 8.01 seconds and Andreia Vasconcelos finished fourth in the triple jump with 28-03.75.

### HALL OF FAME

Through March 1, Haldane is accepting nominations for athletes, teams, coaches and administrators to be inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame.

Nominees must have graduated before 2019. Inductees are selected by a committee that includes three Haldane coaches, an administrator other than the athletic director, a community member, the president of the booster club, two alumni and a retired district employee. See [haldaneschool.org/athletics/hall-of-fame](http://haldaneschool.org/athletics/hall-of-fame).



**ONE OF A KIND** — Van Vourliotis (left), the boys' basketball coach at the Garrison Middle School, and Athletic Director Patrick Beckley recently presented Matteo Cervone with his jersey. Cervone, a Garrison graduate, this month scored his 1,000th career point for Haldane High School.

Photo provided