A DAY TO REMEMBER — Military veterans, accompanied by first responders and Philipstown residents, traveled up Main Street on Monday (May 29) for a memorial service at the Cold Spring Cemetery to remember those who lost their lives during wartime. The grand marshal was Michael Mastrolia, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Photo by Ross Corsair

It was a picture-perfect Saturday in early May when Dia:Beacon celebrated its 20th anniversary. Common Ground Farm set up a booth and prepared an educational demonstration. Other scheduled events included a zine-making workshop and a tour led by an artist who snuck into this former Nabisco factory over 20 years ago, before Dia moved in, to shoot an indie movie. There were also tours for Spanish-language speakers and (Continued on Page 6)

The arts fueled Beacon’s transformation. What happens when high rents push artists and galleries elsewhere?

By Brian PJ Cronin

Part 2 of a series

Environmental groups say testing is overdue, inadequate

By Brian PJ Cronin

Nearly 40 years after the federal Environmental Protection Agency designated a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River as one of the most heavily polluted sites in the country because of chemical dumping by General Electric, the company will begin testing the water in the Lower Hudson, including in the Highlands, to determine the extent of the damage.

From 1947 to 1977, GE discharged polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from two of its manufacturing plants on the Upper Hudson. In addition to essentially ending commercial fishing in the Hudson, the discharges kicked off decades of legal battles. The EPA repeatedly dragged GE into court to force the company to clean up the river.

GE dredged the Upper Hudson for six years, from 2009 to 2015, to remove contaminated sediment, although environmental groups asserted that the cleanups (Continued on Page 3)

Hotels Sue Counties Over Migrant Orders

Say that official actions ‘reek of discrimination’

By Leonard Sparks

After being targeted by county executives in the Hudson Valley for renting rooms to asylum-seekers from New York City, owners have responded with a federal lawsuit.

Hotel owners in Dutchess, Orange and Rockland counties filed a federal lawsuit on May 22 in White Plains, arguing that executive orders banning migrants from hotels in more than two dozen counties and towns violate their constitutional rights to enter into contracts and are preempted by federal law.

The hotels also say the orders disregard their property and due-process rights under the U.S. Constitution's 5th and 14th amendments.

The plaintiffs include the owner of a Red Roof Inn and Holiday Inn on Route 9 in the Town of Poughkeepsie and the Crossroads Hotel and Ramada by Wyndham in the Town of Newburgh. New York City last month transported 86 asylum-seekers to the Red Roof Inn and 186 to Crossroads and Ramada.

A third plaintiff is the owner of Armoni Inn & Suites in Rockland County. The county refused to renew its residence permit, which had expired, as the hotel prepared to receive asylum-seekers. Police monitor the hotel around the clock, according to the lawsuit.

The hotels say that the executive orders “unlawfully, impermissibly and unconstitu-
By Alison Rooney

Rosemary Rodino is retiring after 38 years as director of the Community Nursery School at the First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring. She will be honored at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday (June 4).

Growing up, did you always feel you would one day work with young children?

I did. I always felt that; I always knew that. There’s such wonder at the preschool stage. I see them as they’re beginning their life in school. I’m at the beginning of that with them. At first it was a general, “I want to be a teacher,” but as I got into education I just loved preschoolers and felt that’s where I belong. I don’t think that Mrs. [Marie] Rohrberg, who hired me, could have ever found anyone who would have loved the job more.

Is there more pressure now from parents regarding academics for 3- and 4-year olds?

There is, but the pendulum is starting to swing back. I feel that early academics, before a child is ready, can be at the expense of the child’s disposition. We want to encourage a happy, relaxed atmosphere, where children can feel good about themselves and their accomplishments. Preschool is certainly about ABCs and 123s, but there’s so much more that needs to be done. A successful center is one that understands the importance of play and building social skills. That’s not to be underestimated, because social skills last a lifetime.

What would you say to reassure parents dropping their child off for the first time in September?

Moms and dads can rest assured that their children will learn and play and socialize in a safe, happy environment with a kind, compassionate staff that respects childhood — an atmosphere where every child’s own uniqueness is celebrated. We become like a little classroom family. It’s true — I’m not just making it up! Every day, when I walk through those doors, I still feel that same feeling as I had on my first morning: that excitement — I love it. It never got old for me.

What is the most gratifying thing that children have taught you?

Every single day there is something new. I’m always fascinated at how preschoolers find the most joy in the tiniest things and how they help you to see things in an entirely different way.

What’s the funniest thing a child has ever asked or told you?

Joseph, just before his fifth birthday, said to the group and to me: “Isn’t this the best time of our lives?” It absolutely was for me.

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FIVE QUESTIONS: ROSEMARY RODINO

By Michael Turton

Will you be in, on or near the water this summer?

Kaylaen Dior, Beacon

I hope to swim in a lake or boat on the Hudson.

Tom Carrigan, Cold Spring

I’m not in charge, but near the water, in it a bit.

Chris Borris, Cold Spring

I hope to swim in a lake or boat on the Hudson.

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HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. June 3 – 1-5 PM (closed Sun)
THE LONG PATH - NY / NJ Trail Conference
Featuring Steve Aaron’s photo of NY’s greatest trail which runs 350 miles from NYC to Albany
*free social media for days open & extended hours F/S/S

Sat. June 10 – 6:30 PM
Mystery at the Library
Murder Café’s interaction theatre
Get your tickets TODAY! Seats are limited
Tix: 715-adateres only: howlandculturalcenter.com

Mystery

With Murder Café’s interaction theatre

Sat & Sun June 17-18
Beacon LitFest - Program and Workshops
With special guest New York Times and NPR puzzlemaster Will Shortz
Check out our website for event details
Get your tickets TODAY! Seats are limited
Tix: howlandculturalcenter.org

The Long Path - NY/NJ Trail Conference
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Migrants (from Page 1) tionally) prohibit them from “fulfilling their agreements to transport and offer temporary lodging in public accommodations.”

They also accuse county and town officials of “catering to xenophobic and polit- ical interests” and taking actions that “reek of discrimination.” Ed Day, the Republican executive of Rockland County, claimed without evidence that the newly arrived immigrants include child rapists, gang members and other criminals.

Dutchess and the other municipalities, according to the hotels, are sending a simple and illegal message: “If you provide hotel rooms to asylum refugees, [the] defendants will perform prevention of your agreements and destroy your businesses, all in flagrant violation of your constitutional rights.”

After Dutchess sued the owner of the Red Roof and Holiday Inn, a state judge on May 23 issued a temporary restraining order against New York City to prevent it from burying any more arsenic-seeking into the county. It also ordered the hotel to provide the county with the names of the men sheltering at the Red Roof Inn.

The judge’s ruling allows Dutchess to inspect the Red Roof and Holiday Inn. The order is effective until June 20 while the judge weighs Dutchess’ request for a permanent injunction.

When Dutchess filed its lawsuit on May 19, William F. O’Neil, its Republican executive, declared a state of emergency, citing an “immi- nent peril to the public health and safety.” He threatened to sue hotels, motels and short- term lodging businesses whose property is used for “an emergency shelter, homeless shelter or long-term overnight dormitory.”

At a news conference on May 23 outside Fishkill Town Hall, O’Neil castigated the city, New York State and the federal govern- ment; he earlier issued a statement calling the Democratic administration of President Joe Biden “incompetent and ineffective.”

“The worst will be if these asylum-seeking migrants end up staying in Dutchess County, and the government that is now financing them pulls financing, and they have to find they have to fend for them- selves,” said O’Neil. He was joined at the news conference by Putnam County Execu- tive Kevin Byrne, a Republican, and Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra, a Democrat.

“We are not prepared for the housing needs that they have,” O’Neil said.

Orange and Rockland counties have also filed lawsuits; Orange won a temporary restraining order against the Crossroads and Ramada. But, as with the Red Roof Inn, the judge allowed the migrants at the hotels to stay.

PCB Levels (from Page 1) would be ineffective because they didn’t target the most polluted parts of the river because of faulty data.

Scenic Hudson and others argue that the targets given to GE are based on measure- ments of the pollution in 2002 that were later found to be inaccurate because of what Manna Jo Greene of Clearwater described in 2017 as a “false bottom” of debris from lumber and paper mills at the river basin near Fort Edwards. Once that material was removed by dredging, she said, readings in 2009 found the levels of PCBs to be two to three times higher. Greene suggested the EPA was reluctant to adjust the targets because it feared GE would launch a protracted legal battle. “They took the path of least resistance,” she said.

A 2018 report confirmed concerns about the cleanup, showing that PCB levels in the Upper Hudson had not decreased nearly as much as anticipated and that levels in the Lower Hudson — from Troy to Manhattan — had not decreased.

The report led to calls for more extensive sampling of the Lower Hudson.

There is also concern that a project to bury a power line in the river — including a stretch through the Highlands — as part of a trans- mission system from Canada to New York City will stir up more arsenic-seeking into the county. It also ordered the hotel to provide the county with the names of the men sheltering at the Red Roof Inn.

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The agency “should be moving forward with a real investigation and feasibility study” because its current strategy will not get it “any closer to what you need to know,” said Audrey Friedrichsen of Scenic Hudson. “It’s just more delay.”

Drew Gamils of Riverkeeper noted that the groups believe five sampling sites spaced 50 miles apart aren’t enough because the Lower Hudson is a far larger and more complex ecosystem than the Upper Hudson. There’s the freshwater section above Poughkeepsie, the saltwater section near New York City and Westches- ter, and the brackish Highlands in which the salt and freshwater meet. There are also various bays and floodplains.

“The Lower Hudson is more tidal and it’s much wider, which leads to much more variation in habitat in that 160-mile stretch,” she said.

The groups also would like to see what’s known as an angler’s survey — who’s fishing in the Lower Hudson, what they’re catching and what they’re eating — which hasn’t been done since 1990.

“There are people still subsistence-fishing out of the river, and using what they catch to supplement their tables for their family,” said Friedrichsen. “They’ve changed as new people move into the valley, and the fish that they’re eating have changed.”

The EPA has issued advisories stating that, because of PCB contamination, only healthy adult males should eat fish from the Hudson, and only once a month. But Friedrichsen said more research is needed to determine if some species are more contaminated than others.

EPA rules “say that the polluter pays and the polluter is supposed to eliminate the risk,” she said. “Instead, this places the burden on already overburdened environmental-justice communities.”

In response to the group’s concerns, Klawinski said the initial sampling this summer could lead to more extensive and thorough tests in coming years.

“We need this information to make decisions about what steps to take next,” he said at the meeting. “So it’s important for us to collect this data quickly, and then assess and determine what the next steps are, includ- ing looking to see whether there are certain portions of the Lower Hudson River that need to be categorized separately so that they can be addressed as quickly as possible.”

Live Music Every Week!

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<td>4th 10:00am-2:00pm Ian Moore</td>
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BEACON FARMERS’ MARKET

Sundays 10am-2pm
223 Main Street, Beacon, NY
Hudson Valley Magazine’s Winner
BEST FARMERS’ MARKET
SNAP, FMNP, WIC accepted
beaconfarmersmarket.org

DEPOT DOCs:
Of Medicine and Miracles
June 9 at 7:30
Daniel Kelly Trio
June 10
Glass Ceiling Breakers
Short Films and One Acts by women
June 16-18
Public bathrooms

The majority of businesses on Main Street in Beacon are renters, paying top dollar for antiquated spaces. Our tiny, non-ADA-compliant bathrooms also function as stockroom, breakroom and sometimes office space (“Wide Angle: The Trouble with Toilets,” May 19). The rental market is such that not only do landlords offer zero concessions for build-out, they have been known to solicit proposals from prospective tenants outlining how they, the tenant, will improve the space. So tell me, does columnist Stowe Boyd have a plan for getting the owners to upgrade the facilities for public use? Or is that also something retailers should “build into their business plan?”

Contrary to popular opinion, the small businesses on Main Street are not raking in piles of cash. Plenty of us are still barely squeaking by. But why, ask the local government to act for the public good when you can push it off on business?

For the record, my bathroom is always available to my customers and I will never say no to a child or pregnant person. But after too many people breezing in without so much as a “May I?” and leaving super nasty messes for us, I’ve given myself permission and my staff discretion to say “no.”

Katy Hope, Beacon

Asylum seekers

Send them all back to their respective countries (“Judge Bars Migrants from Dutchess Hotels,” May 26). Thank you so much, Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O’Neil. Please protect us and our children from these war-torn peoples who need to go back and claim what is their birthright instead of creeping in on our homeland. Tell President Biden and Gov. Hochul to do their jobs, or be recalled for treason.

Sue Clary, Beacon

I am fortunate that all four of my grandparents were able to enter this country and make a life for themselves and their families. I only regret I did not ask questions about their routes and that I did not thank them when they were alive.

Jane Silver Timm, Cold Spring

State Sen. Rob Rolison, you failed (“Fallout from Displaced Veterans Hoax,” May 26). You jumped on the bandwagon without even filtering it through your “We got ‘em now” nonsense head. You are an elected official and I’m assuming a relatively intelligent person. The damage has been done and no “whoopsy” is going to change that.

Katy Hope, Beacon

Hope is the owner of Beetle and Fred.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon series

Twenty-five years ago, Beacon was actually starting to recover from having fallen apart (“Beacon: Then, Now and How,” May 26). I could be off a handful of years but around 2000 things had started to turn around.

Chris Ungaro, via Facebook

The resurgence started in the mid-1990s with dozens of antique stores: Beacon Hill Antiques, Early Everything, 20th Century Fox. I remember Beacon Hill had to cover their windows with plywood to make it look decrepit for the filming of Nobody’s Fool [released in 1994], because at that point the east end had started to turn the corner.

Theo de Haas, via Facebook

When I was director of the Howland Cultural Center, we got things started by selling two dilapidated buildings to the Sauers, who restored them with retail space on the first floor.

Robert Pucci, via Facebook

Be mindful when you refer to “culture” and it aligns with white associations of what “culture” and “class” and “thriving” look like because, trust me, 25 years ago Beacon had plenty of culture. It was not lacking.

Jaimie Arndt, via Instagram

Let’s have a conversation and some action on infrastructure instead of housing, which follows infrastructure (“Was Enough Done to Keep It Affordable?”). Waterworks, transit and materials come before, not after, housing. City, county, state and feds activate a city rail line, for example, then new apartments slot elegantly into the city fabric. Housing without infrastructure, leading to more motor vehicles and fossil abuse? No thanks.

Gregg Zuman, Beacon

The idea that nobody else’s taxes go up because of new development is a myth (“Has Beacon Followed Its Own Blueprint?”). Every year on grievance day, a boatload of owners complains about high yearly hikes. We all get the same pushback from the committee. They all point to the new sales in the high-bracket numbers. When we say taxes are not to be based on new sales, as per stated methodology, we still get the same response: the new sales, the new sales, the new sales.

Naomi Canaan, Beacon

Vagina Monologues

A minor correction to your caption in Around Town (May 26) about the performance: It wasn’t just a “group of women” — it was a team of professional actors led by Shane Bly Killoran, founder of Hit House Creative and a professional dramaturg.
(Continued from Page 4)
producer and director, and the encore performance was part of the upcoming Beacon LitFest. Thanks again for the shoutout! 
Hannah Brooks, Beacon

Leaf blowers

Leaf blower noise is discretionary: It can be done at any time or not at all (“Leaf Blowers Create a Stizz,” May 19). It makes sense that annual fall cleanup is more efficiently done with a blower, however, fall cleanup does not mean every other weekend, as it does at Dockside. I have always managed my lawn care with a rake, a tool now obsolete for groundskeepers. In the absence of a rake, a broom can do the same work noiselessly.

Derek Graham, Cold Spring

Risky crossing

This astute article (“Braving Route 301,” May 26) hints at two important points: 1) Transportation infrastructure and decision-making rarely take into account the perspective of those not behind the windshield, and 2) People incur real damages from such poor design and decisions, even when there are few crashes. Being around cars increases stress and anxiety, and discourages people from important community activities, like a walk down Main Street to get ice cream, a visit to a neighbor, a bit of exercise and the enjoyment of the outdoors.

Aaron Wolfe, Cold Spring

It's sad that the lame state Department of Transportation won't do anything until it sees a body count.

Mark Sullivan, via Facebook

There's plenty of enforcement — Putnam County sheriff deputies sit there all the time. Complain, complain is all Cold Springers do.

Justin Ferdico, via Facebook

Much of the often-constant traffic flow is drivers making their way to Peekskill Road, then south, so Route 301 becomes a drag strip for frustrated drivers who are in a hurry. This section of road is dangerous and a major divider in our community.

Ben Cheah, via Facebook

It's quite scary to walk along Main Street in Nelsonville, especially with a child or dog. The speed limit is absolutely not enforced.

Dianne Bauer, via Facebook

Nobody pays attention to the change in speed limit coming down that hill. When I do, someone will inevitably race up from behind to tailgate, flash their lights and sometimes even pass over the double yellow line.

When I used to commute down that road, I'd often encounter cars entering town at 60 mph to 70 mph, likely running late to catch a train.

Jon Kiphart, via Facebook

I always have a lump in my throat when my 30-year-old walks to Homestyle for ice cream with friends. It's just treacherous to cross the street.

Maya Dollarhide, via Facebook

Car brain is a serious problem affecting America, and unfortunately many urban-planning decisions were made by people infected with car brainitis and the repercussions will be felt for generations. Thank you for shining the light on this issue. Children and adults need to be able to walk and bike around safely so that we can all free ourselves from cars.

John Humphrey, Brooklyn

Military banners

I’m pleased that this worthwhile military tribute banner project is progressing (“Military Service Banners Coming to Philipstown,” May 19). As I drive across the eastern part of Putnam County every week, I always enjoy looking at these eye-catching, attractive banners.

Not only do they honor military service, but they serve to promote and celebrate local history. For example, two banners for members of the Tompkins family are strategically located on Route 301 in Kent, across from Tompkins Road. While reflecting the past, the banners shed light on the present by providing context for things like local street names. In my view, that is a bonus.

Jo Pitkin, Nelsonville

Corrections

In the May 19 issue, we reported that the Butterhead Salad Company is located at 280 Main St. in Beacon. In fact, it is located at 208 Main St.

In the May 26 issue, we misidentified the former coach of the Haldane varsity softball team. In fact, it was Nick Lisikatos.

In the May 26 issue, we reported that Boscobel will collaborate in 2024 with the Noguchi Museum of Queens. In fact, it is Manitoga that will do so.

To clarify the 2000 census figures for Beacon shared in “Is There Room for Lower Incomes?” in the May 26 issue: While 68 percent of residents identified as white and 20 percent as Black, the 17 percent of Hispanic residents included people who identified with other races, as well.

Jo Pitkin, Nelsonville
Beacon: Then, Now and How
(from Page 1)

parents with strollers.

“Kids get it immediately,” says Jessica Morgan, executive director of the Dia Art Foundation, about the museum’s sculptures. “They intuitively respond; you don’t have to read a book to understand it.”

Beacon residents have been admitted at no charge to Dia:Beacon for years. To mark its 20th, the museum extended the offer to residents of Newburgh, in part because many Dia:Beacon staff and many local artists now live there. Dia didn’t bring the arts to Beacon when it opened in 2003. The Polich Tallix fine art foundry was here, casting works by Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Richard Serra and others. Hudson Beach Glass had been blowing glass on Maple Street since the 1980s before buying the old firehouse on the western end of Main Street in 2001 and opening to the public a few months after Dia.

The boarded-up storefronts and empty factories left in the wake of the city’s industrial decline were like catnip to artists priced out of New York City and looking for affordable housing and ample studio space. “What some people see as terrifying, artists see as opportunity,” said John Gilvey of Hudson Beach Glass.

But Dia:Beacon did seem to accelerate the transformation the city has undergone. A wave of galleries followed, public art projects bloomed and scores of artists found community.

Twenty years later, Dia:Beacon and Hudson Beach Glass are still here. But few of the galleries and other cultural projects that opened in their wake remain. In their place is the fear that the same economic forces that drove so many artists and galleries out of New York City have followed them north, pushing them from their homes and studios once again.

“Artists can’t afford to live in Beacon now,” said Gilvey.

Taking a risk

The Dia Art Foundation came to Beacon for the same reasons that many artists did: It needed room.

Specializing in site-specific works, the Manhattan-based foundation didn’t have the space to display its rapidly growing collection. Morgan wasn’t part of Dia then, but she’s well-versed in the story: The director of Dia at the time, who was also a recreational pilot, loaded the president of the Dia board into a two-seater and flew up the Hudson River to check out a vacant industrial site in the Berkshires. But before they hung a right, they noticed an empty warehouse on the Beacon waterfront. (The Berkshire site became the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.)

Not every Beacon resident was thrilled about the prospect of a museum. Many hoped the site would continue to be used as a factory and provide jobs. Proposals were in the works for a fish-processing facility or a tire warehouse.

“The city, thankfully, got behind it and saw what the future could be, which was taking a risk,” says Morgan. “No one knew how it would turn out.”

Maybe one person did: Gilvey was a student at art school in the 1970s when the Dia Art Foundation set up shop in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. Many of his teachers were involved with Dia, and he saw how quickly New York’s art scene subsequently ditched SoHo for Chelsea.

Now, Dia was moving the bulk of its collection to Beacon. “It was obvious that something was going to happen,” he recalled. “It didn’t dawn on us how it would happen, but we all watched it and it was pretty amazing.”

Gilvey was part of a group of artists who created the Beacon Arts Community Association (now BeaconArts) in 2002 in anticipation of Dia and to serve as a de facto chamber of commerce. “There was no business organization at the time because there was no business,” he said.

In the winter of 2003, the organization held its first Second Saturday event. It was cold and raining, and the new Hudson Beach Glass building didn’t have heat. But Gilvey said they put out some glass, opened the doors and people filled the space.

Randi Casale, the former Beacon mayor, used to joke that you could have rolled a bowling ball down the length of the mile-long Main Street in the 1990s and not hit anything. That cold winter night in 2003, with the Dia opening just a few months away, it became clear that those days were over.

‘A pile of junk’

It was a rite of passage for New York City artists: Rent a car for the weekend, pack it with a bunch of your friends and drive in ever-widening circles from the city until you found a place you could afford. For many artists, that circle ended in southern Dutchess County.

“For the same cost as what we were spending on dog walkers, we could buy a house in Beacon,” says Ed Benavente, who arrived in 2006, as he sat around a table at Kitchen + Coffee recently with Kelly Ellenwood (2002) and Matthew Agoglia (2011). All three are board members of BeaconArts.

Benavente grew up in Los Angeles before moving to New York City; he knows a bit about how difficult and intimidating it can be to break into the art scene in a new city. With Beacon, he didn’t have that problem because it seemed like all the artists were in the same boat. “It was like the first day of college,” he recalled. “Hi, what’s your name? What’s your major?”

That easygoing spirit extended to the artists’ relationship with the city. “You’d see the mayor or anyone from the city government on the street and you’d say: ‘Hey, why don’t we do this?’” said Benavente. “And they’d say: ‘Great, why don’t you do that?’ There weren’t a lot of rules and there wasn’t a lot of oversight.’

What followed was an explosion of annual citywide public art projects. There were Windows on Main, in which artists created displays for businesses; Beacon Open Studios, in which the public was invited to see where artists worked; Beacon 3-D, in which outdoor sculptures sprung up all over town; and Keys to the City, in which artists decorated donated pianos to

(Continued on Page 7)
be installed up and down Main Street, lead- 
ing to countless impromptu concerts.

The last bicycle tree was in 2018, in part 
because Benavente had become too busy 
and too exhausted to build a tree every 
year, but also partly because another group 
of Beacon residents started holding a tree 
lighting with an actual tree. BeaconArts 
felt competing trees would feed into the 
damaging Old Beacon versus New Beacon 
narrative, pulling people apart instead of 
bringing them together.

Other events fell by the wayside, victims 
of burnout and development. The Electric 
Windows were turned into the city’s first 
million-dollar condos. The artist-made 
“Welcome to Beacon” sign near the train 
station was removed to make way for other 
condos. Rents started rising, and suddenly 
it was much more difficult to maintain 
a gallery on Main Street by selling a few 
paintings per month. Artists began moving 
west or north, and the pandemic put an 
end to openings and Second Saturday. 
To the casual viewer, it may have seemed as if 
Beacon’s art scene was retreating.

Passing the torch

“That’s the ironic, sad thing,” said 
Scott Lerman. “The arts are such a force 
for economic development and success, 
because it attracts people. But often, those 
same people in those places are pushed out 
when they can’t afford to stay in the main 
thrust of a community.”

Lerman and his partner, Susan Keiser, 
showed their art in Beacon galleries before 
they moved here. But once they had relocated, 
the galleries they had shown in were gone.

That led them to wonder how art can thrive 
in a post-gentrification environment. Part 
of the answer was the 24-by-30-foot joke 
that came with their house, half a block from Main 
Street. Sure, they could park cars in it. 
But artists think differently, and sometimes 
that means showing up at City Council meetings.

At one meeting, the council voted to change 
the zoning in the blocks adjacent to Main 
Street to a Transition Zone. “Part of that was 
to encourage people not to tear down older 
structures by giving them additional uses 
that would help them economically to survive, 
as opposed to ‘Let’s put up a big building here,’ ” 
said Lerman. “And I think one of the changes in use 
is that you can have a gallery in that zone and 
it does not require a permit.”

Garage Gallery opened in 2021. The 
couple then created Beacon Art Walk, a 
website with a map that visitors can use to 
find art. The gallery has shown work by 
different artists, including Darya Golubina, who 
now runs Beacon Open Studios. The torch is being 
passed in other ways as well: This November, 
the second annual Beacon Bonfire arts festival 
will take place, after the first brought a blast of 
potential energy. The affordable hous-
ing built next to City Hall in 2010 has 
allowed some artists to stay in Beacon; Ellenwood 
says that one former BeaconArts member who 
moved to Newburgh plans to return. 
Instead of Beacon’s art scene being in 
decay, maybe it’s just entering a new

In the past quarter-century, Beacon has 
transformed itself from a city of 
boarded-up windows and crime to a 
vanguard of culture and environmental 
sustainability. But many residents feel 
the resurgence has come at a steep 
price, criticizing the pace and scale of 
development and arguing that housing 
prices are robbing Beacon of its 
diversity and working-class character.

Who has benefited most from this 
transition? Who has been left behind? For this series, we’re talking 
to people who live and work in the 
city as we attempt to address these 
questions, as well as document 
changes in housing and demographics, 
the arts, politics and activism.

Earlier installments are online at 
highlandscurrent.org.

Sara Pasti in Kingston

Photo provided

After Beacon, A New Home

Former council member finds Kingston has 
similar challenges

By Jeff Simms

S ara Pasti was intimately involved in 

Beacon’s revitalization for most of the 
18 years she lived in the city. 
After moving to Beacon in 2002, Pasti was 
elected to the City Council in 2007 as 
a Democrat and served three, 2-year terms 
representing Ward 4. She also was co-chair of 
the Main Street Committee in 2019.

But after retiring in 2019 as director of 
the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at 
SUNY New Paltz, Pasti found herself 
ready to downsize.

A year later, she began looking for 
apartments in Beacon as well as Newburgh 
and Kingston. “It was hard to find a place 
because so many Airbnbs were springing 
up during the pandemic and taking over the 
rental units in each of those cities,” Pasti said. In addition, because she was now on a 
fixed income, she found that two-bedroom 
apartments in Beacon (she wanted a home 
office) were too expensive.

Fortunately, Pasti stumbled onto a small 
house in Kingston that she could afford to 
buy. “Beacon was too much for me, I think 
that Beacon had when I first moved there,” 
she said. “I was looking at the next phase of my life, and I was open to having it anywhere in the Hudson Valley.”

In Kingston, like Beacon, Pasti said 
she’s found a thriving arts community. 
She moved to the campus of the Hudson River Valley Community 
College’s Visual and Performing 
Arts Program, which is in the 
Downtown Cultural District, which trains students in the 
arts and other life skills and is in the process of 
creating a community print shop.

She found diverse neighborhoods 
and housing, she said, but also a fear among 
residents that the city could lose its pock- 
ets of diversity, “the same way they disappeared in Beacon.”

Kingston has launched a rezoning 
effort that includes affordable housing initiatives, 
plus related projects, such as community 
grant programs, tenant protections and 
parks improvements, among many 
other projects. The rezoning is expected to 
be completed this year, and Pasti is running 
for a seat on the Common Council to over- 
sieve its implementation.

“Beacon is certainly not the only place 
experiencing an affordability crisis,” she 
said, noting that Kingston also saw an 
influx of new residents who fled New York 
City during the pandemic.

Once the rezoning project is finished, 
Pasti hopes, if elected, to join a task 
force that will guide housing policy. She 
also hopes to see Kingston address 
public safety, one of the issues the Main 
Street committees wrestled with in Beacon.

There is “the unseen work, which is 
what I came to love in Beacon,” of connect-
ing residents with the services they need.

Pasti returns to Beacon often to visit. “As much as I loved Beacon, I realized it was the 
Hudson Valley region I had really fallen in love 
with,” she said. Once she arrived in Kingston, 
it was time to get invested in a new 
community, “and I was off on a new adventure.”

NEXT WEEK: Police and crime, political 
shifts and community activism
LITTLE MERMAIDS — The sidewalks were filled with princesses on May 26 for the premiere of Disney’s The Little Mermaid at The Beacon theater, which hosted a party with face-painting, bubbles and temporary tattoos. See more photos at highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

STUCK WITH IT — At West Point graduation on May 27, Braheam Murphy of Charlotte, North Carolina, was honored as “The Goat,” or the last in the class. As per tradition, his classmates each contributed a $1 bill that was stuffed into a bag as a gift (at left) and gave him an ovation. At right is Vice President Kamala Harris, the commencement speaker.

Photo by John Pellino/U.S. Army

REPPING BEACON — Geoffrey Craig finished second overall in a 5K race held May 21 in Rye for Soul Ryeders, a cancer support nonprofit whose executive director, Heidi Kitlas, is also from Beacon.

HAPPY TRAILS — Dylan Horan, a Garrison resident who is a senior at Haldane High School, recently became an Eagle Scout. He is shown with his service project, a trail guide and map at the Garrison School Forest.

Photos provided

 CheAP Art $how
CALL FOR ENTRIES!!!
Submission deadline: Friday, June 17
Opening Reception: Sat June 24, 5-8 pm
This group exhibition at Create Community welcomes any art media: from high brow paintings to sculpture, photography, poetry and even doodles you made in class.

Rules:
1.) Submission is open to all ages
2.) All art must be priced between 25 cents – $20
3.) Items do not need to be framed
4.) You can show 1-3 pieces of art

How to participate:
Drop off your artwork between 11 am – 7 pm any weekday or Sunday by June 17th at Create Community at 11 Peekskill Rd. Cold Spring. Put your name, phone number and email on the back of work.

Questions? info@mycreatetherapists.com

Artists can keep the money from the sale of their artwork or can donate to support art therapy sessions for people without insurance coverage.

We reserve the right to refuse artwork due to exhibit space size and appropriateness for display in an all ages community space.
Visual artists may have settled in Beacon in abundance, but writers populate the city, as well. A new two-day festival, Beacon LitFest, will celebrate the art form with a mix of what is billed as “provocative literary conversation, staged performances and guest appearances.”

Organized with the Howland Cultural Center, and steered by HCC board member Hannah Brooks, the festival will unfold on Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. “Our plan with this festival is to highlight Beacon’s growing literary community and expose audiences to fresh and thought-provoking work,” says Brooks.

Saturday is packed with events. The main program runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include interviews, readings, performances and question-and-answer sessions. The main event will be a conversation between Will Shortz, the crossword editor of The New York Times since 1993, and Danielle Trussoni, a Newburgh resident who is the author of the newly released thriller *The Puzzle Master*. Shortz contributed crosswords for the novel.

In addition, Laura Sims will introduce her suspense novel, *How Can I Help You?* in discussion with actor and producer Emily Mortimer, who is adapting one of Sims’ earlier novels, *Looker*, for HBO.

Nonfiction writers are on the schedule, as well, including Donna Minkowitz, a Beacon resident, memoir writer, former *Village Voice* columnist and organizer of a monthly open mic at HCC called LitLit. She will talk about how to make nonfiction into art.

Ginger Strand (*The Brothers Vonnegut: Science and Fiction in the House of Magic* and *Killer on the Road: Violence and the American Interstate*) and Jamie Price (*The Call: The Spiritual Realism of Sargent Shriver*) will share “sometimes subversive research methods” when writing about major social and political topics.

There will be poets reading from their latest works: Martine Bellen from *An Anatomy of Curiosity*; Patricia Spears Jones from *The Beloved Community*; and Indran Amirthanayagam from *Ten Thousand Steps Against the Tyrant*.

Two playwrights, Nigel Gearing and Charlotte Meehan, will tackle the form and function of language in dramatic works. Gearing’s work has been produced in the U.S. and Europe; Meehan is the artistic director of the Sleeping Weazel company in Boston and playwright-in-residence at Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

The day will conclude with a *Puzzle Master* book signing and a cocktail hour.

On Sunday, the focus shifts to writing workshops. There will be three sessions, each led by a Hudson Valley writer, with up to 12 participants in each.

Ruth Danon will lead Live Writing: A Poetry Project, which stems from the question: “Is the writing alive, or is it dead?” In his workshop, Ken Foster will ask: “Is it memoir, or is it fiction?” Shane Bly Killoran, a Beacon resident, will lead From Stage to Page: Adding Drama to Narrative.

LitFest will provide American Sign Language translation for the main program and reserve a percentage of tickets and workshop seats to community members of limited means. The main program also will be recorded and posted online.

The festival originated in Newburgh, where Brooks and Trussoni were neighbors. For the first, each invited a few writers to an event supporting the Newburgh nonprofit Safe Harbors. They added workshops for the second go-round, before the pandemic put everything on hold.

After Brooks moved to Beacon, the festival came with her. “Each year it morphs,” she says. “This year we’ve added playwriting and a nonfiction angle. We like to mix up the various ways literature is treated, and not just be a standard ‘people standing at front of room, reading pages’ kind of thing. There’ll be film clips and other multimedia; we want to make it multifaceted.”

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. Saturday tickets are $35 ($40 door) and Sunday workshop tickets are $25 per session ($30 door). See howlandculturalcenter.org/beacon-litfest.html.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 3
Food Crawl
BEACON
3 – 7 p.m. Various
bit.ly/fooddrinkbeacon
Sample food and drinks from more than 20 restaurants and shops on Main Street. Cost: $45

SUN 4
Reptile Expo
POUGHKEEPSIE
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MUN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonreptilecenter.org
There will be thousands of reptiles and amphibians on view. Cost: $10 ($5 ages 7-12, college students, veterans, free ages 6 and younger)

SUN 4
Butterfly Release and Memorial Service
BEACON
2 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-831-0179
The Libby Funeral Home organizes this annual event; call to honor a loved one.

SUN 4
Library Cocktail Party
GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
Support the Putnam History Museum with drinks, food and a pie-baking contest. Cost: $25 to $50

SAT 10
Citywide Yard Sale
BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Various
bit.ly/beacon-rec
Register to include your sale in the city’s printed and online lists by WED 7. The cost to sellers is $10.

SAT 10
Postcard, Book and Ephemera Show
BEACON
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Joachim’s School
51 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org
At least a dozen dealers will have tables at this annual sale organized by the Beacon Historical Society. Cost: $4

SAT 10
Modern Makers Market
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com
More than 50 artists and artisans will present their wares. There will also be food, raffles and live music from Christine Chanel and One

KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 8
Pride Buttons
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Teens can make their own buttons to show LGBTQ pride. Registration required.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 3
Recollections of a Time Gone By
BEACON
3:30 & 4:30 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Neil Caplan and Barbara and Wes Gottlock will sign their new history of Bannerman Island while visitors take self-guided tours. Cost: $75

SUN 4
Gelli Plate Printing
GARRISON
10:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
Learn how to use a gelli plate to press or print an image on paper. Cost: $75

SUN 4
Artists Who Make Change Work
GARRISON
2 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
Putnam History Museum will host a presentation on the work of S. L. Walker, a photographer who made daguerreotypes to record daily life in Poughkeepsie in the 19th century. Cost: $30

SAT 10
Down to Earth
NEWBURGH
1 – 5 p.m. Holland Tunnel Galley
2015 Route 9 | 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
With a focus on regional and local homes, farmers and makers, this annual event will offer a wide variety of products and services.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3
Global Inspirations
POUGHKEEPSIE
2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St.
Dancers from Ballet Arts Studio, based in Beacon, will celebrate the music of the world, including from Iceland, Benin, Pers, Japan, Norway and Niger. Cost: $15 ($12 seniors, children)

SAT 3
Henry V
GARRISON
3:45 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
The epic tale of King Henry at war to seize the French crown. Cost: $15 ($12 seniors, children)

FRI 9
The Birds
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
See Alfred Hitchcock’s 1963 thriller, in which flocks of birds suddenly attack people, on spooky Bannerman Island.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 3
Charles Ruppmann
COLD SPRING
2 – 5 p.m. Butterfield Library
46 Chambers St.
peekskillartgallery.com
In this group show, Kent Peterson, Gerda van Leeuwen and Peter Vanoosta will share prints and paintings that use color, texture and abstraction to evoke landscapes. Through July 30.

COMING UP

SAT 10
Flag Day Ceremony
BEACON
1 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667
Man Matt. Rain or shine.

SUN 13
Spring Social Community Event
GARRISON
1 – 4 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way | hih.org
The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will offer ice cream and nature activities for children and families. Free

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10
Lawn Party
GARRISON
4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Garrison’s Landing
putnamhistorymuseum.org
This annual fundraiser for the Putnam History Museum will include short talks, a history tour and music by the Todd Londagin Quintet. Cost: $65 to $210

SAT 10
Benefit Picnic
PHILIPSTOWN
5 – 7 p.m. Glywood
362 Glywood Road | 845-265-3338
glywood.org
Support the Glywood Center for Regional Food and Farming and enjoy local food and drinks, games and a pie-baking contest. Cost: $150 to $500

SAT 10
Even This Will Change
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | superscretprojects.com
Allegra Jordan’s oil paintings connect her journey of loss, grief and birth from her father’s death at the same time she became a mother. See Page 15. Through July 1.

SAT 10
Jebah Baum | Ella Baum | Group Show
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org
In Pulsitudes, Jebah Baum will display sculptures and works on paper. In Transliterations, Ella Baum pairs photographs that show form through social and geographic divides. The group show includes work by Pamela Zarzemba, Ilse Schreiber, Eileen Sackman, Mary McFerran, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Joel Brown, Robyn Elenbogen and Daniel Berlin. Through July 2.

SUN 13
Strawberry Festival
BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
At its annual festival, the Beacon Slop Club will offer shortcake, children’s activities, educational displays and entertainment on two stages with performances by Arm of the Sea Theater, Jonathan Kruk, Cosby Gibson, the Beacon High School Chorus and others. Rain or shine. Free
**FRI 9**

**Of Medicine and Miracles**

**GARRISON**

7:30 p.m. Depot Theatre

10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

This 2022 documentary, the latest in the ongoing Depot Docs series, follows Dr. Carl June’s efforts to cure cancer using the HIV virus and a child with leukemia who is the first to enroll in an experimental trial. Ross Kauffman, the director, will answer questions after the screening. Cost: $25

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**SAT 10**

**Get Outdoors & Get Together**

**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stony Kill Farm

79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

There will be a bird walk, seed planting, barn tours, crafts and games at this event organized with the state Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

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**MUSIC**

**SAT 3**

**The Costellos**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Elks Lodge

900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667

facebook.com/thecostellosmaverickpop

The two-time Grammy nominee, The Costellos, June 3

Cost: $37 to $52

1956 in Memphis.

Lewis and Johnny Cash as if it were 1956 in Memphis.

Cost: $30 ($35 door)

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**SAT 10**

**Play of the Waves**

**NEWBURGH**

7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary

845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, performing at Aquinas Hall, will evoke the movement of the ocean with works by Debussy, Edward Elgar, Andreas Makris and Benjamin Britten. Cost: $35 to $50 ($25 seniors, free for students)

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**SAT 10**

**The Costellos, June 3**

The guitarist, singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, Keeping the Blues Alive.

Cost: $17 ($12 students, seniors, veterans, ages 12 and younger)

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**SAT 10**

**Moving Through America**

**BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The folk artist with a four-decade music career will play music from his new release, Moving Through America. Cost: $35 ($40 door)

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**SAT 10**

**Volunteer Work Day**

**GARRISON**

8 a.m. – Noon. Constitution Marsh

127 Warren Landing

constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

There will be a bird walk, seed planting, barn tours, crafts and games at this event organized with the state Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

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**MUSIC**

**SAT 3**

**Out To Lunch**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

7 p.m. Elks Lodge

900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667

facebook.com/thecostellosmaverickpop

The folk artist with a four-decade music career will play music from his latest release, Keeping the Blues Alive.

Cost: $17 ($12 students, seniors, veterans, ages 12 and younger)

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**SAT 4**

**Anthony McGill and Gloria Chien**

**BEACON**

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

McGill (clarinet) and Chien (piano) will present a program that includes works by Telemann, Jessie Montgomery, Brahms, James Lee III and von Weber. Cost: $40 to $85

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**SAT 10**

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127 Warren Landing

constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

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**SAT 10**

**Sloan Wainwright**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Wainwright will play pop, folk, jazz and blues. The opening act is the group Us, with Judy Kase, Amy Souse and Glen Roethel. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

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**SAT 10**

**Invasives Removal Day**

**NELSONVILLE**

7 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Highlands Current

The Highlands Current

NATURE & OUTDOORS

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**SAT 9**

**The Highlands Current**

JUNE 2, 2023 11

**SAT 10**

**Gergely Pediatrics**

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
- Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavioral issues

Meet with us for a FREE first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524

tel: (845) 424-4444  fax: (845) 424-4664

geregelypediatrics.com

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**SAT 10**

**Table Band. Donations welcome.**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

7:30 p.m. Depot Theatre

10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

The two-time Grammy nominee, The Costellos, June 3

Cost: $37 to $52

1956 in Memphis.

Lewis and Johnny Cash as if it were 1956 in Memphis.

Cost: $30 ($35 door)

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There will be a bird walk, seed planting, barn tours, crafts and games at this event organized with the state Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.
Far from Curry Row

By Joe Dizney

As with many others, I suspect my first extended foray into Indian food was in New York City on Curry Row — East Sixth Street between Second and Third avenues in the East Village. This densely packed monoculture of colorful restaurants curried favor with adventurous and budget-minded diners looking for a lot of spice. Dishes like vindaloo, tandoori and tikka masala were a foreign language to most Westerners.

By now we’ve accepted many of the general forms of this rich tradition without appreciating the depth and sophistication of a rich culinary culture. Which is why I paid attention when a discerning friend accosted me in the parking lot at Foodtown (aka town square). He insisted I had to try a new Indian restaurant, Gymkhana, in the Westage Mall on Route 9 in Fishkill; I drafted my buffet-loving pal, John, to keep me honest.

The restaurant was freshly remodeled, but the real treat came in rolling back the lids of each of the dozen buffet servers.

This was not “typical” Indian food — we left sated and pleasantly surprised. A follow-up trip to sample the à la carte menu confirmed my impression: Jingha bagari was an incredible appetizer of grilled, lightly charred shrimp in a sweet(ish) and spicy red sauce chunky with finely chopped tomatoes, green peppers and herbs.

For entrees, Gymkhana’s take on gustaba (a Kashmiri specialty) is a marinated tandoor-grilled, cardamom-and-mace infused rack of New Zealand lamb served with seared mixed vegetables of the sauce or glaze. Amma’s Fish Curry is made Kerala-style: chunks of fish simmered in a coconut milk, turmeric, ginger and green mango curry. Navratan (“Nine Gems”) Korma is a mildly spiced almond and cashew-cramed curry of mixed vegetables and paneer that was a perfect foil for the spicy lamb and sublime fish curry.

The house manager, Viljo Varghese, and chefs Sanu Pathrose and Linto Devassifykutty were schoolmates in the southwestern Indian coastal province of Kerala, and each graduated from the Indian Culinary Institute. Gymkhana is their first collective effort. Their poriyal recipe, shared here, is a traditional stir-fried vegetable slaw of cabbage and carrots. It is seasonably flexible, suggesting you stay close to the brassica family (broccoli or cauliflower) or other root vegetables (beets and the like). Green beans or okra would be welcomed, and sliced onions are sometimes used. Gymkhana adds sliced mushrooms; a traditional finish is a couple of tablespoons of grated coconut.

Its real secret, as with most Indian cooking, is spicing and technique. Here mustard seeds, whole cumin seeds, a slight tablespoon each of chana dal (small split chickpeas) and white urad dal (white lentils) are sauteed, first to toast them, but primarily to infuse the oil, creating a tadka or chauk (seasoned oil), the name given to the technique.

Green vegetable herbs — curry leaves and green Indian chilies — are briefly sauteed in the tadka to further infuse it before stirring the vegetables. A pinch of asafoetida (hing), the grated dried gum of a specific variety of genus feraula, is added late. It’s a super-specific Indian spice and pungent in its raw state (with colloquial names such as the appealing “vegetable truffle” or the frightening “merde du diable”), and a pinch is all that is required. The strong odor dissipates during cooking, contributing a soft onion flavor. Think of it as a spice odyssey.

Small, Good Things

Cabbage & Carrot Poriyal

Restaurant Gymkhana; Serves 4 to 6 as a side

3 cups green cabbage (about ½ medium head), shredded
1 medium carrot, grated
½ teaspoon whole cumin seeds
2 teaspoons yellow mustard seeds
8 fresh curry leaves
2 green Indian chile peppers, slit (substitute 1 jalapeño or ½ serrano)
½ teaspoon ground turmeric
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon white urad dal*
1 teaspoon chana dal*
1 pinch asafoetida (hing)*
3 to 4 tablespoons coconut oil
Salt, to taste

1. Heat oil in a heavy-bottomed pan or wok. Add mustard seeds and cumin seeds. Once they start to sputter, add urad dal and chana dal and sauté, tossing until golden and fragrant.
2. Add curry leaves, chili and hing; sauté for a minute. Add carrot and mix well; check salt and pepper to taste, cooking until carrot is just done. Remove from heat and serve hot. Rice is the traditional accompaniment.

* Cumin and mustard seeds are readily available but the specific Indian spices and chile (and particularly fresh curry leaves) are harder to come by. Saraswati, at 1299 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, is a good local source.
The Highlands Current
JUNE 2, 2023

BREAKING BEACON

Eight times each year, the members of Kelly Hamburger and Carmen Pagan-Colon's newspaper club at Beacon High School publish Breaking Beacon, the first student-run publication at the school in more than 30 years. Here, we share excerpts from the April and May issues.


TEACHERS AND THEIR HOBBIES

BY NADEEN AHMED

MR. BURNS claims to be boring and does not have any hobbies, however, he does like playing games on his computer.

MR. BARONE has taken an interest in birds. He says that he likes to bring a pair of binoculars with him on hikes to watch the birds. He also likes to garden and make things out of wood; sometimes they have a function, while other times he just makes them for fun. He also loves using his knowledge in science to do things like baking and cooking. Mr. Barone says that he enjoys taking care of his chickens, two cats and dog.

MR. STELTZ enjoys doing anything with his kids, including coaching sports teams.

MS. WRIGHT likes to cook and try new recipes, garden mostly flowers and some vegetables, do yoga every day, and hike. She enjoys riding tricycles and has sworn off bicycles after an incident in New York City where her 20s were hit by a cab while riding her bike and landed on her teeth.

MR. LYON likes to take photos of the little landscape between the highways on 1-84. He takes a lot of exposure shots that take from 30 to 60 minutes to take. He and his wife also like to buy vintage furniture and objects.

MR. SANGONE plays guitar in a band. He is passionate about bicycle riding and has gone on two cross-country tours. He also likes riding his motorcycle and walking.

MS. MULLINS loves anything to do with the outdoors. This includes playing outside with her kids, going on walks on the rail trail, going to the beach, or hiking. She also enjoys reading and cleaning. She expresses how great cleaning makes her feel.

MS. DONOVAN rides her bike and landed on her teeth. When she was hit by a cab while riding her bike and landed on her teeth.

BY ANNABELLE NOTARTHOMAS AND SOPHIA CAMPAGIORNI

FACES OF PERSEVERANCE

Many of the students and staff members here at Beacon High School overcome great challenges on a daily basis. The following staff members agreed to share the inspiring stories of how they overcome these challenges every day.

BHS health teacher Diane Tanzi was diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, ADHD, in her adult years. Mrs. Tanzi overcomes ADHD by finding support from friends and family, identifying coping mechanisms that work for her, and keeping a daily routine. BHS Principal Corey Dwyer has worn hearing aids from a young age. His disability creates barriers whenever he may not be able to read people's lips to understand what they are saying. Mr. Dwyer overcomes this challenge by advocating for himself when his disability needs to be properly addressed.

Mr. Dwyer believes that his disability makes him a good fit for his job because he may better understand student struggles and frustrations from experience.

BHS social worker Veronica Acevedo was diagnosed with tall cell papillary thyroid cancer five years ago and continues to fight its effects. Papillary thyroid cancer is an aggressive, rare, but curable cancer. Ms. Acevedo explained how facing mortality comes with a deep sense of gratitude for things you may overlook in everyday life. She overcame the mental struggles of cancer by joining a mindfulness group as well as attending therapy regularly. She advocates focusing on the positives and practicing gratitude regularly.

Frank Haughie, a Beacon teacher of 22 years, has a condition known as Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS) that affects the central nervous system and can also affect the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. In Mr. Haughie's case, he goes through exacerbations of the disease and needs to be managed properly. Mr. Haughie explains that others in his family are affected by the disease as well.

SCHOOL INCLUSION FOR MUSLIM HOLIDAYS

BY NADEEN AHMED

Imagine it’s Christmas Day, and you wake up full of joy and excitement to continue the traditions that have been in your family for what seems like forever: To open presents full of joy and excitement to continue the tradition and the willingness of our prophet Ibrahim to see that Melinda has lost all of her friends after being raped by a boy named Andy Evans.

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BREAKING BEACON

Hobbies (from Page 13)

**Mr. Ow jer** claims to be just your average person who likes to spend his free time reading, watching sports and rooting for the Yankees.

Perseverance (from Page 13)

Treme periods of pain due to his multiple sclerosis (MS) flare-ups, which is then followed by recovery.

“Some days are harder than others,” Mr. Haughie says. His diagnosis came in 2010, when he went to the doctor with a slipped disk, and was informed after an MRI that it could be MS. Symptoms can include fatigue, poor eyesight, numb limbs, slow walking, and changing symptoms day by day depending on sleep and temperature. Multiple sclerosis is degenerative and will progress as he gets older.

Despite his challenges, Mr. Haughie plans to work as long as he can. He says that since his diagnosis, his views on others have changed as you never know what someone else is going through. He says he has maintained a positive attitude, worrying less about the small things and reminding himself that life is a gift.

Banned Books (from Page 13)

She struggles with speaking up about her immense pain throughout the novel. As a result of this pain, her perspective is jaded. It is only when she digs deep into herself that she finds the strength to speak and heal.

While Melinda was lucky enough to find her voice again and begin to heal from her trauma, many others may not recover from such pain if we continue to ignore it. However, not all people think this way. An associate professor of management at Missouri State named Wesley Scroggins claims that Speak is “soft pornography.” But rape is not a sexual act; it is an act of violence. The fact that Scroggins sees it as anything else is very disturbing and frightening.

Ms. Hamburger, a Beacon High School English teacher, has been teaching for 16 years and agrees that Speak should not be banned: “Speak has been beneficial in many ways. Not only is it important for students to understand what date rape is, it is important for students to understand what it means to provide consent. It is not solely providing someone with a ‘yes’ or a ‘no,’ but there is more to giving consent. For example, factors can include age and the state of mind of an individual.”

“Speak also shows the impact that not facing your problems can have. These are just a few topics we discuss and these discussions can change someone’s life. I have seen it in my own classroom.”

Ms. Dricoll, who has been teaching for 14 years, says Speak is a book she would personally ‘go to the mat’ for. Speak impacts all of my students, to one degree or another, because it opens up dialogue in an authentic manner. It facilitates exceptionally meaningful classroom conversations that might otherwise be difficult to broach. I feel strongly that Speak has an important place in our curriculum.”

Ms. Hansen has been teaching English for nine years. “I have had students in the past who have experienced trauma and have found their voice because of Melinda’s strength and ability to speak her truth,” she says.

Banned Books from Page 13

**Ms. Driscoll** enjoys reading and writing poetry. She also likes to hike, walk, exercise and pick up trash from the side of the road. She says that she’s “the personal caretaker” of her road.

They use these as reasons but in reality these are excuses. Muslim students in our schools have no other choice but to dread these days. Our school district has done nothing to recognize the importance of Muslim holidays. We understand that making a school calendar does happen after a lot of planning to meet the necessary parameters, but these days should be considered one of them.

When these days come we expect to be at home, not worrying about the schoolwork or test preparations we’ll be missing. It’s disappointing that while our district claims to be open-minded and all-inclusive, the people in charge are having so much trouble just trying to put two of the most important Muslim holidays on the calendar. We are hoping when developing the 2023-24 calendar, these holidays will be considered.

Hobbies (from Page 13)

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Young Mother Finds Solace in Art, and Beacon

Solo show at Super Secret Projects opens June 10
By Alison Rooney

Soon after Allegra Jordan experienced the devastation of losing her father to suicide, she gave birth to her son. In the midst of emotional chaos, the Beacon resident sought, as she often has done, “an exploration of consistency, a following of the thread of meaning” through her art.

The result, arrived at through “sitting with my low points and trying desperately to understand their origin,” she says, is a solo show, Even This Will Change, that opens June 10 at Super Secret Projects in Beacon. The six paintings were created on 40-inch square wood panels.

Jordan says her father’s death in 2017 engulfed her. She recently wrote: “For six years, I have felt like two different people: the one of before and the one of after. These are easy words to say, and written on this page, they look so small and insignificant. It’s not how they felt. They were huge, shockingly huge, moments. They felt like free fall. They felt like panic. They felt like nothing I know. I felt like a stranger to myself. “I’ve been scared to explore fully the connection between who I was then and who I am now; the consistencies between the young girl whose world has been lost and the young woman who is building a new one.”

Jordan says three of her six works represent “before” and three are “after.” “What they share is what remains when life falls apart and pieces itself back together,” she explains. “I had to close the door of someone I’d known. I had to try to make something tangible out of it, giving a feeling to that experience.”

Jordan, who has a son in kindergarten, was born in Tokyo and grew up in Hong Kong and Singapore, among other Asian cities, because her father worked in foreign trade. When Jordan was in high school, she was transferred to Wisconsin and then New York City. Jordan began painting at age 15 and found it therapeutic because of “the application of it, the feeling of release, of completing and creating without control around it,” she says. “The subject matter changed, but my style always revolved around that practice.”

She had thoughts of becoming a medical illustrator and enrolled at Fordham to study biology but was unhappy and left. After she participated in two group shows in New York City in 2017, her world was upended, and she focused on building her life, made both richer and more complicated by the birth of her son.

“It’s giving me a reason to do this again,” she says. “It’s hard to make it a priority when there’s not someone giving you a reason to. Here, I have a community I can turn to and feel a part of. That is monumental when it comes to creating.

“It also allows me to see how other mothers approach their art,” she adds. “That’s what I’ve gleaned from the experience. This helps me with understanding the art world, how it functions and how I can find my own space within it. Beacon gives ways to fit art into the busy world of mothering. Beacon says, ‘You can do that.’”

Super Secret Projects is located at 484 Main St. in Beacon, inside Hyperbole. Its exhbits are open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. See supersecretprojects.com and allegrajordanart.com.

“Portrait of a Man”

Beacon gives ways to fit art into the busy world of mothering. Beacon says, ‘You can do that.’
**Crossing was briefly longest suspension bridge**

By Michael Turton

In November 2024, the Bear Mountain Bridge will mark 100 years of operations, but the party began on April 20 of this year with the dedication of a time capsule in honor of the start of construction a century ago.

The iconic structure, now operated by the New York State Bridge Authority with its maintenance paid entirely by tolls, took only 20 months to complete, without a single fatality. At the time, it was a construction and engineering feat of global significance. Not only was it the first bridge to have a concrete deck and the first crossing over the Hudson River south of Albany, it was the world’s longest suspension bridge, with a main span of 1,632 feet and an overall length of 2,255 feet.

The main cables, supported by two 361-foot-high towers, vividly illustrate the enormity of the project. They typically barely earn a second look from drivers because, at a distance, their size is deceptive. A closer look reveals cables that total 2,600 feet in length, nearly half a mile. Each is 18 inches thick and made up of 7,452 wires.

Today, the Bear Mountain Bridge is often described as beautiful. That was not always the case. Before construction began, there was concern it would tarnish the natural beauty of the Highlands. A July 1923 *New York Times* editorial, headlined “An Infliction of Ugliness on the Hudson,” asserted that plans for the bridge were “wholly out of accord with the scenery around it and indicative only of a desire on the part of the builders to make it as cheaply as they can.”

*The Times* was apparently referring to an outdated plan, because the designers were already revising the appearance to include arches for aesthetic appeal. Among Hudson River bridges, its design offers the most unobstructed views.

Discussion of a bridge began in earnest in 1869 when the Hudson Highland Suspension Bridge Co., created a year earlier by an act of the state Legislature, proposed a suspension bridge from Fort Clinton to Anthony's Nose to help coal and iron reach New England. The initial design called for an upper-deck railway and a lower-deck roadway. Construction was expected to take six years but the complex terrain and financial difficulties caused delays. The company reorganized in 1896 but its charter lapsed in 1916 (Continued on Page 17)
In March 1922, the Bear Mountain Hudson River Bridge Co. was authorized by the state to build an automobile bridge with a 3-mile approach from the Albany Post Road north of Peekskill. Today that road is informally known as “the goat trail.”

The company board included E. Roland Harriman, son of railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman. The family was instrumental in the funding, said Kathryn Burke, director of Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley and the author of *Hudson River Bridges*. The increasing popularity of Bear Mountain State Park helped fuel the need for the bridge, she said. Before construction was complete, “the only way to visit the park from the east side of the Hudson was by boat.” Automobiles were becoming more affordable, and people wanted to drive.

The bridge was dedicated on Nov. 26, 1924, and opened for traffic the next day. A toll house on the goat trail served as a toll center. The bridge manager lived in the stone building at the west entrance; that building is now an office.

When the New York State Bridge Authority acquired the Bear Mountain Bridge in 1940, it lowered tolls from 80 cents to 50 cents each way. The car ferries, unable to compete, ceased operations in 1941. The bridge’s toll was further reduced to 35 cents in 1942 and to 25 cents in 1945.

The capitol was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and is now a visitor center. The bridge manager lived in the stone building at the west entrance; that building is now an office.

Construction of the Bear Mountain Bridge kicked off a golden age of bridge building. Its reign as the world’s longest suspension bridge lasted only two years, until the completion of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia in 1926. That was surpassed by the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit in 1929, the George Washington Bridge in 1931 and the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937. The longest suspension bridge today is the Çanakkale Bridge in Turkey, which opened in 2022 and stretches 15,118 feet over the Dardanelles. The time capsule dedicated in April is stored in a climate-controlled building near the bridge. It contains letters from Gov. Kathy Hochul and Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, bridge commissioners, Putnam and Orange county officials and letters from 90 fourth graders at Hillcrest Elementary School in Peekskill. There are also toll-collector badges, boots, a COVID face mask and a block used in the making of a sculpture of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Roebling Museum in Roebling, New Jersey, donated a leatherbound copy of a study done on the wire cables, Burke said, and the Harriman family gave a proclamation signed by President Gerald Ford thanking Roland Harriman for his years as head of the American Red Cross.

Today, tolls are collected only in the eastbound direction on all Hudson River vehicle bridges operated by the authority. Manual collection was eliminated in 2021 and payments are cashless, with tolls starting at $1.65.

Traffic on the bridge has increased dramatically over the years. In 1940, there were 143,417 crossings. In 2022, there were nearly 7.6 million.

The capsule will be opened in 2124 for the bridge’s 200th anniversary.

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board livestreaming on youtube. If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting June 2023.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board June 2023.

NOTICE

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 12th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

**PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD**

**Public Hearing – June 15th, 2023**

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Kozlowski & Ellis, 168 South Mountain Pass, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#90.-1-9

Project: Minor Project: Additions to a single-family dwelling (encompasses renovation and additions to a dwelling where the total cumulative footprint will be greater than 3,000 sq. ft., and where the footprint of the additions exceeds 1,000 sq. ft.). Project to be served by a replacement septic system and existing potable well.

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

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/apr

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 20th day of April, 2023. Neal Zuckerman, Chair

**PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**Public Hearing – June 12th, 2023**

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 12th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516.

**Dated May 8th, 2023**

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

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**PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD**

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The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

Terri Klein, 49 Old Manitou Rd, Garrison, NY 10524, TM# 82.-1-32

Project: Minor Project: Amended Site Plan application for a 385 square foot addition to existing café for storage.

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

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***Applicants are seeking a variance to install a 25’ x 12’ in ground fiberglass pool.***

**Dated May 8th, 2023**

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

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Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 20th day of April, 2023. Neal Zuckerman, Chair
Puzzles

ACROSS
1. Modern taxi alternative
5. 911 responders
9. ER workers
12. Zero, in tennis
13. Scurry
14. Actor Kilmer
15. Wharton Sch. offering
17. 506, in old Rome
18. Charon’s river
19. Speedy
21. Devil’s domain
24. Toppled
25. Writer Quindlen
26. Circus gymnasts
30. Call — day
31. Cathy of Misery
32. Pro vote
33. “No worries...”
35. GI dining hall
36. Cries of discovery
37. Third rock from the sun
38. Gantry of fiction
40. Stable diet
42. Napkin’s place
43. Coll. entrance considerations
48. Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)
49. Military group
50. A Doll’s House heroine
51. That lady
52. Tower city
53. Did the crawl

DOWN
1. Einstein’s birthplace
2. Short ‘do
3. Actress Longoria
4. It had a big part in the Bible
5. Jittery
6. Das Kapital author
7. Three, in Rome
8. Sound systems
9. Movie buff’s purchase
10. Sitarist Shankar
11. Lost traction
12. Zero, in tennis
13. Scurry
14. Actor Kilmer
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49. Military group
50. A Doll’s House heroine
51. That lady
52. Tower city
53. Did the crawl

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SudoCurrent

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

HOCUS

MONKS

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WordLadders

LOPS BBG BEEP
ESAULIU LALA
CHINICIARID
HANDINLEN
ARISTOCRAT
BUSES TENT HUTA
ARTSNODSMOG
ROAFEIWASPS
BUREAUCRAT
TILTEDITED
STUDRCA ERTE
TAPE OIL TUNA
USSRNAM YEAR

1. PIPERS, 2. CUTS, 3. YEMEN, 4. PICKS, 5. LINOLEUM, 6. DISHES, 7. UPBRAIDED

MICRO CrossWord

ACROSS
1. _____ Mints (popular Girl Scout cookie)
5. Ancient Greek dialect
7. Playful poke
8. Sign before Taurus
9. Great _____ Lake

DOWN
1. “The Best” singer Turner
2. Storefront info
3. Neighbor of Nepal
4. Finding Nemo pelican voiced by Geoffrey Rush

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

Answers for May 26 Puzzles

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Haldane Can’t Slow Briarcliff in Lacrosse Semifinal

Bears take over in second half of tight contest

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane boys’ lacrosse team, seeded No. 2 in the Section I, Class D tournament, managed to stay a step ahead of No. 6 Briarcliff through most of the first half on May 26 in Cold Spring.

But the Blue Devils could not hold off the visitors, who turned the tide in the second half and advanced with a 10-8 victory. The Bears (9-10) went on to lose to No. 1 Pleasantville (19-1) in the championship game on Wednesday (May 31).

Haldane found itself trailing 2-0 halfway through the first period but tied the game at 2-2 on a goal by Frankie DiGiglio with 2:28 left. The Blue Devils managed to maintain a lead through the rest of the half and held a 7-5 cushion at the break.

But goals became scarce in the second half, and late in the third period Briarcliff tied the game at 7-7, then took the lead and changed the momentum. Haldane failed to score on a man-up opportunity after a Briarcliff penalty. When the Blue Devils were flagged for their own infraction and went one man down, Briarcliff scored the tying and go-ahead goals. The Bears outscored Haldane 5-1 in the second half.

“We had played them a week earlier [in the regular season] and lost, 10-9,” noted Coach Ed Crowe. “We knew it would be a good battle, and it was. Briarcliff cashed in on its opportunities. They were patient.”

Evan Giachinta and DiGiglio each had a hat trick for Haldane, Rhys Robbins added two goals, and keeper Jordan Hankel had seven saves.

“Evan had a great game for us, and Rhys was also strong,” Crowe said. “Our guys were pretty down [after the loss]. But we won the league, finished 13-5 and beat some good teams, some bigger teams. Our goal was to get to the finals, but we played great lacrosse all year and saw a lot of improvement.”

Haldane loses nine seniors to graduation, including three starters, but “we return a good amount,” Crowe said. “And our goal remains the same — to get to the championship game and win a title.”

TRACK & FIELD

Beacon’s Henry Reinke and Damani DeLoatch each won two titles at the Section IX, Class B championships on May 27 at Goshen.

Reinke was first in the 200 in 22.99 seconds and 400 meters in 49.27, while DeLoatch won the long jump (20-11.25) and triple jump (45-01.5). Rubio Castagna-Torres was third in the 400 hurdles in 59.94; Jack Twining finished fourth in the 1,600 in 4:42.39; and Leibinson Perez-Novas was fifth in the discus at 114-0. As a team, the Beacon boys finished sixth.

For the girls, Isabella Migliore placed sixth in the triple jump with 29-03.5; and Ashley Sousa, who finished 14th in the 1,500 meters in 5:41.80. For the boys, it was Aleksander Noormae, who was 13th in the 400 in 57.14; and James Frommer, who was 14th in the 800 meters in 2:12.73.

Next up for Beacon is the Section IX state qualifier on Thursday (June 8) at Monroe-Woodbury and Friday at Middletown. If all goes according to plan, Beacon hopes to qualify three athletes for the state championships.

Haldane competed May 27 in the Section I, Class C finals at Valhalla High School. For the girls, the top finishers were Andreia Vasconcelos, who was sixth in the triple jump with 29-03.5; and Ashley Sousa, who finished 14th in the 1,500 meters in 5:41.80. For the boys, it was Aleksander Noormae, who was 13th in the 400 in 57.14; and James Frommer, who was 14th in the 800 meters in 2:12.73.