

The HIGHLANDS Current



Bear Mountain Bridge at 100
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JUNE 2, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Part 2 of a series

Beacon: Then, Now and How

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

By Brian PJ Cronin

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 work-

shop 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)



A sign near the former Nabisco plant announced the pending arrival of Dia:Beacon.
Beacon Historical Society



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

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-

(Continued on Page 3)

GE to Sample PCB Levels in Lower Hudson

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 heav-

ily 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 commer-

cial 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)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: ROSEMARY RODINO

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] Rohrborg, 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 atmo-



sphere, 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 underesti-

mated, 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.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

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

Tubing on the Hudson or dinner and drinks next to it.



Kaylaen Dior, Beacon

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



Tom Carrigan, Cold Spring

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



Chris Borris, Cold Spring

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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 political 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 prevent performance 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 busing any more asylum-seekers 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.X. O’Neil, its Republican executive, declared a state of emergency, citing an “imminent 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 government; he earlier issued a statement calling the Democratic administration of President Joe Biden “incompetent and ineffective.”

“The worst will be if these asylum-seek-

ing 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 themselves,” said O’Neil. He was joined at the news conference by Putnam County Executive 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 and because of faulty data.

Scenic Hudson and others argue that the targets given to GE are based on measurements 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 2010 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 transmission system from Canada to New York City will stir up more PCBs, although the company doing the work said it will be non-intrusive.

The EPA is expected to release an update of its review of the cleanup within the next two months. At a public meeting on May 24, Gary Klawinski, an EPA representative,



A crew dredges the Upper Hudson in 2016 to remove sediment polluted with PCBs.

Scenic Hudson

explained the sampling program. Although it was designed and will be carried out by GE, it will be monitored by the EPA and the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Sharing a photo of a boat, Klawinski said, “If you see a boat on the river that looks like that, that’s us [collecting sediment]. If you see a boat next to that boat [with people watching], that’s the EPA or the DEC.”

Klawinski said GE will sample at five sites in the Lower Hudson, including Newburgh.

In the meantime, the groups that criticized the GE cleanup for not being targeted or extensive enough are saying the same things about the testing. Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper say it won’t provide enough useful information about the distribution of PCBs and other contaminants.

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 Westchester, 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 should happen 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, including 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.”



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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 sure, 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*

Hope is the owner of Beetle and Fred.

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 birth-right 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 ("Fall-out 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. Grow up and do some thinking for yourself in your next term.

Sean Breault, *Beacon*

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.

Jaimee Arnoff, *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.

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 on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(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 Stir," 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.

Here at Dockside, some business owners prefer to operate their leaf blowers during the early weekend mornings, rousing those looking for a bit of sleep. That sort of abuse does not fall under the category of free speech but toxic neighbors doing only what suits them. Limiting the hours of use of the offending implement would be a fair and sane alternative to the weekly Leaf Blower OK Corral.

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 10-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,

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 Manitoa 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.

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*

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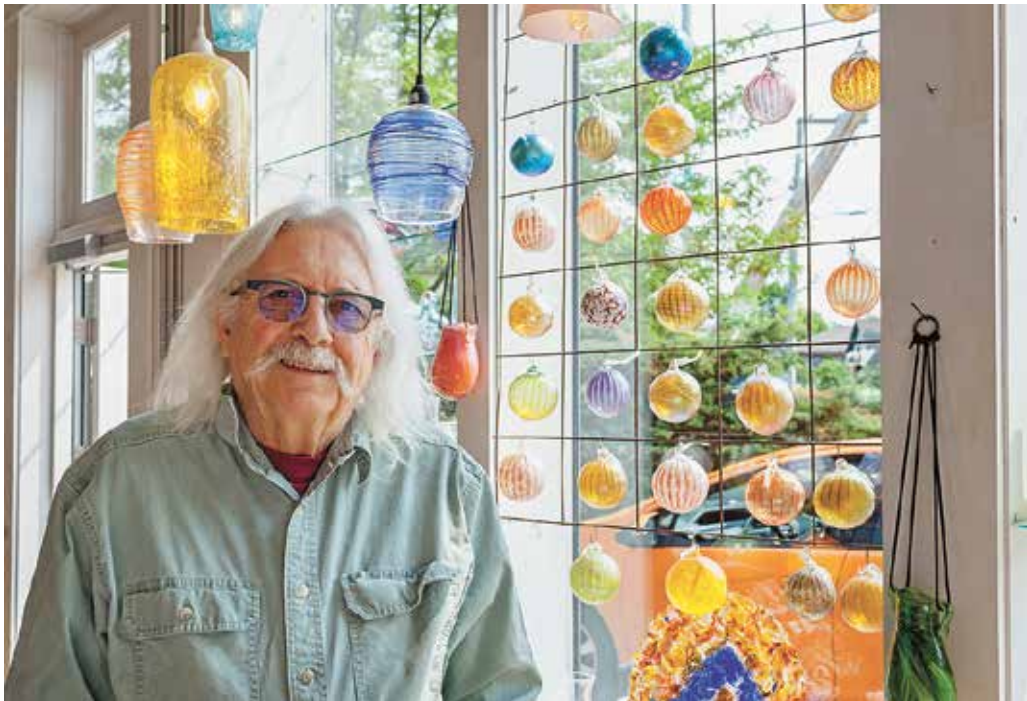
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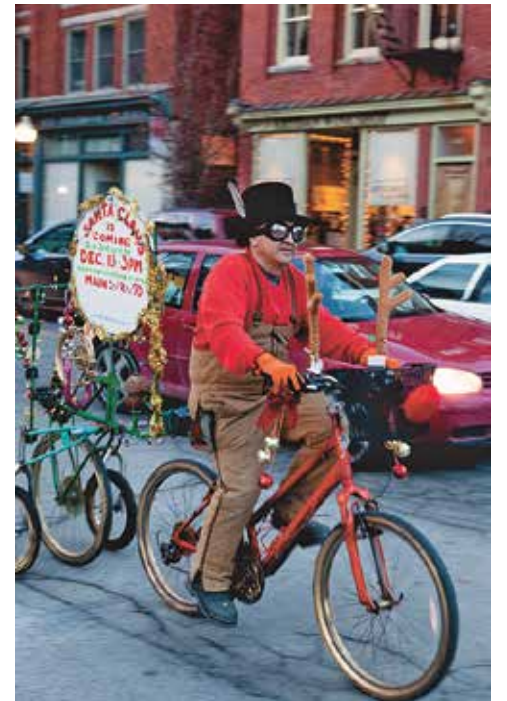
John Gilvey at Hudson Beach Glass

Photo by Valerie Shively



Jessica Morgan, executive director of Dia:Beacon

Photo by B. Cronin



Ed Benavente announces the arrival of Santa Claus in 2014.

Photo by Ethan Harrison

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.

Randy 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



Ed Benavente, Kelly Ellenwood and Matthew Agoglia

Photo by B. Cronin

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

be installed up and down Main Street, leading to countless impromptu concerts.

In 2008 and 2010, Main Street was shut down at the dummy light for Electric Windows, a block party in which artists created murals that were hung in the windows of the then-vacant electric blanket factory at 1 E. Main. It culminated in 2011's Electric Projected, in which animators armed with an enormous movie screen and thunderous breakbeats made it seem as if the colorful murals were coming to life, writhing and crawling over the abandoned and faded husk of the city's industrial past.

And then there was the bicycle tree.

BeaconArts had wanted to hold a Christmas tree lighting for years, but trees cost money, which none of the artists had. During a 2010 meeting, Benavente announced that he had figured out how to get a tree that would cost nothing but elbow grease: He would build one from discarded bicycle parts.

"Reduce, reuse, recycle," said Ellenwood. "Also, it was during a recession."

The group realized that a tree made of sustainable transportation parts could serve as a symbol of Beacon as an environmental vanguard. "It immediately set us apart from everywhere else," Ellenwood recalled.

The first tree lighting was a low-key event at the vacant lot on Cross Street and Main, but it soon became a city-sponsored event complete with Santa Claus arriving on a pedicab with Benavente playing the reindeer. A bicycle menorah soon joined the festivities. One year Benavente made a miniature version for Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, who passed it on to then-First Lady Michelle Obama during a visit to the White House, along with an invitation to see the full version.

The bicycle tree was not universally loved. Some people would disparagingly tell Benavente that the tree was a pile of junk.

"And I'd say, 'Well, yeah, it was a pile of junk. But it was the energy that people put

into it that made it art.'"

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 garage 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,'" says Lerman. "And 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 make sure they don't overlook galleries or cultural destinations. The map may only become more important in the years to come, as Lerman thinks that many galleries will be, like Garage Gallery, off the beaten path, or even behind the scenes.

Walk to the back of 484 Main St. and, behind a door, you'll find Super Secret Projects, which is run by an artists' collection that sublets the space from Hyperbole.

"It's not so much based on profits; that's not the point," says Allegra Jordan, a member of the collective who has a show opening this month (see Page 15). "This is a space for us to collaborate and be creative."

For Jordan, Super Secret Projects gives her a chance to contribute to an art scene that she might not have had access to. "I have the opportunity to share with my community and the community has the opportunity to come and see what kind of fresh ideas are being introduced by otherwise underrepresented people in their own spaces," she says.

The current show at Super Secret Projects features works by 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 post-pandemic energy. The affordable housing built next to City Hall in 2019 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 decline, maybe it's just entering a new

Why This Series

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 transformation? 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.

phase. "I have a passion for Beacon's art scene and I want to contribute to it, but it's not based on nostalgia," says Jordan, who moved to Beacon in 2019. "And I think as the scene grows again and brings in new people, they'll have that same experience. Because I've never seen anything like this."

Agolia, the president of BeaconArts, believes the city's art scene has a solid foundation. "I hear a lot of sob stories: 'Oh, it's all going downhill. I can't do XYZ,'" he said. "Are you kidding me? Look around. It's different people doing different things with different resources. You can get on board or you can stay home and mope."

Maybe, as Benavente suggests, it wasn't the art that changed Beacon.

"The arts don't cause change," he says. "They're a reflection of the change, of the culture and the people who are part of it. Art just represents what's already there, good, bad or otherwise. It's up to individuals to make something out of it."

After Beacon, A New Home

Former council member finds Kingston has similar challenges

By Jeff Simms

Sara 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 committee that drafted the comprehensive plan in 2007, updated it in 2017 and was named co-chair of the Main Street Access Committee in 2020.

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. "Kingston still has some of the grittiness 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 joined the board of the Midtown Arts 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-



Sara Pasti in Kingston

Photo provided

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 oversee 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 pedestrian and bike safety, one of the issues the Main Street committee wrestled with in Beacon.

Then there's "the unseen work, which is what I came to love in Beacon," of connecting 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

AROUND TOWN



◀ **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



◀ **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.



◀ **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.

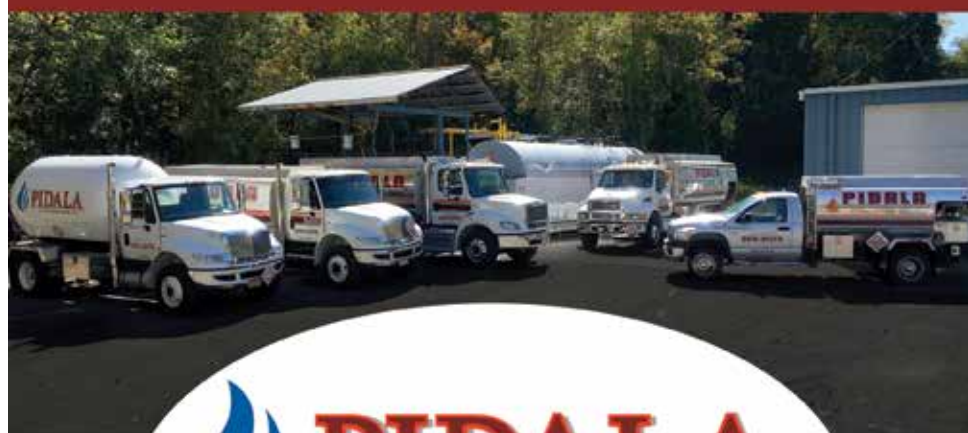
Photo by John Pellino/U.S. Army



◀ **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

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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@nycreativetherapists.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

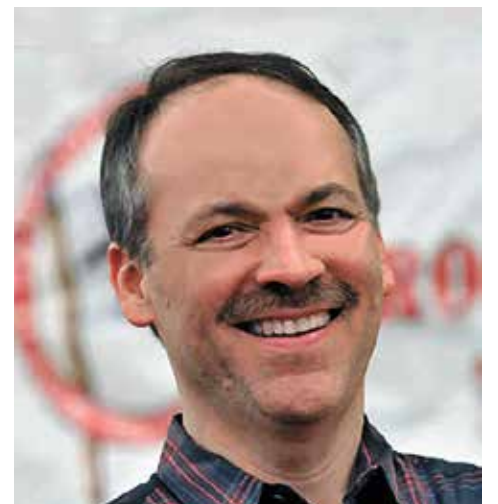
We reserve the right to refuse artwork due to exhibit space size and appropriateness for display in an all ages community space.



The Calendar

Beacon LitFest is Coming

Writers to fill Howland Center for workshops, talks



By Alison Rooney

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 func-

tion 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 writ-

Clockwise from top left: Danielle Trussoni, Donna Minkowitz, Emily Mortimer, Hannah Brooks, Shane Bly Killoran, Will Shortz, Patricia Spears Jones, Indran Amirthanayagam, Laura Sims and Ruth Danon

Photos provided

ers 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 howland-culturalcenter.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/eat-drink-beacon

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. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.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. Highlands Country Club
955 Route 9D | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Michael Schulman will discuss his book, *Oscar Wars: A History of Hollywood in Blood, Sweat and Tears*, at this annual fundraiser for the Desmond-Fish Public Library. *Cost: \$175+*

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. | hopsonthudson.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



Painting with Sunlight, June 8

Man Matt. Rain or shine. Also SUN 11 with Glen Echo and Kat Selman.

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 \$250*

SAT 10

Benefit Picnic

PHILIPSTOWN

5 – 7 p.m. Glynwood
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338
glynwood.org

Support the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming and enjoy local food and drinks, games and a pie-baking contest. *Cost: \$150 to \$500*

SAT 10

Mystery at the Library

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The fundraiser will include a murder mystery featuring actors portraying John Jacob Astor IV, Levi Morton and other local historical figures, as well as dinner and drinks. *Cost: \$75*

SUN 11

Strawberry Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org

At its annual festival, the Beacon Sloop 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*

SUN 11

Flag Day Ceremony

BEACON

1 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667

SUN 11

Spring Social Community Event

GARRISON

1 – 4 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way | hhl.org

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will offer ice cream and nature activities for children and families. *Free*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10

Creative Discussion

BEACON

4 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery
17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

Caroline Burton's paintings and Jim Nickelson's photographs are torn apart and rebuilt to make a new order. Through June 25.



SAT 10

Even This Will Change

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.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 *Palisades*, 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 works by Pamela Zarella, Ilse Schreiber, Eileen Sackman, Mary McFerran, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Joel Brown, Robyn Elenbogen and Daniel Berlin. Through July 2.

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
garrisonartcenter.org

Learn how to use a gelatin 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
garrisonartcenter.org

Naomi Vladeck, author of the forthcoming book, *Braving Creativity: Artists that Turn the Scary, Thrilling, Messy Path of Change into Courageous Transformation*, will lead an interactive presentation about the artistic journey. *Cost: \$30*

THURS 8

Painting With Sunlight

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Kirk Moldoff will give a presentation on the work of S.L. Walker, a photographer who made daguerrotypes to record daily life in Poughkeepsie in the 19th century. Join in person or via Zoom. *Cost: \$10 (free for members)*

SAT 10

What Happens in a Garden

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Anne Sargent Walker's paintings of flora and fauna that explore our complex relationships with nature and global warming will be on view in the Gardener's Bothy through July 31.

SAT 10

Secret Gardens Tour

BEACON

12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Various

The Tioronda Garden Club is hosting this self-guided tour of local gardens. Email fullergeri@yahoo

.com for tickets. The rain date is SUN 11. *Cost: \$20*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 3

Open Studios

PEEKSKILL

Noon – 5 p.m. Various
peekskillartsalliance.org

View works at 30 studios, galleries and exhibit spaces during this 24th annual event. See website for listings. Also SUN 4.

SAT 3

Charles Ruppmann

COLD SPRING

2 – 5 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The *New York Daily News* photographer, who lives in Peekskill, will exhibit rarely seen work from the 1970s.

SAT 10

Down to Earth

NEWBURGH

1 – 5 p.m. Holland Tunnel
46 Chambers St.
hollandtunnelgallery.com

In this group show, Kent Peterson, Gerda van Leeuwen and Peter Yamoaka will share prints and paintings that use color, texture and abstraction to evoke landscapes. Through July 30.



STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3

Global Inspirations

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Dancers from Ballet Arts Studio, based in Beacon, will celebrate the music of the world, including from Iceland, Benin, Peru, Japan, Norway and Niger. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 seniors, children)*

SAT 3

Henry V

GARRISON

7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

This is the final of four previews of the epic tale of King Henry at war to seize the French crown. Emily Ota plays the lead. Opening night is SUN 4. Through July 1. *Cost: \$10 to \$60*

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 start attacking people, on spooky Bannerman Island. Watch your head. *Cost: \$40*

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*

SAT 10
Peter Pan
POUGHKEEPSIE

2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | 845-473-2072
bardavon.org

Students from the New York Academy of Ballet and Poughkeepsie City Ballet will perform the classic story of Wendy and Peter set in Neverland. *Cost: \$17 (\$12 students, seniors, veterans, ages 12 and younger)*

MUSIC

SAT 3
The Costellos
BEACON

7 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667
facebook.com/thecostellosmaverickpop
The pop band will play with guests Chihoe Hahn and Scott Ramsey.

SAT 3
Out To Lunch
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Howie Bujese, Larry Cohen, Wayne Fugate, Susan Sassano, Michael Sassano and Joe Selly will perform bluegrass, jazz and Celtic music. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 3
Joe Louis Walker
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The guitarist, singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *Blues Comin' On*, with his band. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



SUN 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: \$10 to \$35*

SUN 4
Charming Disaster
BEACON

7 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com
The Goth-folk duo will play music from their new release, *Super Natural History*.

FRI 9
Guy Davis
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The two-time Grammy nominee, who plays traditional blues, will perform music from his latest release, *Keeping the Blues Alive*. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 9
Miracle in Memphis
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
A tribute band will play the music of Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash as if it were 1956 in Memphis. *Cost: \$37 to \$52*

FRI 9
Eric Andersen
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer, songwriter, guitarist and pianist, who has recorded 25 albums over his 45-year career, will perform his hits. Marc Douglas Berardo will open. *Cost: \$20 (\$35 door)*



SAT 10
Coming Home Concert and Artist's Reception
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Kate Hoekstra, whose paintings will be on view in *Bloom* through June 25, will talk about her work, followed by a performance by David Amram and his family joined by the Kitchen Table Band. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 10
Daniel Kelly Trio
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The jazz pianist will be joined

by Matt Pavolka (bass), Rob Garcia (drums) and Sofia Kelly (vocals).
Cost: \$25

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)*

SAT 10
Steve Forbert & The New Renditions
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)*

SUN 11
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 Kass, Amy Soucy and Glen Roethel. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 3
Volunteer Work Day
GARRISON
8 a.m. – Noon. Constitution Marsh
127 Warren Landing
constitutionmarsh.audubon.org
Plant trees and shrubs along Indian Brook to prevent erosion and improve water quality. Also SUN 4.

SAT 3
Invasives Removal Day
NELSONVILLE
10 a.m. Nelsonville Woods
Meet at the Pearl Street trailhead and bring gloves to pull knotweed and mugwort.

SAT 10
Get Outdoors & Get Together Day
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.

CIVIC

MON 5
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 5
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 6
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 6
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Auditorium | 15 Craigside Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

WED 7
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689
gufs.org
The public is invited to comment on a proposal to exempt volunteer firefighter and ambulance workers from some property taxes.



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Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

LIFEGUARDS/POOL MANAGER — River Pool at Beacon seeking lifeguards and pool manager for upcoming season. Good pay, easy work. Riverpool is a small floating pool in the Hudson River in Beacon. Email nrosa9@aol.com.

SERVICES

WRAP UP THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH A SMILE — Coaching adds zip to writing and study skills. Local expert writing and study-skills coach — NYU MA, editor, writer, educator — offers a simple but effective 3-Step System for School Success. From middle-school through grad school — it works! Remote or in-person, flexible schedule. Email coach10516@gmail.com or call 914-443-4723.

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Chefs Linto Devassykutty and Sanu Pathrose of Gymkhana

Small, Good Things

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-special-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.



NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, June 12th 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 Zoning Board Meeting June 2023.

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-creamed 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 Devassykutty 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 sautéed, first to toast them, but primarily to infuse the oil, creating a tadka or chaunk (seasoned oil), the name given to the technique.

Green vegetal herbs — curry leaves and green Indian chiles — are briefly sautéed in the tadka to further infuse it before stir-frying the vegetables. A pinch of asafoetida (aka hing), the grated dried gum of a specific variety of genus ferula, 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.



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
- 1 teaspoon whole cumin seeds
- ½ teaspoon 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 cabbage, a good sprinkle of salt and sauté for 5 to 10 minutes until cooked.

3. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons water and turmeric; stir to combine. 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.

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.

Reporters: Rachel Thorne (editor), Nadeen Ahmed, Sophia Campagiorni, Jacob DiNoble, Rubio Castagna-Torres, Jonathan Echevarria, Evan Lombardi, Skhy Morris, Annabelle Notarthomas, Mikaela Sanchez, Kayla Selander

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 during her 20s when she was 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 I-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. SANSONE 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.

(Continued on Page 14)



Dwyer



Tanzi



Acevedo

FACES OF PERSEVERANCE

BY ANNABELLE NOTARTHOMAS AND SOPHIA CAMPAGIORNI

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 ex-

(Continued on Page 14)

BANNED BOOK CHANGES LIVES

BY KAYLA SELANDER

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), on average there are 463,634 victims of rape and sexual assault each year in the U.S. alone. Sexual assault is the most unreported violent crime because people are afraid to speak up. This is rooted in a long history of victim-blaming and victim-shaming.

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson, is a compelling novel that conveys an empowering message about the incredible amount of courage it takes to find one's voice after being victimized. For this reason, it is important that *Speak* is read, taught and thoroughly digested by young people.

Speak teaches young adults the importance of strength in character and how traumatic events can affect everything, from how people act to how they think. *Speak* addresses sexual assault in an unflinching manner; the author does not use euphemisms to skirt the seriousness of rape or its effect on the victim.

For this reason, *Speak* is now a commonly banned book. At the novel's beginning, the main character, Melinda Sordino, has almost entirely run out of strength: physically, mentally and verbally. As the story progresses, we see that Melinda has lost all of her friends after calling the cops at a party where she was raped by a boy name Andy Evans.



(Continued on Page 14)

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 in your cozy pajamas, spend the day with the family you haven't seen in months or years, and to dine on the most delicious feast that you have been longing for since last Christmas.

Stop imagining. Muslims don't get the luxury — scratch that — we don't get the right to honor our holidays' true intentions. Days that should be spent celebrating are instead being

spent at school.

During the holidays of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, students are still expected to attend school. During Ramadan, Muslims don't eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset with a few exceptions to break their fast; this holiday lasts a month. Eid al-Fitr is a day Muslims spend celebrating the end of the hard month of Ramadan; celebrating our devotion and perseverance through the hardships. Finally, Eid al-Adha is a day commemorating the willingness of our prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as an act of obedience to God's command. None of these holidays are

being given their rightful days off to be truly celebrated and honored in our school district.

Muslims already have to deal with their religion not being respected. People think our beliefs are fatuous and too often get called oppressed when that simply isn't true. We realize we cannot change everyone's opinions, but not even being recognized, that is our breaking point. Students in the Beacon City School District have gone back and forth with the superintendent and the president of the school board, but have made no progress in getting them to consider having the rightful days off for these significant Muslim holidays.

Sarahlynn Jaafar, a student at Beacon High School, has been in an ongoing discourse with the Board of Education for over two years, and has gotten many dismissive replies. One of the emails was responded to with, "We can make sure that students that celebrate this holiday have an excused day off." Offering us an excused day off will cause more harm than it will benefit us. The day will be filled with stress about the work that we will have to make up as well as any final, regents, or AP exam review we might be missing, or even the test itself.

These holidays have been during that time of year for many years now. Another response read, "Our first read of our calendar was approved at the last meeting." The calendar had

(Continued on Page 14)

BREAKING BEACON

Hobbies (from Page 13)

MR. DWYER 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 chang-

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 18 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 under-

Muslim (from Page 13)

not had its final approval, so why can’t it be considered? This is not a valid excuse for not taking our holidays into account since they’ve had constant reminders about it. They also replied with, “Eid al-Fitr is on a Saturday and Eid al-Adha is after school is out for the summer so I am not sure these holidays impact our calendar directly this year.”

It was said that for the 2022-23 school year, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha do not fall on school days. Not only is that not true, but it would only be justifiable for that one year. While Eid al-Adha is on a day during summer break, Eid al-Fitr does lie on a Friday. In recent years Eid al-Adha hasn’t been during the school year, but in upcoming years it will be.

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.

ing 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.

stand 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.

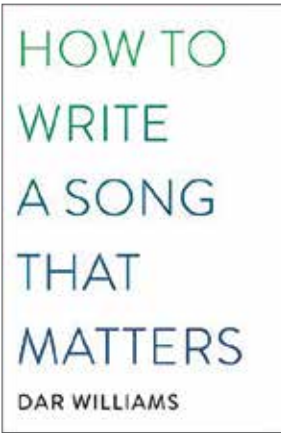
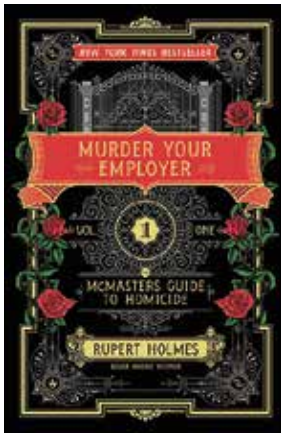
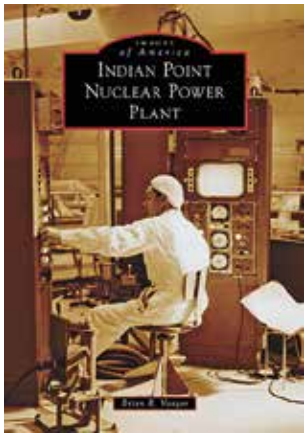
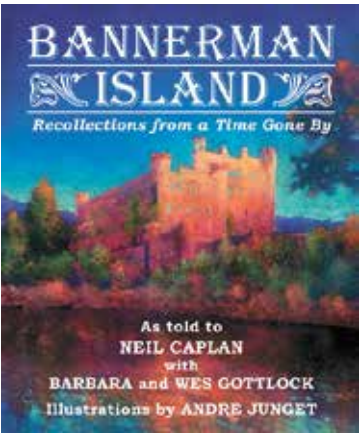
“*Speak* also shows the impact that not facing your problems can have. These are just a few topics we discuss and these discussions can change someone’s life. I have seen it in my own classroom.”

Ms. Driscoll, 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.

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.



Notable Books by Local Authors

Bannerman Island: Recollections from a Time Gone By

As told to Neal Caplan, with Barbara and Wes Gottlock

When Francis Bannerman VI purchased the Hudson River island in 1900, he built Scottish-styled castles to house his inventory of used military goods. In 1995 the Bannerman Castle Trust was formed to stabilize and preserve the structures. For this book, Caplan, a founding member of the trust, collected interesting, humorous and sometimes hard-to-believe recollections from Bannerman family members and people who worked on the island.



How to Write a Song That Matters

By Dar Williams

The singer and songwriter, who lives in Cold Spring, for years has led songwriting retreats. Here, she explains how songwriters can find inspiration for music from their own creative process, their psyches, their life experiences and their muses “to write the songs that they are meant to write” rather than producing a well-constructed “widget from a song factory.”



Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

By Brian Vangor

In this volume from the Images of America series, Vangor shares photos from inside “an incredible machine built and operated by extraordinary people, most from surrounding local communities.” The Indian Point site began



in 1923 as an amusement park but was transformed into a three-reactor nuclear power plant that operated for nearly 60 years.

Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide

By Rupert Holmes

In the Cold Spring resident’s latest mystery, he introduces a secret college for killers where every thesis is a plan to kill that student’s boss, and all are expected to execute their plans. (A sequel, *Murder Your Mate*, is scheduled for 2024.) Although best known for “Escape (The Piña Colada Song),” Holmes has won two Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America, written two whodunit Broadway musicals (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Curtains*) and had his debut novel, *Where the Truth Lies*, made into a film starring Colin Firth and Kevin Bacon.



Operation Storm King

By Elliott Summers

This alternative history details a raid by Nazi commandoes to kidnap President Franklin D. Roosevelt in early 1945 by taking a U-boat up the Hudson River to West Point. Their mission: Force the U.S. into an alliance with Germany against Russia. Seventy-five years later, a West Point cadet discovers the U-boat wreckage in the Hudson River and Washington mobilizes to stop her from revealing what happened. For this debut novel, Summers, a board member of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival who lives in Montrose, drew on his fascination from childhood with his father’s World War II service chasing U-boats.



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, he 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.”



Allegra Jordan with some of her work

Photo by Thomas Stringer



“Mother Big River”

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.



“Portrait of a Man”

“Beacon gives ways to fit art into the busy world of mothering. Beacon says, ‘You can do that.’”

As a single, 19-year-old parent, Jordan sought companionship and found it in Beacon, where she moved in 2019, despite not knowing anyone. She was aware of the city through visits with high school friends.

Not long after relocating, she organized a group show at Big Mouth Coffee. That brought her work to the attention of the newly founded Super Secret Projects, which runs a gallery at the back of the Hyperbole boutique. The connections have led Jordan to additional opportunities, such as Beacon Open Studios.

Her move to Beacon proved a catalyst. “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 exhibits are open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. See supersecretprojects.com and allegrajordanart.com.



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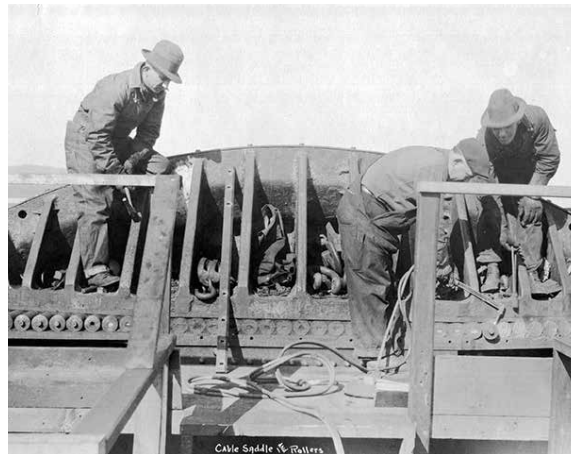
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The bridge under construction



Bridge workers in 1924



Final touches atop the west tower

NYSBA

Bear Mountain Bridge: The Specs

Type: Parallel wire cable suspension**Length:** 2,255 feet**Tower height:** 361 feet**Construction began:** March 1923**Opened:** Nov. 27, 1924**Designer:** Howard C. Baird**Builder:** Terry and Tench Construction**Cable designer:**

John A. Roebling and Sons

Height above river: 155 feet**Original cost (including goat trail):**
\$4.75 million (\$84 million)**Estimated replacement cost:**
\$166 million

Bear Mountain Bridge at 100

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 engi-

neering 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)

Has Scenic Hudson Lost Its Way?

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- * Tons of Concrete at Breakneck
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- * Impossible Traffic

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with only basic foundation work completed.

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 home for the assistant bridge manager; it 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.

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 Bear Mountain Bridge

Bridges and Tunnels

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.

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.

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



Nancy Mae Etta (1938-2023)

Nancy Mae Etta (nee Taylor), long-time resident of Cold Spring, passed away peacefully Friday, May 26, 2023. She was 84. Born October 27, 1938 to George Taylor Jr. and Mae (Leech) Taylor in Beacon, NY, Nancy graduated from Beacon High School in 1957. She married Joseph “Joe” Charles Etta on May 23, 1959, at Our Lady of Loretto Church.

The love story told many times over is that of a photograph: Joe was riding the Newburgh-Beacon ferry along with a friend of Nancy’s. She showed Joe a yearbook photo of Nancy — the same photo he always carried in his wallet for over 60 years. Nancy worked at the Texaco Research Center in Beacon, NY, and helped run her husband’s local business, Philipstown Construction.

Nancy was an avid gardener — demonstrated by the perfectly manicured gardens and lawn at the family’s long-time home on Orchard Street.

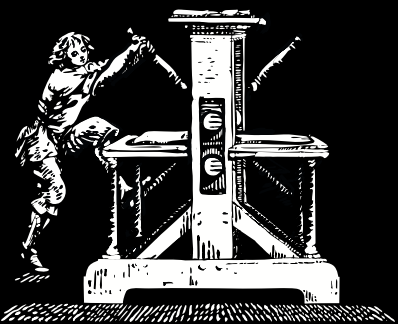
Nancy was pre-deceased by her beloved husband Joe. She is survived by her two sons: Thomas (Mary Lynn) and Timothy (Dawn). She is also survived by six grandchildren: Danielle (Steve) Sobocinski, Michael Etta (fiancé Tara Walsh), Lauren Etta, Nicole Etta, Morgan Etta and William Etta; and one great-grandchild, Alaina Sobocinski; sister-in-laws Jane Travis and Ann Lisikatos; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends may attend calling hours on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. A graveside service will be held 11 a.m. on June 8, 2023 at the Cold Spring Cemetery, Peekskill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 (154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516), or to the Cold Spring Fire Co.’s Junior Firefighter Academy (c/o Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1, write “Junior Firefighter Academy” in the memo space).

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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 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

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:

1135 Rt. 9D, Garrison, NY 10524, TM# 60.18-1-16

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:

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

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

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

NOTICE

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 & Effle, 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

NOTICE

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.

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

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

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

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

Dated May 8th, 2023

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

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
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		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- 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. Kathy 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
20. Cleric’s tunic
21. It grows on you
22. Initial chip
23. Crime lab specimen
24. Glenn of the Eagles
26. Very small batteries
27. Dol. fractions
28. Try out
29. Merit badge holder
31. Endures
34. Common title start
35. Brick workers
37. And so on (Abbr.)
38. Yale students
39. Cilium
40. Elevator name
41. *The Thin Man* dog
44. Blackbird
45. Tier
46. Epoch
47. Actor Waterston

- 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
16. Roswell visitors

SUDOCURRENT

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8	1							
								7

WORDLADDERS

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

HOCUS

MONKS

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

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
	9			

5. “_____ Si Bon” (Eartha Kitt hit)

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L	O	P	S		B	B	Q		B	E	E	P	
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9	6	4	1	8	7	2	5	3
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8	5	1	6	3	4	9	2	7
7	4	2	8	9	1	6	3	5
6	3	9	7	5	2	8	1	4

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

Answers for May 26 Puzzles

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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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



Frankie DiGiglio attempts a shot against Briarcliff on May 27.

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 800 meters in 2:27.36.

"Damani missed several weeks of competition recovering from a heel injury, so it was particularly exciting to see him back out there and setting new personal bests," said Coach Jim Henry.



Evan Giachinta scored a hat trick in the loss.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Rubio Castagna-Torres competes for Beacon in the 400-meter hurdles. Photo provided

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.