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Parade to begin celebration of Village of Fishkill's 125th anniversary

By Kristine Coulter

The Village of Fishkill will host its Parade of Lights which will begin a year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of the village on January 6. The parade lineup is at 5:15 p.m. The parade steps off at 6 p.m.

"We have over 30 people signed up to be in the parade; a good mix of different trucks, cars, machines and floats," said Dan Burke, a member of the Village of Fishkill 125th Anniversary Committee.

The committee includes 10 members. Along with Burke, members include Mayor Kathy Martin, Blodgett Memorial Library Director Julie Spann, Village Trustee Anthony Ruggiero, Town of Fishkill Clerk Becki Tompkins, Village Historian Toni Houston, and Fishkill Business Association members Johnny Kahn, Stephanie McHoul, Jessica Forlano and Mike Hayden.

The parade lineup starts at Church St. and Main St., said Burke. "The parade will go from Main St. to Jackson St. to Broad St. to Main St. and end back on Church Street."

"Getting people involved with the parade has been fairly simple. There have been many people very happy that the Village has decided to start a parade of lights. People seem to be excited and very willing to participate," Burke remarked.

Mayor Kathy Martin said, "I am incredibly honored to be Mayor of the Village of Fishkill during our 125th Anniversary. 2024 will give us the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Village that we love."

As far as other events to celebrate the 125th year of the Village of Fishkill, Burke said, "There's at least one event every month for the year. The Parade of Lights kicks off as the first event. There are a few events that will be held at our Village park (Sarah Taylor Park), one of which will include fireworks. Events can be found posted on the Village of Fishkill Facebook page," he said.

"Together, we will mark this important milestone by reflecting on our rich history as we embrace our exciting future. Our 125th anniversary gives the Village the perfect reason to celebrate our hometown spirit and our heritage," Martin remarked, "As Mayor, I invite everyone to join us as we commemorate our 125th anniversary."

Burke stated, "We invite people from all of our surrounding communities to come help celebrate the Village's anniversary over the next year. Please pay attention to the Village's Facebook [page] for the different event listings. We hope to see everyone at the parade of lights to kick off the anniversary."

Mayors, supervisors discuss plans for local municipalities in 2024

By Kristine Coulter

No one knows what 2024 has in store. Local municipal leaders, however, discuss how they see the year ahead and the plans they have for their communities.

Kyriacou looks toward Beacon's future

"Capital projects for 2024 total more than \$40 million — capped by the central fire station at Route 9D and Main St., and the reconstruction of Teller/Fishkill Avenue — as well as extensive investments in water, sewer, dam, and sewage treatment. These are all funded without significant property tax rate hikes," Kyriacou said recently via email. "Instead, funding is largely from my negotiating millions in additional sales tax revenue, new construction adding to our tax base, non-resident user fees, and the City's disciplined financial management."

Kyriacou noted: "I have also announced the creation of a mayor's committee to look at reimagining the area around Route 52 as it heads out of Beacon (currently largely car dealerships). Directly adjacent to Route 52 are rail tracks that will be transformed into a public rail-trail and needs to be taken into future plans. And I want the committee to look at how to connect Route 52 to



Lee Kyriacou



Kathy Martin

Matteawan Road and the high/middle schools, which will transform how many families get their kids to school, connect several affordable residential complexes to Route 52, and improve development opportunities for the closed Camp Beacon prison and potentially other areas.

"I want us all to think ahead now about

how these assets all link together, and how we might imagine over time a much more attractive, bike/pedestrian/transit friendly streetscape and neighborhood," he stated.

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Beacon Sloop Club to present program on competitive rowing in the HV on Jan. 18

The Beacon Sloop Club's 2024 Lecture Series presents, "Competitive Rowing in the Hudson Valley" with Bill Davies on Jan. 18th at 7 p.m. He will be discussing rowing as a competitive sport in the Hudson Valley from the 18th to the 21st century.

Have you seen the new film, "Boys in the Boat," or read the book?

Poughkeepsie was once home to "the greatest one-day sporting event in America," the culmination of a "carnival" regatta week on both sides of the river, with tens of thousands of spectators and a viewing train.

Collegiate teams from all over the country came to compete and vie for a chance to make it to the Olympics. Many schools constructed boat houses along the banks of the Hudson to house their equipment. Today the Mid-Hudson Rowing Association (MHRA) is bringing back the tradition.

Davies began his rowing career on the lightweight crew at Wesleyan University and used his 1st paycheck after college to buy a single rowing shell. He began rowing his single on the Hudson River in 1983 and continues to row competitively

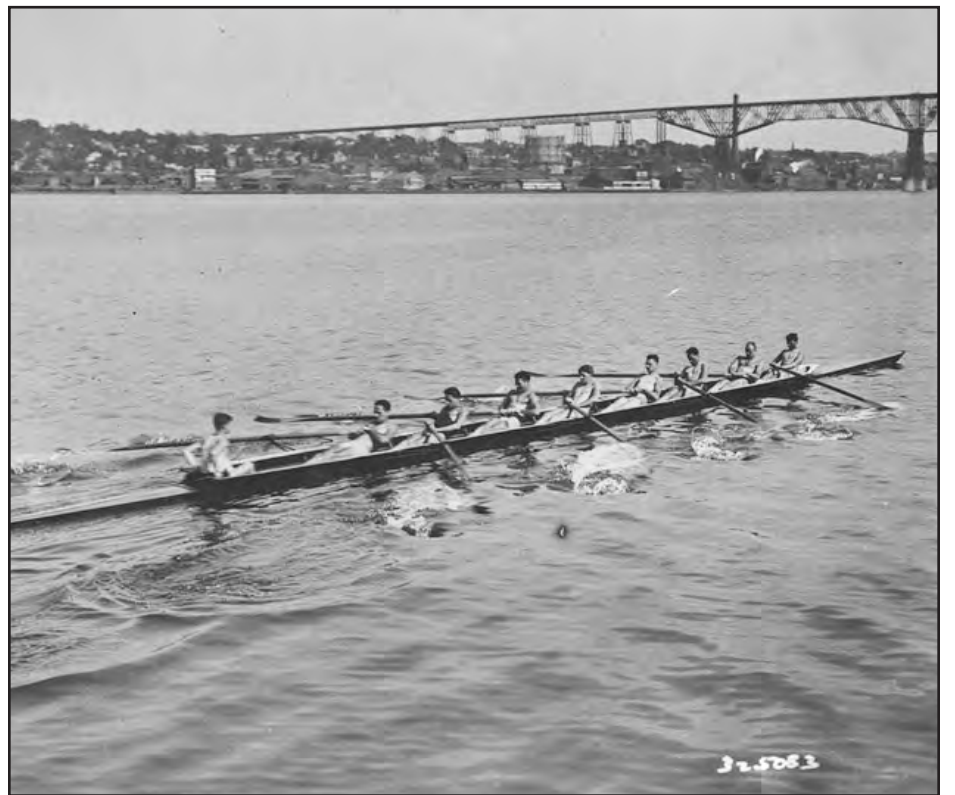


Bill Davies will present a lecture on "Competitive Rowing in the Hudson Valley" on Jan. 18 in Beacon.

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-Courtesy photo

Beacon Sloop Club to present program on competitive rowing in the HV on Jan. 18



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at the Masters level. He has coached at the Craftsbury Sculling center in Vermont and the novice boys and girls crews for Lourdes High School during their program start-up. He is a past president of Mid-Hudson Rowing Association (MHRA) and started their sculling clinic in 2003 which he runs every summer. He is currently an assistant coach for the Vassar Crew as well as head coach for the sweeps and sculls programs at MHRA.

The presentation is free. Beacon Sloop Club is at 2 Red Flynn Dr. in Beacon.

For more information, www.beaconsloopclub.org, 845-463-4660, or 914-879-1082.

Pictured are different teams rowing in the Hudson Valley area. The Beacon Sloop Club will discuss the rowing history in Dutchess County on Jan. 18. in Beacon.

-Courtesy photos

Animal Tails at the Towne Crier set for January 7 in Beacon

DCSPCA Animal Tails (Storytelling) & Performance by Joy Askew at the Towne Crier Café on January 7, from 5-8 p.m. The Towne Crier is at 379 Main St in Beacon. Entry is free but there is a 1 entrée minimum for this dinner event.

Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling The Towne Crier at 845-855-1300.

EFCL Afternoon Book Group set for January 10

The East Fishkill Community Library, 346 Route 376, on January 10 at 1 p.m. is when the EFCL Afternoon Book Group will meet to discuss this month's selection, "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult. Copies of the book are available within the library system.

All are welcome to come and join in the discussion of this work.



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Mayors, supervisors discuss local municipalities in 2024

Continued from cover

Martin eyes public safety, cost savings

Kathy Martin is the mayor of the Village of Fishkill.

Martin said top on the list for 2024 is to continue to improve public safety, and costs savings “are the main priorities” of the Village officials.

Also, a priority is improving “communications by implementing a new Village website in early 2024. We are currently working on our new website with the County, and are very excited to launch it,” said the mayor.

This year will be the 125th Anniversary of the Village of Fishkill.

“It is our anniversary, and we will be hosting celebratory events each month in the upcoming year. Our kickoff will be the Parade of Lights on January 6. Every month we will offer historical, cultural, and festive events that express the spirit of the Village. We will also be launching the Hometown Heroes Program for our Village veterans,” said Martin.

Looking back at 2023, Martin said the Village officials “have been successful in obtaining grants to improve public safety. Our police and fire departments have been awarded new apparatus to ensure that our residents will be protected with the state-of-the-art equipment they deserve. The Village has welcomed several new staff members, and is continuing to build an effective team to serve our residents. We [ended] 2023 fiscally sound and energized for 2024.”

Martin added: “I am tremendously humbled and grateful to have won a second term as Mayor this past June. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Village that is my home. I am so excited to welcome this new year, and I can’t wait to celebrate our anniversary.”

East Fishkill economy always a priority

East Fishkill Town Supervisor Nicholas D’Alessandro said the economy is always on top of the priority list. Other top priorities are filling vacancies from retirements, which he did not want to say at the time who is retiring. The Veterans

Memorial Park, planned for on Route 376 near the East Fishkill Town Hall, is also on the agenda.

As for accomplishments in 2023, there was the opening of the Carol Drive Bridge, said the supervisor. The bridge received federal, state and town funding.

“We’re completing a new water district at the old East and West IBM campuses,” which began last year, said D’Alessandro.

“The new logistics center opening in 2024 at the former West campus” will bring in 150 “good paying jobs,” said D’Alessandro.

“There’s a possibility of a new project coming to iPark (off of Route 52),” said the supervisor. “LIDL is looking to build a new district hub in the Northeast.”

D’Alessandro added: “We have a lot of new projects coming and a lot of work to do.”

Albra to seek more grants

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra said, “We can’t go into 2024 without recognizing what happened in 2023.” Albra thanked recently retired Superintendent of Highways Glenn Scofield for his more than 50 years on the job. Albra also thanked newly retired town justices Harold Epstein and Robert Rahemba.

“I also thank Carmine Istvan and Louise Daniele who served on the Town Board. Without them the town would not be in as great a place as it is right now,” said Albra. Istvan was elected to be the new highway superintendent for the town of Fishkill.

Town officials are “working on bringing Merritt Water connection to comply with health department. He inherited a \$5.6 million plan, said Albra, when he took office in 2020, and it is now estimated at \$1.2-\$1.4 million.

The Town officials will be seeking more grants, said the supervisor. The Town recently took in a grant for the Town of Fishkill police to have body cameras, which will be in use in the near future.

“The Town of Fishkill, for a decade, was run on behalf of the developers. The town has now shifted to the residents and the quality of life for the residents,” remarked Albra, who added parks and

recreation will continue to be worked on. There were funds in the budget for Little League lighting. At Jan Van Pelt Park, off Washington Ave., he said, an observation/fishing deck with handicap access is being built for \$100,000. At Maurer-Geering Park, off Geering Way, the tennis courts are going to be redone and at least two pickle ball courts will be added. Four pickleball courts will be added at Doug Phillips Park, off Route 52, and paving will be done, said Albra. There is also a new sensory park at Doug Phillips Park for children of all abilities that was dedicated in 2023.

Albra remarked he is working with Councilman Brian Wrye on a dedication ceremony for Washington’s Sword.

New Hometown Heroes banners, which recognize Fishkill veterans, will be added, he said.

Handrails will be added to the entrance of the Fishkill Recreation Center, he said.

Wappingers Falls mayor prioritizes water for 2024

While I have many priorities as Mayor, one of the most important is working with the water department, the water board commissioners and our engineer to improve our water quality. The Village is blessed to have lush aquifers, however maintaining quality drinking water has been challenging due to rising manganese levels. Our water department has been working extra hard at maintaining the quality of the water. The Village residents and businesses use approximately 500,000 gallons of water a day. Ensuring that the water quality is superb is an enormous responsibility,” said Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber.

“Additionally, a top priority for the board of trustees is to improve the Village’s parks and recreation departments. Currently the board, with the financial help from the county, is installing a new park! Bain Park will be located at the corner of Clapp Avenue and Lower Henry Street. The board’s intention is to offer the children the opportunity to have a safe place to play,” said Huber.

The Mayor continued: “Along with that, the Village is working on seeking members of the community to join the recreation committee. The committee is responsible for organizing and helping with Village events that are offered to the community., to name a few, the Halloween event, the Easter egg hunt and the holiday parade. For as long as I have been a member of the Village Board, I can say that offering residents events



Kevin Huber

is a great way to give back to the community.”

Huber remarked, “Since day one, I have worked with the highway superintendent and I’m proud of what changes and improvements have taken place. As well, I can attest that over the last nine months I have worked alongside all of the department heads so that I can be involved with all projects from the ground up.”

Regarding finances, Huber said, “I think it’s critical that the village residents and businesses know that I have made it my mission to restructure and organize our financial office. With much turnover in 2022 and the beginning of 2023 I feel that we are in a good place to recognize what needs to be done in order to maximize every tax dollar that is spent in the village. Since taking the mayor seat in April of 2023 I have continuously worked alongside the treasurer to identify and create plans that improve our internal controls while creating new fiscal policies so that our budgets can stay affordable.”

He thanked residents for their confidence in him.

“I’d like to thank the Village’s fire department, highway department, water department, treasury department, police department, and my administrative staff for their hard work and dedication. As the old saying goes, ... ‘it takes a village,’” said Huber.

New DA Parisi selects Brady as Chief Assistant District Attorney

New Dutchess County District Attorney, Anthony P. Parisi, has announced that he has chosen Michael W. Brady to fill the position of Chief Assistant District Attorney.

Parisi’s opponent in the race for District Attorney and current Chief Assistant, Matthew A. Weishaupt, retired at the end of 2023. Parisi is excited to welcome Brady back to the District Attorney’s office.

Parisi said “it is imperative to bring the right people into the DA’s office as we move towards a new era in the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office; one of improvement, collaboration, efficiency, justice, and fairness.”

Brady was born and raised in Dutchess County and currently resides in Poughkeepsie with his wife, Kelly Brady, Esq, a partner at Brooke, Brady & Schopfer, LLP and their daughter.

Michael Brady is currently serving as the Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Jessica Z. Segal, Dutchess County Court

Judge and has held that position since June of 2021. Mr. Brady previously served 8 years as a Dutchess County Public Defender and approximately 8 years as a Senior Assistant District Attorney from 2013 until 2021 when he left to become Judge Segal’s law clerk. Mr. Brady has also served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Poughkeepsie and a private criminal defense attorney.

Brady stated that he is “honored and enthusiastic to return to the DA’s office under Parisi’s leadership. I fully support and join in his focus on public safety, accountability, integrity, transparency, and the modernization of the DA’s Office. I look forward to assisting our [new] District Attorney in implementing intelligence led policing/prosecution in Dutchess County to combat crime effectively and efficiently, while simultaneously building trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve.”

Dance at the Elks Lodge set for Jan. 6

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on January 6 at 7 p.m. at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), in Beacon. Dance to a vibrant mix of musical styles; song requests welcome. There is a \$15 admission includes a

variety of complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available. All are welcome – singles, couples, friends, newcomers.

For more information, call 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net.

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Viewpoints

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- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
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- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Southern Dutchess News.

New board, new year, fresh approach

To the Editor:

Since being elected to the Town of Fishkill's Town Board in 2021 and reelected in 2023 to a four-year term, it has been an honor to know I have the trust of so many in the Town of Fishkill. Being a part of managing the town's affairs is billed as a part-time position but is in fact a full-time responsibility.

For 2024 let's discuss our local political atmosphere. The tensions in the world, our country, and the State of New York have had a cumulative effect. Overt vitriol has crept into the political fabric of our Town, and my prayer is that this is not the new normal.

The right to express oneself (and be passionate in doing so) must be protected and is foundational to the formation of this country. It is enshrined as law in the First Amendment. But such expression should not be at the expense of basic human mutual respect. Personal attacks having nothing to do with issues do nothing to advance one's argument. It only does damage to the fabric of our society and our Town.

For many, quality of life is about traffic congestion, police protection, a manageable tax structure. But a deeper quality of life can be achieved by showing the world that the Town of Fishkill leads the way in a return to civility.

For 2024 and beyond, I hope we can all make a true effort to moderate the political atmosphere to one of mutual respect and civil discourse. It IS possible and I am sure this resonates with many of you across the political spectrum.

That is what I want for Christmas, and my fervent wish for 2024. God bless and see you in the new year.

Brian C. Wrye
Town of Fishkill Councilman

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Bill setting all elections in even years is a disservice to local candidates

Editor's note: Former Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil sent this letter to Governor Kathy Hochul to express his opposition to legislation she recently signed that would set all elections – local, county, state and national – in even years.

Dear Governor,

I am writing in opposition to your signing of bill A. 4282-B/S.3505-B. This bill will damage the tradition of local elections and suppress interest in the races where the outcome has the most direct impact on the people of this great state.

It was so disheartening to see you push through this legislation late on the day before the Christmas holiday. Your roots are in local government; you have been that public servant walking door-to-door and talking to neighbors; you know although voters pay attention to national and state elections, what impacts them most are the issues in their local communities: when local roads will be paved, whether a new subdivision will be approved, or how much their town/county taxes are. These are decisions made at the local level. These issues deserve a full discussion in their own time and should not be eclipsed by state and national issues.

This legislation forces local candidates for office to have to compete for voters' attention through all of the noise that surrounds national and state elections. Media coverage will be dominated by the "headline" elections, and local candidates will be lost in the shuffle. This is a true disservice to the election process for both the candidates and the voters.

I am disappointed voters didn't have a chance to look closely at this bill before the Legislature voted on the measure and before your signature made it law. No hearings were scheduled and most people are totally unaware of the contents of this bill. This legislation ignores constitutionally home rule powers by preempting county charters and local laws. The timing of elections is a decision that should be left in the hands of local governments. However, once again, one-party rule in Albany has forced another state mandate.

You claim this is "promoting a more inclusive democracy," "expanding access to the ballot box," "making it easier for New Yorkers to vote in local elections," and "will save taxpayers money." Nothing could be farther from the truth. If you truly believed these talking points, why were you not open and transparent and encouraging public feedback?

As you know, this has been universally opposed by the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and will most likely end up in a prolonged and expensive legal battle, which neither the State nor local municipalities can afford. But we will vigorously oppose your actions because this strikes at the heart of democracy, and you are on the wrong side.

William F.X. O'Neil
[Former] Dutchess County Executive

Lessons on longevity from a centenarian

By Patrick Paul

There are an abundance of bestselling books currently on the market that reveal secrets of "longevity." And the fact that this topic is trending feels a bit serendipitous for all of us at Anderson Center for Autism, as 2024 will be marked by our own Centennial celebrations.

We've been looking back, looking ahead, and reflecting on what it takes to become the healthy centenarian that our organization is today.

For us, and for many individuals and organizations alike, it seems that longevity can be attributed to the following:

1. Have a clear purpose. As a nonprofit, decisions are always made in the context of our mission statement - optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism. Know your 'why', which makes it easier to stay inspired in good times and bad - and allows everyone to work more productively and passionately toward a specific objective.

2. Surround yourself with the right people. Whatever community you are building - whether it is personal or professional - be deliberate about your choices. Cultivate relationships with people who demonstrate integrity, trustworthiness, and authenticity - and those who are genuinely rooting for your success.

3. Prioritize health. Recognize that any organization, group, or family is stronger when everyone involved is thriving - mind, body, and spirit. Proactively seek out ways to expand or refine health and wellness plans - and to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility - which are critical to well-being for all.

4. Be fiscally responsible. Money matters. Develop a budget, be true to your financial realities and goals, save for unexpected expenses, and know that in doing so you'll experience the kind of financial security that will open doors and lead to greater peace of mind.

5. Learn from the past. Honor the stories and rich history that made you who you are today. Acknowledge mistakes, forgive yourself and others, and be mindful of the lessons learned. Also consider what made your triumphs possible, and how to bring the best of your past into the future.



Patrick Paul

6. Lead with heart. Human-to-human connections are at the heart of a long, healthy journey. Over the decades, we've seen people from all walks of life working together to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism. Use your time, talent, and heart to make positive contributions to humanity; it is a win for everyone.

7. Clarify your vision. What do you aspire to be? In what ways can you evolve? Pose these questions periodically, imagine the possibilities, develop a clear strategy, and engage others in every effort to make your vision a reality.

As we head into a new year, may we all consider the many ways we can work toward longevity.

And, for all newly minted centenarians like Anderson Center for Autism - congratulations and our warmest wishes to you for many healthy, meaningful years ahead.

Patrick Paul is the CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, located in Staatsburg, whose organizational mission is to "optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism."

Visit andersoncenterforautism.org to learn more.



DCHS emerges in new physical and digital spaces



Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum takes a look at the emerging Arthur & Nancy Kelly Library, a gift of the couple's more than half century of research and publishing through Kinship Publishing. With a genealogical, historical orientation, the 1,500 volumes are in addition to the existing 2,500 volumes in the Dr. Franklin R. Butt's Research library. Both now housed in Rhinebeck.



DCHS's new location at 6292 Route 9, Rhinebeck, offers the latest in digital technology including kiosks, like the one shown above. In this instance, the kiosk supports self-guided learning related to Dutchess County during the American Revolution as we approach the 250th anniversary of that event in 2027. Henry Livingston's Poughkeepsie home was hit by a British cannonball in the October of 1777 burning of Kingston. The beam shown was retrieved and given to DCHS when the house was torn down in the early 20th century.

-Courtesy photos

By Rob Doyle DCHS Board President

To the current and prospective members, donors, business sponsors and friends of the Dutchess County Historical Society, I want to share my very personal thoughts.

I got involved seven years ago as a DCHS board member, and nearly four years ago as its President, having some understanding of DCHS's great work. But frankly, I underestimated the value (and volume) of its work — and the challenges it faced. This greater understanding has prompted my wife, Sue, and I to make a significant financial commitment that I'll expand on later.

In a polarized nation with briefer attention spans, it becomes easy to ignore and discard the past. Advances in technology have blurred fact and fiction, have prioritized artificial intelligence over human intelligence, and, as with most things, have brought tremendous benefits and risks.

From its inception in 1914, the DCHS has put a priority on preserving not just objects from the past, but stories that reveal human

values, conflict and collaboration, the good and bad. We recognize the commitment to the pursuit of historical truth with our annual Helen Wilkinson Award. We believe a source-based, fact and truth-based approach can best inform how we behave in the present, and what we can anticipate in the future. This is among the reasons DCHS publishes the longest-serving historical journal in NY State: the DCHS Yearbook.

In early 2022, with the assistance of the New York State Council of Nonprofits and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the DCHS Board completed a strategic plan which called for three main areas to be addressed:

1. Find a new physical location - Find a location at a reasonable cost, that can transform public access for the full community, including youth, the disabled, and those not naturally interested in local history. Thanks to the enormous generosity and accommodation of the Bender family of Rhinebeck, in May of this year DCHS began what has been a six-month careful relocation

from Poughkeepsie to Rhinebeck.

2. Rapidly expand our publishing both digital and print - Our commitment to creative digital publishing is expanding with the 2023 edition of the DCHS Yearbook, being launched with a much richer digital experience including video, further reading suggestions, and references to other related information.

Our commitment to accessible cost-effective printed publications is seen through our successful pilots with Amazon.com as a source. Whether we are buying printed copies ourselves, or whether customers buy them directly, we will be expanding this offering. Our DCHS Yearbook Encore Edition on Black history (the publication of articles related to the topic since 1914 totaling 200 pages) remains available at the cost of printing to be available in schools, where it is increasingly used.

3. Get on a firmer financial footing - Our new online auction has become our single biggest fundraiser with a record \$25,000 raised this year. Frankly the public's general interest in gala dinners, which had been our single biggest fundraiser, has been declining. Our most recent online auction provided twice the income as our last gala dinner.

We have dramatically improved our program income. Through the generosity of Frank and Jennifer Castella, who hosted our Historic Preservation and Traditional Awards in June, we had a record income from such an event. This helped enormously offset the unexpected and significant relocation costs.

A new \$200,000 Endowment will yield financial support for Collections management. While DCHS enjoys annual endowment income of around \$11,000 each year from the Denise M. Lawlor Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, we have not been able to rely on regular support of what is arguably our core, but least visible "business:" the management, protection, and presentation of collections.

This prompted my wife Sue and I to give

a single gift of \$100,000 contingent on DCHS raising an equal match amount by across the two full years of 2023 and 2024. We are working closely with the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. Although somewhat distracted by our unanticipated move, we have raised \$34,000 in matching funds so we are at \$68,000 in total.

Special thanks for Collections Endowment gifts so far: Michael & Connie Boden in Memory of Marcia A. Boden, \$10,000. Newington-Cropsey Foundation, \$10,000. Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, \$5,000. Peter Van Kleeck, \$5,200. Eileen & Ben Hayden, \$2,000. Marcy Wagman, \$1,000. Joan Smith \$800.

In addition, DCHS has benefited from a \$30,000 grant from Dutchess County which has allowed us to invest in "back end" preservation and front-end digital engagement technology at our new location at 6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck: We can't say enough about our new 5,000 square feet of archives, libraries and offices. We look forward to being fully open in the New Year.

Among the innovations, visitors can search all 13,000 pages of the DCHS Yearbook published since 1914 for specific words through one of three digital kiosks which offer rich, digital experience. I invite you to strike while the iron is hot! The scale of our commitment now can have a disproportionately positive affect on the future! Please help make this moment a significant, positive and sustainable change in direction for DCHS.

Secure online payments can be made at www.dchsnny.org/secure-pay and checks can be mailed to DCHS, 6282 Rhinebeck, NY, 12572.

For those of you who have given generously over time and recently, we thank you. For any who might be able to help a little bit more, we are grateful!

Sue and I wish you and your family and friends a safe, healthy and warm holiday season!

Governor signs major utility reform bill sponsored by Jacobson and Hinchey

Governor Kathy Hochul has signed a sweeping utility reform bill (A.4055/S.4234) sponsored by Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) and State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41) aimed at curbing chronic late billing by Central Hudson and other utility companies.

The new law prohibits utilities from back-billing for services for which the bill is three months late and requires the disclosure of prior billing data. These reforms protect both residential and small business customers.

"For more than two years, customers of Central Hudson have been plagued with non-billing, late billing, inaccurate bills and excessive use of estimated billing.

This new law is an important step in alleviating this intolerable situation," said Jacobson. "Utilities have a simple responsibility to bill timely and in a transparent manner. This law will ensure that both will happen. Utilities now have an enormous financial incentive to issue timely bills."

Hinchey said, "Extreme back-billing creates unexpected financial burdens for families and small businesses, making budgeting nearly impossible since people can't predict the arrival or amount of their next bill. Our legislation finally cracks down on this predatory billing practice and, for the first time, provides better protections for residents and small businesses alike by preventing utility companies from charging customers if they

send a bill more than three months late."

She added, "One of the biggest problems we've heard from constituents is the lack of information about previous bills, preventing people from comparing usage year over year or month over month. For the first time, we're also requiring utility companies to include past charge history with each bill, increasing transparency for customers to help confirm accurate billing. In the Hudson Valley, the need for this bill has been clear, and we're proud it's now law, providing a real accountability mechanism to put more money back into the pockets of New Yorkers when utilities fall short of their core responsibilities."

Specifically, the law includes three

major reforms. First, it prohibits a utility from back-billing if a bill is issued more than three months late. This gives utilities a financial incentive to get their bills out on time.

Second, the law requires utilities to include the previous 13 months of usage charges at the customer's address with each bill they issue. This will include the usage of different customers at that address during the period. This provision allows customers to compare their bill with a similar period to determine if they are being overcharged.

Third, for the first time the law ensures that small businesses are treated the same as residential customers with respect to late billing and disclosure of prior usage.

Obituaries

Michael Anthony Serino



BEACON - Michael Anthony Serino, a lifelong Beacon resident, passed away at his home on December 22, 2023; at the age of 89. Michael was born on February 16, 1934 at the Highland Hospital in Beacon, NY; son to the late Carmine Anthony (Tony) Serino and late Anna (Fasano) Serino. Mike graduated from Beacon High School in 1952, and went on to begin his work career at IBM in Poughkeepsie from 1952-1954. In 1954 Mike enlisted in the United States Marine Corp as Military Police and remained there until 1956.

After he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corp., Mike went to college at the University of Bridgeport from 1956-1961, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Marketing) in 1959 and

went on to earn his Master's degree in Education (guidance counselor) in 1961, receiving the National Office Management award. Mike returned to IBM in 1961 working as a systems analysis where he remained until he retired in 1990 as an Advisory Resource Planner in Fishkill NY. In 1961, Mike married his wife Joan Marie Baltich Serino.

Mike is survived by his children Jeanmarie Serino, Carmine Anthony Serino (Patricia) and Michele Serino-Rios, grandchildren Michael & Jenna Serino, Alexandra & Emma Rios.

Mike is survived by his sisters Mary Williams & Emily Forbes, sister in laws Claire Serino and Carolin Serino, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mike was predeceased by his parents Carmine Anthony Serino & Anna Serino, brothers Geriaco Serino & Carmine Serino, sisters Lucia Eustace & Rose Camp, former wife Joan Marie Baltich Serino, brother in laws Charles (Chuck) Williams & Bruce Camp.

Mike will always be remembered for his love of gardening, fishing, hunting, making wine, cooking for the guys at Gerry's Autobody, hanging out down at the Dutchess Boat Club or up at the East Fishkill Sportsman Association with his friends.

His Family received Friends on Friday, December 29th at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, New York. Graveside Service with Military Honors was held on Saturday, December 30th at St. Joachim Cemetery, 325 Washington Avenue, Beacon. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: LibbyFuneralHome.com.

Brian Henry Desilets



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Brian Henry Desilets, 96, of Wappingers Falls, NY, died Thursday, December 22, 2023 at his home surrounded by family. He was the second child of four children born to Joseph Henry Desilets and Louise Marie Goguen on October 7, 1927.

A man of many faces during his lifetime, Brian began his adult life as a Marist brother. He started his professional career as a high school physics, mathematics, and French teacher at Dubois High School in Washington Heights NYC. Moving to Washington D.C in 1960, he earned his doctorate in physics at the Catholic University of America. He then transferred to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY as a professor of physics and mathematics. After leaving

the Marist order in 1968, Brian met and married Kathleen ("Kay") Alice Rooney on August 15, 1970 when he began his most important role in life as a husband and a father. Transitioning his career in 1974 from Marist College to IBM, Brian worked as a research engineer contributing numerous US patents for technological advances. In 1991, Brian retired from IBM only to return to adjunct teaching at Marist for several more years.

Anyone who knew him would agree with the characterization of generous, genuine of heart, and faith-filled. A jack of all trades and an avid storyteller, Brian will be remembered with kindness by all whose lives he touched.

Brian is survived by his wife, Kay, and his three children Frances, Kathleen, and Felix; as well as seven grandchildren, Caitlin, Brigid, Aidan, Jack, Liam, Owen, and Finn.

The wake was held at McHoul Funeral Home, In., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY on Thursday, Dec. 28. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, Dec. 29, at St. Columba Church, 835 NY-82, Hopewell Junction, NY with a burial at St. Denis Cemetery following the service.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Brian Desilets to Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (Memo: House of Prayer), CFR Office, 421 E 155th Street, Bronx, NY 10455. (www.franciscanfriars.com - please include under special instructions House of Prayer).

Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank to hold meeting on January 10

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, in person at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, in the library. Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend.

To submit comments, for more information, including any requests for reasonable accommodation, including Sign Language Interpreters (requires 5 days' notice), please call 845-293-3547 or email info@dcpoklandbank.org.

Dominick Anthony Cama



In Loving Memory of Dominick Anthony Cama October 19, 1953 - December 21, 2023, Dominick Anthony Cama, a cherished husband, brother, uncle, and esteemed Supervisory Deputy U.S. States Marshal, passed away on December 21, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of love, bravery, and passion.

Born in Brooklyn, New York on October 19, 1953, Dominick was the son of Pasquale and Teresa Cama. Dominick's dedication to his role as a United States Marshal was unparalleled. He served the nation with honor and distinction, retiring in 2013, having served on the prestigious U.S. Marshals Service-Eastern District of New York Special Response Team. Dominick's unwavering commitment to upholding justice and protecting the community will forever be admired and remembered.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dominick had a zest for life that extended into his personal pursuits. He had an undeniable passion for music, particular-

ly singing, which brought him immense joy and fulfillment. His collection of guitars, attesting to his love for the craft, was a tangible expression of his artistic soul.

Dominick's adoration for animals, especially dogs, was evident to all who knew him. His Akita, Melo, Rock, the Chow and the Siberian Husky, Ice, were not just pets, but true companions who brought infinite companionship, loyalty, and affection to his life. Their bond symbolizes the depth of Dominick's love and compassion.

Dominick is survived by his devoted wife of 18 years, Sonia Reynoso-Cama, with whom he shared a profound connection marked by love, laughter, and unwavering support. His loss leaves a void in Sonia's heart that can never be filled, but his memory and the strength of their love will forever endure.

He is also mourned by his dear sister, Marie Reveron of Brooklyn, and his brother, Paul Cama, residing in Colorado. Dominick held a special place in the hearts of his numerous nieces and nephews, who will forever cherish the beautiful memories shared with their beloved uncle.

To honor and pay tribute to Dominick's remarkable life, a service will be held at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery on January 5, 2024, at 12 noon. This gathering will provide an opportunity for family, friends, and colleagues to come together, celebrate Dominick's achievements, and find solace in the memories shared with him.

Dominick Anthony Cama will be remembered as a man of integrity, kindness, and unwavering dedication to his work, his passions, and his loved ones. May his soul find eternal peace, and may his memory forever inspire and uplift us all.

East Fishkill honors Sgt. Daniel DiDato



The procession after East Fishkill Police Sergeant Daniel P. DiDato's funeral was held on December 23 in East Fishkill.

After the funeral in Hopewell, the procession drove by DiDato's childhood home on Lake Walton Road, then proceeded onto Route 376 to go to the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

DiDato died in a one-car accident on the Taconic State Parkway on December 18. Sgt. DiDato, who was an officer before posthumously given the title sergeant, was on his way to a hospital in Westchester County to talk to a victim who was in a separate incident that day.

The Pawling Fire Department raised an American flag from an apparatus on Route 376 and Lake Walton Road.

-Courtesy photo by Roberta Anthony

- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
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A day specifically for 'Winter Wellness' at Mount Saint Mary



The Desmond Center for Community Engagement and Wellness, a Mount Saint Mary College initiative, recently hosted its Winter Wellness Day for the Newburgh community and beyond. Taking place in the college's Aquinas Hall atrium, the event is one of the biggest of the year for the Desmond Center. Like previous events, Winter Wellness Day included interactive activities and giveaways, movement classes, workshops, children's crafts, and a warm meal. New to this year's Winter Wellness Day, made possible by the support of Affinity-Molina Healthcare, were a photo opportunity with Santa Claus, festive and funky tunes by a live DJ, and a dental health station. In addition, the Mount's Residence Life team prepared and distributed winter wellness kits, which included scarves, gloves, and blankets. The Desmond Center provides wellness and educational services for underserved individuals and families. The center offers accessible and equitable educational, health, and wellness services for community members and families in the local area. All services are free of cost and open to the community. The Mount recently received a grant for \$325,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, to be used for the growth of the Desmond Center for Community Engagement and Wellness. This is the fourth grant that the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation has provided for the Desmond Center.

Photos by Matt Frey

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get growing!

by mark adams

Dutchess Farmers in 2024

A look at what the New Year could bring for local agriculture



The 600 farms in Dutchess County provided us with approximately \$40 million worth of food, flowers and hay last year, despite the uncooperative weather. What's in store for the new year?

Our new Dutchess County executive, Sue Serino, is optimistic:

"As I begin as County Executive in 2024, I look forward to continuing the conversations I have had for many years with farmers across Dutchess County. Agriculture has deep roots in Dutchess County and has always been one of our most important and thriving industries. The state of agriculture is always evolving, and farmers face unique challenges, so I am eager to work with our local farmers to make sure agriculture keeps on growing here in Dutchess."

"Some of the items on the agenda for the new year include getting the eight year Review for Agricultural Districts adopted by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets as well as making sure that agriculture is

appropriately addressed in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan Revision.

"I am also looking forward to listening to and learning from our farmers about urban agriculture, the impact of large scale solar facilities on farmland, particularly prime farmland, as well as other areas of concern and opportunity."

When I reminded Sue that I will be a member of her ag advisory council, she said, "I can't wait to work with you again," a reference to her many years as state senator.

Our new state senator Michelle Hinchey (new to Dutchess County, that is) is chair of the senate ag committee. She is trying to get some help for the beleaguered marijuana growers (10 are licensed in Dutchess County) who are sitting on tons of unsold crops due to the lack of retail outlets. The Cannabis Farmers Relief Fund (NY Senate bill 7295) could become law in 2024, perhaps granting compensation to some of the farmers who have spent their life savings



Mark Soukup, left, with Isaac Coon.

-Photo by Mark Adams

Legal Notices

EXTENDING LOCAL ORDERS 1, 2 & 3 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 5/2023 EXTENSION TO DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDERS DECLARED BY DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Please take notice that on December 24, 2023 at 12:00 am., pursuant to Article 2B of the New York State Executive Law, Article III of the Dutchess County Charter and Administrative Code Section 3.05, Acting Dutchess County Executive William F. X. O'Neil extended Local Emergency Order #1, Local Emergency Order #2, and Local Emergency Order #3 in furtherance of Executive Order No. 5 of 2023, dated May 18, 2023. The text of the declaration of state of emergency and local emergency orders is available at www.dutchessny.gov

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-06-24

Non-Secure

Detention Services Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 24th day of January 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

producing a now worthless crop (it gets stale, not that I would know).

Thirty-five inches of rain, including six inches in August, wrecked the hay crop, which brings in about \$8 million in a normal year. Mark Soukup, who bales hay in addition to growing pumpkins and producing maple syrup, told me his fields were too muddy to harvest a decent second cutting, which is the finer hay that our local horses prefer. A string of washed-out weekends in October meant disaster for the pick-your-own apple and pumpkin farmers. Hopefully, 2024 will

cooperate, with all rain falling on Monday nights.

I asked dairy farmer and local Farm Bureau president Isaac Coon for his 2024 wish.

"Whole milk in schools!" A push to replace low fat milk with whole milk (which is 97% fat free) would benefit students, who throw their low fat milk in the garbage because it tastes terrible.

The 2018 farm bill has been extended through 2024 while Congress debates the new 2023 bill. This is a relief to local farmers who are using farm bill funding to help with crop insurance and to finance climate friendly projects.

Mark Doyle, manager of Fishkill Farms and chair of the Hudson Valley Ag Development Corporation board of directors, tells me that local farms have used Natural Resources Conservation Service funding to create buffer zones around streams to prevent runoff, and to experiment with carbon sequestration. The next farm bill should strengthen these programs.

As we begin 2024 with a mix of trepidation and hope, we should all recognize the importance of a strong local food system.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

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

Suguru solution

5	2	4	3	4	3
1	3	1	2	5	1
4	2	4	3	4	2
5	3	1	2	1	5
4	2	5	3	4	2
1	3	1	2	5	1

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

4									
		1	2						
						4			
		1							
5									3

The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: COCKTAILS

ACROSS

1. Great divide
6. Priestly vestment
9. Took to court
13. Haile Selassie's disciple
14. 10 decibels
15. *Applini's ____ schnapps
16. Rose oil
17. Maui garland
18. Birth-related
19. *Old Fashioned liquor option
21. *Gin+vermouth rosso+Campari
23. Not him
24. Bye, in Palermo
25. VA.gov beneficiary
28. Puerto follower
30. Like Ferris Bueller
35. Exclude
37. "____ Your Enthusiasm"
39. Green-light
40. Tiny coffee cup, or ____-tasse
41. Cut mission short
43. Not final or absolute
44. Makes a sweater
46. Wing-shaped
47. Bird, in Latin
48. One with drug dependency
50. Do like a frog
52. A U.S. time zone
53. Dance with #17 Across
55. Anatomical duct
57. *It usually comes in a conical glass
61. *Popular cocktail mixer
65. Spy's other name
66. Knicks' org.
68. Give a speech
69. Clan emblem
70. Party barrel
71. Clean a spill (2 words)
72. Part of pump
73. Sargasso or Barents
74. Same as apse

DOWN

1. Sticking point, in alimentary tract
2. Possesses, archaic
3. *Bellini with ____ Spumante
4. Squirrel away
5. a.k.a. felt-pen
6. Competently
7. M tley Cr e's Tommy ____
8. Russian pancakes
9. Practice in the ring
10. As far as (2 words)
11. Distinctive flair
12. Place for a hero
15. Fluffy sweater material
20. "All My Children" vixen ____ Kane
22. 2010 Movie "____ Pray Love"
24. Toyota model
25. *Moscow Mule spirit
26. Make corrections
27. Shy
29. *____ Libre
31. Forearm bone
32. Not dead
33. Honkers
34. *Lemon or orange piece
36. South American monkey
38. Highlands hillside
42. Crossbeam
45. Religious split
49. 252-gallon wine cask
51. *Tequila+grapefruit juice+sparkling water
54. Kind of golf course
56. Razor sharpener
57. S.A.T. section
58. Balm ingredient
59. Baptism or shiva, e.g.
60. Asian weight unit
61. John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ____"
62. Nukes
63. Sewing case
64. Gym set
67. *____'s Knees

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 10.

Jonathan Biss kicks off Howland Chamber Music Circle's Piano Festival season on January 14

The Howland Chamber Music Circle is pleased to kick off its winter Piano Festival with pianist Jonathan Biss on January 14 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Following the concert, audience members can meet Biss and enjoy a refreshment. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket before they are gone, visit howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is located in the heart of Beacon, on 477 Main Street.

New to the 2023–2024 season, we are introducing a pricing structure to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.

"A young American pianist who always displays impeccable taste and a formidable technique" (The New Yorker), Jonathan Biss channels his unique interpretative skills and musical curiosity into performances and projects in the concert hall and beyond. In his third performance in our series, Biss will perform two works for piano by Franz Schubert, as well as a world premiere by Tyson Gholston Davis, titled ...Expansions of Light.

Recipient of the Jerome L. Greene

Fellowship, Davis is currently studying at the Juilliard School of Music. Beginning his composition career at eight years old, Davis has emerged as a highly sought-after composer, with commissions and performances by such leading ensembles as the Juilliard String Quartet, the Albany Symphony, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. The composer describes his new work with the following:

- ...Expansions of Light is a triptych in response to Winter Light (1979), a painting by American abstract expressionist Helen Frankenthaler. The composition, like the artwork, is deeply contemplative in nature, providing a meditative and ethereal atmosphere in which the music flows through.

- With a career marked by virtuosity and musical sensitivity, this concert by Biss promises an unforgettable afternoon of artistry that will surely resonate with his audience.

Since 1993, the Howland Chamber Music Circle has been bringing world-renowned musicians to perform for Hudson Valley audiences. Come hear chamber music as it is meant to be heard! For more information on this performance or the Howland Chamber Music Circle, please visit www.howlandmusic.org.



Jonathan Biss

-Photo by Benjamin Ealovega



Tyson Gholston Davis

-Courtesy photo

Music event at Quinn's on Jan. 8 in Beacon

A live music event will be taking place January 8 at 8:30 p.m. at Quinn's, 330 Main Street, Beacon as part of the Monday Jazz series there. Donations are encouraged.

Renowned NYC guitarist Anders Nilsson's new band Hesa Gun combines his long-lasting embrace of quirky

grooves, expressivity, interplay in a book of new compositions together with great friends and collaborators Sam Kulik – trombone, David Ambrosio – bass, and Vinnie Sperrazza – drums & percussion. The NYC band's music draws from blues, Brazilian music, jazz, expressionism through group improvisation.

Beacon Elks present \$4,025 check to Miles of Hope



Cathy and Patty Lamoree of the Beacon Elks present Miles of Hope Executive Director Pari Forood with a check for \$4,025 from an October fundraising promotion. The funds will be used to help people affected by breast cancer within the Hudson Valley.

Miles of Hope, entering its 20th year, funds support services, education and outreach for people affected by breast cancer within the 9 counties of the Hudson Valley.

-Courtesy photo



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