

# BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 75, Number 08

February 25, 2026

Firefighters can apply for memorial scholarship in honor of late Wiccopee volunteer



Steven D. Ziskind  
-Courtesy photo Ziskind Family

By Kristine Coulter

Local volunteer firefighters can now apply for the annual Steven D. Ziskind Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the family of late volunteer firefighter Steven Ziskind and members of the Wiccopee Fire Company in East Fishkill. This year's winner will be awarded \$2,000, an increase of \$500 from last year.

"We are thankful to the leadership and members of the Wiccopee Firehouse, who continue to support and sponsor this annual scholarship," Polly Ziskind, mother of Steven, previously told Beacon Free Press.

Steven, who was 22 years old, died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in May 2020.

The inaugural memorial scholarship in Steven's honor was awarded that year. He was a 2016 graduate of John Jay High School and was enrolled at SUNY New Paltz, studying mechanical engineering.

Polly once described Steven as "a selfless and caring individual who always put others before himself. He had a deep sense of duty and compassion, which drove him to make a positive impact on everyone around him."

If one is interested in applying, one must meet the following requirements:

- Candidate must be a member in good standing with one of the following fire companies: Hopewell Hose Fire Company No.1, Stormville Fire Company No. 2, Hillside Lake Fire Company No. 3, Wiccopee Fire Company No. 4, Protection Engine Company #1, Rombout Fire Company, Beekman Fire Company and New Hackensack Fire Company.

Continued on page 3

## New format, sites set for Polar Plunge

All events benefit Special Olympics



The Polar Plunge will take place for three days in Dutchess County this year. The three locations this year are Marist University, in Poughkeepsie; Heritage Financial Park in Fishkill and Eastdale Village Town Center, in Poughkeepsie. Pictured is from a previous year's Polar Plunge at Sharpe Reservation.

-Archive photo

By Morgan E. Maier

The 28th annual Polar Plunge is coming to dunk Dutchess County for three days straight, thanks to one of New York's first mobile plunge units. Plunge pros and those less inclined to brave the brisk water can find other ways to support of Special Olympics programs with this full slate of festivities.

Sharpe Reservation was once Fishkill's beacon for the annual Polar Plunge. While interest and participant numbers increased, Special Olympics New York was faced with a good problem. The festivities had outgrown the space. So Dutchess County communities united for the solution, are unveiling three new sites and a plunge unit on

wheels for 2026.

Inspired by programming in other states, Special Olympics New York is increasing visibility of the Plunge, while also increasing community access. Dutchess County is among the first in the Empire State to roll out the mobile plunge unit, tripling access to potential participants.

The threefold Polar Plunge will take place Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, 2026, rain, sleet or shine. On Friday, Marist University kicks off the weekend at McCann Center (3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie). The plunge will take place in the parking lot, as further fun goes on inside. On Saturday, Heritage Financial Park (1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls) closes out February

with a tailgate, music, campfires fit for s'mores, food trucks, and more. A slate of activities at Eastdale Village Town Center (10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie) rounds out the fundraising frenzy, as select businesses will offer discounts for participating plungers, music, and more!

Proceeds from Polar Plunges support the training and inclusive opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to compete in Special Olympics programs at no cost to families or caregivers.

Even if you plan to stay dry, why should you visit one — or all — of Dutchess County's Polar Plunges?

Continued on page 2

## Grand Purim Party set for March 3

By Kristine Coulter

Celebrate Purim during the Grand Purim Party on Tuesday, March 3 at 5 p.m. at The Vinyl Room in Beacon. The event is being held by Chabad of Beacon.

"Purim is one of the most joyful and spirited days on the Jewish calendar. It celebrates the miraculous salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia, as told in the Megillah (Book of Esther)," stated Chabad of Beacon Rabbi Shaya Itkin. "On Purim we celebrate courage, unity, and faith in God's hidden hand guiding our

story. It's a day filled with meaningful mitzvot hearing the Megillah, giving to those in need, sharing food with friends, and expressing joy in a way that brings people together."

Itkin remarked the party will take place at the Vinyl Room, which will create "the perfect setting" for an energetic and uplifting celebration.

"Guests can expect a lively Megillah reading, delicious food, festive music, plenty of l'chaim, and an atmosphere filled with warmth and friendship. It's

upbeat, welcoming, and designed for everyone," said Itkin.

The rabbi noted, "Purim carries a powerful message for everyone. It reminds us to show up for what we believe in, to stand with courage and pride, and to strengthen the bonds of community and kindness. In a world that can feel heavy, Purim invites us to choose light, celebrate together, and uplift one another."

The Vinyl Room is at 396 Main St. in Beacon. To RSVP, go to <https://www.chabadbeacon.com>.

# New format, sites set for Polar Plunge

Continued from cover

"The Polar Plunge is more than just a cold jump; it's a celebration of inclusion, community, and support for Hudson Valley Special Olympics athletes. When you come out, whether you're plunging or cheering from the sidelines, you're directly impacting local athletes by helping fund year-round sports training and competitions. It's a fun, high-energy event that brings people together for a great cause, and every plunge site will have its own unique personality and excitement," said Susanne O'Neil, director of development at Special Olympics New York.

Pre-registration for all three days will take place from 10 - 11:30 a.m., with all Plunges to take place at noon. Participants must donate at least \$25 to participate, and will receive a 2026 Polar Plunge sweatshirt with a \$125 donation. Participants should bring a towel and a post-plunge change of clothes; heated changing areas will also be on site. Advance registration is encouraged, though same-day signups will be available.

For polar novices and repeat Plungers alike, the weekend offers an opportunity to engage. Not just with the teams of participants and local organizations and athletes, but also the first responders, and volunteers driven to raising money and awareness for their communities' Special Olympics athletes.



There will be Polar Plunge events in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill. The events will be Feb. 27-March 1.

-Archive photo

## Applications available for DC Fair Scholarship

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society recently announced that their scholarship application is now available online. This renewable scholarship awards a Dutchess County high school senior, or student enrolled in college or tech school with a \$10,000 scholarship.

The qualifying student must be a Dutchess County resident and/or participate in the programs operated by the

agricultural society. The recipient must seek an undergraduate degree in agriculture, horticulture or human ecology or a career related to agriculture or horticulture. All applicants must submit their applications by 3 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Information and a fillable pdf application are available at the Dutchess County Fair's website <https://dutchessfair.com/>

scholarships/, through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and from local high school offices.

The NYSAAF and NYSSA offer an annual scholarship program which is available to students who are New York State residents, who currently are (or have previously been) active in a fair that is a member of the NYSAAF or the NYSSA and who plan to attend (or already attend)

college in pursuit of a degree. The fair where you have been active, or the NYSSA must endorse your application and will submit it for you. The website [www.nyfairs.org](http://www.nyfairs.org) offers a complete list of member fairs, the scholarship application, and instructions.

Visit [www.dutchessfair.com/scholarships/](http://www.dutchessfair.com/scholarships/) or [www.nyfairs.org](http://www.nyfairs.org) for information regarding both scholarships.

## Mid-Hudson Library System announces 2026 Board of Trustees

The Mid-Hudson Library System has announced its Board of Trustees for 2026.

Stuart Auchincloss, representing Ulster County (Woodstock) will lead the board as President.

Executive committee members include Vice President, Barbara Swanson representing Greene County (Haines Falls); Treasurer, Kevin Finnegan representing

Putnam County (Brewster); Secretary, Jill Leinung representing Columbia County (Valatie); and Member-at-Large, Carla Taylor of Putnam County (Carmel).

With board trustees typically serving five-year terms, much of the board remains the same in 2026, with two new members joining: Dr. David Lavallee, former board president of the Starr Library in

Rhinebeck and a former trustee of the Croton Free Library and Mary DeBellis, who has resided in Dutchess County for nine years and has a librarian career spanning over 30 years.

The remainder of the Board Trustees includes Janet Schnitzer and Jenny Post of Columbia County, Mark Williams of

Dutchess County, Charles Kutcher and Thomas Silvius of Greene County, Peter Carey of Putnam County and Leslie Gerber and Kenneth Goldberg of Ulster County.

Trustees of the Mid-Hudson Library System are elected by its sixty-six (66) member libraries at the Annual Membership Meeting held each fall.

Now Hiring For Our Sales Department!



Resumes:  
[gm@wkze.com](mailto:gm@wkze.com)

## Free Virtual Homebuyer Seminar set for March 4

Ulster Savings Bank invites one to a free homebuyer seminar on Wednesday, March 4, starting at 5:30 p.m. They are hosting this event along with Ulster County Habitat for Humanity to help one understand the critical steps to owning one's own home. This seminar will be offered as an interactive live Zoom meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in real time.

One may be eligible for a \$750 Home Buyer Credit\* just for attending.

Sign up at: <https://www.ulstersavings.com/personal/loans/seminars/>.

\*Receive a \$750 coupon good towards borrower's choice of closing costs, down payment, or post-closing payment assis-

tance, in accordance with the loan program selected and that program's eligibility requirements. The certificate must be presented at the time of application. Customer pays for all other fees and services. Eligible mortgages are for owner-occupied purchases. Not valid for refinances, home equity products, second homes, construction loans, or mortgage applications received prior to the date of seminar on certificate. Offer may not be combined with any other offers or discounts unless otherwise noted. This offer expires on December 31, 2028. Limit one (1) per loan transaction. Certain conditions apply. Ulster Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender & Member FDIC. NMLS# 619306.

## Firefighters can apply for memorial scholarship in honor of late Wiccopee volunteer



Late volunteer firefighter Steven Ziskind, left, with his family, father Martin, mother Polly, and brother Adam.

-Courtesy photos Ziskind Family

Continued from cover

- Must maintain acceptable levels of volunteer activity
- Must submit a completed application
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from the Chief or President of the respective fire company
- Submit a minimum 500-word essay that demonstrates the individual's commitment to the fire service, contribution

to the community and educational aspiration

The deadline is May 15. The scholarship will be awarded in July at the Wiccopee Firehouse.

The award is for eligible student-members and adult learners based on program's criteria, focusing on strong volunteer commitment, an established record of community service and proven dedication to others.



Steven Ziskind, with Santa Claus, during a fire department Christmas celebration.

It is stated for one to contact one's Company Chief or President for more information, including eligibility requirements and application materials.

# Central Hudson: Scammers posing as utility representatives

Central Hudson Gas & Electric is alerting customers to an increase in scam attempts across the region involving individuals posing as utility employees through phone calls, emails, text messages, and in-person visits.

The company has received reports of scammers threatening immediate service shutoffs, demanding payment, or requesting personal and financial information while falsely claiming to represent Central Hudson. These scams can appear highly convincing and may include spoofed phone numbers, official-looking emails, or individuals wearing branded clothing and identification.

"Scammers are becoming increasingly more sophisticated and aggressive in their attempts to pressure customers," said Danielle Caruso, Director of Information Security & Corporate Security. "If you're ever unsure whether a call, message, or interaction is legitimate, hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door, and contact Central Hudson immediately."

### Warning signs

Central Hudson urges customers to be alert for the following red flags:

Requests for payment via prepaid debit cards, gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers, or peer-to-peer apps

Unexpected visits from individuals claiming to be utility employees requesting payment or access to your home. All Central Hudson employees carry identification and will show it upon request.

Calls, texts, or emails asking customers to verify Social Security numbers, bank account details, passwords,

or other sensitive information.

Additional scam tactics reported include:

**Fake Bill Payment or Credit Con:** Providing fraudulent routing or account numbers to collect payments, issue credit cards, or claim eligibility for assistance programs.

**Bogus Equipment or Repair Fees:** Demands for payment to replace or install meters or other utility-related equipment.

**Overpayment Refund Scams:** Claims that a customer has overpaid, followed by requests for bank or credit card information.

**Smishing (SMS Phishing):** Text messages designed to trick recipients into sharing personal information.

**Fraudulent Bills:** Emails that appear to be legitimate utility bills and may include Central Hudson branding—customers should never click on any links or open attachments unless the sender is verified.

### What Central Hudson says it will – and will not – do

Central Hudson emphasizes that the company:

Will not request payment through gift cards, prepaid cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers

Will not threaten immediate service shutoff without prior written notice

Will always ensure employees carry proper identification

Will only direct customers to established payment channels or to contact the company directly

### What customers should do

Customers who believe they are being targeted by a scam should:

Hang up, delete, or ignore suspicious calls, texts, or emails

Never provide personal or financial information

Contact Central Hudson directly using the phone number listed on their

bill or at [www.cenhud.com](http://www.cenhud.com)

Report suspected scams to local law enforcement and the New York State Department of Public Service

Central Hudson encourages customers to share this information with family members, friends, and neighbors; especially seniors and those who may be more vulnerable to fraud.

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# Viewpoints

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. **Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.** Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to [newsplace@aol.com](mailto:newsplace@aol.com), and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

### Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- 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 Beacon Free Press.

## Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. announces endorsements

### To the Editor:

I am honored and deeply grateful to receive the endorsement of the Republican and Conservative Parties. Their support reflects our shared commitment to principled leadership, fiscal responsibility, and standing up for hardworking New Yorkers.

Over the past several years, we have delivered meaningful results for our community — including securing a record \$670,000 in state funding to support local priorities. That investment represents tangible progress for our district, and I look forward to building upon these accomplishments in the years ahead.

New Yorkers are facing serious challenges that demand practical, results-driven solutions. I remain fully committed to addressing the ongoing utility crisis by pursuing responsible reforms — including suspending costly renewable energy mandates and related payments that drive up rates, advancing clean nuclear energy as a reliable long-term solution, and demanding greater transparency and accountability from utility companies.

At the same time, we must confront the rising cost of living in our state. I will continue to oppose new taxes on hardworking families and small businesses while advocating for policies that make New York more affordable and competitive. We must also urgently address the growing EMS crisis to ensure our first responders have the resources and support necessary to protect our communities.

I also vow to run a clean and respectful campaign focused on the issues that matter most to our residents. Our community is not Washington, D.C. — we do not need the toxic rhetoric and personal attacks that have come to define national politics. I challenge my opponent to join me in keeping this race focused on ideas, solutions, and service to the people we seek to represent

My responsibility is to the residents of this district — not to serve as a rubber stamp

for any political party. I will continue to work independently, thoughtfully, and tirelessly to advance policies that strengthen our community and improve the lives of the people I am privileged to represent.

Together, we will continue building a stronger, more affordable, and more accountable future for New York.

Anil Beephan Jr.  
Assemblyman, 105th District

## Rhinebeck Bank promotes James McCardle to Executive Vice President, Chief Credit and Risk Officer

James McCardle has been promoted to executive vice president, chief credit and risk officer at Rhinebeck Bank.

Prior to his promotion, McCardle served as chief credit officer, a position he held since December 2018. In this expanded role, he leads all areas of risk management across the Bank, including credit risk, operational risk, compliance risk, Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) risk, cyber risk and physical security. In addition, McCardle will continue to develop and coordinate the implementation of credit policies and procedures, underwriting and lending approval guidelines, collection activities and management of loan portfolios. He is also an integral part of the Bank's strategic planning and budgeting process and is a member of the Bank's loan committee, loan pricing committee and asset/liability committee (ALCO).

"Jim has been an exceptional leader, and this expanded role strengthens our enterprise-wide approach to risk management while creating greater alignment across credit, operational, and strategic risk. This move positions the bank to proactively manage risk and support sustainable growth," said President and CEO at Rhinebeck Bank Matthew Smith.

A Hurley resident and Bank employee for 25 years, McCardle is a graduate of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and attained a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the State University of New York at Albany.



James McCardle

-Courtesy photo Rhinebeck Bank

He is a past vice president/board member of Kingston Cal Ripken, board member of the Michael B. Finnegan Golf Tournament for Cancer Care and founding board member of the G. Warren Kias Scholarship Fund.

## Writer-Director Noah Baumbach '91 to deliver Vassar's Commencement Address

Noah Baumbach '91, a four-time Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, will address the Class of 2026 at Vassar College's 162nd Commencement exercises, President Elizabeth H. Bradley announced.

Vassar College's 162nd Commencement Ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 10 a.m. on the Vassar College campus.

Baumbach's films include Jay Kelly, White Noise, Marriage Story, which received 6 Academy Award nominations including Best Picture, The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected), While We're Young, Mistress America, Frances Ha, Greenberg, Margot at the Wedding, The Squid and the Whale, for which Baumbach received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay, Kicking and

Screaming, and the documentary De Palma. He co-wrote Barbie with Greta Gerwig, which received eight Academy Award nominations including Best Adapted Screenplay, as well as Fantastic Mr. Fox and The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou with Wes Anderson.

Baumbach said, "Vassar was and continues to be an important part of my life. It has informed my movies in both subject matter (Kicking and Screaming), location (Frances Ha and White Noise). But, most significantly, it's many of my life-long friends from Vassar who have acted in my films or worked behind the scenes with me throughout my career. I'm excited and honored to return for commencement."

More information on the commencement ceremonies can be found at [vassar.edu/commencement/weekend](http://vassar.edu/commencement/weekend).

## BEACON FREE PRESS

Published Weekly, Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc.  
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
Albert Osten, President

serving the communities of:  
Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,  
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wicopee,  
New Hackensack and Stormville

Publisher - Albert Osten  
Editor - Kristine Coulter  
Reporter - Morgan E. Maier  
Art Director - Sharon Browne  
General Manager - Curtis Schmidt  
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E-Mail address for letters: [newsplace@aol.com](mailto:newsplace@aol.com)

(USPS 665900)

(USPS 665900)

THE BEACON FREE PRESS (ISSN 0192-9631) is published weekly by the Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc., 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Second-Class postage paid at Wappingers Falls, 12590 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEACON FREE PRESS, 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

## Elks sponsor Friday Night Lenten Dinners

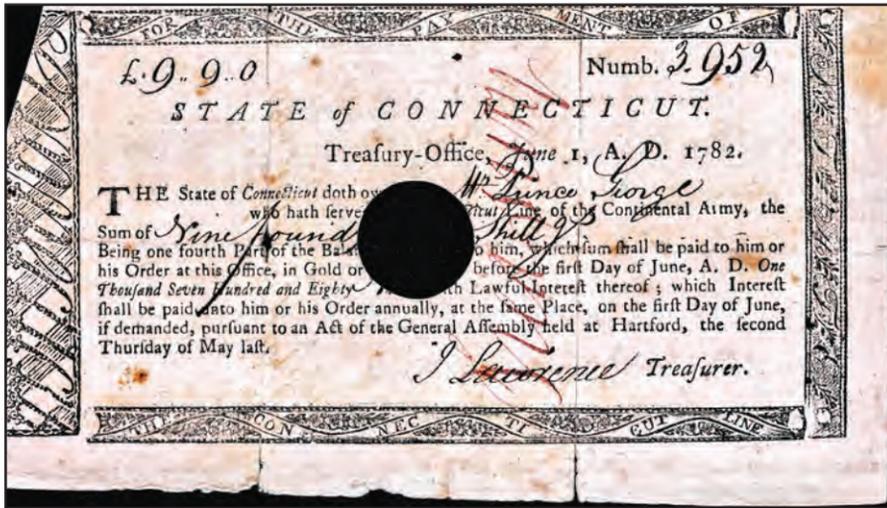
Elks will hold Friday Night Lenten Dinners at the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Ave. in Beacon. On Friday, Feb. 27, the dinner will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Meal costs are \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors and

\$7 for children 10 and younger. One can eat in or take out (\$1 more). Proceeds will benefit charities.

Vegetable/cheese quesadillas, rice and beans and dessert will be served on Feb. 27.



## The local Black community in 1776



The 1782 promissory note for Prince George's service in the Revolutionary War in a Connecticut regiment. The back shows he earned interest on money he did not cash in. Immediately after the war, George spent the rest of his life in Dutchess County with his wife and children. Image from the Museum of the American Revolution.

-Courtesy photos

### By Bill Jeffway

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and Black History Month, we profile a handful of the roughly 2,300 persons of color in Dutchess County at the time of the Revolution, then including what is today, Putnam County. The closest count comes from the 1790 Federal Census, which shows that 1,856 (about four out of five) were enslaved.

The July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence's premise – that all men are created equal and have unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – was not persuasive to many Black men. Roughly three times as many joined the British rather than the American Patriot side.

In November 1777, the royal governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, declared that all enslaved people owned by "rebels" who fought for the British would be freed. Although limited to Virginia, it was widely interpreted as applying colony wide. The immediate Patriot response in Virginia was defensive: promising to protect the "property" of "slave owners" and threatening to execute any enslaved people who went to the aid of the British. The American Patriots never made a comparable statewide promise.

**Philip Field** was born in what is today, Putnam County. His White "owners," the Field family, were Quakers from Long Island and Connecticut who settled in Dutchess County near the Connecticut border. They arrived in 1733 as part of the earliest wave of New England Quakers relocating here.

Field enlisted in the 2nd New York Company at West Point on April 15, 1777. He may have seen action at Saratoga, though that is unconfirmed. We know he endured the brutal winter at Valley Forge from 1777 into 1778 but died in 1778 from its effects.

Philip's manumission was declared before the war but would not take effect until May 13, 1780 – ensuring the Field family, not Philip, received any wages or land-bounty rights from his service. The manumission document refers to him as "my man" and, more strikingly, as "my mulatto man bred by me" – language suggesting paternity that constitutes an unusually explicit admission. A December 18, 1794, document in the DCHS collections shows Stephen Field selling inherited land gained through Philip's service – Lot 88 in Marcellus – underscoring who ultimately benefited.

**Prince George** enlisted at age 13 as a drummer in the 3rd Connecticut Line of

the Continentals. Musicians were paid more than privates for their specialized, risky front-line work. He took part in Meigs's Raid across Long Island Sound to Sag Harbor. This daring, highly visible operation plundered British stores and supplies, succeeded, and boosted Patriot morale. George served for six full years.

Prince George submitted discharge papers signed by George Washington with his pension application. He died impoverished in the free Black community of Freemanville (Beekman), where he lived with his wife, Martha, and their children.

**Jacob Lyle** served as a fifer and guard of stores in the New Jersey militia – guarding cattle, flour, and salt; "hunting Tories"; and standing guard with musket and bayonet. Lyle's pension was denied despite sworn testimony from General Jarrett Stillwell. In 1821 he and his wife bought an acre in Milan for \$50. After their deaths, they were buried at their homestead, as was common. The small burial ground, surrounded by a stone wall, became what was then called a "colored burial ground."

Many of the blue and yellow historic markers you see, like the one at his grave, were generated by the state program begun in 1925 to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Revolution. This is ironic because the sign erected in 1935 erased Lyle's war service. The sign read then, as it does today, "Resting Place of Chief Crow and other Shacomco Indians, Last Burial around 1850." Chief Crow appears to be fictitious. The lot was referred to as "Crow Lot" in reference to Black burials. The last known burial of a person of color there was in 1927. The town now properly memorializes Jacob Lyle as a Revolutionary War veteran at Milan Town Hall.

**Anthony "Tone" Waring** was a committed Patriot who fled British-occupied Smithtown, Long Island, and earned his freedom through military service. A resident of Southeast, he enlisted at Danbury, Connecticut, in 1780. He served three years in the Continental Army as a sapper and miner—brutal front-line work using axes and shovels to build and breach fortifications under fire. His discharge papers were signed by General Knox at West Point in 1783.

In his successful 1820 pension application, Waring described a life marked by hardship. Once a broom and basket maker, he said he survived on "a scanty subsistence," disabled by age and a lame leg injured from carrying heavy burdens during the war. He and his wife, Hetta, then 76,



Frazier family, the start of many generations of service. Top row, left to right: Andrew Frazier, Revolutionary War, buried Rhinebeck. Edward Frazier, Civil War, buried Stanford. Jerome Frazier, Civil War, buried Union Vale. Middle row: Jerome Frazier, WWI, Beverly National Cemetery. Susan Elizabeth Frazier, WWI, buried Rhinebeck. Bottom photo: James Harris Frazier, WW2, buried Poughkeepsie.

were unable to support themselves. Though once honored locally through the naming of Tone's Pond in Southeast, it is today known as Tonetta Lake, derived from a combination of the couple's names.

Andrew Frazier was born ca. 1742 in the Manor of Morrisania, today the Bronx. His enslavers were generations of the well-known and wealthy Morris and Graham families. The family member most closely associated with Frazier was Morris Graham, whose name reflected the multi-generational union of the two families.

When Morris Graham inherited vast acreage in the Little Nine Partners Patent in the 1760s in what is now Pine Plains, Andrew Frazier went with him. When the war began, Morris Graham became colonel of an important local unit and participated in major engagements such as the Battle of White Plains. Frazier served in his unit as waiter or footman to Graham, and also as driver of a wagon team to and from the Amenia furnace.

He became known locally as "the ancestor" because of the size of his descendant community. His great-great-granddaughter was Susan Elizabeth Frazier, the first Black woman allowed to teach White students in New York City in 1895 and leader of the women's auxiliary to the Harlem Hellfighters in World War I.

**Rachel.** Historian Michael Groth cites two 1781 newspaper ads (I am working to locate the originals). He writes that Ebenezer Husted's enslaved woman, Rachel – about age 35, from "Great Nine Partners" – fled to British-occupied New York City to gain her freedom. Census records show the Husted family farm was located in the part of the town of Washington that later became Stanford. In the ad, Husted declares that Rachel returned with an accomplice and burned his house to the ground. He described her as "tall, powerful, cunning and subtle,"

**Upcoming presentation:**  
DCHS presents, "1776 to 1876: The Long Journey of African Americans & the Elusive Promise of Equality," sponsored by Celebrating the African Spirit and Dutchess County Government on Thursday, February 26, at 7 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.dchsny.org/2026-0226](http://www.dchsny.org/2026-0226).

and urged "all well-wishers to their country" to apprehend her. Courageous Rachel.

**Eyep Shouten.** A familiar local story concerns a woman named Eyep who was enslaved by Fishkill's Garret Storm. In 1781 Loyalists broke into the occupied house to take cash and valuables and decided to hang Storm in the attic. Published stories in the 1930s began describing Shouten as cutting the rope to save Storm's life. Newspaper accounts from 1781 describe a more likely scenario in which the old rope broke when they attempted to hang Storm. The Loyalists fled in confusion, and Shouten—or another enslaved person—ran to bring help to save the elder Storm. In any case, later accounts note that Storm was generous to Shouten in his last will and testament.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at [bill.jeffway@dchsny.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsny.org) or 845-293-7711.

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# Serino announces Commissioner of Finance Heidi Seelbach to retire in April

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced the upcoming retirement of Heidi Seelbach, the County's Commissioner of Finance, following more than a decade of service in County Government. Seelbach will officially retire April 30.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "In her tenure with Dutchess County, Heidi has been a tireless advocate for improved efficiency and modernizations that have saved millions over the years. The Department of Finance is vital to the operation of County government, and we are grateful for the legacy of professionalism and expertise Heidi has instilled in her team, ensuring the thousands of transactions completed each year are done efficiently and securely. I am especially thankful to Heidi for agreeing to delay her retirement to help me transition into my role as County Executive—her dedication and support speak volumes about her commitment to this County. We wish her all the best in her future!"

Seelbach began her tenure with Dutchess County Government in 2011 when she was appointed Director of Central Services by former County Executive William R. Steinhaus. In 2012, she became the Deputy

Commissioner of Finance before being appointed Commissioner in 2014 by former County Executive Marcus Molinaro. Prior to joining Dutchess County Government, she oversaw fiscal management at St. Cabrini Home in West Park, NY, serving in various roles including Comptroller and the Director of Finance.

As Dutchess County's Commissioner of Finance, Seelbach has served as the Chief Fiscal Officer of the County charged with the responsibility of receipt and disbursement of county funds. As Commissioner, she has been responsible for the enforcement of real property taxes levied for county, town, school district and village purposes; obtaining borrowing on behalf of the County to finance capital projects; issuing Official Statements as required; and ensuring all financial records comply with the rules established by the Comptroller of the State of New York as well as accounting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Under her leadership, the County's bond rating was upgraded to AA+ by Standard & Poor's (S&P), among the highest ratings for counties in New York State. The County has maintained that impressive rating since 2014, thanks to



**Heidi Seelbach**  
-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't

Seelbach's strong financial policies and practices, which include employing a

range of strategies for cash management, such as taking advantage of market conditions to maximize interest earnings, refinancing bonds, paying down debt, and avoiding new debt by financing critical capital projects with cash.

Seelbach, a resident of Hyde Park, has recently become engaged and looks forward to retirement and her upcoming wedding, travelling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Seelbach said, "I am grateful to County Executive Serino for her support of the Finance department team and for taking the time to learn more about the intricate workings of this complex department. As I look forward to this next chapter of life, I leave with confidence knowing that the devoted team in the Finance Department will continue their dedicated work to be prudent and efficient fiscal stewards to ensure the County's strong financial future."

The County will begin a search for an individual with the necessary combination of management skills and financial knowledge to serve as Commissioner of Finance. Those interested in the position can read the full job description and apply online at [dutchessny.gov/jobs](http://dutchessny.gov/jobs).

## 'An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals' at Oakwood Friends



From left: Livy Johnson '29, Matty Canez '28, Ruby Pearce '26 and Parsley Ascione '27 at rehearsal.

"An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals" will take place at Oakwood Friends School, The Spencer Family Theater, 22 Spackenkill Road, in Poughkeepsie, on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. No reserva-

tions, donations are welcome, are needed. No intermission.

An Evening of 10-Minute Musicals: "Time Travel Makes Complete Sense;" "Pellets, Cherries, and Lies;" "The Almost



Seniors Ruby Pearce and Martin Lozada during a recent rehearsal.  
-Courtesy photos Oakwood Friends

In-Laws; "Big Ass Secret;" "The Future Was Ours" (written by Oakwood's Arts Chair, Ted Messerschmidt).

Linked by the theme of "secrets," these plays tell stories of love, loss, surprises,

and Pac-Man. Each play is unique and has a complete narrative.

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DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## OPERATION: MOBILE OUTREACH

Our Veterans Services Officer is visiting local communities to help every veteran, especially those recently discharged, as well as family members and caregivers, navigate the extensive, and often overwhelming process of applying for benefits for the VA, State and Dutchess County.

Check the upcoming schedule for a location near you with the QR Code to the DCOVA calendar



In your browser find calendar: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Calendar-Page.htm>  
This ad space courtesy of Southern Dutchess News Group as we Support Veterans.

love to cook

by vicki frank day



# Stout float

Get a jump on St. Patrick's Day with good stout beer poured over vanilla ice cream.

It isn't at all unusual for our tastes to change as we get older, and I should know. I went from being a picky eater as a child to an adult who is passionate about all kinds of food. When we're younger, our tastes tend to run to the sweeter side. Your first-ever cup of coffee may well have been laden with sugar and cream, but now you (like me) may prefer dark roasts and espresso without all of that. I like to think we become more sophisticated with age, or at least our palates do.

I love a good beer, and Guinness – or any dark, rich, lovely stout for that matter – always tops the list for me in the colder months. Not only is it delicious, but it brings up fond memories for me. The first time I experienced it was in a pub after the Greenwich Village Halloween parade waaaaay back in the late 1980s. Favorite time of year + a perfect pour = unforgettable pure delight. Watching the milk chocolate colored stout separate into pure darkness on the bottom with a creamy white froth on top was magical, and the first sip was like nothing I'd ever had before. It's a love affair that hasn't lessened over time and is always just the thing when the weather turns cold. The first sip of each one transports me back to that time, place and feeling.

So, let's talk about stout. Before there was stout, there was porter, a dark, roasted malt beer consumed in vast quantities by the workmen of London during the Industrial Revolution (though I suspect there may have been a similar version dating back much further somewhere in human history). Its hearty nature makes me think it was a sort of meal replacement shake of its day. It was readily available and relatively cheap because it was one of

the first mass-produced beers (thanks to the very revolution that kept the workers in demand) and so widely consumed by the many working-class laborers who moved goods and materials to literally keep the Industrial Revolution gears turning. These workers were known as porters and the name carried over to their drink of choice.

As is the case with all beer, there were many styles of porter, which was derived from the brown ales so popular in Great Britain at the time. A key difference between lighter and darker beers is malt, dried cereal grains (often barley), steeped in water until sprouted, then kiln-dried or roasted, which converts the starch to the sugars essential for fermentation and contributes to the color, aroma and flavor of the finished beer. (I am way over-simplifying, so apologies to any brew masters out there.) When the malt is dried or roasted longer, or even smoked, it adds even more, creating notes of coffee, chocolate, toast, even molasses. When unmalted (or essentially raw) barley was roasted and used, the result was a darker, drier beer with a smooth, creamy texture that was also more robust, or stout, something Irish brewers, like Arthur Guinness, excelled at. Stout porter was shortened to its adjective when ordered, and a classic was thankfully brought to the world. That's the word in the back allies of industrial age London, anyway.

Of course, with its Irish roots, stout is perfect this time of year, and no Saint Patrick's Day celebration would be complete without it (if you're able to imbibe). So, absolutely I'll be knocking back a pint or two, but I'll also indulge in my other favorite way to enjoy it: as a float. First of all, don't judge me and second



A stout float - in time for St. Patrick's Day.

- Photo by Vicki Frank Day

with vanilla ice cream kind of a natural, and I highly recommend you make one in the comfort of your own home so you can sit comfortably to savor it.

Stout floats are also a surprisingly refreshing and really simple way to end a meal. Just put 2-3 scoops of vanilla ice cream into a pint glass and slowly pour in your stout. You can top it with a drizzle of chocolate sauce or whiskey whipped cream (just add a teaspoon of the good stuff when you whip it), but I like mine straight up to let all the inherent goodness of the pairing shine. Starting with a classic Guinness is always a good idea, but you can use any one of the hundreds of stouts or other dark beers out there and can certainly find a few excellent ones locally with all the breweries we're lucky to have in the Hudson Valley.

If excellent beer, especially from the dark side, is your thing or just has you curious, make a luscious stout float as a treat and see what the fuss is all about. Is it a wee bit early to refer to St. Paddy's Day? Maybe, but remember, I fell in love with stout in October. Besides, this float may be the perfect bridge between being a kid and a grownup, and it might just become one of your fond memories, too. Slainte!

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at [vickiloves2cook@gmail.com](mailto:vickiloves2cook@gmail.com).

of all, if you do it's likely because you've never had a stout float, which has actually been a thing for a while. All the aforementioned descriptors associated with stout - rich, creamy, smooth, roasted coffee, chocolate – make the pairing of it

## Skyllkill felting fiber program on March 4

Fiber Artist: Un-A-Frayed, on March 4 at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville. Join local fiber artist Karen Madden who will be presenting and discussing the techniques of felting fiber that she uses in her creations of fiber art. She will display finished pieces that show depth of this art form and explain how out-of-the-box creativity leads to this unique art form.

Skyllkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, presents this program beginning at 12:30 p.m. Join other needleworkers for learning beginning at 10 a.m. or come for this program only beginning at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/SkyllkillEGA](http://www.facebook.com/SkyllkillEGA) or email to [EGASkyllkill@gmail.com](mailto:EGASkyllkill@gmail.com).

## Elks host holiday luncheon for seniors



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 prepared and served a complete hot chicken luncheon for 26 seniors at Forrestal Heights complex of the Beacon Housing Authority on Valentine's Day. Pictured are the seniors with Elks volunteers Secretary Lorraine Banks, Treasurer John Kleinfeldt, PER Michael Zanzarella, Exalted Ruler Jeanine McAuley and Robert Haight.

-Courtesy photo

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get growing!

by mark adams



# Gardening Calendar

A welcome reminder that spring is not far away.

Based on 50 years of garden diaries, I am presenting a garden calendar created especially for Dutchess County. Sure, there are micro-climates, from the top of Stissing Mountain (at 1,403 feet, the county's highest point) to Dennings Point on the Hudson River estuary. My experience centers on latitude 41.70 degrees north, 73.52 degrees west – Poughkeepsie, NY:

- February 25 – Order new varieties of flowers and vegetables from Johnny's Selected Seeds. I'd have to admit that this is when my garden looks its best. A new early potato – "Envol," Zinnia "Linen," and the cherry tomato "Sunpeach" (from Ball Seed) are at the top of my list.

- March 1 – Sow seed indoors to have transplants ready in May. Tomatoes, peppers, celosia and marigolds are popular choices. The key is to give the young seedlings plenty of light so they don't stretch.

- March 17 – Believe it or not, the soil always thaws out by March 17, just three weeks from now. Whether it's dry enough to plant, who knows? The old saying "plant the peas by Saint Patrick's Day" refers to gardens in Ireland, not here. Although it's therapeutic to get out and work in the garden on the first warm days of spring, I've found no real advantage to planting so early. Peas, beets, spinach and carrots, all sown from seed directly into cold soil, will just sit there 'til it warms up in April.

- April 20 – The weather should be warm enough now to set out transplants of cold-tolerant flowers and vegetables. Pansies and lettuce will survive a hard freeze, which is still possible until May 20. Parsley, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, snapdragons and perennial flowers like daisies or delphiniums can tolerate cold nights. Also you can direct seed the peas, beets, onions, carrots and Swiss chard that will sprout more quickly in warmer soil.

- May 1 – I buy "seed potatoes" from Johnny's or Hudson Valley Seed Co. The larger tubers can be cut in pieces and planted now. Any earlier and they risk being burned by a late frost just as the new growth is emerging. Friends of mine grow potatoes in bags or bushel baskets filled with fluffy soil. It's amazing how good fresh potatoes can taste.

- May 20 – Now the garden is in full swing. My records going back to 1974 show a last killing frost on May 16 (2023), May 1 (1975) and May 21 (2002, my notes say "apple farmers wiped out"). Transplants of tomatoes, peppers, and

annual flowers – petunias, begonias, marigolds, salvia – can be set out. I keep some old blankets in the garden shed to cover tender plants if we get an unusually late frost. You can also direct-seed beans and corn at this time,

- June 5 – Now the soil should be warm enough to sow the seeds of squash family veggies. These include zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. They need very warm weather to germinate. Also at this time, get rid of any weeds around the plants while they're still small. A first application of fertilizer is critical, if you didn't work compost or manure into the soil at planting time, or even if you did. Fertilizer makes plants grow,

- July 4 – You've harvested your earliest veggies – spinach, radishes, maybe lettuce and broccoli. Now you can plant a succession crop in the same space. Beans are a good choice. Or a second round of zucchini, which will mature just as the first zucchini is falling victim to the dreaded vine borer. Even a late crop of tomatoes ripen in September for canning. This is also a good time to cut back hardy chrysanthemums and trim overgrown flowers in hanging baskets, adding extra fertilizer to boost new growth. If your early tomato plants are showing signs of blight (brown lower leaves), treat them with a copper based fungicide.

- August – Gardens should get at least a weekly inch of rain. If you must irrigate, apply one thorough soaking rather than a few sprinklings. Water must get down to the roots. And keep adding fertilizer, especially if you're growing in containers.

- September – Harvest herbs for drying. Protect tender flowers and vegetables from a late frost. It's been a few years since I've seen a heavy freeze in September. The last time was September 20, 2020. Last year it wasn't until October 10.

- October – Plant garlic, daffodils and tulips. Don't bother with tulips if you have any deer. Also, put a heavy layer of mulch – straw or dried leaves on top of your remaining carrots and beets, and they'll last in the ground until Thanksgiving. And don't forget to clean all garden tools and store them in their proper place. (I never do. They're probably buried under the snow).

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



Basil transplant ready to go.

-Photo by Mark Adams

## Screening of 'We Can Be Heroes' Feb. 26

Beacon Film Society will present "We Can Be Heroes," a documentary from Tribeca films in 2024 by Carina Mia Wong and Alex Simmons, on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. the launch of the Society's spring season will take place at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon.

For attendees of a live action role-playing (LARP) camp in Kingston, the deeply accepting environment has given neurodivergent, queer, and self-proclaimed "nerdy" teenagers the space and community for self-discovery that they have never found anywhere else. As the

campers immerse themselves in this imaginative world, they discover inner strength, heal from past traumas, and emerge as the heroes they are meant to be, both in the fantasy realm and in real life.

The film premiered at SXSW in 2024, where it won a Special Jury Award for Bravery and Empathy, and it was the winner of the Audience Award at the Woodstock Film Festival that same year.

A Q&A will follow the screening and will feature film cast member Judson Packard, the executive director and owner of The Wayfinder Experience in Kingston.

Learn more at [beaconfilmsociety.org](http://beaconfilmsociety.org).

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# Obituaries

## Joan E. Laffin



Joan E. Laffin was Called Home on February 21, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie; at the age of 88. She was born and raised in the Village of Wappingers Falls on February 14, 1938, daughter of the late Antonio & Antoinette (Andretta) DiGregorio.

On May 7, 1960 at St. Mary's Church in Wappingers Falls, she married the love of her life John 'Jack' Laffin, who predeceased her after 51-years of marriage on February 21, 2012.

Joan was a former active member of the Catholic Daughters of the America (CDA). She enjoyed playing cards, bowling, golfing, and time at Cape Cod and the Jersey Shore. She treasured her incredible group of life-long friends and loved spending time with family. Her

grace, style, wit and unconditional love will be missed by all who knew her.

Joan is survived by her son, Patrick Laffin and his wife Lynn; her daughter, Dana Rebecca and her husband Craig; her daughter-in-law, Anita Laffin. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren: Nick (Charmaine), Melissa (Louis), Joshua, Whitney, Simon, Noah, Jacob and Jeffrey (Casey); she also had two great-grandchildren, Owen & Rylee.

Along with her parents and husband, Joan was predeceased by her son Gary Laffin and her twelve brothers & sisters.

Her Family will receive Friends on Wednesday, February 25th from 3-7 PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. A Private Mass of Christian Burial will be offered for her family at St. Mary's Church, Clinton St., Wappingers Falls, New York.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Joan's name can be made to the Knights of Columbus Council 1646, 2660 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

## Francis Nicholas Danza



Francis Nicholas Danza, 87, passed away peacefully and entered eternal rest on February 14th in the presence of loved ones. Francis, better known as Frank, was born in Bronx, New York, and graduated from James Monroe High School, also in the Bronx. Later, he would move his family to Poughkeepsie, New York.

Frank's career was centered around printing. He became an advanced career printer during a span of 50 years. He was also an avid bowler, competed in leagues as well as taught others his knowledge of bowling. In his later years, he would move to North Carolina and called this his home until his death. He was a devout Catholic and was the sacristan of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Kinston,

North Carolina for many years.

Frank was pre-deceased by his parents, Frank and Annette Danza, as well as his wife, Margaret Hauser, and his second wife, Amy Murphy.

He is survived by his loving family: sister, Maryann Ryan of New York; sons, Frank Danza (Phyllis) of Tazewell, Tennessee, Joseph Danza (Anne) of Newburgh, New York, and Peter Danza (Melanie) of Pollockville, North Carolina. He is also survived by one daughter, Annmarie Danza of Greenville, North Carolina. He also leaves behind several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Brookstone Living Center in Pollockville for their care during the last months of Frank's life.

Services were held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, located at 400 Academy Heights Road Kinston, North Carolina 28504, on Friday, February 20. Flowers are welcome, donations can be made as well to the Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

## Support Connection's lists support group dates for March

The following is a list of Support Connection's Support Groups March for those who have been impacted by breast, ovarian, and any gynecological cancer.

Monday, March 2: Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Wednesday, March 4: Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Post Treatment Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Wednesday, March 11: Offered Via Zoom – Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom

Monday, March 16: Breast Cancer Support Group (Hybrid Format, In-Person and ZOOM videoconference) 7-8 p.m. at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor, Westchester County

Wednesday, March 25: Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group (Hybrid

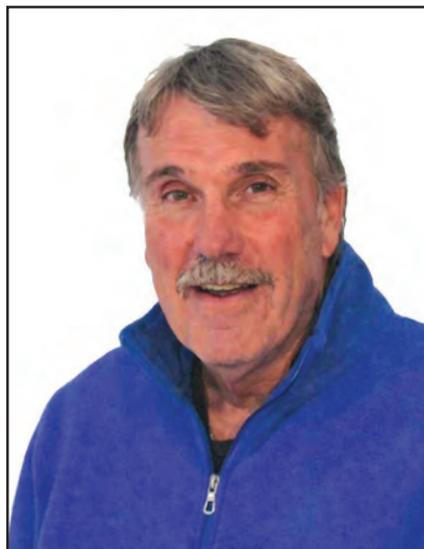
Format, In-person and ZOOM videoconference option) Soul Ryders Office

There are many other support groups for women with breast, ovarian, or other gynecological cancers. For details, please visit the calendar.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. To register or to learn more, please call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Support Group meeting location for in-person groups and/or Zoom login info will be provided to anyone who registers.

In addition to support groups, professional Peer Counselors are available to provide unlimited one-on-one, individual support. Anyone dealing with breast, ovarian, or any other gynecological cancer can learn more by visiting: [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org) or by calling toll-free at 800-532-4290.

## Robert Palisi



Robert Palisi, beloved husband and uncle, entered into eternal rest at NYU Langone Tisch Hospital, New York, surrounded by his family on Saturday, February 14, 2026. He was 70 years old.

Born on February 25, 1955, he was the son of Alfred "Wiz" and Mary Agnes Palisi. On November 4, 1995, he married the former Margaret Vitanza at St. John the Evangelist Church, Beacon. She survives at home. He is survived by his sister-in-law Jean Mignault (Jim), sister-in-law Renie DiNapoli (Bill), sister-in-law Chris DiMaio and her partner Bruce Duncan, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He is also survived by very dear friends whom he considered family, Tim Dexter and Donnie Knight (Little Brother).

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Richard Palisi and sister-in-law Melinda Palisi.

Bobby was a parishioner of St. Joachim –

St. John the Evangelist Church, Beacon. He attended St. Joachim school was a graduate of Beacon High School, Class of 1973. Bobby was employed by Ward's Auto Body and then Secor Auto Body until he started his family business Palisi Auto Body & Palisi Auto Glass Beacon, NY, which he proudly owned and operated for over 40 years. As a partner in Fulton Avenue Realty Restoration Company for almost 30 years he completed a multitude of building renovations as well as constructed new homes throughout Beacon and surrounding areas.

Bobby spent his earlier years as a drummer with the band "Spiral" which provided much fun and entertainment for over 30 years. He was a life member of W.H. Mase Hook and Ladder Company, Beacon. For over 35+ years he was a member of the Beacon Elks Club Lodge #1493, an over 30-year member of the Beacon Knights of Columbus Chapter#445. Bobby also was a volunteer member of Beacon's Board of Assessment Review for 10 years. For over 28 years Bobby actively took part in Beacon Girls Softball. He was pivotal in running both the Recreation League and the Travel League known as "Beacon Extreme". He worked endlessly on recruiting team members, raising funds (including an annual fundraising tournament whose proceeds are dedicated to a local family in need), running practices and organizing tournaments each season.

When you hear the phrase "One of the Good Ones" that defines Bobby's identity, who he was, how he lived and the way he so willingly shared. A leader by nature, a listener, a knowledgeable businessman, a volunteer and "Coach." However, most importantly he was a devoted husband and family man. Though he had his own numerous nieces and nephews fair it is to say there were many who adopted him in as "Uncle Bob." He truly loved everyone!

As a family man he enjoyed every opportunity to host at his home. By doing so it created decades and decades of memories left to forever treasure filled with birthday celebrations, 4th of July, Labor Day, AFC/NFC, Super Bowl Parties, Annual Williams Open and Pre Game Pub Crawl Events or it could have very well just have been a random Thursday visit to the house. It didn't matter, you'd always be greeted with a cold one and quite a selection of food to enjoy because if you were there you were treated as family.

Bob believed in working hard and was very well respected in the many areas of business in which he was affiliated. He believed in giving back to his community and volunteered in numerous organizations. To talk with him, it was clear to see his passion was the ballfield, where he spent countless years coaching Girls Softball. Bob though known to run on "Palisi Time" was always dependable. A genuine friend to all and one of the most humble men you would ever come across.

His great strength was tested as he courageously endured a bilateral lung transplant. The Lord gave him a miraculous speedy recovery and granted him a bit of extended time to experience more quality time with the love of his life Maggie. Along with more family time, allowing him to be a guest at weddings and birthday celebrations, a beach vacation with Maggie and dinner at the shore with his nieces. He walked strongly back into his second home "the body shop" and was absolutely thrilled to be back in action with the Girls Softball. Sadly, the Lord suddenly felt He needed to call Bobby "Home." His wife courageously stood alongside him throughout this journey and now alongside her we will all mourn the loss of our "Little Beacon Legend Bobby." We are all Blessed and honored to have had as much time as we did with Bobby as a part of our lives. Although, we will never feel it was enough. He will be indescribably missed.

Family and friends gathered on Thursday, February 19 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, February 20 at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. Burial followed at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Bobby may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

## Ann Patricia Falahee



Ann Patricia Falahee, a resident of Wappingers Falls New York, and formerly of Warwick NY passed from this life in the early morning hours of Saturday February 14th 2026. She went peacefully in her sleep under the care of her children.

Born September 23rd 1950 to Thomas and Betty Kilmurray in New York, NY; she was raised in Washington Heights, New York. After graduating from the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary in 1968, she took a job as a phone operator at Ma Bell Telephone Company.

Ann was predeceased by her son Michael, and leaves behind her daughter Kelli Rose; her son Daniel, his wife Victoria and their son Nathaniel age 12. As well as her ex husband John Falahee, and several of her cousins and their children.

After raising her children Ann worked

at Red Lobster in Middletown, The Goshen Diner, and ShopRite of Fishkill before retiring due to health. She will be remembered as a kind happy soul who will be missed by her family, friends, and coworkers.

Her Family gathered with Friends on Tuesday, February 17th at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. Interment will be private at discretion of her family.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

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- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
- 152 Novenas
- 154 Lost & Found
- 155 Personal
- 200 Services

- 201 Home Improvement
- 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services
- 221 Professional Services
- 222 Tax Experts
- 223 Beauty Services
- 225 Business Services
- 226 Travel & Services
- 227 Bridal Services
- 295 Financial
- 296 Mortgages
- 300 Real Estate
- 301 Townhouses & Condos
- 302 Commercial Property
- 304 Mobile Homes
- 305 Lots & Acreage
- 400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

## Classified Index

- 401 Apartments for Rent
- 402 Rooms for Rent
- 403 Furnished Rooms
- 404 Furnished Apartments
- 405 Wanted to Rent
- 406 Garages for Rent
- 407 Vacation Rentals
- 408 Houses for Rent
- 420 Commercial Rentals
- 500 Musical Merchandise
- 501 Kid Stuff
- 502 Clothing
- 503 Furniture
- 504 Appliances
- 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment

- 509 Office Equipment
- 510 Firewood
- 511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
- 512 Winter Merchandise
- 516 Misc. Merchandise
- 700 Pets & Supplies
- 701 Free Pets
- 702 Lost & Found Pets
- 703 Pets for Adoption
- 710 Garage & Yard Sale
- 711 Tag Sale
- 712 Moving sale
- 713 Rummage Sale
- 714 Flea Market
- 715 Craft Corner
- 716 Barn Sale
- 717 Estate Sale
- 718 Auctions
- 719 Antiques

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## Philipse Manor Hall debuts Revolutionary War board game

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, the education staff at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site have created an original board game called "Crossing the Neutral Zone!" about the challenges of living in Westchester County during the Revolutionary War. Anyone interested in taking part in the new game, can come on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This in-

person event will take place onsite at 29 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers, Westchester County. Stretching from the Croton River in the north to Upper Manhattan in the south, players will trace a circuitous route through Westchester County and Philipse Manor. Along the way one will encounter people and places straight from the real history of the Revolution.

Work in teams to go around battles, avoid being captured as spies, and make your way safely across the Westchester Neutral Zone. Play as a Loyalist escaping to the safety of British lines in Manhattan, or as a Patriot escaping New York to the safety of American lines. This game is designed for ages 8 and up, but younger children can partner with

adults to play. Great for families, older children, and adults! Multiple games will be available to play in teams of up to 6 participants. Registration is not necessary for this program, which is included with general museum admission. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please visit [www.philipsemanorhall.com](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com).



# Hudson Valley Chefs to recreate Titanic's Final First-Class Menu



Titanic Dinner guests Michael Glorioso and the 2025 First Place Costume winner Dr. Eliza Wierzbinska with "All Aboard Titanic!" performer Connor Bond during the 2025 Titanic First Class Dinner.

-Courtesy photos BCT



"All Aboard Titanic!" actors Connor Bond and Kelly Ellenwood enjoying the Punch Romaine.

History and high gastronomy will converge as six Hudson Valley chefs join forces to recreate the legendary 11-course First Class Dinner of the RMS Titanic on historic Bannerman Island, in the Hudson River Highlands, from 5-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 23.

The event is limited to 40 guests; this exclusive fundraiser dinner offers a one-of-a-kind experience. Held on Bannerman (Pollepel) Island in the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon, the evening is designed not only as a unique dining experience with music and festivities, but as a vital fundraiser for historic preservation of the structures and trails on

historic Bannerman Island

"This isn't just a meal; it's a meticulous historical reconstruction," said Bannerman Castle Trust Executive Director Neil Caplan. "From the authentic Wisteria pattern china - which every guest will take home - to the live performance of 'All Aboard Titanic,' we are inviting our guests to step back into 1912 for a cause that preserves our own Hudson Valley history."

Tickets are all inclusive and event highlights include; a collaborative feast of eleven courses and beverage pairings prepared by six local chefs showcasing the region's culinary depth. Passage to

Bannerman Island on the RV Estuary Steward tour boat, leaving from the Dock in Beacon at 5 p.m. for a 20-minute cruise to the iconic island, where guests will also enjoy live theatrical and music performances, and receive a commemorative souvenir Titanic Wisteria pattern plate. This is a Historical Immersion experience, as guests are encouraged (but not required) to wear period-accurate dress. Tickets are \$450 each and are available now at: bannermancastle.org.

This incredible event is the Bannerman Castle Trust's (BCT) most important fundraiser event of the year. All guests will be helping the BCT's Philanthropic Mission, as 100% of ticket proceeds will be allocated to contribute to the stabilization and restoration of Bannerman Castle, a world-famous landmark of Hudson Valley heritage. With only 40 tickets available, the event is expected to sell out rapidly, as it did in 2025.

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the NYS Office

of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The BCT is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the structures on Pollepel Island while raising awareness and educating the public on the value and history of the island. The BCT works to raise funds for repairing the island and creating a master plan to permanently stabilize the structures keeping the island safe for everyone to enjoy as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

About the Arsenal - Castle Stabilization Project: The Arsenal Stabilization Project is a non-profit initiative dedicated to the structural preservation and historical restoration of the iconic Bannerman Castle ruins and other structures on Pollepel Island, which were first erected between 1900-1918. Through community events and educational programming, the project ensures that the Hudson Valley's unique architectural legacy remains intact for future generations.

## this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer  
**SUDOKU**

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

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

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

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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

	<b>3</b>				<b>4</b>
	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>5</b>					
	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>			
<b>2</b>				<b>2</b>	

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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: THE 1990s

**ACROSS**

1. \*First cloned mammal
6. Fuel economy acronym
9. Land measure
13. Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
14. Second O in EVOO
15. a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
16. Plant fungus
17. \*"Titanic" star
18. \*"The \_\_\_\_\_ Whisperer" (1998)
19. \*PepsiCo offering
21. \*One of the Walsh twins, 90210
23. Long reef dweller
24. Reach a high
25. Color of passion
28. Agitate
30. Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
35. Gave the boot
37. Arab League member
39. One of Florida Keys
40. Summer month
41. Polished diamond surface
43. Safecracker
44. Lazybones
46. Before "saw" and "conquered"
47. Glitch
48. Watercraft
50. Remains repository
52. Like some martinis
53. Comfort
55. One in a pod
57. \* \_\_\_\_\_ bubble
60. \*The 1990s, a.k.a. post-\_\_\_\_\_ decade
64. Biblical patriarch
65. Sensitive subject?
67. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
68. \_\_\_\_\_ shopping cart
69. Father's progeny
70. Trojan War epic
71. Difficult situation
72. Like jalapeño
73. So out it's in

**DOWN**

1. Design detail
2. München mister
3. Jittery
4. Irregularly notched
5. \*Harry of Privet Drive
6. Gangster's gal
7. \*"American \_\_\_\_\_" (1999)
8. Geography class prop
9. Any minute, arch.
10. Cut at birth
11. Parks on a bus
12. \_\_\_\_\_ out a living
15. Israeli monetary unit
20. Remote in manner
22. Did a marathon, e.g.
24. Mollify
25. \*Assassinated Gandhi
26. Radiate
27. Small wooded hollows
29. \*Apple offering
31. Simon does what?
32. Influencer's creation
33. Daytime moth
34. \*Snoop \_\_\_\_\_ Dogg
36. Coloring substances
38. Nautilus' captain
42. Allegro or lento
45. Repeat an echo
49. Pathet \_\_\_\_\_
51. \*Fresh Prince's town
54. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Mouth of "All Star" fame
56. Discombobulate
57. \*Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The
58. Made in Vegas
59. Makes lace
60. One-tenth of a dime
61. \*" \_\_\_\_\_ Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR
62. Petri dish gel
63. Do over
64. Fruit spread
66. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls of "Name" fame

**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				

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# County Players presents CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3

## Shows run March 13 to 15

County Players will present Season 68 CP2 Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 from March 13 - 15 at County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main, Wappingers Falls.

**Reading #1- "Dear Jack, Dear Louise"** by Ken Ludwig will be presented Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m., and Saturday March 14 at 2 p.m., and directed by Cynthia Topps. When two strangers meet by letter during World War II, a love story begins. Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig tells the joyous, heartwarming story of his parents' courtship and the results are anything but expected. The talented cast features Kayla Collins, Aaron Heisler, and Henry Hernandez.

**Reading #2- "Camping with Henry and Tom"** by Mark St. Germain will be presented Saturday, March 14 at 8pm, and Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m., and directed by Matt Andrews. In 1921, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding took a camping trip together into the Maryland woods to escape civilization. Inspired by an actual event, Camping with Henry and Tom is an exploration of friendship, politics, and leadership; a comedic and dramatic clash of two great minds and one great heart of the twentieth

century. Delightful, rollicking, quintessentially American this reading features local actors Champ Knecht, John Leinung, David J. Ringwood, and Robert Yarnall.

CP2 Readers Theatre is a series at County Players that offers an opportunity for actors, directors, and audience members to experience theater in a fresh way: selected plays with full dramatic readings, no costumes, no sets, no props, and the actors perform with scripts in hand.

Reserved Seating is \$15 per reading, and only \$25 for both readings on the same weekend. Visit [countyplayers.org](http://countyplayers.org) and at the top of the main page select BUY TICKETS. Tickets are also available at the Box Office one hour before any performance. The final Main Stage production of Season 68 in May is the musical comedy "Something Rotten."

County Players 68th Season Sponsor is Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union. CP2 Readers Theatre Series is supported by Silver Sponsors: Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar College, Stewart's Shops, and Stissing Center. "Dear Jack, Dear Louise", and "Camping With Henry & Tom" are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel



County Players CP2 Series Readers will run March 13-15 in Wappingers Falls. *-Courtesy images*

French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com). County Players Falls Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for the hard of hearing. If you require wheelchair accessibility, please contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.

## Lunar New Year celebration



The lion dance was a favorite of all ages during the East Asian Culture Club's Lunar New Year celebration in Beacon.



Taiko drummers from Northern Taiko perform during the celebration.



Traditional string instruments, erhu (pictured) and pipa highlighted a full slate of live performances.



An interactive tai chi demonstration encouraged all guests to try the meditative properties

*-Photos by Morgan E. Maier*



East Asian Culture Club members and performers gather together at the end of the Spring Festival.

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