

BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 73, Number 10

March 6, 2024

Nuvance, Northwell health systems to form partnership

Nuvance Health and Northwell Health, two nonprofit, mission-driven healthcare organizations, have announced they have entered into a strategic agreement to form a new integrated regional health system serving communities across two states. The proposed agreement will allow the organizations to come together formally upon receipt of necessary regulatory approval.

"This partnership opens a new and exciting chapter for Northwell and Nuvance and provides an incredible opportunity to enhance both health systems and take patient care and services to an even higher level," said Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health. "We have similar missions in providing high-quality care for patients in the communities we serve. We look forward to building on the care that Nuvance Health's 14,000 staff members and providers deliver each and every day."

"By joining forces with Northwell Health, we are taking a giant leap forward in our shared mission to enhance the quality, accessibility and equity of the healthcare we provide to our communities," said John M. Murphy, MD, president and CEO of Nuvance Health. "This agreement enables us to make significant improvements to health outcomes for community hospitals and to deliver unparalleled care and drive positive change in the healthcare landscape."

Northwell and Nuvance Health will combine the strengths of both organizations and advance the level of care for patients in New York and Connecticut. The new regional system will bring greater access to primary, specialty and hospital care through a diverse network of combined 14,500 providers and over 1,000 sites of care, including 28 hospitals. Northwell will make significant investments in Nuvance Health, helping it continue to evolve as a high-quality and comprehensive healthcare system serving communities throughout New York and Connecticut.

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Green Team ready for annual March tradition

St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green set for Saturday

By Kristine Coulter

The annual City of Beacon St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green will take place on Main St. on March 9 in Beacon. Step off is on the West end of Main at noon. The preparation for this annual tradition is done by the Green Team Committee, which has 14 members (two of whom are honorary members).

"You know it's spring when the cardinals start to sing and the daylight hours start to get longer and – we're going to have a parade!" exclaimed Etha Dexter, who is a member of the Green Team.

Kimberlee Markarian, an associate real estate broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley, is also on the parade committee.

"We met with the police department and the fire department, and the mayor's assistant. Everyone is excited," said Markarian.

Green Team member Rich Kaplan, of Max's on Main, said bands and marchers were able to sign up until March 4th.

Markarian noted cousins Danielle Raheem and Aidan McElduff joined the team. "They are young and lively," she said.

Aidan McElduff remarked, "I love Beacon. I'm from Beacon. We're all Irish and I love the parade." Aidan's grandfather, Jerry, and his brother, John, were previous grand marshals of the parade in 2017.

"We knew we needed some young blood," said Maggie McElduff McCann



Members of the Green Team announce the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green on March 9th on Main St. in the City of Beacon. Pictured, from left, Rich Kaplan, Rick Brownell, Aidan McElduff, Etha Dexter, Maggie McElduff McCann, Bitsy Castillo and Kimberlee Markarian.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

(also related to Danielle and Aidan).

The 2024 Grand Marshal is Ronnie Beth Sauers, a Beacon resident who previously lived on Long Island and New York City with her late husband, Ron.

Sauers was a previous member of the Beacon City Council who represented Ward 3. She also served as vice president of the Beacon Business Association.

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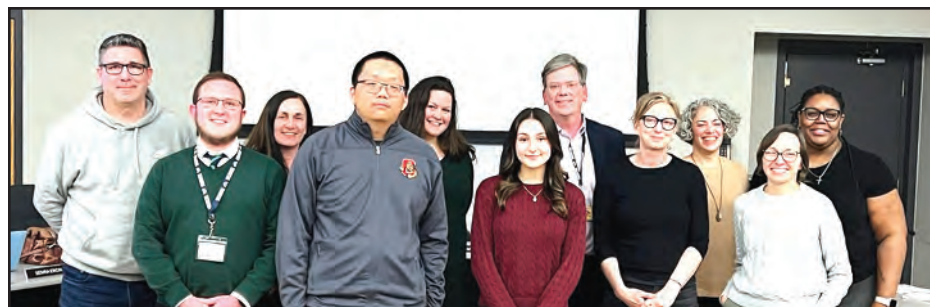
Beacon High School names 2024 valedictorian, salutatorian

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon High School (BHS) Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian were announced during the recent Beacon City School District (BCSD) Board of Education (BOE) meeting. Valedictorian for the BHS class of 2024 is Isabella Migliore and Salutatorian is Wallace Wei, according to school officials.

"It is my privilege to introduce to the Board to the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Class of 2024," remarked Beacon High School Principal Corey Dwyer.

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Members of the Beacon City School District Board of Education congratulate the Beacon High School Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Isabella Migliore and Wallace Wei.

-Courtesy photo

The Jeremiahs

When: March 17, 2024
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Where: The Towne Crier

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Parade of Green set for Saturday

Continued from cover

According to Sauers bio from the Green Team, "It was then that they purchased three burned-out, boarded-up buildings on the east end of our City. Together, they revitalized storefronts and created high-end apartments with historically accurate facades and updated modern interiors. These finished buildings marked the beginning of Beacon's rebirth."

Rick Brownell, parade committee member, said about the grand marshal decision, "Every year there are many we could have chosen other than the ones we chose." The ones who were not chosen this year, will be carried over to a list of names for 2025.

Markarian remarked, "This is a fun parade. There are no politics involved in this. This is a non-political community parade."

Brownell added, "I think there's a lot of drama going on in the world. This parade is about no drama – [it's about] people enjoying people. It gives you a



The annual City of Beacon St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green will be held on March 9th on Main St. in the City of Beacon. Pictured are members of the McElduff family marching in the 2023 parade.

-Archive photo by Kristine Coulter

chance to not think about the drama in this world and enjoy the day."

Green Team member Bitsy Castillo said the parade is about "the kids watching and waving... for a short time you can give

people a smile." "Make sure everyone comes out and supports the community," noted Kaplan.

BVAC begins operating as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Services

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BVAC) will begin operating as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Services on March 4, at 6 a.m. BVAC's primary service area is about 20-square miles with a population of about 25,000. However, BVAC is very busy with more than 3,000 calls a year which includes a small percentage of calls responding to neighboring areas, according to BVAC. The number of calls per year has been steadily increasing, even as the field of Emergency Medical Services is in crisis. AEMT service is an intermediate level of service between Basic Life Support (BLS) service by EMTs and Advance Life Support

(ALS) service by Paramedics. BVAC is taking this step in an attempt to stay ahead of our community needs. With this step, BVAC becomes the first AEMT agency in Dutchess County, according to BVAC.

BVAC's primary service area includes various disadvantage communities such as low-income, senior, and disabled residents, with more than 500 senior/low-income units, more than 300 tax credit/inclusionary units, more than 600 long-Term care/rehabilitation beds, and three clinics. About 16% of our population are over the age of 65. BVAC's service area also includes all six schools of the Beacon City School District which include grade levels from K through 12 with

a total enrollment of about 2,500. Geographic challenges also exist in the form of Mount Beacon, the Hudson River, the Metro-North Hudson Line, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, and the Interstate 84, BVAC stated. There is more to come, as BVAC's primary service area is expected to experience an increase in both residents and tourists with more housing units and commercial space expected to be built.

As noted in the "New York State 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for Future" written by a State EMS Sustainability Technical Advisory Group, part of key recommendation 8 is about incentivizing a tiered EMS response system. BVAC is a

non-profit 501(c)3 organization that operates with a hybrid staff of both employees and volunteers. BVAC is not a taxing entity and happens to be the only Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Dutchess County. BVAC submitted an upgrade application to the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council (HVREMSCo) on October 2023, to upgrade their service from Basic Life Support to AEMT Service. After a thorough review by HVREMSCo and New York State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Services, BVAC's application was approved and the proposed operations was successfully inspected. BVAC is ready to accept the challenge, it was stated.

PHOTOGRAPH 51
By Anna Ziegler

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Nuvance, Northwell health systems to form partnership

Continued from cover

“This agreement marks an important milestone for both Nuvance Health and Northwell, mission-driven organizations with similar values and an optimistic vision for the future of health-care,” said Margaret Crotty, chair of the Northwell Board of Trustees. “Together we can create something truly special – an integrated health system that is even better positioned to care for the communities we serve.”

“Our collaboration with Northwell Health builds upon the strong foundation of our ongoing relationship,” said Anne Roby, chair of the Nuvance Health Board of Directors. “Together, we will address the evolving needs of our communities more efficiently and effectively, ensuring the delivery of compassionate, high-quality care locally.”

Both Northwell and Nuvance Health reaffirm their commitments to the goals and objectives defined in the initial letter of intent. The integrated health system has the following plans.

Deliver Extraordinary Clinical Care Locally to Patients - With increased capacity to invest in medical advancements and innovation, the integrated system would better serve patients in their respective markets and communities. When Nuvance Health joins Northwell, local communities would have access to coordinated care across western Connecticut, the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island. The care delivered in these sites would span the full range of ambulatory, hospital and post-acute services.

Create Healthier Communities - Combining Nuvance Health with the resources of Northwell would enable the organizations to meet the evolving, varied needs of local communities more quickly, more efficiently and more effectively. Together, both organizations would have the ability to make significant improvements to health outcomes and address health disparities across the communities they serve. As nonprofit organizations, Northwell and Nuvance Health would also continue to provide care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

Expedite Medical Innovation - By joining Northwell, Nuvance Health would gain access to the clinical, operating and financial resources of one of the nation’s largest integrated health systems. Combining purchasing power, clinical capabilities and expertise from both organizations would help drive even greater innovation, enhanced care and services offerings. Building on each organization’s research, education and clinical care infrastructure, the combined entity would accelerate innovation in patient care and advance medical research that can help transform lives.

Workforce Opportunities - The agreement would increase the opportunity to attract and retain top talent, including physicians, nurses, surgical and research specialists as well as allied health and business professionals. By coming together, medical staff and employees would have greater professional growth opportunities, new career prospects and the chance to work with some of the best in the industry. This could include academic pathways for



John M. Murphy, MD, President and CEO of Nuvance Health, left, and Michael Dowling, President and CEO of Northwell Health are pictured at the announcement last week.

-Courtesy photo

health professionals to acquire additional degrees and for new graduates to fill high-demand positions.

financial advisor for Nuvance Health, and Epstein Becker & Green acted as legal advisor.

Kaufman Hall served as exclusive

Stanford residents keep awareness alive for Ukraine

By Rich Thomaselli

Ed Zick is surprised. “I am,” said the head of the 9/11 Committee of the Town Stanford Fire Department. “I didn’t think the war would last this long. But here we are.”

He’s talking about the war between Russia and Ukraine, which recently passed a milestone – having begun with the Russian invasion on Feb. 24, 2022.

Zick is one of a handful of local residents with ties to Ukraine. His association is one of generosity. Two years ago, he spearheaded an effort to ship much needed medical and emergency supplies to Ukraine. Along the way, he met some great colleagues and formed lasting friendships.

“You just feel really sorry for the people,” he said. “Because it’s just as bad now as it was two years ago. I feel really guilty. Should we have done more? Should we have stayed more active? Should we have been more involved? You ask yourself these questions every day.”

Zick added that he is asked every day whether there will be another voluntary effort. There are no current plans to do so, but he wouldn’t say no, either. The project is time-consuming. After all, think about it. Your shipping supplies almost 5,000 miles to a war-torn country in the eastern bloc of Europe.

Not to mention driving the supplies into Ukraine from Poland.

But the sincere thanks and gratitude and letter of citation was enough.

“In the end,” Zick said, “you know you did a good thing, and you know it got to the right place. It’s a good feeling.”

For Estonia native Mark Lagus and his wife, also a native of Estonia, it is perhaps an even more critical time now than

it was two years ago. As the war enters its third year, they have to be careful to keep the awareness level raised for American citizens.

Supplies and arms for the nation of Ukraine is at a premium.

“We are very passionate about the need to defend Ukraine and the danger that Russia poses to the world,” Mark said. “We started by raising awareness among our neighbors and friends, and we have to continue to do so.”

That includes continuing to lobby local politicians who can vote for the passage of funds for Ukraine.

“Everyone knows that if Russia is not stopped in Ukraine, that it will continue to disrupt Europe and threaten their lives and threaten their countries,” he said. “Putin is not in this for the short term. The fact that he hasn’t given up makes it unsurprising that we’re still here two years later. What the West hasn’t realized is that a Ukrainian victory is in our best interest. And with a very modest investment in weapons and fractions of what we spend for our defense, we could make that happen.”

Neither Zick nor Lagus is surprised at the resilience and fortitude of the Ukrainian people, saying that they are literally fighting for their lives. That’s difficult to comprehend when in America we worry about simple things like a spot in the grocery line.

“There are polls that have been released that show there is strong support and an awareness of the war, but I don’t want to say it’s been forgotten. But it’s certainly been on the back burner so to speak,” Lagus said. “Most people in this country have their own issues and are getting on with their lives. But the war in Ukraine is important. We just don’t see the same energy as we did two years ago, and that’s understandable.”

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Viewpoints

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- 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.

Family courts have to stop failing children

To the Editor:

Enough is enough. The family court system in New York has persistently failed our children. We, the shared parenting leaders, the Domestic Violence advocates, Father's rights champions, single parent defenders, and the citizens of New York, are beyond exhaustion. We are banding together— domestic violence organizations, Father's rights groups, along with countless others fighting for our children's futures.

To the officials who have turned a blind eye and deepened the divide, hear this: We demand change. We are uniting, and if the Family Courts refuse to evolve, we will unseat those who stand in the way of justice. This isn't about politics; this is about our children's civil rights, their safety, their tomorrows.

This is a rallying cry from Rouses Point to Staten Island; our battle is with the courts. We must unite, redefine the narrative, and rise for the seismic reform that our family courts desperately need. Change is not just coming; it is here.

Andre' K. Rainey
Current Chair of New York, National Parents Organization
Vice President of Fathers Are Important

Electric school bus mandate is unrealistic

To the Editor:

Gov Hochul is beyond unrealistic in her mandate that all school buses be electric by 2035. The mandate is impractical, very short-sighted, and will likely far exceed her estimated costs.

Consider these factors. Not every school bus route is 30 - 60 minutes long. Some after-school activities last more than 12 hours, can be more than 250+ miles round trip, require overnight stays, and can be out of state. These events attract students from local

and out-of-state districts and can number in the dozens for just one event. How are these buses supposed to charge while on a long trip?

There are several bus manufacturers with different operational and panel controls. Additionally, there are different fueling systems from gas, diesel, and propane buses depending on the manufacturer. Will every bus company sacrifice proprietary designs and conform to one standard? Will drivers have access to recharge when driving out of district or out of state? Will Gov Hochul impose her mandate on border states, private bus companies, and independent districts?

How will drivers have access to other districts fueling stations? Our bus yard has locked security gates accessible after hours and on weekends with a security tag on each bus and our fueling stations require a personal security code and access key.

Yes, I favor protecting the environment and advocate for measures to halt global warming. But I also want to keep students safe while boarding and disembarking from the bus.

Gov. Hochul should first mandate that EVERY district, privately owned, and independent district school bus in NYS be outfitted with RED LIGHT CAMERAS. After all, thousands of drivers pass a stopped school bus with flashing lights EVERY SINGLE DAY IN NYS. Why not have the same commitment to safeguarding "the World's Most Precious Natural Resource (our children)?"

Then there is the question of what to do with the 50,000+/- existing buses, fuel tanks, and fuel pumps that will become obsolete and overwhelm landfills. Garages will have to be rebuilt or restructured. Mechanics will have to purchase new tools. Gov Hochul approved a contract to Proterra to build electric buses. That company went out of business. Taxpayers are on the hook.

Too many unanswered questions in too short a time.

To borrow from Samuel L. Jackson in the John Wick movies franchise, "Will someone PLEASE get this Governor all the facts."

Joe Torres
Wappingers Falls

State officials call for passage of 'Melanie's Law'

Assemblyman Anil Beephan, Jr. (R, C-East Fishkill) held a press conference on Feb. 28 with legislative colleagues from the Assembly and state Senate as they once again push to pass "Melanie's Law" and send the measure to the governor.

"Melanie's Law" (A.6026) aims to remove a loophole limiting orders of protection that leaves certain immediate family members unprotected. The bill was proposed following the death of Melanie Chianese, an adult who died at the hand of her mother's ex-partner, in part, because her mother's order of protection

did not extend to Melanie, who was not a minor at the time the order was issued.

"I proudly stand with a bipartisan delegation in supporting Melanie's Law. I urge the state Assembly to swiftly pass this bill, echoing the Senate's support from last year. Let's enact this common-sense change, ensuring our domestic violence victims can access the protections they rightfully deserve. Thank you to Assemblymember (Brian) Cunningham, Sen. (Michelle) Hinchey and Sen. (Rob) Rolison for their leadership," Beephan said.

MRC to host Women's Safety Awareness Night March 19

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Dutchess County and the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department will offer the popular Women's Safety Awareness Night seminar on Tuesday, March 19, starting at 7 p.m., at the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response campus, located at 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. The event is free to attend, but registration is required by emailing mrc@dutchessny.gov.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "This is an important opportunity to empower women and girls to take ownership of their safety and well-being. I am grateful to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and our own Medical Reserve Corps for continuing to offer such important trainings for Dutchess County residents, and for all they do to keep our community safe."

Designed to encourage and empower women while raising awareness of common safety measures that can be taken to minimize risk, Town of Poughkeepsie Police Detective Lindsay Chomicki and Officer Kristen Norbom will share tips for participants to better understand the important role their instincts and gut reactions play as well as how to identify and avoid potentially dangerous situations, how to make a safety plan and decrease the odds of becoming a victim of a crime.

Dutchess County MRC hosts various trainings for members and non-members alike throughout the year. For more information about the MRC, including how to sign-up to volunteer, visit dutchessny.gov/mrc.

BEACON FREE PRESS

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

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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.

New time for Legislature board meetings

All future Dutchess County Legislature Board meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. starting with the March regular board meeting on March 11. Committee meetings will continue to commence at 5:30 p.m.

For more information on the Dutchess

County Legislature and to view the agenda, visit: <https://DutchessNY.gov/CountyGov/Departments/Legislature/CLindex.htm> or consider liking and following the page on Facebook to stay up to date on the Legislature's work at <https://www.facebook.com/DCLegislature>.

Club Green Teen visits Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps



Club Green Teen poses in front of a BVAC ambulance. Back row: Antony Tseng, Program Manager Sam Brittain, Thalia Rodriguez, Sadie Vasquez, Kaylee Ortiz, Luna Yawman, Messiah Gardner, Desirae Smith, and Saoirse Fehilly. Front row: Jude Williams and Antonio See.

-Courtesy photo

Club Green Teen, the after-school offshoot of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Green Teen Beacon Program, was invited for a tour of the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps station on February 16. Participants included seven youth, ages 12-13, led by Crew Leaders Desirae Smith and Messiah Gardner, age 16. The Club was introduced to the duties and responsibilities of EMS by longtime BVAC member and program director Antony Tseng. The visit included a tour of an ambu-

lance, a description of common medical devices, and a hands-on demonstration of the stretcher.

This visit is the fifth in a series of seven field trips for Club Green Teen's winter session, which is focused on civic engagement and building community. Next week, the Club will visit Madam Brett Homestead.

For more information and pictures of the visit, and updates about future activities, follow Green Teen Beacon on Facebook and Instagram.

Jeffrey M. Feldman named chairperson of Hudson Valley Hospice Board of Directors

Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP (FKC&S) is excited to announce that its founding partner, Jeffrey M. Feldman, was recently named chairperson of the Hudson Valley Hospice Board of Directors. The nonprofit health-care agency provides a full spectrum of compassionate care and support services to individuals, and their loved ones, who are faced with life-limiting illnesses. Feldman, who began his one-year term on January 1, has been a dedicated supporter of the nonprofit for more than 16 years. He began volunteering after the death of his friend and law partner, Paul S. Kleidman, from pancreatic cancer in 2006.

"Witnessing the incredible care that hospice provided to Paul and his family so many years ago was lifechanging," said Feldman. "I became a volunteer to help ensure that more people know about, and have access to, this tremendous resource. Fast forward to 2024 and I've had three other family members benefit from the care of the angels at their local hospices. It's an honor to take on the role of chairperson and I feel so fortunate that, after 17 years of dedicated service, my predecessor, Helen Rinaudo, has agreed to remain on the executive committee and will continue to mentor me."

Feldman has served on both the Hudson Valley Hospice Board of Directors and Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation Board of Trustees for the organization, helping grow and expand its ability to support individuals needing end-of-life care. Prior to this year, he served as first vice chairperson from 2021 to 2023, during which time Rinaudo served as chairperson. According to Hudson Valley Hospice's president and CEO, Michael Kaminski, during her six years as chairperson and cumulative 17 years on the board of directors, the patient census increased six-fold, a palliative care physician group was formed and the Hudson Valley Hospice House was conceived, built and opened. Feldman will continue to work closely with Rinaudo, his fellow board members and Kaminski to deepen the organization's impact.

"We are exceedingly fortunate that Jeff has agreed to serve as our next chairperson," said Kaminski. "He brings extensive experience and knowledge of hospice, its culture, vision and philosophy, and his ability to quickly understand solutions to problems will assist Hudson Valley Hospice continue its success of providing high quality hospice care to more and more people in Dutchess and Ulster Counties."

With a rich history dating back to the 1970s, Hudson Valley Hospice has been a cornerstone of compassionate end-of-life care, offering a comprehensive range of



Jeffrey M. Feldman

services including pain relief, emotional and spiritual support, end-of-life planning, medical care management and grief support services. On December 11, 2023, the nonprofit achieved a significant milestone by inaugurating the first freestanding hospice house in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. This state-of-the-art facility is dedicated to providing all levels of hospice care, including general inpatient care, respite care and home care.

To discuss the grand opening late last year, Feldman and Lisa A. Wilson, executive director of the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation and vice president of marketing at Hudson Valley Hospice, sat down for an interview with Conor Walsh, host of "In Touch," the award-winning public affairs and issues program that runs across Townsquare Media of the Hudson Valley radio stations. During the interview, Feldman and Wilson shared about Hudson Valley Hospice's wide breadth of services and emphasized the comfort and expert care that the organization can provide, allowing people to focus on spending quality time with their loved ones instead of carrying the weight of decision-making, caregiving and grieving on their own. They also discussed the stigma that exists around hospice care.

"I find the misconceptions of hospice and end of life care to be in great need of correction," said Feldman. "We need to get the word out so that people understand and appreciate that obtaining hospice services is not throwing in the towel, but rather making the best of the time that is left."

To learn more about Hudson Valley Hospice, or to make a donation, you can visit www.hvhospice.org or follow them on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.

Open Mic at Towne Crier in Beacon on Thursdays

An open mic is held on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Crier Café, 379 Main St., in Beacon. Performers must sign up in person, 4-6 p.m., and must be present when the Open Mic starts.

Please note: As of January, there is a \$10 minimum for everyone in attendance – performers and audience members – which can be applied to food and beverage purchases.

COLLEGE NOTES

The following students were named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete,"

"D" or "F;" and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Shane Green of Beacon, who is in the computer engineering program.

Nuriya May of Beacon, who is in the film and animation program.

Ysabel Heath of Beacon, who is in the mechanical engineering program.

Commercial Fishing on the Hudson River presentation set for March 21 in Beacon

The Beacon Sloop Club's 2024 Lecture Series presents Commercial Fishing on the Hudson River on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. John Mylod will discuss the natural history of shad, herring, sturgeon, blue crabs, and the history of the Hudson

River fishery. The series is free. The lecture will be held at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon.

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







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A Vassar professor's escape from the Spanish Civil War

Note: We are grateful to Ken Bulkeley of Staatsburg for bringing this story to our attention in celebration of Women's History Month.

By Will Tatum

It reads like a plotline from a popular film franchise, featuring all the typical devices: A professor, Nazis, English intervention, and a harried plane flight to safety, piloted by a French aristocrat. With the addition of a bull-whip and a fedora, you have the making of a potential blockbuster. But this story is less "Indiana Jones" than it is "Innocents Abroad," and it happens to be entirely true.

The Spanish Civil War is a relatively little-known conflict in American circles these days, even though it acted as a dress rehearsal for World War II. It featured National Socialists pitted against Communists, with a flowering cast of international volunteers. The Germans supplied arms and equipment to one side, Russia to the other, and both sat back to watch what would happen. Lessons learned would be applied a few years later further east in Europe. It's a conflict well worth reading about in these times of unsettled politics, if for no other reason than one of its worst episodes (the bombing of Guernica) inspired Pablo Picasso to paint one of his avowed masterpieces.

The action kicked off on July 17, 1936, when Generals Emilio Mola and Francisco Franco launched a coup designed to overthrow the democratically elected government of the Republic of Spain. Painting with a broad brush, Mola and Franco thought that

the new government was too clearly aligned with Communist interests, a bit of a hot topic in Europe at the time.

Despite some early gains, the conflict would grind on until April 1939, spreading across Spain and into North Africa. The Socialists eventually prevailed, with Franco rising to dictator status that listed for the rest of his life. Amidst the native and foreign national volunteers actively engaged in fighting and the inevitable civilians simply trying to survive the experience of finding themselves living in a war zone, were several pockets of foreign visitors. While "witnessing a civil war" had not been on their tour itinerary, they were nevertheless treated to an enforced extension of their stays wherever they happened to be when fighting broke out.

Enter our protagonist, Miss James Bruce Ross, a native of Chicago and an instructor of History at Vassar College, in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. Miss Ross, along with four traveling companions, had arrived in Granada, Spain, on July 19, with the intention of visiting the Alhambra, the famous Moorish palace and one-time capital of Spain. The architecture was stunning, the views were fabulous, and the seating could not have been better for viewing the uprising of Socialist forces that quickly seized the city that day.

As Miss Ross subsequently related to writers for the St. Louis Post Dispatch on August 20, 1936, she and her party quickly found themselves marooned within this rebel island situated within a wider country-



This contemporary photo shows Alhambra Palace in Spain and (inset) 1936 photo of Vassar Professor Miss James Bruce Ross.

-Images from Wikimedia Commons

side of loyal territory. Their initial plan to spend two days before continuing to British-held Gibraltar expanded into a 23-day stay. Socialist authorities confined all the foreign visitors to the area around the Alhambra as fighting raged on through various quarters of the city and the surrounding countryside.

Witnessing warfare

While mostly safe, Miss Ross nevertheless witnessed the brutal realities of modern warfare. She could see the fighting in the workers quarter, a pocket of loyalist republican resistance to the Socialist rebels, which eventually ended in the loyalist surrender. She watched government airplanes bomb Socialist strong points, barracks, and airfields.

Frequently the bombs fell close enough for glass to be shattered in the windows of the foreign visitors' lodgings, and to make any trip out of the Alhambra quarter extremely dangerous. Still, Miss Ross's associates were not idle: Efforts were underway among the international group to arrange some form of evacuation, beginning with the single women in the group, who were viewed as exceptionally vulnerable by the standards of the period.

Departure day finally came on August 11, 1936. Miss Ross and three other single women began the long day that ended in their successful escape by leaving their possessions at their lodgings and traveling to the military commandant's office. There they waited while the commandant's boots were shined and a clerk laboriously typed out releases that each of the women had to sign indemnifying the Socialists for any losses the women might suffer, up to and including their own lives.

Afterward, the party of Americans made a harrowing car trip through the winding streets of Granada, at one point stopping while local farmers picked up potatoes that had spilled from the panniers of a mule. At last, Miss Ross's group arrived at the airfield, itself a legitimate military target, and awaited their hoped-for flight out of Spanish territory.

The rescue

A plane appeared on the horizon—was it their salvation or another government craft bearing bombs for the airfield? After a few

tense minutes, the speck resolved into a blue and silver bi-motor civilian airplane named Gipsy, with a total capacity of five (the pilot and four passengers). The man behind the stick was none other than Jacques, Vicomte de Sibour, a French aristocratic who was flying the plane for its owner, Gordon Selfridge, Jr., of London, son of the founder of the famous department store.

Miss Ross and three other women boarded the plane, which suffered a false takeoff on the first attempt - one engine died while the other idled. A few adjustments later, the party was airborne, flying a winding flight plan at 6,500 feet above ground level in an attempt to avoid gunfire from the ground. Instead of attempting a landing at Gibraltar, where Spanish government gunships might fire upon them, the Vicomte crossed the Mediterranean to Tangier, where the plane arrived safely, and the American tourists disembarked. Local authorities arranged a sea crossing to Gibraltar under British colors to avoid interference from Spanish authorities. From the British stronghold, Miss Ross and her compatriots made their way back to America.

Aside from being an entertaining story, Miss James Bruce Ross's tales of misadventure and near-death experience in Spain serve as a reminder for one of my favorite expressions - it's only two degrees of separation here in Dutchess County. Our history reminds us that this rule is as true for our county's links to internationally significant events as it is for the people who live in Dutchess today.

While the Spanish Civil War was quickly overshadowed by World War II, it was an exceptionally important event in the late 1930s and still has lessons to teach us today.

If you found today's tale interesting, you will find plenty of sources to read on the war online and a variety of excellent books to peruse. When you find yourself examining major historical event, pause to consider who from Dutchess County may have been involved. It is not an ironclad certainty, but the odds are ever in our county's favor.

Will Tatum received his Ph.D. in History from Brown University in 2016. He has served as the Dutchess County Historian since October 2012.



Headlines from the Poughkeepsie Eagle News tell of Miss James Bruce Ross's arrival in Spain.

-Images from Newspapers.com

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'Red Silk' to premiere March 8-10 in Beacon

By Kristine Coulter

"Red Silk" will make its U.S. premiere at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on March 8, 9, and 10. Hit House Creative, in partnership with Beacon LitFest at the Howland Cultural Center, will present these performances by psychiatrist and playwright Lois Achimovich.

Shane Killoran is the director of "Red Silk."

"Written by Lois Achimovich, an Australian playwright and herself a now-retired psychiatrist, "Red Silk" is a deep and multifaceted view of how society's paternalistic views influence even the presumably objective practice of medicine, psychiatry in particular," Killoran explained recently. "By placing the focus on the troubled Anne Sexton, a brilliant Pulitzer prize-winning poet, we see that no one, not even the best and the brightest, were immune to the damaging impact this thinking had on women, on their mental health; we also see how agendas, motivations, are warped by the insidious and sometimes unconscious influences of society--in many ways, there is no safe place for Anne to rest."

Killoran added: "What is key though...for as deeply intense as the work is, it's hilarious, because Anne was so funny...so it's a wild ride of hilarity & meaning. There is much fun to be had in this play."

Hannah Brooks, with BeaconLit Fest, said about having the premiere of "Red Silk" in Beacon, "The Howland Cultural Center is a beautiful historic building that served as the public library since 1872; it was acquired by a small, dedicated group of volunteers, and converted to a cultural center in 1979. Since then, HCC has been a special haven for the community, and has produced a wide array of programs. In the past few years, HCC has expanded its vision, and its reach, by opening its doors to a wider array of artists." Brooks said Killoran, who is a part of the Beacon LitFest committee, "knew the Howland would be an ideal location for dramatic pieces such as "Red Silk." Live theater is a wonderful addition to HCC's offerings (and great for Beacon and the surrounding areas)."

As for who would be the audience for this particular show?

Killoran replied, "Anyone interested in the influence of societal norms on definitions of mental illness and wellness--and complicated ideas of feminism vs patriarchy, love and sexuality and betrayal, the search for personal identity, that



"Red Silk" will make its U.S. premiere from March 8-10 in Beacon at the Howland Cultural Center.

-Courtesy photo

we struggle with even today. There are so many angles and dimensions explored in the play--I think there isn't any one audience who would not find something worthwhile."

Why is the HCC a good place to hold performances like "Red Silk?"

"The play is set in Dr. Martin Orne's (Anne's real-life doctor) office, so the graceful academic intimacy of HCC's Northcutt Hall, which seats about 100, is a natural fit. Such a natural fit for the aesthetic, setting, and themes of the play, the small size and enveloping architecture is perfectly suited for powerful audience engagement during this emotionally-charged play," responded Killoran.

It was noted by Killoran, "In addition to this work, I'll be launching a monthly play-reading series at Reserva Wine Bar. The hope is that this will provide playwrights & actors alike the opportunity to hear their work, perform, as well as tap into a community of local theatre lovers while supporting a much-loved local business. The aim will be to select one of those plays each year for full production."

For more information on "Red Silk," visit www.howlandculturalcenter.org.

Pancake breakfast set for March 9

Slater Chemical Fire Company is hosting a pancake breakfast on March 9, from 8-11 a.m. at the firehouse, 76 Old Glenham Road, Beacon.

Beacon High School names 2024 valedictorian, salutatorian

Continued from cover

Dwyer noted that Isabella and Wallace both "made an indelible impression" during their high school years at BHS.

Isabella has a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 104.8, Dwyer stated. Varsity soccer, varsity winter track, and spring track as well as four years on the Mock Trial team, were some of the extracurricular activities Isabella participated in, remarked Dwyer.

Isabella "has committed to Wesleyan University [in Middletown, CT]," stated the principal. She will major in Biology. "Her goal is to attend medical school" and to become a sports medicine physician, he said.

Wallace earned a 104.5 GPA. "So, it was close," commented Dwyer. Mock

Trial and Math teams were some of the extracurricular activities Wallace was involved with in high school. He will attend Cornell University, in Ithaca, and major in Computer Science.

Dwyer announced that the student who is third in the Class of 2024 is Emily Wei, Wallace's twin sister.

BOE President Meredith Heuer stated to the students, "I can't wait to hear your speeches."

On the BCSD Facebook page, it was posted: "These students have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and academic excellence that serves as an inspiration to us all. We can't wait to witness the impact you make as you continue to pursue your dreams and represent the Beacon community in future [endeavors]!"

Elks Lodge Dance set March 16

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, Saturday March 16th at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon.

Admission is \$15 and 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.

Nominations open for Talent United

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is presenting Talent United, a competition dedicated to celebrating the diverse talents of local individuals while helping the community.

Whether you have a passion for singing, dancing, painting or any

other remarkable skill, Talent United is your chance to shine. Nominate yourself or someone else whose talent deserves recognition.

Nomination submissions are open; the deadline to apply is March 13.

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner

From sap to syrup: Confessions of a maple newbie



Since moving to Pleasant Valley, I have been immersing myself in the ecology of the surrounding woodland, which contains plenty of Maple Trees. Discoveries abound!

Did you know that the layer inside Maple Tree bark can be a survival food? Their leaves, as well as seeds are edible. Also surprising is that the sugar-containing Maple sap that is harvested for syrup comes from xylem, rather than phloem tissues.

Maple syrup production is a sustainable agricultural activity, free from pesticides and fertilizers. Tapping trees for sap does not negatively affect their overall health. In fact, syrup producers tap trees for decades without adversely affecting tree health.

Anyone who has read "The Lorax" knows that trees are important. They help combat erosion and pollution, reduce flooding, and provide wildlife habitat, in addition to other environmental benefits. So, once I realized that I could enjoy the outdoors, as well as learn a bit more Maple Tree Science, I didn't need much more convincing about becoming a Maple Syrup Producer.

What sealed the deal was learning about Cornell University's Maple Program in Lake Placid. I don't shy away from a novel experience involving food, so, I grabbed my husband's arm and dragged him to the Adirondacks. There, we spent several days learning all things maple-related. Of course, we've also read many articles and seen countless YouTube videos on the subject.

Sappy Science

Maple Sap runs in late winter to early spring in the Hudson Valley, when the night-to-day temperatures change from freezing to thawing. We have tapped our trees, collected sap, boiled, and bottled Maple Syrup several times so far this season, each time improving our methods. We don't have fancy equipment that large producers have, but completing the process has helped me better understand some science phenomena better than I ever have.



Above, Adam Wild, specialist with the Cornell Maple Program, instructs a group during a maple camp. Below, restaurant steam table pans are used as evaporating pans. They have a large surface area for maximum contact with the heat source. The two stockpots are "warming pans" for sap that has been previously frozen/refrigerated. We do that so that we can maintain the boil as new sap is added to evaporating pans.

-Courtesy photos

Prior to (and during) boiling we use a refractometer to check the sugar concentration (of sap and syrup). There is variability in the amount of sap each tree produces, as well as its sugar content. Maple Tree sap sugar content varies from one to five percent, and that impacts how much sap it takes to produce a gallon of syrup. At best, forty gallons of sap with a 2% sugar concentration yields only one gallon of syrup. (Maple syrup has a 66% sugar concentration.)

The teachable moments involved with this enterprise are unending. Sap production

most obviously relates to the processes of respiration and photosynthesis. There is physics involved with making the sap run. Chemical reactions happen as the sap boils with the water evaporating and the sucrose concentrating. It's a neat way to demonstrate concepts taught in a classroom playing out in a natural environment.

The most surprising lesson I've re-learned has been about diffusion. I taught my classes: Molecules move from where there are more to where there are less. Diffusion is the reason a drop of food coloring spreads out in

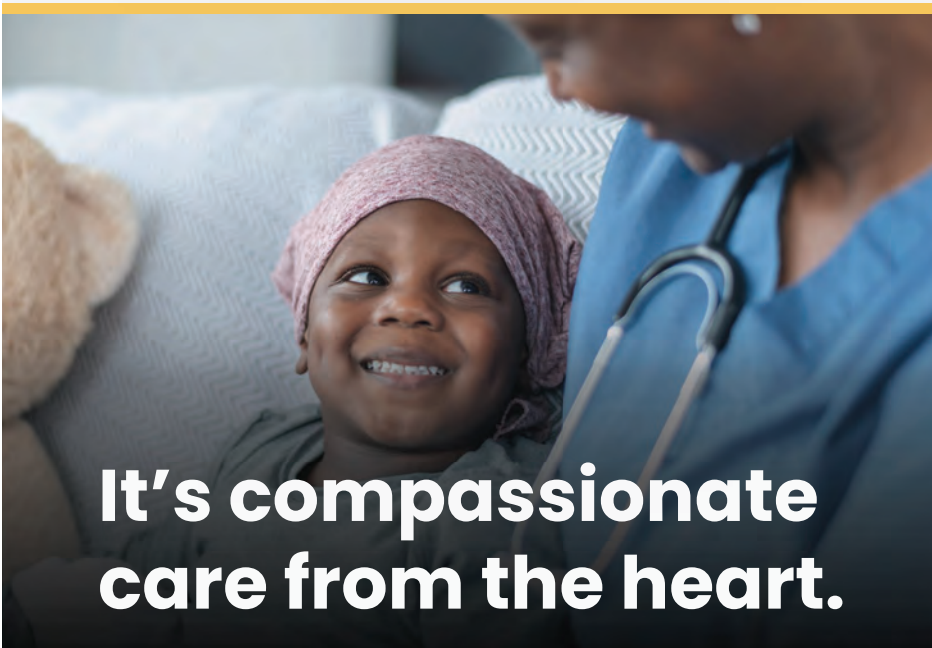
a glass of water. Yet, I was astonished that Maple Syrup heated to 219° F will very quickly lose half of its heat as it is being bottled. You don't want that to happen.

Maple Syrup that is properly bottled is shelf stable; it can be stored at room temperature until it is opened. This means that the syrup going into the bottle needs to be at least 180° F to sterilize the container and destroy foodborne microorganisms. Participating in this process is illuminating because it really helps you understand what is involved in making and packaging foods typically bought at the grocery store.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>.



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Dreary weather fails to dampen festive atmosphere of 29th annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade



The 29th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade took place on Saturday, March 2. The 1 p.m. step off took place on a rainy day in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

Clockwise from top left: Attendees line the route holding umbrellas and wearing rain gear on the dreary day.

A drummer from the Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums brings the sounds of Irish music to the parade.

The parade was started by a member of the Wappingers Falls Police Department. 2024 Grand Marshal Andrew O'Grady, CEO of Mental Health America of Dutchess County smiles and waves to parade-goers.

The American flag was carried by the Honor Guard from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



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A special tribute

David Baldauf: Environmental pioneer, inspirational leader

By Curtis Schmidt

To those who had the honor of knowing David Baldauf, he was a kind and gentle soul – and much more. A resident of Rhinebeck for many years, he was also a space program explorer, avid environmental pioneer and steward, community volunteer and teacher.

David Baldauf passed away on Feb. 20 at the age of 95.

From working extensively for IBM with the Gemini space missions in the 1960s to kayaking into his 90s and hiking to peaks in the Catskills and Adirondacks well into his 80s, to building a solar home in the 1970s and even ensuring that lands like Burger Hill Park continue to have public access, Baldauf was always at the forefront of innovation and natural preservation.

On the local level, Baldauf served the Town of Rhinebeck as a leader and member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for 30-plus years, worked with other volunteers on the Town Master Plan committee and was one of the most revered members of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church.

Rev. Luis Perez, pastor of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church, said “We stand in great debt to David for rekindling our awareness of nature – to feel wonder, awe and reverence at the mountains, the streams, the lakes, the oceans, the animals, all the beauty of our awesome world.”

He said Baldauf organized “nature walks in order to help us un-complicate the often frantic and dizzy pace of our lives.” One of Baldauf’s more memorable environmental educational programs was a church trip on the Clearwater Sloop on the Hudson River. “We developed a deeper appreciation of the river’s beauty and resources, and we learned how every aspect of created life is integrated,” said Rev. Perez.

Michael B. Trimble, past chair of Rhinebeck’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and the Town’s Planning Board, said, “Our paths would cross as applications to the Planning Board frequently would lead to variance requests to the Zoning Board of Appeals and we would talk over issues that might ensue. David was a very patient and knowledgeable individual and a delight to talk to.”

He said when the CAC first found out that the land we now know as Burger Hill Park was being sold, Baldauf was one of the early supporters of ensuring the land would become and remain a public park.

Rhinebeck Town Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia said Baldauf was always “gentle, kind and supportive. Just a gem of a person. He was very smart, intelligent – always with an eye on protecting the environment.”

Melodye Moore, Rhinebeck resident and fellow congregant of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church, said she knew Baldauf as “an elder statesman who emanated love and compassion for everyone he met. He was also the conscience of the church when it came to being a good steward of God’s creation and encouraged us to adopt more environmentally sensitive ways of caring for our church.”

In regard to his work with the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, she said, “Behind his always quiet and courteous demeanor was a man with strong opinions about how best to protect the town he loved so much. Our community was enriched beyond measure by the service of this remarkable public servant.”

Current Zoning Board chairman Scott Bergin described Baldauf as a model for community-minded volunteers.

“I want to be (like) David Baldauf when I grow up,” said the 64-year-old attorney. “He was always very calm, patient and extremely knowledgeable on zoning law. He showed respect to everyone and was a great listener. He was firm, direct and honest, but certainly not weak, said Bergin. “He was a true inspiration. I learned so much from him. Whenever I’m faced with difficult decisions, I ask ‘What would David do.’”

“He was very humble, but definitely passionate. He was an extremely positive influence on me and I feel blessed to have known him,” said Bergin.

Those traits were honed over many years in Baldauf’s life.

His early work with IBM provided the training ground for his appreciation of our planet and resources. His daughter, Susan Baldauf Wright shared parts of her father’s memoirs.

(At IBM in the ‘60s) “I was manager of



From an environmental standpoint, David Baldauf believed in experiencing nature first hand. He was kayaking and hiking well into his 90s. Here he sits atop Giant Ledge in the Catskill Mountains, one of the many peaks he climbed.

-Courtesy photo

space navigation and system integration where we had a vehicle simulation facility set up on which the future astronauts came to train for their missions. We worked among others with Neil Armstrong (who later was the first man on the moon), Jim McDivitt, Gus Grissom and Ed White (who was the first person to walk in space). Gemini was the first space vehicle to perform on-board ascent guidance, re-entry guidance, orbital navigation and rendezvous maneuvering. Working with the government with multi-layered contracts required frequent travel to the prime aircraft contractors on the west coast, our subcontractors, NASA headquarters in Houston and the Air Force HQ in Dayton (Ohio).

“On one of these trips as I was flying from San Francisco to Minneapolis, I was seated beside a college professor who was deriding the onslaught of technology. He told me to read ‘Small is Beautiful’ by E.F. Schumacher when I got home. This started me on my concern for the environment as I coupled his writing with my experience in the space program to realize how fragile the world is and how everything interacts with everything else in nature.”

Such exploits led Baldauf to explore

nature first hand. His daughter Susan wrote, “His children grew up camping and sailing as family vacations. He was always gardening, trail-blazing and landscaping at home and birding with my Mom, and always - a lifestyle of composting, reusing, repurposing and repairing.”

Susan said, “He believed that we are to be a blessing and we are to be stewards of God’s creation.”

More extensive adventures for Baldauf included “Kayaking and canoeing Hudson River inlets and wetlands like Roundout Creek and Esopus Meadows, Tivoli Bays, (as well as

the Berkshires, Adirondacks); Hiking the local trails and climbing many Catskill high peaks and sailing the Hudson River out of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club.”

And then, Baldauf’s goal was to always impart his knowledge and help others to understand and appreciate the fragile beauty of our world.

Rev. Perez shared the comments of fellow congregant Bill Nieves of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church who described Baldauf as “A custodian of Mother Earth.”

Nieves added, “Thank God for David Baldauf. Good idea, God.”

Obituaries

Marianne Valente



EAST FISHKILL - Marianne Valente, a longtime resident of Hopewell Junction, passed away on February 24, 2024, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She was 76.

On April 19, 1947, in the Bronx, Marianne was born to the late Anton and Elizabeth (Worche) Cernik.

Marianne graduated with her master’s degree from Western State Connecticut College and went on to become a beloved second grade teacher in Putnam Valley. On May 29, 1971, in Putnam Valley, Marianne married the love of her life, Rocco. He survives at home. Marianne is also survived by her daughter, Francine Perez and her husband, Luis; her daughter, Dawn Potthast and her husband, Thomas; her son, Dominic Valente and his wife, Therese; her daughter, Angela Guerra and her husband, Carlos; her grandchildren, Preston, Dominic, Danica,

Donovan, Chase, Austin, Juliana, Karl, Nickolas, Lucus and Amelia.

Marianne was a dedicated parishioner at St. Mary Mother of the Church in Fishkill and for many years, was the Coordinator of Religious Education. In her free time, Marianne enjoyed reading a good book and carefully selecting and wrapping thoughtful gifts for all her loved ones. More than anything, Marianne loved being Gramma.

Calling hours were held on Friday, March 1, 2024, at the Mchoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill. A Mass of Christian burial was held on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at St. Mary Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill. Entombment immediately followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 US Route 9, Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Marianne’s name to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org or to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Please visit Marianne’s Book of Memories at www.MchoulFuneralHome.com.

Ronald B. Prichard



POUGHKEEPSIE - Ronald B. Prichard, of Poughkeepsie NY, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday February 25th, 2024. Ron was born on April 10th, 1939 in Poughkeepsie NY to the late Benjamin and Eleanor Prichard. He is survived by his brother Robert Prichard (Terry) and Ron’s longtime companion, Linda Ciancio as well as Ron’s children and their spouses, Scott and Jessica Prichard, Andrea and Joseph Kirchoff, his former wife Karen VanWagner Sheer and Lindas sons Brandon and Kelly Ciancio and Judson Ciancio.

He also leaves behind several grandchildren: Kyle Kirchoff (Kelly), Troy Kirchoff (Jessica), Samantha Rathjen (Paul), Layla Kirchoff, Scott B. Prichard, and Gabrielle E. Prichard as well as three great grandchildren William Kirchoff, Elle and Emma Kirchoff and one nephew Brian Prichard.

Ron was a 1957 graduate of Arlington High School and from there joined the US Army and served as an Honor Guard in Washington DC including duties as a guard to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. From there he went on to join the family garden center business before founding Dutchess Recreational Vehicles and a splinter affiliate in Newburgh NY. After Ron sold his businesses, he pursued his true talent and passions which were taking difficult restoration projects and turning them into true works of art. His focus was on turn of the century automobiles and engines which slowly evolved into custom vintage motorcycles. Ron’s love of speed often found him on the Hudson River enjoying one of the many offshore race boats he took a fancy to as well as motorcycle and snowmobile racetracks around the country.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing our dad knew he was a man of many talents, skills and a wealth of information. He loved his children and family immensely and his persona radiated a feeling of safety and security for those he touched. He will be greatly missed by all.

A private burial will be held with a celebration of life to follow in the spring. Memorial donations can be made in Ronald’s name to Town of Poughkeepsie PBA, P.O. Box 3003, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley. For condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

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SPORTS REPORT

Beacon boys fall to Saugerties in Section 9 title contest

By Rich Thomaselli
The Beacon High School boys basketball team was playing at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, Orange County, for the Section 9, Class A championship. That's barely a 20-minute drive across the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge from its campus. The prelude to the storyline was right there. But the ending was not what the Bulldogs wanted. Beacon, seated fifth in the tourna-

ment, had its dream of going to the state tournament denied by No.2 Saugerties, 54-38. The Bulldogs were gunning for their first sectional title since moving to Section 9. The Sawyers won their first crown in nine years. They were scheduled to play the Section 1 champion in a state playoff game this week. Nick Stinmire had a double-double with 11 points and 13 rebounds to lead Saugerties.

OLL boys advance to state tournament

By Rich Thomaselli
The Our Lady of Lourdes High School boys basketball team is back on top. The Warriors defeated Warwick, 42-40, in the Section 9, Class AA final at Monroe-Woodbury High School over the weekend. It is the first sectional title for the boys basketball program at the school in seven years. It's not like the team hasn't been close,

however. OLL finished as the runner up in both Section 1 and Section 9 the last two years. The boys team made the state tournament and will face the Section 1 or 4 champion Friday, 7 p.m. at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh in the first round of play. Zach Hart had 16 points and 15 rebounds to lead OLL. The Warriors are now 18-4 overall.

American Red Cross aids 2 after fire in Beacon

Volunteers from the Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross provided emergency aid to two people after a

fire on March 1 on Sterling Street in Beacon. The Red Cross provided financial

assistance which can be used for necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing for two adults. In the coming days, Red Cross

staff and volunteers will remain available to help those affected by the fire as they navigate the road to recovery.

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- Beacon Free Press
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Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center to feature 3 new exhibitions in March

The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 and 12 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie, will feature three new art exhibitions in their Visual Art Galleries for the March/April 2024 series. Showcased in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar Street will be the works of Liliana Washburn, and at 12 Vassar Street, Arquimedes Mejia and Naomi Berkery will display their artwork in the Reception Gallery and Hancock Gallery, respectively. Free Public Art Opening Receptions will be held on March 8, from 5 - 7 p.m. in all three galleries. All three exhibitions will run until April 30, with the Liliana Washburn and Arquimedes Mejia exhibitions beginning March 1, and the Naomi Berkery exhibition beginning March 6.

Liliana Washburn is a contemporary painter and Illustrator who was born in Brazil. She started painting at 37 years of age graduating Summa Cum Laude from SUNY New Paltz. Her main body of work consists of large abstract paintings on Yupo paper, a synthetic paper made by Yupo Corporation America. Her daily practice includes the creation of an automatic miniature drawing as an essential part of her paintings process. In 2016, during a residency in Poland, she painted one of her miniature drawings on a large canvas. Since then, her main interest has been the emotional interplay created by simultaneously working on both styles. Semi-abstract scenes emerge from her paintings evoking viewers to derive their own meaning from them. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally and it is now part of many private collections.

Liliana believes in art as therapy. Through her art she shares the emotional energy of a specific moment.

As she stated: "I call my work human-nature, because it is human nature to express all emotions. It is sharing them that allows us to connect to each other ... I paint because it makes me feel happy. It is my hope that when you look at my work, we can share that moment of happiness."

Liliana lives in Holmes, with her husband of 22 years.

Naomi Berkery attended Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn, receiving an MFA in Art and Design Education with a concentration in Art Therapy. For 25 years she lived in New York City creating and exhibiting her artwork throughout the 5 boroughs and the Tri-State Area. Relocating back to her childhood home of Newburgh, NY in 2019 with her husband and pit bull rescue, Naomi submerged herself in the established bustling Art Community in the Hudson Valley area.

Working out of her studio in Safe Harbors on the Hudson and in conjunction with The Ann Street Gallery in Newburgh, Prange County, she creates highly emotive portraiture pieces that are colorful, bold, vibrant, playful, and at times overpowering, and are influenced by the fusion of city meets nature through Street Art and Graffiti, Surrealism, Neo Expressionism, the gorgeous outdoors in the Hudson Valley.

"My artwork is a deeply personal celebration of authenticity and visual expression," she explained. "It is an emotional journey towards self-discovery and

acceptance - a visceral beckoning for my audience to experience my deepest thoughts through their very own eyes, making connections to their own experiences. I play with contrast, extremes, representation, the disconnect between the 'self' we present to the world and the softer underbelly we go to great lengths to conceal by manipulating the intangible and reworking it physically to be in real space tangible through materials, texture and imagery."

Naomi is a member of several Hudson Valley artists groups and communities and regularly participates in Newburgh Open Studios and Newburgh Illuminated. She is a permanent resident artist at Ilon Gallery in Harlem and, along with her works found in many private collections, she exhibits her artwork at local businesses and galleries as well as in New York City. Since 2003, she has taught Art to Special Needs students in grades 4th to 12th in Manhattan and currently works with over 300 students diagnosed with severe learning disabilities including ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, NVLD, and EF.

Arquimedes Mejia is a mixed media artist who was born in the city of the Seibo, Dominican Republic and studied drawing, painting and sculpture at the National School of Fine Arts in Santo Domingo. Appreciating the texture and movement of the water, and the beauty of the colors in the sunsets, his exhibition at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center is comprised of paintings that are oil color with a few in acrylic using impressionist techniques in an homage to Monet and Degas.

The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery at 12 Vassar Street are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. but visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at 845-486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar Street Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. The Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar Street is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center website at cunneen-hackett.org for more information on the artists exhibiting their work in the Visual Art Galleries.

NDSO presents Children's Concert 'Use Your Imagination' on March 12

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) will present its' children's concert, "Use Your Imagination," scheduled for March 12. This event will take place at the Marriott Pavilion, hosted by the Culinary Institute of America, offering an immersive multimedia experience for students from the Hyde Park, Spackenkill, Red Hook, and Rhinebeck school districts.

Students will have the opportunity to hear the orchestra perform Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," familiar favorites from "Star Wars" and enjoy their art work projected over the orchestra while listening to "Night on Bald Mountain." The concert will be a multimedia presentation including video and narration in addition to the orchestra performance. The program is made possible through the collaboration and donations of the Culinary Institute of America and the Marriott Pavilion.

Performing a movement from a Mozart concerto, the soloist for this concert is oboist Ella Xu. Originally from Poughkeepsie, 12-year-old Ella now resides in New York City. Her recent awards include the Grand Prize in the Philadelphia International Music Festival Virtual Concerto Competition, the Grand Prize in the North International Music Competition (Sweden), alongside 1st Prizes in the Music International Grand Prix Competition, the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition (Paris), the AAMS Woodwind Competition, and the Silver Medal in the Vienna International Music Competition.

Note that tickets for this performance are limited to participating school districts and are not available to the general public.



Oboist Ella Xu, originally from Poughkeepsie, will perform a movement from a Mozart concerto during the Northern Dutchess Symphony Children's Concert on March 12.

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this week's puzzle solutions

8	5	7	3	4	9	6	2	1
2	1	4	6	8	7	3	5	9
6	9	3	2	1	5	7	4	8
3	6	2	7	5	1	9	8	4
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 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

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 The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-20-24
 Employment Services for TANF, Safety Net Individuals and Ex-Offenders
 Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 1st day of April 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite

Legal Notices
 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.

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

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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

	3				
5		2			4
					2
		4			
				5	
2		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: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

1. Anti-seniors sentiment
6. ____ Pérignon, Champagne
9. Big Bang's original matter
13. Prefix for earliest
14. Call to Maria
15. Bob and ____
16. "Peter, Peter Pumpkin ____"
17. "Le ____ des cygnes"
18. Like yesteryear
19. *Greta Gerwig's Oscar nominated movie
21. *He's nominated for playing Leonard Bernstein
23. Nothing
24. White ____ shopping event
25. Federal food safety agency, acr.
28. It ran away with the spoon
30. ROTC happenings
35. Figure skating jump
37. Grad
39. Arrogant one
40. Archaic preposition
41. Passé
43. Scrubbed
44. Sugarcoating
46. Money in Mexico City
47. What DJs do
48. Trickery
50. Swerves
52. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
53. *Typical number of nominations in one Oscar category
55. Emergency responder, acr.
57. *Nyad" nominee
60. *What kind of moon?
63. "Finnegan's Wake" author
64. Mother load offering
66. Java cotton tree
68. Artemis' companion
69. Fat of olives
70. *What actors do
71. Spinner's product
72. Wisecrack
73. Like Phoenix

DOWN

1. Cornelius of the movies
2. Snap up
3. 'I' in Greek alphabet
4. Howard of radio fame
5. Death-related
6. One of the Earnhardts
7. Spermatozoa counterparts
8. Muhammad's birthplace
9. Review service, with .com
10. Use a ladle
11. At any time
12. **"No Country for Old ____" multi Oscar winner
15. Suitors
20. Trojan War story
22. "Just an ____-fashioned love song"
24. Slumber
25. Fl., as in fl. oz.
26. "A Confederacy of ____," sing.
27. Place above a ceiling
29. Dueler's strike
31. Overnight lodgings
32. Shoelace bunny ears
33. Divine saying
34. *Producer and star of "Poor Things"
36. **"The ____ of Interest"
38. Table hill
42. Wooden pin
45. *Like nominated ones
49. Love-love, e.g.
51. Meat-cooking contraption
54. Roaring of an engine
56. Hindu religious teacher
57. Forum, pl.
58. Deed hearing
59. Medical diagnostic test
60. Abe Lincoln's hat material
61. #20 Down, e.g.
62. Traditional learning method
63. *Da'Vine ____ Randolph
65. Orinoco or Grande
67. *Ryan Gosling's character

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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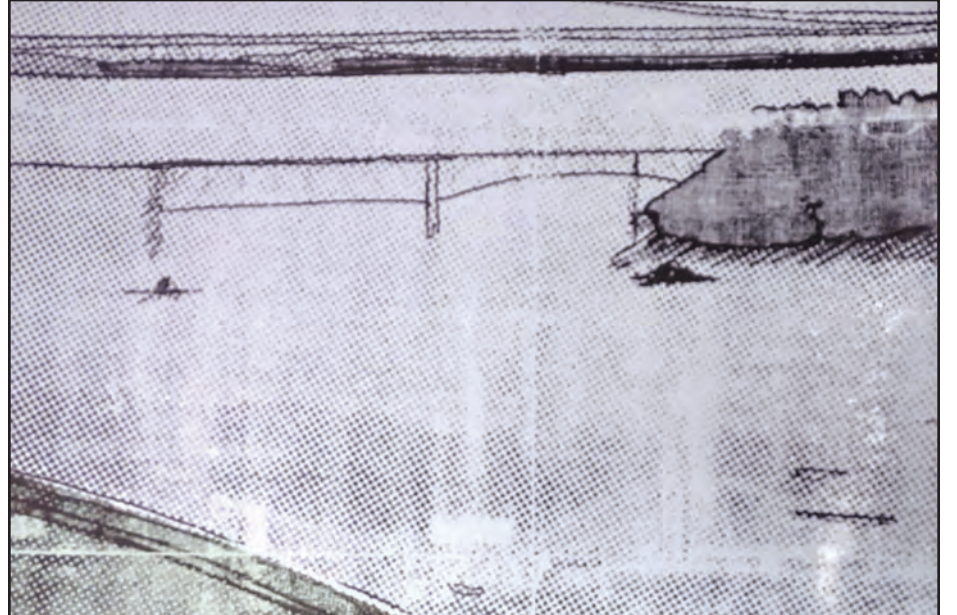
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BAU Gallery opening reception March 9



BAU Gallery will hold an opening reception for new exhibits on March 9 in Beacon.

-Courtesy images

BAU Gallery presents in GALLERIES 1 + 2 Elemental, Member Artists Group Exhibition and in the BEACON ROOM Vessels, Joel Brown. The Opening Reception is set for Second Saturday, March 9th, from noon - 6 p.m., with an artist's reception from 6-8 p.m. The exhibit ends Sunday, April 7, at 506 Main Street, Beacon.

The exhibit is open on Saturdays and Sundays from noon - 6 p.m. or by appointment. The Elemental exhibition represents that range and depth of the gallery's roster, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography, and textiles.

Gallery artists in this exhibition are: Daniel Berlin, Eileen Sackman, Ilse

Schreiber-Noll, Jebah Baum, Joan Harmon, Joel Brown, Karen Allen, Kelly M O'Brien, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Mary McFerran, Matthew Gilbert, Nataliya Hines, and Pamela Zaremba. BAU artists are all working professional artists who exhibit their work regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Joel Brown's ceramic forms are fired by teams for several days in wood burning kilns that are based on ancient Japanese models. Guest artist Anita Fina Kiewra's prints depict racing in shells on the Hudson. She rows in a crew of women and directs the community print studio at the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory.

West Point Band, Westchester Symphonic Winds concerts on March 9, 16

The West Point Band will join the Westchester Symphonic Winds (WSW) for a milestone event as they join forces for a collaborative concert featuring both groups performing individually and in a combined ensemble. To better serve communities on both sides of the Hudson River, the groups are performing the program twice during the

month of March. The West Point Band hosts the first performance on March 9 at 2 p.m. at Eisenhower Hall Theatre at West Point. Westchester Symphonic Winds hosts the second performance on March 16 at 2 p.m. at White Plains High School.

Now in its 36th season, WSW is an adult community-based wind and percussion

ensemble of 60 musicians from Westchester County and the tri-state metropolitan area. The ensemble is in residence at Tarrytown Music Hall in Tarrytown, New York and marks its tenth annual Independence Day performance at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, New York this July.

For additional information on the collaborative concerts and a full schedule of the West Point Band's 2024 Winter Concert series, visit <https://westpointband.com/winterconcertseries.html>. To learn more about WSW and view the 2023-2024 season brochure, visit www.westchestersymphonicwinds.org.



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The Garrison & Southern Dutchess News

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To
Register

When: Sunday, March 10, 2024

Time: Noon – 3pm

**Where: The Garrison
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**Register Now At Or Scan QR Code:
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Enjoy an afternoon of meeting local wedding professionals who can make all your Wedding Day Dreams come true. We will have plenty of prizes to give away with a Grand Prize Drawing at 2:30pm.

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