

BEACON FREE PRESS

HPL honors Marcia Frahman for decades of volunteer work



Marcia Frahman
-Courtesy photo HPL social media

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon community gave thanks to Marcia Frahman for all her volunteer work with Beacon Reads and The Friends of Howland Public Library.

"I retired many years ago as a Case Manager in Social Services. However, I have always been active in various community services both in California and Canada and since a library was always one of my interests - I became involved in the Howland Public Library (HPL) when moving to Beacon," explained Frahman. "I was a Trustee for 10 years and served as President for 3 terms."

When she was no longer a trustee, Frahman said she began volunteering at the bookstore, Beacon Reads. She described it as "a dreary place with books in boxes and little appeal."

She said over the years with help from fantastic volunteers, Beacon Reads "has become a bright spot in the community and will continue to shine..." Frahman said "the purpose of Friends is to support the Library and over the past many years Beacon Reads has provided thousands of dollars to the Library for many needed projects and updating computer services."

"Under Marcia's leadership, the mural on our building, created by local artist Rick Price, was secured and has since become a beloved landmark. Her vision and commitment brought this beautiful piece of art to life, adding vibrancy and character to our library. The library is currently looking to repair the mural so that visitors can enjoy it for years to come," stated Howland Public Library Director Gillian Robertson Murphy, in a newsletter to the community.

Frahman said she is moving back to Northern California and hopes to become involved in community services in Sacramento. "My time with Friends has been invaluable-however- without the support and dedication of the volunteers at Beacon Reads -the store might still be a dreary place instead of the vibrant and book filled place it is today. I will miss this wonderful city and the many friends I have met over these past 25 years," said Frahman.

Murphy said, "For the past 24 years, Marcia has been a cornerstone of our library, dedicating her time, energy, and passion to enriching our community."

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April 2, 2025

Beacon resident Ruth Danon appointed 2025 Poet Laureate for Dutchess County

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced she has appointed Beacon resident Ruth Danon as the County's 2025 Poet Laureate, bringing poetry to residents of all ages throughout the county.

County Executive Serino said, "Poetry has a unique way of bringing people together - it encourages empathy, sparks meaningful conversations, and helps us see the world through each other's eyes. We are grateful to Arts Mid-Hudson for continuing to champion this important program and extend our congratulations to Ruth on being named this year's Poet Laureate!"

"It is a great honor to be named this year's Dutchess County Poet Laureate. As a Bard College graduate and a resident of Beacon, I have a deep love of this region," said Danon. "In all my work, whether writing, teaching, or curating, my desire has been and will continue to be the creation of community. During these difficult times, community is more important than ever. We cannot allow ourselves to feel alone or powerless. Writing and performing poetry helps us connect to one another and to the world; it also opens avenues to inner experience -- so important to reclaim in a world dominated by social media and its many falsehoods and distractions. Poetry asks us to pay attention, and when people pay attention, positive changes can occur. In my role as Poet Laureate, I plan to develop readings and workshops that will situated within existing community organizations and that will be open to diverse and multi-generational audiences. Workshops will be playful, utilizing a variety of artistic modes as aids to generating writing.



Ruth Danon

-Courtesy photo

These will culminate in participant readings. I will also curate readings in larger venues that will connect poets from within the region to writers beyond Dutchess County."

Danon's fourth book of poetry, *Turn Up the Heat*, was published by Niral Series in 2023. Her prose and poetry have appeared in many publications in the United States and abroad, most recently in *On the Seawall*, *Noon: The Journal of the Short Poem*, *Sunday*

Salon Zine, *The Nu Review*, and *The CAPS 25th Anniversary Anthology*. Her work is forthcoming in *Pratik*, *The Beltway Quarterly*, and the *Poetry is Bread Anthology*. She has performed her poetry across the United States and abroad and has appeared in many podcasts and Zoom readings. For 23 years, she taught in the Creative and Expository Writing Programs she

Continued on page 5

Baseball arrives! Renegades open 2025 season on Friday

By Morgan E. Maier

It's the Hudson Valley Renegades fun that we've all been missing for nearly 200 days. Get your pinstripes on and brush those raccoon hats. Baseball is once again upon the Hudson Valley.

With some familiar faces back in the ballpark plus a few newcomers, the stage is set for another Renegades season. On Friday, April 4 at 7:05 p.m., the Renegades return to Heritage Financial Park ready to build off last season's South Atlantic League (SAL) Championship appearance.

Fireworks, anyone?

Opening Day would not be complete without nine innings of High-A baseball and a postgame show. Fans in attendance on April 4 will ooh and ahh at the season's first of 12 fireworks shows. By the way, it's General Manager Tom Denlinger's specialty.

Entertainment for the whole family comes free with every Renegades ticket, whether between innings or during the game. But the memories are made in the stands, as Heritage Financial Park has a whole slate of events for opening weekend. Following Friday's opener, the first homestand includes Golf Night and Pet Appreciation Day. The first 1,000 fans



The Hudson Valley Renegades start their season on April 4.

-Courtesy image

on Saturday receive a Renegades golf ball courtesy of CSEA, and the furriest of Renegades fans get the spotlight on Sunday.

Will the Renegades complete the three-peat as SAL North champions? Hudson Valley alumni impacted Opening Day in the Bronx, as Austin Wells and Anthony Volpe mashed the Yankees' first home runs of 2025. We'll see how the current

Renegades roll in on April 4th, as they open the season against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws.

The backyard Bombers farm team is ready to rock this season, with a slate of promotions from family day to free t-shirts. With 22 giveaways over 66 home games, this Renegades season will offer fun for everyone. And it all starts this Friday.

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Autism Supportive Training: Here's how to help and 'make a difference'

By Morgan E. Maier

Noise is simply a nuisance for some people. To those on the Autism spectrum, over-stimulation can create discomfort in unfamiliar environments. Autism Acceptance Month in Dutchess County shows an increased commitment to our autistic neighbors, as more organizations are equipped with tools and education to support inclusion.

Autism-supportive employment and events promote safe spaces for everyone to spend time doing what they love, whether it's work, play, or community engagement. Anderson Center for Autism's Consulting and Training Team (ACCT) has for years provided community organizations with the education to best support autistic customers, employees and neighbors.

As of 2020, about 1 in 36 U.S. children are diagnosed with autism. From 2011 to 2022, autism incidence rates rose 175%, according to the American Medical Association's JAMA Network.

Director of Anderson's ACCT Program Services, Kathleen Marshall, says that inclusion takes a willingness to understand someone's challenges. Individuals may fear saying the wrong things to an individual on the Autism spectrum, but all they need to do is ask. "Approach with humility," Marshall explained. "Say, 'I want to welcome you. Is there anything you want to share with me that would help to provide a better experience?'"

Employment is one way that anyone can contribute to their community. Many individuals on the Autism spectrum find belonging in taking full or part-time work, enrolling in college, or joining interest groups. Though autistic employees represent a small percentage of the workforce, said Marshall, simple training and accommodations can help businesses welcome more neurodivergent employees into the workforce.

The Village of Rhinebeck Autism Supportive Community Committee was created to designate an entire Autism Supportive community. This organization empowers businesses to welcome neurodivergent customers and to hire individu-



Members of the Coppola family business, Coppola's Restaurant and Bistro in Hyde Park, were the first in Dutchess County to take part in the training and receive the "Autism Supportive Environment" plaque from the Anderson Center for Autism. From left, brothers Vincent, Luigi and John are pictured with Dad Antonio.

-Courtesy photo Coppola family

als on the Autism spectrum.

So, how can you join the many local businesses and organizations, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Metro-North Railroad and Coppola's Restaurant and Bistro, in supporting autistic employees and customers?

Dutchess County has a zero-cost opportunity to receive Autism Supportive training and consultation from ACCT. It simply requires a few hours. Staff are trained in autism education and accommodation, and ACCT identifies and suggests supportive practices to businesses, first responders, and healthcare settings. The program works with organizations through the implementation stage, developing modifications for supportive practices.

Coppola family leads way
Coppola's Restaurant and Bistro in

"We are honored to serve our Anderson families and look forward to many years of continued service."

Recommended supportive practices vary by business needs. A few examples of ACCT training in practice include: communication boards; visual pain diagrams at doctors' offices; accessible quiet spaces; and visual depictions of using ATMs.

ACCT empowers all organizations to welcome neurodivergent individuals, so they may enjoy spaces that unite the community. Organizations can be designated as "Autism Supportive" if training is completed by 80% of their customer-facing employees, and they have a supportive practice in place. If a business changes hands, the new ownership will need to complete the training to keep the designation.

Marshall said Autism Acceptance Month tells us that differences don't have to divide us. Humans' level of comfort is directly tied to their environment. Ask questions. Find out how you may best support them in the future. Ask customers about their experience in your store. Should we dim the lights? Is the ambient music a notch too loud?

Marshall notes that new environments may cause anxiety. Not knowing what to expect from an experience wracks nerves. Autism supportive spaces offer kindness and respect to all who enter. There is room to make any business, home, and place of employment more accessible, especially for the estimated 2.78% of Dutchess County residents who are on the Autism spectrum.

The grocery store's senior citizen shopping hours help older populations to avoid busy hours. Images of products, menus, and ambiance draw prospective diners to local restaurants. And carnival noise and sounds don't need to deflate a day at the Dutchess County Fair, because sensory-sensitive hours on thinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday mean summer fun for everyone.

This is what community looks like. Dutchess County has everything to gain from taking steps toward inclusion, and the support is free of charge. Why not start today?

Chabad of Beacon to offer Passover Seder

Passover Seder with Chabad of Beacon on Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 7:45 p.m.

Enjoy gourmet Passover cuisine. There will be an interactive Seder with Rabbi

Shaya and Esty.

For more information, call 845-288-0170 or email Rabbi@chabadofbeacon.com.

Beacon Elks donate to Fishkill Food Pantry



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 donates \$500 worth of food to the Fishkill Food Pantry utilizing the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. Pictured are volunteers and Elks members.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Advertisement for Generac generators. Text: "Be prepared before the next power outage. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535. Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote! GENERAC" Includes an image of a generator unit.

Advertisement for Stormville Airport Antique Show & Flea Market. Text: "STORMVILLE AIRPORT ANTIQUE SHOW & FLEA MARKET April 26 & 27 • May 24 & 25 • July 5 Aug 30 & 31 • Oct 11 & 12 • Nov 1 8AM TO 4PM • RAIN OR SHINE • NO PETS Vendor Space Available, 845-221-6561 428 Route 216, Stormville, NY www.stormvilleairportfleamarkets.com As seen on HGTV Flea Market Flip" Includes an image of a biplane.



Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Welcomes 3 New Trustees




See story, page 8

Serino, Imperati launch ‘Stronger Support. Safer Work. Better Careers’ initiative

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Sheriff Kirk Imperati announced the launch of a targeted recruitment campaign, ‘Stronger Support. Safer Work. Better Careers.’ aimed at recognizing and encouraging former New York State corrections employees to apply for positions within the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center.

“Our correction officers continuously uphold law and order, often in challenging environments, demonstrating unwavering commitment to public safety,” said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. “These men and women have served with integrity, facing the toughest situations with resilience and professionalism. They have managed some of the most difficult situations with professionalism, resilience and compassion. Now, after being sidelined, they have the opportunity to bring their expertise back into public safety where it’s needed most. Dutchess County is committed to supporting them, offering competitive benefits, a strong team atmosphere and the respect they deserve.”

Sheriff Kirk Imperati emphasized the growing need for experienced officers, saying, “Corrections Officers play a vital role in our justice system. They serve on the front-lines of public safety, ensuring security, rehabilitation and order within our facilities. Their experience is unmatched, and their dedication is undeniable. As the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center continues to see increased numbers due to the State’s policies, we need skilled professionals who understand the complexities of this work. Dutchess County is ready to provide them with a workplace where they are valued, supported and given opportunities to thrive.”

Currently, the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center has 14 vacant positions, and with an increasing population of incarcerated individuals, the need for experienced professionals has never been greater.

The recruitment campaign comes in response to the fallout from last year’s strike by State corrections officers, who took action to protest hazardous working conditions, understaffing and increased violence within correctional facilities. In response, the State terminated many of these officers and issued an executive order barring counties from hiring them. Dutchess County recognizes the dedication of these experienced officers and is taking action to provide them with new opportunities to serve their communities.

The ‘Stronger Support. Safer Work. Better Careers.’ campaign will feature:

- Targeted outreach to former state corrections officers through direct communication and digital media;
- A dedicated hiring portal providing application details and job benefits;
- Recruitment events where interested officers can meet with Sheriff’s Office leadership and learn about opportunities firsthand; and
- Social media awareness efforts featuring testimonials from County Corrections Officers.

Corrections Officers dedicate their careers to protecting their communities, navigating high-stakes situations with professionalism, courage and discipline. Dutchess County recognizes their commitment and is committed to offering them a fulfilling path where their skills and dedication are honored.



State and local leaders and cadets from the current Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Basic Corrections Academy recently joined Sheriff Kirk Imperati and County Executive Sue Serino to launch Dutchess County’s new hiring campaign, ‘Stronger Support. Safer Work. Better Careers.’ aimed at recruiting former New York State corrections employees to apply for positions within the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center.

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov’t

Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt said, “For years, New York State has made a difficult job untenable for our corrections officers. Instead of addressing the root causes of these problems, they decided to dismiss these brave officers. We stand with our men and women of law enforcement. We need to get away from the idea that politicians sitting at desks have all the answers. We in Dutchess County welcome you to join us where we will let you do the job you are trained to do.”

New York State Senator Rob Rolison said, “As a former law enforcement officer, I understand firsthand the challenges faced by those who dedicate their lives to public safety. Dutchess County’s proactive approach to recruiting experienced corrections professionals is a testament to their commitment to both workforce development and community safety. By providing strong support, and meaningful career opportunities, this initiative ensures that those who have served with integrity can continue their mission in a safe and supportive environment. I commend County Executive Serino and Sheriff Imperati for their leadership in addressing this critical need.”

Assemblyman AJ Beephan said, “With over 2,000 desperately needed corrections officers unilaterally terminated by the Governor, counties across New York State should have the ability to employ well-qualified and trained individuals. While the need for corrections officers at the State-level remains urgent, I stand firm in my support of their efforts to create a safer, more secure prison system. I commend Dutchess County for taking action on this initiative and hope we can secure top talent to serve our local communities effectively.”

Eligible candidates can visit www.dutchessny.gov/jtcjobs for more information on available positions and the hiring process.

“We know that many of these officers still have the heart to serve,” continued Serino. “Dutchess County is ready to welcome them back into the field where their dedication will be respected, their skills will be put to use, and their future will be bright.”

For more details on the recruitment campaign or to apply, visit www.dutchessny.gov/jtcjobs or contact the Dutchess County Human Resources Department at 845-486-2169.



Contact: Dutchess Junction Fire District
Rosemary Merhige, Sec’t/Treasurer - 845-249-1493

DUTCHESS JUNCTION FIRE DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE “RECRUITNY” OPEN HOUSE APRIL 27, 2025

Fishkill, NY — As part of the annual RecruitNY statewide initiative, the Dutchess Junction Fire District will open its doors so residents can learn how they can serve their volunteer fire department.

Volunteer fire departments across New York state have been faced with decreased membership and increased call volume. Like most volunteer fire departments, the DJFD needs to bolster its ranks so it can continue to provide the optimum level of protection for its residents.

As part of RecruitNY Weekend, the DJFD will open its doors on Sunday, April 27 from 12 Noon - 4PM The department is located at 75 Slocum Road, Beacon, NY.

Throughout the day, the Dutchess Junction Fire Department will conduct tours of the station and apparatus, allow visitors to try on gear, demonstrate firefighting activities, provide information, and address questions on becoming a member. These activities give visitors a taste of what it means to be in the fire service. Volunteer firefighters will also be on hand to discuss the requirements and rewards of joining. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, including families with children.

“We welcome the community to join us during RecruitNY Day,” said Brendan Barry, Fire Chief, “This is an excellent opportunity for people to meet their local volunteer firefighters and learn more about the fire service. We are always looking for new members, and it is our hope that after meeting us, more people will be interested in becoming part of our family.”

For more information, visit your fire department, or call us via our non-emergency phone number at 845-249-1493.

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, 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.

Are we destined to return to a time when only the wealthy can provide for their children?

To the Editor:

One of the most famous children with a disability of all times, luckily, had a father able to afford to hire a teacher, pay her salary, transportation and housing so his daughter could become a world-famous author and speaker. How many children, without Capt. Keller's wealth were confined to a life of silence, darkness and solitude?

Prior to 1975, school districts could deny children with disabilities from attending school claiming the school had no program for the child. The passage of The Education of All Handicapped Children Act in 1975 assured that all children with disabilities would be given a free and appropriate public education. Since that time, we have been able to close the institutions that housed the disabled, and through "Child Find" identify children with disabilities in our communities not attending school.

Now, fifty years after the law's passage, are we destined to return to a time when only the wealthy can provide for their children? The U.S. Department of Education was for years the enforcement arm for educating children with disabilities. School districts not in compliance with the law could be investigated and charged with Civil Rights Violations. The Department of Education provided billions of dollars to states, which was funneled to local school districts to provide services, equipment and transportation for children with disabilities. Without the guidance, enforcement and funds provided by the Department of Education, children with disabilities throughout our country will lose the ground that has been gained over the last fifty years.

I don't think anyone yearning to "Make America Great Again" truly wants to deprive our children of a free and appropriate education. Please write to your congresspersons and demand that the Department of Education be reinstated and that our children receive the education they deserve.

Donald Przytula
Fishkill

Editor's note: Wappingers Central School District Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk sent the following letter to NYS Senate and Assembly members telling of his support for proposed legislation (6597) that authorizes the imposition of bail for certain offenses involving violent threats against a school district, school, school staff or a student.

WCSD Superintendent Bonk: Support for proposed legislation (6597) authorizing the imposition of bail for certain offenses

To Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly:

As Superintendent of Schools in the Wappingers Central School District, which is the 9th largest in New York State, and largest in Dutchess County with over 10,000 students and 15 school buildings, I am writing this letter of correspondence, along with other school leaders, staff, and families throughout New York State, in support of the proposed legislation S.6366 (Oberacker) A.6597 (Kay). This bill would allow judicial discretion in whether to require bail when a defendant is accused of making threats of violence against a school district, school, staff, or students and is necessary to raise the level of accountability for those who make such threats and face appropriate legal consequences.

Unfortunately, these threats of violence directed at schools, or individuals within, have occurred throughout our District and have resulted in a substantial disruption to teaching and learning in both our elementary and secondary schools. In some cases, these threats have resulted in school delays, early dismissals, or school closings. In addition, as a result of the threats of violence that we have experienced, our District continues to spend over 2 million dollars per year to provide the necessary support by hiring additional mental health professionals and additional support from our local law enforcement to foster a safe school environment and work hand in hand with our families of students who suffer from anxiety.

In closing, I strongly urge you and your colleagues to advance this critical legislation and am pleased that it has bipartisan support in the state legislature. I believe that we can all agree that all of our students and staff deserve a safe school environment that allows for all to learn, grow, and reach their highest academic, social, and emotional potential. Thank you for considering this request and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further support on this important matter.

Dr. Dwight Bonk
Superintendent of Schools
Wappingers Central School District

Sheriff's Office announces arrests for larceny, criminal contempt in separate cases

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reported the arrests of 40-year-old Ibrahim A. Hammond, of New York City, and Barry A. Gutierrez, a 35-year-old resident of East Fishkill, in connection with the two separate investigations described below.

On March 25, Deputies responded to a financial institution in the Town of LaGrange for a report of fraudulent circumstances. Upon arrival the involved subject had left the area, but was located nearby and identified as Hammond, according to law enforcement. After further interview and investigation, Hammond was later taken into custody by Sheriff's Office Detectives and charged with third-degree grand larceny, which is a felony. At this time, according to the sheriff's office, Hammond is accused of depositing a fraudulent check and then returning to withdraw the money. After being processed he was arraigned before

the Town of LaGrange Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center with no bail.

Gutierrez was arrested on March 25 in connection with an investigation at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center. He was incarcerated at the time of the incident and arrest, and remains there at the time of this writing. At this time, according to law enforcement, Gutierrez is charged with Aggravated Family Offense (felony) and second-degree criminal contempt (misdemeanor), and is accused of violating an order of protection by contacting a protected party via telephone. Gutierrez was processed and is due to appear before the City of Poughkeepsie Court on April 8.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely accusations and both defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Beacon Police: 4th suspect arrested in 2022 murder of Beacon man

The Beacon Police Department, with assistance from the Dutchess County Drug Task Force and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office UAV (Drone) Unit, conducted an operation on March 25 to arrest a fourth suspect in the 2022 drive-by shooting of Lionell Pittman, according to a release from the City of Beacon Police Department.

According to law enforcement, in June, September and November 2024, the Beacon Police Department arrested three individuals who were present for and allegedly participated in the crime.

Beacon Police Chief Thomas Figlia stated in the release, "This arrest stands as

further proof that the Beacon Police Department will do what is necessary to fully investigate violence in our community and bring the perpetrators of all aspects of these crimes to justice."

Through a continuing investigation into the motive, Jarell Brow, 32, of Beacon was placed into custody on an arrest warrant for first-degree murder (contract murder), a felony, and second-degree murder (intentional murder), a felony, and second-degree conspiracy, a felony.

He was arraigned in Dutchess County Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail, according to law enforcement.

Give Life  Give Blood

Register for eight-week Spring Sailing Class

The Beacon Sloop Club launches the annual Spring Sailing Class on Wednesday, April 16 at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon. The eight-week course runs Wednesdays through June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. and includes the textbook "Learn to Sail Right," from U.S. Sailing.

Taught by captains of the Sloop Club's Sloop Woody Guthrie, the course offers a comprehensive introduction to sailing theory, safety, and navigation, and is especially geared for small boat sailing on the Hudson River and the Sloop Woody Guthrie. While primarily a classroom experience, the course is geared for adults

and teens and includes instruction at dockside and on the Woody.

Tuition is \$50 per person in advance \$60 cash or check at the door, with discounts for households sharing texts. Register online at <https://beacon.sloopcluboffice.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=12>

For information, contact course facilitator Mary Arnold at 845-891-4509 (texting is best), or marykonizarnold@gmail.com

Instructors for the course include Woody captains Tom LaBarr, James Malchow, Ben Mazer, and Steve Schwartz.

Beacon resident Ruth Danon appointed 2025 Poet Laureate for Dutchess County

Continued from cover

designed and directed for NYU's School of Professional Studies. Founder of Live Writing: A Project for the Reading, Writing, and Performance of Poetry, she teaches for Live Writing and the New York Writers Workshop. A Bard College graduate, she now lives in Beacon, where she curates literary events and works to create a community of poets. She was one of the founding curators of the BeaconLitfest at the Howland Cultural Center. More about her and her poetry and career can be found at <https://www.ruthdanon.com/>

The Dutchess County Poet Laureate program was instituted in 2016 by former County Executive Marc Molinaro. Poet Laureates serve a one-year term. Arts Mid-Hudson manages the public call for nominations, facilitates a panel composed of literary professionals and community

members to select from the nominees, and provides support and promotion for the Dutchess County Poet Laureate's work during their year of service.

"Arts Mid-Hudson is thrilled to announce the appointment of Ruth Danon as the 2025 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to County Executive Sue Serino for her unwavering support of this initiative," said Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Executive Director for Arts Mid-Hudson. "Poetry has the power to make us feel acknowledged, understood, and connected, even amidst diverse backgrounds and challenges. We are eager to collaborate with Ruth this year, as she inspires partnerships through this impactful art form."

Information about the Dutchess County Poet Laureate and the upcoming programs can be found at www.artsmidhudson.org/dc-poetlaureate.



Registration is now open for an eight-week sailing class by the Beacon Sloop Club. -Courtesy photo Beacon Sloop Club



Dutchess County DA's Office Inaugural Candlelight Vigil Supporting Crime Victims

"Empowering Victims, Championing Justice: Together for a Safer Tomorrow"



Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 5pm
Immediately following the Family Services' Center for Victim Safety an Support Art Show and Award Ceremony



Family Services
29 North Hamilton St
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



This project is supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators through grant number 15POVC-24-GK01921-NONF awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



Map reveals pivotal time for nation and local woman

By Bill Jeffway

As we leave Women's History Month and approach the 250th anniversary of the 1776 American Revolution, let's look at one Revolutionary War era woman in particular. And let's do so through the lens of a 1780 map that DCHS is in the process of acquiring with the support of the Rhinebeck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and others.

As background, we recall that John Adams' wife famously wrote to him in 1776 as they crafted the new nation saying, "I long to hear that you have declared an independency -- and by the way in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation."

Of course women would not gain the right to vote nationally until 1920. They gained the right to vote in New York State in local school elections (only) in 1880. They gained the right to vote in New York State in 1917. But the fulfillment of national ambition took until 1920. But that doesn't mean that women at the time were without agency, especially landowners. One such local woman was Janet Livingston Montgomery, which provides us with one of the earliest local connections to the Revolutionary War. Rhinebeck's General Richard Montgomery was killed in the battle of Quebec on December 31, 1775 – the 250th anniversary will be at the end of this year.

DCHS does not often purchase items for its collections, mostly relying on donations, but in instances such as this, where a very rare item is up for auction, we have started a fundraising campaign to acquire it. We are two-thirds toward the campaign goal. Information is at www.dchsnny.org/secure-montgomery.

The Rhinebeck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is located in the small house that General Montgomery and his new wife, Janet Livingston Montgomery, first settled in while planning on building a larger estate in Rhinebeck. But this modest initial foothold was simply a stepping stone to the larger Grasmere Estate they had commenced building

and is reflected in the map.

The strategic importance, and therefore the great value of this property lies in the fact that it includes land around the Landsmankill that belonged to Montgomery which was the site of storage buildings and mills, a major engine of local economic growth. All along the east side of the large lot of 379 acres runs the Albany Post Road, connecting New York City and Albany. And near the mills we find a westbound road that leads to the Rhinecliff landing at the Hudson River. Between the mills on the smaller river, the global transportation reach of the Hudson River, and the Post Road, the land is set up well to become increasingly valuable.

We can learn a lot not just from the map itself, but by both zooming out to see it in larger context, and by zooming in to identify small indicators that have a larger message.

When Montgomery's lot is superimposed on the larger 1802 map of the area known as Wurtemberg, we can see that by that time land ownership had evolved beyond the Livingstons (although they owned a significant amount of the best land) and we see a mix of older Dutch names, and more recently arrived German Palatines who were making the transition from tenant farmer to farm owner.

When we zoom in for a close up, we can see things like the depiction of the Dutch style hay barrack which tells us that this was an area for agriculture, and that the Dutch tradition of using a "barrack" whose roof can be raised and lowered using pegs in the holes in the vertical poles was in use. General Montgomery had declared that he would prefer a farmer's life and that if he should be lucky enough to live through the war (which of course he did not) he would want to spend his time farming and innovating in agriculture.

It is telling that ultimately (by 1805) Janet Livingston Montgomery had abandoned Grasmere for the beautiful Montgomery Place, which is today owned by Bard College. It sits on the banks of the Hudson with a powerful view of the river. This 1780 map, prepared when the United States was just four years old, depicts the unfulfilled dream of General and Janet L. Montgomery, reminding us that the price for the American Revolution included the loss of many lives, of both ordinary citizens, and its elite leadership. We are also reminded that the journeys toward equal-



Above: DCHS, with the support of the Rhinebeck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are organizing an effort to formally acquire this 1780 map of one our country's wealthiest women at its founding: Janet Livingston Montgomery. Image courtesy of DCHS.

Below: Whether we zoom out and look at the Livingston lot in the context of surrounding lots from another map, or we zoom in and look at details like the Dutch hay barrack, these maps provide an enormous amount of information to historians. Image courtesy of DCHS.



ity that Jane Adams implored in 1776 when writing could involve many steps, and many generations of persistence.

Please help DCHS and the DAR secure the map to keep it local to Dutchess County. Information on how to do so is at www.dchsnny.org/secure-montgomery.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsnny.org or 845-293-7711.

Dance Night set for April 12 in Beacon

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Song requests welcome. The lights are low, the sound is full and the ambiance is warm and intimate. Attire is whatever suits one's mood – from blue jeans to dazzling sparkles. These dances

are informal and even if one comes alone, one can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor.

Admission is \$15 and includes a variety of delicious complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available.

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

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that's italian!

by luigi coppola



Winters in Florida

Luigi gets Mom to 'make a deal.'

The other day, a customer came into the restaurant and I started a conversation with him. "Joe" and his wife were retiring soon. They were looking forward to spending the winters in Florida then returning home to New York. I asked Joe, why not sell your house in New York and avoid the New York property taxes. He laughed and told me there is no way his wife would agree to that, because his children and grandchildren were all in New York. Hearing him say that reminded me when my parents would spend winters in Florida.

Pop: Luigi, leesten, I gotta a little problem.
Me: Yeah, Pop? What's the matter?
Pop: I wanna go to Florida, but momma she no wanna go.
Me: Why?
Pop: Because of you people! She no wanna leave you people!
Me: Huh?
Pop: Maybe one of you want to mova down to Florida?
Me: Huh? What?
Pop: Thisa way thena, she wanna go down to visit you.
Me: What? Me?
Pop: Youa lika to taka the vacation ina Florida, no?
Me: Yeah, but..
Pop: Maybe youa justa stay a little longer?
Me: Yeah, but..
Pop: Youa cana opena the restaurant down there.
Me: Yeah, but..
Pop: Ia helpa you, okay?
Me: Huh?
Pop: Yea, wea call it Coppola's.
Me: But, Po-
Pop: Ita be nice.

Me: Wait! No, Pop. It's not OK.
Pop: (sigh) Thatsa what I tought. Oh well. Maybe youa can talka to Mom?
Me: Alright...
 (on the phone)
Mom: Hello?
Me: Hi, Mom.
Mom: Whatsa matter?
Me: Nothing.
Mom: I know something is a wrong. You no feel good?
Me: No, Mom, I'm...
Mom: You want some Zucchini Marinara?
Me: No, Ma...
Mom: Ia make it for you. You wanta the cheese?
Me: What, yeah. Wait...
Mom: Ima gonna make it Parmagiana, OK?
Me: What? OK...
Mom: Thisa maka you feala better. Im going to drop it off. OK?
Me: Wait...
Mom: I'll bring it over to you later.
Me: WAIT!
Mom: Whatsa matter, why you so upset?
Me: Pop told me to talk to you about Florida.
Mom: Donta you say another word. Ima no going.
Me: Pop is going to go. You trust him to be alone?
Mom: I noa care. He coma back.
Me: Yeah in March, before Easter.
Mom: He want me to go down there and sit in the appartamento all day. Whos gonna take care of you people?
Me: Here we go again. (sigh) Listen, Mom, let's make a deal.
Mom: Deal? How?
Me: Pop wants you to go. He'll be miser-

able if you don't go. Not only that, you can keep him safe, especially when he's driving.
Mom: Yeah?
Me: You know if he goes down there alone, something will happen.
Mom: Yeah?
Me: So let's make a deal so that you will both be happy.
Mom: How?
Me: How about you go down and come back every three weeks, then you stay here for a week?
Mom: Noa Deal! Howa that makea me happy?
Me: OK ... what if you stay for two weeks and come home for two weeks?
Mom: Hmmm.
Me: Mom, come on. Pop wants me to make a deal.
Mom: Ima gonna say yes, but only for you.
Me: Ok, I'll tell Pop.
Mom: You still wanta the Zucchini Parmagiana?
Me: Yes, Mom, thank you.

And with that the deal was struck. It felt like the scene from "The Godfather" when the five families negotiated the peace. Anyway, enjoy the recipe of Zucchini Parmagiana.

Zucchini Parmagiana Ingredients

- 3 large zucchini, sliced into strips about 1/4-inch thickness
- 1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated and divided in half
- 1/4 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 cup Coppola's marinara sauce
- 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup ricotta impastata

salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Coat a large baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray.
 Place zucchini in a medium bowl and drizzle with olive oil, turning to coat each piece. In a separate bowl, combine half the Parmesan, bread crumbs, salt and pepper.
 Dip each zucchini coin into the Parmesan mixture, turning to coat and pressing the breading slightly to ensure it sticks. Place breaded zucchini in one even layer on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 25 minutes or until browned and crisp.
 Reduce the oven temperature to 400 degrees F. Coat the bottom of a small baking dish with marinara sauce. Layer one third of the crisp zucchini over marinara, overlapping if necessary. Add dollops of ricotta, leaving sizable gaps between each dollop. Sprinkle the layer with mozzarella and the remaining Parmesan. Repeat the layers until the zucchini is gone. Cover your top layer with sauce and mozzarella and cover with aluminum foil.
 Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the sauce is bubbling. Cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Register for WCSD Senior-Senior Prom

Roy C. Ketcham High School will be holding the Annual Senior-Senior Prom for senior citizens living in the Wappingers Central School District on Sunday, May 4, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Roy C. Ketcham (RCK) High School cafeteria. This year's theme is "Tropical Luau - Seniors in the Sun."
 Through the generosity of Outback Steakhouse on Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, a dinner will be prepared and served to the guests at this special event. RCK students and staff members will join the seniors on the dance floor.
 Although there is no cost to our senior citizens for this wonderful affair, reservations are still required. Please contact Lina Marchetti at 845-298-5100, extension 31008 to make reservations. The event is strictly limited to 125 people, so reservations will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis. They will begin to take reservations on April 4. The deadline to register for this event is May 2.

This event could not happen without the help of the local community. WCSD is so grateful for the following community members' support and donations:
 The Bagel Shoppe, County Players at the Falls Theatre, Datavative, Domino's Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Durants Party Rentals, The Falls Diner, Foam & Wash Car Wash, Flory's Deli, Hannaford, Heritage Food & Drink, Hudson Valley Event Group, Hudson Valley Renegades, La Sorella, Longobardi's Restaurant, Olive, Garden, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Portofino Pizza & Pasta, Roma Deli, Rush Bowls, Sabellico Greenhouse & Florist, Savonas, Starbucks, Stewart's Shops, along with Ketcham's National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Student Council, Senior Class, Interact Club, Step Team, RCK Music Department, WCSD Food Services, and more!

Renegades, Heritage FCU to refurbish field in Pine Bush

and Heritage Financial Credit Union, a local Credit Union serving communities in and around the Hudson Valley for over 85 years, have announced that Pine Bush Little League has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 Youth Field Betterment refurbishment.
 The program began in 2023 with the mission to award one youth baseball organization with a refurbishment of a field used within their community.

Applicants are evaluated on several criteria, including increasing the access of youth participation and improving the quality of youth baseball, and developing life skills of all those who have access to the facility.
 Representatives from the Renegades Front Office and Heritage Financial Credit Union will spend a day this spring refurbishing the field led by Renegades Manager, Field Operations Tanner Puff.

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Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley welcomes 3 new trustees

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has appointed Carlos Alamo-Pastrana, Malia K. Du Mont, and Frances Barney Knutsen, CFA to its Board of Trustees. These distinguished trustees bring a wealth of expertise in education, finance, strategy, and community engagement, which will enhance and strengthen CFHV's initiatives aimed at deepening engagement across the Hudson Valley and providing innovative solutions that benefit local nonprofits and community projects.

"Carlos, Malia, and Frances bring fresh perspectives to the Board at a pivotal time for CFHV," said Laura Washington, President & CEO. "I'm excited to collaborate with them as we reimagine philanthropy, build partnerships, and drive lasting impact in the Hudson Valley."

"We are entering an exciting period of growth at CFHV, and the insights and experience of our new trustees will be invaluable as we strengthen our role as a philanthropic leader in the Hudson Valley," said CFHV Board Chairman, Robert Cotter. "Their collective expertise will help guide our efforts to expand our reach, increase our impact and ensure that we continue to be a trusted resource for donors, nonprofits, and the communities we serve."

Carlos Alamo-Pastrana is a sociology professor at Vassar College specializing in Caribbean Studies. Since joining the faculty in 2007, he has developed courses on race, Latinx studies, and popular culture. Alamo-Pastrana previously served as Dean of the College, Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Resources, and Administrative Director of the First-generation, Low-Income (FLI) Program.



Pictured from left, Carlos Alamo-Pastrana, Malia K. Du Mont, and Frances Barney Knutsen, CFA.

-Courtesy photos

During his tenure, Alamo-Pastrana led key initiatives on inclusion, crisis response, and student support; relaunched the House Fellow program; and refined first-year programming. An accomplished scholar, he is the author of "Seams of Empire: Race and Radicalism in Puerto Rico and the United States (2017)."

Malia K. Du Mont is chief of staff and vice president for strategy and policy at Bard College. A national security expert, she previously served as Co-President of Amur Equipment Finance and as Director of Strategy in the Office of the Secretary

of Defense, where she led key initiatives, including the National Defense Strategy implementation. She has held roles at the Atlantic Council, CNA Corporation, and Harvard Kennedy School, specializing in Chinese military strategy and security analysis. An Army Reserve officer and Afghanistan veteran, she holds a BA in Chinese from Bard College and an MPP from Harvard Kennedy School.

Frances Barney Knutsen, CFA, retired after 30 years in financial services, most recently as a Managing Director at BNY, where she led investment performance, risk

analysis, and institutional accounting. She continues to be involved in the performance measurement industry as an active volunteer with CFA Institute and as Chair of the Women in Performance Measurement network. She is also a Principal with BWK Communication Consulting, providing training in communication skills. She holds a BA from Yale University and an MBA from Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania. For more information on CFHV, visit www.CommunityFoundationsHV.org or connect with the group on LinkedIn, Facebook or Instagram.

Beacon Elks recognize Wappingers Junior High School Students of the Month



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognized the Wappingers Central School District's Wappingers Junior High School Students of the Month (February 2025) during a certificate ceremony held on March 12.

Pictured, from left, are Jeanine McAuley, Esteemed Leading Knight; Michele Wells, Counselor; Nurii Tisdale (8th grade); Janice Lawler, Teacher; Alandra Price, Assistant Principal; and Terrence Thompson, Principal. Not pictured is Steven Pagano (7th grade).

Students that are recognized as Elks Students of the Month are nominated by their teacher(s) based on achievements in school, their leadership abilities, helping their fellow students and being the blueprint of a model student.

Students of the Month receive a certificate of achievement and a gift certificate for a local business. The Elks thank Giacomo's Pizza Café for recognizing these students.

- Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Britos Martial Arts students gain 'Black Belt' honors



Students with Britos Martial Arts in Wingdale gain their "Black Belt" honors during an event in late March.

-Courtesy photo

Into the Dojo located in Wingdale filled with spectators to witness a four-hour test of four students for the rank of Black Belt, karate's highest honor in late March. The test was the culmination of as many as eight years of hard work and dedication for the candidates.

The four candidates were Damian Lyman, 30, Cordero Winch, 17, and twin siblings Kaitlyn and Matthew Enes, 13. The Enes twins were among the first line-up of students when Britos Martial Arts opened in 2017.

Also tested was Diego Brito, 18, who was seeking a second degree on his black belt. He had achieved this rank in 2021 after seven years of hard training.

The test exhibited the candidates' synchronization and memory of 18 bare-handed and armed katas, which are a sequence of movements simulating combat. Additionally each candidate had to spar for ten minutes straight, with a fresh opponent every minute, which tested each candidate's stamina to the utmost.

Between the katas and sparring, the candidates delivered short speeches expressing gratitude to those who had

supported them through the long years of training and recounting their experiences with the sport of karate.

A panel of judges consisting of Britos Martial Arts' founder Sensei Luis Brito, Sensei Mark Wellansky, and Sensei Cesar Sagastume, evaluated the candidates. Wellansky and Mejia had travelled from Fusion Martial Arts in Hawthorne, NY, to offer another layer of objectivity in the evaluation.

"Only about 4% of students starting karate will achieve black belt," said Wellansky in remarks directed to the gathering. "Black belts are just like any other student, except that they kept going when other comforts and distractions could have lured them away."

Britos Martial Arts offers karate classes for all ages, from toddlers to adults, up to four times per week. The candidates were amongst those students who took full advantage of the frequent classes, spending many evenings and weekends perfecting their skills in the family-owned and operated dojo. For more information about Britos Martial Arts, visit www.britoskarate.com

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



Scrat, Rocky and P'nut can't, but Nutkin can

For those of you who need a brush-up on bygone celebrity icons of the animated and zoological variety, Scrat is the saber-toothed rat-squirrel from the "Ice Age" franchise; Rocky the Flying Squirrel was Bullwinkle's buddy in several cartoon series; P'nut was the most famous northern grey squirrel on Instagram; and Nutkin was the cheeky red squirrel created by Beatrix Potter. Red squirrels, like Nutkin, have an undesirable quality: they are reservoirs for Hansen's Disease.

Hansen's Disease, as it is now called, was a name change in honor of the physician who discovered Mycobacterium leprae. For millennia, the zoonotic affliction had been more memorably known as leprosy. Dr. Hansen's contribution disproved the belief that the condition was hereditary. It is curable with antibiotic therapy.

Red Squirrels

Red squirrels can be reservoirs for the leprosy bacteria. This means that M. Leprae can live and multiply within the tiny mammals. Although there have been no reported cases of humans catching leprosy from red squirrels in modern times, humans and red squirrels shared a bacterial strain of leprosy in medieval England. This suggests that leprosy was transmitted between the two species, likely due to the fur trade and humans keeping the squirrels as pets.

Leprosy

Leprosy is one of the oldest known infectious diseases, causing significant

physical disfigurement, and leading to severe social stigma and isolation for those affected, often being ostracized from their communities throughout history.

It is a disease that has been around a long time. Scientists believe that leprosy originated 100,000 years ago in East Africa. From there it seems to have migrated eastward and westward (through colonization and slave trade), developing one distinct subtype in Asia and another subtype in Europe and North Africa. In western Africa, yet another distinct subtype developed. Leprosy was brought to the Americas by European colonists and western African slaves.

Dreaded and misunderstood, for centuries the disease was treated ineffectively and sometimes barbarically. In ancient Europe, Egypt and China, blood was administered--either as a beverage or as a bath. Sometimes the blood of virgins was required for ritualistic purity. The "therapeutic" use of venom from snakes, bees, scorpions and frogs were other treatments. Some of the afflicted were scarred with irritants, including arsenic, or even endured castration!

Leprosy attacks peripheral nerves and results in acute pain. People with the disease were demonized and thought to be highly contagious. Civilizations around the world saw "lepers" as threats to the general welfare and, as a result, they were ostracized and confined to colonies to live out a lifetime of isolation. Like many other diseases, leprosy was believed to be divine punishment for worldly sins.

The disease thrived in areas with overcrowding, poor sanitation and malnutrition. Incidence was high in Europe from



A red squirrel in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

-Photo by Robert Rightmyer of Valley Visions

about 500-1500 CE. Leprosy saw a decline in incidence in the 16th century, after the Middle Ages, with improved socioeconomic conditions and hygiene.

Nine-Banded Armadillos

Nine-banded armadillos can be vectors for leprosy. This means that M. Leprae can be transmitted to humans through contact with their infected tissues. Nine-Banded Armadillos are found in the mid- and south-eastern United States, as well as more southern areas. Their range has expanded northward into Missouri, Illinois and Nebraska.

Very few people in the US are diagnosed with Hansen's Disease, according to the CDC website. An even smaller number of those folks may have come in contact with infected armadillos in this country. It is true that warming temperatures are a driving force behind the animals migrating northward, but the

chances of them making it as far north as Dutchess County, NY are limited by our temperatures. Nine-banded armadillos can't hibernate and don't have much body fat, so they can't conserve heat well. They can't establish stable colonies where the average January temperature is below 28 degrees F.

Don't worry about Nutkin and other Red Squirrels

Even though Nutkin and other Reds can be carriers for Hansen's Disease, you are probably naturally immune! Only about 5 percent of people are genetically susceptible to getting leprosy, if exposed. And, unlike previously believed, the disease is not highly contagious and can't be spread through casual contact, like shaking hands. Transmission of leprosy requires prolonged close contact with an infected organism (including a person) who has not been treated. But, once antibiotic therapy is begun, the disease is not contagious.

Obviously, it is best to avoid contact with bodily fluids from-- and rashes on-- infected people. And, by all means, avoid contact with the official Texas Small Mammal and Beatrix Potter's Nutkin!

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://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvaleymaplelodging.com>.



"Lady with a Squirrel" by Hans Holbein the Younger, ca 1526. People kept squirrels as pets in Medieval Period.

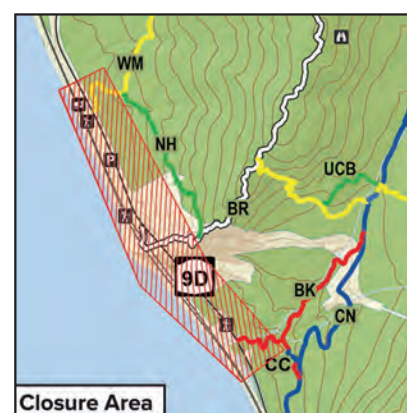
-Image courtesy of Creative Commons

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Aviation Open House set for April 5 at Hudson Valley Regional Airport

Dutchess Community College (DCC) will host an Aviation Open House on Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its aviation education center at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

Prospective students and aviation enthusiasts are invited to:

Get an in-depth look at DCC's Pilot, Aviation Maintenance Technician and Aviation Management programs.

Tour our new state-of-the-art aviation education center on the grounds of Hudson Valley Regional Airport – 31,800 sq. ft of classrooms, labs and hangar space designed for immersive

hands-on learning.

Learn about the admissions process, financial aid and career opportunities in aviation.

Have questions answered by meeting aviation faculty and the admissions team.

For more information and to register, visit sunydutcheduc.edu/aviationopenhouse.

Requests for accommodations, including accessible tours or sign language interpreters, should be submitted to the Admissions Office at admissions@suny-dutcheduc.edu at least seven days before the event.



Right: Dutchess Community College (DCC) will host an Aviation Open House on Saturday, April 5, at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport in Wappinger.

-Courtesy photo DCC

Senator Rolison demands action on exposures, risks in NYS Correctional Facilities

New York State Senator Rob Rolison, Ranking Member of the Senate's Crime Victims, Crime, and Correction Committee, is leading an effort to address the alarming rise in the number of exposure incidents in New York State correctional facilities.

Senator Rolison and Senate Republicans Colleagues, including committee member, Senator Dean Murray (SD-3), on March 28, sent a letter to the State Commission of Correction, urging a formal investigation into the prevalence and impact of exposure incidents within Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) facilities. The letter calls for comprehensive data collection on these incidents and an analysis of the substances found that may be

directly related to these exposure incidents.

As a result of these incidents, individuals have been transported to local hospitals for evaluation and treatment. We need to know what type of substances are being found and that are posing this serious risk to correctional officers, civilian employees, incarcerated individuals, and now, National Guard personnel who are serving in our correctional facilities across the State.

"Those working in our correctional facilities—officers, civilian staff, and medical personnel—deserve to be protected from dangerous exposure while doing their jobs," said Senator Rolison. "A comprehensive investigation is a crucial step in finding out what is happening in our correctional facilities. By

getting the State Commission of Correction involved, we are taking the necessary steps to examine this issue on a statewide level and push for real solutions."

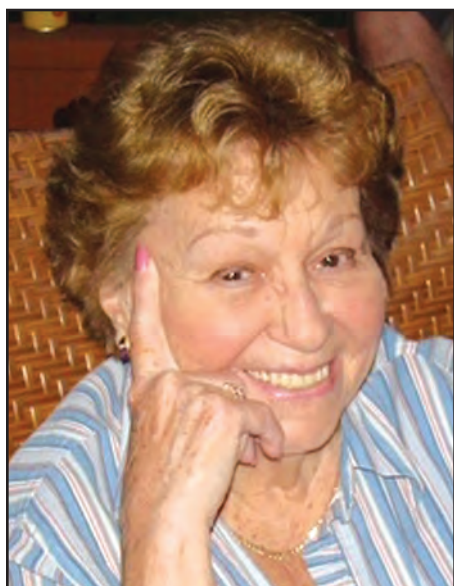
In addition to the letter, Senator Rolison recently amended his fentanyl exposure bill, S989-A, to strengthen protections against exposure. The bill, which establishes the offense of aggravated reckless endangerment for individuals who knowingly possess fentanyl or fentanyl derivatives and recklessly expose first responders or correction officers, now includes civilian employees of correctional facilities along with military personnel as protected individuals, including active military personnel who are serving in correctional facilities.

"This amendment ensures we are holding individuals accountable who are recklessly possessing substances that are injuring correction officers and civilian staff," Rolison added. "By expanding this legislation to include active-duty military personnel, such as National Guard members working in these facilities, we are taking a stronger stance to deter reckless endangerment and protect those who serve our state."

For more information on Senator Rolison and his work on behalf of the Hudson Valley, visit www.nysenate.gov/senators/rob-rolison, reach out to the office at 845-229-0106.

Obituaries

Edith Tasnady Forgo



Edith Tasnady Forgo, 99 of New Hamburg, passed away on March 26, 2025. She was born March 28, 1925 in Budapest, Hungary, to Margit and Dezso Verbovsky. Edith left Hungary in 1945, in order to flee Russian/communist aggression. She made her way to Germany, where, through American assistance, she settled in a refugee camp in Plattling, Bavaria where she met and married Ferenc (Frank) Tasnady in 1946. They had three children before immigrating to New York in 1950 to start a new life. She was predeceased by her husband in 1965. In 1970 she married Michael "Feri" Forgo who predeceased her in 2004.

Edith was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother and was immensely proud of her family. She was

extremely talented and creative as an artist, cook and baker (occasionally professionally) while being an at home mother.

Edith enjoyed entertaining and gardening and had many other interests. She was a gracious hostess, with a quiet elegance about her. Edith was dearly loved by her family and friends.

Edith is survived by her daughter, Kathleen, with whom she made her home; son, Karol, daughter-in-law Mary Jo; grandson Ferenc, his wife, Maggie; granddaughter Erin Breidenstein, her husband, Peter; and great-grandchildren, Layne, Landry, Rex, Avery and Eve. She is also survived by her very dear cousin, Rudy Sekely; her niece, Zsuzsa Verbovsky; and nephew Peter Verbovsky and his family.

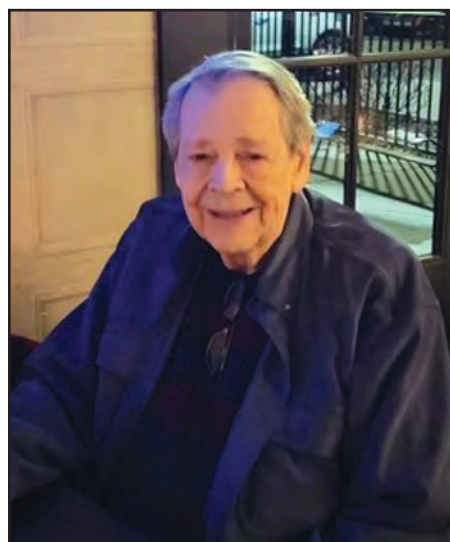
Edith was predeceased by her daughter, Emese (Meshy) Tasnady and her brother Dezso as well as her husbands.

Family and friends gathered on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street in Wappingers Falls.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Monday, March 31 at St. Mary's Church, Clinton Street in Wappingers Falls. Interment followed in the family plot at St. Mary's Cemetery in Wappingers Falls.

To send the family a personal condolence, please visit our website at www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Travis R. (T.R.) Edmonds



Travis R. (T.R.) Edmonds passed away on March 23, 2025 peacefully. He was 87 years old. He was born on February 23, 1938 in Keene, NY to the late Wilbur and Florence (Travis) Edmonds. On September 9, 1961, Travis married his beloved wife Willa Lee (Bramson) Edmonds. They spent many happy years together until her death in 2021.

Travis was Vice President of Human Resources at IBM in East Fishkill, where he led a very respected and impactful career. However, his true passions were his family, friends, hunting and fishing. The latter hobby led Travis to be a founding member of the Stone Church Fishing Club. He spent many happy summer hours at the club with fellow members and friends. In the fishing off season he

could also be found supporting the Giants and enjoying college football.

He is survived by his two children: Sheryl Edmonds-Farley and Kevin Edmonds and his wife Jennifer; his two grandchildren: Travis Edmonds and Madison Edmonds; his sister Joan Barnum and her husband Ray; his nieces Laurie Barnum and Marcy Rynne; as well as many other relatives and friends.

Memorial calling hours were held on Saturday March 29, 2025 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction, NY.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Travis to the Stone Church Fishing Club c/o Stone Church Fishing Club, Steve Eckelman, Treasurer, 28 Reservoir Road, Staatsburg NY 12580. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Dutchess County Board of Ethics to meet April 8

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Tuesday, April 8, starting at 11 a.m. The public has the right to attend at the Dutchess County Department of Law, 22 Market St., 5th floor, Poughkeepsie.

Public Comments will also be accepted

verbally, up to three minutes per person, for a total of up to thirty minutes in the aggregate at the end of the meeting. Each person may only speak once up to three minutes.

This meeting of the Board of Ethics shall be for the purpose of reviewing any complaints received by the Ethics Board.

- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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- 105 Employment Opportunity
- 106 Business Opportunity
- 107 Situations Wanted
- 120 Schools
- 121 Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care
- 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
- 152 Novenas
- 154 Lost & Found
- 155 Personal Services
- 200 Services

- 201 Home Improvement
- 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services
- 221 Professional Services
- 222 Tax Experts
- 223 Beauty Services
- 225 Business Services
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- 509 Office Equipment
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- 703 Pets for Adoption
- 710 Garage & Yard Sale
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- 719 Antiques

- 720 Vendors Wanted
- 721 Wanted to Buy
- 722 Bazaar
- 723 Consignments
- 724 Farmers Market
- 725 Collectibles
- 750 Events
- 800 Boats
- 801 Campers & Trailers
- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
- 900 Autos for Sale
- 901 Vans/SUV's
- 902 Trucks
- 903 Motorcycles
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			8	3				
	4			9			6	
1					6	3		2
				2		1	8	
		9				6		
	1	6		5				
4		3	5					8
	2			1			4	
				7	2			

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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			
				2	
2	3				
			1		
4					
				4	

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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: VACATION DESTINATIONS

ACROSS

1. Aladdin's find
5. Reggae precursor
8. "Lights out" signal
12. Not good
13. Flock's echo
14. ___ diet, a.k.a. caveman diet
15. Kind of jerk
16. *Southern and Southwestern U.S. region: Sun ___
17. Financial backer
18. *Switzerland's skiing destination (2 words)
20. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
21. Clint Eastwood's "Play ___ for Me"
22. One in a pod
23. Wear out
26. Masculine
30. *Princess' turf
31. Makes a sum (2 words)
34. "He's Just Not That ___ You"
35. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
37. Choose
38. Provide food
39. Answer from a tunnel
40. Virtual you
42. ___ Scare
43. Prickly plant
45. *Second "National Lampoon's Vacation" destination
47. Biblical Adam's partner
48. Cause and effect cycle?
50. Goals
52. *Jamaica and Cayman Islands location
56. Bert's sidekick
57. Poet Pound
58. Hay bundle
59. "The Great Gatsby" author
60. Billiards relative
61. Theories
62. ___-deaf
63. Boar's mate
64. Reason to cram

DOWN

1. Not more
2. Swear, not curse
3. Between mini and maxi
4. Bodily fluid
5. Small silvery fish
6. ___ G. of "SpongeBob SquarePants"
7. Aardvark's repast
8. *Serengeti National Park location
9. Aquatic plant
10. Pressure inducer
11. *Costa del ___, Spain
13. Humiliated
14. Eucharistic plate
19. Fretted instrument
22. OB-GYN test
23. Balance sheet item
24. *Coastal destination
25. Policeman's club in India
26. Cockapoo or Puggle, e.g.
27. Foreword
28. Make tea
29. Vast multitude
32. Peace symbol
33. *Rest and relaxation destination
36. *El Capitan and Half Dome location
38. Pigeon food?
40. Brewery order
41. Acrobatic move
44. Living room centerpiece?
46. Velveteen creature
48. Type of membranophone
49. Cupid's ammo
50. Gas station brand
51. Aware of a secret (2 words)
52. Porcinos
53. "At ___, soldier"
54. Charitable contribution
55. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
56. Time in NYC

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19					20				
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39					40				41			42	
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56							57				58		
59							60				61		
62							63				64		

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14

Steve Blamires of National Geographic to offer Scottish Highland Clearances Lecture

Fundraiser for Bannerman Castle Trust



A lecture on the history of the Scottish Highlands Clearance will take place on April 13. Right: National Geographic lecturer Steve Blamires will present the lecture.

-Courtesy photos Bannerman Trust



The Bannerman Castle Trust will host a presentation by National Geographic lecturer Steve Blamires, focusing on the often-overlooked history of the Scottish Highland Clearances. The event will take place on Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. at The Factory at 147 Main Street, across from the Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., in Beacon.

Blamires, a native of the Isle of Arran, will delve into the complex and tragic events that dramatically reshaped Scotland's demographics. In 1750, 51% of Scotland's population residing in the Highlands and Islands were predominantly Gaelic speakers. Today, that number has dwindled to a mere 21%. Blamires will explore the five significant depopulation incidents during

this period, with a focus on the Highland Clearances – a forced displacement of farmers from their ancestral homes, replaced by profitable sheep farming.

"This was not just a way for Clan Chieftains to make large sums of money, but also to rid the country of the impoverished Gaelic speaking families once and for all. It was Scotland's ethnic cleansing in a massive and utterly cruel manner, and it worked" says Blamires. His presentation will illuminate the systematic cruelty, violence, and bigotry endured by the Scottish Gaels, providing a comprehensive overview of the events since 1750.

Blamires' personal connection is that of growing up on the Isle of Arran, an area heavily impacted by the Clearances, he

found a significant absence of this history in his formal education. His journey as a historian and cultural specialist with National Geographic, working on Lindblad Expeditions, has fueled his passion for Scottish history and the preservation of the Gaelic language. He has traveled extensively, circumnavigating the globe and visiting over 75 countries, including 40 trips to Antarctica.

This presentation serves as a fundraiser for the Bannerman Castle Trust, supporting their ongoing efforts to preserve and share the rich history of Bannerman Castle in the Hudson River Highlands. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested.

Blamires is a National Geographic lecturer,

historian, and cultural specialist from the Isle of Arran, Scotland. He currently resides in Beacon, with his wife Jennifer and their two cats, Haggis and Neeps. Blamires will also serve as Toastmaster for the Bannerman Castle Trust's Burns Supper event scheduled for Saturday, July 25.

The Bannerman Castle Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the historic and environmental integrity of Bannerman Castle and Pollepel Island for public education and enjoyment.

Only 40 seats are available for this lecture. On a first come, first served basis. To reserve seats please contact Laurie Clark at info.bannermancastle@gmail.com or 845-831-1001.

Sugar Maple Celebration has largest turnout in 20 years



The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation held the annual Sugar Maple Celebration on March 22. This was the largest turnout in the 20 years of the event being held, according to Sharpe Reservation Director Timothy Stanley.

Above: Pictured is First Place Winner, Best of the Best, "Millie Mack's Marvelous Maple Syrup" by Millicent Ivey Mackle pictured with her children and Dr. William Sharpe (Julian Morgan), left. Ballard Maple won second place and Cronin's Maple came in third place.

Right: This year's Maple Judges were represented by the Chamber Foundation's Dutchess Leadership Class of 2025. Pictured, from left, are Ryan Mascolino, Rhinebeck Bank; Sarah Brady, Century21; Sheana Fitzpatrick, NYS Bridge Authority; Stacey Curtis, NBT Bank, and Philip Edwards, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photos Sharpe Reservation

