

BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 74, Number 39

September 24, 2025

Services set for NYS Police Sgt. who died in East Fishkill motorcycle accident



NYS Police Sergeant and Station Commander Nigel K. Barnett Jr.

-Courtesy photo NYS Police

By Kristine Coulter

The wake and funeral service for New York State Sergeant Nigel Barnett Jr., who died as a result of a injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident, will be held this week. The wake is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 4-8 p.m. at McHoul Funeral Home, 895 Route 82, in East Fishkill. The funeral service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 11 a.m. at Faith Assembly of God, 25 Golf Club Lane, in Poughkeepsie.

"Today (Sept. 16), New York State Police Troop K tragically lost Sergeant and Station Commander Nigel K. Barnett. A 19-year veteran, Sergeant Barnett devoted his career to protecting others and serving his community with selfless dedication. I extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones and colleagues, and join them in honoring his life and service during this time of profound loss," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a statement last week.

It was on Sept. 16, that members of the New York State Police assigned to the Stormville barracks responded to a report of a single-vehicle motorcycle collision near mile marker 36.1 southbound on the Taconic State Parkway in the Town of East Fishkill.

According to the state troopers, "a preliminary investigation determined that a 2025 Ducati motorcycle was traveling southbound when the operator lost control." The operator, who was identified as 49-year-old Barnett, of Poughkeepsie, "was ejected from the motorcycle and struck the guardrail on the western shoulder," stated the release from state police. "Despite immediate life-saving measures, Sergeant Barnett was pronounced deceased at the scene."

The collision remains under investigation, it was stated.

On social media, New York State Police stated it was with "profound sadness" that they share the loss of Barnett. In the statement, state police noted, "[Sergeant Barnett's] commitment to public safety, his leadership, and his steady presence will be deeply missed by the members of our Division and the communities he served."

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Celebrate the 'spirit' of Beacon

Annual community event set for Sunday



The annual Spirit of Beacon Day will take place on Main St. on September 28 in Beacon. Pictured above, is the Beacon Sloop Club and, right, members of the Beacon Historical Society, marching in the 2024 parade.

-Archive photos

By Kristine Coulter

"Children are the Future, Let Them Lead the Way" will be this year's theme for the Spirit of Beacon Day. The annual community event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main St. in Beacon. The parade steps off at 1 p.m.

On the Spirit of Beacon Day website, spiritofbeacon.org, the Parade Founders Mission from 1977 can be found. The mission states: "A day to bring the City together, especially the children and

youth...the community should get to know one another better, learn to know what each other likes in conversation, feelings, entertainment, education and food."

Here is the schedule for the day:

10 a.m. - Streets blocked off in Spirit of Beacon table perimeter

11 a.m. - Spirit of Beacon Day and vendor tables open (between Brett St. and Teller Ave.)

Noon - Parade lineup (begins on Main St. at Wolcott Ave. and ends at Yankee Clipper Diner)

1-2 p.m. - Parade

5 p.m. - Spirit of Beacon Day ends

"We're excited it's going to be a lot of fun," said Ali T. Muhammad, Chair of the Spirit of Beacon Day Committee and a former City of Beacon Council member. Muhammad spoke at a City Council meeting earlier this month.

"This year we're focused on the youth. Every year the Spirit of Beacon Day, at least the theme is, generated in the spirit of youth development youth growth," explained Muhammad.

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Welcome autumn during Harvest Fest at Stony Kill

By Kristine Coulter

Visit Stony Kill on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enjoy Harvest Fest 2025. Celebrate the autumn season.

"Harvest Fest will feature the always-popular hayrides, visits with farm animals, Stony Ground 4-H Club Sheep Showmanship event, specialty vendors, artisan demos, hands-on crafting, special merchandise from the Stony Kill Foundation pop-up shop," said Janet Goodman, Stony Kill Development & Events Coordinator. "Food will be available to purchase, including food trucks, homemade soups from the Verplanck Garden Club, and a variety of baked goods and beverages. Raffle tickets for unique gift baskets will also be sold."



The annual Harvest Fest will be held at Stony Kill on Saturday, October 4. Pictured is from a previous year's event.

-Courtesy photo

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Celebrate the ‘spirit’ of Beacon

Continued from cover

Muhammad went on to tell how Spirit of Beacon Day began.

“We know that there was a lot of tension in this community, and people came together to ease that tension,” he said about when the Spirit of Beacon Day was originally formed.

In that spirit, this year’s theme was inspired by the Whitney Houston song, “The Greatest Love of All.”

“That’s the theme [this] year. We’re literally going to do that by letting all the children and the floats and the youth in the floats lead the way,” stated Muhammad.

There will be a youth center, which will be more focused on the youth and will have more inflatables, said Muhammad.

Folks that passed away will be remembered. There will also be the presentation of the Spirit of Beacon Award, noted Muhammad.

There will be “a lot of vendors,” said Muhammad, who added this year there are also many sponsors.

“We want to keep adding new people to the event,” he stated.

Email spiritofbeacon@gmail.com if one wants to volunteer.

“I’m excited there’s a contest for floats,” said Councilmember-at-Large Amber Grant.

Services set for NYS Police Sgt. who died in East Fishkill motorcycle accident

Continued from cover

The statement concluded, “We extend our heartfelt condolences to Sergeant Barnett’s family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. Please keep them in your thoughts as we honor his service and sacrifice.”

Town of Hyde Park Police Department posted on social media: “Sgt. Barnett dedicated his life to serving and protecting our community with integrity, courage, and compassion. His leadership and commitment to duty left a lasting mark on those who served alongside him, and his memory will forever remain in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow officers.” The post continued, “We extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones, friends, and extended family at the NYSP as they mourn this great loss.”

“Rest easy, Sgt. Barnett. Thank you for your service.”

In a post on social media, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office posted, in part, “During his time as a trooper, Sergeant Barnett worked in various locations throughout Dutchess County and worked closely alongside Dutchess County Deputy Sheriffs on patrol, forging strong working relationships before his promotion to Station Commander.”

“Sergeant Barnett was not only a respected member of the New York State Police, but also a trusted partner and friend to many within the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office. We are heartbroken by his passing and extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the members of the State Police. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.”

Rep. Mike Lawler stated, in part, on

social media, “Sgt. Barnett serves with dedication and a commitment to public safety. My sincere condolences to the Barnett family and friends.”

NYS Senator Rob Rolison stated on social media, “Sergeant Nigel K. Barnett dedicated his life to serving others through both his military service and nearly two decades with the New York State Police. His commitment to protecting our community reflects the very best of public service, and his loss is deeply felt here in Poughkeepsie and across Troop K.”

“My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, loved ones, and colleagues during this difficult time.”

Rep. Pat Ryan, said on social media, in part, “He was a true hero who will be greatly missed by us all.”

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino posted, in part, on social media, “Behind every uniform is someone’s son, friend, and neighbor, and Sgt. Barnett’s passing is a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who dedicate their lives to protecting us. My heart is with his loved ones and his New York State Police family as they navigate this tremendous loss.”

On the Our Lady of Lourdes High School Facebook page, it was posted that Barnett was “...a beloved member of the Class of 1993. We hold his family and loved ones in our prayers as they navigate this heartbreaking loss.” The school also had posted his senior year picture and quote. The quote read: “When I was first put in place, I felt as meaningless as one star in the sky. But if that one star is missing the sky wouldn’t seem the same.” Then it states: “Smile God loves you.”



Right: Members of the Rombout Middle School Band march down Main St. in a previous year’s Spirit of Beacon Day parade. This year’s festivities will be held on Sunday, September 28.

-Archive photo

Welcome autumn during Harvest Fest at Stony Kill



The annual Harvest Fest will take place at Stony Kill on October 4. Members of the Verplanck Garden Club during last year’s Harvest Fest.

-Archive photo

Continued from cover

The festival will feature live music, including performances from local favorites Lauren and Friends and Beacon Rising, said Goodman.

According to Goodman, autumn is “a time to gather with friends amidst the vibrant foliage crisp air and cozy shorter days.”

“The Harvest Fest is a celebration of the changing seasons and a special opportunity to explore the farm, enjoy delicious food and revel in the season’s abundance.”

If one attends the annual event, what animals can one see there?

“Heritage breed livestock, including cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys. There will be oxen demonstrations with our American Milking Devon cattle and our Tunis sheep will be competing in our show ring for ribbons and shown by the Stony Ground 4-H shepherds,” said Goodman.

Organizers are expecting a large crowd. If one goes to the Harvest Fest, park at the north end of the site, by the large pillars. Anyone who needs accessible parking should enter at the south entrance.

Parking and admission are free, but a donation of \$5 is suggested.

Stony Kill Farm is located at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls.

Beacon named ‘fairy-tale’ small town

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino posted about World Atlas crowning Beacon a “fairy-tale” small town.

“It’s always nice when the rest of the world sees what we already know — the Hudson Valley is something special,” said Serino in a social media post.

“Beacon, Kingston, and New Paltz were just named New York’s “fairy-tale towns.” I’m especially proud of Beacon’s

journey — from a struggling city years ago to the vibrant, welcoming community it is today. That transformation is a true testament to the people who believed in its future.

“Whether you’re craving donuts, looking for great restaurants, or exploring unique shops, Beacon truly has something for everyone — plan your next visit soon!”

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Honoring Roots of Giving Across the Hudson Valley





See story, page 8

Sheriff’s Office warns of Grand Jury scam

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office would like to take this opportunity to warn the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about scams that once again seem to be on the rise.

Scams are ways in which criminals will attempt to get money from people by contacting them and making up elaborate stories. In some cases the perpetrators have tried, sometimes successfully, to use the victim’s emotions about a loved one in trouble to get money. It’s common for the perpetrators of these scams to try to get money by telling people that one of their relatives has been seriously hurt or is in jail, and that they need money right away. In many cases they will pose as a law enforcement official or another relative to try and convince the victim that it’s legitimate.

In the latest scam the perpetrators pose as Deputies from the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, they contact the victim and tell them that they or a family member failed to appear for Grand Jury and as a result are wanted on a warrant. The perpetrators then tell the victim that they can satisfy the warrant by paying a sum of money.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to offer

the following general tips to help people avoid these scams:

NEVER meet up with someone that you don’t know after they’ve contacted for money; if you’re asked to do this it is surely a scam, and it is very dangerous as well.

Legitimate law enforcement would not attempt to satisfy a warrant by either soliciting money or making promises to avoid prosecution.

If you’re contacted by someone you don’t know asking for money, for any reason, it’s very likely a scam.

If you receive correspondence from someone that you don’t know and they instruct you to keep the matter confidential and not tell anyone about it, it’s most likely a scam.

Emails or text messages that contain misspelled words, grammatical errors, don’t make sense, or are sent at odd hours – for example the middle of the night - are most likely scams.

If you receive an email or text about an order you didn’t place or that asks you to send money call the company using a legitimate number. DO NOT follow the instructions in the email, click on any

links in the email, or call the number provided in the email.

If someone you don’t know asks you to purchase merchandise, transfer money, provide bank information, provide remote computer access, enter a code, or click on a link given to you by them use caution as it is likely a scam.

If someone calls you and tells you that a relative has been hurt or is in jail, confirm it first before sending any money. Call other relatives or a legitimate law enforcement agency for confirmation before any money is sent. If they’re posing as a relative, try and contact that relative for confirmation.

Sending money overseas is especially risky; use extreme caution.

Ask the person for their call back number and ask to speak to their supervisor to confirm the info; if it’s a scam they will most likely hang up at this point and the number they give you will be bogus.

If a loved one has recently passed away be wary; in some cases perpetrators have even preyed on victims by searching through the obituaries and calling surviving loved ones. If you get calls from people

you don’t know soon after someone passes away, be careful and confirm it before you send any money.

In some cases someone will call and tell the victim that they’ve won money, but to “process the claim” they need to first send money. Beware this is most definitely a scam and don’t send any money – you should never have to pay money to claim a prize. If it seems too good to be true, it most likely is.

If there’s any doubt about a phone call/email/letter you’ve received contact the Sheriff’s Office before sending any money.

Scams tend to increase during the holiday season, so be especially alert for them during those times.

It is very important to not send any money to anyone that you don’t know until you’ve confirmed the situation through an independent source and feel comfortable with it. If it’s a scam once the money is sent it’s very difficult, and most times impossible, to get it back. If anyone thinks they may have been the victim of a scam they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 845-486-3800 or via the tipline at 845-605-CLUE or dcsotips@gmail.com.

AAUW Poughkeepsie receives commendation from Legislature



The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women received a commendation from the Dutchess County Legislature at the board meeting last month. Pictured, from left, Legislators Lynne Miele-Versaci, Yvette Valdes Smith, Lisa R. Kaul and Brennan Kearney.

-Courtesy photo

The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women received a commendation from the Dutchess County Legislature at the Legislative Board meeting last month. This commendation recognizes the branch for its 100 years as an organization and its service to the Dutchess County community.

Dr. Lisa R. Kaul, Dutchess County Legislator, Town of Poughkeepsie; Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith,

Fishkill & Beacon; and Brennan Kearney, Dutchess County Legislator, Clinton, Pleasant Valley & Rhinebeck, offered this commendation.

The commendation notes that the AAUW has been instrumental in creating several impactful community programs including Leading to Reading (literacy program), Days for Girls (making feminine hygiene kits), Extending Girls’ Horizons (leadership and STEAM programs), and the Court Watch initiative.

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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.

Poughkeepsie Town Decision on BESS is Best for Residents

To the Editor:

In his Letter to the Editor last week, Poughkeepsie Town Councilman Bill Reuter constructs a disjointed and imaginative story criticizing a recent decision by the Poughkeepsie Town Board majority. The issue was battery energy storage systems ("BESS") -- should they be allowed, and with what restrictions? While Mr. Reuter claimed this was a hasty decision, it was not. This was the third time for these questions on the Board's agenda over more than a year's time. The board had appropriately responded to concerns raised - with delays and moratoriums which stopped all permits until everyone on the Town Board and the Town's three Fire Districts had studied the issue extensively (hearing from experts at NYSERDA and the Energy Safety Response Group). They subsequently improved the zoning law from what they had learned, and finally returned to make the right, evidence-based decision.

Mr. Reuter's vote and his myopic letter ignores testimony by experts that attended this and prior Town Board meetings, and he is clearly ignorant of prior technical review material. Experts at the meetings showed that: (1) systems have improved so much in recent years that modern installations are as safe or safer than most other technology in the energy industry; (2) BESS systems will cost tax-payers nothing to install, will increase the Town's property tax revenues, lower consumer electricity bills over the long term, and give all of us cleaner air.

Though Mr. Reuter wants to make a political issue of this decision, it wasn't about politics at all. It was about doing a good thing for the Town. Some board members are capable of understanding clear evidence and making tough decisions. This is one of many the current board has made toward progress that benefits all Town residents, regardless of their political party.

Greg Freeman, PhD Electrical Engineering
Candidate for Town of Poughkeepsie Town Board

BEACON FREE PRESS

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

serving the communities of:
Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wiccopee,
New Hackensack and Stormville
Publisher - Albert Osten
Editor - Kristine Coulter
Reporter - Morgan E. Maier
Art Director - Sharon Browne
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Telephone: 297-3723 Fax: 297-6810
E-Mail address for letters: newsplace@aol.com

(USPS 665900)

(USPS 665900)

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

Forman will ‘go to work’ on Day 1 if elected

To The Editor:

Greetings! As a resident and voter in Ward 4 in Beacon, I am thrilled to support John Forman’s candidacy for a seat in the Dutchess County Legislature. He served the residents in Beacon and Fishkill for 12 years as a County Legislator and he is currently finishing up a 4-year term on the Fishkill Town Board.

Our city needs a more “hands-on” legislator representing our district. When John was a Legislator, he frequently attended Beacon City Council meetings to be the bridge between the City of Beacon and Dutchess County Government.

A couple of John’s accomplishments in the County Legislature include: Paved the way to allow Liquor stores in Dutchess County to remain open for business past the standard hours set by the NYS Liquor Authority. John Forman invested a lot of time into changing these hours and these hours were amended shortly after John was no longer serving.

John Forman took on the entire Legislature when his resolution forced our elected officials to contribute to their taxpayer-funded health insurance premiums. His resolution extended to include Management and confidential employees as well. The annual savings for the taxpayers is approximately \$250,000 per year.

John is going to go to work on Day 1 for every resident in the City of Beacon.

Please join me in voting for John Forman in November!

Kat Caporale
Beacon

Must return to civil discourse

To the Editor:

The recent murder of Charlie Kirk is a grim reminder of the dangerous path our society is on. While many disagreed with Kirk’s views—including myself—no one deserves to be murdered for their beliefs. Violence is not justice.

This tragedy echoes other acts of political violence, including the assassination of Democratic legislators in Minnesota and the targeting of lawmakers in Wisconsin. These are not isolated incidents—they are symptoms of a deeper sickness in our political life, where disagreement too often turns into dehumanization, and that leads to violence.

Beyond our borders in the Middle East the violent death of 1,200 Israeli civilians has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Gazans including over 20,000 children. Families shattered. Futures erased. Whether in the middle east or here at home, the loss of innocent life should unite us in grief, not divide us in blame.

We must all reject violence, whether committed by lone actors or state powers.

We must return to civil discourse and dialogue, and remember that every life, regardless of ideology, nationality, or religion, has value.

John Tyliczszak
Wappingers Falls

Beephan travels to Israel as part of 50 States One Israel delegation



Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr., left, attended a trip to Israel as part of the 50 States One Israel Delegation earlier this month.

-Courtesy photo

Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R, C - East Fishkill) attended a trip to Israel as part of the 50 States One Israel Delegation, joining six other bipartisan members of the New York State Assembly on a historic visit focused on solidarity, security, and innovation.

During the trip, the delegation participated in high-level meetings and ceremonies with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar, and U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee. A highlight of the trip was an intimate dinner with President Herzog, where Assemblyman Beephan was invited to sit with the President and, on behalf of the New York State Delegation, Beephan presented President Herzog with a resolution commemorating Israeli Independence Day, sponsored by Assemblymember Nily Rozic.

“This trip underscored the deep bond between New York and Israel,” said Beephan. “New York is home to more Jews outside of Israel than anywhere else, and we must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Jewish community,

especially at a time when antisemitism is rising and many are fearful that incoming leadership in New York City will fail to prioritize their safety.”

The delegation’s itinerary included solemn moments of remembrance, including paying respects at the October 7th Nova Music Festival memorial site and touring the Gaza-envelope communities impacted by terror attacks. Beephan also joined the Jewish National Fund (JNF) for a tree-planting ceremony in Ofakim and participated in “Israeli Innovation Day,” which highlighted Israel’s leadership in technology, security, and entrepreneurship.

Beephan also addressed criticism from detractors:

“I will not be intimidated by anti-Israel, anti-Jewish keyboard warriors. The same critics were silent during my policy trip to the West Bank & Jerusalem earlier this year. All voices matter.”

Beephan reaffirmed his commitment to standing against antisemitism and supporting New York’s Jewish population through advocacy, security measures, and legislative action.

Correction

In the Sept. 17th edition, there was a letter by Bill Reuter, titled “Battery Energy Storage Systems face opposition in Town of Poughkeepsie.” Reuter sent in the following correction, “On November 13, 2023, Vassar College, as the property owner, cosigned an application requesting an area variance to allow a large-scale BESS Storage Facility, authorizing use of their 189 Manchester Road parcel to Key Capture Energy.” Insead of the original sentence, “ On November 13, 2023, while Rebecca Edwards was an active full-time professor, Vassar College submitted an application requesting an area variance for a large-scale BESS Storage Facility, leasing their 159 Manchester Road parcel to Key Capture Energy.”



Technology’s Impact on the Study of Local History

By Bill Jeffway

I am not a technology expert. My goal here is to share my narrow, personal experience with emerging technologies as a local history researcher who began, in earnest, in the early 1970s. This was two decades before the proliferation of the world wide web. First, some definitions.

- **Virtual Reality** involves a headset which creates a total, immersive new audio visual experience.
- **Augmented Reality** involves overlaying dynamic images and other media through your phone or tablet, “augmenting” what you see/experience in your immediate view.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** can involve the creation and manipulation of media (images, video, audio) into new or “artificial” media. AI can also involve a dialogue or exchange of words – such as chatbots – and facilitate deeper and deeper research exercises and analysis.

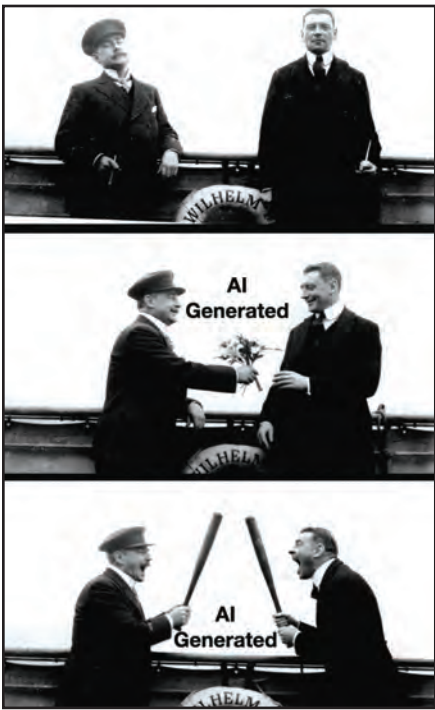
Helping or hurting?

If we want to know if these technologies are helping or hurting – or some combination of both – we need to agree what the goal of the study of local history is.

If you do an online search for Vassar Professor Lucy Salmon and “Why is History Rewritten?” you will find that Salmon spoke and wrote over a century ago about what she said was a historian’s “most important job.” She argued that over time new ways (for example worldwide web) will bring out new information. She said different perspectives may emerge. New voices may be heard. She and DCHS founder Helen Wilkinson Reynolds were among the most articulate of local historians on the topic. That’s why DCHS’s annual award for excellence in history, in Reynolds name, is given for someone who excels in the “necessary and accurate pursuit of historical truth.”

In addition to this, there has been a growing awareness that the old adage that “the victors write the history,” with its implication that there is only one history, one perspective, is limiting.

In both cases, the solution for historians remains the same. Salmon coined the iconic phrase, “go to the source,” to explain the importance of letting original source material speak. The rapid



Above: Through a brief few words as a command, a picture of two men can be manipulated into a sense they are friends, or a sense they are combatants. In the realm of historical study and publication, any AI-generated images should be clearly indicated as such.

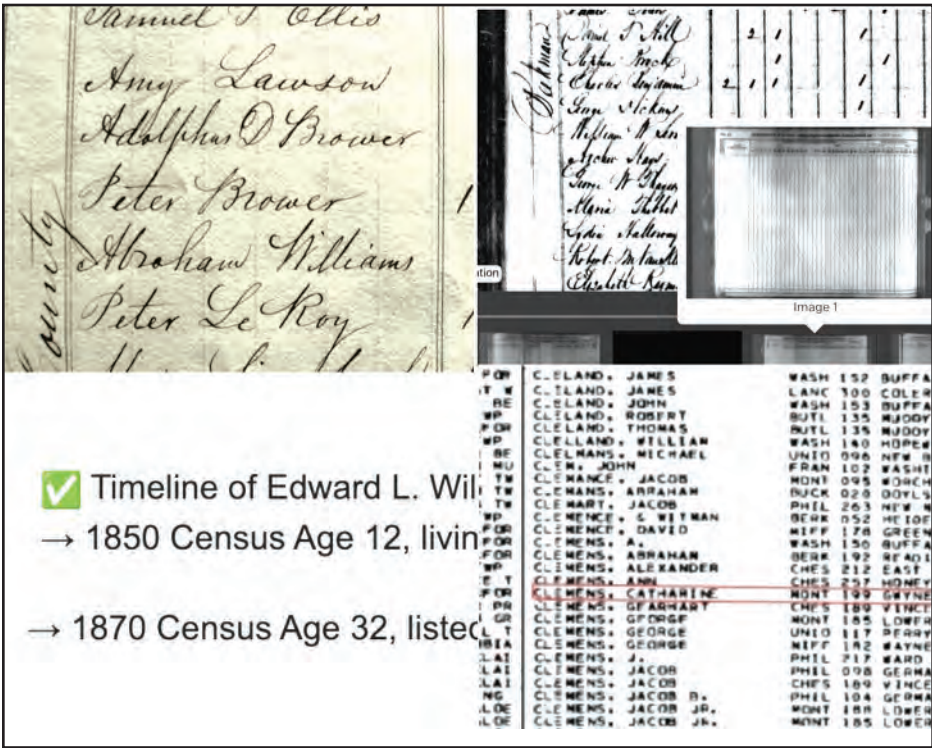
evolution of these technologies does not fundamentally change our need to “go to the source” to establish the closest truth. So the question becomes, do these technologies help us get to the source, and get to a closer, more complete truth?

Virtual Reality

I mentioned in an earlier article the work of Pawling Historical Society that uses Virtual Reality, to successfully, I believe, move to a closer truth. The experience involves a headset which creates a total, immersive new experience which allows us to, among other things, look out the window of the Quaker meeting house and see the military encampment of soldiers that would have been the view during the Revolutionary War.

Augmented Reality

Augmented Reality involves using your iPhone, or tablet, in a situation to



Above, top left then clockwise: Are we getting closer to the source? Closer to the truth? 1. An original handwritten 1840 census at DCHS you can hold in your hand. 2. A digital copy of the census through a paid online ancestry account. 3. A typed transcription that is freely available only. 4. A recent response from chatgpt.

have the scene that you are looking at augmented with media and allowing for interactive experiences.

DCHS is partnering with the local Montrose 4 Studio to launch a pilot as early as this Halloween that would use images of real persons in Rhinebeck’s history at certain central locations where that person introduces us to their local experience when they lived locally, whether that as a generation, or century or few centuries ago.

AI-generated Research Dialogue

Researchers can now combine offering background information (like photos, maps, or other information) and ask in return to have certain questions answered. The positive experiences I have here involve being directed to source material that I did not know existed. In the same way that I advise Wikipedia readers to spend more time examining the footnotes and sources at the bottom of an article, rather than the narrative above it, I recommend the same focus: on the sources for further investigation.

The poor experiences I have had involve when AI generates an appropriately named “hallucination.” This is when it provides an answer that has literally no form that you can independently verify. This recently happened when a name and occupation of a local resident in 1880 was declared by AI, in the most confident of voices, to exist. Further research found no such person existed at that time in the town, county

or state of New York.

AI Image Manipulation

This to me, is the most challenging because we rely entirely on the publisher to flag what is real, and what is AI-generated. I was able to create alternate images that show two men as friends, or two as enemies through instruction of just a few words (see image of two men). It is both easy, and effective, to create misleading images. Even when flagged, I have a harder time seeing their role in the understanding of local, fact-based history. Although it is very tempting to want to put a face to a well-studied person, it can be misleading.

Implications:

It is important to support the preservation of original source material, the way DCHS does through its archives, through volunteering! Take the time to identify and interrogate only sources you have decided you can trust. Wherever you tread, whatever you read, whenever you are asked to believe something: Ask “what is the source?” Then go to the source! And decide if it takes me to a closer truth?



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

Showing of ‘Lines of Demarcation’ on Sept. 27

The Beacon Movie Theater will host a special screening of “Lines of Demarcation: Memories of Beacon’s Black Communities of the 20th Century.” This is a locally produced oral history collaboration between Beacon High School and Rise Up Project, an anti-racism group at St. Andrew & St. Luke’s Episcopal

Church. The students interviewed elder members of the Black community about their experiences growing up in Beacon.

The film will be shown at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the theater, 445 Main Street. The film is 49 minutes and will be followed by Q&A. Tickets are available through Beacon Movie Theater.

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City of Poughkeepsie Navy Veteran recognized at ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ Ceremony



Family members and friends of Airman Apprentice Donald Herring Sr. with Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche and County Executive Sue Serino during the recent “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony on September 18 in Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino thanked the family of Airman Apprentice Donald Herring Sr. Herring for his service to the nation and his commitment to the City of Poughkeepsie. Airman Apprentice Herring’s military service was recognized during September’s “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony held in Poughkeepsie. Also pictured is Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche.

-Courtesy photos

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs on Sept. 18 recognized the military service and life of U.S. Navy Airman Apprentice Donald Herring, Sr., a former City of Poughkeepsie resident, at the County’s September “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony. The event was held at VFW Post 170 in Poughkeepsie. The monthly ceremonies celebrate the lives and selfless service of deceased local veterans.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Donny Herring was so much more than a decorated veteran. He was a devoted father, a gifted mechanic and a quiet force of kindness in his community. From the flight decks of Vietnam to the heart of Poughkeepsie, Donny lived a life of service and love. Dutchess County is privileged to celebrate the life and legacy of Donny and American heroes like him through our ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ ceremonies, and we will never forget all he meant to our community.”

Donald Herring, Sr. was born on March 21, 1955, in Poughkeepsie, a place he proudly called home. At just 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in April 1972, serving as a 632 Ordnance Mechanic and E2 Airman Apprentice with the VF-31 “Tomcatters” Fighter Squadron at Naval Air Station Oceana during the Vietnam War. For his distinguished service, Airman Apprentice Herring received the Vietnam Service

Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and National Defense Service Medal. Honorably discharged in June 1973, Airman Apprentice Herring returned to Poughkeepsie carrying the unseen wounds of war, but he was determined to rebuild his life and give back to those around him.

Back home in Poughkeepsie, Airman Apprentice Herring became a pillar of his community, always ready to help, especially with anything mechanical. Married with four children and 17 grandchildren, he was deeply devoted to his family, as well as his five siblings, two of whom also served in the military. He found joy in music, especially the oldies of the 1950-60s, which often played in his garage while he worked.

Airman Apprentice Herring passed away on Nov. 23, 2019.

Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche said, “Airman Apprentice Herring’s legacy endures not only in the medals he earned, but in the lives he touched, the family he cherished and the city he never stopped giving back to. Remembered as more than a veteran, Airman Apprentice Herring was a hometown hero whose memory continues to live on in the lives he touched. May his contributions to Poughkeepsie endure, and may we all strive to live a life of purpose as he did.”

During today’s ceremony, County Executive Serino and Director Roche

and members of the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee presented Airman Apprentice Herring’s family with several honors, including a:

- U.S. flag flown in Dutchess County for 30 days in his memory;
- proclamation from County Executive Serino;
- a memory box from Mental Health America of Dutchess County Vet2Vet;
- Veterans Challenge Coin from the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee;
- New York State Senate Liberty Medal from Sen. Rob Rolison; and
- handmade quilt from Mental Health America of Dutchess County’s Veterans Programs’ Quilts2Honor.

Sen. Rob Rolison said, “Airman Apprentice Herring embodied the highest ideals of service, sacrifice and community. Though he returned from war with invisible wounds, he lived with heart and generosity. It was with profound respect that I posthumously awarded him the New York State Senate Liberty Medal, our highest civilian honor, for a life defined by courage and compassion.”

Monthly “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremonies are held April through November, dedicated to honoring deceased veterans for their service to their nation. Ceremonies take place at 9 a.m. on or about the third Thursday of each month. See the County’s website

for upcoming ceremonies and locations; October’s event will take place on Oct. 16 in the City of Poughkeepsie.

- Family, friends and community members are encouraged to nominate a veteran to be recognized through the “Honor-A-Veteran” initiative. The deceased veterans must meet the following criteria:

- be deceased for at least 30 days;
- have served in the United States Armed Forces with an honorable discharge, listed as missing in action, or died while serving in the military; and
- wartime and peacetime service is eligible, with no specific service dates or length-of-service requirements.

Applications are available online at dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran or in person at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley. All submitted applications must be accompanied by a copy of the veteran’s military separation papers (DD-214, WD AGO 53-55, NBG-22 or report of casualty), obituary and death certificate.

Completed applications can be submitted via email to veterans@dutchessny.gov or returned to the Office of Veterans Affairs in person; members of the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee will review each application for consideration. More information is available by calling the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060.

Closing Reception for ‘Bright Spot’ exhibition at Howland Public Library set for September 27

The Howland Public Library invites the community to a reception for “Bright Spot,” an exhibition of paintings by Beacon-based artist Erica Hauser, on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Hauser’s paintings interpret the play of patterns and shapes with vibrant yet earthy variations of color. “My longtime seasonal job as a firewood stacker guides my intuition as I arrange painted shapes that depend on each other for stability,” Hauser explains. Influenced by artists such as Ellsworth Kelly and Josef Albers, as well as the clean lines and organic forms of mid-century modern design, her

work reflects both a love of color and a keen eye for composition.

Hauser holds a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and has exhibited widely throughout the Hudson Valley and New York City. From 2013 to 2020, she owned Catalyst Gallery in Beacon, where she curated group shows and hosted events. She has also participated in projects such as ArtStream Kingston, Terrain Biennial Newburgh, and Beacon 3D, and has received grants from Arts Mid-Hudson and Awesome Newburgh to support her creative work.

The reception is free and open to the public.

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by vicki frank day



Mama’s Birthday Manicotti

A perfect day to celebrate a special lady

September is a month of transition – still some of summer’s warmth but with the coolness of fall making its debut. It’s a wonderful time of year to be outside, enjoying nature’s many gifts. We’re fortunate to live near the beautiful Hudson River, which never fails to soothe my soul. From the time I was little, my family made the most of it, walking the many trails at its edge, picnicking on its shores, collecting rocks, driftwood and river glass, taking in its many breathtaking views, all things I still do now with as much awe and wonder as when I was a child. It is and will forever be Home.

And speaking of Home ... My love and appreciation of nature come from my parents, who made sure we respected it. We spent many happy hours outside, and the river was a big part of that. I have many fond memories of family walks at various estates and trails. As I got older, it was often just me and my mother, stealing away to Eleanor’s Val-Kill or the Vanderbilt, Mills, Livingston (Clermont) and Roosevelt estates, always making our way down to the Hudsonudson. For the last few years I’ve whisked her away for a birthday picnic lunch by the river, but this year I wanted to do something a little more special; so, with my family’s help, we surprised her with dinner and a view.

It’s been a long time since I did off-site catering, something I really enjoy but takes a lot of planning to make sure you and your guests have everything needed for a satisfying experience. I’m a little rusty but I was looking forward to it.

First came choosing the spot. My nephew suggested Norrie Point, and I knew just where in that sprawling property would be perfect. Next, a simple, easy-to-pack menu (salad, entree, dessert) and all the dishes and special touches to make it feel like a celebration. The plan was to have everything set up when she arrived; and I was smiled upon that day, because it all worked out very well and we had a lovely, relaxing time.

Caesar salad was a good choice to start. I made ahead and assembled it tableside. For the main dish I decided on manicotti – recipe follows – which went directly from oven to pre-warmed cooler to car. It worked like a dream! It was still hot when I served it an hour later, an experiment that paid off. For dessert, ganache-topped bars that were pre-cut and spent time in the freezer before packing so they were the right temperature when it came time to serve. And the weather? Perfect. A few raindrops while setting up, but it cleared up beautifully and we were treated to a glorious sunset before we had to leave. Dinner and a show!

TRADITIONAL MANICOTTI

What makes it traditional is delicate crepes, or crespelle, rather than pasta. It takes a little time, but the result is lighter and more delicate, so it is TOTALLY worth it, and I’ll never make it any other way again. The filling can be made a day ahead, as can the

crepes (with waxed paper or parchment between them), kept chilled until ready to assemble. They’re simply topped with marinara sauce and a generous sprinkling of Parmesan – no heavy mozzarella – which helps keep it light and makes for a nice presentation. It’s a combination that just works. I made my own marinara sauce, but you can certainly use jarred sauce if you prefer. (Oh, and I did have to double this recipe for the occasion).

FOR THE FILLING

2 cups ricotta cheese
8oz (1 cup) grated mozzarella cheese
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
5oz frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
Salt and pepper to taste
Mix all together to blend well. Place in fridge until ready to use.

FOR THE CREPES

4 eggs
1 cup cold water
1 1/3 cups flour (I sifted it into the eggs to prevent lumps)
1 teaspoon salt
Vegetable oil for cooking

METHOD for crepes

In a large bowl, beat eggs and water together until frothy and yolks are fully incorporated (about 4 minutes). Sift in flour, add salt and beat until smooth (no lumps). Let it rest in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Lightly brush a skillet with cooking oil (I used a 9-inch pan to make slightly smaller crepes to fit my baking dish) and place over medium heat. When the pan is hot, place ¼-cup of batter in the center, lift pan off the heat and swirl quickly to get a thin, even coating of batter. If it’s uneven you can add a little more batter. If too thick in places you can spread it a bit with a spatula. (You’ll get the hang of it as you go). Return to heat and cook about 1 minute, then flip and cook until surface looks fairly dry, 1-2 minutes, no more. These will not brown. You may need to re-oil the pan. Transfer to a plate and continue with rest of the batter. (I was able to get eight ~8-inch crepes).

ASSEMBLY

5-6 cups marinara sauce
Freshly grated Parmesan cheese
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish.
Ladle enough sauce into the baking dish to cover the bottom. Set aside.
Place crepes in a stack on a flat surface. Place a generous line of filling off-center, then roll crepe around it. Place seam-side down in baking dish. Repeat with remaining crepes and filling.
Pour remaining sauce down the middle of the crepes (it’s fine if the ends aren’t covered). Sprinkle generously with Parmesan. Cover with foil and bake for 30-35 minutes.



Manicotti baked to perfection.
-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

Serves 3-4 (2 crepes apiece).
Although my mother deserves so much more, I did my best. I know she understands

and appreciates the effort, and that spending time with her family is a gift in itself. Those are just some of the things that make her so beautiful and special, a woman who does so much for everyone but rarely asks for anything in return. I am beyond fortunate to be on the receiving end of her love and support. We all are. It was a pleasure to celebrate her, the wind beneath my wings. Happy Birthday, Mama.

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

Honoring Roots of Giving Across the Hudson Valley



The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) hosted its annual Garden Party this recently at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison. This signature fundraising event of the region grossed over \$210,000 to support CFHV’s mission of awarding grants that address some of the region’s most pressing needs, including housing, mental health, childcare, food security and more. This year, CFHV recognized five remarkable Hudson Valley residents for their philanthropic giving. From left are Garden Party honorees George Whipple III, Garry Kvistad, Diane Kvistad, Michael Dupree and Michael Fleischer.
- Courtesy photo by Alejandro Duran Sanchez of Volna Unalign, LLC.

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get growing!

by mark adams



Fall flowers for pollinators

Help pollinators prepare for winter with these autumnal blooms.

Pollinators are stocking up for the winter. Monarch butterflies are gorging on tithonia nectar for their 2,500-mile journey south. Hummingbirds seek out cuphea blossoms. And honeybees happily swarm on invasive species, thumbing their noses (do bees have noses?) at the native plant purists.

You can help the pollinators by filling your garden with fall blooming flowers, so they can get the energy they need to make it though the winter. For example:

• **Asters** – Native, perennial, drought tolerant, deer resistant, a magnet for pollinators, asters check all the boxes. In the wild, the native New England aster, New York aster and the white wood aster with its tiny blossoms often confused with daisy fleabane, all grow tall and flop over if they're not staked or tied up. Native cultivars like "Showmakers" or "Magic Pink" are more manageable. All are winter hardy in the Hudson Valley.

• **Goldenrod** – Look carefully at the goldenrod blossom and you'll find a whole little world in there. Soldier beetles, crab spiders, locust borers, ambush bugs are all vying for a place in the sun. Of all the bees and butterflies that visit native goldenrods, paper wasps are the most common, in my experience. Goldenrod gets a bad rap during allergy season, but its pollen is sticky so it doesn't get into the air. The common ragweed is the real culprit for allergies. By the way, ragweed is an important food source for birds when it goes to seed.

• **Salvia** – Blue salvia (salvia farinacea) blooms right up until a very heavy frost in November, providing a critical food source for pollinators, especially bumblebees, which remain active in cool weather. New varieties of annual salvia like "Visional Fuchsia" or "Candle Midnight" are giving pollinators a late season thrill.

• **Tithonia** – Also called Mexican

Sunflower, it is a special favorite of Monarch butterflies, even though it is not a native annual. The monarch caterpillars, as almost everyone knows by now, feed on the native milkweed.

• **Purple Loosestrife** – Am I recommending an invasive species? Of course not, but purple loosestrife is an important late season nectar source for honeybees, which are not native, either. Chuck Kutik, on a podcast from the American Honey Producers Association, explains that the effort to eradicate purple loosestrife by introducing a voracious beetle has had the unintended consequence of returning the wetlands, not to native cattails, but to giant reed grass. Better to leave the loosestrife alone. At least it's pretty.

• **Japanese Knotweed** – Now I'm really going to get in trouble. But let me quote Artificial Intelligence: "Japanese knotweed flowers are a valuable and often crucial source of nectar for various pollinators, especially honeybees, during late summer and early fall, when other wildflowers are fading. Although the plant's aggressive invasive nature out competes native vegetation, its abundant blooms provide a critical lifeline and food source, supporting beekeeping operations and helping bee colonies prepare for winter." AI calls this a "paradox," going on to explain that eventually, a dense thicket of Japanese knotweed will choke out the native flowering plants, leaving the pollinators with nothing to eat in the spring and summer.

• **Leaf peeping** – For my money (and it's free!), the best spot to enjoy fall foliage is Huckleberry Point, near West Saugerties. It's a short hike from the parking lot on Platte Clove Road, not too steep, with lots of flat rocks for resting and snacking.

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



Pollinators love asters.

-Photo by Mark Adams

Poetry as Protest and Political Action on September 25

Join Indivisible 845 and the Beacon community on Thursday, Sept. 25 as Dutchess County Poet Laureate Ruth Danon and Ulster County Poet Laureate Mike Jurkovic read and invite a community discussion of politics and poetry in these troubling times. "Bring your own words and ideas." Ruth and Mike will

read and then invite those gathered to share their own words, read work by others, sing a song, and engage in conversation about all that is happening now.

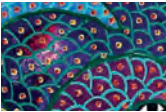
This event will be held at The Beahive, 6 Eliza Street in Beacon. Starting time is 7 p.m. Donations will go to Indivisible845, organizers said.



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Obituaries

Louis Clausen



Louis Clausen of Wappingers Falls entered into rest Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at home. He was 94.

Son of the late Knud and Marie (Hansen) Clausen, he was born on May 10, 1931 in New Paltz. He was predeceased by his parents and his step-mother, Elisa. He married the love of his life, Barbara Ehard on June 27, 1957. Mrs. Clausen preceded him in death, passing on October 10, 2023.

Lou graduated from Wappingers Central School District, Class of '49. He later graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan with a bachelor's degree in biology. He continued on with his education, receiving his teaching degree. He started his teaching career at George Junior Republic

High School in Freeville, NY. He was drafted soon after into the United States Army in 1954. He was sent to Germany where he served his country until 1956.

Upon being honorably discharged, Lou returned home to enjoy a 32-year teaching career at Roy C. Ketcham High School as a biology teacher. Once retired, he started a lawn business, "Lou's Lawn Care," which he owned and operated for many years. Lou served his town as a Town of Wappinger councilman for many years.

In his spare time, Lou was deeply involved in his community. He was a member of the local Elks Club. He coached Town of Wappinger recreational soccer, where his team was not only undefeated, but they were never scored upon. He also coached girls volleyball and basketball.

Survivors include his children, Amy Greiner (Harold) and Aaron Clausen (Deb); grandchildren, Kayla Bedell, Heather O'Callahan, Erin Rose Clausen, Kaitlyn Furrer and Megan Greiner; and great-grandchildren, Angel, Jayson, Louis, Emily, Lillyann, Danny and Baileyrose.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, he was predeceased by his sons, Eric and David, and his grandson, Jaime.

Family received their friends on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street in Wappingers Falls. A funeral service was held at the end of visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Lou's name to Hudson Valley Hospice, www.hvhospice.org.

Donna May McIlwee



Donna May McIlwee, a resident of Fishkill since 1970 and formerly of Walton, NY, passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. She was 85.

Daughter of the late Ralph and Ruth (Stedman) Henderson, she was born in Walton on April 20, 1940. She graduated from Walton Central School District High School in 1958 and in 1962 earned a degree in education from Geneva College.

Donna was a dedicated member of Fishkill Baptist Church, where she taught in the church's nursery school program for 13 years.

On August 29, 1970, she married

Everett Dewey McIlwee, Jr. in Newburgh, NY. She was predeceased by her husband on July 21, 2021.

Survivors include four sons: Scott McIlwee & his wife Barbara of Wappingers Falls, Christopher McIlwee of Fishkill, Donde McIlwee & his wife Shana of Pleasant Valley, and Daniel McIlwee of East Fishkill; her grandchildren: Brittany, Kathryn, Tristin, Gavin, and Fiona; as well as many other loving family members & friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, Donna was also predeceased by her brother, Bill Henderson.

Calling hours will be held from 4pm to 7pm on Saturday, September 27 at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A memorial service will take place at 2pm on Sunday, September 28 at Fishkill Baptist Church, 107 Route 82, Fishkill, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607 (www.samaritanpurse.org).

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Flags lowered in Wappinger to honor Clausen

Former Town of Wappinger Deputy Town Supervisor and Councilman Louis C. Clausen passed away at 94 years old. Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini directed flags at the Memorial Plaza in front of Wappinger Town Hall to be lowered to half-staff last week. Clausen was a lifelong public servant, serving in the United States Army from 1954 – 1956. Upon returning from his deployment to Germany, he taught Biology at Roy C. Ketcham High School for 32 years. In 1965, Clausen was elected Town Councilman in 1965 and then appointed as Deputy Town Supervisor under former Supervisor Louis Diehl until the end of his tenure in 1977.

Cavaccini noted upon lowering the flags to half-staff that, "Councilman Clausen served our community during a pivotal moment in time for this Town. During the height of the population boom in Wappinger, Councilman Clausen cared for this community and was thoroughly involved alongside Supervisor Diehl in many aspects of the Town government during his tenure."

-Courtesy photo Town of Wappinger

Stephen A. "Tony" White



Stephen A. "Tony" White, a former longtime Highland Mills, NY resident, entered into eternal rest on September 11, 2025 at Blake Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, FL. He was 88 years old.

The son of the late James H. White and Laura C. Primard, Tony was born on March 8, 1937 in Plattsburg, NY. He was predeceased by his first loving wife Yvonne Grace White who he was married to from November 7, 1970, until she passed away in December of 1993.

Tony was a retired Carpenter from the Local Carpenters Union 323 out of Beacon, NY.

Tony honorably and proudly served his country as a member of the US Army from 1956 through 1958.

Tony had a passion for sports, specifically the Yankees. In his later years he enjoyed spending time boating. A family statement reads: "Tony loved to have a good time. He made many people smile when he was around." He will be missed greatly.

Tony is survived by his loving second wife: Elizabeth M. Smith at home; by his daughter: Danielle (White) Yeaple and her husband James of Walden, NY; by his son: Anthony G. White and his wife Christine of Fishkill, NY; by his step-daughter: Lisa (Smith) Hintze; by his grandchildren: Isabella, Parker, Lucas "Easton" White, Alyssa, Brianna and Caitlynn Yeaple and Madison Hintze, as well as a great granddaughter Cora Yeaple.

Visitation was held on Thursday, September 18th at Quigley-Sullivan Funeral Home, Inc., 337 Hudson Street, Cornwall-On-Hudson, NY. A Chapel Service was held immediately following the visitation. Interment with Military Honors followed the Service at Fishkill Rural Cemetery in Fishkill, NY.

Memorial Contributions in Tony's name may be made to Sparrows Nest, P.O. Box 22112, Lansing, MI 48909-2112 or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.

Arrangements are entrusted to Quigley-Sullivan Funeral Home, Inc.; to send condolences or to get directions to the funeral home, please go to www.Quigleybros.com.

Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr.



Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr., a 49-year-old Poughkeepsie native, passed away on September 16, 2025, due to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on his way to work. Born on November 26, 1975, he was the cherished son of Nigel Keith Barnett Sr. and Esmie (McNeil) Barnett.

Nigel's academic journey began at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, where he excelled in football. He later pursued his associate's degree at Dutchess Community College in 1999.

With over 19 years of service, Sergeant Barnett served as the Cortlandt Station Commander for Troop K within the New York State Police. In 2023, he was recog-

nized as the supervisor of the year for Troop F, Zone 3.

Beyond his professional achievements, Sergeant Barnett was an active member of The Gathering at Faith Assembly in Poughkeepsie. He found joy in various activities, including motorcycling, dirt bike riding, hiking, reading, mountain biking, video gaming, and working out. However, his greatest passion lay in spending quality time with his family.

In addition to his parents, Sergeant Barnett is survived by his son, Nigel Barnett III, his sisters, Katisha Barnett and Marcia Barnett, his brother-in-law, Ainsley Wheeler, his partner, Kristin Denu, and her daughters, Giavanna and Londyn White. He also has nieces and nephews, including Alasia Wheeler, Annmarie Wheeler, Ainsley Wheeler Jr., Denzel Wheeler, Zion Moore, and Jasaan Wheeler-Ward. Additionally, he is accompanied by his stepson, Esteban "Pookie" Martinez, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, September 24th, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., located at 895 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 25th, at 11 a.m. at The Gathering at Faith Assembly, situated at 25 Golf Club Lane in Poughkeepsie.

Memorial donations may be made to assist his son with his college education. Please make checks payable to Nigel Barnett, III, and mail c/o McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

Please visit Nigel's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.



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100 Help Wanted

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750 Events

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801 Campers & Trailers

802 Motor Homes

803 Recreational Vehicles

900 Autos for Sale

901 Vans/SUV's

902 Trucks

903 Motorcycles

904 Auto Parts & Tires

905 Autos Wanted

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E-Mail: sdnadvertising@aol.com

Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm

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516 Misc. Merchandise

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905 Autos Wanted



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Dutchess County visitors spent a record \$811 million in 2024

Visitors to Dutchess County spent a record \$811 million in 2024, according to the newly released Hudson Valley Tourism Economic Impact Report prepared by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics company. That spending, an increase of 7.3% over 2023, translated to more than \$2.2 million infused into the local economy every day.

As the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for the county, Destination Dutchess, formerly known as Dutchess Tourism, Inc., has played a central role in achieving this record-breaking growth. Through award-winning and innovative marketing campaigns, national and international media outreach, group tour development, and strong partnerships with local businesses, Destination Dutchess has

built global awareness of the region. This work not only drives visitor attraction but also enhances the quality of life for residents by fueling the economic benefits of tourism across the county.

Tourism remains a vital driver of Dutchess County's economy, supporting 10,213 jobs, more than 9% of the local workforce, across sectors such as hotels, restaurants, museums and historic sites, performance venues, farms and craft beverage producers, as well as sports, festivals, parks, gardens, and trails. In 2024, those jobs generated \$412.1 million in wages, much of which was reinvested locally on everyday essentials like housing, groceries, transportation, and clothing — further extending tourism's economic ripple effect. Visitor spending also produced \$98.1 million

in combined state and local tax revenues. Without this contribution, the average county household would have paid an additional \$851 in taxes.

According to 2025 year-to-date credit card data from Zartico, more than half of all spending at restaurants and retail in Dutchess County comes from non-residents. Of that total, 25% of restaurant spending and 34% of retail spending is generated by visitors traveling from more than 50 miles away. This reinforces Dutchess' role as a draw for longer-distance travelers in the drive-able markets of Philadelphia, Boston among others, as well as a gateway for international travelers flying into Manhattan looking to explore the rest of the state.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino emphasized the broader impact of tourism,

"Tourism is a key part of our local economy, and its impact is felt by families and small businesses across Dutchess County."

The Hudson Valley was recently named the No. 1 Fall Foliage Destination in the U.S. for 2025 by Priceline, recognition expected to draw increased interest from travelers nationwide. In addition, the highly anticipated premiere of Netflix's "Next Gen Chef" at The Culinary Institute of America on Sept. 17 will shine a spotlight on the region's world-class culinary scene, fueling tourism well beyond the fall season. To help plan a visit, travelers can follow Destination Dutchess' Facebook and Instagram (@DestinationfilmDutchess) accounts for the latest status of peak foliage, upcoming events and more, or visit DestinationDutchess.com.

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If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

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

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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

1		3			
4					
					4
3			2		

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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: COMBO WORDS

ACROSS

1. Wood file
5. Pick up a perpetrator
8. This and that
12. Title for Turkish leader
13. Tarantino's "_____ Bill: Vol.1"
14. Ten million, in India
15. Type of word
16. Kent State state
17. Oohed partner
18. *Sleeping in a very fancy tent
20. Board game of diplomacy
21. Canada's favorite tree?
22. Long time
23. Asian wild sheep
26. Galilei's first name
30. Ever, to a poet
31. Lease giver
34. Hokkaido native
35. Sends unwanted emails
37. Charlotte's creation
38. "Bravo! Bravo!"
39. Roughly (2 words)
40. Common spa treatment
42. Gobbled up
43. *Movie theater snack
45. Infer using data
47. Entrepreneur Mary Ash's middle name
48. Wiser
50. Decomposes
52. *Communication device
55. Veranda, in Honolulu
56. Rum-soaked cake
57. Shades of color
59. Those against
60. Tehran location
61. Small island
62. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
63. Cloud's domain
64. Left after deductions, in U.K.

DOWN

1. Escaped
2. Bug-eyed
3. Synagogue
4. Wide-brimmed straw hat
5. Nothing, in Latin
6. Skirt shape
7. *Online journal
8. *Exceptionally intelligent one
9. Aahs' partners
10. Hiker's journey
11. He had
13. Small hill rising up from veld
14. Classic TV's "lovely lady"
19. Pall _____ and _____ of America
22. ENT's first concern?
23. "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
24. Copy, slangily
25. Get the picture
26. Desert in China and Mongolia
27. Jasmine's kin
28. Related on mother's side
29. Revealed
32. Zeus in disguise
33. Not min or hr
36. *Nonalcoholic drink
38. LDS missionary
40. Cook in a skillet
41. Sea in the Mediterranean
44. Desert mirage
46. Prickly marine invertebrate
48. *Scornful remark
49. Keep someone _____, or away from causing harm
50. Indian princess
51. On top of
52. Wading bird
53. Yorkshire river
54. Patty follower
55. Abbreviation on a bathroom door
58. Part of tennis match

CROSSWORD

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		

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

Content Studio New York receives awards for 20th Anniversary Edition of New York by Rail

Content Studio New York, a magazine, media and marketing company, has received two prestigious awards for publishing the 20th Anniversary Edition of New York by Rail

Magazine that was published in the spring of 2024. For the 16th year in a row, Content Studio New York has received the Apex Award for Magazine Excellence in the “Magazines, Journals and Tabloids,

Custom Published” category. Thirty-seven years running, the Apex Award is an annual national competition that recognizes excellence in publishing among communication professionals.

The 2024/2025 New York by Rail magazine was chosen from over 1,000 entries in over 100 categories. In a second wave of commendation, Content Studio’s New York by Rail

Anniversary issue also took home the New York State Tourism Excellence Award in the “Tourism Marketing Campaigns, Projects and Program in Printed Materials” category.

On September 11, at a special ceremony in Lake George, the New York State Tourism Industry presented the award to Content Studio New York

CEO Tom Martinelli. “It’s an honor to be recognized--but to be recognized by both of these well-respected organizations is twice as nice,” said Martinelli. “Partnering with Amtrak on this publication has obviously allowed us to create a magazine that travelers not only find to be a great resource, but one that they enjoy reading as well.”

The award is designed to recognize exceptional achievements by New York’s destination marketing organizations, attractions and tourism professionals across a wide range of categories

Since 2004, when New York By Rail was first published, the magazine and its digital version have been the sought-after guide for train travelers and pleasure seekers alike. As an official Amtrak publication, 75,000 copies of the magazine are printed annually and distributed through most New York Amtrak owned stations, tourist Information centers, airports, hotels and travel agents.

For all the latest information available from New York By Rail or to request a hard copy of the guide, visit NewYorkByRail.co



Right: Tom Martinelli receives the New York State Tourism Excellence Award for the New York By Rail 20th Anniversary Issue.

-Courtesy photo

Create hand-stitched cards on Oct. 1

Lindsay Spring from Craft With Me Today will share her talents, tips and tricks in creating the simple art of Hand-Stitched Cards on Wednesday, Oct 1 at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Route 55, in LaGrangeville. Skyllkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of

America, presents this program beginning at 12:30 p.m. Join other needleworkers for fun and learning beginning at 10 a.m. or come for this program only beginning at 12:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/SkylkillEGA or email to EGASkylkill@gmail.com.

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie seeks volunteers

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie has a need for volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday, picking up the meals at 11 a.m. & delivering them to clients in the greater Poughkeepsie area. The most immediate

need is for Thursdays. One can volunteer once a week or once a month...whatever fits one's schedule and ours.

Please call Judy Lombardi or Amy Abrahams at 845-452-2245 for more information.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony set in Fishkill

Fishkill Business Association will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Fishkill Dental, 2 Lafayette Ct. in Fishkill.

Business Expo Mega Mingle set for Oct. 10

The Wappingers Falls Business & Professional Association will host the Business Expo Mega Mingle on October 10, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the River Valley Arts Center, 9 S. Mesier Ave., in

Wappingers Falls. Check out members who do not have a brick-and-mortar shop. Refreshments provided by WFBPA.

To RSVP, please go to <https://wfbpa.org/networking-mingles>.

Book club to discuss ‘The Girls with No Names’ on October 8

The EFCL Afternoon Book Group will meet to discuss this month’s selection “The Girls with No Names” by Serena Burdick, at the East Fishkill Community Library on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. Copies of the book are available within the library system. All are welcome to come and join in the discussion of this work.

The library is at 348 Route 376 in East Fishkill.

Dance set for September 25

Latin Dance Night will be held at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. in Beacon. There is a \$15 admission.

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

NET	SKY	TO	VI	OL	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS
ISLE	IRAN	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT
ES	BABA	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT
COM	INTER	COM	ROT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS
ER	SAG	ER	KAY	ER	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS
ED	EDUC	ED	PO	PC	OR	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT
ATE	AL	AL	SO	FA	CI	AL	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA
AT	WEB	ES	SO	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA
U	AI	NU	ER	LE	SS	OR	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA
EO	GA	LI	LI	EO	AR	GA	LI	LI	EO	AR	GA	LI	LI
ON	EA	PL	LE	EA	PL	LE	EA	PL	LE	EA	PL	LE	EA
SK	RI	SK	GL	AM	PI	NG	RI	SK	GL	AM	PI	NG	RI
ED	AH	ED	NO	UN	NO	UN	NO	UN	NO	UN	NO	UN	NO
RE	CR	OR	AG	HA	KI	LL	CR	OR	AG	HA	KI	LL	CR
TH	BA	AB	RA	SP	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS	LA	NT	IS

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

Sudoku solution

‘Each piece of artwork tells so many stories’



Artwork by Haitian artists. The 25th annual Haitian Art Auction & Sale will take place September 26-28 in Poughkeepsie. The auction is until Sept. 29.

-Courtesy images

By Kristine Coulter
The 25th annual Haitian Art Auction & Sale at Vassar College will take place from September 26-28. The Haiti Project will host the annual art auction and sale, which includes hundreds of original pieces of art by Haitian artists. According to organizers, all purchases are 50% tax-

deductible. Proceeds from the sale will benefit 250 students in primary, secondary schools and as adult education. The auction is until Sept. 29.
Andrew and Lila Meade co-founded The Haiti Project more than two decades ago. Lila serves as Executive Director of The Haiti Project. Andrew is the Director

of International Services and Assistant Dean of Student Growth and Engagement at Vassar College.

Andrew noted, “Each piece of artwork tells so many stories. They paint the hopes and dreams of a people. They spread joy and help to transform a narrative of who Haiti, and Haitians, really are. And through their purchase, they support an artist and their family.”

The sale will take place at in the multi-purpose room of the College Center on the Vassar College campus. During the three-day sale, there will be hundreds of pieces of artwork, from paintings to paper mâché, as well as iron sculptures and wood and metal handcrafts available. The in-person sale begins on Sept. 26, from 3-6 p.m. The Saturday hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The last day of the sale, in-person hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The auction is 24/7 and began on Sept. 19.

Organizers noted that on Saturday, Sept. 27, Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner of Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services and Haiti Project Board Member, will present, “The Role of Art in Time of Conflict.”

Asked via email if they were surprised how much has been accomplished with the Haitian Art Auction & Sale over the years, the Meades replied, “When we started the project almost 25 years ago, we had one simple goal: provide 125 children lunch at a newly built school (a bare-earthed one room structure), which might be their one hot meal that day. As we learned, many parents sent their children to school specifically for that one good meal a day. Over the years, with the great energy, passion and ideas of students at Vassar College, dedicated community members, physicians on our Medical Advisory Board, and partners such as Rotary Clubs, we’ve been able to bring hope to over 45 villages in NW Haiti.”

According to the Meades, “We built a new 7-room primary school, continuing to pay teachers’ salaries as well as provide a breakfast and lunch program for the children. We have provided scholarships for students to attend secondary school, have given adults education in the 3 R’s, and have also built an art school for a young artist to teach children and teens the craft of painting. The medical clinic we’ve built serves over 3,000 patients a year, giving patients essential medicine and healing. We’ve planted over 50,000 trees in the area, providing nutritional sustenance for the people once the trees have matured.

We’ve started a microfinance program to help women to grow their businesses. Finally, we’ve brought purified water to the area with access to water fountains up and down the mountain. So, yes, we are surprised! Lots of detours along the way never stopped us, and our extraordinary partners in Haiti, from continuing our efforts.”

Eden Ragsdale, Class of 2028 at Vassar College, is a member of the Haiti Project. Eden said, “So far, this year, I think planning has been very exciting for everyone involved, especially for me as a new member. It has been so refreshing to be part of a group that is so wholeheartedly committed to a cause and I think that is really shown in the way everyone is coming together to make the event a success!”

Asked if there is there one piece of work that stands out, Eden responded via email, “On the online auction site there is a piece called “Center of Attention” that features a brightly colored bird in the middle of the painting which made me do a double take when scrolling through the page. It really stood out to me because of how vibrant the colors were and how it seemed like some parts of the painting were glowing. The bird and trees surrounding it look so full of life and are truly beautiful.”

According to Eden, “One of the biggest reasons why people should attend the Art Sale is so they can fully understand what our cause is about. For me, actually seeing the art made such a difference in recognizing why we do what we do and why Lila and Andrew have dedicated so much of their lives to this cause; it really puts things into perspective. My hope is that people who come to the sale leave feeling inspired by the beauty Haiti has to offer like I have come to be!”

If one wants to buy artwork online, go to <https://store.thehaitiproject.org>.

“So many of our loyal customers and donors continue to support our work, year after year. People buy artwork and generously donate to support our various initiatives. We say “loyal” because they know that if we promise to do something, it will happen. We try to the best of our ability to ‘walk the talk.’ We’re very lucky to be in this situation and will strive to make the lives of the people of this region in Haiti a little bit easier,” said the Meades.

For more information about the Haiti Project and its work, including the art for sale, please visit <http://thehaitiproject.org>.

The Haiti Project is a 501©3 nonprofit organization.

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