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'Beyond Conflict & War' on Oct. 12

By Kristine Coulter

"Beyond Conflict & War: Civilian & Military Perspectives," will be presented by Writing Out of Bounds, on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. at the Beacon Historical Society, 61 Leonard St., in Beacon. The program will feature Poet Laureate of Beacon and Dutchess County Ruth Danon, Paul Alexander, the author of John McCain and Billie Holiday biographies, and Doug Anderson, poet and author. Also scheduled to attend is Malia Du Mont, former Director of Strategy under President Barack Obama. Spots are limited, RSVP to vfw_post666@outlook.com.

According to organizers, "This unique line-up of readers will present original and classic writings, addressing the powerful topics of conflict and war."

"The work I've done throughout my freelance writing life has always entailed a strong outreach component, ideas roaming between art forms and disciplines. It also turned out that this event idea dovetailed with the VFW's (Veterans of Foreign Wars) wish to find ways to address this nation's civilian/military divide, especially important during these challenging times. Our event itself symbolizes bridging that divide," stated Eva Salzman, Founder of Writing Out of Bounds, in an email to Beacon Free Press. "Hopefully, the civilian and military line-up of speakers will be mirrored within the audience, writing and literature not distant from but part of society: influencing it, and also influenced by it."

Also on the schedule are MAJ John MacEnroe, LTC and COL Caroline Pogge.

Salzman said Du Mont and others who will be presenting, "value the arts and understand our aims."

"Paul Alexander, knowledgeable about many worlds, writer in several genres and biographer of John McCain, also presented a political radio show for many years. The poet Doug Anderson was a medic in Vietnam," said Salzman. "Yet more synchronicity served us. Ruth Danon, Poet Laureate of Beacon and Dutchess County, is writing a memoir which includes her first contact with those in the military. So, this event will offer a preview of her book, too!"

Du Mont said in an email to Beacon Free Press, "It is not common in my experience for military service members to be invited to be key contributors to events that center the arts, so I was thrilled to get this invitation - it showed that I was seen as not just a body in a uniform, but as a human capable of producing, thinking about, and responding to art."

This event acknowledges and underscores "the power of the written word to express our shared humanity," said Du Mont, and added it also helps bridge the civil-military divide.

Continued on page 3

Hopewell Junction fourth-grader Mario Vilardi headed to Augusta Qualifies for Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals



Ten-year-old Mario Vilardi, left, from Hopewell Junction, will play at the Augusta National Golf Club for the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals. He will compete on April 5, 2026, the Sunday before the Masters Tournament. Pictured with Mario are his brothers, Angelo, 2, and Charlie, 7, at the US KIDS GOLF World Championship.

-Courtesy photos Louisa Vilardi

By Morgan E. Maier

Approaching the final stage of the Drive, Chip and Putt regional, 10-year-old Mario Vilardi of Hopewell Junction reminded himself to stay focused. In his fourth year competing in the annual junior golf competition, he had reached the third qualifying round for the first time.

Mario shined in the driving portion but stumbled on chipping, earning just a point for each of his first two attempts. With the pressure mounting, he knew his chances

would come down to the putting green. Taking a deep breath, he cleared his mind and delivered under pressure—sinking two of three putts, including a crucial 15-footer. His third, a bold 30-foot attempt, rolled four feet past the hole but still secured valuable points.

That clutch putting performance brought his point total to 110, the top score in the Boys 10–11 age group and enough to punch his ticket to Augusta National Golf Club for the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals.



Mario Vilardi, from Hopewell Junction, hits a shot on the golf course.

He will compete live on the Golf Channel on April 5, 2026, the Sunday before the Masters Tournament.

"Everyone struggles, but it's about how you react to the struggle that will help you in the end," said Mario's mom, Louisa. "That's exactly what happened for Mario. He thought it was over, but he battled back."

His father, David, who first introduced him to the game, agreed: "He was disappointed after chipping, feeling like he might have blown his opportunity, but he bounced back on the putting green. That's golf."

The Drive, Chip and Putt competition, sponsored by the PGA of America, the Masters Tournament, and the USGA, challenges junior golfers ages 7–15 in three disciplines. Each participant gets three attempts at driving, chipping, and putting—nine total shots, no mulligans, no do-overs.

Continued on page 2

Wappingers Falls business expo offers opportunity to 'mega' mingle

By Kristine Coulter

The Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association (WFBPA) will host its Business Expo Mega Mingle on Friday, Oct. 10, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the River Valley Arts Center, 9 South Mesier Ave., in Wappingers Falls.

How will this Mingle event be different from others? "The Mega Mingle is our answer to the member businesses who don't have a traditional brick and mortar or location. We want the community to come out and meet some of them and get to learn what services are available that perhaps you can't see by driving by a building," said Jackie Muller, president of the WFBPA.

Muller noted, "It's important for the WFBPA to highlight businesses, all businesses, and especially those without a storefront, because some of them are the hidden treasures of our community. Their knowledge and professionalism go unrecognized because they are almost invisible, or perhaps drive by with their car logos too quick for community members to catch."



Pictured are members of the Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association board. The WFBPA will host its Business Expo Mega Mingle on October 10 in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo

Continued on page 3

Hopewell Junction fourth-grader Mario Vilardi headed to Augusta



Mario Vilardi, second from right, and his brother, Charlie, and their paternal grandparents Mario and Susan Vilardi.

-Courtesy photo Louisa Vilardi

Continued from cover

For Mario, the journey to Augusta is a family affair. His father and grandfather, who Mario is named after, often serve as his caddies, sharing a bond built on golf. His younger brother, Charlie, age seven, is also a competitive golfer, following closely in Mario’s footsteps. The youngest in the family, two-year-old Angelo, already spends plenty of time at the course—though for now, he’s happy to watch from the gallery.

“I could go out with my two kids, which we often do, and my father, and that’s our foursome,” David said. “It’s a

cool thing for us all to be able to play together.”

David and his father last visited Augusta National a decade ago as spectators. This time, their trip will carry new meaning as they watch Mario compete on golf’s greatest stage.

“Golf teaches me to never give up, and keep going,” Mario said.

Representing Hopewell Junction, Dutchess County, and the state of New York, Mario will be the only boy from New York in his division at the National Finals. For him, the lesson learned on that putting green, resilience under pressure, may prove to be the most important shot of all.

Burn Ban in effect through Oct. 15

Gov. Kathy Hochul and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a statewide burn ban on Oct. 2, due to increased fire risk and continued dry conditions. The ban is in effect through Oct. 15 and will be re-evaluated prior to expiration.

New Yorkers can help prevent fires in communities and in the back country by complying with the prohibition on most outdoor fires and protect water supplies by continuing to conserve water whenever possible.

The statewide burn ban now in effect prohibits the starting of outdoor fires for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as all uncontained fires, including campfires, and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits and contained campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width or diameter are allowed, as are small, contained cooking fires. Burning garbage or leaves is already prohibited year-round in New York State and several municipalities have burn bans currently in effect.

Fire danger

Recent dry conditions are resulting in a “High” fire danger for the Southern Tier, Lake Ontario Plains, St. Lawrence, Adirondack, High Peaks and Upper Hudson Champlain Fire Danger Rating Areas. A high fire danger means all fine, dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes, including unattended brush and campfires. The rest of the state remains in “Moderate” fire danger, which means fires can start from most accidental causes. The current fire danger map is available on the DEC website, <https://dec.ny.gov/>

The high fire danger is due in part to gusty winds and lower relative humidity forecast during an existing prolonged dry spell. Any notable rainfall from last week was not areawide and while wind gusts are expected to calm down, dry conditions are expected to continue for at least another week.

Since the beginning of August, forest rangers have responded to 64 wildland fires across the state. Fires may become serious

and controlling them difficult unless attacked successfully while still small.

Drought warnings and watches

The dry weather also factors into the drought warning in effect for 12 counties in the Adirondack and Southern Tier regions. A drought watch remains in effect for the rest of the state except for New York City and Westchester County.

New York State is encouraging all residents, including those dependent on private groundwater wells, to conserve water whenever possible during the coming weeks.

There are four levels of State drought advisories: watch, warning, emergency, and disaster. There are no mandatory State restrictions under a drought watch or warning. A warning declaration is a notice of impending and imminent severe drought conditions and includes increasing public awareness and voluntary water conservation. Public water supply purveyors and industries are urged to continue to implement local drought contingency plans.

Water conservation tips

To protect water resources, water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce outdoor water use and follow these tips:?

- Water lawns only when necessary, choose watering methods that avoid waste, and water in the early morning to reduce evaporation and maximize soil hydration;
- Reuse water collected in rain barrels, dehumidifiers or air conditioners to water plants;
- Raise lawn mower cutting heights. Longer grass is healthier with stronger roots and needs less water;
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks;
- Fix leaking pipes, hoses and faucets;
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry;
- Take shorter showers or fill the bathtub partly;
- Install water saving plumbing fixtures;
- Don’t run the tap to make water hot or cold; and
- Wash cars less frequently.

Three Breakneck Ridge Trailheads remain closed due to construction on Breakneck Connector and Bridge

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Metro-North Railroad (MNR), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT), and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC) remind park-goers that the Breakneck Ridge, Wilkinson Memorial, and Lower Brook trailheads and the adjacent Breakneck Ridge Metro-North Station, which closed on April 21, will remain closed for up to two years.

With the fall foliage season approaching and several road construction projects happening simultaneously, it is more important than ever to consider the impact of these closures when planning visits to the area.

The trailhead and station closures allow for the complete renovation of Metro-

North Railroad’s Breakneck Ridge station and construction of the Fjord Trail Breakneck Connector and Bridge. The new Breakneck Connector trail and pedestrian bridge will provide hikers with an alternative to walking along State Route 9D to access popular trailheads and will create cohesive access to and from the Breakneck Ridge train station.

Construction will also address longstanding issues of safety, accessibility, and environmental health in the project area. The addition of sidewalks, organized and formalized parking, including small lots on the west side of Route 9D, enhanced crosswalks, and wayfinding signage will facilitate a safer experience for both motorists and trail users. Improved access points for first responders at Breakneck Ridge will also increase safety

in the area, according to officials.

The Breakneck Connector and Bridge will meet Accessibility Guidelines for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas (AGODA) standards; associated facilities, including restrooms, will be ADA-compliant, providing increased access to the river and views of Storm King Mountain via a new Lower Overlook at the foot of Breakneck Ridge. Environmental resilience investments will help combat erosion by removing invasive vegetation and replanting with native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly flowering plants.

Site improvements will also include the addition of HHFT-managed restrooms, an information kiosk, a bike tune-up station, and new overlooks for visitors to enjoy the views of the Hudson Highlands and Hudson River.

“We’d like to thank park visitors for respecting the closures and taking this opportunity to explore the many other hiking options throughout the Taconic Region,” said Linda Cooper, Regional Director for New York State Parks. “When improvements at Breakneck are completed, trails in the Route 9D corridor will be vastly easier to access --- it will be worth the wait.”

HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala added, “People arriving at the Cold Spring Metro-North station should be aware that there are no pedestrian routes to Hudson

Highlands State Park Preserve via continuous sidewalks. During this leaf-peeping season, we encourage hikers to try one of the many alternative hikes in the Hudson Highlands that afford spectacular views of fall foliage.”

During construction, there is no public access to the Breakneck Ridge, Wilkinson Memorial, or Lower Brook trailheads, which will remain closed until construction is completed. The Washburn/Cornish trailheads, Notch Trail, and Little Stony Point will remain open and accessible to the public while construction is underway, it was stated.

Park-goers should note that there is limited parking for these trailheads, which fills up early on busy fall weekends. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference trail stewards and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve staff will be stationed in the park to assist and orient hikers through the duration of the construction period.

Work on the Breakneck Connector and Bridge is being performed from just north of the tunnel on Route 9D to the Breakneck Ridge Metro-North Railroad train station in the Town of Fishkill.

For more information on the Breakneck closures, visit breakneck.info

For up-to-date progress on this work, visit HHFT’s Construction Tracker.

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See story, page 8

Wappingers Falls business expo offers opportunity to ‘mega’ mingle

Continued from cover

One business that will be in attendance is MoldTec, LLC.

“MoldTec is an indoor air & water quality testing company. We offer consultations to anyone needing information on their homes or businesses concerning wellness,” explained Jeffrey Ramsey, who is the owner/operator of MoldTec, LLC.

Michelle Martinetti, of River Valley Arts Center (RVAC) said, “River Valley Arts Center is really a community hub - a place where there’s something for everyone. We’re coming up on our fourth year in the space, and in that time we’ve grown into a home for an incredible variety of people and programs. We have 12 unique spaces that can be rented and used in any way you can imagine, from art studios and classrooms to our event hall and even a commissary kitchen.

“What makes us special is the mix of in-house programs and the many teachers, artists, wellness practitioners, and entrepreneurs who use RVAC as their home base. We take the stress of overhead off their shoulders and provide them with marketing support so they can focus on doing what they love. Right now, our residents include everyone from fiber artists and painters to massage therapists,

marital arts instructors, tutors, music and theater teachers, yoga and dance fitness instructors, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and robotics leaders, expressive arts facilitators, and more.”

Martinetti added, “At its heart, River Valley Arts Center is about opportunity and connection - bringing people together through the arts, wellness, education, and community events.”

The “WFBPA has been a great way for MoldTec to gain exposure in the Dutchess County area and provides numerous continuous referrals,” said Ramsey. The relationships gained are “priceless,” he added.

Martinetti noted, “The WFBPA has been amazing with marketing support. They are consistently sharing our posts and events. I’ve also made several connections through the WFBPA that have become program leaders at the center.”

If one attends, Muller said, “expect to gain knowledge, receive takeaways and information that may be relevant to a current or future need, and connect with others in the community.” One can also learn about the WFBPA happenings, scholarships, and upcoming events that they can become involved.

A variety of businesses will be at the Mingle, said Muller.



The Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association will hold its ‘mega’ mingle at the River Valley Arts Center on October 10 in Wappingers Falls.
-Courtesy photo by Brandon Fiege

County Comptroller releases audit report of ‘Learn, Play Create’ grant program

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office has released its audit report of the “Learn, Play, Create: Supporting Our Kids,” (LPC) grant initiative that began with the influx of federal COVID-19 funds in 2021. An initial \$3 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds were allocated by the Legislature to local, youth-serving non-profit organizations. While it is not considered best practice for government entities to make advance payments, the LPC awards were distributed in one-time payments prior to services rendered. Amounts up to \$50,000 were awarded to libraries and up to \$20,000 awarded to arts and athletic organizations.

Due to the program’s popularity, an additional \$1.2 million in non-COVID-19 funding was used as a means of expanding the grant initiative. The LPC grant program was overseen and administered by the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development, with final approval for all grant awards made by the County Executive.

The Comptroller’s Office identified inconsistencies with application guidance

and instructions, which were revised 5 times during the 2021-2022 period. The Office also found that 100% of the projects sampled had contracts executed after the contract term began. The Comptroller’s Office continues to recommend that all efforts be made to resolve the discrepancies with contract execution and start of services, as well as an effort to ensure that all published internal and external documentation related to grant disbursement have clear and concise language to avoid misinterpretation.

“While the County is unlikely to engage in advance one-time grant payments again, this report identifies issues that illustrate why government should pay for goods and services after they are delivered. I hope that our findings and recommendations regarding Learn, Play, and Create can be applied to future grant programs offered by the County, particularly with regards to consistent application guidance,” said Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair. “Both for the effective stewardship of taxpayer funds, as well as the success of our non-profit partners.”

‘Beyond Conflict & War’ on Oct. 12

Continued from cover

Harold Delamater, a local veteran and VFW member, said, “Our goal is to enlighten the community about being a U.S. Veteran.”

“I hope attendees gain a more nuanced understanding of who our military is, and a deeper appreciation of writing and the arts as vehicles for people - whether military or civilian - to express the most fundamental aspects of their humanity,” stated Du Mont.

What does Salzman hope attendees will take away from the program?

“An introduction to a wealth of voices presenting a wealth of perspectives. A new appreciation for literature. A glimpse into other worlds. Understanding. Inspiration,” Salzman responded. “Living half my life abroad, I saw close-up that civilians overseas were closer to those who served, being but a generation away

from a war fought on their soil, which hasn’t happened here for over a century and a half. Driving through the U.K. and Europe, I’d pass monuments memorializing lists of the dead which seemed longer than the numbers who could possibly live in such a tiny village. Repeatedly, life reiterates my strong belief that the arts unify us, when little else can or when it seems nothing can.”

Salzman said she is “lucky enough” to have “cross-generational friends,” which she believe it is important to have. “[T]his is another way to bridge past and present. After all it’s a painful truth that the young are most impacted by conflict and war. So, we hope to attract both young and old, who may or may not be so conscious of this reality.”

Salzman also mentioned she tries “to sell students the literature of the past” since “THEIR job is to be keepers of both, to pass it on, and to renew or revive it.”

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TO THE
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- 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.

Valdés Smith is ‘deeply committed’ to lowering costs for families

To the Editor:

Dutchess County is fortunate to have a leader like Legislator Yvette Valdés Smith representing District 16 and serving as Minority Leader in the Legislature. Time and again, she has proven that she is deeply committed to lowering costs for families, protecting our environment, and making our communities stronger.

Yvette has been a consistent advocate for affordability, fighting to reduce county sales tax and supporting measures to lower property taxes. At a time when so many residents are feeling the pinch of rising costs, she has kept working families front and center.

Yvette also cosponsored legislation to expand county mental health services, and is invested in the health and wellness of our community.

Her leadership has delivered real results in our local communities. She helped secure grant funding for Beacon and Fishkill to support important cultural programming tied to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. And she has worked side by side with the Beacon City Council to improve the Beacon Free Loop bus service, giving residents a more reliable and accessible public transportation option.

Yvette Valdés Smith leads with integrity and heart. She has shown she is willing to take on the tough fights for affordability, safety, and opportunity in Dutchess County. We need more leaders like her who put people first and deliver for their communities. Vote for Yvette!

Raquel Verdesi
Beacon

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14th annual I Run Beacon 5K Walk/Run scholarship fundraiser breaks records



The 14 annual I Run Beacon 5K Walk/Run was held on Sept. 28.
-Courtesy photo I Am Beacon

I Am Beacon hosted its 14th Annual I Run Beacon 5K Walk/Run Scholarship Fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 28, marking the organization’s biggest year yet -- with more than 150 participants checking in on race day and 177 total registrants.

The event successfully funded the “Making a Difference” Scholarship, awarding \$3,000 to local students: \$2,000 to a graduating senior pursuing a four-year college and \$1,000 to a student attending a two-year school. With the continued success of the I Run Beacon 5K, I Am Beacon has now awarded more than \$40,000 in scholarships to 50 local youth since the program’s inception.

“This was a great day,” said Brooke Simmons, Board President of I Am Beacon. “Thirteen years ago, I missed the event when my daughter was born. This year, she turned 13 and ran the course with her friends—it was a full-circle moment that reminds us why this event matters so much to the community.”

I Am Beacon extends its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors, partners, and community members who made this milestone possible:

Title Sponsor: Lanc & Tully
Major Sponsors: Healy Brothers, Hudson Valley Credit Union, Tightrope Interactive, Mountainview Dental, United Rentals, Carters, The Roosevelt, Hudson Valley Food Hall, and Hudson Valley Brewery
Community Partners: Key Food & Bagelish, Beacon Endurance, Miss. K and her Beacon Varsity Cheerleaders, who kept runners motivated along the course
City Support: The City of Beacon Police and Highway Departments for their essential assistance with logistics and traffic control
Volunteers & Participants: The countless individuals who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm to ensure a successful day.

Most importantly, I Am Beacon thanks the 177 registrants who made the event possible. With 100% of registration fees going directly toward scholarships, every runner and walker contributed to shaping the future of Beacon’s youth.

To view race results visit:
<https://www.athlinks.com/.../results/Event/1121716/Results>.

Youth programs encouraged to take County survey by Oct. 17

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced the County is conducting a comprehensive assessment and inventory of afterschool opportunities as part of the Youth Opportunity Union (YOU) initiative. The YOU connects young people throughout Dutchess County to safe, supportive places where they can play, learn and grow, through recreational, educational, and wellness programs.

"Afterschool programs aren't just activities-they're places where children feel safe, supported, and inspired to grow," said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, "They help kids discover their strengths, build confidence, and from friendship that last a lifetime, while also giving families the support they need. This assessment is an important step to ensure our county's programs are strong, accessible and well-supported."

Modeled after the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet's effort to map afterschool programs in the City of Poughkeepsie, this countywide assessment will provide a clearer picture of programs available across Dutchess. Surveys

have been sent to school superintendents, municipal leaders, and afterschool program providers to help identify current opportunities and highlight where additional support may be needed. Organizations that offer youth programming outside of school - including before- and after-school care, weekend or holiday activities, or summer camps - are encouraged to complete the survey by Oct. 17, online at www.DutchessNY.gov/afterschool-inventory.

The survey asks providers to share information on availability, curriculum, seasonal offerings, staffing, capacity, age groups served and costs, as well as possible program needs and priorities. Responses will help the County identify gaps and guide future investments in youth activities, including funding opportunities such as the County Executive Serino's YOU Drop-In Center Grant program.

All youth programs are encouraged to participate. For more information about the afterschool programs inventory, call the County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000 or email CountyExec@dutchessny.gov.

Correction

The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) President was incorrectly identified in the Sept. 24 edition. The caption should have read:
Celia Serotsky, Poughkeepsie AAUW president (on right) receives the commendation from County Legislators Lisa Kaul, Yvette Valdés Smith and Lynn Versaci.

-Courtesy photo AAUW





DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

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Sheep-raising in Dutchess County: From early days to today’s festival



Down but not out. George S. Van Vliet is shown with his sheep at his Pleasant Plains farm in 1916. Then, as now, the local sheep population was dramatically down, but not gone.

-DCHS Van Vliet Collection.

Introduction by Melodye Moore
When the gates of the Dutchess County Fairgrounds open on October 18th for the annual New York State Sheep and Wool Festival, thousands of fiber-loving individuals from across America and abroad will pour onto the grounds in search of all things wooly.

What started out in 1980 as a bred ewe sale by local shepherds has grown through the years to become one of, if not the, largest such festival in the country. The website of the Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers Association, organizers of the event, state that in 2024 approximately 30,000 visitors and more than 300 vendors were in attendance.

The shepherds who were motivated to create the first sale are the direct descendants of previous sheep farmers who made Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley fertile ground for these beloved animals.

While sheep-raising was common and widespread on the average farm in the Hudson Valley in the 18th century, it was Chancellor Robert Livingston of Clermont who launched a new era of fine wool production in American when in 1802 he imported two Merino sheep from France. In 1809 he published an “Essay on Sheep” which promoted the high quality of the breed. A mania for the breed ensued and while common sheep sold for \$2 each some Merino rams were being sold for as much as \$1,500. The mania was unsustainable and by the early 1830s sheep farming had returned to a more realistic model. In Dutchess County the heyday of sheep farming was in the 1820s and 1830s.

The below reprinted article written by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds and published in the 1941 edition of the Dutchess County Historical Society’s annual Yearbook paints a vivid picture of the times.

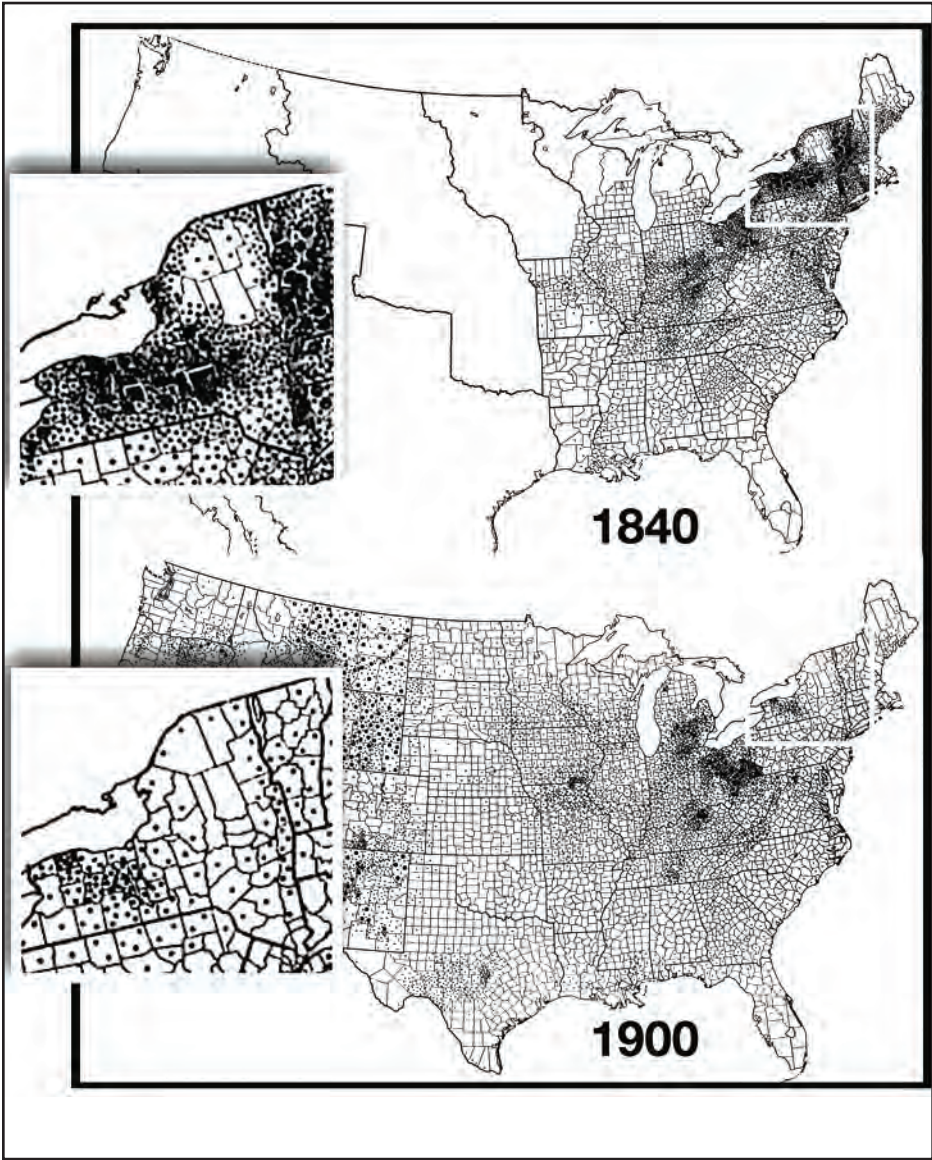
By Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, 1941, DCHS Yearbook
“On the first farms of Dutchess the raising of sheep was an important part of the work of the owner. This was because each farm of the period of the

pioneers was an economic unit, which produced almost everything that the family living on it ate or wore, and the wool from the sheep was one of the principal materials used for clothing. As the population increased and the county became prosperous flocks of sheep became larger until in the early nineteenth century sheep-raising in Dutchess advanced beyond the point of merely meeting the needs of home-consumption and came to be an important export-business. The export of wool from Dutchess continued on a large scale until the middle 1840’s when, sad to relate, the amount of wool produced began to dwindle and the export business finally died out.

“Today, when enquiry is made among older residents of the county, asking the reason why the sheep-raising industry disappeared from Dutchess, men like Isaac Smith Wheaton of Lithgow and George S. Van Vliet of Pleasant Plains tell of the local tradition that the decline was due to losses suffered by the attacks made on the flocks by roving dogs; it used to be said that so many sheep were killed that profits were wiped out and owners discouraged. The losses from this cause were certainly large and testimony to them is borne not only by tradition but by such contemporary items in the newspaper as the one which may be read in the Dutchess Intelligencer for November 18, 1829, column 6, which says:

‘Dogs among Sheep. - We understand that much injury has been done in the east part of the town of Poughkeepsie during the last week by dogs attacking several flocks of sheep. One farmer alone lost about thirty. Some time last winter a cow, belonging to the Methodist clergyman in this village was attacked by dogs and nearly killed. We think some efficient measures should be taken if practicable to protect our farmers from injury from the great number of vicious dogs which are kept in this village and about the country by persons who have no use for them and who are unable to pay for the injury they may do.’

“Great as was the loss of sheep from



Maps from “A Brief History of the Sheep Industry” published in 1921 show the density of the sheep population across the country in 1840 and 1900. During this period, Dutchess County moved from being at the center of activity, to being peripheral. The inset shows New York State.

the depredations of vicious dogs, the dogs were not however the sole cause of the decline of sheep-raising in Dutchess. Originally a home-industry, sheep-raising assumed a commercial character when, as stated above, the export of wool to outside markets began. Export was induced by the fact that many mills were established early in the nineteenth century in the states along the Atlantic seaboard for the manufacture of woollen cloth. Statistics show that the mills drew their stocks of wool very largely from an area of which Dutchess County was an important portion and the business thus created prospered over a period of years. In 1837 about twenty -five per cent of all the sheep in the United States were in the state of New York. In 1840 thirty-five per cent were in New York and Vermont. But the commercial sheep-raising in the East began to feel the competition of sheep-raising in the West in the middle 1840’s and ultimately the West eclipsed the East in the industry and eastern sheep pastures began to be utilized for dairy-farming. Thus, dogs locally, and economic conditions in the country as a whole, combined to put an end to the wool business in Dutchess.

“Some idea of the size and value of a good flock in Dutchess in the prosperous 1820’s is obtainable from items in the inventory of the estate of Judge Isaac Smith of Lithgow, furnished the writer by Judge Smith’s great-grandson, Isaac Smith Wheaton. Under date: January 5, 1826, the inventory lists –

- 6,195 sheep; bucks, ewes, wethers, lambs \$22,574.25
- 2 Saxony bucks and one ewe at cost 770.00

- 250 lbs. pulled wool at 30c 75.00
- 100 lbs. sacks of wool at 18c 18.00
- 488 lbs of wool with the manufacturers at 30c 146.40
- 84 wool sacks at Boston 31.50

“That Dutchess County was one of the chief centers of the production of wool at the peak of the prosperity of the industry in the East in 1840 is shown by a map of the areas in the United States in which in 1840 wool was being raised. The map may be consulted at page 181 of a Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States, written by L.G. Connor and printed in the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1918 (vol. I, pp. 89 – 197). Mr. Connor’s monograph is an exhaustive treatment of his subject, filled with detail, and is recommended to those interested in the economic history of Dutchess County as a good background for that history.”

Summary
After 1840, the dominance of sheep-raising in America moved westerly and in Dutchess County dairy farming became more prominent. The 2022 USDA Agricultural Census for Dutchess County enumerated 1049 sheep and lambs – a far cry from the 6195 sheep roaming the Lithgow fields. But, when driving the back roads of Dutchess County today one can still find a hill dotted with sheep and the shepherds will be at the Sheep and Wool Festival showing off their animals and peddling their products.

Melodye Moore is a long-standing Board member of DCHS, Chair of its Collections Committee, regular contributor to the DCHS Yearbook, and develops a wide range of programs. More information at www.DCHSNY.org.

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Opening of 'New Work' at Howland Library

The Howland Public Library will present “New Work from the Beacon Thursday Painters,” a group exhibit. The exhibition will be on view in The Community Room Exhibit Space through Nov. 1. An Artists’ Reception will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 1– 3 p.m.

The Thursday Painters, led by teaching artist Jan Dolan, is a group of senior artists who have been meeting to paint every Thursday at the Beacon Recreation Center since 2014. During the 3-hour class, participants work on independent projects in a supportive environment. Jan encourages the students to explore new options while developing and improving their own style.

“New Work” features recent paintings from each member of the group, highlighting their individual creativity and artistic growth.

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main Street, Beacon. The



“New Work from the Beacon Thursday Painters” will open at the Howland Public Library on Oct. 11 and runs through Nov. 1.

-Courtesy image Jane Cassetta

Community Room Exhibit Space is open during regular library hours. Please note the gallery may not be accessible during library programs. Visitors are encouraged to consult the library calendar at beaconlibrary.org before planning their visit.

‘At Home in Utopia’ on Oct. 14

A film screening and director’s talk of “At Home in Utopia” will take place on Tuesday, October 14, at 7 p.m. at the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Avenue, in Beacon.

Join Beacon Historical Society Director of Special Projects Diane Lapis for this special event, with a showing of this 57-minute film and talk with its producer/director, Michal Goldman.

In the mid-1920s, thousands of immigrant Jewish garment workers managed to catapult themselves out of urban slums and ghettos by pooling their resources to build four cooperatively owned and run apartment complexes in the Bronx. “At Home in Utopia” focuses on the United Workers Cooperative Colony – aka the Coops – the largest and most member-driven of these cooperatives, where many of the residents

were Communists. “Coopniks” helped found a network of cooperatives, including Camp Nitgetdeiget in Beacon. They saw themselves as part of an international movement.

In the 1930s they opted to bring their passion for racial justice home by integrating their own cooperative house, with unexpected consequences. An epic tale of the struggle for equity and justice across two generations, the film tracks the rise and fall of one community from the 1920s into the 1950s, paying close attention to the passions that bound people together and those that tore them apart. Along the way, At Home in Utopia bears witness to lives lived with courage across the barriers of race, language, convention, and sometimes even common sense.

All are welcome — and admission is free.

In Flight, Inc. to host inaugural ‘Ghostly Game Night’ fundraiser

In Flight, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will host its inaugural “Ghostly Game Night” on Friday, October 17 at Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook presented by Mill Road Design of Rhinebeck. This community-focused event promises a night of spooky fun, games, and camaraderie for the entire Northern Dutchess community.

Attendees can enjoy a night of Halloween-themed bingo as well as trivia competitions for teams of up to six players. Bingo will be played from 5–7 p.m., followed by trivia from 7–9 p.m. Throughout the evening, guests can participate in exciting auctions and prize giveaways, featuring donations from Flatiron Steakhouse, Sequoia Massage, Woodstock Spa, Northern Dutchess Orchestra, Taste Budd’s and more.

A complimentary photo booth, courtesy of Test Tone AV, will capture all the spooky fun and memories of the night.

“Ghostly Game Night is a unique opportunity for the community to come together, have fun, and support our mission,” said Jill Rodriguez, Director of External Affairs at In Flight. “We’re excited to offer a festive, inclusive environment while raising funds that directly support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the counties we serve.”

Businesses interested in joining as a sponsor are invited to contact Skyler Liegeot at Sliegeot@inflightinc.org or 845-835-6060 ext. 189.

For more details, including registration and event highlights, please visit <https://inflightinc.org/ghostly-game-night/> or their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1319612902859462/>.

Ex-Renegades hurler Schlittler shines in playoff game with Yanks



Former Hudson Valley Renegades pitcher Cam Schlittler became the first pitcher in Major League Baseball postseason history to fire at least eight scoreless innings with at least 12 strikeouts without permitting a walk in the New York Yankees playoff victory over the Cleveland Guardians last week. He also set a new franchise record for strikeouts by a Yankee in his postseason debut, outdoing 10-K performances by Red Ruffing (1932 World Series Game 1 vs. Cubs) and Dave Righetti (1981 ALDS Game 2 at Brewers).

“You feel dominant out there,” Schlittler said. “I didn’t really know how many strikeouts I was at, but it’s a good feeling, being able to put those guys away.”

-Courtesy photo

Pastor Drew brings gospel and teaching to Hudson Valley

Drew Robison has been preaching the gospel and teaching Bible classes for nearly 30 years. He received his preaching training in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated from the Brown Trail School of Preaching in 1998. He has conducted a number of gospel meetings for Churches of Christ and performed evangelism efforts in Los Angeles, San Diego, CA, Moss Point, MS, Hurley, MS, Grand Bay, AL, Little Rock, AR, Carlsbad, NM, and other states and cities. His wife, Sandy also received her ministerial training at the same preaching school and has continued to be a big part of spreading the gospel of Christ.

Drew’s secular education includes a Bachelors in Management Communications and a Masters in Human Services with a Specialization in Counseling Studies. For over 15 years, he formerly worked in the field of Case Management addressing the needs of the homeless and helping people with addiction related issues. He has also conducted research and training tours for the Probation Department’s rehabilitation programs.

Drew attended a prestigious acting Academy in Los Angeles. Famous actors such as Robert De Niro, Melanie Griffith, Marlon Brando and a host of other well known entertainers, also attended the Academy. Drew said that he left the Hollywood scene, 30 years ago to preach the gospel. He emphasized that this decision was because he weighed the hope of a heavenly home as far greater riches than any earthly achievements (for example, Oscars and Grammy, etc).

Drew believes in preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27) and emphasized that all scripture is giving by inspiration of God and has great benefit for the saving of men and women’s eternal souls (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This is the message that he hopes to bring to Southern Dutchess County.

Although he is no longer in music and acting as a profession, Drew said that he has written over 50 songs to his beloved wife. His wife Sandy’s hobbies include crocheting and photographing nature.

Free Veterans Picnic on October 18

The office of Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and office of Veterans Affairs invite all veterans to the “Red, White and You” Veterans Appreciation Picnic from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

on Saturday, Oct. 18 at James Baird State Park. The rain or shine event is open to veterans and one guest. It will include free BBQ from Tavern 23 and live music by “The String Masters.”

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by luigi coppola

How to make wine

Grapes in the fall make vino at Christmas

As the leaves begin to turn, and the mornings get crisp, I begin to reminisce about making wine.

I remember coming home from school on a Monday to see the cars parked in the driveway and the garage doors open. Stacked up in the garage were rows and rows of wooden crates filled with red grapes. The bees already were starting to buzz around the cases, excited about what was to come.

In the days leading up to the delivery, Pop would have us bring the wooden barrels up from the basement and fill them with water. The water would leak out over the course of a few days and we would be diligent in refilling them. As the oaken barrels would soak in the water, the leaks would eventually stop. Once the barrels were done being soaked, we would bring them back downstairs into the basement and put on their cradles to be prepared for the juice. Once on their cradles, Pop would get a small strip of cloth and soak it in a mixture of water and powdered sulfur. He would then light the end of the cloth, put it in the barrel and seal it in order to disinfect the barrel from unwanted bacteria. The barrel would remain sealed until it was time to put the grape juice in the barrels.

Back in the garage, we would set up the grape grinder on top of another barrel. The grape grinder looks like a giant manual coffee grinder. We would take turns loading the hopper with grapes while the other would grind. Case after case of grapes would be loaded and ground. Once

one barrel would be filled we would move the grinder to another and begin the process until all the grapes were done.

The smell of grapes hung in the garage. Bees flying all over happy to have found the world’s largest sugar buffet. The garage door would close, space heaters would be brought in, and the barrels would sit for 5-7 days. We would not be allowed in the garage at all for those days, otherwise the air would escape and possibly cause fermentation to stop.

After five days, with the grape mixture bubbling, we then would start to scoop out the grapes and squeeze them in a special grape press, with the juice running into a wash basin that we rigged with a hose in the bottom. The hose would run down the outside stairs into the basement and into the barrel. On and on we would press the grapes until all were done and the barrels were filled. The pressed grapes would then be wheel-barrowed into the garden, and in the spring, they would be tilled into the soil.

Once complete, the wine barrel would sit open for three more days, until the fermentation slowed down. We would then place an air lock on the opening to allow air to escape but not let any air into the barrel. Then the waiting would begin.

The hope was always to crack open the barrel for Christmas.

We had a wooden spigot that we would put in a small hole about 3 inches from the bottom of the barrel. That would allow us to get the wine out of the barrel without getting all the solids, which we called “fetch.” The

wine would be put into gallon jugs. After a week, we would then transfer the wine into another gallon jug, careful to leave the solids on the bottom. After a few days, the process was repeated till there was no “fetch” in the gallon jug.

I remember on Christmas Day, Pop and his brothers comparing wine to see whose tasted better as we played with our Christmas presents. During dinner, the wine was passed around even to us kids. I remember us kids mixing 7UP with the red wine. Dinner always began with risotto, and my favorite was butternut squash risotto.

Dinner was awesome, but then again dinner always tastes better with wine.

Butternut Squash Risotto

Ingredients

2 lbs.	butternut squash, peeled and cut into bite-size chunks
3 tbsp.	extra virgin olive oil
10-12 leaves	fresh sage
1qt.	chicken stock
1 stick	Salted butter
1 small	onion diced
1 cup	arborio rice
1 cup	white wine
¼ cup	Reggiano Parmagiana

Method

Before you make the risotto, heat oven to 220C (approx. 425F)/fan 200C (approx 395F)/gas 7. Toss the squash in 1 tbsp oil together with the chopped sage. Scatter into a shallow roasting tin and roast for 30 minutes until it is brown and soft.

While the squash is roasting, prepare the risotto. Bring the stock to the boil and keep on a low simmer. In a separate pan, melt half the butter over a medium heat. Stir in the onions and sweat gently for 8-10 minutes until soft but not colored, stirring occasionally. Stir the rice into the onions until completely coated in the butter, then stir continuously until the rice is shiny and the edges of the grain start to look transparent.

Pour in the wine and simmer until totally evaporated. Add the stock, a ladleful at a time, and stirring the rice over a low heat for 25-30 minutes, until the rice is cooked al dente (with a slightly firm, starchy bite in the middle). The risotto should be creamy and slightly soupy. When you draw a wooden spoon through it, there should be a wake that holds for a few moments but not longer.

When the squash is cooked, mash to a rough purée and leave half whole. When the risotto is just done, stir though the purée, then add the cheese and butter and leave to rest for a few minutes. Serve the risotto scattered with the whole chunks of squash.

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.

HV Depression Glass Club sets Fall Show Oct. 11 in Beacon

The Hudson Valley Depression Glass Club is hosting its 53rd Semi-Annual Fall Show and Sale of Glass, Pottery, China, and Vintage Accessories on Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building at 413 Main Street, Beacon.

Admission is \$5 per person (children under 10 are free) and includes a raffle entry for a \$10 gift certificate good towards a purchase from any of the vendors or for a 1-year membership in the club. Refreshments will be available. For show information, please contact Debbie Siller at (845) 702-4770. The club meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m., except July and August, and guests are encouraged to come by and see what we are all about.

The Hudson Valley Depression Glass Club began in 1972 in Walden by founding members Elinor Eignor, Bill

& Ada Metzging, and Gene & Mickey Meier. The purpose of the club was to bring community members and collectors together to gain knowledge and promote any glass manufactured in America from 1920 through the 1940’s known as Depression Era Glass. Some 20 different companies produced clear and colored glass during this period such as Hazel Atlas, Hocking, Indiana, Fenton, Federal, and Westmoreland.

While the club has continued this tradition for the last 53 years, it has grown to now include all 20th-century American glass companies and items such as American pottery companies, some well-known ones are Roseville, McCoy, Hall, Shawnee, Spaulding and Haegar, American China companies such as Blue Ridge, Franciscan, Lenox, Lotus ware, Pickard, Homer Laughlin and Bauer, and vintage kitchen items and accessories.



The Hudson Valley Depression Glass Club will present a wide variety of clear and colored glass at its’ Fall Show on Oct. 11 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

Photography group to meet October 8

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m., the Dutchess Regional Photography (DRP) group will be holding a dinner meeting at Perkins restaurant in Wappingers Falls. The speaker will be master photographer Sherrie Fryxl. Her topic will be “Seven steps to a merit print.” There is no charge for attending

the meeting but dinner is on you. It should be a great learning experience as well as an enjoyable way to spend time with like mind people. Please join us for the entertaining and enlightening event. Contact DRP President Les Muldorf at lesm1974@mac.com for more information.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



The Beacon High School football team kept rolling last week with an impressive 35-15 win over FDR.

By Morgan E. Maier
Beacon stays perfect in boys' soccer league play

Facing the Monticello Panthers, Beacon's Bulldogs had a .500 overall record and an undefeated league streak on the line. Following a 0-0 tie to Liberty, Beacon's agenda was twofold: capture a winning record and earn an undefeated week. The following 3-1 victory marked a return to the Bulldogs' winning ways, as they hover above .500 with a 4-3 overall record. The win also marked Beacon's third straight conference win. Vicente Maldonado had the lone goal for Monticello.

Bulldogs down FDR in football, 35-15

Beacon football had a decisive win over the Roosevelt Presidents, outscoring FDR by 20 on the Bulldogs' own turf. Delano Rigby Jr. threw a 50-yard touchdown to Elijah Epps, the exclamation point on a dazzling day for Rigby. The sophomore quarterback was 12/15 for

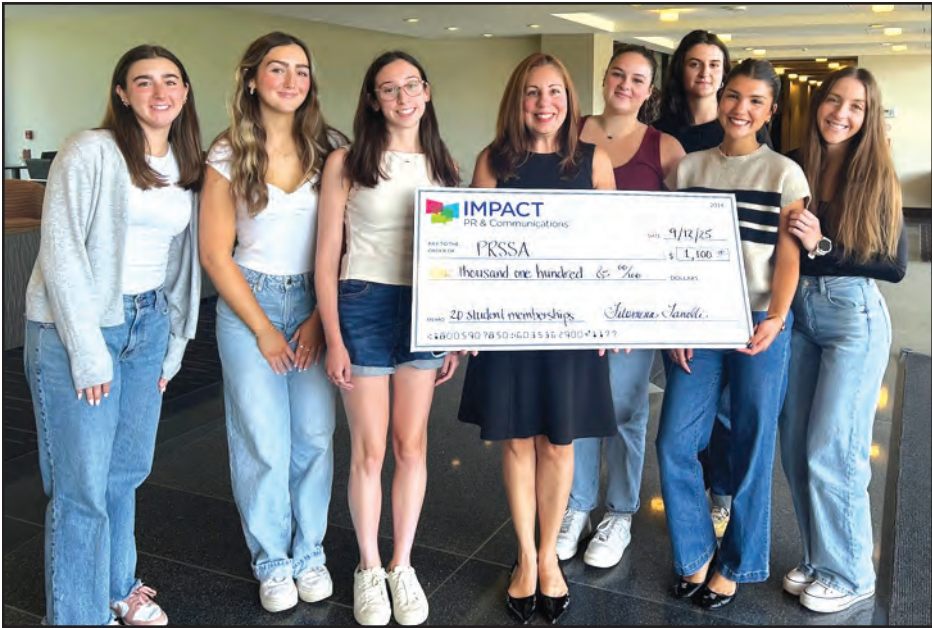
137 passes and threw a second touchdown to Ramonsito Soto. Epps brought in a rushing touchdown and converted a key two-point play to keep Beacon on top. Jaden Jones joined the scoring from the other side, running back a 46-yard interception for six points on Beacon's board. Jones also recovered a fumble. Rigby accounted for 209 (137 passing, 72 rushing) of Beacon's 367 total yards.

John Jay rolls to 5-0 record with 37-27 win over New Rochelle

If football only counted after halftime, John Jay would have lost its Oct. 3 contest. New Rochelle outscored them 14-6 in the closing 24 minutes, but it hardly endangered the Patriots' path towards their 5-0 record. Their 31 first half points in the first half more than covered the difference against New Rochelle's 13. It was a John Jay runaway, but their 5-0 record didn't come without a fight from the purple-clad home team. Patriots quarterback Logan Lawrence threw for 370 yards and four touchdowns in the win.

-Courtesy photo

Impact PR doubles commitment to future PR leaders



Marist University public relations and communications students are pictured with Filomena Fanelli, CEO & founder of Impact PR & Communications. From left are Julia Tartaglia, PRSSA chapter president for the fall 2025 semester; Julia Vultaggio, Katie Tummino, Filomena Fanelli, Sam Rafferty, Nadia Schoenauer, Lena Sinatra and Nicole DeFinis.

-Courtesy photo

Impact PR & Communications, a leading public relations agency based in New York's Hudson Valley with a roster of clients across the country, is doubling its impact on the next generation of public relations professionals.

For the second year in a row, the agency made a donation to the Marist University Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), doubling its support to cover the membership fees for 20 students this school year. This investment gives aspiring communicators the tools and opportunities to

sharpen their skills, expand their network and gain hands-on, real-world experience.

PRSSA is more than a student organization – it's a gateway to the industry. Through membership, mentorship, internships, professional networking and more, the chapter equips students with the knowledge and experience they need to thrive. By supporting Marist's PRSSA chapter, Impact PR & Communications is helping students make meaningful connections and prepare them to make an impact of their own.

Marist University and DCC forge seamless transition for transfer students seeking Bachelor's Degree in Crime and Justice Studies

Marist University and Dutchess Community College (DCC) have signed a new agreement that simplifies the transfer process for students pursuing careers in crime and justice studies and seeking a 4-year degree.

Under the agreement, students who complete an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Criminal Justice at DCC that meet the grade point average course requirement will be able to transfer all earned credits to Marist University and complete a Bachelor's degree in Crime & Justice Studies in just two years as full-time students. This partnership reflects both institutions' commitment to supporting student success

and expanding access to higher education.

The agreement removes uncertainty for students and allows them to plan their academic journey with confidence that allows them to seamlessly pursue four-year degrees. A Crime and Justice Studies major prepares students for careers across various sectors of the justice system, including federal, state, and local law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Additional career paths may include the law, social work, social justice advocacy, public policy, and government.

"We are delighted to offer another opportunity for DCC students to transfer

seamlessly into a major in our School," said Dr. Deborah Gatins, Dean of Marist's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. "Creating pathways for bachelor's degrees at lower costs supports our mission to engage with our local community and provide meaningful programs that may lead to personal fulfillment and career success."

Dr. Raymond M. Houston, Vice President for Instruction and Learning at Dutchess Community College, added: "We are thrilled to partner with Marist University to create a seamless pathway in Crime and Justice Studies for our students, ensuring they can continue their education and build successful careers."

This agreement enables Dutchess Community College students to track their progress toward a Marist degree while completing their studies at DCC. By participating, students can plan their academic pathways more confidently and transfer up to 70 credits directly toward their Marist degree. This new pathway agreement builds upon existing transfer agreements between Marist and DCC in Business, Social Work, and the Visual Arts, which open up pathways to degrees that lead to careers in fields such as accounting, marketing, counseling, community outreach, graphic design, animation and digital art.

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by mark adams



Quakers in Dutchess County

Touring local history, a disappointing ‘leaf peeping’ season, and more...

Last chance! November 2 is the last day to tour four Dutchess County Quaker meeting houses, noon to 4 p.m. So far, 800 visitors have taken advantage of this unique opportunity to explore an essential chapter of our local heritage, courtesy of some support from the Dutchess County Legislature and a cadre of volunteer docents.

Sue and I stopped in at the Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners this past Sunday. I had been planning to explore some prime fall foliage sites, but after a trip upstate I realized that we are in for one of the most disappointing “leaf peeping” seasons in recent memory, thanks to the hot, dry weather. The Quaker meeting house tours are part of Dutchess County’s celebration of our nation’s sesquicentennial.

Craig Marshall, vice president of the Clinton Historical Society, says that at one time Dutchess County was home to the largest population of Quakers outside of Pennsylvania. Of course, the Quaker faith remains vibrant in our community. Quakers meet every Sunday at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie and all are welcome to join. According to their website, Quakers emphasize the inner light, personal experience of God, and peaceful living. They also embrace social change, environmental activism and community outreach as part of their continuing spiritual journey.

Docents Craig Marshall and Bronwyn Bevan (who is the sister-in-law of 1970s punk rocker Richard Hell) showed us around the Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners. 250 years ago, almost everyone in central Dutchess County was a Quaker. They were farmers, raising wheat and milling flour until the Erie Canal, completed in 1825, brought a flood of grain from western New York. Then they became dairy farmers, shipping milk and butter on the newly constructed railroad.

Quakers refused to take sides during the American Revolution, raising suspicion that they were British sympathizers. A prominent local Quaker, Paul Upton (of Upton Lake fame) was imprisoned for a few months, accused of carrying secret messages to the British.

With their emphasis on non-violence, equal rights for all, including women, temperance, and abolition of slavery, the Quakers helped to shape Dutchess County society, a legacy that continues to this day.

• **Autumn leaves** – Mike Bouton, former executive director at the Clark Foundation in Cooperstown, N.Y., calls the fall foliage “muted.” Foliage bus tours are still running, but the tourists are



Bronwyn Bevan and Craig Marshall at Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners.

underwhelmed, as the autumn leaves are drying and falling before they color up.

• **Vassar College trees** – there used to be a map identifying 230 trees, all labeled, on the Vassar College campus. I still have a copy of the map, but the labels are gone, along with some of the trees. Recently a few labels have been replaced, for example, on the Pin Oak in front of the Main Building, which, planted in 1869, is the oldest tree on campus. The famous gigantic London Plane Tree between Main and the Library was planted in 1906.

• **Garden Large** – Julia and Duncan Brine’s six acres of intuitive naturalistic landscape in Pawling will be open for a tour sponsored by the Garden Conservatory on October 18, 1-5 p.m. Brine will be providing classical piano music for the event. Don’t miss it.

• **Spotted Lantern Fly** – So far, they haven’t caused any significant damage, unless you parked your car under a tree of heaven. Check out my live recording of “Spotted Lantern Fly Blues” on TikTok.

• **Amenia Day** – I’m making a “rare small club appearance” at Amenia Day, 12:30 p.m. on October 18, playing mostly folk music with a couple of DEVO tunes thrown in.

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



Vassar’s famous sycamore has seen a lot of protests over the years.
-Photos by Mark Adams

Hudson Valley Job Fair in Poughkeepsie on Oct. 23

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and The Chamber Foundation, Inc. present The Hudson Valley Job Fair, in partnership with Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board and DC Works, on Thursday, Oct. 23.

The Job Fair is free and open to the public and will be held from 3-6 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. For more information about the Job Fair visit

dccoc.org/jobfair, or call 845-454-1700, ext. 1000.

New this year is the First Look - Early Entry. From 2-3 p.m., the Job Fair will open exclusively for veterans, senior citizens, and individuals living with disabilities, giving early access to connect directly with employers before the general public.

The Presenting Partner of The Hudson Valley Job Fair is: Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board & DC Works.



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Cell: (214) 605-9922
drewdrew777@msn.com



Drew Robison (Minister) and wife Sandy

Poughkeepsie native supports U.S. Navy helicopter maritime strike squadron

**By Chief Yeoman Vicki Sonnenberg
Navy Office of Community Outreach**

Petty Officer 1st Class Saquaia Weaver, a native of Poughkeepsie, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74. Weaver graduated from Beacon High School in 2007 and recently graduated from Capella University with a master's degree in social work.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Poughkeepsie.

"Growing up in Poughkeepsie, I learned to develop resilience and navigate challenging times," Weaver said. "I have learned not to give up, to always put my best foot forward and to celebrate every moment."

Weaver joined the Navy 11 years ago. Today, Weaver serves as a yeoman.

"I always wanted to serve," Weaver said. "I wanted more out of life and a challenge. Additionally, I was looking for financial support to pay undergrad loans and obtain further education."

Members of HSM-74 fly and maintain the MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, the Navy's most advanced rotary wing maritime strike platform. The Navy MH-60R is able to perform many different missions. Some of the most common operations include strikes on maritime targets, submarine hunting and attack, electronic warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuations and supply support.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials continue to empha-

size that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Weaver has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"My proudest accomplishment is attaining a leadership role where I can mentor and guide junior sailors, support them in earning their air wings, achieve promotions and be selected for combat support of the quarter," Weaver said. "Having passed the halfway point of my service, I look forward to continuing to contribute to the Navy and support my peers."

Weaver is also pursuing commissioning into the Navy's clinical social work program.

Weaver serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving embodies who I am," Weaver said. "Serving in the military is much bigger than myself; it is an honor to go to work every day. I wake up with courage and remain committed for the long run. I have had amazing mentors, Cmdr. Hagedorn, Senior Chief Yeoman Santiago and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Smith, to guide me during my career."

Weaver is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank God for guiding me through my challenges," Weaver said. "I am grateful to my mom and dad, grandmother, sisters and my Sigma Gamma Rho Beta Tau Chapter sorority sisters from Morgan State University. Special thanks to my husband, Orraine, for his unwavering support throughout my career, enduring long separations, and caring for our daughter, Marlee, who is my heart."



Petty Officer 1st Class Saquaia Weaver
-Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Hanchar

Obituaries

Margaret ‘Peggy’ Roe



Margaret "Peggy" Roe, a longtime resident of Wappingers Falls, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 29, 2025, at the age of 82.

Born on April 5, 1943, in Sharon, Connecticut, Peggy was the daughter of the late Hasner and Gertrude Benson. She was a proud graduate of Webutuck High School, Class of 1960, and went on to earn her Associate's degree from Dutchess Community College in 1962. On September 18, 1965, Peggy married the love of her life, Bernie Roe.

Peggy started her career at Marine Midland Bank and then dedicated 24 years of service to the Town of Wappinger before retiring in 2005. Her commitment to her community extended far beyond her professional life. She was a devoted member of the New Hackensack Fire Company's Ladies'

Auxiliary, serving as President from 1976 to 1979, and played an active role in the New Hackensack Reformed Church, where she served as secretary of the Consistory for several years.

Peggy's greatest joy was found in loving and supporting her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Bernie; her sons Doug (Nancy) and Michael (Sharon); grandchildren Jessica Rupolo (Anthony), Christopher, and David; and her beloved great-granddaughter, Margaret "Maggie." Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Eleanor Magnussen, and great-granddaughter, Elizabeth.

A time of visitation was held on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025, at New Hackensack Reformed Church, located at 1580 Route 376 in Wappingers Falls. A funeral service celebrating Peggy's life followed the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Peggy's memory may be made to New Hackensack Reformed Church (nhrc-church.org), the New Hackensack Fire Company (nkfd.org), or Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, NY (hospiceoforange.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. To send a personal condolence, please visit www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Bannerman Castle Trust announces calendar of events for October

The following events will be held on Bannerman Island in October.

October - Book a Tour to Bannerman Island & Castle in the Hudson River Highlands The Estuary Steward tour boat leaves the Beacon Waterfront Dock across from the Metro-North Train Station at 2 Red Flynn Drive in Beacon, from May-October. Enjoy a guided, or self-guided tour of Bannerman Island. Visit the historic Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens and explore the original Bannerman residence which is now a museum. For a schedule of tours and events including; theater, concerts, dinner events and more, or to purchase tickets visit: <https://bannermancastle.org/tours-events/bannerman-island-tour/>.

Sunday, October 19 – Bannerman Castle Trust’s Third Sunday Music Concert Series

The Bannerman Island Stage welcomes popular Indie Folk Duo “Whispering Tree” The concert is free for visitors taking the 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. tours only! For tickets visit: Bannerman Island Cruise & Walking Tour.

October - December - Exhibitions at Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main Street, Beacon

Main Gallery – The Bannerman Castle Trust’s Anniversary Exhibition continues. Historic show features artwork, photographs and artifacts from Bannerman Island and the Bannerman Family Collection as well as works by contemporary artists. The exhibition focuses on the history of the island and BCT’s development since 1994. West Wall Exhibition – Virginia Donovan (Paintings) and Mary Ann Glass (Photo-Mixed Media). Ongoing show featuring Hudson Valley Paintings & Photography. (Art Sales support preservation projects on Bannerman Island). Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays, 12–5 p.m., weekdays by chance & appointment.

For more information, call 845-831-1001 or visit www.bannermancastle.org.

Gold stars for spring 2025 awarded to Citadel cadets and students

Gold stars were awarded to cadets and students at The Citadel who achieved a 3.7 grade point average or higher in the spring 2025 semester. Cadets and students who achieve gold star recognition are also placed on The Citadel's dean's list.

The following local students were awarded gold stars for spring 2025 at The Citadel: Declan McComb of Lagrangeville, Caleb Wilson of Beacon.

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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

226 Travel & Services

227 Bridal Services

295 Financial

296 Mortgages

300 Real Estate

301 Townhouses & Condos

302 Commercial Property

304 Mobile Homes

305 Lots & Acreage

400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

401 Apartments for Rent

402 Rooms for Rent

403 Furnished Rooms

404 Furnished Apartments

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503 Furniture

504 Appliances

505 Free Items

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512 Winter Merchandise

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700 Pets & Supplies

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703 Pets for Adoption

710 Garage & Yard Sale

711 Tag Sale

712 Moving sale

713 Rummage Sale

714 Flea Market

715 Craft Corner

716 Barn Sale

717 Estate Sale

718 Auctions

719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted

721 Wanted to Buy

722 Bazaar

723 Consignments

724 Farmers Market

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Free guided tours at Mesier Homestead on Oct. 12

As part of New Your State’s “Path Through History” weekend, the Wappingers Historical Society will be offering free guided tours of the Mesier Homestead with a costumed docent on Sunday, Oct. 12. Costumed tours are available at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. that day. Discover a local part of New York

State's rich history when you tour the Mesier Homestead. During this special weekend you can take a free walk back in time with a costumed guide at this 1741 home of the original settlers of the area that is now the Village of Wappingers Falls. Tours include the upstairs portion of the main house as

well as the original 1741 section. Please allow 1 - 1/2 hours for a complete tour. There is no charge for admission on this day, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

Path Through History Weekend is celebrated from Oct. 11-13, at various historical sites throughout New York

State. For more information about this state-wide program, please visit ILOVENY.com/PTH

The Mesier Homestead and Museum is located at 2 Spring Street, Wappingers Falls. For more information, please call 845-632-1281 or email at info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org.

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

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

Suguru

					3
	4				
				1	
				4	
4		3	1		

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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: PERIODIC TABLE ELEMENTS

ACROSS

1. "_____ of New York," 2002 movie
6. That guy
9. Extinguish birthday candles
13. Impolite dinner sound
14. Division of time
15. Forgo
16. On the move
17. Lake, in France
18. Alaska native
19. *The heaviest metal
21. *Inert gas of balloon fame
23. "Jersey Shore" network, acr.
24. Move like parasailor
25. Pick up, as in a criminal
28. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
30. "A ship without _____," or one without purpose
35. Paella pot
37. Nessie's turf
39. Sweating room
40. Cyberspace soliloquy
41. *Gold
43. Foul substance
44. Ruled
46. Dish out
47. Belgium's currency
48. Lands (2 words)
50. Indira Gandhi's dress
52. _____ Without Hats, band
53. Sheltered nook
55. Gross National Product
57. *Majority of elements on periodic table
60. *Iron
63. Fortune teller's card
64. Anger
66. Saharan rest stop, e.g.
68. Venerated paintings
69. Acquired
70. Beside, archaic
71. Curious
72. Professional basketball league, acr.
73. Paterfamilias, tenderly

DOWN

1. General Services Administration
2. Additionally
3. Common allergens
4. Tale-spinning brother
5. Prosecco cocktail
6. Position of leadership
7. George Gershwin's brother
8. Village People's " ____ Man"
9. Island near Java
10. Stead
11. Reproductive cell
12. Kind of nurse
15. The Beatles' "I Am the ____"
20. Throat lobe
22. "Lend me your ____"
24. Glucose+fructose
25. *Like Ar, Xe and Ne
26. Completely dedicated (2 words)
27. Hair color
29. High in decibels
31. Small European freshwater fish
32. Pasta wheat
33. Accustom
34. *Rn, known for seeping into homes
36. Forever and a day
38. Dance with leis
42. Join companies
45. Old European coins
49. D.C. mover and shaker, for short
51. Encroachment
54. Victory hand gesture
56. Life force, in Sanskrit
57. Type of shark
58. Aphrodite's son
59. Broadway recognition
60. Greek salad ingredient
61. Not mint
62. This over matter?
63. *Sn, element in bronze
65. "To ____ Peter to pay Paul"
67. Pig pen

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	
63						64	65			66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				



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

love to cook

by vicki frank day



‘There’s a little witch in all of us’

Appreciate the ‘true magic’ in daily things

“There’s a little witch in all of us.”

That’s a line from Alice Hoffman’s novel “Practical Magic” and the 1998 movie of the same name. I couldn’t agree more. From a young age, I understood that there was magic in the world, things we may not understand but are no less so: things happening after being intensely thought (or prayed) about, people being drawn to each other, the beauty of a sunset, the miracle of birth – surely these things are proof of that. But the older I get, the more I understand and appreciate the true magic in everyday things and ordinary tasks.

Maybe you’re familiar with the tradition of a kitchen witch. And no, I’m not talking about my self-proclaimed nickname, but rather the Scandinavian or Germanic tradition of placing a witch doll in the kitchen so that goodness and protection would be ever-present. While the representation of said witch was often a stereotypical one – long, crooked nose, pointy hat and broom – she was a good witch whose magic would prevent any mischief wrought by bad witches: pots wouldn’t boil over, bread would rise, milk wouldn’t curdle and cakes wouldn’t burn. She would also counteract any ill-will or bad intention to the home she graced and the people within, infusing not just the kitchen, but the entire house with warmth, welcome and happiness.

It’s a well-intended tradition that no doubt began in a more superstitious time, but there’s something about it that resonates today. I’ve come to view the kitchen as a rather sacred place where practical magic happens. It’s the heart of the home, where nourishment for body and soul is prepared, ingredients put together in ways that enhance, heal and delight. Every time we stir a pot, make a pie, add seasoning or set a table, we’re creating a little magic of our own. The love and care we put into everything we cook up in our kitchens is its own form of magic, a timeless and time-honored way to nurture and show our love. The kitchen in that way is a mystical realm where everyday tasks take on a more sacred meaning.

Have you ever gotten lost in the rhythms of kneading dough or been soothed by the repetition of whisking a sauce into smooth perfection? Have you noticed that when you pour yourself passionately into the very act of preparing a meal, as opposed to just throwing something together, that the result elicits pleasure from those you serve it to? Do you frequent farmers markets and get a little carried away selecting fresh, seasonal produce or delight in using herbs picked from your garden? Or maybe you’ve lost track of time while creating a new recipe, polishing silver or arranging a centerpiece. You might just be a kitchen witch yourself!



Fresh baked pies are placed on a table.



Vicki in a “bewitching” costume.
-Courtesy photos

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A favorite scene from “Practical Magic” (the movie) sees the sisters (two aunts and two nieces) dancing around the kitchen island where a blender whirs up a late-night concoction. If you’ve seen it, you know Midnight Margaritas are iconic. The scene starts with the aunts reciting a spell as they add ingredients to an as-yet unseen vessel before flipping the switch on the blender, which wakes and summons their sleeping nieces, after which a lovely debauchery ensues. While not in the book version, it’s an effective, albeit campy, way to show how coming together in the kitchen has its own power. (I have to confess that if I had nieces I would TOTALLY have done this myself.) That’s really the over-arching theme of both versions in a way, and speaks to my point.

My hope, and one of the main reasons I write these articles in the first place, is that anyone can find enchantment in the kitchen, the heart of the home, and discover something special and spiritual in ordinary tasks made extraordinary. The process of creating, serving and eating wonderful food is no small thing and as such, the kitchen should be regarded as a sanctuary, a place of peace where love is added to every dish just as you sprinkle in spices and herbs. I learned this from my mother and my grandmothers, whose magical gifts inspire me every time I cook.

But along with that hope comes another: that those who are fortunate enough to take in the nourishment we provide appreciate it and the effort it takes. We should all be thankful for the choices we have, the food on our tables and those who prepare it. Even for those of us who do not view cooking as a chore, it takes a lot of

thought, work, planning and time; and when we know that’s acknowledged it goes a long way and feeds us right back. If you don’t cook, that may be something you don’t think of or just take for granted, but it’s hard to deny that cooking is, indeed, a mystical art even if we don’t consciously intend it to be.

So, yes, there is magic in the world, in our daily lives, in our kitchens. The things we create and the love we put into everything we do holds power and puts it out to the wider world. Anything done with love and good intention comes back to us tenfold; and maybe through the miracle of putting ingredients together in creative ways we prove there is a little witch in all of us, that we all have the ability to do good and cast spells through our efforts and with love.

To paraphrase a character from “Practical Magic,” there’s a few things I’ve learned in life: “Always throw spilled salt over your left shoulder. Keep rosemary by your garden gate. Add pepper to your mashed potatoes. Plant roses and lavender, for luck. Fall in love whenever you can.”

Put love into everything you do, honor the harvest and live a delicious life. These are magical gifts best shared.

Happy October!

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.

Fall Festival Saturday in Fishkill

The Town of Fishkill will host the Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Geering Park, 1 Geering Way, from noon - 3 p.m. This event is open to grades K-6, and kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

There will be hayrides, a pumpkin patch, bouncy castle, face painting, demos, and more during the 3-hour event!

A donation to the Fishkill Food Pantry will be admission.

For more information and to register, go to www.FishkillRecreation.com.