



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7; GET OUT AND VOTE!



# BEACON FREE PRESS

## Kyriacou running unopposed for mayor



Lee Kyriacou

-Courtesy photo

### Compiled by Kristine Coulter

Current mayor of the City of Beacon, Lee Kyriacou is running unopposed in this November election. He will be on the Democratic line. Polls open on November 7 at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m.

The following questions were sent to Kyriacou. His responses are below.

### Lee Kyriacou

#### 1. Why have you decided to run again for mayor?

I have been honored to serve our city across four decades — as city councilman for 18 years starting back in the 90s, and now as Mayor for the last four years. Beacon has made this amazing turnaround over those decades, and much has been accomplished in my first four years as Mayor. But there is more to do. We need to finish the firehouse renovation, continue with our large investments in water, sewer, sidewalk and road infrastructure, manage our growth, and improve our quality of life — while keeping property tax increases to a minimum. I am especially proud of negotiating our new sales tax sharing agreement with the county, which provides millions in sales tax funding for important investments, and relieves pressure on property taxes. So, I humbly ask for the support of the community for another four years, and hope as Mayor I can lead Beacon to an even stronger claim of being a jewel of the Hudson Valley.

#### 2. Why should people participate in the upcoming election?

Local involvement and voting are where we can all make a difference. There are important races for city, county and judicial seats that affect the city we love in direct ways. Think global, vote local.

#### 3. What do you think it says that no one is running against you?

Well, I certainly can't speak for those who might have thought about running. What I hope being unopposed says, is that Beacon residents think the city is in good steady hands, that I truly listen to and try to represent everyone in our community, and that I've provided strong but inclusive leadership. I guess my track record in Beacon elections — 11 races, 11 wins — may also have been a little daunting; I have knocked on every single door in our city multiple times. I would of course welcome competition — that's democracy — which makes us stronger and more inclusive.

Volume 72, Number 44

November 1, 2023

## Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival to bring hundreds of performers, events November 4, 5

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival is set for November 4 and November 5 in the city of Beacon. There will be 400+ performers, 140+ concerts, shows, installations and experiences, 25+ indoor and outdoor venues, plus 7 campfires along and around Beacon's Main St. The festivities begin at noon on Saturday and go on until 10 p.m. Then on Sunday, the hours are noon until sundown.

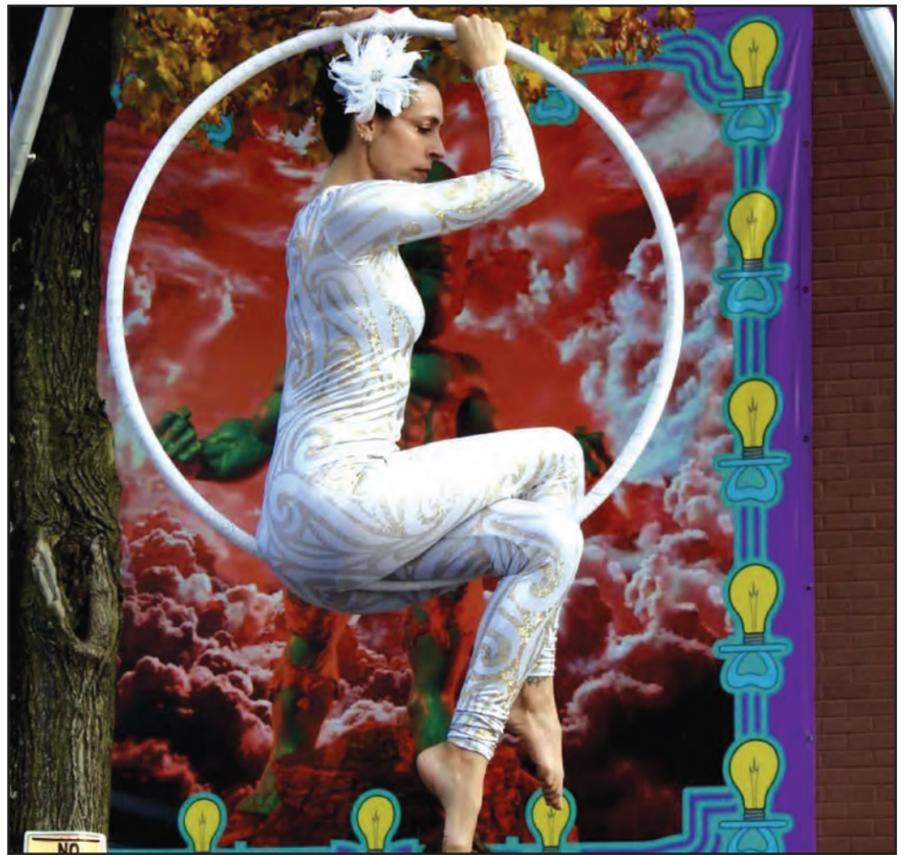
This year, on Saturday at 8 a.m., there will be the inaugural Beacon Bonfire Fireball 10K Trail Race, which will start at the foot of Mt Beacon and go up to its peak at the fire tower. Participants will take the scenic route past the reservoir and falls, said organizers. To sign up for the race, visit [www.beaconbonfire.com](http://www.beaconbonfire.com).

"The festival is about getting lost and discovering a surprising, unique and lively cultural experience. There's something for everyone, everywhere at all times with this festival. Be curious and explore. It's an opportunity to discover different genres of music, performance arts, workshops, and interactive camps," said Christian Campbell, who is an organizer of the event. "We encourage everyone to 'find your own festival.' This festival is so big there is no way you can see everything. Be adventurous."

So, how did the idea for this festival come about? Well, it was during "the COVID troubles," said Campbell.

Campbell explained via email that he, his wife America, along with Tim Parsaca and Kelly Ellenwood invited a small group of people to a secret location to sit around a campfire in the snow under a full moon.

"It was the safest way we knew at that time for getting people together. Each



The Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival is set for November 4 and November 5 in the city of Beacon. Pictured is aerialist Amanda Janec and Ron English from 2022's Beacon Bonfire.

-Photo courtesy of Beacon Bonfire

gathering after that grew until it became clear we were at a crossroads," according to Campbell.

He said, "We learned a lot last year and the artists and community now understand what we are aiming to achieve. Beacon has been incredible in helping

make this happen. We have big plans."

"Festival attendees can expect a vibrant and diverse celebration of art, music, and

Continued on page 5

## Legislature candidates respond on issues

Compiled by Curtis Schmidt

Dutchess County Legislature candidates are up for election in the 25 districts in the Nov. 7 elections.

Candidates were asked the following questions: (1) List your qualifications as they apply to this position in the legislature. (2) What do you see as the key issues in your district and the county in general?

Candidate responses are given per the areas covered by the Beacon Free Press.

(Responses from incumbents are given first. With two new candidates, alphabetical order is followed.)

### District 16 – Fishkill and City of Beacon

**Incumbent Democrat Yvette Valdés Smith**

**Background/qualifications** - My husband and I raise our two young sons in

our beautiful community and send them to our public schools. As a former public school teacher and proud union member (NYSUT), I know that hard work and everyday values are worth fighting for. As an educator, I never lose focus on finding solutions and delivering results for our community. I believe that our government should be more inclusive and diverse. And after years of volunteerism and advocacy in our local community, with the support of family and friends, I decided to run for office and was given the honor of a lifetime to serve the people of Fishkill and Beacon as their Dutchess County Legislator (District 16). I am also the Minority Leader of our Democratic Caucus, and I am proud to serve and ready to lead us all to a brighter future.

I've dedicated my life to public service – whether it be teaching students

in the classroom, mentoring fellow colleagues and educators, volunteering to help struggling families, or advocating for local Hudson Valley community initiatives.

I have seen first-hand what concerned citizens can accomplish for one another. Seeing families, friends, veterans, and neighbors struggle throughout the pandemic and record inflation has been an inspiration to help us all do better. But it also showed how much we all care and believe in this beautiful community.

**Key issues in your district/county** - I believe we must focus on affordability in our area. We are seeing far too many seniors unable to afford to stay in their homes, or our young people able to afford

Continued on page 2

# Legislature candidates respond on issues

Continued from cover

to live here where they grew up. We need to do better, and we can do better. In the Legislature, I have focused on increasing transparency and making sure that our tax dollars are not wasted on "pet projects." I have seen a lot of waste of tax dollars that have been carelessly spent when our communities are suffering and have real needs. For instance, I proposed that the County fund the FRPL high school students concurrent tuition at Dutchess Community College. I believe we need to help our young people and our working families as much as we can. We must use our tax dollars wisely in a way that will benefit our entire community and propel our County into the future.

### Republican Ron Davis

**Background/qualifications** - I'm currently a Commissioner in the Glenham Fire District and it's apparent that as our communities become denser, fewer and fewer volunteers are stepping forward. I plan to focus my energies on working with our County's Department of Emergency Response to create a plan encouraging residents of all ages to become CPR certified and become

involved with their local fire department.

**Key issues in your district/county** - Another acute issue is the ambulance deficits that exist in many of our communities. This is a complex issue resulting in a county-wide problem that needs a county-wide solution. At some point in our lives, we will all need an EMT, but what may work in Beacon may not work in our rural townships. A solution must be developed that can provide relief for our overworked EMS system.

I also want to focus on the rail trail that runs from Beacon to Hopewell on the old Maybrook Line. This should be a County park and be fully integrated into the existing rail trail network. The County has a fantastic park program, which includes Dutchess Stadium and we need a legislator who will support it and not oppose it. Having baseball, especially the New York Yankees, right here in Fishkill is an opportunity that few in the nation enjoy. This is a huge asset from full-time jobs to part-time high-schooler work, to generating positive annual revenue and affordable family fun.

**District 17 – Town of Fishkill Incumbent Republican Doug McHoul (unopposed)**

**Background/qualifications** - I'm a lifelong resident of Southern Dutchess, small business owner, and previously served Fishkill residents as a Town Board Member for six years until I was elected to the County Legislature in 2019. I began my first term as Legislator in January 2020, just two months prior to the worldwide shutdown. As a result, a vast majority of my first term, and much of the second, was devoted to our county's recovery from the pandemic. Through the use of federal funding and other resources, the Legislature distributed more than \$4 million to local youth programs. Although we faced countless limitations, the county continued to provide much-needed services to our senior citizens, Veterans, and recipients of social services. With that said, we held ourselves fiscally accountable by reducing county property taxes for the ninth consecutive year and utilizing fund balance to pay off debt, saving taxpayers \$1.6 million in interest.

**Key issues in your district/county** - As we approach 2024, there are certain items that I plan on prioritizing. The opioid crisis continues to ravage our community. The County Drug Task Force has been instrumental in bringing several

drug-dealing murderers to justice. With the Town of Fishkill's recent enrollment in the task force, our participation will help save lives, mitigate the stigma and bring awareness to this epidemic. As the liaison to the Board of Health, I will continue to bring whatever resources I can to this issue, along with other local health concerns, especially the increasing waiting times that our residents have faced at local hospitals.

Additionally, the county is currently considering the formation of a Veteran cemetery, which would offer our local heroes a free plot and headstone. I have, and will continue to lead the charge for the rights of our Veterans' spouses to be interred alongside their loved ones. I am also developing a program for young women, grades 8 through 12, to learn self-defense tactics from law enforcement to defend themselves against aggressors.

I am grateful to the Fishkill residents for their trust and support and look forward to serving them another term as County Legislator.

**District 18 – Beacon and Fishkill Incumbent Democrat Nick Page (unopposed)**

Did not respond to questionnaire.

## Fundraiser for South Ave. students November 2

South Avenue's 5th Grade Pocketbook Bingo Fundraiser will be held at St. Rocco's, 26 South Chestnut St., in Beacon on November 2. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m.

Bring food, there will be a cash bar. Raffles, 50/50 will be available. Bring nonperishable food for a food drive for local families.

Pay via Venmo @debra-ashton-23 or call or text for alternative payment or more information 845-667-2011.

## Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 in Beacon

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held on November 11 at 11 a.m. inside the Veterans Memorial Hall, 413 Main St., Beacon.

The public is cordially invited to attend and show support for all Veterans. Refreshments following the ceremony.

## Early voting continues through Nov. 5

Early voting is available to Dutchess County voters through November 5. Voters may cast their ballot at any of the locations listed. Please note that your Election Day poll site is likely closed for early voting. Hours vary by day, so please see below for details. Information courtesy of the Dutchess County Board of Elections

### Locations:

- Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie;
- Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie;
- Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market Street, Rhinebeck;
- Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls;
- Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill;
- Cornell Cooperative Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook;
- Board of Elections Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park.

### Hours:

- Wednesday, November 1: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday, November 2: Noon – 8 p.m.
- Friday, November 3: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday, November 4: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, November 5: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Visit <https://elections.dutchessny.gov/> or call 845-486-2473 for more information.



**HUDSON VALLEY GO RED FOR WOMEN CELEBRATION**

Thursday  
**NOV 16**

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm: Festival of Red includes culinary delights and silent auction  
12:30 - 2:00 pm: Program

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**Monique Corcoran**  
Nuvance Health



Keynote Speaker:  
**Karen L. Turvey, NP**  
Nuvance Health



Survivor Speaker:  
**Penny Schouten**

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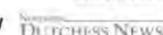
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# Races in local municipalities

The following are races in local municipalities.

**EAST FISHKILL**

**State Supreme Court Justice (vote for 4)**  
 Francesca E. Connolly, Democratic, Conservative  
 Charley Wood, Democratic, Conservative  
 Rolf. M. Thorsen, Democratic, Conservative  
 Larry J. Schwartz, Democratic, Conservative  
 John A. Sarcone, III, Republican  
 Karen A. Ostberg, Republican  
 Susan M. Sullivan-Bisceglia, Republican  
 John Ciampoli, Republican

**County Clerk**

Kenya Gadsden, Democratic, Working Families  
 Bradford Kendall, Republican, Conservative

**District Attorney**

Anthony Parisi, Democratic, Working Families  
 Matthew A. Weishaupt, Republican, Conservative

**Family Court Judge**

James Rogers, Democratic, Working Families  
 Joseph A. Egitto, Republican, Conservative

**County Executive**

Tommy Zurhellen, Democratic, Working Families  
 Susan J. Serino, Republican, Conservative

**Town Clerk**

Peter Cassidy, Republican, Conservative

**Receiver of Taxes**

Ann Goldsmith, Republican, Unified East Fishkill

**Members of Town Board:**

Cynthia McCallion-Mas, Democratic  
 Craig Arco, Republican, Conservative  
 Marianne B. Flores, Republican, Conservative

**FISHKILL**

**State Supreme Court Justice (vote for 4)**  
 Francesca E. Connolly, Democratic, Conservative  
 Charley Wood, Democratic, Conservative  
 Rolf. M. Thorsen, Democratic, Conservative  
 Larry J. Schwartz, Democratic, Conservative  
 John A. Sarcone, III, Republican  
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 Matthew A. Weishaupt, Republican, Conservative

**Family Court Judge**

James Rogers, Democratic, Working Families  
 Joseph A. Egitto, Republican, Conservative

**County Executive**

Tommy Zurhellen, Democratic, Working Families  
 Susan J. Serino, Republican, Conservative

**Town Justice**

Jacqueline Bardini, Democratic, United Fishkill  
 William Laham, Democratic, United Fishkill  
 Raymond P. Raiche, Republican, Conservative, Working Families  
 Theoni S. Salotto, Republican, Conservative, Working Families

**Superintendent of Highways**

Carmine Istvan, Republican, Conservative

**Supervisor**

Ozzy Albra, Democratic, United Fishkill

John Forman, Republican, Conservative

**Member of Town Board**

Don Przytula, Democratic, United Fishkill  
 Gregory Totino, Democratic, United Fishkill  
 Brian C. Wrye (Incumbent), Republican, Conservative  
 Douglas M. DelliPaoli, Republican, Conservative

**WAPPINGER**

**State Supreme Court Justice (vote for 4)**  
 Francesca E. Connolly, Democratic, Conservative

Charley Wood, Democratic, Conservative  
 Rolf. M. Thorsen, Democratic, Conservative

Larry J. Schwartz, Democratic, Conservative

John A. Sarcone, III, Republican  
 Karen A. Ostberg, Republican  
 Susan M. Sullivan-Bisceglia, Republican  
 John Ciampoli, Republican

**County Clerk**

Kenya Gadsden, Democratic, Working Families  
 Bradford Kendall, Republican, Conservative

**District Attorney**

Anthony Parisi, Democratic, Working Families  
 Matthew A. Weishaupt, Republican, Conservative

**Family Court Judge**

James Rogers, Democratic, Working Families  
 Joseph A. Egitto, Republican, Conservative

**County Executive**

Tommy Zurhellen, Democratic, Working Families  
 Susan J. Serino, Republican, Conservative

**Town Clerk**

Joseph Paoloni (Incumbent), Democratic

**Town Justice**

Nicholas Maselli, Jr., Republican, Conservative

**Town Supervisor**

Robin Licari, Democratic, Working Families

Joseph D. Cavaccini, Republican  
 Michael Sheehan, Democratic, Republican

**Councilmember**

**Ward 1**

Dino Alexander, Democratic, Working Families  
 William H. Beale (Incumbent), Republican, Conservative

**Ward 2**

Heather O'Dell, Democratic, Working Families  
 Angela Bettina (Incumbent), Republican, Conservative

**Ward 3**

Christopher Phillips (Incumbent), Republican

**Ward 4**

Linda Kleinhenz, Democratic  
 Alfred J. Casella (Incumbent), Republican, Common Ground

**CITY OF BEACON**

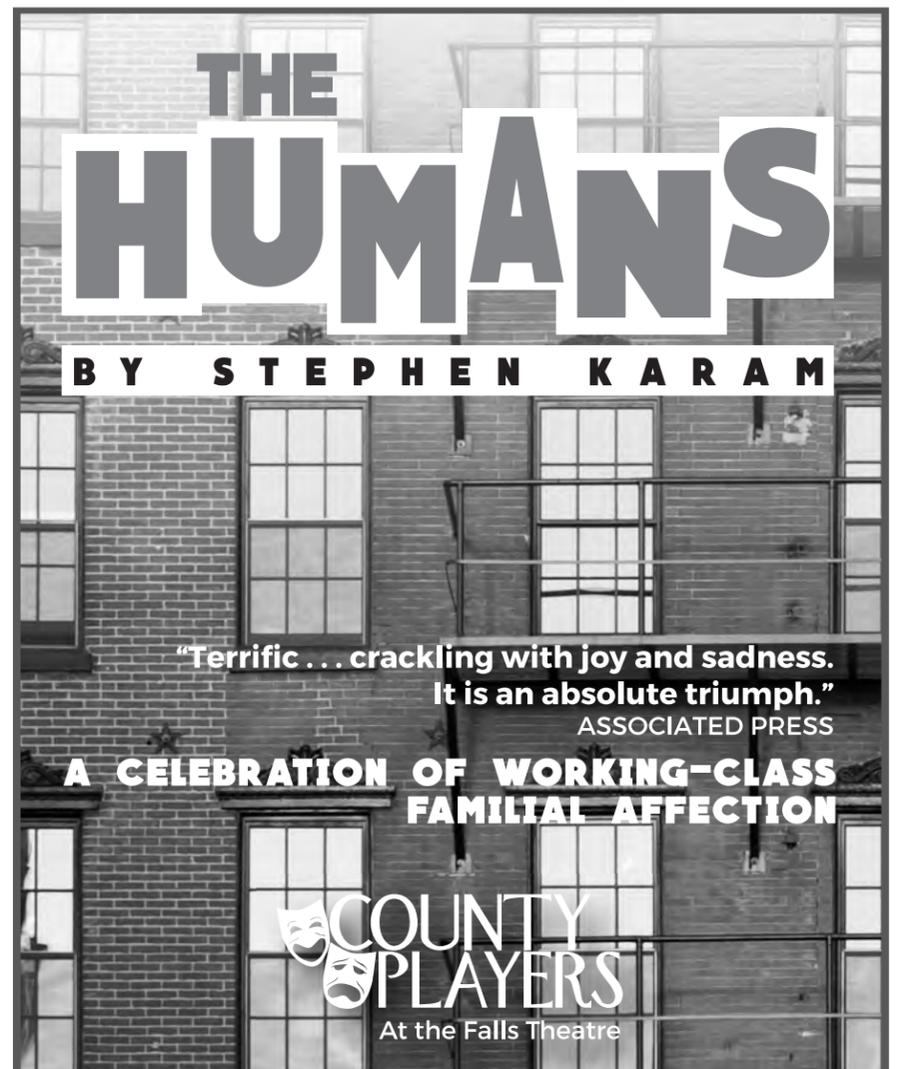
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John A. Sarcone, III, Republican  
 Karen A. Ostberg, Republican  
 Susan M. Sullivan-Bisceglia, Republican



John Ciampoli, Republican  
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 Matthew A. Weishaupt, Republican, Conservative  
**Family Court Judge**  
 James Rogers, Democratic, Working Families  
 Joseph A. Egitto, Republican, Conservative  
**County Executive**  
 Tommy Zurhellen, Democratic, Working Families

Susan J. Serino, Republican, Conservative  
**Mayor**  
 Lee Kyriacou, Democratic  
**Councilmember At Large**  
 Pamela Wetherbee, Democratic  
 Paloma Wake, Democratic, Working Families  
**Councilmember**  
**Ward 1**  
 Molly Rhodes (Incumbent), Democratic  
**Ward 2**  
 Jeffrey Domanski, Democratic  
**Ward 3**  
 Wren Longno (Incumbent), Democratic  
**Ward 4**  
 Dan Aymar-Blair (Incumbent), Democratic, Working Families



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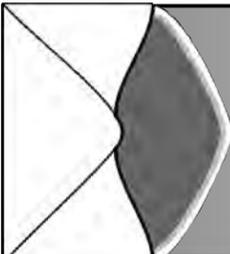
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# Viewpoints



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- 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 Southern Dutchess News 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 Southern Dutchess News.

## Parisi will make an 'outstanding' D.A.

### To the Editor:

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for Anthony Parisi, who will be an outstanding District Attorney! He is deserving of the support of ALL voters, regardless of party.

Anthony knows Dutchess County and what our community needs as he's lived here for his entire life, growing up in Millbrook and currently serving as the District Attorney's Major Crimes Bureau Chief and as a Senior Assistant District Attorney before that. Collectively, Anthony has served in the District Attorney's office for twenty-five years and, as an experienced prosecutor, he is committed to pursuing justice for victims, keeping our communities safe and working for a fairer criminal justice system. I know this about Anthony as I worked under his supervision in the District Attorney's Office.

I was an Assistant District Attorney for four years and during my time there, Anthony provided me with vital training and support. I was also able to witness firsthand his leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. I know he will serve the people of Dutchess County with great distinction and integrity. Our community would be lucky to have someone with Anthony's prosecutorial experience AND motivation to improve our justice system serving as our county's top law enforcement official.

Voting is a privilege we enjoy in our democratic society. I urge all registered voters of Dutchess County to vote and elect Anthony Parisi as our new District Attorney.

Erin J. Ginty, Esq.  
Rhinebeck

## Serino's passion is to help her community

### To the Editor:

While in college, I had the unique opportunity to intern for then (NYS) Senator Sue Serino, and it was an experience that had an incredible impact on me professionally and personally.

It was evident that Sue Serino's passion for public service came from her desire to help her community. Whether that was helping a resident with their inaccurate Central Hudson bill, fighting for better resources for veterans, or checking in daily with seniors, Sue made sure that her office was there for whatever our community needed.

As Dutchess County Executive, I know that Sue will bring that same passion that I witnessed in her Senate Office because she truly does care. She listens to the needs of our community and is willing to do whatever she can to deliver results that make a positive change and impact.

More importantly, as a young person looking to plant my own roots in Dutchess County, I trust Sue Serino to make decisions that will make it affordable for me to do so. I trust her to bring new opportunities here that will allow all of us to succeed. And I trust her to always think of our community's best interests when taking any kind of action.

I hope you will join me in supporting Sue Serino this Election Day, because she truly does listen, care, and lead.

Stella Capparelli  
Wappingers Falls

## Parisi 'deserves support' to become D.A.

### To the Editor:

Dutchess County will elect a new District Attorney in November. Anthony Parisi is the clear choice to assume this vital position as our County's chief law enforcement officer.

Justice Robert Jackson spoke about the qualifications of District Attorney when he said, "The qualities of a good prosecutor are as elusive and as impossible to define as those which mark a gentleman. And those who need to be told would not understand it anyway. A sensitiveness to fair play and sportsmanship is perhaps the best protection against the abuse of power, and the citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility."

As an experienced prosecutor and committed public servant for a quarter of a century, Anthony Parisi has demonstrated his commitment to the above ideals. He is very deserving of the support of all Dutchess County voters.

I unequivocally endorse Anthony Parisi for Dutchess County District Attorney.

The Honorable Katherine A. Moloney (Retired)  
City of Poughkeepsie Courts

## Parisi 'best choice' for D.A.

### To the Editor:

On November 7th, Dutchess County voters will elect a new District Attorney due to an upcoming retirement. The position of District Attorney is of great importance as the chief law enforcement officer in our County prosecuting all crimes including the most serious felonies. It is critical that the District Attorney be experienced, non-partisan and ethical. Thankfully, Anthony Parisi seeks this very important position!

Anthony's experience as a Major Crimes Bureau Chief with over 25 years as a prosecutor makes him the best choice for District Attorney. He has dedicated his career to fighting gun violence and preventing crime before it happens through intelligence-led policing and prosecution.

Regardless of your political affiliation, it's easy to see that Anthony Parisi is the best choice for District Attorney.

Patricia Mensler  
Poughkeepsie

## BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Keep Kendall as Dutchess County Clerk

### To the Editor:

Everyone knows Brad Kendall.

Mr. Kendall's experience and leadership go unmatched. His government record is impeccable.

Mr. Kendall's leadership was tested to the extreme during COVID-19, and he delivered with flying colors for the residents of Dutchess County.

Re-elect Brad Kendall for Dutchess County Clerk. There is no need to fix what is not broken. Mr. Kendall has earned and deserves another term.

Robert MacAvery  
Fishkill

# Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival to bring hundreds of performers, events November 4, 5



*Bees in the Barn from last year's Bonfire.*  
-Courtesy photo by @austiniyourface\_Austin Ruffer



*Brittain Ashford during the 2022 Beacon Bonfire.*  
-Courtesy photo by @austiniyourface\_Austin Ruffer



*Beacon Bonfire 2022.*  
-Courtesy photo by @zapalandrox\_Raymond A Wehrli

Continued from cover

community. Over 400 artists[will be] participating in 150 concerts, shows, exhibitions, installations, short and feature films and activities across 25 venues on and around Main Street, the event offers a rich tapestry of experiences," according to Campbell.

Organizers noted this is a walking, biking, public transportation festival. The Beacon Free Loop bus will be running that weekend. One may park at The Metro-North train station in Beacon or at the Municipal Building lot, 1 Municipal Plaza, where City Hall is located.

"The festival offers a diverse array of entertainment, spanning world music, jazz, dance, performance art, mentalism, theater, comedy, drum and percussion, spoken word, folk, rock, indie, electronica, fire dancing, aerialists, ambient, African, traditional Mexican, Americana, funk, Cajun, soul, and blues. This year we'll also be featuring local filmmakers with a shorts and feature length film program at the Masonic Hall," Campbell stated.

"When we started the Beacon Bonfire during COVID it was to bring our community together safely during at a time when the world was feeling disconnected. We want to provide the perfect weekend to embrace a more authentic in-person experience with friends and strangers

alike. With its focus on cozy campfires, artistic expression, and community interaction, the festival offers a chance to disconnect from screens and reconnect with the joy of live music, creativity, and shared moments. And s'mores," he said.

All Access Festival Passes are \$59 for a 2-Day Pass, \$39 for a 1-Day Pass.

Festival Passes grant access to all Bonfire venues and events around Beacon (10K race is an additional cost). There are also color-coded wristbands that may be purchased for single events on Saturday and Sunday.

One may purchase a Festival Pass at BeaconBonfire.com. This is a rain or shine festival with a rain plan in place.

A \$99 Premium Patron Pass is also being offered, which grants access to the Artist & Patron Lounge at the Dutchess Inn & Spa as well as a festival goody bag.

Only want to attend a single venue? You can purchase a wristband at the door of that venue.

Children 12 and under get into venue events for free. Many events are family-friendly (including pets); however, not all venues allow pets and not all events may be appropriate for children, and alcohol may be present at some venues or locations, according to organizers, according to organizers.

"Whether you're a local or a visitor, you can look forward to an unforgettable, music-filled weekend," said Campbell.



*Firedance from Beacon Bonfire in 2022.*  
-Courtesy photo by @austiniyourface\_Austin Ruffer

## 'An Autumn Evening of Wines and Cheese' set November 8

The Tioronda Garden Club is hosting "An Autumn Evening of Wine and Cheese Cocktail Party" on November 8 at 6 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon. The club will be honoring past president Norman McLeod, who has served as the Civic Beautification Chairman for more than 30 years.

Through his efforts and supervision, there are the iconic hanging flower baskets, Christmas wreaths and the many public gardens the club maintains.

Tickets are \$20 and may be obtained from any garden club member or by contacting Vice President Gary Barrack at gbarrack1@gmail.com.



# Celebrate heart health for women during luncheon Nov. 16 in Hyde Park



A group of attendees and participants during a previous event. This year's event is set for November 16 at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.



Penny Schouten



Monique Corcoran

-Courtesy photos

### By Kristine Coulter

The Go Red for Women Luncheon is set for November 16, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at The Culinary Institute of America, 1946 Campus Drive, in Hyde Park. For tickets, and more information, go to HudsonValleyGoRed.heart.org.

“The American Heart Association is working to create a Nation of Lifesavers – people who are trained in Hands-Only CPR. Only 70 percent of Americans feel comfortable performing CPR if they see someone suffer sudden cardiac arrest. We all saw that the quick reaction saved Damar Hamlin’s life when he suffered sudden cardiac arrest during the January Buffalo Bills football game. We want everyone to be comfortable starting CPR if necessary, because that doubles or triples the chances of survival,” said Monique Corcoran, Director of

Operations, Nuvance Health, and chair of the 2023 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Celebration.

The Go Red for Women luncheon are held annually to bring attention to ending heart disease and stroke in women, according to the AHA.

“The Go Red for Women Celebration is an uplifting, heartwarming event that brings women together to change the statistic that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women in America,” said Corcoran.

The Festival of Red, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is when guests may bid on silent auction items, including the popular “Purse-Onalities,” and learn Hands-Only CPR thanks to Laerdal.

“Nuvance Health will be doing blood pressure checks. High blood pressure is known as the silent killer, so knowing if you have a healthy blood pressure can

save your life. We’ll have a Go Red selfie station, and a Tribute Wall where people can honor those they’ve lost to heart disease, or those fighting heart disease. We’ll also have a Survivor Gallery that showcases the people who live with heart disease. And of course, people can enjoy culinary delights from the CIA,” Corcoran remarked.

The program begins at 12:30 p.m.

“We’ll celebrate the Women of Impact, three women who participated in a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign last winter. Karen Turvey, NP, of Nuvance Health, will be our keynote speaker, who will talk about ways women can improve their health. Penny Schouten of Wappingers Falls will share her story of surviving a heart attack. Schouten had symptoms for a week, which were first misdiagnosed as anxiety. We will also acknowledge two Youth Heart Ambassadors from local

schools. Attendees will go away with a deeper understanding of heart disease in women, and how they can live heart-healthy lives,” said Corcoran.

Penny Schouten, a resident of Wappingers Falls, will be the survivor speaker.

“She is a very healthy woman who lived an active lifestyle and ate well. While visiting a friend’s mother in the hospital, a nurse heard her talk about chest pains, and insisted she go to the emergency department. Penny was stunned to learn she’d had a heart attack,” stated Corcoran.

This will be the second year that Corcoran is the chair for the Go Red for Women Celebration.

People should register by November 9 at HudsonValleyGoRed.heart.org or by emailing Janet.Eliopoulos@heart.org.

## State legislators, domestic violence groups call to close loophole by passing Melanie’s Law

Led by Assemblymembers Brian A. Cunningham (D-Brooklyn) and Anil Beephan, Jr. (R,C-East Fishkill) in the Assembly and New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D- 41st Senate District), a bipartisan group of elected officials, joined service providers for survivors of domestic violence to support the passage of Melanie’s Law (S.6288/A.6026). This bill would close a loophole related to orders of protection, allowing courts to extend such orders to all of the named victim’s family and

household members.

The legislation is named after Melanie Chianese, a 29-year-old mother and health coach from Dutchess County, who was brutally murdered in 2022 by her mother’s ex-boyfriend following a pattern of stalking and harassment. While a judge granted an order of protection to Melanie’s mother Cheryl and Melanie’s son, Melanie’s request was denied because she was not a minor.

The press conference on October 26, addressed wider issues of domestic vio-

lence in New York during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with host organization Neighbors In Action providing resources for survivors, families, and community members.

Melanie’s Law is the result of a bipartisan partnership between Beephan, who was Melanie’s representative in the New York State Assembly, and Cunningham, who introduced the bill as a member of the Assembly majority conference. The bill’s supporters emphasize the importance of collaboration across party lines to implement life-saving policy changes.

Beephan (R-East Fishkill) stated, “My heart goes out to those impacted by domestic violence. Raising awareness about domestic violence has been at the forefront of my focus during my first year in the New York State Assembly. Through working with Assemblyman Cunningham on Melanie’s Law, I remain committed to addressing existing loopholes that only exacerbate the danger faced by those impacted by domestic violence. I call on the New York State Assembly to pass Melanie’s law when we return to Albany and thank the Senate for their unanimous support of the bill.”

Senator Michelle Hinchey said, “Melanie’s Law, championed by her courageous mother Cheryl and developed in her memory, will provide a critically needed expansion to orders of protection to shield more family and household members from dangerous individuals. This common-sense legislation will close a glaring loophole in law, and I am com-

mitted to working with my colleagues to get it passed this session so we can better protect victims of domestic violence and abuse.”

State Senator Rob Rolison (R-Poughkeepsie) said, “After the legislation cleared the Senate earlier this year, I said I would continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this critical measure to Governor Hochul’s desk. Together, we can enhance the safety and well-being of our residents by permanently fixing a dangerous legal loophole.”

“Domestic Violence offenders want their victims to endure a lifetime of pain and suffering. Melanie Chianese lost her life at the hands of my offender because of WHO she was, my daughter. Melanie’s Law NEEDS to be passed so that everyone in the household is protected regardless of age. This will close a dangerous loophole so this horrific tragedy, which shook our community, NEVER happens again,” said Cheryl Chianese-Cavalli in a release.

“Melanie Chianese’s murder was a tragedy that not only devastated her family; it exposed the deficiency in our courts’ ability to impose restraining orders in domestic violence cases. Melanie’s Law will allow orders of protection to extend to all members of a victim’s household — whether or not they are related, and regardless of age. It is a necessary correction to our criminal and family court laws, and will protect innocent New Yorkers,” said Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky (D-Tarrytown).

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# Beacon resident celebrates 102nd birthday



George McKie was celebrated at BJ's Restaurant on Main Street in Beacon. Mr. McKie turned 102 years old on October 26. Mr. McKie was born in Georgia in 1921. -Courtesy photos

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



## Pop's golf lesson

Golf is supposed to be relaxing...

About 25 years ago my father retired for the third time. This time he was determined to make it "work." He bought a condominium in Florida with my mother and spent that first winter there.

Unfortunately, Pop was bored out his mind and Mom missed her children and grandchildren. Pop was determined to spend that winter there but needed to find something to do. I had sent down my golf clubs in order to have them there when we visited, and I urged Pop to go to the driving range. Maybe take a lesson.

"No, Ima a wine maker," he said. "Whata the hell am I gonna do with those bastoncino (sticks)?" I assured him that he would love it, but he just continued to tell me that it was unproductive and stupid.

I left him alone for a few day then called him again. I asked him what he was doing.

**Pop:** Listena. Ima gonna tell you something but you no laugh ata me.

**Me:** Okay?

**Pop:** I lika to giocare (play) the golf. Ia tried and Ia lika it.

**Me:** Great Pop! Maybe you can take a lesson so they can teach you how to play.

**Pop:** Lezione (lesson)? Im gonna try. Ia letta you know.

So I left him alone for a few days and

decided to wait for him to call me. When a week went by and I didn't hear from him, I called him.

**Me:** Hi Pop! I'm just checking in on you.

**Pop:** Luigi. Did anyone call you?

**Me:** No. What's the matter?

**Pop:** The golf maestro (teacher). He noa calla you?

**Me:** No, why?

**Pop:** Well, Ia went to the driving range and I boughta the lezione.

**Me:** Yeah?

**Pop:** I gave him the business card so he would knowa Ima in the restaurant.

**Me:** OK?

**Pop:** Well hea tried to teach me how to swing the bastoncino.

**Me:** What happened?

**Pop:** Wella he getsa behind me and he tries to benda me down and he movsa the arms and I yella at him.

**Me:** Why did you yell at him!?

**Pop:** I tolda him just showa me howa to swing the bastoncinos. I noa want all that other stuff.

**Me:** Pop, that's how you have to swing, he was showing you how to stand.

**Pop:** Ima no a stupida. I cana standa.

**Me:** (sigh) Then what happened?

**Pop:** He told me howa to puta my head down and looka ata the ball.

**Me:** Oh no. What did you say?

**Pop:** Ia tolda hima to teach me something I don'ta know!

**Me:** Then what happened?

**Pop:** Itsa no my fault.

**Me:** What happened?

**Pop:** Hea startsa to cry and he says he no want to teacha no more. He gave me my money and hea left.

**Me:** Geez Pop. Golf is supposed to be relaxing. It's not the restaurant. You can't yell at people.

**Pop:** Oh come on. I no yell.

**Me:** Pop, you have to go say you're sorry. Maybe bring him something.

**Pop:** (sigh) Okay, Ima gonna go and bringa him some caponata and soma mya wine.

**Me:** Good.

After I got off the phone with him, I was actually scared about what I would hear from the state of Florida regarding my father. In the meantime, enjoy this recipe for caponata.

### Caponata Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1.5-pound eggplant, peeled, cut into

- 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 medium onion, cubed
- 4 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 32 oz. Jar Coppola's Tuscan Sauce
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons drained capers
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh basil
- Toasted pine nuts

### Method

Heat olive oil in a large pot. Add eggplant, onions and garlic and sauté until the eggplant is soft, about 10 minutes) Add Coppola's Tuscan sauce, vinegar and capers and simmer for 15 minutes longer stirring occasionally until the eggplant is soft. Stir in the basil and pine nuts. Serve over pasta, with Italian bread or with both.

*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](http://www.coppolas.net).*

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# Arts Mid-Hudson announces Empowered Artist awardees

Arts Mid-Hudson recently announced the recipients of the 2023 Empowered Artist Award, a prestigious recognition bestowed upon exceptional artists in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. This annual award, created in honor of Linda Marston-Reid, the former executive director of Arts Mid-Hudson, provides unrestricted funds to support artists in pursuing their creative journeys.

The Empowered Artist Award addresses the critical need for artists to access unrestricted funds that enable them to continue their artistic practice, elevate their careers, and enhance their visibility within their communities. These funds empower artists to create new works, acquire essential equipment, access educational opportunities, and meet their financial obligations.

In Dutchess County, the award went to Gwen Laster, an improviser and visionary artist.

“As improvisers, we respond musically to who we are, where we come from, and where we are going for the adventure of landing somewhere unknown,” Laster said. “Feeling comfortable and trusting enough to listen and respond freely will, for sure, take the musical conversation



Gwen Laster

-Courtesy photo

somewhere new.”

She added, “I find healing in vulnerability and curiosity as the driving force for my artistic expression.”

Jill Enfield was the recipient for Orange County, and Jean-Marc Superville Sovak for Ulster County.

# Beacon Elks conduct coat drive for veterans



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 conducted a coat drive to benefit the Castle Point VA Clothing Pantry. The lodge collected 106 new or gently-used coats for veterans and families who receive clothes from the clothes pantry.

-Courtesy photo

# ‘A Tree Grows in Beacon’ set for November 5

Community members are invited to the inaugural human Christmas tree – “A Tree Grows in Beacon” – at Memorial Park, at the pavilion across from Ron’s Ice Cream, on the first Sunday, November 5th at 4

p.m. The rain date will be the second Sunday, November 12th at 4 p.m.

Here is the idea - wear a dark coat or an “ugly” holiday sweater (which is optional) and bring a lantern or flashlight.

Businesses are welcome to participate. All ages are welcome.

The Pop Warner Field House will be open with refreshments available. This will be a fundraiser for them.

Contact Dennis Pavelock, event coordinator, at 845-416-5330 for more information.

## Lift Up Your Voice: The Importance of Making Your Health Care Choices Known

Join us for a Lunch and Learn or Dinner in Dutchess County on November 8th or Ulster County on November 9th for a complementary meal, screening of the award winning film, *Honoring Choices*, and a conversation with Pastor Corey Kennard about the importance of making your health care choices known.

The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State and Hudson Valley Hospice believe end-of-life care decisions should be available to all regardless of ethnicity, race, or religion.

## Enjoy a meal on us at each event!

**Think** about who you would want speaking for you if you could no longer do so for yourself.

**Talk** about your wishes to this chosen ally.

**Write** down whom you’ve selected and complete the documents.

**Share** these important documents with loved ones and medical providers.

### Register Today!

Follow the QR code or email or call Ronjay Johnson at [johnsonr@hvhospice.org](mailto:johnsonr@hvhospice.org) or (845) 240-7605



Guest Speaker  
Pastor Corey Kennard,  
MACM, CPXP

Pastor Corey Kennard, is a National Leader in Advance Care Planning Education & Outreach and serves as an activist in the field of healthcare. He is the Pastor of Amplify Christian Church and Director of Patient Experience at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

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# DCHS annual Autumn Auction scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5

By Antonia Mauro

This year the Dutchess County Historical Society Autumn Auction catalog offers unique opportunities to discover private historic properties that include tours with receptions.

Walking tours in historic districts in Poughkeepsie, and of the Vassar College Campus, bring you back in time while viewing remarkable period architecture.

Ready for a trip rich in history, fine art, antiques and verdant landscapes? We suggest you begin bidding on memberships to Lyndhurst Mansion, Kykuit, The Newport Preservation Society, Olana, The Thomas Cole National Historic Site and many more.

From overnight stays at premium locations in Dutchess County to Estes Park Colorado, the DCHS catalog also offers winery tastings and health and fitness memberships.

Reidinger and Caire have produced pottery in Poughkeepsie in the 19th century. One of their handsome 19th century open crocks, donated by Judge Jim Brands, can be yours when you begin bidding now.

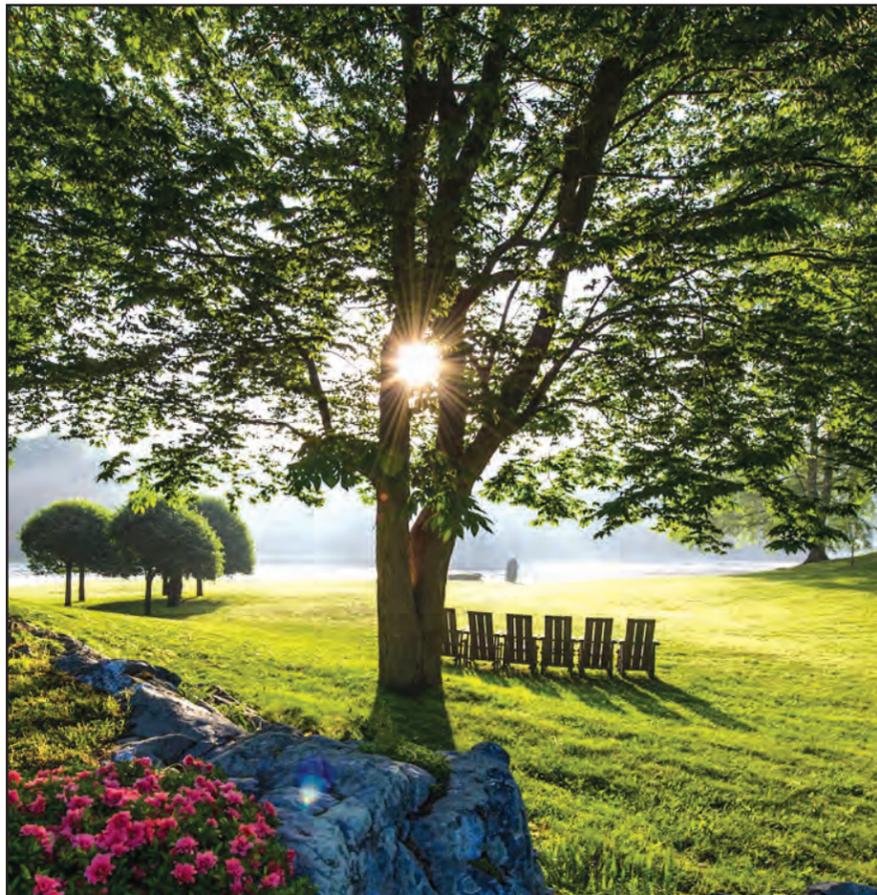
Antique lover? Add to your collection with the original 1886 Martha Washington \$1 Silver Certificate Note or, the early 19th century American Primitive "Walking" Spinning Wheel.

With the holidays around the corner, the Autumn Auction catalog offers a variety of gift cards to restaurants and businesses. Start your shopping with DCHS and finish with pizza! Bid on any one of our pizza packages from numerous Dutchess County cities and towns.

The Dutchess County Historical Society recently relocated to Rhinebeck and continues to be committed to being the most meaningful source of Dutchess County history. They do this through the responsible archival stewardship of tangible objects, modern interpretation and creative presentations of its history to the public. This includes the Oral History Project and local history workshops with area schools and educators. Through its' range of publications, virtual programs, the Yearbook and Annual Meeting, the Dutchess County Historical Society continues its mission to preserve our local history.

The DCHS 2023 Autumn Auction is the organization's single, major fundraising event of the year. DCHS does not receive any regular Federal, State or County funding. They rely solely on donations, membership dues and private sponsorships from people like you. Please support the 100-plus year old mission of DCHS to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history of Dutchess County from the period of the arrival of the first indigenous peoples until the present day.

If you are not able to attend this year's Autumn Auction, please consider becoming a member or making a donation to DCHS here: <https://dchsnny.org/short/>. View the DCHS Autumn Auction catalog on the Absolute Auctions website at: <https://aarauctions.com/servlet/Search.do?auctionId=6523&page=1&perPage=20&orderBy=>



Walking Tour of Innisfree Gardens in Millbrook is one of the items in the DCHS auction. This exclusive 90-minute walking tour will be led by Innisfree Gardens curator Kate Kerin. The winning bidder will receive a gift basket of wine and cheese for the group to enjoy.

-Courtesy photo

## Howland Chamber Music Circle to present 'Jewish Voices' Nov. 12

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) presents violinist Arnaud Sussmann and pianist Michael Stephen Brown, with their program "Jewish Voices." The five works in this repertoire were composed by Jews who either perished in or fled from the Holocaust. The concert will be held on November 12, 4 p.m. at The Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main Street, Beacon. This program pays homage to and was inspired by Sussmann's grandfather who survived the Holocaust.

Sussmann has been a soloist with orchestras and chamber music groups around the world. Born in Strasbourg, France, he trained at the Conservatoire de Paris and The Juilliard School in New York City, where he did a two-year post-graduate stint as a teaching assistant with Itzhak Perlman. Sussmann now teaches at Stony Brook University on Long Island and was recently named Co-Artistic Director of Music@Menlo's International Music Program.

Michael Stephen Brown returns for his third appearance with HCMC. Brown is a

distinguished performer and composer, who has the pleasure of including at this HCMC concert a work by one of his composition professors, Samuel Adler. Adler taught at The Juilliard School, having fled Nazi Germany as a child to settle in the US. Brown has performed in internationally renowned venues, both in solo recitals and as a soloist accompanying notable orchestras. Among other awards and recognition, Brown has won the Concert Artists Guild Competition (2010) and a Bowers Residency (2015-2018) from the Chamber Society of Lincoln Center.

New in the 2023-2024 season, HCMC has introduced a pricing structure to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to the concerts. They are making tickets available in this way to welcome a broader audience.

For more information on this performance, and on the entire 2023-2024 HCMC season, please visit [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org).



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# Bloom promoted at Rhinebeck Bank

Jamie Bloom has been promoted to executive vice president, chief banking officer and chief operating officer at Rhinebeck Bank.

During her financial services career of more than 30 years, Bloom has held numerous management roles, showcasing her dedication and expertise. Most recently, she served as the bank's chief operating officer, overseeing Rhinebeck's IT, deposit operations, loan operations, human resources, residential lending and retail banking departments. In her new role, Bloom will assume responsibility for all sales functions, including retail banking, lending departments and Rhinebeck Asset Management, while retaining oversight of the bank's operations functions.

"I am excited to take on this new role at Rhinebeck Bank. I am committed to driving growth and success for the bank while ensuring exceptional service for our clients. Together with our dedicated team, we will navigate the evolving banking landscape and deliver innovative solutions to meet the needs of our customers," said Bloom.

"Jamie has been a key member of our executive management team for more than a decade," said Rhinebeck Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Michael J. Quinn. "Her exemplary leadership, strategic acumen, and natural talent for coaching and mentoring our employ-



Jamie Bloom

-Courtesy photo

ees are invaluable assets that will greatly benefit the Bank. We are committed to maintaining the high standard of attention and superior service that has defined us over the years."

Bloom is a graduate of the American Bankers Association's National School of Banking at Fairfield University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Marist College.

# Howland Public Library launches 'Stitchin' for the Kitchen'

"Stitchin' for the Kitchen," a heartwarming community-driven initiative to collect hand-knit hats and scarves for those in need returns to the Howland Public Library in Beacon. This collection drive is part of the Great Give Back, a community service initiative that encourages local libraries to give back to their communities.

The service runs through November 17, the Howland Public Library invites Beacon and the surrounding communities to participate in "Stitchin' for the Kitchen" by donating handmade hats and scarves. Donations can be made at the library at 313 Main Street in Beacon.

The primary beneficiaries of this drive are Fareground, Beacon Community Kitchen, and St. Andrew's Food Pantry. All collected hats and scarves will be distributed to individuals and families in need throughout the Beacon area, ensuring that they stay warm and cozy during the colder months ahead. "Stitchin' for the Kitchen" is a wonderful opportunity for community members of all ages to come together and make a meaningful impact. Whether one is an experienced knitter or just starting to learn, your handmade creations will help them make this winter a bit warmer for our neighbors.

Here's how one can get involved:

- Knit or crochet: Create warm and stylish hats and scarves at home. Feel free to use favorite patterns and colors.
- Drop off the donations: Bring a hand-knit hats and scarves to the Howland Public Library between October



Howland Public Library is holding "Stitchin' for the Kitchen."

-Courtesy photo

1 and November 17. Donation boxes will be located at the community engagement desk.

Spread the word: Share one's participation in "Stitchin' for the Kitchen" on social media using the hashtag #StitchinForTheKitchen and encourage friends and family to join in.

- Support local businesses: Consider purchasing the knitting supplies from craft stores to further support the community.

For more information about "Stitchin' for the Kitchen" and the Great Give Back, please visit [beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org) or contact Michelle Rivas at 845-831-1134 ext. 101 or [community@beaconlibrary.org](mailto:community@beaconlibrary.org).

# Apply for Home Energy Assistance Program starting November 1

Qualified customers can apply for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants, a federally funded program that provides regular and emergency assistance to help pay heating and utility bills beginning November 1. HEAP grants are available through local Department of Social Services (DSS) offices, at Offices for the Aging and online at [mybenefits.ny.gov](http://mybenefits.ny.gov).

"Inflationary pressures continue to have an impact on residents of the Hudson Valley – especially our most vulnerable neighbors – and we are pleased that additional assistance is available for those families in need," said Anthony Campagiorni, Senior Vice President of Customer Services and Gas Operations. "We encourage all customers who are eligible for these benefits to apply."

The amount of the HEAP grant depends on family income and size guidelines. For example, a family of four with natural gas heating and an annual income of \$70,056 would qualify for a \$400 grant. Central Hudson customers who receive HEAP grants or qualify for other assistance programs will also receive additional bill credits for up to 12 months on their Central Hudson bill.

Campagiorni added, "Households receiving a HEAP benefit for non-utility

heating fuels such as oil, propane, wood/wood pellets, kerosene, coal or corn are also eligible for a monthly credit on their electric or non-heating gas bill."

Customers who heat with non-utility heating fuels should email their current Notice of Decision letter to Central Hudson at [careunit@cenhud.com](mailto:careunit@cenhud.com) to be enrolled and receive the bill credit.

Regular HEAP grants for the fall and upcoming winter are available between Nov.1, and March 14, 2024, or until funding is exhausted. Emergency HEAP grants will be available between Jan. 2, 2024, and Mar. 15, 2024. These benefits are designed to meet an eligible household's immediate energy needs. The Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement (HERR) program is also available to assist customers who have primary heating equipment that is either inoperable or unsafe. HERR grants are currently available and will remain so through Sept. 30, 2024.

For more information on HEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, visit [www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP](http://www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP) or <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp>; and for more on all of Central Hudson's assistance and billing programs, visit [www.CentralHudson.com](http://www.CentralHudson.com), and click on "My Account."

# HV CASH seeks volunteers for tax preparation services

In an annual collaboration, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is partnering with the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition to deliver cost-free tax preparation services for eligible residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties. This initiative primarily caters to seniors and low-to-moderate income households, providing an accessible and affordable solution for tax filing.

As the 2024 tax season approaches, both the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide are actively recruiting volunteers to support this valuable community service. Free training sessions are providing during the fall 2023 and early winter 2024. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please reach out to Linda Eddy at [leddy@dutchesscap.org](mailto:leddy@dutchesscap.org) or call 845-475-7500.

"The CASH program is invaluable to our community," said Melissa Clark,

Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "The volunteers pour their heart and soul into their work, ensuring over 5,000 local households receive their refund. CASH Volunteers are dedicated, giving of their time and lift up the financial stability of their neighbors."

Last year alone, the program assisted 5,827 residents, resulting in over \$4 million in tax refunds and credits benefiting families and individuals within the community while saving almost \$1.7 million in tax preparation fees.

There is a wide array of volunteer opportunities available, catering to various skills and interests. A background in accounting or finance is not a prerequisite for volunteering; administrative and support roles such as tax site greeters, program marketing, and appointment support are also available for those who prefer non-mathematical assignments.

Individuals with computer proficiency and a genuine desire to assist others are strongly encouraged to join the volunteer team. Prior experience with filing taxes is advantageous, but not mandatory. Tax volunteer classes will provide comprehensive training and culminate in IRS certification upon successful completion. It is worth noting that the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition is actively seeking bilingual volunteers to better serve Spanish-speaking clients.

For further details on volunteering, please contact Linda Eddy at 845-475-7500 or [leddy@dutchesscap.org](mailto:leddy@dutchesscap.org), or visit [www.hv-cash.org](http://www.hv-cash.org).

## this week's puzzle solutions

This week's answer

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

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# Obituaries

## Vera Romani



EAST FISHKILL - Vera Romani, age 78, passed away peacefully on October 22, 2023 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She was born in the beautiful Bronx on November 8, 1944 to the late Jose and Maria (Mas) Collazo. She married her beloved husband Robert Romani on August 13, 1963. The two have known each other since they were 13 years old and have been married for 60 years. Robert survives at home.

Known for her impish sense of humor, she loved to make people laugh. That was her defining characteristic. She worked for Pizza Village as a server for over 30 years and treated her customers as her family. Which meant they were not excluded from her joking. This is how she expressed love. She was also a creative person. She made

countless Halloween costumes, loved to decorate her house, and do various crafty projects.

In addition to her beloved husband Robert Romani, Vera is survived by her children: Valerie Steblein and her husband Roger; Denise Evans and her husband Paul, Roberto Romani and his wife Mary, and Michele Romani and Wayne Weidenbenner; her grandchildren: Robert Cocuzza (wife Kim), Angela Cerilli (husband Mike) and Paul Evans (fiancée Deidre), Rocco and Marco Romani, and Heidi and Emmalina Weidenbenner; her 2 great-grandchildren: Leighton Cocuzza and Sterling Cerilli; her sister Frieda Lugo and her beloved nieces and nephews.

Vera was predeceased by her brothers Jose and Jackie, and her sisters Marie and Marcia.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday October 25, 2023 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Thursday October 26, 2023 at St. Denis Church in Hopewell Junction, followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Vera donated to many causes, but she was very supportive of those that helped children. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Vera's name to Saint Jude's <https://www.stjude.org/donate>.

## Trish (Patricia) Adams



Trish (Patricia) M. Adams passed peacefully Monday, October 23, 2023 surrounded by family. Born January 14th, 1939 to Ethel and Basil MacIntosh in Elmira, NY. She graduated 1956 from Elmira High School, then attended Elmira College for a Bachelor's Degree. She married Herbert L. Adams May 30th, 1959. Her Husband of 64 years survives at home. Trish is survived by two beloved sons, David (daughter-in-law Ren) of Millbrook, NY, and Keith of Hyde Park, NY. She has two grandchildren; Tara, 30, Brooklyn, NY, and Ian, 28, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at 15 and is cared for at home. She lost her younger brother, Donald MacIntosh 24 years ago. She is also survived by two nephews, Scott and Todd MacIntosh and their families in Ovid, NY, sister-in-law Winn Adams,

Bellingham, WA., cousins Dr. Edward Brann (Rick Mixon), Georgia, Dennis Brann(Nancy), Florida, and several cousins in Canada. Trish held several professional positions including Marketing Director of United Way of DC, Acting Director of Community Relations at Dutchess Community College, Director of Development Bardavon Opera House, Managing and Development Consultant to Mid Hudson Civic Center, then formed her business Trish Adams Associates, since retired. Trish volunteered for many organizations including Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce, DC Boy Scouts council VP, Red Cross, Poughkeepsie Rotary, and many more. Trish was very creative and talented artistically and had a love for animals and gardening. Trish's favorite passion were her horses, an avid equestrian, she instilled the sport with her granddaughter Tara, who rode competitively. In lieu of flowers, Trish wished for Memorial Donations to benefit her Grandson Ian Adams (check payable to Lyall Community Church, PO Box 426, Millbrook NY, 12545), or Hudson Valley Hospice, [www.hvhospice.org](http://www.hvhospice.org). A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, November 12th, 2023 at 2pm at Lyall Community Church, 30 Maple Ave., Millbrook, NY, 12545, reception to follow. For those unable to attend please visit Lyall Community Church. Org and click on the LIVESTREAM button. To send an online condolence please visit [www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com).

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## Jane Cole Geisler



Jane Cole Geisler  
6/20/1923 – 10/25/2023

Jane Cole Geisler was born June 20, 1923 and grew up in Hyattsville, Maryland. After graduating from Oberlin College with a degree in Botany in 1944, she met H. John Geisler on an American Youth Hostel bicycle trip. They married in 1945 and moved to Urbana Illinois, where daughters Carol and Emma were born while John completed a degree in electrical engineering on the G.I. Bill. They then moved to Dutchess County, New York, where John worked at IBM until retirement. Jane had a son, Warren, in 1950, and while the three children were growing up she enjoyed being a Girl Scout leader and Jane and the whole family enjoyed ice-skating, skiing, swim-

ming, and gardening at the Hillside Lake home. Then they all moved to Verbank where John's mother lived with them in a two family house on Milewood Road. Jane led a senior Girl Scout group for several years. After her children left for college, she spent more time on environmental education projects, organized day camps, and led many other hikes and activities involving nature study. She was an Appalachian trail maintainer and was active in the Union Vale Historical society, conservation committee, ADK and the Waterman Bird club for many decades. She was also an avid reader and loved to play scrabble. She created trails and activities at Tymor Park, attended many town meetings and Cary Arboretum events. She also spent time with relatives at South Wellfleet, Massachusetts each year, swimming, shell fishing and walking. She was active and walking, almost daily, up until a month before she died.

She is survived by her three children, Carol Schlentner, Warren, Geisler, and Emma Stamas, and grandchildren, Tonya Schlentner, Paula Hicks, Laura Stamas, Jed Stamas and Jeremy Stamas; also six great grandchildren, Wesley Hicks, Katie Hicks, Luca Mnookin, April Mnookin, Bodie Katsoras and Mira Stamas.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 4th from 12 - 5pm at Tymor Park Barns....Come any time.

Instead of flowers, please send a donation to your favorite environmental cause. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. Please visit her Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Raffaele Bertoldi



EAST FISHKILL - Raffaele Bertoldi, 84, long time Hopewell Junction resident, passed away in his home surrounded by family on October 23, 2023.

He served in the US Army for 3 years before becoming a computer programmer for Reader's Digest where he worked for 31 years.

He married Barbara (Lyons) Bertoldi on May 8, 1965 and they had 2 children together. He was a family man who devoted his life to caring for his loved ones. He was a caring man who gave help to anyone in need and never asked for anything in return. He enjoyed golf, gardening, working on projects and building beautiful furniture for family and friends. Raffaele was a devoted Catholic who gave much of his time to the churches of St. Columba and St. Denis.

Raffaele is survived by his wife, Barbara; son, Ralph; daughter, Dawn; grandson, Michael; granddaughter, Ashley Turpen and her husband, Kaleb; two great grandsons, Karson and Waylon Turpen; and two sisters, Connie Court and Theresa Bertoldi. He will be missed by everyone whose life he touched.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, October 26th at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, October 27th at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by burial at St. Denis Cemetery with military honors.

Donations may be made in his memory to Angels of Light ([www.angelsoflightv.org](http://www.angelsoflightv.org)), a local organization that assists children and families with life threatening illnesses. Please visit Raffaele's Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Maura Kelly Giorgio



Maura Kelly Giorgio passed away on October 22, 2023 at the age of 64. She was born in Bridgeport, CT on April 24, 1959.

For many years, Maura owned and operated a housekeeping business. She enjoyed her retirement by spending time with her friends and her dog Frankie at the lake. She loved to spend time with her grandchildren as well. Maura will be remembered as a very outgoing person who loved to laugh.

She is survived by her children: Philip, Alicia, and Ryan Giorgio; her grandchildren: Mia, Philip Jr., and Ava Giorgio; and by her brother Sean Tynan; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Maura was predeceased by her husband Philip Giorgio Jr, and by her parents Timothy and Alicia Clifford.

Calling hours were held on Sunday

October 29th, 2023 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Kateri Tekakwitha, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville.

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

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

- 201 Home Improvement
- 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services
- 221 Professional Services
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- 223 Beauty Services
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- 305 Lots & Acreage
- 400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

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- 404 Furnished Apartments
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- 407 Vacation Rentals
- 408 Houses for Rent
- 420 Commercial Rentals
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- 503 Furniture
- 504 Appliances
- 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment

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

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- 721 Wanted to Buy
- 722 Bazaar
- 723 Consignments
- 724 Farmers Market
- 725 Collectibles
- 750 Events
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- 802 Motor Homes
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# Hocus Pocus Parade highlights fun, costumes in Beacon



The Hocus Pocus Parade took place on Main St. in Beacon on October 28. The Beacon High School Band plays music during the annual event.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

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## Special Veterans tribute set at Bardavon on Nov. 10

A special evening of cinematic history and tribute to our veterans with the silent film masterpiece "Wings" will be presented at the Bardavon Opera House, accompanied by the talents of John Baratta on the 2/10 Wurlitzer on Nov. 10.

Released in 1927 and directed by William A. Wellman, "Wings" is a soaring epic that takes us back to the skies of World War I, capturing the courage and camaraderie of fighter pilots. As we honor our veterans, this screening becomes even more poignant. John Baratta's live organ accompaniment will enhance every aerial battle and poignant moment, making this an unforgettable cinematic experience that pays tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of our servicemen and women.

The event is presented by the New York Theatre Organ Society, and sponsored by the MHA Dutchess Veterans Program with additional support from Vincitore's Hudson Valley Piano Center, and the Central Hudson Valley American Guild of Organists.

Baratta is a native of New Jersey. After graduating from high school, he attended Jersey City State College. There he studied piano and organ, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education. He has retired from teaching instrumental and vocal music in the public school system with 32 years of service. At present, he serves as the Minister of Music for The Old Dutch Church in Kingston where he is organist, choir director, and handbell ensemble director.