



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL!

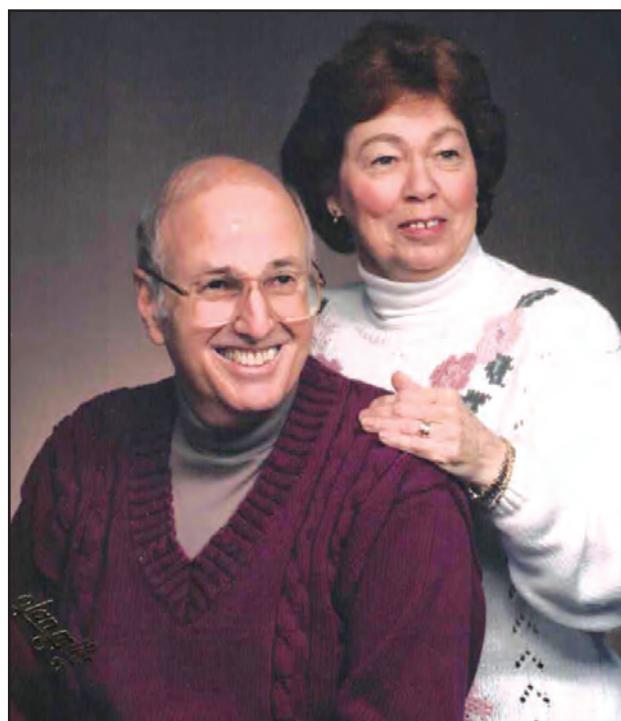


NORTHERN

DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

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VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE STORIES



Editor's note: Each year for Valentine's Day, we at the Northern Dutchess News present two area couples who have been married for more than 50 years.

Judy and Niles Crispell met on a blind date and have been married for 65 years. Niles says a long and happy marriage includes "a lot of give and take." He adds, "We never went to bed without saying 'I love you.'" *Courtesy photo*

Resilience shines for Vinnie & Steve Cole



Vinnie and Steve Cole of Red Hook endured incredibly challenging events when they began their relationship in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but they "shared everything" and that made their relationship even stronger. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

Judy & Niles Crispell: 'Life partners' & great times

By Jim Donick

"Married for nearly 66 years"; for many that would seem a most amazing accomplishment. For the "very married," it might seem like simply "a good start." Judy and Niles Crispell fall firmly into that latter camp. After almost a lifetime together, they are still holding hands.

Niles was born in Hurley but moved to Dutchess County in 1939 with his parents and brothers.

"I was just a young kid," he recalls.

Judith Ann, his life's partner, was born in Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie.

They met nearly 70 years ago.

Even in those days, young men enjoyed "cruising the streets" in neat cars looking for friends to catch up with or - often - for pretty girls. Niles and a friend were cruising Main Street in Poughkeepsie in a friend's car, a

Kaiser Fraser, when Niles spotted this really pretty girl riding with his friend Jack Feder. Niles made discreet inquiries and less than a month later found himself on a blind date with this same very attractive young woman.

They married on April 20, 1958. It was a good start. Niles had a decent job, working for his father in Crispell's Hardware Store in Hyde Park. They lived for awhile in an apartment above the hardware store.

Niles' dad, Walter, started Crispell's Hardware Store in Hyde Park at the corner of Route 9G and Crum Elbow Road in the 1940s. Niles and his brother,

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By Curtis Schmidt

Vinnie and Steve Cole were high school sweethearts, however, they were forced to grow up quickly in the world of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

America was involved in the Vietnam conflict and protests against that involvement were commonplace. It was a difficult time to begin a relationship, but like many other young couples, Vinnie and Steve learned to be resilient. They endured incredibly challenging events, but they "shared everything" and that made their relationship even stronger.

That being said, this is still a Valentine's Day love story. Vinnie and Steve's adventure together had an affectionate beginning and they have many

heartwarming memories – the most recent being the celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary on Jan. 9.

Early days

The initial meeting? It was in a high school chemistry class in 1964 at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park. Steve was a senior and Vinnie, a junior.

Attractions? For Vinnie, it was Steve's "sense of humor. He made me laugh, plus he was kind and listened. Most of the other guys were flippant and sarcastic. He was above all that."

For Steve, it was "her eyes – that sparkle in her eyes. She was very friendly and good-looking."

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FDR Library to host Presidents Day Weekend events

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park will present free public events this weekend to commemorate Presidents Day.

There will be a film screening of "The President's Mystery" on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m., in the Henry A. Wallace Center. The 1936 film is based on a plot line developed by FDR himself. A millionaire goes into hiding when his person-

al life begins to crumble, but must rethink his situation when he is accused of murdering his wife.

Registration for the film screening is required; visit www.fdrlibrary.org to register.

From 2 to 4 p.m. in the Research Room in the Library Building, a selection of presidential autographs from the Roosevelt Library archives – largely from

FDR's personal collection – will be on display. These items are only displayed once a year. Registration not required for the documents display.

Special event set in Washington, D.C.

This President's Day, Feb. 19, marks the 82nd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that led to the

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Resilience shines for Vonne & Steve Cole

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They also had mutual interests and formed a musical singing trio and even performed at the 1965 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows (NYC). "The Newcomers," with Steve on bass and Cindy Clifford and Vonne Garrison on guitars, performed a lot of hits from Peter, Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio and other groups. One note: They were invited to come back and play a second day at the World's Fair, however, that didn't happen since it would have been an "illegal absence" from school (Strict rules in those days!).

Later, Steve attended Dutchess Community College (DCC), then Southampton College, Long Island, but did not graduate because he was drafted into the U.S. Army. She also went to DCC and then SUNY Brockport.

By this time they had committed themselves to the relationship and the fact that Steve was drafted "just made it stronger," said Vonne.

They were engaged on Jan. 10, 1969. "It's wasn't a surprise," said Vonne, noting that she even went with Steve to Zimmer Bros. Jewelers to pick out the ring. "We weren't going to plan a wedding. This was part of our discussion. We wouldn't get married until he returned."

That decision would end up playing a profound role – one they did not know of at the time.

Difficult assignment

For Steve, basic training was at Fort Dix, NJ, in Jan. of 1969, then to Fort Benning, Ga. for NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) School. He was an Infantry Reconnaissance Sergeant and reported to the 5th Army Headquarters at Fort Reilly, Kansas in the fall of '69, with deployment to Vietnam in December.

It was during his time at Fort Reilly that Steve received a special assignment – escort the remains of a soldier killed in Vietnam to the family home in McCook, Neb.

"I was assigned to escort the body from Oakland, Ca. to his family in Nebraska and tell his parents that I had brought their son home. I stood by the casket and insured that he was treated with respect and dignity. At the conclusion of the funeral, as a representative of the U.S. Army, I had the honor of presenting the American flag to the family," said Steve. "When I first arrived at their home, I was met at the front door by his three brothers and 15-year-old sister." Stanley Doak was the first soldier from the community who was killed in Vietnam. He was just 18 years old." Steve was just 22.

At that point, Steve recalled the decision to not get married until he returned from Vietnam. "Lots of guys got married before they left for Vietnam," he said. "Unfortunately, there were a lot of 18-year-old widows at that time."

That assignment, plus the ongoing protests against the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict, prompted many heart-felt discussions between Vonne and Steve.

"We were making life decisions," she said, noting that she witnessed protests and marches while at SUNY Brockport, which included protestors carrying empty coffins and tearing up the American flag.

"She was subjected to all of that at the same time I was heading for Vietnam. Those were sobering times for both of us," said Steve.

Battle injury

Steve was deployed to Vietnam in December of 1969 as a combat infantryman. His most severe injury came during a fire fight in July of 1970 when stepped into a booby trap.

"It was a Punji Stick – 16 inches of hardened bamboo with a sharp point," said Steve. "I fell to the right. It went in above my ankle and up to my knee. If I had fallen to the left, it would have probably gone through my heart."

He was "medevacked" to the base camp where he underwent surgery for the non-life threatening injury.

"We were allowed one phone call a year and I wanted to let everyone know that I was ok," said Steve. These were times when letters took three weeks or more to arrive.

"I didn't know what he was doing from one week to the next," said Vonne.

The call was made through a Ham Radio operator to the family home in Hyde Park and ... Vonne was not home. Her dad answered the phone.

"He was in the military during World War II. It was nice to hear his voice. I told him what happened. We were allowed only three minutes on the call," said Steve.

Vonne had been at a local gym with a friend "getting in shape for the wedding." She knew Steve's tour of duty would be ending soon and they wanted to get married as soon as he returned.

"When I got home, my dad walked out the front door. From the look on his face, I knew something was up. He just hugged me and told me about the call and that Steve was ok," said Vonne. "I couldn't believe I missed his only call. I was crying and my dad tried to comfort me."

Steve recovered from his injury and within three weeks he was "back in the jungle."

Among the Military honors for Steve were the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals.

Tough trip home

He returned to the U.S. on Dec. 18, 1970 – landing at Seattle/Tacoma Airport in Washington before boarding another flight to JFK Airport in NYC. Vonne was teaching at Netherwood Elementary



"The Newcomers" with (from left) Cindy Clifford, Steve Cole and Vonne Garrison are shown performing at the 1965 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows (NYC). Right: Vonne and Steve Cole were married on Jan. 9, 1971 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. Courtesy photos



School in Hyde Park and she and Steve's father drove to JFK Airport for what they thought would be a joyful reunion.

"I was so happy to see him – but then I literally watched as the protesters tormented the soldiers as they walked through the terminal," said Vonne. "They spit on them and called them 'baby killers.' It broke my heart."

Steve said, "I just had to grit my teeth and bear it."

But they put all of that behind them and were married on Jan. 9, 1971 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. They traveled to Stowe, Vermont for their honeymoon and spent time cross-country skiing at the Trapp Family Lodge.

Steve went from the jungle to the classroom. He had written to Marist College from Vietnam, was accepted and started classes three weeks after they were married. He graduated in 1972 with a degree in communications and after a few odd jobs, was hired by IBM. He was the editor of the in-house newspaper, worked in media relations, became a producer working with video and eventually became Manager of Communications

and Community Relations at the Kingston facility. His second career was serving as Executive Director of Career Services at Marist for nine years.

They have two children – Joshua and Rachael – and five grandchildren.

They commented, "We have been blessed with a wonderful life and our marriage has become stronger through the years because of the trust, love, respect and faith we share."

Steve added, "And she still has that sparkle in her eyes."

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'Go Red' kick-off event inspires all on Feb. 6

What a night! "Go Red" Woman of Impact Nominee Dora Visbeck and her team held their kickoff event held with the American Heart Association on Feb. 6.

Impact speaker Valerie Belton shared her inspiring story of survival "A moment in time" – A moving story of her personal experience.

Guests were also treated by Elizabeth Ofca and Christopher Ofca, owners the Lions Brew, who created a special coffee alternative for the occasion "Hearts Go Red for Raspberry Truffle." Visit thelionsbrew.com to learn more about their business and to make a purchase.

There were also a variety of raffles and door prizes. A Raffle Basket valued at over \$1,200 will go to one lucky winner on March 28 at an event at La Catrina, located at 4076 Albany Post Road in Hyde Park. Tickets can be purchased through any Impact Team Member.

For more information, contact Dora Visbeck at 845-229-3080 ext. 6751. Tickets are 1 for \$20 or 7 for \$100. All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association.

An additional event is set for March 24. Attendees are invited to "Bounce Your Heart Out" at the new Bounce located at the Poughkeepsie Galleria.



Dora Visbeck had the support of her loving family at the "Go Red for Women" event. From left are Anthony Visbeck and daughters and team members Kayla Bengough and Kristen Pietras. Courtesy photo

Free tax-preparation service in Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam

Free tax preparation once again is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's IRS certified volunteers through the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition. Last year, 5,817 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes.

A volunteer-run service, the program is designed for low to moderate income individuals and families. The tax service is open to area residents of all ages who meet eligibility guidelines. There are no age restrictions and AARP membership is not required.

To schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 (United Way's Hudson Valley Helpline) or 1-800-899-1479 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday through Friday. Appointments are available in February through mid-April.

In Dutchess County, there are 14 free AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites located in: Dover Plains, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie and Wappinger Falls. This year there will be a new tax site at the Tivoli Library.

In Orange County, there are 15 free AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites located in: Chester, Cornwall, Goshen, Greenwood Lake, Middletown, Monroe, Montgomery, Newburgh, New Windsor, Pine Bush, Port Jervis, Walden, Warwick, and Washingtonville. In Putnam County the Tax-Aide volunteers provide assistance from three locations.

"We know that people in our community are working diligently, but finding it hard to survive," comments Jeannie Montano, President and CEO of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "They're our friends. They're the people who greet us with a smile and help us every day at restaurants, day care centers, dental clinics, and offices. The refunds that they receive truly make the difference in their very day-to-day survival. This program is a great example of how we can all come together to help Mid-Hudson Valley residents gain financial stability, a cornerstone of our mission."

FDR Library to host Presidents Day Weekend events

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wrongful incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

A commemorative event titled "Memory and the Nation: Day of Remembrance 2024" will be held in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center (513 13th Street, N.W.) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. It will feature a panel discussion with William Harris, Director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum; Perrin Ireland, artist and biologist, and great-granddaughter of Franklin D. Roosevelt; and Dr. Madeline Hsu, Professor of History and Director, Center

for Global Migration Studies, University of Maryland. The moderator will be David Inoue, Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League.

This event is a partnership between the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Registration is required at <https://americanhistory.si.edu/events/calendar/memory-and-nation-day-remembrance-2024> for this free public event.

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Judy & Niles Crispell: 'Life partners,' great times

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also named Walter, worked for their dad until he retired. That was 1960. Niles and Walt bought him out. They ran the store together until they both retired in 2005.

Niles was 70; Walt was a few years older. Crispell's was a classic old-fashioned hardware store, where customer service was their most important attribute and they tried to offer nearly anything their clientele might need.

Niles and Walter closed the store and sold the building along with its wonderful location to a developer. The site now hosts a modern Rite Aid pharmacy.

Niles' brother, Walter J. Crispell, passed away on Jan. 15, 2009, at the age of 77. They were a great team for many years.

Niles and Judy have had what would sound to most listeners to be a great life. They have two children, Todd and Tracy. Today, Todd lives some distance away, but Tracy is local and looks after her mom and dad daily.

Among the joys for Judy and Niles was a place they owned on Long Lake in the Adirondacks. They loved it. At the lake they had several different boats so they could cruise quietly on a pontoon boat, go canoeing or fishing on others, and go water skiing behind a speed boat.

It was one of the memorable parts of their long life together.

Today, Niles comments that "I really miss the place at the lake. It was just a beautiful place to be and we had so much fun there."

After retirement, they tried to spend winters in Florida for awhile.

"I hate the cold," said Niles, "especially after I lost a lot of weight."

They would return north when the weather turned warmer. They are now settled in at the Brookmeade Community in Rhinebeck.

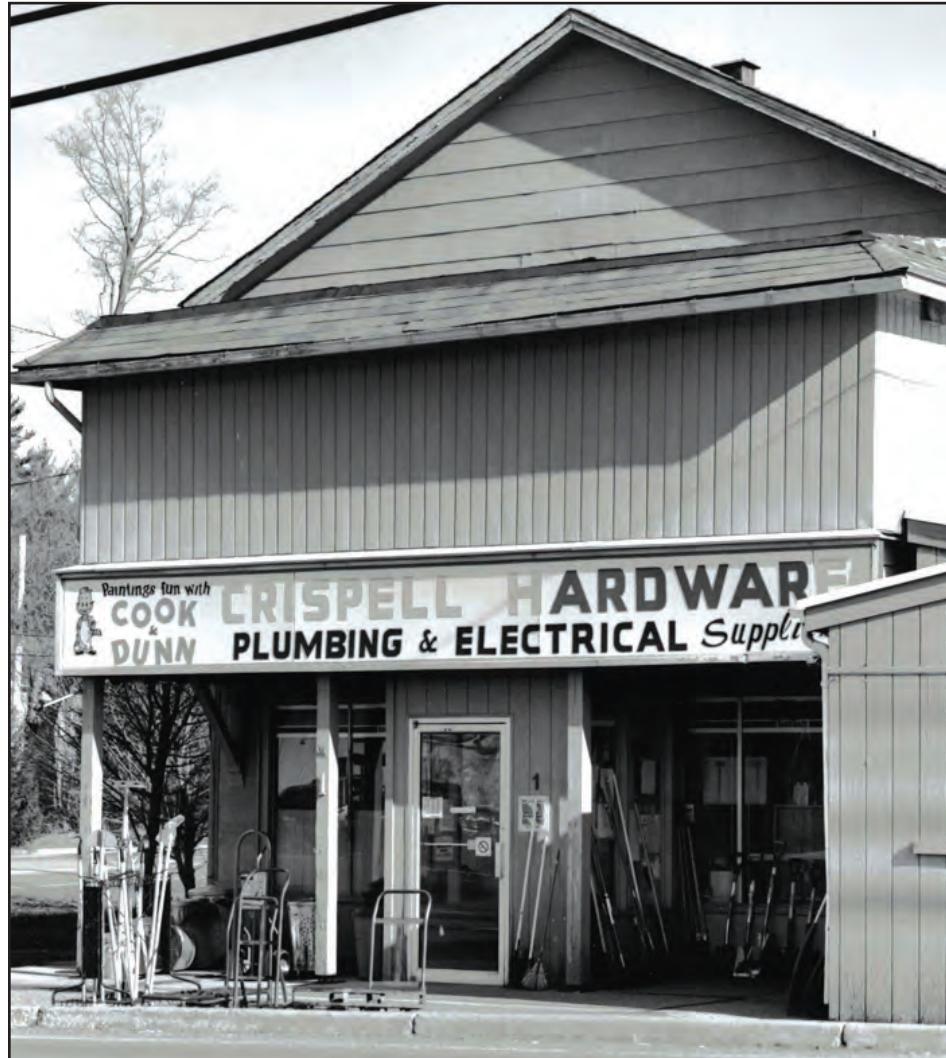
Judy and Niles can't get out much on their own anymore and certainly can't drive, but they used to go for long rides in the car around the area. Judy notes that "We could go park in an overlook by the river (maybe it was Quiet Cove Park) and be right up by the water. I loved to watch the river."

What's the secret to 65, almost 66 years, of marriage? Niles notes that "It's a lot of give and take." He continues a bit more romantically, though: "We never went to bed without saying 'I love you.'"

Here on Valentine's Day of 2024, that formula still seems to be working just fine.



Judy and Niles Crispell were married on April 20, 1958. They plan to celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary in a couple of months. Left: Walter Crispell started Crispell's Hardware Store in Hyde Park at the corner of Route 9G and Crum Elbow Road in the 1940s. Niles and his brother, also named Walter, worked for their dad until he retired. That was 1960. Niles and Walt bought him out. They ran the store together until they both retired in 2005. Courtesy photos



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In Flight, Inc. honors Exemplary Employees and pays tribute to departed colleagues

In Flight, Inc., a distinguished non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Hudson Valley & Capital Region, proudly celebrated the outstanding contributions of its employees at its recent annual Holiday Party. The event not only recognized the exceptional dedication of current staff members but also paid heartfelt tribute to two departed colleagues through the presentation of commemorative awards.

The first award, the Star of Excellence Award In Memory of Bonnie Hoeft, was bestowed upon Bill Powers, a devoted facilities worker whose unwavering commitment to excellence embodies the spir-

it of the late Bonnie Hoeft. As the Chief Financial Officer of In Flight from August 2012 until her passing in May of 2019, Bonnie Hoeft left an indelible mark on the organization with her exceptional leadership, professional integrity, and unwavering support for her colleagues' growth and success.

Matthew Bateman, CEO of In Flight, expressed his admiration for Bonnie, stating, "Bonnie is one of the people I never want to forget because she got us where we are, so in her honor, we decided to create an award that reflects her caring and unwavering commitment to the organization." Dr. Sarah Branham, Vice President of Clinical Services, nominated

Bill Powers for the award, describing him as "the most delightful person" and a shining example of professional excellence.

The second award, the Heart of a DSP Award In Memory of Jon Thomas Tolbert who passed in 2023, was presented to Dan Lewis, in recognition of his embodiment of the principles and characteristics exemplified by the late Jon Thomas Tolbert. Jon, a dedicated Direct Support Professional (DSP) at In Flight, exemplified the values of person-centered services, integrity, positive relationships, and active participation in society throughout his tenure.

Jon's legacy lives on through the

award, which honors DSPs who demonstrate a similar commitment to serving others with compassion and dedication. Dr. Branham commended Dan Lewis, the recipient of this year's award, stating, "Anyone who knows Dan Lewis, knows he will do anything for our guys."

Upon receiving their awards, both Bill Powers and Dan Lewis expressed heartfelt gratitude to their colleagues and the organization. Bill Powers humbly thanked everyone for the honor, while Dan Lewis acknowledged the individuals supported by In Flight, stating, "My experiences help me to connect with you guys, I appreciate you guys very much, and this award is for you guys."

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4-H'ers impress legislators in Albany

On Monday, January 22, visitors to the New York State Capitol in Albany saw an unusual sight!

Two goats entered the building through the loading dock to play their part in showing members of the State Senate and Assembly from across the state the importance of 4-H to the future of agriculture.

Accompanied by their owners, Kendra, Sienna and Jessa Carpentieri and mom Kelly, the goats named Maple and Crumble stole the show.

Agricultural Literacy Week is Nearly Here!

From March 18 through 22, Dutchess County 4-H members and volunteers will work in classrooms, libraries and community groups across the county to bring a taste of agriculture to over 2,200 elementary children across the county as part of Agricultural Literacy Week.

This year's book is "I Love Strawberries" by Shannon Anderson. It is illustrated by Jaclyn Sinquette.

Staff, 4-H volunteers and youth, and community members read the book and work with 1st – 3rd grade children, using a fun, hands-on activity to engage them in learning. Each group receives a book along with a toolkit to continue the lessons.

Want to be a reader? Contact Emma elj57@cornell.edu.



Senator Michelle Hinckley spent time talking to the 4-H'ers who were not shy in telling her about their goats and the importance of 4-H. From left are Jessa, Sienna, Senator Hinckley, Crumble, Kendra and Jane Rodd, 4-H Program Leader. Courtesy photo

4-H CONNECTION

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4-H members love to learn and sometimes it's with puppies

One of the newest 4-H programs is a partnership with the Sandanona Hare Hounds based at Thorndale in Millbrook.

Members experience all aspects of canine care and have opportunities such as walking with the Bassett and Beagle packs across some of the most beautiful countryside in our county as they learn about preserving our environment and history.

If your child, aged 6 through 12, and would like to join this program contact CCEDC and ask for Jane.

**4-H'ers succeed
as grant writers**

To successfully write a grant is an achievement for an adult, but a huge accomplishment for a youth.

A big congratulations must go to two Stony Ground 4-H Club members who were awarded a Youth Microgrant from the Livestock Conservancy!

The club will be using these funds to construct a mobile poultry coop for their heritage chickens and turkeys whom are raised on pasture at the historic Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center!

Jeannette Beranger of the Livestock Conservancy worked with Tavin and Lyris Pennock.



Ariana Gentile and Petra Jevic of the 4-H Equine Explorers program with puppies from Sandanona. Courtesy photo

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rhinebeck Grange holds Wintertime Soup Sales

Rhinebeck Grange #896 is holding its monthly Soup Sales on the third Thursday of the month, through March. Upcoming dates are Feb. 15 and March 21. Homemade soups sold for \$10 per quart, take-out only, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pickup is at the side door of the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell and Orchard, in Rhinecliff. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to receive the soup choices for each sale and to order in advance online.

Stanford Grange sets

Chicken & Biscuits Dinner Feb. 17

Stanford Grange #808 will serve a Chicken & Biscuits Dinner on Saturday, February 17, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take-out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, homemade biscuits, California mixed vegetables, cole slaw, and chocolate cherry dump cake for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton for reservations at (845) 868-7869.

Free rabies clinic set Feb. 24

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) is partnering with the Dutchess County SPCA to host a free rabies vaccination clinic for pets on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Dutchess County SPCA, located at 636 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park. This clinic is open to dogs, cats, and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Advance registration is required and will open on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Residents can register at DCSPCA.org or by calling the DCSPCA at (845) 452-7722, ext. 425.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents; non-residents will be charged a fee of \$10 per pet vaccinated. All dogs must be on leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years for pets with proper proof of a prior immunization. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year.

Rhinebeck Chamber Business Breakfast set Feb. 27

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Business Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at The Pavilion at Brookmeade. Hear from Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino about new initiatives and plans for Dutchess County. The cost to members is \$25, and non-members \$30. Visit www.rhinebeckchamber.com to register.

Rhinebeck Garden Club sets monthly meeting

The Rhinebeck Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m., at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. Program: Dirty Gaia; Small, Simple & Sustainable Ways to Garden & Grow Food. Presented by Sue Sie. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcomed. Every year the Rhinebeck Garden Club puts together a series of meetings, field trips and

events which are mostly open to the public. For information, call Hannah at 914-263-5298 or log on to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

Good Egg Award set March 13 at Brookmeade

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Good Egg Award Dinner & Celebration on Wednesday, March 13, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Pavilion at Brookmeade.

The Good Egg Award is a time-honored tradition that celebrates those who have made significant contributions to the Rhinebeck community. This year's honoree is Carolyn Bernitt, former executive director of the Rhinebeck Chamber. The Chamber's board of directors notes that Bernitt "has shown exemplary dedication, commitment, and service to the Rhinebeck area" through "her tireless efforts."

The evening will begin with a cocktail social hour, followed by a dinner prepared by a special talented team at The Pavilion at Brookmeade. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with local business leaders, community members, the honoree and special guests.

Member tickets are \$90; non-member tickets are \$100. Tickets and sponsorship information is available at www.rhinebeckchamber.com.

Repair Cafes set in Stanford

The Stanford Free Library will host a series of Repair Cafes on April 6, July 6 and Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, toys and more to be repaired, instead of throwing them away. The cost is a voluntary donation. The library is at 6035 Route 82 in Stanfordville. Visit repaircafe.org for more information.

ONGOING

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be eighteen years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, visit our website at www.vanderbiltgarden.org or call 845-229-6432.

we're on the web!
www.sdutchessnews.com

SPORTS ROUNDUP

with Rich Thomaselli

HS Wrestling championships set at Westchester County Center

Attention wrestling fans!

Better known as a place for making basketball memories, a different kind of postseason action awaits at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

The Section 1 Executive Committee has approved the Westchester County Center as host of the 2024 Division I (large school) and Division II (small school) Wrestling Championships.

The announcement now gives local high school wrestlers a place of stature that matches its growing popularity.

Pelish tops 2,000-point mark as Lourdes girls defeat FDR

It was a milestone night.

Our Lady of Lourdes High School basketball star Simone Pelish put on a show last week in front of family, friends and fellow students.

Pelish scored 40 points in a 74-39 victory over Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But it wasn't so much her exploits in a single game. It was a celebration of her career.

Pelish cemented her status as one of the greatest players in OLL history by topping the 2,000 point mark.

She joins Dr. Mylaine Riobe, Karen Lounsbury, Jenna Viani and Maddy Siegrist atop the school's girls basketball scoring list. All four have had their numbers retired by the school.

Renegades announce plans to host athletes from nation of Bhutan

By Rich Thomaselli

Athletes from the small Southeast Asia nation of Bhutan are coming to the Hudson Valley.

And it's all related to baseball, of all things

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and the Bhutan Baseball and Softball Association announced a first-of-its-kind event in Minor League Baseball as the organizations have partnered to create "Bhutan Night," a cultural program aimed at growing the game of baseball in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Athletes from Bhutan will be given a VIP experience for the Renegades' game on Tuesday, Aug. 20 against the Wilmington Blue Rocks, part of a days-long baseball, sight-seeing and cultural enrichment journey in New York in partnership with Dutchess Tourism.

"When we first learned about baseball in Bhutan last summer, our first instinct was 'How can the Renegades be a part of this?'" said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "After our first conversation with Matt DeSantis from the Bhutan Baseball and Softball Association, it was clear that this had the potential to be truly special, and the event took off from there."

"With over a decade of baseball being

played in Bhutan, having this extraordinary opportunity for young Bhutanese to play ball in the very valleys where I first fell in love with the game is a heartfelt moment. We hope it inspires them to continue their journey in the sport," said DeSantis, a native of Fairfield County, Connecticut who introduced baseball to Bhutan, and currently chairs the Bhutan Baseball and Softball Association. "We are grateful to the Renegades for their commitment to growing baseball and providing opportunities for kids near and far to learn about the professional acumen of the sport, both on and off the diamond."

As part of their multi-day excursion to the United States, the Bhutanese athletes will participate in a baseball clinic at Heritage Financial Park and a Business of Baseball panel, showcasing career opportunities in sports outside of being an athlete. They will also embark on a sightseeing tour of Dutchess County organized by Dutchess Tourism before their VIP experience at a Renegades game, including the ability to watch batting practice on the field, throw out a ceremonial first pitch, and more.

After their trip to the Hudson Valley, the athletes will spend time in New York City, touring Major League Baseball's offices and going on a sightseeing tour throughout NYC before returning home.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

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Hinchey leads campaign to fully fund universal school meals in FY'25 State Budget

ALBANY, NY – Recently at the State Capitol, Senator Michelle Hinchey led a rally with over 285 advocates from the Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids Coalition to call for full funding of a Healthy School Meals program that would provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in New York. In last year's State Budget, Hinchey championed a historic expansion of Healthy School Meals, securing a \$134.6 million statewide investment. As a result, more than 347,000 students in 1,200 schools statewide gained access to free school meals starting this school year. However, hundreds of thousands of students were left out of that expansion, with over 321,000 students in 650 schools still left behind, according to recent state data.

Hinchey said, "Since we expanded Healthy School Meals last year, the transformative progress we expected is unfolding in communities across New York State. More students have gained access

to free breakfast and lunch, and with that, we're actively breaking the stigma of food insecurity, keeping kids healthy, and helping them learn better, all while saving families money every week. We're also working to connect the dots between school cafeterias and New York farms by making sure the food students are eating is nutritious and locally grown. Every student, family, school, and community in New York should have the opportunity to benefit from School Meals for All, and we won't stop fighting until we deliver a permanent, universal program."

"Our educators see it day after day: a child cannot learn when they are hungry, and they cannot leave their hunger at the door when they come to school," said Melinda Person, President of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). "The focus in a classroom should be on natural curiosity and authentic learning — not basic survival needs. If we want every child in New York to reach their full

potential, every child in New York must have access to nutritious meals."

Renée St. Jacques, New York Farm Bureau Senior Associate Director of Public Policy and Promotion & Education, said, "New York Farm Bureau appreciates the inclusion of partial funding of school meals in the Governor's executive budget proposal, but more funding is needed to ensure that all students in New York can receive free school meals. Schools Meals for All is a true win-win for our school children and farm families. This funding supports the ability of more schools to partner with farms to provide fresh, local food to students. New York Farm Bureau urges both the Senate and Assembly to support funding of Healthy School Meals for All in the state budget."

"As someone who received no-cost school meals for the entirety of my K-12 education, I understand how vital these meals are for families across the state," said Emily Ledyard, Advocacy Coordinator at Feeding New York State. "By providing no-cost school meals to all New York children, our state would create welcoming environments for learning, invest in our children's health, and reduce the stigma and bullying that I remember all too well. We cannot let New York children be left behind to cope on their own. We need Healthy School Meals For All!"

Funding Healthy School Meals for All New York students is a critical step in eliminating barriers preventing kids from accessing meals and families from qualifying. Studies show that one in six chil-

dren in New York faces hunger, and one in five students at schools left behind in last year's school meals investment are considered economically disadvantaged.

Universal access to school meals is key to eradicating social stigmas that hinder student participation; however, when schools offer free meals to all students, participation rises, benefiting everyone. Moreover, Universal School Meals provide significant financial relief, saving families an estimated \$150 per month per child in grocery costs. Beyond individual impact, Healthy School Meals for All enhances schools' buying power and streamlines nutrition program administration. This allows resources to be redirected towards farm-to-school initiatives.

The Healthy School Meals for All Coalition has garnered significant support, with over 285 organizations on board. These include a diverse range of advocates, such as labor unions, education associations, parent and teacher groups, as well as organizations dedicated to health, agriculture, and food security.

According to a Siena University poll in November 2023, 77 percent of New York's registered voters are in favor of a state-funded universal school meal program. This support holds strong across different factors like race, age, location, and political beliefs. If implemented statewide, New York would join eight states that have successfully adopted universal school meal programs, including Massachusetts, Vermont, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Michigan.

THE DUTCHESS COUNTY-POUGHKEEPSIE LAND BANK BOARD TO MEET FEB. 28

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on February 28th in person at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St, Poughkeepsie, in the library. Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend.

To submit comments, for more information, including any requests for reasonable accommodation, including Sign Language Interpreters (requires 5 days notice), please call 845-293-3547 or email info@dcpoklandbank.org.

Red Hook/Rhinebeck Elks Lodge presents check to Red Hook Community Action



Joe Spano, Exalted Ruler of the Red Hook/Rhinebeck Elks Lodge #2022, presents a check for \$2,000 to Elizabeth Spira, left, and Evonne Maloney of Red Hook Community Action at the Lodge's monthly Pancake Breakfast. Photo by Joelene's Images



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- Meditative Garden
- Great Room, Reading Nook and Lounges
- Dining Room & Satellite Kitchen



Dutchess Outreach holds inaugural Food Pantry Gathering in Millbrook

Dutchess Outreach, the largest food security organization in Dutchess County, hosted the inaugural Food Pantry Gathering in January. Food pantries representing all regions of the county were invited to the Carey Institute in Millbrook to come together and discuss common goals and priorities to end food insecurity.

Natasha Pernicka, who is the executive director of the Alliance for a Hunger Free New York (AFHNY) initiative, was the keynote speaker of the event, and explained the priorities of AFHNY. The group also discussed current and proposed legislation, and what it means for the people they serve on a daily basis.

"We have to stop calling food 'charity.' It's not 'charity', it is a basic human right" Dutchess Outreach's Executive Director Renee S. (Fillette) Miccio said. "This country has enough food for people not just to eat, but to eat well."

The Food Pantries that gathered

together at this inaugural event service 9,000 people throughout the county every month, representing only a portion of emergency food providers. Dutchess Outreach is excited to continue their work with the other food pantries, and work together to address the food security issues of the community. There is a \$15,912,000 meal gap in Dutchess County, and 25,540 neighbors in Dutchess County are facing food insecurity, as do 25% of adults in the entire State of New York.

Dutchess Outreach's mission is to provide healthy food and compassionate support while advocating for food security and social equity. They are proud to share that same goal with the pantries that attended the gathering and many more to come.

To learn more about Dutchess Outreach or to donate, please visit dutchessoutreach.org



Dutchess Outreach holds inaugural Food Pantry Gathering in Millbrook. Courtesy photo

DCC President honored by Tuskegee Airmen

Dutchess Community College President Dr. Peter Jordan received a Major General Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Leadership Award on Feb. 3 at The Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls.

The Tuskegee Airmen Annual Tuition Assistance Dinner, held every year during Black History Month, honors the legacy of the historic Tuskegee Airmen,

the first African American military aviators in the United States. In addition to raising funds to support educational opportunities for aspiring young aviators and students, it's an occasion to honor one or more community leaders or organizations who have advanced the cause of young people in our area.

President of the Trowell-Harris Chapter of Tuskegee, Inc. Duane H. Ware

stated, "Dr. Jordan's life of leadership and service embodies the values, excellence and perseverance we share with our students. Thank you and congratulations, Dr. Jordan."

DCC Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Dupree said, "Dutchess Community College shares the vision of the Tuskegee Airmen – both the courage they displayed as one of the most decorated groups to fly in the Army Air Corps during World War II and their current commitment to providing scholarships for deserving students, placing them on a path to productive and fulfilling lives. We are proud to see an exceptional leader and innovator – our President Peter Jordan – recognized by such an organization." DCC President Dr. Jordan said, "This award symbolizes the courage and strength of purpose embodied by the Tuskegee Airmen, traits shared by the dedicated faculty and staff who inspire and support our students. It means a great

deal, both to myself and the College I serve, to be recognized for our work."



Dutchess Community College President Dr. Peter Jordan was awarded a Major General Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Leadership Award on Feb. 3 at The Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls. Courtesy photo

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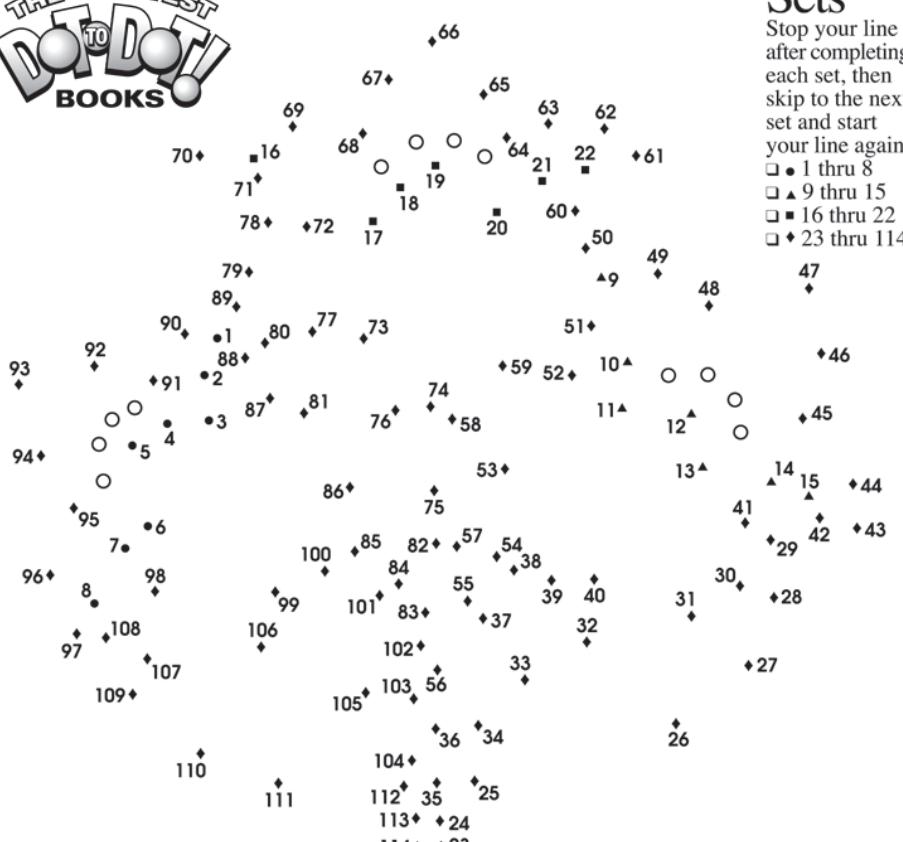
We will have plenty of prizes to give away with a

Grand Prize Drawing at 2:30pm.

Tell your friends, relatives and co-workers!

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



Sets

Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.

- • 1 thru 8
- □ 9 thru 15
- ■ 16 thru 22
- ♦ 23 thru 114

By David Kalvitis

© 2003 Monkeying Around



Anytime-Valentine Casserole

Kids will love this cheeseburger-inspired meal year-round.

When I realized this article would break on Valentine's Day and may not be read by most of you until days after, my first thought was 'Oh well. There's always next year,' quickly followed by 'Not so fast.' What at first I perceived as a missed opportunity quickly turned into a chance to make a gentle point that's near and dear to my heart so this will, hopefully, pay homage to love and inspire you to find ways to show it all year long.

Valentine's Day is meant to celebrate romantic love, a time to make grand gestures and declarations that we might forego all the other days of the year. I am all about romance, but when I remembered that Valentine's Day started out, as many of our holidays do, with a pope making a feast day out of a pagan ritual, it kind of took the romance out of it, which left me with the bigger picture – love. On further contemplation I realized that, while the holidays we celebrate are meant to reinforce important values like gratitude, honor, kindness and generosity, they all pretty much share a common thread, which is also love, just in different forms.

So let's look at love, shall we? We throw the word around pretty casually and sometimes with little reverence for how important it is. We love sports, our dog, our children, going to the movies, pizza, friends, sunny days, our parents, ice cream, our spouse, all very different kinds and degrees of love that get lumped under one little word. It hardly seems fair, but there it is. Sure, we can help it out by throwing in an adjective – romantic, platonic, endless, brotherly, obsessive, maternal, passionate – but that just further proves the absurdity of having one word for so many feelings.

Then again, I've noticed that Valentine's Day has gotten away from being exclusively romantic. Look in the greeting card aisle and you'll see categories like Friendship, Daughter, Husband and From The Dog. And you know what? I think that's just fine. Why not celebrate all the love? It's one of the things we humans are best at and certainly what makes life worthwhile.

Which brings me back to the point of deciding to write this for publishing after Valentine's Day, so thanks for staying with me. When it comes to showing someone you love them, you don't need an excuse or a deadline. Or a holiday for that matter. I'm not saying you shouldn't get flowers or a card for the actual day – my father still picks out perfect Valentine cards as he's done my whole life and I cherish every one – but maybe keep those expressions going all year, even in little ways. One day can't possibly do justice to the best emotion we have, just as one all-encompassing word isn't enough to reflect the many nuances of love. A love note tucked into a lunch box, the surprise of someone's favorite cake just because, a card in the mail to let someone know you're thinking of them, heck, just doing the dishes, are all little things that say a lot and keep the love light burning strong for everyone in your life any time. Or how about a simple sit-down meal made extra special with little touches, like fancy china, candlelight and the addition of hearts to the presentation, like this kid-friendly casserole!

CHEESEBURGER ANYTIME-VALENTINE CASSEROLE

What kid doesn't love cheeseburgers?

Treat them to a different version and make it extra special by cutting hearts out of hash brown patties for an edible Valentine any time that the beloved little ones in your life are sure to love. To make this easier this recipe calls for a 15oz can of tomato sauce, but I had leftover homemade spaghetti sauce on hand, so I used 2 cups of that instead. It's tasty either way. I took inspiration for this from Ree Drummond, The Pioneer Woman's recipe.

A note about the hash browns: I didn't specify the package size because there are many brands out there in different quantities, so get what you like and can find. Most come in 10-20 count packages. Putting the frozen patties in the fridge overnight will thaw them enough to cut into shapes and also makes them crispier when baked because you're eliminating excess moisture. (Just be sure to use up any extra within a day or two. You don't want to refreeze them). If you don't have a small-medium heart-shaped cookie cutter, you can use a knife to cut freehand hearts or make a heart template out of cardboard.

INGREDIENTS

1 package frozen hash brown patties, thawed in the fridge overnight

I tablespoon olive oil

1 medium onion, chopped

2lbs ground beef

Salt and pepper to taste

1 (15oz) can tomato sauce

1 tablespoon mustard powder (like Coleman's)

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 (8oz) block Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

1 (8oz) block Cheddar cheese, shredded

1 (oz) can diced tomatoes, drained

~1/3 cup dill pickle slices (I bought whole pickles and cut them because I like the smaller results)

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Grease a 9x13 baking dish and set aside.

Lay thawed hash brown patties on a work surface, pat dry with a paper towel and cut into heart shapes. The number you get depends on the size of your cutter. (I made 22 2-inch hearts). Set aside.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Add onion and cook over medium heat until translucent, stirring occasionally. Add ground beef, break up with a wooden spoon and season with salt and pepper. Cook until no longer pink, stirring occasionally.

If there's excess grease in the pan, drain it or use a spoon to remove some. Add the tomato sauce, mustard powder, Worcestershire and Monterey Jack and mix to combine. Continue cooking until cheese melts, 2-3 minutes more.

Transfer to the prepared baking dish. Evenly sprinkle Cheddar on top, then arrange hash brown hearts however you like.

Bake until cheese is bubbly, 35-40 minutes, remove from oven and top with diced tomatoes and pickles.

Makes 10-12 servings.



Cheeseburger Anytime-Valentine Casserole. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

Sure, it's nothing fancy, just a simple meal made with love for those you love. But if it gets everyone to sit together at the table to share some quality time it becomes something special – a love note to express the best of what life has to offer for those we hold most dear. Love doesn't need a holiday. Love IS a holiday. Enjoy!

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.

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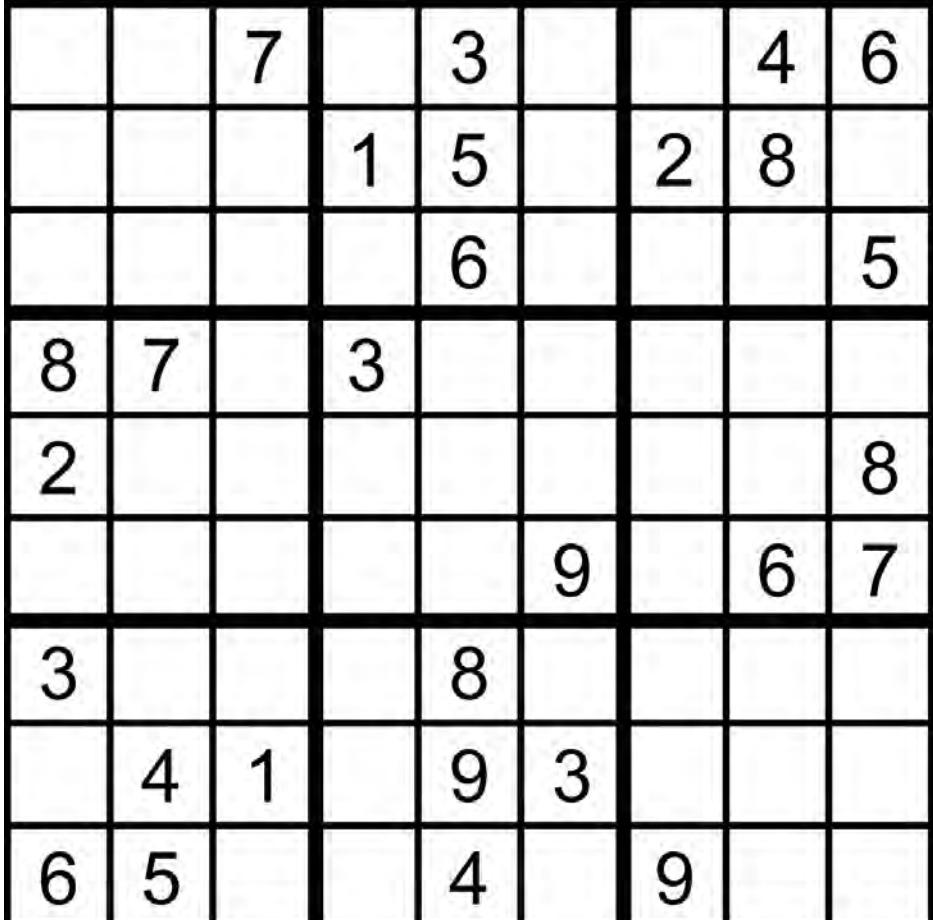
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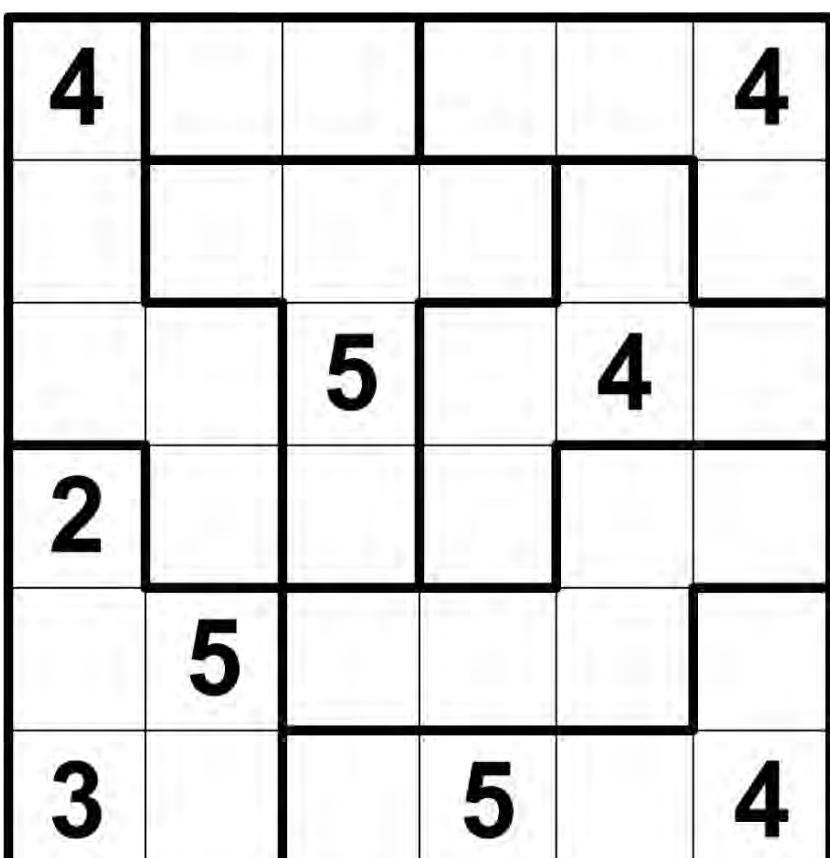
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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: SUPER BOWL

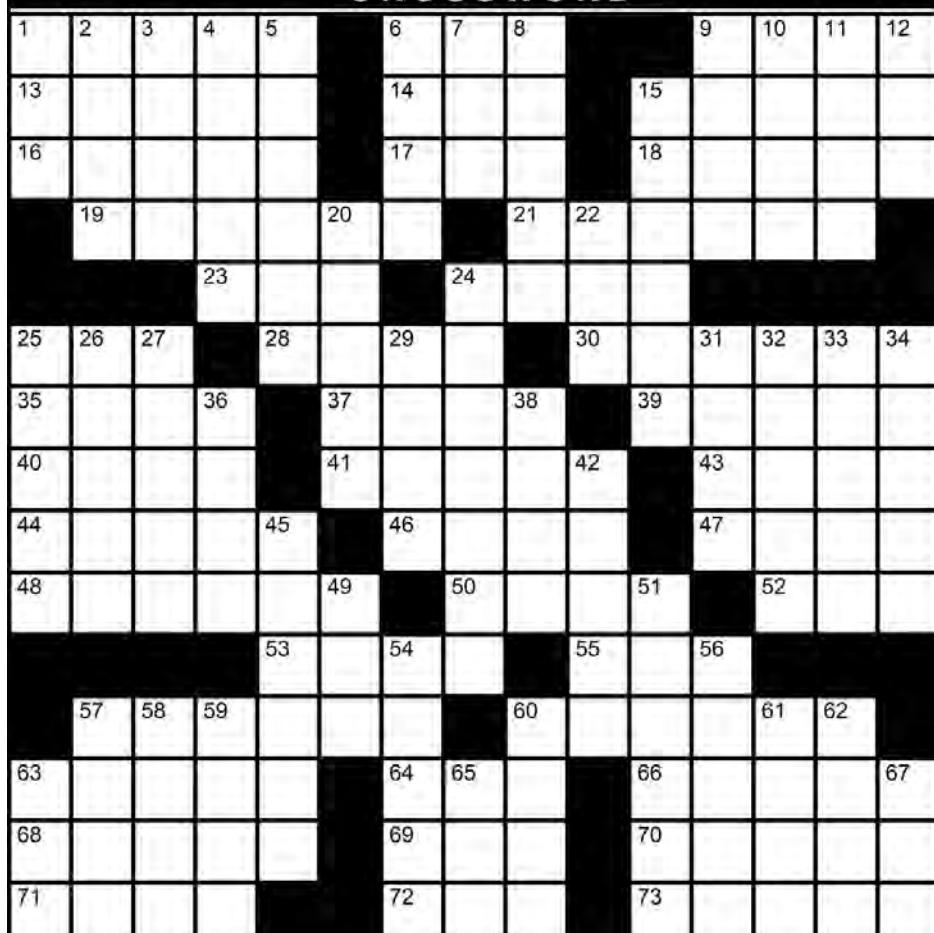
ACROSS

- Desert bloomers
- Request for tailor
- Paul Bunyan's companion
- Delivered by plane
- Boiling emotion
- Match play result?
- Like the North vs. the South war
- Bag, à Paris
- Nymph of lakes and springs
- *Team that never made it to Super Bowl
- *Last year's Super Bowl winner
- *Safety value
- Disfigure
- *Birthplace of NFL
- Roofed colonnade
- Dr. Seuss' Yertle
- Auctioneer's final word
- Sea eagles
- Popular winter boot brand
- Largest ethnic group in Rwanda
- User's destination
- Like Twiggy's skirt
- Former anesthetic
- Not all
- Death notice
- Like r in American English
- Luau souvenirs
- Opposite of WSW
- Vatican's head
- Cattle prod
- *AFC's top seed
- *Host state of this year's Super Bowl
- Like allergy spray
- Second person of be
- Pleasant odor
- Fervent
- Grazing ground
- "When pigs fly!"
- Modeling material
- *NFL Honors' announcement
- Trento's Council of _____

DOWN

- Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- Alight, past tense
- Boat mooring spot, e.g.
- Short for betwixt
- Wife's parents
- Serpentarium noise
- Time period
- Hajj destination
- Hillside, in Scotland
- "Dream on!" (2 words)
- Constricting snakes
- *_____ zone
- Bad blood
- Post-it user
- Not miss
- Street opening
- *Half-time show entertainer
- Compass point
- In spite of the fact, arch.
- Loads from lodes
- *CBS announcer and former QB
- Native American group
- Famous Bolshevik
- *Like the Super Bowl players
- Sonny & Cher, e.g.
- Ditto
- Neutral shade
- With mature appearance
- Bamboozle
- Learned one
- Religious song
- Defier
- Not top-shelf
- On the ocean
- Deviate
- Type of tide
- Peace symbol
- End of grace
- *49ers' conference
- Short for one time around
- Short for Arthur

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 19



Hudson Valley Seeds

Everything you need to know about sowing seeds now and in the upcoming weeks.

Let's get the jump on spring! We sow flower and vegetable seeds indoors now so the transplants will be ready to go into the garden in May. This gives the plants time to mature before the growing season ends in late September.

To get some expert advice on seed starting, I visited Hudson Valley Seed Company across the river in Accord, N.Y. Since its origination at the Gardiner Library in 2004, Hudson Valley Seed has grown into a trusted and respected source for garden seeds. The selection of heirloom and open-pollinated seeds are curated by founders K Greene and Doug Muller. A third of the varieties in the extensive online catalog are grown on their own farm.

I met with sales and customer service manager Crimson Krier-Glading at the company's retail store on Route 209 in Accord, and right away I learned some new information even though I've been starting seeds for almost 65 years (yes, the April 25 entry in my 1959 diary reads "planted onions in my garden"). Crimson told me that onion seed should be sown indoors in early February. Now I know. As Thomas Jefferson famously wrote – "I may be an old man, but I'm a young gardener."

Here's a rundown of some seed starting tips, some from Crimson, and some from a Hudson Valley Seed blog:

- Heat: Pepper and tomato seeds prefer consistent temperatures of 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep your trays on a heating mat, put them by a wood stove, or place them on a windowsill that's kept warm by the sun. Try to avoid prolonged temperatures below 65 degrees, since seeds may rot. If you don't have an ideal indoor setup, start your seeds 2 weeks earlier than you otherwise would and over-sow. You can also place covers over your trays to trap heat, but they should be removed after seeds germinate.

- Light: This goes for all seedlings, really: make sure they are getting consistent light. A windowsill might not be enough; consider purchasing a grow light.

- Water: Specifically, a balanced amount of it. All seeds prefer consistent water for germination, and they should never be let to dry out. However, over-watering can be just as perilous, since it can cause rot or damping off, a fungal infection that preys on new sprouts. Keep

your trays moist but not wet. Most seeds are small and delicate and don't like to be disturbed, so instead of watering directly with a hose or watering can, fill up a spray bottle and spritz regularly.

- Air Flow: Place your trays somewhere where they'll have plenty of air to breathe. If you have a small fan, you can even hook it up near your trays. This will help combat any extra moisture, and it will also encourage your seedlings to develop sturdy stems which will help them when they enter the real world of the garden bed.

- Protection: Be wary of rodents: they love pepper seeds especially. If you think there's a risk of rodent infiltration, protect your trays with a covering or caging. Just be sure to remove any covers that block airflow once the seeds have sprouted to avoid damping off.

- Space: Seedlings planted too close together will compete for resources and can become stunted and stressed. Similarly, if the seedlings are sown in small cells, they should be repotted into larger containers once they have four true leaves. Pinch off the baby leaves (cotyledons), remove the plants carefully (a spoon can help dislodge the roots without disturbing them), and replant in the new pot, burying the stem up to the leaves. This last step is crucial: tomatoes have tiny hairs along the stem that, when placed in soil, form new roots. The deeper you replant, the stronger a tomato's root system will be.

There are plenty of vegetables and a few flowers, that can, and even should, be grown from seed, sown directly into garden soil:

April – radishes, peas, carrots, beets, spinach

May – sweet corn, beans, zinnias

June – Squash, melons, cucumbers

We talked about growing sweet corn in a home garden. You need to plant several rows, so the wind can properly blow the pollen down onto the silk, or the kernels won't develop properly. Hudson Valley Seed offers some interesting sweet corn varieties: "Double Red," the dwarf "Blue Jade," and "Martian Jewels." Crimson also recommends cucumber "Tokiwa," poppy "Mother of Pearl" and a hardy hibiscus.

The seed packets at Hudson Valley Seed are gorgeously illustrated, many by local artists like Julia Whitney Barnes



Crimson Krier-Glading, sales and customer service manager at Hudson Valley Seed Company. Below: Basil seedlings. Photos by Mark Adams.

and Wendy Hollander.

A local gardener, Alan Zapolsky, was browsing in the shop. I asked him for a comment. He loves the local aspect and raved about the "creamy" fingerling potatoes he harvested last season.

If you don't want to drive to Accord (It's a nice ride through Rosendale and High Falls), you can buy Hudson Valley

Seeds at a few Dutchess County garden centers, including The Phantom Gardener (in a week or two) and Adams Fairacre Farms.

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



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Geeks OnSite

DCC Black History Month lineup includes free interactive panels, discussions

In celebration of Black History Month, Dutchess Community College will host a series of events on the College's main campus – covering a range of subjects from Science, Technology and Engineering (STEM) to reproductive rights and supporting justice-involved youth and featuring award-winning author Dr. Emily Bernard.

The Black Solidarity Reads Lyceum will be held in the James & Betty Hall Theatre on Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m. The speaker, Dr. Emily Bernard, is a Green and Gold Professor of English at the University of Vermont, 2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow and author of the essay collection, "Black is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine," which won the 2020 LA Times Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose. Bernard will discuss two essays from her book and the role the college classroom can play in the larger project of interracial understanding.

On Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m. in the Ritz Lounge, there will be a STEM Job/Internship Panel and Networking Event. Participants will hear from high-achieving STEM professionals who will speak about their academic and career experiences in addition to providing advice for students interested in entering the field upon graduation. Attendees will

also have the opportunity to meet the panelists and ask individual questions during the networking portion of the event. Representatives from GAP Inc., Nuvance Health, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Labella Associates and IBM are scheduled to speak on the panel.

A panel titled "Reproductive Justice in Minority Communities" will take place on Feb. 29 in Dutchess Hall, room 101. Community health experts from Planned Parenthood will discuss reproductive rights in minority communities.

DCC's Black History Month events were curated and organized by the Black History Committee: Chair and Assistant Professor of English Willie Morris, Assistant Professor of History Shalon Hallager and Associate Professor of Accounting Ahmed Ismail.

Chair of the Black History Committee and DCC English Professor Willie Morris said, "The positive impact of these events extends well beyond the month of February. It's about making an academic connection and introducing the discipline of Black Studies – to DCC students as well as middle and high school students, teachers, faculty, staff and the broader community. We do this because it furthers the academic and social mission of the College."

DCC President Dr. Peter Grant Jordan



Emily Bernard. Courtesy photo by Andy Duback, Duback Photography

said, "Especially as we navigate these uncertain times, marked by divisiveness and social unrest, it's so important that our community comes together to learn and celebrate our diversity. As Dutchess County's community college, we are proud to offer events such as these that underscore our commitment to strengthening systems to advance diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice."

This year's programming comes with the kind support of the DCC Foundation, DCC Writing Center and DCC's Francis U. and Mary F. Ritz Library.

DCC's BHM events are free and open to the public. A full calendar with more details can be found here: www.sunydutchess.edu/bhm.

SEND US YOUR EVENTS

creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Suspenseful live-staged readings set for virtual performance Feb. 17

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will present the third installment of its 2024 Virtual Live-Staged Reading on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., in collaboration with Roving Actors' Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc.

First up is "The Lost Race." A group of future space travelers discovers a previously unexplored planet. A planetary survey shows that artifacts from the "Lost Race" are likely on the planet. Upon further investigation, they discover via the new artifacts that the "Lost Race" is actually the precursor to the human race. The back story is fear of atomic contamination and mutations in the 1950s/60s being used to tell a parallel story of the horror felt by an existing ancient civilization that also discovers atomic power and are horrified that they are mutating into ... humans.

In "The Parade," a normal looking person claiming to be a Martian hires a publicity agency to "sell a new product." The

usual 1950s publicity approach is to tease the public with a series of increasingly energetic and suggestive newspaper advertisements culminating in a big "splashy" event to unveil the product. So after sending out the series of newspaper and radio "teasers" the publicity agency schedules a huge parade to unveil the new product, complete with midget Martians, full-size actors dressed as Martians, and even horses with helmets and long antenna on their heads. Only when it is too late does the publicity agent RYAN discover that he was truly hired by Martians and that the parade is going to be used by the Martians to demonstrate that they are capable of killing all of earth as a way to get the earth to surrender to Martian domination.

To learn the rest of these thrilling stories you'll have to R.S.V.P. to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org and then see these dramas in the comfort of your own home.

This performance is free to the public; donations are gratefully accepted.

County Players to present 'An Ideal Husband' thru Feb. 24

County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area will present the classic comedy by Oscar Wilde "An Ideal Husband." This Main Stage production directed by Michael J. Frohnhofer runs through February 24. Performances are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays February 16, 17, 23, and 24 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday, February 18, and Saturday, February 24 at 2 p.m. with performances held at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street, in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

This witty and still topical play brings an act of political sin into the heart of the English home. An ambitious government minister, Sir Robert Chiltern's smooth ascent to the top seems assured until Mrs. Cheveley appears in London with damning proof of his previous financial chicanery.

The production features the local talents of Veronica Acevedo, Connie Boden, Mike Boden, Craig Brown, Mark Colvson, Donna Conway, John Leinung, Keller Mickle, Glen Morrice, Rebecca Nagle, Peggy Ringwood, Amy Schaffer, and Robert Yarnall.

Of this production director Frohnhofer said, "Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband" takes a satirical look at society and politics through the lens of relationships and integrity. This play, written over 120 years ago is still quite relevant, exploring concepts of wealth and power, love and forgiveness and the expectations of men and women. Oscar Wilde's wit and humor shines through the play, contrasting richly with his social



The cast of "An Ideal Husband." Performances of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy will run through Feb. 24 at County Players in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

commentary. Come in from the cold and enjoy a rich, warm and witty romantic comedy."

Please visit countyplayers.org for up-to-date information on theater restrictions and protocols as COVID-19 restrictions and mandates are evolving daily. The box office will once again open for in-person ticket sales on performance days. Individual tickets are available online in advance of the performance dates. Accessibility: If one requires wheelchair accessibility, please contact our Box Office at 845-298-1491.

This production of "An Ideal Husband" is made possible by Bronze Sponsor: Stissing Center. Hudson Valley Credit Union proudly sponsors County Players' 66th Season.

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Historic Red Hook to host author talks

Historic Red Hook will present events featuring local award-winning author and historian Jack Kelly, and Wagner College Associate Professor of History Brett Matthews Palfreyman.

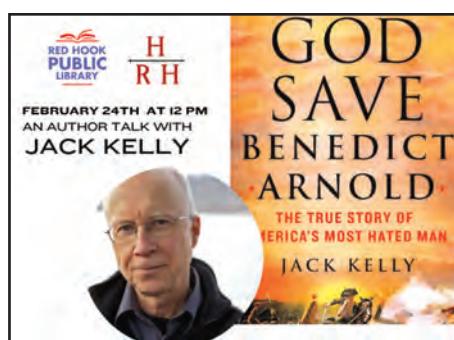
On Saturday, Feb. 24, at noon, Kelly will discuss his latest book, "God Save Benedict Arnold, The True Story of America's Most Hated Man" during a hybrid event in person at the Elmendorph Inn and also on Zoom. The Elmendorph Inn is at 7562 North Broadway (Route 9) in Red Hook.

Register for Zoom link at www.historicredhook.org/register

This presentation is given in partnership with the Red Hook Public Library and Oblong Books.

The teaser for the book reads: "Benedict Arnold committed treason—for more than two centuries, that's all that most Americans have known about him. Yet Arnold was much more than a turncoat—his achievements during the early years of the Revolutionary War defined him as the most successful soldier of the era. 'God Save Benedict Arnold' tells the gripping story of Arnold's rush of audacious feats—his capture of Fort Ticonderoga, his Maine mountain expedition to attack Quebec, the famous artillery brawl at Valcour Island, the turning-point battle at Saratoga—that laid the groundwork for our independence."

The Author Talk with Brett Matthews Palfreyman, "Bringing Oysters Back to New York Harbor," will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. Register at www.historicredhook.org/register



Authors Jack Kelly and Brett Matthews Palfreyman (below) will discuss their latest books in events hosted by Historic Red Hook. Courtesy photos



New York Harbor was once home to the greatest oyster habitat on the planet—before we fished and polluted them out. Now, communities across the city are working to bring the once plentiful bivalves back. This talk examines the past, present, and potential future of oysters in New York's waters. Dr. Palfreyman is an associate professor in the history department at Wagner College and a graduate of Red Hook High School.

HYDE PARK ROTARY TO PRESENT COMEDY NIGHT FEB. 23

The Hyde Park Rotary's Comedy Night will take place on Friday, Feb. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m., at Coppola's of Hyde Park, 4167 Albany Post Road (Route 9). Patrick Holbert and Gastor Almonte will perform.

Dinner and the show costs \$68 per person, and the proceeds will be used to support the Hyde Park Rotary Club's Youth Programs. Purchase tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hydeparkrotaryclub/1093852>.

Call (845) 758-6464 or email dmeyerson@minutemanpress.com for more information; or visit the Hyde Park Rotary Club's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryHydeParkNY>.

Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents 'Still We Rise' this weekend at The Center

Rhinebeck Theatre Society will present "Still We Rise," a special one-weekend engagement celebrating the poetry of Maya Angelou through contemporary new work. Bringing together artists and performers of all ages from across the Hudson Valley, the performance centers artists of color in our community and creates a new, celebratory lens for Angelou's work.

"Still We Rise" will run Feb. 16-18 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck (661, Route 308, Rhinebeck). Friday and Saturday Performances are at 8 p.m. and the Sunday performance is at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20, with a special \$5 child price ticket, and may be reserved by visiting <https://www.centerforperformingarts.org> or calling (845) 876-3080.

In addition to interview clips and archival footage of Angelou herself, performances will feature original choreography, music, visual art, and theater by premiere Hudson Valley creators, including Willie Mae Brown, Angela Dixon, Amelia King, Manar Hashmi, Phyllis Harris, Jabez Jackson, Krieger Elementary School students, Jennelle

Liscombe, Marlene Merritt, Marcus McGregor, Hristian Dsouza Michaeli, Ryan Michki, Michael Monasterial, Kitt Potter, Adam Reid, and Liz Thomas.

Rhinebeck Theatre Society has also partnered with Arts Mid-Hudson's current art show, "Still We Rise", to feature projections of artwork by Audrey Anastasi, Gülnar Babayeva, Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon, Dorothy Brodhead, Martial Davis, Priscilla DeConti, Marielena Ferrer, Katrina Ganpatt, Karen E. Gersch, LotuZ, Gwen Lester, Elinor Levy, Barbara Masterson, Susan Miiller, Shirley Parker-Benjamin, Leon Tillman, LisaDeLoria Weinblatt.

Says producer Dot Luongo, "Throughout Maya Angelou's work, there are consistent threads of courage, pride, and frank appraisal. Artists were able to use these themes as they developed their work, and it is really moving to see it all come together. Amazingly, hardly any of the creators knew each other prior to this event, so we truly feel like we are forging a new community based on something groundbreaking."

Auditions set for 'It's Only A Play'

The Two Of Us Productions will hold auditions for "It's Only A Play" by Terrence McNally. Performances are May 10-19 at the Claverack Library's Marilyn & Bob Laurie Gallery.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m.; and Friday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.

Audition & Callbacks will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m.

All auditions will be held at the Community Hall of the Reformed Dutch Church, 88 Route 9H in Claverack.

All roles are available.

Sides will be provided at the audition.

For more information or to get the sides in advance, write the director at StephenSanbornPhD@gmail.com

Synopsis

It's the opening night of The Golden Egg on Broadway, and the wealthy producer Julia Budder is throwing a lavish party in her lavish Manhattan townhouse. Downstairs the celebrities are pouring in, but the real action is upstairs in the bedroom, where a group of insiders have staked themselves out to await the reviews.

The group includes the excitable playwright; the possibly unstable wunderkind

director; the pill-popping leading lady, treading the boards after becoming infamous in Hollywood; and the playwright's best friend, for whom the play was written but who passed up this production for a television series. Add to this a drama critic who's panned the playwright in the past and a new-in-town aspiring singer, and you have a prime recipe for the narcissism, ambition, childishness, and just plain irrationality that infuse the theatre—and for comedy. But don't worry: This play is sure to be the hit they have all been hoping for.

Roles

Peter Austin – The playwright. Everything is riding on tonight's Broadway opening.

Julia Budder – The producer. Attractive and genuinely nice.

Ira Drew – The critic. Wears glasses and has good stains on his tie.

Frank Finger – The director. Soon to be knighted.

Virginia Noyes – The star. She has an electronic bracelet on her ankle.

James Wicker – The best friend. He used to be a stage actor.

Gus P. Head – Temporary help. Fresh off of the farm.

A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 24: "An Ideal Husband," County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Written by Oscar Wilde, directed by Michael J. Frohnhofer. This witty and still-topical play brings an act of political sin into the heart of the English home. An ambitious government minister, Sir Robert Chiltern's smooth ascent to the top seems assured until Mrs. Cheveley appears in London with damning proof of his previous financial chicanery. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 18, 2 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 for seniors (60+), military, children under age 12, students (w/valid ID). (845) 298-1491 or countyplayers.org

Feb. 15: "Game Changers" Film Series: "Black Panther," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie; & UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston. Director Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" stars the late Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa, heir to the kingdom of Wakanda, who must step forward to lead his people into a new future by confronting a challenger from his country's past, 7:30 p.m. The film supplements its superhero genre mechanics with a relevant commentary on history, racism, and human injustice. But Black Panther is more than a cultural statement; it's a terrific film

that energizes a genre as it has a community, elevating superhero cinema to thrilling new heights while telling one of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's most absorbing stories—and introducing some of its most fully realized characters. Reserve your free ticket by stopping in to the Bardavon or UPAC box office, or by calling Bardavon at (845) 473-5288 or UPAC at (845) 339-6088.

Feb. 16: "The Effects of Gravity: Exploration at the Intersection of Science and Art," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. "The Effects of Gravity" tells the story of our cosmic origins—the formation of the universe, galaxies, stars, planets, our solar system, and our planet—from both scientific and poetic perspectives. The performance is richly illustrated with animated computer graphics and astronomical images brought to life by a live, blazingly virtuosic electric guitar score and original poetry that embraces the vastness, complexity, and beauty of the cosmos and our efforts to understand it.

Performances at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Free community event. Make reservations at www.bardavon.org.

Feb. 16: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring David

Hemingway, T.G. Vanini, Joe Mondello, Richard Of Rhinecliff, 8-10:30 p.m. Donations suggested. More info: (845) 876-7007

Feb. 16-17: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 16: KJ Denhart and The New York Unit with very special guests Michele Gedney, Judy Kass, Elly Wininger, 8 p.m. KJ Denhart is a NYC-based songwriter, guitarist, vocalist and bandleader whose soulful and smoky vocal stylings are earthy and elegant. The NY Unit is a band KJ started in 1997. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Feb. 17: Gratefully Yours, 8 p.m., one of the Northeast's premier Grateful Dead cover bands; with a truly all-star lineup and often performing "dream" set lists submitted by their fans. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Feb. 17: Local Musicians' Showcase, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. An evening of music from the best musicians in the Roe Jan area—from bluegrass to rock, four bands will get you smiling and your feet tapping, 7 p.m. Come hear Home on the Grange, Lake Foundation, Michael "Chops" LaConte, and Blind Owls. Tickets \$15 at the door (or pay what you can). <http://www.copakegrange.org/events>

Feb. 18: Fortune Feimster: Live Laugh Love!, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Affable, charismatic and one of a kind, Fortune Feimster is a stand-up comedian, writer and actor who uses her confessional comedy to bring people together, 7 p.m. Through laughter and storytelling, Fortune shows audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and sexual orientations that common ground is only a joke or two away. Tickets start at \$29.50. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org use photo if room

Feb. 18: Tangent Theatre Pop-Up Play Reading, Village Hall, 86 Broadway, Tivoli. "Body Awareness" by Annie Baker, 6 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome. info@tangent-arts.org

Feb. 21: Book Launch, "I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition," Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Author Lucy Sante with Samantha Hunt will celebrate the launch of Sante's memoir, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but reservations required via EventBrite. Books will be available for sale. (845) 876-2903

New exhibition highlights career of American photographer Rosalie Thorne McKenna

Vassar College's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center presents "Making A Life In Photography: Rollie McKenna," the first survey of the prolific career of American photographer Rosalie (Rollie) Thorne McKenna, on view February 17-June 2.

McKenna, Vassar Class of 1940, worked independently as a sought-after architectural and portrait photographer, making unique yet underrecognized contributions to American modernism and documentary photography. McKenna's work was published in numerous books and magazines including *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Fortune*. The Museum of Modern Art's 1955 landmark exhibition Latin American Modernism Since 1945 featured her architectural photographs. She made iconic portraits of artists and writers, including W. H. Auden, Elizabeth Bishop, Alexander Calder, Truman Capote, T. S. Eliot, Laura Gilpin, Henry Moore, Sylvia Plath, Ezra Pound, Anne Sexton, Dylan Thomas, and Eudora Welty. Using her camera, McKenna forged an unusual path for a woman in mid-twentieth-century America toward personal and creative freedom. She embraced photography to explore the complexities of human experience—including her own queer and feminist life.

"Making a Life in Photography" offers a new thematic frame to consider the significance of McKenna's contributions to photography: Her career as an independent, working photographer enabled her to make an independent life; and in turn, her self-determination motivated her to pursue photography. In reference to the framework of the exhibition, Mary-Kay Lombino, Deputy Director and Emily Hargroves Fisher '57 and Richard B. Fisher Curator at the Loeb, says, "We emphasize McKenna's entrepreneurship and work outside of the darkroom to demonstrate, especially to an audience of undergraduate students thinking about making their own way in the world, that artists are not simply born into creativity, but rather, they make careers as creative professionals."

McKenna's rich history of self-determination and spirit goes beyond her photography: As the US entered World War II, she enlisted in Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), becoming the first woman to attain the rank of sharpshooter in the U.S. Navy and receiving the Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal in 1943. During her brief and only marriage, McKenna returned to Vassar in 1948 and 1949 to pursue a master's degree in the history of art, with special dispensation secured by professor of art history Agnes Rindge Claflin under the G.I. Bill.

The exhibition, presented thematically in four galleries, features over 100 gelatin silver prints made during the artist's lifetime, drawn primarily from the Loeb's collection with the addition of several key loans. Exhibition themes include People & Places, McKenna's Modernism, Life & Photography, and McKenna at Work, while other issues such as artistic legacy, the complexities of privilege, and accepted conventions of both womanhood and photographic genre are addressed. "This career retrospective of McKenna, who is the most represented individual photographer in the Loeb's collection, highlights her work as

emblematic not only of the Loeb, but as part of her history with Vassar College," says T. Barton Thurber, the Anne Hendricks Bass Director of the Loeb Art Center.

Complementing the exhibition in the Loeb, a satellite exhibition, "Rollie McKenna's Photography: In Print and at Vassar," featuring McKenna's photographs published in books and magazines and photos taken for and of Vassar, will be shown in the Thompson Library. The Library's Archives and Special Collections houses archival documents and work prints that relate to McKenna's time on campus as a student and later as a frequent visiting photographer covering student life, campus architecture, special events, and faculty personalities. Among the work is a 1955 story from Seventeen magazine, "Anne Goes to Vassar," written and photographed by McKenna, which chronicles the story of Anne Breukelman, class of 1958, during her first days at Vassar. The Library exhibition is located on the first floor, just beyond the main entrance and circulation desk, on view from February 22-June 2.

The Loeb exhibition is also accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog, co-published by Vassar College and Scala Arts Publishers, including contributions by Jessica D. Brier, Mary-Kay Lombino, Rebecca Senf, T. Barton Thurber, and Luisa Valle.

"Making a Life in Photography: Rollie McKenna" is generously supported by the Rosalie Thorne McKenna Foundation and the Hoene Hoy Photography Fund.

Related events

Thursday, February 22, 4 p.m.
Reception
Loeb Art Center Atrium & Galleries
5 p.m.
An evening with Magnum photographer Susan Meiselas in conversation with scholar Monica Bravo
Taylor Hall, Room 102

Thursday, March 21
5:30 p.m.
Cyberfeminist Performance + Praxis
Taylor Hall, Room 203

In this two-part lecture by Mindy Seu and Celine Wong Katzman, Seu will do a performative reading of the "Cyberfeminism Index" followed by Wong Katzman's introduction to building intersectional feminist, archival, and curatorial frameworks in the contemporary art world.

Co-sponsored by the Vassar Art Department and the Loeb Art Center.

Thursday, April 4
5 p.m.
Gallery talk on "Making a Life in Photography: Rollie McKenna"
Loeb Art Center Galleries

Exhibition curators Jessica D. Brier and Mary-Kay Lombino, joined by Loeb Director T. Barton Thurber and Visiting Assistant Professor of Art Luisa Valle, will lead an exhibition tour focusing on highlights from McKenna's prolific career.

The Art Center is also accessible via the Dutchess County Public Transit, Bus Route L. For additional information, the public may call 845-437-5632 or visit <https://www.vassar.edu/thelob>.

LOOK FOR THAT'S ITALIAN! IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Luigi Coppola shares stories and recipes.



Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through April 7:** Annual "Art of the Garden" art exhibition, floral & still-life garden themed art show featuring paintings, watercolors, and other mixed media. All works for sale, part of the proceeds help further restoration projects on Historic Bannerman's Island. Contact (845) 831-1001, 845-416-8342 or bannermangallery150@aol.com for more information. www.bannermancastle.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 29:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is Stacy Pearl; and at 12 Vassar St. is Jane Ehrlich in the Reception Gallery and Rebecca Zeh in the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through December:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, "Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962" centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and who pushed for progress. Within this context, the exhibit examines the political evolution of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt regarding racial justice. www.fdrlibrary.org

Hyde Park Library Annex, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through February:** The Art of Peggy Milone, paintings inspired by the colors of nature. (845) 229-7791

Live 4 Art Gallery, 20 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Feb. 29:** "Love for Art," eight artists showing paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, handmade wood products, and ceramics. Facebook @Live4ArtGallery

Olana State Historic Site, Hudson. **Through March 24:** "Spectacle: Frederic Church and The Business of Art," a 21st-century way of viewing Frederic Church's great masterpiece, "The Heart of the Andes," and this exhibition highlights the showmanship and marketing that Church used to promote the debut of this work in 1859. For more information and to purchase tickets visit olana.org/spectacle

Super Secret Projects (Back of Hyperbole), 484 Main St., Beacon. **Through March 2:** "Animal Kingdom," a solo exhibition by Enne Tesse. supersecretprojects.com

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Feb. 16-March 17:** Artists Choice- Salon Style 2024 Exhibition, TAG's members are showcasing their painting, sculpture, photography, collage, poetry and music. **Reception:** Sat., Feb. 17, 5-7 p.m. (845) 757-2667

AT YOUR LIBRARY

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www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org

required so that you can get the link. Please register online or call the library at (845)-495-0655.

Zumba, (in-person)

Sat. 02/17, Sat. 02/24 at 9:00 AM

Join Ginny Morrow for a fun fitness routine every Saturday at 9 AM. Pre-registration is not required. You may sign in at the door.

Free Tech Help (in-person)

Sat. 02/17, Sat. 02/24 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Do you need help with your Kindle, tablet, smart phone or computer? Drop-in anytime on Saturdays between 9AM-1PM or call the library at (845)-495-0655 to book an appointment.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Lunch & Learn: Rhinebeck Post Office Mural

Thursday February 22 at 12:30 PM

Presented by Dr. Myra Armstead

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See our calendar or call us for more information on programs including dates, times, and registration.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Our afternoon book club is back to discuss all things mystery on the 4th Friday of every Month at 2 p.m.! From cozy to true crime and everything in between, this book club is sure to make detectives of us all. We're so excited to launch our new book club with author Carol Goodman with a conversation of "Bones of the Story" on February 23rd. An author signing will follow the discussion. Pick up your copy today!

Red Hook Public Library and Historic Red Hook are proud to present an afternoon with Jack Kelly. Join us at the Historic Elmendorf Inn on February 24th at 12 p.m. to listen to Jack discuss his latest book, God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America's Most Hated Man. Jack is a public scholar, a historian and a novelist. The Baltimore Sun described Jack's writing as "brilliantly succinct and excruciatingly powerful."

continued on page 20

OBITUARIES

Thomas Joseph McDonough

RED HOOK - Thomas Joseph (Tom) McDonough died on February 2, 2024, in Rhinebeck, NY, surrounded by his beloved family. Born on August 16, 1939, in Brooklyn, NY, Tom was the son of the late Joseph McDonough and Grace McDermott. He attended Jesuit schools in Brooklyn, NY. An independent filmmaker, Tom was celebrated for his Oscar-winning feature documentary, *Best Boy*. An author, Tom published his first novel, *Virgin With Child*, in 1981, followed by *Light Years*, a recounting of his life as a camera operator and a celebration of cinematography and of light itself. Tom married the photographer, teacher, and MacArthur Fellow, Wendy Ewald in 1990. Together with their son Michael, they lived in Red Hook, New York, where he continued to write as well as teach. Tom often contributed to Wendy's work by filming and documenting her projects throughout the world. Tom co-authored the novel *Fatma*, with Raja Alem, a Saudi Arabian author whom he and Wendy met on their travels. Tom was an accomplished gardener and a devoted and knowledgeable fisherman. Tom is survived by Wendy and Michael, his daughter Nita, from an earlier marriage, his twin brother Peter and his sister Mary Jo, as well as his five grandchildren. Services were held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at The Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1114 River Road, Red Hook, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that mourners consider making a donation to a charity of their choosing.

Theresa A. Myers

SALT POINT - Theresa A. Myers, 84, died peacefully on February 6, 2024 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center surrounded by her loving family. She joined her parents and her beloved husband in Heaven.

Born in Fall River, MA on December 5, 1939, she was the daughter of Robert and Marianna Schofield. Theresa grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, and finally settled in Salt Point. She was a Mom, a Girl Scout leader and a consummate volunteer and supporter of not for profits all over the east coast of the country. She will be remembered for her kindness and generosity to all she met.

On September 9, 1961 in Ozone Park, Theresa married William Allan Myers, Sr. who predeceased her on June 6, 2020. She is survived by her daughter Susan Plantly and her husband Jeff; her sons William Myers and his wife Christine, and Robert J. Myers and his wife Maureen; her grandchildren, Melissa and PJ Masullo, Meghan Myers, Erin and Richie Dicasoli, Willy Myers, Shannon Myers, Jessica Myers, Brian Myers and Catherine Myers; and great grandson Hunter.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. There was a service. Private interment will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Elizabeth Edna Norton

HYDE PARK - Elizabeth (Betty) Edna Norton, 96, of Hyde Park, passed away on February 3, 2024.

Born on January 16, 1928, in Kingston, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Hertha Freda Saunders. She attended Kingston schools.

On May 31, 1946, she married William Norton from Kingston. They were married for 60 years until his death in 2006.

She was employed by Grand Union for 34 years as a cashier and the candy display person for several Hudson Valley stores. She was the owner of Attic Memories antique store in Red Hook, New York for 19 years. She was also a member of the Hudson Valley Depression Glass Club.

She was an original member of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Roosevelt Fire Company Engine # 3 from 1955, and a former member of the Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her four children, William Norton (Sandra) of Pleasant Valley, James Norton of Georgia, and George Norton and Susan Maywalt, both of Hyde Park; grandsons, James Norton, Walter Brown, Shane Lutz (Althea), Chad Norton (Gina-Marie), Christopher Norton (Deanne) and granddaughter, Jennifer Bilodeau (Ricky). She had 17 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She is also survived by her sister-in-

law, Dot Saunders, and brother-in-law, John O'Dell.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her grandson, Thomas Lutz; sister, Carol O'Dell; brother, Gordon Saunders; stepbrother, Vincent Fuda; and daughter-in-law, Sandra E. Norton.

There will not be any calling hours.

Graveside services and burial took place on Friday, February 9th at Union Cemetery, 1076 Violet Ave., Hyde Park.

In lieu of flowers, the Norton family respectfully request memorial donations to the Roosevelt Fire District, PO Box 394, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit Betty's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Patrick J. Pape

RED HOOK - Patrick J. Pape, 69, of Red Hook passed away suddenly on February 3, 2024 at his home from cardiac arrest.

Pat was born on April 22, 1954 in Poughkeepsie, NY to the late Dominic and Marie (Bezzaro) Pape. He married Cathy Knapp on May 25, 1984 in Highland, NY and together they shared countless happy times.

For many years and up until his passing, Pat was working as an Equipment Operator for A.W. Coons and Sons in Red Hook. He had a passion for machinery and truly enjoyed what he did.

Pat absolutely loved and adored his grandsons. Every single day, he would say to his wife "I wonder what the boys are up to."

In addition to his loving wife, Cathy of Red Hook, Pat is survived by his sons, Eric Pape of Red Hook, NY, and Jason (Rachel) Pape of Red Hook; his grandchildren, Aiden and Kyler Pape; his siblings, Donna (Michael) Bellacicco, Darlene Pape, and Michael Pape; numerous nieces and nephews; extended family and friends.

Pat is predeceased by his parents, Dominic and Marie, and his brother, Joseph.

Friends and family called at Burnett & White Funeral Homes, on Thursday, February 8th, 2024. Prayers were offered.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Red Hook Fire & Rescue Squad

Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook, 7461 South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571, (845) 758-5042.

Stuart R. Queen, Sr.

FORMERLY OF RHINECLIFF - Stuart Robert Queen, Sr., 92, passed away Friday, February 2, 2024 at the Glens Falls Hospital. Stuart lived in Granville,

NY for several years after moving from Rhinecliff where he was a longtime resident.

Born November 24, 1931 in Tivoli, NY, he was the son of Frederick E. and Gertrude May (Staggers) Queen.

He was a 1950 graduate of Rhinebeck High School. He enlisted in the Navy, spending four years on the destroyer, USS Bradford-DD 545, and taking part in the Korean War. After the Navy, Stuart worked several jobs, including as a Rhinebeck Village Police Officer.

He attended college at the School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, Missouri, before taking a job in the engineering department at the State of New York Dept. of Transportation, where he worked for 38 years.

He was a life member of the Rhinecliff Fire Department, member of the Rhinecliff Rescue Squad, Past Grange Master, member of the American Legion Montgomery Post #429, member of the Adirondack Chapter #60 Korean War Veterans, a member of the Rhinebeck United Methodist Church and later a member of the Hartford United Methodist Church.

He was predeceased by his wife Mary Ellen in 2017, his son Stuart Queen, Jr. in 2001, and his brothers Montgomery, William, and Richard, as well as half-brothers George and Lawrence.

Stuart is survived by his daughters, Sheri (Donald) Flemming of Hershey, PA, and Jan (Vince) Doolittle of Granville, NY; 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; one brother, David, and half-sisters Hazel, Geraldine, Cecelia, and Karen.

Public calling hours are on Sunday, February 18 from 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, 51 W. Market St, Rhinebeck. Members of the Rhinecliff Fire Co. will conduct services at 4:00 PM, and members of the Montgomery Post #429 at 4:30 PM.

Funeral Services are Monday, February 19, at 10:30 AM, at the Rhinebeck United Methodist Church, 83 E Market St, Rhinebeck. Rev. Nan Ernst and Rev. Carol Finke will officiate.

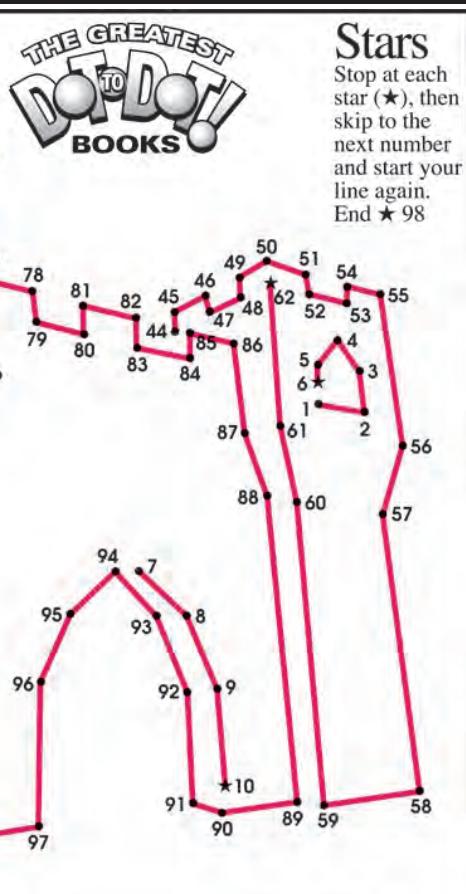
Interment with Military Honors will follow at the Rhinebeck Cemetery, with a reception to follow at the Rhinecliff Fire Department, Shatzell Ave, Rhinecliff.

Memorial donations in honor of Stuart can be made to the Rhinecliff Fire and Rescue, <https://rhineclifffirerescue.org/>

Arrangements are under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home of Rhinebeck, NY.

To send an online condolence, please visit <https://www.dapsonchestney.com/>.

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)



By David Kalvitis

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302 Commercial Property

304 Mobile Homes

305 Lots & Acreage

400 Townhomes &

Condos for rent

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509 Office Equipment

510 Firewood

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512 Winter Merchandise

516 Misc. Merchandise

700 Pets & Supplies

701 Free Pets

702 Lost & Found Pets

703 Pets for Adoption

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The annual meeting of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association will be held in the parlor of the First Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY on February 20, 2024 at 7:00 in the evening for the election of three (3) Trustees and for the transaction of any additional business that

Legal Notices

may be brought before the Board.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-14-24

Legal Notices

Professional Services for Workplace Planning and Needs Assessment for Dutchess County Government Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 28th day of February 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New

Legal Notices

York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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The deadline for Legals is every Friday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Thursday at noon.

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This week's answer

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| 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
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Answers to this
week's diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

Sheriff announces accomplishments for 2023

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati is pleased to announce the following achievements attained by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office in 2023:

Implemented body-worn cameras
Hired three new Sheriff's Aides
Implemented a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit
Hired a Behavioral Health Specialist, to assist both the public and Sheriff's Office members
Implemented Project Lifesaver to better serve those with special needs
Expanded the School Resource Officer Program
Reestablished the Child ID Program
Generated approximately \$5,000,000 from fees and reimbursements
Implemented the Community

Resource Officer Program
Was granted re-accreditation status in both the Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions
Expanded the Unmanned Aerial Support Unit (drones)
Held a law enforcement academy and graduation
Handled an increase in calls for service by 11,000 calls
Enhanced our participation in the Flock Safety system
Continued training for the new Justice and Transition Center

Sheriff Imperati is extremely proud of the men and women at the Sheriff's Office and all that they were able to accomplish last year, and looks forward to even more achievements in 2024 and beyond.

Wanted subject charged after accident investigation

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Julian M. Muhlemann, age 25 of NYC, for various offenses stemming from the investigation into an auto accident on Feb. 9.

On 2/9/24 at approximately 6:25 am Sheriff's Deputies responded to Route 55 near the McDonald's restaurant in LaGrange for a report of a crash. After further interview and investigation Mr. Muhlemann was identified as being involved, and was allegedly found to be in possession of various types of pills. Deputies then attempted to place Mr. Muhlemann under arrest, at which time he physically resisted arrest but was

eventually taken into custody.

At this time Mr. Muhlemann has been charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 7th degree, resisting arrest, and obstructing governmental administration (all misdemeanors). After being processed Mr. Muhlemann was released on appearance tickets returnable to the Town of LaGrange Court on 3/6/24, before ultimately being turned over to the New York State Police on a warrant.

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

AT YOUR LIBRARY

continued from page 16

The Wall Street Journal wrote that he "packs in a remarkable amount of information, thanks to his lean, readable prose." A New York Foundation for the Arts fellow, Jack has appeared on NPR, PBS, and The History Channel. He has written for national publications including the Wall Street Journal and American Heritage. Born in Western New York, Jack now lives and works in the Hudson Valley. Copies of the book will be for sale, courtesy of Oblong Books.

FOR FAMILIES

Join us on the first three Thursday mornings in February for a series on Information and Digital Literacy. Bard librarian Jeremy Hall will show you how to successfully navigate today's vast sea of information. Topics include choosing and evaluating sources, identifying misinformation and media bias and searching like pro. Perfect for homeschoilers seeking to fulfil their library skills requirement. Designed for kids 10 and up, but open to adults. Space is limited and Registration is required.

Come join Ms. Sonia and Mr. Alex in the Children's Library every Monday at 10:30 a.m. for Tunes and Tales! This fun and interactive program features activities such as read aloud stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. This program introduces children to listening skills, picture books and the joy of reading. Stay after to socialize. Birth- 24 months

Join Ms. Crystal every Wednesday at 10:30 for new stories and crafts.

Lego Club will continue to meet every Tuesday. Didn't finish your design in one sitting? No worries, we save your designs so that you can pick up where you left off each session.

Make and Takes are back twice a month! Stop by the Children's Library to pick up new take-home crafts while supplies last.

FOR ADULTS

Join Cyd on Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:30 for Drawing Gym, a guided drawing and writing practice. Each week, Cyd will help you play with your creative process through prompts and exercises that will build your confidence and connect with your personal meaning. Writing and drawing provides a sense of peace. Doing it with others in this guided setting

will be fun and transformative. This program is designed to be inclusive and accessible to individuals of varied ages and artistic backgrounds. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a complete novice, you'll find a welcoming space to experiment, play, and discover fun new ways to express yourself. For ages 12+.

Chair Yoga meets every Monday at 11 a.m. in our community room. The program is led by the incomparable Lyette Thibault, a certified chair yoga teacher. Registration required.

This month's book club selection is Crook Manifesto by Colson Whitehead. Pick up your copy at the Library and then join the discussion on Monday, February 26.

Join us on Fridays at 11 a.m. for weekly Eng-lish as a Sec-ond Lan-guage (ESL) class-es in our community room. During each class, Azal will guide you through different lessons to assist you in improving your English language reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

Need help with a knitting project? Want company while you pearl? Join the Knitting Group on Tuesdays from 4 - 6.

Are you looking to brush up on your Spanish or making your way through Transparent Language or Duolingo and need some community support? Join the Spanish practice group on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 in the community room.

ALL ABILITIES

All Abilities Adults and All Abilities Teens are an hour of social fun in the Community Room for adults and teens, respectively, with intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities. Our activities range from seasonal crafting to games, but friendship and community are constant. The program meets in-person – there are limited spots available and registration is required. To register, please email allabilities@redhooklibrary.org. Paid for in part by Dutchess County.

The All Abilities Teens group has added a monthly movie matinee on the third Saturday of every month. Join us for movies, popcorn, and hot chocolate on Saturday, February 17 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

You can register for any program on our website's calendar at www.redhooklibrary.org.

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