

Hinchey, Beephan urge PSC to reject steep water rate hike in Dover

By Kate Goldsmith

DOVER, NY – State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblyman Anil Beephan delivered testimony earlier this month at a virtual public statement hearing of the Public Service Commission (PSC), where they emphasized the need to reject a request by the Dover Plains Water Company for a 67% rate increase and a \$30 quarterly surcharge on residents' water bills. Following the hearing, Hinchey submitted her third formal letter to the PSC as part of the utility commission's public comment period on the rate filing.

Hinchey said, "Clean water is a fundamental right that must be affordable for our residents. A rate increase this extreme isn't fair to those with fixed and moderate incomes and must be rejected. Today, I was proud to stand against this unconscionable increase during the PSC hearing alongside my colleague Assemblyman Beephan, local officials, and community members, and I will continue to speak out on behalf of the residents of Dover. We must fight for a fair solution that upholds the right to affordable water access for everyone."

Beephan said, "We strongly oppose the proposed 68% increase for the Dover Plains water district. Today, alongside Senator Michelle Hinchey, the town board, and numerous residents, we participated in the public service commission hearing to advocate for the community. The commission must understand that our community cannot afford such an astronomical increase in the price of water. Additionally, we emphasized the need for an in-person public hearing to allow residents to voice their concerns effectively. With only 20

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Arlington High to celebrate 100 years of The Arlingtonian

By Rich Thomaselli

When Sam Falk looks back on the 100-year history of the Arlington High School (AHS) student newspaper, The Arlingtonian, even she is astonished. Not only did the newspaper chronicle the typical student and school district events, but students also wrote about world and national events.

A 1996 Arlington graduate, Falk wrote and edited for the paper when she was a student and is now a co-advisor.

Now the newspaper is celebrating its centennial and Falk - a chemistry teacher - has been a part of it as a student journalist and an adviser for almost a quarter of that time.

"Being a part of The Arlingtonian is important to me because we are a permanent historical record of not just life at Arlington High School, but in the surrounding communities," she said.

A reception to open a month-long retrospective display will be held on Friday, March 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the AHS library. Attendees will be treated to retro refreshments made with recipes from 1924, and will have full access to The Arlingtonian archives.

100 years.

During that time, America saw the sale of war bonds, the Watergate scandal and the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center

and, heck, the Mets even won a World Series. Twice. There have also been stories about a lack of student parking, in-school violence, and school board votes.

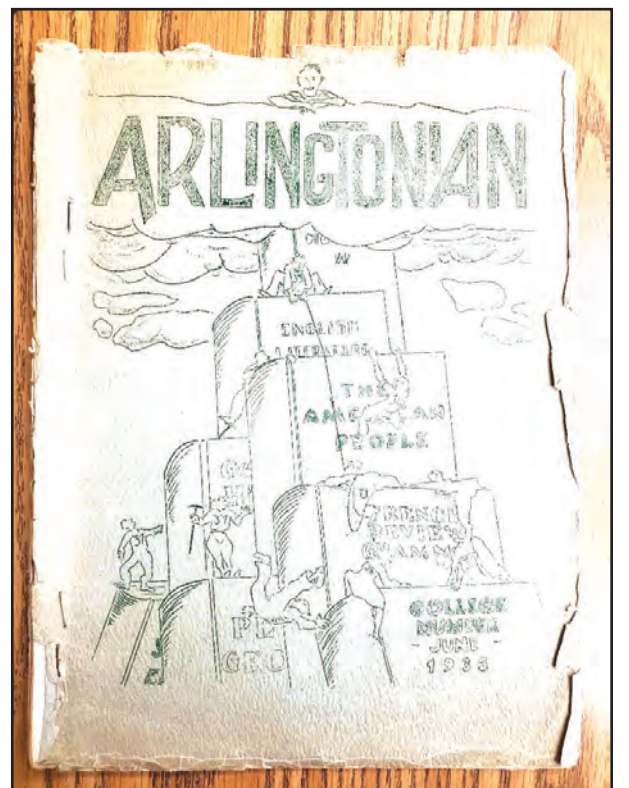
She and fellow student newspaper advisor Liz Brzozowski perhaps said it best when they wrote this note for a celebration event that will take place.

"Each time we work with the students on another edition of The Arlingtonian, the nameplate reminds us that the paper was established back in 1924. It's easy to dismiss the significance of that date in the hectic process of writing, editing, laying out, printing, and distributing the paper. This year, however, we had to pause and reflect on the fact that our school paper has been around for 100 years. It's hard to believe that The Arlingtonian predates both sliced bread and World War II, among other major cultural and historical milestones."

As the town of LaGrange has not had a continuous print newspaper throughout its even longer history, The Arlingtonian

has served not only as a school paper, but as a record for the community at large.

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Pictured above is the cover of the oldest issue in the archives of The Arlingtonian - from June of 1935. *Courtesy image*

Irish heritage, community service say it all for Grand Marshal O'Grady



St. Patrick's parade set for Saturday in WF

By Kristine Coulter

The 29th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off in the Village of Wappingers Falls on March 2 at 1 p.m. Line up is at noon. The parade will happen

The Grand Marshal of the 2024 Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade is Andrew O'Grady. The parade will take place on March 2 in the Village of Wappingers Falls. *Courtesy photo*

rain or shine. Andrew O'Grady, who is the CEO of Mental Health America of Dutchess County, has been announced as the 2024 Grand Marshal.

"I have to say that I have been lucky enough to have been recognized in the past for other honors but there is something about being the Grand Marshal of such a huge event that has me very honored and excited. I was actually shocked that I was chosen, it is certainly exciting," O'Grady recently told Northern Dutchess News.

According to the members of the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Committee,

"Andrew was selected because of his outstanding service throughout our community." It was noted that O'Grady is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College.

"He has 32 years of dedicated service to those affected by mental illness and the mental health professionals and systems that treat those individuals. One of the biggest growth areas for MHA, under his leadership, is in working with the Veterans Department. Andrew is very proud of his Irish heritage, and we applaud his dedication to family,

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Red Hook HS to host State of County address

Red Hook High School will host Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's first State of the County address at its state-of-the-art performing arts center. Red Hook Central School District Superintendent Janet Warden will provide opening remarks for the March 14 event and high school Principal Kyle Roddey will emcee.

"It's a great opportunity for us to showcase our school district," Warden said. "We're honored to host such a wonderful event for the county."

Each year, the county executive uses the State of the County address to update residents on ongoing projects and set initiatives for the coming months and years. Previous hosts of the event have included the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park and the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie. The construction of Red Hook's auditorium, a 700-seat facility that opened in Spring 2021, was made possible through a 2017 capital referendum approved by voters.

"We're so lucky the voters supported such a beautiful facility that the county would be interested in using it as a space for this prestigious event," Warden said. "I encourage our students to attend and watch government in action."

Serino, a northern Dutchess resident and longtime state senator, was elected county executive in November. She succeeded William F.X. O'Neil and now-Congressman Marc Molinaro.

Serino said she plans to highlight different parts of the county for special events. The choice of Red Hook as the site for her speech was, in part, thematic. She plans to spotlight the growth and success of county initiatives in support of



County Executive Sue Serino

youth.

"Our school district partners play a huge part in that support and development," Serino said. "Red Hook High School, for example, encourages interest in STEM through not just academics, but also extra-curriculars like its RoboRaiders team, which participated in the recent FIRST Tech Challenge."

The RoboRaiders received the "Inspire" award at the Dec. 2 event, given to the team that best embodies the "challenge" of the program and shares their knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with others.

The State of the County address is set for 5:30 p.m. March 14 and is free to the public. RSVP by March 12 to the County Executive's Office at DutchessNY.gov/RSVP or by calling 845-486-2000. Red Hook High School is located at 103 W. Market St. in Red Hook.

MRC to host Women's Safety Awareness Night March 19

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Dutchess County and the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department will offer the popular Women's Safety Awareness Night seminar on Tuesday, March 19, starting at 7 p.m., at the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response campus, located at 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. The event is free to attend, but registration is required by emailing mrc@dutchessny.gov.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "This is an important opportunity to empower women and girls to take ownership of their safety and well-being. I am grateful to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and our own Medical Reserve Corps for continuing to offer such important trainings for Dutchess

County residents, and for all they do to keep our community safe."

Designed to encourage and empower women while raising awareness of common safety measures that can be taken to minimize risk, Town of Poughkeepsie Police Detective Lindsay Chomicki and Officer Kristen Norbom will share tips for participants to better understand the important role their instincts and gut reactions play as well as how to identify and avoid potentially dangerous situations, how to make a safety plan and decrease the odds of becoming a victim of a crime.

Dutchess County MRC hosts various trainings for members and non-members alike throughout the year. For more information about the MRC, including how to sign-up to volunteer, visit dutchessny.gov/mrc.

BARRETT TO HOST WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT AT DCC

Assemblymember Didi Barrett will host her annual Women's History Month Event on Sunday, March 3, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Bowne Hall, on the campus of Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie.

This year's celebration will highlight the life and contributions of Susan Peltz Hochhauser, a champion of many local organizations in Dutchess County. Susan's story is included in the 2024 edition of Assemblymember Barrett's "Women's History in the Hudson Valley - Ten Stories from Columbia and Dutchess Counties" which will be available at the March 3 event and at local libraries and high schools in the 106th Assembly District.

To attend the event, RSVP with Matthew Hartzog at hartzogm@nyassembly.gov.

Hinchey, Beephan urge PSC to reject steep water rate hike in Dover

continued from cover

participants, including government officials, it is clear that holding these meetings at 2 p.m. on a weekday is not feasible for working households. We will continue to fight against these rate increases and stand with the residents."

A transcript of Senator Hinchey's remarks at the virtual public statement hearing on Tuesday, February 6, emphasized the extreme nature of the rate hike. In part it reads:

"Access to clean and affordable water is a fundamental necessity, as well as a right that voters enshrined in our State Constitution. It's the responsibility of every water utility to provide services at fair rates. Nearly tripling the water bills for people with fixed and moderate incomes is far from fair. Dover is an economically disadvantaged community where essentially 18% of residents live below the poverty line. This rate hike would inflict immediate financial hardship on our neighbors.

"Many people are already dealing with serious economic difficulties. Some are forced to choose between paying for essentials like their rent or mortgage, while others are grappling with whether they have enough to heat their homes, buy groceries, or cover a medical bill. Adding an exorbitant water bill to this list is unconscionable, which is why the PSC must reject this proposal.

"I also urge the Commission to carefully consider the human impact of this proposal and, in doing so, hold in-person public hearings in the Town of Dover. While we appreciate the Commission's effort to hold this virtual hearing today, it does not accommodate the needs of a rural community with limited internet access.

"It is incumbent upon the PSC to

ensure that public hearings are accessible to everyone, particularly in this rate case where the financial stability of an entire community is at stake.

"I appreciate the Commission's attention to this important matter and dedication to protecting customers throughout New York State. I hope you can see why this proposal simply shouldn't stand. I will continue to be an advocate for the residents of Dover, and I look forward to working together towards a fair and equitable solution."

Public comment period still open

The PSC is still accepting comments, but requests they are submitted by April 1, 2024. Comments should refer to "Case 23- W-0467 -Dover Plains Water Company Minor Rates."

Internet: Go to www.dps.ny.gov, click on "File Search" (located under the "Commission Files" heading), enter "23-W-0467" in the "Search by Case Number" field, and then click on "Post Comments" at the top of the page.

Mail: Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12223-1350. All written comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission and may be accessed on the Department of Public Service website by searching the case number, as described above, and clicking on the "Public Comments" tab.

Toll-Free Opinion Line: You may call the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers 24-hours a day. These calls are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

CLINTON HIGHWAY DEPT. NEEDS RAGS

Town of Clinton Highway Superintendent Todd Martin is looking for donations of rags for the Highway Department as the supply is nearly depleted. If you have rags to donate, you can drop them off to the highway department, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DC Soil and Water Conservation District gains grant for mapping in 3 local towns

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced more than \$166 million is being awarded to 187 projects to improve water quality across the state. The grants support projects that will help protect drinking water, update aging water infrastructure, combat contributors to harmful algal blooms, and improve aquatic habitat in communities statewide. More than \$101 million of the funding will support water quality improvements for environmental justice communities, which have been disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.

Among those is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping

project by the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District - \$180,000 for three towns.

The Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District will work with the towns of LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, and Hyde Park to complete basic MS4 mapping elements.

The district will complete field work to locate and inventory the storm sewer conveyance systems and structures which will include pipes, ditches, catch basins, and outfalls. The project will assist the towns in further tracking, inspection, and maintenance of their storm water conveyance systems.

A black and white photograph of a man in a white t-shirt and dark pants standing next to a large, white, portable generator. The generator has the "GENERAC" logo on its side. They are outdoors in front of a house with horizontal siding and a wooden deck railing. The background is slightly blurred.

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continued from cover

The newspaper has survived a move from the high school's original location in Poughkeepsie to its current home, in addition to multiple expansions and additions to both the building and the district itself. Students have covered everything from the Vietnam War to streaking to vaping to a lack of student parking and everything in between.

And then there was the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When schools closed in March of 2020, we felt compelled to keep the paper going, even if only in digital form,” said advisors Falk and Brzozowski. “Students in previous decades maintained records of polio outbreaks, the AIDS crisis, and other threats to public health. We wanted to make sure that decades from now, our community will be able to see the impact that COVID-19 had on every aspect of our lives. It is a point of pride for us that our staff was able to adapt to the challenges of working remotely, and to continue publishing throughout the entire pandemic.”

As Arlington graduates and former Arlingtonian staff members ourselves, we are honored to have this opportunity to mark the paper's centennial as its advisors. Thank you for celebrating this monumental anniversary with us. On behalf of our editorial staff, writers, artists, and photographers, here's to another century of student journalism at Arlington!"

The current students are just as proud to be associated with the paper and fully understand its historical significance.

April Wang, a junior and a section editor for the paper, said: "This is my second

year as a section editor, meaning that I write, edit and distribute articles. Once articles are written, a handful of section editors, including myself, are involved in the layout and editing process in which we stay after school in the computer lab to help put the articles together. It means so much to be part of the club. It is like carrying on the legacy of all the past Arlingtonian writers. It is also so cool that we are doing a little something to celebrate its 100th birthday.”

“It’s fun to work with the kids through the entire process, from brainstorming ideas and writing, to editing and laying it out, then finally distributing the finished product. It’s been especially exciting getting to work on our centennial celebration, as it is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. A real highlight has been reading the interviews the students conducted with former Arlingtonian staff members, some of whom graduated back in the 1950s,” Brzozowski said.

Oh, and even though the two advisers might not be physically present for all of the second century of service, they are still shaping the journalists of tomorrow.

“Real journalism exists to inform people about the truth about what is going on around them, and, sadly, today the journalism industry is in decline,” Falk said. “We are a small part of keeping it alive. Although we are just an after-school club, we try to teach our students that there is a difference between a blog post expressing one’s opinion and unbiased reporting.”



Above, current staff members of The Arlingtonian pose for a photo at Arlington High School. Below, the student newspaper also covered local reaction to national events over the years, such as Watergate in 1974. Left, past staff members give their reflections of their years working with The Arlingtonian. A reception to open a month-long retrospective display will be held on Friday, March 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the AHS library. *Courtesy photos*

8 **ALUMNI REFLECTIONS** February 2014 **the Arlingtonian**

Alumni Reflections

Linda Lucas Walker
Class of 1969 - Feature Editor

Arlingtonian Memories: "I actually developed two things that we used—we did those things called 'From the Crisbide' and 'In the Limelight.' So we used to go and get baby pictures of kids in our classes and we'd put it in there, and you would have to guess who the person is [for 'From the Crisbide']. 'In the Limelight' was about people in school and what they've done or what they've accomplished. This way you could get to know your fellow students, and a little bit about them and what they were up to in high school. It was a lot of fun and we had a great group, we did a lot of interesting things. I met a lot of good friends and even our student advisor was amazing also. He was a really good leader and let us create different things. This was something I really just enjoyed doing and, I remember even to this day, how much fun I had working on the paper."

Current Occupation: "I actually still work, I'm a registered nurse. I basically spent most of my time in what was St. Francis Hospital, I worked in the intensive care unit. I now work as a nurse in the Dutchess County Jail."

Influence of The Arlingtonian: "I was very shy in high school but I think just the fact that you got to interview people, that was a skill in itself. I think working on the paper brought out your self-esteem. There were also organizational skills to be learned because of the way the paper was laid out, that was what we did. It was always 'where is this article going' and 'where is that article going.' Having to work together to make one thing flow to the next, I think, was very analytical. I got a lot of self-esteem out of that, and skills like that last with you for a lifetime and help a lot."

Interview by Rebecca S. Rodriguez-Singh

Sam Garramone Falk
Class of 1996 - Features Editor

Arlingtonian Memories: "So when I did it in the late 90s, it wasn't quite as computerized as it is now, and I think it was fun—we would do layout by cutting and pasting, like literally printing an article, cutting out the paper, and having to glue it onto this layout sheet, and so we would do it all in one time. We would stay after school on a Friday until 9 or 10 o'clock at night and we would get dinner together, and I think it was fun working together with other people. I have memories of trying to figure out how to use the copy machine and enlarge things and make them smaller, which doesn't sound like it would be that fun, but, I always liked the process of doing layout the best."

Current Occupation: "I am a co-advisor of the *Arlingtonian* now, and a chemistry teacher at Arlington High School. I am also a part of my union's leadership."

Influence of The Arlingtonian: "I'm a science teacher, so, at face value, it doesn't seem like there's any connection between teaching chemistry and doing journalism, but I thought about it recently and realized there actually is—it completely makes sense that I would like journalism and science because both are about collecting information to tell the truth about something. So in journalism you might interview people, chemistry you might take the mass of something, but you collect information and try to see what's true, and so I think that's what I really like about it. So, my day job is teaching chemistry, but I came back and advised the newspaper, and I also produce the teachers union newsletter, and so that uses whatever journalism skills I have learned."

Interview by Noah Gillman

Ruta Ronis
Class of 1970 - Art Editor

Arlingtonian Memories: "I was an *Arlingtonian* staff member from 10th through 12th grade. I was the Art Editor and did all of the art work since we rarely used photos. I was also the person who went out to solicit community businesses to place ads. I also did layouts which meant columns and spacing was done all by hand using scissors and rubber cement - sometimes cutting words into syllables to achieve what was required. The editions were printed by the school (student) print shop from plates they created from the layouts. It was a great experience!"

Current Occupation: "I am a retired elementary school teacher."

Influence of The Arlingtonian: "Since the time I was a little kid I always knew I was going to be a teacher. The experiences of working on so many issues at AHS led to more newspaper work after graduating, including creating monthly staff newspapers at the school district I taught at. That paper received awards at NYSUT's annual district newspaper competition. Since my retirement from teaching I have been writing articles for the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Department about the Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center which are printed in the *Southern Dutchess News*. That just shows that what a person learns in school can be of value throughout their life!"

Interview by Angel Jackson

Dan Pietrafesa
Class of 1984 - Sports Writer

Arlingtonian Memories: "It was a lot of fun. I got to meet some cool people. I had a lot of great memories of Arlington. It was a great school, and still is—my sister is actually a teacher in the district. I have two nephews who graduated from Arlington and I have a niece who's a senior in Arlington. And I still hear great things about the school so... a lot of great memories."

Current Occupation: "I was a sportswriter for over 25 years with *Poughkeepsie Journal/1st Today Sports*. I also wrote for seven years with *Catholic NY*, which was the largest Catholic newspaper in North America. I now work for Dutchess BOCES and do PR in local schools."

Influence of The Arlingtonian: "I've always had an interest in sports. I'm a big sports fan. And The *Arlingtonian* actually opened the door for a career opportunity for me, because I became a sports writer. I was a sports writer for over 25 years. I had a wonderful career."

Interview by Angel Jackson

Here is an example from November 1967 of the "In the Limelight" feature developed by Linda Lucas Walker.

Dave Merrell
Class of 2005 - Editor-In-Chief

Arlingtonian Memories: "I remember it was a lot of fun, and I remember making really good friends; I remember learning a lot about talking to people and learning about other people's lives in order to find out things to put in the paper. And I remember the office. Which I don't know if you have the same office, but 20 years ago we had an office that we could go in during free periods to work on the paper and that's where we kept a lot of papers and print outs and interview notes and it was just a really good space where it was just the editors and the paper and we could always just be working on something there."

Current Occupation: "I work in business development for Yahoo News."

Influence of The Arlingtonian: "I worked on the *Arlingtonian* and then I worked on my college paper and I've been in news media ever since. After college I worked at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and after that I worked at the *Washington Post*, and now I work at Yahoo News, which is not a newspaper but a news organization. The things that I learned with *The Arlingtonian* are a lot of lessons that stayed with me throughout my career. And I think that working in student media is a great way to prepare for working in professional media."

Interview by Angel Jackson

The

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15 cents

Nixon Knew About Watergate, Say Students in Survey

Scholarship Drive Planned

by Jim Patterson

The Arlington Scholarship Drive is planned for March 16, and 17. On these two days, students and adults will combine their time to institute a door to door canvass of the houses in the Arlington School District. These volunteers will ask for tax deductible donations from the residents. This money will be put into a fund that is established to provide financial assistance to those Arlington School District students who wish to continue their education but are unable to do so for financial reasons. The recipients of the awards are chosen on the basis of need and academic ability. The awards may be used at any institution of higher learning.

WRESTLERS WIN DCSL

by David Staats

They couldn't be stopped.

The Admirals steamrolled over the rest of the Dutchess County Scholastic League to win their second straight D.C.S.L. wrestling championship February 9. Competition was fierce, and the score was close, but Arlington pushed past them all.

Jeff Wright, Ken Media, Gary Keefe, Bill Thornton, and Dan Bunch led the way. A.H.S. beat its archrival, John Jay, by 111-100. Third-place Roosevelt was way behind with 66.

Arlington placed nine men in the finals, which followed over six hours of semifinals. Media, Keefe, Dan Doyle and George O'Shea were defending champions in their weight classes.

Plurality Says: Serve Out Term

An overwhelming majority of students who responded to a national issues survey in school said they do not believe President Nixon's assertions that he knew neither of the Watergate break-in nor its subsequent cover-up. A plurality also indicated that he should serve out his term of office, however, but that he should resign if impeached.

In a national issues survey conducted by The Arlingtonian and made available to all students in school Monday, February 4, 56.3% said yes, 28.1% said no, and 16.6% had no opinion to the question: "Do you think President Nixon knew about the Watergate break-in before it occurred?"

When asked, "Do you think President Nixon knew about the Watergate cover-up before last March 21, the date which he claims is the first time he became aware of the full implications of the Watergate scandal?", 64.7% said yes, 21.2% said no, and 14.4% had no opinion.

I of 3 Favor Impeachment Or Resignation

The first question of the survey was divided into four separate questions asking students if President Nixon should either resign, be impeached, serve out his elected term of office, or resign if he is impeached. The results are:

Key: Y=yes, N=no, NO=no opinion

Do you feel that President Nixon should:

a. resign?
Y-34.6% N-45.1% NO-20.3%

b. be impeached?
Y-33.4% N-44.6% NO-22.0%

c. serve out his term of



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NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Calls for ceasefire, no more bombs to Israel

To the editor:
We often think of our elected officials as ordinary people, caught up in the spirit of public service. They certainly try to be like the rest of us, with families and favorite teams to cheer for. It’s true, they are often a bit more patriotic than the average citizen. Not so carried away, however, as to ever fight America’s endless wars in the Third World.
But when the Senate voted today [Feb. 20] for more aid to Israel, my confidence in our elected leaders faltered. We can see it on every computer screen, the genocide of 2 million at the hands of a rabid and racist Israeli army. Netanyahu’s Israel behaves like the Third Reich, and our elected leaders behave like this is what normal people do.
But normal people want a ceasefire, not another shipment of bombs and missiles to Israel. Normal people are horrified at the prospect of tens of thousands of children being starved to death. Not our political leaders, however. Now that Israel has two million Palestinian civilians hopelessly crowded into southern Gaza, the “final solution” can begin. And to that rarified world of the US Senate, that’s just fine.
The startling amorality of our ruling class, however, is a teaching moment. Our government is not a democracy, and its two party system is nothing more than a sham. The system is so monstrous that we have to take notice. Our late American empire is a killing machine, and genocide is just another acceptable tactic.

Fred Nagel
Rhinebeck

What's \$355 million among friends?

To the editor:
Many that are lined up against former President Trump have been poised to be dancing on his grave for quite awhile. The recent ruling of a \$355 million penalty in the New York civil fraud trial caused rejoicing in many quarters. But, is this a cause for celebration?
Investor and Shark Tank host Kevin O’Leary has come out to say the ruling by Judge Engoron was excessive, banks that were involved were not harmed, and this will have a chilling effect on those who might want to do business in New York. Others have said the ruling upholds ethics and does not allow large companies to take away available funds from smaller entities. We will likely see further insights when the case goes to appeal.
Attorney General James has achieved a favorable ruling in the case but will this turn out to be a Pyrrhic victory? The target/enemy was defeated but will it come at a significant cost to the state in the form of investors taking their money elsewhere? It was interesting that Governor Hochul quickly jumped up to do damage control to assuage investors about doing business in New York but are those investors truly thinking, “Who’s next?” as O’Leary stated? Time will tell. Until then, will James’ “notch on her belt” become “Be careful what you wish for?”
Rex S. Bridges
Rhinebeck

Governor adopts Jacobson’s FAFSA Bill in budget

A bill (A8953) sponsored by Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) requiring high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now part of Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget. If this section of the budget passes, Jacobson’s bill will become law.
In a section of the budget proposing new laws, the Governor submitted language that mirrors Jacobson’s legislation to ensure that each high school senior in the state completes the FAFSA or signs a waiver.
All colleges and universities require students to complete the FAFSA to be considered eligible for financial aid, but not all students are taking advantage. A recent analysis from the National College Attainment Network found that the high school class of 2022 lost out on nearly \$3.6 billion in Pell Grants because they didn’t complete the FAFSA. Pell grants pay up to \$7,395 per student per year.
Jacobson spoke at a press conference recently hosted by the nationwide youth

advocacy group Young Invincibles, along with Senator Andrew Gounardes, who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate (S8148).
“Education can be the great equalizer, but only if it’s accessible and affordable,” said Jacobson during the event, noting that students in New York left \$200 million of aid on the table in 2022. “By requiring and assisting high school students to complete the FAFSA, we are fulfilling our obligation to expand opportunity to all by making college more affordable, and therefore available to all.”

Sheriff’s Office to host boater safety courses

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk A. Imperati announces that over the next several months Marine Patrol Deputies will be instructing New York State Safe Boating Courses for the purpose of educating boaters and assuring safe and lawful operation of all vessels in compliance with Brianna’s Law.
Brianna’s Law is named after Brianna Lieneck, who was an 11 year old girl from Long Island, NY that was killed in a boating accident in 2005. Brianna’s Law phases in mandatory completion of a New York State Safe Boating Course for all persons who operate motorized vessels. Failure to comply with this law could result in a fine between \$100 and \$250.

Any person wishing to operate a vessel who is born on or after January 1, 1978 will need a Boating Safety Certificate as of 2024. All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of their age, will need a Boating Safety Certificate beginning in 2025.
The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit will be conducting multiple NYS Safe Boating Courses. Attendees must attend all 8 hours of the course for successful completion. All courses will be held at the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Center Community Room at 108 Parker Ave in the City of Poughkeepsie on the following dates and times:
Course 1: Saturday, March 30th from 8:00 am -5:00 pm
Course 2: Friday, April 12th from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm; and Saturday, April 13th

from 8:00 am -12:00 pm
Course 3: Saturday, April 27th from 8:00 am -5:00 pm
Course 4: Friday, May 3rd from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm; and Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 am -12:00 pm
Course 5: Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 am -5:00 pm
Course 6: Saturday, May 25th from 8:00 am -5:00 pm

There is no fee to attend; however, registration is required due to limited availability for each session. If you would like to register for a course visit the following website: https://www.registered.com/programs/new_york/252-new-york-safe-boating-course If you have questions or need assistance, contact the Sheriff’s Office at (845) 486-3840.

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- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
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- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

Rhinebeck Police issue fraud alert

The Village of Rhinebeck Police would like to remind residents to exercise caution when receiving calls, texts or emails from unknown sources to avoid falling victim to fraud.

Some current scams include:

- Computer virus – a phone number appears on the computer screen to fix the situation and upon calling the victim is tricked into paying high fees for the repair.
- Scammer poses as a known person in a text and tricks the victim into purchasing multiple gift cards for them with the promise of being reimbursed.
- Scammer claims to be from a business (Verizon, Central Hudson etc.) and

convinces the victim that their account is overdue, and the victim is tricked into sending money through a payment app.

- Scammer poses as an attorney for a family member who has been in a recent accident. The victim is tricked into sending money to help their family member.
- Scammer poses as the victim's bank in a text and tricks the victim into providing their account information.

Some tips to follow:

- Never provide your personal or banking information via phone, email or text.
- As soon as a caller mentions purchasing a gift card, this should be a major red flag. Legitimate businesses will not demand payment in gift cards.

- If someone is claiming be an attorney demanding money for a family member, this should be a major red flag. That is not a normal course of business, and you should contact the family member directly.
- If a business is claiming your account is overdue, request they send their demand in writing.

- If a caller threatens police involvement, disconnect the call and contact police to verify the validity of the call.
- When in doubt – STOP – do not give the caller any access to your accounts or computer. You are always welcome to call the Village of Rhinebeck Police Department (845-876-8181) to discuss the call to determine if it is scam.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Copake Grange to host talk on invasive species

“An Introduction to Invasive Species: Identification and Management” will take place on Saturday, March 2, 3:30-5 p.m., at the Copake Grange, Empire Road, Copake. Learn about the emerald ash borer, the hemlock woolly adelgid, Japanese barberry, bittersweet and many other invasive species and what to do about them. Everyone is welcome to this free talk. Q & A and refreshments afterward. The talk is presented by Colleen Lutz, assistant biologist with NY Natural Heritage Program. Samantha Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator with the DEC’s Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. Visit <https://www.copakegrange.org/events> for other upcoming events.

Utilities topic of Rhinecliff Community Conversation

On Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m., Morton Memorial Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) will host a conversation on local utilities and water issues. Please attend to make your thoughts heard. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call (845) 876-2903 for more information.

Pleasant Valley Community Gardens to meet March 7

Looking for a hands-on opportunity to learn about vegetable gardening, while also helping your neighbors? Join Pleasant Valley Community Gardens at its monthly meeting 6 pm Thursday, March 7 at the Pleasant Valley Library. We are a mix of knowledgeable and brand-new gardeners, already planning for our first days turning the soil at our beautiful garden on Salt Point Turnpike in mid-March. Last year we donated more than 1,500 pounds of fresh vegetables to the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry, and we plan to exceed that this season. Join our band of planters, weeders and harvesters! See the Facebook page for Pleasant Valley Community Gardens for more information.

Repair Cafe in Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley Climate Smart, Repaircafehv.Org and Sustainable Hudson Valley host the Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe, Saturday, March 9, from 10 am - 2 pm at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Route 44. Our SPRING SPECIAL, brings the Amazing Vince to sharpen & balance Lawnmower Blades. Bring your blades for a “like new” fix. We also repair lamps, computers, clocks, cell phones, Jewelry, mend clothing, sweaters, sharpen knives & small garden tools and almost anything that is broken. Voluntary Donations are appreciated. This is neighbors helping neighbors, making Repairs instead of filling landfills. Visit www.repaircafehv.org for more information.

Stanford Grange to host take-out Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 9, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take-out only at 5 p.m. The menu will consist of Corned Beef & Cabbage, Boiled Potatoes & Carrots, Homemade Irish Soda Bread, and Millionaire’s Shortbread for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner, get your food through your car window, and take it home to enjoy. For reservations (which are a must as we will sell out), call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

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 evening will begin with a cocktail social hour, followed by a dinner prepared by a special talented team at The Pavilion at Brookmeade.

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

Penny Social to benefit Pomona Grange set March 16

Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32 will host its Annual Penny Social on Saturday, March 16, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. There will be a penny table, \$1 table, baked goods table, special theme baskets donated by our Dutchess County Granges, and door prizes. Dutchess County Youth Grangers will have the Snack Bar open for refreshments (no outside food please; it takes money away from the kids). For more information, contact Marilyn Brands at (845) 223-5717 or Melissa Traver at (845) 891-9779.

Rhinebeck Grange holds Wintertime Soup Sale

Rhinebeck Grange #896 will hold its final Winter Soup Sale on Thursday, 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.

Irish heritage, community service say it all for Grand Marshal O’Grady

continued from cover



Andrew O’Grady, grand marshal of this year’s Dutchess County St. Patrick’s parade, is pictured at the recent Emerald Ball with fellow staff members from Mental Health America of Dutchess County. *Courtesy photo*

service and our community,” stated the Committee.

Jack Fedigan, a previous parade grand marshal and committee member, remarked, “He has quite the resume. When we read his resume, Andrew’s [qualifications] jumped off the page.”

Fedigan explained there are 30 committee members. The bands are booked for events in New York City and Westchester, Putnam counties throughout March, so the Dutchess County parade is held the first week in March to accommodate the bands, explained Fedigan.

Gene Noone, who is on the committee, said, “Our committee has been working hard to provide this impressive event for the Irish community. If you are Irish by blood, relationship, or just want to be for the day, come enjoy with your family and friends. There are many places in the village to watch and enjoy the festivities.” Noone added, “There will be entertainment and refreshments at several places throughout the day, like the Knights of Columbus, VFW, and several other places throughout the village. Come on down and help us celebrate our 29th Annual St. Patrick’s Parade.”

Regarding his Irish heritage, O’Grady stated, “With a name like O’Grady I have heard people make reference to the Irish heritage and history since I was a kid. Knowing our history, where our family comes from, what their journey was, and the struggles or successes we have had helps give context to where my family is today and hopefully, we always do things that build on that legacy. This honor will certainly be added to the O’Grady history books.”

The parade is not only a celebration of Irish heritage. The parade “is about the people and businesses in this great County we all live in. It is one of those few events that bring us all together with a fun filled positive day. A great event that families of all ages will enjoy,” said O’Grady.

Dutchess County Executive Sue

Serino stated, “The annual Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls is a time-honored tradition that thousands across Dutchess County and beyond look forward to. I love the wonderful sense of community you feel at the parade – whether you are marching or enjoying it as a spectator-together, we are all celebrating Irish heritage as neighbors and friends.”

Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber stated, “As the 29th Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade approaches, Village residents are getting ready to carry shamrocks and don green clothing. The Village is looking forward to welcoming families from far and wide to join the nearly 300,000 regular attendees that have become a part of the Wappingers Community! Each year the young and old gather along the Village streets and cheer on parade participants. My family and I are looking forward to being a part of the day!”

Serino remarked, “I am grateful to all of the Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee volunteers for their work coordinating and hosting this event all these years, bringing smiles to the faces of all who attend and giving us the chance to be ‘Irish for the day.’”

Noone said, “The best part of the day for me is to witness the parade from beginning to the end, seeing all the hard work of the committee coming together.”

O’Grady said he hopes his involvement, and that of the marchers and bands,” will make this a parade to remember.”

For additional parade information kindly visit the website at www.dcsppc.org or call 1-845-297-0800.

The annual Mass will be held before the parade, at 9 a.m. at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Falls Roman Catholic Church, 11 Clinton St., in Wappingers Falls.

The inaugural Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade was held in 1996.

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VANDERBILT GARDEN ASSOCIATION SETS GARDEN KICK-OFF MEETING MARCH 24

Those interested in finding out more information about volunteering at the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden in Hyde Park are invited to a Garden Kick-off Meeting on Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m., at the Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic Site Visitor Center.

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, training will be provided.

Garden volunteers must be 18 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.

If you cannot attend the Kick-off Meeting, for further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call (845) 229-6432.

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Local FFA member meets with State legislators



The New York State chapters of Future Farmers of America (FFA) conducted the State Leader’s Experience in early February. FFA members from across the state met in Albany for workshops on how state government works, the legislative process and for meetings with their local representatives. The group was addressed by Governor Hochul and Senator Michelle Hinchey, Chair of the Agriculture committee, among others. Matthew Mulligan, Vice President of John Jay High School’s FFA Chapter, attended the event and was able to meet with local Assemblyman Anil Beephan and Senator Robert Rolison to discuss matters relating to Agriculture Education in New York State. Mulligan said, “It was such a great experience to meet with my local legislators and speak to them about the issues that agriculture faces today.” *Courtesy photo*

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Volpe, Jones have impressive starts for Yanks in spring opener

By Rich Thomaselli

Here comes baseball! Well, sort of. Although the minor league baseball season doesn’t begin until the first week of April, potential players for the Hudson Valley Renegades have gathered in Tampa for spring training. The Renegades are the Class A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

Many of the Renegades have gone on to enjoy Major League success. The most recent example was Anthony Volpe, who has already been named the starting shortstop for the 2024 season for the Yankees.

Volpe progressed through the system and ended up playing in only 55 games in

Hudson Valley and was promoted to the big leagues last year. Volpe had a hit and scored a run in the Yankees’ spring training opener on Saturday – a 22-10 win over the Detroit Tigers.

Outfielder Spencer Jones, who was one of the Renegades star performers last season, also had an impressive spring debut with the Yankees on Saturday when he crushed a 470-foot homer in his first at-bat as a pinch hitter. Jones went 3-3 on the day with two runs and four RBIs.

A full roster for the Renegades will not be set until the conclusion of spring training at the end of March. The team made it to the finals of the South Atlantic League last year.

The season begins on April 6.

LOCAL SPORTS

By Rich Thomaselli

FDR cheerleaders win Section 9 title

The Franklin D. Roosevelt High School cheerleading team recently won the Section 9 championship and its headed to the state tournament.

FDR also won the championship for the fall.

The state championships are Saturday, March 2, in Binghamton.

FDR won the co-ed division After taking the sectional title back during football season for Game Day cheer. It is the school’s third cheerleading title in the last five years.

Section 9 playoffs next for OLL girls after league win

The Our Lady of Lourdes High School girls basketball team won its first

Mid-Hudson Athletic League championship last week and did so in impressive fashion.

OLL beat Highland, 65-29.

The Warriors are now 19-1 as they head into the Section 9 playoffs.

Kayla Johannesen had 16 points, six assists and six rebounds to lead OLL. Teammate Bianka Velovic added 11 points, five rebounds and three assists, and Simone Pelish had nine points.

Lourdes held leads of 20-0 and 41-12. The Warriors won the league semifinals and finals by the combined score of 135-66.

OLL we’ll be playing in the AAA Tournament the Huskies will participate in Section 9, Class B.

Hochul announces significant growth of NY’s agricultural education and FFA programs

During National FFA Week (Feb. 17-24), Gov. Kathy Hochul announced significant growth in New York State’s agriculture education and FFA Programs. Since 2016, the number of agricultural teachers has grown to 412 in 2023, a more than 75 percent increase from 2016. In addition, New York’s FFA chapters and membership continue to grow, with 36new FFA chapters created since 2022 and 89 since 2016, making for a total of 200 FFA chapters established across New York today. The Governor’s 2024 State of the State and FY 2025 Budget both prioritize agricultural education, with the creation of a youth agriculture leadership conference and the dedication of \$1.25 million to support the FFA, an increase of \$250,000 from last year.

“As a former 4-H kid, I know firsthand how important agricultural education is to developing a generation of leaders that understand where our food comes from, value the work of our farmers, and

are committed to supporting our agricultural communities,” Governor Hochul said. “There are endless opportunities for our students to build a career in agriculture, from farming to food science, biotechnology, engineering, veterinary medicine, and so much more. New York will continue supporting our passionate educators and grow these critical programs across the state.”

The increase in agricultural teachers, through programs such as Cornell University’s Agriculture Education and Outreach Program, New York Agriculture in the Classroom, and the New York State FFA Association, is allowing more schools and students to participate in a formal agricultural curriculum, providing a direct boost to the pipeline of students who will go on to enter into the agricultural industry as a future career.

Alongside this growth in teachers, the number of FFA charters and members has also increased. With 200 chapters

established in 53of New York’s 62 counties, there are now nearly 12,000 FFA members in New York State, an increase from 9,300 in 2022. In 2016, State Agriculture Commissioner challenged the FFA to increase its number of charters across the State by 100; the FFA is nearing that goal with 89 created since then.

The New York FFA Association is a youth organization that helps middle and

high school students become leaders in a variety of career fields, including agriculture. In the FY 2024 Budget, \$2 million was invested to support the New York FFA, Association of Agricultural Educations, and New York Agriculture in the Classroom, and \$50,000 was allocated to support the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) program.

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Poughkeepsie city schools celebrate Black History Month with distinguished guest

In a spirited celebration of Black History Month, the Poughkeepsie School District (PCSD) Community Schools, in collaboration with Echelon Auto Black Car Service, DoubleTree by Hilton Poughkeepsie, and an array of esteemed community-based organizations, proudly presented a Black History Month event that enlightened, engaged, and honored the rich heritage of the African Diaspora.

On Friday, Feb. 23, the event unfolded at the historic Poughkeepsie Middle School located at 55 College Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The event hosts, Jamar Cummings, Natasha Brown and organizers witnessed a vibrant turnout from dignitaries, local community members and beyond, as attendees partook in an array of culturally enriching activities and presentations.

One of the most anticipated aspects of the event was the appearance by Kevin Douglass Greene, the great-great grandson of the legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Anna Murry Douglass. Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass rose to become a prominent figure in American history, championing the cause of emancipation and civil rights. Now, Kevin Douglass Greene, himself a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, continues his

ancestor's legacy as a Senior Advisor with the Frederick Douglass Family Initiative, advocating for global literacy through the Million Abolitionists Project.

An inspiring keynote address by Dr. Edward Antonio, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Marist College, was a highlight of the event.

The program featured a diverse array of offerings, including captivating musical performances and special guest appearances. Attendees had the opportunity to explore booths set up by local vendors.

Organizers: Executive Director
Natasha Brown; Lorraine Boughton,
Jessica Ortiz, Gilbert Colon; Jessica
Hettinger, Helen Purnell, Jules Lindquist,
Justine Rodrigues, Charm Blaze, Da'Ron
Wilson, and Diandria Williams.

Participation and organization were key to making this historic event happen, along with the esteemed community partners Essie's Restaurant, Kedaer Parks, Charlia Frank, Prestigious Inspirational Entertainment Inc, Dulce Café, Ari Sweets, Pat's Kitchen, Gennie's House of Blues, Edible Arrangements Poughkeepsie, Pretty to Think So-Rhinebeck. All made this event a huge success for all attendees in the county for celebration of Black History Month.



Poughkeepsie City School District's Black History Month celebration took place on Friday, Feb. 23, at Poughkeepsie Middle School. One of the most anticipated aspects of the event was the appearance by Kevin Douglass Greene, the great-great grandson of the legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Anna Murry Douglass. Event organizers are pictured (from left): Gibert Colon, Lorraine Boughton, Lesley Rodriguez, Jessica Ortiz, Jessica Hettinger, PCSD Executive Director Natasha Brown, Kevin Douglass Greene, PCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric Rosser, Jules Lindquist, Helen Purnell, Justinne Rodriguez and Charm Blaze. *Photo by Mr. Evans/topshott.edits*

Wappingers Central School District to host Skilled Trades Fair on April 1

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is teaming up with the Wappingers Central School District to host an informational Skilled Trades Fair in April to give local students and young adults the opportunity to learn more about different career paths available in the region. Representatives from various trades will be on hand at this free event for attendees to ask questions and to learn about future opportunities.

The Skilled Trades Fair will take place on Thursday, April 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Roy C. Ketcham High School at 99 Myers Corners Road in Wappinger.

The free event is open to the public and students from across Dutchess County are encouraged to attend. It is a walk-in event; student registration is not required.

“As someone who did not take the traditional career path, I am thrilled to again partner with the Wappingers Central School District to host an informational Skilled Trades Fair to show students and young adults different opportunities here in our local community,” said Serino. “There is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach when it comes to determining your future, and this event is all about showing additional possibilities that are available

so we can ensure they are as prepared as possible. Our community is home to so many unique opportunities, especially in the trades, and that also often comes with great-paying careers and potential for growth.”

Local trade organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate. There is no fee to participate. Those interested can complete a participation form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TradesFair2024> or can contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office by calling 845-486-2000 or email-

ing CountyExec@dutchessny.gov to request a form. Space is limited and spots will be secured on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation form submission deadline is Friday, April 12.

When she served as State Senator, Serino hosted previous Skilled Trades Fairs with the Wappingers Central School District as well as the Hyde Park Central School District. These events were extremely well-received with nearly 1,000 students and family members in attendance.

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FDR students are off to see ‘The Wizard of Oz’

Follow the FDR High School President's Players as they jaunt down the Yellow Brick Road for a delightful stage adaption of the classic musical "The Wizard of Oz."

The show will run March 8 and 9 with performances at 7 p.m. and on March 10 with a performance at 2 p.m. in the FDR auditorium at 156 South Cross Road in Staatsburg. Additionally, an open dress rehearsal will be held March 7 at 10 a.m.

The story centers on Dorothy, who with her dog Toto, is transported to the Land of Oz where they are determined to reach the Emerald City to see the great and powerful Wizard of Oz to help get them home. Along the way, they meet a host of colorful characters including the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West.

This production, directed by music teacher Amy Martin, will incorporate the iconic musical score from the 1939 MGM film with additional numbers not heard in the movie.

"As the famous movie celebrates its

85th anniversary, the characters and songs are as memorable as ever,” Martin said. “It will surely be a show to remember.”

The musical will feature the largest cast in many years, including a host of young talent from across the district's elementary schools, portraying our munchkins.

"I am beyond excited about this year's production, not only because 'The Wizard of Oz' is one of my favorite shows, but also because some of our elementary students have joined the cast," Melinda DiMaio, director of fine and performing arts said. "This play is exciting to watch, but also conveys a heartfelt message about the true meaning of home and friendship."

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and are available for purchase at: <http://fdrhs.booktix.net/>

The Wizard of Oz is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Clinton Community Library

1215 Centre Rd., Rhinebeck
(845) 495-0655

<http://www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org/>

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

Qi Gong with Vince (online)
Mon. 03/04, Mon. 03/11, Mon. 03/18, Mon.
03/25, at 9:30 AM
Wed. 03/06, Wed. 03/13, Wed. 03/20, Wed.
03/27 at 9:30 AM
Audience: Adults & Seniors

Storytime on the Dot (in-person)
Tue. 03/05, Tue. 03/12, Tue. 03/19, Tue.
03/26 at 10:30 AM
Audience: Children & Caregivers

Mah Jongg (in-person)
(Optimistic Aging)
Tue. 03/05, Tue. 03/12, Tue. 03/19, Tue.
03/26 at 2:00-4:00 PM
Players of all levels are welcome.
Audience: Adults & Seniors

All Level Yoga (in person & online)
Wed. 03/06, Wed. 03/13, Wed. 03/20, Wed.
03/27 at 6:00 PM (online)
Sun. 03/03, Sun. 03/10, Sun. 03/17, Sun.
03/24, Sun. 03/24 at 10:00 AM (in person or
online)
Audience: Adults & Young Adults

Chair Yoga, (in-person or online)
(Optimistic Aging)
Fri. 01/01, Fri. 03/09, Fri. 03/16, Fri. 03/23
at 12:00 AM
Audience: Adults & Seniors

Zumba, (in-person)
Sat. 03/02, Sat. 03/09, Sat. 03/16, Sat. 03/23,
Sat. 03/30 at 9:00 AM
Audience: Adults

Free Tech Help (in-person)
Wed. 03/06, Wed. 03/13, Wed. 03/20, Wed.
03/27 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
Drop-in anytime on Saturdays between
9AM-1PM or call the library at (845)-495-0655
to book an appointment.

Book Club Meetings:
Never Been in a Book Club, Book Club (in
person)
March Selection: Elephant Company by
Vicki Constantine
Thursday March 7, at 1:30 PM
Never been in a book club? This is your
chance! Join a new group of people new to the
book club world! Come with your thoughts,
feelings and anything you'd like to share about
the monthly selection. Don't be shy, everyone is
new just like you!
Audience: Adults

Tea Time Book Club (in person)
March Selection: The Buddha in the Attic by
Julie Otsuka
Thursday February 8 at 2:00 PM
Join Tea Time Book Club the second

Thursday of every month. Come talk about the
monthly selection and enjoy tea and a snack
with members of the club.
Audience: Adults & Seniors

Global Literature Book Club (in person)
March Selection: The Stone Raft by Jose
Sermago
Monday February 5 at 7:00 PM
The Global Literature Book Club focuses on
exploring the world through literature. We dis-
cuss novels from around the globe, selected by
members of the club. These works provide
insights into a wide variety of nations, cultures,
and styles of writing.
Audience: Adults & Seniors

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Rosa Bonheur Virtual Art Lecture with Rena
Tobey! (online)
Thursday March 7 at 7:00 PM
Art history often focuses on the celebrity
genius—exceptional men who mark an era. Too
often, extraordinary women artists have been
overlooked despite their inventiveness, popular-
ity, and resounding triumphs in their era—cer-
tainly true of women making art in France in the
1800s. But nothing was going to stop Rosa
Bonheur from her calling--as an artist and
unprecedented, as a woman depicting animals in
paint and bronze. She challenged societal rules
that restricted where women could go and what
they could learn. From the slaughterhouse to
public auctions, from the Highlands of Scotland
to the forests of Fontainebleau, Bonheur surged
forward on her quest to show animals with regal
splendor, in all their metaphorical glory. Register
via our online calendar for the Zoom link.
In collaboration with: The Stone Ridge,
Staatsburgh & Millbrook Libraries

Springtime Cookie Decorating (in-person)
Saturday March 2 at 10:30 AM
Spring is right around the corner! Artist
Theresa Corrigan will read some of her favorite
children's books and then we will decorate some
delicious homemade cookies. Space is VERY
limited, as this is a children's program please
only register each child attending & decorating.
All ingredients are supplied
Audience: Children (5 & up)
Parents & Guardians are required to stay and
monitor their child.

Crafts & Coffee (in person)
Monday March 11 at 1:30 PM
Join us for a lovely afternoon of coffee, crafts
(and conversation!) On the second Monday of
the month at 1:30, Diane will guide you as you
create a project covering a wide range of tech-
niques, from card making to book crafts to
stitchery and more. Note: You must register for
each individual who is attending and would like
to participate. Materials are limited and there
will not be extra!
Audience: Adults & Seniors

Lunch & Learn: Birth of Rock & Roll
Thursday March 28 at 12:30 PM
This entertaining and enlightening program
will take you back to one of the greatest musical

eras in American history. Enjoy video presenta-
tions of such artists as Chuck Berry, Elvis
Presley, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Buddy
Holly, Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis and Bo
Diddley with author and pop culture historian
Marty Gitlin. Marty will discuss the impact
these rock and roll pioneers made on society and
pop culture. He will also challenge patrons with
trivia questions and interact with a Q&A after
the event. Audience: Adults & Seniors

Morton Memorial Library

82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff
(845) 876-2903

www.mortonrhinecliff.org

Knit 'n Knatter
Wednesday March 6 @ 3:00 pm
(First and third Wednesdays of each month)
Come to knit, crochet or just for the confab.
We will drop purls, collaborate on projects, and
work on our own. We'll meet in Morton Hall
where there is plenty of room to spread out. All
are welcome.

Rhinecliff Community Conversation
(Utilities)
Wednesday, March 6 @ 6:00 pm
This will be a conversation on events that
affect our community - this month focused on
local utilities and water issues. Please attend to
make your thoughts heard. All residents are wel-
come and encouraged to attend.

Oblong Books Presents:
Adelle Waldman, HELP WANTED:A Novel
in conversation with James Lasdun
Thursday, March 7 @ 6:30 pm
(at Morton)
Adelle Waldman's debut novel was a break-
out sensation, lauded by the Los Angeles Times
as an "exacting character study" with "excellent
and witty prose" and described as "incisive and
very funny" by the Economist and "brilliant" by
both NPR's Fresh Air and the Washington Post.
At this event Waldman will talk with author
James Lasdun about her long-awaited fol-
low-up in which she brings her unparalleled wit
and astute social observation to the world of
modern, low-wage work. A humane and darkly
comic workplace caper that shines a light on the
odds low-wage workers are up against in today's
economy, Help Wanted is a funny, moving tale
of ordinary people trying to make a living.
James Lasdun is the author of Afternoon of a
Faun, The Fall Guy, The Horned Man, Seven
Lies, several poetry and short story collections,
and a memoir. He lives in Brooklyn.

Tickets are free. Registration is required.
Oblong will have books available for
purchase.

Dirty Gaia Presents: Ask a Gardener
Thursday, March 14 @ 5:30 pm
A lively panel of local farmers and gardeners
will share their expertise in growing food,
including methods for creating healthy soil,
composting, growing in small spaces, interplant-
ing for pollinators, no-till approaches and more.
The evening's panelists include Kiera
Faulkner Jeykos (Gardenwell);
SonyaJoy Key (Poughkeepsie Farm Project);
Anna DeCordova,(Roosevelt Home Garden);
Sam Rose (Four Corners Community Farm) and
Suzanne Kelly (Green Owl Farm).
Between them, they know A LOT—and are a
lot of fun, so bring your questions!
Registration is required.

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show
Friday, March 15 @ 8:00 pm
Featuring: Many talented local musicians.
Donations to benefit the Morton are suggested.

Pleasant Valley Library

1584 Main St, Pleasant Valley
(845) 635-8460

<https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>

SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN MARCH

All programs are free. Please visit pleasantvalleylibrary.org to register and for more
information on these and also on our monthly
occurring programs.

Saturday, March 2 10:00am-2:00pm

Winter Chess Tournament

Chess players of all ages and levels of expe-
rience are welcome to participate in our Winter
Chess Tournament. There will be 4 rounds of
Game/15 Swiss Chess. Sign in from 10:00-
10:30am - walk-ins are also welcome. Please
bring your own chess set and chess clock. Some
chess sets and chess clocks will be provided.
Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd
place winners, and chess stickers will be given
to all players.

Saturday, March 16 11:00am-2:00pm

Meditation Mini Retreat with Susan Olin-
Dabrowski

Join long-time Meditation Instructor,
Certified Hypnotherapist and Reiki Master
Susan for this special 3-hour retreat! She will
teach meditation technique and lead a variety of
guided meditations, including silent meditation
and walking meditation. There will also be a
mindful lunch period (please bring your own
bag lunch). This program will be best for those
who have some experience meditating on their
own or in a group setting. Susan has been con-
ducting monthly meditations at the Pleasant
Valley Library since 2012. Her meditations meet
the last Tuesday of each month in the afternoon
and evening.

Tuesday, March 26 6:00-8:00pm

Nature's Best Hope is in Your Backyard
Pleasant Valley Climate Smart and PV
Community Gardeners will present the enlight-
ening video, "Nature's Best Hope: Conservation
That Starts in Your Yard" by Doug Tallamy, pro-
fessor in the Department of Entomology and
Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware,
author of books and research articles, and
founder of the Homegrown National Park
Movement. Afterwards, they'll share practical
ways to get started in creating home landscapes
that restore habitat and support the biodiversity
vital to healthy ecosystems. Learn about site
assessment for ecology, gardening with native
plants, and managing invasive species to create
pollinator pathways throughout our area. Free
seed packets will be provided by Climate Smart.

Stanford Free Library

6035 NY-82, Stanfordville
845-868-1341

<https://stanfordlibrary.org/>

Registration required for events unless noted
otherwise. Please email stanfordlibrary@optonline.net or call 845-868-1341.

Preschool Storytime
Tuesday Mornings
Preschoolers (Age 3-4) 9:30 am — 10:15 am
Toddlers (Age 18 months-2 years) 10:30 am
- 11:15 am
Babies (Birth-18 months) 11:30 am—12:15
pm

Stories, songs and free play every week!
Homeschool Stories and STEAM Workshops
Thursdays, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Students in Grades K – 3
These workshops will contain a story time
component along with crafts and STEAM relat-
ed activities.

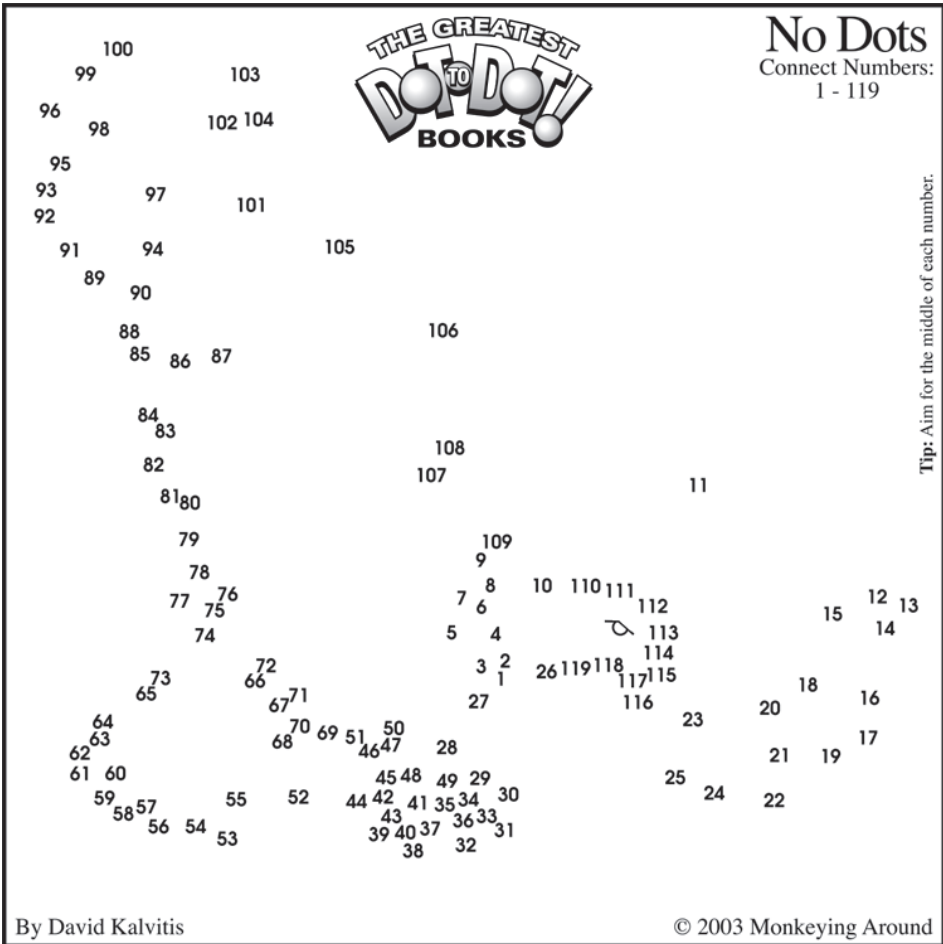
Chess Club
Through March 6
Wednesdays 3:45pm — 5:00pm
Open to students in 3rd grade and up
* Please note that the school district is cur-
rently unable to provide transportation to our
programs.

Chair Yoga
March 8th 1:00 – 2:00 pm
This is gentle yoga with a chair to support
and aid seated and standing postures.

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

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 16 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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Creative Living

celebrating all good things

Cocoon Theatre celebrates new home in Red Hook with Open House and performance March 2

By Kate Goldsmith

The curtains are about to rise on a new performance and teaching space in the Village of Red Hook. Cocoon Theatre, known and loved throughout the region for decades, has moved to 25 East Market St., a block from the light, next door to Charlie O's.

On Saturday, March 2, the public is invited to an Open House from 4 to 6 p.m. Stop by this "meet, greet & eat" event to enjoy luscious edibles and live music by Craig Chin; register for classes geared to various ages and interests; and get to know the very creative people behind Cocoon Theatre.

"It's a chance for people to meet us, get a [class] brochure," said Marguerite San Millan, Cocoon's Artistic Director.

"It's like starting over."

At 7 p.m., Cocoon will present its inaugural performance in the new location. Titled "Take A Look," it features a solo modern dance choreographed and performed by Jean Churchill, Professor of Dance Emerita of Bard College; a satirical theater piece performed by Marguerite San Millan; and a reading by Ana-Miren San Millan (daughter of Marguerite and Cocoon Theatre co-founder Andres San Millan) from a new memoir co-authored with Ana's sister Magdalene, about their humorous and provocative childhood being raised in the theater.

There is a \$20 suggested donation for the performance.

Roots and branches

Cocoon Theatre, which began three



Left: Jean Churchill, Bard College Professor of Dance Emerita will perform a modern dance solo entitled "Treatment," focusing on those who have suffered a devastating loss. Above: Marguerite San Millan, Artistic Director of Cocoon Theatre, will perform a satirical theater/movement piece entitled "Cranial Fracking." Courtesy photos



decades ago as a puppetry and dance theater troupe performing for children in New York City, has lived up to its name, metamorphosing into a multi-arts non-profit performance and education center with roots throughout the Hudson Valley. The San Millans, 25-year residents of Barrytown, have leased studios in Clermont, Rhinebeck and Poughkeepsie, before arriving in Red Hook.

The 'cocoon' metaphor is central to the organization's mission: "...to give ourselves to the creation of safe environments and opportunities, where individuals can explore themselves, the world, and the relationship between the two, through the visual and performing arts."

Marguerite San Millan shared her excitement about Cocoon's next chapter in its new location.

"The owners, Mike and Vicki Lueck

[of Charlie O's] are incredible," she said. "[Mike] cares so much about the space and has done so much work on it. Everyone in town knows him and likes him. And their business is a family-owned business."

The space itself is intimate, about 1,000 square feet, San Millan said.

"The performance space is similar to [the space in Rhinebeck], but that doesn't include the audience. We can get quite a few people in; it's quite long, like 40 x 20 feet, so you can perform long and narrow."

She added, "Certainly, going small really makes [us] have to really stretch our creative selves in order to actually create."

Cocoon's focus has always been on original work, what San Millan calls

continued on page 11

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communityatbrookmeade.org

“alternatively focused,” contrasting with larger performance spaces that often present familiar, more commercial, works.

Looking forward to the March 2 Open House, San Millan expressed gratitude toward Cocoon’s new community for welcoming them so warmly and generously.

“I’m touched by Mike Lueck, his family, and all the businesses that have helped so positively,” she said. “The food for the Open House is bountiful and has been donated by Red Hook businesses. I wasn’t expecting all the donations and enthusiasm; truly generous!”

‘Take A Look’ highlights

Jean Churchill starts off the evening with “Treatment,” a modern dance solo she also choreographed, which focuses on those who have suffered a devastating loss. The dance is done in silence.

“Jean was head of Bard’s Dance Department for, I think, 40 years. She’s just an incredible teacher; two of my kids had her,” said San Millan. “I’ve been working with her since Covid, when everyone got strangely creative to keep all those relationships open.”

Some of Churchill’s work also was featured in a Cocoon Theatre performance in Woodstock in December 2023.

Next up is Marguerite San Millan performing a satirical theater/movement piece titled “Cranial Fracking,” written by the New Yorker’s contributor Ian Frazier, choreographed by Jean Churchill, with music by Bard College Professor of Music Composition Kyle Gann.

“This piece is fun. This is choreographed by Jean, as well, but it’s a piece that’s written by Ian Frazier, he’s a satirist. He has a book that came out about a year ago, called ‘Cranial Fracking,’” said San Millan. “This is a woman who dances and talks, kind of like

a performance dance piece. There’s music, but also sections that are just dance. The comparison is she’s getting her head fracked, like her body is the earth. So it’s an anti-fracking piece.”

San Millan said that Churchill created it “as a demonstration tool, to appear at rallies, walks or talks, or environmental summits, to bring attention to the negative effects of fracking.”

The performance closes with Ana-Miren San Millan reading from a new memoir, “In the Beginning” (working title), co-authored with her sister, Magdalene, “about their hilarious, and often provocative, childhood being raised in their parents’ theater.”

“It’s a memoir that they started from [filmmaker and screenwriter] Miranda July – she had created a whole bunch of prompts [online] for people during Covid. It was like a 24-hour ‘write about your childhood and don’t stop,’” San Millan said. “So they decided, ‘Hey, let’s do it!’ This is exciting, because that kind of example – give ideas and a format for people to create, and then for it to continue on – is Cocoon’s philosophy. They were learning so much about each other, how they had felt, it was really intense. So they decided to continue and they wrote a whole book.”

The reading will be accompanied by a display of photos.

“They have a person who is working with them on ideas, encouraging them to do live readings, hear what it sounds like. They created an actual piece that they performed in Brooklyn. They had slides of the shows and they had music that they added, and they chose certain sections from the book as an hour-long show. That was one way for them to explore the material,” said San Millan. “When I decided on this space, Ana said they’d love to come up and read the piece. Ana



At the March 2 performance, Ana-Miren San Millan (right) will read from a new memoir “In the Beginning” (working title) co-authored with her sister, Magdalene (left), about their hilarious, and often provocative, childhood being raised in their parents’ theater. In the photo taken at a previous event, Magdalene prepares Ana-Miren for a section of the reading where she will portray her father, Andres San Millan. *Courtesy photo*

had a reading in Brooklyn herself that I attended, she read different sections that were about being a teenager. This time I think she’s gonna focus on all the places that they rehearsed and performed and created art that was not a theater. ... She started listing all of the places we have performed, and it’s shocking!”

The San Millans have four children, all who “were raised in the Theatre – we took them as infants to every single thing that we did,” said Marguerite. “Ana brought up all kind of things I didn’t remember – I haven’t been reflective, I’m just a go-go-go [person].”

Wide variety of classes

Cocoon’s brochure of spring classes includes a range of courses, from creative

movement and choreography, to acting and storytelling, to yoga and meditation, and more.

“Most of them [classes] are mine,” said San Millan. “It’s not different from what we’ve done in the past. It’s a very wide net. It’s a way to start, kind of [seeing] what the interest is, so it’s a very broad sweep to start. ... Kind of like, throw that giant net and you pull in old stuff, license plates, you don’t know where the shrimp are. We kind of did the same thing in Poughkeepsie [at Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center].”

Call (845) 758-0695 or visit www.cocoontheatre.org for more information; better yet, visit the new space on March 2 and pick up a brochure.

RHINEBECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m.,
Starr Library Local History Room,
entrance in the rear.

68 West Market St., Rhinebeck
Mike Frazier – Farming in Rhinebeck
From Indigenous People prior to the 1700s to today’s Farmer’s Market, agricultural purposes and practices in Rhinebeck have changed in a multiplicity of ways. The speaker will address those changing roles as they appear at a number of sites, including at the Palatine Farmstead, the Grange, the violet growers, and among the great river estates.

Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m., on Zoom
Will Tatum - Peter DeWitt’s Twisted Web: Money, Industry, and Power in early Dutchess County

Captain Peter DeWitt (1722-1790) was among the most wealthy and connected residents of colonial Dutchess County. His estates straddled the border of modern Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, while his business connections and money lending extended throughout the county. From mills to stores, DeWitt sat at the center of a complicated array of credit, debt, and business collections. Join Dutchess County Historian William P. Tatum III on a journey through DeWitt’s account ledgers and related material to explore the network of relationships that bound families and individuals together across the county during the Era of the American Revolution.

Visit <https://www.rhinebeckhistorical-society.org> for more information.



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© StatePoint Media

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

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		3			
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			3		
5					5

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: U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

1. Falling out

5. Bottle top

8. Door fastener

12. Shoe emanation?

13. Staff note

14. Home to Buccaneers

15. Actress Spelling

16. Thor's father

17. Kidman's husband

18. *He served two nonconsecutive presidential terms

20. *JFK and RFK's relationship, abbr.

21. Foreword

22. J. Edgar Hoover Building org.

23. Pac-Man venue

26. Long and adventurous journey

30. Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.

31. Like life, according to some

34. Is it enough?

35. Jalisco plant

37. As opposed to rent

38. Grassy mound

39. Flat-top hill

40. *W in George H. W. Bush

42. Nicki Minaj's genre

43. Reusable painting pattern

45. Sacred songs

47. Horse control

48. Laughing predator

50. Gunk

52. *Nobel Peace Prize winning president

56. Social media button

57. Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid

58. Greek god of love

59. Cautious gambler

60. Trousers

61. Baltic capital

62. Port in Yemen

63. Follow ems

64. Not ever, poetically

DOWN

1. Campus drillers

2. One on a pedestal

3. Golfer's warning

4. "Jeopardy" question, e.g.

5. Closet wood

6. ____ acid

7. Body between England and U.S.?

8. *President who spent the shortest time in office

9. Orator's stand

10. Pampering establishments

11. J.M. Barrie's Peter

13. Like hot lava

14. Short and plump

19. Endow

22. *WW2 Pres.

23. *Thomas Jefferson was his VP

24. "Thesaurus" author

25. Cut it out

26. Sound on Old MacDonald's farm

27. Annoy a bedfellow

28. "Bravo! Bravo!" e.g.

29. Online reviews

32. Delivered by a mare

33. Hole punching tool

36. *a.k.a. Old Kinderhook

38. Danish money

40. Intelligent humor

41. Vomiting

44. Pressed beverage

46. Tap house

48. TV classic "____'s Heroes"

49. Egg parts

50. Past tense of chide

51. Sand trap tool

52. Ill-mannered

53. Albany-Buffalo canal

54. Theater section

55. Russian ruler

56. #10 Down, sing.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11
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The solutions to both the Sudoko & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 17

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The Sphere

Mark and Sue head to Las Vegas for a totally unique experience.

“Once in a lifetime.” That’s what I’m always telling Sue when I’m trying to convince her to do something outrageous that costs a ton of money. Like going to see Bruce Springsteen on Broadway. Or feasting on Oishii strawberries. This time it was a quick trip to the Sphere in Las Vegas, to see the band U2.

“But I don’t even like U2,” said Sue. “Once in a Lifetime,” I replied.

The Sphere is the world’s largest spherical building, 516 feet across. The outer shell is plastered with 50 million light emitting diodes (LEDs) that create flamboyant displays, advertisements and holiday themes. Inside, the 18,000 seats face a stage set in front of the world’s largest – 16,000 sq. feet – LED screen. Of course, the audio system is revolutionary, featuring 167,000 speakers.

“We” found a gap in our schedule, bought plane tickets and googled “U2 sphere tickets.” Since the venue has been sold out since opening day (September 23, 2023), I had to pay extra on Stubhub – \$650 each, but, hey, it’s once in a lifetime. I did manage to find a reasonably priced room at the Flamingo, with, wouldn’t you know it, a view of the sphere. From our 19th floor window, the sphere actually looked small, nestled amongst all those towering casinos. Dinner at Bugsy’s Steakhouse cost more than the room.

U2 performed the 32nd show of their residency on February 17, a few hours after our plane landed. On our walk from the hotel, Sue pointed out the rosemary hedges growing alongside the Venetian resort. Approaching the giant globe, I was awestruck by the swirling colors, changing hues and psychedelic designs on the outside of the shell. I was also terrified that the mobile e-ticket on my phone wouldn’t get me in. Sue was less worried. It was a festive scene as 18,000 concert goers were seeing the sphere up close for the first time.

I tapped my phone on a little gizmo by

the gate, and it opened! A 16 ounce Bud Light cost \$19, definitely not once in a lifetime, and up we went on miles of escalators. The sphere holds the same number of people as Madison Square Garden, but instead of being spread out, the seats are stacked almost vertically – not for the faint of heart. Of course, Sue and I were almost in the last row.

The show started at 8:30, 11:30 New York time. Right off the bat, the giant screen behind the band started pulsating with an array of yellow dots, weird phrases and miscellaneous ephemera. It seemed like whoever was running the computers behind the scene was proclaiming “look what I can do.” It didn’t have much relevance to what was happening on stage.

And on stage, U2 was putting on a killer show. Of course, they looked like ants down there, and only rarely did images of the band appear on the screen. At Madison Square Garden, Sue and I would spend the entire show watching the band on the Jumbotron.

But what a sound! We didn’t really need to stare at the band to enjoy the music. Bono, the Edge, and Adam Clayton were joined by guest drummer Bram van den Berg, playing mostly songs from their seminal album “Achtung Baby.” Bono was in good voice, except when he covered the Crowded House classic “Hey Now,” which he nevertheless pulled off with great feeling. As usual, my favorite part of any concert is when the acoustic instruments come out, in this case the Edge’s Gibson J-200 guitar, to play “All I want is You.” At one point Bono gave a shout out to Priscilla Presley, who was enjoying the show while on a break from her own touring schedule.

The constant barrage of sights and sounds left us exhilarated and frazzled by the time the concert ended at 2 a.m New York time. After all, we are about 15 years older than the typical U2 fan.



Approaching the Sphere, a music and entertainment arena east of the Las Vegas strip. Right: Sue inside the sphere. *Photos by Mark Adams*

The next day we had a couple of hours to kill before our red-eye flight back home. So we went back to the sphere to see “The Sphere Experience,” a film by Darren Aronofsky called “Postcard from Earth.” As we watched worlds crumble and revive, seas churning and spiders jumping out of the screen, the seats quivered and wind blew from off stage.

Somewhat the show seemed to be in 3D, like the IMAX films back in the day. Even Sue was impressed.

Once in a lifetime.

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



Rosemary hedges alongside the Venetian resort in Las Vegas. *Photo by Sue Adams*



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Seafood Crepes

Take a break from beef, pork and chicken with this savory dish.

While taking a quick inventory of the topics of this year’s articles so far, I realized I’ve been focused on the savory side, neglecting all the good, sweet stuff. This week was meant to address that with a sweet recipe but, alas, after several attempts, it just didn’t work out. It’s been a while since a new recipe didn’t work out after the second try, but that’s what happened, and I admit it with no reservations – it’s all part of cooking and, though it can be frustrating, it’s also part of the fun. I’ll work it out and hopefully have it for you next time. Either way, the next article will be something sweet.

My default, then, will be yet another savory dish and one suited for Lent for those of you observing it. For those who don’t, think of it as something different to add to your menu, a break from meat and good for brunch, lunch or dinner. It can be a challenge to not get in a rut when it comes to meal planning, and that’s where this came from. I needed a break from beef, chicken, pork and pasta. Salmon was a good option for a while, but that was getting a little old, too, so I broke out an old favorite I’ve not made in years.

I love fresh seafood. If I lived by the ocean I would have it at least once a week. There are certainly places here in the Hudson Valley to get quality seafood, but somehow it just isn’t the same. I’m more inclined to order it in a restaurant than to make it at home and was lamenting that until I remembered the seafood crepes I used to make. For the filling I have used fresh shrimp, crab and/or scallops, but for this version I went with imitation crab which is bit more affordable and convenient.

So, let’s talk about that. Is imitation crab really a good choice? And what exactly is it, anyway? It’s sometimes marketed as surimi or crab sticks, but it’s all the same thing: a processed seafood product with both the texture and sweet flavor of the real thing. It’s made of fish (no crab), usually pollock, rinsed to remove oils, then shredded and minced, with binding agents (egg white or starch) and coloring added. It’s pressed into shapes to resemble crab legs or pieces, pasteurized and vacuum sealed. It’s ready to eat right out of the package, can be cooked and is often found in California rolls.

Because it’s processed, it isn’t as high in nutritive value. Some omega-3s and minerals are removed in the rinsing process and it is higher in carbs than in protein. It is NOT a gluten-free product due to the added starch, may have added salt and sugar and is a bit higher in cholesterol than the real deal. In short, Nature does it better but, in moderation, it’s a treat and still a lean meat alternative and great in this recipe.

SEAFOOD CREPES with MORNAY SAUCE

As stated, this calls for imitation crab. If you substitute shrimp, scallops or real crab (3 cups or so) you may need to add more cooking time to insure it’s done.

The rich cheese sauce is the perfect complement to the sweet seafood and adds elegance to the dish. It comes together quickly so have all your ingredients cut and measured before you start. Total time depends on a few factors, but here’s a general breakdown to give you an idea for your timing: Crepes about 60 minutes total (includes 30 minute rest time), filling about 20 minutes, mornay sauce 10-15 minutes.

A NOTE ON CREPES: Start with warm milk and room temperature eggs for better incorporation and smoother batter. I recommend letting the batter rest about 30 minutes at room temp and whisking again before starting. This allows the flour to fully absorb the liquid for more delicate results. Thinness is key. It may take a few tries to get them right, but don’t worry. This batter makes quite a few, depending on size. Don’t put too much batter in (3 tablespoons – 1/4 cup should do it) and work quickly, lifting and swirling the pan for a thin, even coat. A non-stick skillet works best. I brush the pan lightly with butter and start with medium heat, reducing it to medium-low as I progress to prevent setting up before the batter fully spreads.

INGREDIENTS for CREPES

- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup milk, warmed
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup warm water
- Butter or oil for pan

METHOD

Have a plate ready for the finished crepes.

In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and melted butter. Sift flour into the bowl to avoid lumps. Add salt and water and whisk until smooth. Let rest at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Set a skillet over medium heat. Brush surface with butter or oil. When hot, pour or ladle some batter into the skillet (see note above), lift skillet off heat and quickly swirl to get a thin, even coat of batter. Set back on heat and cook until top looks dry and edges start to pull away from the skillet, about 2 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until just golden. Transfer to plate (cover with a towel to keep warm) and repeat with remaining batter, adjusting heat if necessary.

Makes 6-10 crepes depending on size of skillet.

INGREDIENTS FOR FILLING

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 8oz mushrooms (cremini or white)
- 3/4 cup dry white wine, cooking sherry or dry vermouth
- Salt and pepper to taste (start with 1/4 teaspoon each)
- 16oz imitation crab meat, diced

METHOD FOR FILLING

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and mushrooms and cook until tender, 3-5 minutes. Add wine or vermouth, stir, then add salt, pepper



Seafood Crepes with Mornay Sauce. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

and crab. Mix through, reduce heat and cook 3-5 minutes before turning off heat.

INGREDIENTS FOR MORNAY SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup grated Swiss cheese

METHOD FOR SAUCE

Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add flour and whisk to combine and form a paste. Cook, whisking constantly, for about 1 minute (this will eliminate any floury taste).

Add milk slowly, whisking constantly, to smoothly combine, breaking up any lumps. Continue cooking and stirring until mixture starts to thicken. Reduce heat to low, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring, 2-3 minutes more. (You just made bechamel!) NOTE: if mixture separates or breaks, whisk in a little more milk.

Add half of the cheese and whisk until almost melted. Remove from heat, add remaining cheese and whisk until melted and velvety smooth.

ASSEMBLY

Lay crepes on a flat surface. Spoon 2-3 heaping tablespoons of the crab filling down the center of each crepe. Drizzle

with a little mornay sauce if you like. Fold sides over to cover filling and transfer to serving plate. Pour some mornay sauce over the top and serve immediately.

It seems like a lot of steps, but don’t let that stop you. It looks harder in writing than it is and worth the effort! If everything is prepped and ready when you start, it will go quickly. If you can’t get the hang of the crepes this could be served over rice or angel hair pasta or even on English muffins topped with melted cheese. Serve it with a light salad or steamed asparagus for a nice, kind of decadent break in the meal routine and one you can keep for special occasions and different courses.

Until next time when we get back to the sweeter side of life – 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.

Nominations open for Talent United

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is presenting Talent United, a competition dedicated to celebrating the diverse talents of local individuals while helping the community. Whether you have a passion for singing, dancing, painting or any other remarkable skill, Talent United is your chance to shine. Nominate yourself or someone else whose talent deserves recognition.

Nomination submissions are open; the deadline to apply is March 13. Visit www.uwdor.org for more information.

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

Luigi Coppola shares stories and recipes.



NDSO presents Children's Concert 'Use Your Imagination' on March 12

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) will present its' children's concert, "Use Your Imagination," scheduled for March 12. This event will take place at the Marriott Pavilion, hosted by the Culinary Institute of America, offering an immersive multimedia experience for students from the Hyde Park, Spackenkill, Red Hook, and Rhinebeck school districts.

Students will have the opportunity to hear the orchestra perform Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," familiar favorites from "Star Wars" and enjoy their art work projected over the orchestra while listening to "Night on Bald Mountain." The concert will be a multimedia presentation including video and narration in addition to the orchestra performance. The program is made possible through the collaboration and donations of the Culinary Institute of America and the Marriott Pavilion.

Performing a movement from a Mozart concerto, the soloist for this concert is oboist Ella Xu. Originally from Poughkeepsie, 12-year-old Ella now resides in New York City. Her recent awards include the Grand Prize in the Philadelphia International Music Festival Virtual Concerto Competition, the Grand Prize in the North International Music Competition (Sweden), alongside 1st Prizes in the Music International Grand Prix Competition, the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition (Paris), the AAMS



Oboist Ella Xu, originally from Poughkeepsie, will perform a movement from a Mozart concerto during the Northern Dutchess Symphony Children's Concert on March 12. *Courtesy photo*

Woodwind Competition, and the Silver Medal in the Vienna International Music Competition.

Please note that tickets for this performance are limited to participating school districts and are not available to the general public.

Two new board members join Arts Mid-Hudson



Malia K. Du Mont (left) and Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels recently joined the Board of Trustees for Arts Mid-Hudson. *Courtesy photos*



Arts Mid-Hudson welcomes two new board members beginning their first three-year term in 2024.

Malia K. Du Mont brings a distinguished record of leadership and service to Arts Mid-Hudson. Currently serving as the Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategy and Policy at Bard College, Du Mont's educational background in Chinese from Bard College and her Master of Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School reflect her commitment to academic excellence and global perspectives. As an Army Reserve officer and Afghanistan veteran, Du Mont's dedication to serving her country extends to her roles as the chair of the NY-18 Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board for Congressman Pat Ryan and her service on various advisory boards, including the American University of Afghanistan and the World Affairs Council Mid-Hudson Valley. Additionally, Du Mont's passion for music shines through her involvement as a longtime choral singer and her volunteer work as a pianist at her church, highlighting her multifaceted contributions to the arts and community.

Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels, a Hudson Valley native, brings a wealth of experience in the arts and photography to Arts Mid-Hudson. A SUNY New Paltz alumna, Mahar-Daniels majored in Fine Art Photography with a minor in Art History, paving the way for a successful career in capturing the essence of the Hudson Valley through her lens. As the founder of "Caitlinn Mahar-Daniels," she has established herself as a prominent figure in the local and international photography scene, specializing in weddings and embracing the human form with an artistic touch. Beyond her professional endeavors, Mahar-Daniels is an avid hiker, motorcyclist, and traveler, embodying the adventurous spirit of the Hudson Valley.

The new board members were elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting, in accordance with the Arts Mid-Hudson By-Laws. In addition to the election of new board members, Arts Mid-Hudson presented their 2023 Annual Report which can be viewed at <https://www.artsmid-hudson.org/annual-reports>

Arts Mid-Hudson takes pride in ensuring that the makeup of its Board of Directors embodies the leadership and vision needed to continue building arts and culture throughout Mid-Hudson Valley.

Du Mont and Mahar-Daniels join the continuing board that includes: Chairperson, Jonathan Cilley, Chief Technology Officer, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union; Treasurer, Roger D'Aquino, Certified QuickBooks Advisor; Corporate Secretary, Lynn M. Enkler, VP of Support Services, Hudson Valley Credit Union; Executive Committee Member at Large, Troy Del Valle, VP of Business Intelligence, Hudson Valley Credit Union; Tempi Hopkins, System Administrator; Anita Jones, Admissions Associate, Oakwood Friends School; Serena Marrero, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley; Andrea Rhodes, Owner, Gig Marketing & Co-Founder /Producing Director, Tangent Theatre Company; Angela Shapiro, Owner, Shapiro's Furniture Barn; Barbara Todd, Program Coordinator / Vice President Sustainable Hudson Valley / Artists' Collective of Hyde Park; Ava Yurchison, Digital Strategist/Account Executive iHeart Media of the Hudson Valley.

The continuing Arts Mid-Hudson Advisory Board: Sadhna Bhargava, Frank Castella, Jr., David Cavallaro, Maria Elena Ferrer-Harrington, (Grace) Angela Henry, Eugenia Carlisle, Ev Mann, Tim McQueen, Wilfredo Morel, Sara Pasti, Ruth E. Spencer, William 'Gully' Stanford, Ray Watkins.

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Dutchess Tourism to host free Lunch & Learn seminars in March & April

Topic discussions on TikTok, social media video, filming in the Hudson Valley

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) will host three Lunch & Learn Seminars on March 6, March 20 and April 3, from 1 - 2 p.m. These free seminars are geared toward tourism-related businesses but are open to all. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch and questions for the presenters.

Wednesday, March 6 at 1 p.m.: Exploring TikTok's Business Potential: Building Big Buzz on a Tiny Screen

Presented by Andrew Mendez-Spera, founder and CEO of Tipsy Social

Location: Hyatt House Fishkill, 100 Westage Business Center Drive, Fishkill

Business owners looking to build community around their offerings are dominating on TikTok. Whether you're a skeptic, newbie, or seasoned pro, discover how small businesses are leveraging TikTok to grow brand awareness and drive engagement from their target audience. From paid promotion to creator collabs, we'll discuss winning strategies and trending examples to see if TikTok is the platform worth your energy.

Wednesday, March 20 at 1 p.m.: Utilizing Video on Social Media: Best Practices for Growing and Retaining Your Audience

Presented by Raphael Beretta, digital media manager at Dutchess Tourism

Location: Homewood Suites Poughkeepsie, 900 Thomas Watson

Drive, Poughkeepsie

Don't have experience producing vertical video for Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts? Learn the basics of shooting video with your phone (from settings to shot composition), editing for a social media audience and developing a content strategy—with no prior experience necessary.

Wednesday, April 3 at 1 p.m.: The Film Industry in the Hudson Valley Panel Discussion

Moderated by Edward Roy, president/CEO of The CineHub and J6 MediaWorks

Location: The CineHub, 20 W Main St., Ste. 4, Beacon

Laurent Rejto, founder of the Hudson Valley Film Commission, will share how he helps productions secure local crew, cast, locations, vendors, and postproduction facilities, and how your business can get involved. Additional panel members to be announced! Please note: due to the last-minute nature of the film industry, panelists may change as we approach the event.

"We are delighted to offer our Lunch & Learn series and provide a platform for tourism professionals to come together, learn, and grow," said Melaine Rottkamp, president & CEO of Dutchess Tourism. "As our industry continues to evolve, it's important for us to explore emerging trends and best practices. Thank you to our presenters and panelists for sharing their expertise and insights with our community."

To register and learn more about DTI's Lunch & Learn series, visit DutchessTourism.com/lunch-learn-series Those interested do not have to attend all three presentations in order to participate.

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Feb. 29: Black History Month Film & Discussion: New York State Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. A screening of the film, New York State Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – exploring to the four pillars of philosophy that Dr. King believed were essential to achieving social justice and equality: Nonviolence, Beloved Community, Justice and Hope. The film will start at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion. Hosted by the NYS Division of Human Rights Hudson Valley Hate & Bias Regional Council, Dutchess County African-American Clergy Association, Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and FDR Presidential Library & Museum. Free public event. Registration is required at www.fdrlibrary.org

March 1: An Evening with Jon Stewart, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Jon Stewart is considered one of America's top social and comedic voices. Over his 16-year run as host and executive producer of Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Stewart redefined political satire in American culture. Since leaving The Daily Show, Stewart has used his voice in a sustained advocacy for 9/11 first responders and war veterans' health benefits. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$61, \$81, \$101. Note: This event will be a phone-free experience. Use of cellphones, smart watches, smart accessories, cameras, or recording devices will not be permitted in the performance space. Upon arrival at the venue, all phones, smart watches, and accessories will be secured in Yondr pouches that will be opened at the end of the event. Guests maintain possession of their phones at all times and can access their phones throughout the event at designated Phone Use Areas in the venue. All phones will be re-secured in Yondr pouches before returning to the event space. Tickets at (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org

March 1: Morton's Celebration of Community Talent Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. An evening to celebrate the talents of the community, friends and family, 6:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. (845) 876-2903 or sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org

March 1: Open Mic Night, Copake Grange, Empire Rd., Copake. All are welcome to perform - music, stories, skits, readings, poetry, dance, songs, etc., 7-9 p.m. Or you can just come to relax and be entertained. This is a great venue for both beginning and veteran performers. Free. <https://www.copakegrange.org/events>

March 1-3: "Howl," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Howl at The CENTER is a collection of original plays, monologues, and musical pieces by members of Howl Playwrights. These will be performed as staged readings. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$15. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

March 2: Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Village of Wappingers Falls. The 2024 Grand Marshal is Andrew O'Grady. For additional parade information, visit www.dcsppc.org or call (845) 297-0800.

March 6: Author Talk with Brett Matthews Palfreyman, virtually via Zoom. Historic Red Hook presents Wagner College Associate Professor of History Brett Matthews Palfreyman, author of "Bringing Oysters Back to New York Harbor," 7 p.m. via Zoom. Register at www.historicredhook.org/register

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

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 2:** "Making A Life In Photography: Rollie McKenna," the first survey of the prolific career of American photographer Rosalie (Rollie) Thorne McKenna. 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. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>.

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

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **March 1-31:** "Photographs and Improvisations" by Jim Stasiak. **Artist Reception:** Sat., March 2, 5-7 p.m. Artist Talk: Sun., March 24, 3-5 p.m. (845) 490-2281. Pictured, right: "Hidden Paths" by Jim Stasiak

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

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through March 30:** Morton Talent Show Art Exhibition. Sales will benefit the library. (845) 876-2903

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 masterwork, "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. **Through March 17:** Artists Choice- Salon Style 2024 Exhibition, TAG's members are showcasing their painting, sculpture, photography, collage, poetry and music. (845) 757-2667



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Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

No Dots
Connect Numbers:
1 - 119

Tip: Aim for the middle of each number.

By David Kalvitis

© 2003 Monkeying Around

Answer to last week's Dot to Dot

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Connect Dots:
• 1 - 76

By David Kalvitis

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OBITUARIES



David Baldauf

David Baldauf completed his earthly journey on February 20, 2024, at the age of 95. He lived a full life, had a strong Christian faith, and passed away peacefully, surrounded by family.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Alfred and Helen, and his brother and his wife, Milton and Margaret.

Dave was a devoted husband to Marion for 68 years and a loving father and father-in-law to Susan (Mark Wright), Jane (Brian Lucia), Daniel (Alicia), and James (Lori). He developed special relationships with his grandchildren: Aaron and Sarah Lucia, Jonathan and Taira Baldauf, Aubrey and Tristan Baldauf and Christopher Goudy. His life was enriched by friends. Though his loss is immeasurable, so is the love and legacy he left behind.

David served in the US Navy and earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. He began working at IBM when it was a pioneer in computers and worked there for 35 years. The highlight for him was managing the space navigations systems for Gemini space missions.

He served his church, various town boards, and volunteered for numerous community programs.

David shared many recreational activities with his children as a father and continued to enjoy these into his 90's. Activities include tennis, hiking, sailing and cultural activities. In retirement, he and Marion traveled widely, enjoying life-long educational adventures.

He chose to return his body to the earth at the Natural Burial Ground in Rhinebeck Cemetery, which will take place on Friday, February 23 at 1 pm, 55 Mill Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. We ask for everyone to arrive a few minutes early so we can walk to the gravesite together.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Rhinebeck Reformed Church on Saturday, February 24th at 11 am. Guests are invited to join the family for food and fellowship afterwards.

Memorial gifts may be made in David's name to High Peaks Hospice, 454 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY 12801, or to the Winnakee Land Trust, Inc., 7 Livingston St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or online at www.winnakee.org, please indicate it is for David Baldauf.

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

To send an online condolence, please visit www.dapsonchestney.com

Margie A. Becker

HYDE PARK - Margie A. Becker, 88, a longtime Hyde Park resident, passed away on February 16, 2024, at Danbury Hospital, Danbury, Connecticut. A devout Christian, Mrs. Becker is now resting in her eternal home.

Born in Albany, NY on July 20, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence G. and Myrtle Robinson Heimburge. She was raised in Coeymans Hollow, NY and graduated as Valedictorian of her class in 1953 from the Ravena - Coeymans Central School in Ravena, NY.

Margie was a longtime parishioner of the Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Rhinebeck. In February 1991, she retired as a secretary from the Hudson River Psychiatric Center in Poughkeepsie. She was a member of AARP including the local Hyde Park Chapter #4561, and also a member of Local CSEA Retiree Chapter #909.

On June 22, 1957, she married Gerald C. Becker at the Coeymans Hollow Methodist Church. He predeceased her on May 11, 2010.

During their retirement, Margie and her husband enjoyed traveling all over the United States in their RV, including a trip to Alaska in 1991.

Mrs. Becker loved her family and will be greatly missed by them all. Survivors include her two daughters, Bonnie A. Hazenbush, and husband, Robert, of Red Hook, and Brenda J. DeCicco and husband, Sal, of Kingston; six grandchildren, Christopher and Matthew (Rebekah) Hazenbush, Michelle Houston (John), Lauren Wyant (Andrew), Alecia Hassett (Kyle), and Charles Arnold (Alexandra); and great grandson, Ezra Wyant.

She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a brother, Lawrence H. Heimburge Sr. in 1977, and a daughter, Betsy M. Mulder on April 25, 2016.

Calling hours were Friday, February 23rd, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 24th, at the Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. Pastor Frank Cirone will officiate.

Burial followed in the Chestnut Lawn Cemetery, New Baltimore, NY.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

To send a condolence or for directions,

please visit Margie's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Helen Egerton Gilmour Huber

RHINEBECK - Helen Egerton Gilmour Huber, 97, of Rhinebeck, NY, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

Born on July 30, 1926, she was the only child of Annie Crombie Gilmour McGregor and James Douglas Gilmour. Raised in Yonkers, she graduated from Bucknell University in 1948, with an engineering degree.

On May 5th, 1951, she married Lawrence Lee (Jake) Huber and moved to Jake's hometown of Rhinebeck. While raising their 4 children, Helen returned to college at New Paltz to get her teaching certification and then her Master's Degree in Reading. Thus began her 20-year career, teaching 1st and 3rd graders in the Rhinebeck school District. After retiring in 1982, Helen volunteered both at the Baptist Home's Coffee Shop and for over 25 years at the Starr Library. At the same time, she lovingly cared for her handicapped adult daughter, until she was 90 years old. She was often seen walking beside her adult tricycle as Karen pedaled up Old Post Road.

Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Russell (Victoria) Huber of Tivoli, who kindly watched over Helen these past few years, and Peter Huber of Rhinebeck. Her daughters, Lee Ann (Robert) Ahlin of McKeesport, PA and Karen Huber of Kingston; grandchildren, Justin and Joshua (Kelly) Huber, Robert (Leah) and Matthew Ahlin, and step-grandson, Sean (Anna) Phillips; Great-grandchildren, Langley, Lucas, Brooks, Silas, Eliza, Carter, Eliza, Edie, Roya and Sean.

A special thank you to her caretakers, Joan, Karen, and Dionne who lovingly took care of her these past 2 years.

The family would also like to extend a special thank you to Corinne and Tasha as well as all of Hudson Valley Hospice for their extended care and kindness during Helen's final time.

Mom loved reading and her years of volunteering at the Starr Library.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish, please send a donation to the library at this address: 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck, NY, 12572.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.dapsonchestney.com.

Jean Louise (Ruge) Kaiser

FORMERLY OF RHINEBECK - Jean Louise (Ruge) Kaiser passed away on February 8th 2024 after a brief illness.

Jean was born in Rhinebeck New York to Joseph Edward Ruge and Margaret Eleanor Lewis

Jean was married to Harry John Kaiser on May 15th 1965. Harry predeceased her on May 5th 1999.

Surviving family members are her brother, Lewis J. Ruge of Rhinebeck, New York, her children Joseph Mitchell Kaiser of Baxter, Tennessee, Jeffrey Lewis Kaiser of Vero

Beach, Florida and Juliana Margaret Kaiser of Chestertown, Maryland.

She is also survived by four grandchildren, Bethanie Jean Kaiser of Charleston, South Carolina, Abigail Ellen Thomas of Austin, Texas, Joseph Mitchell Kaiser II of Germantown, New York and Dillan Harry Aidan Thomas of Chestertown, Maryland.

Services to be announced at a later date.

Anita L. Ness

Anita L. Ness, 91, a longtime resident of Staatsburg, NY, joined the saints in glory on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. She passed from this life at home with her loving healthcare aide, Candace Kharbedia, at her bedside. "Ne," as she was fondly called, was a loving wife and mother. She was born to Albert and Elise Kurzenhauser on September 29, 1932, in New York City, and grew up in the Bronx with her brother, Alfred, who predeceased her.

Anita was an RN and graduated from the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. She was also a graduate of Empire State College. After passing her state boards, she joined her husband, Bill, at the Naval Base in Oxnard, CA, and worked at the base hospital. After Bill's discharge, they moved to the Hudson Valley of New York, where Anita worked as an RN in several area hospitals, and then became a school nurse teacher, eventually retiring from the Spackenkill School District.

Anita was a very talented and creative person, who expressed herself eloquently in her painting, sewing, quilting and other handmade gifts: she had her own label called "Threadgifts," under which she made dresses for her daughters and Christmas stockings for many lucky children in her circle of friends. Those stockings are hung lovingly each season on many fireplace mantels across the country.

She enjoyed spending time with her family, and tending to her flower garden, into which she poured her soul. Listening to her play Christmas carols and favorites from the 1940s on the piano was the greatest pleasure, as she was a talented musician.

Anita is survived by her devoted husband of 71 years, William "Bill" Ness, her daughter Laura Ness and husband Greg Richtarek, of Los Gatos, CA, her daughter Carol Rodenberg and her husband, Kevin, of Hampton, NH, her granddaughter, Natalie Rodenberg and husband Jon Waintroob, a great grandson, Fritz, and a great granddaughter, Annelise, all of Greenland, NH.

A graveside funeral service was held on Saturday, February 24,2024 at The Winston Cemetery in East Durham, NY. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation at 80 Washington St, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Condolences may be left at www.ajcunninghamfh.com.

Answers to this week's diversions
(puzzles on page 12)

Suguru solution					
2	1	5	3	1	5
5	4	2	4	2	3
3	1	3	1	5	1
4	5	4	2	4	2
1	2	1	3	1	3
5	3	4	2	4	5

R	I	F	T			C	A	P				H	A	S	P
O	D	O	R			M	E	M	O			T	A	M	P
T	O	R	I			O	D	I	N			U	R	B	A
C	L	E	V	E	L	A	N	D				B	R	O	S
						I	N	T	R	O		F	B	I	
A	R	C	A	D	E						O	D	Y	S	S
D	O	E				U	N	F	A	I	R		O	N	C
A	G	A	V	E				O	W	N			K	N	O
M	E	S	A			W	A	L	K	E	R			R	A
S	T	E	N	C	I	L					M	O	T	E	T
						B	I	T			H	Y	E	N	A
		C	R	U	D					R	O	O	S	E	V
S	H	A	R	E						U	G	L	I		E
P	I	K	E	R						D	A	K	S		R
A	D	E	N							E	N	S			N
															E

SUDOKU												
This week's answer												
6	9	8	5	4	2	3	7	1				
3	1	5	8	7	9	2	6	4				
2	7	4	3	1	6	9	8	5				
9	2	7	6	5	8	1	4	3				
4	5	6	1	9	3	7	2	8				
8	3	1	7	2	4	6	5	9				
7	6	9	4	8	1	5	3	2				
5	8	2	9	3	7	4	1	6				
1	4	3	2	6	5	8	9	7				

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		508 Exercise Equipment	718 Auctions	
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100 Help Wanted

TOWN OF STANFORD

The Town of Stanford is looking to fill two positions:

* Recreation commission member - a volunteer position to create and guide the Town's Recreation program, working along side the Recreation Director. One meeting per month, usually on the second Tuesday or Wednesday each month. Member will also be asked to work at the Haunted Fortress during October. Must be a Town of Stanford resident.

* Secretary for the Conservation Advisory Commission. Attendance required to take the minutes at monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday of every month. \$17.80 per hour.

Please send letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 436, Stanfordville, NY 12581 or to rbell@townofstanford.org.

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Legal Notices

BID NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THE Milan Town Board seeks sealed bids for a single story addition to the Milan Town Hall. Said bids shall be returnable to the Milan Town Clerk no later than 11:00am, Monday, March 25, 2024 at 11:00am. Bids shall be opened at a special town board meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 11:00 am. Bids must be submitted on the bid forms

Legal Notices

provided (Section 00300). The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
By order of the Milan Town Board
Catherine Gill, Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE - WORKSHOP
EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the East Clinton

Legal Notices

Fire District Board of Commissioners will hold a workshop on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the firehouse located at 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, New York for the purpose of discussions regarding a new firehouse. Dated: February 22, 2024
By order of the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners
Karen Buechele,

Legal Notices

Secretary

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-10-24
Marine Outboard Engines for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
Bids will be received

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until 2:00 p.m. on the 12th day of March 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie,

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New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting

Legal Notices

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