

Tivoli Winterfest  
to showcase  
community

Family fun, Santa visit  
and open houses to mark  
day-long festivities

The Village of Tivoli, along with the Tivoli Fire Department and Tivoli Merchants + Artists, announces their 2024 Tivoli Winterfest Celebration to be held Saturday, Dec. 7: a day filled with holiday festivities, family fun and community spirit. Holiday lights, Santa touring through the village, festive music, business and restaurant open houses and more will provide warm welcomes for the holiday season as the community and visitors experience the charm of Tivoli, a destination for art, culture, cuisine, family fun and scenic outdoor enjoyment.

The day begins at 2 p.m. with Santa's tour through the village and neighborhoods, courtesy of the Tivoli Fire Department (and with use of a classic, vintage fire truck) where Santa will be seen engaging with kids and adults alike; Tivoli Free Library will host a crafty session of edible garland making 3:30-4:30 p.m.; a tree lighting kicks off at 4:45 p.m. at the Village Hall/firehouse (2 Tivoli Commons/86 Broadway), along with treats for all; horse- drawn wagon rides will be featured from 5 to 7 p.m. (starting at the firehouse; all welcome); and, finally, select open houses will be peppered throughout the village, where shops, restaurants and arts destinations will offer a chance to meet and greet owners and artists, and share in cheer and conversation.

Tivoli Artists Gallery in particular hosts their annual Holiday Show noon-8 p.m., an intimate market of artisan wares for unique gift-giving. The day is a coming-together of a modern celebration, history and tradition, art and community. Tivoli's

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Free holiday events at FDR  
Library & Home Dec. 14

On Saturday, Dec. 14, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of FDR National Historic Site will host a full day of free holiday events. The Museum will be open to visitors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Home of FDR (Springwood) will have tours available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be holiday decorations, refreshments and special activities – including the annual Children's Reading Festival and free photo time with Santa – beginning at noon in the Henry A. Wallace Center.



Children's Reading Festival,  
Photos with Santa, and  
Holiday Cards for Sailors

Beginning at noon, children can make holiday cards for sailors on the USS Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt (www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/dg80/) and meet with Dickens, a little black Scottie dog who loves to impersonate President Roosevelt's famous dog, Fala. There will be holiday music and free photo time with Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon.

The annual Children's Reading Festival – presented by the Roosevelt Library and the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library

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Children visit with Santa at the Wallace Center during a previous year's holiday events at the Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum on Saturday, Dec. 14. Left: Dickens, the Fala Impersonator. Photos courtesy FDR Library



Record donation from car show  
benefits Locust Grove Appeal

By Jim Donick

Locust Grove Car Show organizers have kick started the 2024 Locust Grove Annual Appeal with the largest donation they have ever made. Representatives of the Hudson Valley Auto Enthusiasts met recently with the leadership of Locust Grove to hand over a check for \$15,000.

"This is very much the most we have ever raised for them at the show," said Hudson Valley Auto

Enthusiasts Chairman Tom Weisman, one of the founders of the original event.

Emily Ellison, Director of Programs and Marketing at Locust Grove Estate, said "We love the car show, it's just awesome. Seeing all these beautiful cars on the lawns under the trees here is marvelous. Additionally, we get to immediately keep the income from the spectators. This year that was over 1,300 adults plus children, which meant we took in about

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From left are Tom Weisman, Jim Brands and Mike Butler from the Hudson Valley Auto Enthusiasts and Emily Ellison and Sarah Ruvo of Locust Grove. Photo by Jim Donick

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# Volunteers brave cold temperatures to load record amount of 'Trees for Troops'



Volunteers from several fire districts in Dutchess County and from area communities turned out in huge numbers to load a record number of 850 "Trees for Troops" on Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Hahn Farm on Salt Point Turnpike. A big "Thank You" goes to Williams Lumber and Home Centers for their large donation of trees. In the photos, clockwise from top left, volunteers pose for a group photo. Loading, unloading and tagging trees are a volunteer from the community, Pleasant Valley Fire District Lt. Collin Burgess, Volunteer Coordinator Jeff Cady, Pleasant Valley Fire District Captain Kenny Wallace, members of the Pleasant Valley Fire District, Jean Cady and Abby Elliott of the Salt Point Fire Company and Pleasant Valley Fire District members John Hopper and Penni Burgess. *Photos by Curtis Schmidt*






**IMPACT**  
 PR & Communications

**Dutchess Roots breaks ground;  
Plans to open in Spring 2025**


**IMPACT**  
 PR & Communications


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# Farmers, stakeholders discuss HV Carbon Farming Project

Area farmers, County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs) personnel, and policymakers gathered the Chaseholm Farm near Pine Plains in late November discuss the practices farmers use to produce the food and fiber while contemplating how these practices can be sustainably scaled up to help support the state's and nation's climate objectives.

The specific focus of the gathering was to reflect on the experience of and lessons learned from local farmers and SWCDs participating in the "Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project."

In 2018, NYS Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D - Columbia, Dutchess) secured funding in the NYS budget for the establishment of a soil health demonstration project to promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices known as carbon farming: sequestering carbon in the soil while helping farmers improve soil resiliency and productivity on their farms. Dubbed the "Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project," the initiative originally contemplated the advancement of demonstration areas in Columbia and Dutchess counties. In partnership with then NYS Senator Jen Metzger, the geographic focus was expanded to include Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

Climate-smart farming practices are designed to improve soil health while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a land stewardship practice, carbon farming improves soil health and productivity by allowing greater soil water absorption and holding nutrients in place; as a climate-smart initiative, it mitigates and sequesters carbon's release into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Carbon dioxide contributes to climate change as a greenhouse gas by trapping heat in the atmosphere. By using no-till systems; planting cover crops, trees,



NYS Assemblymember Didi Barrett, State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball and Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan gather with farmers and stakeholders at the Chaseholm Dairy Farm near Pine Plains. *Courtesy photo*

and perennial forages; and by managing compost and nutrient application, farmers can see improvements in water retention, nutrient storage, and reduced erosion.

Key to this effort was harnessing the technical knowledge and support of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and County SWCDs. State and local agencies critically focused on providing direct financial and technical support to farmers across the state, advancing comprehensive management solutions that address environmental challenges and further protect New York's natural resources.

Scenic Hudson supported the effort through promotion of the pilot initiated by Assemblymember Barrett and Senator Metzger, and worked with project partners to communicate progress with the demonstration projects and actively seek ways to further advance the pilot's work, including facilitation of the focus event

in partnership with Commissioner Ball and Assemblymember Barrett.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot is a great example of how the agricultural industry is working to mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce its carbon footprint. This work is critical to protecting our land – one of our most precious resources, and the foundation of our farming community – and to ensuring that we can continue to farm for generations to come. I thank Assemblymember Barrett, Scenic Hudson, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and farmers who were involved in this pilot for their tremendous efforts, which will help farmers across New York State gain valuable knowledge about soil health, water quality, climate adaptation, and resilience."

Barrett said, "In 2019, I secured funding in the NY State budget for the Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project to

encourage and support the adoption of regenerative farming, a win-win approach that takes carbon out of the atmosphere and stores it in the soil, where it makes farmland more productive and resilient."

"We are extremely honored and thankful for Scenic Hudson's opportunity to serve as a partner with Commissioner Ball and Assemblymember Barrett in advancing the Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project," said Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan. "Through their leadership, the farming community and stakeholders have taken lessons learned from the pilot and applied them through a dynamic combination of funding and technical assistance to family farms that is making a real difference in agriculture across the Hudson Valley and the state as a whole. We applaud their vision to strengthen sustainable, regenerative practices on our farms and to turn that vision into reality."

## Millbrook Library Holiday Auction showcases the community's generosity

By Sam Falk  
Friends of Millbrook Library

It is once again the time of year where festive celebrations and charitable events highlight the community spirit that makes the village of Millbrook a special place. One such event has been the holiday silent auction held at Millbrook Library. Friends of Millbrook Library are pleased to announce that the 16th Holiday Silent Auction is back this December. The Holiday Silent Auction will run from Dec. 6 to 21 in the library's upstairs gallery, following an opening reception that will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6. The auction's closing celebration will be held at the library from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 21, with final bids accepted no later than 4 p.m. that day.

These events are free and open to all.

More than just a fundraiser for the library and a great opportunity to find holiday gifts, the auction serves to put a spotlight on the local businesses that donate their goods, and to entice community members who may not be regular patrons to see the wonders that their local library has to offer.

Having the opening reception at the library on the same night as the village's Festival of Lights parade proved to be a huge success in past years, and will be repeated this year on Dec. 6. After the parade it is a heartwarming sight to see families aglow with holiday spirit streaming into the library to peruse the auction items and partake in refreshments. More than just a building with shelves of books, Millbrook Library is a place that

brings community members together.

Last year, donors' generosity, combined with that of the people who bid on the auction items, enabled the Friends of Millbrook Library to raise over \$13,000 for their beloved institution. The results of the Friends' fundraising efforts can be seen in the new pollinator garden in front of the library on Franklin Street, chairs that were installed in the library's Flagler room, and the refurbishing of the Franklin Avenue entrance and the gallery space. Funds raised by the Friends have also been used for children's, teen, and adult programming, and museum passes that are all free for the community.

For the 2024 auction, the Friends have a goal of surpassing last year's fundraising, with over \$20,000 worth of items

that have been very generously donated and will appeal to all tastes and budgets. Higher-end items up for bid include a night at Troutbeck, a handmade river rock and walnut coffee table from Alan Cole, and an alpaca blanket from Alicia Adams. For those looking for practical gifts, there are a wide range of items such as 150 gallons of fuel oil from Taylor Oil, a charcoal Weber grill from Reardon Briggs, and much more. Services such as horseback riding lessons, yoga sessions, and a makeup tutorial can be bid on to give as holiday gifts. There will also be a "buy it now" table of smaller items, and many gift certificates to area businesses that will go to the highest bidders.

For more information visit <https://millbrooklibrary.org/holiday-silent-auction/>.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Trump will be the president this country needs

To the editor:  
This letter is in response to the one headed “Will our democracy survive 2nd Trump presidency?” published in your issue dated November 20-26, 2024.  
Yes, President Trump and the Republican Party have majority control in both houses of our government, and the White House, but this does not mean they have complete control as every Representative and Senator vote independently on measures brought before them which has been done in many cases and will continue.  
We do not have a dictatorship – President Trump will act in a fair manner, I believe, as he did in his first term where he helped the entire country, not one party, group, race, religion – brought down inflation, lowered prices on energy, which in turn lowers the price of many items. During his term of office, I for one lived a better and more affordable life. He also controlled our southern border, stopping much of the illegal migrants coming into our country, which at the same time helped to stem much of the flow of illegal drugs, as well as stemming much of the sex and illegal trafficking of women and children into this country to be used as sex slaves.  
When our last President took office, most of President Trump’s initiatives were stopped by President Biden causing mass inflation, a huge increase in drugs coming in through our southern border, and huge increase in the trafficking of both women and children as well as allowing a huge amount of criminals, gang members and possible terrorists into our country.  
I speak for myself and I’m sure for the majority of American citizens when I say life has been a struggle under the present administration, so we look forward to President Trump to be sworn in as I believe he will bring down inflation, secure our borders, and bring back pride into our great country. There is much more I could point out, but that would take up more space than what this paper may have available.  
In closing, I can only say “God Bless America” and Pray that President-elect Donald Trump is the president this country is in great need of and that his policies will bring back prosperity, a secure border, so that the United States of America is once again respected around the world.

Arthur Kascsak  
Millbrook

Hinchey, Shrestha bill to establish  
Sojourner Truth Day signed into law

Legislation introduced by Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, designating Nov. 26 as Sojourner Truth Day in New York, has been signed into law. This measure is the first permanent statewide recognition of Truth’s legacy as one of the most renowned abolitionists and social activists of her era—an idea sparked in 2021 by students from the Kingston YMCA Farm Project Youth Crew, who brought their vision to Hinchey’s office. Since its introduction, the bill has inspired widespread support over the years, leading to local and county-level tributes to Truth’s enduring contributions.  
Hinchey said, “Sojourner Truth was an American hero whose unyielding fight for freedom and equality continues to inspire us nearly 200 years after her passing, igniting a new generation of young leaders carrying her legacy forward—including here in Ulster County, Truth’s birthplace. Our bill to establish Sojourner Truth Day in New York began with students from the Kingston YMCA Youth Crew, who recognized our responsibility

in New York State to share her journey as one of the most prolific abolitionists and women’s rights activists of the time. Turning this vision into law is an honor, and I thank Assemblymember Shrestha for her partnership and Governor Hochul for signing our bill into law. For New York, November 26th of each year will not only reflect our commitment to keeping Sojourner Truth’s legacy alive but reaffirm what it means to be a New Yorker: always striving toward a better, more equitable future for all.”  
Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha said, “Sojourner Truth didn’t stop when she became the first Black woman to successfully sue white men to get her son released from slavery—she went on to spend the rest of her life fighting for everyone else across the country. Her determination is a reminder that those who commit to dismantling systems of oppression and injustice seldom do it because someone told them it was going to be easy. They do it precisely because it’s difficult, and precisely because it’s up to everyday people like Truth and her

abolitionist peers were at the time, to lay the groundwork for making the impossible possible. I’m thrilled to have worked with Senator Hinchey and Governor Hochul to establish November 26th as Sojourner Truth Day in the State of New York, and look forward to honoring Truth’s work every year.”  
Sojourner Truth was an Ulster County-born abolitionist who freed herself from slavery with her infant daughter in 1826 and dedicated the remainder of her life to fighting for equality, gaining national prominence as one of the best-known social activists of her generation. Throughout her life, Truth’s efforts were critical in the fight to secure the right to vote for all women and expand access to government support for formerly enslaved Black Americans. In 1828, Truth made history as the first Black woman to successfully sue a white man, securing her son’s freedom in a landmark case heard at the Ulster County Courthouse in Kingston, where Hinchey and Shrestha announced the signing of their bill on Nov. 26.

Record donation from car show  
benefits Locust Grove Appeal

continued from cover

\$13,000 on the day of the show.”  
“We’ve just kicked off our Annual Appeal and this donation goes a long way in helping us meet it. The Appeal this year is to begin raising funds for replacing the heating and air conditioning in our visitor’s center,” she said. The current system was installed when the building was erected and has met its original expected service life.  
Sarah Ruvo, who is coordinating the Appeal this year, said “This will be a big boost to our effort. We’ve just started with a Christmas themed donation tree. There will be more to come.”  
“We love doing this,” said Mike Butler, president of the Hudson Valley Auto Enthusiasts. “This year we had more cars than ever before and we are hoping for even more in 2025.”  
“We have plenty of room to park them,” said Ellison with a smile.

Jim Brands has been helping with the event almost since its inception. “I often drive the cart that moves folks from the parking area to the show field,” he said. “2024 was another fantastic year.” Brands also often has his own show car on the field while he helps out with transporting visitors.  
2024 saw nearly 550 show cars passing through Locust Grove’s Gates. “We are hoping for even more next year,” said Butler. “Six hundred fifty seem like an achievable goal.”  
Next year’s event is scheduled for July 14.  
With the Locust Grove Annual Appeal off to a good start, their own goal is still some distance away. Anyone wanting to help support this treasure of the Hudson Valley can stop by Locust Grove or donate on line by going to [LGNY.org/donate](http://LGNY.org/donate).

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# Dutchess County Public Transit route modifications effective Jan. 4, 2025

## New rider mobile app now available

With changes reflecting community input and addressing concerns, Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT) route modifications will go into effect Jan. 4, 2025. These fixed route modifications will expand service on the busiest routes; make it easier for riders to navigate the system; and improve overall system efficiency. A newly launched mobile app and web-based tracking system further enhances riders experience with improved bus tracking and trip planning.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Over the past year, we have listened to our community’s concerns and input about bus service. The team at Dutchess County Public Transit has worked tirelessly to fine tune fixed-route changes, addressing the various concerns and ensuring efficiency in the bus system to keep it sustainable for the future. We are grateful to all those who have shared input during this process as it has been helpful in finalizing routes that will serve more people than ever before.”

Over the past few months, DCPT staff has been visiting bus stops along all the fixed routes, talking with riders about the new schedules and sharing information about the new SPOT mobile app. The upcoming changes have been well-received by riders. The most anticipated changes include more frequent service to the Route 9 corridor; new express service from Poughkeepsie to Walmart in Fishkill and Amazon in East Fishkill; increased local service for Dutchess Community College students; and new Sunday service for the Beacon Free Loop.

The route modifications make the schedules much simpler and easy-to-understand, eliminating different paths being traveled for each trip to prevent passenger confusion. Additionally, the schedule will reduce split shifts and eliminate unpaid layover time for bus drivers.

DCPT Director Michael Grattini said, “We have worked hard to come up with schedules and routes that addressed riders’ concerns, while also improving our system overall. We are grateful to County Executive Serino for her ongoing support

of our efforts and to our community partners for their willingness to collaborate and share their feedback. As these changes go into effect in the new year, our team at DCPT is ready to help riders adjust as seamlessly as possible.”

The new mobile app and tracking system, SPOT, was launched in October, following the discontinuation of the former DoubleMap app. The new SPOT app offers similar features for riders, including saving their favorite routes and stops, and getting push notifications to mobile devices with real-time updates. Schedules will also be available in real-time on the app. On-board hardware has been upgraded to track bus locations and make automated, accessible stop announcements. As part of their outreach, DCPT staff has been talking to riders to answer their questions and offer troubleshooting help as they transition to the new app.

Over the past few months, DCPT has been working closely with ETA Transit to ensure the transition to the new app and hardware on the buses is smooth for passengers and drivers alike. During outreach visits, DCPT staff have also answered riders’ questions as well as offered troubleshooting help to riders.

Director Grattini continued, “We have been helping customers learn the new mobile app, showing them how to take advantage of the all the great features. As we prepare for the new schedules to go into effect on Jan. 4th, we will continue our outreach, helping riders use this great tool to easily reach their destination and we look forward to serving even more customers in 2025!”

Additionally, the DCPT’s reservation-based Flex Service is also expanding, doubling the hours of available service. Starting January 4th with the fixed route modifications, flex service will be available from 8am until 5pm Monday through Friday. Flex service is a curb-to-curb service anywhere in Dutchess County. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (845) 473-8424.

An overview of the route modifications is as follows:

Routes A & B (Poughkeepsie to Fishkill/Poughkeepsie to Beacon): As these are the two most-used routes in the

system, trip frequency will increase to offer hourly service with 11 additional trips on Route A and eight additional trips on Route B.

Route C (Poughkeepsie to Tivoli): The bus will now enter the Hyde Park Mall plaza (Stop & Shop) in Hyde Park and Bard College campus in Red Hook on every trip. Stops along the Route 9G corridor will be eliminated due to low ridership.

Route D (Poughkeepsie to Millbrook): This route, which currently is Poughkeepsie to Dover, will now have its eastern-most stop in the Village of Millbrook. Stops in Dover and Wassaic have been eliminated due to low ridership.

Route E (Poughkeepsie to Pawling): Modified to offer three daily round trips to Pawling (morning, mid-day and evening). All other trips will travel as far east as Old Manchester Road in LaGrange.

Route F (Beacon to Hopewell Junction): Service hours will be expanded to end at 10pm to better serve southern Dutchess County destinations, including the Amazon facility and iPark in East Fishkill, Walmart in Fishkill and the City of Beacon.

Route G (Poughkeepsie to Beacon): Also known as The Beacon Free Loop, this route will add Sunday service.

Route H (DCC to Poughkeepsie Train Station): This route will be eliminated at

the request of Dutchess Community College as Route J will now serve the Town of Poughkeepsie campus.

Route J (Poughkeepsie North): Will now serve the Hudson Heritage Shopping Center on Route 9 and Dutchess Community College in the Town of Poughkeepsie, offering students more access to local shopping.

Route K (Poughkeepsie South): The 9:15pm and 10:15pm trips departing from the Transit Hub in the City of Poughkeepsie will be eliminated due to low ridership.

Route L (Poughkeepsie – Main Street Shuttle): Service will now end at 8pm due to low ridership on later evening trips.

Routes M & P (Poughkeepsie East and West): Service will now end at 6:12pm and 5:12pm, respectively. Route M will continue to enter Maplewood Apartments on Maple Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

RailLink Service (New Hamburg and Poughkeepsie Train Stations): Due to low ridership, as well as overlapping service on other routes, RailLink service to the Poughkeepsie and New Hamburg train stations will be discontinued.

The updated timetables are available on Dutchess County Public Transit’s website, [dutchessny.gov/publictransit](http://dutchessny.gov/publictransit). Riders can also call (845) 473-8424 for questions regarding the route modifications and alternate route options.

## Westminster Presbyterian Church 26th Annual Homemade Cookie, Craft and Christmas Gift Bazaar



When: December 7th  
Time: 10am to 3pm  
Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
1872 salt Point Tpke, Salt Point.

All proceeds help the Board of Deacons with  
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# Hochul signs Melanie’s Law in Poughkeepsie

Sen. Michelle Hinchey announced last week that Melanie’s Law (S.6288/A.6026), legislation she sponsors to expand the jurisdiction of family court to allow orders of protection to cover family members impacted by domestic violence, has been signed into law. Hinchey welcomed Gov. Kathy Hochul to Dutchess County on Monday, Nov. 25, for a bill signing ceremony at the Family Partnership Center, with Melanie’s mother, Cheryl Chianese, local officials, and advocates in attendance, including Sen. Rob Rolison, Assemblyman Brian Cunningham, Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr., Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi, and Family Services CEO Leah Feldman.

Melanie’s Law is named in memory of Melanie Chianese, a 29-year-old mother from Dutchess County who was tragically murdered by her mother’s ex-boyfriend. At the time, a protective order was issued for Melanie’s mother, but it did not extend to Melanie, exposing a critical gap in criminal procedure law and the Family Court Act. Currently, protective orders can cover domestic violence victims, minors under their care, and individuals deemed in need of protection by a judge. Melanie’s Law specifically expands the jurisdiction of the family court so that orders can include relatives of domestic violence victims, ensuring that family members at risk of harm can file their own protective orders.

“Today, thanks to one mother’s extraordinary courage and advocacy for change, Melanie’s Law, championed by her mom, Cheryl, is now law,” said Hinchey. “Domestic violence leaves a

trail of trauma that impacts entire families, and when people come forward for help, they deserve a legal system that offers protection and compassion. I’m proud to sponsor Melanie’s Law, which will help do that, effectively allowing orders of protection to now extend to relatives of DV victims, providing a vital safeguard for those who often bear the ripple effects of abuse. My deepest thanks go to Cheryl Chianese, who has been a driving force and has not only brought hope to families in crisis but has provided families with a stronger voice in their fight for safety through Melanie’s Law.”

Sen. Rolison said, “Today is the culmination of years of advocacy and effort on behalf of victims of abuse. Sunday would have been Melanie’s birthday. This critical legislation will finally provide the Chianese family with some measure of closure to their tragedy, protect domestic violence victims, and strengthen New York’s criminal laws by closing an unconscionable loophole. As prime co-sponsor of Melanie’s Law, I am grateful for the opportunity to help deliver this bill and stand up for victims of abuse across our state.”

County Executive Serino said, “Due to a dangerous loophole in our justice system, Melanie’s life was tragically taken from her too soon. It has been a long fight to get ‘Melanie’s Law’ passed, but her mother, Cheryl, has been relentless in her efforts to prevent this tragedy from happening again. Turning tragedy into advocacy, Melanie’s Law will save lives, and I can’t thank Governor Hochul, Senators Hinchey and Rolison, and Assemblymen Cunningham and Beephan for recognizing the importance of this law and for standing with survivors and their families.”

Dutchess County District Attorney



Gov. Kathy Hochul signs Melanie’s Law at Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie on Monday, Nov. 25. The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Michelle Hinchey (standing behind Hochul). Other officials attending the signing included Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino (second from right) and Family Services CEO Leah Feldman (right). *Courtesy photo*

Anthony Parisi said, “The impact of abuse is profoundly devastating and extends far beyond individual victims, as highlighted by the tragic loss of Melanie Chianese. The implementation of Melanie’s Law represents a significant step forward in providing greater protection for victims, their families, and loved ones. Every individual deserves the fundamental right to live free from fear and violence. I thank Governor Hochul for signing Melanie’s Law, bridging the gaps in our current legal framework to prevent future tragedies.”

Leah Feldman, CEO of Family Services, said, “We were honored to host the signing of Melanie’s Law here at the Family Partnership Center, where critical services are provided 24/7 to survivors of

domestic violence. This moment represents a powerful commitment to protecting survivors and preventing domestic violence. We extend our deepest gratitude to Governor Hochul, Senator Hinchey, and all the elected officials who championed this legislation, and Cheryl, whose courage and advocacy in memory of her daughter Melanie is an inspiration to us.”

If you or someone you know needs support, help is available. Contact the Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services:

- 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline: 845-485-5550
- Text Line: 845-583-0800
- Online Chat: [www.resourceconnect.com/cvss/chat](http://www.resourceconnect.com/cvss/chat)

## Cary Institute scientist co-authors study on cooling effects of urban trees

How many trees does it take to cool a city? Until now, data on the cooling effects of urban trees was only available at the neighborhood level. A new study offers a tool to scale up the data to inform city-wide greening efforts.

Cities around the globe are increasingly experiencing dangerous heat as urban concrete and asphalt amplify rising temperatures. Tree-planting programs are a popular, nature-based way to cool cities, but these initiatives have been largely based on guesswork and extrapolation.

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies announced that a recent study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences offers a new tool for urban planners and decision makers to set more specific and

science-based city-wide greening goals.

The study is led by Jia Wang, Weiqi Zhou, and Yuguo Qian at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and co-authored by Steward Pickett, an urban ecologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

“Trees offer many benefits to cities, and cooling is one of them,” Pickett explained. “Trees are good at cooling because they pump a lot of water from the ground into the air, and when that water evaporates at the leaf surface, it absorbs a vast amount of heat. That’s just the physics of evaporation. The shade provided by trees also helps with cooling.”

To date, most studies measuring the cooling effects of urban trees focus on the hyperlocal level, such as on a particular street or neighbor-

hood. When the urban tree canopy expands by 1%, for example, nearby temperatures may decrease by 0.04 to 0.57 degrees Celsius.

“That’s valuable, but planners and decision makers are thinking about the whole city,” said Pickett. “They’re asking, ‘How much tree canopy do we need for the whole city? What happens when we scale it up?’ And that information hasn’t been available.”

It wasn’t clear whether the fine-scale results could be extrapolated to the city scale. So, the researchers set out to determine how trees’ cooling efficiency — the temperature reduction associated with a 1% increase urban tree canopy — changes across larger areas.

The team analyzed satellite imagery and temperature data from four cities with very dif-

ferent climates: Beijing and Shenzhen in China, and Baltimore and Sacramento in the US. Baltimore and Beijing are temperate, Shenzhen is subtropical, and Sacramento is in a Mediterranean climate zone. First, they divided each city into pixels approximately the size of a city block. For each pixel, they measured the land surface temperature and how much of the ground was covered by trees. Then they ran the same analyses across larger and larger sections of each city, spanning the neighborhood level, city level, and beyond. Finally, they calculated how the mathematical relationship between greenery and temperature — the cooling efficiency — changed at different scales.

Overall, the team discovered that the cooling efficiency of urban trees increased at larger scales. But it did so at a slower rate at larger unit sizes. In Beijing, for example, a 1% increase in canopy at the block level decreases temperature by about 0.06 degrees, whereas a 1% increase in canopy at the city level could decrease temperature by about 0.18 degrees.

The additional benefit at larger scales seems to come from being able to include large groups of trees, which have a larger cooling capacity.

With greater clarity about the relationships between area, tree canopy cover, and cooling effects, the paper makes it possible to predict cooling effects at the whole-city scale, offering a valuable tool for managers to set urban tree canopy goals to reduce extreme heat.

Co-author Weiqi Zhou notes, “We found that cooling efficiency follows a power law across scales — from as small as 120 by 120 meters to as large as regions covering the entire city. The relationship holds across all four of the studied cities, which are in very different climates. This suggests that it could be used to predict the amount of additional tree cover needed to achieve specific heat mitigation and climate adaptation goals in cities worldwide.”



While the paper provides essential information for decision-making at the municipal level, Pickett cautions that urban planners may also need to work at smaller scales to ensure that urban trees — and their potential benefits — are distributed equitably across the city, and with community buy-in.

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# Free holiday events at FDR Library & Home Dec. 14

continued from cover



FDR's study in the FDR Presidential Library and Museum will be decorated for the season. The museum will be open to visitors free of charge on Saturday, Dec. 14. *Photo courtesy FDR Library.* Below: The tree in the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, where free tours will be given on Dec. 14. *Photo courtesy National Park Service.*



District – will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 14. Children's book authors will read from and sign copies of their books. Featured books will be available for purchase in the New Deal Store in the Wallace Center.

Children's Reading Festival authors include:

1:30 p.m. A.J. Schenkman  
author of "Franklin's Trees"

2:15 p.m. Michael Garland  
author of "Oh, What A Christmas!" and "Grandpa's Tractor (Life on the Farm)"

3 p.m. Barbara Ann Mojica  
author of "Little Miss History Travels

to Hyde Park, Home of 'Franklin D. Roosevelt: Presidential Library & Museum'"

**Holiday Open House at Roosevelt Library and Home**

The Holiday Open House on Dec. 14 is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Home of FDR National Historic Site and at the Roosevelt Library. Both the Home and the Roosevelt Library study will be decorated for the holidays as they were during the Roosevelt presidency. Admission is free to the Home and Library throughout the day.

For more information, call: Cliff Laube, Roosevelt Library, (845) 486-7745; or Franceska Macsali Urbin, National Park Service, (845) 489-8513.

send us your news —————  
————— [cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com](mailto:cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com)

# Tivoli Winterfest to showcase community

continued from cover



Old-fashioned horse-drawn wagon rides are just one feature of the Village of Tivoli's Winterfest Celebration, taking place on Saturday, Dec. 7. *Courtesy photo*

premier destinations along its main Broadway include Available Items, Fabulous Yarn, Strega Flora, Thrift 2 Fight, Tivoli Artists Gallery, Tivoli General, The Corner Store @ Hotel Tivoli and more. Giobatta Alimentari, Osaka, Santa Fe, The Corner @ Hotel Tivoli (try the famous Glogg!) and Traghaven Whiskey Pub are also among the evening's popular culinary choices. Look for specials and promotions at various shops and studios.

"Tivoli has its own personality, and

our cozy Winterfest is a great way to explore it all. The various events are about neighbors, families and friends, and welcoming all to come visit," says Deputy Mayor Emily Majer.

"We love this celebration. This is the perfect time to experience the diverse culture and charm Tivoli is known for," adds Hotel Tivoli General Manager Janett Pabon.

For more details, visit [tivolinow.com](http://tivolinow.com) or check out @tivolinow on Facebook and Instagram.

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# Dutchess Roots breaks ground; Plans to open in Spring 2025



Carving out a leading position in the rollout of a new business category opening locally, Dutchess Roots, the Town of Poughkeepsie’s first New York State licensed recreational cannabis dispensary with an approved location, officially broke ground on November 25.

Located at 2615 South Road (Route 9) within South Road Crossing, Dutchess Roots will sit behind Buff City Soap and across from the recently announced wellness studio, The Yoga House. The premier cannabis retailer will open its newly constructed, freestanding store spring 2025.

“I congratulate Dutchess Roots on their groundbreaking,” said Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor, Rebecca Edwards. “As the town works to ensure that cannabis sales are regulated and safe, it’s terrific to see Dutchess Roots leading the way.”

With a three-pronged mission of elevating the retail cannabis industry, educating consumers and integrating itself into the Dutchess County community, Dutchess Roots aims to be the Hudson Valley’s premier recreational cannabis dispensary. Ensuring everyone who walks through its doors feels welcomed, safe and cared for, the 2,700-square-foot space will have a clean, sophisticated feel, offering a simple yet professional atmosphere.

“Communities across New York State have reaped the economic benefits of cannabis retailers,” said Michael Oates,

*Dutchess Roots logo courtesy of Impact PR*

president and CEO of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation (HVEDC). “These businesses not only create local employment opportunities but generate tax revenue that can be used to support town and county-wide initiatives. I look forward to personally welcoming Dutchess Roots to the Town of Poughkeepsie and seeing its impact on the local and regional economy.”

Whether visitors want to quickly pick up a pre-order, which can be placed through Dutchess Roots’ website, or engage in a thoughtful conversation with an on-site expert, the dispensary will offer a personalized customer service experience tailored to meet the individual needs of every patron.

“Up until this point we had always steered away from legal cannabis in our projects, but after meeting with the team behind Dutchess Roots, and after careful consideration, we decided it was the right fit,” said Kevin Langan, leasing and development partner at Cameron Group, LLC. “We’re confident that Dutchess Roots will operate an upscale, professional dispensary focused on educating its customers and providing a safe, high-quality product to adults ages 21 and older. We know that it will be a great addition to South Road Crossing and look forward to the grand opening this spring.”

For more updates on Dutchess Roots, or to subscribe to its mailing list, visit [dutchessroots.com](http://dutchessroots.com).

# BluePath Service Dogs receives \$5,000 grant from Anderson Foundation for Autism

The leadership team and trustees of Anderson Foundation for Autism, in Staatsburg, announced on Nov. 11 that BluePath Service Dogs, in Wappingers Falls, is among four recipients of the Foundation’s first-ever grantmaking cycle.

BluePath Service Dogs, a nonprofit organization, matches service dogs with autistic individuals; the goal is to enhance safety, create companionship, and deliver opportunities for greater independence. According to BluePath’s website, the dogs are all trained to prevent a child from bolting, either into the street or away from parents in a crowded area. They also provide children with increased social acknowledgement from peers and help cultivate feelings of self-confidence.

The grant award from Anderson Foundation for Autism is \$5,000.

Said BluePath’s Co-Founder and CEO, Michelle Brier: “We are grateful to Anderson Center for Autism for their continued support of BluePath’s mission. This grant will enable us to make an even bigger impact, furthering our shared goal of improving the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum. Our partnership with Anderson is invaluable, and together, we are creating a brighter future for those we serve.”

Anderson Foundation for Autism’s full list of 2024 grant recipients includes: Project Ready (grant award: \$6,500), Bring On The Spectrum (grant award: \$6,000); Flower Petals Adaptive Dance Studio (grant award: \$4,200), and, as noted, BluePath Service Dogs with its grant award of \$5,000.

Said Kevin Kollar, Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism’s Board of Trustees: “Anderson Foundation’s Executive Committee reviewed many grant applications which demonstrated a shared commitment to our cause, and we are thrilled to have selected the aforementioned organizations for our first-ever set of Anderson Foundation grant awards. All are very deserving 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations whose work closely aligns with Anderson Center for

Autism’s mission of ‘optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism.’ Each group has already made meaningful contributions to our field, and we are confident that they will continue to do so for years to come.”

Kollar noted that BluePath - and all recipients of grant awards - will be required to report outcomes to Anderson Foundation for Autism.

Explained Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism: “When we first launched the Foundation, our objective was simply to create a ‘rainy day fund’ for Anderson Center for Autism that could bridge gaps between financial needs and resources. Thanks to the generosity of families, community members, businesses, and philanthropists, this fund has grown to a level that now allows us to help support the good work of other organizations as well. Within weeks of kicking off our grantmaking program, we received many impressive proposals, and the Executive Committee of Anderson Foundation’s Board got to work evaluating those applications and making decisions.”

Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism, added: “We are so proud to be positioned to help catapult others to success - and it is deeply rewarding to know that funds from Anderson Foundation for Autism can support BluePath’s work to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism - just as our team at Anderson does every day.”

Anderson Center for Autism (ACA), founded 100 years ago in 1924 - which also receives funds from Anderson Foundation for Autism - offers evidence-based educational, vocational, residential, and consulting/training programs, drawing students and residents from all over the United States to experience its school and residential offerings. Its affiliate, Anderson Center International (ACI), hosts scholars from countries throughout the world for a 12-18 month training program at Anderson’s Staatsburg campus (today, that includes 26 scholars from 10 countries). During this experience at Anderson, scholars gain the education needed to improve schooling, workplace environments, and overall therapy and care for people with autism upon returning to their home countries. Another Anderson Center for Autism affiliate, Anderson Center Consulting and Training (ACCT), has, among other activities, delivered training needed for over 150 businesses to gain designation as being “Autism Supportive.”

Anderson also runs Early Learning Academy programs (in Pine Plains and Latham) and The Anderson Center Clinic (Latham).

For further information about Anderson Center for Autism and Anderson Foundation for Autism, visit [andersoncenterforautism.org](http://andersoncenterforautism.org).

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Coat Drive set in Town of Clinton**

The Town of Clinton's Town Clerk is holding the annual Coat Drive through Dec. 6. Donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. Drop off at the Town Clerk's office, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email townclerk@townof-clinton.com for more information.

**Clinton participating in Toys for Tots drive**

The Town of Clinton is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages, as part of the annual Toys for Tots holiday toy drive. Drop toys off by Dec. 11 at the Town of Clinton Supervisor's Office, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck. For questions, call Cathy Gallinger at (845) 266-5853, option 2, or email supervisorsec@townofclinton.com

**Fashion Sale to benefit Morton Library**

There will be a Fashion Sale at Morton Memorial Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the library. Women's clothes, shoes and accessories will be offered, including vintage and designer items. Cash, check or PayPal only. (845) 876-2903

**Red Hook Library Friends group to hold first book sale Dec. 7**

The newly launched Friends of the Red Hook Public Library will host their first book sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations will be accepted on Friday, Nov. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Friends are only accepting donations of Mysteries & Thrillers, Biographies & History, and Children's Graphic Novels & Chapter Books in

good condition. Limit one box of each genre/person/donation day.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Library group may contact circulationdesk@redhooklibrary.org.

**LaGrange Library annual meeting set Dec. 12**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the LaGrange Association Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 12, at the LaGrange Library at 7 p.m. All interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

**SRhinecliff Soup Sales set Dec. 19**

It's time for Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your Calendar for Thursday, Dec 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sold by the Quart. \$10. quart. Take Out Only. Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and

Orchard, Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard St. NEW! Pick up also available at Morton Library between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Proceeds go toward the General Fund of Rhinebeck Grange #896 to support community events. Email: JoBaer2@gmail.com to be emailed the soup choices for each month and pre-order online.

**See our  
Holiday Happenings  
starting on page 15  
section for seasonal events  
in your community**



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# Creative Living

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## NDSO's 'Home for the Holidays' concert brings family fun and holiday cheer

Join the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) for their annual Sounds of the Season concert, "Home for the Holidays," on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. The event will take place at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, 156 S Cross Road, Staatsburg. In case of inclement weather, the snow date is set for Sunday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m.

There's no place like home—and no place like NDSO for the holidays! Guest conductor William Stevens will lead the orchestra in a festive celebration, joined by local choruses including the Rhinebeck Choral Club, Rhinebeck High School Chorus, and FDR High School Chorus. The program will feature timeless holiday favorites like "I'll Be Home for Christmas," selections from "Home Alone," and "Sleigh Ride."

A special NDSO tradition includes inviting "kiddie conductors" to lead a lively rendition of "Jingle Bells Forever," with a special appearance by Santa. The concert will also showcase music from

"The Polar Express" and festive Christmas and Hanukkah medleys. Families, friends, and music lovers of all ages are invited to this celebration of holiday music and cheer.

Tickets for this event are priced at \$38 for adults with special discounts available for seniors and students. A family package is available for this concert: \$40 for one adult and two children. For further details about the concert and to purchase tickets, visit [www.ndsorchestra.org](http://www.ndsorchestra.org) or call (845) 635-0877.

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra was formed in 2006 to bring live orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley area. Now in its 19th season, the orchestra offers the best possible live performances of classical music at family-affordable prices. Since the beginning, the orchestra has been under the dedicated leadership of Kathleen Beckmann, who serves as both conductor and artistic director.



Santa takes over the podium from Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra Guest Conductor William Stevens (left) at a previous year's "Home for the Holidays" concert, set this year on Sunday, Dec. 8. Stevens will once again conduct the orchestra. Right: A highlight of the concert is the segment where "kiddie conductors" lead a lively rendition of "Jingle Bells Forever," with a special appearance by Santa. Courtesy photos



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### DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 23 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis

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# Poutine

Shameless comfort food, courtesy of our friends up North

Today I feel the need to share one of my favorite things. After a few stressful weeks and in need of comfort food, the question of what to make to soothe my weary soul was easily answered with one word: poutine. The quintessential Canadian concoction of crisp fries with rich gravy and cheese curds is, to me, perfection and easily made at home, great news for times like this when life gets a little messy and I need its delicious comfort.

If the idea of French fries slathered with gravy doesn't appeal to you then a.) we can't be friends any more and b.) I haven't done enough to sufficiently sell you on it, so shame on me. I'm about to string together some adjectives that should get your mouth watering; but if I do my job and you're still not convinced, please refer back to a.) and know that I will be sad.

Other than being a magical combination of potatoes, gravy and cheese, what is poutine? An appetizer? A snack? A meal? Meant to be shared? Yes, yes, yes and yes! In Canada it's the go-to dish after hitting the pubs, the perfect bar food and beer's best friend. Going to a diner with your pals to share a platter of poutine after a fun night out is de rigueur. More and more restaurants around us offer it as an appetizer; and you'll see entrees that are a spin on the classic, adding braised beef, pulled pork, mushrooms or bacon. For me it's a meal I want all to myself and I will polish it off every time with no regrets. It's so delicious I can't help myself! So it can be anything you need it to be, even your best friend!

So first, the fries. Since they are the canvas for the lovely mess that is poutine (the name comes from a Quebec slang word for 'mess'), you could and probably should make your own. (Sorry - I have not included a recipe for homemade fries. It's been years since I made them and I would need time to revisit the recipe before sharing with confidence.) When the craving for it hits, I rarely have the time for all that anyway, so I just open the freezer and grab a bag. Ideally, they should be a thicker cut - skinny shoe-strings simply won't do - and should be

fried for optimum crispness, although at the moment my deep fat fryer is on the blink, so oven baking and turning halfway through the cooking time works just fine and is certainly convenient. Bonus: no extra grease so I can justify using more gravy!

About that gravy. Here you have several options, like using a gravy mix, but I highly recommend making your own from scratch, and why wouldn't you when it's so easy and soooo much better?!? It's the most flavorful thing about the dish, after all, so make it with love and you'll reap delectable, eye roll-inducing rewards. I think a dark, beefy gravy is best, but I add a little chicken broth to lighten it up a tad. To make it really authentic you should add a little ketchup and cider vinegar, because the Canadians like their sauce tangy; but this recipe doesn't include them. Actually more of a smooth brown sauce than a proper gravy, it's rich and savory, silky and pure delight. Make it and let it simmer while the fries bake so you can assemble your platter o' poutine right away. (Unless you have some leftover Thanksgiving gravy - why not use that!)

And just what the heck is a cheese curd? Just a little squeaky nugget of milky goodness is all! When rennet is added to the milk used in the cheese-making process, it curdles and separates into the milk's liquid, or whey, and the solids - curds. (Miss Muffet may have been on to something.) These fresh curds are usually pressed into blocks or rounds and aged to make shaped cheeses (like cheddar), but when left alone and unpressed they become the unaged - or fresh - squeaky, salty curds that melt just enough when slathered with hot gravy to crown the glory that is poutine. It's a texture thing, so you definitely need to find some. (Aldi seems always to have 'em.) Just melting any old cheese on top isn't the same. For best results, bring the curds to room temperature. Being the squeaky nuggets they are, they won't melt completely, just soften, which is perfectly wonderful, because it adds their special texture as well as flavor. This recipe says 2 cups, but add as many as you want. I recommend

breaking any large curds in half.

**POUTINE**

You may notice this recipe does not call for salt. That's because I think it's salty enough from the other ingredients, including the salt added to the fries. I recommend tasting before you add any extra. If you're using frozen fries as I have here, use the whole bag or half, depending on how many you're feeding. The gravy will keep in the fridge for several days if there's any left. You'll want to eat this beautiful hot mess with a fork.

**INGREDIENTS**

Frozen French fries  
approx. 2 cups white cheese curds  
Gravy (recipe follows)  
Fresh chopped parsley or scallions (optional)

*For the gravy:*

6 tablespoons butter (preferably unsalted)  
1/4 cup flour, sifted  
2 cups beef stock  
1 cup chicken stock  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce  
Freshly cracked black pepper (about 1 teaspoon)  
Garlic powder and onion powder to taste (start with 1/2 teaspoon of each)  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1 tablespoon warm water

**METHOD**

Bake or fry French fries according to package directions (or make your own). While they bake, make the gravy:

In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Sift in flour and whisk constantly until foaming. When it starts to bubble, pour in stock, whisking constantly, to mix through.

Add Worcestershire sauce, pepper and seasonings, mix well and bring to a boil.

In a small bowl, make a slurry by whisking together cornstarch and warm water until smooth and lump-free. Once the gravy boils, add slurry, whisk to combine then reduce heat to medium-low, stirring occasionally, until it thickens, 10-15 minutes. Taste and add more seasoning and salt, if needed.

Divide fries between 2-4 plates. Top with cheese curds and generously ladle on hot gravy. Sprinkle with parsley or



Poutine is a Canadian dish of crisp fries with rich gravy and cheese curds. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

scallions, if you like, and serve immediately to experience its glory.

O Canada! Thank you for the gift that is poutine! If I'm dining out and it's on the menu, I'm ordering it without hesitation every time. But I love knowing I can make it myself at home whenever I want. Be it a cold and drizzly afternoon, after a stressful day or while watching the (hockey!) game, it's always just the thing I crave. Sure, it's decadent, but that's what makes it so amazing and why you need it in your life. Turn to it when you need friendly food to comfort you and savor every last messy bite. 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](mailto:vickiloves2cook@gmail.com).*

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# ‘The Educated Chef’

Mark witnesses the ‘odyssey of sourdough preparation.’

Mark Doctoroff calls himself “The Educated Chef.” The first question I had when I met for an interview was “What do you mean by ‘educated’?”

O.K.: He told me he graduated from Harvard University where he majored in history and Russian literature, and earned an associates degree from the Culinary Institute of America. All that was 20 years ago. Since then, Mark has been baking sourdough bread in his N.Y. Ag and Markets certified home kitchen, selling at local farmers markets and making personal deliveries.

The final afternoon (November 21) of the Arlington Farmers Market was called off on account of rain, so I drove to the charming hilltop home Mark shares with his cat Apricot (who isn’t allowed in the kitchen). There I witnessed the odyssey of sourdough preparation, which is almost a type of religion. In between hauling loaves in and out of the oven, Mark explained the process:

Before the recent development of Fleischman’s active dry yeast, bread was leavened by naturally-occurring yeast that was cultured in a mixture of half flour and half water. This formed the “starter” essential for sourdough production. Mark has been feeding and tending

his starter for 14 years.

The first step in the sourdough recipe calls for mixing some of the flour and water together with the starter. Let this “sponge” sit overnight. Then scrape the sponge into the main flour and water combination. Hand mix and knead the resulting dough. After this rests for a spell, add a little salt and the “inclusions,” which can be olives, rosemary, raisins or whatever flavors, if any, are going into the final loaves. Mix thoroughly – Mark has a 30-quart power mixer – and then knead for another minute or two. Then divide into individual two-pound loaves and refrigerate for at least six hours. After that, allow the loaves to bench rise. Bake at 500 degrees for 2 1/2 minutes, then 425 for 16 minutes. The internal temperature should be 210 degrees.

But wait! Just when I was starting to get the hang of it, Mark tells me he’s done with the bread this year, and is pivoting to cookies.

In 2010 the sourdough king baked a platter of cookies for some friends. It went over so well, it’s become a holiday tradition. This season the Educated Chef is planning to market 175 cookie platters. Each platter is lovingly created with 15 different cookies – biscotti, rugula, drop,



“The Educated Chef” Mark Doctoroff with sourdough. Right: One of Doctoroff’s cookie platters. *Photos by Mark Adams*



roll & cut, sandwich, “meatball” cookies, bar cookies, iraqi, Italian and German – from recipes collected through the years, many from the Bake From Scratch magazine. No cookies are ever repeated, which makes every platter a collector’s item, with several examples of each cookie, and a card describing ingredients, origin and history.

Mark wants me to share his email address to anyone interested in his cookie plates: [mark@theeducatedchef.com](mailto:mark@theeducatedchef.com). You can see pictures by googling the educated chef.

Mark Doctoroff has worked on Wall Street, cooked in local restaurants, and spent seven years selling tires in Uzbekistan. He traveled around the world, visiting 102 countries. I asked him about Armenia, where Sue and I will be vacationing in January (news to Sue).

“It was nice,” Mark replied, in his low key manner. “But it was part of the Soviet Union when I was there. Brush up on your Russian.”

Then he handed me one of his newest loaves of sourdough made with bacon and native Jerusalem artichokes from Joe Baldwin. It sounded bizarre, and tasted – well, let’s just say it’s an acquired taste.

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

Ring in the holiday season...

**Red Hook tree lighting!** We'll sing a carol and light up the tree at 6pm outside of Yum Yum Noodle. There will also be a constellation of festive offerings throughout the Village, including:

- Visit Santa at Little Pickles (5pm-7pm)
- Find the Holiday Pickle Game at Little Pickles
- Letter writing station at Red Hook Stationary Co.
- Holiday craft making at i2Evolve
- Complimentary Migliorelli hot cider & Taste Budds hot chocolate at i2Evolve
- Family photos courtesy of Rachel Collet Photography at Taste Budd's

**When: Friday Dec 6, 2024 from 5pm – 7pm**  
**Location: Outside of Yum Yum Noodle**

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**Art Gallery 71**, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Dec. 6-Jan. 5:** “American Landscapes,” a collection of works by this month’s guest featured artist, Bennet Harris Horowitz. Horowitz explores the pictorial tension between flat geometry and the illusion of space in his large, colorful landscape paintings. **Opening reception:** Sat., Dec. 7, 4-6 p.m. [www.artgallery71.com](http://www.artgallery71.com).

**Bannerman Island Gallery**, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through January 2025:** “The True Story of Bannerman’s Island,” Bannerman Castle Trust’s 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. [www.bannermancastle.org](http://www.bannermancastle.org)

**CO**, 6571 Spring Brook Ave. (Rte. 9), Rhinebeck. **Through Dec. 13:** “Axial Dakini Drawing with paint,” exhibition featuring Guggenheim Fellow and local artist/poet/musician George Quasha.

**Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center**, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 27:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be Lala Montoya, and at 12 Vassar St., John McGiff will showcase his work in the Hancock Gallery and Logan Lapointe will be featured in the Reception Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: [cunneen-hackett.org](http://cunneen-hackett.org)

**Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center**, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 2, 2025:** “Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency,” an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

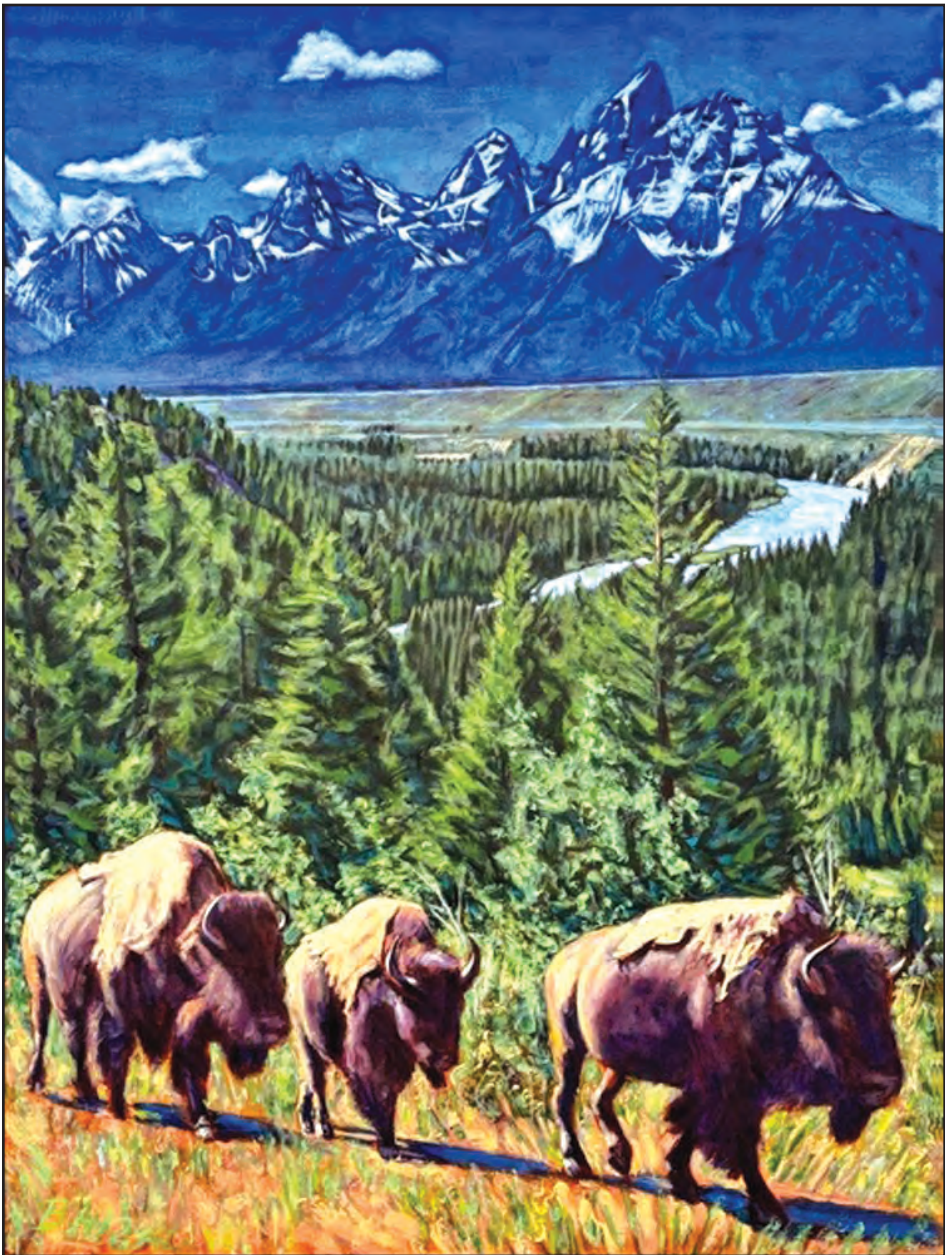
**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum**, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through December:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, “Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962” centers the historical voices of many Black community 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](http://www.fdrlibrary.org)

**Hyde Park Library Annex**, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through December:** Wildlife Photography by Daniel Schoonmaker from September to December. Proceeds from the sale of the photos will benefit the library’s accessibility project. (845) 229-7791

**LAND Gallery**, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 30:** Holiday Show, new photographs by Jane Haslam, Phyllis Chadwick, Linda T. Hubbard and Rebecca Tocci, as well as handcrafted woodwork by Ed Bryan, handmade soap by Genevieve St Louis Jan, jewelry by Karen Ostrom and pottery by Ann Heywood. Artists’ reception: Sat., Nov. 23, 5-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. [www.landgalleryonline.com](http://www.landgalleryonline.com)

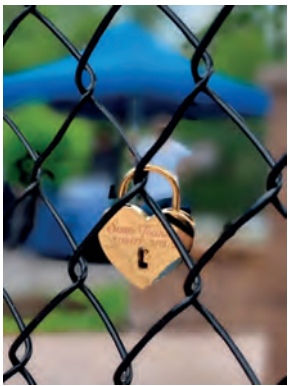
**Mildred I. Washington Gallery**, Dutchess Community College, 53 Pendell Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 13:** “The Art of Tarot,” an exhibit commemorating the life, art and writing of longtime Rhinebeck resident Rachel Pollack. (845) 431-8612

**Tivoli Artists Gallery**, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Dec. 21:** Annual Holiday Show, exhibiting handmade gift items in a variety of media including jewelry, prints, paintings, ceramics, cards, ornaments, small works and handcrafted pieces. **Closing Cookie Reception:** Sat., Dec. 21, 4-6 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or [www.tivoliartistsgallery.com](http://www.tivoliartistsgallery.com).



Pictured: “A herd of buffalo in a forest” by Bennet Harris Horowitz, whose work is featured at Art Gallery 71 in Rhinebeck through Jan. 5, 2025. *Courtesy image*

# A GIFT OF REMEMBERANCE AND HOPE



**This holiday season, purchase a customized brick at [www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/marc](http://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/marc) to remember a loved one you’ve lost to addiction or to share a message of hope or support for someone who is living in recovery. It will be displayed at the entrance of the Overdose Awareness Memorial, located at the entrance of the Dutchess County Rail Trail, behind Gold’s Gym in Lagrange.**

Donations help support the work of the MARC Foundation. The mission of the nonprofit is to generate financial support to provide prevention and residential treatment for individuals with a substance use disorder. To learn more about the Overdose Awareness Memorial, or upcoming events, resources and news, head to [www.marc-foundation.org](http://www.marc-foundation.org) or follow the MARC Foundation on Facebook.

The Overdose Awareness Memorial is free to visit anytime and everyone is invited to place a lock on the fence at the memorial to remember a loved one.



A & E CALENDAR

**Dec. 6: Bossa Blue Performs “JAMES TAYLOR: ReIMAGINED,”** The Colony, Woodstock. 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. colonywoodstock.com

**Dec. 6-7: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe,** 379 Main St., Beacon. Dec. 6: LOTUS ‘Spirit of Santana,’ 7-piece band re-creates the authentic and inspiring music of Carlos Santana, 8 p.m. Dec. 7: A Musical Holiday Evening with Sloan Wainwright & Friends, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

**Dec. 6-8: Mini-Festival #2 in the CP2 Readers Theatre Series,** County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Reading #1: “Babel,” a dark comedy by Jacqueline Goldfinger, will be presented Fri., Dec. 6, at 8 p.m.; and Sat., Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. Set in the near future, two couples are having trouble getting pregnant and the lengths they go to in order to have a baby raises the specter of eugenics, explores the societal value of a baby, and asks us what we are willing to risk for love. Reading #2: “Marjorie Prime,” a science fiction thriller by Jordan Harrison, will be presented Sat., Dec. 7, at 8 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. It’s the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie — a jumble of fading memories — has a handsome new companion who’s programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance? In this richly spare play, Jordan Harrison explores the mysteries of human identity. Reserved Seating- is \$15 per reading, and \$20 both readings on the same weekend. Visit countyplayers.org and at the top of the main page select “Buy Tickets.”

**Dec. 7: Film Screening: “TORA! TORA! TORA!”** Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Home, Hyde Park. In commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host a film screening of the 1970 Academy Award winning film “TORA! TORA! TORA!” at 2 p.m. The film is a dramatic reenactment of the Japanese attack

on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as told from both American and Japanese perspectives. This is a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person. www.fdrlibrary.org

**Dec. 7: Harriet Tubman,** VBI Theatre of Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Harriet Tubman is a musical collective formed in 1998 by guitarist/vocalist Brandon Ross, bassist Melvin Gibbs and drummer JT Lewis. The trio is named in honor of Harriet Tubman, an African-American woman born into slavery in 1822 in Maryland, who is renowned as a liberator of other African-American slaves who like she, chose to defy the system of Slavery and seek freedom by escaping to the North. Performance at 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$40 door. Advance tickets at https://harriettubman.eventbrite.com.

**Dec. 7: Tangent Theatre Play Reading,** The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton. “God of Carnage” by Yasmina Reza, a wickedly funny examination of human behavior, social posing and self-absorption, as two sets of Brooklyn parents confront the aftermath of a playground altercation. Reading 7 p.m., doors 6 p.m. Tickets \$10. Ages 17+. tangentarts.org

**Dec. 8: Panel Discussion, “Is the Truth Dead? The Press vs. Social Media in the Digital Age,”** Wallace Center at FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. A lively discussion on how journalism and social media shape truth in the digital era, 2-4 p.m. Tickets: \$25 GA, \$20 students (current students only). The panel will include: S.E. Cupp, TV host, columnist, author and podcast host; Andy Ostroy, film and TV producer and director, writer and podcast host; Brian Rooney, former correspondent for ABC News, “The Rooney Report”; Dewey Lee Esq., moderator. Purchase tickets at https://ervk.org/panel-discussion/.

**Dec. 11: Conversation & Book Signing,** Wallace Center, FDR Library, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. “Martin Van Buren: America’s First Politician” with James M. Bradley, 6 p.m.

This biography of Van Buren charts his ascent from a tavern in the Hudson Valley to the presidency, concluding with his late-career involvement in an antislavery movement. Offering vivid profiles of the day’s leading figures, it depicts the struggle for power in the tumultuous decades leading up to the Civil War. Free public event. Registration is required. Visit www.fdrlibrary.org to register. The program also streams live on the official FDR Library pages on YouTube & Facebook.

**Dec. 14: “I Love the 80s...to Death” Murder Mystery Theater,** River Valley Arts Center, 9 South Mesier Ave., Wappingers

Falls. Performance by The Murder Mystery Company. It’s the ’80s again, and all of the big names are here for a big concert. Tensions run rampant as backstage secrets spill out into the spotlight with like, totally tragic results! This isn’t an episode of Miami Vice. This is like...murder. It’s up to you to bust it like a ghost, for sure! Peg your jeans, slouch your socks, flash some neon, put on way too much eyeliner and get that hair up! You are going to solve this crime in style. 6 p.m. Cost: \$50, includes hors d’oeuvres provided by The Jessica Experience. Cash bar will be available. (845) 202-9833 or https://rivervalleyartscenter.com

what’s happening? — creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

Roosevelt Cinemas to present free Christmas movies, hold food drive Dec. 14

Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas, iHeart Media and the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union are joining forces to host free Christmas movies and a food drive on Saturday, Dec. 14 for children and their families.

“The Polar Express” rated G starring Tom Hanks is a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg.

“The Muppet Christmas Carol,” rated G where the Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit.

The doors will be open at 9:30 a.m. when Santa will be on hand to visit with

children and both films will begin at 10:15 a.m.

Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union on Burnett Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, or at the theatre.

Everyone who attends the movie is asked to please bring non-perishable food items for distribution through a local food pantry. The need is greater this year and food pantries are stressed.

Food donations may also be dropped off at the theatre at any time after 3:30 p.m. any day before Dec. 14.

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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

**Through Dec. 8: Historic Red Hook Online Benefit Auction.** Bid on local experiences and items from sunset sails on the Hudson and private historic tours, to fine dining, concert tickets, custom art, luxurious spa treatments and more. Bidding closes Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. [www.historicredhook.org](http://www.historicredhook.org)

**Through Dec. 14: Dutchess Handmade Holiday Pop-Up Shop,** Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike Suite F, Poughkeepsie. Featuring unique creations from more than 65 artists and makers from the Hudson Valley, including locally made glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, wood products, prints, paintings, home decorating items and more. Open Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (845) 454-3222 or <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/>

**Through Dec. 29: Holiday Tours,** Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Festive yuletide decor by florists and other local businesses will be featured through the mansion. This guided tour includes the landscape, exterior of the mansion, first and second floors, and video. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased upon arrival. Arrive about 15 minutes early, as space on each tour is limited. Tours on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at noon, 1, 2 & 3 p.m. (845) 876-4818 or <https://wilderstein.org/>

**Through Dec. 29: The Wonderland of Lights,** Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. A holiday attraction for the entire family. Immerse yourself in holiday cheer as you drive through hundreds of expertly crafted lights displays accompanied by festive sounds of the season. Hours: Dec. 5-8 and Dec. 12-29 from 5-9 p.m. (open until 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays). Monday, Dec. 16, will be a sensory-friendly version of The Wonderland of Lights. During that night's show, the animation will be turned off and the lights will be static. Since the accompanying music is fed into each car individually, the volume can be raised or lowered, or it can be turned off altogether. <https://www.thewonderlandoflights.com/>

**Dec. 6: Parade of Lights,** Village of Millbrook. The Millbrook Fire Department presents this annual event to kick off the holiday season, with floats and decorated vehicles sponsored by local organizations and businesses. Line up at 4:30 p.m. on Franklin Avenue at the entrance to Front Street near the firehouse; parade starts at 6 p.m. More info at [secretary@millbrookfirerescue.org](mailto:secretary@millbrookfirerescue.org)

**Dec. 6: Town Hall Lighting Ceremony,** Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck. Celebrate the season with a Light Parade sponsored by the East Clinton Fire Department, the West Clinton Fire Department and the Clinton Highway Department, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Town Clerk's Coat Drive, the Town Supervisor's Toys for Tots Toy Drive, Boy Scouts selling wreaths, refreshments at the Clinton Community Library and more. Town Hall Lighting Ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

**Dec. 6: Tree Lighting,** Village of Red Hook (outside of Yum Yum Noodle). Sing a carol and light the tree at 6 p.m., with a variety of festive offerings throughout the village, 5-7 p.m. More info at <https://www.redhookchamber.org/events>

**Dec. 6-21: The 16th Millbrook Library Holiday Silent Auction,** 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. The silent auction will run from in the library's upstairs gallery, following an opening reception that will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 6. The auction's closing celebration will be held at the library from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 21, with final bids accepted no later than 4 p.m. that day. These events are free and open to all. For more information visit <https://millbrooklibrary.org/holiday-silent-auction/>.

**Dec. 6-22: "A Christmas Carol,"** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Celebrate the holiday season with Charles Dickens' classic tale, brought to life with timeless Christmas carols. Perfect for audiences of all ages. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Special Matinee: Sat., Dec. 21, 3 p.m. Tickets \$25. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**Dec. 7: Annual Holiday Craft Fair,** Branchwater Farms, 818 Salisbury Turnpike, Milan. Craft Fair features a wide array of products crafted by local artisans, including jewelry, skincare products, honey, candles, ceramics, linens, felted creations, ornaments, furniture, cutting boards, baked goods and specialty food and beverage items, noon-3 p.m. Enjoy some classic Branchwater cocktails and non-alcoholic options, too, as well as some holiday bites. (845) 758-8628 or <https://www.branchwaterfarms.com/>

**Dec. 7: Homemade Cookie, Craft & Gift Bazaar,** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1872 Salt Point Turnpike, Salt Point. Featured will be rows and rows of homemade cookies sold by the pound, crafts of all kinds including wreaths, knitted apparel, dog coats, jewelry, Christmas decorations etc. all at reasonable prices, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All proceeds support the church's Board of Deacons reaching out to church members as well as many in the community needing assistance. More info: Diana, (845) 635-3635

**Dec. 7: Holiday Storytime and Scavenger Hunt,** Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Enjoy a family event featuring a heartwarming story about First Dog Fala (an early Christmas gift from Daisy Suckley to FDR) while enjoying holiday cookies and hot chocolate or cider. Following storytime, participants will search for Scottie Dogs as they tour the mansion. Children will be given a Fala ornament to take home and decorate. Recommended for ages 5 to 10. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 10 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$12 for one adult plus one child. Advance registration required. (845) 876-4818 or <https://wilderstein.org/>

**Dec. 7: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra: "Home for the Holidays,"** Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, 156 S Cross Rd., Staatsburg. NDSO presents their annual Sounds of the Season concert, 4 p.m. Guest conductor William Stevens will lead the orchestra in a festive celebration, joined by local choruses including the Rhinebeck Choral Club, Rhinebeck High School Chorus, and FDR High School Chorus. The program will feature timeless holiday favorites like "I'll Be Home for Christmas," selections from Home Alone, and "Sleigh Ride." Snow date: Dec. 8, 4 p.m. is set for Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$38 Adults; discounts available for seniors and students. [www.ndsorchestra.org](http://www.ndsorchestra.org) or (845) 635-0877

**Dec. 7: Open House,** Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Holiday cheer, hot chocolate, cider, holiday treats, music, and tree decoration at the historic Grange Hall, 3-5 p.m. There'll be a CookieFest: bake or bring two dozen of your favorite cookies, sample others at the Open House and take some home with you. All ages invited to this free, fun event. More info at [copakegrange@gmail.com](mailto:copakegrange@gmail.com) or visit [copakegrange.org/events](http://copakegrange.org/events)

**Dec. 7: Pleasant Valley Festival of Lights,** Main Street, Pleasant Valley. Parade, hot cocoa and a visit from Santa. Starts at 6:45 p.m. Get ready for the brightest night of the year! From sparkling floats to festive fun, this parade will light up the streets with holiday magic. [pvrec.com](http://pvrec.com) or (845) 635-1111, ext. 203

**Dec. 7: Saturday Morning Family Series: "The Christmas That Was Almost Cancelled,"** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Celebrate the holiday season with our Kids on Stage group in this original play featuring recognizable Christmas carols like "Deck the Halls" and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," as the elves scramble to save Christmas when Santa's reindeer fall ill, 11 a.m. Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**Dec. 7: Stanford Holiday of Lights Parade & Party,** Stanfordville. Parade line-up at the Highway Garage on Creamery Road at 4 p.m. Parade steps off at 6 p.m. up Route 82, ending at Duffy Layton Contacting driveway, 12 Hunns Lake Rd., Stanfordville. Following the parade, there will be hot chocolate, coffee and cookies at Stanford Town Hall. Children will get gifts from Santa. More info: (845) 489-7886

**Dec. 7: Tivoli Winterfest Celebration,** taking place at Village Hall and Tivoli Firehouse (Tivoli Commons/86 Broadway) and all along Broadway in the heart of the village starting at 2 p.m. and running until 7 p.m. Santa visit, tree lighting, horse-drawn wagon rides, specials and promotions, Tivoli Artists Gallery holiday show and more. Free and open to the public. <https://www.tivolinow.com/>

**Dec. 7: Town of Clinton Historical Society's Holiday Craft and Gift Fair,** Creek Meeting House, 2433 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Many homemade crafts and gifts will be available, so you are sure to find something for everyone on your list. Baked goods and homemade soups will also be available. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (845) 675-1234 or <http://clintonhistoricalsociety.org>

**Dec. 7: Virtual Staged Reading of "A Christmas Carol."** The Two of Us Productions presents this holiday classic to enjoy in the comfort of your home, 7 p.m. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted. To R.S.V.P and get your access code, visit [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org).

**Dec. 7-8: Craft, Art & Design Fair,** Unison Arts, 9 Paradies Lane, New Paltz. Featuring handmade jewelry, pottery, textiles, stationery, furniture and other woodworking, artworks including photography, beauty and skincare products, and a variety of other arts, crafts and design pieces. Live demonstrations, hands-on activities, delicious treats and a grand raffle. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Suggested \$5 donation at the door. [unisonarts.org/craft-fair](http://unisonarts.org/craft-fair) or (845) 255-1559

**Dec. 7-8: Queen City Dance Presents "The Nutcracker,"** MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. This show is family friendly & meant for all ages to enjoy. Performances: Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Tickets include: early entry for character meet & greet where cast members will be available for autographs & photos. The run time for each show will be under 2 hours & this includes a 20-minute intermission. Tickets & more info at [www.MJNCenter.org](http://www.MJNCenter.org)

**Dec. 8-22: Dinner Theater "A Christmas Carol"** presented by Theatre on the Road. Experience the joy of Christmas as you're invited to feast with the Cratchit family including Bob, Mrs. Cratchit, Belinda and everyone's favorite - Tiny Tim. In scenes right out of Dickens' classic book, you'll be treated to visits from Ebenezer Scrooge, his Nephew Fred, the Man of Goodwill, the ghost of Jacob Marley and the three spirits of Christmas. In addition, holiday carolers will entertain at your table. Suitable for the entire family. Tickets at [www.theatreontheroad.com](http://www.theatreontheroad.com) or call the venues where phone numbers are provided. Schedule: **Sun., Dec. 8:** The Meadowbrook, New Windsor, 5 p.m. (845) 562-5918; **Mon., Dec. 9,** VFW, Kingston, 6 p.m. (845) 399-0414; **Wed., Dec. 11,** The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck, 7 p.m.; **Sun., Dec. 15,** Restaurant Six at Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction, 4 p.m.; **Wed., Dec. 18:** The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston, 7 p.m.; **Thurs., Dec. 19 & Fri., Dec. 20:** Buttermilk Falls Inn, Milton, 6 p.m.; **Sat. Dec. 21,** Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Rd., Kerhonkson, noon; **Sat., Dec. 21,** Hudson House Distillery, West Park, 7 p.m. (845) 834-6007. **Sun., Dec. 22,** The Eldred Preserve, Eldred, 7 p.m.

*continued on page 18*

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	5	3	7	1				
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

2					4
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			2		
	1	3			
4					5

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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: MANIAS AND PHOBIAS

ACROSS

1. Figaro's solo, e.g.

5. Not sin, as in math

8. Designer Laroche

11. Pi-meson

12. Cut, like a log

13. \*Telephobia, or fear of this device

15. "He's Just Not That \_\_\_\_ You", movie

16. 2D measurement

17. Gives a helping hand

18. \*Ludomania, obsession with \_\_\_\_

20. Therefore

21. Poetic feet

22. Accident

23. \*\_\_\_\_mania, obsession with wealth and power

26. Type of throw, in baseball

30. Miner's load

31. Member of Round Table

34. Quartet minus one

35. Spacious

37. Last word of "America the Beautiful"

38. Young chicken

39. Cocoyam

40. Largest Asian antelope

42. Haute couture gala location, with The

43. Slimy phlebotomists

45. \*\_\_\_\_phobia, fear of public speaking

47. Took the bait

48. Tempter

50. Dumbstruck

52. \*Gamophobia, fear of \_\_\_\_

55. September stone

56. Cantina cooker

57. Apple leftover

59. Lakes, in Scotland

60. \_\_\_\_ gin

61. "On a \_\_\_\_," or carefree

62. \*\_\_\_\_mania, obsession with one-self

63. Cough syrup amt.

64. Additional

DOWN

1. \*\_\_\_\_phobia, fear of bees

2. Bananaphone preceder

3. Itty bit

4. Language disfunction

5. Indigenous person of Lesser Antilles

6. Track and field star, 1936 Olympics

7. Tear in pantyhose

8. Struck with a mallet

9. Back arrow key

10. Indeed

12. Against the stream swimmer

13. Say "pretty please"

14. \*\_\_\_\_phobia, fear of snakes and crocodiles

19. Uncooperative, like a mule

22. "Battleship" success

23. Kind of mushroom

24. Grind down

25. Glittery stone

26. Carpet style

27. Lily genus, pl.

28. Angers

29. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers

32. Egyptian goddess of fertility

33. Hair raiser

36. \*\_\_\_\_effect, or compulsive hand-washing

38. Pileus, pl.

40. Entomologist's catcher, some-times

41. Agora, plural

44. Tannery supply, pl.

46. Delphi talker

48. Room partitions

49. Lowest deck on a ship

50. Full of excitement

51. Home to Baylor University

52. Lion's share

53. Hockey score

54. Commits a faux pas

55. A in IPA

58. Increase

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	
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The solutions to both the Sudoko & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 23

16 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - December 4-10, 2024



# Christmas Concert & Tea set Dec. 7 at historic Amenia church

The historic Smithfield Presbyterian Church in Amenia will present its 19th annual Christmas Concert & Tea on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. (note the new time). Presented by the Bang Family Concert Series, the 13-piece Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will perform an eclectic mixture of classical, pop, jazz, and holiday favorites.

The program includes “Serenade of the Doll” by Claude Debussy; “Boa Nova (Good News)” by Ivan Lins; “A Child is Born” by Thad Jones; “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” by Hugh Martin; “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (with audience sing along) by Felix Mendelssohn; “A Child’s Eyes” by Matt Finley; “Gymnopédie No. 1” by Erik Satie; “A Children’s Christmas” by Johann A. P. Schulz; “Wave” by Antonio Carlos Jobim; and “Day by Day” (from “Godspell”) by Stephen Schwartz.

Suggested contribution of \$20 at the door accepted to promote future concerts.

This year’s concert is dedicated to the late Will Carter, organist at The Smithfield Church.

For more information, visit [www.TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concerts](http://www.TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concerts) or call (518) 598-8276

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia.

Member of the Orchestra include:  
Norman Baker, clarinet: graduated from The Julliard School, performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra;

Walter Barrett, trombone: Yamaha Performing Artist/Clinician; Westchester Symphony and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic;

Lynnette Benner, flute: performed solo shows at Tri Arts, Rhinebeck Performing Center, and Broadway Training Center;

Michelle Demko, flute: Music Department Head at the Allen-Stevenson School; performed with American Wind Symphony Orchestra;

Matt Finley, trumpet, arranger: jazz recording artist on Amazon, Spotify, Apple, Pandora; plays flugelhorn, flute, soprano sax, vibes;

Charles Gray, clarinet, sax: former Director of the Dutchess Community Jazz Ensemble; performed with Sha Na Na & Aretha Franklin;

Larry Ham, piano: performed in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and Illinois Jacquet Big Band. United States Department of State Jazz Ambassador;

Piotr Kargul, viola: internationally in demand in native Poland, Germany, Holland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, United States;

Milt Lee, conductor: symphonic band for American Music Abroad; conductor, Skidmore College Concert Band; trumpet, Glens Falls Symphony;

Rob Murphy, violin: plays with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and is a founding member of Hudson Pro Musica;

Lou Pappas, double bass: plays with Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, Taconic Opera Company, Newburg and Woodstock Symphonies;

Jeff “Siege” Siegel, drums: performed with Jack DeJohnette, Benny Golson, Frank Foster; faculty at the New School and Western Connecticut;

Kay Sutka, clarinet: Plays in the Blackwood Clarinet Quartet, teaches privately; on the Board and performs with Woodstock Symphony Orchestra;

Jean Vilkelis, cello: private cello teacher; plays with Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, Newburgh Symphony, and Woodstock Symphony.

# County to host sensory-friendly performance of ‘The Nutcracker’ at Bardavon

Free ThinkDIFFERENTLY  
event on Dec. 13  
celebrates holiday classic

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino invites residents of all abilities and their families to a free, sensory-friendly performance of the holiday classic ballet, “The Nutcracker,” presented by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre. The show will take place at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie on Friday, Dec. 13, starting at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m., and outside food and drink are not permitted in the theater. Seating is limited, and reservations are required online at [dutchessny.gov/nutcracker](http://dutchessny.gov/nutcracker).

Serino said, “Every child of every ability deserves to enjoy the holiday season to the fullest, and ‘The Nutcracker’ is a beloved classic that appeals to all of us. Dutchess County is proud to again offer a stress-free night at the theater for children with disabilities and their families while

they enjoy this holiday tradition. I encourage individuals and families to join us in celebrating the season with this holiday standard.”

The show will be a “no-hush” performance meant to foster an informal, non-judgmental atmosphere where audience members can experience and respond to the performance in their own way. The Bardavon will adjust both the lighting and sound to make the experience more enjoyable for those on the autism spectrum or who experience sensory concerns.

Dutchess County’s “ThinkDIFFERENTLY” initiative has sought to change the way individuals, businesses, organizations and communities relate to individuals with disabilities. More information about Dutchess County’s efforts to “ThinkDIFFERENTLY,” as well as a calendar of upcoming inclusive events throughout the County, is available on the award-winning website, [thinkdifferently.net](http://thinkdifferently.net).

# Historian Shannon Butler to present ‘Queen City in Flux’ on Dec. 12

Historian Shannon Butler will explore the history of Poughkeepsie in her upcoming program, “Queen City in Flux: Three Centuries of Growth and Loss in Poughkeepsie” on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m., in the Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton Street.

Butler will talk about the earliest Dutch and English settlers in Poughkeepsie, who built small stone houses to the modern construction of the One Dutchess apartments that were built in 2019, and all the change that occurred during that time period.

“Over the past three centuries, the area we know as Poughkeepsie has morphed from a tiny settlement to a bustling village, into an industrial center, and even a so-called “model city,” Butler said. “No one can doubt that Poughkeepsie has seen a lot of change since the first houses were built at the turn of the 18th century. We have seen buildings and landscapes come and go, and we will see more as the Queen City on the Hudson continues to remain a city in flux. Join me as we venture back in time and discuss some of the major changes that have taken place here.”

The Poughkeepsie Public Library has been serving the community since 1874, striving to provide resources and oppor-



Shannon Butler

tunities that enrich, inform, and empower individuals of all ages. Through innovative programs, comprehensive collections, and a commitment to fostering a love for learning, Poughkeepsie Public Library aims to make a positive impact on the lives of the people it serves.

For more information, follow the Library District on Facebook, visit the web site at [poklib.org](http://poklib.org) or email the Local History Room, [sbutler@poklib.org](mailto:sbutler@poklib.org).

# Lyceum Cinemas to offer choice of 3 holiday movies Dec. 21

Lyceum Cinemas and Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, along with local merchants of Red Hook, are once again sponsoring free Christmas movies for children and their families on Saturday, Dec. 21, in conjunction with their food drive to aid needy families in the area.

Now in the 33rd year of hosting this annual event, the Lyceum has decided to offer three films for attendees to choose from:

“The Polar Express,” rated G, starring Tom Hanks has become a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg.

“Elf,” rated PG starring Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart and James Caan. This is the story of Buddy, who has been raised in the North Pole as a full sized Elf. He embarks on a journey to NYC to find his dad and teach him and the world the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

“It’s a Wonderful Life,” rated PG, stars Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed and is the 1946 movie about the life of George Bailey. When he is at his lowest point he ends up rescuing his guardian angel, Clarence, who then shows him what his town would have looked like if it hadn’t

been for all his good deeds over the years.

The films will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, and upon entry everyone may choose which film they prefer to see.

Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from any of the following local merchants: MHVFCU, Red Hook branch; Minuteman Press; Subway; Red Hook T’s; Village Pizza III; Savona’s Restaurant, Red Hook; Historic Village Diner; Ben & Gracies; Charlie O’s Restaurant, and The Red Hook Diner.

Santa will be on hand at the Lyceum when the doors open at 9:30 a.m. to talk to the children.

Everyone who attends the movie is asked to please bring a non-perishable food item for collection by the Dutchess County Community Action Agency office in Red Hook for distribution to needy families in the area. Now more than ever many families are struggling this holiday season due to the high cost of everything. If you can, please help.

Those who do not plan to attend a movie, but might wish to donate food items, may do so any day between now and Dec. 21. Lyceum Cinemas is at 15 Old Farm Lane in Red Hook.





# Two of Us to present ‘virtual live’ staged reading of ‘A Christmas Carol’ Dec. 7

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will present a virtual-live staged reading of the wonderful Christmas classic, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. This performance, the fifth and final production of the 2024 Virtual Live-Staged Reading Series, will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

In “A Christmas Carol,” we meet the ill-tempered miser Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve 1850. The melancholy Scrooge finds himself alone at home when he sees before him the ghost of Jacob Marley, his long-time friend and deceased business partner. Marley warns Scrooge that in death he will be punished for all the suffering he has caused others, and he has only one chance to escape his fate.

That night while Scrooge sleeps he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge on a journey through Christmases from his own past, where

Scrooge sees himself as an unhappy child and a young man more in love with money than his fiancé. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the family life of his long-suffering clerk Bob Cratchit. There Scrooge sees Tiny Tim, who is very ill but full of brave spirit. The ghost then takes Scrooge to see his the Christmas celebration of his nephew Fred – to which he had been invited but that he gruffly declined to attend. Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Future terrifies Scrooge by showing him visions of his own death.

These journeys through time teach Scrooge the error of his ways. When he wakes up on Christmas Day he is full of excitement and buys the biggest turkey in the shop for the Cratchit family before spending the day with his nephew, full of the joys of Christmas.

R.S.V.P and get your access code by visiting [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org). This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

# Sloan Wainwright’s annual ‘Whiz-Bang Shindig’ Dec. 7 at the Towne Crier in Beacon

Over the past three decades as a songwriter, singer and performer, Sloan Wainwright has played the great concert halls, the most storied listening rooms and top music festivals. As a teacher, coach and mentor, she has taught at the nation’s leading music retreats, influencing and encouraging hundreds of students on their creative journeys.

But one of her favorite roles is that of collaborator, which includes her annual holiday show, which fans affectionately known as the big “Whiz-Bang Shindig,” which will celebrate its 25th year on Saturday, December 7 at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon. Along with the Sloan Wainwright Band and her merry posse of harmony-singing “Sloan Flakes,” special guests will include Muppeteer Peter Linz and Sloan’s own granddaughters.

The show includes seasonal favorites, original songs and plenty of special surprises.

“The show has grown and expanded joyfully over the past 20 years,” says Wainwright, who previously held the show at venues in Westchester and in New York City before moving the show

to Beacon in 2018. “Now, it’s a highlight both for me and the Hudson Valley community, with the Towne Crier as our beautiful venue.”

While she is also a member of a storied family of artists, (including brother Loudon Wainwright, sister-in-law Kate McGarrigle, nephew Rufus Wainwright and nieces Martha Wainwright and Lucy Wainwright Roche), since childhood Wainwright has always walked the artistic path all on her own, with a keen interest in creatively observing and sharing her view of the world that has never diminished and serves as a joyous, spiritual path.

Nephew Rufus Wainwright says of Sloan: “Due to the fact that our family has so many musically-talented members, each one is often dubbed certain titles by members of the public. Sloan is most always crowned ‘The Voice’ and as well as owning this legacy full-throatily, her multifaceted work in song is an astonishing feat.”

Tickets are \$35 in advance (\$40 at the door) and available at [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com).

## Holiday Happenings

continued from page 15

- Dec. 8: A Service of Lessons and Carols**, Vassar Chapel, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave. College Center, Poughkeepsie. 7 p.m. (845) 437-7294 or <https://www.vassar.edu/>
- Dec. 8: Anderson Center for Autism Holiday Craft Fair**, 4885 Route 9, Staatsburg. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (845) 889-9231 <https://www.andersoncenterforautism.org/> or [CPorter@AndersonCares.org](mailto:CPorter@AndersonCares.org)
- Dec. 8: Holiday Open House**, Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway, Red Hook. The historic Elmendorph Inn looks its festive best for the holidays. Historic Red Hook invites you to enjoy live holiday music, hot mulled cider, homemade cookies and fresh-baked treats from the beehive oven, 1-4 p.m. Free. (845) 758-1920 or <https://www.historicredhook.org/>
- Dec. 8, 15 & 22: Festive Family Days**, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Bring the whole family for a tour appropriate for ages 4 and up. This year’s theme is Merry Music: Favorite Holiday Songs. Find Nutcrackers, Angels, Fairies, Stars, Jingle Bells, and more hidden among 25 decorated Christmas Trees celebrating favorite songs throughout our historic Mansion. Noon-3 p.m. Tickets \$12. [www.lgny.org](http://www.lgny.org)
- Dec. 8-21: Festive Holiday Tours**, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. Tour the Dutch Colonial home of the Verplanck family. The site’s historic rooms will be decorated in different styles: opulent Victorian style décor adorning the dining room; charming, rustic decor in the study; contemporary holiday displays embellishing the home’s main room. Adding to the twinkle of holiday decorations, the museum’s collection of fine decorative pieces will contribute to the home’s comfort and cheer. Holiday tours Dec. 8, Dec. 11-15 & Dec. 18-21. Tours on all days will be offered at noon, 1 & 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred but walk-ins will be welcomed if space allows. Admission is \$12 adult; \$10 senior; \$8 youngsters (6-18 years of age). Children under 6 and Mount Gulian members are free. Call (845) 831-8172 or email at [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org) to make reservations.
- Dec. 13: Holiday Movie Night PJ Party**, Pleasant Valley Town Hall Community Room, 1554 Main St. (Rte. 44), Pleasant Valley. Kids: Grab your PJs and join us at 6 p.m. in the for a magical screening of “The Polar Express.” Free admission, but advance registration required. Free popcorn and self-serve hot cocoa station. Register at [pvrec.com](http://pvrec.com)
- Dec. 14: Annual Cookie Walk Sale**, Rhinebeck Reformed Church, 6368 Mill St., Rhinebeck. 9 a.m.-noon. Come early for best selection. Snow Date: Dec. 15, 11 a.m.
- Dec. 14: Free Holiday Events**, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of FDR National Historic Site, Hyde Park. The Museum will be open to visitors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Home of FDR (Springwood) will have tours available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be holiday decorations, refreshments and special activities – including the annual Children’s Reading Festival and free photo time with Santa – beginning at noon in the Henry A. Wallace Center. More info: Cliff Laube, Roosevelt Library, (845) 486-7745; or Franceska Macsali Urbin, National Park Service, (845) 489-8513.
- Dec. 14: Red Hook Fire Company Parade of Lights**. Parade kicks off at 6 p.m. from the Red Hook Firehouse and will continue on to the outside of Red Hook Estates, Route 9 through the village, up Park Avenue to Linden Acres and finish off in College Park. Food trucks will be serving food in the village hall municipal parking lot. There will also be a collection for Toys for Tots outside of Little Pickles Toy Store. Donations of unwrapped toys are requested.
- Dec. 14: Rhinecliff Festival of Lights**. Downtown Rhinecliff will be vibrant with lights and good cheer. Driftwood, Morton Library’s community chorus, will start off the evening with song and a parade through the theater district, 5 p.m. The annual Grange wreath will be up and ready for photo posing. Pick up Luminaria kits at Morton Library; suggested donation \$20 for a kit (includes 10 candles, bags and sand), with donations going to Red Hook Responds. More info: [sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org](mailto:sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org)
- Dec. 14: St. Nicholas Bazaar**, Grace Church, Parish Hall, 3328 Franklin Ave., Millbrook. Shop from a variety of handmade crafts, confections, and decorated homemade cookies, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Two floors of exhibitors. The cookies will be pre-boxed and will contain an assortment of festive cookies from the traditional to the decadent. Pre-orders are recommended but not required. Call (845) 677-5174 to order cookies. Food truck on site. (845) 677-3064 or [www.gracemillbrook.org](http://www.gracemillbrook.org)
- Dec. 14: Saturday Morning Family Series: “Elf Jr.”**, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Join our talented youth performers as they bring the festive spirit of “Elf” to life in a lively musical adaptation filled with catchy tunes and heartwarming holiday cheer. 11 a.m. Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)



- Rhinebeck Reformed Church’s Annual Cookie Walk Sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. *Courtesy photo*
- Dec. 14: Stanford Grange #808 Holiday Penny Social**, Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. Holiday items will be featured. There will be penny prizes, homemade baked goods, \$1 table, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and theme baskets. Refreshments will be served by the Grange Youth. For more information, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.
- Dec. 14-15: Ars Choralis Holiday Concert: “Welcome Yule: Time Was,”** Kingston & Woodstock. This concert that captures the spirit of the holiday season through multicultural music and traditions that bring people together during December celebrations. The story is based on real-world and community events from the 1940s to the present day, and is told through music and spoken word. Featuring members of Ars Choralis in speaking roles, this work was conceived by Barbara Pickhardt, written by Pickhardt and Rick Knutsen, and directed by Frances Knutsen. Performances: Sat., Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Church, 30 Pine Grove Ave., Kingston. Sun., Dec. 15, 4 p.m., Overlook United Methodist Church, 233 Tinker St., Woodstock. Tickets \$25 Adult, \$10 Student, \$60 Anniversary Ticket. <https://arschoralis.org/>
- Dec. 14-15: New Paltz Ballet Theatre’s “The Nutcracker,”** Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. The New Paltz Ballet Theatre returns for its 25th season to present this classic holiday event featuring dancers from the New York City Ballet. Peter and Lisa Naumann, co-directors of the NPBT, have brought many fine regional artists together to create this beautiful production. Dancers, designers, and

continued on page 20



# AT YOUR LIBRARY

## MORTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

<https://morton.rhinecliff.lib.ny.us/>

Yoga with Kristin

Sundays @ 10:00 am

All levels welcome in peaceful Morton Hall. The classes are breath-based with an emphasis on thoughtful sequencing and alignment so that practitioners can move with stability, awareness, and grace. This is a drop-in class and all are welcome. \$12 suggested donation.

Rockin' Rooks Youth Chess at Morton  
Mondays @ 5:30 pm

Join the award-winning Rockin' Rooks every Monday from 5:30-7:00 with D. Suris and Cathy Young! Students in grades K - 12 are welcome to join for fun, learning, and tournament competition.

To sign your child up, for more information, or to volunteer contact: D. Suris 845-416-3287 or email [racersplace@hotmail.com](mailto:racersplace@hotmail.com)

Knit 'n Knatter

(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.

DCLA Presents: "Understanding the New Deal" Wednesday, December 4 @ 6:00 pm (virtual)

At the time people called it alphabet soup, yet many of the programs & agencies FDR's New Deal created are mainstays of American life today. The FDR Presidential Library's Jeff Urbin will share how Roosevelt's initiatives fundamentally changed the nature of the US federal government.

This is open to all. Please register for this virtual program. Sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association

Fashion for Morton

Thursday, December 5: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Come to Morton and get some finery for all of your holiday shindigs. Women's clothes, shoes, and accessories for sale. The collection includes vintage and designer items. Check, cash, or PayPal accepted. Proceeds for the library.

MakerSpace, Saturdays @ 2:00 pm

MakerSpace is offering a Fall class for neurodivergent kids and their parents/caregivers. Parents are invited to be on hand to help support their children as needed. All projects and activities will take into account the individual needs of the children. A few spaces have opened - Please contact Judy at [MakerSpace@mortonrhinecliff.org](mailto:MakerSpace@mortonrhinecliff.org) to register.

MakerSpace, Sundays @ 10:00 am

MakerSpace will be offering a class for 9-13 year olds. We appreciate that Sundays are often busy and filled with birthday parties and sports etc. We will not necessarily expect kids to show up consistently but will prep more open ended projects. A few spaces have opened - Please contact Judy at [MakerSpace@mortonrhinecliff.org](mailto:MakerSpace@mortonrhinecliff.org) to register.

Northern Dutchess Industry Connection

Landscape Design Professionals

Thursday, December 12: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

You're invited to an evening of connection and informal conversation with others dedicated to creating beautiful, sustainable landscapes in our area. Join us to strengthen our local community and explore new possibilities together as the growing season comes to a close. RSVP to [NDLandscapeProfs@gmail.com](mailto:NDLandscapeProfs@gmail.com) Hosts: Kiera Faulkner Jakos, Gardenwell + Ashley Gamell, Studio Hopeland

Rhinebeck Grange/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend, Rhinecliff Wreath

Saturday, December 14 @ 10:00 am

Dress warmly and join us to help make a gigantic wreath for the community to be displayed in the center of Rhinecliff. Meet at the Rhinecliff monument. Bring gloves and prepare to have fun.

Morton/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend

Morton Chorus Presents: December Concert, Saturday, December 14 @ 3:00 pm

A not to be missed concert! If you were lucky enough to have attended the prior concerts of Driftwood/the Morton Community Chorus, you got a taste of the glorious music that this group creates led by the incomparable Eva Salina. This is a concert that combines Georgian, Balkan, Serbian, Roma,

songs plus so much more.

Morton/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend

Rhinecliff Festival of Lights

(Burn Ban permitting)

Saturday, December 14 @ 5:00

Saturday evening we will shine some literal and figurative light on the hamlet! We ask everyone to pick up luminaria kits at the library and then line the streets with candles. That evening we can enjoy the sights by walking and visiting with neighbors while enjoying a complimentary hot beverage from the Epicurean and a holiday cookie at Kips Tavern. You can also stop and have your picture taken in front of the Rhinebeck Grange wreath. This year Driftwood, our community chorus, will lead us in song around the theatre district to start off the evening.

Luminaria kits will be available at Morton for pick up beginning Wednesday, December 4. Each kit will contain 10 candles, bags, and sand and we are asking for a donation of \$20 per kit. The money will go to Red Hook Responds. For more information: [sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org](mailto:sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org)

Morton/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend

Holiday Cookie Swap

Sunday, December 15 @ 2:00 pm

Bring 3 dozen cookies and plan to swap! It makes holiday baking a snap.??? Join us as we taste, socialize, and drink hot cocoa. Call 845-876-2903 for details.

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show

Friday, December 20 @ 8:00 pm

Featuring: Rick & Marilyn, Paul Clarke, and more. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested.

## PLEASANT VALLEY LIBRARY

1584 Main St. (Route 44), Pleasant Valley

(845) 635-8460

<https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>

### UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMS

All programs are free. Registration is required unless noted. Please visit [pleasantvalleylibrary.org](http://pleasantvalleylibrary.org) to register and for more information.

Understanding the New Deal - A Special Virtual Presentation

Wednesday, December 4th 6:00-7:00pm

Sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association, this special virtual program will be screened at the library, and will feature FDR Presidential Library's Jeff Urbin, who will share how many of the programs & agencies of FDR's New Deal fundamentally changed the nature of the US federal government and became the mainstays of American life today.

Holiday Family Interactive Movie: "Elf"

Saturday, Dec. 7th 11:00am-12:30pm

Don't just watch the movie, be a part of it! Celebrate the holiday season and at this fun audience-participation event! We'll be screening the festive favorite "Elf," starring Will Ferrell as Buddy, who accidentally went to the North Pole as a toddler and was raised among Santa's elves. As an adult, he travels to New York to find his real father, with chaotic and comic results. Dressing in costume is encouraged. We will provide the props, prompt sheets, & snacks! For families, age 5 and up.

Elf Party!

Saturday, December 7th 12:30-1:30pm

Whether you attend our Interactive Family Movie or not, EVERYONE is welcome to join us for our Elf After-Party! We will have refreshments and candy canes for all, as well as a special visitor from the North Pole! This drop-by event is for all ages - no registration required!

Supporting Bees in our Yards

Tuesday, December 10th 6:00-7:30pm

Beekkeepers, gardeners, and nature advocates Liselotte Vince, Joe Treimel, and Janice Novet will share insights into the intricate lives of bees and their crucial role in pollination. Known for their sustainable practices and commitment to supporting local ecosystems, they will offer valuable tips for those interested in beekeeping or simply to boost pollinator health in their own gardens.

Senior Movie Morning: "A Season For Miracles" Wednesday, December 11th 11:30am-1:30pm

Seniors (ages 50+) are invited to attend this special seniors-only movie matinee. This month, we'll watch the 1999 Hallmark holiday movie, "A Season For Miracles," starring Patty Duke as an angel who creates miracles for a woman trying to save her sister's children

from foster care. Light refreshments will be provided.

Digestive Wellness Workshop

Wednesday, December 11th 7:00-8:00pm

Join us as we welcome certified nutritionist and health coach Joy E. Dyson for an instructive and beneficial workshop on Digestive Health. Learn to incorporate food, supplements, and lifestyle ideas to optimize digestion and cultivate health and improve well-being. You'll leave with a plan of new concepts and solutions to tie in to your daily habits.

Taylor Swift Birth-TAY Party!

Friday, December 13th 6:00-8:00pm

Come and celebrate Taylor Swift's birthday with us! We'll make friendship bracelets, sing karaoke, compete in trivia and games (for prizes!), enjoy cupcakes, and take selfies with a life-size Taylor Swift standup - that will be a raffle grand prize!! Wear your favorite Eras outfit and make the whole place shimmer!! This program is open to Swifties of all ages 8yrs and older! (Children 10 and under must have a parent/guardian with them.)

Winter Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 28th 12:30-1:30pm

Join Katie DeFiglio, a "Soprano and Her Ukulele," for an afternoon of fun holiday songs, including a sing-along! Katie, originally from Poughkeepsie, is dedicated to creating well-being and joy through her singing, music, and teaching (at Keystone State Music Theater Academy near Pittsburgh, PA). With a versatile style that includes pop, jazz, folk, classical, opera, and musical theatre, she has performed in the Hudson Valley and throughout the US and Europe for over 25 years.

## STANFORD FREE LIBRARY

6035 Rte. 82, Stanfordville

(845) 868-1341

<https://stanfordlibrary.org/>

Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please email [stanfordlibrary@optonline.net](mailto:stanfordlibrary@optonline.net) or call (845) 868-1341.

Holiday Stories and Crafts

Pre-K-1st Grade: Thursday, December 5th, 3:30pm-4:30pm  
2nd-5th Grade: Thursday, December 19th, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Music in the Library

Saturday, December 7th, 11-12pm

Andrew Baffi will be back his bringing classical guitar for all to enjoy

December Book Club (note new time)

December 9th, 1:00 pm-2:00pm

This month's selection are two short books by Judy Blume: Forever & Tiger Eyes

Supper Club with Lenny

Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Enjoy a community potluck with friends and family. This month's theme is Food of our Ancestors. Bring your favorite family dish to share with others. No need to register - just come with your cuisine and enjoy food and conversation!

Read to Therapy Dog Jambo

Wednesday, December 11th, 4-5pm

He's a gentle giant who loves to make new friends. People of all ages are welcome to

come and visit with him. Sign up for a 15-minute slot with Jambo.

Chair Yoga

Friday, December 13th, 1:00pm-2:00pm

This is gentle yoga with a chair to support and aid seated and standing postures.

Yoga for Kids with Amy

Thursday, December, 19th, 430 pm

Ages 5+ Please bring a mat and a water bottle and be sure to wear appropriate clothes.

Crafting for Teens

Friday, December 20th, 6:30-8:30pm

Ages 13+ Come make holiday cards, gift tags, and small gifts with your friends. Space is limited, registration required.

## ONGOING EVENTS

Home School Stories and STEAM

Students in Grade K-3:Thursdays, 1245pm -145pm

Students Grade 4-6 (STEAM only) Thursdays, 2pm-3pm

Preschool Storytime, Tuesday Mornings

Preschoolers (Age 3-4) 9:30 - 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!

Water Color Workshop

First, Third and Fifth Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Using the Basic Watercolor Techniques:

A Flat Wash, Graded Wash, Wet-In-Wet or Drybrush. We will be happy to provide guidance but this is a Watercolor Workshop not a Watercolor Class. Supplies are not provided, a list of needed materials is available at the library.

Game Time for Grownups

December 10th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

We have a growing collection of games available or bring your own! Coffee and tea provided but feel free to bring a snack to share! No registration necessary.

Games for adults will be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners

Mondays 6-8 pm. All levels welcome.

Knitting

First, Third and Fifth Thursday of the month 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Come for knitting, tea and conversation. All levels welcome. Advanced knitters will teach beginners.

Brain Games

Thursdays 10:30 – 12:00 pm

Calling all seniors! Join in the fun and laughter of our brain games! Fun, stimulating, invigorating word games, board games, card games, conversation and laughter!

Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Fridays 10:00 am - noon

Come and play Mahjong with this fun, friendly group. Are you a beginner or want to learn the game, ask at the library for more information.

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\*Terms and Conditions apply.

**GENERAC**



SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES  
SMALL & LARGE

“What’s THAT charge - \$17 a month, for what?”

Read your credit card statements carefully, and you may be able to free up some much-needed money for the holidays and beyond.

The biggest tradeoff coming from retirement is a gain in free time, but typically coupled with lower household income. Let’s use that time wisely, to make that household income last longer.

Time to go over your books

Those “little” monthly bills really add up, especially for services you once wanted, but maybe not as much as your needs evolve. For example, many of us switched in recent years from cable TV to an ever-growing array of video-on-demand services: Netflix, Prime, Disney+, Hulu, on and on - and are you still using all of them? Probably not.

When it comes to canceling subscriptions, there’s encouraging news coming in April of 2025. That’s when the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) new “click to cancel” rule takes effect. Sellers will be required to make it as easy to cancel a recurring subscription or service as it was to sign up.

Some subscriptions can be replaced with low-cost or even free local options. If you enjoy audiobooks, here are four key words: check with your library. What an audiobook subscription services charges for, your library may have available for free.

Tidying up? Watch for old gift cards

Got a junk drawer with old gift cards bouncing around inside? Unused gift card balances may come in handy this holiday season.

Even if you like your subscriptions

File this next one under “can’t hurt to ask.” When your annual subscriptions come up for renewal, get in touch with the company you’re subscribed with and let them know you’re retired and looking to cut costs. Maybe they offer to renew you at a lower rate.

You’re not leaving money on the table ... right?

We’ve demonstrated in this article a few ways to save money on the things you want, but let’s definitely not leave out the opportunity to save on what you

need, especially for those on fixed incomes.

The poverty rate for American adults age 65 and up stood at 14% as of 2022, according to the Census Bureau. That’s about one out of every seven American older adults - several thousand Dutchess County older adults, to bring the number closer to home.

OFA helps many of them, but many more need to know the help is available. You likely know of what’s available since you read this newsletter, but what about your older friends and neighbors who don’t? So much aid for economically insecure older people goes unclaimed every year, by people who would otherwise qualify. Many low-income older adults make things just barely hang together by skimping on vital medications and healthy groceries, so that they can pay other bills.

Help is out there, and OFA can connect older adults to it, whether it’s energy assistance (HEAP), food assistance (SNAP), insurance counseling, and more.

The application process is less complicated than they might assume; and, in any case, OFA can help with it. OFA staff can guide older adults through any tricky parts.

Call OFA during business hours, and something happens that’s most unusual these days: A human answers the phone!

OFA reception and intake staff field thousands of calls every year. They’ve heard just about every question under the sun. Sometimes OFA can help directly; other times, we can direct callers to the appropriate local, County, State or Federal agency.

It’s said that age is just a number. Our number is 845-486-2555.

A MESSAGE FROM  
OFA DIRECTOR TODD TANCREDI

Social isolation can be particularly difficult during end-of-year holidays, especially for our homebound older adults who experience additional challenges when it comes to joining family for gatherings.

While there are more than 80,000 older adults in Dutchess County, many thousands of them are living alone, often widowed or otherwise living alone but not by choice. Even those of us with

plenty of social connections sometimes get “the blahs” this time of year. This feeling can be part of what mental health experts call “seasonal affective disorder” (SAD), so named because it happens during the fall and winter when there’s less daylight. It’s believed that the relative lack of daylight can trigger a chemical change in our brains.

OFA can’t make spring come any more quickly - or can we? OFA can help you make new connections to keep you stronger through these darkest months, with our fast-growing “Friendly Calls” program, about to enter its third year. You can choose to make calls to older adults at risk of social isolation, or you can choose to receive calls - or you can do both. A typical “Friendly Calls” series takes place once a week, for 20-30 minutes a call, for eight weeks.

Sign up for “Friendly Calls” this holiday season, and it’ll just about be springtime by the time you finish your first session!

Upcoming “Friendly Calls” orientations are scheduled as follows:

Monday, 12/9, 1:30pm

Tuesday 12/17, 10:00am

Monday 12/30, 1:30pm

To schedule your orientation – they last about an hour – here at our Poughkeepsie office, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email [ledgar@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ledgar@dutchessny.gov).

OFA HOMEBOUND VACCINATION  
PROGRAM NOW OPEN

Are you a homebound older Dutchess County resident, or the caregiver for one?

If the homebound individual in question is unable to get a COVID booster and/or influenza vaccine due to their condition, OFA can help. Our staff can arrange for in-home vaccinations, while supplies last, through Friday, January 31st, 2025.

Contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) to find out more.

OFA ‘NAVIGATING MEDICARE’ CLASSES  
FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT SEASON ...  
OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DEC. 7TH

We’re close to the end of this year’s Medicare Open Enrollment season, December 7th.

There are two OFA “Navigating Medicare” classes left on the schedule before Open Enrollment ends on December 7th.

Here’s the schedule, along with class locations and how to call and register for a class:

12/4/24, 3pm Adriance Library 845-485-3445 x3380

93 Market St., Poughkeepsie

12/4/24, 10am Starr Library Call OFA

68 West Market St., Rhinebeck

Medicare open enrollment closes on December 7th

12/18/24, 10am Poughkeepsie Galleria (Community Room) Call OFA

1/23/25, 9:30am Adriance Library 845-485-3445 x3380

2/25/25, 9:30am Adriance Library 845-485-3445 x3380

For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit [www.dutchessny.gov/calendar](http://www.dutchessny.gov/calendar). We also hold Navigating Medicare classes year-round, on the third Wednesday of every month at the Galleria, and on the fourth Monday of the month at Starr Library.

While individual counseling appointments with local OFA health insurance counselors are booked through December 7th, OFA can still connect you with a counselor from the New York State Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP). Reach out to OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) for details.

WINTER WEATHER  
CANCELLATION INFO

If you need to find out if OFA Friendship Centers and/or other activities have been postponed by winter weather, follow [www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov](https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov) and [www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA](https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA). We send cancellation information to area radio stations and media, but not all radio stations provide on-air cancellation info.

*Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) website: [www.dutchessny.gov/aging](http://www.dutchessny.gov/aging) Social media: [www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA](https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA)*

Holiday Happenings

*continued from page 18*

technicians have all contributed to make this “Nutcracker” a visual delight. Come along with Marie as she dreams of a fierce battle between giant mice and toy soldiers followed by a magical journey through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets. Performances at the Bardavon are scheduled for 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. Cost: \$36 Adult, \$31 Member. (845) 473-2072 or <https://www.bardavon.org/>

**Dec. 15: 9th Annual Holiday Concert**, The First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains, 3039 Church St. (Rte. 199), Pine Plains. The concert will feature many local musicians and festive organ music, 3 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken for the continued maintenance of the Church’s historic 1926 Estey Pipe Organ. Refreshments will be offered after the concert. For more information, call the Church at (518) 398-7117.

**Dec. 15: Christmas Concert**, Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. Featuring Niah and Allisha Merrill, 6 p.m. All are welcome. (845) 876-6923, (845) 876-2122 or [fdcirone@aol.com](mailto:fdcirone@aol.com)

**Dec. 18: The Winter Ensemble presents: Reflections on the Holiday Season**, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. The Winter Ensemble of Putnam Chorale’s program includes beautiful historical carols, like Here We Come a Wassailing; arrangements by the prolific American composer, Gwyneth Walker, such as Bring a Torch; lyrical, contemporary pieces by the Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo, and movements from Vivaldi’s soaring and uplifting Gloria. 7-8:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 adult, \$18 senior, children age 12 & younger free. [www.lgny.org](http://www.lgny.org)

**Dec. 20-22: “Nut/Cracked” by The Bang Group**, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. The Bang Group’s beloved, witty response to “The Nutcracker” has enthralled audiences for more than two decades. Choreographer David Parker draws inspiration from across the dance spectrum, blending tap, ballet, disco, and even bubble wrap to create a unique performance that reimagines Tchaikovsky’s iconic score. With renditions ranging from Duke Ellington to Glenn Miller, “Nut/Cracked” transforms the familiar into something delightfully unexpected. Performances: Dec. 20-21 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$45 General, \$36 students. (845) 757-5106 or <https://kaatsbaan.org>

**Dec. 20: Pawling Concert Series: Orchestra New England Holiday Concert**, Trinity Pawling School, All Saints’ Chapel, 700 Route 22, Pawling. Woodwind members from the Orchestra New England will present holiday music for woodwind quintet, keyboard, and percussion, 8-10 p.m. The program will include arrangements from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Ballet, Vaughan Williams’ Greensleeves, traditional seasonal carols, and other holiday favorites. Cost: \$40. (845) 855-3100 or <http://www.pawlingconcertseries.org>

**Dec. 21: “A Celtic Christmas” by A Taste of Ireland**, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Watch two star-crossed lovers twirl beneath the mistletoe as award-winning Irish musicians complement the world’s best Irish dancers to deliver a heart-warming performance that will leave your feet tapping, eyes shining and your soul wanting more! Immerse yourself in the magnificence of the traditional Celtic landscape and let the magic of Christmas in Ireland transport you to a world full of excitement and wonder — a world where energetic music and dance embody the beating heart of the festive season. Featuring a powerful mix of traditional tunes, heartfelt ballads and all your favorite carols, "A Celtic Christmas" combines incredible red-hot rhythms with jaw-dropping talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling, Irish charm and spectacular entertainment. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$71, \$61, \$51, \$41. (845) 473-2072 or <https://www.bardavon.org/>

**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. 7 p.m. All are welcome. (845) 876-6923, (845) 876-2122 or [fdcirone@aol.com](mailto:fdcirone@aol.com)

**Dec. 27: Children’s Holiday Tea**, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. Always sold-out in advance, the Holiday Tea welcomes children and adults to an event that combines fun, good manners, and education about a bygone era, in an authentic location where social teas were once standard fare, noon-2 p.m. The menu will include assorted Harney & Sons teas, dainty finger sandwiches prepared by The Bagel Shoppe, Fishkill and a selection of homemade desserts. A Victorian inspired craft project for the children will also be offered. Admission is \$18 for children and \$25 for adults. Prepaid reservations are required by Dec. 17. For reservations and further information, call (845) 831-8172 or email at [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org).

**Dec. 31: Ars Choralis New Year’s Eve Concert**, Old Dutch Church, Kingston. “Together We Rise,” a concert of love designed to uplift the spirit with words and music, recognizing the beauty and wonder of our common humanity, 6 p.m. Free. <https://arschoralis.org/>

Stay up-to-date ~ follow us on Facebook!  
@SouthernDutchessNewsGroup



Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pleasant Valley Town Board shall hold a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law E of 2024, titled "A Local Law of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York Amending Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley Entitled, "Code of Ethics" on December 16, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall located at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York. A copy of said Local Law is available for inspection on the Town's website, official board and at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Any person desiring to speak at said public hearing on said Local Law shall be permitted to do so.

By order of the Town Board dated November 18, 2024.

MARY BETH MUIR  
Town Clerk for the Town of Pleasant Valley

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT General Notice

The Town of Pleasant Valley (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT CONTRACT NUMBER 2170.01

Sealed bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall located at 1554 Main

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Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569 until Friday, December 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM local time. At that time the sealed bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The Town has developed final designs and construction drawings for the removal of an existing tennis court and the installation of a new basketball court at Cady Field, located at 1554 Main Street in Pleasant Valley.

\* Remove existing asphalt surfacing, chain link fencing, and associated tennis court equipment. The tennis court subbase will be re-used.

\* Install new basketball court surface and associated equipment, erosion control, sidewalk, a segmental retaining wall, chain link fencing and gates, and site restoration with lawn.

\* An existing water well will be decommissioned in accordance with Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) requirements.

Lump Sum Bids are requested for the following Contract: **Contract 1 – General Construction** Work shall be substantially completed on or before **May 5, 2025**, and ready for final payment by **May 30, 2025**.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

To become a Registered Plan Holder and to obtain electronic copies of the Contract Documents, please visit the MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C. Plan Room located at <http://www.mjteam.com/bids>. Bids received from non-registered plan holders may be subject to disqualification. Addenda, if any, will be

Legal Notices

issued only to Registered Plan Holders whose name and address are on record. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

**MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C.**

**21 Corporate Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065**

**Douglas Gerber, RLA, 518-371-0799 EXT 357, [dgerber@mjteam.com](mailto:dgerber@mjteam.com)**

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm.

**Deadline for questions is 4:00 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2024.**

Pre-bid Conference

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Thursday, December 10, 2024, at 12:00pm** at **Cady Field** located behind the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

Instructions to Bidders

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Prevailing Wages

The Bidders must comply with New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule. Bid security in the amount of 5% of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accor-

Legal Notices

dance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful Bidders will be required to furnish a performance bond and a payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price. Attention of Bidders is particularly called to the requirements for ensuring that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Bid received, or to reject any or all Bids without explanation.

The Owner is an exempt organization under the Tax Law and is exempt from payment of Sales and Compensating Use Taxes on materials which are to be incorporated into the project and which are to be separately sold by the Contractor to the Owner prior to incorporation into the project, pursuant to the provisions of the Contract. These taxes are not to be included in the bid.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: **Town of Pleasant Valley**

By: **Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk**

Date: **November 21, 2024**

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-71-24

General Cleaning, Preventative Maintenance, Emergency and Non-Emergency Repair Services for Traffic Signals, Devices and Miscellaneous Electric Facilities on County

Legal Notices

Highways  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 10th day of December 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-79-24 Grant Consulting Services

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of December 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet

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Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.:1118/2024

RE: COMMENCING THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS FOR LOCAL LAW NO. E OF THE YEAR 2024

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Pleasant Valley Ethics Board had determined that the present Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley entitled: "Code of Ethics" was in need of revision; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ethics Board has met with the Co-Attorney to the Town to review the existing law and discuss recommendations for changes in that law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Co-Attorney to the Town drafted a proposed revised Ethics Law incorporating all of the concerns and requested changes to the law, as suggested by the Ethics Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney to the Town has met with the Ethics Board to review the proposed revised law and, as a result of said meetings, the Attorney to the Town has drafted a revised Chapter 9 of the Town of Pleasant Valley Code which is intended to replace the existing Chapter 9 of the Town of Pleasant Valley Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ethics Law, as revised, has been submitted to the Town Board for review, and the Town Board members have determined that the proposed Local Law is acceptable in form and content for purposes of commencing the local law adoption process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that this is a Type II action under SEQRA which does not require environmental review.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law No. E of the Year 2024 entitled: "A Local Law amending Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley entitled 'Code of Ethics' on December 16, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and give notice of said public hearing, as may be required by law, and to post a copy of said Local Law on the Town's website and to further make a copy of said Local Law available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call on November 18, 2024 which resulted as follows:

**MOVED:** Councilman Rifenburgh

**SECOND:** Councilwoman Chapman

**DATE:** November 18, 2024

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Chapman  
Councilman Degan  
Councilman Iapichino  
Councilman Rifenburgh  
Supervisor Albrecht  
CARRIED.

AYE

X  
X  
X  
X  
X

NAY

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

'A Christmas Carol' returns to The Center

Experience the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, a man hardened by greed, as he embarks on a haunting journey guided by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. This poignant tale reminds us all that it's never too late to embrace the joy and generosity of the season.

This December, CENTERstage Productions presents "A Christmas Carol," a heartwarming adaptation of Charles Dickens' timeless classic. Running from December 6 through December 22, 2024, at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, this cherished holiday tradition takes on even deeper meaning this year.

For over 15 years, the late Lou Trapani, founding Artistic and Managing Director of The CENTER, captivated audiences

with his portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge, a role that became synonymous with his name. In contrast to Scrooge's selfish nature, Lou was a man of extraordinary generosity, a passionate advocate for the arts, and a guiding force for countless young performers. Lou, who passed away this July, was instrumental in creating this unique adaptation for The CENTER, seamlessly blending Dickens' timeless story with beloved Christmas carols to create the perfect family-friendly performance.

This year's performance marks the first without Lou on stage or directing, but his enduring legacy shines brightly under the masterful eye of his longtime partner and skilled director, Emily DePew, with the talents of Rik Lopes and David Foster as Scrooge. With musical direction by Paul

and JoAnne Schubert, this adaptation will have audiences of all ages humming along to their favorite carols.

Celebrate the holidays with your loved ones at A Christmas Carol, a production filled with heart, soul, and the magic of Christmas.

Performance Details:

- Dates: December 6 – December 22
- Showtimes: Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM Sundays at 3 PM Additional Saturday Matinee: December 21 at 3 PM
- Runtime: Approximately 75 minutes
- Tickets: \$25 (Family Discount: Buy 4 or more tickets and save \$15!)

Tickets are on sale now at [centerforperformingarts.org](http://centerforperformingarts.org) or by calling our Box Office at (845) 876-3080



The late Lou Trapani was renowned for his role as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" at The Center. *Courtesy photo*



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145 Adult Care	300 Real Estate	502 Clothing	712 Moving sale	900 Autos for Sale
150 Announcements	301 Townhouses & Condos	503 Furniture	713 Rummage Sale	901 Vans/SUV's
151 Adoption	302 Commercial Property	504 Appliances	714 Flea Market	902 Trucks
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155 Personal Services	400 Townhomes & Condos for rent	507 Sports Equipment	717 Estate Sale	905 Autos Wanted
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Global Head of Destinations | SearchWide Global  
info@searchwideglobal.com



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Answers to this week's diversions  
(puzzles on page 16)

**SUDOKU**  
This week's answer

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

**Suguru solution**

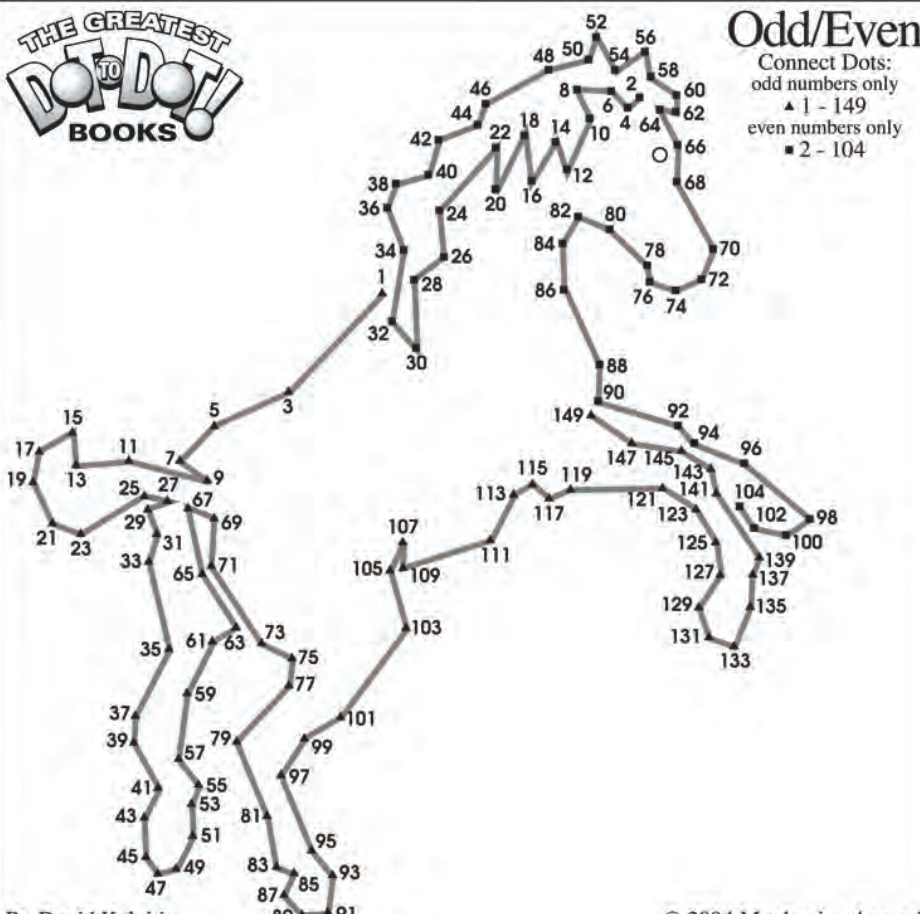
2	1	5	1	3	4
3	4	3	2	5	1
5	1	5	1	4	2
3	2	4	2	3	5
5	1	3	1	4	1
4	2	4	2	3	5

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

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

**THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS**

**Odd/Even**  
Connect Dots:  
odd numbers only  
▲ 1 - 149  
even numbers only  
■ 2 - 104



By David Kalvitis

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# OBITUARIES

**Ella Jean Allen**

Ella J. Allen, 85, of Hyde Park, entered into rest on November 24, 2024, peacefully in the comfort of her home.

Born on July 12, 1939 in Delray Beach, FL, she was the daughter of the late Gilbert and Essie (Mitchell) Roberson.

Ella graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Brooklyn college, and later received additional education in Nutrition from Queens and Hunter Colleges. She went on to become the independent president of the NY Professional Dieticians Association. During her career, she covered 19 NYC hospitals, and 23 voluntary hospital dieticians. Ella also was awarded as Citizen of the Year in Clinton- Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen in 1995

To quote Ella herself, "I am most proud of myself as a single mother, holding on to a mortgage and was able to send both of my children away to college. Both children graduated with Bachelor's Degrees. In fact, I stayed in school so long Marissa caught up with me. We both received 2 year certificates from FIT as Image Consultants. What Progress!"

Ella is survived by; her daughter, Andrea Johnson; her son, Leroy Allen; three granddaughters, Adriana Allen, Rozelyn Johnson, and Anastasia Allen; her daughter-in-law, Amanda Allen; and cousin Bernie Mitchell and several others.

She is also survived by her special family members; Jean and Terry Wansley; Barbara and Mike Paynter; Sharon McInerney and Ralph VanKleeck; Dr. Philip Clifton, Mamie Fraizer, Dr. Pennie Schwartz, Dr. Evelyn Heredia, Dr. Pilar Haynes, Danielle Felton, Rosa Dziedziech, and Janest Wilson.

Ella was predeceased by her parents, Gilbert and Essie Roberson.

Friends and family called on Monday

December 2 at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY. There was a service during the visitation.

A graveside service will take place at the Rockville Center Cemetery, 45 Merrick Road, Lynbrook, NY, 11563.

The family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to Pink Cans for Cancer, 425 C. Oak Street, Garden City, NY, 11530 ( Recycling 4 A Cure | BUSINESSES GIVING BACK).

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park.

To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

**Helen G. Knickerbocker**

Helen Gertrude Knickerbocker, Clinton Corners, NY, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the age of 106, at The Baptist Home in Rhinebeck, NY. The daughter of Paul and Sophie Germond, she was born in the family home in Clinton Corners, NY on April 15, 1918. She graduated from Pine Plains High School in Pine Plains, NY in 1936. Helen graduated from the Vassar Nursing School in Poughkeepsie in 1940 and pursued a career as a registered nurse at Vassar Hospital in the Nursery & Maternity Dept.

She is survived by her four children: Barry Knickerbocker (Leigh) of Red Hook NY, Janice Tremper (John) of Bangall NY, Jay Knickerbocker (Kathy) of Pine Plains NY, and John Knickerbocker of Clinton Corners NY. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Michele Nauta, Jennifer Funk, Roberta Jagers, Andrew Knickerbocker, Sarah Staller, Natalie Spak, Aaron Knickerbocker, and her great-grandchildren: Matthew Funk, Adam Funk, Tyler Funk, Austin Hollifield, June Duffey, Robert Grillo, Gabriel Small, Sharlet Knickerbocker, Anna Jagers,

Madeleine Spak, and Boden Spak.

Helen was predeceased by her brother Roger Germond, sister Emily Germond, and her loving husband Austin Knickerbocker. They were married for 56 years.

Helen was "down to earth" and knew how to be self-sufficient. She provided a steady example to her family on how to approach life and be content. She loved canning fresh fruits along with vegetables she grew, baking, and making delicious meals on her cast iron cook stove. She loved song birds, music, and playing the piano after dinner. She was a wonderful homemaker, talented at upholstering, sewing, and knitting clothes. She and Austin were fond of making trips to Myrtle Beach, Florida, and the camp at Copper Lake in the Adirondacks. She was an avid Mets fan. Helen showed her love by how she tirelessly cared for her family and passed down her many valuable skills. A most precious gift! Her warm personality and loving spirit touched many lives for the better and she will be profoundly missed by all.

Private family services and a celebration of her life will be planned for a later date.

**Marie L. Muncey**

Marie L. Muncey, 90, a longtime resident of Wingdale, NY, passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, CT. Marie worked as a therapy aide at the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale, NY retiring in 1996.

Born on January 4, 1934 in Waymart, PA she was the daughter of the late Francis and Mabel (Wright) Ryan. On October 10, 1959 in Waymart, PA she married James A. Muncey who predeceased her on October 15, 2021. Marie was a longtime member of the Dover First Baptist Church in Wingdale, NY.

Affectionately known as Grammie by everyone who knew her. She loved to sit on her porch and watch the hummingbirds fly.

She loved when the Deer, Turkey and even the Bears would travel through her yard. Grammie adored her grandchildren and would do anything for them.

She loved visits with her family and friends and she had an incredible talent with houseplants and never passed on Four Brothers pizza or watching Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. She will be carried on through each member of her family and her community.

A special thank you to Cece, Luz, Erica and Rob for all the love and care throughout the last couple of years.

Marie is survived by three sons, Michael Muncey and his partner, Mike Clements, of Chattanooga, TN, James S. Muncey and his wife, Lauren, of Vero Beach, FL and Jeff Muncey and his wife, Julie, of Wingdale, NY. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Martin (Jayme) Muncey, Mitchell Muncey (Amanda Palomba), Haley (Theo) Muncey and Erin Muncey; a great-grandson, Maddox Muncey and several nieces and nephews who she loved dearly

Besides her parents and husband, Marie was predeceased by six brothers, Robert, Oscar, John, James, Merle, and Kenneth Ryan and two sisters, Evelyn Kipp and Elizabeth "Betty" Bunting.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at the Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services took place at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024 at the Dover First Baptist Church, Wingdale, NY with Pastor Anthony Bacino officiating. Burial followed at South Dover Rural Cemetery in Wingdale. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dover First Baptist Church, 6483 Route 55, Wingdale, NY 12594. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).

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