

Women seek to make 'impact' for AHA

American Heart Association's 'Go Red' event set Feb. 7

By Kristine Coulter

The American Heart Association is holding its annual Woman of Impact.

So, what is Woman of Impact?

The American Heart Association states: "Every year across the country, a select group of individuals are nominated to be a part of Woman of Impact because of their passion and drive to make a difference. This 9-week competition is relentlessly focused on women's heart health. Launching on National Wear Red Day on February 7th, nominees work to build campaign plans, recruit Impact teams, and inspire their networks to support the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission."

There are five nominees this year, in alphabetical order, are: Tina Arroyo, Brittany Cataldo, Jasmin Davis, Kristen Pietras and Christine Pellegrino. The nominees will each create a team and strategize.

Dora Visbeck was the Woman of Impact for 2024 for the Hudson Valley region. She will be mentoring this year's five nominees. Visbeck will also be serving on the Executive Leadership Team for the Go Red for Women Luncheon.

Visbeck stated, "For all nominees, my commitment is to be a mentor to all of them."

Visbeck noted, "My daughter is nominated this year." Pietras is Visbeck's daughter.

"I'm so proud of her. I'm glad that this is meaningful to her as it was to me and that she wants to make an impact," remarked Visbeck.

Pietras said, "Seeing my mom recognized as a Woman of Impact was incredibly inspiring. Watching her use her voice and influence to support women's health made me so proud. It showed me firsthand how one person's dedication can truly make a difference."

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Get to know your true heart during 'Heart Month'

By Francine Wizner

February is the month we hear lots of love songs, smell bunches of flower bouquets, and see a variety of stylized hearts. You know the shape. Valentine's Day hearts have two curves that taper down to a point. In reality, our hearts are the size of our own fist and cone-shaped, narrowing to the cardiac apex, at the bottom of the organ.

This Valentine's Day is a perfect opportunity to teach your children (or students in your classroom) more about the part of themselves most equated with "love" - their true heart. Emotions, such as love, for example, were once thought to come from the heart. This may have been because the heart beats faster due to fear, excitement, or stress. Now we know that emotions come from the limbic system in the brain, which then signals the heart to speed up.

Anatomical review

Your heart is slightly left of center in your chest. Located on the top part are the left and right atria, which fill with blood returning to the heart from the lungs and body. On the bottom, the left and right ventricles push the blood out to the body and lungs. A thick wall of muscle called the septum separates the left and right sides of the heart.

There are also four valves inside the heart. Blood can only move in one direction through the valves. The mitral and tricuspid valves let blood flow from



Columnist Francine Wizner instructs William Paul, age 5, in the use of a DIY stethoscope. William is the son of Christopher and Rebecca Paul of Pleasant Valley. Photo by Rebecca Paul

the atria to the ventricles. The aortic and pulmonary valves control the flow of blood leaving the heart. These valves work together to prevent the backward flow of blood.

Lub-Dub

A stethoscope is used to listen to the heart muscle. A healthy heart makes a

lub-dub sound with each beat. This sound comes from the valves closing within the heart. The first sound (the lub), happens when the mitral and tricuspid valves close. The next sound (the dub), happens when the aortic and pulmonary valves close after the blood has been squeezed

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Beloved 'Bee Bee' awarded high honor by Clowns of America International, Inc.



Jackie Reynolds, a.k.a. Bee Bee the Clown. Photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

Bee Bee the Clown has created laughter and happy memories for audiences of all ages at community events throughout the Hudson Valley for over three decades.

Jackie Reynolds, a.k.a. Bee Bee the Clown, of Milan, has been selected as "2025 Clown of the Year" by Clowns of America International, Inc. (COAI). This honor recognizes her career as a clown and multi-talented entertainer along with her work as a teacher of clown arts on a local, and national level.

"My work creates connection with people," says Jackie. "The magic of laughter is universal with moments of mirth and happy surprise. Bee Bee the Clown creates joy in the world one funny conversation, or amusing clown bit at a time."

The popular Dutchess County resident began in 1992 as a self-taught clown and

is celebrating her 33rd anniversary of lacing up her first pair of big red clown shoes. Since switching careers from a chemical engineer making photographic film at Polaroid, Jackie has become a true variety artist. In addition to Bee Bee the Clown, she entertains audiences of all ages as Mrs. Santa Claus, and Jackie the Magician.

With a significant fan following throughout the Hudson Valley, Bee Bee creates shows with a mix of her award-winning clowning, magic, ventriloquism, balloon twisting, and juggling. She is also a story- and joke-teller, face painter, and a children's author and illustrator. She has won awards for ventriloquism, makeup/costume and balloon sculpture at national conventions for COAI and the World Clown Association (WCA). She

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Beloved 'Bee Bee' awarded high honor by Clowns of America International, Inc.

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was the opening act in Atlanta in 2022 for Misha Usov, (previously with Cirque du Soleil) at the COAI national convention, with her original stage show "CROW," about a rooster with a sore throat who needed to wake up the sun.

Jackie entertains at more than 150 events each year. Diverse "hometown" venues, with people of all ages in the audience, are true comfort zones for her characters. She combines humorous skills to perform at community day events, school and library shows, clown skills workshops, and summer camps. She brings her charming presence to day-cares for toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school kids; to birthday parties and special needs communities; to senior centers and after-dinner engagements.

"Recently I opened an email from a mom asking to schedule a birthday party," Jackie recalls. "The email began with the words: 'We attended a birthday

party at the Hudson Valley Airport back in March, and my 6 year old son with Autism... fell in LOVE with your presence.' That sentence stopped me... He had sensed something beyond my person, and recognized my clown... This validation is very meaningful to me."

She tells of another experience after a Bee Bee show in Woodstock, when "an older gentleman shook my hand and said to me, 'You do justice to the Art of Clowning.' This interaction was very reaffirming as a person who cares deeply about the value of what clowning can bring to the world."

Jackie teaches a variety of classes at regional and national gatherings of professional clowns and entertainers, with upcoming events for WCA in Dallas, COAI in Denver, Mid-Atlantic Clown Association (MACA) in Harrisburg, Mooseburger Clown Arts in Minnesota, and NCI, the Northeast Clown Institute in



Above: Jackie Reynolds as Bee Bee the Clown entertains children. Right, Jackie is also a magician and (left) portrays Mrs. Claus. Photos by Louisa Vilardi Photography



Plymouth, MA.

She says, "It is a gift for people to laugh. My work as a clown, and as an entertainer, creates space for people to forget for a few minutes their concerns and the things that make their lives complicated. Plus, for kids, or grownups, most of this material is just really funny! Even without their big shoes and red nose," she says, "you can tell a real clown, because it is about their heart."

Upcoming events open to the public, with Bee Bee the Clown include Spring Fest at Poughkeepsie Plaza Mall on April 13, Maifest at Germania of Poughkeepsie on May 17 and 18, and Hyde Park Community Day on September 13. Visit <https://beebeetheclown.com/> for other shows and more information about Reynolds about her children's books.

Get to know your true heart during 'Heart Month'

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out of the heart.

The pulse

Your pulse is proof you are alive! Find it by lightly pressing on the skin on the side of your neck or inside of your wrist, just below the thumb. Feel the beat under the skin caused by the heart's contraction. Use a timer and count the number of beats you feel in one minute. When you are resting, you will probably feel between 70 and 100 beats. During exercise, the body needs a lot more oxygen-filled blood. The heart pumps faster to achieve this. If you run in place or jump rope, you can feel your heart pounding in your chest.

Keep your heart happy

To help keep the heart happy and

healthy, it's a good idea to exercise for 30-60 minutes daily, not smoke, eat a variety of healthy foods, avoid foods high in saturated and trans fats, eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, avoid sugary food and drinks, and don't have too much Valentine's Day candy!

Make a DIY stethoscope & hear your heartbeat

The stethoscope is one of the most common diagnostic tools for any medical professional. Healers have been listening to patients' bodies for many years, but the concept of the stethoscope didn't emerge until 1816. French physician Rene Laennec needed to listen to a patient's chest, so he rolled a long piece of paper

into a tube - and realized how much better he could hear using the device than by placing his ear directly against the patient's body. Laennec coined the term "stethoscope" with the Greek words stethos (chest) and skopein (to view or see). Since that time, stethoscopes have improved.

Make a very simple version of the tool using aquarium tubing, PVC pipe 90-degree elbows, and duct tape. How-to videos are available at <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/DOAc1mRzAc> and <https://www.tiktok.com/@gkatzchronicle/video/7199048522858237230>

If you build a stethoscope with children, you can ask them to describe the difference in the sound of their heart

while at rest versus after exercise. An organized version of the activity is here: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/VALENTINES-BIOLOGY-ACTIVITY-BUILD-A-STETHOSCOPE-BODY-SYSTEMS-ENRICHMENT-7598876>

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>

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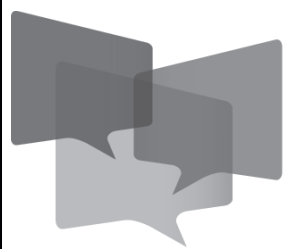
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Women seek to make 'impact' for AHA

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The teams get Impact points for certain activities, tasks and donations.

"The Woman of Impact campaign is a tribute to our community's commitment to heart health in women. The women who take on this challenge raise awareness about heart disease in women, and their fundraising helps the Go Red for Women movement invest in research and programs that can reduce heart disease in women," said Susan Browning, president of Vassar Brothers Medical Center and western regional president of Nuvance Health. Browning was the chair of the 2024 Go Red for Women campaign.

"I'm incredibly honored to be a nominee," said Pietras. "Knowing that someone saw my passion and commitment and felt I was worthy of this nomination means a lot."

"I often wondered what it would be like to win Publisher's Clearing House," said Visbeck. She recalled two leaders of the American Heart Association coming to tell her the news that she won with heart balloons and flowers.

"I cried. They presented me with a video from my team," she said.

This cause is very personal to Pietras, she said. She has a deep passion for helping others.

"I truly believe education saves lives. If what I'm doing here will play a role in spreading awareness and empowering women to take control of their heart health, then I have already won in my book," noted Pietras.

There have been some enhancements for this year's Woman of Impact. There is now an app one can download.

"Winning this title isn't just about recognition, it's about responsibility. I would continue to do my part in educating women about heart health, advocating better access to care, and supporting research initiatives. I also hope to inspire others to use their voices by sharing their own stories or supporting this cause in their communities," remarked Pietras.

Woman of Impact funding begins on Feb. 7.

"We're just about to get this 9-week journey started, but within my team and other nominees, it's shown the power of community and the impact we can have when we come together. The most important thing for me is empowering women to take care of their heart health and live longer, healthier lives," Pietras said.

For more information, visit https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/?fr_id=11846&pg=entry.

Skilled Trades Fairs set

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is teaming up with the Arlington Central School District to host a Skilled Trades Fair, designed to connect students and young adults with a wide range of career opportunities available in the Hudson Valley. The event will bring together representatives from various trades to provide insights, answer questions, and share information about rewarding career paths in fields like construction, electrical work, plumbing, and more.

This free event, open to the public and students from all Dutchess County school districts, will take place on Thursday, March 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Arlington High School. No RSVP is required to attend.

"Every student deserves the chance to explore a career path that suits their unique interests and strengths," said Serino. "The Hudson Valley has a wealth of opportunities in the skilled trades, and this fair is all about giving our students the tools and knowledge they need to plan for a successful future."

Phil Benante, Ed.D., Arlington Superintendent of Schools, said, "Arlington is thrilled to host this Skilled Trades Fair with County Executive Sue Serino, as it provides an invaluable opportunity for students to explore the diverse and rewarding careers within the skilled trades. By connecting students with industry professionals, we are not only expanding their career possibilities but

also helping to shape the future workforce and community. We look forward to welcoming the Dutchess County community to Arlington High School on March 6."

Local businesses and trade organizations interested in showcasing their opportunities at the fair are encouraged to register online or contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office at (845) 486-2000 or CountyExec@dutchessny.gov. There is no fee to participate; however, space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register online at dutchessny.gov/TradesFair.

A second Skilled Trades Fair has been scheduled for Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Roy C. Ketcham High School in the Town of Wappinger in partnership with the Wappingers Central School District. Register to participate in this event online at dutchessny.gov/RCKTradesFair.

Participating businesses will have a unique opportunity to engage with motivated students and young adults eager to explore careers in their trades.

Serino's Skilled Trades Fairs are popular annual events, with hundreds of attendees at each event.

For more information or questions about attending or participating, contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office at (845) 486-2000 or CountyExecutive@dutchessny.gov.

Dyson Foundation selects Hudson River Housing, RUPCO for grant funding

Hudson River Housing Inc., and RUPCO, Inc., are honored to be selected by the Dyson Foundation as recipients of \$500,000 each in grant funding to support affordable housing pre-development expenses. This \$1 million total community investment highlights the Dyson Foundation's commitment to addressing the housing crisis as it offers an innovative solution to accelerate the progress of affordable housing development projects in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The path to affordable housing development begins long before construction in what is termed the "pre-development phase" where costs such as site surveys, environmental assessments, and architectural plans must be covered. The ability for a developer to cover these expenses often determines whether or not a project can move forward into the next phase. Without access to flexible funding, opportunities to advance housing projects are often delayed or lost completely.

"These grants will pave the way to new development projects and greater housing stability in the region," commented Christa Hines, President and CEO of Hudson River Housing. "This innovative funding from the Dyson Foundation is setting the stage for a powerful response to the housing crisis."

With these grants, Hudson River Housing and RUPCO will increase their capacity to advance multiple housing projects simultaneously and expedite the development process to see more projects to completion annually. With this collaborative effort, the Dyson Foundation, Hudson River Housing, and RUPCO are laying the groundwork for future development to ensure residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley have ample access to safe and affordable housing in the years to come.

"This helps us not just to build homes – we're building hope and opportunity," adds Christa Hines. "Words cannot describe what this investment will mean to our work and communities we proudly serve."

"With the Dyson Foundation's visionary grants, we are breaking down barriers that too often halt progress before it begins," said Kevin O'Connor, CEO of RUPCO. "These funds will empower us to move housing projects forward with greater speed and impact, creating vibrant communities and ensuring more families in the Mid-Hudson Valley have access to the homes they deserve."

For more information about the Affordable Housing Pre-Development Fund, please see the media contacts above.



One of 2025's Woman of Impact nominees is Kristen Pietras, inset. Dora Visbeck, above, was last year's Woman of Impact in the Hudson Valley. Visbeck is Pietras' mother and will mentor all of this year's five nominees. *Courtesy photos American Heart Association*

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Publisher
Albert Osten

General Manager
Curtis Schmidt
cschmidt@sutchessnews.com

Editorial/Creative Director
Kate Goldsmith

Reporters
Kristine Coulter
Rich Thomaselli

Contributing Writers
Jim Donick
Stacey vanden Thoorn

Advertising Representative
Richard Wambach
845-417-5377
richardlw47@gmail.com

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Hinchey reaffirms NY's stance on protecting healthcare privacy

Editor's note: This statement from Sen. Michelle Hinchey was emailed to this paper on Friday, Jan. 31.

To the editor:

The fears that many of us have had for months have become a reality. Today, a doctor I know personally and who is a constituent was indicted by a Louisiana grand jury for doing her job—providing telehealth for someone in need. This is a deliberate effort to criminalize the private healthcare decisions of a patient.

The second we allow the United States legal system to be weaponized for ideological control over basic healthcare, we all lose. This indictment is about an anti-abortion state forcibly imposing its will and trying to dismantle the very core of healthcare accessibility and patient autonomy—and frankly, it's outrageous.

Let me make one thing abundantly clear: The Hudson Valley and the New York State Legislature will never allow politics to trample over science, medicine, and the fundamental rights of our people. It's no accident that New York has some of the strongest shield laws in the country, working to protect our medical providers who are doing their jobs against out-of-state investigations, prosecutions, professional discipline, and civil liability. I am also deeply thankful for Governor Hochul's commitment to using every tool at her disposal to safeguard our medical providers from these attacks.

We will continue to defend the rights of healthcare professionals and their patients from overreach, no matter where or who it comes from.

No thank you, Louisiana.

Sen. Michelle Hinchey
District 41

America is 'sliding from a democracy into an autocracy'

To the editor:

We've got to fight like hell or we're sliding from a democracy into an autocracy. Donald Trump, the master showman cunningly convinced many voters we were failing as a country when Joe Biden's economy was the envy of the world.

At the swearing in ceremony, Trump was surrounded by his millionaire and billionaire friends who pumped millions of dollars of lies into defeating Kamala Harris. Contrary to what Trump says, he won only by the skin of his teeth.

We now have a totally incompetent, unqualified secretary of defense. Only Republicans Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitch McConnell had the guts to vote no.

I can only hope more Republicans find their spines with future disastrous nominations. If not, we lose our democracy to King Trump.

Louise Trancynger
Poughkeepsie

GUEST COLUMN / OPINION

**Libraries matter now – more than ever;
Please support more funding from NYS**

By Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Executive Director
Mid-Hudson Library System

What if I told you there was an organization in every community across the Hudson Valley devoted to ensuring you and your neighbors have access to trustworthy information; high-speed broadband connections; quality education for people of all ages; expert digital navigators to help make sense of government forms, online job applications, and misinformation on social media? How about an organization that can get you just about any book ever published in the format you prefer? What if this same organization was also named by the US Surgeon General as key to fighting the loneliness epidemic in America?

That's right, folks, it's your good old neighborhood library - that faithful organization that served you when you were a kid and continues to serve the residents of your community.

Librarians are trusted, with 87% of Millennials and 74% of Baby Boomers agreeing that their library helps them find information that is trustworthy and reliable. Some 40 percent of Americans say they trust libraries and librarians a lot — more than twice the rate registered for local and national media and the highest figure across

eight information sources. Libraries are strongly valued, both for providing access to materials and resources and for promoting literacy and improving the overall quality of life; 94% of Americans say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community. They cultivate social capital in their communities, serving as community anchors that contribute to social cohesion and civic participation.

Libraries are key to thriving communities in the future. They are perfectly positioned to help with some of the toughest issues we face today.

- Libraries save families money. With household budgets that are stretched thin, borrowing books and ebooks, streaming movies, and attending great programs at your local library can add up to meaningful savings.

- Libraries help combat misinformation. With trained information professionals at every local library, we are the humans that help you decode what you're seeing online — whether it be content generated by artificial intelligence or figuring out if UAPs ("unidentified anomalous phenomena" which is the Air Force's new term for UFOs) are out to get us.

- Libraries build community. Libraries are one of the last places you can go where you don't need to buy something to enter

and hang out, where you can explore ideas that interest you and meet others seeking to understand the world around them. I'll even let you in on a little secret: we don't even mind if you don't love to read books; everyone learns differently, sometimes you learn a lot by just chatting with your neighbors!

All this to say, libraries matter. We're doing important work every day that makes a difference in people's lives. This state budget season, please let your state Senators and Assemblyperson know that the Governor's proposal for library aid does not go far enough to address the pressure inflation has put on the library network in New York State. Make sure they don't forget about us.

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Northern Dutchess News. To submit a column, write to us at creativeliving@sutchessnews.com



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LaGrange residents urged to sign up for Senior Socials

Senior citizens, and those approaching senior status, who reside in the Town of LaGrange should be on the lookout for quarterly Senior Socials planned by the Parks & Recreation Department. Residents age 55 and up are invited to attend these special events to enjoy great food, live music, conversation, giveaways and fun with friends and neighbors.

The first social of 2025 is planned for Wednesday, February 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Simply Gourmet on Route 55 in Poughkeepsie. The social is sponsored by the Pines at Poughkeepsie.

The afternoon features a buffet lunch of poached pear salad, pan roasted chicken breast, pan seared salmon, herb roasted potatoes, mixed baby vegetables, assorted cookies, brownies, soft drinks, coffee, and tea! An open bar will be available. Live music will be provided by Vito Petrocchio.

Parks and Recreation Director, Sandy

Washburn, commented on the importance of this gathering. "We have worked very hard to grow our outreach and engagement with our senior community. This is the beginning of events planned to socialize and mingle, in an effort to make friends, and connect in ways that we have not offered before. We want to use these socials to hear from this segment of our community and to learn what they are looking for and how we can better serve our seniors. We are truly looking forward to a fun time!"

Those interested in joining need to reside in the Town of LaGrange and should call the Parks & Recreation office ASAP at 845-452-1972 to register. There is a \$10 fee for the February social.

For detailed information on all of our events and programs, follow the LaGrange Parks and Recreation Facebook page, the town website at www.lagrangenyny.gov, or call to be added to the email list.



Popular musician Vito Petrocchio will perform at the Town of LaGrange Senior Social on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt

Sheriff Imperati announces Blue Envelope Program

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati, in conjunction with the New York State Sheriff's Association, announced that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office is adopting the Blue Envelope Program. This new initiative is an important safety program for drivers and other vehicle occupants, including children, with autism.

Sheriff Imperati said "There are many county families who are living with autism. Some of these residents drive our roads, so it is important for us as law enforcement to be able to better serve them. As law enforcement we should recognize that a driver's physical movements or verbal responses, which would normally be appropriate during a traffic stop, may be beyond an autistic driver's control. Without proper training and awareness there could be interactions where the officer could misinterpret an autistic driver's actions or their failure to appropriately respond to requests or directions. These are instances we want to avoid, helping to keep everyone safe."

To address this problem, law enforce-

ment agencies around the country have begun adopting the Blue Envelope Program. These agencies are encouraging drivers with autism to obtain a Blue Envelope to store all the relevant documents that a Deputy would request during a traffic stop – such as their license, registration, and insurance card. In this way, when the Deputy Sheriff sees the Blue Envelope, they are alerted to the driver's autism and can adjust their own actions or reactions to fit that situation.

The New York State Sheriffs' Association is promoting this program statewide and many Sheriff's Offices are rolling out the program, including the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Imperati asks that interested members of the community contact Sgt. Montanya at amontanya@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-3834 to learn more. The Sheriff is encouraging his Deputies and other law enforcement officers in the county to be aware of the significance of the Blue Envelope if one is presented by a driver during a traffic stop.

PROGRAM ON MONARCH BUTTERFLIES SET AT HYDE PARK CHURCH

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee (HPVEC) will sponsor an educational program on Monarch butterflies on Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m., at St. James' Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 4526 Albany Post Road (Route 9) in Hyde Park.

Guest speaker Maraleen Manos-Jones (a.k.a. "The Butterfly Lady") will present "Saving the Monarch Butterflies," sharing her recent experience of flying with the Monarch butterflies in Mexico.

Attendance is free, and registration is encouraged. Email hpvecboard@gmail.com to register.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Seed Swap set Feb. 8 at Morton Library

Dirty Gaia and Morton Seed Library will present a Seed Swap on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Bring seeds, trade seeds, adopt seeds. Sow seeds in milk jugs you can leave outside. Call the library at (845) 876-2903 for more information.

Take-out Chicken & Biscuits Dinner Feb. 8

Stanford Grange #808 will serve a Chicken & Biscuits Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include Chicken with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Biscuits, Peas, Waldorf Salad, and Tomato Soup Spice Cake for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. For reservations, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Children's Festival Feb. 8 in Rhinebeck

Rhinebeck Recreation will present a Children's Winter Festival on Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Starr Library Community Room (downstairs) from 1 to 4 p.m. The event promises an afternoon of winter fun; and if the weather permits, there will also be sledding (bring your own sleds). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Email recreation@rhinebeckny.gov for more information. Starr Library is at 68 West Market Street.

Pancake Breakfasts set at Rhinecliff Firehouse

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host Winter Pancake Breakfasts from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on the following Sundays: Feb. 9 and March 9. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat so bring your appetite and your friends. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for children age 5 and younger. Breakfasts will be served at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard in Rhinecliff). Proceeds will support the Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. For more information, call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail csaniewski1@gmail.com.

County to offer free rabies clinic Feb. 15

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with the Dutchess County SPCA (DCSPCA), will offer a free rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, Feb. 15, at the DCSPCA

Adoptions and Education Center located at 636 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park from 8 a.m. to noon. This clinic is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Advance registration is required; registration opens on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at DCSPCA.org or by calling the DCSPCA at (845) 452-7722, extension 425.

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

Soup Sales to benefit Rhinebeck Grange

It's time for Winter Soup Sales in Rhinecliff, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your calendar for the following Thursdays: Feb. 20 and March 20. The cost is \$10 per quart (two pint-size containers). Take-out only. Pick up at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard Drive, Rhinecliff, at the side door on Orchard Drive, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New: Pick up also available at Morton Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to be sent the soup choices for each month and to pre-order online. Proceeds support the Rhinebeck Grange.

For more information, contact Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488, JoBaer2@gmail.com.

PV Rec to host 'Beauty & The Beast' Movie Night Feb. 21

Pleasant Valley Recreation will present "Beauty & The Beast" Movie Night on Friday, Feb. 21. Come dressed as your favorite prince or princess and enjoy a classic movie that's sure to bring joy and wonder, along with a special visit from a real-life princess from 6 to 6:40 p.m., so be sure to come on time. Bring your tiaras, capes, and crowns, and let the enchantment begin!

This is a free event, but registration is required at pvrec.com. Email pvrecreation@pleasantvalley-ny.gov or call (845) 635-1111, ext. 203 for more information.

Rhinebeck Garden Club meeting set Feb. 26

The Rhinebeck Garden Club's next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. The program, "From Drab to Fab!

How to Take your Grocery Bouquet or Flowers to the Next Level," will be presented by Jay Bell, a floral designer for 25 years in NYC and a member of the Rhinebeck Garden Club. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcomed.

Every year the Rhinebeck Garden Club puts together a series of meetings, field trips and events. Most meetings are open to the public, but visitors are asked to join after attending two meetings. For information, call Sue at (845) 797-3226 or logon to <https://www.facebook.com/p/Rhinebeck-Garden-Club-100064834505072/>

Hyde Park Rotary sets comedy fundraiser Feb. 28

Hyde Park Rotary will present a family-friendly Comedy Night on Friday, Feb. 28, at Coppola's of Hyde Park. Featured performers are Matt Pena (stand-up comedian, producer and storyteller) and Gabe Mollica (comedian, writer, and star of the Off-Broadway hit "Solo: A Show About Friendship," featured on "This American Life").

Dinner (cash bar) and show are at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$68 per person at the door. Checks should be made to Hyde Park Rotary Foundation, Inc. Comedy Night is a fundraiser to benefit Rotary Projects including FDR Honors Dinner, Meals on Wheels, Literacy, Food Pantry, RYLA and SPCA. Snow date is Saturday, March 1.

More information is available by emailing Hydeparkrotary@gmail.com.

ONGOING

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

Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

The New to You Thrift Shop at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop is at 30 Benner Road in Red Hook by St. Christopher's School.



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New HV Regional Food Bank opening doors to volunteers

The Regional Food Bank Hudson Valley's state-of-the-art, \$25 million Distribution Center in Montgomery is opening opens bay doors to volunteers and partner agencies for the first time.

The new 50,000 square foot site will provide the Regional Food Bank four times more storage for dry, cold and frozen foods than the current warehouse in Cornwall-on-Hudson. The Food Bank will also be able to purchase more food from local growers and producers through the Nourish New York program to distribute to more than our 400 partnering agencies in the Hudson Valley and to local families. Direct access to highways will allow for more frequent distribution and easier access for partnering agencies to pick up food which is then delivered at the community level.

The Regional Food Bank serves 23 counties from the Hudson Valley to the Canadian Border. This new distribution center will serve Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. The Regional Food Bank provides more than 20 million pounds of food a year in the Hudson Valley.

Several volunteer organizations from throughout the Hudson Valley will be the first to pick up nutritious food from the new center. The Regional Food Bank expects to distribute four million more pounds of food, a 20% increase, with the new facility and has more than doubled their Hudson Valley workforce, with additional hires.

For information on the Regional Food Bank, visit regionalfoodbank.net.

Town of Poughkeepsie launches twice-monthly food pantry

Recognizing the urgent need to address food insecurity in the community, the Town of Poughkeepsie held its first food pantry recently at Town Hall, 1 Overocker Road. This will be an ongoing program through Dutchess Outreach's Farm Stand program, with funding provided by Assemblymember Didi Barrett.

"No New Yorker should ever have to decide between paying a bill or putting food on the table, so combating food insecurity here in the Hudson Valley has long been a passion and priority of mine," said Barrett. "Dutchess Outreach has worked for decades to feed hungry Dutchess County residents, and this new initiative will allow more of our neighbors to access fresh, locally sourced food."

"So many of our residents are hungry right now," said Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards. "The extreme cold strains household budgets and adds to the need for nutritious meals. I'm so grateful to the amazing team from Dutchess Outreach, our Town volunteers, and Assemblymember Barrett for making this possible."

Dutchess Outreach reports that in Dutchess County approximately 26,130 individuals suffer from food insecurity, a number that represents roughly 8.8% of the population and includes 4,590 children. Of those, 41% of individuals are above the eligibility limit for SNAP and other Nutrition Programs.

"Today was our first farm stand in collaboration with the Town of Poughkeepsie at Town Hall. Rebecca Edwards, our Town Supervisor was super amazing and advocated for us to be able to have this farm stand here," said Nyhisha Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement for Dutchess Outreach. "We had a turnout of over 60 people, we had over 20 volunteers...people were so happy and grateful to receive all of the food that we gave them. Our volunteers were amazing and I am just all warm and fuzzy inside knowing that we were able to be here in this space to be able to feed our community."

The Town Hall Farm Stand/Food Pantry will be open twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays, moving outside in warmer weather. The Town may experiment with other locations; information will be on the Town website. The next event will be Thursday, Feb. 13 starting at 9 a.m. until all the food is dispersed.

County Legislator Lisa Kaul (District 6) said of today's pantry, "Times are tough, and people have to make difficult decisions about what they can afford. Often people will forgo a meal to pay the rent or pay for gas. Many thanks to Supervisor Edwards and Dutchess Outreach for recognizing this immense need in our community and for hosting a farm stand at Town Hall today. No one should have to go to bed hungry."

NYS Comptroller report 'highlights the success' of DC's approach to addressing homelessness

A new report from the New York State Comptroller's Office highlights the success of Dutchess County's proactive approach to addressing homelessness, including street outreach, extensive case management and the most recent addition of two licensed social workers. The report, which examines homelessness trends across the state, showed the Poughkeepsie/Dutchess County Continuum of Care had the lowest rate of increase in homelessness in New York State, with an 11% rise compared to the statewide average increase of 113% for 2022 to 2024.

According to the report, neighboring areas, including Newburgh, Middletown/Orange County, Kingston/Ulster County, and Columbia/Greene Counties, saw significantly higher increases of 130%, 51% and 39% respectively, underscoring Dutchess County's success in mitigating the crisis.

The report is a testament to the work of the Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services' (DCFS) social welfare workers and case managers who work tirelessly to prevent homelessness and find housing solutions for those in need. DCFS took over case management at the PODS shelter in August from the former shelter operator, with an 8-person case management team who work with every guest to assess their needs and develop individualized independent living plans.

The County's latest efforts is the addition of the two licensed social workers, who began working in December 2024, further enhancing Dutchess County's commitment to providing critical support

to individuals experiencing homelessness. These skilled professionals are embedded with the DCFS team and bring extensive experience in harm reduction, street outreach, and working with unhoused populations. Together, the team offers mental health support, crisis intervention, and personalized care to address barriers to housing while helping to secure housing and benefits and promoting mental health and well-being through individual and group sessions.

Dutchess County's efforts have been multi-faceted to help individuals in need access temporary emergency housing and help work with them toward permanent housing. The addition of the social workers strengthens this network, enhancing the County's ability to support individuals in crisis while addressing the root causes of homelessness. The number of people housed at the PODS has declined 33% for December 2023 compared to December 2024.

Serino continued, "The work we're doing in Dutchess County is about more than just providing shelter — it's about ensuring that every individual has access to the services and support they need to rebuild their lives. The Comptroller's report reinforces the importance of our comprehensive approach, and we remain dedicated to expanding these efforts to serve our community better."

Individuals in need of housing can contact DCFS at (845) 486-3300 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, or should call 211 or local law enforcement for emergency placement after hours.



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Sip, Savor & Sweeten Valentine's Day with pairings at Millbrook Winery



Join the staff at Millbrook Winery for a Wine & Cookie pairing on Feb. 15 or a Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting. *Courtesy photo*

Celebrate love at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery with month-long events and gift-giving options for your sweet one!

Join the Winery's tasting experts and Crumble + Melt cookies for the inaugural Wine & Cookie pairing on Saturday, February 15. Wine and dine with your Valentine with a delightful assortment of cookies and sweet treats paired perfectly with Millbrook Winery's Proprietors Special Reserve wines. Seating is limited, reservations are highly recommended.

Don't have a sweet tooth? Enjoy a Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting! Guests can indulge in Millbrook's exceptional wines expertly paired with cheese and charcuterie by Boards by Kae and one of Millbrook's tasting guides, happening select week-ends throughout February. The experts will lead the tasting and discussion on the unique flavor profiles of these wines and

their perfect cheese and charcuterie pairings.

While you're at the winery, stop and browse the selection of wine varietals, olive oil and other goodies to sweeten your Valentine's Day dinner. Just in time for the season of love, Millbrook Winery's custom wine bottle label orders are open once again – a perfect way to create a personalized gift for your Valentine. Choose from Millbrook's award-winning varietals and work with the designer to create a custom design for a one-of-a-kind keepsake.

Seats to the Wine & Cookie pairing and Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting are expected to sell out. Visit millbrookwine.com to purchase your tickets today. Reach out to SHudson@millwine.com to design your own custom label or call 845.677.8383 ext. 17.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS
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Red Cross: Give blood or platelets now

The American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood or platelets now to help protect the blood supply from the ongoing impact of severe winter weather and wildfires. Donors of all blood types – particularly type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets – are needed to help save lives this month.

As dangerous snow and ice continue to sweep across the country, and wildfires in Southern California continue to burn and impact air quality, Red Cross blood drive cancellations have grown into the hundreds. Collectively, this has resulted in more than 12,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations in January.

Where it is safe to do so, donors are asked to book a time to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

All who come to give through Feb. 28 will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities COLUMBIA

Chatham: 2/12/2025: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Chatham Firehouse, 10 Hoffman Street
Hudson: 2/6/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry Howard Ave.

DUTCHESS

Beacon: 2/11/2025: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Veterans Building, 413 Main St
Hyde Park: 2/1/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hyde Park Elementary School, 4327 Albany Post Rd
Millbrook: 2/11/2025: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front St
Poughkeepsie: 2/13/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dutchess Community College - Dutchess Hall, 53 Pendell Rd
Poughkeepsie: 2/14/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road
Wappingers Falls: 2/8/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Al Noor Islamic School, 125 All Angels Hill Rd
Wappingers Falls: 2/11/2025: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Grace Bible Church, 158 Myers Corners Rd

GREENE

Coxsackie: 2/10/2025: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Coxsackie Athens High School, 24 Sunset Blvd

ORANGE

Goshen: 2/7/2025: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Goshen Christian Reformed Church, 2448 NY-17A
Greenwood Lake: 2/11/2025: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., B'nai Torah Shul, 14 Lakes Rd
Monroe: 2/15/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd.

SULLIVAN

Eldred: 2/12/2025: 2:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Eldred High School, 600 Route 55
Grahamsville: 2/14/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tri-Valley High School, 34 Moore Hill Road
Liberty: 2/6/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Liberty Fire Department, 256 Sprague Avenue
Wurtsboro: 2/12/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 180 Sullivan Street

ULSTER

Cottkill: 2/8/2025: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Marbletown Town Hall, 1925 Lucas Ave Ext
Highland: 2/14/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Highland Hose Company 1, 25 Milton Ave
Kingston: 2/10/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

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New Dover substation hits key construction milestone to strengthen state's electric grid

Construction of the new electric substation in the Town of Dover reached a major milestone in recent weeks with the logistically complex delivery of three large and critically important pieces of equipment.

When completed in 2025, Dover Station, being developed by New York Transco off State Route 22 in the town, will play an important role in expanding and improving New York State's electric transmission system, adding more reliability, increasing operational capability, and improving access to clean energy for customers across the State.

Electric transmission lines carry electricity long distances, from where it is generated to the localized delivery systems that bring it into homes and businesses. Substations along the transmission route increase or decrease the voltage of the electricity as needed along the way.

"The Dover Station Project is an important piece of the state's electric transmission build-out to better serve customers," said Vic Mullin, President of New York Transco. "This latest logistics success of complex equipment delivery is yet another example of how proper planning, coordination with state and local authorities and utilities, and expert execution comes together in the right way to keep core infrastructure projects on

schedule."

In three separate deliveries in late November and early January, New York Transco received two specialized transformers called phase angle regulators (PARs), which will play critical roles in ensuring proper functionality of the Dover Station, as well as a control unit.

PARs are used to control the flow of power on a transmission line. They serve almost a valve-like function, helping control both voltage and flow to ensure optimization of the system. Approximately a dozen PAR facilities exist across the State.

The PARs, each measuring approximately 40-feet by 12-feet by 16-feet and weighing nearly 300 tons, were first transported up the Hudson River by barge to Hudson, NY, and then delivered to the substation site by 170-foot-long trucks with a New York State Police escort.

The truck transport from Hudson to Dover was a carefully coordinated journey timed to occur over multiple evenings and early mornings on primarily County and state-owned roads thereby minimizing impacts on local traffic and ensuring the continued safety of the traveling public.

"We appreciate the dedication of the men and women that are bringing the Dover Station to life and thank the Town of Dover, Dutchess County, New York



A specialized transformer called a phase angle regulator (PAR) is pictured on an oversized transport truck at the site of a new electric substation in the Town of Dover. *Courtesy photo*

State Department of Transportation, the New York State Police, and area utilities, residents and businesses for continuing to work with us as we advance construction of this critical infrastructure," Mr. Mullin said. "We look forward to additional large equipment deliveries in 2025 that will further build out this critical facility."

Construction of Dover Station began in summer 2024, leveraging expertise from many union halls, including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1249, and is anticipated for completion in summer 2025. It is a complement to the New York Energy Solution (NYES), a recent 54-mile transmission line and station mod-

ernization project in the Hudson Valley that New York Transco built and put in-service in 2023, six months ahead of schedule and on-budget.

"IBEW has been working with New York Transco for years safely constructing these vital energy projects to benefit New York's electric grid," said Mark Lawrence, Business Manager of IBEW Local 1249. "Dover Station is a reflection of New York State's commitment to a 21st Century energy network that will meet our growing electric demand in a responsible, comprehensive and innovative way."

To learn more about the Dover Station, visit nytransco.com/dover.

County requests residents' participation in transportation survey

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is developing a Safety Action Plan that will identify priority locations and strategies to improve transportation safety in Dutchess County.

To ensure that the Safety Action Plan reflects the needs of the community, the DCTC has created an online Transportation Safety Survey and an

Interactive Safety Map. These resources are available in both English and Spanish on the Plan webpage: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCSAP>

The survey will be used to gather feedback from the community to help inform the Safety Action Plan. Residents are asked to take a moment and share their thoughts.

VALENTINE'S DAY MENU

FIRE SIDE BBQ & GRILL

<p>SOUP Shrimp Bisque \$7.95</p> <p>APPETIZER Cocktail shrimp Chilled jumbo shrimp served with home made cocktail sauce \$15.95</p> <p>SANDWICH BBQ Brisket Quesadilla Sliced smoked BBQ brisket with melted cheddar jack cheese *Choice of Side* \$15.95</p> <p>ENTREES T-Bone 16oz grilled T-bone steak *choice of 2 sides* \$35.95</p> <p>Firecracker Caesar salad 8oz salmon filet in our delicious Firecracker sauce on a bed of crispy romaine, home made croutons and shaved parmesan. Tossed in a creamy caesar dressing \$21.95</p> <p>DESSERT Red velvet cake \$8.95</p>	<p>Prime Rib Available!!!</p> <p>Fried ravioli Fried ricotta filled raviolis served with marinara sauce for dipping \$14.95</p> <p>Shrimp Tuscana Shrimp in a garlic and oil sauce with sundred tomatoes and broccoll over linguini \$25.95</p> <p>Seafood Trio Pan seared scallops, crab stuffed shrimp, and a 8oz lobster tail in a scampi sauce over rice and sauteed spinach \$31.95</p>	<p>ENTREES 16oz grilled T-bone steak *choice of 2 sides* \$35.95</p>
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Pop-up Winter Gallery @ Harker House

**Open Saturdays & Sundays Noon to 5pm
February 8 to March 29, 2025**



**Opening Reception:
Saturday February 8th 4 to 7pm**

**Closing Event:
Saturday March 29th 4 to 7pm**

Local Artists:
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Michael Moran & Celia Gibson Moran, furniture makers
Richard Orient, painter & sculptor
Alison Owen, painter & ceramist
Marcie Paper, painter

**Pop-up Winter Gallery @ Harker House Wine & Spirits
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Northern Dutchess Symphony to present the movie music of “Disney and Zimmer”

Join Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) for a blockbuster evening of Disney and Hans Zimmer movie favorites. This family-friendly concert will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America, located at 1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park. A special family package is available for this concert: \$40 for one adult and two students.

Step into a world of musical enchantment with melodies from Disney classics including “The Little Mermaid,” “Mary Poppins,” “Aladdin,” and “Pirates of the Caribbean” alongside iconic movie scores from “Gladiator,” “Man of Steel,” and “Interstellar” by Hans Zimmer (more about the composer, below).

Broadway guest vocalist Lindsay O’Neil will join the orchestra for the beloved “Part of Your World” from “The Little Mermaid” and “Tale as Old as Time” from “Beauty and the Beast.” O’Neil is a seasoned performer with an impressive career spanning Broadway, Off-Broadway, The Metropolitan Opera, and National Tours. Her notable credits include The Phantom of the Opera, Cats, and A Christmas Story: The Musical. She appears on numerous recordings/cast albums and can be seen on Apple TV and Broadway Plus.

In addition to being an active performer, Lindsay O’Neil is a passionate arts educator. She teaches voice both collegiately and privately where she resides in the Hudson Valley. O’Neil holds a masters and bachelors degree in vocal performance from Manhattan School of Music and Eastman School of Music, respectively, and is a member of Actor’s Equity Association.

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 sea-

son, 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.

For more details about the concert and to purchase tickets, visit www.ndsorches.org or call (845) 635-0877.

About Hans Zimmer

Hans Zimmer was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1957. His father was a Jewish survivor of WW II, an engineer and an inventor. Zimmer’s mom was a talented musician and mother. So far, his biography looks like those of many famous composers. But, in his own words: “My formal training was two weeks of piano lessons. I was thrown out of eight schools. But I joined a band. I am self-taught. But I’ve always heard music in my head. And I’m a child of the 20th century; computers came in very handy.”

While the technique and traditional discipline required for classical music had no appeal for Zimmer, invention, creation and experimentation were high on his list. He recalls the time he added a chainsaw to the family piano for particular sound synthesis. His mom, the musician, was horrified. His dad, the inventor, was duly impressed.

Not content with the usual electronic synthesizers used by composers in the 1980s, Zimmer quickly moved on to writing music for samplers and virtual instruments where digital technology is deployed to create an orchestral sound on a single computer. Gone overnight, it seemed, were the days where a director would hear their score for the first time with hundreds of musicians at the recording studio. For “Gladiator,” director Ridley Scott and editor Pietro Scalia moved into Zimmer’s music studio to cut the film while Zimmer composed next

door. Ideas were then shared, tested, and debated in real time.

Zimmer’s writing for “Man of Steel” takes a different approach to the Superman story than John Williams used for “Superman: The Movie.” The latter film is largely optimistic in tone, light-hearted, and includes touches of humor. “Man of Steel” deals more with the philosophical questions of being an outsider. Desperately wanting to fit in with the rest of society, Superman is continually faced with a dilemma: if he reveals his powers to the people of the world, then he’ll no longer be considered one of them. But if he is to retain his “fit” with society, then he can no longer rescue anyone with the help of his powers.

In contrast to John William’s “Superman” score, Zimmer’s score does not make use of leitmotifs (a short snippet of melody that represents a specific character, place or object). Zimmer’s themes are descriptive of emotions and reflect Superman’s conflicted relationship with his two fathers Jor-El (his father on Krypton) and Jonathan Kent (his father on earth).

Zimmer nearly turned down the “Pirates of the Caribbean” stories noting that the composer didn’t think a movie about pirates would be anything special. It wasn’t until filming was complete and the first few edits put together that he finally agreed to get on board. At that



Broadway vocalist Lindsay O’Neil will perform with the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Feb. 8. *Courtesy photo*

point, he only had three weeks to complete the score. Though this should have been a challenge, Zimmer managed to write the major themes of Pirates of the Caribbean in one night.



The Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kathleen Beckmann. *Courtesy photo*

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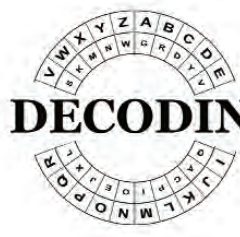
DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 18 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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The Honorable Judge

By Aidan Chisamore

Often in the study of history, figures emerge who capture the imagination of communities long after they have passed. One ledger book held in the Dutchess County Historical Society's Archives and Special Collections reminds us of one such individual who, over 100 years after his death, continued to intrigue local writers, despite little being known about his life. The book recounts the work of a judge in Northeastern Dutchess, detailing the Revolutionary War veteran's career in civil office. Written between 1798 and 1814, the ledger is the personal record of Judge Jesse Thompson (1757-1833) who served both as a state legislator—representing the County—and as a Justice of the Peace.

Born to Enos and Sarah Thompson in February of 1757, Jesse Thompson was a native of Dutchess County. His family settled in the North East Precinct in what is now Milan and Pine Plains. He became an influential community member, running for public office and helping to fund public institutions such as the local school and library. One historian described him as "a prominent man in old 'North East Town' ... He was a patriot in the revolution, and the war over a leading man as a citizen." The emphasis on his military service is not uncommon; most accounts of the Judge's early life are dominated by his involvement in the Revolutionary War. These narratives suggest that he was guided by "ardent patriotism" and a "hatred [of] oppression." These qualities were not only reserved for his time in the war, however. They were equally attributed to his work as a civil official.

It is important to understand Thompson's role in the Revolution. He received a military warrant in June of 1775. Despite the praise he later received, he never finished a full tour, being discharged in January of 1776. During his time in the infantry, Thompson served as a Lieutenant in the 4th New York Regiment (Dutchess County) under Captain Rufus Herrick. He was sent to Fort Ticonderoga, where his company joined the forces mustered under General Phillip Schuyler's Northern Division.

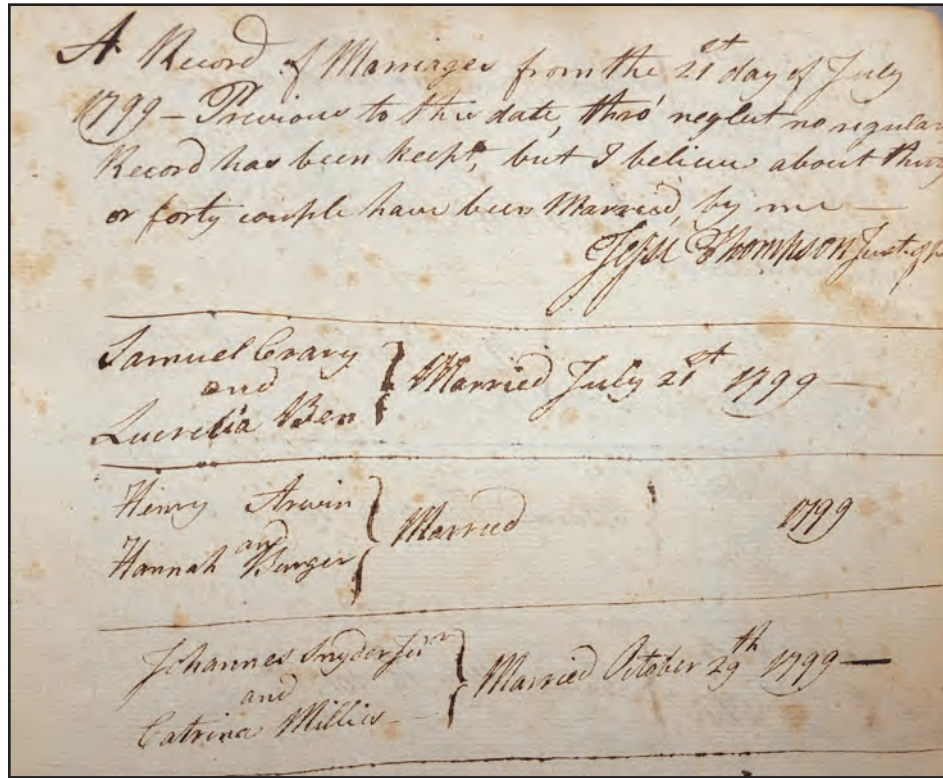
The historian Isaac Hunting tried to fill in some gaps in Thompson's military service. Hunting claimed to work both with Thompson's ledger book (now held at DCHS) and the judge's diaries. The whereabouts of the diaries is unknown, but Hunting relates that they reveal a more personal account of the war. On November 17, 1775, Schuyler ordered the Lieutenant to lead a mission to Canada to purchase horses. The purported journey took six weeks through the

"snow and cold," ending with Thompson rejoining the army in Albany on the 26th of December. Hunting quotes Thompson's journal, describing the return, "Did my business with the General and at three o'clock set out for home on foot." While compelling, the absence of these journals calls into question Thompson's involvement in the assignment.

This story about Thompson's mission became an important part of the other authors' narratives surrounding the Judge. While there was an envoy sent to purchase horses, Schuyler's official orders were sent to "Lieutenant Thomas" — another member of the 4th regiment — not to Thompson. This inconsistency does not wholly discount the story, but it reminds us of the influence of personal legends in historical narratives. This narrative, whether true or false, reinforced the character of Thompson in later written works.

Little is known about Thompson in the following decades, but certainly, he studied and began to practice law. During this time he was appointed associate justice, and in 1793 he was noted as clerk for the North East Precinct. At the end of the decade, he took on the role of Justice of the Peace. Rooted in the medieval English legal system, the Justice of the Peace served an important role in colonial and early federal New York. In the early history of the state, justices were chosen from the landed gentry. Tax records show that Thompson was no exception, owning a large farm on the border of what is now the towns of Pine Plains and Stanford. Justices of the Peace served many roles, overseeing both judicial and administrative tasks. This included activities such as issuing military warrants, presiding in civil cases, and certifying marriages.

Returning to the ledger book, we begin to understand how Thompson's role as a Justice of the Peace helped integrate him into the historical narrative. The first 121 pages detail dozens of court cases Thompson oversaw with notes about their outcomes and arguments. Many of the original warrants from these cases are included in the book, placed between pages. His record of marriages (pictured, above) also serves as an important source both about the author and the community he served. In his own words, Thompson expressed the importance of his work, "previous to this date thro neglect no regular record has been kept." At first glance, this list provides only some



First page of the marriage records contained in the Judge Jesse Thompson Ledger held in the DCHS Archives and Special Collections.

helpful genealogical data. However, it is repeatedly used by authors like Hunting, to reiterate the story of Thompson, inserting him into the narratives of other members of his community.

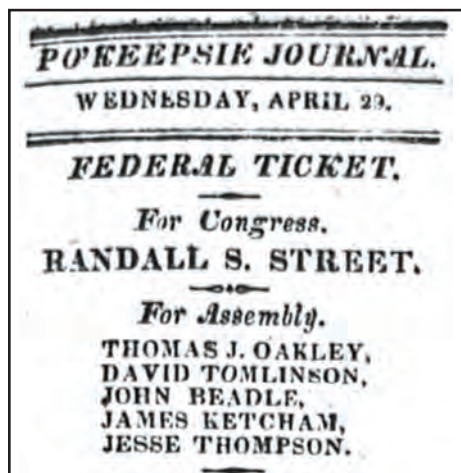
In addition to his judicial duties, the Judge repeatedly represented the County in the New York State Assembly. His tenure stretched six sessions of the state legislature including 1796, 1796-1797, 1798, 1808-1809, 1814, and 1819. (pictured, below) He ran under the Federalist ticket, witnessing the peak and subsequent decline of the party's influence on American politics. Championed by political figures like Alexander Hamilton, the Federalist Party argued for the development of a strong federal government, supporting policies like the National Bank and judicial reform. The most poignant expression of Thompson's party allegiance came relatively late in his career with his opposition to the War of 1812. Broadly speaking, Federalists opposed the war on economic grounds. They challenged the militarist foreign policy of the Democratic-Republican party ("War Hawks"). By the beginning of 1812, local newspapers were replete with Thompson's disapproval of the war. In his campaign under the "Peace Ticket," he claimed to be one of the "Friends of Liberty, Peace, and Commerce." He won

the election in 1813, resuming his seat in the Assembly the following year.

After his judicial career, Thompson departed from Dutchess County. Around 1815 the judge moved to Fleming, Cayuga County, New York, where his two daughters were living. He remained there until he died in the 1830s. Despite this move, his profound effect on the county remained. During the following century, Thompson continued to be an important figure in Northeastern Dutchess, captivating historical writers well into the twentieth century. The continued reprinting of his obituary on important occasions is particularly noteworthy.

While he no longer maintains the same presence in historical memory, his narrative reliance well into the twentieth century is important to note. It allows us to better understand the perception of history at a certain point in time that continues to influence what we know about Judge Thompson and how we read his ledger book.

Aidan Chisamore is a recent addition to the DCHS staff. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org.



Above: Advertisement from the Poughkeepsie Journal April 29, 1818, showing Jesse Thompson on the Federalist ticket. Image courtesy of Newspapers.com.

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Murder Cafe presents a Valentine's show 'to die for' throughout February

Love and mystery are in the air at Murder Cafe's 27th annual Valentine's-themed murder mystery dinner, with performances set Feb. 7-23. Murder Cafe promises "a hilarious night of interactive dinner theater" at venues around the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

Not your average tale of star-crossed lovers, "Rodney and Juliet's Wedding" tells the story of happy couple Rodney Woodbead and Juliet Hogg, whose families can't get along despite the couple's approaching nuptials. The Woodbeads see the Hoggs as a bunch of ignorant mountaineers, and the Hoggs think the Woodbeads are a bunch of stuck-up snobs.

Just as the pair plans to convince the others to put their differences aside, a murder occurs on the day of the wedding; and audience members are invited as wedding guests to help Detective Little solve the case. Will the lovebirds still get hitched? Does love really conquer all?

Co-directed and written by stand-up comic David Britton and actor Tom Roberts, and performed by top character actors, the performance includes a three-course dinner and arrives just in time for the spirit of Valentine's Day.

Co-director Tom Roberts says: "If you thought your wedding was one you'd never forget, just wait for Rodney and

Juliet's wedding. It'll leave you speechless and falling in love with your Valentine!"

Murder Café founder Frank Marquette adds: "The show provides a fun, interactive, and unique way to treat your loved one or have a night out with friends; our talented cast and stunning venues create the perfect setting for a memorable event."

Here's where you can catch "Rodney and Juliet's Wedding":

Friday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m.: Historic Hotel Broadalbin, Broadalbin, NY

Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m.: Old Drivers Inn, Dover Plains

Friday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.: Restaurant Six at Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction

Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.: Howland Cultural Center, Beacon

Sunday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m.: Hudson House Distillery, West Park, NY

Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.: The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston

Saturday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.: The Eldred Preserve, Eldred, NY

Tickets available at MurderCafe.net

Murder Café's events begin as soon as guests enter the room, greeted by actors in-character. The show is then broken into four scenes in between dinner courses.

This is not done in the fashion of a "Clue" game style, but as an interactive, crowd-engaging performance with prizes available for audience members.

For nearly three decades, Murder Café has entertained nearly 100,000 people in seven states and two countries. Recently, co-founder Frank Marquette released an autobiography to tell the tale from behind the scenes. "The True Story of Murder Café: How One Family's Plunge into Mystery Dinner Theater Made the World a Better Place" (Troy Book Makers, \$20) is available for purchase through Amazon and several regional booksellers (including Barnes & Noble in Kingston, Inquiring Minds in New Paltz, Oblong Books in Rhinebeck, and more).

The book tells the story of life behind the curtain: how Murder Café shaped Marquette's career, family, and life itself.



Murder Cafe celebrates the season of love with "Rodney and Juliet's Wedding," a Valentine's-themed murder mystery dinner. *Courtesy photo*

County Players to present the comedy 'Into the Breeches' Feb. 7-22

County Players, one of the longest-running community theater companies in the area, will present the Comedy "Into the Breeches" by George Brant. This Main Stage production is directed by Christine Crawfis and opens Friday, Feb. 7, with performances scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8 p.m.; with matinees on Sunday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m., at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 West Main St. in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

That time-honored adage, "The Show Must Go On," takes on new meaning in this endearing and moving comedy set at a small theater in Wappingers Falls, NY in 1942. With the actors and director off

at war, a group of passionate women face the daunting challenge of preserving the theater's reputation for mounting outstanding Shakespearean productions. Crammed with laughs and an abundance of visual humor, their fierce determination and unbridled enthusiasm will have audiences cheering as they prove that art and community triumph, even in times of peril.

The production features the local talents of Madison Anthony, Deborah Coconis, Kit Colbourn, Paul Coleman, Dylan Parkin, Kiara Marie Melendez Jemmott, Janet Nurre, and Steavie Reed.

Of this production, director Crawfis says, "Great theatre takes us on a journey of reflection and provocation, while

embracing the value of entertainment. 'Into the Breeches' has all these elements. It's a clever, touching play celebrating women. George Brant has triangulated a theatrical celebration, a paean to women, and an ode to inclusivity, and casts them against the backdrop of the Second World War."

Individual tickets are available online in advance of the performance dates at www.countyplayers.org. Adult: \$26, Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door), and Children under 12: \$24. The Box Office is open for in-person

ticket sales one hour before performance time. COVID-19 Policy: Note that proof of vaccination is no longer required; masks are optional.

Hudson Valley Credit Union proudly sponsors County Players' 67th Season. This production of "Into The Breeches" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com.

Accessibility: If one requires wheelchair accessibility, contact the Box Office at (845) 298-1491.



The cast of "Into the Breeches," opening this Friday at County Players Falls Theatre in Wappingers Falls. *Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography*



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'Dosa Grill' arrives in Wappingers Falls; Grand opening under way with fine Indian cuisine

By Curtis Schmidt

Raj Kumar is bringing his famed "Dosa Grill," with fine Northern and Southern Indian and Indo-Chinese cuisines, to the Hudson Valley and Wappingers Falls.

Located in the Hannaford Plaza at 1490 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, the new "Dosa Grill" is now open and features Grand Opening specials, a daily lunch buffet and even an Indian Bakery selling Indian sweets and desserts.

The new location joins Raj's famous group of restaurants in Albany, Binghamton, Utica, Syracuse and Baldwinsville.

Known for providing the best ingredients and overall "yummy foods," Dosa Grill is your go-to destination for premium Indian cuisine, featuring a diverse menu that showcases the authentic flavors of India.

"Every dish is crafted with the utmost care, using only the freshest ingredients to ensure a delightful dining experience," says Raj. "From classic dosas to vibrant curries, each plate is a celebration of Indian culinary traditions."

Dosa Grill specializes in truly authentic dishes that are bound to tickle your taste buds!

"You know, Indian cuisine is super popular worldwide, and it's not hard to see why," says Raj. "It has this unique charm – once you try it, you'll be blown away by all the rich tastes and flavors. One thing you'll notice right off the bat is the amazing variety of spices used in Indian cooking. The magic of Indian food really lies in how we use those spices. It's all about the right techniques—like roasting or frying them whole or grinding them into a paste. This way, you can unlock different flavors from the same spice. Trust me, every dish tells a deli-



Chef Michael Joseph prepares meals in the Dosa Grill kitchen. He concentrates on the "real homemade flavor" of Indian dishes and combining spices to unlock different and enticing flavors. (Left) From left at the new Dosa Grill in Wappingers Falls are Chef Michael Joseph, owner Raj Kumar, manager Sharat Rodrigues and head waiter Ivo Fernandes. Photos by Curtis Schmidt



cious story!"

And speaking of stories, Raj has a great story of his own with his group of restaurants.

He came to America in 1992 after spending several years cooking in his home country of India. He started out working at Neelam Indian Restaurant in Barclay Heights, NJ and advanced to the role of main chef.

He honed his cooking and management skills for the next seven years before moving to the Utica/New Hartford area of upstate New York where he opened the Minar Indian Restaurant. After a successful start there, he opened similar restaurants in Syracuse and Albany – and he has been growing the Dosa Grill group ever since.

Raj and Chef Michael Joseph concentrate on "the pure homemade flavor" of dishes such as Crab Masala, Crab Curry, Tandoori Bread and Clay Oven specialties, plus Chicken, Seafood, Lamb & Goat and a great list of vegetarian dishes.

Here are Chef Michael's favorites in each category.

Appetizers – Vegetable Spring Rolls, Vegetable Samosa, Paneer Pakora and Fish Fry.

Soups – Chicken, Shrimp, Tomato, Mulgtani and Rasam (spicy).

Indo-Chinese – Vegetable Manchurian, Special Chicken Chili Masala and Schezwan Fried Rice.

Lamb & Goat – Lamb Curry, Lamb Tikka Masala and Goat Curry.

Seafood – Goan Fish Curry, Fish Tikka Masala, Fish Chettinad Curry and Lobster Curry.

Vegetarian – Special Aloo Gobi Masala, Malai Kofta, Paneer Tikka Masala and Methi Malai Matar.

Tandoori Bread – Sesame Seed Naan, Garlic Naan, Aloo Paratha, Chili Naan and Chocolate Chip Naan.

Biryanis (Rice specialties) – Chicken Dum, Shrimp and Goat Biryani.

Desserts – Mysore Masala Dosa, Spring Masala Dosa, Palak Paneer Dosa and Madu Vada.

For more information and to order online, visit dosagrillwappinger.com/ or call 845-366-3550 or 845-366-3551.

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'Senior Park Prints' returns for older adults in Dutchess

The annual Senior Park Prints series art class for beginners age 60 and up is about to get under way, co-hosted by the Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Parks.

If you're a Dutchess County older adult (60+) who's looking to develop a new skill, register for one of the following free classes:

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:45 a.m., Red Hook OFA Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St., Red Hook;

Tuesday, March 18, 2 p.m., Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie;

Thursday, April 8, 2 p.m., Millerton Northeast Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton;

Thursday, April 17, 2 p.m., East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82, Hopewell Junction.

Space is limited to 12 registered older adults per event, one class per registrant. Call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555 to register.

All art supplies will be provided, and each artist can take home their new masterpiece after class.



Pop went skiing

It was all downhill from there.

When we were kids, we would convince Mom and Pop to do things they never would have considered doing on their own. Their idea of adventure was going into the woods and finding wild mushrooms. I remember one time in particular, we persuaded Pop to go skiing. To this day, he curses me out if I talk about skiing or remind him of the adventure.

It was Monday and we were off from school. It was a cold wintry day, and the restaurant was closed on Mondays. Somehow, the stars aligned and we convinced Mom and Pop to bring us skiing, something we had never done before. Pop was so chipper that he said he would give it a try also.

For the next hour we searched for every piece of winter apparel we had in the house. We outfitted ourselves with enough gear to climb Mount Everest. Mom helped us put on all of our snow gear, included but not limited to long johns, two pairs of socks, hat, gloves, scarf, turtleneck, sweater, heavy pants, snow boots and snow suit. Once dressed, we piled into our brown Oldsmobile station wagon and headed to Hunter Mountain. Upon arrival, before beginning our conquering of Mount Hunter, we headed to the ski shop to rent our skis, poles, and boots. My older brothers get their gear and were allowed to go on their own. Vinny and I must have been around 7 and 10, respectively; and, well, let's just say, it was a scene from a Christmas Story.

Vinny and I were already barely able to move with all our snow gear on. Mom was there trying to take off our boots and

put on these ski boots from hell, while trying to tuck in our snow suits into the boots. It was so tight that we lost feeling in our feet. Mom was there, arguing with the ski fitter, because they wanted us not to tuck in the pants and she wanted to tuck them in. Then once we got them on, we realized they were on the wrong feet and we had to start all over again with the ski boots from hell.

Pop was a whole another story with. He was arguing with the fitter that he didn't need the boots, that he could wear his own boots, asking for some rope to tie the skis to his own boots. Vinny was laying on his stomach with Mom trying to get his ski boots from hell on; I was off to one side trying to take them off so I could put them on the correct feet, and Pop was making his skis into tomato plant braces.

After the ordeal of just getting the equipment on, we proceeded to the bunny slope, which had a tow rope to get to the top of the hill. The key to a tow rope is to hold on as it drags you up. Well Vinny and I had never skied before, so just getting up the hill was an adventure with Mom walking up the hill picking us up. No sooner had one of us fallen and gotten up then the other would do the same. Never mind Pop, who was flopping all over the place himself with his tied-on skis. Mind you, this was the first trip up the hill.

We finally made it to the top of the hill; then it was time to go down the hill. I fell down first. Vinny did better. He made it halfway until he fell. Pop did the best, but was out of control, plowing into some lit-

tle kids who, I'm sure, are still in some kind of therapy from the ordeal.

Every once and a while, one of my older brothers would swing by to see how we were doing, only to get out of there when witnessing them shutting down the tow rope to get Vinny, Pop, or me off the ground or untangled with another skier. The ski patrol almost never watches the bunny slope, but on that day, they had to call out the National Guard for ski patrols because the Coppolas were on the mountain.

The day progressed much the same, with Mom doing the bulk of the work. Me falling, Vinny falling, Pop skiing like a Kamikaze and Mom playing the part of the medic, picking us up, apologizing to other skiers, kids, and animals.

At the end of the day, we returned what was left of our equipment, piled back into the Oldsmobile with our sweaty clothes stacked everywhere and went home. Mom cooked this beautiful pasta dish with vegetables. Pop laid on the couch with the heating pad on his back. Us kids were bouncing off the walls excited that we had just gone skiing.

Needless to say, Pop NEVER went skiing again.

BRAISED WINTER VEGETABLE PASTA

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion (diced)
- 4 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 tablespoon fresh sage
- 4 cups vegetable broth

- 1 cup dry white wine
- 8 ounces small pasta shells
- 2 cups bite-size cauliflower florets
- 2 cups bite-size butternut squash cubes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1 10-ounce bag lima beans (frozen, thawed)

Method

Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and sage and cook, stirring, until softened, 3 to 4 minutes. Add broth and wine; bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

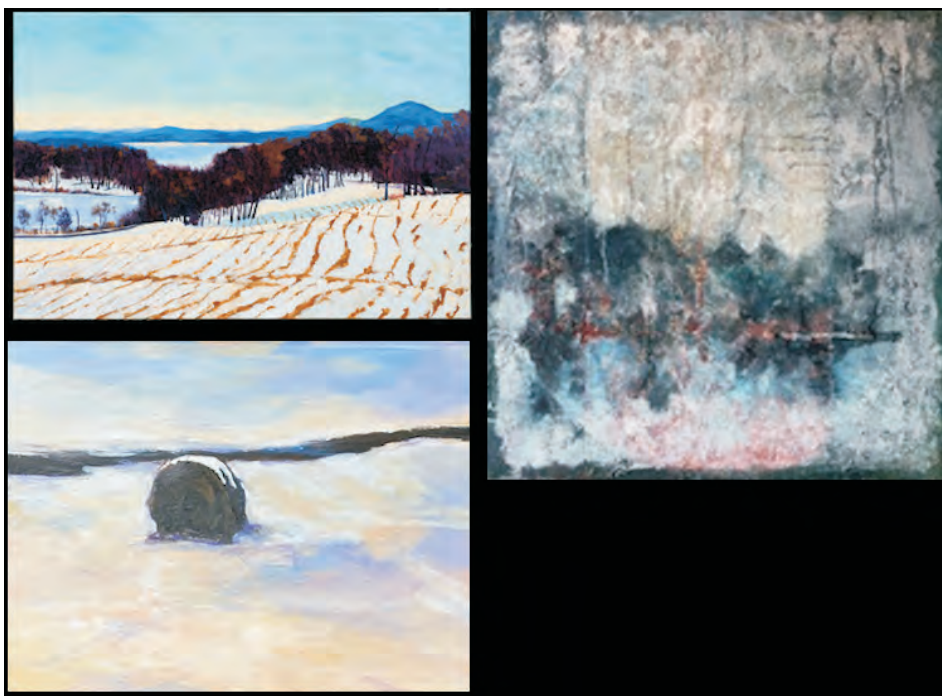
Add pasta, cauliflower, squash, salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until the pasta is not quite tender, about 10 minutes.

Stir in lima beans and cook, stirring occasionally, until the lima beans and pasta are tender and most of the liquid is absorbed, about 5 minutes more.

Add grated cheese and serve with a nice Pinot Grigio and a hot loaf of Italian Bread.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Opening at Tivoli Artists Gallery this weekend



The Tivoli Artists Gallery, at 60 Broadway in Tivoli, will present a new exhibition, "Winter Blues," opening on Friday, Feb. 7. There will be an opening reception for the artists on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. This captivating exhibit delves into the artists' interpretations of winter's beauty and majesty. Experience art that captures the rich palette of cool and warm colors, the sparkling glimmer of freshly fallen snow, and the invigorating crispness of the air. The exhibition will be on view through March 2. Gallery hours are Friday, 5-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m., and by appointment. Visit www.tivoliartistsgallery.com for more information. Pictured, clockwise from top left: "Olana Fields" by Marie Cole, "Ice On the River" by Linda Cassidy, and "Hay Bale" by Elizabeth Dama. Images courtesy of the artists

The Two Of Us Productions continues virtual staged reading series Feb. 8

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will present the second installment of its Virtual Live-Staged Reading for 2025 on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The Two of Us collaborates with Roving Actors' Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc. for this event.

In "Nobody Loves Me," a confessed murderer asks for the opportunity to explain his crime on broadcast radio. As he describes what he did and why he did it, we are drawn into his disturbing tale of official corruption. The climax comes when, as he is poised to reveal his co-conspirators, an unknown assailant storms the radio station and shoots him dead in his chair.

In "Ghost Hunt," we meet a certain

Ms. Thorpe, owner of a beautiful cliff-top beach house overlooking the Pacific Ocean. She'd like to sell this house and has engaged real estate agent Charlene McDonald to help get her the best price. Unfortunately, this particular beach house is thought to be haunted. Enthusiastic ghost hunter Smiley Smith and psychic investigator Dr. Clarence Reed go to investigate and find much more than ghosts haunting this house.

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

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

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

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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

1					
					4
1		2			
					3
	1	4			

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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: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

1. Bungle
5. Cause of a trip?
8. Dao, alt. sp.
11. Between marquess and viscount
12. Super garb?
13. Inlet in Norway
15. Cogito ____ sum
16. Long story
17. Deprived of a limb
18. *Half-time headliner
20. Ice, dark or middle ____
21. *Cindy Crawford wore "____ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad
22. Flightless bird
23. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
26. A cheap, run-down motel
30. "____ the fields we go"
31. Merry
34. Actor's part
35. Expensive
37. Not him
38. Cell phone bill item
39. Civil Rights icon
40. *David Tyree's ____ Catch
42. Letters of distress
43. What rule follower does
45. Get cozy
47. Greed, biblically-speaking
48. Grieve for the dead
50. Time period
52. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
55. 3600 seconds, pl.
56. Casino chip
57. Salmon's output
59. En ____, all together
60. Like Piper of Hamelin
61. Uber alternative
62. ____ Robinson
63. Acronym, abbr.
64. "Come Sail Away" band

DOWN

1. Service charge
2. Songbird
3. Craving
4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
5. ____ lazuli
6. Hot
7. 52 cards
8. Hefty volume
9. Greek god of war
10. 1, e.g.
12. Cherry red
13. Post vitriol
14. *Team with no Super Bowl appearances
19. Looney Tunes duck
22. Architectural add-on
23. Meat of coconut
24. Roman king of Judea
25. Like certain whiskey
26. Grow crop
27. Brag
28. Algorithmic language
29. Ganders' companions
32. Tom Jones's "____ a Lady"
33. Rolodex abbr.
36. * ____ Superdome
38. Wombs
40. Lady lobster
41. Hardened
44. Follows wash
46. Pig sounds
48. Bouncing off the walls
49. Weasel's aquatic cousin
50. Fly like an eagle
51. Boot-wearing kitty
52. Mama Bear's husband
53. To perfection (3 words)
54. *Justin Timberlake's "____ Back," sung in Super Bowl show
55. Expression of doubt
58. *Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
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30				31		32	33			34		
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	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 23

A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 9: Vassar MODfest, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. "Discovering Uncertainty" is the theme of Vassar College's 23rd annual MODfest, featuring music and dance that reflect elements of the quantum theory described by physicists in the early decades of the 20th century. View a complete schedule of events, all of which are free and open to the public, at <http://modfest2025.vassar.edu/>.

Feb. 6: Author Event, Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. Christopher Bjork & William Hoynes, "MORE THAN JUST A GAME: How the Youth Sports Industry Is Changing the Way We Parent and What to Do About It," 6 p.m. Professors Christopher Bjork and William Hoynes will present compelling first-person stories, providing much-needed perspective about the billion-dollar youth-sports industry. The book explores parental attitudes and struggles and shows parents how to navigate the profit-driven system of youth sports that frequently ignores the needs of kids. Free. Registration requested. (845) 876-0500 or events@oblongbooks.com

Feb. 7-8: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 7: Last Minute Soulmates, 8 p.m. Free admission; \$15 minimum food or drink purchase required per person. Call for reservations. Feb. 8: Le Vent du Nord, 8 p.m. Tickets \$40 advance, \$45 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Feb. 7-9: "The Search for Power," The Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Bard's Fisher Center LAB and the Center for Curatorial Studies team up to present artist Tania El Khoury and scholar Ziad Abu-Rish's lecture performance and installation, 6 p.m. Performances are ticketed. The installation will be on view for free at Bard CCS through from Feb. 23. Tickets & more information: fishercenter.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

Feb. 7-16: "Grease," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Teens on Stage presents this rollicking musical classic. Follow Rydell High's Class of 1959—Danny, Sandy, the "Burger Palace Boys," and "Pink Ladies"—as they bring the 1950s to life with iconic songs like "Greased Lightnin'" and "Summer Nights." Directed by Lynne Czjaka with choreography by Jordan Stoly. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets: \$19. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Feb. 8: Cookie Walk, Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, 2381 New Hackensack Rd. (Rte. 376), Poughkeepsie. The Annual Mid-Hudson Love INC Cookie Walk promises sweet treats and positive vibes, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (or as long as supplies last). More info at www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org or (845) 471-0102

Feb. 8: Series: Day of the Dead in Mexico (in English), Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 2:30-4 p.m. Registration required. www.poklib.org

Feb. 8: The Two Of Us Productions' Virtual Live-Staged Reading. Suspenseful radio-theater readings of two plays, 7 p.m. In "Nobody Loves Me," a confessed murderer asks for the opportunity to explain his crime on broadcast radio. As he describes what he did and why he did it, we are drawn into his disturbing tale of official corruption. The climax comes when, as he is poised to reveal his co-conspirators, an unknown assailant storms the radio station

and shoots him dead in his chair. In "Ghost Hunt," we meet a certain Ms. Thorpe, owner of a beautiful cliff-top beach house overlooking the Pacific Ocean. She'd like to sell this house and has engaged real estate agent Charlene McDonald to help get her the best price. Unfortunately, this particular beach house is thought to be haunted. Enthusiastic ghost hunter Smiley Smith and psychic investigator Dr. Clarence Reed go to investigate and find much more than ghosts haunting this house. Free; donations welcome. RSVP to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org

Feb. 8: Victorian Valentine "Craft & Sip" Workshop, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Enjoy sipping on Harney & Sons tea as you craft a beautiful 11-inch wood panel heart for your sweetheart, 10 a.m. This is Wilderstein's modern take on the Victorian Valentine's Day gift-making tradition. Participants will learn about the history of valentines while creating their own original art. All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring any greeting cards you may have or other ephemera to add that special something to your project. Cost: \$40. Registration required. (845) 876-4818 or www.wilderstein.org.

Feb. 8-9: Art Film Screenings, Gardiner Theater, Trinity-Pawling School, 517 Rte. 22, Pawling. Immerse yourself in the worlds of Edward Hopper and John Singer Sargent, through film and discussion led by Ned Reade. The two films were produced by Exhibition on Screen (EOS), originators of bringing exhibition-based art films to the cinema, and were first released at the time of two major exhibitions in the past two years: The Hopper retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Sargent show at The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Tate Britain. The Hopper film will be screened on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.; the John Singer Sargent film will be screened on Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$10 per screening. All are welcome and registration is requested but not required. Immediately following each film, Ned Reade, Trinity-Pawling's art historian of 45 years, will share little-known back stories on each artist and welcome questions from the audience. <https://www.trinitypawling.org/arts/theater>

Feb. 8-9: The Orchestra Now, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. "Transcription as Translation: A Carnegie Hall Preview Concert," Leon Botstein, conductor. Works by Milly Balakirev: Chopin Suite; Bedrich Smetana (orch. Szell): From My Life (String Quartet in E Minor); Beethoven (orch. Weingartner): Hammerklavier (Piano Sonata No. 29). Performances: Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$35. fishercenter.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

Feb. 10: Hollywood Valentine: Married in the Movies, virtual, 7-8 p.m. Registration required. www.poklib.org

Feb. 11: Garden Enthusiasts Meet Up, Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. 6-8 p.m. No registration required. www.poklib.org

Feb. 13: "Gilded Age Love Stories," virtual event presented by Dutchess County Library Association, 6 p.m. Learn about some of the real stories that inspired the relationships on "The Gilded Age" TV series. From courtship to love and marriage (with a bit of heartbreak too, of course), Staatsburgh State Historic Site experts tell all. Contact your local library to register.

EXHIBITIONS

Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Feb. 7-March 2:** "Primordial," a collection of oil paintings by this month's featured artist, KP Devlin. Drawing inspiration from his dreams and meditation visions, as well as imagery from artists such as Hieronymus Bosch, Remedios Varo and David Lynch, Devlin's paintings weave humorous and horrifying images into hallucinogenic landscapes, oozing with saturated primary colors and gradated earthtones. **Opening reception:** Sun., Feb. 16, noon-2 p.m. www.artgallery71.com

Millbrook Arts Project, Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through March 1:** "Ann Ledy: Circle + Square," an exhibition in 2- and 3-dimensions. (845) 677-3611 or www.millbrooklibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Feb. 7-March 2:** "Winter Blues," an uplifting take on winter in all its glory. This captivating exhibit delves into the artists' interpretations of winter's beauty and majesty. **Opening reception for the artists:** Sat., Feb. 8, 5-7 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

DCC announces 2025 Black History Month events

Dutchess Community College has announced a series of events to celebrate Black History Month. This year's program features dynamic presentations by scholars, writers and artists along with interactive book signings and a STEM panel networking opportunity. All events are free and open to the public.

On Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m., a talk and book signing with esteemed artist, concept artist, children's book author and film illustrator Nikkolas Smith will take place in the James & Betty Hall Theatre. Smith is the illustrator of New York Times bestsellers including "The 1619 Project: Born on the Water," "I Am Ruby Bridges," "Black Panther Forever: The Courage to Dream" and "That Flag." His other notable work includes film illustration for "Judas and the Black Messiah" and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," as well as movie poster designs for "Soul" and "Southside with You."

Dr. Antumi Toasijé, a Fulbright Scholar, historian, author and visual artist, will deliver a presentation on Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the Teaching Learning Center (TLC), 232 Hudson Hall, focusing on the African presence in Europe and the ongoing struggle against racial and ethnic discrimination. A faculty member at New York University Madrid and IE University, Dr. Toasijé teaches global history with a focus on non-Eurocentric perspectives. His research explores the African diaspora in the Iberian Peninsula, African resistance to colonialism, and initiatives supporting Afro-descendant communities in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

On Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m. in Bowne

Hall 122, a STEM Panel and Networking Event will feature high-achieving STEM professionals sharing academic and career experiences in fields such as engineering, health and science, aviation, technology and cybersecurity. Representatives from DCC, Labella Associates, Orange and Rockland Utilities, and Nuvance Health are scheduled to speak, with opportunities for attendees to meet panelists during the networking portion.

A talk and book signing with author Aaliyah Bilal, co-sponsored by DCC's Black History Committee and Women's Activities Committee, will be held on March 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the James & Betty Hall Theatre. Bilal is the author of "Temple Folk," her first story collection and a 2023 National Book Award finalist, which explores the multifaceted identity of Black Muslims in America.

DCC's Black History Month events were curated and organized by the Black History Committee under the leadership of Assistant Professor of English Willie Morris (chair) and Assistant Professor of History Shalon Hallager. All events are free and open to the public thanks in part to the support of the DCC Foundation, Office of Student Activities, and Office of Instruction & Learning.

For more information, contact Willie Morris at willie.morris@suny-dutchess.edu. If you require sign language interpreting services or special accommodations, please make your request at least two weeks before the event by reaching out to Linda Bertolozzi at 845-431-8058 or bertoloz@suny-dutchess.edu.

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Friday, February 28
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The Orchestra Now to open new season Feb. 8

The Orchestra Now (TON) begins its winter/spring, 10th anniversary season with performances led by music director Leon Botstein at the Fisher Center at Bard College on Saturday, Feb. 8, and continues through April 6.

Highlights include a Carnegie Hall preview concert offering three orchestral transcriptions of works by master composers Beethoven, Chopin, and Smetana (February 8-9); the TON spring benefit, a unique collaboration with the dancers of American Ballet Theatre Studio Company (Feb. 28 and March 1); and the season's closing concert at Bard with works by Kaija Saariaho, Albéric Magnard, and Carl Maria von Weber with soloist and winner of the 2023 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, clarinetist Miles Wazni (April 5-6).

Marking the Orchestra's first visit abroad during its 10th anniversary, TON performs two concerts in Germany: one at the Koblenz IMUKO Festival (Internationale Musik-Kontakte) (Koblenz, May 6); and the second commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe 80 years ago and performed in a concert hall built on the same grounds where the Nazi regime was rallying (Nuremberg, May 8).

THE FISHER CENTER AT BARD COLLEGE, SOSNOFF THEATER

Transcription as Translation: A Carnegie Hall Preview Concert
Saturday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 9, 2 p.m.

Leon Botstein, conductor
Mily Balakirev: Chopin Suite
Bedrich Smetana (orch. Szell): From My Life (String Quartet in E Minor)
Beethoven (orch. Weingartner): Hammerklavier (Piano Sonata No. 29)

In 1910, the last year of his life, Russian composer and pianist Mily Balakirev transcribed four pieces into an orchestral suite to celebrate the centenary of Chopin's birth. To honor another centenary in 1927, that of Beethoven's death, Austrian conductor and composer Felix Weingartner crafted a full orchestration of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 29, the Hammerklavier. While teaching composition at Mannes College of Music in 1940, acclaimed Hungarian-born American conductor George Szell created an orchestral transcription of Smetana's E-minor String Quartet, From My Life.

This program will be performed at Carnegie Hall on Feb. 11.

Spring Benefit: TON + ABT Studio Company

Friday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
Charles Barker, conductor
American Ballet Theatre Studio Company

Tarantella: George Balanchine, choreography; Music by Louis Moreau Gottschalk

Crimson Flame: Madison Brown, choreography; Music by Philip Glass

Birthday Variations (Pas de Deux): Gerald Arpino, choreography; Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Night Falls: Brady Farrar, choreography; Music by Frederic Chopin

Swan Lake Act III (Pas de Deux): Kevin McKenzie, choreography, after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov; Music by Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky

Human: Yannick Lebrun, choreography; Music by Blick Bassy

U Don't Know Me: Houston Thomas, choreography; Music by Avro Part

Plus additional works to be announced.

Two of New York's finest artistic training programs join forces as the graduate musicians of The Orchestra Now welcome the dancers of American Ballet Theatre Studio Company to the Fisher Center at Bard for a performance of music and dance.

Weber & Laterna Magica
Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m.

Leon Botstein, conductor
Miles Wazni, clarinet
Kaija Saariaho: Laterna Magica

Carl Maria von Weber: Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat major, Op. 74
Albéric Magnard: Symphony No. 4

The final performance of TON's 10th season at the Fisher Center begins with Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's Laterna Magica (The Magic Lantern),

inspired by filmmaker Ingmar Bergman's autobiography of the same name, and commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic and the Lucerne Festival.

As she read the book, Saariaho said her composition was inspired by "the Laterna Magica, the first machine to create the illusion of a moving image: as the handle turns faster and faster, the individual images disappear and instead the eye sees continuous movement." The work's 2009 world premiere was given by the Berlin Philharmonic and Simon Rattle.

The Orchestra is then joined by clarinetist Miles Wazni, a winner of the 2023 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, for Carl Maria von Weber's virtuosic three-movement Clarinet Concerto No. 2, written for the notable clarinetist Heinrich Baermann, the soloist at the 1813 premiere. The concert closes with composer Albéric Magnard's final symphony. Often referred to as the "French Bruckner," his work is fully rooted in late 19th-century French Romantic tradition. Magnard became a national hero in 1914 when he died defending his property from German invaders.

Tickets, priced at \$15 - \$35, are available online at fishercenter.bard.edu, or by calling the Fisher Center at (845) 758-7900. Visit ton.bard.edu to find out more about TON's academic program, concerts, musicians, albums, and broadcasts; sign up for the email list; and more information.

Amenia Garden Club announces 2025 event schedule

Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m. (Snow Date: Feb. 15)

Tree Pruning Workshop with Maryanne Snow Pitts

Location: Amenia Town Hall

Discover expert tips on tree pruning from a neighbor and garden expert, Maryanne. Winter is the perfect season to prune certain trees for optimal health and beauty. Bring your gardening gloves, hand pruners and hand saws, if you have them, and dress warmly for this outdoor session.

Free event. Registration required: email amenigardenclub@gmail.com

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m.

Winter Garden Talk with Michelle Alfandrai

Location: Amenia Public Library

The Garden Club and the Amenia Public Library are sponsoring a Winter

Garden Talk. Our guest speaker will be Sharon, Connecticut resident Michelle Alfandrai, cofounder of Homegrown National Park (HNP). HNP was founded by Michelle and Professor Doug Tallamy to raise awareness and urgently inspire everyone to address the biodiversity crisis by adding native plants and removing invasive ones where we live, work, learn, pray, and play. She will talk about the simple solutions we can take to help solve the biodiversity crisis, including how to get on HNP's Biodiversity Map, an interactive, community-based visual tool that tracks the total area occupied by native plants. There will be time for questions and for socializing after the talk. The talk is free, registration is not required, and refreshments will be provided.

April 26
Amenia's Earth Day Celebration

Details to come; visit www.ameniagardens.org.

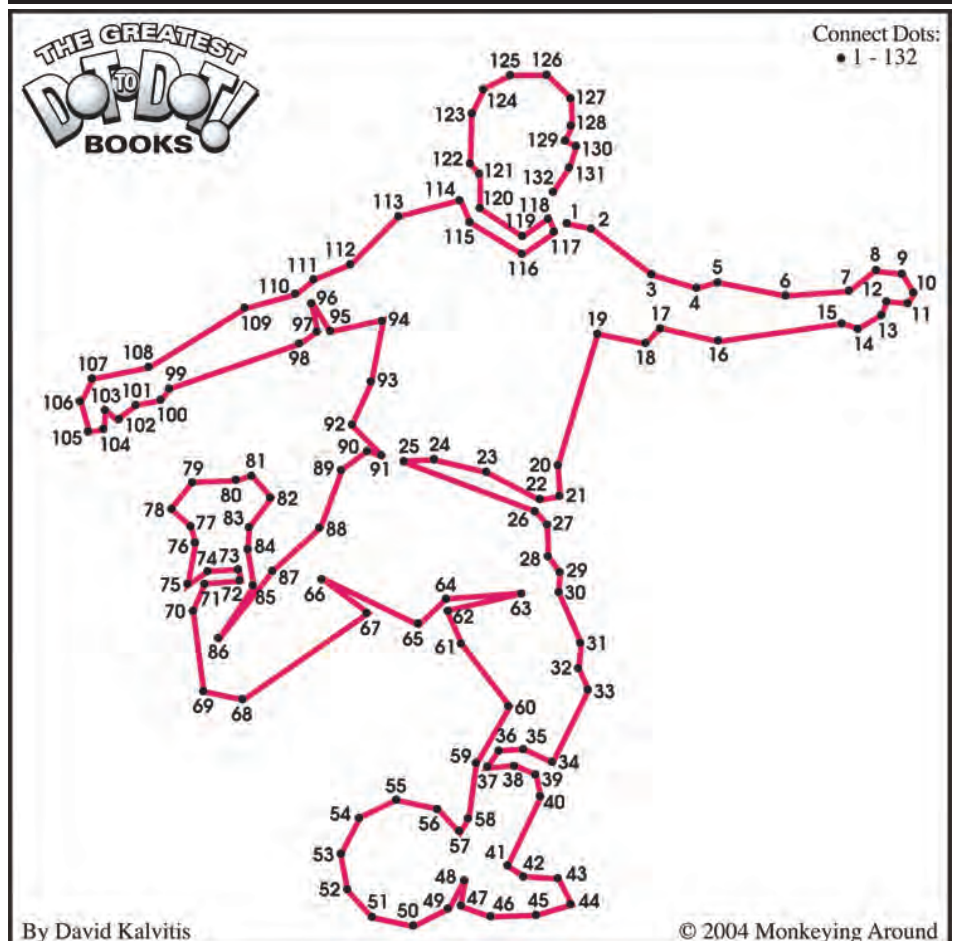
July 12
Annual Amenia Garden Tour
Stroll through some of the most beautiful gardens in the area.

September (Date TBD)
End of Summer Garden Party
Celebrate the season with fellow members and friends.

October
Bulb Giveaway
Garden Club members receive free bulbs to brighten next spring.

The Garden Club of Amenia is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. It is a community-based organization and welcomes anyone to join as a volunteer, member, or donor. Membership dues are \$20 and support the club's events and community initiatives. Visit <https://www.ameniagardens.org/join-us.html> to join.

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



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ONGOING PROGRAMS

Qi Gong with Vince (online)
Mondays, Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 9:30 a.m.
Vince Sauter will teach you how to lower stress and keep calm with Tai Chi. Class will focus on breathing in the calm and breathing out the tension.

Life Maintenance Exercise (Senior Exercise)
Tuesdays, Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 10 a.m.
Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 9:30 a.m.

This guided class will stretch, strengthen, balance and help keep your body moving. Exercises include: chair based stretching, calisthenics, and light weight lifting.

Story time on the Dot (in-person)
Tuesdays, Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 10:30 a.m.
Listen to fun stories, sing songs, and have fun, centered around a different theme every week.

Mah Jongg (in-person)
Tuesdays, Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 2-4 p.m.
Players of all levels are welcome.

All Level Yoga (in person & online)
Wednesdays, Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 6 p.m. (online); Sundays, Feb. 9, 16 & 23, 10 a.m. (in person or online)

Join Mia Tomic and explore classical seated, standing and supine yoga poses linked with breath in a creative way to stretch, strengthen, and rejuvenate your body, breath, and mind. You may also participate online. Plan according to your comfort and needs as class is held indoors.

Chair Yoga (in-person or online)
Fridays, Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28, noon
Join Samantha for Chair Yoga for ALL. Learn the basics of breath, meditation, and movement. This class will help you stretch and strengthen. Registration required so that you can get the link. Please register online or call the library at (845)-495-0655.

Zumba (in-person)
Saturdays, Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 9 a.m.
Join Ginny Morrow for a fun fitness routine every Saturday at 9 a.m. Advance registration is not required. You may sign in at the door.

Free Tech Help (in-person)
Saturdays, Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Do you need help with your Kindle, tablet, smart phone or computer? Drop-in anytime on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., or call the library to book an appointment.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

Book Group, Book Group (in person)
February Selection: *Tinkers* by Paul Harding
Thursday February 6 at 1:30 PM
Our book group has lifted off and we are now "Readers who are part of a Book Group Book Group." Our founding readers have selected meaningful and mostly short novels to discuss. From our recent selections of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* followed by *James*, we peruse intriguing and worthy books.

Tea Time Book Club (in person)
February Selection: *"The Caretaker"* by Ron Rash, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.
Join Tea Time Book Club the second Thursday of every month. Come talk about the monthly selection and enjoy tea and a snack with members of the club.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

My Antarctica Experience! (in person)
Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m.
Have you ever wondered what it's like to live in the coldest place on Earth? Join us to find out what it takes for humans to survive in this extreme climate. Clinton resident Melissa Coggeshall has experienced Antarctica three times. She will talk about her experiences, present a slideshow, and show off the gear necessary for human survival. All ages welcome.

Crafts & Coffee (in person)
Monday, Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a lovely afternoon of coffee, crafts (and conversation). Diane will guide you as you create a project covering a wide range of techniques, from card making to book crafts to stitchery and more.

Note: You must register for each individual who is attending and would like to participate. Materials are limited and there will not be extra!

Great Backyard Bird Count (in person)
Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m.

Introducing the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon and Birds Canada. Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days they invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. Join Barbara Mansell for a bird walk in the Clinton Nature Trail located next to the Clinton Town Complex. We will meet in the library at 9 a.m. She will describe the apps that she uses to identify birds and submit her observations. Rain or Snow will cancel the walk.

Valentine's Day Take & Makes! (Valentine's Day Monsters)

Monday, Feb. 10-Saturday, Feb. 15 (drop in)
We think our patrons are monstrously cool! Stop by anytime the library is open and pick up a cute Valentine's Day monster craft. Available while supplies last. For children ages 5-10

Lunch & Learn: Passages: Madame Anna Bishop & Martin Schultz
Thursday, Feb. 27, 12:30 p.m.

The story of Madame Anna Bishop's life is one for the cinema. Scandal erupted in 1839 when her interests in Italian opera heightened. She leapt into the sinister clutches or romantic arms of harpist and conductor Nicholas Bochsa, who was twenty-one years her senior. Bochsa, a bigamist, was convicted of forgery in France and escaped to London before serving his time in jail. At the time, Anna was married to composer Henry Bishop, who was twenty-four years her senior. She had married her former teacher Bishop, who had taught at the Royal Academy of Music, shortly after her musical debut at age 21 in 1831. From scandal to performing for royalty and the pope across six continents to escaping bandits and surviving shipwreck, how did Anna Bishop end up buried at St. Paul's Cemetery in Red Hook? Come to hear the story of internationally acclaimed Anna Bishop's adventurous life and her local connections. Presented by Bonnie Wood. Lunch typically consists of a sandwich, chips, and a cookie. CCL cannot accommodate specific dietary requirements or allergies. If this is a concern, you are welcome to bring your own bagged lunch.

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

<https://morton.rhinecliff.lib.ny.us/>
MakerSpace, Saturdays @ 2 p.m.

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 to register.

Yoga with Kristin, Sundays @ 10 a.m.
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. Please bring your yoga mat, a blanket, and blocks if you like. \$12 suggested donation

MakerSpace, Sundays @ 10 a.m.
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 to register.

Rockin' Rooks Youth Chess at Morton
Mondays @ 5:30 p.m.

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 [racerplace\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:racerplace[at]hotmail.com)

Knit 'n Knatter, Normally First and third Wednesdays of each month @ 3 p.m.
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. All are welcome.

Dirty Gaia & Morton Seed Library Present "Winter Seed Swap and Sow"
Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 3 p.m.

Calling all gardeners! Spring is around the corner, let's celebrate with a seed swap! Bring some, take some—or just take some, there should be plenty of seeds to go around. And really, we just want to see you all.

Can't wait to get started on growing? We'll show you how to winter sow in milk jugs (provided) that can be left outside—greens like kale and arugula will be edible in the coming weeks to snip and snack on. Native flower seeds will enjoy their mini-cold frames until the soil warms and they can be transplanted in your garden. And we'll have lots of other seeds, too, including peanuts harvested from the Morton Seed Library plot at the Rhinebeck Community Garden.

DCLA Presents: Gilded Age Love Stories
Thursday, Feb. 13 @ 6 p.m. (virtual)

HBO's "The Gilded Age" TV series has recreated the setting, good television drama, elements of the plot are centered around love and relationships. While most relationships and characters on the series are fictional, several are loosely based on real historical figures. This talk explores some of the REAL stories that inspired the relationships on the popular show, from courtship to love & marriage (with a bit of heart-break dashed in for good measure). Fans of the Gilded Age era will enjoy this talk even if they have yet to watch "The Gilded Age" series!

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

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show
Friday, Feb. 21 @ 8 p.m.
Featuring: many talented local musicians. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested.

RED HOOK PUBLIC LIBRARY
7444 South Broadway, Red Hook
(845) 758-3241
www.redhooklibrary.org
NEW PROGRAMS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES
Homeschool Happenings: Hessel Museum
Friday, Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hessel Museum. Registration Required

Yarn Swap, Saturday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m.
At the Elmendorph Inn

Cardboard City, Thursday, Feb. 13 at 1 p.m.

Homeschool Happenings: All About Newspapers, Friday, Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m.
Registration Required

Monday & Friday Tunes and Tales, Tuesday Lego Club, and Wednesday Storytime continue throughout the month.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS
Drawing Gym, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Registration Required

Citizens Academy - How to be a Community Leader, Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Yarn Swap, Saturday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m.
At the Elmendorph Inn

Evening Book Club - The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, Monday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

Adult Craft Night: Creating Mandalas
Monday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m.
Registration Required

Red Hook Reads - The Anxious Generation, Part 2, Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.
Meet at Tivoli Free Library

Registration Required

Virtual Screening - Butterfly in the Sky
Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. On Zoom
Registration Required

Afternoon Mystery Book Club: The Mystery Guest, Friday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

Chair Yoga, Knitting Group, ESL, All Abilities Teens & All Abilities Adults continue throughout the month.

STANFORD FREE LIBRARY

6035 NY-82, Stanfordville
(845) 868-1341

<https://stanfordlibrary.org/>

"Souper Bowl" A soup sampler party
Friday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m. Bring a pot of soup to share and a muffin tin and we will provide the cups, spoons, and bread. Families welcome.

Music in the Library, Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.-noon. Andrew Baffi will be back, bringing his classical guitar for all to enjoy.

Read to Therapy Dog Jambo, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 4-5 p.m. 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.

February Book Club, Monday, Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m. This month's selection is "Crow Lake" by Mary Lawson.

Supper Club with Lenny, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6-7 p.m. Enjoy a community tasting and sharing event with friends and family. This month's theme is Chocolate. Bring a chocolate desert, bars or a chocolate-infused savory dish to share. No need to register - just come with your cuisine and enjoy food and conversation!

Chair Yoga, Friday, Feb. 14, 1-2 p.m.
This is gentle yoga with a chair to support and aid seated and standing postures.

Library Talk on Antártica, Saturday, Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. Melissa Coggeshall will speak about her "Life on the Ice" while living in Antártica. Melissa has amazing stories and insights about her trips to Antártica that she will share with us. She will show us the clothing she wore and speak about what it is like to live on the ice!
Registration not required but appreciated

ONGOING EVENTS

Home School Stories and STEAM
Students in Grade K-3: Thursdays, 12:45-1:45 p.m. Students Grade 4-6 (STEAM only) Thursdays, 2-3 p.m.

Preschool Storytime, Tuesday Mornings
Preschoolers (Age 3-4) 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Toddlers (Age 18 months-2 years) 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Babies (Birth-18 months)** 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Stories, songs and free play.

Water Color Workshop
First, Third and Fifth Tuesday of each month, 1-4 p.m. 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.

Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners, Mondays, 6-8 p.m.
All levels welcome.

Knitting, First, Third and Fifth Thursday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m. Come for knitting, tea and conversation. All levels welcome. Advanced knitters will teach beginners.

Brain Games, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon
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 a.m.-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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OBITUARIES

William Woodward 'Woody' Adams

William Woodward "Woody" Adams died unexpectedly on January 17, 2025 at the age of 79. He was a lifelong resident of Millbrook, NY. Woody enjoyed fishing, canoeing, hunting, skiing, and tennis with his friends and family. School years were spent in Manhattan where he graduated from the Browning School and went on to graduate from Nasson College in Maine.

Woody worked for banks and insurance companies in New York City and Dutchess County, and Marona's Grocery in Millbrook. At retirement he moved to Vero Beach, FL, and finally returned to Millbrook, where he resided at The Fountains for the past nine years. He will be remembered for his friendliness, his love of history, sports, storytelling and bridge.

Woody was predeceased by his parents Stirling and Rosamond "Rose" Adams and his older brother Stirling "Tuck" Adams, Jr. He is survived by his sister Rosamond "Roz" Chadwick, niece Macy Chadwick, nephew Thomas A. Chadwick (wife Page), grandniece Rebecca and grandnephew Thomas J. Chadwick. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery in Lithgow, NY. A memorial service is planned at St. Peter's Church at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, NY 12545. To leave an online condolence, visit www.HudsonValleyFuneralHomes.com.

George Eighmy

George Lawrence Eighmy, 88, a lifetime resident of Red Hook and Rhinebeck, passed away on January 24, 2025. Below is his obituary that he wrote in real time in the hope that those who read it will find interesting.

I entered eternal rest on January 24, 2025, surrounded by my loving family. I was born on March 26, 1936, in Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY, the only child of George Irving Eighmy and Lulu Meta Buckner.

A bit of family history. I'm a direct descendant of Nicolaus Emigh (original spelling) who arrived in this country in 1709 with a group of Palatine Germans. They were the first settlers in the area. Nicolaus located on a large tract of land in Clove Valley, Dutchess County. He built a stone house on that land, which still stands today. Some of the Eighmys' moved to Rhinebeck in the early 1800's and settled near the intersection of Route 308 and Salisbury Turnpike. That area is known as Eighmyville. My great-great grandfather moved from there in the 1850s' to a home on Old Rocky City Road. That is where I was raised.

I graduated from Red Hook Central School, immediately enlisted in the United States Army, spending 30 months in Hanau, Germany with a combat engineer group reaching the Rank of E5. Upon completing my military obligation, I entered Farmingdale State College and graduated with a degree in Mechanical Technology. I then began a career with IBM. First as a tool maker and then as a Manufacturing Engineer.

In 1960, I met the love of my life, Mary Dee Peloch, from Schuylerville, NY. At the time she was attending college in Albany and was a roommate with a friend of mine from Rhinebeck who introduced us. We were married on April 29, 1962. Mary Dee survives in Rhinebeck along with our two sons, Kyle Lawrence Eighmy (Chrissy) and Douglas Leigh Eighmy; our seven grandchildren, Tyler, Ryan, Lillian, Michael, Madison, Macilyn, and Maribelle; as well as many honorary family members who were very special to my life that include Amanda Owens, Alex Kennitzer, and Emily and James Erlanger. I was predeceased by my parents.

I worked for IBM for 34 years, retiring in 1993. After my retirement we wintered in Sarasota, Florida for 23 years. We enjoyed cruising to the Caribbean and Bermuda. We have also enjoyed some cross-country trips, and we loved traveling the Northeast, especially a week every year in Maine.

I am an outdoors person. I love hunting, fishing, canoeing, especially in the Adirondacks. I am a Life Member and Past President of the Neighbors Gun Club, a Life Member and Past President of the Rhinebeck Fire Department and am also a member of the American Legion Montgomery Post #429 in Rhinebeck and a Life Member of Memorial Lutheran Church in Rock City.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, Rhinebeck NY. Calling hours were held Thursday, January 30 with the Rhinebeck Fire Department services beginning at 6 PM.

Funeral Service was held at the funeral home on January 31, with Military and Legion Services. Burial will take place at a later date.

With the passing of Mary Dee, our ashes will be entombed together in our plot at the Rhinebeck Cemetery on Mill Road in Rhinebeck.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Memorial Lutheran Church, 1232 Rt 308, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or the Rhinebeck Fire Department, 76 E. Market St, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

A special thank you to the staff of Northern Dutchess Hospital, particularly Max, for their exceptional attention and care.

In closing, let me say what a great life it has been. What made it so special was being accompanied on this journey with Mary Dee. Love you dear. To you Mary Dee, my family and all my friends, "auf Wiedersehen". God Bless you all and God Bless America.

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

Lynne Marie Martin

Lynne Marie Martin, 63, a longtime resident of Hyde Park and formerly of Hudson, NY, passed away on January 27, 2025, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

Born December 7, 1961, in Hudson, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Margaret Sheedy (née McNamara). Lynne cherished her Irish identity and attended Regina Coeli Church in Hyde Park.

Lynne's first job was as a tour guide at the Old Senate House in Kingston, but most of her career was spent working as a dispatcher. She spent fifteen years at the Hyde Park Police Department followed by a brief stint at the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department. She was also a part-time dispatcher for the New York State Park Police (Staatsburg) for about ten years, and a loyal, twenty-three-year employee of the Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park), where she served as a Safety Dispatcher who was beloved by faculty, staff, and students.

Mrs. Martin's most meaningful work was as a certified mediator, specializing in divorce and child permanence for thirteen years. Her dedication to this difficult but meaningful work was recently acknowledged by the State of New York in a ceremony held by The Mediation Center of Dutchess County.

A skilled jewelry maker and silversmith, she also loved poetry, music, art, and nature. Family was the most important thing to Lynne, not only her immediate family, but also her family in Columbia County and Troy, NY.

On September 5, 1982, in Hyde Park, she married William B. Martin, who survives at home.

In addition to her husband, she is also survived by her two daughters, Meghan L. Martin and partner, Chris Hutchinson, of Edmonton, Canada, and Meara L. Schonmann and partner, Blake Potrzeba, and granddaughter, Maeby G. Schonmann, all of Hyde Park.

She is also survived by her two brothers, Michael Sheedy of Hudson, and Tim Sheedy, and wife Denise, of Columbiaville, NY; sister, Liz Van Alstyne of Columbiaville, and several nieces and nephews.

Lynne was very close to her uncle and aunt, Ray and Mary Somerville, and their children. Her Uncle Ray survives in Troy and her Aunt Mary predeceased her. She cherished her cousins and extended family in Troy, and was close to her brother-in-law, Bruce Martin, and his family in Pomfret, VT.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Peter Sheedy.

Calling hours were held Friday, January 31st, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 1st, at the Funeral Home. Burial followed in Union Cemetery of Hyde Park.

Because Lynne was an animal lover, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538. (www.dcsPCA.com).

To send an online condolence, please visit Lynne's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Gary Peter Pasco

Gary Peter Pasco passed away on Sunday, January 26, at his home in Red Hook, after a brief illness.

He was born on November 12, 1949 in Rhinebeck, the youngest son of the late Peter and Virginia (Morse) Pasco. Gary graduated from Red Hook High School in 1967, and attended Dutchess Community College.

He married Regina Brown on November 17, 1979 in Red Hook, and she survives at home.

Gary's interests were many and varied. He was an athlete who lettered in football, basketball, and baseball in high school, then coached Little League and played recreational sports well into adulthood. As a Boston sports fanatic living in 'enemy territory,' he experienced many years of good-natured ribbing about the Red Sox and Patriots. He was an American history buff, a meteorology enthusiast, and a traveler to many destinations including Italy, Ireland, the Bahamas, San Francisco, and Sedona. His favorite place to vacation was Maine, which he visited nearly every summer. Gary also enjoyed horse racing, spending many August days at Saratoga and attending each of the Triple Crown races in person over the years.

Most important of all to Gary were his family and friends. His beloved Reg was his partner in life for more than 45 years, and she took care of him through his final days. He and John shared a love of sports, despite rooting for opposing teams. He was a proud 'Cornell dad' to Erin, a great friend to his son-in-law Chris, a devoted Papa to Connor, and a dear younger brother to Linda, Danny, and Ron. He also enjoyed spending time with his sisters-and brothers-in-law. As a lifelong Red Hook resident, he was lucky to maintain many of his childhood friendships throughout his life, and he continually added new friends to his circle over the years. He was known as an animal whisperer and welcomed many dogs and cats into his family over the years, most recently his Australian cattle dog, Harley.

Gary had a great sense of humor and was quick to crack a joke. He was a legendary storyteller. He will be dearly missed.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Erin Pasco Jacques and her husband Chris of Woodbury, CT; his son, John Pasco of Rhinebeck; his grandson, Connor Jacques; his sister, Linda (Ronald) Hamilton of Saratoga Springs; his brother, Ronald (Linda) Pasco of Augusta, ME; his sisters-in-law: Gwen Pasco, Mary (John) McMullen, Patricia Schaefer, and Margaret Kasin; his brother-in-law, Peter (Trudy) Brown; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, friends, and his dog Harley.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Daniel Pasco, and his brothers-in-law, Lynn Kasin and Ronald Schaefer.

Friends and family were received on Friday, January 31, 2025 at Burnett & White Funeral Home in Red Hook, NY. A memorial service was held at the funeral home. Burial was private.

Memorial contributions can be made to the V Foundation for Cancer Research, www.v.org, or the Dutchess County SPCA, www.dcsPCA.org.

Arrangements under the care of Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY.

Irene G. Rock

Irene G. Rock, 95, a Red Hook resident since 1992, passed away on January 28, 2025 at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY.

Born on May 10, 1929 in New York, NY to the late Edward III and Josephine (Walch) Goodchild.

Irene worked as a waitress at the Isabella Nursing Home in Washington Heights, NY for many years. She was a past communicant at St. Christopher's Church in Red Hook.

She is survived by her children, John Rock Jr. and Joanne Rock; her five grandchildren, her three great grandchildren; her many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and additional extended family.

She is predeceased by her parents, her husband, John Rock Sr., her children, Edward and Carol Rock, her granddaughter, Jenny, and her siblings, Florence, Joan, Catherine, James, William, Bella, Edward, George & Thomas.

A note of gratitude to the men and women of the Red Hook Fire Company and the Red Hook Police Department for their gracious patience and assistance during Irene's moments of need.

Friends and family called at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes on Saturday, February 1, 2025. A graveside service took place on Monday, February 3, 2025 at St. John's Reformed Church Cemetery in Red Hook, NY.

Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook.

Barbara Ann Scott

Barbara Ann Scott (Page), 88, past resident of New York and North Carolina, passed away on January 19, 2025 in Saint Paul, Minnesota after a brief illness.

Born January 3, 1937 in New York City, Barbara received her undergraduate degree from Pembroke College at Brown University and her masters and doctoral degrees from the New School for Social Research. Barbara was a distinguished Associate Professor of Sociology at SUNY College at New Paltz and a recipient of the president's award for excellence in teaching. At New Paltz, she helped establish the school's Women's Studies program.

Barbara was always a passionate advocate for environmental and social justice. Her favorite quote and perpetual bumper sticker read, "I'm already against the next war!" In her free time, Barbara loved modern dance, classical music, and jazz, traveling frequently to New York City from her home near Poughkeepsie. Upon her retirement, she adopted Asheville, North Carolina as her new home, where she lavished attention on her beloved dogs and cats.

She is survived by sons, Evan Bartlett Page (Dan Hansen) of Minneapolis Minnesota; Eric Scott Page, of Seymour, Tennessee; ex-spouse, Josiah Bartlett Page of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and grandson, Adrian Josiah Bartlett Page, (Lucretia Page) of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Preceded in death by her parents.

Barbara generously donated her body to the anatomy bequest program at the University of Minnesota. Memorials to Kaatsbann Cultural Park and Dance Studio in Tivoli, New York (<https://kaatsbaan.org/donate>).

Robert (Bob) N. Wallner

Robert (Bob) Nickolas Wallner: Beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather and cherished friend, passed away peacefully on January 23, 2025.

He was born to the late Nickolas and Margaret Wallner (nee Rabens) on January 17, 1933, in New York City. Bob graduated from high school in Danbury, CT, after which he served in the United States Navy for four years. Most of his career was spent at IBM as an electromechanical technician.

Bob was predeceased by his loving wife of 63 years, Margaret Emma Wallner (nee Tuerck) and is survived by three children: Robert, Michael (Leah), Christopher, sister-in-law Carol, grandchildren Scott (Katelyn), Ryan and Griffin, and his great-granddaughter Ellie.

Bob was a humble man who enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. He was deeply dedicated to his family and friends. He cherished time spent with his sons; be it fishing, bowling, golfing, football, and most of all coaching baseball. He was passionate about watching his children and grandchildren play sports and music. Bob was a faithful member of his Church community at Our Savior Lutheran Church, finding strength in his spiritual beliefs and his relationships with congregation members. He looked forward to many joyous family gatherings, telling stories and celebrating with memorable meals. A devoted New York Yankee and Giants fan, Bob enjoyed going to the ballpark and indulging in hotdogs, beer and peanuts while watching his favorite teams play.

Bob left a lasting impression on those around him, with his quick wit and easy-going personality. His memory will forever be treasured by family and countless friends, whose lives he touched with kindness.

Visitation was held on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fishkill, NY. A short Funeral service followed in the Church. Burial will be in the family plot at Wappingers Rural Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob's name to Our Savior Lutheran Church www.oursaviourlutheran.net or the American Heart Associated www.heart.org

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. To send an online condolence, please visit www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Legal Notices

Wurtemberg Cemetery Association, Annual General Meeting at St. Paul's Wurtemberg Church, 371 Wurtemberg Road, Rhinebeck, N.Y. Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:00 pm. A review of 2024 events and plans for 2025 will be discussed. Members of plot-owning families are urged to attend and vote on issues concerning the future operation of the cemetery. Other interested people are welcome to attend, too. More information: 845-876-4653

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD Town of Pleasant

Legal Notices

Valley, Dutchess County, NY
Please take note that the Planning Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:
811 Netherwood Road - Jason and Mary Elizabeth Page - Site Plan - Grid #6365-03-214212
The applicant would like to erect a 2032 square foot two-bedroom cottage with two parking spaces onto the existing lot that has a single-family residence.
SAID Meeting will take place on February 12, 2025 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and begins at 6:30 p.m.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County. The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more.
Deposited in Action of Proceedings in the City of Poughkeepsie Court
People vs. Q. Johnson 92 King Drive Poughkeepsie NY 12603
People vs. Tovar Melvin 21 S. Grand Avenue Poughkeepsie NY 12601
People vs. Colby Hickey 22 Lincoln City Road Lakeville CT 06039
People vs. Brian King 13 Gifford Avenue, Apt 2 Poughkeepsie NY 12601
People vs. Robert Hansen 24 Kendall Drive Wappingers Falls NY 12590
People vs. Branden Skrine 22 Roosevelt Avenue Poughkeepsie NY 12601
People vs. Carolina Walters 702 Seventh Road Wappingers Falls NY 12590
Deposited in Action of Proceedings in Dutchess County Courts
Rame Osmani vs. Regina Martinez 257 Rombout Avenue Beacon NY 12508
Estate of Clifford Gardiner Unknown
Deposited in Action of Proceeding in Dutchess County Supreme Court
Guardianship Proceeding of Ruth Thomas Unknown
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT
(A) A list of names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Commissioner of Finance;
(B) Any such unclaimed moneys or other property will be paid or delivered by her on or before the thirty first day of March to persons established to her satisfaction their right to receive the same; and
(C) In the succeeding month of April, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed moneys or other property still remaining will be paid or delivered to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and the undersigned shall thereupon cease to be liable therefore.
Dated: February 1, 2025
Poughkeepsie, New York
/s/Heidi Seelbach
Heidi Seelbach
Commissioner of Finance
Dutchess County, New York

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

ROLISON ANNOUNCES LYDIA BISKUP AS CHIEF OF STAFF

To better support constituents of Senate District 39, life-long Dutchess County resident and long-time State Senate staff member, Lydia Biskup, has been appointed to the position of chief of staff in Sen. Rob Rolison's office. In this role, Biskup oversees all office daily operations, ensuring smooth communication between the Senator's office, the towns and cities that comprise the district, and a myriad of agencies and services the community relies on. In addition to acting as this liaison, Biskup is a key advisor to the Senator.

Biskup ascends to the chief of staff role from director of district operations, a position she has held since Rolison assumed office in 2023. Here, she worked closest with the people in parts of Dutchess, Putnam and Orange counties. Senate District 39 is not her first New York State Senate venture. Biskup was also the director of district operations for former Senator Sue Serino during her tenure from 2015 through 2022. Not only closing thousands of constituent service cases, she also led the planning of various successful community events benefiting seniors, students, veterans, and more as well as mentoring many staff members and over 80 college interns.

Prior to her career in the State Senate, Biskup held a distinguished, 35-plus-year career in the fashion industry. She spent eighteen years advancing from a trainee, department manager, flagship store manager, associate, then senior buyer, to senior vice president of merchandising at Loehmann's Inc. in New York. As a professor for seventeen years in the fashion program at Marist College and internship and placement coordinator, Biskup was instrumental in educating and advising program students and aiding students in securing internships and job placements in the industry. She is also credited with the development and expansion of the Marist College Fashion Internship Program, including the creation of the popular "Marist in Manhattan" semester-long internship experience in New York City.

For more information on Rolison and his work, visit www.nysenate.gov/senators/rob-rolison or call (845) 229-0106.



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.

GOLDEN LIVING

'ROMANCE BAITING': A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD SCAM

Intergovernmental police organization Interpol is asking for worldwide help in fighting the online scam commonly known as "pig butchering" - by using some other phrase for the term so that victims will be less likely to feel shamed, and more likely to report the crimes. The new term favored by Interpol is "romance baiting."

Romance baiting fraudsters lure their victims by posing online or over the phone as someone who's well-to-do but lonely. Victims fall for the promise of a relationship and are then convinced to invest in cryptocurrency schemes. Once the fraudster gets their hooks into the victim's money, they and the money both disappear. The scam often leaves victims with devastating financial and emotional losses, which can make it less likely that the victim will report the crime.

Will reporting a scam or scam attempt solve crimes? Not usually by itself; however, a report can be a piece of the puzzle for investigators, and can only help reduce the likelihood of scammers finding new victims.

Our latest Scam Prevention Resources flyer is available at dutchessny.gov/scam-prevention. It contains key contact information for local, county, state and federal agencies that investigate the countless types of attempted fraud you're likely to encounter.

If you're looking for somebody to talk to just to pass the time, OFA's "Friendly Calls" program is just what you may need. We're looking for both participants (must be Dutchess residents over age 60) as well as volunteer callers (can be any age over 18).

Reach out to OFA at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.com to find out more or visit dutchessny.gov/friendlycalls.

With OFA's "Friendly Calls" program, you can choose to make phone calls to older adults at risk of social isolation, or you can choose to receive calls - or you can do both.

For those of you who haven't volunteered before and are exploring your possibilities, "Friendly Calls" can be ideal. A typical "Friendly Calls" series takes place once a week, for 20-30 minutes a call, for eight weeks. "Friendly Calls" volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Those who wish to receive calls must be Dutchess County residents at least 60 years of age.

Upcoming "Friendly Calls" orientations at OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie are scheduled as follows:

Monday, 2/10/25, 1:30pm
Tuesday, 2/18/25, 10:00am
Monday, 2/24/25, 1:30pm

To schedule your volunteer orientation - they last about an hour - here at our Poughkeepsie office, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ledgar@dutchessny.gov.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS - A REMINDER

Dutchess County Government offices, including the Office for the Aging and all OFA Friendship Centers, are closed on Wednesday, February 12th in observance of the Lincoln's Birthday holiday, which is observed as a legal holiday in New York State and seven other states. Another closure is scheduled for Monday, February 17th, the national Presidents Day holiday.

Clients of OFA's Home Delivered Meals program receive shelf-stable meals in advance of legal holidays, as well as anticipated inclement winter weather.

HARRISON FORD AND ... OFA'S EXERCISE PROGRAM?

There are many great reasons for older adults in Dutchess County to join an OFA Exercise class, but we must admit we didn't include "looking good in a kilt at age 82" as one of them. For that, we must rely on Harrison Ford in this new ad for Glenmorangie whisky from Scotland. For more information on OFA Exercise classes, whether you're interested in participating

and/or leading a class (we provide all training), visit dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ofa@dutchessny.gov. (Whisky not permitted at classes, as per OFA Nutrition recommendations, and state law.)

DUTCHESS TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

With OFA offices overlooking Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, we get a firsthand look at many common Dutchess County traffic concerns. Like you, we find ourselves asking the common questions:

Why's everybody going so fast?
Why's everybody going so slow?

That pothole is older than my grandchildren. How come it hasn't been fixed?

The sidewalk in front of my house is falling apart!

It's not always clear who should hear your concerns and what could be done, which is a situation the Dutchess County Transportation Council aims to alleviate with its Safety Action Plan. Their goal is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries county-wide, and they need your input. The link above includes an online survey and interactive map where you can note the specific locations of issues that are important to you. Both are in English and Spanish.

RENOVATIONS AT POUGHKEEPSIE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

Renovations got under way on January 30th at Social Security's office at 332 Main St. in Poughkeepsie; the office is scheduled to remain closed for in-person business for about two weeks, and is scheduled to open "a small contact station" for in-person business at the Poughkeepsie location starting Monday, February 17th.

Should a person need an appointment by phone or video, they can request one by either calling the Poughkeepsie office at 1-877-405-6747 or the national 800# - 1-800-772-1213.

During the renovations in Poughkeepsie, in-person business can be conducted at the Social Security field office in Middletown, at 85 Crystal Run Rd.

Local Social Security officials say applying online is hands down the fastest and most efficient way to file for benefits like retirement and disability, and even request duplicate Social Security cards. Visit ssa.gov to get started.

LOW/MODERATE INCOME TAX PREP

FREE tax preparation once again is available, from AARP Foundation TaxAide's IRS trained and certified volunteers, through the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition.

Last year, 6,418 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes, with a goal of helping 8,000 residents file returns this tax season.

The tax service is open for low to moderate income residents of all ages who meet the eligibility guidelines. Membership in AARP is not required. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation TaxAide and Hudson Valley CASH Coalition members including the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County.

To receive help, dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline; or call 1-800-899-1479.

2-1-1 is available to take appointment calls from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

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 website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging Social media: www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA

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903 Motorcycles
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SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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



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