

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Third suspect arrested in 2022 murder of Beacon man

Beacon Police arrested Zyree Downing, 24, of Middletown, DE for the 2022 murder of Lionel Pittman in Forrestal Heights on Nov. 21, according to City of Beacon Police Chief Thomas Figlia. Downing is currently an inmate in a Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution, Figlia stated in a press release.

"Members of the Beacon Police Department transported him back to Beacon yesterday where he was processed on charges of Murder in the First Degree, and then transported to the Dutchess County Jail. This arrest, together with the June 11th arrest of Naije Perrette and the September 5th arrest of Khyree Pratt, represents yet another facet in the culmination of years of diligent work by members of the Beacon Police Department, the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office and other assisting agencies. At this time all three individuals who were present at and participated in the murder of Mr. Pittman have been arrested. These arrests were literally years in the making," said Figlia.

"I would like to specifically recognize Retired Detective Sergeant Jason Johnson, Detective Sergeant Thomas Durkin, Sergeants Michael O'Connor, James Serrine, Trevor Wood, Alyssa Rudden and Kelvin Grey, Retired Sergeants Joseph Conti and Andrew Dewey, Detective Carl Garofolo and Officers Brian Lawrence, Jason Burns and Ryan Sambells," remarked Figlia. "All of these members worked hard at various points in their career and played crucial roles in the investigation of this case. Finally, I would also like to thank the many other law enforcement agencies that assisted in the investigation that led to these arrests."

Other agencies thanked by the police chief were the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office, Medical Examiner's Office, Drug Task Force, and Sheriff's Office the New York State Police, the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, the City of Philadelphia (PA) Police Department, the Marple Township (PA) Police Department, the Delaware County (PA) District Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, NY/NJ HIDTA, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Survive & thrive - local owners share essential experiences

By Curtis Schmidt

They are all experienced small independent business owners/operators and they have all learned valuable lessons over the years. That's why they're continuing to survive and thrive.

For Small Business Saturday 2024, we gathered four local owners in a variety of areas and posed five key questions in order to take a look inside their world.

They have learned the importance of listening (to customers and employees), the value of patience and persistence, the keys in building relationships, how and when to make changes and always investing in education - you NEVER stop learning.

Our caring helpers include the following:

• **Caroline Dolfi** of the Pleasant Valley Department Store - The store is 78 years old (1946) and she has been managing it for 40 years.

• **Carol Torresson** is CFO and a co-owner of Viscount Wines and Liquor in Wappingers Falls. The store recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and she has been a part of the operation for almost 30 years.

• **Stephanie Spann and Ed Hackett** have been operating Hackett Farm Supply in Clinton Corners for almost 20 years.

• **Matt Sabellico** is the next generation owner at Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist in Hopewell Junction. The family business began 75 years ago and he has been actively involved for 21 years.

In order to learn and help others, we asked our team questions related to important lessons they have learned, the best ways to grow your business, the best ways to build relationships, best ways to change with the times and the best piece of advice they would give to other small business owners.

Here are their responses -beginning with Caroline Dolfi - the most experienced of the group.

Continued on page 2



Dutchess County small business owners share their experiences on helping businesses survive and thrive. Clockwise from top left: Carol Torresson, CFO and co-owner of Viscount Wines and Liquor in Wappingers Falls, Matt Sabellico, owner of Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist in Hopewell Junction and Caroline Dolfi of the Pleasant Valley Department Store in Pleasant Valley. Stephanie Spann and Ed Hackett have been operating Hackett Farm Supply in Clinton Corners for almost 20 years.

-Courtesy photos



Holiday events in Beacon and Wappingers Falls set for Nov. 30

By Kristine Coulter

After one's Thanksgiving feast, enjoy the tree-lighting ceremonies in the City of Beacon and Village of Wappingers Falls.

Free ornaments during event in Beacon

The 7th Annual Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 30 at Memorial Park, Robert Cahill drive (off Route 52) in Beacon. The festivities begin at a new time - 3 p.m. The actually lighting of the tree will take place at dusk, around 4:30 p.m., said organizers.

The event used to take place at Polhill Park. So, how has holding the tree lighting event at Memorial Park improved the annual festivities?

"Having it at the park provides a lot more parking and more space for the event," said Rhonda Altonen, one of organizers of the event. At least 200 people are expected, based on attendance during previous years.

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There will be singing and entertainment during the 2024 Tree Lighting at Memorial Park, Robert Cahill Drive, in Beacon. Pictured is the choir from a previous year's festivities.

-Archive photo

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Survive & thrive – local owners share essential experiences

Continued from cover

Caroline Dolfi

Most Important Lessons - Stay true to who you are as a business - don't try to be something you're not. Always do the right thing - with your customers, your employees and your suppliers. Watch your finances and cash flow carefully.

Growing Your Business - Give your customers a good experience and they will return. Word of mouth is the best advertising! Carefully try new things. Staying fresh is important, but don't invest too much too quickly in new areas. Keep up on trends, technology and advertise as efficiently as possible.

Building Relationships - Every sale is important, no matter the amount. Let the customer know by your actions that they are important to you. Be attentive to what your customers' needs are - Listen and give them as much time as you can. Kindness goes a long way - treat people as you would want to be treated.

Changing with the times - We try to keep up with trends and fit those to our customers' preferences, while still staying true to what makes us successful. Technology has forced many changes on a small business. Buying habits, payment processing, communication, etc. are all very different than they were, and we're always trying to keep up. For example, we had to change our payment processing hardware to accommodate Apple and Google Pay. Our customers were asking for it, so we made it happen.

Best Piece of advice - Enjoy what you do and work hard at it.

Carol Torresson

Most Important Lessons - 1 - The right employees can make or break a business. Treat them well. Never ask more of someone than you are willing to do yourself. Lead by example. 2 - Support the community that supports you. You don't exist without them. 3 - Sometimes listening is more important than talking. Make sure that your customers or clients feel heard and appreciated.

Growing Your Business - 1 - Act as if you are already where you would like to be. If you want to be a larger business, you have to think like a larger business even when you are still 'small.' 2 - Engage with your customers or clients often. Business loyalty is very personal.

Building Relationships -1 - Customer and/or client interactions. 2 - Business networks both local and regional (local business associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc.) 3 - Community and charity support. Your neighbors appreciate seeing you out at the events supporting the causes that are important to them.

Changing with the times - I always have said that 'if you don't like change, then you are really going to HATE extinction.' In our industry, products come and go and tastes change pretty quickly. It is important to try and stay ahead of the trends, embrace that diversity of products broadens your customer base, and availability of what your customers are looking for keeps you relevant. We recognize that because we

couldn't possibly carry every single product that someone might want. We special order available products for our customers upon request.

It has also been important to us to find the balance between embracing technological advances in the shopping experience without sacrificing the personal customer service that we are known for. We added a full e-commerce shopping platform to provide an additional level of convenience for our customers and it was able to allow the ability for safe shopping during the worst of the pandemic. Throughout the years we have made adjustments to our business hours to best accommodate our customers needs.

Best piece of advice - Keep going! Not everything is an instant success or reaps instant results. Consistent and sustained effort is the only way to determine true outcomes. Be able to chart a course, but also recognize when something is just a bump to get over vs. an obstacle that requires a change in direction. Talk to other business owners. There is always something to learn from those around you. BE GENUINE! The best thing you can offer your customers or clients is the best version of you.

Stephanie Spann and Ed Hackett

Most Important Lessons - Don't be afraid to try something new. Be willing to shift operations if they aren't going as planned.

Growing Your Business - Don't sit in the store - go out and find new customers. Advertise in the Northern & Southern Dutchess News. Be consistent with your advertising.

Building relationships - Consistency and communication are the keys.

Changing with the times - Again, don't be afraid to shift operations. For us, it was the addition of our 'Country Store.' We also focus on inventory that you can't get at box-stores, or on the Internet. Becoming more of a 'one stop shop' has brought in more customers.

Best piece of advice - Do your research and talk to your customers.

Matt Sabellico

Most Important Lessons -Patience and persistence are crucial. In farming, as in life, growth is a process. The seeds we sow today will not be ready for harvest until they have matured, and that takes time, care, and adaptability. I have also learned the value of integrity. Your passion and experience must speak for you, but they mean little without honesty and authenticity. Staying true to your values while navigating challenges and changes has been foundational in earning respect and trust within our community.

Growing Your Business - Growth begins with community. Building strong, authentic relationships with your customers, clients and partners is essential. For us, this means engaging with our customers in a wholesome and natural way, creating a support network that sustains not just the business, but the community.

Another essential factor is adaptability. As markets, technologies and customer needs evolve, so must we. For example, we have embraced regenerative farming practices



Viscount Wines and Liquor in Wappingers Falls recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Carol Torresson is CFO and a co-owner and has been with the firm for 30 years.

-Courtesy photo

that reflect both environmental stewardship and consumer demand for sustainable, healthy products, plants and food. Lastly, invest in education—both for yourself and others. Sharing knowledge, offering value, and continuously learning keeps a business dynamic and relevant.

Building relationships - Listen more than you speak. Relationships are built on trust, and trust is earned when people feel heard and understood. Whether it is with employees, customers, or peers, take the time to connect on a personal level and understand their needs.

Transparency and consistency are also critical. In farming, people trust us with their food and well-being. Being open about our practices, challenges and successes fosters that trust.

Lastly, show gratitude. Acknowledge the people who support you - your team, your customers, your community. Simple acts of appreciation can deepen connections and create lasting bonds.

Changing with the times - Change is inevitable, but it is how you adapt to it that matters. We have embraced shifts in consumer awareness by focusing on sustainable, regenerative farming practices. We have also diversified our offerings, like launching a CSA (Community Supported

Agriculture) program, specialty greenhouse-grown crops, and exploring new ways to connect with our customers and communities at large.

Our evolution reflects a commitment to staying rooted in tradition while innovating for the future. For example, we draw on decades of experience while incorporating modern knowledge about soil health, microbiomes, and community wellness into our practices.

Best piece of advice - Find your passion, let it drive you and build from there. Your authenticity will resonate with others and that connection is invaluable. At the same time, recognize that you do not have to do it all alone. Surround yourself with a strong team, empower them, and trust them to carry out your vision.

Remember that success is not an overnight achievement. It is a series of thoughtful choices made day by day, which lead to meaningful growth over time. Weather the storms, learn from the tough seasons, and never lose sight of your long-term goals.

Lastly, stay true to your values. In a world of constant change, your integrity and commitment to what matters most will set you apart and sustain you through any challenge.



Patience and persistence are crucial for small business owners, according to Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist's Matt Sabellico. The Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist family-owned business has been in Hopewell Junction for 75 years.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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**See story,
page 8**





STENGER, GLASS, HAGSTROM,
LINDARS & IUELE LLP

Holiday events in Beacon and Wappingers Falls set for Nov. 30

Continued from cover

Altonen said there will be “free ornament and smores kits for the kids and free raffles.”

There will also be entertainment from local talent. Altonen said there will also be “singing and dancing to Christmas music.”

Some of the performers expected to share in the holiday spirit are Water Walkers from Salem Tabernacle Church, Yanarella School of Dance, Ballet Arts Studio, School of Rock with special performances by Grace Morea, Molly Lyons, and Jonah Espinoza. The Beacon Scouts sing during the arrival of Santa, said organizers.

Kate Bessinger, with Ballet Arts Studio said, “The Dutchess Dance Company dancers really do look forward to the tradition of the City of Beacon’s Annual Tree Lighting every year. They love joining together with the rest of the community to celebrate the holidays at the start of the Holiday season.”

Bessinger remarked, “This year, four of the Dutchess Dance Company members will be dancing two pieces: “The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” and “Hot Chocolate from Spain.” We are excited to present something new, having performed “Waltz of the Flowers” last year and “The Dance of the Marzipan Shepherdesses” the year before.”

Angela Van Vlack, owner of Yanarella Dance Studio, said, “The students enjoy the atmosphere and the festive vibes the

most - from the Christmas attire, to the decorations and the upbeat music. Furthermore, they enjoy bringing joy to the community and spreading holiday cheer through dance.”

Van Vlack noted the dancers from her studio will perform “Christmas in NYC,” “Pink,” “Candy Man,” and “All I Want For Christmas.”

Altonen noted, “Pick up a free raffle ticket under the pavilion to enter to win a gift donated by the many businesses in Beacon. Tickets are only available at the event, until 4:15 p.m. One ticket per family member, and winners must be present.”

Wappingers Falls to welcome in the holidays

“The holiday tree lighting is a long-standing tradition that marks the beginning of the holiday season for area residents. Parents, grandparents and kids alike enjoy welcoming Santa into the village, and the holiday tree is a beacon for the entire season,” said John Tyliczszak, with the Wappingers Falls Activities Committee. The tree lighting will take place at Mesier Park on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. Rain date is Dec. 1.

Tyliczszak said, “There will be light refreshments available at the park however, this is an evening event in late November and people should dress for the weather. There will be a DJ who will be entertaining the crowd with holiday music and the “light parade” will have a variety of musical styles among the floats and marchers. If the weather cooperates, we



The annual Tree Lighting will take place in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls on Nov. 30.

-Archive photos



The annual parade and tree lighting will take place in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls on Nov. 30.

expect to see a crowd of many hundreds of folks, but Santa will have time to see every child who is in line.”

We encourage everyone to come out to the village and cheer on our parade

marchers and welcome Santa Claus to Wappingers Falls before he has to head back to the North Pole get back to work,” added Tyliczszak.

Annual Christmas Fair set for Dec. 7-8

The Women’s Parish Club of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church will be holding its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will be held in the St. Joachim’s gymnasium, Leonard Street, in Beacon.

There will be “values galore!” Attendees can begin their Christmas shopping at the famous jewelry counter.

Check out the new and almost new Christmas items, tasty baked goods, hand-made gifts, and more! There will also be several different raffles: lottery tree, wine basket, money prizes, gift baskets and a “50/50” to name a few! Breakfast and lunch will also be available.

Organizers also plan to have face painting and a craft table for children during the fair.

They do not accept Outside Vendors at this event.

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Viewpoints



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

The following is a letter from New York State Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. to Gov. Kathy Hochul and NYS Department of Corrections Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III about the need to protect employees' information from leaks.

NYS employees' information that was leaked needs to be safeguarded

To Gov. Hochul and Commissioner Martuscello:

As a follow-up to the letter Senator Rob Rolison and I sent earlier this week, I am writing to stress the urgent need for immediate action to protect employees impacted by the recent information leak at Fishkill Correctional Facility. After speaking with employees, union representatives, and local administration, it is clear the concerns of those impacted are both valid and significant.

While we recognize that the investigation is ongoing, the fears and anxieties among the affected employees are real. In good faith, we must act decisively to address their concerns and provide them with the necessary resources to safeguard their financial and personal information.

Specifically, we urge the state to immediately offer credit protection monitoring services to all impacted employees. This proactive step will demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of these public servants and help restore confidence during this challenging time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust you will take swift and meaningful action to address the situation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in this effort.

Anil R. Beephan Jr.
Assembly District 105

Caregivers and the holidays

To the Editor:

Holidays are not meant for you as a caregiver or carepartner, to feel stressed out!

Holidays are meant to be enjoyed! You do not need to make a "gala" for the person you're caring for. Sometimes we need to re-evaluate the needs of the individual you are with.

Often, too many people talking, laughing or even crying, can bring about more confusion and anxiety to those we care for and about! Simplify your holidays! Delegate others to help you!

Above all remember holidays are meant to be a happy time shared!

For those of you who are grieving, please talk about the individual you are missing. Bring out the photo albums and reminisce and laugh and cry together.

My hope is that all who are reading this letter will have a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season!

Donna J. Slavin
International Council of Certified Dementia Care Practitioners/
Support Group Facilitator

Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

Nov. 1: Auto Accident- Hit & Run- Main Street- Caller reported a past occurred Car vs Pedestrian Accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 2: Warrant- Municipal Plaza- Robert E. Morganfield, 55, of Newburgh, Orange County, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Nov. 3: Suspicious Auto-South Avenue- William R. Barrett, 64, of Wappingers Falls, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 5th.

Nov. 3: Harassment- Fishkill Avenue- Caller reported being harassed by an individual known to him. Caller wanted incident documented. Report taken.

Nov. 4: Larceny-Municipal Plaza- Caller reported being a victim of an Internet Scam. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 5: Landlord/Tenant Dispute - Melio Bettina Place- Caller reported Landlord/Tenant Dispute. Report taken.

Nov. 6: Harassment-Main Street- Caller reported being harassed by an individual known to him. Report taken. Caller wants incident documented.

Nov. 6: Arson-Main Street-Shane D. Williams, 39, of Peekskill, was charged with Criminal Mischief & Arson 2nd.

Nov. 6: Criminal Mischief-Main Street-Shane D. Williams, 39, of Peekskill, was charged with Criminal Mischief & Petit

Larceny.

Nov. 6: Auto Accident-Hit & Run- Main Street - Caller reported damage to a statue as a result of a Hit & Run Accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted. Vehicle was located and driver was issued tickets.

Nov. 8: Auto Accident- Main Street- Gabrielle L. Roberts, 69, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle, Motor Vehicle Violation- Suspended Registration & Miscellaneous V & T violations.

Nov. 9: Warrant- Fishkill- Francis M. Cannon, 36, of Beacon, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Nov. 10: Harassment-Church Street- Caller reported harassment by an individual known to him. Report taken. Individual was advised to stay away from caller.

Nov. 13: Warrant-Municipal Plaza- Kieran J. Nemeth, 27, of Beacon, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Nov. 13: Fraud-Fishkill Avenue- Caller reported Check Fraud. Report taken. Investigation Conducted.

Nov. 15: Animal Complaint-Anderson Street- Caller reported a past occurred dog bite. Report taken

Number of Calls- 270
Auto Accidents- 17
Domestics- 3.

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DC Sheriff's Office: Beacon man incarcerated allegedly violated order of protection

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Brandon Mima, 21, of Beacon, in connection with an investigation at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center. Mima was incarcerated at the time of the incident and arrest, and remains there at the time of this writing.

Mima is accused of allegedly violating an order of protection by contacting two separate protected parties via telephone. According to law enforcement officials,

he was arrested on Nov. 20 and has been charged with aggravated family offense (felony), criminal contempt 2nd degree (misd), and obstruction of governmental administration 2nd degree (misd). Mima is scheduled to appear before the City of Poughkeepsie Court for arraignment on Dec. 5.

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



Reflections of great wealth in rural Dutchess County

By Bill Jeffway

We often associate great wealth in Dutchess County in the 18th century along the great estates of the river where names like Roosevelt, Livingston and Beekman were found. But there was great wealth in rural areas as well, such as North East and Amenia. There we can find graduates of the best colleges like Harvard and Yale, and persons with strong international commercial and trading connections with Europe and Asia.

For this profile we draw from the 1915 book, *A Sketch of the Cotton Smith Family* by Bayard Tuckerman, which profiles John Cotton Smith. Born in 1765 in Sharon, Connecticut he graduated from Yale University in 1783, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1787. In 1786 he married a Dutchess County woman, Margaret Evertson, at the substantial brick home of her parents which stands today in Amenia and is known as Smithfield Farms. More on this shortly. He died in 1845 and is buried at the Hillside Cemetery in Sharon, Connecticut.

Tuckerman writes, "Few colonial weddings have been so well described as that of Margaret Evertson to John Cotton Smith, and we owe the description of it to the bridegroom's sister, Elizabeth, wife of Dr. William Wheeler of Red Hook [Dutchess County] who was unable to be present." He then goes on to publish the letter in full which includes the following descriptions, "Peggy first. Item. A gown of exceeding glossy and rich satin of a bluish white color that would make a fright of anyone else; but her complexion is so fair, that she can stand anything. It was trimmed around the neck and sleeves with exceeding rich lace about five inches wide in double rows and very full gathered. Mr. Everston sent express to his relatives in Holland



From the description of the wedding dress in the letter, Kenna Libes, a PhD student at Bard College, explained that we might get a general sense of it by referring to this item at the Chertsy Museum (Surrey, England), saying "from about 1780 this is more standard for what would have been worn as the base dress and accessories for a wedding."

-Image courtesy of Chertsy Museum.

for it and the satin for the gown. [She held] a very large painted fan with shepherds and shepherdesses painted on it. [She wore] a pair of white satin slippers... a pair of long white silk mitts reaching above the elbows. These were our dear mamma's finest knitting."



Undated portraits of Jacob and Margaret Bloom Evertson who were hosts of a spectacular wedding for their daughter at their Amenia home October 29, 1786 (image courtesy Invaluable Auctions). The details of the wedding were captured in a private letter of the bride's sister at the time.

-Photos courtesy of DCHS

The letter goes on, "And now for Jack. His breeches and coat were of a fine black velvet. His long white silk stockings were knitted by our dear mamma. And he wore the vest on which your own fair fingers spent so much time. His ruffles were the same lace as Peg's. His handkerchief was of the very finest texture of linen, almost like a cobweb, and your humble servant, madam, was the spider that did the spinning of the web! Likewise, the hemstitching in three rows. It took Johnny Barnet near a week to do the weaving it is so fine."

Remember that the letter writer is sister to the groom, and it seems she could not help but make a somewhat critical comment of her new sister-in-law, saying, "I fear the new sister is not overly well skilled with the needle, though in most other housewife arts she is well taught."

An unfortunate but authentic indication of wealth in the late 18th century is the scale of enslavement in any given household. The bride's parents, Jacob Evertson (1734 -1807) and Margaret Bloom Evertson (1744 - 1807) stand out in the 1790 census as having 14 enslaved persons at their home, which was the site of the wedding four years earlier. County histories from the 19th century refer to the Evertson's as enslaving as many as 20 persons and refers to their living in specific slave quarters.

In addition to describing the clothing of the bride and groom, Mary Smith writes to her sister Elizabeth Smith Wheeler describing the participation of enslaved persons, saying, "Just before

we all left Mr. Evertson's house, all the slaves gathered in rows on each side of the flag-walk from the front door..." Describing this as an old Dutch custom in terms of how the enslaved are treated at a wedding, Mary writes to her sister saying, "Mr. Evertson himself held an immense two handled basket full of packages while Master Reuters and John Evertson each held another big basket full of nuts, sugar plums and raisins. From Mr. Evertson's basket, the bride and her groom handed to each slave one of the packages while the brothers from their baskets dipped out big coconut shells full of goodies. Each clutched the package under one arm and held it tight while holding out their hands to be filled with the goodies. Each woman and girl found in her packet a gay handkerchief and store stuff for a new gown. Each man got a big red and yellow handkerchief, a pair of warm stockings and about two pounds of tobacco. Some of the eldest got other things besides."

Although this is a 1915 transcription of a 1786 letter, it holds amazing power in giving us an intimate sense of the textures, and smells, and rituals of a wedding of a wealthy but rural Dutchess County daughter at her parents' home.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsn.org or 845-293-7711.

Disability etiquette focus of 8th Annual ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference in Hyde Park on Dec. 5

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino invites service providers, educators and families of those with disabilities to the County's 8th Annual Think DIFFERENTLY Conference on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Henry A. Wallace Center at FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. Registration is required for this free event and can be found at dutchessny.gov/tdconference and includes a complimentary lunch. This year's conference focuses on disability etiquette.

County Executive Serino said, "Dutchess County is proud to once again bring together individuals and organizations who are committed to making a difference in the lives of those with disabilities. Disability etiquette encourages us to properly and respectfully interact with

and speak to residents with disabilities, empowering them to contribute to their community. I encourage you to take part in this important conversation, to increase our respect and knowledge about and for people of every ability."

Dutchess County's Think DIFFERENTLY initiative fosters a more inclusive and supportive community by breaking down barriers and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Now in its eighth year, the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference has become an essential platform for advancing conversations on inclusivity and for sharing best practices that support people of all abilities in local schools, workplaces and communities.

The 2024 ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference promises a robust agenda, which includes welcome remarks by

County Executive Serino, followed by a 9:30 a.m. panel discussion on "Lived Experience Disability Etiquette," which will give attendees the opportunity to:

- Learn from local residents as they discuss their experiences with a disability;
- Understand preferences when a disability needs to be addressed; and
- Learn about appropriate language when discussing disabilities.

Following lunch from noon to 1 p.m., Emma Arnoff, LCSW, AutPlay Certified Therapist, owner of Sensory Space Poughkeepsie and parent, will lead a "Neurodivergent Etiquette & Ableism" discussion, offering attendees the opportunity to learn about ableism and neurodivergent symbols.

Question-and-answer sections will follow each session, and attendees will walk away with resources to continue learning

about disability etiquette.

Dana Hopkins, Dutchess County's All Abilities Programs Director said, "Dutchess County is committed to ensuring that every resident, regardless of ability, feels valued and included. The ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference is a cornerstone of our mission to build a more inclusive community. Each year, we come together to exchange ideas, learn from one another and advocate for a world that embraces all abilities, and this year's event promises to be another success that benefits many residents throughout Dutchess County."

Additional information about the County's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative is available on the award-winning website, thinkdifferently.net.

Barton Orchards takes Dutchess County Executive's Award for Overall Excellence during annual Dutchess Tourism's Awards of Distinction



The 11th Annual Awards of Distinction hosted by Dutchess County Tourism, Inc. was held at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. Pictured are the winners during the event that was held on Nov. 13.

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) held its 11th Annual Awards of Distinction ceremony on Nov. 13, at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. The Awards of Distinction continue to showcase the county's tourism industry, from hotels and restaurants to attractions and experiences, and highlight the extraordinary work of those dedicated to enriching the visitor experience and promoting Dutchess County as a premier destination in the Hudson Valley. Spotlights about each winner and finalist can be found at www.DutchessTourism.com/awards.

"When Dutchess County Tourism was created 40 years ago to attract visitors to the area, I don't think its first director, Karen Woods, could have imagined how our organization and Dutchess as a destination would evolve," said current DTI President and CEO Melaine Rottkamp. "It's such an honor for us to showcase and support these 22 incredible finalists and winners who expertly welcome and elevate the tourism experience for locals and visitors in our community. Congratulations to all!"

Dutchess County Sue Serino added, "Together, we are setting the standard for how tourism should be done — with dedication, heart, and a shared vision for making Dutchess County a truly remarkable destination. It's that collective spirit that sets us apart and drives our success, reflected in another record-breaking year — over three-quarters of a billion dollars in visitor spending in 2023."

Winners

The Dutchess County Executive's Award for Overall Excellence: Barton Orchards, Poughquag

Finalists included: Mount Gulian Historic Site, Beacon; and Omega

Institute, Rhinebeck

Newcomer Award of Distinction: Dassai Blue Sake Brewery, Hyde Park
Finalists included: The Inn at Bellefield, Hyde Park; and Willa Bar, Millerton

Event Award of Distinction: Folklórico de Poughkeepsie's La Guelaguetza de Poughkeepsie, Poughkeepsie
Finalists included: Millbrook Vineyards & Winery's Bernie Williams Jazz in the Vineyard, Millbrook; and Pawling Concert Series, Pawling

Collaboration Award of Distinction: Boutique Wines, Spirits and Ciders, Fishkill

Finalists included: Big Gay Hudson Valley's Pride in the Sky Event, Poughkeepsie; and Howland Cultural Center, Beacon

Storytelling Award of Distinction: Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, Red Hook
Finalists included: The Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail (Dutchess County Department of History), County-wide; and Vassar Alumnae House, Poughkeepsie

Accessible Hospitality Award of Distinction: Hudson Valley Renegades at Heritage Financial Park, Wappingers Falls
Finalists included: Fisher Center at Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson; and Trevor Zoo, Millbrook

Hospitality Service Award of Distinction: Cheryl Brown, Executive Housekeeper, Hampton Inn Fishkill
Joseph Caster, General Manager, Shadows on the Hudson
Mary M. Hackett, Sales and Experience



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, right, with The Dutchess County Executive's Award for Overall Excellence winners Barton Orchards in Poughquag and Dutchess Tourism's Melaine Rottkamp, left.

-Courtesy photos



The Hospitality Service Award of Distinction went to Cheryl Brown, second from left. Brown is the Executive Housekeeper at Hampton Inn Fishkill, seen here with her colleagues.

Coordinator, The Inn at Bellefield

Mary Kay Vrba Spirit Award Honoree: David Bova of Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, Millbrook

As Vice President and General Manager of Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, Bova has overseen the winery's growth to an annual production of over 15,000 cases, with 35 acres of vinifera vines planted in the Hudson Valley. Bova's innovative, outside-the-box approach to promoting quality grape-to-glass wines has made Millbrook Vineyards & Winery a tourism gem in the Hudson Valley. In addition to their Jazz in the Vineyard summer concert series, Millbrook Vineyards has partnered with former New York Yankees center-fielder, acclaimed jazz musician and wine aficionado Bernie Williams to create "Bernie's Blend." Bova served on DTI's Board of Directors from 2016 to 2023, including time as board chair in 2021 and 2022 — a pivotal time in the tourism industry with the pandemic — and as past chair in 2023. His dedication to promoting tourism and hospitality in Dutchess County reflects the spirit of innovation and community that Vrba, former presi-

dent and CEO of DTI, embodied throughout her career.

Bova said, "Mary Kay has long been an icon of passionate support for Dutchess Tourism, and it is with great honor that I carry on her legacy here at Millbrook Winery. Her dedication to showcasing the beauty and charm of our region has inspired so many, and I am excited to continue her work in promoting the wines, landscapes, and experiences that make the Hudson Valley so special."

Attendees were served a breakfast catered by Simply Gourmet, highlighting locally sourced and donated ingredients such as maple syrup from Soukup Farms, teas from Harney & Sons, freshly roasted coffee from Ready Coffee and dairy products from Hudson Valley Fresh.

The Awards of Distinction event is supported by diamond sponsors Changing Our World and iHeart Media of the Hudson Valley, and platinum sponsors Central Hudson, Courtyard and Residence Inn by Marriott Poughkeepsie, Empire Merchants North, Hudson Valley Renegades, The Inn at Bellefield, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, Nuvance Health and Vassar College.

County to participate in statewide STOP-DWI Thanksgiving enforcement effort

Impaired driving crackdown runs Nov. 27th to Dec. 1st

Law-enforcement agencies throughout Dutchess County will participate in a special enforcement effort to crack down on impaired driving to coincide with the national Thanksgiving holiday. The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Enforcement Campaign effort starts on Wednesday, Nov. 27, and will end on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Various law-enforcement agencies will collaborate across the state and will be out

in force in this coordinated effort to reduce the number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths during this period.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more impaired driving crashes occur on Thanksgiving day than the day before or after the holiday. Of all driving collisions on Thanksgiving day, 31 percent are related to impaired driving. The

NHTSA reported Thanksgiving car crash fatalities rose by 23 percent from 2019 to 2020, based on the most recent data available.

The STOP-DWI Thanksgiving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign is one of many statewide initiatives promoted by STOP-DWI NY and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The Statewide STOP-DWI High

Visibility Engagement Campaign also targets Super Bowl weekend, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, the 100 Days of Summer campaign in June through August, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Halloween and the winter holiday season.

STOP-DWI New York urges residents to download its mobile app, "Have a Plan," at <https://stopdwi.org/mobileapp/>.

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



Mom's first Thanksgiving

A bowl of soup becomes a symbol of gratitude.

In 1621, the first immigrants to America, the Plymouth colonists shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies, with the Wampanoag Indians. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have.

Many Italian immigrants have come to embrace Thanksgiving because of their good fortune to have come to this great country. My parents are no different and to this day, they go to church on Thanksgiving Day morning to thank God for delivering them from the poverty they experienced after World War II and giving them the opportunities they have had in the United States.

Both of my parents emigrated from Italy. My father came over as a merchant marine from Monte di Proscida, just outside of Naples; and my mother came from an island off the coast named Ischia. Both immigrated just after World War II.

Ischia is a small volcanic island about 30 kilometers from the city of Naples. Today it is known as a very chic tourist destination catering to German visitors eager to bathe in the natural thermal hot springs and enjoy the spas that use the volcanic mud in their treatments. However, in the late 1940s, Ischia was trying to recover from World War II just as the mainland was. Because of that, many Ischioli, residents of Ischia, were

leaving for various other countries looking for work.

My mother, Francesca, was one of 8 children of my grandparents Giovanniguseppe and Concetta Mazzella. The oldest was Maria, followed by Raphaelina (Lina), Vincenza (Enzy), Francesca, Imaculata (Tina), Antoinette, and Luigi.

My grandfather Giovanniguseppe left Ischia around 1948 and moved to Argentina looking for work. He left his wife and children behind, hoping to make a better future for them. At first work was plentiful as the economy of Argentina was booming selling beef and sugar cane abroad. However, starting in 1950 the economy began to falter. By 1951 inflation was so high that Argentina money was worthless. What little money he could send home did little to relieve the poverty his family was living in.

Concetta had her daughter Maria write a letter to Giovanniguseppe, begging her father to come home. They were all starving. No one had enough even for one full meal a day. The children helped as much as they could, tending to the gardens, but were unable to do much. At least if he came home, he could help farm what little land they had and thereby at least feed his large family.

To make matters worse, when he left for Argentina, my Grandmother Concetta was pregnant with my Uncle Luigi and he had never even seen his father. Many a night Nonna (Grandma) would sit in the dark crying and praying for a miracle. In the spring of 1952, Nonna received a letter from Nonno that he was coming home. Her many prayers were answered. Nonno rolled up his mattress boarded a steamer and made the long trek home. Hidden inside his rolled-up mattress was a giant bunch of bananas.

Upon arrival, he immediately set out to feed his family and make them as com-

fortable as possible, with an eye toward immigrating to the United States where his brothers and sisters-in-law were already settled. He would fish every day on his father-in-law's boat, bringing home a portion of his catch to take care of his family's immediate needs. He would then work in the various gardens to make sure there was plenty of other food when the fish were scarce.

Finally, in 1955, my grandfather immigrated to the States with three of his daughters Maria, Enzy, and my mother Francesca. The plan being that he would get settled, both with work and a home, then send for the others as soon as possible. They left port, November 21, arrived on the shores of New York City aboard the steamer, Saturnia, on Thanksgiving Day morning 1955. My mother was 15 years old.

My Great-Uncle Antonio, my grandfather's brother, was waiting for them at the dock. After many hugs and kisses, he packed them into his car and brought them to his farm in Marlboro, NY where he lived with his wife Josephine and their children. Waiting for them was a Thanksgiving feast that my Great-Aunt Josephine had prepared. They had never seen nor ever had turkey before. Knowing that they would be cold from the trip, my Aunt Josephine had placed on the table hot steaming bowls of turkey soup.

My mother often talked about that bowl of turkey soup that they had as an appetizer, and how it was by far the best soup she had ever tasted, or would ever taste. It was filled with slivers of turkey as well as vegetables and pasta. There was a huge loaf of warm crusty bread on the table. She dunked the bread into the soup. It warmed her belly and for the first time in a long time, she felt safe.

During these turbulent times, we need to remember how truly blessed we are to be in the United States of America. Thanksgiving is a time to remember and

to be grateful.

Turkey Soup

Prep time 3/4 hours; serves 4-6 people

Ingredients

1 lb turkey meat, cut into chunks
1 small onion, chopped fine
1 medium sized carrot, chopped small
3-4 stalks of celery, chopped small
1 bay leaf
3-4 rosemary leaves
1 qt. chicken or turkey stock
1/4 cup Marsala wine
1 tablespoon pepper
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
3-4 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 lb spaghetti

Instructions

In a large pot, heat up olive oil on low heat and add all vegetables, placing the onions on the bottom of the pot with the spices on the top. Slowly sauté the vegetables for 15 minutes, occasionally stirring them to prevent them from sticking. After 15 minutes, add turkey, stock and Marsala wine and bring heat up to high. Allow to boil for 20 minutes. Take your spaghetti and carefully break into 2"-3" pieces. Allow spaghetti to cook in the soup for 8-10 minutes until the pasta is tender. Serve with a warm piece of crusty 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.

The Wonderland of Lights to 'shine and sparkle' at the DC Fairgrounds Nov. 28 - Dec. 29

Returning for the fourth consecutive year, The Wonderland of Lights™ brings the sparkle and shine of the holidays to Rhinebeck Thursday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 29, to the Dutchess County Fairgrounds.

This family-friendly drive-through experience boasts festive lighted displays from the whimsically wonderful to the nostalgic and traditional with thousands of dancing lights accompanied by sounds of the season.

Producer Tammy Peters says, "We are so excited to be back again this year. Dutchess County and beyond have embraced us and included The Wonderland of Lights into their family holiday traditions. We are so grateful. Our motto is 'Producers of Memorable Experiences' and that's what we try to do for every person who takes the time to drive through be it their first time or a frequent visitor."

New this year, is Sensory Night. For those children and adults living with sensory challenges, The Wonderland of Lights is turning off the strobes and animation on the displays Monday, December 16, between 5 and 9 p.m.

The Wonderland of Lights is once again supporting Make-A-Wish® Hudson Valley with Make-A-Wish Thursdays. With a donation from their wish list (<https://hudson.wish.org/amazon>), guests will receive \$5.00 off the \$30 car ticket at the gate only. A cash donation section has been added as well online on the ticket purchase page. Visit the website at www.thewonderlandoflights.com for more information.

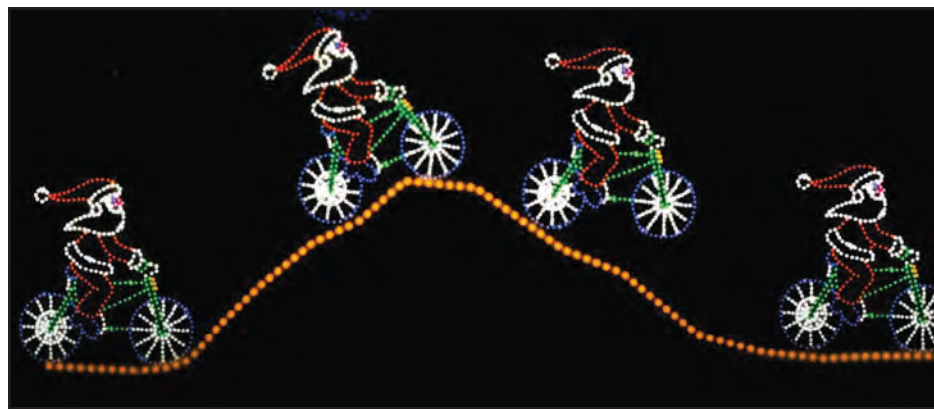
Tickets start at \$30 per vehicle up to eight passengers and may be purchased online at www.thewonderlandoflights.com or at the gate. Military Discounts are available at the gate only with a valid military I.D.

Schedule
Thursday, Nov. 28 - Sunday, Dec. 1
Thursday, Dec. 5 - Sunday, Dec. 8
Thursday, Dec. 12 - Sunday, Dec. 29 (nightly)

5-9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday
5-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Make-A-Wish Thursday: December 5, December 11, December 18

Dutchess County Fairgrounds is at 6636 U.S. 9 in Rhinebeck.

For more information, go to <https://www.dutchess.air.com/>.



The family-friendly drive-through experience of The Wonderland of Lights™ will take place Nov. 28 through Dec. 29, at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, in Rhinebeck.

-Courtesy photo

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Jessica Glass of Stenger Glass Law honored with ATHENA Award

Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Luele LLP (Stenger Glass Law) has announced that Jessica Glass, the firm's first female partner, is a recipient of the 2024 ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award, which recognizes dedicated professionals who are committed to serving the Hudson Valley community and mentoring young women, is presented each year by The Chamber Foundation Inc. and the Women's Leadership Alliance of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The 2024 awardees will be formally celebrated at the Chamber's 18th annual ceremony on Thursday, December 5, at Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls.

"From the moment Jessica became a partner, she has been a unifying force, fostering an inclusive and collaborative work environment through her genuine care for each of us," said A.J. Luele, partner at Stenger Glass Law. "Her guidance has been invaluable to our

colleagues, particularly young female attorneys and paralegals, and the impact of her service to our community is unparalleled. Our entire firm looks forward to celebrating Jessica alongside the other recipients of this prestigious honor."

After joining Stenger Glass Law in 2015, Glass became the firm's first female partner in 2019. Throughout her career, Glass has been recognized as a "Top Attorney" by *Hudson Valley Magazine* (2022 and 2023), "Favorite Lawyer" by *Hudson Valley Parent Magazine* (2018) and was previously awarded the Chamber's 40 Under 40 Award (2015).

Glass graduated magna cum laude from Marist College in 2001 before receiving her juris doctorate magna cum laude from Brooklyn Law School in 2004. Following her graduation from law school, she clerked at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She was admitted to the New

York State Bar Association in 2005 and, since then, has been admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals Second Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Glass' professional accomplishments are further complimented by her civic work throughout the Hudson Valley. Glass sits on the board of directors for Grace Smith House, acting as the chair of its Governance Committee. Further, she serves the board of Abilities First, volunteering as the Secretary of its Executive Committee and assisting its fundraising/golf committee, and the board of the Dutchess County Real Estate Charity Golf Committee, in addition to being a sustaining member and past board member of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie.

A Hudson Valley native, Glass currently resides in Poughkeepsie, with her son, Spencer.



Jessica Glass

-Courtesy photo

Find out what to know about selecting a Christmas tree on Nov. 30

The Beacon Municipal Tree Advisory Committee presents "Everything You Need to Know About Christmas Trees: selection, care, disposal, plus fun facts" The presenta-

tion will take place on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 11 a.m., at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., in Beacon. The presentation is free.

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Handel's Messiah Part I at West Point on Dec. 4

The West Point Cadet Chapel will present the Cadet Choir, various community choirs, soloists, organ, and orchestra in a beloved annual event – Handel's Messiah Part I (Christmas portion) and the "Hallelujah" Chorus, directed by Craig Williams, Cadet Chapel Organist/Choirmaster on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The concert will run about 90 minutes. This is a beloved holiday tradition begun over 65 years ago. Along with the orchestra and singers, the concert will feature the Cadet Chapel organ, the world's largest all-pipe instrument in a house of worship, numbering over 23,500 pipes!

This concert is a Special Event, so

access to West Point will be available to all showing proof of citizenship (photo ID). Please enter Stony Lonesome Gate off Route 9W, or Thayer Gate adjacent to Highland Falls. Parking will be available in the "A" Lot, just above the football stadium. Shuttle service will be provided between the parking lot and the chapel. This is a non-ticketed event, so seating is first-come first-serve.

Mask wearing during the concert will be optional and social distancing in the chapel limited, so please use discretion and caution according to personal comfort level while respecting the decisions of others.

Annual Holiday Auction set for Dec. 4

The Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America will be holding its Annual Holiday Auction on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rt. 55, in Lagrangeville. Get a jump on holiday shopping! Bid on new, unused handcraft-

ed giftables that have been stitched, sewn, embroidered, knitted, crocheted, beaded, baked, brewed, cooked, quilted, woven, tatted, painted and more.

The auction is open to the public. Bidding begins at 10:30 a.m. All sales are final; cash or check only, please.

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Jacobson secures \$30,000 for Coding Education Program at Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum in Poughkeepsie



Diego Patrimonio, right, demonstrates a coding and design program for Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson.



From left: Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson was joined for the funding announcement to Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum by Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum STEAM Educator and Field Trip Coordinator Chelsea Herzig, Executive Director Jeffrey Sasson, and Director of STEAM Engagement Diego Patrimonio.

-Courtesy photos

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) secured a \$30,000 grant to fund technology-based education programming at the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum in Poughkeepsie.

"The sooner children learn how to use technology, the easier it is to acquire those skills," Jacobson said. "Early education in technology gives today's students a leg up when they become tomorrow's skilled workers. I am proud to support the Discovery Museum in its quest for early childhood education."

With this grant, the museum was able to purchase a 3D printer, programmable robotics equipment, coding kits, and other technology tools. The program

is designed for elementary and middle school students to learn foundational technology skills through hands-on experience.

"This grant will help us teach critical skills in coding and technology to young children in the Hudson Valley, preparing them for a world where technology and innovation are key," said Executive Director Jeffrey Sasson.

The grant will also support the development of an interactive exhibit planned for 2025, which introduces users to the basics of computer science and coding.

For more information about the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, visit mhd.org.

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Obituaries

Mark Delaney



HUGHSONVILLE - Mark Edward Delaney, 94, passed away peacefully Thursday November 14, 2024 at St. Luke's Hospital, Newburgh surrounded by his children and grandchildren.

Mark was born and raised in Schenectady, the son of the late Mark and Alice (Marx) Delaney. After high school he proudly served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged and went on to attend SUNY Cobleskill, majoring in Animal Husbandry. After college, Mark worked as a USDA Inspector in New York City, GE in Schenectady and finally at IBM in East Fishkill where he retired. He was a long time member of Germania Singing Society of Poughkeepsie NY and enjoyed German folk dancing. Mark's true love was playing softball, and he continued to compete on two teams well into his 80's but he would happily tell you he mostly enjoyed watching his grandchildren

participate in sports.

Mark is survived by his wife of 66 years Anne (Fariello) Delaney. He is predeceased by his daughter Paula DeMarco (Chuck). He is survived by his daughters: Mel Unger (Mark), Deborah Tavarez, sons: Mark Delaney (Dena) and Gregory Delaney (Rebecca), and grandchildren: Bryan, Kelly, Jessica, Nicole, Harry, Louis, Julia, Christopher and David.

Although he moved away as a young man, Schenectady was always his heart's home and where he will be coming home to rest. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday November 22, 2024 at St. Kateri Tekakwitha, 2216 Rosa Road, Schenectady, NY. Interment followed in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery, Niskayuna, NY. There were no calling hours.

Maria L. Perrette



BEACON - Maria L. Perrette 69, passed away November 16, 2024. Maria was born in Brooklyn, NY to Frank and Marie Perrette, older sister Elena Loera and younger brother Steven Perrette. She lived the last 25 years in Beacon where she spent her life sharing her warmth and wisdom. She was a selfless caretaker, always putting the needs of her family and friends above her own. Whether it was offering a listening ear, cooking a warm meal, or simply sharing a laugh, Maria's home was a haven of unconditional love and comfort.

Maria loved the Yankees and baking holiday treats that were nothing short of legendary. She rarely missed a game, this year and the fact she saw them go to the World Series brought joy to her heart. Her kitchen was the heart of her home, where the smell of freshly baked cookies filled the air and brought smiles to everyone lucky enough to taste them.

Above all, Maria's greatest joy was her family. She was the rock on which generations were built, her wisdom and kindness shaping the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. To them, she was more than a matriarch—she was a best friend, a confidante, and a shining example of what it means to love unconditionally.

Maria leaves behind a legacy of compassion, generosity, and unwavering devotion to those she held dear. She is survived by her daughter Staci Perrette; grand children; Davonte Gibson, Shakera Gibson and Naije Perrette; Great grand kids; Namiri Perrette, Sorayaa Cumba and Najour Perrette.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care and direction of Joseph J. Schuka and the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, New York. Interment will be private at the discretion of Maria's family. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.LibbyFuneralHome.com.

John Clark



FISHKILL - John Leo Clark, a lifelong local area resident, passed away peacefully at The Pines at Poughkeepsie on Sunday, November 17, 2024. He was 77.

Son of the late Aloysius and Dorothy (Oates) Clark, he was born in Poughkeepsie on July 20, 1947. He graduated from Roy C. Ketcham High School, Wappingers Falls, in 1965 and also attended Dutchess Community College. 1967, he enlisted in the US Army and later was honorably discharged from service.

Following his time in the Army, John began working for the New York State Department of Transportation, where his career spanned a total of 35 years. He retired in 2003. He was a member of the Rombout Fire Company, which he joined in 1971 and held several leadership roles including President, Captain, Chief, and Fire Commissioner.

John's hobbies included woodworking, camping, and traveling.

He is survived by his son, Geoffrey Clark of Bellmawr, NJ; his daughter, Rachel Paskey & her husband Charles of Fishkill; his grandchildren: Susan Paskey, Leah Paskey, Keira Paskey, Zachary Clark, Joseph "Joey" Clark, Daniel "Danny" Clark, and Robert "Bobby" Clark; great-grandchild, Malachai; his sister, Trudy Clark; his brother, Michael Clark & his wife Karen; his sister-in-law, Virginia Clark; as well as his nephew and nieces, James Clark, Mari Huber, and Jennifer Sinclair & her husband Tom.

In addition to his parents, John was also predeceased by his brother, James Clark. Calling hours were held on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A funeral service was offered immediately following the visitation.

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Margaret Barker



BEACON - Margaret (Lucas) Barker passed away peacefully on November 23, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. Margaret was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and "Nanna," whose compassion and devotion touched everyone around her.

Born and raised in Beacon, NY, the daughter of Andrew and Victoria Lucas, Margaret attended St. John's School and graduated from Beacon High School, where she met the love of her life, Hank Barker who sadly predeceased her in March 2024. Margaret and Hank shared 71 wonderful years of marriage, building a life centered on love, family, and faith.

Margaret worked at Grant's Department Store in Beacon, Texaco Research Center, and Fishkill Health Related Center, but her true passion blossomed in retirement when she created her small business, M's Creations, specializing in silk floral arrangements. Margaret was a long-time parishioner of St. Joachim - St. John's the

Evangelist Church and active in the women's parish club.

One of Margaret's greatest joys was spending time with Hank and their family at their Lake Gaston, NC, home. Her love of music also shone through as she played the banjo alongside Hank and his guitar in their Irish folk band, The Black Velvet Band. Margaret's family cherished the special holiday celebrations she orchestrated, filled with their favorite foods and heartfelt traditions. Her grandchildren fondly remember staying up late playing games with her, while her great-grandchildren adored her cuddles and loving attention.

In her final years, Margaret was compassionately cared for by the dedicated aides from My Angels Home Care, especially her live-in aids Cynthia and Roshene, and her part time aid Audrey, whose kindness brought her comfort in her final days.

Margaret is survived by her four daughters: Victoria (Brian Snyder), Rosanne Callahan, Margaret (Kevin Baccamo), and Sandra (David Grohosky). Her sister, Mary Goodall and numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Margaret's legacy lives on through her nine grandchildren: Sean Callahan (Ana Chang), Daryl Callahan (Christine), Kirstin Ramsay (Brian Marick), Christopher Baccamo (Brittany), Nicole Ramsay, Eric Baccamo, Morgan Boone (Larry), Taylor Snyder, and Britni Hollinghurst (Branden). She was also blessed with 11 great-grandchildren: Madison, Laila, Liam, Amadea, Kyle, Alexander, Braxton, Pierson, and Brooklyn. And a baby girl due March 2025.

In addition, to her parents and husband Margaret was predeceased by her siblings Rose Haight and Edward Lucas, two great grandsons William and Ian, sisters-in-law Lorraine Lucas and Linda Lagoy and brothers-in-law John Goodall and Bob Lagoy.

Margaret's unwavering love, generosity, and joy in life will forever be cherished by those who knew her.

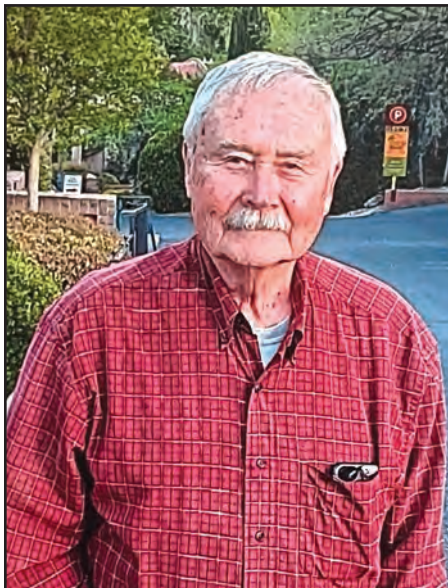
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Margaret's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, November 30 at 11 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Scott Ames Sands



Scott Ames Sands passed away peacefully at his home on November 23, 2024, just shy of his 85th birthday. He was born on December 6, 1939 in Duluth, Minnesota to the late Oscar and Pauline (Grant) Sands. He has been married to his beloved wife Ann (Bushnell) Sands for 60 years.

Scott graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth, attended the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated with his Masters Degree from Union College in Schenectady, NY. He worked as an Engineer for IBM in East Fishkill for over 25 years, and received several patents during his time there. He also enjoyed his second career as a Paralegal for the intellectual property law firm of FCH&S in New York, where he worked for 14 years.

Scott was an Eagle Scout, and was very involved with Boy Scouts of America as well as the Order of the Arrow. He mentored a lot of young people both in his occupations

as well as in scouting. He loved photography, was a Civil War history buff, and enjoyed vacationing with his family in Sedona, Arizona. He and his family also took many vacations to visit National Parks throughout the U.S.

In addition to his beloved wife Ann Sands, Scott is survived by his 3 children: Elizabeth Sands Piga, Amanda Sands Dragon, and Scott A. Sands; his grandchildren: James J. Andre, and Isla B. Sands and her twin brother Bodhi W. Sands; his sisters Karen Haythorn and Judy Sandeno, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday November 29, 2024 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc. 1089 Main St. Fishkill.

Scott's family would like to extend their deepest thanks to the staff at Hudson Valley Hospice for their great care and compassion.

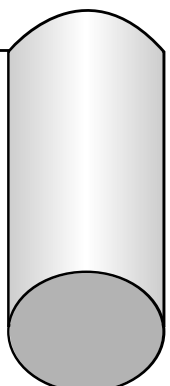
Please consider a donation in memory of Scott to either the Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org or the East Fishkill Historical Society 68 Kensington Drive Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

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'Sugar & Spice: A Global History' set for Nov. 30

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to present "Sugar & Spice: A Global History" with Sarah Wassberg Johnson on Saturday, November 30, at 2 p.m. in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, Westchester County) and online via WebEx.

Pumpkin pie, gingerbread, mulled cider - these are just a few of the spiced sweet treats that dominate the fall and holiday season in America. But where do all these foods come from? And how did tropical plants like nutmeg and sugarcane end up on American shores? Join speaker Sarah Wassberg Johnson for a deep dive into the global history of the spice trade, the sugar trade, and the development of our favorite holiday foods.

Wassberg Johnson is the education and programs manager at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. She has an MA in public history from the University at Albany and researches food history in her spare time.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall and Tompkins Bank. In-person tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, and free for Friends of Philipse Manor Hall members. Tickets include refresh-



Paolo Antonio Barbieri's "The Spice Shop," circa 1637.



Sarah Wassberg Johnson

-Courtesy image

-Courtesy photo

ments and museum admission. To reserve your spot, email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov or call 914-965-4027.

Tickets to the virtual broadcast are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at

<https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/lecture-sugar-spice-a-global-history>.

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County Players to present 'Babel,' 'Marjorie Prime' as part of CP2 Series Readers Theatre series

County Players, one of the longest running community theatre companies in the area will present the 2024-2024 Mini-Festival #2 in the CP2 Readers Theatre Series Dec. 6th - 8th at County Players Falls Theatre located at 2681 W. Main, Wappingers Falls.

Reading #1- "Babel" a dark comedy by Jacqueline Goldfinger will be presented Friday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., and Saturday December 7 at 2 p.m., and is directed by Michael J. Frohnhoefer. Set in the near future, two couples are having trouble getting pregnant and the lengths they go to in order to have a baby raises the specter of eugenics,

explores the societal value of a baby, and asks us what we are willing to risk for love. This talented cast features Heather Foglia, Keller Mickel, Rebecca Nagle, Carli Rhoades, Julie Seltzer.

Reading #2- "Marjorie Prime" a science fiction thriller by Jordan Harrison will be presented Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and directed by Cynthia Topps. It's the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie - a jumble of, fading memories - has a handsome new companion who's programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if

given the chance? In this richly spare play, Jordan Harrison explores the mysteries of human identity. The reading features local actors Trevor Allen, Craig Browne, Claudia King, Diane Preston, and David Topps.

Reserved Seating- is \$15 per reading, and only \$20 both readings on the same weekend. Visit countyplayers.org and at the top of the main page select BUY TICKETS. Ticket options are limited to mobile/digital or print-at-home only, as no printed tickets will be available for "will call" until further notice.

The next season of CP2 Series Readers Theatre, as well as the Main Stage

Productions for 2024-2025 are listed at countyplayers.org/season-67/.

67th Season Sponsor is Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union. CP2 Readers Theatre Series is supported by Silver Sponsors: Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar College, & Stewart's Shops. "Babel" is presented through special arrangement with TRW Plays. trwplays.com; "Marjorie Prime" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com.

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

Local artist Angela Lian discusses artistic journey at Mount St. Mary's talk

When she made a TikTok video titled "A Love Letter to Baggu," artist and designer Angela Lian of Beacon had hoped that she might be hired as a freelancer for the reusable bag company.

Baggu did one better: They offered her a full-time, remote position as an assistant graphic designer. With that in mind, her advice to young artists was simple.

"Share your work," said Lian. "You never know who's watching."

That was just one of the things Lian noted about her journey as an artist during a well-attended talk at Mount Saint Mary College on Thursday, November 14. The event was part of the college's CADM Speaker Series.

When she's not using her artistic skills at Baggu, Lian is focused on her personal art. Her works range from conventional identities to illustration, printed matter, and video art. Across her personal work, Lian combines dance and design.

Personal art is about more than creativity, she noted.

"The most important thing...is work/life balance," Lian said. "You need hobbies and passion projects to make sure we're not overextending ourselves with our jobs."

Lian's work is currently on display at the Mount's CMA Galley. The exhibition, "Moving Making Moving: Embodied Ecologies," takes its title from the artist's



Right: local artist Angela Lian discussed the process behind her print and video art on Nov. 14 at Mount Saint Mary College.

-Courtesy photo by Lee Ferris

this week's puzzle solutions

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 and the text 'This week's answer' and 'SUDOKU' written below it.

Word search puzzle grid with words like 'LIONS', 'BRIE', 'STRIPED', 'GARBAGE', 'ANASTASIA', 'SIPHON', 'CORNER', 'OGEE', 'LEER', 'BLVD' and the text 'Suguru solution' written below it.

5x5 grid-in puzzle with numbers 1-5 and the text 'Suguru solution' written below it.

undergraduate thesis, which presented movement and chance as a framework for creation. The gallery features video art pieces from 2021-2024, alongside "Scores for Dreaming," a set of handwritten scores that pay homage to the relationships between the human and nonhuman consciousness of pain, memory, and ecology.

The gallery is located on the first floor of Aquinas Hall on campus. It's open Monday through Friday during normal business hours, or by appointment, through Friday, Dec. 6.

Email cma-gallery@msmc.edu for more information.

For more information, visit www.msmc.edu.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
40 OLD GLENHAM ROAD
TWO (2) LOT SUB-DIVISION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 132-12G of the Code of the Town of Fishkill the Town of Fishkill Planning Board (Planning Board) will hold a **Public Hearing on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the possible at the Town of Fishkill Town Hall in the Francois R. Cross Meeting Room, located in the lobby of the Town of Fishkill**

Legal Notices

Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524, in the matter of an Applicant's request to subdivide an existing 1.62-acre parcel into two (2) lots for the purpose of legalizing pre-existing nonconformities. Lot 1 will consist of .48 acres and the construction of a new single-family one-story frame house is proposed and shall be accessed by an existing driveway. Lot 2 will consist of 1.14 acres; it contains an existing two-family residence that is used as an office, a general commercial yard and a detached garage that

Legal Notices

is the primary place of an electrical contractor business and is also used by the Applicant as a secondary place of business for his construction company. The Applicant proposes to remove the existing commercial structures on Lot 2 and convert the two-family home to a conforming single-family home. The Applicant seeks to fully legalize pre-existing nonconformities by obtaining subdivision approval from the Board. The parcel for this proposal is identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 6055-16-806431 and is located

Legal Notices

at 40 Old Glenham Road in the R-15 Zoning District. All interested persons will be heard by the Planning Board of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing to be held as aforesaid. For any persons unable to attend the public hearing, email comments may be submitted in advance to dcollonna@fishkill-ny.gov.
BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FISHKILL, NEW YORK
Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of Dutchess County will meet on the 5th day of December at 6:30 pm, in the Legislative Chambers, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, New York for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of said county for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and on the Capital Improvement Program of said county for the years 2025 through 2029.
FURTHER

Legal Notices

NOTICE is hereby given that copies of said Tentative Budget and Capital Improvement Program are available at the Office of the Budget Director, Sixth Floor, County Office Building, Poughkeepsie, where they may be inspected or procured by interested persons during regular business hours. Pursuant to Section 359 of the County Law, the maximum salaries that may be fixed and payable during said fiscal year to the members of the Legislature and to the Chairman thereof respectively are hereby specified:

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| | | 5 | | 2 | | 9 | | |
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| | | | | 3 | 7 | | | |

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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

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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: THANKSGIVING

ACROSS

1. As opposed to Ave.
5. *Male turkey
8. *The National ____ Show
11. Suggestive look
12. Transversus abdominis location
13. Milan's La ____ opera house
15. Curved molding
16. Welcoming sign
17. Crossword entries
18. *Skillet-cooked batter
20. Bristles on grass
21. Talked like a pigeon
22. Scepter's partner
23. A way to steal gas
26. With two maxima, in statistics
30. All Nippon Airways
31. Tip of lion's tail
34. Body, breath and mind workout
35. Garments
37. Singer Benatar
38. Unethical loaner's practice
39. Copycat
40. *Pie nuts
42. Honey maker
43. Like Old Glory
45. Time for an egg hunt
47. "As if!"
48. Battle of the ____, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive
50. Moldy appetizer
52. *Green bean ____
56. *Thanksgiving football regulars
57. Cream-filled cookie
58. Chieftain in Arabia
59. Poem at a funeral
60. Of two minds
61. Not ever, poetically
62. Oui in French
63. Ensign, for short
64. Make them meet

DOWN

1. Coalition
2. Emmet Brickowski's brick
3. Zig or zag
4. Make wet
5. Safari hat
6. Mountain nymph
7. "Cobbler, cobbler, ____ my shoe"
8. Repair a sock
9. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short
10. "Now we're cooking with ____"
12. "La cerveza m s fina"
13. Bunch of #42 Across
14. *Football regulars on Thanksgiving
19. They're made for walking
22. Tin Man's remedy
23. "The Forsyte ____, " pl.
24. Not suitable in certain circumstances
25. Fruit-cutting device
26. 2nd letter of Greek alphabet
27. Skeptic's MO
28. Come to terms
29. Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
32. Hightailed it
33. Cul de ____
36. *Prepping a turkey
38. Cell phone bill item
40. Teacher's favorite student
41. Infamous Baby Face
44. Verse
46. Tranquil
48. Noble one
49. Internet patrons
50. Digestive aid
51. Fish eggs, pl.
52. ____ d'Ivoire
53. Bad luck predictor
54. What Pinocchio did
55. Makes mistakes
56. Bovine hangout

CROSSWORD

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| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | | 20 | | | |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | | 26 | | | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | 31 | | 32 | 33 | | | 34 | | |
| 35 | | | 36 | | | 37 | | | 38 | | | |
| 39 | | | | | 40 | | | | 41 | | 42 | |
| 43 | | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | |
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| 59 | | | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | |
| 62 | | | | | | 63 | | | | 64 | | |

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Thanksgiving Theropods

Even if you're not a fan of the "Jurassic Park" series, you probably still know the King of Dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus rex. That giant reptile was a theropod. Theropod dinosaurs lived from 245 million to 65.5 million years ago.

T. rex and other theropods walked on two legs. During the course of about 160 million years, theropods transformed. Environmental changes may have influenced how they searched for food or how they found safety. Over time, generations of theropods became smaller, a possible advantage in hunting prey and surviving extinction.

A theropod dinosaur called Archaeopteryx is considered a link between extant birds and non-avian dinosaurs because it displays features common to both. To date, thirteen fossils of Archaeopteryx have been discovered. The 11,000 bird species alive today are classified within the theropod clade as feathered dinosaurs.

Convincing evidence of the relationship between theropod dinosaurs and avian theropods is plentiful. Like birds, theropod dinosaurs had mobile necks, three front-facing toes, and backward-facing pubic bones. In embryonic development, both reptilian scales and avian feathers grow from similar cells. The skeletons of birds and certain theropod dinosaurs are also much alike—and the imprints of feathers have been found on some dinosaur fossils. Additionally, many theropods were ground-nesters.

Hens and Toms

In the wild, female turkeys build nests on the ground in spots with overhead cover, such as beneath brush piles. This Thanksgiving, however, most folks having

turkey will likely be consuming a farm-raised bird, rather than wild game. Those on the menu weighing less than 16 pounds were probably hens. But despite the dimorphism found in turkeys, such as male feather iridescence, beards, spurs, and size, both genders share yet another commonality with dinosaur theropods.

Wishbones

Many theropods and most birds (including turkeys) have a "Y", "U", or "V" shaped bone called a furcula. The furcula is formed by the fusion of the two clavicles (collar bones). More commonly called a wishbone, it can be pulled apart by two people during a tradition of seeing who will get a holiday wish.

In birds, the primary function of the furcula is to strengthen their thoracic skeleton to withstand the rigors of flight. In theropods, it was an anchor point for muscles of the forearms. It may have been instrumental for a wide variety of movements.

Fowl Breath

Unlike mammals, birds have a respiratory system that includes air sacs throughout their bodies and hollow bones which, likewise, contain air sacs. This unique physiology enables the high oxygen consumption necessary for flight. The number of hollow bones that assist breathing varies by bird species. Birds that fly long distances, like songbirds, tend to have more.

In very strong flyers, like cranes and falcons, the furcula bone is hollow and helps respiration by pumping air through the birds' air sacs. But even though wild turkeys can fly up to 55 miles per hour, they do so mainly to escape predators or roost in trees at



A turkey breast.



Turkey's furcula-meat cut away.



Disarticulated turkey furcula (wishbone).

-Photos by Francine Wizner

night. The furculae of turkeys don't contain air sacs for respiration.

Furthermore, the tom or hen purchased from the grocery store has not been bred for flight. (They also have shorter legs than wild turkeys, so they can't run as well). But they do have wishbones like their theropod dinosaur relatives. So, this Thanksgiving, if you see a turkey strutting around outside or one is on your table, take note of its connection with the theropod dinosaurs of its evolutionary past as you enjoy the holiday.

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://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>.

NY Philharmonic violinist to perform concert Dec. 1 in Beacon

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) begins its 2024-2025 Pop-up series with a unique recital by a NY Philharmonic violinist, Audrey Wright, at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician and enjoy complementary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. For tickets, please visit howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Wright's performance, Luminous Being, is multi-sensory, presenting solo violin and sound-responsive light art. Wright interweaves classical repertoire spanning the 12th through 21st centuries with original music and her own arrangements for a magical, poetic, and playful exploration of the connections between sound, light, and technology. For the performance Wright adorns a custom-made garment of wearable light art created by artist Geoff Robertson, embodying a luminous being of colors, shapes, and sounds.

Wright holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music. She plays on a



NY Philharmonic violinist Audrey Wright will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Dec. 1.

-Courtesy photo

1753 J.B. Guadagnini violin generously on loan from the Alsop Trust.

HCMC's Pop-up concerts are free and open to the public. However, in addition, HCMC is asking patrons to support this rare performance with pay-what-you-wish ticketing.

For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.howlandmusic.org.

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