

MAKING A VISION REALITY

HPAC Launches Campaign to Restore Luzon Train Station

Community Mural to Celebrate Sullivan County's Rich History

HURLEYVILLE – The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is thrilled to announce the launch of a capital campaign aimed at restoring the iconic Luzon Train Station of the O&W Railroad. A local landmark that has stood unused since the 1950s will soon be transformed into a vibrant programming and event space dedicated to celebrating the rich history and artistic spirit of the Sullivan County community.

At the heart of this restoration project is an inspiring community mural, which will be displayed within the station's restored vestibule. The mural will consist of 350 hand-painted 4x4 tiles, each created by members of our community. The

interconnected design of trees celebrates unity and symbolizes a renewed vision for a thriving Sullivan County brought together by the performing arts.

For just \$100, individuals can purchase a tile kit to create their contribution to the mural. Each kit includes all materials needed, a custom curated color palette, and instructions for creating a personalized piece of art. The purchased tiles will be assembled to form the mural, ensuring every participant's story becomes part of this collective celebration.

"The restoration of the Luzon Train Station is more than just preserving a building," said Christina Antizzo, HPAC's CEO. "It's about revitalizing our



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Restoring the Luzon Train Station is more than just preserving history, it's creating a cultural hub for the community.

community's spirit and creating an accessible hub for arts and culture in Sullivan County."

Lourdesa Hunt, HPAC's Director of Development, adds, "This community mural is envisioned as a powerful symbol of unity, with each tile telling a unique story that together honors our shared heritage

in Hurleyville and Sullivan County. Bound by a common thread in the performing arts, it celebrates both individuality and collective spirit."

How You Can Get Involved

HPAC invites the community to join in making this vision a reality in the following ways:

- Purchase a Tile Kit and create a meaningful contribution to the mural.
- Donate to the Campaign

through HPAC's website (www.hpacny.org/donate) to support the monumental restoration effort.

- Attend Fundraising Events and Workshops at HPAC to learn more about the project.

- Volunteer Your Time and Skills to be a part of this historic initiative.

- Spread the Word by sharing the campaign on social media and encouraging friends to get involved.

This campaign marks just the first step in a long-term plan to preserve local history and create a cultural space that will benefit generations to come. Every

donation, tile, and shared story brings us closer to the dream of restoring the Luzon Train Station as a home for the arts and a monument to community resilience.

Visit www.hpacny.org to learn more, donate, or purchase your tile kit today. Join HPAC in bringing Hurleyville's history to life while shaping a dynamic future for the arts. Together, we can restore the past and build a cultural legacy that inspires creativity and connection for years to come.

AFFORDABLE AND COMFORTABLE

Re-Opened Tango Café Going Strong

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE — Following a grand reopening celebration as part of Small Business Month in May, the refreshed and revamped Tango Café at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre has once again become a popular gathering place for locals, family and friends.

The restaurant's reopening started off with a bang, as Tango staff popped confetti "champagne" on the front patio while photos were taken. Reservations for the evening were fully booked in advance with indoor and outdoor tables and the bar filled with people chatting and laughing on a sunny spring afternoon. Laura Garone and Lake Street provided the live music as the Tango staff rolled out new menu items and cocktails, crafted by new Executive Chef Matt Lare.

Chef Lare, a graduate of Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, has been crafting food for about 14 years, with some interesting and star-studded experience. He began cooking at Lazy Pond Bed and Breakfast in Liberty, his family's business.

"I started doing catering there and ended up getting involved with movie set catering. I met Tom Hanks and became a private chef for Tom and his wife, the actress/musician Rita Wilson. I traveled with them for six different movie sets," he said nonchalantly.

He then started a food truck business, converting a fire truck into a food truck, and naming it Signal 10. He is also a volunteer fire-



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

Tango Cafe Chef Matt Lare in his kitchen.

man. Matt then began private catering, cooking for weddings as well as private dinners. When asked how he landed in Hurleyville, he said, "this opportunity at Tango just happened to present itself to me, actually. They sought me out, and it's an amazing gift and opportunity. We hope to bring a lot of business to HPAC and turn this place around. And from day one, I cannot thank Miss Janet (HPAC Founder and Artistic Director Janet Carrus) enough. I mean, she's a visionary!"

"We want to make Tango affordable and comfortable for the community," he said. "Taking basic menu items and making great meals out them is the goal. We'll also work on the am-

tizzo)." Ms. Antizzo elaborated on partnerships HPAC has formed with local schools in order to build a culinary internship program. "We collaborated on a Ramadan event with SUNY Sullivan's Culinary program, and it was flawless and beautiful," she said. "I think that showcasing their new chefs going out into the world is something we can help with. We want to make sure that they have the space outside of the college where they can present their creations."

At Tango Cafe, she explained, culinary students would work as paid interns and be able to create pre fixe menus that might be served on nights that the restaurant is usually closed. Other ideas to activate the restaurant on their "off days" include cooking classes for both kids and adults, and related farm and food workshops such as composting, canning the food you grow, and a presentation by a local chef with a mushroom farm.

The Tango Cafe is open Thursdays through Saturdays, with the bar opening at 4 p.m., and the kitchen open 5 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 5 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Additional days and events will be announced soon.

Eating at the Tango Café is a win-win, as you can experience great food in an inviting atmosphere while supporting a local business. Follow the Tango Café and the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (hurleyvillearts.org) on social media to find out about their live music each week.

bience in here and keep the prices reasonable and the locals coming in. Our work is going to include catering in the HPAC ballroom as well. The Chamber is having their gala dinner here in the fall, and I've catered for them before. So, this is like a welcome home for them."

Catering in the ballroom has not been a big focus for Tango since it opened in 2022. An indoor hallway connects the restaurant with the HPAC ballroom to make catering easier. "I've done a wedding for almost 250 people from two BBQ grills and a garden hose, so this is a step up," Chef Lare joked. "It truly is a gift. I'm so excited to work with HPAC, and Christina (HPAC CEO Christina An-

BETHEL — Archtop Fiber, the leading regional provider of multi-gig, lightning speed fiber Internet and phone service across the Northeast, has broken ground in Sullivan County. Fueled by New York State's ConnectALL Municipal Infrastructure Program administered by Empire State Development, which aims to expand broadband infrastructure throughout New York State, Sullivan County was awarded a substantial \$29.9M of the collective \$240M+ state-wide funding announced to date.

In celebration of the groundbreaking, executives and officials from Empire State Development, Archtop Fiber and Sullivan County gathered at The Bethel Woods Center this afternoon to unveil regional expansion plans.

"Today marks a historic turning point for Sullivan County — we're finally bridging the gap that has held back too many communities for far too long," Governor Kathy Hochul said. "This publicly-owned infrastructure isn't just about faster Internet — it's about opening doors to better healthcare, education, and economic opportunities that access to high-speed Internet brings to the table. No New Yorker should be left behind simply because of where they live, and this project ensures that rural communities have the same access to opportunity as anywhere else in our state."

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "The Municipal Infrastructure Program highlights New York State's commitment to innovative, equitable broadband solutions. By prioritizing public ownership, we ensure broadband connectivity is universally accessible, affordable, and sustainable. This investment will make a tangible difference in



PHOTO PROVIDED

Standing atop the historic Woodstock field in Bethel, (from left) Sullivan County Manager Joshua Potosek, Archtop Fiber co-founder Shawn Beqaj, and Sullivan County ITS Commissioner Lorne Green ceremonially break ground on a \$30 million broadband project.

the daily lives of Sullivan County residents — helping students succeed in school, supporting small businesses, and expanding access to telehealth and other vital services."

"For too long, people in our community have not had access to the digital resources that are required to take advantage of everything from educational and employment opportunities to full participation in civic and social life," stated Assemblymember Paula Kay, who represents most of Sullivan County in the 100th Assembly District. "I am positive this project will help break cycles of inequality here in Sullivan County and help each and every person in our area live up to their full potential."

"Access to high-speed internet is not luxury, but a necessity, a utility as vital as electricity for everyday life. Today, Sullivan County takes a major step towards closing the digital divide. I was proud to deliver a whopping \$30 million in federal funding to boost affordable, high-quality internet access for more than

22,000 homes throughout Sullivan County," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. "These federal resources will help families stay connected to education, to healthcare, economic opportunity, and each other. When I led the American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure & Jobs Law to passage, I made sure there was funding for long term investments like this that would create good paying jobs helping build the 21st century infrastructure needed to make high-speed internet reaches every corner of New York State."

"High-quality internet is no longer a luxury — it is a necessity for everyday life," said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "It is wonderful to see this broadband internet access project in Sullivan County begin, and I want to commend County Manager Joshua Potosek, Archtop Fiber, and all involved parties for their work to significantly extend broadband service to previously underserved areas. I am proud to be leading the push to help bring reliable broadband to every single community in our

state and will continue to fight in Congress for every New Yorker — regardless of where they live, work, or retire — to have access to the technology necessary to succeed in the 21st century."

Through this initiative, Archtop Fiber will deploy more than 220 miles of fiber — nearly 100% of which will be buried, underground backbone, and/or middle mile construction. Once fully implemented, the company will service more than 22,000 Sullivan County addresses by providing 10GB of symmetrical Internet.

The power of connectivity will grant residents access to the creator economy's full potential, in turn fueling long-term benefits and economic growth for the region. With fiber optics in place, the area will be poised to attract new businesses as well as remote, work-from-home talent, which will further promote an economic boost.

"Archtop Fiber is proud to bring the fastest fiber Internet on the market to Sullivan County," said Jeff

FROM CONVERSATION TO DISPLAY

by Hope S. Blecher Croney, Ed.D.

HURLEYVILLE – A few years ago, while working at SUNY Sullivan Community College in Loch Sheldrake, I had the good fortune of meeting people in the Student Activities Office. One person, Jamie Brooks, and I have kept in touch. As a result of a visit to the college, a new collaboration emerged. For the community, there is a new addition to a local exhibit. That display centers around a local gentleman, Francis S. Currey.

As you continue reading this column, you will become acquainted with the backstory, and then the information about the exhibit. Keep reading for the teaser question, too.

During the Spring Semester, Jamie and I collaborated to bring some books, photos, and artifacts to the Student Union for a display. We selected the items from the “Honoring Survivors and Their Rescuers Through the Generations” exhibit. Among the items were a Curious George plush toy, copies of articles, artwork, the book “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” and Lego daffodils.

Part of this Yom Ha’Shoah display included pre-recorded interviews with local residents. While attendees were watching, I happened to chat with one of them. She was Karen Collura, who

asked me if I had heard of Francis Currey. Since I had not, she shared a bit about him. That was enough for me to be hooked.

After making a few phone calls, looking into online articles, and sitting in a quiet research room at The Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum in Hurleyville, I knew that this “doughboy” was someone I would have been honored to have met. Thank you to Suzanne Cecil for access to the files and for the copies.

Although Francis S. Currey died in 2019 at the age of 94, he was a force to be reckoned with, and deserving of the honors he received during his lifetime. This teenaged orphan went on to become Sgt. Francis S. Currey. Among the titles of articles that appeared in the newspapers during the 1940s are “Doughboy Throws Arsenal at Nazis”, and “Embalmer, 19, Lays out Nazis, Halts Tanks With Five Weapons”, and “Nation’s Hero a One Man Army Is Hailed”.

He was honored with the renaming of a street in Hurleyville, a mural of his image, a Medal of Honor, a postage stamp, and yes, a Hasbro G.I. Joe action figure.

ARCHTOP FIBER: Breaks ground

FROM PAGE 1

DeMond, Chairman and CEO, Archtop Fiber. “It’s partnerships like this that make a significant impact in local communities. We are committed to helping businesses grow, governments connect and make homes frustration-free all while making the American dream much more achievable through access to the creator economy.”

“This partnership represents the culmination of many years of work and vision by County staff and partners,” said Sullivan County Manager, Joshua A. Potosek. “I’m particularly grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul, Empire State Development and Archtop Fiber for coming alongside Sullivan County to realize this enormous project, one which promises to impact thousands of people and businesses.”

“Thanks to being awarded the largest single grant in our history – nearly \$30 million – Sullivan County is positioned to spread the wealth of high-speed, affordable broadband access across our 1,000 square miles,” noted Sullivan County Legislature Chair, Nadia Rajsz. “And with our partner Archtop Fiber,

we will be accomplishing this feat with a minimum of unsightly wires – in fact, many people will be able to access the Internet wirelessly at speeds faster than they’ve ever experienced.”

Earlier in the year, Archtop Fiber had announced securing nearly \$200M in funding to support its aggressive expansion plan throughout the Northeast, targeting rural and unserved communities. The company’s service is currently available across Kingston, Saugerties, Rhinebeck, Hudson, Warwick, and Woodstock in New York and Vernon, New Jersey, with plans to light up even more markets, including Catskill, Red Hook and Tivoli in New York, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts in The Berkshires.

Customer installations in Sullivan County are expected to begin later this year with full implementation planned for end of 2026.

As part of its expansion, Archtop Fiber will be actively adding local jobs across new markets for both the development and ongoing customer support phases. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply for available roles by visiting www.archtopfiber.com/careers.

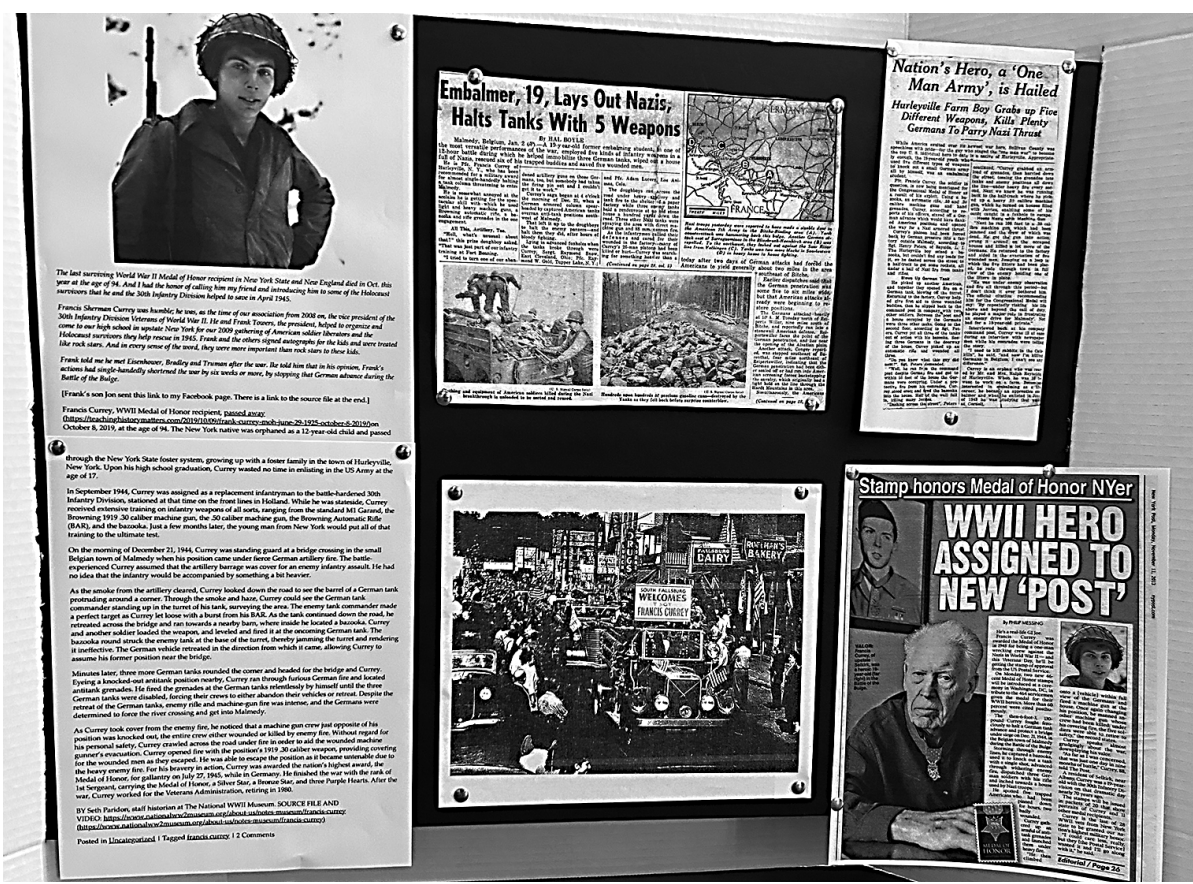


PHOTO PROVIDED

Such articles are part of the display, “Honoring Survivors and Their Rescuers Through the Generations.” Temple Sholom in Monticello is hosting this exhibit, and a series of programs related to it. The project has been partially funded by

grants from Sullivan 180’s Community Development Program, Resorts World Gives, and legislative discretionary funds to the non-profit fund, Hope’s Compass, a component of The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan.

Everyone is invited to the exhibit, to see the artwork by Adrienne Walker, Rosie Feder, Erica Hart, Eugene Iovine, Steve Duffy, Megan Barnes, Debbie Fisher, Jaime Schmeiser, and students from the Liberty Central School District. Learn from

MOVING UP

BCES Honors New Middle Schoolers

FALLSBURG – On June 24, the Fallsburg Central School District held its annual Sixth Grade Moving Up Ceremony at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. Each of the 109 sixth grade students were recognized for completing their elementary education and transitioning into becoming middle school students.

The following students who were recognized: Nila Ahmed Anha, Dilver Aleman, Saleisha Aleman, Armani Alencaster, Janelli Anderson, Hayden Atkins, Heather Avila Ramirez, Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Kadija Bamba, Kalifa Bamba, Brandon Banegas Osorio, Ava Berrios, Jaymes Bland, Elias Blandon Rivera, Reina Brizuela Avila, Rocket Budde, Dominic Bush, Jeyko Cajamarca Today, Nyomi Canales-Fuentes, Giana Canto, Rafael Carrasco Jimenez, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Katherine Castro Dominguez, Jeremiah Castro, Samantha Clark, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Melanie Davila Suarez, Aiden DeGraw, Jordan

Duarte Rodriguez, Greyson DuBose-Olmo, Muhammad Dumbuya, Nelson Duque Moroy, Livingston Elvir Castro, Alejandra Esparza, Ariana Esteril, Anthony Frunzi, Taylin Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Genesis Fuentes, Awa Gai, Valentina Garcia Delgado, Johan Aaron Garcia Gallardo, Selena Garcia, Wilmer Garcia, Catalina Gilmore, Genesis Gonzales Lopez, Alexa Granados Duarte, Emanuel Granados, Julian Helm, Maria Hurtado Iniguez, Loresa Idrizi, Arayaah-Laurice Irby, Kristy Izaguirre Chirino, Lizelena Jimenez Bonilla, Jordan Ketcham, Selina Lazroe, Yoslin Leon Mota, Ashley Leon Santos, Isaiah Lopez, Katie Lopez, Bryan Lopez-Romero, Christopher Maldonado-Rodriguez, Alexandria Mann, Caleb Mapes, Brittany Monserrat Martinez, Marvin Martinez Gonzales, Camden McKenny, William Medina Moore, Theresa Medina, Samuel Melendez, Pedro Mendieta Quiroz, Jellian Mendoza Valle, Paolo Moran Mazariego, Grayson Munger, Gabriel Newkirk, Har-

low Oathout, Nicholas Ortiz Jr, Hansel Pacheco Murillo, Derek PadillaAvila, Dayana Padilla Orellana, Da’Navaeh Palmer, Angie Perez, Jaime Perez Pascual, Keylit Pineda Nieto, Elias Reyes Renderos, Katherine Reyes Serrano, Elias Ricketts, Erick Rivera Moreno, Christian Robles-Hernandez, Jonatan Rodas Monzon, Jean Rodriguez Canales, Kendra Rodriguez, Sthephan Rodriguez Moran, Nelly Roman Guarchaj, Madison Samora, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, Kaleb Toledo, Alydia Torres-Fitzroy, Annabella Vences-Urquiza, D’Andrew Wallace, Melanie Wang, Benjamin Wizwer, Marleena Wright, Karla Zacapexpan-Reyes, and Anayeli Zaragoza.

Additionally, many students received certificates for their academic achievements, leadership abilities, and acts of kindness. Here are the following students and their respective award:

English as a Second Language Award: Maria Hurtado Iniguez and Saleisha Aleman

Child Care Providers Needed

with waiting lists.

Consider working from home and teaching children. You can run your own small business from home while contributing to and supporting the working families in Sullivan County!

If you’re worried about start-up cost, we may be able to assist in supply costs through our Infant/Toddler program. Most training courses through our agency are FREE for Sullivan County providers!!! Please contact the Sullivan County Child Care Council for step-by-step assistance with the application process, business aspect of your program, as well as the programs and resources available when your program is established. The Sullivan County

Child Care Council, Inc. has determined an immediate need for Infant and Toddler childcare based on our referral services:

- County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care
- Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello
- Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: scchildcare.com, The Office of Children and Family Services at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/becomeprovider.asp>, or give our office a call at (845) 292-7166.



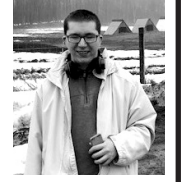
SHORT SPRINGS

Over the past several years, Our springs seem to have gotten short But recently a few days are nice Then we have months so unbearably hot That we wished we lived by a port! The humidity makes it stifling So, it’s hard to complete daily tasks Some people even find it so hard to breathe, They can’t answer a question you ask. Others have days of leisure in mind As they seek out a beach or a lake Perhaps sit in a boat and go fishing Or lay on the grass and try not to bake. Lately we hear that the weather tomorrow Will be such that it will make us all swoon It will feel like the “dogs days of summer” So, get your errands done before noon!

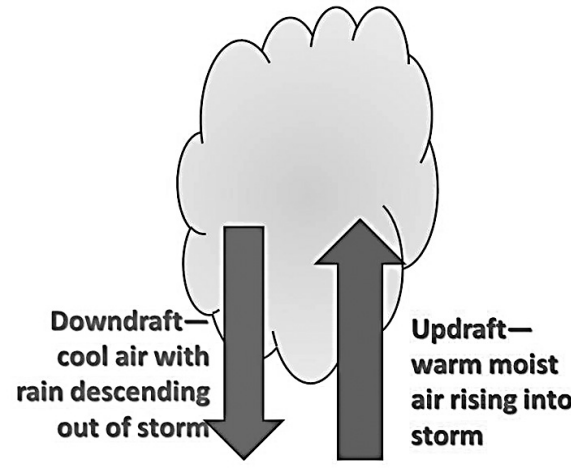
Mimi
July, 2025

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



DOWNDRAFTS



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

A downdraft is a downward movement of air, often accompanied by thunderstorms. A downdraft can vary in size and intensity, with a microburst being the smallest, and a macroburst being the largest and most intense.

Downdrafts are a natural part of a thunderstorm, and can also cause significant winds. Downdrafts form when cool, dense air, often containing falling precipitation in the form of rain or hail, descends from within a thunderstorm cell. This descending air can be driven

by several factors, including evaporation of precipitation, the sinking of colder air, and the interaction of different air masses.

Downdrafts can play a crucial role in the lifecycle of a thunderstorm. They can contribute to the weakening of a thunderstorm by cutting off the supply of moisture to the updrafts and by creating a gust front that can impact the ground.

John “the Weatherman” Simon writes a regular column on weather for The Sentinel. He lives in Hurleyville.

MONTICELLO KIWANIS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



PHOTO PROVIDED

From Left – Kiwanis Pres. Marvin Rappaport, VP Robert Green, Hailey Kaplan, Andrew Weiner, Lyndsey Kaplan, William Cooper, Geliana Marie Fernandez, Camilla Hernandez, Blayre Carnell, Belle Zhou and Principal Mrs. Jennifer Gorr.

MONTICELLO – On Monday, June 9, The Monticello Kiwanis Club presented nine scholarships of \$1,000 each to exceptionally well-deserving Monticello High School Seniors. The venue was Robert Green Truck Division Board Room where the recipients and their families enjoyed a delicious pizza party and graduation cupcakes. The recipients shared their plans for schooling going forward, and their professional aspirations. Principal Jennifer Gorr was in attendance, and shared her pride of the

students and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

The scholarship recipients were:

Hailey Kaplan – Monticello Kiwanis Memorial Scholarship; Lyndsey Kaplan – Ben Golden Memorial Scholarship; Andrew Weiner – Founder’s Scholarship; William Cooper – Max Shapiro Memorial Scholarship; Blayre Carnell – Leo Rappaport Memorial Scholarship; Camilla Hernandez – Selma & Robert Green Memorial Scholarship; Morris Germann (ab-

sent)– Rose Raimond Memorial Scholarship; Belle Zhou – Florence Leshner Memorial Scholarship and Geliana Marie Fernandez – Irving Kaufman Memorial Scholarship.

Retiring MCSD Driver Education Teacher/Kiwanis Key Club Faculty Advisor

Stephen Raabe was recognized and thanked for his many years of service to the school and to the Kiwanis Service Leadership Program.

All the scholarship recipients were congratulated and wished much success

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DOTTY AND ABE RETURN

Catskills Capers Book Two Released

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Although author Lily Barrish Levner is older than she looks, she is nowhere near aged enough to recall the heyday of the Sullivan County resort industry. Nonetheless, she captures the spirit of those days perfectly in her latest novel.

Hot on the heels of her initial Catskills Capers offering, “Banquets & Bootleg Bounty,” Ms. Barrish Levner has penned “Mountain Maitre D’ Mystery,” the second book of the series. The latest entry finds protagonists Dotty and Abe—characters based on Ms. Barrish Levner’s paternal grandparents—back at the Concord Hotel in

Kiamesha Lake, this time just as the region is about to experience the peak of its popularity as a tourist destination.

Once again, the couple is thrust into an adventure more or less against their will, and the looming specter of organized crime encroaching on their otherwise idyllic summer is again ever present.

The book opens in the summer of 1954, a time just after the Sullivan County Catskills had enjoyed its “perfect summer” in 1952, when not a single hotel room, bungalow, or boardinghouse room was vacant for even a day during the eight weeks of “the season,” and just before the Concord, not yet

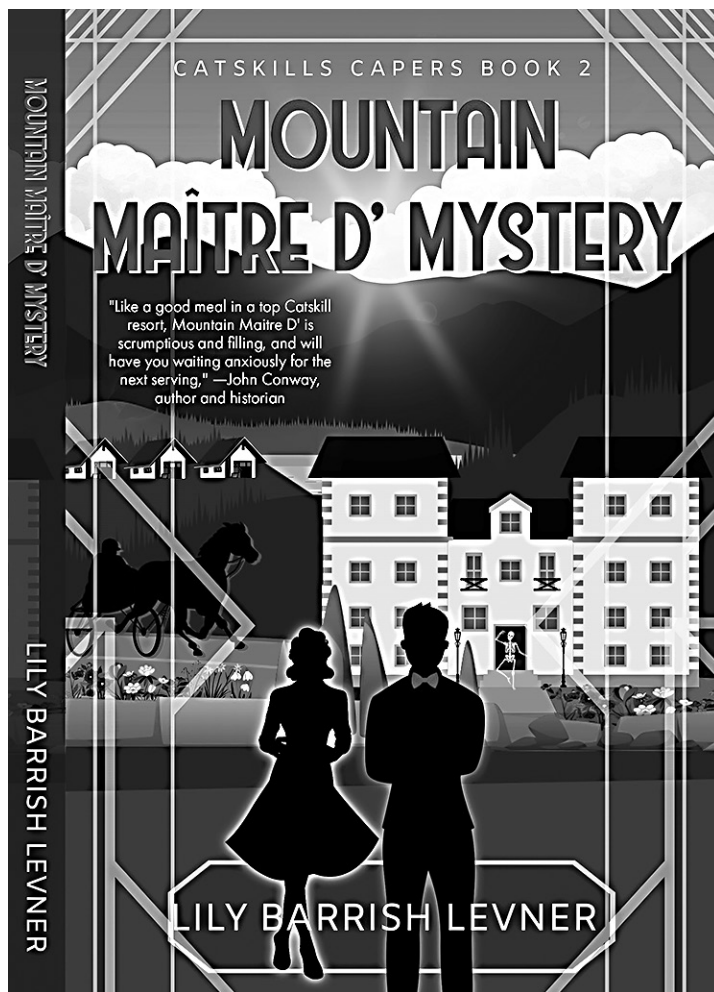


PHOTO PROVIDED

the largest of the Catskills resorts, embarked on a massive expansion that would, within the decade, leave it nearly twice as big

as any of its competitors.

The discovery of a skeleton in a secret room in the Sullivan County Courthouse plunges Dotty and

Abe into another mystery, and the “bootleg bounty” central to book one in the series makes its presence felt again, as well. Although Dotty and Abe are more than capable of carrying the storyline, Ms. Barrish Levner employs additional characters—most notably Abe’s demanding mother—to ensure things don’t get stale—or too serious. It’s a fun ride through a fun time, with just enough history to flavor the proceedings without making the reader feel like they’re back in school.

Ms. Barrish Levner, who is already “hard at work” on book three in the series, says that although she didn’t live through the era she is writing about, she has relied on stories her grandparents and others have told her about the time period, trying to be as accurate as possible in the retelling. She has also discovered a hidden personal benefit to writing the books.

“I am experiencing life

with Grandma Dotty and Grandpa Abe all over again,” she said. “It’s an era of their lives that I was not around for; it is a little bittersweet. I was fortunate to have them in my lives a long time. Dotty was 88 when she passed away and Abe was 93.”

Ms. Barrish Levner said that book three in the series will be entitled, “Woodstock Waitress Whodunit,” and is a mystery “based on my aunt’s experience when she went missing at Woodstock. In real life, my dad found her safe and sound, but you’ll have to read this book to see how I fictionalized the story. Book four will be set in Delray Beach, Florida during my grandparents’ retirement years. It will be the last book in my Catskills Capers series.”

Judging from the enthusiastic response her first two books have elicited, her growing cadre of fans are no doubt hoping that is not the case.

MEET CHARLIE REDLER

Director of the latest SCDW Performance

by Lily Barrish Levner

SOUTH FALLSBURG — Charlie Redler comes with an impressive resume. He taught American History at a private school in Florida for 28 years. It was 1995 when a ninth grader approached him because he knew he was acting in comedy. The student was interested in doing comedy. The other director did not want to do comedy, so Mr. Redler took over the non-musicals and directed for about a dozen years there. That student was Josh Gad; you might recognize him as the voice of Olaf in the movie Frozen. Mr. Redler directed him for four years in H.S.

In 2022, Mr. Redler and his wife bought their first home in Sullivan County.

“At ages 74 and 71, we became snowbirds,” Mr. Redler said recently.

It was his first summer here in 2023 that he saw an ad for the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop—it might have even been right here in The Hurleyville Sentinel. SCDW was in search of a 70ish actor for a short play series. Mr.

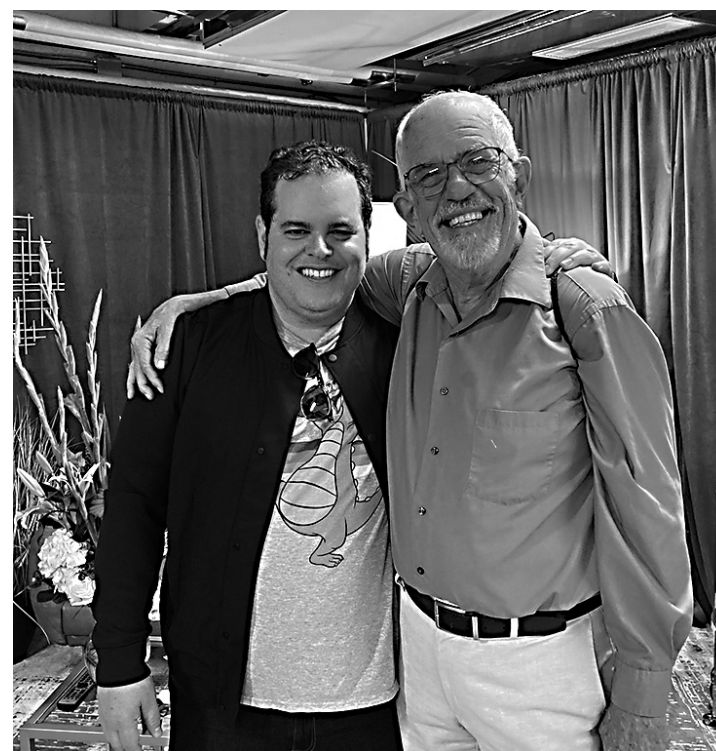


PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

Charlie Redler (right) with Josh Gad backstage of “Gutenberg! the Musical!”

Redler attended the audition, but they needed a director. Instead of acting, he directed two of their shorts. Last summer, he acted in two of their shorts, and this summer, he got the directing gig again.

Mr. Redler was given the script for “Belles,” about six Southern sisters who live apart, and decided it was a good fit. He held the auditions via Zoom, since

they are able to practice at HPAC, as well. Ms. Hunt and her daughter were actors in the first shorts Mr. Redler directed.

“Charlie Redler has an incredible gift for bringing out the best in his actors, fostering their creativity while guiding them with unmatched skill,” Ms. Hunt said. “Our arts community is truly richer because of his contributions, and I am so thankful for having the opportunity to work with him.”

“I love that I have a theatrical home and that I’m working with a 76-year-old theater group in a theater that’s 100 years old. When I tell my contemporaries, who summered here in their youth, that I’m at the Rivoli Theatre, they have such fond memories of it,” Mr. Redler said.

Mr. Redler plans to continue working with the SCDW as long as he can, and Sullivan County is very lucky to have such a talented director in its midst. Show dates for “Belles” are July 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20.

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Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

Critters

1. Sparrow

Consider the house sparrow, who neither sows nor reaps, yet takes advantage of our cottage to build his nest in the eaves. The house sparrow is a bit of a nuisance, really. I didn’t mind him so much when he nested above an upstairs window, a site he returned to year after year. The relentless grating of the sparrow’s song — cheep-CHEEP, cheep-CHEEP — was tiresome, but otherwise we respected each other’s space and got along.

Then, last year, the bird relocated to a new site over our back door. Nesting above a doorway was not a good idea. We ceased to respect each other’s space. We became mutually irksome. It was impossible to step out the back door without triggering a riot of sound and motion, the sparrow shooting out of his nest, perching a short distance away, and screeching a stream of abusive “cheep-CHEEP, cheep-CHEEPS” at us. We were potential predators, disrupting his home, just as he was disrupting ours—but the door was ours before it was the bird’s!

We put up with this until bird and nestlings moved on, at season’s end, and it felt safe to remove the nest, which turned out to be surprisingly soft, crumbling between the fingers and leaving fine particles dusting the flagstones.

This year, come spring, we placed a flock of helium balloons beneath the eaves. They moved in the wind like animate scarecrows and did the trick — we remained free of temperamental tenants. The older site, over the window ledge, also remained vacant. The silence is golden.

2. Spider

Early one morning, we noticed a tiny dot of orange light floating in mid-air on our front porch, bright as a speck of neon. The light emanated from a spider, fluorescent in the back segment of its body. It moved like a tiny jewel along webbing it had strung between porch post and trellis.

I’d never noticed this phenomenon before. I did some Web research and found that “fluorescence occurs when molecules called fluorophores absorb light at one wavelength and then emit light at a longer wavelength... Bright fluorescence appears to result when a spider sequesters fluorophores in its cuticle.” A molecule that transfigures

light! We were entranced by the spider’s fluorophorated cuticle.

The spider hung around for a few weeks, elaborating its web in the short distance, less than a foot, between post and trellis. The web made up in depth what it lacked in breadth, and unfolded like a multi-level version of cat’s cradle. You could look down into the web’s depths and relish its baroque intricacies. Then one day, after a bout of severe winds, it was gone.

3. Turtles

The annual migration of the turtles occurs in spring. I’m accustomed to looking out for the critters on walks and as they cross the roads. I saw three of them traversing the east branch of the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville on the last Friday in May. The first two, on the pond side of the path, were roughly a foot long each. I knelt down by the first one, just to say hello, and it swiftly (for a turtle) turned and headed off into the brush between path and pond. I lost sight of it within a few seconds but could follow its trajectory by watching the tops of the high brush sway as the turtle headed away from the path. The second turtle, withdrawn and hunkered down, didn’t move at all, and the third one, half the size of the first two, was mid-path in the Rock Cut, looking like it had made a wrong turn coming out of the pond.

On my way back to the parking lot, I passed a woman who had the two one-footers grasped around the side of their shells, one in each hand. She said she was going to put them closer to the pond and deposited them near the shore. There they sat, side by side, two greenish domes with vivid red markings around the outer rim of their shells, looking like twin monuments. Maybe they were communing with each other about their trying day, thwarted in their migratory routes by well-intentioned human hands.

We co-exist cautiously with turtles, driving defensively on their behalf, crossing their paths with all due respect. It’s an honor to encounter a turtle. Many traditions, from the Indian (Lenape) to the Indian (Hindu), say it is on the backs of turtles that the universe rests.

Jonathan Shimkin, writer and editor, may be contacted at jonathanshimkin@gmail.com, or via his website: jonathanshimkin.weebly.com.

Monticello Kiwanis and Sullivan County Aktion Clubs Maintain Flowerbeds



PHOTO PROVIDED

Standing — Aktion Club Advisor Kim Loucks (left) and Kiwanis Past Pres. Jane Sorensen, Front Row (left to right) — Aktion Club members Robert Weissman, John Paxton, Willie Conklin, Harold Conklin, Andrew Barry and Gary Walling

MONTICELLO — The Monticello Kiwanis Club continued their tradition of maintaining the Village of Monticello flowerbeds located on Jefferson Street and Route 42 near the Beer Store in the Village. This year, Kiwanis Past President Jane Sorensen volunteered to be in charge, and she received much appreciated assistance from several members of the Sullivan County Aktion Club, who came out early in the morning to till the soil, remove roots and weeds, and

plant beautiful flowers.

The Aktion Club is sponsored by the Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs and comprises individuals with disabilities who are affiliated with Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community, and The Center for Discovery. They continued helping out the community by visiting the Sullivan County SPCA the next day to present them with a variety of items that were on the SPCA Wish List.

New Coalition Condemns Antisemitic Incidents

FALLSBURG — The newly formed Sullivan County Coalition Against Antisemitism has condemned reported acts of antisemitism in Woodburne and South Fallsburg. Eggs were reportedly thrown at the local rabbi in front of the synagogue in Woodburne and at other Jewish individuals in South Fallsburg.

“It is outrageous that in Sullivan County Jews are being attacked at or near their house of worship solely because of their religion,” said Jacob Billig, a representative of the Coalition of eight Sullivan

County synagogues. “We commend the Fallsburg Police Department and other local law enforcement for their swift action to investigate these horrific incidents of hate and bigotry.”

The mission of the Sullivan County Coalition Against Antisemitism is to combat antisemitism in all its forms by denouncing acts of hate, bigotry and offensive speech and delivering a strong immediate response, and by engaging the community through education and activism in opposition to intolerance and disrespect.



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Sunday 11 - 4

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decanthurleyville@gmail.com

Main Street DANCE STUDIO

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From the Firehouse

by Jack Halchak, Past Chief H.F.D.



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking for help, to fight fire or support those that do. We even supply all the gear and provide all the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

One person did, and now we have a new member, Mike Miller. Welcome aboard Mike. Mike has already signed up to take his first class. Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations (BEFO). This is a basic skills class to get you started. You get enough training to get you to the front door of a building. The next class, called Interior Firefighting Operations (IFO), takes you inside a building to fight the fire.

As you read this, summer is in full swing. Our population has swelled from around 80,000 residents to well over 400,000. This brings on many more incidents for Emergency Services in the County. There have already been a number of river rescues. Fortunately, all those rescued were wearing their life jacket, and there was a positive outcome. Remember, always wear a life jacket when on the river. If you do not know how, learn how to swim.

Activated alarms are also

on the rise. **PLEASE** maintain your alarm systems by having them serviced when needed, and keep the sensors clean. Remember Emergency Services treats an activated alarm the same as if a fire were called in.

Another topic I would like to discuss is kitchen fires. They are the leading cause of house fires. Kitchen fires are a serious hazard, often caused by unattended cooking or flammable materials near heat sources. To prevent them, always supervise cooking, keep the cooking area clean, and have a fire extinguisher or baking soda readily available. If a fire does occur, quickly turn off the heat, smother the flames with a lid, and if it is a grease fire, avoid using water. **CALL 911.**

One of causes that is way too common, is putting French Fries or vegetables from an open bag of product from the freezer into hot oil. Open bags usually have a heavy coating of frost/ice on them. Hot grease and water do not go together, and the grease flares up or boils over onto the burner, resulting in a fire.

Another summer topic is hiking. Plan your route and let someone know where you are going and about what time you are expected

back. Have proper footwear and hydrate. If you get lost, stay put, if you can call 911. If your phone is about to die, change your voice mail message on your phone, and say where you are and your situation. When your phone is called and goes to voicemail, it can give the searchers a clue as to your location and condition, because when your phone is dead, voice mail still works.

Be aware of the weather forecast. Summer storms can pop up at any time. If there is thunder, there is lightning. Take cover.

Watch for flooding conditions on the road after a cloud bust. **DO NOT** drive around road closure signs or around barricades. There may not be a road under that puddle.

Another topic is a heated car interior. **NEVER EVER, NEVER EVER** leave a child or your pet in a car unattended. The summer sun can and will heat the interior of a car to dangerously high temperatures quickly and create a deadly situation.

Use some common sense this summer, and Stay Safe.

Coming up is the 14th Annual Bill Carlson Golf Classic on Saturday, August 16, starting at 1p.m. at the Tarry Brae Golf Course. Be Safe Out There!

Empowering a Healthier Generation

Sullivan 180 Accepting Grant Applications

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180 has released the 2025-2027 Empowering a Healthier Generation Program Grant Applications, continuing its investment in improving school wellness culture across Sullivan County. These grants are available to Sullivan County public schools that have an active Healthier Generation (HG) Advisor and a Wellness Coordinator. There are three funding opportunities:

The Healthier Generation School Grant (\$4,000) supports individual school buildings in implementing initiatives that raise awareness of and promote the district's Wellness Policy.

The Healthier Generation Competition Grant (\$10,000) encourages schools to elevate their health and wellness efforts through the development of high-impact campaigns that align with and advance the goals of the district's Wellness Policy. HG Competition Grant Awardees compete for a First Place Grant Award of \$75,000 and a Second Place Grant Award of \$50,000.

The Healthier Generation District Impact Grant (\$20,000) offers funding to support systemic wellness improvements that impact the broader school community, either district-wide or

within a specific building.

Empowering a Healthier Generation grant opportunities play a critical role in helping school districts turn their wellness policies into action. By aligning school-based initiatives with district-level wellness goals, the grants ensure that policies do more than exist on paper, they actively shape a healthier school culture.

“Grants are meant to include a student voice, community engagement, and sustainable change to drive meaningful implementation of wellness policies in ways that are visible and measurable,” said Meaghan Mullally-Gorr, Director of Health and Wellness at Sullivan 180.

“We are seeing a true culture shift in our schools, with students, staff, and community members coming together around wellness like never before,” Ms. Mullally-Gorr said. “This grant cycle not only builds on the momentum of previous years but also gives schools the opportunity to dream bigger and deepen their impact.”

For more information about the Healthier Generation Grants, please contact Sullivan 180 at info@sullivan180.org or visit www.sullivan180.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The nightclub at the historic Hotel Evans in Loch Sheldrake in its heyday.

LOCH SHELDRAKE GETS A MARKER Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project

LOCH SHELDRAKE – On Thursday, July 17, the Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project will host the 12th dedication in their Historic Marker Series, honoring Brown's Hotel and other iconic resorts of Loch Sheldrake.

These beloved destinations were far more than vacation spots—they were cultural epicenters that welcomed legends like Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar, Joan Rivers, Totie Fields, Liberace, and Jackie Mason. This latest marker also highlights the area's ties to Jewish gangsters, the golden age of boxing, and the evolution of the historic Karmel Hotel into today's Stagedoor Manor.

The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. at the corner of Route 52 and Loch Sheldrake-Hurleyville Road, where we will unveil the new marker with remarks by Bruce Turiansky, grandson of Brown's Hotel founders Lillian and Charles Brown, along with photog-

raphers Marisa Scheinfeld and Isaac Jeffreys.

Following the dedication, there will be a screening of the acclaimed film, “A Walk on the Moon” in the historic Fan-Fare Nightclub located at Vacation Village (you might remember it as Hotel Evans). This special evening offers the rare chance to spend time in a vintage Catskills nightclub, complete with great vibes and a classic Catskills film.

Whether you're a film lover, nostalgia seeker, or Catskills history buff, this is your chance to experience it all under one storied roof! The 1999 film, “A Walk on the Moon,” starring Diane Lane, Liev Schreiber, and Viggo Mortensen, captures the culture of Catskill bungalow colonies amid the backdrop of the 1969 moon landing and Woodstock. The film was inspired by screenwriter Pamela Gray's own childhood spent at bungalow colonies such as Dr. Lock-er's in Mountain Dale and

Silverstein's in Swan Lake.

Event Details

Thursday, July 17

Dedication Ceremony – 6 p.m. at the grassy area near the Stagedoor Manor bus stop (Loch Sheldrake-Hurleyville Rd & Route 52)

Film Screening: “A Walk on the Moon” - 7:30 p.m. at Vacation Village (formerly the Evans Hotel), 712 Loch Sheldrake-Hurleyville Road

Additional Highlights

Food & Drinks by King of Delancey

Vacation Village's on-site restaurant will be open before and after the screening.

Oral Histories with Beth-el Woods - Bethel Woods Center for the Arts will be collecting personal stories from attendees—preserving the voices and memories of those who lived this remarkable history.

RSVP & Tickets: Reserve your spot – capacity is limited!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1302097110509?aff=oddtcreator>

Celebrating the New Graduates

Fourteen Complete Successful Series of Tuition-Free Electrician Classes

LIBERTY-- Fourteen local residents successfully graduated this month from a Sullivan County-funded electrical certification course, the fifth in an ongoing series of skilled trades classes the Center for Workforce Development (CWD) is offering in conjunction with Sullivan BOCES and SUNY Sullivan.

“Congratulations to these hardworking adults, who made time in their lives to learn new skills, improve their job prospects and aim for higher wages and responsibilities,” said CWD Director Lorean Gebelein. “Thanks to the Legislature's financial commitment, the CWD continues to enhance our local workforce with practical, career-building skills.”

The 10-week program was administered by the CWD, part of the County's Division of Community Resources. Open to those 18 and older who applied and passed a rigorous selection process, classes were held twice a week at SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake. Tuition for the course was entirely paid for by the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Celebrating the electrical trades students' graduation earlier this month were, standing from the left, Sullivan BOCES District Supt. Robert Dufour, District 5 Legislator Cat Scott, District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz, SUNY Sullivan Director of Workforce Development Jaime Schmeiser, Deputy County Manager Michelle Huck, District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, District 9 Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo, Sullivan BOCES Executive Principal for Career & Technical Education Jeff Molusky, Center for Workforce Development Director Lorean Gebelein, graduates Justin Winters, Parris Owens, Shayne Durbin, Leticia Malave, Bradley Jennex, Justin Marte, Jake Nystrom, instructor Gunther Jensen, Center for Workforce Development Employment & Training Supervisor Renee Vandermark, CWD Board Chair Jacob Lerner, and CWD Employment & Training Specialist Samantha Nietzel. Kneeling from the left are District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone, Planning Commissioner Heather Brown, District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, and graduates Luis Diaz, Cruz Marin-Herrera, Aiden Reindl, Angel Rodriguez, and Zachary Jaycox. Unable to attend the event were graduates Rudy Roth and David Barnes.

County, with the expectation that graduates quickly secure local employment in that field (aided by the CWD).

“I was very impressed by the students and their capability for precise, quality work in such a short time period,” affirmed Deputy County Manager Michelle Huck. “But I was most im-

pressed with the fact that we invested in a group of people already intent on bettering their lives, their families and the County in general.”

“This was hands-on training by a skilled instructor, and graduates of this program are now ready to work – or are already employed – with a number of

local employers who value their newfound skills,” said Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley. “Since 2023, we've offered free courses in the construction, security guard, welding, and automotive trades, and I look forward to helping locals become certified nursing assistants this fall.”

CWD is now taking applicants for a Certified Nursing Assistant course that will begin in September, open to up to 15 adults residing in Sullivan County. To find out more or to apply, contact the Center for Workforce Development at 845-794-3340 or scwd@sullivanny.gov.

Radio Catskill Wins Four Excellence in Broadcasting Awards from the New York State Broadcasters Association

LIBERTY – For the fourth year in a row, Radio Catskill has won Excellence in Broadcasting Awards from the New York State Broadcasters Association (NYSBA). The Excellence in Broadcasting Awards is a state-wide competition, with stations competing against other stations in similarly sized markets.

According to NYSBA,

this year was highly competitive. More than 550 entries were submitted, with over 200 entries in the radio division. To ensure fairness, the entries were judged by broadcasters located outside of New York State.

“We're honored to be recognized once again by the New York State Broadcasters Association. These awards are a testament to

the hard work, integrity, and commitment of our team. This recognition reaffirms the vital role Radio Catskill plays in informing and serving our community with thoughtful, impactful journalism. I'm incredibly proud of our team,” said Tim Bruno, Radio Catskill General Manager.

Radio Catskill won in the following categories:

Outstanding Spot News - Correctional Officers Strike Over Unsafe Conditions (Patricio Robayo, Reporter/Producer)

Outstanding Interview - Some NYSEG Customers Taking Drastic Measures to Lower Bills (Kimberly Izar, Reporter/Producer)

Outstanding Election Coverage - Election Night 2024 (Jason Dole, Co-Host,

and Patricio Robayo, Co-Host/Producer)

Outstanding Public Affairs Program or Series - The Local Edition (Jason Dole, Co-Host, and Patricio Robayo, Co-Host/Producer)

The Excellence in Broadcasting Awards will be presented in Binghamton, NY, in the fall.

MONTICELLO KIWANIS DISTRIBUTES BOOKS TO SECOND GRADERS



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mrs. Kilcoin's (left) second grade students displaying chapter books and Jane Sorensen and Doris Motl in back row.

MONTICELLO – On Monday, June 9, members of the Kiwanis Club of Monticello visited the George L. Cooke Elementary School for a Reading Assembly and book distribution to ten second grade classes.

The books were selected by Doris Motl, retired fourth grade teacher and Monticello Kiwanian. She emphasized the importance that all the books donated by Kiwanis Club be given out to every second grade student for their summer reading pleasure. The children were super excited when they learned they were chapter books, which they were introduced to during this past school year.

Ms. Motl was accompanied by Jane Sorensen, Past Distinguished Kiwanis President as well as the current EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) Family Engagement & Program Manager of the Monticello Central School District. Mrs. Sorensen read a book entitled “Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon” by Patty Lovell. The book was about Molly being bullied in school and how she learned to gain self-esteem and overcome challenges and negativity from others. The children loved listening to the book and Mrs. Sorensen received a round of applause.

After the assembly, Ms. Motl and Mrs. Sorensen

visited Mrs. Makayla Kilcoin's second grade classroom where the children posed excitedly – each holding a chapter book.

In addition to the 200 chapter books given to the second graders, Mrs. Sorensen was given 30 picture books to distribute to families in the Tiny Town Program, which serves children from birth to three and their families. It is a partnership between the Monticello Central School District and the EPIC Program and is located at the St. John Street Community School.

For more information about Kiwanis, visit the Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club Facebook Page.

THE GENTLE LIFE PART IV

A Short Story by Henry Van Dyke

The Gentle Life is a short story originally published by Henry Van Dyke in 1901, and is currently in the public domain. In commemoration of the opening of trout fishing season in New York State in April, we are offering it in four installments. The story's narrator, a serious fisherman, disclosed that he had arranged to meet his friend, Ned Mason, at Contentment Corner on the Neversink River for a noontide lunch and smoke and talk, but Ned Mason is running late, and instead, an old man, a stranger, yet somehow familiar, appears out of nowhere, and a conversation ensues. The stranger launches into quite the narrative, and that's where we pick up the story in the concluding chapter...

"Well, Scholar, I have almost tired myself, and, I fear, more than almost tired you. But this pipe is nearly burned out, and the few short whiffs that are left in it shall put a period to my too long discourse. Let me tell you, then, that there be some men in the world who hold not with these my opinions. They profess that a life of contention and

noise and public turmoil, is far higher than a life of quiet work and meditation. And so far as they follow their own choice honestly and with a pure mind, I doubt not that it is as good for them as mine is for me, and I am well pleased that every man do enjoy his own opinion. But so far as they have spoken ill of me and my opinions, I do hold it a thing of little consequence, except that I am sorry that they have thereby embittered their own hearts.

"For this is the punishment of men who malign and revile those that differ from them in religion, or prefer another way of living; their revilings, by so much as they spend their wit and labour to make them shrewd and bitter, do draw all the sweet and wholesome sap out of their lives and turn it into poison; and so they become vessels of mockery and wrath, remembered chiefly for the evil things that they have said with cleverness.

"For be sure of this, Scholar, the more a man giveth himself to hatred in this world, the more will he find to hate. But let us rather give ourselves to charity,

and if we have enemies (and what honest man hath them not?) let them be ours, since they must, but let us not be theirs, since we know better.

"There was one Franck, a trooper of Cromwell's, who wrote ill of me, saying that I neither understood the subjects whereof I discoursed nor believed the things that I said, being both silly and pretentious. It would have been a pity if it had been true. There was also one Leigh Hunt, a maker of many books, who used one day a bottle of ink whereof the gall was transfused into his blood, so that he wrote many hard words of me, setting forth selfishness and cruelty and hypocrisy as if they were qualities of my disposition. God knew, even then, whether these things were true of me; and if they were not true, it would have been a pity to have answered them; but it would have been still more a pity to be angered by them. But since that time Master Hunt and I have met each other; yes, and Master Franck, too; and we have come very happily to a better understanding.

"Trust me, Scholar, it is

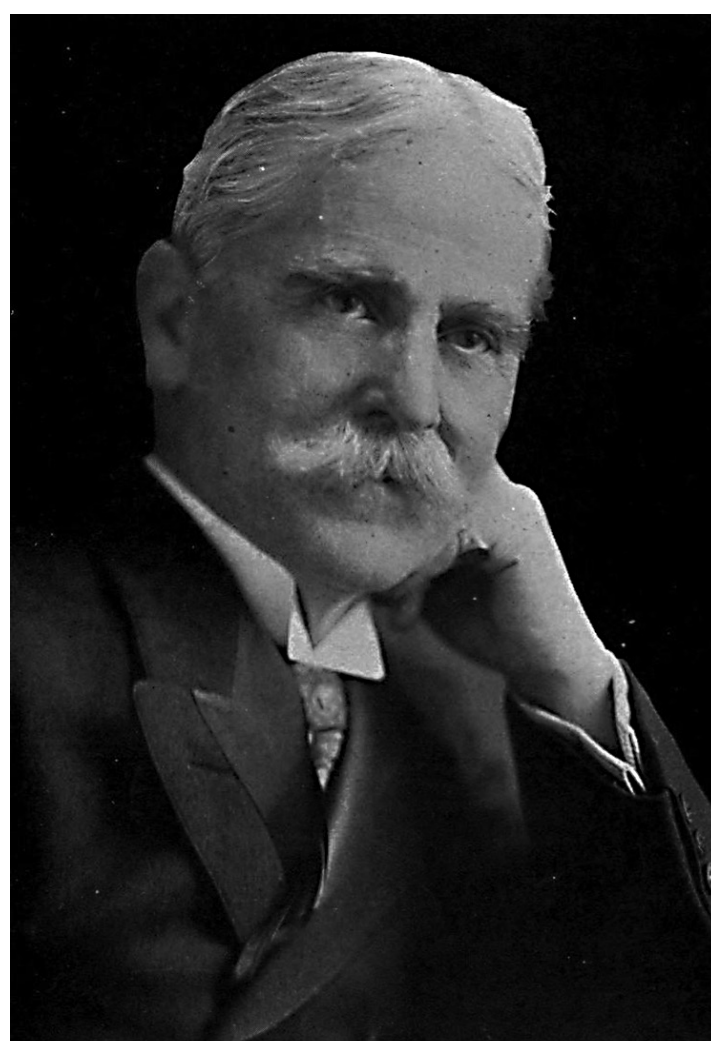


PHOTO PROVIDED

the part of wisdom to spend little of your time upon the things that vex and anger you, and much of your time upon the things that bring you quietness and confidence and good cheer. A

friend made is better than an enemy punished. There is more of God in the peaceable beauty of this little wood-violet than in all the angry disputations of the sects. We are nearer heaven

when we listen to the birds than when we quarrel with our fellow-men. I am sure that none can enter into the spirit of Christ, his evangel, save those who willingly follow his invitation when he says, 'COME YE YOURSELVES APART INTO A LONELY PLACE, AND REST A WHILE.' For since his blessed kingdom was first established in the green fields, by the lakeside, with humble fishermen for its subjects, the easiest way into it hath ever been through the wicket-gate of a lowly and grateful fellowship with nature. He that feels not the beauty and blessedness and peace of the woods and meadows that God hath bedecked with flowers for him even while he is yet a sinner, how shall he learn to enjoy the unfading bloom of the celestial country if he ever become a saint?

"No, no, sir, he that departeth out of this world without perceiving that it is fair and full of innocent sweetness hath done little honour to the every-day miracles of divine beneficence; and though by mercy he may obtain an entrance to heav-

en, it will be a strange place to him; and though he have studied all that is written in men's books of divinity, yet because he hath left the book of Nature unturned, he will have much to learn and much to forget. Do you think that to be blind to the beauties of earth prepareth the heart to behold the glories of heaven? Nay, Scholar, I know that you are not of that opinion. But I can tell you another thing which perhaps you knew not. The heart that is blest with the glories of heaven ceaseth not to remember and to love the beauties of this world. And of this love I am certain, because I feel it, and glad because it is a great blessing.

"There are two sorts of seeds sown in our remembrance by what we call the hand of fortune, the fruits of which do not wither, but grow sweeter forever and ever. The first is the seed of innocent pleasures, received in gratitude and enjoyed with good companions, of which pleasures we never grow weary of thinking, because they have enriched our hearts. The second is the seed of pure and gentle

sorrows, borne in submission and with faithful love, and these also we never forget, but we come to cherish them with gladness instead of grief, because we see them changed into everlasting joys. And how this may be I cannot tell you now, for you would not understand me. But that it is so, believe me: for if you believe, you shall one day see it yourself.

"But come, now, our friendly pipes are long since burned out. Hark, how sweetly the tawny thrush in yonder thicket touches her silver harp for the evening hymn! I will follow the stream downward, but do you tarry here until the friend comes for whom you were waiting. I think we shall all three meet one another, somewhere, after sunset."

I watched the gray hat and the old brown coat and long green rod disappear among the trees around the curve of the stream. Then Ned's voice sounded in my ears, and I saw him standing above me laughing.

"Hallo, old man," he said, "you're a sound sleeper! I hope you've had good luck, and pleasant dreams."

THE PILLARS OF THE SHUL Hurleyville Synagogue Now Open

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – Congregation Anshei Hurleyville, at 200 Main Street, is now open for the season. Shabbos services start at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday, June through October. Kiddush, the festive meal, follows services on the bottom floor. A delicious spread for everyone to enjoy.

The congregation will hold Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur evening and morning services, and just morning services for Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah. For more information, call 845-434-8294 and leave a message.

The congregation was incorporated as a religious organization in 1925, and the building was originally built as a church. Very old postcards show the building with the steeple from a distance.

"Everybody is welcome from wherever," said Stuart Wizwer. Mr. Wizwer was coming to this synagogue his entire life. His father, Joshua "Shea" Wizwer, was the prior treasurer. Stuart became the treasurer after his father passed away. He and his father had their Bar Mitzvahs there. Now, his grandsons plans to continue this family tradition.

"It's Modern Orthodox, with a lot more levity than expected," said Harvey Sparer, current president and gabbai. One Pesach, he and his family took a trip to the mountains. They



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

Left to Right: Stuart Wizwer, Harvey Sparer & Warren Berkowitz

noticed a synagogue with people standing outside of it. There were not enough men to form a minyan, as they needed 10. So, he and his father stepped in—Mr. Sparer has continued coming back since that day. He has been running services for 34 years straight. A man of many talents, he also holds a yard sale every Sunday, right here on Main Street, where he sells silver and antiques.

Warren Berkowitz has been attending the synagogue for more than ten years. He has become per-

sonal friends with many of the other congregants.

"Although we only come up to Monticello on the weekends, we make it a point to attend services. Sometimes, we drive up from Long Island for the weekend so we can attend services!"

You cannot find a friendlier, more comforting synagogue to attend than Congregation Anshei Hurleyville. They welcome everyone with open arms and make you feel like you belong. It is a special spot.

GRAHAMSVILLE – The Time and the Valleys Museum officially opened Phase II of the 1930s Catskill Family Farm in June, to the delight of longtime volunteers, museum supporters and area officials including NYC DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala. Memories were shared about family life on a farm in the 1930s as those attending the event got to tour many of restored farm buildings now standing just above the Museum site on Main Street in Grahamsville.

"We could not have built this Catskill Farm without the generous support of so many individuals who gave of their time and money to allow us to educate and inform people about the watershed partnership and protection programs," said Richard Coombe, Time and the Valleys Board President. "Because of that help, we have been able to share the story of the 5,500 people who lost their homes for the building of the Catskill Reservoirs. Many of these people were farmers earning a living on the land, just as their parents and grandparents before them."

All of the period buildings feature artifacts, tools and equipment, and are interactive with videos, games and authentic farm sounds. With the farmhouse, barn, and more; there are 19 farm buildings along with three Museum exhibitions in the main building.

"I have a PhD in American History and I go to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cutting the ribbon are (left to right) Robert Gipson, Dorothy Muthig, NYC DEP Deputy Commissioner for Water Supply Paul Rush, Sandra Gerry, Time and the Valleys Museum Board President Richard Coombe, Alan Gerry, and Time and the Valleys Museum Board Treasurer Jarryd Killian.

history museums when I possibly can," said Commissioner Aggarwala, who was the guest speaker for the event. "This is a really world-class history museum. It tells the story really, really well. From multiple aspects, it has the science, it has the architecture, it's got the engineering, it's also got the people. And you need all of that. Just as this is a world-class museum, one of the things that is so important about the relationship between NYC and its watershed is that it's truly a global model for how people can do things right, do things cooperatively."

Some of the additional buildings include a maple

syrup sap house, saw mill, pig pen, chicken coop and the Ray Bertholf Exhibition Barn with beautifully restored vehicles including a 1936 REO Speedwagon and model A Ford.

Sandra Bertholf Gerry, who attended the opening with her husband Alan, brother Gene Bertholf and his wife Debbie, told those in attendance that she was amazed and learned so much by walking around the Museum and seeing all the exhibits. "Being here today, reflecting and learning about some of our family history has also been very awakening to me. I'm appreciative of this area." She admitted getting weepy see-

ing a life-size picture of her father Raymond standing next to his beloved REO Speedwagon.

"I'm stunned by what Dick (Coombe) and his team have created," said Robert Gipson, a longtime supporter of the Museum.

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