



# Hudson River View

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(518) 828-0333

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**Murder Café kicks off its 27<sup>th</sup> season at Hutton Brickyards with a Victorian Era whodunit presented over a weekend.**

Over the weekend of January 23 – 25, 2026 Murder Café and Hutton Brickyards will be collaborating on a historical murder mystery. Set in Kingston during the Gilded Age, *Mystery on the Hudson* will feature eight characters, four of them historic and related to Kingston's rich past. By traveling back to 1880, guests will interact with Kingston Mayor William Lounsbury and his wife Laura, Rondout resident, bluestone and shipping tycoon Thomas Cornell, and artist and foundry operator Julia Dillion. Also involved in the story will Lounsbury's loyal butler and Laura's fortune hunting maid. Surprise guests will include the Kingston Weekly Freeman's society columnist and a professor of estate planning.



Mansion Cast

*Mystery on the Hudson* will be broken into four acts, with the first one performed on Friday night during dinner. Act two, including the murder, will be played out on Saturday morning with act three performed on Saturday night. Between Saturday night and Sunday morning guests will submit a "whodunit sheet" with their conclusions on who they think the murderer is and why. The big reveal, or act four, will be staged on Sunday morning and those who guess correctly will be eligible for prizes. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Continued on page 2



## MAC-HAYDN THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2026 SEASON OF MUSICALS

The Mac-Haydn Theatre is thrilled to unveil its highly anticipated 2026 season, a vibrant lineup that deepens the theatre's commitment to bold storytelling, imaginative design, and the unique intimacy that has defined the Mac-Haydn experience for more than half a century. Tickets are now on sale at [www.machaydntheatre.org](http://www.machaydntheatre.org).

## THE HUDSON RIVER VIEW ONLINE!

Visit our website to read our current edition, view our advertising rates and distribution, publication schedule and deadlines. Visit often to view updated and additional editorial received after publication and throughout the month.

[Hudsonriverview.net](http://Hudsonriverview.net)

Building on last year's acclaimed productions and audience enthusiasm, the 2026 season promises a sweeping collection of beloved classics, contemporary favorites, and new discoveries—each selected to spark curiosity, joy, and conversation in equal measure. "We're bringing audiences works they love, works they've overlooked, and works they've never seen quite like this," says Producing Artistic Director, John Saudner. "Our unique space allows us to reinvent these titles from the ground up, and this year's slate is all about taking big creative swings." This season, the theater has added 37 additional seats back into what is currently the smallest audience section—restoring its signature in-the-round experience. The stage and seating were modified in 2021 to a thrust stage configuration. President Paul Colarusso added, "Last season showed us how deeply our community values live theater. The energy coming from our audiences has been extraordinary, and it inspires us to dream bigger every year. This lineup represents that ambition."

Continued on page 4



Wishing Everyone  
A Very  
Happy, Healthy,  
Properous  
New Year!!!  
From the  
Hudson River View

**YOU'RE INVITED**  
Speed Networking Event  
Collaboration with Red Hook

Chamber of Commerce

January 14, 2026

5:30 PM

**Registration deadline is 1/7/26**

Join us for a fun and fast-paced evening of connection-building between

Members of Both the Red Hook Chamber and The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

at Lasting Joy Brewery

**• Complimentary Snacks and a Cash Bar** will be available throughout the event.

**What to expect:**

You'll have the chance to connect with Members from both chambers through short format guided group interactions designed to spark conversation and build meaningful local connections. After that, enjoy open mingling and the opportunity to grow your network in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

## ART GALLERY 71

WORLD OF MUSIC is the theme of artist Mary Belliveau on January 10, 2026, 4-6 pm at Art Gallery 71 in Rhinebeck. With paintings of musicians and dancers from around the world, you are invited to hear with your heart their unique sounds. The reception is from 4-6 pm with food and special harp music. All are welcome.



## THE COLOR OF GROWTH

January 9 – February 28, 2025

**OPENING RECEPTION:**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9,

6:00 - 8:00 PM

**ARTIST TALK: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2:00 PM**

Artists: Irja Bodén, JoAnne Lobotsky, Patrick Neal, Colin O'Con

*The Color of Growth* brings together four artists whose work reimagines nature and landscape as dynamic sites of transformation.

Set against the monochromatic backdrop of winter in the Northeast, the exhibition invites viewers to look beyond seasonal dormancy and consider growth as an ongoing, layered process—one that persists beneath the surface, even when unseen.

"The artists in this exhibition approach plant life not as passive scenery but as an active carrier of meaning and experience" says curator Sharon Bates, "color functions as both subject and strategy—expressive, intuitive, and often deliberately unnatural." Irja Bodén presents sculptural work inspired by the untended hedgerow bordering her studio.



Colin O'Con, *Paradise*, 2025, acrylic on canvas



Patrick Neal, *Bronze Dahlias*, 2025, oil on canvas

These ceramic vessels draw from the tangled coexistence of old and new growth, focusing on invasive vines that

Continued on page 3

warm tone and expressive style, serves as Assistant Concertmaster of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and has appeared as a soloist nationwide. Tickets for this concert are priced at \$38 per person, with special discounts available for seniors and students. Family ticket packages are \$40 for one adult and two students. To learn more and purchase, please visit [www.ndsorchestra.org](http://www.ndsorchestra.org).



## A Night of Film Favorites: NDSO Presents Epic Movie Scores

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) welcomes the new year with *Epic Movie Scores* on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America, 1946 Campus Dr., Hyde Park, NY 12538. Conducted by Music Director Kathleen Beckmann, the concert features returning guest artists Jiayi He, harmonica, and Marka Young, violin. The program includes film music from *Back to the Future*, *Mission Impossible*, *Forrest Gump*, *The Godfather*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *La La Land*, and more, concluding with a medley of classic James Bond themes. Both guest musicians are returning favorites to NDSO. Jiayi He, an internationally recognized harmonica virtuoso, has performed at major venues including Carnegie Hall and the United Nations and has been featured on numerous television networks. Violinist Marka Young, known for her



Jiayi He - Harmonica Virtuoso  
org or call (845) 445-9606.  
Formed in 2006 to bring live

Continued on page 2

**The February Edition Of The Hudson River View Will Be In Area Homes On February 4th The Deadline For Advertising And Press Release Submission Is January 21st**

# ACCORDING TO QUACKERS



## New Year

©

Sandra Hearth  
Another year is coming to a close.  
We can forget our troubles and woes.  
For me, this year was tough.  
It brought many emotions, was tearful and rough.  
Now another year is approaching fast.  
Let's hope it's a New Year with love and health; let's hope it's a blast.  
May all of your dreams come true  
And you find peace and love in all that you do.  
May this world know the gentle sound of a hush.  
May it calm all its anger and

slow its pace from the rush.  
May we all hear the sound of joy  
And push away all that hurts, all that destroys.  
The New Year I hope will be good to us all.  
Care and calm, a helping hand when we fall.  
Listen more, slow down, and say I love you.  
Stop for a moment; take a breath, take in the view.  
Appreciate your family; tell them you care.  
Do something exciting, a thrill or a dare.  
Enjoy all that the New Year may give.  
We have but one life, so let's learn to live.  
It's a New Year, a brand new start.  
Always remember, live and love from your heart.  
Wishing each and every one a year to behold,  
And may it be full of wonders for you to unfold.  
Love, hugs, and kisses too...  
A very happy New Year from me to you.

Kate Podel, Tom Roberts, Erica Woolley and Scott Woolley. Founded in Las Vegas in 1998, Murder Café is the creation of actor, writer and director Frank Marquette, along with wife and producing partner, Kristen Marquette. Since returning to their native New York in 2009, they have been serving quality entertainment for both public and private events. Primarily known for comedies, musicals and murder mysteries, Murder Café provides entertainment for company parties, fundraising events, schools and colleges, historic sites and dozens of public venues.

**A Night of Film Favorites: NDSO from page 1**  
orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley, the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra is now celebrating its 20th season. Recognized as the Arts Mid-Hudson 2025 Art Organization Awardee, the orchestra continues its mission of offering outstanding live performances of classical and popular music at family-affordable prices. Since its founding, NDSO has been under the dedicated leadership of Kathleen Beckmann, who serves as both conductor and artistic director.



Marka Young playing Piazzolla



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**The Color of Growth from page 1**  
 can overwhelm surrounding vegetation. For Bodén, these forms become metaphors for the ongoing erosion of women's rights. The open, bottomless blue interiors of her vessels evoke life, freedom, and resistance, underscoring growth as a contested and fragile condition. JoAnne Lobotsky's expressionistic landscapes are driven by color and texture as emotional force. Working intuitively and without preplanning, Lobotsky embraces awkwardness and deliberate clumsiness as a rejection of polished contemporary aesthetics. Her frequently unnatural color palettes reflect environmental fragility and damage. Patrick Neal approaches landscape and still life through a contemporary lens, using watercolor and oil to build composite scenes informed by memory, observation, and

drawing. A recurring roving grid structure organizes and abstracts his imagery, emphasizing both cinematic shifts in perspective and the physical act of mark-making. Neal's landscapes move fluidly between urban and rural environments—from public parks and construction sites to wooded regions of upstate New York. Colin O'Con's paintings hover between representation and abstraction, drawing on the language of traditional landscape while pushing toward the subliminal and unknown. Influenced by photography, observation, and memory—but painted from neither—his work emerges through layered washes that gradually reveal imagined terrains. Together, the works in *The Color of Growth* challenge romantic notions of nature and renewal. They remind us that growth is rarely linear or benign—it is tangled, contested, and deeply colored by the conditions

of the worlds we inhabit. The exhibit opens Friday, January 9 and runs through Saturday, February 28, 2026. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Friday, January 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. An Artist Talk with Irja Bodén and JoAnne Lobotsky is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 PM. All programs are located at the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, NY.

**ABOUT MILLBROOK ARTS PROJECT:** The Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space is a recent project of Millbrook Arts Group and the Millbrook Library that is committed to providing exhibition opportunities to visual artists and to enriching the understanding of contemporary art to Millbrook and the surrounding communities. For more information about upcoming exhibits at Millbrook Arts Project, visit: <https://millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project/>.

#### 2026 EXHIBITION

**C A L E N D A R :**  
**THE COLOR OF GROWTH**  
 | Irja Bodén, Joanne Lobotsky, Patrick Neal & Colin O'Con  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, January 9, 6:00-8:00pm

**ART BLAST** presented by the Millbrook School District, Dutchess Day School, and Millbrook Early

**Childhood Education Center**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 6 - SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, March 6, 4:00-6:00pm  
**STITCH IN TIME: HISTORIC NEEDLEWORK IN DUTCHESSE COUNTY** presented by the Millbrook Historical Society  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 3 - SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**  
**TALK & OPENING RECEPTION:** Thursday, April 9, 6:00pm  
**UN-REAL | Fern Apfel, Monica Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk & Daniel Walworth**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 8 - SUNDAY, JUNE 28**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, May 8, 6:00 - 8:00pm  
**UPSTATE ARTS WEEKEND RECEPTION:** SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 5:00-7:00pm

**PLACE | MEANT | Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark & Barbara Todd**

**MONDAY, JULY 6 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, July 10, 6:00-8:00pm

**THE STATE WE'RE IN | Brian Cirimo, June Glasson, Jeff Wigman & Yu Yan**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 6:00 - 8:00pm

**THE PATTERN OF LIFE | Shari Diamond, Rich Garrison, Paul Lewandowski & Jim Morris**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026**  
**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, October 23, 6:00-8:00pm

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Red Hook, NY (845) 546-9316

Mac-Haydn Theatre from page 1

Main Stage Performance Details:

June 11-21

*The Addams Family Musical*

Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams

The weird and wonderful family comes to life in this magnificently macabre musical featuring everyone's favorite creepy, kooky characters.

June 25-July 5

*9 to 5*

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton, Book by Patricia Resnick

Based on the Twentieth Century Fox film

Three unlikely friends take control of their office and learn there is nothing they can't do, even in a man's world.

July 9-19

*The Secret Garden*

Music and Lyrics by Marsha Norman, Music by Lucy Simon Adapted from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett In a house of secrets, a young girl unlocks the door to forgiveness, love, and new beginnings.

July 23-August 9

*Newsies* (MHT debut)

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Jack Feldman, Book by Harvey Fierstein

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story about a witty and winsome young woman and her mysterious benefactor, based on the treasured novel that inspired the classic 1955 film.

*Showstoppers: The Golden Years*

Wednesday, September 2, 7:30pm & Friday,

September 4, 3:00pm

This season brings a new spin on an old favorite. Experience the sparkle and show-stopping magic of Broadway's most unforgettable era.

Single ticket sales and 7 and 4-show subscriptions are now open. For more information on the 2026 season, showtimes, and tickets, visit [www.machaydntheatre.org](http://www.machaydntheatre.org).

**About the Mac-Haydn Theatre**

Founded in 1969, the Mac-Haydn Theatre strives to present innovative, diverse and professional musical theatre productions to the residents of Columbia County and beyond. We aim to cultivate young talent for careers in theatre and seek to provide a supportive environment for the creation of new musical theatre works.

## 5 of the Most Famous Photographs in History

Photographs allow us to witness history with our very own eyes, immortalizing brief moments in time that are worth preserving — be it a mother struggling during the Great Depression or a handshake between Elvis Presley and Richard Nixon. Each image has a story behind it that helps explain why those moments maintain their appeal all these decades later. Here are some of the most famous photographs in recent history, and why they matter.



**"Migrant Mother"** (1936) In March 1936, photographer Dorothea Lange captured what many consider to be the most recognizable photo from the Great Depression. The image,

**Continued on page 5**

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2018 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4x4 LATITUDE 4DR SUV \$14,995

2013 Subaru Legacy, AWD, loaded, \$5,495

**Daddy Long Legs** (MHT debut)

Music and Lyrics by Paul Gordon, Book by John Caird Wednesday, July 29, 7:30pm & Friday, July 31, 3:00pm

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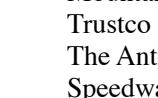
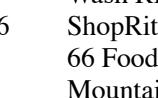
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# God's Corner

## Build a Spiritual Habit

By Naomi Fata

The new year has come. Once again, we look at the blank slate for the next 12 months. Maybe vacations, graduations, family reunions, and other events are already holding a place. For the most part those things can be scheduled and controlled.

Last month I wrote of disappointed expectation in our circumstances when God doesn't show up in the way that we want Him to. One solution for disappointment is to focus not on the outward events, of which we have little control, but to focus on who we want to become.

Goals for personal growth can focus on a wide range of issues from financial stability to weight loss, to nutritional or mental health, to improving relationships.

One of the greatest goals for personal growth is to walk in love. The apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:1-2 encouraging us in the goal of love, "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." (NLT)

In this new year who do you want to become? In what way would you like your character to change [for the better]? Of course you cannot change completely in one year, instead it is about step by step working toward a goal.

The first step toward walking in love is getting to know the Author of Love, and letting Him permeate your thoughts and motives. A simple step towards this would be creating five minutes a day to read a Bible reading plan from the YouVersion Bible App or a daily devotional such as New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp, My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers, Jesus Calling by Sarah Young or my most recent devotional Stitching Your Story Piece by Peace. Start small. Give yourself the grace to miss a day or two each week. Try to find a time when you can tack this new habit onto a habit you already have each morning. Don't be afraid to put reminders on your phone or leave sticky notes reminding yourself next to the coffee pot. Habits do take work to cultivate.

Perhaps the greatest failure to reach a goal is setting the bar too high at the start. Try setting a realistic goal so that you won't feel like a failure

by the time you've reached the second week of January. Remember a solid habit can take up to 90 days to stick. Be patient with yourself. If you fail, give grace and start again.

This goal is a God goal. He wants to help you with it. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask Him to help you build the habit.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026: TRUSTING THE LORD DAY BY DAY!

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:5,6.

As we look forward to 2026 we can thank the LORD for the way in which He will direct our lives step by step. We can trust the Lord day by day to lead us. The key to living the victorious life is to trust in the LORD with all of our heart. So I encourage you to commit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If you have never accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior and Lord I urge you to do so now. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2b).

The Lord Jesus died for our sins on the Cross and Rose in victory over death and the grave. In order to be saved the Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). If you are a Christian then it is imperative that you surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Romans 12:1,2).

To properly live the Christian life it is essential to be committed to the Lord and to walk by faith each step of the way. To Trust in the Lord with all of your heart requires that you depend on the Lord each step of the way as you journey through life. The Believer is not to lean on their own understanding but to be guided by the Word of God and directed by the Holy Spirit. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). The Christian life is to be lived by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

As we live our lives day by

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day we are to acknowledge the Lord, which means we are to depend on Him and look to Him in prayer. Prayer is essential for the Christian to live a victorious life. In the Upper Room Jesus instructed His Disciples of the importance of prayer. The results of praying according to God's will glorify our Heavenly Father and He will answer the Believer's requests. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13,14).

The Lord will direct the steps of the life of the Believer. The Christian life is not a static life, but a dynamic life. A Hymn that we love to sing at Grace Bible Fellowship Church is Day by Day. Day by day and with each passing moment strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure gives unto each day what He deems best ---- Lovingly, it is part of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest.

So, I trust that your desire in 2026 is to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. In order to do so you need to be committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and walk by faith in Christ. You need to spend time in God's Word, to pray faithfully, and be part of a solid Bible Preaching and Teaching Church. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

If you would like to know more about growing spiritually in Christ in 2026 and/or how to become a Christian contact us by Email at: [fdcirone@aol.com](mailto:fdcirone@aol.com) or by phone at (845) 876-2122 or (845) 876-6923. Grace Bible Fellowship Church is a Local Independent Bible Church located at Route 9 and Route 9G, 1/4 mile north on Route 9 in Rhinebeck, NY. Frank L. Cirone, Pastor.

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## Third Lutheran Church

Each May we honor and celebrate "Be Kind to Animals Week" by bringing the community together for "The Blessing of the Animals". This is the oldest commemorative week in US history, turning 111 years old in 2026. It was started by AMERICAN\*HUMANE in honor of their mission to ensure the safety, welfare and well-being of all animals. "The Blessing" is a free, outdoors, family event. Bring your pet for an individual hands-on blessing by Pastor Jim Miller and stay to meet the Ambassador Animals representing the dozen plus charities that fill the great lawn at the Third Lutheran Church in the middle of Rhinebeck, NY. This is a fun afternoon meant to educate and build compassion for all living creatures. The theme for 2026 is "The Year of the Humane Child". This honors the work of Jane Goodall, a woman who taught the world to see animals not as subjects of study, but as fellow beings - sentient, emotional, and intelligent in ways that mirror our own cognitive and emotional lives.

"The Blessing" will be enjoying its fourth anniversary in 2026 and we again look forward to welcoming many loving pet parents with their furry, scaly, feathered family members. Last year we counted 200 visitors.

## January 7 - SoKe Style

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville, NY - Irina Mitina from SoKe LLC will show us her beautiful SoKe Style stitch work and bringing a bit of her online local new age embroidery handcrafted Items and supplies. This program will begin at 12:30pm. Join other needleworkers for fun and learning beginning at 10am or come just for this program at 12:30pm. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/SkylkillEGA](http://www.facebook.com/SkylkillEGA) or email to [EGASkyllkill@gmail.com](mailto:EGASkyllkill@gmail.com).

## 5 of the Most Famous Photographs in History from page 4

titled "Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California," features a 32-year-old farmworker and mother of seven who was later identified as Florence Owens Thompson. The photograph depicts Thompson with a forlorn look on her face as she gazes past the camera. Three

of her children are also present in the photo: an infant in her lap, and two older children burying their faces in Thompson's shoulders. When the photo was first published, however, her identity remained anonymous. At the time, Lange was working for the Farm Security Administration, a federal agency meant to help farm workers who were displaced during the Dust Bowl. In 1960, Lange recalled how she came across a woman huddled underneath a tent inside a camp of migrant pea pickers, and chose to approach her, "as if drawn by a magnet." The woman — Thompson — told Lange that her family had been surviving on frozen veggies and dead birds, but it was only decades later that more information was finally uncovered. In 1978, a reporter at the *Modesto Bee* tracked down Thompson and confirmed she was the subject of "Migrant Mother." With her identity revealed, Thompson admitted that she viewed the photograph as something of a curse, as she never received royalties for the use of her likeness. It also became clear that Thompson wasn't your typical Dust Bowl refugee as initially thought, but rather a woman of Native American heritage who was displaced from tribal Cherokee lands in Oklahoma. She also noted that the camp she set up in the migrant community was only temporary, as she was just waiting there while the family car was being fixed nearby. Toward the end of Thompson's life, people sent donations to her family to help cover the cost of the matriarch's medical bills, and many wrote letters saying how much the image of Thompson inspired them. These gestures allowed the family to reconsider the legacy of the photograph, which they began to view with a sense of pride.



"Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" (1945)

Joe Rosenthal was a photographer for the Associated Press during

**Continued on page 6**



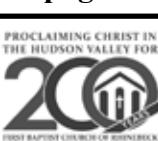
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## 5 of the Most Famous Photographs in History from page 5

World War II whose legacy was defined by the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima." Rosenthal captured the iconic event on February 23, 1945, on the small Japanese island of Iwo Jima, roughly 750 miles south of Tokyo in the Pacific Ocean. The picture depicts six men triumphantly raising an American flag and commemorates an important military victory—though there's a good deal more to the story. The island of Iwo Jima was a strategic stronghold occupied by the Japanese. On February 19, three U.S. Marine divisions landed on Iwo Jima and began a harrowing multiday battle with Japanese forces. On February 23, Americans took control of Mount Suribachi, a geographic landmark on the southern end of the island. In celebration of their conquest, troops raised up an American flag, though not the flag seen in the famous image. It was

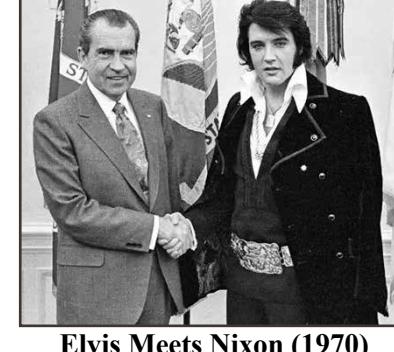
actually a smaller flag, captured by Sergeant Louis R. Lowery in a lesser-known photograph. Hours later, troops were ordered to replace the first flag with a larger American flag that could be seen more easily from a far distance. This caught the attention of Rosenthal, who heard the plan from a nearby radioman. Rosenthal brought his camera to the mountain, where he photographed six men (five Marines and one Navy Corpsman) raising the larger flag in what has since become an iconic image. Tragically, it took another month for American forces to take the entire island of Iwo Jima, during which three of those men were killed: Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, and Private First Class Franklin Sousley. The three others who survived the battle, and the war, were Corporals Harold Keller, Harold Schultz, and 22-year-old Ira Hayes, a soldier of Pima Indian descent who went on to meet President Harry Truman at the White House.



"Guerrillero Heroico" (1960)

The photograph "Guerrillero Heroico" ("Heroic Guerrilla Fighter") depicts Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara, whose likeness has grown into a symbol used by counterculture groups around the world. The original image was taken by photographer Alberto Korda on March 5, 1960, depicting Guevara gazing stoically off into the distance. While the image may seem posed, it was actually captured by a stroke of luck in a mere matter of seconds. Guevara became a popular figure throughout Cuba during the 1950s, playing a pivotal role in overthrowing the government alongside Fidel Castro. Shortly after the rebels rose to power, a ship named La Coubre exploded in Havana Harbor on March 4, 1960, killing as many as 100 local workers who were unloading ammunition. Guevara, Castro, and others attended the state funeral the next day, as did Korda, who was working for the *Revolución* newspaper at the time. While standing by the podium with his eyes focused on Castro, the photographer noticed that Guevara had emerged directly above him. He quickly grabbed his Leica camera and snapped two photos in rapid

succession, before Guevara stepped back. He returned home to develop the photos, and cropped the original to remove another man off to the side as well as the fronds of a palm tree. Korda described Guevara's look in the photo as having "impressive force in his expression, given the anger concentrated in his gaze after so many deaths." Oddly, the paper passed on publishing the photo until one year later, using it in an advertisement for an upcoming lecture delivered by the revolutionary. The image didn't become popular until 1967, the year of Guevara's execution. At the memorial service, a giant print of the photo was hung up by the Ministry of the Interior. A stylized version of the portrait was later used during the 1968 Paris student riots, and it became a popular symbol co-opted by various groups around the world. The image eventually took on a life of its own, and people began to lose sight of its original meaning, especially after the photo was used by major corporations such as Nike and Taco Bell in various ad campaigns.



Elvis Meets Nixon (1970)

In the year 1970, two of the most recognizable men in the world met face to face for the first

time: Elvis Presley and Richard Nixon. The unlikely meeting took place on December 21, 1970, within the Oval Office, resulting in a now-legendary photo of the pair shaking hands. This image and others were taken by Nixon's personal photographer, Oliver F. Atkins, who chronicled the impromptu and secret encounter that day. While on a red-eye flight earlier that morning, Presley wrote a lengthy letter to President Nixon on American Airlines stationary. The rock star shared his concerns about the growing drug culture in America, and expressed an interest in becoming a "Federal Agent at Large" so he could help tackle the issue. He ended the letter by saying that he hoped to meet Nixon and "say hello if you're not too busy." Upon landing, he asked his limo driver to head straight to the White House, where he handed the letter to security agents at the gate. Initially, Nixon's staffers assumed that it was just a prank. But after learning that it was indeed Elvis himself who wished to meet the President, they quickly organized an official, impromptu meeting to take place later that day. At 11:45 a.m., "the King of Rock 'n' Roll" returned to the White House wearing a purple velvet suit, caped cloak, gilded belt buckle, and amber-tinted sunglasses. He was immediately brought into the Oval Office, where Nixon was waiting, and thus began a 35-minute meeting where the duo discussed communism, the Beatles, Las

Continued on page 7

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## Coughing

By Julianne Porter

Hearing someone cough can put us on alert, as it is often associated with a contagious culprit. But what about when our pets cough? Just as in people, there are more causes than just infections.

Coughing is an important part of the defense mechanisms of our respiratory systems. It typically occurs to attempt to eliminate secretions, infectious agents, irritants and other foreign material. A true cough is triggered by receptors in the airways, but gagging, regurgitating, vomiting and retching can all be mistaken for a cough. That's why a full history, physical exam, and often diagnostics such as radiographs are often indicated to sort out coughing from other sounds. There are three main locations in the body that will cause your pet to cough: the upper respiratory system (nasal passageways and pharynx), the lower respiratory system (bronchi/bronchioles and alveoli) and the heart. While the trachea is technically part of the lower airways, we often include it in the list of upper airway conditions.

Upper respiratory problems can include infectious agents (viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites), tracheal collapse, laryngeal paralysis, foreign object obstruction/irritation and tumors. The lower airways can also have infections, foreign objects, and tumors, as well as pulmonary infiltrates associated with allergies and fibrosis (scarring). If the heart is enlarged, it can press on the main

stem bronchus (the first branch after the trachea) and stimulate the cough receptors. If heart failure is present, fluid will spill into the airways and stimulate the cough receptors as well.

As is often the case in veterinary medicine, it is important to point out that cats are often different than dogs when it comes to coughing. Cats do cough, but not nearly as often as dogs do. Retching and gagging are often confused with coughing and vice versa; however, cats can retch after a cough, making it very tricky to differentiate! While dogs with heart disease will often cough, cats with heart disease don't typically cough. Instead, most coughs in cats are due to lower respiratory conditions.

Trying to determine why our pets are coughing can be an involved process. It requires asking for a detailed history, including the onset and duration of the cough, the timing or pattern, if the cough is productive, if the pet has been in contact with other animals and if the pet is otherwise sick. A video recording of the cough can also be helpful as some pets don't cough on demand in the office. That information, along with the age of the pet and physical exam, can often point us to the problem. If not, diagnostics such as radiographs, bronchoscopy, CT scan and even sampling of the airways can help out. Then, treatments are based on the underlying cause.

Coughing in our pets can be scary, but it is important to know that there are many reasons for our dogs and cats to

cough and that there are steps to take to sort out the issues and get the necessary treatment.

## The Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA

is thrilled to share that thanks to how successful our December dog adoption sponsorship was, a dear friend and lifelong supporter has generously offered to extend the sponsorship through the end of January! With our kennels full and so many wonderful dogs waiting, we hope this will help even more of them find the loving homes they deserve. In January, Harley and Sammy will mark 9 months with us, far too long for any dog, especially these sweet seniors at 7 and a half years old. They need to be the only pets unless they go home together, which is exactly what we're hoping this sponsorship will make possible. As an added bonus; if Harley and Sammy are adopted together, 6 months of their medication will also be sponsored!



CGHS/SPCA Adoption Manager  
Jenn Maloney with Harley and Sammy.

### 5 of the Most Famous Photographs in History from page 6

Vegas, and even Presley's family photos. While there, the musician requested an official badge from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in hopes of legitimizing his personal crusade against drug culture. Nixon obliged, and Presley was so overwhelmed with joy that he went in for a hug before the Secret Service could stop him. The pair agreed that the meeting should be kept a secret, as neither side was sure how their supporters would react. It wasn't until January 1972 that word of this strange event finally broke, though nothing practical ever really came of it.



"Tank Man" (1989)

Associated Press photographer Jeff Widener spent the spring of 1989 in Beijing, China, covering the Tiananmen Square protests. On June 5, he captured an image that's considered one of the most powerful acts of defiance in the face of authoritarian rule. His photo, titled "Tank Man," shows an anonymous man in black pants and a white

shirt standing in front of a line of tanks, refusing to let them continue patrolling the square. The story behind the photograph begins months earlier, on April 15, after the death of Hu Yaobang, the former general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party who had been forced to resign two years earlier. Hu had attempted to push the country toward democratization, an effort that resonated with many Chinese youth. However, the larger government was far less open to such reforms. After Hu's death, around 100,000 students descended on Beijing's Tiananmen Square to continue pushing for his reforms and to protest the corrupt Chinese Communist Party that remained in power. A rally on May 19 drew 1.2 million people to the square, though it was only a matter of time before the government cracked down on the protests. This led to a horrible massacre on June 4, when military forces opened fire on demonstrators and killed hundreds of people, or possibly thousands. By the following day, the military had taken control of the square, and tanks and troops patrolled the streets once more. On June 5, an anonymous lone

man stepped into the middle of Chang'an Avenue on the edge of Tiananmen Square while a line of tanks approached him. The striking scene caught the eye of reporters and photographers who were staying at the nearby Beijing Hotel, and many turned their cameras toward the event from the balcony. Widener captured the most recognizable single image of the scene, which shows the man standing in front of four tanks, preventing their forward progress. Other, more zoomed-out photos show the true enormity of the situation, as there were dozens more tanks all in a line heading directly toward this single protester. After halting the parade of tanks, the man climbed on top of one, spoke to someone inside, and then climbed back down to prevent the tanks from continuing on. After several tense moments, two mysterious men emerged and dragged the protester away. Today, nobody truly knows the identity of "Tank Man" or what happened to him. Some say he was arrested and executed, while others claim he simply vanished off the grid — though certainly not from memory, thanks to Widener's famous photograph.

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## ANDERSON FOUNDATION FOR AUTISM ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF GRANT AWARDS

The leadership team and trustees of Anderson Foundation for Autism announced today the names of grantees for the Foundation's recent grantmaking cycle. Grant award recipients are as follows: *Autism Society Greater Hudson Region* (\$5,000 grant award), *Arcadia*

*University Sports Dogs* (\$5,000 grant award), *Backyard BluePath Service Dogs* (\$10,000 grant award), and *Beautiful People* (\$5,000 grant award). Said Kevin Kollar, Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of Trustees: "It is deeply gratifying to know that Anderson Foundation for Autism is able to 'pay it forward' to these visionary grantees. Each of these organizations shares a commitment to our cause, and we look forward

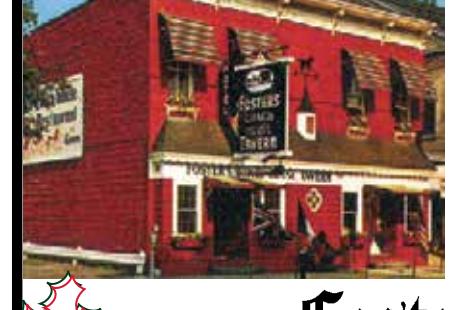


Linda and Devin - October 2025

funds needed to help deliver the BRIGHT (Brave, Resilient, Inspiring Girls Happening Together) program, which creates a safe, fun, and affirming space where autistic and neurodiverse girls can build meaningful peer connections, strengthen self-esteem, and develop essential social-emotional and soft skills. And our other award recipients are likewise doing meaningful work; it is an honor to help them advance their efforts." Brune added that all recipients will be required to report on outcomes, and that the Foundation reserved up to \$50,000 in total for its 2025 grantmaking cycle. According to Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, "Anderson

Foundation for Autism was initially launched to help bridge gaps between financial needs and resources for Anderson Center for Autism, but the success of Foundation fundraising has far exceeded every expectation. Now, we're well-positioned to support the work of other nonprofits too, and we look forward to building on our grantmaking program in the years to come." Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism, added: "The collective generosity of philanthropists, businesses, families, trustees, and community members is what drives our success; it has been awe-inspiring to see the outpouring

**Continued on page 10**



**A Happy New Year To All!**



**From Beautiful People Dance:** Top left (to right) is Beautiful People (BP) volunteer coordinator Lori Smith, volunteer Sean Germaine, coach Stacy Fitzgerald, coach Jen Disy. Bottom left (to right): BP program manager Katie O'Leary, BP athlete Philomena, BP athlete Callie. Not pictured: Beautiful People executive director Stefanie Kostenblatt.



Molly M with Service Dog Fred, Courtesy of BluePath Service Dogs



Courtesy of Backyard Sports

to watching them continue to make valuable contributions to our field as time goes on." Reflected Susan Brune, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Grants Committee, "These grantees all presented initiatives that are very much aligned with Anderson's mission of optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism. Beautiful People, for example, will use the grant funds to provide athletes with more inclusive opportunities, by purchasing adaptive equipment to enhance safety and accessibility. Autism Society Greater Hudson Region has been given some of the

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## One-Pan Tuscan Chicken



### Ingredients

1 small yellow onion  
3 cloves garlic  
1/2 cup drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes (2 1/2 ounces)  
1 ounce Parmesan cheese (1/2 cup firmly packed freshly grated or 1/3 cup store-bought grated)  
2 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts (1 1/2 to 2 pounds total)  
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning  
5 ounces baby spinach (about 5 packed cups)  
1 1/4 cups heavy cream

### Instructions

Dice 1 small yellow onion (about 2/3 cup). Mince 3 garlic cloves. Thinly slice 1/2 cup drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes. Finely grate 1 ounce Parmesan cheese if needed (about 1/2 cup lightly packed), or measure out 1/3 cup store-bought grated.

Cut 2 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts in half horizontally (also known as butterflying). Pat dry with paper towels. Season all over with 1 teaspoon of the kosher salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper.

Heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add half of the chicken in a single layer and sear until browned, 3 to 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a large plate (the chicken will not be cooked through). Add 1 tablespoon of the olive oil to the pan and repeat browning the remaining chicken. Transfer to the same plate.

Reduce the heat to medium. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil, if needed, and heat until shimmering. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally until softened, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, and 2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning. Cook until fragrant, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Add 5 ounces baby spinach a handful at a time. Cook, stirring regularly, until just wilted, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the Parmesan, 1 1/4 cups heavy cream, and the remaining 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt. Bring to a simmer, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon. Reduce the heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Return the chicken and any accumulated juices on the plate to the pan and cook until the chicken is cooked through and registers at least 165°F on an instant-read thermometer, 4 to 7 minutes.



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**Anderson Foundation for Autism from page 8**

of support for our work. We are deeply thankful to everyone who has made Anderson Foundation as strong as it is today, and all who continue to pave the way for a successful future. Each donor is giving to something much larger than our agency; every gift really supports a broader humanitarian movement." Anderson Center for Autism (ACA), founded in 1924, which also receives funds from Anderson Foundation for Autism, offers evidence-based educational, vocational, residential, and consulting/training programs,

drawing students and residents from all over the United States to experience its school and residential offerings. Its affiliate, Anderson Center International (ACI), hosts scholars from countries throughout the world for a 12-18 month training program at Anderson's Staatsburg campus. During this experience at Anderson, scholars gain the education needed to improve schooling, workplace environments, and overall therapy and care for people with autism upon returning to their home countries. Another Anderson Center for Autism affiliate, Anderson Center Consulting

and Training (ACCT), has, among other activities, delivered training needed for over 150 businesses to gain designation as being "Autism Supportive." Anderson also runs Early Learning Academy programs (in Pine Plains, NY, Mount Marion, NY, and Latham, NY) and The Anderson Center Clinic (Latham, NY). Anderson Foundation for Autism's 2026 grant cycle will open in January. For application guidelines and updates, follow Anderson Center for Autism on social media or visit <https://www.andersoncenterforautism.org/afagrants/>. Until then, inquiries can be directed to Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer of Anderson Foundation for Autism, by calling (845) 889-9594 or emailing EBozenski@AndersonCares.org. For more information about Anderson Center for Autism, visit [andersoncenterforautism.org/](https://andersoncenterforautism.org/). Learn more about Anderson Foundation for Autism at [andersoncenterforautism.org/giving/](https://andersoncenterforautism.org/giving/).

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**HUDSON WHALING EXHIBIT AT CLAVERACK LIBRARY**

The Claverack Library announces that it will present an exhibition, *Hudson: A History of Whaling and Maritime Commerce*, opening January 11, 2026 at 3 p.m. The exhibit was developed by the Hudson Area Library History Room. The event opening will include a screening of a short film, *Whaling in Hudson... What?*, produced by the Hudson Area Library and Karl Frederick Mattson of 542 Films. Karl will talk briefly about the film followed by a short discussion with Hudson Library's Brenda Shufelt and Elaine Eichelberger, exhibit curators and local researcher Richard Bazelow. The exhibit traces Hudson's founding and early history, focusing on the era of whaling and maritime commerce that created Hudson and built its wealth as well as its reputation as a whaling town. The Claverack Library exhibit will feature several new panels researched by Richard Bazelow and designed by Alan Coon, panel designer of the Hudson show, that focused specifically on Claverack history and on Claverack residents who were tied to the whaling industry. Related events at the library will include: A Sea Shanty Singalong, Friday, January 23, 2026 at 5 p.m. with filmmaker and musician Alex Harvey. Sea shanties are traditional work songs, sung by sailors to allow strenuous tasks, such as hauling anchors,

to be performed in unison. Women in Whaling, a presentation on February 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. with Brenda Shufelt and Richard Bazelow. The speakers will consider the challenges of family, raising children, and dealing with hardships when a spouse was working on whaling voyages that could last for years. Film screening of "Moby Dick," John Huston's 1956 classic: February 14 at 4:00 in the Marilyn and Bob Laurie Gallery. A video presentation by the Claverack Historical Society of "Epistolary Drama: The Tale of Whaling," performed by local actors reading heart-wrenching, impassioned, and occasionally amusing letters from crew, captains, wives, and heroes. Date: January 14 at 5:30. The Claverack Library gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the Hudson Area Library in organizing and lending this exhibit. The exhibit will be on display in the Marilyn and Bob Laurie Gallery at the Claverack Free Library through February 27, 2026.

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## Blue Agape Beauty Welcomes 2026 With Growth, Gratitude, and Community Commitment



Corona Thompson

Blue Agape Beauty is excited to begin 2026 with renewed passion and purpose, continuing its mission to serve the community with exceptional beauty care services. As a locally rooted business, Blue Agape Beauty remains dedicated not only to enhancing beauty, but also to uplifting and educating those it serves.

The foundation of Blue Agape Beauty is rooted in passion, perseverance, and a genuine love for people. Owner and Master Stylist Corona Thompson, a 2005 graduate of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) in Troy, New York, has spent years cultivating both skill and purpose within the beauty industry.

From the very beginning, Corona knew hair was more than a profession—it was a calling. After completing his education, he went on to work in a variety of salons, gaining invaluable experience and sharpening his craft. Over the years, he became especially known for his expertise in color services and silk presses, earning a reputation for delivering healthy, polished results that enhance natural beauty.

But what truly sets Corona apart is not only his technical ability but the experience he creates. With a natural gift of conversation and an infectious love for laughter, every client who sits in his chair is met with warmth, authenticity, and care. Appointments at Blue Agape Beauty are more than services; they are moments of connection, confidence-building, and self-expression.

In the year ahead, Blue Agape Beauty is committed to ongoing education and professional development, ensuring clients receive the highest quality services using the latest techniques and industry knowledge.

This commitment reflects the salon's belief that continued learning is essential to excellence and innovation in the beauty industry.

As Blue Agape Beauty looks toward the future, it also pauses to reflect with gratitude. The business would like to extend heartfelt thanks to every supporter, partner, and client who has walked through its doors. The continued trust and loyalty of the community have been instrumental in the

salon's growth and success. With appreciation for the past and excitement for what lies ahead, Blue Agape Beauty looks forward to serving the community throughout 2026 and years to come, continuing to build confidence, foster education, and create meaningful connections through beauty.

### The Heart-Pounding History of the Blue Angels

Not many of the entertainment forms that arrived in the aftermath of World War II have managed to retain a hold on subsequent generations of audiences. But the Blue Angels, the naval flight demonstration team known for impressive aerial maneuvers, have been a hit since they first zoomed into existence in 1946. These signature blue-and-gold jets continue to provide the sort of heart-pounding spectacle that makes even the most jaded teenager look up from their screen. Here's a look at how this iconic group of aerial wizards came to be, and some of its notable touchstones over the years.

#### Promoting Naval Aviation

After World War II, naval aviation was no longer commanding headlines for its wartime missions, and the program was facing the possibility of major budget cuts. This gave Navy Commander LeRoy "Roy" Simpler an idea: He reasoned that exhibitions of flying prowess could provide a morale boost and promotional benefits for the division. The idea found support in the Navy ranks, and Lieutenant Commander Roy "Butch" Voris was chosen to lead the initial five-man team of aviators.

For aircraft, Voris went with the Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat, which had to be reconfigured with the removal of armament and the addition of tail weight to provide proper counterbalance. The pilots then began practicing their flight maneuvers over a stretch of swampland near Jacksonville, Florida. The remote area was chosen, according to Voris, because "if anything happened, just the alligators would know."

#### The Blue Angels Get Their Name

Voris' flying team made its public debut at the Southeastern Air Show and Exposition at Jacksonville's Craig Field on June 15, 1946, the late afternoon cloud cover clearing just in time for the pilots to showcase the aviators' high-altitude moves. After repeating the routine the following day, the team received the trophy for the exhibition's most outstanding performance.

With demand for their show rapidly escalating, the team set about enhancing the experience. To simulate an aerial combat sequence, they added a North American Aviation SNJ-5 Texan, painted to resemble Japan's Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighter plane. Later that summer, the team switched planes to the F8F Bearcat.

However, the program was still known by the specific but unflashy moniker of Navy Flight Exhibition Team, until one of the pilots spotted the name of a popular nightclub in *The New Yorker* magazine. Voris liked the name, too, and in July, his unit was rechristened the Blue Angels.

#### Iconic Aerial Maneuvers

More upgrades came to the show in 1949 with the transition to the F9F-2 Panther, a jet that surpassed the team's old propeller planes by nearly 200 mph. That year, the Blue Angels expanded their performance to six aircraft, and another feature was introduced when fuel tanks on the jets' wingtips were filled with colored water that was released to produce long trails of condensation. The flight demonstration team went on hiatus the following

Continued on page 12

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## The Heart-Pounding History of the Blue Angels from page 11

thrilled observing crowds. The "Diamond Formation," in which four planes zipped across the sky in close proximity to one another, first appeared in 1947. The "Back-to-Back Pass," in which two planes flew toward each other, one inverted, surfaced in 1958, and the following decade brought the introduction of the "Dirty Loop," in which pilots steer their aircraft into a loop with the landing gear and flaps left down.

### A Shift in Strategy

After notching their 1,000th career show on the Fourth of July in 1963, the Blue Angels again showcased their international appeal by performing for an estimated 1.5 million people during a 1964 air show in Mexico City. They delivered exhibitions in the Caribbean and Europe in 1965, before returning to Europe two years later. In 1969, the team transitioned to the McDonnell Douglas F-4J

Phantom II, a monster of a jet that surpassed speeds of 1,400 mph. However, the Phantom II may have been too powerful for public demonstration purposes. During practice for a 1969 show in British Columbia, a plane surpassing the sound barrier blew out the windows of an eight-block stretch of city streets. In 1973, a series of deadly mid-air collisions led to an early cancellation of the show season. The Blue Angels resumed business in 1974 with the smaller and lighter A-4F Skyhawk II. The following year, they introduced another aircraft designed to showcase tactical control instead of blinding speed: the Lockheed KC-130F Hercules, affectionately known as "Fat Albert," which doubled as the team's transport aircraft for equipment and personnel.

### The Blue Angels Make History

Coming on the heels of the fighter-plane blockbuster *Top Gun*, the Blue Angels enjoyed another boost of attention in the summer of 1986, when the music

video for the Van Halen song "Dreams" included footage of the crack Navy pilots in action. That November, at the end of the Blue Angels' 40th anniversary year, the team unveiled its newest jet, the F/A-18 Hornet. In 1992, as part of a tour that took them across eight European countries in a month, the Blue Angels became the first U.S. military flight demonstration team to perform in Russia. More history was made in 1998, when Flight Leader Commander Patrick Driscoll became the first Blue Angels pilot to land their jet on an active aircraft carrier. For all their successes, though, the Blue Angels weren't immune to bureaucracy, and saw their first lengthy shutdown since the Korean War when federal budget cuts in 2013 halted the team's performance schedule. Seven years later, the arrival of COVID-19 again grounded the program as public exhibitions were universally canceled. Yet the Blue Angels managed to endure the setbacks and resume their 300-day exhibition seasons, which ensure plenty of viewing opportunities for fans across the country and beyond.

The team returned to the skies in 2021 with a new generation of jets, the sleek F/A-18 Super Hornet. And in 2023, the Blue Angels finally featured their first female demonstration pilot, Lieutenant Amanda Lee, a sign that the historic program was continuing to find ways to move forward through the 21st century.

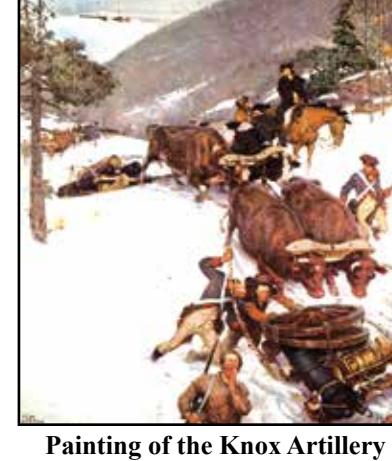
on Saturday Jan. 10 at 11:30 AM at the Hillsdale Firehouse, 9387 State Route 22, Hillsdale. Free food and beverages will be served, including special Knox Ball Crunch ice cream donated by Stewart's Shops. The celebration will include costumed re-enactors from Fort Ticonderoga and a team of oxen-emulating those who towed the artillery 250 years ago—in an entertaining, educational program about the Knox Train of Artillery, which passed through North Hillsdale (then called Nobletown) in early 1776 before crossing into Massachusetts.

to camp and the townspeople turned out to bring them hot food," said Hillsdale Co-Town Historian Lauren Letellier. Leading the expedition was Colonel Henry Knox, a self-educated, 25-year-old Boston bookseller who had impressed General George Washington with his knowledge of military strategy and engineering. "The Knox Expedition was one of the most stupendous logistical feats of the war, as improbable as it was dangerous, and it took the British completely by surprise," Letellier said. Town Supervisor Mike Dvorchak said that "Hillsdale is honored to help kick off our nation's 250th anniversary celebrations. Thanks go to everyone who helped plan this important and historic event."

## Hillsdale Announces Completion of Wastewater Rehabilitation Project and Financial Transparency Measures

The town of Hillsdale announced the substantial completion of a critical upgrade to its sewer system to address an emergency failure and modernize the wastewater treatment system. The work was made possible on an expedited schedule and at minimal cost to the town's sewer district thanks to the coordination and assistance of numerous people. A series of grants from

Continued on page 13



Painting of the Knox Artillery Train by Tom Lovell (1946)

Sixty tons of cannon and munitions were transported 300 miles over snowy, icy terrain from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, secretly and in the dead of winter, to drive out British forces who had been pinned down by local militias since the Battle of Bunker Hill the prior June. "As the train of artillery reached the sparsely settled Nobletown, the exhausted drivers halted

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**Program Title:** Once Ancient Oceans: How Geology Shaped New York Waterways

**Date & Time:** Wednesday January 14, 2026 - 7pm

**Location:** Hudson River Maritime Museum - 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY

**Pricing:** \$10/non member  
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**Presentation Topic:** Before the first dinosaurs, before the first mammals, just as the very first forests were beginning to form on Earth, the land that makes up New York state today was covered by an ancient ocean. How did the geology formed by this ancient world, nearly 400 million years ago, shape life and commerce along the Hudson River throughout the 1800's and into the present? Join us and find out!

**Bio of Speaker:** Abby Drayer is a Museum Educator and the Solaris Programs Coordinator at the HRMM. They have a background in Physics and Acoustics, and are currently taking graduate courses on Marine Bioacoustics.

**The Follow the River Lecture Series is sponsored by Rondout Savings Bank.** Find more information and registration details at [hrmm.org](http://hrmm.org).

## Hillsdale Announces Completion from page 12

State Senator Michelle Hinchey and State Assemblymember Didi Barrett were crucial in offsetting the cost of the project, as was the aid of Hillsdale's Highway Department in transporting materials. The work was overseen by the town's engineering firm, CPL.

"It was a minor miracle that everything came together and that we completed it on time," Hillsdale Supervisor Mike Dvorchak told the Town Board at its monthly meeting Tuesday night.

The Hillsdale Sewer District Wastewater Rehabilitation Project most notably included the installation of new high-performance filter fabrics, a new and fully modernized control panel to improve monitoring and operational control, and the construction of new absorption beds following the failure of the prior bed system. These improvements were essential to restoring proper wastewater treatment functionality and ensuring compliance with New York State environmental standards.

While a small number of materials remain on back order, all project expenses are now known, allowing the town to formally close out the rehabilitation effort and account for its financial impacts.

After all reimbursements, transfers and user re-levies are applied, the calculated year-end debt of its sewer district is \$3,637.

At its meeting Tuesday, the Town Board authorized a formal letter to New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli detailing the emergency nature of the absorption bed replacement, the funding sources utilized, the remaining short-term debt and the town's repayment plan. The letter will be printed in the January 1, 2026, Hillsdale Newsletter so that residents and sewer district users are fully informed.

Town Supervisor Dvorchak emphasized both the infrastructure achievement and the town's open approach to fiscal responsibility:

"This project was undertaken under emergency conditions, and I am proud of how responsibly and transparently the town responded," Dvorchak said.

"I want to sincerely thank the Hillsdale Highway Department for their critical on-the-ground assistance, the Town Board for its steady leadership and oversight, our sewer operator H2O Innovation, and CPL Engineering for their technical expertise. I also thank Robina Ward and Emily Stalker in the Hillsdale Town Clerk's office, town accountant Robert Patterson CPA and town attorney Ken Dow.

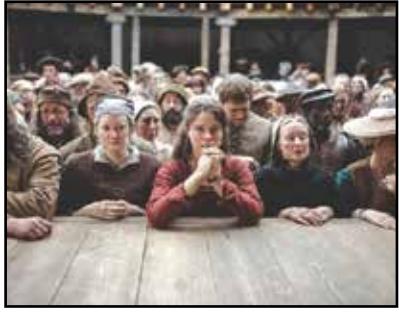
"Moreover, I am also deeply grateful to State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Didi Barrett for their continued advocacy and support, which helped secure vital grant funding. "Just as importantly, we have been fully transparent with the public and with State Comptroller DiNapoli about the costs, funding sources and our plan to fully repay the remaining debt," Dvorchak said.

Based on projected sewer district revenues, the town anticipates retiring the remaining balance within the next year while also rebuilding reserves to strengthen the system's financial stability.

The completion of the Hillsdale Sewer District Wastewater Rehabilitation Project underscores the Town's commitment to environmental stewardship, sound infrastructure investment, and clear, accountable governance, Dvorchak said.

## The Best Historical Movies of 2025

Nothing brings history alive quite like movies, which have the power to shape our understanding of the past as no other medium can. Some of this year's best movies were works of historical fiction that both depicted actual events from the past and also speculated on others that might have occurred, using varying degrees of creative license to offer new takes on timeless subjects. Here's a rundown of 2025's most compelling historical cinema, offering fresh perspectives on the famous and forgotten events of yesteryear.



### Hamnet

Though based on a work of fiction, *Hamnet* is about one of history's most celebrated figures: William Shakespeare, whose son Hamnet is the namesake of Maggie O'Farrell's widely acclaimed novel. Hamnet Shakespeare died at the tender age of 11, leading to centuries of speculation as to what effect that tragedy had on his father's work — especially his magnum opus *Hamlet*, the title of which is far from a coincidence in this powerful film by Oscar-winning *Nomadland* director Chloé Zhao. A pair of devastating performances by Paul Mescal as the Bard and Jessie Buckley as his wife Anne (nicknamed Agnes) will get most of the attention throughout awards season, but young Jacobi Jupe is nothing short of princely as Hamnet himself.



### Magellan

Lest you think this is a traditional biopic, know that director Lav Diaz's movies usually run between four and eight hours long and are considered exemplars of the slow-cinema movement. *Magellan* is fairly conventional by his standards — it's a mere 160 minutes and stars an international movie star (Gael García Bernal) in the eponymous role — but it's still unmistakably a Diaz film. Taking place over the final decade of the circumnavigator's life and giving an impressionistic account of its subject rather than the usual bullet-point approach taken by most of its genre peers, this is the biopic at its most inventive and experiential.

### The Secret Agent

A title card at the beginning of Kleber Mendonça Filho's latest film introduces it as taking place during "a period

**Continued on page 14**



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**The Best Historical Movies of 2025 from page 13**

of great mischief," a playfully understated way of describing 1977 Brazil. A brilliant Wagner Moura plays a former teacher who has run afoul of the military dictatorship and is now living in the city of Recife under an assumed name. But *The Secret Agent* isn't as grim as it might sound. It could more accurately be called strange, vibrant, and darkly funny — if you had 100 guesses, you'd never figure out how the subplot involving a human leg found inside a shark resolves itself. That the movie does all of this without being flippant or making light of its subject matter is truly impressive, and likely part of why *The Secret*

*Agent* is the rare film to have won not one but two awards at the Cannes Film Festival: Best Director and Best Actor.

**Sound of Falling**

Mascha Schilinski's astonishing sophomore feature is a time-traversal drama that takes a familiar premise and turns it into something startlingly original. Spanning more than a century but never leaving its single physical setting of a rural German farmhouse, the film — which follows the lives of four interconnected women who are only vaguely aware of their links to one another, like phantom limbs that carry the attendant pain — often jumps from one timeline to another so seamlessly that you don't even realize it, alternating between the early

20th century, the World War II era, East Germany in the 1980s, and the present day. Watching the movie is a bit like sitting outside as it gets dark on a summer night and seeing fireflies blink in and out of view: Each small moment captures your full attention and leaves an afterimage that you can still see when you close your eyes.

**Train Dreams**

A literary adaptation of Denis Johnson's lyrical novella of the same name, *Train Dreams* is an ode to an America that no longer exists. A never-better Joel Edgerton stars as Robert Grainier, who spends most of his adult life working on the railroad all the live-long day. "Though he didn't know it then," the narrator says early on, when Robert marries a woman named Gladys (Felicity Jones) and has a daughter, "he would always look back on this time in his life as the happiest." Clint Bentley's understated drama is more melancholic than happy, but there's true beauty in its depiction of early-20th-century Idaho.

**Why Is 'Red Tape' Associated With Bureaucracy?**

The English word "bureaucracy" originated in the early 19th century, referring to an administrative system where decisions were made by a group of nonelected officials. Today, the term can refer to the regulatory system of any public

or private institution, including corporations, organizations, and governments. And in a society where laws are upheld based on a set of established standards and practices, keeping everything running smoothly can require an almost mind-boggling array of rules and regulations.

Such an excessive amount of official systems and processes is often referred to as "red tape." But how and when exactly did that colorful term become associated with bureaucracy? Red Tape Was Used To Bind Official Documents The use of red tape to bind documents has been noted for centuries, but its exact origins remain murky. The practice may date as far back as the 11th century, to the red, ribbonlike cloth that English clerks used to secure official documents. For hundreds of years, correspondence was tied with tape and the ends were sealed with melted wax, so that the contents couldn't be read by anyone other than the intended recipient. The only way to access the documents was to cut the seal, which around the 18th century led to the common idiom "cutting through the red tape." Some historians suggest the use of red tape for binding government records may have started later, during King Charles V's reign over Spain in the 16th century, when important documents were secured with red tape to distinguish them from other papers. The color red has long signified royalty and wealth, and red dyes such as kermes and cochineal produced a deep scarlet that were favored by the rich and powerful. Considering the high cost of these dyes at the time, it's unlikely that red ribbon was used for anything other than the most important official documents, at least initially. Although red tape bindings had already been around for some time, the first written reference in English to the words "red tape" appeared in 1658, in an advertisement in the Publick Intelligencer describing a lost "little bundle of Papers tied with a red Tape." By the end of the 17th century, the tradition of using red tape to secure official

documents had crossed the Atlantic and become standard practice in the American colonies as well. In 1696, a law was passed that stated records of public land boundaries in the colony of Maryland were required to be "seal'd with his Excellency's Seal of Arms, on a Red Cross with Red Tape." Other important government documents, including the Stamp Act of 1765, were also secured with red tape.

"Red Tape" Became a Negative Term for Bureaucracy Though a regal red binding once signified order and organization, the term "red tape" eventually took on a derogatory connotation, meaning an overly complicated process of rules and paperwork. This meaning of the term has been around for almost 200 years. One of the earliest known uses is found in the 1850 work *Latter Day Pamphlets* by Scottish author Thomas Carlyle. He wrote, "From all corners of the wide British Dominion there rises one complaint against the ineffectuality of what are nicknamed our 'red-tape' establishments, our Government Offices, Colonial Office, Foreign Office and the others." Despite the growing negative association, the practice of using red tape to bind important documents was widespread by the end of the American Civil War. According to the National Archives Foundation in Washington, D.C., Americans first used the term "red tape" in reference to bureaucracy because of how difficult it was for Civil War veterans to obtain their tape-bound records in order to file pension claims. While the term "red tape" predates the Civil War era, it became an increasingly popular phrase in English through the 19th and 20th centuries. Red Tape Bindings Have Found a New Life as Mementos Though we still refer to "cutting through the red tape" today, the tradition of binding documents with colorful cloth has been replaced by other methods, including digitizing original records. Some archivists still use twill tape to bind documents, but they opt for undyed tape rather

**Continued on page 15**

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## Why is Red Tape Associated with Bureaucracy from page 14

than red, because the red ink can fade or rub off onto the paper. However, red ribbon binding remained in use for a surprisingly long time — until the 1980s — and hundreds of miles of red tape have been used to bind billions of historic documents. For more than two decades, the National Archives has been shifting the use of red tape from its historic files to its gift shop. The idea to monetize this bit of governmental history was conceived in the 1990s by a volunteer who was removing the red bindings from Civil War documents so they could be transferred to microfilm. In 1997, the first snippets of red tape were sold in the National Archives gift shop for \$5. Today, those bits of faded fabric have been incorporated into a wide range of jewelry and mementos for tourists who want to own a piece of bureaucratic history.

## Why Did Doctors Wear Beak Masks During the Bubonic Plague?

Few images in medical history are as striking (or as creepy) as those of plague doctors with their long, beaked masks. This peculiar costume, worn by physicians during outbreaks of bubonic plague in Europe, has become an enduring symbol of the disease.

But why did doctors wear these strange masks, which surely must only have added to the fear felt by people in times of suffering? What purpose did the design serve? Here's the reasoning behind the mask, which came about in an age when the true nature of disease transmission was still shrouded in mystery. The Origins of the Plague Doctor Costume Contrary to common belief, the plague doctor costume was not a medieval-era invention. Despite its common association with the Black Death — the name given to the bubonic plague pandemic that devastated Europe in the mid-1300s — there is no evidence to suggest it was worn during the 14th-century epidemic or at any point in the Middle Ages. It emerged much later, in the 17th century, when plague outbreaks were still common in Europe. We know that the striking attire was worn in 1619 by the French physician Charles Delorme during an eruption of the bubonic plague in Paris. Delorme, who some historians credit as inventing the outfit, described the plague doctor costume in full in a mid-17th century text, complete with leather hat, gloves, a waxed linen robe, boots, and a mask with glass eyes and beak. Plague doctors across Europe soon adopted the outfit; they also carried a stick with which to remove the clothes of the infected. The look was so widely recognized in Italy that it became commonplace in

Italian *commedia dell'arte* — an early form of comedic theater — and carnival celebrations, and it remains a popular costume today. The Beaks Were Filled With Herbs and Vinegar By far the most distinctive, and some would say ominous, aspect of the plague doctor costume was the mask with its long, birdlike beak. This relates to a prevailing view in medical science during the Middle Ages and in the centuries that followed: that diseases were spread through "miasma," or bad-smelling air, that caused an imbalance in a person's "humors," or bodily fluids. (The miasma theory was later discarded when the germ theory of disease was developed.) The shape and function of the beak were directly tied to this theory of miasma. Plague doctors filled their long beaks with strong smelling herbs and flowers, including lavender and mint, or sponges soaked with vinegar or camphor. Some also stuffed their beaks full of theriac, a compound of more than 55 herbs and other components including viper flesh powder, cinnamon, myrrh, and honey. These aromatic substances, it was believed, would absorb the foul-smelling miasma, purifying the air as it traveled along the beak, and so protect the wearer from inhaling the harmful air. Did the Beak Mask Actually Work? The concept behind the plague doctor's outfit wasn't entirely misguided. Creating a barrier between the wearer and the patient — and potentially contaminated air — was logical. Modern personal protective equipment (PPE) and hazmat suits are based on the same idea. The plague doctor costume could have even offered some protection against droplets from coughing (in the case of pneumonic plague) or contamination through splattered blood (from bubonic plague). But fundamental flaws existed in the design. Bubonic plague, caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, is transmitted through the bite of an infected flea.

The plague doctors, believing miasma to be the cause, were not aware of this. Their outfits may have helped protect against flea bites to some extent, but they were not specifically designed for this task. As for the beak masks, they too would have offered some protection, despite the flawed understanding of how contagious diseases spread. The simple fact that plague doctors wore masks was a positive — but stuffing their beaks full of herbs and powdered viper flesh was of no great use, apart from making the air smell somewhat nicer while they treated their patients.

## What Became the Statue of Liberty Began as a Monument for Egypt

One of the greatest gifts America ever received was originally envisioned for another nation. Before creating "Liberty Enlightening the World," as the Statue of Liberty is officially known, French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi set to work on "Egypt Carrying the Light to Asia," which was meant to be placed at the entryway of the

Suez Canal in Port Said, Egypt. It would have looked fairly similar to Lady Liberty, with an "Upper Egyptian" (*Saeid Misr*) wearing a robe and holding a torch. Bartholdi was inspired by a trip to Abu Simbel, the site of two iconic temples devoted to Ramesses II, and planned the sculpture to stand 86 feet high on a 48-foot pedestal. However, the statue was deemed too costly to produce, and the Port Said Lighthouse was erected instead. Bartholdi then repurposed his design after turning his attention to America due to a proposal by Édouard de Laboulaye, a French historian and abolitionist who wanted to honor the century-old alliance between the U.S. and France, as well as America's successful effort to abolish slavery. The monument, renamed the Statue of Liberty, was constructed in France and presented to Levi Morton, then the U.S. ambassador to France and later vice president under Benjamin Harrison, in a ceremony in Paris on July 4, 1884. Following its completion the next year, it was disassembled and shipped to New York City, where it still stands today.

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