

# THE FINISH OF THE YEAR



Chef Tom Valenti

PHOTO PROVIDED

## STILL TIME TO BID HPAC Auctions Dinner by Celebrity Chef

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – There is still time to get a bid in for a private dinner by a celebrity chef and help support the arts in Hurleyville.

The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre is auctioning the dinner, to be prepared by renowned chef Tom Valenti, and has announced that the deadline for bids has been extended to Sunday, December 12. All proceeds support Arts Centre programs.

Bids can be submitted at this link: <https://www.biddingowl.com/hpac>

According to HPAC's Tal Beery, Mr. Valenti "will custom design and

prepare a 4-course meal for the auction winner and their guests in the privacy of their home - anywhere in NYC or within a 30-mile radius of Hurleyville."

HPAC is auctioning off one dinner for 4 and one for from 5-10 guests.

Mr. Valenti is a New York magazine Top Ten Chef, a Food & Wine magazine Best New Chef, a two-time nominee for James Beard awards, the driving force behind legendary restaurants Owest, Le Cirque, and Oxbow Tavern, and the author of three best-selling cookbooks. He is an avid fisherman in the Beaverkill, and believes in HPAC's vision of inclusivity and connection through the arts.

## BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME New Business Group Helps Revitalize Hurleyville

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – Back in the 1990's, a small group of Hurleyville friends began organizing to pick up litter and beautify the hamlet.

The group would meet at the Hurleyville Emporium, an eclectic Western styled shop / hangout on Main Street, which stood next to where LaSalumina is now. Gathering with wine on Friday evenings at the Emporium, the group began to plan hamlet events and distribute holiday baskets for needy families as a way to connect with the local community. Sadly, the shop owner passed away suddenly, but the group persevered and joined Sullivan First, the organization that eventually merged with and formed Sullivan Renaissance.

Their mission, to build beautiful and active communities in Sullivan County, resonated with the local group, now called Hurleyville-Sullivan First (HSF), and they were among the very first Sullivan Renaissance grantees in the County. Through the 2000's, HSF completed dozens of beautification projects and took advantage of the Sullivan Renaissance leadership, partnerships,

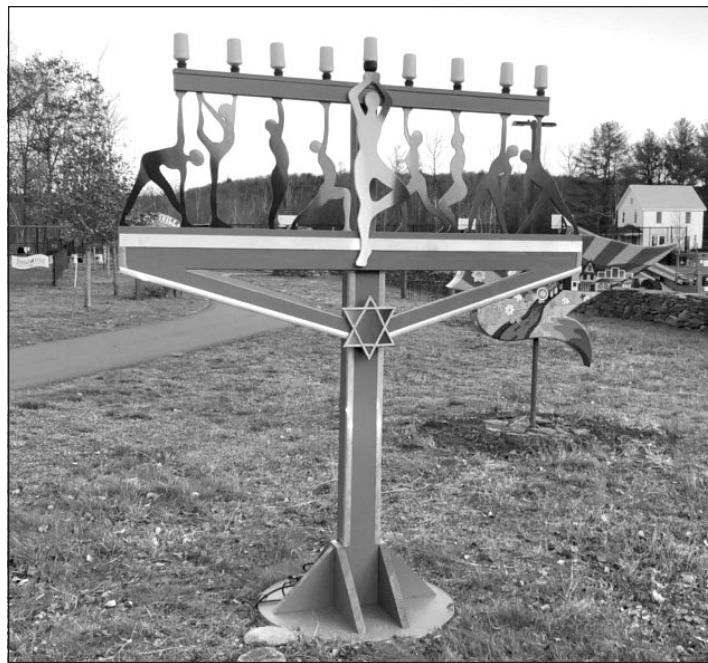


PHOTO PROVIDED

The new Menorah on Main Street was designed by New York artist Charley Gips and built by Perry Gips and his PartyMaster crew.

and planners who provided expert advice in community improvement. Believing that Hurleyville was a special place is what drove the volunteers to keep going.

Years passed, and during that time, The Center for Discovery noticed Hurleyville. Their subsequent investment brought a lot of attention and renovation to the little hamlet, including new sidewalks, crosswalks, and paving of the Rail Trail. Other people began to notice, and Hurleyville has grown even more popular. Restaurants like Casa Mia (formerly Frankie and Johnnies) and

the Pickled Owl continue to draw a steady stream of patrons, and the new Tango Café is getting ready to join this set of great Hurleyville eateries. The past two years in particular have brought new excitement to town, and Main Street is buzzing and busier than ever.

Enter Team Hurleyville - a newly formed group of active businesses that includes the Hurleyville Arts Centre, an oasis of music, movies and dance. Team Hurleyville began meeting in June to network, share information and help each other thrive. The group felt strongly about the need to

attract people and share the excitement about the growth of Hurleyville, a win for everyone who believes in this special hamlet.

A couple of months ago, Team Hurleyville met and started planning to bring back the Holiday in Hurleyville festivities on December 4th, a hamlet-wide event with activities for all ages, as well as special offerings at shops and restaurants. Many are pitching in to help, and some have been driving the effort, like Jacquie Leventoff of Do Over Real estate, who has some outstanding new Airbnb rentals on Hope Street, Denise Lombardi, owner of the lovely Hurleyville General Store, Hal Simon from Fortress Bikes, who is gearing up for winter snow shoe rentals, Suzanne Cecil of the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum, Perry Gips of the PartyMaster entertainment company, Jack Comstock from the Collaborative College High School, and Eleanor Friedman of La Salumina. Bold Gold Media group kicked in a radio commercial for the event, and the Hurleyville Fire Department is helping, too.

Apparently it is true: if you build it, they will come. Go Team Hurleyville!



PHOTO PROVIDED

Potential customers peruse the clothing available at one of the Homestead School's annual clothing swaps.

## DOING THEIR PART Homestead School Reduces Carbon Footprint with Annual Clothing Swap

by Rose Mandelbaum

HURLEYVILLE – The average American will toss out 81 pounds of clothing each year, which amounts to 26 billion pounds nationwide, according to a pamphlet sent home to families of Homestead elementary school students.

Since one of the main focuses at the Homestead School-- a Montessori elementary school in Glen Spey that this year added a high school campus in Hurleyville-- is environmental sustainability, the school has held a yearly clothing swap for the past 15 years as one way to reduce its carbon footprint.

"We're practicing reusing and reducing our carbon footprint by not shipping new clothes from all over the world," said Nisha Gupta, Homestead School Director.

Families are invited to bring in their children's lightly used fall or winter clothing, which is then resold for inexpensive prices. This year's Clothing Swap took place from October 18 through 22, and sales were aided by a team of volunteers from the school's new high school program, Hurleyville's Collaborative College High School (CCHS).

Not only is the Clothing Swap environmentally friendly, it means a lot to the community.

"[The Clothing Swap] means that we can come together and share things we have with each other instead of throwing them away," said Jessica, a teacher at the school, who also has two children at the Homestead.

Ms. Gupta says the clothing swap teaches children important life lessons.

"It allows children the freedom to choose their own clothes. It also has the unspoken connection of wearing each other's stuff," she said, laughing.

As in previous years, the proceeds from the Clothing Swap will go to local causes. This year, the first \$500 will go to the Circle Park Storytelling Initiative in the town of Lumberland, and the rest of the money will be donated to the Lumberland Fire Department. CCHS students will bring the unsold clothing to a local homeless shelter.

Speaking about the origins of the Clothing Swap, Ms. Gupta joked, "About 15 years ago, one of the parents said, 'My kid will only wear stuff from the Homestead Lost and Found. You can make money off this!'"

It has since turned into a school tradition which Ms. Gupta has been determined to carry on despite COVID-19 safety issues. Many safety measures were taken to ensure that everybody would be safe.

## ICONIC BOOK REPRINTED

Museum, General Store Selling "To The Mountains by Rail"

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – More than 50 years after its original publication and more than 30 years since it has gone out of print, "To The Mountains by Rail," the iconic book about Sullivan County history by Manville B. Wakefield, has been reprinted.

Load 'N Go Press of Kiamesha Lake has published a hardcover reprint of the classic, which tells the story of the railroads that

served Sullivan County and the resort industry they helped spawn here.

Most of the credit for the reprint goes to Myron Gittell, the proprietor of Load 'n Go Press, but he is quick to share the credit.

"This would never have gotten done without the O&W Railway Historical Society," he said. "I owe a debt of gratitude to members Jeff Otto and Mark Kennaugh, whose talents and tireless efforts helped bring this wonder-

ful book back to life."

Mr. Gittell says that volunteers from the O&W Railway Historical Society spent countless hours over the past two years painstakingly locating and scanning many of the original photos from the book so that—thanks to modern digital imaging technology-- the quality of the reprint is superior to even the first printing.

The reprint of "To The Mountains by Rail" is available for purchase at numerous outlets

throughout Sullivan County, including the Sullivan County Historical Society's Gift Shop at the County Museum, and the Hurleyville General Store. Other locations carrying the book as of press time are the Kristt Company in Monticello, Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, Morgan Outdoors in Livingston Manor, and Monique's Books in White Sulphur Springs.

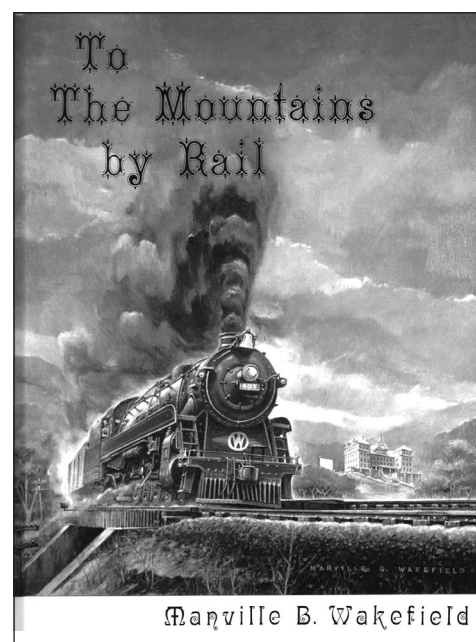


PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Manville B. Wakefield

## HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

STATE AID AVAILABLE FOR TAXES, MORTGAGES, ETC.

MONTICELLO – Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck wants local homeowners to know they may qualify for State assistance in paying delinquent taxes and other charges.

"My office has recently been made aware of important news concerning potential relief," she said, "and I'm urging people to take advantage of this offer, as it could mean the difference between keeping or losing their home."

The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund

has been approved by the United States Treasury to provide financial assistance to homeowners with financial hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

The State of New York has advised that a homeowner may be eligible for assistance if they are delinquent with any of the following items due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Mortgage payments
- Property taxes, water or insurance charges

- Homeowners' association or maintenance fees
- Manufactured home loan or retail installment contracts.

A homeowner is defined as a New York State resident who owns a home and occupies that home as their primary residence (meaning it is where they live for the majority of every calendar year).

Types of eligible homeowners include:

Mortgaged homeowners who are in a forbear-

ance plan or were offered a forbearance plan that has expired; this may be a first and/or a second mortgage.

Mortgaged homeowners who were not offered a forbearance plan, or missed the option to apply for one, and are considered delinquent on their first or second mortgage.

Homeowners who are behind on payments for property taxes, water bills, or sewage bills.

Co-op or condo homeowners who are behind on monthly carrying charges

such as maintenance fees or homeowner association payments.

Homeowners who live in manufactured homes and who are behind on home loans or retail installment contracts used to purchase their homes.

Homeowners whose household income is equal to or less than 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and who are at risk of foreclosure and/or displacement due to financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

are eligible to apply. The AMI for Sullivan County is \$79,900 for a household of one to five people, \$83,300 for a six-person household, \$89,050 for a seven-person household and \$94,800 for a household with eight or more.

This is a State program that does not involve the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office, so those who are interested should visit <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org> for eligibility and application information.

## ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

The headline for this edition comes from a poem by the prolific 20th Century poet, Edgar Guest, whose "At Christmas" was one of 11,000 poems he is credited with authoring.

The first line of the poem, "a man is at his finest towards the finish of the year" has become a familiar quotation, and Mr. Guest's observation that each of us tends to be "less a selfish creature than at any other time" echoes a familiar sentiment about the holiday season.

So regardless of what holiday you celebrate this time of year, the editors and staff at The Hurleyville Sentinel hope it a joyous one, and wish you the happiest New Year, as well!



## Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



### HURLEYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The annual election of the Hurleyville Fire District will take place on Tuesday, December 14, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Hurleyville Fire House.

The purpose of the election is to elect one Commissioner for a five-year term, beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026, and one Secretary-Treasurer for a three-year term, beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2024.

All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 22, 2021 and residing within the Hurleyville Fire District are eligible to vote.

Social distancing will be observed and masks must be worn.

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hurleyville-Sullivan First will hold its 25th annual "DECK THE DOORS" holiday decorating contest on Thursday, December 16. All holiday-decorated doors in the hamlet, including residences and businesses, are eligible. Judging will begin at 6 p.m. Remember to turn your lights on by that time!

Winners of the contest will be awarded prizes provided by Hurleyville business owners and members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First. This year, Bold Gold Media Group has contributed a \$1,000 advertising package for the winner in the business category.

Visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First at [www.hurlevillenyny.com](http://www.hurlevillenyny.com) or on Facebook for more information on the group's projects to make Hurleyville more beautiful.

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Information on the Christmas Eve service at the church will be announced on the church's sign and on Facebook.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, December 23, and on Thursday, December 30, from 3 until 5 p.m.

Sunday services at the church begin at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge is delivering sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Fully vaccinated churchgoers do not have to wear a

**25TH ANNUAL**

**"DECK THE DOORS"**

**HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST**

**Judging will begin at 6:00pm on Thursday, December 16th.**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE IN HURLEYVILLE**

**YOUR DOOR MUST BE DECORATED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PRIZE.**

**BOLD GOLD MEDIA**  
has contributed a \$1,000  
advertising package for the winning business.

**Sponsored by**  
**Hurleyville-Sullivan First**

**[www.hurlevillenyny.com](http://www.hurlevillenyny.com)**

mask in the church.

You can pray with others over the phone on the church's prayer line on Sundays from 7 to 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access code is 251678.

"Messy Church" has started again. The next date will be announced soon.

Youth Group meetings and the women's group meetings are still cancelled for now.

Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information. You can also get updates at the church's page on Facebook.

### THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual Theme Tree Exhibit at the museum will be on display through the first week in January.

Visitors to the museum are welcome and the archives are open for research.

Guided tours (behind the scenes and regular exhibits) are available on Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is no charge for the hour-long tour, but registration is required. Please call 845-428-3111 to register.

"To the Mountains by Rail," just republished by Load 'N Go Press, is available for sale at the gift shop at the museum. The shop has an assortment of print material and memorabilia that are perfect gifts for the holidays.

Financial donations to the museum and the historical society are welcome to help meet the ongoing increase in the amount of funds needed to operate the museum.

Anyone interested in genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can

send an email to [info@scnyhistory.org](mailto:info@scnyhistory.org) for information on volunteering at the museum.

Please call the museum at 845-434-8044 or email [info@scnyhistory.org](mailto:info@scnyhistory.org) for more information or to schedule group tours.

The Museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Per Sullivan County guidelines, visitors to the museum are required to wear masks.

Visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook or at [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org).

### COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The CHNA steering committee meets monthly to prepare for the next appearance of the Gan Eden Estates project on the agenda of the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

The members of CHNA and the community have voiced many concerns with the project and the deleterious effects it will have on the community and the environment. Some of the concerns are:

- 534 units in 89 structures
- 4 miles of paved roads
- possibility of more than 3,000 residents
- 1,100 parking spaces
- water supply
- storm water runoff
- wastewater treatment plant and discharge
- traffic
- noise pollution
- light pollution
- electric grid capacity
- 110-foot 400,000-gallon on-site water tank

Members of CHNA continue to monitor the questionable over development in the area of Huschke Road and East Mongaup Road. They will attend the December 2021 Town of Liberty Planning Board meeting if these or related matters are on the agenda.

Visit CHNA at [www.columbiahill.org](http://www.columbiahill.org) and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community by demanding responsible and sustainable development.



PHOTO PROVIDED

BCES students (left to right) Jiya Patel, Michael Demondo-Gernant and Samantha Saciolo and advisor Peter Dworetsky with some of the collected food.

## FCSD Students Collect and Donate Food

FALLSBURG – A wonderful Thanksgiving tradition at Fallsburg Central School District is collecting food and donating to local families directly or through Town of Fallsburg food pantries.

On Monday, November 22, Junior/Senior High School Student Government Advisor Elisa Baum drove a pick-up truck full of boxes and bags of frozen turkeys and non-perishable food to South Fallsburg's St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Cynthia Johnston and Linda Goldstein are sisters who have administered the church food pantry for the past 15-plus years. They received the donation with gratitude to the stu-

dents in the schools. The COVID virus has impacted the distribution of food to needy families because people are not able to get out to the pantry as they did for a one-night a week pick-up. Ms. Johnston and Ms. Goldstein have been making special arrangements for people to get food on different days and making food more accessible.

The students collected food from other students, families, staff and friends from the community. The SGAs in both buildings coordinated the efforts. Peter Dworetsky is the BCES Advisor. FCSD custodians transported the food from BCES to the High School.



PHOTO PROVIDED

FSHS SGA Advisors Ms. Isabel Mejia-Cordero and Ms. Elisa Baum with 11th grade representative Yadhier Tejeda ready to load up Ms. Baum's pick-up truck with food.

## Join HPAC For The Holidays!

**Santa Will Be Here!**  
**DECEMBER 3-5**

**Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra Holiday Family Concert**  
**DECEMBER 4**

**The Thrift Shop at Gallery 222**  
**WILL BE OPEN ALL HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**THE HPAC CINEMA**  
**WILL BE SHOWING:**

***The Bishop's Wife***  
**DECEMBER 10-11**

***Spiderman: No Way Home***  
**WEEKENDS DECEMBER 17-JANUARY 2**

**Art | Music | Film | Performance**  
**Something For Everyone!**

**More information and tickets at**  
**[HURLEYVILLEARTSCENTRE.ORG](http://HURLEYVILLEARTSCENTRE.ORG)**



Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre

## The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

A few months back, I had heard about a recording group with the interesting name of MIDNIGHT CALLERS that would be performing in the area in a small venue and how good they were, so on Saturday, October 30. I met friends at the Double Top Bar and Grille in THE RESORTS WORLD CASINO just outside Monticello to see for myself. I didn't go out cold, though. I had listened to some cuts from the group's first album on JEM RECORDS titled RED LETTER GLOW. The title was intriguing to me. Having lived in New York City for a decade, I couldn't help but smile. Yes, they hail from that great city.

I had heard about a song on their CD called 41 MILES TO ROSCOE, and as I listened to it, I'm thinking "My God! This is an anthem of hope to all small town girls wanting more than what they see around them." But beyond the lyrics (yes, I'm a lyrics person at heart), the music itself was compelling. It was a hard driving Rock and Roll that was alive and well before the Disco Era in the music revolution, but in an updated modern version. It also brought me back to that dirty, gritty 1980's New York that I loved so much, when I was booking and going out to see music very much like this. So, I listened to another random choice from this record. Yes, that drive was still there.

Well guess what? THE MIDNIGHT CALLERS not only delivered the sound live, BUT are honestly, in my opinion, BETTER live. Their music and performance does not lose any of the intensity or integrity of their recording but adds a general air of good old fun! They have fun playing together, and they have fun playing their music and that, dear readers, is infectious.

CHRIS PAINE (vocals and rhythm guitar), MARTIN STUBBS (vocals and lead guitar), JULIAN BU-DRINO (vocals and drums) and MARLEY MYRIANTHOPOULOS (vocals and bass) comprise one strong, cohesive group with all four involved in vocals which is really difficult to do. So much about this band was a breath of fresh air/pleasantly surprising to me. The grace and ease of their interactions on stage with each other while never losing the driving beat

of what they were playing. The professionalism and crispness of how each played their instruments in concert with one another.

In between songs from RED LETTER GLOW and teasers from their upcoming second release, they breathed new life into greats like IT WON'T BE LONG and DIZZY MISS LIZZY from the Beatles and DEAD FLOWERS from the ROLLING STONES and USE ME by BILL WITHERS, interspersed with the more contemporary covers like PUMP IT UP by ELVIS

COSTELLO and TOM PETTY'S YOU WRECK ME. There was no wondering why just 'sitting' wasn't possible and the dance floor just kept filling up!

If this band comes around again, and I truly hope they do, I strongly suggest you go see them before having to shell out the big bucks to see them at a major venue becomes a reality. And don't come crying to me if you don't.

*Stay safe, stay well, and mask up!*

*Until next time.....*

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



## LA NIÑA



PHOTO PROVIDED

The term La Niña comes from the Spanish for little girl. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it describes an oceanic and atmospheric cooling pattern that can occur in the Pacific Ocean every few years. In a normal year, winds along the equator push warm water westward. Warm water at the surface of the ocean blows from South America to Indonesia. As the warm water moves west, cold water from the deep rises up to the surface. This cold water ends up on the coast of South America.

In the winter of a La Niña year, these winds are much stronger than usual. This makes the water in the Pacific Ocean near the equator a few degrees colder than it usually is. Even this small change in the ocean's tem-

perature can affect weather all over the world.

La Niña lowers the temperature of the central Pacific Ocean by from three to five degrees celsius, and can persist for up to five months. La Niña events have occurred for hundreds of years, and records exist since 1903.

La Niña can produce fewer snowstorms and blizzards here in the Northeast, although it does not affect seasonal snowfall predictions, as snow forecasts are generally not predictable more than one week in advance. During La Niña, the temperatures across the continental United States will typically be above, near or below average. The climate pattern of La Niña affects the position of the jet stream and therefore the weather across all of the United States.



A HOLIDAY MUSING

Will we have a white Christmas?  
Do the weathermen know?  
Can we count on our roads  
Covered in fluffy snow?

Will children begin preparing their sleds  
After dreaming of sugarplums that danced  
In their heads?

Even grown men and women  
Love to see when it falls  
They laugh at the children  
Having fights with snowballs

The kids' noses begin to run from the cold  
After forming a snowman from a parson's mold  
And their fingers and toes now start to sting  
So they warm up inside and find carols to sing

The dinner was scrumptious, said one and all  
As we walked with our guests to the front door down the hall  
We stood in the doorway and held each other's hands  
And were simply awestruck by our Winter Wonderland

- Mimi  
December, 2021

## THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

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# LEGISLATOR APPOINTED TO NYSAC BOARD

## Mr. Alvarez Represents Hurleyville

HURLEYVILLE – Sullivan County District Six Legislator Luis Alvarez has been appointed to the Board of the NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC), one of the most influential advocates for the State’s 62 counties.

District Six includes Hurleyville, as well as parts of the towns of Fallsburg and Liberty.

“NYSAC is proud of the work we do to support our member counties, which have been on the front lines of this coronavirus pan-

demie. While the worst is over, we still have much work to do,” said NYSAC Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario. “We appreciate Legislator Alvarez’s ability to serve, and his experience and perspective will be a valuable asset as we continue to address the critical issues facing counties across the state.”

Representing the State’s Third Judicial District, Legislator Alvarez joins 14 other board members, including NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, in helping guide

NYSAC forward.

A longtime (now retired) Sheriff’s deputy and formerly chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature, Mr. Alvarez also maintains seats on multiple National Association of Counties (NACo) boards, including as Vice Chair of Medicaid and Indigent Care on NACo’s Health Steering Subcommittee, its Health Policy Steering Committee, Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board, Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee, Programs

and Services Standing Committee, Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee, Veterans and Military Services Committee, and Immigration Reform Task Force.

“It is an honor to serve with NYSAC, which has long been an indispensable advocate and supporter of Sullivan County,” Mr. Alvarez said. “I’m also glad to help guide NYSAC and NACo as we navigate through vital issues in Albany and Washington. I remain committed to my

constituents as their legislator, but it’s important to recognize that we’re part of a larger system of government that constantly needs review and improvement.”

NYSAC represents New York counties and their taxpayers before Federal, State and Local officials on matters germane to county governments, and informs its membership and the public at large on issues of importance to counties. The Albany-based organization educates, trains and provides research on public policy



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**District Six Legislator  
Luis Alvarez**

to Federal, State and Local officials and to the membership on a variety of issues and hosted its 2019 conference in Sullivan County.



## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

One late-October morning, I woke to find that somebody, under cover of night, had come up our driveway, which winds a distance from Divine Corners Road, and proceeded to the very threshold of our cottage, to post campaign flyers for the local election. I found a placard lying on the porch and a tag hanging from the doorknob, like those “Do Not Disturb” signs you get in hotels. Only in this case the tag *was* the disturbance! It was creepy to think of someone right outside our door while we slept inside. It felt unseemly. Had they cased the neighborhood during the day, to know where to go in the dark? The experience was at odds with a notion that lies close to the heart of the holiday season – hospitality, the spirit in which thresholds, and the invitations to cross them, are extended.

The opposite of hospitality is coercion or force, and force is no respecter of persons. It’s significant that the Latin root of the word hospitality – *hospes* – can mean both “host” and “guest,” as if these two terms are commutable and the secret of hospitality is to be found in the reciprocal exchange between host and guest.

What the host gives the guest – shelter, food, acceptance, a place at the table – is clearer than what the guest gives the host. In many stories, the guest confers some form of blessing upon the host, especially if the guest is a person unknown to the host. This points to the third meaning of *hospes*: “stranger.” The act of inviting a stranger to one’s board is a more stringent form of hospitality, enjoined in many traditions. We see variations of that theme in such yuletide customs as mummering, wassailing, and caroling; we see it in the Jewish seder, when the front door is opened to welcome Elijah – one always hopes one’s guest might be revealed as a prophet or angel!

Perhaps the real blessing conferred by the guest is simply the expansion of the heart of the host, the accession to a greater spirit of generosity, even of *caritas*, which might prove transformative. One writer described hospitality as

“the virtue of a great soul who cares for the whole universe through the ties of humanity.” This spirit withers when coercion enters to sever the reciprocal relationship of host and guest, substituting a chilly manipulation for the willingness to be changed by an encounter with a stranger.

The radical assumption of the guest’s intrinsic worthiness expands, in some religious traditions, to a sense of intrinsic divinity, such as we see in the Nativity story. In its “no room at the Inn” variant, elaborated over millennia from its spare origins in Luke’s Gospel, the Nativity gives us one of our most enduring fables of hospitality. The stony-hearted innkeeper who turns away Joseph and Mary from his door fails the test of hospitality and forecloses on a possibility of incalculable blessings.

Luke bookends his Gospel with another great hospitality tale: two disciples are traveling to Emmaus, immediately after the events of Holy Week, and are joined by a stranger, who receives news from the pair of all that has just occurred in Jerusalem. When they come to an Inn, the two insist that the stranger join them for food and rest before continuing his journey; in Sarah Ruden’s wonderful recent translation of the Gospels, they “put the gentle pressure of hospitality on him.” The stranger accepts, and as they break bread together the disciples’ eyes are opened, they recognize their guest as Jesus, who promptly vanishes. One astute commentator said that the offer of hospitality itself opened the two disciples to the revelatory experience.

We are all cast, at different times, as the host or the guest, vis-à-vis one another; sometimes we are cast as the stranger, even to ourselves. In the light of hospitality, we glimpse the possibility of overcoming our divisions, of experiencing the good will towards men and women that makes for peace on Earth.

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## PAPER CLIPS...

by Elaine Corrington



### “Would you PLEASE get your Machine Gun OUT of the Mayonnaise?”

For many reasons, this is one of the giftiest times of the year in Hurleyville and elsewhere. There are religious reasons, seasonal reasons for farmers, natural exchanges with people that are friends or neighbors, party goers, co-workers, organizations that provide needed or special foods or clothing, animal shelters, or just silly finds that you want to share.

All of this gift-giving motion makes it harder and harder to treat yourself- even when catalogs crowd your mailbox and computer with items you would like but cannot afford any more- and nobody is giving them to YOU! Don’t you deserve something special too? Even an argument where you win doesn’t always feel like a winning gift. A non-angry state of mind that proves to yourself that anger is not the only answer is a reward with wide application and appreciation.

Well, maybe it is time to gift yourself. Give yourself something that you have to do in life or work that allows you to address a problem without continuing anger and trying to win your point, darn it- but allows you to always know that no anger but a hard laugh is already in your brain just waiting to reward you. And with a remembrance with more value than you thought possible without winning an ongoing battle with your superior knowledge, experience, and inspiration. Fifty years later, that sweet reward can still bring the laugh and intensity of joy (enlarged by time!) of your original inspired moment. And you can share it and inspire others to follow your lead.

I have one of those moments to share with you right now... I was a Nanny for a long time and there were lots of kids in the family and in the neighborhood. One day, we were out on the back deck making a movie about BAD guys. I went into the house to grab some lemonade because everyone had been doing a lot of talking. When I walked through the door, I was facing a young boy who was smiling with joy as he stirred a large bottle of mayonnaise WITH THE TIP OF HIS MACHINE GUN!

In a loud and very accusatory voice, I exploded with the polite Nanny sentence **“Would you PLEASE get your Machine Gun OUT of the mayonnaise?”** To my good Nanny mind, it was an important life lesson delivered without corporal punishment- and the resulting horribly guilty facial expressions that bounced back toward me were evidence that the lesson had been learned!

I turned back into the house and stomped back toward the bathroom- locking myself in so that nobody could see or hear me laughing hysterically into a thick towel. I knew at that moment that I had been THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH THAT HAD EVER DELIVERED THAT COMPLETELY POLITE LESSON TO ANYONE- CHILD OR ADULT!

I went back out onto the porch and the weapons of guilt had been removed. Apologies were not offered- further evidence that the lesson was learned by all. We finished the movie (which was terrible upon viewing)) and had a very quiet and well-mannered rest of the day.

That win- with really just a reaction in humor and not a win in anger- taught me such a valuable lesson. I had several signs made with the quote- the final one cut into a large piece of rusty metal that hangs on my living room wall as testament to finding solutions in weird humor instead of totally justified anger. This was the gift that I gave myself many decades ago that was better than diamonds- and the kids know it too! They learned it in ONE SWELL FOOP.

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## A Harvest of Apples at FCSD



PHOTO PROVIDED

FALLSBURG – Mid-autumn was a special time to celebrate New York state’s bountiful apple crop at Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD).

Along with other Sullivan County schools, and through the guidance and support of Cornell Cooperative Extension, FCSD’s Wellness Committee organized both buildings in the district to join “Big Apple Crunch Day” on October

21.

FarmOn! Foundation, a non-profit, has been working to fill the succession gap on family farms in rural America. According to FarmOn,” The Big Apple Crunch” began in 2012. Last year, with hundreds of thousands of students at schools and college campuses statewide joining in, over 2.3 million New Yorkers participated. Each year, on or around October 24, participants from

across the state are invited to take a bite out of an apple grown in New York.

FCSD received over 1,700 apples at the Food Services in each school building. On October 20, volunteers from the Wellness Committee washed these apples, packed them in plastic food bags of 25 each, and distributed them through Food Service to each homeroom class or class period for every student to take outside

the building and take a bite at exactly 2 p.m.

The weather was extremely cooperative, with mild temperatures and bright, sunny skies. Students, teachers and staff made one terrific crunching noise that resounded through the Town. One could tell by the looks on student faces that this was a joyous and a healthy event. There is nothing like a crispy New York apple on a crispy New York day!

## Holiday Heritage Shop

### At the Time and the Valleys Museum

GRAHAMSVILLE – Find unique holiday gifts at the Time and the Valleys Museum’s Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Museum shop, located at on St. Rt. 55 in Grahamsville, is stocked with unique books, gifts, heritage toys, local crafts and more to fill shoppers gift giving needs. All shoppers receive a 10% discount off everything, and Museum members get 20% off! They will also receive a free pair of historic notecards with each purchase. Spend the afternoon shopping, supporting the Museum and visiting the three floors of Museum exhibits.

The Museum’s new 70-page Heritage Farm Baking Book will be available for sale, and includes tried-and-true old time treasured recipes for cakes, muffins, pies, cooking and more, all from local bakers of the past. It includes a history of baking and information and photos of many of the early local bakers. The cost of the book is \$15 and \$12 for museum members, and is a fund raiser for the Museum’s second phase of the 1930s Lost Catskill Farm.

For more information or to set up other shopping times, please call 845 985-7700 or email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org).

PHOTO PROVIDED

A small section of the gift shop at Time & The Valleys Museum

## AKTION CLUB INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Proudly displaying Thanksgiving baskets are Aktion Club members and advisors (left to right) Jane Sorensen, Sheila Lashinsky, Sue Kasofsky, Gary Walling, Willie Conklin, James Santinelli, and Kim Loucks

MONTICELLO – The Aktion Club of Sullivan County is always ready and willing to help with community service activities. During the month of November, in addition to making cards for distribution to Veterans, they collected non perishable food items from club members, agency reps and Kiwanis Co-Advisors and had fun decorating and filling baskets that were distributed to needy families

in several school districts in the County as well as to the Federation for the Homeless and United Way of Sullivan County.

The club, which is co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge, New York, is comprised of individuals with various disabilities and affiliated with The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery.



## 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 of the gear and provide all of the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

Fire calls are still up countywide. I have been to several dryer fires in recent weeks. Make sure that you clean the lint trap before each use, do not overload the dryer, make sure the vent to the outside is clear of leaves, bee's nest and very soon snow.

Last month during the heavy rains many, many roads were flooded. Why would you drive your car around cones, barricades, and road closure signs? There were numerous rescues that took place because people did drive around cones, barricades, and road closure signs. Not only did you put your life in danger but those firefighters that came out to save you. When a road is flooded you do not know if the road is still there or washed away. At times the water is so deep that it will stall your car and possibly sweep you away. It could float you into the stream or lake near the flooded section of road.

The holidays are right around the corner, and I want you to be safe. Unfortunately, throughout my firematic career I have been on may calls concerning the following safety issues. I can say throughout the years I have been on a call every holiday that there is. I would like to



stay home this season.

Cooking fires almost double on holidays and cause more property damage and severe injuries than home fires any other time of the year. Be smart and avoid these common causes of holiday kitchen fires and injuries.

- Leaving the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food - high temperatures and splattering fat are a terrible combination.
- Wearing loose sleeves around the stove, fireplace, or grill - fabric can easily ignite if it touches a heat source. Fabric that is accidentally brushed over food can pick up grease, which is highly flammable.
- Placing paper towels, napkins, placemats, towels, oven mitts, plastic bags, paper, or plastic or cardboard food packaging too near the stovetop, oven, grill, or any heat-generating appliance can cause a fire.
- Using a stove, oven, or grill that has a buildup of grease - grease fires are extremely dangerous and difficult for

the homeowners to get under control quickly if they do not know how to handle them.

- Working on a crowded surface - too little room can cause dishes and utensils to fall onto the stove or the floor, resulting in burns, cuts, and damage to stoves, countertops, floors, and appliances.
- Unsupervised children - children are curious and love to be involved in family events. Keep an eye on young children to help ensure they do not touch sharp or hot objects or electric cords or leave toys on the kitchen floor a hurrying adult could trip over.
- Nonworking fire alarms - a smoke alarm is often the first thing to alert you that something is burning. Make sure yours are working before you begin your holiday preparations. A battery is a very small investment in your safety.

The worst may strike even if you take care, so be sure to have a fire extinguisher easily accessible and NEVER use water to extinguish a grease fire, as water will lead to spreading of a grease

fire.

Let us look at a few other safe concerns during the holiday season.

### Candle Safety-

- Make sure candles are held firmly in a fireproof holder on a fireproof surface
- Do not place them near curtains or other fabrics that can ignite
- NEVER leave a candle unattended
- Make sure they are out before going to bed or leaving the house
- Try using a batter operated one

### Christmas Tree Safety-

- Pick a tree that fits the room
- Water your tree. A dry tree is a torch waiting for an ignition source
- Keep heating devices away from the tree

### Decoration Safety -

- Most decorations are highly flammable. Keep them away from a heat source
- Do not let them block your way out of a room or your house
- Turn off or unplug decorations when going to bed or leaving the house

### Wrapping Paper-

- Nerve put your wrapping paper in the wood stove or fireplace
- Dispose of it properly, recycle it if possible

If there should be fire in your home **“Get Out and Stay Out” and Close the Door Behind You.**

**From my family to your family have a Healthy & Safe Holiday Season.**

**Merry Christmas & Happy & Safe New Year**

FROM THE FILES OF...

# THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

## December 6, 1916 Narrow Escape from Drowning

Three small children of South Fallsburg, who had been excused from school Wednesday afternoon a short time previous to the regular hour for dismissal, had a very narrow escape from drowning in the Fallsburg Lake. Grant Warren, the caretaker, heard their screams and discovering the little ones in the water called loudly for help, whereupon J C Reynolds, who heard him, went immediately to his assistance. By wading into the water up to his neck, Mr. Warren was able to reach them and they were carried to the school house and their parents notified. They were then sent home in automobiles. They were Irving Stratton, aged nine years, son of Lorenzo Stratton and Sylvester Bonney, age six, and William Bonney, age eight, sons of Harry Bonney.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

### Fallsburg Lake

was drowned ten days ago while skating on Morning-side Pond.

### High School Notes from the Announcer

Outplaying Hurleyville from start to finish, the Roscoe quintet rang up its first victory in the Catskill Mountain League at Roscoe. Both teams fought hard, but Roscoe, the better team, won.

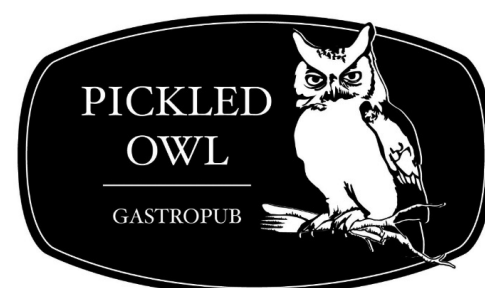
Hurleyville was the first to score when our dashing forward, Charles Yavorofsky made two foul shots. Immediately after this, Al Keating broke loose and made a nice hang shot making the score 4-0. At this point Roscoe began using its scoring ability and quickly sprang into the lead.

In the second half, our boys fought hard, but could not make their shots good. They kept Roscoe's scoring down, but could not add any points to their own score. The final score was 25-14.

There was a preliminary game between the girls of both schools with victory for

## December 27, 1930 Hurleyville Girls Hurt in Auto Crash

Miss Sarah Hillman, twenty, suffered severe lacerations of the face and body, and Pearl Jacobson and Mary Schubert, her companions, also of this village, were slightly injured Friday of last week when a car driven by Miss Hillman was struck by a Hi-Land bread truck at the intersection of Loch Sheldrake and Hurleyville roads. A brother of Miss Hillman



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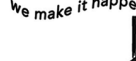
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## GOING FOR A RIDE...

### Students Take Full Advantage of Rail Trail

by Emily Arias  
and Thomas Caputo

HURLEYVILLE – In September, the Collaborative College High School (CCHS) organized a huge bike ride on the Milk Train Trail, also known as the Rail Trail. In partnership with The Center for Discovery (TCFD), CCHS was able to organize a large bike ride involving the majority of students. The organizers were Jack Comstock, Jim Cashen, and Kara Schalase, the latter two who work at The Center for Discovery. They used a combination of student bikes and TCFD bikes, including beach bikes, three-wheel bikes, mountain bikes, and tandem bikes. One of the core focuses of TCFD is the care of those who are differently abled, so many of the bikes were handicap accessible. One CCHS student, Byron Pratt, who has cerebral palsy, said that riding a bike with one working hand is difficult, but the TCFD bikes made it enjoyable.

The riders discovered that the section of Rail Trail on which they were riding is called the Milk Train Trail because it used to be part of an actual railroad that transported milk as well as passengers and freight. Long abandoned, it has now been paved over in both directions, and it's become a popular location for residents to ride bikes and walk.

While many of the stu-



PHOTO BY ALEX BROZ

**CCHS seventh grader Jackson Loretto and teacher Robert Osterhoudt on the bike ride.**

dents on the ride had ridden a bike before, a few kids had never ridden a bike or hadn't ridden in a while. That was the case for one student in particular, Sindhu Villareal. Ms. Villareal hadn't ridden a bike in a long time, but was very happy and excited to be taking part in the experience. “I was very excited to ride again, although I ended up riding a three-wheel bike,” she said.

The bike ride included students of all skill levels, with some being experienced bikers. Two of these students were eighth-graders, Henry Anker and Axel Jurgens. Mr.

Jurgens has even participated in some competitions. While these two had the most experience, they weren't the only ones enjoying the ride. John Adams, a seventh-grader, described the experience as magical.

“When you ride into the rock cut, it's like entering a whole new world,” he said.

Other students saw this experience as a fitness opportunity. Ninth grader Bryce Shannon did multiple laps on the trail, and ended up riding about four miles.

While the September ride was the first, and had the most participants, it was not

On Christmas Eve, the engagement of Miss Marion Metcalf of Monticello, to Edward Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reynolds, was announced. They plan to marry soon.

Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Case of Rock Hill have announced the engagement of their daughter, Gladys, to Earl Peck of Monticello. Miss Case, a school teacher in the Mitter district in Hurleyville for the past four years, is a sister to Mrs. Peter LaBaugh. No date has been set for the wedding.

### Christmas at the County Home

Christmas was celebrated at the Welfare Home in the real old-fashioned way. Christmas Eve, by the light of the brilliantly lighted Christmas tree, welcomed the visit of Jolly Old Saint Nick, who visited each and every person in the institution bringing gifts that made joyous each one's heart. After singing Christmas hymns, several of the inmates contributed a song or piece to make the evening a pleasant one.

A little later, the Truthseekers' Club of Mountindale sang Christmas carols under the windows of the sick in all three of the buildings. The menu for Christmas day for the old folks was chicken, biscuits and gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, mustard pickles, mince pie, tea and coffee. There were seventy-eight at the home.

### Grahamsville Man Celebrated his 100th Birthday

This past Christmas Day brought to Charles H. Hall of Grahamsville a present he has been waiting just 100 years to receive—his centennial birthday. The centenarian had been conserving his strength for days in anticipation of being able to greet the scores of friends and neighbors who called Christmas morning to combine their Christmas greetings with birthday wishes.

### Engagements Announced

Three engagements involving Hurleyville residents were announced during Christmas week.

The betrothal of Miss Frieda Wichinsky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wichinsky and Jerry Lax of New York was made public. The couple plan to wed in June.

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# THE COLUMBIA COP CAPER

Part VI

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin

*Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly is helping out his old boss, Ben Knapp, owner of the Columbia Farm Hotel, by serving as security for the weekend while the hotel entertains a few hundred New York City cops. Bronco has discovered that the room of wealthy socialite Louise Corning has been broken into, and has notified the New York State Police. Now, while questioning guests about the night of the incident, he thinks he might have stumbled upon a lead ...*

I was questioning Sergeant Frank Cruckhorn of the 53rd precinct of the New York City Police Department and his wife, Millie about their whereabouts during the burglary of Louise Corning's room at the Columbia Hotel and the theft of some of her expensive jewelry.

"Are there any other family members here with you?" I asked them after the introductions were out of the way.

"Just..." Mrs. Cruckhorn started to answer, but stopped when her husband squeezed her arm.

"Just my brother and his wife," Cruckhorn interjected. "He's a Sergeant in the two-seven. I don't see where he is right now, but we came up together."

"Anything you can add to

that?" I asked Mrs. Cruckhorn, looking her squarely in the eyes. She quickly turned away.

"Not that I can think of," she said nervously.

A little too nervously, I thought. Together with what I had observed and overheard just before interrogating the couple, their actions during the questioning was very suspicious. I had one more couple to talk to, which proved insignificant, and then I made my way to the front desk.

I told the young man working at the front counter that I needed some information. He seemed to know who I was, and was quick to cooperate, so in a matter of minutes I was staring at the evidence that the Cruckhorns did not check in alone, but in the company of their son, Jeremy. Why lie about that, I wondered? There was only one explanation I could think of.

They must suspect that Jeremy was involved in the break-in. And now, it appeared, he had not been accounted for. As I mulled over the thought in my head, I suddenly had a flashback to an awkward moment I had shared with young Edwin Corning the day before, after completing a round of golf.

I had returned our clubs to the caddy shack, and when I

emerged from the shack, Edwin was talking with a young man about his own age. When Edwin spotted me coming out of the shack, he stopped his conversation more abruptly than I would have considered normal.

When I asked him about his "new friend," Edwin had gotten very defensive, claiming the two did not know each other and had barely spoken. Appearances had suggested to me that was not the case.

Now I was even more certain that the two boys had known each other, and had been up to something Edwin was trying to keep secret, at least from me. Could they have been plotting to steal his mother's jewels? I didn't want to get ahead of myself, but that certainly seemed a lot more likely to me than Tom Mangan's theory that the burglary might have been the work of the gang that had been terrorizing local hotels all summer.

I figured it was best to discuss my findings, as well as my theory, with Mangan before doing anything else. I had worked with him enough times in the past to know that he always preferred to be kept in the loop during an investigation.

He wasn't hard to find, and it took just a few minutes to



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

"I think I am in really big trouble," Edwin said.

fill him in on my findings, and my suspicions. Surprisingly, he did not immediately dismiss the idea.

"I think you might be on to something," he said, adding that Edwin Corning had yet to be located. "Now we have two boys to find," he acknowledged, referring to Edwin and Jeremy Cruckhorn. "You know the hotel

grounds and the surrounding area as well as or better than anyone," Mangan said to me. "Do you have any ideas where two kids might go to hide?"

"Well, obviously, there are only a limited number of viable places on the hotel property," I said, realizing I was stating the obvious. "But if they have left the grounds,

they could be anywhere. Are we sure that neither of them have access to a car?"

"We can easily verify that. I'll look into it," Mangan said. "Meanwhile, since you seem to have a reasonably good relationship with Mrs. Corning, would you feel comfortable asking her about her son's whereabouts?" Mangan asked.

I hesitated, and he added. "I certainly wouldn't say anything to her about your suspicions... at least not yet."

I agreed to pay Mrs. Corning a visit and to ask her about Edwin, hoping to find out a little about his state of mind, his friends, any places at the hotel he liked to hang out. I figured I could find out if he knew Jeremy Cruckhorn without coming right out and asking it of her. At least I hoped so. Either way, I wasn't looking forward to the conversation.

Turns out, I needn't have been concerned. As I approached the stairs leading up to Mrs. Corwin's rooms, I heard a voice whispering my name from a darkened corner behind the stairwell.

"Mr. Kelly!" the whisper repeated. "Over here...it's Edwin."

I walked over, and was only mildly surprised to find Edwin Corning crouching down

in the corner, mostly obscured by an overstuffed chair.

"Mr. Kelly, I need to talk to you," he whispered nervously. "I think I am in big trouble. Really big trouble."

**Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly has a knack for getting himself involved in intricate mysteries, but also a knack for solving them.**

**Read more about his latest adventure at the Columbia Hotel in the next edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel. The Columbia Cop Capers is a work of fiction, and although some of the characters in this story are real, no representation is made as to the accuracy of their characterizations.**



## The Art of Being

by Deborah Chandler, Ph.D.

## Self-Blame

Self-blame is the residual of childhood trauma. The impact of self-blame reduces us to feelings of guilt and unworthiness.

Self-blame contains a fantasy of omnipotence. This belief in our omnipotent power derives from misunderstanding the source of our discontent. Self-blame assumes that if we were a better version of our selves, we would be unconditionally accepted. This initially occurs between parents and children.

Children readily accept the omnipotence of their parents. Therefore, devaluation from parents becomes internalized as a need to please and erase the loss of self-esteem. Thus children, even into adulthood, are both devalued and have the burden of proving their worth.

ior is not in charge of how others behave. Other's lack of validation is theirs.

Once we understand that self-blame is a conditioned response, we tackle dismantling this toxic influence. We could begin by more keenly observing the struggles others have with their own self-worth. We notice the fragility of other's egos. We notice that those that blame the most, cover-up the most, hiding their own self-doubt. Those that have found positive self-regard, have no need to disrespect others.

What self-blame does not account for is the behavior of others. When vulnerable, we are easily influenced by the attitudes of others. We accept others devaluation as real. But these expressions of devaluation derive from the internalized self-blame of the perpetrator. Self-blame becomes a cycle of projected devaluation. We integrate the devaluation of the other into our self-concept. We then project this reduced valuation onto others. This is a cycle of negativity.

Self-blame includes the fantasy that we have control over how others relate to us. That if we were more pleasing in word, deed, or appearance, we would receive the validation we crave. Actually, our behavior

is not in charge of how others behave. Other's lack of validation is theirs.

For me, I find different modalities confront my inner demon of self-blame. I have always relied upon physical activity to positively establish my inner confidence. Dancing transcends self-doubt. Keeping good company is essential. I seek out those who have positive self-regard. Even more significantly, I appreciate those who talk about their inner demons and how they confront their inner-doubt with positive affirmations.

We all face the challenge of establishing an inner core of positive self-regard. These efforts become part of an overall strategy of side-stepping negativity. The more we surround ourselves with light and gratitude, the more we leave the restricting arena of self-blame and enjoy the light of affirmation.

Purpose to clear blocks to a full appreciation of who we really are. Wondrous articulations of awareness.

## A Special visitor at BCES

FALLSBURG – How timely and fortunate for Dianne Matinez that one of the children in her third-grade class at Fallsburg's Benjamin Corsor Elementary School is Virginia Blackford.

The teacher discovered that Virginia's father, Mark, was the first Poet Laureate in Sullivan County, and Classroom 28 was studying poetry and the power of words. The children did not know what a Poet Laureate was (except for Virginia!), and Mr. Blackford was very happy to visit the class on November 9, 2021.

The class soon found out that a poet laureate is appointed to, or regarded unofficially as holding, an honorary representative position in a particular country, region, or group.

After his introduction to the students, Mr. Blackford discussed the power of words and how people use words to express themselves. He told of the magic of figurative language as illustrated in some of his favorite children's poems. The class loved the selections. They proudly shared what they had already learned about figurative language during the previous week's lessons.

Prior to the visit, the stu-



PHOTO PROVIDED

**FCSD third-grade student, Virginia Blackford, with her dad, Mark, Sullivan County's Poet Laureate.**

dents made a PowerPoint of questions to ask Mr. Blackford about his life and his experiences with poetry. The day's visit ended with each child asking his question and listening enthusiastically to Mr. Blackford's thoughtful responses. To one question, he answered that "alliteration" was one of the favorite tools in his writing.

Virginia's response to her dad joining the class for the day was brief and to the point, "Yay!" Also, she said that her dad was very excited to come in. Who knows, some day one of these third graders may be a Poet Laureate in Sullivan County or somewhere else.

## Monticello Kiwanis Gives Thanksgiving Donations

Following in the continuous tradition of community service, the Monticello Kiwanis Club members donated and presented Julian Dawson, Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Sullivan County, with two turkeys and a check for \$350.00 to purchase additional

turkeys and Thanksgiving food trimmings. The food items were distributed to families in need in the community for their Thanksgiving enjoyment. Shown (left to right) are Board member Robert Green, Kiwanis Treasurer Linda Barriger and United Way CPO Julian Dawson.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Eighth grade honor roll students at Fallsburg Junior High School enjoyed an "On a Roll" breakfast in the school cafeteria before morning classes on November 23. Not all Honor Roll recipients were able to attend.**



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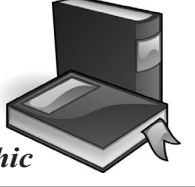
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by Amanda Letohic



We're welcoming December with fun Take & Make craft kits!

Starting on Monday, December 6, adults can come in to pick up a "Make Your Own Checkerboard" kit with a fun winter theme. Perfect game for those nights in with some blankets and hot cocoa! Kids can come grab an ornament take home craft kit to make their own winter ornaments! There are six different ornaments to make in each kit. As always, please contact Miss Amanda to reserve your kit. You can email aletohic@rcls.org or call 845-436-6067 ext. 102. Our take home mystery kits will be returning next month!

As winter approaches, be sure to sign up for our email list if you haven't already, or watch our Facebook page to

be notified of weather-related delays and closures. We are open for library business as usual with masks required for your entire visit for anyone over the age of 2-- regardless of your vaccination status-- while in the library.

Our hours have changed for the winter months, so be sure to check our website for our updated hours.

Don't forget your library card gives you access to tons of wonderful e-content that can be accessed through our website! Stay up to date with the latest library updates by following our Facebook page or visiting our website, www.fallsburglibrary.org. As always, thank you for your continued support and patience. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your support.



# SENTINEL SPORTS



## TEAM ON A RUN SUNY SULLIVAN WOMEN START UNBEATEN

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE – After skipping the entire season last year, the SUNY Sullivan Lady Generals have started off the 2021-22 season right where they left off two years ago, winning their first eight games. Added to the 24 games the team won to conclude the 2019-20 season, that adds up to 32 games in row without a defeat.

Leading the way for the Sullivan women in the early going has been 6’2 freshman center Deivejon Harris from the Bronx, who has averaged 13.7 points and 10.7 rebounds across six games. And she has had plenty of help, as freshmen guards Anisa Perry and Malaysia

Bryant have also contributed heavily to the scoring totals, while freshman forward Barbara Bruno has been a force on the boards.

Sophomore guard Infinity Hammonds, a 2020 All-American, has played just two games for Sullivan thus far, averaging 12 points per contest.

First year coach Ben Newberg has got to be happy with the team’s play in the early going, as they have managed to win by an average of 19 points per game, including an impressive 94-29 win over arch-rival SUNY Orange on November 30 in which the Lady Generals led by 55-11 at the half.

Of course, Coach Newberg had lofty expectations for the



PHOTO PROVIDED

team going into the season, based on past performances and a bevy of talented incoming freshmen.

“This season will be a very tough act to follow from the 2019-20 season’s success,”

he said prior to the team’s opening game on November 6. “I think we’ll be talented enough to be successful again, but our goal is not to compete with the records of the past, it’s to be the best we

can be now and continue to get better every day.

“We have a plethora of young talent starting with Barbara Bruno who comes from a high school program that hasn’t lost a game in over 3 years. She was a PSAL Finals MVP as a sophomore. Barbara has a high motor with a great IQ. Anisa Perry is a 5’9 guard/forward who can get to the basket with ease and also shoot the three.”

The Lady Generals had two games to play just as the Sentinel was going to press, against the University of Connecticut at Avery Point in Groton, CT on December 2 and against Prince George’s Community College of Maryland at home on

December 4. Sullivan then plays seven road games before returning home to host Herkimer County Community College at Paul Gerry Fieldhouse on January 30.

Coach Newberg, who grew up in Monticello, is very familiar with Sullivan’s basketball history, and knows it will be difficult to live up to the team’s past success, but he is looking forward to the challenge.

“I am grateful to be back in my hometown doing what I love,” he said recently. “I have coached against SUNY Sullivan teams in the past, so I know the tradition of excellence their teams are accustomed to. I’m excited to be on the home bench this time.”

## GENERALS HIT BUMPY ROAD *Drop Close One to SUNY Orange*

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan men’s basketball team hadn’t lost a game to arch rival SUNY Orange in at least five years until last week, when the Generals found themselves on the short end of an 87-79 score

on the Colts’ home court in Middletown.

The loss left the Generals at 4-2 on the season, with home games against Rockland County Community College and Prince George’s Community college (MD) on December 2 and 4, just as this edition of the Sentinel was

going to press.

Prior to the loss at Orange, Sullivan had won three games in a row, by an average margin of victory of better than 37 points. The highlight of the three-game streak was a convincing 92-64 home win against league rival Westchester, which the Generals

led 47-24 at halftime with the bench playing most of the second half minutes.

Jarell White led Sullivan in that contest, netting 16 points in just 23 minutes on the court. Jalen Reneau added 15 points, despite playing just 20 minutes.

White, a 6’5 freshman from

Bellport, NY, is the team’s leading scorer so far at 18.6 points per game.

The Generals hit the road for the remainder of December and most of January, with their next home game being on Tuesday, January 25, when the Falcons of Dutchess Community College invade



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jarell White

the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse.



**BALLGAME  
BAFFLERS**  
BY BRIAN

Here are five ballgame bafflers for your consideration. The first person to email the most correct answers to hurleysent@hotmail.com will win a prize. Have fun!

*December Trivia:*

1. Which charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference won the very first ACC Tournament in 1954?
2. Where is NCAA basketball’s annual Holiday Festival traditionally played?
3. What women’s college basketball coach is only second to UCLA’s John Wooden with six NCAA National Titles?
4. What was the first Division-I school to lose the N.C.A.A. basketball title game in two consecutive seasons?
5. What women’s basketball great and former WNBA player was the 1st woman to be a Harlem Globetrotter?

Last month’s answers:

1. What are the two NFL home teams who traditionally play every Thanksgiving? (**Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys**)
2. Who holds the NFL record for the most rushing yards in a Thanksgiving Day game? (**O.J. Simpson, Buffalo Bills, 1976, 273 yards**)
3. Which two NFL teams have had the most matchups in Thanksgiving Day games? (**Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions have met 19 times on Thanksgiving Day**)
4. What two teams hold the NFL record for most points scored combined in a Thanksgiving Day game? (**Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions, 84 points in 1986**)
5. Who holds the NFL record for most receiving touchdowns in a Thanksgiving Day game? (**Sterling Sharpe had four touchdowns for the Green Bay Packers in 1994**)

**There was no winner last month.**

*Sullivan Renaissance sends a bouquet of appreciation to all who contributed to the 2021 movement to build beautiful, active communities in Sullivan County, NY*



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Town of Liberty  
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White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First  
Youngsville Busy Beavers 4-H

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Sullivan County Democrat  
Sullivan County Division of Planning & Community Development  
Sullivan County Parks & Recreation  
Sullivan County Personnel  
Sullivan County Probation  
Kim Torrents

### Garden Design Panel

Janet Barbarite  
Jess Brey  
Gay Donofrio  
Alison Filosa  
Dennis Hewston  
Eustacia Marsales  
Diann Metzkw  
Cindy Muri  
Karin Ruoff Skalla  
Anna Lise Vogel  
Scott Woods

### Business Assistance Grant

**Review Panel**  
Sarah Banks  
Leni Binder  
Sue Ann Boyd  
Kathy Davidoff  
Danielle Gaebel  
Julio Garaicoechea  
Jacquie Leventoff  
Jerry Skoda

### Municipal Partnership Grant

**Review Panel**  
Freda Eisenberg  
Nicole Francese  
Michael Newhard  
Jerry Skoda

### Seminar Presenters

Jess Brey  
Sims Foster  
Neal Hitch  
Eleanor Hines  
Heather Housekeeper  
Lisa Lyons  
Kate O'Connor  
Jaime Schmeiser  
Dorene Warner  
Leah Worrell  
Steven Vegliante

### Long Eddy National Day of

**Service Participants**  
Dan Briggs  
Brian Brustman  
Daniel Rush  
Town of Fremont

### Parkville Clean Sweep

**Participants**  
Hope Blecher  
Cabernet Frank's  
Lucas Dame  
Frank DeMayo, Supervisor  
Harriet Dorfman  
Kytt MacManus  
Nick Rusin  
Kate Rusin  
Town of Liberty

### Sleepy Hollow Trail Clean Up Day

Shanita Artson  
Sue Ann Boyd  
Barry Brown  
Rafael Carreon  
Jose Codero  
Fernando DeJesus  
Dominique Dupress  
Nylee Dupree  
Dr. Matthew Evans  
Tanya Franco Nikolai  
Alexandra Gerry  
Taylor Jaffe, Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Kim Martin  
Carita McCallion  
Wilmer Mendez  
Monroe Properties  
Monticello School District  
NYSEG  
Sullivan 180  
Bill Pammer  
Yankiel X. Rivera  
Dean A. Rivera Torregrosa  
Diana Rivera Torregrosa  
Fanny Sorto  
Giana Sorto  
Layla Sorto  
Kyree Wright  
Rattana Yang  
Nelson Yang

### South Fallsburg

**Clean Sweep Participants**  
Ellen Bresky  
Joyce Caracci, Volunteer Corps Member  
Gombo's Bake Shop  
Melissa Melko  
NYSEG & John Fisher  
Aidan Tambascio  
Town of Fallsburg Police  
Steve Vegliante, Supervisor  
Rabbi Larry Zierler

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Manza Farms  
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Monticello Greenhouses  
Root n' Roost Farms  
Silver Leaf Greenhouse  
Stephenson's Garden Center  
Story's Neversink Plant Co.  
The Cutting Garden  
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Daniel Briggs  
Kathy Davidoff  
Gay Donofrio  
Cora Edwards  
John Evans  
Hon. Josephine V. Finn  
Foster Supply Hospitality - Sarah Banks  
Danielle Gaebel  
Ruby Gold  
Amanda Langseder  
Jacquie Leventoff  
Dali Levy  
Barry Lewis  
Lorraine Lopez-Janove  
Arly Marin-Leon  
Steve Melendez  
Liza Mitchell  
Klu Padu  
Joyce Salimeno-Gitlin  
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Jaime Schmeiser  
Gerald J. Skoda  
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