

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



CHQgazette.com | L. Cornell and Company, LLC

Women in History

Volume 3 • Issue 12 | March 23, 2026

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WOMEN IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRAILBLAZERS

Featured Writer
Michelle Henry
Research Historian

The month of March has been designated as Women's History Month since 1987, when Congress expanded an earlier week-long Women's History Week, proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. According to the National Women's History Month website, "This observance is dedicated to acknowledging women's often-overlooked contributions in history, culture, politics, science, and society. It encourages reflection on the roles women have played in shaping communities and nations."

It is important to recognize women's role in this nation's development because women were, for much of our history, excluded from universities and employment opportunities. Yet women in Chautauqua County have had a profound influence in many fields. Throughout the county, historical markers have been placed to recognize the women who dared to pursue careers and to demand rights that were unavailable to them.

Even in the county's earliest decades, woman dared to step outside traditional bounds to promote reforms and to aid in the defense of the country. During the War of 1812, one woman carried the mail from Buffalo to Erie, PA while her husband was away fighting; another woman worked as the Dunkirk Lighthouse Keeper because her husband was injured

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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Leri Cornell

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THE COLORS OF HOPE, STRENGTH, EQUITY & ACHIEVEMENT

Marketing Director
Shannon Nixon

Women's History Month is celebrated with meaningful colors that honor the achievements, courage, and resilience of women throughout history. These colors trace their origins to the early women's suffrage movement, when purple, green, and white were used to symbolize the fight for women's rights. Over time, they became a recognizable way to celebrate women's contributions each March. In addition to these classic colors, gold is sometimes included to represent the shining achievements and lasting impact of women. Each color carries symbolic meaning. Together, these colors offer a visual tribute to women past and present, reminding us of their strength, perseverance, and the ongoing work toward equality. By wearing or displaying these colors, we honor the legacy of women and the progress they continue to make across every field of life.

GREEN

Green symbolizes growth, renewal, and hope for new beginnings. It reflects the progress women have made and the opportunities still ahead.

WHITE

White stands for purity, integrity, and ethical strength. It celebrates women's commitment to fairness and moral principles throughout history.

PURPLE

Purple represents dignity, justice, and the pursuit of equality. It honors women's courage in advocating for their rights and fairness in society.

GOLD

Gold highlights optimism, energy, and the lasting impact of women's achievements. It reminds us of the inspiration and positive influence women bring to communities.

PROUD MEMBER

JOIN TODAY!

FRIENDS OF THE GAZETTE

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 MEMBERS!
PLEASE JOIN US TODAY.



GOLD: \$500 & UP

Timothy Carlson
M.L. Feather
Sandra & Daniel Gullotti
Troy Hine
Lamae & Doug McCullor
Yvonne McNallie
Thomas Skerl

SILVER: \$250 & UP

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The Trussalo Family
Anonymous in Jamestown

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THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

The Cinema Series: The Choral | 7:30 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Trivia Nights | 7 PM-9 PM

Shawbucks | Jamestown
For Info: info@fentonhistorycenter.org

Movies at The Reg: The Testament of Ann Lee | 7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Panama Greenwood Cemetery Association Annual Meeting | 7 PM

Panama Methodist Church | Panama

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

SUNY Fredonia School of Music Recital Concert 5:30 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

Sassy Baggs & Beyond Blingo 6 PM

The Resource Center | Celeron
For Info: 716-661-1477

Craft & Sip Group 7 PM-10 PM

Labyrinth Press Company | Jamestown
For Info: Labyrinth Press Company Facebook Page

Friday, March 27

Movies at The Reg: Pillion 7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Newsies: The Broadway Musical | 7 PM

Frewsburg Central School
For Info: frewsburgcsd.org
Saturday, March 28 (7:30 PM), & Sunday, March 29 (2:30 PM)

High School Musical on Stage 7:30 PM

Cassadaga Valley Middle/High School
For Info: cvcougars.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 & SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Audubon Lights | 8 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

James and The Giant Peach 7 PM

Panama Central School
For Info: pancent.org

Curtains! (A Straight Play Act; school musical performed Fall 2025) | 7 PM

Sherman High School
For Info: shermancsd.org

High School Musical on Stage 7:30 PM

Cassadaga Valley Middle/High School
For Info: cvcougars.org

Hades Town: Teen Edition 7 PM

Maple Grove High School
For Info: bemusptcsd.org

Mean Girls: High School Edition | 7 PM

Silver Creek High School
For Info: silvercreekschools.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Fredonia Easter Festival 9 AM-1 PM

Fredonia First United Methodist Church & Barker Commons
For Info: festivalsfredoniamy.org/easter-festival

Newsies: The Broadway Musical | 2 PM & 7 PM

Frewsburg Central School
For Info: frewsburgcsd.org

High School Musical on Stage 7:30 PM

Cassadaga Valley Middle/High School
For Info: cvcougars.org

Lamp Repair Workshop 9:30 AM-12 PM

28 Parkside Drive | Ellicottville
For Info: 716-699-2377 ext. 106

Falconer Egg Hunt | 10 AM

Falconer Park
For Info: Falconer Rotary Club & Village of Falconer Facebook Pages

Think Spring Home and Garden Show | 10 AM-4 PM

Northwest Arena | Jamestown
For Info: northwestarena.com/events

It's a Bluey Easter Carnival 11 AM-2 PM

Chautauqua Safety Village | Ashville
For Info: chautauquasafetyvillage.com

City of Jamestown Easter Egg Hunt | 11 AM

Allen Park | Jamestown
For Info: City of Jamestown, NY Facebook Page

The Easter Bunny Private Ski Gondola Experience 12 PM-6 PM

Guppy's Restaurant & Tavern | Bemus Pt.
For Info: Guppy's Restaurant & Tavern Facebook Page

Easter Egg Hunt | 12 PM

Cassadaga Library Branch Backyard | Cassadaga
For Info: stocktonlibraries.org

National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step | 1 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 & SUNDAY MARCH 29

Maple Weekends Across Chautauqua County

See Page 20 for Locations
For Info: mapleweekend.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Amanda Gesing: "From Community Conversation Comes a Space of Empowerment" | 10:30 AM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown
For Info: uu-jamestown.org

High School Musical on Stage 2:30 PM

Cassadaga Valley Middle/High School
For Info: cvcougars.org

Hades Town: Teen Edition 2 PM

Maple Grove High School
For Info: bemusptcsd.org

Mean Girls: High School Edition | 2 PM

Silver Creek High School
For Info: silvercreekschools.org



*Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.*

~ Anita Desai

Editorial with Lori Cornell

CONGRATULATIONS, SHEILA MCCARTHY!

Publisher
Lori Cornell



Well, the stars have aligned and by chance, our special tribute edition to women leaders happens to fall on the retirement and birthday week of one of our community's best: Sheila Webster.

She most recently served for the last 15 years as Director of Marketing, Communications and Governmental Affairs for the CHQ Chamber and her dedicated history includes posts at the United Way, numerous volunteer organizations and as a local media reporter. Sheila has served our community selflessly for decades. She is a well-respected leader, marketing and events guru and perhaps above all, an exceptional communicator. Her style is humble but firm, in a comforting and supportive sort of a way that gives all involved a sense of confidence that if Sheila is in the room, the venture, the idea or the project will be flawless.

Her choice to dedicate her professional life toward making Chautauqua County a better place to live, work and play is matched by her personal choice to make the Greater Jamestown Community her longtime home. Alongside her beloved husband Dennis, who is a community legend in his own right with equal and natural fervor for our region's betterment, the pair have made their indelible mark. Together, their support for our region's betterment - particularly that of our small business community - will long be cherished and appreciated.

While many community members know Sheila from her work, to me, what truly makes Sheila stand out is her exemplary model as a mom. Several years ago, we were fortunate enough to have her share her writing prowess with the Gazette in our Mother's Day edition. Despite having achieved an impressive career with many high-ranking community titles, she stated, in her own words, that she considered her "most important title" to be "mom". Her love for her now-adult daughters, Claire and Hannah, shines above her laudable education, experience and well-deserved status in Chautauqua County. Her passion for family and strength as a mother-above-all-things is most sincere.

For all those multi-tasking heroines blessed by the most grueling, heart-wrenching, sleepless and consumingly rewarding job you'll ever love, look no further than Sheila for the strength and encouragement to know: women truly can do it all.

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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"Sheila Webster has been the voice behind the Chamber of Commerce for many years. Recently she has played a critical role in our rebranding and other important work that will help the organization grow into the future. Thank you Sheila for telling our story and faithfully supporting Chautauqua County's local business community!"

~Dan Heitzenrater, President & CEO, CHQ Chamber

"It was a great privilege as Executive Director of MAST, President of DIDIWNY, and former President/CEO of the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce,, to work alongside Sheila Webster for more than a decade, witnessing firsthand her tireless dedication and steady leadership. Sheila was the backbone of our communications and program implementation, and during the uncertainty of COVID, she played a critical role in helping us cut through overwhelming information to deliver clear, timely guidance that supported our business community when it mattered most. I am confident that her unwavering commitment helped keep many businesses afloat, paved the way for new businesses to succeed. Her impact will be felt for years to come across the community she has so faithfully served."

~Todd J. Trantum

*Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier
 President/CEO, Dream It Do It Western New York*



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**Celebrate Holy Week at
Christ First United Methodist Church**

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29, 2026

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2, 2026

7:00 pm Worship in Christ Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3, 2026

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service in Christ Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5, 2026

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary

All are Welcome!

Rev. Sherry Mahar

Christ First United Methodist Church
663 Lakeview Avenue, Jamestown
(716) 664-5803 • 1stumc@gmail.com
christfirstjamestown.org



**Jamestown
C&MA Church**

1011 West 3rd Street
Jamestown, NY
716-488-3015

Reverend Daniel Groh

www.jamestowncmachurch.org

Palm Sunday - March 29

9:30 a.m. - Breakfast

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service with
Children's Hosanna Parade,
followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Good Friday - April 3

4-7 p.m. - Interactive Prayer Stations

Join us for a time of reflective prayer through various
prayer stations throughout the sanctuary
(Come any time between 4-7)

Easter Sunday - April 4

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Nursery and Children's Church Available

Faith Matters

Lenten Life Stories 2026: Open Eyes - Open Heart



Featured Writer

Rev. Tara Eastman

First Presbyterian Church of Warren

This week's Lenten Life Story, inspired by the healing of the (unnamed) man born blind; offers an invitation to prepare for Holy Week and Easter season with an open heart.

Gaining a new perspective is a challenging task. Without interaction with other perspectives, we only see one view of our interactions with the world. John 9:1-41 tells the story of Jesus (one again) challenging the status quo of who and how wholeness takes place.

Jesus uses surprising resources: mud, spit and words of healing and compassion to restore his sight. Jesus' act of healing, on the Sabbath, for a man who had been born blind; astounds the community. Instead of celebrating him gaining physical sight - the leaders and community respond with critique and questions.

The man's community was unwilling or unable to see his healing as good news and cast him out of their community. They could have chosen to celebrate - but instead closed themselves off to seeing and embracing his and Jesus' message of healing, hope and restoration. This lesson does not offer a tidy conclusion but leaves us space to wrestle with our own calling to become open-hearted.

- What could have been possible for this community, if they had been willing to have the courage to see and celebrate the man's physical renewal?
- More importantly, what if they had been open to their own spiritual renewal to see their community in a new way?
- If the community had listened to Jesus and the man, how would this new perspective change their community?

Throughout this season of Lent, scripture had provided us opportunity to see Jesus through many different peoples' perspectives: Nicodemus who comes at night, the Samaritan women at the well at noontime heat, and man born blind begging on the street - all are met by Jesus and given space to ask big questions and opportunity to have their

*"Don't call me a saint."
~ Dorothy Day*



Submitted Photo

By: Kelly Latimore

"I started painting icons in 2011 while I was a member of the Common Friars from 2009-2013. Our collective work was about being more connected: to ourselves, each other, our surrounding community and the land. This manifested itself as a place called "The Good Earth Farm" where we held weekly services and meals and grew produce for our community and local food pantries.

Iconography has since become a practice of more considerations: of color and light, of brush stroke and form, symbol and meaning... However, I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge and practice. I want it to be a creative process, meditation, and practice that brings about new self-knowledge for the viewer and myself. Who are the saints that are among us here and now? I was not taught by a traditional Iconographer, and so to some, I am breaking many rules.

There are icons here that people may find theologically unsound and wrong, or for others, helpful and inspiring. I think both reactions are important. My hope is that these icons do what all art can potentially do, which is, to create more dialogue.

The other may have something to teach us about what we know, about who God is, the world we live in and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present."

[from: <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/about-2/>]

eyes and heart opened to see themselves - and their community with a new perspective. Nicodemus, the Samaritan Woman and man born blind are em-

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First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA
 300 Market Street / 814- 723-9200
<https://www.warrenfpc.org>

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday (March 29):
 10 AM Procession of Palms

Maundy Thursday (April 2):
 7 PM (With FLC at WFPC - Communion)

Good Friday (April 3):
 Noon Worship(FLC)
 Easter Art Workshop (WFPC Noon-2)
 7 pm Tenebre/Passion (with FLC at FLC)

Easter Sunday (April 5):
 10 AM Worship
 11:15 AM EASTER BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Welcome All!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY SERVICES

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 Chandler Street, Jamestown, NY
 716-664-4601

Brian A. Bogey, Organist/Choirmaster
Kimberly King, Worship Leader & Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Gail Espinoza, Guest Organist
Julie Costantini, Guest Choir Director



PALM SUNDAY
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
 March 29

9:00 AM Contemporary &
 11:00 AM Traditional Services
Pastor Dan Nagle

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service April 2 at 12 noon in the Chapel
with Pastor Dan Nagle

Good Friday Service April 3 at 12 noon in the Chapel
with Pastor Dan Nagle

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
with Communion led by the Sacred Fire Praise Team
10:40 AM SPECIAL EASTER MUSIC PRELUDE MUSIC
Including Organ, Piano, Bell Choir, Vocal Duets & Vocal Solos
11:00 AM EASTER DAY FESTIVE WORSHIP
Celebratory Anthems by First Lutheran Choir; Festive Hymns with organ and brass; Uplifting Liturgy & Sermon with Pastor Dan Nagle

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

An Early Church (Women's) History



Featured Writer

The Rev. Rachel Erin Stuart
 Senior Pastor of Hurlbut Memorial Community UMC

When, in honor of Women's History Month, I was asked to write on the history of women's leadership, it was assumed that that history was brief, recent. It's a common assumption, and for good reason.

Many of us have grown up in churches that began to ordain women only in recent decades, and perhaps had their first female pastor only within the last generation. Others of us attend churches that still do not ordain women, perhaps bar them from reading Scripture in worship or teaching mixed-gender groups above a certain age. Meanwhile, those of us who are not Christian often still know the basic arguments against women's leadership, for they come up from time to time among the loudest Christian voices in the public sphere.

It's certainly true that the majority of the Church's history—and much of its present—has been one of men's leadership alone. But did you know that that itself was a later change?

See, the early church wasn't a formal institution. Congregations gathered in people's homes, and they pulled together folks from every sphere of society. Many of these early members were people who felt powerless to change their world for the better. They were poor, or they were noncitizens, or they were women used to being ignored. They gathered together because they believed in this promise that God works with and through and for the outcast and the marginalized. And in that kind of community, every leader is valuable.

We know that many of these early churches were funded by wealthy Roman women who became Christians. We know that Mary, Jesus' mother, was treated as a respected leader in the church throughout her life. To this day, Mary Magdalene is called in some traditions the "Apostle to the Apostles" because she was the first to preach the good news of the resurrection to the disciples (John 20:18).

Clearly, there were influential women in the Church's earliest days. But were they pastors, the way we'd think of them now? Actually, yes! But the history has often been buried, or disputed.

Romans 16 closes Paul's letter with his greetings to a long list of early church leaders. The very first of these is a woman, Phoebe, who is explicitly called "a deacon of the church at Cenchreae." For centuries, her status has been debated. Was she a deacon(ess) only because she was married to a deacon? Was her role somehow gender-specific, not carrying

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Please join us!

First Covenant Church
 520 Spring Street, Jamestown

Jerry Lange, Pastor
"The Power of Redemption"

Sunday Service 10:00 am
 To know Christ and make Him known

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to the annual meeting of the **Panama Greenwood Cemetery Association** at Panama Methodist Church, Panama, New York on March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

At the meeting officers and trustees will be elected. Sealed bids for maintenance for the year 2026 will be accepted until this time.

CELEBRATE NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP



Featured Writer

Tony Irgang

Executive Director, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

My own journey to leadership in the nonprofit sector is more than twenty years in the making. There were twists and turns, but looking back, the path led me straight to a role that I love at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Each of us stands on the shoulders of those who came before, and I am no exception. I have been blessed by women who took an interest in my career, invested their time mentoring me, responded to my phone calls when they were busy, and bought me a cup of coffee while they shared some history or perspective. These women have names like Lillian, Jane, Jennifer, Linda, Kristy, Deb, Beth, Ann, Sharon, Patty, and Sue. I am deeply grateful for the care and knowledge shared with me by women who literally defined the nonprofit sector for a generation.

Now it's my turn to invest time in rising nonprofit leaders, send them encouraging messages, offer advice when they ask for it, and buy those cups of coffee. What I am learning is that each new connection brings me fresh energy and optimism. The next generation of women coming into leadership in our nonprofit sector are a force, a force for good. While they may stand on our shoulders, they will reach higher and achieve more than we ever imagined. And I am grateful that the future of our community will be in their hands.

Women's History Month is a wonderful time to reflect on how many amazing women are currently providing leadership in our nonprofit sector. You need not look hard to find dedicated executive directors providing leadership in human service, education, arts and cultural, environmental, and youth development organizations. What's even more impressive is the collaborative spirit they bring to the role, sharing programming ideas, tools and templates, and creatively meeting growing needs with shrinking budgets. Gone are the days of silos, duplication of service, and competition. Replaced by executive director cohorts and casual walks around downtown to strategize. Right by their side are Board chairs who volunteer countless hours, lending their professional expertise to ensure the fabric of this community remains intact.

An Early Church (Women's) History

Continued from Page 5

Aquila appear a few times in Paul's writings, always as a unit, usually with Prisca listed first. They were pastors, leaders of a church community, whom Paul considered "coworkers in Christ Jesus." It has often been said that Prisca (sometimes called Priscilla) could not have really been a pastor. She must have gotten the title from her husband, just as many pastors' wives through the years have been assigned pastoral work simply by association. Or perhaps she was a leader, but it was just a home meeting, a Bible study and not a church. Yet "church" is what Paul calls their community—just like every other church meeting in the homes of its leaders in the early days.

A number of the other leaders, named and unnamed, in Romans 16 are women, but the final one worth special mention is Junia, the apostle. Not just pastor, not just deacon—apostle. She is named here as a leader who willingly faced prison, with Paul, because of her preaching. She and Andronicus aren't even called only apostles, but "prominent among the apostles," people who had been in

the community since before even Paul. Why do we not know about Junia? The early church fathers knew of her, but as the centuries went on, and women's leadership faded from the public eye, a woman apostle began to seem so far-fetched that translators assumed "Junia" was a typo for the male name "Junias."

As the Church became more established, its hierarchy began to reflect more closely the hierarchies of the world around it. Women leaders became exceptions, and then discouraged, and then banned, and their stories faded from our memories. But God's call didn't fade. The Holy Spirit has never cared much what categories humans privilege over others—the Spirit "blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes" (John 3:8). And thank goodness, because the ministry of God would be a lot less effective if our own human failings could limit God's Spirit.

The Rev. Rachel Erin Stuart

Senior Pastor of Hurlbut Memorial Community UMC

THE CORNERSTONE Restaurant & Bakery

Becky VanValkenburg, alongside her husband, is the owner of The Cornerstone Restaurant & Bakery, a warm and welcoming gathering place in the heart of Sherman, New York. As they near their five-year anniversary of ownership this April, their journey reflects a vision fueled by a strong sense of purpose.

Growing up in a large family with five brothers and three sisters, Becky knew that dining out was not always practical. That experience influenced her desire to create a space where everyone feels welcome and where a great meal is always within reach.

The focus at The Cornerstone is not on being fancy, but on being genuine. With a commitment to home-cooked comfort, affordability, and human connection, Becky and her husband have built a "third place" where friendships are formed and community is strengthened. Guided by their faith, their greatest goal is to honor God in all they do and share those blessings with every guest who walks through their doors.



Owner
Becky VanValkenburg



6am-2pm Monday | 6am-8pm Tues-Sat | Closed Sunday

716-234-4002 • 104 Main St, Sherman, NY

Find us on Facebook



Vitality
Natural Health &
Wellness Center

Sometimes the most meaningful journeys begin by coming home.

After completing her education as a naturopathic doctor at Sonoran University in Tempe, Arizona, **Dr. Melissa Dengler** returned to the small-town communities that shaped her values and her passion for helping others. Rather than building a career in a large city, she chose to bring natural health care back to the communities she knew and loved.

Her practice started in the humblest way possible—a one-room office in Meadville, PA and a strong belief that people deserve access to personalized, holistic care. In those early days, she focused on listening to patients, understanding the root causes of their health concerns, and using natural approaches to support healing.

Word quickly spread throughout the community. Patients appreciated the time, attention, and individualized care they received, and the practice began to grow.

What began as a single-room office eventually expanded into multiple locations, allowing more people to access naturopathic care. Today, the practice serves patients in three communities: Lakewood, NY, Meadville, PA, and Grove City, PA.

Despite the growth, the mission has remained the same—to provide compassionate, patient-centered care while helping individuals take an active role in their health and wellness.

For Dr. Dengler, returning to small-town life wasn't just a career decision; it was a calling. Building a practice in the communities she calls home has allowed her to combine professional purpose with hometown spirit, helping neighbors, families, and friends live healthier lives.

From one small office to three thriving locations, her journey is a reminder that big dreams often start in the smallest places.



Owner, **Dr. Melissa Dengler**

www.vitalityhealthandwellness.com | 716-763-8880
130 Chautauqua Ave • Lakewood, NY



For **Jamie Parasiliti**, hearing care has always been more than a profession. It's a calling.

A National Board Certified Hearing Aid Specialist, Jamie has been serving individuals with hearing loss since 2009. But in 2020, she made a bold and deeply personal decision: to step away from the corporate model and build something with even greater meaning. With steadfast faith and a clear vision, Jamie founded Mission Hearing, LLC and lets her work be guided by a simple, yet powerful belief: service over sales.



Owner, Jamie Parasiliti

Starting with little more than determination and the support of her family, Jamie built her practice from the ground up. Every step forward was fueled by her commitment to doing what is good and right for those struggling to hear the world around them.

Today, as the owner of The Hearing Place, located at 102 East Main St. in Falconer, Jamie leads with heart and creates individualized care plans so every patient feels seen, heard, and supported. Open Monday through Friday from 9am–5pm, and proudly the only clinic open all five days of the week, accessibility is at the core of Jamie's mission.

What began as a leap of faith has become a trusted place of care and connection, and where Jamie uses her God-given gifts for one purpose above all: to serve others.

www.thehearingplace.net | 716-708-4343
102 E. Main St. | Falconer, NY 14733



Michele D. Starwalt-Woods
Owner

Michele D. Starwalt-Woods, founder of MDStar Presentations, is a dynamic speaker, consultant, and trainer dedicated to helping individuals and organizations thrive. With over 30 years of experience, she delivers high-impact workshops, trainings, and keynote presentations that Educate – Motivate – Empower audiences across Western New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, with remote contracts in Illinois and Texas.

Michele partners with businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and educational institutions to strengthen leadership, enhance public image, and build effective, mission-driven teams. Her expertise includes public image, human resource development, fundraising, volunteer, & donor engagement, and strengths-based leadership.

A passionate advocate for youth development and Faith, Family, & Tradition, Michele is known for her engaging, high-energy speaking style and authentic connection with audiences. Her commitment to community impact is equally strong, serving as Board President of Prevention Works and Gift of Life Chautauqua County, while supporting organizations including the Boys & Girls Club of NCC, CASA, United Way, NCCF, YWCA, St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center in Dunkirk, Options Care Center in Jamestown, and All Babies Cherished Pregnancy Center in Batavia. Michele lives Service Above Self, and has been a proud Rotarian for nearly two decades.

"Michele is an entertaining and relatable speaker. She connects with the audience, inspiring confidence and excitement. She has undeniable knowledge, clarity, authenticity, and warmth. She is absolutely superb!"
— Suzanne Hunter, NYS Teacher

"Michele is an amazing speaker and writer. She is such a woman of wisdom and carries a profound beauty that gives inspiration to others. She is a blessing to many—her encouragement and guidance have helped me and others grow personally and spiritually. I admire her ability to bring people together to see the beauty within themselves."
— Pastor Erika Lopez



www.mdstarpresentations.com | 716-467-1769



In today's fast-paced world, wellness is no longer a luxury — it is a necessity. For **Julie Ambrose**, owner of St. Elmo Spa, creating a space where beauty, relaxation, and restoration meet has been both a passion and a purpose.

As a dedicated entrepreneur and leader in the spa and wellness industry, Julie has built St. Elmo Spa into a trusted destination for clients seeking high-quality, results-driven services delivered with genuine care. Her commitment to excellence and personalized attention has made the spa a cornerstone for self-care in the community.



Owner, Julie Ambrose

Under Julie's leadership, St. Elmo Spa offers a comprehensive range of services designed to meet clients' individual needs, including advanced Hydrafacials, therapeutic massage therapy, cupping and hot stone treatments, Thai poultice services, customized Bioelements facials and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and full salon services. Each treatment is delivered with a focus on both technical precision and client comfort.

Julie is also deeply committed to her community. She believes that local businesses play a vital role in strengthening and uplifting the area they serve. Through participation in community events, charitable contributions, mentorship, and support of local initiatives, she consistently reinvests her time and resources back into the people who support her business. Her dedication extends beyond the spa walls — she strives to create meaningful connections and positive impact throughout the region.

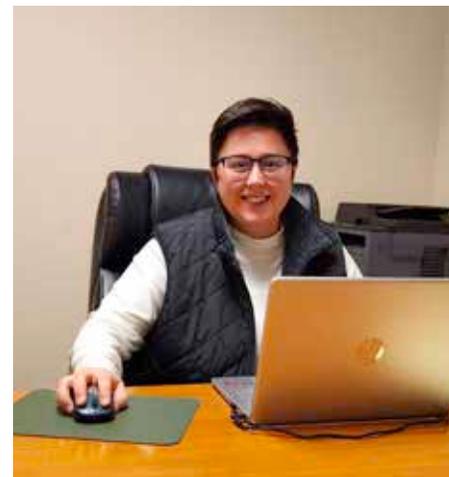
Julie believes that exceptional service begins with a strong team. She prioritizes continued education, skill refinement, and a culture of professionalism, ensuring every guest experience reflects the spa's high standards. Her leadership style blends expertise with approachability, fostering lasting relationships with both clients and staff. As a woman in business, Julie Ambrose exemplifies dedication, resilience, community spirit, and heart.

When passion and purpose align, success naturally follows.

www.stelmospa.com | 716-357-2224
1 Pratt Avenue • Chautauqua, NY 14722



After spending several years away building experience and exploring new opportunities, **Sara Beckerink** has returned to her roots in Jamestown to start a business focused on helping her community succeed financially.



Owner, Sara Beckerink

Sara Beckerink is the owner of Beckerink Bookkeeping & Tax Prep, a woman owned business dedicated to providing reliable bookkeeping and tax preparation services to individuals and small businesses throughout the area. After venturing away from Jamestown for several years, she decided to return home with a renewed appreciation for the close-knit community and the importance of supporting local businesses.

Through Beckerink Bookkeeping & Tax Prep, she offers services including tax preparation, monthly bookkeeping, and financial organization. Her goal is to help take the stress out of managing finances so that clients, especially small business owners, can focus on growing their businesses.

By combining professional experience with a personal commitment to the community, Sara Beckerink is proud to serve the area she calls home. As a local, woman-owned business, Beckerink Bookkeeping & Tax Prep aims to support Jamestown residents and entrepreneurs with dependable financial services year-round.

Call/text 716-640-0590 for more info
501 W 3rd St STE 9b
(Sprinchhorn building through the left side entrance)

Dot's Gift Boutique

A Unique Boutique in Downtown Jamestown.
Just around the Corner from the National Comedy Center

OUR STORY

For years, sisters Micki McCray and Julie Wootten have traveled the country and the world exploring new places and most importantly, shopping! With each trip, they found new "favorite things" that they purchased for themselves and gifted to loved ones. Wanting to share their passion and talent for unique "boutique-ing," they embarked on a mission to give downtown Jamestown one of its own. They named their boutique after their grandma, Dorothy "Dot" Andrzejewski, who ran a retail business on the same block 50 years ago. Joined by Micki's daughter Shannon Olson, they created their boutique by melding together very diverse backgrounds - careers that have spanned banking, hospitality, and child welfare - they wanted to create a business that was meaningful and fun for not only themselves but also, their customers. With this in mind, they set out to discover the perfect gifts and home decor that speak to the customer, tell a story, and fill a need for either the recipient or the community. Out of this dream, Dot's Gift Boutique became a reality. Located in the heart of downtown Jamestown and just steps from the National Comedy Center and the Lucy-Desi Museum, Dot's is a small gift boutique offering you personal assistance finding that special something for a friend, family or yourself. Dot's offers a full range of well-known and unique brands and designers, offering home goods, woman's and children's clothing, Jelly Cats, souvenirs, garden fun, gourmet specialty foods, seasonal goods (it's always Christmas here!), jewelry, Bill's memorabilia and much more.

Several of our product lines support local small business owners, and we strongly participate in our communities many charitable events to continue to strengthen and grow downtown Jamestown and all it has to offer.

Stop in to see what's new!

This year marks our seven-year anniversary. As we reflect on the challenges of the past six years, including the shut downs due to Covid, we are forever grateful for our customers, friends and family for their continued support. We could not have done it without them.

Many thanks!

The Girls @ Dot's

Open Tuesday thru Saturday@11

111 W. 3rd Street • Jamestown, NY • 716-489-3003

www.dotsgiftboutique.com

Follow us on Social Media

for specials and updates to hours



PEA POD & juniper



Owner Kim Carlson and the business namesakes: Granddaughters Penelope & Juniper.

Kim Carlson, owner of Pea Pod and Juniper, turned a personal journey through loss and COVID into a vibrant space for creativity, beauty, and community. Carlson founded the flower and gift shop as a place to bring color, joy, and connection to Lakewood, Jamestown, and the surrounding areas. Named after her granddaughters, Penelope and Juniper, the shop holds deep personal meaning centered on family.

"I knew that I was craving colorful, I was craving retail therapy...I was craving creativity," Carlson said. "I needed to work on beautiful things, and I knew it was time to make a change and that's when I opened the store."

Pea Pod and Juniper offers custom floral arrangements, subscriptions, and event services, along with a curated selection of gifts, all with a personal touch. Carlson emphasizes that every customer interaction is meaningful: "It's more personal... you're getting a personalized experience and there's a person that answers the phone, there's a person that will call you back."

Beyond flowers, Carlson has expanded into Pea Pod and Juniper Too, a nostalgic toy shop, and a year-round holiday store, acting as a hub for artistry, color, and good feelings. Through her business, she also gives back to the community and supports local causes.

For Carlson, the shop isn't just a place filled with beautiful flowers. It's a space for building experiences and memories. "There's just a good feeling in that building... my head and heart say 'I want more of this.'"



www.ppjflowerslakewood.com • 716.526.1081
141 Chautauqua Avenue • Lakewood, NY

THE FRUGAL CONNECTION:
INTERSECTING HEALTH WITH FRUGALITY

Terri Groh
315-806-7011 (Cell)
www.thefrugalconnection.com
Like us on Facebook

ENCOURAGING DEEP ROOTS
Grow, Impact, Teach, Lead

www.encouragingdeeproots.com

Terri Groh
315-806-7011 (Cell)
716-294-3261

Follow us on Facebook

Terri Groh is an ordained minister with the Christian & Missionary Alliance, serving alongside her husband at Jamestown C&MA Church. She is devoted to encouraging women and is the published author of seven books. She is also the owner of two businesses.

The first, Encouraging Deep Roots, began in 2012. Terri supports women, both in small church ministry and in their personal faith journeys, by providing spiritual growth resources and teaching and leadership tools. Combining her desire to encourage women in their faith with her love of writing, she shares weekly posts on her website's blog. Terri is also a public speaker, presenting at churches, conferences, and retreats.

After a health scare in 2023, Terri embraced a plant-based, whole-food lifestyle and lost 73 lbs. She channels her passion for cooking and baking into creating delicious, affordable plant-based dishes. Her second business, The Frugal Connection, launched in 2024, offering tips, insights, and recipes on her website and YouTube channel to help people stretch their dollars while embracing healthy eating.

Through her work, Terri encourages women to strengthen their faith, follow the journey God has set for them, and strive toward their healthiest selves along the way.



Owner, Terri Groh

Encouraging Deep Roots - <https://encouragingdeeproots.com/>
The Frugal Connection - <https://thefrugalconnection.com/>

2 Westwood Drive • Jamestown, NY 14701
315-806-7011 (Cell) • 716-294-3261 • terrigroh@yahoo.com



For **Nicki Nearhoof**, ownership of Hae Jude Custom Signs and Apparel is more than a business. It's a continuation of a story born in creativity and craftsmanship.

Based in Silver Creek and proudly serving Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Erie counties for more than 25 years, Hae Jude has long been a trusted name in decorated apparel, signage, logo design, and custom-built online apparel stores. When Nicki purchased the business from its original founder, Judy Hilliker, she stepped into that legacy with intention. Now in her sixth year of ownership, she continues to carry it forward by honoring what was built while developing what comes next.

Alongside her husband Tim, a fellow local business owner, Nicki is raising their young twin daughters with a deep commitment to hard work, faith, and integrity. These values are woven into every aspect of their lives and into the heart of the business. Creativity is not just a service for Nicki; it's a way to help others bring their ideas to life, whether for a business, an organization, or a neighbor with a vision.

As Hae Jude continues to grow, it is entering an exciting new chapter. A new storefront at 1040 Route 5 & 20 in Irving, next to Aunt Millie's Restaurant, along with a newly built production space closer to home, marks the next step in that journey. With strong roots and a clear sense of purpose, Nicki and her family look ahead with gratitude and determination, ready to continue serving their community and building on a foundation more than a quarter century in the making.



Owner, Nicki Nearhoof

haejude.com | 716-934-4840
1040 Route 5 & 20 | Irving NY

CINDY ARONSON TRAINING

Cindy Aronson is a leadership trainer, speaker, and creator of **The Comedy-Code™**, a unique approach to professional development inspired by lessons from legendary comedy. With over four decades developing people and organizations, she helps leaders and teams strengthen communication, collaboration, and workplace culture and is passionate about helping professionals thrive in work and life.



Owner, Cindy Aronson

She partners with colleges, universities, businesses, and organizations to deliver engaging learning experiences that blend discussion, interactive activities, and proven processes to develop leadership mindsets and high-performing teams.

As a founding member of the Board of Directors for the National Comedy Center, Cindy spent over a decade studying comedy's master artists, discovering principles that drive excellence, collaboration, and resilience. She turned those insights into **The Comedy-Code™**, helping professionals "laugh, learn, and love" their work while building stronger relationships with colleagues, customers, and communities.

Cindy is the Chautauqua Director of Dream It Do It WNY where she partners with educators and businesses to build and excite the early talent pipeline in advanced manufacturing. She is the Director of Apprenticeships for the BNMA and MAST, WNY's premiere associations for manufacturers.

Her greatest joy and inspiration comes from her family, including four children and nine grandchildren. Cindy resides in Bemus Point, NY.

Comedy-Code.com • 716.969.6016
3581 Mary Ellen Drive • Bemus Point, NY 14712

Drive RENTAL CAR

Miranda Casel is a Chautauqua County entrepreneur driven by a passion for building businesses that truly serve her community. With nearly two decades of experience in automotive sales, marketing, and business operations, she has cultivated a reputation defined by leadership, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to customer-focused service.



Owner, Miranda Casel

As the owner of Drive Rental, Miranda has transformed a small startup into a trusted, locally operated company that offers convenient transportation solutions for residents, visitors, and those navigating insurance claims while offering a personalized alternative to national rental brands.

She is also leading the next chapter of RS Motors in Falconer and carries forward its long-standing legacy while reimagining its future. Miranda's focus is on growth, quality service, and meaningful community connection, and she is dedicated to strengthening a business that generations have relied on.

As both a business owner and a mother, Miranda brings heart and purpose to everything she does. She is deeply committed to supporting local businesses, empowering her community, and helping form a more vibrant future for Chautauqua County.

driveone.biz • 716-637-8503
160 S Work Street • Falconer, NY 14733



EQUITABLE ADVISORS



Danielle Andolora, MBA
Elite Advisor

Danielle Andolora is a distinguished member of the Elite Advisors Group at Equitable Advisors, an internal recognition program that highlights exceptional performance and leadership. She has notably led The Empire Branch in the DSF class for three consecutive years and achieved the distinction of being the top-ranking female in the Equitable Advisors DSF class nationwide in 2025. She is also the first female to achieve the Bronze Eagle recognition as a DSF. With over three decades of industry experience, Danielle leverages her engineering background to assist clients in portfolio analysis and financial strategy development, providing personalized and supportive guidance.

Before joining Equitable Advisors, Danielle had a successful career in the automotive, medical device, and aerospace industries, where she held significant roles such as Senior Process Engineer and Manufacturing Engineering Group Leader. Her qualifications include certifications in Quality Systems (ISO14001, QS9000), Lean Manufacturing, and she holds a Six Sigma Green Belt. Academically, Danielle earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and an MBA from St. Bonaventure University.

Further enhancing her expertise, Danielle earned a Coaching Certificate from Columbia University and is recognized as a credentialed Holistic Financial Coach by Equitable Advisors. She is passionate about empowering women, drawing inspiration from her personal experience as a single mom to her son Joseph.

Danielle is fluent in Italian, enjoys playing golf, and has achieved remarkable success in swimming. She ranked 5th nationally in her age group as a US Masters competitive swimmer and became the Empire State Champion in backstroke events in 2025. Additionally, Danielle serves as President of Niagara Aquatics Club, where she advocates for life-saving swimming skills across all ages in local communities. Danielle is licensed to practice in multiple states, including New York, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

www.equitable.com • 716-276-7637
The Empire - 350 Essjay Rd. Suite 300 • Williamsville, NY 14221
Chautauqua Office - 401 E Fairmount Ave. • Lakewood, NY 14750



Jessica Parment's journey in the automotive world began in her youth, working alongside her father, an auto mechanic, to build her first car from scratch. This hands-on experience ignited her passion for vehicles, leading her to excel in high school's Auto Body program and later graduate with a 4.0 GPA from Ohio Technical College in Cleveland, where she earned multiple certifications.



Owner, Jessica Parment

With years of experience as an autobody technician, instructor, and NYS licensed adjuster, Jessica launched Sip N' Suds, a business dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality vehicle care. Her mission is to educate clients while delivering exceptional service with integrity and respect.

Balancing work and family life, along with finding effective ways to connect with her audience, has been challenging. Yet, the rewards—seeing satisfied clients, delivering peace of mind, and providing top-notch results—make it all worthwhile. Jessica's advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is simple: persevere through challenges, focus on the positives, and let the joy of serving others fuel your success.

www.sipnsuds.online | (716) 581-0844
Serving Chautauqua County & Surrounding Areas

FULL STRENGTH



Coffee Company

Full Strength Coffee Co. (FSCC) was born from a family's love for togetherness. As majority owner **Kathy Archer** and her family grew busier with life's demands, they cherished the rare moments when all five members were together, calling it being at "full strength." This sentiment inspired their vision for a welcoming coffee shop where everyone feels at home whether stopping by for a quiet read or a chat with friends.



Owner, Kathy Archer

Located in a historic 1910 building on Main street in Westfield, FSCC blends old-world charm with modern convenience, featuring restored tin ceilings, brick walls, and a custom black walnut window bar with USB ports. The menu caters to diverse tastes and dietary needs, including gluten-free options, reflecting the family's own experiences with Celiac Disease. Committed to sustainability, FSCC uses eco-friendly products and repurposes coffee grounds and fruit rinds for composting.

Opened during the challenges of COVID on December 7, 2020, FSCC is a testament to the Archer family's resilience and dedication. As Kathy says, "Our goal is for everyone who walks in to feel welcomed and comfortable, no matter their story. We strive to create quality food, delicious coffee, and a warm, inclusive space for all."

www.fullstrength.coffee • 716-232-4230
55 E Main St • Westfield, NY 14787

SUZY WOO - SPIRITUAL HEALER

Astrology • Metaphysics • Psychic Mediumship
M/WBE Certified

Suzy Woo is an international spiritual healer, astrologer, and psychic medium based in Ellicottville, NY. Since beginning her professional journey in 2009, she has helped individuals and audiences explore deeper self-understanding, healing, and personal growth through a grounded, integrative approach.



Owner, Suzy Woo

Her work blends intuitive insight with practical tools that support emotional clarity, confidence, and meaningful life changes.

Suzy's background includes holistic psychotherapy, sound healing, gong baths, life coaching, and spiritual leadership. She is also a minister and retreat leader who guides individuals and groups through breaking generational trauma and adapting a healthier mind, body, and spirit connection and lifestyle. As a former victim of domestic violence, she specializes in helping those with PTSD, depression, anxiety, high stress levels, and identifying mystery illnesses.

In addition to her private practice, Suzy has hosted television and radio programs, spoken publicly on consciousness and healing, and led retreats and events focused on personal transformation. She has written the astrology column in Ellicottville Now for the past 4 years, and has been a presenter at Lily Dale for 11 years.



Known for her warmth, enthusiasm, and engaging style, Suzy's work focuses on helping people feel better, live better, and raise the bar on what is possible in their lives.

www.suzy-woo.com



Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW



Galena Duba-Weaver, Partner

Galena Duba-Weaver has built her life's work around advocacy, service, and lifting others up.

From a decade supporting students through the SAFARI Tutoring and Mentoring Program at Jamestown High School to more than twelve years representing sick and injured individuals in Social Security Disability and personal injury cases as an attorney and partner at Fessenden Laumer & DeAngelo, PLLC, her career reflects a deep, consistent commitment to her community.

Beyond her legal work, Galena serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet and continues her dedication to enriching the lives of others.

With an academic background in Women's Studies and Women's Literature, she draws inspiration from the generations of women who paved the way before her. Through both her profession and her everyday actions, Galena remains committed to ensuring that women's voices are heard, their contributions are recognized, and future opportunities continue to expand.

For more than 30 years, **Mary B. Schiller** has dedicated her career to standing beside injured individuals and their families, and offering both skilled advocacy and genuine compassion in moments that matter most.

After graduating from Duke University and earning her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, she chose to return home to Chautauqua County, where she joined Fessenden Laumer & DeAngelo in 1990. Since then, she has remained deeply committed to serving Southern Tier residents, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected.



Mary B. Schiller, Partner

Mary's impact extends far beyond the courtroom. She is an active and trusted presence in the community, serving on the boards of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Chautauqua Cemetery Association, and the Chautauqua County Humane Society. She also chairs the Village of Mayville Zoning Board of Appeals and contributes to the Village's Comprehensive Planning Committee, while having previously supported numerous local organizations through board service.

www.fdlaw.com • 716-484-1010
81 Forest Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701



Jennifer Hickman, LCSW
Owner

Jennifer Hickman founded Hope Counseling after personally experiencing burnout and compassion fatigue. Her demanding mental health roles in inpatient and substance abuse settings, coupled with minimal trauma-informed care supervision, led to this intense emotional toll, motivating her to establish the practice.

Recognizing her experience was not unique, she founded Hope Counseling to help combat compassion fatigue for the next generation of counselors. The practice's mission is rooted in learning, providing a supportive, growth-centered environment for developing clinicians, including Master-level interns, LMSWs, and LMHC-Ps working toward independent licensure.

The practice operates as a dedicated training site, believing that a nurturing, collaborative setting benefits both staff and clients. This commitment ensures thoughtful, well-supported care and fresh perspectives from actively growing clinicians, fostering a culture of high-quality practice and increasing the community's access to trained mental health professionals.

Ultimately, Hope Counseling is committed to fostering this supportive and collaborative environment for its clinicians while ensuring high-quality care for its clients. To meet diverse community needs, we offer flexible services including in-person and telehealth appointments, and therapy for individuals, couples, and groups, serving ages 15 and up. We strive to make mental health care accessible by accepting insurance, out-of-pocket payments, and EAP plans. We invite you to learn more about the dedicated professionals upholding our mission—check out our team.

hopecounselingwny.com • 716-980-7850
Fenton Building, 2-6 E 2nd St, 4th Floor, Suite 404, Jamestown

NANCY RICH JOHNSON WELLNESS FOR LIFE

Nancy Rich Johnson, owner of Wellness for Life, has spent more than four decades living and sharing a simple belief: healthy habits practiced consistently can change the course of a life.

Her passion for wellness began years ago when she discovered how better nutrition and daily habits could dramatically improve energy, strength, and long-term health. What started as a personal commitment grew into a lifelong mission to help others experience the same transformation.

Today, Nancy works primarily with women over 50 who want to stay active, feel strong, and continue living with purpose as they age. Through practical guidance, encouragement, and high-quality wellness products, she helps women build sustainable habits that support lasting vitality.



Owner, Nancy Rich Johnson

Nancy believes it is never too late to take charge of your health. At 70+, she continues to lead by example through an active lifestyle that includes running and triathlon training, proving that healthy living is possible at every stage of life.

Based in Chautauqua County, Nancy shares wellness education through community connections, online groups, and one-on-one support, helping women create a lifetime of wellness.



“HELPING WOMEN 50+ LIVE STRONG,
ACTIVE LIVES WITH PURPOSE”

716-640-1310 • nancyrichjohnson@gmail.com

WESTFIELD MAKERSPACE

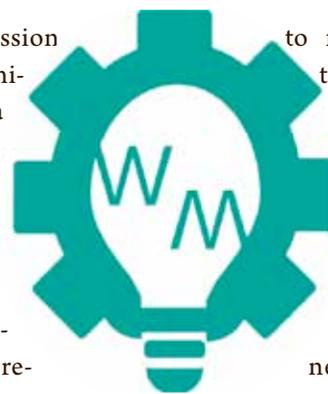
Kim Mac Kay is the founder of Westfield Makerspace, a community-driven creative hub committed to empowering individuals through innovation, entrepreneurship, and hands-on learning. With a passion for supporting small businesses and makers, Kim has built a space where creativity meets opportunity.



Owner, Kim Mac Kay

What began as a vision to bring accessible tools and resources to her community has grown into a dynamic environment where entrepreneurs, artists, and innovators can develop their ideas and take the next step. Through hands-on classes, open makerspace access, vendor events, and small business incubator programs, Westfield Makerspace offers real pathways for people to learn new skills, test ideas, and grow sustainable ventures.

Kim is driven by her passion and create opportunities for others to succeed. Her work reflects a belief that when people are given the space, tools, and support to create, they can build something meaningful for themselves and their community.



Based in Westfield, NY, Westfield Makerspace continues to catalyze creativity, connection, and local entrepreneurship.

NY, Westfield Makerspace continues to catalyze creativity, connection, and local entrepreneurship.

westfieldmakerspace.com
93 E Main St • Westfield, NY 14787

Pucci's CARPET ONE FURNITURE & BEDDING

Mickey Pucci did not set out to build a business empire. She set out to help her husband. What followed was five decades of quiet, steady leadership that transformed a small-town carpet shop into one of Northern Chautauqua County's most trusted home furnishings destinations — and elevated Mickey herself into a respected voice for women in business across the industry.

When Ron Pucci opened Pucci's World of Carpet in the fall of 1972 — born from a lucky accident involving carpet samples left on a deli counter — Mickey was teaching. But she recognized the potential in what Ron had started, and she made the decision to leave the classroom and step into the showroom. It was a turning point not just for the business, but for what it would become.

Mickey brought something to Pucci's that no catalog could offer: a genuine eye for design, a teacher's instinct for listening, and an entrepreneur's drive to grow. Under her influence, the store expanded beyond carpet into full home furnishings. She helped guide the decision to relocate to a renovated warehouse at 112 West Main Street in Fredonia — a move that gave the business the space and presence it needed to serve the region for generations to come. That commitment earned Pucci Carpet One Furniture and Bedding recognition as a certified Women Business Enterprise in New York State — an acknowledgment of what Mickey has built and how she has built it. In an industry long dominated by men, her success is both a personal achievement and a signal to others that women belong at the ownership table.

In many ways, it is the work she has always done. The same qualities that made her a good teacher — patience, curiosity, the genuine desire to see others succeed — are the ones that made her an exceptional business leader. Mickey Pucci spent more than fifty years proving that a woman's touch does not just decorate a business. It builds one.



Owner, Mickey Pucci

www.gotopuccis.com • 716-672-5171
112 W. Main St. • Fredonia, NY 14063



Deborah Ferrer DESIGN STUDIO

Saturday mornings growing up for Deborah Ferrer were filled with watching PBS; first The French Chef with her mother, then This Old House with her father. With a passion for cooking and building from an early age, it was only natural that this would lead to a career in kitchen-centric interior design.

Deborah Ferrer Design Studio opened its doors in 2023 in the heart of the historic business district of downtown Dunkirk. A lifelong resident of the Dunkirk/Fredonia area, Deborah returned to her hometown after years of commuting, committed from day one to the revitalization of downtown Dunkirk.

With 25 years in the construction industry, specializing in kitchen and bathroom design and remodeling since 2009, Deborah prides herself on the adaptive reuse of existing spaces, helping clients re-envision rooms with a new purpose. Her philosophy blends old with new and high-end with low-end to strike the perfect balance. Deborah isn't a follower of trends. Instead, she believes in creating the “Create the Trend.”

A graduate of Dunkirk High School and Villa Maria College, Deborah earned High Honors in Interior Design. She is a proud member of the Dunkirk/Fredonia Rotary Club, serves on the Board of Directors for the CHQ Chamber, and actively supports her community, often seen flying Dunkirk Marauders flags on game days.

Recognized as Chautauqua County's Best of the Best Interior Designer in both 2024 and 2025, Deborah continues to be led by her passion and brings vision, craftsmanship, and a strong sense of community pride to every space she transforms.



Owner, Deborah Ferrer

www.deborahferrerdesignstudio.com
deborah@deborahferrerdesignstudio.com • 716-217-0858
423 Central Avenue • Dunkirk, NY

LAKE LIFE KITCHEN • LAKE LIFE CAFE

Amy Martis, owner of Lake Life Cafe in Bemus and Lake Life Kitchen in Lakewood, is the proud mother of three wonderful kiddos - Anthony (17), Lucy (15) and Joseph (13). While managing restaurants that serve delicious breakfasts, lunches and delectable coffee wasn't her first career, it certainly has fit her family life.



Amy Martis, Owner,

"Prior to having children, I was a high school math teacher but resigned from teaching once I had Joseph," Amy said. "While I loved teaching math, I knew that I wanted more of a flexible schedule - owning our own business allows me that flexibility while allowing me to use my creativity and vision to its fullest."

Amy said the reason she loves being a mompreneur is that it allows her the freedom to engage and be present in the activities and events that her family enjoys.

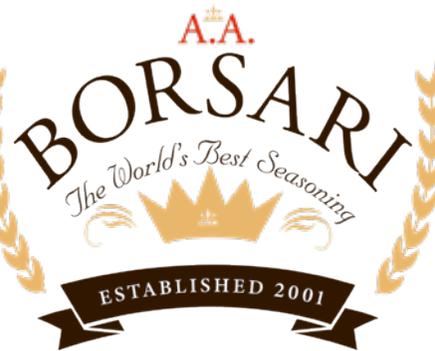
"I am their 'mom uber' and their biggest fan," she said. "My kids have also learned so much through our business ownership: ranging from how to do dishes to how to manage the finances. I am proud to say our family lives by the slogan 'work hard - play hard' while enjoying every minute."

Amy encouraged other moms who are looking to start a business to "take that leap," but warned there will be bumps along the way. "Balancing everything won't always happen and you have to understand that as flexible as it may seem - there will be times that your business must come first."



Lake Life Kitchen
4477 W. Fairmount Ave.
Lakewood, NY 14750
lakelifekitchen.com

Lake Life Cafe
22 Main Street
Bemus Point, NY 14712
www.lakelifecafe.com



Owner, Lindsay Neilson

When **Lindsay Neilson** purchased Borsari Food Co. in August 2024, her goal was simple: to honor the brand's rich Italian heritage while introducing its incredible flavors to a wider audience. As President, she is proud to continue Borsari's legacy as a woman-owned company, leading a business whose signature seasoned salt blends, premium olive oil, and small-batch Bloody Mary mix are produced in Jamestown and distributed nationwide.

Borsari's mission is to elevate everyday cooking with effortless, heritage-inspired blends crafted from all-natural ingredients. Championing this standard, Lindsay is excited to announce that Borsari's seasoned salt blends will soon launch with certified organic ingredients. Her vision is for the brand to become a trusted flavor foundation in modern American kitchens, proving that convenient cooking never has to compromise on quality, taste, or transparency.

Looking ahead, Lindsay remains focused on empowering her close-knit team and expanding Borsari's presence in specialty markets, independent retailers, and large national grocers, all while continuing to produce Borsari's products locally in Jamestown.



borsarifoods.com
99 Institute St • Jamestown, NY 14701

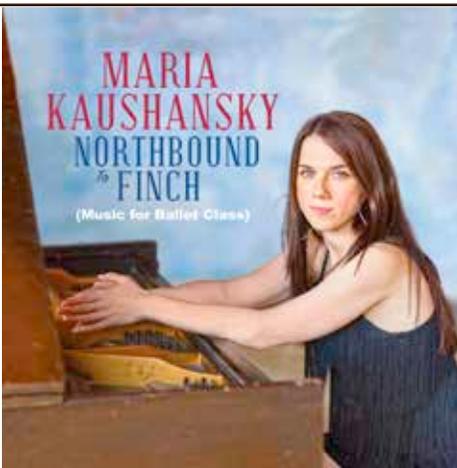
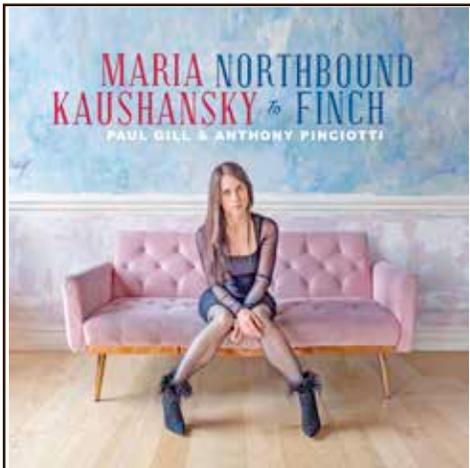


Photo credit: Bulent Doruk

Maria Kaushansky is a Russian-Canadian pianist residing in New York City. Born in Russia, she immigrated with her family to Toronto, Canada in her childhood. For the past two summers, Maria has traveled to Chautauqua Institution to play for ballet classes at the School of Dance, and she is very excited to return again this year!

Since arriving in NYC in 2015, Maria has established herself as a versatile performer and bandleader. She has had the privilege of performing at some of New York City's most iconic venues, including **David H. Koch Theater, Mezzrow Jazz Club, Bemelmans Bar, Django Jazz Club, Knickerbocker Bar and Grill, and Bar Bayeux**. She currently holds weekly residencies at **Supper Club by Le Petit Parisien** and **Chez Josephine**. Her previous residencies include **Back Bar at Eventi Hotel, Gotham Restaurant, CUT by Wolfgang Puck, Adalya Restaurant, IVY Room, and The Last Word**.

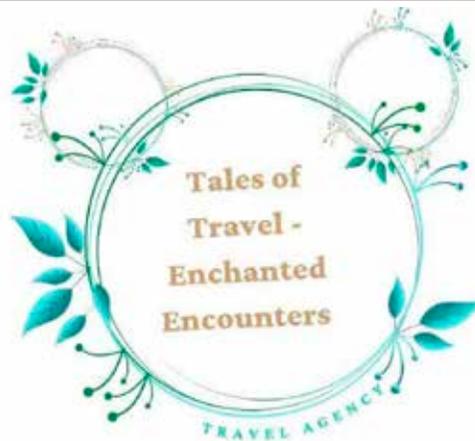
In 2025, Maria released her debut album **Northbound to Finch**, recorded with her trio at Trading 8s Studio in NJ. The album is a tribute to Maria's upbringing in Toronto. All of the songs on the album are Maria's original compositions, and named after places connected to her life in Toronto ("Finch" was her home subway station). Her collaborators on the album are two veteran musicians of the New York jazz scene, Paul Gill on bass and the late Anthony Pinciotti on drums. In addition to this album, Maria released a "companion" album for ballet class, in which she adapted her compositions so that they can be used to accompany ballet exercises.

In addition to performing, Maria is also one of the most in-demand ballet accompanists in NYC. She currently plays for ballet classes at The Juilliard School, American Ballet Theater, Steps on Broadway, School of American Ballet, and Youth America Grand Prix (one of the most important ballet competitions in the world).



Maria Kaushansky, pianist

mariakaushansky.com • @masha_piano_gal
Maria's Music can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, & YouTube.



Owner, Cynthia Messere

Cynthia Messere, a proud Native woman, is the owner of Tales of Travel – Enchanted Encounters, a travel agency specializing in Disney and Universal Studios vacations. Founded in 2022, Cynthia built her business on the values she was raised with, namely, creating experiences that bring families closer together.

After pausing her agency to raise her younger two children, she reopened last year with renewed purpose, diving into marketing, education, and creative ways to share the magic of travel with families in her region. Her journey has been fueled by determination,

cultural pride, and the belief that women, especially Native women, can build meaningful businesses that uplift others.



Cynthia's inspiration began with her mother, Serena, who gifted the family their first Disney trip. That experience left a lasting impression: it was not just a vacation, but a moment of emotion, nostalgia, and wonder that highlighted the power of shared experiences.

Today, Cynthia brings that same spirit to every trip she plans. At Tales of Travel – Enchanted Encounters, she does more than create itineraries. She helps families experience magical adventures and memories that last a lifetime, and welcomes anyone who shares her love for these destinations while proudly representing Native women in business.

Cynthia Messere | MessereToTEE@gmail.com | (716) 638-9303

Empowering the Next Generation: Girl Scouting in Western New York



*Contributed by
Girl Scouts of
Western New York*

March marks Women's History Month, a time to recognize the women who have transformed our world, challenged expectations, and opened doors for generations to come. Across Western New York, that legacy continues to grow through the Girl Scout movement, where youth are encouraged to lead with courage, confidence, and character. For more than a century, Girl Scouts has been a place where future leaders begin their journeys and turn potential into impact.

At Girl Scouts of Western New York (GSWNY), that mission comes to life every day across Chautauqua County and throughout the region. In communities from Jamestown to Dunkirk and beyond, Girl Scouts are building skills, forming connections, and stepping up as leaders in ways that strengthen the fabric of their hometowns. Whether exploring the outdoors, earning badges, or leading service projects that address local needs, participants gain the tools and support to discover who they are and what they are capable of achieving.

A Legacy Rooted in Leadership

The Girl Scout movement began in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low founded the first troop in Savannah, Georgia. Her vision created new opportunities for youth to grow as leaders, explore their interests, and make meaningful contributions to society. More than 113 years later, that vision continues to thrive in Western New York.

In Chautauqua County, that impact is especially meaningful. Girl Scouts are actively engaged in their communities, leading projects that respond to real challenges and opportunities. From environmental stewardship along Lake Erie to local service initiatives that support neighbors in need, these efforts

reflect a deep connection to place and a commitment to making a difference close to home. The Girl Scout Cookie Program also plays a role in this impact, giving participants hands-on experience in entrepreneurship while supporting troop activities that benefit their communities.

Building Skills That Last a Lifetime

The Girl Scout experience is designed with intention. Through hands-on learning in STEM, the arts, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and outdoor exploration participants develop confidence, resilience, and practical life skills that carry forward into adulthood.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program remains the largest youth-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Through it, participants learn to set goals, manage finances, and communicate effectively. These experiences go far beyond selling cookies. They help build critical thinking, adaptability, and leadership skills that prepare young people to navigate an ever-changing world.

In addition, the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards provide opportunities to lead meaningful community projects. In Chautauqua County, many participants have taken on initiatives focused on food insecurity, mental health awareness, and environmental sustainability. These projects not only create lasting local impact but also inspire others to take action.

A Place for Every Girl

A defining strength of Girl Scouts is its commitment to belonging. Every participant, regardless of background, identity, or ability, is welcomed into a supportive environment where they can grow and thrive. Across Western New York, and especially within the close-knit communities of Chautauqua County, troops foster connection, mentorship, and a strong sense of community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

girl scouts
of western new york

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The History of the Norden Women's Club

*Contributed by
Norden Women's Club*

As we are celebrating the 110th anniversary of the Norden Women's Club established in 1916, we reflect on the before and after.

The Norden Men's Club was formed in 1911 by a group of lawyers, bankers and local business men from the Jamestown, NY area. They had their Scandinavian descent in common with goals of constructing a building to hold meetings and social events. In 1913 they purchased the Whitley property on the corner of 2nd street and Pendergast Avenue, which eventually became the old downtown post office. Construction followed along with the official dedication on December 1, 1914, with 600 civic leaders in attendance. It was regarded as one of the foremost clubs of its kind in the country.

The wives of the Norden Men's Club were important to the club and were known as the auxiliary. The women served on committees and helped with set-up, cleaning, cooking and serving the meals. On "Family Nights" they could

serve 150-200 people. The population of Jamestown, NY at that time was approximately 35,000, with 20,000 residents of Swedish descent.

Remember, it wasn't until 1920 that women received the right to vote. In 1916, the women decided to establish their own club. Mrs. Fabian Sellstrom was elected as their first Auxiliary President to the Norden Women's Club. The members met at the new Men's Club building and started a new group of empowered women.

Over the years Norden Women's Club continues to be a non-profit organization, contributing to many local charities and supporting other local clubs.

We continue to promote interest in things Scandinavian, and preserve the tradition, customs and folklore of the Scandinavian people.

Our club meets 5 times a year for a luncheon and guest speaker. Our board meets 5 times a year as well. Our membership is limited to 100 members, and you must be of Scandinavian descent. We invite you to come and enjoy the friendship and comradery we share through this outstanding organization and its amazing women!



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JAMESTOWN, NY

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JOIN US!
DAR is looking for you!

JAMESTOWN CHAPTER NSDAR

70 Prospect Street • Jamestown, New York
 jamestownnsdar@gmail.com
 716-488-9849 (leave a message)

Daughters of the American Revolution Serve Their Communities



L to R, Susan Sipos, Vaughn Wilson, Sandra Johnson, Loretta Smith, Elaine Rissell, Deb Johnston, and Connie Pilato dedication of the Pomeroy Patriot Burial Marker at Lakeview Cemetery, October 2024

Contributed by

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a volunteer service organization dedicated to preserving America's history, educating children and youth, and promoting patriotism. The DAR was founded in 1890 by four educated and patriotic women who had been denied membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. One of those founders, Mary Smith Lockwood, was born and raised in Chautauqua County, in the Town of Hanover. In the difficult and contentious time following the Civil War, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) created a bond that connected women from the North and the South through their shared love of our country. Since its founding, the NSDAR has welcomed more than one million members and active members annually contribute more than seven million hours in service to America.



L to R, Donna Hunt and Tammy Lachner cleaning and decorating the grave of DAR founder Mary Smith Lockwood, June 2025, Washington, DC

DAR members come from a variety of backgrounds and interests, but all share a common bond of having an ancestor who contributed to securing the independence of the United States of America. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove a lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible to join. DAR volunteers are willing to assist you with tracing your lineage and completing the application.

Whether you are employed, retired, or a stay-at-home mom, the DAR offers many ways for you to contribute your time and resources to worthwhile projects in our community while making meaningful and lasting connections with other women. The DAR is an apolitical organization and members do not discuss politics, choosing instead to focus on ways to benefit our communities. In this historic year of America's 250th anniversary, why not learn more about your American roots and work to preserve our country's heritage by joining the DAR? For more information, contact the Jamestown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at jamestownnsdar@gmail.org or 716-488-9849 (leave a message).



Our mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Our vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan** political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. No use of the name of the League of Women Voters is permitted in campaign advertising or literature unless authorized by the League.

LWVSC is an organization **fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.** There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, age, education, sexual orientation, culture, religion, political perspective, and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

We commit to making deliberate efforts to ensure LWVSC is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion. We commit to working actively to challenge and respond to bias, harassment, and discrimination.

To renew your membership or to join the League of Women Voters to here:

lwv.org/join

The Woman's Club of Warren Grateful for the Past, We Look Forward to the Future

Contributed by

Women's Club of Warren

Built in 1872 and located in the heart of Warren's historic district, The Woman's Club of Warren is a National Historic Landmark. This special organization hosts several beloved community events throughout the year, including the Christmas Candy Cane Ball and the Spring Fashion Show with GG My Love.

The mansion is also available for rental by community organizations and for private events. Arguably one of our region's leading and most versatile venues for weddings, showers, and other special occasions, this downtown location offers a grand ballroom that seats up to 175 at affordable rates. Rentals include tables and chairs, full use of a professional kitchen, dinnerware, serving ware, decorations, and linen napkins. Table linen rental is also available. The ballroom, accessible from our large parking lot, features a full stage and bar area. The building is fully ADA-compliant and air-conditioned, with an elevator to the second floor. For more intimate gatherings, the mansion features a beautiful dining room, two Victorian parlors downstairs, and a

large parlor with two grand pianos upstairs.

The gracious Victorian home also has a dynamic and colorful history. Myron Waters purchased the land from the borough of Warren in 1865 for less than \$2,000. In 1872, he and his second wife, Charlotte, built the present-day brick three-story house. It is constructed in the Italianate style, with a hip roof and three front-façade openings on each level. The arched floor-to-ceiling windows are embellished with inverted U-shaped hooded crowns. A cornice with paired corbel supports extends over the third-floor eaves. A bell-ringing system, still visible today, was used to alert the live-in servants when they were needed. The main rooms feature beautiful fireplace hearths that once heated the entire house. The basement contains full individual rooms with arched brick passages, partial dirt floors, and an original hand pump installed in the floor for access to an inside water well. The interior woodwork is highlighted by tall doors, including arched insets and rounded frame moldings. The Department of the Interior has placed the Women's Club building on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Woman's Club of Warren The Historic Waters Mansion



"Founded in 1913, the Woman's Club of Warren offers collegiality, education, and philanthropy to our members, guests, and the Warren community. The preservation of the historic Waters Mansion, our gracious Victorian home and National Historic Landmark, is a continuous endeavor and an integral part of Warren. Whether planning an extravagant event, an intimate celebration, family reunion, or milestone birthday, The Woman's Club of Warren is the perfect venue for your next event."

310 Market Street • Warren, PA 16365

(814) 723-5910

womansclubwarren@gmail.com

warrenwomansclub.org



More Than a Century of Service: The Zonta Club of Jamestown Empowering Women and Girls

Contributed by

Zonta Club of Jamestown

For more than a century, the Zonta Club of Jamestown has been a powerful force for service, advocacy, and leadership in the Jamestown community. Founded in 1921, the organization has dedicated itself to improving the lives of women and girls locally, nationally, and around the world. Through volunteer service, financial support, and community partnerships, the club continues to advance opportunities for women while strengthening the community as a whole.

A Historic Beginning

The Jamestown chapter traces its origins to the early years of the global women's movement. In November 1921, the club was officially chartered as the 12th club of Zonta International, a worldwide service organization founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, by journalist and playwright Marian de Forest.

The idea for a Jamestown club emerged when women leaders in

the community recognized the value of joining a global network of professionals committed to advancing the status of women. Early organizers included city clerk Mary Bargar and reporter Marjorie Allen, who became the club's first president.

In its early years, the club met regularly to exchange ideas, host influential speakers, and plan service initiatives. From the beginning, members shared a common goal: to use their professional experience and civic leadership to improve opportunities for women and girls.

Mission and Vision

The Zonta Club of Jamestown reflects the broader mission of Zonta International: to work together to build a better world for women and girls.

Zonta envisions a world where women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal

basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

The Jamestown club's members work toward that vision by combining local service projects with support for international initiatives that address issues such as education, health care, gender equality, and the prevention of violence against women.

A Tradition of Community Impact

Over the decades, the Zonta Club of Jamestown has left a lasting imprint on the community. The organization has supported and partnered with numerous programs that serve women, children, and families throughout Chautauqua County.

Historically, the club helped launch important youth programs in the region, including the early development of Girl Scouts and the Girls' Club in Jamestown, which later became the Winifred Crawford Dibert Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown. It is also the parent organization of Lily's Hope.

Today, the club continues to provide financial support, volunteer service, and advocacy for a wide range of organizations. Beneficiaries have included the Child Advocacy Program, the Salvation Army Anew Center, the YWCA, Hope Haven Shelter, First House, ARISE, and other local initiatives that provide resources and support for women and girls.

Education also remains central to the club's mission. Each year the organization awards scholarships to local students, helping young women pursue higher education and leadership opportunities. The club also recognizes outstanding community leaders with its Women in Leadership Award.

In addition, the organization hosts programs and educational events addressing issues such as domestic violence prevention, health awareness, and community collaboration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



zontajamestown.org
Facebook @ZontaJamestown



BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Women in Chautauqua County Have Always Been Trailblazers

Continued from Front Page

and couldn't perform his duties. They performed work that was considered beyond their capabilities, ensuring that their family had an income to survive. Local women marched to protest the sale of liquor, establishing the first Women's Christian Temperance Union in the country. The WCTU became a world-wide organization dedicating to promoting the well-being of families.

Catherine Harris operated a station on the underground railroad, knowing that she was breaking the law and could be imprisoned for it. She is quoted as saying, "I never broke a law, that mattered," meaning that her activities helping fugitives answered a higher moral principle.

County women and men were involved in the Suffrage movement from its earliest days. An historical marker in front of the courthouse in Mayville commemorates Susan B. Anthony's 1854 Women's Equality Convention, her first stop on a state-wide tour to establish an Equality Club in each county in New York State. She described the attendees at the meeting in Mayville as enthusiastic and intelligent, and our support continued from there to eventually have the large Political Equality Club in the nation!

Susan B. Anthony visited the county on numerous occasions to attend the Women's Equality Day held annually at Lily Dale, beginning in the late 1800s and still being held to date. This year Women's Day at Lily Dale will be in August, with a full slate of activities and presentations. The Lily Dale event celebrated victories across the country, including Wyoming being the first state admitted to the union with full voting rights for women in 1890. (Wyoming had allowed women to vote as early as 1869, while it was still a Territory.)

Another marker in front of the courthouse recognized Ellen Yates Miller, the first woman in New York State to be elected County Clerk. Yates Miller ran the first year that NYS allowed wo-

men in vote (1918) and held the office until her death in 1940. After her death, the League of Women Voters dedicated a portrait of Yates Miller for the courthouse lobby. Unfortunately, the portrait disappeared and her story was lost until Sandra Sopak was elected to the same office. Sopak, as only the third woman in the county to be elected County Clerk, had a new portrait of Yates Miller hung in the courthouse with the gallery of male clerks.

In Frewsburg, the Carroll Historical Society has placed a marker in front of the home of Pauline Stitt, born in 1909. Stitt's interest in medicine started as a child when she lost a sibling to illness. As she began to study medicine, she realized that most medical research was based on the anatomy of an adult male. Stitt focused her work on understanding that children's bodies were different and needed to be treated as such. She became a leader in Adolescent Medicine, teaching and practicing in Hawaii, California and Boston.

In the field of law, Busti's Kate Stoneman became the first woman to be admitted to the New York State bar, even without having attended law school. And, even more impressive, Stoneman had to draft the legislation that was passed, allowing her to be admitted. She later went to Albany Law School and was the first woman to graduate. The law school still holds an annual event to honor her accomplishments and recognize other women who have established themselves as attorneys, judges, and professors of law.

Amelia Earhart, aviation pioneer, visited Chautauqua County on more than one occasion, even landing her plane on the golf course at Chautauqua Institution. She said, "The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." Chautauqua County's women have proven that their tenacity, dedication, and fearlessness continues to influence and shape a more equitable society. Michelle Henry, Research Historian

The Marvin House Celebrates 75 Years: A Diamond Jubilee of Women, Community, and Legacy



Contributed by The Marvin House

In 2026, The Marvin House proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary as a women's organization—a Diamond Jubilee marking decades of connection, culture, and community impact in Jamestown. Located at the corner of North Main and Fifth Streets, the historic home has become far more than a landmark; it is a living, evolving space dedicated to the enrichment and empowerment of women.

Originally built in the 1890s, the home became the residence of Elizabeth Warner Marvin in 1898. While her husband, Robert Marvin, was a respected civic figure, it was Elizabeth's vision that would leave a lasting imprint on the community. Deeply engaged in literary, musical, and charitable organizations, she believed women deserved a dedicated place to gather, learn, and grow.

At a time when opportunities for women were often limited, Elizabeth imagined something different. Inspired by the presence of men-only clubs in the city, she made the intentional decision to leave her home as a space for women's advancement. In her will, she outlined her wish that the house serve as "a place and headquarters for societies" focused on the moral and intellectual improvement of women engaged in educational, cultural, and civic pursuits.

That vision came to life in 1951, when a Board of Directors formally established The Marvin House as a women's organization. Now, 75 years later, that mission continues to thrive.

Today, The Marvin House remains a welcoming and inclusive community hub, led entirely by women. Its purpose is rooted in fostering connection, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment while preserving the historic beauty of the home itself. Over the decades, it has adapted to meet the changing needs of the community, evolving from a network of formal clubs into a dynamic, multi-use gathering space.

The house hosts a wide variety of events throughout the year, including luncheons, speaker programs, and social gatherings that bring people together. It also serves as a venue for bridal and baby showers, small weddings, and community events. For many members, it offers something even more meaningful—a sense of belonging.

Especially in recent years, The Marvin House has become a place where people can reconnect after isolation, build friendships, and find support. Members come from all walks of life, each bringing their own interests and passions. Some are drawn by a love of history or architecture, others by a commitment to community service or an interest in women's leadership and empowerment.

Membership, once limited and invitation-based, is now open to the public. This shift reflects the organization's commitment to growth, inclusivity, and sustainability. With more than 100 members today, The Marvin House continues to welcome new individuals who want to be part of its mission and future.

As the organization celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, it also looks ahead. Ongoing preservation efforts ensure the home remains a treasured space for generations to come, with restoration projects and improvements supporting both its historical integrity and its role as a modern event venue.

For 75 years, The Marvin House has stood as a testament to the vision of one woman who believed in the power and potential of others. Today, it continues to honor that legacy by creating a space where women—and the broader community—can gather, learn, celebrate, and grow.

Those interested in becoming part of this enduring story are warmly invited to join. Whether attending an event, becoming a member, or supporting its preservation, there are many ways to be involved.

To learn more, visit marvinhouse.com and discover how you can be part of the next chapter of The Marvin House.

THE MOZART CLUB

*Contributed by
The Mozart Club*

The Mozart Club, originally called The Musical Club, was formed on November 29, 1879, as the first women's club in Chautauqua County. Some of Jamestown's most prestigious women, gathered with Miss Josephine Fenton and Mrs. A. D. Allen, invited twenty or more women to join them in studying, performing, and promoting classical and standard works of music literature. These women planned their Soiree Musicale for January 23, 1880, at the home of Mrs. Robert Newland on East Fifth Street. Almost 150 years later, The Mozart Club still meets, inviting musicians to perform for club members, promoting musicianship

throughout Chautauqua County, and encouraging young musicians to continue their studies through the Mozart Scholarship which is awarded annually to local high school students who are pursuing music degrees in college. The Mozart Chorus also rehearses 20 weeks of the year to prepare two seasonal concerts that we perform throughout the county in the winter and spring.

Musicians and music-lovers of every age and background are encouraged to join us for quarterly entertainment at The Elizabeth Marvin Community House, donate to our Mozart Scholarship, or add your voice to The Mozart Chorus. For more information, visit mozartclub.org or follow our facebook page @MozartClubJamestown.

Roger Tory Peterson Institute Announces New CEO

Stacey Otte-Demangate Selected to Lead RTPI

*Contributed by
Roger Tory Peterson
Institute*



The Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) is pleased to announce the hiring of its new CEO, Stacey Otte-Demangate.

Board Chair, Diane Carlson noted, "The RTPI Board is delighted to welcome Stacey as our new CEO who succeeds Arthur Pearson and will continue to lead the growth of the Institute."

Since 2010, Stacey served as the Executive Director of the California Nature Art Museum. During her tenure, she led a successful capital campaign to move the museum to Solvang, CA and triple the size of its building. She curated more than 40 exhibitions, including juried competitions celebrating California's National Parks and Monuments.

With a BA in Anthropology from Arizona State University and an MA from the Cooperstown Graduate Program/ Museum Studies, Stacey also served as Executive Director of the Catalina Island Museum for a decade.

Wilson D. Mudge, Chair of the CEO Search Committee and Chair of the RTPI Foundation said "We are thrilled that our nationwide search led us to Stacey. She has the deep experience in leading nature and art museums that will help us build on the successes of the last five years as we continue to maximize RTPI's potential."

The mission of Roger Tory Peterson Institute is to foster an appreciation for Nature through exhibitions of Art that Matters to the Planet. Home to the largest collection of Roger Tory Peterson's original artwork and related archival materials, RTPI will nurture the next generation of nature artists through exhibitions and artist residencies.

Stacey shared, "I am a lifelong birder with a passion for connecting people to nature through art. I am well acquainted with the role that Roger Tory Peterson played in helping legions of people connect to nature through his artwork and guides. I look forward to being part of the team that stewards Roger's legacy."

Stacey and her husband, Eric, have relocated to Chautauqua County with their dog and cat, and are enjoying exploring the natural wonders of the region. They recently marveled at partially frozen Niagara Falls and have been watching Chautauqua Lake thaw and welcome spring migratory birds.



Join us for our 147th Season!

Mozart Club is New York's oldest music organization, making our home at The Marvin Community House. RSVP for monthly performances and hospitality most 2nd Wednesday.



Friendship, history, music!
Email mozartclubjtny@gmail.com for updates about our new website.



Jamestown Coin Club Show is Sunday, August 31 at Celoron Legion

Submitted Photo



A 10th-oz. \$5 Gold American Eagle coin is among the prizes at the Jamestown Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Sunday, August 31, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The free event is at the Herman Kent Post 777 (Celoron) American Legion, 26 Jackson Ave., off Fairmount Ave., W.E., Jamestown. More than two dozen dealers will be buying, selling, and offering free appraisals of U.S., ancient, and foreign coins. To learn more, call (716) 720-1591.

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"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

~Maya Angelou

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Peace, Hope and Joy with Linda Kent

Grandmother's Strength



Featured Writer

Linda Kent

witnessed the birth of a new century and astonishing changes in history. A ball point pen, the telephone, a jet plane, and a man on the moon. She also became the lady of the house while still in school when her mother became ill. In those Victorian times, that was a huge undertaking and accomplishment.

She married and had a daughter. She was warned not to have another but went on to have two more. Widowed early with three young children, she worked hard to support her family as there was no government assistance back then. She took many jobs yet was always ready to help others and taught her daughters to do the same. She married again when the girls were older and again became a widow. She plunged back into work, not being afraid to support herself and not willing to depend on others.

Both of my grandmothers faced adversity and didn't back down. That wasn't an option, to them it meant giving up. I come from strong, determined women who passed it down to their daughters. In turn it was passed to me, and I will continue to pass this strength on to my daughter and granddaughters.

I had two amazing grandmothers. One fled Poland after WWI, she and her mother escaping as they saw how dangerous their world was becoming. I remember her telling one story, in her heavy polish accent, of them growing vegetables surrounded by tobacco plants so roving soldiers wouldn't find them. Coming to American, she married and raised a family of six. What strength that must have taken. I can't imagine leaving my home and moving to a different city, much less continent and starting an entirely new and different kind of life. She passed when I was young, so we never really talked about her history. I do know she was a brave, strong, and amazing woman.

My other grandmother was no less amazing. Born into society at the end of the 1800's, she

More Than a Century of Service: The Zonta Club of Jamestown Empowering Women and Girls

Continued from Page 15

Leadership and Volunteerism

The strength of the Zonta Club of Jamestown lies in the dedication of its 62 members—women from a wide range of professions who share a commitment to service and advocacy. Through monthly meetings, service projects, and fundraising events, members work together to identify emerging needs in the community and develop ways to address them.

Their efforts reflect the belief that collective action can create lasting change.

Interested in Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Zonta Club of Jamestown, please email Jamestown@zontadistrict4.org or contact Membership Chair, Debbie Piotrowski, at dmp3135@gmail.com.

Think Spring Home & Garden Show Returns March 28, 2026

Featuring Beer Garden, Expert Sessions & Exciting Giveaways

Contributed by Northwest Arena

Spring inspiration is in full bloom at the Northwest Arena as the Think Spring Home & Garden Show on Saturday, March 28, 2026: 10am-4pm. This one-day community event will bring together homeowners, gardeners, DIY enthusiasts, and local industry professionals for a full day of ideas, education, and fun.

The Think Spring Home & Garden Show is designed to help attendees refresh, renovate, and reimagine their homes and outdoor spaces just in time for the warmer months. The show will feature a diverse lineup of vendors showcasing the latest in home improvement, landscaping, gardening, outdoor living, remodeling services, décor, and more. Guests will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with trusted local experts and discover innovative products and services to jumpstart their spring projects.

New & Featured Experiences

Beer Garden Experience

Attendees can relax and recharge in the event's Beer Garden, featuring a selection of regional craft beers. It's the perfect spot to take a break, connect with friends, and enjoy the festive atmosphere while planning your next home project.

"Ask the Expert" Sessions

Throughout the day, guests can attend engaging "Ask the Expert" sessions led by local professionals. These mini-presentations and Q&A opportunities will cover trending topics such as

landscaping tips, home renovation planning, energy efficiency, seasonal maintenance, and outdoor living design. Attendees will leave with practical advice and fresh inspiration.

Giveaways & Prizes

The excitement continues with special giveaways throughout the event. Attendees will have chances to win valuable prizes donated by participating vendors — making it not only inspiring, but rewarding to attend.

"The Think Spring Home & Garden Show is about bringing our community together to get excited for the season ahead," said Tonja Rinaldo. "From educational sessions to the Beer Garden and prize giveaways, we're creating an experience that's informative, interactive, and enjoyable for everyone."

The event also offers an outstanding opportunity for local businesses to connect directly with homeowners who are actively planning projects. Vendor spaces are limited, and interested businesses are encouraged to contact the Northwest Arena for booth information.

The Think Spring Home & Garden Show takes place Saturday, March 28, 10am-4pm, at the Northwest Arena in Jamestown, NY. \$5 pp day of the event or online at Northwestarena.com

For more information about the event, vendor opportunities, please contact: Tonja Rinaldo

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FESTIVALS FREDONIA'S 5TH ANNUAL EASTER FESTIVAL

Contributed by Festivals Fredonia, Inc

Festivals Fredonia, Inc., a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers, in partnership with Fredonia First Methodist Church, is proud to announce our fifth annual Fredonia Easter Festival on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 9 AM until 1 PM.

This is a great family fun event with breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny and will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Barker Commons Park! Fun for all ages!

9 am – 12 noon - Pancake Breakfast in the basement of Fredonia United Methodist Church (25 Church St) - \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 4-12, Free for children under 3. Also, craft activities for the kids during breakfast (including donut decorating with Tim Horton's, thanks to Gina and David Kron!)

9 am - 1 pm - Craft Vendors in the basement of Fredonia United Methodist Church (25 Church St)

12:30 pm - Easter Egg Hunt in Barker Commons

Big thanks to Chai's Chocolates & Gifts at 53 West Main St, Fredonia and Aaron's Easter Candy featuring Parkside

chocolates (located in TJ Maxx Plaza) for the "sweet" Easter themed prizes for our Easter Egg Hunt, coloring contest, jellybean counting contest and special gifts when sitting with the Easter Bunny!

Visit <https://festivalsfredoniany.org/easter-festival/> for more information

About Festivals Fredonia
Festivals Fredonia's mission is to contribute to a high quality of life in Fredonia and surrounding communities by presenting lively, varied recreation and cultural opportunities to Village and area residents. Festivals Fredonia is always looking for energetic volunteers to assist in executing each year's festivals. Contact us at festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com



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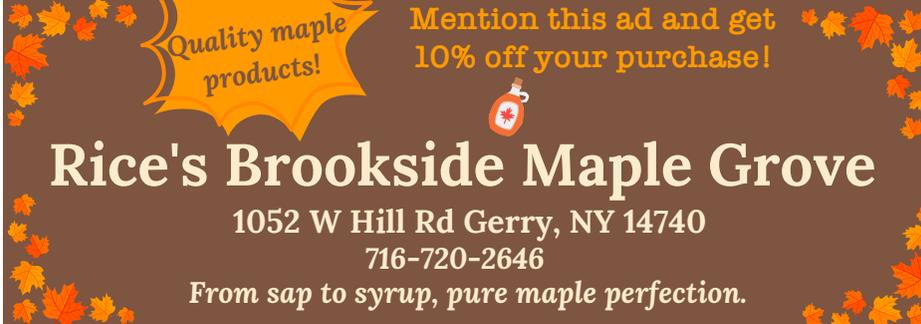


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DID YOU KNOW?

Contributed by
Metro Creative

Charitable contributions of money or goods may entitle individuals (and businesses) to certain tax breaks. However, it's important to note that there are rules concerning charity and tax deductions. According to NerdWallet, for the 2021 tax year, each person was eligible to deduct up to \$300 without having to itemize, which meant couples filing jointly could deduct up to \$600 in charitable donations, which is referred to as an "above the line" deduction. Generally speaking, the United States Internal Revenue Service enables people to deduct up to 60 percent of their adjusted gross incomes via charitable donations, but there may be limitations based on the type of contribution and the organization. For example, contributions to certain private foundations, fraternal societies and veterans organizations come with lower limits. Tax-deductible donations are those made to qualifying organizations in the year the tax return is filed, says the IRS. Qualifying organizations may include religious organizations and churches, 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, nonprofit volunteer organizations, civil defense organizations, fraternal societies, and educational institutions, among others. Donations that are not tax-deductible include cash gifts to individuals and political contributions. Rules may be complex, so it's always best to discuss charitable donations with a certified public accountant for clarification.

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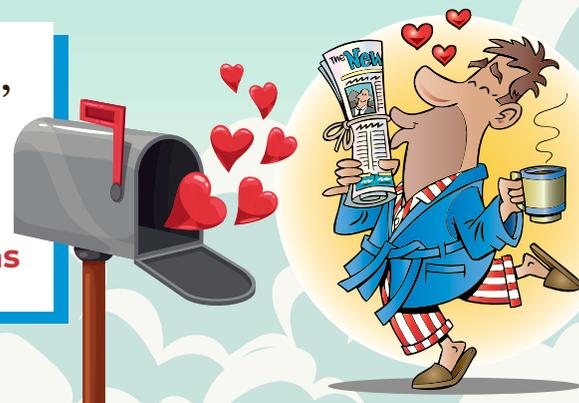
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Empowering the Next Generation: Girl Scouting in Western New York

Continued from Page 13

This Women's History Month, we celebrate the achievements of those who came before us while also looking ahead. Today's Girl Scouts are tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and advocates. They are learning to use their voices, stand up for what matters, and create positive change in their communities and beyond.

Experience the Power of Summer Camp

As we reflect on the journeys that shape confident, capable leaders, summer camp remains an important part of the Girl Scout experience. Time spent outdoors builds independence, resilience, and a strong sense of self. Across Chautauqua County and Western New York, these moments help prepare the next generation to lead with confidence. Learn more and register at www.gswny.org/summercamp.

Support Girl Scouts, One Cookie at a Time

One of the simplest and most impactful ways to support Girl Scouts is by purchasing cookies. Each purchase does more than satisfy a sweet craving. It directly supports local participants, helping fund troop experiences, community service projects, camp opportunities, and leadership development programs right here in Western New York.

The Cookie Program helps participants build essential life skills such as goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Every box sold contributes to their growth and to the strength of our communities.

To find cookies near you, visit www.gswny.org/findcookies and use the Cookie Finder tool. Together, we can continue to invest in a future where every girl is empowered to lead with courage, confidence, and character. For more information, visit www.gswny.org.



WOMEN IN HISTORY

Trivia

1. Who was the first woman to win two Nobel Prizes?
2. Who was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress? Shirley Chisholm
3. Who was the first woman to run for U.S. president (1872)? Victoria Woodhull
4. Who was the first woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S.?
5. Who was the first woman to command a U.S. space shuttle mission?
6. Who was the first woman to win Olympic gold?
7. Who was the first female governor in the U.S.?
8. Who was the first woman to serve as a U.S. Cabinet member?
9. Who was the first woman to win a Grammy for Album of the Year?
10. Who was the first woman to summit Everest without oxygen?

1. Marie Curie 2. Shirley Chisholm 3. Victoria Woodhull 4. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell
5. Eileen Collins 6. Hélène de Pourtales 7. Nellie Tayloe Ross 8. Frances Perkins
9. Judy Garland 10. Lydia Bradey

Salvation Army Staffer Visits MHA Luncheon



Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County (MHA) staff member Gordy Frederes was one of four people recognized at the MHA's March recovery luncheon. The Salvation Army's Emergency Basic Needs Supervisor Elizabeth Margarito told of food and clothing given away free every Monday–Thursday, 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 1–3:30 p.m. at their 83 South Main Street, Jamestown, location. On Wednesday, March 25 the monthly Food Express has free extra supplemental packages of food at 10 a.m.–noon and 1–3:30 p.m.; photo ID is required. Between 250 and 500 families are expected most months. The Salvation Army welcomes donations of clothing, small appliances, and non-perishable food any time at the same location. For information about the MHA's recovery centers in Jamestown and Dunkirk, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).



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New RTPI CEO Addresses Falconer Kiwanis Club



Stacey Otte-Demangate, the new CEO of the **Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI)**, served as the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Falconer. The event took place at the War Veterans Recreation Inc. in Fluvanna.

During her presentation, Otte-Demangate discussed Roger Tory Peterson's significant contributions to ornithology, including his pivotal role in classifying bird species and the creation of the renowned Peterson Guide. She highlighted how these achievements have shaped modern bird watching and conservation efforts.

Otte-Demangate also shared details about upcoming events at RTPI. She announced the opening of the exhibition, *Art That Matters to the Planet: Beyond Beauty*, scheduled for March 27. Additionally, she invited attendees to the 50th Annual Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, which will be held at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in Jamestown on April 24 and 25.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute is dedicated to advancing nature education and conservation. In contrast, the Kiwanis Club of Falconer is a local service organization committed to supporting children within the community. For those interested in learning more about the **Kiwanis Club of Falconer**, information can be obtained by contacting any club member. **Otte-Demangate is shown with Kiwanis Club President Mike Erlandson.**

Chautauqua County DMV Alerts Residents to Possible Double Charges from State Software Issue, Urges Cash or Check Use

Contributed by
Chautauqua County

Chautauqua County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and DMV offices across New York State, have seen some customers using debit or credit cards getting double charged for a single transaction.

Though it doesn't happen with every debit or credit card transaction, the problem has persisted since the NYS DMV went live with the DRIVES software update in February.

Unfortunately, local DMV offices are not authorized to issue refunds directly, and the NYS DMV is taking 3-5 business days to process refunds. County DMVs across state have been actively communicating this issue to the NYS DMV since the DRIVES rollout last month. However, the

double charges are still occurring. County Clerk Greg Carlson indicated Chautauqua County DMVs will continue to process debit and credit card transaction, but encourages customers to use cash or check when completing in-person DMV transaction until the state resolves the software issue causing the double charges. If you do use a debit or credit card to complete a DMV transaction, please monitor your account to ensure you're only charged once for your transaction.



We join in your frustration, and our office will continue to report issues and follow up with the state to resolve the issue. We appreciate your patience with this matter. If you have questions, you can e-mail Chautauqua County Clerk Greg Carlson at CarlsoGK@chqgov.com.



“Blingo” fund-raiser to benefit people with disabilities set for March 26



Employees of Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union display some of the bags that will serve as prizes at Blingo. From left are Kimberly Davis, Krista Gilbert, Amanda Smith, and Heather Kerr.



Representatives of Chautauqua Harbor Hotel display some of the bags that can be won at Blingo. From left are Toni Bellito, David Brown and Lynn Smith.

Contributed by The Resource Center

A popular fund-raiser returns for its ninth installment when Sassy Baggs & Beyond Blingo takes place Thursday, March 26.

The event will be held at The Resource Center’s administrative offices at 200 Dunham Avenue in Celoron. Doors will open at 6:00, with the Blingo games starting at 7:00. Those planning to attend should park in the rear lot and use the entrance at the top of the ramp.

At Blingo, participants will play bingo to try to win handbags as prizes. Admission is \$20 and includes light refreshments.

The event is being organized by Filling the Gap, Inc., which works with The Resource Center to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Chautauqua County. Money raised through Sassy Baggs & Beyond Blingo will benefit the Mark Pacheco WOW (Working on Wonders) Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The WOW Fund provides money so

people with disabilities can enjoy experiences they otherwise could not afford, such as attending concerts or sporting events.

“Blingo is back and will prove to be a fun-filled evening out for all attendees,” said Victoria Bardo, development and event manager for Filling the Gap. “We will have a variety of handbags as a part of our Blingo prizes. We will have our 10 Blingo games, door prizes, traditional raffle table items, 50/50 tickets, and complementary snacks.” She added that large groups are encouraged to make a reservation to guarantee that all members can be seated at the same table.

Tickets are available at The Resource Center’s offices on Dunham Avenue and at Filling the Gap’s offices inside the Felice Corporate Center at 92 Fairmount Avenue in Jamestown. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://fillingthegap.net>. For more information, phone Bardo at 716-661-1477.

Major sponsors of this year’s Blingo are Fenton Mobility, Kinetic and Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. Other area businesses also are providing support for the event.



Fenton History Center Welcomes Educator

Contributed by
Fenton History Center



Elizabeth Gabalski

Elizabeth Gabalski has joined the staff of the Fenton History Center. She will manage the education programming and community outreach. Liz, as she prefers to be called, is the Education Coordinator. She hails from Frewsburg and loves local history. Executive Director Joni Blackman said, “Liz’s experiences as a substitute classroom teacher, education studies at SUNY Fredonia, teaching music at the Infinity program and tutoring at Striders, will serve her well as she re-starts the museum education programming here at the Fenton. I am excited to see where we are this time next year.”

Ms. Gabalski’s first task is to open communication with the local school districts and homeschool groups to determine how the Fenton can help them reach their local history curriculum goals. She says, “I genuinely believe that our local history holds the power to inspire the difference-makers of tomorrow. I very much look forward to collaborating with area schools and educators to create engaging experiences that will connect our students, community members, and visitors to the mansion’s many meaningful artifacts and stories in ways that will resonate with them long after their tours with us have ended.”

For many years, the Fenton taught the Local Lore program. It was a combination of classroom visits by the Fenton museum teachers and Fenton Mansion visits by the students for tours about what they learned in the classroom. That program dropped off sharply in the 2010s. Ms. Blackman stated, “The Local Lore program had a significant and lasting impact. We

frequently have visitors share which Jamestown resident they portrayed in Local Lore program and how much they appreciate the Fenton Mansion. They remember their local history because of the work done by past museum educators. I know Liz will have the same impact on our area’s children and adults.”

The Fenton History Center is housed in the 1863 Italianate Villa home of NY Governor Reuben E. Fenton. Fenton also served as a US Representative and Senator. He was one of only three governors from western New York. His influence remains evident today through his advocacy in education, veterans’ affairs, public health, and mental health matters.

The Fenton History Center campus is located at 67 Washington St. The Center includes the local history museum in the Fenton Mansion, the park surrounding the mansion and the neighboring Hall House Research Center. The Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM with a nominal admission fee for adults and free admission for children up to 18 years old. For more information visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org.



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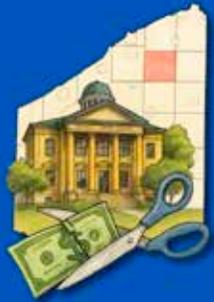
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County Executive Wendel Hosts Collaborative Effort to Shape the Future of Northern Chautauqua County

Dunkirk, Fredonia, and Pomfret leaders explore shared services and potential merger through Government Reduction Initiative



GOVERNMENT REDUCTION INITIATIVE



*Contributed by
Chautauqua County*

Chautauqua County Executive **Paul M. Wendel Jr.** convened a second meeting of local and state leaders on Friday, March 13, 2026, at the **SUNY Fredonia Center for Innovation and Economic Development** to continue discussions on the future of municipal cooperation and government efficiency in northern Chautauqua County.

The meeting followed an initial gathering held on February 13, 2026, where leaders first began exploring opportunities to utilize funding from the recently expanded Chautauqua County Government Reduction cooperative efforts among the **City of Dunkirk, Town of Dunkirk, Village of Fredonia, and Town of Pomfret.**

During the discussions, participants examined the possibility of expanding collaboration beyond shared services to include exploring whether the four municipalities could eventually merge into a single town structure. Officials emphasized that the idea remains in its earliest stages and would require extensive analysis, public input, and voter approval under **New York State** law.

“This is not something we can just rush into, it is going to take some time,” said Wendel. “We will ensure all the proper steps are followed, and that this benefits each municipality involved. In the meantime, we are going to explore what shared services or department mergers can be accomplished in the short term that would help ensure a smooth transition in the event that all four municipalities combined.”

Attending Friday’s meeting alongside County Executive Wendel were Senator **George Borrello**, Assemblyman **Andrew Molitor**, City of Dunkirk Mayor **Kate Wdowiasz**, Dunkirk City Attorney **Elliot Raimondo**, Dunkirk Fiscal Affairs Officer **Ellen Luczkowiak**,

Town of Dunkirk Supervisor **Shari Miller**, Dunkirk Councilmember **Philip Leone**, Fredonia Mayor **Michael Ferguson**, Fredonia Trustee **Jon Espersen**, Pomfret Supervisor **Daniel Pacos**, Pomfret Councilmember **Kathleen Denison**, and County Legislator **Marcus Buchanan**.

County Executive Wendel noted that the initial February meeting grew out of a candid and productive conversation he had with Mayor Wdowiasz regarding the financial and structural challenges facing municipalities across the region.

“These meetings represent exactly what Chautauqua County’s Government Reduction Initiative was designed to do — bring local leaders together to have proactive, forward-thinking conversations about how we can deliver services more efficiently while reducing the burden on taxpayers,” said Wendel. “By taking this step, these municipalities are showing a willingness to explore real solutions, backed by data and analysis, that could strengthen their communities for the long term. This is about being responsible with taxpayer dollars, embracing collaboration, and building a more sustainable model of government for the future.”

While discussions have at times been spirited, leaders in attendance agreed on a fundamental point: continuing to operate government exactly as it has been for decades may not be sustainable for residents or taxpayers.

“The City of Dunkirk fully supports these discussions because we know that working together is how we build a stronger future for every community in northern Chautauqua County,” said Mayor **Kate Wdowiasz**, **City of Dunkirk**. “I’m grateful that a candid and spirited conversation between County Executive Wendel and myself helped spark this effort—an honest recognition Initiative for shared

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



CHAMBER CORNER

Telling the Story of the CHQ Chamber



*Contributed by
Sheila Webster*

Director of Marketing, Communications and Governmental Affairs for the CHQ Chamber

For the past fifteen years I have worked to frame the narrative around the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce. It can be challenging to tell the story about what an organization is and what it does, especially for one that has made a number of changes during its two and a half decades of existence. Throughout the changing landscape, I have had the pleasure of being part of a small team that has been focused on our local business community and its needs, and telling the story of the Chamber and its members has been gratifying work.

The CHQ Chamber is a nonprofit business association. We provide services and resources for local businesspeople. We also act as an interface between the business community and the community at large, and we help to promote local businesses in a variety of ways. This work is spelled out in our mission: to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

Membership is vital to the work of the CHQ Chamber. Membership is our prime source of revenue and is also our direct link to the people that make businesses run. Both the membership investments and the personal investments are critical to our work, whether we are planning networking or advocacy events or providing a workshop or running an online business directory or delivering the in-office labor that makes our ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card work for over 160 businesses countywide. As a business association we connect businesses to businesses

and consumers to businesses. It is true that all local businesses benefit from the presence of a Chamber of Commerce, whether they are a member or not. It is also true that the member businesses gain more from the Chamber because they can access increased services and make stronger connections.

As a small nonprofit we function under the supervision of a board of directors – local people who take time out of their busy lives to set policy, direction, and priorities for our organization and provide fiduciary oversight. These people come from all geographic areas in Chautauqua County and from a broad range of business interests. We are grateful for their time and attention. In the past four years they have not only established a new strategic plan for the CHQ Chamber, but they also refocused our mission and vision statements and our brand.

Branding is much more than a logo. It includes organizational values, personality, and perceptions. A brand creates a connection with an audience. When the CHQ Chamber rebranded in 2024, we focused on connections with our key stakeholders: our members throughout Chautauqua County. The new logo, colors, and typefaces we integrated into our communication products have not only boosted our image, but they also boosted our morale and provided a fresh new approach to our work on behalf of the local business community.

Usually, this weekly column comes to you from our President/CEO. This week it is coming from me as I begin my final week as the Director of Marketing, Communications, and Governmental Affairs for the CHQ Chamber. With my retirement pending, I can assure you that this organization will still be here to serve the interests of Chautauqua County businesses. Our small but highly effective team has always been both flexible and determined to do our best, and that will not change. On a personal level, I will miss the people and the relationships developed over many years. I wish you all the best.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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The Testament of Ann Lee and Pillion to show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts



Contributed by
**The Reg Lenna
Center for the Arts**

Academy Award nominee Amanda Seyfried stars in *The Testament of Ann Lee* (Wed., March 25 at 7 p.m.) Preaching gender and social equality and revered by her followers, the film captures the ecstasy and agony of the Shakers' founder's quest to build a utopia. From Director Mona Fastvold (*The World to Come*, *The Brutalist*) and featuring more than a dozen traditional Shaker hymns reimagined as rapturous movements with choreography by Celia Rowson-Hall (*Vox Lux*) and original songs & score by Academy Award winner Daniel Blumberg (*The Brutalist*). *The Testament of Ann Lee* is rated R and is 137 minutes long.

Alexander Skarsgård and Harry Melling star in *Pillion* (Friday, March 27 at 7 p.m.) In the film, a timid man (Melling) is swept off his

feet when an enigmatic, impossibly handsome biker (Skarsgård) takes him on as his submissive. *Pillion* is unrated and is 107 minutes long.

Upcoming Movies at The Reg include: the family-friendly animated film *Goat* (April 3 & April 6.), and Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi in Emerald Fennell's adaptation of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* (April 10 at 7 p.m.)

Tickets for most Movies at The Reg are \$8 in-person at the box office and \$10 online (reglenna.com) & by phone - 716.484.7070. Family showings are \$7 in-person at the box office and \$9 online & by phone. Special engagements are priced differently. The theater and box office at The Reg are located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The box office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 - 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events.

YMCA's Amanda Gesing Speaks Sunday, March 29, at UUC 10:30 am

Her message, "From Community Conversation Comes a Space of Empowerment," highlights how a single conversation about dignity and opportunity sparked the development of expanded transitional housing and a long-term project. Through collaboration, persistence, and community partnership, that initial dialogue evolved into a sustainable model of empowerment that will serve Chautauqua County women and families for generations to come.



Since November 2020, Gesing has led YWCA Jamestown in fulfilling its mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. She oversees all aspects of the organization's operations while fostering an inclusive and mission-driven culture. A graduate of Northern Kentucky University, Gesing is committed to embedding equity and inclusion into all aspects of nonprofit work and engaging community voices in meaningful ways to drive lasting impact. All are welcome to the service and coffee hour that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

NCCF Announces First Grants from Lyford-Gugino Endowment For Inclusive Classroom and Community Experiences

Contributed by
**Northern Chautauqua
Community Foundation**

The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation (NCCF) has awarded grants to two local organizations, marking the first grants awarded from the Lyford-Gugino Endowment for Inclusive Classroom and Community Experiences. The Field of Interest fund was established at NCCF in 2025 through a generous gift from Joe and Jessica Gugino of Fredonia.

The Lyford-Gugino Endowment for Inclusive Classroom and Community Experiences is dedicated to enhancing opportunities and fulfilling needs that directly benefit individuals with disabilities in northern Chautauqua County. Numerous applications were received for the fund's first round of grants, demonstrating the need for such support in our area. Qualified organizations for grants from this fund are inclusive in nature, with a minimum of 20% of participants being individuals with disabilities.

After careful review of all applications received, grants were awarded to the Chautauqua Children's Gym and Centaur Stride as follows:

\$1,000 to Chautauqua Children's Gym for the purchase and installation of an accessible ball pit, which will allow for easier access for children with disabilities, and full integration and inclusivity for all children.

\$400 to Centaur Stride to support the Volunteer Transitions Program, providing mentorship to individuals with disabilities as they participate in a hands-on role at the barn, developing life and work skills.

Grants from the Lyford-Gugino Endowment for Inclusive Classroom and Community Experiences will be awarded annually. Applications for the second round of grants will be accepted beginning in October 2026. For more information about the fund or grants, please contact NCCF at 716-366-4892 or nccf@nccfoundation.org. To contribute to the fund, visit nccfoundation.org or contact NCCF directly.

NCCF connects people with purpose, providing the opportunity to achieve your charitable goals while working hand in hand to realize our vision of a vibrant, prosperous northern Chautauqua, rich in opportunity for genera-



A special education class from Westfield learns how to interact with the horses at Centaur Stride during a volunteer transition class.



Dawn Manzella, Executive Director, and Jessica Gugino at the Chautauqua Children's Gym, where a new, accessible ball pit will soon be installed.

tions to come. Endowments at NCCF directly benefit our community in perpetuity. If you are interested in establishing your own fund at NCCF, whether for a specific interest area or to support the greatest needs in our community as they arise through a Community Fund, please get in touch with the office.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the NCCF has invested nearly \$25 million in northern Chautauqua County through strategic grantmaking, targeted scholarships, and leadership and community collaborations. The NCCF is a tax-exempt charitable organization inherently committed to enhancing the northern Chautauqua community and encouraging local philanthropy. As a nationally accredited community foundation, the NCCF has proven compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, demonstrating integrity, equity, accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in meeting the needs of its community. For more information on the NCCF, visit www.nccfoundation.org or call 716-366-4892.

Chamber Corner

Continued from Page 25

Business After Hours at Audubon is March 25

The CHQ Chamber and the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry are delighted to collaborate once again with Audubon Community Nature Center for a region-wide Business After Hours event. It will be held this Wednesday, March 25 from 5:30-7:30pm. All local businesspeople are invited to attend this special networking event, which will include complimentary appetizers and beverages, with tip proceeds benefitting Audubon Community Nature Center's mission of connecting people to nature. Bring business cards for networking and door prize drawings.

Attendees are invited to stay for a special private viewing of Audubon Lights after the networking event. The display features a half-mile trail of wonder, where visitors can walk among thousands of lights—from twinkling trailside luminaries to towering trees bathed in color.

CHQ Chamber member organizations can send two people free of charge to all Business After Hours events. Non-members or anyone above the two-person limit will be \$10. Registration for CHQ Chamber members is open online now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org. Members of the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry should email Savannah Casey at szimmerman@wccbi.org to register free of charge. Business After Hours at Audubon Community Nature Center is sponsored by the Media

One Radio Group, Northwest Bank, Seneca Generations LLC, Southern Tier Brewing Company, the State University of New York at Fredonia, United Refining Company of Pennsylvania, Whirley DrinkWorks, and Wicked Warren's.

The CHQ Chamber Presents the State of the County

The CHQ Chamber is working with the County Executive's office this year to provide a more meaningful event to our local business community. This year's breakfast gathering with the County Executive will include the actual State of the County address, followed by a moderated question and answer session so our guests can engage with the topics presented.

The CHQ Chamber State of the County Breakfast will be held Tuesday, April 21 at 8am at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 150 West Fourth Street, Jamestown. The cost to attend this event is \$30 for Chamber members or \$35 for non-members, which covers breakfast and helps to support the ongoing work of the CHQ Chamber year-round.

Sponsors for the 2026 CHQ Chamber State of the County Event are AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, LaBella Associates, Media One Radio Group, National Grid, Phillips Lytle LLP, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and UPMC Chautauqua. Registration is open now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
16					17				18				
19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26					27		
28					29					30			
				31	32					33			
34	35	36	37					38					
39					40	41	42						
43					44					45	46	47	48
49				50				51	52				
53			54					55					
56		57					58				59		
60					61	62					63		
			64								65		

- 1. "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- 11. Whirl
- 12. The State Dept. has a notable one
- 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Mountainous country
- 19. Type of beverage
- 24. Atomic #109
- 25. Opposite of falsities
- 26. Female sheep
- 27. Rocky peak
- 28. Sensitive information sharing environment
- 29. Ethnic group of Thailand
- 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
- 31. Psychedelics
- 33. Japanese pine
- 34. Have an impact on
- 38. Violent disorder
- 39. A French river
- 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr)
- 50. Valley
- 51. A way to unwind
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Larry and Curly's pal
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 64. Relating to songbirds
- 65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Some are "secret"
- 2. Intestinal openings
- 3. Distant planet
- 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- 5. Genus of typical owls
- 6. One with distinctively colored hair
- 7. Red cross
- 8. An alternative
- 9. Abominable snowmen
- 10. About ear
- 13. The opening letters
- 14. Feeling of regret
- 15. Atomic #39
- 20. Luteinizing hormone
- 21. Atomic #55
- 22. Carries a debt
- 23. Albanian monetary unit
- 27. Semitic abjad letter
- 29. Yes
- 30. Negative
- 31. Earn a perfect score
- 32. Connecticut
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Snack nuts
- 35. Quadruped's body part
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. "___, myself and I"
- 40. Utah city northwest of Provo
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. One who runs the show
- 44. Wood
- 45. Performing artists
- 46. Slang for a cut
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most crafty
- 50. Provokes into action
- 51. University of Dayton
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 55. Not one
- 57. ___ and behold
- 61. Sports highlight show
- 62. "The Great Lakes State"

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"A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman."

~Melinda Gates

Opera House Cinema Series to Screen Solo Mio



Contributed by

1891 Fredonia Opera House

The Cinema Series continues at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center with screenings of the comedy “Solo Mio,” on Sat., Mar. 28 and Tues., Mar. 31, at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday night screening will be shown with captions visible on the screen.

A wedding disaster leaves a groom (Kevin James) stranded in Rome, heartbroken in the world’s happiest city. But with one determined local (Nicole Grimaudo), and a few meddling vacation couples, in his corner, his ruined honeymoon becomes an adventure he never expected. Sometimes heartbreak is just the first chapter of a better story.

Common Sense Media calls the film “warm, delightful, and genuinely funny” The Sydney Morning Herald (AU) calls it “sweet-natured with a big heart.” AARP Movies for Grown-Ups calls it “amiable and good-hearted.” The Fort Worth Report says, “Kevin James is perfect as

the everyman who needs a little healing and a bit of love after being ditched at the altar. The film is like comfort food that leaves you feeling satisfied.” Rated PG, “Solo Mio” runs one hour, 40 minutes.

Tickets are available at the door for \$7 (adults), \$6.50 (seniors & Opera House members) and \$5 (students) the night of each screening. The Opera House is equipped with assistive listening headsets for the hearing-impaired. Simply request one from any usher or staff member. The Opera House Cinema Series is generously sponsored by Lake Shore Bank.

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is a member-supported not-for-profit performing arts center with a mission to “present the performing arts for the benefit of our community and region ... providing access to artistic diversity ... and high-quality programming at an affordable price.” It is located in Village Hall in downtown Fredonia. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.fredopera.org.

Statement from Senator George Borrello and Assemblyman Andrew Molitor on Refresco’s Cancellation of Grape Grower Contracts

Contributed by
Senator Borello & Assemblyman Molitor

Senator George Borrello and Assemblyman Andrew Molitor issued the following statement regarding Refresco’s decision to cancel contracts with grape growers across the Lake Erie region:

“This is a significant setback to grape growers in Chautauqua County and across our region. These farms are not only a vital part of our agricultural heritage, but also a major driver of the local economy. When growers lose contracts of this scale, the impact extends far

beyond the vineyard; it threatens jobs, related businesses, and the economic stability of entire communities.

We are actively working with industry stakeholders, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and federal, state, and local officials to identify every possible avenue of support for affected growers. That includes exploring financial assistance, connecting producers with alternative markets, and pursuing available resources to help farm families navigate this difficult situation.

Our grape growers have weathered challenges before, and we will do everything we can to stand with them and fight for the support they need during this uncertain time.”



Faith Matters

Continued from Page 4

powered by their encounter with Jesus to proclaim and challenge their communities to become people and places of healing and restoration. Some of them are successful in helping their communities to open their hearts and eyes to see things in new ways, others face rejection - especially in the case of Jesus (in Holy Week) will be arrested, beaten and crucified for his faithfulness to proclaim God’s message of hope, forgiveness and healing.

The call to follow Christ and fostering more grace and love in the world, does not come with a guarantee of success or the approval of others - but is one that requires courage and faithfulness. Through the example of Christ, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman and man born blind, we see and hear stories of courage and faithfulness to encourage us to live out our faith.

As we continue in Lent into Palm Sunday and experience Holy Week, we are invited to live out open-hearted faith with courage and faithfulness. May God help us to be faithful to our calling to see with open eyes and open hearts.

Prayer: On my way to Holy Week, open my heart and eyes to live my faith with courage and love. *Open the eyes of my heart, God - Open the eyes of my heart.* AMEN

Questions to Ponder:

1. In this text from John 9:1-41, Jesus gives the man physical sight, but his community refuses to welcome him. Where in your community do you notice resistance to change?
2. Where and how can you use your gifts to courageously foster wholeness and healing in your community?
3. Who is an example of courage and grace in your life? Ask them about their own journey to leadership. How might their experiences inform your efforts?
4. Between Palm Sunday and Holy Week, attend a worship service in your community to open your heart to new possibilities of wholeness and healing.

Walking in grace,
Rev. Tara L. Eastman
Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Pa and Host of Holy Shenanigans Podcast.

St. Pat’s Dash Kicks Off 2026 Runner of the Year Series in Downtown Jamestown

Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

The Chautauqua Striders officially launched the 2026 Runner of the Year (ROTY) Series on Saturday, March 14, with the annual St. Pat’s Dash, bringing runners, walkers, and spectators together for a festive start to the local racing season in downtown Jamestown.

Participants of all ages and ability levels filled the streets for the popular early-season event, which featured strong performances, spirited competition, and plenty of St. Patrick’s Day energy throughout the course.

Chautauqua Striders extends its appreciation to all participants who ran, walked, and supported the event, as well as the many volunteers who helped ensure a safe and successful race. Special recognition goes to members of the Jamestown Track & Field Team, who contributed both as competitors and volunteers along the course.

TOP FINISHERS

- Open Men**
Cody Kent — 16:03
Clevon Wofford — 16:06
Wyatt Olmstead — 16:56
- Open Women**
Rosie Williamson — 20:20
London Hamilton — 21:36
Heidi Strauss — 23:19
- First Overall Walker**
Rodney Daum — 36:51

The organization also thanks the Northwest Arena, event sponsors, and community donors whose support made the event possible.

The St. Pat’s Dash marks the first race in the 2026 Runner of the Year Series, a season-long program encouraging community participation in local road races. The full 2026 Runner of the Year Series race calendar is attached.

Athletes interested in joining the Runner of the Year Series may participate with an active Chautauqua Striders Athletic Club membership.

For more information about the Runner of the Year Series or Chautauqua Striders athletic programs, contact:
Lexi Lindamer
Chautauqua Striders
Email: Lexi@chqstriders.org



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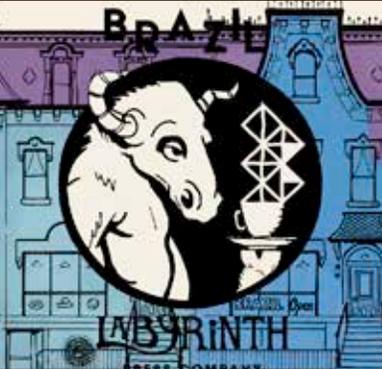


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