

# CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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Easter

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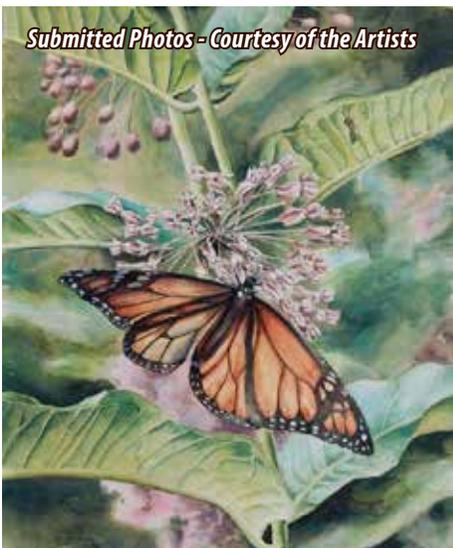
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## Art and Nature Bloom in New Exhibition at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute - Read on pg 2



Amy Browning-Dill. *New Life*. Watercolor, 2019.



Susan Munderich. *A Delicate Balance*. Linocut print, 2025.



Jade Hunt. *Fuel for Life: Blooms Behind Monarch's Survival*. Mixed media assemblage, 2025.

## AN EASTER SONG OF NEW LIFE



*Featured Writer*  
**Rev. Tara Eastman**  
First Presbyterian Church of Warren

Music has always been an important part of my life. In fact, I can't recall any part of my life apart from it. In my childhood home, the radio or record player was always playing music. From Mantovani to Elvis Presly and some Abba for good measure. On Friday nights, my mom would set me loose to listen to a live radio show of dance tunes - and I would sing and dance the night away. My all-time favorite tune was The Twist performed by American singer and dancer, Chubby Checker.

My childhood musical exposure was not limited to listening. I came from a family known for their love of playing instruments and most importantly, singing. We sang at home, at church, and (Yes, really!) in the car. Wherever I went, as a child, music was around me. It was passed down as a gift that I could personally embody with my own voice.

Singing with my mom in the kitchen was my first stage and my second, was in Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship sitting in the pew with my family. Singing with my family seemed to be a natural or instinctual action that brought me a sense of connection and comfort. Singing, without the accompaniment of my family, especially as a solo, felt like a daunting task. In time though, around the age of seven, my pastor asked me to sing a solo for worship on a Wednesday evening.

I was excited by the invitation and chose a favorite familiar tune: In the Garden. In order to prepare for my first church solo, my mom took great care to practice it with me. Once I became confident on the melody, she took to singing the alto part. I worked to memorize all the verses and was finally ready to share my first church solo. The determined Wednesday evening came to pass. Before worship, I even warmed up my voice by practicing the hymn with the church pianist singing,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## THE LIGHT OF SPRINGTIME



*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Katrina Fuller**

There is something fitting about a community gathering in darkness and emerging with more light than when they arrived. This Easter season, that is exactly what **CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services** is inviting the Chautauqua region to do.

clients who is visually impaired, and learn and understand a little bit better what an individual with a visual impairment is confronted with. By navigating a meal without your vision, it gives you an opportunity to understand how your other senses become heightened."

It is a theme that resonates in this season of renewal; the idea that stepping into darkness, even willingly and briefly, can awaken something new. This experiential discovery during the event is paired with the discovery of all the services and supports CBA provides Chautauqua County residents with visual impairment each and every day.

**On April 17, CBA will host its 14th annual Dining in the Dark at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel** in Celoron: a fundraiser that blindfolds guests and guides them through a three-course dinner, asking them to rely on touch, taste, smell and hearing to navigate an experience most people have never had to think about. The concept is simple. The impact, organizers say, is anything but.

"Fourteen years ago, Dining in the Dark was started to bring awareness to CBA programs in the community, as well as to educate participants on vision loss," said Megan Maynard, CBA executive director. "It was an opportunity for participants to step into the world of one of our

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

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# THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN



## TUESDAY, MARCH 31

### **The Cinema Series: Solo Mio** **7:30 PM**

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia  
For Info: [fredopera.org](http://fredopera.org)

## THURSDAY, APRIL 2

### **Fireside Lecture Series: The History of the Grange** | 6 PM

Patterson Library | Westfield  
For Info: [info@cchsmcclurg.org](mailto:info@cchsmcclurg.org)

### **Craft & Sip Group** **7 PM-10 PM**

Labyrinth Press Company | Jamestown  
For Info: [Labyrinth Press Company Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/LabyrinthPressCompany)



## FRIDAY, APRIL 3

### **First Friday: Raptor Migration at the Ripley Hawk Watch** | 11 AM-12 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown  
For Info: [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org)

### **Movies at The Reg: Goat** **7 PM**

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown  
For Info: [reglenna.com](http://reglenna.com)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 3 & SATURDAY, APRIL 4

### **Audubon Lights** | 8:15 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown  
For Info: [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 4

### **Easter Egg Hunt** | 10 AM

Lucille Ball Memorial Park | Celeron  
For Info: [facebook.com/CeloronNY14720](https://www.facebook.com/CeloronNY14720)

## Bemus Point Easter Egg Hunt

**10:30 AM**

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House  
For Info: Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House Facebook Page

## Easter Egg Hunt

**11 AM-1 PM**

Hideaway Bay Resort | Silver Creek  
For Info: [hideawaybayresortny.com](http://hideawaybayresortny.com)

## Bunny Hop Around

**11 AM-3 PM**

Moore Park, Patterson Library, & Lakeshore Center | Westfield  
For Info: 716-753-6043

## Rumble

**2 PM-8 PM**

Northwest Arena | Jamestown

For Info: 716-237-0668

## SUNDAY, APRIL 5

### **Easter Brunch** | 10 AM-2 PM

Pearl City Hops | Jamestown

For Info: 716-488-7227

## ART AND NATURE BLOOM IN NEW EXHIBITION AT THE ROGER TORY PETERSON INSTITUTE



Contributed by

### **Roger Tory Peterson Institute**

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) will present a compelling new juried exhibition exploring the connection between art, nature, and environmental stewardship. Titled *Art that Matters to the Planet: Beyond Beauty*, the exhibition celebrates the world of wildflowers, while touching on concerns such as pollination, habitat loss and climate change. It opens to the public on March 29 and runs through September 27, 2026

This year's theme for their annual Art That Matters to the Planet exhibition was inspired by Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to Wildflowers*. This exhibition focuses on flowering plants across the country and what they can teach us through the dual lenses of science and art. More than just a pretty face, flowers play vital roles ecologically, biologically, culturally, and even spiritually.

RTPI received nearly 500 submis-

sions from artists around the world in response to its call for entries, which was distributed to national and international botanical art societies and museums in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. From this pool, 57 works were selected, representing artists from more than a dozen U.S. states as well as Canada, Italy, the Czech Republic, Malaysia, and India.

The exhibition showcases an extraordinary diversity of media, including watercolor, acrylic, oil, and gouache paintings; silver works; origami vitreographs; paper sculpture; vellum works; video installations; photography; prints; stoneware; fiber art; carved wood; embroidery; linocuts; mixed media; cast bioplastics; and innovative pieces created from electroformed oxidized seeds and regionally specific wildflower seedballs.

A unique feature of this year's exhibition is an installation that will be shared at the Audubon Community Nature Center, Chautauqua Insti-

tution and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy. Artist Katie Ries has prepared satellite displays for her seedball work. This interactive piece lets viewers trade a small token for a native wildflower seedball that the recipient is then encouraged to throw into their own yard or some other suitable place to germinate. This creative artwork will also be displayed in the lobby of RTPI.

CEO Stacey Otte-Demangate shared her enthusiasm for their new exhibition, saying "The annual Art that Matters to the Planet exhibition is a fabulous way to share the work and vision of Roger Tory Peterson while showcasing the creative efforts of today's contemporary artists who share his values and concerns for the natural world. This year's show, *Beyond Beauty*, is one of the most diverse and creative ones yet. You don't want to miss it!"



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

*"Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet, especially your family. Be holy."*

~ Mother Teresa

Editorial with Lori Cornell

# NEW LIFE THIS SPRING



*Publisher*  
**Lori Cornell**

**T**hank you to Pastor Tara Eastman of the First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA for her beautiful Lenten Series serving as our "Faith Matters" column for the past six weeks and now culminating in this Easter Edition's cover story. As Pastor Eastman explains, "the good news of Easter brings us the gift of new life, including the gift of people learning to use their voices for the sake of love". She points to John's Gospel Chapter 20 which tells the story of Mary Magdalene, the first person to witness the risen Christ, and she honors Mary's courage to go out and tell, what Christians refer to as, "The Good News of Easter". She describes how Mary's message, which started in a garden, echoed out into the world. Pastor Eastman then pivots to explaining the relevance of Mary's voice in our own lives today and our call to use our voices. The Easter message reminds us to step up, "in our singing, our words and even more in our actions".

Meanwhile, our Editor-in-Chief

Katrina Fuller inspires us as always, in our second cover story this edition, with the meaningful allegory of light and pays due recognition to the Chautauqua Blind Association's critical mission to enable people with visual impairments to be active members of their community. Springtime gives each one of us the opportunity to re-enter into the light of life in its fullest sense - as the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter so too may it be in our own lives and in our interaction with all those around us.

Whether we are Christian or not, this seasonal message of hope in new life is one that may give meaning to us all. So, grab your lilies at your favorite local florist or farm store, pick your soon-blooming daffodils and crocus, and check out Roger Tory Peterson Institute's newest nature exhibit! Color your eggs; fill your baskets, and craft your butter lamb. But most importantly: Find your Voice and be the Light. Our community values and needs each one of you.

May your Springtime be an inspiration and gift to all those whose lives you may touch. Happy Easter!



## CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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# EASTER Trivia



1. What is the name of the full moon tied to Easter's date?
2. Which council standardized Easter's date in 325 AD?
3. Which country influenced the Easter Bunny tradition in America?
4. Which U.S. president is credited with officially opening the White House grounds for the Easter Egg Roll tradition?
5. What food is traditionally eaten during Passover, which often coincides with Easter?
6. Which disciple betrayed Jesus before Easter?
7. Which body of water did Jesus reportedly walk on before Easter?
8. What is the 50-day period after Easter called?
9. Which country holds the world's largest Easter egg?
10. Which event is commemorated on Maundy Thursday?



1. Paschal moon 2. First Council of Nicaea 3. Germany 4. Rutherford B. Hayes 5. Matzah (Unleavened bread) 6. Judas Iscariot 7. Sea of Galilee 8. Easter tide 9. Brazil 10. The Last Supper



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# HOLY WEEK

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**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

## An Easter Song of New Life

*Continued from Front Page*

*I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses*

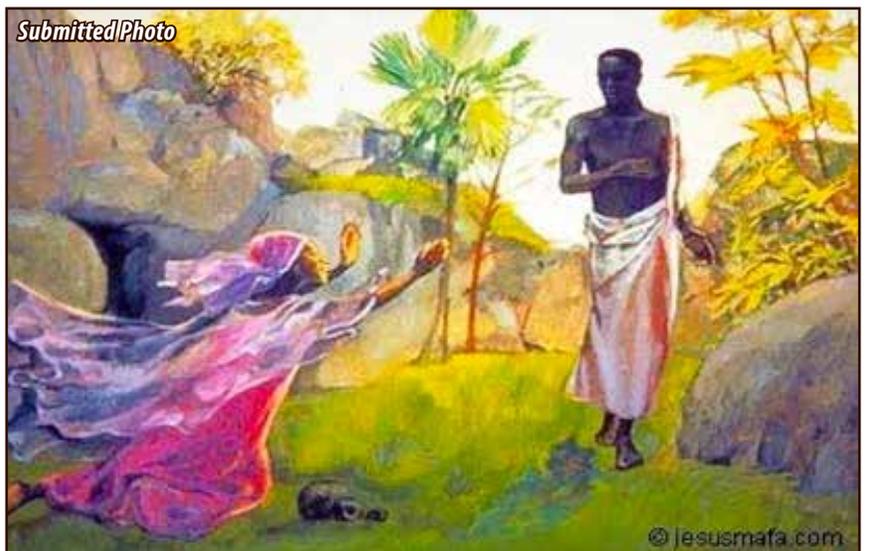
The church members filed in for Wednesday worship. Some came to tell my mom and I how excited they were to hear me sing for special music. As I sat in the pew listening to the pastor preach, my heart began to pound. The reality of singing in public, alone, without the voice of my mom weighed on me. The pastor concluded the sermon, and it was time for me to come forward to sing. The pianist played the rehearsed intro to the hymn, but I missed my starting note. She played the intro again - and I missed my starting point, again. She played the intro a third time, and for the third time no notes came out. My heart was thumping. My face felt hot and tears began to well up in my eyes.

The congregation shifted in their pews, not knowing what to do. The pianist caught my attention and tried the intro a fourth time. From the back of the church, I heard someone sing the first line of the hymn... *I come to the garden alone*, and realized it was my mom singing. She stepped into the middle aisle and nodded at me, giving me my cue to take the next line, and I opened my mouth and sang out... *While the dew is still on the roses!* As I got my musical bearings, my mom smiled. She shifted to her favorite alto part through the first verse and gave me

**About the Art:** JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed into paintings. - Dramatically picturesque, this painting of John's resurrection narrative captures the moment when Mary recognizes Jesus outside the tomb where he was meant to be lying. She has fallen to her knees in joy and worship as she reaches out to touch him. Jesus holds his arm to himself as he commands her not to hold onto him for he "has not yet ascended to the father." Mary's happiness is infectious and stirs in the viewer a similar delight in believing that death does not have the final word. (Vanderbilt University - Lectionary Art Resources)

is here! We've seen through individual stories and scripture how God is always reaching out to humanity to foster hope, peace, joy, and love.

A favorite scripture that inspires my faith is the account of the resurrection of Christ comes from John's Gospel, Chapter 20. This account focuses on Mary Magdalene's experience of seeing the risen Christ in the garden, and His calling for her to use her voice



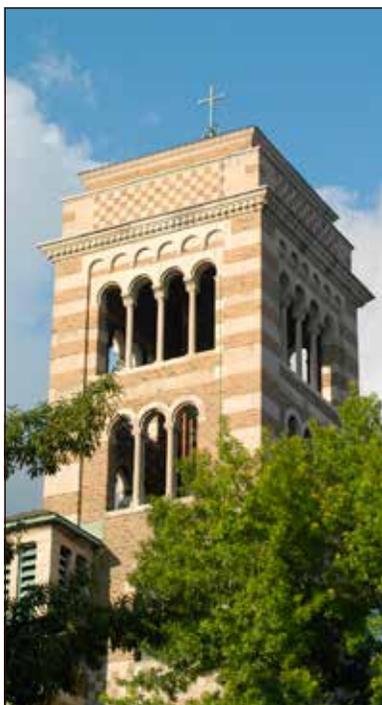
another nod to go ahead to lead the other three verses as the solo we had rehearsed so many times.

My mom not only helped me to learn the hymn I was to sing, but she also helped me to find and use my own voice in a new way - as well as overcome the anxiety of singing on my own. Who would have guessed that many years later, I still think about my mom's actions that Wednesday evening, and how that memory has helped me continue to grow in using my voice; to sing, to write and to preach. Her actions back then continued to be a catalyst to sing and live a new song.

After six weeks of Lenten Life reflections here at the Gazette, the Easter season

to go and tell the disciples of His resurrection. Mary, at the request of Jesus, is the first preacher! Even in the face of disbelief and critique Mary was faithful to carry out the ministry Jesus gave her in the garden. She kept going. Mary told the story of love that would not die - and a love that will win in the end. In her faithfulness, the disciples eventually join her in the ministry of sharing Jesus' good news. The word spreads. The people are given hope of a new life. The church is born. Now, over two thousand years later, we have this beautiful Easter story of love overcoming hate. This indeed is something for us to celebrate. Easter is finally here!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



 **First Presbyterian**  
JAMESTOWN, NY

## Holy Week

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
April 2, 7pm, Bellinger Chapel  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 3, noon, Bellinger Chapel  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 5, 10:30am, Sanctuary

Join us at 9:30am for Continental Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt followed by Worship at 10:30am with Reverend Davis Creach. Special music by the Fredonia Trumpet Trio and our Chancel Choir.

509 PRENDERGAST AVENUE, JAMESTOWN, NY  
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# 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*



### 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!*



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

### 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



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### 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

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## CBA Vision Rehabilitation: Out of the Darkness, a New Kind of Sight

*Continued from Front Page*

CBA has provided free, one-on-one vision rehabilitation services to legally blind residents in the Chautauqua region for more than a century. Its programs include orientation and mobility training, vocational rehabilitation, social casework, vision rehabilitation, Braille services and a youth vision screening program that serves more than 4,500 children each year in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. Clients range in age from toddlers to people over 100 years old.

Maynard said that despite CBA's long history, many community members still do not fully understand what the organization offers, or just how much its clients can accomplish with the right support.

"People may know we are here and in the community to help, but do they really know what our programs help with?" Maynard said. "We love to showcase all of our services. As people leave this event, I hope they take away a little more understanding of what clients and families face every day. And just how amazingly our clients can thrive with our programs."

That thriving, Maynard said, is the light at the heart of the event. Through this experience, the stories of independence built, confidence restored and lives

made fuller through CBA's work are realized in real time.

"This event raises both awareness and support by helping people better understand life with vision loss and the resources available in our community through CBA," she said. "It's a chance to share our real stories and show how our programs build independence, confidence and quality of life for clients, while bringing the community together around a meaningful cause."

Keeping those programs running requires funding from various areas, including events, fundraisers and community support.

"Although we are a state-contracted agency, that contract only covers part of our vision rehabilitation services that we provide to the legally blind," Maynard said. "Private grants, United Way funding and fundraisers like Dining in the Dark are what help us keep our programs running for the people that need them."

The event also highlights the Dr. Timothy Grace Sight for Success Program, a fund managed by CBA and named after the late Dr. Tim Grace, which ensures children identified through screenings can access the eye care they need.



Volunteers from JCC's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program and SUNY Fredonia's Pre-Health Professions Club, as well as many community members and other agency volunteers, will join CBA staff in guiding guests through the evening, a detail Maynard said she takes pride in each year.

"I'd like people to know that Dining in the Dark is about awareness and educating the community, but it is such a fun night," she said. "It is one of my favorite nights of the year and allows us to highlight some of the great work that my staff does with our clients. We have raffles and auctions and a lot of fun throughout the dining room."

Doors open at 5 p.m. for a cash bar, silent and live auctions, a wine pull, T-shirt sales and a 50/50 raffle. Dinner seating begins at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$70 per person. The deadline to purchase tickets or sign up for business sponsorships is April 1. Reservations and sponsorship information are available at [www.cbavision.org](http://www.cbavision.org), by email at [director@cbavision.org](mailto:director@cbavision.org) or by phone at 716-664-6660. Discounted room rates are available at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel.

Those unable to attend may make a tax-deductible donation online or by mail to CBA, 510 W. 5th St., Jamestown, N.Y.



 **CBA**  
Vision Rehabilitation

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from severe vision loss?  
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**Friday,  
April 17**

*Chautauqua Harbor Hotel  
Celoron, New York*

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY  
APRIL 3 - SCAN FOR INFO**



# CCPEG Awards 13 Economic Development Project Grants Totaling \$217,500

*Funding will be used to support projects in various communities across Chautauqua County*

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**Partnership for Economic**  
**Growth**

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) has announced the awardees of its 2026 Economic Growth Fund (EGF) program. The program was created to support economic development projects that focus on revitalization and long-term strategic investment throughout Chautauqua County, consistent with the County's economic development strategic plan. This year, 13 different projects will receive a total of \$217,500 in grant support from CCPEG, which is leveraging total investments of more than \$8.4 million throughout the county.

Projects that received funding this year are located in nine different communities, including Bemus Point, Busti, Dunkirk, Falconer, Jamestown, Lakewood, Mayville, Sherman, and Westfield. Grant awards typically range between \$10,000 and \$20,000; however, requests of up to \$50,000 were considered.

Applicants receiving the largest amount of EGF support for 2026 are the Villages of Mayville and Bemus Point, each of which will receive \$25,000 to support projects related to outdoor recreation. Mayville's funding award will go toward its Kayak Launch project, which has a total project cost of \$100,000. Bemus Point's funding award will go toward its Integrated Trail System project, which has a total cost of \$57,890.

Three other projects each received \$20,000 in funding support. They are

the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation for its Jamestown Meetings and Conferences initiative, the Village of Lakewood for its Hartley Park upgrade project, and the Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center in Mayville for its Expansion Planning & Talent Attraction project.

A total of 38 letters of interest were received as part of the 2026 EGF process, with 31 of those projects being invited to complete and submit an application for funding. Of those 31 applications received, a total of \$872,234 in total EGF support was being requested for projects that had a combined value of over \$11.7 million. The final 13 projects were selected based on a number of criteria, including: readiness, economic impact, leverage potential, geographic distribution, alignment with the county's economic development strategic plan, and input from CCPEG's public-private Advisory Board.

"This year's EGF process was especially competitive with over two dozen projects certainly being worthy of support. This made it extremely challenging for

our grant committee to select this year's grant recipients," explained Josiah Lamp, CCPEG Program Manager. "While we wish we had additional funding in our EGF budget to support more projects, we are still extremely grateful to provide this resource to eligible applicants."

Funding for the program was provided by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (RCWJF). In November 2024, the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), the umbrella organization of CCPEG, authorized the acceptance of a three-year funding award from RCWJF, totaling \$1.625 Million. This grant award not only extends and enhances CCPEG's administrative capacity, it provides much-needed local-matching dollars through the EGF program to support catalytic economic and community development projects.

Since the EGF was first established in 2022, more than \$1.3 million has been allocated to 81 unique projects with a total combined value of more than \$31.2 million.

"For the past five years, CCPEG has supported a multitude of high-priority projects across Chautauqua County, each of which is intended to spur economic development in our communities and across the entire county," said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CCPEG Advisory Board Co-Chair. "We once again look forward to realizing the impact that this funding will have on the host communities, as well as the entire Chautauqua County region."

More information about the funding program is available at [CHQPartnership.org](http://CHQPartnership.org).



**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY**  
**PARTNERSHIP**  
 for Economic Growth

## 2026 CCPEG EGF Recipients

Project Name	Applicant	Total
CLCCC Child Care Expansion Planning & TA Project	Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center	\$20,000
Memorial Park Public Amphitheater	City of Dunkirk	\$16,250
Dunkirk Lighthouse	Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum	\$10,000
Jamestown Meetings and Conferences Initiative	Jamestown Renaissance Corporation	\$20,000
Concession Expansion	Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown	\$7,250
Film CHQ Initiative	Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, Inc.	\$7,500
Busti Water Infrastructure Improvement Project	Town of Busti	\$18,000
Barcelona Beach Waterfront Park	Town of Westfield	\$18,500
Village of Bemus Point Integrated Trail System Project	Village of Bemus Point	\$25,000
Davis Park Live	Village of Falconer	\$15,000
Village of Lakewood Hartley Park	Village of Lakewood	\$20,000
Mayville Kayak Launch	Village Of Mayville	\$25,000
Downtown Streetscape Conceptual Design	Village of Sherman	\$15,000



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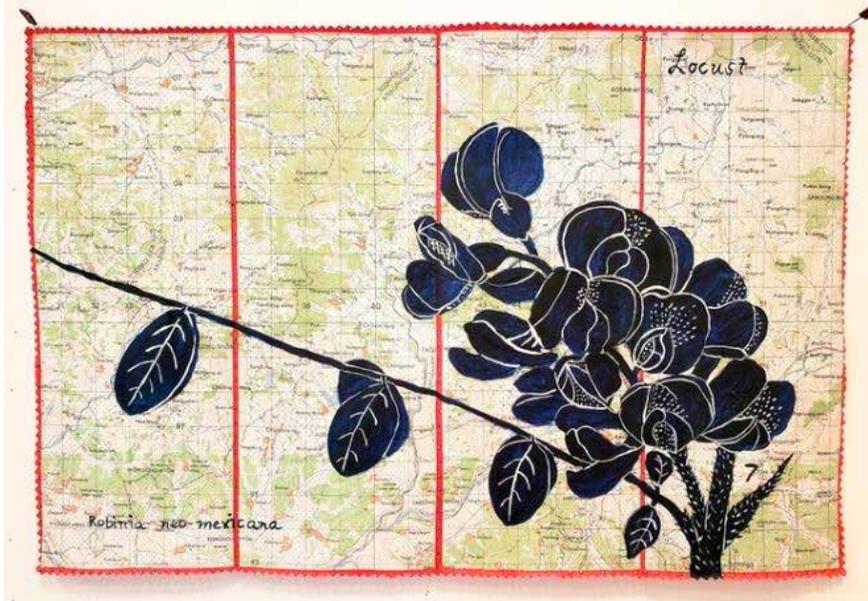


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## Art and Nature Bloom in New Exhibition at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

Continued from Page 2



Holly Sumner. *Locust*. Acrylic on map on cloth, 2021. Courtesy of the Artist.

### Distinguished Guest Juror

This year's exhibition was juried by internationally recognized botanical artist Heeyoung Kim, whose exquisitely detailed paintings of native wildflowers promote public awareness of native plants and conservation. Kim is the only living artist represented by the renowned Joel Oppenheimer Gallery, a natural history art gallery in downtown Chicago.

### Opening Reception

An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 28, 5 pm to 7 pm and will include Guest juror Heeyoung Kim will be in attendance. Kim is a wildflower painter who contributes to public awareness about native plants and nature conservation.

The reception is free for RTPI members and \$12 for the general public. Your ticket includes full access to the museum, charcuterie, and live music by Jade Giambrone. The RTPI bar offers a selection of wine, beer, cider, and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase.

### About the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute is dedicated to celebrating the legacy of naturalist Roger Tory Peterson and advancing the appreciation and protection of the natural world through art, education, and conservation initiatives.

For more information, images, media inquiries, or interview requests, please contact Stacey Otte-Demangate, CEO, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute at 716-665-2473



## CHQ SPORTS RAP with David Rice

# Sabres Hoping Fairy Tale Season a reality

I first saw her at a Bills tailgate party four years ago she was very popular. I asked her if she would like to go out with me some time. She looked at me, smiled and said, she would go out with me "when pigs fly, dogs talk or when the Buffalo Sabres go to the playoffs".

I saw her again several times at different events over the last few years. Each time I would ask her out and her answer was always the same "when pigs fly yada yada and when the Sabres go to the playoffs."

Well I saw her last week at a Sabres game. I smiled and said, "are you excited about our upcoming date?"



Well the Buffalo Sabres are headed to the playoffs as the Cinderella story in the NHL this season, and fortunately the story will not end in early April, which is usually the case. The Sabre's are the best team in the Atlanta Division, and they are to end a 14 year layoff drought the longest in NHL history and the second longest of any majors sports team. The Sabres set a new franchise record with an 11-game winning streak on the road. You want to know the significant because it means they earned at least a point away from home a

notable achievement in the NHL. It also shows the teams ability to perform even when they are not in front of their home crowd.

The last time Buffalo reached the playoffs was 2011 when they lost a 7 -game series to the Philadelphia Flyers in the first round. The only U.S. team with a longer playoff drought than the Sabres is the New York Jets at 15 years. That's not the kind of company you want to associate with.

The NHL playoffs typically start in Mid-April but the exact date can vary from year to year. For the current year the Stanley Cup Playoffs are scheduled to begin April 16 2026.

So, the city of Buffalo will experience playoff hockey this spring and judging by the way they have been playing red hot they could be busy on the ice for quite awhile.

The Sabres have several outstanding players including Tage Thompson, Jack Eichel and Jeff Skinner. Thompson helped lead the U.S. Olympic team to the Gold Medal scoring three goals. Finally, fans hoping to see the Sabres in Buffalo tickets will range from \$25.00 to \$200.00.

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## First Lutheran Church

120 Chandler Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

### Accepting Applications for Two Part Time Positions: Financial and Office Administrators

At First Lutheran Church we are called and commissioned by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world, our community, and our neighborhood, loving our neighbor as our Lord first loved us.

The congregation of First Lutheran Church seeks to be a positive force for change in Jamestown.

**Compensation for these positions will be commensurate with education and experience. Position includes benefits.**

#### Financial Administrator

##### Requirements and Responsibilities:

- Experience in bookkeeping and accounting with a strong history and understanding of financial reports and general accounting practices
- Proficient in accounting and spreadsheet software (i.e. QuickBooks, Microsoft Excel) and a willingness to learn church financial management software
- Pay bills and invoices according to a payment schedule that takes full advantage of terms and discounts
- Attend monthly evening council meeting

Full job descriptions are available on our Facebook page

Submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and three professional references to:

**Personnel Committee  
First Lutheran Church  
PO BOX 484  
Falconer, NY 14701**

#### Office Administrator

##### Requirements and Responsibilities:

- Proficient in Microsoft Office and web based communication
- Print weekly worship bulletins using congregational and denominational resources
- Create a monthly newsletter and distribute to congregation by mail, email, and social media accounts
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills
- Attend monthly evening council meeting



## Early Bird Registration Opens for the 2026 Hope & Healing Conference of WNY

### Contributed by Chautauqua County

Early bird registration is now open for the 2026 Hope & Healing Conference of Western New York, a two-day event bringing together professionals, advocates, families, and community members for learning, connection, and inspiration around mental health and substance use prevention.

Those who register by **April 10, 2026** will receive **\$10 off** the regular registration price.

This year's conference will expand to a two-day format, centered around the theme "The Power of Story." You may register for just Day One or both Day One and Day Two.

**Day One: The Power of Story** will focus on professional learning and powerful storytelling through keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and Hope Talks, short, impactful presentations that highlight personal and professional experiences related to mental health, suicide prevention and awareness, substance use, treatment, recovery, and prevention, grief and loss.

**Day Two: Camp Hope: Where Stories Grow** will open the event to the broader community with a family-friendly experience featuring resource tables, interactive activities, youth engagement, and opportunities for individuals and families to connect with local organizations and services that support wellness and recovery.

Organizations and agencies interested in sharing resources with attendees are invited to host a table during the conference. Groups wishing to participate must complete the conference registration form and select the tabling option within the registration process. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to take advantage of the early Bird window.

Early bird registration and tabling registration are now open!

To register or learn more about the conference, visit: [HopeandHealingConference.com](http://HopeandHealingConference.com)

Additional information about speakers, sessions, and conference programming will be announced in the coming weeks. Stay up to date by visiting our conference website, [HopeandHealingConference.com](http://HopeandHealingConference.com) or Facebook event page.

## Upcoming at Audubon: Lights, First Friday, Photo Cub, Mud Camps



This weekend is your last chance to experience Audubon Community Nature Center's Audubon Lights, including Luna Solaria's fire, LED and black light dancing. Friday's live music is by Gavin Paterniti; Saturday's is Bill Ward. First Friday features Devin Banning on "Raptor Migration at the Ripley Hawk Watch" at 11 a.m. The newly relaunched Audubon Photography Club holds its second meeting on Saturday at 10 a.m. The registration deadlines for your 4-12-year-olds for Mud Camp are this Thursday for the Monday, April 6 camp and next Monday for the Wednesday, April 8 camp. For details on all these, call (716) 569-2345 or go to [AudubonCNC.org/Events](http://AudubonCNC.org/Events). The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

## THE RESOURCE CENTER CONDUCTING FOOD DRIVE

The Resource Center in Dunkirk is conducting a food drive to benefit the Fredonia Presbyterian Church food pantry.



Participants in the Building Community Through Service class at TRC's "Gateways" Personalized Recovery Oriented Services Program are accepting donations of non-perishable food. Anyone wishing to donate can bring food to Building A at TRC's 186 Lake Shore Drive West location. Donations will be accepted from 8:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday. The food drive will run until April 16.

For more information, phone 716-366-7660, extension 70118 (Ke-Khee) or extension 70119 (Jaala).

## Explore the Path to Adulthood at the 2026 "Real" Game of Life Resource Fair

Submitted Photo



TEEN RESOURCE FAIR

### Contributed by Chautauqua County

Uncover the gateway to unleashing your full potential and seamlessly transitioning into adulthood at The "Real" Game of Life Resource Fair, where Chautauqua County youth will discover a wealth of invaluable resources and unwavering support awaiting them.

The Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services, in collaboration with Gustavus Adolphus (GA) Family Services, YWCA Jamestown, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), will host this year's "Real" Game of Life Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 8, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the GA Family Services gymnasium.

Geared towards Chautauqua County youth ages 14 to 21, this FREE event is designed to assist young adults in the community as they navigate the often-complex path to independence. The Resource Fair connects attendees with local organizations offering tools and guidance in key areas of adulthood, including employment, education, housing, finance, transportation, healthcare, and more.

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with local agencies, gain

insight through real-life skill-building activities, and explore practical options available throughout the county. As in years past, engaging with vendors earns attendees raffle tickets for chances to win exciting prize baskets.

Attendees who arrive before 12:30 p.m. will be entered into a special door prize drawing for an iPad, case, detachable keyboard valued at \$500.

Previous vendors have included: local banks, SUNY Jamestown Community College (JCC), Job Corps, CHQ Transit, BOCES, Chautauqua Works, Prevention Works, and many others. The 2026 event promises an even broader selection of helpful resources.

Transportation support is available through CHQ Transit. Attendees can find bus schedules and reduced student rates on the CHQ Transit website or by scanning the QR code included on the event flyer.

This event is a joint initiative of the Independent Living (IL) Program at Chautauqua County's Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services, the GA A&R IL Program, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Chautauqua County, and YWCA Jamestown—all united in their mission to empower and uplift local youth.



## Buffalo Broadcasters Association Introduces 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Contributed by  
Buffalo Broadcasters  
Association

Celebrating 30 years of excellence, the Buffalo Broadcasters Association (BBA) announced six 2026 Hall of Fame inductees and three special honorees.

"From historic headlines to everyday human stories, broadcasters have helped tell the story of Western New York while bringing our community closer together," said BBA President Paula D'Amico. "This milestone year honors the professionals whose work informs, inspires, and connects us all."

The 2026 inductees / categories:

### Scott Levin / Television

Scott joined WGRZ-TV in 1998. He co-anchors with 2025 inductee Mary Alice Demler. He has won several Emmy Awards and the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award

### Jon Summers / Radio

Jon joined WKBW-AM in 1974, was the imaging voice of WKBW-TV's Eyewitness News and he served on AM Buffalo as an announcer and segment host, marking a 27-year tenure with the program. He has worked on-air at several other Buffalo radio stations, including WBEN-AM, WBEN-FM (Rock 102), and WECK-AM.

### Sandy Kozel / Out-of-Town

Sandy spent a decade as a news anchor at WGR-AM and reporter for WGRZ-TV. She worked as a correspondent for the AP Radio Network for many years and is still heard on the air as an anchor at WTOP-AM NewsRadio in Washington, D.C.

### Dennis Webster / WNY Broadcaster

Dennis wrapped up a 54 year long career at WJTN in Jamestown in 2024. He covered news and sports along with agriculture as one of Chautauqua County's most trusted voices.

### Bob Koshinski / Management

A four-decade broadcast veteran, Bob has served as Vice-President/General Manager of the Empire Sports Network, all-sports WNSA-FM, and WBBZ-TV. He has been a TV anchor, reporter, videographer, radio host, and executive sports producer.

### Rick Swenson / Behind the Scenes

As a photojournalist, Rick worked at WKBW-TV for 33 years, covering news and sports. He used a hand-cranked film camera when started and transitioned



Dennis Webster  
retired WJTN Jamestown

into the digital news age.

### Diane English / Arts in Broadcasting Award

A Buffalo native, Diane wrote and served as executive producer of the groundbreaking CBS-TV comedy Murphy Brown, earning three Emmy Awards and two Writers Guild of America awards. She began her career at WNET-TV in New York City, working on the "Theatre in America" series.

### Tim Clark / Special Award

Commissioner of the Buffalo Niagara Film Office, Tim oversees film production in Western New York State. He has plays a key role in attracting major motion picture studios and smaller independent productions to Buffalo and Western New York.

### Marilyn Phister / President's Award

Marilyn broke the glass ceiling at WKBW-TV becoming the first woman to serve as a director at the station, producing Rocketship 7, Dialing for Dollars, AM Buffalo, Buffalo Sabres Hockey, and the Variety Club Telethon. Her career took her to Philadelphia where she worked for decades, becoming the executive producer of Programming for WPVI-TV.

The BBA Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2026 on Sept. 17, 2026, at Salvatore's in Depew. Tickets are available at <https://buffalobroadcasters.com>.

Since its founding, the Buffalo Broadcasters Association has celebrated the professionals who defined the sound, style, and substance of Western New York media. As platforms evolve, from radio and television to streaming, podcasting, and digital publishing, the heart of broadcasting remains the same: powerful storytelling and community connection.



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## Local Manufacturers Commend Governor's Efforts To Adjust Climate Legislation and Streamline SEQRA

*Contributed by*  
**Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier**

The Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA), and the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier (MAST), issued a joint statement commending Governor Kathy Hochul's recently proposed adjustments to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

As organizations representing New York's manufacturing sector, we support Governor Hochul's pragmatic approach to address the challenges of implementing the CLCPA and her efforts to better align State policy with the economic realities of enacting the law.

The Governor's proposals include; extending key compliance deadlines to 2030, modernizing emissions accounting methodologies, and establishing an intermediate 2040 emissions milestones are all steps forward and reflect a necessary recalibration of the state's climate strategy.

These adjustments recognize that the original timelines have proven unrealistic and risk imposing unsustainable costs on residents, businesses, and the broader economy.

Success in implementing New York's climate goals depends on implementing a strategy that is grounded in economic viability, technological readiness, and workforce capacity.

### A Call for a Balanced & Inclusive Climate Strategy

BNMA and MAST emphasize that New York's climate roadmap must be built on a foundation that integrates economic development with environmental progress. Key principles include:

- Reconvening the Climate Action Council with meaningful representation from manufacturers and industry experts.
- Prioritizing consumer needs, affordability, and workforce development.
- Advancing climate goals through market-driven, economically sustainable solutions.
- Supporting an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, including advanced nuclear, natural gas, and hydrogen.
- Treating manufacturers as global climate investors and critical partners in building clean energy supply chains.

### Addressing Core Economic and Energy Priorities

The organizations stress that state policy must ensure:

- Affordability for residents and competitiveness for businesses.
- Reliability and resiliency of the energy system.
- Continued use of natural gas as a base fuel for energy production and a bridge fuel toward alternative energy options.

- Strategic supply chain and technology development to support the transition to a cleaner economy.
- Alignment and coordination of funding resources to enable businesses to innovate, invest, and grow.

### Policy Positions

BNMA and MAST also reaffirm their positions on key policy issues:

- Support for advanced nuclear technology as a critical zero-emission energy source
- Opposition to the NY Heat Act due to concerns over regulatory overreach and cost impacts
- Concerns regarding a cap-and-invest program and its disruption to manufacturing competitiveness

### Support for SEQRA Reform and Infrastructure Development

The organizations commend the Governor's proposed SEQRA reforms aimed at accelerating permitting for critical infrastructure, including clean energy and advanced nuclear projects.

These reforms—focused on streamlined reviews, clear timelines, and accountability—are essential to building a reliable, zero-emission energy backbone for New York.

### Moving Forward

The organization affirmed that New York has an opportunity to lead

in climate innovation while strengthening its manufacturing base. By embracing a balanced approach that prioritizes affordability, reliability, and economic growth, we can achieve meaningful environmental progress without compromising our competitiveness.

The BNMA and MAST look forward to working with Governor Hochul, state leaders, and stakeholders to ensure the CLCPA evolves into a strategy that works for all New Yorkers.

### About the BNMA & MAST

The Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA) and the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier (MAST) are united in a strategic partnership to strengthen the regional manufacturing economy and advance shared priorities for growth, innovation, and competitiveness. Together, we leverage our combined networks, resources, and expertise to support manufacturers of all sizes with the talent, tools, and insights needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving global economy. Guided by a shared vision of a thriving, future-ready manufacturing ecosystem, our organizations are committed to driving economic prosperity and creating lasting opportunities across Western and Southern New York.



## An Easter Song of New Life

*Continued from Page 4*

Think back to the story of singing my first solo in church. The hymn, *In the Garden*, was written in remembrance of John 10. The hymn tells Mary's story of finding and using her voice to preach the good news of Christ and was (with my mom's help) a catalyst for finding my voice - first as a singer and now as a preacher/writer. (Thanks, Mom!)

If Mary Magdalene hadn't used her voice, would we even know about Easter? Would the church even exist? Would I have ever attempted to sing a solo of *In the Garden*?

**No matter what, Mary kept telling the story of Jesus - who called us to love our neighbors, to feed the hungry and to nurture love in the world.**

The good news of Easter brings us the gift of new life, including the gift of people learning to use their voices for the sake of love.

I give thanks for Mary's proclamation and her faithfulness in sharing the Easter good news. Her message, which started in the garden, echoed out into the world. By the proclamation of Mary Magdalene and the disciples, and in 2000 years of the church being the church - the message of Easter is here among us. They used their voices and now it is our turn to use ours - *in our singing, our words and even more in our actions.*

In many Christian denominations, the following phrase, "Christ is risen! Christ

### Question to Ponder:

1. How can I use my voice to proclaim messages of love, mercy, and forgiveness?
2. If you had the ear of the world, what message of new life would you proclaim?
3. Who needs to hear your voice - as a word or song of new life, hope and love? Act this week to reach out and give them some encouragement.

*is risen indeed!*" is proclaimed on Easter Sunday and is a reminder that love has overcome death. For me, this phrase is a reminder to remember the example of Mary Magdalene's commitment to life a life punctuated with courage, compassion and a commitment to use her voice to proclaim the power of love.

While our religious perspectives on the Easter story may vary, it is essential we find ways to harmonize our diverse and varied voices and work together to proclaim hope, love and new life. Take courage. Spring is here. Your song of new life and love - must be sung!

**Prayer:** God, we give thanks for the people who encourage us to grow in our gifts as well as in love. Help us become encouragers of others. Help us courageously sing Easter songs of new life in the world around us. **AMEN**

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

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# America 250 Takes Center Stage at 2026 Chautauqua County History Expo

Save the Date Announced; Vendors, Exhibitors, & Sponsors Invited to Participate



Contributed by  
Chautauqua County  
Historian's Office

The Chautauqua County Historian's Office is pleased to announce the **Second Annual Chautauqua County History Expo**, scheduled for **Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, at the **Town of Chautauqua Community Municipal Building (Old Mayville High School)**, located at **2 Academy Street in Mayville, NY**.

Following a successful inaugural year, the 2026 History Expo will be larger, **more interactive, and expanded in scope** as part of the nationwide **America 250** commemoration, marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. **Meet local historians, explore their exhibits, and connect with the people dedicated to preserving Chautauqua County's history.** Designed to be family friendly, the event offers residents and visitors an expanded opportunity to experience the rich and diverse history of Chautauqua County through exhibits, speakers, music, reenactments, and hands-on activities.

"This year's expo is about more than just looking back — it's about understanding how Chautauqua County fits into the broader American story as we approach the nation's 250th anniversary," said **Norman Carlson, Chautauqua County Historian and chair of the History Expo committee.** "We're expanding the event to reflect that milestone, with more exhibits, more programming, and more ways for families to engage with history."

### America 250 Focus and Featured Programming

The 2026 History Expo will place a special emphasis on **America 250**, highlighting Chautauqua County's

role in the American Story, from early American history, including the Revolutionary War era and the War of 1812, to more recent exhibits. Featured speakers will include:

- **Norman Carlson**, Chautauqua County Historian  
*Chautauqua County Revolutionary War: Things You Didn't Know*
- **Traci Langworthy**, Interim Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, SUNY JCC  
*Chautauqua County in the War of 1812*
- **Paul Fardink**, National Society Sons of the American Revolution  
*Chautauqua County Revolutionary War Veterans and Burial Sites*

Music will also be featured throughout the day, including a performance by the **Jamestown Harmony Express**, coming off a national appearance in **Washington, D.C. on July 4, 2026**, as part of America 250 celebrations.

### Family-Friendly Activities and Interactive Experiences

The History Expo is designed for all ages and will feature:

- **Children's history-focused activities**, including invisible ink, secret message code, and "Revolutionary War spy" activities
- A themed **photo booth by Bow Tie Photo Booths**
- **Historical reenactments** and re-enactors in period dress
- **Interactive exhibits and demonstrations**

Attendees are encouraged to **dress in red, white, and blue or in historical attire** to help celebrate America 250 and bring history to life.

### Call for Exhibitors and Historical Organizations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



## CHAMBER CORNER



Bob Lingle



Nichole Eckman

## CHQ Chamber Announces Two Staff Appointments

Article Contributed by  
**Daniel J. Heitzenrater**  
Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
President and CEO

The CHQ Chamber has two staff members transitioning into new positions. Effective April 1, Bob Lingle will move into the role of Director of Marketing and Communications, and Nichole Eckman will become Director of Membership Development.

Bob Lingle came to the CHQ Chamber fifteen months ago to fill a vacancy as Director of Membership Development. Since that time, he has overseen critical work around Chamber membership and sponsorships.

Bob is also the owner of Good Neighbor Bookstore in Lakewood and has spent many years working as a communications consultant as well as a bookstore manager. He has a background in marketing, sales, social media, public relations, and video production and holds an MA in Integrated Marketing from St. Bonaventure University and a BA in Communications from SUNY Fredonia.

Nichole has been Office Administrator with the CHQ Chamber since last fall, managing the ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card program as well as sales of Live CHQ gift baskets, overseeing the administrative functions of the chamber office, and helping local businesses set up ribbon cuttings.

Nichole is also the owner of Country Charm Boutique in Frewsburg. She previously worked as Service Manager for Dave Warren Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and for Shults Hyundai. She also worked for the Chautauqua County Board of Elections. She holds a Certificate in Office Administration from Jamestown Business College.

CHQ Chamber President and CEO Daniel Heitzenrater said, "We are so

fortunate to have two qualified people already on staff to move into these positions. Bob has already done some social media and video work for us and looks forward to doing even more communication and marketing work for the CHQ Chamber. Nichole brings an extensive background in customer service to her new role along with a demonstrated commitment to the services and resources offered by the Chamber."

Bob Lingle noted, "I am eager to use my skills in the position of Director of Marketing and Communications for the CHQ Chamber. Working with our members in the past year has been rewarding and has also demonstrated that we need to keep finding new ways to communicate with local businesses and with the community."

Nichole Eckman added, "Working for the Chamber for the past several months has helped me get to know some of our member businesses and I look forward to working in new ways with them as I transition to Director of Membership Development. I am excited to work with our local businesses to help provide a variety of resources and opportunities for them."

The CHQ Chamber is a countywide business association whose mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

### Business Builder Workshop: Company Culture

The CHQ Chamber will present its next Business Builder Workshop on Wednesday, April 8 at the SUNY Fredonia Center for Innovation and Economic Development. With a focus on company culture, this session will be held from 9-10:30 am.

This workshop will focus on how compa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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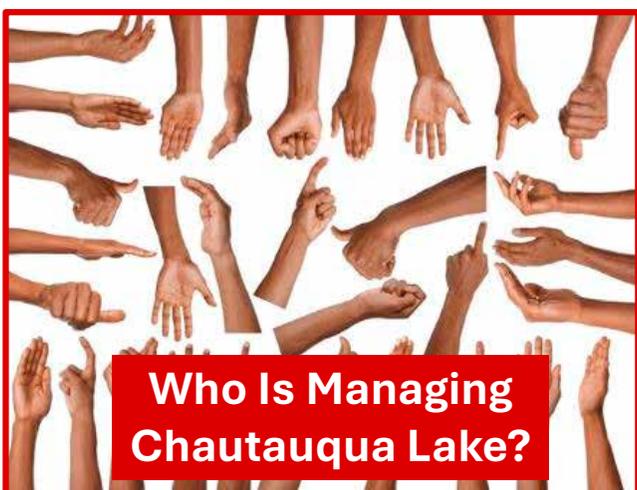
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## Busti Five Corners Community Church Announces Easter Worship Service and Family Egg Hunt

*Free public event celebrates Easter with worship, activities, and refreshments for all ages*

*Contributed by*

**Busti Five Corners  
Community Church**

Busti Five Corners Community Church will host a community Easter celebration on Sunday, April 5, 2026, featuring a worship service at 10:30 AM followed by a family and community Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 AM. The event is free and open to the public, with all community members warmly welcomed to attend and participate in the day's festivities.

The Easter worship service will honor the resurrection of Christ and invite attendees into a time of spiritual reflection, celebration, and community fellowship. The service provides an opportunity for families

and individuals to gather together in worship and renew their faith during this special holiday. Following the conclusion of the worship service, families and children of all ages are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds, offering fun, excitement, and cherished memories for the entire family.

Each child attending the egg hunt will receive a free Easter toy as a special gift to commemorate the occasion. Complimentary refreshments will be provided to all guests throughout the event, ensuring a welcoming and enjoyable experience for visitors of all ages. The event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, all activities will move indoors to ensure the comfort and safety of attendees.

## Chamber Corner

*Continued from Page 12*

ny culture shapes its employee engagement, business success, and community perception. Discover how intentional culture-building, rooted in values, leadership, and connection, can help you attract and retain top talent strengthen your team, and create a workplace where people truly want to be.

Our panelists for this workshop will be Joe Sanfilippo of Sanfilippo Solutions and Zac Hnatyszyn of The Tanglewood Group. These local professionals will share real-world examples of how culture comes to life in their organizations, and influences everything from decision-making to employee involvement and community engagement. This workshop will be perfect for businesses and nonprofit organizations.

As with all CHQ Chamber events there will be time for networking and discussion. This workshop is free for CHQ Chamber members. A \$10 registration fee applies for nonmembers. Workshop sponsors are LaBella Associates, Media One Radio Group, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and State University of New York at Fredonia. Please reserve your spot today through our online calendar at [www.chqchamber.org](http://www.chqchamber.org).

### 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](http://www.chqchamber.org).



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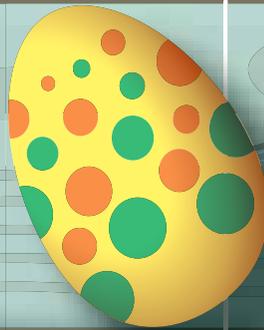
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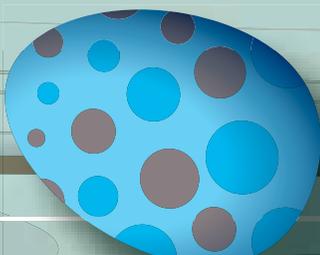
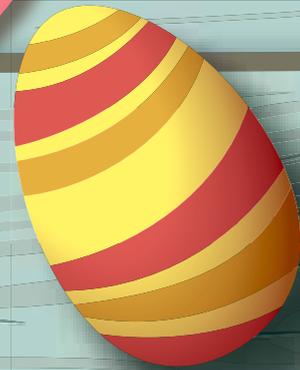
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**HOW TO MAXIMIZE THE TAX BENEFITS OF DONATING TO CHARITY**

*Contributed by Metro Creative*

People generally make charitable donations out of a selfless desire to help those in need. Indeed, Investopedia notes that charitable organizations survive primarily on donations. Without the financial contributions of donors, many charitable organizations and nonprofits would be incapable of meeting their missions.

Donors may make charitable contributions to help others, but there's no shame in taking advantage of the tax benefits associated with donating. Laws governing the tax benefits associated with charitable donations can vary from year to year, so it's best that donors stay on top of the rules, particularly if they plan to prepare their own returns in April. Charitable individuals can keep these strategies on maximizing the tax benefits of donations in mind as they prepare to support their favorite charities.

- **Do the math before donating.** No donation is too small to help a worthy cause, but donors who want the best of both worlds should do a little math prior to deciding how much to donate. Charitable donations beneath a certain dollar threshold may not make a difference in terms of deductions when it comes time to file a return. Donors who know the deduction thresholds may be able to reduce their tax liability by donating a little more than they initially intended, a scenario that benefits both charitable organizations and taxpayers alike.
- **Keep digital records and receipts.** Even if a donation qualifies for a deduction, taxpayers can only claim it if they keep records of their contributions. Organizations on the receiving end of donors' generosity may provide proof to donors who lost their original receipts, but that process can take time, particularly if taxpayers wait until April to prepare their returns. When donating to charity, request digital receipts of all contributions, as these are harder to lose and easily accessible come tax prep season.
- **Work with a financial planner.** As noted, the tax laws governing charitable donations can change from year to year, and some of those changes may be subtle. That's why it can benefit donors to hire a seasoned financial planner, ideally before making donations. Financial professionals can advise prospective donors about donation strategies that will earn them the most significant tax deductions. Some donations help donors avoid capital gains taxes, while others may not

Donors may not give to charity with tax deductions in mind. But there's no shame in maximizing the tax benefits associated with supporting a worthy cause.

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# Business of the Week

Celebrating Local Businesses & Giving them the Spotlight!

## HAE JUDE CUSTOM SIGNS AND APPAREL: NEW LOCATION, SAME DEDICATION



Editor-in-Chief

**Katrina Fuller**



1040 Routes 5 & 20 Irving, NY

716-934-4840

[haejude.com](http://haejude.com)



While the storefront location may have changed, Hae Jude Custom Signs and Apparel continues to offer the same great services and products that their 25-year reputation boasts. Nicki Nearhoof, store owner, said the new storefront at 1040 Route 5 & 20 in Irving offers more visibility and a welcoming spot for customers to visit.

“Our move to the new locations was driven by a desire to better serve our customers while also improving how we operate behind the scenes,” Nearhoof said. “We wanted a customer-friendly space that feels more convenient and welcoming—somewhere our customers can easily access and truly enjoy their experience with us.”

The move also included a new production space, which allows Hae Jude the ability to streamline their operations. Nearhoof mentioned that this background improvement continues to benefit customers by enhancing process efficiency and consistency.

“This balance between front-facing experience and back-end improvement reflects our continued mission: to deliver high-quality work while creating a thoughtful, customer-centered environment,” she said. “We’re excited to have a fresh new space that’s more convenient, easier to spot and truly welcoming. Behind the scenes, our added production facility will help us streamline operations and work more efficiently, allowing us to deliver an even better experience than in the past.” Yet, despite all the changes, the business continues to stick to its roots. Nearhoof hopes customers new and old can appreciate the improvements while still experiencing the excellent quality and professionalism Hae Jude has been dedicated to over the years. The shop continues to offer decorated apparel,

signage, logo design and custom-built online apparel stores.

“I’m most excited to showcase the creativity and quality in our custom apparel, premium print production, and new capabilities in large-format and branded materials that help clients stand out,” she said.

Nearhoof bought the well-established business six years ago from its founder, Judy Hilliker, and has enjoyed continuing the legacy forward ever since.

“Carrying that history forward while also evolving the brand in my own voice has been both an honor and a responsibility,” she said. “On one hand, there’s been an incredible sense of connection and support. This community values creativity, quality and intention—things that are at the heart of Hae Jude. I’ve had the opportunity to connect with customers and other small business owners who genuinely want to see each other succeed, and that kind of encouragement has made a huge difference. I’ve navigated a number of challenges throughout the process, growing with the support of my family

and community. I feel grateful to be on this journey.”

Community certainly means a lot to Nearhoof, her husband, Tim, who also owns a business, and her twin daughters, as they have chosen to call Chautauqua County their home. She said the Hanover area offers a chance to “be part of a close-knit community where relationships, trust and local impact truly matter.” Her family is dedicated to adhering to their shared values of hard work, faith and integrity through their businesses and community efforts.

“To me, it means more than just a physical location—it’s about contributing to the character and well-being of the area, understanding the needs of the people who live there and becoming a reliable, positive presence,” she said. “Moving forward, I hope to connect with the local community by actively listening and engaging—whether that’s through participating in local events, supporting nearby businesses or collaborating with community organizations. Building genuine relationships is important to me, so I would aim to create opportunities for open dialogue, involvement and



Nicki Nearhoof  
Owner of Hae Jude

mutual support. Ultimately, I’d like to grow alongside the community and contribute in ways that feel meaningful and lasting.”

Hae Jude Custom Signs and Apparel is located at 1040 Route 5 & 20 in Irving, and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information, visit [www.haejude.com](http://www.haejude.com), email Nicki at [nicki@haejude.com](mailto:nicki@haejude.com) or give her a call at 716-934-4840.

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## AUTO INTERIOR MAINTENANCE AND SPRING CLEANING TIPS

Courtesy of  
*Metro Creative*

Auto interior maintenance and cleaning tips Loading Preview Image... A number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

- Remove any trash. Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.
- Vacuum the interior. Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning. Pay attention to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don't have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.
- Scrub floor mats. Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm

water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be shampooed using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry. All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.

- Clean the upholstery. Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone, which can stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

- Address glass surfaces. Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a store-bought glass cleaner on these surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

- Consider lingering odors. If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air filter may need to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell.

A thorough deep cleaning can be done at least once a month to keep a vehicle's interior fresh and clean. However, keeping up with interior cleaning and maintenance by doing small jobs regularly will reduce the need for routine deep cleaning.

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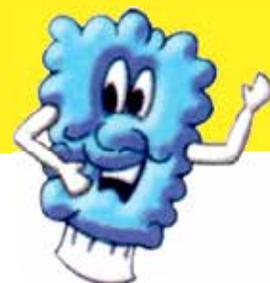
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## SMALL STEPS TO TAKE THIS SPRING TO EXTEND A CAR'S LIFE EXPECTANCY

Courtesy of  
**Metro Creative**

Vehicles continue to get more expensive. The automotive experts at Kelley Blue Book indicate the average American car buyer paid \$50,080 for a new vehicle in September 2025, which was the first time the average price for a new car ever topped \$50,000. More drivers are looking for ways to push their current vehicles past the 200,000-mile mark to save money.

According to S&P Global Mobility, the average age of a vehicle on the road hit a record high of 12.8 years in 2025. Although major mechanical failures concern drivers of older vehicles, it's actually much smaller things that can affect vehicle longevity. There are small actions anyone can take to significantly extend a car's life.

- Use caution on cold starts. When a vehicle sits, oil settles at the bottom of the engine. To help combat damage that can occur, drivers can wait about 30 seconds before shifting into gear, as this will allow the oil pump to circulate the lubricant to the upper valve train and help prevent extra wear on the engine. Modern fuel-injected engines warm up faster and more safely by being driven gently rather than sitting still, so it's not necessary to idle for a long while with the vehicle in the driveway, says Smart Motors Toyota. In fact, long idles actually can strip away oil.
- Treat fluids wisely. According to EngineeringCivil.org, checking and replacing fluids is cheaper than replacing hardware. Recent data suggests that consistent oil changes can add between 50,000 and 100,000 miles to an engine's lifespan. It's important to follow a vehicle's manual for time-based intervals for fluid replacement, rather than just going by mileage.

- Drive faster on occasion. Oil will never get hot enough to evaporate internal condensation for those who primarily drive short distances under 10 miles. Once every few weeks, it's important for drivers to drive at least 20 minutes at highway speeds to help get rid of contaminants.

- Drive smoothly on roads. Aggressive driving will not just burn more gas; such driving also creates heat, which can impact longevity. According to Kia, hard braking generates immense heat that can warp rotors and stress suspension bushings. Likewise, it's key to ease into acceleration. Rapid acceleration forces the transmission to downshift abruptly, increasing wear. Reports from The Zebra, an insurance shopping company, indicate that mindful driving can reduce mechanical strain by up to 30 percent.

- Fight corrosion. Rust can kill a car before the engine actually fails. People who live in areas where roads are treated with salt in the winter should use a winter car wash that includes an undercarriage spray. Auto Recycling World says road salt can eat through brake lines and fuel lines. In addition, applying a coat of wax twice a year can prevent UV rays and other damage to the clear coat, which protects the metal body from the elements.

- Address engine lights promptly. CarMD says addressing a "check engine" light immediately is 20 percent cheaper than waiting until the vehicle has a driveability issue. For example, ignoring a \$150 oxygen sensor can eventually destroy a \$1,500 catalytic converter.

Small habits can help prolong the longevity of vehicles and help people save money.



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*"Here comes Peter Cottontail,  
hopping down the bunny trail,  
hippity-hoppity, Easter's on its way!"*

~Steve Nelson, "Here Comes Peter Cottontail"

# The Family Martial Arts Center Announces Belt Advancements for March



Hachidan Master Bill Matteson, Sempei Kyenin Cole, Kohai Ethan Borrero, Sempei Aiden Jasinski, Kohai Mason Shultz, Master Joe Los, Master Dan Kreitzbender



Hachidan Master Bill Matteon, Sempei Kyenin Cole, Kohai Dave Cardinale, Sensei Todd Houser, Master Joe Los, Kohai Joseph Cardinale, Kohai Benedict Cardinale, Kohai Sebastian Cardinale, Kohai David Cardinale Jr., Sempei Jaden Robb, Maset Joe Los



Hachidan Master Bill Matteson, Sempei Kyenin Cole, Kohai Lua Beck, Kohai Jerome Beck, Kohai Lawrence Beck, Kohai Lua Beck, sensei Todd Houser, Maser Joe los

*While building confidence and character skills in their journey, Hachidan Master Bill Matteson certified that each student has met several individual challenges, including weapons and ground defense training, physical conditioning, hand-to-hand defensive and offensive training, and other pertinent techniques and aspects of the Martial Arts. The Martial Arts allow students to strengthen their minds with knowledge, build their bodies with strength, and carry their lives within their soul.*

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# EASTER EGG COLORING TIPS

*Courtesy of Metro Creative*

Many families will soon be partaking in a springtime tradition that has spanned generations: coloring Easter eggs.

While eggs once symbolized fertility and rebirth in Pagan celebrations, they have since come to be associated with Christianity. History.com says eggs historically were not allowed to be eaten during the 40 days of Lent. Subsequently, they were painted and decorated to mark the end of penance and enjoyed as a treat on Easter Sunday. Britannica also notes that the egg has come to represent the tomb Christ escaped, much like a chick breaks out of its shell.

Although it may seem like coloring Easter eggs already is a relatively simple project, there are steps that can simplify the process and make eggs more unique.

- Remove eggs from the refrigerator. Prior to dyeing eggs, bring them to room temperature by removing them from the fridge about 20 minutes before it's time to start boiling. This

minimizes the chances that the egg shells will crack.

- Use a pin. Poking a tiny hole into the large ends of the eggs before boiling can release the air pressure inside and prevent the eggs from bursting during boiling.
- Keep vinegar on hand. Vinegar is the key to vibrant eggs because it acts as a mordant, which helps the dye bond to the shell. Without vinegar, the egg colors will be pale.
- Use a whisk. Instead of potentially breaking eggs when dropping them into dye with fingers or spoons, place the egg inside the wires of a kitchen whisk.
- Use protective gear. Children tend to get messy when coloring eggs. Make sure they are dressed in clothes that can get splattered. Also, wearing kitchen dishwashing gloves or latex gloves will keep hands from being stained by dye. Cover tables or counters with a water-resistant sheet or tablecloth to further prevent staining.



- Experiment with different dyeing methods. Wrap rubber bands or string around the eggs before dipping to create geometric shapes and white lines. For a soft, marbled look, mix dye in a tray with shaving cream and roll the egg through. For a speckled appearance, place eggs in a container with dry rice and drops of dye and then shake.
- Create a drying station. Letting eggs dry on a paper towel or newspaper can contribute to

smears and white spots. Instead, poke flat-head pins into a foam board. Rest the eggs on the pins while they dry.

- Create some sheen. When the eggs are completely dry, rubbing them with a drop of vegetable oil on a cloth will shine them up nicely.

Eggs are a traditional component of Easter festivities and decor. A few easy tweaks can make the process go more smoothly and result in vivid and creative eggs.

# Chautauqua Lake Symposium Highlights Collaboration & Builds Momentum for 2026 Season



Submitted Photo

*Contributed by*  
**Chautauqua County**

Chautauqua County welcomed community members, scientists, policymakers, and environmental stakeholders this past Saturday for the 2026 Chautauqua Lake Symposium, held at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel. The annual event continues to serve as a cornerstone for collaboration, uniting partners committed to protecting and enhancing the long-term health of Chautauqua Lake.

This year's symposium featured a strong lineup of expert presenters, including Dr. Rob Richardson of North Carolina State University, Dr. Allison Hrycik of the Jefferson Project, representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, the Chautauqua Lake Association, and AJ Reyes, Chautauqua Lake Manager with GEI Consultants.

After a challenging 2025 season, the Symposium offered an opportunity to share new strategies with the public and highlight innovative approaches aimed at improving lake conditions for the 2026 season.

A central theme throughout the event was continued coordination under the new leadership of AJ Reyes, reflecting Chautauqua County's commitment to a unified and strategic approach to lake stewardship. Presenters emphasized the importance of data-driven decision-making, resource sharing, and maintaining forward momentum through collaboration.

"Each year, this symposium reminds us that progress on Chautauqua Lake depends on strong partnerships and a shared commitment to doing what's best for the lake and our communities," said Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. "We are seeing real momentum as we continue to align science, funding, and local expertise. Our focus remains on delivering measurable results while ensuring that every stakeholder has a voice at the table."

Wendel also expressed appreciation for all presenters and participants. "I want to sincerely thank Dr. Richardson, Dr. Hrycik, AJ Reyes, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Chautauqua Lake Partnership, and the Chautauqua Lake Association, as well as all community members who attended. Your involvement, insight, and collaboration are what drive innovation and keep this work moving forward," continued Wendel.

Chautauqua County extends its gratitude to all participating organizations, presenters, and attendees for their continued dedication, as well as to the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel and its staff for their outstanding hospitality in hosting the event.

Residents and stakeholders who were unable to attend—or those wishing to revisit the discussions—can watch the full symposium recording and access presentation materials online at: [chautauquacountyny.gov/chqlake](http://chautauquacountyny.gov/chqlake)

As planning and coordination continue, County officials encourage the public to stay informed and engaged in ongoing efforts to support the health and sustainability of Chautauqua Lake.

## SUDOKU

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	3	5	9				6	
				2				

### 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

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49				50	51				52		53	54	55
	56					57		58					59
				60				61					
											63		

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selfs
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses and passports a two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. \_\_\_ Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the \_\_\_ degree"
- 59. Residue when something is burn
- 61. It cools a home

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## America 250 Takes Center Stage at 2026 Chautauqua County History Expo

*Continued from Page 12*

Organizers are now welcoming exhibitors, and historical organizations to participate. Exhibitors are expected to be wide-ranging and include historical literature, local artifacts, exhibits, displays, authors, municipal historians, historical societies, libraries, genealogy groups, and other history-related organizations.

Exhibitor registration is available online at [chqhistoryexpo.com](http://chqhistoryexpo.com). Display sign-ups are free through June 30, 2026. After June 30, a \$20 registration fee will apply.

### Sponsorship and Program Advertising Opportunities

The Chautauqua County History Expo is a non-profit, community-focused event, and program advertisements and sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and organizations interested in supporting local history and education. Sponsorship details will be posted online, with opportunities to support expanded programming and family activities.

“The History Expo is a great example of how collaboration strengthens community pride,” said Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel. “As we prepare for America 250, this event gives us a chance to celebrate our shared past, support the organizations preserving it, and inspire future

generations.”

### Stay Connected for Updates

Community members are encouraged to stay connected as planning continues. Event updates, announcements, and highlights will be shared on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CHQHistory](http://www.facebook.com/CHQHistory).

Additional details — including a full schedule, vendor lists, and special announcements — will be released in the coming months.

For more information, to register as a vendor or exhibitor, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit [chqhistoryexpo.com](http://chqhistoryexpo.com) or email: [info@chqhistoryexpo.com](mailto:info@chqhistoryexpo.com).

**ABOUT THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORY EXPO:** *Free and open to the public, the Chautauqua County History Expo is an annual, family-friendly event designed to showcase the rich history and diverse heritage of Chautauqua County and surrounding communities. Organized by the Chautauqua County Historian’s Office, the event is supported by a countywide planning committee. This expo promotes local history through exhibits, lectures, reenactments, music, and hands-on experiences featuring museums, historical societies, historians, libraries, genealogy organizations, authors, and other historical entities.*

## Chautauqua County System of Care Action Planning Series Identifies Shared Priorities and Path Forward



### Contributed by Chautauqua Tapestry

Chautauqua County recently concluded a multi-session System of Care (SOC) Action Planning Series, bringing together cross-system leaders to collaboratively strengthen services and supports for children, youth, and families across the county’s SOC. Facilitated in partnership with the New York State Office of Mental Health, and the local SOC grantee, Chautauqua Tapestry, the series focused on identifying shared priorities, strengthening collaboration, and laying the groundwork for sustainable system improvements.

Throughout the series, participants demonstrated strong engagement and a clear sense of community. Jessica Stanis, from the New York State Office of Mental Health who facilitated the workshops, noted the high level of participation, shared commitment, and genuine collaboration across systems, highlighting the county’s readiness to move from planning to action.

As a result of the action planning process, stakeholders identified access to services as the top priority, with three key focus areas emerging: workforce, access and awareness of services, and transportation. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring families know how to access supports, strengthening workforce recruitment and retention, and improving transportation options so services are truly reachable for those who need them.

The series also produced a shared action plan, including expanding awareness and use of service navigation tools such as United Way 211 and FindHelp, increasing understanding and availability of CHQ Transit, and improving onboarding and retention strategies across the behavioral health workforce. These priorities reflect a cross-system consensus on where targeted efforts can have the greatest impact.

To support these priorities in action, Chautauqua Tapestry will spotlight key community resources in its quarterly newsletter series, featuring 211WNY this Spring, CARTS in the Summer edition, and NY Connects in the Fall to increase awareness and help families and providers better connect to services.

Moving forward, Chautauqua County will continue to refine and implement the action plan by strengthening partnerships, inviting additional stakeholders to the table, aligning efforts with existing cross-system initiatives, and finalizing a shared vision statement to guide the work beyond the System of Care grant period. County leaders and partners remain committed to maintaining the momentum built during the series and translating collaboration into meaningful, long-term improvements for children and families.

For more information about Chautauqua Tapestry and the county’s system of care efforts, email Grant Director Rachel Ludwig at [mesmerr@chqgov.com](mailto:mesmerr@chqgov.com) or visit [TapestryCHQ.com](http://TapestryCHQ.com).

The Chautauqua Gazette is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations across Chautauqua County that strengthen our communities and enrich local life. From community services and arts initiatives to education, health, and advocacy, the many organizations of Chautauqua are the backbone of our county and their impact deserves to be seen, celebrated, and supported.

Think of the Gazette as your partner in amplifying your mission by raising awareness, promoting upcoming events, and sharing your latest news with a broad local audience. Our mission is to shine a spotlight on the organizations that give so much to our community. To learn more about customizable collaboration opportunities, contact [cornell@chqgazette.com](mailto:cornell@chqgazette.com) or call 716-720-1845.



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# Ring Students Experience "March Madness" In Library



Submitted Photo

Ring Elementary School third graders excitedly discuss which story they liked better as part of a "March Madness" bracket activity that asks them to use their critical thinking skills to "advance" a book to the next round of the competition.

Contributed by

## Jamestown Public Schools

Students at C.C. Ring Elementary School are experiencing their own version of "March Madness" this month — but instead of basketballs, brackets are filled with books.

Library Media Specialist Amber Ambrose, a first-year educator in the Jamestown Public Schools, has launched a three-week reading tournament for first- through fourth-grade students centered around eight Caldecott Award-winning picture books. The activity combines reading, technology, and friendly competition to encourage students to engage more deeply with literature and comes immediately following introducing students to literary awards like the Caldecott, Newbery Medal, and Coretta Scott King Book Award.

"Turning reading into a 'basketball tournament' is a fun way to build a love of reading while also working on our critical thinking and discussion skills at the same time," Ambrose said.

Using the Novel Effect app — which adds interactive sound effects and music to read-alouds — students listen to each book and then complete a voting sheet designed to strengthen their critical thinking skills. Students are asked to reflect on which book had stronger illustrations, which story they enjoyed most, which title they would read again, and which one they would recommend to a friend.

The eight books featured in the tournament include "Hot Dog" by Doug Salati, "The Undeclared" by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, "Watercress" by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Jason Chin, "Wolf in the Snow" by Matthew Cordell, "The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend" by Dan Santat, "We Are Water Protectors" by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade, "Chooch Helped" by Andrea L. Rogers and illustrated by Rebecca Lee Kunz, and "This Is Not My Hat" by Jon Klassen.

# Former Deputy Solicitor General, Mueller Investigation Counselor to deliver annual Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua

Contributed by

## Robert H. Jackson Center

Professor Michael R. Dreeben will be the featured speaker for the 22nd Annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture on the Supreme Court of the United States, Chautauqua Institution and the Jackson Center announced this week. The lecture will take place 3:30 p.m. Monday, July 27 at Chautauqua's Hall of Philosophy.

Prof. Michael Dreeben is a distinguished lecturer at Georgetown University Law Center and adjunct professor at American University Washington College of Law. One of the most experienced Supreme Court advocates in the country, Dreeben argued 109 cases before the Court during his three decades in the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he supervised the criminal docket for the United States from 1994 to 2019.

Dreeben is perhaps best known publicly for his service as counselor to Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III from 2017 to 2019, supporting the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. He later served as counselor to Special Counsel Jack Smith, representing the United States in Trump v. United States, the landmark Supreme Court case on presidential immunity from criminal prosecution.

Throughout his career, Dreeben argued landmark cases spanning hate crimes and the First Amendment, Fourth Amendment rights in the digital age, public corruption, and the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause. He has also taught at Harvard Law School, Duke Law School, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dreeben holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Chicago, and Duke University School of Law. His most recent essay, "Robert Jackson's The Federal Prosecutor Revisited", appears in the 2026 Harvard Law Review Forum.

Chautauqua Institution's Robert H. Jackson Lecture is named in honor of the former Chautauquan, Jamestown lawyer, New Dealer, Solicitor General, Attorney General, Supreme Court justice, and Nuremberg chief prosecutor. Every summer the Jackson Lecture is a leading expert discussing the Supreme Court, the Justices, signal decisions, and related legal developments.

Chautauqua's previous Jackson Lecturers have been Geoffrey Stone (2005), Linda Greenhouse (2006), Seth Waxman (2007), Jeffrey Toobin (2008), Paul Clement (2009), Jeff Shesol (2010), Dahlia Lithwick (2011), Pamela Karlan (2012), Charles Fried (2013), Akhil Amar (2014), Laurence Tribe (2015), Tracey Meares (2016), Judge Jon O. Newman (2017), Justice

Rosalie Silberman Abella of Canada's Supreme Court (2018), Donald B. Verrilli, Jr. (2019), Ruth Marcus (2020), Melissa Murray (2021), Reva Siegel (2022), Justin Driver (2023), Kate Shaw (2024) and Kim Lane Scheppele (2025).

**About the Robert H. Jackson Center**  
The Robert H. Jackson Center, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, advances the legacy of Robert H. Jackson and our vision of a global society where the universal principles of equality, fairness and justice prevail.

To learn more about the extraordinary local, national, and international contributions of Robert H. Jackson, the public is invited to visit the Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 305 East 4th Street in Jamestown, NY or online at [roberthjackson.org](http://roberthjackson.org). Docents are available to provide tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and by appointment. Donations are welcome to support the free programs the Center provides to all ages throughout the year.



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

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 23

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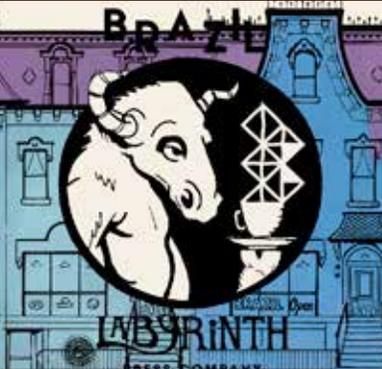


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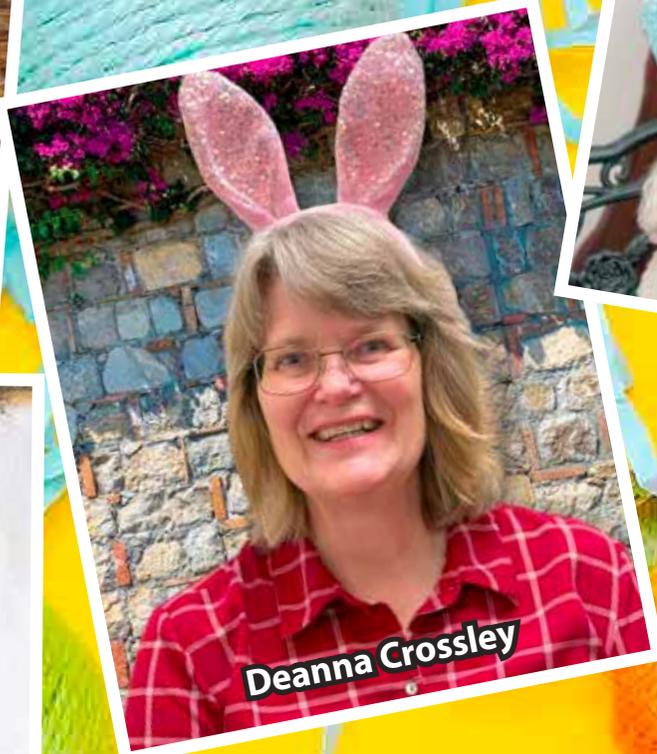
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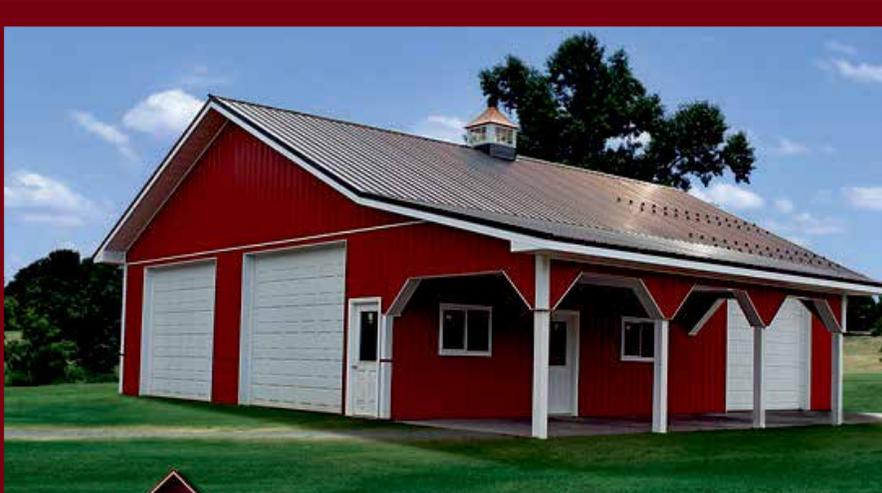

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