

# CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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Christmas Magic Series

Volume 1 • Issue 43 | Week of December 9, 2024

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# PEACE

Make a Way  
for Peace

WEEK  
TWO



Contributing Writer

**Rev. Tara L. Eastman**

Pastor of First Presbyterian Church  
of Warren, PA

Rev. Tara Lamont Eastman is  
pastor of First Presbyterian Church  
of Warren, PA ([warrenfpc.org](http://warrenfpc.org)) and  
producer of Holy Shenanigans Podcast.  
Throughout the season of Advent, listen  
to companion episodes for each week's  
anchor article at: [holyshenanigans.com](http://holyshenanigans.com).  
For more information,  
visit: [taralamonteastman.com](http://taralamonteastman.com).



Wreaths Across America at Christmas (Photo by Pam Sigular)

### What is Advent?

Advent is the first season of  
the liturgical Christian church  
year and includes the four  
preceding Sundays leading  
up to Christmas, running from  
Dec. 1st to Dec. 24th, 2024.

Over the next four weeks of  
Advent, you are welcomed to  
a time of preparation of heart  
and home for the holidays  
through the lenses of:  
**Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.**

Welcome to the season  
of Advent!

**“Peace, peace, peace on Earth  
and good will to all. This is a  
time for hope, this is a time for  
joy. Now let us all sing together, of:  
peace, peace, peace on earth.”**

These beautiful words calling for  
global peace have been with me since  
I learned to sing them in high school  
choir. At the end of the winter concert,  
the choir members quietly walked

into the aisles carrying a candle. As we  
walked, the auditorium would hush.  
The only sound that could be heard  
was the rustling of choir robes and  
gentle footsteps as we all found our  
place to stand and begin to sing...

**“Peace, peace, peace on Earth and  
good will to all. This is a time for hope,**

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

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# ~ DECEMBER 2024 AROUND TOWN ~

## Dec 2-8

### **1st Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Bingo & Bake Sale**

Monday, December 2  
6 PM - 9 PM  
Andriaccio's Restaurant | Mayville  
For Info: 716-269-4129

### **Alzheimer's Association Free Program on Understanding Alzheimer's**

Wednesday, December 4 | 11 AM  
Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services | Jamestown  
For Info: 800-272-3900

### **Caroling in Allen Park**

Wednesday, December 4  
6 PM - 7 PM  
Allen Park | Jamestown  
For Info: facebook.com/allenparkwomensclub

### **Tales of Wonder**

Wednesday, December 4 -  
Sunday, December 8 | 7 PM  
The Robert Lee Scharmann Theater | Jamestown  
For Info: facebook.com/scharmanntheater

### **The Jamestown Hotel**

**100th Anniversary Celebration**  
Thursday, December 5 | 12 PM  
The Crystal Ballroom at The Jamestown Hotel | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-1561 ext. 206

### **CHQ Professionals Group:**

**4th Annual Jingle at The Rocks (Toys for Tots Benefit)**  
Thursday, December 5  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
64 on the Rocks | Fredonia  
For Info: CHQprofessionals@gmail.com

### **CHQ Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Bazaar**

Friday, December 6 &  
Saturday, December 7  
9 AM - 5 PM & 9 AM - 4 PM  
CHQ Fire Department (Massey Ave.) | Chautauqua Institution  
For Info: 724-388-2068

### **First Friday at Audobon**

Friday, December 6  
11 AM - 12 PM  
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-569-2345

### **Christmas in The Village of Lakewood**

Friday, December 6 - Saturday,  
December 7  
5 PM - 8 PM & 11 AM - 4 PM  
Downtown Lakewood

### **Dunkirk Holiday Parade**

Friday, December 6 | 5:30 PM  
Third Street | Dunkirk  
For Info: 716-366-9886

### **Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet Presents The Nutcracker**

Friday, December 6 & Sunday,  
December 8 | 7 PM & 3 PM  
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

### **Peterson Farm Open House**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 5 PM  
Fluvanna Ave. | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-2202

### **The Wizard of Oz**

Friday, December 6 - Sunday,  
December 8  
7 PM, 7 PM, & 2 PM  
Lucille Ball Little Theater  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-1095

### **The George L. Barone Jr. Scholarship Fund's 4th Annual Holiday Fair**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 2 PM  
YW Lake Lodge | Lakewood  
For Info: George L. Barone Jr.  
Scholarship Fund Facebook Page

### **Miracle on Main Street**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 6:30 PM  
Downtown Fredonia  
For Info: festivalsfredoniany@gmail.com

### **"Let it Snow" Christmas**

**Open House**  
Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 3 PM  
The Secret Garden Flower Shop  
Jamestown  
For Info:  
thesecretgardenflowershop.com

### **Handmade Gifts Christmas Workshop**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 2 PM  
Handcrafted From The Heart  
Mayville  
For Info: 716-269-4129

### **Christmas Wonderland at The Depot**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Mayville Depot | Mayville

### **Christmas in The Village of Findley Lake**

Saturday, December 7 - Sunday,  
December 8 | 10 AM - 5 PM  
Findley Lake  
For Info: visitfindleylake.com

### **Randolph Country Christmas & Randolph "Light Up The Night"**

**Christmas Parade**  
Saturday, December 7 &  
Sunday, December 8  
10 AM - 8 PM & 7:30 PM  
Downtown Randolph  
For Info: Randolph Country  
Christmas Facebook Event Page

### **Christmas in Clymer**

Saturday, Dec 7  
Main St. | Clymer  
For Info: Clymer Area Businesses  
Facebook Page

### **Infinity's Holiday Art Market**

Saturday, December 7  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Infinity Visual and Performing  
Arts AND Pearl City Clay House  
For Info: 716-664-0991

### **Holiday Open House**

Saturday, December 7  
2 PM - 4 PM  
Fenton History Center  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-664-6256

### **Light Up Cassadaga**

Saturday, December 7 | 3:30 PM  
Cassadaga  
For Info: Citizens for a Better  
Cassadaga Facebook Page

### **"The Polar Express"**

Saturday, December 7 | 4 PM  
The Fredonia Opera House  
Fredonia  
For Info: 716-679-0891

### **The Grinch at Guppy's**

Saturday, December 7 | 5:30 PM  
Guppy's Restaurant | Bemus Point  
For Info: 716-386-4422

### **Chadakoin Chamber Ensemble: Holiday Harmonies**

Saturday, December 7 | 7 PM  
St. Luke's Church | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-6405

### **Jamestown Winter Festival & Holiday Parade**

Saturday, December 7  
1 PM - 8 PM  
Downtown Jamestown  
For Info: ccsolutions716@gmail.com

### **Just Desserts Open House**

Sunday, December 8 | 2 PM  
McClurg Museum | Westfield  
For Info: 716-326-2977

## Dec 9-15

### **Holiday Whobilation**

Wednesday, December 11 | 4:30  
PM - 7 PM  
Chautauqua Safety Village  
Ashville  
For Info:  
chautauquasafetyvillage.com

### **Movies at The Reg: We Live in Time**

Wednesday, December 11 | 7 PM  
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

### **Christmas in The Village of Lakewood**

Friday, December 13 &  
Saturday, December 14  
5 PM - 8 PM & 10 AM - 4 PM  
Downtown Lakewood  
For Info: lcdcny.org

### **The Wizard of Oz**

Friday, December 13 - Sunday,  
December 15  
Friday at 7 PM | Saturday at 7 PM  
Sunday at 2 PM  
Lucille Ball Little Theater  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-1095

### **CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting: Awarding Amy Rohler**

Friday, December 13  
12 PM - 1:30 PM  
White Inn | Fredonia  
For Info: 716-484-1101

### **Jamestown's Winter Farmers Market**

Saturday, December 14  
9 AM - 1 PM  
St. Luke's Undercroft | Jamestown  
For Info: jfmny.org

### **Breakfast & Skate with Santa**

Saturday, December 14 | 9 AM  
Northwest Arena | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-2624

### **Little Explorers**

Saturday, December 14  
10 AM - 11:30 AM  
Audubon Community Nature  
Center | Jamestown  
For Info: auduboncnc.org

### **Handmade Gifts Christmas Workshop**

Saturday, December 14  
10 AM - 2 PM  
Handcrafted From The Heart  
Mayville  
For Info: 716-269-4129

### **Brunch with Santa**

Saturday, December 14  
10 AM - 1 PM  
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap  
House | Bemus Point  
For Info: 716-386-2893

### **Brunch with Santa**

Saturday, December 14  
10 AM - 2 PM  
Pearl City Hops | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-488-7227

### **2nd Annual Mayville Holiday Market**

Saturday December 14 & Sunday,  
December 15  
10 AM - 4 PM & 10 AM - 2 PM  
Town of Chautauqua Offices  
Mayville  
For Info: 716-269-4129

### **Sensory Sensitive Santa**

Saturday, December 14  
4 PM - 6 PM  
Fenton History Center  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-664-6256

### **Sherman Lighted Tractor Parade**

Saturday, December 14 | 6 PM  
Main Street | Sherman  
For Info: Sherman Chamber of  
Commerce Facebook Page

### **Squirrel Nut Zippers: Christmas Caravan**

Saturday, December 14 | 6 PM  
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

### **Christmas Ball Fundraiser**

Saturday, December 14  
7 PM - 10 PM  
Levant Church | Falconer  
For Info: 716-708-6215

### **Cookies & Cocoa with Santa**

Sunday, December 15  
10 AM - 12 PM  
The White Inn | Fredonia  
For Info: 716-672-2103

## Dec 16-22

### **Caroling & Pub Crawl with St. Lukes**

Tuesday, December 17 | 6 PM  
The Pub | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-6405

### **Elegant Wrapping Class**

Wednesday, December 18  
1 PM - 3 PM  
Pearl City Clay House  
Jamestown  
For Info:  
info@pearlcityclayhouse.org

### **Genealogy Support Group Research Night/Christmas Party**

Wednesday, December 18  
4 PM - 8 PM  
Hall House Research Center  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-664-6256

### **Travel The World**

Thursday, December 19 | 6 PM  
Music for Your Mouth | Mayville  
For Info: 716-224-1035

### **Ice Bumper Cars**

Friday, December 20  
12 PM - 3 PM  
Northwest Arena | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-2624

### **Christmas in The Village of Lakewood**

Friday, December 20 & Saturday,  
December 21  
5 PM - 8 PM & 10 AM - 2:30 PM  
Downtown Lakewood  
For Info: lcdcny.org

### **Movies at The Reg: Love Actually**

Friday, December 20 | 7 PM  
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-7070

### **Sacred Songs for Solstice**

Friday, December 20 | 6 PM  
St. Luke's Church | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-6405

### **It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play**

Friday, December 20 (7 PM),  
Saturday, December 21  
(2 PM & 7 PM), & Sunday,  
December 22 (2 PM)  
Robert H. Jackson Center  
Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-6646

### **Handmade Gifts Christmas Workshop**

Saturday, December 21  
10 AM - 2 PM  
Handcrafted From The Heart  
Mayville  
For Info: 716-269-4129

### **Blue Christmas Service**

Saturday, December 21 | 5 PM  
St. Luke's Church | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-483-6405

### **Ugly Christmas Sweater Party**

Saturday, December 21  
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap  
House | Bemus Point  
For Info: 716-386-2893

### **YMCA Camp Onyahsa Monthly Overnight Camp**

Saturday, December 21 &  
Sunday, December 22  
YMCA Camp Onyahsa  
Dewittville  
For Info: 716-664-2802 ext. 238

## Dec 23-29

### **3C's Catering Christmas Breakfast With Santa**

Sunday, December 22  
8 AM - 11 AM  
Falcon's Nest | Falconer  
For Info: 3cscatering.com

### **Public Skate**

Monday, December 23  
12 PM - 3 PM  
Northwest Arena | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-484-2624

### **After Christmas With Jamie Smith**

Thursday, December 26  
7 PM - 9 PM  
Busti Tap House | Jamestown  
For Info: 716-720-4026

### **Christmas with the Critters**

Friday, December 27 | 10 AM  
Audubon Community Nature  
Center | Jamestown  
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Editorial with Lori Cornell

# Your Home & Heart this Holiday



Owner & Publisher  
**Lori Cornell**

As our incredibly talented editor, Katrina Fuller, knows: I drag my feet writing my weekly editorial - some editions more than others. As ironic as it seems, this one caused particular angst. What's not easier than writing about the beautiful, exciting holidays?! Why the consternation, Lori?

Well, for one thing, it's impossible to follow Pastor Tara's Christmas cover series and the other exceptional "Faith Matters" leaders we are featuring for the holidays this month.

But for another, that's just it. It's the pressure of Christmas. The end all, be all. THE most wonderful time of the year. The "I-need-to-make-sure-it's-really-special-because-it's-CHRISTMAS" feeling. We all know it so well. Maybe moms the most.

We spend weeks and months of anticipation and planning on all that's "required" to make our families the perfect Christmas...the cards, the cookies, the tree, the lights, the gifts, the parties and all the frills...

And who knew? Apparently, Christmas editorial-writing elicits that same sort of drive for storybook perfect.

But then it hit me. And maybe this thought can stick with you too: CHRISTMAS, in and of itself, was as simple as it gets. God did that

on purpose. A poor baby born in a manger.

Now hold up. I'm not preaching "keep it simple," like some kind of unrealistic hypocrite, as I race to the nearest amazing Chautauqua County small business for more shopping... and make one more batch of cookies...

But maybe I am saying that, as it turns out, truly the most important message at Christmas is: Simple.

So that's my editorial: Calling on us this Christmas to save some room in our insane schedules, to not just make our homes perfect, but to embark upon the simple act of making our hearts more whole as well.

We can embrace the simple, but critical message, in Pastor Tara's Christmas covers and recommit ourselves to the true meaning of the season. Her weekly "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love" series can remind us to stop and smell the poinsettias - even briefly - and to remember what's truly most important. Please take time to also discover meaning in her Christmas "To Do" list and beautiful poem each edition.

Wishing you both a home and a heart filled with the most Merry Christmas ever!

*Wait a minute, you may be saying. Is this Groundhog's Day or Christmas?! Didn't I already read this editorial last week. Why yes. Yes, you did. In the spirit of my message, we are keeping things simple this holiday season and are reprinting our holiday editorial for all four December editions as we busily launch the Chautauqua Gazette into the new year. If you are a business owner or organizational leader, please get in touch with me before Christmas! We are spending the month of December reserving our limited ad space for 2025, ensuring that this beloved paper remains strong - long into the future!*

*"Twas the Night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring... well, except for mom who was busting her butt to make it all happen."*

- Author Unknown

# Ways to Cultivate Peace

By Rev. Tara L. Eastman

1. Choose a time each day (10 minutes) to intentionally take a break and rest. Take a break and sit/walk in silence. Put away your cell phone or put it on do not disturb.
2. Donate some time to a local non-profit, by making an appointment to volunteer this month. After you volunteer, think about how sharing your time to benefit others was an effort of peace. Plan to volunteer in the coming year to continue to learn how to be a peacemaker with your actions.
3. Set up a visit with a friend or acquaintance whose faith or holiday traditions are different from yours. When asking them to meet, let them know you want to learn about their traditions and why they are meaningful to them. Take the role of listener and learner in this conversation.
4. Remember how you created a music playlist last week that inspired the feeling of hope? Search for songs about peace and add them to last week's playlist.

## CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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# Faith Matters

## On Islam's Theology, In Five Minutes



Contributing Writer

### Imam/Minister Sam Qadri

Community Outreach Volunteer  
Jamestown Islamic Society

What a great honor it was to answer a reach-out call made by publisher Lori Cornell for an invitation to submit an article. Jamestown Islamic Society is a local non-profit organization that focuses on promoting local charitable work, education, and community service while attending to the spiritual and religious needs of local Muslim families. Muslim community members have called Chautauqua County their home since the early 1900's, starting with families who arrived in the area from Albania. Other families from all walks of life moved to the area later on at various times. Some have stayed, others moved on to other localities. Other than the local Muslim-American families from European heritage, countries like Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, India, Pakistan, Lebanon and Kosovo have been part of the history and fabric of Chautauqua County. The most current arrivals are from Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to current political conflicts in those regions.

Jamestown Islamic Society, Inc., was formally established around 1986. It was, and still is, managed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Giving back to the community has no limits. Through education, volunteering, and direct material assistance to qualifying families JIS members often help as much as they're able to. On many occasions, giving back to our local community might be by conveying accurate information about our own faith, Islam, whenever invited to present on the topic.

Once in a while around the holiday season, a friend or a co-worker may ask about or start a conversation related to Islam and/or the Muslim culture, holidays, or celebrations. Most of the

time, the conversation would expand by moving into a discussion about the origins of the human family starting with Adam and Eve. Then, the family stories of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad, may Peace and Allah's Blessings be onto them, are all considered prophets in the Islamic culture and faith. These prophets and messengers were among an estimated twenty-four thousand prophets and messengers who were chosen by Allah (Arabic for "God") to deliver a message to their people: "worship the One and Only God/Allah; and ascribe no partners, family, or relatives to him." The first pillar of Islam states that: "there is no deity worthy of worship except the One and Only God/Allah, and that Muhammad and all prophets before him are all messengers of God/Allah." This statement of faith was taught and used by each of God's/(Allah) prophets and messengers in their own respective languages, in some form or another. Muslim practitioners may confirm their belief by reciting the statement of belief verbally, learn its true meaning, and remain steadfast and sincere in abiding by it in practice. Therefore, the statement of belief is considered so important and that, once a person is confirmed as a believer, he/she may receive salvation based on that.

"Allah" is an Arabic reference that means the "one and only deity." In the Arabic language, every word that exists has a three-letter root. The word "Islam" is derived from the Arabic language root word "Silm," (pronounced: S-i-l-m) which literally means "peace." Therefore, the term "Islam" can be easily defined as "to peacefully believe in the One and only God/Allah."

There are two sources of knowledge in Islam. First, the Glorious "Quran" which is Islam's holy book. The Quran contains the literal words of God/(Allah) that were revealed through the holy spirit, the Angel Gabriel in a form of verses and chapters to the prophet Muhammad over the span of twenty-three years. In the Quran, Allah God/(Allah) spoke about the history of mankind from the creation of Adam and Eve. Some chapters in the Quran contain God's/(Allah's) laws and legislations for humanity to live by, should they desire to live a wholesome life and enter paradise on judgement day. Other chapters in the Quran contain narratives, examples, and stories of other nations from history. Many Quran chapters contain prayers,

supplications, and future prophecies to consider.

The second source of knowledge on Islam is the life example of the Prophet Muhammad himself, may Allah's peace and blessings be unto him. The authentic and verified compilation of what the prophet had taught, his speech, and his ways of all aspects of life are what's known in the Muslim world as "Sunnah" (Arabic for "the proper path").

Islam offers its practitioners two holy day celebrations. The first one is to mark an ending to the fasting season. This takes place on the day immediately following the last day of Ramadan, the month of fasting, when Muslims fast from food and drink daily from dawn until sunset for twenty-nine or thirty consecutive days. It's a celebration for ending the fasting season.

The second holy day is to mark an ending to the pilgrimage season. Able Muslims individuals must travel once in a lifetime to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia to participate in memorializing events and actions that took place during the life of the prophets Abraheem and his son Ashmael. That holy day usually ends with scarifying a lamb and distributing its meat to friends and less fortunate families.

As Muslim-American communities across the nation learn about the traditional American culture and norms, one major American holiday that everyone looks forwards to and enjoys is Thanksgiving. "Halal" Turkeys have become popular in many Muslim communities in the United States. Locally speaking, we, along with many New Neighbor refugee families, have been so lucky to be able to participate in the community Thanksgiving dinner and celebration that St. Luke's church held in the past couple of years. For that, we give many Thanks to Fr. Luke Fodor and the St. Luke's Church congregation for all their dedication, hard work, and generosity for an outstanding Thanksgiving dinner and festivities they have done during this year and last year's Thanksgiving. We hope to continue this awesome and unique community multi-faith, multi-denomination, collaboration on this and other community programs moving forward.

In the end, more than anything, not only is Islam considered to be as a spiritual faith that's practiced by about one fifth of today's world population, but also it is a unique life-style, a way of life, that can be applied to all day-to-day living. For a dedicated practitioner, Islam's unaltered and unadulterated laws, guidelines and practices demand discipline, sincerity, loyalty, truthfulness and devotion to the one and only Creator, Allah, and his last prophet/messenger Muhammad. Islam's main theology and practices can't be changed or altered to fit human desires. But, as a matter of fact, Islam requires its followers to do their best to change or adjust their human desires in order to conform to Islam's practices and theology. Since

the founding of Islam around the sixth century, history is filled with many critics who tried to discredit the faith or some of its practices due to actions of certain Muslim groups or individuals. Some critics may either have lack of knowledge of context, misunderstanding, or sometimes just plain intentional political spinning, hatred, bigotry, stereotyping, and/or in some other cases, the feeling of being threatened due to personal insecurity in the presence of "Muslim" individuals around them.

Just like any other human being, a Muslim individual is fallible and liable to fall for "Satan's whimpering" and do sinful deeds. Islam provides many paths and effective ways for repentance and forgiveness. In an ideal Muslim community, good practicing Muslims are known to not eat pork nor drink alcohol. A practicing Muslim is supposed to follow basic life rules, for example:

"Do no harm to self; and do no harm to others." also, "One shall not attain perfect faith until he/she love for his fellow human being what he loves for him/herself." and "Speak of goodness or remain silent." "Honor thy parents." "Protect and preserve the rights of your neighbor."

Good practicing and faithful Muslims are expected to be law-abiding, respectful, and dedicated people anywhere they live and with whomever they interact with.

Readers' feedback and/or questions are welcome and may be communicated to Sam Qadri through the publisher. A response follow-up piece would be done when possible.

*Sam Qadri is a Community Outreach Volunteer for the Jamestown Islamic Society. He has been living and working in Jamestown for the past 28 years. Sam enjoys volunteering for many great causes at various community organizations. He's an honorary member of the Racial Justice sub-committee at Zion Covenant Church. Sam is also a board member at the Jamestown Racial Justice Commission.*

*The "Faith Matters" component to this paper is something founder Stacey Hannon brilliantly began, and something that we are proud to continue. We work hard to include religious leaders of all faiths to present as many perspectives as possible. This December, in addition to Pastor Tara's series, we will feature a diversity of faiths in our "Faith Matters" columns, including: Buddhism (Dec. 2), Islam (Dec. 9), Greek Orthodox (Dec. 16) and Judaism (Dec. 23). If you are a religious leader in our community and would like to be a part of our 2025 schedule, please contact us!*



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## Week 2: Peace – Make a Way for Peace

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

*this is a time for joy. Now let us all sing together, of: peace, peace, peace on earth."*

The sound of the music filled the auditorium. The soft light of candles gave off a glow that was unearthly. The conductor led us around and around, until all gathered joined in the song of PEACE.

I still remember how singing a song about peace in the community felt. Peace shows up where we least expect it - if we take steps to cultivate it.

In Madeline L'Engle's book, "A Swiftly Tilting Planet", she writes about the human responsibility to seek peace in the world saying...

*"...You know my dears, the world has been abnormal for so long that we've forgotten what it's like to live in a peaceful and reasonable climate. If there is to be any peace or reason, we have to create it in our own hearts and homes."*

L'Engle's call for human responsibility in efforts of peace, isn't the only place I find it. In the gospel reading from Luke 1 (for the second week of Advent) asks people to take action to create PEACE with the

help of John the Baptist..

*"Prepare God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! Every ditch will be filled in. Every bump smoothed out, The detours straightened out, All the ruts paved over."*

John's challenge for people to get involved with efforts of peace wasn't for his community alone. Over two thousand years later, his challenge remains to be a task for humanity to work on. So, with the help of a story about the power of music, L'Engle and John the Baptist's words, we need to ask ourselves some important questions...

### Questions to make a way for Peace

How can I engage in efforts of peace this week?

What books or authors inspire peace in your life?

Historically speaking, who is an advocate of peace that you look up to?

## A Poem for Advent Two: Peace Call

By Rev. Tara L. Eastman

Peace calls to...

*pause, embrace, act, contemplate, and exhale.*

### Pause.

Storms make me feel like running and hiding, when I'm frantic, can peace be present? PEACE.

### Embrace.

In conflicts and hurts that push people apart, is peace working to break the ice? PEACE.

### Act.

When anxiety freezes me in inaction, does peace give a warm nudge to move? PEACE.

### Contemplate.

When swirls of activity tempt me to do, be and see all things at once...will peace slow me down to savor each beautiful-thing? PEACE.

### Exhale.

Filling of lungs can only be sweet, when exhale helps me let go of what is no longer of use. Will peace help me to release and fill my heart, mind, and lungs? PEACE.

Peace calls to...pause fear.

Peace calls to...embrace a need for people.

Peace calls to... act in life-giving ways.

Peace calls to... contemplate beauty.

Peace calls to... exhale and trust the oxygen to keep

breathing is just on the cusp of letting gooooooo...

Light one candle to inhale, light another to exhale.

PEACE. (Inhale) PEACE. (Exhale)

**Refrain: Help us to Pause, Embrace, Act, Contemplate and Exhale for more PEACE.**

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# Exemplifying Peace in our Community: *Peaceful Schools Program*



*Featured Writer*

**J.J. Gantenbein**

Peaceful People Instructor



*Submitted Photo*

"Teacher J.J." Gantenbein leads a group of 1st grade students at Lincoln Elementary in singing the S.T.A.R. Song, empowering them to treat themselves and others with respect. This activity encourages positive behaviors and fosters a supportive, inclusive, and respectful classroom environment.

Peaceful Schools, based in Syracuse, New York, is a mission-driven organization with a team of 100 dedicated professionals. We specialize in empowering schools through social-emotional learning (SEL) services tailored for both students and staff.

At Peaceful Schools, we believe peace is not just a feeling or a state of mind—it's an active choice. Everyone has the potential to be a peaceful person. Empowering individuals to pause, reflect, and act with care and respect for themselves and others creates a positive ripple effect that strengthens friendships, schools, and communities. Imagine a world where everyone recognizes and understands their own self-worth and treats others with kindness and respect—what a remarkable community that would be!

**Our Mission: Empowering Peaceful People**

At Peaceful Schools, we are committed to helping everyone discover their own superpower, which we call "S.T.A.R. Power". We use this power to make a positive and peaceful impact on the

world when we learn to Stop, Think, and Act with Respect. Being peaceful means acting safely, staying calm and in control, and showing care and kindness for oneself, others, and the broader community.

**Our Guiding Principles: C.A.R.E.S. Skills**

- Cooperation
- Assertion
- Responsibility
- Empathy
- Self-Control

These foundational skills are woven into every aspect of what we do. Through direct instruction with students, professional training for educators, SEL curriculum development, and community

support, we teach C.A.R.E.S. in engaging, practical, meaningful ways. Each skill is broken down into manageable, observable actions that can be practiced and applied in everyday life.

**Peace Is Powerful, Personal, and Purposeful**

Being a peaceful person isn't always easy; it requires commitment, self-reflection, and resilience. It's about believing in the power of peace, persevering through challenges, and striving to create a better world.

Peaceful Schools is deeply grateful for our strong and enduring partnership with Jamestown Public Schools over the past eight years. Through this collaboration, we proudly support the

district by providing two dedicated full-time instructors, J.J. Gantenbein and Bryan Boleratz, who work together to deliver impactful social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons to students from Pre-K through 8th grade. Additionally, we offer tailored professional development opportunities to empower educators and administrators, fostering a supportive and thriving school community.

Peaceful Schools' professionals, like Jamestown's own J.J. Gantenbein, are passionate about creating meaningful change by equipping young learners with essential lifelong skills that foster responsibility, empathy, kindness, and a more compassionate society. After all, a little more peace in our lives goes a long way!

Explore how Peaceful Schools is fostering a culture of peace and understanding in our community. Visit [www.peacefulschools.com](http://www.peacefulschools.com) to learn more!

J.J. Gantenbein (they/them/theirs) is a Peaceful People Instructor with Peaceful Schools ([www.peacefulschools.com](http://www.peacefulschools.com)) offering Peaceful People lessons in partnership with the Jamestown Public School District.

**"I can be a peaceful person  
You can be a peaceful person  
We can all be peaceful people  
If we learn to be STARS!  
You gotta Stop, Think, and Act  
with Respect!  
So you can be a S.T.A.R.!"**

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## Northwest Arena is Hosting Breakfast & Skate with Santa



Article Contributed by  
**Northwest Arena**

Get ready for a magical morning on December 14th! The Northwest Arena is hosting Breakfast & Skate with Santa, a festive event for the whole family.

for a fun-filled skating session with none other than Santa himself! Glide across the rink, share your holiday wishes, and capture memories with a photo op with Kris Kringle. It's the perfect way to kick off the season of joy and cheer!

**Event Details:**

Start your day with a delicious pancake breakfast and then hit the ice

- **Date:** December 14th
- **Time:** 9:00 AM
- **Location:** The Northwest Arena



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# NALMS Recognizes Jablonski with Appreciation Award



Photos Courtesy of John & Carol Jablonski

Article Contributed by  
**Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy**

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) recognized John Jablonski III of Lakewood, NY with its "Lake Management Success Story Appreciation Award" for his accomplishments with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, at the 44th International Symposium of the Society at South Lake Tahoe, CA/NV on November 7th.

Each year, members from the North American Lake Management Society community nominate their peers for a variety of awards to highlight achievements in lake management and service to NALMS. Nominations are reviewed, and a winner is selected for each award by the board of directors. At the awards session, Michelle Balmer, spokesperson of the awards committee stated, "John has been the visionary and passionate co-founder who conceptualized and led the creation of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Inc. in New York State, serving as its first president in 1990 and then executive director for 30 years. Under John's remarkable tenure, the conservancy succeeded in protecting over 1,200 acres of woodlands, wetlands, shorelands, and waterways in the Chautauqua area and creating 33 local nature preserves, all of which are open to the public for outdoor recreation, enjoyment, and refreshment."

"Notably, John drafted grants and proposals facilitating State investments of over \$9.5 million (such as the Cheney and Stow Farm Lakeshores, as well as Midway Park) to conserve local open space and outdoor recreation assets and has conceptualized, packaged, and/or facilitated multiple watershed land conservation and water quality projects across Chautauqua County.



Over two miles of the Chautauqua Lake shoreline and Lake Outlet were conserved through his efforts. His long-time leadership, strategic planning, technical expertise, and passion for the natural world have greatly benefited our community in myriad ways. Now widely recognized and regarded for its promotion of best practices in land, wildlife, and water resource management, the Conservancy has helped inspire countless others to better understand and appreciate the connection between ecologically healthy waters and habitats, healthy people, higher quality of life, and the economic prosperity of the Chautauqua region."

Although John stepped down from the executive director position in 2023, he continues to serve the Conservancy and lake community as the Conservancy's Special Projects Coordinator, focusing on impactful habitat and waterway conservation and restoration projects. John also continues to serve on the board of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). He holds degrees in Natural Resources from Cornell University and Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a concentration in water resources. He is an avid fisherman and boater on Chautauqua Lake and other waters and an enthusiastic advocate for healthy recreational waterways, people, and wildlife.

# Honor our Veterans

December 14, 2024



Photo Credit: Pam Sigular

Article Contributed by  
**Wreaths Across America**

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a non-profit organization that places wreaths on the graves of veterans to honor their service and sacrifice. Each December since 2008, volunteers say the name of each veteran as they place a wreath on their grave marker. The event aims to unite the community in remembrance while encouraging people to also help those in need.

If you are interested in getting involved with WAA of Jamestown, you can donate through the Blue Star Mothers of WNY. For every two wreaths donated through BSM, an additional wreath will be purchased. You can also volunteer by joining tens of thousands of other volunteers across the country placing wreaths on the graves of our veterans this December 14th,

2024 in soldier circle at Lakeview Cemetery located at 907 Lakeview Avenue Jamestown. We will have a ceremony beginning at 11:45 to honor the fallen followed by the wreath placement.

Our local chapter of WAA is seeking donations to sponsor 600 wreaths for the markers of local heroes including 3 Medal of Honor recipients resting at Lakeview Cemetery this December 14th. The deadline for ordering is December 3rd.

If you are interested in receiving more information or donating to our local program, please email Tony Galati @ Anthony.m.galati@skf.com. Further information can be found at wreathscrossamerica.org using the location code NYLCJA for Lakeview Cemetery. Wreaths Across America is not affiliated with any political party or religion.



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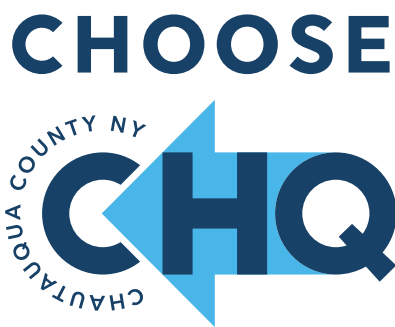
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ANNUAL REPORT

Pat's Christmas Pen with Pat Locke

# Christmas Trees and Their Origins



Photo Credit: Blue June Blooms' Christmas Tree Wonderland, Westfield



Contributing Writer  
**Pat Locke**

The Christmas tree is also known as the Yule tree. The most common types of Christmas trees are evergreens like spruce, pine or fir. The Norway spruce is considered the traditional Christmas tree and has been popular since Victorian times.

Each year, 33 to 36 million Christmas trees are grown in America with 50-60 million in Europe. In 1998, there were about 15,000 growers in America (a third of them "choose and cut" farms). In that same year, it was estimated that Americans spent \$1.5 billion on Christmas trees. By 2016, the amount had climbed to \$2.04 billion for natural trees and a further \$1.86 billion for artificial trees. In Europe, 75 million trees worth \$3.2 billion are harvested annually. In the past, Christmas trees were often harvested from wild forests, but now almost all are commercially grown on tree farms. They are cut after about ten years of growth and new trees are planted.

The most commonly purchased tree is the Noble Fir tree which has the benefit of not shedding needles as well as retaining good foliage color and scent. Some trees, frequently

referred to as "living Christmas trees" are sold live with roots and soil often from a plant nursery to be stored at nurseries in planters or planted later outdoors and enjoyed (often decorated) for years or decades.

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850. Franklin Pierce, the 14th president is often credited with bringing the Christmas tree tradition to the White House in the early 1850s. In 1912, what were likely the first major community Christmas trees in the United States were erected in Boston, New York City and Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and First Family.

The most famous and beloved tree is the one appearing each year in Rockefeller Center. This tree dates back to the Depression Era with the first tree placed in 1931. It was a small unadorned tree set up by construction works at the center of the construction site. Two years later, another tree was placed there, this time with lights. These days, the giant Rockefeller Center tree is laden with over 50,000 Christmas lights. The tallest tree displayed at Rockefeller Center arrived in 1999. It was a Norway Spruce that measured 100 feet tall and hailed from Killingworth, Connecticut.

We can thank Thomas Edison's assistants for coming up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees.

Merry Christmas

## SUDOKU

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
			45				46		47		48		
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou \_\_ do it
- 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 9. Brainstem part
- 13. Town in New York state
- 14. Little (Spanish)
- 15. Continent
- 16. Retch
- 17. Short-billed rails
- 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
- 19. Confused
- 21. A team needs one
- 22. Woman in ancient times
- 23. Republican Party
- 24. Spanish be
- 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 28. Not around
- 29. City in Zambia
- 31. A type of beginning
- 33. Numb
- 36. Gurus
- 38. Small, gray-headed crow
- 39. Vehicle type
- 41. Disorders
- 44. One point east of southeast
- 45. Indian soldier
- 46. Tree type
- 48. Midway between south and southeast
- 49. It cools your home
- 51. Corn comes on it
- 52. Ship's deck
- 54. A way to bake
- 56. Improvised
- 60. Butterfly genus
- 61. Baseball fields have them
- 62. Designated space
- 63. Discharge
- 64. Two of something
- 65. Once more
- 66. Part of your face
- 67. Tax collector
- 68. Cassia tree

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
- 2. Wings
- 3. Overly studious person
- 4. They protect your valuables
- 5. The Volunteer State
- 6. Non-hydraulic cement
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Jackson and Diddle are two
- 9. Splendid displays
- 10. Mountain in NE Greece
- 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
- 12. German surname
- 14. Having more than one husband at a time
- 17. Romanian city
- 20. Energy
- 21. Makes less hot
- 23. Gas diffusion electrode
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. Set an example for others
- 27. Support of a particular person
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Mountain range
- 32. Violate the sanctity of something
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Talks
- 37. Persian male given name
- 40. Born of
- 42. Forcibly take one's possessions
- 43. Discounts
- 47. Knockouts
- 49. Posh Colorado destination
- 50. Form of therapy
- 52. British rock band
- 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
- 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 56. Volcanic crater
- 57. Middle Eastern nation
- 58. Sinn \_\_, Irish organization
- 59. Ethiopian lake
- 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
- 65. Equally

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## Frewsburg Leo Club Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Article Contributed by  
**Frewsburg Leo Club**

Over the years, the club has been involved in a wide range of service projects, both within Frewsburg and the surrounding Jamestown area. Some notable initiatives include food drives, volunteering for the Frewsburg segment of the Rails to Trails project, organizing a "Senior Prom," conducting evacuation drills at the Frewsburg Rest Home, and supporting numerous other volunteer efforts. The Leo Club also played a pivotal role in the establishment of two additional Leo Clubs in the region.

After Frewsburg Lions Club President, Don Dove, attended a Lions District meeting in Buffalo in 1996, he was inspired by his experience. He took the initiative to establish the Frewsburg Leo Club, which has been dedicated to community service ever since. The Leo Club was officially chartered on April 14, 1997, by Lions Clubs International, with District 20 N Leos Chairman Dave Saunders and District 20 N Governor Floyd Silliman presenting the club's charter.

The Frewsburg Leo Club, which is part of the international Leo program, embodies the core values represented by the Leo acronym: Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity.

A special acknowledgment was given to the dedicated Leo Advisors, Toni Stone, Jill Wiltsie, and Don Dove, whose leadership and commitment have been integral to the club's success. During the celebration, these individuals were presented with commemorative Leo/Lion shirts and Lion Dove bookends in recognition of their outstanding contributions.



## Grandma Rita's Cookie of the week

### Oatmeal Pudding Cookies

from Teri Scholand

1 cup butter, softened  
¼ cup white sugar  
¾ cup brown sugar  
Cream with mixer.

Add:  
2 eggs  
1 package instant vanilla pudding

Mix in:  
1 ¼ cups of flour  
3 ½ cups quick oats  
1 cup of raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drop by teaspoon onto cookie sheet. Bake until slightly brown, but not hard. Remove from oven and put ½ marachino cherry the in middle of each cookie. Remove from tray and cool.

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## Calendar 2025

#AMPUPYOURFUTURE

Programs & Events	Date	Time	Location
TCAM Camp (teachers, counselors, administrators, & manufacturers)	January 24, 2025	9:00am—2:00pm	PTECH Academy, Dunkirk (CHQ)
Girls in Manufacturing Camp 6th-12th grades	April 5, 2025	9:00am—2:00pm	MTI@JCC, Jamestown (CHQ)
STEM Wars	May 21-22, 2025	9:00am—1:00pm	Northwest Arena, Jamestown (CHQ)
Girls in Manufacturing Camp 6th-12th grades	June 5, 2025	9:00am—1:00pm	CLCS, Mayville (CHQ)
TCAM Camp (teachers, counselors, administrators, & manufacturers)	July 7—July 8, 2025	9:00am—2:00pm	MTI@JCC, Jamestown (CHQ)
Manufacturing Mayhem Camp 6th-12th grades	August 11— August 15, 2025	9:00am—2:00pm	MTI@JCC, Jamestown (CHQ)

### Ongoing Programs & Events

### Various Dates and Times Throughout a Month

Manufacturing Technology Tours	Dates, times and locations vary throughout the month.
Manufacturing Month Programming	The first Friday in October is Manufacturing Day and in some communities like ours, there is programming occurring throughout the month, making it Manufacturing Month. Public relations promoting manufacturing & manufacturing careers, Tours and a variety of programming & events.
DIDIAMP Enrollment Activities	Dates, times and locations vary throughout the month. These are usually in class room programming where students enroll in the DIDIAMP either guided by DIDI Directors or teachers/guidance counselors or both.
DIDIAMP Certification Company Endorsements	The objective is to highlight careers at manufacturing companies and begin promoting and imbedding the DIDIAMP manufacturer recognized certification in the community and within manufacturers.

**Notes:**

- Programming calendar start date is July 1st. Typical programming year is July 1st to June 30 in alignment with the DIDIWNY fiscal year.
- Dates and locations are subject to change. Please check the [didiwny.com](http://didiwny.com) website and Facebook page for updates!

*Dream It Do It Western New York offers equal opportunity programming. While the Girls in Manufacturing program is focused on females, the program is open to all genders in grades 6th-12th. Women make up about 47% of the American workforce but only 30% work in manufacturing. The focus of Girls in Manufacturing programming is to encourage more girls and women to consider careers in manufacturing.*

**Rotary Club of Jamestown & Greater Jamestown AM Rotary Club Receive Lighthouse Awards**  
*O'Reilly and Rappole Represent Local Rotary Clubs at Rotary District 7090 Foundation Luncheon in Canada*

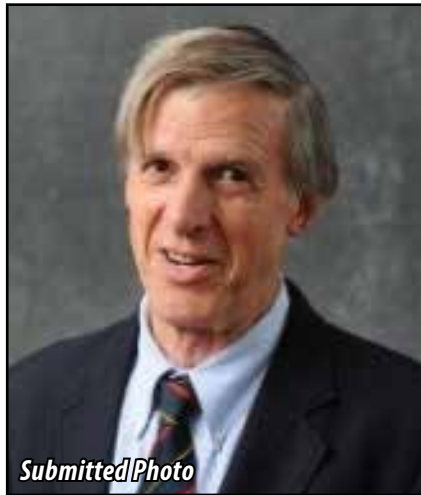


Submitted Photo

Members of the Rotary Club of Jamestown and the Greater Jamestown AM Rotary Club were represented by Caitlin O'Reilly and Dr. Bert Rappole recently at a Rotary District 7090 Foundation Luncheon in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. At the luncheon, clubs from throughout the international Rotary District 7090 were honored with Lighthouse Awards for their service in the Rotary year 2023-24.

Rotary is a 110-year-old international service club with over 45,000 clubs and 1.2 million members. District 7090 is unique in that it was the organization's first international district with 68 clubs spanning two countries – the United States and Canada. Rotary members share responsibility to act on our world's most persistent issues, working together to promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; grow local economies, and protect the environment.

**"Conspiracy Theory" is Examined at Unitarian Church this Sunday, December 15**



Submitted Photo

Phillips Stevens, Jr., University at Buffalo, SUNY Associate Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, speaks at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown's 10:30 a.m. hybrid service this Sunday, December 15. He will discuss "Conspiracy Theory," a common phrase in the news these days, and what it means. All are welcome to the service and the coffee hour that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at [UUJamestown.org/calendar](http://UUJamestown.org/calendar).

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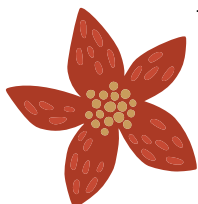
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# Chamber Announces Board Slate for 2025

Article Contributed by  
CHQ Chamber



The Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce its slate of board members and officers for the coming year. Board leadership positions will remain the same as this year. Heather Brown of The Resource Center will serve as Board Chair. Continuing their duties in additional officer roles will be Vice Chair Emily Reynolds of Cornell Cooperative Extension Chautauqua County; Treasurer John Felton of Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and Secretary Courtney Curatolo of the Small Business Development Center.

Newly named to the board is John Davis of Ashville General Store; Dawn Espersen of Dave's Outlet Store in Silver Creek representing the Hanover Committee; Kim Maras of Westfield Boatworks representing the Westfield Committee; and Monica Simpson of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth representing the Dunkirk Committee.

Continuing to serve in existing terms are Dr. Stephen Kolison of the State University of New York at Fredonia, Robert Mazza of Mazza Chautauqua Cellars, Arthur Pearson of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, and Kristofor Sellstrom of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities.

Additional community committee representatives are Larry Fiorella, HBKS Wealth Management, Fredonia; Vicki McGraw, Elegant Edibles Catering, Jamestown; and Brian Pender, Northlake Development, Mayville.

This full slate of nominees will come up for a vote during the Chamber's Annual Meeting, which will be held at **noon, Friday, December 13 at the newly re-opened White Inn in Fredonia.** The cost is \$35 for lunch. Our keynote speaker will be Lesley Zemsky, Vice President of Larkin Development in Buffalo.

The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting is sponsored by Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Jamestown Community College, LaBella Associates, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.

Registration is open now through the web calendar at [www.chqchamber.org](http://www.chqchamber.org). We urge all Chamber members who are not able to attend to complete the proxy vote form available online at [www.chqchamber.org/proxy-vote-form](http://www.chqchamber.org/proxy-vote-form).



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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC

On December 3, 2024, ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC (“ConnectGen”) submitted an application to the New York State Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under Section 68 of the Public Service Law. ConnectGen is requesting an Order to authorize the entity, ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC, to own and operate the South Ripley Solar Project an approximately 270 MW solar powered major renewable energy facility with battery storage, to be located in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York (“Facility”). ConnectGen also seeks an order providing for lightened regulation. ConnectGen obtained a Siting Permit on April 21, 2023, pursuant to former Section 94-c of the Executive Law from the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (“ORES”), based on an application filed with ORES on August 10, 2021, in a separate proceeding to construct the South Ripley Solar Project in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York (the “Project” or “Facility”).

ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC has requested no hearing be required and the petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity be determined on the basis of the Petition, attachments thereto and the material provided to ORES, Matter No. 21-00750.

Any person seeking to comment on the Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should notify in writing, within 10 days of the date of the publication of this Notice, the Secretary of the Public Service Commission at Agency Building 3, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223, of the reasons for the opposition. Any comments should reference Case Number 21-E-\_\_\_\_\_.

# The Squirrel Nut Zippers to Deck the Halls at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts Dec. 14

*The Multi-Platinum Jazz Rockers Perform an Evening with Squirrel Nut Zippers Christmas Caravan Tour*



Submitted Photo

Article Contributed by

## Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

The swingin' seasonal sounds of the Squirrel Nut Zippers (SNZ) will be roaring into Jamestown, NY as they present fans with the gift of their sensational and swaggering holiday shows. The iconic multi-platinum jazz rockers will be unwrapping their "An Evening with the Squirrel Nut Zippers Christmas Caravan Tour," featuring songs from their Christmas Caravan and Mardi Gras for Christmas albums, as well as other Zippers favorites, Sat., Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m., on-stage at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts.

From heartwarming ballads to boisterous dance tunes, the band will conjure an atmosphere nestled somewhere between the wondrous lights of Christmas and the backroom din of a speakeasy during these wildly festive performances.

Inspired by 1920s jazz, klezmer and vaudeville, SNZ's endlessly curious and innovative leader Jimbo Mathus has concocted a sound truly unique and original. No other artist of his generation has embraced and synthesized eclectic influences in such a seamless, authentic manner. This unique blend is on full display with the Holiday Caravan show, which has increasingly grown in popularity, selling out venues throughout the United States.

The Platinum recording artists have sold over three million albums to-date with their watershed album, *Hot* (1996), making them a household name. Recorded in the heat of New Orleans, fueled by a smoldering mix of booze and a youthful hunger to unlock the secrets of old-world jazz, this pivotal release was just the beginning for the band.

Since then, SNZ has unveiled such hits as *Beasts Of Burgundy* (2018), which debuted at #4 on the Billboard Jazz Albums Chart, and *Christmas Caravan* (1998), which went on to sell a quarter of a million copies and reach #12 on the Billboard Holiday Albums chart.

The concert is presented by PNC Bank. Reg Lenna Center for The Arts programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Tickets to Squirrel Nut Zippers Christmas Caravan Tour are on sale now at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts box office: in-person (116. E. 3rd St. in Jamestown) or by phone (716.484.7070) Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12 until 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events. Tickets are also on sale 24/7 at reglenna.com, ending 2 hours before the December 14 performance.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 5

# Langworthy Helps Lead Bipartisan Effort Urging FAA to Prioritize Air Traffic Control Modernization

Article Contributed by  
Congressman  
Nick Langworthy



Aviation Safety Caucus Co-chairs Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23), Jack Bergman (MI-01), and Marc Veasey (TX-33) have urged Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Michael Whitaker to address serious concerns regarding the agency's oversight of Air Traffic Control (ATC) modernization investments in a recent letter.

This communication comes in response to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that found over half of the FAA's 138 Air Traffic Control systems to be unsustainable or at risk.

"The continued safety and efficiency of our national airspace system depend on robust oversight, timely execution, and effective management of these critical investments," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter continues, "Although the FAA has made strides in identifying and investing in some aging ATC systems, stronger and more proactive oversight is needed to ensure these investments are implemented efficiently. The oversight council responsible for reviewing and monitoring these

projects has, in many instances, failed to consistently assess high-risk factors associated with ATC modernization. Without proper and timely oversight, significant modernization projects are not meeting their cost, schedule, and performance goals, putting the entire system at risk of further operational disruptions."

The letter recommends that the FAA strengthen its acquisition oversight council to ensure thorough evaluations of project plans and risks, establish clear processes for annual budget reviews to enhance transparency and accountability, and collaborate with air traffic controllers and aviation experts to integrate operational expertise and improve modernization outcomes.

The letter has also received support from outside organizations, including the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), and the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, among others.



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**SUNY Fredonia Christmas Pops Concert**  
Features Hollywood's Favorite Little Big Band



Submitted Photo

Phat Cat Swinger, Hollywood's favorite little big band, comes to Fredonia for "A Not So Silent Night."

Article Contributed by  
**State University of New York at Fredonia**

The State University of New York at Fredonia Rockefeller Arts Center's holiday pops tradition will be a swinging affair with Hollywood's favorite little big band.

Phat Cat Swinger, an 11-piece ensemble that is a Disneyland California mainstay, performs "A Not So Silent Night" on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in King Concert Hall at SUNY Fredonia.

Tickets are available online 24/7 at [https://gp1.glnirticketing.com/gpticket/web/ev\\_list.php?](https://gp1.glnirticketing.com/gpticket/web/ev_list.php?). Tickets may also be purchased from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday or Friday by phone at (716) 673-3501 or in person at the Fredonia Ticket Office in the Williams Center during the same hours.

They say if Bruno Mars and Frank Sinatra made a band, it would look and sound like Phat Cat Swinger. The band specializes in high-energy music with that classic Hollywood touch. What sets them apart is the showmanship, movement, and creative takes on swing classics.

Led by founder Marco Palos, Phat Cat Swinger offers a unique blend of rock, swing and jazz infused with modern sensibilities.

The holiday show "A Not So Silent Night," features jazz-influenced takes on favorites like "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Mr. Grinch" and many more.

Phat Cat Swinger has made a name for itself in Hollywood and has been featured in videos with Christina Aguilera and The Jonas Brothers. They appeared at A-List shindigs at the Playboy Mansion and JJ Abrams invited them to perform for his company, Bad Robot Productions.

When not on tour, Phat Cat Swinger can be found on the stages of Disneyland Resort performing reimagined Disney classics and originals in the iconic Phat Cat sound.

"A Not So Silent Night" is a DFT Communications Pops Series event sponsored by Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat, Certified Public Accountants as part of the 2024-25 Lake Shore Savings Season.

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I get along well with other dogs, but my favorite pals are definitely people! There's just something about their cuddles and attention that makes my tail wag like crazy. I have to admit, I'm a bit nervous around water, so if you're looking for a pup to join you on kayak adventures, I might sit that one out!

If you're looking for a loving companion who's as active as he is affectionate, then I'm your pup! Let's go take on the world together-just you, me, and some belly rubs!



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## St. Luke's Episcopal Church Celebrates Two Bilingual Events in December to Build Community between English- and Spanish-Speakers

Article Contributed by

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church

As the holiday season approaches, much music has been made about "peace on earth" and "goodwill to men." This December, St. Luke's Episcopal Church is hosting two bilingual (English-Spanish) events – creating opportunities to experience much-needed peace and goodwill among people, through music and celebration. These events, to be held on December 13th and 14th, are designed to celebrate and share the rich traditions of Latin American culture and music:

#### Las Posadas Celebration – Friday, December 13th at 6:30 PM

Las Posadas (Spanish for "the Inns") is a traditional Latin American observance that reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter before the birth of Jesus. The event features a procession, prayers, and music as participants accompany Mary and Joseph through a symbolic search for lodging. The commemoration culminates in a joyful celebration with food, music, and a piñata, embodying the spirit of hospitality and community. Attendees should dress warm and gather at St. Luke's at 6:30 pm for an outdoor procession with songs and prayers (weather permitting) – to be followed by food and festivities indoors.

#### Latin American Worship Music Workshop – Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 PM

The following day, St. Luke's will host a Latin American Worship Music Workshop in the chapel at 1:00 PM. This interactive session will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about and experience sacred music from Latin American traditions. The workshop is open to all, regardless of musical or Spanish language proficiency, and is designed to create a welcoming space for learning and community engagement through music.



Submitted Photo

"St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host the Rev. Yuriria Rodríguez as she leads two bilingual events, bringing native English- and Spanish-speakers together through collective celebration and song.

Both events will be led by the Rev. Yuriria (Yuri) Rodríguez, a native Costa Rican priest, singer, artist, and educator. "The focus of my work is to use music to accompany diverse communities in their faith journeys, affirming their identities, and celebrating the presence of God in all cultures," Rodríguez says. She has over 20 years of experience performing and conducting choirs of sacred and Latin American music in the United States. Currently, she is serving as a priest at the Church of the Nativity in Lawrence, Indiana. Rodríguez adds, "I am passionate about bridging the spaces between cultures, languages, and food—whether it's the liminal spaces between English and Spanish, Latino and US cultures, or tacos and BBQ."

St. Luke's is hosting these events in partnership with the New Neighbors Coalition, a local grassroots organization committed to welcoming immigrants to Jamestown. Both events are free and open to the public. St. Luke's Episcopal Church is located at 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY. For questions or more information, call the church office at 716-483-6405 or email [st.lukes@stlukesjamestown.org](mailto:st.lukes@stlukesjamestown.org).



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# CHRISTMAS *in the* VILLAGE

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## Experience the Magic of Christmas in the Village of Lakewood!

Article Contributed by  
**Michelle Turner**

The holiday spirit is alive and well as the charming Village of Lakewood along Chautauqua Avenue prepares to welcome locals and visitors to a festive celebration unlike any other. Christmas in the Village promises to be a delightful experience that will warm hearts and created lasting memories for all ages.

Mark your calendars for the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December, as the Lakewood Community Development Corporation, with the support of generous community sponsors, presents a lineup of enchanting activities and entertainment for the whole family.

- discounts for holiday shopping
- Exciting drawings and giveaways to spread holiday cheer
- Festive carolers filling the air with seasonal melodies
- Live tree carving demonstrations showcasing unique artistry
- A variety of vendors offering locally crafted goods and gifts

“We are thrilled to bring Christmas in the Village back to the heart of Lakewood” stated Michelle Turner with the Lakewood Community Development Corporation. “This event represents the true essence of the holiday season, with something special for everyone to enjoy in our tight-knit community.”



Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the spirit of the season with your friends and neighbors. Join us for Christmas in the Village and make this holiday season magical!

### Highlights of Christmas in the Village include:

- Sleigh rides through the scenic streets of Lakewood
- Photos and a breakfast with Santa Claus for that per-fetch holiday memento
- Outdoor Christmas movie nights under the starlit sky
- Engaging activities for children to enjoy the holiday magic
- Special activities for children to enjoy the holiday magic
- Special merchant offers and

For more information about the event schedule and additional details, follow us on social media at Lakewood Community Development Corporation for real time updates.

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VILLAGE OF LAKWOOD

Check out our Facebook Event Page

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*“Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.”*

– Charles M. Schulz



## Get Creative with Holiday Decor

Article by

### Metro Creative Connection

The end of the year is upon us and that often involves decorating a home in its holiday finest. According to Today's Homeowner, nearly 70 percent of Americans plan to display outdoor holiday decorations. Among those choosing to decorate, 34 percent will do so before Thanksgiving.

Everyone has a different vision of a well-appointed holiday home, but there's always room to make things more unique and creative. These ideas can add a little extra to holiday displays.

#### Decorate Other Rooms

Who says holiday decorating is exclusive to living and dining areas? Think about decorating unexpected places, like swapping out everyday towels and shower curtains with something festive. Swags of greenery wrapped in lights can be added to bed frames.

#### Coordinate the Ornaments

Identify a color theme and then showcase it with ornaments. Think about matching the ornaments to the presents wrapped under the tree as well. Purchase white package paper and color or paint the paper to be the same hues as the ornaments on the tree boughs.

#### It's Hip to be Square

While round wreaths are traditional, make your own wreaths in a different geometric shape by using wire or another material as the frame. Square wreaths may be unexpected, and you also can turn the square on its side for a diamond shape.

#### Add a spot of color

Certain holidays are known for their particular color palettes, such as red

and green for Christmas. But you also can do something unexpected. Whether using a lighter shade of the same color family or adding an accent color like purple or blue, you can change things up in a creative way.

#### Make an Unexpected Bouquet

Swap flowers for pine cones, berries and greenery in unique vessels. For example, arrange your centerpiece in a tall fountain glass or even a cocktail shaker.

#### Try a Different Accent Tree

Use a styrofoam cone as the base of a tree for a centerpiece or sideboard. Attach poinsettia branches for a vibrant red tree, or stacked lemons or oranges filled with greenery for a fresh-smelling citrus creation.

#### Suspend Belief

Instead of attaching a tree topper to the tallest bough, hang one from the ceiling just above the tree to add even more whimsy.

#### Mix and Match

When it comes to a holiday table, mix and match table settings for an eclectic tableau.

#### Shift into Neutral

Instead of a large holiday display in familiar colors, rely on neutral, wintry tones that will blend in with the home but add a festive touch. Natural wood, whites and creams, and muted greens can fill spaces.

Unique holiday decorations and schemes can be a great way to add new life to a home this December.



*“Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how lovely are thy branches!”*

– Traditional Carol



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## Chautauqua Rails to Trails Hosts Annual Holiday Happy Hour

Article Contributed by

### Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Chautauqua Rails to Trails will hold its annual holiday fundraising fun night, "Holiday Happy Hour" at Big Inlet Brewing on Monday, December 9 at 5:30. The venue is located at 6169 Elm Flat Road, Mayville (near Hartfield). All are welcome to enjoy live music, pizza, sweets, open bar, ugly sweater contest, basket raffle. There is no admission charge.



Submitted Photo

Wendy Lewellen will be selling her fundraiser book, "Chautauqua Rails to Trails Namesakes and Trailblazers" as this year's perfect present for any outdoorsy history buff on your gift list. The book was published by a local business, Falconer Printing, with graphic

design by Lisa J. Short. This is also an opportunity to support a local establishment while helping an all-volunteer trail organization. For more information call 716-753-2800 or check [www.chaurtt.org](http://www.chaurtt.org) or the organization's Facebook page.

## Zonta's 16 Days of Activism



Submitted Photo

Article Contributed by

### Zonta Club of Jamestown

During the 16 Days of Activism each year, all Zonta clubs and districts, including the Zonta Club of Jamestown, are encouraged to take part in the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and to take local, national, and international actions to influence the creation and implementation of laws, as well as change gender-based attitudes and behaviors to end violence against women.

The 16 Days of Activism take place from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day.

This year the local club enlisted the help of Jamestown Mayor Kimberly Ecklund to help spread the word. She

issued a proclamation for the 16 Day of Activism and posed with members of the club in the lobby of Jamestown City Hall. Mayor Ecklund is quoted saying "The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a vital opportunity to stand in solidarity with women and girls worldwide who face the devastating impacts of violence. Here in Jamestown, we commit to raising awareness, advocating for meaningful change, and ensuring that every woman and girl can live with dignity, safety, and equality. Together, we can break the cycle of violence and build a future where women thrive."

The club also set up displays in area libraries, displayed yard signs, and decorated a tree in Baker Park.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown, go to [zontaclubofjamestown.org](http://zontaclubofjamestown.org).

*"Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance – each beautiful, unique, and gone too soon."*

– Deborah Whipp



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# SHERMAN LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE

## Saturday, December 14 • 6:00 pm

### The 3rd "Annual Sherman Lighted Tractor Parade on the 2nd Saturday in December"



Submitted Photos



#### Article Contributed by Village of Sherman

The 3rd "Annual Sherman Lighted Tractor Parade on the 2nd Saturday in December" will be this Saturday, December 14th at 6pm.

The white winter wonderland of blanketed snow will be the perfect backdrop to reflect the dancing and shimmering Christmas Lights along with the quaint covered walkway awnings along the historic Main Street, crisscrossed with colored lights. The inspiration for the event came from the owners of the Cooler Bar & Grille, and the Sherman Chamber of Commerce and local businesses organize this extravagant event, fully supported by the Village of Sherman.

The most enjoyment comes from this truly creative experience shared with multiple generations of family participants. An endless number of Christmas characters bounce and roll down Main St Sherman

for everyone's entertainment with decorated lawn mowers to log trucks, pontoon boats to corn choppers, and of course many tractors! Hot cocoa and treats abound along the charming parade route, and the restaurants are open to satisfy any appetite.

The Lighted Tractor Parade is the final event in the week-long Sherman Christmas celebration throughout the village. The businesses and community organizations are sponsoring a host of family fun activities, including christmas competitions, a scavenger hunt, chili cook-off, and free horse drawn wagon rides.

The number of entrants is growing. To register in the parade and for information on the events scheduled throughout the week please see FB 'Sherman Chamber of Commerce, Sherman, New York'. Also be watching for parking and transportation accommodation notices.



## SHERMAN LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE

Presented by the Chamber of Commerce & Sponsors

**December 14, 2024**

### Second Saturday of December

### 6:00 pm

Main St. • Sherman, NY

More details on Facebook  
Sherman Chamber of Commerce, Sherman, NY

### Deck the Halls in Sherman

<p><b>Saturday December 7</b> • 3pm Pet Parade at Edmond Park</p> <p><b>Sunday December 8</b> • 11:30am - 2pm - Chicken &amp; Biscuit Dinner at Stanley Hose Firehall • \$15</p> <p>3pm - Christmas Bingo</p> <p>6pm - Old Fashioned Christmas Service</p> <p><b>Monday December 9</b> • 5-6:30pm Pizza with Santa at Cornerstone Restaurant</p> <p><b>Tuesday December 10</b> • 5pm Decorate Christmas Cookies &amp; Dart Games at Sherman Hotel</p> <p><b>Wednesday December 11</b> 6pm - Christmas Trivia</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 12</b> • 4-7pm - Christmas Scavenger Hunt at Minerva Library</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 13</b> 6-9pm - FREE Horse Drawn Wagon Rides and Hot Cocoa &amp; Cookies at Miss Laura's Place</p> <p>8pm - Ugly Sweater Party at Cooler Bar &amp; Grill</p> <p><b>Friday, December 13 &amp; Saturday December 14</b> Basket Raffle at 104 W Main St.</p> <p><b>Saturday December 14</b> 2-4pm Chilli Cook Off at Stanley Hose Firehall</p> <p>5-6pm Santa on Main St between Sweet Meadow Shoppe and Classy Clippers</p> <p>6pm Lighted Tractor Parade</p> <p>Hot Cocoa &amp; Cookies at Miss Laura's Place</p>
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## Heritage Announces New Board Governance to Secure Its Future and Strengthen Community Care

Article Contributed by  
**Heritage**



Heritage, the largest trusted provider of skilled nursing care in Chautauqua County, of therapy, memory care, rehabilitation, assisted living, and independent living, proudly announces the establishment of a new board governance structure aimed at ensuring the organization's long-term success and safeguarding the well-being of those it serves.

This initiative, developed with valuable support from community stakeholders—including Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr., New York State Senator George Borrello, Assemblyman Andrew Goodell and Congressman Nick Langworthy and other community leaders—underscores a shared commitment to securing a strong future for Heritage and our residents.

“Strength in Unity” termed by County Executive PJ Wendell has become the guiding principle of this effort. While deeply honoring its faith-based mission and legacy, Heritage also acknowledges the challenges posed by prior decisions that have placed the organization—and the vital care it provides—at risk.

PJ Wendell shared, “I am thankful for Heritage leadership, including

CEO Lisa Haglund commitment to ensuring we can ensure this valuable community asset remains a cornerstone of our county. As County Executive, I remain committed to caring for those that once cared for us.”

Lisa Haglund, CEO shared, “Under the leadership of our new board, which integrates faith, community support, and strategic business acumen, Heritage is poised to navigate the complexities of today’s healthcare landscape, allowing us to remain one of the largest employers and providers of care to an important generation, that deserves the best we can give them. This governance model positions us to overcome obstacles and continue providing compassionate, high-quality care for future generations. We have done a disservice to our residents, employees and community by allowing prior decisions to impact future quality and sustainability.”

The restructuring reflects Heritage’s proactive approach to addressing the evolving needs of the community while ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainable growth.

## Chautauqua County Youth Wins National Title



National Champion Public Speaker  
Charlotte Couchman



Submitted Photos

Charlotte Couchman with parents  
Jamie and Sara Couchman.

Article Contributed by

**Lynne Wahlstrom**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of  
Chautauqua County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County’s 4-H Program is excited to announce the win of 4-H member Charlotte Couchman at the 2024 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

The 2024 Eastern National Horse Roundup was held November 4, 2024 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The competition hosted participants from 20 states, including 16 New York State 4-H members.

Youth competed in a variety of competitions including Communications, Horse Judging, Hippology (the study of horses), and Horse Bowl. They also had the opportunity to learn about Kentucky’s equine culture with tours of Churchill Downs, Spycoast Farm, and the Kentucky Horse Park.

Charlotte Couchman competed in the Public Speaking division of the Communications competition with a speech titled “Do You Have a License For That?”. Her ten-minute speech discussed finding the middle ground in keeping, riding, and working with horses.

The road to the Nationals is not an easy one. Couchman had to compete and qualify to move on at the County, Regional, and State competitions to make it to the National competition.

This is not Couchman’s first national win. She won the Individual Presentation division of the Communications competition at the 2023 Nationals with her PowerPoint Presentation on Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis, better known as EPM in the equine world. It is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord of horses that is caused by a parasite spread in the feces of opossums.

Couchman is a 10-year member of the Chautauqua County Junior Trail Riders 4-H Club and is active in the 4-H Horse Project with her horses Ren and Goose. She competes in dressage and hunt seat with them and also enjoys working them at liberty or just spending time with them. She also competes in Horse Bowl and Hippology in 4-H and is active outside the 4-H realm in the Dressage4Kids program. She is a senior at Cassadaga Valley and after graduation is planning on going into the medical field.

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# Fenton History Center to Present Sensory Santa



Submitted Photo

**Contributing Writer**  
**Joni Blackman**

is well-versed in working with individuals with disabilities.

The Fenton History Center is once again holding its Sensory Santa event on Saturday, December 14 from 4-6 PM. It is a time for families to enjoy a visit with Santa in a low level of noise and light, yet festive, environment. This event is tailored for children and families who may find traditional Santa Claus encounters overwhelming. In addition, Santa

Parents or caregivers are required to accompany their child or children, and the event is open to all community members free of charge.

At the Fenton, we are dedicated to ensuring that all our visitors have a safe, enriching, and delightful experience. For more information visit [www.fentonhistorycenter.org](http://www.fentonhistorycenter.org) or call 716-664-6256.

# Fenton History Center to Hold Book Signing by Author Christopher Carosa Releases New Historical Book

## *History Unleashed: Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of The Greater Western New York Region*

*Article Contributed by*  
**Fenton History Center**

Greater Western New York History series 50 *Hidden Gems of Greater Western New York, A Pizza the Action and Hamburger Dreams.*

The Fenton History Center will welcome Author Christopher Carosa on Saturday December 14th for a 2 PM talk and book signing. Mr. Carosa's fourth book in his Greater Western New York History series, *History Unleashed: Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of the Greater Western New York Region*. The book follows General Marquis de Lafayette on his travels through the Greater Western New York region in great detail, ahead of the bicentennial, June 3-8, 2025. The book will be available for purchase on at the Fenton Gift Shop and Amazon.

"The pioneer years of the Greater Western New York Region have always captivated me," says Christopher Carosa. "Tying them into the visit of such an iconic figure of American history was an opportunity I could not pass up."

Discover the untold true story of Lafayette's extraordinary journey through Greater Western New York! *History Unleashed: Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of the Greater Western New York Region* transports readers to the heart of America's early years, where the iconic Marquis de Lafayette embarked on a historic tour of the region. As Lafayette traverses the picturesque landscapes of Western New York, he encounters a vibrant tapestry of cultures, communities, and pivotal moments in American history. From his encounters with Native American tribes to his interactions with settlers and soldiers, Lafayette's journey illuminates the rich history of the region and its profound impact on the shaping of a nation. This title follows Carosa's other books in the

Christopher Carosa, Deputy Historian for the Town of Mendon, NY, and known to many as the "hamburger historian", is a popular and entertaining speaker. As an award-winning financial writer, his thoughts and opinions have been sought out by national media including *Forbes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Barron's*, *CNBC*, *CNN*, and *Fox Business News*. A long-time newspaper columnist writing on everything from white cream donuts to international geopolitics, the New York Press Association has recognized him for his online video production, editorial, features, and column writing. In addition to the Greater Western New York History series, Carosa has written 5 other books including *The Parents' Guide to Turning Your Teen into a Millionaire* and a stage play.

For more on Christopher, and his other books/writing please visit [chriscarosa.com](http://chriscarosa.com).

# History Unleashed

Lafayette's Remarkable Tour of the Greater Western New York Region

## Book Signing at the Fenton History Center

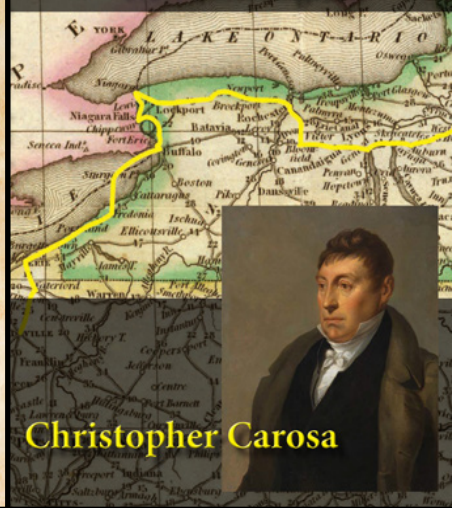
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Christopher Carosa



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Reef is full of energy and curiosity, always on the lookout for new toys to pounce on or puzzles to solve. You'll often find Reef goofing around, making funny faces, and performing acrobatic jumps. Reef is quite the entertainer and can turn any ordinary day into a joyous one with my playful antics. If you're looking for a companion who's equal parts silly and intelligent, Reef is your guy. Let's make some fun memories together!



Reef

# Small Business Development Center Celebrates First FastTrac Business Basics Course with Funding from City of Jamestown

Article Contributed by  
**Small Business  
Development Center**



The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Jamestown Community College (JCC) successfully concluded its first FastTrac Business Basics Program, a 10-week course designed to equip aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge to turn their ideas into actionable business plans. With support from the City of Jamestown, the program was offered free for City of Jamestown residents and business owners and attracted 18 participants who presented diverse and innovative business concepts.

Participants engaged in twice-weekly sessions, diving into critical topics such as:

- Market research and business modeling
- Pricing and legal strategies
- Distribution, sales, and financial management
- Human resources and entrepreneurial lifestyle insights

The program concluded with a business pitch session, where

participants showcased their plans and gained valuable feedback. These entrepreneurs will continue to receive personalized guidance from SBDC advisors as they refine and launch their ventures.

Facilitators included a mix of SBDC Business Advisors and industry experts, including Beth Reed, Brian Rovegno, Danny Hickman, Scott Miller, business consultant Rahsaan Graham, and attorney Brad Stevens. Business ideas ranged from selling baked goods and sneakers to designing cutting-edge technology for small enterprises, reflecting the creative and dynamic spirit of the cohort.

“The dedication and ingenuity of these entrepreneurs inspire our community and drive economic growth,” said Dr. Courtney Curatolo, SBDC Director.

“With small businesses creating two-thirds of new jobs in the U.S., the SBDC is here to help turn business visions into reality.”

“The City of Jamestown is proud to sponsor this valuable program for our residents and businesses, made possible through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Our Department of Development is committed to fostering a thriving local small business ecosystem, and we believe that this partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) plays a crucial role in achieving that goal,” said Crystal Surdyk, Director of Development for the City of Jamestown.

“The FastTrac program showcases the

incredible talent and creativity within our community,” said Mayor Kimberly Ecklund. “By supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, we are not only helping individuals realize their dreams but also fostering economic growth and innovation that benefit the entire City of Jamestown. Partnerships like this with the SBDC are vital in building a vibrant and prosperous future for our residents and businesses alike.”

The program is part of SBDC’s mission to deliver high-quality business counseling and training to entrepreneurs in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. Services are free, confidential, and designed to support businesses at all stages of development.

Building on this success, SBDC will host the second FastTrac cohort starting in Spring 2025. The program remains free for residents and business owners within the City of Jamestown and is \$125 for all other participants. Ideal for individuals refining a business concept or starting their business, the course provides essential tools to craft a strong, actionable business plan.

For more information or to register for upcoming programs, visit [www.sbdjcc.org](http://www.sbdjcc.org) or call 716-338-1024.

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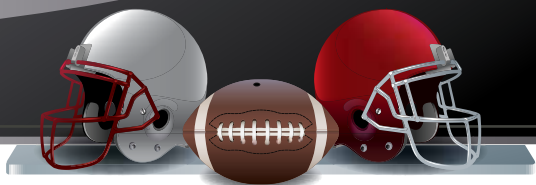
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## GAME TIME SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- Commanders @ Saints ..... 1:00 PM
- Chiefs @ Browns..... 1:00 PM
- Bengals @ Titans..... 1:00 PM
- Dolphins @ Texans..... 1:00 PM
- Ravens @ Giants..... 1:00 PM
- Jets @ Jaguars..... 1:00 PM
- Cowboys @ Panthers..... 1:00 PM

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Bengals @ Cowboys..... 8:15 PM

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Rams @ 49ers .....8:15 PM

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- Bears @ Vikings..... 8:00 PM
- Falcons @ Raiders..... 8:30 PM

- Buccaneers @ Chargers ..... 4:25 PM
- Colts @ Broncos..... 4:25 PM
- Patriots @ Cardinals ..... 4:25 PM
- Bills @ Lions..... 4:25 PM
- Steelers @ Eagles..... 4:25 PM
- Packers @ Seahawks..... 8:20 PM



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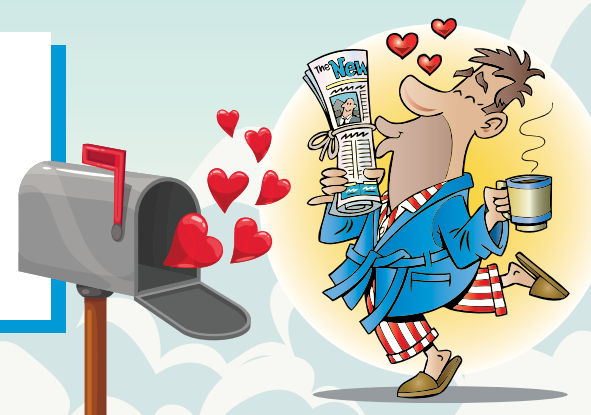


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