

# <u>CHAUTAUQUA</u> GAZETTE



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**Women's History Month** 

Volume 2 • Issue 11 | Week of March 24, 2025

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"As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it."

> - Ruth Bader Ginsburg former US Supreme Court Associate Justice

# "Moving Forward Together"

Featured Writer

Hannah Connor

'nternationalWomen's Dayisn't just another date on the calendar—it's a powerful reminder of how far we have come and how far we still have yet to go. But do you know where it all began?

In 1908, 15,000 bold, courageous women marched through New York City, demanding shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights. This moment in

history became the seed from which International Women's Day would blossom, officially recognized in the month of March every year. Over the decades, this month has evolved from a call for workers' rights to a global celebration of women's achievements in all aspects of society—political, economic, social, and cultural.

Present day, we take this time in March specifically, to celebrate all of the accomplishment's women have achieved. International Women's Month highlights ongoing issues like

gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence against women, and it also stands to celebrate the incredible contributions women make every day, in every corner of the world.

As a professional empowerment photographer, my primary focus of work centers around documenting women and their stories. I work with high powered executives, stay at home mothers, grandmothers, women who

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7** 



22<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# **Spring Basket Fair**

Fluvanna Community Church in Jamestown March 29, 2025 | 11am

# WOMEN IN HISTORY

Proudly Recognizing Chautauqua County's Finest

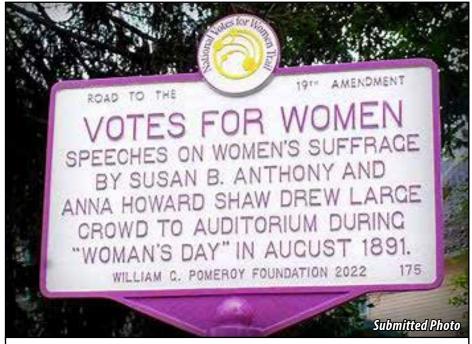
Featured Writer

### Michelle Henry

Historian and Trustee Chautauqua County Historical Society

There are numerous historical markers in Chautauqua County highlighting the achievements of women who had a connection here: women who excelled in politics, medicine, equal rights, entertainment, and women who conducted themselves with exceptional bravery during times of war. While it is not possible to mention all of them in the space allotted here, I encourage you to take the time to read historical markers that you pass in your daily travels. Or better yet, plan a few day trips across the county, exploring the history available to you on roadside markers. From Dr. Pauline Stitt in Frewsburg to Celia Cole in Fredonia, their stories are worth reading.

Recently the William G. Pomeroy Foundation donated funds for



Marker awarded through the National Suffrage Trail program is located at Lily Dale

250 markers to be placed across the United States as part of the National Women's Suffrage Trail. Impressively, two markers were selected for placement right here in Chautauqua County! The first marker is placed at the home of

Elnora M. Babcock, 627 Washington Avenue in Dunkirk. Elnora was the head of the press bureaus for state and national suffrage campaigns. At her Dunkirk address, Babcock

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10** 

### **This Week Around Town**

### **Tuesday, March 25**

Cinema Series: A Complete Unknown

1891 Fredonia Opera House For Info: 716-679-0891

### Wednesday, March 26

### "Bach's Lunch" Concert Series

11:40 AM Bellinger Chapel at the First Presbyterian Church | Jamestown For Info: 716-487-1984

### 2025 State of the County Address: **Chautauqua County Executive Paul** M. Wendel Jr.

6:30 PM Legislature Chambers | 3 North Erie Street, Mayville For Info: 716-753-4644

### **Thursday, March 27**

### Movies at The Reg: Becoming Led Zeppelin

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown For Info: 716-484-7070

### JCC Uncommoners: LEAR by Young Jean Lee

Thursday, March 27 - Saturday, March 29 | 7 PM The Robert Lee Scharmann Theater

Jamestown Community College For Info: sunyjcc.edu

### Friday, March 28

### Showcase and Reopening Celebration

5:30-7 PM Stockton Library | Stockton For Info: 716-595-3323

### **Audubon Lights**

Friday, March 28 & Saturday, March 29 8:15 PM - 10 PM Audubon Community Nature Center For Info: auduboncnc.org

### Saturday, March 29

### St Luke's "Church of The Wild" Service

10 AM Fred J. Cusimano Eastside Trail (East Overland trail parking lot) For Info: 716-483-6405

### 22nd Annual Spring Basket Fair

Fluvanna Community Church | Jamestown For Info: 716-484-0553

### NYS Maple Weekend

Friday, March 29 - Sunday, March 30 Farm Locations Across Chautauqua County For Info: mapleweekend.com



# **Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel to Deliver 2025 State of the County Address**

*Article Contributed by* 

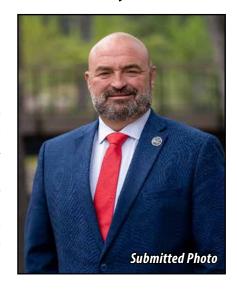
### **Justin Gould**

Chautauqua County Media Information Officer

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. invites residents, local officials, and media representatives to attend the 2025 State of the County Address on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Legislature Chambers, located at 3 North Erie Street, Mayville, NY.

During the address, County and outlining our continued achievements of the past year and present his vision for 2025 under the theme "Grow CHQ." He will highlight strategic investments, economic development initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and plans to enhance the quality of life for Chautauqua County residents.

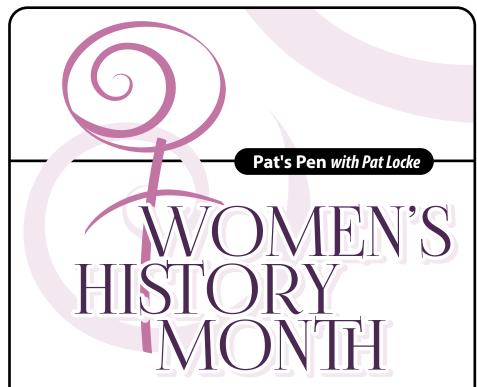
"I look forward to sharing the progress we have made as a county



Executive Wendel will reflect on the commitment to growth, efficiency, and opportunity for all," said Wendel. "Together, we will build stronger, more prosperous Chautauqua County."

> Members of the public are encouraged to attend in person or stream the address live on YouTube at: YouTube.com/@ ChautauquaCounty.







Contributing Writer

### Pat Locke

hautauqua County is home to many businesses owned ✓ and operated by women as we recognize local women during Women's History Month 2025 and their contributions to education, mentorship, leadership and ownership. The 2025 theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." The yearly theme is selected and published by the National Women's History Alliance.

By celebrating Women's History Month we acknowledge the achievements of women from all walks of life. The month of March aims to inspire young women to pursue their dreams and to make a difference in the world for themselves and for others. Consider celebrating in a variety of different ways, not just this month, but all year long: perhaps a book club highlighting female authors, an art display by a local artist or a panel discussion with local female business owners. You can even create a playlist of songs that celebrate women and their musical achievements. Ensure that all events and activities are inclusive and accessible to women of all backgrounds and identities. Create a celebratory atmosphere that is enjoyable and engaging for everyone.

The month-long commemoration started with Women's History Day in 1978 organized by the school district of Sonoma, California. Since 1987, the United States has formally recognized March as National Women's History Month beginning with President Reagan issuing March 1987 as Women's History Month and calling upon all Americans to mark the month with observances to honor the achievements of women. Among the women honored are: Amelia Earhart, Sally Ride, Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Maya Angelou, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Eleanor Roosvelt, Margaret Mead, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Diana, Vera Wang, Marie Curie, Mother Teresa, Ruth Handler, Harriet Tubman, Gloria Steinem, Anne Frank, Clara Barton, Helen Keller and Billie Jean King as well as many others including our beloved hometown gal, Lucille Ball.

While there isn't one single, universally recognized symbol for Women's History Month, the colors purple, green and white are widely associated with the month. Purple represents dignity and loyalty. Green represents hope and new life. White represents purity. The most important element of Women's History Month is to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society while highlighting the ongoing struggle for gender equality and inspiring future generations.

Here are the Chautauqua Gazette, we know the importance of women and women-owned businesses. We are a woman-owned business - thanks to our Publisher, Lori Cornell for that! Many of our team members and writers are women as well. We are grateful to be able to bring womens' voices to the forefront this month and throughout the year, as it has been said that "A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman." Therefore, we stand together as we issue our thanks to all the business women of Chautauqua County for their dedication and achievements, as well as all women across the area for their voices, their contributions and their efforts to enhance our community.



# Focus on the Boys



Owner & Publisher Lori Cornell

omen's History Month allows us to reflect upon how far we've come and to recommit ourselves toward our ongoing pursuit of equality. All of us. Each gender alike.

I'm dating myself, and hopefully not causing too much political angst to quote former First Lady Hillary Clinton, who once advised: "To all the little girls [out there]...never doubt that you are valuable and powerful, and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams."

Regardless of what side of the aisle you're on and how you feel about the 1990's champion of pants-suits, most would agree with her beautiful words, yes?

Fast forward to my early career and child-rearing years. I was invited to meet with some women leaders in the community - many of them also moms like me - with the goal of developing an initiative to build and support strong women and girls in Chautauqua County. The conversation that ensued involved all thelaudable, classic intentions that this Clinton quote arguably embodies: self-worth, empowerment, equality, opportunity, etc, etc. The women in attendance carried on with stories like "my daughter experienced this...

and my daughter deserves that...", rightly igniting all of the best motives and intentions.

But as one of the only all-boy moms in the room it suddenly hit me.

Yes, I was happy to lend a hand in helping to grow strong and capable women in Chautauqua County, but the gravity of my first responsibility in raising four sons suddenly became crystal clear. I studied the table full of mothers wishing for their daughters a better world of opportunity than that into which they had been born. As a woman, I couldn't agree more: we have come so far, and yet, have a such a long way to go toward achieving full equality with our male counterparts.

But as a boy-mom, my job was not supporting daughters to see themselves as equals. My job was to raise boys to see a world <u>not</u> as it is, but as it should be: where gender equality is assumed and NOT taught. Again, gender equity initiatives are critical and invaluable, but my realization of my primary role struck me from a societal approach and focus. What if we had meetings about changing the paradigm and expectations for our boys? What if our focus was on our modeling for them?

What if, instead, Hillary Clinton had said: " To all the little boys out there: never doubt that little *girls* are valuable and powerful, and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue their dreams," and we didn't focus on a message that strives to prove that girls are just as valuable or powerful as boys. What if we recognized that we are just valuable, period? We are just powerful, period. Just as we are.

What if?

Now THAT'S an important message.

# Women's History Month

The official colors of Women's History Month are purple, green, and white, as adopted by the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), a British suffragette organization founded in 1903.

Purple

Represents dignity, justice, and loyalty to the cause.

*Green*Symbolizes hope, growth, and new beginnings.

White

Signifies equality, freedom, purity, and truth.

# CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

Publisher ...... Lori Cornell Founder .....Stacey Hannon Graphic / Layout Designer ... April Colburn Graphic / Layout Designer.... Nick Trussalo Contributing Editor ...... Katrina Fuller Marketing Director .....Shannon Nixon Technical Design...... Marc Scapelitte Contributing Writer.....Pat Locke Faith Matters ..... Rev. Luke F. Fodor Featured Writer ...... Hannah Connor Featured Writer ......Michelle Henry Featured Writer .....Dr. Courtney Curatolo Featured Writers.....Robert & Karen Cross

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 32 Bemus Point, NY 14712

### **PHONE**

716-720-1845

cornell@CHQgazette.com

### **WEBSITE:**

CHQ gazette.com

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Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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The Chautauqua Gazette is a locally owned free weekly, community newspaper that highlights the notable events and remarkable people who make the Greater Jamestown region a unique and vibrant place to live. The Chautauqua Gazette is published every Monday and distributed to dealer locations in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in New York and in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

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# In Laving Memory

### March 13

Shirley A. Flinchbaugh, 89 Jamestown Lind Funeral Home

> Paul Yates, 79 Jamestown Lind Funeral Home

Pamela B Westley, 81 Jamestown Lind Funeral Home

### March 14

Debra A. Pawloski, 72 Celeron Lind Funeral Home

### March 15

Andrew J. Erickson, 73 Jamestown Falconer Funeral Home

### March 17

Rosemary A. Moffett, 72 Jamestown Peterson Funeral Home

### March 18

Kenneth R. "Randy" Yahner, Jr., Lakewood

### March 19

Lind Funeral Home

Carol Williams, 92 Lakewood Lind Funeral Home





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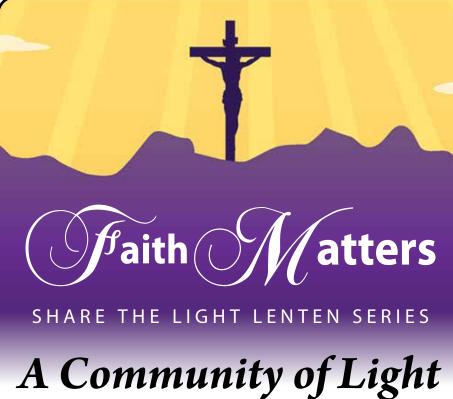


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"Well behaved women rarely make history."

- Eleanor Roosevelt





Featured Writer

Rev. Luke F. Fodor Saint Luke's Church

ll words have a hidden history that lies under their ordinary everyday usage. For instance, when we hear the word education, our minds tend to picture colorful classrooms with desks, books and whiteboards. We imagine that when we use the verb "educate", that is it describing the process through which information is shared and inculcated into the impressionable minds of young students. But when you study the etymology of the word, you discover a deeper vein of meaning. When it came into the English language in the 12th century from its Latin origins, it literally meant to "lead out." As in, education, leads one out of the darkness of ignorance and into the light of understanding. It's meaning, in turn, came from the earlier Wisdom School of Greek Philosophy that centered around Socrates's maieutic (midwifing) process of questioning his students—with the belief that all of the true knowledge is called out from the inside. His student Plato elaborated upon this idea suggesting that we are living in a cage with our back to the opening of the cave and looking at the shadows on the back wall.

Education leads us into new possibilities. This is the work that Chautauqua Striders has long embodied in our community.

Originally founded in 1979 as a local track club, Chautauqua Striders has since developed into a multifaceted community organization, proudly offering diversified programs incorporate its mission "Mentor and guide youth through education, advocacy and athletics." This work is only accomplished with community support! Each time you run a Striders 5k or sign up to be a mentor you've making a huge difference in helping to lead our community from darkness into light.

At the beginning of Lent, we always hear the story of Jesus "being was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil" (Luke 4:2). Again, we have the "leading out" as an opportunity for learning. The Hebrew word, Midbar, usually translated as "wilderness," is rooted in the verb dabar, which means "speaking." When Jesus goes out into the wilderness (which is translated in most cases as the wilderness, but may be better called "the organ which speaks'), He is led out to learn new ways.

This Lent, I wonder what is being called out in you? How can you learn to let your light shine?

The Chautauqua Gazette is proud to feature different faith leaders from throughout Chautauqua County each week, in an effort to connect and inspire. We endeavor to provide a variety of religious and faith perspectives well-aligned with our diverse community and values. If you are a faith leader and wish to contribute, please contact publisher Lori Cornell at cornell@CHQgazette.com.

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> \$100/YEAR\* - BRONZE Your name printed weekly in 2025!

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Your name printed weekly; Your photo in (4) features

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### Chautauqua Gazette

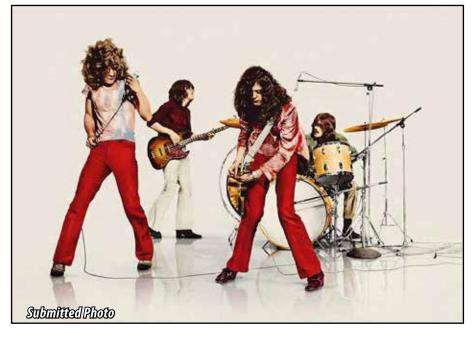
### Led Zeppelin Documentary to Show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts

Article Contributed by

### Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Becoming Led Zeppelin (Wed., March 26 at 7 p.m.) explores the origins of this iconic group and their meteoric rise in just one year against all the odds. Powered by awe-inspiring, psychedelic, neverbefore-seen footage, performances, and music, Bernard MacMahon's experiential cinematic odyssey explores Led Zeppelin's creative, musical, and personal origin story. The film is told in Led Zeppelin's own words and is the first officially sanctioned film on the group. Becoming Led Zeppelin is rated PG-13 and is 137 minutes long.

Upcoming Movies at The Reg Massacre at the 1972 Olympics



include the historical thriller about ABC Sports' coverage the Munich Massacre at the 1972 Olympics

September 5 (April 2 at 7 p.m.), Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore in Pedro Almodóvar's English language debut The Room Next Door (April 9 at 7 p.m.), and the animated family films Dog Man (April 11 at 7 p.m.) and Paddington in Peru (April 16 at 2 p.m. and April 18 at 7 p.m.)

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

### **Register now for Citizen Preparedness Class**

Prendergast Library will be offering a Citizen Preparedness Class through NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Participants will receive a preparedness kit and an hour of valuable information about how to respond when disaster hits. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at Noon and will be hosted in the Marvin

Community House (2 W 5th St, Jamestown NY 14701). Patrons can register at https://tinyurl.com/CitizenPreparednessTraining; the maximum capacity is 70 people. For questions, please refer to the attached flyer or call Danica Olson, Public Services Manager at Prendergast Library, 716-484-7135 ext. 235.

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

- Michelle Obama





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To book a table, give us a call: 716-488-7227



### "Moving Forward Together"

### **CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**



Hannah Connor Photography & Black Crystal Boudoir

run farms, Sunday school teachers, researchers, medical professionals, homemakers and beyond. Every day in my studio, I witness the power of women reclaiming their narratives and embracing their individuality in a safe and supportive environment. My role is to provide a space that acknowledges and visually affirms their strength and achievements, aligning closely with the core spirit of the month and the celebration of women. To provide reminders of who they are at a given point in time to help remind them that they can be whatever it is they wish

Through the lens of my camera, I see not just the faces, but the extraordinary stories, struggles, and victories of each woman who steps in front of it. Photography becomes more than just snapping a moment; it's about giving visibility

to be- and enjoy the process with

personal pride.

to the often-unseen power every woman carries within themselves. One thing I have learned over the course of my many years doing this work, is that it's not often the photos that have the biggest impact, it's the space to be heard and to be themselves without expectation or judgement. Seeing individual ladies blossom and express themselves purely during this process has been life changing for me, and many share that it is for them too.

International Women's Month serves as an annual reminder that each woman has a unique voice and story worthy of being heard. every day—let's Today—and honor women everywhere by actively championing their right to be empowered in the way they each truly deserve.

Happy International Women's Month!!

# The Big Pond near the Pennsylvania State Line

Drabble by John Brantingham

Today, with the pond iced over and snow on the ice and prints in the snow, I realize that the little islands in the pond shelter mink because the prints go out but don't come back. They must swim there to find safety when it's warm, or maybe to watch for prey or me when I walk by.

The secret world of mink is laid out before me. I use my telephoto lens but can't see anyone on the island. I'm glad for that. The minks don't want me to watch them. I have no desire to be a voveur.

This poem was sponsored by a grant from New York State Council on the Arts. Johnbrantingham.com



### **CATERING · BAKERY · DELI**

Tuesday, March 25

City Chicken Dinner \*for orders of 5 or more please call ahead

Wednesday, March 26

Homemade Chicken & Biscuits w/real mashed notatoes Full: \$11.25 + tax | Half: \$8.25 + tax \*\$.50 extra for separate packaging

Thursday March 27 Stuffed Pepper w/ choice of small tossed salad, roll & butter, or mashed potatoes - (choose 2) \$11.25 + tax

Friday, March 28 1/4# Dog Burger w/ choice of side \$10.25 + tax

Monday, March 31

(1) Homemade Goulash w/roll & butter Full: \$10.95 + tax | Half: \$7.95 + tax (2) Sloppy Joe w/ choice of side \$10.50 + tax

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### **SUDOKU**

				5		sossoge		8
					6			
		5	2	7		4		
		9		Ngosson			8	
3			7					
		7	5	4			2	
occoedin	4					5		
		3			4	9		
								6

### **Here's How It Works:**

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

Level: Intermediate

### **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			
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37			38			39								
40					41			42		43	44	45	46	47
48				49					50					
51									52					
			53						54				55	
		56					57		58					
		59							60					

### **CLUES ACROSS**

1.	State	in	southwestern	India

4. Pashto

10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

11. Supervised release from prison 40. Releasing hormone

12. Greeting 14. Type of drug

\_ Sagan, astronomer 16. Every year

18. Nasal cavities 22. Nova , province

23. In an inactive way 24. Cream-colored root 26. Nervous system disease

27. Guitarist Clapton 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus 56. Azure

30. Lebowski's nickname 31. Play a role

34. Not fresh

36. Where golfers begin

37. Negatives 39. Wild goat

41. Makes up

42. Fastens

48. Exists in large numbers

50. A connecting word

51. A phase of the heartbeat

52. Northern Ireland county

53. An independent ruler or chieftain

54. Pacific sea bream

55. Commercial

29. Talk incessantly

33. Beginners

38. Sleep

35. Makes a trade

41. Not moving

47. Chalcedony

31. Ethnic group of Nigeria

43. Popular drink: Pina \_\_\_\_

45. A place you can get stuck in

32. Longtime NY Times film critic

58. Doctor of Education

59. Protected oneself against loss

60. Car mechanics group

### **CLUES DOWN**

1. Pastes for filling crevices

2. Acquire

3. Heralds 4. News group

5. Exact copies 6. Particles

7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena 8. Tempted

9. Midway between north and east 44. Potential benefits 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate

13. South American hummingbird 46. Ancient Greek City 17. Neither

19. Walk with confidence 20. Omit when speaking

French pastry

21. Imperial Chinese currency 25. A bakery specializing in

49. Rover 56. Digraph

57. Investment vehicle

### **PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 27**

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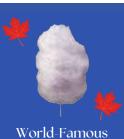
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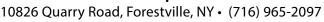
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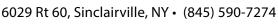
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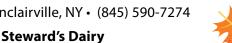


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# The Sweet Tradition of **Maple Syrup Making**

Featured Writers

By Robert & Karen Cross 3 C's Catering

Tpring is a time of new beginnings, sunshine, and fresh growth. With the season comes one of nature's sweetest gifts—the nectar of the maple tree. Maple syrup production has been a long-standing tradition in the Northeastern United States for

of syrup per year. When we first started, we used an outdoor wood stove, yielding only 3-4 gallons annually. Since then, we have moved our production indoors and switched to a natural gas setup. Our journey began when we purchased equipment from a relative who was downsizing, and my dad thought I needed something to do during that time of year. Now, our children are involved in every step of the

Maple sap is the natural liquid inside maple trees, formed when starch stored in the roots during winter is converted into sugar and drawn up through the tree. The sap is then boiled down to the perfect viscosity to create maple syrup.

Our family has been making maple syrup since 1982—a relatively short time compared to some Sundays, March 23rd & 30th, from operations that have been in the industry for over a century. We run a small-scale operation with just 70 taps, producing around 20 gallons

We produce enough syrup for our catering recipes and breakfast buffets. Each year, we host a Breakfast with Santa in December and two New York State Maple Weekend Breakfasts in the spring. This year, Maple Weekend will be held on March 23rd & 24th and March 29th & 30th. Our Falcon's Nest Breakfasts will take place on 8 AM to 11 AM.

We hope you enjoy nature's sweetest treat as much as we do!

# Nutty French Toast (9x13 pan)

### Ingredients

- 12 Slice French Bread (Slices 1 inch thick)
- 8 Eggs
- 2 Cups Milk
- 2 Tsp Vanilla
- ½ Tsp Cinnamon
- 34 Cup Butter
- 1 1/3 Cup Packed Brown Sugar
- 3 TBSP Maple Syrup
- 1 Cup Chopped Walnuts

Place bread in a greased baking dish. In a large bowl, beat eggs, milk, vanilla and cinnamon; pour over the bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, cream butter, brown sugar, and syrup until smooth: spread over bread. Sprinkle with nuts and bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350 degrees or till golden brown.





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# Baked Oatmeal Cups

Recipe Recommendation from Cornell Cooperative **Extension of Chautauqua County** 

Oatmeal plus your choice of add-ins are baked into a muffin cup for an on-the-go breakfast or snack.

**Prep time:** 15 minutes Cook time: 30 minutes Makes: 12 Muffins

### Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups milk (any type)
- ½ cup of unsweetened applesauce, ripe banana or pumpkin pureé
- 1/4 cup nut butter or 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil, margarine or softened butter
- 3 to 4 Tablespoons packed brown sugar, maple syrup or honey (see Notes)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup dried fruit or 1/2 cup fresh, frozen and partially thawed, or canned and drained fruit
- ½ cup chopped nuts or seeds (optional)

### Directions

- 1. Wash hands with soap and
- If using any fresh fruit, rinse it under running water before preparing.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease 12 muffin cups.
- In a large bowl, combine the eggs, milk, applesauce, nut butter, brown sugar and vanilla.
- Add the oats, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, fruit and nuts, if desired, and stir until
  - combined. Let sit for 5 to 10 minutes to let the oats soak up some
- of the liquid.
- Divide the mixture evenly between the muffin cups.
- Bake until golden brown, about 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for a few minutes before removing from muffin cups.
- Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours or freeze for longer storage.

### **Notes**

- Try sunflower butter when nut allergies are a concern.
- Honey is not recommended for children under 1 year of age.
- Try other spices such as nutmeg or ginger.
- Try these combinations:
- o applesauce, raisins and walnuts
- o pumpkin, blueberries and pecans
- o Banana, dried cranberries and pumpkin seeds

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Nutrition Facts

1 muffin (90g)

190

8%

12%

8 %

11%

11%

8%

6%

6%

6%

4%

3%

0%

12 servings per container

Serving size

Calories

Total Fat 6g

Trans Fat 0g

Sodium 190mg

Dietary Fiber 3g

Protein 6g

Vitamin D 1mcg

Potassium 228mg

Vitamin A 30mcg

"The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrie in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Vitamin C 0mg

Calcium 84mg

Iron 1mg

Total Sugars 11g Includes 4g Added Sugars

Saturated Fat 1.5g

Cholesterol 35mg

Total Carbohydrate 30g





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Women's History Month **Chautauqua Gazette** L. Cornell and Company, LLC

### Women in History: Proudly Recognizing Chautauqua County's Finest

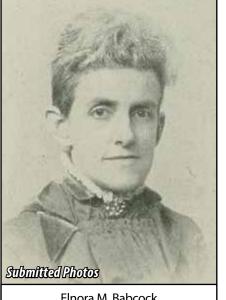
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wrote and distributed hundreds of thousands of articles promoting women's right to vote. During her tenure as President of the county's Political Equality Club (1891-1893), the club had more members than any other county club in the United States. Yes, Chautauqua County's political equality club had over 1,000 members representing every town in the county.

In the Centennial History of Chautauqua County, published in 1904, Babcock wrote, "Chautauqua County is noted for its broad and liberal men and women and as a natural result it has been the cradle of many progressive movements. Not only is it the birthplace of the Grange, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the great Chautauqua Assembly, but it bears the proud distinction of being the first county in the state to organize a county Political Equality Club, with the various local clubs in the county auxiliary to it."

The second marker awarded through the National Suffrage Trail program is located at Lily Dale. Early in its history, Lily Dale welcomed suffrage speakers and even held an annual Women's Day Convention starting in 1891. Prominent speakers such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and the Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw spoke at Lily Dale to enthusiastic crowds of men and woman. The Chautauqua County Historical Society in Westfield has an impressive collection of memorabilia from the Suffrage Movement, including the yellow sashes and purple ribbons worn at county conventions.

Susan B. Anthony is commemorated by another historical marker in front of the county courthouse in Mayville. On December 26, 1854, Anthony began her famous



Elnora M. Babcock

statewide tour, speaking at our county courthouse and encouraging local women to form a county Political Equality Club. According to Anthony's diary "the courthouse was filled with an intelligent and attentive audience... there seemed an earnest seeking after the new Truth." Even though the weather was not conducive for travel, women from nine towns in the county traveled to Mayville to hear Anthony speak. From Mayville, Anthony's campaign took her to each county in New York State.

After reading the state historical marker for Susan B. Anthony, you will notice another marker in front of the courthouse, dedicated to Ellen Yates Miller. Miller was the first woman in New York State to be elected to the position of County Clerk, and she held the office for eight terms.

However, her election in 1918 was not championed by all – at that time, only men were allowed to work as title searchers. Every title searcher in the Clerk's office quit, refusing to work for a woman. Several female typists in the office felt they were capable of doing the work of a title



Ellen Yates Miller

searcher, but they were not eligible to fill the positions. Miller had to appeal to the county's Board of Supervisors, asking for permission to hire women so that real estate transactions could continue in the county. Ellen Yates Miller died in office in 1940. At the time she had held public office longer than any other woman in New York State. She is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Jamestown.

Another local woman who was first in her profession was Katherine "Kate" Stoneman from Busti, where a state historical marker is now dedicated to her. Stoneman was born in 1841, the seventh of eight children. Growing up on a farm without access to many books, Kate later recounted that she found herself reading and rereading a musty law book in her family's possession, partly because it interested her and partly because there was little else to read. Kate left Busti in 1864 to attend Albany Normal School to become a teacher. Women were eligible to teach penmanship, drawing, and geography, other subjects being considered too rigorous for a woman's delicate constitution. Stoneman supported

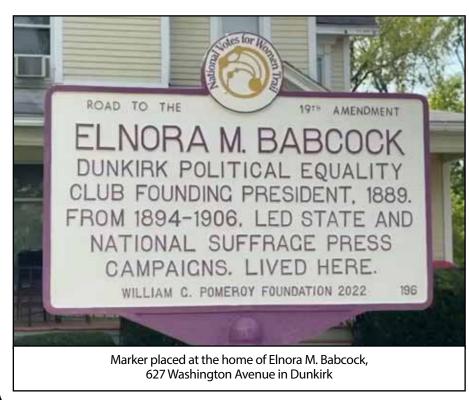
herself while in school by working as a copyist for a reporter for the Court of Appeals (remember, no photocopy machines or carbon paper existed – duplicate copies had to be handwritten).

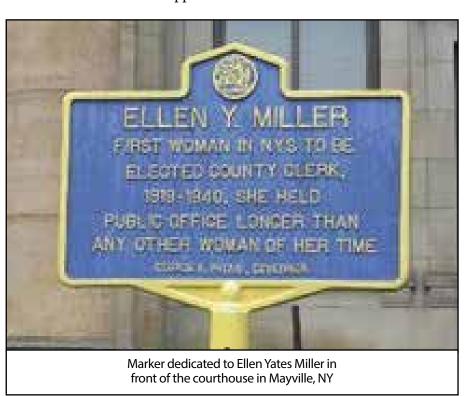
Stoneman became interested in the law and was given access to the law library of a family friend. She also was involved in Suffrage activities in Albany, working to highlight the legal disabilities of women and the unjust laws that existed in the statute books. In 1880 Kate was a prime mover in efforts to pass a law allowing women to participate in school elections. She was the first woman in Albany to cast her vote under the new law. In a 1916 newspaper interview, Stoneman said, "All the time I taught school, but during the summer and at night and over weekends, I read law."

In 1885 Kate Stoneman took the bar exam, passing both the written and oral components. However, her application to be admitted to the bar was denied because she was a woman (the decision indicated that the statute did not specifically include women, and that no one would hire a woman as an attorney anyway!). Kate and her suffrage friends used their influence to introduce a bill in the Assembly that would allow anyone to practice law, regardless of race or gender. The bill was passed and signed in May 1886. Newspapers across the country carried the news, calling Stoneman "New York State's First Portia."

Stoneman's passion for law and for advancing a place for women in the profession continued. Even though she had passed the bar exam, she did not have a law degree. Perhaps to prove to herself (and others), that a

### **CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**





Women's History Month March 24, 2025 CHQgazette.com

### **CONTINUED FROM PREV. PAGE**

woman could withstand the rigors of a law school education, in 1895 Stoneman entered Albany Law School. She became the school's first female graduate in 1898 at the age of 57.

Sara Sykes Sinfield is worthy of mention here, even though there is no roadside marker dedicated to her. Instead, Sarah's grave in Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredonia, is marked with a bronze plaque. Sarah Sinfield was awarded a pension for service to the 72nd New York Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.

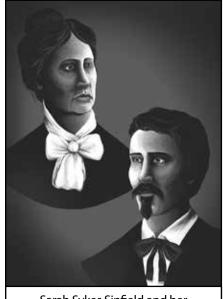
Sarah and her husband William Sinfield emigrated to the United States from England shortly after their marriage in 1852. Sarah could not read or write, but she and William were hard-working and hoped to make a better life for themselves here. They were renting a farm in Dunkirk when the Civil War started, and William enlisted in the 72nd NY Volunteer Infantry. Sarah must have been terrified of being left behind. They had no children, and she had no means of support. Sarah begged William's Captain to let her accompany the troops as they left Dunkirk. Her request was denied. After the company left for Staten Island, Sarah again pleaded with the Captain to allow her to join her husband and promised to return home immediately if ordered to do so. Remarkably, Sarah's request was granted, and she accompanied the company from Staten Island to Washington, D.C., and stayed with Company E through some of the worst fighting of the war. During the battles of Fair Oaks, Malvern



Katherine "Kate" Stoneman

Hill, Bull Run, and Manassas, just to name a few, Sarah was present at the battlefield, staying at the rear of the fighting to aid the wounded.

At Gettysburg (July 1863), William Sinfield was shot through the knee cap, shattering his knee. He was



Sarah Sykes Sinfield and her husband William Sinfield

removed to a hospital in Rhode Island and Sarah accompanied him, working as a nurse for ten months until William was discharged. Sarah spent nearly three years in active service with William's regiment except for the time working at the hospital in Rhode Island.

William's wound never healed. and he was unable to walk without crutches for the rest of his life. His pension was just \$8 per month! However, to thank him for his service, in 1874 William was appointed Assistant Lighthouse Keeper at Dunkirk at a salary of \$400 per year. Knowing the nature of William's handicap, it is unlikely that he could climb the stairs of the lighthouse - Sarah probably fulfilled his duties as lighthouse keeper.

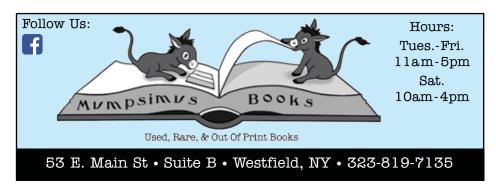
In 1884, every clergyman in Dunkirk submitted letters to Congress, asking that Sarah be awarded a pension for her service. She was granted a pension in July 1884, which allowed Sarah and William to retire from the lighthouse. Sarah took care of William until her death in April 1894. William was moved to a veteran's hospital in Dayton, Ohio where he died in 1895 and is buried. After dedicating her life to her husband, it is sad that Sarah and William are not buried together.

In 2015, a bronze marker detailing Sarah's Civil War service was placed at her grave. Her dedication to her husband and to the men in his company (who found in her an incredible source of comfort and support) is a testament to her strength and tenacity.

To learn more about the historical markers in the county, visit the Pomeroy Foundation's website: https://www.wgpfoundation.org/



Plaque dedicated to Sarah Sykes Sinfield, located at her grave



"In my life, I had come to realize that, when things were going very well, indeed, it was just the time to anticipate trouble. And, conversely, I learned from pleasant experience that at the most despairing crisis, when all looked sour beyond words, some delightful "break" was apt to lurk just around the corner."

- Amelia Earhart



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Chautauqua Gazette Women's History Month L. Cornell and Company, LLC



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Basket Fair

Fluvanna Community Church in Jamestown March 29, 2025 | 11am

# The St. Susan Story

St. Susan Centers history is the result of a tragedy and a dream. The dream was first articulated by an ecumenical group of clergy from the Southern Chautauqua region, who wished to provide... "In response to the Gospel, we freely offer meals, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors" There was great love and unmistakable worth in their dream, but it lacked the necessary funding to be put into action.

A tragic car accident that took the life of a young downstate New Yorker named Susan Tornebene led to a very special gift that brought the dream to fruition. While Susan was cared for in WCA Hospital, the clergy of many local churches and our community surrounded her and her family with loving care. Although Susan did not survive the accident, in her honor, her family donated the funds to start St. Susan Center. St. Susan Center opened its doors on February 1, 1984.

Their gift has nurtured our community for forty years in countless ways. They shared with us an indelible lesson in love and we share that gift by offering "food, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors."

The first home of St. Susan Center was in the former St. James Catholic School. The soup kitchen was the guest of the church, paying no rent, utilities or fees of any kind. When the school was sold in 2006, St. Susan Center launched a major capital/relocation campaign.

Today, the Center occupies part of the former Chautauqua Hardware building on Water Street. Through the auspices of the Community Development Association and the generosity of the greater Jamestown community, the Center is barrier-free and beautiful and, once again, secure.

St. Susan Center hosts meetings, events, annual dinners, special parties, holiday gatherings and more. Every time we open our doors, it is to build community and increase the understanding and support of our mission to feed the hungry.

We serve Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We lock our doors at 2:45 p.m. On Saturday, our dining room is open for service from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are closed on Sundays. No one is turned away. Each day our guests are served a nutritional meal that includes a hot entrée, fruit, vegetables, and a healthy snack to go. We are closed only on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day.

We also depend on donations from the community around us, both monetary and food products. Our community is such a huge support system for us and keeps us going from day to day.

### Join our Capital Campaign!



StSusanCenter.org/give (716) 664-2253



"we freely offer meals, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors"



"In response to the Gospel, we freely offer meals, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors."

### **ALL WELCOME!**

31 Water St, Jamestown, NY 14701 M-F: 11am - 2:50pm | Sat: Noon-1:45pm stsusancenter.org

# St. Susan Center Welcomes Spring Things & Basket Things



2024 Basket Fair

Article Contributed by

### Cherie Rowland

Executive Director St. Susan Center

Jamestown's Premier Basket Fair is back in full bloom this year March 29, 2025, at the Fluvanna Community Church on 3363 Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown!

St. Susan Center proudly announces the 22nd Annual Spring Basket Fair! This year's event will begin at 11am, Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at the Fluvanna Community Center, on 3363 Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown.

This year's Chair, Jen Lundmark, noted, 'We have in years past had over 700 attendees! St Susan Center is excited to announce, Jamestown's Premier Basket Fair is back in full bloom this year!"

There will be dozens of baskets and gift certificates, such as, grand prize Dewalt 5-piece set for the weekend warriors, baskets for men, and fun baskets for children. Of course, there are loads of amazing basket choices for the ladies.

Starting at 11am, you will have the opportunity to check out the awesome prizes, visit with friends, eat delicious food, choose baskets, learn more about our local soup kitchen and have a wonderful time.

### This year's Grand Prizes:

- \$1,000.00 cash
- \$500.00 cash
- iPad
- 75-inch TV
- 5-piece Dewalt Set

\$10 each for Grand Prize tickets

or 3 sheets for \$25. Drawings will begin at 2:00pm!

Have lunch while you peruse the basket aisles. St. Susan Center will have food items on sale at the "Comfort Café."

Every basket and every gift certificate represent individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations who have generously donated to help raise money for our soup kitchen. St. Susan Center continues to be effective in Jamestown through the kindness and generosity of the community.

We want to thank Wegmans for being this year's event sponsor.

All Proceeds Benefit St Susan Center.

St. Susan Center serves meals Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. On Saturday, our dining room is open for service from 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. No one is turned away. Each day our guests are served a nutritional meal that includes a hot entrée, fruit, vegetables, and a healthy snack to go.

Our mission "In response to the Gospel, we freely offer meals, fellowship, dignity and respect to all who come through our doors" continues to be fulfilled through the hard work of our volunteers and generosity of our amazing community.

Those or more information about the Basket Fair. You can also visit our Facebook page or website at stsusancenter.org. Or call down at St Susan Center at 716.664.2253.

# SHE'S THE BOSS!

Proudly featuring some of CHQ's most impressive leading ladies.



# The Rising Influence of Women Entrepreneurs in Chautauqua County



Featured Writer

### Dr. Courtney Curatolo **Regional Director Small Business Development Center** at Jamestown Community College

**▼** hautauqua County is home to a growing number of female ✓ entrepreneurs and business leaders who are making significant contributions to the local economy. From small startups to established enterprises, women in business are shaping the landscape of commerce in the region. Their success stories highlight resilience, innovation, and

the impact of strong community business assistance and training

### A Legacy of Leadership

Women have long played a vital role in Chautauqua County's economy, but in recent years, their influence has grown exponentially. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of women-owned businesses has

steadily increased, reflecting a national trend of female entrepreneurship. County, Chautauqua this shift is evident across various industries, including retail, hospitality, healthcare, and profession... services.

One of the driving forces behind this growth is the availability of local resources that support female entrepreneurs. Organizations like the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Jamestown Community College and the CHQ Chamber offer

opportunities. These resources have helped women develop their business acumen, secure financial backing, and navigate the challenges of business ownership.

### **Notable Examples in Chautauqua County**

Remarkable women are on the se in Chautauqua County's business community. fact, this year's New York State "Business Person of the Year" is our own Melissa Baideme, owner of C.K. Fruit Juice LLC in estfield. This national Small

Business Association (SBA) award is given annually to business owners recognized for having had the most significant impact and economic contributions in each state. Melissa has grown her wholesale fruit concentrate packaging business since 2021. She also offers fruit fillings for pies and different flavors of salad dressing. I can personally attest to the delicious products she creates.

### **Overcoming Challenges**

Despite these successes, women in business continue to face challenges. Access to capital remains a significant hurdle, as studies show that female entrepreneurs often receive less funding than their male counterparts. Additionally, balancing business responsibilities with family life presents unique difficulties for many

However, these challenges have not deterred Chautauqua County's female entrepreneurs. Instead, they have fostered resilience and creativity. Many women business owners have adopted flexible work models, embraced digital marketing strategies, and leveraged community partnerships to sustain and grow their enterprises.

### The Role of **Community Support**

One of the defining characteristics of women in business in Chautauqua County is their commitment to community support. Many female entrepreneurs actively aspiring business owners, sponsor local events, and participate in initiatives aimed at economic development.

For instance, the SBDC WIN in Business program has been instrumental in connecting female entrepreneurs with resources and networking opportunities. Monthly meetings, workshops, and peer mentorship programs have created a supportive environment where women can share experiences and strategies for success. Win In Business takes place on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Jamestown Community College. Call the SBDC at 716-338-1024 for more details.

### **Looking to the Future**

The future is bright for women in business in Chautauqua County. As awareness of gender equality in entrepreneurship grows, so does the potential for continued progress. Programs that focus on financial literacy, leadership training, and technology adoption will be crucial in empowering the next generation of female business leaders.

Moreover, as consumers increasingly prioritize support for local businesses, women-owned enterprises stand to benefit. The emphasis on sustainability, ethical business practices, and personalized customer service—hallmarks of many femaleled businesses—resonates strongly with modern consumers.

### Conclusion

Women in business are a driving force behind Chautauqua County's economic and social growth. Through resilience, innovation, and community engagement, they have created a thriving business environment that benefits everyone. As their influence continues to expand, the county can look forward to a future where women entrepreneurs play an even greater role in shaping its prosperity.

# 7 Ways to Celebrate **Women's History Month**

Article by

### **Metro Creative Connection**

The month of March is notable for various reasons, not the least of which is it serves as Women's History

Although any time of year is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of women and pay homage to those special women in one's life, each March extra attention is given to the impact women make in their local communities and across the world.

According to the World Bank, as of 2022, 49.7 percent of the world was made up of women. Here are some ways to commemorate Women's History Month this year.

- 1. Support women entrepreneurs. Make it a point to shop at stores owned and run by women, or purchase products that were developed by women.
- 2. Mentor young or adolescent girls. People can make a difference in the lives of young women and set them on the course for success by sharing their own experiences through mentored guidance.
- 3. Express personal gratitude. Send

- a thoughtful letter of gratitude to a woman who has made an impact on your life and explain how her influence helped you in some way.
- 4. Celebrate women artists and authors. Take the time to view and experience creative works by women, which may include reading books authored by women or viewing crafts and artwork made by women.
- 5. Start a business resource group. Woman entrepreneurs can encourage others to start their own businesses by hosting a business resource group that meets periodically and enables others to network easily.
- 6. Learn about women's rights. Take a step back into history and read up on the journey to establish women's rights, starting with the right to vote.
- 7. Post on social media. Share stories of inspirational women with others on a global scale by posting thoughts to various social media platforms.

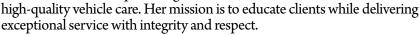
Women's History Month is a time to reinforce the accomplishments of women across the country and the





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

With years of experience as an autobody technician, instructor, and NYS licensed adjuster, Jessica launched Sip N' Suds, a business dedicated to providing affordable,



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

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# BLACKSTONE

Heather Turner is a tenacious entrepreneur and community-minded business leader who has transformed Blackstone Advanced Technologies with the help of her team. The journey began in 2014 when the Turner's moved back home and acquired Blackstone, a custom metal fabrication company with strong roots in defense, transportation, and industrial markets. Taking on the challenges of ownership while raising a young family, Heather stepped into a leadership role that demanded strategic thinking. Over the years, she has helped drive major operational



upgrades, expand service offerings, and navigate the company through workforce challenges, supply chain disruptions, and changing market conditions. She's deeply focused on building a culture that values people — offering childcare assistance to support working parents, investing in employee development, and working hard to retain local talent. Her impact is felt not just in the shop but across the community as she is involved in many local non-profit organizations.

Today, Blackstone Advanced Technologies stands as a trusted partner to major U.S. defense contractors and manufacturers, known for its precision sheet metal work, engineering support, and ability to solve complex fabrication challenges. The company continues to grow with a balance of innovation and heart — proof that family-owned manufacturing businesses can lead with both purpose and power.

blackadvtech.com | (716) 665-5410 86 Blackstone Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701

### Ericca Caccamise • Wanderlust



Ericca Caccamise, PMP, owner of Wanderlust, began her quest to provide healthy food for the public as a HACCP Manager for a Rochester-based ingredient manufacturer. She was promoted to roles in new product development, engineering, and managing capital projects with budgets exceeding \$10M.

Ericca returned to CHQ 30 years after graduating from SUNY Fredonia in 1992. In 2023, she opened Wanderlust. That fall, partner James Powers, joined

as its chef, and the lunch and dinner menus emerged. Lobster bisque, lobster rolls, and internationally inspired entrees have created a new niche in town at this take-out restaurant. Their goal is to bring healthy, delicious & affordable meals to CHQ, with excellent service and no tipping.

Ericca supports children's causes in Chautauqua County and volunteers her time to children's literacy, CASA of CHQ, the CHQ County Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and as a board member for the Westfield YWCA.

Lobster Bisque! Available in two local markets:

April 4th - The Lighthouse Grocery, Mayville May 1st - Bemus Point Market, Bemus Point



Welcome to Wanderlust Custard, a carry-out-only restaurant where every dish is a journey of flavors from around the world. 29 Elm Street, Westfield, NY

29 Elm Street, Westfield, NY (716) 232-4069 wanderlustcustard.com

### Julie Flaker • Empower Vision Services



Julie Flaker • VRT, CPWIC, OMS

Julie Flaker, founder of Empower Vision Services, is transforming vision rehabilitation for blind and low vision individuals across Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania. Established in 2023, her practice provides comprehensive services including vision rehabilitation, orientation & mobility training, and Social Security benefits advisement—all under one roof. With a Master's in Vision

Rehabilitation Therapy from Hunter College and a Master's Certificate in Orientation and Mobility from the University of Pittsburgh, Julie brings specialized expertise to clients who have often waited years for proper services. As a board member of Blind Power Company, she actively supports blind employment initiatives. What sets Empower Vision Services apart is its unique private pay options for individuals who don't yet qualify for state-sponsored programs, ensuring no one falls through the cracks. Julie's passion for serving her community drives her mission to make vision rehabilitation accessible to all and empower clients to regain their independence.



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# 🐉 Blue June Blooms 🐰

Brittany Joanne's journey with flowers began with small steps: working at flower shops, taking workshops in cities like DC and Philadelphia, and designing flowers for a friend's wedding. Her passion led her to formal training at SCAD, Savannah Tech, and UGA Botanical Gardens, eventually landing her a role with one of Savannah's top event designers. When the world shifted, opportunity knocked: a flower shop in her hometown of Westfield,



Brittany (

NY, went up for sale and Brittany seized the chance to make her dream a reality. Today, as the owner of Blue June Blooms, Brittany shares her love of flowers with the world while striving to make a positive impact. Rooted in a family of strong women leaders, she proudly continues their legacy in Westfield. Brittany is an active member of the Women of Westfield and helps lead the annual Holly Tour; sits on the organizing committee of the historic Union Relief Charity Ball; and proudly honors her grandmother's memory by carrying on her original flower shop from decades ago. Through Blue June Blooms, Brittany combines her expertise, community spirit, and dedication toward creating beauty, one bloom at a time.





Francesca Galbato Moran launched **Ann Augustine Fine Jewelry** in 2024 to bring a highly personalized experience to jewelry shopping. Coming from a long line of small business owners, she developed a passion for working one-on-one with clients guiding them through the process of creating meaningful pieces. Her specialty is custom engagement rings and she works closely with manufacturers to craft heirloom-quality pieces designed to last for generations.



Founder, Francesa Galbato Moran

A 2018 graduate of **Loyola University** Maryland, Francesca earned a degree in Communications before working in

events and marketing. Her love for fine jewelry led her to **New York** City, where she pursued a Graduate Gemologist degree from the **Gemological Institute of America (GIA)** in the renowned Diamond

District. She then refined her expertise at **Tiffany & Co.** in their Colored Stone and Pearl Department.

The name **Ann Augustine Fine Jewelry** is a tribute to her grandmothers, combining their middle names as a reflection of family, legacy, and timeless elegance.





Francesca's grandmothers Francesca Augustine & Patricia Ann

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# ERA Team VP | Gulf Coast International Properties Owner, Vincenza Salon & Spa

Mary Ann Bianco counts herself fortunate to own a Salon & Spa in Jamestown, Lakewood, and Chautauqua Institution since 1973. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she expanded her career by becoming a licensed real estate agent in both New York and Florida.

Mary Ann has always been passionate about helping people, whether through hair and beauty or now in real estate. "The transition from salon owner to real estate agent has been both exciting and rewarding," says Mary Ann. She has found that the skills she developed in the salon—listening to clients, understanding their needs, and providing tailored solutions—are just as important in helping someone find their dream home.

In real estate, Mary Ann combines her love for aesthetics with her desire to assist people in making one of the most significant decisions of their lives. She enjoys guiding clients through the home-buying process and helping them feel informed and confident every step of the way.

As she navigates this new chapter, Mary Ann continues to cherish the connections she has built in her community over the years. Her commitment to providing excellent service remains steadfast, and she looks forward to helping clients discover not just a house, but a place they can truly call home.

Whether it's styling hair or finding the perfect property, Mary Ann believes in creating an experience that is both personal and enjoyable. She is excited to see where this journey will take her and can't wait to meet new clients and help them achieve their dreams.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what happens next!



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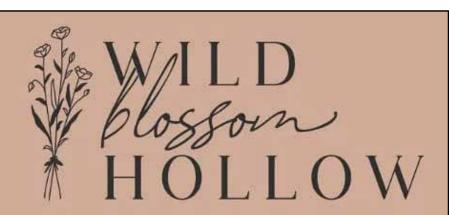
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Wild Blossom Hollow began as a sanctuary where Christy Muck found solace in the soil, turning to flowers as a source of healing after the loss of her brother-in-law, Nick, and while navigating motherhood. What started on a small plot in Cherry Creek has blossomed into over an acre of thriving flowers in Forestville, NY—Christy's beloved hometown. Today, Wild Blossom Hollow is home to a design studio and flower shop, embodying growth, resilience, and the power of community.



Rooted in sustainable practices, the farm cultivates flowers with mindfulness and respect for the earth's natural rhythms. Each arrangement, from boutonnieres to wedding centerpieces, celebrates the raw beauty of nature, crafted with intention and integrity.

At the heart of Wild Blossom Hollow is The Little Flower Shop, a community hub where flowers and fellowship intertwine. It showcases the work of local female artisans and offers a space for connection, reflection, and joy. Wild Blossom Hollow is more than a flower farm—it's a testament to the healing power of nature and the strength of local roots.

www.wildblossomhollow.com | (716) 679-8059 2299 Straight Rd, Forestville, NY 14062





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- ✓ Non-Profit Organizations

Danielle Andalora has built a remarkable career spanning industries including automotive, medical devices, and aerospace oxygen systems, bringing a wealth of expertise to her role at Equitable Advisors. With over 30 years of experience, she has held key positions such as Senior Process Engineer, Senior Quality Engineer, and Manufacturing Engineering Manager. Danielle's credentials include certifications in Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma Green Belt, and Quality Systems auditing for ISO14001 and QS9000, reflecting her dedication to excellence and efficiency. She holds a BS from the University of Rochester and an MBA from St. Bonaventure University, complemented by her certification as a Holistic Financial Coach from Columbia University.

At Equitable Advisors, Danielle combines her engineering background with financial expertise to help clients analyze their portfolios and develop strategies for a secure future. Her personalized, supportive approach ensures clients feel confident in their financial decisions. Beyond her professional achievements, Danielle is deeply involved in her community. A passionate golfer and competitive swimmer, she serves as President of Niagara Aquatics Club, promoting water safety and swimming education. Danielle resides in Amherst with her son Joseph and is fluent in Italian, adding to her dynamic and multifaceted life. Her unique perspective and commitment to helping others make her a trusted partner for clients at every stage of life.

### Danielle Andalora, MBA, ChFC® Financial Professional

**The Empire:** 350 Essjay Road, Suite 300, Williamsville, NY 14221 **Chautauqua:** 401 E. Fairmount Avenue, Lakewood, NY 14750 Danielle.Andalora@equitable.com | Phone: 716-276-7637 | Mobile: 716-857-0755

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# Gift Boutique

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

For years, owners and sisters, Micki and Julie, have traveled the country and the world exploring new places and most importantly, shopping! With each trip, they found new "favorite things" that they've purchased for themselves and also gifted to loved ones. Seeing a need for a unique boutique locally, they embarked on a mission to give downtown Jamestown its own and named their boutique after their grandmother, Dorothy "Dot" Andrzejewski, who ran a business on the same block 50 years ago. Joined by Micki's daughter, Shannon, they've created a family-centered boutique offering unique gifts, home decor, and handmade accessories. Located near the National Comedy Center and Lucy-Desi Museum, Dot's features well-known and one-of-a-kind brands, many supporting small businesses and charities.

This year marks their sixth anniversary, celebrating the support of their community. As they reflect on the challenges of the past five years, including Covid, they remain grateful for their customers, friends, and family. Visit Dot's to find your new favorite thing!

Open Tuesday thru Saturday @ 11
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www.dotsgiftboutique.com

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### FULL STRENGTH



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



Owner, Kathy Archer

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

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

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





"I truly love my job and wish everyone could say the same. I hope to one day pass it on to someone who finds equal fulfillment in working hard in the dirt!"

 Jill Jaquith, Owner of Greener Gardens Landscaping & Nursery An English and history teacher by profession, Jill Jaquith chose to pursue her passion for leadership, nature, and hard work. Fourteen years ago, through a combination of choice and circumstance, she took over an existing business and transformed it into her own. Through experiential training, extensive research, and ongoing education coupled with countless hours of dedication—Jill has literally grown her business year after year. With the support of her talented and hardworking team, she helps bring customers' landscaping visions to life and assists others in maintaining properties they can no longer manage. Jill finds genuine joy in making the world a more naturally beautiful place every day.

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PersNikkity Pies is the culmination of over 15 years of passion, practice, and perfection. Owner Nikki has spent years refining her craft, creating what many call the most scrumptious pie crust and fillings you'll ever taste. Using only the choicest fruits and ingredients, each pie is a labor of love, made from scratch with care and precision.



But PersNikkity Pies isn't

just about flavor—it's about artistry. Every pie is a visual spectacle, designed to be as beautiful as it is delicious. As Nikki says, "Now you can buy art AND eat it!"

Inspired by the encouragement of family and friends, Nikki turned her talent into a business to share her homemade treats with the world. PersNikkity Pies is more than just a bakery; it's a celebration of creativity, quality, and the joy of sharing something truly special.

www.persnikkitypies.com | (716) 294-3368 9 E Main St, Falconer, NY 14733

# Grape & Tart Cherry Juice Concentrate Melissa Baideme sales@cknaturalfruitjuice.com Natural CK FRUIT JUICE 7865 Lake Street, Westfield NY 14787

Order online at www.cknaturalfruitjuice.com

Founded in 2021 by Melissa Baideme, CK Natural Fruit Juice is a family-owned food and beverage manufacturing company specializing in high-quality fruit juice concentrates and value-added products. Named after Melissa's sons, Cole and Kane, the business reflects a strong commitment to family, sustainability, and supporting the hardworking farm families of the Lake Erie Grape Belt.



The company's core offerings include Concord, Niagara, and Catawba Grape Juice Concentrates, Tart Cherry Juice Concentrate, Concord Grape Vinaigrette, and a variety of sauces and grape-based treats. Rooted in Melissa's agricultural upbringing in French Creek, NY, CK Natural Fruit Juice combines her passion for farming with her expertise in marketing and business leadership.

Since its inception, the company has experienced immediate success and looks forward to substantial growth. Melissa's plans include renovating the production facility, developing new products, and creating local job opportunities. With a mission to provide natural, sustainable products while supporting small-scale farmers and the economic growth of Chautauqua County, CK Natural Fruit Juice is on track to become a key player in the food and beverage industry.

cknaturalfruitjuice.com | (716) 485-3864 7865 Lake St, Westfield, NY 14787

# women in History



- 1. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
- 2. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?
- 3. Which woman wrote the novel Frankenstein?
- 4. Who was the first woman to win an Olympic gold medal?
- 5. Which woman was the first female self-made millionaire in the United States?
- 6. Who was the first woman to run for U.S. President (in 1872)?
- 7. Who was the first woman to win an Academy Award for Best Director?
- 8. Who was the first African American woman to travel to space?
- 9. Which woman is credited with inventing the first computer algorithm?
- 10. Which woman is known for refusing to give up her seat on a bus nine months before Rosa Parks?

10. Claudette Colvin

1. Marie Curie (1903 for Physics & 1911 for Chemistry) 2. Amelia Earhart 3. Mary Shelley 4. Charlotte Cooper (tennis, 1900 Paris Olympics) 5. Madam C.J. Walker (aka Sarah Breedlove) 6. Victoria Woodhull 7. Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker, 2010) 8. Mae Jemison 9. Ada Lovelace

### SBA Celebrates New York State Small Business Person of the Year: Chautauqua County's Own Melissa Baideme

Awardee in Competition for National Small Business Person of the Year to be Presented During National Small Business Week in May

Article Contributed by

### Victoria Reynolds

District Director
Buffalo District Office
U.S. Small Business Administration

Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Buffalo District Office is celebrating New York State's Small Business Person of the Year and 3 additional honorees as it prepares for National Small Business Week, which will take place May 4-10, 2025. Along with awards ceremonies, the week will include a national small business roadshow with SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler, a two-day virtual summit, community and educational sessions about manufacturing, digital marketing, cybersecurity and cryptocurrency, as well as online business resources and renowned speakers.

"This year's Buffalo District Awardees exemplify the innovative and industrious character that defines Western New York. Each have turned opportunity into achievement, and we are excited to recognize their success," said Victoria Reynolds, Buffalo District Director.

The SBA is recognizing Melissa Baideme, owner of C.K. Fruit



U.S. Small Business Administration

**Women's History Month** 

Juice LLC for her impact and economic contributions in New York. In 2021, Melissa seized an opportunity to purchase an existing juice concentrate manufacturing business in Chautauqua County and with the help of the Small Business Development Center at JCC, has grown her business exponentially including revenues, employees and product offerings.

SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler will acknowledge Baideme, who is in the running for the National Small Business Person of the Year and national runner up, on May 5 at the National Small Business Week kick off and awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Details on National Small Business Week, the virtual summit, registrations and speakers are featured on www.sba.gov/NSBW and will be updated as additional information and activities are confirmed. Local events will be featured on www.sba.gov/events and identifiable by searching with #SmallBusinessWeek.



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# Trailblazing Women Who Changed the World

Article by

### **Metro Creative Connection**

Throughout history, many dedicated, intelligent and perseverant women have made an impact that not only affected their lives, but also the lives of millions of others. Many of these noteworthy women blazed trails and opened doors for others, forever changing the world with their efforts.

### **Marie Curie**

Curie founded the science of radioactivity, which proved vital in treating cancer. Curie also was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first woman professor at the University of Paris. Curie also holds the distinction of being the first person to win a second Nobel Prize.

### **Jane Austen**

Few students will make it through a high school or college English seminar without reading at least one Jane Austen book. In fact, Austen may be credited with establishing the romantic comedy genre that still has its devotees in the twenty-first century. Her "Pride and Prejudice" remains a popular novel and has been adapted to film and television many times.

### **Grace Hopper**

After earning a doctorate in mathematics, Hopper became one of the very few women to obtain such a degree. She became a rear admiral in the United States Navy, and helped develop a compiler that was a precursor to the COBOL language used for computers.

### **Sally Ride**

Ride was an American physicist and astronaut who joined NASA in 1978. She was the first American woman and the third woman to fly into space.

### **Diana, Princess of Wales**

Diana Spencer was the first wife of Charles, heir apparent to the British throne, who has since become King of England. The Princess won acclaim for her charitable work for children and for raising awareness for HIV/AIDS and mental illnesses.

### **Lucille Ball**

Not only a prolific woman comic, which was not so common during her tenure, Ball also was a savvy business woman. She and her husband spearheaded her own production company. Ball also was known for tackling groundbreaking topics (at the time) on her television show, including women in the workforce, marital issues and pregnancy.

### **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

Ginsburg made history as the first Jewish woman to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court. She was a strong women's rights activist, and she co-founded the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union.

### Lola Baldwin

Baldwin became the first sworn woman police officer in 1908, when she was hired to work in Portland, Oregon. Her work mainly revolved around protecting women, including acting as a lobbyist for laws to protect women and advising other departments on women's law enforcement issues.

### **Elizabeth Blackwell**

In 1849, Blackwell became the first woman in the United States to earn a medical degree. Blackwell was inspired to become a doctor after a deathly ill friend insisted she would have received better care from a female doctor.

Throughout history, many women have helped to change the course of the world, blazing trails for future generations along the way.

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"With a defeat, when you lose, you get up, you make it better, you try again. That's what I do in life, when I get down, when I get sick, I don't want to just stop. I keep going and I try to do more. Everyone always says never give up but you really have to take that to heart and really do never definitely give up. Keep trying."

- Serena Williams

# **Stockton Showcase & Library Reopening Celebration**

Friday, March 28, 5:30 - 7:00 PM



### *Article Contributed by*

### **Bobbie Caswell**

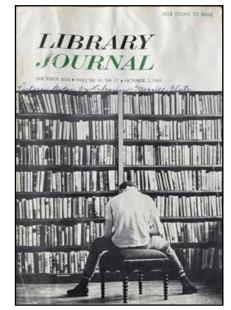
Director, Mary E. Seymour Memorial Free Library

You're cordially invited to celebrate the reopening of our beloved Stockton library after its winter closure! This special evening will showcase the vibrant businesses, creativity, and talent that make Stockton unique.

Enjoy champagne, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and sweet treats as you reconnect with your community and rediscover our historic library - a cornerstone of Stockton since 1899.

### **Our Rich History**

Originally chartered as the "Stockton Library" in 1899, our institution was renamed in 1901 to honor Mary Seymour, daughter of Henry W. Seymour. For over a century, our second-floor library has served as a community gathering place, growing to 300 patrons by 1904 and even being featured in Library Journal in 1965!



The library's back room, once complete with a stage and organ, hosted meetings for the YMCA, Chautauqua Literary and Science Circle, and the W.C.T.U. (which supported the Suffragist movement prominent in Chautauqua County).

Did Suffragists meet here too? If you have historical proof, we'd love to

RSVP Requested - We look forward to welcoming you back!





### **Zonta Celebrates International Women's Day**



### Article Contributed by Zonta Club of Jamestown

March 8, known worldwide as International Women's Day, is also Rose Day for members of the Zonta Club of Jamestown. Members honored local women who demonstrate the ability to lift up other women in our community. Each rose was presented by a club member and

the attached card read "The circles of women around us weave invisible nets of love that carry us when we're weak, and sing with us when we're strong." For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown, whose mission is to make the world a better place for women and girls, go to zontajamestown.org or reach out to the club at PO Box 913, Jamestown, NY 14702.



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JamestownGazette.com A dining experience to make your taste buds sing 20 Chautauqua Gazette

# **Empowering the Next Generation: Girl Scouting in Western New York**







Khushboo Salian
Assistant Director of Marketing
Girl Scouts of Western New York
Buffalo Service Center

March is Women's History Month - a time to honor the trailblazing women who have shaped our world, broken barriers, and paved the way for future generations. Here in Western New York, the spirit of women's leadership and empowerment lives on through the mission and movement of Girl Scouts. For over a century, Girl Scouting has been cultivating courage, confidence, and character in girls, preparing them to lead and make lasting change in their communities and beyond.

At Girl Scouts of Western New York (GSWNY), we are proud to continue this legacy every day across Chautauqua County and throughout the region. From learning outdoor skills and earning badges to taking action on community issues and building lifelong friendships, Girl





Scouting offers girls a safe, supportive space to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

### A Legacy Rooted in Leadership

The Girl Scout movement began in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low founded the first troop in Savannah, Georgia. Her vision was simple yet revolutionary: to create an organization where girls could explore new opportunities, develop leadership skills, and contribute meaningfully to society. More than 113 years later, that vision continues to thrive, including right here in Western New York.

Locally, Girl Scouts have played an important role in shaping the fabric of our communities. Whether it's through service projects that address local needs, environmental initiatives that protect our natural resources, or entrepreneurial skills learned through the iconic Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls are empowered to make a difference.



### Building Skills That Last a Lifetime

The experiences girls have in Girl Scouts aren't just fun they're intentionally designed to foster key life skills. Through hands-on activities in STEM, the arts, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and the outdoors, girls gain confidence and resilience that will serve them well into adulthood.

Take, for example, the Girl Scout Cookie Program - the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Beyond learning how to manage money and set goals, girls build essential business and leadership skills, from communication to problemsolving. It's about more than cookies - it's about preparing girls to navigate the challenges of today while equipping them to lead tomorrow.

In addition, Girl Scouts are encouraged to take the lead on community service projects through the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards - the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. Many girls in Chautauqua County have taken on projects that address issues like food insecurity, mental health awareness, and environmental sustainability, leaving a lasting positive impact in their neighborhoods.

### A Place for Every Girl

One of the most powerful aspects of Girl Scouts is its commitment to inclusivity and belonging. No matter a girl's background, interests, or abilities, there is a place for her in Girl Scouts. Our troops reflect the rich diversity of Western New York





and create a community where every girl feels seen, supported, and valued.

This Women's History Month, as we celebrate the achievements of the women who came before us, we also look to the future. The girls who are part of Girl Scouts today are the change-makers, innovators, and leaders of tomorrow. They are learning to advocate for themselves and others, to take action when they see a need, and to believe in their power to shape the world around them.

### Support Girl Scouts - One Cookie at a Time

One of the easiest - and most delicious - ways to support Girl Scouts is by purchasing cookies! When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you're not just enjoying a favorite treat. You're investing in girls' futures. Every box sold helps girls fund their troop activities, community projects, camp experiences, and leadership opportunities, right here in Western New York.

The Cookie Program teaches girls essential skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. It's not just about cookies - it's about giving girls the tools to be tomorrow's leaders.

To find cookies near you, visit www. gswny.org/findcookies and use our Cookie Finder tool. Together, we can continue building a future where every girl is empowered to lead with courage, confidence, and character - one cookie at a time. For any more information visit www. gswny.org



# JHS Band, Chorus to Hold 100th Anniversary Celebration April 5

Article Contributed by

Cameron Hurst
Public Relations Specialist
Jamestown Public Schools

The Jamestown High School Band and Chorus will celebrate its 100th anniversary in style on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 4 p.m. in the Merton P. Corwin Auditorium at Jamestown High School, 350 East 2nd Street.

The event will include performances by the A Cappella Choir and Mixed Chorus, under the direction of Lauren Scharf, and the Concert and Symphonic bands, under the direction of Meghan Murray. The performance will also include a combined performance and world premiere of "Eternal," a commissioned work by internationally known composer and arranger Jacob Narverud, written in celebration of the ensembles' centennial anniversary.

Local media personality Dennis Webster will serve as master of ceremonies and the JHS band will be joined by 2009 graduate Technical Sgt. Erik Lundquist, who will perform a solo with the ensemble. Technical Sgt. Lundquist is a euphoniumist with the Ceremonial Brass, The United States Air Force Band, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C. A native of Jamestown, he joined the Air Force in 2016

In addition, a documentary on the ensembles' history and legacy over the past 100 years, produced by Salty Doubloon Productions and 2015 JHS graduate Brayton Lydell and narrated by Webster in coordination with the JPS Public Relations Office, will be screened. A reception to reconnect



JHS will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its band and choral programs on Saturday, April 5 at 4 p.m. in the Merton P. Corwin Auditorium at the high school. The programs were founded by brother and sister, Ebba and Arthur Goranson, seen here rehearsing on an organ that was previously in the JHS auditorium.

with friends and visit the band and chorus rooms to view memorabilia will be held immediately following the event.

"For 100 years, music has been at the heart of the Jamestown High School experience, uniting students, educators, and the community through a shared passion for excellence," said Meghan Murray, JHS director of bands. "This milestone is a celebration of not just the band and chorus, but of the generations who have carried forward a tradition of artistry, dedication, and musical achievement. We are honored to continue that legacy and look forward to what the next century will bring."

"The legacy of music at Jamestown High School is one of commitment,



2009 JHS graduate Technical Sgt. Erik Lundquist, a euphoniumist with the Ceremonial Brass, The United States Air Force Band, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C., will join the JHS band during the 100th anniversary celebration on April 5.

tradition, and innovation," said Lauren Scharf, JHS director of choral activities. "For a century, students have found their voices—whether through song or instrument—within these ensembles, creating experiences that shape them for a lifetime. This celebration is about honoring the past, embracing the present, and inspiring the future of music at JHS and beyond."

While music education at Jamestown High School dates back to the early days of the Jamestown Academy in 1837 and had been formalized thanks to the work of Frederick E. Bottsford, the 2024-25 school year marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the current ensembles by brother and sister Arthur and Ebba Goranson.

Ahead of the 1924-25 school year, Ebba Goranson combined the boys' and girls' glee clubs into a mixed chorus that would eventually become known as the A Cappella Choir. Known for its annual Vespers services around the holidays and traditional repertoire, she served as the program's first director until her passing in 1957. A trailblazer, 100 years ago this year, she was also named the district's Supervisor of Music — the first woman in the state to be assigned such responsibility.

From 1923 to 1948, Arthur Goranson served as director of the band program and over the course of 18 of those years, the band performed in 20 sectional competitions, 10 New York state finals, six national contests, and one international contest, winning high honors in most of them. Arthur Goranson also founded the organization now known as the New York State School Music Association, known colloquially as NYSSMA.

Both programs have gone on to define "excellence" at Jamestown High School. The band program's evolution has included success both onstage in the forms of the current concert and symphonic bands as well as the JHS Marching Band thanks to subsequent directors Charles Jacobson, Lou Deppas, Jamie Sigler, Marc Lentsch, Murray, and others. The A Cappella Choir, meanwhile, has remained a community presence and traveled across the globe to perform at various cathedrals and places of interest, earning the nickname "Choir of the Cathedrals" thanks to the work of Goranson's successors Donald Bube, Brian Bogey, Norm Lydell, and Scharf.

The April 5 performance is free and open to the public and alumni.



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# MHA Recognizes Artist Volunteer Whose Goal is Becoming an Art Teacher



The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County's March Recovery Luncheon was an opportunity to thank participant volunteer Brandon Griggs and celebrate his completing his GED. In return for the "hope and courage" MHA gave him, Griggs has co-facilitated the Art in Recovery group and assisted in cleaning the Jamestown recovery center for the past couple years. He is pictured at the 2024 Art in Recovery Exhibit and is working on his goal to become an art teacher. Any group or individual can support these luncheons by contacting MHA's Activities/PR Coordinator at (716) 720-8098 or Dianne. Valvo@MHAChautauqua.org to learn more. Information about the MHA is at MHAChautauqua.org and Facebook.com/MHAChautauqua.

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# March 24, 2025 **23**

### Opera House to Present FREE Concert



### *Article Contributed by*

### Rick Davis

**Executive Director** 1891 Fredonia Opera House **Performing Arts Center** 

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center has partnered with the State University of New York at Fredonia's School of Music to present a special freeadmission recital featuring some of the most talented young artists studying there on Thur., Mar. 27, at 5:30 p.m.

This recital is part of a concert initiative created by Dr. Eliran Avni that provides students the opportunity to perform in offcampus venues to a wider audience. Concerts typically feature solo and small ensemble performances of music by both classical and contemporary composers. Concerts are 60 minutes long and provide an opportunity to hear some of our area's incredible emerging artists.

Student Pianist Meredith McIntyre has performed in several of the recitals and considers the Opera House a "beautiful venue. These concerts help me practice performing and give me an opportunity to share my hard work with others."

Past programs have featured music by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Mozart, Poulenc, Schubert, and Strauss, among others, as well as more contemporary composers such as



Amy Beach and Jennifer Higdon. Admission is free, although donations are gratefully accepted.

Opera House programming is 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, and by the United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County.

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



# **Public Invited to Provide Input on Chautauqua County Charter Review**



### Article Contributed by

### **Justin Gould**

Chautauqua County Media Information Officer

The Chautauqua County Executive, in coordination with the Chair of the County Legislature, has commissioned a committee to review the Chautauqua County Charter and Administrative Code and is seeking public feedback as part of the process.

By law, this review occurs every ten years to ensure that the county's documents governing remain effective and up to date. Residents are encouraged to provide public comments, recommendations, or concerns regarding these governing documents.

The Chautauqua County Charter and Administrative Code serve as the foundation for county government operations, outlining the roles and responsibilities of officials, departments, and legislative processes. To ensure transparency and community involvement, the County invites input from residents to help shape any necessary revisions.

The documents under review are available for public access online at: chqgov.com/legislature/Forms-Documents.

Members of the public who wish to submit feedback can email their to charterreview@ comments chqgov.com. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2025.



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Article Contributed by

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

### **Partnerships Mean Progress**

The CHQ Chamber was delighted to work in concert with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry and the Audubon Community Nature Center in Jamestown this week to co-host Business After Hours. We routinely run Business After Hours events throughout Chautauqua County – with several more planned in 2025 – and they are well-attended networking events designed to connect businesspeople in a social setting that can lead to productive relationships. To say the Audubon event was a tremendous success is an understatement. With over 100 people attending from businesses all over Chautauqua and Warren Counties, this event was one of the best we have seen in quite some time. It was truly a testament to the power of partnerships.

Our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. All of the work we do relies on partnerships with exceptional organizations. Some of those collaborations are more public facing, while many of them are more behind the scenes.

Amongouralliances are Chautauqua County, the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, the Small Business Development Center, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Gebbie Foundation, and numerous others including municipalities, other non-profits, and our outstanding local business community. Some of these partner organizations provide necessary funding for our organization while others work with us to ensure sustainable programs and events that directly benefit local businesses.

As a business association, we consistently facilitate collaborative relationships between local organizations and businesses as a way to promote economic activity in our county. Whether it's linking businesspeople to one another through peer-to-peer networking, connecting consumers

### CHAMBER CORNER

to businesses through promotions and our ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card, or providing workshops and advocacy opportunities, the CHQ Chamber seeks out ways to bring people together for the betterment of the business community.

As another highlight of how working with others' benefits individuals, organizations, businesses, and the community at large, we encourage attendance at a special event next weekend at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in Jamestown. Join CHQ is a community fair designed to introduce participants to over 40 clubs and organizations with a focus on why joining a group is both good for your personal health and the health of your community. Doors open at noon. Starting at 1pm there will be a showing of the documentary Join or Die, followed by another short film featuring local "joiners" and leaders. The event is free of charge. Area clubs and nonprofits will be present to chat with anyone interested before and after the movie.

Whether you join a civic organization such as Rotary or Kiwanis, are part of a business association such as the CHQ Chamber, or volunteer for a local nonprofit organization, joining a group can open new avenues and perspectives for individuals and businesses alike. You don't have to be a full-fledged "partner" to profit from belonging, but it can move your business, your career, or your personal life in new and fulfilling directions.

Last week's event at the Audubon Community Nature Center was just one example of successful teamwork among several organizations. There's more to come throughout this year, and we invite all local businesspeople to participate. Keep an eye on our calendar for upcoming programs and events.

### Business Builder Workshop March 24

The next CHQ Chamber Business Builder Workshop is titled Corporate Citizenship and Engagement, but that tells just part of the story that will unfold.

Our guest presenters for this event will be John Felton from the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Amy Rohler with United Way of Chautauqua County, and John Raymond, owner of Honest John's Pizza. Together, these local business and nonprofit leaders will focus on how engagement with the community boosts your business image through donations, sponsorship, volunteerism, and more.

This workshop is for any business person, no matter the size of your organization, that may be interested in getting more involved in the community or helping to brand your business through engagement opportunities. It's also for non-profits that may be interested in learning more about how these business decisions are made. The CHQ Chamber always builds-in networking opportunities that may help link local businesses and organizations in meaningful ways.

This event will be held March 24 from 1-3pm at the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union Community Training Center, 110 Mall Boulevard in Lakewood. Sponsors are Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Kinetic Business, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.

# Business After Hours at the Athenaeum Hotel

The next CHQ Chamber Business After Hours will be held Wednesday, April 30 at the grand Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua Institution. You can enjoy this beautiful setting along with complimentary appetizers and a cash bar from 5-6:30pm.

All local businesspeople are welcome. CHQ Chamber Business After Hours events are free for two people from each Chamber member organization. The price is just \$10 for non-members or anyone above the two-person limit. Registration is appreciated for our planning purposes but is not required. Registering in advance gets you on our "Who's Who in the Room" list. Registration is open now through our web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

Business After Hours at the Athenaeum Hotel is sponsored by the Athenaeum Hotel, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua Marina, Kinetic Business, M&T Bank, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, Observer, and The Post-Journal.



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### FAQ About Taxes as the Filing Deadline Nears

Article by

### **Metro Creative Connection**

Some people look forward to filing their tax returns, while others recoil at the thought of paying what they owe. Regardless of which camp taxpayers are in, come April most people have a question or two related to their returns.

As the deadline to file tax returns draws closer, taxpayers hoping to make the process as smooth as possible can consider these frequently asked questions and answers, courtesy of the Internal Revenue Service.

### When is deadline day?

Though taxpayers periodically get an extra day or two to file their returns when April 15 coincides with a holiday or lands on a weekend, there's no such reprieve in 2025. This year all taxpayers who are not requesting an extension must file their income tax returns by April 15, 2025.

### What if my address has changed?

The IRS urges all taxpayers to use their new address when filing their returns. Additional ways taxpayers can update their address with the IRS is through the filing of Form 8822, Change of Address or Form 8822-B, Change of Address or Responsible Party-Business. Written statements or oral notifications are additional ways to notify the IRS of an address change, and these methods must include personal information, including the old and new address as well as the taxpayer's Social Security number, Individual Taxpayer Identification (ITIN) or Employer Number Identification Number (EIN).

## Is there an age limit on claiming my child as a dependent?

A child must meet either the qualifying child test or the qualifying relative test in order to be claimed as a dependent. To meet the qualifying child test, your child must be younger than you or your spouse if filing jointly and either younger than 19-years-old or be a "student" younger than 24-years-old as of the end of the calendar year.

There is no age limit to claim a child as a dependent if a child is "permanently and

totally disabled" or meets the qualifying relative test.

In addition to meeting the qualifying child or qualifying relative test, you can claim that person as a dependent only if these three tests are met:

- 1. Dependent taxpayer test
- 2. Citizen or resident test, and
- 3. Joint return test

Taxpayers who remain uncertain about their eligibility to claim a child as a dependent are urged to contact the IRS or a tax preparation professional for clarification before filing their returns.

### What should I do if my W-2 is incorrect?

Employers must provide employees with a W-2 by January 31. If the W-2 is incorrect and has not been fixed by the end of February, taxpayers can contact the IRS and request to initiate a Form W-2 complaint. When such a request is initiated, the IRS sends a letter to the employer and requests that they furnish a corrected W-2 within 10 days. The IRS also sends a letter to the taxpayer with instructions and Form 4852, which can be used to file a return if a corrected W-2 is not provided before the filing deadline.

### How can I file for an extension?

There are three ways to request an automatic extension of time to file an income tax return.

- 1. You can pay all or part of your estimated income tax due and indicate that the payment is for an extension using your bank account; a digital wallet such as Click to Pay, PayPal, and Venmo; cash; or a credit or debit card.
- 2. You can file Form 4868 electronically by accessing IRS e-file using your tax software or by using a tax professional who uses e-file.
- 3. You can file a paper Form 4868 and enclose payment of your estimate of tax due (optional).

Tax day arrives on April 15. Taxpayers who have lingering questions about their returns are urged to contact the IRS via irs.gov or work with a certified tax professional.

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### **Washington Middle School to Present** "Cinderella: Youth Edition"



Cinderella (Melina Singleton) interacts with her stepsisters (Elin Isaacson and Anna Irgang) and stepmother (Aicha Alfonso) in Washington Middle School's production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella: Youth Edition." The show will be presented on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium at 159 Buffalo Street.

### Article Contributed by

### Cameron Hurst

**Public Relations Specialist** Jamestown Public Schools

**School's** Washington Middle drama club will present Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella: Youth Edition" on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium at 159 Buffalo Street.

"Rodgers Hammerstein's and musicals are an important part of musical theatre," said director Marie Karbacka, a vocal music teacher at Washington. "Their shows are part of the musical theatre 'Golden Age' and a wonderful way to expose students to a traditional style of solo and ensemble singing. This year, with all of our talented young people here at Washington Middle School, I thought Cinderella would be an excellent choice as a musical to showcase that talent, as well as being relevant to the students as they are familiar with the fairytale of Cinderella."

Originally presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews, Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Its recreation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful in transporting a new generation to the miraculous kingdom of dreams-come-true, and so was a second remake in 1997, which starred Brandy as Cinderella and Whitney Houston as her Fairy Godmother. As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, this enthralling fairy tale still warms the hearts of children



Prince Christopher (Emmory Pickett) dances with Cinderella (Melina Singleton) in Washington Middle School's production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella: Youth Edition." The show will be presented on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium at 159 Buffalo Street.

and adults alike.

Cinderella: Youth Edition" presented in special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. The production is also the recipient of the Jason M. Williams Fund for the Performing Arts at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation in memory of the late Washington Middle School English teacher and musical director. A noted area performer outside of school and beloved friend to many, Williams passed away suddenly in 2019 at the age of 40.

Tickets for the production are \$5 and can be purchased at the door or by calling 716-483-4413 ext 4403.



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# **Funding Available for the Falconer Region**



Falconer Region Community Fund committee members, grant recipients and Chautauqua Region Community Foundation staff members.

### Article Contributed by

### Jerry Lee

**Brand & Marketing Officer** Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation is now accepting grant applications for charitable activities to benefit the Falconer, Kennedy and Ellington communities. Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$4,000 will be awarded from the Falconer Region Community Fund and Donald R. Swanson Memorial Fund.

In 2012, lifelong residents of Falconer, Maurice and Doris Roach, led the efforts to convene stakeholders and community members to discuss the needs of their community. Their conversations, led to the creation of the Falconer Region Community Fund, to ensure charitable activities would continue to thrive in the region that makes up the Falconer Central School District.

"The creation of this fund will serve our entire region," Maurice Roach stated at the time. "It looks towards the future and will help continue to provide for benevolent activities."

After seeing this fund's impact on their community, the family of Donald Swanson, former Falconer resident, established a similar fund at the Community Foundation after his passing in 2017.

Together, the Falconer Region Community Fund and Donald R. SwansonMemorialFundhavegranted nearly \$80,000 to support charitable activities and needs associated with nonprofit organizations, churches, municipalities and schools located within the Falconer Central School District boundaries.

Additional grant making has been made possible through a generous gift from the Board of Directors of the former Methodist Gardens that was placed in the Falconer Region Community Fund in 2018.

For organizations that have an idea for a charitable activity to benefit the Falconer region, but need assistance navigating the online application portal, contact Elizabeth Jones, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation community impact officer at 661-3390 or via email, ejones@crcfonline.org.

The online grant application can be accessed by visiting chautauquagrants.org. The deadline to apply is April 1.

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation currently administers more than 700 endowments to support community needs, nonprofit organizations, and local students pursuing higher education.



## **Rotary Club Hears from Junior Achievement of WNY Executive**



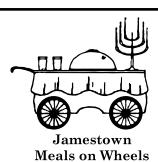
John Crawford, left, Executive Director of Junior Achievement of Western New York spoke to the members of the Rotary Club of Jamestown, NY and was welcomed by the Club President, Marion Beckerink.

### *Article Contributed by*

### Rotary Club of Jamestown

John Crawford, Executive Director of Western New York Iunior Achievement, was a recent guest speaker to the members of the Rotary Club of Jamestown. He discussed the innovative strategies he has developed to advance the organization's mission while building alternate revenue streams and highperforming teams at Junior Achievement.

described Junior Achievement's services in the eight counties of Western New York. He said the organization's goal is to empower young people by supplementing the education of students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Junior Achievement develops curriculum on topics such as financial literacy. Complete packets of information about each curriculum are provided to teachers and volunteers. The agency trains the volunteers and teachers. These activities include games and activities in school, after school, and during the summer. The activities inspire the young people to achieve a more fulfilling career and life by contributing professional insights and personal experiences.

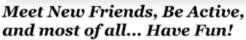


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# **County Residents Urged to Prepare for Upcoming REAL ID Compliance Deadline**

Starting May 7, 2025, Federal Rules will Require Travelers to be REAL ID Compliant to Board Domestic Flights and Enter Secure Federal Facilities

*Article Contributed by* 

**Justin Gould** 

Chautaugua County Media Information Officer

With the federal REAL ID compliance deadline approaching in May Chautauqua County residents are encouraged to visit their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office to upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License (EDL).

Beginning May 7, 2025 all travelers flying within the United States or entering secure federal facilities will be required to present a REAL IDcompliant form of identification, such as a REAL ID, Enhanced Driver License, or valid U.S. passport.

"We want to ensure that Chautauqua County residents are fully prepared before the deadline," said Kerri R. Smith, Motor Vehicle Administrator for Chautauqua County DMV locations. "Many people still have questions about the difference between a REAL ID and an Enhanced Driver License, and we encourage them to contact us or visit New York State's DMV website to understand their options before heading to the DMV."

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005 in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, establishes minimum security standards for state-issued identification. This means that individuals must provide certain federally required documents when applying for a REAL ID, including proof of identity, Social Security number, and two proofs of residency.

### **Understanding the Difference: REAL ID vs. Enhanced Driver** License (EDL)

**REAL ID:** A federally compliant form of identification that allows residents to board domestic flights and enter secure federal facilities. It cannot be used for travel across U.S. borders.

**Enhanced Driver License (EDL):** In addition to serving as a federally

compliant REAL ID, an EDL allows U.S. citizens to re-enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, and some Caribbean countries by land or sea. It is available for an additional \$30 fee beyond the standard renewal

To avoid last-minute issues, Chautauqua County residents are strongly encouraged to gather their required documents ahead of time and take advantage of the DMV's online document guide and prescreening application tool. These resources can help ensure that applicants arrive prepared, reducing wait times and processing delays.

"Our goal is to make the transition to REAL ID as smooth as possible," Smith added. "We urge residents to review the documentation checklist and schedule their visit to one of our DMV offices before the deadline to prevent any disruption to their travel

### **Chautauqua County DMV Office Locations & Contact** Information

**Jamestown DMV** 

512 W. 3rd St., Jamestown, NY 14701 Ph: (716) 661-8220

**Dunkirk DMV** 

3998 Vineyard Drive, Dunkirk, NY Ph: (716) 366-0210

Mayville DMV (Hall Clothier Building)

7 N. Erie St., Mayville, NY 14757 Ph: (716) 753-4229

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30

\*Real ID processing ends 1 hour before closing due to the multi-step, multi*employee nature of the transactions* 

For more details on REAL ID and Enhanced Driver Licenses, including acceptable documents and application guidance, visit: dmv. ny.gov/driver-license/enhanced-or-

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."

- Dolly Parton

# March 24, 2025 **29**

# **Assemblyman Andrew Molitor Calls** for Responsible Use of Raise the Age **Funding, Supports Key Budget Priorities**

Article Contributed by

Assemblyman **Andrew Molitor** 

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R,C-Westfield), who was appointed to the Human Services Budget Committee on behalf of the Assembly Republican Conference, spoke at the committee hearing on March 18, 2025, addressing key concerns regarding the state budget, expressing both support and frustration over critical social services.

"We are pleased to see the state has finally chosen to repay the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, rather than unfairly burdening our small businesses with this debt, said Molitor. "This is something our Conference has advocated for over the last several years, and we are glad to see it finally addressed."

Molitor also emphasized the importance of consistent and fair funding for veteran services. "While we are certainly happy to see an increase in veteran benefits in the one-house budget, it is deeply frustrating that the governor continues to reduce these benefits every year as a negotiating tactic. No one wants to see veteran benefits lost, and it should not be a bargaining chip in budget discussions."

As a former prosecutor, Molitor also highlighted his concerns regarding the state's handling of adolescent and juvenile offenders under the raise the age law. "I have seen firsthand how adolescent offenders, after being charged with serious crimes, complete the family court process



only to be rearrested for new, serious crimes once they become adults. The pattern is clear and the impact is devastating—not only for the young individuals but for the communities affected."

Molitor pointed to a critical failure in the current system: the lack of available services and detention beds for juvenile offenders. "There are instances where courts have ordered individuals to youth detention facilities, but due to a shortage of services or available beds, these individuals are released only to reoffend. This is unacceptable."

He called for a more structured, statewide approach to addressing these issues. "Rather than leaving local governments to figure out how to use the nearly \$1 billion allocated for raise the age services, we should establish a statewide system that effectively protects both our youth and our communities. We owe it to victims, to business owners and to families to ensure we are addressing the root causes of crime while maintaining public safety."

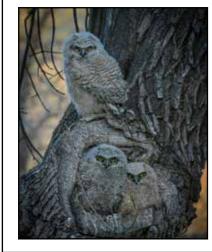
# This Week at the Audubon **Community Nature Center**



### **Audubon Lights 2025 is This Weekend**

You have two more weekends to experience Audubon Community Nature Center's stunning display of Audubon Lights along a breathtaking half-mile luminary-lit trail through the woods and around ponds. Then enjoy a warm fire, hot drinks, popcorn, and live entertainment. Go inside the Nature Center for a nature play area, live animals, and the Blue Heron Gift Shop. Hours this Friday and Saturday are 8:15–10 p.m. For more information and to make (optional) reservations, call (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC. org/Events. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

### **Audubon Has Scholarship** for a College Student, **Photo Contest for All**



Audubon Community Center is awarding a \$500 scholarship to a local student planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in an environmental or related field. For information and to apply by the Monday, April 14 deadline, call (716) 569-2345 or visit AudubonCNC.org/scholarships. Cash prizes totaling \$1,600 will be awarded in Audubon's 2025 Nature Photography Contest. Adults and youth (8–18) have four ways to win \$200 each for their photos in the categories of Birds, Waterscapes, and Single Blooms, with winners displayed at the Nature Center. Details at GoGoPhotoContest.com/ ACNCPhotoContest2025. Pictured is 2024 Adult Wildlife winner "Owl Babies" by Jamie Johnston of Woodland Park, Colo.

### **Unitarians Explore Moral Courage This Sunday**



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown member Linda Hiers is the speaker at the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, March 30. Her talk on "Moral Courage" takes a look into those people who display extraordinary altruism in the face of danger and who inspire both awe and puzzlement in us all. A retired social worker, Hiers grew up in Jamestown, graduated from Jamestown Community College and the University of Texas, and earned a Masters in Social Work at the University of Buffalo. In her career she worked in the mental health field as a counselor and her final working years were as a hospice social worker. All are welcome to the service and coffee hour that follows at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.







### **Chautauqua County Humane Society Pets of the Week**

Meatball is all about his toys and can often be seen with a stuffie in his mouth when he isn't playing tug or fetch. He is a young dog who is full of energy and love. Meatball is reactive to new people and will need to go home with someone who will continue his training and understands proper management of reactive dogs. Once he gets to know you he is guaranteed to be your best friend and most loyal companion for life!

Vick may be a bit shy at first, but give him a moment, and his sweet and friendly nature will shine through. He is smart too and his favorite activity is eating! Treats are his absolute favorite. He is also quite independent, so while he loves a good play session, he's just as happy to entertain himself. Meet Vick soon at CCHS.





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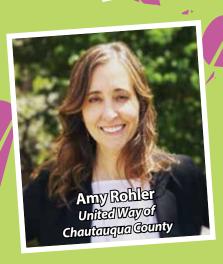


**Megan Maynard** Chautauqua Blind Association Vision Rehabilitation Services

















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