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Volume 20
Number 8

SPRING 2021

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Catskills

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ON THE COVER

The Cohecton Fire Station in Cohecton, NY offers delicious cocktails to go! Shown here is one of the owners, Josiah Early.

Photo by Autumn Schanil



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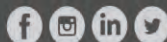


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spring is in the air

Spring in the Sullivan Catskills is like no other. The breeze is a little warmer, the birds chirp a little louder and here, in our beautiful Sullivan Catskills, there is a buzz in the air.

As always, we are looking forward to the opening of trout season on April 1. The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is an amazing place for novice and seasoned fishermen alike, to learn and perfect the sport of fly fishing.

Spring is also ramp season in our lovely little neck of the woods. Ramps are a wild plant that are among the first green things to pop out of the ground in the spring, and we have plenty of delicious ways for you to experience one of our much-anticipated Spring delicacies. Roscoe Beer Company will be hosting their annual Wild Ramp Festival on Saturday, May 8.

We are also extremely excited to welcome some highly anticipated new hospitality experiences this season. The Chatwal Lodge, located in Bethel, NY is a luxury retreat designed to celebrate life itself. The Chatwal Lodge is scheduled to receive its first guest in June. The Eldred Preserve is a wholly unique concept that brings three Sullivan Catskill

brands – The Eldred Preserve, The Bradstan Country Hotel and The Old Homestead Restaurant - together creating a completely unique eat, stay, and explore experience.

A new form of leisure is taking shape at the old farmhouse on Gulf Road in Callicoon Center. The Callicoon Hills is an informal vacation resort that boasts 65 guest rooms and an event center. These new properties will be joining our existing properties like Resorts World Catskills and Villa Roma Resort as well as the Foster Supply family of fine dining and accommodations.

The Tango Café at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre is a must see. Award-winning chef and author Tom Valenti will tantalize your culinary palate with never-before-seen dishes. Stroll through our quaint little towns, purchase locally grown and manufactured products and produce like 2 Queens honey, coffee or tea, at our farm stands and general stores.

So, you see, Spring in the Sullivan Catskills is always refreshing, always creative, always invigorating and a quick drive from everywhere. Spend a day and you'll want to stay for the whole week. For more information visit us at www.sullivancatskills.com.



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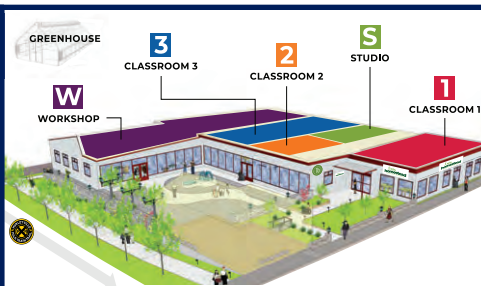
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Photo: Randy Harris



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‘not to miss’ art events

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance is presenting an exciting spring and summer season with a variety of artists working in different mediums, from woodworking to paint and from fabric arts to sculpture.

The gallery is located in Narrowsburg, NY, a charming town with lots of shopping and restaurants nearby.



March 6

“Salon Series | On Location” Christi Johnson
Short video documentary on fabric artist in Swan Lake, NY, directed by Oriel Danielson.

Streaming on delawarevalleyartsalliance.org

March 13

“Salon Series | On Location” Alexandra Climent
Short video documentary on woodworker in Narrowsburg, NY, directed by Oriel Danielson.

Streaming on delawarevalleyartsalliance.org

March 20

“Salon Series | On Location” Laurie A. Guzda
Short video documentary on mixed media artist in Hawley, PA, directed by Oriel Danielson.

Streaming on delawarevalleyartsalliance.org

April 3 – May 8

Paul Plumadore “Paper Trail” collage exhibit
DVAA Main Gallery, 37 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY

Phyllis Lehrer “Inside/Out” mixed media painting and sculpture exhibit

DVAA Loft Gallery, 37 Main St, Second Floor, Narrowsburg, NY

May 15 – June 19

Nathaniel Lieb “Wad You Say?” mixed media sculpture exhibit

DVAA Main Gallery, 37 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY

“Tactile” group exhibit curated by John Back
DVAA Loft Gallery, 37 Main St, Second Floor, Narrowsburg, NY

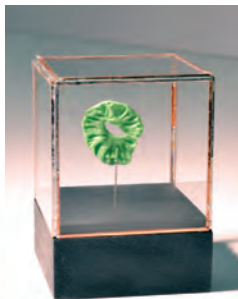
June 26 – July 31

Richard Aakre “New Work” collage and assemblage exhibit

DVAA Main Gallery, 37 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY

Kaitlyn Danielson “Of Breath and Dust” mixed media exhibit

DVAA Loft Gallery, 37 Main St, Second Floor, Narrowsburg, NY



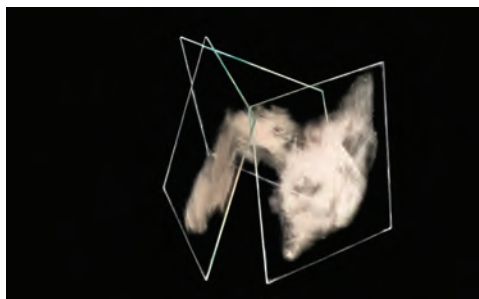
Top: Artist Laurie A. Guzda is the subject of a short documentary film

Above left: Richard Aakre
“New Work”

Above right: Nathaniel Lieb
“Wad You Say?”

At right: Paul Plumadore
“Paper Trail”

Bottom: Kaitlyn Danielson
“Of Breath and Dust”





hot hot heat

by Isabel Braverman
photos by
Autumn Schanil

It's not very often you'll find a bar and restaurant inside an old firehouse.

Besides the unique atmosphere, the Cocheton Fire Station offers mouthwateringly good food and exceptional hand-crafted cocktails all at an affordable price and with friendly service.

Owners Zeke Miller and Josiah Early spent

over 20 years in the restaurant business in New York City, starting as bartenders and then doing basically everything all the way up to managing.

When a friend bought a house in Sullivan County they came up to help out and fell in love with the area. Soon enough they were splitting their time between Cocheton and



8 CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL



SPRING 2021



The Cochection Fire Station in Cochection, NY offers delicious food, like crispy rice and beans (at left) or shrimp and pineapple (at bottom right) and cocktails, such as the Hook and Ladder Punch (below).

Everything is cooked inside a wood-burning oven (pictured far left).

the city before making it their permanent home.

“We’ve always loved Cochection, it used to be a cool little town,” Early remarked. “We felt like Narrowsburg, Callicoon and Jeffersonville were already on the up and up and doing their own thing, and we thought this town was probably one that needed something.”

The old fire station was for sale, and they knew it would be a good opportunity. They bought it in 2016

continued on page 10





The Cochection Fire Station is a restaurant and bar converted from an old firehouse.

continued from page 9

and, after renovating it themselves, opened their business in 2018.

In pre-COVID times, it quickly became a favorite spot for locals and visitors alike to cozy up at the bar or by the fireplace with friends and enjoy a cocktail and a bite to eat.

"Our idea was, instead of coming up with a concept and changing the name, what if we just took the fire station, turn it into a restaurant, go around asking people what they like to eat, what they can afford to pay, and kind of give their fire station back to them as something that they could enjoy,"

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Early said.

As cocktail connoisseurs Early and Miller knew they wanted to craft a perfect drink menu. They put a lot of time into the cocktails using freshly squeezed juice and making their own syrups.

"Instead of treating it like a college bar, it's taking a chef-like approach to cocktails," Miller said. "Where you're using good ingredients, you're understanding what your ingredients are; it's not just something that's super sweet."

Cocktails include the Hook & Ladder Punch, which is rum, pomegranate, ginger and lemon, and the Ornery Old Fashioned, which is bourbon, orange biters and stumato, and is named after local farm Gorzynski Ornery Farm.

They also have a beer and wine menu and house-made sodas and egg creams.

The food is classic American fare with a twist—everything is cooked inside the wood-burning oven, giving it an extra layer of smoky flavor. There's the \$6 menu including mac and cheese, crispy rice and beans, and a Hasselback potato, and the "not \$6 menu," which includes skirt steak, shrimp and pineapple and a roasted cheese board.

"It's just a different way of cooking," Miller said. "We wanted to do something different and liked the concept of doing comfort food out of a wood-fired

continued on page 12



Owners Zeke Miller, left, and Josiah Early, right, are ready to greet customers (pictured before the pandemic began).



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oven and making it unique in that way.”

In addition to tasty offerings, affordability was at the top of their list, and also making it kid-friendly, quick and efficient.

“We grew up in a generation where you were either going to a kid’s restaurant and the parents hated it, or you’re going to a grown-up restaurant and the kids hated it,” Early said. “And we were trying to make it so families could come together and have a place they enjoy.”

When COVID hit they quickly pivoted to a takeout-only model. They

were lucky to have a garage door that they could open to serve people outside, keeping it safe for both the customers and the employees.

“We spent two sleepless nights redesigning our business plan and moving into a takeout only scenario open seven days a week,” Miller said.

The pandemic, like for most people, has not been good for business. The owners say they are just getting by, and thank people for supporting them at a time when restaurants need all the support they can get.

“We’ve got the best customers in the world,” Early said.



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art Oasis

by Isabel Braverman

The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) was planning their grand opening in the beginning of 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"What I often say is we had to close before we opened," HPAC Executive Director Erin Dudley said.

With safety in mind they didn't hold in-person programming this past year, instead they moved to a digital platform, using Zoom to feature artists and host panel discussions.

"Even though we didn't open for live performances, we all continued to work and we ran over 40 programs that were all digital," Dudley explained. "The intimacy of the Zoom programming actually allowed us to feel closer to the artists and the attendees."

Part of that programming included the "Art on Art" series in which artists inter-

viewed other artists in their studio about their work and life and it highlighted the LGBTQ+ community.

It included filmmaker Tessa Hughes-Freeland, dancer Sarah East Johnson, and painter Yatika Fields, among many others. Their interviews can be found on HPAC's website.

Other programming included the Indigenous Women's Voices Summit, which was a month-long festival with film screenings, panel discussions and an art exhibit.

The mission of HPAC is: "The Hur-

continued on page 16



MORIAH ASLAN PHOTO

"Decoding Craft"
by Erin Lee Antonak
and Sariah Park
(pictured at far left
and below) were
part of the annual
Voices Summit at
Hurleyville Perform-
ing Arts Centre's
Gallery 222 in
Hurleyville, NY.

Center: A patron
views a photography
exhibit

Left: The movie
theater at the
Hurleyville Perform-
ing Arts Centre aims
to reopen this spring
after being closed
due to the COVID
pandemic. It is also
available for private
rentals.



Photos contributed by HPAC



continued from page 14

leyville Performing Arts Centre celebrates the environmental and social diversity of the Catskill region through performance, film, and visual art. HPAC presents bold programs that create shared experiences to inspire, challenge, and connect audiences.”

Dudley, who also lives in Hurleyville, said, “It’s the most diverse place I’ve ever lived and we want the programming to be as diverse as the people [who live] here.”

The arts center was established in 2016 through partnerships with the Center for Discovery, the community, and local philanthropic organizations and became a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit in February 2020.

The sprawling building houses a cinema, ballroom event space, dance studios, yoga studio and gallery and is an independent community-supported organization.





They have a lot of exciting things coming up this year including dance workshops, movies in the park during the summer, and the opening of the Tango Café featuring world-famous chef Tom Valenti.

Throughout the pandemic Dudley thanks people for supporting them and is looking forward to having fun this year.

“The arts need all the advocacy they can get right now,” she said. “I think we all discovered during the pandemic how in the hardest of times art can be survival in so many ways.”



Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre

219 Main St., Hurleyville, NY

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www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org



The ballroom at HPAC (opposite page top and above) is available for rentals and accommodates a variety of events.

Pictured at top, the Yoga Studio at HPAC offers both in-person and online classes, as well as a physical therapy program.

HPAC in Hurleyville (pictured at left) celebrates a thriving arts community.

Opposite page: Community members watch a street performance with Tannis Kowalchuk of Farm Arts Collective.



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opening soon:

This spring and summer there will be some exciting new additions to the Sullivan County hospitality industry. Having long been a location with few options for guests

to stay overnight, that isn't the case anymore as hotels come online to join the growing portfolio of resorts around the county. Outlined here are the three new projects:



The Chatwal Lodge

The Dream Hotel Group will be opening The Chatwal Lodge. On June 1, 2021, the retreat will debut as a private realm in harmony with nature, located in a wide expanse of preserved wilderness just 90 miles north of New York City, in the town of Bethel, NY. Located at The Chapin Estate, a 2,500-acre gated residential community, The Chatwal Lodge is nestled within a 30-acre environmentally-protected land. Guests will enjoy panoramic views of the stunning 1,000-acre Toronto Reservoir Lake, have access to lush hiking trails dotted with chestnut trees and hidden water streams, and admire nature including white-tailed deer and nesting bald eagles.

Callicoon Hills

Implied Hospitality, the team behind Tahoe's Coachman Hotel, announces their next property: Callicoon Hills, slated to open in June 2021. Callicoon Hills will serve as a place for those who wish to retreat to nature without pretense, yet value approachable luxury, personable hospitality and the comfort of thoughtful design. Located in the bucolic hills of Callicoon Center, NY, Callicoon Hills has 65 guestrooms, multiple event venues including an event barn, indoor conference space, and an onsite restaurant, bar, catering program and coffee shop. A destination for modern leisure travelers, Callicoon Hills will also host business retreats, intimate gatherings and large wedding groups who wish for lodging, dining, events and activities all under one roof.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS





Eldred Preserve

The Eldred Preserve project being brought to life by local resident and entrepreneur Dan Silna and his wife, Joan, is a wholly unique concept that weaves the very best of three Sullivan County legacy brands – The Eldred Preserve, The Bradstan Country Hotel, and The Old Homestead Restaurant – together to create a completely new hospitality experience for those visiting the Sullivan County Catskills. With 28 luxury accommodations, a restaurant and lounge, and wedding venue, the property is expected to open in May.



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good news

CALENDAR

SPRING 2021

Tuesday, March 16

Garnet Health Free Virtual COVID-19 Support Group 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Held on the third Tuesday of every month. The support group, which is aimed at addressing the emotional stress of COVID-19, is for those who are recovering, or who have recovered, from coronavirus. For more information and online links to the meetings, contact Mr. Oni at (845) 333-7324 or aoni@garnethealth.org.

Thursday, March 18

E.B. Crawford Public Library 'Jazz, An American Art' Virtual Program 6 p.m. Barry Wiesenfeld, bassist, lecturer and author presents his enlightening program on Jazz. You may remember him if you heard his program on 'The Beatles: 50 years Later' at our library a few years ago. Barry explains that Jazz was born in the U.S. and is our gift to the rest of the globe. This presentation delves into its origins, styles, evolution, and milestones. Of course, as with all of his lectures, you will listen to an earful of magnificence. Barry discusses the components that are common to all eras of jazz history, and, interestingly, those elements that are common to other styles of music. Barry is on the music faculty on SUNY and Ramapo Colleges. Registration is limited to 100 people. Go to ebcpl.org and then click on March 2021 Adult Calendar. This program will also be presented on YouTube Live.

TMR Scout Museum presents "Ice Fishing at Ten Miler River" 7 p.m. EST Webinar. Carl Lindsley, an expert ice fisherman will lead a discussion on how to begin your ice fishing hobby. Museum Chairman Michael Drilinger will moderate. A question and answer session will be held. All will be available on the Museum's YouTube channel. To sign up and for

more info visit www.tmrsmuseum.org.

Saturday, March 20

Spring Waterfowl Walk 8 a.m. Meet walk leader John Haas at the DEC Haven Road Parking Lot (off Route 209, south of Wurtsboro). Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. We should see an array of early ducks, geese and mergansers. We will go to the Main Boat Launch when finished at Haven Road to walk the Birch Trail to see additional species. Boots may be of help in this area. The event lasts about 2 hours. Visit to Mamakating's new Environmental Center included. Sponsored by the Basha Kill Area Association, the watchdog group for this amazing, 2,000 acre wetland full of wildlife and natural beauty. thebashakill.org. To register and/or for more information, contact John at (845) 807-2437.

DVAA Salon Series "On Location". Salon Series will debut a series of short-form documentaries spotlighting three local female artists as they create new works of art. Narrowsburg-based filmmaker Oriel Danielson will direct the series. Part documentary, part artist talk and demonstration, the series will be viewable online on DVAA's website. The 2021 Salon Series includes Alexandra Climent, Christi Johnson, and Laurie A. Guzda. For info call 252-7576 or visit delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

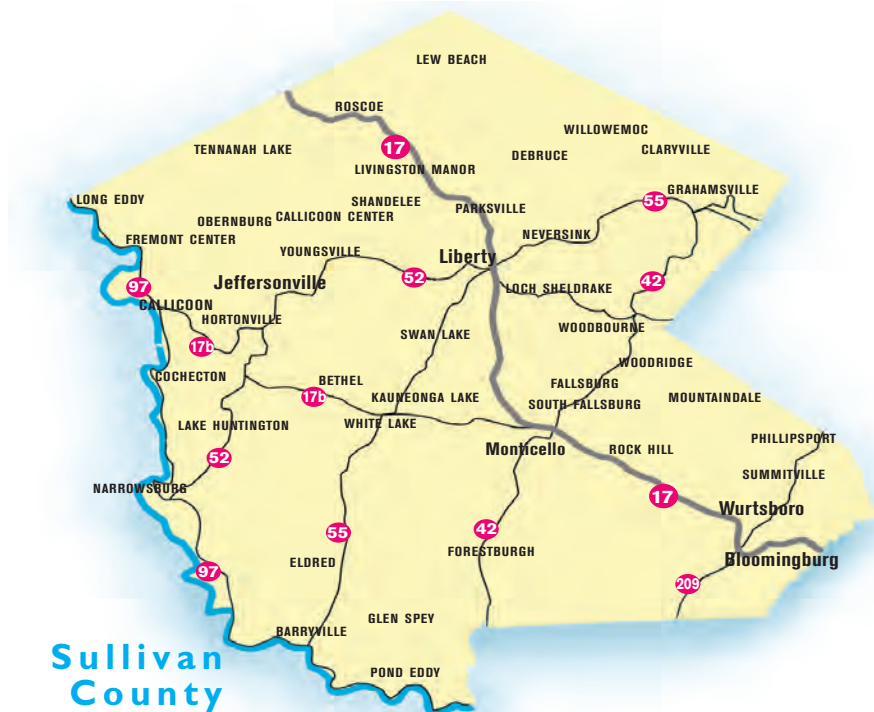
Thursday, March 25

E.B. Crawford Public Library 'West Side Story' Virtual Program 6 p.m. The Library asks you to join Kenneth Korn, noted lecturer, in an informative presentation on this famous musical. In December of 2021, acclaimed film director Steven Spielberg will be releasing his first musical, a remake of 'West Side Story.' In anticipation of the film's opening this lecture discusses the creation, history and legacy of the original Broadway play, now over 60 years old. Registration is limited to 100 people. Go to ebcpl.org and then click on March 2021 Adult Calendar. This program will also be presented on YouTube Live.

Thursday, April 1

Online Meditation Class for Beginners 7 - 8 p.m. Held every Thursday. Guided meditations, a short teaching and practical inner tools to apply to your daily life. Connect with an experience of inner peace through meditation. Info: KadampaNewYork.org.





Monday, April 5

The Happiness Toolkit – Online Meditation Course Series 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Held every Monday. Engaged in carefully crafted meditations to purposefully nourish the qualities in our mind that lead to happiness and reduce painful thoughts and feelings. Info: KadampaNewYork.org.

Sunday, April 18

Walk the O & W / D & H Canal Trail Loop 1 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Basha Kill Area Association and Mamakating Library. Stroll a 3-mile loop on level terrain with Kerron Barnes, D&H Canal aficionado, as you observe wetlands, headwaters of the Basher Kill, and Gumaer Brook. This 1.4 mile portion of the O & W rail trail was gifted to Mamakating by Open Space Institute. At McDonald Road, event participants will return to Wurtsboro via the D & H Canal towpath. Bring insect repellent, binoculars if you have them, and wear good walking shoes. Meet at the trailhead adjacent to O'Toole's Harley-Davidson on Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro. 20 Maximum Participants. To register and/or for more information, contact Mamakating Library at (845) 888-8004 or email: mamcirc@rcls.org.

Tuesday, April 20

Garnet Health Free Virtual COVID-19 Support Group 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Held on the third Tuesday of every month. The support group, which is aimed at addressing the emotional stress of COVID-19, is for those who are re-

covering, or who have recovered, from coronavirus. For more information and online links to the meetings, contact Mr. Oni at (845) 333-7324 or aoni@garnethealth.org.

Saturday, April 24

Nature Watch at the South Road Boat Launch.

Saturday, April 24 through Sunday, June 27. Join trained BKAA Nature Watch Volunteers at the South Road boat launch to learn more about the many residents of this amazing wetland. View nesting bald eagles and other birds. Equipped with two powerful spotting scopes and lots of information, volunteers will help you know the Basha Kill a little better. Bring your children, other family members and friends of all ages for some fun in the outdoors! From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm every Saturday and Sunday between April 24 and June 27. Sponsored by the Basha Kill Area Association, the watchdog group for this amazing, 2,000 acre wetland full of wildlife and natural beauty. thebashakill.org. Call Kevin Keller at 845-434-6209 or Maryallison Farley at 845-888-0261 for more details.

Sunday, April 25

Birding for Beginners with Scott Graber 8 a.m.

20 Maximum Participants. Experience the variety of birdlife that inhabits the Bashakill with naturalist Scott Graber. This walk will focus on basic identification of birds by sight and sound. If you're new to birding or have always wondered what birds exist beyond your backyard, this is the field trip for you!



Binoculars are required and wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the Haven Road DEC parking lot (off Route 209, south of Wurtsboro, NY). Visit to Mamakating's new Environmental Center included. Sponsored by the Basha Kill Area Association, the watchdog group for this amazing, 2,000 acre wetland full of wildlife and natural beauty. Call Scott to register and/or for additional information at 914-799-1313.

Wayne County Canoe Classic Check in begins at 9am for a prompt 11am start time at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Dyberry Township. Boats launch every two minutes down Dyberry Creek toward Honesdale. Dyberry Creek merges into the Lackawaxen for a beautiful trek down river. See the town of Honesdale from a different perspective as you travel a river rich with history. From there, you continue downstream, finally ending in White Mills at Factory Field (previously Fireman's Field) at the intersection of White Mills Road and Route 6. Online registration is not required but is encouraged as it is extremely convenient and safe. Go to: <https://honesdalejaycees.org/canoe-race/> If you would rather not register online you can fill out a paper application and mail it to us at P.O. Box 583, Honesdale, PA 18431.

Monday, May 3

The Happiness Toolkit – Online Meditation Course Series 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Held every Monday. Engaged in carefully crafted meditations to purposefully nourish the qualities in our mind that lead to happiness and reduce painful thoughts and feelings. Info: KadampaNewYork.org.

Thursday, May 6

Online Meditation Class for Beginners 7 - 8 p.m. Held every Thursday. Guided meditations, a short teaching and practical inner tools to apply to your daily life. Connect with an experience of inner peace through meditation. Info: KadampaNewYork.org.

Saturday, May 8

Wild Ramp Festival & Market 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Join us for our Fourth Annual #WildRamp Festival, a true agricultural and #culinary experience. Enjoy a day of family fun while shopping the large farmers market, listening to live music, taking part in the many games and activities and of course some great CRAFT BEER! There will also be an educational tent dedicated to local agriculture and information about ramps, plus some sampling stations for you to truly see why ramps are so popular! Then stick around for the after party 4-7! Upgrade to the #VIP experience and purchase tickets to the Farm to Table food & craft beer pairing, featuring some amazing local chefs. As a VIP you will get to enjoy a sit down presentation of several ramp inspired dishes perfectly paired with one of our beers, plus a VIP goody bag to take with you. Roscoe Beer Co., 145 Rockland Road, Roscoe. For more info visit roscoebeercompany.com.

Artisan Walk Funky Hippy Chic Boutique 11a.m. - 7 p.m. Join us for Kicking off our season. May 8th, 11-4pm Mother's Day Weekend! (every other Saturday thru October) Our sidewalk POP UP! Stroll the sidewalk for handmade jewels, soaps, crafts, art, live music, and angel cards and pop into the boutique to browse all the grooviness found inside The Funky Hippy Chic Boutique! 679 Resorts World Drive, Monticello NY, 845-796-1200 office

Monday, May 17

10th Annual Wallace Berkowitz Cup Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Cocktails, Reception, Awards & Raffles. Enter to win a custom PING Golf Set valued at up to \$3,000! All proceeds benefit the NHC Foundation, which benefits & enhances the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. West Hills Country Club, 121 Golf Links Rd., Middletown. More info TBA.

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