

History Is Just Our Beginning

Heritage Tourism is Big Business in Ulster County

Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack will take Ulster Chamber members back to the early 1600s at this month's monthly breakfast meeting as she details Ulster County's rich history.

According to Postupack, "The County Clerk's Archives hold some of the oldest and most unique records in the country, and it is our privilege to care for them."

The breakfast, scheduled for 7:30-9:00 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20, is intended to "give an overview of the county's archives and tell the story of our past while helping us understand the present," Postupack said.

The breakfast sponsor is Naccarato Insurance. Heritage-tourism has become extremely popular locally and the County Clerk will discuss how people have traveled from throughout the nation and the world to do family research here in Ulster County.

As an added treat, some very rare historical artifacts will be on public display at the cham-

ber meeting including the original 1658 Stockade Bond, the 1665 Nicolls Treaty that ended the second Esopus-Indian war and an original beaded Wampum belt, which she will be transporting to the Kingston Best Western Plus in special boxes and display cases.

These items are all permanently housed in the Ulster County Hall of Records.

"We have 359 years of records in the clerk's office. They're a wealth of resources for scholars, genealogists, families and students," she said. "We're going to make it a very interesting and exciting presentation, so we're really hoping to draw the crowd into the love of history and how it impacted the area and how it affects tourism."

Because Ulster County's history dates back to 1614, preservation of valuable documents is of vital importance, Postupack said.

The Ulster County Hall of Records was created in 1987 to provide a secure and safe envi-

ronment for these documents. The state-of-the-art facility on Foxhall Avenue in Kingston maintains three separate areas, including a records storage area, archival vault and electronic-microfilm media vault. Together, they have the capacity to store 31,612 cubic feet of records, Postupack said.

Many are individually wrapped and stored, and a specially designed fire-suppression system further protects them.



Nina Postupack

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**November
 Breakfast**

Nov. 20

**7:30-9:00 am
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 503 Washington Ave.
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Sponsor:



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Mixer

Keegan Ales
 20 St. James Street
 Kingston, NY

Nov. 18 • 5-7 pm

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

November 18 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ Keegan Ales

20 St. James Street | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Benedictine Health Foundation

November 20 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting

"History is Just Our Beginning"

Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack

BEST WESTERN PLUS

503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY

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Sponsor: Naccarato Insurance

December 5 | 9:00 - 10:30 am

Business Card Exchange

Courtyard by Marriott

Conference Center | 500 Frank Sottile Blvd. | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Members to attend.

Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

December 11 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Holiday Breakfast Meeting

Rob Ross HealthAlliance Hospitals

BEST WESTERN PLUS

503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY

\$25 Members-Advanced Pay • \$30 Members-At The Door • \$35 Non-Members

Sponsor: Rondout Savings Bank

December 12 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Holiday Networking Mixer @ Ole Savannah

100 Rondout Landing | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members.
Reservations are required.

Register for all Events (845) 338-5100

www.UlsterChamber.org

Keegan Ales Hosts Next Mixer

Try a Craft Beer and a Tour

The holiday season will soon be upon us and that means Keegan Ales will again be rolling out two of its more popular craft beers for the Christmas table—Super Kitty and Double Chocolate Stout.

“They’re both very popular, but we only make them one time a year,” says Keegan Ales owner Tommy Keegan. “Those beers are here today and gone tomorrow. People ask me about them all year long. Once they’re out on the shelves, they last maybe a month.”

You can get a taste of all the craft beers offered by Keegan Ales at the Chamber’s next Networking Mixer, scheduled from 5:00 -7:00 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18 at the iconic brewery at 20 St. James St. in Kingston. The sponsor is the Benedictine Health Foundation, with support underwritten by Ryan & Ryan Insurance. Ryan Insurance staff and volunteers will be serving as “Guest Bartenders” at the Mixer, with all tips going to the Benedictine Health Foundation.

Keegan said Chamber members can also tour the brewery that evening and see where beers such as Little Bit of Fun, Fun, Mother’s Milk, Hurricane Kitty, Old Capital, Joe Mama’s Milk and Hudson Lager are made.

“We always enjoy hosting Chamber mixers, but there’s only 12 a year that can happen,” Keegan said. “We haven’t done it in a long time, and we were given the opportunity to host one at our brewery right before the holiday season.”

Keegan, who got into the craft beer business several years ago, said the industry has “exploded.”

“My business is busy,” Keegan said. “We’re doing great. There are a lot of breweries popping up and each one has a lot of beers and that’s growing a lot faster than the number of taphandles in bars or the number of shelves in supermarkets are. It’s been an increasingly competitive market over the last few years.

“I’ve got to say we’re really lucky we got in the game early and we’ve established a strong sense of community. Our local community, especially in Ulster County, has really stepped up and supported my brand.”

Keegan once sold his craft beers up and down the East Coast, but recently decided to narrow his focus.

“I’ve taken steps to dig my roots deeper versus wider,” he said. “We used to sell beer as far as the Canadian border and Vermont all the way down to Washington, D.C. We’ve pulled out of some of those markets just because there’s so many breweries tripping over each other and we decided to put our energy into our own local community.”

Keegan’s marked its 15th anniversary last year. Keegan started the business when he learned about

an empty building on St. James Street that nobody would buy because there was a defunct brewery inside. The structure was built in the early 1800s and was formerly the home of the Woodstock Brewing Co.

After months of cleaning and rebuilding, Keegan Ales brewed its first batch of beer on Aug. 1, 2003. Keegan then set out hand-selling beer to local bars and restaurants the next month.

Keegan’s has gone on to win several awards over the years, including Best Brewery in The Hudson Valley and Best Brewery in New York State, both in 2009. Keegan’s also was name Best Craft-Brewed Beer in New York State in 2010.

In 2010, the Chamber honored Keegan Ales as its Small Business of the Year. That same year, the New York Times named Mother’s Milk one of the top 10 stouts in North America.

When Keegan isn’t hosting a Chamber Mixer, he provides the beverages for many others and enjoys the events.

“I like the fact we get to see everybody at the same time under one roof at these mixers,” he said. “There’s probably going to be about 400 people at this event. I know most of them now through various channels and although we all know each other and enjoy spending time together, we all get stuck in our own four walls.

“Chamber Mixers offer me an opportunity to mingle with people who I wish I had an opportunity to talk to more. It’s a really good resource for that.”

Keegan Ales, which hosts several holiday parties this time of year, can be reached at (845) 331-2739 or www.keeganales.com.

Chamber mixers are a great way to network and promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. This

free networking event is open to Chamber members and prospective members. Reservations are a must and can be made by calling the Chamber office at (845) 338-5100 or by registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

Mixer

Monday, Nov. 18, 5-7 pm

Keegan Ales

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Continued from page 1

Among the items stored in the archival vault are books, maps, and papers such as the Stockade Bond.

“That was the declaration of Gov. Peter Stuyvesant to create the Stockade area for protection,” said Postupack, who oversees the Hall of Records. “We also have original Dutch records and their English translations as well as all the Ashokan Reservoir records.”

The Nicolls Treaty was an agreement between Gov. Richard Nicolls and the Native Americans to end the Second Esopus War. It declared that “no act of hostility shall at any time be committed on either side.” As a token of peace, the natives gave the governor a Wampum belt constructed of white beads.

Postupack said her Chamber address, which will include a PowerPoint presentation, will also focus on the Matthewis

Persen House, located at the oldest intersection in America, which has been owned and operated by the county since 1914.

The museum in the Stockade District draws thousands of people each year, including international visitors, Postupack said.

“Between 2014 and 2016, we averaged about 2,700 guests a year,” she said. “From 2017 and 2019, we had 4,100 guests, a 67-percent increase. They’re coming to do research at our archives. It’s absolutely mind-boggling when you consider that people from every state and those from 60 different countries have visited the Persen House.”

Local heritage and historic groups routinely host events, lectures and exhibits at the museum, which is known as Ulster County’s cultural gateway.

Postupack, who began working in



the county clerk’s office in 1979 and has been the county clerk since 2006, said she hopes Chamber members will leave with a greater appreciation of area history and Ulster County’s role in shaping the nation.

Chamber breakfast programs are a great way to network with other local business leaders and stay on top of current events. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more information or to register, call the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

Breakfast Sponsor

Continued from page 1

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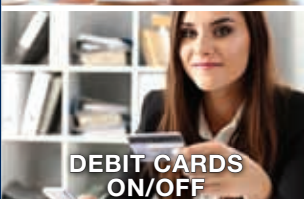
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Optometry Firm Marks 50th Anniversary

Dr. Milt Chasin had just graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia and landed his first job in Kingston. With all of his possessions in a trailer, he was traveling on the state Thruway on Friday, Aug. 15, when he ran into a three-hour delay at the Harriman toll booth.

"I had no idea what was going on," Chasin recalls. "I found out the next day it was Woodstock. We were in that traffic."

Chasin, a Florida native, eventually made it to Kingston, a city he knew nothing about at the time. He and his wife, who is from Long Island, decided to give it a go. If they didn't like it, they thought, they could always move on.

"Fifty years later, I'm still here," Chasin says.

Chasin originally worked for an optometrist on North Front Street for two years and opened his own business when his boss moved. Chasin welcomed a partner, Augustus Guarente, 40 years ago.

The optometrists formerly rented space on Hurley Avenue, but moved to a house at 240 Lucas Ave. in 1993.

Chasin and Guarente offer everything in eye care, including examinations, glasses, contact lenses and vision therapy, especially for children with learning disabilities. They treat and diagnose eye diseases such as glaucoma, conjunctivitis, and macular degeneration, but they do not perform surgery.

What you get at Chasin and Guarente is a private company as opposed to a corporate chain, where you may not even know the name of your optometrist.

"This is our sole office," Chasin said. "One of the things that makes us different is when you come to have your eyes examined with us, you know the name of the doctor. Here, our name is on the door."

Chasin said the field of optometry has changed in several significant ways over the last 50 years.

"Everything now is computerized," Chasin said. "We have all the latest in computer instrumentation for diagnosing vision problems and eye health problems. Whereas, 50 years ago, the practice of optometry was restricted to only eyeglasses and contact lenses."

About 20 years ago, optometrists like Chasin and Guarente began diagnosing and treating topical eye diseases. Another industry change is that most private health insurance companies now cover vision care. That wasn't the case until about 15 years ago, Chasin said.

Chasin and Guarente has always had a special focus on children, especially those with reading or learning problems.

"What makes us different is the quality of care that we provide," he said. "To be in the same practice for 50 years, I'm working on the fourth generation of patients who have come to see us. That keeps us busy."

"We try to function like a family in our office. We treat everyone as a member of the family. Our patients love to be known by their name when they walk in and to be remembered by their name when they come back a week or so later to get their glasses."

The policy has paid off over the years. The company, which does very little advertising and depends mostly on

referrals, boasts 15,000 customers. They are serviced by a staff of 12, including two optometrists, three opticians, three receptionists and two technicians.

"There are people who go to the chain places and there are people who come to us and, fortunately, we're doing very well," Chasin said.

Chasin said the Chamber has helped immensely over his 50 years, including helping him obtain health insurance for his employees and mailing lists for an open house.

"In general, they just support small businesses in the county,

and we find it very beneficial," he said.

Chasin & Guarente Optometrists, located at 240 Lucas Ave. in Kingston, can be reached at (845) 339-4990.



OUR YOUNG ULSTER PROFESSIONALS *Shine*



This month's YUP Spotlight Member is a little different from the past few months. As we head into the season of giving, we would like to shed some light on one of the many awesome non-profit organizations in this area, the Ulster County SPCA. This animal welfare organization was established in 1891, with the mission to provide shelter, medical treatment, and adoption opportunities for neglected, abused and homeless animals. The Ulster County SPCA is a no-kill shelter that provides the community it's only humane law enforcement agency. The work of the Ulster County SPCA is done without any federal, state or county funding, or monetary contributions from the ASPCA. The organization supports itself solely through the generosity of individual donors, community members and local businesses.

This December the Young Ulster Professionals will be hosting a Holiday Drive to benefit the Ulster County SPCA at the Chamber's Ole Savannah Mixer. We ask that you donate wet dog and cat food to feed our furry friends, as we would like them to have a bountiful holiday until they find their fur-ever home.

Written by: Nicole Fuoco

'Exposure Is Everything'

Vendors Praise Buy Local Expo

If there was a virtual "Like" button below the Chamber's Buy Local Expo at the Diamond Mills Hotel and Conference Center, those who participated in it on Sept. 18 would have hit it with gusto. In fact, they'd probably opt for the "Love" button.

John Eickman, Vice President of the Saugerties-based Horse Shows In The Sun (HITS), couldn't help but notice.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of businesses and non-for-profits participating in this, and we're really blessed to be able to do it in a great facility like the Diamond Mills ballroom, where we have a lot of room," he said.

"We don't always have an opportunity to walk up and down Main Street and stop to say 'hi,' so this is a real chance to catch up with people you haven't seen in a while."

Anna Leonard, the director of sales and marketing at Pine Ridge Dude Ranch, added that it was the perfect way to meet new people

and share more about the Kerhonkson resort, which operates year-round.

"I think sometimes people forget that we have things happening at the ranch every month of the year," she said. "We've got harvest festivals coming up and a single parent's weekend. We've got a lot happening during the Christmas season and even in the winter."

"We just reopened in April of last year and recently passed the 18-month mark, so this was a great opportunity to let people know about all the ranch has to offer and invite them to come out to see us."

Anthony Marinaccio, owner of AM Fit, said the all-day, person-to-person event was far better than social media to get the word out about what separates his health club from the pack.

"Exposure is everything, and this definitely gives us an opportunity to showcase our services to the community," he said from his booth at the Diamond Mills Hotel &



Conference Center in Saugerties.

AM Fit, at 1084 Morton Boulevard in Kingston, specializes in personal training, digital-fitness coaching and group fitness.

"We are a boutique-sized training studio and an alternative to the big gym scene or the big personal training studio scene. We excel at tailoring workouts to the specific need of the individual, factoring in any injuries they've had or fitness regimens they've done over the course of their lives. We aim to get them on the path to progress that they deserve."

Judging from the traffic to his booth, Marinaccio hit the mark as hundreds of potential customers passed through the daylong Expo dubbed the largest networking event in Ulster County.

About 100 vendors—20 of them new participants this year—displayed creative booths at the Expo.

County leaders said they were impressed by the turnout and verve.

"You can just feel the energy in the room," said Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan. "I think one of the special things about our county ... is we're all about being local. We're about being part of a community and taking care of each other."

"As we think about the growth and the trajectory of Ulster County, and where we're

going economically, leaning into the fact that one of our greatest strengths is our local businesses is absolutely going to be pivotal."

The Expo ended in a celebratory way as the winners of drawings for large-screen TVs, Frontier Airline tickets and restaurant gift certificates were announced.

The Chamber gave out awards for the best booths:

Best in Show - First Place,
Adams Fairacre Farms

Best in Show - Second Place,
Callanan Industries

Best in Show - Third Place,
Earl B. Feiden Appliance

Best Sales Presentation -
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Jeff Lipton - President
Category: Restaurants

Description: *Seafood Restaurant - Kingston's oldest and finest seafood restaurant. Serving lunch and dinner Tuesday - Friday, open for Dinner Saturday & Sunday.*

DEVEREUX ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - NY CENTER

40 Devereux Way
Red Hook, NY 12571
www.devereux.org

Marcella Stabile - Quality Assurance
Categories: Human Services; Non-Profit Organizations

Description: *National non-profit serving individuals with developmental disabilities and autism.*

FAIR JOHN ARTSPACE & MUSIC SALON

288 Fair Street
Kingston, NY 12401
www.FairJohnArtSpace.com

Kerry J. Henderson - CEO

Categories: Art Galleries; Arts & Entertainment
Description: *Fair John ArtSpace & Music Salon is a gallery, music and event space with a cafe and bar. It features the Uptown Gallery at Fair John, a fine art contemporary gallery, exhibiting world class Hudson Valley artists in all mediums. The intimate salon in the heart of Uptown Kingston is the perfect venue to enjoy curated musical and cultural events.*

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

GRUNBLATT PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING OFFICES, PC

124 Green Street
Kingston, NY 12401
www.grunblattpsychology.com

Andrea Grunblatt - Owner
Category: Mental Health Services

Description: *Private mental health practice, employs 4 full-time and 8 part-time therapists, and four office staff. We provide mental health counseling to children, adolescents and adults.*

KINGSTON MIDTOWN RISING, INC.

122 Clinton Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
www.KingstonMidtownRising.org

Frank R. Waters - Executive Director
Category: Non-Profit Organizations

Description: *Kingston Midtown Rising, Inc. is a neighborhood organization working together to create spaces of beauty and belonging for current and future residents of Midtown Kingston, NY. Members advocate for educational, economic and affordable housing opportunities for our neighbors and work to build relationships across racial, cultural and socioeconomic boundaries.*

PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 21 HVAC-R SVC.

1024 McKinley Street
Peekskill, NY 10566
www.local21union.com

Frank Palen - Business Manager

Categories: Plumbing; Air Conditioning And/OR Heating

Description: *Union for Plumbing, Steamfitting, Welding and HVAC-R Service.*

SPA21 KINGSTON, LLC

16 Lucas Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
www.spa21kingston.com

Claude Dal Farra - Partner

Categories: Spas; Health & Wellness

Description: *Spa21 is a wellness center that provides a range of cutting-edge services, including a cryosauna, salt room, infrared beds, power fitness and neurofeedback. Unlike the traditional spa experience, there are no facials, massages or manicures. Instead, SPA21 offers an innovative, holistic approach to help people relax and feel their best.*

SPORTOPTIKS

P.O. Box 10
Wallkill, NY 12589
www.sportoptiks.com

Robert Wallner - Optician

Category: Opticians/Optometrists

Description: *Mobile Concierge Optical Service.*

STENGER, ROBERTS, DAVIS & DIAMOND, LLP

1136 Route 9, Suite 2
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.srddlaw.com

Amy Zucchi-Justice - Head of Marketing
Category: Legal Services

Description: *Stenger, Roberts, Davis & Diamond, LLP (SRDD Law) is one of the largest and most experienced law firms in the Hudson Valley. With 14 exceptional attorneys, we cover many areas of law including, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Litigation, Wills & Estates, Business, Family Law, Education, Municipal and more...*

THOMAS X. LOUGHLIN STATE FARM

68 Burleigh Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
www.Your845Agent.com

Thomas X. Loughlin - Agent/Owner

Category: Insurance

Description: *Providing insurance and financial services to the residents of Ulster County.*

UBER TECHNOLOGIES

636 West 28th Street
New York, NY 10001
www.uber.com

Hayley Prim - Public Policy Manager

Category: Transportation

Description: *Technology platform with a rideshare and food delivery service in New York.*

WAYFINDER ADVISORY GROUP LLC

18 Cottekill Estates Road
Cottekill, NY 12419
www.WayFinderAdvisoryGroup.com

Claus Kinder - CEO

Category: Business Coaching

Description: *The WayFinder relationship provides proven tools and guidance for business owners to achieve their vision through the focus on a collaborative culture, developing employees and evolving operational excellence across the enterprise. This relationship leads organization towards profitable growth in sustainable ways.*

Anniversaries:

50 Years

SUNY Ulster

45 Years

BSN Sports

15 Years

Buttermilk Falls Inn & Spa

JFS of Ulster County

10 Years

AAA Fuel and Service, Inc.

Affordable Self Storage of Kingston

HealthAlliance Hospitals, members of
WMCHHealth

Hurley Veterinary Hospital PC

Lifeguard Systems Inc.

5 Years

Annarella Ristorante

Halter Associates Realty

Olive's Country Store & Café

1 Year

Ashokan Wealth Management

Denizen Theatre

Go Beyond Greatness, Inc.

J. Mullen & Sons, Inc.

Kyle A. Steller, Esq.

League of Women Voters
of the Mid-Hudson Region

Linemen Institute of the North East

Town of Lloyd

These Members Have Renewed

AAA Fuel and Service, Inc.
Affordable Self Storage of Kingston
Annarella Ristorante
Ashokan Wealth Management
Auto Tech
Bailey Pottery Equipment Corp.
Binnewater Ice Co., Inc.
BSN Sports
Buttermilk Falls Inn & Spa
Camp Huntington High Falls, LLC
Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc.
City of Kingston
Clear Channel Outdoor
Club Pet
Cornerstone Family Healthcare
Courtyard by Marriott
Cushman & Wakefield/Pyramid Brokerage
Company
Deising's Bakery & Restaurant
Denizen Theatre
Evolving Media Network
FASTSIGNS
Frank Guido's Little Italy
Gagnon & Associates CPA's
Go Beyond Greatness, Inc.
Halter Associates Realty
Headless Horseman Hayrides & Haunted
Houses
HealthAlliance Hospitals, members of
WMCHHealth
HITS, Inc.
Hudson Valley Appraisal Corp.
Hurley Veterinary Hospital PC
J & J Sass Electric, Inc.
J. Mullen & Sons, Inc.
JFS of Ulster County
Kingston Ceramics Studio
KoscoHeritage LLC - Kingston
Kyle A. Steller, Esq.
Lee Hunt LLC

Lifeguard Systems Inc.
Linemen Institute of the North East
Local Economic Opportunities (The LEO
Group)
Mainetti & Mainetti, P.C.
Maria Cabrera Alterations & Tailoring
Mid-Hudson Oral and Maxillofacial
Practice, PC
Night Owl Productions Inc.
Olive's Country Store & Café
Optimum Window Mfg. Corp.
Patel's Kingston Lanes
Peekamoose Restaurant + Tap Room
Phoenicia Diner
PuroClean Professional Restoration
S.A.P. Exteriors Inc.
Savonas Trattoria & Pizza
Security Plumbing & Heating Supply
Senate Garage
SUNY Ulster
The Law Office Of Scott A. Klion, PLLC
The Twaalfskill Club
Theresa Cuff Realty
Thomas K. Petro, Esq.
Tonner Doll Company, Inc.
Town of Lloyd
Tuthilltown Spirits
Ulster County Community Action
Committee, Inc., dba Community Action
Universal Land Abstract, Inc.
Van Kleeck's Tire Inc.
WILLCARE

Mixer

Oct. 17, 2019
Begnal Motors

129 Route 28
Kingston, NY



Our Mixer Host and Sponsor Begnal Motors, with Larry and Dorothy Begnal (center), Brian and Tim Begnal and staff.



Door prize winners (55" TVs courtesy of Begnal Motors) included Dennise Germano (Kingston Catholic Schools), Gerald Habib (SCORE, Chapter 533) and Valerie Gambino-Carelli (C3Quest) with Tim, Brian and Larry Begnal.



Dorothy Begnal (Begnal Motors), Kathleen Dittus (Kathleen H. Dittus Esq.), Amy Kulesza (Rondout Savings Bank), Scott A. Klion (Law Office of Scott A. Klion), William Winters (Fillette and Schain Wealth Management).



Anne Larkin-Ede (KoscoHeritage), Peter Hutchings, Claude Dal Farra (both with SPA21), Joan Quigley (Cruise Planners) and Leslie Pearson (Paraco Gas).



Ralph Basso (Boy Scouts of America/Rip Van Winkle Council) with Kevin Shorette and Kevin Keaveny (both with Hudson Valley Center for Veteran Reintegration)



Joel Simon (WDST 100.1 FM Radio Woodstock), Nick Warren (Begnal Motors) and Chris Pena (Morgan Stanley Wealth Management).