

ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY OF LIFE SINCE 1971

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we bid farewell to 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've embarked on together at Vision Hudson Valley. This year has been a testament to the power of community and the potential for positive change.

At the beginning of 2023, I joined the Vision Hudson Valley team as the new Executive Director, accompanied by the unwavering support of our Director of Programming, Jackie Perez, and our esteemed Board of Trustees. With shared enthusiasm, we set out to make 2023 a year of impactful growth and community engagement.

Throughout the year, we organized a series of initiatives that celebrated the spirit of our community:

We had the privilege of honoring Donna Cornell with the 28th Annual Ottaway Medal, recognizing her outstanding contributions.

The Placemaking Conference, focusing on trails and their economic, health, and community impacts, brought together thought leaders and enthusiasts alike.

A Surrealist Exhibition, featuring Kurt Seligmann's art and the works of three prominent female surrealist artists during Upstate Art Weekend, showcased the richness of our cultural tapestry.

The Summer Jubilee on the Seligmann Estate was a highlight, where we recognized Jim Delaune of the Orange County Land Trust with the Graham Skea Quality of Life Award.

The Agribusiness Bus Tour rolled through the Town/Village of Montgomery and the Town of Wallkill, spotlighting the vital role of our farming community.

Our inaugural VHV Bowl-a-Thon brought members, investors, family, and friends together to raise funds for the quality of life in the Hudson Valley region.

As we enter 2024, our commitment to growth and community remains unwavering. It brings me great pleasure to announce that Derrik Wynkoop, President and CEO of Walden Savings Bank, will be the recipient of the 2024 VHV Ottaway Medal. Mr. Wynkoop truly exemplifies the values upheld by James and Ruth Ottaway, and we are proud to honor him for his remarkable contributions.

We recognize that our growth and success are made possible by the dedication of our supporters – you, our investors, members, committees, and volunteers. Your commitment shapes the quality of life in Orange County and the Hudson Valley region, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

As we embark on a new year, let us continue to build a future filled with growth, collaboration, and a thriving community. Together, we can make 2024 another year to remember.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,

Kaitlynn Lancellotti Executive Director Vision Hudson Valley

ABOUT VHV

Vision Hudson Valley is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of life for residents of Orange County and the Hudson Valley region. We are advocates, watchdogs, educators and connectors.

We have also been an incubator, identifying opportunities to improve our collective futures by spinning off new — and now vital — organizations like Leadership Orange, The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, the Orange County Arts Council, and Hudson Valley Honor Flight.

We preserve our county's treasured open spaces by establishing places like the Heritage Trail, the Arboretum and the D&H Canal Park. Early on, before anyone else was worried about over-development, several board trustees saw the need for a group dedicated only to land protection and created the Orange County Land Trust.

Today, as in the past, our members and trustees volunteer their time and energy to work on the issues – from pathways to placemaking to agriculture and more. We welcome and encourage residents from all walks of life to join us, because together we can build a brighter future for all.

OUR MISSON

The Hudson Valley, and more specifically, the historic Seligmann Center in Orange County is our home. We believe everyone benefits from quality communities, where all generations are supported, everyone feels welcome, and well-being is paramount. Our greatest asset is our ability, flexibility, and willingness to address a wide range of quality-of-life initiatives, such as Agricultural and Open Space Preservation, Arts and Culture, Pathways and Placemaking, Advocacy and Planning, by making vital network connections to advance innovative initiatives.

2023 OVERVIEW A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



On behalf of the entire Vision Hudson Valley Board of Trustees, we would like to thank our many members, Corporate Sponsors and community supporters for what has truly been a landmark year for Vision Hudson Valley.

We had the distinct honor of recognizing two very deserving community leaders this year. The prestigious Ottaway Medal Award was bestowed on Donna Cornell while Jim Delaune, Executive Director of the Orange County Land Trust, was presented with the Graham M. Skea Quality of Life award. These

awards were in addition to Vision Hudson Valley providing programming to the community around Placemaking, Agribusiness and the Arts, each driven under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Kaitlynn Lancellotti.

If you have already joined us at Vision Hudson Valley by becoming a member or Corporate Sponsor, we thank you. Your support helps us in continuing to preserve and enhance the quality of life for residents throughout our region. If you are not a member yet, we invite you to do so. There has never been a better time to become a part of one of the most impactful organizations within our community.

In addition to our support of the arts and robust programming around Placemaking and Agribusiness, we are proud to have founded a number of other not for profit organizations including Leadership Orange, the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, the Orange County Arts Council, Hudson Valley Honor Flight and the Orange County Land Trust. All of this while also helping preserve open spaces within our region by establishing places like the Heritage Trail, the Arboretum and the D&H Canal Park.

We are truly grateful for the outpouring of support this past year and very excited for the future and evolution of Vision Hudson Valley in the years to come.

John Carola Chair, Vision Hudson Valley Board of Trustees

2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



(2023 Ottaway Medal Dinner Left to right)
Back row: Kaitlynn Lancelotti, Danielle Farrell, Erika Hackman, Lia Fierro, Stefanie Kostenblatt, Jane Samuelson, Jackie Perez
Front row: Greg DeBuck, Lyle Shute, John Carola, Gary Shuster, John, Furst

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Carola – Chair
Lia Fierro - Immediate Past Chair
Bill Dauster - Vice Chair
Jane Samuelson – Treasurer/Chair-Elect
Lyle Shute – Secretary
Michael Flynn - At Large
Stefanie Kostenblatt - At Large

CURRENT TRUSTEES

JOINING IN 2024

Alexandra Church Dr. Erika Hackman
Greg DeBuck Kara Cavallo
Danielle Farrell Louis Heimbach
Michael Flynn Stefanie Kostenblatt
John Furst Dr. Janette McCoy McKay

Andrea Nilon - Emeritus

Laura McMahon Leonel Soriano Ronald Ferris Sharon McGinnis Thomas Zupan

Special thanks and best wishes to our Past Chair and Executive Committee member Lia Fierro whose term ends this year. We appreciate your tireless dedication, unwavering leadership, and amicable friendship. We are forever grateful for your service!

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS!

VISIONARY







COMMUNITY VOICE & TRAILBLAZER











SUPPORTER

M&TBank

















ORGANIZATIONS & PLACES SEEDED BY VHV



For over 50 years, Vision Hudson Valley, formerly Orange County Citizens Foundation, has made special places and initiatives in Orange County a top priority. We are proud to have helped establish the following amazing places and organizations in our county!









Orange County Arboretum Seligmann Center of the Arts

Heritage Trail

D&H Canal







HELP FURTHER OUR QUALITY OF LIFE MISSION BY BECOMING A 2024 CORPORATE INVESTOR

PATRON - \$10,000

Ottaway Medal Dinner

- Ottaway Medal Dinner Champion Sponsorship (\$5,000 value)
- (10) Ottaway Medal Dinner Tickets
- 20% Discount on All Additional Ottaway Tickets
- Color Ad in Ottaway Journal Full Page Size

Placemaking Conference

- Placemaking Conference Grant Sponsorship (\$2,500 value)
- (10) Placemaking Conference Tickets

Advertising Benefits

- Recognition on VHV Website with Hyperlink and on Homepage Slider
- Sponsor Listing on Signage at All Events, E-Blasts, Invites, and Annual Report
- (12) Monthly Newsletter Ads

• Additional Benefits

- 20% Discount on Event Space Rentals*
- Free Use of Any Event Space* for (4) Days
- (4) Additional Friend Memberships

VISIONARY - \$5,000

Ottaway Medal Dinner

- Ottaway Medal Dinner Champion Sponsorship (\$2.500 value)
- (6) Ottaway Medal Dinner Tickets
- 20% Discount on All Additional Ottaway Tickets
- Color Ad in Ottaway Journal Half Page Size

• Placemaking Conference

- Placemaking Conference Venue Sponsorship (\$1.000 value)
- (6) Placemaking Conference Tickets

Advertising Benefits

- Recognition on VHV Website with Hyperlink and on Homepage Slider
- Sponsor Listing on Signage at All Events, E-Blasts, Invites, and Annual Report
- (6) Monthly Newsletter Ads

• Additional Benefits

- 20% Discount on Event Space Rentals*
- Free Use of Any Event Space* for (3) Days
- (3) Additional Friend Memberships

*Event Space Rental Includes the Studio, Gallery, and Grounds

For further information about event sponsorships or our committees, visit our website at www.visionhudsonvalley.org or call us at 845-469-9459

COMMUNITY VOICE - \$2,500

Ottaway Medal Dinner

- Ottaway Medal Dinner Fan Sponsorship (\$1,000 value)
- (4) Ottaway Medal Dinner Tickets
- 20% Discount on All Additional Ottaway Tickets
- Color Ad in Ottaway Journal Quarter Page Size

Placemaking Conference

- Placemaking Conference Lunch Sponsorship (\$500 value)
- (4) Placemaking Conference Tickets

Advertising Benefits

- Recognition on VHV Website with Hyperlink and on Homepage Slider
- Sponsor Listing on Signage at All Events, E-Blasts and Invites
- (4) Monthly Newsletter Ads

• Additional Benefits

- 20% Discount on Event Space Rentals*
- Free Use of Any Event Space* for (2) Days
- (2) Additional Friend Memberships

TRAILBLAZER - \$1,250

• Ottaway Medal Dinner

- Ottaway Medal Dinner Friend Sponsorship (\$500 value)
- (2) Ottaway Medal Dinner Tickets
- 20% Discount on All Additional Ottaway Tickets
- Color Ad in Ottaway Journal Business Card Size

• Placemaking Conference

- Placemaking Conference Happy Hour Sponsorship (\$250 value)
- (2) Placemaking Conference Tickets

Advertising Benefits

- Recognition on VHV Website with Hyperlink
- Sponsor Listing on Signage at All Events, E-Blasts and Invites
- (2) Monthly Newsletter Ads

• Additional Benefits

- 20% Discount on Event Space Rentals
- Free Use of Any Event Space* for (1) Day
- (1) Additional Friend Membership





JOIN US BY BECOMING AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER!

SUSTAINER - \$500

- Recognition on VHV Website
- Yearly Membership Discount Card
- (1) Ottaway Medal Dinner Ticket
- (2) Placemaking Conference Tickets
- 20% Discount on VHV Annual Events**

FRIEND - \$100

- Recognition on VHV Website
- Yearly Membership Discount Card
- (1) Placemaking Conference Ticket
- Invitation to VHV Annual Events**

CONTRIBUTOR - \$250

- Recognition on VHV Website
- Yearly Membership Discount Card
- (2) Placemaking Conference Tickets
- Invitation to VHV Annual Events**

SUPPORTER-\$25-\$99

- Recognition on VHV Website
- Yearly Membership Discount Card
- Invitation to VHV Annual Events**

GET INVOLVED

JOIN ONE OF OUR ROBUST COMMITTEES







**Annual Events Include the Ottaway Medal Dinner and Placemaking Conference. For further information about event sponsorships or our committees, visit our website at www.visionhudsonvalley.org or call us at 845-469-9459

OUR COMMITTEES



Volunteers power the change that Vision Hudson Valley seeks to accomplish. A special thank you from the Board of Trustees to all of our volunteers and members. Read about just a few of our committees and to get involved visit us at www.visionhudsonvalley.org.

PATHWAYS

A committee comprised of trail advocates and representatives of trail organizations. Goals include expansion of the Orange County Heritage Trail, development of trails throughout the region, and increased usage of trails for recreation and transportation.

AGRICULTURE

This committee works to educate the public on the importance of agriculture to our quality of life and economy and to advocate for continued investment and attention in the agricultural business sector. The committee also organizes an annual bus tour designed to introduce elected, municipal and other local leaders to farms and agricultural trends.

PLACEMAKING

A planning tool where community members are at the core of community growth and development. Our committee works with individuals, community groups, and municipalities, as well as the public to educate on placemaking principles and to implement change. We hold placemaking tours, workshops, training sessions, and an annual conference that provides grants for local placemaking initiatives.

SELIGMANN

This committees focus is on the Seligmann Center property, as well as potential programming around the arts and Kurt Seligmann as an artist, scholar, and community builder.

HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS

This committee is comprised of people from the health sector and interested citizens to encourage collaboration and communication between healthcare entities to provide education for the community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we have embarked on together to create a brighter future for the Hudson Valley region. 2023 has been a year of growth, progress, and community engagement, and we are excited to share with you the amazing programs that marked this year.

MEET YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

28TH ANNUAL OTTAWAY MEDAL DINNER

JEROME SPECTOR MEDITATION TRAIL DEDICATION

13TH ANNUAL PLACEMAKING CONFERENCE

UPSTATE ART WEEKEND

SUMMER JUBILEE

AGRIBUSINESS BUS TOUR

BOWL-A-THON

MEET YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We welcomed Kaitlynn Lancellotti as our new Executive Director. Prior to joining VHV, Kaitlynn worked for the Orange County Partnership as the Director of Business Retention & Expansion where she excelled in cultivating and managing client relationships with top executives. She has extensive experience with non-profits, marketing, and administrative fields. Kaitlynn's organizational and planning skills have fueled her success in her professional life.



Kaitlynn achieved a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the State University of New York, New Paltz. She recently received her Master's Degree at Johnson & Wales University in Business Administration with a Concentration in Hospitality to hone her event coordination and planning skills.



In addition, Kaitlynn serves as marketing chair on the Leadership Orange Board of Directors and is a board member of Cornell Cooperative Extension since January 2023. Kaitlynn is proud to have the opportunity to impact the quality of life in the region for years to come with Vision Hudson Valley. She has a deeply-rooted interest and appreciation of our local agriculture industry, and particularly enjoys Orange County's bucolic landscape. Outside of her professional career, Kaitlynn spending time with her husband, Michael, her family, and her dog, Roscoe.



RUTH & JAMES OTTAWAY MEDAL



PAST OTTAWAY MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Ruth & James Ottaway Charles J. Shaughnessy William Kaplan William F. Messne Edward H. Northrop Louis V. Mills H. Peter Stern Graham M. Skea Constantine Sidamon-Eristof **USMA** at West Point Louis Heimbach Sister Ann Sakac F. Edward Devit Jerome Brisman Harry & Barbara Scherr Susan Metzger Roberta Glinton Richard Rowley Tom Weddell Susan Najork Andrew Komonchak James Smith Jr. Dr. Hal Tietelbaum Sen. William Larkin Jr. Alan Seidman Joan Cusack- McGuirk Linda Muller Jonathan Drapkin **Donna Cornell**

Each year, Vision Hudson Valley presents the Ruth and James Ottaway Medal to an individual who has contributed significantly to quality of life in Orange County. As the organization that serves as the moral compass and community voice for the County, Vision Hudson Valley chooses a community leader who exemplifies the dedication and positive impact the Ottaway family brought to Orange County and the Hudson Valley for several decades. Ruth and James Ottaway set the bar for community leadership by creating a newspaper publishing empire that raised the national standard for community-based reporting, developing organizations and programs that improved Orange County, and using their financial resources to support causes they believed in.

In business, the Ottaway's believed in publishing only the highest quality information and were determined to develop quality community-based newspapers throughout the United States. Strong editorial content on local, state, national and world issues, concise reporting, and local news became the hallmark of Ottaway newspapers. The couple wasn't afraid to take risks, and much of the company's early expansion came from creative negotiation skills and personal guarantees. It was a testament to their business acumen that when Ottaway Newspapers merged with Dow Jones & Co. in 1969, its estimated value was \$36 million and Ottaway Newspapers retained its independence and editorial freedom.

James Ottaway, Jr. has said that his father's vision included newspapers that would build "a strong sense of community by helping volunteer groups and good government improve lives." Certainly the Ottaway's set a fine example of strong community involvement at home in Orange County. They established the Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation, formed in 1971, and immediately organized broad-based fund drives to acquire land that would become the D&H Canal Park. Later, he played a large role in conservation of other land, including the County's park in Warwick. His last contribution to VHV was his family's \$250,000 gift to develop the Orange County Arboretum. On a national level, Jim was a director of the Associated Press and a founder of the American Press Institute.

Ruth was well known for her equestrian interests and much of her community involvement focused there. She eventually donated a large portion of Blackburne Farm, an Arabian horse-breeding business that she operated in Campbell Hall, to the County to develop a park. She was also active in the Sarah Wells Girl Scout Council, the League of Woman Voters, the Arden Hill Hospital Auxiliary, and its foundation, the Orange and Dutchess Garden Club, the Orange County Citizens Welfare Committee (a group devoted to providing items for foster children), and Winslow Therapeutic Riding Unlimited.

Vision Hudson Valley strives to continue the good work of the Ottaways and helps develop community leaders who emulate Orange County's "first couple".

28TH ANNUAL OTTAWAY MEDAL DINNER

This year's dinner was held in May at The Barn at Villa Venezia where the 28th Ottaway Medal was awarded to Donna Cornell. She has been cited among the most influential people in the region, has adorned the covers of regional publications, made numerous TV and radio appearances, and incurred many notable honors, including Chair of Eastern Orange County Chamber and Orange County Partnership; Who's Who of the Year (1993); Who's Who of American Women (1996/1997); 2000 Notable Women, and 2019 Accelerator Leadership Award to list a few.

Donna Cornell's entrepreneurial achievements as a business mentor and her decades of service to over a dozen Hudson Valley nonprofit boards and initiatives make her an esteemed honoree. Donna began a human resources business that grew to 8 offices in 4 states serving as the link for thousands of employees and employers. Her impact on the region as a volunteer and business leader is inspiring. Donna is a Certified Personnel Consultant, International CPC, and an accomplished author.

















28TH ANNUAL OTTAWAY MEDAL DINNER

THANK YOU TO OUR OTTAWAYSPONSORS!

PATRON SPONSORS





CHAMPION SPONSORS









FAN SPONSORS

























FRIEND SPONSORS











JEROME SPECTOR MEDITATION TRAIL DEDICATION

Following the completion of our beautifully restored nature trail by Jack Moran for his Eagle Scout project, we humbly gathered in May to honor a long-standing supporter in a touching ceremony to dedicate The Jerome Spector Meditation Trail in recognition of Jerome's service to our organization and lifetime commitment to environmental preservation. This posthumous dedication was attended by Jermone's wife Paula (pictured next to the trailhead sign) and many family members who walked the trail together following the ceremony.









13TH ANNUAL PLACEMAKING CONFERENCE

In June we held our 13th Annual Placemaking Conference hosted at the Rowley Center for Science and Engineering by SUNY Orange Middletown. This year's conference focused on trails and pathways and how they impact health and wellness while also playing a key roll in economic development.











Thank you to our Keynote speaker, Paul Steely White, Emcee, Lia Fierro, Moderators: Burt Thelander, Bill Dauster and our Panelists: Alan Sorensen, John Furst, Kerron Barnes, Colleen Hardcastle, Peter Karis, Don Weise, Dr. Anjana Poonthota, Dr. Mary Gillis, Rachel Carr, Matt Kierstead, Mayor Joseph M. DeStefano, Ron Schnell and Nikki Cavanaugh.

13TH ANNUAL PLACEMAKING CONFERENCE

THANK YOU TO OUR PLACEMAKING SPONSORS!

2023 STUART TURNER PLACEMAKING GRANT SPONSOR



NELSON POPE VOORHIS

VENUE











LUNCH











HAPPY HOUR

















STUART TURNER PLACEMAKING GRANT



Made possible by a generous donation from Nelson & Pope, VHV was able to award First Fridays of Pine Bush with our annual Placemaking Grant.

Their mission is to support and showcase small businesses, local artists and musicians, and their town as a year-round destination for local residents and visitors to shop, drink, eat, listen to live music, and enjoy the bounty of experiences that the hamlet of Pine Bush has to offer.

Join them the First Friday of Each Month from May through December, 4 pm - 7 pm.





UPSTATE ART WEEKEND





VHV was proud to participate in this year's Upstate Art Weekend in July. We welcomed art enthusiasts from far and wide to The Seligmann Center to take in the original work of Kurt Seligmann and others. We wish special thank you to Elliott De Cesare for curating the event.





SUMMER JUBILEE









At our Summer Jubilee held on the grounds of the Seligmann Center in August, we honored Jim Delaune from the Orange County Land Trust with the Graham M. Skea Quality of Life Award. Vision Hudson Valley created this award to honor Graham M. Skea in recognition of his many contributions both to this organization and the community as a whole. The recipients of the Graham Skea Award need to exemplify Graham's qualities and Jim Delaune of the Orange County Land Trust does just that.



SUMMER JUBILEE

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER JUBILEE SPONSORS!

























AGRIBUSINESS BUS TOUR





On the Agribusiness Bus Tour in September, our invited guests had the opportunity to explore the newly opened Adams Fairacre Farms in Middletown, Twin Ponds on the FARM in Montgomery, Flowerhouse New York and Crist Bros Orchard in Walden. We wish special thank you to our guest speaker, Cosmos Fitzpatrick from Aden Brook Farms, and our Agricultural Committee chair Greg DeBuck





THANK YOU TO OUR AGRIBUSINESS BUS TOUR SPONSORS!



















BOWL-A-THON









We held a sold out Bowl-a-thon in November at Quinnz Pinz in Middletown. Teams completed for the highest overall score, in addition to top male and female scorers. Congratulations to the team from Engineering & Surveying Properties for taking home the team trophy and Gene Silva and Kerry Wortman for winning the individual prizes. The top fundraising team Blank Anne won a Holiday Party for 12, courtesy of Quinnz Pinz! The event was so successful and well responded to that a 2nd Annual Bowl-a-thon is in the works for November 2024.





BOWL-A-THON

THANK YOU TO OUR **BOWL-A-THON SPONSORS!**

























Save the date! 2024 OTTAWAY MFNAI NINNFR

DERRIK WYNKOOP

May, 2, 2024

The Barn at Villa Venezia

5:30pm



Vision Hudson Valley is proud to announce our 2024 Ottaway Medal recipient, Mr. Derrik R. Wynkoop!

Mr. Wynkoop is the President and CEO of Walden Savings Bank which just celebrated its 150th anniversary in April 2022 as the 11th oldest mutual savings bank in the country. Walden Savings Bank is often recognized for their extensive involvement within the community, an example set under Mr. Wynkoop's leadership. Derrik can be found supporting countless organizations and events throughout the community. His level of enthusiasm, engagement, and commitment to each of the causes he is involved with is truly representative of everything that Ruth and James Ottaway stood for.





Featured in Hudson Valley Magazine, Chronogram, and deemed a hidden gem by Orange County Tourism, the bucolic grounds of the Seligmann Center offer a breathtaking backdrop for your special day.

Nestled at the base of Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Seligmann Center is located within the hamlet of Sugar Loaf, in the beautiful Hudson Valley. Introduce your guests to the magic and serenity of this property, once home to surrealist artist Kurt Seligmann and his wife Arlette.

The Studio features a glass wall and cathedral ceilings; the grounds offer sweeping lawns and picturesque views.

Rent Seligmann Center's studio and grounds for private parties, exhibitions, retreats, forums, classes, conferences and meetings.

Full Day Rental Studio & Grounds: \$1,000*

Hourly Rate - \$100 hour *

Non Profit - \$50 hour

*VHV members receive a 20% discount on rental rates

Pricing includes use of the grounds, 10 - 6ft tables, chairs, screen

& projector, presentation television and podium



For information on renting the Seligmann Studio, please send an email to Jackie Perez at jperez@visionhudsonvalley.org

or visit: https://visionhudsonvalley.org/seligmann-center/event-venue/



CONTACTUS



www.visionhudsonvalley.org



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