



Dispatches from the VFW ... page 8

WEEKEND HAPPENINGS:

Fisher Center to host 'Crybabies' podcast ... p 9
 Barrett Art Center fundraiser to honor founder ... p 9
 Staatsburgh to host special tour ... p 14
 St. Patrick's Day Parade set Saturday ... p 17



Gala to benefit Vassar dance company ... page 12

NORTHERN

Volume 11, Issue 9 • Feb. 27-March 5, 2019 • 50¢

DUTCHESS NEWS *& Creative Living*



A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

Work progressing on new DC Fair admin building

by Curtis Schmidt

It will have the appropriate outward appearance of a circa 1900 farm house with a modern interior of offices, board room and IT space, while also allowing plenty of opportunity for future expansion.

Construction work on the new and larger administration building at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is under way as staff members prepare for a busy 2019 season of events.

The outside walls and windows are in place and construction workers are busy designing and completing the inside rooms and features.

"The Fair has grown and so has the staff, so it's time to grow our administration building, too," said Fair CEO and President Andy Imperati. "We started looking at this issue with our Board of Directors about three years ago."

The original structure dates back to the late 1950s. "We found the old blue prints," said Imperati. It was updated with additional restrooms and kitchen space during the administration of Tom Odak.

They began the current process by reaching out to Mark Day of Day Engineering of Wappingers Falls. Initial talks centered on space needed, the number of individuals to accommodate on a daily basis and space for growth.

"We're always thinking about the future and those that will come after us," said Imperati. "We need to build with an eye on what will be happening in 20 years from now."

The new structure will consist of a basement and two floors above ground and will be handicap accessible. The

continued on page 3

Inaugural Grace Year Fellows bond with Millbrook community



The first Grace Year Fellows share a special moment in the Grace Episcopal Church rectory in Millbrook. From left are, Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins and Abby Nathanson of Grace Church, Grace Fellow Mai, Right Rev. Allen K. Shin, and Grace Fellows Jorge Gruber, Marcella Gallo and Nastia Khlopina. *Courtesy photo*

by Mary Keelan

The Bishop would arrive for a visit the next day, staying for dinner. The four Grace Year Fellows, participating in a unique intentional community, a new program initiative at Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, decided on meatballs.

Not any ordinary meatballs, but an Afghan recipe shared by one of the Fellows. She described them as "slightly spicy and delicious" as she encouraged her three compatriots with family origins in Russia, Venezuela and Hawaii to contribute their ethnic food items to the menu.

As with other guests these Grace Year Fellows have hosted since coming to live in Millbrook in August of 2018, the invitee was expected to bring dessert.

And the Right Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan, of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, did bring dessert on his visit the next day, Feb. 5, to the rambling white clapboard house, facing Franklin Avenue and adjacent to the Grace Church rectory.

It is here that the Grace Year Fellows have created a home in the shared residence

where they have private bedrooms, study space, and plan out and contribute to all household duties, including shopping and cooking.

Their weekdays and some evenings are crammed with assignments related to service in local non-profit organizations or church organization events. Every Monday is devoted to structured study, discussion and contemplation.

Intentional communities exist in many milieus, but this is a first of this kind for Millbrook and Grace Episcopal Church, and a first "Grace Year" in a small town rural community.

It is focused on "exploring the depths of our spirituality, leadership potential, and everyday justice," and is the brainchild of the Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins who, since 2014, is the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook and Abby Nathanson, Director of Program Development for Grace Episcopal. As they describe the "Grace Year" in a colorful poster, "This is a selective opportunity for passionate and courageous college graduates who are ready for experiential learning, professional

development, and spiritual discernment."

The fellowship year is fully funded with "all fellowship expenses fully covered, including housing, food, supplies, health insurance, transportation, weekly educational trainings, retreats, one to one spiritual direction, and a monthly cash stipend."

This year's cohort of Grace Year Fellows includes two recent graduates of Vassar College, Jorge Gruber, the class of 2018, who majored in International Studies and Marcella Gallo, who graduated with a degree in Religion.

Nastia Khlopina, a native of Russia, graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania with a degree in International Business, French and Entrepreneurship. After attending Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT., Mai graduated from Gettysburg College with a major in Political Science and a double minor in Middle Eastern Studies and Peace and Justice Studies.

Jorge, whose future career aspiration is to work as an immigration lawyer, is

continued on page 6

INDEX

Letters to the Editor	4
Community Calendar	7
Dispatches from the VFW	8
Creative Living	9-16
Nightlife	10
That's Italian!	11
A&E Calendar	12
Exhibitions	13
Binox	16
Crossword Puzzle	16
Sudoku	16
Obituaries	20
Public Notices	21
Classifieds	22-23



BEFORE YOU BUY YOUR NEXT CAR SHOP US ONLINE

RHINEBECK Ford

3667 Route 9G - Rhinebeck, NY
845.876.4440

YOUR HOMETOWN DEALER!

2018 ESCAPE 2018 EDGE 2018 EXPLORER

www.RhinebeckFord.com

Inaugural Grace Year Fellows bond with Millbrook community

continued from cover



Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins of Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook speaks with the Grace Year Fellows in an informal discussion. He said of the program, "What was only a dream has become real - and it has been wonderful, interesting, exciting and transformative to witness their (fellows) growth and ours." *Courtesy photo*

already immersed in relevant experience with his Grace year Fellowship where he works for a non-profit, Grace Immigration Outreach (GIO) as a program assistant to the director.

"Our agency strives to connect members of the immigrant community to vital social services in Dutchess County," such as legal, medical, and educational resources.

In describing the kind of future Grace Year Fellow right for this assignment, Jorge is implicitly describing himself: "passionate about immigrant affairs," "interested in gaining a more direct understanding of the

effects of social and political policy on the ground," and "committed to understanding the lived realities of marginalized communities."

Marcella came to the Grace Year Fellowship with experience the previous summer as an intern with the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston, Mass., where she worked in the International Service Department. In Millbrook, she is serving with the New Generation Ministries at Grace Episcopal and finds herself "thoroughly supported and all needs met" in her work with preschool and youth groups. She

has recently explored meditation experiences with children and wants to make Sunday School "a more child friendly environment."

Nastia feels "very honored to be part of the community," which she is experiencing primarily in her role assisting the vicar of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lithgow, the Rev. Canon Albert Joy Ogle, with such activities as "leading Sunday liturgies, offering resources and opportunities for Christian education, communicating with our outreach partners, pastoral care visits and writing weekly newsletters." She is

also helping with the newly formed organization, Millbrook at Home, a network of volunteer community members "that help senior citizens maintain active and socially engaged lives as they advance in age while remaining in their homes."

The challenge of working in different positions at the Cardinal Hayes Home for Children in Millbrook seems to energize Mai, who as a Grace Year fellow has served in the DayHub, Clinical and Residential Services, and currently in Human Resources. She has come to realize that it is "more than just language [needed] to be able to communicate and connect with others." In the process, she feels she has "learned about myself, [and] people around me a lot more than before."

Father Calkins, reflecting on the ecumenical nature of the program, said "Grace Year is a faith-based program, but it welcomes diverse expressions of faith, not just Christian. Our curriculum includes visits to synagogues, mosques, Buddhist temples, new age retreat centers. We are all enriched in our beliefs and practices through learning and observing those of others."

When asked to share something, Bishop Shin said during his recent visit, Father Calkins described an incident at the evening dinner when Nastia, the Grace Year Fellow, asked the Bishop a question.

"I think the Bishop was surprised to find himself on the receiving end of questions about his experience of intentional community - and he spoke movingly of growing up in a large extended family headed by a devout matriarch, his grandmother - and the whole family sang, in four-part harmony at morning and evening family prayers! I don't think he often tells this story and he seemed moved to share it."

Reflecting on this dinner and others with the Grace Year Fellows, Abby Nathanson mused, "I did not anticipate that the fellows would all be such good cooks, but I have been REALLY enjoying that aspect of the program."

Q & A: Directors discuss Grace Fellows program

by Mary Keelan

When Abby Nathanson, director of program development for Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, and the Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, first started discussing their ideas for the Grace Year Fellowship Program, now in the middle of its first year, it "was only a dream."

As the applications for Grace Year Fellows for 2019-2020 started to come in, they both reflected on the first-year experience, answering some questions posed by this reporter. Here are their slightly edited responses.

Mary Keelan (MK) - How can interested

applicants get information on the Grace Year Fellows?

Abby Nathanson (AN) - Prospective applicants can learn more at graceyear.org. We are accepting applications on a rolling basis, and our priority application window closes on March 1, 2019. If you would like to talk to me more about the program, I can be reached at 845.420.4280 or hello@graceyear.org. Thank you!

MK - How do you feel the Grace Fellows program 2018-2019 is going at this point in time?

AN - Wonderfully! I'm delighted with how Grace Year has turned out. They (Fellows) are enriching the local community in countless ways and growing within

themselves and as a cohort as well. I am learning every day as I figure out how to run an interfaith post-bac residential program on the fly. It's fabulous. I think that every religious community with the resources to offer residential programming should consider doing so (and may contact me if they'd like to discuss it).

MK - Is the program realized correlating with what you originally expected or is it something different?

AN - Well, what I originally expected was predominantly imaginary in nature and now this is real, so there's that! I knew that I couldn't possibly have imagined how four real live people would infuse the structure of the program—living in the vicarage, community dinners, intentional community, Monday study days, learning modules on spirituality, leadership, and justice, concluding capstone projects, individualized spiritual direction, praxis projects, etc.—that was all there from the beginning.

MK - What would you change with next year's group?

AN - They will be five different humans, so everything will change! I would especially like to recruit college graduates who have been out of college for a couple years, as well as those currently or formerly from the Hudson Valley.

MK - If you wanted the readership in the Hudson Valley to know or understand something about the Grace Fellows Program (and persons) what would that be.

AN - I want people to know that it's entirely possible for people from wildly

different countries, cultures or worldviews to all live together and form a beautiful intentional community. Engaging across difference is important in 2019 perhaps more than ever and I am proud that we are doing it here in Millbrook.

MK - What has the experience of these Grace Year Fellows meant to you personally?

Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins (MC) - What was only a dream has become real—and it has been wonderful, interesting, exciting and transformative to witness their (Fellows) growth and ours.

MK - As a priest?

MC - Clergy get into this work in order to transform lives for the better—how great then to see transformation at work!

MK - As a pastor in this place at this time?

MC - Grace Church is a great church—and has been for a long time (150 years and counting). It is a blessing to be part of the history and find new ways to build the Beloved Community that Jesus calls us to.

MK - What do you want to change for next year's Fellows?

MC - We are changing the mix of site partners—and if any of your readers are interested in being a site partner, get in touch. This is an exciting opportunity to experiment.

MK - Is there anything specific you would like the readership of Northern Dutchess News to know about this program in this place at this time?

MC - I would be happy to meet anyone interested in learning more about Grace Year or Grace Church.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

& Creative Living

84 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 845.297.3723

NEWS northerndutchess@sdutchessnews.com

A&E / Lifestyle

creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

ADVERTISING sdnadvertising@aol.com