

# THE CHAMBER CHRONICLE

*News, Notes, and Business from Hyde Park*



February 2026 Edition

Issue #1

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT



Thank you to the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce for electing me to serve as your next President. It is truly an honor, and I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue strengthening the business community that makes Hyde Park such a special place to live and work.

My first action as President is to recognize and thank Dot Chenevert for her many years of service as both a board member and President of the Chamber. Dot's dedication, volunteerism, and steady leadership have guided the Chamber through years of growth and change. Her commitment has left a lasting impact, and we are all grateful for the foundation she has built.

As many of you know, I was raised in Hyde Park, and I still proudly call it my home. With more than 20,000 residents, I often joke that I know 19,999 of them. I've spent decades working alongside our local merchants, and I understand the challenges and opportunities they face. I look forward to continuing that work—supporting our businesses, strengthening their visibility, and helping them thrive in an ever-changing marketplace.

In the coming year, we will be bringing back our monthly Chamber breakfasts, revitalizing our newsletter, enhancing our website, and increasing the visibility of our ribbon cuttings. These efforts are designed to reconnect our members, highlight the incredible work happening across town, and create more opportunities for collaboration and growth. I bring over 40 years of business experience in Hyde Park, and my vision is simple: to showcase our local businesses, elevate their presence, and ensure the Chamber becomes a true marketing arm for its members.

We will soon be offering advertising opportunities in both our newsletter and on our website. Sponsorship opportunities will also be available for our monthly breakfasts, our Installation Dinner in January, the Business of the Year celebration in May, and the Hyde Park Chamber Car Show in July. These events not only support the Chamber—they help build community, create visibility for our members, and celebrate the spirit of Hyde Park.



## BREAKFAST SPONSOR

**Rhinebeck Bank**

## Monthly Breakfast Meeting

**THE HYDE PARK CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Location: Coppola's Restaurant Time: 7:30-9:00 am  
Speaker: Al Torregiani, Hyde Park Town Supervisor  
Sponsor: Rhinebeck Bank

**Rhinebeck Bank**

## Hyde Park Rotary



The Hyde Park Rotary Club will be hosting its annual Comedy Night on February 27<sup>th</sup> at Coppola's in Hyde Park. Enjoy a night out and have some laughs with friends and family.

Check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hydeparkrotary/](https://www.facebook.com/hydeparkrotary/) for more information.

The proceeds from this event help support several local organizations that serve the Hyde Park community. Our club's key initiatives include sponsoring the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), supporting the Hyde Park Family Resource Center, and establishing Little Libraries throughout the area. We also proudly contribute to Rotary's global efforts through the PolioPlus campaign and ShelterBox disaster relief.

If you'd like to learn more about our work and connect with neighbors who are committed to giving back, we invite you to join us at one of our meetings. The Hyde Park Rotary Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 AM at the Hyde Park Library Annex.

## COMEDY NIGHT

**HYDE PARK ROTARY**

**Comedy Night**  
Friday, February 27

Visit us on [facebook](#)



## INSTALLATION SPONSOR

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**BOARDROOM ODDITIES AND BLUNDERS**

Business is often painted as serious—charts, forecasts, and solemn meetings. But behind every polished PowerPoint lurks a comedy of errors that proves the workplace is as human (and hilarious) as anywhere else.

**This Week's Blunder: The Coffee Catastrophe**

During a high-stakes investor pitch, a founder tried to sip coffee mid-sentence to look calm. The lid wasn't secure, and the coffee streamed down his shirt. Without missing a beat, he quipped: *"And that's how we handle hot situations."* The investors laughed—and funded him anyway.

**Unexpected Wins: The Mascot Mix-Up**

A marketing team hired a giant penguin mascot for a product launch. The penguin waddled into the wrong venue—a law firm's annual meeting. The lawyers were baffled but delighted, posting photos that became their most-liked social media post ever. Sometimes, the wrong room is the right move.

**Office Lore: Reply-All Roulette**

One employee dashed off a casual “I'll get to it later” to a colleague, but accidentally hit *Reply All*. The message went to the entire company, including the CEO. The CEO replied: *“Perfect, I'll get to my bonus later too.”* It became the company's running gag for months.

**PowerPoint Panic**

At a quarterly meeting, a manager proudly clicked “Next Slide” only to reveal his grocery list instead of the sales forecast. The room went silent—until someone asked if the company was expanding into bananas and laundry detergent. The laughter broke the tension, and the meeting ended with a new inside joke *“Always check your slides before you check your stocks.”*

**The Takeaway**

Business isn't just about balance sheets and strategy. It's also about the human moments—awkward, funny, and ironic—that remind us we're all winging it together. The next time you spill coffee, mis-send an email, or hire a penguin for the wrong event, remember: laughter might just be your best ROI.

**CRUMWOLD HALL FIRE UNITES HYDE PARK COMMUNITY**

HYDE PARK, N.Y.—On New Year's morning, Hyde Park awoke to the sight of smoke rising from one of its most storied landmarks: **Crumwold Hall**, the 19th-century estate long woven into the town's architectural and cultural identity. By 8 a.m., flames had overtaken the mansion's ground floor, triggering a massive emergency response that would stretch more than 12 hours and draw fire crews from across Dutchess County—and even from neighboring Connecticut.

The 74-room Gilded Age mansion, built in 1889 for Archibald Rogers and later home to the Millennial Kingdom Family Church, housed 11 **residents**, all of whom escaped without injury thanks to swift action by first responders. One police officer even pulled a resident from a first-floor bathroom, underscoring the urgency and bravery that defined the day's events.

**A Battle Against Fire—and the Elements**

Firefighters confronted not only the blaze itself but also the bitter January cold. Nearly **500,000 gallons of water** were deployed to contain the fire, straining the Hyde Park Region Water System and prompting an emergency conservation advisory for several neighborhoods, including Harbour Hills, Pinebrook Estates, Zone L, and Staatsburg.

As water poured over the burning structure, it froze on contact, creating treacherous sheets of ice around the estate. The town's highway department worked continuously to salt the area so crews could operate safely.

Despite the intense effort, the fire continued into the next day as a controlled burn. Town Supervisor Alfred Torreggiani noted that, given the extent of the damage, there is a “99% chance” the building will be condemned once inspectors can safely enter the site.

For many Hyde Park residents, the destruction of Crumwold Hall is more than the loss of a historic structure. It is the loss of a familiar landmark—a quiet sentinel of the town's past, connected to the Roosevelt era and the region's Gilded Age heritage.

Neighbors expressed heartbreak not only for the building but for the displaced residents, who were active members of the Millennial Kingdom Family Church. The American Red Cross quickly stepped in to provide temporary shelter and support.

**A Community That Shows Up**

If there is a silver lining, it is the extraordinary cooperation displayed by the region's volunteer fire departments. Crews from Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Staatsburg, and many more worked side by side through the holiday, demonstrating the strength of Dutchess County's emergency network. “They did a tremendous job... They all worked together as a team,” Supervisor Torreggiani said, praising the responders' professionalism and endurance.

**What Comes Next**

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Once the site cools enough for forensic teams to enter, officials hope to determine what sparked the blaze and assess the full extent of the damage.



For now, Hyde Park is left with a mix of gratitude and grief—thankful for the lives saved, yet mourning the likely loss of a historic treasure. And as always, the town does what it does best: it rallies, supports, and looks ahead together.

**BUSINESS SPARKS****From Washroom to World Stage**

Adi Dassler began crafting shoes in his mother's washroom in Bavaria. His relentless focus on athletes' needs led to the birth of Adidas. Just five years later, the German national football team won the World Cup wearing his cleats—a victory that propelled the brand worldwide. Lesson: Even the humblest beginnings can lead to global impact when paired with customer focus.

**Basement Breakthrough**

Kevin Plank, a college graduate, tinkered with sweat-resistant football jerseys in his grandmother's basement. With little money, he gambled everything on a single ESPN ad. That bold move caught the NFL's attention, and Under Armour grew into a multi-billion-dollar company. Lesson: Sometimes one daring risk is the spark that ignites a movement.

**Airbeds to Airbnb**

Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia couldn't afford rent in San Francisco. Their quirky idea—renting out airbeds to conference attendees—was rejected by countless investors. Yet persistence turned “AirBed & Breakfast” into Airbnb, now a global hospitality disruptor. Lesson: What begins as a quirky fix can evolve into a world-changing innovation.

**Ben & Jerry's Gas Station Scoop**

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield opened their first ice cream shop in a renovated gas station. Their mix of creativity, humor, and social responsibility built a brand beloved worldwide. Lesson: Personality and values can be as powerful as product quality in building loyalty.

**Takeaway**

Business greatness doesn't always start with polished plans—it often begins with imperfect steps, quirky ideas, and bold risks. The common thread is resilience, creativity, and the courage to act. Your spark doesn't have to be perfect—it just has to begin.

## New Member Spotlight



### Dedication Accountability Competence Knowledge

Pioneering construction consulting since 1997, our firm, led by Aleksandra Chancy, brings over a quarter-century of expertise to your project. From dream inception to construction completion, we're your partner for success in every phase.

#### OUR FOUNDER

#### Aleksandra Chancy, PE

Ms. Chancy is a licensed engineer with over 25 years of experience working in various aspects of the construction industry.



In 1997 Ms. Chancy founded DACK Consulting, a firm dedicated to providing a wide range of project management services to Owners as well as Contractors. More than twenty years later, Ms. Chancy has built a company that has provided services on all types of buildings, in all phases of the construction and development process. Furthermore, with projects located all over the world, including France, Russia, Vietnam, and the Caribbean, Ms. Chancy has effectively demonstrated that DACK's services extend far beyond the company's geographical location. DACK has also teamed successfully with some of the largest design and construction companies in business today, including Turner International and AECOM. In all cases, whether the project is large or small, Ms. Chancy is proud of DACK's commitment to give clients the very best professional services on the market today.

#### Hyde Park, New York: History, Flavor, and Scenic Charm

Hyde Park, set along the Hudson River in Dutchess County, is a town where **American history and natural beauty meet**. Best known as the lifelong home of **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**, it invites visitors to explore his estate at the **Home of FDR National Historic Site** and the **Presidential Library and Museum**, both preserving the legacy of a leader who guided the nation through the Great Depression and World War II.

The town also showcases the grandeur of the **Vanderbilt Mansion**, a Gilded Age estate with sweeping river views, and the **Culinary Institute of America**, where student-run restaurants highlight world-class cuisine. Together, these landmarks make Hyde Park a destination for both history buffs and food lovers.



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#### Furloughed IRS tax attorney starts second career running popular hot dog stand

Furloughed IRS tax attorney Isaac Stein, 31, is selling hot dogs from his "Shysters Dogs" stand, whose motto is "the only honest rip off in D.C."

For Stein, running a food stand is a childhood dream, and he's using the government shutdown as an opportunity to live it out. "There you are, ma'am," Stein said to a customer Wednesday. "Don't forget your soft drink. Thank you so much."

At lunchtime, the long line at 1st and M streets Northeast to get a hot dog from Stein's stand is sometimes 25 people deep. He cooks the food and runs the business himself.

Looking like the IRS tax lawyer he is, Stein was dressed Wednesday in a black suit, a crisp white button down and red tie. He said he's having a wonderful time selling hot dogs during the shutdown. "I love that there's a wide mix of customers here. There are people in service industries, there are government workers, there are tech workers. I love learning from everyone," he told WTOP. "It was a combination of really liking the community here, which that's the majority here. And then I'd say 25 to 30% of the reason is logistics." Stein sells his unique style hot dogs — with mustard and sauerkraut

and an RC Cola for \$10. He said he sells the less-popular RC Cola because he believes it's the best tasting soft drink.

Anticipating a government shutdown, Stein started the permitting process with the city in September and opened on Oct. 8. Stein stores his wheeled cart stand nearby at a commercial kitchen and pushes it about a half mile to and from his spot each day. "This is a blast. I get to hang out with people, talk to people all day. I love learning," he said.

His customers are enthralled with the business. Carol Banta, who stood in line for a while, is also a government lawyer. She said her agency is "still operating." "It's a nice day and we need lunch!" she said. Others including Retha Maddox waited in line for 30 minutes to get a hot dog.

"I want to support Isaac. I think what he is doing is great! I hate that he is laid off," she said. Stein said due to his success, he'll continue the business on the weekends once the shutdown ends. But he doesn't plan to quit his day job. "I absolutely intend to return to my federal job, as soon as I can. Whenever I'm called back, I intend to go back to the office, and the idea from there is to do this on weekends," he said.

By: **Dan Ronan** | [dan.ronan@wtop.com](mailto:dan.ronan@wtop.com)



## Claudio Cares FOUNDATION

Claudio Coppola perished on the night of November 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. In the days and weeks that followed our spirits were buoyed by tales of Claudio's unselfishness and love. We decided that though Claudio's body perished on that fateful evening, his spirit would live on through the Claudio Cares Foundation.

Our first event on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2012, his birthday, just 4 short weeks after his death, we organized a can drive utilizing his friends as well as young people throughout the Hudson Valley. Claudio's Can Drive collected over 20,000 lbs. of food that first year, which we distributed to three local food pantries filling their shelves to capacity.



## Upcoming Events Spring Activities

### March

#### Home Compost and Compost Bin Giveaway

- Date: To Be Determined
- Join us for an informative session on home composting and receive a free compost bin! Stay tuned for the confirmed date and location.

### April and May

#### Dutchess County Earth Day Event

- Date: 04/18/2025
- Location: Vassar College Barns
- Celebrate Earth Day with us! Stop by our booth to learn more about sustainable practices and volunteer opportunities

#### Spring Litter Pick-up

- Date: To Be Determined
- Stay tuned for updates on other exciting activities in April and May
- June

#### Hyde Park in Bloom Garden Tour

- Date: To Be Determined
- Explore beautiful gardens throughout Hyde Park. More information about participating gardens and event timing will be announced.

#### Stay Updated

Please visit our Facebook Page: Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, our website: [hydeparkvec.org](http://hydeparkvec.org), or Instagram: [hydeparkvec](https://www.instagram.com/hydeparkvec/) for confirmed dates and additional details. We look forward to seeing you at these events!

