

Join the Parade and our community CELEBRATION OF HOPE for a joyous and peaceful world.
ALL WELCOME.



Sinterklaas!

An Old Dutch Tradition in the Hudson Valley

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022
RHINEBECK, NEW YORK



SinterklaasHudsonValley.com

[instagram.com/sinterklaas_hudson_valley](https://www.instagram.com/sinterklaas_hudson_valley)



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★ The Spirit of Sinterklaas

He was Odin.
And Good King Wenceslas.
Père Noël, Father Frost.
Then he was St. Nicholas.
He became Sinterklaas.
Then Santa Claus.
He's even been called
"Sandy Claws."

He is Mother Teresa, Gandhi,
the Dalai Lama and Schindler.
But whatever name we have
called him, he has always
been the same.

He loves children, is generous,
protects and honors the poor,
brings blessings and gifts,
protection, food and clothing.
He comes at the darkest time
to remind us of the light.

He is the good king,
the kind teacher:
he "flies" to those in need,
the creatures all love him,
he comes with good intent.
His bag is really full of love
and hope and caring...
He is humanity at its best.



THINGS YOU MUST DO AT SINTERKLAAS!



1. MAKE YOUR CROWN

and Decorate your Branch for the Parade.
Find Crowns & Branches in the Old School Gym.



2. MAKE YOUR WISH

Kids and parents alike—visit the WISH LADY and the PEACE DOVE. Details on page 6.



3. GET YOUR STAR

Read all about it in the yellow box. 



4. VISIT THE THE GROVE!

Hear the trees speak to you... in the Courtyard



5. ENTER THE GLADE!

Meet Hansel & Gretel. Hug a Tree.
As they walk around town



6. COME TO THE PAGEANT

After the PARADE passes, follow along
to the PAGEANT and the STAR CEREMONY.
Remember to bring your STAR!



WELCOME!

This is the celebration where **CHILDREN** are transformed into **KINGS and QUEENS** and honored as the bringers of the light at the darkest time of year.

The tradition of Sinterklaas comes all the way from the Netherlands, brought by Dutch settlers who arrived in Hudson Valley over 300 years ago. Sinterklaas, the patron of children and sailors, finds a welcoming community in the Mid-Hudson Valley as we re-create the story through the lens of modern-day America.

Our revived tradition is non-denominational and all inclusive – everyone is invited to participate! The young, the old, the in-between – absolutely everyone and anyone who wants to be part of a community of hope for a joyous and peaceful world are all welcome.

Inside this book you will find more than a schedule to help you navigate the plethora of events and activities. You will also find the history, the stories, and the details that will add to the richness of the experience for you and your family!



Be sure to get your STAR for the Children's Star Celebration after the parade. Look for them on sale at shops with the Sinterklaas "Stars for Sale Here" sign, and at the "Ask Me" table. Read more on page 12.



WHY YOU NEED A STAR

At the end of the parade, everyone will gather for the final ritual of the pageant, the moment you and your STAR have been waiting for. The Master of Ceremonies will call upon all those present to honor our children, our hope for the future, our joy of today.

He will ask you to honor the children. At that time you will hold your STAR at the children's waist level elevating them, for a brief moment, on a sea of stars above everyone in the community. Then you will be asked to stand again and raise your star above your heads—thus placing you, the children and the entire community in its proper place in the firmament— all of us as one and at peace under the stars.

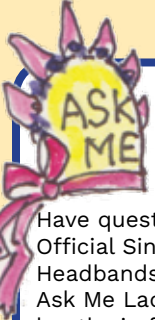
RHINEBECK FESTIVAL DAY: DECEMBER 3

SAMUEL'S SWEET SHOP 42 E Market St

14

BEGIN your Sinterklaas Day...

10:00am **BEAR BEAUTY CONTEST** Dress your favorite bear up in anything you wish, meet other bears, and maybe win a prize. All children and adults are invited to submit entries! Many categories! Many honors!



Ask Me Ladies! 1

Have questions? Want to buy Official Sinterklaas Stars, Porcupine Headbands, Flags, and more? The Ask Me Ladies can help. Find their booths in front of the Beekman Arms. Or look for the ladies on the street wearing their Ask Me hats.

Use the MAP on page 6

to find all the Sinterklaas venues in the Village. Match the numbers from the schedule to the numbers on the map to find your way!

3RD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 31 Livingston St. 8

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

LOOKING FOR LUNCH?

The Lutheran is serving lunches: Hot Soup, Hot and Cold Sandwiches, Cookies & Beverages.

For Your Convenience

- **Baby Changing Station** at StarryBird Kids (Montgomery Row, next to Paper Trail) 10
- Find **Porta Potties** in the Municipal Parking lot. 11

A Quiet Space 14

In the spirit of inclusivity, we welcome neurodivergent children and children with other special needs to an environment with reduced sensory input in the Beekman Arms' Library, 5:30-7:30pm.

BECKMAN ARMS 6387 Mill St (Rt 9)

2

12:00pm - 2:00pm

OPENING CEREMONY

Words Before All Else

WITH JEANNE FLEMING, CREATOR OF SINTERKLAAS

Join Hansel and Gretel as they welcome us into the woods! Who dwells within that Glade? Maybe everyone, as we assemble the first ever PORCUPINEBECK PRICKLE! Encounter the Polar Bear and his consorts. Be there to pick the first Pocket and as Mother Holly opens the doors of the Storytelling House. Witness the transference of the Celestial Flames from the Frischknecht Family to the Travers! It will be sweet! Solve a riddle and hear a fiddle. Meet the Gadfly and the Porcupupette! Embrace the Porcupine and Hug a Tree! Famed storyteller Jonathan Kruk will tell the story of St. Nicholas and Dutch New York Hanukah Stories, Hansel and Gretel and more!

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL 83 E Market St

4

Open Gate Coffee House Ministries

Enjoy a hot drink while you listen to **Local Musicians**. All afternoon.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Jonathan Kruk Storyteller shares stories of the trees at **3:00pm**.

UPSTATE FILMS 6415 Montgomery St

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BUNDLESTIFF FAMILY CIRKUS

Perfect for ages 3 + up

12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:15pm

ROB LOK & MISS JANE

12:00pm, 1:30pm, 3:00pm

PARIS the HIP HOP JUGGLER

6 MULBERRY ST. 10:00am-4:00pm

3

CROWNS & BRANCHES WORKSHOP

Children are at the heart of the Sinterklaas story! They are **KINGS & QUEENS** of the Day and we honor them in the Parade and the Pageant.

Make sure the children get a chance to make their crowns and adorn their branches for the evening events!

More to do at Crowns & Branches..

CHILDREN: be **SURE** to **VISIT** the **WISH LADY**

Make your wishes for your family, your community and the world. Tie them on your branch.

ADULTS: be **SURE** to place **YOUR** wishes in the **PEACE DOVE**

PARENTS: PURCHASE YOUR **STARS**

so you can participate in the Children's Star Celebration following the Parade. Grab a flag for the Parade while you area at it.

EVERYONE: TAKE A PEEK ON THE STAGE!

PAPER HEART PUPPETS

bring you a mountain village of miniature Yeti puppets viewed through a tiny peephole by one person at a time!

Look through the windows of the houses and see slices of mountain life brought to life by hidden puppeteers.

3RD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 31 Livingston St.

8

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

2:00 PM Vassar Devils

2:30 PM Bourbon and Breast Milk

3:00 PM Djam Gong Gamelan

3:30 PM Bard College Georgian Choir

4:00 PM Strawberry Hill Fiddlers

THE COURTYARD
83 E Market St



Make sure to visit **THE GROVE**

The **PORCUPINE** invites you to come out of the cold of Winter and enter **THE GROVE** to hear the forest sing to you! Listen carefully as the animals join in the chorus! Be sure to get your **QUILL** as you leave and tie a promise to the community tree and greet the surprise at the end of the path!

RHINEBECK ARTISTS SHOP
56 E. Market Street



Watch YouTube Star

TEDDY the PORCUPINE

Required Viewing.

Everyone needs to speak Porcupine to participate fully in the evening pageant. Stop by and learn the basics!



REFORMED CHURCH SANCTUARY
corner of South St. & Route 9



Everyone Welcome
2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm

INTO THE LIGHT **A Holiday Spectacular**

Presented by
The Vanaver Caravan & The Arm of the Sea Theater

A Holiday story of a young girl's journey throughout the world searching for the light. Features giant puppets and international music and dance!

FOSTER'S PARKING LOT Center of Town



presented by the Bindlestiff Family Circus

MICHAEL ROSMAN

One-of-a-kind comedic performance—for adults and youth. Tight-wire walking, juggling, magic, balancing stunts and unicycling — amazing and amusing!

HOME SPUN MERRY-GO-ROUND

Take a whirl around!

PLUS SPECIAL GRUMPUS PERFORMANCE

POP UP PERFORMANCES AROUND TOWN

Come into the Circle of Trees

THE GLADE

hosted by

Hansel & Gretel

Did you know that trees walk?

Everyone thinks they just stand still but no! They move in the forest. To honor that dance we bring you **THE GLADE**. Hansel and Gretel inhabit this walking forest and tell of their time there. They will sing a lullaby as the trees dance and sway around you!

BE SURE TO HUG A TREE

before the Glade moves on—and get your

Return Token at the end—so you can

FIND YOUR WAY BACK to the forest.

Hansel: Melanie Dubil

Gretel: Kirby Burgess

Narrator: Cindy Kubick

Music: Caprice Rouge

Choreography: Leighann Kowalsky

Chorus: Bourbon and Breast Milk

Puppets: Processional Arts Workshop

Porcupine Handler: Felix Wainwright

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

83 E Market St



HORNS-A-PLENTY

2:00 PM Brasskill Brass Band

2:30 PM Giglio Band

3:00 PM Brass Queens

3:30 PM Hungry March Band

4:00 PM Ole' Factory Brass Band



DAPSON-CHESTNEY PARKING LOT 5:30pm



HAVDALAH Candle Lighting

Walk 2 blocks west from the traffic light. Led by the Northern Dutchess Hebrew School, J.A.N.D. and Temple Emanuel.

On to the
PARADE >

Bring your Crowns & Branches, STARS & Flags to the:

17 CHILDREN'S STARLIGHT PARADE

6:00 pm Parade begins on West Market St. and proceeds through the Village and continues to the Municipal Lot for the Star Pageant. See the map for the route.

EVERYONE Follow the Parade to the Pageant Bring your Stars!



FOLLOW THEIR LEAD! Rhinebeck Rotary Club & Interact Club: Partners, Marshals & Puppeteers! Thank you for your support!

Be sure to join the parade after it passes by! Bring your STARS to the Pageant!

KEY TO THE MAP

1. "Ask Me" Ladies (2 locations): **INFORMATION & SWAG**
 2. Beekman Arms: **OPENING CEREMONY & Quiet Space**
 3. **CROWNS & BRANCHES: New Location**
 4. Methodist Church Parish Hall: **COFFEE HOUSE MUSIC**
 5. Dapson Chesney Funeral Home: **HAVDALAH**
 6. Rhinebeck Artists' Shop with **TEDDY THE PORCUPINE**
 7. Foster's Lot: **Outdoor fun with BINDLESTIFF FRIENDS**
 8. 3rd Evangelical Lutheran Church: **MUSIC**
 9. Methodist Church: **HORNS-A-PLENTY**
 10. Montgomery Row: **Baby Changing Station**
 11. Municipal Lot: **PARADE GRAND FINALE & PAGEANT (Porto-Potties, too)**
 12. The Courtyard: **THE GROVE**
 13. Reformed Church Sanctuary: **INTO THE LIGHT**
 14. Samuel's: **BEAR BEAUTY CONTEST**
 15. Starr Library: **Parade Line-up**
 16. Upstate Films: **Bindlestiff Family Circus**
- PARADE ROUTE** ●●●●●

RHINEBECK FESTIVAL MAP

PARKING at the Fairgrounds Mulberry & Platt Street Lot
Northern Dutchess Hospital Across from the Fairgrounds.

Find more Parking Information on the website



Restrooms. Porto-Potties are in the Municipal Parking Lot. Restrooms are available at all venues and all over town at friendly merchants.

Have Questions? Need help? Look for the Ask Me Ladies!



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THE PAGEANT

including the Children's STAR CEREMONY

In the Municipal Parking Lot immediately following the Parade.

Completion of the Day ... Join together at the end of the Parade and be a part of the Children's Star Ceremony. See all the members of the parade plus Fire Juggling, the Grampus Dance, the Blessing of the Mouse and Frog and their Friends, live music, sing along, The Peace Dove, and more.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PARADE & PAGEANT

HEAR, HEAR!

Uncle DeWitt's Bell heralds the way.

SINTERKLAAS

with his white horse.

THE HOLDERS OF THE LIGHT 2022

The Traver Family—John, Ally and Charlie



THE SEVEN SISTERS

Stars from the cosmos that look down on us from afar and allow us to look up and dream.

THE HONORED ANIMAL THE PORCUPINE

Find the story on page 8.



THE GRUMPUSES

are Sinterklaas' wild sidekicks who carry out his judgment on the children—either switches for the bad or candies for the good. But, our Grumpuses are people you know in the community who are candy men, there for joyous revels and to delight the children.

THE SNOW KING & QUEEN

from the celestial realm.

THE GLADE, HANSEL + GRETEL

The Walking Trees

THE STAR STILTERS:

Mortal Beasts & Deities Stilt Walkers.

THE CRESCENT MOON

THE POLAR BEAR!

Sing to him and watch him dance.

ALL THE KING'S HORSES

the Hobby Horse Brigade from Southlands

GRANDMOTHER EARTH

on whom we all live. She's the mother of us all, the Guiding Spirit of the Parade reminding us to take care of her.

THE 4 SEASONS

The moods of Grandmother Earth. We especially honor Winter this time of year.



THE ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE

The most ancient Dance ever recorded. There are 12 characters representing a deer hunt. The pattern of the dance mimics the way in which a deer walks through the woods—in a figure 8 pattern—to the accompaniment of a haunting slip jig.

THE CAROUSEL

A child's Toy Box writ large!

THE BLUE DOG

Some things have no explanation!

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

A cosmic play of Good and Evil.

THE TURTLE.

On whose back the Earth was formed.

CREATURES FROM THE FARM

They join their wild brothers.

HONORED ANIMALS

from the PAST:
FROGGY • MISS MOUSEY • STURGEON • BUTTERFLY • ELEPHANT • OWL • HONEYBEE • HUMMINGBIRD • FOX • HORSE • THE CROW • GOOSE • BEAR • TURTLE

A PARLIAMENT OF OWLS.

A SWARM OF BEES.

Community.

THE PENGUINS.

Visitors from the arctic.

THE TWIN SERPENTS: LUX & LUMEN

DREAM DANCERS—

Lara Ganz, Dream Studio

MUSIC OF ALL TRADITIONS:

Bagpipe, Dixieland, Irish, Didgeridoo, Balkan, Ukrainian, Samba, African, Chinese, Mexican & Indonesian.

CHINELOS.

Whirling reminders of Mexico and its Holiday Traditions.

THE POCKET LADY

Our symbol of generosity

THE PEACE DOVE

Our wish for the world. The night ends with a wish for Peace in the world so that we will all live in community with each other, enjoying and celebrating our differences, hoping for Joy for All in this, our precious World.



★ THE PORCUPINE ★ HONORS THE PLAYFULNESS OF SPIRIT THAT LETS EVERYONE WIN!



THE PORCUPINE'S PLEA

The Porcupine picked up his Quill and wrote (with a little help from Allison Chawla)

With his prickly quills
From the lush of the tree
The porcupine squeaked
Will you rescue me?

It's the forest I need
For all creatures alive
Save the violets, alfalfa
And thus we shall thrive

Though I pierce at the touch
There's no harm meant inside
With a slow moving shuffle
It can be difficult to hide

So next time you visit
The woodlands to see
Please be kind to my home
As I have no place to flee

All we creatures alike
are a part of this land
As important to the circle
As water and sand

And without your protection
For the trees and our earth
A Consequence may result

In the cease of our birth
So do visit and watch

But please don't fail to see
That all creatures need your help
And that includes me...

We chose the porcupine after these past years when so many folks seemed sooooo prickly....but after we did here's what we learned! The Porcupine is not a symbol of stick-in-the-mud grouchiness! Far from it!

THE PORCUPINE IS THE SYMBOL OF INNOCENCE. THE CHILD. FOR PLAY!

And yes, also for protectiveness...for who does not put up their quills when they feel threatened or afraid...as many of us did during these last couple of years.

But now is not the time to be afraid. It's the time to embrace the inner child—to Embrace the Porcupine! For when we can accept and enjoy the prickly side ... when we can laugh at ourselves and lighten up—we are like children again. And Sinterklaas is for the children!

And so we present to you the Porcupine—shy on the inside...maybe it's that child in the theater who is afraid to go on stage, but is a fantastic stage hand; maybe it's that teen who is misunderstood; maybe, just maybe it's YOU after the last couple of years. Look in the mirror to find the answer to the riddle—the answer is upside down and backwards—so, take a moment to look at yourself and have a laugh!

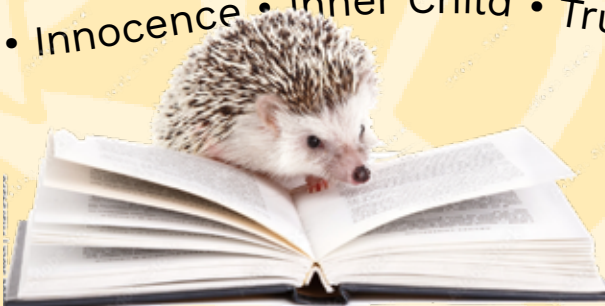
As you walk around today, encounter The Gadfly—get poked! Take a joke! He is there to torment you into Laughter. Listen to Hansel and Gretel's song and don't be afraid of the forest—enjoy and protect it. Go into the Grove and lose your mind to find your soul.

SO HERE'S OUR POINT!



- SING WITH THE TREES
- EMBRACE THE PORCUPINE.
- JOIN THE SINTERKLAAS PRICKLE
- SPEAK LIKE A PORCUPINE
- WISDOM = LAUGHTER + JOY = PEACE

• Innocence • Inner Child • Trust • Boundaries • Curiosity • Kindness • Joy •



FACT

The sweet Porcupine is a gentle vegetarian who walks a quiet, solitary path. Their ancestors crossed from Africa to South America on floating trees and logs some 30 million years ago. At first glance, the 30,000 quills on such a small, cat-sized body seem fearsome, but Porcupine prefers keeping those bristles down; this creature hopes predators wander off or that Porcupine can move into an undetected space rather than engage the adversary. The only time the Quills go into action is in the face of danger or threat. That's when Porcupine draws a firm line; it coils up, extending its quills in all directions. Anything trying to bite gets a painful lesson. Porcupine can also make the quills rattle in a warning. The only quill-free areas are the face and underside. There are 58 species of porcupines; they reach 2-1/2 feet in length, with their rotund bodies weighing up to 40 lbs, making them second to the beaver as the largest rodent in North America. Porcupines have a wide vocal range, which includes grunts, shrieks, wails, coughs and tooth clicking.



BLESSING OF THE PORCUPINE

What is a quill but protection for my soft skin, my vulnerable heart.
 My blessing is respect.
 Protect the earth, the air, the water, the generations to come.
 All that sustains life is in the balance
 Of this moment - this day.
 We breathe, we stand, we love in connection with all.
 Hold me in your heart — quills and all.

— Gigi Alvaré
 November 2022



SPIRIT

The South of the Medicine Wheel is the place of childlike innocence and humility; the home of playfulness and the position of the porcupine on the wheel of life.

Porcupine possesses the power of faith and trust. The power of faith contains in it the power to move mountains. The power of trust involves trusting that there is a divine plan. Trust can open doorways to the creation of space. The space thus created allows others to open their hearts and share their gifts of love, joy and companionship.

When you look at Porcupine, you immediately notice its quills. These quills are only used when trust has been broken between Porcupine and another creature. Much like Otter, the Porcupine is a gentle, loving creature and nonaggressive. When fear is not present, it is possible to feed a

Porcupine by hand never get stuck by its quills.

By understanding the basic nature of the Porcupine, you may come to understand your own need for trust and faith and for becoming like a child again. In today's society, this is a needed reminder: to honor the wonder of life and nature and appreciate each new day as an adventure. The Porcupine is a gentle reminder not to get caught up in the chaos of the adult world where fear, greed, and suffering are commonplace. Its spirit is a relief from seriousness and severity. Open your heart to the things that gave you joy as a child. Remember the preciousness of fantasy and imagination and the making of something with nothing but the scraps.

Porcupine quillwork is perhaps the oldest form of embroidery used by Native Americans. Quills are folded, twisted, wrapped, plaited and sewn using a wide range of techniques to decorate articles of clothing, bags, knife sheaths, baskets, wooden handles and pipe stems.





A LITTLE SINTERKLAAS HISTORY

The Tradition of Sinterklaas Day

Many people ask: what is this celebration that happens early in December? Why have a special interest and pride in this time of year?

The answer: we are honoring the Hudson Valley's Dutch heritage by recreating customs that the settlers from Holland brought to the Hudson Valley. The Dutch people who came to Rhinebeck over 300 years ago brought a celebration with them that was already a deeply rooted part of their traditions.

The ritual was simple enough. Each year on December 6 (that's the Dutch tradition, ours is the first Saturday in December), a town resident dressed up as Sinterklaas (that is, elegantly garbed in a bishop's tall hat, red cape, shiny ring, and jeweled staff). Mounted on a white steed, this Sinterklaas would ride through town knocking on doors late at night. He would be accompanied by his long-time sidekick, the Grumpus. Also known as Black Peter, the Grumpus — a wild looking half-man, half-beast character — rattled chains and threatened to steal away the naughtiest children in his big black bag. And for those "less bad" he had switches for exacting lesser punishments! And for the good children — Sinterklaas and the Grumpus would deliver a bag of goodies.



Over the years, as towns developed and houses grew closer together, Sinterklaas' ride turned into a Parade that still happens in Holland to this day, and is the most popular of all Dutch holidays.

Who was Sinterklaas?

At the start, Sinterklaas was a real person named Nicholas, born in the 4th century in Myra, Asia Minor. As a grown man he became a bishop. Little else is known about him—except that he loved children.

A story is told about Sinterklaas to illustrate this point: Three little boys

dined at an inn and, after eating their fill, informed the innkeeper that they could not pay their bill. To exact payment, the innkeeper chopped them up into little bits and cooked them in a stew.

Nicholas heard about the awful deed and came to the inn to find pieces of the boys boiling away in the pot. He told the innkeeper that if he, Nicholas, could find one little piece of each boy that was good, he would perform a miracle and bring all three back to life. Now, what child does not have at least one little piece of good in him? And so Sinterklaas returned the boys to life and took them into his care.

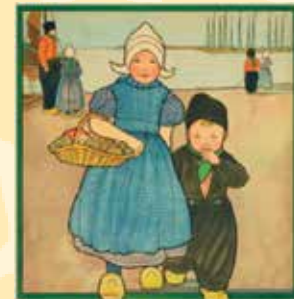
There is also the story of the three sisters: Once upon a time there were three beautiful daughters of a poor peasant. The first was very blonde, the second had raven hair, and the third auburn. When they grew up they fell in love with three pleasant young men. But the sisters could not get married because they had no dowry. That made them very sad. One night, as Sinterklaas was out riding, he looked through a window and saw the three lovely, but sad sisters. When he heard why they could not marry the young men they loved, he went back to his palace and gave the Grumpus three little bags. Each contained a hundred golden ducats. He asked the Grumpus to drop the little bags into the girls' shoes, and an hour later they were rich. They married the three nice young men and lived happily ever after!

To this day, children leave a carrot in their shoes hoping to attract Sinterklaas' attention and rewards.

How this kindly 4th-century bishop made his way from Asia Minor through Italy, Spain and all of Northern Europe where he is still honored today is hard to say, but by the 11th century he had become the patron saint not only of children and unwed maidens, but of sailors and the City of Amsterdam as well.

His association with Amsterdam goes back to the time of the Spanish Inquisition, which had spread to Holland in the Middle Ages. Rumor had it that a Nicholas was Bishop of the Cathedral in Amsterdam. When the Spaniards came from Spain to trade with the Dutch, they also smuggled in adults and children whose lives were threatened by the Inquisition against Jews in Spain. Nicholas took in all the children no matter their faith.

Today in Holland



There is not a single family in Holland that does not in some way or another honor the old "Bishop" and his servant, the Grumpus, with

a party, a small get-together or by going to somebody's else's house to celebrate. There may be many presents, or just a few, tables laden with traditional candles and cookies, or just a pot of hot chocolate. The house may be teeming with children, or have perhaps just a few grown-ups around the dining room table—but the Sinterklaas spirit is everywhere.

Every December Sinterklaas arrives in Amsterdam by boat. He comes from Spain where he lives throughout the year. In the past we reenact this journey, in our bi-coastal celebration, with Kingston playing the role of Spain and Rhinebeck the role of Holland. Our Sinterklaas made his way in a Children's Maritime Parade in the Rondout of Kingston, boarded the Tugboat Cornell, and sailed off to reappear a week later in Rhinebeck.

In Holland he is traditionally greeted by a group of Grumpuses and a million people come out to see his arrival and triumphant parade through the streets of the city. The rest of the country watches on TV. It is far and away the most wonderful and exciting festivity in the land!

St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, and Santa Claus in the Hudson Valley



When the early Dutch settlers came to America, they brought with them their venerated old bishop, St. Nicholas, and their favorite holiday, Sinterklaas.

Indeed, after landing in the New World, the Dutch explorers, led by Henry Hudson, built their first church on the island of Manhattan in 1642, dedicating it to Sinterklaas. When the British took control of New Amsterdam in 1664, they adopted the Dutch recognition of Sinterklaas and merged it with their own observance of the Winter Solstice and Father Christmas—the merry, roly-poly, Falstaffian figure in high boots. Eventually, these two old gentlemen, both commemorated in December, merged into one.

Over the next few generations, Sinterklaas found his way into American literature. In 1809, the writer Washington Irving (who lived in the lower part of the Hudson Valley) created a jolly Sinterklaas for his popular *Knickerbocker Tales*.

Then in 1822, a Dutchess County man, Henry Livingston, Jr. wrote a lighthearted poem —“A Visit from St. Nicholas” (until recently wrongly attributed to Clement Moore) which featured a jolly old elf, his descent down a chimney on Christmas Eve, and a sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer (like Odin’s flying horse!). The Father Christmas image stuck, but he acquired an English name—Santa Claus—a direct derivation from Sinterklaas.

And to bring things full circle, Rhinebeck was home for many years to Leopoldo Quarles von Ufford, who for 40 years was the Dutch Ambassador and played Sinterklass around the world.

America, a country of invention and opportunity, a land where everyone could



write their own life’s story, added the latest chapter to a tale that had begun in ancient times with Odin, a mythical figure embodying

the archetype of The Good King, who rode through the night in the land of the reindeer on his flying white horse doing good deeds for children.



EMBRACE the PORCUPINE A story for our times.

The coldest winter ever challenged survival and even claimed the lives of many. The porcupines decided to group together to keep warm, but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions. When they tried to distance themselves again, to avoid harming each other, they began to die, alone and frozen. So, they had to make a choice: accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to get back together and work it out. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by their close neighbors in order to stay warm and survive.

Ponder this... Is it possible that the best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people who all agree with one another, but the one where individuals learn to live with the imperfections of others and to come together to save us all and the earth on which we live? So, don’t be left out in the cold, join the Sinterklaas Prickle!

Since we are embracing the porcupine, LET’S HUG A TREE!

What is a Tree Hugger? An environmental activist who embraces a tree with the goal to prevent it from being felled or to point to the importance protecting trees, plants, and animals — the natural world which we can not survive without.

Where did the practice start? In India, in 1730, when a Maharajah decided he wanted to build a new palace, he ordered that all the trees in a local area be cut down for the wood. The tribal people of that area relied on and revered the forest, and so a group of local women came together to protect their community’s trees. They hugged them and would not let go. With great loss of life and due to their astounding commitment, they finally prevailed. These women inspired generations of would-be tree huggers through their sacrifice.

Again in India, in the 1970’s the most well-known tree huggers in modern history are the Chipko activists. The word “chipko” means “to HUG” in Hindi. Thus comes the name! These women also suffered loss of life as they clung to the trees, but they succeeded by calling attention to the deep interdependence between humans and the natural world.

We stand on the shoulders of indigenous people everywhere as we work to preserve our forests right here in Rhinebeck.

From Tree Hugging to Tree Planting 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Kenyan Wangari Maathai grew her vision to plant 30 million trees in Africa into a billion-tree campaign called Plant for the Planet. Her success inspired 9-year-old Felix Finkbeiner to propose that in every country on Earth children should plant one million trees. Word spread across his native Germany, then abroad, becoming a children’s movement also called Plant for the Planet. In 2011, at age 13, Finkbeiner spoke before the United Nations, suggesting, “We can combine our forces, old and young, rich and poor, and together we can plant a trillion trees.” The billion-tree campaign, then led by Finkbeiner’s Plant for the Planet, became the Trillion Tree Campaign.

Women and Children change the world!



MAKING THE CELEBRATION OUR OWN

Today we create our own version of the SINTERKLAAS myth and enact it in our own way, for our own time.

We focus on the Good King, the Noble Soul, the one who brings light out of darkness, befriends the children and all the creatures, and inspires our souls.

We continue the tradition of making Sinterklaas a touchstone—one through which we can come together in community, putting aside what divides, to focus on what brings us together—our humanity, our love for children, our hopes for the future.

Transforming the Story

Good children, bad children; naughty or nice; coal or presents. Judgments and contrasts abound.

Right alongside the Sinterklaas legend there is a more ancient story of the Bel Snickle, the Grampus, the Rupelz, Shab, the Krampucz. A sort of scary character—who comes out of the woods and who stands in marked contrast with the kindly Sinterklaas, the Good King. A leftover from a harsher time. And even though he is played by someone from the neighborhood, and even though he does not REALLY cart children away in his black bag or punish them with the birch rod that he carries, he is still there—a reminder that if you are not good, well...punishment will follow.

In Rhinebeck, we turn that tradition upside down by turning a negative symbol into an empowering one.

CROWNS AND BRANCHES

What is the meaning of the Crowns and Branches that are made by and carried by the Children in the Parade?

Since St. Nicholas loved children so much, it makes sense that on his Name Day, children—who at all other times of the year are the least powerful people in the society—are turned into the most powerful for just this one day. Children are crowned Kings and Queens with Crowns and Scepters (Branches) of their own making in a bustling and beautiful workshop!

In Rhinebeck, the birch rod—the indispensable instrument of medieval education—is transformed by imagination and art into a symbol of empowerment and love. It becomes the Branch—the Royal Scepter—a symbol of creative power in the hands of today’s children.

And so, on this day in Rhinebeck, children are raised up from being those least powerful to the most powerful! The rods are turned to Royal Scepters and the Children are crowned royalty for one glorious day!

Having seen the Wish Lady, each child will leave the workshop with something to carry in the Parade and to take home.

STARS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

What are the STARS that every family will carry in the Parade? What is their purpose? The Stars are what make Rhinebeck’s celebration unique from all other Sinterklaas celebrations. These STARS make families, friends and relations the active myth makers of our community and

its future, for these are no ordinary stars!

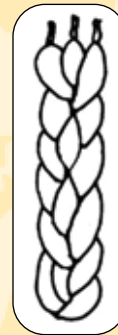
From the moment you take possession of your STAR, you assume a key role in a community ritual. On Sinterklaas Day hundreds of your neighbors, friends, and family will join in an illuminated pageant through the heart of Rhinebeck.

You will carry your STAR in your own way—perhaps close to your chest and cradled with care, or held aloft dangling freely in the winter breeze. A gathering constellation will light the path for the many children who, adorned with their Crowns and Branches of their own creation, are the honored Kings and Queens of the Day.

You and your STAR play an important role in the pageant that takes place at the end of the parade.

After the evening’s festivities are over, take your STAR home with you to grace your hearth throughout the dark winter with the vivid memory—like a burning ember—of when we all came together to celebrate our children, our community, our lives and each other.

And then, as custodian of your communal STAR, you can bring it back next year, adding to an ever-expanding universe of stars, helping to build our special Sinterklaas tradition.



THE HAVDALAH

Right before the Parade begins, a special ceremony takes place at the foot of the hill on West Market Street. Led by Rabbi Yael Romer and the children and folks

from the Jewish Alliance of Northern Dutchess and Temple Emmanuel, this beautiful Jewish Ceremony marks the end of the Jewish Sabbath and opens up the secular time of The Sinterklaas Parade. The Havdalah Ceremony is a weaving together of all those in the community in a web of interdependence, symbolized by intertwined candles.



Be sure to get your STAR for the Children’s Star Celebration after the Parade. Look for them on sale at shops in town, and at the “Ask Me” table.



THANK YOU.

It took a Village, a Town, a Valley, and 2,500 Stars!

We all know that Sinterklaas was NEVER just one person—he is only the NAME we give to a certain spirit of generosity, love and sense of community that sustains us at the darkest times and lights us up with wishes for peace and good will toward all. Here are his local embodiments called by their more familiar names... (list up-to-date as of noon November 17, 2022)

Thank you for lighting up our Universe!



Beyond the Beyond

\$5,000 +
Del's Dairy Farm
Rhinebeck Responds
The Thomas Thompson Trust

Infinity and Beyond

\$1,000-\$4,499
Dutchess Partners in the Arts
Elena Erber Graphic Design
Emerson Ward Creative
Frost Memorial Fund
Heermance Farm & Foster's Coach House Tavern Sponsored By William Gottlieb Real Estate
Rhinebeck Rotary
Rhinebeck Shephard
Tatiana Serafin
Thinking Partners
Illiana VanMeeteren
Al Boutin and Lindy Wright

The Universe

\$1,000 - \$2,499
The Art of Building
The Beekman Arms
Sarah Bissonette-Adler, Production Coordination
Colleen Bloxham Fine Catering
Sandra and John Blair
ENTA Network for Teachers & Artists
Matthew Fass Website Design
Henry L. Kimmelman Family Foundation
Kopus PM
Dal LaMagna
Mirbeau Inn and Spa
M. Suzy Morris, Costume Design
The Omega Institute
Richard W. Prouse, Stage Scenery
Rachel Rouse Real Estate
Dorna Schroeter, Sustainability Educator
Grace Schultz, Stage Management
Albert Shahinian Fine Art
The Southlands Foundation
Martha Tobias Special Events
Williams Lumber
The Winnakee Land Trust

The Super Nova

\$500 - \$999
Buns Burgers
Cale Communications
Charny & Wheeler P. C.
Michael DaCola
Enjoy Rhinebeck
Michael and Cecily Frazier
Vicki L. Haak CFP
Hummingbird Jewelers
Paper Trail
Tricia and Foster Reed
Renee Snyder
Rhinebeck Farmer's Market
Ruge's Automotive, Inc.
Willow Wood /Mari Bird
Winter Sun & Summer Moon
Wireless Edge

The Galaxy

\$250 - \$499
Acacia Design Corporation
Aroi Thai Restaurant
Cinnamon Indian Cuisine
D&L Craft Enterprises
Susan Ferris
Fraleigh & Rakow Insurance
The Giffin Family
Haggerty Law Offices
Hetta Glogg
JSA Sustainable Wealth Management
The Keesing-Ostfeld Family
Jonna and Dave Kliphon
Deborah Ashford and Kevin Klose
The Kroeg
Land of Oz Toys
Little Feet Community Fund
Little Feet Community Fund
Market Street Restaurant
Maya Kaimal Fine Indian Foods
Merrweather's
Montalto Law Firm
Dr. Roger and Cheryl Norton
Phyllis Palmer
Periwinkles at Rhinebeck
Susan Ragusa
Rhinebeck Animal Hospital
Rhinebeck Artist's Shop
Rhinebeck Department Store
Rhinebeck Motel
The Rogovic Family
Samuel's Sweet Shop
Sue Sie
StarryBird Kids
Kiki Steele
Sunflower Natural Foods
The Terranova Family
Julie and Lou Turpin
Sandra Vogt
Hannelore H. Wegner
Whistlewood Farm

The Milky Way

\$125 - \$249
Aba's Falafel
Adel Chefridi Jewelry
Ana Sanjuan Consulting
Nicola Atherstone
Jessica Bard
Susan Phillips and Gregory Barker
The Bertozzi/Duzyj Family
Betsy Jacaruso Studio & Gallery
Board Room Skate Shop
Francis Cooney
The Courtyard at Rhinebeck
Angela Basile and Brian DelPizzo Family
Derman Family
Dr. Tom's Tonics Modern Apothacary
Sarah Hill and Guillermo Fesser
Hammertown Barn
Hoolihan Lawrence Rhinebeck
Hudson Valley Pottery
Iconic Hair Salon
Stephen Jenkins
Jennifer LaBelle
Le Petit Bistro
Andrea and Michael Loukin
Gretchen Lytle
Kathy Marryat
Sally and Michael Mazzarella
Migliorelli Farm
Sheila Moloney
Momiji Hibachi & Sushi
Montgomery Row
Georgia Dent and Jeff Perry
Pizzeria Posto
Debbie and Hector Rodriguez
Martin and Carol Rosenblum
Richard DuVall and Lisa E. Rubenstein
Abby and James Saxon
Smoky Rock BBQ
Staley Real Estate LLC
Kristin Lengel and Andrew Stewart
Tess & James
Emma Tortelot
The Ultan Family
Van Norstrand & Hoolihan CPA
Robert Willis
Woodstock School of Art

Star Clusters

\$75 - \$124
Jill Lundquist and Doug Baz
Linda Farber
Samantha Hunt
The LeHane Family
Dede Leiber
Mark Perez
Barbara Pokras
Lisa-Sue and Kurt Quackenbush
Ed and Cathy Sullivan
Emma Tourtelot
Justin Watrel
Debra Wollens

Be A Star

\$20 - \$74
Suellen Albahary
Charles Beuhler
Joshua Blumert
Jennifer Brown
Karen Burke
Ronnie Citron-Fink
Dod and Dorothy Crane
Chilling Weng and Peter Dolese
Linda Woznicki and Pat Drennan
Deborah Duke
Sasha Finlay
Steven and Susan Gausepohl
Felice Gelman
Jean Golden
Elaine Collandrea and Eric Kiviat
Jane and Howard Korn
Melissa and John LeHane
Dede Leiber
Mia Lobel
Vicki L. Mabrey
Cynthia Mahoney
Lisa Pelosi
Dean Vallas and Debra Pemstein
Joe and Pat Phelan
Robert Pisani
Liza Berdnik ad Jim Price
Robert Puglisi
Lisa and Kurt Quackenbush
Dean Rogers
Ruby Palmer Studio
Heinz Sauer
M Christine Shaffer
Karen & Neville Smythe
Susan "Fritzie" Spivak
Ed and Cathy Sullivan
Justin Watrel
Debra Wollens
The Yanofsky Family

HOW IT ALL HAPPENS

Sinterklaas is truly an event that takes a community. Actually it takes a really **BIG** community of friends and neighbors, near and far, who love the magic that happens in the telling of this very special story, in our own voices, filled with **LOVE** and reverence for the time of year and for the children of the world.

What's the nitty gritty of it all? Its a lot of people working many hours, **VOLUNTEERING** — some of us all year long — to coordinate, schedule, promote, make, build, assemble, borrow, poster, print, phone, deliver, monitor, cook, feed, clean, create, and . . . well the list could go on.

And the **BIGGEST CHALLENGE** of all is to raise the funds it takes to produce this big, complicated and growing event. We need your help.



DONATE WHAT YOU CAN. BUY A STAR. BE A FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF SINTERKLAAS.

sinterklaashudsonvalley.com

And to all those who donated to the Clothing Swap and who sold Stars! And Dean Vallas for his contribution honoring the work of Joanna Hess!

It truly takes a whole HOST of folks to come together in a beautiful way to make Sinterklaas happen. It includes everyone: those who donated time and money and all those who sat in meetings, answered millions of questions, made extraordinary suggestions, cut a branch, served up tea, and everyone who comes to the event. Sinterklaas forms a close and sweet community as it gathers steam throughout the year. We thank all of you who form this creative community!



HERE ARE SOME WHO DESERVE SPECIAL MENTION! WE THANK...

WHERE TO BEGIN? We chose the Porcupine as this year's Honored Animal because it just seemed like lots of folks are so prickly!! A group of Porcupines is called a Prickle. Is that **US** after the last couple of years? Confused and little grumpy? Are we really living in **PORCUPINEBECK?**

Well, let's hope we are..... because no sooner did we decide that the Porcupine was a perfect choice for the Honored animal, we also learned that Porcupines are the symbol for

**Innocence!
The Child!
For Play!**

And what is Sinterklaas but a time to honor our children and to engage the entire community to play with them?

And so, playmates, let's get on with it! Leave our troubles behind. Try a little tenderness. Take time to play! Poke a little fun at ourselves, play with our children and do what the Porcupines do: band together as a community to stay warm (see the Story on Page 11) and celebrate our Children at the beginning of Winter! **Our own Sinterklaas Prickle! Porcupinebeck!**

We are led by our own Village leaders...The Mayor of this joyful Village: Mayor Basset and his wife who last year, dressed as Froggy and Miss Mousey renewed their vows not only to each other, but to our whole community—and true enough, they are here!

Close behind are our Police, Fireman and Ems. Sgt. Pete Dunn, Cathi Tegmeier, Kyle and Chrissy Eighmy, Bryant Knapp and Mark Browne.

Taking care...Thank you to Rhinebeck Responds for Buy A Star/Feed a Family—a tradition that endures.

How Sweet it is! This year's Holders of the Flame are the Travers! John, Ally and Charlie.

Their Lineage runs deep: The Frischknechts in 2021; The Terranovas 2019; The Wright–Pearson Family 2018; The Hoolihan–Kruger Family 2017; The Hewitt Family 2016! The Cruikshank's 2015! and The Stickles, 2014!

Keepers of the Flame George and Phebe Banta for the long history.

The Original Prickle! After 15 years: The Wonder Women of the Sinterklaas Committee: Endless energy, the extraordinary TEAM: Lila Pague, Pat Sexton, Elena Erber, Lindy Wright, Sarah Bissonnette-Adler, Martha Tobias, Joanna Hess, Joanne Gelb, Jill Lundquist, Suzy Morris, Dorna Schroeter, Debby Franke Ogg, Johanna Bard, Nancy Karimi and Colleen Bloxham who do a lot more than poke around. Somehow we manage to still get along!

An Inspiring Story started it all! Thank you Richard Aldrich for tales of Hansel and Gretel from your youth!

And now we have:

The Grove! designed by... **A Man for All Seasons:** Richard Prouse—He stands tall among us! **Soundscape** by Peter Wyer. Sound by Bob Lukomsky. Guardians: Susan Bissonnette, Robin Shornstein and Gazelle Lange

The Glade! Tree Puppets by Processional Arts Workshop in community. Choreography by Leighann Kowalsky. Opera Singers: Kirby Burgess and Melanie Dubil. Words by Jason Vance. Music by Engelbert Humperdinck and Caprice Rouge. Narrator: Cindy Kubick. Porcupine Handler: Felix Wainwright

THE PLAYMAKERS!

Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall! You want her on YOUR team Martha Tobias!

She sees things... Elena Erber, designer extraordinaire!

Our Golden Girl! Lila Pague

Let's Raise the Flag! to Joanna Hess, Star Maker, King and Queen Maker, Quill-ter! Flag Maker! Jewel Tracker!

Up and At'em! Pat Sexton is BACK!

It's ain't what's cooking'... it's WHO's Cookin'—and that is Colleen Bloxham!

MISS GRACE SCHULTZ!!!!
Sarah Bissonnette-Adler!
Matthew Fass!—Social Director

Three Generations of Greatness!
Johanna, Jessica and Tyler!

Mycologist! The extraordinary Suzy Morris creator of the costumes for Frog, Miss Mousey, Uncle Toad, Mouse Woman and The Mermaid, the Sea Star, the Snow King, Snow Queen, Star Child, the Owllettes, the Owl Queen of the Night and her Mouse, the gorgeous Sinterklaas Robe, the Kuki, African and Indian Elephants, Caterpillar and the Mushroom Tuffets!

Birnam Wood Doth Come! The Puppet Masters Alex Kahn and Sophia Michahelles whose vision and dedication to the work is unmatched anywhere, who hosted the workshop and taught so many in the skills of pageant puppetry and who made that magnificent Horse and the Fox, Crow, Bear, Goose, Turtle, Hummingbird, the Bees, the Owls, the Elephants, Butterflies, the Sturgeon, Froggy and Miss Mousey and Now all the Trees in the Glade! plus the Porcupuppeottes!

Who is that Masked Woman??? It's Joanne Gelb and the Maskmakers. And the Starr Library, Michelle Montalbano, Head Librarian for hosting...Rhinebeck at Home, Southlands, Pat Sexton, and Roger and Cheryl Norton.

BEHIND THE SCENES!

The Rockers, Rollers and QUILLers! All the helpers at the Crowns and Branches Workshop! Joanna Hess with Maribeth Feinberg's immense support; Garnette Arledge, Angela Basile, Jennifer Breslin, Valerie Buckie, Brian DelPizzo, Joanna Dupee, Cecily Frazier, Melisca Klisanin, Norm Magnusson, Sarah Miller, Caroline Morton, Sandi Park, Robbie Puglisi and Samantha Sager.

Back Stage! Head Mistress Becky Holt! And special thanks to the trinket lady extraordinaire, Jeniece Schroeter for making sure all the creative needs of the wee kings and queens are met. And to Jeff Newman—Always at the ready!

The Fellowship of the Trees! Grace Schultz, Sarah Bissonnette-Adler, Matthew Fass, Jeff Newman, Peter Muste, Matt Rymkiewicz, Alyssa Greenway, JJ Muste, Jen Hammoud, Ricardo Gutierrez, Mark Schuyler, Susan Bissonnette, Barry Cohen, Tricia Reed, Jen Gapay and Sarah Monks, David Bishop, Chris Holcombe, Bill Nieves and Terry O'Keefe. Howie Callies for driving the puppet truck!

Need an answer to that riddle? Our Ask Me Ladies! know it all! Dorna Schroeter, Fearless Leader, Jennifer Breslin, Mary Burns, Diana Devlin, Cecily Frazier, Arledge Garnette, Janice Hulst-Murphy, Val Kilmer, Gail Liebhabbe, Judith Nelson, Sara Olson, Robbie Puglisi, Ali Roland, Pat Sexton, Loretta Spense, Amy Tully, Becky Tyre and Lad Eric Blohm for providing vehicle support.

The SWAP returns!!! Thanks to Lindy Wright, **fearless Leader** and her fashionable crew: Jill Lundquist, Chazz Levy, Debby Franke Ogg, Nancy Karimi, Linda Helbing, Cheryl Norton, Betty Bienen, Jillian Ballentine, Joanne Gelb, Anne Ballantine, and Dorna Schroeter. And to those who donated gifts: Hudson Dermatology, Betty Leigh Reiki, Stone flower Mountain Health, Tess and James, Elizabeth Cotton, Lights Up, Winter Sun & Summer Moon, Zephyr, EILEEN FISHER Renew, and Susan Carey Jewelry.

A Bellyful of Laughter? Yes! But, you can't live on laughs forever, so we had some Great food!!! All those who donated food for the hundreds of performers and volunteers and the Starr Library for hosting our motley crew! Thank you to Johanna Bard and Colleen Bloxham for keeping this army running with good food! AND Aba's Falafel, Aroi Thai Restaurant, Bread Alone Bakery, Buns Burgers, Gaby's Cafe, Le Petit Bistro, Matchbox Cafe, Maya Kaimal Foods, Migliorelli Farm, Osaka Japanese Restaurant, Pete's Famous Restaurant, Rhinebeck Bagels & Cafe, Samuel's Sweet Shop, Terrapin Restaurant, The Kroeg, Tops Friendly Markets, Tyler Benepe & their Besties and the Beekman Arms/Delamater Conference center for the dining room!

THE PLAYERS!

Grumpus are not as prickly as they sound!!

They're really fun!!! This year's crew: Mike Bloxham, Jeffrey Boyle, Dairo Chamorro, Andy Crispell, Michael Fassman, Matthew Gelfer, Chris Gilbert, Clifford Hart, Richard Kopyscianski, Dave Leonard, Jamyang Lodoe, Robby Long, Norm Magnusson, Nick Matsakis, Terence McCorry, Mark Perez, Stephen Robin, John Schmitz, Steven Young, Victor Zelek. Drummers: Amadou Diallo and Theo Schikowitz.

Grumpus Wrangler and

Choreographer: Martha Tobias
Costume Doctor: Alyssa Greenway.
Candy Queen:
Mary Yankajitas

Old Grumpus don't fade away—but they may get a little bit prickly!

Ricky Aldrich, Sven Beecher, Terence Boylan, Wally Carbone, Dod Crane, Christian Fekete, Kurt Fischer, David Gelb, Mickey Haggerty, Arun Lahiri, Michael Lalicki, Mitch Levine, Bruce Lubman, Harlan Matthews, D. Miller, Tate Nielson, Steven Pague, Richard Prouse, Mark Replansky, Warren Replansky, Heinz Sauer, Bruce Washburn, Andy Weintraub and Bob Wills.

ALL trained by Martha Tobias.

The 7 Sisters and their Starlings:

Robin Shornstein, Angela Basile with Charlie DelPizzo, Vanessa Bertozzi with Rocco Duzyj, Laura Selicaro, Anne Butler, Kate Cox with Felix Schreiber, and Jenn Light

Sisters for Life!

Lindy Wright, Lila Pague, Joanna Hess, Linda Weintraub, Elena Erber, Ana Sanjuan and Tricia Reed.

Our Rising Stars!

Angela Basile, Allison Chawla, D'arcy Jensen and Leslie Dailey

Shining Lights!

The Vanaver Caravan and Arm of the Sea.

Sinterklaas! Sinterklaas!

Our own Scott Cruickshank

Watch out for him!

The Gadfly! Donald Corren, Artist and his love—**The Porcupine** Andres San Millan! Every day is Valentine's Day!

Pocket Full of Miracles!

Our Pocket Lady Carla Reuben-Carbone assisted by non other than her son...Sage Reuben-Carbone

Good Golly a NEW Mother Holly!

Allison Chawla. With guidance and love from Cait Johnson (who we miss!)

Blessings upon you!

Gigi Alvare for writing the Blessings year after year and Allison Chawla for the Porcupine's Prayer.

Lost Lamb Returns to the fold!

We welcome back Tricia Reed!

Lovable!

Those kids, young and younger who painted signs and made drawings—true Porcupuppeottes!

Bearable!

Samuel's and the Teddy Bear Contest!

Adorable!

Teddy the Talking Porcupine hosted by The Rhinebeck Artist's Shop!

Audible!

Omega Institute for Sound!

Huggable!

Dave's Tree Service for the Branches!

Playmates!

The Winnakee Land Trust. Uri Perrin, Bob Davis and Amy Jelenko. Southlands Foundation, Tatiana Serafin. Who knew PLAY could be so much work?!

An Exercise in good will!

We thank Nicole McGrath, Breathe Studio: Barre & Pilates

Is it even possible to count all the stars?

Nancy Karimi did!

A Place to Hang our Hats!!

Dutchess Shepard for the gym for Crwons and Branches. We thank Stephanie and Shanelle for our Opening Ceremony at the Beekman Arms. Betsy Jacaruso Gallery for hospitality! Connie Bathrick and the Courtyard! Foster's Coach House for opening the heart of our Village (the White Corner!) forging a Town Green for all our performers and folks to gather. Our Vaudeville House and Cirkus Tent: Upstate Films. Rhinebeck Motel for welcoming crucial folks from the city.

Home is where the Heart

is.. and they have plenty of heart! Pastor Luis and the Reformed Church for giving out and taking in the Light; The Third Evangelical Lutheran Church for feeding the body and soul; and The Open Gate Ministry of Rev. Nan Ernst at the United Methodist Church. All open and inviting our families in from the cold! And the Jewish Alliance of Northern Dutchess, Rabbi Yael Romer, Kimba Baker and Temple Emanuel for a beautiful and moving Havdalah. And the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home for hosting.

Can't forget ...those

husbands! Al Boutin, Steven Michael Pague, Bernard Greenwald, Peter Muste, Donald Corren, Dave Tobias, Albert Shahinian, and Matthew Rymkiewicz who play greater roles than anyone can know. Harlan Matthews who through his absence made his presence known.

Kid's Night Out!

Jay and Mark for that reMARKable and JAYable dinner! Sometimes girls just gotta have fun!

And to the Squad

Suzu, Lindy, Debby, Jeanne and Betty: Shamanistas, Fashionistas, Sisters!

Picture this!

Doug Baz, Dave Tobias, Lila Pague and Michael DiPleco for the memories.

All the artists and performers!

Homecoming!

Jordan and Samantha

To Ania Aldrich and

Gigi Alvare for the original work and setting us on the path.

"It was the **best** of times; it was the **worst** of times." is a phrase that kept running through my head this year ...this is a time to remember—or maybe forget—except for the unforgettable! Those whose spirits kept shining through—who opened their hearts and their spaces to keep our community together. Each and every one a shining light!

Last year the keyword was

Endurance.

This year the keyword is **OPEN!**

Open your heart, your mind, your home, your pocketbook, your doors...

Just open.

Embrace the Porcupine!

Hug a Tree!

Bless your hearts!

The **best** of times is **now!**

It's all child's play!

— Jeanne Fleming Designer and Coordinator

Speaking for ALL of us at Sinterklaas



THE SINTERKLAAS COMMITTEES

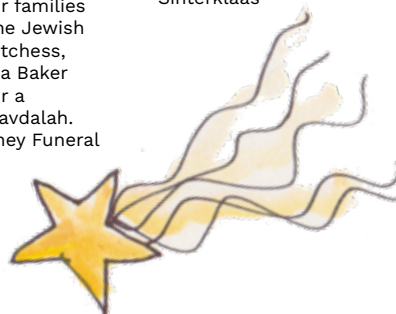
THANK YOU ALL!

Steering Committee:

Lila Pague, Chair

George & Phebe Banta
Kimba Baker
Johanna Bard
Angela Basile
Mayor Gary Bassett
Sarah Bissonnette-Adler
Colleen Bloxham
Marybeth Cale
Meg Crawford
Scott Cruickshank
Pastors Steven & Nan Ernst
Elena Erber
Sue Hartshorn
Suzanna Hermanns
Joanna Hess
Rebecca Holt
Cait Johnson
Alex Kahn
Richard Kopyscianski
Dede Leiber
Peggy & Bruce Lubman
Doug Baz & Jill Lundquist
Liz Mazzarella
Sally Mazzarella
Sophia Michahelles
Michelle Montalbano
Pastor Luis Perez

Jeanne Fleming
Hudson Valley Community Productions
118 La Bergerie Lane
Red Hook, NY 12571
845-758-5519
sinterklaashudsonvalley@gmail.com
sinterklaashudsonvalley.com



POSTER GALLERY

Sinterklaas is announced in a most unusual way—by beautiful paintings hung in all the trees at the center of town. Here is a small sampling of the 500 paintings — especially the honored animal paintings — made by our high school students, the Senior Citizens Artists' Program at the Reformed Church, the Art Teachers and many other painters from around town! Be sure to visit EVERY one as you enjoy the day.

