

The Historical Society *of*
Rockland County

Rockland
REVOLUTION 250
Luncheon

Sunday, November 1, 2026
O'Grady's Castle,
Pearl River, New York





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to the

Historical Society of Rockland County's Rockland Revolution 250 Luncheon

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Historical Society of Rockland County extend sincere thanks to all of you for participating in our 2026 Rockland Revolution 250 Luncheon and for contributing to the commemorative journal in support of the Society and its programs. This year, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States as a nation, we honor Eileen O'Brien and Jose Cardona of West Nyack; the Battaglia Family and Rockland Bakery of Nanuet; and Hon. Carl Wright of Sloatsburg. All are being recognized for their leadership and dedicated service to the people of Rockland and for being faithful stewards of our present and our past. Thank you for joining with us in paying tribute to them.

—Fr. Richard Baker and Sara Bensman, Co-chairs, Annual Luncheon Committee

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The Historical Society of Rockland County is a nonprofit educational institution and principal repository for original documents and artifacts relating to Rockland County. Its headquarters are a four-acre site featuring a history museum and the 1832 Jacob Blauvelt House in New City, New York.

In addition to contributions from members, friends, and the business community, the Historical Society of Rockland County receives funding from the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Wesley Hills.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY
20 Zukor Road * New City, NY 10956
Phone: (845) 634-9629 * Fax: (845) 634-8690
www.RocklandHistory.org * info @rocklandhistory.org

We sincerely appreciate all of the goods and services that were donated for the Raffle Baskets and Mystery Envelopes**

Our sincere thanks go to Dina Fischetti for creating our beautiful 2026 Raffle Baskets; to the Trustees of the Historical Society of Rockland County for underwriting the baskets' contents, and:

Beckerle Lumber
Sara Bensman
Caked Up Café
Dr. Davies Farm & Red Barn Cidery
Mille Luci Pizzeria
Norcina Restaurant
La Promenade
John Resanovich
Salon Atelier
Clare Sheridan
Stop & Shop New City
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Union Restaurant
Zapata Mexican Restaurant



***** List as of press time***

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A Message from the President

As we look toward the future of the Historical Society of Rockland County, I am reminded of how important it is to preserve the stories, people, and places that have shaped our community.

History is more than a collection of artifacts and photographs. It is the foundation of who we are, connecting generations and reminding us of the importance of community, resilience, and shared experiences.

At the Historical Society, we are committed to making history accessible, engaging, and meaningful for all ages. Through educational programs, exhibitions, community events, and preservation efforts, we continue to celebrate the County's rich heritage while inspiring future generations.

I am grateful to our members, volunteers, supporters, and community partners who make this work possible. Together, we are not only preserving our past but building a stronger connection to our future.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Sue Ferreri
President, Board of Trustees
Historical Society of Rockland County



The Board of Trustees of
The Historical Society of Rockland County
Salutes Tonight's Honorees:

Eileen O'Brien and Jose Cardona
The Battaglia Family, Rockland Bakery
and
Carl Wright

Thank you for your contributions to life in Rockland County and for your continued support of the Historical Society of Rockland County

Fr. Richard D. Baker
Sara Bensman
Veronica DeMeo Boesch
Diane Buell
Amanda D'Annucci-Kean
Kathleen Delargy
Sue Ferreri
James Higgins Jr.
Jesse Malowitz
Maria Mingone
Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
John Resanovich
Candice Whatley

" To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?"

— CICERO

Congratulations to the

Historical Society of Rockland County

and to today's honorees

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona

LIFETIME SERVICE

The Battaglia Family and Rockland Bakery

BUSINESS LANDMARK

Carl Wright

LIVING LANDMARK

Thanks for all you do to preserve Rockland's history,
and for everything you do for our communities
of Rockland County.

JOE & LINIE RAND

— AND THE ENTIRE RAND FAMILY —

Honored with the 2018 Preservation/Restoration Award
for the D.D. Smith House, Nyack.

St. Catharine of Alexandria Church
Blauvelt, NY

Extendes its heartfelt congratulations & prayers to all
the honorees of the 2026
Rockland Revolution 250 Luncheon

We are delighted to celebrat the remarkable contributions of:

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona

Your dedication and unwavering commitment have truly inspired us!

The Battaglia Family/Rockland Bakery

Congratulations to Rockland Bakery! Your family has been a treasured part of Rockland County. Your tradition, dedication, and commitment have made you a true bedrock of our community.

Carl Wright

Your enduring legacy is a beacon of light in our community!

At. St. Catharine's Church, We believe in the power of God's grace in Jesus Christ to serve, foster community , and promote the enduring spirit of our shared history. We applaud the Historical Society of Rockland County for their invaluable work in preserving the rich tapestry of our past and for recognizing those who continue to shape our future.

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona

Lifetime Service Award



In 1996, when we purchased our home in West Nyack and long before the Historical Society of Rockland County (HSRC) popularized the expression "HISTORY MATTERS" in 2010, we, as new homeowners, never realized that our considerably older and helpful neighbor, John, was the poster child for this movement. John Scott, born in 1916, our Strawberry Hill Lane neighbor and then the Senior Historian of the HSRC, planted a seed that bloomed and continued to grow over the next thirty years. The seed grew even stronger during our professional years working for the New York State Office of Mental Health at Kingsboro Psychiatric Center (a.k.a. Brooklyn State Hospital), South Beach Psychiatric Center, Sing Sing Correctional Facility, Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center, Rockland Psychiatric Center, and Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center—institutions steeped in immense and often untold historical gravitas.

Our interest and involvement really took off when we discovered all the historical jewels that Rockland County has to offer. The HSRC never failed to enthrall us with their educational exhibitions, unique trips, insightful speakers, helpful staff and administrators, *South of the Mountains* publication (originated 1957), monthly "Crossroads of Rockland History" radio program on WRCR (now an independent podcast), #FlashbackFriday eblasts, and, most recently, "Rockland Remembers" feature in the *Rockland County Times* newspaper. The HSRC friends and associations we have made through the years are icing on a deliciously satisfying historical cake. Mary Cardenas, Susan Deeks, Marjorie Johnson, Jeffrey Keahon, Bob Knight, Marianne Leese, Jennifer Rothschild, Clare Sheridan, and Larry Singer are just a few of the guides, too numerous to list,

who have helped two New York City transplants nurture our Rockland County historical roots. Roots of gratitude have a way of spreading, especially in light of the realization of all the good work done by folks who came before you.

James Joyce wrote that "understanding the convoluted, sometimes winding path of the past is the fastest way to understand who you are today." Today, as never before, giving back has become very important to us, whether as a Central Nyack Fire Commissioner, Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives Board Member, NAMI-Rockland Volunteer, Keep Rockland Beautiful Sponsors, Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) Steering Committee Member, or, most recently, as Senior Lifestyle Columnist for the *Rockland County Times*. Giving back is also important to us as avid supporters of the HSRC in all of its efforts to enlighten all that "History is in our own back yard." So, as we age, we have come to realize that the longest way round is the shortest way home to this wonderful organization that helped us start our journey. In the poetic words of an old Spanish saying, "La historia nunca dice adiós. Lo que siempre dice es hasta luego." Or, in translation, "History never says 'goodbye.' What it always says is 'see you later.'"

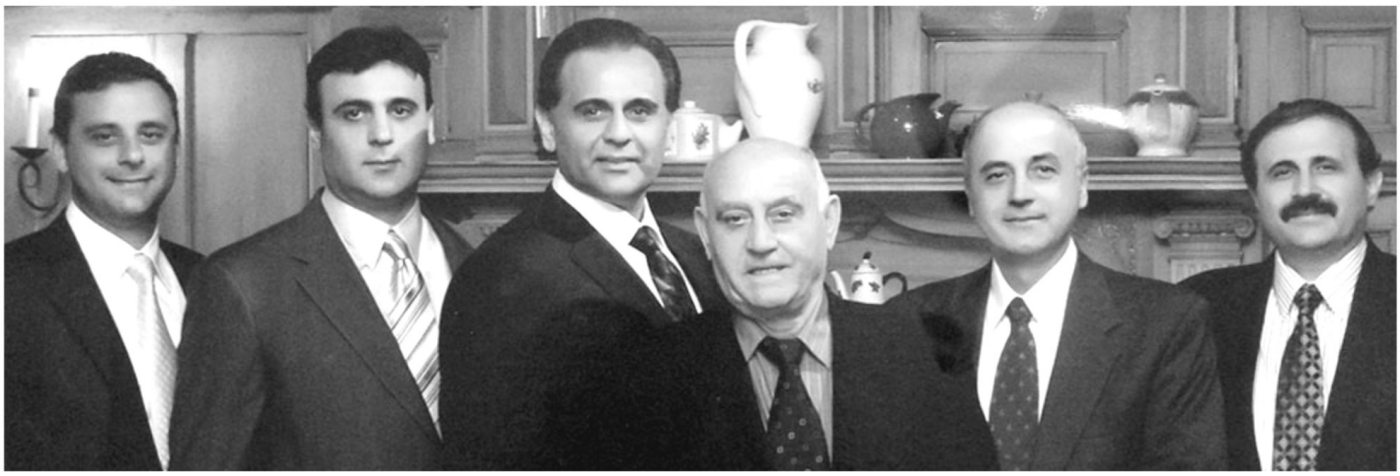
Congratulations to Eileen & Jose Cardona for their "Lifetime Service Award"

We are very proud of your selfless time giving to the community at large, especially the Historical Society of Rockland.

It's people like you who make a difference in the world we live in.

Our Best Wishes!

Edwin & Elena Lavalas



The Battaglia Family, Rockland Bakery

Business Landmark Award

Rockland Bakery was established more than seventy-five years ago as a small retail bakery in Rockland County. In 1986, the Battaglia Family purchased the bakery. The family of five brothers and their father used their experience, combined talents, and passion for baking to mold the bakery into what it is today: the premier bakery in the U.S. Northeast.

The Battaglia family is dedicated to providing high-quality baked goods and outstanding customer service. Our dedication and commitment has been the reason we have been successful in maintaining the majority of their customer base and are enjoying continued annual growth. Our customers are a true testimonial to our capabilities.



Rockland Bakery started with one small bakery and one truck. We now have five baking

This biography is adapted from "Our History" on the Rockland Bakery website at https://www.rocklandbakery.com/history.

facilities in the New York and New Jersey area. We possess a fleet of more than one hundred vehicles that deliver fresh baked products over two hundred routes in six states. To facilitate distribution on these routes, Rockland Bakery operates eight distribution centers servicing: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

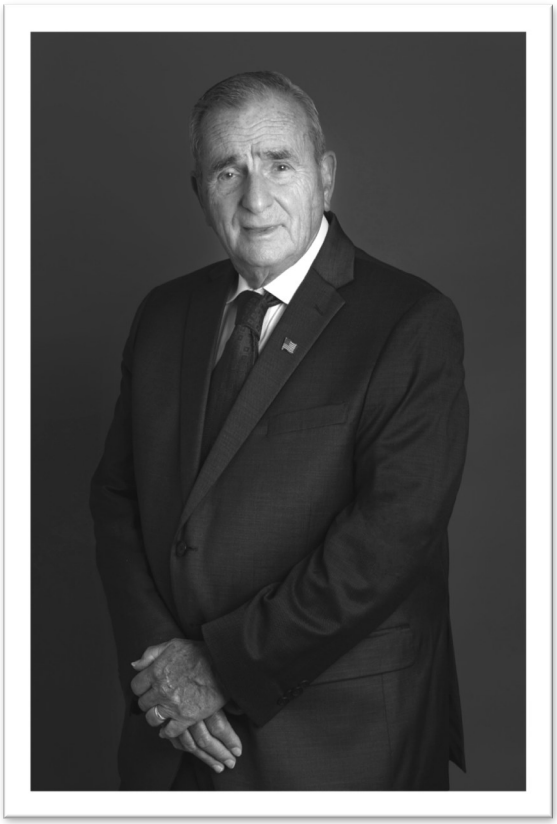
We have a diverse line of products to service the different demographics in the many regions we supply. We support customers from many areas, including food service, small cafés, hotels, and corporate institutions. And we continue to grow. Rockland is the preferred vendor for many of the region's food service management companies, including Aramark, Compass, and Sodexo. Our products can also be found at your favorite events: We service Yankee Stadium, Citi Field, Sands Casino Resort (PA), the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and Rutgers University.

In 2006, the Battaglia brothers purchased Pechter's Bakery in Harrison, New Jersey. In 2010, Rockland Bakery purchased Sabrett Baking. The following year, we acquired Voila Sweets in New York City. Combined with these three acquisitions, Rockland Bakery can provide our customers with an unrivaled product line to meet their many needs. We are the only true one-stop-shop bakery in the country.



Carl S. Wright

Living Landmark Award



Carl S. Wright is the Village Historian for the Village of Sloatsburg, a position he has held since July 2025, where he seeks to preserve the life of his precious community for generations to come. He is a proud member of the Sloatsburg Historical Society, Friends of Harmony Hall (Jacob Sloat House), and the Historical Society of Rockland County.

Mr. Wright served as Mayor of the Village of Sloatsburg for a total of three decades (1975–81, 1985–89, and 2000–20). He was also president of the Rockland Conference of Mayors and spent twenty-five years as a member of the late U.S. Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman's U.S. Military Academy Candidate Review Board.

Mr. Wright is a sixty-two-year active Life Member of the Sloatsburg Fire Department, a fifty-year active Life Member of the Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and a fifty-year active Life Member of the NY & NJ Volunteer Firemen's Association. He is also a member of the Firefighters' Association of the State of New York. Earlier in his career, he served as a police officer with the Sloatsburg Police Department and NYS Palisades Park Police Department and as a Traffic Code Enforcer with the Town of Ramapo Auxiliary Police.

While he was performing this extensive service to the community, Mr. Wright was a social studies teacher for thirty-nine years at Tappan Zee High School, where he also served as President of the South Orangetown Central School District Teachers' Association (1971–1973). A member of the New York State Teachers' Association, he was named five times to *Who's Who Among American High School Teachers* and was recognized in 1999 by the *Rockland County Journal News* among Outstanding Teachers in Rockland County. He also served as an adjunct instructor at Rockland County Community College. Mr. Wright earned a Bachelor of Science in education from the State University of New York, Oneonta, in 1963 and a Master of Arts in political sci-

ence from the State University of New York, Albany, 1965. In 2004, he was honored as Suffern High School Alumnus of the Year and remains a member of the school's Alumni Association.

A respected author and lecturer, Mr. Wright has shared his knowledge of national, state, and local history through programs on events including the Nugent-Simpson murder of 1952, the Great Mill Fire of 1955, and the Great Train Wreck of 1958. For more than thirty years, he has contributed to the Sloatsburg Elementary School Fourth Grade Study of Community Program. He has organized numerous community and commemorative events and established annual awards for Sloatsburg students recognizing excellence in the study of history and in community service. Mr. Wright is also the former Treasurer of Sloatsburg Methodist Church and the former Treasurer of the Sloatsburg Men's Club.

Mr. Wright is married to the former Carolyn Shaffer. Together they have four children—Ginger and her husband, Ed; Scott and his wife, Kathy; Amy and her husband, Angus; and Kevin and his wife, Jennifer—and thirteen grandchildren: Danny, Tommy, Casey, Sophia, Isabelle, Angelina, Jackson, Alexis, Angus, James, Rory, Peyton, and Parker.

Congratulations



On behalf of the Village of Sloatsburg, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sloatsburg Village Historian and former Mayor Carl Wright on being recognized as a Living Landmark at the Rockland Revolution 250 Luncheon.

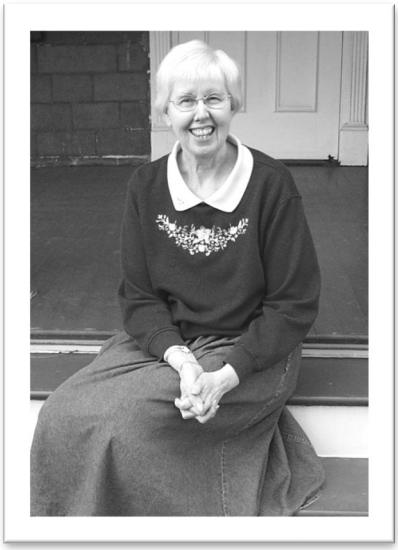
Carl's dedication to our community, both during his years of public service and throughout his lifelong commitment to Sloatsburg, has left a lasting impact on our village and its residents. His leadership, civic involvement, and unwavering pride in Sloatsburg exemplify the qualities that make this recognition so well deserved.

We are grateful for Carl's many contributions to our community and proud to see him honored for the legacy he continues to build. Congratulations on this distinguished recognition and thank you for your years of service to the Village of Sloatsburg.

Danielle L. Frasier

Mayor - Village of Sloatsburg

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF PAT CROPSEY



Patricia Cropsey understood that history is not simply about preserving the past. It is about understanding the people, places, traditions, and stories that shaped us—and ensuring they remain part of the community for generations to come.

As the **first woman to serve as President of the Historical Society of Rockland County**, Pat helped pave the way for those who would follow her. She was a keeper of history, a builder of community, and a steadfast believer in the importance of preserving the places and stories that make Rockland County unique.

For Pat, history was always about people. She understood that a community's greatest asset is its people, and that preserving our history means preserving the stories of the families, farms, neighborhoods, organizations, and individuals who built the community we know today.

That belief was reflected throughout her life. Pat cared deeply about Rockland County, its history, its land, and the traditions that connected one generation to the next. She and her husband, Jim, believed deeply in keeping the Cropsey family's history and land connected to the community, creating opportunities for future generations to learn from and experience a piece of Rockland's agricultural past.

Pat's legacy reminds us that history does not preserve itself.

It requires people willing to tell the stories, protect the places, save the photographs and documents, share their memories, and support the organizations entrusted with carrying them forward.

Today, as President of the Historical Society of Rockland County, I am deeply honored to continue a legacy shaped by leaders like Pat. But preserving Rockland's history cannot belong to one president, one board, or one organization alone. **It is a responsibility we all share.**

Every generation becomes the steward of the history entrusted to it. What we choose to preserve today becomes what our children and grandchildren will understand about who we were, where we came from, and what mattered to us.

Pat spent her life showing us that legacy is not simply what we leave behind. It is what we choose to carry forward.

Now, it is our turn to carry it.

By supporting the Historical Society of Rockland County, sharing our stories, preserving our historic places, and remaining engaged in our community, we ensure that Pat's work—and the work of so many who came before us—continues.

Honor the past. Preserve its stories. Carry the legacy forward. Donate to the mission.

Sincerely,
Sue Ferreri
President, Historical Society of Rockland County
Executive Director, Rockland Community Farm Network
Operator of Cropsey Farm

In recognition of your enduring presence and cherished
role as cornerstones of our community.

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona,
The Battaglia Family/Rockland Bakery,
and Carl Wright

We value your contributions and acknowledge your lasting influence as a significant part of our community's story. With sincere gratitude, we celebrate your impact and thank you for making a difference.



Patrick
Carroll
NY State Assemblyman

Congratulations to the Honorees
and to the
Historical Society of Rockland County

Celebrating 250 Years of American History and Independence

The Baker Family

Father Richard Baker
St. Catharine's of Alexandria, Blauvelt

Bob & Chrys Baker
Wake Forest, NC



Bouquets and love to

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona

For their lifelong dedication to the community

Congratulations to

The Battaglia Family/Rockland Bakery
Carl Wright &
The Rockland County Historical Society

from

Rena Finkelstein

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Our Fellow Honorees:

The Battaglia Family

and

Rockland Bakery

&

Carl Wright

Thank You For Your Dedication
To Keeping Our Past Alive
For Future Generations.

Eileen M. O'Brien & Jose A. Cardona

RYE
Rockland Youth Empowerment
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CONGRATULATIONS, CARL WRIGHT!

Gillian Ballard and the Rockland Youth Empowerment Center proudly extend warmest congratulations to **Mr. Carl Wright** on his well-deserved recognition as a **"Living Landmark."**

Your dedication, contributions, and lasting commitment to the history and community of Rockland County are truly deserving of this special honor.

We also extend our best wishes to the **Historical Society of Rockland County** for a wonderful and successful **Rockland Revolution 250 Luncheon**, celebrating the people, history, and enduring spirit of our community.

Congratulations, Carl, and best wishes for a memorable and successful celebration!

Congratulations, Mayor Wright!

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Congratulations to

Eileen O'Brien & Jose Cardona,
The Battaglia Family &
Carl Wright

You are all deserving of this award. I hope you keep doing all the good work that you have been doing over the years. It is much appreciated.

Joseph Onativia

Congratulations

to **Eileen O'Brien** *and* **Jose Cardona,**
the Battaglia family and Rockland Bakery,
and **Carl Wright** *on being honored by the*
Historical Society of Rockland County.

Rockland is where I grew up and where my family lives today, and all of you are a large part of what makes it worth calling home. Thank you for everything you do for our communities.

– CONGRESSMAN MIKE LAWLER
New York's 17th Congressional District

MIKE LAWLER
CONGRESS

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ROCKLAND COMMUNITY FARM NETWORK

Congrats to all of the honorees!

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Events - Education - Volunteer

Events

Celebrate the seasons with Rockland Community Farm Network! From Sip + Stem evenings and Mother's Day Picnics to Farm-to-Table Dinners, hands-on workshops, and our festive Holiday Market & Brunch; there's something for everyone. Enjoy fresh food, creativity and community while making lasting memories on the farm.

Education

At Rockland Community Farm Network, education comes to life through hands-on experiences that connect students of all ages to agriculture, nature, and the environment. Our agricultural education programs align with New York State learning standards; bringing science, math, sustainability, and healthy living beyond the classroom. From planting and harvesting to caring for animals and exploring our ecosystems, we inspire curiosity, build confidence, and encourage the next generation to grow, learn, and connect with the world around them.

Volunteer

Make a difference and grow with us! Rockland Community Farm Network offers volunteer opportunities for all ages, abilities, and experience levels. From planting and harvesting to caring for our farms and supporting community events, there's a way for everyone to get involved, give back, and connect with their community.

www.rocklandcfn.org

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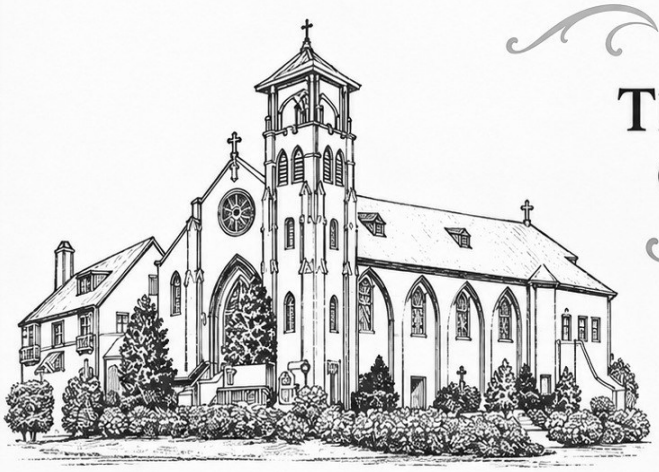
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Church of Saint Margaret

Salutes

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

and the Honorees

Eileen O'Brien

and

Jose Cardona

The Battaglia Family

and

Carl Wright.

Enjoy the Afternoon

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2026 ROCKLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUNCHEON

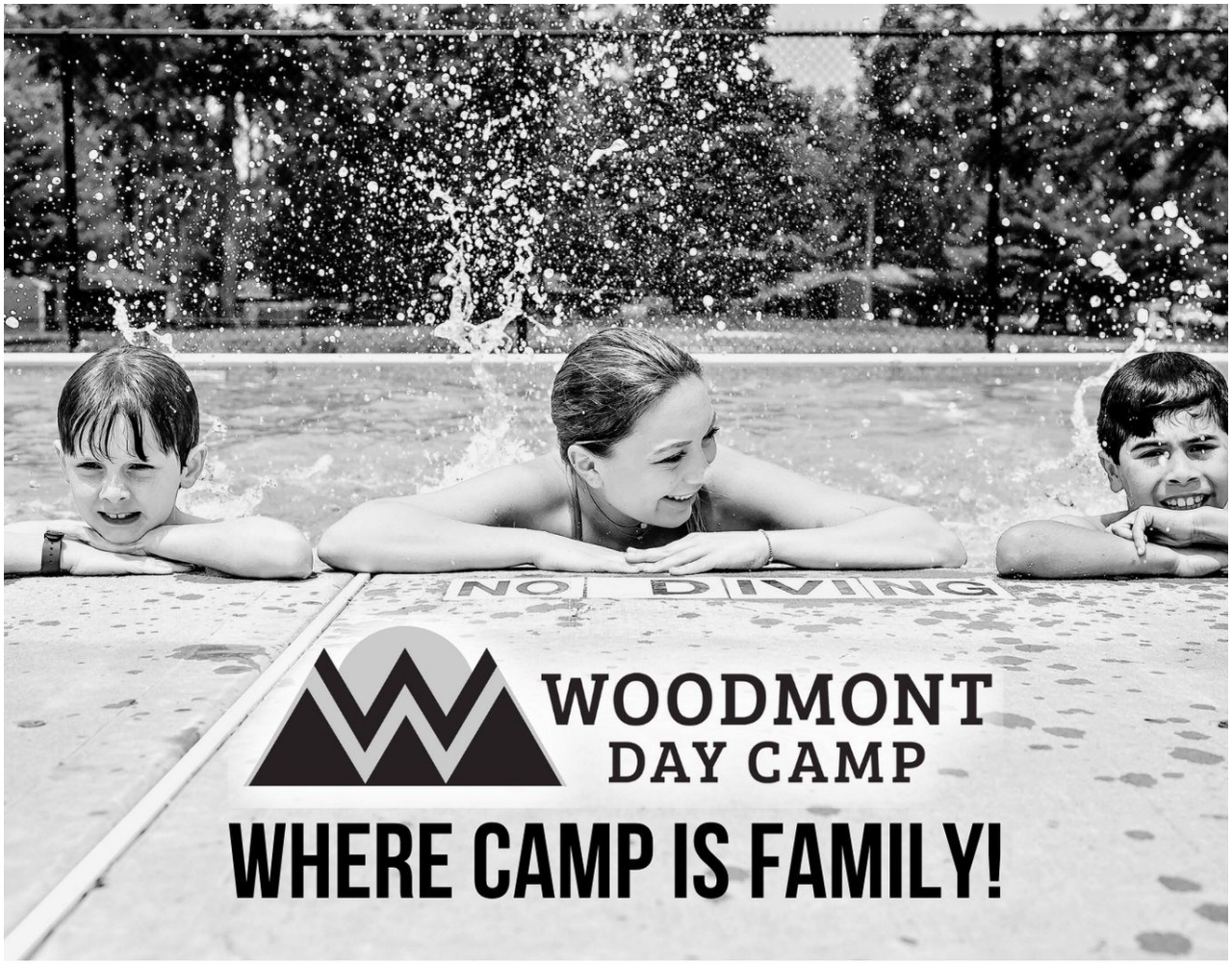
CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

EILEEN O'BRIEN & JOSE CARDONA
THE BATTAGLIA FAMILY
CARL WRIGHT

SAINT AEDAN PARISH

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1965-1966 Construction of Hall
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Stephanie Chapman LMSW

Ann Genovesi RN

Robert Burghardt

Remembering a Man Who Loved Rockland County

"Quickly and enthusiastically, he soaked up [Rockland's] deep history, using his talent as an artist to document a unique sense of place, even of time."

—Art Gunther, columnist, retired *Journal News* editor, artist,
and keen observer of Rockland County

His appreciation for Rockland County's rich history and his gift for capturing its people, places, and character through art have left a lasting legacy.



"In 1869, German families built St. Catharine's Church on the Kings [Western] Highway in Blauveltville, as it was then called. The small, wooden church did not greatly change or grow over the years until it was destroyed by a fire in 1964."
—Robert Burghardt, *Vanishing Rockland* slide program



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Tick Control

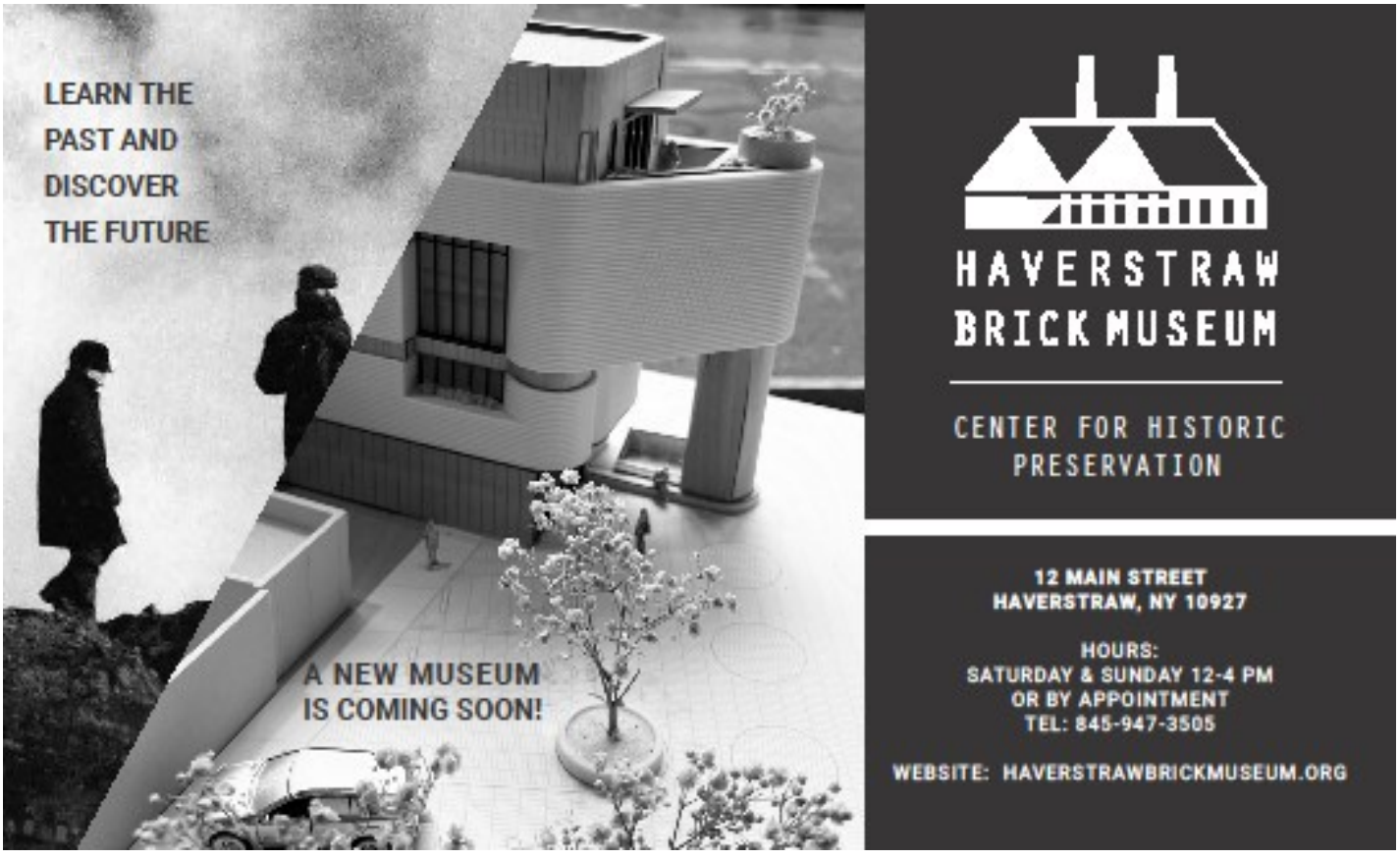
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2026 Awards Luncheon

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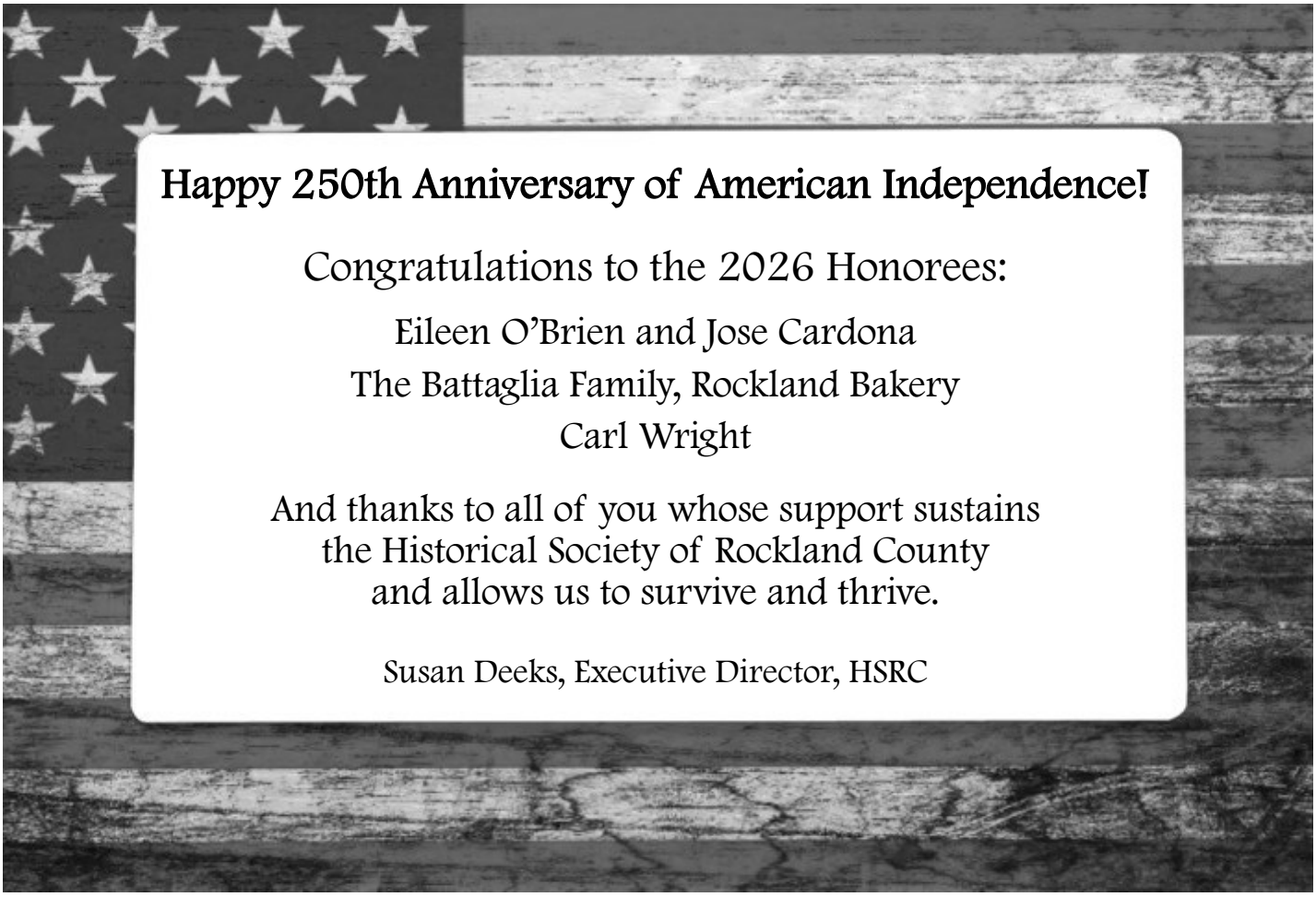
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Save the Date
Upcoming December Events



Saint Nicholas Day Celebration at the Historic Jacob Blauvelt House
Saturday and Sunday, December 5 – 6

We're opening our 1832 Jacob Blauvelt House to welcome children of all ages to celebrate Saint Nicholas as we've done since 1961. This traditional program is a highlight of the holiday season, and many adults who enjoyed this event in the past, as children, now bring their own families. *Prepaid registration required.*

Holiday Candlelight Tour of the Historic Jacob Blauvelt House
Saturdays, December 12 and 19; Sunday, December 13

Spend an enchanting evening at the historic 1832 Jacob Blauvelt farmhouse, illuminated with candlelight and lanterns, fragrant with traditional sweets, and decorated with festive greenery. Experience Dutch American holiday traditions of the 1830s with nineteenth century music, song and seasonal refreshments. *Prepaid Registration required.*

Colonial Christmas at the Historic Reformed Church of Tappan
Sunday, December 20

An afternoon service of readings and traditional carols that reflect the Dutch, English and German Christmas faith traditions to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence. This event is being prepared in collaboration with St. Catharine of Alexandria Church (Blauvelt) and the Reformed Church of Tappan. *Registration required, donations encouraged.*



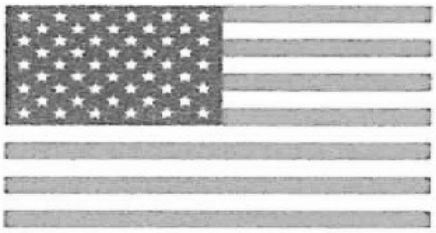
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Check our website for further details!
www.RocklandHistory.org
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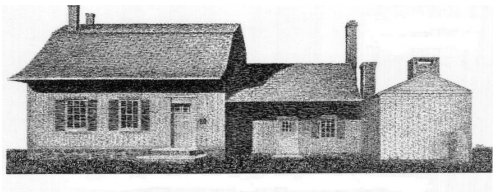
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- Quarterly mailings of *South of the Mountains ,* the only journal of Rockland County history that has been published continuously since 1957.
- Seasonal mailings of our Calendar of Events and/or newsletters.
- 10% discount on HSRC publications, maps and on items in our Museum Shop.
- Reduced fees for HSRC programs and services.
- Free admission to the Jacob Blauvelt House and to most of the HSRC Museum's exhibits

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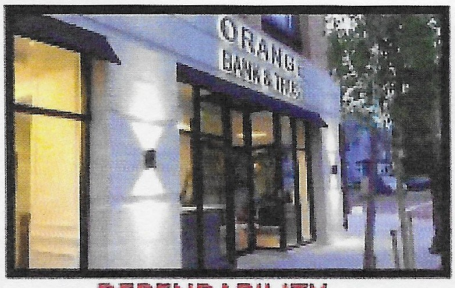
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THE 2026 RAFFLE BASKETS



Basket #1: Lottery Tickets
A $100 assortment of scratch-off lottery tickets. Potential payout: *Who knows?* Take a chance on big money!



Basket #2: Winter Prep
Electric boot dryer; soy wax candle; Pine Mountain Fatwood fire starter; snow melt; pet-safe ice melt; Hot Hands glove warmers; Wildwick fire starters; ice scraper glove



Basket #3: Fun with History
Baking with Cookie Molds book; Saint Nicholas wooden cookie mold; Golden Harvest pear candle; Fuzzy Pumpkin; pair of HSRC "History Matters" mugs; fabric coasters; beeswax candle; HSRC *Dutch Recipes* book



Basket #4: Culinary Treasures
Local honey and cranberry jelly (Davies Farm); handcrafted wooden salad utensils; Dansk cheese knife set; Ina Garten cookbook; four glass votives with candles; Farberware bamboo charcuterie board; sel gris de Guérande (sea salt); black peppercorns and grinder

. . . And be sure to take a chance on our traditional Wagon of Cheer!