



Mohonk Consultations

LET'S TALK IT OVER AT MOHONK
A TRADITION OF CONNECTING
PEOPLE THROUGH DIALOGUE

NUMBER 27 • 2016

Peace Building

How Do We Create a Culture of Peace at Home, Locally and In the World?

"Peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part."

– UN Earth Charter



Students from Brooklyn NY's P.S. 119 Amersfort School of Social Awareness: Magnet School of Global and Ethical Studies, visited Mohonk Consultations' Peace Pole in Mohonk's Oak Grove in 2010.

Concrete answers to the question of 'how do we build peace?' can be found in the experience of a contemporary educator and peacebuilder, Dot Maver, PhD. She has written that while international peacekeepers have helped around the world, "another layer of intervention is required, one that provides strategies, resources, initiatives, and support to create the conditions and infrastructure for peace to become sustainable."

"This next layer of support is called peacebuilding, which encompasses a wide and comprehensive approach to addressing the root causes of violence – internationally, nationally, within local communities and even family units. ...Applying [such approaches] can ultimately create the necessary systems and conditions for effective change..."

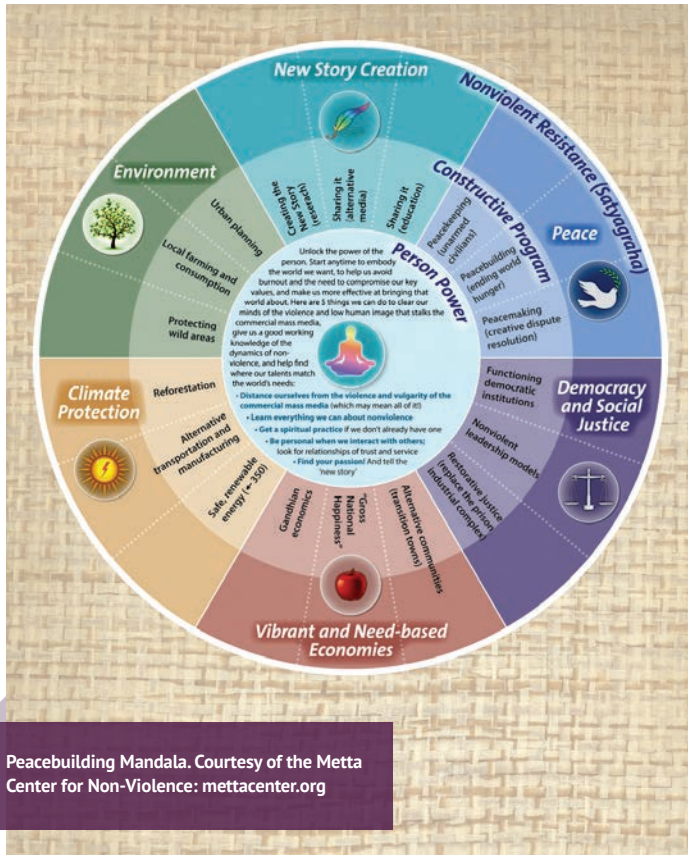
In a speech at the United Nations, Maver also explained, "The science of relationships and the skills of relationship-building are paramount in a culture of peace. Social-emotional skills are necessary components of the peacebuilder's toolbox: empathy, anger management,

nonviolent communication, de-escalation of violence, deep listening and dialogue, and the understanding that unmet needs drive behavior."

Peacebuilding is a comprehensive range of actions designed to build a peaceful society. Usually a network of different agencies take the responsibility at all levels of society: governments, religious organizations, civil society, traditional leaders and structures, media, and the business community. Groups or societies can re-establish trust through collaborative identification of barriers to lasting peace and the development of solutions to common problems.

Peacebuilding, continued from page 1

Inclusion, constructive dialogue and consensus building are fostered by peacebuilding – rather than confrontation and power games. All parties engage in a process of change of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors to create bridges of understanding that can sustain a stable, peaceful coexistence. Such nonviolent resolution of conflict can stabilize fractured societies and thus prevent conflict from reemerging.



Peacebuilding Mandala. Courtesy of the Metta Center for Non-Violence: mettacenter.org

In active and practical ways, there are myriad leaders and organizations around the world teaching peacebuilding in their local communities. “Peace in this sense is sweeping the world right now...”, said Maver. She noted, “At the university level, there are currently more than 400 peacebuilding programs around the world...”.

To illustrate successful peacebuilding work by one such organization, we’re highlighting selected initiatives of the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding (RPCP) in Gainesville Florida. RPCP was founded as River Phoenix’s legacy by his mother, Heart Phoenix, in 2013, the same year the actor died. Maver is also co-founding executive director and helped develop RPCP.

Maver and Phoenix list these common guidelines as essential for community peacebuilding:

- Building relations as a cornerstone of community organizing.
- Developing and offering programs that honor, express, and reflect our uniqueness and interconnectedness.
- Believing in the inherent goodness of humanity. With similar opportunities and resources we trust that people will reach their highest potential.
- Acknowledging the struggle of many of us to achieve, given marginalization or the circumstance into which we were born.
- Striving to relieve the struggle by offering compassion, empathy, and understanding in order to translate ‘everyone matters.’

RPCP is “a local grassroots collaborative effort...using a comprehensive approach inclusive of all sectors of society [all levels of schools, the State Dept. of Juvenile Justice, the County Sheriff’s Dept., Gainesville Police Dept., and many social service and youth athletic organizations in the County, and the ‘community at large’]... to build a safe community.



Dot Maver, Mohonk Consultations 2016 Conference keynote speaker, is an educator, founding president of the National Peace Academy, co-founder of Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace, and co-founding executive director and board member of RPCP.

Everyone learns to resolve conflict through healthy communication in relationships, thus breaking the cycle of violence...” [Emphasis added]. RPCP is making a model that can be repeated in other communities.

One of many RPCP collaborative projects is an eight-week course, titled “Communication and Self-Esteem” that not only trains probation officers, teachers and other adults engaged with youth, but also youth who are required to do community service by judges. “The judge made it mandatory for me to take this class as part of my probation,” recalls participant, LeQuan Boland. “At first I was going through the motions because I was ordered to do it, but the class helped me to look at my life through different eyes. The program pretty much changed my life.”

Peacebuilding, continued from page 1 & 2

Another instance of RPCP's 'on the ground', practical work was reported by WCJB News 20 (ABC), March 28, 2016, in Gainesville, Florida:

Youth dialogue session between cops and teens

A monthly discussion meant to bring together youth and law enforcement officers turned into questions by friends and classmates of 16-year-old Robert Dentmond – killed last week in a police involved shooting. "I knew Robert, because he went to my school, and I knew him personally, and I just needed to know," says Caleb Tisin, a friend of Dentmond. "They said they were going to answer questions about why they did it, and look face to face instead of going on social media."

And as 15 officers and about 30 teens sat in a circle, young voices could be heard asking candid questions around the case. ... Students got the chance to role play and see what it may be like for an officer on duty. And officers ...[gained] special training on how young people deal with trauma..."

Simply put, peace is living in harmonious relationship with self, others, and all life.

Sources:

1. Maver, Dot and Heart Phoenix, "A Model for Building Safe Communities: The River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding Leads the Way," *Kosmosjournal.org*, spring/summer 2016, 14-21; 2. Maver, Dot, "The Invisible Yet Existent Culture of Peace," *Kosmosjournal.org*, fall/winter, 2013, bit.ly/2cuybh; 3. River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding, centerforpeacebuilding.org/bit.ly/2cvnnAB

Mohonk's Peacebuilding Legacy Leads to Our Upcoming Conference

Mohonk Consultations was founded in part from a long-standing Smiley family tradition of hosting meetings to bring together diverse perspectives to "talk it over at Mohonk."

Mohonk Mountain House has served since 1883 as a gathering place for those seeking solutions to global, national and local problems. For instance, the Mohonk International Arbitration Conferences were held here between 1895 and 1916.

At their height, the Mohonk International Arbitration conferences attracted 300 leaders of government, business, religion, the press, and education; the purpose of the conferences was to create and direct public sentiment in favor of international arbitration, arbitration treaties, and an international court. (Photo 1902, Courtesy of MMH Archives.)



We invite the public to attend our full-day conference:

Realizing a Culture of Peace

Monday, November 7th, 2016, 9 – 4:30 pm
Mohonk Mountain House Parlor

Dot Maver will be keynote speaker. The Conference is being co-sponsored by Kosmos Journal, Lifebridge Foundation and United Nations Association – Mid Hudson Valley Chapter. We are in this way following the conference legacy of earlier Smiley generations. Panelists will also include:

Iris Spellings

Founding member, Global Movement for a Culture of Peace

Victoria Christgau

Executive Director, Connecticut Center for Non Violence

Rebecca Burdett

Education/Mindfulness

Ilgu Ozler

Director, SUNY Global Engagement Program in NYC & Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at SUNY New Paltz

Fran Tarr

"Breaking Walls Today and Tomorrow" a youth/social transformation and leadership organization

Also featuring:

Nina Smiley – Mindfulness Meditation; also Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, plus Livia and Bill Vanaver – Musical Interludes.

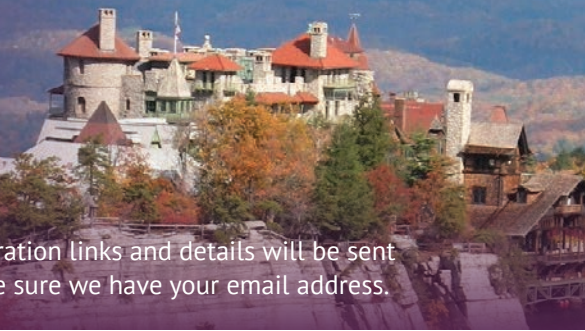
John Lennon urged us to "Imagine" a peaceful world and that's a great way to start. In November we promise plenty of time for questions, networking and generating our own best peacebuilding ideas. After all, it's up to all of us.

Please ensure we have your email address for invitation and registration details. Agenda available at: mohonk-consultations.org/2016-conference

Future Programs: 2016 – 2017

Save these Dates!

Email reminders with registration links and details will be sent when available. Please make sure we have your email address.



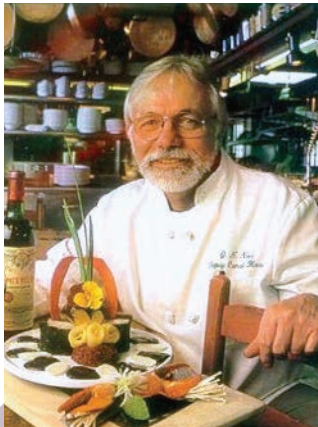
November 2016 Conference: Realizing a Culture of Peace

Monday, November 7, 2016, 9 – 4:30 pm

Join us to continue a historic Mohonk tradition. See cover and pp. 2 – 3 for details. Check our website for further information as the date approaches.

2017 April Forum: Follow up on Peacebuilding Conference. TBD

Sunday, April 9, 2017, 3 – 6 pm



John Novi in his legendary Depuy Canal House Restaurant kitchen. In 1983, People Magazine called John “fearless and imaginative” and two years later, Time Magazine named him “the Father of New American Cooking”, which emphasizes local/fresh ingredients and regional recipes.

High Falls’ John Novi to Receive 2017 Distinguished Environmental Achievement Award

Sunday, June 11th, 2017, 5 – 8 pm

How does someone become a community hero? In the case of John Novi, by working tirelessly to promote and preserve local agriculture, food and historic landmarks, and by weaving these themes into a career that has drawn international acclaim.

In 1964, the 19-year-old John Novi purchased the 1797 Depuy Canal House in High Falls, NY. After five years of restoration, the Depuy Canal House Restaurant opened on June 14, 1969. Within just one year, New York Times food critic Craig Claiborne gave John’s American Nouvelle Cuisine his highest accolade – Four Stars – and for the next 45 years John Novi continued to make culinary history.

While many people know “of” John Novi, many don’t know that as early as 1966, he was on a mission to protect the D&H Canal and formed its first board of directors. He was assisted in gaining the Canal non-profit status with a little help from local history buff, Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Now retired as Canal House chef, John was instrumental recently in securing a grant that made it possible to transfer this historic building to the D & H Canal Society.

Join us as we hear John tell us about the next phase of the Canal House – and all its associated local history that he holds so dear. We’ll celebrate John’s achievements and hear a little bit about what he’s got cooking next.

And you can expect the unexpected when John teams up with the chefs at the Mohonk Mountain House to create some “fearless and imaginative” taste sensations especially for our guests.

Visit mohonk-consultations.org/events for details and registration information when available in Spring 2017. Please make sure we have your email address for invitations.

MOHONK CONSULTATIONS

The purpose of Mohonk Consultations is to bring about a clearer understanding of the interrelationships of all life on earth, emphasize the need for sustainable use of all the earth’s resources, including humans, and support the development of practical means to do so.



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NEWSLETTER

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Our annual newsletters are available as pdf files at mohonk-consultations.org.

To join our mailing lists contact us at mohonkconsultations@hvi.net, or:

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2017 Autumn Conference: Nature Across Boundaries What Can We Do To Keep Lands and Waters Connected?

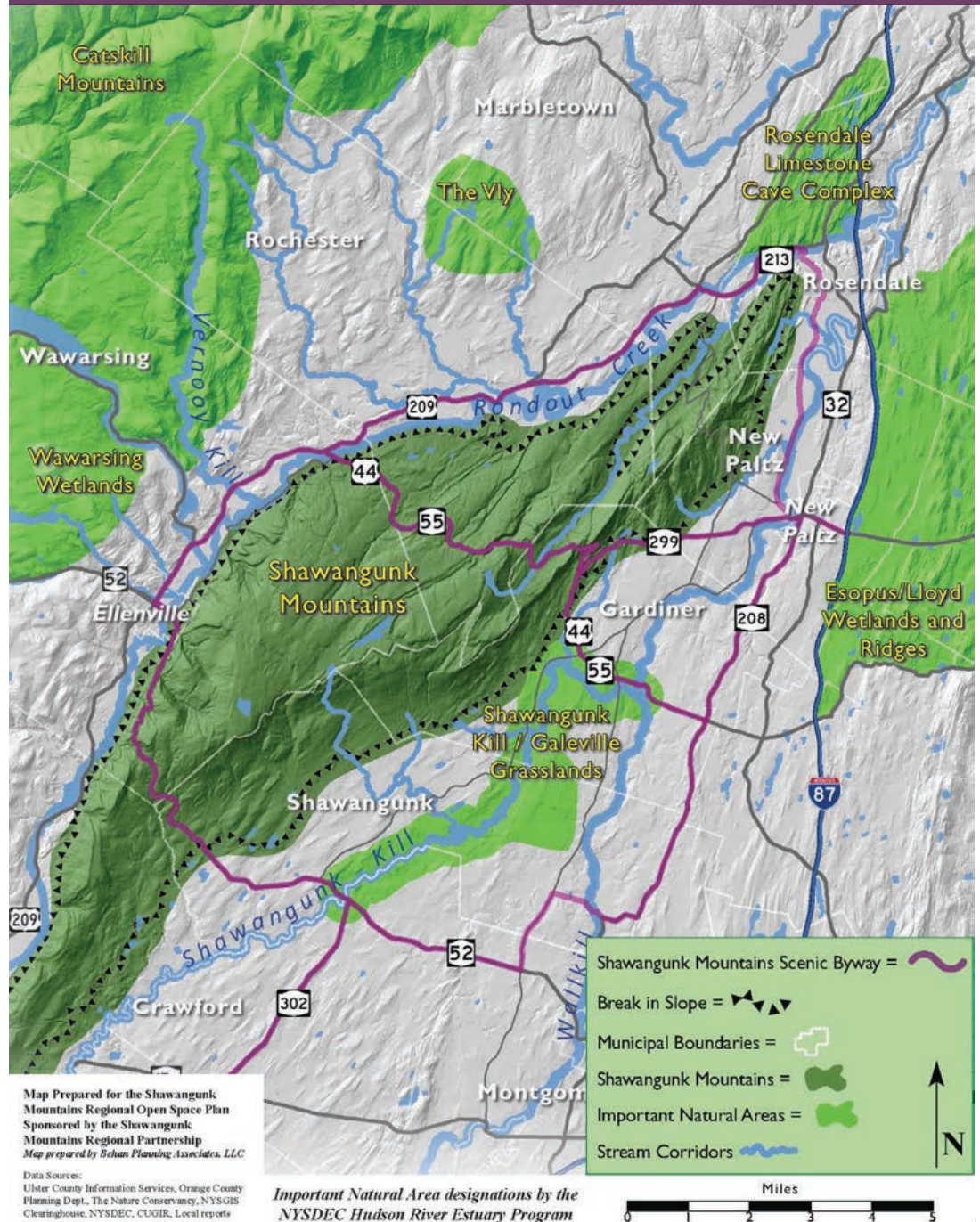
Monday, November 6, 2017, 9 – 4 pm

Ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and streams support wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, scenic views, and provide critical services to local communities such as clean water and climate and ecological resilience. However, throughout the world, the health and function of these natural systems are increasingly broken down by incompatible development patterns that fragment and degrade the ecological functions and landscape. In New York State, boundaries created by municipal borders and property lines result in a patchwork of land uses, with little consideration for the broader context of natural systems or coordinated approaches necessary to conserve them.

Local leaders, landowners, and land managers can join proactively to preserve and restore connections in nature (connectivity) by working across political boundaries and property lines. While this cooperative approach makes ecological sense, it can be challenging in practice.

The 2017 conference, offered in partnership with NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, will explore the importance of ecological connectivity, highlight case studies from New York, and engage participants in discussing the barriers and opportunities for preserving landscape connections in the Hudson Valley.

Connections Between the Shawangunk Mountains and Other Important Natural Areas

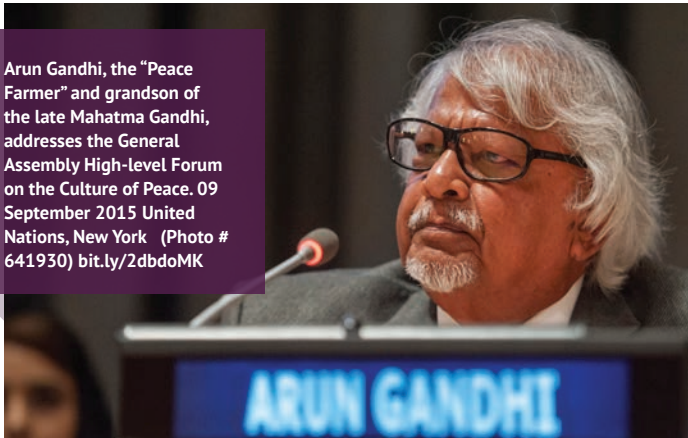


The Shawangunk Mountains Regional Open Space Plan (2008) recognized that the ridge cannot survive as an island, and depends for its health on connections to the surrounding valleys, river systems and the Catskill Mountains. (Shawangunk Mountains Regional Open Space Plan: bit.ly/2cU8FBt). Map courtesy of Behan Planning and Design.

Reporting Back

United Nations Holds a Fourth High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

Arun Gandhi, the “Peace Farmer” and grandson of the late Mahatma Gandhi, addresses the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace. 09 September 2015 United Nations, New York (Photo # 641930) bit.ly/2dbdoMK



The Fourth High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace was held at the United Nations on September 9, 2015. “Mahatma Gandhi proved that the culture of peace can change the course of history,” Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, stated. Representatives from 25 member nations urged us to strengthen further the global movement to promote peace.

Speakers’ critical points: the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals link peace and development; a ‘culture of peace’ is imperative, it is not [just] a slogan; we must empower women, youth and the most vulnerable and marginalized people on the planet. - Reported by Brad Berg.

Our 2016 Events Thus Far

Monday, June 8, 2016—Distinguished Achievement Award:

President of Rondout Valley Growers Association Nicolas Cipollone and Executive Director Deborah DeWan were joined in the Mohonk Mountain House Parlor by more than 90 followers. Brook Farm Project helped support the program, which featured original music by Kelleigh McKenzie and songs from the Shoe String Band.



President of Rondout Valley Growers Association Nicolas Cipollone and Executive Director Deborah DeWan on the East Porch. Photo by Brook Pickering-Cole.

Sunday, April 10, 2016—Spring Forum, Beyond Rooftops: Expanding Solar Energy in Our Communities, in collaboration with Mohonk Preserve. Over 80 attendees discussed ways for installing solar photovoltaic panels for various households; examples of installing large solar arrays on public and conserved lands; and how NYS supports these efforts.

Wednesday, April 6, 2016—An Open Conversation on Transforming Our World: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals was held at Lifebridge Sanctuary in Rosendale, NY and sponsored by Lifebridge (lifebridge.org), and RiverTides (rivertides.org)

New Mohonk Consultations/ Preserve Room

In 2017 we will begin renovating the current Mohonk Preserve exhibit room in the Mohonk Mountain House in order to create a Mohonk Consultations/ Preserve room. This project will highlight the Quaker roots of Mohonk Mountain House, the ensuing core work of Dan and Keith Smiley, and the resulting benefits of Consultations and the Preserve, as they evolve in the present day.



Daniel Smiley (half brother of Albert and Alfred Smiley) told his sons, Bert and Francis, “It is fair to say that Mohonk is far more than a moneymaking business, it is an institution ... with high aim and benevolent leadings.”

His grandsons, Dan and Keith, carried on the family’s Quaker humanitarian and land stewardship goals for future generations by forming a non-profit organization, The Mohonk Trust (TMT) in 1963. It was focused on “a combined commitment to peace and human understanding with a dedication to conservation and ecological accountability.”

Over time, TMT’s mission proved to be too broad for one organization to carry. Eventually TMT became Mohonk Preserve, concentrating on environmental education, conservation science, land protection and stewardship, while Keith Smiley founded Mohonk Consultations in 1980 to address “issues of social justice and the interconnection of all life on earth.” Today the two not-for-profits often collaborate on public programs at Mohonk.



The remodeled interpretive room in the House will communicate how these organizations arose through the Smiley family legacy, how they are related and differ, and what services they currently provide. We invite you to participate in this creative process by sharing your ideas and/or financial support. – Sandra Smiley, Board of Managers.

THANK YOU to Our Generous 2016 Donors! ... as of September 10, 2016

(*Donations received after this will be posted in our next newsletter, September 2017.)

These donations are deeply valued because together we improve the lives of the people, land and eco-systems around us.

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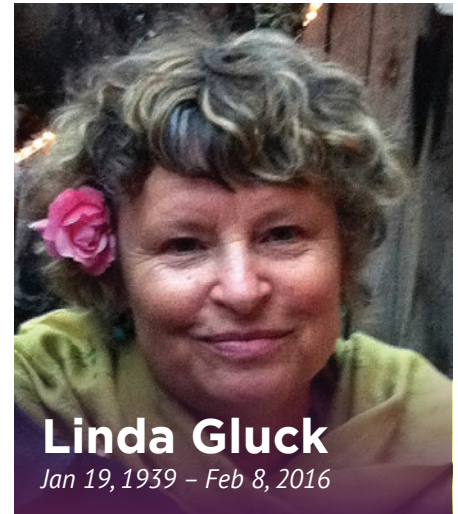
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 Barbara Zimmerman
In memory of Helen Vukasin

Local Businesses

Brook Farm Project
 Jenkins-Lueken Orchard
 New Paltz Wine and Spirits
 Yankee Folly Cidery

2016 GuideStar Gold Rank

We received the GuideStar Gold participation rank in April 2016. It is a leading symbol that recognizes our deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.



Linda Lyman Hawkey Gluck and her daughter Amanda moved to the New Paltz area in 1973. She fell in love with the beauty of the Shawangunks and the romance of the region's history. Passionate about land conservation, she used her considerable talents as a graphic artist and activist to participate in the preservation of these mountains and to design Mohonk Consultations' newsletters among many other organizations' print materials.

In 1991 Linda married the late, legendary, Mohonk Preserve head ranger Thom Scheuer. She was a painter, a singer, an earth sculptor, an expert gardener, and a gourmet cook.

Her passion for art and beauty was matched by a deep compassion for the human condition which found its expression in diverse spiritual paths, including Judaism and Buddhism.

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SAVE THESE DATES:

Come to Mohonk Mountain House
for these 2016 - 2017 events.
Advance Registration is required.

2016 Autumn Conference

Realizing A Culture of Peace

Monday, November 7, 2016, 9 – 4:30 pm

2017 Spring Forum

Follow up on Peace Conference: Topic TBD

Sunday, April 9, 2017, 3 – 6 pm

2017 Distinguished Achievement Award

Honoring John Novi

Sunday, June 11, 2017, 5 – 8 pm

2017 Autumn Conference

Nature Across Boundaries: What Can We Do
To Keep Lands and Waters Connected?

Monday, November 6, 2017, 9 – 4 pm

2016: UN International Year of Pulses

Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations their 2016 initiative aims “to raise awareness about the protein power and health benefits of all kinds of dried beans and peas, boost their production and trade, and encourage new and smarter uses throughout the food chain.”

“Pulses are important food crops for the food security of large proportions of populations, particularly in Latin America, Africa and Asia, where pulses are part of traditional diets and often grown by small farmers,” said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva.

“They have been an essential part of the human diet for centuries,” he added, “Yet, their nutritional value is not generally recognized and is frequently under-appreciated.” More information: bit.ly/2diWd0L

