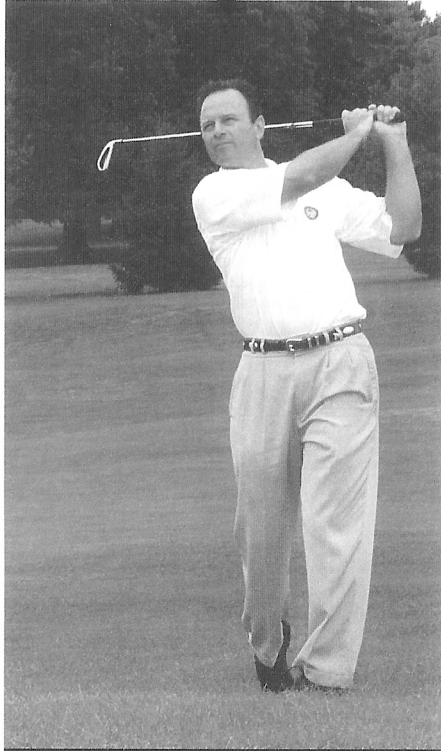


People



***Golf Pro**
Rhett Myers Vassar Golf Course, Poughkeepsie 845-473-9838
 A 19-year veteran of the local golf scene, Myers says keeping his players happy and having a passion for the game are the secrets to his success.

***Actor**
James Earl Jones
 Pawling, Dutchess
 Year after year, readers select this much-heralded star of film, TV — and commercials — as their favorite neighboring thespian. Maybe it's his deep, authoritative voice that keeps him first in mind.

***Actress**
Mary Tyler Moore
 Millbrook, Dutchess
 Ms. Moore was America's sweetheart for many years as the ever-optimistic Mary Richards on her hit TV show. Now she's your sweetheart too. Locals also admire her strong animal-rights stance.

***Artist**
Roger Baker
 Cragsmoor, Ulster
 Most artists use paint or clay, but not Roger Baker. This crop artist uses a lawn mower to fashion enormous portraits of famous people — from Einstein to Elvis — in Catskill area fields and meadows.

***Artist and Author**
James Gurney
 Rhinebeck, Dutchess
 Author/illustrator of the wildly popular *Dinotopia* books, Gurney also displays his landscape paintings at local galleries.

***Author**
William Kennedy
 Averill Park, Albany
 Locals love their hometown Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist so much that they don't even care that he hasn't put out a new book in four years. But hope springs eternal that novel number eight is just around the corner.

***Band**
Gandalf Murphy & the Slambovian Circus of Dreams
 Cold Spring, Putnam
 This quirky quartet plays a blend of folk, rock, hillbilly and pop; besides the local faithful, their fans include the *New York Times* and the CBS series *Joan of Arcadia*.

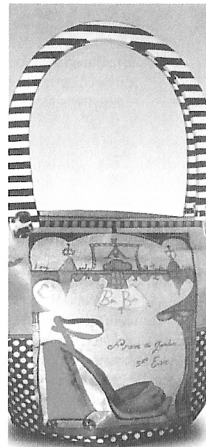
Example of Aging Well
Marisa Hanson
 Pleasant Valley, Dutchess

At a time of life when many people are slowing down, Marisa Hanson is speeding up — literally. A competitive runner, the 43-year-old teacher and mother of two has been zooming past athletes half her age in both local and national races. Last June, she finished 27th against an elite field of international runners at Albany's Freihofer's Run for Women. In January, Hanson beat out top women from around the U.S. to win the prestigious Hartshorne Memo-

rial Master's Mile at Cornell in a record-breaking 5:02:69.

Fashion Designer
Cathleen O'Halloran
 Ravena, Albany
 518-756-6722

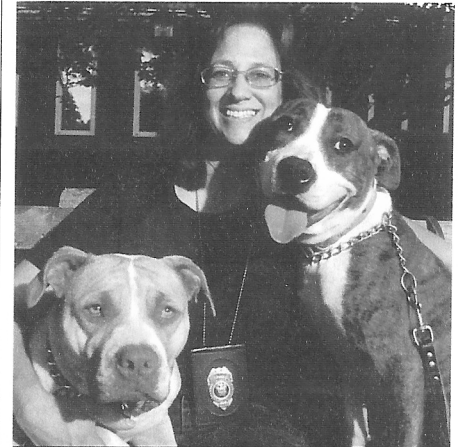
Fashion sense meets common sense in O'Halloran's delightful designs, resulting in clothes that are stylish and fun, but suited to country life as well. Many designs have equestrian influences, but translated so that no horse is necessary. Fabrics are top-of-the-line, and the clothes beautifully constructed — far from any sweatshop. Check out her Millerton store.



Fox-Fun Artist
Wendy Costa Troy
 A recent addition to Troy's growing artisan community, Costa's zany, Moulins-Rouge-themed illustrations and witty collectibles (from handbags to tile trivets) are carried by high-end boutiques across the country — and you can also find her delightful wares at local trunk shows.

PHOTOGRAPH (TOP LEFT): MICHAEL POLITO

Kids & Pets



Friend to Dogs
Patricia Smith Putnam Valley, Putnam 845-526-3293

For the past six years, Patricia Smith has helped stray and abandoned dogs find new homes. Aside from running the town's small shelter, she combats pooches' behavior issues, teaches them to walk on a leash, and even shows up on her time off to take them on daily walks. "We're a no-kill shelter, and I want my dogs to be adopted out of love," says Smith.

***Hobby Store**
Hobby House

Poughkeepsie 845-297-3341
 We're willing to bet many of the brainiacs at NASA started out as kids assembling model rockets. Stores like this might help nurture your own future rocket scientist — or just go for the fun of it. Radio-controlled vehicles and model airplanes, trains, die-cast collectibles — it's perfect for hobbyists young and old.

Place for a Kid's Party
Skate Time 209

Accord, Ulster 845-626-7971
 This new indoor facility is 30,000

square feet of fun. There's a roller rink and skateboard park, a healthy snack bar (they use a hot-air fryer — no greasy fries here), and an arcade with air hockey and other nonviolent games. The staff all graduated from Frank Price's Birthday University, a professional party-training program that virtually guarantees your kids will have a blast.

Kid-Friendly Cafe
Umami

Fishkill, Dutchess 845-896-1979
 Kids can check their menu through special 3D viewfinders — items are illustrated (with

Haircut
Mark Bolger
 Poughkeepsie

The Mohawk isn't a hairstyle most can carry off, but it looks pretty good on Mark Bolger. The popular radio host (you can catch his morning show on STAR 93.3) promised to shear his locks if his listening audience filled 15 school buses with donations for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. They did that and more: they also raised \$12,000 in hard cash. Nice looking fella, that Bolger.

Coach
Larry Knapp
 Poughkeepsie

After his father died from a stroke, Knapp — an avid runner — joined Train to End Stroke, an American Heart Association fund-raising program in which participants get in shape to run a marathon. After completing two 26.2-mile races — and raising close to \$8,000 for the AHA — Knapp became a volunteer coach for the program. Over the last five years, he's helped nearly 100 people, many of whom hadn't run a step since childhood, to finish either a marathon or half-marathon race. The northeast affiliate of the AHA recognized Knapp's efforts by naming him their 2006 "Volunteer of the Year."

***Local Celebrities**
Robert DeNiro
Marcia Gay Harden

Valley residents love seeing these Oscar-winning actors (he for *Raging Bull* and the *Godfather: Part II*; she for *Pollack*) shopping, strolling, eating out, and just being regular folk in the region they call home.

***Local Musician**
Jeff Armstrong

Hyde Park, Dutchess
 A music prof at Marist and DCC, Armstrong can be found playing classical and flamenco guitar at Poughkeepsie-area eateries. Ever versatile, he also fronts a

blues band called Night Train.

***Newspaper Columnist (tie)**
Hugh Reynolds
 Daily Freeman, Kingston
Erin Quinn
 New Paltz Times

The dean of local columnists, Reynolds has been writing about local politics since the late 1960s. Staff writer Quinn won kudos from state press associations for her coverage of Mayor Jason West's officiating at same-sex marriage ceremonies in New Paltz.

***Politician**
Maurice Hinchey

Saugerties, Ulster
 This year, the Democratic congressman secured more funds to fight crime in Newburgh and to aid flood victims. But this legislator, who has been in Congress since 1992, has been doing good deeds for the region for years and years.

Hairdresser with Heart
Dave Shulman

Salon Dorian, Fishkill, Dutchess
 845-897-2300

A wizard with the scissors, Shulman uses his talents to help people with cancer. For the past 10 years, his weekly "Look Good, Feel Better" class at Vassar Hospital has taught patients how to compensate for the changes to their hair and skin caused by the disease and its treatment. At a yearly "Cut-a-thon" in August, Shulman and salon co-owner Dorian Magliano open their doors on a Sunday and give haircuts for \$25, with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society.

***Radio Personality**
Dennis Warner

107.9 WELV-FM, Ellenville, Ulster
 A former teacher, Warner was coaxed out of retirement to host the morning program at Ellenville's fledgling radio station, which is staffed by students from the high school.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HOLLEY MEISTER