Vanessa Shea moved to Ulster County three months before COVID-19 and didn’t expect to make many connections once the pandemic struck, but thanks to the Leadership Ulster program, she was able to do just that in her role at SUNY Ulster.

“As we come out of a very difficult year, I can say I’ve never felt more connected to a community as I do to Ulster County,” Shea said during the program’s graduation celebration on June 14 at Diamond Mills Hotel & Tavern in Saugerties. “I am eager to use the new leadership skills and tools that I have acquired from this program to become more involved and positively impact our community.”

Several of the 18 graduates at the celebration referenced the pandemic, which led to an all-virtual program in 2021. Class President Brianna Keary from Ulster Savings Bank said COVID made Leadership Ulster harder than she thought, but she also saw unintended blessings.

“In the end, I know that it made my classmates and I stronger leaders of our community,” she said. “I learned so much about myself, my community, and people in general, but I can’t help noticing the growth of my peers and myself through this program.

“This program has been so educational and inspiring that I now have a deeper love for my community and the people in it.”

Leadership Ulster, which is run by the Chamber’s Foundation and Executive Director Ingrid Kulick, was started in 1992 by former Chamber President Len Cane to develop community leaders. The program, sponsored by M&T Bank, has trained well more than 400 leaders to serve on the boards of local non-profits and community organizations and will mark 30 years in 2022.

This year’s class featured eight employees from Ulster Savings Bank, including Keary, Maria Moreno Amado, Karisa Finch, Alyssa Miller, Robert Naccarato, Jean Peters, Sierra Stitt and Phyllis Tabler.

Other graduates included Meagan Bianco of Ellenville Regional Hospital, Kaleigh Borneman of Bank of Greene County, Sarah Szabo of Rondout Savings Bank, Tasyka DeRosalia of RUPCO, Amanda Grant of Hudson Valley Credit Union, Shane Henneberger of M&T Bank, Rhea Paniesin of the YMCA, Heather Powell of Adams Fairacre Farms and Amy Summers of Raising HOPE Women’s Mentoring.

The graduation celebration gave each class member a chance to share about their experiences and the camaraderie that developed. For example, Bianco said Leadership Ulster gave her “a connection to this amazing community” and she called the program “a gift and an honor.”

Powell was one of many who joked about meeting via Zoom.

“When COVID turned the world upside down, this program helped us to refocus, to find our direction again,” she said.

Several speakers thanked the community leaders who addressed the class, such as Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan, SUNY New Paltz Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Kristin Backhaus, John Eickman of HITS Endurance and Chamber President Ward Todd.

“I feel like each of them brought something different, but a lot to connect the community and show the amazing things the Chamber has done for the community,” said DeRosalia.

Several had kind words for Kulick. Finch noted that “not even the pandemic could stop her” from putting together the speakers and program.

Grant said Leadership Ulster taught her “many important tools,” such as conflict resolution, and to “learn from failure, move on and grow.”

Peters said she uses many of the skills she learned every day at work.

“It has helped me gain confidence not only in my career, but also in my personal life,” she said.

Summers said she joined for the networking but found so much more in the area of leadership development.

“I met women and men who are emerging leaders in their field and who care about courage and integrity,” she said.

The program kicked off last September at The Venue Uptown and then proceeded with biweekly virtual sessions.

“This class really rose to the occasion, made the best of it, and found ways to welcome, to communicate, to engage and to include – all key actions for leaders,” said Kulick.

“Challenge and creativity are hallmarks of leadership and have certainly been pushed to the test in the last year and a half. Who would have thought that Leadership Ulster could go totally virtual? But we did it.”

Several speakers also referenced the class project, which this year involved collecting 1,200 COVID-related hygiene items at 22 locations of Bank of Greene County, Ulster Savings Bank and Rondout Savings Bank.

“I love the work that we do at the Foundation,” Kulick said. “We work with great leaders to help people see that there’s leadership inside them because there is. Every one of us has a purpose, everyone has a way of contributing to our communities.”

The Chamber Foundation is now recruiting for the 2021-22 class. Applications are due Monday Aug. 2.
**UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**

**Monday July 26 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Membership Mixer**
@ Keegan Ales
20 St. James Street | Kingston, NY
No charge for Members and Prospective Members
Reservations are required. No walk-ins.
Sponsor: Timely Signs

**Nomination Deadline**
Friday July 30 | 5:00 pm

**Business Recognition Award Nominations**
Nominate your favorite Business, Business Leader or Organization
Nomination form available online at
www.UlsterChamber.org

**Leadership Ulster Application Deadline**
Monday August 2, 2021
For information contact Ingrid Kulick
845.338.5100 x106 or Ingrid@UlsterChamber.org
www.UlsterChamberFoundation.org
1st Post-COVID Networking Mixer!
Keegan Ales Will Be Chamber Host

It’s been a long 17 months with no in-person Chamber Mixers, but that’s all about to change on July 26 when the iconic Keegan Ales hosts the July Networking Mixer from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at 20 St. James St. in Kingston.

The event will also be a chance to reflect on the life and legacy of founder Tommy Keegan, who died April 30. Keegan started Keegan Ales in 2003 and was at the forefront of the craft brewery movement that has flourished across the state and the nation.

“We’re happy to have the Chamber back for an in-person mixer—the first one since COVID—and happy to be co-sponsoring it with Timely Signs, our neighbors and dear friends,” said Lisa Hantes, who was Keegan’s lifelong partner. “We will be honoring the memory of Tommy Keegan. Keegan Ales is open six nights a week and we’re continuing to brew every day. We’re not rolling up the bricks and closing the shop down. That’s not what he would want after 18 years.”

Hantes said she and Keegan’s ex-wife and business partner, Christy Keegan, are working together to be the face of the company and to fill those big shoes Tommy left behind.

“We’ve lost the founder and the brewmaster, but he strove for 18 years to make the brand what it is today, and we feel that it would be disrespectful not to continue in his name,” Hantes said. “We have a strong brew crew, a very dedicated staff, a supportive family and overwhelming community support to keep us moving forward. I cannot express enough the amount of community support that has been given. It’s a credit to his name and all that he did for his community.”

The legacy of Keegan, a larger-than-life Kingston businessman, will be acknowledged, Hantes said.

“We don’t want it to be a somber event, but we thought it would be impossible not to acknowledge his passing in some way,” Hantes said. “It will be very much a traditional Chamber Mixer. We expect it to be the same as always. There will be pictures on display and there may be words spoken, just nothing too maudlin. Tommy built this place for people to come and have a good time. So, we’ll celebrate his life and his legacy.

“We’ll likely release a new beer that night. We also have a big, beautifully tented outside area, which is perfect for this sort of thing. So, people won’t have to cram inside and feel uncomfortable in close quarters.”

Hantes said business leaders will also have access to food trucks, which have served as the kitchen for Keegan Ales during the pandemic. There also will be live entertainment, a Keegan staple.

“Keegan Ales is all about live music,” Hantes said. “We have live music five nights a week. We have trivia on Tuesdays. The only day we’re closed is Monday, which is the day we’ll have the Mixer, so it makes sense that we’d have food, we’d have some music, and I think we’ll have some games to play—that kind of stuff. The usual ‘Keegan shenanigans.’ That’s a Tommy Keegan quote.”

Keegan started the business after learning about an empty building on St. James Street that nobody would buy because there was a defunct brewery inside. The structure was built in the early 1800s and was formerly the home of the Woodstock Brewing Co.

After months of cleaning and rebuilding, Keegan Ales brewed its first batch of beer on Aug. 1, 2003. Keegan then set out hand-selling beer to local bars and restaurants the next month.

Keegan’s has gone on to win several awards over the years, including Best Brewery in The Hudson Valley and Best Brewery in New York State, both in 2009. The Chamber honored Keegan Ales as its Small Business of the Year in 2010.

“Tommy and I worked side by side together for the last eight years,” Hantes said. “I ran the front of the house and he ran the back of the house and the brewing side of it and did all the wholesale; I was in charge of all the retail and the restaurant and the bar.”

Keegan’s hosted its first Chamber Mixer in October 2003 and was the host for several others over the past 18 years. Tommy loved hosting Chamber Mixers and having business leaders mingling at his venue.

“I just like that the Mixers get people in the same room at the same time and gives the people who have been around a long time a chance to meet the new people to the Chamber,” Hantes said. “They strengthen the community and especially the business community.”

Hantes said this one will be special given the circumstances of COVID and Keegan’s passing.

“Keegan Ales has always been a staunch supporter of the Chamber and of the community,” she said. “It’s always been sort of a hub of Kingston. We’re honored to be the first to have the in-person Mixer and it makes sense because we’ve done it so many times and we’ve always been such a big supporter of the Chamber and [President] Ward [Todd] and all the things that they do.”

Chamber Mixers are a great way to network and promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. This free networking event is open to Chamber members and prospective members. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Chamber office at (845) 338-5100 or by registering online at www.ulsterchamber.org.
**WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS**

### 1053 MAIN STREET GALLERY

1053 Main Street  
**Fleischmanns, NY 12430**  
www.1053maingallery.com  
**Amy Masters** - Director  
Category: Art Galleries  
Description: Contemporary Art Gallery

### DARK ARTS TATTOO

1086 Morton Blvd.  
Kingston, NY 12401  
darkartstattoo.bigcartel.com  
**Jalani Crooks** – Owner  
Category: Artists  
Description: Dark Arts is the safe haven for the different, the weird, the minority & the misunderstood, while providing your quality piercing & tattoo work. What makes us different as humans, is what also makes us beautiful. Dark Arts is a strong advocate for the phrase, “To have Light, you must have Darkness.”

### FRIENDS OF BRUNEL PARK: THE EMILE BRUNEL STUDIO AND SCULPTURE PARK

4008 State Route 28  
**Boiceville, NY 12412**  
www.brunelpark.org  
**Cynthia Nikitin** - Co-Founder, Board Chair  
Category: Historical Societies/Museums  
Description: Brunel Park is a community-based educational and cultural center, committed to celebrating, supporting, and preserving the tangible and intangible cultural assets and practices of the Native American people of our region, native gardens and horticulture, and the photographic, literary, and visual arts. Our immediate focus is on raising funds to restore and repair the century old figurative statuary and totem poles that are the foundation of this iconic, national landmark historic property, that were conceived and constructed by Emile Brunel between 1929 and 1939.

### AROMA THYME BISTRO

165 Canal Street  
**Ellenville, NY 12428**  
www.aromathymebistro.com  
**Marcus Guiliano** - Owner  
Category: Restaurants  
Description: 1st Green certified, #1 Rated TA & most awarded HV restaurant, Grass-fed steaks, seafood & vegan. Best Beer menu and Ulster County restaurant. EST 2003.

### BENNY’S TROPICAL ICE

Mobile Tropical Ice Truck  
**Kingston, NY 12401**  
**Kamir Hylton-Jackson** - Owner  
Categories: Ice Cream & Frozen Desserts; Caterers  
Description: Benny’s Tropical Ice is a mobile street cart offering locally made tropical ice with flavors including coconut, pineapple, rainbow, cherry, mango & swedish fish. Hire Benny’s for your next event!

### MAEVE’S PLACE

5569 Route 28  
**Phoenicia, NY 12464**  
www.maevesplace.com  
**Iva Walsh** - Owner  
Category: Coffee Houses  
Description: A local coffee shop featuring specialty espresso drinks, made-in-house baked goods, and all day breakfast and lunch.

### MAX’S KANSAS CITY PROJECT

79 Emerson St.  
**Kingston, NY 12401**  
www.maxskansascity.org  
**Yvonne Sewall** - CEO & Founder  
Categories: Arts Organizations; Non-Profit Organizations  
Description: We provide emergency relief for individuals in the arts in crisis awarding one-time grants of between $500 - $1000 for housing, medical or legal aid. Applicants must live in NY State. We empower teens through the arts with our Max’s teen award to attend a summer program in the arts.

### GLAMPSTAR, LLC

PO Box 1404  
**Woodstock, NY 12498**  
www.glampstar.com  
**Nicole Friedman** - Owner  
Category: Rental Service  
Description: GlampStar provides on demand luxury camping for events including weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, music events, and reunions. We come to your location and set up a dream-like, luxury glamping tent village. We accommodate from 1-20 tents per event. We offer large all weather cotton canvas tents with a real mattress, rugs, tables, chairs, chandeliers, twinkle light, and so much more.

### MM HOME IMPROVEMENTS

63 Stephan Street  
**Kingston, NY 12401**  
www.mmhomeimprovment.com  
**Maynor Mazariego** - CEO  
Category: Contractors - General  
Description: MM HOME IMPROVEMENTS  
We specialize in interior and exterior home remodeling, all type of repairs or new construction we also specialize in decks, kitchens, bathrooms and professional painting, either exterior or interior. We are a company based on Hudson Valley resident’s trust and needs, extending you very cordial and professional service. You dream it, we build it.

### MOONBURGER

5 Powells Ln  
**Kingston, NY 12401**  
www.moonburger.com  
**Jeremy Robinson-Leon** - Founder  
Category: Restaurants  
Description: A classic drive-thru burger stop reimagined for 2021 and beyond. Launching soon!

### THE PINK ELEPHANT CAFE

1090 Morton Blvd.  
**Kingston, NY 12401**  
www.thepinkelephantcafe.us  
**Erin Hennessy** - Owner  
Category: Restaurants  
Description: Daytime cafe and weekend brunch spot. Monday to Friday Breakfast and Lunch. Saturday and Sunday Brunch. Family friendly, everyone welcome. Open late each evening for ice cream and desserts.
STEP ONE CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER
SERVICES INC.
106 Vineyard Ave.
Highland, NY 12528
www.step1ny.org/highland
Christopher Dennehy - Executive Director
Category: Human Services
Description: Step One has served the Mid-Hudson region since 1994, and has expanded over time to a total of four sites throughout Ulster County. The mission of Step One is to empower each unique individual and their significant others, through client centered trauma informed care, in developing skills and options which support lifestyles that can be used as alternatives to active participation in behavioral difficulties and the chronic illness of Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders.

VIP WINERY VACATIONS
87 Country Club Road
Ellenville, NY 12428
www.vipwineryvacations.com
Courtney Guiliano - Co-Owner
Category: Travel Agencies
Description: Winery tours and vacations throughout New York and Italy.

For information on Chamber Membership, email Jess Davis at Jess@UlsterChamber.org
Anniversaries:

**40 Years**
Aqua Jet Pools & Service Inc.
Ulster County Government

**35 Years**
Howard Johnson Inn

**25 Years**
Emerson Resort & Spa
Medical Associates of the Hudson Valley, PC
Rondout Yacht Basin, Inc.
Ultra Seal Corp.

**20 Years**
Excelsior Wood Products
H & H Environmental
US Health Equipment Co., Inc.

**15 Years**
Fidelis Care
Hudson Valley Current
New Horizons
USALLIANCE Financial

**10 Years**
A Slice of Italy
AAA Fuel and Service, Inc.
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)
Aqua Jet Pools & Service Inc.
Beautiful Bodies Auto Body
C3 Quest, LLC
CareMount Medical, P. C.
CDPHP
Center for Spectrum Services
Colonial Roofing & Siding Co., Inc.
Corporate Protection Group Inc.
Daily Freeman
Excelsior Wood Products
Fidelis Care
Freer Abstract, Inc.
George Kackos
Gillette Creamery
H & H Environmental
Hot Water Solutions, Inc.
Hotel Kinsley
Howard Johnson Inn
Hudson Valley Current
Hudson Valley Insurance Agency
J.H. Construction & General Contracting, Inc.
JK’s Wine & Liquor
KeyBank
Kingston Animal Hospital PC
Kingston Fine Jewelry
Kingston Nissan
Kingstone Insurance Company
KTA Resources LLC
Marianne E. Wood-Jensen Tax and Accounting, Inc.
Markertek
Maverick Concerts, Inc.
Medical Associates of the Hudson Valley, PC
N & S Supply Inc.
New Horizons
Newburgh/NYC North KOA
Numrich Gun Parts Corp.
Pie for the People!
Pine Ridge Dude Ranch
Plaza Pizza
Quinlan Optometry
Raleigh Green Inc.
Rest Assured Alarm Systems Inc.
Rip Van Winkle Campgrounds
Roberti Automotive, LLC
Rondout Yacht Basin, Inc.
Schain and Company, CPAs
Schneider’s Jewelers Inc.
Sky View Mexican Restaurant
Ten Broeck Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing
The Woodstock Inn on the Millstream
Town of Esopus
Turn Up the Beet
Turner Construction Company
Ultra Seal Corp.
United Healthcare: Medicare and Retirement
USALLIANCE Financial
W & J Palkowics
Walmart
Woodstock Golf Club Inc.
Zena Recreation Park

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A Slice of Italy

Business Leadership Seminar
**Be Plastic-Free because Plastic Pollutes!**
A project by Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
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www.UCRAA.org @UCRAA

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Sign up for a FREE virtual seminar!
UCRAA’s educators will help business managers:

* Understand the waste-climate connection!*
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To learn more and to register, visit
www.ucraa.org/events-classes/zero-waste-seminar-project

Did you know that 46% of New York’s municipal solid waste comes from the commercial sector? Businesses and other Intuitions play an important role in helping to reduce the waste stream, especially with concern to plastic food service containers and packaging that makes up 30% of the total waste stream.

Sourced from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Ribbon Cuttings

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www.hvsportscards.com

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456 Broadway, Kingston, NY
www.joebeez.com

ZENA RECREATION PARK
714 Zena Highwoods Road, Woodstock, NY
www.zenarec.com

YARI’S BOUTIQUE
1082 Morton Blvd., Kingston, NY
yarisb.com

YMCA OF KINGSTON AND ULSTER COUNTY
507 Broadway, Kingston, NY
ymcaulster.org

WILTWYCK GOLF CLUB
404 Steward Lane, Kingston, NY
wiltwyck.org
Ribbon Cuttings

**AMERICAN THUNDER**

352 E Chester Street, Kingston, NY

**THE PINK ELEPHANT CAFE**

1090 Morton Blvd., Kingston, NY
www.thepinkelephantcafe.us

**MILLSTREAM TAVERN**

114 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, NY
www.millstreamtavern.com

**STEP ONE CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER ADDICTION SERVICES**

500 Aaron Court, Kingston, NY
step1ny.org/kingston-new-york

**YWCA ULSTER COUNTY**

209 Clinton Avenue, Kingston, NY
ywcaulstercounty.org

**THE MELTAWAY BAKERY**

3189 Route 9W (Barclay Heights), Saugerties, NY
themeltawaybakery.com