and mentor each other in partnership with other county and said. “We also seek ways in which women leaders can inspire new businesses, and in bringing county government, businesses women leaders we have in Ulster County.”

“We thought we should bring women and leadership together” Davis said smaller, more intimate events will be held through the year to hear from more women. This is the first meeting and we’re planning on having one per month to start.”

“Engage aspiring and experienced women leaders in supporting, empowering and connecting each other through sharing,” Davis said.

“We’re not a gigantic firm that’s publicly traded. They tend to lose focus on that interpersonal relationship.” We’re not a gigantic firm that’s publicly traded. They tend to lose focus on that interpersonal relationship.”

“We’re a part-time consultant, his brother said. “We started with Owen 11 years ago to work managing his clients, Paul described him as semi-retired. In his career, Auerbach had served as the Chief Financial Officer of The Reis Group, an independent full-service insurance agency that specializes in business insurance for businesses of all sizes. He has a new President, Owen McKee. Owen stepped into the role after the motto of the firm, ‘the customer first,’ he said. In the company, according to Paul Cassaro, the company’s first President, who has served on the Board of Directors for 20 years.

Owen succeeds Luc Cassaro as President. While Luc is still managing the clients, Paul described him as semi-retired. In the Chamber, he has served on the Board of Directors from 2009 from 2019 when state of Ulster Women in Leadership was conceived. He then appointed Deputy Comptroller and also joined the County Executive’s Office and was named as the Chief Financial Officer. Additionally, Auerbach has served as the Board Chair of Village of Ellenville and as Village Manager.

“We’re also coordinating with the Women’s Leadership Network of Ulster County to have a special networking Mixer planned to debut a new program called ‘Ulster Women in Leadership.’ The Mixer will be held on March 8 at 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Kingston City Hall, in partnership with the Ulster Women’s Leadership Network. It is scheduled for 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Kingston City Hall, and Chamber Foundation, which boasts a vision of talented leaders of various backgrounds, identities and life experiences to host meetups, panels and round-table discussions focused on Leadership development is a hallmark of the non-profit Chamber Foundation. The mixer will be held on March 8 at 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Kingston City Hall, in partnership with the Ulster Women’s Leadership Network.

“An exciting initiative for The Reis Group is also a new component to the Chamber’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast. The Reis Group is the breakfast sponsor and plans to feature a special tribute to the Irish.”

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Six luminaries who have enriched the local business landscape, change and excellence in the advanced racial equity will be in the spotlight at the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce Black Business Achievement Award April 26 at 6:00-8:00 pm at the Ulster Savings Bank at 180 Schwenk Dr. in Kingston. The Chamber is co-hosting this event with Black History Month Kingston and Ulster County Tourism, Doors open at 5:00. The awards ceremony begins at 5:00 and a Community Connect follows from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Presenter Sponsor is Ulster Savings Bank, and the Welcoming Sponsor is Go Ulster County Workforce Development, Midtown Arts District, Kingston Upton Business Association and the Boys and Girls Club.

Sejourne Truth Award

Christina Van Dyke is SUNY Ulster’s Chief Diversity Officer and the chair of the English Department and Foreign Languages and Philosophy department. Van Dyke is passionate about education and being involved in the community. She holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from SUNY New Paltz. In 1992. As such, it is the oldest Black-owned bank in the state. The bank serves as a community institution with a unique presence known for its commitment to local businesses, making a difference on a community-wide scale. It is dedicated to helping others such as the Everette Hodge Community Center (the founder of the Everette Hodge Community Center) and the Lace Mill. His work with the Everette Hodge Community Center has been recognized for her efforts with SUNY Ulster’s inaugural Distinguished Alumna Award and the Kendra Innovation Award in 2018. She is an author, artist, and musician.

Black Business Leadership Award

Joseph Middle Jr. is the owner of J’s Painting Service, a Kingston-based business that specializes in construction and painting. Middle Jr. established the company 10 years ago with the goal of creating a place where he could share his passion while also providing support and guidance. J’s Painting Service has a reputation for providing services to numerous organizations, individuals, and local colleges and participated in Kingston’s Community Policing. Middle Jr. recognized for her efforts with SUNY Ulster’s inaugural Distinguished Alumna Award and the Kendra Innovation Award in 2018. She is an author, artist, and musician.

Business Achievement Awards

Alonzo Jordan, a rising star at Rough Draft Bar & Books in Kingston. He started out as a dishwasher in 2020 at Kingston Bread and worked his way up to be one of the top-producing baristas at the popular coffeehouse. Jordan also is involved in the YMCA Farm Project, Radio Kingston and the Lace Mill. His video and photography skills.

First-time ministry with her husband, John Perez, at Faith Temple Church in Beacon. Seton Hall University, currently serves in full-time ministry with her husband, John Perez, at Faith Temple Church in Beacon. She was an educator in the Kingston City School District for 30 years. Additionally, she served as the principal at John F. Kennedy High School and the Krembs Innovation Award in 2018. She is an author, artist, and musician.

Young Black Leader of Tomorrow

Maureen and John Byrd-Blue is a rising star at Rough Draft Bar & Books in Kingston. She was an educator in the Kingston City School District for 30 years. Additionally, she served as the principal at John F. Kennedy High School and the Krembs Innovation Award in 2018. She is an author, artist, and musician.
Dr. Gina Carbonari, executive director of the Ulster County SPCA, said that while volunteers do much of the staffing, the shelter also has professionally paid staff. “Sometimes people have the misconception that as volunteers, we are not there,” she said. “It’s nice to think that everybody is just a volunteer, but they’re not. These are professionals that are working here. They aren’t just people who have experience in how to care for and handle animals. These are not volunteers. This is an industry that requires education and training.”

The shelter is a nonprofit organization that operates independently. “It’s nice to think that everybody is just a volunteer, but they’re not,” Carbonari said. “One of the biggest misunderstandings of the public is that as volunteers, we are not there, and that is not what we’re really trying to do. We have programs to do that, but we really have to come here every month to be able to do that.”

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Thanks to our YUP MeetUp Host, West Kill Supply, 602 Broadway, Kingston.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

ACORN PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING
324 North Plank Road
Newburgh, NY 12550
www.acornplumbers.com
Ryan Polacco - General Manager
Categories: Plumbing, Air Conditioning and/or Heating
Description: Acorn provides plumbing for light commercial projects. We also provide plumbing, heating, and air conditioning service and installation to residential homes. Drain cleaning and pipe inspection for residential homes have recently been added to our fleet.

ADERSTA ATM
1900 Ulster Avenue
Lake Katrine, NY 12449
Jonnad Iqbal - Owner
Category: ATM Machines
Description: We Place ATM Machines in businesses for them to gain Revenue.

APX MODULAR SOLUTIONS
PO Box 1073
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Issa Neshelvat - President
Category: Contractors - General
Description: We offer innovative and cost-effective solutions for creating accessory dwelling units, whether for homeowners or for affordable housing through our website. Our mission is to make customizable and quality prefabricated units that are architecturally sound and fit the unique needs and requirements of our customers.

ARCHITECT FIBER
300 Enterprise Drive - Suite 320
Kingston, NY 12401
www.architectfiber.com
Matt Gillis - Community Development Manager
Category: Internet Service Providers
Description: Architect’s mission is to deliver fast, reliable, environmentally friendly, and affordable Internet access to underserved or overlooked markets over a world-class XG/L-PON fiber network.

BUNS BURGERS
32 North Front Street
Kingston, NY 12401
www.bunsburgersny.com
Ryan Vlaster - Owner
Category: Restaurants
Description: With three locations in the Hudson Valley, Buns Burgers is pushing the farm-to-table movement into quick-service dining. Our philosophy is to prove that you can have a burger & frie, while still maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Local farmers, like the Kilcoyne family, help us in our mission to source the freshest ingredients possible. We’re committed to providing a delicious grass-fed beef burger, hand-cut fries, and locally sourced milk and ice cream from Boise’s Dairy and Adirondack Creamery for our milkshakes.

CARING CONNECTORS
721 Broadway - Suite 100B
Kingston, NY 12401
www.caringconnectorslc.com
Chane Knox - CEO
Category: Home Health Services
Description: Home care referral agency.

COMMUNITY METALWORKS, LLC
28 Riverside Drive
Marlboro, NY 12542
Brian Hutchinson - President
Category: Manufacturers
Description: Community Metalworks (CMw), is a startup 15,000 sq ft. manufacturer in the Marlboro, NY area. We have tube bending, forming, and bending capabilities. CMw is associated with Community Stainless on the Hudson Valley. Community Metalworks aims to become a key player in the Hudson Valley.

DUGO REALTY
110 Partition Street
Saugerties, NY 12477
www.dugoethics.com
Jason Dugo - Principal Broker/Owner
Category: Real Estate
Description: A locally owned and operated real estate brokerage that focuses on exceptional customer service and a unique dedication to helping clients find their perfect home or property.

HUDSON VALLEY HOUSE WASH, LLC
39 Clay Ave
Wallkill, NY 12589
www.jacerbfundamentalbeginningsllc.com
Zak Fisher - Owner
Category: Home Improvement
Description: “We are the Hudson Valley's premier soft wash specialist for all of your exterior cleaning and restoration needs. Home, Office, or Store fronts. We take care of it all.” Pressure / Power Washing, Roof Cleaning, Window Cleaning, Gutter Cleaning, Wood Cleaning & Restoration, Power & Concrete Cleaning & Restoration, Surface Cleaning, Building Restoration, Cedar Roof / Siding Cleaning & Restoration, Residential & Commercial Snow, and Ice Management, Holiday Light Design Installation & Removal, Gum, Graffiti and Rust Removal, Play Ground Cleaning, Patio Restoration, and Fleet Cleaning Services.

JACER FUNDAMENTAL BEGINNINGS
53 Clay Ave
Wallkill, NY 12589
www.jacerbfundamentalbeginningsllc.com
Jamaal Spencer - Owner
Category: Day Care Providers
Description: JACER Fulfillment's beginnings, LLC is a home-based Group Family Day Care in the Wallkill area for children 15 months to 5 years old. Staff is CPR/First Aid certified. The program offers high-quality childcare services and is licensed by New York State Office of Children and Family Services. With the expertise of the director, children will engage in age-appropriate experiences that will further the development of each and every child.

KEY BANK MORTGAGE
PO Box 670
Saugerties, NY 12477
www.keybankmortgage.com
William Hadsel - Owner
Category: Mortgages
Description: Residential Mortgage Lending.

KINGSTON CYCLEY
612 Ulster Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
www.kingstoncycley.com
William Hadley - Owner
Category: Bicycles - Retail & Service
Description: Bicycle sales and service, custom bikes, wheel building, car racks and plenty of accessories. We also have expanded our parts department for faster service.