



# NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ [www.sdutchessnews.com](http://www.sdutchessnews.com)

## ‘Spirits of the Night’

Wyant family tradition leads ‘phenomenal’ Night Crew at DC Fair

by Curtis Schmidt

They are the unsung heroes of the Dutchess County Fair. They are the people that fair-goers rarely see. But the impact they have on the Fair and fairgrounds is “nothing short of phenomenal,” according to Fair General Manager Andy Imperati.

They are the members of the night crew – or, as Billy Wyant calls his team, “Spirits of the Night.”

Wyant, who is carrying on a long family tradition with the Fair’s night crew, said the job is “all about pride. We know the grounds have got to look outstanding and super clean each day of the fair. We take a lot of pride in knowing that we have one of the cleanest fairs in the state.”

He said fair-goers “never see what is going on. They just see the result. Each day of the fair there is an amazing transformation.”

Imperati said, “There are many people who work behind the scene that fair-goers rarely see. One of these teams is the Night Crew. These are the people who work throughout the night so our fairgrounds look as good as it does each morning.”

Several generations of the Wyant family have been taking part in that daily transformation. Billy, now in his 29th year, is taking the reins from his father Wally, who will retire after this year’s fair. Wally has been on the job for 46 years and has always been accompanied by his wife, Doreen. Wally and Doreen began working under fair general manager Sam Lloyd.

However, that tradition goes back even further as Wally said his father, William R. Wyant Sr. and his father were also involved in the night crew over the years, as were several aunts and uncles.

“It’s been part of our family for as far back as I can remember,” said Billy. “I want to keep the tradition going.”



Members of the Night Crew for the Dutchess County Fair include (back row) from left, Anthony Shaffer, Tyler Holmes, Gary Camburn, George Tompkins, Billy Wyant and Wally Wyant. In front are, from left, Angela Burley, Cindi Camburn, Brittany Delarm, Brittane Lowery and Doreen Wyant. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

He likens the fair to a major holiday.

“The fair just becomes part of your life. Missing the fair would be like missing Thanksgiving or Christmas,” he said. “You just don’t miss it. If we did, there would be a tremendous void in our lives.”

So how does the “transformation” happen?

“It’s magic, don’t you know?” Billy said with a laugh.

Actually the crew of about 19 individuals has a shift of 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. and “works like a well-oiled machine,” said Billy. The group numbered around 30 – before the gas-powered leaf blowers became the norm. “Before that, they used to sweep all of the paved surfaces by hand every night,” he said.

Now, the group is divided into teams. One group handles raking the grounds,

another handles the leaf blowers and another crew handles the garbage and picnic areas. Vacuum trucks and garbage trucks are also part of the nightly project.

“Everybody knows their routine, we don’t have to tell anyone what to do,” said Billy. “We’re lucky to have the same group return every year.”

He added, “This is obviously a second

*continued on page 3*

## International artists carve niche at Stanfordville art center

Open Studio set Aug. 14

by Kate Goldsmith

The Baraka Center for Three-dimensional Experimentation is tucked away on 11 wooded acres in Stanfordville. Kardash Onnig, who has run the center since 1979, hosts two sculptors for a summer residency each year and then invites the public to view their finished works. The 2016 Open Studio Installation will take place on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with music by local jazz duo Kara O’Neill (singer) and Jeremy Bacon (piano) from 3 to 5 p.m. There is no admission fee.

Artists from around the world apply for the four-week residencies at Baraka (Arabic for “grace and blessing”). This year’s event features creative carving projects by Sahak Poghosyan from Armenia and Gabriel Kemzo Malou from Senegal.

“When Baraka decided to have Gabriel from Senegal, French speaking, and Sahag from Armenia, Armenian speaking, I feared



Sculptors Sahak Poghosyan from Armenia (left) and Gabriel Kemzo Malou from Senegal work together to cut logs for their creative carving projects. The two artists are completing a month-long residency at The Baraka Center for Three-dimensional Experimentation in Stanfordville. The public is invited to an Open Studio on Sunday, Aug. 14. Courtesy photo

*continued on page 2*

### INDEX

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Letters to the Editor | 4     |
| Community Calendar    | 7     |
| Creative Living       | 9-18  |
| Movie Review          | 10    |
| Love to Cook          | 11    |
| Nightlife             | 12    |
| Exhibitions           | 13    |
| Get Growing!          | 14    |
| A&E Calendar          | 15    |
| Horoscopes            | 18    |
| Crossword Puzzle      | 18    |
| Sudoku                | 18    |
| Obituaries            | 23    |
| Public Notices        | 24-25 |
| Classifieds           | 26-27 |



0 94922 26803 7



# Open Studio at Baraka Center for Three-dimensional Experimentation in Stanfordville

continued from cover



Above: Gabriel Kemzo Malou uses a variety of wood-carving tools to create his sculpture. Right: Sahak Poghosyan places a bowl on his sculpture. *Courtesy photos*

the lack of common language would be a problem,” said Onnig, who is Armenian and speaks both languages. “But, the first day they arrived, they cut and rolled logs from an old dead trunk of a maple from the forest and began work. Their common ground and communication was their work ethic, their love of wood and their choice of tools.”

The artists are provided with private accommodations, rustic homes built by Onnig using all-local wood that was milled nearby, local stone and other natural materials. Artists have access to a kitchen, and dinners are served family-style.

“For a month I’m a handyman, I cook for them,” said Onnig.

The artists are given a log to carve and an outdoor workspace under a canopy.

They’re encouraged to bring their own tools but Baraka also provides access to hand and power tools.

“Gabriel began to carve with a traditional axe that he had carved the handle for, and Sahag got to work on a ‘plow,’ a universal symbol of rebirth,” said Onnig. “They communicated in a universal three dimensional hands-on ethics.”

Poghosyan has exhibited his work in Armenia as well as Los Angeles, where he lived for several years. His sculpture, titled “Holy Grail,” reflects his “search for the unknown,” the artist said in a statement. The never-ending search for the grail has led the artist “from urban consciousness to my inner nature consciousness.”

“I chose to come to Baraka because here

they do not ‘make’ art, they live art,” Poghosyan said. “I myself consider art making playing with materials. My work is the continuation of my childhood games. Only the tools and places have changed. Here at Baraka the subject of my game is the wood from the trees, since we live in the woods. Had I been in the desert, the subject would have been sand.”

Malou has titled his work “C’est Ici (It is Here).”

“My work at Baraka is not about the piece of wood, but to experience the three dimensionality in the human that confirms its multi-dimensionality,” he said. He applied for the Baraka residency “because its artistic and philosophic structure reflects mine, that of humanity and environment.”

“Gabriel ... lives in his nature,” said Poghosyan. “He feels nature as Africans

do, and the work he is producing is born from his inner nature.”

“To be human is a living spirit. It is not necessary to go far for our interior quest,” said Malou. “Through work I am able to dedicate quiet time for that quest. The present work is an altar for silence. To meditate the spirit of diversity of the world, the spirit born of the four elements: Earth, water, fire and air.”

Onnig said both artists speak enough English that Open Studio visitors will be able to converse with them and ask questions about their work.

For more information, contact Helen Hamada at [transfourmer@gmail.com](mailto:transfourmer@gmail.com) or (845) 868-1910.

Through the years, Baraka has presented a range of programs often geared toward local youth, such as workshops for making toys and shadow puppets.

“This place has to do with three-dimensionality,” said Onnig. “My personal thing with the teenagers, with the children, is to make them feel good about having worked on something. ... That feeling that you just made something yourself, you figured it out by doing something: we’re missing that, even in the art world.”

He said children today are used to living in a two-dimensional world.

“Why do we have problems with the kids? Why are they not feeling good or excited? They take that little thing in their hand [Smart Phone] and they’re satisfied,” said Onnig.

There’s also an apprenticeship program where participants are sponsored by a local business to learn a craft or trade, such as making clay urns.

Baraka features other installations from previous artists-in-residence as well as Onnig himself. Last year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a tragic historical event, the systematic decimation of the Armenian population in Anatolian Turkey, Onnig created “Transfourming Sorrow,” a multimedia installation that invited visitors to mourn their own grief in the “Womb of Sorrow” and transform their own sorrow in the “Field of Transfourmation.”

The Baraka Center is at 76 Halas Lane in Stanfordville. There is ample parking on site. Visit [www.barakacenterfor3-d.com](http://www.barakacenterfor3-d.com) for additional information.

## Helping People Take Steps Towards Independence





### Sharon Health Care Center

**Some of the services we offer include:**

- Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care
- Hospice & Respite Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies
- IV Therapies
- Orthopedic Rehabilitation
- Stroke & Neurological Rehabilitation
- Pulmonary & Cardiac Recovery
- Complex Medical Care
- Pain Management
- Wound Care

27 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon CT 06069  
860.364.1002 • [athenanh.com/sharon](http://athenanh.com/sharon)

*Managed by Athena Health Care Systems*