

GOSHEN LIVING

MEET THE NAULA BROTHERS

A Story of Family, Flavor, and
Culinary Excellence



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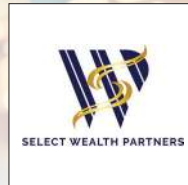
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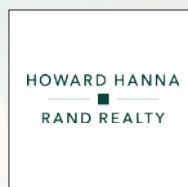
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CONTENT DUE:	EDITION DATE:
December 15.....	February
January 15.....	March
February 15.....	April
March 15.....	May
April 15.....	June
May 15.....	July
June 15.....	August
July 15.....	September
August 15.....	October
September 15.....	November
October 15.....	December
November 15.....	January

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Dear Goshen Residents

As the lights twinkle through the village and the air fills with the scent of pine and fresh-baked treats, I'm reminded of just how magical this season starts to feel in December. It's a time filled with gratitude, connection, and the spirit of giving—a perfect reflection of what makes Goshen such an extraordinary town.

This month, we are thrilled to feature *Chef Luis and his brother Manuel Naula*—Goshen residents whose inspiring journey from humble beginnings has led them to create something truly remarkable. Their story is one of family, perseverance, and passion, now shared with the community through their heartfelt commitment to bringing joy and homegrown, delicious cuisine to the table.

Our Charity Spotlight this month holds a special place in my heart. I had the pleasure of sitting down with the President of the Board of the Junior League of Orange County, NY (JLOCNY), where I was deeply inspired by their unwavering dedication to serving the women and children of our community. I am humbled to personally witness the lasting impact their vision will have on generations to come.

Be sure to explore our *Calendar of Events*, where you'll find Goshen at its best—neighbors coming together for toy drives, holiday gatherings, and festive family celebrations. Don't miss the annual Tree Lighting at Village Green—an evening that perfectly captures the heart and harmony of the community.

Our *Expert Contributors*, the Hudson Valley Real Estate Team, remind us that financial planning for the new year begins with assembling a trusted team of professionals who can help guide you toward your goals—no matter what stage of planning you're in.

This season, I encourage you to give the greatest gift of all—the gift of giving back. It will reward you in ways no bow-tied box ever could. As we step into the new year, take a moment to reflect on those who have gone the extra mile for you—a neighbor, a family member, or a local business owner whose act of kindness made a difference. Reach out to us! These are the stories we want to continue celebrating in these pages.

From all of us here at *Goshen Living Magazine*, thank you for being part of our journey and for letting us be a part of yours. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

With gratitude,

Marcia Rodriguez

Publisher



MARCIA RODRIGUEZ
Publisher



JENNIFER ROJAS
Content Coordinator



JESSICA BOWER
Contributing Photographer

December

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUES., DEC. 2

Planning Board Submission Date for December Meeting

@ Goshen Village Hall, 276 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
villageofgoshe-n-y.gov/calendar

WED., DEC. 3

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Hosted by Twin Ponds Greenhouse & Goshen Chamber of Commerce
@New Street Lounge, 14 New St, Goshen, NY 10924
Time: 6-9pm
Tickets available at goshenchamberofcommerce.com

THURS., DEC 4

Jingle & Mingle Goshen Chamber of Commerce Takes Over The Castle

@The Castle Fun Center 109 Brookside Ave, Chester NY 10918
Tickets available at goshenchamberofcommerce.com

FRIDAY., DEC. 5

Elf Sleigh In

@ Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, 366 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Children's Program - Grades K-6
Design your own sleigh and cozy up inside with popcorn for a showing of the classic holiday movie Elf!
Time: 4-6 pm Free for Kids!
goshenpubliclibrary.org

SAT., DEC. 6

Holiday on the Village Green

@ Village Green, Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Celebrate the season in downtown Goshen with festive shopping and holiday cheer!
Enjoy the Holiday Pop-Up Boutiques (1-6 pm), Christmas Parade (around 5 pm), Santa's arrival, caroling, a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and the annual tree lighting.
Time: 1-6 pm
villageofgoshe-n-y.gov

SUNDAY., DEC 7

Breakfast with Santa

@The Castle Fun Center 109 Brookside Ave, Chester NY 10918
Enjoy a Tasty Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Photo Ops and Christmas Crafts
Time: 9-10:30am
Cost: \$12 for Adults \$6 for Kids
Ages 4+ Kids 3 & Under are Free
thecastlefuncenter.com

MON., DEC. 8

Cocoa Party

@ Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, 366 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Family Program
Drop in to celebrate National Cocoa Day! Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies, and crafts, including a fun sip-and-paint activity.
Time: 4-6 pm
goshenpubliclibrary.org

MON., DEC. 8

Village Board Meeting

@ Goshen Village Hall, 276 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Time: 7-8:30 pm (listed start 7 pm)
villageofgoshe-n-y.gov/calendar

TUES., DEC. 9

Teen Try-Its: DIY Snow Globes

@ Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, 366 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Teen Program - Grades 6-12
Drop in to make your own winter snow globe.
Time: 3-4:30 pm
goshenpubliclibrary.org

TUES., DEC. 9

Joint Recreation Commission (JRC) Meeting

@ Goshen Village Hall, 276 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Time: 7-8:30 pm
villageofgoshe-n-y.gov/calendar

WED., DEC. 10

Custom Etched Cookie Jar

@ Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, 366 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Adult Program
Design a custom stencil to personalize a glass jar using the Library's Cricut Maker 3. Participants need a free Cricut Design Space account. Feel free to bring your own device for the design phase.

Time: 6-7pm
goshenpubliclibrary.org

SAT., DEC. 13

Santa Brunch Party

@Somni Tapas Restaurant, 15 Lake St Monroe, NY 10950
Indulge in festive favorites while the kids meet Santa. Limited seating available.
Time: 10:30am - 3:30PM
sommniny.com

SAT., DEC. 13

The Reading Room - Cornerstone Theatre Arts Staged Reading: The Game's Afoot

@ Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, 366 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Adult Program
Enjoy a staged reading of The Game's Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays) by Ken Ludwig. Set in December 1936, Broadway star William Gillette invites his cast to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry that takes a murderous turn. Directed by Evelyn Albino and featuring Cornerstone Theatre Arts.
Time: 2-4:30 pm
goshenpubliclibrary.org

SAT., DEC. 13

Holiday Cider Dinner

@Ochard Hill Cider Mill, 29 Soons Circle New Hampton, NY 10958



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Time: 6pm
Limited Seating. \$125/ per person

TUES., DEC. 16

**Gingerbread House Party -
Confection Connection**
@ Goshen Public Library &

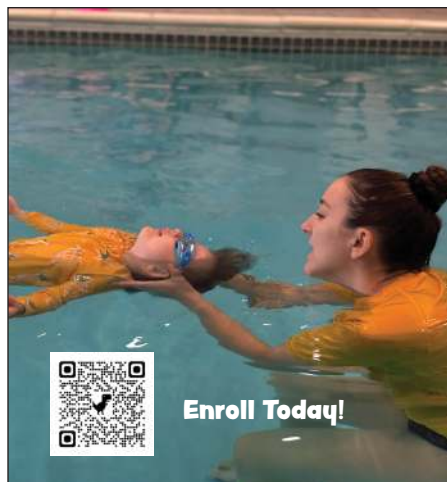
Historical Society, 366 Main St,
Goshen, NY 10924
Family Program
Enjoy a festive evening of holiday games, colorful crafts, and delicious treats! Gingerbread House Contest winners will be announced. Coffee and tea offerings for the Goshen Food Pantry are welcome — donors

are entered in a raffle! Fun for all ages. There will be a gift-wrapping station, so feel free to bring gifts to self-wrap!
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
goshenpubliclibrary.org

TUES., DEC. 16

Planning Board Meeting
@ Goshen Village Hall, 276 Main

St, Goshen, NY 10924
Time: 7:30 pm
villageofgoshen-ny.gov/calendar
Thurs., Dec. 18
Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting
@ Goshen Village Hall, 276 Main St, Goshen, NY 10924
Time: 7:30 pm
villageofgoshen-ny.gov/calendar



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From Loss to Legacy:

The Journey of Chef
Luis & Brother Manuel-
The Somni Story



When I walked into Somni Restaurant in Monroe, NY I immediately felt something different — a quiet warmth that lingers in the air between polished tables and soft lighting, a sense that this place wasn't simply built to serve food, but to share a story. Behind it are two brothers, Chef Luis Naula and Manuel Naula, whose journey from hardship to hospitality embodies perseverance, faith, and the power of a shared dream.

A CHILDHOOD MARKED BY LOSS AND RESILIENCE

When I sat down with Chef Luis, he spoke with the humility of someone who has earned every step of his success. "We lost our parents when we were very young," he said softly. "I was 13 and a half, and Manuel was around nine years old. I have 2 younger brothers as well. After my parents passed, everything changed. There was no money, no one to help. I left school at fifteen and came to the United States to find work." He paused, reflecting. "I came here thinking only about my younger brothers — how to help them finish school. Every dollar I saved went to bringing them back here to the U.S., one by one, until we were all together again." That bond — built through loss and determination — became the foundation for everything that would follow.

FROM PORTER TO RESTAURATEUR

Brother Manuel began his career humbly, working under his brother's management at STK Restaurant in Manhattan. "I started as a porter," he recalled. "Cleaning floors, restocking, doing anything that needed to be done. But little by little, I moved up — from porter to runner, learning the rhythm of the restaurant world." It was there that he realized he shared in his brother's vision — to one day open a small, family-run bar and restaurant of their own. "We used to talk about it all the time," Luis said with a smile. "We didn't have much, but we had the same dream."

A DREAM BUILT TOGETHER

For years, the brothers worked tirelessly — saving, searching, and planning for the right moment. “It took about three years of looking and saving,” Manuel told me. “We would work double shifts, then spend our nights scouting spaces or sketching ideas.”

By 2018, both had settled in Goshen, NY, seeking not only a shorter commute but a safer, quieter life for their growing families. Chef Luis and his wife, Angelica, a first responder, are raising their six children — Luis, Salma, Chantal, Ariana, Giavana, and Axel — while Manuel is the proud father of Jocelyn and Brandon. His wife Lourdes is also a first responder. Together, the brothers found balance in the community and soon discovered a modest space in nearby Monroe that would become the home of Somni — a name that fittingly means dream in Catalan.

“The rent was high,” Luis admitted with a laugh, “but the dream was bigger.”

THE INFLUENCE OF GREAT MENTORS

Chef Luis credits his growth and philosophy in the kitchen to the remarkable chefs he has had the privilege to work alongside. Among them was Chef Paul Liebrandt, Gavin Citron, and Tod Mark Miller, to name a few. But his greatest influence — and lifelong mentor — was the late Chef David Bouley (May 27, 1953 - February 13, 2024), the celebrated American and French chef best known for his iconic Tribeca restaurant, Bouley.

“Working for Chef Bouley changed my life,” Luis shared. “He taught me that the magic behind a great restaurant isn’t just in the food — it’s in understanding the business, the numbers, and the relationships that make people want to come back again and again.”

For over eight years, Luis served as Bouley’s purchasing manager, overseeing the ingredients and operations that made the restaurant a legend. “From him, I learned that excellence is in the details — that the business of hospitality is just as important as the art of it.”

In a gesture that still moves him deeply, Chef Bouley gifted Luis many of the original tables, chairs, and even kitchen equipment from his restaurant — treasures now lovingly preserved at Somni. “It’s a way of keeping my mentor’s spirit alive in everything I do,” Luis said.

BRINGING SOMNI TO LIFE

Somni opened quietly, without fanfare — just two brothers, a few loyal friends, and a belief that good food and good energy speak for themselves. Their concept blended Latin and Mediterranean



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never had lamb like this.' That means everything to me and to see their smiles."

A CHEF ROOTED IN COMMUNITY AND NATURE

When asked what he loves most about living in Goshen, Chef Luis didn't hesitate: "The peace," he said simply. "The tranquility. Those quiet moments give me inspiration — that's when I come up with my recipes." You can often find him at the Goshen Farmers Market, where he shops weekly for seasonal produce and

locally grown fruits that inspire his menu.

"Supporting local farmers is important to me," he added. "Each season brings new ingredients and ideas — that's how I keep creating fresh takes on classic dishes."

THE HEART OF HOSPITALITY

While Chef Luis commands the kitchen, Manuel brings warmth to the front of the house — crafting cocktails and connections with equal precision. "I love creating drinks that tell their own story," he said, describing his signature smoked old-fashioned made

with house-crafted syrups and a touch of theater. "It's simple, but elegant — like the restaurant itself."

Together, the brothers have built something that goes beyond cuisine. Somni is a reflection of family, resilience, and gratitude — a dream realized through discipline and heart.

LOOKING AHEAD

When I asked what comes next, both smiled knowingly. "The goal isn't just to grow," Luis said.

"It's to keep building with purpose — to make Somni known not just for great food, but for what it represents: family, hard work, and community." And then, almost as an afterthought, he added with a grin, "Maybe one day, even a Michelin recognition. But for now, we just want to keep improving, one plate at a time."

As I left Somni that evening, the dining room glowed softly behind me — Luis still plating in the kitchen, Manuel greeting guests at the door. Their story, like their restaurant, is proof that dreams built on love and perseverance can become something lasting and beautiful.

Somni isn't just a place to dine — it's a place to live, laugh, and believe.

influences, reflecting both their heritage and their creative curiosity.

"I like to visualize a dish before I cook it," Chef Luis explained. "The colors, the balance. I start with tradition but always add my own touch — something that feels intuitive, something that tells a story." Today, guests come from across the region to experience his signature dishes: the tender duck entrée, the lamb porterhouse cooked on the bone for rich flavor, and other creations that reflect both artistry and soul. "They're all my babies," he laughed. "But the lamb... that one feels special. People taste it and say, 'I've



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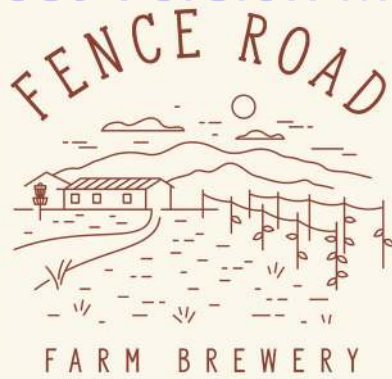
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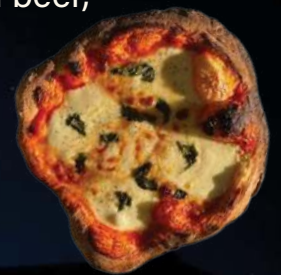
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Grace, Grit, and Greatness:

Isabella Ok Tees Up a Bright Future

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH:

For Goshen High School senior **Isabella Ok**, golf began as a family pastime and evolved into a lifelong passion. Introduced to the sport by her father, Chris Ok (pronounced OAK), Isabella and her brother Preston quickly discovered that golf offered much more than competition—it taught patience, focus, and respect for the game and others. Her older brother Harrison, a talented baseball player, proves that athleticism runs deep in the Ok family.

Her father encouraged them to play not only for fun but also for the doors it could open—personally and professionally—down the road. That early guidance has shaped Isabella into one of New York State's top-ranked high school golfers. A four-year varsity player and three-year team captain, she has earned first place at the Section IX Championship, a top-four finish at the NYS Girls Golf Championship, and multiple top placements in MET PGA Future Series tournaments.

Isabella's story is also one of family, culture, and gratitude. Her parents immigrated from South Korea at a young age—her mother growing up in Brooklyn, and her father settling first in **Hawaii** before attending college in **Boston**. Isabella was **born** in New Jersey, and the family moved to Goshen, NY the summer before her kindergarten year. When asked about what she loved most

about her Goshen hometown, she shared “I really like that you know everyone, grew up with everyone, the small local shops, the small-town feel,” she says with a smile.

Family remains at the heart of her journey. Each summer, the Oks travel to visit Isabella's grandmother—either in Hawaii or Korea, depending on the weather. After tournaments, Isabella and her dad share a cherished tradition: a bowl of pho and a quiet conversation about the day's play. It's a grounding reminder that success is about more than medals; it's about growth, gratitude, and connection.

Outside of golf, Isabella has always been curious and well-rounded—she once dreamed of becoming an allergist or working in medicine, but her ambitions have shifted toward business. She plans to **play golf** in college while pursuing a business degree, with a possible focus in accounting, though she's open to exploring new paths along the way.

With a **4.0 GPA**, leadership roles in multiple **honor societies**, and a love for mentoring younger players, Isabella continues to inspire those around her. Whether she's teeing off on the green or reminiscing about her childhood hamster, her story is defined by balance, humility, and joy.

Grace, grit, and greatness—three words that perfectly capture Isabella Ok, both as an athlete and as a young woman poised for a bright future.



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BUILDING COMMUNITY, EMPOWERING WOMEN, & INSPIRING A NEW VISION FOR THE FUTURE

For more than a century, the Junior League of Orange County, NY (JLOCNY) has played a vital role in strengthening our community through volunteerism, leadership development, and meaningful local initiatives. Founded in 1922, the League's story is deeply intertwined with the story of Orange County itself—responding to needs as they arise and shaping progress one project at a time.

From supporting food and job programs during the Great Depression to literacy and child-welfare initiatives in more recent decades, the League has remained a steady force for good. "Our work has always evolved with the needs of the people around us," says Ginny Townsend, President of the Board and Goshen resident. "That's what keeps this

organization vibrant after more than 100 years—our members listen, adapt, and take action."

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ORANGE COUNTY

Today, JLOCNY is channeling its energy into its newest and most ambitious goal yet—the creation of a Children's Museum of Orange County. After completing a months-long feasibility study that gathered hundreds of local survey responses, community interviews, and focus groups, the League is preparing to bring the vision to life.

"This initiative has captured our hearts," Townsend shares. "A children's museum will fill a major gap in our region—giving kids a place to learn, explore, and dream right here in Orange County. It's about more than a building; it's about building experiences that stay with children for life."

The proposed museum will serve as a hub for creativity, play-based learning, and community connection—bringing

together families, educators, and local organizations.

A LEAGUE THAT REFLECTS ITS COMMUNITY

For Ginny Townsend, the Junior League's strength lies in its ability to adapt to and represent the places it serves. "Every chapter of the Junior League mirrors its community," she explains. "In Sacramento, where I once served, our focus was nutrition because we were in the heart of California's agricultural region. In the Bay Area, it was girls in STEM. Here in Orange County, the children's museum made perfect sense. It's what our families need most right now."

Townsend's journey with the League spans more than a decade and several states. As the wife of an Air Force officer, she has lived in Omaha, Sacramento, San Francisco, and now the Hudson Valley—joining a new Junior League chapter in each city. "The League became my anchor every time we moved," she says. "It helped me connect with other women, make friends,

and immediately contribute to the local community."

THE HEART OF THE LEAGUE

At its core, JLOCNY is more than a volunteer organization—it's a place where women become leaders. Members not only serve their community but also participate in workshops and training designed to build skills in fundraising, advocacy, and organizational leadership.

"The League is a place where women can grow," Townsend says. "You don't need to come in knowing everything—what matters is the desire to make a difference. The training, mentorship, and sisterhood we provide empower members to lead in every aspect of their lives."

CELEBRATING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

In addition to their year-round volunteer efforts, JLOCNY recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of its *Rising Stars Awards*, an annual event recognizing local individuals,

bring home holiday cheer

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nominated by the community who go above and beyond in their professions and civic life. More than 400 community leaders have been honored through this program since its inception.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join the League: Membership is open to all women interested in community service and personal growth.

Support the Children's Museum: Partnerships are welcome to help

bring this project to life.

Toy Drive: Visit the League's website for drop-off details and opportunities to contribute.

Follow Online: Stay connected through social media for updates on events and volunteer opportunities.

"In the end," Townsend reflects, "the League gives you an opportunity to put your fingerprint on the community—to help shape the kind of place where you want to raise your family, where you want to live, and where you want others to visit. That's the power of collective action—and it's what makes this work so meaningful."

"Our Rising Stars embody the spirit of Orange County," Townsend says. "They remind us that leadership isn't about titles—it's about action, compassion, and commitment."

GIVING BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

This December, JLOCNY is once again spreading holiday cheer through its *Toy Drive*, benefiting foster youth across Orange County in partnership with the **Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY)**. Readers can find up-to-date information on toy drop-off locations and wish lists at the League's website.

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- **December 15th** Holiday Paint & Sip from 6-8pm
- **December 20th** Holiday PARTY! from 7-11pm
- **Trivia Night** Every Tuesday from 7-8pm
- **Poker Night** Every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm

Whether you're joining us for a night out or just stopping in, you're always among friends. Because here, good times aren't scheduled — they're expected.



14 New Street, Goshen, NY

See our full event calendar at
newstreetlounge.com/events

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Expert Guidance for Your Next Chapter

Expert Guidance for Your Next Chapter

If you're receiving this issue of *Goshen Living*, then you already know what many others are just discovering: our corner of Orange County is one of the best places to live, work, and visit in the Hudson Valley. Rich history, modern attractions, and top-rated schools all give Goshen a lifestyle that's hard to beat. As your **Hudson Valley Real Estate Team**, we have the pleasure of helping both locals and newcomers find their place in this vibrant community.

BEYOND THE BASICS

When it comes to buying or selling property, we offer more than tours and listings—we bring a comprehensive skill set designed to give you every advantage in the market.

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- ▶ Proactive Transaction Management - We keep every detail organized and on track from start to finish, expertly adapting to challenges and changes.
- ▶ Financial Guidance - With a background in banking, we help you explore and navigate funding options with confidence.
- ▶ Strategic Marketing - We use proven strategies to maximize your property's exposure and attract the right buyers.
- ▶ Exceptional Client Care - We ensure you always feel supported, informed, and valued.
- ▶ Positive Experience - By blending professionalism with a hospitality-driven approach, we make your real estate journey smooth and enjoyable.

INTRODUCING NEXT CHAPTER SERVICES

Life changes—and so do your real estate needs. Our *Next Chapter* services are tailored for clients navigating non-traditional transitions, including downsizing, cleanouts, and inherited properties.

Specialized Services Include:

- ▶ Home Prep & Staging - First impressions matter. We offer professional staging by a certified Home Stager to declutter, space-plan, and prepare your home for a photo-ready presentation that attracts top-dollar offers.
- ▶ Downsizing & Move Management - Moving can feel overwhelming. Our team handles planning, packing and moving coordination, and relocation logistics, making your move stress-free and seamless.
- ▶ Estate Sales & Transactions - Managing an inherited property or estate sale is emotional and complex. We offer compassionate guidance, hands-on support, and clear steps to navigate sales, cleanouts, and transfers with professionalism.

LOCAL EXPERTS WITH GLOBAL REACH

Based in Goshen, NY, we specialize in properties across the Hudson Valley and surrounding communities. From charming historic villages to peaceful lakefront escapes, we know how to highlight what makes each home—and neighborhood—unique.

Yet, as part of Howard Hanna | Rand Realty, we combine our local expertise with inter-

national reach. Through our partnership with *Leading Real Estate Companies of the World*®, we can connect you with trusted real estate professionals wherever your next chapter may lead.

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE

At Hudson Valley Real Estate Team, we don't just sell homes—we help people move forward. Whether you're preparing to sell, downsizing, relocating, or simply exploring your options, our hands-on, full-service approach ensures your next chapter unfolds smoothly, confidently, and with care.

Now is the perfect time to begin planning. With the right strategy and timeline, we'll guide you through every step—from home prep and evaluation to cleanouts, marketing, and move coordination.

Let's plan your next move—and your next chapter—together. If you'd like to learn more about the Goshen and Hudson Valley real estate markets, explore our *Next Chapter* services, or simply ask a few questions, we're here to help:

We thank you for taking the time to read our article and learn more about Hudson Valley Real Estate Team. We look forward to sharing additional articles that will keep you, our Goshen and Hudson Valley neighbors, updated on the ever-changing world of real estate.

May the holidays bring warmth to your heart and happiness to your home, and may the new year be full of hope, health, and new beginnings. Happy Holidays!

Happy Holidays from Hudson Valley Real Estate Team

We are committed to making your real estate experience seamless—whether you're buying, selling, or investing here in the Hudson Valley, across the nation, or anywhere in the world.



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