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Four event photographers

Varied approaches to creating lasting memories

by Karlie Flood

YOU DON'T WANT to leave to chance the finding of a photographer for a once-in-a-lifetime event like a wedding or party. To give you a sense of some of the available talent, we chose to interview four professional Hudson Valley-based photographers who are available for weddings, events, concerts, and a variety of freelance work.

Bridget Badore



Badore began taking photographs in elementary school after teaching herself photography with her dad's old 35mm camera. She used her late father's scribbled notes and old Kodak manuals.

She is not just a photographer, she is also a creator. She's an artist, writer and curator whose artistic vulnerability and dedication to understanding human emotions encourage her subjects



PHOTOS BY BRIDGET BADORE

Above, a collage of wedding photos; below, Hudson Valley based singer-songwriter Al Olender after the annual Alentine's Day concert in the Old Dutch Church in Kingston; left, comedians Ilana Glazer and Phoebe Robinson.



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PHOTOS BY AMELIA WILLIAMS

Left, a bride portrait; top right, “The Lovebugs,” a multi-dimensional art exhibit created by Amelia Williams; above right, Hudson Valley Sustainable Fashion Week.

to pursue the same. She describes her photography as “a tender approach to documentation -- searching for connection, exploring themes of grief, identity, and what it means to feel seen.”

She has created an artist-run commu-

nity gallery, gift shop, and community space at 34 Broadway on the Kingston waterfront, Holding Space, as it is called, offers open-studio-style photo shoots. Badore curates exhibitions of art by local artists, and encourages creative people

to connect with each other and with themselves.

Badore has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *Vogue India*, *Conde Nast Bustle*, and *Instyle Magazine*. Notable clients include Google, Airbnb, Urban Outfitters, Healthline, and the Oscars. The romantic way she sees the world transfers to any subject.

Based in Kingston, Badore is available for assignment anywhere in the world. Email hello@bridgetbadore.com for inquiries, and visit www.bridgetbadore.com or www.holdingspace.place to purchase prints.

Amelia Williams

If you're looking for multi-dimensional creative photography, contact mixed-media artist and photographer Amelia Williams, whose background in mixed-media art, fashion, and collage has led her to a personalized and artistic approach to photography to capture her clients' cherished memories.

Eschewing the traditional style of wedding and event photography, the Hudson-Valley-based Williams' ap-

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Contact: Andrea Pastorella, Dancer/ Choreographer and Certified Trainer of The Zena Rommett Floor-Barre™ Technique



proaches commissions for events as an art photographer documenting the occasion.

What does she like most about photography?

"I love photography as a means of artis-

tic expression," she replied. "It's the way I can show my unique view of the world. My favorite part is unearthing beauty in unexpected ways, and in capturing the briefest moments in time. Photos to me

are memories, history and diary entries."

Her traveling art exhibit called "The Lovebugs" immerses audiences in "a transformative exploration of identity, trauma, and uninhibited emotion."

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Photos by Jeremy McEvoy. Top left is Opus 40 sculpture park in West Saugerties.

According to the biography on her website, her approach blends various artistic media “to create captivating visual narratives, skillfully preserving the emotions, details, and stories that make each event and wedding truly unforgettable.” Her love of street-style pop art results in bold and vibrant creations that utilize multiple media.

Williams photographs events, weddings, and commissioned freelance projects. She also has experience in branding, fashion, lifestyle, portraits, and

real-estate photography. You can contact her at amelia@ameliawilliams.com or submit an inquiry on her website, www.ameliawilliams.com. Prints are available for sale on her website.

Jeremy McEvoy

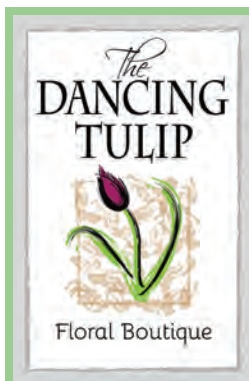
Seeking to craft memorable visual narratives, Jeremy McEvoy, an information technology specialist turned photographer, created JQM Photo in the Hudson Valley out of a love for the extraordinary in the everyday. Specializing in capturing

and preserving special moments, he is known for creative storytelling and for the ability to capture fleeting moments that will last a lifetime.

He knows how intimidating cameras can be. McEvoy makes sure to pay careful attention to his subjects, ensuring they are comfortable and at ease.

Though he says he enjoys the technical side of photography, he especially enjoys knowing his photos made people happy.

“What I find most rewarding about being an event photographer and vid-



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Portraits of Ginger Winn by Brooklyn Zeh.

eographer is seeing or hearing my clients' reactions after they view the event I've captured," he said. "The joy and surprise they express when noticing the unexpected moments I've caught. The candid expressions and the funny faces affirm the value of my work."

McEvoy photographs all types of events, including weddings, corporate events, birthday parties, and more. He can be reached by email at jeremy@jqmphoto.com or www.jqmphoto.com, where prints are available for purchase.

Brooklyn Zeh

Brooklyn Zeh began taking photos as a child in order to capture moments she didn't want to forget. Since then, photography has become her main form of self-expression where she lets her imagination run wild.

Zeh enjoys shooting people in their natural environments as a way of experiencing life outside her own. She does music photography; most recently, she has been working with record label Keep Good Company Re-

cords on music videos, single covers, and merchandise.

She will be photographing singer-songwriter Ginger Winn while Winn tours the West Coast with the Gypsy Kings. She co-directed and filmed several of Winn's music videos. One called Off Course won the prize for best music video at the Touchstone International Film Festival.

Zeh co-directed the film with Oneonta-based photographer Mikala Gallo. The Off Course single cover was shot by Zeh and edited by Gallo.

"I believe my experiences make me who I am, and in capturing them through the lens I am capturing myself," Zeh said. "I strive for my photos to connect to the parts of the human experience that we all share. They are an exploration of myself that I hope is passed on to my viewers. This makes me feel this, how does it make you feel?"

Zeh can be reached through her website www.brooklynzeh.format.com/#1 or Instagram @BrooklynZeh.



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COURTESY OF CATSKILLS FOLK CONNECTION AND VIOLET SNOW

Square-dance caller Nicole Ball (left) flatfooting with The Old 28s: Brandon Whightsel, Max Rainwater, and Deb Tankard, at the Reservoir United Methodist Church in Shokan.

Swing your partner

Square dancing's a living, breathing thing

by Violet Snow

IF YOU HAVEN'T square danced since fifth grade, you don't know what you're missing.

"It's a traditional thing that anyone

is able to do," said dance caller Nicole Ball, "and it shouldn't stop. It's a living, breathing thing that needs room to breathe."

In the Catskills, before recorded music came along, square dancing was part of the glue of local communities, and

the tradition has never stopped, partly thanks to the Catskills Folk Connection (CFC), headed by Ginny Scheer of Roxbury. This year has seen a leap in the number of CFC-sponsored dances held in Ulster, Delaware, and Schoharie counties.

At a recent dance at Reservoir United Methodist Church in Shokan, people who have been square dancing since the 1960s were joined by adventurous young people delighted to pick up the steps, often for the first time. "We're perpetuating square dancing," declared Scheer, "not reviving it. It never died out."

She gives two reasons for the longevity

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Square dances schedule

THE CATSKILLS FOLK CONNECTION HAS sponsored or co-sponsored 14 square dances this year, including the following upcoming events:

- August 10: Conesville Fire Hall, Route 990V, Conesville, Schoharie County.
- August 24: United Presbyterian Church, Walton, Delaware County.
- September 7: Conesville Fire Hall, Route 990V, Conesville, Schoharie County.
- September 14: Pine Hill Community Center, Main Street, Pine Hill, Ulster County.
- September 21: Col. Harper Grange Hall, 170 Wilcox Road, Harpersfield, Delaware County.
- October 19: Bovina Community Center, Bovina Center, Delaware County.

of the tradition. "It's a way to build community, and not just for a town. We're all looking for the sense of community that comes with square dancing. When you deal with each other in rhythm, with the music, it enables us to open to each other."

I know just what she means because I went to the Shokan dance.

"Swing your partner," Ball called out, "and now swing your corner." The gent to my right looked in my eyes, hooked his arm through mine, and we stepped in a lively circle, no longer strangers.

When someone was slightly confused by a call, and I ended up paired with a woman of a certain age, we smiled at each other and rolled with the calls, age and appearance suddenly irrelevant.

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Everyone gets a turn

Another benefit of square dancing, at least in the traditions of the eastern U.S., Scheer noted, is that it's really democratic. "The most knowledgeable couple may start out as couple number one, but everyone gets a turn," she explained. The steps are simple enough that anyone can pick them up in a few minutes, but the energy of the music and the movement keep the dancers engaged. In the modern world, couples can be composed of any genders, and when there's a deficiency of gents, ladies don't mind being partners.

In the mid-1900s, Delaware County fiddle virtuoso Hilt Kelly was calling dances multiple times a week in front of his band, the Melody Boys. In the 1990s and early 2000s, the CFC, basically two folklorists dedicated to preserving local traditions, supported Hilt through his waning years, driving

him to gigs with a later band, the Side-kicks, when his eyes were failing. They also helped him train younger musicians and callers, including John Jacobson and Dane Scudder, who perform with the Tremperkill Boys.

Since Hilt's passing in 2015, the CFC has continued to sponsor dances across the Catskills.

When the pandemic forced a slowdown, Scheer maintained a mailing list of dancers who watched Zoom presentations on

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the history of square dancing. As soon as it was safe, she leaped back to booking bands into church and fire halls.

Gary Mead, a Margaretville woodworker, remembers learning to dance as soon as he could walk. His parents, who met at a Hilt Kelly dance in West Kill in 1948, took him and his siblings to many community dances while they were growing up on a farm in New Kingston.

"We just learned it because we were there," said Mead. "In those days, a lot of folks just learned it that way. It's a good thing we're keeping the tradition going. It's comforting to see these young folks being interested."

At a recent dance in Margaretville, several couples in their 20s and 30s showed up.

Improvise with your feet

Ellie Webster of Hyde Park hadn't square danced since fifth-grade music class. When a poster about the Shokan dance appeared at their job site, Webster and a friend decided to go check it out. The two wore effervescent smiles every time I looked across the square.

"It reminded me of people back home in Idaho," Webster said. "And it wasn't hard to learn."

Ball, the mother of two small children, began taking square-dance classes in New York City after seeing cloggers perform at the Newport Folk Festival. "I fell in love with the music, learned the dance, and I picked up calling later on."

At Shokan, backed by a band called The Old 28s, she also demonstrated flatfooting, which looks to be somewhere between Celtic clogging and modern tap dancing. Between square-dance numbers, she taught the dancers the basics of flatfooting, an improvisational technique that people sometimes practice during lulls in the group dances.

"You don't need a lot of fancy steps to have fun improvising with your feet," she said. "Just show up with an open mind and have fun."

She and her partner, a fiddler, perform together, often at weddings, where the guests may be surprised to find themselves lining up in squares. "I like springing square dancing on unsuspecting people," Ball said. "A lot of people think they're too cool to square dance, but it's actually really fun."



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The perfect bachelor(ette) party ideas

The Hudson Valley is rich with distinctive encounters

by Cloey Callahan

WHETHER YOU GREW up in the Hudson Valley and are celebrating your last hurrah locally, or if you're from out of town just looking for an affordable escape with picturesque landscapes as your backdrop, the region has an endless number of unrepeatable experiences to offer bachelor and bachelorette parties.

The soon-to-be-married can have an itinerary that includes finding one of the many unique Airbnbs in the area on farmlands or in the mountains, discovering the best wine trails, or pairing up with local businesses for private workshops.

There is so much to offer regionally. That's why we compiled a short and



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The Hudson Valley's Five Star Entertainment Company

highly eccentric list to help you sort through. Our top recommendations range from taking an empowering heels dance class in Beacon to lounging out in a cigar shop in Hudson. Here's what we suggest, with options that will resonate for both bride and groom.

For the partygoers:

Before you get all the way into party mode, grab your axes and get throwing. Perfect for combined wedding parties who are celebrating their last hoorah together, ax throwing is fun for everyone who doesn't have an ax to grind. There might be a location within a short drive from where you are staying. Hudson Valley Hatchet in Gardiner offers the activity. In Beacon, District Social offers it, too.

"We have a full bar, pool tables, a massive arcade, and we recently launched our new interactive axe-throwing lanes," said Laressa Gjonaj of Diamond Hospitality Group, which operates District Social.



Check out Denning's Point Distillery for the start to a cocktail crawl with live music.

"It allows players to play a game with the axes, like Tic Tac Toe, but by throwing the ax."

The space boasts private event areas to visitors interested in having a space to bring in their own food. It's also perfect to pop in on, especially with their no-cover entry even on their live performance nights.

Before or after ax throwing, find your way to one of Hudson Valley's renowned wine trails. The mid-Hudson has two wine trails, the Dutchess Wine Trail east of the Hudson River and the Shawangunk Wine Trail following the Shawangunk Mountains. Travel a trail or two visiting award-winning wineries having unique spins on wine and the region.

Once nighttime rolls around, hit the strip in popping downtowns in Beacon, Kingston or Poughkeepsie. Some of our favorite nightlife is in Poughkeepsie, where the unique bars include Reason & Ruckus, Mahoney's and more. If you're further up in the Hudson Valley, the gentlemen might be especially interested in Iron Horse Cigar Depot in Hudson.

If you're in Beacon, check out Denning's Point Distillery for the start to a cocktail crawl with live music. If you want to go all-out, call ahead to have the place to yourself and get a closer look at how they make their concoctions.

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without its artists. And our hometown potters, candle makers, painters and more are here to share their crafts with you directly. Most places can accommodate groups, including bachelorette parties, as long as you call ahead of time.

One of our favorites is Candlestock's Wax Imagination Studio in Saugerties. In its special candle-making class, you can make far more than just a scented candle, but birthday candles, cupcake candles and paper candles.

"It makes it awesome," said Benjamin Schachter, owner of Candlestock. "Here you're doing a lot more with your hands. It's creative work with natural waxes."

Candlestock's a hot spot for bachelorette parties, so reserve ahead of time, and bring your own drinks and food for treats during the two-hour session.

In Fishkill, there is paint and sip at Pinot's Palette, which is fun whether you paint often or haven't picked up the brush in years.

Local studios also offer pottery-making classes.

If you're looking to feel a sense of total empowerment, try out one of the only adult-only dance studios in the area. The ladies will especially love Passion - The Adult Dance Studio on Main Street in Beacon. Its instructors will even come right to your Airbnb to bring the party to you. They are able to curate the class for you and can focus on anything from a sexy heels dance lesson to twerk to samba.

The nature-lovers among you will find plenty to do in the Hudson Valley. Folks might seek out some of our best hiking trails, rock climbs, or even skydives at Skydive The Ranch in Gardiner.

For the staycationers:

There is no shortage of fun stays throughout the region. Peruse through Airbnb or Vrbo for fun stays that others might not have heard of. Consider some of the fan favorites like Round House Farms in New Paltz, which boasts an in-house spa, private scenic walking trails, and breathtaking views on its 28 acres.

"We have a concierge service that can organize parties for our guests," said Alex Souza, property manager. "We can provide a chef, catering services, massages, and performances. We also have a hyperbaric chamber and a veggie garden for fresh ingredients on site. And our guests love having spa days, utilizing both our hot tub and sauna."



For the creative and crafty, Candlestock's Wax Imagination Studio in Saugerties can be a bonding experience.

Also in New Paltz is Watergrasshill Bed & Breakfast, which is ideal for nascent oenophiles because of its close proximity to the Shawangunk Wine Trail.

"We often host bachelorette parties," said Alana Pikulski, owner of Watergrasshill. "I think every bachelorette party that we have hosted on site also books an additional event with us." Those events include everything from learning how to make macarons to making floral arrangement.

The house has five guest rooms, each with a queen bed, making the maximum number of guests for the weekend ten. Each room has a private bathroom. Renting out the entire B&B includes access to the dining room, living room, front porch and patio. Your stay will come with a farm-fresh breakfast.

"They just love being able to relax, get cozy in their PJs, and come down in the living room," said Pikulski. "Sometimes they have karaoke nights in the living

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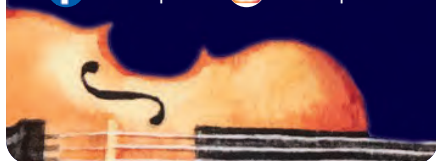
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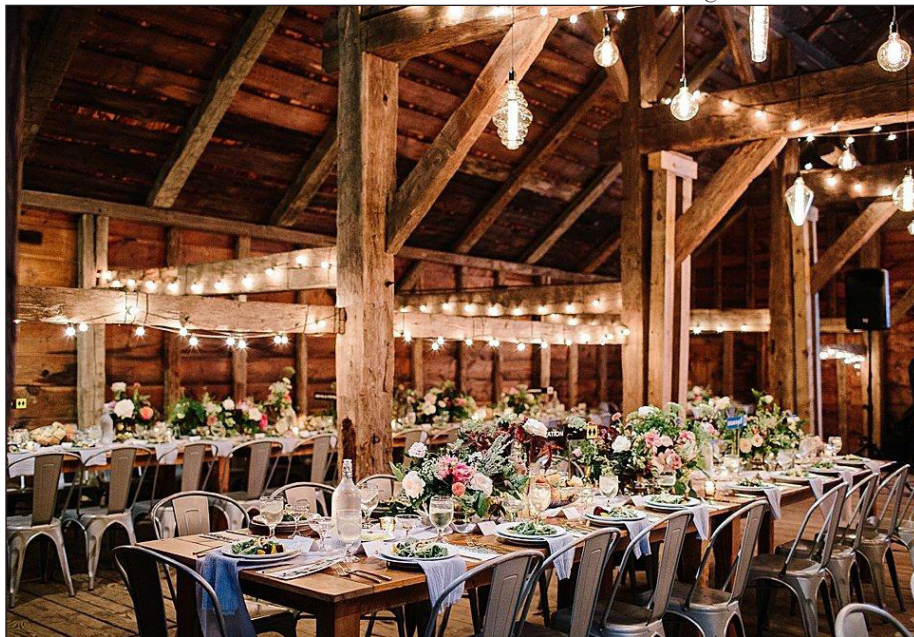
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Above, Bethany Cole Wedding at the Senate Garage in Uptown Kingston; right, set for a wedding in an historic setting at Mount Gulian.

by Cloey Callahan

RICH IN HISTORY and natural beauty, the picturesque Hudson Valley region offers a variety of stunning wedding locations, from grand estates and charming barns to historic inns and elegant mansions. It is home to some of the most enchanting historical wedding venues that promise to make your day magical.

While you're tying the knot, the same place that you're standing in has decades -- or even centuries -- of history that happened right there. The special set-



ting transports you and your guests to a different world, helping create unforgettable memories.

We compiled a list of five top historical wedding destinations in the region.

The Historic Thayer Hotel at West Point

674 Thayer Road, West Point; 845-446-4731

Built in 1926, the Historic Thayer Hotel at West Point has hosted weddings for generations. On the grounds of the hallowed United States Military Academy at West Point, it's the perfect intersection to celebrate both history and nationalism.

"From the inviting granite fireplace in our lobby to the sweeping views of the Hudson River from our event spaces, the Thayer Hotel sets the stage for an unforgettable milestone with family and friends," said Anne Kane, director of sales and marketing at the hotel.

With 151 guest rooms plus MacArthur's Riverview Restaurant, Patton's Tavern and Zulu Time Rooftop Bar & Lounge, the Thayer is able to host wedding weekends, including welcome drinks and rehearsal dinners to the farewell brunch.

Ceremonies celebrated on the manicured lawn overlooking the Hudson River are able to accommodate anywhere from 30 to 250 guests.

Clermont State Historic Site

87 Clermont Avenue, Germantown;

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Wedding at Clermont boasts a myriad of beautiful outdoor locations on the Livingston estate to rent for wedding receptions. Spaces can accommodate between 50 and 150 guests, with fees ranging from \$1000 to \$2800 depending on location and time of day.

Since 1996, Clermont has welcomed couples to experience their special day on the grounds of the national landmark property. Highlights include wooded hideaways, century-old gardens, and exquisite views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains,

The estate is home to seven generations of the prominent Livingston family. Among the bridal party, serving as a flower girl at the most recent Livingston family wedding reception at Clermont was a granddaughter of president Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Historic Huguenot Street

81 Huguenot Street, New Paltz; 845-255-1660

At Historic Huguenot Street, you not only have stunning stone houses as a backdrop, but you also have an outdoor landscape that captures the historic beauty of New Paltz. With stately trees and sprawling lawns, the street is a beauty perfect for your nuptials.

"A wedding at Historic Huguenot Street is timeless, elegant, and full of history," said Georgina Liucci, office administrator and annual fund coordinator at Historic Huguenot Street.

The reconstructed French church is the perfect location for an intimate wedding ceremony. The pews all face the center aisle of the church, allowing loved ones to surround you as you say your vows.



CASSANDRA DAYE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Historic Thayer Hotel, wedding of Alyssa and Max Grant.

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1123 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison;
845-424-2333

Nestled in the hills of the Hudson Highlands, this one-time colonial stagecoach stop is an elegant wedding destination. The landscaped grounds include a peaceful brook with an overarching bridge.

The grounds, established in 1761, are home to 260 years of American history. It is situated on ancestral lands of the Munsee Lenape, indigenous people who lived in the region and along the tributaries leading to what we call now the Hudson River.

The inn even once housed George



Tables all set for Michael & Alexa at the Historic Senate Garage.

Washington's Continental troops because it was perfectly placed between the Fishkill Military Supply Depot, the Garrison Doubts, West Point, and The Beverly Robinson House, where generals like Benedict Arnold were stationed

during the war.

The property was a farm, gristmill, sawmill, and later a family home before being opened as The Bird & Bottle Inn in 1940. It's largely inspired by the stories of those who spent time there throughout

the years.

Mount Gulian Historic Site

145 Sterling Street, Beacon; 845-831-8172

Mount Gulian, a non-profit historic site and museum, features a beautiful lawn with a picturesque view overlooking the Hudson River. What most excites many people will be the rustic 18th-century Dutch barn on the property, perfect for a reception.

"Couples are able to take Mount Gulian's beautiful grounds and views, and make it their own for their special celebration," said Gabriel Byrne, coordinator of administration and events at Mount Gulian Historic Site.

The history of Mount Gulian and its grounds spans nearly 7000 years. Where you say "I do" will be the same place that Native Americans walked on. The Verplanck family home was the headquarters of major general Friedrich von Steuben, the birthplace of the Society of the Cincinnati, and the place where James F. Brown, a formerly enslaved man who escaped, worked his way to become the master gardener of Mount Gulian.

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