

Ann Hauprich named HMCC Outstanding Civilian of the Year

Journalist Ann Hauprich was presented with the Hudson Mohawk Counties Council's 2014 Outstanding Civilian of the Year Award during a ceremony at the Sullivan-Jones Veterans of Foreign War Post in Poestenskill, NY Sunday, November 16.

The citation given to the daughter of World War II veteran Donald G. Hauprich stated she was selected to receive the honor "because of her dedication and willingness to give of her time without any thought of remuneration, thereby bringing great credit to herself and the Veterans of Foreign Wars."

Now semi-retired and a member of the VFW Post 358 Ladies' Auxiliary in Ballston Spa, Ann devotes as much time as possible to preserving the past and present for future generations through a company she founded while researching and writing a pair of local history books.

But what she most enjoys is utilizing her writing skills to shine the spotlight on the good deeds – and the needs – of others.

This typically entails volunteering to prepare and distribute news releases to members of the print and broadcast media, but the mother of three adult daughters has also been known to see initiatives through from conception to delivery.

The most recent example involved the September 2014 orchestration of a community-wide effort to move a 300-pound piano from a private Ballston Spa residence to the Saratoga County nursing home at Maplewood Manor (now the Saratoga Nursing Center) at the opposite end of the village.

Ann's efforts ranged from meeting with a member of the Romanov family who wished to donate the musical heirloom to connecting with Maplewood Administrator Diane Brown and her staff before reaching out to Glenn Harrison of Boy Scout Troop 1 to appeal for moving assistance.

Learning the vintage spinet needed tuning, Ann contacted Quartermaster John Lombardo at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 358 to appeal for the funds to cover that expense. Upon being notified Post members had approved the request, Ann secured the professional services of Richard Varley of Saratoga Springs who went above and beyond to ensure the piano would bring joy to nursing home residents, staff, volunteers and visitors for years to come.



Ann Hauprich accepted the 2014 HMCC Outstanding Civilian of the Year Award in honor of VFW Post 358 and her father, World War II Army veteran Donald G. Hauprich.

Another major volunteer undertaking involved assisting with the planning and promotion of a February 2014 "Salute to Literacy" spaghetti dinner benefit at VFW Post 358. While staying in close contact with then Commander Earl "Doc" Manning, his wife Pamela and longtime Ladies Auxiliary member Karen Shea, Ann reached out to regional authors seeking donations of "Gifts of Literacy" to be auctioned off to raise money for the Maurice "Christopher" Morley Literacy Fund administered by the Ballston Spa Central School District. Ann personally decorated a dozen literacy baskets and arranged for national children's book illustrator Jody Wheeler and internationally acclaimed author and storyteller Joseph Bruchac III to meet with children who attended the event.

Ann followed up by helping to coordinate the presentation of a \$2,000 VFW Post 358 check during a meeting of the BSCSD Board of Education and sending out a news release in which all received recognition for their contributions to the cause. Not mentioned in the information Ann shared with the media was the fact that she had played a key role in the establishment of the Morley Literacy Award several years earlier by petitioning the Rotary Club of Ballston Spa to take the project under its wing before turning it over to the district.

Named in honor of Ann's now late mentor whose education in the 1920s and 1930s had been hampered by dyslexia, the Morley award annually recognizes the efforts of four elementary students who have demonstrated exceptional perseverance along the Road to Reading.

It was because of Morley's learning disability that Ann had volunteered to assist the octogenarian in his Village History Consultant's Office for an hour each weekday morning from 2008 until his passing in 2011 by recording oral histories and lending research support. As an additional tribute to his legacy, Ann plans to donate copies of her forthcoming book titled *Mornings with Morley* to local school and public libraries.

In between the "Salute to Literacy" benefit and the county nursing home piano donation, Ann volunteered to spearhead an advance publicity campaign on behalf of Ballston Area Community Allies (BACA).

Her efforts included crafting and circulating news releases and public service announcements to generate interest in the June 2014 Bullying Awareness rally in Ballston Spa before she marched with students, parents, guardians and community youth leaders. Ann followed up by writing Letters to Editors encouraging others to support the not-for-profit's ongoing anti-bullying efforts and other related prevention and advocacy programs.

The following month, Ann volunteered to assist the Saratoga Knights of Columbus with publicity to raise support for its annual benefit to aid a pioneering treatment facility and halfway house for recovering alcoholics in Brazil that was founded by Ballston Spa native Rev. William Tracy. She has since assisted with publicity fostering the need for donations to assist a patriotic Eagle Scout and his widowed father whose home was destroyed by a fire.

Alerting the media to an October event during which members of the USAF 109th Airlift Wing converged on VFW Post 358 to pick up Operation Deep Freeze care packages prepared by veterans and auxiliary members for those now serving in Antarctica was yet another of Ann's 2014 missions.

Her volunteer past additionally includes leading educational enrichment programs for home-schooling families and presenting burn prevention lectures in a variety of American and Canadian settings.

Ann also put "Service Above Self" for several years as an active member of the Rotary Club of Ballston Spa. The latter was done as an expression of gratitude to the organization for having sponsored her as a teenaged Rotary International exchange student to Kolding, Denmark from 1971-1972.

Music revives memories at manor

Ex-Maplewood Manor chaplain's family donates vintage spinet

By Jennifer Patterson

Ballston Spa

The donation of an vintage piano to Maplewood Manor was music to Diane Brown's ears.

But Brown, the administrator of the Saratoga County nursing home on Ballston Avenue, said delivering the 300-pound instrument "took a village" to orchestrate.

The Musette spinet was donated by the family of former Maplewood Manor chaplain, Lena Romanov, who was born in Russia.

Romanov's daughter, Maria, contacted composer/pianist Cole Broderick, who performs for seniors at the facility, to check out the piano's condition. Broderick's wife, Ann Hauprich, took the reins from there.

Hauprich reached out to Boy Scout Troop 1 of Ballston Spa for help moving the piano, which was placed in a second-floor dining room where the 40 residents in the dementia unit eat and have activities.

"Music is something that's universal," said Brown, who has worked at the manor for 17 years. "With dementia residents, they lose the ability to communicate, and music is a language that brings back memories. It's a wonderful way to reach out and engage them."



John Carl D'Annibale / Times Union

Maplewood Manor nursing home administrator Diane Brown, right, smiles as resident Judy Patterson plays a donated piano in a dining room on the second floor, where residents from the dementia unit spend free time.

They need your friendship



[saratogacountyny.gov/departments/maplewood-manor](http://www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/maplewood-manor)

For information about volunteering at Saratoga County Maplewood Manor, go to <http://www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/maplewood-manor>.

The community-conducted donation coincided with an impending transition at the facility.

The \$14.1 million sale of the nursing home to the Nassau County-based Zenith Health Care Group got preliminary ap-

proval last week from the state Public Health and Health Planning Council.

Hauprich — whose 90-year-old father, Donald, was an assistant Boy Scout leader in Albany in the 1940s — also reached out to John Lombardo, a quartermaster at VFW Post 358.

Hauprich joined the Ladies' Auxiliary in honor of her father's Army service during World War II.

Within days of the piano being delivered, Lombardo presented a motion at the Ballston Spa post's monthly meeting asking for members to cover the cost of having the instrument

professionally tuned.

Brown said it received a much needed tune-up by Richard Varley.

"One of our residents was playing this morning and I asked her if she needed music," Brown said, "and she said no, because she was playing from memory."

Boy Scout committeeman Glenn Harrison coordinated the participation of Troop 1, which dates back to 1913 and has been continuously sponsored by the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church.

Parent volunteers Bill Parlapiano, Mike Piscitelli, Cherrie Sanders, Marcos Vargas, Gary Wilson and good samaritan Dave Abbarno did the heavy lifting, while Boy Scouts Evan Piscitelli, Brandon Reid, Andrew Roby, Justin Sanders and Greg Wilson rolled up their sleeves to help.

Wilson, a Ballston Spa Middle School student whose great aunt lives at the facility, treated residents to an impromptu performance after moving the piano into place.

"We were told that the piano was a spinet, but boy, was it a hunker," said Harrison, who was an Eagle Scout with Troop 1 in 1968. "Each Scout needs to complete community service hours for each rank advancement, and as a result, they learn about giving back."

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