

AMSTERDAM

Liberty ARC employee appointed Director of Operations

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, recently announced the appointment and promotion of Ashley Walton as their new Director of Operations.

In this role, Walton will oversee Liberty ARC's Residential Services in the mid and up county areas of Montgomery County, including Fonda, Fultonville, Canajoharie, Fort Plain, and Palatine Bridge. Walton will ensure all regulatory requirements are met, implement the agency's Strategic plan, report fiscal performance, provide oversight to billing procedures, support teams to be collaborative and effective, and focus on person-centered supports.

Walton comes into her new position with more than 14 years of experience in the Intellectual/Developmental disability (I/DD) field. She began working at Liberty ARC in 2015 as the Associate Director of

Operations in the mid and up county regions. Most recently, Walton served as the Assistant Director of Employment Services for three years and as Recruitment Supervisor from 2018 to 2020.

"It has been a goal of mine since I began my career at Liberty ARC to take my leadership role to the next level by becoming a Director," Walton said in a news release. "Having an opportunity to achieve that milestone by leading the mid and up county area is especially meaningful because it's where I started my career at Liberty ARC. I have established relationships with people supported, families, managers, and staff in the area, and am looking forward to returning in a new capacity. I have been so fortunate in my time with Liberty ARC to work with the Residential, Day Program, Human Resources and Employment Services teams. These

opportunities have given me a broad scope of knowledge of the agency as a whole which I am confident will be beneficial in returning to Residential services."

"We are excited about the energy and support Ashley will provide to the homes in the up and mid county areas of Montgomery County," said Candace Opalka, Chief Operating Officer of Liberty ARC, in the release. "Ashley has been a key leader at Liberty ARC for nine years and has worked in various capacities. Ashley is known for her positive and energetic approach, the support to her teams and her organization and focus on quality. We look forward to working with Ashley in this new capacity."

Walton also received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Oneonta in 2003 and minored in Educational Psychology.



PHOTO PROVIDED

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Concert scheduled



On Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m., Dorn Space (99 N. Main Street in Gloversville) will host a concert. It will feature guitarist/composer, Maria Zemantauski is currently nominated for "World Music Artist of the Year" at the upcoming Capital Region Music Awards (Eddies) to be held next month at Proctors Theater. This Friday, March 1, she will be performing at Dorn Space at 7 p.m. with guitarist/mandolinist, Sten Isachsen and percussionist extraordinaire, Brian Melick to form the Maria Z. Trio. Individually, each have delighted audiences around the globe in various ensembles for decades. As the Maria Z. Trio, their dynamic fusion of strings and percussion celebrate their eclectic musical tastes (fiery flamenco, classical, Latin, roots and bluegrass) to create a vibrant, rich and refreshing sound. Their rhythmically driven repertoire takes the listener on a journey of traditional classics, innovative arrangements and stunning original compositions. Admission is \$10 (cash/door only). Doors open at 6:15 pm.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

GLOVERSVILLE

Buck to be featured artist at Micropolis Gallery Show

Micropolis Cooperative Art Gallery will hold a Meet the Artists Reception on Friday, March 1 between 5 and 7 p.m. Bob Buck, a photographer and resident of Fort Plain, will be the featured guest artist.

Buck's interest in photography began when he was 7 years old. His dad was a portrait photographer and Buck would watch him develop his work in the darkroom.

Buck played around with the camera for many years and built his own darkroom, but he didn't have the money to get serious about photography. While serving in the Navy, he started taking classes and eventually became the ship's photographer. When his service was up, Buck attended Fulton-Montgomery Community College and majored in Graphic Arts/Photography.

While busy raising a family and dealing with his career, Buck didn't get serious about photography until he retired in 2009.

Buck's camera is more than a tool that he uses to take photos, but it is a tool he can use as a pencil to draw with, or a paintbrush to paint with. He is still exploring the many different genre, therefore he hasn't settled on any particular style.

"I enjoy not being categorized, because this has given me the freedom I need to

grow as an artist," Buck said in a news release. "I have participated and won numerous awards in regional and national juried shows, and have exhibited in several solo and collaborative events in the Central New York Region."

In addition to the artwork of the featured artist, the gallery is filled with paintings, drawings, pastels, photographs, fiber art, mixed media, glass, digital art, jewelry, pottery, woodland assemblages, baskets, turned items of exotic wood and fine art cards by members of Micropolis Cooperative.

The cooperative members are Betsy Batchelor, Paula Becker, Dan Bridge, Karen J. E. Cooper, Robert Coppen, Ruth Christie Crotty, Cheryl Gutmaker, Michelle Harring, Alex Higgins, Linda Hinkle, Kathy Klompas, Linda Kollar, Kevin Kuhne, Phyllis Lapi, Anne Marie LaVallee, Jonathan Moore, Lynda Naske, Kathie Raneri, Katie Santomartino, Cindy Sheeler, Sandy Smith, Martha Starke, Gabriella Vardai-Davidson and Eileen Wrightsman.

The reception is free and open to the public.

The gallery, located inside Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market at 30 N. Main St., Gloversville, is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Sunrise from Gros Road," a photograph by Bob Buck.

BROADALBIN

Registration open for 14th annual Fulton-Montgomery County Home Show/Craft Fair

Registration is now open for Contractors, Exhibitors and Crafters wishing to participate in the 14th annual Fulton-Montgomery County Home Show/Craft Fair.

The show, set for April 20 and 21, is sponsored by Broadalbin Youth Commission Inc. and is held at the Broadalbin-Perth High School. The event is designed to promote home improvement and craft businesses in Fulton and Montgomery Counties as well as the Capital District Area. The fee for a booth is only \$125.

Booths are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is recommended to secure a spot.

The show is an economical way to promote any home-improvement-related business. The mix of contractors and crafters has drawn thousands of visitors to our shows.

For more details, visit the BYC Broadalbin Youth Commission page on Facebook.

For more information, and to request a registration form contact Keith Buchanan at kbuchan2015@gmail.com or 518-598-9266 or at Sheila Bleyl at sheila.bleyl@gmail.com or 518-883-5527.

All proceeds from the show will benefit development and operation of the new Town Park on Union Mills Road in the Town of Broadalbin.

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