

For immediate release.

H. G. Fairfield Arts' Region-Wide *Woman Fest: Celebrating Women* is in Carmel Aug 8/9

July 22, 2013. Brewster, NY. A very different kind of regional festival is coming to the Mid-Hudson Valley - ***Woman Fest: Celebrating Women***, the net proceeds of which go towards programming to enhance positive self-image in girls and women and save lives. H. G. Fairfield Arts has developed *Woman Fest: Celebrating Women*. Sponsorships with partners and sponsors including **Radovich & Dean Music, Veterans Family Support Alliance (VETFAMSA), Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, Putnam County Tourism, and HerFlix.** H. G. Fairfield Arts Founder Kathie Freston – one of the oldest female U.S. military veterans, a Marine Captain from the Korean War – knows firsthand what an invaluable role women play from local to global communities. For instance, 15.1% of households in New York State are run by single mothers. Over 30% of businesses in NYS are women-owned. Since 2010, the NY State population from the age of 25 to death is 56% female; women are the majority. Women make 80% of household buying decisions in NYS families. And 58.1 % of all business management levels are filled by women. The NYS Department of Labor's growth patterns show that over the next 20 years the most favorable advancements happen in arts, fitness, healthcare, and self-made careers – the economic impact of the arts alone is \$27.5 billion annually. Ms Freston explains: "We think it important women and girls have the facts in front of them as they figure out their way in life. Following your passion as it turns out does lead to happy healthy careers and lives. Women should know anything's possible." H. G. Fairfield Arts' goal with *Woman Fest* is to provide the space for women and girls to showcase their strengths and contributions in our societies and in our local, state, and national economies.

Woman Fest, a two-day festival, being held August 8th and 9th, is open to all, and will feature an Open Mic stage on Thursday 7 to 9pm at the pavilion's Main Stage Area of the upper level of the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. The Open Mic Stage gives everyone the chance to show their art – whether spoken word, song, comedy, instrumental, or performance.. The Main Stage Friday August 9 features the powerful world music of the Bethany Yarrow and Rufus Cappadocia Trio and the founder of the first rock-&-roll girl band *Fanny* – June Millington – still rock-n-rolling into her 5th decade. Local Carmel Central School District teacher and singer/performer Dr. Angelina Mendes and Westchester's Amy Berkson-Martin, the widow of folk singer/legend Terrence Martin, will also be on the Main Stage. There will be film screenings in the barn, self-defense workshops led by combat veterans and female martial arts Black Belts for women and children , 2 Veteran-Civilian Dialogue events, the HGFairfield BBQ, aerialist shows, pony rides, and more; the growing schedule can be found at www.hgfairfieldarts.org/woman-fest.

Vendors are made up of women-owned businesses and women-friendly businesses and will be gathered around themed tents such as Woman & Health, Woman & Military Service Tent, Woman & Spirituality Tent, Woman of Color Tent, Woman and the Environment, Woman & Art, Child Care Tent, Drumming Tent, and more, as organizer H. G. Fairfield Arts creates a mini-village open 8am to 10pm Thursday and Friday August 8th & 9th. Events and festivities are still unfolding which reflect the charity work women do, the businesses women run, the health avenues women are trained in, the arts, sport, and cultural prowess of women, as well as the

music, spirituality, and power of women. Women are scheduled for speaks and workshops such as Patricia O'Dwyer, President-elect of the New York State Chapter of the National Federation of Democratic Women, along with the Mayor of Newburgh, Judy Kennedy, and the world renowned historian and expert on the 70,000 year-old Neolithic period of Goddess worship, Dr. Cristina Biaggi, PhD, from Palisades, NY.

Woman Fest will kick off at 8a.m. on Thursday, August 8th (vendor load-in begins Wednesday 10a.m.) and continues until the closing ceremony on Friday, August 9th at 10p.m. August 10th is scheduled as a rain date. Admission is \$10 per day for adults and free for children. Overnight camping is \$10 and is by preregistration only. Vendors or organizations interested in having a booth at the festival should refer to the vendor form available on <http://www.hgfairfieldarts.org/> or call [845-363-1559](tel:845-363-1559). Volunteers are welcome. Vendor spaces and opportunities for sponsorship and are still available, with *Woman Fest* advertising and outreach stretching from Vermont to New Jersey and Connecticut to Pennsylvania.

“Celebrating great women is nothing new to Putnam County; we’re reminded of that each time we pass the Sybil Ludington statue in Carmel,” H. G. Fairfield Arts’ President Kim Blacklock points out: “The goal is to bring women from all walks of life, to create the conversations amongst us, to showcase female resourcefulness and creativity, to reveal the positive truths and myriad of possibilities which result when women harness arts, culture, or recreation to create themselves careers and happy productive meaningful lives.” H. G. Fairfield Arts invites everyone to come celebrate mothers, women, children, and our future together.

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For more information, or to get involved as a vendor/participating organization, call H. G. Fairfield Arts at [\(845\) 363-1559](tel:845-363-1559), or e-mail Office@HGFairfieldArts.org.

<http://www.nysca.org/public/home.cfm>

http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S0201/0400000US36 -

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36000.html>

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/home/>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=zu3owmYkpZ0C&pg=PT74#v=onepage&q&f=false>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_Millington

<http://www.hgfairfieldarts.org/>

photo captions:

Bethany & Rufus: Here pictured at H. G. Fairfield’s inaugural Nimham Mountain Music Festival last May 11, 2013, which was trounced by warnings of severe thunder storms and a tornado watch, daughter of Peter Paul & Mary’s Peter Yarrow, Bethany Yarrow and Rufus Cappadocia play with Brahim Fribgane to the delight of the hardy crowd. Bethany & Rufus gladly return August 9th to Putnam County for *Woman Fest*!

Millington72: June Millington formed the first rock-&-roll all girls band Fanny with her sister Jean and has been rocking for the last 40 years. Known as a prolific songwriter covered by bands for decades, Millington is also a premier audio engineer and has her own Rock-n-Roll Camp for Girls. *Guitar Player* magazine described June Millington as the hottest female guitarist in the music industry.^[1] Millington is the co-founder and artistic director of the Institute for the Musical Arts (IMA) in [Goshen, Massachusetts](http://www.goshen.edu).

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