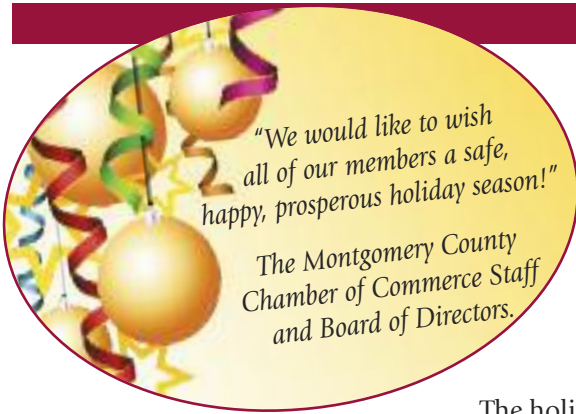


Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Your Partner In Business!



The Chamber Newsletter

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Actively Supports The Business Community!

INDEX

Member News 2
 Alpin Haus
 Fulton Montgomery Community College
 Hair Studio 3000
 Montgomery County SPCA
 Pavlus Orchard
 St. Mary's Hospital
 Quality Express Printing
 WVTL-AM

Tourism Corner 3
 Member Spotlight
 Best Choice Advertising

Photo Gallery 4 & 5
 Hummingbird Hills Winery
 Egelston Oil
 Grape Escape
 Elaine Ko

Thank You Notes 6
 Food Pantry Information
 Welcome New Members
 Member Anniversaries
 Over 20 Years
 Alpin Haus
 United Welding
 Zumbolo Financial Management Group

NYS OJT Training Program 7

Upcoming Events 8
 The Chamber's Annual Holiday Mixer
 BEA Poster Initiative

The holidays, shopping and gift giving have arrived! Many of our area retailers and businesses are hopefully looking toward this day as an opportunity to boost their business. While it may be more convenient to shop on-line from the comfort of your home, I encourage you and challenge you to do business with at least one local business that you haven't in the past this holiday season.

Often people want to buy a gift locally but may not be sure where to shop or what's available. The Chamber has once again put together a "Buy Local Holiday Shopping List" of ideas of where to shop in the area. Visit our website at www.montgomerycountyny.com, go to the home page, and click on the "Buy Local" button for our list. Listed are just some examples of where you can purchase gift items and gift certificates locally this holiday season.

Why is that important? Shopping locally increases sales tax revenue and helps keep our friends, families and neighbors employed. The impact keeps our local business community moving forward, patronizing the very same people the community asks for donations and other various fundraisers.

Our website has information on numerous local businesses where you can purchase gift items this holiday season ~ retail shops, restaurants, unique gift shops, and supply stores. And don't forget about the small unique shops like bakeries, candy and ice-cream shops, bookshop, and our very own winery in Montgomery County. How about a gift certificate for fuel or oil? Not sure where to get your Christmas tree or kissing balls? Need to know who to contact for flowers or a unique gift? Can't find what you are looking for? Call us at 842-8200. The staff at the Chamber is more than happy to recommend a place that can meet your needs.

Save the Date!
Friday, January 28, 2011
Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation Dinner
 at River Stone Manor (Chamber Member since 2004)

Awards to be presented include:
 Thomas B. Constantino Entrepreneurial Award
 Herbert T. Singer Community Service Award
 Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Award
 Edward L. Wilkinson Industry of the Year Award
 Agricultural Award
 Young Professional Award

Watch for more Details!

Are You Missing Out On Energy Savings?

With winter upon us, there is still time to save money on your gas and energy bill. If you haven't yet, go to our website at www.montgomerycountyny.com to download your application to participate in the Energy Savings Program. A few minutes of your time could save you money! No-cost, No-obligation! Check it out today! This is just one of the many Chamber benefits for our members!

Officers

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The Schwartz Law Firm

Past Chair
John Lesniewski
NBT Bank

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Brennen Parker
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Treasurer
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Alpin Haus

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Sikorski's Service Station

Mike Decker
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Andrea Brooks
Membership Assistant

Gina DaBiere-Gibbs
Tourism Director

Newsletter

Editor
Deborah Auspelmyer

Printed by
Quality Express Printing

Underwritten by

Bouche & Clarke Benefits, Inc.

MEMBER News & Events



Alpin Haus' RV Storage Special is back by popular demand. Now through April 3, 2011, outdoor RV Storage is available for only \$99. Additional months are available for \$30 a month. Offer applies to any size motor home or towable RV. Upgrade for only \$6 per foot for 6 months and receive a roof inspection (minor sealing included) and battery disconnect with reconnection in the spring. This offer is only available at the Amsterdam location. Call the Service Department at 842-7900 to reserve your space.

Fulton Montgomery Community College's science & engineering program's staff members recently received a training session on The PSEM Express Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), conducted by ASPEX Corporation. This microscope will be used in FMCC's clean room to teach students how to prepare samples for observation, set vacuum levels, and carry out analysis. Those who received training are Laurie Freeman, Associate Professor of Science; Joan Mackey, Education Support Specialist II, Science; Susan MacLeod, Instructor of Biology; Dr. Varghese Pynadath, Professor of Science; Craig Brookins, Adjunct Instructor of Science; Rich Prestopnik, Electrical and Computer Technology Professor and Center for Engineering and Technology Project Coordinator.

Hair Studio 3000 raised \$1660.00 for the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation. The staff would like to thank their clients for their generous support of this worthy cause.

The Montgomery County SPCA has qualified to participate in the 2010 Animal Rescue Site/Petfinder.com \$100,000 Shelter Challenge. The grant will award \$1000 to \$100,000 in support and assistance to qualified domestic and international animal rescue and welfare organizations. Links to the official voting are found on www.mc-spc.org and Facebook. Voters should type in Montgomery County S.P.C.A. (be sure to include the periods) and can cast one vote per day per computer for the MCSPCA. Voting continues through December 19th.

Pavlus Orchard, located at 270 Hickory Hill Road, Fort Plain, will remain open 7 days a week, until Christmas. They offer 10 varieties of apples, sweet cider, McCadam Cheese, honey, and cider donuts (weekends only). For more information or directions call 993-2643.

St. Mary's Hospital at Amsterdam was rated by the HealthGrades' annual study among the top 5% in the Nation for Prostatectomy, two years in a row; Five Star rated for Prostatectomy, 3 years in a row; and as the recipient of the HealthGrades' Prostatectomy Excellence Award, 2 years in a row. The hospital was also Five Star rated for the following: Treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; Joint Replacement, 2 years in a row; Total Knee Replacement, 2 years in a row; and Hip Fracture Repair, 2 years in a row. HealthGrades is the nation's leading independent ratings organization. It evaluates patient outcomes for 5,000 hospitals. The new 2011 ratings can be viewed free at www.healthgrades.com.

Quality Express Printing has moved to a new location! Stop in and see their new offices located on the first floor at the Clock Tower, 37 Prospect Street, Amsterdam!

WVTL-AM's Bob Cudmore was recently presented the Mental Health Association Media Award. Cudmore has hosted several programs on mental illness on Lite 104.7 FM and 1570 AM featuring local families and MHANYS CEO Glenn Liebman. Cudmore was nominated for the award by MHANYS board member Susan Murante. The Bob Cudmore Morning Show—news of the Mohawk Valley and weather with Dave Greene airs weekdays, 6-10am on Lite 104.7 FM and 1570 AM WVTL, with streaming audio at www.wvtl.com, Facebook, and Twitter. Congratulations!



Choice You Can Trust

**Ranked Top 5%
In the Nation by HealthGrades
for Prostate Surgery
Quality Outcomes**

Five-Star Rated

**St. Mary's Hospital
Amsterdam**

Care You Can Trust

**Joint Replacement Surgery
Knee Replacement Surgery
Hip Fracture Repair**



TOURISM CORNER

by Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The holiday season is rolling around with many traditional holiday events for you and your family to enjoy. Here is a sampling of what is happening in Montgomery County.

This year's Festival of Trees at the GFWC Century Club is themed Winter Escapades. The Festival of Trees opens its doors November 30 with annual special events such as the "Ladies Who Lunch" luncheon and the "Children's Morning" and so much more. On Friday, December 10, local phenomenon FLAME will be live in Concert 7 to 9pm. The Century Club's Holiday Cookie Sale will take place on December 12, 11am to 3pm; buy your cookies by the pound!

If Christmas light displays are what your family is looking for then seek no further...the Kristy Pollack Memorial Light Display runs each evening from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day; located on Lyon Street, Amsterdam. This elaborate Christmas light display accepts donations to aid severely ill children and their families annually.

Light Up the Sky with the Marching Rams opens December 2 and continues through December 23, 6:30-9:30pm, 154 Brookside Avenue, Amsterdam. The 12th Annual drive through light show is still only \$5 per vehicle. Drive down a paved road through an urban forest adorned with hundreds of trees and shrubs wrapped with lights, illuminated arches, homemade wooden displays from 3' to 8' high, illuminated deer, band members dressed in costumes, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there too! All proceeds benefit the Amsterdam High School Marching Rams. They are also collecting toys for "Toys for Tots" and canned goods for Catholic Charities Food Pantry. These are two light displays you don't want to miss!

Other holiday events happening in December are Elves Night Out in Canajoharie, holiday open houses at the Walter Elwood Museum and Old Fort Johnson, the Festival of Wreathes at Fort Plain Museum, and the St. Nicholas Celebration at Fort Klock. The Montgomery County SPCA is hosting holiday photos with your pets. St. Ann's Church, Amsterdam, will hold their annual concert, "Messiah" by Handel, on December 12.

For more information about these wonderful events in Montgomery County visit the tourism website at www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com or call me at 842-8200 x12.

CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLITE



Best Choice Advertising

Co-founders of Best Choice Advertising and long time Montgomery County residents John Goldswor and Michael Stetin set out to do one thing, to give Montgomery and Fulton county residents a reason to "shop local".

As readers started to turn to the internet for their local news, merchants started looking outside the newspapers to market their businesses.

With the recent downturn in the economy, John and Mike knew that now was the perfect time to provide local businesses with a more direct source of advertising. With a combined 40 years of experience in advertising and marketing, Best Choice Magazines were created. Instead of old news and "filler articles", Best Choice Magazines place the merchant's sales and service as the main focus.

Best Choice Magazines (both Fulton and Montgomery) are 100% direct mailed to residents every two months. Each issue is filled with great values & savings as well as exceptional services from some of the area's finest businesses & professionals. Local merchants everywhere are now offering discounts and special offers to encourage customer patronage. They are working harder than ever to draw customers and earn their business. With eye catching full color ads, a convenient index and a comprehensive website, Best Choice Magazines are clearly the advertiser's Best Choice!

When residents support the merchants in this magazine, either by mentioning the ad or by using the coupons inside, you help them measure their results and encourage their growth & stability in the community.

"Best Choice Magazine is independently owned and operated. We are not part of a franchise. The vast majority of our advertisers are just like us...we're your neighbors. By utilizing these businesses and services you not only save yourself money but you help strengthen our local economy and that helps everyone in the community. We will continually strive to bring you the best offers from our advertisers and hope you are satisfied with the mix of products & services we offer in each issue," state John Goldswor and Michael Stetin, Publishers of Best Choice Magazines.

	Amsterdam, 106 Hamstead Plaza*, 842-2123
	Canajoharie, 24 Church Street*, 673-3243
	Fonda, 34 West Main Street*, 853-4621
	Fort Plain, 41 Canal Street*, 993-2393
	Pakane Bridge, 44 Dutchtown Plaza, 673-3201
	St. Johnsville, 16 West Main Street, 568-7612
* ATM Location	www.nbtbank.com

Two new places to shop this holiday season!

The Chamber recently assisted Fowne's in cutting the ribbon on their new factory outlet store located at 103 Townsend Ave., Johnstown. "We are super excited to be in our new store and can't wait for all of our existing customers to see it," stated Bob Galinsky, Store Manager, during the event. "Fownes is still the place to get Ugg, Nine West, Nautica and many other famous brands." The store carries a variety of gloves, hats, and scarves as well as merchandise from companies such as Ugg, Tommy Hilfiger, Nautica and more! The store is open Tuesday through Saturday. Call 848-3949 for more information.



Chamber Membership Assistant, Andrea Brooks; Fownes employee Beth Sanges; Store Manager, Robert Galinsky; Vice President of Fownes, Howard Samuels; and Chamber President, Deb Auspelmyer, cut the celebratory ribbon while donning accessories from Fownes



We also celebrated the opening of the area's only winery, Hummingbird Hills, with a ribbon cutting! The winery, located at 1442 Burtonsville Rd, Fultonville, is a small family owned winery with a love for country living and good wine. Their unique wine is produced with minimal preservatives, letting the grapes natural flavor emerge. Originally a 200 acre dairy farm, they now have rolling hills of vines, and the dairy barn has been transformed into a winery. Hummingbird Hills Winery, owned by Ken and Kimm Schick, produces reds, whites, elderberry and apples wines. They are open every other weekend, call 875-6919 for more information.

Chamber staff and ambassadors cut the ribbon with the Schick's. L to r: Chamber Ambassador, Alex Kuchis, Hummingbird Hills employee Michele Dunbar; Owners Ken and Kimm Schick; Chamber President, Deb Auspelmyer; Tourism Director, Gina DaBiere-Gibbs; and Membership Assistant, Andrea Brooks.



Hummingbird Hills Winery,
inside and out.



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And a New Banquet Facility!

The Chamber recently held the Grape Escape wine sampling event at the newly renovated banquet room of the America's Best Value Inn in Amsterdam. A crowd of attendees enjoyed the musical entertainment provided by MedRock while enjoying the food and ambiance of the new facility. The Chamber thanks everyone that made this event possible: the staff of Monsoon, America's Best Value Inn and Cooper's Pub; MedRock; West End Wine & Liquor; sponsors Alpin Haus and Quality Express Printing; and everyone that donated items for the raffle including: AAA Northway; Don Diehl, LMT; the Coffee Beanery; Sherry Wieszchowski, L.E.; Egelston Oil; Seely Conover Office Centre; Lowe's; White Cottage Gardens; June's Hallmark; Zumbolo Financial Management Group; Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Family Funeral Homes; Judith Ann Realty; West End Wine & Liquor; and Old Peddler's Wagon.



The new banquet room!



Attendees were able to sample both Indian and American cuisine!



Joe Tesiero, Pat Beck, Liz Tesiero and Beverly Reed enjoy the event!



Jackie Brownell, Proprietors Tibu Chacko and Mathew Chacko, and Amsterdam Police Chief Thomas Brownell.



The crowd enjoys the festivities and dancing to MedRock!



Elaine Ko Named GFWC Middle Atlantic Region President

The General Federation of Women's Clubs installed Elaine Ko as President of the GFWC Middle Atlantic Region in Omaha, NE recently. Ko presided over the region which includes New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania at the regional conference held in Syracuse, NY. The GFWC is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. It was founded in 1868, and the Amsterdam GFWC Century Club has been a member of the international organization since 1897. The federation's goal is to encourage women to improve their skills, expand their rights, and apply their abilities and special sensitivities to the challenges of their communities. Ko has been a member of the Montgomery County Chamber through her Montessori School of Amsterdam for many years. Now retired, she remains a member to this important community organization.



Delivering moments like this.

THE
New
BIRTHING
CENTER
at LITTAUER

Dear Chamber,
 I want to extend a sincere thank you for all the assistance that you offered to help find donations from local businesses for Linny Kenney and her partner Walter Rowland on their cross-country journey. They both were so appreciative of all the kindness shown to them and their beloved horse, Sojourner.

Even with the short notice given, I can always count on the Chamber to assist in situations as this one. Thank you.
 Sincerely,
 Ann M. Thane, Mayor, City of Amsterdam

Want to Help Those in Need This Holiday Season?

Liberty Tax Service Seeks Blankets, Hats and Gloves

Fighting homelessness takes a year round commitment, and Liberty Tax Service welcomes community and business support to help the local homeless stay warm and stock up now. A countless number of blankets, hats, gloves, hand warmers and any essentials that can help people "stay warm drive" incentive is underway at the Liberty Tax Service office, 33 Market St., Amsterdam. Just pull-up and their Lady Liberty Wavers will assist in the dropping of your unused items.

Bring old blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers or any cold weather gear you're no longer using, including jackets, winter boots and, sleeping bags, etc. to the office any Friday from 9am-6pm throughout the New Year! Every donation will receive a free gift, compliments of Liberty Tax Service, a way to say thank you for helping our community! Call 843-8291 for more information.

Want to reach out to local food pantries?

Amsterdam: Catholic Charities, 1 Kimball St., 842-4202; Calvary Assembly of God, 200 E. Main St., 842-1261; Fulmont Community Action Program, 1200 Riverfront Center, 842-0790; The Salvation Army, 267 Market St., 842-9941.

Fonda: Fulmont Community Action Program, Montgomery County Annex Bldg., 20 Park St., 853-8351.

Fort Plain: Fulmont Community Action Program, 74 Main St., 993-3230.



"Ron The Boat Man"
 Let me show you how to Discover Boating

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RINKER SYLVAN VECTRA PALM BEACH
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KNAPIK'S MARINE 842-8140

Welcome New Chamber Members

Liberty Tax Service
842-8291

Terrapin Bottle & Can Return
842-0300

Toshiba
250-5502

Wagner Electric
673-3976

*Call and welcome them to The Chamber!
 Buy Local and Use Local Services.*

Member Anniversaries

The following businesses realize the value of their Chamber investment and have renewed their membership. Please note these members and the year they joined.

Thanks to all of our renewing members!

Less Than 5 years

BTU Heating & Cooling, Inc.	2009
Cooper's Sports Pub	2008
Cushing Stone Company, Inc.	2010
The Garden Bug	2006
Mike's Italian Restaurant	2010

5 to 9 Years

Canajoharie Central School	2005
Energy Next, Inc.	2004
Montgomery County Office for Aging	2002
River Stone Manor	2004
Schwartz Law Firm	2005

10 to 20 Years

American Legion Post 701	1993
Arnold's Feed & Grain	1995
Baldwin Research Inst.	2000
Benchmark	2000
Buhrmaster Energy Group	2000
Catholic Charities of	
Fulton & Montgomery Counties	1992
Fownes Brothers	1993
Village of Hagaman	2000
Hardies Electric	2000
Home Health Care Partners, Corp.	2000
Village of Palatine Bridge	1999
Sise & Sise	1991
Subway Shop	2000
Valley Rural Housing	1999

Over 20 Years

Alpin Haus, Inc.	1982
United Welding	1966
Zumbolo Financial Management Group	1982

Congratulations!

Our Members have Longevity!

*Investing in The Chamber is investing in Montgomery County!
 We invite you to get involved!! Ask us how!!*

On-the-Job Training (OJT) New State Program to Help Your Business Fill Training Needs

On April 13, 2010, the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) issued a Request for Application (RFA) for a new State On-the-Job Training program. DOL has \$2.8 million in State Workforce Investment Act funds to offer businesses under the OJT program. This program is designed to encourage new hiring, especially of people who are long-term unemployed and to help train these new hires.



How much am I eligible to receive?
Businesses can receive training grants of up to 30% of the newly hired employee's wage rate. If the person meets the definition of long term unemployed, you can also collect 20% or more of the newly hired employee's wage rate, for a total of 50%.
The maximum OJT award amount for a newly hired employee is \$5,000 – there is no minimum award amount. You can hire as many people up to a total, maximum award of \$50,000 per business.

What is OJT?

The OJT program pairs businesses with the qualified workers you need. These people will require some specialized training – which only your business can provide – to do the new job. The program covers some of the training-related expenses you incur for these new hires.

Who can apply for the OJT RFA?

Businesses (private sector, for-profits, and not-for-profits), Intermediaries that represent a business membership (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, labor/trade organizations, local WIB's, LWIA grant recipients).

What does the State OJT program cover?

- This new State OJT program is meant to be a catalyst for businesses to start hiring again, especially of long term unemployed individuals, (a person who has exhausted their Unemployment Insurance benefits or is within 5 weeks of exhausting benefits).
- Businesses located in New York State.
- Entities offering a job that is full-time (35 hours or more per week).
- Jobs that pay at least \$10/hr.
- Hires that are employees of the business – not independent contractors or contract employees.
- A business or business intermediary that is in good standing

OJT will not cover intermittent, part-time (less than 35 hours per week) and seasonal occupations.

We will work with an interested business and/or business intermediary to fully develop the qualifications of the worker(s) you want to hire. Then, we will offer you a list of candidates from our pool of dislocated workers.

Business Intermediaries are eligible for reimbursement of up to 5% of the OJT contract awarded, with a cap of \$50,000.

How do I apply for the OJT program?

Applications are accepted until all funds are obligated or until December 15, 2010, which ever comes first.

First, send an email to: StateOJT@labor.ny.gov with "Intent to Apply" in the subject line. Include the following information in the body of the email:

- Applicant name (Business or Intermediary name)
- Address
- Federal Employer Identification Numbers (FEIN)
- Contact Person (name, title, address, phone, email)
- Title and salary range for each anticipated position

Then if your initial inquiry is approved, you will work with a Business Services staff member to develop a detailed application describing your training plan. All training activities must be completed by March 31, 2011.

For more information, contact your regional Business Services Representative.

Capital Region	Mohawk Valley
Brian Suedkamp	Santo Falbo
WA Harriman State	207 Genesee St, Room 712
State Office Campus	Utica, NY 13501
Building 12, Room 425	315-793-2276
Albany, NY 12240	santo.falbo@labor.ny.gov
518-485-2592	
brian.suedkamp@labor.ny.gov	

**article courtesy of the NYS Department of Labor*



Have YOU Voted?!

Go to our website at

www.montgomerycountyny.com today.

The polls change regularly, be sure to add

www.montgomerycountyny.com

to your favorites.

The Chamber is also now on

facebook

We invite you to become fans of our pages

Montgomery County
Chamber of Commerce

and

Visit Montgomery County.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1166 Riverfront Center
Amsterdam, New York 12010
(518) 842-8200 • Fax: (518) 684-0111
E-mail: chamber@montgomerycountyny.com
Website: www.montgomerycountyny.com

Member

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Link to www.montgomerycountyny.com today!!!

UPcoming EVENTS!

**✓MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE "DON'T MISS" EVENTS!! (Tell your staff too!)
Call The Chamber at 842-8200 to RSVP**

12/9 ~ The Chamber's Annual Holiday Business Mixer, sponsored by Bouchey & Clarke Benefits, Inc. and The GFWC Century Club, will be held at the GFWC Century Club's Festival of Trees, 130 Guy Park Ave, Amsterdam, 5-7pm. "Ring in" the holidays with The Chamber and the local holiday favorite, The Festival of Trees. Personally offer your holiday wishes to fellow Chamber Members, while networking, enjoying hors d'oeuvres (catered by Crystal Ristorante) and refreshments.

BEA Unveils Poster Initiative



The HFM Business Education Alliance recently unveiled their new marketing piece, a poster promoting businesses and industries throughout the tri-county area of Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties. "The poster is the continuation of our marketing initiative, showcasing the employment opportunities

throughout the region," explains BEA Coordinator Gina Holloway. "One of the goals of the alliance is to increase awareness of opportunities, this will assist us in doing so." The alliance also had an interactive website developed for employers, students, and parents to see what is available in the area and continue to connect business and education. Businesses are invited to have their logo placed on the poster which will be distributed throughout the tri-county area.

For more information on having your business logo placed on this poster or the Alliance (of which the Montgomery County Chamber is part of) go to www.thebea.org or contact Gina at 736-4681 ext. 4336.



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from New York
- Royal Caribbean**
from New Jersey, Fort Lauderdale or San Juan

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AAA.com

YES, I want my company's logo on the HFM BEA LOGO POSTER. I understand that printed posters will be placed throughout the Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery counties. The logo poster will also be placed on the BEA Web site and the logo will be an active link to my company's Web site.

Cost: \$100 Please make checks payable to HFM BEA.

Business: _____

Contact Person _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Remit to: Hamilton Fulton Montgomery Business Education Alliance
Attn: Gina
2755 State Highway 67 • Johnstown, NY 12095