

3rd Annual

# TRI INCLUSION FESTIVAL 2024

In partnership with  
The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site &  
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum  
at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center

A

Celebration

of

# Disability Pride & Culture

June 28, 2024



Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Presidential Library and Museum

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate disability pride and to learn about how we can make our communities more inclusive for Dutchess residents with disabilities. This is TRI's third year bringing this event to the Hudson Valley!

## **What is DISABILITY PRIDE?**

Disability Pride is defined as accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity. Inclusion is the policy or practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as individuals with disabilities.

"The mission of TRI Inclusion Festival is to raise public awareness about the culture of disability, promote community inclusion for individuals with disabilities in Dutchess County, and challenge stigma and discrimination."



**Lisa Tarricone,**  
Executive Director  
Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.

11:00AM - 3:00PM



**Registration**  
**TRI Tabling & Exhibits**  
**TRI Computer Café**

11:25AM - 12:00N



**Panel Discussion – I**  
**A Day in the Life of—Families and Businesses Coming Together in Support of Disability Inclusion**

- Pamela Gunther, Founder & CEO, Fit & Fun Playscapes  
 - Amanda Owen, Founder & CEO, Pieces of Me



**Accessible Yoga**

- Susannah Grange, Owner of Hudson River Yoga / Yoga, Mobility, Strength and Movement Educator

12:00N - 12:15PM

Break

12:15 - 1:15PM



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS / Q&A**

- **John P. Herrion, Esq.,** Acting General Counsel, New York State Division of Human Rights

1:15 - 1:30PM

Break

1:30 - 2:00PM



**VIDEO PRESENTATION / Q&A**  
 County Executive **Sue Serino / ThinkACCESSIBLE**

2:00 - 2:10PM

Break

2:10 - 2:50PM



**Panel Discussion – II**  
**The State of Disability Inclusion in Dutchess County**

- Joel Griffith, Mayor of Tivoli  
 - Village of Red Hook Deputy Mayor Melkorka Kjarval  
 - Peter A. Cirillo, President & Architect, Cirillo Architects, P.C.  
 - Dutchess Disability Advocacy Partnership (DDAP)

2:25 - 2:50PM



**Children's Book Reading & Autograph Session**

- Amanda Owen, Author of 'Owen the Wonderer And the Great Park Adventure'

**Thank you to jazz performers**

- Paul Rutkowski, Jazz Musician/Multireedist  
 - Steve Lamattina, Accompanist

ADVOCACY  
INCLUSION  
INDEPENDENCE



**#TRIINCLUSIONFEST**

**Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. extends its appreciation to the Home of FDR National Historic Site for their partnership in making our 3rd Annual TRI Inclusion Festival possible.**

**We acknowledge their commitment to providing an accessible and inclusive environment to all visitors with disabilities.**



Since 1916, the National Park Service has been entrusted with the care of our national parks. With the help of volunteer and partners, we safeguard these special places and share their stories with more than 318 million visitors every year. But our work doesn't stop there.

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in revitalizing their communities, preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close-to-home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun. Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need—and welcome—your help and support.

### **National Park Service Access Passports**

The Home of FDR National Historic Site is distributing National Park Service Access Passports, free of charge to individuals with disabilities. These Passports permit the owner and three guests access to national parks (including the Home of FDR) for life. Visit: [nps.gov/subjects/accessibility/access-pass.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/accessibility/access-pass.htm) for more information.

Home of FDR National Historic Site,  
4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538

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CREDIT UNION



**John P. Herrion, Esq.,**  
Acting General Counsel  
New York State Division of  
Human Rights

John P. Herrion is the Keynote Speaker at the 3rd Annual TRI Inclusion Festival. John is an attorney with extensive experience in disabilities rights.

In March 2008, Mr. Herrion became Director of Disability Rights for the New York State Division of Human Rights. In this capacity, he assists with the enforcement of the New York State's Human Rights Law provisions that prohibit discriminating against persons with disabilities.

Prior to working at the New York State Division of Human Rights, Mr. Herrion was Counsel to the United Spinal Association for two years, where he was represented and assisted persons with disabilities on a wide variety of issues related to employment housing and access to place of public accommodation.

Mr. Herrion has published articles and lectures extensively, including Continuing Legal Education programs (CLEs) for attorneys, on the rights of persons with disabilities. He is a past Chair and secretary of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Legal Issues Affecting Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Herrion holds a law degree from Pace University School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Manhattan College.

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*pieces* OF ME





## **Sue Serino**

**County Executive,  
ThinkACCESSIBLE**

At age 15, Sue Serino went to work to help support her family and never stopped. From waiting tables at area restaurants, to managing a local diner, Sue spent years holding down two and three jobs to make ends meet and talking extensively with customers, listening and relating to their concerns. After finding herself a working single-mom, Sue started an in childcare business to ensure she could continue to financially support her family while caring for her own son.

Sue eventually began working in real estate where she specialized in helping first-time homebuyers make their Hudson Valley dreams a reality. As a successful small business owner, Sue experienced first-hand the frustration of excessive red tape and over-taxation that hinders economic development. Those experiences propelled her to get involved, leading to time spent on the Hyde Park Town Board and the Dutchess County Legislature before being elected to the New York State Senate.

As a State Senator, Sue spent 8 years representing residents of Dutchess County in Albany. There, she served as both the Chair and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Aging as well as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation. During her tenure in the Senate, she stood out as a staunch advocate for seniors and caregivers, especially during the pandemic when she was an outspoken voice fighting to protect vulnerable nursing home residents.

On November 8, 2023, Sue Serino marked her return to public office as Dutchess County Executive. County Executive Serino implemented "ThinkACCESSIBLE" as one of the first initiatives within her new administration. The ThinkACCESSIBLE campaign will help raise public awareness about promoting accessibility and inclusivity for persons with disabilities within Dutchess communities and businesses.

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YOUR

**STORIES**

WITH US



## **Amanda Owen**

**CEO, Founder, & Author -  
Pieces of Me**

Over a decade ago, Amanda left her position as a special education teacher to launch Puzzle Pieces, a Kentucky-based nonprofit that serves more than 400 individuals with disabilities, offering them targeted autism services, residential living, vocational training, supported employment, behavior services and more.

Amanda Owen is a nationally acclaimed author and speaker, as well as a sibling to her older brother Nick, who has a rare chromosomal disability. Growing up with Nick truly set the trajectory of Amanda's life, fueling her to advocate for those with disabilities to be included in their communities and live meaningful, fulfilled lives.

Through her children's book series, "Owen the Wonderer," Amanda hopes to teach children and educators about disabilities, acceptance, and inclusion. She advocates for health equity by helping healthcare professionals gain clarity, consistency, and research-based strategies for caring for patients with disabilities through her ACCESS Care training program.

Amanda also advises businesses on how to provide equitable and meaningful careers to those with disabilities. For individuals with a disability and their families, she speaks on the topic of discovering a whole-life journey to help loved ones build the life they desire.

Given her unique perspective as a sibling and service provider, Amanda has recently developed the SEEDS Strategy to support parents navigating life with both a child with a disability and a neurotypical child. You can listen to Amanda on her podcast, Fuel Your Purpose, focusing on disabilities and female entrepreneurship or connect with her on Instagram at @piecesofmybyamanda.

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## **Pamela Gunther**

**CEO & Founder -  
Fit & Fun Playscapes**

Pamela Gunther is the Founder and CEO of Fit and Fun Playscapes®; an international company based here in Poughkeepsie that creates inclusive, movement-based products that help people of all ages and abilities lead a healthier lifestyle.

Pamela began her career as an Architect and holds a license to practice architecture in the State of New York. She was also a Planner for the Village of Port Chester and then worked within the real estate consulting industry for 10 years. She became the Vice President of Engineering at a large NYC real estate consulting firm, managing her team and teams of consultants, specializing in large building acquisitions and building systems.

Her career shifted when she got involved in a volunteer PTA project at her children's school painting recess games outside. Years later, two of her children were diagnosed with ADD and she dove into how physical activity could help without medications. These experiences inspired her to launch Fit and Fun Playscapes®, an online retailer of indoor, outdoor, and portable activities that get people moving.

For more than 13 years, in over 8,000 locations across the US, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom, Pam's brand has grown to offer hundreds of inclusive movement-based products that help children improve cognition function, academic performance, social emotional development, physical health and well-being, and reduce anxiety.

Under Pam's leadership, Fit and Fun was recognized as a resource by the CDC in 2017, for creating environments supportive of physical activity. She has been featured on PBS Close-Up, NBC News 4 NY, and CBS and currently serves on the board of Abilities First in the Hudson Valley.

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**Peter A. Cirillo**

President & Architect -  
Cirillo Architects, P.C.

Mr. Cirillo graduated from Temple University in 1986 with a Bachelors of Science in Architecture, Civil Engineering and Construction Technology. He started working in the firm of Robert E. Habig Architect as a draftsman. The office was small, so Mr. Cirillo was able to perform multiple roles in the architectural and construction fields. In 1999, Habig & Cirillo Architects was formed with Mr. Cirillo as President. He was in charge of running the firm, while Mr. Habig was in the retirement process. Upon Mr. Habig's retirement, the name was changed to Cirillo Architects, PC.

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 **Staples**  
**Poughkeepsie**

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HERBERT H. \_\_\_\_\_  
REDL FOUNDATION |

QUICK *Signs*





**Susannah Grange**  
Hudson River Yoga

Join Susannah Grange from Hudson River Yoga. Her motto is if you can breathe, you can do Yoga! She teaches evidence-based and interdisciplinary accessible yoga and strength through creativity and playful exploration with a sense of humor.

Susannah, Director E-YT 500 Yoga has encircled Susannah's life for 20 years. Being passionate about all aspects of her Yoga practice: philosophy, science, strength, anatomy and biomechanics, Susannah encourages her students to honor where they are in their bodies, which reinforces her belief that Yoga is for everyone. Her motto: if you can breathe, you can do Yoga!

Her compassion is a guiding force to help guide individuals to build strength, balance and flexibility with attention to alignment from the inside out. Grateful for all her teachers (and their teachers before them), Susannah is an experienced 500+hour teacher who is passionate about her continued education. That passion resonates with her certified experience in Prenatal, Yin Yoga, Restorative Yoga, Yoga As Therapy, Myofascial Release with Therapy Balls, Biomechanics & Yoga, Movement Science, Mindful Strength & Accessible Yoga.

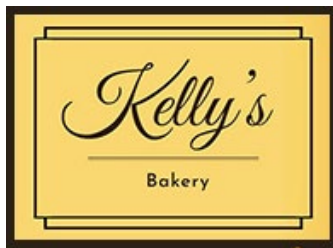
Susannah lives in the Hudson Valley with her dogs and cats who are thrilled she teaches from a home studio.

Visit Susannah Grange at [www.hudsonriveryoga.com](http://www.hudsonriveryoga.com)

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**Joel Griffith,**  
Mayor of Tivoli

Joel Griffith was born and raised in Tivoli, NY and attended Red Hook Central Schools. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Grinnell College in 1996 and a Mater of Fine Arts from Bard College in 2003.

He continues to work as a professional artist alongside his public service.

Known for his Hudson Valley landscapes, he taught drawing and painting in the Bard Prison Initiative in 2009-2010. Griffith became a Village of Tivoli Trustee in 2011, Deputy Mayor in 2013, and has served as Mayor of the Village of Tivoli since 2015.

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dutchessny.gov

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**Dana M. Hopkins, LCSW-R**

All Abilities Program Director

Dutchess County Department Behavioral and  
Community Health

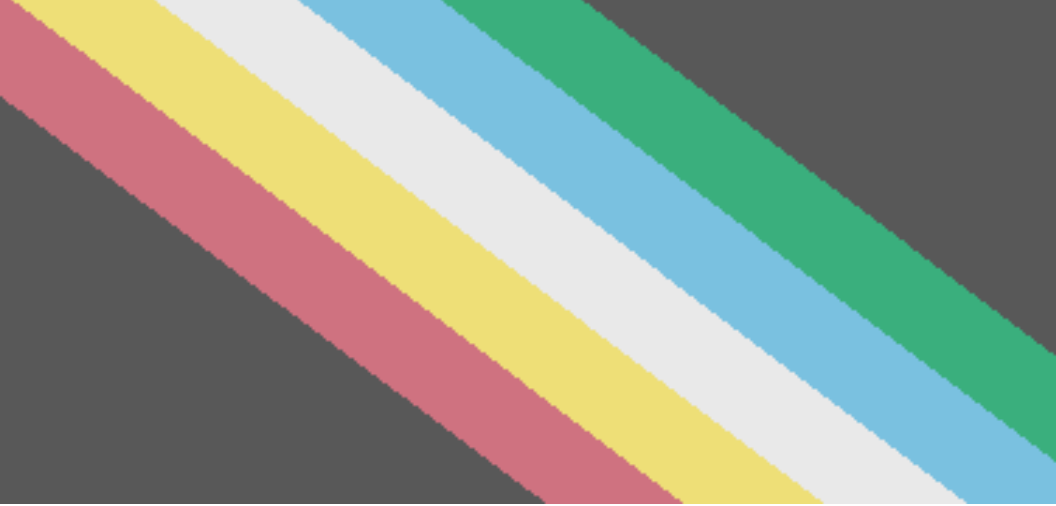
**Jessica Scholes and Jonathan Greenwald**

Disability Rights New York (DRNY) attorneys



Hertz Rental Car - Poughkeepsie





## **Respect Ability**

The original Disability Pride Flag was created by Ann Magill in 2019, and underwent a makeover by Magill for accessibility purposes in 2021. They altered the original zigzagged design because it adversely impacted symptoms for individuals with visually triggered disabilities, including seizure and migraine disorders. Magill's update design features muted colors and a straight diagonal band from the top left to the bottom right corner.

The stripes represent different disabilities:

green is for sensory disabilities, including the blind, deaf, and deaf-blind communities;

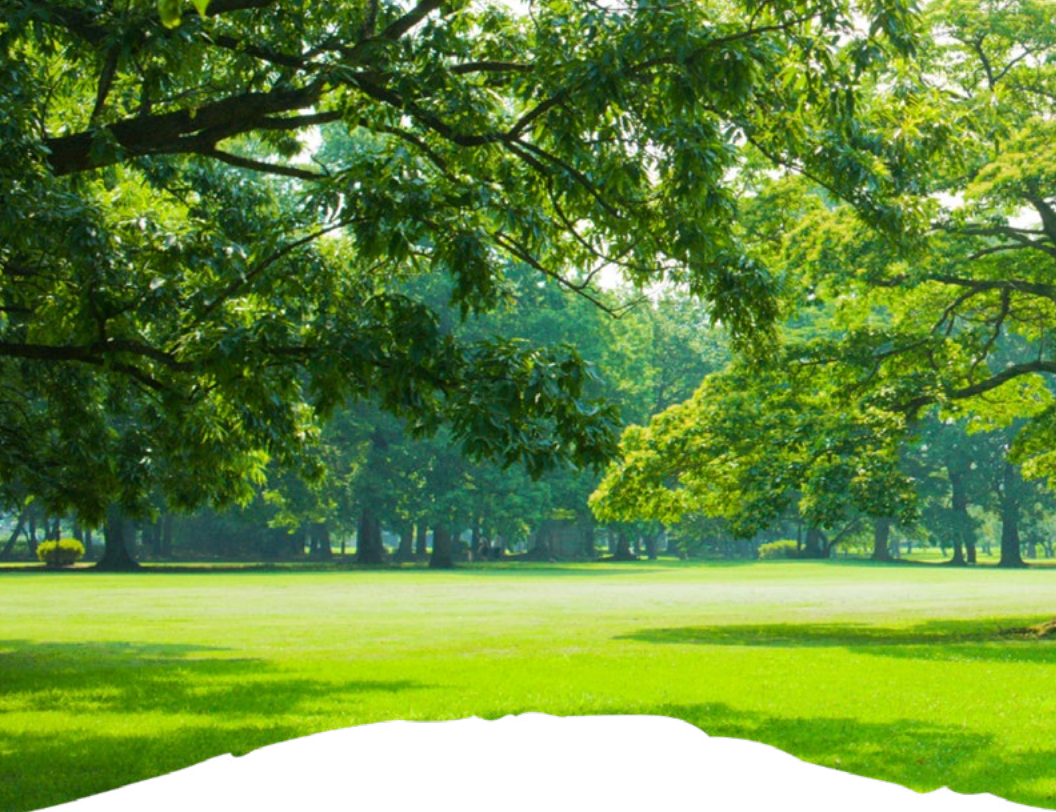
blue represents emotional and psychiatric disabilities;

white stands for non-apparent and undiagnosed disabilities;

gold is for neurodivergence;

and red represents physical disabilities.





TRI was founded in 1986 and is Dutchess County's leading disability advocacy organization, dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities to lead self-directed lives. TRI works within the community to provide disability awareness and advocacy for the removal of barriers.

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