



c/o Arc Herkimer  
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Event info.:  
[www.nyiwa.com](http://www.nyiwa.com)



**Relph** Benefit Advisors  
AN ALERA GROUP COMPANY  
Arc Herkimer 50th Anniversary  
Lead Sponsor  
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On the Vine

## 159 Years of Winemaking, cont'd.

on July 1 by the enactment of Prohibition. The winery was left with an inventory of 70,000 cases of champagne and substantial quantities of still wine. Yet it survived the 14 years of Prohibition on sales for sacramental and medicinal purposes.

After Repeal in 1933, the Company progressed steadily. Charles D. Champlin II, grandson of the founder and dean of American champagne makers of his time, managed the operation until his death in 1950. The family retained control of the business until 1955 when it was sold to a company run by Marne Obernauer, a businessman from New Jersey, who officially renamed the winery Pleasant Valley Division of Great Western Producers. In 1961, the winery was acquired by The Taylor



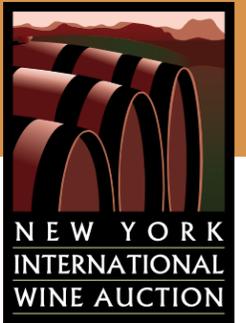
Wine Company, its next-door neighbor, which was itself acquired first by The Coca-Cola Company in 1977, then Joseph E. Seagram & Sons in 1983, and finally Vintners International Company, Inc., in 1987.

Having survived Prohibition and several ownership changes, the winery returned once again to local family control in 1995.

Many of the wonderful wines from Pleasant Valley Wine Company will be appearing in this year's NYIWA auction. Their now famous champagne "Millennium" will be kicking off the live auction dinner as the event's toasting item and several bottles will be listed in auction lots.

\*Reference: <https://www.pleasantvalleywine.com/history/>

**24th Annual Auction: Saturday, September 28, 2019. Reserve your spot now!**  
Room reservations: 1-800-771-7711, Code: NY International Wine Auction.  
Discount Room Rate available until Friday, September 6th.



## Spotlight: Arc Herkimer Celebrates 50 Years!

May 3 marked the 50th anniversary of Arc Herkimer and what a cause for celebration! In May of 1969, parents of children with disabilities in the central New York region asked the questions: "Who will care for our children and what will they do when they reach the age of 21?"

Early programming started with a summer camp, where 20 children and teens were enrolled. Throughout the years, Arc Herkimer has embraced a mission to empower people with disabilities and to enrich lives throughout our community. Thanks to dedicated board members, staff, volunteers, donors and the community—for 50 years, Arc Herkimer has grown from a group of loving parents looking for programs for their children to nearly 400 staff members providing vital and meaningful services to approximately 787 individuals with disabilities. Currently Arc Herkimer's budget stands at over \$27 million dollars, and the agency is the second largest employer in Herkimer County.

Today, people with developmental, psychological, and physical disabilities have many opportunities to choose from such as attending individualized classes, working in a supported vocation, participating in community activities, and more. Arc Herkimer continually strives to be the premier provider of innovative and quality person-centered services for people with disabilities and others in the community.

We hope you will join us in one of the many celebratory events planned in Arc Park, that include a Summer Concert Series, Cruise-In Classic Car Night, Family Movie Night, and more! Visit [www.archerkimer.org](http://www.archerkimer.org) for more information.



▲ Susie Bentz enjoys dancing and music at the May 3rd Anniversary Party.



◀ The Day Habilitation Gents Group, creative individuals who turn trash into treasure, worked with Arc Herkimer staff to construct a 50th anniversary cake out of tires.



► Individuals supported and staff are ready for the first parade of the year with the newly-constructed anniversary float.

EPICURE

1 **Spotlight**   
Arc Herkimer Celebrates 50 Years!

2 **Mission Moment**   
Reunited: Finding Your Way Back Home.

3 **On the Vine**   
159 Years of Winemaking Nestled in the Finger Lakes!



# Reunited: Finding Your Way Back Home

Historic floods in Herkimer County damaged an Arc Herkimer house in Mohawk, and although residents were never in harm's way, it was decided to change their living situation as the home was bought through a buyout program for areas with persistent flooding.

Individuals were relocated to different homes while awaiting completion of a complex construction project of a home in Herkimer to meet each person's needs. Arc Herkimer residential staff worked diligently

with contractors to create a safe and inviting new residence. The four individuals were reunited in 2018, adding a new roommate.

Everyone loves the new Central Avenue home. Maryellen said she loves living closer to downtown, where she can walk to shop and visit friends. Diane likes that she has a shorter bus ride to work. Barbie and Diane are enjoying their bedrooms. Ron is happy the group is back together. Eric likes how quiet his new neighborhood is, and cooking in his new kitchen.



▲ The Central Avenue residents enjoying their new home, from left, Ron Hill, Maryellen Doane, Diane Duffy, Barbara Bobbit, and Eric McCauley. After selecting paint colors for their own bedrooms and helping with decorating in the final stages, five individuals moved into their beautiful new house. Two women, who shared a bedroom for years, were welcomed into private rooms.



▲ The Central Avenue crew enjoys sharing the Easter holiday and coloring eggs together.

▶ A favorite trip and memory for the reunited friends was a house trip to the Turning Stone Resort • Casino for holiday festivities in December.



# 159 Years of Winemaking Nestled in the Finger Lakes!

The Pleasant Valley Wine Company, located just near the village of Hammondsport, is the oldest winery in the Finger Lakes having opened its doors on March 15, 1860 and was designated as Bonded Winery No. 1 in its State and Federal Districts.



Built by Charles Davenport Champlin on a slope of land he owned overlooking Pleasant Valley, by collaborating with 12 local businessmen and consolidating their holdings under "Articles of Association for the Manufacture of Native Wine."

Winemaking operations were carried out by Jules and Joseph Masson, noted French-born winemakers of the time, in wooden and stone structures still used on the property today, with adjacent cellars carved into the hillside.

During the winery's first year of operation, 18 tons of Isabella and Catawba grapes were harvested, yielding 220 gallons of wine per ton. On August 17, 1862, the first recorded shipment, 100 gallons of wine, left the winery. Business thrived. While the Civil War brought supply and labor shortages, as well as price increases and transportation difficulties, the enterprise was sufficiently successful in 1865 to invest in champagne-producing equipment. Twenty thousand bottles of Sparkling Catawba were made that year. In 1867, this wine was awarded honorable mention at the Exposition Universelle in Paris, the first American Sparkling wine to win an award in Europe. In 1873 in Vienna, the winery's champagne was awarded first prize and its first European medal; since then the Company's champagnes have received numerous European gold medals and other awards.

Because of the internationally recognized excellence of Pleasant Valley Champagnes, and because of the similarities of climatic and soil conditions between the area and the Champagne district of France, Pleasant Valley came to be called the "Rheims of America." When the U.S. Postal Service opened a branch at the winery in 1870, it used the postmark, "Rheims, N.Y.," which was used until 1945 when rural delivery took its place.

In March 1871, Mr. Champlin sent a case of champagne to his close friend, Marshall P. Wilder, who was a well-known wine connoisseur in Boston. After introducing it at a dinner party at the Parker House, Wilder declared it to be "the Great Champagne of the Western World." The champagne was thus dubbed "Great Western."

Shipping records of the 1860s, 70s, and 80s are filled with such prestigious accounts as S.S. Pierce, Macy's,



Park Tilford, George F. Hueblin and Brother, Palmer House of Chicago, Parker House of Boston, and individuals such as Professor Henry W. Longfellow of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Pleasant Valley wines appeared on the lists of the most fashionable restaurants. They were even heartily recommended by doctors for their medicinal qualities.

On March 8, 1893, the Pleasant Valley Wine Company was registered as a New York State corporation, with the Champlins and Massons holding 205 of 400 outstanding shares of stock. Adding further excitement, on July 4, 1908, Glenn Curtiss made the first pre-announced airplane flight on the Pleasant Valley flats directly below the winery entrance.

The good news that Pleasant Valley had sold more champagne in the first six months of 1919 than in any previous year was marred

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