

ENTERTAINMENT

Housatonic Valley Association's virtual auction is Feb. 21

Staff reports

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Christine Baranski's annual harvest-time tradition of hosting HVA's Auction for the Environment will be a winter-time event, virtual, live and full of new treats at 4 p.m. Feb. 21. There will also be a special pre-auction reception at 3:30 p.m. with Christine and Margo Martindale and friends for VIP Sponsor ticket-holders.

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WASHINGTON — Actor Christine Baranski's annual harvest-time tradition of hosting HVA's Auction for the Environment is a winter-time virtual event, starting at 4 p.m. Feb. 21. A special pre-auction reception will be held at 3:30 p.m. with Christine and Margo Martindale and friends for VIP Sponsor ticket-holders.

The Auction for the Environment is HVA's only fundraiser of the year, and all proceeds will help keep water clean, conserve vital woodlands and meadows, restore and protect streams, and support recreation and education projects across the three-state Housatonic Watershed from the Berkshires and Harlem Valley through western Connecticut to Long Island Sound, according to a statement.

Auction items include unique offerings such as Family Story Time with Christine, a fabulous singing birthday zoom with Margo Martindale, a Q, A & C (cocktails) zoom with Seth Meyers, and a personally curated Paris-Bordeaux adventure, along with offerings from regional friends. These include Litchfield Distillery, Harney & Sons Fine Teas, Kent Wine & Spirits, as well as local shops and restaurants. Acclaimed auctioneer Sherry Truhlar's energy and humor will shine from center stage. Lead auction business sponsors Harney & Sons Fine Teas, Litchfield Distillery and Aquarion Water Company are helping underwrite the festivities, according to the statement.

"So much is at stake now. With a wonderful network of partners, we're conserving a woodland corridor that stretches through our watershed and is vital to our climate resilience, to wildlife and drinking water and streams. There are still thousands of acres and hundreds of stream miles to protect to secure a healthier environmental future for this place we love," said Lynn Werner, HVA's Executive Director. "The Auction underwrites all of this work. And this year, no matter where you are, you can zoom into the gala, lend a hand and have some fun at the same time."

To view auction items as they are added, and to purchase auction tickets, visit www.hvatoday.org and click "Auction Info" on the home page.

Baranski is an HVA board member and friend of the River Valley, star of CBS's *The Good Fight* and recently the movie "Mama Mia! Here We Go Again." She has starred in more than 15 films and is a 15-time Emmy Award nominee, winning once in 1995 for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as Maryann Thorpe in the sitcom "Cybil." She has also had roles in several television shows and has several Broadway credits to her name winning two Tony Awards for Best Featured Actress in a Play for the original Broadway productions of "The Real Thing" in 1984 and "Rumors" in 1989.

Martindale is an American character actress who has appeared on television, film, and onstage. In 2011, she won a Primetime Emmy Award and a Critics' Choice Television Award for her recurring role as Mags Bennett on "Justified" and was nominated for an Emmy Award four times for her recurring role as Claudia on "The Americans", winning the award in 2015 and 2016. She has played supporting roles in more than a dozen films including "Dead Man Walking", "Marvin's Room", and "Million Dollar Baby".

Founded in 1941, HVA is dedicated to protecting the entire Housatonic River Watershed. The watershed includes about 2,000 square miles of land stretching from western Massachusetts through western Connecticut and eastern New York to Long Island Sound. HVA's offices are in Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut; Stockbridge, Massachusetts and Wassaic, New York. For more information, go to hvatoday.org