

# Jocelyn Zimmer named first female president of Zimmer Brothers Jewelers



Jocelyn Zimmer, new president of Zimmer Brothers Jewelers in Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck, is pictured with Michael Gordon, former president, and member of the company's board of directors.

-Courtesy photo

Honoring its commitment to being a trusted jeweler and celebrating its storied, 130-year history, Zimmer Brothers Jewelers announced the appointment of Jocelyn Zimmer to president. The appointment marks the first female president of the fifth-generation family business, which has an iconic flagship location in Poughkeepsie and another boutique shop in Rhinebeck.

Zimmer joined the family business in 2001 and since has become deeply invested in the local Hudson Valley community through her involvement with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Arlington Business Improvement District, as well as several local nonprofit organizations. As a registered jeweler with the American Gem Society and continuing her education through the Gemological Institute of America, she brings over 20 years of experience in the fine jewelry trade to her new role – a position previously held by her father, Michael Gordon.

“The jewelry industry has always been a male-dominated profession, but women are continually breaking through,” said Zimmer. “It’s an honor to be in a position where I can use my voice and actions to support and elevate causes that I care deeply about. And as the mom of two daughters, it’s even more special to reflect on what this represents for women in the industry.”

Spearheading initiatives she’s passionate about, and celebrating the business’ many milestones, is important to Zimmer. As such, she has initiated a partnership with Moyo Gems, an organization that directly

supports colored gemstone mining regions, to curate one-of-a-kind pieces that will be handled by women throughout their entire journey – from mine to market. The pieces, which will be a part of the Zimmer Brothers Legacy Collection launching Summer 2023 in celebration of the 130th milestone, will feature a gemstone mined by a woman in East Africa, hand-selected by Zimmer and then cut and faceted by a woman in the United States. It will then be crafted by one of the jeweler’s featured female designers. With each purchase, 15% will be donated to Gem Legacy, a nonprofit organization that provides support, vocational training, entrepreneurship and community development to East African gem mining communities.

Additionally, as part of her inaugural initiatives, Zimmer has inked a partnership with Diamonds Do Good, another global nonprofit organization whose mission is to support programs that develop and empower those in natural diamond communities. The focus of the alliance is to put the 5th C, community, into a conversation around diamonds that typically focuses on cut, clarity, carats and color, so that Zimmer Brothers Jewelers customers ensure their purchases contribute to creating social and economic opportunity for everyone who comes in contact with diamonds along their journey.

“After serving 52 years at our family business, the last 15 as president, it prides me to pass the torch to someone so capable,” said Michael Gordon, former president, and member of the company’s board of directors. “I have seen Jocelyn grow with this business and know that she will not only bring her deep expertise to this role, but her heart.”

# John Jay’s FFA announces 2023-24 officers



John Jay High School’s Future Farmers of America recently named its 2023-24 officers. The new officers are Sophia Seifert, President; Rylee VanZandt, Vice President; Matthew Mulligan, Co-Vice President; Francesca Olivia, Secretary; Leah Gottschalk, Treasurer; Ingris Pena Farjado, Historian; Hugo Pacheco, Sentinel; and Adi Benkwitt, Reporter.

-Courtesy photo

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# Creative Living

## 'Sesame Street' puppeteer presents character-building workshop at RCK

By Kristine Coulter

There was a little magic at Roy C. Ketcham High School on May 23. Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, who is known for her Emmy-nominated work on "Sesame Street" as "Abby," a Muppet known for having magical powers and who is familiar with fairy tales, and "Tango," Elmo's dog, presented a "Building Character by Building Character" workshop.

"The main thing is, is that they (the students) are the co-creators of their stories," said Carrara-Rudolph. She tells the students she uses her voice, body and imagination.

"Home is your truth. Home is where your heart is," Carrara-Rudolph told the students, many of whom showed excitement that she is the voice for Abby.

Carrara-Rudolph had the students close their eyes. She then used her voice to perform scenes from her favorite story, "The Wizard of Oz." She used her voice to be Dorothy, a Munchkin, the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and even Toto.

Students laughed as she rerecorded Dorothy's famous line, "There's no place like home" and said, "There's no place like Roy C. Ketcham High School. There's no place like Roy C. Ketcham High School. There's no place like Roy C. Ketcham High School."

This "gives them the creativity to express themselves," she said before the workshop.

Michael Lopez, an assistant principal at RCK, knows Carrara-Rudolph.

Lopez told the students before introducing Carrara-Rudolph, "I talked to you all

about this the past few weeks." When Carrara-Rudolph first started the workshop, there were giggles and laughs from the students.

Carrara-Rudolph and co-creator Jamie Donmoyer, who formed "Humor with Heart," state on their website, "Laughing late into the night as Ginger Sprite and Francesca the Frog on The Disney Channel's "Johnny and the Sprites" we formed an instant kinship."

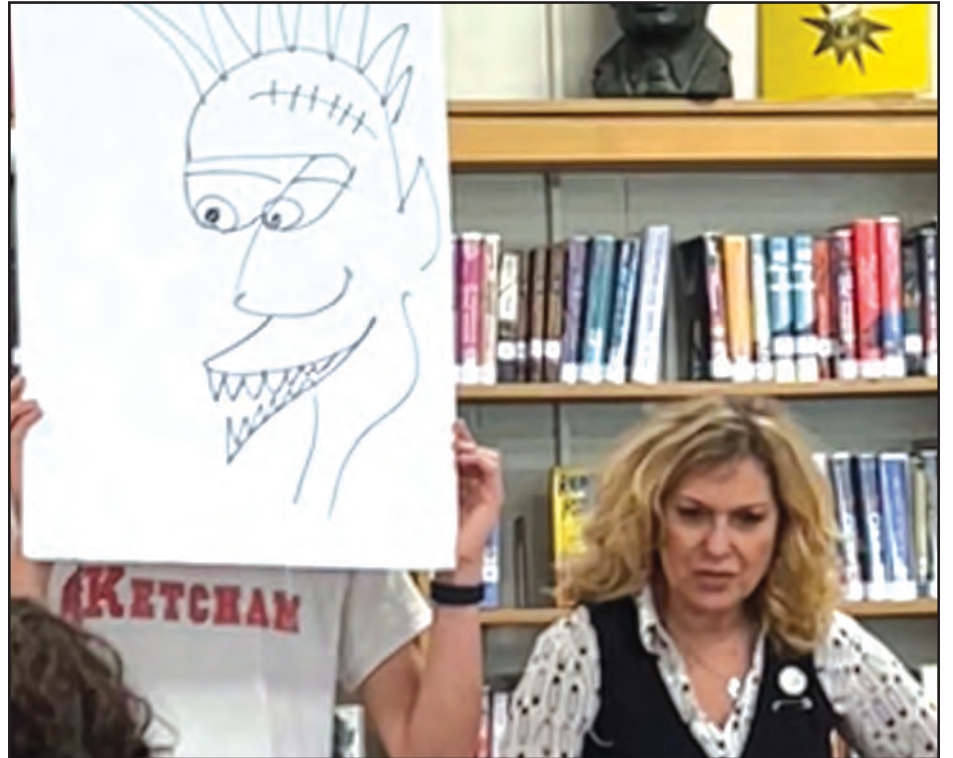
"Every conversation tends to build on something," Donmoyer, who is a resident of Florida, said about collaborating with Carrara-Rudolph.

Carrara-Rudolph, who is co-starring on the new Disney+ series "Muppet Mayhem," had two students come up to the front of the room. One was asked to draw a number on a large blank sheet of paper. She drew the number 7. The other student held the paper. Carrara-Rudolph used her imagination and turned the 7 into a character, who another student called Brock.

Carrara-Rudolph told those in attendance how she grew up in a home with a multigenerational family - her parents, grandparents and siblings. She told of when she was 11 years old she lost her brother, telling them, "My brother rode a motorcycle to heaven." She stated it took away her feeling of control over her world.

It took her a while to get to Sesame Street and it was a long journey, she said, but that is where and is doing now.

For more information, visit <https://www.humorwithaheart.com>.



Puppeteer Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, who is known for her Emmy-nominated work on "Sesame Street," during a recent character-building workshop at Wappingers Central School District's Roy C. Ketcham High School on May 23.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, who is known for her Emmy-nominated work on "Sesame Street," presents a character-building workshop at Roy C. Ketcham High School on May 23.

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