

2013-J4824

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jeanne Fleming upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Service Above Self Award by the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck on Monday, May 12, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities of New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jeanne Fleming upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Service Above Self Award by the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck to be celebrated on Monday, May 12, 2014, at the Rhinecliff Hotel in Rhinecliff, New York; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International is dedicated to the development of fellowship and understanding among business and professional leaders, the promotion of community-betterment endeavors and of high standards in business and professional practices, and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace; and

WHEREAS, Each year the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck proudly honors individuals who exemplify those principles with the Service Above Self Award; and

WHEREAS, Celebration artist and producer Jeanne Fleming and her company Wonderworks have designed and produced groundbreaking programs and festivals locally, nationally and internationally for over 40 years, working with thousands of performers, visual artists, architects, business, government and community people; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming is best known in New York City for designing and producing the Halloween Parade in Greenwich Village since 1982, as well as the 1986 Harbor Festival which is the official centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty, the largest event ever held in the United States - the 42nd St River to River Festival, Halloweek, and the

1984-85 Independence Day celebrations; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming came to the Hudson Valley at 17 and has applied her world-class talents to Rhinebeck's celebrations, most notable to Sinterklaas, which THE NEW YORKER called "the most beautiful holiday celebration we have ever seen"; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Jeanne Fleming created the magical project, then called Old Dutch Christmas in Rhinebeck stating, "The first place I approached was The Rotary"; and

WHEREAS, After a hiatus, Jeanne Fleming brought the celebration back to Sinterklaas in 2008; this seminal town event includes her signature giant puppets, the Children's Starlight Parade, a Children's Maritime Parade, a Tug Boat river crossing and many related offerings on both sides of the Hudson River, brining Rhinebeck and Kingston together in a creative, joyful way; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming calls Rhinebeck "the perfect petri dish to do this kind of work; the community is both old and new, interested in traditions, diverse, self-aware, a wonderful mix of people, with the resources and will to create something original and meaningful"; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming also created a month-long celebration event for the Town of Rhinebeck's 300th Anniversary in 1988, and an award-winning Arts in Education program in the Rhinebeck Central School District funded by the New York State Council on the Arts involving multi-disciplinary arts and Native American culture; and

WHEREAS, At 25, after graduating from Bard with a degree in Medieval Studies and graduate work at SUNY New Paltz, Jeanne Fleming began her career with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create and direct the first regional cooperative arts program in the country, involving 30 Mid-Hudson colleges; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming has also presented a tribute to the historic Rokeby Estate in Barrytown, New York, and on Millennium Eve, an original 24 hour Meditation Labyrinth entitled Portal 2000 for the entire Hudson Valley community; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, she designed and produced Walking On Air for the grand opening of the Walkway Over the Hudson, and, in 2011, she created and produced a Barge Tour for Our Hudson, and has lectured at Bard College, the Omega Institute, and at Rhinebeck High School for the Gifted Students Program; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Fleming is recognized as one of America's Top 500 Craftspeople, has given the keynote address at the Henson International Puppetry Festival and has had her work featured in numerous publications, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and in a profile in the THE NEW YORK TIMES; and

WHEREAS, Known for her astute awareness of technical, budgetary, and fundraising matters, Jeanne Fleming acts as a consultant to arts councils, not-for-profits, schools and municipalities, considering her work, "her vocation and her passion" while living in Red Hook with her

husband, Harlan Matthews, and her son, Jordan; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jeanne Fleming upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Service Above Self Award by the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck on Monday, May 12, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of the Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jeanne Fleming.