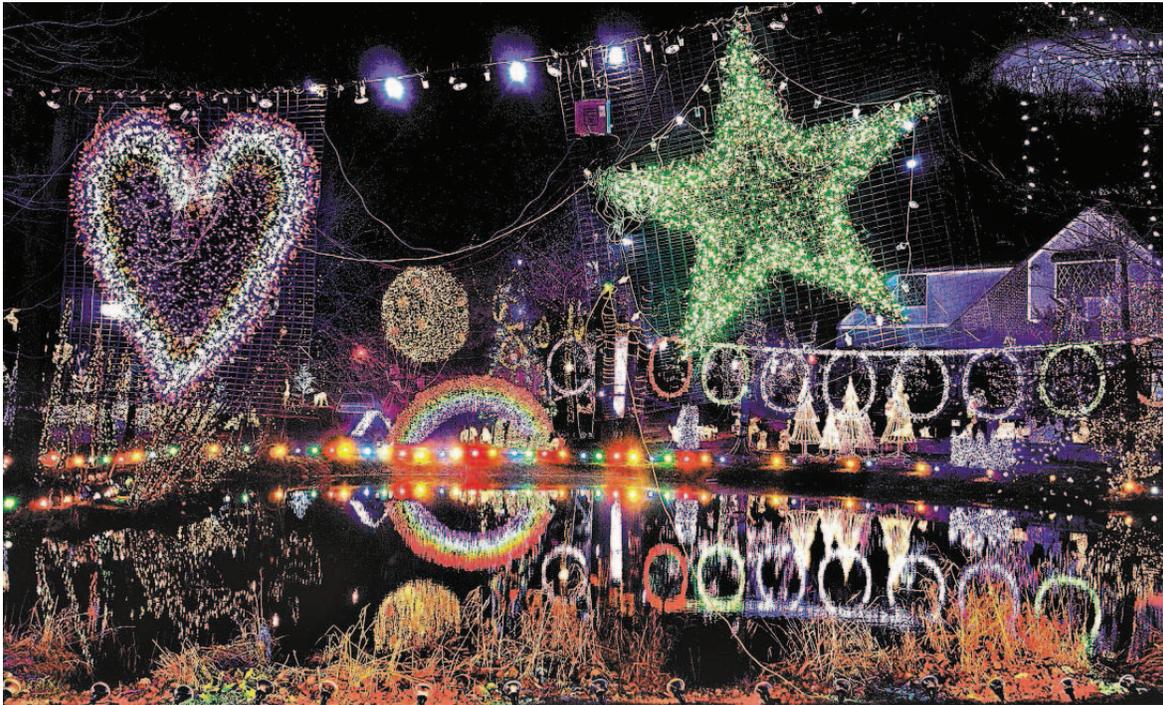


## /// HOLIDAY DISPLAY IN UNION VALE

## ‘OUT OF THIS WORLD’



The home of Tim and Grace Gay, in the Town of Union Vale, is surrounded with a dazzling display of 346,283 lights during the Christmas season. People are invited to use their circular driveway to take in the light show. SPENCER AINSLEY/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

## Family stages annual light show to benefit charities

By Chris Valdez  
Poughkeepsie Journal

VERBANK — Standing on Tim and Grace Gay's front lawn during the holiday season is like being at a U2 concert.

From blocks away, the 346,283 multicolored lights, synchronized to 154 songs, can be seen flashing across the sky.

"It's breathtaking," said Toni Fullard, Grace Gay's friend since sixth grade. "Every year it gets better. You have to see it in real life to get the real color and the real life of it."

The ERDAJT Holiday Light Display, named after the first and middle initials of their three children, has grown immensely from 600 lights in 1995, the year their first child, Emily, was born. The lights dart between elements and rise and fall with the flow of the music. As the sky darkens, the lights radiate through the sky with greater illumination.

"It's spectacular, it's gorgeous, it's out of this world," Union Vale Supervisor Lisette Hitsman said.

### ONLINE

For a video article on the display, go to [poughkeepsiejournal.com](http://poughkeepsiejournal.com).

### BY THE NUMBERS

**346,283** lights

**154** songs

**about 1,900**

extension cords that stretch more than seven miles

**1,352** collective hours spent in 2010 setting up and taking down

**230** floodlights

**1,250** strobe lights

*Courtesy of erdajt.com*

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you think you have the best holiday decorations in your neighborhood? If so, let's see them! Snap a few photos of your holiday lights display and upload them to [pojo-news.co/sharepics](http://pojo-news.co/sharepics) from your smartphone, tablet or digital camera in minutes. Are you on social? You can also tag Poughkeepsie Journal in your photos and we'll repost them on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook. Happy holidays!

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Holiday Light Display

**When:** 4:50 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday to Thursday; 4:50 to 11 p.m. Friday, Saturday and the week of Christmas

**Where:** 8 Patrick Drive, Union Vale

**Cost:** Free, but donations accepted

**Contact:** Email [erdajt@yahoo.com](mailto:erdajt@yahoo.com)

**Web:** [www.erdajt.com](http://www.erdajt.com)

All donations go to the Union Vale Fire Department, except on Dec. 15, when donations go to the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. On Dec. 14, members of the department also will be at the display.

This year, the event, which is free but accepts donations, is being used to raise money for the Union Vale Fire Department, the department's outreach program and Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, a nonprofit organization

aimed at improving the lives of at-risk children and their families in the Hudson River region, according to its website.

See LIGHTS, Page 2A