

# Tax Shock

Continued from page 1

The payout is based on the value of the home, the owner's age, and the amount of mortgage debt.

However, Baker also cited caveats: while the recipient retains ownership of the property, he or she also retains responsibility for insurance, utilities and repairs, and the lender can require that part of the payout be spent on needed repairs, such as a new roof. Recipients of certain benefits, such as food stamps, may find that a reverse mortgage nullifies their qualification. And the closing costs associated with a reverse mortgage can be quite steep. The WRO, which requires

counseling for anyone applying for a reverse mortgage, also assists in enforcing fair housing laws and offers a mortgage default prevention program. As for reverse mortgages, Baker said, "Frankly for me, the jury is still out about these products."

Also on the panel was John Wolham of the New York State Office of Real Property Services. He ran through an extensive list of property tax exemptions that are available to homeowners, the best known of which is the STAR Credit. STAR takes a certain percentage off school taxes for owners of primary residences who earn less than \$500,000-a-year in combined income, which means most will qualify.

Less well known is the Enhanced STAR credit, which shaves more money off the school tax bill for owners 65 and older earning less than \$86,000-a-year. For senior citizens earning no more than \$36,400, there is an additional exemption applied to village, town and county taxes as well as school taxes. Seniors earning \$29,000 or less qualify for a full 50% reduction in taxes.

Wolham also outlined a variety of exemptions available for military veterans or those who performed alternative service during wartime. Enhanced discounts are available for those who served during war time or generally during the Cold War. For those 65 and older, the veteran exemptions are being superseded by the comprehensive senior citizen exemptions, said Wolham. There are also discounts available for persons with disabilities as well as for volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

The final speaker on the panel was Janice Silverberg, former chair of the Irvington Housing Committee and currently a village trustee. The board, she said, was doing everything it could, including its successful support for the three-year phase-in, to ease the burden on village homeowners. She also

stressed that the programs she outlined applied strictly to Irvington residents—not those living elsewhere in Greenburgh.

Of greatest potential benefit to Irvingtonians is a recently enacted law permitting homeowners to rent out no more than one room in a house to a boarder. Silverberg specifically noted that there are potential renters among students at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry and the EF (Education First) program for foreign students in Tarrytown. Homeowners are also permitted to have accessory, or "in-law" apartments in their homes for use by family members or caregivers.

Details on most of the available exemptions and information on how to apply are available through the Greenburgh Assessor's Office at 914-989-1520 or on its web site through [www.greenburghny.com](http://www.greenburghny.com). John Wolham can be reached at 914-215-6242 or via [johnwolham@tax.ny.gov](mailto:johnwolham@tax.ny.gov). Those with questions about mortgage default prevention or reverse mortgages can contact John Baker at [jbaker@wroinc.org](mailto:jbaker@wroinc.org) or 914-428-4507. For more information about Irvington's specific programs contact Larry Schopfer at 914-591-4358.



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# Mrs. Green's Shutters Tarrytown Location

by Robert Kimmel

A large empty store within the heart of a village's business section is not an encouraging situation. However, Tarrytown is faced with just that state of affairs. After barely three years of existence at 45 North Broadway in the Village, Mrs. Green's closed its doors last month.

The Tarrytown closure is but one of five stores Mrs. Green's Natural Markets has just recently shuttered, leaving the business, which features organic and natural food products, with five operating locations, all in Westchester; Briarcliff, Mount Kisco, Yorktown Heights, Eastchester and Larchmont.

"While the closure of any location is difficult— especially because our customers and communities have supported us — they are also necessary as we focus on our core, profitable stores," read the announcement from the company's headquarters in Irvington.

Mrs. Green's has also closed its stores in Rye, Fairfield and Stamford, as well as a market in Manhattan's West Village. A long-planned location in Dobbs Ferry was also cancelled. It had also shut stores in Illinois and New Jersey.

For several weeks prior to the Tarrytown closing, customers noticed empty shelves

in the North Broadway store, as well as the other locations, but were assured it was the result of food supply problems. The market then offered heavily marked down products to reduce its inventories before shutting down.

It was in August of 2013, when the company disclosed it had signed a 20-year lease for the two-floor, 13,000-square-foot space on North Broadway, that had been occupied by another food store, Tarrytown Gourmet. Mrs. Green's reportedly had agreed to pay \$20,000 monthly for its lease. The market then spent heavily on renovations before its opening late that year.

Its presence in Tarrytown had been welcomed enthusiastically by the village during a preview party. Mayor Drew Fixell stated he was "...truly thrilled to have Mrs. Green's join our wonderful community and wish them much success."

Village Administrator Mike Blau was in accord; "I'm pleased we have a new anchor store that will attract people to our community and it will be a great asset."

That asset is gone now, and the company's locations are shrinking. Mrs. Green's was a family-run business when it was founded 30 years ago. Ownership is now in the hands of a Canadian hedge fund company. At one point, the company had 20 markets.

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# Irvington Police Department Fills Two Vacancies, Promotes a Sergeant

by Barrett Seaman

Under its budgeted headcount of 22 officers because of recent retirements, Irvington's Police Department hired two new cops and promoted a third, veteran Edmund Vize, to sergeant.

New to the force are Paul Robibero, 34, a six-year veteran of the Greenburgh Police Department, and Angelo Liberatore, 29, formerly with the NYPD. Robibero was with the Greenburgh Technical Rescue Team, which specializes in hazardous and difficult rescue situations. In addition to being a NYC policeman, Liberatore was an Emergency Medical Technician in Greenburgh and is a member of an Air National Guard unit based in Newburgh.

Vize comes from a law enforcement family: his older brother John is a member of the New Castle PD; his niece Jennifer is a detective with the Westchester Department of Public Safety; his younger brother Al was until recently with the Mamaroneck Police, and his late nephew, Danny Vize had been with the Mount Vernon Police Department. Sergeant Vize has been with the Irvington force for 28 years.

Under community pressure in recent months to crack down on traffic violations

in keeping with the "Slow Down River-towns" traffic calming campaign, the department has cited its manpower shortage as a reason it has not assigned a dedicated officer to traffic enforcement. Thus, even with these new hires, said Village Administrator Larry Schopfer, "We are still short one person compared to our full roster of officers. The manpower just hired will be deployed in the regular patrol schedule." Before the department ratchets up traffic enforcement, added Schopfer, "The third hire is needed." That is expected to come before year's end.

Even with the third and final hire, it remains to be seen if the department will satisfy persistent community demands to deter speeding and other traffic violations. Little more than a month after the last presentation by the Traffic Calming Committee of data indicating the need to broaden enforcement, representatives were back before the board at their November 21 meeting, echoing data that indicated limited areas of enforcement. Expressing appreciation for the physical improvements—signage, crosswalks, electronic speed indicators—they pressed the need for more data collection and more follow-through on the analysis, namely enforcement.



(L-R:) Irvington Police Chief Michael Cerone, Police Officer Paul Robibero, Sergeant Edmund Vize, Police Officer Angelo Liberatore and Lieutenant Michael Morano.

—Photo: Irvington Police Department



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# Tarrytown Station Area Study Initial Report Completed

by Robert Kimmel

What changes are in store for the area around Tarrytown's Metro North Train station will be clearer in the coming year as the effort to determine those transformations nears its conclusion. A final report on the preliminary work that has been completed by a special Steering Committee and its planning consultant is expected to be in the hands of Tarrytown's Board of Trustees this month.

"The report includes formal steps we have taken along the way, notably with the village-wide Tarrytown Economic Development Study (TEDS) and a traffic study in and around the station area," explained David Aukland, who co-chairs the steering committee.

The exploratory work began two-and-a-half years ago with the development of a Station Area Strategic Plan that describes the potential goals in general and the means by which they may be reached. Following a review by the trustees, the initial report is expected to be available for public view on the project's website (<http://www.tarrytownconnected.com/>), according to Aukland. He noted that there are also plans for a public event, the evening of January 5, that will bring the current phase of the work to a close, and "...launch the next more practical stage."

What that next phase will deal with,



Pedestrian tunnel under Tarrytown train tracks.

"...are specific approaches for development around the station, associated zoning changes to allow new uses, and related improvements in infrastructure in line with goals already established," Aukland

**The Steering Committee cites other potential "basic improvements," such as turning Cortlandt Street into a boulevard, with trees, landscaping and street furniture, improving sidewalks, including those over the H-bridge, and reopening of the old pedestrian tunnel under the train tracks.**

said. These include, "...connectivity between the waterfront and the rest of the village, moving commuter parking east of the tracks, and creating a walkable neighborhood that offers an amenity for all residents." One modest aspect of that last goal has been the removal of a fence around Sarah Michaels Memorial Park, at the foot of Main Street, providing greater access and openness.

Regardless of the type of general development that takes place, the Steering Committee cites other potential "basic improvements," such as turning Cortlandt Street into a boulevard, with trees, landscaping and street furniture, improving sidewalks, including those over the H-bridge, and reopening of the old pedestrian tunnel under the train tracks. The Village Board of Trustees is now looking at a feasibility study to determine whether or not to reopen the tunnel as a passageway.

Also on the list is "Creating a direct pedestrian connection between the Tarrytown station and Sleepy Hollow." That is expected to be a collaborative effort between the two villages. Both villages have signed on by passing resolutions, to a proposal from Scenic Hudson, "...that each of them appoint a committee to consider and

recommend as appropriate the acquisition and development of areas within the two villages to provide interconnecting walking trails." As the most recent Sleepy Hollow resolution pointed out, "They can work together in developing concepts and identifying potential sources of funding."

A pedestrian walkway better connecting Sleepy Hollow to the train station is seen as essential with the development of Edge-On-Hudson, with its 1,177 residential units and commercial space in that village, leading to a greater need for parking spaces near the Tarrytown station.

Aukland and Joan Raiselis, both members of the Village Planning Board, will continue as co-chairs of the Steering Committee as it enters the next phase of work. Its members include Village Administrator Michael Blau; William Brady, Associate Planner, Westchester County; Thomas Butler, Trustee; Jacques Viewig, of the Washington Irving Boat Club, and residents Bridget Gomez and Joyce Lannert. Its primary planning consultant has been Melissa Kaplan-Macey, of Collaborative Planning Studio.

The Committee will maintain its engagement with stakeholders, such as area property owners, Tarrytown merchants, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Metro North Railroad, and the two nearby boat clubs, according to Aukland. A New York State grant of \$100,000, matched by the village, provides funding for consultants and other specialized work.



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## East Parcel

Continued from page 1

When asked what they would like to see within a community center, and given a number of choices, among what respondents picked were “flexible space for classes” as their top selection, followed by “musical performance and rehearsal, space.” Art studio space was next, barely ahead of exhibition space, followed by a basketball court. A swimming pool and gymnasium were also added by some residents.

Mayor Ken Wray described the questionnaire, as being, “... one part of a thorough process the Village Board undertook to both inform and hear from village residents regarding possibilities for development of the East Parcel.” He added, “The questionnaire, together with the comments we received in multiple Public Hearings and in the informal sessions we held over the summer, will be helpful in informing our deliberations.”

Among the comments village officials also have to reckon with were a number strongly opposing any vehicular access arrangement to the East Parcel that would increase traffic through Philipse Manor. “Bike and walking trail ONLY from Devries Park into East Parcel Zone but NO Motor Vehicle Traffic to pass into Devries Park or Philipse Manor,” wrote one person. “I do not want vehicular traffic through the Manor to the East Parcel,” wrote another. “I am absolutely against any additional vehicular traffic in the Manor. It’s a residential neighborhood, and as it is, we have cars racing down Palm-

er Avenue going into and out of Kingsland Point Park,” penned another.

“An indoor swimming pool that can be used year-round,” was among the numerous comments calling for one. “Children could learn to swim and we could perhaps produce the next Michael Phelps,” continued that comment. Another person wrote: “...a community pool and fitness center is a must if residents are not allowed to join the Tarrytown pool.”

“Sports fields take up a ton of space, and we have plenty of them; I feel our field

sports and their players are very well-served in the Tarrytowns. Tennis however is very limited.” was one response. A baseball field in particular did not get heavy support.

Only a few respondents connected specifically with the recent environmental criticisms of the village’s plans for the East Parcel by two organizations, Riverkeeper and the Pocantico River Watershed Conservancy. The organizations charged that the LDC’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement did not adequately identify environmental impacts caused by the development, nor indi-

cate plans to mitigate them. Both the LDC and village have denied most of those claims and will have formal responses to them. Wray also indicated some of those criticisms may be resolved.

Of the 331 people who completed the questionnaire, 280 were Sleepy Hollow residents, 42 were from Tarrytown, and the remaining few live in adjacent areas.

While the East Parcel was turned over to the LDC to save future costs for the village, Sleepy Hollow will determine what is built on the acreage for its use.



### Veterans Day Recognized:

Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown Veterans Day services were held at Patriots Park.

— Photo by: Sunny McLean

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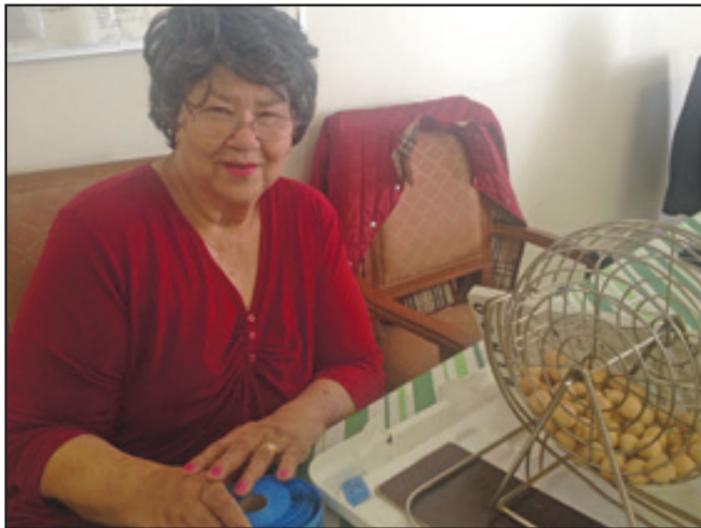
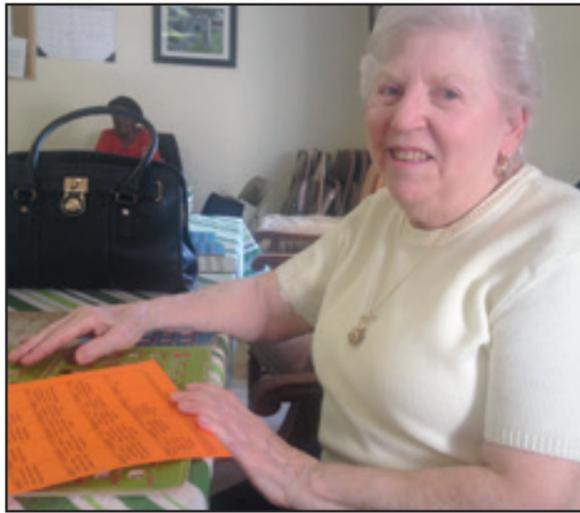
# All Are Welcome to The Neighborhood House

by Krista Madsen

At the Senior Canteen, group president Creola Solomon cheerily spins the bingo cage. The dining room of Tarrytown's Neighborhood House (NH) is sparser than usual since there's a Thanksgiving feast at a local church to compete with, but that just means more room for everyone to spread out their six-or-so game cards. After they pledge to the flag and sing "God Bless America," Eileen Plotkin gets up to tell her weekly PG joke, and the bingo begins. Of course, there's cake and coffee – "You gotta lure them in somehow," laughs program coordinator Karla Fazzino. Despite her efforts of pushing healthier fare, these seniors insist on their sweets.

Tarrytown's Neighborhood House – now focused on services for seniors, from the 50-year-old canteen to the two-year-old nutrition program serving lunch – began as the Women's Civic League in 1915. The site was a hub of various offerings for the community – a family dentist, a visiting nurse – and many social services "...which we now take for granted but had all been thought through by very caring people for a long time," said NH Board President Francesca Spinner.

The original building was a house facing Wildey (which is why the place still holds a Wildey address); the current building was erected in its place and the name changed to The Neighborhood House in 1976. This building once housed the village ambulances in its garage but the ambulances outgrew it. The Tarrytown Seniors also had



(Clockwise top left:) Eileen Plotkin; The Neighborhood House has been in existence since 1976; John Vlacancich; Canteen President Creola Solomon.

—Photos by: Krista Madsen

**"I love everything that's offered to us," Solomon said. "Sometimes I'm here five days a week. I just love it."**

—Creola Solomon

their meetings here until their numbers got too big and they moved to what was a storage facility in Pierson Park.

The NH has always straddled both communities, and beyond, with its mission of welcoming all with a focus on health and

lifetime learning. All the events are free and open to any senior. "Tarrytowners can only go to the Tarrytown Senior Center and Sleepy Hollow to Sleepy Hollow; at least here they can mingle," Fazzino said.

Several women playing bingo walk up

from Valley Street and the College Avenue apartments. "It's good to walk," Plotkin said. "Good to walk but not cook," she said, so she enjoys the Greenburgh-provid-

*Continued on page 31*

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# Scenic Hudson Warns of Threat of Barges to Public Safety

By Rick Pezullo

Scenic Hudson claims a proposal by the United States Coast Guard to create 10 new anchorage sites with up to 43 commercial barges along the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston poses a serious threat to public health and safety.

The influential environmental group announced last week a virtual map it created of the 80-mile stretch of the river where the barges are envisioned demonstrates clearly the dangers communities face from anchorages that would serve primarily as industrial storage areas for large barges loaded with millions of gallons of explosive crude oil.

“These floating industrial storage facilities would put the Hudson, and people living along it, at greater risk than ever before,” said Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan. “Our drinking water sources could be contaminated by spills; anchored barges near major cities and a nuclear power plant could be subject to terrorist attacks; public parkland and wetlands from Kingston to New York Harbor that buffer our communities and property from intense storms will be more vulnerable to devastating spills.”

“Hudson Valley citizens, business and government leaders have worked too hard connecting people to our American Heritage River to see it turned into a crude oil super highway for which we assume all the

risk without receiving any benefit,” Sullivan added.

Scenic Hudson, which is calling on the Coast Guard to scrap the rulemaking process regarding the anchorages, pointed out eight of the 10 sites are located within state-designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats. The Coast Guard has stated the proposal was initiated by the Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ Tug and Barge Committee, the Hudson River Port Pilot’s Association, and the American Waterways Operators.

The largest anchorage site of the 10 proposed would accommodate up to 16 vessels, stretching about 715 acres from the Greenwood Station in Yonkers to the Dobbs Ferry Train Station. In August, a new organization of municipal officials called the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance was announced in Yonkers. An online petition on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) was also launched by the alliance and more than 1,600 signatures have been obtained to date. Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow and Irvington are members of the alliance.

More than 3,400 comments have been submitted to the Coast Guard, which extended the public comment period on the project to December 6. If approved, the plan would encompass more than 2,400 acres of the river.



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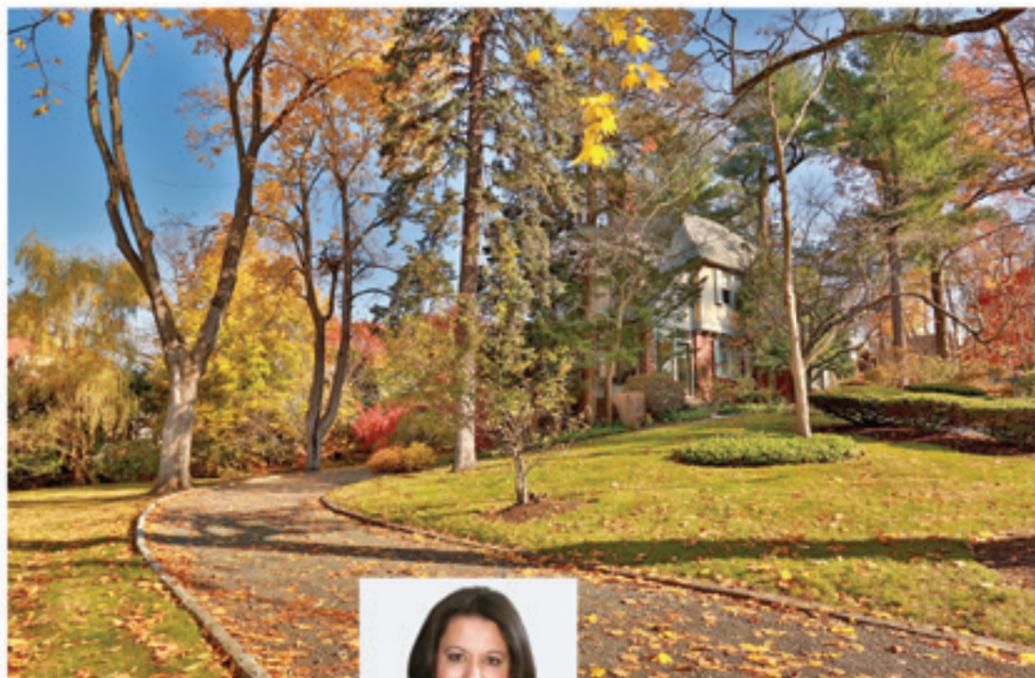
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# The Old Dutch Church Accessibility Project: A Much Needed Fund-Raising Opportunity

by Linda Viertel

"The Old Dutch Church is a community treasure," noted the Reverend Jeffrey Gargano, Pastor of the Reformed Church of the Tarryowns. "Built by Frederick Philipse in 1685 for himself and his tenant farmers, many of whom were enslaved Africans, people have come from all over the world to visit it, thanks to Washington Irving."

But, not every visitor has been able to have equal access to our local historic destination. This is why Rev. Gargano and his congregants, as stewards of this historic and cultural landmark, are asking the community to help raise funds so that all those who wish to see the Church's historic interior, worship in its pews, and participate in the church's many cultural events will soon be able to have that ability. As Rev. Gargano says, "Now is our opportunity to finish what our forebears have begun, expanding the Church so it is accessible for everyone."

In the old days, the road was at grade level, so worshippers could simply walk up both paths leading to the church, and those with mobility challenges could do so without difficulty. But, as North Broadway was re-graded and expanded for the car traffic that was replacing outmoded carriages, revisions to the Church's exterior approach

made it impossible for those with physical impediments to enter without extreme hardship.

Rev. Gargano's narrative describes why this accessibility project is so important: "I recently officiated at a wedding in the Church, and one of the bridesmaids had a severe disability. She had to be carried up the stairs by others, which was not only humiliating and embarrassing for her but disconcerting for all of us at the service."

Currently, the narrow exterior landing is unsafe and needs to be expanded; uneven stones provide the only stairway access; no ramp exists for the disabled, the elderly or those in wheelchairs; and outdoor lighting is inadequate. Cemetery paths are not compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), railings need repair, and portions of the building's masonry are crumbling. These conditions and more necessitate bridging "The Old Dutch," as it is lovingly called, from its 17th century origins into the 21st century.

And fund-raising to reach the \$350,000 goal has begun with a generous bequest of \$152,000 from the estate of Julia, Paul and John Vydarey who were life-long members of the Reformed Church of the Tarryowns. In addition, over \$26,000 has been raised from proceeds garnered at



the Old Dutch Church Fest. The Friends of the Old Dutch Church will be seeking grants through the ADA, other community charitable organizations, and individuals who wish to give to the non-profit 501C3 through crowd-sourcing on the [gofundme.com/odc-accessibility-project](http://gofundme.com/odc-accessibility-project) site.

Revered Sleepy Hollow resident, Len Andrew, Esq., will co-chair the accessibility project with Rev. Gargano. Kamen Tall Architects PC, a restoration, preservation and design firm based in Ossining that specializes in historic building preservation will be designing the project work, with

Joanne Tall as architect. Hudson Design Build, based in Peekskill, will be the project manager. And, Ossining landscape designer Elizabeth Hand-Fry, who specializes in native species planting, will determine the horticultural design.

Renovation, restoration and preservation will begin with a ground-breaking after Easter so that worship will not be interrupted. And, work is expected to be completed by the end of summer, 2017. Naming opportunities for donations to such individual projects as portions of the path to Washington Irving's gravesite, benches and garden areas will be noted by discreet plaques throughout the exterior site.

Another giving opportunity will bring in the New Year. Save the date to hear the nationally and internationally recognized Vera String Quartet, on January 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Reformed Church of the Tarryowns for a benefit performance. All proceeds will benefit the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow Accessibility Project.

The community is also encouraged to join the Friends of the Old Dutch Church mailing list at: [odcfriends.org](http://odcfriends.org), and [gofundme.com/odc-accessibility-project](http://gofundme.com/odc-accessibility-project) where you can learn how to support the preservation, renovation, and maintenance of our local treasure for future generations.

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# Family

Continued from page 1

Bank. Lynch announced the campaign month at the Salvation Army headquarters in Tarrytown. "The 'Feed a Family' campaign creates an impactful way for us to come together and help end hunger," she said.

Among the officials who joined Lynch at the announcement were County Executive Robert Astorino, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Village of Tarrytown Board Trustees Karen Brown and Becky McGovern. Close to 100 people who lined up at the Salvation Army during the event received turkeys and other food.

"For many, this is a wonderful time of year," Astorino said, "But it's easy to forget that it's also a troubling time, a depressing time, for people as well in our county. So many people associate Westchester with wealth and, yes, there's plenty of that, but there's also plenty of need as you can see by this line — and it's not just here in Tarrytown."

The campaign is aimed at encouraging the Westchester community to take part in helping those in need. A \$25 donation will buy a holiday meal for a family of four, according to the Food Bank. Lynch urged local residents, business leaders, and

organizations to come together to donate, "whether it's \$25 to feed one family or \$500 to feed 20 families."

Pledges and donations to "Feed a Family" can be made online at [FB4W.org/feedafamily](http://FB4W.org/feedafamily), or donations can be made by mailing a check, payable to Food Bank for Westchester, at 200 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford, NY 10801.

The Food Bank for Westchester states that it "...supplies 95% of all food distributed annually across the region's food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and daycare residential programs — delivering more than 7.5 million meals to people in need just last year. For every \$1 we receive, we provide \$4 worth of food to our hungry neighbors."

Among the approximately 300 locations it services in Westchester are the Salvation Army in Tarrytown, the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown and the Community Opportunity Center, also in Tarrytown. These three organizations secure food supplies from the Food Bank at a small portion of the retail cost. Business and individuals and religious groups also contribute directly to them.

Captain Giovanni Guerrero at the Salvation Army said the organization has food and nutrition programs for the needy,

and its Food Pantry at its location at 115 Wildey Street is open the last Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to distribute food supplies to those in need. In emergency situations, it will provide food at any time, and it also has a mobile pantry which delivers food to those who cannot leave their homes. On the 24th of this month, it will be open to hand out food supplies from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Food Pantry states that it "...provides food to the hungry in Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown proportional to family size...bags of nutritious fruits, vegetables, grains and sources of protein, so that they can make nutritious meals for their families." It is located at the corner of Elizabeth and John Street, downstairs from the parish hall of The Christ Church, 43 S. Broadway. It distributes food on the second Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and again from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The non-denominational charity is run entirely by volunteers. The Food Pantry also has a monthly senior's dinner.

The Tarrytown Community Opportunity Center (COC) operates a bi-weekly food pantry for local residents, with "90 to 100 households taking advantage of the programs," it stated. Denise Edwards who heads the COC, explained that, as an

example, eligible people who sign up for food supplies on Monday, December 12, will pick up their bags of food on Wednesday, December 14. Edwards also explained that there are senior dinners hosted at the COC on the third Thursday of the month. "Emergency food," is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Edwards said, and the COC will also deliver to those who are homebound.

Of Westchester's population of nearly one million persons, just over 10.4 % are "in poverty," according to United States Census Bureau 2014 statistics.



## Westbound Deck Panels Completed for New Bridge

by Rick Pezzullo

Tappan Zee Constructors (TZC) announced December 1 that it had completed installation of all road deck panels for the westbound approaches of the New NY Bridge. TZC placed nearly 3,000 steel-reinforced concrete panels, weighing as much as 74,000 pounds each, atop the westbound steel girder assemblies to create the base driving surface of the bridge. Deck panel installation continues on the eastbound Rockland approach, as well as both cable-stayed main spans.

The \$3.98 billion project remains on track to be completed in 2018, according to New York State Thruway Authority and TZC officials.

Construction of the new three-mile span began in 2013. The state-of-the-art structure will include eight traffic lanes and four breakdown and emergency lanes. It is designed to handle "extreme" loadings and blastings and have an anticipated service life of 100 years. The current Tappan Zee was built in 1955 and was designed to last 50 years. It will be dismantled by the end of 2018.

## Sleepy Hollow Open Door Family Medical Center Toy Drive and Santa Day

Please help bring cheer and provide a new unwrapped toy or gift to give young patients when they visit Santa. New, unwrapped toy or gift cards needed for infants — age 14. Maximum \$20 value. Drop off at Sleepy Hollow Open Door: 80 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow or A Nu Toy Store: 16 Main Street, Tarrytown. Donations of holiday gift wrap and batteries are also appreciated. No time to shop, please visit our wish lists at: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) (Open Door Holiday Toy Drive) or [kohls.com](http://kohls.com) (Registries/Celebrations #3235617). Please visit our website at [www.opendoormedical.org](http://www.opendoormedical.org). You can also help in our gift-wrapping room in Ossining or picking up toy drives. Plus we can use some help at our Sleepy Hollow Open Door Santa Day

on Tuesday, December 13. Contact: Alicia Ward, [award@odfmc.org](mailto:award@odfmc.org) or 914-502-1468.

RSHM LIFE Center, Sleepy Hollow - Adopt-A-Family

Please help us bring joy to a family in need right here in our community. The holidays are a difficult time for many and the LIFE Center hopes to remind these families that they have people who care all around them. Family 'wish lists' are prepared after speaking with those chosen. These lists are distributed and wishes granted by caring neighbors. It's a great way to get the whole family involved in the spirit of giving. Please contact Sr. Susan at 914-366-9710 and we will match you with a family.



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## School News

# Q&A: TUFSD Superintendent of Schools Christopher Borsari

The Board of Education hired Christopher Borsari last summer to be the district's superintendent of schools at an annual salary of \$250,000. Borsari recently answered some questions posed by *The Hudson Independent*.

by Rick Pezullo

**What was it about TUFSD that sparked your interest to work there?**

I had previously served as the principal of Sleepy Hollow Middle School. During that time, I developed a great respect for the faculty, staff, and students, as well as the community we serve. To put it simply, the people I worked with and for had left a lasting impact upon me. When I had the opportunity to return as the superintendent and to once again partner with the school community in service to our stu-



Christopher Borsari

dents, it was an opportunity which I could not pass up.

**Since assuming the position, what has surprised you most about the district?**

Having worked here previously, I was well acquainted with the District so I can't say that anything has surprised me. The biggest difference for me has been expanding my perspective from solely a middle school focus to a preK-12 focus. I have been very impressed by the elementary leadership, faculty, staff, and programs and look forward to becoming more well acquainted with them going forward.

**What do you consider to be some of the strengths of the district?**

I think that the District truly celebrates the diversity of the students we serve. We have demonstrated a commitment to meeting the diverse needs of our students and enhancing their achievement. This commitment is embedded in the actions and decisions of all the district staff I have encountered. They are very adept and focused upon meeting kids where they are and advancing their knowledge, skills, and competencies from that point. It is a very personalized approach which has a profound impact on our students as they progress through our district. One thing is clear through the data and that is the longer students are with us the better they do.

**What specific changes/recommendations are you hoping to implement?**

Right now, I am still in the process of car-

rying out my Entry Plan. I have spoken with and interviewed students, parents, faculty, staff, Board members, and community members. I have been reviewing and processing data ranging from state assessment performance to our budgetary fund balance. This is all being done as a strategic approach to determining what we do well, and therefore must protect, and areas where we need to improve. I think I could give a better answer to this questions in the spring.

**What do you feel are some of the misconceptions about TUFSD?**

Not really sure about this one. I think people outside of the District don't understand the broad spectrum of student needs that we successfully meet on a daily basis.

**How is having a police officer in the high school/middle school working out?**

When I was the middle school principal here from 2006-2008, we had a school resource officer named Bobby Checchi. He was a great partner and a positive addition to our school community. In my previous district we also had an SRO (school resource officer) and I have witnessed the valuable effect of the relationships and support an SRO can provide to the students and faculty. Officer Yancey's transition to this position last winter, combined with her knowledge of the students, faculty, and the larger community has been beneficial to all.



LEADING THE CHARGE TO END HUNGER

## "FEED A FAMILY" CAMPAIGN

Help hungry neighbors throughout the holiday season to Dec. 31  
Food will be distributed at local food pantries (See story)

Donate \$25 for a meal for four.

To pledge a donation, visit: [FB4W.org/feedafamily](http://FB4W.org/feedafamily)

Or Mail donation to the Food Bank for Westchester  
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Checks should be payable to the Food Bank for Westchester.



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A group of fifth-grade students from Main Street School in Irvington raised money throughout November at several schoolwide events to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

—Photo courtesy of Irvington Union Free School District

## Watercooler

# Heard Around the Watercooler

by Maria Roglieri

### Insurance Agent Honored

At its 100th Annual Meeting held October 17 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown, the Hudson Gateway Association of REALTORS® (HGAR) honored JoAnne Murray, of Allan M. Block Agency, Inc. in Tarrytown, as the HGAR "Affiliate Member of the Year" for 2016.

Murray has been a long-time supporter of the Association, sponsoring and attending countless events. She has been running the almost 60-year old business for the past 25 years and has been helping both individuals and businesses throughout the Hudson Valley with their insurance.



JoAnne Murray



### Transition at Phelps

Congratulations to Dr. Anna Komorowski of Sleepy Hollow who will be joining Phelps Hospital as Acting Director at Northwell Cancer Institute in January. She will also be taking care of patients with hematological and oncological conditions.

### Local Grants Received

Among recent grants totaling \$824,000, The Westchester Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization, has given Tarrytown's School District \$20,000 to "support a family literacy program for immigrants living in Tarrytown," and \$10,000 to the Foundation for the Public Schools to "support college trips and SAT prep classes for low-income Tarrytown juniors." It is also providing Latino U College Access, Inc. \$10,000 for low-income Latino youth in the village to "prepare for college." A grant of \$15,000 went to the Tarrytown Music Hall "to support free and low-cost family-friendly concerts and events."

### Theatre Talk

Come for a revelatory and entertaining afternoon when Jack Viertel discusses his book, *The Secret Life of the American Musical: How Broadway Shows are Built*, and shares insights and anecdotes about such memorable shows as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Chorus Line*, *West Side Story*, *Hair-Spray*, and *Gypsy*.

Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m. in the Warner Library.

### Fundraising for Performing Arts in Sleepy Hollow

Winter Blues, a popular musical event, will take place on January 7 at Hudson Harbor in Sleepy Hollow this year. It is a great way to hear local bands and help raise money for the performing arts program in Sleepy Hollow High School.

Any potential news items for Watercooler can be emailed to [mroglieri@yahoo.com](mailto:mroglieri@yahoo.com)

### Congratulations to Social Workers

Local Tarrytown Elder Advocate and Director of Social Services at Sprain Brook Manor in Scarsdale, Sherry Saturno, was honored this month by the Westchester County Board of Legislators with a Proclamation for her work with elders and the pursuit of social justice. Saturno, LNHA and LCSW, was also recently awarded the Statewide 2016 Champion of Social Justice Award by the National Association of Social Workers. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Westchester End of Life Coalition, and wrote and produced a national award winning documentary short film, "Human Investment."

Congratulations also to Melissa Eisele-Kaplan of Sleepy Hollow, LCSW, ACHP-SW, a social worker at Phelps Hospice for almost 10 years, who just received her advanced certificate in hospice and palliative care.

### Honored

Barry Field, MD, and Mr. and Mrs. William O. Melvin, Jr. were honored at the Phelps Hospital's 29th Annual Champagne Ball at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Briarcliff Manor. Dr. Field joined the Phelps Hospital medical staff in 1978 and has served as chief of the hospital's Division of Gastroenterology for 10 years and as director of the Department of Medicine for 12 years. Mr. and Mrs. William O. Melvin, Jr. of Scarborough Manor. The couple established the Phelps Classic golf tournament to help raise awareness of, and funds for, Phelps. The tournament has raised more than \$1.2 million over the past 13 years.

SHOP LOCAL

## Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow



# Holiday Events

December 11

### O Holy Night: A Classical Christmas

At 7:30 p.m. join Emmy nominated lyric tenor Marco Panuccio in concert by candlelight at the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. 430 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591. For tickets visit <http://sleepyhollow.brownpapertickets.com>

December 24

### Christmas Eve Services

A Festival of Lessons and Carols with choirs and soloists. *Everyone is welcome to join our* Candlelight Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m. (Children's service), which will take place at: The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns 42 N. Broadway, Tarrytown.

Evening Services: 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. at the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. 430 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591.

January 3

### Vera Quartet in Recital

The Vera Quartet is currently Graduate String Quartet-in-Residence at the Jacobs School of Music and will be performing contemporary works for string quartet. *Proceeds to benefit the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow Accessibility Project.*

Show time is 7:30 p.m. at The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns. 42 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591. Tickets are \$25 before 12/15, \$30 after and at the door.

For more info please visit us at [www.rctodc.org](http://www.rctodc.org)



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# Viewfinder

— Photos by: Sunny McLean

▶ **1.** Hudson Valley Writer's Center held its annual benefit gala at Tappan Hill.

▼ **2.** Jazz Forum Arts fundraiser took place at Shadowbrook. (L-R:) Ray Drummond, Juliana Santos, Jimmy Cobb, Nanny Assis, Kenny Barron, Monica Getz and Mark Morganelli.



▲ **3.** Phelps Hospital President Daniel Blum (right) participated in TaSH closing day November 19.

◀ **4.** Tarrytown officials cut the ribbon on new Recreation Center.

▼ **5.** Sleepy Hollow Recreation Supervisor Robin Pell handed out Halloween costume awards to more than 200 children at Columbia Hose Co #3 Firehouse.





## Facts About Diabetes



According to the American Diabetes Association, 29.1 million Americans were estimated to have either Type I or Type II diabetes in 2012, of which 21 million cases were diagnosed. About 86 million American adults had pre-diabetes.

### What is diabetes?

Diabetes (also known as diabetes mellitus) is a progressive medical condition in which the pancreas, a large gland behind the stomach, produces insufficient insulin, the hormone responsible for the regulation of blood glucose (sugar). The condition essentially limits the ability of the body to turn carbohydrates from food into energy.

### What is the difference between Type I and Type II diabetes and pre-diabetes?

Type I diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, is a highly aggressive disease that shows up earlier in life than other forms of diabetes. Onset is usually sudden, and treatment always requires insulin because of destruction of the pancreas by the autoimmune system. Type II diabetes manifests later in life and progresses at a much slower rate than Type I diabetes. Incidence is more related to obesity and hereditary.

Pre-diabetes is a medical condition in which the pancreas becomes resistant to the production of insulin. It is commonly a result of weight gain. Diagnosis occurs when a blood test shows a fasting glucose value between 100 and 125 mg/dl. Pre-diabetes can progress to Type II diabetes, a medical condition in which the fasting blood glucose level is consistently above 125 mg/dl if left untreated.

### What are common symptoms of Type I and Type II diabetes, and pre-diabetes?

Most people with pre-diabetes do not have any symptoms. Initial symptoms of Type II diabetes may include frequent urination, thirst, extreme fatigue and blurry vision. Type I diabetes has more aggressive symptoms at diagnosis.

### What are common treatments for the different types of diabetes?

People with Type I diabetes must receive insulin to com-

pensate for their body's inability to produce it. Insulin can be administered through daily injections or by a special pump worn on the outside of the body that injects insulin through the skin of the abdomen. Type I diabetics must monitor blood glucose readings throughout the day and limit the consumption of foods that cause blood sugar levels to rise quickly, such as cake and cookies. Exercise can help regulate blood glucose levels by improving the body's response to the insulin treatment.

For individuals with pre-diabetes and Type II diabetes, treatment usually focuses on measures that promote weight loss. Jogging and swimming are two activities that can help control blood glucose levels and weight. Recommended dietary changes include high-fiber foods, low-fat foods, and limited refined carbohydrates. In some cases, diet and exercise alone can bring blood glucose levels back to normal. If they do not, a physician may recommend a diabetes medication such as metformin or insulin injections. A physician may also combine different types of diabetes medications to help the body increase its secretion of insulin.

### What are the long-term consequences of failing to control diabetes?

Uncontrolled diabetes can impact almost every organ in the body, including the heart and blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves, gums, and teeth. People with diabetes are more likely to have heart problems and strokes, as well as an increased susceptibility to blood vessel or nerve damage. In some circumstances, the nerve damage is severe enough to lead to amputations of the feet and legs. Prolonged exposure to elevated blood glucose levels can lead to kidney failure and may also result in visual problems, such as glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy.

### What lifestyle changes are helpful in managing blood glucose levels?

Patients are usually advised to increase their physical activity, eat healthier, and lose weight.

*Delia M. Stefan, M.D., is an endocrinologist with Phelps Medical Associates/Northwell Health.*

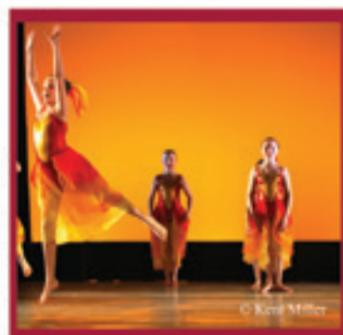


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### Holiday Reading A CHRISTMAS CAROL BY CHARLES DICKENS

Sunday December 18 at 7 pm  
Christ Church Tarrytown  
43 South Broadway,  
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Tickets \$10 at the door



THE FAMILY YMCA AT TARRYTOWN and producer BARBARA TURK present PETER ROYSTON performing a reading of Charles Dickens' holiday classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL in a fundraiser for Y Summer Theatre! Best known as director of theatre for young people in Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow and Irvington, Peter will be performing the original reading that Dickens himself dramatized throughout England and the world in the 19th century. Through Dickens' words and the magic of the season, such iconic characters as Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley and old Ebenezer Scrooge all come to glorious and vivid life!



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| 46 Manor Pond Lane           | Irvington          | 100 West Ardsley Avenue #1N | Irvington          |
| 11 Riverview Place           | Hastings-on-Hudson | 13 Devoe Street             | Dobbs Ferry        |
| 83 Riverview Road            | Irvington          | 629 Ely Avenue              | Pelham             |
| 141 Lincoln Avenue           | Hastings-on-Hudson | 141 Lincoln Avenue          | Hastings-on-Hudson |
| 111 Cochrane Avenue          | Hastings-on-Hudson | 36 Mulligan Lane            | Irvington          |
| 90 Sycamore Lane             | Irvington          | 21 Cross River Road         | Mount Kisco        |
| 100 West Ardsley Avenue #TH  | Irvington          | 16 Old Sprain Road          | Ardsley            |
| 6 Powder Horn Way            | Irvington          | 61 Landing Drive            | Dobbs Ferry        |
| 60 Eiler Lane                | Irvington          | 24 Fremont Road             | Sleepy Hollow      |
| 100 West Ardsley Avenue #4M  | Irvington          | 51 Walgrove Avenue          | Dobbs Ferry        |
| 6 Willow Lane                | Irvington          | 100 West Ardsley Avenue #TL | Irvington          |
| 51 Walgrove Avenue           | Dobbs Ferry        | 95 Riverview Avenue         | Tarrytown          |
| 100 West Ardsley Avenue #4K  | Irvington          | 23 Windle Park #A           | Tarrytown          |
| 11 Croton Avenue             | Tarrytown          | 300 Mamaroneck Avenue #512  | White Plains       |
| 100 West Ardsley Avenue #TL  | Irvington          | 13 Devoe Street             | Dobbs Ferry        |
| 4 Bracebridge Lane           | Irvington          | 6 Powder Horn Way           | Irvington          |
| 29 Springhurst Park          | Dobbs Ferry        | 200 Warburton Avenue        | Hastings-on-Hudson |
| 4 Morningside Drive          | Ossining           | 119 Mystic Drive            | Ossining           |
| 18 Jenkins Court             | Ossining           | 33 Fenwick Road             | Hastings-on-Hudson |
| 101 Half Moon Bay Drive #101 | Croton-on-Hudson   | 33 Sycamore Lane            | Irvington          |
| 55 Hudson Point Lane #55     | Ossining           | 29 Landing Drive            | Dobbs Ferry        |
| 11 Grandview Avenue          | Ossining           | 8 Evergreen Way             | Sleepy Hollow      |
| 15 Laurel Hill Road          | Dobbs Ferry        | 1 S. Astor Street #502      | Irvington          |
| 10 Brookside Lane            | Ossining           | 1 S. Aster Street #402      | Irvington          |
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# Warner Oral Histories: Small Businesses Make a Village

by Krista Madsen

The eclectic group of small business owners circling the table at the latest Warner Library Oral History session reflected the richness of our mom-and-pop landscape – how essential these enterprises are to our local lifestyle, how much they’ve changed through the decades, or in some cases, how they’ve helped maintain the traditions residents cherish.

Nancy Coffey, director of the funeral name bearing her married name, said that Coffey Funeral Home is the oldest ongoing business in 10591, at 105 years. Coffey said there are some around who still remember the founding Coffey, notably a very kind man, who became an undertaker when he met a Croton girl he liked whose father was one. From his first storefront on Beekman Avenue to other locations, the business had to be portable since families then hosted wakes in their own homes for days on end. In 1946, three generations of the family at once moved into their current quarters on North Broadway, a former mansion with a carriage house out back and servants’ quarters upstairs.

No getting around the fact that people still die as they always have, but services have shortened and moved into churches and funeral homes. Coffey mentioned she performed a “green” burial that morning at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery with the most



(Back Row L-R:) Linda Rey, Angel Rafter, Nancy Coffey; (Front Row L-R:) John Millar, Jessica Mejias, Roger Bank, Harris Bank.

—Photo by: Krista Madsen

minimal of pine boxes.

Jessica Mejias spoke on behalf of Los Andes Bakery, which in November celebrated its 25th anniversary in Sleepy Hollow. Perhaps, of the businesses represented, the bakery has changed the least. Thankfully, the bread still requires flour and water as it always has, said Mejias. “Nothing frozen, all homemade.” What has changed is their

customers: there are more of them and they are more diverse than the other Chileans they originally attracted. The popular little shop of empanadas, cakes and sandwiches has expanded through the years to three locations in Peekskill and North Bergen, NJ. Though she now lives in Ossining, Mejias spends all her time at the Valley Street spot. After living in Atlanta for some post-col-

lege years, Linda Rey returned to take up her father’s insurance business with her sister so he could retire. She now just moved to Connecticut, but “New York will continue to get my tax money” since they own the building Rey Insurance company occupies. As Mejias’ husband inherited baking from his family of bakers, Rey said she “started doing insurance at the age of two.” She has embraced the power of social media for the free advertising, but it can take up to two hours of her day. She’s found that the online networking time pays off as has her honesty and friendliness. “Get to know people first,” she said.

Then there are the copy brothers, Harris and Roger Bank, who continued on the same street where their father had a sheet metal shop. TZ Print operates out of a commercial house they inherited on Central Avenue. Email has made it possible for them to do everything digitally and never have to see their customers, but they miss that connection. “You don’t know your customers like you did 30 years ago,” Harris said.

John Millar has one foot in the paper industry where he’s spent his career, and one foot in his startup, Millar Tree and Turf. As he realized he could do his corporate paper brokering from home, he began to get certified in the tree and lawn care trade. Customers want organics now, and he does

*Continued on page 31*

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# “Rhythms of Grace”: A Worship Service for Special Needs Kids and Their Families at Irvington’s Church of St. Barnabas

by Maria Ann Roglieri

“Rhythms of Grace,” a special monthly worship service offered at The Church of St. Barnabas in Irvington, is bringing together kids with special needs and their families from across the Rivertowns. While St. Barnabas is an Episcopal church, “all faiths are welcome” and participants include worshippers from a number of different faith communities, drawn together by the opportunity to worship in a safe and welcoming space. The energy is palpable, and the enthusiasm is intense.

“Rhythms of Grace” is specifically designed for families with special needs, offering the ultimate ‘safe space’ for the whole family to have a spiritual experience together. It is perfect for anyone who may not be comfortable in a solemn (and quiet) regular church setting. The service begins in the parish hall with a story from the Bible. The life of Jesus is celebrated through listening, praying, singing, crafts, and play, with everyone participating according to their own preferences and abilities. After lessons and crafts, the worshippers share communion (grape juice and rice crackers) in the sanctuary in a church service specially-adjusted to suit their special needs.

“Rhythms of Grace” was proposed by then-assistant rector, the Reverend Lindsay Lunnum after she had met with families who have children with special needs but did not feel comfortable in regular church. The proposed program was met with an enthusiastic response and 25 members of The Church of St. Barnabas volunteered to help run it, getting training from a congregation in Connecticut that had created the original “Rhythms of Grace” program. It has been running for several years now and is still growing.

Each service follows a specific structure built around a theme. First, there is a ‘gathering activity’ which allows attendees to get comfortable and settled. Then a volunteer tells a 10- minute story, built around a story from either the Old or New Testament, with the kids sitting on the floor, on the couches, or in the quiet tent, wherever they can be comfortable. After the storytelling, children go to different activity stations to explore the story and theme through different craft projects. The activities are varied to entertain kids with different needs: One activity may involve gross motor skills or a multi-sensory experience, such as having the kids put their hands in the sand and touch the camels (see picture), while other kids may be making masks or making posters to hang from the altar. During these activities, the Rev. Nora Smith walks around soliciting “Prayers for God” that tie in with the service’s theme and that get shared with all in the group sing that follows. Many of the prayers are familiar, and there is even one little girl who always prays for her dog. After reflection, the families head into the sanctuary singing a rousing song. Those who traditionally partake of the Eucharist can do so with grape juice and rice crackers, while other can sit and reflect during the



Left: Crafts were part of activities at church.



Right: Santa Claus paid an early visit in November.

— Photos by Maria Ann Roglieri

brief service. Finally, the worshippers sing a song for peace and the service is ended. The entire service lasts exactly an hour.

Parishioners and church leaders alike are thrilled with the success of the “Rhythms of Grace” program. Parishioners Vicki Kroviak and Steve Grieder said the program has been a blessing for the entire family. “We do it for all of us, not just Sophia, our daughter with special needs. It’s a way to share the experience of God with her and her sisters in a safe space where everyone is celebrated.”

The Rev. Nora Smith, the rector of St. Barnabas, loves the service, calling it “a wonderful and heartwarming experience for all.” She said it has enhanced and even expanded the church community. It has helped families of children with special needs get to know each other and to lend each other support; and it has offered parishioners the opportunity to especially help those families who may need some extra support. It has also brought in new worshippers who were introduced to St. Barnabas through the “Rhythms of Grace” service but now also attend the regular church services “more relaxed about kids’ behavior” as parishioners have gotten to know their “Rhythms of Grace” families.

A special service like this requires a great deal of effort on the part of the church parishioners. Six to seven people meet as a team once a month to design the activities. The volunteers are enthusiastic, with, according to the Rev. Smith, “everyone talking at once,” and people are tremendously collaborative and creative. The liturgy ministers create the service, the storyteller crafts the story, the craftspeople design the activities, etc. Typical attendance at the service includes seven to 10 families, (approximately 25 to 30 people) and 12 to 15 volunteers who assist in the service.

The “Rhythms of Grace” worship service is offered once a month on Sunday at 4 p.m. The December service will be offered on December 18. For more information, contact Steve Grieder at the church office (914) 591-8194 or go to <http://www.stbarnabaschurch.org/worship/rhythmsofgrace>

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## Sports

# Wolfpack Team Finishes Season Undefeated

by Kevin Brown

The Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow Wolfpack 3rd & 4th grade team finished the 2016 season an undefeated 9-0 with a resounding 33-16 victory over Pleasantville in their final game of the season.

Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow Wolfpack is a youth football program that acts as a feeder program for the SHHS Varsity football team. Members of the Westchester Youth Football League (WYFBL), USA Football, and a practitioner of Heads Up Football, the Wolfpack focuses on teaching kids from kindergarten to 6th grade the fundamentals of the game in a fun and safe environment. This season the Wolfpack fielded the following four teams, made up of over 70 players: Flag Black, Flag Red, 3rd & 4th grade, and 5th & 6th grade.

The Wolfpack experience also offers cheerleading, with Cindy Guzman leading the way. Coach Guzman's program had 64 enthusiastic young women who created great excitement around the whole program.

The 3rd & 4th grade team, coached by Rob Gramaglia, Jason Estevez and Dave Halesworth, paved the way with an outstanding, undefeated, 9-0 season. Led by the stellar play of 4th graders, QB Julian Guzman (5 TDs, 5 TD passes) and Timothy Plunkett (4 TDs), and 3rd graders Heston Halesworth (17 TDs), and Brayden Richardson (11 TDs), the team crafted signature wins against rivals Ossining and Pleasantville over the course of the season. Major contributions from Daniel Nyarady, Daniel Ford, Ben Meyer, Eddie Mahood, and Andre and Amare Estevez helped the Wolfpack to a very successful season.

The Wolfpack 5th/6th grade team struggled a bit this season due to injuries and inexperience. With most players playing on both sides of the ball, they were still able to remain very competitive. 6th graders Tyler Mahood (QB) and David Ford (RB) led the way, with significant contributions from Matthew Carey, Angel Grullon, Ke-



Wolfpack team finished season 9-0. Below: Wolfpack cheerleaders

nyatta Parks and newcomers Jimmy Ozoria and Sherman Lawrence. Coaches Joey Good, Joe Mahood and David Fink are very optimistic for next season with the return of Damon Fedor, Justin Fink, Reilly Tuck, Evan Bowan, Johnny Preiser, and Jaden Barreto.

The Wolfpack Red Flag team finished with a 6-2-1 record. They were led by vet-

eran players T. J. Kellas, Jack McCarthy, Daniel McCarthy, and Jeremiah Bowen. The offensive line was fortified by Jamie Puleo, Miles Dunn, Cole Bertolacci, and Jayson "Don" Thomas. Kindergartners such as Kellen McGuire made great progress throughout the season, and coaches Tommy Kellas and Chris Puleo feel the future is bright for their players.

The Wolfpack Black Flag team finished with a 4-2-2 record. They were led by quarterback Joey Balascio and starters James Kennedy, Trevor Kaplewicz, Sevan Arduino, Charlie Mueller, Jadiel Grullon and Dorian Hidalgo. Black Flag was consistently competitive on both sides of the ball with Chris Plunkett, Gabe Morse, AJ Kumar, Andrew Ramoino, Ethan McGuire, Noelle Dawson, Liam Kennedy, Matteo Barreto and Isaiah Ramos stepping up when needed most. Coaches John Balascio & Eugene Arduino are extremely proud of this squad's season long performance, and have high hopes for all of the future Horsemen.

**Special Awards: 3rd & 4th Grade:** MVP – Julian Guzman; Most Improved Player – Randy Almonte; Young Gun Award (Top 3rd Grader) – Brayden Richardson; Young Gun Award – Heston Halesworth; Coaches Award – Daniel Ford; Alex Adair; Heart & Hustle Award – Timmy Plunkett; Top Lineman Award – Daniel Nyarady. 5th & 6th Grade: Coaches Joe Good, Joe Mahood, Dave Fink: MVP – David Ford; Most Improved Player – Jaden Barreto; Young Gun Award (Top 5th Grader) – John Preiser; Coaches Award – Tyler Mahood; Alex Adair Heart & Hustle Award – Reilly Tuck; Top Lineman Award – Matthew Carey.



Hundreds of adults and children participated in Rivertown Runners' 7th Annual Sleepy Hollow 10k race in October.

—Photo by Sunny McLean

# High School Basketball Previews for Local Boys and Girls Teams

by Tom Pedulla

*The Hudson Independent* examines the prospects of local schools for the upcoming varsity basketball season.

## Girls

### HACKLEY

**Head coach:** Margaret Scarcella, second season

**Last year's record:** 18-7

**Top returning players:** Forward Krissy Barrett (5'11", jr.), Guard Kristen Bringsjord (5'6", sr.), Guard Meaghan Cunningham (5'4", sr.), Guard Ismene Germanakos (5'3", soph.), Forward Ijeoma Nworkie (5'10", jr.), Guard Jordan Wade (5'5", soph.).



Hackley senior guard Kristen Bringsjord

**Key to success:** Hackley will count on tenacious defense to compensate for what it lost in height and speed. It will look to be efficient on offense while harassing opponents into mistakes and quick possessions.

**"Heart, hustle and hard work will define our season."**

— Scarcella

### IRVINGTON

**Head coach:** Gina Maher, 41st season

**Last year's record:** 23-2

## Varsity Football Coach Retires at Sleepy Hollow High

by Kevin Brown

Former players and their parents were stunned and saddened to hear that after 14 years, Sleepy Hollow Varsity Football Coach Steve Borys has resigned from the position.

"When I interviewed for the job 14 years ago, the parents tasked me with reviving a dead program. They had gone through four coaches in three years. They could not field a team at times," Borys said. "My first year as coach, we made the playoffs and the very next year, we lost to Rye in the Section 1 title game. All told, we made the playoffs nine out of 14 years and played for the title four times. I inherited a joke and

**Top returning players:** Forward Mary Brereton (5'9", jr.), Forward Kelly Degnan (5'8", jr.), Guard Heather Hall (5'6", jr.), Guard Lindsay Halpin (5'6", sr.), Guard Katie McMahon (5'7", sr.), Guard Olivia Valdes (5'7", jr.).

**Key to success:** The Lady Bulldogs feature exceptional depth, including a promising group of sophomores and freshmen. Coach Maher will seek to capitalize on that by ramping up the defense and substituting frequently to ensure that players are able to compete with great energy at all times during a demanding schedule.

**"I'm very optimistic. If they continue to work as hard as they've been working, they should be very successful. They've played together for a long time; they get along very well together. They're excited and I'm excited. I'm not going to say we'll be 23-2 again because it's going to be very challenging."**

— Maher

### SLEEPY HOLLOW

**Head coach:** Nick Romeo, 11th season

**Last year's record:** 6-15

**Top returning players:** Guard Taylor Burnett (5'6", soph.), Guard Sara Clarke (5'7", soph.), Forward Maggie Cusanelli (5'10", sr.), Guard Gabby DelMonaco (5'8", jr.), Forward Marissa Fortugno (5'9", sr.), Guard Grace Yawman (5'7", sr.).

**Key to success:** Everything will revolve around defense and the ability to make stops that will lead to points off the running game.

**"We have a very difficult schedule in league play. But if we pull together, we can shoot for 10 wins or more."**

— Romeo

left the program a perennial power."

"What I am most proud of is that I had a chance to help so many young lives through the sport of football," he continued. "This sport saved my life. It helped me go from an overweight, dyslexic orphan with little hope to a professional with a Master's degree. That is why I coach. To help the next generation of young men. I am so proud of my players who are now strong husbands, fathers and community leaders. That is the real victory."

According to SHHS Athletic Director Chuck Scarpulla, a committee will soon be formed to search for the best candidate to lead the program going forward. There are currently no frontrunners for the job.

## Boys

### HACKLEY

**Head coach:** Antione Johnson, second season

**Last year's record:** 5-14

**Top returning players:** Guard William Ballentine (6', sr.), Forward Andrew Chung (6'3", sr.), Guard Matt Jean (6'2", soph.), Forward William Jones (6'4", sr.), Forward Jordan Patrick (6'3", sr.).

**Key to success:** Turnovers and lack of confidence played a huge part in Hackley's struggles last season. There is a renewed emphasis on maximizing possessions and overcoming adversity.

**"As a first-year coach last season, we struggled to adjust to a new system.**

**In my second full year, players will have a better understanding and familiarity with our style of play and expectations within our system."**

— Johnson

### IRVINGTON

**Head coach:** Scott Brennan, 2nd season

**Last year's record:** 6-14

**Top returning players:** Guard Daniel DeMatteo (5'9", sr.), Guard Colby Martins (5'9", soph.), Forward Henry Mon-

ness (6', sr.), Center Sydney Thybulle (6'6", soph.), Guard Thomas Wassman (5'10", sr.).

**Key to success:** The Bulldogs will aim to combine stifling defense with tenacious rebounding in order to trigger their fast break to create layups and open looks.

**"I think 12-8, 13-7 is realistic. Our goal is to reach the County Center for the Class B semifinals."**

— Brennan

### SLEEPY HOLLOW

**Head coach:** Chris Starace, third season

**Last year's record:** 12-10

**Top returning players:** Guard Malik Jones (5'9", jr.), Forward Andrew Laub (6'7", sr.), Guard Sean McCarthy (6', jr.), Guard Jack Starkey (6', sr.), Center Troy Tallman (6'4", sr.), Forward Ethan Wilens (6'3", jr.).

**Key to success:** Players bought into a rigorous off-season conditioning program, hitting the weights often and hard. There is every reason to expect that it will pay off with a stronger team that will be harder to keep off the boards and harder to defend.

**"This is a very athletic team. We are going to be very up tempo and try to dictate the pace of the game."**

— Starace

# Ona – A Shopper’s Haven for the Holidays and Beyond

by Linda Viertel

Tarrytown’s newest boutique, Ona, opened in October, offering customers numerous delightful treasures. One visit will not suffice once shoppers see the plethora of home items, jewelry, scarves, jackets, crafts and artisanal artwork from around the world. It’s a gem of a store – filled with quality one-of-a-kind items, lovingly sourced and designed by owner Ona Cohn, with a curator’s eye and a soul dedicated to the concept of fair trade. She not only creates her own unique jewelry, her love of materials, sewing, and international travels has given the river towns a destination shopper’s heaven.

Many of her unique gift selections are works of art, but it is her commitment to selling fair trade items that sparks her retail interest most and gives her store flair with a social and political foundation. “What is important about fair trade,” she explains, “is that it is the opposite of outsourcing; you are not taking a job away from anyone in the U. S. But, you are keeping traditions and crafts alive in other countries by making a product that will sell everywhere.” Fair trade is an appellation that means workers in developing countries are paid fairly, no child labor is used in production, workplaces are not toxic, and environmentally sustainable practices are promoted.

Having trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), Ona’s sewing passion turned her into a lingerie designer. Working for large companies for over 20 years until the garment industry disappeared from the U.S., she witnessed first garments, now almost everything made in China. “That’s why I am so concerned about fair trade and selling items not made in China where they are exploiting their workers.” After owning a custom dress shop in White Plains, she handled the custom clothing at James, a Bedford Hills boutique specializing in fair trade and locally produced artwork. There, she grew to love working with customers. And, eventually, she became sole proprietor before creating her own boutique.

“Everything is beyond my expectation in Tarrytown,” she said. “Everyone is so nice, and I love that this village has one foot in the last century and one foot in the present.” Tradition coupled with contemporary aesthetic and artistic sensibilities is clearly a theme in Ona’s life - evidenced as the hallmark of her store as well.

Traditional Zulu basket weavers, whose rich tribal tradition of using grass for their utilitarian items, are now using multi-colored telephone wires in creating exceptionally beautiful artisanal wares; both products, available at Ona, are still basically the same, with parallel patterns fusing past and present. “I like to think I pick out things that are well made, in America and throughout the world,” she said. Hand-made laser sliced bowls in multiple shapes and sizes come from Maine’s sustainable forests; Massachusetts field stones sliced, honed and polished at American Stonecraft become exquisite



Top left: Shop owner, Ona Cohn  
Bottom left: Christmas tree and gifts for the holidays  
Right: Storefront on Tarrytown’s Main Street  
Below: Lions and tigers and giraffes oh my!

— Photo Credit: Jon Marshall



food slabs; hand-knit stuffed animals hail from Kenya where the women harvest, wash and dye (with natural plant dyes) the wool and spin it on bicycle wheels. They are then taught marketing skills, are able to access health services, and earn fair wages to support their families.

“In My Previous Life I was a Bottle” creates figurines from melted glass in the Kingdom of Swaziland. And, in our very own Upstate New York, Oatka Glass studio has found new uses for old and unwanted window glass panes. Rather than ending up in landfills, it is recycled: the glass is crushed, placed in molds, kilned and cast into a myriad of shapes, shimmering colors and sizes.

Ona loves animals, which abound in her store – knitted, ceramic, papier mache, cloth, felt animals in every size, shape, material imaginable. Gogo-olive empowers women such as Eridah, who lovingly knit her hand-made giraffe, Twza, who “wants to be your friend” (shamavari). Eridah’s photo and message are on the label, as is the case with all her cohorts who create imaginative and well-crafted knitted animals. The Snow Leopard Trust ([www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org)) is supported by nomadic communities in the highlands of Central Asia who share the mountains with endangered snow leopards and now are able to sell their traditional



crafts, earning income for food, medicine and education. Purchasing their extraordinary hand-made Christmas ornaments relieves the economic pressure that drives herders to hunt the leopards into extinction—a global conservation effort.

At Ona you will find felted animals and dinosaurs from Nepal, sleeping cats made from molten glass, mud cloth animals from Mali, and papier mache wall animal figurines from Haiti.

South Africa’s Kapula – “the warm art of Africa” produces high quality handcrafted and hand-painted ceramics and candles. Calderesque museum quality mobiles in a variety of sizes are made in Portland Oregon. Patrick Meyer’s elegant flatware, serving pieces, bowls and personal accessories emanate from his San Francisco studio. And, where else could you find an ingenious folding basket crafted from Chinese chopsticks?

Ona also features one of a kind jewelry, many of her own design focusing on a black and white tonal palette. Laury Monk’s colorful beaded pieces are inspired by time spent in the Southwest, while Marjorie Vandenberg’s northland travels have influenced her bead choices in her earring creations.

Striking long and short women’s jackets; scarves hand-woven from 100% cruelty-free merino wool from Australia, then woven in Namibia; The Red Sari’s felted scarves

reimagined in Katmandu by combining sari material with vintagized felt, are just a few of the clothing choices offered at Ona.

Ona describes many of her pieces as akin to outsider art- art created by artisans who have no formal art or craft education. And, yet she also sells the work of local ceramicist Paul Briggs, whose unique pinched ceramic vessels possess an organic quality and are justly prized. Katonah resident, John Muciol’s collages are also featured. Representing hyper-local artists is as worthy a retail mission to Ona as providing a venue for her international fair trade and sustainably created products.

For shoppers who want to purchase gifts responsibly, find unique and reasonably priced items for the home or to wear, and enjoy whimsy, craftsmanship, and a fine aesthetic sense, Ona will be your one-stop place to shop for the holidays and beyond.

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(Ona is often at her store earlier and later than listed hours)

## Our Neighbors

# Sean Chillemi: Ren Shen Healing

by Linda Viertel

Oriental medicine, oftentimes described as non-traditional or “alternative,” is becoming an increasingly sought after treatment modality for not only curing aches, cramps and pains, but also diagnosing and relieving the body’s ailments through a variety of therapeutic treatments. And, at Ren Shen Healing, owner and primary practitioner Sean E. Chillemi, MSTOM L.A.C., LMT, HHC, brings his credentials to bear in helping others restore their energy and good health.



**“Ren is the healing spirit of humanity, and shen is the soul, the spirit that resides in the heart. Also, it’s short for my wife’s name Reneelyn, and Shen is the closest sound to the Chinese way of saying Sean.”**

Having moved from his old office on Tarrytown’s Main Street in 2009 to the Reformed Church of the Tarrytown’s Synod House on North Broadway, he has since expanded to provide three treatment rooms offering acupuncture, acupressure, oncology massage and both cupping and heat

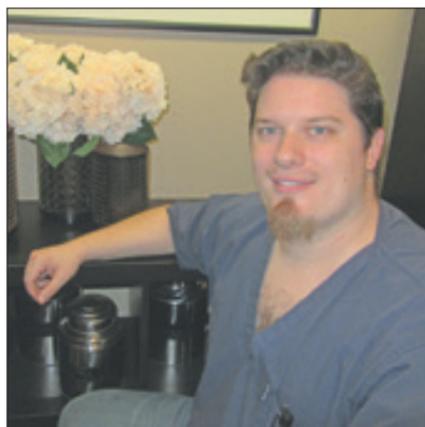
therapy (moxibustion). Sitting on the bench under the Church’s arching courtyard tree provides a quiet moment for peaceful meditation before or after treatment in the calm basement office setting.

Chillemi, now pursuing his fifth educational degree, has a passion for healing his patients. Having been diagnosed with skin cancer at age 21 while obtaining his B.A. from PACE University in economics, he began to appreciate the importance of alternative medicine. Since then he has devoted himself to traditional Oriental Medicine and gained a number of degrees in the process. He garnered three degrees simultaneously from the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine: a Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) in Asian Holistic Health and Massage, a BPS in Chinese herbology, and a Master’s of Science in Traditional Oriental Medicine.

Now, he is in the challenging process of obtaining his Ph.D. in the integration of Eastern and Western Medicine, with a focus on neurology, from the Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Shenyang, China where he has just spent four weeks for the clinical portion of his studies and where he will be returning for 2 weeks each in June and December 2017 for more clinical work. In between, live chats with professors fill in the academic portion of his studies, and contributes to his aggressive learning of the Chinese language. In three years, he will need to defend his thesis in Chinese at this prestigious school.

Over the years and in between Chillemi’s academic studies, he has also gained certifications in Kyo-jung (Korean Physical Manipulation), Medical Qi Gong, has become a board certified Holistic Health Counselor of Drugless Practitioners, and earned a certification for Acupuncture and Medical Massage for Cancer Patients from Sloan Kettering.

Now, he concentrates on his patients. He



Sean Chillemi

Far left: Chillemi’s new waiting area.

is able to see 12 to 15 a day, treating neurological conditions affecting the back, neck and shoulder, joint pain, side-effects from chemotherapy, and neuropathies. His Ph.D. thesis, in fact, will be on chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathies, which are conditions relating to nerve pain and disability. Chillemi describes his treatments as giving, “A holistically integrative approach. I look at the ‘whole you’ which combines mind, body and soul (the three treasures: jing, qi and shen).” He describes Ren Shen by explaining, “Ren is the healing spirit of humanity, and shen is the soul, the spirit that resides in the heart. Also, it’s short for my wife’s name Reneelyn, and Shen is the closest sound to the Chinese way of saying Sean.”

Chillemi also has a passion for teas; he is constantly creating differing medicinal teas to complement his treatments and to enhance a calming effect on the body. He hopes to create an integrative wellness center incorporating a café with treatments. And,

**“Stay active but don’t overdo it. Try meditation, tai-chi, quigong, or yoga. Eat and drink warming foods, including teas. Remember to hydrate – drink lots of water. Care for the mind, body and soul in wintertime.”**

—Sean Chillemi

when his Ph.D. is fulfilled, he plans to be able to dispense medicinal herbs as another complement to treatment. Meanwhile, his clients are able to text him 24 hours a day, a personal touch that establishes trusting relationships at his wellness center.

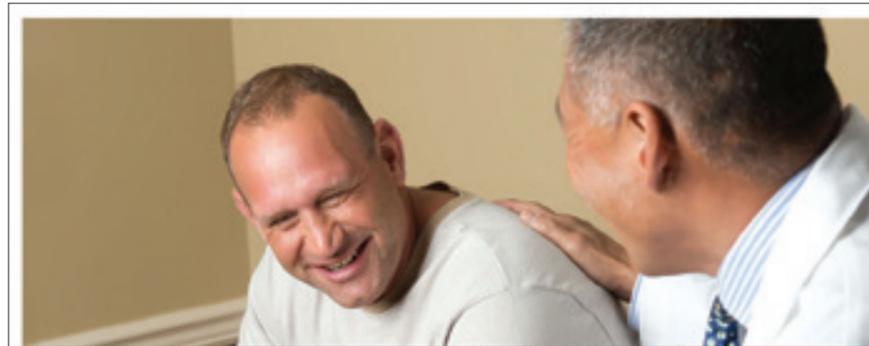
Chillemi’s advice during this coming holiday season includes having “a whole body tune up;” winter’s cold weather makes the body prone to getting sick. And acupuncture will help the body boost its immune system. “Stay active but don’t overdo it,” he explains. “Try meditation, tai-chi, quigong, or yoga. Eat and drink warming foods, including teas. Remember to hydrate – drink lots of water. Care for the mind, body and soul in wintertime. Maybe even give yourself or a friend a gift for the holidays that can last a lifetime – a holistic approach to treatment.” That’s what healing and health is all about.

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## Food for Thought

# Recipes for Christmas Puddings

by Linda Viertel

Every family has a favorite holiday dessert, no matter what celebration brings friends and family together. Tastes vary wildly between those who adore chocolate or vanilla, others who love fruit-based confections, and those who crave nut-based creations. So, why not prepare a few “Christmas puddings” that satisfy everyone’s cravings and combine taste preferences? You can flame them (if you wish) with a bit of warmed bourbon or liqueur and provide those gathered around your holiday table an exciting finish to your celebratory meal. Both selections are paired with a custardy cream sauce

– a perfect complement to any dessert, in fact. So, take the time to make sure you chill the sauce and present it tableside to all assembled. They will be so glad you did...

(Note: none of these selections are the traditional British Christmas puddings made with suet and dried fruit, nor do they need to be cured, so don't worry. They are, in fact, cakes, steamed on the stove top, so they are divinely moist. You can use traditional pudding molds with sealed tops or souffle molds covered tightly with tin foil.\* These recipes are 21st century delectations, happily consumed by adults and children alike.

### Mrs. Reagan's Persimmon Pudding

**Ingredients:**

1 cup sugar	2 tsp. soda
½ cup butter, melted	2 tsp. warm water
1 cup flour, sifted	3 tbsp. brandy
¼ tsp. salt	1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 eggs, lightly beaten
¼ tsp. nutmeg	1 cup golden raisins
1 cup pureed persimmon pulp (3-4 very ripe fruits)	½ cup chopped walnuts
	Brandy Whipped Cream Sauce (right)



#### Brandy Whipped Cream Sauce

1 egg  
½ cup butter, melted  
1 cup sifted powdered sugar  
Dash salt  
1 tsp. Brandy  
1 cup whipping cream

Beat egg until light and fluffy. Beat in butter, sugar, salt and brandy. Beat whipping cream until stiff. Gently fold into egg mixture. Cover and chill.

Stir together sugar and melted butter. Whisk flour with salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg, then stir into butter mixture. Dissolve soda in warm water, add to butter mixture with persimmon pulp, brandy and vanilla. Add eggs, mixed lightly but thoroughly. Add raisins and nuts, stirring until just mixed. Turn into buttered 5-6 cup heat-proof mold. Cover tightly and place on rack in a large steep pot with boiling water halfway up sides of mold. Cover pot and simmer 2 and ½ hours. Let stand a few minutes. Unmold onto heatproof serving plate. Pour about ¼ cup warmed brandy over pudding and flame. Serve with Brandy Whipped Cream Sauce.

#### Ingredients:

6 ounces semisweet chocolate  
3 tbsp. water  
½ cup unsalted butter, softened  
2/3 cup sugar  
5 egg yolks  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 tbsp. dark rum  
½ cup finely ground, roasted and peel hazelnuts  
2/3 cup dry bread crumbs, finely ground  
5 egg whites  
Crème Anglaise (below)



Break chocolate into small pieces, combine with water and heat carefully in a heavy saucepan, stirring until chocolate is melted. Set aside. Place butter in medium bowl and beat until smooth. Gradually beat in 1/3 cup sugar until light in color. Then add egg yolks to sugar mixture one at a time, beating after each addition. Beat in vanilla, rum and baking powder. Stir in chocolate. Combine nuts and bread crumbs and stir into egg mixture.

In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add remaining 1/3 cup sugar and beat until whites for soft, glossy peaks. Immediately add 1/3 of whites into chocolate mixture. Gently fold in remaining whites. Fill mold no more than 2/3 full. Cover and steam for 1 hour, 20 minutes. Unmold and serve warm with crème anglaise.

#### Crème Anglaise (from Epicurious.com)

½ cup whole milk  
½ cup whipping cream  
1 2-inch piece vanilla bean, split  
3 large egg yolks  
3 tbsp. sugar

Combine milk and cream in heavy medium saucepan. Scrape in seeds from vanilla bean; add bean. Bring milk mixture to simmer. Remove from heat.

Whisk egg yolks and sugar in medium bowl to blend. Gradually whisk hot milk mixture into yolk mixture. Return custard to saucepan. Stir over low heat until custard thickens and leaves path on back of spoon when finger is drawn across, about minutes (do not boil). Strain sauce into bowl, Cover and chill. (Can be made 1 day ahead.)

\* You can purchase traditional pudding molds on line, find them in thrift or vintage stores, or substitute whatever bundt or souffle molds you have at home, as long as you can tightly seal the top with aluminum foil — preferably heavy-duty.

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**Sat., December 17th, 8pm:**  
DJ Johnny Z (Rock and Roll Revival Show, Playing music from the 50's, 60's, 70's etc...)

**Fri., December 30th, 8pm:**  
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**Sat., December 31st, 9pm:**  
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## Special Holiday-Themed Cabaret on the Hudson Event Brings NYC Performers to Irvington on December 11

The Irvington Town Hall Theater (ITHT) kicks off the third season of its highly acclaimed *Cabaret on the Hudson* series with a special holiday-themed program on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 pm. A collaboration of ITHT and NiCori Studios and Productions, this intimate series allows the audience and performer to engage in a musical conversation. Series host, multi-award-nominated cabaret singer Corinna Sowers Adler, brings renowned cabaret performers to the ITHT stage where they perform samplings of their New York City cabaret shows. Many have performed at venues such as Feinstein's/54 Below, the Oak Room at the Algonquin, Birdland, Feinstein's at Loews Regency, Iridium, the Metropolitan Room, and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The December 11th program will feature Natalie Arneson, Matt Baker, and Natalie Douglas. Arneson won the 2016 "Best Female Debut" award from the Manhattan Association of Clubs and Cabarets. She appears regularly in Feinstein's/54 Below's "Sondheim Unplugged" series. Her current show, "I Love Being Here With You," celebrates the original material of singer/songwriter Peggy Lee.

Australian born jazz pianist/vocalist Matt Baker has performed at jazz festivals, clubs, and concert halls in Australia, Europe, the U.S., and the Pacific Rim. Baker's album *Underground* received rave reviews in *Downbeat*, *Jazz Times* and *Jazz Wise UK*, and reached #26 on the U.S. JazzWeek charts. He is a Montreux International Solo Jazz Piano Competition



◀ Natalie Arneson

award winner. Baker has studied with Taylor Eigsti, Mulgrew Miller, Benny Green, Fred Hersch, Aaron Goldberg, Jacky Terrasson, James Williams, Ralph Sutton and Ella Fitzgerald's lifelong accompanist, Paul Smith. (Visit: [www.mattbaker.com.au](http://www.mattbaker.com.au).)

Natalie Douglas has won numerous Nightlife, Backstage Bistro, Margaret Whiting, Donald F. Smith, and MAC awards, and has brought concerts, workshops and master classes to audiences and students across the U.S., Europe, and South America. Douglas has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Birdland, Café Carlyle, Town Hall, and Jazz at Lincoln Center's Appel Room and Rose Hall. In-

ternationally, she has performed in Montenegro, Greece, Italy, Spain, Corsica, Puerto Vallarta, London, Buenos Aires, Cancun, Turkey, Mazatlan, Belize, and Germany. (Visit: [www.nataliedouglas.com](http://www.nataliedouglas.com).)

Series host Sowers Adler also hosts the *Music at the Mansion* series and recently premiered her show "Something Beautiful" at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Appel Room. She has been nominated for "Best Host of a Variety Show" and "Best Female Vocalist" for the Broadway World Cabaret Awards, and for an Excellence in Theater Education TONY Award.

For tickets and more information about Cabaret on the Hudson, visit: [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

## Film Based on Irvington Author's Best Seller to Screen on December 16, Followed by Q & A With Filmmakers

In addition to fall and spring All Shorts Irvington Film Festival (As iFF) film events, the Best of Film Series returns to the Irvington Town Hall Theater this season. The popular series, which premiered in 2009, presents full-length documentary and feature films. *North By Northwest*, the Alfred Hitchcock classic, will be presented on December 11th at 7:00 pm in collaboration with the Irvington Historical Society; local historian Thom Johnson will introduce the film. On Friday, December 16 at 7:30 pm, the film series will present *Beyond Glory* — featuring actor Stephen Lang, who tells the

stories of eight Medal of Honor recipients in their own words, as he tours across the Heartland, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, New York and Los Angeles.

Based on the 2004 New York Times best-selling book, *Beyond Glory, Medal of Honor Heroes In Their Own Words*, written by former Irvington resident Larry Smith, the story was first told as a one-man play (also starring Stephen Lang) with over 100 performances at The Roundabout Theater in New York. Filmmaker Larry Brand took notice and worked with Lang to create this startling synthesis of cinema and theater

that takes audiences on a journey through the desperate conflicts of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Changing character with quicksilver virtuosity, Lang reaches into his reservoirs of emotion and pain, fortitude and courage, humility and joy, embodying the personae of eight warriors with remarkable stories to tell. Director Brand employs a wide cinematic arsenal to frame, enhance, and illuminate these stories. The result is a unique melding of two art forms.

Best of Film Series chair Beth Ryan said, "We think this is an incredible film to re-

*Continued on page 27*

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## Arts & Entertainment

# Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts Presents Entertainment and a Little Bit of Snow

by Morey Storck

Helen has been a student dancer with Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts (SHPA) since she was three years old. She is now a graduating senior at Sleepy Hollow High School with a 4.0 grade average. "I love the energy of SHPA, the people I've met and grew up with, and the fantastic teachers I've learned from. It's like family here. We're genuinely concerned for each other," she said.

That was the typical response of other students, and it says a great deal about the comfort level at SHPA. The warm interrelationship among all the students, regardless of age, gender or background, is evident in their performances, whether they be solo, partnering or ensemble, and that will be delightfully demonstrated in *Entertainment and a Little Bit of Snow*, scheduled for Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 18 at 3 p.m., at the Irvington Town Hall Theater. The Christmas/Holiday production, itself, is under the direction of Debra Lyn Press, Artistic Director of SHPA. It will incorporate pieces based on *The Nutcracker*, Broadway themes, and contempo-



Left to right: Leonard Cohen, Sharon Jones, and Leon Russell are all being honored

rary hip-hop. With the exception of the very young learners, dancers of all ages will be integrated into the overall production, as will many guest artists from the Broadway scene who have donated their time to be part of the event and to support old friends.

In addition, a special tribute will be paid to Leonard Cohen with an original piece danced to "Hallelujah." Leon Russell and Sharon Jones will also be honored.

Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts is a not-for-profit dance company, school and studio located at 362 N. Broadway in Sleepy Hollow. It was organized in 2002 by Press with its mission to "educate, elevate, and inspire the arts in Westchester by creating a safe artists' community in which all arts and artists are celebrated."

"Our community of teens is underserved,"

Press said. "Our community of would-be dancers and artists is underserved. And, our community of underprivileged families is underserved. Being a dancer is expensive. A single class can cost anywhere between \$10-\$30. For young adults and teens who have little or no financial resources, studying dance in a traditional setting is impossible. But, dancers have to dance. It's in them, the need to move and express their developing feelings, joys and sadness, through movement."

SHPA does what it can to provide that environment, and during 2016, it has donated over \$50,000 in free or cost-reduced classes to talented and/or economically deprived children.

SHPA serves the community of Westchester County by offering numerous workshops and performances to schools, community events, hospitals, assisted living facilities and organizational functions. Currently, SHPA runs an anti-bullying workshop and has fundraised for the Irvington Education Foundation (IEF) and Irvington Rocks. Since September, they have conducted Friday Night Dance sessions at their studio that allow children and adults to dance in a substance free environment.

There is also a Jr. Dance that runs on Saturday nights for first through eighth graders. Because of these initiatives, and more, Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts is a proud recipient of the ArtsWestchester Award given to an organization that has made "a significant improvement in a community over a significant period of time." It is only one of a host of awards and accolades the studio has received from art publications and organizations around Westchester, as well as prominent members of the New York State Legislature.

"The significant difference between our studio from others in the area," Press explained, "is that they audition students to be in a show. We, on the other hand, teach the students the elements to win that audition. You can't just 'kind of dance.' Learning the skills and practice, practice, practice are the only things that can make you really good. Our kids go prepared and they make it through any grueling audition. Skill in dance technique is essential, recognized, appreciated and rewarded."

That discipline is carried through into school studies. SHPA demands that earning good scholastic grades be given the highest priority possible, and their work with at-risk kids has changed the lives of entire families. Twelve SHPA students have been first in their family to graduate from high school. 30 students have been the first to attend college, and 24 have received scholarships.



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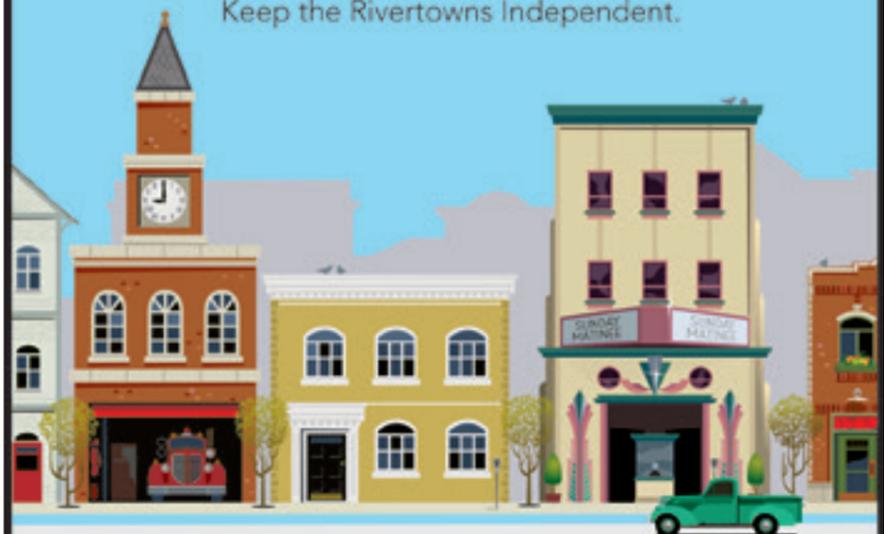
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## Obituaries

### Marc Warnock, 48

Marc Warnock, a resident of Irvington, died unexpectedly November 20. He was 48.

He was born and raised in Irvington, the son of S. Howard and Sunday Warnock. He graduated from Landmark School in Vermont in 1986. A skilled contractor and carpenter by trade who

had an eye for detail, Mr. Warnock took pride in his work and enjoyed taking on remodeling projects big or small. He loved spending time with his children and family and anywhere that had sun and sand and family trips to Cape Cod. He was an avid Jets fan, an excellent cook and a lover of all animals big and small. He loved to laugh. Mr. Warnock is survived by his three children, Olivia, Sam and Spencer of Sleepy Hollow, his mother Sunday and sister Amy, both of Irvington, along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family and friends who loved him very much and will miss him dearly.

Donations can be made to the American Heart Association or National Kidney Foundation in Mr. Warnock's memory.

### John Gallagher, 91

John D. Gallagher, a lifelong resident of the Tarrytowns, died peacefully at home with his family on November 22. He was 91.

Born in North Tarrytown on March 22, 1925, he was a graduate of North Tarrytown High School. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific Theatre on the USS Charles Sperry. On October 17, 1959, he married Eileen Lynch. Mr. Gallagher had worked in customer service for Con Edison for 35 years. He will always be remembered for his love of family and golf. In addition, he was a big fan of the Boston Red Sox.

### Colonel Paul E. Bell, USAF Ret., 91

Paul Edward Bell, Colonel, USAF (retired), fighter pilot, former Tarrytown resident and longtime resident of Riverside, California, died November 16. He was 91.



Marc Warnock with sons Sam and Spencer

He was born in Tarrytown in 1925, and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet shortly after graduation from high school. He saw service during World War II as a B-24 crew member on the islands of Morotai, Indonesia and Okinawa, Japan in support of the final bombing offensive in the Pacific.

During his life, Mr. Bell was the beloved husband to his wife, the former Helen M. Lavin of Westminster, Maryland; became the father of four children and grandfather to four grandchildren. He provided tireless leadership in his love for his country and the local community, the U.S. Air Force and March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California.

During a career spanning World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War he flew 251 combat missions amassing 862 combat hours in fighter, bomber and rotary wing aircraft. His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, the Asian Pacific, Korean, and Vietnam Campaign medals with 12 battle stars, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with silver star and honorary Vietnamese command pilot wings. He was an Air Force command pilot with 10,000 flying hours in 30 aircraft. He wore the Master Missileman badge.

Mr. Bell served his community, military support groups and veteran's organizations throughout his life. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the Newcomen Society. He was an area vice president for the California Air Force Association; was on the governing boards of the Silver Eagles, the March Field Museum, the Forum, Riverside Chamber Military Affairs Committee and 15th Air Force Association; was a flight captain for the Daedalians and the president of the Bob Hope chapter of the Air Force Association.

## Irvington Film

Continued from page 25

mind Americans of the amazing sacrifice made by those who serve and protect; something to unite us during this season of Thanksgiving, remembrance, and celebration."

Actor Stephen Lang is known for film, television, and stage work. In his latest film, Song/ScreenGems thriller *Don't Breathe*, he is "The Blind Man," a performance already garnering critical accolades. On television he portrays Waldo, the crippled assassin, in AMC's genre-bending martial arts series, *Into the Badlands*; and his ghostly presence continues as Increase Mather in WGN's hit series *Salem*. Lang is currently preparing to

reprise and expand his iconic role as Colonel Miles Quaritch in four sequels to James Cameron's film *Avatar*.

Lang recently received the "Special Jury Prize for Acting" award at the Phoenix Film Festival for his performance in *Beyond Glory*. He has also been nominated for and received Tony, Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Joseph Jefferson, Helen Hayes, and Outer Critics awards.

The December 16 screening of *Beyond Glory* will be followed by a Q & A with director Larry Brand and author Larry Smith.

Tickets are \$10 (advance online ticket purchasing is strongly recommended); visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com) for tickets and more information.

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**Thursday December 8:** *North by Northwest*: At 7 p.m. see this classic Hitchcock film at Irvington Town Hall Theater.



**Sunday December 11:** Cabaret on the Hudson: At 3 p.m. enjoy a holiday themed cabaret hosted by Corinna Sowers Adler at Irvington Town Hall Theater featuring Natalie Arneson, Matt Baker (left), and Natalie Douglas (right).

# What's Happening

Check out the complete directory for December at [www.thehudsonindependent.com](http://www.thehudsonindependent.com)

## Wednesday 7

**BEYOND THE SYNAGOGUE: MEMORIALS & MUSEUMS/CULTURE & COMMUNITY:** Lecture at 1 p.m. by Bruce J. Levy at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. To register visit [www.bit.ly/TBAart](http://www.bit.ly/TBAart).

## Thursday 8

**OSSINING DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSION SERIES:** At 6:30 p.m. "Happy" will be screened at the Ossining Public Library followed by Q&A with three experts. Visit [www.ossiningdocumentaries.org](http://www.ossiningdocumentaries.org).

**CONCERT:** At 6:30 p.m. violinist Elizabeth Pitcam performs at Lyndhurst in Tarrytown. For tickets visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

**BOOK DISCUSSION:** At 7 p.m. the Warner Library Book Group discusses "The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST:** At 7 p.m. see this classic Hitchcock film at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**PLAY READING:** At 8 p.m. the Westchester Collaborative Theater presents a reading of "Lardo" by Sydney Blake, followed by a talk-back, at the Steamer Firehouse Gallery in Ossining. Call 762-6429 or visit [www.wctheater.org](http://www.wctheater.org). Also Dec. 9 & 10 at 8 p.m., Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.

**CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. the Wizards of Winter with original members of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

## Friday 9

**DROP THE MIC:** At 7 p.m. Fullscreen Live presents Ricky Dillon, The Gabbie Show, Jack Baran Chachi Gonzales and Andrew Lowe at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

[tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org).

**POETRY NIGHT:** At 7:30 p.m. Amy King and Camille Rankine read from their new work and discuss what it means to be a woman poet in our time at Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow. Call 332-5953 or visit [www.writerscenter.org](http://www.writerscenter.org).

**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. at Maryknoll Society, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining, preceded at 6:30 p.m. by displays and sweet treats from around the world. Call 941-7590 or visit [www.MaryknollSociety.org/Concert](http://www.MaryknollSociety.org/Concert).

## Saturday 10

**FRIENDS HOLIDAY BOOK SALE:** At 11 a.m. at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

**DECORATE A TREE FOR WILDLIFE:** Enjoy this holiday tradition at 1 p.m. at Teatown Lake Reserva-

tion in Ossining. To register call 762-2912, ext. 110.

**YOGA WORKSHOP:** At 1:30 p.m. "Yin/Vinyasa: Harnessing the Power of Stillness to Maximize Your Inherent Mobility" with Corina Benner at Club Fit in Briarcliff Manor. Register at [www.YTAYoga.com](http://www.YTAYoga.com) or call 582-7816 for information.

**HOLIDAY CONCERT:** At 2:30 p.m. Kinny Landrum and Alan Bates play holiday music at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

**DICKENS "CHRISTMAS CAROL":** Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk performs this classic tale, with musical accompaniment, at Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns at 4 p.m., 5:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets required. Call 631-8200 or visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org). Also Dec. 11, 17 & 18.

**CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. Andrew Bird performs at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit

## SENIORS

**SENIOR BENEFITS INFORMATION CENTER:** Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. a representative from the Medicare Rights Center is on hand at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 631-7734. To ask questions outside regular counseling hours call 269-7765.

**SENIOR VAN:** Beginning at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, a van is available for seniors who need transportation. Call the Tarrytown Village Hall at 631-7873 or the Sleepy Hollow Recreation Dept. at 366-5109.

**HOT LUNCH:** Plus other activities Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Neighborhood House in Tarrytown. Suggested contribution \$3. Call 330-3855.

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

43 Wildey St., Tarrytown, 631-0205

**GREENBURGH NUTRITION PROGRAM:** See Hot Lunch above.

**COMPUTER CLASS:** 11a.m. Tuesdays (please call).

**YOGA ON THE CHAIR:** 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

**ART WORKSHOP:** 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

**TAI CHI:** 11 a.m. Thursdays.

**SENIOR CANTEEN:** informal social group, 1 p.m. Thursdays.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** 11 a.m. entertainment; 12 noon lunch Dec. 8.

**MOVIES:** 1 p.m. Fridays.

**MAH JONGG:** 1 p.m. Fridays

**BRIDGE AND CARD CLUB:** 1 p.m. Fridays. Closed Dec. 26 – Jan. 2

## TARRYTOWN SENIOR CENTER

Pierson Park, 631-2304. Annual donation is \$15.

**MEETING:** 1 p.m. Dec. 6, followed by games.

**EXERCISE:** 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Dec. 9).

**NICKEL BINGO:** 12:30 p.m. Mondays.

**YOGA:** 10 a.m. Thursdays.

**HOLIDAY PARTY:** 12 noon Dec. 9 at Tappan Hill.

**OTHER CLASSES:** Check bulletin board.

**POOL TABLES:** Available any time.

Closed Dec. 26

## JAMES F. GALGANO SENIOR CENTER

55 Elm St., Sleepy Hollow, 631-0390. Annual donation is \$10, due before March 1.

**MEETINGS:** 1 p.m. Dec. 5 and 19, followed by bingo.

**EXERCISE CLASS:** 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

**NICKEL BINGO:** 1 p.m. Tuesdays

**YOGA:** 10:30 a.m. Dec. 7 and 21.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** 12 noon Dec. 14 at Tappan Hill.

**CERAMICS:** 1:15 p.m. Dec. 1 and 15.

**EXERCISE CLASS:** 10:30 a.m. Fridays.

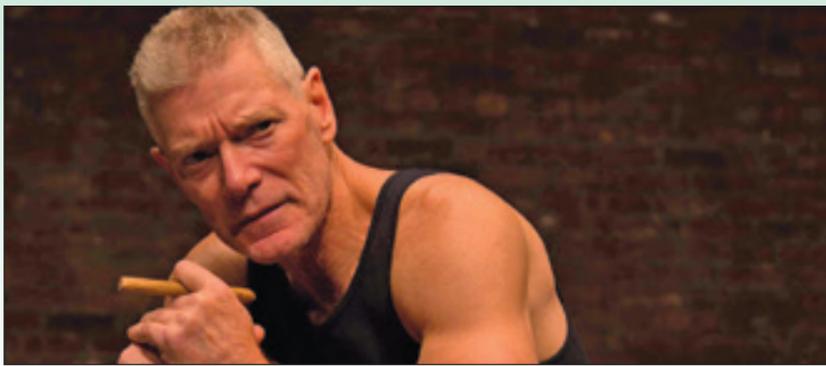
**KNITTING:** 1 p.m. Fridays.

**OPEN WEEKDAYS FOR SOCIALIZING, CARD PLAYING, ETC.:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Dec. 26

**DEC 10-11, 17-18**  
**Dickens's Christmas Carol**  
 at Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns  
**TICKETS + INFO**  
[hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)  
 or call 914.366.6900

**Holiday Gift Shop** | **OPEN WEEKENDS THROUGH DEC 18**  
 at Philipsburg Manor



**Friday December 16:** *Beyond Glory*: At 7:30 p.m. see this documentary film based on Stephen Lang's solo performance piece about 8 Medal of Honor recipients at Irvington Town Hall Theater.



**Sunday December 18:** At 7 p.m. Blood Sweat and Tears featuring Bo Bice performs at the Tarrytown Music Hall.

www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

**COMEDY NIGHT:** At 8 p.m. starring Cory Kahaney, Karen Bergreen and Lenny Marcus at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. For tickets visit [www.tba-n-y.org](http://www.tba-n-y.org).

### Sunday 11

**"LATKEPALOOZA" CHANUKAH FESTIVAL AND FAIR:** From 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or visit [www.tba-n-y.org](http://www.tba-n-y.org).

**ANIMAL ADVENTURES: BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE:** At 11 a.m. meet animals that know how to prepare for a cold winter's day at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. To register call 762-2912, ext.110.

**AUTHOR VISIT:** At 2 p.m. Jack Viertel discusses his book "The Secret Life of the American Musical" at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

**HOLIDAY CONCERT:** At 2 p.m. the Hudson Bells perform at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

**CABARET ON THE HUDSON:** At 3 p.m. enjoy a holiday themed cabaret hosted by Corinna Sowers Adler at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**O HOLY NIGHT: A Classical Christmas:** At 7:30 p.m. join Marco Panuccio in a concert by candlelight at the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. For tickets visit <http://sleepyhollow.brownpapertickets.com>.

### Monday 12

**HOW TELEVISION BEGAN THE CHANGE FROM A LITERARY TO A VISUAL CULTURE:** At 10 a.m. presentation by Arthur R. Aldrich at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit [www.jcontheudson.org](http://www.jcontheudson.org).

### Tuesday 13

**CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. an evening with David Crosby & Friends at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

### Wednesday 14

**"DADDY'S GIRL":** At 7 p.m. Prudence Wright-Holmes performs this one-woman show about the life and times of Harper Lee at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

### Thursday 15

**BEADING WORKSHOP:** At 7 p.m. make a pair of earrings for yourself and another for a battered woman at the Ossining Public Library. To register call 941-2416, ext. 327.

**THURSDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. to discuss "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante at the Irvington Public Library. Call 591-7840 or visit [www.irvingtonlibrary.org](http://www.irvingtonlibrary.org).

**CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. Ronnie Spector's "Best Christmas Party Ever" at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

**A HIP HOP "NUTCRACKER":** At 8 p.m. see a modern version complete with a dozen dancers,

live DJ and electric violinist at the Performing Arts Center, Purchase College. For tickets visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

### Friday 16

**COOKIES & MILK WITH SANTA:** From 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Sleepy Hollow Village Hall. Call 366-5100 or visit [www.sleepyhollowny.gov](http://www.sleepyhollowny.gov).

**BEYOND GLORY:** At 7:30 p.m. see this documentary film based on Stephen Lang's solo performance piece about 8 Medal of Honor recipients at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Visit [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com).

**HOLIDAY CONCERT:** At 8 p.m. Rob Mathes and his band perform at Purchase College on Anderson Hill Rd. For tickets call 251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**A CELTIC CHRISTMAS:** At 8 p.m. Cherish the Ladies perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

### Saturday 17

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** At 8 a.m. adults can help count wintering birds at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Pre-registration required. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org).

**A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION CONCERT:** At 11 a.m. the Laurie Berkner Band performs at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

**MOVIE MAVENS:** At 7 p.m. "The Human Resources Manager" will be shown at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown, followed by a moderated discussion. Call 631-1770 or e-mail [adulted@tba-n-y.org](mailto:adulted@tba-n-y.org).

**"THE BEATLES: EIGHT DAYS A WEEK – THE TOURING YEARS":** At 8 p.m. this documentary will be screened at the Nyack Center, Broadway at Depew, followed by the legendary 1965 "The Beatles Live at Shea Stadium" concert. Call 845-353-2568 or visit [www.rivertownfilm.org](http://www.rivertownfilm.org).

**THE ULTIMATE FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE:** At 8 p.m. Tusk performs at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

### Sunday 18

**WINTER POPS CONCERT:** At 3 p.m. the Westchester Philharmonic with singer Ashley Brown and pianist Ji performs Broadway and holiday favorites at Purchase College on Anderson Hill Rd. Call 682-3707 or visit [www.westchesterphil.org](http://www.westchesterphil.org).

**CONCERT:** At 7 p.m. Blood Sweat and Tears featuring Bo Bice performs at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit [www.tarrytownmusicall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicall.org).

### Monday 19

**HERMES PAN:** Academy Award Winning Choreographer: At 10 a.m. presentation by Edith Glass at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit [www.jcontheudson.org](http://www.jcontheudson.org).

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN OSSINING:** At 7 p.m. presentation by Village Historian Dana White at the Ossining Public Library. Also exhibits on each floor of the Library. Call 941-2416 or visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

### Tuesday 20

**MYSTERY BOOK GROUP:** Meets at 3:30 p.m. to discuss "What the Dead Know" by Laura Lippman at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

### Thursday 22

**HEMINGWAY'S PARIS:** At 7 p.m. Elizabeth Kemble gives a photo tour at the Irvington Public Library. To register call 591-7840 or visit [www.irvingtonlibrary.org/adultp.htm](http://www.irvingtonlibrary.org/adultp.htm).

### Friday 23

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** At 5:45 p.m. explore Jewish women's issues at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or e-mail [adulted@tba-n-y.org](mailto:adulted@tba-n-y.org) to RSVP.

### Saturday 24

FIRST NIGHT OF **CHANUKAH**

### Sunday 25

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS

**CHOPSTIX CHANUKAH:** At 3 p.m. enjoy Chinese cuisine, a giant fortune cookie menorah, a Chinese acrobat, Chanukah crafts and latkes at Chabad of the Rivertowns in Dobbs Ferry. Call 693-6100 or visit [www.Chabadrt.org](http://www.Chabadrt.org).

### Monday 26

First day of **KWANZAA**

### January 3

**VERA QUARTET IN RECITAL:** Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway. Visit [www.rctodc.org](http://www.rctodc.org).

### Ongoing

**NEW ROMANIAN CINEMA:** Dec. 1-8 at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

**"CHRISTMAS INN":** Dec. 1 – 23 at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. & show at 8 p.m. Call 592-2222 or visit [www.broadwaytheatre.com](http://www.broadwaytheatre.com).

**"MR. DICKENS TELLS A CHRISTMAS CAROL":** Dec. 9 - 30 actor Michael Muldoon recreates Dickens' own readings of this classic tale as guests travel through the Lyndhurst mansion in Tarrytown. Performance times vary. Advance tickets recommended. Call 631-4481 or visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

**"SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER":** Dec. 29 – Jan. 29 at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. & show at 8 p.m. Call 592-2222 or visit [www.broadwaytheatre.com](http://www.broadwaytheatre.com).

**TEACHING TRAILS – Weekend Walks for All Ages:** At 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 18 at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**TOUR LYNDHURST:** Through Dec. 30 the mansion is lavishly decorated for the holidays including the upside down Christmas tree displaying hats of the last owner. Call 631-4481 or visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

org.

**EXHIBIT:** "Paintings and Pastels: Inside and Out" by Linda Friedlander on display Dec. 5 -29 at the Irvington Public Library. Reception Dec. 17 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Call 591-7840 or visit [www.irvingtonlibrary.org](http://www.irvingtonlibrary.org).

**EXHIBIT:** "In the Middle of Things", paintings by Adam Tramantano at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

**EXHIBITS:** "Survivor" by artist Richard Sigmund Dec. 2-29 and "In a New York Minute" by artist Joanne Orce Dec. 1-29 at the Ossining Public Library. Reception Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. for Sigmund. Call 941-2416 or visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

**IRVINGTON RUNNING MEETUP:** Group meets multiple times per week to keep fit, keep in touch and have fun. Beginning runners always welcome. Visit [www.meetup.com/Irvington-running-Meetup/](http://www.meetup.com/Irvington-running-Meetup/).

**STONE BARNS' CENTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN POCANTICO HILLS:** Open Wed. – Sun. from 10 a.m. 6 p.m. Produce, meat and eggs available in Farm Store. Call 366-6200 or visit [www.stonebarnscenter.org](http://www.stonebarnscenter.org).

**FIELD GOODS WEEKLY PRODUCE DELIVERY:** Now available at the Ossining Public Library. Subscribers receive 5 to 8 different types of fruits and vegetables weekly, sourced from some 80 small farms. Sign up at [www.Field-Goods.com](http://www.Field-Goods.com) or e-mail [info@field-goods.com](mailto:info@field-goods.com).

**'DROP YOUR PANTS' DENIM RECYCLING INITIATIVE:** Bring your worn denim clothes to the Tarrytown Music Hall lobby collection box for recycling into insulation and keep textile waste out of landfills. Visit <http://bluejeansgogreen.org>.

**IRVINGTON-HUDSON RIVER TIFFANY TRAIL:** This electronic guide leads visitors to sites from the Bronx to Briarcliff Manor open to the public displaying the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Visit [www.tiffanytrail.com](http://www.tiffanytrail.com).

**MAH JONGG:** Mondays at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or e-mail [adulted@tba-n-y.org](mailto:adulted@tba-n-y.org) to ensure there are enough players for a game.

**MEN'S CLUB:** Meets every Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Meetings have varied speakers and are open to the public free of charge. Call 366-7898 or visit [www.jcontheudson.org](http://www.jcontheudson.org).

**TORAH STUDY:** Rabbi Holtz leads a class Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (except Dec. 28) at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. No previous knowledge required. Call 631-1770 or e-mail [adulted@tba-n-y.org](mailto:adulted@tba-n-y.org).

**CHESS CLUB:** The Warner Library Chess Club meets on the second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org).

**HEALTHY LIFE SERIES:** Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow offers the community a wide range of programs on health-related subjects as well as health screenings and support groups. Visit [www.phelpshospital.org](http://www.phelpshospital.org).

**FILMS FOR CHILDREN:** Weekends at noon at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

# “What is on Your Holiday Wish List?”



**Carol Ressa**  
Works at Sleepy Hollow Middle School

“I need a vacation. Or Spin shoes.”



**Diana Fajardo**  
Works in Sleepy Hollow

“Mostly I want to have a good holiday with my family.”



**Pancho Bravo**  
Sleepy Hollow

“I’d like to make things better for my kids because they are most important to me.”



**Tony (GM Tony) Napoli**  
Tarrytown

“A new GM Plant.”



**Nicholas Lukanko**  
Sleepy Hollow

“An iPhone.”

## Letters

### Sleepy Hollow Sanitation Policy Should Be Changed

To the Editor,

The “sanitation” fees paid by Sleepy Hollow home owners and businesses are supposed to cover the costs of handling our trash and recycling. But the fees actually come up short around \$200,000 every year. To make up the difference, the Village transfers about \$200,000 (roughly 1.5%) of our property taxes to the sanitation budget.

This means we need to either be charged more for garbage collection or be encouraged to junk less stuff. Or, better yet, do both by billing owners for how much they throw out. Just like how the County charges the Village for each ton of garbage

it dumps.

Oddly, the Village’s current rate structure does the opposite. A single-family home pays \$45 every three months, while a two family pays \$50, a three family \$75 and a four family \$105. Regular commercial establishments have it worse, paying \$275 per quarter, regardless of how little they dispose of. But restaurants, which tend to generate large trash volumes, only pay \$365.

Our current government policy says “Throw out as much stuff as you want. No problem!” But it is a problem, for our budget and our environment.

Right now is the perfect time to fix this policy. The Village is buying a new sani-

tation truck. It will have an “automated” side arm for picking up garbage cans. The mechanized pickup requires sturdier cans, which the Village will provide.

The DPW wants to get 95 gallon cans for everyone. Those huge cans would encourage people to throw away even more stuff. So everyone would have to pay more “tipping fees” to the County and larger costs for collection and trucking.

The fairest thing to do is let everyone choose the garbage can size appropriate for their needs. Smaller cans pay a smaller fee and larger cans pay a larger fee. When people have extra items to throw out, they can purchase tags from vending machines. Potential locations for such machines could be Village Hall and the train station. The “friction” of having to obtain and pay for discarding excess materials encourages

people to consider selling or donating usable items.

The industry calls this “Pay As You Throw” (PAYT). Though it’d probably be better named “Save As You Recycle.” 42% of municipalities in New York use such pricing models. Variable rate systems reduce garbage tonnage by an average of 17%. Better yet, these systems are very popular in communities that have implemented them, where over 90% of people are supportive.

While these changes will be awkward for the Village, residents and shop owners alike, the long term financial and environmental benefits are worth the investment.

**Daniel Convissor**  
Sleepy Hollow

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## New SH/Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce Members

Los Andes Bakery  
180 Valley Street  
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591  
914-631-3256  
<http://www.losandesbakery.com>

Tarry Travel  
38 Beekman Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591  
914-631-8312

Douglas Royce Advisory Group  
445 North State Road, Suite 1  
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510  
914-923-3101  
[www.douglasroyceadvisorygroup.com](http://www.douglasroyceadvisorygroup.com)

Love Holds Life Children’s Cancer Foundation  
2345 Route 52  
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533  
Phone: 845-592-4544  
<http://www.lhlny.org>

Crown Trophy of Briarcliff  
529 N State Rd  
Briarcliff Manor  
New York 10510  
914-941-0020  
<http://www.crowntrophy.com/store-14>

## Oral Histories

Continued from page 18

many targeted root-based treatments. Despite the changes in both his trades, he still thinks face-to-face interaction is key.

Although you can buy anything online, Angel Rafter still believes that a real-world connection is an essential part of her business. Eight years ago to date of our session, she launched Nu Toy Store midway down Tarrytown's Main Street; three years ago she "took another leap of faith" and up-

graded to a storefront three times its size closer to the Broadway intersection. This location has made a huge difference to her visibility and expanded her clientele dramatically, she said. Rafter makes a point of also making herself visible in the community, as an organizer of Third Friday and co-President of the PTA. Customers appreciate the hands-on touches at her shop you can't get on Amazon, from the thoughtful gift-wrapping to special events and touching the toys.

Formerly in the corporate world, Rafter's move into this special subset of retail was the perfect fit for the new mother in a town that lacked a toy store. Her customers, unlike those of many other businesses, "come in 99.9 percent happy." And, she added, "The loyalty we have throughout the town is phenomenal."

Finally, some entrepreneurial advice from the experts: "Love what you do," said Mejias. "Be patient, have passion, tolerance, energy. Everyday you're ready to think fast

and solve problems. Know everything."

And, from Harris Banks: "You can't be grumpy, even if they just spent 10 cents."

To listen to the full session and excerpts please visit [TheHudsonIndependent.com](http://TheHudsonIndependent.com). Next up: join us in the new year for an Oral History session with the heads of non-profits in our villages. RSVP to [krista@sleepyhollowink.com](mailto:krista@sleepyhollowink.com). We will meet on Friday, Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. in the Warner Library, 3rd floor. Happy holidays!

## Neighborhood House

Continued from page 8

ed lunches daily (\$3). She's found friends here – "I know just about everybody" – since she moved to town two years ago from Yonkers. Plenty of others are lifers:

John Vlacancich, 97, also partakes of the hot lunch as he "never cooks; not even coffee." He gets a bus ride here from Sleepy Hollow where he's lived for almost 60 years, with his son nearby.

Betty Vivica, going on 93, has been here "all my life." She remembers when the Tarrytown Seniors met here and enjoys "just being with people, getting out of the house." She stands a chance of winning the "big-time money" at stake here today, she jokes, maybe \$6-\$7. Vivica recalls watching the first bridge go up (when her uncle was mayor and her sister marched in the

bridge's inaugural parade) "And now I'm lucky enough to see the second."

Second only in popularity to the Canteen, which usually attracts up to 30 people and is the only ongoing event that requires a \$10 annual membership, the weekly art group is thriving at about 15 folks each week. Instructor Chris Blatt generously guides attendees in whatever individual medium they are most interested in, which all culminates in a robust annual show at the Warner Library.

The chair yoga class is a hit with about 20 people at each session. "We try to promote healthy aging," Fazzino said.

In the future, Spinner would like to see the NH further embracing its founding premise. "I think the original name is a key to our mission," she said. "Civic" implies a

**"I think the original name is a key to our mission. 'Civic' implies a duty to be involved in the daily life of the community and be a positive force."**

— NH Board President Francesca Spinner

duty to be involved in the daily life of the community and be a positive force. This is my definition, but I certainly hope The Neighborhood House enriches the lives of its members and makes the community a special place," she said. In the future, she hopes to be more involved with Chamber of Commerce events and cross-generational connections with various groups. Their basement currently serves as the home of the high school special needs department's Independent Living Program, which trains students in everyday skills like doing laundry and making beds in rooms appointed

like a house.

Soon the NH plans to start distributing its spirit and talents to various public locations around town in the form of vividly painted Adirondack chairs. First, back to bingo.

"I love everything that's offered to us," Solomon said. "Sometimes I'm here five days a week. I just love it."

*The Neighborhood House is located at 43 Willey Street and can be reached for more info at (914) 631-0205.*

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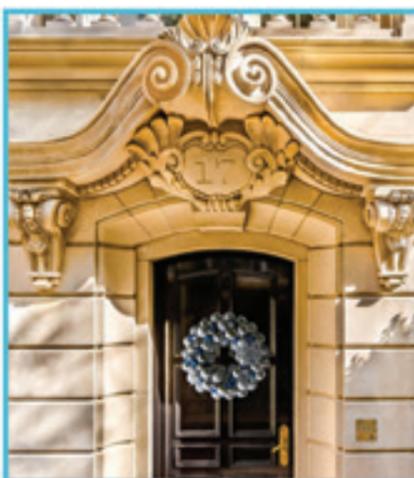
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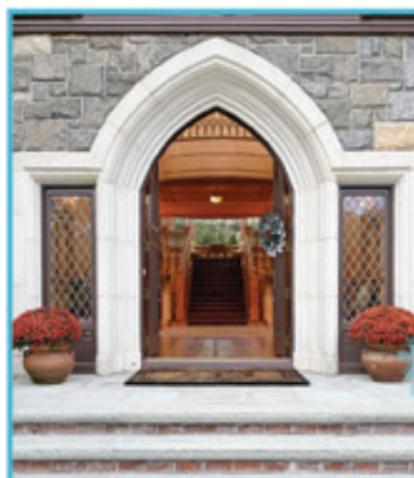
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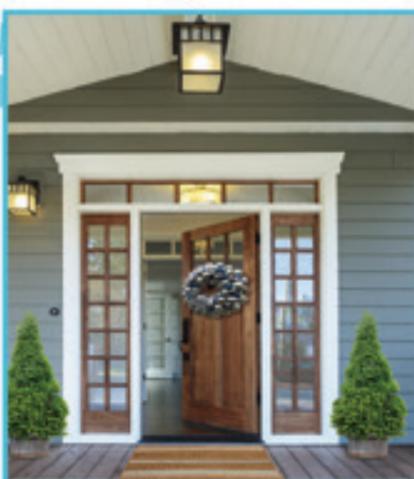
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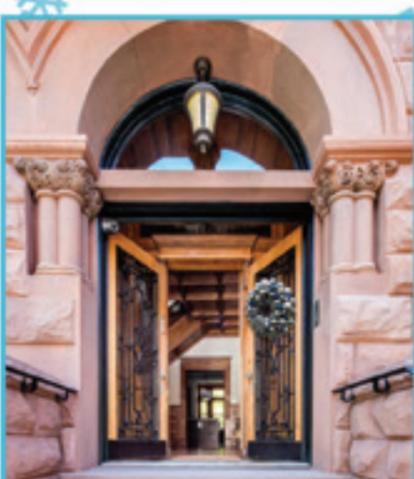
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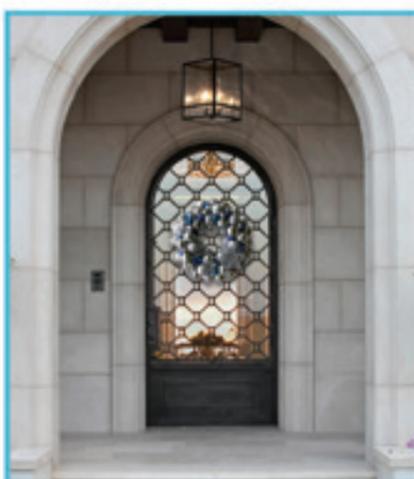
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