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# The Hudson Independent

May 2018

Serving Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Irvington, Scarborough-on-Hudson and Ardsley-on-Hudson

Vol. XIII No. 5

## Where the Bus Stops Matters, Depending on Where You Live

by Barrett Seaman

Wrapped into the overall New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) plan to update and streamline regional transportation is a new trans-Hudson express bus service, known as the Lower Hudson Transit Link, or LHTL. With a goal of enticing as many commuters as possible into using public transportation, the state DOT has proposed an enhanced, express service that would whisk commuters west of the Hudson on wifi- and a/c-equipped buses over the new Mario Cuomo Bridge to Westchester, and for many, onto Manhattan-bound trains—and back.

Currently, there are regular trans-Hudson local buses that stop at the Tarrytown Metro North station on their way eastward across Westchester County. These have been popular for NYC-bound west-of-Hudson commuters. When the DOT first came out with its new plan, using express buses from the Palisades Mall traveling on dedicated lanes each way across the new bridge—and then along I-287 using “Integrated Corridor Management” to get around rush hour congestion, they planned to route the express buses directly to White Plains. That meant that those who wanted to ride the Hudson Line to Manhattan could do so only by taking local buses that made multiple stops in Rockland County.



Mayor Drew Fixell

The case they made was that, with all the streamlining built into the new system, the net time it would take to get into Manhattan via White Plains would be no different than via Tarrytown. Plus, White Plains trains are cheaper and run more often.

Rockland County commuters and their elected officials didn't buy that. In March, a phalanx of pols from west of the river held a press conference denouncing the Tarrytown bypass plan. One called it “a huge injustice to commuters.” Rockland County Executive Ed Day later wrote, “The fact of the matter is that Rockland commuters who cross the river to connect with Metro-North should do so at Tarrytown- the closest East of Hudson station. Commuters who need to go to (or connect from) White Plains [Commuter Bus Depot] should go to White Plains.”

While the plan is far from settled (a bus company hasn't even been picked), the DOT backpedaled quickly, announcing at an April “open house” public discussion that it was going to split

the difference and have roughly the same number of express buses go to Tarrytown as to White Plains.

Solomonic as that decision seemed, it did not sit well with officials east of the river, specifically Tarrytown. Mayor Drew Fixell said he was strongly against the proposal to funnel all the buses to his village and only slightly less unhappy with the compromise. The whole point of sending cross-river buses to White Plains, he argued, was to streamline regional commuting, based on two year's worth

*Continued on page 3*

## Murder at River City Grille Stuns Irvington

by Barrett Seaman

Bonifacio “Boney” Rodriguez, 39, was a happy guy by all accounts. Married and the father of two girls, 15 and 12, he had worked at Irvington's popular River City Grille restaurant for nearly 20 years. He was the “prep chef” who had his own room next to the kitchen where he cleaned fish, trimmed meat and readied ingredients for lunch and dinner meals. “He'd be back there listening to NPR (National Public Radio) all day,” said his boss, restaurant owner Bobby Manzi.

Then late morning on Tuesday, April 10, according to Irvington police and the Westchester District Attorney's office, Boney was allegedly stabbed multiple times by Rosa Ramirez, 27, a resident of Chinatown in lower Manhattan who had been hired less than two weeks earlier as a dishwasher. Two other restaurant employees were in the building at the time but not in the kitchen. They found Rodriguez on the floor, bleeding profusely, and called 911. He was taken to Westchester Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 12:19 p.m., within an hour of the attack.

Ramirez was taken immediately into custody and arraigned before Irvington Village Judge Desmond Lyons around 6:00 p.m. that evening—charged with murder in the second degree. The last time anyone was murdered in Irvington was in 1974, when Elfriede Bernhardt, 41, was killed by 18-year-old Neal Giraldo of Tarrytown at her home on Havemeyer Road.

When Ramirez returned to court in Irvington April 16, her legal aid attorney, Jessica Hugel, told Judge Lyons that her client would waive a felony hearing, clearing the way for a county grand jury to hear the case in White Plains.

Hugel confirmed that her client was pregnant but has said little else about the case. No one, save perhaps Ramirez herself, knows the motive. Several news organiza-

*Continued on page 3*

## Irvington Baseball Standout to Play on Ireland Junior National Team

by Tom Pedulla

Liam Toolan's passion for baseball will take him far this summer after the Irvington High School standout earned a place on Ireland's Junior National Team.

The team, for players 18 and under who were born in Ireland or whose parents or grandparents were born there, will use scrimmages and games in June to prepare for the European Baseball Championships in Grosseto, Italy from July 9-15. The parents of Lisa Brennan, Toolan's mother, were born in Ireland.

Toolan, 16, is expected to be used primarily as an outfielder, but he offers extraordinary versatility with the ability to also play in the middle infield and pitch. The right-handed hitter led Irvington with a .429 batting average to go with three home runs, 14 RBI, 24 runs scored and 15 stolen bases in 16 attempts last year as a sopho-

*Continued on page 5*

Liam Toolan has pitched for the Bulldogs but is expected to play in the outfield this summer.



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# Irvington Student to Present Gun Violence Symposium on May 23 at Town Hall Theater

by Paula Romanow Etzel

Thirty million Americans watched President Obama on television when he spoke at the University of Arizona on January 13, 2011. Nine-year-old Irvington resident Sam Roth was one of them. The president's speech was in response to a Tucson shooting in which Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and 11 others were seriously injured; six people were killed including a nine-year-old girl. Urging that the national gun debate be conducted "in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds," President Obama said what mattered was "how well we have loved, and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people better."

The president's words had a profound impact on Roth, who is now 16 and a sophomore at Irvington High School. "I'd been interested in current events all my life," he

explained. "But that speech was electric. President Obama offered hope, with actions backing up what he said. His words symbolized some sort of magic for me."

This experience instilled in Roth a passion to work toward gun reform. With such frequent shootings, there have been times of disillusionment – such as last October, when 58 people were shot to death, and 851 injured, by a gunman in Las Vegas. "I couldn't sleep, didn't know who to look to," Roth recalled.

The Irvington Education Foundation's Innovation Fund encourages students to submit ideas for creative, entrepreneurial, or enrichment initiatives, and Roth had an idea. He envisioned a presentation that would educate, inspire, and provoke action. "This isn't a conversation that should only take place after a shooting," he noted. His proposal was approved, and Roth's vision

Some Sleepy Hollow High students protested in Tarrytown last month. (photo by Sunny McLean)

will be realized on May 23 at 7:30 p.m. with a symposium at the Irvington Town Hall Theater.

Moderated by Michael Wolkowitz, former chairman of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the panel will include speakers with advocacy, legislation, and law enforcement expertise as well as a gun violence survivor.

Grant recipients are assigned mentors with related experience; Roth's mentor is Irvington resident Sarah Wynter, a volunteer for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Wynter asked Barry Graubart, co-leader of Moms Demand Action's Westchester



group, to help them organize the program. "Sam has an amazing ability to quickly learn and absorb information about a very nuanced, complex topic that often baffles adults," observed Graubart.

Roth is a co-lead of the Westchester Chapter of Students Demand Action, a new national organization for students (14 and up). Comprising 8,000 students, the group organizes at the school, community, and state level with voter registration drives and advocacy days to lobby state officials on gun reform policies -- and helps other students start their own local groups.

The Feb. shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida where 14 students and three teachers were murdered (and 17 injured) has evoked a sense of urgency for students nationwide.

For many, the walkouts personalized the effects of gun violence – as it did for Roth; one Parkland victim, Meadow Pollack, was the daughter of his father's close childhood friend. Recalling when Meadow's name was

read at the March 14 Irvington school walk-out, Roth said, "As I'm sure was the case for countless other students with connections to victims, my heart dropped. Meadow died shielding a freshman. Set to start college this fall, she was taken from those who loved her and whom she loved. She never got to say goodbye to her parents. That moment when her name was called, that is something that will live with me forever."

The May 23 symposium will offer students and adults the opportunity to become educated about gun violence, policy, safety, and ways to implement reform.

Roth cited State Senator-Elect Shelley Mayer's recent campaign as key to the future of gun reform in New York. "She is a longtime champion and sponsor of gun safety bills," he said. "Working on her campaign was a life-changing experience. The willingness of elected officials to hear from students has inspired hope. With continued volunteerism and events like the walkouts, our generation can really make a difference."

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## Murder

Continued from page 1

tions have since reported that Ramirez is facing assault charges in New York City for allegedly slashing her roommate's boyfriend with a knife last October. Irvington police say they are still investigating and that their case will be presented to the grand jury in early May.

According to restaurateur Manzi, Ramirez had answered an Internet ad for the dish-washing job. She was interviewed by one of Manzi's colleagues, who spoke Spanish, before he interviewed her. "She seemed pleasant, normal—somebody who needed a job," recalls Manzi. His one concern was her long commute from Chinatown, but Ramirez assured him that she liked to travel.

A popular spot for both lunch and dinner, River City Grille, on Broadway just south of Main Street, became a crime scene. After investigators had done their work, the restaurant reopened for business but closed down again the following Monday so that the entire staff could attend Boney's wake in Yonkers.

On the day of the murder, Manzi started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to cover funeral expenses and perhaps provide seed money for the girls' education. "Please help us to provide for the dear family of



Bonifacio Rodriguez

our beloved Bonifacio Rodriguez," it read. "Since his tragic passing, they will suffer both emotionally and financially. The River City Grille family appreciates your support." The goal was \$25,000. Less than a week later, the fund had surpassed that goal, and a separate fund for Rodriguez's wife Selma had raised additional money.

The family plans to send his remains back to Mexico where Boney Rodriguez will be buried next to his father.

## Express Bus

Continued from page 1

of careful study." There are more trains and greater capacity available on White Plains' Harlem line than on the Hudson Line, and commute times are a few minutes shorter," he said, citing the study. Besides, he contended, there would be no economic benefit to Tarrytown from having commuters ride into town on buses, get off and hop on a train to Manhattan.

His village, said Mayor Fixell, is already burdened by other bridge-related development: the state police barracks, a thruway maintenance facility and, at least until now, the toll booths. "These facilities not only provide zero tax revenues to our village or schools, while gobbling up huge tracts of extraordinarily valuable land, but they also generate enormous amounts of traffic that

clog our narrow village streets."

Westchester State Assemblyman Tom Abinanti went further, calling on constituents to "tell the Governor and State DOT that express buses in Tarrytown endanger public safety, increase traffic congestion on main roads, and diminish quality of life for Tarrytown residents."

West bankers still aren't buying the switch. "If it can be physically demonstrated that the commute to NYC via a White Plains routing is equal to or quicker than the express bus connection to Tarrytown," conceded Ed Day, "then we have something to talk about."

More talking is in the offing. According to Abinanti, Assembly members from both sides of the Hudson will meet again with the DOT and the Governor's office for "further discussion."



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# Three Running for Two Seats on Irvington Board of Education

by Rick Pezullo

Three candidates will be vying for two available seats on the Irvington Board of Education when district voters go to the polls on Tuesday, May 15.

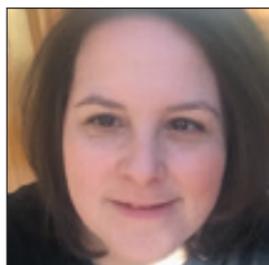
Board President Michael Hanna is the lone incumbent in the race as Trustee Catherine Palmieri opted not to seek reelection. Looking to join the board for the first time are Erin Bernstein and Beth Propper.

Hanna, who moved to Irvington from Dobbs Ferry in 2011 and has twin daughters attending Irvington High School, owns a communications company and edits television documentaries.

"As current 2018-19 School Board President, I look to continue working with the board and district administration on implementing the new strategic plan," Hanna said. "The focus for the board is to continue a fiscally responsible approach to supporting student success and well-being in a safe, modern, rigorous learning environment."

Bernstein, who is employed as a Senior Controller for an independent school, and has more than 20 years' experience in college and public school district financial management, has lived in Irvington for eight years. She has one son in the district.

"The primary responsibilities of the board



Erin Bernstein



Beth Propper



Michael Hanna

are fiscal and policy oversight, as well as management of the Superintendent. The board is currently lacking someone with my financial acumen," she said. "I felt strongly that someone with a financial background would add a critical fiscal oversight function to the overall makeup of the board. With experience not only as a financial controller, but also in managing educational institution's finances, I believe I would be a strong addition to the current board."

"We are planning to launch multi-million-dollar bond projects, so I believe that strong operational and budget management and oversight will be keys to success of those projects," she added. "Safety and security, particularly at the main campus, will also be critical issues going forward, and we must address those within a constrained budget and as part of the upcoming bond

initiative."

Propper, a public interest lawyer who started her career as a prosecutor in Brooklyn, has lived in Irvington for 14 years. Her daughter currently attends Irvington Middle School, and her son is a 2015 Irvington High graduate.

"I have been involved as a parent and volunteer at all grade levels, K-12, from the transition from preschool through the college application process. I am grateful for the education provided to my children by Irvington's respected public schools, and I feel very lucky to have been able to raise my family in our beautiful village. That is why I feel a sense of responsibility to make sure that the success of our schools continues now and long into the future," Propper said. "I intend to bring my knowledge and experience to serve as a member of Irving-

ton's school board so that I can do my part to further the best interests of our children and our community."

"The most important issues facing our district (and for that matter, all school districts in New York State) center on fiscal limits," she added. "Irvington must continue to maintain and improve programming and instruction while creatively working within the budgetary constraints passed down from Albany. Security issues are also a top priority, not only in terms of how we must insure that our campuses and buildings are safe for our children and staff, but also, in terms of an additional responsibility to adhere to best practices in data privacy in the face of rapidly evolving reliance on technology in education."

## Budget

Residents will also be voting May 15 on a \$61.38 million budget for the 2017-18 school year which increases spending by 3.8%, the largest spending hike in the district since 2014-15. The tax increase per household is based on assessed valuation. In order to balance the budget, the district is allocating \$422,500 from fund balance, the same amount utilized this year.

Voting will take place at Main Street School from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# Three Running Uncontested in Tarrytown Board of Ed. Race

by Rick Pezullo

Two incumbents and a newcomer are running unopposed for the Board of Education in the Tarrytown Union Free School District on May 15.

Longtime incumbents Mimi Godwin, who has been on the board since 1996, and B. Joseph Lillis, a trustee since the early 1990's, will return for three more years apiece, while Michelle DeFilippis will earn her first term. Board member James Huselbee is not seeking a new term.

Godwin, the board president, has lived in Tarrytown most of her life and is a former teacher.

"I'm running for the Board of Education because in this role I get to practice what

I have loved my whole life. I hope to continue to ensure our district firmly prepares each class of children to be successful and happy in their lives and future careers. I hope that we create new opportunities and experiences to enrich their time while they walk in our school's hallways," she said. "I especially hope to continue to be a caretaker of every taxpayer's dollar and ensure that we are ever-mindful of the tax burden on the community. Lastly, I hope to continue to see our children graduate from our community with a focus on being caring and compassionate members of our society - a hallmark of the very people that make up our villages."

"The district must continue to make the issues of health, safety and security of our

students a top priority. Because of the age we live in, we have to constantly assess security measures in each school for the best systems, while being conscious of finding the right balance of solutions that make our children feel safe and comfortable," she said. "Another issue our district needs to address is the state of our facilities. Just as we have to make continual improvements in our homes to maintain them before they become major expenses, the same is true for our aging facilities. Our district needs to replace 50-year-old boilers, windows and roofs, for example. We know these updates need to happen, but we need to approach these challenges in as cost-effective way as possible."

Lillis said he was running for another

term to oversee multi-year initiatives that have started.

"As you know, maintaining our physical plant to ensure the safety of our students is a major responsibility of the Board of Education. This year we are putting up two propositions that will allow us to maintain our physical plant. Continuing to invest in our infrastructure is very important. Many of our school facilities were built years ago," he said. "A \$6 million bond proposition and \$2.2 million capital reserve fund proposition will allow us to accomplish these objectives. We will be making safety and security enhancements district wide, replacing windows, repairing roofs, repairing and replacing black top surfaces, etc."

*Continued on page 7*



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## Irvington Baseball

Continued from page 1

more.

As a right-hander, he pitched in nine games with four starts, compiling a 1-1 record with a 2.36 ERA last season. He struck out 30 batters in 32-2/3 innings.

Toolan said of the chance to play abroad, "It's just an honor to be a part of it. It's going to be a great experience. I'll get to show what I can do, hopefully. And, hopefully, we'll get a tournament win."

Expectations are high for Team Ireland after it rolled through the European Championship Qualifying Tournament last year, outscoring opponents 65-17.

The international stage has the potential to draw attention to Toolan's skills in his efforts to attend college on a baseball scholarship.

"Section 1 (which covers Westchester and Rockland) is small when you compare it to the big picture," said Mike DiNardo, Irvington's baseball coach. "You go out there and put yourself on the world level and compare yourself to the best players in your age group."

Toolan draws confidence from how well he fared during tryouts.

"It's definitely more competitive, I would say, but I don't think it will be too intimidating," he said. "In baseball, if you get too intimidated, you kind of shut down and things don't go the right way. So, you've got to stay relaxed."

Toolan has been placed in challenging

situations before. He emerged as the starting quarterback for Irvington's varsity as a freshman and has manned the position since. He was promoted to the varsity baseball team late in his freshman year.

For everything he has already accomplished at Irvington in baseball, Toolan demands more of himself.

"I want to be more consistent. I'm a little streaky," he said. "When I get that down, I should be solid."

According to Toolan, he continues to refine his hitting mechanics and believes he is sometimes guilty of over-analyzing.

"I think too much," he said. "I need to make it more natural instinct."

Toolan is being forced to make adjustments now that opponents are keenly aware of the damage he can do.

"As you become a better hitter, people approach you differently and it's not just fastballs," DiNardo said. "How you attack the zone, picking your spots, it's a learning period. He's still only a junior."

As much as Toolan is excited about what the summer will bring, he is focused on Irvington's season. The team enjoyed a fast start this spring and boasts a solid nucleus in shortstop Jake Weintraub, infielder Jeff Schrader, third baseman and cleanup hitter Brian Clinton and catcher Zach Schepps.

"We're looking to do bigger things in the section," Toolan said, "and make our name known."

Speaking of names, Toolan immediately found a comfort level when he read the Irish Junior National Team roster. He is one of three players named Liam.



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# Tarrytown Residents Take Part in Relief Effort for Veterans with PTSD

by Tom Pedulla

Michal Kozlowski of Tarrytown will always be grateful that the buffet line for pierogies was long when he attended World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland in the summer of 2016.

The wait allowed him to converse with another teenager, a Syrian refugee, who ended their exchange by asking Kozlowski if there was anything that could be done to help meet the urgent needs of those fleeing Civil War in his country.

When Kozlowski returned home, he spoke to Gibran Mourani and Michael Mauguin, former classmates at Transfiguration School who became good friends. They were soon joined by Lily McHale, Nicholas Sinopoli, Joseph Gullotta and Jane Singman. Relief United was born in September 2016.

In two years, the effort has grown to include 65 students representing 13 high schools in the tri-state area. Through events such as bake sales, car washes and a Project Syria Live benefit concert held at Kingsland Point Park, it raised approximately \$21,000 used to purchase supplies for medical stations in Aleppo, Syria.

They turned their attention domestically this year, aiming to help veterans with post-



(L-R:) Gibran Mourani, Michal Kozlowski, and Michael Mauguin.

traumatic stress disorder. Kozlowski, a senior at Regis High School in Manhattan, hopes Relief United will eventually spread nationally.

"If everyone takes the seed of Relief United and brings it to their colleges," he said, "this could erupt into something even bigger."

Mourani noted that some members of his family fled Syria, making last year's cause

"very personal." He believes Relief United exceeded its initial fundraising expectations because members of his generation take a world view.

"We're teens helping teens and families helping families," he said. "These people need necessities in refugee camps. There is no other issue than that, and that's a testament to our ability to have empathy."

Relief United is working now to raise funds for Companions for Heroes.

"They pair a shelter dog that doesn't have a home and doesn't have anyone to love them with a veteran who needs a companion to love. So, it's a perfect pairing," Kozlowski said. "What we're saying this year is we're really saving two lives."

Anyone wishing to donate may do so by visiting the web site of the non-profit organization: [www.ReliefUnited.org](http://www.ReliefUnited.org). The teens hope to exceed the \$21,000 they raised in 2017.

Mauguin believes time will show that members of his generation will turn words

into action. "People want to be a part of something bigger. They definitely want to," he said. "It's whether they have the resources or the support or the confidence."

Kozlowski's father served in the military for 26 years. He also plans to serve and said of veterans, "These veterans went out there and sacrificed everything so we can be talking about our opinions. They deserve to be respected."

Mauguin is confident Relief United's early success signals good things to come from his peers. "Our generation is very giving," he said, "and we're always looking out for one another."

Mauguin looks for political and racial divides to be overcome by energy and optimism. "Even within our core group, we have different opinions," he said. "But it's about the big picture, which is humans helping humans. We're able to step back and it's a humanitarian effort. It's not about politics, race, religion, anything like that."

Kozlowski was recently accepted into Princeton. He already approached students there about embracing Relief United.

"My big hope, maybe when I'm 30, is that Relief United will be a platform for teenagers to do good things across America," he said with youthful enthusiasm that, so far, has been hard to deny.



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## Sleepy Hollow-Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce Sets Goals for 2018

by Robert Kimmel

The Sleepy Hollow-Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce is pursuing goals this year aimed at creating more awareness of how it will be energizing local business growth and the general economy of the villages. Those goals are defined in an announcement setting forth the series of activities it has planned for 2018.

"Everything we do goes back to the mission of the Chamber, and the primary mission is to support the growth and well-being of the community through the growth and strength of our local businesses, everything from our small business owners to our local merchants, and to the large, non-profit organizations," Chamber Co-President Glenn Taylor explained. Taylor and Co-President Philip Johnson lead the Chamber for this year.

"One of the primary goals is developing new membership, and we are approaching that...by proving the Chamber's value," Taylor emphasized. He noted the importance of the Chamber's providing value, including the "development of strong merchants' councils" and making sure information of its developments gets out to the public.

The Chamber's announcement included notice of its intention to "enhance the format and function of our monthly networking meetings; and we strive to improve communications via our new website and through the creation of a newsletter to keep our community informed of the business activity and general pulse of commerce in our villages." It also noted that it wanted

to become "a leading voice for business growth and development during the Village's Comprehensive Plan process...and deepen our relationship between merchants' councils and village administrators."

"We are looking at our website as a primary portal for sharing information so that we can capture all of the events that are going on in the villages and all of the events that our merchants and business owners are planning for to promote them through a robust website. So we are looking at making that a primary focal point," Taylor said.

The new website launched in January, with improved functionality, has attracted new users, and more viewers returning to it, according to the Chamber. The Chamber has been encouraging its local business members and merchants to tell their stories on its website.

At the Chamber's monthly meetings, members also receive a summary of official village activities from the administrators of both Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow and a similar outline from the Tarrytown School District's Superintendent.

Enumerating its other activities, the Chamber listed, "Creating networking opportunities via its ongoing series of local events and engagements; driving sales traffic to members' storefronts; fostering continuous education and training, and enriching our community via initiatives and special events like the flower basket beautification of downtown business districts and our annual street fairs." The Tarrytown Craft & Food Fair is scheduled for

*Continued on page 10*

## Tarrytown BOE

*Continued from page 4*

"Continuous improvement of the curriculum is also something that we are focused on and will continue to monitor closely," Lillis continued. "Next year we will have a new director of curriculum and instruction so it will be important for the board to monitor activity here to ensure continuity. Over the past several years we have also replaced a number of our administrative team as a result of retirements and other activity."

### Budget

On May 15, district voters will also weigh-in on a \$77.9 million budget for the 2017-18 school year, which carries a 4.99% tax hike for homeowners in Mount Pleasant and a 1.23% decrease for residents in Greenburgh.

Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Winfield Morse Elementary School and Washington Irving Intermediate School.

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## “Do you approve of Governor Cuomo’s proposed ban of plastic bags?”



**David Glickhouse**  
Irvington

“No. Plastic bags are a source of convenience and properly utilized they can serve many purposes. I find it inconvenient to bring my own bags.”



**Kristin Wuerffel**  
Sleepy Hollow

“Yes I do. There are too many of them and they take too long to degrade. We also have many other options to carry our food in.”



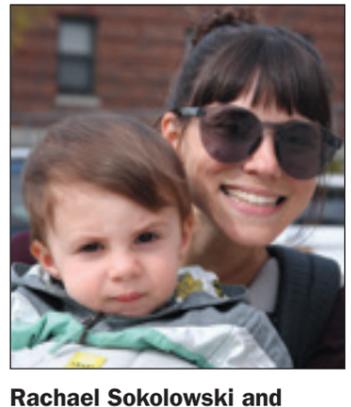
**Robert Mannion**  
Sleepy Hollow

“Yes. I would like to see a ban because I am tired of seeing plastic bags in trees, and I am a fan of aquatic life.”



**Roger Bank**  
Tarrytown

“Yes, I would agree with him if it causes health problems and environmental problems.”



**Rachael Sokolowski and August Weiskopf**  
Tarrytown

“Yes I do. My dream for our world would be for everything to be compostable and recyclable so that we can live more harmoniously with nature.”

## Earth Day Activities in Tarrytown a Big Success

by Dean Gallea

Tarrytown and parts of Sleepy Hollow were beehives of activity on a beautiful, sunny Saturday, April 21st, as residents celebrated Earth Day with 13 events.

The day began with a birdwatching outing at the Tarrytown Lakes, led by ornithologist and TEAC member Carole Griffiths. There were 13 participants in this early morning event, kicking off the day of action and fun.

Dozens of volunteers in Tarrytown got busy with clean-ups in four locations, including a wetland along Sheldon Avenue, just south of 287. Lori Hrbek shepherded the effort, with helpers pulling out about 70 bags of bottles, cans and other trash, and truckloads of large junk from tires to vacuum cleaners. Tarrytown Village Administrator Richard Slingerland joined the crew there and all wondered how so much “stuff” had been discarded there.

There were also successful cleanup projects at Neperan Park, Tarrytown Lakes, and the RiverWalk. Tarrytown Mayor Drew Fixell and his wife, Vickie Hudson, joined in the cleanup effort.

Another group of volunteers, assisted by



Tarrytown Parks Foreman Anthony Ross, planted native Serviceberry trees (edible plants) in a bare section of the Lakes parking area near the trail leading to Wilson Park.

TEAC web guru Frank Lockwood led a group on an adventure clearing and marking a neglected trail between the old Lakes pump house and Benedict Avenue, open-

Some residents planted trees in village on April 21.

ing up another opportunity to explore the fringes of the village.

The “Green this Tree” environmental challenge, posted this month all over Tarrytown, was won by The Taco Project, where 45 people posted their pledge leaves. TEAC thanks all the businesses and civic locations that participated. The pledge trees will remain up until the end of the month.

Also on Main Street, The Oath acknowledged Earth Day by extending their Happy Hour all day, serving \$5 beers to visitors.

Next door at Coffee Labs, Westchester County Executive and friend to the environment, George Latimer, spoke to a gathering about the county-wide initiatives for reducing the use of plastic bags and increasing the availability of renewable energy. A lively Q&A discussion followed.

To end the day’s events, all residents were

invited to a picnic at Pierson Park. Food vendors Samosa Shack, Xquisite Coffee and The Taco Project provided delicious, well-deserved treats, while TEAC members sold food-scrap collection kits for the Greenburgh Nature Center’s composting program. Free tree seedlings were handed out, and music filled the air, provided by the popular duo The Kennedys.

The Earth Day celebration concluded with “Lights Out,” as many village restaurants chose to dim their lights or use candles during the dinner hour.

TEAC thanks the Tarrytown Parks and Recreation staff for providing protective gear and tools and their invaluable help and hard work. Coffee Labs generously provided free coffee to all the Earth Day volunteers. For more photos of Tarrytown’s Earth Day activities, please visit: [www.thehudsonindependent.com](http://www.thehudsonindependent.com).

Villagers who would like to participate in more area environmental activities can look forward to the Riverkeeper Sweep, planned for May 5th. More info at <http://www.riverkeeper.org>.

<http://www.tarrytownenvironmental.org>.  
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# MTA to Renovate Tarrytown Station House with Restaurant, Bakery

by Rick Pezullo

MTA Metro-North Railroad officials announced April 26 that the Tarrytown Station House will be refurbished with a full-service bakery and a café/restaurant.

"We look forward to bringing a station house filled with delicious treats to our customers," said Catherine Rinaldi, President of Metro-North Railroad. "The new station house is just another way we're working to improve the commuting experience for our customers and support the communities we serve."

The MTA has teamed up on the project with The Bakehouse Inc., which runs the well-known Riviera Bakery in neighboring Ardsley. The new venture will be both a traditional bakery and a café/restaurant with take-out and sit-down menus.

The ticket office will remain at the station house, along with the public use of the waiting area and bathrooms.

Under the proposed plan, the interior will be reconfigured and refurbished. A new seating area will be installed near the ticket window, creating a more appealing waiting area for the more than 3,200 customers who board trains at the station on an average weekday.

MTA officials stated early morning commuters will be able to enjoy the convenience of a full coffee bar and breakfast items right at the station. A large counter area will have display cases for cakes, pies, cookies, breakfast items and breads, and nearby informal seating will cater to customers on the go. There will also be self-service cases for carry out/ready-made meals for lunch and dinner.

In addition, select wines and craft beer will also be available to enjoy with a light



Tarrytown's train station - site of The Bakehouse, Inc.'s. new bakery and cafe/restaurant.

meal. A seating area will be reserved for sit-down menu service and will be open seven days a week.

Officials emphasized the new station house will cater not only to commuters, but also to residents, maintaining the existing charm and integrity of the current structure.

Village Administrator Richard Slingerland said the MTA has asked the village to relocate the taxi cabs parking lot at the station to the south lot to free up metered parking for the bakery/restaurant. He noted the MTA requested that change be made within two to four weeks.

"I think they want to move pretty quickly," he said, adding the changes being made to the station house are consistent with

what the MTA has done at other stations. "This is appropriate. It will be a good benefit to commuters."

Last year, the Tarrytown Board of Trustees integrated a Station Area Study into the Comprehensive Plan Zoning in the Metro North Station and the nearby waterfront which had been based on industrial uses in the 1950's; however, starting in 2013, public hearings were held to make amendments to the Zoning Code along the waterfront for other uses. That led to a Steering Committee which produced a "Tarrytown Station Area Strategic Plan" the following year, and, in turn, a further report, "Tarrytown Connected: A Framework for the Station Area and Waterfront," all based on public input.

## SH Chamber

Continued from page 7

Sunday, June 3. Sleepy Hollow's Street Fair takes place in October.

One of the annual initiatives, "the flower basket beautification downtown," is about to get underway. The Chamber, in conjunction with the villages and the Merchants' Councils of both Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, is in the process of securing additional donations from local businesses and residents, and the matching contributions of the villages.

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## Watercooler

# Heard Around the Watercooler

by Maria Ann Roglieri

### Congratulations Sleepy Hollow High School Students

Sophia Meyer and Natalie Smith both scored their 100th goal in varsity women's lacrosse. Hannah Lustik made her 300th save.

Meanwhile, performing arts students at SHHS presented an outstanding production of *Beauty and the Beast*.



### Congratulations Irvington Marathoners

Two Irvington residents completed the Boston Marathon: Stefan Bohdanowycz, 41, 3:32:04, and Todd Juenger, 50, 3:38:40

### Sleepy Hollow Named as Westchester's Most Beautiful Spot

Sleepy Hollow was named as Westchester's most beautiful spot, according to a report released by newyorkupstate.com, which took a look at each county statewide and determined some of the state's most desirable locations.

### Gov. Announces Plan to Recycle Tappan Zee Bridge Materials

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that more than 40,000 cubic yards of cleaned and recycled material from the TZB will be dumped into coastal waters off of Long Island to construct artificial reefs. The material will be used to create six artificial reefs (Smithtown, Shinnecock, Moriches, Fire Island, Hempstead, and Rockaway) which will foster a stronger and more diverse marine ecosystem.

### New Director for Tarrytown Arts Camp

Congratulations to the newly-appointed

Camp Director Anna Povich de Mayor. The local arts camp offers a multi-arts camp, Latin Music and Dance, Clay Camp, Architecture for Kids, and the new Hudson Valley Rising Writers Creative Writing Camp. For more information about the Tarrytown arts camp, see <http://tarrytownartscamp.com>.

### Tarrytown Resident Wins Recognition

Tarrytown resident Sherry Saturno has won 2018 National Healthcare Practice recognition for outstanding and enduring service in social work from the National Academies of Practice. Saturno is the Director of Social Services at Sprain Brook Manor in Scarsdale.

### Family YMCA at Tarrytown Receives Grant/Donation

The Family YMCA at Tarrytown received a grant from Kids Club of Tarrytown & Sleepy Hollow, and an in-kind donation from Sign Extreme, to design and install a large awning over the Y Early Learning Center outdoor play area, protecting the children from sun exposure while they play.

Please send news items to [mroglieri@yahoo.com](mailto:mroglieri@yahoo.com).

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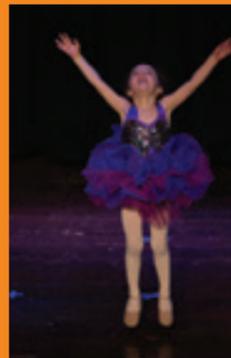
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# Latimer's First State of the County Address Focuses on Moving Forward

by Rick Pezullo

Westchester County Executive George Latimer delivered his first State of the County Address on April 16 with a message of moving the county forward and getting a handle on its finances.

"What I am here to deliver tonight is news that it is a new day in Westchester County. A day of new opportunity, a day of new ideas and approaches and a day of new growth. And friends - the State of our County is moving forward," Latimer remarked inside packed legislative chambers in White Plains.

"The state of this county, our Westchester, is determined. Determined to meet our challengers, to work together - successfully. To achieve and overcome. We are the greatest experiment in self-governance ever attempted. Flawed - but constantly seeking improvement," he said. "We look forward with clear vision to the problems we face and are clearly determined to succeed, for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, and for all of Westchester, both Westchester today and - Westchester yet to come."

Latimer, who ousted two-term Republican Rob Astorino last November, said the county's financial condition was not as rosy as his predecessor had portrayed. He is anx-

iously awaiting a full audit of Westchester's finances from state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

"While we have big plans...to move the State of our County forward together - we must understand where our fiscal house stands. And much to my chagrin - the numbers right now do not look pretty," he said. "Our county's finances have fallen victim to 'sweep it under the rug' economics for too long.

Just take for example the countless number of hard working men and women of Westchester County. While contract negotiations are a difficult, careful process - leaving this undone, has accumulated over seven years of gridlock, and that hurts Westchester's workers, taxpayers and overall fiscal standing."

"A path forward lies in working with our brothers and sisters in labor and building a Westchester we are all proud of. Together we can revive Westchester's economy and workforce with jobs and policies aimed to boost Westchester's work force," Latimer continued. "To continue to move Westchester to a place of positive fiscal footing, to



County Executive George Latimer paid a visit to Coffee Labs in Tarrytown last month.

—Photo by Sunny McLean

to be as transparent as possible with his decisions and policies.

"Everything I do, every step of the way I plan to be as transparent with you as possible. From my press conferences to Board of Acquisition and Contract meetings, everything is recorded and placed on the county's YouTube channel and often streamed live on the county's Facebook page.

This is my commitment to you - total transparency," he vowed. "Many elected officials throughout the country have lost the faith of the people and we have to renew that trust. I expect nothing but honesty in my administration - corruption and dishonesty will not be tolerated."

"We are all united together, tonight, here in OUR Westchester, and it reminds me of a Nigerian proverb I once read - "In a time of crisis, a wise man builds bridges and a foolish man builds dams." Right now in this country we are divided, but here in Westchester County we are committed to building bridges. Bridges between people, cultures, political parties, different ages, time and beliefs," Latimer said.

improved bond ratings and improved credit outlooks - we must strive to build better relationships with all Westchester County stakeholders. From federal, state, and local lawmakers to nonprofit and business leaders to labor and civic heads - fostering relationships provides savings to taxpayers. After eight years of one-shot deals and reliance on shaky revenues, we will work closely with our partners in government to provide an honest assessment of where we stand as a county."

Latimer, a former longtime state senator and assemblyman, stressed the importance of unity and transparency. He said there are many hurdles to overcome but vowed

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# Except for Short-Term Historic House Rentals, Irvington's Comprehensive Plan Proposals Near Approval

by Barrett Seaman

Much of what has been proposed in the 2017-18 update of Irvington's Comprehensive Plan is not the sort of revolutionary stuff folks would take up arms against anyway. Permitting beekeeping, promoting environmental sensitivity, loosening restrictions on home offices and allowing garages to be used for more than sheltering cars were not likely to alarm all but the strictest of preservationists.

Even the proposal to allow homeowners off Main Street and Broadway to establish bed and breakfasts and Airbnbs did not cause a stir at any of the several Board of Trustee meetings where public comment was invited. But what did nearly bring the torches and pitchforks to Village Hall on April 10th was the brief section that would allow short-term rentals of residences, including historic homes. Even though the proposal, as written, specifically rules out "parties or other social events" and stipulates that prior registration, building, fire and safety compliance, insurance and a fee to the village would be required, that wasn't enough for a posse of homeowners, largely from the Ardsley Park neighborhood west of Broadway.

Through a number of letters, including ones from the Ardsley Park Property Association (APPOA) and the residents of the 82-unit Hudson House condominium complex, and a strong turnout at the public comments session at Village Hall, neighbors vented their opposition to the plan, based almost exclusively on their displeasure with Martin W. Dolan, owner of "Villa Nuits," the 16,000-square-foot, 10-bedroom Italianate mansion on Clifton Place at Hudson Road West.

Unable to sell the 166-year-old, historically-registered house in recent years, Dolan took to leasing it out—initially to film companies drawn to its vast, high-ceiling rooms, a conservatory (where scenes from *The Age of Innocence* were filmed in the early 1990s), and sweeping river views. More recently, he has used VRBO (Vacation Rentals By Owner) and Airbnb to rent it out for private parties, fetching as much as \$6,450-per-night, depending on day of week and season. One neighbor, Scott Sykes, logged onto the two rental sites and documented that, beyond a fruitful season of rentals last summer, the house was already booked for 71 days, including most weekends, through July of 2018.

The same rental search and social media sites that have brought lucrative rentals to Villa Nuits have supplied copious evidence that Dolan's guests are the source of neighborhood anguish. "We have complained about the frequency of events, the number of guests, the loud music and noise emanating from his house and the late nights," Sykes wrote trustees. Internet reviews, replete with photos, uncovered by Sykes' search depicted Gatsby-esque bashes and captured gushing commentary, including vows to return and party there again.

Others joined Sykes' chorus, variously demanding that the village not permit short-term rentals or at least prosecute those who abuse existing restrictions. Attorney Daniel Hargraves warned of the liability the village would expose itself to by allowing them. Recent resident Alexander McLawhorn MD, expressed opposition to "ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, past, present and future" that would threaten the tranquility he and his family sought by moving from Manhattan. "We moved out

of New York City to be away from short-term rentals, noisy event spaces, bars and busy streets," he wrote.

It appears that the message got through to the board. Village Administrator Larry Schopfer said that the short-term events rental of historic homes clause would be removed from the plan, but that permission for other short-term rentals, with limits of frequency and number of guests, would stay.

The most ambitious of the remaining pieces of the plan—moving the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works in order to open those central properties to better uses—are not likely to cause controversy until new homes for them are identified, the devil being in those critical details. Besides those (and parking reform), the new plan is expected to win board approval by the end of May.

## Shames JCC to Honor Seven Rivertown Residents at Gala 'Friend-Raiser'

With the theme, Building Community Together, the Shames Jewish Community Center on the Hudson will hold its 19th annual celebration at Life The Place To Be on Wednesday, May 23, from 6:30-10 p.m. As in past years, the celebration will honor representatives selected by the Shames and several synagogues that are part of the Rivertowns Jewish Consortium.

Changing the focus from "fund-raiser to friend-raiser," in addition to the honorees, the cocktail party will feature comedian Joel Chasoff, food stations, dessert reception and an auction in a lively atmosphere that brings people together for a fun evening.

Life The Place To Be is at 2 Lawrence

Street in Ardsley. Cost for the evening is \$180 per person and proceeds will strengthen the Rivertowns Jewish Consortium and support JCC school and camp scholarships. Reservations can be made by logging on to [www.shamesjcc.org/annualcelebration](http://www.shamesjcc.org/annualcelebration).

### Honorees

Honored by the Shames JCC this year are Renee and Michael Shamosh, of Irvington, Laurie Davidowitz of Irvington, Jennifer Povman of Sleepy Hollow, Dobbs Ferry resident Roberta Roos, and Victoria and Richard Greif of Dobbs Ferry.



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# Viewfinder



1

1. Winners of the Sleepy Hollow Recreation Easter Egg Hunt pose with their goodies.

2. The Black Women's March on April 8, organized by 100Sistas and Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley, drew hundreds of participants to Tarrytown.

3. Tarrytown Mayor Drew Fixell joined the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council and Tarrytown Little Gardens Club at annual Neperan Park cleanup.

4. Local Girl Scouts and the Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Council enjoyed nature activities at Peabody Park in Sleepy Hollow.

— Photos by Sunny McLean



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## 5 Holistic Activities to Help You Manage Stress, While Managing It All

You're a mother, a caretaker, a provider and so much more. You're constantly surrounded by people who need your help, which leaves little time for you. In many ways, women are pushed into juggling multiple roles while trying to maintain a perfect work/life balance, and this is often what causes stress.

### His Stress vs. Her Stress Being Single Stress vs. Married Stress

Stress is defined as a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or very demanding circumstances. We all experience stress, but what makes stress different for women? We're trying to do it all! In addition to our many roles, we have to deal with financial pressures and try to maintain interpersonal relationships while sustaining our sense of self. Women consistently report higher stress levels than men, and more women are likely to say their stress is on the rise, according to the Stress in America survey commissioned by the American Psychological Association.

The survey found that when asked to recall symptoms during the previous month, women were more likely than men to report physical and emotional symptoms of stress, such as having had a headache (41 percent vs. 30 percent), having felt as though they could cry (44 percent vs. 15 percent) or having had an upset stomach or indigestion (32 percent vs. 21 percent).<sup>\*</sup> Women are also more likely to believe that stress affects their eating habits, increases feelings of hostility or negativity and reduces quality of sleep. Typical complaints range from fatigue, headaches and poor memory to stomach pain, indigestion and lack of sleep.

Married women report higher levels of stress than single women, with 33 percent reporting that they have experienced a great deal of stress in the past month (8, 9 or 10 on a 10-point scale) compared 22 percent of single women.<sup>\*</sup> Stress often results in poor eating habits such as over-eating, skipping meals and even just making poor food choices (choosing "comfort foods" or fast-food options over home-cooked meals). Elevated stress levels can impact mental health, resulting in anxiety, depression, anger, feelings of being overwhelmed and lack of motivation.

### A Holistic Approach for Relieving Stress

*So how can women start the process of coping with stress?*

To begin, it's important to identify the key underlying aspects in your life that are causing stress and try to eliminate or minimize them. When you do feel stressed, there are some quick simple strategies that can help:

**1. Deep breathing exercises** foster calmness. With square or "box" breathing, for example, breathe in slowly through your nose to a count of four, hold your breath for four seconds and exhale through

your mouth as you count four. Meditation is also an excellent way to relax, and there are many guided meditation apps accessible for smart phones. Stress relief can also come from reading a book, listening to music or engaging in an enjoyable hobby.

**2. Sleep!** Another important way to reduce stress is to get enough quality sleep, which can be accomplished by practicing better sleep habits (often called sleep hygiene). To help ensure uninterrupted sleep, don't drink too much liquid or eat a large meal too close to bedtime. Late-night consumption of alcohol can also impact quality of sleep and stimulants such as nicotine and caffeine should be avoided 4-6 hours before bed. Allow sufficient time to unplug and wind down at the end of the day. Turn off all screens at least an hour before bed and refrain from working, emailing or texting where you sleep. Maintaining a "bedtime routine" and going to sleep and waking at the same time each day helps as well.

**3. Exercise** not only relieves stress but also releases endorphins and supports cardiovascular and bone health. Every little bit counts, whether it's a simple walk around the block at lunchtime, or joining a class at your local gym.

**4. Maintaining social relationships** can serve as a vital source of support. Sometimes it helps just to talk to someone. Remember that social networks require maintenance. Reach out to old friends. Make time to talk to the people you care about most. If possible, share your meals with others as often as you can.

**5. Self-care** is vitally important. Prioritizing a sense of balance in your life will serve you well. Giving up self-care and stress management to squeeze a few more minutes of work into your day will be counter-productive in the long run. Taking care of yourself now will go a long way toward becoming the best version of you.

<sup>\*</sup> <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/stress/2010/gender-stress.aspx>



**Lauren Maltese, MD**  
Dr. Maltese specializes in internal medicine. She sees patients at 362 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY. To make an appointment, please call (914) 631-2070.

## When Stress Takes its Toll: What I Lost and How I Fought to get it Back.

By: Heather Moore



Stress is something that affected me from a young age. As a gymnast, I remember not being able to eat before competitions because I was so nervous. As I got older, stress continued to insert itself in my life, causing general and social anxiety. What I originally thought were asthma attacks were actually panic attacks. Instead of eating more, I ate less. My stress and ways of controlling it became my new normal. As I ate less and lost more weight, it led to hospitalization after hospitalization for the treatment of and medical complications of anorexia and bulimia.

The stress affected my daily functioning and took a major toll on my health. In college, I was diagnosed with depression, panic attacks and an eating disorder, but I knew that all of these problems had actually started well before the diagnosis. That's the funny thing about stress, it takes on many different forms and becomes just a part of your daily routine. I had been running myself into the ground and didn't notice.

I first met Dr. Lauren Maltese, my current primary care physician, when I needed care for a bad sore throat. I knew stress was the underlying cause of many of my stomach issues, including lack of appetite and IBS-like symptoms. But when Dr. Maltese told me I had developed chronic viral tonsillitis, it became apparent to me

that my immune system had been damaged by chronic stress.

Dr. Maltese has been my doctor for the past two years, helping me battle my debilitating eating disorder. Her holistic approach was what I needed. She has always seen me as a whole person and not just a patient with a medical condition that needed treatment. She helped me understand that stress is, in part, behind medical issues such as gastroparesis and IBS. It doesn't necessarily cause it, but it contributes to it. She has opened my eyes to how my stress exacerbated my medical problems, making symptoms worse and complications more prevalent.

Today I am learning to cope with stress in a healthier and non-self-destructive manner. Dr. Maltese is part of a multidisciplinary treatment team. She works in sync with my dietitian, psychiatrist, therapist and any other person involved in my care. I have come a long way, but still have a long way to go. Dr. Maltese's support will continue to be paramount in helping me to find outlets and skills to cope with stress.

## Treating Seasonal Allergies Holistically

It has been shown that seasonal allergies are a result of increased inflammation in the body, stemming from a weakened immune system. Ninety percent of your immune system's defenses originate in the intestine, so maintaining a healthy GI tract ultimately plays an important role in reducing the effects of allergens. One way to achieve this is to avoid medications such as antacids, NSAIDs and antibiotics, because they can weaken the intestinal wall's protective barrier.

If you're looking for holistic alternatives to a daily anti-histamine, following are some tips that are commonly recommended by holistic experts:

- **Eliminate dairy, gluten, baked flour products, packaged juices and sugar.** Reduce your exposure to known food and environmental triggers as much as possible.
- **Stinging Nettle:** Take 3-6 capsules daily. This is a safe, natural anti-histamine that does not make you drowsy and reduces seasonal allergies very effectively. The nettles have to be freeze-dried in capsules and can be found in local health food stores.
- **Quercetin:** Take 500 mg daily. Quercetin is an anti-inflammatory nutritional supplement that helps with gut repair and reduces the reactivity of mucus membranes. Do not use in pregnancy as there is conflicting safety data.
- **Zinc:** Take an age-appropriate dose one time daily, 5-10 mg/day for children 4-7 years, 10-20 mg/day for children age 8-12 and 25-40 mg/day for older children and adults.

- **Vitamin C (in the form of buffered Ascorbic Acid, which does not irritate the stomach):** Take up to 2,000 mg daily. This is an excellent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant. During pregnancy, check your prenatal vitamin to see how much Vitamin C is included to make sure your total daily dose does not exceed 2,000 mg.
- **Body work such as chiropractic care and acupuncture can help relieve pressure on sinuses and improve circulation.** These modalities also reduce stress, thereby decreasing inflammation. And they make you feel good, too!

Hopefully, the above recommendations will help you enjoy yourself more during allergy season! Feel free to make an appointment with Phelps Medical Associates Midwifery at Harrison for expert holistic care for treating common ailments.

**Michelle Chiafullo, CNM, MS**

*Additional Sources:*  
Aviva Romm, MD, [www.avivaromm.com](http://www.avivaromm.com)

## Fight the Fever!

Everything you need to know to prevent and treat hay fever



Allergic rhinitis, also known as hay fever, is caused by small airborne particles called allergens that trigger an immune reaction that causes a stuffy and runny nose, sneezing, sinus congestion and itchy watery eyes. Allergies often develop in childhood or early adulthood, but they may also appear for the first time in adults. Did you know that twenty percent of all people suffer from hay fever?

In the Northeast, seasonal allergies may extend over a period of about nine months. Tree pollen is prevalent from March through May, followed by grass allergens through July, and then mold spores and ragweed throughout the fall. If it seems to you that the allergy season lasts longer than it used to, you are right! Warmer average temperatures and increased precipitation over the past few years have resulted in longer pollen-production seasons.

Symptoms of hay fever are typically episodic and worse when outdoors.

You may have a stuffy nose, a runny nose with clear mucus, sneezing, an itchy nose, post-nasal drip, a "tickle" in your throat, a hoarse voice or sinus pressure. Eyes may be red, watery, itchy or swollen. You may lose your sense of taste. Breathing through your mouth may interrupt sleep and lead to fatigue. Allergic rhinitis might actually trigger wheezing and shortness of breath in patients with underlying asthma. If you develop wheezing, shortness of breath, fever (greater than 100.5), sinus pain or heavy dark mucus, you should definitely see your primary care physician (PCP) for definitive care.

The best offense against the fever is a great defense! First, identify what causes your allergies, either by tracking what allergens you were exposed to when symptoms occurred, or by seeing your PCP to formulate a plan. Did you know that your PCP can perform simple blood tests to identify what you are allergic to?

Once you and your PCP know what's causing your allergies, you can monitor daily pollen counts using an app on your phone! One such app is "Pollen" on Apple. When counts are high, stay inside as much as possible with windows closed. After spending time outdoors, shower to remove pollen from your hair and skin, and dress in fresh clothing. Also consider a nasal rinse like "Simply Saline," which helps

clear pollen and mucus from your nose. The "Simply Saline" product has a one-way valve that prevents the sprayer from getting contaminated with bacteria.

If despite your efforts, allergy symptoms worsen, consult your primary care physician about treatments that are best for you, which will depend on your symptoms and personal preferences. Possible medications include:

- **Nasal steroids** (e.g., *Fonase*, *Nasonex*) and nasal antihistamines (e.g., *Astelin*) reduce inflammation, stuffiness, sneezing, and itchy, runny nose. These agents are very effective with minimal side effects, and they are typically used daily throughout the allergy season.
- **Decongestants** (e.g., *Pseudophed*) shrink nasal tissues and blood vessels. These medications are meant for short-term, as-needed use. They may raise blood pressure or cause heart palpitations, and they are not recommended for people with glaucoma. AFRIN spray is a nasal decongestant that is NOT recommended, because it typically makes congestion worse after just one day of use.
- **Antihistamines** (e.g., *OTC Claritin* and others) block histamine, which is released by the immune system in response to allergens, thus helping to prevent congestion, runny nose, itching and sneezing. They can be used on an as-needed basis, or daily,

and can treat both nasal and ocular symptoms. Their use is limited by dry mouth, drowsiness and mental fogginess, and they need to be used cautiously in elderly patients and in men with enlarged prostate (BPH).

- **Antihistamine Eye drops** (e.g., *Pataday*) help relieve eye itchiness and watery eyes. They can be used daily throughout the allergy season or on an as-needed basis and are typically well tolerated.
- **Leukotriene inhibitors** (e.g., *Singular*) block the leukotriene allergic pathway, thus preventing many allergy symptoms, both nasal and ocular. They can be added to other medications for severe symptoms. They must be taken daily throughout the season and cannot be used on an as-needed basis. Leukotriene inhibitors are generally well tolerated, except may cause occasional sleep disturbances.



**William Boxer, MD, FACP** is a board certified internist with over 18 years of experience in internal medicine and primary care. He is a Castle Connolly Top Doctor in internal medicine and a New York Magazine Top Doctor in internal medicine. He is particularly interested in helping his patients achieve better quality of life by addressing such issues as allergic rhinitis, osteoporosis, smoking cessation, obesity, and osteoarthritis of the knees. Dr. Boxer sees both new and existing patients at the Northwell Health Physician Partners/Phelps Medical Associates location in Dobbs Ferry (914-269-1900).

## May/June Calendar

Phelps Hospital offers the community a wide range of programs on health-related subjects as well as numerous health screenings and support groups. Most events are free and take place on the Phelps campus, 701 N. Broadway in Sleepy Hollow, unless otherwise noted.

### Thursday, May 3, 2018

**How to Help with Opioid Addiction, Friends, Family, Self**  
Are you, a family member, friend or someone you love suffering from opioid addiction? If you are providing care, concerned about a love one and unsure of next steps or options, possibly suffering from addiction yourself or just interested in learning more about the opioid crisis, let us help you find the resources you need.

**Dr. Mark Russakoff**, Psychiatrist  
**Dr. Yili Huang**, Pain Management Specialist  
6:00 – 7:00 pm  
Phelps Auditorium

### Friday, May 4, 2018

**LSVT Program for Parkinson's**  
An evidence-based exercise program for patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

**Leslie Sims, PT**  
**Aaron Frazier, PT**  
LSVT certified physical therapists  
12 noon – 1:00 pm  
On Phelps campus  
755 building, Suite 545  
Registrations are limited.  
Call 914-366-3700 to register.

### Tuesday, May 8, 2018

**Hearing Screening in Celebration of "Better Hearing Month"**  
Get your hearing screened and learn how to keep your hearing healthy.  
**Jessica LaCorte, AuD, CCC-A**  
9:00 am – 12 noon  
On Phelps campus  
777 building, Suite 303  
Registrations are limited.  
Call 914-366-3010 to register.

### Tuesday, May 8, 2018

**My Aching Back**  
Back pain is the single leading cause of disability worldwide, and 80 percent of the population will experience it some time in their lives. This presentation will focus on causes, evaluation, treatment and prevention of back pain. Presented by the director of the Phelps Pain Center.

**Yili Huang, DO**  
Double-board certified in pain medicine and anesthesiology  
6:30 pm  
Auditorium  
Register on line at:  
<https://backache.eventbrite.com>  
or call 914-366-3470.

### Tuesday, May 15, Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17

**Women's Health Week**  
**May 15**  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
**Midwifery – Beyond Childbirth**  
Phelps Medical Associates Midwives

**May 16**  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
**Healthy cooking demo & tasting**  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
**Wise words for wise women:**

**Breast care**  
Presented by Westchester Regional Director of Breast Surgery for Northwell Health, **Dr. Alice Police**.

**Menopause**  
Learn how to live with the changes brought on by menopause.  
Presented by OB/GYN  
**Dr. Janice Teixeira**.

### May 17

6:00 – 9:00 pm  
**Alison Stallings, MD**, Dermatologist

Also enjoy a healthy cooking demonstration and tasting and spa and relaxation experiences.

All events take place at The James house.

Call 914-366-3937 or email [ewoods3@northwell.edu](mailto:ewoods3@northwell.edu) for information.

### Wednesday, May 30, 2018

**Controlling the Pain of Arthritic Knees Without Surgery**  
Discussion about a non-surgical therapy that often helps people with arthritic knees maintain active lifestyles while postponing – or eliminating – the need for surgery. Learn how injections and exercise can enable reconditioning and reduce inflammation and pain.

**J. Robert Seebacher, MD**  
Orthopedic surgeon  
6:30 pm (Light refreshments at 6 pm)  
Auditorium  
Register on line at:  
<https://arthriticknees.eventbrite.com>  
or call 914-366-3470.

### Tuesday, June 5, 2018

**Elder Law Series: Don't Fear the Tax Man: Tax Considerations for Estate and Elder Law Planning**  
The program is designed to help people understand the tax consequences of estate and asset protection techniques. Estate, gift and income tax laws will be discussed as they relate to both estate and Medicaid qualification planning strategies.

6:00–7:30 pm  
Phelps Auditorium  
Call 914-366-3937 to register.

### Wednesday, June 6, 2018

**Men's Health Issues and How They Impact the Ones They Love**

A discussion about important men's health issues such as erectile dysfunction; low testosterone; testicular, colon and prostate cancers; diet and exercise; and advance directives/living wills. Spouses, girlfriends and significant others are welcome.

**Scott Kerstetter, DO**, Family Medicine  
6:00 pm  
Auditorium  
Register on line at:  
<https://menshealthimpact.eventbrite.com>  
or call 914-366-3470.

### Tuesday, June 19, 2018

**Skin Cancer Screenings**  
Free skin screenings.  
8:30 – 11:30 am  
**Jeffrey Sturza, MD**  
Dermatologist  
1:00 – 4:00 pm  
**Alison Stallings, MD**  
Dermatologist  
Register on line at:  
<https://skinscreening.eventbrite.com>  
call 914-366-3470.

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# Bienvenido a España!: 59 Sleepy Hollow High School Students Travel to Spain

by **Pascaline Comas**

Park Güell, Sagrada Família, Flamenco Dance Class, and Cathedral of Seville are some of the places and experiences that 59 Sleepy Hollow High School students had the opportunity to enjoy during a nine-day cultural and linguistic trip to Spain from March 27th to April 5th.

Starting with three days in Barcelona, the group moved to Seville for two days before going to Madrid through Toledo, Spain's medieval capital. Once in Madrid, the students enjoyed two short visits to Escorial and Segovia before heading back home.

"It was really amazing to see places and different cultures that we've been studying for so many years, and being able to see them in person was just really exciting," said Eliza Sandler, 17.

"The lifestyle is very different. I feel like everyone's just more relaxed; they walk slower. It's not as busy as it is here," said Julia Friedman, 16.

The journey was a unique and unforgettable experience for the students who went on the trip.

"I thought the architecture was very different, and I thought it was really rewarding to go. We've been studying Spanish for so long that when we finally got to speak



Some of the students who spent nine days in Spain.

the language in cities like Seville and Barcelona, it's very rewarding," said Mark Scaglione, 18.

"There are two ways to learn the language, and one of them is repetition, which we take care of in the classroom. The other one is actually to get to experience the language, and that's what this trip does for our students," said Eduard Collado, the Spanish teacher for 21 years at Sleepy Hollow High School who was in charge of the trip.

"We are in an environment where the locals didn't speak English, so we were forced to use our Spanish," Scaglione said.

Not only did they practice their language skills, but students lived an open-minded cultural immersion as well.

"I think it was very eye-opening, because what we learned in the classroom, it's limited in some ways. So, to be able to actually travel to Spain and interact with people there, it just kind of opened up our eyes to the rest of the world," Sandler said.

It was a success for teachers since the spirit of this trip was "to get a different experience that is not an American one," said Collado. "This was a really unique year because we had 59 students. That was the most ever; I usually take no more than 35."

## Irvington Property Once Sought as Assisted Living Site Finally Sells

by **Barrett Seaman**

It was two years ago when representatives of the company that develops Brightview Assisted Living homes picked up their briefcases and walked out of Irvington Village Hall after Mayor Brian Smith cast what they considered the decisive vote against their plan to build a 100,000 square foot facility on eight acres along North Broadway. Ironically, the mayor was in the minority, as three other members of the five-member board had already voiced their approval. But as David Steinmetz, Brightview's attorney, had made clear, his client would not go forward with the plan without the support of the village's chief executive.

That sale would have yielded \$6 million

for the Carrafiello family, owners of the property and managers of the office rental complex their father had developed. Jerry Carrafiello, fuming at the mayor's refusal to accommodate the zoning changes necessary to build the assisted living home, vowed to sell it "as of right," either as an office park again, or in two-acre residential plots—anything that would not require village approval—or he would sell it to some non-profit that would deprive the village of hundreds of thousands of dollars in property tax revenue.

For the rest of 2016 and all of 2017, the For Sale sign sat at the base of the property as potential buyers came and went. After a while, Carrafiello stopped cutting the grass on the expansive lawn that swept down

*Continued on page 23*

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## Sports

# Sleepy Hollow High Softball Team Building for the Future

by Tom Pedulla

Sleepy Hollow High School hopes its girls softball program rebuilding will eventually take several steps forward after taking one step back.

When faced with an extremely young roster comprised of many players still working to master basic skills, the decision was made to not field a varsity team this spring in order to better develop talent at the junior varsity level.

"We just looked at it and said age-wise and ability-wise, we're not where we need to be," said second-year coach Anthony Giuliano. "A big issue we're seeing is basic skills, throwing and catching. We're not up to par with the rest of the high schools in the area."

Sleepy Hollow was often its own worst enemy in enduring a 3-17 varsity campaign last year. Only two of a possible nine returning players from that team were willing to play again this spring.

Alaina Otto, a senior captain, knows the administration had little choice but to scrap the varsity.

"Being a senior, I was a little upset," she said. "But I understand the perspective they we're coming from, and I think it's the best decision."

Arielly Fontes joins Otto as the only seniors on the squad. There are just two juniors: Genesis Quezada and Ana Hilario.

The team's pitchers are both from the middle school in eighth grader Delilah McCarthy and seventh grader Ava Guzman. McCarthy, in particular, is showing great potential.

"We definitely see her as a pivotal part in the future of the program," said Giuliano. "Her skill level and leadership are impressive for someone that young."

Peyton Koch, a sophomore, is another building block. "She's a gritty player. After the game, she's a mess because she's sliding, she's stealing, she plays extremely hard," the coach said.

After a series of losing seasons and coaching changes, Giuliano is emphasizing player development and team spirit over wins and losses. He knows it is going to be a long road to respectability in a conference that features well-established programs in



Eighth-grader Delilah McCarthy is one of the team's two pitchers.

Rockland County.

"It's not to say next year we're going to come out and be this great softball team. That's not realistic," he said. "It's still building, and we still have a way to go."

The focus on the junior varsity level was immediately rewarded when Sleepy Hollow pulled out a 14-13 victory in eight innings against Rye in its season opener.

"That's exactly the type of game we're trying to get, battling back and forth, having to figure out ways to score runs. This was a game where we really earned the win," Giuliano said. "That's the type of stuff we're trying to build on."

According to Koch, the absence of a significant number of upperclassmen increases the challenge. "We don't have that older generation to teach everybody," she said.

But Koch does not regret her decision to compete in softball, which has often lost students to other spring sports. "It's a really great sport. You make so many friends," she said. "It's an empowering thing to do."

Giuliano knows that long-term success will depend on having girls play softball at a young age and continue to work on fundamentals. To that end, he had his players greet much younger girls when the annual TNT parade in mid-April ended at Pierson Park.

"I told them to stick with it and build their skill," said Emma Briante, a sophomore.

Sleepy Hollow must hope to find other players as passionate as McCarthy. "I love the sport. You have to love the sport to do well in it," she said, confident that better days are ahead.

## "Paulie" Gives Rocky Fans a Thrill at Music Hall

by Rick Pezullo

Fans of the epic *Rocky* film series received a treat on April 14 when one of the beloved characters in the boxing saga made a special appearance at the Tarrytown Music Hall.

Actor Burt Young, who played Paulie Pennino, brother of Adrian, Rocky Balboa's wife, appeared on stage for a question and answer segment following the showing of the original *Rocky*, which first hit theaters in 1976 and received the Academy Award for Best Picture.

The event, which was well attended, was part of a Silver Screen Sports Film Festival presented by Jobu Media Group.

"I'm a lucky fella. It made me a great life," Young said of appearances in six of the movies, the first of which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. "At the time I didn't know what a blockbuster was."

Young, 78, has appeared in more than 200 films, television shows and theater productions. He said he didn't have to audition for the part of Paulie since he had worked with the producers in the past.

"They came to me. They asked me to do it. It was a pleasure," Young said.

Young, who boxed in his younger days, compiling a 19-0 record in professional



Actor Burt Young (Paulie) enjoyed meeting fans in Tarrytown, including Editor Rick Pezullo.

fighters, had high praise for all of his co-stars in the series: Sylvester Stallone (*Rocky*), Talia Shire (*Adrian*), Carl Weathers (*Apollo Creed*) and Burgess Meredith (*Mickey*).

"I care for everyone involved in the movies," he said. "I had a good run and it's not over. I hope something is next. That's why we were put on this planet. We all have a little fear, then with fear comes creativity."

Young is also an accomplished artist. "All I need is a canvas and a can of paint," he said. Some of his art work can be viewed at [www.burtyoungartandfilm.com](http://www.burtyoungartandfilm.com).



TNT Tigers strike a pose on photo day.



Ben Cheever, (son of John Cheever), well-known local writer, crosses the finish line at the annual Rivertown Runners Sleepy Hollow Half Marathon.

Photo by: Sunny McLean

Photo by: Sunny McLean

# High School Females Learn About Running for Political Office

by Charlene Weigel

"The list of reasons why I shouldn't be here is staggering. People say you are too dumb. Too shy," State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins confided to 43 female high school students from around Westchester County. She reflected on her challenges in running for elected office, "No one looked like me when I ran. But you are already speaking truth to power. Your biggest decision is how far you want to go, and how high you want to run."

Stewart-Cousins was one of 16 female elected officials who participated in the seventh annual "Running and Winning" workshop on April 19. Members of the State Senate and Assembly and elected officials at the county, town and village lev-

els coached junior and senior students on how to successfully run for office.

"I'm not talking to your neighbor at your table," said Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, "I'm talking to you, and you, and you." Jane Tilles, a senior at Briarcliff Manor High School was listening closely. "We need to build girls' confidence. We feel such pressure to be perfect," Tilles continued.

Rachel Kaufman, a senior at Ardsley High School, reacted to learning that women comprise only 20% of Congress. "I'm reading *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg. Women feel they have to know everything before running. We need to learn that we'll be fine if we cover our bases. More needs to be done to invigorate young women for leadership positions."

But where to start? Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shinsky advised students to "base your platform on things you care about. Find organizations for issue advocacy. Step in when your local political party needs a district leader. Get involved."

Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity continued the pragmatic advice. "Raising funds for a campaign is one of the biggest challenges. Learning to be an effective fundraiser is essential to ensure running for office is not limited to wealthy people." She stressed the tangible results of serving locally. "By converting to LED streetlights, for example, Ossining saved over \$100,000 per year, making it possible to have no tax increase."

Rachel Echt, a junior at Sleepy Hollow

High School, leveraged Gearity's fiscal coaching. She was on one of nine teams workshopping a political campaign based on guidance from the elected officials. Her team chose a platform of community composting. "Money we save in composting and sales from community gardens will allow us to finance other projects." Echt also reacted to the personal economic challenges facing local officials. "I did not realize how little they were paid for what are full time jobs. It is true public service."

"Running and Winning" is funded by the Westchester Community Foundation and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Westchester, the American Association of University Women, and the YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester.

# Rivertown Teens Talk Politics and Engagement

by Charlene Weigel

"You see something on social media. You look at it more. You get riled up, and want to take action," said Emma Sylves-Berry, a senior at Sleepy Hollow High School. "Now, more than ever, students are involved."

With Jamie Kramer, a junior at Dobbs Ferry High School, Sylves-Berry will travel to Albany in May to get involved with state legislators. They will represent rivertown teens at "Students Inside Albany," a four-day workshop sponsored by the New York State League of Women Voters. With 60 students from around the state, they will learn how to shape and enact state policies.

Kramer and Sylves-Berry shared some thoughts on politics and youth engagement.

**How did you become interested in politics?**

**Kramer:** Sometimes teenagers feel as if politics and being a teen don't mix, but the issues being debated in the public sphere are relevant to our everyday lives. Living in this area, we have great connections but there are a lot of people who don't have a voice. It is important to stand up for people who have different backgrounds.

**Sylves-Berry:** With previous elections, I was content to trust what was going on. That's changed. I'm in our AP Government class. One posing question is "Who is really in control of the government?" We started with state versus federal. Then interest groups versus the media. Most recently we learned about the bureaucracy. It's fun to see what my peers think. How government itself functions.

**Where do you get your information?**

**Kramer:** Social media is a huge place. But with Facebook, algorithms are likely to reinforce your pre-existing beliefs. So

it is important to branch out. To educate myself. Because there are many different beliefs on the same matter.

**Sylves-Berry:** My first source every morning is theSkimm email blog. Tells me what happened over the past 24 hours. And what people will be talking about. I come home after track, eat a snack and watch John Oliver or Stephen Colbert recap the news. About half my senior class have notifications turned on so they get alerts on their phones when something happens.

**Are you aware that some towns allow 16-year-olds to vote in local elections?**

**Sylves-Berry:** No. I'd be hesitant to say for federal elections, but it's a good idea for local elections. If you don't involve students before they are 18, they are probably going to be less involved because they never get into the habit of voting.

**Kramer:** I hadn't heard that. There are many kids who are interested but not

technically represented. We talked in history class about what constitutes being represented. Obviously, no one has to vote if they are 16, but what if they are really driven?

**Are there challenges to getting involved?**

**Kramer:** The recent horrible shootings have impacted my generation. People I would have never expected are engaged. Sometimes it seems that, living in a small town, nothing I do will be recognized. But seeing people being taken seriously is super-inspiring.

**Sylves-Berry:** The other day my mom and dad walked to the voting place. They were numbers 12 and 13 to vote. And it was 5:30 p.m. If people learn how to vote and we make it clear when these elections are happening, more people would get involved.

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## Arts & Entertainment

# Elizabeth Mascia Music Festival Fundraiser at Pierson Park Aims to Draw 1,000



Pictured in front of Tarrytown's Green Machine Laundromat, the future home of The Cube Inn restaurant, Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center's Fundraiser Coordinator and Executive Board Member Myles Birrittella (left) and BeBe Gonzales, owner of Green Machine Laundromat and Babalu'Q, an authentic Cuban catering company.

by W.B. King

For 50 years, the Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center has been dutifully, and often selflessly, devoted to serving families in Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow and Irvington. To help support efforts to modernize the center, an all-day music festival fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 14 at Pierson Park.

"Ticket sales are moving nicely, and with good weather we expect a very good crowd," said Tarrytown resident, event coordinator and executive board member, Myles Birrittella who conceived the idea for the "rain or shine" festival.

"We are building the festival out to handle well over a thousand people," noted Birrittella who added this is the first large scale festival to take place at Pierson Park. "Tarrytown's board of trustees, the police department and the village administrator (Richard Slingerland) have been very supportive and cooperative."

Stella Blues Band (The Ultimate Grateful Dead Tribute), Damn the Torpedoes (A Tribute to Tom Petty and The Heart Breakers) and SoulShine (An Allman Brothers Experience) are scheduled to each perform

long sets of fan favorites.

"I have played in Pierson Park in the 1990s and in 2008, but have not played on the new stage," said SoulShine singer and guitarist Norm Dodge. "I'm looking forward to being inspired by the beautiful Hudson River and make music alongside the other bands playing that day. It is a privilege and an honor to be asked."

Dodge, a 1984 graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School, logs roughly 300 gigs per year. For 25 years, he has played with Bob & Norm/Powderfinger and has also performed guitar in Off Broadway productions, including *The Wanderer: The Story of Dion* and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The upcoming festival performance, he said, is both nostalgic and forward-looking.

"Growing up and living in the area, it has been a unique opportunity to watch the transformation of the Tarrytown waterfront. When I was a kid, the waterfront was mostly industrial and not a place for people to congregate," said Dodge. "We (SoulShine) are very excited to play the festival and to raise awareness about The Mascia Center and what it does for the community."

### A History of Caring

Founded in 1967 as the Day Care Center of the Tarrytowns, the center was renamed 20 years later to honor its founding president and champion, Elizabeth Scarborough Mascia, who passed away in 2012.

"Everyone knew her as 'Libby.' The center was her vision and she was the force behind every phase of the center's growth," said Alice Blood, one of the center's directors who has been affiliated with the center since the early 1970s. "Whether it was going for funding to the county, going to a foundation, finding a place to hold our fundraiser or finding a new location as we grew—no one could say 'no' to Libby."

Blood, who has served as the center's treasurer and president, further explained that the center's quality child care is expensive with many children requiring scholarships to attend, which makes donations essential. Fundraising, the center's website states, "allows us to serve our local families of all economic backgrounds by providing the inclusive, affordable child care, which establishes a strong foundation for each child's future."

In 1967, the center initially served approximately 16 students. This year, Birrittella said the center will care for more than 222 children, age two to 12, including the Pre-K students at John Paulding School, which the center administers.

The center, he added, has touched so many area families over the years that one person has made a generous, special pledge.

"The center has received an offer to match up to \$50,000 in donations received in 2018 for our 50th anniversary," said Bir-

rittella. Raised funds will be earmarked for "capital improvements" on the center located at 171 Sheldon Avenue in Tarrytown.

### Food, Fun and Music for All

Along with live music, there will be bounce castles, a playground, splash pad, arts and crafts and face painting for children (from noon to 4 p.m.). For each adult ticket sold (\$30 in advance; \$40 day of the festival), Birrittella said one child is admitted for free (additional tickets for children are \$10 each).

Beer and wine tents will be featured as will roughly 10 food kiosks offering varying cuisines from area businesses, such as the Taco Project. The Flavor Vaults' Michael Shanker will serve "savory and sweet" items and BeBe Gonzales, owner of Babalu'Q, will provide authentic Cuban dishes. Gonzales is also the festival's food court coordinator.

"A festival like this has been a long time coming. It is great for Tarrytown and it's for a tremendous cause," said Gonzales who noted that he will be transforming his Green Machine Laundromat, located on Tarrytown's Main Street, into a Cuban restaurant, The Cube Inn, in the coming year.

"All the food vendors are excited to participate, listen to great music and enjoy a day at beautiful Pierson Park with family and friends," said Gonzales. "And it's terrific that all the money being raised will further support the great work the Mascia Child Care Center does for our community."

For tickets and more information, visit: [www.masciamusicfestival.com](http://www.masciamusicfestival.com).



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# The TaSH Brings Global Flavors to Farmers Market

As the outdoor farmers market season kicks into gear this month, organizers of the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Farmers Market — The TaSH — aren't resting on past laurels. Singled out by local media as the best revamped farmers market in the county last year, they are determined not only to live up to the praise but far surpass it.

"When The TaSH opens for the season Memorial Day weekend, we are bringing back a terrific lineup of local foods along with all the great music and cultural events, kids art and education that have made The TaSH a Saturday destination for the past four years," said Suzanne Sorrentino, co-president. "But we are taking it to the next level, introducing new vendors, new flavors and enhancements for shoppers."

New flavors coming to The TaSH this season circle the globe.

Among them will be Japanese condiments from MOMO Dressing such as ginger dressing and edamame dip. From AnaMaria's Foods, shoppers can sample northern Italian family recipes for specialties like radicchio marmalade, made from local seasonal produce.

Nearly 50 years ago, Nirmala Gupta of Yorktown inherited treasured family recipes for traditional Indian delights which became the foundation of her Bombay Emerald Chutney Co. Along with items such as Royal Tomato Chutney, she will bring a host of enticing homemade Indian foods, made from fresh local produce, such as vegetarian and vegan roti rolls, saag and royal kofta to heat and eat at home.

As a child in the Ukraine, Sheila Bober watched her grandmother and mother

pickle and ferment the vegetables grown on the community dacha - the shared country farms where city workers retreated for weekend respite. Bober has transformed family recipes and memories into a selection of lacto-fermented sauerkrauts and vegetables she will vend at The TaSH this season.

Shoppers will also be treated to some unusual fruits and berries that Kato-nah farm-owner David Rowe said "you may have only tasted in grandpa's backyard." These include blackcurrants, gooseberries, honey berries, pawpaws and persimmons.

The TaSH is welcoming other new vendors as well, including Peace and Carrots Farm, a Certified Naturally Grown farm run by four women in Chester, NY; Hudson Valley Seafood, a fishmonger in the old sense of "seafood specialist;" and Saint James Brewery, a Long Island-based "farm brewer," meaning their craft beers are made from New York-grown wheat, barley and hops.

Vendors returning after a hiatus include Acorn Hill Farm goat cheese; Healing Home Foods, gluten-free and vegan takes on many favorites such as spinach dip, granola and graham crackers; and Hudson River Apiaries' honey and other bee products.

In addition to building out its vendor roster, The TaSH is also making improvements this season to support busy shoppers who are short on time but still want the quality, freshness and connection to local farmers and food producers they can only get at the farmers market.

For example, the market will introduce "TaSH Cash" this year. Didn't bring enough cash? No need to run to the ATM. Shoppers can use their credit or debit cards to purchase tokens at the TaSH information tent



## KEY TASH INFO:

### Opening Day: May 26.

Market Season: Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Thanksgiving in Patriots Park.

**Online:** [tashfarmersmarket.org](http://tashfarmersmarket.org) and find the TaSH on Facebook and Instagram at [thetashfm](https://www.instagram.com/thetashfm).

**Contact:** [tashfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:tashfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

**Vendors-to-date:** Acorn Hill Farm, Alpacatraz, AnnaMaria's Foods, Arlotta Food Studio, Baked With Jake, Bien Cuit, Blessed Brewery, Bombay Emerald Chutney Company, Broken Bow Brewery, Chaseholm Farm Creamery, Clean Ridge Soap Company, DACHA Live Cultured Veggies, Deliciously Alicia's, Don-

key Salsa, Fishkill Farms, Healing Home Foods, Hillrock Estate Distillery, Hudson River Apiaries, Hudson Valley Seafood, Irvington Delight Market, J'adore Baking, JD Farms, Kaffee & Klatsch, Kontoulis Family Olive Oil, Luxx Chocolat, Majestic Farm, Mead Orchards, Meredith's Country Bakery, Mobius Fields, MOMO Dressing, Nahmias et Fils distillery, Neversink Spirits, Orchard Hill Organics, Peace and Carrots Farm, Pickle Licious, Saint James Brewery, Samosa Shack, Soukup Farms, Sweetheart Bakeshop, Teagevity | Longevity, The Misshapened Bowl, Tousey Winery, Warwick Valley Winery and Distillery, Wave Hill Breads, White Plains Orchids, Will Yum, Xquisite Coffee.

that they can spend like cash throughout the market.

"Other initiatives that will make it easier and faster to shop are in the works and will be unwrapped in coming weeks," Sorrentino said, adding "watch our Facebook page and newsletter for announcements."

Rivertowns Village Green (RVG), the non-profit organization that runs the market is dedicated to making the market accessible to all segments of the community, and has increased efforts to get the word out on its food assistance programs.

The organization is working with both village and county governments and other local non-profits to spread the word that SNAP benefits (previously known as food stamps) are not only accepted at the market, but RVG doubles their value up to \$40.

RVG requires all eligible vendors to accept the SNAP benefit as well as WIC coupons that support new mothers. RVG is also continuing a joint program with the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tar-

rytown that provides food tokens to pantry clients.

"Of course, we couldn't host all of our great weekly educational programming, live local music or food assistance programs without the support of our partners, like Westchester Community Foundation, ArtsWestchester and the Church of St. Barnabas," said RVG co-president Tammy Abraham.

"We also rely on the generous support of our sponsors like Phelps Hospital, which has been our "presenting sponsor" since our launch in 2015. Other local supporters include Tarrytown Hall Care Center, Rey Insurance, EF (Education First) and Allan Block Agency. More local businesses are coming on board to show their support and will be announced on opening day," Abraham said.

Local businesses can get involved by reaching out to [Tashfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:Tashfarmersmarket@gmail.com). Details are on the sponsor page of the Web site: [tashfarmersmarket.org/how-to-sponsor-the-tash/](http://tashfarmersmarket.org/how-to-sponsor-the-tash/).

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# Tarrytown Music Hall to Launch Summer Programs for Youth

by Rick Pezullo

The Tarrytown Music Hall is teaming up with theater educator Peter Royston to offer summer workshops to aspiring youth.

The Music Hall Academy, utilizing traditional concepts of creative mentorship, will help youngsters develop vital life skills

through the performing arts and an arts education in an historic theater with a curriculum that will include set design, costume, lighting, directing, playwriting, technical aspects, acting, singing and dancing.

Music Hall Executive Director Bjorn Olsson said the Music Hall Academy is part of a vision to transform the facility from a

theater and music venue to a "full service performing arts center."

"As long as I have been working here at the Music Hall, I have longed to start an educational program," Olsson said. "The Academy fits perfectly into this vision. It will begin as a theater program, (and) the plan is to expand from other to other performing arts disciplines. It will be so much fun!"

Royston concurred, noting the workshops will be created for students in grades two through 12.

"We have a very exciting summer planned, with our theater educators setting up sessions on mythology and fairy tales, stage combat, dance, improvisation,

tech and backstage work, costume and set design, musical theatre and Shakespeare!" Royston stated. "The Tarrytown Music Hall is a beautiful and mysterious building but it's also a real working theater, and kids in the Music Hall Academy will not only be able to rehearse and perform on its stage, but have a chance to watch theater professionals at work every day. Not a bad way to spend your summer!"

Royston said plans are underway for the Music Hall Academy to become an on-going program with after-school sessions starting in the fall.

For further information on the Music Hall Academy, visit [www.tarrytownmusicball.org](http://www.tarrytownmusicball.org).

## Teen Travel Camp Being Offered in SH

by Kevin Brown

Seizing on a missing opportunity for local kids who are too old for summer camp but too young to work over the summer, Matt Arone, Sleepy Hollow Recreation Superintendent, is trying out a something new in town. For kids entering 7th, 8th or 9th grades in the local school district, the Village of Sleepy Hollow will be offering a Teen Travel Camp. The camp will include three trips per week to places like amusement parks, ball games, movies and the zoo. On the other days, camp will include a swim day at the Tarrytown municipal pool and a sports and games day at one of the local parks.

The camp will take a maximum of 40 kids and will be supervised by a camp director, assistant director and numerous camp counselors. Home base will be the Galgano

Senior Center at 55 Elm Street. The camp will travel by school bus on local trips and coach buses for further distances.

"The hopes of adding a new program like this to our community is that those children who are not interested in attending day camp anymore can have a fun and safe experience with their friends without having to stay home or wander the local streets looking for activities," Arone said. "The camp was made affordable so that all local families have the opportunity to participate."

Camp will have two sessions running July 9 - July 20 and July 23 - August 3. A full-week or two-week option is being offered. For those interested, contact the Sleepy Hollow Recreation Department at 366-5109 for pricing and registration information. Additionally, local residents 18 and older who might be interested in becoming a counselor should call the same number.

## Irvington Property

Continued from page 18

towards Broadway from the main white clapboard office building.

Meanwhile, Carrafiello filed a lawsuit in State Supreme Court, contending that his real estate agency, Houlihan Lawrence, and two of its brokers had breached their fiduciary duty to him by badmouthing the deal, even as Brightview's negotiations with the village continued.

In March, State Supreme Court Judge Terry Jane Ruderman dismissed the suit, ruling that the fiduciary obligation applied only to the brokers contractually assigned to the deal, which did not include the defendants. The judge's ruling did not ad-

dress the question of whether the alleged subterfuge, if it indeed occurred, had any influence on Smith's opposition to the developer's plans. Carrafiello said he is appealing.

There is one bright spot for the erstwhile owner of 88-106 North Broadway: in January, he sold the property for a reported \$4.5 million to a newly-formed Manhattan-based Limited Liability Corporation called KEF Holdings. The new owners—not to be confused with the huge multinational conglomerate of the same name, says the buyers' broker, Gordon Sokich of Grand Lux Realty—say they plan to continue to rent out office space, for which they have created a website, [www.bridgelineonthehudson.com](http://www.bridgelineonthehudson.com).

Photo by Sunny Mclean



Open Door Family Medical Centers President and CEO Lindsay Farrell addresses guests, including Congresswoman Nita Lowey, during a grand opening celebration of the new facility in Sleepy Hollow last month.

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## Food for Thought

# Anchor's Away to New Seafood & Grill Eatery in Sleepy Hollow

By Linda Viertel

**A**n anchor should be a port in the storm, a refuge, and a happy place in which to dwell, so look no further than The Hudson Anchor Seafood & Grill for comfort and a satisfying repast in these often tumultuous times. Nestled at the base of Beekman Avenue in Sleepy Hollow, with a view to the lighthouse and the Hudson River, Gary Serino and Molinda Kearns' new restaurant offers fresh seafood presentations along with a variety of specialty entrees and appetizers that are created for comfort.

Serino and Kearns opened Hudson Anchor on March 9th at the former site of Serino's Lighthouse Coffee Company in the building Serino's father purchased in 1957. He grew up in his father's bar and grill, The Tappan Zee Inn, and, as he said, "I always knew I'd be here." He and Kearns focus on classic, fresh and unadulterated flavors, with seafood delivered daily. Their chef, Gary Fino, trained at Philadelphia's JNA Institute of Culinary Arts and makes everything from scratch including all sauces and salad dressings. "Nothing in a bottle," Serino explained. Food accountability is their mission, stemming from Kearns' professional background as a chemistry professor at Concordia College with a deep interest in biochemistry, fermentation and neuro-gastronomy. She has also taught gastronomy in India for 5 years in conjunction with Concordia.

Hudson Anchor's menu includes such classics as Oysters Rockefeller (and, why not, given the location?) and seafood risotto

— a mélange of delicately flavored sautéed plump scallops, clams, mussels and shrimp in a white wine and garlic butter sauce. Chef Fino's linguini and clams a la Anchor provides the unusual complement of a black bean salsa topping— classic but with a twist. Signatures dishes include Maryland style crab cakes, the seafood medley (in a mango butter sauce), and the popular lobster thermidor redolent of brandy and shallots, and topped with a creamy mushroom sauce. Sesame encrusted tuna is made to order for those who enjoy rare sushi-style tuna or their fish cooked more well done. The whole grilled branzino, skillfully enhanced with herbs de Provence, is accompanied by creamy potatoes in a lemon caper sauce.

But, seafood isn't the only feature at Hudson Anchor. Diners can enjoy broccoli rabe and spicy Italian sausage or steak au poivre. And if you can't choose between steak and seafood, try the "surf and turf for two" — two lobster tails in a creamy vermouth-enhanced demi-glaze, accompanied by a pan-seared encrusted rib eye in a brandy, mustard cream sauce. "Stuffed airline chicken" gets its name from the French-cut chicken breast, wings spread, stuffed with spinach, roasted red pepper and fresh mozzarella cheese.

A raw bar boasts fresh clams and oysters on the half shell. Other appetizers include tuna tartar, clams casino and fried calamari — classics all. But, several unusual choices include a smoked salmon bulb: smoked salmon stuffed with fresh lump crabmeat marinated in lemon juice, olive oil and basil and accompanied by crostini, capers and eggs, all served on a bed of frisee. There's



Photo by Sunny McLean

## The Anchor

The Hudson Anchor Seafood & Grill co-owners Molinda Kearns and Gary Serino with Chef Gary Fino.

even an appetizer entitled "beet stack": roasted beets layered with goat cheese and encrusted with pistachios napped in a beet vinaigrette. Multiple in-house soups, fresh salads and homemade desserts round out Hudson Anchor's offerings.

A fully stocked bar provides a wide variety of spirits highlighting special cocktails such as an elderflower martini and the biscotti delight, not to mention 7 varieties of mojitos. Kearns chose her wine list carefully, with an eye to affordability and pairing with both seafood and meat offerings. In addition to nine bottled beer choices, 11 beers are on draft with a focus on craft beers from the Hudson Valley region. The restaurant's first beer tasting will showcase Tarrytown's own Duncan's Abbey on May 4th, brewed from hops grown on local properties. Poughkeepsie's Mill House beers will be featured on May 17th with a four-course beer pairing dinner.

Sleepy Hollow native, Abraham Pestana, presides over Hudson Anchor's flawless service. With two floors, seating for eight at the bar, and the refurbished deck await-

ing outdoor seasonal dining enhanced by a magnificent river view, he manages his staff deftly. Serino has renovated his restaurant from top to bottom but made sure his father's paintings of boats, the Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse, and the Hudson River remained, providing a touch of continuity and hominess to the shining interior.

So, look for the ocean blue exterior at the base of Beekman Street, where you will find Hudson Anchor: a classic "port in the storm."

### If You Go

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### Entertainment Calendar May 2018

Please visit [www.rinisrestaurant.com](http://www.rinisrestaurant.com) for a more detailed look at our great entertainers!!!

#### Fri., May 11th, 8pm:

The Return of Westchester Favorite Vocalist Lois Columbo with Richie G on Guitar and Dan Denerstein on Keyboard

#### Fri., May 18th, 8pm:

Alive & Kickin Featuring Vocalist Pepe Cardona and their hit 70's single "Tighter and Tighter" with special guest vocalist Elaine Tuttle. Entertainment and Birthday Celebration for Pepe Cardona

#### Sat., May 19th, 8pm:

Radio Personality and DJ Johnny Z 7th Annual Birthday Bash (Rock and Roll Revival Party, Playing music of the 50's, 60's, 70's, Motown, Disco, Classic Soul and much more)

#### Fri., May 25th, 8pm:

Butch Barbella's "Streets of the Bronx Band" (Formerly of Dion & The Belmonts and The Earls and Musical Composer of The Bronx Tale Movie)

# Westchester Symphonic Winds to Celebrate 30 Years

by Barrett Seaman

One flautist is a banker; the oboist-cum-French horn player is a veterinarian. Among the 60-some musicians who make up the Westchester Symphonic Winds (WSW) ensemble are internet sales reps and programmers, doctors and lawyers and a special events planner. Some have been with the group for more than 20 years. To be sure, there are also professional musicians—or teachers whose careers have been devoted to music, but by and large, this impressive ensemble group is “amateur” in the true sense of the word: they are lovers of the art they create. Maestro Curt Ebersole, who has served as music director and conductor for the past ten years, prefers to call his musicians “para-professionals.”

The ensemble is comprised of wind instruments only (plus percussion)—everything from tubas and trombones to flutes and flugelhorns—no strings attached (as it were).

On Saturday night, May 12, they will take the Tarrytown Music Hall stage to celebrate their 30th anniversary. The program, which will feature favorite pieces



Sixty musicians make up the Westchester Symphonic Winds orchestra.

from the group’s repertoire as well as guest conductor appearances, will be repeated on the Fourth of July at Caramoor’s Venetian Theater in Katonah, the other of the WSW’s regular performing venues.

They have performed outside Westches-

ter as well: at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall in 2010, at the 2017 New York State Band Directors Association Symposium, the Association of Concert Bands Convention in 2012, and a collaboration with the North Shore Concert Band to present con-

certs at Northwestern University and at the Palace Theater in Stamford in 2015 and 2016.

The group also works with area schools to encourage bands and instrument playing. Part of the money they raise goes toward the purchase of instruments and sheet music for schoolchildren.

Maestro Ebersole, who retired five years ago as the band and orchestra director at Northern Valley High School in Tappan, New Jersey, has recently been hired as The Masters School band and orchestra director. He admires the “sense of purpose” his adult musicians display. “There is a real need for continuing musical experience in the U.S.,” he observes. And the primary beneficiaries, he believes, are the musicians themselves.

Those who attend the May 12 concert (see What’s Happening, page 28) may purchase raffle tickets. The winner will be given a five-minute conducting lesson from

Maestro Ebersole and then the opportunity to lead the Westchester Symphonic Wind ensemble in John Philip Sousa’s rousing *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

## Invasion of the Truth Snatchers: American Journalism in an Age of Bubbles, Tweets and Fake News

A Forum in the Public Interest, sponsored by *The Hudson Independent*

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m. | **Location:** Warner Library, Tarrytown | Free admission



Is commitment to objectivity a lost cause in journalism? How did the public come to lose trust in news reporting? Which, if any, outlets can be trusted? Why? How can a news organization gain credibility across the “bubbles” of society?

From very different perspectives, four prominent veterans of the print and digital media world will dissect the challenges facing journalism’s trustworthiness and its essential role in sustaining democracy. A Q&A session will follow their remarks.

### The Four Panelists

**Barrett Seaman**  
– Editorial Board  
Chair, *The Hudson Independent*.



Retired from thirty years at *Time* magazine as correspondent and editor, working in five bureaus in the U.S. and abroad, and senior White House correspondent in the second Reagan term. Editor of *Time*’s 1995 issue on the emerging Internet. Co-author of *Going for Broke: The Chrysler Story*, focused on Lee Iacocca, and author of *Binge: Campus Life in an Age of Disconnection and Excess*, a winner of the Journalism Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism. A graduate of Hamilton College, where he is a trustee, and the Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

**Mary Rasenberger**  
– Executive Director  
of the Authors Guild  
and its Foundation.



Over 25 years of private, corporate and government legal practice, concentrating on Internet, media, publishing and entertainment companies. Vice-chair of the American Bar Association’s Intellectual Property Section. Former senior policy advisor to the Library of Congress and director of the National Digital Preservation Program. Frequent speaker and writer on media issues. J.D. from Harvard Law School; M.A. in Philosophy, Boston College; B.A., Barnard College.

**Jon Scott** – Co-  
anchor for Fox  
News’ “Happening  
Now.”



Member of the original anchor team at Fox. Major assignments have included the September 11, 2001 attacks and field coverage of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Received an Emmy for newswriting while at Dateline NBC. Frequent speaker at events honoring military personnel and veterans. Graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, MO.

**Bill Gueskin** –  
Professor of Profes-  
sional Practice,  
Columbia University  
School of Journal-  
ism, plus six years  
as Academic Dean.



Transformed curriculum in video, data visualization and long-form journalism. Executive editor at Bloomberg, overseeing digital-platform training of global news staff. Earlier, at *The Wall Street Journal*: edited page-one features; became managing editor of WSJ.com; named deputy managing editor of the paper, overseeing 14 domestic bureaus and combining print and online desks. Co-author of the book *The Story So Far: What We Know About the Business of Digital Journalism*. B.A. from Stanford University and M.A. from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

## Obituaries

### "Jacy" Joan Dobson, 87

"Jacy" Joan Catherine Dobson, a devoted community resident (60 years) of Tarrytown, and loving wife of Chauncey Dobson, M.D. (66 years), died peacefully March 20, surrounded by her four daughters, Stephanie, Cynthia, Valerie and Deirdre, at Westchester Medical Center. She had a tear in her thoracic aorta that was inoperable. She was 87.

She graduated from Berkeley in California with a Registered Nursing degree and met Chauncey who was studying medicine at the University of Southern California. She convinced him to come live up in the Northeast where there were four seasons and winter was her favorite.

She was most proud of her volunteering in the community and gave over 20 years of her expertise to the Tarrytown Volunteer Ambulance Corps. She was President of the Corp for two years (1986 - 1988) and was Chairman of the Board of Directors

for 19 years (1993 - 2012). If you stopped in the family home, many times you could hear her beeper sounding off, and she was on her way to help someone. She was also an excellent bowler and was in a league for many years rising up to the top and even bowling 300 games. She also played tennis and was a devoted follower of all the professional tournaments.

Mrs. Dobson was a lifelong member of Transfiguration Church and was also in Rotary International.

### Nicholas Turturro, 98

Nicholas James Turturro, a resident of Irvington, died March 31, at N.Y.S Veterans Home in Montrose. He was 98.

He was born March 20, 1920 in Croton, and graduated from Croton Harmon High School in 1939. He proudly served in the United States Navy See Bees in World War II from 1943-1946. He was a member of the American Legion. He worked as a

machinist for the New York Central Penn Railroad from 1939-1981. He was an avid gardener and Mets fan, as well as a devoted parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Church in Irvington. He will forever be remembered for his great kindness, generosity, warmth and smile.

### Ruth Hughes, 96

Ruth Chicachee Hughes, a native of Tarrytown, died March 30. She was 96.

She was a longtime resident of Tarrytown and a parishioner of the Carmelite Church of the Transfiguration. She was active in fund raising to build the school and the addition and the present church. She was a former lifetime member of the choir. She was also a member of the Tarrytowners and proud of it.

She was educated at F.R. Pierson Elementary School and Washington Irving High School, graduating in 1938 at the age of 16. She was a hard-working member of the Class of 1938 Reunion Committee. She attended the American Institute of Banking and was a graduate of the New York State Bankers School Estate and Trust Division Binghamton, New York. She was Secretary to Ernest F. Griffin, a Tarrytown lawyer-historian and former Village President and was employed at the County Trust Company in Tarrytown before transferring to White Plains Trust Department, The Bank

of New York as an Estate Administrator, retiring after 31 years. After retirement from the bank, Mrs. Hughes became personal secretary to Dr. Joseph Hughes, President of the County Trust Company for several years and was also secretary to General Council at the Olivetti Corporation in Tarrytown and several other prominent law firms.

### Clementine Scogna, 95

Clementine L. "Dixie" Scogna, a longtime resident of Tarrytown, died April 6. She was 95.

She was a graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School. She married Vincent R. (James) Scogna and the couple settled in Tarrytown. She was very active throughout her life. She worked at Eastern Aircraft during the war. She had also worked at Reader's Digest and then went to work for the family contracting business, Scogna & Raffa. She was an active parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church. She was a member of the Tarrytown Seniors, and she had belonged to a bowling league in her younger years. She will always be remembered as a woman who loved her family and friends and being a wonderful cook; she loved to entertain them. She could also be found singing and dancing at every event.

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June in Bloom

Saturday, June 2nd from 5:30 - 8:30pm

At the James F. Galgano Senior Center

55 Elm Street, Sleepy Hollow.

\$30 per person (\$20 for seniors)

For more information, please contact the Neighborhood House  
at 914-631-0205 or [theneighborhood@optonline.net](mailto:theneighborhood@optonline.net)

Proceeds from the evening will help to maintain our programs  
for seniors promoting health, recreation and lifetime learning.

We sincerely appreciate your support.

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# Tree Peonies from Japan will be on Display at Rockefeller Preserve

by Dorothy Conigliaro

For many Westchester residents, a trip to the Rockefeller Preserve is a must during the month of May. They are there to behold, once again, the magnificent tree peonies that arrived from Japan as seedlings in December 2002. Now, 15 years later, they have grown into mature plants of dazzling beauty, their huge blooms ablaze with colors of every hue.

The story of these peonies began after 9/11, when the Preserve was notified of a gift given by the Japanese people in commemoration of that tragic day. A letter from representatives from Shimane Prefecture expressed the hope that “the enjoyment of these flowers might help to soothe the pain felt by the people of New York City.”

Unfortunately, the first attempt to send the seedlings ended in disappointment, when a dockworker’s strike on the West Coast delayed their shipment. When they finally arrived and the boxes opened, it was found that the tender young plants had not survived the delay. At the Preserve, the lawns and shrubbery had been made ready for their arrival, and the flowers were to be included in a master plan to beautify the park’s entrance.

Not to be deterred, the Japanese people once again prepared to replace the ill-fated first shipment, this time by air. A letter posted at the entrance to the preserve tells

something about the tree peonies, known in the Far East as “the king of flowers.” It reads, “These flowers bring us happiness and comfort in times of trouble. We hope that these peonies, carefully raised by the producers in our town, can also be loved by and bring peace of mind to the people of the United States.” A group of Japanese horticulturists and gardeners arrived along with the shipment of 500 seedlings, who began the planting in the not-quite-frozen ground that had been prepared for them. Unlike the herbaceous peonies common in the US, tree peonies have a woody stalk and

grow to a height of three to four feet.

Susan Antenen, Preserve Manager, reports that the peonies have survived the winter well, and have grown into mature plants from three to four feet tall since they first arrived more than 15 years ago. The anticipated peak of the peony blooming season is during the first half of May, and meanwhile the land is being cleared and pruning is being done by a group of volunteers led by Keith Austin.

For those of you who have not visited the Rockefeller Preserve, a visit during early May would confirm the hopes that the

Japanese people expressed – because these spectacular blooms really can bring “peace of mind.” The Preserve, at 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, is easily reached, with an entrance and exit along Route 117 just north of Tarrytown. The vehicle entry fee is \$6 and while you’re there, you can take a walk along the many paths that lead from the entrance. It is truly a natural wonder, with its lakeside vistas, its imposing trees, and its wildlife. An Empire Pass, which entitles you to entrance to all New York State parks for the year, costs \$60. For more information, call 914-631-1470.

## Sleepy Hollow Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce – New Members

Westy Self Storage  
395 Saw Mill River Rd  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(914)-347-8888  
westy.com/elmsford

Greg Pymm  
PYMM.COM  
(917)596-0030  
www.pymm.com

All Covered  
127 West Main Street  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
(914) 372-3467  
www.allcovered.com

Metro PCS of Sleepy Hollow  
110 Beekman Ave S-101  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591  
914-372-7477

Staples of Elmsford  
339 Tarrytown Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
914-345-9401  
staples.com/elmsford

Bike Tarrytown  
https://biketarrytown.org  
No physical building  
No phone number

Heartland Payment Systems  
505 Martling Ave  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
(917) 887-9604  
heartlandpaymentsystems.com

Trust Co Bank – Elmsford  
Branch  
100 Clearbrook Rd  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(914) 345-1808  
trustcobank.com

Philipse Manor Dental  
12 Merlin Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591  
(914) 332-5020  
philipsemanordental.com

The Fit Inn LLC  
104 Central Avenue  
Tarrytown NY, 10591  
www.nyfitinn.com

Orangetheory Fitness Tarrytown  
624 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, NY, 10591  
tarrytown.orangetheoryfitness.com  
(914) 359-6200



**Thursday 10**  
Spring Peony Celebration: The friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve will hold its 10th annual Spring Peony Celebration from 6 to 9 p.m.



**Saturday 12** The Movie Mavens series continues at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, at 7 p.m.



**Sunday 20**  
"An Evening with Pamela Paul," New York Times book review editor: Hudson Valley Writers' Center.

# What's Happening

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

## Saturday 5

**SOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GALA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE PRESENTS:** "We are All Connected- A Musical Gala and Silent Auction"- 6 p.m. dinner family style, 8 p.m. concert with Pablo Mayor's Folklore Urbano, Amalgama Music & Dance Project (flamenco). 343 South Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. For tickets contact Linda Jo: LJBerryPL@aol.com. (A portion of the proceeds to benefit Community For All.)

## Sunday 6

**JAZZ PERFORMANCE:** Gary Smulyan will perform at noon at the Jazz Forum, 1 Dixon Lane, Tarrytown. It is the final program in Hoff-Barthelsson Music School's 2017-18 Master Class Series. Admission is free.

## Tuesday 8

**"BEYOND THE I: When Memoir Meets History":** Workshop with Mimi Schwartz from 12:30-4:30 p.m., Hudson Valley Writers' Center, 300 Riverside Drive, Sleepy Hollow: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$124. Info: 332-5953 or [admin@writerscenter.org](mailto:admin@writerscenter.org).

## Wednesday 9

**INTRODUCTION TO PHENOLOGY:** Introduction to Phenology will be presented by the Bronx River Alliance Ecology Team at 7 p.m. at the Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale.

**RIVERTOWN FILM PRESENTS:** Rivertown Films has scheduled two screenings for May. *Leaning into the Wind: Andy Goldsworthy* will be presented on May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Nyack Center. *Unseen Demme - Short Film by Jonathan Demme*, including a discussion with Brooklyn Demme, will be presented on May 23 at 8 p.m. at the Nyack Center. Information: 845-353-2568 or [www.rivertownfilm.org](http://www.rivertownfilm.org). Tickets can be purchased at the door, in advance by calling 800-838-3006 or online.

## Thursday 10

**SPRING PEONY CELEBRATION:** The friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve will hold its 10th annual Spring Peony Celebration from 6 to 9 p.m., including a cocktail reception and buffet held in the Visitor Center courtyard. For tickets visit: <http://www.friendsrock.org/events/10th-annual-peony-celebration/> and click on "purchase tickets."

## FRIDAY 11

**THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS, 15 N. BROADWAY, IRVINGTON, HOLDS ITS ANNUAL THRIFT SALE:** household goods, toys, sports equipment, clothing and more. Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Saturday 12

**BINGO NIGHTS:** The Sleepy Hollow Fire Department sponsors bingo nights every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 55 Elm St., Sleepy Hollow. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games start at 7 p.m. You must be 18 or older to play.

**MOVIE MAVENS:** The Movie Mavens series continues at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, at 7 p.m. This month's film is *The Lemon Tree*. A moderated discussion immediately follows with coffee and dessert. The program is free for members, and \$5 for guests to offset the cost of refreshments.

**GALA CONCERT:** The Westchester Symphonic Winds celebrates 30 years of music in a gala concert at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors, and free for children under 10. Tickets may be purchased through the Music Hall box office, 877-840-0457, or online at [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

## Sunday 13

**ARLO GUTHRIE:** Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown, NY 10591. Email: [info@tarrytownmusichall.org](mailto:info@tarrytownmusichall.org). Phone: 914.631.3390

ext.100. Ticket Orders: TicketForce-877.840.0457 (Reservations only) TicketForce Hours: Mon -Thu: 11am-6pm, Fri: 11am-4pm. Theatre Box Office open on show days.

## Friday 18

**TBA BOOK CLUB:** TBA Book Club will be held at 10 a.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. *The Rabbi and the Hitman* by Arthur J. Magida will be discussed. RSVP: at 631-1770 or [adulted@tba-ny.org](mailto:adulted@tba-ny.org).

## Saturday 19

**"WRITING FROM LIFE":** Workshop with Bethany Ball & Sara Weiss from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Writers' Center, 300 Riverside Drive, Sleepy Hollow: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$124. Info: 332-5953 or [admin@writerscenter.org](mailto:admin@writerscenter.org)

**SHAVUOT SERVICES:** On May 19, at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, a Reform Shavuot service will be held. On May 30 at 9 a.m. Conservative services will be held.

## Sunday 20

**"AN EVENING WITH PAMELA PAUL,"** NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITOR: Hudson Valley Writers' Center, 300 Riverside Drive, Sleepy Hollow. Tickets are \$10. Info: 332-5953 or [admin@writerscenter.org](mailto:admin@writerscenter.org)

## Thursday 24

**INDIGO GIRLS:** Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown, NY 10591. Email: [info@tar](mailto:info@tar)

rytownmusichall.org. Phone: 914.631.3390 ext.100. Ticket Orders: TicketForce-877.840.0457 (Reservations only) TicketForce Hours: Mon -Thu: 11am-6pm, Fri: 11am-4pm. Theatre Box Office open on show days.

## Friday 25

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** A Women's Circle program will be held at 5:45 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Celebrate study and explore Jewish women's issues and history. Info: 631-1770 or [tbawomenscircle@gmail.com](mailto:tbawomenscircle@gmail.com).

**THE KEB' MO BAND:** Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown, NY 10591. Email: [info@tarrytownmusichall.org](mailto:info@tarrytownmusichall.org). Phone: 914.631.3390 ext.100. Ticket Orders: TicketForce-877.840.0457 (Reservations only) TicketForce Hours: Mon -Thu: 11am-6pm, Fri: 11am-4pm. Theatre Box Office open on show days.

## Saturday 26

**MUSIC HALL MARKET:** The Music Hall Market will be held at the Tarrytown Music Hall on May 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and May 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - a showcase of local and regional, artists, makers and indie pop-up shops. Visit [www.musichallmarket.com](http://www.musichallmarket.com) for more information.

## Ongoing

**FREE TAI CHI:** Drop-in Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Mondays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Shames JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit [www.ShamesJCC.org](http://www.ShamesJCC.org).

## SENIORS

**SENIOR BENEFITS INFORMATION CENTER (SBIC):** Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. a trained counselor from SBIC 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 231-3260.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BRIDGE AND CARD CLUB:** 1 p.m. Fridays.

## TARRYTOWN SENIOR CENTER

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

**EXERCISE:** 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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

**BOOK CLUB:** Mondays 3 to 5 p.m.

## Ongoing

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE 10591:** Seniors meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway. The program includes a speaker, conversation, and refreshments. All are welcome. Call 914-222-5116 or visit [www.itav10591.org](http://www.itav10591.org).

**2018 MUSIC TOUR**  
June 2  
Noon to Midnight

**RiverArts**

150 MUSICIANS 80 PERFORMANCES 25 VENUES  
[riverarts.org/musictour](http://riverarts.org/musictour)

**JAZZ FORUM CLUB:** Shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at One Dixon Lane in Tarrytown. Call 631-1000 or visit <http://jazzforumarts.org/>.

**PIRATE QUEST:** On Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. children ages 5-8 hunt through the grounds to load precious cargo onto their digital pirate ships at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow. Call 366-6900 or visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).

**'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>.

**WINE AND JAZZ WEDNESDAYS:** From 6 p.m. – 8

p.m. featuring bassist John Lang at La Chinita Poblana in Irvington. Visit [www.chinitapoblana.com](http://www.chinitapoblana.com).

**OSSINING FARMERS' MARKET:** Open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. through Dec. 17 at Spring & Main Sts. Call 923-4837 or visit [www.downtoearthmarkets.com](http://www.downtoearthmarkets.com).

**IRVINGTON TOWN HALL THEATER:** 85 Main Street, Irvington. Visit: [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com) for complete calendar of upcoming events.

**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).

**MAH JONGG:** Mondays at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or e-mail [adulted@tba-ny.org](mailto:adulted@tba-ny.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.ShamesJCC.org](http://www.ShamesJCC.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).

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARIES:** Stories, rhymes, crafts and songs for children of various ages at Tarrytown's Warner Library and Irvington Public Library. For Warner, call 631-7734 or visit [www.warnerlibrary.org](http://www.warnerlibrary.org). For Irvington, call 591-7840 or visit [www.irvingtonlibrary.org](http://www.irvingtonlibrary.org).

**TORAH STUDY:** Torah Study is held on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Classes are also conducted on Saturdays at 9 a.m. for a discussion of this week's Torah reading during conservative services. Info: 631-1770.

# In Our Libraries

## May 2018 Adult Events at the Irvington Public Library

The following events will be held at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor St. Info: call 591-7840 or e-mail [irvref@wlsmail.org](mailto:irvref@wlsmail.org).

### May 4

**MEMOIR WRITING WORKSHOP:** Catherine Wald's Memoir Writing Workshop will meet on Fridays, May 4, May 11, May 18 and May 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Please register by phoning the library at (914) 591-7840, or online at [irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/signup](http://irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/signup).

### May 5

**ART EXHIBIT:** Melinda Tepler and Laura Clark will be exhibiting monoprints and paintings from May 2 through 30, in the library's Martucci Gallery. The Martucci Gallery hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. An opening reception will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### May 7

**MORNING YOGA:** Morning Yoga with Nicole will be held on Mondays from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. on May 7, 14 and 21. Telephone the library at 591-7840 to register.

### May 10

**LEARN ABOUT REFLEXOLOGY:** Learn about the holistic practice of reflexology from Advanced Holistic Nurse Cathleen Bonvento from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is requested. Phone 591-7840 or register online at [irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/signup](http://irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/signup).

### May 17

**BOOK CLUB:** The Thursday Evening Book Club will meet on at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid.

### May 19

**BRONX HISTORY:** DeWitt Clinton High School graduate Steve Samtur invites you to take a nostalgic stroll through the Bronx the way it was in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's at 2 p.m.

## May 2018 Young Adult Programs at the Irvington Public Library

The following young adult events will be held at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor St. Info: call 591-7840 or e-mail [irvref@wlsmail.org](mailto:irvref@wlsmail.org).

### May 7

Paper Flowers: "Tissue Paper Flowers - It's nearly Mother's Day" at 7:30 p.m.

### May 10

**BALLOON CHALLENGE:** "The Great Balloon Tower Challenge" at 4:30 p.m. The team that builds the

highest tower out of balloons and masking tape in the time allotted will win a prize.

### May 14

**MAKE-UP:** "Pre-Prom Make-Up Make Over" at 3:30 p.m. All women are welcome to this event, even if prom was a long time ago.

### May 21

**BEAD MAKERSPACE:** Perler Bead Makerspace at 3:45 p.m. - Bring your favorite characters to life with Perler Beads.

### May 31

**BOOK TASTING:** At 5 p.m., "Eat, Taste, Read! Book Tasting Night," a middle school event. We'll have books for every appetite. Join us in sampling a variety of really good middle school titles - some old, most new. We'll also have something good to eat.

## May 2018 Events at the Warner Library

The following events have been scheduled for March at the Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway in Tarrytown. For more information call 631-7734 or visit [warnerlibrary.org](http://warnerlibrary.org).

### Tuesday 1

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS:** Holistic Wellness for the Young Family will be presented by the Heart-To-Hand Healing Center at 2 p.m. Call 631-7734 to sign up.

### Wednesday 2

**MOTHER'S DAY JEWELRY:** Jewellery making with Blanca Medina will be held at 7 p.m. Sign up at the Reference Desk, or call 631-7734.

### Thursday 3

**BUSINESS BOOK GROUP:** The Business Book Group will meet at 7 p.m. This month's business book is *The Lean Startup* by Eric Reis.

**TED Talks:** Ted Talks will be held on May 3 and 10 at 7 p.m.

### Thursday 10

Second Thursday Book Group: The Second Thursday Book Group meets at 7 p.m. *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance will be discussed.

### Friday 11

**RADIO PLAYS:** The Shadow radio plays will be presented on Fridays, May 11 and June 8 from 2 to 3 p.m. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 631-7734.

### Monday 14

**IMPROV:** An improv performance with Lynne Lori Sylvan of Veracity Actors Studio and her students will be held at 7 p.m.

**INTRO TO FACEBOOK:** Are you the last person you know to learn how to use Facebook? Come to this friendly, informative session at 7 p.m. Call 631-7734 or visit us at reference.

### Tuesday 15

**LUNCH CAN BE MURDER:** The Mystery Book Group now meets at 11 a.m. The book that will be discussed this month is, *Maggie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz.

### Saturday 19

**RIPPED & SEWN:** *Ripped & Sewn*, a mini film series documenting the foster care experience through the eyes of foster children, will be screened from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The films will be: *Family Rewritten*, *My Identity*, and *Feeling Wanted*. For further information, e-mail [tiverpool@UWWP.org](mailto:tiverpool@UWWP.org) or call 2-1-1 to reserve as seating is limited.

### Wednesday 23

**AMERICAN JOURNALISM DISCUSSION:** "Invasion of the Truth Snatchers - Is American Journalism in Trouble?" will be held at 7 p.m. Join a panel of journalists and media experts as they explore the current state of the news media in an age of "bubbles, tweets and fake news." The program is sponsored by *The Hudson Independent*, your most trusted source for local news and events.

### Thursday 31

**ITALIAN CULTURE:** Italian culture will be discussed by Carla Gambescia, author of *La Dolce Vita University: An Unconventional Guide to Italian Culture from A-Z* at 7 p.m.

### Ongoing

**ART EXHIBIT:** Art created by Sleepy Hollow High School students will be on display throughout May in the Art Gallery.

## May 2018 Event at Purchase Free Library

### Saturday 19

**RETIREMENT INCOME PUZZLE:** "Solving the Retirement Income Puzzle" will be discussed by CPA Paul M. Petrone 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Purchase Free Library, 3093 Purchase St. Admission is free. To register, which is required, call the Reference Desk at 914-948-0550 or send an e-mail to [www.pfl@wlsmail.org](mailto:www.pfl@wlsmail.org).

## May 2018 Events at Greenburgh Public Library

### Wednesday 2

**BRANCH MEETING:** The American Association of University Women will hold its May branch meeting at 6 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford. Dr. Lauren Wright author of *On Behalf of the President - Presidential Spouses and White House Communications Strategy Today* will be the guest speaker. For further information: 914-721-8200.

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## Letters

### Consignment Shop Launches Recycling Effort

#### To the Editor:

I am the proprietress of a small business in Tarrytown called Trilogy Consignment. It's a lovely place that makes me very proud. Owning a consignment shop is not only my vocation, it is a collaborative environmental effort with our ever-growing community of customers and all the consignors who keep Trilogy stocked with interesting, quality, pre-loved items. I'm writing to celebrate our customers and consignors for helping a local small business thrive by participating in what is essentially the only recycling initiative of its kind in Westchester.

Since opening, we have worked with about 800 consignors, nearly all of them living in Westchester. This means that when

customers shop at Trilogy, their money not only goes to support a small business, but also right back to people in this community. I recently learned that money spent at a local small business generates 3.5x more wealth for the local economy compared to money spent at a chain owned business. Consignment shops source their merchandise locally, working directly with people in their communities while increasing their local economic benefit.

Consignment is the kind of thing where the people who love it seek it out wherever they go. It's one of my favorite things to have someone new visit, who found us because they were specifically looking to shop secondhand. Many customers tell me

that the experience of shopping at Trilogy is something special, or that shopping usually stresses them out, but they leave Trilogy feeling better than when they walked in. I often hear customers claim that they get more compliments on their Trilogy finds than anything else they wear. I think what people notice when they give a complement is the confidence that comes with doing something enjoyable that also aligns with their values. Plus, finding that perfect something in a consignment shop is like meeting a new friend that feels like an old friend, and that's a good feeling that lasts past the first wear.

March 15th was the 4th anniversary of Trilogy opening in Tarrytown, and March 3rd marked one year in our gorgeous new

location on Main Street. These milestones have inspired me to take our recycling efforts to the next level by collaborating with a local non-profit, BEBeauty, for a recycling initiative launching this spring. We want to help make it easier to recycle clothing and make-up containers, and educate people about why it's important to think about these things. To learn more, come visit us or check our website: [consigntrilogy.com](http://consigntrilogy.com).

Nothing but good can come from us collectively making an effort to treat the land we live on with respect. So glad our river-towns had a Happy Earth Day!

Trilogy Consignment  
Heather Reid, Proprietor

### Propper Has the Right Stuff to Succeed as an Irvington School Trustee

#### To the Editor:

There are two open seats on the Irvington Board of Education, and I believe Beth Propper should be elected to one of them on May 15. In short, Beth is a skilled attorney and avid community volunteer who possesses all of the important characteristics needed to be an effective and successful board member.

Beth, her husband, and two children have lived in Irvington for 14+ years. Their son is a 2015 Irvington High School graduate who currently attends NYU, and their daughter is an Irvington Middle School 6th grader. Beth's broad Irvington school district experience includes being an involved parent at all grade levels through the Irvington PTSA, particularly as Vice President of Legislation and Co-Chair of the Strategic Legislative Advisory, Spring Luncheon, and Winter Festival committees. She is also current Sixth Grade Parent for the PTSA.

In addition to the schools, Beth has actively engaged in volunteering for the Ir-

vington Diversity Foundation (IDF), the Irvington Recreation and Parks Department, Irvington Activists, the Irvington Education Foundation (IEF), Clocktower Players, Indivisible Westchester, Irvington Fundraising and Community Events (FACE), the Irvington About Safe Kids Coalition (iASK), and the Rivertowns UJA.

Professionally, Beth is an attorney who has focused on public interest work as a prosecutor in Brooklyn, and has provided pro bono assistance to the Pace Women's Justice Center. As a former Board of Education President and Trustee, I wholeheartedly support Beth's candidacy. She is experienced, qualified and fully prepared to help lead our schools through responsible financing, prudent policy-making, and astute guidance for the Superintendent. Beth is exactly the kind of insightful and open-minded leader we need on the Irvington School Board.

Sincerely,  
Tanya Hunt

### Hanna Should Be Re-elected to Irvington Board of Education

#### To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Michael Hanna's candidacy for one of the open trustee positions on the Irvington School Board. Michael will be seeking voter approval for a second term on May 15.

As a former Board member myself, and one that served with him for two years, I am in an excellent position to offer this unqualified endorsement.

Michael embodies the most important characteristics of an excellent Board member: he is open-minded and always willing to learn; he knows how to compromise when it is required; he believes in the power of the Board as a whole, not just one Board member; and he believes that a Board is most effective when a Board stays focused on its priorities. In addition, Michael is patient, thoughtful and an excellent communicator.

It's no surprise then, that Michael's tenure on the Board coincided with an especially productive period. He was instrumental in leading the completion of Irvington's Strategic Plan, 2014 capital bond projects and launching Irvington's first comprehensive School District Survey. During his tenure, the Board also expanded student learning opportunities in STEM, clubs, athletics and the arts while keeping tax increases to under 1.5%. Lastly, while serving with me on the Communications Committee, Michael was

a driving force for improving district communications via email, Facebook and the District's new website, which will launch over the summer.

This past year, Michael took on the additional responsibility as Board President of a newly expanded seven-member board, where he implemented governance best practices, improved new Board member training and communication, and focused on making the Board meetings more effective.

Michael's family - his wife, Beth, and twin daughters, Ruby and Kate - moved to Irvington about 6 years ago, which in Irvington terms makes them relative newcomers. But Michael's gregarious and inclusive style and his love for all things Irvington has made him a fixture among Irvington community projects, including the Historical Society, the AsIFF film festival, the Half Moon Co-op Board, and FACE community fundraising activities. Michael is generous with his time when it means that he can help others. And helping others is exactly what Michael loves to do.

Please vote for Michael on May 15th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Main Street School.

Sincerely,  
Philip Whitney

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### Propper has Passion and Skills to Serve Irvington Schools Well

#### To the Editor:

We want to give our most enthusiastic endorsement for Beth Propper in the May 15 Irvington School Board election. We have known Beth for almost 10 years. She is a dedicated and passionate advocate for the needs of all students and educators in the public schools, and has been an indispensable resource as we navigate the Irvington school system with our children. As a leader of the PTSA Legislative Strategic Advisory committee, Beth stays abreast of developments in educational policy and state mandates that impact our school budget. She excels at bringing together members of the

community by spearheading efforts that connect village and school district events. She has always supported her fellow Irvington residents' efforts to improve the village through administrative policy and grass roots environmental activism. We urge everyone to vote for Beth on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 (at Main Street School, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.) so we can all be lucky enough to bring Beth's high ethical standards, her passion and her dedication to the Irvington school board.

Cheryl and David Brandwein  
Irvington

## Youth Voices are Powerful in Gun Violence Debate

### To the Editor:

Thank you to the Irvington and Tarrytown high school students who spoke out in a letter to me regarding gun violence recently published in *The Hudson Independent*. And thank you to the Irvington student, one of the authors of the letter, who accepted my invitation to join other students and me at a March 27th roundtable discussion on this national crisis that must be addressed.

I wholeheartedly agree with you about the need to listen to our youth. Since young voices have risen up in the wake of the Parkland shooting, I sense a real difference in Washington. The baby steps we've seen on the legislative and regulatory fronts

are actually big signals about the power of young people right now, and I will do everything in my power to support your calls for action in Congress and to keep the momentum you have created alive.

While we haven't been able to achieve all the meaningful reforms we need and would like to have passed, let me assure you that for me and many of my colleagues in Congress, your concerns about gun violence, your safety, and your future are absolutely a priority. And while the NRA continues to dictate how too many candidates conduct their campaigns and how too many elected officials vote, I'm proud to have received an F on their report card, a grade I hope none of our bright students takes

home from our great local high schools.

I'll continue to hold discussions with students, to attend marches and rallies, to speak on the floor of the House, to put forward legislation to end gun violence, and to vote my conscience on this issue that is as important as any other to the health and security of the American public. Most of all, I'll tell my colleagues to listen to our children. Theirs are the most powerful voices in this debate, and it's their turn to guide the conversation.

*Congresswoman Nita Lowey  
(D-NY17/Rockland-Westchester)*

## Just For Laughs

We're going to try something new at *The Indy*: a comic strip. After all, don't all good newspapers run comic strips? This one's called *The New 60s* and it's nominally about folks once described as Baby Boomers, but we think the humor it conveys touches all generations, directly or indirectly. See for yourself.

The creators of this strip, which will run each month here on this page, are a couple of former ad guys—creative types. Andy Landorf and John Colquhoun (pronounced kol-hoon), Andy from Irvington, John from Bronxville. Andy was a copywriter, with credits on commercials for Dawn, Celebex, Dr. Pepper and Jell-O (not all together), among others. John is an illustrator and art director with clients like Little Caesars, Outback Steakhouse and U.S. Bank. It was Andy who first came up with this idea. At first, they toiled away at each other's apartments, coming up with "embarrassing, funny and embarrassingly funny stories about guys in their 60's and the people who love and/or tolerate them." Next, they developed an amusing cast of characters, read old "Calvin and Hobbes" strips, thought up and shot down tons of other ideas and filled sketchbooks with drawings until finally, they had to admit - "this thing might actually work."

We agreed, and we hope you do too.

## The New 60



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