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# The Hudson Independent

November 2018

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

Vol. XIII No. 11

## Tarrytown Residents Triumph as MTA Agrees to Move Cell Tower

by Alexander Roberts

The end came in a dramatic statement shortly before 10 pm, on the eve of the monthly board meeting of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The agency that had hastily erected a 150-foot monopole adjacent to the Franklin Courts public housing complex in Tarrytown announced it would take it down by March 2019.

“The MTA has committed to removing the monopole from the Tarrytown Train Station site and relocating its essential law enforcement communications equipment. We have worked with our partners at the Thruway and the State Police to identify alternate sites, and we are confident we will be able to find one that can be activated by March. That means we do not expect to put the Tarrytown Train Station tower into service and will be able to dismantle it,” said Aaron Donovan, MTA Media Relations.

The MTA Police said the tower, which

appeared on Saturday, September 15, was critical to its system-wide plan to enhance emergency communications. With its late-night statement, the authority hoped to blunt a furor that had united the Tarrytown community.

In exercising its prerogative as a state agency to bypass local zoning, the Authority sited the monopole just 30 feet from the Franklin Courts playground. This would have been illegal under village land use regulations because it lies in a radius where collapse could endanger children in the playground and more than a dozen homes.

### Standing Room Only

At a public meeting on the issue organized by David McKay Wilson, Tax Watch Columnist for *The Journal News*, there was standing room only at Village Hall. Speaker after speaker denounced the MTA for bypassing the normal zoning process, placing

*Continued on page 2*



Relocation alternative? A monopole already exists at the NY State Police barracks under construction on Paulding Avenue near the Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge.

—Photo by Alexander Roberts

## Tarrytown Takes Action to Acquire Citibank Parking Spaces

by Robert Kimmel

Almost three years have gone by since Citibank abandoned its branch at 1 South Broadway in Tarrytown and ended the village’s leased use of 21 spaces for public parking in the lot behind its structure. The spaces have remained idle since January 2016. A large “For Sale” sign is displayed on the building. However, the parking spaces may not remain unused much longer.

Within several months of Citibank’s leaving the property, Tarrytown sought to acquire the unused parking spaces by eminent domain, the law which permits a government to procure private land for public use under certain conditions following a condemnation procedure.

Citibank challenged the village’s pursuit with a legal petition claiming that Tarrytown’s needs were greater and that alternate sites would better serve the business district parking problems; therefore, eminent domain acquisition of its 21 parking spaces was not a legal solution for the village.

That challenge was dismissed by the Appellate Division of New York’s Supreme Court in April 2017, when it ruled Citibank’s petition provided no reasons to prevent the village from moving ahead with actions to “acquire a portion of owner’s property for public parking.” It further stated that “the determination to condemn a portion of the petitioner’s property is rationally related to the stated public purpose and there is no basis on which to disturb it.”

Tarrytown had straightforwardly established its need for the spaces in two public hearings before the Board of Trustees in 2016. During those hearings, the Greater Sleepy Hollow Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce, the Tarrytown Merchants Association, the village’s Chief of Police and members of the public asserted the need for more business district public parking. It has also been pointed out that there are 15 remaining spots for use by whatever business that may occupy the structure in the future.

*Continued on page 19*

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### A Site to Behold:

The Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge illuminates in the moonlight during a recent evening in Tarrytown.

Photographer: Pierre Belarge

# Tower

Continued from page 1

low-income tenants in Tarrytown's only public housing at risk and despoiling views of the Hudson River.

"It's an outrage," said New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, "when you can wake up and find something like this in your backyard adjacent to a playground and outside someone's window."

Cousins joined Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, Tarrytown Mayor Drew Fixell, and resident Dan Hanover on a panel moderated by Wilson. The MTA declined to send a representative.

Abinanti said the tower, "looks like a big finger sticking up in the air."

## Tower labeled "monstrosity"

But the drama of the night came from citizens stirred to action by an effort led by long-time residents Dan and Nancy Hanover, who started a petition against the monopole that garnered 300 signatures on Change.org.

"We saw this monstrosity on our front porch and we were told there was nothing

we could do about it," the Hanovers stated.

Charles Dickens, a retired teacher living at Franklin Towers, offered to organize residents of public housing.

"They picked that spot because they figured that low income people wouldn't complain because they're too busy with day to day living," Dickens said.

Fixell accepted criticism from several residents who said he should have done more to oppose the cell tower when it was proposed in 2015. The mayor said the village did in fact commence a complaint before the Federal Communications Commission that year, charging violation of the National Historic Preservation Act because of the tower's impact on the "viewshed" of the historic Tarrytown Train Station. The FCC denied the complaint in March of this year, clearing the way for construction.

"We can't go back in time," said Fixell, "but we can move forward."

## Village Proposes Alternative Sites

The village subsequently provided the MTA with four alternative sites that would reduce the visual impact and not threaten local homes.

The sites offered include the new New

York State Police barracks on Paulding Avenue, which will have its own array of antennas, the Tarrytown water tank in the southern part of the village, a parking lot owned by the village along Green Street near Losee Field, and the tourist building at the end of the shared use path for the Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge. If sited on village land, the mayor said there's a chance it could share in revenues for rental space on the tower of-

fered by the MTA to private cellular service companies.

An MTA source told *The Hudson Independent* that selection of one of those sites was "highly likely."

"We will not be satisfied with just shifting this into someone else's backyard," said resident Haydee McCarthy said. "We will not be going away until our homes and our children are protected."

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**Christopher Borsari**  
Superintendent of Tarrytown Schools

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**Aubrey Hawes**  
Board Chair, Kendal on Hudson

"We truly appreciate *The Hudson Independent's* focus on community activities, both large and small, and have seen positive results from this coverage."

**Jennifer Green** - President, Kids' Club of Tarrytown & Sleepy Hollow, Inc.

"The importance of local newspapers cannot be overstated, and *The Hudson Independent* serves our communities with outstanding coverage."

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Photo Courtesy of Richard Getler

# Residential Construction Begins at Edge-on-Hudson Development

by Robert Kimmel

Construction of the first of 1,177 housing units in the Edge-on-Hudson project in Sleepy Hollow, a collection of luxury brownstones, is underway. Infrastructure work on Phase Two of the 70-acre mixed-use development has also begun, following two years of similar work focused mainly on the initial phase. In addition to a variety of housing, the former GM site along the riverfront will also see a 140-room boutique hotel, retail and office space.

The brownstones are being constructed by Toll Brothers, which signed an agree-

ment with the developers, SunCal and Diversified Realty Advisors, to buy and build out the lots in Phase One. It is expected that as many as 306 units of housing will be built by Toll Brothers in Phase One, including 40 affordable senior units and 21 affordable housing units.

Among luxury lofts being built, there will be 46 condo flats with one, two, and three bedroom units, ranging from 800 to 1,800 square feet, ac-



Rendering of luxury brownstones at Edge-on-Hudson.

ording to Toll Brothers. Within the Brownstone Collection, three and four-story townhomes, with large rooftop terraces, will be available. Townhouses with up to 2,900 square feet are also planned. A new sales gallery situated on site will begin to offer homes to prospective buyers.

Sixteen acres of parkland, with what is described by the developers as “a winding

promenade along the water linking to the existing RiverWalk to the south and Kingsland Point Park to the north,” will offer a recreational setting within the \$1 billion development.

Edge-on-Hudson’s acreage had the distinction of being the largest undeveloped expanse of land along the Hudson River waterfront before work began. It is expected to increase Sleepy Hollow’s population by almost a third and contribute significantly to the village’s economic development.

Sleepy Hollow Mayor Ken Wray has described the development as a “once-in-a-100-year opportunity for the village, and we’re confident the development will benefit Sleepy Hollow and surrounding communities for years to come.”

## Irvington Passes Law to Allow Bed-and-Breakfasts

by Barrett Seaman

Fulfilling one of the items from their recently updated Comprehensive Plan, Irvington trustees last month passed a law allowing bed-and-breakfasts to operate in the village going forward—albeit with restrictions.

Homeowners may convert all or part of a single-family residence to a B&B “for overnight accommodation to transient paying guests to whom a morning meal may be served.” They will be limited, however, to buildings fronting either Broadway or Main Street; their “outward appearance shall be that of a one-family dwelling, and

there shall be no indication of the bed-and-breakfast establishment from the exterior of the building”—except for a freestanding, indirectly lit four-by-four sign in front.

There can be no more than five guest rooms, and the length of a guest’s stay may not exceed 15 days. There must be off-street parking available for guests but suitably screened. The village will issue permits, and proprietors (who must live in or adjacent to the B&B) must comply with all state laws and inspection requirements.

Licensing B&Bs is one of several ways Irvington is attempting to alleviate the financial pressures stemming from rising property taxes. The village already permits

homeowners to rent out single bedrooms to students and other transients for longer periods of time. A proposal to allow historic homes to be rented out for events ran into community resistance last summer, and a proposal to allow Airbnbs remains on the table.

Tarrytown currently permits bed-and-breakfasts in its Historic Commons District between South Broadway and the Hudson, but a check of travel web sites turns up no B&Bs in town at present. Sleepy Hollow’s code is silent on the issue, said Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio. “If someone wants to apply for one, we’ll have to deal with it then,” he said.



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# Federal, State Candidates on Nov. 6 Election Ballot

by Rick Pezzullo

While the villages of Tarrytown and Irvington have uncontested Board of Trustee races on November 6, there are several federal and state contests on the ballot which should help get voters out to the polls.

## U.S. Congress District 17

Democratic Incumbent Nita Lowey is seeking a 16th two-year term in a district that stretches from Peekskill to Rye. Looking to unseat Lowey is Republican Joseph Ciardullo, a resident of New City who has never held elected office.

Lowey, who resides in Harrison, first joined the United States House of Representatives in 1989. As the first woman to serve as Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Lowey has been a national proponent for strengthening the economy and creating jobs, improving math and science education for children, providing quality, affordable health care, promoting biomedical research, safeguarding a woman's right to choose and access to contraception, achieving independence from foreign oil, and protecting the environment.

Ciardullo has worked for IBM for the last 28 years in the information technology field and supports term limits.

"I am running as your Average Joe who wants to make a difference for his children and yours by cleaning up Washington. It's time we average Americans have a voice in Washington," Ciardullo stated on his campaign website.

## New York State Governor

Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo is running for a third four-year term in a position that carries an annual salary of \$179,000.

Cuomo, who lives in Mount Kisco, is the state's 56th governor. He previously served as an assistant district attorney, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary under President Bill Clinton and Attorney General of New York.

As governor, Cuomo has pointed to such accomplishments as championing marriage equality, the most comprehensive paid fam-

ily leave policy in the nation, a \$15 minimum wage, free college tuition for New York's middle class, a ban on fracking and the nation's strongest gun safety laws.

Five longshot candidates opposing Cuomo are Marc Molinaro (Republican), Larry Sharpe (Libertarian), Howie Hawkins (Green), Stephanie Miner (Serve America) and Joel Giambra.

## New York Senate District 40

Incumbent Republican State Senator Terrence Murphy (Yorktown) is running for a third two-year term against Democrat Peter Harckham. The widespread 40th Senate District includes the Village of Sleepy Hollow and the Town of Mount Pleasant.

Murphy, who is a chiropractor and previously served as a town councilman in Yorktown, has focused on fighting the opioid crisis, lowering property taxes and fully funding schools. "I am proud of my record," he said.

Harckham, who currently works in the Cuomo administration and previously served as a Westchester County legislator, is looking to revitalize downtown Main Streets, hold the line on taxes and protect the environment.

"I will fight for Hudson Valley values, not Trump values," Harckham stated on his website. "As your state senator, I will defend our families, taxpayers and communities against the assault by extremists in Washington and their allies in Albany."

## New York Senate District 35

Incumbent Democratic State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins is running unopposed for a seventh two-year term representing the 35th District, which includes the towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant. She was elected to serve as Leader of the Senate Democratic Conference in December 2012. She resides in Yonkers.

## New York State Assembly District 92

Incumbent Democratic State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti is running unopposed for a fourth two-year term representing the 92nd District, which includes the towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant. Abinanti resides in Mount Pleasant.



Candidates: Paul Rinaldi, Karen G. Brown and Robert Hoyt.

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# Army Corps Updates Plan for Hudson River Storm Surge Barriers

by Charlene Weigel

The Army Corps of Engineers is in the midst of a quiet feasibility study with immense implications for rivertowns residents. Congress asked the Corps for a solution to protect regional coasts from storm surge. The Corps proposed six alternatives that could have enormous impact on commercial shippers, recreational boaters, and the ecology and economy of the Hudson River and Atlantic coastlines. The Corps initially planned to close the comment period on August 20 and narrow six options to two with little outreach to 16 million affected

coastal residents. The Corps has changed its process after outcry from environmental groups, elected officials and, increasingly, area residents.

Four of the six proposed options involve in-water gates, barriers and levees. Alternative Two, for example, is a five-mile barrier stretching from Sandy Hook, New Jersey to Breezy Point, New York that could cost more than \$50 billion to build and billions to maintain, much of which would likely be funded by state and local taxpayers. Congress' narrow charge to the Corps means that no alternatives were designed to protect from the annual 2+ millimeter rise in sea

level that is already occurring and will also destroy homes and property. No environmental impact studies were done to inform public comment of the narrowing process.

After pressure from County Executive George Latimer, the County Board of Legislators, New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Riverkeeper and other environmental groups and elected officials, the Corps added two Westchester public information sessions on October 3. At these sessions, the Corps announced a modified process including a draft interim report scheduled for early 2019, followed by a "draft feasibility report" in Spring 2020 to narrow the options. The plan for public outreach and comment between these reports is unclear.

Attendees at the October 3rd meeting raised many questions. How often would the gates be closed? What will happen to communities "outside the wall?" Since the Atlantic sturgeon fishery in the Hudson is already closed, will there be any impact studies on this endangered, pre-historic species? How will in-water barriers impact concentration of pollution and environmental spills in the Hudson? Given rising sea level, how will authorities handle slippery slope pressure to close barriers during extremely high tides? There were no answers to these and many more questions that will arise in a project of this magnitude.

County Executive Latimer described the

project as "a major public policy issue that must be driven through every one of our communities." He asked that the Corps take into account the existing and planned infrastructure and shoreline resilience projects underway in many local communities, and that any project of this magnitude also protect residents from rising sea level. The Villages of Irvington and Tarrytown are among 17 Hudson Valley communities that have passed resolutions requesting increased study, communication and public involvement. These resolutions, calls from elected officials and environmental groups, and an increasingly informed public have changed the course of the Corps project.

Long before an era of climate change, storm surge and rising sea level, Mahican Native Americans had a name for the Hudson River. They called it Muhheahkkunnuck, the "River that Flows Both Ways." The Mahicans recognized the unique nature of the Hudson estuary where the tidal flow can be observed for over 150 miles up to Troy, New York. Four of the six proposed options will have a potentially existential impact on the Hudson's tidal flow while not addressing rising sea level. Rivertowns residents have a chance to voice their opinions about the impact of this project on the Hudson River and their lives. To record a comment before November 5th, visit <https://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/river-ecology/storm-surge-barriers/>.



Assembled are the volunteer members of the Pocantico Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, of North Tarrytown, preparing for an October parade in 1912.

Photo credit: Courtesy of the Historical Society serving Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow



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# County's Shared Services Campaign Unlikely to Yield Significant Savings in Rivertowns

by Barrett Seaman

With ambitious spending plans, an expensive recent union contract agreement and an electorate living with the highest property taxes in the country, Westchester County Executive George Latimer is highly motivated to find savings wherever he can. Given his priorities, his best hope is the Updated Shared Services and Taxpayer Savings Plan, a campaign to save money by sharing or consolidating services and eliminating duplication at every level of government in the county.

The program, which is encouraged by a state pledge to match documented savings, was available to Latimer's predecessor, Rob Astorino. But Astorino managed to find only \$2.3 million in savings. A preliminary study by the new administration concluded that the county's 45 local governmental entities had the potential to reduce overall spending by \$27 million, a number that, if documented, would bring a matching amount from Albany.

Last month, in a unanimous vote, municipal leaders from across the county voted to approve the plan and go to work finding ways to save. Officials in the villages of Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown and Irvington all endorse the concept, but inter-

views with village administrators indicate that the rivertowns have relatively modest aspirations when it comes to cutting costs through sharing.

Examples cited by the county study included joint purchases of goods and services like road salt, IT support and insurance. Expensive equipment such as wood chippers or street sweepers could be shared. Larger savings could be achieved if municipalities were to merge police, fire or public works departments. Mt. Kisco ceded its policing to the county in 2015, resulting in a \$2.4 million savings that year. Port Chester and Larchmont have since agreed to share library services.

Part of the reason for lower expectation in the rivertowns is that the villages are already sharing services. Tarrytown Village Administrator Rich Slingerland noted that his village already participates in a consortium to purchase diesel fuel for municipal vehicles and road salt. Sleepy Hollow Administrator Anthony Giaccio pointed to an existing arrangement among seven villages to share a "pothole killer" vehicle that cleans out potholes, lays down an adhesive and finishes the job with an aggregate that is more durable than the tar-based concoction traditionally used. "We have a Village Officials Committee with Tarrytown,

**"A preliminary study by the new administration concluded that the county's 45 local governmental entities had the potential to reduce overall spending by \$27 million, a number that, if documented, would bring a matching amount from Albany."**

Sleepy Hollow and Ardsley that regularly reviews proposals for sharing," he added. "We've been doing this for many years."

Slingerland cited an existing arrangement whereby his village shares water treatment plants with Sleepy Hollow and Briarcliff. "If we go to one plant instead of three," he said, "over time we can reduce capital costs."

One of the areas cited for potential savings was tax assessment and collection. Yet both Irvington and Tarrytown have already shifted responsibility for property assessment to the Town of Greenburgh. Officials are concerned that further consolidation of the assessment process at the county level would prove bureaucratically cumbersome.

"Some proposals had no or limited applicability while others will be quite useful," said Irvington Administrator Larry Schopfer. "The plan mostly offered proposals that center around the county (i.e., the county coordinating this or the county doing that)," he observed. "We will certainly

consider taking advantage of some of those 'County Do' proposals once they're done."

Of the categories proposed by the county, Schopfer sees promise in the creation of a "Shared Services Portal," a county website that would be a clearinghouse where villages can shop for services and equipment. Emily Saltzman, the county's Deputy Director of Operations, calls it "a combination of eBay and Airbnb."

The greatest potential savings would come from the merger of departments, like police, fire and EMT. Previous attempts to consolidate any of these have run up against community or union opposition. "Local control," noted Giaccio, "remains an obstacle."

Latimer's Shared Services initiative does not require participation by the county's school districts, though Emily Saltzman said some have volunteered to participate. School costs are the elephant in the room for Westchester homeowners, as they generate roughly two-thirds of property taxes.

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## Our Neighbors

# David Janes: Creating Community Through East/West Relationships

by Linda Viertel

In 1999, when David Janes was recruited by the non-profit, International Partnership for Service Learning in New York City, he and his wife, Patty (Vice President, Science, Math, and Art, *Scholastic Classroom Magazines*), “couldn’t find a place I really loved.” When he happened to take Exit 9, he parked on Tarrytown’s Main Street, walked up the street and said to himself, “This is where I want to live.” He went to a local realtor and rented an apartment on the spot. Now living in Rivercliff with his wife and eight-year-old son, he shuttles back and forth to Japan as the Senior Advisor for Institutional Development at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST).

His original New York City job at the International Partnership for Service Learning, a pioneer in the field of combining academic coursework and volunteer service, was recruiting college-aged students for study abroad and also for service in the community. The experience for his recruits brought into the classroom “an intimate connection between academic study and the reality of the world the students were living in,” he said. But, after two years, he missed Japan, a country he had studied in twice before: first as a summa cum laude undergraduate at Mary Washington College (where he earned a B.A. in Religion), then as a Rotary scholar at Doshisha University in Kyoto, after graduate school at the University of Hawaii (where he earned

an M.A. in Asian Religions). Janes, who is fluent in Japanese, is also a graduate of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities in Hikone, Japan and the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (where he earned an M.A. in International Affairs). After earning 3 M.A.s, he is currently a Ph.D Candidate in Sociology at The New School for Social Research.

For the next 18 years, Janes became the Director of Foundation Grants and Assistant to the President at the United States-Japan Foundation. He led the Foundation’s grant-making programs and represented the Foundation to potential and current grantees. There he also created a national recognition program for K-12 educators in the U.S. who demonstrated exemplary and innovative teaching on Japan, its language, and its culture. He helped to “expand kids’ world views, train teachers, create journalist exchanges, initiate documentary films, fund think tanks, and worked on high level security issues of concern for Japan and U.S. relations.

Looking for a way to build on his skills and help Japan in a different way, he accepted a position with OIST, a five-year-old graduate university project of the Japanese government. Janes describes Okinawa as housing 70% of the U.S. military operations in Japan (approximately 40,000

personnel), but it is one of the poorest prefectures in the country. Japan sees this new university as global in nature, creating a new future for Okinawa and Japan, an intellectual hub dealing with the world’s most pressing problems and happening in one of the most unexpected places. Faculty and students come from around the world;



David Janes

the university is completely interdisciplinary with plans to double in size in the next five years. Built into its DNA, in addition to being first-class in scientific study, the institute must help Okinawans by reaching out to the schools. Scientists teach in middle schools while sparking innovation and bringing new businesses to the city.

Some of the issues OIST is tackling are the most pressing in today’s world: how to create new energy sources, cure the Ebola virus, restore parts of the environment we have destroyed, deal with artificial intelligence and research cognitive robotics.

In addition to his position in Okinawa, Janes, along with his colleague, Pleasantville resident Stomu Miyazaki, recently launched a new project called EngageAsia, a non-profit organization whose aim is to “utilize education to facilitate understanding between and among American and Asian teachers and students with a mission of fostering peace through education.” On

the 70th anniversary of World War II’s end, his goal has strong significance. He is passionate about the potential role educators can play in building understanding in young people. To that end, his program provides high quality training for teachers who can be catalysts in breaking down walls.

Janes started his program with two teachers: a third-grade teacher from New Rochelle and a middle school art teacher from Rockland who, after intense cultural research, lived in Taiwan, visiting classrooms and art studios. During multiple workshops, they interacted with nine Taiwanese teachers with the hope of bringing Taiwanese educators to America in 2019. In the near distant future, Janes hopes to bring all of the participants to Japan to join with teachers in the Pacific Rim and create a network to learn about East/West cultures and best practices in education. It is his firm hope that, after 10 to 20 years, “the community will grow and have a ripple effect.”

Instead of dividing our cultures, Janes “wants to build trust, community, and break down barriers,” he explains. “That has been the history of my professional life.” At OIST he facilitates bringing teachers from all over the world, from different faiths, of different colors and cultures, but all coming together based on a professional commitment to science. “EngageAsia,” he says, “brings teachers together to become friends, develop community, cultivate empathy and pass these common human capacities on to their students.”

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## Unsung Heroes

# Sleepy Hollow High Student Proud to Salute Veterans

by Tom Pedulla

Cameron Allan, a senior at Sleepy Hollow High School, is a young man of action.

When he attended a Memorial Day ceremony at Patriots Park four years ago and a taped version of *Taps* malfunctioned, he took steps to ensure that those who made the ultimate sacrifice would be properly saluted in the future.

The teenager started a Facebook group that featured a video of him playing *Taps*. He challenged others to play the stirring tribute to the nation's fallen heroes as a way of calling attention to the shortage of those who have the time and ability to perform at patriotic functions and funerals for those who served in the military.

"It's only because of them we have the freedoms we do have," Allan said of veterans. "Nothing can be enjoyed without remembering what they have done."

Micah Sprague, performing arts chairperson for Tarrytown's public schools, was among those who responded to the Facebook challenge. He had experienced the shortage of *Taps* players first-hand. When his grandfather, Walter, was buried, Sprague assumed a trumpet player would be dispatched to the cemetery to hail the



Cameron Allan performed *Taps* at a recent veterans ceremony.

World War II veteran and left his instrument at home. Sprague comes from a family of musicians, all of whom made the same assumption. Instead, a recording was sent.

"We should have live music at all military-based ceremonies," Sprague said.

"With Cameron's Facebook group, it created a clearinghouse for many people to know who to reach out to in order to get *Taps* played at a certain event."

Allan, 17, perhaps expresses an uncommon appreciation for military service for someone his age.

"It's really upsetting when someone who absolutely deserves a live *Taps* player doesn't get that," he said. "I'm happy to play at any ceremonies, funerals." He has become a fixture at local gatherings marking Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.

Allan recently volunteered to join the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. He also gives his time to the Tarrytown Fire Department, Ladder 37. All of this while he said he maintains a 4.0 grade-point average.

"He just works so hard and is so dedicated to everything he does," Sprague said. "His level of responsibility is far above that of the average high school student, that's for sure."

Allan is a first-generation American. His parents, Debbie and Craig, came to the United States from the United Kingdom.

He takes immense pride in his citizenship. He noted the oppressive regimes and hardships faced in many other countries and said, "I was given the opportunity to have a good education and all the different freedoms we have. I have to give back."

Allan is so intent on serving his country that he applied to the United States Military Academy, the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. His dream is to be admitted to West Point; he is nearing the end of an admission process that is demanding. He will receive a decision early next year. He is so determined that he said he would re-apply the following year, if that should become necessary.

He embraces the military service that would be required. "I've been realistic about it. I know that is an aspect of attending a service academy," he said. "I've completely accepted that. I'm ready for that."

*The Hudson Independent* presents "Unsung Heroes," a series of articles profiling those who provide extraordinary service to the communities in the readership area. If you wish to suggest someone for this feature, please email us at [editor@thehudsonindependent.com](mailto:editor@thehudsonindependent.com) with a brief description of that person's background.

 An advertisement for "Edge-on-Hudson" real estate. The background is a photograph of a young man and woman walking along a waterfront promenade at sunset. The man is holding a camera. In the background, there is a body of water and a lighthouse. The text is overlaid on the image.
 

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# State, Federal \$300 K Grants Announced for Shames JCC Security

by Neal Rentz

The Shames Jewish Community Center (JCC) on the Hudson in Tarrytown has undergone a major renovation and is becoming increasingly popular with a substantially growing membership now at 5,000.

The increasing popularity of the JCC means there are more people to protect.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey and State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins visited the JCC on October 14 to discuss the \$150,000 in grants they each helped to provide to the Center for security enhancement programs and how the federal and state governments are working to protect non-profit agencies

"We have always been a place that took many things seriously," said Rabbi Andrew Ergas, executive director of the Shames JCC on the Hudson. "This is a place that takes everyone's safety and security very, very seriously."

"Our profile is higher than it has been in the past," Ergas said, adding that Shames has become one of the largest JCCs in the New York area. "That means more people can see us. And so, we've also had to up our game in terms of insuring a high level of safety and security."

Stewart-Cousins, the leader of the State Senate Democratic Conference, said the state Senate, Assembly and Governor Andrew Cuomo understood the increasing



(L-R:) Susan Tolchin, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, donor Harold Shames, Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Rabbi Andrew Ergas. (photo by Sunny Maclean)

need for security for facilities such as the Shames JCC. "There has been such a tremendous uptick in a lot of hate crime activities and certainly in anti-Semitic activity" in the New York area, Stewart-Cousins said.

"Security is clearly a need in this environment," Stewart-Cousins added.

Ergas thanked Lowey for helping to secure a \$150,000 grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security for the JCC.

Lowey said there is a need to be vigilant in preventing acts of violence, particularly in the New York area. "As New Yorkers, we know that threats of terrorism and hate are real," she said.

"Our communities must have the re-

sources to protect our families and neighbors from hate and violence," Lowey said.

Evan Pressman, chair of the Shames JCC Security Task Force, said the Center has taken several steps to enhance security at the facility based on the committee's rec-

ommendations. Many of the members of the volunteer task force, formed in 2017, have extensive backgrounds in security and law enforcement, Pressman said.

Security "is an ongoing process," Pressman said. "Because the nature of threats change, responses have to adapt and technology evolves."

The JCC has hired the security company, Global Operations, to help create a security plan, Pressman said.

Some of the security measures already taken at the JCC include the construction of barriers at the entrance to prevent a vehicle to be driven intentionally or accidentally to hit the building; the hardening of all interior doors; access controls were installed at all three entrances; security training has been provided for employees, and there has been an enhancement of the relationship between the JCC and the Tarrytown Police Department, Pressman said.

## Two Men Indicted for Mail Theft in Tarrytown

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. announced that Sean Dash, 21, and Jade Williams, 19, both of the Bronx, were arraigned October 4 on a 32-count indictment in connection with mail theft in Tarrytown.

Each man was charged with Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, both Class D felonies, along with the following misdemeanor charges: 14 counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property In The Fifth Degree, 13 counts of Petit Larceny and one count of Attempted Petit Larceny

The indictment alleges on May 18, at approximately 2:35 a.m., Tarrytown Police observed a man acting suspiciously in front of a mailbox located just blocks from the Post Office. A second man was in a vehicle acting as a lookout. On investigation, police found a "garbage bag" full of assorted mail and a mailbox key in their car. The garbage bag contained 14 separate victims' mail which had been stolen from a second mailbox located directly in front of the Post Office. One victim was the Village of Tarrytown School District, which had \$44,380.91 worth of checks in the mail. The two were arrested by Tarrytown Police.

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Tarrytown	Medical office building	5	\$245,000
Ardsley	Shopping center	5	\$400,000
New Rochelle	Marina	8	\$500,000
Hastings on Hudson	Restaurant	5	\$300,000
Yonkers	530 unit cooperative	5	\$2,300,000

I analyzed all types of properties and prepared reports for the Department of Law, City of Yonkers for 29 years. I have also prepared analyses for the Town of Greenburgh, the City of White Plains, and other Westchester municipalities. I have extensive experience on both sides of the appeal process having been the consulting assessor for several Westchester municipalities.

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# Viewfinder

- 1. Billy, Heather, Keira and Mollie Logan made a scarecrow in Tarrytown.
- 2. Chick Galella and Sleepy Hollow Police Officer Wendy Yancey enjoyed a dance at Immaculate Conception Feast Bazaar.
- 3. Phelps President and CEO Daniel Blum conducted a recent tour of new improvements at the hospital.
- 4. Annual Sleepy Hollow Street Fair filled the streets with visitors.

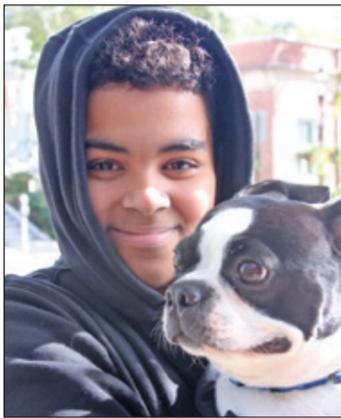
— Photos by: Sunny Maclean



## Inquiring Photographer

by Alexa Brandenburg

## “What are You Most Thankful for This Year?”



**Eli Dessesow and Hudson**  
Tarrytown

“My family.”



**Racheuri Ferreras**  
Tarrytown

“I’m thankful for being alive and for all the people around me.”



**Brandon**  
Sleepy Hollow

“So many things, but the number one is always family.”



**Karen Savage**  
Tarrytown

“Another healthy year of life for myself, my children, and my grandchildren.”



**Jim Desimone**  
Tarrytown

“I’m thankful for living in this town.”

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## Watercooler

# Heard Around the Watercooler

by Rick Pezullo

### Sleepy Hollow is Spooktacular

VacationRenter rated the Village of Sleepy Hollow #2 on its list of the 10 spookiest cities to visit in the United States. It wrote, "Should you step foot in Sleepy Hollow, it would be wise to watch your head." The historical village in New York's Hudson Valley was inspiration to Washington Irving's classic tale, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and home of the legendary Headless Horseman. Visitors looking for a Halloween spook should venture to the town's haunted, 18th century Philipsburg Manor, which is transformed into a terrifying site of vampires, zombies, witches, ghosts and overall evil every Halloween. Travelers can also take a stroll through the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Just beware – you may see an apparition of the Headless Horseman himself.



### Irvington Seniors Honored

Irvington High School seniors Bailey Levin (left) and Daniel Hart (right) were the first recipients of the Student Recognition Award by iASK (Irvington About Safe



### Boot Camp to Benefit Cancer Patients

You can beat yourself up any time at Joseph Frisenda's PUSH personal training studio in Irvington's Trent Building, but on November 18th, you can do more than expand your biceps or shrink your waist line; you can go through a Boot Camp regimen for a good cause. For a \$20 fee, Frisenda will subject you to the traditional boot camp-style exercise routine—weights, battle ropes, medicine ball work. For those with physical limitations, he will modify the workout. Classes will be at 9:30 and 11 a.m. All proceeds will go to the Sparrows' Nest, a Wappinger Falls-based charity that since 2012 has been providing two free meals a week to the families and caregivers of cancer patients. Since then, the organization has geographically expanded its operations and has plans to start providing meals for families in Westchester.

Kids), a community organization striving to educate the village's youth about alcohol and drug awareness and prevention. With them were iASK chairs Tanya Hunt and Allyson Felix, as well as Mayor Brian Smith.

### 2018 Y Masquerade Ball A Success

The 2018 Family YMCA at Tarrytown Masquerade Ball raised \$134,000. The event was sponsored by Phelps Hospital, Abbott & Price and PSB and honored Phelps Hospital and its President and CEO Daniel J. Blum with the Laurance S. Rockefeller Award.

### High School Twins Hold Fundraiser

Twins Isabella and Alexandra Block, who are seniors and varsity swimmers at Ardsley High School, created the idea for a swim-a-thon to help Nursing Beyond Borders, a non-profit organization that sends nurses to some of the most impoverished communities and orphanages around the world. By enlisting the help of nine of their teammates, they had set a goal of completing 1,000 laps and raising \$1,000. On October 7, the twins exceeded their goal by raising \$1,435 for the charity and completing 1,066 laps.



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# Community Newsletter

November/December 2018

## Hope For Diabetic Wounds That Just Won't Heal: A Multidisciplinary Approach



One of the most troublesome areas of the entire body to have an open wound is on the bottom of the foot. There are several factors that contribute to open foot wounds; however, those occurring in patients with diabetes are particularly difficult to treat.

Diabetes is a multi-faceted disease affecting many body systems. It can affect the eyes, the kidneys, blood circulation, skin strength and healing ability. It can also cause a condition called diabetic neuropathy in which damage to nerves results in the loss of normal sensation.

When diabetes affects the eyes, there are surgical procedures to improve sight. If it affects your kidneys, you can be treated with dialysis or, in some cases, a kidney transplant. If it affects circulation, there are blood thinners as well as surgical procedures that can help. However, when it affects the skin and the nerves, the results may be irreversible.

Most diabetic foot ulcers are pressure-related, and a wound on the bottom of the foot is usually exacerbated by weight bearing, shoe gear and too much pressure. An open wound or "ulcer" can occur on any body part; but on the foot there are so many pressure points, there is greater chance that the severity of the wound will be significant.

The most challenging ulcers are those in diabetics that also suffer from neuropathy and the loss of normal feeling in their feet. In fact, foot neuropathy can be the most devastating condition for someone who has diabetes. Too often, my patients with diabetes tell me that they never realized they had an open draining ulcer on the bottom of their foot until they noticed blood stains on their sock. As strange as that may sound, this happens frequently to people who lack the sensation of pain to warn them of injury.

Once a diabetic has an open ulcer on the foot, a multispecialty team approach is the best way to provide

healing treatment. The podiatrist (foot doctor) is usually the leader of the team. He or she explains the problem and develops a plan for healing. The wound will almost always require weekly cleaning (debridement) to maintain cleanliness and eliminate bacterial buildup from the area. Diagnostic testing will be done to determine the wound's severity (x-rays, CT scans or MRI). If the ulcer is infected, an infectious disease specialist will be consulted. A noninvasive ultrasound of the arteries known as an arterial doppler will be performed to check whether there is adequate blood flow to the area for healing. If there is not enough blood flow, the vascular surgeon or an interventional radiologist will do further testing in the form of an angiogram with or without angioplasty. If needed, the vascular surgeon can perform bypass surgery.

Finally, in order for the ulcer to heal, there is a crucial need to reduce pressure on the area. This can be accomplished by simple things, such as customized orthotics, a walking boot, crutches, a scooter-type walker, and in some cases complete non-weight bearing movement with the aid of crutches. Most ulcers that are non-infected, offloaded properly, and have blood flow to the area will heal. Of course, patient compliance is the most important factor and often the most difficult part of the process.



**Frank J. Lattarulo, DPM**  
Podiatrist with  
Northwell Health  
Physician Partners

## A Recipe for Mindful Eating: Tips during the Holiday Season



Autumn is upon us and you know what that means: Halloween candy, marathon Thanksgiving meals and, soon enough, one holiday party after another.

On average, Americans gain one to two pounds during the holiday season. There are steps that we can take to mentally prepare ourselves for the barrage of foods and beverages that will soon be around us. Mindfulness is about being present in the moment. When you eat mindfully, you slow down and are able to appreciate the experience of eating.

Cooks collect recipes because they know if they follow the directions, they'll end up with the intended result: a delicious meal. Often they remake those recipes, adding personalized touches to fit their particular needs. Although you may want to substitute a couple ingredients or change a few directions, please make this recipe for Mindful Eating a favorite all year long:

### Mindful Eating Recipe

**Serves:** Everyone

**Prep time:** 5-10 minutes daily

**Yield:** A peaceful mind and a healthy body

**Ingredients:**  
1 cup Attention to how you are feeling  
½ cup Willingness to make small changes  
1 Tbs Gratitude

### Directions: The 5 S's:

1. **Sit down** and unplug. Being mindful and present allows you to **slow down** to appreciate the moment.
2. Eat when you are hungry. **Savor** each bite and let your brain register that you are eating.
3. Replace old unhealthy vices with new routines that can become lasting habits.
4. Plan ahead, make a shopping list, and schedule meals to **simplify** your life. This helps to manage any food temptations. Include others in your plan to create a supportive atmosphere.
5. A **smile** goes a long way. Show gratitude by taking a moment before you eat to consider the labor required for the meal from the Earth, the farmer, and, of course, the cook.

**Submitted by: Susan Juechter, MS, RD, CDN, CNSC, Senior Clinical Dietitian**  
Phelps Hospital Northwell Health



### Nutty Wild Rice and Shredded Brussels Sprout Stuffed Mini Pumpkins

- Prep Time: 25 minutes
- Cook Time: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Servings: Makes 6-8 Mini Pumpkins

#### What you'll need:

- 1-1/4 cups uncooked wild rice
- 2-1/2 cups water
- 6-8 mini pumpkins
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3/4 pound Brussels sprouts halved and then shredded, about 2 cups
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme chopped
- 1 cup raw pecans chopped
- 1/4 apple cider
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- salt + pepper to taste
- 1 cup manchego cheese shredded (optional)

#### Instructions:

1. In a large sauce pot, bring the water to a boil, add the wild rice. Cover and cook over low heat for 35-45 minutes or until the water is gone and the rice is fluffy. Note that wild rice takes longer to cook than traditional rice. If yours still seem hard after 45 minutes, add 1/2 cup more water and cook over low heat for another 15-20 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
3. Slice the tops of your mini pumpkins and scoop out the seeds (reserve the seeds for roasting and then topping the dish if desired). Place the pumpkins on a baking sheet and rub each with a little olive oil, salt + pepper. Roast for 15-20 minutes or until the pumpkins are just tender.
4. Meanwhile, heat a large skillet over medium heat and add a drizzle of olive oil. Add the brussels sprouts in a single layer and season with salt + pepper. Let sit 1 minute then stir. Continue to cook for another 8-10 minutes, until tender and caramelized. Stir in the thyme, pecans and cider, cook another 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and add the wild rice (there should be around 3 cups of wild rice). Stir in the cranberries, and manchego cheese.
5. Arrange the pumpkins in a large baking dish and stuff each pumpkin with the wild rice mixture. If desired, sprinkle the top of each pumpkin with a little manchego cheese.
6. Place in the oven and bake for 10-20 minutes or until the pumpkins are soft and the wild rice has heated through. Serve hot!

**Michelin Star Chef Andrew Cain**  
Regional Executive Chef,  
Northwell Health

*Chef's Note: These can be assembled up to 4 days in advance and stored in the fridge until ready to bake.*

# November/December 2018 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.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS & SUPPORT GROUPS

### Better Breathers Club/ Pulmonary Fibrosis Support 2nd Tuesday of the month

A free interactive support group for people with breathing disorders or pulmonary fibrosis, sponsored by Phelps, the American Lung Association and the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. Each month's meeting features a presentation on a pertinent topic. Participants who use oxygen may switch to the hospital's supply during the meeting. Light refreshments are served.

12 noon – 1:00 pm  
Call 914-366-3712 to register

### Laughter Yoga 3rd Tuesday of the month

Free yoga practice utilizing laughter with special guided techniques to lower the level of stress hormones in the blood and oxygenate the body and brain to feel healthy and energetic.

**Dr. Vinodray Shah**  
Certified Laughter Yoga Instructor  
11:00 am – 11:45 am  
Radiation Medicine Conference Room  
1st floor of the 777 building  
Call 914-366-1661 to register

### Cancer Institute Community Day 3rd Tuesday of the month

Full day of free support groups for cancer patients and their caregivers. Drop in for a specific event or enjoy the whole day! Events include new patient orientation, chemotherapy review class, nutrition and the cancer patient, support session/special speakers. Light refreshments served.

New Patient Orientation: 12:00 – 12:45 pm  
Chemotherapy Review Class: 1:00 – 1:45 pm  
Nutrition and the Cancer Patient: 2:00 – 2:30 pm  
Support Session/Speakers: 2:45 – 4:00 pm

Radiation Medicine Conference Room  
1st floor of the 777 building  
Call 914-366-1661 for more information and to register.

### Pet Therapy, Reiki and other ongoing activities

Please call 366-1661 for more information.

## MATERNITY & BABY CARE CLASSES

### ABC's of Baby Care Tuesday's November 20, 2018 December 11, 2018

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Family Medicine Conference Room,  
4th Floor 755 Building  
Register online at [phelpshospital.org](http://phelpshospital.org). For additional information, call 914-366-3382 or email [igclasberry@northwell.edu](mailto:igclasberry@northwell.edu)  
Cost: \$50 per couple

### Prenatal Breastfeeding Class Saturday's November 3, 2018 December 1, 2018

10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Family Medicine Conference Room  
4th Floor 755 Building  
Register online at [phelpshospital.org](http://phelpshospital.org). For additional information, call 914-366-3382 or email [igclasberry@northwell.edu](mailto:igclasberry@northwell.edu)

Cost: \$50 per couple

For more information on our **Emergency Medicine** programs please visit our website [phelpshospital.org](http://phelpshospital.org)

### The Childbirth Experience/ LaMaze Method

WEEKDAYS: Wednesday evenings  
Session 5: Nov 7, 14, 21, 28  
Session 5: Dec 5, 12, 19  
7:30 pm – 10:00 pm  
Atrium

Register online at [phelpshospital.org](http://phelpshospital.org). For additional information, call 914-366-3382 or email [igclasberry@northwell.edu](mailto:igclasberry@northwell.edu)

Cost: \$150 per couple

### The Childbirth Experience/ LaMaze Method

WEEKENDS: Nov 10-11, Dec 8-9  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Atrium

Register online at [phelpshospital.org](http://phelpshospital.org). For additional information, call 914-366-3382 or email [igclasberry@northwell.edu](mailto:igclasberry@northwell.edu)

Cost: \$150 per couple

## HEALTHY LIFE CALENDAR

### Saving Lives of Cigarette Smokers Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Learn how smoking cessation and screening can save lives.  
**Dr. Avraham Merav**, Thoracic Surgeon  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Auditorium  
To RSVP please call  
Amy Ferraro at 1-914-366-3470

### Throat Symptom Review

**Monday, November 19th, 2018**  
Hoarse, Cough, Throat Clear, Post Nasal Drip and Trouble Swallowing. Review history of your throat symptoms from onset; discuss possible causes of throat issues with reflux as a potential cause; review possible treatment strategies.

8:30 am – 9:30 am  
Phelps Hospital Emergency Department

### Chronic Cough Review

**Monday, December 3rd, 2018**  
Drip, Reflux and Reflex. Review history of your chronic cough from onset; discuss possible causes of your chronic cough; review possible treatment strategies.

8:30 am – 9:30 am  
Phelps Hospital Emergency Department

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light The Night Walk

**Saturday, November 3, 2018**  
Join "Team Phelps" for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk to help the LLS make cures happen by providing patient support services, advocating for lifesaving treatments and pioneering the most promising cancer research anywhere!

5:00 pm  
Kingsland Point Park, 299 Palmer Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow, NY

Please follow <https://pages.lightthenight.org/ctwhv/Wstchstr18/TeamPhelps> to join our team.

# Phelps Hospital Community Newsletter

November/December 2018

## Vitality Calendar

### NOVEMBER

**Mind Games for Fun**  
Wednesday, November 7, 2018  
2:00 pm Board Room/"C" level

**Holistic Pain Support Program**  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
Tuesday, November 27, 2018  
12:00 pm 755 Building, 4th floor

**The Breakfast Club (Osteoarthritis)**  
Thursday, November 8, 2018  
8:30 am Phelps Cafeteria

**Osteoporosis Program (Occupational Therapy)**  
Thursday, November 8, 2018  
10:45 am Board Room/"C" level

**Alzheimer's Support Group**  
Friday, November 9, 2018  
10:00 am 55 Building, Suite 545

**Senior Steps (Swallowing Screening)**  
Tuesday, November 20, 2018  
10:00 – 11:30 am  
777 Building, Suite 303  
Appointments times are required.

### DECEMBER

**Mind Games for Fun**  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018  
2:00 pm Board Room/"C" level

**Holistic Pain Support Program**  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018  
12:00 pm 755 Building, 4th floor

**Osteoporosis Program (Dr. Hellerman)**  
Thursday, December 13, 2018  
10:45 am Board Room/"C" level

**Alzheimer's Support Group**  
Friday, December 14, 2018  
10:00 am 755 Building, Suite 545

**Senior Steps (Incontinence Screening)**  
Tuesday, December 18, 2018  
10:00 – 11:30 am  
755 Building, Suite 225

### Important Information:

Access the "C" Level through the back entrance of the hospital marked "Auditorium." Proceed down one flight.

The Holistic Pain Support Program is held in the Family Medicine Residency Conference Room.

For more information, please contact Ellen Woods at (914) 366-3937 or email [ewoods3@northwell.edu](mailto:ewoods3@northwell.edu)



Leading edge advances combined with compassion. That is how we care for you.

Phelps Medical Associates is officially changing its name to Northwell Health Physician Partners. Our expert physicians you have come to know will remain in their same convenient, state-of-the-art locations and can be easily reached using their same phone numbers. Our strong relationship with Phelps Hospital and Northwell Health will continue while expanding the services we provide to the community.

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



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## Business News

# A Nu Toy Store Marks its 10th Anniversary in Tarrytown

by Barbara Moroch

"I love toys! They make kids and adults happy, and I can't imagine a better way to spend the day than working in a store that makes people happy," said Angel Rafter, owner of A Nu Toy Store in Tarrytown. Since its opening 10 years ago this month, the store has served as a wonderland of sorts, with its giant ferris wheel window display beckoning all to step inside and experience the many playthings that make for a happy childhood.

Toys are serious business to Rafter who takes pride in offering the most unique, affordable and fun toys in the area. You'll not only find the latest from name-brand manufacturers but vintage toys as well. She and her staff will even go the extra mile for collectors to help locate rare items still in their original packaging. "I really am all about finding the right toy for each child," she said. "I spend a lot of time picking out what goes in my store and I only sell what I truly believe in — good quality toys from companies with high integrity — to enrich a child's life."

The art of play has changed dramatically over the last 10 years with the advent of technology, leading kids to spend more



Welcoming entrance to A Nu Toy Store in Tarrytown, which is owned by Angel Rafter (center), shown with her two sons.

time in front of a screen and less playtime using imagination and physical toys. As Rafter observed, "Kids now spend money on 'skins' and 'loot boxes' for their online game when in the past they would have spent that money on a toy and an ice cream cone."

Indeed, technology-based play may be all the rage, but traditional toys are timeless, as evidenced by the success of A Nu Toy Store. "Spirographs, wooden model airplanes, yoyos, Silly Putty, LEGOs — we sell them all the time," she noted. "I think no matter how fancy the technology is going to get, there will always be a part of us that



wants to get down on the floor and play, to dress up and pretend, to hug a soft stuffed animal for comfort, to build, and to create."

Looking ahead, Rafter has big plans for the future, like making the store more interactive, so that kids and their parents can play at different stations and activity centers. The store will also feature art classes, game nights, LEGO building classes and Pokemon trading days. Geppetto's Workshop will also be back featuring Fred Ellman, the toy inventor, creating new toys and games on site. For its 10th anniversary,

the store will host a day-long party featuring a balloon expert, face painting and more on Saturday, November 17.

"Toys have the power to unleash imaginations and to provide fun times and laughter. I hope we are always around to help more children experience that," said Rafter. "The last 10 years have been some of the best times of my life. This community — the parents and the children — have shown nothing but love and appreciation for my business. Thank you for remembering who I am, for remembering my kids, and for making me feel like my store makes a difference in our wonderful little town."



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## THANKSGIVING FEST 2018

Every year, Americans come together to celebrate the tradition of Thanksgiving. The EF International Language Campus in Tarrytown would like to break down the barriers of languages, culture and geography. If you would like to share your family's Thanksgiving Day tradition by inviting an EF student to experience the day with your family please contact us. EF students come from over 40 different countries, ages range from 15 years to adult.



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## PLAYING AT THE PARAMOUNT



**BOZ SCAGGS: Out of the Blues Tour**  
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**An Evening with CHRIS BOTTI**  
Dec. 1 at 8 PM



**MICHAEL MCDONALD, Season of Peace, Holiday & Hits**  
Dec. 2 at 7 PM



**LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM**  
Dec. 6 at 8 PM

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## Sports

# Hackley Junior Quarterback Excels On and Off the Gridiron

by Tom Pedulla

"Stay ready."

Reserve players in all sports constantly hear that from coaches. Easier said than done.

When players lose a competition for a starting position, staying ready becomes as much of a mental challenge as it is physical. Opportunities in practice tend to dwindle. The "stay ready" mantra of coaches begins to sound stale.

Conor McMahon, a junior at Hackley, did not allow himself to become dispirited when senior Charlie Hite won the quarterback job before the regular season. He did, indeed, stay ready, and the Hornets reaped the rewards of that after Hite broke his collarbone in a Sept. 22 loss to Rye Country Day.

"He's been one of the hardest working kids on the team since he was a freshman," said third-year coach Simon Berk. "He's always been looking for an opportunity. So, when the moment came, he was prepared."

McMahon never wished for his chance

to come that way. When he saw Hite in distress, he wanted as much as anyone for him to be able to complete his final season.

"I hoped he was going to be okay and get himself up," McMahon said. "Then I saw his pads come off."

It was suddenly up to the 6-1, 175-pound junior to show what he could do. He quickly responded by leading Hackley to consecutive road victories at Hopkins and Montclair Kimberly.

Berk knew it was asking a lot, especially at the critical quarterback position.

"I think it's incredibly difficult," the coach said of the challenge McMahon faced. "Everyone is looking at you, everyone knows who the quarterback is, and there's a lot of pressure even before you get the ball."



Conor McMahon

Berk said of the injury to Hite, "It's one of the worst parts of the game. Thankfully, we had a kid ready to take over, but we certainly miss Charlie and you always feel for a senior who can't play out the rest of his season."

Jack Kneisley, a team captain, was impressed by McMahon's response as he transitioned from linebacker to offensive leader for the Hopkins game.

"That's the hardest I've ever seen anyone work in preparation for a game," he said. "Conor stepped into the role full force. He dedicated himself completely.

He stayed after practice to work on throws. He stayed after practice to talk to coach about plays. He came in early to watch extra film. He's doing everything he can to make himself the best he can be for the season.

The guy really hopped on that train."

McMahon appreciates how much Hite helped him through a difficult situation, essentially becoming an additional coach for him. "He's been there the whole time, pushing me, telling me to get better and giving me advice," the underclassman said. "It's really awesome how he has supported me."

McMahon epitomizes the student-athlete that Hackley strives to develop. Once the football season ended, he looked forward to developing his acting skills and appearing in the school play.

"Going into a new person, a new character, is really releasing for me," he said. "It's no secret that it is a lot of work here, so it is relaxing for me to be able to meet new people and embody a new character."

He also serves as a representative on the Board of Magistrates, which works to resolve student disciplinary issues, and participates in the Hackley Leadership Club, which explores different kinds of leadership. Once spring arrives, he plays lacrosse.

"He is a model Hackley student," Berk said.

# High Energy Khan Overcomes Short Stature with Explosive Drive

by Tom Pedulla

Football, even high school football, tends to be a big man's game. Do not tell that to Awwise Khan of Dobbs Ferry.

Although he hardly strikes an imposing figure as a fullback and defensive nose guard at 5-9, 180 pounds, he found ways to compensate for his lack of stature by playing with unbridled enthusiasm and determination that energized the rest of his high-powered Class C team.

"I was always a high-energy guy," Khan said. "I'm not the type to give up."

When he took a handoff out of the Eagles' old-school wing-T formation, he sometimes appeared to be stopped at the line of scrimmage. He kept straining for more yardage, kept his legs churning and would suddenly break free. On defense, it sometimes appeared that he was successfully blocked. And then, just as suddenly, he was not.

Coach James Moran praised Khan, a mainstay as a junior and senior, for how hard he worked in the weight room during the offseason.

"He's a strong kid for his size, but he just has a motor that won't stop," Moran said. "There are plays where he is getting it handed to him pretty good. And then the guy gives up a little bit and Awwise is by you."

There were times when Yaseen Hamideh, also a senior who played center and defensive line, could only look at Khan and shake his head in disbelief at the speed with which his teammate played.

"His motor is crazy," Hamideh said. "He'll give you all he's got for 48 minutes every single game, every single snap."

Saud Maqsood, a senior defensive tackle, grew up with Khan and is his cousin. He said Khan is relentless in everything he pursues and enjoys leading by example.

"He has a fire in him," Maqsood said,

"and that motivation helps all of us."

Who would not be inspired by the sight of Khan shedding taller and heavier opponents?

"He drives back 6-4 dudes," Hamideh said. "He's small but he's quick and has great explosion."

According to Khan, that quickness keyed his success. "Nobody looks at me and says, 'Oh, he's a defensive lineman.' I don't look the part," he admitted. "But I have a quickness that other defensive linemen in the section don't have."

Khan does everything fast, beginning with the pace of his speech. The words all but flew from his mouth as he described the exhilaration he experienced by carrying 16 times for 111 yards and a touchdown against O'Neill, how exciting it was to run to daylight when he rushed 14 times for 140 yards and two scores in a 28-13 victory against Rondout Valley from Accord, N.Y.

Khan also reached double figures in tackles against O'Neill with 11 and spoke with fervor about the Eagles' goal-line stands this season. "There is nothing better," he said. "It feels so good."

There is nothing complex about his approach on defense.

"I'm a ball hawk. I just look for the ball," he said. "My first instinct when I see the ball snapped, I jack the person in front of me and go at the ball. The only thing on my mind is the ball. It's been working."

Khan helped to inspire a defense that shut out its first two Class C opponents. Woodlands was blanked 35-0. Valhalla also was unable to reach the end zone, bowing 41-0. He does not hold anything back emotionally.

"He gets very excited, a lot of stomping and clapping and he gets fired up," Moran said. "When he's excited, things are going well for us."

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# Writer Russell Shorto to Speak in Irvington on Latest Book

by Barrett Seaman

On November 9, narrative historian Russell Shorto returns to the rivertowns as the featured speaker at the Irvington Historical Society's annual meeting. The author of *Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City* and *The Island at the Center of the World*, about Manhattan, Shorto has been a favorite in the village, having spoken there twice before. His subject this time is his latest work, *Revolution Song*, a telling of the American Revolution story from the perspective of six lives that, one way or another, intersected during the second half of the 18th Century.

Each of the six is a real historical figure, and Shorto depicts each with the meticulousness of an historian and the felicity of a natural writer. The central character is George Washington, an iconic subject of numerous biographies. The other five are less obvious at first blush, but their stories reflect different facets of the American sto-

ry—indeed of the world order as it evolved in the course of the 1700s.

Only slightly less prominent than Washington at the time was George Germain, the British lord, soldier and, as secretary of state for the British colonies leading up to the Revolution, the man who directly oversaw the failed British attempt to thwart the colonial uprising.

Abraham Yates was a shoemaker in Albany who successfully remade himself as a local attorney and politician. He advised Washington during the war and served as a New York delegate to the Congress of the Confederation in Philadelphia. Shorto calls Yates the “unknown Founding Father.”

The Seneca Chief Kayethwahkeh, known to English speakers as Cornplanter, was a fearsome warrior whose Iroquois tribe chose its European allies based on a fervent desire to retain control of their own lands. As an ally of the British during the Revolution, Cornplanter ended up on the losing side and faced the consequences in post-



Russell Shorto

war meetings with General Washington.

Margaret Moncrieffe Coghlan, the headstrong daughter of a British army officer, found herself trapped inside rebel-held New York City in the shadow of Washington's headquarters. She spent the rest of her life bridling against male domination but dependent upon it as a serial mistress of various London aristocrats.

Venture Smith was born Broteer Furro in West Africa but was taken to the Americas as a slave. Avoiding the fate of deadly work in the sugar cane fields of Barbados, he ended up indentured to a series of white owners in coastal Connecticut. Smart, determined and enormously strong, he managed eventually to buy himself out of slavery and died a relatively wealthy and free man in the new American nation.

Inclusion of these last three might strike some as Shorto's attempt at politically correct inclusion, but the author makes a strong case that they bring to the story important representations of the complexities inherent in the Revolution and in the

broader global evolution of the Enlightenment as articulated by the likes of Spinoza, Locke and Burke. To find them, he “auditioned” more than 100 figures from the period. Washington was his last pick; after he was satisfied that he had sufficient breadth from more obscure characters.

With the possible exception of Venture Smith, each of the personae in Shorto's tableau had at least some personal interaction with George Washington. But each, including Washington, was also motivated by resistance to, and resentment of some form of systemic oppression: Cornplanter of the white man's usurpation of native lands; Coghlan of the paternalistic culture in which she was forced to live; Smith of slavery; Yates of the arrogance of ruling elites. Even George Germain, as the one British figure and, in Shorto's words “a perfect villain,” had reason to resent his British peers' disdain for what was deemed to be his earlier cowardice in battle against the French in the Seven Years War. And Washington himself deeply resented the refusal of the British to grant him an army commission for his service in the French and Indian War.

Shorto contends that the currents that ran through 18th century colonial America are evident in the United States of the 21st century: the resentment of elites and distrust of government as expressed by the Tea Party and Trump supporters going into the 2016 election, which then flipped from Right to Left post-election, as liberals became alarmed by Trump's autocratic style. And there are the ongoing debates over race, gender and freedom of the press. In that sense, he argues, the American Revolution has yet to end.

Shorto's Irvington Historical Society talk will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 9 at Irvington's Main Street School, 101 Main Street. Admission is free.

## Watch “INDY TALKS”



“INDY TALKS,” a monthly half-hour interview show featuring people in the news in the rivertowns. The show can be seen each Friday during the month at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 and

8:30 p.m. on Greenburgh Public Access Cable Channel, found on: Channel 75 on Optimum cable TV; Channel 34 on Fios fiber-optic television. The program can also be found on Greenburgh's public access website: <http://www.greenburghpublicaccess.com>, our website, [thehudsonindependent.com](http://thehudsonindependent.com) and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheHudsonIndependent>. You can also access previous “Indy Talks” interviews on these web sites.



► This month's interview is with Paul Gallay, President of Riverkeeper.



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# Rise, TEDx Tarrytown Presents Coalesce Speakers, Video, Art and More

Following the success of last year's TEDxTarrytown presentation, *Rise, TEDxTarrytown: Coalesce*, an evening of networking and learning, will take place on Sunday, November 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. The independently produced public event, operated under a license from TED, is organized by volunteers and is aimed at creating dialogue as well as giving speakers a forum to share their passions, ideas, and experiences.

Taking place at Education First's (EF)

Spellman Theater in Tarrytown, the event will feature a compelling line-up of speakers with the theme, "Coalesce." Speakers are: Michael Belfiore, author and journalist covering the technologies shaping our future; Ross Benes, award winning author of *Turned On: A Mind-Blowing Investigation Into How Sex Has Shaped Our World*; Danielle Butin, MPH, OTR, Founder and Executive Director of the Afya Foundation; Melissa Denizard, activist, filmmaker and blogger through the scope of social

justice; Deborah Heiser, Ph.D., Applied Developmental Psychologist and researcher; Joe Hirsch, award-winning educator and instructional leader; Michelle Lewis, self-made entrepreneur, podcast host and bestselling author; Bob McKinnon, author, social entrepreneur and adjunct professor at the Parsons School of Design Strategies; Daniel O'Connor, media specialist who is on a quest to transform our media; and Hector Santiago, local activist, mentor, motivational speaker and urban

**"Every TEDx event is a new experience for the organizers and the audience. We gather together as a community to hear speakers give a passionate talk on their "idea worth spreading."**

program developer.

The event will feature videos from TED.com and a live musical performance by Orit Dahari accompanied by Jeff Brown. It will also have a POP Up Gallery featuring artists that are rivertowns based.

"Every TEDx event is a new experience for the organizers and the audience. We gather together as a community to hear speakers give a passionate talk on their 'idea worth spreading.' This may be a brand new idea or an idea given new life through the speakers' eyes," said Kimberly Marcus, TEDxTarrytown license holder. "Our main focus is to engage our audience with the hope that they will then share the ideas and the TEDx experience in the greater community."

The talks will be recorded and available later on the TEDx YouTube channel. For more information about the event, go to: TEDxTarrytown.com.

## Parking Spaces

Continued from page 1

The hearings also supported two studies by traffic engineers: the first in 1998, and one in 2005 that described the available parking in the business district as having "significant deficiencies." It has also been noted that vehicular traffic and parking requirements will be heightened by the development of more than 1,100 residences within the Edge-on-Hudson development on the nearby Sleepy Hollow waterfront.

At the hearings, Citibank's attorney acknowledged that there was a need for more parking; however, he argued that there was a greater need than for the 21 spaces, and he also proposed that the village should

buy all of the property or "take nothing."

Acting on the basis of the Appellate Court's dismissal of Citibank's effort to prevent the use of eminent domain by Tarrytown, the Board of Trustees completed a survey of the property, and, "We have informed Citibank that we are going to proceed with eminent domain," Village Administrator Rich Slingerland, stated last month. "Our attorneys have filed back and we are waiting to see what happens with the next step." The parking spaces have been appraised for an offering price for their purchase from Citibank; however, with negotiations soon underway, the

amount has not been disclosed.

"Though these spaces alone won't solve all of our parking issues, they certainly will provide a welcome and needed boost to our downtown," Mayor Drew Fixell said.

Tarrytown had leased spaces in the lot for metered parking since 1999, from both Citibank and its predecessors. The building was constructed in 1898 by Westchester County Savings Bank which occupied it up to 1995 when that bank closed. Other banks, including Wachovia, used it until Citibank took over the building and its parking lot in 2012, modernizing it as a local branch until it left in January 2016.

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4	\$58,550	\$70,260
5	\$63,250	\$75,900
6	\$67,950	\$81,540

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This advertisement has been posted on [NYHousingSearch.gov](http://NYHousingSearch.gov)

## Food for Thought

By Linda Viertel

“A plain American pie is a work of art,” says Maida Heatter, the doyenne of classic home-made desserts for half a century. And, she is right.

Whether or not you are creating a pie with double-crusts, a cookie crust, a crumble or latticed topping, you will be baking the essence of comfort food for friends and family. During the fall and at holiday time, debates abound as to whether or not one should prepare an apple, pumpkin or pecan pie for Thanksgiving. Why not make all three? Be creative and substitute pears for apples, a crumb topping for a second crust. Don't be intimidated.

Fruit pie recipes vary widely: some have you parboil the fruit, others suggest cutting raw fruit into thin wedges to pile high on the unbaked crust. You can mix cinnamon and sugar in with any fruit, dot with butter and include a bit of cornstarch to ensure thickening the juices. So many options to choose from, all according to a variety of tastes. Try including chopped candied ginger with pears, or envelop apples with sour



cream, sugar and a tablespoon or two of flour to absorb the juices.

Brown sugar, butter, and flour crumb toppings tend to be easier than managing to roll a dough covering unto an already filled pie crust. But decorating the top crust is such fun - with small cookie cut leaves, pumpkins or apples, and well-placed slices to allow steam and juice an opening; then brush with milk and a sprinkling of sugar to brown it. Just make sure to cool your fruit pie completely to let the filling gel.

For an Old-Fashioned Butterscotch Pie recipe, please visit: [thehudsonindependent.com](http://thehudsonindependent.com).

And, while we are on the subject of pies, don't forget to enter TaSH's Thanksgiving Dessert Contest (not just pies!) on Closing Day, November 17th by making your best Thanksgiving dessert using your favorite farmer's market seasonal ingredients. Register online at: <http://bit.ly/2AfF2GL>. Bring your dessert to the contest tent at the market between 9:30-10:30 a.m. Desserts will be judged by taste, appearance and originality. Three winners will be chosen by a panel of locally-appointed judges in three categories: 1) Best presentation – the most photogenic dessert; 2) Best “classic” Thanksgiving dessert; and 3) Tastiest Thanksgiving dessert. Winners will be awarded a prize, and the winning recipes will be published in one of TaSH's winter newsletters.

### Contest Rules:

► Filling and crust MUST be homemade, no store-bought crust, dough or canned fillings may be used.



- Seasonal ingredients from the TaSH must be the main ingredient,
- Desserts must be prepared by the individual or family submitting,
- Your written recipe must accompany your dessert, and
- Only one entry per contestant. Winners must be present or have a representative present to win.

Visit [tashfarmersmarket.org/thanksgiving-dessertcontest](http://tashfarmersmarket.org/thanksgiving-dessertcontest) for more information.

## Holiday Market Happening: Saturday Dec. 1

In conjunction with Tarrytown's tree lighting event, TaSH's expanded holiday market will be held from 2 to 5:30 on December 1st, with the tree lighting ceremony taking place at approximately 5 p.m.

This year's holiday market's footprint will be increased with the addition of more food vendors and local craft artisans featuring gift items. The Village of Tarrytown

is also planning to alter its “Visits with Santa.” In the past, Santa visits took place across the street at Warner Library after the tree lighting, and families had to wait in line for a long time until their turn. To alleviate wait times and make the experience more festive and enjoyable, Santa visits will now take place INSIDE Patriot's Park ahead of the tree lighting. Santa will show up at 4

p.m and families will be able to pick up a ticket for their place in line when they arrive so they can walk around, shop and explore the market and activities while they wait their turn.

Live music will be on hand – everything from fiddlers to carolers and more. And, kids will be able to participate in special seasonal activities.

So, plan to attend Tarrytown's “new and improved” tree lighting in partnership with TaSH on Saturday, December 1st– a festive local way for the entire family to begin the winter holiday season.

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### Entertainment Calendar November 2018

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

**Sat., November 3rd 8pm: Teo Sings**  
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**Fri., November 9th, 7:30pm: Alive and Kickin** Featuring Vocalist Pepe Cardona and their hit 70's single "Tighter and Tighter"

**Sat., November 10th, 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)

**Sat., November 17th, 8pm: Radio Personality and DJ Johnny Z** (Rock and Roll Revival Party, Playing music of the 50's, 60's, 70's, Motown, Disco, Classic Soul and much more)

**Fri., November 23rd, 8pm: The Return of Westchester Favorite Vocalist Lois Columbo** with Richie G on Guitar and Dan Denerstein on Keyboard.

**Sat., November 24th, 8pm: "Turntable",** Featuring Westchester Favorite Vocalist Jerry Brown

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# What College Admissions Committees Are Really Looking For

by Bettina Weil

Many students applying to college this fall will no doubt fret over every detail of their applications. The truth is, however, that college admissions committees do not treat all aspects of the application equally. So, students should take heed not to worry about things that don't matter all that much and concentrate on the ones that do.

That conclusion is based on an annual survey of nearly 2,000 independent educational consultants, released this past summer by the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA). The survey, *What Colleges Look for in High School Students*, suggests that while grades and standardized test scores matter, there are a number of significant changes and surprises that challenge common assumptions about college admissions. Number 1 on the list: **A challenging curriculum**. New to the list: a **rigorous high school curriculum**. The much-discussed student presence on social media? Not so much.

Many students and parents are surprised to hear that the leading criteria universities want to see isn't grades (#2) or standardized test scores (#3), but rather evidence that a student took as **rigorous a high school curriculum** as they could. Colleges want to know that their future students are up for an academic challenge from taking a calculated risk with their coursework while in high school. Grades and scores are important, but it is far better to take on a challenge, show some grit, and if necessary, earn a slightly lower grade. Nowadays, a transcript with easy courses and straight A's is not well regarded at competitive colleges.

**Item #4 in the ranking—the essay**—is also the most misunderstood. The essay tends to be more important at smaller and independent colleges. But too many students think the essay is about construction, grammar and format. While these matter—typos and bad grammar should never happen, the essay must show insight into a student's unique personality or life-shaping experiences. This essay should help the reader—that all-important admission counselor—better

appreciate who you are, what shaped you, and what makes you tick. That doesn't mean a student needs to save the elephants in Africa or go on an expedition to the Himalayas. They'd much rather see students focus on a simple event or a cherished object. Simple and insightful is the magic formula.

There are two new items ranked on the 2018–19 list from IECA. **Debuting at #7 is the family's ability to pay**. While some schools are "need blind" in their admissions decisions, usually the most competitive, most are not. Increasingly, colleges take into consideration who can contribute to the school's bottom line. The other new criterion this year was a **student's character and values** (#12). Colleges increasingly contemplate what campus life will be like and how a particular applicant will add—or detract—from the campus. Colleges want to see active participants in campus life, students with special skills or talents, as well as those whose values fit a college's view of itself. **Colleges also seek diversity**, striving for a campus made up of those from varied cultural, social, economic, geographic, religious, and occupational backgrounds (#9).

Much has been written in recent years about two areas: demonstrated interest (how an applicant demonstrates a genuine desire to attend) and social media (what a student's online life reveals). Demonstrated interest varies from college to college, and social media exposure is of less importance than other items.

Every college is unique, so each emphasizes something different in its process of reviewing applications. One of the great benefits of hiring independent educational consultants is their knowledge of such differences and their ability to share this information with students and parents, so that they, in turn, can make informed decisions.

*Bettina Weil is the founder and principal of Weil College Advising, based in Westchester. Web site: [www.weilcollegeadvising.com](http://www.weilcollegeadvising.com) Phone: 914.723.8080 Email: [info@weilcollegeadvising.com](mailto:info@weilcollegeadvising.com).*

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## Arts & Entertainment

# Irvington Theater Presents As iFF “Film as Dream” International Short Film Festival on November 3

As iFF you need to sleep to dream, the All Shorts Irvington Film Festival (As iFF) will screen its eighth international film event on Saturday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Irvington Town Hall Theater (followed by a festive after-party for all festival ticket-holders and filmmakers). The program, “Film as Dream,” honors the human imagination with 11 outstanding short films from Australia, England, Iran, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Scotland, Turkey, and the United States.

Official selections are chosen from hundreds of submissions by filmmakers around the world. Some have won prizes at other international film festivals such as Cannes; four are New York premieres, and two are world premieres that will be seen on the big screen for the first time ever at As iFF.

Judged and curated by a jury of film professionals, the program includes animated and narrative live action shorts that illustrate timeless storytelling — from the immediate and real, to the untethered stories weaving through our dreams (for tickets and information, visit: [www.asiffestival.com](http://www.asiffestival.com)).

Presented in two sets with a short intermission in between, the films range from four to 15 minutes. Audience members vote for their favorite at the end of the evening. Jury prizes are awarded in a variety of categories by As iFF’s Advisory Board (comprising award-winning film editors, animators, writers, actors, directors, and producers).

Since its 2015 debut, As iFF has gained a worldwide following; filmmakers and



“Pianoforte” (lower left), an official selection for As iFF’s 11/3/18 screening, was directed by Hastings filmmaker Peilin Kuo and written by Irvington writer Todd Gordon.

patrons travel from abroad to attend each one-night-only, sold-out event in the majestic, 430-seat, historic theater overlooking the Hudson River. The selection process has grown increasingly competitive, and As iFF is now recognized globally as a sought-after festival by renowned and up-and-coming filmmakers.

Among the official selections is “Pianoforte,” directed by award-winning Hastings-on-Hudson filmmaker Peilin Kuo, and written by longtime Irvington resident Todd Gordon (who is also the film’s executive producer). “Pianoforte” traces its genesis to a chance encounter between Kuo and Gordon at a local café, Antoinette’s Patisserie in Hastings. Born in Taiwan, Kuo, who has lived in New York since 2002, was

seeking a script doctor for her feature film project, “A Thousand Deaths - The Story of Anna May Wong.”

Gordon had come to screenwriting after many years in the corporate world, and was looking for a more experienced filmmaker to shepherd his short script through production. (Gordon’s first completed script won two screenwriting competitions; “Pianoforte” is his first script to become a film.)

Filmed locally, viewers will recognize the Irvington Town Hall Theater (reconfigured as a New York City apartment building), Irvington Hardware, and Hastings’ Square Peg Gallery. Antoinette’s Patisserie and Suzanne’s Table in Irvington provided catering. Supporting actor Marie-Louise Miller

and the film’s editor, Joe Gutowski, both live in Hastings.

In “Pianoforte,” a newly arrived tenant, already near the end of her emotional rope, finds her neighbors strange and difficult, retreating to her apartment for refuge. Her neighbors rob her of that peace. Director Kuo explained, “We’ve taken these circumstances and turned them into a psychological drama with a dark sense of humor.”

The film depicts how people crave connections — to friends, neighbors, even strangers. “It can seem like no one cares who we are, although sometimes we’d rather keep that to ourselves anyway,” said Kuo. “I’m intrigued by this duality.”

Neo-noir is the style “Pianoforte” aims for, where elements such as anxiety, disillusionment and panic drive the look. The sets are stark and high-contrast, reflecting the lead character’s state of mind. Echoing the film’s title, which means “soft-loud” in Italian, Kuo enlists sounds as a further instrument of torment.

The score uses excerpts from *Quartet No. 1* by John Corigliano (Best Original Film Score Oscar winner for *The Red Violin*); Corigliano was a music consultant on “Pianoforte.” The film stars Jennifer Kim (whose numerous film and TV credits include *The Bourne Legacy* and *Spider-Man: Homecoming*).

As iFF is sponsored by ITHT Arts Champion, Pamela Eskind, Real Estate Associate Broker (William Raveis Legends Realty Group). Supporting sponsors include Lockard & Wechsler Direct, Houlihan Lawrence, and Bridge Street Properties.



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## Obituaries

### Gordon Ferguson, 67

Gordon F. Ferguson, a former longtime resident of Sleepy Hollow, died October 15. He was 67.

He was born in Tarrytown on September 11, 1951 and graduated from St. Theresa's School and Sleepy Hollow High School. Mr. Ferguson was a retired police sergeant for the Village of Sleepy Hollow, where he served for 26 years. He served as the Youth Officer and started the D.A.R.E. program in the village and also for a period of time served on the Tarrytown School Board. He grew up in North Tarrytown where he was very active with the Fire Department and served as Chief of the Department in 1985 and was a Life Active member of Union Hose Company #2.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aires 1042, the Knights of Columbus St. Elmo Council 318 and a member of the former American French Club. Mr. Ferguson grew up in St. Teresa of Avila Parish where he served as an altar boy for many years. He loved hockey. He played for Sleepy Hollow High School and continued to play after high school. He later became a hockey coach for Sleepy Hollow High School. He also volunteered his time coaching various youth hockey organizations. He was also an avid N.Y. Rangers fan and N.Y. Giants fan.

### Fannie O'Hara, 94

Fannie O'Hara, a resident of Irvington, died October 6 after a short illness. She was 94.

She was the youngest of six children born on December 28, 1923 to Lorreto and Emilia DiFolco of East Irvington in the house where she still resided. She married the love of her life, William O'Hara, and they were married for 54 years when he predeceased her in 1998.

Bill and Fannie's brother Tuley were in the grocery business together and operated Premier Market in Tarrytown and later Brookside Deli in East Irvington. Mrs. O'Hara worked beside them and ran the deli for many years before they sold the business. She also worked for the Westchester County Elections Bureau for more than 35 years.

She was very active at Immaculate Conception Church in Irvington and was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society for 70 years. She loved to go to the Irvington Seniors gatherings to visit with her friends, play bingo and sing karaoke.

### Dorothy Bushel, 97

Dorothy Bushel, formerly of Tarrytown, died October 9. She was 97.

Born in New Rochelle, she married Gerard R. Bushel, Sr. on May 11, 1941 and the couple settled in Tarrytown where Mr. Bushel was a Motorcycle Police Officer on the Tarrytown Police Force. They raised their children, Gerard, Jr and Edward, who are twins, and William in Tarrytown. She spent 17 years in Florida before returning to Westchester.

She had been a communicant of The Church of the Transfiguration. She lived

an interesting life and was very much a part of a family of twins.

### Patricia Atwater, 86

Patricia Anne Atwater, a long-time Irvington resident, the mother of six children and former University of Missouri School of Journalism professor, died from complications of dementia on October 9 in Towson, Maryland. She was 86.

### Richard Cross, 86

Richard Earl Cross, a resident of Tarrytown, died October 17. He was 86.

He was born April 28, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan. He was the only son of Judge Earl R. Cross and Felipa Moss McKey. His family has been in America since before the American Revolution, and several of his ancestors fought in that war, the Civil War and World War I. He was raised in the Presbyterian and Methodist traditions and was later attracted to the music and liturgy of the Catholic faith. He eventually became a Roman Catholic, but always with an ecumenical orientation.

Attracted to church ministry, he undertook seminary studies in religion, the humanities, Latin, Greek and sacred music. He took early piano lessons at the Peabody Music Conservatory. He later did advanced studies in philosophy and theology at the Catholic University of Louvain/Leu-

ven, Belgium (established in 1425). He earned a graduate degree in theology from Louvain and in Education from Manhattan College.

Mr. Cross served in parish ministry and as a seminary professor for a decade. While teaching French he led teams of students to do volunteer work on the island of Martinique. He also studied piano, theory and Gregorian chant at the Pius X School of Liturgical Music and obtained a graduate degree in education at Manhattan College. He later worked as learning specialist in the New York public schools and as a hospice volunteer for 15 years.

He was devoted to church reform and participated in interfaith activities with the Muslim community of Westchester. He was honored in 2006 by the American Muslim Women's Association "for his commitment to building bridges of understanding among our diverse communities."

Mr. Cross was also a published composer, essayist and translator. As a member of the American Liszt Society, he researched and wrote about the 19th Century musical world of Franz Liszt.

In 1969, he married his beloved wife Kathleen Marie Stanton. They spent their years together as a pastoral music team in their home parish of Transfiguration Church in Tarrytown.

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# What's Happening

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

## Thursday 1

**LANDSCAPE ART EXHIBIT:** *Look Around in Dobbs Ferry* features artist EB Gregor's abstract and illustrative landscape paintings. The exhibit, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is being held through Dec. 9 at The Donald Gallery at South Presbyterian Church, 343 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. Info: 693-0473 or <http://www.southpres.org/the-donald-gallery>.

## Friday 2

**HVWC BENEFIT GALA:** The Hudson Valley Writers Center's 30th Anniversary Benefit Gala honoring Michael Cunningham, Susan Hodara and Angelina Mak will be held at 6 p.m. at the Tappan Hill Mansion, Tarrytown. See [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org) for details.

**MAKE COMEDY GREAT:** *The Make Comedy Great Again Tour* comes to the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. at 8 p.m. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**AXIAL THEATER PRODUCTION:** The Axial Theatre will launch its 20th anniversary season with the world premiere of *Senescence*, a compelling new play by Axial's founder, Howard Meyer that takes an unflinching look at the deadly effects of chemical toxicity. *Senescence* will preview Nov. 2 and a matinee on Nov. 3 and open the night of Nov. 3; and run weekends (Friday - Sunday) through Nov. 18. The Axial Theatre is located on the campus of St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. Visit [axialtheatre.org](http://axialtheatre.org) for tickets and more information.

## Saturday 3

**MOVIE MAVENS SERIES:** The Movie Mavens series will continue with a screening of *The Women's Ball*, (which was nominated for five 2017 Israeli Film Academy Awards) at Temple Beth Abraham, 27 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. For the time of the screening and more information call 914-631-1770 or visit <http://tba-n-y.org>.

**ALL SHORTS IRVINGTON FILM FESTIVAL:** (As iFF) "Film as Dream" International Short Film Program, 7:30 p.m., at Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. For tickets and info., visit: [www.asiffestival.com](http://www.asiffestival.com) or [www.irvingtontheater.com](http://www.irvingtontheater.com) (or call 914-591-6602). Tickets: \$15/\$35.

**OCA GALA:** OCA Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapter will honor outstanding Asian Pacific Americans at its Dynamic Achiever Awards Gala from 6 to 11 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 455 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. Info: 631-5700. Black tie preferred.

**MUSIC & MARINARA:** Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti and comedian Fred Rubino will present *A Night of Music & Marinara*. at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**JEWISH FUTURE DISCUSSION:** "A Rivertowns Conversation: Engaging Interfaith Families for a Thriving Jewish Future." The discussion, led by Ed Case, a nationally known speaker and writer on interfaith issues, will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Shames JCC on the Hudson. It is sponsored by the Rivertowns Jewish Consortium. Go to [www.shamesjcc.org](http://www.shamesjcc.org) for more information

and to reserve a seat for this breakfast event.

## Sunday 4

**SHEKELVESTING 101:** The program will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 27 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Shekelvestors is a one-of-a-kind Investment Club. Please sign up for the free, interactive program, led by Phil Rothenberg, at <http://shekelvestors101.eventbrite.com>.

**TED TARRYTOWN:** *TEDxTarrytown Coalesce* will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at EF' School's Spellman Theater, 100 Marymount Ave., Tarrytown. Info: <http://www.tedxarrytown.com>.

## Wednesday 7

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL:** Random Farms Kids' Theater presents *High School Musical* from Nov. 7 through 20 at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**ISRAELI FOLK DANCING WITH LENG:** Nov. 7 and 28 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 27 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. The beginner's classes will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. and open dance and instruction will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. Leng is a vibrant and exciting teacher of Israeli dancing, who studied for 18 years with the legendary Moshe Eskayo. Info: call 914-631-1770 or visit <http://tba-n-y.org/>.

## Thursday 8

**I'M WITH HER:** *I'm With Her: Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan*, will perform at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Friday 9

**KINGSTON TRIO LEGACY TOUR:** The Kingston Trio Legacy Tour comes to the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. at 8 p.m. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Saturday 10

**ELVIS & ORBISON SHOW:** The Elvis & Orbison Show comes to the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**RABBIT HOP:** Hop right on over for a hippy-hoppity good time with Teatown Nature Center's rabbits from 10 a.m. to noon. For families with children ages three to five. The Center is located at 1600 Spring Valley Rd. in Ossining. Register by visiting [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) or by calling 762-2912, Ext. 110. Unless otherwise notice, all programs are \$8 for non-members.

**GALA ART AUCTION:** At the Greenburgh Hebrew Center 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. Preview at 7:45 p.m., auction will begin at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$10/ The event includes a wine and dessert reception. Info: 693-4260.

Israeli Wine Tasting: Temple Beth Abraham Uncorked: An Evening of Israeli Wine Tasting and Hors d'oeuvres will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple. 27 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Tickets are \$18 and reservations are required. For reservations visit [tbawinetasting.eventbrite.com](http://tbawinetasting.eventbrite.com) or call the Temple

Office at 631-1770.

## Sunday 11

**WESTCHESTER SYMPHONIC WINDS:** Westchester Symphonic Winds will perform *American Dreams* at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. at 3 p.m. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Wednesday 14

Rivertown Films: Nov. 14 *Love, Gilda*, a documentary about Gilda Radner, will be presented at 8 p.m., at the Nyack Center. On Nov. 28 the satire *Sorry to Bother You* will be screened at 8 p.m. at the Nyack Center. Tickets are \$35 and \$55. Tickets: \$20 adults / \$10 students / \$15 Rivertown Film and Arts Angels members. Information: 845-353-2568 or [www.rivertownfilm.org](http://www.rivertownfilm.org).

## Thursday 15

**FACE OF WINTER:** Warren Miller's *Face of Winter* will be screened at 7:30 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. at 3 p.m. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Friday 16

**BOOK CLUB:** Caroline Igra joins the Temple Beth Abraham Book Club for the discussion of her book *Count to Thousand* at 10 a.m. \$2 suggested donation per guest. RSVP: 631-1770 or [adulted@tba-n-y.org](mailto:adulted@tba-n-y.org).

**SHERLOCK HOLMES:** *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band* will be performed from Nov.16 through Dec. 9 at Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. To purchase tickets by phone call 1-888-718-4253. Info: <http://lyndhurst.org/events/sherlock-2018>.

**CATS:** The Broadway Training Center of Westchester will present the musical *Cats* at the Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St. Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. and Nov.18 at 3 p.m. Reserved seating is available at [www.BroadwayTraining.com/Tickets](http://www.BroadwayTraining.com/Tickets) or by calling the ITHT box office at 591-6602.

**PUDDLES PITY PARTY:** Puddles Pity Party will perform at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Saturday 17

**DON McLEAN CONCERT:** Don McLean will perform at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Sunday 18

**TURKEY TIME:** Take time out to discover a little more about turkeys before their big day from 11 a.m. to noon at Teatown's Nature Center. Make a craft, listen to a story and take a short hike to learn about their natural history. For families. 1600 Spring Valley Rd. in Ossining. Register by visiting [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) or by calling 762-2912, Ext. 110. Unless otherwise notice, all programs are \$8 for non-members.

**LATKEPALOOZA:** The Hanukkah Festival and Fair

will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 27 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Admission is free and most vendors accept cash and checks only. More details at: [www.tba-n-y.org/Hanukkah](http://www.tba-n-y.org/Hanukkah).

**RENAISSANCE CONCERT:** Renaissance will perform at 7 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Friday 23

**MANHATTAN COMEDY NIGHT:** Manhattan Comedy Night, featuring New York City standup comics, will be presented at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Saturday 24

**BANDS TRIBUTE:** Terrapin & Soulshine - Celebrating the Grateful Dead & Allman Brothers will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

## Sunday 25

**AFTER THE TURKEY HIKE:** Hike off those extra pounds gained from the Thanksgiving feast from 10 a.m. to noon at Teatown's Nature Center. It is a moderate hike with some steep sections. Wear hiking boots, bring water and a snack. For adults. The Center is located at 1600 Spring Valley Rd. in Ossining. Register by visiting [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) or by calling 762-2912, Ext. 110. Unless otherwise notice, all programs are \$8 for non-members.

## Monday 26

**LYNDHURST HOLIDAY TOURS:** Classic Holiday Mansion Tours will be conducted from Nov. 26 through Dec. 30 at Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. Tours are offered every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through Mondays. Tours last approximately one hour. To purchase tickets by phone call 1-888-718-4253. Info: <http://lyndhurst.org/events/holiday-tours-2018>.

## Tuesday 27

**AMY SCHUMER PERFORMANCES:** Amy Schumer will perform on Nov. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** This year's service will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Dutch Church (Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns), 430 Broadway, Tarrytown. Please note that the church is not handicapped accessible and does not have bathrooms. For more information call the Reformed Church at 631-4497.

## Thursday 29

**BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY:** Join Rick Sammon, a tireless, prolific, and inspirational image-maker and Teatown neighbor and friend, as he takes you around the world to share his favorite bird photographs and bird photography tips at the Nature Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For adults. The Center is located at 1600 Spring Valley Rd. in Ossining. Register by visiting [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) or by calling 762-2912, Ext. 110. Unless otherwise notice, all

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**THE WALLFLOWERS CONCERT:** The Wallflowers will perform at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

### Friday 30

**PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE:** The Machine will perform Pink Floyd's *The Wall* at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: 914.631.3390 Ext.100 or <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** Celebrate, study and explore Jewish Women's issues and history. At 5:45 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Members and guests are welcome to the free program. Please e-mail [tbawomenscircle@gmail.com](mailto:tbawomenscircle@gmail.com) for more information.

### Ongoing

**MODERN DANCE CLASSES:** RiverArts modern dance classes are now in session. The classes are taught by Mary Ford-Sussman. Thursdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Hastings Yoga, 34 Main St., Hastings. Individual classes are \$25 and multiple dance cards are available. Register on line at <https://riverarts.org/educational-programs/dance-lessons/modern-dance-lessons>.

**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).

**JAZZ FORUM CLUB:** Shows Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 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.chinitapoblanany.com](http://www.chinitapoblanany.com).

**IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET:** Outdoor Market Open Sundays through Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Main St. School.

**TARRYTOWN/SLEEPY HOLLOW FARMERS MARKETS:** The Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Farmers Market is host to both weekly and rotating vendors, total-

ing more than 50 throughout the season. It is held every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Thanksgiving at Patriots Park in Tarrytown. Free parking at John Paulding School. Info: [tashfarmer-smarket.org](mailto:tashfarmer-smarket.org).

**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).

**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).

# In Our Libraries

## November 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, e-mail [irvref@wlsmail.org](mailto:irvref@wlsmail.org) or visit [www.irvingtonlibrary.org](http://www.irvingtonlibrary.org).

### Thursday 1

**WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT:** Michele Izzo CWS will exhibit her watercolor paintings in the Martucci Gallery throughout the month. On November 3, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., she will demonstrate her watercolor painting technique. Later that afternoon, at 2 p.m., there will be a reception for the artist. Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Tuesday 13

**BEEKEEPING PROGRAM:** Beekeeping with Dennis Haverkamp of Bedford Bees will be held at 7 p.m. The Greater Irvington Land Trust and the Irvington Green Policy Task Force invite you to the free program. November 13 at 7 p.m. Haverkamp is owner of the Bedford Bee Honey-bee Service.

### Thursday 15

**THURSDAY BOOK CLUB:** The Irvington Thursday Evening Book Club will discuss *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig in the Program Room at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book will be available at the circulation desk.

## Children's Program at the Irvington Public Library

### Sunday 4

**MUSIC AND MUNCHES:** The Music and Munchies series, presented by the Greenburgh Hebrew Center and PJ Library will begin today from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Come join us for a free afternoon of stories, songs and yummy treats. This event is ideal for children six and under and their families. RSVP or questions to [Stacey@PJLibrary@g-h-c.org](mailto:Stacey@PJLibrary@g-h-c.org).

## Events at the Warner Library

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

## Adults programs at the Warner Library

### Thursday 1

**NOVEL ON STAGE:** A video of the stage adaptation of Roberto Bolaño's novel *2666* will be shown on two days. Part one will be on Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. with a discussion and parts two through 5 will be presented on Nov. 3, at 3 p.m.

**BUSINESS BOOK CLUB:** The Business Book Group will discuss *The Four-Hour Work Week* by Tim Ferriss at 7 p.m.

### Monday 5

**PLANT BASED NUTRITION:** *The Power of Plant Based Nutrition* will be presented at 7 p.m. by Janet Levine. Call 631-7734 to sign up or visit the reference desk.

**INTRODUCTION TO HOOPLA:** Learn how to download books, movies, TV and music. Bring your laptop or mobile device. Sign up at the reference desk or call 621-7734.

### Wednesday 7

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MOVIES:** Movies will be screened every Wednesday in November at 2 p.m. The schedule is: Nov. 7 – *Boundaries*; Nov. 14 – *Juliet, Naked*; Nov. 21 – *Alpha* and Nov. 28 – *Crazy Rich Asians*.

### Thursday 8

**THANKSGIVING RADIO PLAYS:** Enjoy two old time radio plays featuring famous comedians George Burns, Gracie Allen, and Jack Benny at 2 p.m.

**SECOND THURSDAY BOOK GROUP:** At 7 p.m. the group will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah;

### Friday 9

**AUTHOR VISIT:** Author David Rocco will discuss his book *The Indestructible Man*. at 2 p.m. The book, co-written by Don Keith, is the true story of World War II US Navy legend Captain Dixie Kiefer, whose plane crash landed on Mount Beacon in November of 1945.

### Wednesday 14

**SPANISH LESSONS:** Learn Spanish with Barbara Bethea on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. from Nov. 14 through Dec. 19. Call the library at 631-7734 to register.

### Saturday 17

**BEAUTIFUL BEADED EARRINGS:** Craft your own earrings with beading expert Joan Lloyd from 2 to 4 p.m. For every pair you keep you make another pair for the women's shelter. Call 631-7734 to sign up or visit the reference desk.

### Sunday 18

**JUG BAND SHOW:** The Flying Fingers Jug Band, which features an eclectic mix of instruments including washboard, fiddle, string bass, jug, dobro, mandolin and the vocal harmonies of bluegrass, will perform at 2:20 p.m.

### Tuesday 20

**MYSTERY BOOK GROUP:** At 11 a.m. the group will discuss *This is What Happened* by Mick Herron

## November events at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library

55 Main St. For more information, call 693-6614.

## Adult program:

### Thursday 15

**POTLUCK DINNER AND MOVIE:** A Potluck Thanksgiving and a screening of the cult movie classic *The Royal Tenenbaums* will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Seating is limited.

## Children's programs at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library

### Thursday 1

**LEGO CLUB:** The club, which is intended for children in kindergarten and older, will meet from 4 to 5 p.m.

### Monday 5

**THANKSGIVING STORY AND CRAFT:** The program will be held from 4 to 5 p.m.

### Tuesday 6

**ELECTION DAY MOVIE:** *The Incredibles 2* will be screened at 3:30; the doors will open at 3:15 p.m. Open to all ages.

### Wednesday 14

**ZOO BIRDS:** Birds at the Bronx Zoo will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. All ages welcome.

## November 2018 Events at the Ossining Public Library

The Ossining Public Library is located at 53 Croton Ave., Info: <https://www.ossininglibrary.org/> or 941-2416.

**SIXTIES THEMED FUNDRAISER:** The Friends of the Ossining Public Library will hold a wine and cheese fundraiser with proceeds going to fund a World Music Concert Series featuring The Mike Risko Band. The 1960's themed event

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## Teen program:

### Saturday 3

**TEEN ADVISORY BOARD:** The board will meet at 1 p.m. in the Teen Room.

## Children's program:

### Saturday 10

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL:** The children's event will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

## The Village Bookstore



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## Time to Stand Up for a Free Press: We're Not the Enemy

by Layne Bruce

Enough already.

The last couple of years have been an unending barrage against the freedom of the press and the practitioners of this noble trade.

From being called “liars,” “fake,” and “sick” by irate politicians to enduring capricious and punitive tariffs that are an existential threat to newspapers, the landscape for journalists today may be as inhospitable as it has ever been in the 242-year history of this great union of ours.

All this while the public at large seems unable to break free of the social media echo chamber. We retreat there to endlessly bicker with those who don't agree, or to bolster the confidence of our own positions by seeking solace from those who do.

We've devolved into a nation of people who simply don't want to hear it. And that's incredibly dangerous.

The bipartisan testimony of 20 members of Congress last month before the International Trade Commission in opposition to tariffs on Canadian imported newsprint

is a good indicator a lot of talk about journalists being “enemies of the people” is utter hogwash. These men and women know the importance of community newspapers and their imperiled status in modern culture where too many marketers prefer digital analytics and too many readers prefer daily affirmation.

They know the men and women who work at the local paper are most definitely not the enemy — nor the problem.

But in a society where talk of the wicked media is hurled relentlessly on Twitter or cable “news” channels, all of us who take part in the honorable, constitutionally protected trade of reporting news and ferreting truth get amalgamated into a cynical act of political theater that's threatening to the very fabric of democracy.

And that's what this is really about.

We're arguing over political philosophies and cultural divides — not about whether news is biased. I bet you a week's pay and a dozen doughnuts the people who use the argument that news is “fake” don't any more believe that than they think the Space Force

is coming soon to a quadrant near us.

But the damage is being done. We as a nation are beginning to give a collective shoulder shrug to the fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights.

And we've got to snap out of it.

We've got to accept that not all news is happy or affirming. We're not always going to get what we want. I vaguely remember being taught that as a preschooler.

Aaron Blake, a correspondent for *The Washington Post*, asked in a recent column if the media should go to war with the President.

“Trump seems to want a war with his ‘enemy,’” Blake wrote. “But should the media oblige him? And if it doesn't, isn't it unilaterally disarming?”

No, we should not go to war with the President. But it's long past time to end the navel gazing and stand up for what we do. It's our job to provide the best obtainable version of the truth and to champion the freedoms of the First Amendment.

Thomas Jefferson — who had a notably tempestuous relationship with the press —

was a president who still often rose to defend it.

He once wrote while serving in Paris as Minister to France: “The people are the only censors of their governors, and even their errors will tend to keep them true to the principles of their Institution...”

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.”

If we're unwilling to accept news that upsets us, or if we're indifferent to differing views simply because we don't want to deal with them, we're essentially giving up on the notion we can ever truly be “one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

I know it's ironic, but I don't believe we've given up because I don't want to believe it.

*Layne Bruce is executive director of the Mississippi Press Association. His column was forwarded by the New York Press Association.*

## Letters

### Health Issues Must Be Considered with Cell Towers

To the Editor:

I read with interest your article in the October issue about the MTA cell tower that has been erected in Tarrytown. In addition to the safety and aesthetic issues cited by opponents of that particular tower, there are even more important health issues to consider for this tower and the one being considered off Route 117 by the Town of Mount Pleasant

As a physician, I have followed the growing literature on health impacts of cell phones and cell towers for over two decades. In short, emerging research suggests that low level exposure to microwave radiation is capable of causing DNA damage, increasing the risk of certain cancers and learning and memory deficits. Children are more vulnerable to these effects.

On September 25, 2018, I submitted written comments to the Mt. Pleasant

Town Supervisor on the health impacts of placing a cell tower on its proposed location off Route 117. The alternate location I proposed is land owned by Westchester County that is currently used only for parking for the North Country Trail. It is located just off 117 about 100 yards from proposed tower but on the opposite side of the road. There are no nearby residents, so no health impacts would result.

In an October 17 call with Mount Pleasant Town Supervisor Fulgenzi, I was told that the cell tower could not be placed on my alternate location as it was parkland and would also be a less optimal location to solve the dead zone problem for fire and police.

These issues require further research and validation of assertions.

*Lucy R. Waletzky MD*

### The Hudson Independent Delivers Quality Journalism

To the Editor:

I moved to Kendal on Hudson from Brooklyn in late March and was immediately struck by the quality of *The Hudson Independent*. Brooklyn also has a free newspaper (*The Brooklyn Paper*) with various editions offering “special” reporting on happenings in localities. The same publishing company also issues another weekly newspaper, *Life Courier*, which carries the identical articles but different photos. In contrast to *The Hudson Independent* journalists, *The Brook-*

*lyn Paper* reporters seem to vie with each other in coming up with exaggerated language, and I used to call the paper “the rag.”

I thank you for your high standards and your reporters for using a clear, fluid, and unadorned style and proper use of the English language. I've learned much about my new surroundings in the months living at Kendal.

*Ursula Hahn  
Sleepy Hollow*

### Support Harchkham for State Senate

To the Editor:

With the current Supreme Court make-up, I fear that Roe vs. Wade is threatened more than ever. Since the 1973 decision that guaranteed a woman's right to abortion, many states have passed restrictive laws that have made it nearly impossible for women

across the country to access this right.

Prior to Roe vs. Wade, abortion was decriminalized in New York in 1970, but the NY law has some inconsistencies which The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) addresses. For instance, The RHA would move abortion law from the penal code to the public health law code; allow medical professionals, not politicians to make decisions about fetal viability and include language to allow abortion at any stage of pregnancy when the health or life of the mother is threatened.

Versions of the RHA passed in the NYS Assembly several times over the years but have been stalled in the NYS Senate health committee by those who oppose abortion, including Senator Terrence Murphy. 80% of New Yorkers are in favor of protecting a woman's right to choose. I support and encourage all to vote for Peter Harchkham for NY State Senate District 40. He is pro-choice and supports a woman's right to be in charge of making their own decisions about their reproductive health and their lives.

*Gaye Breakstone*

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We reserve the right to submit for insurance reimbursement to the doctor for exam, consultation & X-ray

#### NEW PATIENTS\*



- Thorough Examination
- Oral Cancer Screening
- X-Rays
- Basic Teeth Cleaning

**\$89** Reg. \$425  
\*unless gum disease is present.

#### BLEEDING GUMS?

- Teeth Feel Loose?
- Partial Denture Loose?
- Gum Disease can cause serious Health Issues!

**FREE GUM EVALUATION!**



**TIME FOR CONFIDENCE  
IN YOUR SMILE!**



Starting At **\$3,999**

Make a Free Consultation Appointment Today!



# Dickens's Christmas Carol

December 8-9, 15-16

at Old Dutch Church  
Sleepy Hollow, NY

 [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)  
Tickets by phone 914.366.6900



## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Dec 2**  
Eileen Rockefeller  
Poetry Reading

**Dec 8**  
S'mores & Hot  
Chocolate Tasting

**Dec 15**  
Drew Macko  
Artist Signing



AT PHILIPSBURG MANOR

## HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Nov 17 to Dec 22

THU-SAT  
10am - 5pm

SUNDAY  
Noon - 5pm

*Closed Thanksgiving Day*

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Lights Up Fall Nights Through Thanksgiving Weekend!

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