Retired White Plains Police Officer Kills 2 Daughters, Then Self

By Pat Casey

Harrison Police Chief Anthony Marraccini and Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont held a joint press conference Monday morning to confirm the shooting deaths of former White Plains Police Officer Glen Hochman, 52, and his two daughters Alissa Marie Hochman, 17, a senior at Harrison High School, and Deanna Nicole Hochman, 13, a student at the Windward School in White Plains.

The case is being called a murder, suicide, although police were still awaiting the toxicology report from the medical examiner's office at the time of the press conference to confirm that gunpowder residue was on the hand of Glen Hochman at the time of the shooting.

He was found in the garage of his home with a single gunshot to the head and a .40 caliber Glock in his hand.

The family's three dogs were also found shot dead at the scene.

According to Marraccini, the shootings occurred sometime after 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

The two teens, the youngest of three, were each killed by a single gunshot to the head as they slept in their beds.

The oldest daughter, age 22, and Mrs. Hochman were away on an overnight trip at the time of the killings.

On the trip back, mid-afternoon Saturday, the women tried calling the house and its occupants with no answer, prompting them to call Alissa's boyfriend to ask if he would check out the house.

He was able to access the house through the garage at which time he found Mr. Hochman dead and called 911, Marraccini said.

A second 911 call was made to Harrison Police Headquarters by a woman driving with Mrs. Hochman after the boyfriend told them what he had found.

The boyfriend had left the house immediately after finding Mr. Hochman and did not find the two dead teens. They continued on page 2.

The White Plains Examiner

Apologizes to the Donahoe Family

In last week's February 17-23 edition of The White Plains Examiner, we made an inexcusable mistake and feel compelled to offer our deepest apologies to the Donahoe family. Due to a reporting error, we incorrectly stated that Mahopac High School junior Christian Donahoe was missing from a boys varsity basketball game against White Plains because of a suspension for unsportsmanlike behavior and that he was the same Mahopac student also alleged to have made a racial slur in a January game against Carmel.

A different Mahopac basketball player was missing from the game due to that ongoing controversy. In fact, Christian, a star athlete and standout student, was missing from the game because of an injury.

There are no words that can summon how deeply sorry we are for the error, causing Christian and his family needless trouble of our creation.

We also want to give our heartfelt thank you to the Donahoe family for the most gracious and professional way in which they brought the egregious mistake to our attention and, subsequently, worked with us to correct the record. We wish Christian the very best in his endlessly promising future, athletically, academically and beyond.

Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison
February 24 - March 2, 2015
SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
Volume 5, Issue 184
County Wins Round in Court Over HUD in Housing Settlement

continued from page 1

acceptable AI be filed because some of Westchester's communities subject to the settlement were found to have potential exclusionary zoning.

County Executive Rob Astorino last week called the ruling a "major victory" for Westchester because it forces HUD to follow the law and not arbitrarily punish the county.

"A lot of people asked, why are we fighting HUD?" Astorino said in a statement last Thursday. "(This) decision is a clear statement that the county was right to defend local zoning."

While Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) applauded the court's decision, he said it may ultimately have little or no effect on the main points of contention. Kaplowitz said the county must still file an AI that is "acceptable to HUD," but it forces the agency to have to justify to the court why it would not accept the AI and withhold money.

"This was a victory, but it sends us to the same court, it sends us to the same judge that has ruled against us many times before," he said.

Kaplowitz said the ruling should serve as a good opportunity to reopen negotiations between the two sides to resolve the unresolved points of the settlement and to try and recover some of the lost CDBG money.

All but $750,000 of Westchester's 2011 CDBG money was reallocated to other parts of the country. The county can now pursue the funds that were not reallocated. However, the $15.6 million money from the following three years is lost, Kaplowitz said.

Earlier this month, Rep. Nita Lowey teamed up with Gov. Andrew Cuomo to announce a deal that allows the county to apply for its 2015 allotment of CDBG money.

Astorino has continually been at odds with HUD saying that the department has been overreaching.

His office's statement last week added that the county is in full compliance with the settlement, which requires 750 units of new affordable housing units be built by the end of next year. Last year ended with financing in place for 454 units (450 was the benchmark) and 406 units with building permits (350 was the benchmark). All 31 communities have identified potential sites and 223 units are occupied.

Retired White Plains Police Officer Kills 2 Daughters, Then Self

continued from page 1

were later discovered by Harrison Police responding to the call.

The community, completely stunned by the event, is in mourning and trying to heal. Mayor Belmont, who acknowledged that he knew the family personally, said Harrison High School opened its doors on Monday at noon and was offering grief counseling to students and their families through the Interfaith Council.

"It is with great sorrow that I extend this expression of sympathy and compassion to my fellow community members and all who have been affected by the recent, tragic loss of Alissa and Deanna Hochman, Mayor Belmont said. "The girls were cherished by their family, friends, and teachers and by the Town/Village of Harrison. I encourage all those who knew and loved Alissa and Deanna to draw strength from the sense of unity we have here in town. In this very difficult time, I hope that we can celebrate their lives and remember, with fondness, the impact they had on us all. My thoughts and prayers go out to both the Hochman and DiPietro (Mrs. Hochman's maiden name) families."

The Windward School in White Plains was also offering aide to its students and their families.

Hochman, who had retired from the White Plains Police Department in January 2015, had previously been injured in an incident while he was on traffic duty. In May, he had been honored for saving someone's life.

White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong released a statement over the weekend saying the White Plains Police Department was in shock.

"The department is shocked and horrified by the news of this unfathomable tragedy," Chong said in a statement. "We can only pray for the family. Officer Hochman served this department and the city of White Plains with honor and integrity for over 22 years."

People close to the family indicated that in mid-January the couple had discussed a separation, but that Mr. Hochman did not appear outwardly depressed.

During the press conference, Marraccini said that Mrs. Hochman had filed a police report on Friday about a dispute she had with her husband over an $80 phone bill, but that there was no indication of verbal or physical abuse claims in the report. She had filed the report for documentation purposes only because a friend had advised her to do so, Marraccini said.

A multi-page suicide letter found at the scene was addressed to Mrs. Hochman and according to Marraccini offered her advice on what she should do next to get her family's business in order.

Marraccini would not share what else the suicide note said, nor would he indicate if Mr. Hochman acted because of a marital dispute.
Police Seek Information About Robbery at Tourneau in the Westchester Mall

On Saturday, Feb. 21 at approximately 12:30 p.m., a male black, described as approximately 40 years of age, wearing dark clothing, a dark knit hat with brim, longish dread locks hair, and mirrored sunglasses entered the Tourneau jewelry store located inside the Westchester Mall in White Plains. The suspect proceeded to a sales person and asked if he could look at Rolex Watches. The sales person opened a display case to show the suspect a watch at which time the suspect displays what appears to be a handgun and a bag and demands the watches inside the display case.

The suspect fled with eight watches with a value of approximately $160,000 according to Tourneau.

The suspect fled out an exit stairwell and was pursued by a security guard hired by Tourneau. The security guard lost sight of the suspect and police were called.

No one was injured during this crime. The case is being investigated by White Plains Detectives. All tips can be called into the Police Hotline at 914-422-6256 or visit www.wppublicsafety.com and click on the crime tips icon. All information will be kept confidential.

White Plains Public Safety: Local Malls On Alert, No Pending Threat

By Pat Casey

“We are well aware of the recent threats on Malls throughout the world. Certainly we have no information leading us to believe our malls are in any jeopardy,” White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong told The White Plains Examiner in an email Sunday.

In response to an FBI bulletin over the weekend citing a video from the terror group Al Shabaab that encouraged terror cells to attack malls worldwide and specifically singled out Mall of America in Bloomington, MN, including its GPS coordinates, Chong said, “We are on high alert and continue to have the resources deployed to respond rapidly to any threat. We are partners with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the NYC Police Department and we receive timely intelligence from all law enforcement sources.”

Other U.S. authorities were quoted in various news sources saying there is no credible evidence suggesting a U.S. mall attack is in the works.

Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the 2013 massacre at a mall in Nairobi, Kenya that killed 67 people.

Advice to shoppers: Be aware of entrances and exits, like in a fire drill, and stay aware of your surroundings.

Student Wins Chance to Perform in National Shakespeare Competition

White Plains High School student Esther Ritchin will perform in the regional competition semifinals of the National Shakespeare Competition on February 25, at the New York Public Library in Manhattan. She came in first in the initial contest at the school, with Juan Hernandez as first runner up and Anargaros Passalaris, second runner up.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States sponsors this competition for students across the country and provides teachers with a performance-based program for the study of English Language Arts and Shakespeare. Students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets. Approximately 2,000 teachers and 15,000 students participate each year.

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Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry Gets Boost from Local Restaurant

White Plains Students Acknowledged for Science Projects

On four recent Thursdays Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza in White Plains ran a special fundraising promotion at their restaurant. Guests who mentioned the Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry had 20 percent of their dine in or take out order set aside for donation. The restaurant tracked more than $3,000 in sales, which could be attributed to supporters of the pet food pantry, resulting in a contribution from the promotion of just over $600. The mission of the Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry is to provide pet food assistance to economically challenged, disabled, and/or elderly residents of the Hudson Valley region. Veterans with service animals also are aided, as are those who have lost their jobs. Presently, the pet food pantry serves 300 families, feeding approximately 760 animals each month. Since its inception in 2010, the pantry has helped keep 1,550 animals at home with their families, saving them from having to be surrendered to shelters or abandoned due to economic hardship. The Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry is an all-volunteer non-profit organization based in White Plains. For more information and to make a donation visit www.hvpetfoodpantry.org or call 914-907-3433. Pictured left to right: Myosotee Perez, manager of Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza in White Plains presents a contribution check to Susan Katz, Founder/President of the Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry, and Kathy Ferri, Vice-President/Pantry Director.

Two White Plains High School students from the school’s Science Research Program received awards and recognition at the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (WR-JSHS) held at John Jay High School in Cross River on February 7. Junior Aneri Suthar placed third in the Display category for her proposed research, entitled “Chemically Induced Drought Resistance in Food-Bearing Plants through the Use of Phenolic Compounds.” Senior Rizza Estacio placed fourth in the Speaker category for her research, entitled “A Functional Analysis of the Sodium Multivitamin Transporter.” Rizza has qualified to present at the Regional JSHS competition in Albany on March 12-13. Kimberly Fleming teaches the Science Research Program at White Plains High School. Pictured from left to right, Aneri Suthar, Teacher Kimberly Fleming, and Rizza Estacio.

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Don’t let the biker in your life take their farewell ride in anything else.
Blindfold Dinner Fundraiser for Guiding Eyes Set for Via Vanti!

By Neal Rentz

The services provided by Yorktown-based Guiding Eyes for the Blind have a special meaning for Carla Gambescia, the owner of Via Vanti! Restaurant & Gelateria in Mount Kisco.

The restaurateur has family members who are blind, so it’s natural that for the second consecutive year she is hosting a special fundraising event for the school while offering a unique dining experience. This Sunday, March 1 from 1 to 4 p.m., Via Vanti! will hold Dining in the Dark. Participants will wear blindfolds while they eat a five-course meal and gelato.

The event will also include a meet-and-greet with Guiding Eyes puppy in training Wrangler of “The Today Show” fame. Wrangler is currently being raised on set at NBC’s Studio 1A.

Last year, it proved to be so popular that Gambescia is reprising the event. She hopes to top the $7,000 mark, which was the amount raised from last year’s dinner.

“This year we are offering a different delicious menu with interesting harmonious flavors and flavor contrasts, textures and aromas to heighten the mindfulness of the diners,” Gambescia said. “Not only is Dining in the Dark a fun and unique experience, it’s also for a great cause.”

Participants will be blindfolded before each course and can take off the blindfolds after each dish, Gambescia said. They’ll write down what they thought they ate.

There will be a progression in the food courses from simple to more complex, Gambescia said. Eating without looking at what you are eating is a different experience, she said.

Guiding Eyes, which opened in 1954, is a nonprofit organization that provides guide dogs to people with vision loss and service dogs to children with autism. Guiding Eyes, which is dependent on contributions, provides its services at no charge.

Gambescia, a dog lover, said the animals trained by Guiding Eyes help the blind to live independent lives.

A Guiding Eyes administrator thanked Gambescia for her efforts.

“We are excited for the opportunity to raise awareness of our mission by partnering with Via Vanti!” said Becky Barnes, Guiding Eyes’ manager of consumer services at no charge.

Blindfold Dinner Fundraiser for Guiding Eyes Set for Via Vanti!
Summer Camp Offers Free Full Session to Children of Metro-North Victims

By Janine Bowen

Seven children were left without a father following this month’s tragic Metro-North train crash and Kiwi Country Day Camp in Carmel is trying to make life for those children a bit brighter.

Adam Wallach, the owner and camp director at Kiwi Country Day Camp, reached out to New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein soon after the crash looking to get in contact with the victims to extend a generous offer. The camp will be offering scholarships to attend a full eight-week session to all of the young children who lost a parent in the Valhalla crash.

The sessions cost $5,400 per child, but Wallach said that extending the scholarships felt like the right thing to do. “After the tragedy...we were talking in our office and said maybe we could help make life a little bit easier for the families over the summer and provide the children with something to look forward to,” Wallach said. “Obviously, it will never replace the loss of their parents; it’s just a small way that we can help their family through a difficult time.”

Kiwi, which Wallach describes as an authentic and traditional summer camp, offers a variety of activities to children including zip-lining, archery, art lessons, swim lessons and traditional sports such as basketball and baseball. Wallach hopes that by extending the offer, the children will have a happy memory to look back on.

Three of the passengers killed in the first car of the train, which struck an SUV driven by Edgemont resident Ellen Brody at the Commerce Street crossing, left behind young children. Chappaqua resident Robert Dirks, 36, and Eric VANDERCAR, 53, of Bedford each had a son and a daughter while New Castle resident, Joseph Nadol, 42, left behind three children. Each of those children are not only eligible to attend Kiwi Country Day Camp this summer, but will be invited back each subsequent summer for as long as they want, Wallach said.

“I think, in general, when anything happens like this, everybody feels bad and everybody wants to try to help in some way and unfortunately there’s not really a lot that people can do during the situation,” said Wallach. “For me, the only way that I can think to help these families in any meaningful way to try to make their lives easier was to provide their kids with a great experience and something memorable that they can do this summer.”

Wallach is not the only one who has stepped up to help the families following the crash. Pleasantville resident Maggie O’Connor has been offering free therapy sessions for anybody affected by the tragedy. Also, a campaign started by Chappaqua Cares, Chappaqua Shares to collect donations for the families of Dirks and Nadol received such an overwhelming response that the organization needed to ask for donations to be temporarily halted. A fundraiser on the crowd-funding website YouCaring.com for the Robert Dirks Memorial and Family Fund has collected more than $80,000 from nearly 1,000 donors in a little more than a week. The original goal was to raise $63,000.

In a comment on the fundraiser’s page, Dirks’ widow, Christine Ueda, shared her surprise at the level of support she and her children have received from community members. “When I was first facing the reality that Robert was gone, I felt scared and alone,” she wrote to supporters. “You have made me realize that there’s an incredibly supportive community out there with open arms and hearts.”
White Plains Beautification Plants 8,000 Yellow Daffodil Bulbs for Spring 2015

As White Plains experiences record-breaking low winter temperatures and snow and ice that have remained on the ground for weeks, spring holds the promise of 8,000 golden daffodil blooms to brighten up the city.

The all-volunteer White Plains Beautification Foundation is turning gardens into gold to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015.

The blooming daffodils will be seen encircling trees in the long median along outer Mamaroneck Avenue through the Gedney and Rosedale area and in downtown Tibbits Park from north of The Westchester, as well as on the nearby hillside on Westchester Avenue at Franklin Avenue. At the north end of the city, the Reservoir Road lake will also be enhanced by early-blooming gold on its southern bank.

In order to plant 8,000 imported Dutch Master daffodil bulbs last fall, the organization had to organize a tremendous amount of community support. WPBF was joined by adults and children, with a tremendous amount of assistance from the city’s public works department. Working tirelessly were board members Sue Brennan, Mary Ann DeRosa, Mary Briante, Jean Bello, Blaine Levenson, Suzanne Edwards, Mary Merenda, Joanna Daddario, and foundation president Deborah Donahoe.

The bulb program was the first step in a full one-year celebration. The nurseries that plant and care for the over 60 gardens in the city on behalf of the WPBF, which include Gedney Farms, Am奥迪o's and Ridgeway Garden Center, will continue the gold theme by planting all public gardens with gold and yellow flowers.

“We’re incredibly excited to see White Plains awash in gold this spring and summer,” says WPBF President, Deb Donahoe, “and we hope it brings attention from residents, and local businesses to our good works.”

White Plains schools also got involved through the WPBF daffodil garden competition, where the school with the best golden garden will win $500. Almost all of White Plain’s public and private schools participated. The 16 participating schools received 100 daffodil bulbs donated by the WPBF. Gardens will be judged on design, creativity and aesthetics. Judging takes place in April and a winner will be announced on or around June 1. Judges will be comprised of Master Gardeners from the organization.

Battle Hill Neighborhood Association became the first neighborhood group to plant bulbs in honor of the 50th “golden year.”

The foundation will also be commemorating its anniversary by participating in the White Plains St. Patrick’s Day and Memorial Day parades with flower-decked floats. Additionally, the organization will set up a table during the White Plains April Earth Day festival, something they’ve done for the last few years. The year culminates in its annual Gala, on October 8, at the CV Rich Mansion, with live music, open bar and dinner. Inquiries about tickets to this event should be made at info@wpbf.org

The WPBF, which incorporated in August, 1965, after its start in 1952 as a small committee, is a not-for-profit organization, whose many projects include extensive tree-planting, establishing 60 gardens, building two fountains, a summerhouse, and a gazebo. The foundation has also provided two street clocks and over 90 teakwood benches throughout the city parks. It receives no government funding and relies solely on its donors. It also provides water and maintenance through its Adopt-a-Park program, supported by individuals and commercial enterprises. Its structure consists of a board of directors and a group of associate volunteers. Those wishing to attend monthly meetings and learn more, with the intent of becoming involved, are most welcome.

More information is available on the foundation’s new website www.wpbf.org.

WPBF Silverman garden at Tibbetts Park.

The WPBF garden at White Plains City Hall.

Crew preparing the garden at Martine and South Broadway.

White Plains City crew plants daffodil bulbs last fall.

Students planting at the Eastview School garden.

Planting at Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School.
FASNY’s Entrance Road from Hell

Much has been said about how inappropriate the massive FASNY school complex is for Gedney Farms. The proposed entrance road from North Street was intended by its FASNY advocates to “mitigate” its enormous traffic impact on the neighborhood.

The entrance road has generated significant attention and deep concern from our residents and various Boards in the City. No one has been more emphatic than our School Board, which unanimously found the proposed entrance to be “profoundly unsafe.” The School Board is charged with the safety of its students as well as protecting the long-term viability of the White Plains High School property. Significantly, a serious accident occurred in the immediate vicinity of the proposed entrance shortly after the School Board issued its letter opposing the installation of the proposed entrance. There are many problems with the entrance road. They are: The elimination of a portion of the grassy median on North Street in order to wedge a very questionable turning lane into the property. The road will swing around two existing North Street homes that will be confronted with a minimum of 1,000 buses and cars just feet from their yards plus traffic lined up at all hours waiting for the light to change. The roadway sharply and thus unsafely descends from North Street because the street will be inundated in grades. It then cuts sharply to the north to avoid a brook and pond. It then runs along the backyards of homes on Southdale Road. The 3,000-foot-long, 24-foot-wide border then divides into two separate sections and cuts into steep slopes bordering Hathaway Lane adding significant impervious areas. In order to avoid breaching the setbacks required from the lake and wetlands the road runs parallel to Hathaway for a significant distance. Imagine being a homeowner on this part of Hathaway having both your street and another road run immediately in front of your home. The proposed two-lane road then reaches the portion of Hathaway Lane that FASNY wants to close and incorporate into its property. This section of Hathaway Lane is used by many White Plains residents on a daily basis to take our children to school, commute to our jobs and undertake our daily tasks. My family uses this stretch of Hathaway a minimum of six times a day.

Do you remember when FASNY first offered its plans it promised that this most environmentally sensitive section of the property would be the “greens to green” then the Conservancy? Now it is to become a highway making a mockery of the open space preservation. Why is it taking our Council members so long to see what the School Board, Conservation Board, Planning Board and the vast majority of people in the southeast of the City already know: the FASNY regional school complex is and has been too dense since the moment it was proposed. All Special Permit uses require compatibility with the underlying zoning district. On the contrary, the FASNY project is in conflict with neighborhood density and character and will crush the neighborhood with traffic. We insist that the Common Council recognize the will of the residents and reject this monstrosity.

–Mary Anne Connell, White Plains

Obituaries

Mary Thomas

Mary Thomas (Lammers), age 84, died with her family at her side, February 20. Mary was born in her parent's farmhouse on December 20, 1930 in Leipsic, OH. Her Mother was Clara Plumpe Lammers and her Father was Alphonse Lammers. Both are deceased. She was married to the love of her life, Richard Francis Thomas, for 53 years. He died in 2011.

Mary and Richard raised four children who were with her when she died: Steven (Minneapolis, MN) Anne (Newton, MA) Amy (White Plains), and Mary Beth (Hartsdale). A son, John, died as an infant in 1969. She cherished her grandchildren, Jim, Michelle, Amanda, Laura, and Sarah and her great grandchildren, William and John. She was a loving mother-in-law to Milagros Santiago, Scott McGovern, Sergio Boniche, and Leslie Odri-Thomas. Mary is also survived by three brothers, Leo Lammers (Ruizdom, NM), Greg Lammers (Williamston, MI), and Roger Lammers (Ottawa, OH).

Mary experienced life to the fullest. She was creative and inquisitive; she pursued her roles and causes with a passion. She worked for the Air Force in Dayton, OH and IBM in White Plains for many years. After helping her children obtain college degrees, she returned to college and earned a degree in Art History in 1993 from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, MD.

Riviera Senra. Ramona immigrated to America, where she married her beloved husband Manuel on June 11, 1960. He predeceased her on March 9, 2011. Ramona worked for Michael Dalton Associates in White Plains as an Electrical Engineer. After retirement, she and her husband travelled extensively until his passing.

Mrs. Gutierrez is survived by her loving daughter Maria Elena Gutierrez of White Plains, two nieces Maria Lopez and Rosemary Kelly. She was predeceased by one sister Andrea Picorel in 1997.

Edward Scoca

Edward Scoca Sr. of White Plains passed away on February 20. He was born in New Rochelle to Vincent and Antoinette Scoca. Edward was predeceased by his loving wife Vincenza Scoca (nee Russo). He was also predeceased by his brothers and sisters, Carlo Scoca, Vincenza Deschamps, Gertrude Trois, Rose Leon and Vincent Scoca Jr. He is survived by his daughter Margaret Capriolo, Edward Scoca Jr., and his wife Linda. He is also survived by his sisters; Nettie Pizza and Mickey Wright and his grandchildren, Edward Guy Capriolo (Stacey), Noelle Gomez (Ron) and Deanna Lynn Scoca. Edward is also survived by many loving friends and relatives, including nephews and nieces. Edward owned Scoca Construction Co. He is loved and will be missed especially for his one of a kind giant heart.

Fortunato Becerra

Fortunato “Ned” Becerra, a life-long resident of White Plains died on February 19 after a long illness. Born on Nov, 27, 1929 to the late Theodore and Angelina (Tedesco) Becerra, he married Cecelia Carpinelli on Sept 4, 1955 in Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains. He served as a radio operator in the U.S. Coast Guard and held several notable positions throughout his lifetime, including a Dellwood Diary delivery milkman to caddy Master at Fenway Golf Course. He loved to entertain and was an avid Yankee and Giants fan, mentioning only last week how blessed he was to have a long and happy life. In Ned’s memory sing a song, tell a joke and hug a loved one. He is survived by his devoted wife Cecilia and four children, Ted (Victoria) Becerra of Somers, Nick (Donna) Becerra of Harrison, Angela (Larry) Smith of White Plains and Carmela (Eileen) Becerra of White Plains. He is also survived by a brother Lawrence (Virginia) Becerra of Dobbs Ferry, Sister-in-Law, Isabel Becerra White Plains and cherished friend Frank Mondelli, White Plains; nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Frank Becerra and nephew, Peter Becerra.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to pcasey@theexaminernews.com. The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.
Driver Sentenced to Three Years in Prison in the Death of Friend

According to the Westchester County District Attorney’s office Juan Barragan-Reyes, 23, of New Rochelle, was sentenced last week to one to three years in prison on his October 2014 guilty plea relating to the death of Shaquan Jackson. The case included one count of Manslaughter, two counts of Vehicular Manslaughter, one count of Unlawfully Fleeing a Police Officer, two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, one count of Reckless Driving, one count of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, one count of Speeding, one count of Harassment, and one count of Unlawful Possession of Marijuana.

On October 6, 2013, near midnight, a New Rochelle police officer was interviewing the defendant’s girlfriend, in front of her apartment on 4th St., regarding a domestic violence incident when the defendant drove up, in a Honda, stopped briefly, pointed his right index finger at his supervisor said immediate entry into the residence would have to be made. They also requested a tow service to move the vehicle so they could access a gas valve the vehicle was parked over. Police assisted Con Ed with gaining entry into the residence through a garage door. No emergency gas condition was detected inside the residence. The resident returned home and was advised about the incident.

Attempt to Defraud. A Tarrytown resident went to police headquarters on February 11 to report Identity theft involving an unknown party who opened three store credit cards in his name. The victim said he was notified by Kohl’s Department Store via the fraud department and informed that an account had been open on February 9 in his name with charges made in the excess of $1,000. The victim advised Kohl’s that it was not him who had opened the account and to close the account immediately, which was done. The victim reports that he went online and pulled his credit report and found two other credit cards that had been fraudulently opened on the same date, one at Lord and Taylor, and the other at Best Buy. The victim reports that he immediately contacted the two companies and had them cancel the accounts. Per Lord and Taylor there was one transaction for the amount of $1,041, which was for the purchase of a Coach bag. The victim placed an initial 90-day fraud alert with Equifax, Transunion, and Experian to prevent any further fraudulent charges from being made. The victim also filed an Identity Theft Victim’s Complaint and Affidavit with the IRS.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. On February 12 police officers responded to the emergency condition a Con Ed supervisor said immediate entry into the residence would have to be made. They also requested a tow service to move the vehicle so they could access a gas valve the vehicle was parked over. They also asked the tow service to move the vehicle so they could access a gas valve the vehicle was parked over. Police assisted Con Ed with gaining entry into the residence through a garage door. No emergency gas condition was detected inside the residence. The resident returned home and was advised about the incident.

Written by Assistant District Attorney Heide Mason of the Superior Court Trial Division prosecuted the case.

Selling Narcotics. On the afternoon of February 12, members of the Greenburgh Street Crime Unit observed a white Chrysler 200 in front of 106 Everts Ave. A female was observed entering the vehicle on the passenger side. The vehicle driver opened a prescription pill bottle, counted out a quantity of pills and handed them over to the female. The female then handed the driver the cash and the driver took the prescription pill bottle into his front left pocket. The vehicle was then driven to Payne Street and Saw Mill River Road where the female got out.

The vehicle then continued south on Saw Mill River Road where it was stopped by officers at the intersection of Route I-287.

During the stop a prescription pill bottle was observed by officers at the intersection of Route I-287.

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My Personal and Frightening Story of Living With Toxic Mold

More than a dozen years ago, Ed McMahon, the famous pitch man and announcer for Johnny Carson, brought to the public’s attention the health problems that can result from living with toxic mold in the home.

After a long legal battle, McMahon was awarded $7.2 million from several companies who were negligent in allowing toxic mold into his home resulting from a broken pipe, sickening him and his wife and killing their dog.

As it happens, I had been aware for some years that I had a mold problem in my home, but not being sensitive to it, I thought it was a minor situation and let it go without remediating it.

Last week, however, I learned that this was a mistake and my health has probably been affected to some degree by my procrastination.

It started on Christmas Eve three years ago, before my living room in my antique house was converted to the office of my public relations business. At that time, my daughter said she could no longer sit in that room because she was having an allergic reaction to something there.

To accommodate her discomfort, we moved our holiday get-together into our family room, but at the end of the evening I checked around and found that, indeed, in a corner in an 18th century glass door-enclosed bookcase-office, there was mold forming on my collection of antique books. I simply closed the doors and let the situation just sit.

A month ago, I was curious about a certain book, wondered whether it was in that that bookcase, opened the doors and was shocked to find that the mold had spread from the books onto the shelves. The smell had become somewhat noxious.

By coincidence that very week, I received a call from Valerie Maziarz of Oxygen Sanitizing Systems, who had read one of my articles, to tell me about her environmental services, which included mold remediation. Wow, I thought, how synchronistic. Come right over, I told her.

In short order she was in my living room-turned-office, opened the cabinet, and from a visual check and the smell, she was aware that the problem was severe.

“You’ve got a green mold forest growing in there. It’s a regular party!” she proclaimed. It seems that the antique books, with its cellulose in the pages, had provided a perfect growing environment for the mold.

The next Friday evening, when the room would be empty for the weekend, Maziarz arrived with her partner, Tom Schessler, and her equipment in tow to literally replace the air in my office.

Here is how the system works. The room was sealed off and generators with ultraviolet light and electric static discharge, produced converted oxygen in industrial-level concentration and quantities treating all surfaces and permeating all cracks, crevices, killing all microorganisms.

The process is 100 percent green, chemical-free and EPA and FDA approved. Besides mold, it eradicates odors, allergens, bacteria and viruses, restoring the environment and improving health.

After 24 hours, Maziarz and Schessler returned with commercial grade HEPA equipment specifically designed to remove all remaining particulates from the air and surfaces. Lastly, the office was treated with an antimicrobial surface protectant.

When I returned the following Monday, I could feel that the air was “cleaner” and wasn’t aware that there was a problem until the problem was gone. This process restored my office environment and salvaged my antique book collection dating to the 1880s.

According to tests taken before and after the process, Maziarz showed me that I had four different mold types in my office, one of which, Penicillium Aspergillus, was highly toxic and there in high levels.

“Does this mean that my years of living with toxic mold in the environment could have affected my health without my knowing it?” I asked.

Yes, I was told, it could have affected my health.

Perhaps my experience, scary as it was, can be an alert to someone reading this. If you know of or suspect that you may have a mold problem in your home, please don’t procrastinate as I did only to wonder to what degree it may have affected your health. Take action immediately and have the problem addressed. Your health is the single most important thing to you.

To reach Oxygen Sanitizing Systems, call 877-244-3080 or visit www.newindoorsair.com. Godspeed.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raves Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

New Menu at Alex’s Bar & Grille Offers Big Steaks and Italian Specialties

Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, has updated the menu at Alex’s Bar & Grille on North Broadway, White Plains, a 120-seat restaurant and bar/lounge that offers big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. It is at the same refurbished freestanding site that previously housed Milonga.

Hearty seafood, chicken and veal dishes include: popular Veal Parmigiana; fresh Sea Bass prepared in a variety of styles; Chicken Portabella with sliced portabella mushrooms; Veal Portofino, rolled with prosciutto and mozzarella served over rice with shiitake mushrooms in a brown sauce; Lemon Sole Marechiaro with clams and calamari; Chicken Scarpariello prepared on or off the bone; and Veal Saltimbocca with prosciutto, eggplant and mozzarella. The fresh Branzino prepared tableside is a delicious indulgence. Daily specialties augment the regular menu.

Carnivores will enjoy the From the Grill section on the menu featuring such big value priced cuts as: Filet Mignon, N.Y. Sirloin Steak, Lamb Chops, Pork Chops with sautéed green and sweet peppers, and Veal Paillard. Addicting sides include: hash brown potatoes, creamed spinach, sautéed broccoli, and asparagus. To complement your meal a fine wine cellar is a work in progress.

Desserts are house made daily and include such classics as Cheesecake, Tiramisu and Napoleon.

Special Hint: the bar/lounge is separated from the main dining room and offers a reasonably priced bar menu along with good spirited networking. Happy hours are Monday thru Friday from 4 to 7 pm and specially priced drinks are offered along with complimentary house made potato chips. Drinks are 40 percent off and Martinis are $6. Dining is also encouraged in the bar/lounge. Four TV’s offer the latest sporting and news events.


Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for over 25 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net.
### What’s Popular at Il Sorriso in Irvington?

**By Jerry Eimbinder**

Il Sorriso is an extraordinary Italian restaurant but before I comment about the savory dishes it serves, here is an important warning. Once you are seated, the most enjoyable roasted red onion dip you will ever place on your tongue is put on your table with crispy Italian bread. Fight the temptation to keep feeding on this incredible starter.

At Il Sorriso, four entrées on the dinner menu are among the restaurant’s most popular, owner William Winstanley said. The dishes are: lamb ossobuco, filet of branzino, the significantly different beet-and-potato gnocchi, and penne in a spicy sauce.

The kitchen’s expert sauciers have invented a dedicated and distinct sauce for almost every one of its entrées - for example, lamb ossobuco ($28) comes in a Barolo red wine sauce; branzino ($26), accompanied by apples, walnuts and pine nuts, is sautéed in a pinot grigio sauce; and gnocchi ($17) is smothered in a gorgonzola cream sauce. “The penne’s unique sauce is made fresh to order in a pan from gorgonzola and tomato sauce,” Winstanley pointed out. The penne costs $17.

**My favorite salad at Il Sorriso is a simple but very pleasing combination of arugula, pear, gorgonzola and walnuts in a honey balsamic dressing ($9.50).**

**The restaurant has many delectable appetizers but three of its starters are a good clue to the artful entrées to follow:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dish Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lasagne della Melezzane. Three alternating layers of eggplant (not breaded), ricotta cheese and spinach with marinarara sauce ($9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prosciutto con Mozzarella Fresca. Fresh mozzarella wrapped with prosciutto di parma, then grilled and served with roasted red peppers ($11.50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pepata di Cozze. Prince Edward Island mussels in spicy tomato sauce ($12)</td>
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<td>Deep-in-flavor pleasures among the à la carte entrées are:</td>
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<td>Galletto Alla Griglia. Grilled free-range chicken (deboned except for the leg) topped with caramelized onions over broccoli rabe and cannellini beans with a port wine reduction ($24)</td>
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| Ravioli. Stuffed with mushrooms and sautéed in a mushroom sauce with white truffle oil ($18). Ten different individual pizzas are available - baked in an oven imported from Italy that uses only wood as fuel (no gas). The oven is operated at 800 or more degrees and requires only about two minutes to bake a pizza lightly charred on the bottom. “The broccoli rabe and sausage pizza is very popular,” Winstanley said. “It’s made from fresh mozzarella and fresh garlic and has no sauce.” For patrons interested in fully flavorful eating, he recommended the “Il Sorriso” pizza - it’s ingredients: fennel sausage, pepperoni, fresh mozzarella, provolone, basil, oregano and tomato sauce. Both pizzas are priced at $16. Other popular pizzas are margherita ($12) and a fragrant fig ($15), which comes with prosciutto, red onions and goat cheese. Il Sorriso imports San Marzano tomatoes from Italy; it makes its own mozzarella and its own dough using Caputo 00 flour. Winstanley said his personal favorite meal is:  
**Appetizer.** Polpettine E Formaggio. Small meatballs with raisins and pine nuts served on top of rustic bread with provolone cheese.  
**Entrée.** Monkfish. Medallions of monkfish served with clams and mussels in a light tomato sauce.  
**Dessert.** Chocolate mousse cake. Winstanley purchased the Irvington restaurant in 2006 when it was 13 years old.

Il Sorriso has a Happy Hour called “Weekly Wine Down.” At the bar and lounge area, a glass of red or white wine costs $5 from 5 to 8 p.m. and each choice from five small plates is priced at $5. This is available on Wednesday through Friday.

The restaurant’s main dining room is available – baked in an oven imported from Italy that uses only wood as fuel (no gas). The oven is operated at 800 or more degrees and requires only about two minutes to bake a pizza lightly charred on the bottom. “The broccoli rabe and sausage pizza is very popular,” Winstanley said. “It’s made from fresh mozzarella and fresh garlic and has no sauce.”

Il Sorriso translates to “The Smile.”

The restaurant seats more than one hundred people in a windowed dining room and accommodates about 30 on a fully secluded patio, weather permitting. Shade-providing umbrellas and flowerpots adorn the patio, which provides a view of the Hudson River. The wine cellar has room for 16 and the back of the restaurant can be partitioned off for private parties.

Il Sorriso is located at 5 Buckhout Street, Irvington (at the corner of Main Street). It is one short block from the town’s Metro-North train station, 914-591-2525.

### Two Westchester Semifinalists In Hunt for James Beard Foundation 2015 Awards

**By Jerry Eimbinder**

The James Beard Foundation has announced that Blue Hill at Stone Barns is in the running for its “2015 Outstanding Restaurant award” and Eric Gabrynowicz at Restaurant North in Armonk will be contending for “2015 Best Chef: Northeast.”

Blue Hill at Stone Barns is the only Westchester restaurant up for an award on the list of nominees released on February 18. Chef Eric Gabrynowicz at Restaurant North in Armonk is the only local chef in the running for Best Chef: Northeast.

Blue Hill at Stone Barns will compete with 19 other semifinalist restaurants nationwide including Per Se in Manhattan. Gabrynowicz faces competition from 19 other chefs from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York except New York City, and Rhode Island.

On March 24 the finalists will be revealed, and a ceremony honoring the winners will take place at Lyric Opera of Chicago on May 4. The results will be kept confidential until the presentation of the awards at the May 4 meeting.

Blue Hill at Stone Barns was opened in 2004 by Dan Barber with co-owners David and Lauren Barber on an estate that was formerly the property of David Rockefeller and his daughter Peggy.

Eric Gabrynowicz, Executive Chef and a partner at Restaurant North, trained at Union Square Cafe in Manhattan, opened Blue Smoke (his own BBQ eatery), cooked at Tabla, returned to Union Square Cafe as Sous Chef, and headed the kitchen at Taverns in Garrison.

The James Beard Foundation conducts food educational programs, sponsors scholarships for culinary students, publishes, and provides chef advocacy training. Beard was a cookbook author and teacher known for his encyclopedic knowledge of food. He died in 1985 and the Foundation was created the following year.

The Foundation maintains the historic James Beard House in New York City’s Greenwich Village — often a showcase for the work of visiting chefs.
Most of us are never too old to enjoy stories that take place in a castle, where kings, queens and magic happen in their kingdoms. The world of knights and damsels in distress never goes out of fashion, whether you watch Game of Thrones on television or have a youngster mesmerized by animated films such as Frozen. The appeal of this time period and their tales always attracts an audience.

One of the best-known love stories where kings and knights take center stage begins in mystical Camelot. This classic story of the legendary King Arthur and his fair lady, Guinevere, now comes to life as the current attraction at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) in Elmsford. This Lerner and Loewe production opened January 29 and will run until April 5.

Was there really a place called Camelot? Some scholars say that Camelot first appeared back in the 12th century in French romances. Other stories place the locale in Great Britain, but its exact location is never revealed. Perhaps it is best not to divulge if there was ever such a place and keep the fantasy alive for readers and viewers! As close to “royalty” as Americans can have in their government, during my early school days, I remember the presidency of John F. Kennedy was often referred to as Camelot. The Lerner and Loewe musical was a hit production at that time and Jacqueline Kennedy had quoted a line from the play in a Life magazine interview back in 1963 after her husband’s passing. She said the lines “Don’t let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment, that was known as Camelot” were Kennedy’s favorite lines in the score, adding that “there’ll be great Presidents again, but there’ll never be another Camelot again... It will never be that way again.”

Lerner and Loewe’s timeless masterpiece, Camelot, was inspired by T.H. White’s chivalric tale, “The Once and Future King.” King Arthur and his new queen, Guinevere, rule their kingdom with ideals of chivalry and peace, but the arrival of Sir Lancelot threatens the foundation of the realm in one of the most fabled love triangles of all time. Revel in the glorious music including, “Camelot”, “If Ever I Would Leave You”, “The Lusty Month of May”, “I Loved You Once in Silence”, “What Do the Simple Folk Do?”

Directed and choreographed by Broadway veteran, Richard Sabellico, this exciting new, intimate, production focuses on the dynamic and rich, intense characters in this most regal of American musicals. The Musical Director is Ryan Edward Wise who recently worked with Richard on mounting this new version at The Mt. Greta Playhouse in Pennsylvania. Camelot opened on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre on December 3, 1960 and closed on January 5, 1963 after 873 performances. It starred Richard Burton, Julie Andrews, Robert Goulet, David Hurst and Roddy McDowall. The show received 4 Tony Awards in 1961 and The Outer Critics Circle Award for Set Design. The film version was made in 1967 starring Richard Harris and Vanessa Redgrave.

The WBT production stars: Clark Carmichael as Arthur, Jennifer Hope Wills as Guinevere, Jeremiah James as Lancelot, Martin Van Treuren as Merlyn / Pellinore, Jordan Wolfe as Mordred, Emily Brockway as Lady Anne/Nimue, Dan Fenaughty as Dinadan, Michael Glavan as Sagramore, Billy Hepfinger as Sir Lionel, Nina Kompanek and Damian Shembel in the Ensemble. Jeremy Lanuti and Aron Tucker will alternate in the role of Tom. Set Design is by Kyle Dixon, Lighting Design is by Andrea Bauck and Sound Design is by Jonathan Hatton and Mark Zuckerman, Costume Design is by Janell Berté. The Fight Director is James Kelkin. The Technical Director is Steve Loftus, The Production Stage Manager is Victor Lukas, and properties are by Grumpy Props. As with all of their productions, Lisa Tiso is the Associate Producer.

Perhaps it is time for a little whimsy to be added to these snowy winter days and nothing will light up more and warm your heart than seeing Camelot at the WBT! The set designs are always fabulous, the singing and dancing breathtaking and the meals served are always fine dining to accompany the terrific entertainment.

Ticket Prices: Dinner & Show range between $54 and $80 PLUS TAX depending on the performances chosen. Beverage Service & Gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Discounts are available for children, students, and senior citizens at selected performances, group reservations. Luxury Boxes are also available for private parties. Also check the website for on-going Special Offers! Box Office 914 592-222 For more news about this and upcoming productions visit: www.BroadwayTheatre.com.

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

**Camelot Brings the Story of King Arthur to Life at Westchester Broadway Theatre**

**Artisanal Importers Can Tantalize Our Discerning Palates**

By Nick Antonaccio

**H a v i n g**

sought out new wines for several decades now, I’ve found that I prefer particular styles of wine and specific wine regions. This has certainly helped steer me in the right direction when I’m perusing the numerous offerings at my local wine shops. Certainly, the new round of wine apps, a number of which I reviewed in a recent column, is very useful in ferreting out particular wines that align with my personal preferences. However, many of these apps tend to focus on one-off data for specific wines, which, in the aggregate, may not be necessarily aligned with my overall palate.

What I’ve deduced over the continuum of developing my instinctive behavior is that I tend to favor wines offered by select importers. How does an individual importer influence my wine purchasing decision? That’s today’s topic.

Over the past 20 years the universe of wine importing has broadened, from monolithic importers who controlled most of the wine purchased in the United States, to a sophisticated, focused group of smaller importers that supplement the offerings of the mainstream importers. Many of these “artisanal importers” have a passion for particular styles or regions and vigorously pursue wines that express their passions. Their focus is typically on the small producers, who don’t produce enough to garner big Champagne houses.

If you like organic or biodynamic wines, there are artisanal importers who search high and low for small producers with simpatico philosophies, bringing these wines into the United States and creating a new awareness of natural wines to American consumer.

Who are these artisanal importers? Their names are in plain sight - you can usually find them by looking on the back label of your favorite wines. Using this research tool as your guide, new vistas will open as you seek out wines to enjoy.

Several of these artisanal importers are right here in our backyard. Their offerings may or may not be aligned with your preferences, but in the interest of opening new vistas to you, I present them so you may experiment in finding palate-pleasing offerings.

Chappaqua is home to Serge Doré Selections, the eponymous house whose founder long ago traded constant toiling on hot, concrete pavements for traipsing through vineyard rows with sun-warmed soil underfoot. He traded meetings in sterile corporate meeting rooms for kitchen table meetings in the homes of French winemakers. Today, his offerings from nine French regions have become popular with Americans seeking wines with unique bouquets, aromas and flavors.

Based in Pleasantville, Virtus Wines focuses on small producers around the world who practice the art of the symbiotic relationship with nature. Michael Quinttus and his team state that their goal is “to assemble a diverse, international range of ‘wines of place’ produced by passionate personalities.”

In Mt. Kisco, Polaner Distributors is a unique blend of distributor and importer. Although primarily a distributor, they encourage consumers to “open your mind and taste.” Their focus is to “comb the wine world to discover and launch tiny, up-and-coming producers.”

In upcoming columns I will focus on the philosophy and specific offerings from several artisanal importers.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s experiences are available in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
Happenings

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Happenings Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Pat Casey at pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Tuesday at Dorry’s. Conversation partners gather weekly for informal table talk. There is no charge. Just come and order your food from Sylvia and enjoy the discussion and the company. Please join us. No reservations are needed. Presentation is 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry’s Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

INTA Roundtable Luncheon. Trademark professionals are regularly called upon to manage global enforcement matters. From investigation though conflict resolution, you need to be prepared. Add value to your team by mastering the international enforcement aspects of your work, and get to meet your colleagues face-to-face for a lively discussion. Come join us for this INTA roundtable luncheon hosted by Karin Segall 12 to 2 p.m. The event is $50 for members and $75 for non-members. The location is Leason Ellis LLP, One Barker Avenue, Fifth Floor, White Plains. For more information visit: www.inta.org/Roundtables

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Noontime Getaway Concert. The A.W. Duo – Cellist James Waldo and pianist Alyona Aksyonova return to Downtown Music with an all Beethoven program including the Sonata No. 3 in A Major, and a set of variations for cello and piano. Of the Duo, Ellen Dressler Moryl, founder of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston says, “These gifted young players are true artists who can transport the listeners in their audience straight to heaven!” 12:10 p.m. Free Admission. Part of Downtown Music at Grace program, Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.

Thursday, Feb. 26

In Our Son’s Name. Movie screening of “In Our Son’s Name” follows White Plains residents Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez over more a decade as they search for meaning and cope with grief after their son, Greg, is killed in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This intimate, one-hour documentary challenges conventional concepts of justice and healing, and reveals the potential of trauma to inspire, not defeat, the human spirit. Sponsored by Memorial United Methodist Church Memorial Interfaith Connection, Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute for Nonviolence; 7:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains; 914-949-2146.

An Evening With Ben Lerner: A Lecture, Reading and Conversation. SUNY Purchase's School of Humanities presents this program featuring Lerner, a poet, novelist, essayist and teacher. He has published three collections of poetry and two novels, all to great acclaim. "Angle of Yaw," his second book of poetry, was a finalist for the National Book Award and "Leaving the Atocha Station," his first novel, won the Believer Book Award. Neuberger Museum Study at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd. Purchase. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6550 or visit news.purchase.edu/feb-26-an-evening-with-ben-lerner/.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Barnes & Noble Talk and Book Signing. Yona Zeldis McDonough, author of Who Was Rosa Parks? Who Was Louis Armstrong?, What Was the Underground Railroad? and many other children’s books, will talk about, read from and autograph her books from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble City Center, 230 Main Street, White Plains. There will also be a Black History Month Storytime at 11 a.m. and a Costume Character Storytime at 2 p.m. The bookfair is part of a fundraiser: for everyone who makes a purchase at any Barnes & Noble on Feb. 28 and gives the Library bookfair ID 11563590, Barnes & Noble will make a donation to the Freedom Library. We also get a donation if you visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 2/28/15 to 3/5/15 by entering Bookfair ID 11563590 at checkout. For further information, call the library at 914-525-3076 or go to www.mlkfreedomlibrary.org.

Winter Pack Chat for Kids. Children will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves as they search for prey while their growing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the center’s critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Enjoy hot beverages in the woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: $15. Children (under 12): $12. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Gem Hunt. Discover the treasures of the earth while learning about local gems and crystals. Each participant receives a geode to take home. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Session for children five to seven years old at 11 a.m. Session for children eight years old and up at 2 p.m. Members: $8 per person. Non-members: $12 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

LIVE! From the Haven: Afrobeat/Dance Group EMEFE. The Lagond Music School presents this up and coming group from NYU. Led by Miles Arntzen, the eight-piece EMEFE leaves plenty of room for interpretation and leads everyone onto the dance floor. The event is a fundraiser for the nonprofit school. Lagond School of Music, 9 Haven St., Elmsford. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Show at 8:30 p.m. $15. Info and reservations: Visit www.thehaven.eventbrite.com.

Ballo Di Carnevale in Maschera (Masquerade Ball). Come for a full night of music and dancing. Live music performed by Emilio & Frederico. If you like, wear a Carnevale costume and enter the costume contest. Westchester Community College’s Student Center, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. to midnight. $10. WCC Students: $5. Info: 914-606-6790.

Sunday, March 1

YWCA Family Fun Day. Join the YWCA for a fun afternoon of musical entertainment, age-appropriate games and craft activities for your preschool children; 1 to 3 p.m. Zev Haber leads his band in an eclectic mix of music, instruments, dance and stories woven together to make a unique and fun interactive musical experience. $5 per person. Crafts, games and raffle tickets available at the Front Desk for $1 each. Sponsored by the YWCA Children’s Learning Center, offering high-quality, diverse early care and education programs that create a strong foundation for lifelong learning. YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester, 515 North Street, White Plains. Free on-site parking. For more information, call the Membership Office at 914-949-6227 x203.

Lunar New Year Celebration. ArtsWestchester in partnership with Organization of Chinese Americans, Westchester & Hudson Valley presents a Folk Arts event in celebration of the Chinese New Year with traditional Chinese art forms including music, dance, magic and visual arts; 2 to 5 p.m. at ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

Dining in the Dark: A Blin Dining Experience. This second annual event to benefit Guiding Eyes for the Blind, includes a delicious five-course tasting menu plus gelato. Guests will be offered blindfolds to test just how discriminating their taste buds are with prizes awarded to the diners with the savviest palates. Via Vanti! Restaurant & Gelateria, 2 Kirby Plaza, Mount Kisco. 1 to 4 p.m. $75 per person. Seating is limited. Reservations required. Info and reservations: 914-666-6400 or visit www.viavanti.com.

Nature Story Time. Let your imagination run wild with this fun nature-themed story time. Be engaged with a story, meet a live animal and have fun with a nature activity. Recommended for children three to six years old. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: $5 per person. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Young Artists Opening Reception. An annual program for local student artists now in its 32nd year, this exhibit gives aspiring artists an opportunity to participate in all aspects of a museum exhibition at the Features artwork by more than 400 local high school seniors from more than 40 high schools in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Fairfield counties. The students not only create the artwork, but also work under the guidance of museum and art professionals continued on page 15

HELP WANTED

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A childless young married couple, hands on mom/ devoted dad (she-31/ he-37) seeks to adopt. Financial security, expenses paid. Call/ text Mary & Adam 1-800-790-5260

A dream is a wish your heart makes, our wish is a baby to love. We're loving, educated, close family. Expenses paid. Danny/ Lorraine 1-866-997-7171.

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NEW KITCHEN CABINETS & BUILDING MATERIAL AUCTION - SATURDAY, MARCH 7th @10am - Kitchen Sets, Granite Counters, Tile, Hardwood Flooring, Shower Units, Brand Name Tools! 237 Lyons Rd. Geneva, NY www.hessney.com

AUCTION CHEMUNG COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES - 100+ Properties March 25 @11AM. Holiday Inn, Elmira, NY. 800-243-0061 HAR, Inc. & AAR, Inc. Free brochure: www.NYSAUCTIONS.com

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**ADPTION**

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**FINANCIAL AID**

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**HELP WANTED**
SENIOR ENERGY MARKETING ANALYST req’d to support Electr./ Nat.Gas sourcing using EnerTrac online portal, RTO (NYISO, PJM, etc), util. databases, rate tariffs, wholesale mkrt pricing, RFQ analysis & operat. data. ID/Monitor sourcing opportunities, mkrt trends, util. rates, policy changes & implement chg requests & get & give pts/data. Req’d: M5 degree in Chemical/Electr. Engg or Business +2 years exp, or alternatively: Bachelors in one of the same + 5 yrs of progressively responsible exp. Mail resumes to NuEnerGen, LLC 10 Bank Street, White Plains, NY 10606.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following propositions:

**PROPOSITION #1**
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct additions to and reconstruct various District buildings and facilities, including infrastructure, paving, landscaping, parking lots, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, at a maximum cost of $34,920,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $34,920,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

**PROPOSITION #2**
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct an addition to and reconstruct the auditorium and related music rooms, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purchasing, installing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping and/or modifying such equipment and/or making such improvements, and (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $4,996,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

**PROPOSITION #3**
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct a new access road to the District campus and construct grass athletic fields, at a maximum cost of $2,685,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $2,685,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such propositions shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. pre- vailing time for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

A list of registered voters will be available in the office of the District Clerk on each business day during school hours until the date of the vote. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person who votes who was not registered and entitled to vote under the reasons thereof known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2015
DISTRICT CLERK MTPLCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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to organize, publicize, curate and mount their own exhibition. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues March 3-8. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-232-9555 or visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Masters of Illusion: Believe the Impossible! The live stage magic phenomenon born from the award-winning television series. You’ll believe the impossible when you’ll see grand illusions, levitating women, appearances the impossible when you'll see grand illusions, levitating women, appearances

Everything you could possibly imagine. You’ll believe the impossible when you’ll see grand illusions, levitating women, appearances the impossible when you'll see grand illusions, levitating women, appearances

The Fourth Annual "Harlem Fine Arts Show. The premier showcase for modern and contemporary art from the African Diaspora comes to White Plains and will be held at 6 p.m. at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue. This year’s theme is Artists and Authors and attendees will have an opportunity to view and purchase works by emerging and professional artists and renowned authors. In addition to featuring artists and authors, the show will pay tribute to White Plains’ own Ms. Mary Frances Perkins, an artist and arts educator serving Westchester County for over 40 years, and Mr. Max Rodriguez, renowned author, publisher and critic of African American literature. Tickets are $25 and an be purchased at the City of White Plains Youth Bureau, 11 Amherst Place, White Plains.

Craig Ferguson's Hot & Grumpy Tour: Walking the Earth. The star of TV’s "The Late Late Show" and "Celebrity Name Game" brings his comedy standup flair to Westchester. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 p.m. $41.50 and $46.50. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

"Unlocking the Puzzle of Reading and the Brain," a symposium for parents, educators, administrators and psychologists, will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Pace Graduate Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, March 3

"Unlocking the Puzzle of Reading and the Brain," a symposium for parents, educators, administrators and psychologists, will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Pace Graduate Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Wednesday, March 11

School Budget Forum. The White Plains Board of Education has announced the district’s 2015-16 budget planning schedule. The district is seeking broad input on the budget from the community, at two Budget Forums: on Wednesday, January 21st, and Wednesday, March 11th. Both are in the B-1 Room at White Plains High School, at 7:30 p.m. Additional meetings will take place in the community and any group or organization wishing to host such a meeting may contact the Superintendent’s Office at 422-2033. All residents are invited to attend these sessions, to participate in focused dialogue on spending efficiencies, areas of concern, budget priorities and creative ways to increase revenues. A review of the district’s financial situation, the state’s and city’s financial constraints, and other issues relating to development of the budget will be presented. The district will also hold two Public Hearings: the first on March 9, on the Preliminary Proposed Budget, and the second on May 11 on the Board of Education’s Adopted Proposed Budget.

Thursday, March 12

Mah Jong & Martinis. White Plains Hospital invites friends and supporters to its Second Annual Mah Jong & Martinis Fundraiser, featuring Canasta. This year’s event will be held at 42 The Restaurant at the Ritz Carlton, Westchester. It is co-sponsored by the Auxiliary of White Plains Hospital. The event begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m., followed by brief remarks and play at 7 p.m. Individuals and players of all levels are welcome, but advance registration is required due to limited seating. Tickets are $100 per person and all proceeds will benefit White Plains Hospital. Attendees are also invited to bring donations of new, unused items for the White Plains Hospital Pediatric Department; including coloring books and crayons, sticker books, children’s DVDs, stuffed animals and puzzles. To register, please contact Katie Hughes at 914-681-2329 or kkhughes1@wphospital.org.

Saturday, March 14

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