Think About the Presidential Bid

What Hillary’s Neighbors Think About the Presidential Bid

By Janine Bowen and Martin Wilbur

Less than 24 hours after Hillary Clinton announced her candidacy for President next year, residents of her adopted home community of Chappaqua had nothing but good things to say about the decision.

On Monday, some called Clinton’s decision to once again make a bid for the White House is “a great idea.” With the election still just over a year-and-half away, many are already hoping to see her become the nation’s next commander-in-chief.

“I think everybody is very excited about it for sure,” said Marilyn D’Amico, an employee at Great Stuff on South Greeley Avenue.

D’Amico, along with her colleague Karen Rouchou, agreed that with the campaign, Clinton likely won’t be around town nearly as much. But Rouchou felt that if Clinton is successful, it will help make the hamlet an even more recognizable place since it would be the only town that a current and former President would call home.

Rouchou noted that the Clintons are a staple in the community. She sees former President Bill Clinton every Saturday.

“50 for 50” ArtsWestchester Awards for Local Winners

2015 is a big year for ArtsWestchester. Celebrating its 50th Anniversary the organization has selected 50 outstanding local artists in a “50 for 50” celebration, who will each receive $1,000 in recognition of their artistic work and contributions to Westchester’s cultural community.

The winners were selected for their impressive mix of work as filmmakers, poets, visual artists, choreographers, composers and performing artists – all of who reside in and/or work in Westchester County, and many of whom are known throughout the world.

From White Plains, Sidra Bell and Bettijane Sills are acknowledged for their work in choreography. Neil Waldman, also of White Plains is being recognized for his work in Visual Arts.

The Emily and Eugene Grant Arts Patron Award for what ArtsWestchester refers to as “quintessential leaders in the fields of arts, culture, and education” will be awarded to Yvonne and Leslie Pollack, of Bedford.

In announcing the awards, Janet Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester said: “To say that Yvonne and Leslie Pollack are extraordinary as a couple is an understatement. Yvonne and Leslie Pollack’s generosity combines passion for the arts, culture, and education.”

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What Hillary’s Neighbors Think About the Presidential Bid

continued from page 1

Hillary Clinton, seen here at New Castle’s Memorial Day parade last year, has plenty of fans in her and Bill’s adopted hometown.

at Starbucks across the street from her shop. While they haven’t had as many encounters with Hillary Clinton, they theorized that her duties as secretary of state likely kept her busy.

“She did have other things to do than morning coffee runs,” said D’Amico.

Clinton made her announcement Sunday in a smartly packaged two-minute, 18-second video.

“I’m getting ready to do something, too,” Clinton began. “I’m running for president.”

She also emphasized that she wants to be the “champion” of average citizens “so you can do more than just get by.”

Resident Sean Bell has seen Clinton in the local shops, and noted that a portion of her presidential announcement video was filmed down the street from his house. He believes that she has had a positive impact on Chappaqua and will bring those same skills to the White House to help the country at large.

“I think she’s been great for the local community,” said Bell.

Thomas Condon noted that when the Clintons initially moved to town, it brought added attention to the area. He remembered hearing that the couple had a hand in helping to hire extra police. If Clinton makes it to the White House, it could mean only good news for New Castle, Condon said.

Some residents have had the opportunity to meet the Chappaqua Democrat, who previously ran for president in 2008 but was outfinished by Barack Obama in the primaries. Peggy Klinger stated that she has met Clinton while shopping and had the opportunity to speak with her on one occasion.

“She’s very personable and down to earth, easy to talk to. I think she’s great,” said Klinger.

Of course, for close to 15 years, New Castle has been used to having a former president living in town. Now having a presidential candidate along with a former is an honor, said town Supervisor Robert Greenstein.

He said he “was humbled” when Hillary Clinton swore him in as supervisor in January 2014. At the time he said he would happily return the favor by attending her inauguration as president.

“We have a lot of famous people who live in town. But (the Clintons) aren’t just residents, they’re out there,” Greenstein said. “They’re really contributing to the community.”

Even a prominent Westchester Republican, County Executive Rob Astorino, had only good things to say about Clinton’s announcement.

“Westchester is proud to have Secretary Clinton as a leading candidate for president,” Astorino said. “Mrs. Clinton and I may come from different political parties, but I admire her service and we have always enjoyed a friendly rapport. I wish her the absolute best in the Democratic primary.”

During more than an hour of speaking with residents, The Examiner received also nothing but glowing comments regarding Clinton’s decision. Even those who don’t call the area home were supportive of having another Clinton as president.

A couple visiting from Arizona who declined to give their names, stated that they give “two thumbs up for Hillary” and hope to see her victorious in November 2016.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

HAPPY THOUGHTS CANT BUILD HOUSES VOLUNTEERS CAN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Hospital has earned the kind of recognition that inspires confidence. White Plains is among just 7% of hospitals nationwide to achieve Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence. Ranked among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation by Healthgrades for patient experience, it is also a 12 time recipient of the Consumer Choice award for highest quality and image. And now, White Plains is the proud recipient of the evidence-based Women’s Choice Award, as an America’s Best Hospital for Obstetrics in 2015.
Educating the Public on Human Trafficking

continued from page 1

the Edgemont Community Council that would help address prostitution and illegal activities at these facilities.

Martin Payson, forum facilitator, set the tone by addressing the need for legislation at the federal, state and local levels that acknowledges the victims of trafficking, be they sex workers, domestic workers, farm workers, and even workers in certain ethnic restaurants.

Payson stressed that in the passing of local laws, town officials needed to be aware of what was being done in Albany to be certain that legislation at each level complemented the others. He also offered advice that acknowledgement of the victimization of many of these people was key to solving the problem.

Ken Picard, an award winning journalist who had gone undercover in Vermont to investigate that state’s trafficking problem discovered that some of the small family-owned milk farms had Mexican workers who worked 80 to 90 hours a week and never left the farm because they were afraid they would be picked up by local authorities and deported from the country. “For the most part, they did not know where they were,” he said.

The same was true for women in the sex trafficking trade, who were often kept in small confined areas, never going outside, who worked all day, seven days a week and were only paid by the tips they received.

Picard noted several red flags that indicate a business might be involved in trafficking, such as a preference for all cash payment, women turned away at the door, and connections to online sites.

Picard’s experience during the investigation showed that when he let the workers know who he was, they were often confused and then became fearful. When local authorities came to close the doors, the businesses and the women often disappeared.


“We detained 32 women who were interviewed individually by Homeland Security agents, but we did not discover any trafficking element,” McNerney said. “We were able to arrest the offenders on unauthorized practice of a profession, which has a four-year jail term, but that does not put them out of business permanently. They are able to come back with other workers with valid massage licenses and open up shop again.”

For every licensed worker willing to come forward, there are usually several other associates working without licenses.

“They are getting better and better at their craft,” McNerney said. “In 2014, I recommended to the Town Board that they enact local legislation to address the prostitution offenses. As the law now stands, we have no authority to close them down permanently.”

By using health codes, criminal background checks and not allowing a business with a previous conviction to reopen, an effective and efficient method could be developed.

McNerney said he had looked at legislation in Rockland and Nassau counties for guidance. He hoped new legislation would be passed soon.

Nancy F. Levine, Chief Development Officer, My Sister’s Place, White Plains, said she had helped found the Anti-Trafficking Task Force in 2010. She was surprised by how many service requests the agency has had from trafficking victims, both men and women and those caught in any kind of exploitation.

My Sister’s Place works primarily with victims who are working their way out of servitude. “Many of these situations can be in private homes and small businesses, Levine explained. “You never really know where you might find it.”

The full forum can be viewed on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/mnWXUXyF3fl.
National Junior Honor Society Inductees Recognized for Excellence

White Plains Middle School inducted 149 students at the Highlands Campus into the National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony last week. The students were chosen because they exemplify the five aspects of NJHS: scholarship, character, citizenship, leadership and service. The prerequisite for consideration is a cumulative average of 92 percent for 6th and 7th grade and the first quarter of 8th grade.

Inductees are: Jessica Acevedo, Sumaya Akter, Eric Alcalde, Melissa Angel, Austin Antico, Micaela Artis, Melissa Baez, Akter, Eric Alcalde, Melissa Angel, Austin Antico, grade.

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"50 for 50" ArtsWestchester Awards for Local Winners

With compassion and they truly exemplify the spirit of selfless philanthropy."

"Working artists are the lifeblood of a creative community and we believe it's important to honor them and recognize their contributions," Langsam added. "This is especially important for ArtsWestchester in this milestone 50th anniversary year."

The Pollacks have worked creatively to enhance the reach of institutions they admire by assuming leadership positions. Yvonne Pollack served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Katonah Museum of Art for three years, with several months in the dual role of interim co-director. She is a member of the Westchester Community College Foundation Council, the ArtsWestchester Friends, the Jewish Museum Council and the Katonah Museum of Art, Education and Exhibition committees. During her tenure as an educator, she developed a traveling museum for elementary schools, conducted teacher training workshops, served on the advisory council of the Chappaqua Schools and chaired cultural enrichment for the Chappaqua PTA.

Leslie Pollack has served on the boards of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS), the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA), and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). In addition to a successful 50-year career on Wall Street, he has had a life-long love of tennis, competing and achieving victory on grass courts with his daughter in 2003. The awards will be conferred at the 2015 Arts Awards Luncheon to be held on Thursday, April 16 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown.

Russell Kahn, Editor-in-Chief of the daily kids newspaper, came to their classroom in White Plains to discuss the breaking news of the day and to work with the second graders as they selected two featured stories for publication in the next morning’s edition.


In the area of Discovery they reviewed copy and artwork on three possible science stories: a new theory concerning the origins of Earth’s moon, the possibility of alien life and the renaming of a popular dinosaur.

After discussion and debate, by secret vote (they put theirs heads face down on their desks and raised their hands), the students decided to go with the story about the moon.

It was also Sibling’s Day, which made an Earth sister planet story all the more intriguing.

“Earth’s Sister Made the Moon” was published the next day complete with an explanation of the theory from the Israel Institute of Technology about Theia Earth’s sister planet and graphics to illustrate the event that might have birthed the moon 4 billion years ago.

In the sports category they went with a local hockey trophy presentation over baseball and the hiring of the first full-time female NFL referee.

After the editorial line-up was complete, News-O-Matic staff wrote the stories and uploaded the issue for viewing worldwide by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard time, a daily schedule intended to provide teachers with advance viewing before class the next day.

The News-O-Matic App is available on smartphones and tablets and was developed to provide an engaging and exciting nonfiction reading experience for children.

For schools where students do not have their own tablets, teachers can project the content onto a Smart board as was done in Mrs. Stone’s class.

“The founders of News-O-Matic wanted to provide a place where children could go to get news in a safe environment and where the content was created in an age-appropriate way,” explained Kahn. “Children surf the web regularly and they are exposed to things that children didn’t see 20, 10, even five years ago. They are growing up in a digital world where they can’t be easily sheltered,” he said.

The company has a psychologist on staff to review and make suggestions on how to handle difficult content.

Kahn also commented that the traditional print school weekly newspapers were great, but that by using digital media, children could be exposed to the news as it is happening, on a daily basis and they could interact with it and continued on page 6
BOL Pass Resolution Commemorating Anniversary of Lincoln’s Assassination

The Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) observed the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln at its meeting Monday evening. Recognizing the once in a lifetime historic opportunity, Minority Leader, Legislator John Testa who is also the President of the Lincoln Depot Museum in Peekskill, proposed a resolution to commemorate the resolution that was passed at the time of Lincoln’s death on May 10, 1865 by the Westchester County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors were the forbearers of the Board of Legislators. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln made his only stop in Westchester at The Lincoln Depot in Peekskill. The trip was part of Lincoln’s little known-but momentous whistle stop train trip to his inauguration. After Lincoln’s death, his Funeral Train briefly stopped at the Peekskill Depot in route to his final resting place.

The 1865 resolution was intended to honor the memory of “our late Chief Magistrate, Abraham Lincoln” and express “the sorrow and regret of the people of this county at the loss sustained by the country in his sudden and untimely death.” The Hon. Hezekiah D. Robertson of Bedford presented the resolution.

Following the passage of the resolution, Legislator Testa said, “It is appropriate and important that we always remember and honor President Lincoln on the anniversary of his assassination, especially this being the Sesquicentennial observance. Not only did President Lincoln succeed in ending the abhorrent practice of slavery in our country, he held our nation together through its darkest days during the Civil War and finally lost his life for the principled stand he took.” Legislator Testa added, “We are fortunate that the historic Peekskill Depot has survived and been reclaimed to commemorate President Lincoln’s whistle stop speech in route to his inauguration and sadly where his funeral train returned in 1865.”

George Washington Elementary School 2nd Graders Help to Publish Global News

continued from page 5 with other students worldwide.

By acting as junior editors, Mrs. Stone’s class was able to experience the thrill of acting on the news as it was happening – something Kahn says News-O-Matic tries to do often. Since the newspaper is global, Kahn uses Skype to interact with classrooms around the planet. He is particularly proud of a relationship the newspaper formed with a school in Malawi, Africa.

“We often underestimate children. They can be very discerning,” he said.

To encourage students to not only read nonfiction, but also to reflect on the content as well, there is an interactive element to News-O-Matic that allows students to ask questions, comment and even draw about what they have read. Interactive maps, videos, photos, quizzes and other features are a key part of the educational experience.

“There is a ‘What Do You Think?’ section where students can debate issues such as ‘Should the United States get rid of the penny?’” Kahn explained. “Kids really thought that one through and had justifications for their feelings based on information supplied to them through News-O-Matic stories.”

Of course, there is no advertising, Kahn emphasized, and for each story published there are three different versions written for three different editions geared toward early, elementary and middle school levels.

The different levels are available through a dedicated school App that can be used in the classroom, complete with a teacher dashboard and programs created to match the literacy goals encouraged by the Common Core Curriculum.

The News-O-Matic link can be downloaded for free from your App Store. The teacher’s App is a paid program. For more information about the App and the company visit www.press4kids.com.
Police Blotter

Greenburgh Police Department

Larceny. On March 30 a larceny, occurring March 17, 2015, was reported to Police Headquarters. The victim said that an unknown person had opened a PayPal Credit Card in her name and purchased an Apple Mac Computer valued at $1,949.67. The victim said PayPal Fraud division required a police report be filed. The victim denied issues with other credit cards and banking institutions. Report for documentation purposes only.

Fraud. On March 30, a victim of identity theft reported to police that the victim received notice from her accountant that her tax return had been rejected because of a duplicate Social Security Number being used. The victim said she did not file any other tax returns and does not know who could have used her SSN to file. She was unaware if a return was issued to any other party. The victim filed a report for documentation purposes and was advised to alert her credit agencies to place an alert on her accounts.

Drug Possession. On March 30 police officers were on routine patrol when a Red 2004 Buick LeSabre occupied by four males was observed in the rear parking lot of the La Quinta hotel at 540 Saw Mill River Rd. The officers made contact with the driver of the vehicle at which time a strong smell of marijuana was noticed. The driver was advised to exit the vehicle at which time he rolled all the windows up and locked all four doors. Officers were able to gain entry to the car, removed the driver and placed him in handcuffs. Marijuana was seen in a container in plain view. The suspect was transported to police headquarters for processing. The evidence was vouchedered. All other parties were released without incident.

Suspicious Incident. On March 31, police officers responded to the Chase Bank located at 1150 Knollwood Rd. on the report of a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, the Branch Manager reported that a man had walked into the bank and slowly looked around until he was finally approached by a member of the bank staff. The man had said his name was “John” and that he lost his wallet, ID, and debit card and wanted to obtain a replacement debit card. When told that the bank could not make an exception for him and that he would need a form of photo identification, “John” appeared unhappy and again looked around the branch for an extended period of time prior to exiting through the front door. “John” was described as a thin black male in his late 40s to early 50s, approx. 6’4”, bald with no facial hair, wearing a black 3/4 length wool overcoat, a dark orange zip up sweater, black slacks and black work boots. The manager also noted that “John” was wearing a black knit cap, which he took off as he approached the Banker desk. The bank manager further reported that he observed “John” walk out the front of the bank back down the driveway to a silver older model Chrysler Town and Country with dark tinted windows parked in the first spot in the rear parking lot. An NCIC check of the vehicle’s registration came back as not on file. The manager said “John” went to the passenger side of the vehicle to speak with the driver, who appeared to be a heavy set black male. Wilson reports that approx. 10 minutes after he left and right before closing time, “John” came back into the bank asking if he could get his account balances. He was again told that the bank could not share any information without valid identification and advised “John” to obtain temporary ID from the Motor Vehicle Dept. “John” returned to the car, where he sat with the driver for about 15 minutes before they slowly drove out of the parking lot. Chase Corporate Security could not provide photos or video of the incident, but would follow up with police at a later date. No actual fraud was committed.

Criminal Mischief. On April 1, officers responded to the parking lot at Trader Joe’s where the victim reported that his car had been keyed while he was at work at in the store. He acknowledged that he had some issues with a fellow employee and suspected that he might be involved. The officer did observe damage on the driver side of the vehicle, which would match the damaged expected from a person keying a car. Security Cameras located on the south side of Best Buy may have recorded incident. A case number was assigned.

Attempted Larceny. On April 1, officers responded to a call from an elderly woman who reported that she had received a call (private caller) from a male party who identified himself as her 14-year-old grandson. The caller knew her grandson’s name. The caller then said: “I got arrested in Mexico and need $950 bail. I’m being held at the US Embassy. Don’t tell anyone.” The woman asked several questions and asked the male to call her back. At that point the caller disconnected the phone call and made no return call. The woman immediately contacted her out-of-state daughter, who confirmed that the grandson was currently at school (dropped off by his father that morning). Report for documentation purposes only.

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Westchester BOL Receives EPA Approval for Water Treatment Plant

By Benjamin Boykin

Nothing is more important than ensuring that residents of Westchester County continue to have clean air and water.

Westchester County recently announced that it received the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move forward with a $10 million water treatment plan that will bring the County into compliance with the Federal Clean Drinking Water Act. This is welcomed news for Westchester taxpayers who live in Water District 1 (Mount Vernon, Scarsdale, White Plains and Yonkers).

Although the outcome of this process is satisfactory, it did not come easy. The County was engaged in protracted litigation that potentially could have resulted in fines of $37,500 per day beginning from in 2012 until the final court proceedings ended. If the case ended in 2016, the penalties could have mounted to $82 million. In addition, if the County lost the court battle, it would still have to build a water filtration infrastructure, which was estimated to cost $100 million.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) stepped in and requested that the County Attorney commence negotiations with the U.S. Justice Department and EPA to settle the lawsuit rather than exposing county taxpayers to substantial financial risks of continued litigation.

The County had conducted studies and started design of two ultraviolet facilities to bring the Water District into compliance. However, the EPA had not reviewed and signed off on this solution. The BOL’s Law Committee solicited the input of the four affected municipalities, all of whom agreed that the County should pursue a negotiated settlement of the dispute. The Law Committee decided that the County should obtain the approval of the Federal Government by entering into a Consent Decree before moving forward.

As the result of this decision, the County Attorney commenced negotiations and reached tentative agreement in a Consent Decree that is presently before the BOL for its approval.

The consent decree requires the County to pay a civil penalty of $1.1 million. There is still work to do in mitigating this fine but the substantial financial risks faced by the County have now been removed.

We believe that it is important that the County build a cooperative working relationship with the Federal Government to amicably resolve disputes rather than contentious litigation. The resolution of this dispute proves such a relationship is possible while providing county residents safe drinking water and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Having this consent decree in advance of construction provides assurance that the County can build the water treatment facility within the specified timeframe without the uncertainty of it being in compliance with Federal Law and still save taxpayers money.

Benjamin Boykin (D-White Plains) is Westchester County’s District 5 Legislator.

Obituaries

Milton Hoffman

Milt Hoffman, a former reporter and editor for The Journal News who wrote for decades about Westchester County politics and retired as the county’s preeminent journalist, died April 7 at his home in Greenburgh. He was 86.

Hoffman officially retired in 2002 after 50 years with the newspaper. He started in 1951 in the county news bureau of Westchester County Publishers in White Plains, a precursor to The Journal News, and served in numerous capacities over the decades. He covered county and state government, was a columnist and metro editor and served as voice of the newspaper as editorial page editor.

After retiring, Hoffman used his expertise and extensive knowledge of government to help Greenburgh, and the county. He was a driving force behind the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee, and was instrumental in creating oversight of the Fairview Fire District. He also served on advisory committees, helping with town budgets and historical preservation.

“It’s a tremendous, tremendous loss for the town of Greenburgh, and the whole county,” said Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, who knew Hoffman since he was 7 or 8. “It’s not possible that someone had as much institutional knowledge as he had about Westchester County.”

Feiner knew Hoffman since his days in Hebrew school, and said he was “a good person ... the type of person who wanted to make things better. He didn’t have an agenda, he would just tell it as it is.”

Susan Schwarz of Tarrytown worked more recently with Hoffman on the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee.

“Milt was our dearest friend and colleague who contributed so much to the fabric of our community,” she said. “He never stopped looking for ways to promote democracy.”

Lawmakers recalled his sense of fairness.

“Elected officials whom he covered for more than five decades knew him to be thorough, accurate, honest, dedicated and, most of all, fair,” U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, said. “Milt loved Westchester – its history, politics, and people – and continued playing an active role in our community after he retired from the newspapers.”

Hoffman was known as a gracious colleague who was never too busy to share his expertise.

“In his soul, Milt was a street reporter. He was instinctive, smelled when news was breaking, had countless contacts, could work the phones and write fast in his pad while on the beat,” said Arthur Gunther, former Rockland editorial page editor for The Journal News who worked with him for decades.

“Milt, despite his street smarts, was a gracious fellow, a matter of fact, a roll-up-the-sleeves editor, but willing to push his desk papers aside for a personal chat. He made many a kid a true newspaperman through personal guidance.”

–Source: Ballard Durand Funeral Home

Christine Gallagher

Christine Barbara (Bedner) Gallagher, 77, of White Plains, passed away April 5. Christine was born on April 24, 1937 in White Plains to Joseph and Christine Bedner.

Christine worked at Finast Supermarket, which became Edward’s and was later known as Stop and Shop, for 37 years. She devoted her time to Our Lady of Sorrows Religious Education on Sundays in the office. She was active in the Women’s Guild of Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

She is survived by her two devoted daughters Barbara (Gallagher) (Ronny) Lew of White Plains, and Dawn (Gallagher) (Gus) Vargas of Las Vegas. She is survived by a loving granddaughter Veronica Christine Lew. In addition, she is also survived by The Bridges family and various nieces and nephews.

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.
By Melanie Singer

Why is it that the first time I really learned about the environment was in college? Why was my freshman year the first time I truly delved into climate change issues? Why is this not a topic for the classroom starting all the way back in Kindergarten?

I’ve lived in Harrison all my life, and attended Harrison Avenue Elementary School, Louis M. Klein Middle School, and finished at Harrison High School. I received a great public school education that led me to matriculate at a prestigious college. Although I learned a lot in Harrison, there was a total absence of ecological literacy.

In Harrison, the only time I recall learning about the environment and anything about sustainability was in 2nd grade. My teacher dedicated a weeklong lesson to the environment and ways to be sustainable. The only teachable moment that stuck with me to this day was when our class went out to a restaurant and a waitress approached us to fill up the glass of water. We covered the glass with our hands, indicating that you don’t want to waste fresh water. The three R’s were also drilled into our heads, as we would repeat Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in class. The way I would use the three Rs in middle school would be to reduce the amount of plastic water bottles I drank per day. We contributed to environmental awareness by purchasing one plastic water bottle, drinking it and then refilling it with water, and finally recycling it. See, I used the three Rs and now I’m saving the planet!

“So sustainability … is human awareness that the world’s resources are not limitless …”

So, what is sustainability anyway? There is no clear-cut definition. Sustainability can be thought of as the idea of reducing the waste that humans create in our environment, turning off the lights to save energy in our households, but it is also the human awareness that the world’s resources are not limitless and the ecosystem is fragile. To be sustainable we need “peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind,” as prescribed by David Orr. Materials are becoming scarce in our world and we need to have more ecological awareness of this reality.

We all know that the Earth is warming due to climate change. What many don’t know is that we have the ability to help slow it down. 2014 marked the warmest year in history as NASA reported that global average temperatures have been hotter than normal. Climate change is caused by normal human activity, such as driving automobiles, that contributes to the constant use of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

I have found at Dickinson College that we strive to be a sustainable campus; the topic of sustainability has snuck into almost every class I have taken at Dickinson because it is such a crucial and current topic that traverses curricular boundaries. The education I received through the Harrison School District was excellent, but the curriculum should incorporate the concepts of sustainability and how sustainability touches on all academic subjects, whether it is history, English, math, or the sciences.

School districts could incorporate creative workshops involving teachers and students learning about sustainability through activities that take place each school year. K-12 students are imaginative and creative, and students should be prompted and encouraged to think and brainstorm in their classes ways in which their community can be more sustainable, and spread awareness of their ecological literacy.

Melanie Singer is a Sociology Major and English Minor at Dickinson College’17
Believe it or Not, the Connection Between Pianos and Real Estate

Either the piano is about to become as extinct as the dodo bird from American homes or, much like Mark Twain, its untimely death has been greatly exaggerated. It depends on what you read and who you believe.

Within the past few weeks, there’s been good and bad news about the piano industry and, oddly enough, a report of its connection to the real estate industry.

First I heard an interview on SiriusXM radio that referenced a New York Times article about a “graveyard” for unwanted pianos in Southampton, Pa. That particular graveyard is one of many.

As a realtor, I frequently am asked by clients selling their homes for advice about how to dispose of their pianos, especially if they are downsizing.

It wasn’t all that long ago that a piano was as integral to a home’s living room as a flat screen TV is today. Sheet music for popular songs was readily available and families would play music together for entertainment. Even with our wealth of modern diversions, people still love listening to music. Why shouldn’t they still love creating it?

At least some enterprising artists will occasionally make use of the parts. The recent production of “Into the Woods” by the Fiasco Theater at the Roundabout in New York played within a set constructed from piano harps retrieved from that dump in Pennsylvania.

But what’s the connection to real estate and is there hope on the horizon for the future of the piano? A report last week in the Chicago Tribune showed that the tempo for piano sales is picking up and, flying in the face of earlier reports of doom and gloom for the industry, the reason is the improvement in real estate sales.

According to Larry Morton, president of Hal Leonard Corp., an educational music print publisher, the sale of new pianos is directly tied to real estate.

“The sales of new pianos have always been driven by people buying new homes,” he said. “It’s part of the experience of having a house, not unlike buying furniture.”

But more importantly, there are distinct benefits to young people associated with the study of piano. To know the full score about that, I spoke to Jonathan Ackerman, a private piano instructor in lower Westchester and Chair of District 4 of the New York State Music Teachers Association. Here’s the list of benefits he gave me:

Discipline: Piano study requires a daily routine and regimen of warm-ups, music theory study, listening and repertoire development.

Long-term Planning: Learning piano is a series of achieving a continually more complex set of skills and repertoire over many years. To master an advanced piece of music may take many months.

Persistence: Mastering a piece of music takes repeated efforts with many failures along the way to achieve success.

Future Success in School and Work: Studying an instrument often equates to future success in school when compared with any other activity.

A recent study found that 75 percent of Silicon Valley CEOs had instrumental music education as a child.

Brain Development: An MIT study determined that the cerebral cortex of a concert pianist is enlarged by 30 percent on average compared to people who are considered intellectuals but who did not have instrumental music education as a child.

Cultural/Artistic Connection: The piano literature contains some of the greatest musical compositions in history. Many great composers began as pianists, and the piano is a great instrument to develop improvisational and composition skills.

Social Connection: A pianist can play solo, in an ensemble or accompany singers and choirs. Students learn how to work in teams when preparing for a performance.

The best year for new piano sales in the U.S. was 1909 when more than 364,500 were sold. In 2005, that number was down to 95,000, dropping to 33,000 at the depths of the recession in 2009. Encouragingly, that number has grown 4.3 percent with more than 37,200 sold last year.

Offering such solid benefits to those who study piano, here’s hoping that the improving real estate market will support a movement to reclaim an important part of our cultural history and encourage people to bring the piano back into our homes.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com) 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.

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An Exploration Into Changing Wines Into Spirits

The process of making wine, with its natural life cycle of fruit-producing grapevines to ferment juice to bottled wine, has been carried on for millennia. For all of the modern technology and techniques, it remains an ancient art best expressed as a simple, natural process.

There are numerous parallels to winemaking in the natural world that man has usurped and attempted to improve upon. Man has endeavored to enhance wine and even to extend winemaking techniques to other agricultural harvests. These parallels may be grouped into two broad categories: micro siblings and macro siblings.

"... a look at micro siblings"

I refer to micro siblings as beverages that begin with grapes, follow the recipe for making wine, but then digress at critical points in the process to create unique, enhanced beverages bearing only fundamental similarities to wine.

Macro siblings undergo a production cycle that is similar to wine, but begin with a dissimilar agricultural product. More on this next week.

This week, I'll focus on micro siblings.

These can be as diverse as vodkas distilled from grapes (Cîroc being the most popular), fortified wines (Port, Sherry Madeira and Vermouth) or distilled spirits. In the latter category, the most prominent are brandies, principally from the Cognac and Gascony regions of France.

A distinction between fortified wines and distilled spirits is in order. For fortified wines, traditionally produced wines are supplemented with additional alcohol, typically in the form of brandy (yielding 18 to 20 percent alcohol by volume). In distilled spirits, the wine is reduced to its essence through a still.

Charles Neal, author of several books on brandy, offers this definition: “The main objective is to heat wine until it boils, purely condense its vapors, and finally reconvert this steam into liquid form again.” (Here the yield is 40 to 46 percent alcohol by volume.)

I began to ponder the inherent similarities and dissimilarities of micro siblings at a private tasting luncheon I attended last week, sampling 12 offerings of a French wine and spirits producer, Chateau du Tariquet, from the Gascony region in southwestern France.

The winemaker Armin Grassa, whose family has been associated with the winery for over 100 years, represented the Chateau.

Their offerings? Two distinctive lines: wines (a rarity in Gascony) and distilled spirits (the essence of the region).

This unique approach to winemaking offered me an insight into the distinction between traditionally processed wines and their micro siblings.

Visualize the harvest season at Chateau du Tariquet. International and local indigenous white grapes are crushed and fermented. The grapes for Armagnac are Ugni Blanc, Folle Blanche, Baco and Plant de Graise. For wines, Ugni Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Colombard, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon are grown.

A dessert wine is also produced from Gros Manseng and Petit Manseng grapes.

The fermented wine grapes progress to holding tanks for aging. The fermented Armagnac grapes are processed through an alambic distiller. The resulting spirits are aged from five to more than 15 years before release.

The eight wines I sampled were excellent expressions of grapes not typically found in wine shops, principally the blends from the above noted grapes. The price points were all reasonable, in the $10 to $15 retail price range. I encourage you to experiment with several of the single varietal and blended wines. You may find your next favorite white wine.

I enjoyed four expressions of the Grassa family Armagnacs, ranging from a single varietal Folle Blanche, to a 1995 single vintage blend, to the Centenaire, a 100th Grassa anniversary blend.

The underlying profile of the Armagnacs was distinctive from other brandies and Cognacs I have consumed. The bouquet resounded of orange, plum, quince and apricot, some of fresh fruit, others of preserved fruit. These were complemented by notes of vanilla and caramel. The barrel aging produced an earthy, rustic essence that enhanced the overall flavors and aromas in my glass.

If it seems that I thoroughly enjoyed my tasting event, then I have succeeded in relaying my enthusiasm for the wines and spirits of Chateau du Tariquet. Such winemakers con tribute to the diverse and adventurous world of wine’s micro siblings.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
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RINALDI FLEA MARKETS
Rinaldi Flea Markets Open Every Sunday through October. Visit www.rinaldifleamarkets.com for more info.

EVENTS
Rinaldi Flea Markets Open Every Sunday through October. 900 Dutchess Turnpike Poughkeepsie. See you there!
By Jerry Eimbinder

Leslie Lampert is the founder and proprietor of the popular Mount Kisco restaurant Café of Love, Ladle of Love (takeout only) and Love on the Run (off-premise catering).

Just over a decade ago she was one of America’s leading food writers. A senior editor at Ladies Home Journal, she wrote food features, among other responsibilities.

But Lampert liked making soup at home for her fledgling gift basket business so much that she decided to give up journalism to pursue a career in the food business. Her “reinvention of herself” was brought to the attention of a vast television audience on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” in 2008.

“It’s all about love,” Lampert said about her endeavors, “Love of food, community and cooking with a conscious.”

She sources many local ingredients and products and stresses the importance of contributing to the neighborhood’s economic (and overall) health.

Lampert, a White Plains resident, finished the 2015 spring dinner menu for Café of Love about a week ago and it debuted last weekend. She wrote the menu and the recipes.

“The kitchen staff creates the dishes with French technique and a whole lotta love,” she said.

The varied spring menu consists of 14 appetizers and 13 entrees — most of which are new dishes.

“The farmhouse salad and the bouillabaisse will stay on the menu forever; there would be a mutiny by my guests if I ever took them off,” Lambert commented.

Seafood includes Atlantic salmon ($29), crusted Mahi Mahi ($33), pan-seared Long Island hake ($26) and seafood bouillabaisse with shrimp, mussels, hake, prawn, tomatoes and saffron-fennel broth ($34).

The spring menu also includes a $16 hamburger and the $18 signature farmhouse salad that comes with 11 ingredients. Chicken, shrimp or salmon can be added at extra cost.

Pasta whisperer Esvin Perez Garcia receives special praise from Lampert. “Perfect pillow gnocchis — pappardelle to make a Paisano proud,” she said.

Bar manager Justin Pollack gets a nod of approval, too, for his signature beverage called “Blood Orange Bourbon Thawed.”

Café of Love has two ongoing $15 specials: burger and beer on Tuesdays and wine and wings on Wednesdays. It is open for lunch and dinner every day except Monday and for brunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Chef de Cuisine Hector Coronel has been minding the stove at Café of Love since the start more than seven years ago. He trained at a little cafe called Restaurant Cummanda in his hometown of Quito, Ecuador. When he was only 15, he mastered the preparation of a local favorite—sopa de pollo (chicken stew).

He arrived in America in 1994, worked at several local restaurants and developed Café of Love’s searing technique for fish and beef.

“For me, cooking is relaxing. Love the fast pace and the structure of working with the guys on the line,” he said.

Kitchen Manager Mike Donnelly was classically trained at The French Culinary Institute in Manhattan (now called the International Culinary Center). He’s the newest team member, having joined the restaurant five years ago.

“The kitchen is my comfort zone,” Donnelly said. “I hung out with my Irish grandma watching her cook from recipes in ‘The Joy of Cooking’ and ‘The New York Times Cookbook.’ When I was five years old, I already knew I would make my career in the kitchen.”

He began as an overnight cook at Ladle of Love, and shortly after, moved to Café of Love. He is the first one to arrive in the morning and often the last one to leave.

Lampert said Café of Love manager Amanda Gomolka makes sure the rhythm stays on point, ensuring each guest has a memorable experience.

Ladle of Love is headed by manager Jennifer Mendez and lead cook Jackson Lopez. It has no tables or chairs, just an order and pickup counter and a kitchen.

The frequently changing menu offers hot and cold items for lunch including sandwiches, salads, stews and of course — soup.

For lunch and dinner, the entrees typically include chicken, pasta and grain dishes, with vegan and gluten-free items always among the choices. Ladle of Love is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Many Café of Love and Ladle of Love soups and stews are available at Mrs. Green’s Natural Markets. Lampert’s establishments support local charities and community organizations ranging from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Little League organizations to land trust and lunch programs. Ladle of Love won the Forbes Enterprise Award in 2008 and The Love Group received four Snail of Approval Awards from Slow Food Metro North in 2013.

Café of Love is located at 38 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco. Call 914-242-1002 or visit www.cafeofloveny.com for more information.

Ladle of Love is located at 11B S. Moger Ave. in Mount Kisco. It can be reached at 914-242-9661 or visit www.ladleoflove.com.
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, April 14
Tuesdays at Dorry’s. NYS Assembly Member Amy Paulin, 88th district, has been a consistent advocate for the needs and rights of children, women, seniors, and others who are too often vulnerable or marginalized. She has been instrumental in sponsoring a great deal of legislation; most recently, in March 2015, her Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act was passed by the NYS Assembly and will now be sent to Governor Cuomo to be signed into law. She will speak with us about human trafficking, and particularly about how it impacts Westchester County. We appreciate that she’ll come to Dorry’s even briefly in the midst of many demands on her time, and we’ll ask her to alert us to other important state and local issues. Please join us. No reservations are needed. Presentation is 6:15 to 6:50 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry’s Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

WPCNA Meeting. White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations; 7:30 p.m. at Education House (downtown Meeting Room), 5 Homeside Lane in White Plains (off North Street). We have two presentations at this meeting: the first by Naomi Klein and Yvonne Gumowitz of EcoNeighbors to primarily discuss the Take It Or Leave It (TILI) shed at the Gedney Recycling Center and the second by Kevin Nunn, Executive Director of the White Plains Business Improvement District (BID). BID is a self-taxing district formed to improve the general business climate and appearance of downtown White Plains. BID services include marketing and promotion, special events, streetscape improvements, sidewalk cleaning and member advocacy. Each talk will be followed by a Q&A.

Wednesday, April 15
Noontime Getaway Concert. Organist Ryan Kennedy, First Prize Winner of the American Guild of Organists Region II Competition, returns to Downtown Music to play works of Bach, Reger and Mendelssohn on the magnificent Guibault Therien organ at Grace Church; 12:10 p.m. Free Admission. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.

LWV Human Trafficking Forum. 7 p.m. at the White Plains Public Library, The League of Women Voters of White Plains, along with the White Plains Rotary, the Slater Center, El Centro Hispano will present a Forum on Human Trafficking. Amy Paulin, who recently helped to pass significant legislation on this issue will speak, along with Gonzalo Martinez de Vedia of the Human Trafficking Program, Workers Justice Center, Carl J. Boykin, Director of Human Trafficking Prevention for New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; and Lauren Hersh, Director, Anti-Trafficking Policy and Advocacy, Sanctuary for Families. Now that the legislation has been passed in the Assembly and Senate and will soon be signed into law by the Governor, there’s a lot of work to be done. This will be the focus of the forum.

Curious-on-Hudson. Anya Kamanetz, NPR Education author and author of The Test – Why Our Schools are Obsessed with Testing and Why You Don’t Have to Be will appear at Curious-on-Hudson, 145 Palisade Street, Dobbs Ferry; 7:30 p.m. Kamanetz is the author of several books about the future of education. For more information visit http://curiousonhudson.com or call 914-274-8205.

WCC Film Series: “The Owl and the Sparrow.” A 10-year-old orphan works in her uncle’s factory outside Saigon. The uncle berates the child constantly, so she runs away to Saigon. She encounters two individuals who impact her life and she is determined to bring them together. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Screening at 7:50 p.m. $11. Seniors (60 and up): $10. $48. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

Danceworks. Westchester Community College’s dance company, a diverse ethnic and cultural combination of college students and alumni and led by Company Director Mollyann Franzblau, will present a special program Westchester Community College’s Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. $15. Children, students and seniors: $10. Also Apr. 18 at 8 p.m. and Apr. 19 at 9 p.m. Tickets: 914-606-6262 or at the door. Info: Visit www.sunycwcc.edu.

Saturday, April 18
Co-Creating an Unfinished Universe. Challenges and New directions; 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. As both scientist and theologian, Sr. Ilia moves forward for a new generation the work of the paleoanthropologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ. Sr. Ilia weaves together the different strands of our understanding of God, the evolving universe, and the evolving person’s role in the continuing work of creation. Pre-registration $20; $25 at the door. Call 914-798-1109. DC Spirituality Center, 52 N. Broadway, White Plains.

YMCA Family Fun Day. A free community event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to inspire kids to keep their minds and bodies active. Will feature games, healthy food demonstrations and samples from Big Apple Smoothie and others, arts and crafts, science projects, demonstrations of kids classes in martial arts, basketball, ballet, Fit Kids and Youth Energetic Dance. There will be a camp information center, and a swag bag for every family that attends. Event goal is to motivate and teach families how to develop healthy routines at home. There will also be a Legos Healthy Kids contest. Children are asked to design and build Lego displays with a “healthy kids” theme at home and drop them to the YMCA on April 16 and 17 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Three age categories: 1st and 2nd place in each category; great prizes. All entries will be displayed. $10 fee per entry. Winners announced at 1 p.m. on April 18. YMCA, 250 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

White Plains Earth Day Celebration. Live music, storytelling, Green exhibits, environmental pledge tree; Noon to 4 p.m. Court Street, White Plains. Free event. Signs of Spring. Explore the trails with a naturalist and see who is awake after a long winter nap. Read a short story and meet some live animals to learn how they welcome spring. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: $5 per person. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Sunday, April 19
Spring Seed Starter Garden Party in The Children’s Garden at The Church in the Highlands; 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Let’s Get Some Seeds Started! Join the party to create garden art, prepare soil, sow seeds, dig-in and grow with us. Join a team to plan the next phases of the Perennial, Butterfly, Vegetable and Herb Gardens. 35 Bryant Ave. Lawn, White Plains - Free Admission; visit www.churchinthehighlands.org for details.

Earth Day at Wainwright House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Native & Pollinators Plant Sale. Attract Birds, Bees and Butterflies. Good for the Earth, Garden and House. Wainwright House, 260 Stuyvesant Ave, Rye; www.wainwright.org; 914-967-6080.

“Quartet for the End of Time” Concert commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Europe during World War II. First Baptist Church of White Plains will present Olivier Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time at 5 p.m. Messiaen composed this musical masterpiece in 1940 as a prisoner of war in Nazi-occupied France. He used the only musical instruments in the camp (Stalag VIII A): a clarinet, a violin, a cello with only three strings and a broken piano. The first performance took place there on January 15, 1941 to an audience of prisoners. A reception follows the concert. Tickets available at the door (cash or check payable to John Wolfe, we are unable to process credit cards); $15, Students: $10 Children: Free. Free parking. First Baptist Church of White Plains, 456 North Street, White Plains; www.firstbaptistwhiteplains.org.

Downtown Music at Grace. Downtown Music continues its collaboration with the young winners of the New York International Piano Competition.

- Anna Han and Allen Yueh play a program featuring the Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21 and the Schumann Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54. They will be accompanied by Downtown Sinfonietta, which features members of the Metropolitan Opera.
Orchestra, playing from unique 19th and 21st century arrangements of the score; 5 p.m. tickets $25, $15 seniors, $10 students age 25 and younger, $10 children ages 5-12. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.

“A Year With Frog and Toad.” The Play Group Theatre, theater for children and teens, opens its 2015 season with this story based on the books of Arnold Lobel. Part vaudeville, part make believe, all charm, this is the story of friendship that endures, weathering all seasons. Lively melodies and endless wit make for a fun production for the entire family. The Play Group Theatre, 1 N. Broadway, White Plains. 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. $18. Seniors and children (under 12): $15. Also Apr. 26 at 2 and 7 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-946-4433 or visit www.playgroup.org.

Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration. Learn how to gather fresh rainwater for your gardens and how to turn your food scraps and garden waste into rich compost that will build up your soil. Other family-friendly activities include making your own seed garden, personalizing a reusable bag and take a guided tour of the newly restored and revitalized native meadow. Also, plant a tree in recognition of Arbor Day. Refreshments available for purchase. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. (Some activities require a small fee.) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Monday, April 20

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: $9 per child. Non-member: $12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Tuesday, April 21

NAACP Meeting. The White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP General Membership Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Avenue, White Plains. Immediately following, an Economic Empowerment Forum on wealth management, retirement planning protection and estate planning with Rashad Bilal, Partner Bilal Group LLC as the Guest Speaker. Entertainment will be provided by Joe Boykin.

Barnes & Nobel Author Event. In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day join a talk, Q&A and book signing with Rabbi Joseph Polak for his book “After the Holocaust the Bells Still Ring.” This memoir is a fascinating portrait of a mother and child who miraculously survive two concentration camps, then, after the war, battle demons of the past, societal rejection, disbelief, and invalidation as they struggle to re-enter the world of the living. Early critics suggest that this book constitutes the missing chapters of Anne Frank’s diary had she but survived Bergen-Belsen to conclude her memoirs; 7 p.m., Barnes & Nobel Bookellers, 230 Main St., White Plains; 914-397-2420.

Wednesday, April 22


Thursday, April 23


Friday, April 24


Saturday, April 25

Neighborhood Health Fair. Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains; 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free health screenings, information, food and activities. Sponsored by Medical and Dental Staff of White Plains Hospital.

TILL Shed Opens. The White Plains Take It or Leave It Shed opens, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gedney Recycling Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains.

Greenburgh Taste Off. Food from local restaurants, exhibits, entertainment; Noon to 3 p.m. Woodlands School Gymnasium, 475 West Hartsdale Ave., Hartsdale. Tickets $20 in advance, $25 at the door; call 914-703-2615.

Native Plant Sale. Edible native plants will be featured among the hundreds of perennials, shrubs and trees available at The Native Plant Center’s 16th annual sale. The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members may enter at 9:30 a.m. Info: 914 606-7870, visit www.nativeplantcenter.org or e-mail wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.org.


Sunday, April 26

Family Walkathon. April’s Child’s “Strengthening Families One Step at a Time Walkathon” will be held at Rye Playland. Children, families, friends and colleagues will have a lot of fun at a 5K walk or a 1/2 mile stroll, enjoying activities and entertainment. Registered walkers will get a tee shirt, a goody bag, refreshments, and prizes. This event raises awareness about preventing child abuse and neglect in Westchester County for April’s Child Abuse Prevention Month. Proceeds from the Walk-a-thon go directly to help fund April’s Child’s programs and services, which include a home visiting Parent Aide Program, a 24/7 Parent HelpLine, Parenting Groups and Workshops, and a Speaker’s Bureau. For more information visit www.aprilchildwalk.doggydog.com; call 914 997 2642 or email info@aprilchild.org

Ongoing Events

Crossing Borders: Memory and Heritage in a New America. Ar sWestchester hosts this exhibit, one of 70 events throughout the county that comprise “ART SEE: A Festival of New Work,” highlighting the work of new and first-generation American artists who use their autobiographies and family history as an artific tool to explore universal concerns of memory, heritage and identity. ArtsWestchester Gallery, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through May 2. Info: Visit https://artswecheste r.org.

Nicole Tschampl Exhibition. In her latest body of work, Tschampl utilizes mainstream media and historic imagery of magicians, healers and spiritual guides to create a multimedia installation dealing with themes of faith, perception and artistic creation. Westchester Community College’s Fine Arts Gallery, Academic Arts Building, 75 Grasslands Ave., Valhalla. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through April 25. Info: 914-606-7867 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/gallery.

D’Errico Jewelry invites you and your pet to a special event Thursday, April 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Scarsdale store, 509, Central Park Avenue. Enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and much more. Méche, the world’s leading pet charm manufacturer, is being hosted for a four day trunk show (April 23 to 26). Your pet will get a free physic reading with your purchase of a Méche charm.

D’Errico is also staging their first Pet Beauty Pageant at 8 p.m., April 23. The winning dog will receive a personalized sterling silver dog bone dog tag.

A percentage of the night’s sales will go to the SPCA of Westchester and Pets Alive Westchester.

Stop in and take advantage of this opportunity to show off your precious pet and get some beautiful jewelry as well.

D’Errico Jewelry, 509 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale; 914-722-1940.

D’Errico Jewelry Precious Pets Event
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