Local Hispanic Leaders Attend Historic Papal Address

By Pat Casey

Not only was it her birthday – and one of the best gifts she could possibly receive – but important meetings and events on her calendar just moved around without her having to do anything so she could attend Pope Francis’ historic address to Congress last Thursday, said Isabel Villar, Executive Director of El Centro Hispano, of White Plains, in an interview on Sunday.

Villar said she received the invitation from Congresswoman Nita Lowey for herself and El Centro Hispano Deputy Director Judith Aucar just three weeks before the event. The answer, of course, was an immediate “Yes” and the two Cuban refugees from the 1960s, who came to the United States to escape the reign of Castro, realized they were at a point of what seemed like full circle in their lives. “I had to leave high school at age 16 because I went to a Catholic school in Cuba,” Villar remembered, acknowledging that being in the Capitol building, seated in the Gallery, listening to the moving words of Pope Francis and witnessing the overwhelmingly positive response of everyone around her, completely reinforced everything she had done and is continuing to do in her life.

El Centro Hispano provides services to Hispanic immigrants to the United States, helping them legally, to learn English and promoting education for their children.

Because Villar and Aucar had to pick up their tickets to the Papal address at Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s office, they had to be up early on Thursday morning. “We stayed at a hotel about three to four miles out and took a subway to get downtown,” Villar said. “I could not sleep. When the clock struck 3 a.m., I said that’s it, time to get up. The subway didn’t open until 5 a.m.”

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It is Diaper Need Awareness Week In Westchester County

There is a county- supported diaper drive in place through Oct. 5 in Westchester with a proclamation from the County Executive’s office thanking members of the Junior League of Central Westchester (JLCW) for their service to the cause and calling for donations to the diaper drive.

Since the Westchester County Diaper Bank was opened last November an average of 15,800 diapers have been distributed each month to needy families.

“If it is thanks entirely to donations that the Diaper Bank is able to reach so many people. Every single donation really does matter. And with every donation, you are helping to keep a baby clean, healthy and happy,” said Astorino announcing the drive.

A collection bin has been set up in the lobby of the Michaelian Office Building, located at 148 Martine Ave., White Plains. Diaper sizes 4, 5 and 6 are especially needed, but all sizes and brands of packaged diapers and wipes will be accepted until Monday, Oct. 5.

The Diaper Bank is a partnership between JLCW and the county’s Department of Social Services. Intended to help get families through the tough times, the Diaper Bank gives families

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Appeals Court Says No Finding on Housing Discrimination

In what Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino calls “a major vindication for all of Westchester County’s municipalities,” the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit said in a ruling issued Friday that, “there has been no finding, at any point, that Westchester actually engaged in housing discrimination.”

“This is a big victory for Westchester County,” Astorino said in a press statement. “This vindicates our fight to protect home rule and local zoning. The issue with HUD and the monitor has never been about race or access to housing. There is no place for discrimination in Westchester or any place else. But by the same token, there needs to be checks on the federal government’s ability to use its power and money to reshape our communities.”

The latest ruling stems from the county’s battle to reclaim funds withheld by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the 2009 settlement reached by former County Executive Andrew Spano and the federal government to build 750 units of affordable housing in 31 mostly white communities by the end of 2016. To date the county has met its benchmarks for developing the housing and more than

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With tickets in hand, Villar and Aucar were escorted through seven security checkpoints and through the tunnels that connect buildings on the “Hill.”

“Sheat in the Gallery, I kept pinching myself,” Villar said. “It did not seem all that long ago that I came to the United States with only the clothes on my back, and here I was in person watching history being made – the first time the Pope would address Congress.

It was so different from watching the President make the State of the Union address, Villar noted. “The Pope was so humble. He went down the aisle and to the podium as though he was in meditation. Everyone was silent, on the edge of their seats listening to every word he said. He was interrupted so many times with applause. And I saw so many people crying, Villar said. “It was an incredible experience. With every different issue he spoke of, you could feel the unity, as though everything was one.”

Before coming to White Plains and El Centro Hispano, Villar was an American History teacher in Norwalk, Conn. She has Political Science and Latin American Studies degrees and taught students from 7th to 10th grade.

Her knowledge of American history made last week’s experience all the more profound.

“This Pope has a unique way of saying things,” Villar said. “He tells everyone what they don’t want to hear, but they realize he is right. He teaches by example.”

Villar said that during lunch there were members of Congress all around talking about the address and commenting on the Pope’s remarks. “Everyone was very positive,” she said. “We will see if anything changes.”

Villar and Aucar were also guests at Madison Square Garden for the Pope’s Mass the following day.

In a press release after Thursday’s address, Congresswoman Lowey made the following statement: “It was an honor to hear His Holiness, Pope Francis address a Joint Session of Congress today. In his historic speech, he underscored the pressing need to address all forms of poverty. His commitment to providing a voice for the voiceless transcends faiths and party lines, reminding us that we must all work together to lift up the poor, provide care to the sick, and ensure opportunity for all to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.”

Stephanie Gabaud Blessed by Pope at St. Pat’s Cathedral

By Albert Coqueran

Stephanie Gabaud, pictured (right) with her coach Kevin Brown, participated in the Special Olympics Homecoming Basketball Game, at White Plains High School, on April 29. Gabaud, a 17 year old White Plains resident, who suffers from Spina bifida, is a student in the Special Education Program at White Plains High School. On Thursday Gabaud attended Pope Francis’s Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan, escorted by a group from White Plains.

Gabaud left her Tigers basketball uniform at home and dressed in a red velvet top and white satin skirt to greet Pope Francis. As the Pope approached her by the main alter in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, he kissed her forehead, hugged her and blessed her, as she sat in her wheelchair. “He first said something in Spanish that I could not understand. I wished him blessings and then he gave me a hug. Oh my God, it was amazing,” emotionally stated Gabaud, who wept as the Pope bestowed his blessing on her. “The Pope could not have had a better person greeting him. Stephanie is an amazing young lady; it was extraordinary to see her at St. Patrick’s Cathedral,” said WPHS Principal Ellen Doherty.

By Albert Coqueran

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Steinac Honors Pope Francis’ Visit with Peace Pole Dedication

Inspired by the historic visit of Pope Francis to the United States, Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, held a dedication ceremony for a Peace Pole that will remain on the school grounds as a lasting reminder for world peace.

Stepinac students also mobilized a fund raising initiative to help support children with cancer.

Stepinac Principal Paul Carty noted that Stepinac wanted to mark the Pope's visit in ways that would "resonate with the Pope's mission. "We decided that focusing on world peace and having our students dedicate their generosity toward supporting a worthy but timely cause perfectly fit the bill," Carty explained.

The pole, which is a handcrafted monument about six feet high, displays the message and prayer, “May Peace Prevail on Earth" translated in eight languages. As part of the ceremony, eight students read the language versions of the prayer: Marquis Burwell (English); Zejean Liu (Chinese); Charles Iarocci (Spanish); Paul Terminello (Italian); Minsuk Kim (Korean); John Gojani (Albanian); Daniel Verlus (French) and Dylan Dorkin (Croatian).

Stepinac President Rev. Thomas Collins (Class of ’79) led the ceremony with a prayer for world peace and blessed the pole by sprinkling holy water on it and the marker. Father Collins gave special thanks to Carlo Noletti Iarocci and Gedney Farms for donating the work they did, respectively, in creating the dedication stone and landscaping the grounds around the pole.

The celebration also acknowledged Brandon Cabaleiro (Class of 2016) of White Plains who had the honor of representing Stepinac in welcoming the Pontiff at Our Lady of Angels in East Harlem. Brandon was one of a select group of outstanding students from throughout the Archdiocese of New York who was chosen to share in the excitement of greeting the Holy Father.

Principal Carty said that Cabaleiro was selected because of his involvement in a number of school clubs, especially the Campus Ministry where "he has participated in several food runs to Manhattan to provide for those in need. This is a great example of supporting the Holy Father's call to care for those less fortunate, he said"

As it turns out, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month was being observed at the same time as the Pope’s visit. The students raised a total of $2,105 and a check for that amount was presented to Gina Bussa, a representative of Go4theGoal, the non-profit organization committed to helping children with cancer.

A Peace Pole was erected at Stepinac High School in honor of Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States last week and also as a reminder for world peace.
**Appeals Court Says No Finding on Housing Discrimination**

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300 of the units are already occupied.

As part of the settlement, the county is also required to file an AI or “analysis of impediments,” which HUD finds “acceptable.” Westchester has filed eight AIs with HUD, which look at possible challenges to building affordable housing. Despite the fact that the county’s AIs include more than a thousand pages of data and make up the most comprehensive submission ever received by HUD, the agency has repeatedly refused to accept them because it would not accept the county’s conclusion that local zoning laws were not exclusionary, the County’s press release said.

In 2011, as a way to try to get the county to change its conclusion, HUD began withholding Community Development Block Grants from Westchester. The county went to court claiming HUD did not have the right to withhold the money.

The Second Circuit agreed with the county that “HUD may not … condition funding on changes to local policies, including zoning laws.” However, stressing the narrow nature of its decision, the court said HUD could withhold the money because it did have the right to ask the county to analyze zoning and the analysis was still incomplete.

“It bears emphasizing that this decision does not mean that any of Westchester County’s municipalities violated the Fair Housing Act or engaged in discrimination on the basis of race,” the judges wrote, adding, “In short, there has been no finding, at any point, that Westchester actually engaged in housing discrimination.”

The decision allows HUD to reallocate approximately $5 million, which had been allocated for Westchester in 2013. Astorino has proposed a local program to replace money withheld by HUD. The county is no longer seeking additional federal funds to avoid further pressure from HUD to dismantle local zoning.

Because the county is no longer seeking additional funds, the court left open the question of how HUD “can enforce the consent decree against the County” and what steps the county can take to “end further supervision over its housing policies.” In making this point, the appeals court called on the lower court to “apply a flexible standard” with the goal that “at some point in time this litigation has to be ended.”

**It is Diaper Need Awareness Week In Westchester County**

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an opportunity to apply for a package containing a week’s supply of diapers and wipes up to three times a year per child.

For more information about receiving or donating diapers, contact the Junior League of Central Westchester at (914) 723-6442, jlcwdiaperbank@gmail.com or www.jlcentralwestchester.org.

**My Sisters’ Place Hires New Program Officer**

My Sisters’ Place (MSP), a nonprofit that supports survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking through direct services, advocacy and community education has named Diane Tukman as its new Chief Program Officer.

In her new role, Tukman will oversee all of MSP’s counseling, shelter, and outreach programs. Tukman is responsible for the recruitment, development, and ongoing management of Program Directors and staff. Tukman joins MSP with over 28 years of program management, development and leadership experiences. Most recently, Tukman served as Director of Development and Programs at Bridges to Community in Ossining.

For over nine years, Tukman provided leadership at Girl Scouts of the USA, focused on the creation of innovative programming on leadership development, violence prevention, and healthy living. Tukman also has extensive experience as an executive coach working with nonprofit professionals and Master of Business Administration (MBA) students of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business.

Tukman received a Masters in Social Work from Boston University. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin, School of Education.
White Plains High School Seniors Recognized in National Merit Competitions

White Plains High School Seniors Michael Ainsworth, Jacob Brady, Justin George and Sinead Hunt were named Semifinalists in the 2015-16 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists were named nationally -- less than one percent of U. S. high school seniors – who will continue in the competition to advance to Finalist level and compete for about 7,400 scholarships worth more than $32 million.

The program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Commended Students in the competition are: Meredith Abato, Joan Gomez-Aguilar, Lucia Iannone, Jennifer Jasne, Max Kratzok, Isabelle Levine, Charlotte Mead, Rose Reiken, Esther Ritchin, Jared Roseman, Sarah Samaranayake and Aneri Suthar. They placed in the top five percent of students who entered the competition.

In the National Hispanic Recognition Program, Joan Gomez-Aguilar, Lucia Iannone, David Rosas, Sarah Samaranayake and Caroline Wisell were named Scholars.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Program, to honor the nation’s scholastic champions and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

Mentors Needed for Boys High School College and Career Program

The City of White Plains Youth Bureau is looking for a few good men to provide mentoring for its High School Saturday Academy College and Career program. The program is designed to help students transition from high school to college and work. Mentors will help students develop leadership and social skills; engage students in college preparedness, business, finance and entrepreneurship opportunities, and provide interaction with an adult role model.

For more information contact Frank Williams, Jr. at 914-422-1378 or fwilliams@whiteplainsny.gov.

Good Counsel Elementary Opens at New Location

On Monday, Sept. 21, Good Counsel Academy Elementary School hosted their official grand opening of their newly located school at 2 Broadway in Valhalla. Pictured from left to right: Pam Mattott, Good Counsel Elementary Principal, Carl Fulgenzi, Supervisor, Town of Mount Pleasant, and Frank Williams, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Good Counsel Elementary.

White Plains Dads Went to School Last Week

White Plains celebrated annual “Dad Take Your Child to School Day” last week. Over 1274 dads brought their children to school.

Advertise in The White Plains Examiner 914-864-0878

21st Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast & Ovarian Cancer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

FDR State Park - Yorktown Heights, NY

WALK WITH US ~ DONATE TODAY

www.supportconnection.org 914-962-6402 ~ walk@supportconnection.org

Proceeds fund Support Connection's Free Breast & Ovarian Cancer Support Services

Bring help & hope to people fighting breast & ovarian cancer!

Support Connection is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization. We do not receive funds from Relay for Life, the Avon Walk, Making Strides, Susan G. Komen, or any other national cancer organization.
Astorino Signs Statement on Anti-Semitism for Mayors and Municipal Leaders

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino signed a statement earlier this month strongly opposing the global increase in anti-Semitism. The statement is an initiative of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and has been signed by 285 mayors and municipal leaders in 43 states and the District of Columbia. The effort is also moving to recruit European leaders to sign on as well.

The contents of the statement read as follows:

We, the undersigned Mayors and municipal leaders, recognize that we live in a global era. Our cities and towns, regardless of size, belong to a global community in which our citizens are more interconnected than ever and where events in one community can have ramifications across the world.

We also understand that mayors and municipal leaders have a significant role to play in promoting respectful communities that advance coexistence among peoples of all races, ethnicities and faiths, and that the success of any city or town is based upon people of all backgrounds coming together to move our civic communities forward. It is with this in mind that we express our deep concern about the alarming spread of anti-Semitism around the world, most violently and visibly in parts of Europe, and from which the United States is not immune.

Anti-Semitism is not only an attack on Jews but also an assault on the core values of any democratic and pluralistic society. In a world of global communications where anti-Semitic ideas can and do spread rapidly, the impact of the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe does not stop at Europe’s borders. When the fundamental values of democracy are challenged, a concerted and principled response is required.

We are, therefore, heartened that leaders from around the world have spoken out about this dangerous phenomenon and have urged action to confront it.

Examples of such statements include:

- President Obama, speaking at a Washington, D.C., synagogue, warned: “In recent years, we’ve seen a deeply disturbing rise in anti-Semitism in parts of the world where it would have seemed unthinkable just a few years or decades ago. This is not some passing fad; these aren’t just isolated phenomena. And we know from our history they cannot be ignored. … When we allow anti-Semitism to take root, then our souls are destroyed, and it will spread;” German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared: “Anyone who hits someone wearing a skullcap is hitting us all. Anyone who damages a Jewish gravestone is disgracing our culture. Anyone who attacks a synagogue is attacking the foundations of our free society;” French Prime Minister Manuel Valls outlined just how critical the fight against anti-Semitism is, declaring: “The choice was made by the French Revolution in 1789 to recognize Jews as full citizens. If 100,000 Jews leave, France will no longer be France. The French Republic will be judged a failure;” and The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reaffirmed, this past November, the crucial need for participating states to continue to combat anti-Semitism.

As Mayors and municipal leaders, we have a special responsibility to speak out against the growing menace of anti-Semitism, and we call upon our European counterparts to join us in adding their names to this statement and in affirming the following:

- We, the undersigned, Condemn anti-Jewish hatred, in all its forms; Reject the notion that anti-Semitic acts, while sometimes carried out in the name of a political cause, may ever be justified or excused by one’s opinions about the actions or existence of the State of Israel; Declare that prejudices against Jews or others due to differences in religious faith are inconsistent with our core values; Support government efforts directed at eradicating anti-Semitism and preventing extremist indoctrination and recruitment; and support expanded education programs, including Holocaust programs, that increase awareness and counter intolerance and discrimination; Recognize the ever-present need to be vigilant about efforts to prevent and report acts of anti-Semitism, and other hate crimes; and Believe that communities that promote a climate of mutual understanding and respect among all citizens are essential to good governance and democratic life.

We, therefore, commit to working within and across our communities to advance the values of respectful coexistence and call upon mayors, municipal leaders, and other officials in Europe to join us in affirming that anti-Semitism is incompatible with fundamental democratic values.
Police Blotter

Former Scarsdale Attorney Arraigned for Stealing $1.5M from Clients

Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore announced Friday, Sept. 25, that Michael Lippman (DOB 11/3/44) of Scarsdale, was arraigned on a Felony Complaint charging him with Grand Larceny, Fraud and Criminal Tax Fraud.

“As alleged in the Complaint, the defendant took advantage of people who turned to him for his legal expertise and guidance only to become victims of his greed. He violated the oath he took as an attorney when he used client funds and properties entrusted to him and used them for his own personal use,” said the DA.

Between January 1, 2010 and September 15, 2015, the defendant, at the time a licensed attorney in the State of New York, engaged in a scheme in which he deliberately defrauded multiple clients of monies entrusted to him for various purposes including the transfer of real estate and estate planning.

In another instance, the defendant is alleged to have stolen approximately $159,431.95 from a client. That money was intended to pay off a mortgage to forestall a foreclosure action on that client’s property.

In another instance, the defendant is alleged to have stolen approximately $431,300 from another client intended to complete the purchase of a property.

In all, it is alleged that the defendant, in his ongoing scheme, defrauded 13 clients out of approximately $1,487,461.61.

Lippman is also accused of non-payment of $132,411 in New York State Taxes.

The investigation was carried out by investigators from the District Attorney’s office along with the assistance of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

Bail was set at $50,000.

The defendant’s next court date is December 15th, 2015. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in state prison.

Assistant District Attorney Brian Conway, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau is prosecuting the case.

Greenburgh Police Department

Drug Possession. On the afternoon of September 21, several police units responded to a residence on Stratford Road for a welfare check. The caller reported she arrived home and observed her boyfriend behind the wheel of his car, unresponsive. When police arrived, however, the boyfriend was observed to be conscious and alert. He was asked to exit the vehicle so he could be interviewed. While exiting the vehicle a hypodermic needle fell off his lap onto the ground. He was then placed under arrest and placed in the rear of one of the responding police cars. Four glassine envelopes containing a brown powdery substance was also observed in plain view in the vehicle. The boyfriend was transported to police headquarters for booking. The vehicle was impounded. The boyfriend was processed and released to White Plains ER for treatment.

Identity Theft. On Sept. 21, a complainant walked into police headquarters to report that she had received cell phone alerts stating there was suspicious activity on both her Chase debit card and her Capitol One credit card. The complainant said she was still in possession of both cards and does not know how someone got her information. Both cards were subsequently canceled. The complainant further said that Chase denied the suspicious purchases but the ones through Capitol One went through for a total of $399, which she was told they would reimburse her for. At this time report is for documentation purposes.

Grand Theft Auto. On Sept. 22 police responded to Amendola Marble Stone. Upon arrival, the office manager told police that one of the company vehicles was missing. Prior to calling the police, the manager reported checking with all employees to see if they had the van but no one was operating that vehicle. The last time the vehicle was seen was on the evening of the previous day by an employee. That employee reported seeing the van occupied by a male sitting back in the passenger seat. When the employee began driving away, he noticed the person sit up but remain in the vehicle. The employee did not think it was suspicious at the time but when he returned to the lot, he noticed the male was no longer in the van and the van was still in the lot. All employees have been accounted for and at this time no witnesses or video surveillance has been located. With police assistance, the stolen vehicle was last observed crossing the intersection of Ashburnon and Pulsades Avenues on September 21. A report was completed and the vehicle and plates where entered into E-Justice as stolen.

Petit Larceny. A complainant at police headquarters reported that she was in the Target Store the previous evening, and that when she went to the register to pay for some merchandise with her Target gift card, the card was declined. When the complainant checked the balance on the card she noticed two unauthorized purchases totaling $461.61. Target informed the complainant that the alleged fraudulent transactions had been made online. The complainant said she had not lost the gift card nor had she given anyone the gift card number.

Possession of Marijuana. On September 23, police responded to a report of possible drug use. The caller reported that she observed a male in a Volkswagen possibly smoking marijuana. The driver was approached and asked if there was anything illegal in the vehicle at which time he produced a folded up paper with a green leafy substance. Police confirmed the substance was marijuana. Police also determined that the vehicle’s automotive insurance was not in effect. And they found a pellet gun and Walkie Talkie in the car. The marijuana, pellet gun and Walkie Talkie were vouchered into evidence.

Grand Larceny. Police responded to the Central Avenue Shop Rite Supermarket on Sept. 23 for a larceny on the previous day. The victim reports that while she was shopping two unknown females came over to the frozen food section and started talking to her. The first female was described as black with a medium build and average height with long dark hair in a ponytail. She was wearing a blue shirt, brown jacket, blue jeans, and white sneakers. This suspect began asking the victim questions about the products in the freezer. The second female was described as black with a medium build and average height with long dark hair in a ponytail. She was wearing all black with gold color hoop earrings and gold color sunglasses and was holding a large handbag with a small dog inside. The victim said she was distracted by the first female, while the second female reached into her purse and took her wallet that contained two Visa cards, one American Express card, a Social Security card, one Chase debit card, Kohl’s card, Lord & Taylor card, Transit card, a $50 check, a Medicare card and a NYS Drivers License. The victim reports that after her wallet was taken an attempt to use her credit cards was made with negative results. The charges were not approved and she canceled all of her cards immediately. A copy of the surveillance camera with the two unknown females in the supermarket was obtained.

Vehicle Incident. On Sept. 24, police were dispatched to Saw Mill River and Dobbs Ferry Roads on a report of a hit and run. Police spoke with the caller who said that while at the light located on Dobbs Ferry Road, she has hit from behind by a grey color vehicle, which then fled the scene. The victim’s vehicle had minor scratches to the lower bumper. The victim observed the suspect vehicle’s plate number and that it had a decal with the company logo “AutoPro.” NCIC inquiry revealed the vehicle was registered to Auto Pro located in Nauet. The driver of the suspect vehicle was located and he responded back to the scene. The company vehicle was inspected for signs of damage and none were observed. No further police action at this time.

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Community Invited to Support-A-Walk Breast and Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser

Support Connection cordially invites all community members to participate in our 21st Annual Support-A-Walk that will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights. Join us for this uplifting event where we gather to celebrate and pay tribute to people whose lives have been impacted by breast or ovarian cancer. The Support-A-Walk is about the power of caring and the importance of community. The money raised at the Walk helps fund Support Connection's critically needed free, confidential breast and ovarian cancer support services.

Over the last few months, your publication has promoted our Walk and shared stories of strength and hope with your readers. We are so grateful for your belief in our mission. Since Support Connection is one of the few organizations in the country that offers personal support provided by cancer survivors, the demand for our services continues to grow. Since opening our doors in 1996, with a phone and a few volunteers, we have grown to help thousands of people all over the country. The success of the Walk throughout the years enables us to continue to provide these vital services.

Participating in the Walk will leave a lasting impression on you. With over 200 volunteers present, it is truly a labor of love. Along the walk path, walkers enjoy the spirited bands, cheerleaders and supporters. Refreshments and music await at the end of the Walk, all due to the generosity of our donors and sponsors. Seeing the sheer volume of walkers relays the message that no one has to be alone when dealing with cancer.

Even if you can’t make the Walk, you can still make a difference by making a donation. For more information about the Support-A-Walk or to make a donation, please visit www.supportconnection.org or call us at 914-962-6402.

A special thanks to Brian and his wonderful staff at FDR State Park who work tirelessly to make sure the Park is spotless and welcoming to all participants in the Support-A-Walk.

~Katherine Quinn, Support-A-Walk Executive Director

2015 Healing Half Marathon and 10K Set for October 11

County Executive Robert Astorino invites people of all ages to lace up their running shoes for a road race and festival, featuring a host of exhibitors, during the 2015 Healing Half Marathon and 10K on Sunday, Oct. 11on the Bronx River Parkway beginning at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

“Come on out to support Westchester Medical Center and get some great exercise while you take in the fall foliage along the scenic Bronx River Parkway,” Astorino said.

Now in its 12th year, the running festival – formerly known as the Westchester Medical Center Running Marathon – was renamed to reflect its goal of raising support for the Westchester Medical Center Foundation.

The event features a half marathon (13.1 miles) and a 10K (6.55 miles) for runners, and a half marathon for walkers.

Young runners ages 12 and under can compete in a non-competitive Kids Fun Run, which starts at the County Center. Registration for this event is free and available only on race day.

The half marathon begins at 8 a.m. for walkers and at 8:30 a.m. for runners; the 10K begins at 9 a.m.; and the Kids Fun Run at 10:45 a.m. An awards presentation follows at approximately 11 a.m. All events will be held rain or shine. Advance registration fee is $70 for the half marathons (14 years of age or older); and $40 for the 10K (12 years of age or older) October 11. Fees increase on race day. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to genesisadventures.com for more information and a registration form.

The Westchester County Center is located at 198 Central Avenue in White Plains and is accessible via Metro North Railroad. Note that the Bronx River Parkway will be closed to automobile traffic from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the day of the race.

‘Hispanic Heritage Month’ Student Essay Contest Submissions Sought

For the eighth consecutive year, Cablevision’s Optimum Community and Olypusat, Inc. are sponsoring the “Hispanic Heritage Month” essay contest. Open to middle-school (grades 6 through 8) and high-school (grades 9 through 12) students, the 2015 contest asks students to, “Name a Latino, past or present, with whom you would choose to spend a day and explain why.”

All essays must be submitted in English either through the Optimum Community website www.optimum.net/community or mailed to Cablevision: Attention Optimum Community, 1111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714.

Entries will be accepted from September 15 through November 2 and cannot exceed 500 words. Four winners in both the middle- and high-school categories will be selected and announced in December 2015. Prizes include a $2500 cash scholarship (Grand Prize), a tablet computer (First Prize), a laptop computer (Second Prize) and a Kindle Fire (Third Prize). Olympusat, Inc. is the provider of such Spanish language channels as CubaPlay, Cine Mexicano, Enlace and TV Chile, all available on the Optimum en español programming service.

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.

Obituaries

Vijay Tharani

Vijay C. Tharani, age 52, passed away on the morning of September 22, surrounded by family and loved ones. Vijay was born September 14, 1963 in Hong Kong to Chandru and Mohini Tharani. Vijay came to the United States in 1981 and attended college at Montclair State University. He then went on to continue his education and received a Masters in Business from NYU Stern School of Business. Throughout his prominent career, Vijay held multiple positions as a Chief Financial Officer. Vijay will be remembered for his strong compassion for helping others, his rare intellect and his courage. He will be truly missed by everyone who knew him. He is survived by his daughters Sabrina and Sasha.
By Don St John, Ph.D.

"The values of servant leadership—putting others first and leading from the heart—need to emerge from every corner of American life, including the business community." These are the words of Starbucks chairman and chief executive Howard Schultz in a recent New York Times opinion piece. Although his editorial was about leadership in politics, in the one sentence above, he touches the core of what we need as a country to change our direction and fulfill our potential as a great nation and leader in the world.

Schultz says we have to lead from the heart in our politics, in our educational systems, in our businesses and in our lives. But, in order to lead from the heart, we have to educate the heart. In fact, we need to prioritize heart education to the same level that we consider math and science. We need to make the heart and the brain full partners in the educational process. This is the only long-term answer to the dilemmas we face.

What does heart intelligence look like? First, I'll tell you what it is not. It is neither sentimentality nor emotionality. We could say that both are signs of an uneducated heart. In truth, an educated heart looks a lot like the teachings of Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed or the Dalai Lama; it's Pope Francis saying "whom am I to judge" instead of "they'll burn in everlasting hell." This is heart wisdom and, along with it, comes humility.

An educated heart values compassion, empathy, respect and kindness. An educated heart is one in which empathy is readily available and really understands that "there but for the grace of God go I." An educated heart is skilled in listening to others, listening to understand, to be willing to be changed by what is heard. An educated heart is skilled in conflict resolution, can remain centered in difficult conversations, it can feel and deal. An educated heart knows the value of deep interpersonal connection, transparency, open heartedness and deep intimacy both sexual and not. An educated heart values science but knows that it is one way of knowing. Science can offer humanity a great deal, but it cannot replace spiritual development—the education of the heart.

We need wisdom, not a blind insistence that we are right and those whose beliefs are different are wrong. And we certainly don't need an ongoing political war to force our beliefs on others through law. As long as "education" is all about the "mind" we will continue to find ourselves in the situation we are now in. We can develop greater medical devices and procedures, better technology, better weapons, but we won't develop better more robust more deeply satisfied, less addicted human beings.

We need new definitions of intelligence that include the intelligence of the heart. We need new definitions of what it means to be educated. To ignore heart education, interpersonal education is to leave blind spots that profoundly affect the lives of individuals, couples, families, communities and societies. It's not technology that will save us. It is educating the human heart and elevating its intelligence alongside of the rational analytic mind.
About the Kitchen Pantry: The Most Practical Room in the House

As I opened the door to my kitchen pantry to grab a quick snack, the thought occurred to me that I’ve lived in homes and apartments that didn’t feature a pantry and wondered how I managed without one.

As a kid, I distinctly remember how happy my mother was when she and my dad were able to purchase an older home that featured a “butler’s pantry,” which we hadn’t had before. To me, it sounded like something that only a fancy home should have.

A pantry might be as small as a shelf in a cupboard or as large as a walk-in closet. It is where we keep the foods and supplies used most often. This also is where small appliances will most likely be used such as the toaster, kettle, mixer, juicer and coffee machine. In my case, I also squeeze in a dry mop standing to one side and a small canister vacuum cleaner on the floor under the bottom shelf.

Being naturally curious about the origin of things, I also wondered how the pantry came about. The history of kitchen storage is an interesting reflection of what was going on through the ages socially, economically and, today, architecturally.

The word “pantry” comes from the French word paniterie, meaning from “pain,” the French word for bread. In medieval times food and supplies were stored in a number of specific rooms.

The Surprises Lurking in Your Glass of Wine

Remember the old quip about a customer in a restaurant?

“Waiter, there’s a fly in my soup.”

“That’s all right. We won’t charge you for it.”

The modern version of this seemingly trite joke could easily take place in the surroundings of a wine bar or high-end restaurant.

“Waiter, there’s black gunk in my galass of wine.”

“That’s all right. It’s our house special.”

We’ve all experienced some form of adulteration in a glass of wine in our adult lifetimes. While at times off-putting and unsavory, often these anomalies in the expected purity and clarity of such a revered product are harmless.

Wine is an agricultural product and, as such, is a living, breathing organism with a sometimes-volatile life cycle. After fermenting in vats, wine is transferred in bulk into bottles. During this process, vestiges of sediment, yeast, bacteria and other microbes may be transferred into the bottle, which may influence our sensory perception of the wine. At times, this may result in off-putting tastes, aromas or appearances – or a combination of all three.

Many winemakers make painstaking efforts to eliminate these particles and natural compounds from the wine before bottling. Others endeavor to produce the most natural wines possible, just as they feel nature intended them. If there is any residue, it is a sign of the natural order, in which imperfection can be viewed as an indication of perfection, the perfect balance between a winemaker as alchemist and conduit of nature.

Here are several examples, in two categories, that, on the surface, might be considered reasons for rejecting a glass of wine that is served to you. In most instances, they are not cause for concern. No need to be concerned, it’s just the natural order

1. Black gunk. What is more pleasurable than anticipating the last drop of particularly enjoyable wine? What is more disconcerting than ingesting a mouthful of black, tart-tasting sediment instead?

While disconcerting and a palate-killer, this sediment is harmless. Sediment is a natural byproduct in the production of wine. The reason certain wines contain sediment while others are free of this black gunk is a winemaker’s choice. Many winemakers will filter out this sediment using elaborate mechanical technology before bottling. Others prefer to produce the most natural product possible, proudly labeling their wines as “unfiltered and unblended.” Most consumers, once aware of the innocuous nature of this uncontrollable debris, simply exercise a bit more caution when approaching a bottle of red wine.

2. Barnyard smell. Phew. No fine wine should emit aromas of a steamy pig sty. Yet I’ve experienced this phenomenon several times. The cause? Brettanomyces, or unclean yeast that may linger in a bottle in spite of a winemaker’s efforts to eliminate it. While totally harmless and often fading after exposed to air, many consumers find it quite off-putting – unless you’re a fan of the barnyard.

3. Partly cloudy or partly sunny? Particles of the byproducts of fermentation may remain in suspension when wine is bottled. This may result in a cloudy or hazy hue in a bottle of white wine. While naturally occurring and not harmful, it may be off-putting to certain wine drinkers. Many winemakers will filter out these elements before final bottling. It is rarely a reason to reject a wine being served.

4. Crystal treasure. If kept below 40 degrees for a prolonged period, what appear to be tiny precious stones or shards of glass may appear at the bottom of a bottle of white wine. Neither valuable nor harmful, these tarryt crystals are tasteless and do not detract from the taste of the wine.

Cause for concern, there’s nothing natural about these

1. Cork taint. The chemicals used to clean corks may infiltrate a bottle of wine. If your wine smells like your dog just in from a rainstorm or a wet newspaper left in your driveway, be concerned. Your waiter will replace it.

2. Residual sulfur. To prevent wine from early oxidation, sulfur compounds are added by law. Too much will result in odors of rotten eggs or just-struck matches. If overpowering and long lasting, reject the glass or bottle.

3. Oxidation. If your Pinot Noir tastes like Sherry, it is likely the victim of intrusive oxygen through a faulty cork. Unless you enjoy Sherry with your lamb chops, reject the wine.

Wine is an evolving product of nature. As such, it is imperfect and highly variable. Winemakers may attempt to control its evolution and influence the outcome. Nature doesn’t always cooperate.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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@thexaminernews.com or on Twitter @barringwine.
**Bao Reopens in White Plains, Adds Szechuan Dishes**

By Jerry Eimbinder

After undergoing a major renovation program in less than six weeks, Bao’s Chinese Cuisine in downtown White Plains has reopened for lunch and dinner.

The entire dining room has been redone, including ceiling tiles, tables, chairs, carpeting and colorful decorated walls. In the new stainless steel-walled kitchen, the cooking equipment and freezer are new, too. All that needs to be done is the installation of a waterfall fountain, which is expected to take place in about a month.

The menu was expanded during the renovation period with the important addition of a Szechuan section. Spicy Szechuan dishes appearing in this new section include fish fillet with peppercorn sauce ($20.95), the “Peppercorn Delight” with shrimp, chicken, beef and vegetables ($20.95) and “Malatang,” which combines shrimp, chicken, beef, tofu, noodles and vegetables ($20.95).

Daily specials are listed on a standing blackboard in the hallway in front of the restaurant entrance.

Also new and not shown on the menu but available every day is a crepe called Bao Bao bun. Roast pork with vegetables and a sweet and spicy sauce ($14.95) is another non-menu item that appears often on the blackboard.

Owner May Tan said spicy Malaysia fried rice with shrimp, chicken, beef, egg and vegetables ($14.95), crispy and soft fried rice ($13.95) and a braised beef and tofu casserole ($17.95) have long been popular with regular customers.

A pair of soups in large bowls are also longtime favorites: spicy braised beef noodle soup ($10.95) and Thai curry noodle soup with shrimp and chicken ($10.95).

Whole Peking duck ($34.95) is available every day but the supply is limited and can run out during the evening. Patrons planning to order it should inform the restaurant when making a reservation.

Fresh seafood includes flounder, sea bass and soft shell crab in season.

About 50 lunchtime combination specials are offered in three price groupings ($7.95, $8.95 and $10.95). A few other lunch specials are priced up to $12.95. All meals include an entree, soup or egg roll and fried rice.

Best-selling beverages, Tan said, are a coconut mojito martini and a chocolate drink for children called Milo Dinosaur.

The newly renovated interior at Bao’s Chinese Cuisine.

Tan joined the Bao managerial staff in 2004, six months after the restaurant opened. She bought the 70-seat restaurant a year later. The name was kept because the business was thriving and the word bao in Chinese stands for precious.

Tan, a White Plains resident, is a partner in two other restaurants in New Jersey, both called Tani Sushi Asian Grill. As a teenager growing up in Malaysia, Tan loved to go lake and river fishing for tilapia. But since arriving in America, she has gone fishing only once because of the demands on time imposed by the restaurant business.

As a restaurateur, she appreciates good food.

“I like to visit other restaurants whenever I can and look for new dishes to try, not just to taste the food but also to see how it is presented,” she said.

For 15 days beginning on Chinese New Year, Feb. 8, 2016, Bao will commemorate the Year of the Monkey with a supplementary menu offering authentic Chinese dishes.

Bao is open from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday and noon to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. It provides free delivery up to three miles and offers catering services.

It is located in the White Plains Mall at 200 Hamilton Ave. and can be entered from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The mall’s parking lot has a night-time parking rate of $6 that Bao validates for patrons with bills of $35 or more. Metered municipal parking lots are nearby and typically charge $1 an hour.

For more information, call 914-682-8858 or visit www.baocinesecuisine.com.

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**Everyday Healthy Cafe Opens in Lobby of White Plains Hospital**

By Jerry Eimbinder

The Everyday Healthy Cafe opened in the new lobby of the White Plains Hospital last week. The cafe is operated by Caperberry Events, a division of New York Hospital Group, parent company of Sam’s BBQ Co. (both located in White Plains).

An opening ceremony was held on Monday, Sept. 21, with ribbon cutting by Susan Fox, President and CEO of White Plains Hospital.

Executive chef Joe Sasso said the cafe’s menu includes natural organic fresh vegetables, soup made from scratch and served with multigrain pull-apart bread or oyster crackers, “cage-free” egg salad, and nitrate-free bacon.

Fountain of Youth beverages include large fresh-squeezed fruit juices and organic vegetable drinks, including: a 12-ounce, all-orange “Simply Orange” ($4.50), the “Energizer” (a Cleanse) prepared from beet, carrot, apple, kale, lemon, ginger ($6.50) and “Morning Glory” (a weight loss drink) made from cucumber, kale, green apple, lemon, mint, and ginger ($6.50). Customized drinks are priced at $7.

Soup choices change daily. Typical selections: chicken vegetable, vegan lentil, white bean and kale, and black bean soup. Other items include “grab-and-go” sandwiches ($4.95 to $7.95), tuna salad, portobello mushroom ciabatta, Cuban panini with slow roasted pork loin, ham, Jarlsburg cheese, sliced pickles and mustard and Capreses Panini with fresh mozzarella, fresh basil and sliced tomatoes.

The hospital is located at 41 East Post Road, White Plains, 914-681-0600.
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LEGALS
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF JOURNEY SUPPORT PRACTICES LLC, ARTS OF ORG. filed with Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/4/2015. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY has designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: US Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., STE.202, Brooklyn NY 11228

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE READY NETWORK LLC filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/11/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is the designated agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Winslow Rd, White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of DSstrength LLC, Arts of Org filed with Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/26/2015. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234 Bedford Rd. Unit #4, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Adler & Adler, LLP. Arts of Org filed with Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/18/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite N-641, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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WANTED: ANY WITNESSES TO A PHYSICAL ALTERCATION that occurred outside of the front entrance of the Westlake High School in Thornwood, NY on April 17, 2015 around 10:45-11:00 am. Reward for any witness willing to come forward and provide verifiable supportive deposition. Please call: (914) 494-2220

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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, Sept. 29
Tuesdays at Dorry's gatherings "conversation pregunta" saying "I love informal talk. This week Allen Weintraub will talk about The Decline of Voting in the United States: Are We Moving to an Oligarchy? 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. 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-662-0005.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
White Plains Outdoor Market. Fresh food and produce from local farmers, plus specialty items; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street, White Plains; 914-662-0005.

TILI Shed. Take It or Leave It recycling at Gedney Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains; 2 to 4 p.m.

Noonday Concert. Downtown Music at Grace welcomes violinist Nicole Sharlow, cellist Paul Swensen and Pianist David Kim for a return performance. Their program will include the music of Copland, Ravel, and Beethoven. This concert is made possible with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency, White Plains; 30-minute free concert begins at 12:10 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

Breakfast With the Hawks. Join us for breakfast at the Hawkwatch, timed to take advantage of near peak Broad-winged Hawk migration. Perfect for families; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Co-sponsored by Westmoreland Sanctuary. The Hawkwatch platform, Arthur Butler Sanctuary, 265 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Bedford Corners. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Also Sept. 30. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Jeanne Pollock at 914-519-7801 or e-mail jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org.

Mother Nature's Story Time. Children can enjoy fall days with nature-themed stories, outdoor walks, live animals and crafts. Dress for outdoor activity. A portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children two to four years old; with a parent or caregiver. Rain or shine. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: $50 per child (for six-week session). Non-members: $90 per child. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, Oct. 1
Understanding Cuba Film Festival. Part of Westchester County's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Westchester Community College, Room C-100, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 12 to 4 p.m. Free.

Engaging Tweens in Afterschool Arts. Peter Rogovin, a Pleasantville-based consultant and researcher, will share insights from his report, commissioned and published by The Wallace Foundation, titled "Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs From Urban Youth and Other Experts." A short reception will be followed by a fun, multimedia presentation and discussion. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Limited seating. Reservations recommended. Info and reservations: 914-428-4220.

Great Books Forum Series. "Fathers and Sons" by Ivan Turgeniev will be discussed. An opportunity to encounter extraordinary works of classic and modern literature along with other interested readers. Discussion led by Professor Maryanne Vent. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor Jim Werner at 914-606-6840 or e-mail james.werner@sunywestchester.edu.

Friday, Oct. 2
Author Visit. Anya Wallach, co-author of the Stage Struck series will be at the City Center Barnes & Noble (White Plains) for the launch of Book 2 in the series, Stage Struck: Showstopper! at 7 p.m. Broadway actors from The Random Farms Kids’ Theater will be on hand to perform. Audience members will even have a chance to act out scenes from Book 1, Stage Struck: Curtain Up!

HippieFest 2015. Experience the peace. Love and music, which changed a generation. Featuring The Family Stone, Paul Williams, The Monkees, Weekly & The Detroit Wheels and Badfinger. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. $43, $50, $60, $75 and $125 (includes meet and greet with the artists). Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Saturday, Oct. 3
TILI Shed. Take It or Leave It recycling at Gedney Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains; 9 a.m. to noon.

Free Outdoor Movie. The Wizard of Oz will be presented at 7 p.m. on Court Street, White Plains (between Main Street and Martine Avenue). Oz costumes and family participation encouraged. Apple cider, apples and popcorn courtesy of Whole Foods Market. Rain date Oct. 10.

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 (except Oct. 11 and 25) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Family Saturdays @ the Lab. Learn about green screening, explore an augmented reality sandbox and make your own claymation stop-motion film! Jacob Burns Film Center educators will be on hand to guide visitors through an experience like no other. Jacob Burns Film Center's Media Arts Lab, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Info: Visit www.jacobburnsfilmcenter.org.

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Trolley Tour of Historical White Plains

Back by popular demand, the Daughter's of Liberty's Legacy will be offering a trolley tour of historic places and sites of the American Revolution in the White Plains area. Debra Palazzo, co-founder of the Daughters of Liberty's Legacy, said "The first trolley tour we did back in June was so much fun that people have been asking us to run another one."

The trolley tour includes the site of the old court house where the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in 1776, the battlefield of the Battle of White Plains, Miller house where George Washington stopped the British from advancing north, Miller hill, several revolutionary homes still standing, Horton's grist mill and more. Included also is a private viewing of historic Purdy house by the White Plains Historical Society. A Colonial re-enactor, "Mrs. Ann Miller", who lived through the war will accompany the tour and provide details of what life was like. Palazzo said "There is no greater education then standing in the footsteps where history happened."


"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." The legendary sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, takes the stage in this witty, fast-paced production by the acclaimed Aquila Theatre, which works to make classical works more accessible. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s vivid characters jump from the page, weaving a tale of mystery, suspense and intrigue. Westchester Community College’s Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. $22. Seniors and students: $20. Children (under 13): $16. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit us online at sunycc.edu/SmartArts.

Sunday, Oct. 4
Alien Invaders. Explore some of the most fascinating plant and animal species to ever invade our lawns, lakes and forests during an engaging and interactive stroll around the nature center's property. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members $5 per person. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.
By Albert Coqueran

Tigers quarterback Jeff Avery and running back Donovan Brunson started playing football together at a very young age. On Friday, Sept. 25, while presently seniors on the White Plains High School football team; they tried earnestly to keep the Tigers from suffering their fourth straight loss this season.

But the Tigers were defeated by Fox Lane High School, 29-21 and now have a dismal, 0-4 record with only two regular season games remaining in the 2015 season.

Nonetheless, in respect to Avery and Brunson's efforts, consider how tough it is to win a football game when your team is losing 15-0, before your offense gets their first possession of the game.

Fox Lane (3-1) won the coin toss but deferred receiving the kickoff to White Plains. The Tigers fumbled the kick-off, which the Foxes turned into a five-yard touchdown run by running back Tanner More.

On the ensuing kickoff, White Plains fumbled again; the result was More's second touchdown of the game. Adding injury to insult, the Foxes orchestrated a successful trick screenplay on a two-point conversion, which made the score 15-0, before the Tigers offense even touched the ball.

Nonetheless, Avery and his childhood friend Brunson had no give-up in them.

In the third quarter, with the Tigers star linebacker Angel Rivera injured and out of the game, Fox Lane kept bounding Lancia into the line. Lancia totaled 39 carries for 267 yards and two touchdowns in the game. He scored again late in the fourth quarter on an eight-yard run.

Tigers' wide receiver Braxton Gill was also sidelined in the game due to concussion symptoms. But Avery and Brunson kept battling to try and prevent that dreadful 0-4 start. Avery hit Brunson with a 35-yard touchdown pass at 3:24 in the fourth quarter. However, on the two-point conversion, Brunson fumbled on the one-foot line. But Tigers center James Hall saved his teammate by recovering the fumble and scoring to make the score 29-21.

Brunson had six catches for 160 yards and one touchdown and ran nine times for 25 yards and one touchdown. His childhood friend Avery completed 11-of-18 passes for 203 yards, with one interception and one TD.

However, the Tigers defense gave up 340 yards rushing in the game and with the Tigers many turnovers; it equaled the Tigers fourth straight loss.

"A lot of people would say after four straight losses that our season is over; but they do not know the guys on our team. They come (to practice) every Monday, after a game and battle and battle to try to get better. We are going to come back, I know it," Avery said.

Tigers Battle to Fourth Straight Loss Without a Win this Season

By Albert Coqueran

The NY Liberty advanced to the WNBA Eastern Conference Finals for the first time since 2010 when they defeated the Washington Mystics 2-1 in the best of three games series in the WNBA Eastern Conference Semifinals.

The Mystics sucked the air out of Madison Square Garden when they beat the Liberty in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals. The Mystics turned in a 21-point second quarter to pull away from the 18-point deficit and force a decisive Game 2. Despite, Charles scoring 25 points, seven rebounds and nine assists defeated the Fever, 84-67. The Liberty shot an amazing 56.5 percent from the field in Game 1 of the East Finals, while playing back-to-back days. "I am shocked by the effort, intensity and focus that we exhibited in back-to-back games. I am very proud of our players," said Liberty Head Coach Bill Laimbeer.

Tigers Head Coach Skip Stevens (left) could not manage a second half comeback, especially with his star wide receiver Braxton Gill (#10) out of the game in the third quarter with concussion symptoms. The Mystics are 0-4 this season.

After, with only six minutes left in the game, the Mystics were up by five in the final game of the series. "It was a very physical game, which the Mystics manager. We simply could not get our legs going after we took the lead," said Petronia Watts, a junior forward from the University of Connecticut.

The Mystics surprised everyone, including their Head Coach, by playing energized with accurate shooting and fierce defense, in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals. The Liberty behind Tina Charles's 18 points, seven rebounds and nine assists defeated the Fever, 84-67. The Liberty shot an amazing 56.5 percent from the field in Game 1 of the East Finals, while playing back-to-back days. "I am shocked by the effort, intensity and focus that we exhibited in back-to-back games. I am very proud of our players," said Liberty Head Coach Bill Laimbeer.

The Mystics' star player Epiphanny Prince returned to form, after scoring only seven points the previous evening, and added 17 points.

Also, Sugar Rogers just kept getting "sugar" by scoring 14 points, while shooting 4-of-6 from the three point line. Rodgers also had five assists and only one turnover in 22 minutes of play.

Rodgers also had a remarkable game the previous evening, while scoring 20 points, including 10-of-10 shooting (100 percent for those who are counting) from the foul line, in the Eastern Conference Semifinals clincher.

On Sunday, in Indiana, the Liberty could have closed out the Eastern Conference Finals and advanced to the WNBA Championship with a win in Game 2. Despite, Charles scoring 25 points and grabbing 10 rebounds, the Fever won, 70-64.

The Liberty was winning by as much as 18 points, before Fever legend Tamika Catchings caught fire and scored 16 points in the second half. The 36 year-old, Catchings had 25 points in the game. The Fever outscored the Liberty 41-20 in the second half to overcome an 18-point deficit and force a decisive Game 3, at MSG, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m.

NY Liberty Seek First WNBA Championship

The New York Liberty advanced to the WNBA Eastern Conference Finals for the first time since 2010 when they defeated the Washington Mystics 2-1 in the best of three games series in the WNBA Eastern Conference Semifinals.

Therefore, Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals, which was originally scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 24, had to be rescheduled one day earlier, on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

The Liberty had to play back-to-back games with no rest, while their opponents the Indiana Fever won their series against the Chicago Sky (2-1), on Monday, Sept. 21, and had two days of rest.

Nevertheless, the Liberty surprised everyone, including their Head Coach, by playing energized with accurate shooting and fierce defense, in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

In Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

The Liberty behind Tina Charles’s 18 points, seven rebounds and nine assists defeated the Fever, 84-67. The Liberty shot an amazing 56.5 percent from the field in Game 1 of the East Finals, while playing back-to-back days. "I am shocked by the effort, intensity and focus that we exhibited in back-to-back games. I am very proud of our players," said Liberty Head Coach Bill Laimbeer.

Center Kiah Stokes, the runner-up for WNBA Rookie of the Year, shot 9-for-11 from the field for 21 points. Epiphanny

Nonetheless, the Fever outscored the Liberty 70-64 in the second half to overcome an 18-point deficit and force a decisive Game 3, at MSG, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m.

"A lot of people would say after four straight losses that our season is over; but they do not know the guys on our team. They come (to practice) every Monday, after a game and battle and battle to try to get better. We are going to come back, I know it," Avery said.
By Albert Coqueran

New York Liberty Head Coach Bill Laimbeer was voted the 2015 WNBA Coach of the Year. It is the second such distinction for Laimbeer, who also won the award in 2003, as the Head Coach of the Detroit Shock.

However, Laimbeer when accepting the award initially acknowledged MSG Executive Chairman James Dolan, Liberty President Isiah Thomas and extended a special recognition to his coaching staff, including Assistant Coaches Herb Williams and Katie Smith, Athletic Trainer Laura Ramos and Director of Player Development Teresa Weatherspoon.

“This not an award about myself, it is an award about the staff and they (WNBA) actually should change the name of the award to the Coaching Staff of the Year Award. I do want to thank Mr. Dolan for the great facilities and hiring me back and Isiah (Thomas) was a big part of this also,” accredited Laimbeer.

Weatherspoon is an original member of the Liberty, while joining the team in 1997, during the inaugural season of the WNBA. In 2007, as the Liberty’s point guard, she led them to their first WNBA Finals in franchise history.

“Spoon” as she is affectionately known, was the first recipient of the WNBA Defensive Player of the Year Award and won it again the following year in 1998. She played seven seasons with the Liberty (1997-2003) and led the Liberty to four WNBA Finals (1997, 1999, 2000 and 2002.)

Presently “Spoon” is assisting Head Coach Laimbeer, as Director of Player Development, in the Liberty’s mission to win their first ever WNBA Championship. “This is a special organization to anyone who has worn a Liberty uniform. It is good to see these young ladies performing the way they are and it is great to be back and see our crowd into it, the way it used to be,” said Weatherspoon, who is presently a full time resident of White Plains.

To understand the value of Weatherspoon to the Liberty franchise and the respect she has earned from colleagues, coaches and players, consider that Laimbeer, an NBA legend and two-time WNBA Coach of the Year, put his reputation on the line to support her, when the league enforced a travel rule, which would have excluded Weatherspoon from the Liberty bench during away games.

“Well now that is not right. Teresa is an intricate part of our basketball team and we are fighting it. She will be there on the bench, if they (WNBA) want to fine us, go ahead,” supported Laimbeer.

Weatherspoon has been sitting in her usual coaching chair behind the bench for every playoff game. “For Coach Laimbeer to step forward for me like that and let people know that it is not fair was nice for me,” stated Weatherspoon, who was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010 and the NY Liberty Ring of Honor in 2011.

USTA “Compete in the Parks” Tennis Tournament Results

The White Plains Recreation and Parks Department hosted its fifth annual USTA “Compete in the Parks” tennis tournament at the City’s Gillie tennis courts on Sept. 19 and 20. The “Compete in the Parks” Series is a USTA program designed to promote recreational tennis for players of all levels.

More than 40 individuals competed in tournament play. Matches included various men singles and mixed doubles. After two days of high level play and friendly sportsmanship, the winners were crowned and awarded medals for their accomplishments. Refreshments and give away prizes were provided by Mary Ellen Bickler of Brown-Bickler Company. Special thanks to Don Barker and Blaine Kreiger for volunteering their time and energies assisting White Plains city staff to make the event successful.

The White Plains 2015 USTA “Compete in the Park” Fall Tournament results:

Men’s singles: Andrew McGoey
Men’s 45 and over singles: Axel Nierhoff
Men’s 60 and over singles: Blaine Kreiger
Men’s 45 and over Doubles: Doug Mann and Alex Nierhoff
Mixed Doubles: Joanie Brown and Dominick Bonifate
Men’s Doubles: Andrew McGoey and Mike Quinn
Men’s 70 and over Doubles: Peter Berland and Al Lindsey

Congratulations to all who participated!
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