

WESTCHESTER RISING

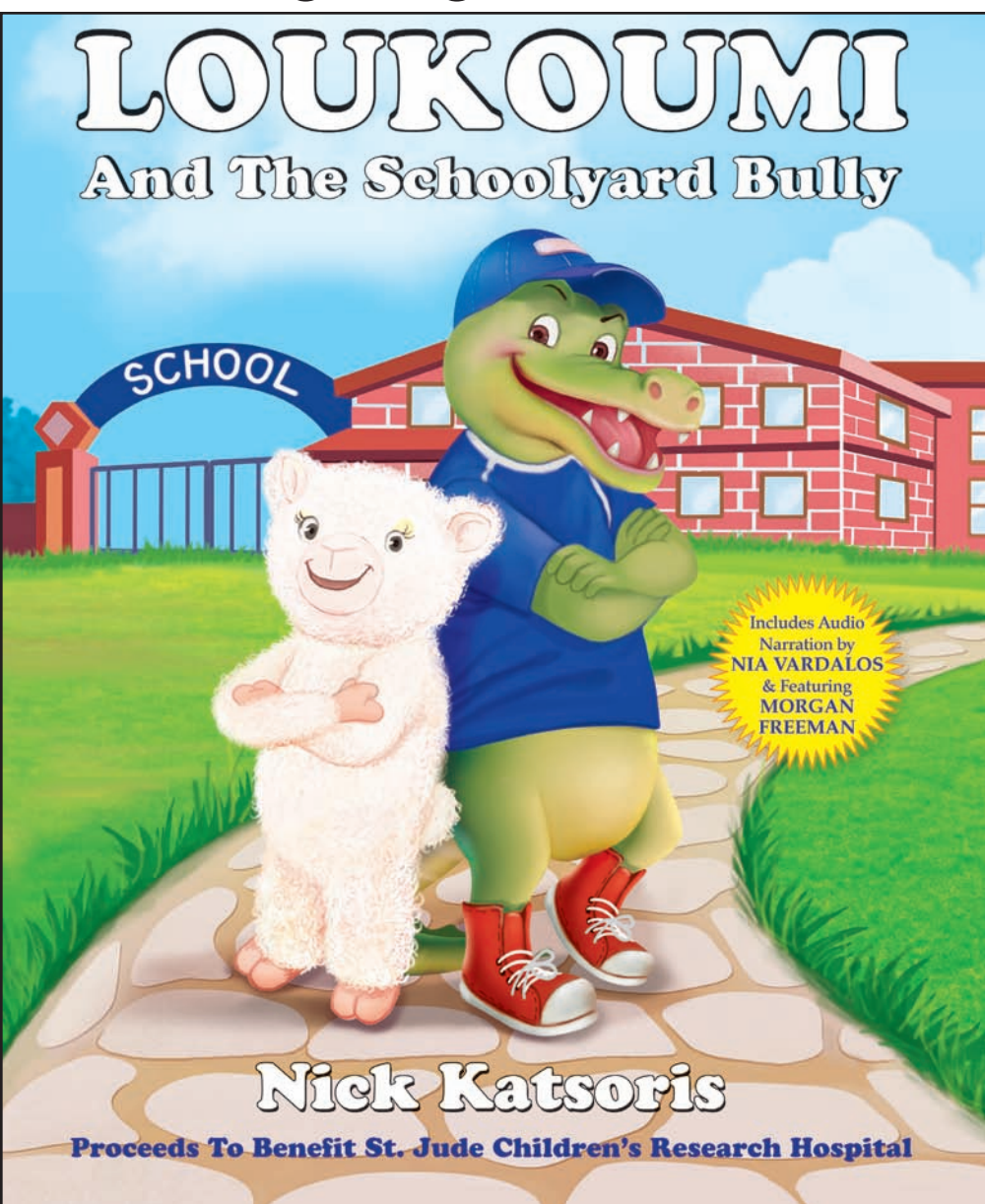
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Anti-Bullying Assembly and Book Signing in Eastchester



Eastchester resident and children's book author Nick Katsoris will talk about his anti-bullying book Jan. 29 at Anne Hutchinson School.

One of the parents of Anne Hutchinson School student Nick Katsoris is the author of the children's book series "Loukoumi" and his new book, released in November, is about bullying.

"Loukoumi and The Schoolyard Bully" is narrated in the audio version of the book by Oscar winner Morgan Freeman as the voice of the schoolyard bully, as well as Nia Vardalos, Olympia Dukakis, John Aniston, Gloria Gaynor and others. Proceeds from the book are being donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

As part of the Anne Hutchinson schools Character Education and anti-bullying awareness program, the teachers typically incorporate anti-bullying awareness into their English as a second language and social studies curricula, and one of the ways they do this is by reading

books to the students about anti-bullying.

Katsoris will visit the school and discuss his book during an assembly for students Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 9 a.m. for grades two and three; and 10 a.m. for grades four and five. He is presently participating in a program with PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center where he will be educating children about bullying in schools across the country.

Katsoris will be available for a book signing after the assembly, for those who wish to purchase a book for their children. This is a great opportunity for residents to hear firsthand how important anti-bullying awareness is for students and at the same time, possibly make a donation to a charitable organization by purchasing a book.

More information will follow for book ordering.

Westchester Legislators Elect Kaplowitz, Maisano as Leaders



County Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz, right, with Vice Chairman Jim Maisano.

Last week, the Westchester County Board of Legislators elected Democrat Michael Kaplowitz to serve as chairman and Republican Jim Maisano to serve as vice chairman for the 2014-15 legislative term. The two were sworn in as legislators on the same day as members of the freshman legislative class of 1997. Both have served on numerous committees and held leadership positions during the last 16 years.

Kaplowitz previously served as vice chair-

man of the BOL and played a critical role in the passage of the historic bi-partisan 2013 budget. Throughout his career in public service, Kaplowitz has earned a reputation as a legislator who works diligently to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and bi-partisanship with all of his colleagues. He is a fiscal Conservative and small business owner who has found and eliminated millions of dollars in wasteful government spending.

Continued on Page 6

Let the Race for Governor Begin; Cuomo's \$2 Billion Tax Freeze



Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivers his fourth State of the State address last week.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's 2014 State of the State address last week unofficially kicked off his re-election campaign for governor this fall.

Cuomo reminded New Yorkers about the dysfunction in Albany before he became governor, and proposed a two-year property tax-freeze for New Yorkers.

Key portions of the governor's speech included:

"I think it is going to be a banner year for the State of New York. We should start this year with a look back when we first joined in this hall three years ago.

"When we were here three years ago, we were looking at a \$10 billion deficit. We have gone from a \$10 billion deficit to a \$2 billion surplus in just three short years.

"It started with the simple fact that the state spent too much money. And it did it not just for one or two years but it literally did it for over 60 years. And if you spend a lot then you are going to have to tax a lot. And we taxed a lot.

"And as a result our taxes had become the highest in the nation and we were paying a price for those high taxes. People in businesses were leaving the state. On top of that, for decades,

Albany had become a poster child for gridlock. Long before Washington D.C. put gridlock on the front pages, the story in Albany was grid-

lock. And it always happened at the time of the budget. Why? Because that is where the money is and it was late over a 30-year period for 23 years we had a late budget. The average late budget was 50 days.

"We said we were going to replace dysfunction with results.

"And in three years, my friends, you have reversed decades of decline and made dramatic and undeniable progress. For the first time in modern political history the state has real fiscal discipline, we have held spending to 2 percent.

"For the first time in 40 years, spending is below the rate of inflation and below the rate of growth of personal income. And because we spent less, we could tax less – and we did. Every New Yorker pays less income taxes today than the day they did three years ago when we started this journey.

"After 20 years of trying we passed the

Continued on Page 5

Jeff Moriber Invites Visitors to 'LOOK!' at Larchmont Library

Jeff Moriber has pursued painting and printmaking his entire life. An award-winning graphic designer, fine artist and printmaker, his paintings and linoleum block print work tell tales of emotions through a crisp cutting technique, saturated inking and a rich color pallet.

Moriber's latest exhibit simply titled "LOOK!," opened Jan. 3 in the Oresman Gallery at the Larchmont Public Library, and will be on display through Jan. 31. The exhibit is available for viewing during normal library hours, and is free to peruse.

Moriber's images depict the actual and imagined content, gestures and colors of a particular feeling he has about the circumstances and history of the moment. The light, shadows, imaginings and circumstance invite the viewer's own imagination to join the conversation.

His art has been on display in numerous exhibits throughout Westchester County and New York City, including the "Shore to Shore" exhibit hosted by Arts Westchester, the International Arts Festival at the Museum of Russian Art in Jersey City, and in the Grand Terminal Gallery in New York City. Moriber is a graduate of Pratt Institute.

For more information about the Larchmont Public Library or the programs and ser-



"Yellow Balloon" by Jeff Moriber.

VICES offered by the library, visit www.larchmontlibrary.org.

2013 Westchester Foreclosure Filings See 48% Increase Over 2012

Westchester County Clerk Timothy Idoni, who serves as clerk of the Westchester County Supreme Court where foreclosure actions are heard, has reported that while foreclosure filings are dropping nationally, the foreclosure actions filed in Westchester County this year represent a 48 percent increase over last year.

A reported 2,694 foreclosure actions started between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, as compared to 1,813 the year before. Three hundred and sixty-nine foreclosure judgments were entered in 2013, in comparison to 208 entered during 2012.

Continued on Page 6

Catherine Parker of Rye Sworn in as County Legislator



County Legislator Catherine Parker.

Catherine Parker, a Rye City Councilwoman since 2007 and a small business owner with a long résumé of community service, was sworn in officially last week as a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. She will be representing the county's seventh legislative district, which includes the Town of Mamaroneck, Village of Larchmont and a portion of the City of Rye.

The district was previously represented by Judy Myers, now retired.

"I thank all of the residents of the seventh district for bestowing me with the privilege to serve them," said Parker. "My experience in public life has taught me that party politics sometimes unnecessarily distracts us from our common purpose. We are at our better when we work together; and we are at our best when we do so with respect for one another.

"The challenges ahead are significant, and it's important that we make real progress on a number of important issues, like lessening the tax burden on residents and business owners, protecting our environment and making proper investments in infrastructure improvements, including flood mitigation," she continued. "I'm excited about working with all of my colleagues on the Board of Legis-

lators in order to strengthen our communities for the future."

First elected to the Rye City Council in 2007, Parker helped pass budgets that added to the city's reserve fund and advocated for small businesses. Thanks to her efforts, the City Council passed a number of smart environmental measures.

She also helped create the city's flood action committee.

Parker helped re-establish the Rye Chamber of Commerce in 1998 and served as its first president. In 2003, she worked to re-establish a local chapter of the League of Women Voters, and served as the group's first president for four years. A big supporter of the arts, Parker is also an advisory board member for the Rye Arts Center.

A fourth-generation Westchester resident, Parker resides in Rye with her husband, David Walker, and two children, Julia, 12, and Aidan, 6. For more than 15 years, Parker has owned and operated a travel store in downtown Rye, which sells clothing and luggage.

In addition to her public service, Parker is a member of the Rye Presbyterian Church, Rye Lions Club and Rye Middle School Parent's Teachers Association.

From the Mayor and Town Hall

As your mayor, it gives me great pleasure to wish all residents and their families a happy New Year and the hope of a healthy and prosperous 2014. Last year was challenging for many people and I would like to give a special "thank you" to all those who contributed to this year's holiday project.

Many residents and their families were treated to a Christmas basket filled with gifts and holiday cheer. The generosity and hard work of Harrison resident Ruth Singer and her team of volunteers deserves acknowledgment, and I am happy to recognize their efforts.

Recently, the Town/Village of Harrison was notified that Standard and Poor's Rating Services has raised the municipality's rating by two notches, to AA from A. The rating reflects the assessment of several factors: local economy index, budgetary flexibility and performance, liquidity, and management conditions, among others. I am encouraged by this recent report and am confident that our municipality will continue along this very favorable trajectory.

I am happy to report that six new police officers have joined the Harrison Police Department. They were sworn in at a Jan. 2 ceremony in Town Hall and will complete their training before receiving their assignments. I am completely confident that these new officers will carry out their duties in a professional manner and will be an asset to the Town/Village of Harrison.

Please take note of the following library announcement:

The Harrison Public Library and the Rye Free



Mayor Ron Belmont

Reading Room are excited to announce a new programming partnership between the two libraries. Starting in 2014, both Harrison and Rye residents will be able to attend sensory storytimes at the Harrison Library. This program, presented by the Kiyoko Brown Leketek Center of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, is a new interactive and educational program especially designed for those with sensory integration challenges and their families. For more information, call 914-835-0324 or visit www.harrisonpl.org.

Please be aware of the following sanitation notice:

Christmas trees may be placed curbside for pickup through Jan. 31; please do not place trees in plastic bags. No holiday wreaths or roping will be collected.

In closing, I would like to thank the highway department for doing a wonderful job clearing our streets after last week's snow storm. The crews plowed and salted our municipal roadways in record time and I would like to commend them for their hard work. As a snowstorm approaches, please remember to put cars into driveways to help with street plowing efforts.

In addition, when clearing driveways and walkways, please refrain from shoveling snow into the streets.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is Friday, Jan. 17 and I will be at Jewel of Himalaya, 385 Halstead Ave., Downtown Harrison. On Friday, Jan. 24 I will be at Delfino's, 60 Halstead Ave. I will be at these locations from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community

Ben Boykin of White Plains Sworn in as County Legislator



County Legislator Ben Boykin.

Ben Boykin, a former White Plains Common Councilman and a business executive with a strong record in community service, was officially sworn into office last week as a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. He will be representing the county's fifth legislative district, which includes Scarsdale, most of White Plains and a portion of Harrison.

The district was previously represented by Bill Ryan, now retired.

"I am looking forward to working with the 16 other county legislators to hold down property taxes and create new job opportunities for the residents of Westchester," said Boykin. "Government, at all levels, has to take a proactive approach in increasing economic growth and ensuring a level of prosperity for future generations. That's no small task, but I think working together we can achieve success."

Boykin noted that many Westchester residents are still in need of help and support from county government programs, and pledged to preserve child care subsidies for working mothers while also maintaining services for seniors and at-risk youth.

First elected to the White Plains Common Council in 2000, Boykin served as president on three separate occasions (2002-03, 2009-09 and 2010-11). He was also a member of the White Plains School Board from 1992 to 1999.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Boykin is a certified public accountant and former assistant treasurer at Nabisco, where he helped the international conglomerate maintain its investment-grade credit rating.

Presently, he runs his own financial consulting business, Ben Boykin and Associates, in White Plains.

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WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE 2014 SUPER BOWL IN N.J.



THE YONKERS POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE IS RAFFLING OFF 2 TICKETS TO SUPER BOWL 48 IN NEW JERSEY TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2014.

ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD, AT \$100 EACH. THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 19, AT A NFL PARTY AT THE PAL ON NORTH BROADWAY IN YONKERS.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CONTACT THE PAL OFFICE AT 914-377-7297, VIC FEDERICO AT 914-830-0811, OR HOWARD BERMAN AT 914-830-0811.



WESTCHESTER RISING

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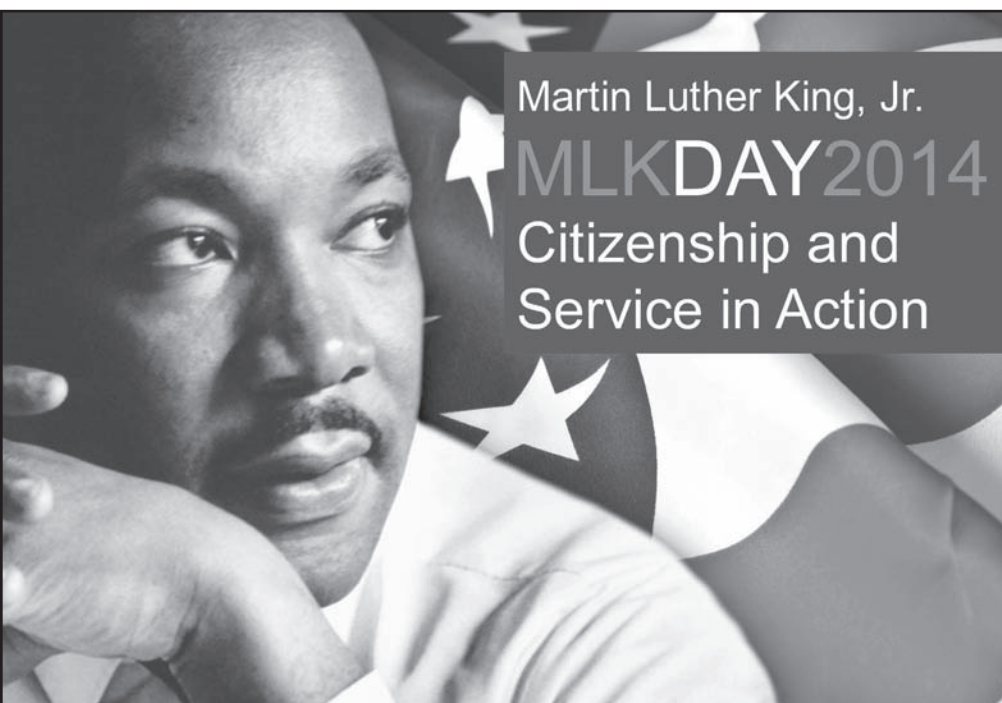
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Honor MLK's Legacy by Participating in Day of Service



Westchester County and The Volunteer Center of United Way encourage individuals and families in Westchester to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the MLK Day of Service, on Saturday, Jan. 18, by giving back and making an impact in the local community. The Volunteer Center's fourth annual MLK Day of Service features some 30 service projects throughout Westchester, Rockland, Ulster and Orange counties.

"There are volunteer opportunities across the county that are suitable for children and adults of all ages," said Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino. "This is an excellent opportunity for residents to use the day as a time to reflect and give back to the community in honor of Dr. King, whose mission was to bring people from all walks of life together."

Among the many activities planned for the MLK Day of Service are the "I Have a Dream" craft projects to be created at the Carver Center in Port Chester; the Yonkers Public Library; and The Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics, Inc., in Tarrytown. Other service initiatives include canned food drives at HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle and the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry; restoring a warehouse in Kingston with the Ulster County Habitat for Humanity; and assisting with the Health and Fitness Fun Day at the YWCA of Yonkers.

For those who would like to participate prior to Jan. 18, The Volunteer Center in Tarrytown is collecting toiletries and canned food

for care kits created for those in need.

Corporations are joining in, as well, with Con Edison helping to sort and package clothing at Family Services of Westchester's The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester, and school participation includes students at Mamaroneck High School making "shelter welcome bags" for survivors of domestic violence at My Sisters' Place in White Plains.

"We are encouraging people to 'Make it a day on, not a day off' and to donate their time to help solve community problems while also honoring the legacy of Dr. King," said Alisa Kesten, executive director of The Volunteer Center. "The wide range of projects we sponsor with regional nonprofits address pressing issues such as poverty, hunger, homelessness and inequality. This is truly a wonderful opportunity for families to serve together and people of all ages and walks of life to join neighbors and local leaders to help make a difference in their own backyards."

Detailed information is available at www.volunteer-center.org/mlk2014 and early registration is encouraged. Family-friendly projects are listed at www.volunteer-center.org/familymlk2014.

The MLK Day of Service shines a spotlight on service as a powerful force to bridge economic and social divides – on this day and throughout the year. National Days of Service provides all residents with an opportunity to join neighbors and local leaders to tackle community challenges and strengthen the nation.

King Celebration Planned by Coalition for Mutual Respect

Continuing a long-standing tradition, the Coalition for Mutual Respect will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a community-wide dinner and Sabbath service to be held Friday, Jan. 17 at Temple Israel of New Rochelle. The dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m. and will be followed by the service at 7:30 p.m.

The event, attended by people of all faiths, will feature the Rev. Michael Rouse of St. Catherine AME Zion Church in New Rochelle as guest speaker, and the choir from St. Catherine will participate in the service. It will be conducted by Rabbi Scott Weiner, Rabbi Beth Nichols and Cantor Tanya Greenblatt of Temple Israel.

Rabbi Emeritus Amiel Wohl will welcome clergy and other significant guests at the dinner, and participants will include community leaders as well as young people from various schools who have been invited to read selections from King's writings.

The cost for adults is \$25 each, while young people attend without cost; however, attendees are urged to include donations to cover the youth

dinners. A portion of the donations will also be given to feed the hungry. Pre-registration and reservations for the dinner are mandatory, but all are invited to the Sabbath service. Call the Temple at 914-235-1800 or mail a check, made payable to the Coalition for Mutual Respect, to Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Pinebrook Blvd., New Rochelle, NY 10804.

The Coalition for Mutual Respect, now in its 35th year, was formed in 1979 as a Black Jewish dialogue. The Rev. Vernon Shannon of St. Catherine AME Zion Church and Wohl, then-senior rabbi at Temple Israel of New Rochelle, both involved community leaders, joined forces and after several meetings with members of each congregation, the focus shifted from international to local problems with an emphasis on developing specific projects and an interchange of congregational events, all designed to enhance mutual respect.

This continues with Rouse, successor to Shannon, who now serves as co-chairman with Rabbi Wohl.

CAC and Volunteer Center Partner for Service Projects

The Clay Art Center and the Volunteer Center of United Way will join forces to offer a creative arts experience to community-minded volunteers during the annual MLK Day of Service. Offered each winter as a way to mobilize volunteers and offer community service activities, the MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves the world closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

Clay Art Center invites the community to do its part to help beautify the community while creating a functional and lasting work of art for future generations to enjoy. On Jan. 18 from noon to 2 p.m., participants are invited to work with CAC's professional teaching artists to create unique clay tiles. After the tiles have been created and glazed they will become part of a

permanent floor installation at Clay Art Center.

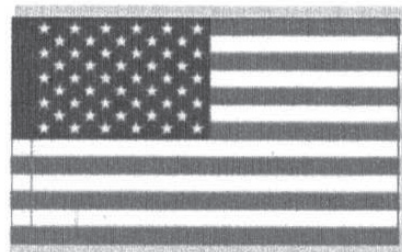
By offering this activity, CAC hopes to connect with the Westchester community in a meaningful way while also offering a creative and inspiring experience. Spaces are limited for this activity, and those interested in signing up to volunteer can do so by visiting www.volunteer-center.org.

"This project is a wonderful way to combine volunteerism with community and creative self-expression," said CAC Executive Director Leigh Taylor Mickelson. "By bringing in the community to help complete this tile project, we hope that participating individuals will feel like they are a part of the center – because they will be. Their expression in clay and glaze will be a permanent part of our architecture. It means a lot to us to be able to engage the community in this way."

Mamaroneck Town Board Meets

A special meeting of the Mamaroneck Town Board will be held Thursday, Jan. 23 at 12:30 p.m. in Conference Room C of the Town

Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road. A majority of the Town Board will convene to participate in a webinar from a website provider.



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Hudson Chorale Makes the Frost-Thompson Connection

Hudson Chorale, Westchester's largest mixed chorus, will open its fourth season Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25 and 26 at 3 p.m. at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, with a spirited and inspiring concert of choral works by American composers who looked to poets for their inspiration.

Robert Frost, long considered to be among America's best poets who was renowned for his use of rural life to depict complex social and philosophical issues, and Randall Thompson, who is a composer whose name is synonymous with 20th century American choral music, will come together during this performance.

The Frost-Thompson connection is only one component of this very special program of poetry brought vividly to life by its natural companion, music.

John F. Kennedy's passion for the works of Robert Frost impelled the young, newly-elected president to invite the Vermont poet to read one of his works at the 1961 presidential inauguration. Frost was already held in high regard among the educated elite, but his reading on that cold January morning in Washington escalated his fame to rock-star status, and his poetry to the front pages of newspapers across the nation.

Less than a month before his assassination, the president chose to read the following at a ceremony dedicating Amherst College's new library to Frost – lines that every school child in America commits to memory and which resonated personally with Kennedy: "Two roads diverged in a wood and I...I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference."

Thompson set some of Frost's "country" poetry to music in a collection called "Frostiana," which includes not only "The Road not Taken" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," but other poems as well, which illustrate Frost's love of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech.

In addition to "Frostiana," Thompson's rousing work, "The Last Words of David," will be performed, as well as his signature "Alleluia," composed for the opening of the Berkshire Music Center at Candlewood in 1940. It has been performed every year since then as part of the Berkshire Music Festival ceremonies.

Thompson, considered by many to be the best American choral composer of the 20th century, spent his entire career developing a style that departed from the great European masters and was uniquely American.

Walt Whitman has often been champi-

oned as America's first "poet of democracy," a title meant to reflect his ability to write in a singularly American manner. It was often said during the 19th century that you could not truly understand the American character unless you read Whitman. He wrote about everyday Americans – the hardworking farmer, the rancher, the housewife, the blacksmith – extolling the virtues of his young country's rise to independence and self-sufficiency.

Much of his poetry identifies with the poor and the marginalized, as well as with the horrors of the Civil War. Many composers have set his verse to music, perhaps none more exuberantly than Pulitzer Prize-winner Norman Dello Joio who adapted 10 lines from Whitman's 200-line poem "A Song of Joys" (part seven of the groundbreaking "Leaves of Grass") into a joyous choral work, titled "A Jubilant Song." Full of optimism, vitality and, of course, joy, the work is a ringing tribute to the essence of the American spirit.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of John F. Kennedy, the chorus will dedicate Thompson's "The Road not Taken" to our country's 35th president who once called artists "the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

Tribute will also be paid to the late Nelson Mandela.

American poet Maya Angelou's most recent composition, "His Day is Done," compares Mandela to the biblical warrior David who had the courage to face seemingly insurmountable obstacles and triumphs against all odds. In her words: "We send our souls to you (sons of Africa) as you reflect upon your David armed with a mere stone, facing down the mighty Goliath."

Hudson Chorale will continue the celebration of Mandela's life with a performance of Thompson's "The Last Words of David," an appropriate salute to a man whose courage came from his resolve to seek justice for all men. The piece contains the fitting lines, "He that ruleth over men must be just... And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth..."

Following the concert, the audience is invited to join the performers for an informal reception, which is a long-standing Hudson Chorale tradition.

Tickets are \$25 (\$10 for students) and can be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling 914-462-3212 or visiting www.hudsonchorale.org. The Pleasantville Presbyterian Church is located at 400 Bedford Road. Handicap parking is available.

Galef to Host Town Meetings

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef has announced five town meetings – including three in Westchester – that she is hosting at various sites throughout the 95th Assembly District, which she represents. The meetings will be held between Jan. 23 and Feb. 1, and Galef will discuss state issues that affect her communities.



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

Constituents are encouraged to come prepared with ideas, suggestions and questions to add to the open dialogue.

"I am pleased to host these town meetings, which give my constituents an opportunity to better understand what is happening in Albany as well as to voice any concerns they may have," said Galef. "This allows for an open discussion of the issues and allows me to learn more directly from the people I represent."

If a town meeting is canceled in one municipality due to weather, constituents are encouraged to attend another town meeting on a different date. If the weather is inclement, call Galef's district office at 914-941-1111 or the local library for an update on whether the meeting will proceed as scheduled.

Meetings with the assemblywoman will take place Thursday, Jan. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Briarcliff Manor

Public Library, 1 Library Road; Saturday, Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose; and Thursday, Jan. 30 from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill.

For more information and/or directions, contact the assemblywoman's office by e-mail at galefs@assembly.state.ny.us or by phone at 914-941-1111.

Bugle Corps Holds Fundraiser

The Bookends Band will be featured at The Westchester Brassmen Drum and Bugle Corps' student scholarship dinner Saturday, Jan. 25 at American Legion Hall 559, 210 Halstead Ave., Harrison.

A gourmet dinner buffet, provided by Powell Catering of Harrison, will begin at 8 p.m., and

the evening will serve as a fundraiser to help Brassmen students further their education.

More than \$40,000 has been awarded to qualifying students who are corps members.

Tickets are available at www.eventcelebrations.com/brassmenevent. For more information, call 914-835-5450.

Create an Acrylic Painting With Scarsdale Art Assoc.

Scarsdale Art Association Board member and noted art teacher at the Scarsdale Adult School, Naomi Shriber, will give a demonstration on the use of acrylic paints Sunday, Jan. 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Girl Scout House, 31 Wayside Lane, Scarsdale.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Shriber will demonstrate how to create a painting from a photo, and how to set up the palette accordingly. There will be a discussion on how to go about selecting specific mediums

from a broad array of choices, and she will then show the audience how to use these mediums, with the paints, to achieve the desired results.

This will be a practical, non-technical demonstration on the many uses of acrylic paints, whether one desires an oil-painting effect, watercolor effect, or an entirely new result. At the end of the demonstration, Shriber will distribute a hand-out about the techniques covered.

For more information, call the Scarsdale Art Association at 914-478-0253.

Mt. Vernon Library Presents Drama

The Friends of the Mount Vernon Public Library invite residents to a free performance of "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years" on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. in the library's Community Room, at 28 S. First Ave.

Based on the book about 103-year-old Sadie and 101-year-old Bessie Delany, the play celebrates their pioneering careers as African-American professionals, their rich family history and their keen observations of American life.

Learn to Create a Business Plan with Westchester SCORE

Westchester SCORE will be offering a workshop on "How to Create a Winning Business Plan" on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Port Chester- Rye Brook Public Library, One Haseco Ave. Attendees will learn how to improve as managers, how to show bankers and

investors a business plan, and more.

Westchester SCORE provides free professional guidance and information, accessible to all, to maximize the success of America's existing and emerging small businesses. For more information, call 914-939-6710, ext. 110.

Library Hosts Seasonal Storytimes

Signups for winter/spring storytimes at the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library will start Monday, Jan. 13, and the following programs are being offered and require pre-registration by phone at 914-939-6710, ext. 108, or in person:

* "Stories and Songs in Spanish/Cuentos y Canciones en Espanol con Julie," for Ages 2 to 5 years on Tuesdays at 11 a.m.; classes will be held Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 11, April 15 and May 13.

* Toddler Time for ages 2 to 3 years on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.; classes will be held Jan. 22 and 29; Feb. 5, 12 and 26; March 5, 12, 19 and 26; April 2, 9, 23 and 30; and May 7.

Parents and children will participate with fingerplays, songs, stories, musical instruments and other related parent-child activities.

* Preschooler Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years Wednesdays at 10 a.m. or Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday classes will be held Jan. 22 and 29; Feb. 5, 12 and 26; March 5, 12, 19 and 26; April 2, 9, 23 and 30; and May 7. Thursday classes will be held Jan. 23 and 30; Feb. 6, 13 and 27; March 6, 13, 20 and 27; April 3, 10 and 24; and May 1 and 8.

Children will listen to stories and participate in songs, fingerplays, movement and an occasional craft activity.

'Raising the Bar' on Display At Rye Free Reading Room



Kent Iarocci

Kent Iarocci's art exhibit "Raising the Bar" is on display through Jan. 22 at The Rye Free Reading Room, 1061 Boston Post Road. His exhibit is pencil, colored pencil, pen and ink, watercolor and watercolor on plaster/paper.

Iarocci is author of "So You Thought So," a book about the economy. It applies as much now as it did then – even more so now.

For more information, visit www.ryelibrary.org or www.kentiarocci.com, or call 914-967-0480.

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Seniors and Health Care

Hot Topics in Health Care: Affordable Care Act Showdown

By Michael LaMagna, Esq.

Happy and healthy New Year to all the readers of this column! The year 2013 proved to be an exciting year in health care and there is no reason to believe that 2014 is not going to be the same. We certainly start off to a great year, as there is a pivotal three-way battle between religion, politics and the Supreme Court – a mixture that will sure prove volatile.

So last year we had a little-known law called the Affordable Care Act that, for the most part, went into effect in a big way. You may have heard of it. A small part of that bill was a contraception mandate that requires health plans to provide birth control to women at no cost, considered a preventative health service.

As expected, religious and non-religious employers (including a chain of craft stores named Hobby Lobby) were up in arms because they objected, on religious freedom grounds, to have the employer-sponsored health plans offer contraception services. The president offered an opt-out form to avoid offering the coverage. If you do not offer the services and do not opt out, the organization faces penalties. However, the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Colorado-based group of Catholic nuns, took offense with the filling out of the form, claiming that it still promotes contraceptive services.

Now, this is where it gets interesting: At the



Michael LaMagna

final hour, on Dec. 31, hours before the contraception mandate came into effect, Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor granted the nuns a temporary injunction, preventing the federal government from enforcing the penalties while the case is winding its way to the Supreme Court. The Department of Justice stepped in claiming that the Little Sisters do not have a case, because it can opt out of the mandate.

The president appeared baffled at the justice's granting of the injunction.

This is certainly not the first case to challenge the contraception mandate, as there are at least five other organizations that have been successful in obtaining a temporary injunction, precluding them from penalties for not complying with the Affordable Care Act. The Supreme Court will ultimately decide at some point this year – stay tuned!

This article is provided for informational purposes only. Nothing in this article shall be construed as legal advice or should be relied upon as such. Michael LaMagna is a partner at Helwig, Henderson, Ryan, LaMagna and Spino-la, LLP, practicing elder law/probate/disability/wills, trusts and estates, health care regulatory, Medicare appeals, Social Security and general legal practice in both New York and Connecticut. Email him at Mlagna@hhrls.com, call 914-437-5955 or visit www.hhrls.com.

Dr. Cziner of White Plains Earns Finkelstein Excellence Award

Dr. David Cziner of Armonk, a WestMed Medical Group board-certified cardiologist who practices in White Plains, was recently presented with the Dr. Leonard Finkelstein Excellence Award for 2013. The award is the namesake of the deceased Finkelstein, a founding and admired member of then-The Westchester Medical Group.

"Dr. Leonard Finkelstein Excellence Award is an annual award presented by the WestMed Board of Directors to the physician who most embodies the ideals of Dr. Finkelstein, a doctor demonstrating the highest level of clinical quality with compassion and selfless devotion to patient care," said Dr. Jen Johnson, chair of the award nominating committee.

"Dr. Cziner is described by his colleagues as 'the gold standard,'" said one WestMed colleague. "He's smart, calm, reassuring, warm, relaxed, evidence-based, and a real doctor's doctor. You know when you send him patients, they will get the best possible care, delivered in a warm, supportive fashion."

Cziner was awarded his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center, where he went on to complete a fellowship in cardiology. He was a senior fellow in non-invasive cardiology at NYU's Tisch Hospital, and is chief emeritus of the Department of Cardiology at White Plains Hospital and is also on staff at Greenwich Hospital.

One of Cziner's patients praised him as "an exceptional physician who is helpful, un-



Dr. David Cziner

derstanding, patient, and most of all available. He communicates as well with his patients and their families as he does with his fellow physicians. He is informative, proactive, and will always take the time to explain decisions that he has made in respect to his patients' care."

Cziner was joined by his wife, Dr. Leslie Blum-Cziner; his son, Jonathon; his daughter, Sarah; his sister, Lori; and his nephew, Adam, to celebrate the special evening.

For more information, visit www.west-medgroup.com.

Pamela Weber Leads Outpatient Imaging at White Plains Hospital

White Plains Hospital on Dec. 18 welcomed radiologist Pamela Weber, MD, of Scarsdale, to its group of integrated physician practices. She will be assuming the title of director of outpatient imaging for White Plains Hospital and will be based at the hospital's newly-opened Imaging Center at New Rochelle, on North Avenue.

Weber was most recently practicing on Long Island as a partner in the Nassau Radiologic Group in New Hyde Park. A graduate of Union College, she received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed her residency training at the Long Island Jewish University Hospital, where she served as chief resident.

Weber then completed a fellowship in breast and body imaging at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. She is board certified in Radiology and is a member of the American College of Radiology, the Radiologic Society of North America and the Society of Body CT/MRI.

In joining White Plains Hospital, Weber



Dr. Pamela Weber

also joins several members of her family practicing there. Her husband, Kaare Weber, MD, is an endocrine surgeon and the current director of surgery; and her father-in-law, Carl Weber, MD, is a general surgeon and long-serving member and former president of the hospital's medical staff. Her brother-in-law, Phillip Weber, MD, is a gastrointestinal surgeon and currently serves as director of minimally invasive surgery, robotics and bariatrics at White Plains Hospital.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Weber into the White Plains Hospital family," said Susan Fox, hospital president. "Her extensive experience in imaging and radiology will be a valuable asset to our patients and the people of the Sound Shore communities."

Weber's office is located at the White Plains Hospital Imaging Center at New Rochelle, 1296 North Ave., in the Wykagyl Shopping Center. She can be reached at 914-336-5925; imaging appointments can be made by calling 914-336-5900.

Board of Health Seeks Candidates For Annual Public Health Award

Do you know a person or organization that deserves special recognition for efforts to tackle a public health problem?

If so, the Westchester County Board of Health would like to consider that person or organization for the 2014 Distinguished Public Health Service Award. Nominations will be accepted until Feb. 7.

The Distinguished Public Health Service Award is presented annually in recognition of Public Health Week in April to a person or community-based organization that exemplifies a commitment to public health and has served the community with distinction during the past year.

"Government agencies can't do this work alone," said Steven Nakashima, president of the Westchester County Board of Health. "Without the work of individuals and non-governmental organizations such as our Public Health Award recipients, we would not be successful. Their actions are absolutely vital to effectively enhance public health in our community."

"Recipients of the Distinguished Pub-

lic Health Service Award are all remarkable people or organizations who have made great impacts on public health in Westchester," added Dr. Douglas Aspros, board vice president. "They have recognized the importance of public health and have responded with creativity and generosity to assist the Board of Health in accomplishing its mission to promote public health in Westchester."

Past recipients of the Distinguished Public Health Award have included Passage to Excellence Be Fit Program at Bethel Baptist Church, 2013; Westchester Cares Action Program, 2012; Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley, 2011; Westchester Jewish Community Services Young Parents Achieve Program, 2010; African-American Men of Westchester, Inc., 2009; the Rev. Hugh Farris and the Port Chester/Town of Rye Council of Community Services, 2008; and the Rye YMCA Activate America Program, 2007.

For more information, or to obtain a nomination form, visit the Westchester County Department of Health's website at www.westchestergov.com/health, or call 914-813-5000.

Town of Eastchester Senior Programs and Services

The Center at Lake Isle

Monday, Jan. 20

Center closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, Jan. 21

8:30 a.m. Exercise with Grace Kulinski
9:30 a.m. Exercise with Patricia Marinello
12:30 p.m. David Osbourne, St. Paul's and the Presidents

Wednesday, Jan. 22

9:30 a.m. Tap dancing
9:30 a.m. Drawing class with Stephanie Rocker
12:30 p.m. Exercise with Evey Riccobono
12:30 p.m. Mahjong
1:15 p.m. Musical Memories, CDs and DVDs with Bob Moynihan

Thursday, Jan. 23

9:15 a.m. Country-western dancing with

Theresa Kover

10 a.m. Yiddish class
12:15 p.m. Bingo – bring a friend!

1 p.m. Mahjong

1 p.m. Pokeno and cards

Friday, Jan. 24

8:30 a.m. Exercise video
9:30 a.m. Lite exercise with Sonya Louis
10:30 a.m. Reading discussion with Tracy Wright
11 a.m. Information and conversation with Gilda Press
12:30 p.m. Bridge/cards
12:30 p.m. Musical Memories, CDs and DVDs with Bob Moynihan

The Center at Lake Isle is located at 660 White Plains Road, Eastchester. For more information or transportation, call 914-337-0390.



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Women's Health Forum Upcoming

St. John's Riverside Hospital will host a women's health forum Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave., Yonkers.

The keynote speakers for the evening will include St. John's Riverside Hospital doctors from varying specialties: Jacob Gebrael, MD, interventional radiology on uterine fibroid embolization; Alon Gitig MD, cardiologist, on

detecting coronary heart disease; and James Joseph MD, orthopedic surgeon, on makoplasty – robotic partial knee replacement.

Spouses, family and friends are welcome to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the forum will be rescheduled to Wednesday, Jan. 29.

For more information or registration, contact Joann Rokicki at 914-798-8986 or jrokicki@riversidehealth.org.

UJA Culture Circle Kicks Off With Author Jonathan Tropper



Karen Sobel of Purchase, Jill Weisfeld of Scarsdale, author Jonathan Tropper, Lois Kohn-Claar of Scarsdale, and Allison Wohl of Purchase

More than 140 women recently flocked to the Congregation Emanu-El in Rye for a presentation by Jonathan Tropper, author of "The Book of Joe," "One Last Thing Before I Go" and "This Is Where I Leave You." Those gathered also heard from Cantor Mia Davison of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale.

Davison played the part of a cantor in the film adaptation of Tropper's book, "This Is Where I Leave You," which is due out in September and stars Tina Fey and Jason Bateman.

The group had the opportunity to learn about the vital work of UJA-Federation and the 4.5 million people it helps each year.

"It's impossible for me to tell you all the ways we make miracles happen - I'd be standing here until next Sunday," said Westchester Women's Philanthropy Chairperson Lois Kohn-Claar of Scarsdale. "But I find the numbers amazing, like the 2 million New Yorkers who benefit from the work of our beneficiary agencies."

Dr. McCaughey to Speak On Obamacare Jan. 21

Dr. Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D., former lieutenant governor of New York and nationally-recognized expert on health care issues, will speak at Concordia College on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. "Obamacare: DeCoding the Massive Law" will take place in Concordia's Sommer Center for the Performing Arts.

The event is free and open to the public, and will feature a question-and-answer period.

McCaughey is a constitutional scholar from Columbia University and a patient advocate and health policy expert. She made national news in 1993 as an opponent of the Clinton health care bill, and has again achieved national prominence in the wake of the



Dr. Betsy McCaughey

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She is one of the most frequent expert contributors on Fox News, CNBC and is heard daily on the nation's biggest radio talk stations.

McCaughey is the author of more than 300 scholarly and popular articles and three books, including a history of the U.S. Constitution. She has taught at Vassar College and Columbia University, and produced prize-winning studies while at two think tanks, the Manhattan Institute and the Hudson Institute.

For more information, contact Dr. Jim Burke, dean of program development, at jim.burke@concordia-ny.edu.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Holding Benefit Dinner

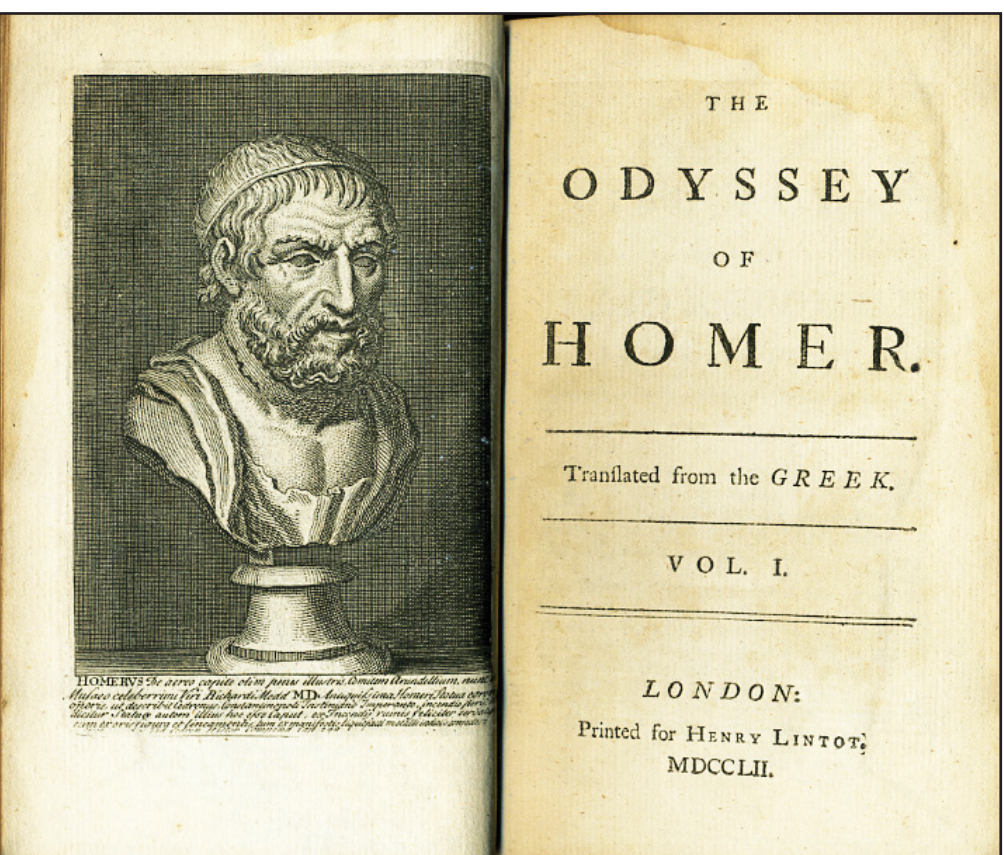


The Via Vanti! Restaurant in Mt. Kisco will host the Jan. 26 Guiding Eyes for the Blind event.

"Dining in the Dark - A Blind Dining Experience," a five-course tasting menu plus gelato benefiting Guiding Eyes for the Blind, will take place Sunday, Jan. 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Via Vanti! Restaurant and Gelateria, 2 Kirby Plaza, Mount Kisco. Guests will be offered blindfolds to test just

how discriminating their taste buds are, with prizes awarded to the diners with the savviest palates. Dining is \$75 per person and seating is limited. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 914-666-6400 or visiting www.viavanti.com.

National Players to Present 'The Odyssey' on Jan. 25



Back by popular demand, the National Players returns to the Valhalla Campus at Westchester Community College to perform Homer's epic drama "The Odyssey" on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Academic Arts Theatre.

Now is the chance to either reconnect with this classic hero, Odysseus, and behold his adventures; or to experience them for the first time. In either case, this is a not-to-be missed production bound to delight all ages.

This is Jason King Jones' adaptation of Homer's epic. Victorious in his fight at Troy, Odysseus heads home, embarking on a seven-year voyage that will test his wits and perseverance far more than war-time duties. Odysseus will come to learn that home is far different than expected, and that his greatest battle has yet to be fought.

Celebrating a remarkable 65th anniversary, National Players brings innovative productions all across the United States. Its self-sufficient approach to theatre engages audiences and examines the intersection between literature and contemporary life. National Players makes the classics current. Its productions adhere to strict traditions of touring theater. Company members double and triple, not only in roles, but technical assignments such as lighting, sound, costumes, set-up and strike.

National Players makes literature come live for its audiences by engaging their minds

and touching their hearts with fresh, contemporary takes on classics.

Single tickets for "The Odyssey" are \$22 general admission, \$20 for students/seniors/faculty and staff, and \$16 for children younger than 13.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by mailing a check to the box office, or by paying cash 30 minutes before the scheduled performance time. For online credit card purchases, visit www.sunywcc.edu/SmartArts.

For more information about this performance or many other cultural events, call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 914-606-6262 or visit the website listed above.

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