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Holy Child Student Wins Geographic Bee



Kaitlyn Shultis

Rye resident Kaitlyn Shultis, a School of the Holy Child seventh-grade student, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee, a nationwide geography competition for students in grades 4 to 8 designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography.

The school-level Bee, during which students answered a series of oral and written questions about global landmarks, monuments, capitals and waterways, was the first round in the 25th annual National Geographic Bee.

With her win in the school-wide Bee, Shultis will now advance to the next level — a written examination to determine state competitors. The top 100 scorers on this written exam from each state will then face each other in their state Bee on April 5.

For more information, call 914-967-5622 or visit Holy ChildRye.org.

Things to do During Winter Recess in Westchester



Most of Westchester's students have next week off for winter break and several organizations have a schedule of events available. See Page 4 for details.

TEATOWN LAKE RESERVATION Snowshoe Trek

Let's strap on snowshoes and head outdoors

to explore a snow-covered trail on Saturday, February 16 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Note that this program is for participants aged 6 and over. It is free for Teatown members, \$5 for non-members. Programs fill quickly, so registration is strongly recommended — call 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

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'Trailblazers' Honored as Part of Black History Month



CNBC host and New Rochelle resident Sharon Epperson

Westchester County will honor five African Americans, including one posthumously, for their professional and civic accomplishments at the annual Black History Month and Trailblazers Award ceremony on February 28 at 800 Westchester Ave., Rye Brook from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the office of County Executive Robert P. Astorino, the County Board of Legislators and the county's African American Advisory Board. The event is free and open to the public.

"It is a pleasure once again to sponsor Trailblazers and to pay tribute to five extraordinary African Americans from Westchester who have accomplished so much," said Astorino. "I thank the county's African American Advisory Board for putting this event together as a way to remind

all of us of the significant contributions in our own county of African Americans. This is a fitting way to observe Black History Month."

Advisory Board Chair Barbara L. Edwards said, "February 28 will provide us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of African American citizens of Westchester, highlighting yesterday's visionaries and today's leaders.

"This year's recognition of Black History Month has a special significance because we are also celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, both monumental events fostering equality and freedom. These historical milestones were made possible by President Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther

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The County Executive's Race and Affordable Housing Settlement

By Dan Murphy

While the major issue in the race for Westchester County Executive will likely be what it was four years ago — property taxes, county spending and cost of living in the highest taxed county in the nation — another big issue will be the affordable housing settlement and the voters in Westchester's perception of how County Executive Rob Astorino has managed the issue.

In his outreach to the people of Westchester through his Ask Astorino town hall meetings, Astorino highlights his efforts to control county spending and propose budgets with zero percent county property tax increases. Astorino also stresses what he describes as "overreaching" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding the terms of the settlement.

In August 2009, former County Executive Andrew J. Spano entered into an agreement with HUD to settle a housing lawsuit. The settlement was approved by a majority on the County Board of Legislators. All of this took place before Astorino took office.

The settlement called for Westchester to build 750 units of affordable housing in 31 towns and villages in the county that have a population of less than three percent African-American and seven percent Hispanic, and have few, if any, affordable housing units. Westchester was given seven years to build the units at a cost of \$51.6 million.

"I vociferously opposed the settlement in 2009 and I'm still against it, but when I came into office it was a done deal," said Astorino. "Our major goal is to avoid getting fined for

not complying with the settlement."

By the end of 2012, Westchester had met — and exceeded — its benchmark of units built, with 294 approved and in the pipeline. Astorino's disputes with HUD focus on what he believes are "the Federal government's aggressive attempts to have us do more than is required in the settlement. I have refused to do anything that is not in this settlement and I will continue to do so."

Astorino's two major disputes with HUD focus on Source of Income legislation (SOI) and the zoning rights of local governments. The settlement states that the County Executive must "promote" SOI, which requires local landlords not to discriminate based on an applicant's income. SOI also means that landlords who own private properties must accept Section 8 housing vouchers from low income applicants.

Astorino has argued in court that the definition of "promote" SOI does not mean that he is required to sign SOI legislation, which was passed by the county board and vetoed by Astorino in 2010. There were not enough votes on the county board to override Astorino's veto. This issue is now in the courts after HUD found Astorino and the county in contempt for not passing SOI.

"My decision [to veto SOI] was based on my belief that the legislation was a violation of basic property rights," Astorino said. "Landlords who want to accept federal vouchers are free to do so, but they should not be required to do so. This was a governmental intrusion that would have had the unintended

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Warm in Shelter Draws Opposition in Mt. Vernon

By Dan Murphy

The decision by the Astorino administration to open a "warm in shelter" at the Friendship Worship Center on East Lincoln Avenue in Mt. Vernon has drawn opposition from residents and elected officials representing the city.

County Board Vice Chair Lyndon Williams held a public hearing last month at which many residents expressed their concerns about the shelter, which opens at night during the winter months to offer homeless persons a temporary place to warm up in the winter.

"Mount Vernon cannot continue to be the dumping ground for all of the social problems of Westchester County," said Williams, "especially when considering that your administration has eliminated from the 2013 County Budget many of the worthwhile programs that benefit Mount Vernon, like funding for at-risk youth initiatives that have been proven to be quite successful."

Williams eagerly offered Astorino a solution to the problems created by the county contracting with the Friendship Worship Cen-

ter to run a homeless shelter: Give the funding to the Worship Center for the youth initiatives and house the homeless instead at the former WestHELP site in Greenburgh, where 108 units formerly reserved for homeless county residents now sit vacant.

George Oros, chief of staff for County Executive Rob Astorino, attended the meeting and said the emergency shelter would act as a warming center for up to 14 people from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. until mid-april to give the homeless a place to stay in the winter.

"Westchester County contracted for a small [14-bed maximum] seasonal drop-in/warming site in Mount Vernon," said County Department of Social Services Commissioner Kevin McGuire. "It replaces the drop-in/warming site at the Mount Vernon YMCA, which closed last year. The drop-in/warming site is not a full-service homeless shelter. It operates only at night [9 p.m. to 6 a.m.] and during colder months until mid-April.

"The drop-in site is simply a humane re-

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Rye Town Dissolution Discussed at Local Summit



State Senator George Latimer



Rye Town Supervisor Joe Carvin

The proposed dissolution of the Town of Rye was the topic at the Local Summit's breakfast meeting at the Nautilus Diner on Tuesday, January 22. State Senator George Latimer and Rye Town Supervisor Joe Carvin served as panelists and spoke to a crowded room of both interested residents and local officials.

The panelists discussed the recently completed Rye Town Dissolution Feasibility Study. The Town of Rye and the Villages of Rye Brook, Port Chester and Mamaroneck participated in the study, which was largely funded by a state grant. Rye Town is wholly comprised of the villages of Port Chester and Rye Brook and also includes the Rye Neck section of the Village of Mamaroneck. Although such dissolution might affect the Town of Mamaroneck, it declined to participate in the study.

In explaining his support for the proposal to dissolve Rye Town, Carvin, who has served as the Rye Town Supervisor since 2007, stated that the high taxes paid in Westchester County and New York State are "unsustainable" and that Rye Town's dissolution would be economically beneficial for each of the involved communities. Carvin believes the communities would save money because layers of government would be eliminated and dissolution would accelerate "sharing services." Village of Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum added that each newly formed coterminous town-village would receive money in perpetuity from the state as part of a state incentive plan for government consolidation.

There are a number of steps that must occur before Rye can dissolve. First, in early to mid-February, the Steering Committee — whose members include Carvin, the mayors of Port Chester, Rye Brook and Mamaroneck, and their chief administrators — will hear comment from the public. Then, after consultation with Lat-

imer and Assemblyman Steve Otis, the committee will make its recommendation as to how to proceed.

For dissolution to occur, the governing boards of each of the municipalities would have to vote in favor of the dissolution and send a Home Rule legislation request to the State Legislature. If the state agrees with the proposed Home Rule legislation, the question would be put before the voters this November. Home Rule legislation would allow each community to secede and become a coterminous town-village. In all likelihood, the Village of Rye Neck would become a "paper town," getting its services by contract with another municipality.

Latimer opened the breakfast presentation by giving a history of the origins of the current complex configuration of town, village and city governments, a system of many overlapping and shared jurisdictions and borders. Latimer explained how natural geography, such as Long Island Sound and river locations, shaped the early settlers' political boundaries and led to the creation of the towns.

The towns provided limited services to sparsely populated areas. These governmental divisions were later altered as larger communities developed. With the advent of the railroad, new commercial and residential areas sprang up along the rail lines. After World War II, the automobile changed our living habits and brought even more people out to the suburbs, further expanding population centers. The need for government services expanded and those needs led to changes in local government. Villages were organized within towns to meet the increased needs.

Carvin also provided a bit of historical background, informing the audience that, for 70 years in its early history, the Town of Rye was a part of Connecticut.

Pilot Transportation Program for Seniors Launched



L to r: WFR President Catherine Wynkoop, Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson, WFR Chairman Friedhilde Milburn, WESTMED Medical Director Dr. Barney Newman, WFR registrant Eleanor Mines, Assemblyman Steven Otis, Beverly Carter from the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services and At Home on the Sound President Lynn Reichgott

WestFair Rides (WFR) and WESTMED Medical Group announce the launch of a groundbreaking, collaborative pilot program that will arrange rides to medical appointments at WESTMED Medical Group's 1 Theall Rd. offices in Rye for older adults 60 and older who do not drive.

An early participant in this collaborative effort is At Home on the Sound, an aging in place membership organization that serves older adult residents of Larchmont and Mamaroneck. Its members will continue to receive transportation services as before, plus they will enjoy enhanced scheduling options for WESTMED appointments. Other riders will be Westchester residents who are registered with WFR and who need assistance getting to their appointments at 1 Theall Rd.

WESTMED schedulers at 1 Theall Rd. have been trained in the use of the WFR software platform. They will be able to request rides for registrants needing rides to or from their WESTMED appointments.

"This is a good example of using staff and

volunteer time efficiently to ease the burden of older patients having to fend for themselves to arrange and pay for trips to critical medical appointments," said WFR Chairman Friedhilde Milburn.

WESTMED President and CEO Dr. Simon Schwartz said, "WESTMED is pleased to collaborate on this first-of-its-kind program that will give ready access to medical appointments at our Rye office for older adults and adults with vision disabilities."

WFR recruits volunteer drivers to help their older neighbors to remain mobile and connected to healthcare providers and community activities. WFR is building collaborative relationships with aging in place and other organizations to achieve its mission.

"We are starting with rides to Theall Road but, over time, our service area and community partners will grow," said WFR President Catherine Wynkoop.

For more information, call at WFR at 914-764-3533, At Home on the Sound at 914-899-3150 or WESTMED at 914-681-5282.

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Westchester Legislators Move Forward in Deciding Playland's Future



The Westchester County Board of Legislators moved forward recently with its evaluation of the top four proposals for the revitalization of Playland, the 280-acre County park and National Historic Landmark, as Legislator Catherine Borgia, chair of the Board Government Operations Committee (GOC), outlined goals for the decision process and scheduled an in-depth discussion of the proposals for next week's committee meeting.

Borgia asked the GOC members to carefully review the packets they had received containing information presented by the four Playland RFP respondents — Sustainable Playland, Standard Amusements, Central Amusements and the Paidia Company — regarding proposed operations, financial viability and intended modifications to the park and infrastructure. While the legislators may request additional information from the respondents, Borgia wants her colleagues to bring to the committee table questions and comments about the proposals.

"We have already generated a lot of questions and discussion about the proposals for Playland, which will serve as a good framework for our analysis of each presentation," said Borgia. "Now, we have to boil it all down to a committee consensus on the pros and cons of each proposal and make a decision that will be right for Westchester."

Borgia reiterated that the board's Playland proposal process was focused on the economic, recreational and environmental impact each vision of the park's future will have on all of Westchester. She also noted that the entire board plans to collaborate closely with the Astorino Administration on the results of the analysis, "and a way to move forward together with a final decision that benefits the whole county."

Sustainable Playland representatives are being scheduled to return to the GOC as well to present more information for the legislators.

"This comprehensive evaluation provides county residents and business owners with an excellent opportunity to participate in a decision that will reverberate through our cities and communities," said Board Majority Leader Pete Harckham, who noted that the board's open meetings are streamed on video and archived online.

In the 2012 Adopted County Budget, Playland expenses were \$12.4 million, plus \$3.6 million of debt service. Departmental revenue for the park was budgeted at \$10.3 million. Without the debt service, the park was slated to make a \$1.6 million profit.

The four top proposals for the reinvention of Playland presented to the board included the following information:

Sustainable Playland

Sustainable Playland, Inc. (SPI) is a non-profit organization. It proposes to scale back the "amusement aspect" of the park because it has "been proved outmoded."

Its diversification and expanded use of Playland will include a new 10-acre "great lawn," 9.5 acres of new multi-purpose athletic fields, a restored Ice Casino with full-service catering operation, new 72,000-square-foot field house, revamped amusement area, beach area, Westchester County Children's Museum, restaurants and cafés and water-based activities beyond existing concessions. It plans to hire private security guards for the park.

SPI seeks a 30-year lease on county property. It will provide a \$4 million upfront payment to the county, covering the first year's debt service. SPI's initial capital investment will be \$33.5 million: \$4.2 through tax-exempt bonds issued through an LDC and \$4.2 million from SPI capital campaign, with the rest from private tenant operators.

As for annual SPI revenues at Playland, once the initial capital program is completed and operating income and expenses stabilize, approximately \$4.5 million is anticipated with annual operating expenses of approximately \$2.7 million for total net operating income (NOI) of approximately \$1.8 million. After SPI bond repayment and contribution to SPI's Capital Reserve Fund, there will be left approximately \$1.2 million as annual rent payment to Westchester County, based on an NOI-sharing formula to be negotiated. Total anticipated annual revenue at Playland, all vendors included, is expected to be approximately \$24.2 million.

Standard Amusements

Standard Amusements LLC is a subsidiary of Standard General LC, a New York-based private investment firm, which plans to create New Playland, a non-profit entity, as a lessee. The investment firm has \$550 million in assets under management and is presently long-term investor in Cedar Fair, the largest amusement park operator in the U.S.

Standard's plan to revitalize Playland will include a comprehensive facelift consistent with the park's National Historic Landmark status, improved food operations with specialty meal and snack offerings, new games to cultivate intergenerational shares experience, restored and added rides plus water-themed attractions and increased live entertainment.

There will be four new sports fields and a community lawn free for use. Standard also plans to retain county employees and County Police for security.

New Playland comes with a \$25 million financing commitment from Standard and will make the currently scheduled \$5.9 million of principal payments in 2013/2014 and interest payments totaling \$5.4 million in 2013-2027. In addition, New Playland would issue a long-term Note Payable of \$20.3 million to Westchester County for an amount equal to the outstanding Playland-related debt (interest only). Standard promises a \$2 million annual marketing budget for New Playland and will remit residual cash flows to Westchester County pursuant to a 40-year lease of the park.

Central Amusements International

Central Amusements International (CAI) will work with two renowned family-run firms, Zamperla, Inc. and Antonio Zamperla S.p.A., for full design and operation of the amusement park. The CAI management team has more than 150 years of combined experience in the amusement business and presently operates Victorian Gardens at Wollman Rink in Central Park, Leolandia in Italy and Luna Park at Coney Island.

CAI's plan includes revamping of rides and placement of many major new rides in the amusement park. The revitalization will encompass: swimming pool renovation, creating an interactive water playground; mini-golf replaced with multi-level adventure style golf; South Bathhouse Restoration into a Children's Entertainment Center to compliment the Children's Museum; and a summer camp. The focus will be on preservation of historic rides, restoration of historic structures and infrastructure improvements.

The CAI plans call for capital investment of \$26.4 million in the first five years, with annual payments to Westchester for five years ranging from \$1.0 to \$1.3 million a year.

The Paidia Company

The Paidia Company is a private, Louisiana-based company which operates amusement parks and reinvented Cypress Gardens in Florida as Legoland Florida for the LEGO Group. Their proposal calls for a \$150 million investment, with \$100 million of it earmarked for construction and improvements.

community with groups like the United Black Clergy. Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church was chosen after a rigorous evaluation of bids that involved two separate Requests for Proposals (RFP). Ken Jenkins, chairman of the Board of Legislators, was among those who voted to approve the contract on January 10.

"There is no overlap in service hours between the warming site and the day care center operated by the church. The single men and women coming to the warming site are out of the building by 6 a.m. and do not return until 9 p.m., well before and after any of the activities involving children.

"As always, the Department of Social Services will work closely with the community on any issues that may arise." The shelter remains open as of press time.

'Community Forum on Affordability of Catholic & Jewish Day Schools'



Transfiguration School parents Roger and Elizabeth Rooney of Tarrytown

Photos by Jessie Watford



Solomon Schechter School parents Steven and Jill Abusch of White Plains



Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

More than 100 parents from Westchester recently gathered for an informational panel discussion about their options to offset the costs of religious and independent day school education and how to effectively advocate on behalf of their children, at the "Community Forum on the Affordability of Catholic and Jewish Day Schools."

Participants at the event, which took place at the Schechter Westchester Upper School in Hartsdale, met with elected officials — including State Senators Andrea Stuart-Cousins, Ruth Hassell-Thompson, David Carlucci and George Latimer and Assemblymembers Shelley Mayer, Steve Otis, David Buchwald and Amy Paulin (represented by Nancy Fisher).

The interfaith event was co-sponsored by the New York State Catholic Conference, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Education Project, OU-Teach NYS, Westchester Day School, the Office of the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York and the Westchester Jewish Council.

"Working in partnership with the Jewish and Catholic schools allows us to show our elected officials the breadth of the religious school community and the depth of its commitment to the religious day school educational experience," said UJA-Federation's Darcy Hirsh.

Tuition-paying families across New York State shoulder the dual burden of paying taxes to support public schools while paying tuition to support the education of their own children. For many families with children in religious day schools, paying increasing taxes and rising tuition is becoming too difficult to sustain, creating a crisis not only for them, but for taxpayers who face a dramatic increase in cost if these families are forced to enroll their children in public school.

"The environment in which our children are educated is very important to us," said Solomon Schechter School parent Steven Abusch. "We are extremely happy with...Schechter Westchester; however, due to finances, we receive scholarship... The benefits to our daughters and family certainly outweigh the sacrifices we have made in our lives, but the reality is Schechter Westchester shoulders much of the financial burden, ultimately affecting our broader community and future of the school."

Transfiguration School parents and Tarrytown residents Elizabeth and Roger Rooney agree that religious education was the best choice

for their daughters: "We like the fact that our daughters are learning their faith and living their faith," Elizabeth said. Still, cost is a factor of consideration: "Tuition is rising again next year and we'll soon have to make a decision about high school."

The forum provided parents with the opportunity to learn about New York State programs and legislation under consideration and the chance to engage with state lawmakers about what can be done to bring tuition assistance supports to the state.

"It's critically important that every parent, teacher and administrator reach out to their elected representatives in Albany to demand the help they need for the education they want for their children," said NYS Catholic Conference's James Cultrara. "Faith-based schools have a long history of academic success and provide multiple benefits to both parents and the community at large. These schools need to be part of the larger conversation about educational options in New York State and across the country."

The forum focused on four major areas:

The Tuition Crisis — The Education Investment Incentives Act, passed by the NYS Senate, would increase the amount of scholarships available to students to attend religious and independent schools and would generate greater resources for public schools, pre-K programs and teachers. This measure would benefit all children by encouraging increased donations to individual public schools, school districts, organizations that serve public schools and to private school scholarship organizations by making such donations eligible for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit from state tax liability;

Mandated Services (MSR) and Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) Reimbursement — By law, the state must reimburse day schools for providing state MSRs, such as administering state-mandated testing, and must provide attendance reimbursement to day schools in accordance with CAP. The state owes religious and independent schools approximately \$210 million in delinquent MSR/CAP reimbursement, with \$6 million owed to Westchester schools;

School Safety Grants — The recently-enacted gun legislation provides additional building aid to public schools for enhanced safety provisions. Although religious day schools were not included in the measure, a separate safety grant initiative for these schools is expected to be advanced in each house; and

Transportation — Public schools are under increasing pressure to reduce costs and have proposed reducing transportation services to religious day schools. Paulin will amend her bill to reinstate the 90 percent reimbursement to public schools for non-public school transportation expenses, as existed prior to 1992.

"Exercising freedom of choice — to educate our children in the manner in which we choose — is a fundamental American value," said Schechter School Headmaster Dr. Elliot Spiegel. "Religious and other independent schools, in conjunction with public schools, create the landscape of diversity which is the hallmark of this country. We can all agree that the costs associated with providing excellence in education continue to increase, as do the costs incurred to satisfy state mandates.

"We are committed to helping our community, but we look to lawmakers to recognize the real financial strains on our families and our schools, and ask for meaningful change. We are thrilled to partner with our Catholic and Jewish colleagues on this important effort."

Warm in Shelter

Continued from Page 1

response that allows the homeless to get out of the cold and into a clean bed for the night. It protects some of the most vulnerable in our society from freezing outdoors and does so in a cost-effective way. Westchester County has a long history of taking care of the less fortunate and providing shelter for the homeless.

"The department's search for a new warming site was brought to the Board of Legislator's attention last year in testimony before the Community Services Committee, of which Legislator Lyndon Williams of Mount Vernon is a member.

"The search involved outreach in the

Events at NRPL



The Bokandeye African Dance Troup performing at NRPL

The New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) is located at 1 Library Plaza in New Rochelle. All of the following programs, unless otherwise noted, are free and do not require registration. For more information, call 914-632-7878 or visit NRPL.org, unless directed otherwise below.

February Vacation Events

NRPL is presenting a great variety of programs for children during the February school vacation week. These free activities are made possible by the Friends of NRPL.

On Tuesday, February 19, NRPL will celebrate Chinese New Year, in conjunction with the BID Family Days Go Global for New Rochelle's 325th Anniversary series. Chinese New Year, which is known as Spring Festival in China, heralds the lunar New Year. All of China, and enclaves in other parts of the world, observe the holiday by meeting and feasting, hanging red paper signs and lanterns and setting off fireworks. NRPL's festivities for the Year of the Snake are in two parts: From 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., children in Pre-K through Grade 5 are invited to drop-in to make dragon puppets and traditional red Chinese lanterns. From 2 to 2:45 p.m., a free live performance by the New York Chinese Cultural Center will take place in the Ossie Davis Theater and is appropriate for all ages. The extraordinary, costumed dancers will perform the Lion Dance, a Monkey King Demonstration from Peking Opera, the Handkerchief Dance, the Mongolian Dance and the Ribbon Dance. This program is made possible by the BID in conjunction with NRPL, City School District, Department of Parks and Recreation and the Friends of NRPL.

Wednesday, February 20 is Family Film Day in NRPL's Ossie Davis Theater, and the theme is "Mice & Ice." The shows begin with a cartoon short of Mighty Mouse, who was born in New Rochelle, followed by "The Great Mouse Detective." The 74-minute film features the escapades of the private eye of Baker Street. He is determined to track down evil Professor Ratigan, who has kidnapped London's mater toymakers and is set on becoming the supreme ruler of Mousedom. The film is rated G and appropriate for children aged 3 and up. At 2 p.m., "Ice Age: The Continental Drift" will be shown.

In the fourth installment in the popular series, the heroes return for another outrageously funny and entertaining Ice Age adventure. When Scrat's acorn antics cause a cataclysmic crack-up, Manny (Ray Romano), Sid (John Leguizamo) and Diego (Denis Leary) go where no herd has gone before — on a high-seas quest aboard a floating iceberg. But a menagerie of misfit pirates are determined to shiver their timbers and capsize their journey home. This film is rated PG, is appropriate for children aged 5 and up and runs 88 minutes.

Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 have the opportunity to drop-in for Crafts from Favorite Books about Winter, on Thursday, February 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friendly guidance and materials will be provided for mitten-shaped books to fill with animals and cotton ball snowmen. First-come, first-served to the capacity of the Meeting Room.

Singer, songwriter and entertainer Zev Haber will perform a concert of favorite and original songs that get everybody dancing, jumping and moving on Friday, February 22 at 11 a.m. The performance is for children aged 3 to 7 and parents or caregivers, on a first-come, first-served basis, to the capacity of the 140-seat Ossie Davis Theater.

African Dance and Drum Performance

An African Dance and Drum performance will be presented by the Bokandeye African Dance Troupe on Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m. in the Ossie Davis Theater. A BID Family Days Go Global for New Rochelle's 325th Anniversary event, the performance is free and open to all ages.

Anthony Wooden, director of Bokandeye African Dance and Troupe, will lead his acclaimed troupe of dancers and drummers in a program depicting the rich cultural meanings of the movements and dress of African village life, and the role of the extended family. The performance is a stirring demonstration of brilliant costumes, reverberating rhythms and exuberant dance. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis to the capacity of the 140-seat theater. Audience members are advised to arrive early, as this performance is always filled to capacity.

RHS's Winter Vacation Workshop

Looking for something fun and creative for your children to do while on winter break?

The Rye Historical Society (RHS) and Square House Museum will have a one-day craft program for children aged 7 to 11 on Tuesday, February 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In celebration of President's Day, children will create a miniature figure of George Washington, John Adams, Abraham Lincoln or any one of their favorite Presidents using Styrofoam and fabric.

They will also decorate paper mache masks and boxes.

The cost for the program is \$15 per child and includes all supplies. Children should bring a bagged lunch, though snacks will be provided. Reservations are suggested, as space is limited.

RHS and the Square House Museum are located at 1 Purchase St. in Rye. For more information or to register, call 914-967-7588 or visit RyeHistory.org.

February Events at GNC

The Greenburgh Nature Center (GNC) is located at 99 Dromore Rd. in Scarsdale. For more information on these and other programs, and to register when required, call 914-723-3470 or visit GreenburghNatureCenter.org.

Winter Wildlife Wonders

Join a naturalist in a hands-on approach to explore how animals survive the winter's harsh weather on Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. Visit with live animals and discover the adaptations which the animals rely upon to survive and thrive! The cost is \$5 for GNC members, \$8 for non-members.

Finding & Feeding Winter Birds

Join naturalist Dean Fausel on a winter walk to learn what birds wintering in our area like to eat and where they find shelter on Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m. The walk includes a

visit to GNC's Birds of Prey exhibit and busy bird feeders, as well as a search for our elusive feathered friends. The fee is included with museum admission.

February Vacation Nature Camp

Let us give your K to 3rd grade child an action-packed time during the school vacation from Monday to Thursday, February 18 to 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily.

Our naturalists will involve, amuse, stimulate and inform your children with different activities each day, including animal study, nature crafts, nature exploration and nature games. A morning snack is included; lunch should be sent with your child each day. The fee for four days is \$160 for members, \$210 for non-members. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Engel: Post Office Going Down Path to Oblivion

Congressman Eliot Engel criticized the US Postal Service plan to end Saturday delivery service by August, calling the move part of a program of eventual elimination of service by the Post Office.

In recent months, the Postal Service has closed, or threatened to close, scores of post offices and distribution centers, debated eliminating overnight service for First-Class Mail and wants to sell the Bronx General Post Office building.

"It is a self-fulfilling prophecy — you provide inferior service, you drive away customers," said Engel. "Once you remove one service, it becomes very easy to slash the next one and, all of a sudden, it's a downward spiral to poorer service.

"This is a path to oblivion for the Postal Service as they ride a business plan doomed for failure. I want the Post Office to succeed and for the American people to have ample access to facilities, but I need to see that the Post Office is serious about correcting their own flaws."

The Postal Service will stop Saturday deliveries, which it has been making since 1860, beginning on August 1, with delivery service

continuing for packages and vital medicine deliveries. Post office facilities will remain open on Saturdays with reduced hours, enabling customers to drop off mail, buy stamps or use their post office boxes.

"It is inevitable that the buildings will eventually be closed on Saturdays as well. This will lead to job losses and inferior services," continued Engel. "It is especially problematic for seniors, working families and people living in rural areas. Republicans in Congress have long sought to stack the deck against the Postal Service, culminating in the Postal Act of 2006, which made it virtually impossible for the Postal Service to thrive.

"That act, passed by a lame duck Republican Congress, required the Postal Service to pre-fund its future retiree health care benefits — a 75-year liability paid for in 10 years. This, coupled with decades of mismanagement, has put us in this position today. Congress needs to reform this act and aid the Postal Service in revamping its business plan, and enable it to pursue a path to solvency in the years to come. If not, we will soon be marking the end of the Postal Service altogether."

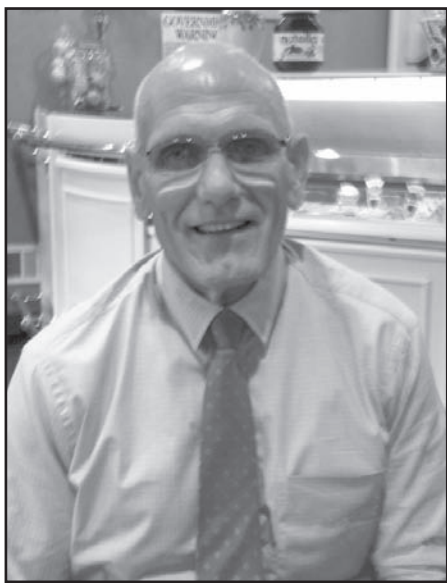
From the Mayor and Town Hall

By Harrison Mayer Ron Belmont

I would like to begin this week's column by recognizing and congratulating the Harrison High School music program.

The program has been named a Grammy Signature School semifinalist by the Grammy Foundation. Initially, more than 20,000 Signature School applications were received by the Foundation and only 129 schools were awarded semifinalist status. Performance videos and accompanying information concerning Harrison's music program were submitted and finalists may be awarded up to \$10,000 in grants. The Foundation will be announcing these awards in March and I wish Harrison High School's music program the best of luck as they await the final decision.

Given the cold weather we have had lately, I would like to bring your attention to fireplace safety. Our local fire departments have been responding to calls regarding fireplace mishaps. To prevent fires, the U.S. Fire Administration advises that chimneys and wood stoves receive regular inspection and cleaning by certified specialists. It is also important to insure that all chimneys are covered with a mesh screen to prevent lighted ash from floating out of the chimney and onto nearby rooftops. If you need additional assistance, call your local fire department for more information. The Federal Emergency Management Agen-



Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont

cy (FEMA), at the request of the State of New York, has approved a 30-day extension for survivors to register for federal disaster assistance. The new registration deadline for Hurricane Sandy survivors in New York is February 27.

Individuals can register with FEMA online at DisasterAssistance.gov or via smartphone or tablet by going to m.fema.gov or by downloading the FEMA app. Survivors also can call 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585). People who use 711 Relay or Video Relay Services (VRS) should call 800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Eastern Standard Time seven days a week until further notice. Survivors who have questions regarding the registration process, the status of their application and available disaster assistance programs are encouraged to contact FEMA.

As a reminder, Town Hall will be closed on February 18 in honor of President's Day. For that week, Monday garbage pick up will move to Tuesday, and there will be no Wednesday bulk pick up.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is on Friday, February 15. I will be at Pizza 2000, located at 337 Halstead Ave. in Harrison from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.



Birth Announcements from Northern Westchester Hospital

January 1, 2013
Daughter Melanie Soumbasakis to Emily Bloomfield and Michael Soumbasakis of Dobbs Ferry.

January 4, 2013
Son Hunter James to Allison and Edward McKay of Montrose.

Daughter Ellora Jane Ramasamy to Rachel Rebekah Shubert and Harigovind Venkatraj Ramasamy of Ossining.

Daughter Mia Grace to Gina and Brian Cooney of Pound Ridge.

January 5, 2013
Son Sebastian Philippe to Rebecca and Alexandre Amable Vallois of Chappaqua.

January 6, 2013
Daughter Stephanie Claire to Dolores and Edwin Dema to Mount Kisco.

January 7, 2013
Son Christian Antonio to Tara Lyn and Antonio Taddeo of West Harrison.

January 8, 2013
Son Timothy Vincent to Mary Elizabeth and Vincent John Obermeier of Croton-on-Hudson.

January 9, 2013
Son Aaron Tyler to Joelle Brooke and Jason Ross Diesman of Mahopac.

January 10, 2013
Son Jakson Abram Miller-Kent to Cortney Ann Miller and Jeremy Adam Kent of Mount Kisco.

January 12, 2013
Son Angelo Santino to Danielle Barbara and Miraldo Fabio Alo of Peekskill.

January 13, 2013
Daughter Nora Elizabeth Plunkett to Megan S. Ward and Brian Plunkett of Ossining.

January 14, 2013
Daughter Lila Kaveri to Jessica Marie and Subbaiah Ponnappa Maneyapanda of Mount Kisco.

January 16, 2013

Son Parker Hudson Gardos to Ester Wava Lee and Adam Robert Gardos of Croton-on-Hudson.

January 17, 2013
Son Benjamin Mathew to Priscila Alexandra Rubio and Juan Angel of Mount Kisco.

January 20, 2013
Daughter Elizabeth Courtney to Deborah Green-Israel and David Israel of Mount Kisco.

Daughter Beatrice Lucie Weiss to Lauren Christine Knight and Roni Weiss of Pleasantville.

January 22, 2013
Daughter Peyton Lynn to Ivonne C. and Charles R. Cante of Goldens Bridge.

January 23, 2013
Son Jackson William to Becky Anne and Andrew George Paland of Yorktown Heights.

January 24, 2013
Twins, son Mason Justin and daughter Gia Liliana, to Courtney and Justin Petriello of Peekskill.

Son Franco James, III to Rosa Maria and Franco James Miele, Jr. of Mahopac.

Son Callum James MacDonald to Julie C. Edwards and James R. MacDonald of Mount Kisco.

Daughter Annie Kohl to Kathleen and Craig Campanaro of Pleasantville.

January 25, 2013
Daughter Lexa to Edyta and Jure Olic of Mahopac.

Son Joseph Robert to Nicole Daniela and James Riina of Mount Kisco.

January 26, 2013
Son Jencarlo Munoz to Elma Marlene Vvaguori and Carlos Geovanny Munoz of Peekskill.

Daughter Penelope Edi to Valeria Ines and David Lopez of Buchanan.

January 28, 2013
Daughter Corinne Marie to Jeanne Marie and Christopher Montuoro of Mahopac.

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Westchester Begins Effort to Get Residents Tax Credits

Once again, Westchester County and trained volunteers are teaming up to help low- and middle-income residents get the tax credits they may be entitled to, particularly the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).

County Executive Robert P. Astorino said that the free service will be available to qualified residents at locations in White Plains, Yonkers, Mount Vernon, Valhalla, Ossining and Peekskill between February 4 and April 15.

"Last year through this program, we helped 6,604 residents get income tax refunds of about \$7.5 million, including \$3.4 million in tax credits," Astorino said. "Every dollar we get back for someone not only helps that taxpayer but returns money into our local economy."

The IRS estimates that thousands of eligible Westchester residents fail to apply for the EITC — either because they don't know about it or are unable to fill out the appropriate forms. It is open to taxpayers with household incomes

below \$51,000. Eligible taxpayers can receive earned income tax credits of up to \$7,953 on their 2012 tax return, based on their income, filing status and household size.

This initiative is a collaboration of the following county departments and community organizations: Office of the County Executive; the departments of Social Services and Consumer Protection; SingeStop USA; Educational Opportunity Center of Westchester; Westchester Chapter of the AARP; Interfaith Council for Action; Westchester Community Action Program, Community Capital Resources; Westchester Community College; The Volunteer Center of United Way; United Way's 2-1-1 Hudson Valley Region; the Business Council of Westchester; the Westchester County Library System; and the Child Care Council of Westchester.

For more information, call 211, United Way's Help Line, or visit WestchesterGov.com/eitc.

EITC Eligibility and Maximum Credits

Household Size	Max Eligible Income	Max Refund
3 or more	\$45,060 (single parent)	\$7,953
	\$50,270 (married couple)	
2 or more	\$41,952 (single)	\$7,069
	\$47,162 (married)	
1 child	\$36,920 (single)	\$4,278
	\$42,130 (married)	
0 children	\$13,980 (single)	\$641
	\$19,190 (married)	

Two Americans in China: English — The Universal Language

By Amanda Roberts

When I was teaching high school here in China, one of my go-to questions for starting a conversation was "Why are you learning English?" The answer I got more often than not was "Because it is a universal language."

I've thought a lot about this over the years and what this idea of "universal language" means. After all, more people in the world speak Chinese than English as a native tongue. There are currently more people in China learning English than there are in America. So why is the country with the largest population and strongest economic powerhouse rushing to learn a new language instead of pushing their own?

One answer to this question came to me while I was traveling in Thailand. I was really impressed by how many people in Thailand speak English and speak it well. Everyone in China is taught English in school nowadays, but few people are actually functional. But not only do people in Thailand speak English, but most signs, maps, menus and organized tours are all in English. You can get around Thailand pretty easily without ever learning a word of Thai. The same is true in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is truly a bi-lingual society. You don't have to speak any Cantonese to live in or visit Hong Kong.

The number of people who speak Chinese as a first language might be more than the number of people who speak English as a first language, but when you include people who can converse in English as a secondary language, the numbers change significantly. Eighty-nine percent of school children in European Union states are taught English. English is the second official language of India,

so it is taught alongside Standard Hindi to the vast majority of the population (which is only slightly less than the population of China). America, Australia and Great Britain all use English as the dominant language. In fact, 88 countries count English as the official or dominant language. This doesn't even count countries like Thailand, where English is widely used as a secondary language.

Chinese is only spoken in one country: China. Even there, the spoken language is not standard. The official language is Mandarin (also known as Standard Chinese), but most people in China do not speak Mandarin. Every province, every county and even each city can have their own dialect of Chinese. With English, an American, a Brit and an Australian can all converse with few problems. But for the Chinese, people from two different cities (even in the same province) might not be able to communicate.

While I was traveling in Thailand, I thought about how lucky I was to be able to go on tours, go shopping, go to restaurants, go to the movies, and everything was in English. If I was French or Chinese and didn't speak Thai, I would have been completely lost. This is the case around the world and my students are right, English is a universal language that opens many doors.

But does this mean American students have it easy and shouldn't worry about learning another language? Of course it doesn't! There are numerable benefits to learning a second language, but I'll have to talk about that another day.

Amanda Roberts has been living and writing in China for nearly three years. For more information, visit TwoAmericansInChina.com.

Zox Kitchen David Eyres Pancakes

By Alan Zox

When it comes to culinary delights, some are more worthwhile to remember than others.

Amanda Hesser, author of "The Essential New York Times Cookbook," reminds us of the oven-baked David Eyres Pancake which, at more than 50 years old, is no less delicately appetizing than ever. Craig Claiborne first wrote about the pancake in his *New York Times* food column upon returning from a trip to Hawaii in 1966. Imagine the islands in those days: the coral reefs were still alive and Waikiki was considered the jewel of the Pacific.

"[The pancake] was discovered some weeks ago at an informal Sunday brunch in the handsome, Japanese-style home of David Eyres in Honolulu," wrote Claiborne. "With Diamond Head in the distance, a brilliant, palm-ringed sea below and this delicately flavored pancake before us, we seemed to have achieved paradise."

Not unlike a sweet yet tart Yorkshire pudding, or a popover, the pancake is sublimely simple yet surprisingly elegant. It includes simply a batter of flour, milk, eggs and nutmeg all mixed together, then poured into a hot pan filled with butter for baking. After 15 minutes, voila. You open the oven door to find a puffed-up looking pancake, which soon collapses as confectioner's sugar and lemon juice are sprinkled atop. The sweet-tart flavor is warm and delicious — nostalgia in the making. Slice and share with everyone nearby.

I am reminded of the pancake every holiday season because it is such an ideally fes-



Chef Alan Zox

sive dish, perfect for a friends and family brunch on New Year's Day, or as a tasty treat to savor after opening gifts on Christmas morning. I like it with smoked bacon on the side, freshly squeezed OJ, and coffee. It's become a tradition worth its richly deserved place in our memory banks. History never tasted so good.

David Eyres Pancake — Serves 2 to 4

This recipe appeared in a *New York Times* article by Craig Claiborne in 1966. ½ cup of flour

- 2 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- Pinch of ground nutmeg
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons confectioner's sugar
- Juice of half a lemon

Fig or blackberry jam, pear butter of any kind of marmalade, for serving. (Optional)

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a mixing bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the flour, milk and nutmeg and lightly beat until blended but still slightly lumpy. Melt the butter in a 12-inch skillet with a heatproof handle over medium-high heat. When very hot but not brown, pour in the batter. Bake in the oven until the pancake expands on the edges and is golden brown, about 15 minutes.

Working quickly, remove the pan from the oven and, using a fine-meshed sieve, sprinkle with the sugar. Return to the oven for 1 to 2 minutes more. Sprinkle with lemon juice and serve with jam, pear butter or marmalade.

For more information and recipes, visit ZoxKitchen.com.

WCC Offers Small Business Training for Mature Adults

Westchester Community College's (WCC) Mainstream Institute for Mature Adults is offering a 14-session Small Business training course for those 50 and older. The 35-hour program starts on February 21.

As more older adults decide to start their own businesses, there is a need for the skills that are required for such a change. Mainstream's program is designed for those who are either considering starting a small business and would like to know more about the process, or have one already and would like to expand upon this enterprise. The Valhalla campus course, which meets on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. each night, costs \$413 plus the price of a textbook.

The course will cover:

How to develop and refine a plan for your

business; Marketing, Operations, cash flow, tips on credit and access to capital;

Computer training designed to help you plan for your business;

Resources to help grow your business; and Special focus on issues that pertain to the mature business owner.

For decades, WCC's Mainstream Institute has provided affordable training for seniors interested in reentering. As Westchester County's leader in training and education for mature adults, Mainstream has helped many individuals prepare for the workforce.

For more information, call 914-606-6659 or e-mail mainstream@sunywcc.edu.

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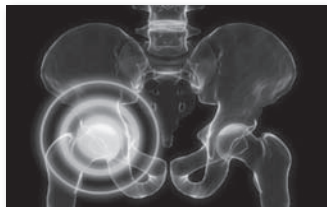


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Seniors and Health Care

The Bristol Hosts Reception for AHA Heart Walk Award Winners



The Bristol at White Plains, a new assisted living community that offers memory care support as well as enhanced levels of care, recently hosted a reception for the American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk Awards.

Located at 305 North St. in White Plains, The Bristol at White Plains is a new assisted living community which offers the look and feel of a luxury hotel while offering enhanced assisted living. The Bristol features 148 residences, including 32 apart-

ments dedicated for residents who require memory support. For more information on The Bristol visit www.thebristol.com or call 914.681.1800.

Pictured above at the event, held on January 22, are (l to r) The Bristol Director of Business Development Susan Yubas, AHA Regional Director Jennifer Gelick, Heart Walk Award recipient Dora Campoli of Ardsley and AHA Executive Director Gregory Plage. Campoli was the Heart Walk's top fundraiser.

SSMC's Accents on Antiques: National Heart Health Month

The Pelham Chapter of the Friends of Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC) is recognizing February as National Heart Health Month with a raffle, dealer discounts and information on heart health at Accents on Antiques in Pelham. The shop is run by the Pelham Friends for the benefit of SSMC programs and services.

The centerpiece of the month-long celebration is the raffle featuring a sterling silver heart with cubic zirconia, compliments of LaGravinese Jewelers of Pelham. Accents on Antiques' customers will qualify for a free raffle ticket with any purchase of \$25 or more. Tickets are also available at \$5 each without a purchase. Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will benefit Sound Shore Medical Center's Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. The raffle

drawing is scheduled for Thursday, February 28 at 6 p.m. at the shop, located at 125 Wolfs Ln.

Accents on Antiques opened in 1995 for the exclusive benefit of SSMC. In the 18 years since, the net proceeds from the shop have enhanced services for the Department of Emergency Medicine, Breast Center, Cancer Center and Level 3 Neonatal Nursery, to name a few.

Accents is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., extended to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information about Accents on Antiques — including donating, consigning, dealer and volunteer opportunities — call Rita Borell at 914-365-1195. For more information on or to volunteer for SSMC, call 914-367-5463 or visit SoundShore.org.

Social Security Column: Electronic Payments: The Best (and Soon Only) Way to Get Your Benefits

By Susan Sobel, Social Security District Manager in Yonkers

Chances are if you receive Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or any federal payment, you receive it electronically. More than 90 percent of people getting monthly Social Security benefits already receive electronic payments. If you don't yet, that's about to change.

There is a U.S. Department of Treasury rule that does away with paper checks for most federal benefit and non-tax payments by March 1. With a few exceptions, this mandate includes Social Security, SSI, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits and other non-tax payments.

People required to switch have the option of direct deposit to a bank or credit union account, or they can have their monthly payment directed into a Direct Express debit card account (the Treasury's debit card program). Visit GoDirect.org to learn more.

So, why the push for electronic payments instead of paper checks received in the mail? There's a list of reasons an electronic payment is better than an old-fashioned paper check:

- It's safer — no risk of checks being lost or stolen;
- It's easy and reliable — no need to wait for the mail or go to the bank to cash a check;
- It saves taxpayers money — no cost for postage and paper and printing (the Treasury estimates this will save taxpayers \$1 billion over 10 years); and
- It's good for the environment — it saves paper and eliminates the need for physical transportation.

If you still get your check in the mail, don't wait for the new rule to go into effect next month — sign up for electronic payments now. Visit GoDirect.org today and begin getting your Social Security and SSI payments the safe, easy, reliable way — electronically.

St. John's Senior Computer Learning Center

St. John's Riverside Hospital is proud to announce that its senior learning center is sponsoring computer classes.

The next class, "Introduction to Computer Applications," will cover word processing, spread sheets, databases, e-mail, the internet and music and picture files.

The cost for the classes is \$15 for 16 hours

of instruction, two hours a week for 8 weeks. The classes will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. each day they are held. They will take place in the Cochran School of Nursing Computer Lab at St. John's Andrus Pavillion, located at 967 North Broadway in Yonkers.

For more information or to register, call Cecilia Pugliese at 914-964-7525.

'The Full Monty' at WST

The Westchester Sandbox Theatre (WST) will present "The Full Monty" this winter!

What happens when six regular guys from Buffalo decide to take it all off in the hopes of raking it all in? This contemporary musical is both hilarious and touching and features one of the best new musical theatre scores to be written in the last 20 years.

Performances run from February 22 to

March 10 — Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. — at WST, located at 931c East Boston Post Rd. in Mamaroneck. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$24 for students and seniors.

For more information or tickets, call 914-630-0804 or visit WSTShows.com.

Note: "The Full Monty" is not appropriate for children under the age of 16.

Hot Topics in Health Care

By Michael LaMagna, Esq.

In somewhat unexpected news, there appears to be a serious crack in the health care law, one which may "price out" millions of families from health care coverage altogether.

The issue recently came to light when confusing language in the new law appears to carve out lower income families who do not qualify for Medicaid, requiring them to either pay more for their employee-sponsored health insurance or go without insurance.

The problem arises because the law redefined what employers are responsible to pay for insurance. Under the law, an employer will face a penalty if the premiums are so expensive that a worker would qualify for a subsidy. Subsidies are available for unaffordable coverage, deemed as 9.5 percent of a workers household income.

The problem is that the benchmark used is cost of an individual policy, not a family policy. Anyone who pays for health insurance knows that it is often three to four times more expensive for a family policy than an individual one, so if you base the calculation on



Michael LaMagna

an individual policy, not very many people would qualify for the subsidy and the employers are not responsible to make up the difference.

The numbers certainly are staggering. There are as many as four million households, including 500,000 children, affected by this glitch. Using 2011 figures, a family making more than \$9,700 per year would be ineligible for a subsidy, while the cost of that plan for a family is actually more than \$4,000 per year, far more than most families can afford

without some assistance from the employer or the government.

This article is intended to be used for informational purposes; nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice or be relied upon as such. Michael LaMagna is a partner at Timins & LaMagna who specializes in health care, regulatory, social security, Medicaid, disability benefits, probate, trusts and estates, and more. He was recently appointed to the ACO Task force of the American Health Lawyers Association. For more information, call him at 914-819-0663, e-mail him at mlamagna@tlawoffices.com, visit NyandCTLaw.com or find him on Twitter @michaellamagna1.

Town of Eastchester Senior Programs and Services

The Center at Lake Isle

Monday, February 18

Center Closed, Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 19

8:30 Exercise, Grace Kulinski

9:30 Exercise, Patricia Marinello

12:30 Guest Speakers & Special Interest Programs

Wednesday, February 20

9:30 Tap Dancing, Paula Tarantino

9:30 Drawing Class, Stephanie Rocker

12:00 Medicare Update, Q&A, Grace Katz

12:30 Exercise, Evey Riccobono

12:30 Art Class, Betty Uses

12:30 Mahjong, Miriam Roschell

1:15 Musical Memories, CDs, and DVDs, Bob Moynihan

Thursday, February 21

9:15 Country Western Dancing, Theresa Kover

10:00 Yiddish Class

10:30 Muscial entertainment, Accordionist Ralph Caruso

12:15 Bingo, Bring a Friend

1:00 Mahjong

1:00 Pokeno and Cards

Friday, February 22

8:30 Exercise Video

9:30 Lite Exercise, Sonya Louis

10:30 Reading Discussion, Tracy Wright

11:00 Information and Conversation, Gilda Press

12:30 Bridge/Cards

12:30 Musical Memories, CDs, DVDs, Bob Moynihan

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

The Garth Road Center

Wednesday, February 20

11:30 Hot Lunch Available, Reservations Required

1:00 "Lets Imagine" With Jane Rose

2:00 Exercise with Rowena: Lawrence Hospital Physical Therapy

Friday, February 22

11:30 Exercise with Julie Rosen

1:00 Mainstream "Africa" Politics, Past and Present

The Garth Road Center is located at 235 Garth Rd. in Scarsdale. For more information, call 914-771-3340.

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Letter to the Editor

CASA Volunteers Save Lives

With all the talk of unjust "entitlements" and those who just "take," it is easy to overlook the other end of the spectrum, those who voluntarily and selflessly give of their time and energy to save and preserve lives. One obvious example is our volunteer firefighters who, after years of training, exercise the skill and courage to enter burning, collapsing buildings to rescue those inside.

Another, lesser known group of volunteers are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). These individuals also undergo extensive training and then also skillfully and courageously volunteer in the family courts to guide abused and neglected children through the foster care system.

The important work of CASA volunteers is not as well known because it is performed under a necessary cloak of confidentiality within our family court system. However, by helping to ensure that these children are placed in safe, secure and permanent homes, CASA volunteers accomplish much the same as firefighters: they are heroes to children whose homes and families have been destroyed by substance abuse, mental health issues, poverty or crime.

In any decent society, there is an implied but inviolable social compact that we take care of our children, especially our most vulnerable children. In a time of tight budgets and a depressed economy, this means we have to be smarter than ever about how we spend our limited funds. Even the most staunch budget cutters among us must agree that community-based volunteer programs — especially programs that produce highly trained "guardian angels" for children in the foster care system — should be encouraged and supported.

With minimal staff and budgets, CASA Programs around the state are able to deploy highly trained community volunteers to work with family court judges on abuse and neglect cases. The CASA volunteer provides valuable information about the child — information that rarely surfaces during the usual adversarial proceeding — to the family court judge and

all of the attorneys involved.

But the CASA volunteer does not stop there: He or she also works closely with the child's school and service providers to ensure that the child's educational, medical and mental health needs are being met. Not surprisingly, national studies show that children with CASA volunteers assigned to them are typically placed in safe and permanent homes more quickly than those children without CASA volunteers.

Despite the good that CASA volunteers do for our children, the New York State Office of Court Administration, in its most recent budget, has eliminated *all* funding to support CASA programs throughout New York State. This is shortsighted and compromises the safety of our most vulnerable children. The elimination of this \$800,000 budget item only weakens our renewed resolve, from the recent tragedy in Newtown, to keep our children safe in their schools and homes.

If funding is not restored to CASA Programs, or new revenue sources found, local programs throughout the state will either close their doors or be able to serve fewer children. By any measure, this is "penny wise and pound foolish." After all, shouldn't New York State lend its full support to a cost-effective volunteer workforce dedicated to protecting those children least able to protect themselves?

There are many fires to be extinguished and many young, helpless lives to be saved. Our child welfare system and family courts are woefully understaffed and overstretched. Let's not eliminate one of the few safety nets that a child caught in this system has — a CASA volunteer who ensures that the child's interests remain front and center.

Contact your elected representatives in Albany and encourage them to support funding for CASA. There is a capable and willing force of CASA volunteers standing ready to help, if given the necessary support.

Arthur J. Siegel, President
Barbara Morgen, Board of Directors
CASA: Advocates for Children of New York State

Events at LPL

The Larchmont Public Library (LPL) is located at 121 Larchmont Ave. in Larchmont. For more information on the following programs, or to register when applicable, call 914-834-2281 or visit LarchmontLibrary.org.

Kidde Kabaret

Kidde Kabaret with Nancy Schnur, for kids aged 1 to 4, will be held on Tuesday, February 19 at 11 a.m. in the Village Center. Kidde Kabaret includes popular children's songs, nursery rhymes, musical stories, original songs and lots of participatory fun presented by Nancy and her puppets. Registration is not required, but seating is on a first come first serve basis

Shake Those Chillies Out

Shake Those Chillies Out with Armelle Gloaguen and Amy Lacombe, for kids from birth to 8 years, will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 11 a.m. in the Village Center. Come rock the house and dance away your winter chills! A high energy presentation of original and traditional songs to chase away the winter blues. Registration is not required, but seating is

on a first come first serve basis.

Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg, anyone? Come to LPL on Thursdays, February 21 and 28 at 11 a.m. each day to play. Sign up required, as space is limited.

Teen Afternoon Movie

Kids in 6th grade and above can come to the LPL on Friday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m. Join us for the blockbuster hit "The Amazing Spider-Man" starring Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. No sign-up required.

Exploring World Cultures

Join the LPL on Saturday, February 23 at 3 p.m. for a culinary journey. The Turkish Cultural Center in Westchester will give a discussion about Turkish food and recipes.

Gaming Night

Kids in 5th to 8th grade can stop at the LPL on Monday, February 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to enjoy a snack while playing games for the Xbox Kinect and/or Nintendo Wii. Check out the new game "Dance Central 3."

Presidents' Day at Philipse Manor Hall



President Theodore Roosevelt in Yonkers in 1910

Presidents George Washington and Franklin Delano Roosevelt have both visited Philipse Manor Hall and, this Presidents' Day, you can do the same!

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site will hold its annual Presidents' Day celebration on Saturday, February 16 at Philipse Manor Hall from 12 to 4 p.m. The program will include presidential quizzes, a scavenger hunt, a mock election and hourly story-times. Visitors also will have a chance to make their own set of George Washington's famous false teeth and create presidential bookmarks.

Presidents' Day at the Manor Hall will feature the Cochran Collection of Presidential Portraiture. After Alexander Smith Cochran's mother donated funds to New York State for the

purchase of Philipse Manor Hall in 1908, the Yonkers businessman and philanthropist was eager to transform the building into a place of historic and patriotic interest. From 1912 until his death in 1929, Cochran assembled portraits of the American Presidents from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge. The collection includes the works of noted artists such as Gilbert Stuart, Eastman Johnson and Thomas Eakins.

All activities for the day are included in the cost of museum admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and free for children 12 and under.

Philipse Manor Hall is located at 29 Warburton Ave. in Yonkers. For more information, call 914-965-4027 ext. 102 or visit NYSParks.com/historic-sites/37/details.aspx.

Bonefish Grill at Ridge Hill Hosts Habitat Fundraiser



Habitat for Humanity of Westchester Executive Director Kim Killoran, with volunteers painting a mural at community garden in Yonkers

Habitat for Humanity of Westchester is partnering with The Bonefish Grill at Ridge Hill for a Charity Night Fundraiser designed to be a casually elegant evening.

Guests will be seated family-night and treated to sampling of Bonefish Grill's signature appetizers and entrees. The dinner is on February 16 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., with all proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity Westchester's efforts to provide Hurricane Sandy relief and on improving Westchester neighborhoods.

"This event is a kick off of our 25th Anniversary," said Habitat for Humanity of Westchester Executive Director Jim Killoran. "This year, we hope to help six Veterans families have homes in Westchester. And our Sandy relief program has helped hundreds of families. Everything we do is an expression of love and helping neighbors and getting people a home."

"This is an chance to help us help your neighbors in Westchester, and to have it at Bonefish Grill at Ride Hill in Yonkers is a great kick off for Habitat."

Bonefish Grill specializes in fresh fish

grilled over a wood-burning grill, which gives the fish a savory, even cook. A tantalizing array of sauces and featured pairings, ranging from fresh and light to rich and flavorful, are offered to enhance the favor of the fish, each in a different way. For more on the menu, visit BonefishGrill.com.

Bonefish Grill at Ridge Hill will open to the public on February 18 and is hiring for various positions, including server, host, bartender and kitchen staff. Applications are available online or in-person at the restaurant. You can also visit the Website and complete the online application. Interviews will be conducted with qualified candidates. Applications are being accepted until February 18.

Tickets to the Charity Night Fundraiser benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Westchester are \$35 per person and include two drinks. To make reservations for the special pre-opening party, call Killoran at 914-636-8355 ext. 101, e-mail Jim@habitatwc.org or visit HabitatWC.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, space permitting.



The Royal Hanneford Circus is Searching for Grandma



Grandma the Clown

The Royal Hanneford Circus, making its 39th consecutive appearance at The Westchester County Center, is searching for Grandma!

The Circus has always been for "kids of all ages," but it is more so this year! To cel-

brate the guest star appearance of "Grandma the Clown," The Royal Hanneford Circus Clowns will do a Grandma search and select one Grandma in the audience from each of the nine Shows. Each lucky Grandma will be honored by "Grandma the Clown" and Ringmaster Billy Martin in the Center Ring and will also receive free admission for four to a 2014 Royal Hanneford Circus Performance.

So bring your Grandma to this year's Royal Hanneford Circus at The Westchester County Center. Enjoy three rings of international Circus stars, plus ferocious tigers, entertaining Bears and the famous Hanneford elephants!

The Royal Hanneford Circus will perform nine shows over President's Day Weekend, February 16 to 18, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day.

Tickets, on sale now at the Westchester County Box Office and online at TicketMaster.com, are \$23.50 for regular seats, \$29.50 for premium seats.

The County Executive's Continued from Page 1

consequence of actually working against the settlement because it would have made housing more expensive and less available."

Zoning laws and their impact on the settlement and where affordable housing units will be placed in each community are another issue where HUD and Astorino are far apart. HUD has called on Westchester to challenge the zoning practices of local towns, villages and cities — basically, sue its own local governments over their zoning practices if they do not remove restrictions of heights and lot sizes of proposed affordable housing.

"The Federal Government believes Westchester is segregated, but Westchester is the 4th most diverse county in the state, and tied with Manhattan," said Astorino. "People move where they want to and where they can afford to live. The Federal Government wants to make sure that there are no restrictions on heights and lot sizes. Every Westchester com-

munity meets or exceeds the basic zoning law requirements and each community has their own Zoning Board and Planning Board.

"HUD is now demanding that the county dismantle local zoning. I will not allow that to happen."

Moreover, the county has consistently maintained that the goals of the settlement will only be achieved by working cooperatively with local communities to build consensus and that threats of litigation will only prove counterproductive. The settlement calls for 200 units with financing and 125 with building permits by the end of 2012. Westchester has exceeded both benchmarks.

The affordable housing settlement became an issue in the 2009 campaign for county executive and was one of the reasons Astorino won. It will likely remain an issue in this year's race.

While he has not announced, Astorino will be seeking re-election and will be challenged by one of three Democrats, Board Chairman Ken Jenkins, New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson or County Legislator Bill Ryan.

YPIE & Forest City Ratner Establish 'Ridge Hill Academy'



Photo by Karen Issokson-Silver

The first Ridge Hill Academy class with (l to r) Councilman Dennis Shepherd, YPIE Executive Director Wendy Nadel, Ivy Reeves (for Councilman Michael Sabatino), Councilmen John Larkin and Mike Breen, YPS Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio, Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Chuck Lesnick, FCRC Senior Vice President Kathy Welch, Councilman Wilson Terrero and YPIE's Ellen Cutler Levy

Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC), owners of the successful Ridge Hill retail, commercial, residential and entertainment 'village' in Yonkers, partnered this week with Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) for a new innovative partnership called "Ridge Hill Academy," which will give 25 Yonkers public High School sophomore and juniors a hands-

on learning experience to explore future careers in the retail industry. FCRC will fund the program with a \$100,000 grant, which will teach the students over a two year period about management careers in the shopping center retail industries, including retail and restaurant management, operations, security and maintenance manage-

ment, PR and marketing. The 25 students, selected through a competitive application process, began their 10-week semester of Ridge Hill Academy immediately after the press conference, held at WESTMED at Ridge Hill. A new group of students will be selected for each new semester.

The students will rotate among vendors and retail establishments at Ridge Hill to learn about various careers and the educational paths needed to get there. They will also participate in a series of job readiness and skill-building workshops focused on resume writing, interviewing and workplace etiquette. Each Academy graduate will be awarded a certificate

'Trailblazers' Honored Continued from Page 1

King Jr., two men of courage. The 2013 Trailblazers embody the same kind of tenacity and commitment to continuing the legacy of our ancestors, while making an indelible impact for future generations."

Harry O. Bright, Jr. will receive the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award for Civil Rights and Civic Engagement. Bright, of White Plains, served as executive director of the White Plains Commission on Human Rights from 1985 to 2003. He was also chair of the board of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, past president of the New York State Association of Human Rights Commissions, co-founder of the White Plains Coalition for Cultural and Racial Harmony and co-founder of Embracing Diversity and Ending Racism.

Dawna M. Fields will receive the Dr. Valiere Alcena Award for Health and Human Services. Fields, of Mount Vernon, has bettered the life of many through her work to promote dental care for young people as national program manager of Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures." Her community activities are many and include National Council of Negro Women, Sister to Sister, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women and The NAACP.

Michael D. Armstrong will receive the Cab Calloway Award for Arts and Culture. Armstrong, of New Rochelle, is senior vice president and general manager of BET International and Paramount Channel. He is also a board member of Dance Theatre of Harlem. He has used his work to advocate for and provide cultural enrichment for residents of Westchester and beyond.

Sharon Epperson will receive the Madame C. J. Walker Award for Business and Economic Development. Epperson, of New Rochelle, is a well-established financial expert with CNBC, where she is the senior commodities and personal finance



Michael Armstrong

correspondent. She is also a regular contributor to NBC's Today Show and has written for many publications, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Self, Essence, Ebony and Time.

Dillard Boone will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Boone was a resident of Mount Vernon at the time of his death on January 10. A former member of the African American Advisory Board, he served as Master of Ceremonies of the Trailblazers events in 2011 and 2012. Boone excelled in many areas and was a producer, radio host, special events coordinator, organizer of business expositions and was the founder and chairman of the A'vitar Foundation, created to develop strategies for the production of events and cultural programs, performances, exhibits and literary and cultural events.

For more information or to RSVP to the event, e-mail WCTrailblazers@gmail.com.

Urban H2O Concert at Beczak: Joe Crookston and Peter Glanville



Joe Crookston and Peter Glanville

Ithaca's Joe Crookston, one of New York's finest performers and songwriters, will showcase a remarkable range of musical talent at Urban H2O on Saturday, February 16 at 7 p.m., presented by Tribes Hill.

This rare opportunity to hear Crookston perform with his musical duo partner Peter Glanville is his second performance at Urban H2O.

Touring throughout the US, Ireland and Canada, Crookston has a reputation as an ener-

getic and engaging live performer, master songwriter and was among the artists voted "Most Wanted to Return" to the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in Hillsdale, NY.

Urban H2O is hosted at Beczak Environmental Education Center, located on the Hudson River at 35 Alexander St. in Yonkers. Tickets are \$10 at the door and includes free beer, provided by Westchester's award-winning Captain Lawrence Brewing Company.

For more information, visit UrbanH2O.org.

Things to do During Continued from Page 1

Year of the Snake

Come celebrate the Year of the Snake



A black rat snake

Teatown style! On Sunday, February 17 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., we'll focus on myth versus reality to give you a better understanding of snakes and their benefit to ecological systems. It is free for Teatown members, \$5 for non-members. Programs fill quickly, so registration is strongly recommended — call 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

Winter Mini-Camp

Monday through Friday, February 18-22 Winter Mini-camp

Shake off the winter blues at Teatown's Mini-Camp from February 18 to 22 for a week full of games, crafts and outdoor activities. The camp is divided into two different time slots, depending on your child's age. Parents can choose to sign up their child for the full session or individual days (fee prorated). Snacks are provided but full-day campers should pack a lunch. Kids aged 4 and 5 come from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The fee for the full session is \$160 for members, \$185 for non-members. Kids aged 6 to 12 come from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee for the full session is \$300 for members, \$335 for non-members.

Hudson Stage Company Premieres 'Kunstler'

Hudson Stage Company (HSC) has announced that its Spring Mainstage production will be "Kunstler" by noted playwright Jeffrey Sweet, directed by Annette O'Toole and starring Jeff McCarthy and Keona Welch.

Toward the end of a long and controversial career, the famous radical activist lawyer William Kunstler faces an audience of law students, including one young woman who refuses to succumb to his charm and is determined to confront him. As he defends his legacy, Kunstler covers the gamut of famous trials, including

the Attica prison rioters, the American Indian Movement at Wounded Knee and the Chicago 7, the Long Island Railroad shooting and the rape of the Central Park jogger.

HSC's "Kunstler" will run on weekends from April 26 to May 11 at Pace University's Woodward Hall Theatre, located at 235 Elm Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. Tickets are \$35, \$30 for seniors and students. Special Pace and group rates are available. For more information or special rates, call 914-271-2811. For tickets, call 877-238-5596 or visit SmartTix.com.

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Judge Janet Malone to Run for Supreme Court



Judge Janet Malone

Judge Janet Malone has declared herself a candidate for New York State Supreme Court Justice in the Ninth Judicial District, comprised of Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Dutchess and Putnam counties.

Malone's diverse 23-year legal career — Manhattan Assistant District Attorney, private practitioner, consultant to the New York City Transit Authority, Support Magistrate, Westchester County Family Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice — makes her experienced and prepared to be a Supreme Court Justice.

Malone has served the Westchester Family Court since 2003, first as a Support Magistrate and then, in 2007, as an elected Westchester Family Court Judge. In addition to presiding over approximately 2,500 cases each year — involving child neglect and abuse, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision (PINS), domestic violence, child custody and visitation and aspects of paternity and support — Malone presides over uncontested divorces assigned to her from the Matrimonial Part of the Supreme Court in Westchester.

Malone holds admissions to the United States Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the Second Judicial Department of the State of New York, and has received numerous awards for her commu-

nity service and professional achievements, including the Community Service Award of the Bethany African Methodist Church, the Finer Womanhood Award of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the Business and Professional Award of the F. Willa Davis Women's Club of New Rochelle. The Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus honored her as a Cheerleader for Social Change.

Malone serves on the International Child Abduction Committee of the National Association of Women Judges, the Committee on Children and the

Law of the New York State Bar Association, and the Committee on Families, Children and the Courts of the Westchester Women's Bar Association. In 2011, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman honored her with the invitation to testify at the Public Hearing on Civil Legal Services for low-income families and individuals.

Malone is an Officer and Director of the Westchester Black Bar Association, and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Mercy College Legal Studies Program and the Lois Bronz Children's Center. She is a member of the New York State Family Court Judges Association, the Westchester County Bar Association, the Westchester Women's Bar Association, the Yonkers Lawyers Association and New Rochelle Bar Association, where she served on the Board of Directors from 2006 to 2008.

She is a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a long-standing member of the All Islands Association and Sister to Sister International. For several years, Malone has participated in the Her Honor mentoring program for high school senior girls established by Judge Judith Scheindlin.

To learn more about Malone, donate to her campaign or volunteer for Team Malone 2013, visit ElectJudgeMalone2013.com.

ALC Honors Archbishop Dolan



Archbishop Timothy Dolan

The Adult Learning Center of New Rochelle (ALC), a mission of Ursuline Social Outreach, will honor His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, at their annual benefit gala on March 7.

The ALC is a non-profit organization created to increase the economic and social empowerment of persons with low to moderate income through literacy education, citizen preparation and the facilitation of social services available in

the community. Their programs teach recent immigrants basic skills in written and spoken English, as well as preparation for US citizenship.

"We are grateful that His Eminence has acknowledged the wonderful work of The Adult Learning Center and all of us involved with organizing the event are delighted to honor him with The Spirit of Angela Award," said ALC Board President Sharon Parente.

The award, inspired by a painting of St. Angela Merici, founder of the Ursuline Order, acknowledges the importance the Cardinal's role in the Church's service to those in need.

The 16th annual gala fundraising dinner will be held at the Fountainhead in New Rochelle. Emmy award-winning Broadcaster Jane Hanson will serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies. In addition to the wonderful program, the event will include entertainment, dancing, a silent

auction and raffles.

Funds raised at the event will help to achieve ALC's mission to empower, improve and transform the lives of an underserved segment of lower Westchester's population.

For more information or tickets, call 914-633-7298, e-mail events@adultlearningcenter.org or visit AdultLearningCenterNR.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

'Dancing with the Stars' Star Visits FADS in Mamaroneck



Jonathan Roberts with DWTS dance partner Heather Mills

"Dancing with the Stars" (DWTS) star Jonathan Roberts will visit the Fred Astaire Dance Studio (FADS) in Mamaroneck.

On Monday, February 25 at 7 p.m., Roberts will teach a 45-minute Master Class in ballroom styles and techniques, followed by a Meet and Greet for class participants, at FADS-Mamaroneck, located at 451 East Boston Post Rd. in Mamaroneck.

Roberts rocked the television dance world with his stellar performances during Seasons 1 to 6, 8 and 9. His choreography included knockout routines in Tango, Quickstep, Foxtrot, Waltz, Samba, Rumba, Cha Cha Cha and Jive. On DWTS, Roberts partnered with such stars as Rachel Hunter, Giselle Fernandez, Heather Mills, Marie Osmond and Monica Seles.

Off screen, Roberts has won many titles, including the USA Rising Star American Ballroom Champion, the USA Rising Star Latin

Champion, the USA Pro-Am 10 Dance Champion and, most recently, the U.S. and World Professional American Smooth Champion in 2008.

"My mission is fitness through dance, while learning a new skill and, most of all, having fun," said Roberts. "By focusing on 'you' as the dancer and student, you always get personal attention — even in a group class. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and anyone interested in dance to experience the personality and expertise of a dance superstar."

FADS co-owner Stanley McCalla agrees, saying, "Our students' accomplishments and pride are our biggest rewards."

McCalla has more than 19 years of experience teaching and coaching professional dancers. He is responsible for developing some of the best university dance teams in the northeast, including the ballroom teams at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), New York University and Columbia University.

Angelone has won many competitions, including the Fred Astaire Rising Star American Rhythm Championship in 2010 and 2011, the New Jersey State Open Championship in 2010, the Northeastern Open Dancesport Invitational Championship and the 2011 Tri-State Challenge. She is the reigning U.S. Mambo Champion. Angelone loves teaching and believes it is important to present material in innovative ways to keep students involved and interested.

FADS-Mamaroneck offers the best ballroom and Latin dance instruction from the best teachers in the region. The studio offers private lessons, group classes, social dance parties, showcases and specials events.

For more information call 914-381-2562 or visit BallroomDanceWestchester.net.

School's Out, Stars Are In: Winter Break at HRM

Students on break from school can still learn and have a good time doing it at the Hudson River Museum (HRM) during February Vacation, February 18 to 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. daily.

Led by Junior Docents, star shows, creative activities and arts and crafts make for entertaining and informational afternoons at HRM. The schedule is as follows:

Monday — Learn about the tide and flow of the River;

Tuesday — What's a marsh? Find out when you make a marsh diorama;

Wednesday — Get to know muskrats and sculpt your own muskrat model;

Thursday — See the different plants on the Hudson and make your own cattail; and

Friday — Make your own marsh bird within a landscape.

In addition, Planetarium shows will be held daily at 2 and 3:30 p.m. In "The Sky Tonight," take a live tour of the heavens from our area — but without the city lights! In "Ocean of Air, Ocean of Space," explore the "invisible miracle" of the air we breathe and the remarkable planet whose life it sustains.

HRM is located at 511 Warburton Ave. in Yonkers. All programs, excluding Planetarium shows, are free with HRM admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and kids and free for those under 5. Child must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 914-963-4550 or visit HRM.org.

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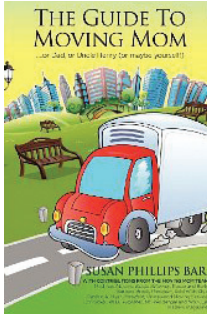
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