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Jackie Robinson's Visit To Westchester County



Jackie Robinson with, from left, Robert Hughes, John Flanagan and Jack Ebetino.

By Dan Murphy

The release of the movie "42" has reignited interest and discussion in Jackie Robinson, a legendary American who broke the baseball color barrier in 1947.

In addition to carrying the burden, and the prejudice-racial slurs that were thrown at him, Robinson was a great Hall of Fame baseball player, playing 10 years for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Jackie could do it all – run, hit and field his position of second base, and other infield positions. He was named Most Valuable Player in 1949 and helped the Brooklyn Dodgers to six national league pennants and one World Series title in 1955. Jackie Robinson's No. 42 is retired for all of baseball; nobody can wear the number, and Yankee great Mariano Rivera is the last major leaguer to wear No. 42.

We recently received an email from Robert Hughes, who asked us to write about his Jackie Robinson memory when he attended the Rye YMCA's Father and Sons Sports Dinner on April 22, 1955.

The event was covered by several news-

papers (sorry no website coverage back then), including the Rye Chronicle, the old name and same paper of today's Rye Rising.

I am wondering if you would have an interest in revisiting an article done by the Rye Chronicle in the mid-50s covering an appearance by Jackie Robinson at the Rye YMCA. A photograph of Jackie along with Jack Ebetino, John Flanagan and myself accompanied the article.

I have always treasured an 8-by-10 staff photo presented to me by the Rye Chronicle of an unpublished shot from a different angle. In light of the recent release of "42", I composed a brief verse recalling my memories of the event:

"Although I have been a resident of New Hampshire for many years, I have strong ties to the Rye Community. At the time of his death in 1964, my uncle, Robert Hughes, was the city's mayor. Jack Ebetino and I played for the Rye SWIAC championship baseball team of 1958. Jack was the first baseman, and I occupied Robinson's old second-base position. Earlier in the

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Bramson to Challenge Astorino for County Exec.



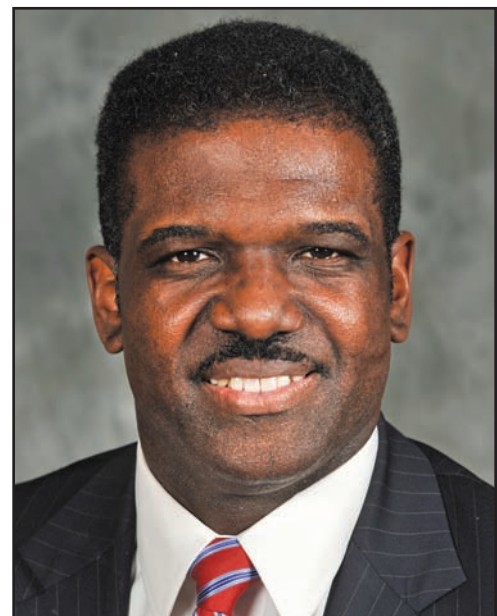
Noam Bramson



Rob Astorino



Nita Lowey



Ken Jenkins

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Democrats held their county convention last week and nominated New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson to face off against Republican incumbent County Executive Rob Astorino in November. The 2,000 delegates who attended the convention, held at the County Center in White Plains, also nominated incumbents Janet DiFiore for district attorney and Tim Itoni for county clerk.

But the race for county executive was the hotly-contested race at the convention, with Bramson, Board of Legislators Chairman Ken Jenkins and County Legislator Bill Ryan vying for the nomination. Both the Bramson and Jenkins camps were confident that they would win the night.

Fifty percent of the voting delegates present were required to win the nomination. Bramson almost won the convention on the first ballot with 49.53 percent of the weighted vote, totaling 217,000, compared to Jenkins' 42.49 percent and Ryan's 7.97 percent.

Ryan was eliminated from the second round of voting, which went 54 percent for Bramson and 45 percent for Jenkins. After the vote, Jenkins endorsed Bramson and county Democrats left in the wee hours of the six-hour convention united in their desire to defeat Astorino in November.

"We want to make sure County Executive Astorino goes into early retirement," said County Democratic Chairman Reginald Lafayette

"The choice in this election is between a plan of action that honors the mainstream values of Westchester, or a record of neglect that honors only the extreme agenda of the Tea Party," said Bramson, who thanked the delegates.

Astorino campaign spokeswoman Jessica Proud said: "We congratulate Mr. Bramson on his nomination tonight and look forward to a healthy debate in the fall election season, based on the issues."

Bramson's victory was an effort over the past three months to pry the nomination away from Jenkins, who had a built a record of disagreement over county spending with Astorino over the past two years, and thanks to the support of Congresswoman Nita Lowey, New Rochelle Democratic Chairman Artie Klugman (who one Democrat told us was the best Democratic chairman in Westchester), Sen. George Latimer and Council President Chuck Lesnick, to name a few.

Westchester Congresswoman Nita Lowey's support was huge, and titled the balance for Bramson in the many Westchester communities she has represented over four decades. Many of the votes from the mid- and northern Westchester Democratic Committee came in with near

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A Place for Every Jew, Regardless of Affiliation

Chabad of the Rivertowns Celebrates 10 Years



Rabbi Benjy Silverman and Hinda Silverman, inset, and their Chabad Center in Dobbs Ferry.

On their second date, while other couples are usually just getting to know each other, freshly minted Rabbi Benjy and Hinda Silverman discussed where they would establish a Chabad Center if they got married.

The two married three months later and shortly thereafter established their Chabad Center above a flower shop on Ashford Avenue in Ardsley. A Chabad Center, in addition to being a synagogue for services and special events, hosts classes, lectures and workshops on Jewish topics.

Counseling and other volunteer services are also common.

The Silvermans started Chabad of the Rivertowns with just two families, Joel and Helen Ross and Moshe and Adi Tamir, and have grown the congregation to include more than 200 families, with 100 children enrolled in the Hebrew School and hundreds more that attend their programs and workshops. Today, their synagogue occupies a beautiful former church on Broadway in Dobbs

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DA DiFiore Vindicated; Gets Dem Nod for Re-Election



Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore.

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore weathered a political storm over Nannygate issues concerning her live-in housekeeper when she was cleared last week of any wrongdoing. DiFiore, twice elected DA, also easily re-

ceived the Democratic Party's endorsement for re-election at the county's Democratic convention last week.

DiFiore was challenged at the convention by Mayo Bartlett, a White Plains attorney and former chief of the Bias Crimes Unit of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, but easily won the nomination.

There is currently no announced Republican candidate to challenge DiFiore, although former County Court Judge Rory Bellantoni has been rumored to be one possible opponent.

DiFiore, who won election as DA as a Republican in 2005 and as a Democrat in 2009 after she switched parties, remains popular in Westchester and will be extremely difficult to defeat. DiFiore recently resigned her post as Chair of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to concentrate on her re-election bid.

The only cloud hanging over DiFiore's re-election were allegations made that she tried to influence a decision of granting benefits to her former housekeeper, Marina Buchanan.

However, a confidential report and investigation by the Westchester Department of Social Services found no wrongdoing on DiFiore's part in Buchanan's three attempts to secure food stamps and Medicaid benefits, according to pub-

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Iona College Bestows Honors At Annual Trustee Dinner



From left, Chairman and GAMCO Investors Inc. CEO Mario Gabelli, Iona College President Dr. Joseph Nyre, and Iona College Trustee Chairman James Hynes, owner of Hynes Capital Resources. Photo by John Vecchiolla.

Iona College's 51st annual Trustee Dinner on April 12 at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan was attended by more than 550 people and raised \$1 million for Iona student scholarships.

Upon receiving the inaugural Blessed Edmund Rice Humanitarian Award, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly noted that 120 current NYPD officers are Iona College graduates, and there are hundreds more who are retired.

Mario Gabelli, chairman and chief execu-

tive officer of GAMCO Investors of Rye; and Patrick Dunican Jr., an Iona graduate who is managing director of Gibbons PC, a law firm with 230 attorneys, were each presented with the college's Legacy Award, by Iona President Dr. Joseph Nyre.

Also attending the event were New York City Council President Christine Quinn and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino. Andrea Canning, NBC Dateline correspondent, was the master of ceremonies.

Iona Prep Moves on In 'The Challenge'



Iona Preparatory School has moved on to the regional quarter-finals of MSG Varsity's, "The Challenge" and will take on Haldane High School on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30

p.m. on Cablevision's Optimum, Channel 14. Iona is joined by seven other schools from Westchester-Hudson Valley as it heads into regional quarter-final play, while trying to qualify for the Tri-State Championship playoffs.

The Iona team is represented by Henry Choi, Thomas Taylor, Capt. Gabriel Ferrante, Charles Mancin, and alternates Steven Neyen and Jack Sullivan. The academic advisors are Deirdre Mone and Darin Gillenwater.

The winning teams from each region go on to "The Challenge" Championship where they square off in a Tri-State Showdown. The school awarded the title of Tri-State Champion will receive \$10,000 in prize money and each student participating in the final "Challenge" Championship game will receive \$500.

For more information on "The Challenge," log onto www.msgvarsity.com.

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Family Day at Katonah Museum



The Katonah Museum of Art will host Family Day on Sunday, May 5 from noon to 5 p.m. at 134 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. When families can enjoy a day of creative quilting, with activities for every age available all day.

See a quilting demonstration, join a sewing circle, transform fabrics using stamping and collage, meet author Ann Jonas of the fea-

tured picture book "The Quilt" at 1:30 p.m., grab a snack at the Ladle of Love food truck in the Sculpture Garden, and join a 2:30 p.m. family docent tour of the exhibition "Beyond the Bed."

The event is suitable for children ages 3 and up and costs \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members; the cost for adults is \$10.

Innovation and Creativity on Display at Serendipity Labs



"Cameragenic" is now showing at Serendipity Labs in Rye. Owner John Arenas, far left, is helping local artists promote their work in cooperation with The Rye Arts Center. Serendipity Labs, located at the corner of Locust and Theodore Fremd Avenue, collaborated with The RAC's Adam Levi, right, and Helen Gates to help make the perfect match with photographer Alan Cohen, whose graphic and colorful photos may be seen in the photo. "Cameragenic" will be on display at Serendipity Labs through May 27. For inquiries regarding the Rye Arts Center's "Spotlight on Artists" program, call 914-967-0700 or visit www.serendipitylabs.com.

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Tax Cap Era: Local Schools' Budget Battle



Dr. Robert Shaps



Dr. Peter Mustich

By Linnet Tse

Although both the Mamaroneck and Rye Neck School District budgets in the upcoming May 21 vote call for increases that are within the state-mandated tax levy cap limit, both district superintendents told more than 50 local residents at The Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit Meeting on April 16 in the Nautilus Diner that in the long run, the tax cap model is not sustainable.

"If we want to provide a quality program ... is it sustainable (under the tax cap)? Are we going to be able to do this for any length of time?" asked Dr. Peter Mustich, who began his 40-year career in education in Rye Neck as a classroom teacher, and has been superintendent there for more than 20 years. "It's not complicated. It's just not possible. It just can't happen."

He warned that the current tax levy cap could lead to the Rye Neck and Mamaroneck schools being "less great."

The combination of the tax levy cap and additional unfunded mandates puts the public schools under increased financial pressure. Mustich noted that his district has received only \$5,000 of additional state aid in the last two years, compared to their having to spend more than \$500,000 - greater than 1 percent of the total budget - preparing for the new testing and monitoring associated with the new state-mandated teacher evaluation system.

Both school districts have made substantial cuts in their operating expenses and staffing since the financial crisis in 2008, which was prior to the tax levy cap. After \$4 million of cuts in recent years, Mustich asserted that the Rye Neck schools are now at a point where "there is no place to go."

Dr. Robert Shaps, superintendents of the Mamaroneck schools, pointed out that Mamaroneck, like Rye Neck, has worked hard to be fiscally responsible and to ensure that "every tax dollar spent is used efficiently and effectively and is related to what we want to accomplish in our classrooms."

Over the past four years, Mamaroneck has reduced its staffing by more than 80 positions.

At the meeting, Shaps spoke of identifying creative ways to use technology in order to reduce costs and of his efforts to "repurpose" positions, thereby increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of staff.

If a proposed school budget exceeds the limit set by the tax levy cap, 60 percent voter approval is required in order for the budget to pass. To get this level of support, taxpayers need to see the schools as being a worthwhile investment, explained Shaps, who is completing his third year as superintendent in Mamaroneck.

This is a "critical moment in the life of public education," he said. Shaps said he believes that in order to garner support from the community for the public school system, schools need to be positioned for the future "so that our students and our families feel that we are investing in them and investing in the institution for what is coming next in their lives."

To prepare students for the future, Shaps cited the need to be innovative.

"We must reinvent the public school system so we'll be around in 100 years," he said. He anticipates an even greater role technology will play in the future, and said there is a growing emphasis at Mamaroneck High School and Hommocks Middle School on science, technology, engineering and math courses. At MHS, that means courses in robotics, app development and advanced

computer science will be offered next year; and at MHS, in a continuing effort to "harness technology to improve teaching and learning," the use of iPads will continue to be expanded.

At the elementary level, innovation will take the form of a pilot dual-language program in kindergarten at Mamaroneck Avenue School, modeled after examples in Ossining, New Rochelle, Port Chester and White Plains.

Both superintendents emphasized the importance of residents being informed and voting in the May school election to ensure that local schools continue to provide a quality education. Mustich also urged community members to attend school board meetings and to advocate for public schools in Albany.

This year, registered voters will have the opportunity to vote on their local school budgets Tuesday, May 21.

Rye Neck's proposed school budget is \$38.2 million, which represents a 4.09 percent spending increase and a 3.59 percent increase in the tax levy. Residents will also vote on Rye Neck's proposed \$1.47 million capital improvement bond for security upgrades. Separating out the cost of the security initiatives from the operating budget enabled Rye Neck to keep its budget within the tax cap limit, and allows residents to decide whether to fund the security measures.

Mamaroneck's proposed 2013-14 school budget is \$128.2 million, a 3.16 percent increase in spending and a 2.73 percent tax levy increase; the proposed budget is more than \$1 million below the allowable tax levy cap.

During a question-answer period, several topics were raised:

- Possibility of tuition from out-of-district students being a source of revenue for local districts: Referring to a recent article about Blind Brook seeking tuition from out-of-district students, the superintendents were asked if this could be a possibility for their schools. Mamaroneck does accept out-of-district students if there is space and there are currently a handful of students paying tuition. Rye Neck does not, due to its small size and the fact that additional students would cost the district money.
- Concern over possible reduction in support services, such as counseling: Dr. Shaps said these services are not being cut in the current budget.
- Additional funding for mental health initiatives from the state or federal government: The superintendents responded that there is no new funding available that they are aware of for mental health initiatives. Both districts continually seek available grant monies.
- Possibility of using a bond to fund additional pension costs: Both superintendents believe that borrowing to pay for the mandated pension contributions would not be fiscally responsible, since that method would incur interest expenses.
- Importance of advocacy: In response to a question asking how parents can get the message to Albany, Mustich emphasized the importance of advocacy, saying it takes "boots on the ground ... people in the face of legislators" in order to be heard.
- Keeping senior citizens in the local community: Both superintendents expressed the value of having senior citizens remain in the community, when asked about property tax costs. They pledged to continue working their hardest to be fiscally responsible and develop budgets with all taxpayers in mind.

Astorino Touts 0% Tax Increase During 4th State of the County



County Executive Rob Astorino with wife, Sheila. Photo by Ed Whitman.

County Executive Rob Astorino delivered his fourth State of the County address last week, when he outlined the campaign themes that he will run on this fall in his re-election bid: No property tax increases, continued protection of essential services and promoting economic growth.

Astorino also remained defiant in his stance against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the affordable housing settlement during his hour-long speech before the county Board of Legislators, which was also broadcast to the county on News 12.

"From day one, our goal has been to deliver results," he said. "The public wants and deserves results. But results don't come easy. Priorities must be set. Hard choices must be made. Partisanship must give way to partnership. Rhetoric must yield to leadership."

Astorino said Westchester County continues to move forward carefully and steadily.

"We pledged to protect taxpayers, and we did just that," he said. "We pledged to preserve essential services, and we did just that. We pledged to promote economic growth, and we did just that. And working together, we will continue moving Westchester County toward an even brighter future."

Astorino's biggest accomplishment has been to control county spending, and by living up to his pledge not to increase the county tax levy. In his fourth year in office, Astorino has presided over county budgets with a 0 tax levy increase. In one year, the county tax levy declined by 2 percent, when the county Board of Legislators cut the levy more than Astorino had requested, but the overreaching theme of eliminating tax increases on the county level (about 15 to 20 percent of a Westchester homeowners tax bill) came from Astorino, and was the primary reason he was elected four years ago.

"For our social contract to survive, we need to strike the right balance between what the government takes and what the people can afford to give," he said. "My administration works every day on trying to get that balance right. Taxpayers are not faceless, bottomless ATM machines ... Cynics will say a 2 percent cut isn't much, but contrast it to the 17 percent tax increase over the previous five years. We're heading in the right direction."

He also noted that Westchester has the highest property taxes in the nation.

While Astorino - and almost every elected official and school board member in Westchester - continues to call for action to help eliminate or have the state pay for unfunded mandates, Astorino's budgets have been balanced without tax increases even with the mandates.

Astorino's claim that essential services and the safety net for the needy have been strengthened under his administration will be called to task in the upcoming campaign against Democratic nominee Noam Bramson.

"One of the things I am most proud of is that Westchester's commitment to the needy has been strengthened under my administration," said Astorino, who pointed to the following:

- Since coming into office, Astorino has increased the budget of the Department of Social Services by \$14 million - from \$542 million to \$556 million. During this same time, the federal and state governments have cut social services aid to the county.
- The number of slots for subsidized day care for the working poor is up by 18 percent, to almost 6,000.
- Adoptions are up 41 percent over the past three years and foster care caseloads are at an all-time low.

Astorino also touted a soon-to-be-launched food rescue initiative that seeks to reduce hunger in Westchester by recovering leftover food from local schools, hospitals, hotels and restaurants

and redistributing it to food pantries and soup kitchens.

Astorino touted his administration's efforts to "create an environment that allows businesses to prosper."

• Since January 2010, the Westchester Industrial Development Agency, the county's main outreach organization to businesses, has provided various financial incentives to 29 companies of every size. This has led to more than \$500 million of additional capital investment in the county, the retention of 4,800 existing jobs and the creation of 4,600 new jobs. The biggest project to date - in fact in the history of the IDA - involves Pepsi's decision to stay in Westchester and completely modernize its global corporate headquarters in Purchase.

• The county's new Local Development Corporation is able to provide low-cost and tax-exempt financing to nonprofit agencies at no risk to county taxpayers. Northern Westchester Hospital and the nursing home Kendal on Hudson are among the first to take advantage of the LDC.

Astorino stood by his decision to recommend that Sustainable Playland be contracted to turn around the finances and future of Playland, which will open May 11 for its 85th season. On the continued debate with HUD over the affordable housing agreement to build 750 units in smaller Westchester communities, Astorino said: "I will defend, with every tool at my disposal, the right of people to live in any neighborhood in Westchester, in any home that they can afford ... Let me say this loud and clear: There is absolutely no place for discrimination in our county."

While Westchester County is ahead of schedule on building and getting financing for the 750 units to be built, Astorino has opposed HUD's efforts to what he called its "grand experiment."

"Washington bureaucrats, who you will never see or meet, want the power to determine who will live where and how each neighborhood will look," he said. "What's at stake is the fundamental right of our cities, towns and villages to plan and zone for themselves. This home rule is guaranteed by the New York State Constitution. HUD thinks it can trample on Westchester because it has the misguided notion that zoning and discrimination are the same thing. They are not."

Astorino's two main objections to HUD's attempts to overextend the terms of the settlement were HUD's desire to supercede local zoning laws, and HUD's desire to see Source of Income legislation, which would require landlords to accept Section 8 housing vouchers, for their apartments. Astorino did not mention Source of Income legislation in his speech. Astorino also acknowledged several special Westchester residents in his speech:

Nancy Schiliro of Eastchester, who was in attendance, is a veteran who was injured in Iraq in 2009 but now works to help other injured veterans through Project Odyssey, which is part of the Wounded Warrior program.

Three Westchester students are Intel Finalists this year: Jiayi Peng of Horace Greeley High School, Chris Traver of Croton-Harmon High School, and Daniel McQuaid of Ossining High School.

Two student athletes, Mary Cain of Bronxville and Saniya Chong of Ossining, and two sets of foster parents, Anthony and Brenda Gears of Mount Vernon and Marisol and Eduardo Gonzalez of Scarsdale, were also recognized.

In addition, Scott Vaccaro, the owner and head brewer of Captain Lawrence in Elmsford, and Maria and Pablo Morales, owners of Bake-Me-A-Wish in Peekskill, were honored as small business success stories.

The National Anthem was sung by Melinda Ademi of Yonkers, who made it to the top 40 of Season 12 of "American Idol."

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Former Putnam Bar Assoc. Pres. Runs for NYS Supreme Court



Victor Grossman

An attorney with 34 years of experience as a trial and appellate lawyer, Victor Grossman, 61, last week announced his candidacy for New York State Supreme Court from the 9th Judicial District, which includes Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Dutchess counties.

Grossman is counsel to the Putnam County Land Trust, which recently honored him with its 2013 Blue Heron Award for his role in helping to preserve more than 800 acres of open space. He has served as a special prosecutor in the 9th Judicial District, and has also served as a law guardian for children, appointed to protect minors in cases involving divorce, custody, abuse and neglect.

Presently serving as a member of the 9th Judicial District Grievance Committee, Grossman plays a role in disciplining attorneys who violate the Code of Professional Responsibility, for example, by mishandling client funds.

In addition to his volunteer service with the Putnam County Land Trust he has served as a volunteer counselor in family and domestic violence issues with the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center.

Grossman's civic involvement has also included service as a member of the Putnam County Legislature, deputy supervisor of the Town of Southeast, chairperson of the Putnam County Charter Revision Commission, and a member of the Board of Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

As required by court rules, when deciding to run for judicial office, Grossman stepped down from his position as chairman of the Putnam County Democratic Committee.

War Veteran to Tell How Service Dog Saved Him

Retired Capt. Luis Carlos Montalvan, a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Army, will be the featured speaker Sunday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, 7 Saxon Wood Road, White Plains.

Montalvan will tell the story of how a golden retriever named Tuesday brought him back from a life of alienation and depression caused by severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after his deployment in Iraq, where he encountered enemy attack while on patrol, resulting in serious medical problems.

A decorated veteran with a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars, Montalvan was unable to get the help he needed until a special organization connected him with his service dog.

He writes about his experiences in his bestselling book "Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him" (Disney-Hyperion), and also speaks at venues across the country, eager to share his story of spiritual restoration provided by a remarkable companion.

The book is currently being made into a motion picture.

There is no charge for admission but donations are welcome. The building is wheelchair accessible, child care is available, and parking is available.

For more information, contact ECSW at 914-948-1120 or visit www.ethicalsocietywestchester.org.

Serving Our Country

Navy Seaman Eric Hall Jr., son of Canchetta Temple-Hall and Eric Hall of Mount Vernon, was recently promoted to his current rank upon graduation from training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Hall received the early promotion for outstanding performance during all phases of the training cycle, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations," which gives recruits the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

Hall is a 2008 graduate of Mount Saint Michael Academy of Bronx.

Navy Petty Officer Second Class Krystal Airall, daughter of Vonnette Airall of Spring Hill, Fla., and Johnnie Johnson of White

Plains, is assigned aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis, homeported in San Diego, recently transited the Surigao Strait, a narrow passageway between the Mindana and Leyte island of the Philippines.

Airall and other sailors aboard took a brief pause during routine operations to pay tribute to the historical significance of the passage and to the sailors who gave their lives in defense of freedom during the battle in these waters during World War II.

During the Battle of the Surigao Strait, from Oct. 23 to 26, 1944, the Japanese Imperial Navy, who then occupied the central Philippines, led an assault on U.S. ships supporting the allied invasion of Leyte Gulf. U.S. Rear Adm. Jesse B. Oldendorf, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, was tasked with stopping the Japanese attack. With the help of allied forces, Oldendorf reduced the Japanese forces to half.

The remaining Japanese battleship fleet retreated after seeing the burning wreckage of the defeated Imperial battleships.

The Battle of Surigao Strait severely weakened the Japanese fleet, allowing the allied forces to successfully defend the ground invasion of the Philippines, setting the stage for invasion of Okinawa.

Airall joined the Navy in July 2009.

Abinanti Proposes Public Financing Of Local Elections



Yonkers City Councilman Chuck Lesnick at the podium, with Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, second from left, and other officials speak in support of Abinanti's Fair Local Election Act.

Standing before local and state officials in Greenburgh Town Hall, State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti recently announced that he was introducing the Fair Local Elections Act to the state Legislature. This a bill that would allow for local municipalities and counties to opt-in for campaign finance.

Based on the New York City campaign finance model, the Fair Local Elections Act would fall under the umbrella of the proposed Assembly Bill A.4980 (Silver) "2013 Fair Elections Act" that would provide for optional partial public financing of certain election campaigns in the state and identifies the source of certain political contributions.

"This legislation will eliminate big money from campaigns and make local residents the sole concern of local candidates for offices. It will make it clear to local residents that their participation really matters," said Abinanti.

The Fair Local Elections Act would utilize the new state campaign finance board that would be created under A. 4980 to administer the program to any municipality with fewer than two million people or less (because New York City already has public financing of elections) if the locality voted (either by the governing body or by permissive referendum) to opt-in.

The municipality would have to raise the money for the public matching share but the state would absorb the administrative expense of the campaign finance board, which is already being created to administer the state elections. If enacted, candidates in local and county elections would be entitled to \$6 in matching public funds for each \$1 raised.

"Our current campaign finance laws allow big money to drown out the voices of everyday people and this must change," said Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "The bill I sponsor with Assembly Speaker Silver creates tougher disclosure laws, smaller limits on contributions, and enacts a public financing system for state elections. It will level the playing field for candidates and make them more accountable to the voters they serve, not wealthy donors."

Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates for office in municipalities and counties with a population greater than 250,000 and up to 2 million must collect no less than \$200,000 from at least 2,000 matching contributions made up of sums of up to \$250 per individual contributor who reside in New York State.

- Candidates for office in municipalities and counties with a population greater than 150,000 and up to 250,000 must collect no less than \$20,000 from at least 200 matching contributions made up of sums of up to \$250 per individual contributor who reside in New York State, including at least \$12,500 from at least 125 individual contributors who reside in the Senate district in which the office is to be filled.

- Candidates for office in municipalities and counties with a population greater than 25,000 and up to 150,000 must collect no less than \$10,000 from at least 100 matching contributions made up of sums of up to \$250 per individual contributor who reside in New York State, including at least \$5,000 from at least 50 individual contributors who reside in the assembly district in which the office is to be filled.

- Candidates for office in municipalities and counties with a population of 25,000 or less must collect no less than \$5,000 from at least 50 matching contributions made up of sums of up to \$250 per individual contributor who reside in the Assembly district in which the office is to be filled.

"Campaigns should not be about raising dollars but should be about issues," said Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner. "The proposed local election act will encourage more people to run for office if they are not wealthy or don't have wealthy friends. Greenburgh has a strong ethics law. Incumbent officials are prohibited from accepting campaign contributions from developers, contractors, consultants who work for the town, and attorneys who represent applicants. If this proposed law is adopted I will urge the Town Board to implement the law with the requirement that non-incumbents who run for office agree to also comply with our ethics laws and restrictions on accepting campaign donations."

Funding Sources for Public Finance

- The bill provides an income tax check-off of \$5. Such monies would be paid into a separate fund, known as the Local Campaign Finance Fund. The taxpayers' tax liability would not be affected by making this designation.

- If the local campaign finance fund lacks the money to pay all properly certified claims, the deficiency will be paid by the local municipal or county government where the participating candidate would serve, if elected.

"The governor, the Legislature and many civic groups are spending lots of time and energy on a bill to root out special interests and to maximize participation in competitive elections," said Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick. "We would like localities to avail themselves of the best practices developed by the state to do the same."

Participating candidates who are unopposed in a primary election may not receive public funds and those whose opponents don't raise or spend 10 percent of the public funds limit for the office that they are seeking are deemed unopposed. Candidates who are challenged in a primary and who do not seek public funds are not eligible for public funds for the general election and candidates who are unopposed in a general or special election may not receive public funds.

Advocates for campaign finance reform agree that when put into practice, campaign finance reform makes candidates and elected officials accountable only to the public interest and not special interests, levels the playing field for candidates to participate in fairer elections, frees up elected officials to concentrate more on their constituents by reducing the amount of fundraising time they have to invest, and provides for everybody - regardless of status - an opportunity to take part in the democratic process.

"While clean elections are essential in democracy, it is also an expense that must be balanced against other municipal needs," said Ossining Mayor Bill Hanauer, incoming president of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association. "The opt-in will allow municipalities to decide whether and when to participate."

Katonah Art Center Unveils Bilingual Program for Kids

The Katonah Art Center has announced its new Renaissance Enrichment Program for kindergartners and preschoolers, which will give children both an extensive introduction to different types of art and immerse them in a bilingual environment in order to learn Spanish.

The KAC is holding a Renaissance Enrichment Program and Summer Camp Open House on May 3 and 4 from noon to 3 p.m., when the new enrichment rooms will be open and the teachers will be present to meet future students and parents and provide more information about the program.

KAC summer camps will also be featured at this open house.

Every day, the Renaissance program will have a mix of story time, art, dance/movement and music, and Spanish will be incorporated into all of these activities. The classes will be led Patti Hupp, lead singer in the Feel-

ing Groovy Band and founder of Miss Patti's ArtSmart and ArtSmart TV.

"Study after study shows the importance of art and music in early education and the benefits of learning a second language as a child," said Loren Anderson, founder and director of the Katonah Art Center. "We think that putting these things together will create a great learning environment for your child, while still being a lot of fun."

The Renaissance Enrichment Program will begin Sept. 9 and end June 26, and follow the Katonah-Lewisboro school schedule, including school closings and weather delays. Transportation options are available from local schools.

The Katonah Art Center is located at 131 Bedford Road, Katonah. For more information about the Renaissance Enrichment Program or KAC's dance or art classes, call 914-232-4843 or visit www.katonahartcenter.com.

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Young Israel of Scarsdale Community Holds Annual Campaign Event



From left are Steve Gelles of Scarsdale, Michael Mandel of Scarsdale, speaker Yossi Klein Halevi, Young Israel of Scarsdale Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern, Michael Kleinberg of New Rochelle, and Bill Schrag of New Rochelle.

UJA-Federation of New York's Young Israel of Scarsdale Community hosted Yossi Klein Halevi at its annual campaign event April 20.

Senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, Halevi is a contributing editor of The New Republic and a frequent contributor to the op-ed pages of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times.

"This has been an emotional week: On Monday, Israel's Memorial Day, we commemorated the sacrifices it took for Israel to become a nation. On Tuesday, Israel's Independence Day, we celebrated the ecstasy of statehood. And, in the midst of those two

Jewish holidays, we experienced tragedy here in the United States, with the devastating bombing at the Boston Marathon," said event Chairman Michael Mandel of Scarsdale. "And through it all, strength is drawn from our ability to come together as a community and support each other. We find strength when we move forward together."

The event was done in conjunction with UJA-Federation's Tov B'Yachad (which means "good together" in Hebrew), an initiative that communicates the shared values of the Orthodox community and UJA-Federation.

For more information, visit www.ujafedny.org.

Past Fermi Scholarship Recipients Return to Help New Honorees



From left, former Enrico Fermi Scholarship recipients Andrew Sabatino, Antoinette DiLello and Richard Poccia.

By Dan Murphy

One of the reasons great community organizations don't last is that the leadership moves on or retires. The reason the Enrico Fermi Scholarship Foundation in Yonkers is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year is due, in part, to past scholarship recipients who have returned and are volunteering their time and resources to make sure that students will continue to get help and support, like they did.

We spoke with three former recipients who are actively involved in the Enrico Fermi Scholarship Foundation, which has given out more than 300 scholarships to Yonkers residents who are of Italian-American descent over 50 years.

"I graduated from the Hackley School in 2005 and our counselor encouraged me to apply," said Andrew Sabatino, a 2005 scholarship recipient. "The scholarship breakfast was an exciting and memorable day for me. I didn't expect the number of people to be there. When I walked into the Polish Center there were hundreds of people and I learned that this was a big deal ... I also didn't know how much my scholarship would be until the breakfast. When I received the one \$10,000 scholarship given out that year I was shocked."

Andrew attended Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Science for his undergraduate degree and most recently his master's degree.

He first got re-involved with Fermi by proving music at the breakfast with his brother. He accepted a larger role in joining the breakfast committee in 2010.

The Sabatino family's role in Fermi is strong, with Andrew's mother, Mary Jane, also getting involved in the annual breakfast committee. Andrew joined the board in 2011.

"We are pretty new to the organization, considering those who have been involved for decades," said Andrew, who explained that this year's breakfast on May 5 at Westchester Manor should have up to 300 attendees. "This gives us a nice mix on the board, and it makes a lot of sense to get involved when you have an organization that awards scholarships every year. And we are making an effort to reach out to past recipients, and trying to get them involved. We are asking them to give a little back and are getting a good response."

Richard Poccia is a 1975 scholarship recipient.

"I grew up in the Crestwood section of Yonkers and went to Cardinal Spellman High School and found about the Fermi Scholarship and applied," he said. "As I walked into the breakfast with 400 people, it was very impressive for a young kid."

Richard went to Manhattan College and graduated in 1970 with an accounting degree.

He is a certified public accountant and is currently a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"In 2005 I realized that it was the 30th year of the Fermi Scholarship and since I received the award I reached out to them and gave a contribution, and gave back the amount of money I received in the scholarship, but without interest," said Richard, who serves as vice president of the Fermi board. "I felt it was appropriate to find the organization and contact them and thank them for what they did for me. I joined the board and was a keynote speaker at the breakfast. I chaired and emceed the breakfast in other years, and have helped to determine what we need to do to continue. It's hard to sustain an organization that has been around for 50 years without new people and new ideas."

"I think giving back is a very important thing, which my firm also believes in – giving students a chance to earn your future and helping students get financial literacy and education in high school and college," he continued. "The Fermi Scholarships have helped a lot of people. The first Sunday in May is always the breakfast. And we can't forget that the day is really about the scholarships and giving the recipients advice about college and your future ... It's unfortunate that others don't come back, but I encourage them to give back to those who gave to you, and invest the time and energy to impact the lives of many."

Antoinette DiLello is a 1976 scholarship recipient.

"Winning the scholarship was an honor and a proud moment in my life, for me and my family to celebrate my Italian heritage. I went to Manhattan College and received a BA and my master's degree. I went right from Manhattan to St. Paul the Apostle School, and I've been there ever since. I love what I do and love St. Paul's and working in Yonkers," said DiLello, who is the current vice principal and a fifth-grade teacher with 32 years at St. Paul's. "I won the Fermi Scholarship in 1976 and I've been involved since the day I won. For the past 37 years I have served on the Advisory Board, the Breakfast Committee, the Scholarship Committee and the Board of Trustees."

"In 1987 I co-chaired the breakfast and I've spoken at past breakfasts as a former recipient and for many years I chaired the scholarship reception committee, which welcomes new recipients and prepares them for the morning breakfast activities," he continued. "The goal of the Fermi Scholarship Committee is to promote education, which is what I am all about. I've always wanted to be a teacher, and this organization is all about going to college, and that's important to continue."

This year's breakfast will be held May 5 at Westchester Manor. Tickets can be purchased by calling Tony Maddalena at 914-968-5644.

From the Mayor and Town Hall

As we celebrated Earth Day, I encouraged all residents to do their part in keeping Harrison a clean and beautiful community. Taking care of our surroundings doesn't need to be overwhelming, and there are many ways to do your part in preserving a healthy environment.

Some easy suggestions include the proper disposal of household hazardous waste (this information can be found on our town's website in the Department of Public Works' 2013 Guide to Recycling and Solid Waste Disposal), reduce reliance on plastics (for example, shopping bags and water bottles), and donate books to libraries or schools. We can all do our part to preserve the planet.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the Little League opening ceremony and parade and it was an honor to throw out the first pitch of the season. More than 1,000 onlookers were in attendance as 70 Little League teams and their coaches paraded through our town, and the Harrison High School Marching Band was on hand to serenade the crowd.

I would like to take this time to recognize the high school band's music director, Dr. Fred Pasqua, for his years of dedicated service to the school as well as to our community. As his retirement approaches, I would like to thank him for all he has done for us over the years.

After the parade, a celebration of the evening's events culminated in a barbeque. Once again, it was great to be part of this wonderful annual kickoff event.

Summer will soon be here and our Recre-



Mayor Ron Belmont

ation Department has posted the 2013 fee schedule on the town website. There is an early purchase discount rate of \$25 if the pool package purchase is made before May 9. I encourage you all to visit the site and sign up for the variety of programs offered this year.

I would also like to bring your attention to a very important event: On April 27 at Veterans Park, our entire community witnessed this year's Flag Burning Ceremony. According to federal law, there are specific procedures and guidelines in reference to proper flag disposal. Attendees saluted the flag, said the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a brief moment of silence.

I also recently had the pleasure of attending the Harrison High School Band Parent Association's annual Savor the Flavor fundraiser. It was a terrific event filled with warm conversation, plenty of food and a fantastic selection of auction items. Congratulations to all who made the event a success.

In addition, I participated in the Westchester Pancreatic Cancer Walk in Rye Town Park. This annual event is designed to increase awareness and funding for research, and all donations go directly to pancreatic cancer research. It was a wonderful day and I am glad I could join such a worthwhile event.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is Friday, May 3 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Jack Doyle's Public House, 110 Halstead Ave., Downtown Harrison. I look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.

Iona Dorm Hearing Insufficient; New Public Hearing Needed

By Peggy Godfrey

Mayor Noam Bramson outlined the most controversial provisions of the proposed Iona dormitory at the April 9 meeting of the New Rochelle City Council Committee, including the management structure by either Iona or the developer, and the parking ratio to the number of dorm rooms.

The zoning sought for this new dormitory is for one seven-story building and another five-story building, instead of the presently zoned three stories on North Avenue; under current zoning, college use is not allowed. Building coverage of the lot would increase from 70 to 90 percent, and if an agreement can be reached, parking requirements would be reduced to one per four students, instead of one parking space for every three students.

Planning Commissioner Luiz Aragon was not available at the Council meeting to discuss this research on this matter, so it was suggested that the discussion be tabled until the next meeting.

Councilman Lou Trangucci said he had spoken to two neighborhood association presidents and both felt Iona College should man-

age the dormitory.

During the public hearing for the rezoning needed for these proposals, which was held that same evening, Naomi Towers read a letter from three neighborhood associations that she had sent to the City Council and emphasized that Iona College – not the developer – should manage the dormitory.

Citing a lack of confidence in the "hand-picked" committee that worked on the dormitory proposal and "couldn't get it right," Robert McCaffrey said neighbors are upset with the proposal. In 2010, the zoning or floor-area ratio allowed up to three stories, but the proposed rezoning allows seven stories – which he said is "too high."

McCaffrey added that New Rochelle has a habit of spot zoning and taxing residents "beyond their means."

Proponents of the project also spoke at the hearing, including several students from Iona College who feel the dormitory is needed, especially for upperclassmen who cannot currently be accommodated in the dorms. More pointedly, the students advocated for management of the dormitories by Iona.

Particularly impressive was Iona Student Government Association President Jaclyn Shearor, who spoke about the community values that are lived and learned at Iona. In her view, dorms operated by the college bring all these values together.

Mitchelle Nelson, Iona's director of off-campus housing, said the joint planning committee had met and decided that Iona should manage the dormitory and that the current legislation does not meet the needs of the students; and Charles Carlson, Iona's vice provost for student life who was also on the committee, said the process used "serves Iona very well" but added that he opposes the legislation because it does not go along with the committee's recommendation that only Iona should manage the dormitory.

Neighborhood resident Tom Cassidy said he feels that if the dormitory is not built on North Avenue, it will be built on the side streets, "sacrificing the neighborhood for a college." With optimism that a favorable outcome could result, Greg Varian said he feels that the zoning needs to be changed because "failure is not an option." The zoning that is

proposed permits college use and the "objections raised are real, but not insurmountable," he said.

Zoning and development should "attract, not repulse people," said Ward Henderson, who added that people have moved away from the Iona neighborhood because of city regulations and zoning. He urged elected officials to be "stewards for New Rochelle" and protect neighborhoods.

It is not often that elected officials comment after a hearing, but Mayor Bramson did so at the end of this one. He said he feels "most people are in agreement, but there are a couple of issues we have to work through."

"No doubt we will cross the finish line," he said.

Certainly, residents would like to know more about what people agree on and what they do not, especially since such diverse views were expressed at the hearing.

City Manager Chuck Strome said zoning, building height and parking accommodations will also be discussed at the May Council meeting, and another hearing will probably be held in June.

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Chalfen also reiterated what DiFiore has said all along about Nannygate, that "this was a politically-motivated attack."

The allegations point to Dhyalma Vazquez, a DSS fraud investigator who has been pushing the allegations against DiFiore for years. The story was finally picked up by the New York Post and other Westchester media outlets.

Vazquez is also the vice-chair of the Westchester Independence Party, which under Vazquez and Chairman Dr. Giulio Cavallo has tried to stop DiFiore from winning election after a falling out, and did not endorse her or give her the Independent line in 2009.

Vazquez, whose allegation that Buchanan's claim was improperly reopened, has now been found to be false, called Gille, a former county legislator and Republican from Yonkers, a "liar" and called for a federal probe.

DiFiore's refusal to comment on any pending investigation before the DSS report now appears to have been the right decision. She waited out the storm and now, without any pending investigation, the real issue in her re-election campaign is who is the best candidate for Westchester DA.

DA DiFiore Vindicated

Continued from Page 1

lished reports. Buchanan, who worked for DiFiore's family from 1988 to 2009, applied for benefits three times from 2001 to 2009 and was denied for earning too much income.

In 2010, her fourth application was approved, and the DSS report found that errors in the first three applications were the reason for Buchanan's denials, and that no effort was made by DiFiore to win Buchanan benefits, which she eventually received.

DSS Deputy Commissioner Philippe Gille helped craft the report vindicating DiFiore.

Other questions regarding Buchanan's immigration status and whether taxes had been paid by DiFiore and/or her husband, Dennis Glazer, for Buchanan were addressed by DiFiore spokesman Lucian Chalfen, who said that "all the appropriate federal and New York state tax forms were filed and required payments were made in regards to Ms. Buchanan's employment," and that Buchanan has been a "qualified alien" since 1988, and a permanent legal resident since 2007.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Eastchester will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester New York on the application of Sergio Mottura (Property Owner), for Area Variance to construct two story addition and deck to rear of house, affecting the premises known as Section 64, Block 2, Lot(s) 36 on the Tax Map of the Town of Eastchester, New York and known as 34 Arlington Rd.

Town of Eastchester Planning Board
 40 Mill Road
 Eastchester, New York 10709
 #2128 5/3

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HTM LLC. Articles of Organization filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 9/6/2012, Dutchess County. Principal Office: 4 Ambler Farm Rd, Bedford, NY 10506. SSNY designated as process agent. Process Service address: 4 Ambler Farm Rd, Bedford, NY 10506. Purpose: any lawful activity.

#6390 3/29 - 5/3

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of East Coast Fundamental Fitness LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/15/13. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Kevin J. Kitson, 9 Trails End, Chappaqua, New York 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

#6391 4/5 - 5/10

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of MARIA DE LOS ANGELES BEAUTY, LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/22/2013. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against LLC to: MARIA DE LOS ANGELES BEAUTY, LLC, c/o MARIA MARTINEZ, 505 DEPEW STREET, PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK 10566. Purpose: TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY FOR WHICH LLCs MAY BE ORGANIZED UNDER THE LLC LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

#6392 4/5 - 5/10

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of The Portable Party, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 3/25/13. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jessica Cadornine, 35 Stornoway St., Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: retail sale of party supplies and decorations.

#6393 4/5 - 5/10

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of FRATTO CONSULTANTS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 02/26/2013. Off. loc.in WESTCHESTER Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: SARAH FRATTO, 1155 WARBURTON AVE, #2J, YONKERS, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful business.

#6394 4/5 - 5/10

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ICON EVENT MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/28/13. Office location: WESTCHESTER. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to principal business address: THE LLC, 55 Main St, Tarrytown, NY 10591. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6395 4/12 - 5/17

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of JEM Theatricals, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/27/2013. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Evan Bernardin, 4 Laura Ct, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567, upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

#6396 4/12 - 5/17

LEGAL NOTICE

Application for Authority (LLC) Airstream 2 Go, LLC. App. for Auth. filed w/ the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/7/13. LLC formed in DE on 7/31/12. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 94 Broad Brook Rd., Bedford Hills, NY 10507, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Engage in any lawful act/activity.

#6397 4/19 - 5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of GRMG L.L.C. Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/29/13. Office location: Westchester County. The street address is: 202 Martine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Robert Garcia, 202 Martine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6398 4/19 - 5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Cobble Street Market LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on March 22, 2013. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: c/o Walsh, Amicucci & Pantaleo LLP, 2900 Westchester Ave., Ste. 205 Purchase, NY 10577. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6399 4/19 - 5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Cobble Street Sales LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on April 1, 2013. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: c/o Walsh, Amicucci & Pantaleo LLP, 2900 Westchester Ave., Ste. 205 Purchase, NY 10577. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6400 4/19 - 5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Crowned Apps, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/20/2013. Office location: Westchester County. Principal office of LLC: 27 Claremont Ave #4E, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228 upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Technology Software (non-internet).

#6401 4/26 - 5/31

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of VAL-KAL PUBLISHING LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/04/2013. Office location: Westchester County. Principal office of LLC: 8 Lundy Lane, Larchmont, NY, 10538. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Av, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228, upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any Lawful Act.

#6402 4/26 - 5/31

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Wei Acupuncture, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on Apr. 17th, 2013. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: c/o The PLLC, 1592 Central Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: practice the profession of Acupuncture.

#6403 5/3 - 6/7

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Hollingsworth Falu LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/2012. Office location: Westchester County. Principal office of LLC: 237 Magnolia Ave, Mount Vernon NY 10552. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Rey Hollingsworth Falu 237 Magnolia Ave, Mount Vernon NY 10552, upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Brokerage

#6404 5/3 - 6/7

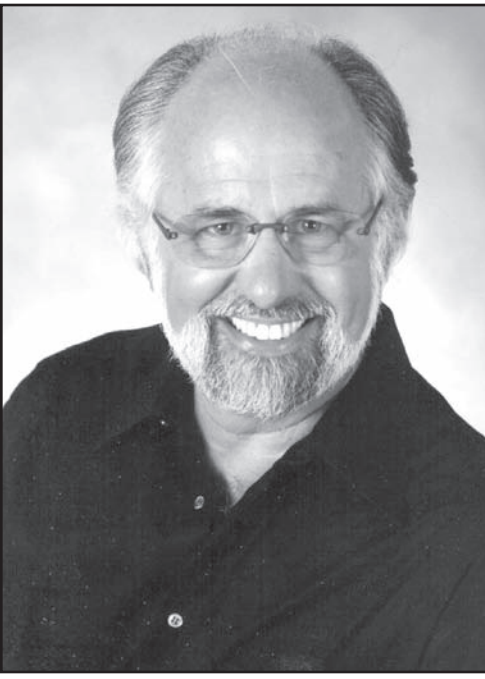
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of the Town of Eastchester and the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Eastchester will hold a joint public work session on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Town of Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York to discuss and review Application 12-57, Summerfield Gardens, 151 Summerfield Street for site plan, architectural review and special permit approval and area variances for a proposed Senior Housing Development, affecting the premises known as Section 59, Block 5, Lots 17, 21, 42, 44 and 46 on the Tax Map of the Town of Eastchester, New York and known as 142 and 148 Montgomery Street and 149, 151 and 155 Summerfield Street.

Town of Eastchester
 40 Mill Road
 Eastchester, New York 10709
 #2129 5/3

Seniors and Health Care

Westchester Dentist Chosen for Fellowship at International College



Westchester County Dentist Dr. Kenneth Magid, D.D.S., has been selected for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists.

In recognition of his service to the field of dentistry, Dr. Kenneth Magid, D.D.S., has been selected for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists.

ICD is a worldwide honorary dental organization established in 1928 with more than 12,000 members (designated as Fellows). It is

the pre-eminent honorary organization of the world's outstanding dentists who have demonstrated an abiding interest and concern for their communities and profession. The qualifications of a candidate are evaluated by as many as 25 Fellows during the screening process, and approximately the top 4 percent of American dentists are offered opportunities.

"Being selected for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists is one of the most significant events of a dentist's career," said Magid, of Advanced Dentistry of Westchester. "I am honored to be recognized as a Fellow for the Class of 2013."

Magid has practiced dentistry in Westchester County for more than 40 years and is currently the director of pre-doctoral laser dentistry and associate clinical professor at New York University College of Dentistry and is the assistant director of honors esthetics.

He has appeared on nationwide television and radio programs to discuss high-tech and cosmetic dentistry. Magid lectures throughout the U.S. and Canada and is a contributor to many journals on topics such as "minimally invasive" dentistry, laser dentistry, digital radiography, air-abrasion dentistry, "21st Century dentistry" and cosmetic dentistry.

Magid received his dental degree from New York University College of Dentistry. He will be inducted at a ceremony in New Orleans on Nov. 1.

Six Ways the 2014 Budget May Change Health Care

By: Michael LaMagna, Esq.

With all of the talk regarding the sequester and budget cuts, I decided this week I would focus on what the fiscal 2014 budget would mean to the more than 54 million Medicare beneficiaries, if the budget is passed in its current state. Currently, the 2014 proposed fiscal budget contains \$4 trillion in cost savings, with almost \$400 billion in Medicare spending reductions over the next decade. The cost-saving provisions are spread among all beneficiaries and providers of care.

I highlighted the six provisions that would directly affect Medicare beneficiaries and their providers:

* Higher Part B Deductibles: Medicare Part B, which pays for physician and ancillary services, will have an increase of approximately \$75, which is a significant increase over the \$147 current deductible. This is true despite the fact that more than half of Medicare beneficiaries had an annual income of less than \$22,500 in 2012.

* Home Health Care Visits: Starting in 2017, new Medicare beneficiaries would be expected to pay \$100 for five or more home health care visits paid by Medicare, if the care was not provided after a hospital or rehabilitation visit.

* Surcharge for Medigap premiums: Also starting in 2017, new beneficiaries who purchase the often critical supplemental or Medigap policy, will have a 15 percent surcharge in order to discourage over-usage.

* Medicare Part B and Part D Premiums to Increase for Wealthier Individuals: Although in-



Michael LaMagna

dividuals with incomes greater than \$80,000 and couples who have incomes greater than \$170,000 already pay a larger share of Medicare premiums, the budget calls for higher premiums for those with higher incomes.

* Doughnut Hole Closing: The good news is that the dreaded doughnut hole would be closing as soon as 2015, instead of 2012.

* Cuts to Health Care Providers: Hospitals would see the amount of money provided to them because of bad debt

slashed by almost two thirds and the amount paid to teaching hospitals also decreased.

Of course, this is just a snapshot of the proposed budget, but it is vital that all of us take notice of the possible changes and the likelihood that many of these provisions will become enacted and to prepare accordingly.

This article is provided for informational purposes only. Nothing in this article shall be construed as legal advice or should be relied upon as such. Plan to attend Attorney LaMagna's free seminar, "Talking Dollars and Sense," on May 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Kensington Assisted Living, White Plains. RSVP by calling 914-220-4259. Michael LaMagna is a Partner at LaMagna and Associates, PC, practicing elder law/probate/disability/wills, trusts and estates, health care regulatory, Medicare appeals, Social Security and general legal practice in both New York and Connecticut. Email him at Mlamagna@nyandctlaw.com, call 914-437-5955 or visit www.nyandctlaw.com for more information.

Upcoming Events With the Mt. Vernon Office of Aging

The Mount Vernon Office of the Aging will hold several events this month:

"Staying Sharp" will take place May 4 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church; call 877-926-8300 for more information.

An Armory Executive Board meeting will take place May 6 at 10:30 a.m., and a birthday party for seniors born in April will take place May 7 at 12:30 p.m., both at the Armory.

Also May 7 at the Armory, "Medicare Minutes" will take place at 11:30 a.m.

A trip to see "Matilda" on Broadway will take place May 8, with departure at 11 a.m.

On May 9, a special Mother's Day program, "It's Magic," will take place at 10 a.m. at the Armory, with breakfast sponsored by the Visiting Nurses Service of New York.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo With Spanish Online Services

By Susan Sobel
Social Security District Manager in Yonkers

Cinco de Mayo is May 5 – a time to celebrate Mexican heritage and pride. Why not join the celebration by visiting Social Security's Spanish website, where you'll find a number of useful services and a wealth of information in Spanish?

Just visit www.segurosocial.gov.

Perhaps the most impressive thing you can accomplish on our website – in Spanish – is to apply for Social Security retirement benefits. You can apply quickly and easily on your personal computer.

The online application takes as little as 15 minutes, and in most cases there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out. Online is the easiest way to apply, and you can do it in English or Spanish.

In addition to applying for Social Security retirement benefits, you also can apply for Medicare in Spanish – in as little as 10 minutes from start to finish.

If you are not ready to apply for benefits now, there are still a number of reasons to visit the Social Security website. You can find a lot of information and a number of online services that allow you to complete your Social Security business online, in English or Spanish. One of the most popular is our Retirement Estimator, which provides instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits.

Using the actual wages posted in your

Social Security record, the Estimator will give you a good picture of what benefits you may receive. It protects your personal information by providing only retirement benefit estimates; it does not show the earnings information used to calculate the benefit estimate, nor does it reveal other identifying information. You can plug in different retirement scenarios and future wage amounts to get estimates for different situations.

Try it out at www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/calculador.

If you already are entitled to Medicare and are having trouble with the cost of prescription drugs, you might qualify for extra help from Social Security, which can save you as much as \$4,000 each year on your prescription drug costs.

Learn all about it and apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp/index_sp.htm.

On the right side of the website, under the "Frequently Asked Questions," you'll find a red envelope. Select it to receive email updates on the latest Social Security news and information. You can get your updates in English at www.socialsecurity.gov or in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov.

Whether you prefer to do business online in Spanish or English, our website is the place for you. Visit during Cinco de Mayo, or anytime.

Senior Law Program to Address Preparedness

A panel of professionals will discuss how "today is the time to prepare for tomorrow" in terms of legal issues, financial matters and health preparations, during a senior law program May 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at The Bristal, 305 North St., White Plains.

People of all ages are invited to "Today, Today, Today ... But What About Tomorrow."

Panelists will include Sara Meyers, Esq., from the law firm of Enea, Scanlan and Sirignano; Robert Leitner, a certified financial planner from Financial Advisory Network; and Miriam Scholl, LMSW, a geriatric care manager from

Westchester Elder Care Consultants.

A question-and-answer period will follow to panel discussion.

Admission is free, but registration is requested by May 3. To sign up, call 914-681-1800 or email syubas@thebristol.com. Refreshments will be served, and free parking is available on The Bristal campus.

The program is sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services and The Bristal, an assisted living community.

Saint Joseph's Medical Center

Setting the standard for care

Saint Joseph's Medical Center has been meeting the health care needs of Yonkers and surrounding communities since 1888. Saint Joseph's Medical Center consists of a 194-bed acute care teaching hospital; a 200-bed nursing home; St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester, a 138-bed psychiatric facility; comprehensive out-patient programs and is a sponsor of low income senior housing for frail elderly.

Today Saint Joseph's offers:

❖ An expanded Ambulatory Surgery Center	❖ Geriatrics Services and 165 units of Senior Housing
❖ On-site 64 slice spiral CT Scanner and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	❖ A State-of-the-art Department of Surgery
❖ Dedicated hospital-based Inpatient Renal Dialysis Services	❖ Pain Management
❖ One of the busiest Emergency Services in Westchester County	❖ The first accredited Family Medicine Residency Program in Westchester
❖ A Designated Stroke Center	❖ Highly advanced diagnostic services, with a full range of rehabilitative therapies
❖ Comprehensive Mental Health Services	❖ Women's Health Services, including accredited low-dose mammography
❖ A Family Health Center to provide affordable primary care	❖ Patient Representatives and Pastoral Care for spiritual and emotional support
❖ Oncology Services	

For more information, call or visit:
914-378-7000 • www.saintjosephs.org
Saint Joseph's Medical Center • 127 South Broadway • Yonkers, NY 10701

Town of Eastchester Senior Programs and Services

The Center at Lake Isle

Monday, May 6

9:30 Line Dancing, Theresa Kover
12:30 Exercise, Zumba Gold With Diane Sorg
1:15 Musical Memorie, CDs and DVDs, Bov Moynihan

Tuesday, May 7

8:30 Exercise, Grace Kulinski
9:30 Exercise, Patricia Marinello
10:30 Blood Pressure Screening With Barbara O'Hagen
12:15 Bingo, Bring A Friend
12:30 Bridge and Cards

Wednesday, May 8

9:30 Tap Dancing, Paula Tarantino
9:30 Drawing, Stephanie Rocker
12:30 Exercise, Evey Riccobono
12:30 Bob Moynihan, Musical Memories

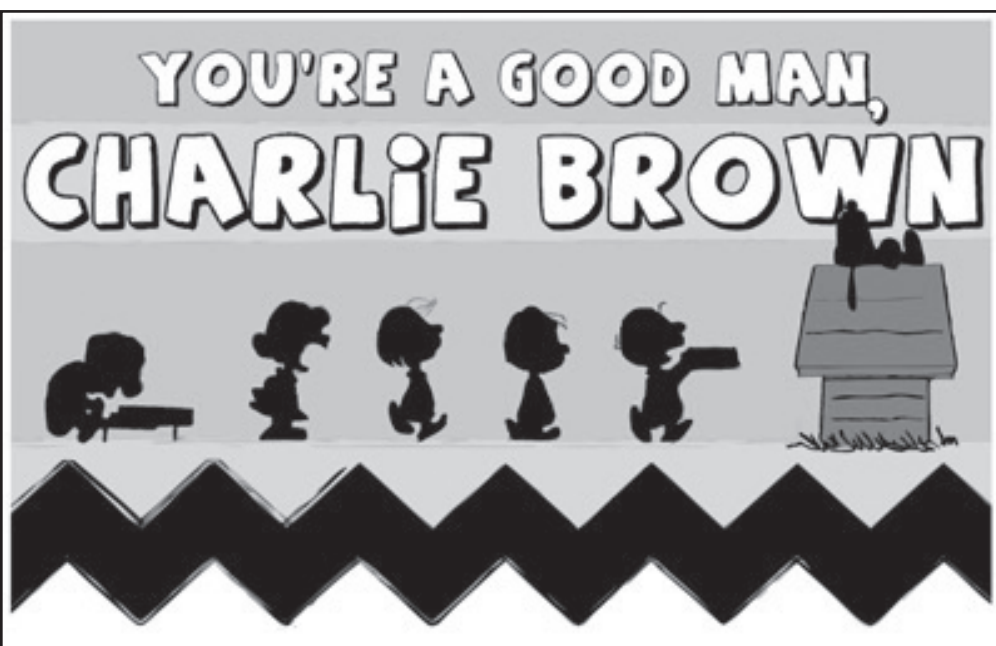
Thursday, May 9

9:00 A.A.R.P. Defensive Driving Course, Lucille Kinney, Pre-Registration Required.
9:15 Country Western Dancing, Theresa Kover
10:00 Yiddish Class
12:30 Mahjong

Friday, May 10

8:30 Exercise Video
9:30 Lite Exercise, Sonya Lewis
10:30 Council Officer's Meeting
11:00 Gilda Press, Information and Conversations
12:15 Open Membership Meeting
1:00 Bridge and Cards
1:00 Bob Moynihan, Musical Memories
The Center at Lake Isle is located at 660 White Plains Rd. at Eastchester. For more information or transportation, call 914-337-0390.

Sandbox Theater Holds Auditions



The Westchester Sandbox Theatre will hold auditions for its Young People's Theater production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" on Tuesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 931c E. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck.

This adorable musical is the perfect show for the summer!

Performers should prepare a song for auditions and bring sheet music in the correct key or bring a track to sing along with. A registration fee of \$395 is due at the first rehearsal, and performances are July 11 to 14.

For more information, visit www.wstshows.com or call 914-630-0804.

Art Exhibit Opens May 5

An art exhibit featuring "Distant Landscapes" by Todd Shapera will take place through Sunday, July 28 at the Greenburgh Nature Center, with a free opening reception on Sunday, May 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

For more than two decades, Todd has been fortunate to document life in remote corners of the planet, and along the way he's been passionate

about capturing the landscapes, often at dawn or dusk when the light is magical, at far away places including Patagonia, the Himalayas, Yukon Rivers, Siberia, Equatorial Rainforests, African Preserves, and more. All are regions with sensitive ecology that are now threatened by global warming.

For more information, go to www.greenburghnaturecenter.org or call 914-723-3470.

Tag Sale is May 4

A "Giant Community Tag Sale" will take place Saturday, May 4 at the Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. There will be collectibles, clothing, purses, jew-

elry, furniture, books, CDs and DVDs, house wares, art, small appliances, kids' stuff, sports equipment and more.

West Center Church Holding Tag Sale May 5

West Center Congregational Church will hold a tag sale Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. At 101 Pondfield Road West at Chatfield Road, Bronxville,

The sale, to be held in the Bodge Lounge, will offer a large variety of quality items, including household goods, plants, jewelry, bric-a-brac, old and new gifts - some suitable for Mother's Day and Father's Day, baked goods, children's toys and games, compact discs, books and more. There will also be a "Tiffany Table" that will have fine china and crystal and other high-end items.

Proceeds from the sale will help support the work of the church.

West Center Church first began 100 years ago when a Sunday School was organized; it was incorporated in 1927. The present sanctuary was completed in 1962 and is noted for its beautiful stained glass windows designed by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia. The church is home to the Bronxville Montessori School, the Tai Chi School of Westchester, and various organizations hold meetings and events there, continuing a tradition of serving the community that started in 1912.

There is no admission charge and all are welcome to browse and shop. For more information, call the church office in the morning at 914-337-3829 or log on to www.westcenterccucc.org.

Jackie Robinson's Visit

Continued from Page 1

previous year, I served as the reporter for The Daily Item covering the RHS football games," writes Hughes. "It was a real honor and everybody was in awe to meet him. I don't remember much about the speech and I didn't get an autograph, which I wish I did today. Jackie lived in nearby Stamford, Conn., and he was very humble and cordial. I was a Dodger fan and loved to meet him.

"I was only 7 years old when Jackie broke in 1947, and in 1955 he was highly regarded as a great baseball player and I loved baseball and the Dodgers," Hughes continues. "Growing up in Rye was great. I look back with a wonderful experience, great schools and good people. It wasn't all wealthy people; we lived in a bungalow down by the beach.

"My cousin, Jack Ebetino also in the photograph, and I played for the (Southern Westchester Inter-Athletic Conference) champs Rye H.S. baseball team in 1958," he writes. "My best friend was Bob Gianquinto, who runs the Rye Beach Pharmacy. His father ran it when we were kids and he worked at the store a lot and had to sneak out to play baseball with us. He was a Yankee fan."

Here's a poem about Jackie's visit to Rye, inspired by the movie "42:"

Number Forty-Two

In coat and tie,
he came to Rye,
no number on his back.

Not just a man
without a fan,
no ordinary Jack.

He was a star,
a baseball star,

and he excelled at track.

In forty-seven,
he joined Brooklyn.
Some gave him lots of flack.

By fifty-three,
all men could see,
no matter he was black.

So at the 'Y'
in the City of Rye,
no number on his back,

we all knew,
number forty-two
had merged us, white and black.

The Rye YMCA's newsletter from June 1955 also recapped Jackie's visit:

Father and Sons Sports Dinner

On April 22, the annual Father and Sons Sports Dinner was held at the "Y." More than 230 persons attended and witnessed the presentation of all the awards won during the fall and winter programs and to hear the guest speaker Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Orlo R. Chamberlain was the master of ceremonies, Gustav Margraf was head of the entertainment committee, and George Henefield and James Dreves were in charge of tickets and menu.

Editor's Note: As a Yankee fan, my biggest Jackie Robinson story came from the 1955 World Series, when Jackie stole home base and snuck in underneath the tag of Yankee catcher Yogi Berra. Yogi says that Jackie was out - take a look on Youtube for the video. In a recent interview, Jackie's widow Rachel Robinson wouldn't answer the question.

Thanks to Mr. Hughes for his memory, and his recollections of the Rye Chronicle, now called Rye Rising, which is more than 100 years old.

Ossining Public Library Hosting Adult Events

The Ossining School District annual art show will take place through May 30 in the library's gallery. The exhibit includes artwork from students in kindergarten through grade 12.

An AARP safe driving course will be held Thursday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Budarz Theater for people 50 years old or older. The class is taught by a trained volunteer instructor, and costs \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-members.

Registration forms can be picked up at the library downloaded at www.ossininglibrary.org,

and the registration deadline is Thursday, May 2.

A book discussion on "Champlain's Dream" by David Hackett Fischer will take place Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the second-floor conference room. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author relates the three-decade history of Samuel de Champlain in North America. The founder of New France explored vast territory that in time would become six Canadian provinces and five U.S. states.

Copies of the book may be found at the library's information desk, and the first half of the book will be discussed at this session.

Upcoming Events at the New Rochelle Public Library

The New Rochelle Public Library will be hosting a book sale and Children's Day celebration this month.

Stock up on gently used hardcover and paperback fiction and nonfiction at the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library's monthly book sale Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the lobby. In addition to great adult and children's books, the sale also offers DVDs, videos and other items.

The executive board of the Friends of the Library coordinates the book sales, with the assistance of other Friends' volunteers. Money raised from book sales are used to underwrite the library's extensive public programs.

The Friends of the Library bookstore is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Japanese Children's Day with crafts and a live performance of Japanese dance during BID Family Day on Saturday, May 4.

In Japan, Kodomo no hi (Children's Day) is a national holiday set aside to respect children's unique personalities and celebrate their happiness. Families display kabuto (samurai armor), hang koinobori (carp streamers) from their homes, and eat kashiwa mochi (rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves).

The New Rochelle Children's Day program will begin at 11 a.m. in the meeting room, when BID staff will help children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and their parents and grandparents make their own fish kite like the koinobori, fans, and a special snack to take home.

Participation in the craft program is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

At 2 p.m., the public is invited to a live performance by members of the Japanese Folk Dance Institute, who will introduce the vibrant culture, history and spirit of Japan through various traditional folk dances from all parts of the country. Under the direction of Momo Suzuki, the Minbuza dancers, in full costume, will perform the Lion Dance, the Cherry Blossoms Dance, five fan dance from Ehime Prefecture, an umbrella dance from Tochigi and Gunma Prefecture, a flower hat dance from Yamagata Prefecture, and a Summer festival dance from Okinawa.

The free BID Family Day event is made possible by the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District, in conjunction with the New Rochelle Public Library, the city school district and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Library Board of Trustees Seeks Increase in 2013-14 Budget

Registered voters in New Rochelle will be able to head to the polls May 21 to vote on the New Rochelle Public Library's 2013-14 proposed budget, which increases the tax levy 3.98 percent - or \$10.79 - per homeowner, for a total spending increase of \$172,760 for the library.

The library's Board of Trustees and administration again took unusual measures to limit the tax levy increase, with total operating costs reduced for the third year in a row.

The number of full-time staff positions has been reduced from 42 in 2005 to 31 in 2013. The New Rochelle Public Library has the lowest number of paid, full-time employees of all the Westchester libraries, with about one staff person per 2,000 people served.

Local public support per capita of the New Rochelle Public Library is now the eighth lowest in Westchester County, although the library ranks second-highest in patron visits, program attendance and reference questions answered; only two other Westchester libraries are open more hours on an annual basis.

Ever-diligent of the tax burden shouldered by New Rochelle taxpayers, the Board of Trustees has been steadfast in keeping tax increases to the bare minimum - requesting annual increments specifically tied to fixed increases imposed by contractual obligations, rising costs of utilities and declining assessments.

To keep pace with the ongoing rise in use of the New Rochelle Public Library's services and resources, the library continues to pursue

all possible grant funding. The library also relies heavily on the generosity of its three fundraising organizations: the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library, and the Partnership for the Huguenot Children's Library.

A public hearing on the library's 2013-14 budget will take place Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Ossie Davis Theater, prior to the May meeting of the library's Board of Trustees, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The annual vote to elect two library trustees and to adopt the budget will take place Tuesday, May 21 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the city school district polling places. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the administrative office of the New Rochelle Public Library and at www.nrpl.org.

The League of Women Voters forum for candidates running for two seats on the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees and two vacancies on the New Rochelle Board of Education will be held Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Ossie Davis Theater.

Registered voters who need to locate the polling location for their district, or need an absentee ballot, may call the Clerk's Office at the school district at 914-576-4219. Applications for absentee ballots are available at www.nred.org and in the library's community bulletin board area.

For further information, contact Library Director Tom Geoffino, Library Director at 914-632-7879.

Bramson to Challenge

Continued from Page 1

100 percent of delegates for Bramson.

Jenkins did well in Yonkers, with 27,000 of the weighted vote, with only 3,000 for Bramson. Five-thousand possible Yonkers delegates did not come and vote at the convention. Mount Vernon split its votes between Bramson and Jenkins, with supporters of Mayor Ernie Davis with Jenkins and supporters of former Mayor Clinton Young with Bramson.

The word before and after the convention was that Bramson was "more electable" than Ken Jenkins. What "more electable" means is up for debate.

Bramson has raised, and can raise considerably more than Jenkins could have, and about \$2 million is the figure that both Bramson and Astorino will likely raise and spend in this race.

Jenkins had also turned off some Westchester Democrats with his combative style with Astorino over the past two years. And while Jenkins' record on the county board of amassing contrasting views about how county government should fund and protect county residents will be

used by Bramson, some believe Jenkins went too far in his opposition, and this opposition is why Bramson decided to get in the race.

We hope that "more electable" does not mean that an African-American cannot be elected in a county-wide race in Westchester, because we do not agree. A far more important decision will be who the Independence Party decides to endorse for county executive than the race, gender or sexual preference of any candidate. Westchester is well beyond that.

Many Democrats and Independents in Westchester will not vote for any Republican. Astorino got 8 percent of the vote on the Independence party line in 2009 against Andy Spano, and it was his margin of victory.

Jenkins must now decide what he will do next. He can run for re-election to the county board, or run for Yonkers City Council president. Many had hoped for an answer from Jenkins at the Yonkers Democratic breakfast last weekend, but Jenkins said he needed a couple of weeks to decide.

County Clerk Tim Idoni was unanimously nominated to run for re-election.

Let the campaign begin! Much more in the months to come.

Send photos of your recent event, fundraiser or celebration to us at risingmediagroup@gmail.com

The Phil & Sam Saga Ends... Finally

Photo by Greg Baldwin



Former Mayor Phil Amicone apologizes to Westchester Guardian Publisher Sam Zherka outside City Hall last week.

By Dan Murphy

A sad and surreal event occurred outside Yonkers City Hall on Wednesday when former Mayor Phil Amicone read a letter apologizing to Westchester Guardian Publisher Sam Zherka for statements Amicone made in 2007. The apology, and a \$100,000 settlement to Zherka paid for by the city and its taxpayers, now ends the disastrous slew of events and lawsuits between Amicone and Zherka that will eventually cost the taxpayers of Yonkers close to \$1 million.

Amicone read his mea culpa, which states: "I want to make this public apology to Mr. Sam Zherka, his wife and eight children and to the Westchester Guardian for statements made as mayor which falsely charged Mr. Zherka with criminality and wrongdoing. I also want to take a moment to apologize for confiscating the Westchester Guardian's news racks. I sincerely and deeply apologize on my behalf and on behalf of my administration for causing so much hurt to Mr. Zherka and his family.

"I admit that any false and defamatory statements made by my administration were wrong and brought about shame, misfortune and scorn to Mr. Zherka and his family," he continued. "I will never know the full extent of the damage the false allegations made by my administration may have caused his family, his business, and the Westchester Guardian. I am hopeful that this apology will go a long way in healing some of the wounds inflicted by these false statements and charges and somehow compensate on a personal level.

"It is with these sincere feelings and a humble heart that I stand to give a public apology to Mr. Sam Zherka and his family, and ask that they forgive me and those of my administration," Amicone concluded.

A prior statement leaked to the press stated that Amicone had "unlawfully" confiscated the newspaper racks," but the word "unlawfully" was removed prior to the City Council adopting the settlement Tuesday. The removal of the word points to the letter not being written by Amicone, but by Zherka's attorneys, who also required that the mayor stand outside City Hall and embarrass himself and ask for forgiveness before Zherka.

The mayor does apologize for confiscating the newspaper boxes for the Guardian, although the public never fully found out who ordered the removal of the Guardian's boxes, at a time when Zherka and the Guardian were printing front page stories about the mayor, including allegations about his personal life and a headline with Amicone and Mayor Ernie Davis on the front page titled "Dumb and Dumber."

Throughout the letter, Amicone apologizes for the actions of "his administration" but in the apology regarding the confiscation of the newspaper boxes, he does not use those words. It appears that he takes full responsibility for this action, which led to a sorry and costly pair of lawsuits filed by Zherka.

It is important to review what happened because of the total cost to the people of Yonkers: \$1 million dollars pays for a few teachers, and firefighters, and police officers. Any city - especially Yonkers - cannot afford this loss.

Zherka and his employees of the Guardian sued Amicone and the city for the unlawful removal of the newspaper boxes. Zherka won an \$8 million verdict, which was settled for \$393,000, (including a \$170,000 personal liability for Amicone), with the city paying for the actions of Amicone and/or his administration, in their role as city employees.

Zherka then filed a second lawsuit against Amicone for defamation of character regarding statements made at a Republican ward meeting, calling Zherka a "mobster," a "convicted drug dealer" and a "thug."

The \$30 million defamation case never made it to court because of the \$100,000 settlement and Amicone's public apology.

"Rather than hold the city liable for millions

of dollars in damages, all we want is an apology," said Zherka. "This is yet another victory for free speech and press. This apology is long overdue but I'm happy to see that Mayor Amicone is apologizing personally, and on behalf of his entire administration."

Again, Zherka refers to Amicone and "his entire administration." We wonder, and the people of Yonkers deserve to know, who it was in Amicone's administration that recommended or influenced Amicone to make this foolish decision? Zherka's newspaper racks lawsuit did not tell us that answer, with some testifying that it was the mayor who ordered the removal, but other pointing the finger at others in City Hall.

Many point the finger at Zherka for filing these lawsuits and hurting the people of Yonkers. But in these cases, and in other cases where Zherka has won First Amendment cases against other local governments in Westchester for removing the same newspaper boxes from their Village Halls, we believe it is the stupidity of elected officials we voted for who should be blamed, and not Zherka.

They fell for his bait, and now the taxpayers have to pay.

The City Council, quietly and without debate, approved the \$100,000 settlement by a vote of 4-3, with Democratic Councilman Wilson Terrero (majority leader), Christopher Johnson and Michael Sabatino voting no, and Republican Councilman John Larkin (minority leader), Mike Breen and Dennis Shepherd voting yes, with Council President Chuck Lesnick.

Lesnick was the swing vote in the settlement approval; he voted against the prior Zherka settlement of \$393,000.

"It's unfortunate that the taxpayers have another burden but I am hopeful that Sam Zherka will donate the money to a Yonkers-based charity," Lesnick stated. "This vote is different from the previous settlement which I opposed because it is not a First Amendment case and the former mayor has now apologized. Yonkers now needs to move forward and put this issue to rest. And I hope tonight's vote concludes the matter for good."

Majority Leader Wilson Terrero also suggested that Zherka donate the \$100,000 to a Yonkers charity. Zherka, however, has stated that the money will go into a trust fund for his children.

Former Councilwoman Joan Gronowski sent a letter to the Council urging them not to approve the settlement. Calling the Zherka-Amicone battle "the Phil and Sam saga," she urged the council "not to settle the case simply for fear of continued litigation. The only true deterrent will be to hit elected officials in their own wallets. I implore you to take a chance on our constitution," said Gronowski who believed that Amicone should pay his own legal fees and settlement costs because he admitted to making the defamatory comments.

Gronowski's reference to continued litigation is based on Zherka's personal wealth, and his ability and predisposition to file numerous lawsuits without concern for legal fees, in the hopes that those he sues will settle because it is cheaper than remaining in the courts with Sam for years.

Yonkers resident Terry Joshi also spoke out against the settlement, saying: "The city is in dire financial straits. We have paid plenty so far in this tiff and I can't understand how we could spend another \$100,000."

We will seek comments from the City Council for the reasons for their votes, for and against this settlement, for next week's Yonkers Rising.

We are sorry that Mayor Amicone had to make this embarrassing show, but more sorry that he made the decisions that cost the city \$1 million. It is a large black mark on his administration, which was scandal-free for eight years and did a lot of good for the people of Yonkers. Phil, you let us down.

'Guys & Dolls' a Safe Bet at Westchester Broadway Theatre



Allie Schauer, playing Adelaide; Michael Brian Dunn, playing Nathan Detroit; Gary Lunch, playing Sky Masterson; and Courtney Glass, playing Sarah Brown.



Jayson Elliot, playing Nicely-Nicely Johnson; Matthew Dailey, playing Angie the Ox; Sheldon Henry, playing Benny Southstreet; and Jonathan Stahl, playing Rusty Charlie, perform "Fugue for Tinhorns." Photos by John Vecchiolla.

By Sue Ann Witt

Westchester Broadway Theater presents "Guys and Dolls," set in New York City during the prohibition era and featuring gangsters, showgirls, madams and more. Filled with addi-

ditional oddball characters and memorable music, this show promises great entertainment and loads of fun. Featured actors include Jayson Elliott, Sheldon Henry, Jonathan Stahl, Jody Cole Wood, Courtney Glass, Gary Lynch, Michael Brian Dunn, Allie Schauer, Tony Triano, Ryan Koss, Leah Landau, Jeff Brooks, Laura Cable and Thomas Rou. Songs include "Follow the Fold," "The Oldest Established," "A Bushel and a Peck," "If I Were a Bell," "My Time of Day," "I've Never Been in Love Before," "The Crapshooters' Ballet," "Sue Me," "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" and "Marry the Man Today."

The show runs through June 9. For more information or to reserve tickets, go to www.BroadwayTheatre.com or call 914-592-2222.

Astorino's State of County Address



Michael McBride, former chairman of the Town of Mount Pleasant Republican Committee, and Associate Justice Daniel Angiolillo.



From left, Robert Amelio, Republican chairman of the Town of Harrison, Justice Angiolillo, and county Conservative Party Chairman Hugh Fox.



Justice Angiolillo with County Executive Rob Astorino.

Photos by Ed Whitman

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Eastchester will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester New York on the application of Keiko Huang, for a consideration of Section 6.D.4 of the Zoning Law to permit the extension of a non-conforming office use in a multi-family building, affecting the premises known as Section 49A, Block 1, Lot(s) 1 on the Tax Map of the Town of Eastchester, New York and known as 142 Garth Road, Apt. TU, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Town of Eastchester Planning Board
40 Mill Road
Eastchester, New York 10709
#2130 5/3

Newest Members of Business Hall of Fame are Honored



From left, Christopher Murphy of Murphy Brothers Contracting, Business Hall of Fame Co-Chair Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson, Business Council of Westchester Chairman Stephen Jones, Sean Murphy of Murphy Brothers Contracting, Ruth Mahoney of KeyBank, Patrick Vaccaro of Jackson Lewis, Judith Huntington of The College of New Rochelle, Glenn Pacchiana of Thalle Industries and BCW President Marsha Gordon.

More than 600 people representing a “who’s who” of the Westchester business community were out in full force April 25 to salute the winners of the Business Council of Westchester’s 12th annual Business Hall of Fame Awards at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. According to BCW President and CEO Marsha Gordon, the event broke records for attendance, sponsorship and fundraising.

“It’s our 12th year of having the Business Hall of Fame Awards and this was the best one yet,” she said. “The event was special for so many reasons, but mainly because it represents the best and brightest within Westchester’s proud business community.”

This year’s honorees included Ruth Mahoney, president of Key Bank’s Hudson Valley/Metro NY District, who earned the Corporate Citizen Award; Patrick Vaccaro, managing partner of Jackson Lewis, LLP, who earned the Entrepreneurial Award; Christopher and

Sean Murphy of Murphy Brothers Contracting, Inc., who earned the Small Business Award; Glenn Pacchiana, president and CEO of Thalle Industries, Inc., who earned the Family Business Award; and Judith Huntington, president and CEO of The College of New Rochelle who earned the Women in Business Award.

News 12 Anchor Scott McGee was the evening’s emcee. He, Gordon and County Executive Robert Astorino – as well as event Co-Chair Elizabeth Braken Thompson of

Thompson and Bender and Chris O’Callaghan, managing director and Westchester County market lead for Jones Lang LaSalle – all had fun with the event’s theme of the Oscar’s, making jokes about all the “stars” that were in attendance.

Since its inception, the Business Hall of Fame has inducted 60 business leaders. The names of this year’s winners will be added to a plaque displayed at the Westchester County Airport.

A Place for Every Jew Continued from Page 1

Ferry.

On May 9, the rabbi and his wife will be honored at a 10th anniversary celebration in Ardsley. Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner has called the couple “a tremendous inspiration and asset to our community, whose creative programs are lots of fun for people of all ages.”

An International Movement

Inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, whom Rabbi Benjy met as a child at his headquarters in Brooklyn, the couple enlisted in the movement as “Shlichut,” or emissaries, in the Rebbe’s mission to provide Jews with opportunities to gain an understanding of their religion and cultural heritage.

Today, Chabad of the Rivertowns, located at 303 Broadway, is counted among 3,600 Chabad centers located in more than 65 countries, with a new center opening every 10 days, on average. In South Africa, Eastern Europe, South America, Russia, Australia, the United Kingdom, and many parts of the U.S., Chabad has become a dynamic and dominant force within the Jewish community.

Chabad charges no mandatory membership fees. The philosophy, according to the rabbi, is: “At Chabad, we are not looking for donations, we are looking for partners. We are all in this together. We are all Jews and we are all looking out for each other.”

According to the rabbi, people have a misconception that the Chabad Centers get financial support from headquarters in Brooklyn, which they do not, and since all their support comes from the community, its success is theirs, as well.

started making noises and I led him out for the second or third time, it felt like the ‘walk of shame’ with everyone staring and I never went back,” he said. “About a year later, we were at home and Rabbi Benjy just knocked on our door one day. After I told him what happened, he said that Aaron would be welcome at Chabad. When

we attended services six years ago, the congregation made us all feel like we were coming home after being ostracized. At the Bar Mitzvah (April 13), people came up to us and said it was the best they ever attended and there wasn’t a dry eye in the place.”

Stories like the Rosmans’ are common at the

Chabad, in which Benjy and Hinda make personal outreach to Jews who feel alienated or confused about their faith. By demanding nothing in return, their service has been rewarded with the love and recognition of a growing congregation.

To purchase tickets for the May 9 anniversary celebration,

The Olde Stone Mill
Italian - American Grille
We are now taking reservations for

Mother’s Day - May 12
Father’s Day - June 16

Happy Hour
Tuesdays-Fridays 4:30pm-7pm

1/2 price drinks for Ladies
and bar snacks available

*Gift cards make a wonderful
Mother's Day and Father's Day gift*

2 Scarsdale Road, Tuckahoe NY
Reservations: (914) 771-7661
www.TheOldeStoneMill.com