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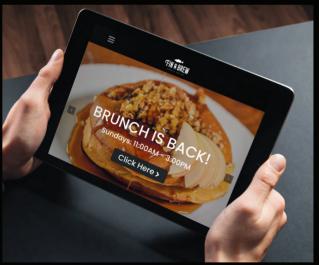




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contents october 2020



Due to the impact of the coronavirus, homes in our county have become a hot commodity as city-dwellers seek out suburban real estate. Follow along as we outline why homes here are increasingly attractive. By Amy R. Partridge

forefront of our national dialogue, and is sparking conversations here in Westchester, too. We collected essays from nine individuals representing different sectors of society to examine the outsize role race plays and where we can go from here.

Our county boasts an incredible number of activities, exhibitions, events, classes, and other opportunities that are completely free — everything from gratis yoga classes and doughnut festivals to dance instruction and music performances.

By Nick Brandi, Michelle Gillan Larkin, and Elizabeth Strattner

pandemic in the background, giving birth can be nervewracking. This comprehensive guide has all the important - and fun! - resources you'll need to know when you are expecting during this truly unexpected time.

By Stacey Pfeffer and Gina Valentino



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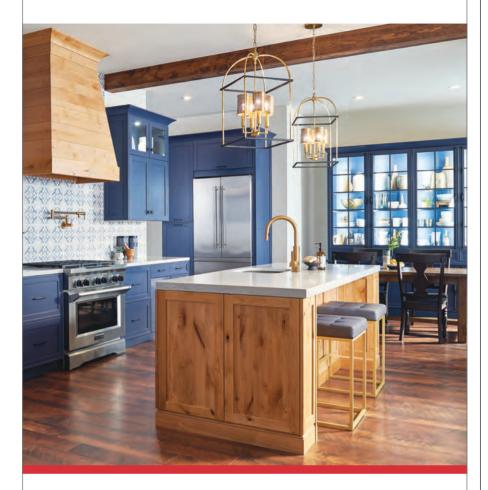


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In Black and White

hen I was a young adult, I had a job working at counter-service deli/ luncheonette. Customers would order at the counter, and if it was a to-stay order, they'd sit, and the food was brought out to them. During lunch service one day, there was a table of four Black men, one of whom said. "Ketchup?" after I had delivered their food to their table. "Sure," I replied, and went over to the self-service, barrel-shaped corner stand that had the condiments, napkins, etc., atop it and retrieved the bottle. No sooner had I placed the ketchup down than he said, without looking at me: "Hot sauce?" I brought the hot sauce over. Then, "Napkins," this time without the rising inflection that indicates a question. It was obvious this customer was playing fetch or such with me, so I replied, firmly: "If you need anything else, you can get it from that stand over there," while pointing to it. I don't remember seeing him get up for those napkins.

This was the only instance in my life when I could recall feeling that I was being treated poorly because of my skin color. Whether it was true or not, I'll never know. But that's how I felt.

Now, if I were to extrapolate this unpleasant encounter to a higher level of frequency and severity multiple times daily, weekly - would it approximate, in some sense, what it means to be a minority in America? If so, what, then, must daily existence be like for Black people in America, who are often at the center of the civil unrest that flares up in this country every decade or so?

A disproportionate percentage of Black Americans continue to face an uphill battle in many aspects of

American life — including employment, wealth accumulation, safety, education, home ownership, etc. — more than any other group (with the possible exception of Native Americans). Why?

The usual response in our polarized society is to say that it's either solely due to factors placed upon the Black community (systemic or institutional racism in housing, schools, the criminal justice system, etc.) or factors emanating from within the community (e.g., the high percentage of singleparent Black households, Black on Black crime, drug addiction, and so forth). But here's a more specific query to ponder: Does the struggle persist because too many in the majority for too long didn't, and perhaps still don't, want Blacks in their neighborhoods, offices, social circles, and more, in effect shutting out Blacks from meaningful opportunities? If so, is there a point at which a group that has experienced generational racism will turn away from that society because they don't believe that success is possible for them? It would not surprise me to learn that it is a combination of both.

As a magazine editor, my humble attempt at a positive contribution to our problem (and ves. any minority group struggling for recognition and equality within a larger group is every citizen's problem) is to present "Reflections on Race" (page 118), a collection of essays by local people from disparate sectors with thoughtful insights on the topic. Please read these essays with an open mind.

In the end, regardless of one's feelings and reactions, if too many of a given group are not participating in the promise of the American dream, how long is it before the dream becomes a myth?

John B. Turiano

John Bruno Turiano Editor



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sound off

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Frozen Addition

I don't understand how you could run a story about ice cream in Westchester ["The Cold and the Beautiful," August] and leave out The Hudson Creamery! They serve up the best ice cream in the county, and beyond. They offer such intriguing flavors such as apricot orange blossom, Thai peanut coconut, and lavender. But I have yet to try those, because I'm completely hooked on their intensely rich Killer Chocolate, and their refreshingly tart lemon sorbet, which is filled with puckery bits of lemon zest. Come to Peekskill!

-Barbara Lipp, Peekskill



September Reads

I know we are in the middle of a pandemic, but the September issue struck a new low for the amount and quality of the content. If I was looking for a lawyer, doctor, dentist, college, camp, real estate agent, or, gulp, a nursing home (Really?! In NY?!), this is the issue. But if I wanted to learn, explore, understand, or expand my knowledge about anything in Westchester, New York or the country, the brief snippets of content were just fluff pieces that provided little knowledge or entertainment. If ever we needed a little light reading, it's now!

-Mike Evans, Tarrytown



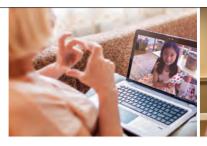




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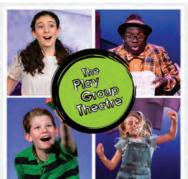
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sound off

Blast from the Past

Thank you to [Phil] Reisman for his beautiful story in the September issue [Back Talk about his former teacher, Shannon Turner-Porter, who just retired after 50 years of dedication to the teaching craft. Amidst all the insanity and uncertainty we are living through now, the piece proved heartwarming and inspirational, a true reason to smile for a change. As a retired principal and husband to a retired teacher, Turner-Porter deserves our admiration and respect.

—Jack Billig, Greenburgh

Informative Issue

I was very moved by your September 2020 [article], "Aging Out to Nowhere" [Issue department]. I have visited the Elizabeth Seton Children's Center in Yonkers and witnessed the vital and extraordinary care it provides for its residents. The article brought to light the plight of its residents who are "aging out" of the Center and their need for a young adult facility. After reading the article, I wanted to know what, if anything, a reader like myself can do to support Pat Tursi's [Elizabeth Seton's CEO] initiative to build a new facility to support their young adult residents.

-Wendy Pein, Harrison



FROM SOCIAL MEDIA:

Regarding our article in The Good Life department in the September issue about new business openings, closures, and transitions to online models:

Re-opening a Pilates studio exactly one month before a global pandemic has been no small feat. But the entire team has been thinking of innovative ways to keep bringing Pilates to the Hudson Valley. Feeling incredibly fortunate to be able to keep our doors open despite the many setbacks we have had to overcome in the last six months. Also feel that much of the studio's ability to keep moving forward has stemmed from the incredible support of all of our clients and staff!

−@scarsdalepilates 🥮

The opinions and statements expressed herein represent those of the submitters alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Westchester Magazine's publishers and editors. Selected material may be edited for space and $clarity\ but\ is\ not\ vetted\ for\ factual\ accuracy.$ Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

First things J. Co. St. Co. St

Paul Adler & Michelle Gillan Larkin

PEOPLE | POLITICS | BOOK CLUB | POLL | EXPRESS LANE



PEOPLE

At Home, Together

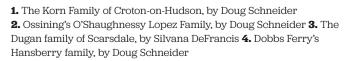
A trio of projects by area photographers shine a light on Westchester families at home during the pandemic.

PEOPLE

At Home, Together

cross our county, photographers have been inspired by the many families quarantining indoors over the last several months. In the process, they have created some captivating projects that shine a light on the day-to-day life of Westchesterites contending with the coronavirus pandemic. Doug Schneider is one such photographer, whose book Families for Humanity features portraits of individuals from throughout the county, while Julie Mak and Ingrid Ramos' Lake Katonah Front Porch Project cast a similar eye on the central Westchester hamlet. Additionally, photographer Silvana DeFrancis shot her own local families, all of which amount to a compelling portrait of pandemic living.















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5. Cornelius Graubner and Lucian Leung-Graubner of Katonah, by Julie Mak and Ingrid Ramos. 6. The Saltos Family of Dobbs Ferry, by Doug Schneider. **7.** Crestwood's DiMicelli family, by Silvana DeFrancis. 8. Kevin and Shari LeFauve of Katonah, by Julie Mak and Ingrid Ramos.



POLITICS

Life of the Party

The upstart SAM NY Political Partv attempts to bring a unifying message to the polls. By Maria Labriola

he SAM political party, or the Serve America Movement, was developed in New York in 2017 with the aim of being inclusive of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, allowing these usually disparate parties to come together to fix what SAM representatives view as the broken politics affecting New Yorkers.

There are 38 New York candidates running on the SAM party line in the November elections, including 15 for state Senate, 12 for the Assembly, seven for Congress, three village trustees, and one district attorney. Former Pelham mayor and SAM NY chairman Michael Volpe states, "SAM NY candidates for 2020 understand that now, more than ever, New Yorkers need to come together and try to solve the issues that face us, not through partisan-

ship, but through factbased solutions."

Working locally, starting in villages, towns, and counties across New York State to build a party of diverse voices and minds, SAM asserts it is attempting "to fix a system that has been



Scott Smith is running on the SAM ticket for NY's 18th Congressional District this November.

corrupted by the mainstream parties and the people who prop them up."

The party hopes to produce candidates that will reform New York State education, healthcare, political corruption, economic growth, and taxes. To have real reform, SAM NY aims to fix what they see as a culture of corruption, to revitalize the state economy, to address the high cost of living that disproportionately affects non-NYC residents, to improve educational opportunities and training agendas to make adults ready for the competitive workforce, and to create accountability while reducing healthcare costs.

The 2020 SAM NY candidates are of varying political stripes. "We sought out candidates who bring a record of accomplishment in their communities," continues Volpe, "but we also had candidates reach out with an interest in running on the SAM line based on what we represent. Our 38 candidates are all highly qualified for the offices they seek. Each of them is committed to service based on a principle of working with others regardless of political affiliation."

Since SAM NY 2020 candidates and officials aim to commit themselves to objective and verifiable standards of transparency, the party will be releasing a rating rubric called a SAM Score.

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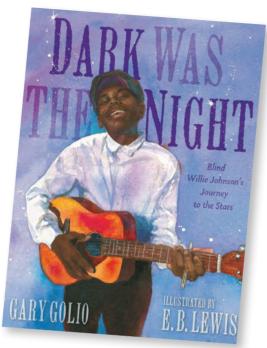
BOOK CLUB

Stories of the Human Spirit

One local author explores the inspiring yet troubled life of blues legend Willie Johnson, while another shines a light on Westchester residents dealing with COVID-19.

Dark Was the Night: Blind Willie Johnson's Journey to the Stars

NY Times bestselling author Gary Golio and Caldecott Honoree E.B. Lewis bring the moving story of blues artist Blind Willie Johnson to light in this poignant yet uplifting children's picture book. Through the use of enchanting prose and galactic illustrations, Golio and Caldecott explore how Johnson touched humanity through his music despite his troubled past and blindness. Johnson sold thousands of records in the mid-20th century, but his records and story are often forgotten (though his hapless history was recounted in an episode of TV's The West Wing). Dark Was the Night resurrects in words and images a blues legend and tragic figure whose music and melancholy tale deserve to ripple through our culture for generations to come. 32 pgs, Penguin/Nancy Paulsen, 2020, \$17.99 (hrd)





Families for Humanity: A Westchester **Community Stands Together to Feed Neighbors in Crisis**

Families for Humanity is a photo documentary by photographer Doug Schneider that chronicles the spirit of Westchester residents in the throes of a global pandemic. Schneider's book provides images of 122 families spanning 15 Westchester communities, displaying differences in size, culture, ethnicities, and ages. Schneider's moving photography displays an array of individuals experiencing a shared sense of uncertainty and discomfort. All the proceeds from this book are earmarked for On the Line, a local organization that engages area restaurants to help feed those struggling with food insecurity.

88 pgs, Self-Published, \$50 (hrd) -ML

EDITORS' OBSESSIONS We Can't Shut Up

About...



In a scrumptious collision of mighty, local food forces, Ardsley's L'inizio, among the county's best Italian eateries, is teaming up with the ever-Hastings-on-Hudson to spread the sweet, sweet word to an even larger audience. The debut offering is Penny Lick's esp truffle gelato, as yummy as it sounds, nut-free (like all of Penny Lick's flavors) and available only at L'inizio!

—Nick Brandi, Senior Editor



The culinary heroes over at Jean-George's <mark>Inn at P</mark>o ge have turned to-go food into a fine art with their curl pick-up program, in which a person takes your name once your car pulls up before ferrying the preordered, piping-hot fare directly into your backseat. While the restaurant has recently instituted limited indoor seating, this will likely remain an excellent way to dine through the colder months.

–Paul Adler, Associate Editor

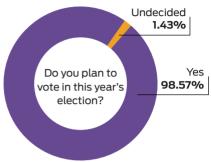
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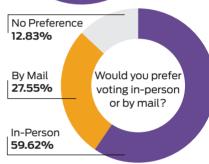
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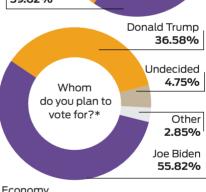
Every presidential election draws plenty of attention. but this year's

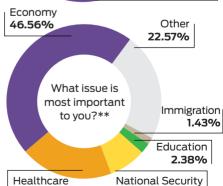


ballot seems to be particularly fraught with high-stakes issues at the front of constituents' minds. In an anonymous, online poll, we asked more than 400 WM readers where they stand on the nominees and what issues matter most.









*Note: Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen received 4 votes; the Green Party's Howie Hawkins received 2 votes: Kanve West received 1 vote. **Note: With 95 total responses, the "Other" category received the second-biggest bloc of votes. Of these responses, the most common were related to character and/or leadership of the officeholder; "All of the Above"; race relations and civil rights; the environment; COVID-19 management; and gun-related issues.

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first things first

EXPRESS LANE

Free help for kids (parents and teachers, too) still adjusting to school in the COVID era is available in an e-book by Adam Block, PhD, a professor at New York Medical College in Valhalla. Kelly Goes Back to School: **More Science on Coronavirus** explains the science behind masks. handwashing, and distancing at school. Available @ www.kellystayshome.com

Grown-ups on scooters is becoming a thing in Yonkers, with hundreds of electric scooters deployed to fuel socially distant. emission-free travel. Similar to the Lime bike-share program, these **e-scooters** by Bird are secured via app, with rent starting at a buck.

Things that go bump in the night at the **New Rochelle Train Station** are not (necessarily) ghosts but more likely Venezuelan artist-inresidence Miguel Braceli, who is living on the station's second floor while creating a community-art installation as part of the city's reimagining of existing assets.

Echoes of "GOOOAAL!" are being heard at **Yonkers' Tibbets** Brook Park and Saxon Woods Park. in White Plains, as play has resumed on four synthetic-turf soccer fields, part of a \$5M+ renovation that included installation of shock-pad bases to prevent player injury.

The bridges of Westchester County are getting a \$115 million state-funded facelift. Two bridges on the Saw Mill in Pleasantville and two bridges and a large culvert on the Hutch between Mount Vernon and Pelham are being replaced, and a bridge on U.S. 1 in Mamaroneck is being upgraded. Also underway: drainage fixes and reconstruction of flood-prone roadways.

And, the best place to live in Westchester is (drumroll. please)... Bronxville! Data science firm Niche considered crime, schools, activities, and cost of living in its 2020 Best Places to Live report, putting Hartsdale, Edgemont, Chappagua, Scarsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Larchmont, Dobbs Ferry, Rye, and Ardsley in the county top 10, too. As a county, Westchester ranked No. 96 nationally and No. 1 among 56 counties in the state for a place to raise a family, public schools, and health.

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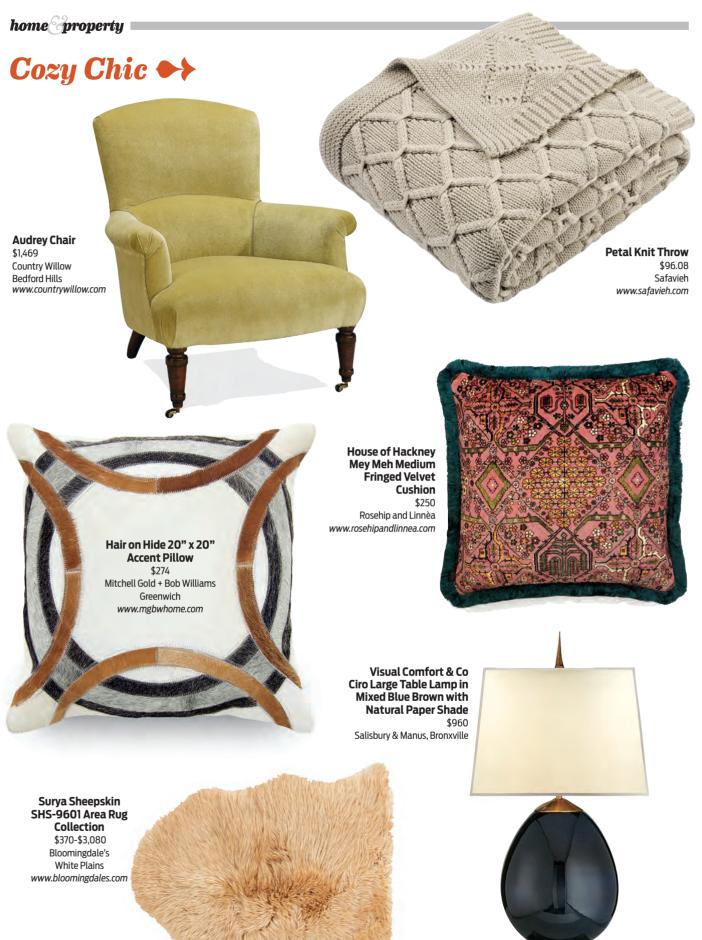
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TRENDING

Cozy Chic

Plush accessories in rich fabrics will help you settle in for the colder days ahead. Turn the page for more.

By Gina Valentino



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Gorgeous Open Colonial | Chappaqua, NY \$1,675,000 | 4 BR, 3.1 BA | **Web# H6047370**

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Room to Work, Live and Play | New Rochelle, NY \$1,279,000 | 4 BR, 3.1 BA | **Web# H6060533**

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Fun in the Fall

Extend time outdoors in your backyard even as the temps drop.

ummer might be over, but Jess Zavaglia, co-principal of Larchmont-based landscape development and design firm Zavaglia Associates, shares how to enjoy your outdoor living space well into the fall.

"I always design so that you have the opportunity to enjoy your space at any given time. A way to do that is to create visual interest hotspots in your garden," she says. Incorporate colorful plants in the fall for a pop of color, Zavaglia advises, adding, "Certain plants have beautiful bark and have different architectural features."

With everyone craving extend time outdoors this year due to the COVID pandemic, Zavaglia says she has been creating spaces for clients with portable firepits and portable furniture. "People are moving their spaces

around all the time," she notes. Zavaglia will incorporate an ottoman outside, using it as a seating area, or as a place to put a tray with s'mores. For privacy, she suggests purchasing a pergola: "They give you some shade but they also give you an opportunity to create an outdoor living space with awnings and lighting features." She has also been installing heat lamps in pergolas, lanterns in trees and in sitting areas, and adding café lights. "We create these little vignettes," she explains.

Zavaglia says that lighting plays a big part of extending your indoor/outdoor spaces since the backyard gets darker earlier in the fall and winter. Choose a heating lamp that will provide a lot of heat, or pick one for visual interest, with minimal heat, she says, noting that, "You have to look at how much heat it conducts."

The mom of four shares, "When I'm outside enjoying my space and my kids are happy, nothing makes me happier — and that they're off the electronics." As families have been spending a lot of time together lately, Zavaglia recognizes that kids want their individual space. She suggests adding an old swing to a large tree or creating an interestbased area. "We've been doing a lot of basketball courts. We built a hockey rink [for a client] that he could use all year round. [For] a kid that loves science and nature, you can [create] a science exploratory garden," she suggests. Zavaglia says spaces like these and family-friendly activities, like s'mores night around the portable firepit, can keep everyone entertained outdoors in the seasons ahead. -GV

BARGAIN HUNT

Affordable in Armonk

This is Westchester, where a home doesn't have to be "cheap" to be a bargain. By Amy R. Partridge

Armonk Median Home Price: \$1,070,000 (July 2020)

The Bargain: \$765,000

26 Nichols Rd, Armonk

3 BR, 2.2 BA; 2,220 sq. ft.; .97 acres; \$12,187 estimated taxes





What You Get:

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

This shingled Dutch Colonial offers great curb appeal, ample outdoor space, new patio and driveway, and an updated kitchen, plus low taxes. The home is located on a quiet street, but close to town and transportation.

What You'll Need to Do:

Learn to love wood paneling or do a lot of painting or remodeling! While the home is clean and move-in ready, the abundance of oak wood will be a turn off for some and most buyers will also want to renovate the bathrooms.

Listed by Ann Putalik and Judy Kitt, Douglas Elliman

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Amy R.

A Socially Distant Staycation

Peekskill's The Abbey Inn & Spa offers a cozy spa, decadent dining, and stellar Hudson River views. **By Gina Valentino**



TRAVEL

→ A Socially **Distant Staycation**

s COVID-19 disrupted many of this year's plans, vacations for the rest of 2020 might look a little different. If you're wary of traveling far and in need of some safe R&R, Peekskill's new and much-anticipated The Abbey Inn & Spa (900 Fort Hill Rd, Peekskill; 914.736.1200; www.theabbeyinn.com) is a close-to-home, luxe day-trip or overnight destination. The boutique hotel, Apropos Restaurant & Bar, and spa opened earlier this year in the former Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary's Convent, which dates back to the late

Spend a relaxing morning at the 2,500 sq. ft. spa, which features four treatment rooms, ensuring a private, socially distant experience. Services include The Abbey Inn Cornerstone Massage (incorporating Swedish massage and lava stones), the Soul Revival Body Wrap, and the Mother-to-Be Massage. (Facials were not available at press time due to COVID-19.) Follow your spa experience with a trip to the hair salon, which services one client at a time.

Take a stroll around the meticulously landscaped grounds. Perched atop a hill, the property boasts expansive Hudson River views.

Come lunch or dinnertime, visit Apropos, the on-premises, farm-totable, Mediterranean-inspired restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating in a well-maintained garden courtyard. Standout dishes include the charred peaches served with toasted hazelnuts and whipped ricotta, and the basted, aged rib-eye.

If you choose to spend the night, the inn features 42 rooms, 17 of which have spectacular water views. The property's architecture transports you to a different era: an original spiral staircase in the hotel and stained-glass windows and hand-painted wall coverings in the former chapel are complemented by modern amenities, like touch-free charging stations. Luxury suites, including a bridal suite, are available. Fall rates from \$279 per night.







Top: The inn features 42 rooms, including suites with Hudson River views; Above: The Cornerstone Room events space; Below: The on-premises spa features four treatment rooms; Left: Apropos restaurant.



WELLNESS

High-Quality Healing

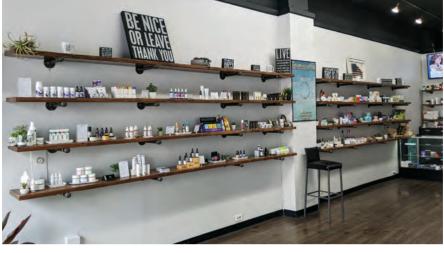
Popular NYC-based CBD retailer opens in White Plains.

lot of confusion and misinformation have surrounded the cannabis industry. Recognizing this, Steven Phan and Waseem Ghattas opened New York City-based Come Back Daily in 2018 to educate and share the holistic benefits of CBD (the non-psychoactive cannabis derivative). In July, they opened the shop's first Westchester location, in the spot that formerly housed White Plains Vapors (210 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.358.9777; www.comebackdaily.co). After the recent vape health crisis, White Plains Vapors' co-owner Mike Bowers wanted to move his business in a new direction, and partnered with the popular NYC CBD retailer.

The idea behind Come Back Daily is exactly what the name says: for clients to return often for safe, high-quality cannabis products. The minimalistic and chic shop provides an upscale, educational experience, and offers a highly curated collection of CBD brands and products, including sprays, candy, tinctures, and balms. Personalized customer service is offered to ensure customers have an informative experience.

Above: CBD retailer Come Back Daily opened in White Plains in July. Right: Co-founder Steven Phan and a customer at the shop's Discovery Bar.

The shop's Discovery Bar offers samples. Phan explains that many customers are reluctant to purchase CBD, which can have a hefty price tag, so Come Back Daily offers the ability to try the products first. Come Back Daily is committed to dispelling the stigma of the CBD industry by educating each customer who walks in, of all age ranges, on the benefits of CBD: helping pain, inflammation, anxiety, and seizures. Phan intends Come Back Daily to serve as a transparent resource to educate the local community about cannabidiol, while helping customers experience the mental and physical healing properties of CBD. -GV





BEAUTY

Get Glam at Home

New Rochelle entrepreneur offers mobile manicure service to Westchester.



or those who might not yet feel comfortable stepping foot into a nail salon because of the pandemic but still yearn for professional pampering: enter ManiPlease (www.maniplease.com).

New Rochelle resident Sharice Pegram founded ManiPlease, a mobile manicure service, last year after having a baby. She wanted her nails perfected, but it was difficult for her to leave the house with a nursing baby to care for - and her experience sparked a business idea. With so many still sheltering in place and others seeking socially distant and safe beauty treatments, Pegram's appointment-only business has boomed in the era of COVID-19.

Licensed nail technicians will come to your house (or business or event) and offer classic and gel manicures and pedicures, using vegan and animal-cruelty-free nail polish and single-use tools.



Nontoxic, water-based nail polishes are available for manicures for kids. Technicians are equipped with face masks, shields or goggles, gloves, disinfectant solutions, and will administer temperature checks.

Technicians primarily service Lower and Central Westchester and Fairfield County. For more info, reach out to ManiPlease, at info@maniplease.com. -GV w



As Good as Dunn

Youth advocate Joanne Dunn is ushering "female power" to a shelter she might've called home if her difficult childhood hadn't taken a positive turn.

BY MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN

or the past two decades, Joanne Dunn has worked to improve the lives of troubled youths in Westchester, making her more than qualified to serve as the first woman to be named executive director of The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester since its inception, in 1975. But her résumé says only so much about why she is the best candidate to head up the Mount Vernonbased organization that functions as a homelike alternative to incarceration for young adult men. "I had all the ingredients to be a resident myself."

A lifelong Peekskill resident, Dunn was 4 years old when her father went to prison for just shy of three decades. Her mother, an alcoholic and victim of domestic violence, was unable to maintain the family home, so Dunn and her four siblings found themselves homeless, living in a shelter.

At 13, Dunn and her siblings went to live with their grandmother, whom she lovingly calls "the anchor of our family." But when that port in the storm lost her home and job as an off-the-books seamstress, the children were separated, and Dunn, then a senior in high school, was uprooted again. But this time, she landed on solid ground. "I was placed in the home of a woman who would become my saving grace."

"It doesn't matter what's behind you; it's what's in front of you and what you want your story to be."

That woman was Valerie Swan, who "challenged me to think," says Dunn, and whom she thinks of to this day as a second mother. "Valerie wouldn't let me have a pity party for myself," recalls Dunn. "She pushed me to finish school, go to college, get a job. She made sure I was in good circles of people, who could influence me in the right ways."

Dunn did finish high school, and she went on to Benedict College in South Carolina on a nearly full math scholarship. "I loved math, but I really felt called to work with people whose paths mirrored mine." And so, after graduation, she took a job as a volunteer assistant at the Peekskill Youth Bureau, where Swan was executive director.

Dunn moved on and up in the world of youth advocacy and empowerment, settling into a 12-year stint at Westhab, a Yonkers social services and community development organization, where she eventually became assistant vice president of youth and employment services.



Seen here with husband Darryl Francis and sons (left to right) Montana and Jaylen, it's a bright road ahead for Dunn's growing family.

In January, just as the coronavirus was picking up speed, Dunn stepped into her groundbreaking role at The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, with a mission to not only provide a home for the 18- to 21-year-old offenders who were sent there instead of jail or prison but also to address their emotional and educational needs and guide them on the road to better lives. "This is personal to me," says Dunn. "I want to be the caring adult in their lives, the one pushing them to overcome their situations... just like Valerie Swan did for me."

"My husband and I thought we'd fill the gaps for these kids in need, but they filled the gap for us."

And because she knows firsthand what it's like to live in a shelter and survive a short lifetime of adversity, Dunn believes she can help the young men in her program "beat the odds," just as she did, with a helping hand from someone who cares. "I want to restore and transform these young men and give them new hope and energy that there is life beyond the shelter," a mission she drives home on a constant basis.

"I talk with them every morning, and I say goodnight before I leave," says Dunn. "I carve out time to sit with them, do activities together, and do some thinking out loud with them about what they feel they need to he successful"

Swan is not at all surprised that Dunn is so hands-on at the shelter. "Her heart is committed to helping anyone who needs help," says Swan, a Croton resident who retired from the Peekskill Youth Bureau in 2015. "It's her life's journey, and I don't think she'd be happy doing anything else."

A woman of faith and a firm believer in "the power of restoration and second chances," Dunn reminds the young men in her care that "it doesn't matter what's behind you; it's what's in front of you and what you want your story to be," impressing on them that "they have the power to change their narratives," and she is living proof of that.

Dunn also wants to help them "channel pain into purpose," which is exactly what she set out to do by becoming a foster parent not long after suffering two late-term prenatal losses. "My husband and I thought we'd fill the gaps for these kids in need, but they filled the gap for us."

The couple recently adopted a 4-year-old boy they had fostered and are in the process of adopting a 2-year-old foster girl, which, when combined with a 6-year-old biological son, makes for a full house.

As for how this 41-year-old working mom juggles it all: "I have a wonderful husband, who told me: 'You go do you and be you. I'll step up with the kids." A grand gesture on his part, since after 20 years of working side by side with at-risk youth around the county, Dunn means it when she says, "I have hundreds of children I think of as my own."



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THE FACE OF FAST CASUAL ITALIAN

Alessandro Crocco is reinventing the way you look at Italian food. Early this year, he opened Papi', named after a combination of the two main menu items — pasta and pinsa — in the heart of White Plains. The concept combines high-tech gadgets and authentic Italian ingredients, producing a delicious, fresh meal in minutes! The menu is a customizable variety of fresh pastas, pinsa (Roman-style pizza), lasagna, salads, and more, catering to every appetite! If you love Italian, you'll love Papi'!

"We are returning to a true, Italian way of cooking," Crocco says. "Sure, we're working in a much faster environment, but we're focusing on quality, fresh ingredients, and keeping things simple. It makes for a much more flavorful meal!"

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Pictured: Elizabeth Lulgjuraj, Design Consultant





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From left: Anthony Torchia, president; Anna Torchia, business manager; and Anthony Alfred Torchia, operations manager





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Pictured: Seated Left to Right: James R. Denlea & Jeffrey I. Carton Standing Left to Right: Robert J. Berg, Craig Cepler, Amber Wallace, John Leifert & Joseph Licare



THE FACE OF "COMMUNITY LENDING. HERE TO HELP YOU"



The lending team at The Westchester Bank, the leading community bank in the county, is always here for YOU! That's especially true during challenging times like those we face today. Our primary goal remains to meet the ever-changing needs of each customer in a respectful, professional, and always friendly manner.

When the pandemic hit, the first thing our lending team did was pick up the phone to call every single customer. Just two questions were posed: "How are you doing?" and "What can we do to help?" The Bank continues to deliver with both speed and flexibility by adjusting loans to best meet customers' current circumstances. At the same time, The Westchester Bank has already helped save over 7,000 jobs around Westchester through access to the PPP program. This is The Westchester Bank difference, best summed up by our guiding principle: "Banking Made Personal."



The Westchester Bank Lending Team, from left to right: Orlando Gonzalez, VP, Commercial Lender; Lisa Conner, VP, Commercial Lender; Bill Merz, VP, Commercial Lender; Jay Serniak, VP, Commercial Lender; John Tolomer, President & CEO;
Ryan Muller, VP, Commercial Lender; and Frank Pastirchak, VP, Commercial Lender.

FACES OF WESTCHESTER 2020



PARTNER CONTENT



What do Amazon founder Jeff Bezos; celebrity chef and author Julia Child; Grammy award-winning violinist Joshua Bell; rapper, singer, record producer, and entrepreneur Sean "P. Diddy" Combs; diarist and Holocaust victim Anne Frank, and political activist, author, and lecturer Helen Keller have in common? They, among countless other innovative game-changers, were products of the Montessori child-centered approach to education. As Westchester's highest quality full-time and year-round authentic Montessori School, The Nurtury Montessori School focuses on the needs of each individual child in uniquely small class sizes. In addition to the Montessori curriculum based on self-directed, hands-on learning and collaborative play, the Nurtury offers Infant Massage, Itsy Bitsy Yoga, Spanish Lessons, Music Together, and outstanding outdoor activity spaces. Visit us to learn more!

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For more than 20 years, Todd Cushner has been helping individuals, families, and small businesses restructure and emerge from debt. The Law Office of Todd Cushner & Associates PC has a proven reputation for taking on the more difficult cases that need special care, as well as simple Chapter 7 procedures, which offer the unique opportunity to completely eliminate all debts. With a friendly and caring staff, clients can expect to be treated with respect, dignity, and compassion from beginning to end. The law office not only helps people eliminate their debts, but also succeed in challenging or completely eliminating older tax obligations. Bankruptcy is a power move designed to help Americans in financial need get the help they need, when they need it, and without losing their jobs, their possessions, or their dignity. Contact the Law Office of Todd Cushner & Associates for a bankruptcy consultation at no charge. You won't be disappointed.

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Pictured: Todd Cushner, Esq.



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From left: David Singer, co-president; RobiDog, mascot; and Daniel Singer, co-president, photographed at InterCounty Supply



Your safety is our #1 priority. Leros Point to Point is one of the largest fleet-owned executive transportation companies in the U.S. Headquartered in Valhalla and founded in 1983, Leros has a global network with vehicles in over 700 cities worldwide. As an industry leader, we have introduced new sanitization standards to minimize risk and enhance the safety of our clients anywhere their business travel takes them. We are monitoring the health of our chauffeurs on a daily basis, checking their temperatures, as well as providing them with gloves and masks. The chauffeurs are wiping down all high-touch points after every ride. We are disinfecting all vehicles with EPA-approved chemicals and have installed a soft clear film safety divider in each vehicle for added protection. For more information on what we are doing to ensure the safety of our clients, visit our website LerosLimo.com.

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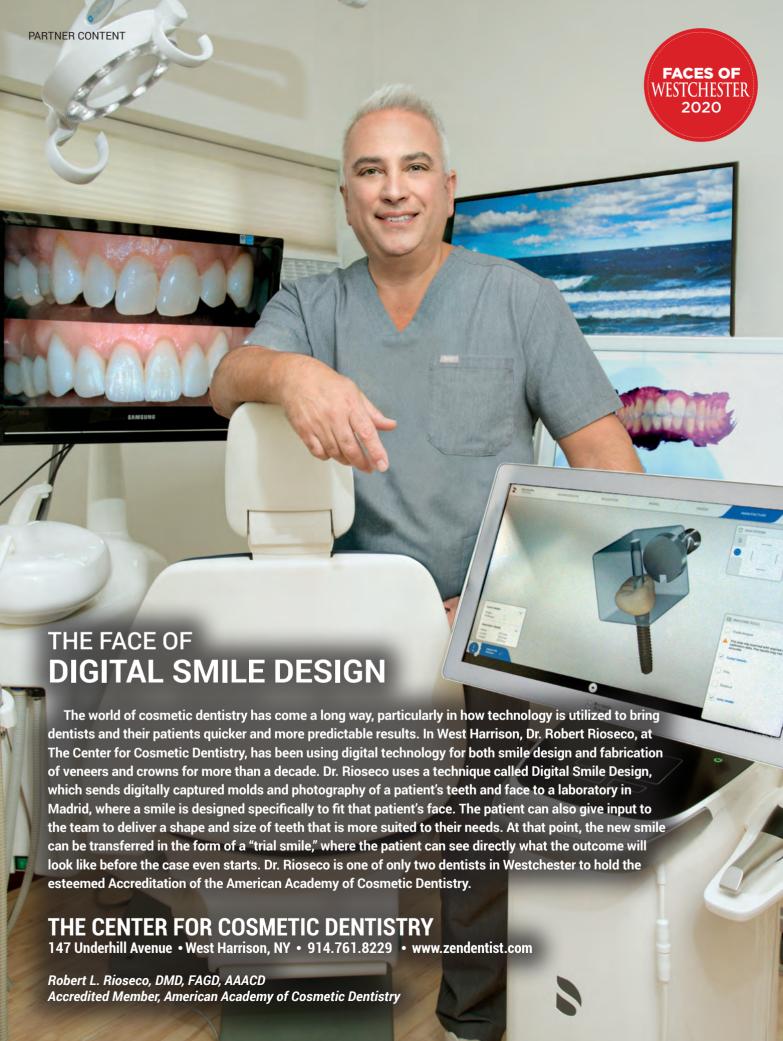
Experience the bank that everyone is talking about. The First Bank of Greenwich is a True Community Bank. where you'll find access to our CEO and team of exceptional professionals with decades of banking proficiency. We are headquartered in Greenwich, CT, with branches in Port Chester, NY, as well as Cos Cob and Stamford, CT.

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Pictured, from left to right: Emily Newcamp, VP Retail Bank Manager; Judy Meturi, AVP Branch Manager; Pamela Cotroneo, Assistant Branch Manager; Kevin O'Connell, VP Commercial Lending Officer; Evan Corsello, EVP Chief Lending Officer; Frank J. Gaudio, President and CEO





Ivy Rehab is a network of industry leading Physical and Occupational Therapy providers located conveniently throughout Westchester County. With decades of experience and clinicians specializing in the conservative, as well as post-operative management of a multitude of conditions, our team of experts strive to inspire and enable our community to live life to fullest. Using our evidence based, collaborative, and individualized approach to patient care, we will help you get back to work, family, and all of the other things that bring you joy in your life.

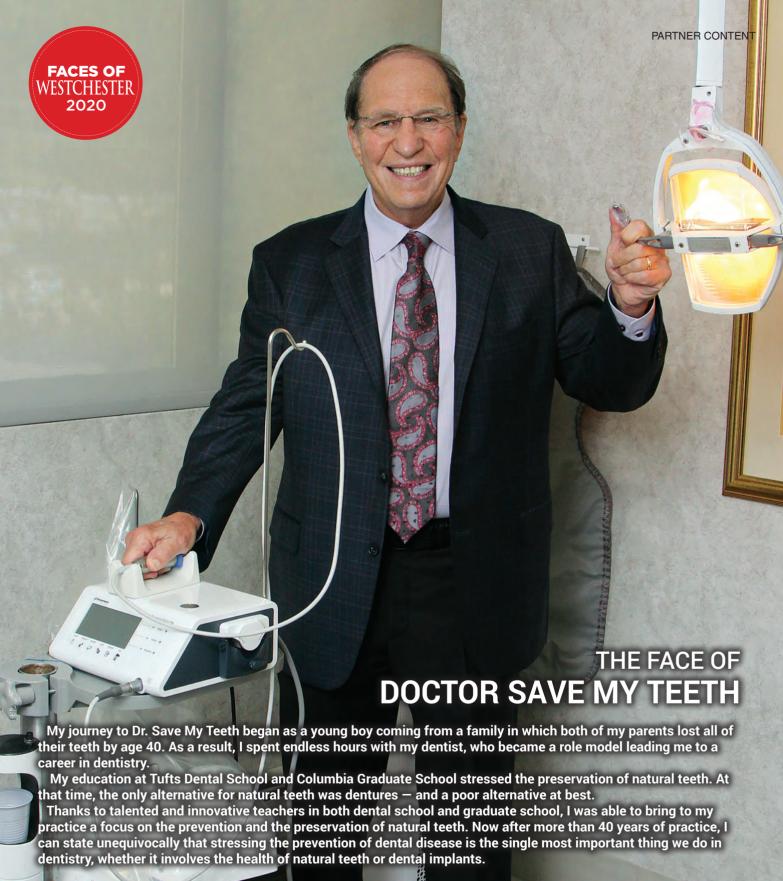
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Pictured left to right: Erica Feynman Aisner, Julie Cvek Curley, Dawn Kirby











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Pictured: Jesus Lopez, Founder and CEO

GOLDSCHMIDT &

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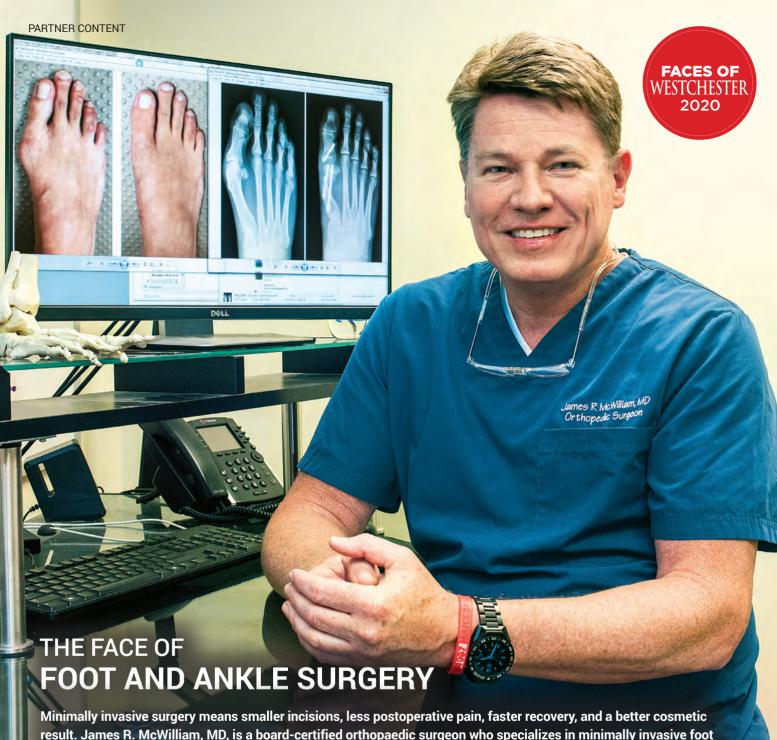
THE FACE OF 'TIL LAW DO YOU PART

Whether pertaining to the negotiation and preparation of prenuptial agreements or issues arising during a dissolution of a relationship, be it divorce or separating partners or parents, Goldschmidt & Genovese, LLP ("G&G") offers the skills and compassion necessary to achieve client-based resolutions. G&G approaches each matter with attention to the client's particular circumstances and needs, providing practical and reasoned guidance and counsel. With a variety of professional tools, extensive knowledge of local and international law, and vast experience, partners Kathleen Donelli, Dolores Gebhardt, Donna M. Genovese, and Sylvia Goldschmidt, and Chief Counsel, Hon. Sondra Miller (ret.), help clients successfully navigate complex cases and issues. Their extensive experience in traditional representation (negotiation and litigation), as well as in collaborative law, mediation, and arbitration, make the attorneys of G&G uniquely qualified to achieve the best outcome for their clients. All four principals have been recognized as Super Lawyers for many years; attorneys Goldschmidt and Genovese have been recognized by Best Lawyers in America year after year; and the firm has been honored as a Best Lawyers — Tier 1 Best Law Firm.

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JAMES R. McWILLIAM, MD

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Shown, from left: Owners Casarra Cover and Jonathan Cover



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6 Railroad Way • Larchmont, NY 914.715.7359 • www.performbyprime.com Left: Sarah Warshowsky @makeupandmuscless Left, middle: Ivan Tchatchouwo @ivantchatchouwo Center: Owner Michael C. Petrina @mcpetrina Right, middle: Jacob Zemer @jacobzemer Right: Cedrick McFadden @ced.mcfadden

THE FACE OF ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH

FACES OF WESTCHESTER 2020

At ColumbiaDoctors Scarsdale, we provide the top-quality OB/GYN care patients expect from Columbia University physicians, right here in Westchester. Our patients receive individualized, compassionate, comprehensive care from an all-female group of physicians in a safe and comfortable setting, and enjoy access to all the resources and multidisciplinary expertise of our world-class medical center. Our team offers a full range of women's health services, from pregnancy planning and prenatal care to well-woman visits, menopause care, and treatment of a variety of gynecologic conditions.





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Cynthia Petfield is a renowned colorist, recognized for her passion and talent for hair, beauty, and fashion. Cynthia has an eye for creating natural-looking Balayage and complementary tones to make your hair shine and shimmer. Believing that hair color is a woman's most powerful accessory, Cynthia launched her career in Rye and trained extensively throughout Westchester before deciding to return to Rye and open her own salon, REVEAL Hair Studio, located just outside the heart of Rye on Purchase Street. With training that includes the L'Oreal Institute in New York City, Cynthia earned the knowledge and title of L'Oreal Master Balayage Artist. The REVEAL team takes pride in being trained in some of the industry's top luxury hair products, including but not limited to, R+Co and Christophe Robin. The exclusive Christophe Robin product line features powerful and rare ingredients that produce innovative and unique textures with long-lasting results. The R+Cos line focuses on "hairdresser driven formulas" that work for everyone. At REVEAL, we only use the best of the best!

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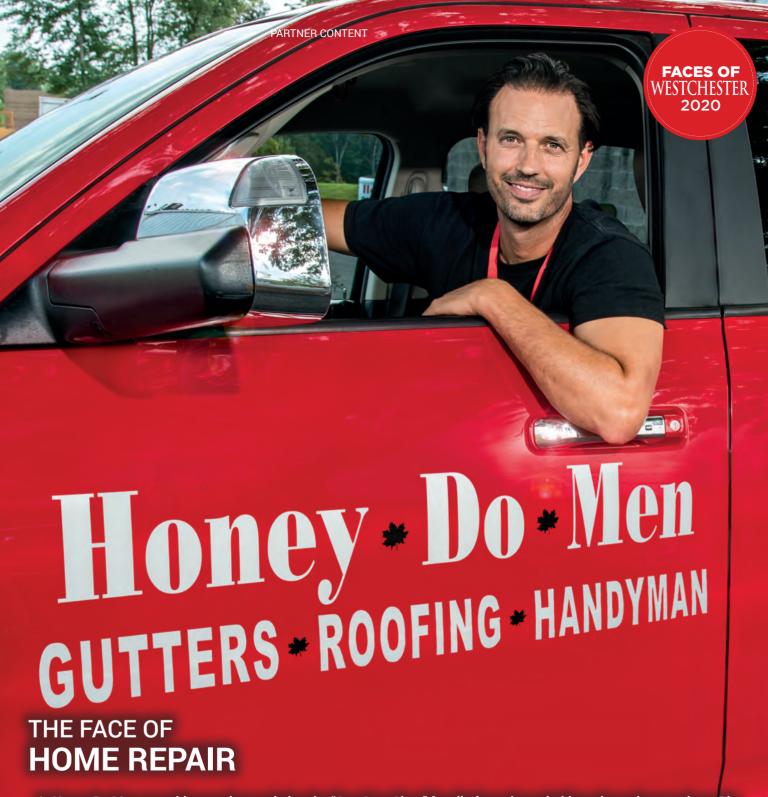
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With over 25 years of experience in the financial industry and 10 years of experience within the insurance industry, Julie Simmons has cultivated the knowledge and skillset to help Westchester residents and businesses better understand their coverage options — whether that be for life, auto, home, recreational, motorcycle, business insurance, and more. As a New York resident since 1985, Julie Simmons is proud to serve White Plains, NY, and the surrounding areas as your local Farmers Insurance® Agent. From the beginning, she has strived to provide outstanding customer service, and to educate each client on their specific coverage options. And today, as the uncompromising face of personal asset protection, she works tirelessly to assure your property and business, so that you don't have to. Feel free to stop by her office, conveniently located right on Route 9A and less than a quarter of a mile away from Interstate 287. You can also give her a call today at 914.425.5992, and she'll be happy to ensure that this process is simple and personalized to help you select the most comprehensive, cost-effective solution.

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HONEY DO MEN





At Yost & Campbell, we know comfort — for over 80 years, we've helped keep you comfortable for generation after generation, satisfying all your heating and cooling needs. We're finding in 2020, comfort in your home is more important now than ever! Our customers are spending more time at home and even in the toughest of times, you can count on us. We're here to respond to your emergency service calls, new installations, and turning the lights on when they go dark. We're backed by countless five-star reviews and have received Con-Edison's Top Contractor in Westchester award for eight consecutive years. Whether you need a tune-up, emergency service, or a new installation, call Yost & Campbell for all your heating, cooling, and generator needs!

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From left: Dr. Evan Chafitz, Dr. Timothy Leung, and Dr. Matthew Lalli



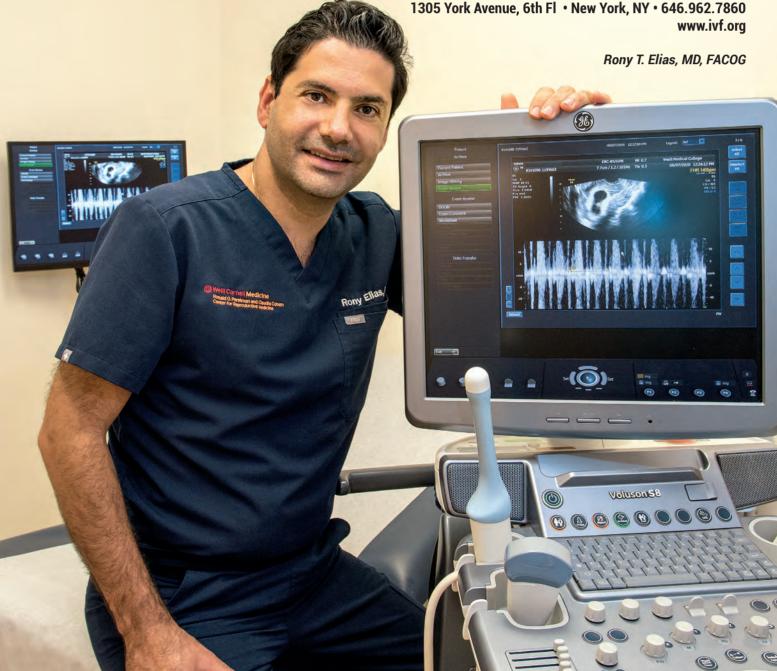


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Pregnancy and the birth of a healthy baby are two of life's most precious miracles. At The Center for Reproductive Medicine (CRM), Dr. Rony Elias specializes in making the dream of parenthood a reality for couples experiencing infertility. Dr. Elias' clinical expertise also has contributed to the enormous success of the Center's pregnancy rates, allowing thousands of women who never thought they could carry a child to become mothers. While Dr. Elias offers the full range of reproductive treatments, including intrauterine insemination (IUI), in-vitro fertilization (IVF), and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), he also has a special interest in minimally invasive gynecologic and infertility surgery (endometriosis and uterine abnormalities). Additionally, to accommodate COVID-19 safety measures, he offers virtual consultations as well as immediate rooming in order to avoid waiting before appointments. Dr. Elias' mission is to provide each patient with a holistic experience by combining innovative clinical expertise with a compassionate understanding of patients' desires and expectations.

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The Liberty Montessori Schools are celebrating 50 years of educational excellence. Liberty's state-of-the-art Montessori environments, which were established 1971 on Riverside Drive in Manhattan and on Beechmont Drive in New Rochelle and later extended to a waterfront location on Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck, implement a "whole child" Montessori approach.

French, Japanese, Spanish, Chinese immersion classes, and unparalleled chess, music, and art programs are some of the many unique offerings provided. "Our graduates and parents are our testimonials," says Director Pushpa R. Jagoda, MS, PhD, praising her staff — most of whom have served for over 20 years — with amazing dedication. Liberty graduates continue to endorse Liberty for the education of their own children year after year.

LIBERTY MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

155 Beechmont Dr • New Rochelle • 914.636.3461 631 West Boston Post Rd • Mamaroneck • 914.777.1382 www.libertymontessorischools.com Pictured, from left: Anjoli Jagoda, JD, MB.A, Montessori Diploma AMS; and Pushpa Jagoda, PhD, MSc ECEd, Montessori Diplomat.



Even with almost two decades of experience, we are still proactively seeking ways to improve our services for the benefit of each facility we service. To aid clients with their disinfection plan against COVID-19, we have created INTEGRATED CLEAN™, which is comprised of a multi-level disinfection system. Each level is designed to fit the needs of clients, delivering and exceeding expectations. With our INTEGRATED CLEAN™, facility managers can focus on other critical areas of operations while our disinfection specialists work to protect their facility. Together, we can protect the health and well-being of your building occupants. WE CLEAN FOR HEALTH!

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Pictured, from left to right: Kahleel Neil, Director of Digital Marketing; Stephany Cruz, Director of Finance; Viviana Espinoza, Chief Financial Officer; Christian Espinoza, President & CEO; Ivan Sein, Vice-President of Operations; Daniel Mazon, Regional Operational Manager; Paola Garcia, Director of Internal Operations; Ariel Diaz, Area Manager & Disinfection Specialist.







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WHEN IT'S TIME TO SAY "I DO!"

Local couples planning their dream-come-true wedding turn to



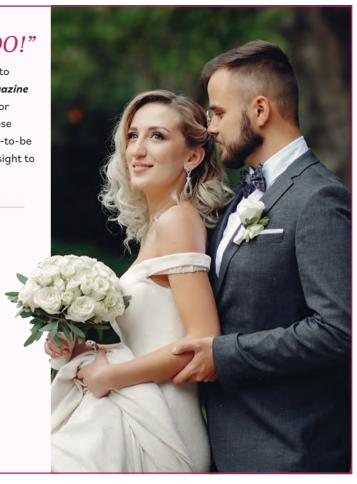
Westchester/Hudson Valley Weddings Magazine and Westchester Magazine.com/weddings for tips, trends and ideas from the experts. These sophisticated and savvy brides and grooms-to-be and their families have the affluence and insight to seek the best local products and services.

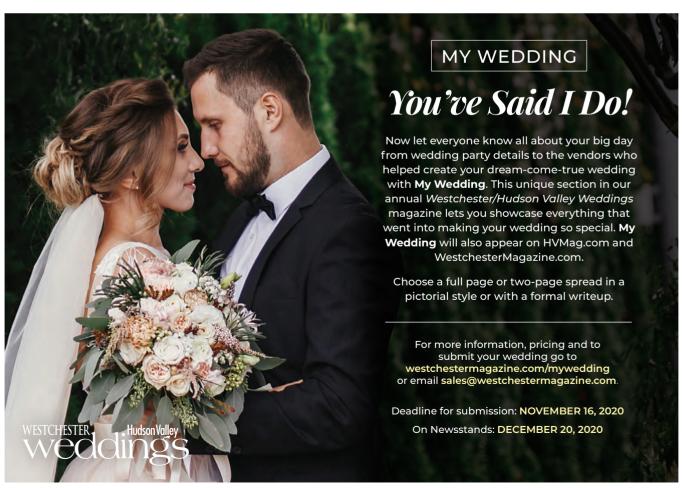
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SUPPORT CONNECTION, INC.

BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER SUPPORT

You've just learned you have breast or ovarian cancer. Your doctor has explained things but you feel overwhelmed. Perhaps you've spoken to a friend who's been through cancer but their situation isn't quite the same. Or maybe you've completed your treatment, but still have emotions you don't know how to deal with. Where can you turn?

SUPPORT CONNECTION IS THERE FOR YOU

Support Connection is a 501(c)(3) not-forprofit organization founded in 1996 that provides free, confidential support services to women, their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Their office is in Yorktown Heights but through their toll-free telephone services they assist people nationwide.

Support Connection provides personalized attention to anyone seeking support or information for themselves or a loved one. Regardless of where you are in your cancer journey - diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and beyond - and no matter what stage your cancer is, they can help you navigate the changes you experience as a result of living with breast or ovarian cancer.

A UNIQUE APPROACH

Support Connection is unique because the Peer Counselors on their staff are cancer survivors. They've been through the tests and treatments. They've felt the



Help is just a phone call away! **TOLL-FREE SUPPORT LINE: 800-532-4290** info@supportconnection.org For more info, visit SupportConnection.org





fear and anxiety. They know what it's like to have your life changed by cancer. Peer Counselors are available by phone, email, or in person. There's no limit; reach out as often as you need to. Your counselor will listen to your concerns, offer emotional support, connect you with community resources, and let you know about Support Connection's other valuable services.

PERSONALIZED SERVICES

Support Connection understands that no two people are alike. In addition to individual counseling, they offer a wide range of programs. Select what works best for you. You can utilize one of these services or all of them:

• Monthly support groups: A confi-

dential setting where women come together to discuss their concerns and support one another.

- Educational programs: Learning opportunities on a variety of topics related to living with cancer, such as nutrition, dealing with side effects, etc.
- Wellness workshops: Focus on the needs of mind, body and spirit.
- Social activities: Connect with other women with cancer while relaxing or being creative.

Since the onset of COVID-19, Support Connection transitioned all in-person groups and programs to virtual platforms (toll-free teleconference, webinar, ZOOM.) Cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic, and Support Connection is committed to being there for those who need them.

To learn more about Support Connection's services, visit www.supportconnection.org. Or contact them directly: 914-962-6402, 800-532-4290, info@supportconnection.org.



Schedule your mammogram today at a NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence or NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley hospital location:

Bronxville: 914-787-5008 Croton-on-Hudson: 914-293-8440

Cortlandt Manor: 914-734-3674 Cold Spring: **845-265-3642**

We are committed to bringing the highest standard of comprehensive breast cancer care to Westchester patients and their families. With specialists from Columbia and NewYork-Presbyterian medical groups (Hudson Valley and Westchester), great care is closer than ever.

Learn more about our comprehensive cancer program, visit nyp.org/westchestercancer

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SUPPORT CONNECTION'S PEER COUNSELORS

he three Peer Counselors on Support Connection's staff- Andrea, Marlene and Robin - are cancer survivors themselves; they know what it's like to hear the words "you have cancer." They've also each spoken with hundreds of other women, giving them an unparalleled depth of understanding. These articles - words of wisdom - are written by them.

ON BEING BRAVE

By Marlene Stager

No one is born with a crystal ball or impenetrable shield. As you wrap your mind around the words "you have cancer," hopes and



dreams may come to a screeching halt. Confidence in what is and what will be can be undermined. Your sense of self-assuredness may abandon you. Fear is a natural reaction.

Feeling frightened is often equated with being weak. It can jade our perspective of our own strength and inaccurately define what it means to be courageous. But we all deserve to be

true to ourselves and define our own strength.

Merriam-Webster defines bravery as "the quality or state of having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty; the quality or state of being brave; courage." Fear and difficulty have many faces: Fear of diagnosis or of making the wrong choices. Difficulty communicating to loved ones if you're not comfortable with medical recommendations and want to pursue different or fewer treatments. Fear of the impact your diagnosis may have on loved ones, your job, your career. Difficulty acknowledging and accepting the importance of prioritizing your needs, and re-framing that importance as wisdom, not selfishness. Fear of uncertainty and loss of control.

However, when faced with a cancer diagnosis, so much courage and strength is needed to:

- Hear your inner voice and allow it to guide you. Such as doing things "your way": making choices that fit your needs even if they're contrary to contemporary medical practices.
- Put your needs first even if that leads to physical and emotional feelings that are foreign and uncomfortable to you and those around you.

- Take a break, when you are the doer, the achiever, the caretaker.
- Acknowledge your personal needs and vulnerabilities. Be open to reaching out to and accepting supports that will help you navigate a path you never expected to walk.
- Articulate your reservations, uncertainties and vulnerabilities to your medical team and advocate for answers to difficult or uncomfortable questions.
- Say no when a recommendation doesn't feel right, or you're not ready. Or, say yes when you're all alone in that determination.
- Adjust the bar of self-expectation, facilitating a sense of peace, progress and sanity.

It takes courage to embrace being a human being who doesn't fit the role of Wonder Woman, without explanation, justification or apology. It takes courage and bravery to continue moving forward, with baby steps if necessary, when you feel ill prepared to take on and address your health needs while the media floods us with terms like warrior and slayer.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to triumph over it." It takes courage to continue living each day as it comes, to once again find joy in life after cancer diagnosis, and to acknowledge that sometimes fears creep in. Courage and bravery, like so many aspects of living with a cancer diagnosis, are deeply personal. Give yourself permission to define them in the way that works best for you.

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE?

Bv Robin Perlmutter

Our patience is tested every day in the most superficial ways. In today's society and thanks to technology, our definition of and tolerance for pa-



tience has changed drastically. I can think of so many examples of this on a superficial level: Waiting on line at the market. Waiting for children to come out of the school building at the end of the day. Waiting at a light when I need to get somewhere because I'm rushing once again. And one last example: Winter in New York is often Mother Nature's Patience Final Exam!

Let's look now at the women and families living with a cancer diagnosis. Add cancer to this concept of patience, and the definition



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deepens drastically. The fortitude, strength and grace that these people harness and develop is nothing short of incredible. For many of these women, it's more than simple waiting; it's like living on the edge of life and death.

Technology, while a wonderful enhancement, can't always make things move faster: it can't rush the test results or the pathologist's work; it can't make a woman's hair grow back. Women frequently spend many days or even weeks WAITING, requiring herculean effort every day to fight off the fear and worry. Many endure life-long treatments and side-effects, amidst the rollercoaster ride of feeling ok one minute and being bedridden the next. This may sound drastic, but it's true.

I often ask myself, how do they do it? They struggle, they cry, they are sleepless, anxious, and they pray. They also find laughter, keep busy, reach out and try to keep everyone's life normal so they can feel normal. The energy and patience that goes into this cannot be quantified or even properly described. I can only be in awe and breathe deeply the next time I catch myself fretting over the small stuff.

PUT YOUR TOES IN THE WATER: GIVE **SUPPORT GROUPS A TRY**

by Andrea Karl

Andrea shares her experience as a group member, as well as what she's learned from other women she's worked with at Support Connection, where she has led up to 4 support groups a month.

Are you hesitant about trying a support group? Believe me, I was. As far as I was concerned I really didn't have cancer. Joining a group



would make it real. I wasn't ready for that.

Newly diagnosed, awaiting surgery, confused, I decided to put my toes in the water. Wrapped in my cancer security blanket (my son's high school soccer team shirt, worn every day from diagnosis through treatment), MY HAIR pulled back in a ponytail, I sat as far from the other women as possible. I really

didn't have cancer, the other women did (or so my only working sense, denial, kept telling me.) I was a deer in the headlights not blinking or breathing. What was said around me was a blur.

I recall saying where I was in my journey and how confused I was.

Then the meeting was over and the women who "had cancer" left. The facilitators stayed and I cried. I actually had cancer too. The facilitators encouraged me to get a 2nd opinion, to find doctors who understood my fears and would answer my questions. They handed me Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book. It became my Bible and the words of the facilitators my mantra:

Breast & Ovarian Cancer Support 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Help is just a phone call away! **TOLL-FREE SUPPORT LINE: 800-532-4290** info@supportconnection.org For more info, visit SupportConnection.org

"Find a medical team that works for you."

Why would I ever go back? I thought: "My cancer is going away. I just need to read this book and find the right team of doctors. Life will go back to how it was." So I focused on tests and treatments. I became immersed in finding doctors, asking questions, learning about the different types of breast cancer, going for multiple scans, tests, surgeries, treatments.

My treatment was over and there was no evidence of disease, but cancer did not go away. Was I the only one who.... saw the numerous choices waved at me by medical professionals as absurd decisions I was forced to make ... felt like a human pin cushion, needles jabbed into veins that could no longer be found.... had so much radiation during testing I could light up a room... had fears about what I'd live to see.... sat by myself on the soccer field, unable to listen to the usual sideline banter? Was I the only one sinking into a hypochondriac depression with every ache, pain, rash or mosquito bite, struggling to regain my footing after the rug of control was ripped out from under me? Treatment was over, all was said and done.... was I the only one whose cancer had not gone away?

I put my toes in the water again, wading up to my knees this time. The other women in the room were also struggling to understand why cancer didn't go away. I realized a cancer support group is no different than a group for working moms, or new moms, or adoptive parents... an AA or gamblers' anonymous meeting. We were all people in a situation we felt alone in.

We learned from each other. We cried and laughed a lot. We discussed poignant issues, emotions, physical changes, work, family, relationship issues. We shared resources and information, family histories, fears. We talked about what cancer robbed us of and what we learned from it. We spoke about how we saw ourselves and how others did. We discussed words like battle, survivor, vulnerability, courage, grace and life. We were all different but had all been in the same place. We were no longer alone. We had people to support us and people who needed our support, and both made us feel good. The water was welcoming - I dove in.

We supported each other, regardless of our individual baggage or the stage of disease. The daunting fear of being in a room with others whose situation may be more or less challenging was lost in the dialogue, empathy and companionship. We connected with each other. We had all heard the words "you have cancer."

One night, a woman with advanced stage cancer was asked "How do you feel being the only one in continual treatment?" She replied: "We all know the proverbial bus can come by and hit us any time. Thanks to

> cancer we all see that bus coming. This group is the stop sign we all need." That same woman shared these words about her unwavering belief in the power of support: "They talk with me, encourage me,They laugh with me and cry with me...They help me find the sun."

Support groups are not for life and they are not for everyone. But, if your cancer is not going away like you want it to, they're a good place to start. Put your toes in the water and wade in.... you may just find a little sun.



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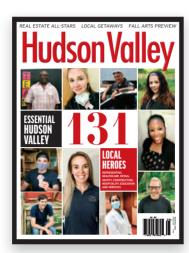


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PLACES TO LIVE 2020



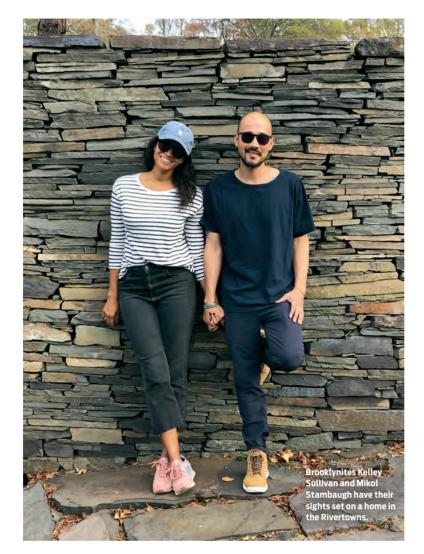






Westchester is hot! Driven by the impact of the coronavirus, the county is seeing an incredible influx of buyers from Manhattan and Brooklyn seeking shelter in the suburbs. Here's how it's all playing out.

By Amy R. Partridge



ikol Stambaugh and his wife, Kelley Sullivan, are diehard New York City devotees. The couple have lived in Brooklyn for the past 10 years and tout the expected reasons they love it: restaurants, museums, nightlife, culture, diversity, walkability — the general cachet of big-city living. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the idea of moving to Westchester was the furthest thing from their minds. "We had actually been searching for a country home or an investment property outside of the city for a few years, but as second home, not a primary residence," Stambaugh notes. "As my wife, who is from Houston, always said, 'I didn't move to New York to live in the suburbs!"

But living in the suburbs is exactly what the couple is planning to do. They have been searching throughout Westchester for a home to purchase — Tarrytown, Ossining, Croton, and Pleasantville are on their shortlist - and are hoping to be settled in the county before the winter. Stambaugh and Sullivan left their Brooklyn condo shortly after the coronavirus hit, renting spots upstate in order to ride out the pandemic. But the virus's impact has changed their outlook. Though they returned to Brooklyn in July, they are now committed to leaving the city. "Living upstate for those five months really changed our perspective," Stambaugh says. "Having a home as opposed to an apartment and having the space to focus on ourselves, that's really what's important now. That's the main reason we are leaving Brooklyn."

Theirs is a story playing out across Westchester today. While the migration from city to suburbs has fueled Westchester's real estate market since, well, just about forever, the coronavirus pandemic has spurred an incredible urban exodus over the last few months. It seems a weighty percentage of Brooklyn and Manhattan folks currently have their internal compasses pointing north.

It started shortly after the lockdown began, when many city families with the means to do so hightailed it out of their urban dwellings and flooded the rental market for homes in Westchester and the Hudson Valley. Short-term rentals extended into summer stays as the lockdown continued, and by May and June, any available space with a yard (especially with a pool) was renting at astronomical rates at least double the normal cost, notes Dawn Knief, licensed real estate salesperson with Compass in Scarsdale.

"We saw a flood of people who wanted a getaway place. We saw a lot of interest in suburban and rural spaces; anything, even up to two hours away from Manhattan, became desirable," adds Scott Elwell, principal at the SOE Team with Douglas Elliman Real Estate.

Real estate agents across the county are reporting a market they haven't seen in years: sky-high demand, tight inventory, bidding wars, cash buyers...

When it became apparent that the pandemic wasn't going to be over anytime soon, a shift began occurring, Knief says. "People were in denial at first, thinking that they would rent a summer house and then return to the city once COVID ran its course. But as time progressed, and they began to realize this virus is not going away, health and safety - especially for people with young children - became a larger factor," she explains. "Families who were thinking about coming to Westchester and buying a house in a few years decided to speed up the process and buy now."

In addition, younger buyers who lost jobs due to the pandemic, or became more budget-conscious with the threat of potential job loss, are shifting their searches from city apartments to more affordable Westchester properties, notes Myrna Anover, licensed associate real estate broker at REMAX Prime Properties in Scarsdale. "We've seen a lot of 30-somethings looking here for cheaper alternatives. They are looking for condos, and they see how much more they can get for a smaller amount of money," she explains.



ON THE MARKET

What's Hot Now: Outdoor Amenities

Homes with big yards, play sets, ball courts, and lounge areas are highly desirable for stay-at-home comfort.



ennis court, super-sized stone terrace, and a large, flat yard give the whole family room to breathe and play in the great outdoors. Inside, the home boasts an airy, open floor plan with tricked-out kitchen, plus a great room with vaulted beamed ceiling and stone fireplace. Listed by Susan Kelty Law, Houlihan Lawrence



n expansive patio with stone fireplace and outdoor kitchen, plus a large yard complete with turf field (pool, too!) are the exterior stars of this home. The interior provides family-friendly bonus spaces, like a two-story family room and basement with summer kitchen, a full gym, game room, and bar. Listed by Carine Nowak, Compass

Throw in historically low interest rates (at press time, the rate was 2.75% on a 30-year fixed mortgage), and you have the perfect storm for a swarm of urban buyers descending on Westchester in droves. As a result, real estate agents across the county are reporting a market they haven't seen in years: sky-high demand, tight inventory, bidding wars, cash buyers — all commonplace.

"This is the first time that I can remember when every county that we cover is experiencing high buyer demand; every one of our offices is reporting a substantial increase in activity," notes Debbie Doern, senior vice president of sales, Houlihan Lawrence. "Southern Westchester, for example, is always relatively busy because of its proximity to the city. But now the activity is far-reaching, across all areas. And every price point, except for \$5 million-plus, is experiencing high, high demand." (The \$5 million-and-over luxury market is also going strong, Doern explains; there just isn't as much frenzy as in the more affordable price ranges.)

"Inventory is way down," Doern adds. "That's the biggest struggle: Pending deals and demand are way up, but we don't have enough inventory to meet the need."

"We currently have a lot of buyers, and we have fewer homes on the market than we did last year at this time, so we have a lot of people looking for the same thing - which creates multiple-offer scenarios," adds Suzanne Welch, associate broker with the Home on the Hudson Team at Coldwell Banker Realty's Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office in Yorktown Heights. "If a home is well-priced, there is no reason why it won't go to contract within 20 days of hitting the market." Welch points to two homes she listed in Ossining recently: One went into contract in 20 days, the other in 27 days.

Adding to the limited inventory is the fact that due to the pandemic, homeowners who may have planned to sell in order to downsize changed their minds when they realized they would be in lockdown mode. "When the virus hit, many grown children moved back into the homes of their parents who had been thinking of selling their homes to scale down. During the lockdown, families might have had four or five adults all working from home, so they needed that big house and decided to stay put," explains Doern.

This urban exodus trend is still in the nascent stages, so the numbers don't yet fully reflect what's going on. As of July 31, yearover-year data (July 2019 to July 2020) shows that active listings in Westchester are

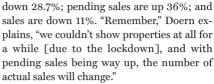




ON THE MARKET

What's Hot Now: Home Offices

Full-time remote work has made a full-service home office a must-have space for homebuvers.



As of the end of July, the median singlefamily home price in Westchester is up 4.5%. And all anecdotal evidence points to a full-on suburban real estate renaissance.

"Westchester is the place to be right now," says Anover of REMAX Prime Properties. "People who have been thinking of selling Manhattan or Brooklyn properties and going to the suburbs are pulling the trigger right now. [At press time] exact data on the percentage of exodus from New York City is not vet conclusive but will be more evident by the fall as we see if people are returning to the city or not."

The harsh reality of everyday life during the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly fueled the decision to pull the trigger. Spending months cooped up inside apartments with no



"Westchester is the place to be right now."

Myrna Anover, REMAX Prime Properties

outdoor spaces and trying to live, work, and play under one tiny roof — or, alternatively, packing up the family and bouncing around suburban rentals in an attempt to ride out the pandemic in safer, more suitable surroundings - has chipped away at the glamour and prestige of New York City for many families. With its abundance of large homes, lush outdoor spaces, easy access to safe nature activities, and the usual draws of commuting ease, competitive schools, and charming Main Streets, the lure of Westchester is incredibly strong right now.

It was enough to finally convince Leslie Condon to trade in her Brooklyn brownstone for an address on the Sound Shore. Condon and her husband, Joe, plus their children, Vaughn and Marlo, moved into a seven-bedroom Larchmont Manor Victorian at the end of the summer after years of suburban angst on her part.

"We were similar to a lot of other young families, where one person of the couple really wants to move out of the city and the other is a little more reluctant. I was always



bout as good as an executive suite, this wood-paneled library means business. The home also hoasts a large family room, playroom, modern kitchen, living room with wood-burning fireplace, and exterior features, including a saline pool with waterfall and spa, plus a large stone patio. Listed by Mindy Gerstein, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Westchester Properties



\$779,000

4 Goldman Court, Cortlandt Manor 2BR. 2.1 BA: 3.200 sq. ft.: \$24,000 estimated taxes

his sleek home-office space is part of the appeal of the available-for-purchase model home at Toll Brothers at Valeria, a new-construction townhome community that includes an open kitchen with granite countertops, nine-foot first-floor ceilings, and a two-car garage. Community amenities include a 43-acre lake, walking trails, and a clubhouse. Listed by Toll Brothers Real Estate



"As the pandemic struck, we looked at each other and just knew. We decided it was better to move completely out of the city and started thinking about living in the suburbs." - Mimi Salcedo, new Ossining resident

the reluctant one. We had been looking for a few years to find a community that felt right, that felt relatable — and when COVID was added into the mix, it just seemed like it was time. It's just hard to hold your ground when something like this happens," she explains.

The pandemic brought a sense of clarity to their decision: Where you live now is less about the external lifestyle of the location and more about how it fills the internal needs of your family. "I think what we realized is that the family unit is the priority, and the ability for our immediate unit to exist happily in a certain space is the most important aspect," she explains.

The Condon family selected Larchmont in particular for a few reasons — factors that are appealing either in a pandemic or in normal times: high walkability, water access, proximity to the city, and a strong school system that is both competitive and conscientious. Settling in after the move, Leslie reports no regrets. "I saw myself as someone who would stay in Brooklyn for my whole life and raise my family there. But I'm definitely coming out of the city, say-





ing I know this move to Westchester is what's best for right now," she says.

New Ossining residents Mimi Salcedo and her husband, Brennan Pothetes, also decided that now was the right time to transition from Brooklyn to Westchester. The couple, originally from Portland, OR, spent two years living in Park Slope, and loving it, before realizing their budget would not enable them to purchase the kind of home they hoped for in Brooklyn. Right before the pandemic began, Salcedo and Pothetes had been searching as far out as Bay Ridge for an affordable area that would allow them to commute to the city. They had enjoyed a weekend trip to the Hudson Valley on the Metro-North Hudson Line, and the idea of being near the river lingered in their minds as the lockdown started.

"As the pandemic struck, we looked at each other and just knew. We decided it was better to move completely out **BUYING DURING THE PANDEMIC:**

"We Only Looked at One House"

my and Elliott van Erk and their son, David, moved from Brooklyn to Mount Kisco at the end of July. Their decision to move to Westchester was accelerated by the pandemic yet fairly typical of young urban families, who know that "a 9-month-old in a one-bedroom apartment doesn't fly for too long," as Amy says.

"I knew that I loved Mount Kisco and all its great food places, which matter a lot to me. I worked remotely even before the pandemic, and my husband was fine with the commute to the city, so the location was ideal. We had spent six years together in the city, and I felt like I was ready to have a car and a yard and to be able to breathe a little more freely," Amy adds.

Less typical was their experience when making the transition to Westchester in the middle of a global pandemic. The van Erks toured their current home, in Mount Kisco — an unusual property, containing a 1922 prewar Colonial three-bedroom, plus a 2,000 sq. ft. dilapidated

former flower shop/ greenhouse that the couple plan to turn into a home-office space — the weekend before the lockdown was issued. That same weekend, they had held an open house on their Brooklyn co-op and found a buver. squeaking by just before such indoor activities were suspended.

Once the lockdown ensued, the real estate market shut down entirely, and the couple decided to



proceed with buying the Mount Kisco home — even though it was the only Westchester property they toured.

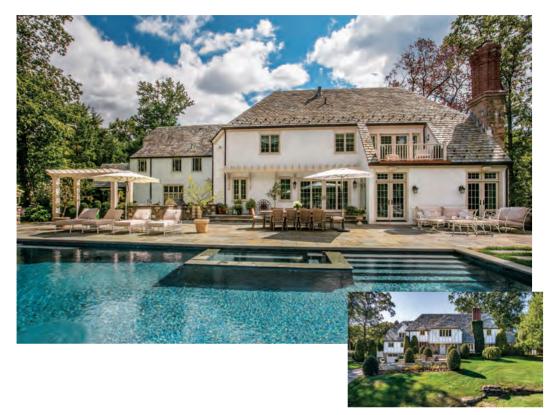
A masked-and-gloved Elliott visited the home a second time, with an equally PPE-clad home inspector, a nerve-racking process at the height of the pandemic, when, Amy says, they were afraid to take the train or rent a car to get to Westchester. "We were wary of using anything that anyone else had touched or breathed on," she recalls. The rest of their buying-and-selling process was done virtually, through phone, email, and video conferences. The closing took place across two different rooms, so everyone could socially distance, with "everyone wearing masks and constantly using hand sanitizer," she

Despite some tense moments, the family is thrilled with their decision. "As quarantine kept going on longer and longer, I just couldn't wait to get out of Brooklyn and get to Westchester," Amy says. "We're so grateful to be here."

ON THE MARKET

What's Hot Now: Pools

Nothing says quarantine entertainment like a lavish pool!



\$3,495,000

1 Durham Rd. Larchmont 6 BR. 5.1 BA: 7,748 sq. ft.; 1.67 acres; \$63,769 estimated taxes

ake a dip in the 50-by-20-foot gunite saltwater pool with a spa, then relax on the surrounding bluestone patio with a built-in barbecue at this Tudor stunner. The home offers meticulous grounds, plus high-end interior spaces, including grand foyer, formal living room, butler's pantry, and luxe master suite. Listed by Pollena Forsman, Houlihan Lawrence

\$1,495,000

21 Arrowcrest Dr, Croton-on-Hudson 6 BR, 4.1 BA; 5,522 sq. ft.; 1.97 acres; \$47,520 estimated tax

ocated in the prestigious Arrowcrest development, this home includes a 30-foot heated-and-lighted gunite saltwater pool, plus a new hot tub. The well-appointed home also has luxury touches, like radiant heated floors, indoor/ outdoor sound system, five-zone lawn sprinkler, and landscape lighting. Listed by Lynn Harmonay, North Country Sotheby's International Realty





of the city and started thinking about living in the suburbs," Salcedo says. "The transportation on the Hudson Line was a big calling, and we loved the idea of staying in New York and being near the river and commuting that way."

They quickly realized how much further their budget would go in Westchester and set their sights on Tarrytown for its dynamic downtown and river proximity. After being outbid on the first home they tried to purchase and feeling like they were still stretching their budget more than they were comfortable with, they found a four-bedroom, threebathroom Colonial with a wraparound front porch that was

bigger than other homes they had toured, which, Salcedo says, "really spoke to us. The sellers had lived in the home for more than 30 years, and it just felt like a family home with a lot of love. Also, I'm half Peruvian, and it really called to me that Ossining has a strong Hispanic and Peruvian culture. Being here just felt right to us."

Affordable Rivertowns, like Ossining, Cortlandt, and Peekskill, are appealing to a lot of families these days, notes Welch of Coldwell Banker. "You can get a lot of bang for your buck in these areas. There are many buyers who want out of apartments and condos, so properties listed in Croton or Ossining for less than \$700,000 fly off the market."

Northern Westchester is also increasingly popular with buyers, as the number of people making the daily Metro-North roundtrip has dropped off dramatically, and the longer train ride doesn't loom as large in buyers' minds. Towns like Yorktown Heights and even Cortlandt or Garrison [in Putnam County] are becoming an option, because, Welch explains, "The commute is not as much of a concern these days; buyers aren't as worried about it, as many will be working remotely."

Perennially popular areas, like Larchmont, Rye, Chappaqua, and Scarsdale, are also still very much in demand, adds Elwell of Douglas Elliman. "The towns that have always have had strong demand kept surging in demand," he notes.

Elwell also believes some of the old rules still apply. "Proximity to Manhattan is still king," he says. "The closer towns to Manhattan have traditionally been more desirable, and I don't see that changing. What's selling well now is what's always sold well in Westchester."

"Many buyers do still have the commute to the city in the backs of their minds," adds Knief of Compass. "They feel that once the coronavirus restrictions relax and things return to normal, they will be commuting again. So, they are still driven by proximity to the city and school district."

There is a growing consensus among agents that the types of homes and amenities that are hot right now have changed across the board. The new crop of buyers, seeking refuge from the city in light of the pandemic, have embraced a "more is more" philosophy.

"The trends have been turned on their heads for sure. Previously, everyone wanted in-town living and a smaller footprint; they didn't want a large yard to take care of," Houlihan Lawrence's Doern explains. "Now, it's no longer less is more. Buyers want the home office; they want room for in-laws or grown children to stay; they want a big property and a pool and access to outdoor activities." Tennis courts, outdoor kitchens, paddocks, basketball courts, and gardens are other hot outdoor amenities, according to a recent web survey done by Houlihan Lawrence.

Ample interior space is also on the top of everyone's wish lists these days, adds Knief: "Buyers want room for kids to play, homework areas, workspaces, Zoom rooms, et cetera. Houses with a home office or two, already in place, are selling at a premium."



"Many buyers do still have the commute to the city in the backs of their minds."

Dawn Knief, Compass

Adds Elwell: "We are definitely seeing buyers interested in a little more space than normal. If they were thinking of buying a three-bedroom, now they want to get a four-bedroom and use the fourth bedroom as an office."

And, Anover notes, "People are looking for spaces where everyone can congregate, like a media room to watch movies or a big kitchen where you can cook for the whole family."

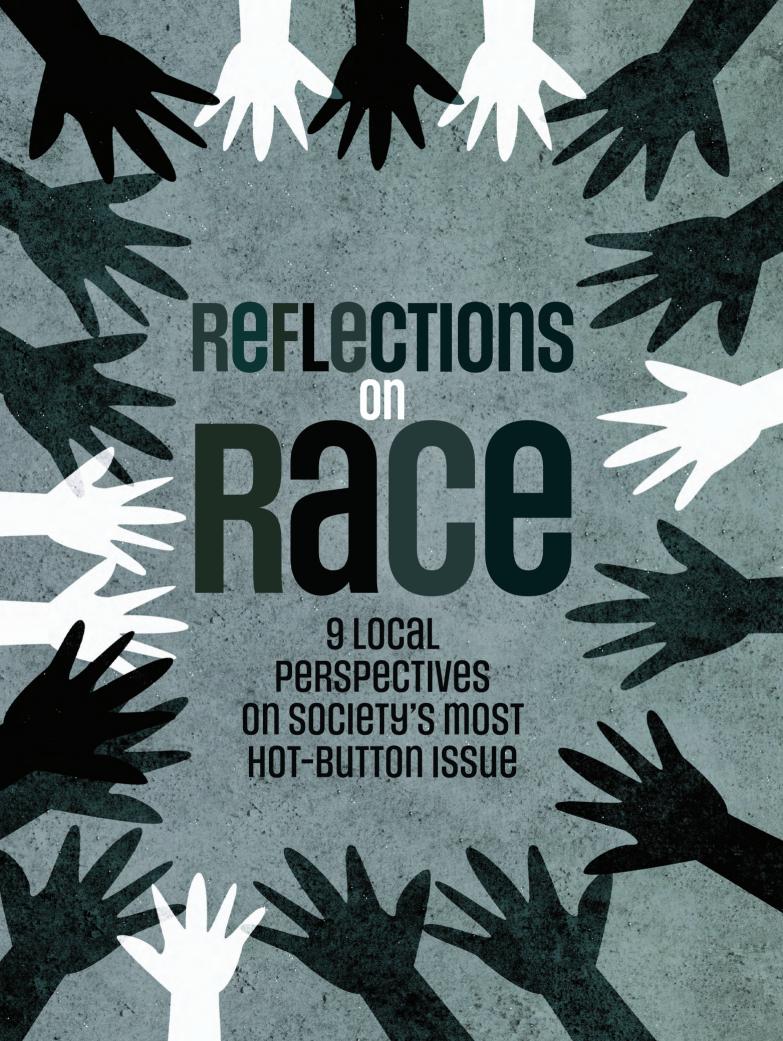
It's clear Westchester is having a moment. The question is whether this trend will continue or if the ever-strong lure of New York City will eventually eclipse the suburbs once again. Time will tell, but perhaps we can take a clue from new Ossining resident Mimi Salcedo: "At the peak of the pandemic, when we decided to move to Westchester, a lot of our friends in the city thought we were crazy," Salcedo says. "But now, when I tell them how we could not be happier in Ossining, how we are relaxing on our patio, and the dog is having the time of his life in the backyard, they are like, 'Oh wow, that sounds perfect. Maybe we should start looking, too..."

Municipality	Population	Median Household Income	Median Home Sale Price (2019)	Estimated Avg Property Taxes (2018)	# of Houses Sold (2019)	
Ardsley	4,534	\$132,778	\$730,000	\$29,231	101	
Armonk	4,381	\$195,982	\$995,000	\$26,639	105	
Bedford	17,651*	\$126,563	\$826,000	\$22,937	50	
Briarcliff Manor	8,094	\$163,795	\$877,500	\$29,620	51	
Bronxville	6,408	\$187,188	\$1,775,000	\$43,369	69	
Buchanan	2,246	\$109,831	\$417,500	\$10,301	18	
Chappaqua	1,459	\$218,803	\$850,000	\$20,438	183	
Cortlandt	42,294	\$110,885	\$459,000	\$14,519	430	
Croton-on-Hudson	8,095	\$127,716	\$552,000	\$19,439	136	
Dobbs Ferry	11,027	\$136,477	\$811,000	\$30,817	66	
Eastchester	19,949	\$120,867	\$719,000	\$17,476	113	
Elmsford	4,993	\$89,362	\$494,500	\$19,331	67	
Greenburgh (unincorporated)	39,917	\$126,240	\$567,500	\$18,382	154	
Harrison	28,943	\$124,000	\$1,250,000	\$33,463	157	
Hartsdale	4,822	\$89,211	\$624,000	\$19,449	103	
Hastings-on-Hudson	7,853	\$139,118	\$750,000	\$33,286	69	
rvington	6,473	\$130,919	\$903,000	\$40,567	91	
Larchmont	6,087	\$213,988	\$1,219,000	\$31,347	205	
Lewisboro	12,522	\$159,808	\$625,000	\$17,362	144	
Mamaroneck	19,131	\$96,088	\$1,160,000	\$30,648	269	
Mount Kisco	10,795	\$82,330	\$550,000	\$11,782	55	
Mount Pleasant	44,933	\$112,748	\$579,999	\$15,446	107	
Mount Vernon	67,345	\$57,109	\$434,500	\$16,198	192	
New Castle	17,801	\$228,714	\$823,500	\$23,582	195	
New Rochelle	78,557	\$80,918	\$675,000	\$20,125	332	
North Castle	12,231	\$186,593	\$950,000	\$23,357	140	
North Salem	5,124	\$134,185	\$529,000	\$15,528	55	
Ossining	25,174	\$86,307	\$468,000	\$15,474	191	
Peekskill	24,295	\$54,494	\$334,200	\$11,129	108	
Pelham	6,947	\$130,945	\$965,000	\$27,497	130	
Pelham Manor	5,595	\$163,958	\$965,000	\$26,953	130	
Pleasantville	7,260	\$118,333	\$665,000	\$24,170	81	
Port Chester	29,163	\$65,317	\$525,000	\$14,626	108	
Pound Ridge	5,129	\$206,810	\$871,000	\$19,983	61	
Rye Brook	9,521	\$143,105	\$872,000	\$22,539	119	
Rye City	15,695	\$180,958	\$1,920,000	\$33,133	149	
Scarsdale	17,871	\$250,001	\$1,399,000	\$33,885	258	
Sleepy Hollow	10,046	\$65,510	\$872,000	\$25,973	29	
Somers	21,574	\$126,677	\$527,500	\$13,964	178	
Tarrytown	11,370	\$119,826	\$776,000	\$26,579	66	
Tuckahoe	6,549	\$78,278	\$800,000	\$21,859	39	
White Plains	58,109	\$84,415	\$675,000	\$15,641	237	
Yonkers	200,370	\$62,399	\$520,000	\$11,506	522	
Yorktown	36,269	\$121,417	\$525,000	\$15,200	215	
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Population: Most recent data provided by www.censusreporter.org; Median Household Income from www.censusreporter.org; Median Home Sale Price: Houlihan Lawrence; Estimated Average Property Taxes: calculated by Westchester Magazine based on effective tax rates from Westchester County Tax Commission (to calculate the estimated property taxes for villages, the overall effective tax rate for the village was used [the non-village area was not included]. If the village is served by multiple school districts, the tax rates were averaged. To calculate estimated property taxes for towns, the rate [averaged if more than one municipality] of the non-village area is used); # of Houses Sold, Average # of Days on Market: Houlihan Lawrence; Property and Violent Crime Rate: most recent data from www.bestplaces.net (property crime, on a scale from 1 [low crime] to 100 [high crime].

	Avg # of Days on the Market (2019)	Property Crime Rate	Violent Crime Rate	Average Train Commute to Grand Central (peak time, in mins)	Train Station	Walkability	Main School District	Public High Schools
	55	16	8	42	Dobbs Ferry/ Scarsdale	69	Ardsley UFSD	Ardsley
	116	15	6	47	North White Plains	62	Byram Hills CSD	Byram Hills
	87	14	8	66	Bedford Hills	39	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
	86	9	7	54	Scarborough	1	Briarcliff Manor UFSD	Briarcliff
	105	14	7	35	Bronxville	87	Bronxville UFSD	Bronxville
	71	7	6	58	Cortlandt	14	Hendrick Hudson USD	Hendrick Hudson
	80	14	5	57	Chappaqua	65	Chappaqua USD	Horace Greeley
	78	27	14	58	Cortlandt	54	Hendrick Hudson/ Lakeland CSD	Walter Panas, Lakeland
	83	11	7	56	Croton-Harmon	46	Croton-Harmon SD	Croton-Harmon
	75	16	8	44	Dobbs Ferry	84	Dobbs Ferry UFSD	Dobbs Ferry
	65	19	7	38	Tuckahoe	61	Eastchester UFSD	Eastchester
	71	12	12	47	North White Plains	80	Elmsford UFSD	Alexander Hamilton
	71	23	8	46	Ardsley-on- Hudson	45	Greenburgh CSD	Woodlands
	120	14	7	47	Harrison	37	Harrison CSD	Harrison
	68	23	9	42	Hartsdale	80	Greenburgh CSD	Woodlands
	82	15	8	41	Hastings-on- Hudson	83	Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD	Hastings
	92	11	8	48	Irvington	59	Irvington UFSD	Irvington
	53	24	9	40	Larchmont	90	Mamaroneck UFSD	Mamaroneck
	90	5	6	71	Goldens Bridge/ Katonah	8	Katonah-Lewisboro SD	John Jay
	61	16	7	44	Mamaroneck	64	Mamaroneck/Rye Neck UFSD	Mamaroneck, Rye Neck
	71	18	15	63	Mount Kisco	76	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
	74	27	14	54	Hawthorne	24	Mount Pleasant CSD	Westlake, Valhalla
	73	28	37	31	Fleetwood/Mount Vernon East/West	74	Mount Vernon City SD	Nelson Mandela, Mount Vernon, Nellie A. Thornton
	82	11	6	57	Chappaqua	5	Chappaqua CSD	Horace Greeley
	74	25	15	38	New Rochelle	65	New Rochelle City SD	New Rochelle
	109	12	6	47	North White Plains	8	Byram Hills CSD	Byram Hills
	106	18	7	79	Croton Falls	7	North Salem CSD	North Salem
	75	14	6	56	Ossining	61	Ossining UFSD	Ossining
	57	16	10	63	Peekskill	61	Peekskill City SD	Peekskill
	69	22	9	35	Pelham	81	Pelham UFSD	Pelham Memorial
	69	37	10	35	Pelham	66	Pelham UFSD	Pelham Memorial
	82	16	6	55	Pleasantville	89	Pleasantville UFSD	Pleasantville
	69	43	35	52	Port Chester	76	Port Chester SD	Port Chester
	111	16	8	71	Katonah/ New Canaan, CT	7	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
	71	19	6	52	Port Chester	4	Blind Brook-Rye UFSD	Blind Brook
	86	12	7	49	Rye	83	Rye City SD	Rye
	86	17	8	39	Scarsdale	40	Scarsdale UFSD	Scarsdale, Edgemont
	59	10	10	48	Tarrytown	78	UFSD of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow
	90	20	8	72	Goldens Bridge	39	Somers CSD	Somers
	67	13	9	48	Tarrytown	91	UFSD of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow
	105	16	6	38	Tuckahoe	86	Tuckahoe UFSD	Tuckahoe
	66	28	10	41	White Plains	62	White Plains Public Schools	White Plains
	60	19	21	38	Glenwood, Greystone, Ludlow, Yonkers	70	Yonkers Public Schools	Saunders Trades and Technical, Riverside, Gorton, Lincoln, Palisade Preparatory, Yonkers Middle/High, Roosevelt
	68	15	9	56	Croton-Harmon	1	Yorktown CSD	Yorktown
Off	fenses include burglary, larcer	ny-theft, motor vehic	le theft, and arson. Th	he U.S. average is 35.4. Violent crime,	on a scale from 1 [low crime	to 100 [high crime]	Composed of four offenses: murder	and nonnegligent manslaugh-

Offenses include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The U.S. average is 35.4. Violent crime, on a scale from 1 [low crime] to 100 [high crime]. Composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The U.S. average is 22.7.); Average Train Commute to Grand Central and Train Stations: Metropolitan Transit Authority; Walkability, a measure from 1 to 100 (low to high) of how friendly an area is to pedestrian activity, was obtained from www.walkscore.com; Main School District and Public High Schools: www.trulia.com. *Bedford's population represents Bedford town.





HORACE ANDERSON JR.

Dean, ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW, PACE UNIVERSITY, WHITE PLAINS

Over the last two months, I have cycled through a number of emotions related to the killing of George Floyd. I have felt anger at the police officer who kneeled on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds and at the officers who watched it happen without intervening. I've felt pride for the mobilization of protests by people (across generations and racial/ ethnic groups) to seek redress not only for Floyd's death but also for the deaths of others at the hands of law enforcement and the treatment of Black people by our institutions in general. I have felt anger again at those who have co-opted the protest moment for violent and destructive ends. I have felt fear for communities wracked by the current violence, having grown up in neighborhoods that took decades to recover from the rioting of the late 1960s. I have felt fear again for my friends in law enforcement, who I think exemplify a spirit of public service and community-mindedness that is common among the majority of law enforcement officers and that I believe is achievable throughout the system.

We are scrutinizing whom we honor with statues and monuments; we are questioning how we make hiring and purchasing decisions; and we are reexamining how we police. On the other hand, I have felt pessimistic about how much we will accomplish if we are satisfied with the quick and easy answer. If we do not move beyond the tearing down of statues to a deeper understanding of the history that led to those statues being erected in the first place, we will accomplish little. If we accept mere cosmetic changes to how we provide economic opportunity for all, we will accomplish little. If we embrace careless language about "abolishing" police that obscures the real need to balance community safety and order with the individual rights of those who have encounters with police officers, then we will accomplish little.

Along with all of those emotions, I have found myself asking questions, all under the heading of: Why now, and what now? What is there about this moment that has brought people to the

streets, to legislative halls, and to boardrooms with such antiracist fervor? The issues were not new; people of color and their allies have been speaking out about them for centuries. Did the fact that so many of us have quarantined at home give us more time to reflect? Did our inability to distract ourselves with dinners out and baseball games and Broadway shows force us to grapple with that infamous video more than we would in "normal" times? Did mass unemployment make it easier for people to take to the streets and spend hours, days, or weeks protesting? Has reporting on the disparate and devastating racial impact of the novel coronavirus provided a timely confirmation that race still matters in the United States and that the spheres

"I Have Found myself asking QUESTIONS, ALL UNDER THE HEADING OF: WHY NOW, AND WHAT NOW?"

in which it matters, such as housing, healthcare, and public safety, are full of life-or-death consequences? Has the pandemic created in each of us a clearer understanding that ignoring problems will not make them go away, that politicizing them can endanger lives, that leadership matters, and that we each need to play our part in bringing about the change that will lead to better outcomes?

It will take much more time to understand the Why now? but we need to proceed with the What now? As a father, teacher, and leader of an educational institution, I have a responsibility to facilitate a better world for my sons, my students, and my community. Actually, we all have that responsibility, and we should all be looking for ways, in our homes, workplaces, and social circles, to expand opportunity, insist on equity, and ensure that some good comes out of the George Floyd tragedy.



CHEREESE JERVIS-HILL

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER, EVENTS TO REMEMBER, A DIVISION OF EVENTS BY CHERCESE, INC.: CORTLANDT MANOR RESIDENT

I think back upon my life growing up in the projects in the South Bronx, and I've come to realize that my mother, father, and grandmother all raised me to navigate a White world. Imagine having to teach to your children to survive and thrive in a world that is supposed to be equally theirs. It never felt equally mine, even as a grown-up. The most glaring instances occurred during my years in Corporate America. I can't tell you how many times I've said to myself, *This is unfair*, but I always heard my mother's voice saying, "Life is not fair, especially for people who look like us, but don't stop, keep going." That was one of the lessons. "Fix your face"; "Don't let them see you cry"; "Don't wear braids or look too Black," were other navigation lessons I'd received.

Now that my daughters are young adults, I have found myself teaching them some of the same lessons — one of which is how to survive if pulled over by the police. I remember that following one of the many police shootings of an unarmed Black man, my friend Caroline, who is White, was watching Van Jones say on CNN that he had the talk with his children about how to survive if they were ever pulled over. She asked me if that was real, because she never had to have those conversations with her children. I told her yes; it's very real. It saddens me that I felt the need to repeat these lessons to my children.

We have work to do in Westchester County, as well. In 2006, I was a member of Leadership Westchester, and one of our classes took place at the Westchester County Department of Corrections. We had a behind-the-scenes tour, and I remember breaking down in tears as we walked through the jail. My facilitator, David Severance, and my classmates consoled me as I cried uncontrollably. It was overwhelming to see so many people who looked like me in the jail system. *He* looked like my brother... my cousin... my uncle. It was too much.

Another experience was when I volunteered at Woodfield Cottage [juvenile detention center in Valhalla] to talk to teens about conflict resolution. Again, so many faces looked like mine. In my conversations with them, I learned that most didn't have the luxury of having their parents called when they did something wrong. In Yonkers and Mount Vernon, the police chief is not making calls to "Bob," telling him his son was drinking and to come pick him up. These kids are being processed in the system. Why?

I have great respect for police officers; they have a tough job. But I can tell you that the bad ones are busy, as I don't know any of my Black friends who haven't had some negative interaction with the police. I remember sitting in my car in the South Bronx, visiting

"I Have great respect for Police officers; they have a tough Job. But I can tell you that the bad ones are busy..."

family, when an officer came up to my car and said, "What are you doing here in this car?" Not, "May I see your license and registration, please," but "What are YOU doing here in this car." I guess in his eyes, I didn't deserve to drive a BMW.

What brings me joy is the fire that my girls have. They are very much a different breed from my husband and me, and they know this world is equally theirs, and they will tell you and anyone else that #BlackLivesMatter and ask you what you are doing to help move equality forward. I realize that living in and having raised my children in Westchester County afforded them many advantages; it is a different world from the South Bronx.



JOSHUA GACCIONE

U.S. ARMY COMBAT VETERAN AND HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR/DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES & ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE; TUCHAHOE RESIDENT

My mother was murdered, a single gunshot wound to the head while my two brothers stood watching. I had White privilege.

My best friend died when we were 9 as he waited for me at the corner on his bicycle and was taken out by a drunk driver. I had White privilege.

Almost 10 years to the day following my mother's murder, my aunt — her sister — was victim to a gunshot wound to the head, a murder-suicide by her live-in partner. She had two children. I had White privilege.

I served as a paratrooper in the United States Army, deployed twice to fight wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. I lost friends. I had White privilege.

I did not have a college fund and remember not days but weeks of eating ramen, hoping to get one more mile out of my car, whose gas gauge had lit up red days earlier, because I didn't have the spare

change for a single-ride Metro Card, sitting on my fire escape in sweltering heat and listening to NPR because they were both free. I had White privilege.

I am able to pick the meanest, ugliest facemask or covering (which is generally a Jolly Roger, because I am a man-child who never stopped liking pirates) during a pandemic, unlike a Black friend of mine, who told me he chooses his coverings based on what seems the least intimidating and as far away from the Western idea of masculinity as he can find, because he does not want to be deemed a threat while walking down the street. I have White privilege.

For the millions of White people living in poverty, those who have nobody to rely on but themselves, who have latchkey kids, work multiple jobs, fight and claw for their next hot meal, do not know if they will make rent at the end of the month and struggle between the electric



SORRAYA SAMPSON

PRESIDENT & CEO. LIBBAN LEAGUE OF WESTCHESTER: WHITE PLAINS RESIDENT

Most Black people over the age of 12 could tell you a story, or 10, about the microaggressions and racism that we have faced at the hands of our colleagues, neighbors, or friends. The truth is, very few of us, if any, are surprised by stories of insults, shame, or injustice. I was 9 years old the first time I was called the N-word by a classmate, in Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School. Ten years later, in college, I realized that folks would shift any conversation about racism towards sexism, ageism, or even homophobia because those were less uncomfortable topics to talk about with a Black woman. I was 23 when I was looking for my first apartment, in Lindenhurst, Long Island, and had my deposit returned to my address in an

envelope without an explanation. Friends who knew the history of Lindenhurst let me in on its origin story and laughed at me.

At an Urban League of Westchester forum in 2014, I stood up with my then-16-year-old Black son in the audience and explained that the killing of Mike Brown is every mother's nightmare. Like many Black mothers, I have been numb because every time I see the abuse and killings, we see our sons and daughters, and the pain destroys us. It is simply a form of preserving our mental and emotional health.

Not much has changed since then. Six years later, the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, along with the COVID-19 pandemic pause, all came together to form this heartbreaking and hopefully transformational moment for American history. The locked-in masses, who had never contemplated racism other than as a sound bite on the news, were able to look at 8 minutes and 46 seconds as the embodiment of the racism and violence that the Black community has faced since slavery.

Individuals who had only heard the rumors of abuse of

Black men and women were shocked and moved into action. The "pause" of COVID-19 gave the viewing audience the time to absorb what they were watching and presented the opportunity to protest with their Black neighbors. This resulted in a nationwide multiracial call for change.

And, oh, the young people's audacity to demand the systemic, strategic change that is necessary to eliminate racism and police misconduct. The conviction of these inspirational young leaders, who show you that they have no boundaries, no restrictions, and no baggage of the historical memory that tries to convince them that they cannot win, is the materialization of our hopes.

"CHange IS POSSIBLE. open, uncomfortable DISCÚSSIONS ARE NECESSARY

Change is possible. Open, uncomfortable discussions are necessary. Demand that you are included at the beginning of any study in your community that reviews law enforcement practices. Make sure that accountability is a part of all proposals for change. Actively call out racist actions, even those couched in well-meaning intentions. Support the federal Justice in Policing bill. Finally, when people are actively trying to change, allow them the room and support to do so.

This is what you need to know: All lives will matter only when Black Lives Matter.

"WHITE PRIVILEGE DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU DID NOT OR DO NOT HAVE A DIFFICULT LIFE. IT MEANS YOUR SH LOR IS NOT ONE OF THE THINGS MAKING IT DIFFIC

bill and a credit-card bill because they simply cannot pay both, White privilege does not mean that you did not or do not have a difficult life. It means your skin color is not one of the things making it difficult.

No, having one Black president and two generations of affirmative action in an attempt to level the current playing field does not make up for hundreds of years of slavery, Jim Crow, separate-but-equal, systematic inequality, redlining, bigotry, hate, and outright racism.

I understand that the exterior of blond hair and blue eyes conveys a message. Being a heterosexual male conveys a message. It is a message that has been given center stage for 2,000 years, and the

collective we have had a pretty good run as things go.

Recently, I learned more from one of my former students (as those of us in education generally do) than I did from anything mainstream, when she reposted: "Saying 'all lives matter' as a response to 'Black Lives Matter' is like saying the fire department should spray down all houses in a neighborhood even though only one house is on fire. Yes, your house matters, too, but your house is not on fire."

Black lives matter; be your brother's keeper; lend a hand up, because we have all taken one. You will find that encouraging the advancement of others fills your spiritual well in the process.



FR. Kareem R. Smith

ANNUNCIATION - OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, CRESTWOOD

The aftermath of the ∫civil unrest this summer] has revealed the ever-increasing issue of ideological polarization in our country. In our modern day, you can only be Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, Back the Blue or Black Lives Matter. Along with this revelation comes the danger of an entire generation of young people who have been affected by indifference, caused by the inability to make decisions based on conscience and inner reflection. The introduction of the 24-hour news cycle in the early 2000s has negatively influenced the political movement of our day. The ability to solely engage media that fits our personal biases has launched us into a society of 30-second sound bites and sensationalized headlines. All of this troubling upheaval and ideological entrenchment has caused me to resurrect an age-old question: Will we ever be beyond racism?

Recently, my mother shared with me a journal that belonged to my grandfather, Mr. Rudolph Vincent. Before his death, my grandfather had the opportunity to visit the United States from his native British Guyana in 1967, shortly before the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While life in his South America home wasn't exactly a dream, he had very little experience with defined segregation. In his journal, my grandfather spoke about his excitement to visit the United States and share his experience with his wife, children, and

neighbors back home. While he didn't speak much about the civil rights movement or even experiencing the effects of segregation, he did speak about the community that his brother, who worked for the newly established Guyanese embassy in Washington, DC, lived in. My grandfather wrote: "[W]hile the struggle for an end to segregation endures here in the US, these people - black and white alike, have chosen to live as neighbors in peace. Joseph and Ermalyn [his brother and sister-inlaw] and the children are happy." In other words, despite the law of the land, people chose to do what was right.

Many terrible things have happened in our nation's history, and we have been able to overcome them because of good people of every race and ethnicity. Like my grandfather, we must intentionally choose to find the good in every person, and we must also seek to root out injustice in our land as a society. We must be able to say that George Floyd's death was a national tragedy that can never happen again, and at the same time, our greatest defense against this are the brave men and women who put their lives at risk daily for our safety. In order for this to happen, respect for the inherent dignity of every person must be enshrined in our national life. In a world where we are expected to choose, let us choose above all else what is true, honorable, and beautiful.

"we must CHOOSE TO FIND THE GOOD we must also ourian as a society."



Det. Keith olson

PRESIDENT OF THE YONKERS POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION: YONKERS RESIDENT

The first thing I thought when I first heard the term "Black Lives Matter" was: No kidding. Of course Black lives matter. When the BLM movement started [seven] years ago, I'd been a cop for 24 years. I'd thought to myself that fewer groups are committed to the idea that Black lives matter more than cops, especially those who work in Black and Brown communities. I was sure most people would recognize that we risk our lives daily to protect Black lives and that we are proud to do so. Boy, was I wrong.

It's frustrating that there aren't enough forums for people to hear the police officer's perspective and to share their own experiences. I believe my experience is that of most police officers, regardless if you work in Yonkers or Yakima, Westchester or Waco, New York or New Mexico. My 31-year story as a police officer is similar to that of most cops, some of us just farther along on our journeys.

Here's a snapshot.

My entire career, I patrolled the west side of Yonkers, most of it serving a Black-and-Brown community. I fell in love with my job the day I began and love it now more than ever. I'm grateful for all I've

experienced and thankful I've survived to tell about it.

In my first days as a rookie, I had furniture thrown at me off the roof of a high-rise building, simply because of the uniform I wore. Since then, I've been cursed at, spit on, punched in the face, kicked in the head, and pushed down stairs. I've been in high-speed pursuits, foot chases, and more violent struggles than I can remember.

I've arrested murderers, rapists, and the most violent gang members in Yonkers. I've recovered enough guns, drugs, and stolen property to fill a room. I've chased, been caught in the middle of, and witnessed the tragic results of gunfire, yet thankfully by the grace of God, I've never had to fire a single round.

While serving my community, I've helped kids with their homework, played sports with them, and bought them meals when I knew they wouldn't eat otherwise. When they became teenagers, some of these kids refused to look at or speak to me because of the anti-police stigma.

I've been exposed to the AIDS virus, suffered broken bones and torn ligaments, been bit by a dog, herniated several discs, and survived



Suede Graham

COORDINATOR FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES, PACE UNIVERSITY, PLEASANTVILLE

I remember the first realization that my mother and I were a different color.

Sitting in the bed of my grandpa's truck, on a hot July afternoon in a small Arkansas town, my 4-year-old eyes rummaged back and forth between my mother's white thigh and my caramel-colored arms.

"Momma, why aren't you brown like me?"

My mother, a blond-haired, blue-eyed Southern belle, sat in silence, not necessarily prepared to have the birds-and-the-bees conversation with her 4-year-old son. Nervously, she grabbed me by the hand, and we scurried inside the house to the kitchen. I sat at the kitchen table and watched as she retrieved two clean glasses from the countertop, a gallon of milk from the refrigerator, and a bottle of chocolate syrup from the cupboard. She began to fill the two glasses with equal amounts of whole milk but proceeded to pour and stir Hershey's chocolate syrup into only one of the glasses. I watched as her concoction transitioned from notebook-paper white to a color quite similar to that of my arms, legs, face, and body.

"You are just like me, Suede, with just a little bit more sweetness in you."

To my curious mind, that all made sense. But now, as a 27-year-old Black man in America, I wonder to myself: When did that "sweetness" my mother presented to me turn into a setback?

My mother and father divorced by the time I was 2, and we soon relocated to a town full of people who looked more like my mother and not like me. In my earlier years, I never realized and grasped the idea that I was a different color than many of my friends. As I grew into a young teenager and then into an adult, navigating life in predominantly White spaces became awkward and oftentimes confusing. Being too White for the Black kids but too Black for most of the White kids, I felt the need to look, talk, dress, and act a certain way. Hannah Montana once had a song titled "The Best of Both Worlds," but what does one do when your two worlds neither collide nor coincide?

Being biracial, specifically as a Black-and-White individual in America, understanding your identity can be elusive and arbitrary. Race can often be used to define so many aspects of our lives, and we feel as if we are forced to make a choice. We did not choose our skin color, but the world chooses to cast upon us judgments and prejudices simply because of our darker complexions.

"Being Biracial, Specifically as a blackand-white individual in America, understanding your identity can be elusive and arbitrary."

A big part of the biracial experience in America is being treated, or not being treated, like a Black person. Because of my darker skin tone, I identify more, and live this life, as a Black man. I walk into a room and immediately search for someone in the room who may look like me.

I love my Blackness. I love my culture. I love my hair. I find joy in the things that make me unique and different.

I just wish our nation loved my people the same way that I do.

car crashes, all while protecting my community. I've witnessed people breathe their last breaths, watched a mother wail as she held her bullet-riddled son, seen dead babies, and told people their loved ones would never be coming home. My mind and soul are forever seared with images and memories I wish I could erase.

I've solved murders, taken down violent gangs, and received a few accolades along the way. I've created programs that integrate inner-city kids with cops, helped raise more than a million dollars for charity, and delivered toys at Christmas and turkey dinners on Thanksgiving to the underprivileged.

And, yes, I've made mistakes. There are some things I wish I could do over again. There were times I let my frustration get the better of me and have treated some people with less respect than they deserved, and for that, I am regretful. I recognize that there were times when another human was on the other end of those mistakes and that their perspective matters as much as mine. Through it all, I

"I SERVED A BLACK-AND-BROWN COMMUNITY WITH LOVE AND INTEGRITY YET WITH IMPERFECTION AND HUMILITY."

served a Black-and-Brown community with love and integrity yet with imperfection and humility. I still love my job, my coworkers, and importantly, the people I serve.

I wish everyone understood how cops feel. My experience isn't unique by any measure. My story is similar to droves of cops who protect and serve the beautifully diverse people of America. I'd love to share our perspective with as many people as possible, but I know it's equally important to listen to others' viewpoints. It's time we all step out of our echo chambers and do our best to listen to each other.



TIFFANY BRADL**e**y

FOUNDER, COLORED CRITICISM (A DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORM FOR ART AND CULTURAL-HERITAGE STORIES); WESTCHESTER RESIDENT

I look for a living.

As an art critic, I've spent over a decade discussing visual culture. Perception is a tricky thing. What seems reasonable or fashionable one minute can appear out-of-touch the next. I've watched with amazement and a fair amount of skepticism as our country's perceptions changed over the summer. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor galvanized my generation in the way that the murder of Emmett Till mobilized generations past. The power of a magazine photograph or cellphone video still surprises.

As our internal perceptions change, so do the look of our communities. Statues and memorials have come down with dizzying speed, whether at the hands of a crowd or a municipally sanctioned crane. The monuments of the Confederacy are the most visible in disrespecting Black experiences but by no means alone. I look no further than the supermarket aisle to see Aunt Jemima, an iconic figure reinforcing the servitude of Black women. PepsiCo's [\$400+ million initiative] Journey to Racial Equality includes removing her image from the 130-year-old brand. I can recall artist Betve Saar's imperative for corporate change with her series *The* Liberation of Aunt Jemima over 45 years ago. I'm not sure why it took decades for the message to reach PepsiCo's Purchase headquarters.

I know that Black female artists remain at the forefront of a new imagination. Our distinct way of looking at the world manifests itself in a creativity that includes struggle, as well as joy. I knew there was one woman already making the monuments I wanted to see, so I hopped the Metro-North down to Yonkers. I raced through the rain with sculptor Vinnie Bagwell to visit the sites she is enlivening with new memorials. Vinnie is reshaping the Hudson Valley landscape, from her first sculpture of hometown heroine Ella Fitzgerald at the Yonkers Train Station to the upcoming installation of Sojourner Truth for the Empire State

Trail in Poughkeepsie. Her commissions stretch from Milwaukee to Memphis to Montgomery. But I'm most excited to see such radical, representational change in our backvard.

Public art is both an intimate history and a capital expenditure. We spend millions of dollars to commission, install, and maintain monuments in our communities. But they aren't just art. They are the people and stories that show us who we are. Vinnie's five statues of The Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden, along the Yonkers waterfront, change the narrative of

"PERCEPTION IS A TRICKY THING. WHAT SEEMS reasonable or Fashionable one minute can appear out-of-tol

Westchester's history. The visages of Themba the Boatman, I'Satta, BiBi, Sola, and Olumide all represent an inalienable part of our nation. As Vinnie explained: "My orders are to bring dignity to the memory of Black people because white people have not done it." These figures remind us of the skilled, stolen labor that built the wealth of the Hudson Valley. Blackness in America is often shown as a flat, one-dimensional caricature or stereotype. I look forward to seeing the depth of souls that have been with us for centuries past and will remain visible in the present.



ESSAYISTS:



HORACE ANDERSON JR.



CHEREESE JERVIS-HILL



sorraya sampson



Joshua Gaccione



ALVIN CLAYTON FERNANDES

I'm a U.S. citizen who emigrated from Trinidad to Washington, DC, at age 15. I received a scholarship to attend Mount St. Mary University for academics and soccer. It was during our soccer team road trip to play Frostburg State that I first encountered blatant racism, when we stumbled upon a Klu Klux Klan rally in Frederick, MD. The team feared for my safety; mindbogglingly, it was the 1980s.

Even though Mount St. Mary's class consisted of just 3% minorities, I never really felt the impact of racism among my classmates. My Black "brothers" had warned me of an outwardly racist classmate in my dorm. They were right, but I found him innocuous. Upon graduation, this young man came to me, confessing that there were no Black students at the schools in his New Jersey town. He said his views were media-biased until our friendship and that because he got to know me, it changed how he saw Blacks. That was very touching to me but also shocking. What other way is there to be?

After graduating from Mount St. Mary, I moved to New York to become a fashion model, signing with Wilhelmina Models. Being a successful model was a longshot, regardless of color. Fortunately, GQ magazine was the launchpad to a successful modeling career. Even though I had become one of the top models in the industry in the 1980s and '90s and was in GQ practically every month, getting a cab in New York City was almost impossible. Walking into an elevator as a Black person was also challenging. I remember trying to gain entrance to a store on the Upper East Side where one had to be buzzed in. As I approached the door, I saw a sign that read "Open." I buzzed for entrance; no one came to the door. I went across the street and called the store. I asked if they were open; they said yes. I said, "Well, I'm an African American trying to buy a wooden car for my son and was referred by one of your employees. Could you please open the door for me?" I returned to the store and buzzed for entry. One of the employees walked up to the door, and while I was standing there, turned the sign on the door from "Open" to "Closed."

I have never stolen anything in my life. I've worked hard for everything I've earned. I grew up with

parents who instilled great values in me and my siblings. We are all successful entrepreneurs. I have never seen myself as a second-class citizen and still don't. While I don't automatically assume anyone is a racist, I've been around long enough to know racism when it's directed towards me. The beautiful thing about the human spirit is that we have free choice. I choose to see the better spirits in people; I choose not to be angry; and I treat others the way I would like to be treated.

"IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN I Pass you on the STREET. IT IS YOUR PROBLEM, BECAUSE Here's nothing I want

George Floyd's murder did something to my psyche, however. It put me in a place where I just got tired of carrying the burden of being Black and thinking I needed to make my White friends comfortable at all points. It's not my problem if you're threatened by me when you walk into an elevator. It's not my problem if you feel uncomfortable when I pass you on the street. It is your problem, because there's nothing I want from you. I am a husband, father, son, and artist. I am a business owner, a neighbor, and a friend working to make a better life for my family while abiding by the laws of this great country. How different am I from you?



FR. Kareem R. Smith



SUEDE GRAHAM



Det. Keith Olson



TIFFANY BRADLEY



ALVIN CLAYTON FERNANDES



Free Things to Do Year-Round

Despite being one of the highest cost-of-living counties in the country, Westchester offers many great opportunities to do things cost-free — you just have to know where to look. From gratis alfresco yoga classes to complimentary art exhibitions and audio history tours, there are lots of activities in any given month that don't cost a dime.

By Nick Brandi, Michelle Gillan Larkin, and Elizabeth Strattner



RECREATION

I Sensory Hike, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Pleasantville Monthly

Get in touch with nature the way "Mother" intended — quietly! This short, guided hike around the lake and farm trails of this iconic preserve will focus on staying quiet, to allow the senses to better attune to the surroundings. (Skill level: easy to moderate)

www.parks.ny.gov/PARKS/59

Full Moon Hike, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Pleasantville Monthly

Enjoy the preserve in the dark on a guided "after hours" hike. Bring a flashlight or headlamp. (All levels welcome.) https://www.friendsrock.org/calendar

Pedestrian Path, The Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, Tarrytown Daily (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

Open to walkers, joggers, and cyclists, the 3.6-mile path affords breathtaking views of the Hudson, Palisades, and NYC in the distance, along with not-tobe-missed food-truck fare (at both ends) and inspiring work from local artists. www.mariomcuomobridge.ny.gov/ explore-bridge-path

Snowshoeing/X-Country Skiing, Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, Yorktown Heights

Daily (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Strap on your own snowshoes or skis and zip along the trails of this 960-acre site to your heart's content.

www.parks.ny.gov/parks/148/maps.aspx

lce Fishing, Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, Yorktown Heights

Daily (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Bring a pole, bait, and patience to enjoy ice fishing when the lake and/or pond freeze over.

www.parks.ny.gov/parks/148/maps.aspx

6 History Tours and Garden Tours, Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, Yonkers

April to November, Sundays With the help of a docent, tour the bucolic grounds and blooming gardens of this stunning estate, which dates back to 1862. www.untermyergardens.org/tours.html

Sunset Yoga in the Park Series

Spring, Summer, Fall, Wednesdays (6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

Enjoy traditional and authentic Sun Salutations as the sun sets over the Hudson or the Sound, depending on

whether you take part at Croton Point Park, Playland, or New Rochelle's Flowers City Park. All levels welcome; just bring your own mat and an open heart. Hosted by the Westchester Parks Foundation. www.thewpf.org

8 Bicycle Sundays, Bronx River Parkway

May through September, select Sundays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

A Westchester tradition since 1974, Bicycle Sundays allows cruising up and down the Bronx River Parkway atop a two-wheeler or courtesy of your own two feet. A good workout is guaranteed — the full loop is a whopping 13.1 miles. www.thewpf.org/event/bicyclesundays-2/2020-05-17

9 Outdoor Yoga, White Plains Plaza August (2021 date TBD)

> Bring your own yoga mat and twist yourself into a pretzel surrounded by fresh air and a hundred or so of your closest friends at this yearly event sponsored by the White Plains BID. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and stretch. www.wpbid.com/events



FAMILY/KIDS

10 Nature Education and Appreciation, Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale

Ongoing

Indoor and outdoor "play" is endless for kids and their caretakers, too, at this 33-acre nature preserve, which features hiking and walking trails, outdoor animal displays, a vernal pond, a native-plant meadow, Native American-replica village, barnyard, playground, and organic garden. www.greenburghnaturecenter.org

Frosty Day, Armonk Nov 29

The streets of downtown Armonk will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the 11th year running, with dancers, singers, and marching bands hailing the arrival of Frosty the Snowman (and Santa, too!) amid blocks of activities like face-painting, cookie decorating, a mini-train, a bubble truck, a parade, and Christmas-tree lighting. www.armonkfrosty.com

12 Play2Learn Festival, Harrison Public Library, Harrison

(2021 date TBD)

Like sneaking broccoli into kids' brownies, learning is disguised as play at this yearly fall festival that celebrates the importance of play in a child's life, featuring dozens of hands-on activities centered around creativity, science, music, dance, fitness, sensory experiences, building, tech, and more. www.harrisonpl.org

13 Heritage Festivals, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla Spring & Summer

Culture and community are celebrated throughout the clement months at these colorful and lively gatherings. Among the people and traditions in the spotlight: Polish, Asian, Italian, Hispanic, Indian, African American, Albanian, Muslim, and Jewish. events.westchestergov.com

14 Family Entertainment Series, Senasqua Park and Vassallo Park

Croton-on-Hudson, June to Aug (7 p.m.) Magic, storytelling, puppets, comedy, and circus acts are

among the weekly summertime entertainment extravaganzas hosted by Croton's Parks & Rec. www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/recreation-parks

15 Neighborhood Nights, White Plains

July, Mondays to Thursdays (7 p.m.)

Bring a blanket or a couple of chairs to enjoy music, movies, magic, and more at a number of parks across the city. www.cityofwhiteplains.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=2642



16

REEL HOT NIGHTS

Outdoor Summer Movies, Various Towns Dusk

Enjoy crowd-pleasing, sky-topped cinema at a number of parks around the county, including Bedford, Cortlandt, Mamaroneck, Hastings-on-Hudson, Peekskill, Rye, and others.

Croton Summer Movie Series, Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson

June to August, Dusk

One showing per week and fun for the whole family. www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/recreation-parks

Movies Under the Stars, Kensico Dam, Valhalla July to August, Dusk (entertainment begins at 6 p.m.)

A movie in July and another in August is the M.O. at the Dam, with family-friendly entertainment before each screening. www.westchestergov.com

Movie Mondays at Ridge Hill, Yonkers

July to August, Sunset (activities begin at 7 p.m.)

Town Square is transformed into an outdoor movie theater with complimentary popcorn, courtesy of Whole Foods. Music and kids' activities, like beanbag tosses, before each show. www.ridgehill.com/event/Movie-Mondays/2145543623

Outdoor Movie Night and DJ Dance Party, Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park, Yorktown

July, Sunset

Watch a weeknight movie under the sky or dance the night away - or both! www.yorktownny.org/parksandrecreation/ outdoor-movie-night-rescheduled

FESTIVALS/EVENTS

1 Ferry Con, Dobbs Ferry Public Library May (2021 date TBD)

Join other comics lovers to enjoy a day of superhero- and comics-related events, such as panels, performances, classes, films, and more, at this yearly local Con. Come dressed as your favorite character! www.dobbsferrylibrary.org

18 Armonk Third Thursdays, Armonk

June through August

Every third Thursday of the summer, the Armonk Chamber of Commerce hosts fun activities for children and parents alike. Experience a classic-car show, concert in the park, or chili cook-off, among other fun happenings, or shop the third-Thursday sales at businesses throughout Armonk.

www.armonkchamberofcommerce.com

19 Katonah Nights, Katonah

July (2021 dates TBD)

Hang out and listen to live music from the town gazebo. Stroll the quaint downtown at this community event that includes stores staying open late and specials from your favorite restaurants.

www.katonahchamber.org

20 Free Community Corn Roast, Ossining Farmers' Market August (2021 date TBD)

Head down to the farmers' market to treat yourself to feelgood summer food, like an ear of locally grown corn roasted over a coal fire. The market gives them away each year as a thank-you to the community for their support. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

21 Mount Vernon Comic Expo, Mount Vernon Public Library

September (2021 date TBD)

Head to Mount Vernon's annual Comic Expo to experience the passion of these playful souls across the county. This outdoor event features a children's activity area, vendors, gaming tournaments, food trucks, and cosplayers interacting with attendees. www.mountvernonpubliclibrary.org

22 Cider and Donut Festival, Wampus Brook Park,

September (2021 date TBD)

Have a full day of fall fun at this annual festival while enjoying fresh doughnuts, apple cider, and other yummy treats. There are activities for both kids and parents, including a 5k run, face painting, live music, a pie-eating contest, and more. All proceeds will be donated to children's programs at the North Castle Library, the Armonk Chamber of Commerce, and the Byram Hills Preschool Association (BHPA).

www.armonkchamberofcommerce.com



MUSIC/FINE ARTS



23 Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens, PepsiCo, Purchase

Hours of operation listed on website If you're searching for art in unexpected places, the PepsiCo corporate office boasts the magnificent Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens, located

outside their building. Download the map or app from the PepsiCo website to enhance your touring experience or simply stroll around at your leisure. www.pepsico.com/sculpture-gardens

24 ArtsFest, New Rochelle

Oct 16-18

Mark your calendar for the annual weekendlong ArtsFest in New Rochelle. Celebrate the arts through live music and dance, spoken-word performances, art exhibits, open artists' studios, and more. To dive deeper, try an interactive art project or chat with one of the artists themselves. www.newrochellearts.org

25 Beethoven Festival, Yonkers February (2021 date TBD)

Come to this event to experience the Yonkers Philharmonic and celebrate one of the greatest musicians of all time. Bring friends, kids, or parents — this concert is suitable for all ages. www.artswestchester.org

26 Violins and Valentines by the Rivertown String Quartet, Yonkers February (2021 date TBD)

Enjoy this Valentine-themed concert and learn about the historical backgrounds and contexts behind the musical pieces played. Candy and crafts will be offered in addition to timeless music. www.rivertownstringquartet.org

Summer Nights on the Sound Concert Series, Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck July (2021 dates TBD)

Enjoy an evening with live music on the water at this weekly concert series. The series features a diverse group of new and returning musical groups for all to appreciate. Chairs, blankets, and snacks are encouraged.

www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us

28 Summer Amphitheater Series, Hudson River Museum, Yonkers

August through September (2021 dates TBD) Spend an evening listening to skilled artists perform in the museum's beautiful amphitheater. There will be performances across disciplines and genres that pay homage to both classic artists and up-and-comers. www.hrm.org

45 Free Things to Do Year-Round

29 Riverfest, Yonkers

September (2021 date TBD)

This celebration of community is the largest free festival in Westchester County. Enjoy games, rides, live music, arts and crafts, and more at this event that caters to all ages. A variety of foods, including international cuisines, will be available. www.yonkersriverfest.org

30 JazzFest, White Plains September (2021 dates TBD)

This annual, week-long festival features performances by talented jazz musicians from Westchester County and NYC. There will be celebration of both established musicians who have shaped the course of jazz and newcomers who are taking it in new directions. www.artswestchester.org

31 LOCAL SUMMER CONCERTS

Westchester County abounds with free summer concerts for kids, adults, and everyone in between.

Ardsley Summer Concert in the Park: www.ardsleyvillage.com

Cortlandt Concert and Movie Nights: www.townofcortlandt.com

Croton-on-Hudson Summer Concert Series: www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Outdoor Concerts in Memorial Park: www.townofmamaroneckny.org

Ossining Family Concert Series: www.villageofossining.org

Peekskill Concert Series and 4th of July Celebration: www.cityofpeekskill.com

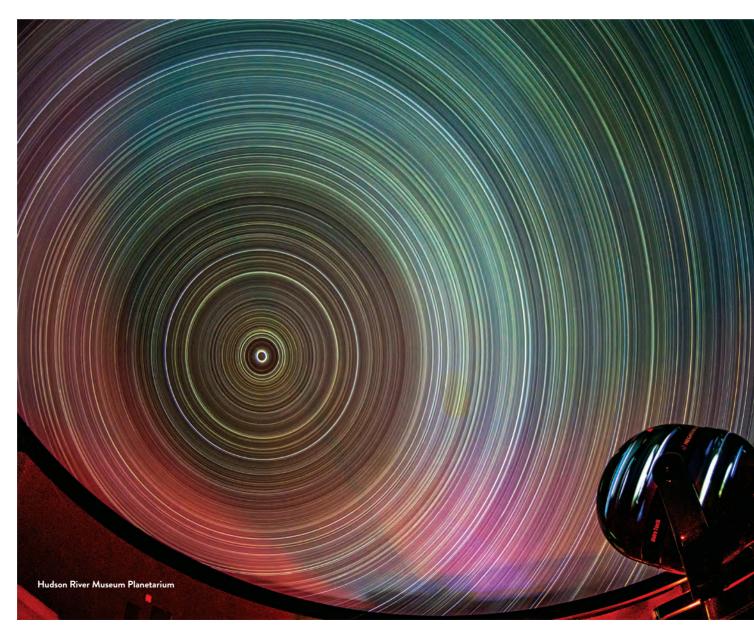
Rye's Twilight Concert Series: www.townofryeny.com

Tarrytown's Music in the Open Air: www.tarrytowngov.com

Town of Pelham Concert Series: www.pelhamrecreation.com

White Plains' Father's Day Concert in the Park: www.cityofwhiteplains.com

Yonkers' Summer Arts in the Amphitheater: www.hrm.org/amphitheater



EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT

Watershed Moment, Lyndhurst, Tarrytown

Ongoing, Fridays through Sundays Set in the mansion's cavernous unrestored Roman bath, designed by Helen Gould to serve the Gilded Age elite, Watershed Moment is a multidisciplinary installation by artist and historic-preservation expert Jorge Otero-Pailos that explores the Hudson Valley's lush abundance of water resources. This imaginative synthesis of the natural and manmade is free, though drivers

www.lyndhurst.org

33 "The Sky Tonight," Hudson River Museum,

will need to purchase a daily grounds pass.

Ongoing, Saturdays and Sundays

This live, interactive show at the planetarium treats stargazers of all stripes to a tour of the infinite sky from our local perspective. Every show is unique, with planetarium educators discoursing on celestial subjects ranging from stars, planets, and the Milky Way to comets, meteor showers, seasonal constellations, black holes, and more. www.hrm.org

34 First Thursday Gallery Hop, multiple locations, Yonkers

Ongoing, first Thursday of each month This coterie of (typically) five Yonkers galleries (Blue Door Art Center, Philipse Manor Hall, Riverfront Art Gallery, Warburton Galerie, US+U Art Gallery) opens its doors to the public for free on the first Thursday of the month. In addition to the visual stimulation of cutting-edge contemporary art from emerging and established artists, discounts and coupons from some local restaurants are available. www.facebook.com/firstthursdaygalleryhop

Historic Hudson River Towns (HHRT) Mobile Audio Tours, Westchester Rivertowns

Gather up the kids or your besties for a uniquely charming road trip along Route 9, from Yonkers to Peekskill, as HHRT audio guides lecture tourgoers about the region's history, culture, landmarks, illustrious characters, and scenic beauty via the TravelStorys free downloadable app, which uses GPS tech to track where you are at any given time and automatically shares the fascinating details of that location.

www.hudsonriver.com/river-towns/mobile-audio-tours

36 Street Art Walk, "NRNY Artsy Murals," New Rochelle

Ongoing

New Rochelle is rapidly evolving into one of the county's most exciting cities, and the eight sensational building murals that constitute "NRNY Artsy Murals" are a vivid testament to that sentiment. Curated by Street Art for Mankind (SAM), the works celebrate both NewRo's history and rich cultural diversity. *Pro tip*: Download "Behind the Wall," a free app that combines augmented reality content and audio-guide features, making the murals truly interactive.

www.facebook.com/events/2258756104415102

Summer Dance Classes, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, New Rochelle

Check website for performance dates/times

The acclaimed Calpulli Mexican Dance Company has been bringing its vibrant performances and fun dance workshops to the New Rochelle Public Library since 2012. With its authentic, colorful costumes and talented performers, the company teaches local kids and students about Mexico's diverse cultural traditions through dances from a variety of regions.

www.calpullidance.org

38 Folk Art Fridays, Riverfront Library, Yonkers

Ongoing, Fridays

One of the myriad ways the city of Yonkers serves up enrichment activities to its citizens is with Folk Art Fridays, when participants not only delve into a variety of culturally inspired art techniques from around the world but also explore special projects that range from bookmaking and printmaking to painting and mosaics.

www.yonkerschamber.com/yonkers-community-events/ community-events-calendar

39 Colonial Games Days, Philipse Manor Hall, Yonkers

Summer, Wednesdays

Yonkers' oldest building is the site of a trip back in time, where you can learn what it was like to be a kid during Colonial times. Attendees can dress in recreated period clothing and play period games, including learning about their history and how they have evolved over the generations.

www.parks.ny.gov/historic-sites

VOLUNTEERING





40 Baby Cuddling, Infant Development Center, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Bedford Hills Ongoing

Looking for a free activity in Westchester that will make your heart swell? Then put yourself on the baby-cuddling waiting list at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, where, under the auspices of Hour Children, volunteer cuddlers have the privilege of rocking, singing to, feeding, and playing with precious babies from a few weeks' old to 18 months (and they don't even have to change diapers!). Obviously, there are rules to follow and a mandatory orientation on the path to optional morning or afternoon cuddling modules that run Monday through Friday. Volunteers must undergo an in-depth background check, but once you make it through the screening process, you're guaranteed to get back so much more than you've put in.

Contact Elizabeth Hamilton, Infant Center Manager, at 914.241.3100, x4050 or at ehamilton@hourchildren.org

41 Home Socialization Program, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Ongoing

Open your home to two adorable puppies for three to five days as part of this popular program, which has seen more than 1,000 local families step up to help. Guiding Eyes for the Blind gives you the training and equipment you need to help prepare these pups for careers as guide dogs. All you need to provide is the love and attention.

www.guidingeyes.org

42 Pitch in for the Parks, Westchester Parks Foundation

Most of us claim to love Westchester's bucolic public spaces, but with this program, you can actually roll up your sleeves and become their champion. Pitch in for the Parks allows individuals, families, and larger groups to do everything from rake, paint, and clear paths to plant flower beds, build footbridges and boardwalks, and restore wildlife habitats. www.thewpf.org

43 Graffiti Squad, Westchester Parks Foundation, various locations

Sadly, not all graffiti is a work of art, in which case Thalle Industries deploys (on behalf of the Westchester Parks Foundation) the annual Graffiti Squad of volunteers, who restore sites throughout the county. This year's location will on the Bronx River Reservation in Bronxville. Volunteers should be at least 14 years of age. www.thewpf.org

Annual Riverkeeper Sweep, Riverkeeper, Ossining

Westchesterites enjoy the nation's most beautiful waterway, and it's our responsibility to help keep it that way. Fortunately, the intrepid Riverkeeper's annual Sweep makes it easier. At this year's event, volunteers will canvas the Hudson River's shoreline and tributaries from the Adirondacks to Brooklyn and remove tons of debris, plant trees and native grasses, as well as remove invasive species. www.riverkeeper.org

45 Various, Volunteer New York! Ongoing

Any Westchesterite who wants to give back owes it to themselves to visit VNY!'s website, which abounds with humanitarian opportunities. Most programs work with your schedule and can include everything from food-pantry volunteers, reading tutors, and making masks for healthcare workers, essential workers, and neighbors in need to writing cards and letters to lonely seniors or driving them to appointments.

www.volunteernewyork.org

Due to the ongoing risk of COVID-19, all events are subject to change or cancellation. 🕡

the MOMMY MANUAL

Everything you need to know about conceiving and having a baby in Westchester today.

By Stacey Pfeffer and Gina Valentino

f you're expecting a baby — or hope to be expecting one soon — you already know that this is a unique and exciting, yet overwhelming, time of life. And that's on a normal day, one without a global pandemic. Luckily, living in Westchester means having access to the best doctors, hospitals, medical facilities, and holistic health specialists to help ensure a smooth and successful pregnancy at any time. In addition, the county offers a wealth of places to educate yourself on the birthing process, shop for your bundle of joy, and pamper yourself and baby. Here are the resources you need to know and the fun material you want to know when you are expecting during the unexpected.

Getting Pregnant in 2020

New advances in fertility and what is available locally By Stacey Pfeffer

he decision to create a life can be extremely exciting, but it can also be quite stressful for the significant number of men and women who struggle with infertility. The financial burden of assisted reproductive technology methods, the process of conceiving, and then maintaining a healthy pregnancy, all contribute to the emotional toll that infertility can take.

Luckily, changes are afoot regarding reproductive medicine — from legislation and recent advances in genetic screening to an increase in knowledge regarding egg freezing — and couples in Westchester have access to the latest fertility techniques and expertise. And even though fertility treatments were delayed or halted during the height of the pandemic, couples are now getting back on track with their treatments, notes local fertility specialist Dr. Matthew Lederman, a reproductive endocrinologist with **Reproductive**Medicine Associates of New York (a fertility clinic with a location in White Plains).

"Things are getting back to normal for our patients," Lederman says. "We have modified our procedures and protocols in our office to create a safe environment: Our patients will get a text prior to their appointments about when to come into the office; upon entering the office, all patients and staff are screened with both a questionnaire and temperature check; the waiting room layout was changed to maximize social distancing, and all patients and staff are required to wear masks at all times. We also offer telehealth appointments for both new patient visits and follow-ups.

"Although knowledge regarding the effects of COVID-19 on pregnancy are limited," Lederman adds, "the initial data for women trying to conceive is reassuring."

When it comes to specific options for patients today, Lederman notes that advances in fertility treatments are all leading to improved success rates for couples or women desiring a baby. For instance, Lederman has seen an increased interest in egg freezing in recent years from women in their early 30s and even younger. "More women are aware today that the quality of their eggs is better when they are younger, so they are choosing to look into egg freezing as a backup plan," he explains. "Giving women options for conception is appealing, and it provides peace of mind for patients to know they've proactively done something to increase their chances of having a baby in the future." National statistics echo Lederman's observations: The average age of patients opting for egg freezing was 35 in 2018; in 2016, the average age was 38. Moreover, researchers are anticipating huge growth in this area as Millennials seek to preserve both their fertility and their options. One popular option is assisted reproductive technology (ART), which includes in vitro fertilization, or IVF. A recent advancement in reproductive medicine,

especially with regard to IVF, is the screening of embryos. At RMA, embryologists biopsy the outside cells of an embryo without harming it, to screen for chromosomal abnormalities, and then implant one chromosomally normal embryo (reducing the likelihood of twins or multiples) that has the highest likelihood of successful conception. "Transfer of a single, screened embryo maximizes the chance of success and reduces risk of miscarriage. We can't totally eliminate a miscarriage, but we can greatly reduce the chances," explains Lederman.

Reproductive technology doesn't come cheap, though, and not all patients experience success after their first cycle. IVF patients can typically spend more than \$20,000, while egg-freezing patients can expect to spend more than \$10,000 on treatment and storage.



Well Collaborative in Sleepy Hollow offers acupuncture for women looking to improve fertility or manage anxiety during pregnancy.

An increasing number of Westchesterites struggling with infertility are seeking alternative treatments, as well. Chryssa Tsakiris, founder of Sleepy Hollow-based Well Collaborative, notes that when women are undergoing IVF or other fertility treatments, they often feel like "everything is in the hands of someone else. It is a very clinical process." Tsakiris, an acupuncture practitioner, founded Well Collaborative to offer acupuncture to Westchester women looking to improve their chances of fertility or to help them manage anxiety during pregnancy. Her 800 sq. ft. location was designed to look like your best friend's apartment (think cozy chairs, greenery galore, and gentle lighting), with a

soothing atmosphere that can only help during such stressful times. As soon as acupuncture was classified an essential service, allowing Tsakiris to safely reopen, she says most of her patients "came back immediately because they wanted to move forward with their fertility treatments."

As she explains, "Seventy percent of the practice is fertility-based," with some clients coming weekly during their pregnancies and others coming in for sessions preconception. To help cut down on potentially risky face-to-face time, Tsakiris now conducts the intake portion of the appointment as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

While Tsakiris has garnered a loval following from local women on a fertility journey, Lederman notes that acupuncture does not necessarily improve pregnancy outcomes, though it can help with stress reduction, as stress often goes hand in hand with infertility.

Local experts and holistic facilities are seeing the importance of providing services that help mitigate stress and manage tension during this time. Yoga Haven, with a studio in Tuckahoe, offers a virtual four-week fertility series, called Yoga for Fertility and Reproductive Empowerment. Previously, the series had been held in person at the Scarsdale studio, which closed over the summer. Spearheaded by Jaime Maldonado, the classes focus on restorative poses, breathing, and relaxation techniques to help women trying to conceive.

Maldonado believes the communal aspect and the support of other class participants are crucial. "There is this stigma with infertility. It is hard to talk about. You can't will a baby to happen, and when it doesn't, there can be a cycle of stress, anxiety, and depression. It is so helpful to know you aren't alone," says Maldonado. She's designed the class so that it is accessible to all.

While everyone's journey is unique, New York State has tried to make conception and pregnancy more accessible. Earlier this year, the state mandated that all large group-insurance providers cover up to three cycles of IVF treatment for those with a medical diagnosis of infertility, as well as cover egg and sperm freezing for medically necessary purposes, such as a cancer diagnosis or surgery for endometriosis. Known as the New York State Infertility Mandate, the law is expected to help the estimated one in eight couples who struggle with infertility.

Creating Community

Local businesses are helping to create a community for moms-to-be and new moms despite the current socially distant climate.

s a mom-to-be, you might have tons of questions on how to prepare for the birth of your new baby. Throw in a global pandemic that largely eliminates the option of getting together with other expectant or new moms in person, and many Westchesterites are left feeling disconnected during their pregnancies. Local businesses are making it easy to answer those questions virtually, whether it's your first baby or your fifth.

After Mamaroneck mom Emily Watson struggled with infertility, she created an online resource guide to all things pregnancy in Westchester: MyNestwell (www.mynestwell.com). The certified fertility wellness coach had looked for a platform that listed local providers, and when she couldn't find one, created a convenient online portal herself. MvNestwell's mission: "It takes a village to raise a mother. Let us help you find yours."

The website is organized by stage of motherhood: fertility, pregnancy, postpartum, and beyond. It includes lists of specific providers in the area, such as acupuncturists, lactation consultants and counselors. childbirth educators, maternal mental health specialists, birth doulas, pelvic floor specialists, and newborn-care specialists. The platform includes FAQs and can easily connect you with local providers along your motherhood journey.

Westchester Birth and Parenting (www.westchesterbirthandparenting.com), founded by Hastings-on-Hudson resident Hilary Baxendale, offers preparation for the birth experience, group classes, and a way to meet other local families, now available virtually. Baxendale, a Lamaze-certified educator and lactation counselor, says her main

goal is to get clients on the same page as their providers and to educate clients about expectations, offering information about the basics of labor and immediate postpartum. "We don't want surprises. The day you give birth is full of surprises," she says. Her virtual doula support, lactation, and new-mom groups are convenient and safe options for moms-to-be who prefer limited in-person contact during this time. The virtual doula package includes a



prenatal approintment (in person or through video chat) and unlimited texts and emails before birth and during labor; partner guidance tips; and a postnatal meeting. Baxendale's one-day comprehensive virtual birth classes, updated with COVID-19 policy changes, have helped to create a sense of connection for new parents. The next class is October 25.

Port Chester's Prana Prenatal Yoga (www.pranaprenatalyoga.com) was a go-to destination for many moms-to-be pre-COVID. Now, the studio has adapted to offer virtual workshops that cover breastfeeding, sleep training, CPR/AED training, hypnobirthing, and pelvic floor training, as well as socially distanced outdoor prenatal and mommy-andbaby yoga classes. Prana is also offering virtual support groups, facilitated by lactation consultants and licensed clinical psychologists. -GV



Where to Give Birth

What to know about area hospitals before choosing where to deliver By Gina Valentino

eciding where to have your baby is a big decision. While each hospital touts a highly skilled team, which may consist of obstetricians, nurses, neonatologists, anesthesiologists, and midwives, here's what you need to know about the area's hospitals, so you can decide which one is right for you. Check with your preferred hospital for availability on your due date.

Greenwich Hospital

5 Perryridge Rd, Greenwich; 203.863.3000; www.greenwichhospital.org

State-of-the-art equipment. Prenatal breastfeeding classes, a lactation consultant, a genetics counselor, and a diabetes educator are available. Private labor, delivery, and recovery rooms have TVs, phones, lavatories, and birthing beds. Level III-B Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). NICU Family Lounge located next to main Maternity Lounge Area. Birthing data not available at press time.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

1980 Crompond Rd, Cortlandt Manor; 914.788.4635; www.nyp.org/hudsonvalley

A newly renovated state-of-the-art maternity center will be unveiled in November. Private rooms for triage, labor and delivery, and postpartum. L&D rooms include soaking tub for laboring. In postpartum recovery rooms, partners can stay overnight; adjustable lighting and individual temp control in rooms. Level II NICU. Lactation consulting, birthing classes, and breastfeeding support groups available. Certified "Baby Friendly" by Baby-Friendly USA, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Births: 73% vaginal and 27% Cesarean**

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital

55 Palmer Ave, Bronxville; 914.787.5000; www.nyp.org/lawrence

Maternal-fetal medicine consultations and monitoring available; prenatal classes and breastfeeding support are offered. Level II NICU. All patients have private rooms with private bath and shower. NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's gynecology services were ranked fourth in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals rankings. Access on-site to leaders in minimally invasive gynecologic surgical techniques and experienced gynecologic robotic surgeons. 1,342 births; 60% vaginal and 40% Cesarean.**

Northern Westchester Hospital

400 E Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.666.1200; www.nwh.northwell.edu

L&D experience includes a mother-baby navigator; a personal birthing plan; and Baby University, an online education app to prepare for pregnancy stages and early motherhood. Private L&D rooms; 24/7 lactation consulting available. Level III NICU. Level III Perinatal Center. Childbirth preparation, breastfeeding, sibling, and newborn-care classes available, as well as postdelivery new-mom support groups, friends-and-family infant/child CPR class, and breastfeeding support groups. 1,531 births; 56% vaginal and 45% Cesarean.*

(list continues on next page)

Where to Give Birth (continued)

Phelps Hospital

701 N Broadway, Sleepy Hollow; 914.366.3000; www.phelps.northwell.edu

Birthing Center offers beds, labor tubs, and an infant warmer for newborns. L&D nursing staff is board-certified in fetal monitoring. Maternity Unit offers private rooms with room for partner. Lactation consultants and donor milk for babies are offered. Complimentary one-on-one breastfeeding consultation visit is offered after discharge. One of the top-10 hospitals in NYS with highest percentages of mothers who exclusively breastfeed. Designated "Baby Friendly" by Baby-Friendly USA, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. 1,034 births; 72% vaginal and 29% Cesarean.*

St. John's Riverside Hospital

967 N Broadway, Yonkers; 914.964.4444; www.riversidehealth.org

Recognized as a Five Star Maternity Center. Private, Hudson River-view rooms; private, state-of-the-art postpartum suites; personalized prenatal education program offers Lamaze and breastfeeding classes. Concierge VIP experience. Maternal-fetal medicine specialists available. Level II NICU. 1,154 births; 57% vaginal and 43% Cesarean.*

Westchester Medical Center

100 Woods Rd, Valhalla; 914.493.2250; www.westchestermedicalcenter.org/advanced-ob-gyn Advanced OB-GYN team specializes in high-risk pregnancies, in addition to well-baby/well-mother births. Four maternal-fetal medicine specialists provide advanced-level care for expectant mothers who have health issues as a result of pregnancy (including gestational diabetes or preeclampsia), and mothers who have prior medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease. 970 births; 59% vaginal and 41% Cesarean.*

White Plains Hospital

41 E Post Rd, White Plains; 914.681.0600; www.wphospital.org

Cutting-edge technology in L&D suites, including a Central Fetal Monitoring System. Award-winning, Level III, state-of-the-art NICU. Offers prenatal classes and educational programs, like prenatal yoga and meditation, breastfeeding basics, and classes designed for new siblings. A new pediatric emergency department/inpatient unit is currently under construction. 1,989 births; 63% vaginal and 37% Cesarean.**

- *Most-recent available data from New York State Department of Health (2017)
- **Most-recent available data from hospital (NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital data from 2019; NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital data from 2018; White Plains Hospital data from 2019)

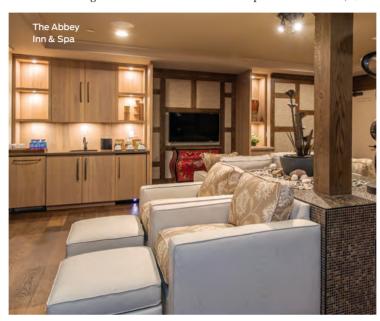
Mommy Massage Relax both yourself and your baby with a prenatal

Relax both yourself and your baby with a prenatal massage at one of these six Westchester spas.

The Abbey Inn & Spa

900 Fort Hill Rd, Peekskill; 914.736.1200; www.theabbeyinn.com

The 50-minute Mother-to-Be Massage is tailored toward expectant mothers, with a focus on relieving stress and inflammation. Must be past first trimester. \$135



Angelface Day Spa

322 Underhill Ave, Yorktown Heights; 914.245.1084; www.angelfacespa.com
The specialized Pregnancy Massage has four time options (from 25 minutes to 85 minutes) and is designed to ease discomfort. Recommended to be past first trimester. \$70-\$150

Elements Massage

1 N Broadway, White Plains; 914.214.9287; www.elementsmassage.com/white-plains Elements Massage offers 60-minute and 90-minute prenatal massages focusing on promoting the well-being of mom and baby. Must be past first trimester. \$129-\$179

Massage Envy

777 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale; 914.902.9200; www.massageenvy.com
The Scarsdale location of Massage Envy offers 60-minute and 90-minute tailored massages for moms-to-be. Maternity pillows are offered, and massage is done on the side. Must be past first trimester. \$140-\$210

Oasis Day Spa

50 Hamilton St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.409.1900; www.oasiswestchester.com
Oasis offers 60-minute Prenatal and Postnatal Massages to help heal the
discomforts of pregnancy. Massage done facedown with cushions. Must be past
first trimester. \$145

POSH Beauty Boutique

118 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville; 914.361.1277; www.poshbronxville.com The 60-minute Mummy-to-Be Massage is designed to relax both mom and baby. The prenatal massage table contours to the body. Must be past first trimester. \$130-GV

Dressed to the Nines

Our four favorite baby shops will outfit your little one for everything from their first trip home to their social media debut.

hip-kid

77 South Greeley Ave, Chappagua www.hip-kid.com

hip-kid's owner, Trish Kallman, does her research before choosing to feature brands, ones that are socially conscious and good for baby (think organic materials and tagless garments). She never compromises on style though, so your baby can crawl cute.

& JAMES

180 Katonah Ave, Katonah www.andiameskatonah.com

This north-county boutique offers a curated collection of contemporary and classic brands of clothing and accessories, including Bella Bliss, Pink Chicken, and Angel Dear. New items arrive weekly. Monogramming is available, for a bespoke style.



Sammy + Nat

88 Purchase St, Rye www.sammyandnat.com

Parents-in-the-know flock to this celebrity favorite for classic clothing using the softest pima cotton, so baby is comfortable yet stylish. Their take-me-home sets are popular, making your unique bundle of joy paparazziready for his or her world debut.

Lester's

18 South Ridge St, Rye Brook www.shop.lesters.com

New and expectant moms get one-on-one personal service here from specialists who know exactly what baby needs, from cozy swaddle blankets to on-trend onesies. -SP



Picture Perfect

Local professional photographers to help capture special moments with you and your little one. All three specialize in maternity, newborn, and family photos.

Jane Goodrich Photography

Larchmont; www.janegoodrich.com

Stelmah Photo

Dobbs Ferry; www.stelmahphoto.com

Suzanne Claire Photography

Port Chester; www.suzanneclairephotography.com

Mobile Services for Mom

Now that there's a baby on board, it might be difficult to find time for yourself. Local beauty companies will come straight to your door for some much-needed mom TLC, with safety protocols in place.

ocal businesses are helping mamas stay glam without leaving home. When New Rochelle resident Sharice Pegram was nursing her sixmonth-old baby last year, she looked for a manicure service that would come to her house. After she couldn't find one, she created ManiPlease (www. maniplease.com) with new mothers in mind. Nail technicians will come to your house and give you a manicure and pedicure with cruelty-free polish. Other mobile services, which were spawned from the COVID-19 pandemic and are ideal for new moms at home are White Plains- and Rye-based Meg-a-Lashes' eyelash-extension service and PLUSH Blow's blow-dry service (PLUSH has multiple county locations, too). GLOW, with multiple county locations, is offering mobile spray-tanning services countywide. -GV



Preparing boys for life in a changing world.

An independent, college preparatory day school, providing character-based education for boys in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.





bwick.org/virtualvisit



Deciding to send your child to a private school is just the beginning. With so many choices in and around Westchester, determining which private school can often seem overwhelming. Area schools share strategies and guidance that can pave the way to a smoother search.

ach school year, parents face difficult decisions — selecting schools, activities, and support services that are best for their children This year that process is even more complicated due to the uncertainty of how schools will operate — remotely, in person, or a combination of both approaches. As you follow advice directly from private schools, schools having the best fit will begin to emerge.

Defining your priorities

From the perspective of William Mena, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid for The Harvey School, "Opportunity is a word that people associate with getting a new job — it excites them because it could lead them to a better place or position. This is also the word that describes what an education at The Harvey School means. Your child will have the opportunity to learn how to think, not what to think. Our teachers will open your child's eves to what they can do, not what they can't overcome. Harvey students have the chance to shine and discover their passions through sports, music, chorus, theater, and fine arts, all of which positively impact their academic ability. When I began searching for a new job with an independent school, I wanted to join a school community where I would feel included, make a difference, and reach my full potential. But it wasn't just about me — I wanted that same opportunity for my daughter's education as well. That's why we chose Harvey."

Considering learning approach

Dr. Karen Eshoo, head of school at King School, suggests, "Look for educators who provide experiences that keep students engaged in ways that leave them hungry for more, that help them develop grit, and that empower them to see themselves as leaders. For example, the educational program at King School is deeply challenging because it teaches research methods across the curriculum that respond to our globalized and digitized world; provides regular opportunities for students to become nimble in their thoughts and actions; and develops students' emotional intelligence so that they can understand and practice the value of human relationships for professional success and personal purpose and fulfillment."

As Michael Schultz, principal of The Chapel School (TCS) notes, "Educational research proves that students learn best when they receive personal, individualized attention;

students develop confidence when they have opportunities to safely explore interests outside of the classroom; and, students' world views are healthier when diversity is celebrated, leadership is fostered, and service is valued. TCS has wonderfully diverse average class sizes of 16 students, expanding extracurricular programs and a specific focus on social emotional literacy, service learning, and student leadership."

"Selecting a high school where your child will thrive and excel is such an important process," notes Adam Rohdie, Head of School, Greenwich Country Day School. "In today's world of rapid change, the best schools continually innovate their educational experience in order to prepare students to be confident learners and leaders — both now and for the future. It is more important than ever that learning is relevant and purposeful — that students have the opportunity to build character, develop a strong academic foundation, and apply their learning to real-world challenges."

In some cases, that may mean learning about new programs and offerings. For example, launching in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year, the French-American School of New York is pleased to offer a brand new International Program for students in grades 1 through 8. "Previously, our curriculum focused solely on a bilingual education; today, the International Program offers a predominantly English-speaking curriculum, opening up the halls of FASNY to more families than ever before," says Elizabeth Ryan, director of marketing & communications. With little to no French required, students in the International Program will study roughly 70% of their subjects in English, with the remaining 30% in French, at the individual level and pace of each child's language skills. The lower and middle school International Program naturally leads students to our current 9-to-12 curriculum, creating a cohesive 1-to-12 learning environment.

Continuing its leadership in secondary education, Stepinac High School will launch an innovative Entrepreneurism Program in the fall. This is the latest chapter in Stepinac's unsurpassed record in providing students with the skills they need to become globally competitive. Among its other distinctive academic offerings are the Honors Academy, 26 AP courses in all major academic disciplines, the AP Capstone Diploma Program, and the cutting-edge blended learning platform acclaimed by Rice University.

Sampling the school

Erin Johnston, The Ursuline School's director of admissions, stresses the importance of evaluating schools even during the current challenges: "Learning about and applying for high school amid a pandemic is no easy feat! As admissions directors, we want to give you every possible way to get a sense of our school and the community. Our virtual admissions center is a good place to start! Here at Ursuline, many virtual events are planned to include tours of the campus and conversations with our faculty, current students, and our head of school. There will be opportunities to view many different classes, including engineering and computer science. Even though this admissions cycle will be very different, and safety is our primary concern, we are here for you and are available by phone. Zoom, or email."

Choosing a faith-based school

"For more than a century, we have conducted ourselves the 'Iona Prep Way,' by putting the needs of our boys and young men first, not unlike Blessed Edmund Rice when he founded the very first Christian Brothers school in Waterford, Ireland, in 1802, says Brother Thomas R. Leto, Ed.D., president of Iona Preparatory School, a PK through 12 institution in New Rochelle. "In some ways, history has repeated itself. Just as Brother Rice recognized the youth of Ireland needed clothing and food, as well as schooling, so too, do our current Gaels need us to not only provide education for higher expectations, but to do so in a manner that keeps them and their families safe from the seemingly ever-present threat of COVID-19 infection. And so we are committed to reopening the 'Iona Prep Way,' with a plan that puts emphasis on in-seat instruction to maximize the cognitive and social-emotional benefits, while utilizing meticulously crafted schedules that simultaneously allow for maximum physical distance, as well as separation between our Houses, in creating an exceptional educational environment with the lowest risk possible."

According to Bradley Serton, director of admissions at Fordham Prep, "The best schools are ones that engage their students not only inside the classroom, but outside as well. As prospective students and their parents search for the right private school, they should consider the opportunities afforded students to grow academically, socially, physically, and even spiritually. At Fordham Prep, we offer a rigorous college preparatory





Country Day School Learning that matters: Nursery - 12th grade



Preparing young people to learn, lead, and thrive in a world of rapid change

From nursery to grade 12, learning at Greenwich Country Day School is challenging, relevant, and purposeful. Through inquiry, analysis, public speaking, transdisciplinary experiences, and opportunities to present their work in exhibitions and apply their learning to real-world situations, GCDS students gain a strong

academic foundation and acquire critical skills, habits of mind. and confidence

GCDS is a joyful environment where curiosity and creativity are valued. resilience is cultivated, and the health and well-being of every student is essential.

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is the only co-ed, independent Nursery - Grade 12 college preparatory day school in Greenwich, CT graduating ethical, confident learners and leaders with a strong sense of purpose-ready to embrace opportunities and challenges in a world of rapid change.

→ www.gcds.net **7 203-863-5610** → admissions@gcds.net 7401 Old Church Road (Grades N-8) 7257 Stanwich Road (Grades 9-12) Greenwich CT 06830





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WHERE INNOVATION AND TIMELESS VALUES MEET





The Leffell School is the best of both worlds. Our nurturing Jewish community offers an enriching academic environment, state-of-the-art engineering and entrepreneurship programs, athletics and arts activities, and outstanding college placement.

www.leffellschool.org/admissions AN INDEPENDENT K-12 COED JEWISH DAY SCHOOL IN WESTCHESTER academic program that includes 20 Advanced Placement Classes and the opportunity to take classes at Fordham University. However, we also invite students to get to know themselves better through our faith formation programs and to develop empathy through our four-year service requirement. By developing all aspects of our students' character, they are prepared to succeed immediately both in college and in the real world. Choose a school that allows you to develop all aspects of your character and the benefits will last you a lifetime."

Anna E. Parra, president of Maria Regina High School explains that since its founding in 1957, Maria Regina High School has been a distinguished leader in education for young women, providing a rigorous learning environment and strong social and moral guidance in a faith-based tradition. "Celebrating over 60 years of excellence, Maria Regina is committed to the values of Scholarship, Service, and Spirit. We challenge young women intellectually, spiritually, athletically, and through extracurricular activities. By embracing the diverse personal, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds of its students, MRHS develops young women so that they can make a significant contribution to their community and society."

Measuring a school's success

There's no one way to measure a school's success. "We believe it should come as no surprise that parents who place their children in private college prep schools are focused primarily on getting them into the right colleges," says Fr. Mark Vaillancourt, PhD, president and principal of John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School. "Our metric for success in that area has been, 'how much merit-based scholarship money are the kids receiving?' Our class of 2020 netted over \$54.7 million. The tool we use to achieve that is a rigorous curriculum, as measured by how many we graduate with Advanced Regents Diplomas (94 percent) and SAT scores (an average combined score of 1223). We will be talking more about the process at our Open House on October 4 and 14, 2020."

"An all-girls environment allows and even demands that girls take on the mantle of leadership and see themselves as the capable, clever, competent individuals they are in every area of their learning and life," says Sacred Heart Greenwich Head of School Margaret Frazier. Founded in 1848, Sacred Heart Greenwich is an independent, all girls,





for individual growth. Our student-athletes are empowered to maximize their potential through small group learning all while training at The Golf Performance Center.

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REIMAGINE YOUR PATH



OVERVIEW

Pre-K through Grade 12 co-ed school located in Rye, NY, serving 900+ students. With over \$2.5M invested in technology and safety, RCDS is prepared to deliver an excellent education in



RYE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Join us for a virtual Admissions Open House

Sunday, 10/18 at 1 p.m. Lower School (Pre-K - Grade 4) Sunday, 10/25 at 1 p.m. Middle School (Grades 5 - 8) Sunday, 11/1 at 1 p.m. Upper School (Grades 9 - 12)

RYECOUNTRYDAY.ORG/ADMISSIONS



K through 12 college preparatory school with a coed early childhood education program, Located on a 100-acre campus in Greenwich, CT, its more than 600 students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, inspiring teachers, and a rigorous curriculum complemented by an international network of schools that bridges tradition and values with innovation.

"Brunswick's guiding vision is to be the leading independent school for boys, known for the strength of our academic, arts, athletic, and community-service programs, the clarity of our purpose, and the quality and character of our faculty and students," Head of School Thomas W. Philip says. "Our collective goal is to prepare our students for successful and meaningful lives after they leave our doors. We believe absolutely that it will be the strength of a given boy's spirit and the depth of his character that will ultimately determine how he both meets and measures that success. We invite you to visit our school to learn more about our time-honored tradition of building young men of character."

Of course, the ultimate testament of a school's success comes from students themselves. As Loyola School states, "If you ever meet a student attending Loyola School, New York City's only Jesuit, co-ed, independent school for grades 9 through 12, the student will probably tell you how much they love the community here on 83rd and Park Avenue. Our goal as educators is to inspire our students to grow in intellect, love, and service to others. The Jesuit motto "cura personalis," which means "care for the whole person" in Latin, pinpoints exactly why students love our small, tight-knit community: they feel cared for as an individual. And now, given the pandemic, we continue to prioritize the individual education of each student, whether they are logging into class on Zoom or sitting six feet apart in our hybrid-opening model."

Assessing a school's culture

Rye Country Day School's Head of School Scott Nelson explains, "Independent schools offer a range of missions, cultures, educational philosophies, academic programs, and extracurricular opportunities, which families should consider carefully when trying to find the best fit. I advise families to reach out to academic and administrative leaders at your schools of interest, ask questions, and get to know those educational communities. Independent schools tend to admit the majority of new students in particular entry years

- at RCDS, these are Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 4, Grade 6, and Grade 9. Substantial need-based financial aid also may be available — RCDS is awarding \$6.1 million in need-based grants in the coming year. Finally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, each school will take a different approach to reopening, which should be considered. Rye Country Day has invested over \$2.5 million dollars in leading-edge technology, safety equipment, and facilities updates and is prepared to deliver an excellent education in person, online, or as a hybrid of the two.

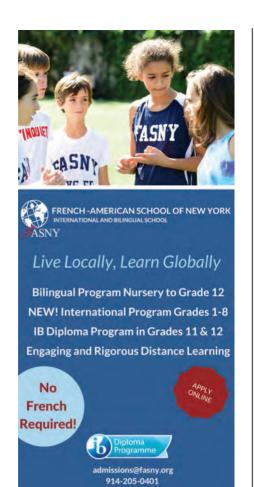
Selecting a private school like The Masters School, which has both day and boarding programs, provides significant advantages to all students. With students from 14 states and 30 countries. Masters students develop their intercultural literacies and learn to value multiple perspectives. Students also benefit from accessible, residential faculty and a variety of weekend activities. Masters offers two boarding programs. The five-day program combines the benefits of boarding during the week — full-time access to faculty and school resources while developing lifelong friendships — with the convenience of going home on weekends. Students in our seven-day program have a fully immersive experience that includes a variety of weekend activities.

According to Dr. Michael A. Kay, head of school for The Lefell School, "The most transformative, memorable schooling environments are those that offer a powerful sense of community with an emphasis on values and moral character — anchored by a top-quality, no-compromises scholastic and co-curricular program. The Leffell School embodies this mission, offering rigorous academics K-to-12; state-of-the-art engineering and entrepreneurship, athletics, and arts programs; personalized attention within a strong communal ethos; and outstanding college placement. The unique senior year features an unforgettable eight-week travel experience for all students and an individualized internship program."

The Long Ridge School is an independent school, age 2 to grade 5, on a spectacular campus tucked away in the North Stamford woods. It is a small elementary school by design, where children stay children longer and thrive in an environment created specifically for them. Their teachers ensure gold-standard academic programs with a modern, collaborative, problem-solving approach. The Long Ridge School has a diverse and globally inclusive community, where children are known and valued as unique individuals and learning is an active, joyful experience.







The Montfort Academy is unique in Westchester for being the only classical high school and is highly ranked for diversity, academics, and college preparation. We have worked hard to ensure the experience of Montfort remains intact even during times of quarantine. Montfort is "a small, 'magical' setting, where everyone is truly part of a family... Montfort was the MOST well prepared educational experience at the outset of the COVID pandemic..." noted a parent of '23 Class. Through Zoom, students were able to attend their daily classes, see their peers, and take part in group activities. The school continues to be committed to building strong Christian men and women with a classical, Catholic education. We are a strong community, an anchor to our students through the storm of today's world.

golf training academy for athletes of all ages and skill levels, "Our Ethan Allen Preparatory, a full-time innovative educational experience for student athletes, reimagines learning in a safe environment designed for individual growth. We offer small-group learning and training of a wide range of talents and levels for students in grades 6 through 12 as well as post-graduate programs. Our flexible scheduling allows for intensive golf training with options for boarding or day enrollment. We also provide individualized blended learning opportunities through our partnership with the K12 curriculum with over 200 online courses available. Ultimately, we believe in helping our students achieve greatness in the classroom, on the golf course, and in life."

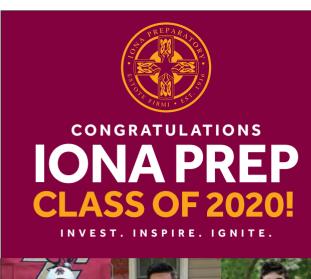
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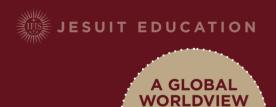
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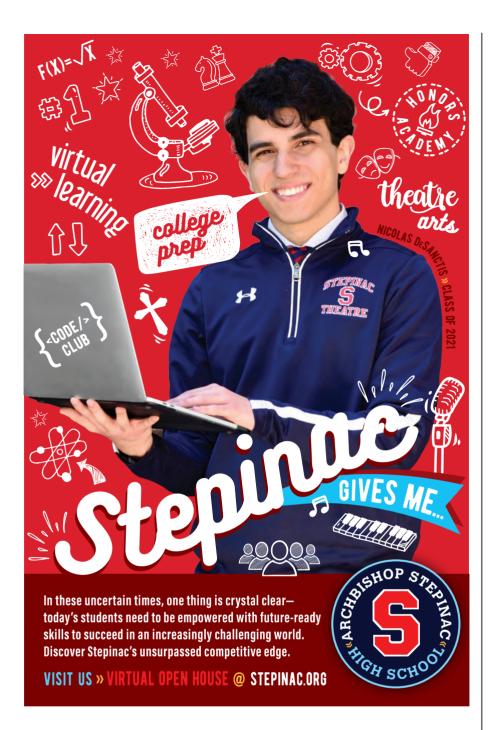
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The Golf Performance Center 824 Ethan Allen Highway Ridgefield, CT 203.790.4653 www.thegolfperformancecenter.com

Greenwich Country Day School 401 Old Church Rd Greenwich, CT 203.863.5600 www.gcds.net

> The Harvey School 260 Jay St Katonah 914.232.3161 www.harveyschool.org

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Upper School (6-12) 555 W Hartsdale Ave Hartsdale 914.948.8333 www.leffellschool.org

The Long Ridge School 478 Erskine Rd Stamford, CT 203.322.7693 www.longridgeschool.org

> Loyola School 980 Park Ave New York, NY 646.346.8131 www.loyolanyc.org

Maria Regina High School 500 W Hartsdale Ave Hartsdale 914.761.3300 www.mariaregina.org

The Masters School 49 Clinton Ave Dobbs Ferry 914.479.6420 admission@mastersny.org www.mastersny.org

The Montfort Academy 125 E Birch St Mount Vernon 914.699.7090 www.themontfortacademy.org

Rye Country Day School Cedar St Rye 914.967.1417 www.ryecountryday.org

Sacred Heart Greenwich 1177 King St Greenwich, CT 203.523.3534 admission@cshct.org www.shgreenwich.org

The Ursuline School 1354 North Ave New Rochelle 914.636.3950 www.ursulinenewrochelle.org

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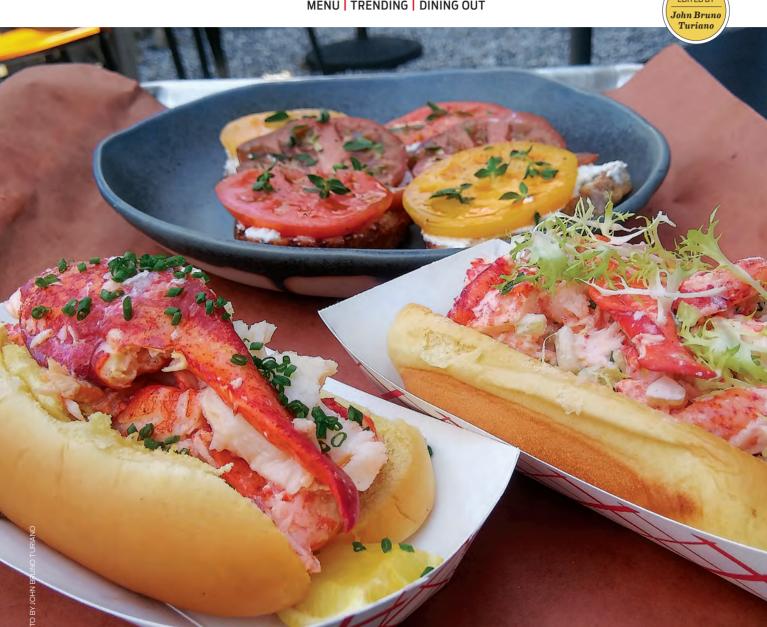




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PREVIEW

Let's Roll

What's on the menu at Milton Point Provisions? Lobster rolls — CT-style hot (left) and Maine-style, served cold (right) — crafted with artisan ingredients, as well as a plethora of grilled dishes and rotisserie chicken, fired by kiln-dried oak wood. Turn the page to read more about this new gourmet takeout and sit-down eatery nestled near country clubs in the Milton Point section of Rye. ne could say Rye native Monty Gerrish knew early on that his future vocation would involve food.

He knew what prosciutto was at 8 years old. In the fourth grade, he took cooking class after school with all the girls ("We made popcorn balls"), and one of his favorite childhood pastimes

was preparing meals with his aunt who was a cook in the city.

As a kid, his family travelled extensively to Europe (one of his most memorable experiences was a meal at Le Bistro du Paradou, near Saint-Rémy-de Provençe), so Gerrish learned to appreciate good-quality olive oil and gourmet cheese at a young age.

Gerrish has since turned his knowledge and passion for sophisticated ingredients into a career, initially at Truffle Truck, selling artisan foods from Hunt's Point Market to select Manhattan restaurants, and now as owner of gourmet-takeout-market and 25-seat restaurant Milton Point Provisions, The chef is David Awad. who formerly worked in the kitchen at Alto.

Opened in June, in the space that formerly housed Dock Deli, the menu is "American nostalgia with hand-selected upmarket ingredients," where many items (porchetta, prime rib, chicken, veggies) originate in a 3,000 lb. grill and rotisserie fired by kiln-dried oak wood.

Sourcing is from local purveyors, such as Scarpelli Sausage (Cos Cob), A. Mercurio Sons (Mamaroneck), Path Coffee Roasters and Kneaded Bread (Port Chester), and Four & Twenty Blackbirds Pie (Brooklyn) but also, per Gerrish, "from wherever the best is found," like La Quercia Cured Meats (Norwalk, IA) and Duke's Mayo (Greenville, SC).

"We've been called expensive," says Gerrish, who now lives in Cos Cob, "but I don't care, because when I explain where I get my ingredients from, the fact is, they are the highest quality."

Offered on the menu are breakfast sandwiches, salads, sandwiches, meal kits serving 1-4, and daily dinner specials. "We have daily customers and even customers who come back multiple times a day," says Gerrish's fiancée, Hadley Mongell, who handles MPP's finances. "It validates us in the right place at the right time with the right community," noting their proximity to Coveleigh Club, Shenorock Shore Club, and American Yacht Club.

Gerrish says one of the best aspects to opening in Rye, the city he grew up in, is that he sees some of his old Rye High classmates who have moved back to raise families. He also notes the excitement for a higher-end option for to-go food.

"The menu is my greatest hits of things I've eaten throughout my career, and I'm happy that I'm able to have others experience them."

-John Bruno Turiano





Top to bottom: MPP's side patio has patriotic cornhole boards: The Hurricane chicken sandwich served with standout housemade chips — is a signature order: customers are evenly split between walk-ins and callaheads for a menu that includes such items as lobster rolls and ricotta tomato toast.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BRUNO TURIANO

FARE WELL

Best Wishes

A Scarsdale couple makes their wish for healthy cereal a reality. By Michelle Gillan Larkin

rm believers in the notion that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, Scarsdale's Margaret and Ian Wishingrad woke up one morning, and it dawned on them: Cereal was the "naughtiest" food on their table. It was around the time their baby boy, Ellis, now 3, was beginning to nibble the classic O-shapes for snacks. "As a first-time mom, I and expertise," says Ian. They hired a food scientist and committed to three non-negotiables: more protein, less sugar, gluten- and grain-free. "Our goal was a product with cleaner, better ingredients that leaves you satiated without the sugar crash," Ian says.

The Wishingrads chose chickpea pea protein as the base, along with tapioca, and monk fruit and



www.threewishescereal.com

heard all the moms recommending 'Os,' and it made me realize that there really wasn't a better option," recalls Margaret, a 29-year-old transplant from Brooklyn.

No matter the shape, most cereals on supermarket shelves are sugary and made with com-

PHOTO BY MEREDITH LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

modity grains, like oats, wheat, rice, or corn. "These filler grains are deficient in any real nutritional value," says Margaret. "Popular cereal is sweet, carby, and naughty."

When Margaret suggested to Ian that they make their own cereal, the 34-year-old Stamford native was all in.

The couple quickly learned, that making cereal is not something you can do at home, after work, once the baby's asleep - even when you're bosses of your own advertising firm. "It requires intricate machinery, technology,

organic cane sugar as sweeteners. They spent more than two years testing and tweaking. "The whole process took a lot longer than expected," says Ian. "It's difficult to make

plant proteins taste good."

In the end, the Wishingrads tasted more than 100 batch-

es of cereal creations, and about three years after the idea was hatched, they launched Three Wishes cereal in unsweetened, cinnamon, and honey flavors, all certified non-GMO and available at Stew Leonard's and Whole Foods (a fourth flavor, cocoa, was added recently).

Each variety contains four to eight ingredients, with only three grams of sugar and eight grams of protein, double the amount in typical Os. "We didn't set out to reinvent the American palate," says Ian, "but to make a healthier version of the cereal kids are used to."

Dining Scene News & Notes

Opened in late August, TAKO Mexican (High Ridge Plz, 1789 Central Ave, Yonkers; 914.652.7004; www. takomexican.com) features Mexican street fare with locally sourced vegetables and meats. The owner is Jeevan Pullan, who also owns Contemporary Mexican VEGA in Hartsdale.

The owners of Mission Taqueria have closed the Mexican eatery and in its place opened 105-Seventy Bar & Grill (472 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville; 914.741.5285; www.105seventyrest.com). The American restaurant, which serves tacos, salads. burgers, and flatbreads, is a sister to The Urban Hamlet in Bronxville, 105-Ten Bar & Grill in Briarcliff Manor. and 105-Twenty Bar & Grill in Croton-on-Hudson.

The group behind Le Penguin and Le Fat Poodle have debuted Orienta Restaurant (55 Lewis St, Greenwich; 203.489.3394; www.orientarestaurant. com), a French-Vietnamese bistro. Adrien Blech, who has experience working under Chef Eric Ripert at Blue. Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman, and three-star Michelin Le Bernardin, is executive head chef.

Puerto Rican cuisine is offered at the new Salsa Bembé Bar and Grill (811 McLean Ave, Yonkers; 914.294.0096, www.salsabembe), including classics such as guavabarbecued ribs with potato salad; mofongo (mashed green plantains with choice of protein), ropa vieja, and creamy seafood stew with coconut rice. The three-story bar-and-grill also has shaved ice carts on each floor.

Health-minded Chigo (58 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne; 914.495.3323; www.eatchigo. com), a takeout/deliveryonly Chinese that debuted this summer uses organic, hormone-free chicken, pasture-raised pork, grass-fed beef, wild-caught fish, cagefree chicken eggs, Chinatown noodles, and organic vegetables. Delivery is available to 26 Westchester towns.

140 Grand (140 Grand St, Croton-on-Hudson; 914.271.1127; www.140grand. com), serving starters such as pork belly bao buns and smoked wings, plus salads and lots of handhelds (fig iam and blue-cheese burger. cured-brisket Reuben. buttermilk-fried-chicken sandwich between rosemarycheddar waffles), has replaced the Croton Grille. Continued on page 183.



PHOTO BY EKATERINA BLECH



The Dobbs depot hosts Hudson Social's elevated trackside fare





PHOTOS BY DAVID WEISS PHOTOGRAPH

Depot Dining

Not just for commuters anymore, Westchester's iconic train stations are being reimagined as upmarket cafés and cloth-napkin eateries. BY MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN

here was a time when coffee and a bagel were all a hurried commuter needed before hopping the silver bullet to GCT. Today, more and more of Westchester's quaint, historic trainstation buildings are being transformed into full-service cafés and restaurants offering everything from breakfast sandwiches and lunch salads to fine dining for "travelers" heading nowhere but home with a full belly. Here is a sampling of the depot dining options on all three of Westchester's Metro-North lines, where the fare varies from station to station, but one thing remains the same: coffee for those early morning rides.

Harlem Line Chappaqua

Built in 1902 and on the National Register of Historic Places, this fieldstone stationhouse retains its rustic, woodsy appeal with the original ticket counter and benches polished up by Bobo's Café, open daily for breakfast, lunch, and early dinner, with elevated BEC sammies, paninis, açaí and basmati bowls, and coffee: hot, cold, or frozen. Owner Craig Bernardi digs the town-center vibe at the edge of the rails: "You see workers going to the city, then the stay-at-home moms, and high schoolers at lunch. You hit all the demographics and it's cool watching the transition."

Hawthorne

Choo-choos rattled through as early as 1847, back when the hamlet was Unionville, but the original Richardsonian Romanesque depot was replaced in the 1950s by today's simpler structure. With the brick exterior repainted in edgy gray, Off The Rail boasts a breakfast bounty on the blackboard beginning at 5:30 a.m., with smoothies, burgers, burritos, wings, and pizza through lunchtime, courtesy of the Wood & Fire Restaurant Group. CEO Michael Ferrara hails the foot traffic. "It's a great reminder for daily commuters about our other restaurants," he says.



Katonah

It's not Katonah's first trackside dwelling, but this red-trimmed local landmark dates to 1910, and for nearly three-decades, the DiScala family (from an island off Naples by way of the Bronx) has operated **Peppino's Ristorante**, serving homemade traditional Italian faves of gnocchi and zuppa di pesce at lunch and dinner daily. Joe DiScala says folks "young and old get a kick out of eating in a train station and enjoy the novelty of it." Pro tip: His mom Sylvia's famous ricotta cheesecake pairs well with a sip from the arm's-length martini menu.

Mount Kisco

It's not the first station to stand in its place, but the elongated, circa 1910 building that endures bears the Richardsonian Romanesque style of its predecessor. Inside, exposed brick with black-and-white wall hangings usher old-world charm to new-school Italian, Locali Pizza Bar & Kitchen, where handcrafted pizza and pasta coexist with shaved cauliflower and umami meatballs at lunch and dinner (closed Monday), accompanied by a comprehensive wine list. Chef Mogan Anthony says a station place is all about the people. "Restaurants run on hands-on labor, and it's easier to find staff," he explains. "Plus, it's a landmark that's easy to find and remember."

Pleasantville

While there's evidence of a station as early as 1846, the current-day depot dates to 1905 and is home to **Pub Street**, serving up highbrow lunch and dinner daily (except Monday), with a distinctly Asian flair in a hip and airy setting. The raw bar, ceviche, and lobster rolls are tempered by wings, burgers, hangar steak, and a classic Reuben. "It's a myth that a trainstation restaurant means 2,000 commuters

will flock over, but it does advertise your business with the smell of chili flakes, garlic, and basil-infused olive oil permeating the air," says Pub Street Chef Mogan Anthony.

Valhalla

This nondescript 1890 structure is flanked in red by a 1910 B&O caboose and an 1896 passenger car, and occupying it all is neighborhood fave **Valhalla Crossing**, where regulars enjoy lunch and dinnertime burgers, beers, big salads, and wraps in a homey, old-school setting. Owner Stan Chelluck says kids (and kids at heart) elbow for a seat in the Track Room, with its grand picture windows and unobstructed silver streak scenery. "You're four feet from the tracks, and when it goes by, you know it. The windows rattle!" he says.

Hudson Line

Dobbs Ferry

Built in 1889, an eye-catching stone-and-terracotta-trimmed archway leads to **Hudson Social**, with coffee and baked goods ready at 6 a.m. and ovens hot until the sun sets on the daily grind. Nightly bistro fare, including crispy Brussels sprouts and steak frites, is served aside craft cocktails and a solid wine list. Owner Matt Kay loves the locale: "Easy access for commuters, a lot of parking, and for me, it's the view of the Hudson River and the folks enjoying the waterfront park."

Hastings-on-Hudson

Self-described as a "modern, family-friendly café," pouring all manner of Brooklyn Parlor Coffee alongside bagels, muffins, cookies, and a thoughtfully curated market of artisan jams, chocolates, and teas, **The Good Witch Coffee Bar** occupies a lofty perch inside a charming 1910 red-brick building, with counter service starting at 7 a.m. most days and ending by noon.

Irvington

Picturesque, crimson, and stone, this stop was built in 1889 by turn-of-the-century Boston architects Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge but retired as a ticket office in the 1950s. Today, **BRRZAAR**, a café and dessert bar, swirls all-natural frozen yogurt side by side with hot and cold Double Barrel coffee and espresso, teas, Balthazar baked goods, and vegan hotdogs.

Tarrytown

Circa 1890, the original depot did double duty as John D. Rockefeller's private telegraph terminus before it was destroyed by a cigarette fire in 1922. Three years later, the current structure was erected and now houses **The Bakehouse of Tarrytown**, a satellite of Ardsley's Riviera Bakehouse, as it's known locally. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (except Sunday and Monday), pies, tarts, cookies, cupcakes, breakfast items, and sandwiches tempt passers-through, while grab-'n'-go dinners are a mitzvah on latenight arrivals.

New Haven Line

Mamaroneck

One of the largest local "whistle stops," this striking, red-brick, Romanesque building was constructed in 1888, making it one of Metro-North's oldest, too. Inside, yesteryear charm is carefully refreshed as **Modern on the Rails**, sister to New Rochelle's Modern Restaurant & Lounge, serving weeknight (except Monday) pizza, pasta, and traditional Italian apps and entrées, from classic chicken parm to eye-popping lamb T-bone chops, along with weekend late lunch and dinner. "We have guaranteed visibility and an easy spot for commuters to pick up food on the way home or enjoy happy hour," says owner Anthony Russo. **(D)**

dining out

NOTE: As of press time, restaurants were able to offer interior sit-down dining at 50% capacity. Outdoor dining is available at certain restaurants (contact specific restaurants to check outdoor dining status). Some are open for delivery and/or pickup, which we have indicated at the end of each listing.

Michelle Gillan Larkin

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PARLOR

KEY TO SYMBOLS

UPDATE We note any significant changes. \$ Average entrée \$14 or less \$\$ Average entrée between \$15 and \$21 \$\$\$ Average entrée between \$22 and \$27 SSSS Average entrée \$28 or more

Top Restaurant from our December 2017 cover feature

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Reviewers judge restaurants in three categories: Food Service and Atmosphere Reviewers dine anonymously and make at least two visits.

*** Excellent *** Good ** Average * Poor Prices, hours, and specialties are provided by the restaurants and are subject to change. Calling to confirm days and hours is recommended. Restaurants accept major credit cards unless otherwise noted Some of the restaurants in this guide are Westchester Magazine advertisers

New This Month to Our Listinas

BILLY & PETE'S SOCIAL American/Pizza \$\$ The mission at B&P's is "honest food and great drinks" centered around Detroit-style and grilled pizza, salads, cast-iron meatballs, and handcrafted cocktails. Don't miss the mini-donuts on the weekends. 112 Myrtle Blvd, Larchmont; 914.909.5289; www.billyandpetes.com Pickup

GROWLERS BEER BISTRO Gastropub \$\$ This trackside neighborhood fave has reopened with new owners, familiar pub grub like Pat LaFrieda burgers, big salads, and sandwiches, with artisan cocktails and a hundred rotating local craft brews to wash it all down. 25 Main St, Tuckahoe; 914.793.0608; www.growlersbeerbistro.com Pickup

Ardsley

LA CATENA Italian SSS

The menu at this white-tablecloth Italian restaurant features classic Italian antipasti, pastas, and entrées. plus homemade desserts, 871 Saw Mill River Rd. Ardsley; 914.231.9260; www.lacatenaardsley.com Pickup/Delivery

L'INIZIO Italian \$\$\$\$

Husband-wife team Scott and Heather Fratangelo run the kitchen at this Modern

Italian restaurant serving creative appetizers and some of the county's best pastas, 698 Saw Mill River Rd. Ardsley; 914.693.5400; www.liniziony.com Pickup/Delivery

Armonk

AMORE Italian \$\$

The Mazzotta family creates simple Italian dishes brick-oven-style pizza, traditional pastas — in downtown Armonk. The outdoor terrace, with its nearby stream and working garden, is one of the county's most scenic dining spots. 1 Kent Pl, Armonk; 914.273.3535; www.amorearmonk.com Pickup/Delivery



Briarcliff Manor

SOUIRE'S Pub \$\$

Burgers and classic steaks are the thing to order at this tavern, serving the local community since 1967. Amex credit cards only. 94 N State Rd, Briarcliff Manor; 914.762.3376: www.squiresofbriarcliff.com Pickup

Bronxville

GORDY'S BURGER HOUSE American \$\$ Family-owned for more than 50 years, this intimate burger joint serves up char-grilled Angus beef, strip steaks, Buffalo wings, and broiled salmon, among other dishes. 502 New Rochelle Rd, Bronxville; 914.664.8974; www.gordysburgerhouse.com Pickup/Delivery

Chappaqua

CRABTREE'S KITTLE HOUSE New American \$\$\$\$

Locally sourced ingredients star in seasonal dishes offered in the formal dining room and elevated bar food at the Old World Tap Room. The Grand Awardwinning wine cellar houses 40,000+ bottles. 11 Kittle Rd,

Chappagua; 914.666.8044; www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com Pickup

IBIZA KITCHEN Spanish \$ (tapas)/\$\$ (entrées) Food $\star\star$ ½ Service $\star\star$ ½ Atmosphere $\star\star$ (07/19) At this tapas-centric Chappaqua spot from the owners of Ibiza Tapas in Danbury, the shareable small plates include plenty of clearly designated vegan and vegetarian options, Closed Mon. 76 King St. Chappaqua; 914.458.5044; www.ibizakitchen.net Pickup/Delivery

BEEHIVE RESTAURANT Continental \$\$\$

Set in a modern country house with an open kitchen, this restaurant offers comfort fare along with Greek and Continental specialties, and a popular daily breakfast. Outdoor seating available. 30 Old Rte 22, Armonk; 914 765 0688: www.heehive-restaurant.com Pickup

FORTINA Italian/Pizza \$\$ Homegrown celebrity chef Christian Petroni runs this mini-empire of buzzy wood-fired

restaurants (with an additional location in Stamford) serving expertly roasted vegetables, fresh pastas, and thin-crust pizzas (try the truffle-topped Luigi Bianco). 17 Maple Ave. Armonk: 914.273.0900: 136 S Ridge St. Rye Brook; 914.937.0900; 1086 N Broadway, Yonkers; 914.358.3595; www.fortinapizza.com Pickup/Delivery

KOKU Japanese \$\$\$

The sleek sushi bar at KOKU offers an extensive selection of sashimi and rolls, including weekly specials from Tokyo's famous Tsukiii Fish Market, 454 Main St. Armonk: 914.730.0077; www.kokujapanese.com Pickup/Delivery

MODERNE BARN

New American \$\$\$\$

Chef Ethan Kostbar uses natural, local ingredients at this New American restaurant with Mediterranean touches from the Livanos Restaurant Group (City Limits Diner). \$20 two-course express lunch. 430 Bedford Rd, Armonk; 914.730.0001; www.modernebarn.com Pickup/Delivery

Bedford

BEDFORD 234 New American \$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★ (09/15) More than 20 local farms and purveyors supply the ingredients for the globally inspired seasonal comfort food served at this chic Bedford restaurant. Reservations are not accepted. 635 Old Post Rd, Bedford; 914.234.5656; www.bedford234.com Pickup

Cross River

BACIO TRATTORIA Italian \$\$\$

Expect homemade pastas, fish dishes (e.g., seared Atlantic salmon and boneless grilled trout), and salads at this quaint eatery. Closed Mon. 12 North Salem Rd, Cross River; 914.763.2233; www.baciotrattoria.com Pickup/Delivery

Croton-on-Hudson

OCEAN HOUSE Seafood \$\$\$\$ Self-taught chef Brian Galvin transformed a tiny diner into this 30-seat, dinner-only

oyster bar and grill with an emphasis on New England-style seafood dishes. Call after 4:30 p.m. for same-day reservations. Closed Sun and Mon. $49\,N$ Riverside Ave, Croton-on-Hudson; 914.271.0702; www.oceanhouseoysterbar.com Pickup

Dobbs Ferry

SUSHI MIKE'S Japanese \$\$

Hugely popular for its special sushi rolls (the Out of Control is a favorite), this neighborhood Japanese restaurant is often packed. 146 Main St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.591.0054; www.sushimikes.com Pickup/Delivery

THE COOKERY Italian \$\$\$

This progressive Italian restaurant from Chef David DiBari serves some of the county's most creative fare, with an emphasis on pork, fresh pasta, and offal, Closed Mon, 39 Chestnut St. Dobbs Ferry; 914.305.2336; www.thecookeryrestaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

TOP THE PARLOR Pizza \$\$

The brick-and-mortar incarnation of the popular DoughNation pizza truck, here

is where you look for a selection of unique pizzas, featuring house-made ingredients, plus wood-fired appetizers, wine on tap, and house-bottled cocktails. Closed Mon. 14 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.478.8200; www.theparlordf.com Pickup/Delivery

THE RARE BIT Gastropub \$\$\$

Chef Evan Kalogiannis offers comfort food and a handful of British-inspired offerings. Vegan and glutenfree options available. Closed Mon. 23 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.693.8000; www.therarebitdf.com Pickup/Delivery

Eastchester

BURRATA Pizza \$\$

Some of the county's best Neapolitan pies come from this Eastchester pizzeria

that's also home to excellent pasta and well-crafted cocktails, 425 White Plains Rd, Eastchester: 914.337.3700; www.burratapizza.com Pickup/Delivery

GIGANTE RESTAURANT & BAR

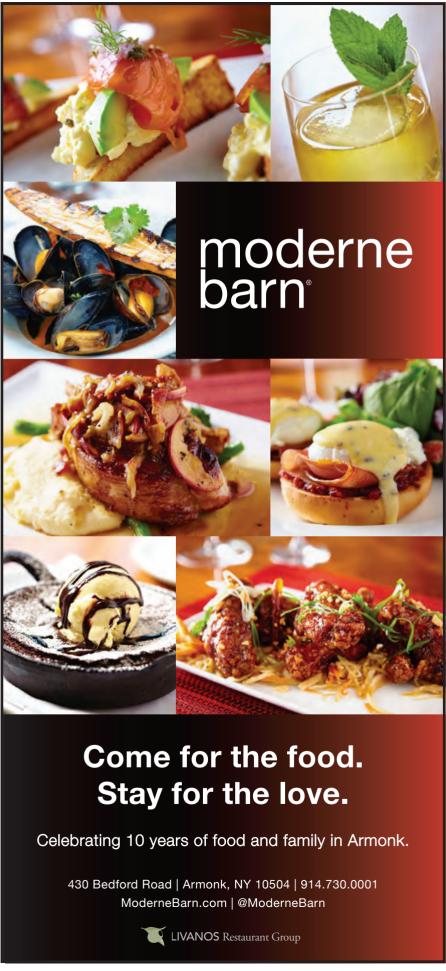
New American SSSS

From the same group that brought us Mulino's of Westchester, Gigante serves up Italian-influenced, New American cuisine, Closed Mon. 660 White Plains Rd. Eastchester; 914.961.1001; www.giganterestaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

PIPER'S KILT Pub S

A county institution, this classic pub serves cold pints, ethereal onion rings, and pretty-near-perfect burgers. Kitchen hours every day until midnight. 433 White Plains Rd, Eastchester; 914.779.5772; www.piperskilt.com Pickup

POLPETTINA Italian \$\$ On the menu: eggplant chips with wildflower honey, thin-crust and grandmastyle pizza, and pasta in truffle carbonara or white Bolognese. 102 Fisher Ave, Eastchester; 914.961.0061; www.polpettina.com Pickup/Delivery



Elmsford

RAASA Indian \$\$

Translating to the "essence of life," RaaSa offers Indian cuisine from New Delhi native Chef Peter Beck. Dishes include tandoori shrimp korma lazeez (grilled chicken simmered in saffron cashew sauce), and murgh anarkali (ground chicken patties in green masala sauce), 145 E Main St. Elmsford; 914,347,7890; www.raasany.com Pickup/Delivery

SHIRAZ KITCHEN Persian \$\$\$

Named for the Iranian city, Shiraz serves dishes representative of the region, including saffron chicken kebab and rainbow trout with dill-and-fava-bean basmati rice, Closed Mon, 83 E Main St. Elmsford; 914.345.6111; www.shirazkitchen.com Pickup

Harrison



273 KITCHEN Mediterranean \$\$\$ Food ★★★1/2 Service ★★★

Atmosphere ★★★1/2 (10/15)

Chef Constantine Kalandranis (8 North Broadway in Nyack) runs this 35-seat, seafood-heavy, smallplates Mediterranean histro \$48 prix fixe includes three courses and dessert, 273 Halstead Ave. Harrison; 914.732.3333; www.273kitchen.com Pickup/Delivery

WELLINGTON'S GRILL American \$\$\$

Three cuts of prime rib are among the specialties at this Harrison stalwart. Expect other American standards, too, like burgers, dry-rubbed ribs, and fresh lobster rolls. 110 Halstead Ave, Harrison; 914.315.1532; www.wellingtonsgrill.com Pickup/Delivery

Hartsdale

GRANITA CUCINA & BAR Italian \$\$\$

This restaurant from Eight Ten Hospitality Group offers Modern Italian fare, including fresh pasta. wood-fired pizza, and entrées like branzino and pork Milanese. 202 E Hartsdale Ave, Hartsdale; 914.725.8420; www.granitany.com Pickup/Delivery

OMANDARIN Chinese \$\$

Food ★★ Service ★★ Atmosphere ★★★ (03/18) Crispy-skinned Peking duck, scallion bubble pancakes, and thousand-layer tofu, are among the menu highlights at this 2019 Best of Westchesterwinning Mandarin restaurant with transporting interior design. 361 N Central Ave, Hartsdale; 914.437.9168; www.omandarin.com Pickup/Delivery

PAS-TINA'S RISTORANTE Italian \$\$

For more than 25 years, family-owned Pas-Tina's has been offering Italian fare in a warm environment. The menu features an extensive pasta list, chicken (try the chicken Tina), veal, and seafood dishes, and housemade desserts. 155 S Central Ave, Hartsdale, 914.997.7900; www.pas-tinas.com Pickup/Delivery

VEGA MEXICAN Mexican \$

In this modern space, expect traditional Mexican dishes, like tacos, chimichangas, fajitas, and burritos. Signature meals include chili rellenos and carnitas. 189 E Hartsdale Ave. Hartsdale: 914.723.0010: www.vegamexican.com Pickup/Delivery

Hastings-on-Hudson

BORO6 Wine Bar \$\$

Food $\star\star\star$ Service $\star\star\star$ \(\tau_2 \) Atmosphere $\star\star\star$ (05/17) Inspired by trips to Italy, restaurant vet Paul Molakides and Jennifer Aaronson (formerly an editor for Martha Stewart) opened this enoteca, with more than 30

wines by the glass and light simple plates. Closed Mon. 549 Warburton Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson; 914.231.9200; www.boro6winebar.com

Pickup/Delivery

HARVEST ON HUDSON Italian \$\$\$\$ Boasting stellar Hudson River views, this elegant restaurant offers traditional Italian fare. The menu includes seafood towers, Hudson Valley rabbit scarpariello, and risotto made with spicy sausage. shrimp and caciocavallo 1 River St. Hastings-on-Hudson: 914.478.2800; www.harvesthudson.com Pickup

SAINT GEORGE French \$\$\$\$ At this contemporary French bistro from Chef Chris Vergara (Harper's in Dobbs

Ferry), don't miss the all-French wine list and absinthe fountain, Closed Mon, 155 Southside Ave. Hastings-on-Hudson; 914.478.1671; www.saintgeorgebistro.com Pickup/Delivery

SAKURA GARDEN JAPANESE Japanese \$\$ Find authentic Japanese at this Rivertown gem, offering high-quality hibachi, sushi, sashimi, and more. 531 Warburton Ave. Hastings-on-Hudson: 914,478,1978: www.sakurahastings.com Pickup/Delivery

Hawthorne

THREE LITTLE PIGS BBQ Barbecue \$

Marc Mazzarulli, formerly of Opus 465 and Marc Charles Steakhouse in Armonk, is the chef of this 'cue joint serving dry-rubbed meats and classic sides. Mazzarulli also runs catering company Wild Westchester BBO, Closed Sun and Mon. 481 Commerce St, Hawthorne; 914.747.2480; www.threelittlepigsbbqofhawthorne.com Pickup/Delivery

TRAMONTO Italian \$\$\$

This Hawthorne mainstay located right off the Saw Mill River Parkway offers a selection of pasta, pizza, salad, and dinners like short ribs braised in pomegranate juice, veal marsala, and brick-pressed roasted chicken. 27 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne; 914.347.8220; www.tramontos.com Pickup/Delivery

Irvington



CHUTNEY MASALA Indian \$\$ The popular Indian bistro from Chef Navjot The popular mulan plane.....

Arora boasts a menu that features tried-and-

true options, like a myriad of curries. 76 Main St, Irvington; 914.591.5500; www.chutneymasala.com Pickup/Delivery

TOP

MIMA VINOTECA Italian SSSS

The owners of Zuppa in Yonkers run this trattoria serving Italian "home cooking" and some of the county's best salumi. 20 wines offered by the glass. 63 Main St, Irvington; 914.591.1300; www.mimarestaurant.com.Pickun/Delivery

MP TAVERNA Greek SSS

Michael Psilakis is the award-winning executive chef at this Modern Greek

restaurant in Irvington. Traditional roasted whole lamb, goat, suckling pig, and more available with fivedays' notice. 1 Bridge St. Irvington: 914.231.7854: www.michaelpsilakis.com Pickup/Delivery

SAMBAL Thai/Malav \$\$

Chef-owner Naviot Arora operates this Southeast Asian restaurant with a handful of Malaysian plates and unobstructed Hudson River views, 4 W Main St. Irvington; 914.478.2700; www.sambalny.com Pickup/Delivery

Katonah

JAY STREET CAFÉ All-Day Café \$\$

From the owners of The Whitlock comes this casual café, with offerings like challah French toast and grapefruit brûlée for breakfast and flattop patty hurgers for lunch Closed Mon and Tue 63 Katonah Ave Katonah; 914.488.9700; www.jaystreetcafe.com Pickup

PEPPINO'S RISTORANTE Northern Italian \$\$\$ Lots of regulars come to this family-owned (since 1991) restaurant to sit at candlelit tables and dine on dishes like veal Sorrentino and steak pizzaiola. 116 Katonah Ave, Katonah; 914.232.3212; www.peppinosristorante.com Pickup

TENGDA ASIAN BISTRO Pan-Asian \$\$\$ Sushi, poke, and sashimi share menu space with seafood-curry hot pots, crispy duck, and stirfried noodles at this bistro. Closed Mon. 286 Katonah Ave Katonah: 914 232 3900: www.tengdakatonah.com Pickup

THE WHITLOCK New American \$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★★½ (02/18) The Cookery alums Matt and Christina Safarowic serve seasonal, locally sourced fare, including silky pastas, bone-marrow-laced French onion soup, and crispy pork belly at this neighborhood restaurant. Closed Mon 17 Katonah Ave Katonah: 914 232 8030: www.thewhitlockny.com Pickup

Larchmont



CORIANDER MODERN INDIAN

Indian \$\$\$

This stylish restaurant features locally sourced ingredients and bold Indian flavors. plus craft beer and organic wines. Closed Mon. 154 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont; 914.235.1306; www.coriandernv.com Pickup



DURIAN Thai \$\$\$

Named for the pungent Asian fruit, Durian serves authentic Thai cuisine (less sticky sugar, more bright acidity) featuring lesser-known ingredients, such as sweet sticky rice with its namesake fruit, Closed Mon. 147 Chatsworth Ave. Larchmont; 914.833.1900; www.durianthaifood.com Pickup/Delivery

LA LA TAQUERIA Taqueria \$

Enjoy tacos, quesadillas, and margs at this Los Angeles-style taqueria, which features communal picnic tables and a chill ambience. Closed Mon. 150 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont; 914.834.2244; www.lalatagueria.com Pickup/Delivery

VINTAGE 1891 KITCHEN American \$\$\$

This new Larchmont eatery offers vegan options, fish dishes like lobster paella, meat dishes including Cabernet-braised beef short ribs, and house-made desserts, Closed Mon-Wed, 2098 Boston Post Rd. Larchmont; 914.834.9463;

www.vintage1891kitchen.com Pickup/Delivery

Mamaroneck

IL CASTELLO Mediterranean/Italian \$\$\$ Expect homemade pastas and elaborate table presentations at this Italian restaurant, located a stone's throw from the Mamaroneck Metro-North Station Prix-fixe \$20.95 Junch Closed Mon. 576 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck; 914.777.2200 Pickup/Delivery

LE PROVENÇAL BISTRO French \$\$\$

This bistro seating 80 serves French classics like duck confit, beef Bourguignon, and venison medallions. Save room for the crème brûlée and tarte Tatin 436 Mamaroneck Ave Mamaroneck: 914.777.2324; www.provencalbistro.com

Pickup/Delivery

MAPLE & ROSE All-Dav Cafe \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★ (03/20) Previously an upscale catering company, Maple & Rose serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner at its new café, open daily. The menus reflect seasonal dishes and include local ingredients, 690 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck; 914.222.4151; www.maplerosecafe.com Pickup/Delivery

MODERN ON THE RAILS Italian \$\$\$

The owners of Modern in New Rochelle put their own spin on Italian stalwarts (Wagyu beef meatballs, chipotle calamari) at this 140-seat restaurant in the space that was formerly Club Car. 1 Station Plz. Mamaroneck: 914,777,9300: www.modernontherails.com Pickup/Delivery

NONNA CAROLA Italian \$\$\$\$

Food★★★ Service★★★½ Atmosphere★★½ (02/20) Chef-owner Gustavo Galvao, formerly of Trattoria Dell'Arte in Manhattan, heads up this high-class Italian restaurant, which boasts exemplary service and flavorful dishes, like pappardelle Bolognese and cauliflower arrosto. Closed Mon. 211 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck, 914.899.3130; www.nonnacarola.com Pickup/Delivery

Mount Kisco

BADAGEONI GEORGIAN KITCHEN Georgian \$\$ Food ★★½ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (04/20) For flavorful cuisine typical of a country that straddles the border between Europe and Asia, check out this Mount Kisco eatery. Try the adiaruli. a traditional open-faced cheese boat, and the stewed lamb dish, chakapuli. 26-28 E Main St, Mount Kisco: 914.864.1666:

www.badageonigeorgiankitchen.com

Pickup/Delivery

EXIT 4 FOOD HALL Felectic \$\$

Food $\star\star\star\star$ Service $\star\star$ ½ Atmosphere $\star\star\star$ (10/16) The food-hall trend thrives in Mount Kisco, with 11 stations, serving everything from wood-fired pizzas to barbecue to sushi (plus craft beers and nitro coffee at X4 on Tap). 153 E Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.241.1200: www.exit4foodhall.com

Pickup/Delivery

LOCALI Italian SS

From the Village Social Restaurant Group (Pubstreet, Village Social) comes this Italo-centric spot. Try the fusilli à la vodka or Snake Oil pizza (San Marzano tomatoes, capicola, fior di latte). Closed Mon. 2 Kirby Plz, Mount Kisco; 914.242.0100; www.localipizzabar.com Pickup/Delivery

VILLAGE SOCIAL New American \$\$\$ Chef Mogan Anthony serves wood-fired pizzas, Asian-inflected appetizers, pasta, and sandwiches at these buzzed-about eateries with popular bar scenes. The Mount Kisco location has an outdoor patio. Rye location closed Mon. 251 E Main St, Mount Kisco: 914.864.1255; 67 Purchase St. Rve: 914.612.4267; www.villagesocialkb.com Pickup/Delivery



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Fish Market Fresh fish and prepared foods

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837 White Plains Rd., Scarsdale, NY RESTAURANT: 914.725.3450, Ext 1 FISH MARKET 914.725.3450 Ext. 2 Go Fish: 914-725-3450 x5



ANNUAL SUPPORT-A-WALK FOR UPPORT BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Walk With Us, Wherever You Are!

ABOUT THE SUPPORT-A-WALK

Support Connection's Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer is held to bring attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer and to raise funds for the organization's free services. It was founded 26 years ago by Westchester residents who continue to be involved today with this uplifting community event. This year's theme is "Walk With Us, Wherever You Are," In lieu of gathering



by the thousands in the park, Support Connection invites people to walk in their town, city or neighborhood, or even on a treadmill at home. The Walk is more important this year than ever, because cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic.

WHY THE SUPPORT-A-WALK IS IMPORTANT

It is Support Connection's most important annual fundraiser. It helps fund their free, year round breast and ovarian cancer support services: peer counseling, support groups, wellness and educational programs, referral services, and a toll-free cancer info and support hotline. Support Connection does not receive funds from any national cancer organizations including Relay for Life, Susan G. Komen or Making Strides.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP!

This year's Walk is Sunday Oct. 4. Donations are accepted before, during and after the event by check, cash, and online at the Support Connection website.

> To learn more or to donate, visit www.supportconnection.org or call Support Connection: 914-962-6402.

Mount Vernon



JOHNNY'S PIZZERIA Pizza \$\$

Open since the '40s, Johnny's old-school, thin-crust pies are some of the best pizza

north of NYC. No slices: cash only Closed Sun and Mon. 30 W Lincoln Ave, Mount Vernon; 914.668.1957; www.johnnys1942.com Pickup

New Rochelle

ALVIN & FRIENDS Southern/Caribbean \$\$\$ This contemporary spot in downtown New Rochelle serves Southern soul food with a Caribbean flair, including a Best of Westchester-winning fried chicken with braised collards. Live entertainment several nights a week. Closed Mon. 14 Memorial Hwy, New Rochelle: 914 654 6549:

www.alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

MARIA RESTAURANT Italian \$\$\$

Food $\star\star\star$ Service $\star\star\star\frac{1}{2}$ Atmosphere $\star\star\star(06/19)$ From the owners of Fratelli and Pop's Espresso Bar, Maria offers Modern Italian fare, like gnocchi with oxtail ragù and seared scallops in porcini agrodolce. Closed Sun. 11 Huguenot St, New Rochelle; 914.636.0006: www.marianewrochelle.com Pickup/Delivery

NOMA SOCIAL Tapas \$\$\$

In the lobby of the Radisson Hotel, this 125-seat hotspot serves a menu of mostly small plates Late-night dining until 2 a.m. Fri and Sat. 1 Radisson Plz, New Rochelle; 914.576.4141; www.nomasocial.com Pickup/Delivery

North Salem



ONE TWENTY ONE New American \$\$\$\$ This Beck Bolender venue brings a little con-

temporary flair to the area's verdant farmland with a menu of locally sourced (many ingredients come from the county) dishes. 2 Dingle Ridge Rd, North Salem; 914.669.0121; www.121restaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

PRIMAVERA ITALIAN SSSS

Located in what was known as the 1864 House, this white-tablecloth restaurant serves up fare like spinach ravioli, gnocchi Bolognese, chicken scarp, and Australian rack of lamb. 592 Rte 22, Croton Falls; 914.277.4580; www.primayeraitalian.squarespace.com.Pickup/Delivery



PURDY'S FARMER & THE FISH

Seafood \$\$\$\$

Housed in a historic 18th-century farmhouse and surrounded by four acres of terraced farmland that supply the restaurant, Farmer & the Fish serves a seafood-and-produce-heavy menu. 100 Titicus Rd, North Salem: 914.617.8380:

www.farmerandthefish.com Pickup/Delivery

Ossining

CRAVIN JAMAICAN CUISINE Jamaican \$ Offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Cravin serves up authentic Jamaican cuisine. Dishes include escovitch fish, curry goat, oxtail, fried chicken, various jerk offerings, and Rasta Pasta, 109 Main St. Ossining: 914.432.7776; www.cravinjc.com Pickup/Delivery

MELIKE TURKISH CUISINE Turkish \$\$ Expect fresh Turkish cuisine here, with locally sourced ingredients. Mains include eggplant moussaka, sautéed lamb, and chicken with curry. Closed Mon. 121 Main St, Ossining; 914.502.0651;

www.melikeossining.com Pickup/Delivery

Peekskill

APROPOS Mediterranean \$\$\$\$

Located at The Abbey Inn in the former St. Mary's Convent, this new restaurant overlooking the Hudson offers Mediterranean-inspired dishes, utilizing local ingredients, such as crispy chicken with warm heirloom beans and Hudson Valley rib-eye in anchovy butter. 900 Fort Hill Rd, Peekskill; 914.739.3546; www.aproposrestaurant.com Pickup

FIN & BREW New American \$\$\$\$

Food $\star\star\star$ ½ Service $\star\star$ ½ Atmosphere \star ½ (03/19) Cantain Lawrence brewer Scott Vaccaro and Peekskill restaurateurs John Sharp and Louie Lanza co-own this riverfront restaurant serving a seafood-heavy menu at the Charles Point entertainment complex. Closed Mon to Wed. 5 John Walsh Blvd, Peekskill; 914.788.4555; www.finandbrew.com Pickup

Pleasantville



LITTLE MUMBAI MARKET Indian \$ With décor as exciting as the food, Little Mumbai serves up crêpes and Indian fare in

the heart of Pleasantville. Try their pay bhaii and pair a smoothie with a caramelized banana crêpe. 475 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville; 914.773.0500; Pickup/Delivery

105 SEVENTY BAR & GRILL American \$\$\$ From the owners of 105-Ten Bar & Grill in Briarcliff Manor and The Urban Hamlet in Bronxville comes this bar and grill offering elevated American cuisine. 472 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville; 914.741.5285; www.105twentvrest.com Pickup/Delivery

SOUTHERN TABLE KITCHEN & BAR Southern \$\$ Get a taste of the down-home cooking you'd find south of the Mason-Dixon line at this spot from the owners of neighboring restaurant Wood & Fire. 39 Marble Ave Pleasantville: 914 618 3355: www.southern-table.com Pickup/Delivery

WOOD & FIRE Italian \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (11/15) Neapolitan cuisine is the name of the game at this family-run establishment, with a menu spanning salads, pizzas, small plates, pastas, and mains. 59 Marble Ave. Pleasantville: 914.747.2611: 118 Brook St. Scarsdale; 914.722.4854; www.woodandfirepizza.com Pickup/Delivery

Pocantico Hills



BLUE HILL AT STONE BARNS

New American \$\$\$\$

Among the World's 50 Best Restaurants, this groundbreaking farm-to-table fine-dining restaurant, courtesy of the Barber family, was awarded two stars in the 2020 Michelin Guide. The menu changes daily, with many of the ingredients grown or raised on-site. The Stone Barns Center hosts agricultural and educational initiatives, Closed Mon and Tue, 630 Bedford Rd. Pocantico Hills; 914.366.9600; www.bluehillfarm.com **Temporarily Closed**

Port Chester



ACUARIO Peruvian \$\$

Enjoy a taste of Peru at Port Chester's Acuario, Offered are ceviche, beef heart.

steamed mussels, fish soup, and paellas, as well as other Peruvian specialties, 163 N Main St. Port Chester: 914.937.2338; www.acuariorestaurant.com

Pickup/Delivery

ALBA'S RISTORANTE Italian \$\$\$

Named after the town in Piedmont, Italy, this Port Chester spot serves Italian American classics, like chicken scarpariello, ravioli stuffed with spinach and portobello mushrooms, and shrimp fra diavolo. Closed Sun, except for private parties for 40 or more guests. 400 N Main St, Port Chester; 914.937.2236; www.albasrestaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

CAPERS Mediterranean \$\$\$\$

Chef Edi Rivera (Port Chester's Appetit Bistro) takes inspiration from Italian, Greek, Moroccan, and Basque cuisines at this 50-seat restaurant in the space that was formerly Café Mirage. 531 N Main St, Port Chester; 914.481.8833; www.caperspc.com Pickup/Delivery



SALTAIRE OYSTER BAR AND

FISH HOUSE Seafood \$\$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere

★★★★ (01/16) Housed in a historic grain house and owned by the Barnes family, this modern restaurant sources its seafood daily for its refined plates and extensive raw bar. 55 Abendroth Ave, Port Chester; 914.939.2425; www.saltaireoysterbar.com Pickup/Delivery



SONORA Nuevo Latino SSS

Fans flock to Chef Rafael Palomino's only Fans flock to Cher Raide.
Westchester spot for his pan-Latino cuisine.

The bar area serves tacos and a vast selection of craft tequila. Outdoor patio in the summer. Closed Mon. 179 Rectory St. Port Chester: 914.933.0200: www.sonorarestaurant.net

Pickup/Delivery

TELLY'S TAVERNA Greek \$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★½ (11/19) Westchester's sister restaurant to the Astoria mainstay, the nautically decorated Telly's Taverna offers Greek specialties, including numerous seafood items. Try the calamari, swordfish kebabs, lamb chops, and spanakopita. 108 Abendroth Ave, Port Chester: 914.939.3333: www.tellvstaverna.com Pickup/Delivery

Pound Ridge



TOP THE INN AT POUND RIDGE

BY JEAN-GEORGES New American \$\$\$\$ Expect seasonal ingredients (and the

occasional Asian flavor) from the kitchen at this 250seat, special-occasion restaurant from Jean-Georges Vongerichten. 258 Westchester Ave, Pound Ridge; 914.764.1400; www.theinnatpoundridge.com Pickup/Delivery

Purchase

TREDICI NORTH Italian SSS

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★ (07/16) Chef Giuseppe Fanelli runs the kitchen at this stylish. 68-seat Italian eatery. Expect indulgent dishes like mozzarella-stuffed meatballs and Kobe-beef ravioli with truffles and brown butter. Closed Mon. 578 Anderson Hill Rd, Purchase; 914.997.4113; www.tredicinorth.com Pickup/Delivery

Rye

FRANKIE & JOHNNIE'S Steakhouse \$\$\$\$ Upscale steakhouse with a posh bar and lounge area (with two NYC locations). Specialties include porterhouse steak for two, dry-aged beef Bolognese, and lobster ravioli, 77 Purchase St. Rve: 914.925.3900: www.frankieandjohnnies.com Pickup/Delivery

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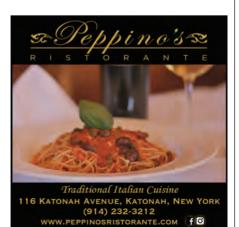




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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

TOP LA PANETIÈRE French \$\$\$\$
This elegant restaurant This elegant restaurant boasts top-level

service and contemporary French fare — hot and cold foie gras, Dover sole, cheese soufflé, and lobster casserole — in a Provençal setting. 530 Milton Rd. Rve: 914.967.8140: www.lapanetiere.com Pickup/Delivery

OKO Japanese \$\$\$

Ingredients are sourced from local farms and Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market for Chef Brian Lewis' menu, Hand rolls. sashimi, bento boxes, and entrées like sticky ribs and Madeira-miso glazed black cod are offered. Closed Sun and Mon. 29 Purchase St. Rve. 914.481.8660: www.okokitchen.com Pickup

RAFELE RYE Italian \$\$\$

Food $\star\star$ ½ Service $\star\star$ ½ Atmosphere $\star\star\star$ (12/18) Naples-born chef Raffaele Ronca debuted this sister restaurant of his West Village spot, offering Italian cuisine like house-made pasta, grilled branzino, and marinated lamb skewers, 26 Purchase St. Rve: 914.481.8417; www.rafele.com/rafele-rye Pickup/Delivery

RYE ROADHOUSE Cajun/Southern \$\$\$ Tucked in a residential area of Rye, the Roadhouse is a local institution known for its sweet-potato fries and Caiun flavors, like the grilled or blackened meatloaf. Late-night dining Fri and Sat until 1 a.m. 12 High St, Rye; 914.925.2668; www.ryeroadhouse.com Pickun/Delivery

THE GRANOLA BAR Café \$

"Healthy food that tastes good" - avocado grilled cheese, almond-butter-banana parfait, smoothies — is the mantra at this breakfast-and-lunch spot. 96 Purchase St. Rve: 914 709 4229: www.thegranolabarct.com Pickup/Delivery

Scarsdale

CAFÉ ALAIA Italian \$\$

Food $\star\star$ ½ Service $\star\star\star\star$ Atmosphere $\star\star$ ½ (06/18) Vincenzo Alaia offers Southern Italian cuisine – eggplant soufflé, branzino, and house-made pasta — in a cozy space. Gluten-free pasta available upon request. Closed Mon. 66 Garth Rd. Scarsdale: 914 725 3000: www.cafealaia.com.Pickup

TOP 35

EASTCHESTER FISH GOURMET

Seafood \$\$\$\$

Owner Rick Ross sources the freshest seafood daily from the Fulton Fish Market for this Westchester institution and its adjoining market. \$30.95 lobster dinners on Mon: raw-bar deals on Thurs. 837 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale; 914.725.3450; www.eastchesterfish.com Pickup/Delivery

VIETNAM'S CENTRAL Vietnamese \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★(01/18) Inspired by his native Vietnam, Chef Tuong Bui strikes just the right balance of sweet, salty, bitter, sour, and spicy at this hidden gem. 694 Central Ave, Scarsdale; 914.723.7222; www.vietnamscentral.com

Pickup/Delivery

Shrub Oak

NOVECENTO WOOD BURNING

KITCHEN & BAR Italian SS

Expect wood-burning pizza and mains of steak, pasta, and fish at this new Italian restaurant. Closed Mon. 1410 E Main St, Shrub Oak; 914.743.1930; www.novecento900.com Pickup/Delivery

Sleepy Hollow

HUDSON FARMER & THE FISH Seafood \$\$\$\$ The owners of Purdy's Farmer & the Fish also operate this 45-seat riverfront location serving steamers, pizzas (try the white clam), and favorite dishes from the North Salem original. 11 River St, Sleepy Hollow; 914.631.8380; www.farmerandthefish.com Pickup

Somers

UNWINED BAR & KITCHEN Wine Bar \$\$

Food *** Service *** Atmosphere *** (01/19) From the owners of next door's UnCorked Wines & Spirits, UnWined Bar & Kitchen brings an urban vibe to Somers, featuring small plates and more than 30 wines by the glass. 80 Rte 6, Somers; 914.519.6190; www.unwinednewyork.com Pickup

South Salem

THE HORSE & HOUND INN American \$\$\$ Housed in an inn that dates back to 1749, this restaurant has offered American and pub fare for more than two decades. The menu includes sandwiches, soups, salads, salmon and vegan burgers, and pasta, 94 Spring St. South Salem: 914.763.3108: www.thehorseandhoundinn.com Pickup/Delivery

LA VISTA RISTORANTE Italian \$\$\$

Pasta yeal chicken salads and homemade desserts. comprise the menu at this family-owned restaurant that offers a dining room and bar and lounge area. Closed Mon. 355 Smith Ridge Rd. South Salem: 914.533.2671: www.lavistaristorante.com Pickup

Tarrytown

GOOSEFEATHER Chinese \$\$\$

From Chef Dale Talde comes this spot focusing on the flavors of Hong Kong, offering dishes like scallion pancakes, dry-aged beef potstickers, and char siu Berkshire pork. Closed Mon. 49 E Sunnyside Ln, Tarrytown; 914.829.5454; www.goosefeatherny.com Pickup/Delivery



MINT PREMIUM FOODS

International \$\$

Owner Hassan Jarane's global foods emporium is part gourmet food shop (the front, including a superior cheese selection) and part eclectic world-cuisine restaurant (the back) Closed Mon 19 Main St, Tarrytown; 914.703.6511 Pickup/Delivery

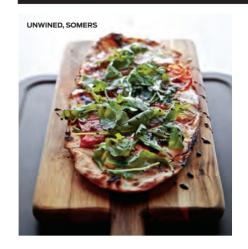
RIVERMARKET BAR AND KITCHEN New American \$\$\$\$

This Rivertown favorite sources primarily local, sustainable ingredients for its menu, award-winning cocktails, and on-premises market. Offerings include wood-fired pizza, seafood dishes, and handmade pasta. 127 W Main St, Tarrytown; 914.631.3100; www.rivermarketbarandkitchen.com Pickup/Delivery

SUNSET COVE Italian \$\$

This Tarrytown mainstay of more than 20 years boasts expansive views of the Hudson River and Mario Cuomo Bridge. Order the crispy wings, New England lobster roll, chicken scarpariello, or roasted salmon. Closed Mon and Tue. 238 Green St, Tarrytown; 914.366.7889; www.sunsetcove.net Pickup

THE TWISTED OAK New American \$\$\$\$ Danny Meyer alum Chef Michael Cutney blends Italian traditions and New American farm-to-table sensibilities to create signature dishes like his Fazio Farms duck lasagna. Closed Mon. 61 Main St. Tarrytown: 914.332.1992: www.thetwistedoaknv.com Pickup/Delivery



Thornwood

GORDO'S NORTH American \$\$\$

After the popular Gordo's on Commerce Street closed. this location opened on Broadway to offer American menu dishes like flatbreads, pasta, spring rolls, nachos, and roasted Thai meatballs, 1006 Broadway, Thornwood: 914.579.2610; www.gordosnorth.com Pickup/Delivery

RISOTTO Italian \$\$\$

Expect dishes like chicken parm, seafood risotto, grilled hangar steak, and cacio pepe (mixed in a giant cheese wheel in front of you) at this cozy restaurant, headed up by Kevin Oliveros of Brother's Fish & Chips in Ossining. Closed Mon, except by appointment. 788 Commerce St. Thornwood: 914.769.6000: www.risotto-restaurant.com Pickup/Delivery

THE BARLEY HOUSE American \$\$

This popular Thornwood spot (Best of Westchester Readers' Pick for Best New Restaurant in 2016) serves thoughtful versions of classic sandwiches and bar snacks, plus craft beers and cocktails. 665 Commerce St, Thornwood; 914.495.3333; www.thebarleyhouseny.com Pickup/Delivery

Tuckahoe

ANGELINA'S RISTORANTE Italian \$\$\$ At this Italian restaurant, expect pizza, specialty pasta. chicken, and fish entrées. Don't miss the signature dish - spaghetti tossed in a wheel of Parmesan with flamed Cognac. 97 Lake Ave, Tuckahoe; 914.779.7944; www.angelinasoftuckahoe.com Pickup/Delivery

White Plains



ABERDEEN SEAFOOD & DIM SUM

Cantonese \$\$

Named after a harbor in Hong Kong, this White Plains spot specializes in traditional Cantonese cuisine and dim sum. Offerings include Chinese eggplant, Peking duck, and sautéed conch. 3 Barker Ave, White Plains; 914.288.0188; www.aberdeenwhiteplains.com Pickup/ Delivery (\$50 minimum and within 2 miles)

BENJAMIN STEAKHOUSE Steakhouse \$\$\$\$ This 200-seat restaurant owned by ex-Peter Luger staffers specializes in dry-aged steaks and chops. (A second outpost is located in Midtown Manhattan.) Closed Mon, 610 W Hartsdale Ave, White Plains: 914.428.6868; www.benjaminsteakhouse.com Pickup/Delivery

BLT STEAK Steakhouse \$\$\$\$ The White Plains location of this international steakhouse is located in The Ritz-Carlton New York, Westchester.

Several different cuts of steak are on the menu, including 28-day dry-aged Kansas City Prime bone-in strip and filet mignon Prime bone-in filet, alongside an extensive wine list. Dinner only. 221 Main St, White Plains: 914 467 5500: www.bltrestaurants.com/bltsteak Pickup/Delivery

CITY LIMITS DINER American \$\$

The upscale diner features traditional American dishes, internationally inspired plates, and an array of homemade desserts plus a bar area with cocktails and craft beer. Breakfast served all day. 200 Central Ave, White Plains: 914.686.9000:

www.citylimitsdiner.com Pickup/Delivery

EMMA'S ALE HOUSE Comfort Food \$\$.

This Certified Green Restaurant specializes in comfortfood favorites like pot pie, braised short ribs, and the famous Krispy Kreme bread pudding. 68 Gedney Way, White Plains; 914.683.3662;

www.emmasalehouse.com Temporarily Closed

FREEBIRD KITCHEN & BAR Southern \$\$\$ Southern comfort food — fried green tomatoes with hot-mustard remoulade, hot chicken, and pimento cheeseburgers — is on the menu, plus signature smoked cocktails. 161 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.607.2476; www.freebirdkitchenandbar.com Pickup

LA BOCCA RISTORANTE Italian \$\$\$

Regional Italian specialties (spaghetti alla chitarra, sliced steak with balsamic and arugula) are the foundations of the menu at this downtown spot. Gluten-free options available. 8 Church St. White Plains: 914.948.3281:

www.laboccaristorante.com Pickup/Delivery

LA ROTTE DISTORANTE Italian \$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★½ (08/20) In a bright, casual space, wood-fired pizza, house-made pasta, and mains like Berkshire pork chop, grilled branzino, and Nordic cod are served. Closed Mon. 14 Martine Ave, White Plains; 914.461.2950: www.labotteristorante.com Pickup/Delivery



MEDITERRANEO Mediterranean \$\$\$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★1/2

Atmosphere ★★★½ (07/17) A White Plains location is the third outpost

(Greenwich, Norwalk) of this high-design restaurant, serving Mediterranean fare with an emphasis on seafood, 189 Main St. White Plains: 914.448.8800: www.zhospitalitygroup.com Temporarily Closed



MULINO'S OF WESTCHESTER

Italian \$\$\$\$

Classic Italian fare at this white-tablecloth restaurant with stellar service, includes mushroom risotto, tagliatelle alla Bolognese, Florida red snapper, and thinly breaded yeal. Save room for the cheesecake and tiramisù. Closed Sun. 99 Court St, White Plains; 914.761.1818; www.mulinosny.com Pickup

ROYAL PALACE Indian \$\$

Expect all the standards like tandoori chicken, birvani and fragrant curries from this restaurant and caterer. Lunch buffet offered every day; dinner buffet Mon to Thurs, 77 Knollwood Rd, White Plains: 914,289,1988: www.royalpalacecuisines.net

SAM'S OF GEDNEY WAY American \$\$\$

This spacious hotspot from New York Hospitality Group offers classic American fare, like burgers, salads, braised short ribs, and lump crab cake. The restaurant features a year-round patio and private dining areas are available for parties. 52 Gedney Way, White Plains; 914.949.0978; www.samsofgedneyway.com Pickup/Delivery









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dining out

SAPORI Italian \$\$\$

Indoor or outdoor seating — including partially enclosed booths tucked into brick-lined alcoves — is available at this 160-seat Italian eatery. 324 Central Ave. White Plains: 914.684.8855; 2 Chase Rd, Scarsdale; 914.874.5316; www.saporiofwhiteplains.com Pickup/Delivery

TRE ANGELINA Northern Italian \$\$\$

This cozy, white-tablecloth Italian joint proffers the flavors of Northern Italy. Closed Mon. 478 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.686.0617; www.treangelina.com.Pickun/Delivery

TVB BY: PAX ROMANA Italian \$\$

This White Plains spot brings a taste of Rome to Westchester. Fresh pasta, like spaghetti alla carbonara, and the uniquely Roman pinsa are not to be missed, but save room for Nutella-filled homboloni 171 F Post Road WhitePlains; 914.831.3303; www.paxromanany.com Pickun/Delivery

Yonkers

DOLPHIN Seafood \$\$\$

The Rugova family runs this bilevel restaurant serving up seafood, pasta, steaks, and big salads. A 100-seat patio lends views of the Hudson River, Late-night menu Thurs to Sat until 1 a.m. 1 Van Der Donck St, Yonkers; 914.751.8170; www.dolphinrbl.com Pickup/Delivery

HAPAG Filipino \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (04/19) This Yonkers spot serves up family-style plates of Filipino comfort food, such as *lumpia*, *pinkabet*, and *ukoy*. Closed Sun. 1789 Central Ave. Yonkers: 914.652,7773 Pickup

ISO JAPANESE Japanese \$\$\$

From the owners of KOKU in Armonk, this Boyce Thompson Center restaurant offers signature sushi rolls, noke, and mains like organic basil. chicken and sesame tuna. 1086 N Broadway. Yonkers: 914.963.0777: www.isovonkers.com

Pickup/Delivery

X20 XAVIARS ON THE HUDSON TOP

New American \$\$\$\$

Venerated chef Peter Kelly's restaurant sits on the historic Yonkers Pier, offering breathtaking views of the Hudson River and his famous cowboy rib-eye for two. The casual Dylan Lounge boasts its own menu. Closed Mon. 71 Water Grant St, Yonkers; 914.965.1111; www.xaviars.com Pickup/Delivery

ZUPPA Italian \$\$\$

Paskual Dedi is the executive chef at this urbane Italian. restaurant serving creative homemade pastas and topnotch entrées. Three rooms are available for parties. Prix-fixe lunch (\$25) Mon to Fri. 59-61 Main St. Yonkers: 914.376.6500; www.zupparestaurant.com Pickup

Yorktown

JEWEL OF HIMALAYA Nepalese \$

Westchester's only restaurant serving the cuisine of Nepal and Tibet offers affordable dishes — juicy momos (dumplings), dal, and traditional thukpa soup - at two county locations. Closed Mon. 34 Triangle Ct, Yorktown Heights: 914.302,2886: 751 Central Ave. Scarsdale; 914.874.5506; www.enjoyhimalaya.com Pickup/Delivery

THE GRAMERCY Brasserie \$\$\$

Food $\star\star\star$ ½ Service $\star\star\star$ Atmosphere $\star\star$ ½ (09/19) This spot, which seats 100, has a chic vibe and a creative menu, with dishes that incorporate locally sourced and organic ingredients. 345 Kear St, Yorktown Heights; 914.302.7189; www.the-gramercy.com





attractions. Coming. Coming.

BEST BETS | TOP BILLING

EDITED BY Adler

SEE THIS...

Women Rising

Touching on concepts of beauty, identity, and society, a striking all-women group show at The Pelham Art Center is being held to mark the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. On view through Nov 7, **Domestic Brutes** features sculpture, prints, paintings, and installations by 15 acclaimed women artists. including Aisha Tandiwe Bell, Lacey McKinney, and Manju Shandler. The works comprise a frank look at what it means to be a woman in modern America and how things have, and haven't, changed.



Lacey McKinney Obscenely Loved IV (2018) Oil and Acrylic on Yupo 30x20



Arts Warrior

Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester CEO, discusses the impact of COVID-19 on area artists and why our cultural framework may never be the same. BY PAUL ADLER

> s CEO of ArtsWestchester, Janet Langsam is not simply some advocate for local culture. She is a warrior at the frontlines, fighting tooth and nail virtually around the clock to boost Westchester's arts organizations and venues, help secure vital funding for individuals and nonprofits alike, and come to the rescue of countless local artists who would likely have nowhere else to turn. This role firmly places Langsam at the very heart of the region's arts' scene, so she has witnessed firsthand the effects of COVID-19 on Westchester's cultural landscape.

Langsam notes that during the early days of the pandemic, it was remarkable how rapidly and drastically priorities changed. "We collectively spent thousands of hours sanitizing our whole building and just dealing with the process of finding out how to do this, who could do it, and what was a legitimate price for it," recalls Langsam. "Then I found out that evervone needed the same information, so we did a group Zoom call with engineers and cleaners. Not exactly the information that every arts organization needed in the past."

Langsam adds that the tremendous variety of local organizations further complicated matters. "Not everybody in the arts community in Westchester is the same, so you have small groups who were saving, 'Can I have a class of 10 come in for a lesson, or do I have to wait for phase four?" explains Langsam. "There is such a diversity of situations that when the guidelines came out, everybody was interpreting them differently, and rightly so. But there was nobody to ask how to apply them."

There was, however, one bright spot that seemingly united both large and small arts organizations. "The PPP Loan [Paycheck Protection Program] was a lifesaver," says Langsam. "As they loosened the guidelines, it became more and more helpful to us. In fact, I was recently on the phone with a bunch of colleagues from the state, and I would say about 95 percent of those who filed for the PPP got it."

Langsam is quick to add that this does not mean there was no fallout. "Most of us still can't do events, can't do concerts, and can't do gallery talks," she says. "But worst of all, we can't do fundraisers, and most of our community and most of the not-for-profit community relies on golf tournaments, galas, award luncheons, and things like that in order to balance the budget." ArtsWestchester itself was not exempt from this issue. "We normally we get \$500,000 in funding from our events," shares Langsam. "We had to cut that in half and budget \$250,000, and I don't even know how we are going to reach that."

One possible lifeline, grants, has been similarly impacted buy the rise of COVID-19. "We'll get a grant to do a series of concerts or an artist's residency, but nobody provides grants for general operating support," explains



Langsam. "Most general operating support comes through events, so what I am seeing is that not being able to do the events is not just a loss in revenue but also a loss in flexible revenue - in unrestricted revenue."

Yet, even during this nadir of funding, Westchester's cultural organizations have proven to be incredibly adaptive. "We have all pivoted. We are all doing virtual programs; even the smallest organizations are doing workshops with artists over Zoom," she says. "Everybody has found a way to use the

internet to maintain contact with their audiences." ArtsWestchester itself has organized everything from Paraguayan folk-arts programs to Pride events, all via Zoom.

Believe it or not, some organizations have even found a way to grow during this period. "You would think that organizations would be losing audience," says Langsam, "but the executive director at RiverArts, Doug Coe, said they have a lot people on staff who are very savvy with the internet and are finding a whole new audience." The artists who rent space at

"I think there is an enormous amount of grit in the cultural space. The people who work in the cultural arena are tough people. They really care about what they do."

ArtsWestchester's White Plains gallery have supplied another cause for optimism, with virtually all of them not only returning to their spaces but even paying rent through the quarantine, despite not having been on the premises.

Yet Langsam remains pragmatic. "I think one of the challenges that we have to be mindful of is to do what we can to allay fears, to let people know that we have taken this COVID crisis seriously and that we are doing our best to sanitize, to wear masks, to wear gloves,

to clean surfaces, and do all the prerequisites that we can do so that people will feel comfortable and confident coming back to a gallery or a theater.

"It's not going to be the same; we are just not going to be the same cultural community," Langsam continues. "But I think there is an enormous amount of grit in the cultural space. The people who work in the cultural arena are tough people. They really care about what they do. There is no fooling around, and they are determined to make it work." W

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Best Bets

Our favorite reasons to get out of the house this month. BY PAUL ADLER



Those craving something slow in this world of breakneck news and round-the-clock tweets may want to head to Ridgefield's Aldrich Contemporary Art for an exhibition that truly takes its time. Twenty Twenty will feature several works on paper by seven artists who produce drawings based on photographs to be released sequentially over six months. The slow-paced exhibition questions whether a gradual rollout of painstakingly produced drawings can hold a mirror up to our lightning-quick world.





KMA Virtual Gala

Just because the pandemic has put a damper on countless cultural events doesn't mean there aren't great opportunities to support the arts organizations we love. Enter the Katonah Museum of Art's KMA Virtual Gala. which will feature a virtual silent and live auction helmed by Christy Williams Coombs of the renowned Sotheby's auction house. Along with entertainment and heartfelt messages from the KMA staff, the event will include fun activities and Zoom rooms for those who turn out to support this truly worthy cause.



Enter the Haggis Steep yourself in Scotland's iconic

sound with a heaping helping of

rock & roll thrown in during this lighthearted show at Peekskill's Paramount Hudson Valley Theater. Enter the Haggis combines bagpipes and fiddles with uniquely American rock to create a singular sound that has been praised by several critics. Sing along to signature tunes like "One Last Drink," "Gasoline," and "Down With the Ship" during this evening of fiddles and Fenders.

WESTCHESTER'S 2020 FIVE STAR AWARD WINNERS

REAL ESTATE AGENTS >> MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS >> HOME/AUTO INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS



Five Star Professional partnered with Westchester Magazine to identify real estate, mortgage and insurance professionals in the Westchester area who deliver outstanding service and client satisfaction. The Five Star Professional research team surveyed homebuyers, home sellers and industry peers, and analyzed online consumer evaluations. Survey respondents rated their service professional on criteria such as overall

satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend. The research methodology allows no more than 7% of professionals in each category to receive the award.

Recognizing Outstanding
Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals
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RISING STAR AWARD WINNERS

Meet the next wave of outstanding real estate agents in the Westchester area! Five Star Professional's research team contacted branch managers, real estate veterans and consumers to identify up-and-coming real estate agents in the industry. Rising Star award winners are held in high regard by their peers and mentors and have received a qualifying nomination for the award. Evaluators were asked to identify an agent who has been in the industry for five years or less and embodies professional excellence, exhibits superior customer service and shows great potential to excel in their profession. All Rising Star award winners must be actively licensed, satisfy minimum production criteria and have a favorable regulatory history to be eliqible for award consideration.

RESEARCH — How Our Winners Are Chosen

- The 2020 Five Star Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final lists.
- Each professional is screened against state governing bodies to verify that licenses are current and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent, mortgage professional or insurance professional on the final list should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or Westchester Magazine.

Determination of Award Winners

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a 2020 Westchester-area Five Star Real Estate Agent, Five Star Mortgage Professional or Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professional:

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Qualifying rating.

Eligibility Criteria:

2. Holds an active license and employed in their field for a minimum of three years.

- 3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review.
- 4. Satisfies minimum production on a one-year and three-year basis.
- 5. Successful completion of a Blue Ribbon Panel review.

Real estate agents, mortgage professionals and home/auto insurance professionals are pooled only with other candidates from their profession.

The final list of 2020 Westchester-area Five Star award winners is a select group, representing approximately 3% of real estate agents, 1% of mortgage professionals and 1% of home/auto insurance professionals in the area. To see the full list of winners, visit fivestarprofessional.com.

FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL

PROPRIETARY RESEARCH PROCESS



Nomination of Candidates

The Five Star Professional research team surveyed homebuyers, home sellers and industry peers, and analyzed online consumer evaluations to identify professionals that excel in key attributes of customer service.



Evaluation Score

Using our scoring algorithm, each nominee is given an evaluation score based on surveys in our database.



Candidate Submission of Business Information

Candidates must complete either an online or over-the-phone interview.



Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must be in the industry for at least five years, have a favorable regulatory history and meet minimum production thresholds.



Blue Ribbon Panel

A Blue Ribbon panel of industry experts reviews the final list of candidates.

Final Selection

Less than 7% of professionals in the market are selected.

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Left to right: Eleven-year winner Filomena Rosemary Stern and Ten-year winner Steven Geiger



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We want to thank our clients for selecting us to receive this prestigious award for the eleventh consecutive year. After 19 years serving the Westchester community, our mission continues to be fulfilling our clients' dreams. Acting as trusted advisors, our aim is to exceed buyers and sellers' expectations by providing passion, integrity, unparalleled knowledge and creative thinking. We pride ourselves on the long-term relationships we build by being there during every step of the buying or selling process, as well as years after the transaction closes.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

7 YEAR WINNER

Seven-year winner David M. Calabrese, Licensed Salesperson, ABR®, SFR®

David M. Calabrese

Licensed Salesperson, ABR®, SFR®

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- Recipient of Platinum and Emerald awards for sales excellence, 2009 2019
- · Recipient of Westchester Business Council's Rising Stars 40 Under 40 Award, 2010

I'd like to express a special thank-you to my clients for selecting me for this prestigious award for seven consecutive years. My mission is to exceed my clients' expectations by delivering unparalleled service. My knowledge and professional expertise are essential when guiding clients through the most emotionally and financially important decisions of their lives — purchasing or selling their homes. I take pride in helping my clients buy and sell their homes while achieving their individual goals.

I am here to assist you in all of your real estate needs, and I look forward to working with you. I specialize in White Plains, Scarsdale, Harrison, Hartsdale, Eastchester, Greenburgh, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Sleepy Hollow, Mount Pleasant, Yorktown Heights, Somers, Bedford, Katonah, Armonk, Mamaroneck and Larchmont.



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Let me take this opportunity to thank all of my clients, friends and family for their continued support and referrals. It is through dedicated service, professionalism and compassion that I take great pride in continuing those relationships.

William Raveis Real Estate

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Direct: 914-980-2402 • Office: 914-967-1333
connie.stetler@raveis.com • www.conniestetler.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Andrea Mancusi

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson



William Raveis Real Estate

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Licensed in New York and Connecticut. Office located in Yorktown Heights, NY.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Marilyn J. Krizansky

Licensed Associate Broker





32 Popham Road Scarsdale, NY 10583 Cell: 914-261-5273 mkrizansky@houlihanlawrence.com

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I am honored to be respected by my clients and to win this award for the past 10 years due to your kind words about my service and professionalism. In this recent year, we have worked together successfully in finding you single-family houses, condominiums, co-ops and residential rentals to move into. And I continue to get your referrals, which I simply love. Thank you once again for remembering me each year and for nominating me for this prestigious award. I look forward to remaining in touch with you in 2021!

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



≫ REAL ESTATE AGENTS ≫

Laura Sheppe Miller

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker





32 Popham Road Scarsdale, NY 10583 Cell: 914-629-1940 Imiller@houlihanlawrence.com www.lauramillerteam.com Instagram: @lauramillerrealestate

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- · No. 3 Agent in Westchester County, Single Family Homes, 2019 (HGMLS)
- · REAL Trends "America's Best Real Estate Agents," 2015 2019

Laura has been selling real estate since 2003 and is known for her integrity, local expertise, professionalism and attention to detail. Laura's legal background and extensive knowledge of the community combine to make her an extremely professional, highly motivated broker whose work ethic, trustworthiness and commitment to her clients reflect her desire to achieve the highest level of customer satisfaction.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Cathy Debow

Real Estate Agent





6 Cedar Street Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 Phone: 707-227-0953 cathy.debow@cbmoves.com www.cathydebowrealestate.com

My Clients Are My No. 1 Priority

- · Mortgage background
- · Professional
- · Dedicated to clients

I pride myself in being an attentive, prompt and dedicated professional. My goal is to provide my clients with an enjoyable and satisfying experience and to develop a relationship that lasts long after the homebuying and selling process is done. As an agent who lives in Westchester County, I bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise about buying and selling real estate here. It's not the same everywhere, so you need someone you can trust for up-to-date information.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Barbara Bodnar

Associate Real Estate Broker





366 Underhill Avenue Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Cell: 914-649-2018 barbarabodnar@realtor.com www.barbarabodnarhomes4sale.com

Diligent. Determined. Dependable.

"I never want to buy or sell a house without Barb. Her experience, local knowledge and connections and no-nonsense approach, coupled with her kind but honest manner, make her a huge success. Barb helped me to buy my first house, and later, to sell my first house. She was always patient with my endless questions and determined to empower me to make decisions that I am comfortable with, rather than feeling pressured by the process. She understands both people and systems, and has done so much to help me navigate both in the process of buying and selling a house. Lastly, I really value Barb's code of ethics. For me, this took so much stress out of the process of selling a house, particularly in the time of Covid-19. I knew Barb would know the rules and guidance and that she would follow them and help me know and utilize all available precautions to protect both my family and those seeking to buy a home. There is no substitute for an agent who knows what they are doing and who acts with integrity. Barb is that agent." — Bobi M.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



≫ REAL ESTATE AGENTS ≫





Imma Carletto

Licensed Associate Broker, SFR®, CRS, e-PRO®

- · Trusted, respected and recommended
- · 20-year background in corporate negotiations
- · Founder of an ambitious, hardworking team

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Real Estate Agent Award Winn



Al Posillico

Consulting Associate Broker

- · Designations include CDPE and CLHMS
- · 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2020 Five Star Real Estate Agent

Al Posillico prides himself on delivering superlative, professional service with a personal touch. He is experienced in all areas of the industry and is committed to making the real estate experience as stress-free as possible.

W REALTY GROUP

760 White Plains Road • Scarsdale, NY 10583 Phone: 914-953-8433 • Alposillico@Kw.com • www.alposillico.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Audra Maccariello Real Estate Associate Broker Lic 10301200805

- Knowledgeable
- Experienced

I am honored to have been selected for this prestigious award! I would like to thank my clients, friends and family for their continued support and referrals. I focus on building positive relationships by working with people I admire and respect, and who value the level of service I provide. My goal as your Realtor is to always exceed your expectations and provide you with exceptional service. Let me put my 17 years of experience and strong negotiation skills to work for you!

165 Katonah Avenue • Katonah, NY 10536 • Phone: 914-438-5680



corcoran LEGENDS REALTY

Phyllis Lerner

CBR®, CHP, Licensed Real Estate Broker-Owner

Thank you to my clients for nominating me for this recognition. Service is my No. 1 priority. My sellers and buyers all over Westchester County and the surrounding area appreciate my unique skill set providing a combination of expert marketing and negotiating. I help my sellers prepare their homes for sale, from staging to photography to multimedia marketing. Buyers appreciate my area expertise and guidance through the entire buying process, making their experience as stress-free as possible.

> 38 Main Street • Tarrytown, NY 10591 Phone: 914-438-7556 • phyllislou@aol.com www.westchester-real-estate.us





Elise Flagg

Associate Broker

Associate real estate broker Elise Flagg has been in business for 23 years. She was named one of REAL Trends' America's Best Real Estate Agents in 2019 and one of The Real Deal's Top 100 Agents. Elise is a confident and dedicated representative for her buyers and sellers. She identifies appropriate properties for buyers and negotiates effectively on their behalf. Her seller clients rely on her market expertise to achieve the best possible price in the least amount of time. Elise considers herself very lucky to be successful in a business she loves!

32 Popham Road • Scarsdale, NY 10583 • Office: 914-723-8877 Cell: 914-714-9250 • eflagg@houlihanlawrence.com



Deborah Glatz Real Estate Salesnerson

· International Diamond Society award

My pride shows in covering the bases while providing caring, courteous service to my real estate clients. My experience and knowledge are your assets. I am always grateful whenever I see the great pleasure in my clients faces.

"Deb delivers dreams" every day! It isn't work when you love what you do.



366 Underhill Avenue • Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Phone: 845-206-1215 • deborah.glatz@cbmoves.com • DeborahGlatz.com





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Ralph Ragette Jr.

Real Estate Associate Broke

- Fifth generation of his family firm; established in 1885
- \cdot 15 years of real estate sales and management experience
- · Visit Ralph's blog at westchesterhomeadvisor.com

Growing up in a real estate family, Ralph developed a passion for real estate at an early age. With a stellar reputation built on honesty, integrity and professionalism, Ralph brings local market knowledge, strong negotiation skills and exceptional personalized client service to every transaction.

44 S Broadway, Suite 100 • White Plains, NY 10601 Phone: 914–888-1885 • ralph@ragette.com • www.ragette.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



J. Philip Real Estate

J. Philip Faranda

Broker-Owner

- · Charter member of the Zillow Agent Advisory Board
- · Author of Westchester Real Estate blog

I am the broker and owner of J. Philip Real Estate, a growing, independent real estate firm serving Westchester, Putnam and nearby counties. Since 2005, I have grown the firm from a home-based solo practitioner to a team of over 100 licensed professionals. We are committed to providing an excellent client experience by employing the best professionals and technology available.

522 N State Road • Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510 • Cell: 914-450-8883 Office: 914-762-2500 • jphilip@jphilip.net • www.jphilip.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



Michelle Nead

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Robert and I bring exceptional service and proven results to all of our clients. As real estate professionals, we work full time to guide you through the process of finding the right home for your family. If you are considering a purchase or contemplating the sale of your

If you are considering a purchase or contemplating the sale of your home, please call or email me today!



1 Palmer Avenue • Scarsdale, NY 10583 45 Field Point Road • Greenwich, CT 06830 Cell: 914–282-0618 • Office: 914-723-1331 michelle.nead@raveis.com • nead.raveis.com

William Raveis Real Estate. Licensed in New York and Connecticut.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



Julia B | Sotheby's Fee | International Realty

Danielle Benanti Bonner

Realtor SRS, ABR®

- · Transparency and knowledge of the area
- · Available morning and night for clients
- · Provides frequent updates on market changes

I entered into the real estate industry after working as a manager at a law firm in Manhattan for 15 years. After realizing that I $\,$

wanted to set off on a new path, I worked with a job coach to help figure out what my next steps would be. Four of the five jobs I was matched with were related to real estate and I took the plunge.

2 Park Place • Bronxville, NY 10708 • Phone: 917-969-1345 dbenantibon@gmail.com • danielle.bonner@juliabfee.com williampitt.com/agents/daniellebonner

eal Estate Agent Award Winner



COTCOTAN

Mary Case Friedner Licensed Broker, Owner, ABR®, CNE

- Specializing in the Hudson River villages and beyond • Over three decades of real estate experience
- · Founded Legends Realty Group in 2007

I attribute my ongoing success to my loyal clients who have believed and trusted in my knowledge, expertise and negotiation skills and have seen my passion for the industry and for our special little corner of the world.

38 Main Street • Tarrytown, NY 10591 Office: 914–332–6300 • Cell: 914–980-2912 alwaysonthecase@aol.com • www.marycase.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winne



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Douglas C. PetriDirector of Sales, Branch Manager, NMLS 39875



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Mortgage Professional Award Winner



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F0 (

REAL ESTATE AGENTS >> MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS >> HOME/AUTO INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS

To see the full list of winners, visit www.fivestarprofessional.com.

Real Estate Agent

All Areas

Agnes Aliberto · RE/MAX

Danielle Benanti Bonner · Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty Page 6

Mary Ellen Bickler · Brown Bickler & Co.

Dorothy A. Botsoe · Dorothy Jensen Realty

Patricia Canniff · Coldwell Banker

Diane Capone · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

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Ann Marie Damashek · Compass

Linda Darer · Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty

Cathy Debow · Coldwell Banker Page 4

Carla DeMarsh · DeMarsh Properties

Lisa K. Dollinger · William Raveis Real Estate

Lucille Ettere · Houlihan Lawrence

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Michael James Graessle · Better Homes & Gardens Realty

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Eric T. Lebenson · J. Philip Real Estate

Paul Leis · Sotheby's International Realty

Dolores Porco Leonard · Dolores Leonard Real Fstate

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Noreen Parrell · William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Pollack · Five Corners Properties

Al Posillico · Keller Williams Page 5

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Suzanne Welch · Coldwell Banker

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Lisa Goodrich Zedlovich \cdot Guard Hill Realty

Armonk

Renee Susan Stengel · Houlihan Lawrence

Briarcliff

Elizabeth Relyea · Houlihan Lawrence

Briarcliff Manor

Sharon Bodnar Briskman · Houlihan Lawrence

Vincenza Chapin · Houlihan Lawrence

Susan Strawgate Code \cdot Houlihan Lawrence

 $Libbe\ Pavony \cdot Houlihan\ Lawrence$

Chappaqua

Susan Biggar · William Raveis Real Estate

Hawthorne

Alix Nimphius · Coldwell Banker Page 5

Mount Kisco

Margot Friedlander · Coldwell Banker

New Rochelle

Paulo Guerra · Houlihan Lawrence

New York

Debra Bravoco · Coldwell Banker Realty

Ossining

Eric Leigh Schatz · Schatz Realty Group

Pleasantville

Sharon Foley · ERA Realty

Rye

Judith Jackson · William Raveis Real Estate

Donna McElwee · Houlihan Lawrence

Sula Pearlman · Coldwell Banker

Scarsdale

Elise Flagg · Houlihan Lawrence Page 5

Linda Kermanshahchi · Houlihan Lawrence

Marilyn J. Krizansky · Houlihan Lawrence Page 3

Laura Sheppe Miller · Houlihan Lawrence *Page 4*

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Linda L. Peretz · Houlihan Lawrence

Maryann L. Petrescu · Houlihan Lawrence

Shari Weinstein · Houlihan Lawrence

Somers

Audra Maccariello · Coldwell Banker Page 5

Westchester

Deena Bouchier · COMPASS

Anthony Sibio · Coldwell Banker Real Estate

Theresa Marie Szuhany · RE/MAX Ace Realty

White Plains

Kenia Bustamante · Coldwell Banker

David M. Calabrese · Houlihan LawrencePage 2

Peter Gorbutt \cdot Better Homes & Gardens Realty

Suzanne Lagle · Houlihan Lawrence

Ralph Ragette Jr. · Ragette Real Estate Page 6

Yonkers

Barbara O'Connell · Houlihan Lawrence

Yorktown Heights

Barbara Bodnar · Coldwell Banker Page 4

Wayne Kokinda · William Raveis Real Estate

Rising Star Real Estate Agents

All Areas

Richard P. Blanchet · Houlihan Lawrence

Vincent Caiola · Houlihan Lawrence

Karen Gundelach · Keller Williams

Laura Lulgjuraj · Houlihan Lawrence

Steven Scarnati · Keller Williams

Rye

Hope Stone · Compass

White Plains

John J. Rios · Keller Williams

Mortgage Professionals

Jason Farina · US Bank

Michael Levine · CrossCountry Mortgage

Patricia Irene Madison · Homestead

Biagio Maffettone · RealFi Home Funding Corp

Robert Miller · Quintessential Mortgage

Douglas C. Petri · ASAP Mortgage Page 6

Anthony Scopelliti · Quintessential Mortgage

Kathleen Voigt · Chase Mortgage

Rising Star Mortgage Professionals

Albert Abbatiello · Quintessential Mortgage
Jorge E. Alvarado · Quintessential Mortgage

Home/Auto Insurance Professionals

Tom Bruenn · MI Bruenn Company

Carollee Cabot · Brown & Brown of New York

Adam Ginsberg · Insuregy Agency

Shane B. Moran · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Home Sweet Home Prices

Westchester has always been known for pricey real estate — and in the last 20 years, the numbers have skyrocketed. Here's a sample of how home prices from 2001 stack up against today's price points. BY AMY R. PARTRIDGE



*All home sales data courtesy of Houlihan Lawrence

ON THE MARKET

What You Get Today for the 2001 Median Price:



\$450,000

1870 Andre Place, Yorktown Heights

3BR, 2BA; 1,092 sq. ft.; .11 acres; \$9,897 estimated taxes Listed by Maria Litrenta, William Raveis Small but bright and charming, this home offers an updated kitchen with granite countertops and eat-in breakfast area; dining room with skylights; a large, finished, lower level; and outdoor spaces, including a deck, level yard, and walk-to-town location.

What You Get Today for the 2020 Median Price:



\$675,000

645 Hillside Ave, Mamaroneck

3 BR, 1.1 BA; 1,296 sq. ft.; .17 acres; \$14,475 estimated taxes Listed by Bradley Fischer, Sotheby's International Realty Located in convenient Mamaroneck Village with Rye Neck schools, this tidy and modern house features a stylish renovated kitchen, well-maintained hardwood floors, updated electrical (2016), brand-new appliances, a large basement playroom, and ample outdoor space for entertaining.

COURTESY OF SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Continued from page 159.

The spacious 175-seat Gabriella's Italian Latin Fusion Cuisine (130 W Post Rd, White Plains; 914.358.4416; www. gabriellasitalianfusion.com) opened in July in the space that once housed Ernesto's.

Growlers Beer Bistro (25 Main St, Tuckahoe; 914.793.0608; www.growlersbeerbistro.com) has reopened with new owners, a rotating line up of a hundred local craft brews, familiar gastropub grub, and an inventive menu of handcrafted cocktails to pair with Pat LaFrieda burgers, Rasta shrimp tacos, and avocado fries.

MIKU Sushi Bar and Restaurant

(68 Greenwich Ave. Greenwich: 203.900.7676; www.mikugreenwich.com) has a pop-up sushi bar at Tony's at the J House (1114 E Putnam Ave, Riverside; 203.698.6999; www.jhouserestaurant.com) until October 31.

Upon reopening for full dinner service sometime in 2021, two-Michelin-star-rated Blue Hill at Stone Barns (630 Bedford Rd. Pocantico Hills: 914.366.9600: www. bluehillfarm.com) will transition to a chefin-residence format, with a new chef taking over every season. Chef/co-owner Dan Barber plans to step away from kitchen duties for the foreseeable future. A name change will take effect, as well.



Lo mein noodles with vegetable stir fry and sesame ginger at Chigo

Ibrahim Mohammed — formerly of Sapori Restaurant in Scarsdale and previously Manhattan's Frederick Madison, Opia, Belgian Beer Café, and Brasserie Les Halles - is the new executive chef at Augie's Prime Cut (3436 Lexington Ave, Mohegan Lake; 914.743.1357; www.augiesprimecut.com).

Expected to debut sometime this fall is Climbing Wolf (78 Main St, Dobbs Ferry; www.climbing wolf.com), a coffee-andcraft-beer bar using beans from Coffee Labs Roasters in Tarrytown. - JBT



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Headless and Jobless

wo full centuries ago, in a stroke of commercial genius, Washington Irving created a spectral character who instantly became a staple of supernatural fiction and a gift that has never stopped giving. The author introduced him this way:

The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region, and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air, is the apparition of a figure on horseback, without a head.

The main protagonist in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" was, of course, Ichabod Crane, the geeky schoolteacher who is afraid of his own shadow. But the fulcrum of the story is the bloodcurdling Horseman - the supposed ghost of a Hessian solider who, in some forgotten battle of the Revolutionary War, was decapitated by a cannonball and spends eternity roaming the countryside astride a black "goblin horse."

The Headless Horseman is a quintessential horror archetype, an ingrained cultural image as essential to the annual observance of Halloween as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is to guiding Santa's sleigh.

Irving wrote a lot of popular stuff, but it's not a stretch to say the Headless Horseman helped make him an international star. He had a bevy of famous literary friends and admirers - one of them being Mary Shelley, who gave the world Frankenstein in 1818. Incidentally, she supposedly had the hots for Irving, but the confirmed bachelor resisted her charms.

At about 10,000 words, Irving's Gothic tale can be read in a matter of minutes. (Shelley's monster mash was more than four times longer.) But size hardly matters, at least in terms of impact.

It's fitting that Irving coined the phrase "almighty dollar," because largely thanks to him, the region's seasonal Halloween-themed events have brought millions of dollars into the coffers of local businesses and indispensable nonprofit organizations, like Historic Hudson Valley, which last year attracted 120,000 visitors to The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor, in Croton-on-Hudson.

An exponential growth in tourist revenue can be traced back to 1996, when the old industrial village of North Tarrytown — once the home of a General Motors plant — solved an identity crisis by adopting "Sleepy Hollow" as the municipality's official name. Irving's drowsy "sequestered glen" was transformed into what a New York Times article dubbed "The Headless Horseman Industrial Complex." Today, Sleepy Hollow is a bona fide Halloween mecca, albeit a distant second to Salem, MA, where 20 people - including an ancestor of mine - were executed in 1692 for allegedly practicing witchcraft. (Like all things that draw paying crowds these days, the Sleepy Hollow juggernaut is threatened by a very real horror: the coronavirus. I'll get back to that in a minute.)

It should be mentioned that Sleepy Hollow drew visitors long before it



"In his time, the immortal Irving witnessed devastating vellow fever and cholera epidemics that killed thousands. What would he make of the mysterious coronavirus?"

was a lucrative brand. During Irving's lifetime, uninvited sightseers and daytrippers frequently dropped in at his picturesque home by the Hudson, the multi-gabled Sunnyside. In 1869, 10 years after the writer's death, a summer renter of Sunnyside bitterly complained of "intrusive and pertinacious tourists" who "poke their noses into everything," even the wall ivy, which they "carry off... as relics, like so many leaf bearing ants."*

One intruder declared he would not be denied a brush with greatness. "I have come all the way from St. Louis, sir, and I cannot go back without looking through the immortal Irving's house and grounds."

In his time, the immortal Irving witnessed devastating vellow fever and cholera epidemics that killed thousands. What would he make of the mysterious coronavirus? Though he was kind, genial, and exuded conviviality as a party host, he also had common sense and probably would adhere to the rules of social distancing. Certainly, he would gently discourage that fan from St. Louis from barging into Sunnyside unannounced.

And as a responsible citizen, he would likely approve of current plans to cancel or modify a plethora of popular seasonal events that bring so many people to Sleepy Hollow and other Hudson River towns. Indeed, an ambitious 18-month celebration marking the bicentennial of the publishing "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" was launched on Irving's birthday in 2019, but it lost momentum when the pandemic struck in the spring, according to Sleepy Hollow Village Administrator Anthony

"In April, we were scheduled to have an academic conference using the hotels," Guaccio said. "We were going to get some scholars who know about Washington Irving. Unfortunately, we had to cancel that."

So this year's celebration will be different. But Guaccio was optimistic that next year will be "bigger and better."

As Irving himself might say, it's better to err on the side of public health than that of the almighty dollar.

The opinions and beliefs expressed by Phil Reisman are his alone and do not necessarily reflect those of Westchester Magazine's editors and publishers. Tell us what you think at edit@westchestermagazine.com

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st The source of a reference to uninvited guests at Sunnyside is George Templeton Strong's diary,





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The illustration above is an artist's depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.

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