Our Most Beautiful Restaurants

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Real Estate Market Report:

What Buyers Want Now

How the COVID Era Is Shaping Our Search





The Calming Guide

29 Methods for Reducing Stress and Anxiety

Spring Fashion

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Real Estate Market Report 2021: Desperately Seeking Space

It's difficult to overstate the impact COVID-19 has had on homebuying. Follow along as we round up what's hot on the market right now — and what features real estate agents expect to remain coveted going forward.

By Jena A. Butterfield

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Spring Fashion 2021

After a year of wearing pj's and cozy loungewear, it's time to step out in style this season and don the hottest trends, all available locally.

By Gina Valentino

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The Calming Guide to Reducing Stress & Anxiety

After a stress-inducing year like no other, we offer this helpful compendium of pacifying products, foods, local sites, workouts, mental health tips, and much more, all aimed at nixing unease.

By Deborah Skolnik, with Paul Adler and Michelle Gillan Larkin

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Our Most Beautiful Restaurants

This photo essay serves up an eye-popping visual tour of 20 distinctive Westchester restaurants featuring some of the county's most Insta-worthy feasts of decor and design.

By John Bruno Turiano

Bold Floral

The season's quintessential pattern – flowers – take it up a notch, with bright and bold renditions.

Marc Cain "Knitted in Germany" long jacket, **$590**, two-button blazer with millefleurs print, **$650**, pleated skirt with millefleurs print, **$440**, "Knitted in Germany" top, **$320**, silk scarf with millefleurs print, **$210**, at Marc Cain; Stuart Weitzman Manila Signature loafer, **$450**, at Stuart Weitzman; Arme Bleu 20K gold egg pendant, **$1,650**, at Arme Bleu at Beginnings Bleu



Contents photo by Toshi Tasaki; styling by Kendra Porter, HonorYourStyle

COVER PHOTOS: (WOMAN) BY DROBOT DEAN; (POOL) BY IMAGE SUPPLY CO; (HOUSE) BY BMAK; (OFFICE) BY PHOTOGRAPHEE.EU; ILLUSTRATION BY RIMM_ART; ALL FROM ADOBE STOCK

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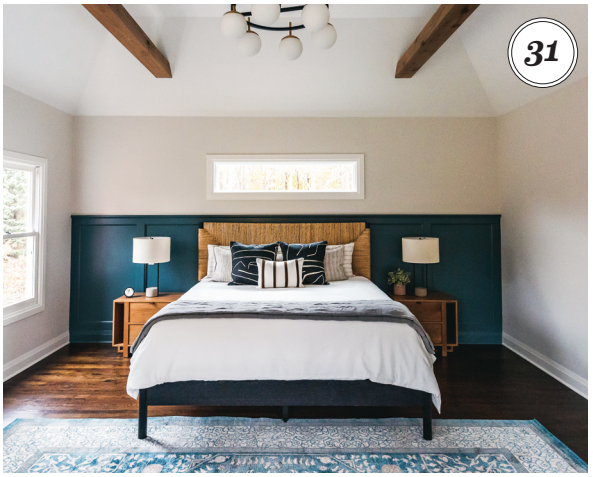



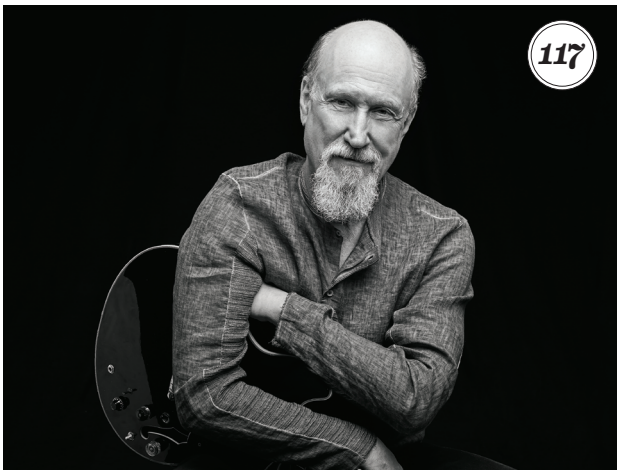

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"I realized that the most visible part of Lyndhurst is the outside and not the inside, and that is when I felt that we have to really look at this landscape and turn our attention to it."

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"We don't plan our menu by starting with the dish and then buying the ingredients to make it; instead, we find top ingredients and then think, What dish can we make from them? *"*

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"Were he alive today, what would Rockwell paint? Where would he find hope? It's hard to guess."

(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) COURTESY OF LEGOLAND NEW YORK RESORT; PHOTO BY LIANE CURTIS PHOTOGRAPHY; PHOTO BY NICK SUTTLE/COURTESY OF RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE; PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOLDSTEIN/COURTESY OF CHRISTINE ORGANIC CONFECTIONS



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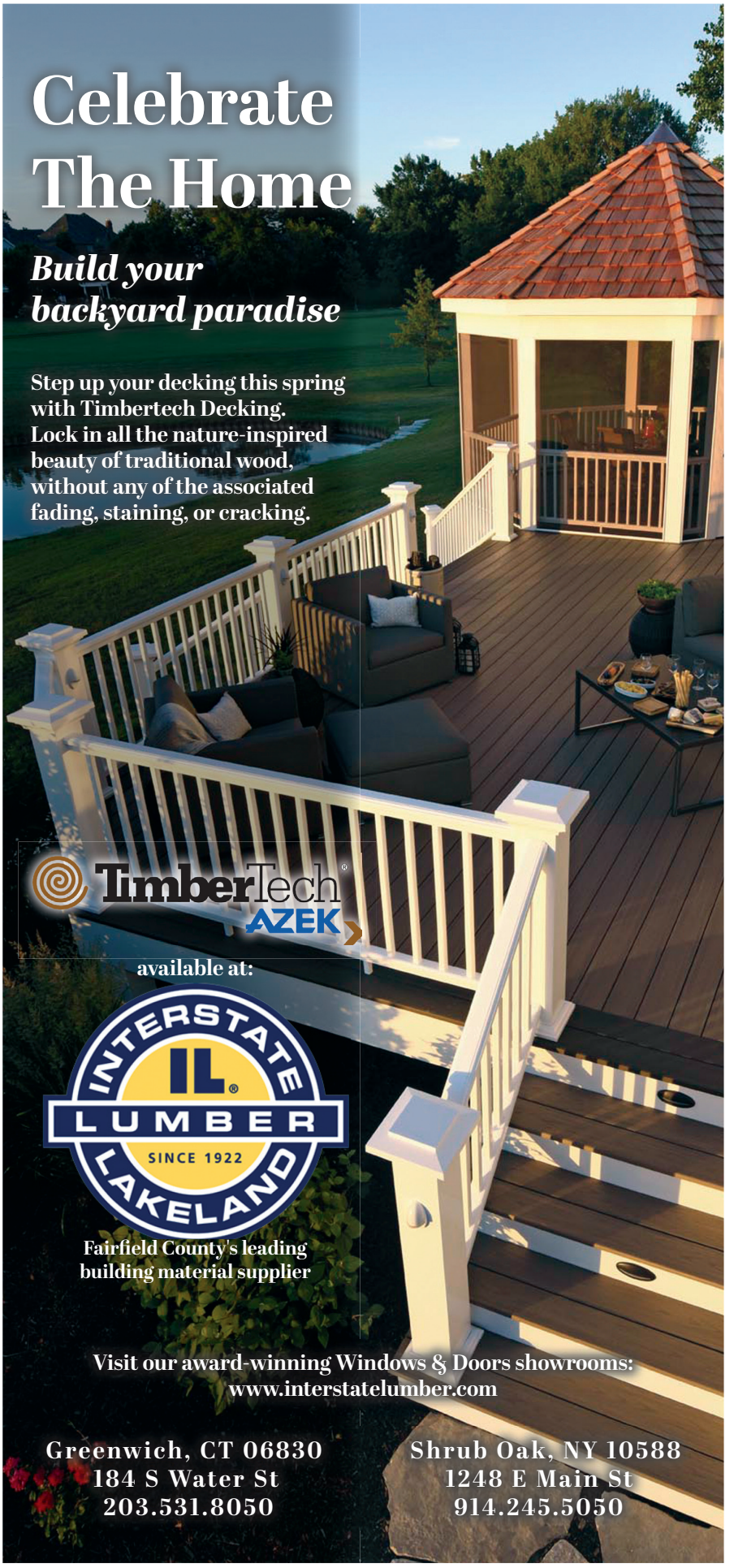

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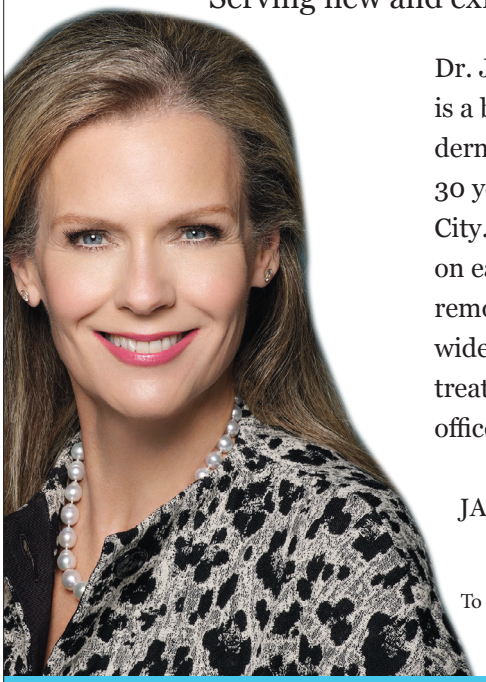

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The Home Stretch



Since the pandemic began, what is expected from a home has changed significantly. Office, school, childcare facility, entertainment venue, fitness center, restaurant — many want their homes to encapsulate all of these amenities whereas previously they were satisfied to exploit them away from the household.

Thus, our annual Real Estate Market Report focuses on what buyers want now (page 56). Writer Jena Butterfield explores the notable shift in what homebuyers are seeking as a new way of living. From more nature and privacy to organized workspaces and souped-up outdoor spaces, what constitutes the ideal home for many has taken residential real estate into a new age.

Now, the truth is, unless you're a misanthropic homebody type, there is stress to being stuck at home. Not being out and about as much and limited (if any) in-person time with friends and family can bring down even the most upbeat person. For this reason, we present "The Calming Guide to Reducing Stress and Anxiety" (page 72), offering 29 methods to eliminate that nerve-wracking brain chatter and achieve a relaxed, happy state of mind.

Another leisure activity that reduces stress, dining out, has been diminished by pandemic restrictions but thankfully not eliminated. Warmer temps this month and expanded outdoor dining possibilities should enable more of us to feel comfortable going out for a meal. "Our Most Beautiful Restaurants" photo essay (page 82) showcases 20 gorgeously designed local dining destinations.

Here at the magazine, things are moving toward normal as we ramp up our collaborations with freelance partners after a period of doing everything in-house. As skilled as our staff is, the talents of our cadre of freelance writers, photographers, and others have been missed, which is why I was delighted when we held an in-person photo shoot for our Spring Fashion feature, utilizing a freelance stylist, model, makeup-and-hair person, and photographer.

That photographer, Toshi Tasaki, missed our assignments as much as we missed assigning them to him. "It's been six months between jobs due to the pandemic," says Toshi. "As a photographer, your skill goes down, just like a pianist's would if not practicing." But even when Toshi had no assignments, he kept shooting… on the street, in nature, wherever. "My goal is always to keep practicing and capture that next beautiful shot," he says. We have more than a few of Toshi's next beautiful shots in our fashion feature, starting on page 64.



Photographer Toshi Tasaki working on that "next beautiful shot" with model Danielle Bjorlo, from CESD Talent Agency.

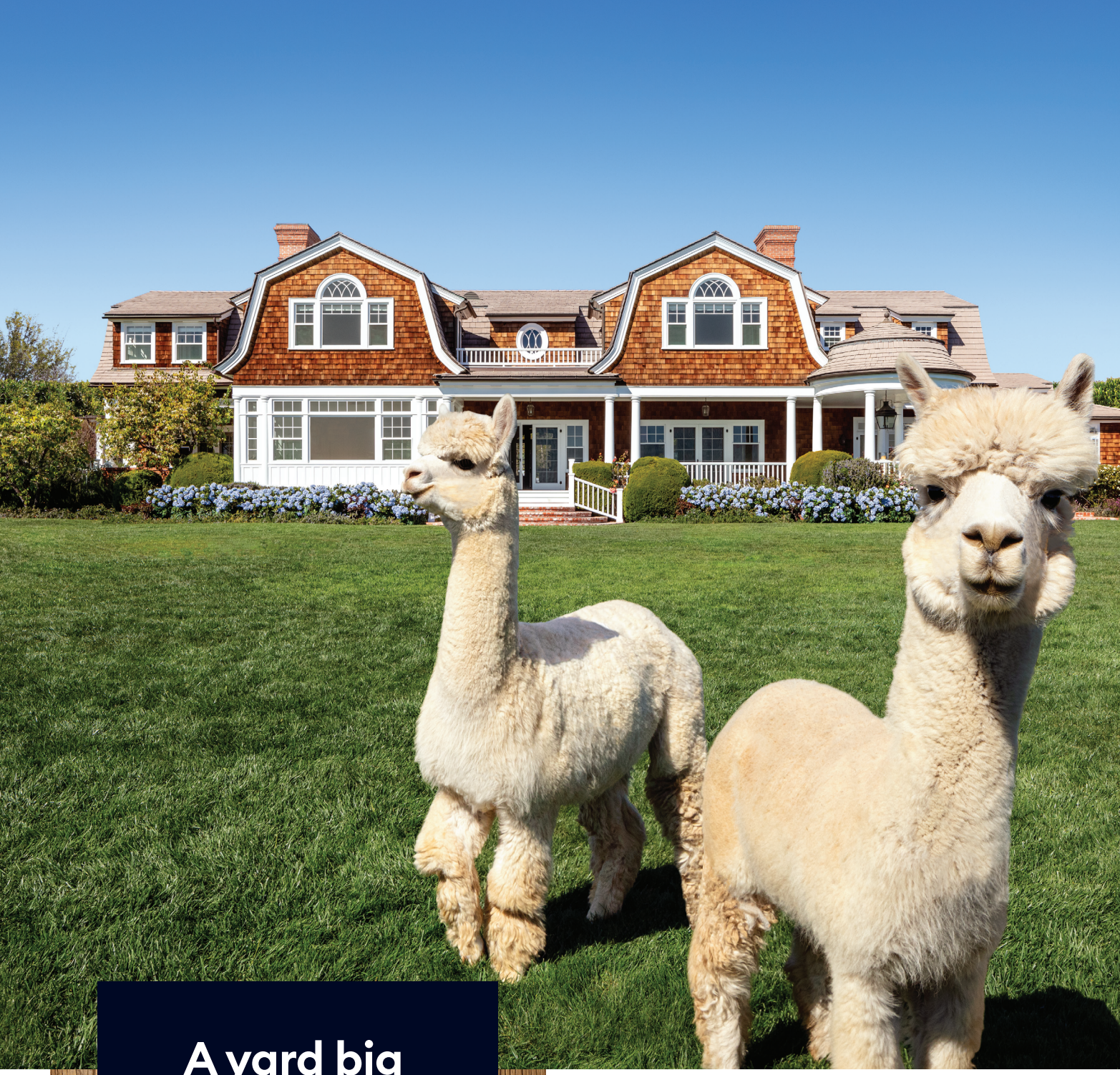
TURIANO PHOTO BY TOSHI TASAKI; INSET PHOTO BY GINA VALENTINO

As the number of folks having received vaccinations rises and the area COVID cases drop, there's optimism for fuller lives outside of our homes. But the truest sign of things improving may be the increased traffic on my I-684 commutes. Heck, I'm even happy now when someone cuts in front of me, no blinker! *Aah… things ARE returning back to normal.*

Happy baseball season (lets go, Mets!), Happy Easter, Happy Passover — and happy whatever it is you do for fun — inside the home or out.



John Bruno Turiano
Editor



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Regarding our article, "The Official Rankings: Public High Schools" [Feature, March]:
One only has to look at the income of the families to predict almost perfectly the SAT scores. To believe it is the school system, rather than the children and their families, does a disservice to an...accurate assessment of our educational system.
— Victor Sternberg, Briarcliff Manor

Regarding our article, "Patriotic Priming" [First Things First, February]:
Good thing that there finally is a conservative site for kids. It's refreshing that these kids will not be brainwashed by the "woke" crazies on the left. Enough indoctrination instead of education. Yay!
— Leslie Rose, Croton-on-Hudson

FROM SOCIAL MEDIA:

Regarding our online article, "Black-Owned Restaurants in Westchester to Order From Right Now":
[Does] it really matter the color of the owner? I will order from my favorite restaurant if the food is good. This is so racist. I order from Chinese restaurants, Mexican restaurants, and other foreign-owned restaurants.
— @Kevin Alimonti

It shouldn't but, yes, it really does matter. To understand you'd have to be willing to learn...the historical events in America that led to where we are today. "Black" history month is silly, also, but apparently before "black" people are seen as American, a month is needed to remind others that "black" people are AMERICAN and have contributed/built more than is taught in American society. There is much that needs to be done to right the wrongs of the past "AND PRESENT." Supporting a "black"-owned business that you believe provides an excellent service to the community is the least that can be done. Many people share the same view as you, but [I] haven't heard an answer from the other point of view.
— @Shaka Taffawa

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Michelle Gillan Larkin
Associate Editor

Working for us initially as a freelancer, Crestwood resident Michelle started full-time June 1, 2020, and writes many of our Neighbor departments, food-and-drink articles, and contributes to features. Prior to this, she wrote for trade and business magazines, Houlihan Lawrence, and was an award-winning ABC Radio newswriter and news anchor at 100.7FM WHUD. A lifelong Westchester resident (save a UWS stint), she teaches kids yoga and savors time outdoors with her 10-year-old son, husband, and Marcus the Cavapoo.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARLENE RATLIFF

Duke Ratliff
Associate Editor

Duke is the newest associate editor at *Westchester Magazine* and *914INC.*, having started March 1, 2021. He is a veteran business reporter with a love and appreciation of all that Westchester County has to offer, especially its varied natural splendor and cultural offerings. He lives the life of a recent empty nester in Croton-on-Hudson with his wife, Marlene. His two children, Mac and Rose, attend SUNY New Paltz.

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LEGOLAND Hotel at Goshen's LEGOLAND New York Resort

COURTESY OF LEGOLAND NEW YORK RESORT

RECREATION

New Kid on the Block!

The expansive LEGOLAND New York Resort is set to open its doors in the Hudson Valley, bringing with it exhilarating attractions and family-friendly accommodations. **By Sabrina Weiss**

For the first time in 40 years, the Northeast is getting an adventure-packed amusement park with the arrival of LEGOLAND in Goshen, a 52-minute drive from White Plains. Full of family-friendly thrills, enchanting sleepovers, and 15,000 LEGO models made of 30 million LEGO pieces, LEGOLAND New York Resort is unsurprisingly generating a good deal of excitement in Westchester County.

The resort invites guests into seven different themed lands: LEGO Castle, LEGO City, Bricktopia, Brick Street, LEGO NINJAGO World, Miniland, and LEGO Pirates. Each destination has rides and attractions, like Splash Battle, Ninja Training Camp, and Merlin's Flying Machines. Offering both daily tickets and annual passes, the park's ticket prices begin at $63. If loop-de-loops don't spark your fancy, but you





Top: Dragon's Apprentice Junior Coaster
Bottom: Hotel Castle Room

still cherish all that is LEGO, shopper's passes are available for visitors who crave strictly retail merriment at the resort's expansive LEGO Shops.

The LEGOLAND Hotel, which is the only LEGOLAND-themed hotel on the East Coast, boasts four family-friendly areas across 250 rooms, including LEGO Friends, LEGO NINJAGO, Pirate, and Kingdom. Families can experience gentle thrills while spinning on the Anchors Away! attraction in the LEGO Pirates land or de-stress by strolling through LEGO replicas of global landmarks in Miniland.

In addition, LEGOLAND will offer employment opportunities to Hudson Valley residents. Upwards of 1,000 workers will be hired for a variety of roles, ranging from front-line staff to resort and hotel directors. While the opening date remains undetermined, due to COVID-19, details should surface sometime this spring.



PHOTOS: (*LEFT*) COURTESY OF LEGOLAND NEW YORK RESORT; (*RIGHT*) BY GINA LEVAY/COURTESY OF LYNDHURST

INSIDE LOOK

The Great Garden Overhaul

Lyndhurst's ambitious, years-long garden-and-grounds restoration is now wrapping up its second phase, leaving behind a revivified Westchester landmark. **By Paul Adler**

The grass is definitely greener at Lyndhurst. Begun in 2017, Lyndhurst's expansive overhaul involves a myriad of local organizations, artisans, workers, donors, and experts pioneering improvements ranging from a restoration of the mansion's towering greenhouse to replanting entire orchards. Although the update's various phases won't conclude until post-2027, some of Lyndhurst's most eye-catching enhancements are now ready for wandering eyes.

The overhaul's first phase, which comprises a restoration of the mansion's lower landscape, whimsical rockeries, kitchen garden, and cherry orchard, was completed in 2018. While this year, the second phase — a refurbishment of the mansion's landscaping and rose garden — is drawing to a close. This includes adding benches and urns to the rose garden, installing diamond pane panels around the mansion's veranda, replanting wisteria, and the addition of sculpture and fountains, among several other improvements.

According to Lyndhurst executive director Howard Zar, the grounds overhaul is among the most vital elements of the larger project. "One of the things I realized when I got to Lyndhurst is that a lot of people in the area come here to hike, bike, walk their dogs, and run; it occurred to me that it is actually these people who might be coming to Lyndhurst literally every day of the week," explains Zar. "I realized that the most visible part of Lyndhurst is the outside and not the inside, and that is when I felt that we have to really look at this landscape and turn our attention to it."

Zar and his colleagues did just that, using period photos, a historical landscape report, and color imagery to ensure that the overhaul remains as faithful to the 1840 design as possible. Next on the docket is the reproduction of a fanciful treehouse and replanting of a pear orchard. The entire project amounts to a virtual passageway to another time.

"You don't have to take a tour of the mansion and hear about the family and the artwork and the architecture to really learn how people lived in the 19th century," shares Zar. "When you experience these different parks and smell the breeze and see the animals on the property, that is the way people entertained themselves before we had radio, television, movies, computers, and iPhones. It is really reconnecting you with the sensibilities that were prevalent 150 years ago. So, if you come and do nothing but relax amid the landscape, you actually have had a historic experience."

HISTORY

The Thread of Memory

Tanya Singer's Knitting Hope project examines how textiles and clothing represented both resistance and resilience during the Holocaust.

Scarsdale resident Tanya Singer wears many hats — and sometimes even knits them.

A teacher, activist, writer, and knitter, Singer recently utilized all of her skills to teach others about the significance of textiles during and after the Holocaust with her years-long project, Knitting Hope.

Knitting Hope was sparked by stories, and dresses, like that of Judy Fleischer Kolb. Kolb was born into the Shanghai Ghetto, following her family's escape from Nazi Germany in 1939. There, Kolb lived with her parents, uncle, and grandparents, along with about 20,000 other refugees, during World War II. Similar to other survivors, Kolb found comfort in hand-knit clothing, like a little red dress her grandmother made. Kolb's moving story and dress are being shared with the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, as well as with Knitting Hope.

Singer herself knit to find comfort during trying times, particularly when her 13-year-old son underwent brain surgery. Singer also studied ways in which people used knitting to resist the horrors of the war, honor friends and family, and recover from the WWII's aftermath.

This work culminated in February 2021, when Singer collaborated with Kolb and fellow knitter Melissa Shinsato in a multiweek Knit-Optional Knit-Along. With the use of Shinsato's knitting pattern, inspired by Kolb's little red dress, participants could knit their own versions of the iconic garment, using step-by-step instructions. The Knit-Along also included special-guest discussions with Kolb.

Plus, the virtual format of the knitting events was COVID-19-safe yet helpful in expanding the program to knitters from the United Kingdom, Australia, Greece, and across the U.S. Singer says she is optimistic about the future of Knitting Hope and stresses the importance of projects that draw attention to the Holocaust.

"I wish Holocaust education was a given and that all educators understood the importance of raising children to be active citizens who stand up for the rights of others and work to uphold Democracy because they know what can and has happened — including what we saw in Charlottesville and the Capitol," says Singer. "At this time of increasing anti-Semitism and hate, we must ensure that our schools are sharing the important lessons of Holocaust history." —*SW*





PHOTOS (*LEFT*) FROMTHE ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER; (*RIGHT*) BY GALE ZUCKER

Left: A Teaching Trunk featuring a crocheted little red dress, created by a museum docent. The trunk is part of an Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center program that reaches more than 1,200 students a month. *Above: A* modern iteration of the little red dress.

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COMMUNITY

A Brave New Ro

The city of New Rochelle is expanding into the burgeoning world of virtual reality with their intrepid, new platform, NRVR.

Nowadays, virtual reality is big business, with Facebook's Oculus Quest selling millions of units and users ranging from lauded surgeons to preteen gamers. No surprise that one Westchester city is embracing this technological advancement with a program squarely aimed at expanding its role in municipal improvements.

New Rochelle's NRVR will aid in the city's downtown revitalization, allowing residents to experience 360-degree views of reimagined local spaces, such as The LINC, which would transform a section of Memorial Highway into a recreational green space, and then offer their own feedback. Anyone interested can do so online, at one of several kiosks throughout the city, or at a new, dedicated NRVR space at the New Rochelle Transit Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRVR

Along with a new website that outlines NRVR's mission and upcoming work, all projects can be viewed through a smartphone, providing almost everyone with the ability to experience the city's potential improvements and have their voice heard. A Phase 1 survey regarding The LINC recently opened to residents, which dovetailed with the launch of the VR version of the project, now available for view at *www.nrvr.com*. —*PA*

EXPRESS LANE



ADOBE STOCK/DIYANADIMITROVA

1 Nearly 5,600 solar panels were installed across Westchester and NYC in 2020, bringing the total number in the county (at press time) to 7,341 and putting Westchester ahead of the Big Apple in solar electric generation, according to ConEd.

2 IBM is aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and the Armonk-based computer giant says it'll do it by, among other things, procuring 90% of its global electricity from renewable sources and using cleantech solutions, like carbon capture, to remove emissions.

3 New York's been sent home with a mixed report card on efforts to snuff out smoking. The American Lung Association slapped the state with a big, fat "F" for tobacco prevention and cessation funding and a "D" for prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, which attract kids. However, there's an "A" in there for a commitment to encourage smoke-free air.

4 The spirit of volunteerism is soaring in Westchester, as four local residents (in Ardsley, Briarcliff Manor, Pelham, and Purchase) are among the winners of the 41st annual Volunteer Spirit Award by Volunteer New York!, a nonprofit based in Tarrytown.

5 It's the top of the class (and perhaps some college cash) for five Byram Hills High School seniors who've been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists; they should know by graduation if they're winners in the annual competition that began in 1955.

6 For when the munchies strike... some healthier choices could be on the shelves soon, as Purchase-based PepsiCo teams up with California's Beyond Meat to produce a new line of snacks and drinks derived from plant-based protein. —*Michelle Gillan Larkin*



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EDITORS' OBSESSIONS

We Can't Shut Up About...



PHOTO BY DANIEL CASE, VIA WIKIPEDIA

While the Kensico Dam and the New Croton Dam are generally considered to have more prominence, I'd like to give the **Cross River Reservoir Dam** in Katonah its due. The secluded calm atop the dam, with its majestic vistas, is hard to duplicate, and there's extra allure when you spot the occasional equestrian on the dirt roads, galloping alongside the reservoir.

–John Bruno Turiano, Editor



PHOTO BY HANNAH ROSENBERG/COURTESY OF CHANDEL ATELIER

As I continue to age (damn it!), I'm increasingly drawn to the salubrious effects of scented candles. Naturally, then, I'm delighted to have found **Chandel Atelier** *(www.chandelatelier.com)*, featuring eco-friendly candles by Chappaqua-based founder Térron Richardson. My personal fave is his Anguilla, which, with notes of freesia, eucalyptus, linen, and sea salt, spirits me away to tropical climes. Available at Jolie Jordan in Mount Kisco and ROCKS in Chappaqua.

–Nick Brandi, Senior Editor

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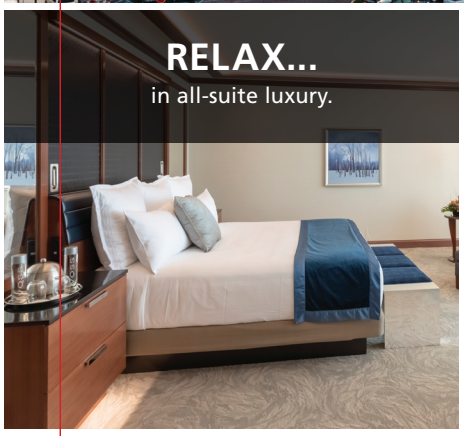

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GOOD DEEDS

Food & Fellowship

The Briarcliff Manor-based Gullotta House has donated more than 120,000 meals, and counting, to those facing extreme hardship as a result of COVID-19.

When Matthew Gullotta founded his kindhearted nonprofit in 2015, he could scarcely believe that one day, he and his staff would provide in excess of 100,000 meals to area residents who were facing food hardships. Offering those in need services that range from help with transportation to providing clothing and even building walkways for handicapped individuals, the Gullotta House has been doing lots of good work from its Briarcliff Manor base.

The 501(C)(3) came about as a result of some hardships in Gullotta's own life, including a fire that displaced his family, as well as several others. It was after Gullotta became an Ossining Rotarian and Ossining Chamber of Commerce board member that he realized the power of volunteer work.

Today, the work of the Gullotta House has a broad reach. It stretches from working with small area businesses to help people afford new brakes for their tires, offering access to powered wheelchairs, providing funds for transpiration to hospitals, and offering clothing and shoes to fire victims.

"Prior to COVID, we had served about 5,500 meals," says Gullotta. "As of February 2021, we've provided 120,000 free, hot meals," which includes approximately 40,000 deliveries to homebound residents, for free.

"We need donations to extend our Free Hot Meals campaign, which costs us $3,000 to $5,000 each week. We have events like our Charity Polar Plunge, which raised $30,000 this year, and our upcoming Charity Rubber Duck Race, in May, when we hope to raise $10,000-plus," Gullotta says.

Gullotta has big plans for his eponymous nonprofit, including increasing the number of board members and community advisors, partnering with more local businesses and organizations, and working closer with schools, as well as state and county agencies. Those interested in helping out can head to www.gullottahouse.org for more information or call (914) 525-0744.

—PA

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

ON THE MARKET

Spring Ahead!

$3,795,000

3 Wakeman Pl, Larchmont | 5 BR, 6.1 BA | 6,061 sq. ft. | .41 acres | $69,213 estimated taxes

The pops of color and beautiful outdoor entertaining area in this Larchmont Colonial are just what springtime homebuyers are looking for. This home also enthralls with an edgy interior that just received a full renovation. Highlights include a sunroom that opens to the living room via a wall of glass, designer kitchen with blue-and-white cabinetry and Quartz island, enormous third-floor master, a three-season porch, and office with doors to the patio.

Listed by Pollena Forsman, Houlihan Lawrence

**All homes were on the market at press time.*

TRENDING

April Showers

Be prepared for spring rain with on-trend accessories for you and your home. **By Jenn Andrlik**



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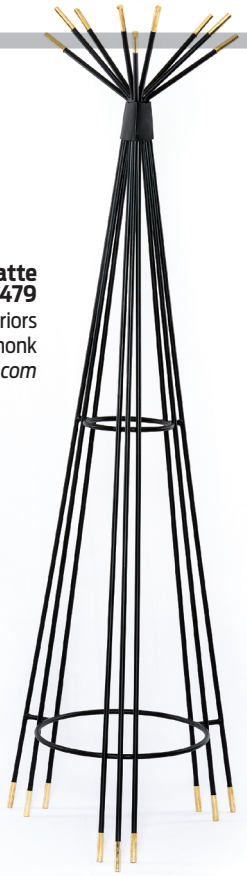

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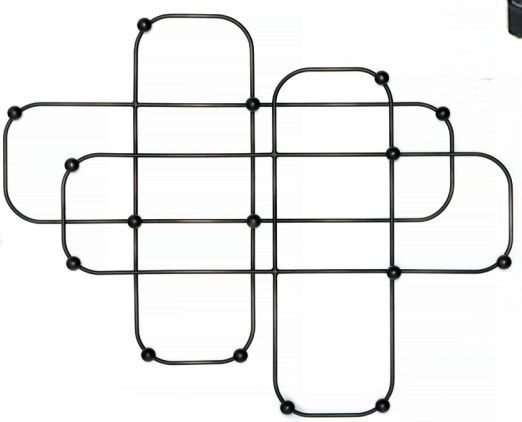

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EXPERT PANEL

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"An easy upgrade, which can transform a space, is **a wall mural or wallpaper**. But you don't have to limit yourself to actual wallpaper. Try Tempaper, a self-adhesive, removable wallpaper. It's user-friendly and has fun prints for a child's room or sophisticated trend-setting patterns for any room in the house. And it's not a big commitment, because you can remove it easily! Or, Rebel Walls is a fabulous company that does full-size custom murals at a very affordable price. You select the mural pattern, enter the length and height of the wall, and they deliver it in about seven to 10 days." *—Jane Bell, Jane Bell Interior Design*



PHOTO OF COURTESY REBEL WALLS

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Farmhouse Fresh

Down on the farm is right where you want to be with these two stylish, authentic listings. **By Amy R. Partridge**







PHOTOS BY DANIEL MILSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY

$2,350,000

2 Creemer Rd, Armonk
4 BR, 4.1 BA; 6,826 sq. ft.; 1.98 acres; $42,790 estimated taxes
Listed by Julie Schneider, Compass







PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

$1,499,000

937 Post Rd, Scarsdale
4 BR, 2.1 BA; 2,659 sq. ft.; .27 acres; $10,565 estimated taxes
Listed by Claire Civetta, Houlihan Lawrence

Farmhouse style has never been more popular, and these two unique listings are the real deal. Buyers with a $2 million-plus budget will find plenty to love in the Armonk listing: Built in 1850, the home offers original details, like exposed beams, wide-plank flooring, and artistic molding, as well farm-worthy acreage. Yet, modern touches abound, including a high-end cook's kitchen, family room with cathedral ceiling and French doors, home office with custom built-ins and fireplace, plus a lower level complete with gym. The grounds include an in-ground pool, large entertaining area, and flower gardens. The Scarsdale listing — known as the Cudner-Hyatt House (erected in pre-Revolutionary time) — is a historical/modern mashup: Exposed hand-hewn beams and existing hardwood floors and doors mesh smoothly with a new roof, gutters, wiring, plumbing, insulation, and HVAC. Highlights of the home include a charming kitchen with fireplace, mudroom/laundry room, private home office, and master suite with custom walk-in closet and luxurious bathroom with double vanities, heated floors, and a soaking tub. The home is also in walking distance to Scarsdale Village.

ROOMS WE LOVE

Masterful Mixing

Local designer Mary Z. Brendler transforms a master bedroom into a mix of eclectic and modern elements.

As part of a renovation to a home in Katonah, the roof was raised to add height in this upstairs master bedroom. (There are two masters in this home.) White oak beams were added for warmth, and a transom window was added over the bed, to bring in extra light. "We decided to add a custom board-and-batten feature wall that would creep out over the top of the bed but give some wall space before the trim to the transom," says designer Mary Z. Brendler, owner of Indigo Z Home. "We knew we wanted a dark, moody color that would add some beautiful contrast to the woven bed and white oak nightstands with leather detailing."



PHOTO BY LIANE CURTIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Design Inspiration

"The design inspiration for this room was the pairing of the beautiful blue-gray color on the accent wall with the large-scale, geometric, black-and-white, oak-framed pieces of art," says Brendler. "I loved the color combo and the mix of warm and cool tones, and we sprung from there."

Don´t forget!

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Feature Wall

"I knew I wanted it to peek out over the top of the bed but land below the transom, with some room to spare," says Brendler about the feature wall behind the bed. "Our talented team of carpenters at Indigo Z Home built it, and the color we used for the accent wall is Benjamin Moore's Nocturnal Gray."



PHOTO BY LIANE CURTIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Mixing Materials

"I think the key to mixing materials and finishes is to find the balance between mixing things up and not overdoing it," suggests Brendler. "Don't go overboard in any one direction; don't be afraid to mix things up and be intentional in placement, to keep your eye moving around the room."

Favorite Part

"It's all of the little, and sometimes unexpected, details that add up to a big impact, whether it's the unusual leather strap on the nightstands, the little bit of brass on the chandelier, the pairing of the clean profile of the linen sofa with the weathered, gray bench, the striking but simple artwork, or the beautiful color and craftsmanship of the feature wall," says Brendler.

Every Bedroom Should Have...

"In my opinion, every bedroom should have at least one beautiful pillow on the bed and ideally a bench at the foot of the bed or, in this case, a sofa where you can place that decorative pillow (or five!) when climbing into bed," adds Brendler.

—JA



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OVERVIEW

Somers Crossing Luxury Condos are unlike any other in both quality and design. Boasting everything from chic designer options to spray-foam insulation and Geothermal HVAC as standard, we're committed to creating the most beautiful and energy efficient condos on the market today. Built by Boniello Development, a fourth-generation family business responsible for building 500+ Custom Luxury Homes in Northern Westchester, these condos benefit from over 70 years of building experience. Live the Westchester lifestyle without paying Westchester fees or taxes. Somers Crossings offers a luxury lifestyle, while maintaining low taxes, low utilities, and low HOA fees. Our Home Owner Association covers all of the outdoor maintenance, so you can focus on what's important to you!

AMENITIES/SPECIAL FEATURES

A two-minute walk from Somers Town Shopping Center, including a grocery market, restaurants, shops, and cafés, Somers Crossing features two- and three-bedroom expansive luxury units with open floor plans. The development's ample modern amenities feature designer chef kitchens, Geothermal heating and cooling, and a spacious recreation center with a party room and fitness center — luxurious, low-maintenance living all within close proximity to the Goldens Bridge Metro-North train station.

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OVERVIEW

Having trouble finding your dream home? Build it! Westchester County's newest townhome development, Hidden Meadow combines the ease and seclusion of country living with the convenience that the Baldwin Place section of Somers has to offer. With multiple floor plans to choose from, and the ability to customize the interior finishes, together, we will build the home of your dreams. The two- and three-bedroom townhomes start at $594,000.

AMENITIES/SPECIAL FEATURES

Hidden Meadow is conveniently located near numerous shopping and dining options, yet offers serene privacy with private walking trails, rain gardens, recreation fields, and sport courts. Open floor plans include cathedral ceilings, stone countertops, stainless steel appliances, and large walk-in closets. Each residence is LEED certified.

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the good life

EDITED BY Gina Valentino

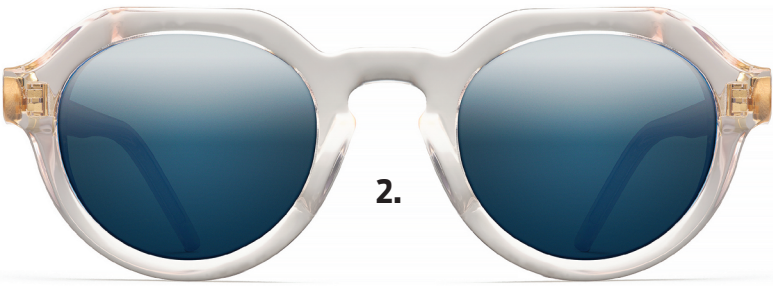
STYLE

Spring Fashion for Men

Step out in style this spring. Don the latest trends that graced the international runways, from nautical vibes to quintessential florals and soft pastels to sleek slides. Here, you'll find locally available renditions to help you put your most fashionable foot forward this season. **By Gina Valentino**



1.



2.



3.



4.

Classic & Chic



5.

1. Striped wool blend lace-up polo, $1,300; Gucci, White Plains; *www.gucci.com* **2. Robert Marc NYC Series 5 RM 5011 sunglasses, $495;** Eye Gallery of Scarsdale, Scarsdale **3. Rains waterproof messenger bag backpack, $95;** Bloomingdale's, White Plains; *www.bloomingdales.com* **4. Highland Tour golf pants, $128;** Bonobos, White Plains; *www.bonobos.com* **5. Sperry Authentic Original boat shoe, $94.95;** Nordstrom, White Plains; *www.nordstrom.com.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

STYLE CONT.

Smart & Stylish



1.



2.



3.





4.



5.

6.

1. Knit cotton cardigan, $1,300; Gucci, White Plains; *www.gucci.com* **2. Premium necktie in navy modern daisy,** $98; Bonobos, White Plains; *www.bonobos.com* **3. PT Torino Delave stretch-cotton chino pants,** $395; Neiman Marcus, White Plains; *www.neimanmarcus.com* **4. Beltology control litmus brown leather belt,** $95; Rothmans, Scarsdale, and harry: a Rothmans Project, Bronxville; *www.rothmansny.com* **5. Santoni part bicolor leather low-top sneakers,** $595; Neiman Marcus, White Plains; *www.neimanmarcus.com* **6. Regent fit check linen sport coat,** $498; Brooks Brothers, White Plains; *www.brooksbrothers.com.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

Matrimonial and Family Law



Ken Jewell, Esq.

JEWELL LAW, PLLC

Jewell Law, PLLC, has a long history of counseling clients seeking to resolve deeply personal matrimonial and family law matters that are often urgent, stressful, difficult, and of great importance. The firm, powered by experienced attorneys, advises clients in all areas of family law — from prenups and postnups to divorce, including child custody and support, spousal support and property distribution, and enforcement actions. "Our emphasis is on resolving cases quickly and to our client's satisfaction," says Managing Partner Ken Jewell. "We counsel our clients to seek closure instead of revenge. While we are always prepared to litigate, we seek to avoid unnecessary wars wherever possible."

Since 2018, Atty. Jewell, who appears on network television and is frequently quoted in national and local publications on matrimonial issues, has been named "Top lawyer" by *New York Magazine, New York Law Journal, Fortune, Entrepreneur*, and *Bloomberg Business Week*. Since 2014, The American Institute of Family Law Attorneys has named Jewell one of its "10 Best" for client satisfaction. Jewell is also a multiyear "Super Lawyer" and many clients have benefited from his combined degrees in law and psychology.

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PROFILES OF LAW
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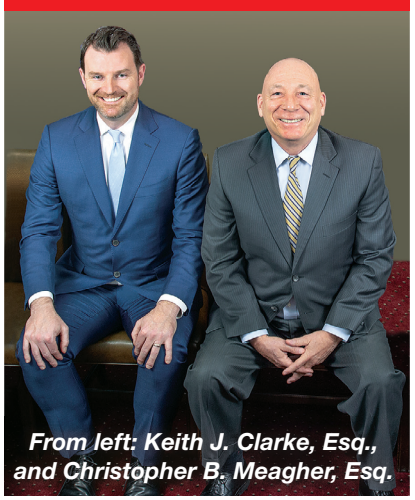

From left: Keith J. Clarke, Esq., and Christopher B. Meagher, Esq.

MEAGHER & CLARKE, PLLC
(FORMERLY MEAGHER & MEAGHER, PC)

Meagher & Meagher, PC, in White Plains, has two of the highest medical malpractice verdicts in the history of Westchester County and the highest dental malpractice verdict in New York State history.

The firm represents children and adults who have been injured or harmed as the result of an accident, negligence, physician error, prescription drug error, birth injury, or wrongful death. According to Chris Meagher, the firm's principal attorney, in order to achieve a fair settlement, you often have to be willing to take the case to a jury. He says his willingness to let a jury decide a case is one of the things that distinguishes Meagher & Meagher from other firms.

"We work very hard for our clients," he explains. "We can't undo the damage, bring back a loved one, or eliminate a loss, but a settlement can have a profound effect on their quality of life. It can mean financial security, funds for a child's education, or freedom to focus on their healthcare needs."

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Cheeky & Casual

1.



2.



3.



4.





5.



6.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

1. Robert Graham Toy Soldiers print classic fit bomber jacket, $498; Bloomingdale's, White Plains; *www.bloomingdales.com*
2. Raymon Weil Freelancer men's half-moon blue automatic date watch, $1,795; R&M Woodrow Jewelers, Rye; *www.woodrowjewelers.com*
3. Retro Brand Local Celebrity vintage grey T-shirt, $35; Rothmans, Scarsdale, and harry: a Rothmans Project, Bronxville; *www.rothmansny.com*
4. The Bedford Jean deep blue, $89; Hudson & Finn, based in Pleasantville; *www.hudsonandfinn.com* **5. ISlide The Struggle Is Real slide sandal,** $55; Neiman Marcus, White Plains; *www.neimanmarcus.com* **6. The Gunnar Bracelet,** $90; Play Hard Look Dope Jewelry, White Plains; *www.playhardlookdope.com* .



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Faces of Westchester

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Introduce yourself as the expert within your field with **Faces of Westchester**. This special print and digital partner content section includes professional color photography plus a description of what makes your business unique. Featured in the September issue and on westchestermagazine.com for 12 months, it's sure to catch the attention of our affluent readers.

SEPTEMBER ISSUE
SPACE CLOSE: **July 16, 2021**
PUBLICATION DATE: **August 17, 2021**

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Let local home buyers know what sets you apart from other real estate agents with a profile in our special partner content section, **Westchester's Best Real Estate Agents**, appearing in the May issue of *Westchester Magazine*.

MAY ISSUE

SPACE CLOSE: **March 19, 2021** | PUBLICATION DATE: **April 13, 2021**

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BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER

2021

HALL OF FAME

FOCUSED & FUTURE READY

FROM LEFT / **WILEY C. HARRISON** · Business of Your Business / **ROBERT GLAZER** · ENT and Allergy Associates
CHEREESE JERVIS-HILL · Events to Remember / **CARMINE LIPPOLIS** · Lippolis Electric
SCOTT BOILEN · Allstar Innovations / **SARAH JONES-MATURO** · RM Friedland
ROBERT CIOFFI · Progressive Computing



TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 | VIRTUAL LIVE STREAM • 6 PM

BCW'S 2021 HALL OF FAME AWARDS

FOCUSED & FUTURE READY

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER



MARSHA GORDON
President & CEO, Business Council of Westchester

The Business Council of Westchester is proud to induct the winners of the 2021 Hall of Fame Awards. This year's distinguished honorees will be recognized on April 27 during a virtual awards ceremony.

The BCW Hall of Fame celebrates those who have grown their businesses large and small through innovation and inspired leadership. This year those qualities have served them well. Our leaders have shown their true measure, having succeeded in re-envisioning their businesses to stay relevant while also standing together and supporting our communities.

We are particularly proud that this year's Hall of Fame has added a new award category, Minority Business Success, which reflects the BCW's commitment to celebrating the diversity of Westchester's business community.

This year's inductees are truly outstanding and represent the very best of Westchester businesses across a wide range of industry sectors. They join a stellar roster of more than 90 honorees who have over the past 19 years added to the economic vitality of Westchester's economy.

Congratulations to this year's winners and welcome to the BCW Hall of Fame.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



GEORGE LATIMER
Westchester County Executive

Westchester County is filled with a wealth of talented business leaders who over the years, have added to the vitality of the County's economy. These leaders have especially shown their true abilities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, having succeeded in re-inventing themselves to stay relevant during these uncertain times. Together, they have created a diverse and flourishing business community in Westchester. I want to join the Business Council of Westchester in congratulating this year's winners of the 2021 Business Hall of Fame awards. These leaders are a true example of all that Westchester has to offer. In County government, we are your partner when it comes to helping your business, big or small, grow and prosper. Our office of Economic Development, along with the Industrial Development Agency and Local Development Corporation, provide assistance to the business community through tax incentives, roundtables, summits and meet-and-greets to provide better networking opportunities, and ways to improve the businesses experience in our own backyard. Congratulations once again to this year's award winners on a job well done, as well as to the Business Council of Westchester, for their dedication to making Westchester County the thriving County that it is.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



HEIDI DAVIDSON
Co-founder and CEO, Galvanize Worldwide

As Chairman of the Business Council of Westchester, it is my honor to congratulate the 2021 Hall of Fame Award recipients. This year's theme of Focused & Future Ready salutes business leaders who have achieved great success in their respective fields. We asked each of our inductees to answer the question: "What are you doing as a business to stay Focused and Future Ready?" Their answers reveal that they are focused and ready to meet future challenges.

This year's distinguished roster of honorees joins the more than 90 business leaders who have been inducted into the Business Council Hall of Fame over the past 19 years. They represent the best of the best in Westchester business. As Westchester County's only business membership organization focused on economic development and advocacy, The Business Council of Westchester is proud to honor those who have contributed to the economic strength and vibrancy of Westchester County and the region.

Congratulations to our honorees!

MESSAGE FROM THE EVENT CO-CHAIRS



ELIZABETH BRACKEN-THOMPSON
Partner, Thompson & Bender



JAMES GIANGRANDE
Managing Director & Partner, Altium Wealth

We are proud and honored to once again serve as co-chairs of the Business Hall of Fame Award program. Congratulations to our seven distinguished honorees. They represent the very best of Westchester's business community. The tremendous successes achieved by each of our Hall of Fame inductees is truly inspiring.

This prestigious event is a time when we can celebrate those business leaders who have contributed so much to Westchester's economic vitality. This is especially important during these challenging times.

As Westchester's most influential business organization focused on economic development and advocacy, the Business Council of Westchester is a driving force in promoting the economy of our county and region.

Once again, congratulations to this year's outstanding Hall of Fame honorees.

PAST HALL OF FAME WINNERS

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Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.
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Pernod Ricard USA
PepsiCo
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Con Edison
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Pace University
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ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AWARD

Unitex
Hudson Hospitality Group
and Hudson Realty Investors
RXR Realty
Better Homes & Gardens
Real Estate / Rand Realty
Steiner Sports Marketing
Mindspark
Jackson Lewis
Robert Martin Company
Lillian Vernon
Ginsburg Development Companies
Westchester Broadway Theater
Club Fit
Rakow Commercial Realty
Curtis Instruments
Eco-Bags
Hospitality Resource Group
Regeneron
WestMed Medical Group

FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS AWARD

Robison Oil
Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, LLC
Combe, Inc.
Levitt-Fuirst Associates LTD
The College of Westchester
American Christmas
Thalle Industries
Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway
Advocate Brokerage
Strauss Paper Co.
W.J. Deutsch & Sons
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Circulation Experti
Famous Famiglia
Red Oak Transportation
Berkeley College
Universal Builders Supply
Wilson and Sons Jewelers

SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD

Zyloware Eyewear
Corporate Audio Visual Services
D&D Elevator
Leason Ellis, LLP
The Westchester Bank
York International Agency
Murphy Brothers Contracting, Inc.
Community Mutual Savings Bank
Designer One
Thompson & Bender
C.W. Brown, Inc.
NY Hospitality Group
Proftech, LLC
Co-Communications
The Dorf Law Firm
Divney, Tung & Schwalbe
Westchester Magazine

WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARD

Patricia Simone & Joanna Simone
Simone Development Companies
Stacey Tompkins, Tompkins Excavating
Geri Pell, Pell Wealth Partners
Valerie Wilson, Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc.
Wendy Wollner, Founder & President
Balancing Life's Issues, Inc.
Rella Fogliano, President
MacQuesten Development
Lenore Minerva
Empress Emergency Medical Services
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Joan Corwin, Chappaqua Transportation
Arlette Turturro
Night Owl Cleaning Services
Abigail Kirsch
Carol Greenberg, Concept CARE
Dee DelBello, Westfair Communications
Georganne Chapin, Hudson Health Plan
Therese Ferretti, Collins Brothers Moving
Nancy Ment, Andrus Children's Center
Molly Easo Smith, Manhattanville College

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

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Atlantic Westchester, Inc.
Beecher Flooks Funeral Home
N. Dain's Sons Co., Inc.
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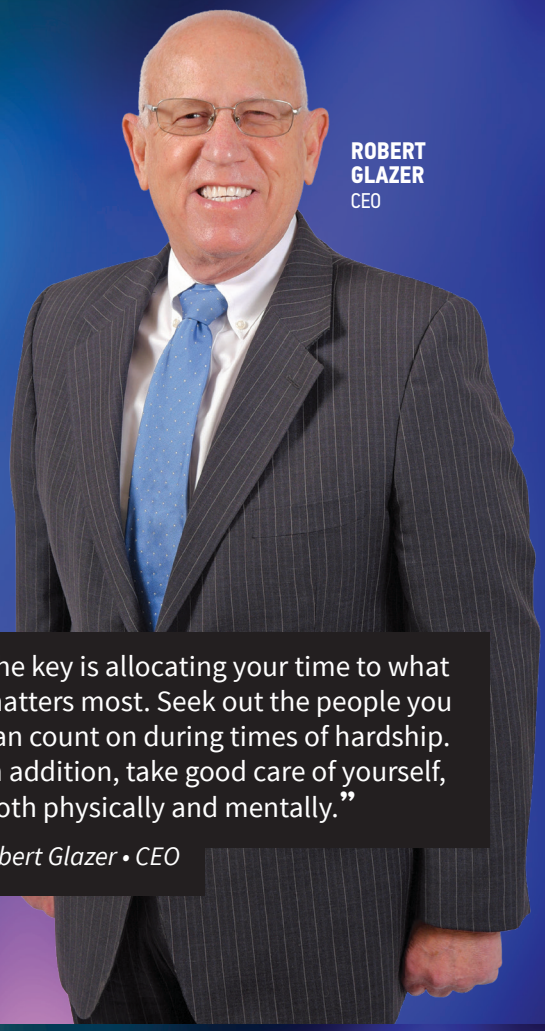

ROBERT GLAZER
CEO

ENT and Allergy Associates, LLP is an otolaryngology and allergy practice with the expertise of over 220 physicians, 140+ audiologists, and a force of greater 100 well-trained allergy nurses, all helping patients in 42 clinical office locations throughout the New York / New Jersey area. ENTA serves an annual patient count of over 1 million encounters a year. ENTA's 46 office locations service the needs of the NY/NJ Metro Area's 14 million residents. ENTA's underlying mission and number one priority is to deliver the finest care possible to each and every patient. The practice has made significant financial investments in clinical and business technology and analytics. The practice also invested in upgrading personnel and developing training programs for physicians and staff. Community outreach is a powerful tool to market their practice in the Westchester community. Volunteering time/ services within various cities or towns provides new opportunities to form relationships with local citizens. ENTA has partnerships with UJA-Federation of New York, American Cancer Society, YWCA of Westchester and American Red Cross to name a few.

> "The key is allocating your time to what matters most. Seek out the people you can count on during times of hardship. In addition, take good care of yourself, both physically and mentally."
>
> *—Robert Glazer • CEO*



WILEY C. HARRISON
President

MINORITY BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD

Business of Your Business

> "By strengthening relationships and reshaping our services, we ensure our clients that we are a vital partner. With a diverse and driven team, BYB can extend varied experiences and knowledge to our clients, assisting in the growth of their organizations."
>
> *—Wiley C. Harrison • President*

Established in 1992 by Wiley Harrison, Business of Your Business (BYB) is an accounting firm that specializes in serving nonprofits, religious institutions and small businesses. While working a full-time job, Wiley decided to start his own company after taking on side jobs, handling personal income tax returns for small business owners. He realized that there was a lot more he could do for them. For Wiley, this wasn't just about being an entrepreneur. He wanted to help create positive change for people. BYB has stayed profitable through two major economic events — the downturn of 2008, and our current pandemic — by being well-positioned as a knowledgeable and reliable resource for clients. He lives a life of service and is a sought-after voice for the small and minority and women-owned business communities. He was appointed to serve on Governor Cuomo's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, Westchester County Executive Latimer's MWBE Task Force, the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency and the Westchester Putnam Workforce Investment Board.

FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS AWARD

Lippolis Electric

Lippolis Electric, Inc. is a local, family-owned and operated electrical contractor that has been in business for more than 35 years. They have earned a solid reputation for providing a wide range of superior electrical services. Who would have thought that in 1984, Carmine Lippolis and Charles Small, brothers-in-laws and friends for 15 years, decided to combine their talents and start a business that it would turned out to be the success it is today. Lippolis Electric continues to be awarded large commercial projects within the five boroughs of New York and Westchester. Its solid reputation for providing a wide range of superior electrical services at competitive prices has attributed to its success. The company is currently working on one of the largest commercial projects in NYC. Lippolis Electric is committed to sustainability through its trusted commercial LED lighting contractors. In 2019, Lippolis Electric, Inc. was presented with the Green Business Partnership Award by The Green Business Partnership of Westchester.

> "We're focused on safety, service and sustainability and are committed to educating and learning from one another. With a focus on future opportunities we continue to improve and train our staff so that they're equipped with the knowledge to be prepared and stay safe."
>
> *—Carmine Lippolis • CEO*



SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD

Progressive Computing

Following solid and consistent growth since 1993, Progressive Computing Inc (PCI) is now one of the largest, most successful, and renowned Managed IT Service Providers in Westchester County delivering all-in computer system management, cloud and hosted solutions, business continuity technology, VOIP, and cyber security services. PCI stands out from competitors for several reasons: Invested in implementing the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) business management system since 2013. Over 20 years of consistent Microsoft Partner Network company certifications. Celebrating 27 years in business in 2020, Progressive has shown consistent and purposeful growth since its inception. PCI has always focused on hiring the best professionals for their team. A diverse workforce is essential to keeping their core values of respect, humble confidence, team and commitment intact. To that end, nearly 42% of their workforce is made up of women and minorities. Today, Robert Cioffi and Ugo Chiulli continuously work to improve PCI's visibility, structure and operations with constant attention to the economic environment and other trends.



ROBERT CIOFFI
COO & Co-Founder

UGO CHIULLI
CEO & Co-Founder

"We spend considerable energy developing and pursuing focused plans, yet experience has taught us to be flexible and agile to meet unforeseen challenges. Our core values provide us the wisdom to know when and how to change. 2020 was certainly a good test."

—Robert Cioffi • COO & Co-Founder



SARAH JONES-MATURO
President

"We're using what we've learned during the pandemic to help inform our strategy. We're doing our best to disseminate critical information we've gathered that will affect our industry and our region both internally and to our clients."

—Sarah Jones-Maturo • President

WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARD

Sarah Jones-Maturo • RM Friedland

Sarah Jones-Maturo is a woman leader in a man's world of commercial real estate. As President and CEO of RM Friedland, Westchester's largest commercial real estate company, Jones-Maturo has instituted a number of groundbreaking changes since she took over the company six years ago at the young age of 32. The company, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, has come a long way in positioning itself toward the future. Under her leadership, the company has taken better advantage of the expertise of long-time brokers, hired new, energized brokers and rebranded the company. She is now concentrating on expanding her mission of making RM Friedland more diverse and inclusive, an area in which the company has already distinguished itself. Jones-Maturo believes that green is the way of the future. She took pride in overseeing the remodeling of the company's new offices in Harrison, making sure that the design incorporated green elements throughout.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AWARD

Allstar Innovations

Allstar Innovations is a company that brings new products from creation to consumer. Their integrated team evaluates thousands of products each year from all around the world, bringing the most innovative products to market. They use proprietary, data-centric testing methodologies that allow them to predict the performance of all direct-to-consumer campaigns. Scott Boilen, CEO and founder, has maintained trusted partnerships with a diverse network of retail customers from Walmart, Target and Bed Bath & Beyond, to CVS, Walgreens and Home Depot.

They have partnered with start-up brands to help bring their products to market. In the last ten years their revenues have quadrupled, their headcount has grown by 30%. Allstar is committed to the local community. Mr. Boilen is Vice-Chair of Feeding Westchester and has served on the board for over a decade. The company has been supporting this organization by giving their time by volunteering to pack food and help deliver food, and also with their financial support. This past year, the company made a generous donation of $250,000.



SCOTT BOILEN
CEO

> "As our company grows and scales it's important to have right technology in place. To support our team, we must invest in all aspects of our business. This is most important for a remote work environment and in preparing for a different type of future."
>
> *—Scott Boilen • CEO*



CHEREESE JERVIS-HILL
President & Founder

> "I'm staying focused, thankful and grateful for everyone who helped me get through 2020, and putting one foot in front of the other while leading my team to better days ahead."
>
> *—Chereese Jervis-Hill • President & Founder*

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Events to Remember

Events To Remember (ETR), a division of Events by Chereese, Inc., is a full-service live and virtual event management and PR firm established in 2004 that specializes in conceptualizing, organizing, managing, marketing and publicizing for entrepreneurs, not-for-profit organizations, agencies, municipalities and small to mid-size corporations. 2020 was an extremely rough year for ETR, without the ability to plan large in-person events and festivals. However, the company was able to keep its staff employed and gain new skill sets that will serve it well. Once gatherings are allowed again in New York, the company is on track for 20% growth. Jervis-Hill used her 20 years of event knowledge and expertise to learn a new skill, managing farmers markets in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. She became a Certified Farmers Market Manager for the State of New York. She is also a certified MWBE, minority women business enterprise owner. The ETR team consists of three women and one male, all from very diverse backgrounds. Jervis-Hill serves as the Housing Chair for the Westchester County African-American Advisory Board (AAAB).

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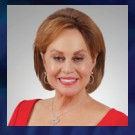

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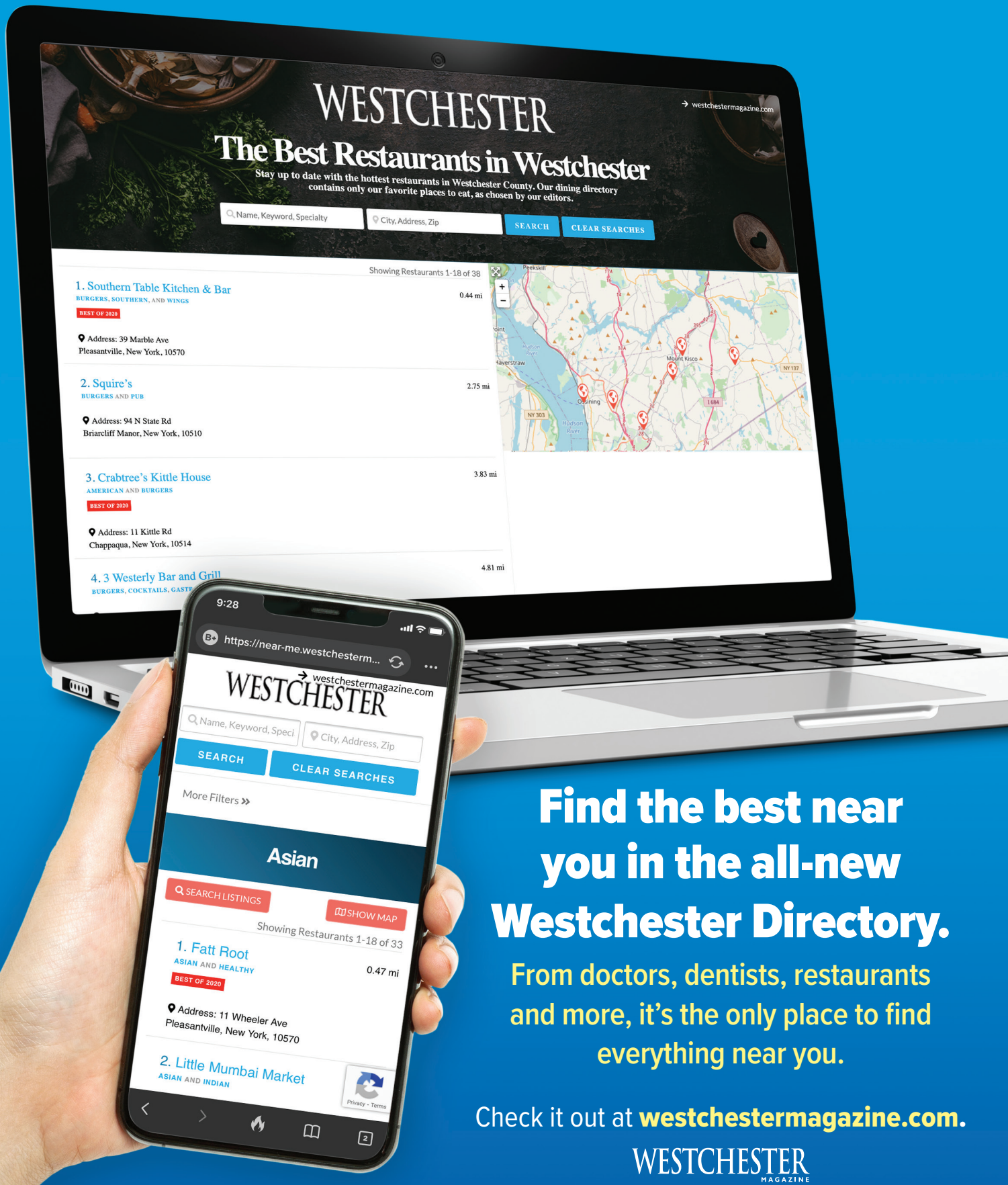

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WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE

COMING SOON! *Real Estate Agents and many more to follow.*

Real Estate Market Report 2021:

Desperately Seeking Space

The pandemic has altered what we require from our homes, vaulting certain features to the top of Westchester homebuyers' lists. Here's a look at what's hot right now — and what real estate agents expect to stay that way throughout 2021. **By Jena A. Butterfield**

A year ago, as the pandemic set in and we were all relegated inside whatever four walls we called home, there was time to take stock of our living situations. After an initial reaction that may have included cowering under our duvets with hand sanitizer or Googling basic survival skills we'd failed to acquire, we looked around and asked ourselves: Do our safe havens rise to the moment? And, with everyone home, can our abodes carry the load?

"Had this been a six-week event, everything might have gone back to the way it was," says Patty Anker, a licensed Realtor with Howard Hanna Rand Realty in Thornwood. But fast-forward a year later, and certain home trends have started to set in. Anker feels the more milestones we pass under lockdown, the more ingrained this new way of living becomes. Whether our homes support us or not matters more than ever.



ILLUSTRATION BY VECTOR TRADITION/ADOBE STOCK


Zoom Room/ Office
In-Law, Guest, and Private Spaces
Spacious Kitchen
Space Over Urbanity

In the earliest days of the pandemic, if you lived in a small apartment — especially if you relied on an elevator — you were screwed. If you had a balcony… now that was something. But maybe not enough. Small was no longer beautiful, so an exodus from the city was ignited, and Westchester was flooded with prospective homebuyers.

"Generally, before COVID, people wanted proximity to the city," says Debra Goodwin, a licensed Realtor with Corcoran Legends Realty in Irvington. "But after COVID set in, that wasn't as important to people."

Westchester's suburban southern towns are a draw for sure, but there's been a particular demand for the county's nature-rich northern reaches, leading to inventory shortages and bidding wars.

"People want big again," says Angela Kessel, a licensed Realtor with Houlihan Lawrence's Bedford office. "We have large homes here, with a lot of multipurpose space."

"One hundred percent, buyers are looking for space," adds Casey Rosenblum, who is a licensed Realtor with Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty in Larchmont.

But that begs the question: space for what exactly? Certain home features rose to the forefront of desirability and, in the ensuing months, took hold in our collective zeitgeist. Now, there seems to be a consensus about what is required for a home to serve us well, to nurture us. We want space to work, play, and be with family. We want to cook and exercise, to hoard food, toilet paper, and — God love us — wine.

Generally, we played house with a furiousness, which, a year later, still seems kinda right.

"There's been a major shift in what buyers are looking for," says John Oliveira, a licensed Realtor with Douglas Elliman in Scarsdale who, along with fellow agents throughout Westchester, is trying to gauge whether the pandemic has altered our ideals long term.

"I think the general sense is that we've entered a new age," says Debbie Cuiffo, a licensed Realtor with Coldwell Banker's Katonah office. To determine what that might look like, we asked the question: What constitutes the perfect COVID-era home?

Space Over Urbanity

Before the pandemic set in, there had been a definitive move toward urbanization throughout Westchester. The live/work/play ethos seemed to be the prevailing sentiment, with new downtown development projects in the works all over. People wanted smaller, easier, more urban. But since then, the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. Even city-style stalwarts who were not willing to compromise on the ability to walk everywhere "are now forgoing that desire for a little more land, a little more nature, and a little more space," says Rosenblum.

> "a little more land, a little more nature, and a little more space."

"A lot of people from Southern Westchester are moving north to get more privacy," adds Anker. And some buyers from the city who were initially considering suburban Southern Westchester for its proximity to city jobs have reconsidered. "They thought: *Wait a minute… now we can't sell our apartment in the city, so maybe we go farther north, in Westchester, and have a weekend home instead*," says Cuiffo.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW/ADOBE STOCK

Outdoor Spaces

"Outdoor space is essential right now," Cuiffo says. Luckily, the onset of the pandemic coincided with the onset of spring, which nurtured us when we needed it, with fresh air and sunshine for virus-fighting vitamin D. If we had them, we took to our yards and found pleasure in gardening, biking, power-washing our driveways, and any combination of pool/firepit/patio we could muster. When things opened up a bit, we invited friends and grandparents to come hang



six feet apart in amped-up outdoor living spaces. We're still clinging to that. "People want outdoor kitchens, outdoor fireplaces, nature, greenery, tennis courts, and pools," says Kessel. Homeowners are even bringing projector screens outside to watch sporting events and for kids to play video games with friends. Some of us (a lot of us) bought dogs and wanted more room for them to roam.

That outdoor space had to carry us through the colder months, too, leading to a rush on space heaters and outdoor lounge furniture. Anker says if buyers could picture hanging around a firepit, it's reassuring. "You feel like you don't have to say goodbye to friends forever," she notes.

We hosted holidays outside and maybe even a learning pod or two. "The safety element outside is so much higher," says Rosenblum of Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty. "I know people who had Thanksgiving dinner outside. It's become an extension of our living rooms and kitchens."

Pools

"A house with a pool is considered gold right now," says Douglas Elliman's Oliveira. During the summer, when people didn't know if they could send their kids to camp or visit their clubs or community pools, this amenity shot to the top of the list, he reports.

"Everybody wants a pool," confirms Kessel.

This wasn't always the case. Before COVID, pools weren't always a perk for homebuyers who didn't want to deal with safety concerns or maintenance. "Clients would say, 'Okay, we'll just fill it in,'" says Rosenblum.

Citing the same concerns, Corcoran's Goodwin says that before COVID, the number of homebuyers looking for pools during showings was about half. "Pools were considered a liability," she says.

In Northern Westchester, Kessel says pools were always a plus, but now the desire for them has increased due to COVID. "Family and friends flock to homes here with outdoor amenities," adds Kessel.

Goodwin has shown houses where the buyers were less interested in the house than the pool. And if there isn't a pool, buyers want to make sure there is space to put one in, she reports. Space for above-ground pools also became important.

"Kids can play in the pool for hours," says Rosenblum. "It's an activity."





PHOTOGRAPHS (*POOL*) BY PICS721/ADOBE STOCK; (*OFFICE*) BY PHOTOGRAPHEE.EU/ADOBE STOCK



The Zoom Room/ Office Space

Inside, we created new ways to work and school from any niche we could find. Colleagues and classmates were suddenly in our homes via Zoom — whether we liked it or not. The general thought is that even when offices start opening up, people will still operate from home somewhat, so real estate agents expect this to impact home searches. "I think a lot of people like [the work/home balance] and want to keep that in their lives," says Cuiffo.

Prior to the pandemic, some workplaces were already moving in the direction of fewer days in the office anyway. "I don't think people will ever go back to the office in the way that they did," says Rosenblum.

A desirable home-office space can be as elaborate as having a large flat-screen TV overlooking a boardroom-style desk or as simple as positioning yourself someplace bright, with great wallpaper in the background or a carefully curated bookcase — what many call a "Zoom room."

"I think people are going to start thinking more about a setting for potential Zoom calls, including lighting and backgrounds," agrees Goodwin. Not only for all the family members who already live in the home but even for relatives and/or friends coming for extended visits. Homeowners are thinking, *Where in the house do I put this person, so they can do calls?*

According to Kessel, people are also looking for not just one workspace but two or three potential office spaces, as well as a school area for kids and comfortable areas for social calls.

In-Law, Guest, and Private Spaces

"Families have become multigenerational again," says Rosenblum. While our connection to the general public dimmed, our familial connections strengthened throughout periods of stay-at-home. Grandparents, adult children, and quarantine buddies came to stay with us for long stretches.

Kessel says her buyers include not only young families moving out of the city but young empty nesters buying family homes, so older children can come up, spend time, and use the pool or tennis courts. "There's been a lot of intergenerational living," she says. "People want to be together."

> "People want their own private spaces for many reasons and, frankly, just to have time to themselves."

Space for extended family and even separate quarantining space, like having an extra bedroom with a bathroom, is a major consideration, "so that [people] can safely be with family members again," says Rosenblum.

Kids also need activity space. Multipurpose rooms, like basements and attics, are also important. "There's more need for private space all around," says Cuiffo.

"People want their own private spaces for many reasons and, frankly, just to have time to themselves," adds Rosenblum.





Open Kitchens

Private space may be at the top of everyone's list, but the open-kitchen/living-room concept is still going strong, as space for gathering in the heart of the home is crucial. If anything, people are looking to open up kitchens to outdoor spaces, as well. "People still want that open feel," says Kessel. "There's a renewed interest in cooking and nurturing."

Stocked and organized kitchens and plenty of room to chef it up, with a wartime supply of canned beans and homemade sourdough starter, became critical. "People are definitely looking for spaces to store now more than ever before," says Rosenblum.

"Plus, we're not going out to eat," says Oliveira of our halted restaurant culture. As such, cooking became the best way to define our days and feed our souls, offering that sense of well-being we craved more than anything.

Moving forward, these trends appear poised to stick around for a while. According to Anker, the Westchester homebuyer seeking the perfect COVID-era living space is ultimately just like the rest of us: "They want safety; they want health; they want hope."

PHOTOGRAPHS (*KITCHEN*) BY SLAVUN/ADOBE STOCK; (*GYM*) BY JAVANI LLC/ADOBE STOCK





Gym Space

"Before [COVID], I can't remember clients saying, 'We need gym space,'" reports Oliveira.

But in-home gyms have become almost a necessity. "Gym space is critical," adds Kessel. She goes on to say that buyers are being creative when it comes to looking for possibilities: They can create gym space in a lower level, a bonus room, an extra bedroom, or even in a garage. Anker, meanwhile, points out that gym space is one way to combat the restlessness people feel.

During showings, Oliveira reports hearing prospective homeowners saying, "I can do yoga here," or "I can put my Peloton there." If the home has a finished basement or attic, homebuyers want to know if there's enough height for working out. "Definitely having a high-enough ceiling is a concern," says Goodwin. "Even when we stage, we allude to an area of the basement as a gym."

More dedicated workout space is one of the features agents think will stick. "I think the germ element is a factor," Rosenblum says. "It's going to take a while for people to feel safe sharing the same space [at a gym]."

Bottom line, if working out is a regular part of your life, your home needs to support that. "Everything has to be at home," says Cuiffo.

Jena A. Butterfield is a freelance writer and frequent contributor to *Westchester Magazine*. She lives in Yonkers with her husband and sixth-grader son.

Spring
Fashion
2021



Spring Has

Glitzy Sequins

Though the social scene of late has been lackluster, dialing up the glam is a surefire way to spice up your evening – even if it is at home.

Lafayette 148 Ruxton sequin button-down shirt, **$998**, Akris Franca pants, **$395**, Valentino Garavani small shoulder bag, **$1,490**, all at Neiman Marcus; Isabel Marant Amifa shoes, **$625**, at Pamela Robbins; Roberto Coin bold gold triangle earring 18K, **$1,960**, at R&M Woodrow Jewelers



Sprung

These are the trends to wear after shedding last year's comfy pajamas and sweats.

By Gina Valentino

Photography: Toshi Tasaki • Stylist: Kendra Porter, HonorYourStyle • Model: Danielle Bjorlo, CESD Talent Agency
Hair/Makeup: Ana Cipriano, Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge

Simply Sheer

Racy but elegant, there's nothing improper about this sheer.

Susan Bender denim chain cardigan, **$895**, at Angela's; Victoria Beckham ruffle tie blouse, **$890**, Victoria Beckham high-waisted patch pocket denim, **$465**, both at Pamela Robbins; Kara Mac Shoes Prima pump with Victoria toe clip and crystal bling heel clip, **$205**, *www.karamac.com*; Roberto Coin classic diamond twist 18K 2.17 t.c.w. earrings, **$10,700**, at R&M Woodrow Jewelers; Arme Bleu diamond and emerald ring, **$9,800**, at Arme Bleu at Beginnings Bleu





In Stitches

Crochet and netting provide a *nauti* vibe this spring.

Jonathan Simkhai Berenice polo, **$345**, at Angela's; VVB Victoria Beckham belted Ponti jersey trouser, **$370**, at Pamela Robbins

Spring
Fashion
2021



Cool Khaki

Utilitarian and practical,
khaki is the workman's chic.

Monica Nera Jordan jumpsuit, **$495**, Esseutesse python sneaker, **$380**, both at Jolie Jordan; Marc Cain cow nubuck leather belt, **$160**, at Marc Cain; Cuban link choker, **$125**, evil eye gold charm necklace, **$150**, pearl drop gold link necklace, **$150**, gold spike necklace, **$50**, gold jumbo round hoop earrings, **$110**, all at Jolie Jordan



Knit Fits

Matchy-matchy sets are the rage, and knits are ideal for transitioning from winter to spring.

Sunset & Spring denim jacket with pearl-beaded sleeves, **$128**, at Bloomingdale's; Ecru colorblock tank, **$140**, Ecru asymmetrical hem sweater skirt, **$175**, both at Angela's; Chloé Lauren sneaker, **$550**, Chloé Marcie mini bag, **$990**, both at Bloomingdale's; 100PercentBeads white beaded tassel necklace, **$85**, *www.100percentbeads.com*



Patched Up

Funky patchwork in bold colors and patterns provide a punch.

Gerard Darel Nessa patchwork-print shirt, **$295**, Mother The Weekender fray jeans, **$228**, both at Bloomingdale's; Bottega Veneta The Shell bag, **$2,450**, at Neiman Marcus; 100PercentBeads black necklace with pavé clasp with feather, **$85**, 100PercentBeads 5mm 14K gold filled beads and 3mm hematite bracelet, **$50**, 100PercentBeads 2mm hematite and 14K gold filled bead bracelet, **$35**, 100PercentBeads 6mm 14K gold filled beads, $45, *www.100percentbeads.com*



Lovely Lace

Elevated and feminine, lace lends a sweet touch.

Jonathan Simkhai Tatum dress, **$795**, at Angela's; Valentino Garavani Atelier Rose Edition kitten heel slide, **$1,050**, Jamie Joseph 14K green beryl, **$1,575**, both at House of 29

Where to Shop:

Angela's, Rye
Beginnings Bleu, Armonk
Bloomingdale's, White Plains
House of 29, Chappaqua
Jolie Jordan, Mount Kisco
Kara Mac Shoes, based in Yorktown Heights
Marc Cain, White Plains
Neiman Marcus, White Plains
Pamela Robbins, Scarsdale
R&M Woodrow Jewelers, Rye
Stuart Weitzman, White Plains
100PercentBeads, based in Chappaqua

The Calming Guide to Reducing Stress and Anxiety



Has life got you feeling a little – or very – uptight? The following smart advice, top gear, and holistic resources can help you let go and find your happy place.

COVID-19, protests, wildfires, unemployment, the election — oh, and did we mention murder hornets? Whatever the past year has thrown at you personally, it's been particularly trying for us collectively. Surrounded by controversy, peril, and civil unrest, what are we supposed to do?

Breathe slowly and relax.

Maybe that sounds cliché, but seriously, give it a try. If you need a little serenity, check out this guide to promoting tranquility, calm, and peace. We've got everything you need to unwind, from products and exercises to eating strategies, mental health tactics, holistic treatments, and much more.

By Deborah Skolnik with Paul Adler and Michelle Gillan Larkin



PHOTO BY PROSTOCK-STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK



Mediterranean Diet

FOOD PHOTO BY ANAUMENKO/ADOBE STOCK; PORTRAIT PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA FEARS



Linda Fears

Food for Thought

We asked Chappaqua-based certified nutritionist and founder of goodfoodrx, Linda Fears, for the top diets tailored to beating stress.

Mediterranean Diet

To reduce your chances of feeling stress and anxiety, follow an anti-inflammatory eating plan. Fears' favorite is the Mediterranean diet. "There was a study in 2018 by the National Institutes of Health that found participants who followed this eating plan had lower levels of inflammation," she says. The Mediterranean way of eating emphasizes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans (legumes), healthy fats like olive oil and avocado oil, plus nuts and seeds, fish, chicken, and eggs. You can also consume moderate amounts of dairy, especially plain yogurt. Red meat and sweets or desserts are consumed in small portions, and only on special occasions. "These whole foods are metabolized much more slowly than processed food," adds Fears, "so they keep your blood sugar stable, and having a stable level of blood sugar keeps you calm."

Paleo Diet

Another stress-reducing eating plan that gets the nod from Fears is the paleo diet — short for "Paleolithic diet." It emphasizes the same anti-inflammatory foods as the Mediterranean diet, with several key exceptions. "If you're someone who suspects that you might have an intolerance to certain common allergens, like gluten or dairy or legumes, these foods are eliminated in paleo," Fears explains. She suggests using the paleo plan as a starting point, gradually adding in small amounts of gluten, dairy, and legumes, and seeing how you fare. "I think paleo is interesting if you suspect that something in your diet, aside from the garbage foods that you know were bad, has been making you feel not so great," she says. "There has been a ton of studies that found a correlation between a diet that's high in refined sugar and refined carbs and impaired brain function, including a worsening of mood disorders," Fears points out.

Intermittent Fasting

"[Intermittent fasting] is turning out to be one of the best ways to eat for weight loss, mental clarity, increased energy, and overall wellness," Fears says. She likes the 16/8 version of the plan, which means fasting for 16 hours and eating only during an eight-hour window each day, emphasizing a combination



Paleo Diet



Intermittent Fasting

of protein, fiber, and healthy fats during meals. (Generally, adherents eat two meals plus a snack or mini-meal between them.) "What happens during the fast is that it speeds up your body's autophagy — the biological mechanism that clears away dead and diseased cells and proteins and allows new cells to form," Fears says. During the fasting period, your body is also spared a constant onslaught of glucose and fluctuations in blood sugar levels, which can lead to energy crashes and anxiety. "In the *Journal of Nutrition, Health, and Aging*, there was a study that found that after three months of intermittent fasting, participants reported improved mood and decreased tension, anger, and confusion," notes Fears.

ALL PHOTOS BY ADOBE STOCK

Eat to Beat Stress

Wondering what foods to seek out, or avoid, in a quest to gain calm? Chappaqua-based nutritionist Linda Fears lets us in on the best and worst foods for avoiding stress.

Edibles to Avoid



Packaged pretzels, chips, and crackers: "[These products tend to contain] refined seed oils, like canola, corn, soy bean, and vegetable oils, primarily because they're really cheap and because they're very shelf-stable," explains Fears. "They're high in omega-6 fatty acids, which cause inflammation."



Sugary soda and candy: These foods can set you up for an anxiety-provoking roller coaster of blood sugar spikes and falls. Caffeine, whether it's in beverages or foods, is something to steer clear of, as well, especially if you're already feeling strung out, since it raises your body's level of the stress hormone cortisol. "Also, if you're a person who metabolizes caffeine slowly, it can interfere with your sleep, and if you're tired, it can lead to even more stress," Fears warns.



Alcohol: "The reason you should cut down on, if not completely avoid, alcohol is because it changes the levels of serotonin and other neurotransmitters in the brain, and that can worsen anxiety," says Fears.



Deli meats and hot dogs: These foods are usually quite high in sodium. "When you have too much sodium, it puts more stress on your heart. It can raise your blood pressure, and since stress also can raise your blood pressure, this can be really dangerous," Fears cautions. "If your blood pressure gets too high — it's the combination of being stressed and having too much sodium in your diet — it can damage your blood vessels, heart, and kidneys."

Good Grub



Mushrooms, sesame seeds, shrimp, and Brazil nuts: These foods contain selenium, a mineral that Fears notes is both an inflammation fighter and a mood booster.



Salmon and eggs: "Salmon is very high in omega-3 fatty acids, which have been found to reduce anxiety and promote feelings of calm," says Fears. Also enjoy some eggs, since they contain lots of vitamin D, a natural mood lifter.



Chocolate: Chocolate fans rejoice: dark chocolate (70% cocoa or above) is a prime source of tryptophan, which the body uses to produce the mood-balancing, happiness-inducing hormone serotonin.



Spinach: It seems Mom wasn't wrong when she said "Eat your spinach!" This green, leafy vegetable is full of magnesium, which research shows helps with brain functions and reduces stress and anxiety.



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Jennifer Monness

Breathing and Meditation

Looking for the perfect way to wind down? Why not find some inner Zen with these breathing and meditation tactics from a local pro.

Now that you've learned to eat right, it's time to turn your attention to something you do even more often: breathe. "I believe that one of the most effective stress management tools is the practice of mindful breathing," says Jennifer Monness, a mindfulness/meditation facilitator and owner of The Meditation Lab, in Irvington.

Breathing exercises are a natural answer to the unrest we all feel daily. "When we experience stress, the fight-or-flight response is activated, and your heart rate is elevated. You have a lot of adrenaline moving through your body and cortisol," Monness explains. "When we start to take some long, deep breaths in very patterned, rhythmic ways, we actually signal our nervous system that now, in response to fight-or-flight, we can rest and digest. The heart rate is lowered, and blood pressure goes down."

To experience these effects for yourself, try a couple of simple breathing exercises. "One would be counting the beats to your inhale and then doing your best to double the count of the beats on your exhale, so if you're inhaling for three beats, you would do your best to exhale for six," Monness says. "You could begin to feel benefits in as little as one to two minutes." Or, try simply counting ten breaths, she suggests. "Sometimes practitioners just make a mental note of the word 'in' as they inhale, and then they exhale the number one, and then they mentally note the word 'in' as they inhale, and exhale the number two, working their way from one to 10." By taking time each day to close your eyes and connect with your breath, you're allowing yourself to slowly let some of the thoughts in your mind to begin to settle, Monness says.

Meditation, on the other hand, "allows us a bit of perspective so that we can observe ourselves, observe the mind moving all around and create a bit of space from it, so we feel a little more detached from the chatter," she explains. "The chatter loses its charge and doesn't have such a strong power over us, because we're not in its grip; we're creating that space that allows us to be a little less connected to that stressful dialogue." Yet many shy away from giving meditation a try. "A lot of people think, There's no way I would be able to do it, because I'm just not a relaxed person," Monness observes. "Like any other skill, you have to think of it like exercising a muscle that you haven't really worked out before. Over time and with consistent practice, that muscle will get stronger."

Start with these easy exercises: Sit up tall (this sends a signal to your nervous system that you're focused and alert) and take long, deep breaths. Then, anchor your attention on the sounds that are around you. Simply note them, without trying to mentally process them in any way. "I might make a mental note, 'birds chirping,' and then I'm bringing myself back to the breath, and I bring myself back to the breath again and again and again," Monness says. Try this exercise for three to five minutes — chances are you'll be successful, making it your first step in achieving mellow mindfulness.

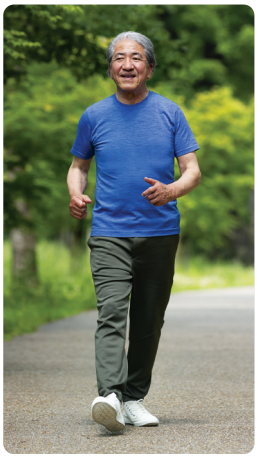


PHOTO BY MILATAS/ADOBE STOCK

Working Out Stress

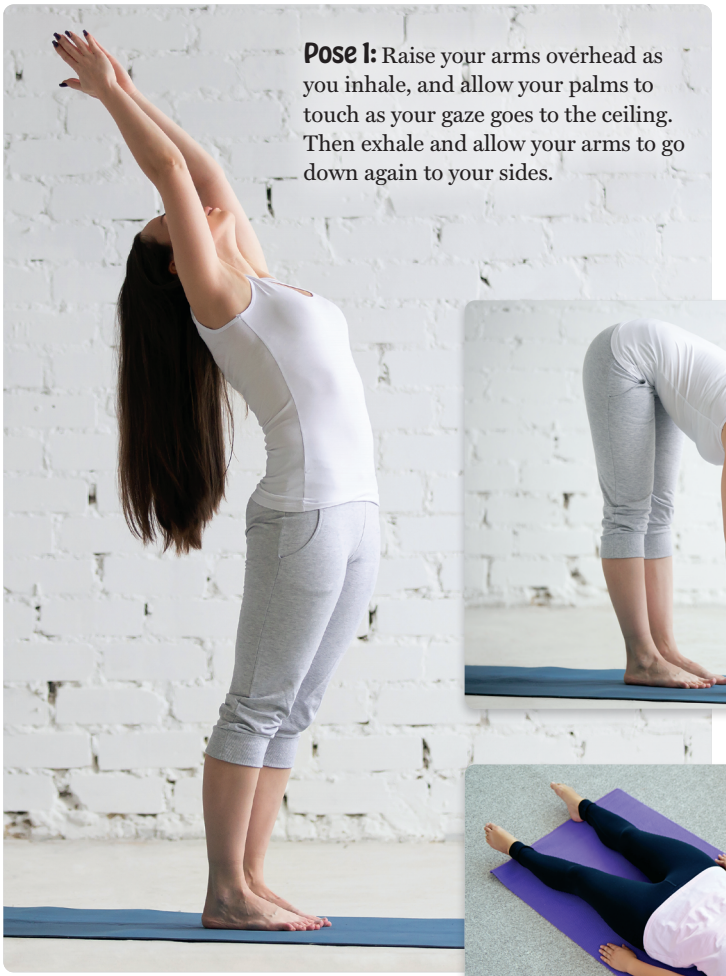
General exercise, and especially yoga, just might be your ticket to a calmer state of mind.

If you're looking for another anxiety-busting exercise, try, well, literal exercise. "Everyone needs to move," says **Anita Greenwald**, an Armonk-based certified health coach and yoga teacher. "Move your body for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Go on a walk or, if there's a storm, go on the treadmill or just walk up and down your steps 10 times. As we age, we need strength training. I do it for 15 minutes a day, twice a week." Science agrees with her assessment: a 2014 study published in the journal *Frontiers in Physiology* found that regular exercise makes healthy people more emotionally resilient to sudden stress.

Greenwald believes bodies have another physical need, as well: "You should do stretching or have a yoga practice, especially for stress," she insists. Yoga has long been known to help people chill out. One study of depressed people, for instance, found that practicing yoga reduced their levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Another found that a three-month yoga retreat reduced both stress and inflammation in its subjects. Greenwald believes she knows the reason behind these results: Since yoga involves focusing on your breath and poses, "you can't be thinking about the news or the crazy world we're living in," she says.

Poses for a Peaceful Mind

Local health coach Anita Greenwald says there are plenty of easy yoga moves that almost anybody can squeeze into their busy lives.



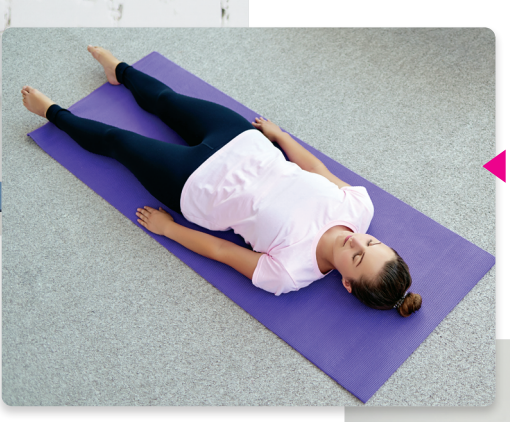
Pose 1: Raise your arms overhead as you inhale, and allow your palms to touch as your gaze goes to the ceiling. Then exhale and allow your arms to go down again to your sides.

Pose 2: Do a forward bend, bending at the hip flexor and keeping a very straight back. Keep a micro-bend in your knees, and shake your head 'yes' and 'no' to make sure you're not straining your back.





Pose 3: Sitting in a chair, take one hand and place it on the opposite knee as you twist and breathe. As you inhale, get tall. As you exhale, relax and look over your shoulder for a twist. Then lean to the right, keeping a wide-open chest. Come to the center and repeat to the left.



Pose 4: Go into "corpse pose": Lie down and scan your body to relieve any tension you discover.

Pose 5: Try "child's pose": With your knees bent and your feet out, sit on your heels and lean forward with your hands outstretched in front of you, pressing your tailbone down. If you like, separate your knees, so your chest comes in between them, toward the floor.



Pose 6: Lying down, face up, shimmy yourself so that your hips touch a wall and your legs go up it. You can bring the soles of your feet together or separate yourself for a wide-angle pose. Or, just stay as you are, allowing your blood to flow in reverse, to relieve stress.



ALL PHOTOS BY ADOBE STOCK

The Calming Guide

The Top 10 Ways to Outsmart Stress

Looking for a few moves that can conquer your anxiety? Try these tips from health coach Anita Greenwald.

1. **Get enough sleep.** Try to get at least 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night. Your brain and body need it. If you don't have sufficient shuteye, then everything else will feel off.
2. **Socialize.** Make time for your tribe. It's easy to find yourself sitting alone these days, due to COVID, but you need to nurture your friendships. Mask up and take a socially distanced walk with a pal or get a group together for a virtual "whine and wine" party, card game, or book group.
3. **Eat and drink clean.** Stay away from processed and sugary foods, and go easy on alcohol and caffeine. Keeping your body healthy and strong will make you better-equipped to cope with angst-inducing events.
4. **Keep a gratitude journal.** It will set you up with an optimistic lens on life. If you focus on the good, that's what you'll see.
5. **Meditate daily.** It gives your mind a vacation.
6. **Seek out joy.** Make a point of doing something that makes you really happy, such as listening to music you like, taking a walk in nature, or watching a *Seinfeld* rerun.
7. **Treat yourself to a news detox.** You don't have to cut yourself off from world events entirely, but take a break for a few days, so you aren't continually wrapped up in the latest natural disaster or heart-wrenching tale of injustice.
8. **Shut off your screens.** We scroll all day long, taking in a dizzying amount of info. See if you can't power down by 10 p.m.; it will raise your chances of relaxing enough to get a good night's rest.
9. **Take a bath.** Mix a cup of Epsom salts and a half-cup of baking soda in the water, along with a few drops of lavender bath oil. You'll be enveloped in warmth and a pleasant scent. For a heightened sensory experience, light a candle too.
10. **Stay organized.** The work you put in to making your environment orderly will pay off in the long term, reducing visual stressors, and making it easier to find everything you need, when you need it.



PHOTO BY DOUG SCHNEIDER/COURTESY OF VIA VIAGGIO

Calm Kit

Those hoping to avoid anxiety and shop locally can find plenty of help with inner peace in this roundup of calming products.

Tranquillium
Via Viaggio
Dobbs Ferry
$25
These red mandarin gummies available at local farm-to-table CBD shop Via Viaggio include 50 mg each of organic, full-spectrum raw CBD that preserves the plant's naturally occurring oils and help promote a comforting, meditative, and restorative state.

11:11
Mom Made Candle Co.
North Salem
$25
This handmade candle by beloved local company, Mom Made Candle Co. combines a bouquet of calming scents, including lavender, chamomile, rosemary, and sage, to lend a soothing smell to any room.



Coco, Columbian Dark
Chelsea Dry Goods
Hastings-on-Hudson
$7.95
You may have noticed chocolate among lists of calming foods, so why not shop locally for a truly top-notch bar made by internationally recognized chocolatier Coco.

Stress Relieving Tea
Sage's Herbal Apothecary
Nyack
$15 (four ounces)
Just across the Hudson River, in Nyack, this celebrated apothecary combines organic licorice root, organic rosebuds and petals, and organic lavender to make a tea that it says calms the nerves and has antianxiety and antidepressive properties.

Calm Aromatherapy Spray
Found Herbal
Hastings-on-Hudson
$22
Scented with lavender, as well a number of additional oils purported to promote calm, this convenient two-ounce spray bottle is designed to give your entire home a tranquil, anxiety-easing atmosphere.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COCO CHOCOLATIER



PHOTO BY PROSTOCK-STUDIO /ADOBE STOCK

Managing Mental Health

Sometimes stress and anxiety can be so intense that they begin to negatively affect everyday life and relationships. We asked two professionals from Westmed Medical Group, Jacqueline S. Rose, LCSW, and Dr. Sandy P. Marantz, LCSW, for some insight into dealing with fear and when to seek help.



Jacqueline S. Rose, LCSW



Dr. Sandy P. Marantz, LCSW

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMED MEDICAL GROUP

How do anxiety and fear affect the body?

JR: Anxiety and fear can cause the body to develop different eating and sleep patterns, lower one's self-esteem, it may make people more irritable and less able to cope with daily chores

When is time to seek professional help?

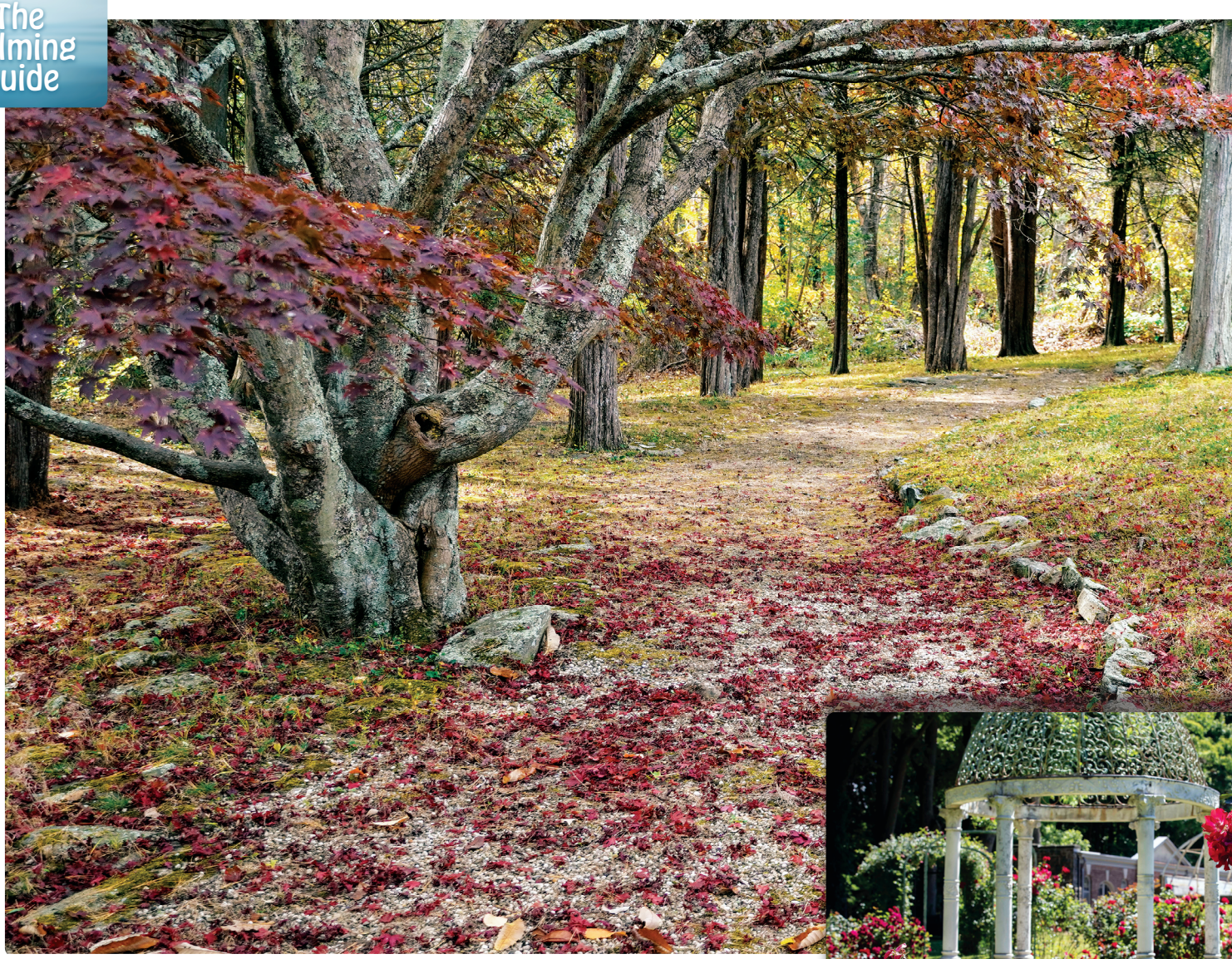
JR: It is time to seek professional help when you feel the anxiety is taking over and you are experiencing increased inability to manage your symptoms.

What is the difference between a psychologist and psychiatrist, and how do you know which you need if you are feeling anxious?

JR: A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who can prescribe medications to help the person with anxious symptoms. A psychologist engages in talk therapy, wherein the patient learns underlying reasons for the anxiety, how to recognize triggers and self-calming skills and techniques to help manage the anxiety moving forward.

How has the pandemic impacted mental health, and how can people better deal with this?

SM: It's a good idea to talk to someone you love and get your feelings out. A good conversation and deeper connection can go a long way to making you feel supported and validated. If you're feeling a little isolated, it could also help to write down your feelings or find a behavioral-health provider to help you find healthy solutions to manage your problems and your thoughts. It is crucial to live one moment at a time. Live and eat mindfully. When you wake up and get ready for the day, smell the shampoo in your hair, feel the crunch of the toast when you bite down, look at the sky outside, hear the sounds of birds chirping. Remember: Getting good sleep, eating well, and exercising all contribute to your overall mood and energy levels.



Where to Wind Down

Whether it's a comedy club, calming trail, or serene art exhibition, there is a multitude of spots to shake off the blues or find a bit of peace in Westchester.

Laugh It Out

Paramount Hudson Valley Theater

This beloved Peekskill venue is one of the county's top spots to release some stress with a little laughter. Recently host to noted local comedian Anthony Rodia, the Paramount will welcome famed actor and funnyman Jay Mohr (*Jerry Maguire*) and *Curb Your Enthusiasm* mainstay JB Smoove in the fall.

Ridgefield Playhouse

Just over the border, in Ridgefield, this venue is often host to some of the most sidesplitting funnymen and women to grace the stage. Case in point: Famed comedian Christine O'Leary was cracking wise here in March and late-night legend Jay Leno will be taking the stage in May.

The Art of Calm

Hammond Museum & Japanese Stroll Garden

North Salem

Set to reopen its doors this month, the museum is known for its tranquil Japanese stroll garden, populated with a soothing pond, tea and courtyard gardens, dry landscaping, and gorgeous, flowering trees. In addition, art lovers can enjoy a host of exhibitions, both real and virtual.

Lyndhurst

Tarrytown

What better way to unwind than taking in elegant 19th-century architecture amid Lyndhurst's 67 acres of verdant gardens, orchards, stone walkways, and rolling hills? Once the mansion reopens, it will also host tours and rotating exhibitions, such as Jorge Otero-Pailos' sculptural installation, *Watershed Moment*.

Path to Tranquility

Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Stop by this bucolic park in Pleasantville for a tranquil way to unwind. Noted for its pastoral vistas

PHOTOS (*TOP*) COURTESY OF HAMMOND MUSEUM & JAPANESE STROLL GARDEN; (*BOTTOM*) BY GINA LEVAY/COURTESY OF LYNDHURST



Hammond Museum

Lyndhurst Mansion

and attractive greenery, this 1,400-acre park bequeathed by the Rockefeller family offers a chance to relax with some hiking, fishing, horseback riding, or birdwatching.

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge

One of the newest additions to Westchester's fleet of exceptional walking spots, this 3.6-mile pedestrian pathway built alongside the Cuomo Bridge offers far more than just a place to walk, run, or ride a bike. Visitors can enjoy exceptional public artwork by eight New York-based artists, as well as a host of locally sourced food vendors.

HOLISTIC PHOTOS (*TOP*) COURTESY OF WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL; (*BOTTOM*) COURTESY OF BRONXVILLE WELLNESS SANCTUARY

Holistic Healing

Sometimes unconventional methods can be your ticket to a more tranquil life. If nothing else seems to work, try giving one of these holistic treatments a go.

When stress and anxiety creep in, many people envision a day at the spa to cure what ails them, and those who have adopted a "holistic" outlook on health and healing — one that views mind, body, and spirit as intertwined — wouldn't discourage such an endeavor. The guiding principles of the holistic mindset maintain that anxious thoughts or feelings cause pockets of energy to become trapped in the body, and when that energy is released, relaxation is restored.

While a skilled massage therapist can surely do wonders to whittle away knots of tension and pent-up energy in the body, there is a wealth of practitioners across Westchester utilizing alternative therapies and techniques, like acupuncture, energy healing, and others, to alleviate blocked energy and attain ease.

White Plains Hospital (WPH) has a team dedicated to such modalities, including gentle-touch therapy and guided imagery, and holistic nurse coordinator Toyoko Yasui, RN, says the goal with these and other holistic treatments is to "activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which is the opposite of the sympathetic stress response," commonly referred to as fight-or-flight.

Yasui says gently stroking the hands, feet, or back, and/or using the imagination to generate a pleasing image can "lower stress-hormone levels and normalize blood pressure and heart rate while promoting calming hormones, such as serotonin, melatonin, and endorphins [to] elevate mood, simultaneously nurturing body and mind, thereby assisting a person to de-stress."

WPH's holistic team also utilizes energy healing to promote feelings of well-being in patients, just as Stephanie Filardi does with her clients at Bronxville Wellness Sanctuary. "Energy healing allows us to target the root causes of anxiety, heal wounds that we are not consciously aware of, and release core beliefs and experiences stored in the body or the subconscious, or feeling, mind."

Typically, energy healing takes place on a massage table, with the practitioner placing the palms onto, or just slightly above, the patient in an effort to transfer "universal energy" from one to the other to achieve a state of relaxation.

More invasive, yet still relaxing, acupuncture is another way to release energy blockages and relieve stress. One of the main components of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), acupuncture involves the insertion of thin, metal needles into the body via the skin. "The needle brings the tension that's buried deep down in the body to the surface," says Binghui Guan, co-owner of EastWest Healing Arts & Acupuncture, LLC, in Hartsdale.

In addition, Guan and many of her counterparts in acupuncture, employ aromatherapy during treatments by diffusing highly concentrated essential oils, which have, she explains, "the capacity to reach the limbic brain area via the olfactory nerve to relax the mind."

While TCM has been practiced for centuries, light therapy is relatively new to the holistic de-stressing scene, and at NLighten, an infrared-therapy sauna in Hastings-on-Hudson, the body is warmed internally by infrared light (similar to sunlight), as opposed to simply turning up the heat in the room, like traditional saunas, which can be stifling to some. "Sweating activates serotonin, which regulates mood, and sweating in a relaxed, parasympathetic environment is a much more efficient and productive sweat," says owner Naomi Ortiz-Honor. Plus, NLighten also uses "medical-grade color light" during infrared sweat sessions, which, Ortiz-Honor says, "stimulates energy points in the body and has different healing attributes."





Our Most Beautiful Restaurants

Top dining experiences involve more than just the food. What follows is a visual tour through Westchester's 20 most stunningly designed restaurants.

By John Bruno Turiano



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLT STEAK WHITE PLAINS



Located at The Opus, Westchester, the tallest building between New York City and Boston, **BLT Steak** is an upmarket interpretation of the American steakhouse. The neutral-colored space in White Plains features rare Macassar Ebony tables, 18-foot floor-to-ceiling windows with sheer, white curtains, an open kitchen, and modern lighting accents.



A nautical lighthouse gastropub is the theme behind Ossining's 12,000 sq. ft. **3 Westerly Bar & Grill**, which sits in Harbor Square and has myriad indoor/outdoor seating options with Hudson River views. Zilkz Design in Manhattan is responsible for the look, including a 15-foot-long nautical chandelier that has a cluster of hanging colossal ship-rope pendants in the private dining room and oversized cantilever lighting in the bar area (above).



Presenting Chinese food and culture accurately and in its original authentic glory was owner Peter Liu's goal when he opened Hartsdale's 110-seat **O Mandarin** in 2017. To have decor that matched his mission, the interior is laden with Chinese antiques illuminated by warm, bird's-nest lighting, making for an experience that is both transporting and fun. (Shown is the restaurant's private dining space.) A stone lion in a waterfall greets patrons; a pair of Qing Dynasty gentleman farmer's chairs, a hand-carved ceiling banner of elm wood, and traditional Chinese cookware are other decor highlights.

TOP PHOTO BY SCOTT MORRIS FROM SGM PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM PHOTO BY DOUG SCHNEIDER



Built circa 1840, the Georgian-style King Mansion, part of the sprawling Tarrytown House Estate, in Tarrytown, is the impressive setting for Modern Chinese restaurant **Goosefeather**. The main objective for Sean Knibb, of Venice, CA-based Knibb Design, was to accentuate the classic aesthetic of the mansion by adding splashes of modernity throughout.

PHOTO BY ALL GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

The black-white-and-gray design at White Plains' 110-seat **Kee Oyster House** is Old New York circa Prohibition at its sophisticted best. Glimmering white subway tiles frame the mirrored marble bar, and amber pendant lights add modest color splashes. The lofty black ceiling, arches, and tall windows lend openness to the space. Papp Architects, P.C., of White Plains, designed the 3,000 sq. ft. restaurant, which opened in February 2016.





Situated in the former convent of the Episcopal Sister of St. Mary and designed by Ginsburg Development Companies, **Apropos Restaurant at The Abbey Inn & Spa**, in Peekskill, is a melding of historic architectural details and contemporary design. The restaurant is partially located in the convent's former dining room, and the bar is in the former mother superior's office. The color scheme celebrates the Hudson Valley's natural palette of forests and woodworking traditions. Booths and chairs around natural-wood tables fill the dining room and four-season porch, with artwork expressing its modern reinvention.

TOP PHOTO BY MEMORIES BY ANA; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMPSON & BENDER





Twenty-five 200-year-old antique doors (from an antiques collector in Belgium) separating a private dining space from the main room are but one of many repurposed wood design elements at Tarrytown's **RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen**. A custom-designed copper beer tower and flooring that includes brick, polished concrete, and 200-year-old maple chevron under a cypress-and-hemlock ceiling are other highlights of the spectacular interior by designer Christian Arkay-Leliever.

The shopping-center locale of Yorktown Heights' **The Gramercy** belies the stylish interior found within. Oversized windows line the room, letting in a plethora of natural light that reaches beyond the vibrant front bar area to the rear dining room decked out in green leather banquettes, brass accents, and sleek wooden tabletops.

TOP PHOTO COURTEST OF RIVERMARKET; BOTTOM PHOTO BY MARGARITA GARCIA



Boyce Thompson Institute, built in 1924 and abandoned in the 1990s, was an empty brick shell in Yonkers that Tom Haynes of Haynes Architecture P.C. transformed in 2017 into what is the most evocative of **Fortina**'s four locations. Graffitied walls were retained, to lend an urban/industrial vibe, with soaring 35-foot-high cathedral ceilings and a Goddess of Wheat mural that stands tall in the barroom, overlooking a sunken, wraparound, concrete bar.

The design philosophy at **Chef in Residence at Stone Barns** in Pocantico Hills was to respect the materials of the original buildings, which were built by John D. Rockefeller in the early 1930s and designed by architect Grosvenor Atterbury as a working farm. For the main dining room, Peter Guzy of Asfour/Guzy in New York used an oversized farm table as a focal point, and to ground the large space and exposed ceilings with their original steel trusses.

The quiet palette reflects the colors of the farm setting: natural tones of brown, gray, blue and green.



TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF FORTINA; BOTTOM PHOTO BY ALICE GAO





A riverfront villa with a vast, verdant patio, a 2,000 sq. ft. fully functioning herb-and-vegetable garden, and magnificent sunsets pretty much sounds like Italy or France, right? Try Hastings-on-Hudson. **Harvest On Hudson** is the village's Tuscan-style dining destination worthy of an on-location movie shoot. The 200-seat interior features 30-plus-foot-high ceilings, a color scheme of red, gold, and green, and a double-sided, hand-built, stone fireplace by Sal Sanzo Masonry of Dobbs Ferry. A greenhouse is planned for summer 2022.

Sitting 42 floors above Main Street in White Plains, atop The Opus, Westchester, is **Kanopi**, a 2,500 sq. ft. restaurant tucked within a 10,000 sq. ft. event space. The lofty perch enables views of the New York City skyline, Hudson Valley, and Long Island Sound. Neutral grays, browns, and creams dominate the subtly colored dining room, with the occasional pop of vertical green, meaning the bright and dynamic colors both outside the windows and on the plate standout out with marked vibrance.

TOP PHOTO PHOTO BY SIMON FELDMAN; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF KANOPI



The historic Yonkers City Pier, built at the turn-of-the-century as an open-air recreational pier, is now the location of **X2O Xaviars on the Hudson**, an urbane New American restaurant with 20-foot ceilings and wrapped in glass boasting breathtaking views of the Hudson River and Palisades. Rica Kelly, wife of chef-owner Peter Kelly, worked with architects from Highland Associates in Pennsylvania to create a refined urban interior with a color scheme of Champagne and chocolate, with butter-tone accents.



On a small hill at one end of the Warburton Avenue Bridge, with a rear patio that overlooks the manicured lawn and lake fountain of the Jasper Cropsey home and studio, is **Divino Cucina Italiana**, in Hastings-on-Hudson. The decor theme is old-meets-new, with lots of gray and brick, and Edison bulbs of various sizes hanging from exposed beams on one side of the dining room, while light fixtures crafted with old fire mantles illuminate the other. A hidden doorway leads to a lower-level speakeasy bar decked out in LED-lit fish-wire cabinets containing multicolored Mason jars filled with faux liquor and black-and-white Prohibition-era photos.

TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF X2O; BOTTOM PHOTO BY KEN GABRIELSEN



The bi-level **Moderne Barn** combines rustic elements with modern industrial details. Designer Kim Nathanson of Pawtucket, RI, and architect Lucio Delio of Pound Ridge combined walnut shades and country-chic fabrics to lend a sophisticated yet comfortable vibe to this popular Armonk venue. A soaring, vaulted ceiling of American walnut, hand-designed glass chandeliers, and an iron catwalk above the bar (housing the wine cellar) are focal points in the 7,000 sq. ft. space.

Architect Thomas Juul-Hansen designed **The Inn at Pound Ridge by Jean Georges**, set in an 1833 inn, to have the warmth of a country home and the elegance of a Manhattan restaurant. Many of the original materials were preserved, including four operating wood fireplaces and exposed wooden beams in the high ceiling of the upstairs dining room. Accents of dark brown, exposed stone, and tan leather upholstery add to the rustic charm. A candle-only illuminated wine cellar is a singular space for an intimate party (up to 22 guests).



TOP PHOTO BY PAUL JOHNSON; BOTTOM PHOTO BY FRANCESCO TONELLI

Quiet elegance abounds at Rye's **La Panetière**, where soft, faded, yellow walls and classic Provençal tableware and antiques (including an ornate bread cabinent, or panetière) set a mood for romance and dining as would befit pampered French royalty.



Jennifer Geddes of Goldman Design Group in Norwalk is the creative mind behind the fashionable interior at **Nonna Carola Ristorante & Bar**, in Mamaroneck. The anteroom sets the swank factor at high, with marble, gold lettering, and a black-iron staircase. The modish Art Deco style includes blues and grays, with accent lighting and other details in gold. A white-marble-topped bar, dressed in black-and-white tile, Tiffany-blue velvet banquettes, and black Italian floor tile, round out the decor highlights at this relative newcomer.

TOP PHOTO BY KBW DESIGNS; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF NONNA CAROLA





SoHo meets Nantucket is the vibe at Port Chester's **Saltaire Oyster Bar and Fish House**, situated in a century-old grain warehouse nestled along the banks of the Byram River. Four shades of blue represent the ocean in the various rooms, and vaulted high ceilings, a grand, dramatically lit marble oyster bar, and original brick are all focal points.

A city-chic vibe can be found in quiet Purchase at **tredici NORTH**. The color scheme is black, white, silver, and splashes of red here and there that fiercely pop. The focal point of the 2,500 sq. ft. dining room is the wall behind the bar: a beautiful seashell design featuring antique brick roof tiles imported from a farmhouse in Messina, Sicily. The wall is complemented by copper artichoke chandeliers suspended above the bar. Even the bathrooms have been treated to a metropolitan-inspired design: The men's room, for example sports mysteriously cool skull tiles with mirrored eyes, imported from Italy.

TOP PHOTO BY FAVOREATS; BOTTOM PHOTO BY JOHN BRUNO TURIANO

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EDITED BY
John Bruno Turiano



PHOTO BY SAM LUCAS

PREVIEW

Heritage 147

Billing themselves as farm-to-fork, co-owners Rich Perez and Alissa Svorka prioritize ingredient integrity and utilizing small-batch vendors at their Modern American restaurant, Heritage 147. Pictured is the Backyard Noodle Bowl, their take on ramen. Turn to page 96 for more details on this restaurant that opened in February in the space that once housed Polpettina.



Taking pride in discovering top ingredients and sourcing from American small-batch purveyors are priorities for Rich Perez and Alissa Svorka, co-owners of the 72-seat Modern American restaurant Heritage 147, which debuted in early February.

Says Svorka, "We don't plan our menu by starting with the dish and then buying the ingredients to make it; instead, we find top ingredients and then think, *What dish can we make from them?*"

Those special ingredients are sourced from purveyors such as Norwich Meadows Farms, in Norwich, NY (certified organic produce); Happy Valley Meat Co., in Brooklyn (grass-fed beef via small PA farmers); Sfoglini, in Coxsackie, NY (organic grain pasta); The Kneaded Bread, in Port Chester (artisan breads); microroaster NEAT Coffee, in Darien; J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works, in Charlestown, WV (finishing salt); and La Boite Spices, in Manhattan (custom-blended, hand-ground spices). Cheese and charcuterie boards feature singular selections sourced from New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

PREVIEW

Heritage 147

147 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont;
914.292.5320;
www.heritage147.com

Grass-fed Angus steak, marinated in Kentuckyaki sauce (Kentucky-style teriyaki sauce) and served with sweet-and-sour tatsoi (an Asian green similar to bok choy), as well as Wild Gulf shrimp in a deeply flavored garlic-chili sauce, are standouts. Aside from showcasing top-notch ingredients, these dishes on the relatively short menu of 10 appetizers, three salads, and nine entrées exhibit another credo of the restaurant: underscoring different cultural influences. "With all the turmoil the country has been through," says Svorka, "we wanted to celebrate people's heritages. We are drawn to ingredients from many food cultures." Indeed, a perusal of the menu reveals various dishes using *aji amarillo*, chorizo, *dashi*, apple chutney, and *chicharrón*. "Larchmont is a beautiful, cultured town despite the small size," Svorka adds, "so we think our menu will be appreciated."

A major catalyst for the duo opening Heritage 147 was to return to their roots as hands-on chefs. Previously, both Perez and Svorka were at Little Beet Table in Greenwich, as executive chef and sous chef, respectively, overseeing four locations. "It was very corporate," says Mamaroneck resident Perez. "It was less creative, and there was little contact with vendors and customers."





PHOTOS BY SAM LUCAS

Top to bottom: The Backyard Noodle bowl and a charcuterie-and-cheese plate are among the dishes to sample; the line of taps includes several New York selections; the cooking at Heritage focuses on both local and domestic first-rate ingredients.

Much of the cooking at the dinner-only (brunch-planned) Heritage is inspired by the pair's many — and notable — culinary work experiences. Perez worked both front- and back-of-house at many a Manhattan restaurant, with Picholine, Aureole, March, and Felidia among them. He also co-owned Tequila Sunrise next door, as well as Espana Wine & Tapas Bar, which was formerly in Heritage's space (Polpettina occupied it more recently). Svorka, a Greenwich resident who trained at the French Culinary Institute (now International Culinary Institute), has worked at Manhattan's Delmonico's and David Burke Townhouse, plus Terrain Cafe, in Westport.

The beverage program is as thoughtful as the food: an all-organic wine list, plus eight craft beers, two wines, and a sake on tap, plus New York liquors as much as is feasible. Aside from Brooklyn's Blue Marble ice cream, desserts — including lemon poppy cheesecake with huckleberry jam — are done in-house.

Perez is excited to be back in Larchmont but knows the dining public has grown more sophisticated than when he operated village restaurants in years past.

"Everyone sees a lot of stuff because of the Food Network, food documentaries on streaming services, and the internet. They know more, so they want and expect more." —*John Bruno Turiano*

SWEET!

Sugary Treats, the South American Way

A Uruguayan native brings artisan dulce de leche and other indulgences to the county.

By Brian Kluepfel

Although it's said that dulce de leche is an historical accident — the cook of an Argentine *caudillo* (military strongman) left the *lechada* (dessert milk) to boil too long, resulting in a creamy paste — when Cristina Lopez Goldstein prepares hers, nothing's left to chance. The Uruguayan-born chef, who launched Christtine Organic Confections in a Buchanan factory in February 2016, watches over the evaporating dairy-sugar mixture like a cat on a bird, spoon in hand, and when the moment's right, out it comes, sticky and golden brown. "Patience and perseverance!" she preaches.

Christtine Organic Confections
www.christtine.com

Often compared to caramel, dulce de leche is both creamier and less sweet than its confectionary cousin. To South Americans, it's a jar of heaven, to be treasured any time of day, and Lopez Goldstein revels in the memory of merry *meriendas* — afternoon teas featuring dollops of dulce de leche between thin crêpes, bananas, or oranges to be dipped and dunked, or spoonsful secretly sequestered directly into the mouth.

Lopez Goldstein is a culinary double threat, also producing fluffy *alfajores*, a delicate, crumble-in-your-finger "alpha-cookie" filled with fruit jams or — you guessed it — dulce de leche and dusted with powdered sugar and coconut, sometimes decadently dipped in dark or milk chocolate.

"I like mine with coffee, for the contrast," she says. "But some prefer them with wine. Who am I to argue?"

Lopez Goldstein carries on a paternal pastry process from her Spanish grandfather, whose breads won over an international crowd at the famed Uruguayan beach resort of Punta del Este. "My grandfather was the master baker, and my mom and dad met working for him" says Lopez Goldstein. "I learned from them how to tell if the dough was good with just one touch."







An avalanche of *alfajores*, in dark chocolate, *maizena* (rolled in coconut), and white chocolate; pastry chef Cristina Lopez Goldstein

PHOTOS BY ROLANDO GOLDSTEIN/COURTESY OF CHRISTTINE ORGANIC CONFECTIONS

SPIRITED

Beau-Friends



Cru Beaujolais bottles are serious, delectable, and often age-worthy wines.

By Geoff Kalish

As wine aficionados know, most so-called "Cru" wines (from the top 10 communes in the Beaujolais area) are a far cry from the bubble-gum scented, punch-like nouveaux wines from the same region of France. Moreover, these Cru wines make excellent accompaniment to spring and summer fare. The following denote a few top-level, sensibly priced, locally available bottles.

2019 Dutraive Saint Amour Clos du Chapitre ($40)

Some may find this wine too light and delicate, but it's perfect for those who enjoy a simple, straightforward red with a bouquet and taste of raspberries and strawberries. Serve it with shrimp, scallops, and grilled chicken breast. Find it: Grapes, The Wine Company, in White Plains, and Station Plaza Wine, in Bronxville.

2017 Domaine Jean-Claude Lapalu Cuvée des Fous Brouilly ($42)

From vineyards planted around 1900, only organically grown grapes are used to produce this full-bodied, fragrant red. After a few minutes of aeration, it shows a bouquet and taste of ripe plums, melons, and cassis that mate well with turkey, veal, and pasta with red sauce. Find it: Zachys, in Scarsdale, and Suburban Wine & Spirits, in Yorktown Heights.

2019 Coudert Fleurie Cuvée Christie ($22)

This elegant wine was made from hand-harvested gamay grapes, sustainably grown in sandy soils on 30-to-40-year-old vines. It has a bouquet and taste of ripe strawberries and cranberries with a smooth finish. Match it with risotto primavera, grilled chicken, and even grilled swordfish. Find it: Bottle Grove, in White Plains, and Varmax Liquor Pantry, in Port Chester.

Antoine Sunier Régnié Montmerond 2018 ($29)

Following fermentation, this wine was aged for eight months in used Burgundy barrels. It shows an easy-drinking bouquet and taste of ripe cherries and raspberries, which marries well with burgers, pizza, and grilled ribs. Find it: Varmax Liquor Pantry, in Port Chester, Blue Dog Wines & Spirits, in Pelham, and Fairway Wines & Spirits, in Pelham Manor.

TABLE MATTERS

Dining Scene News & Notes



Considering the bread and pickles are house-made, and ingredients are sourced from small Hudson Valley farms, the sandwiches at the new food truck **Hand Held Kitchen** (*914.400.8351; www.handheldkitchen.com*) are likely to be something special. Among the offerings: a Cubano; BLT with pesto aioli; roasted beet with goat cheese and balsamic mayo on ciabatta (*pictured above*); and a steak sandwich with roasted red peppers and Peruvian *aji verde* sauce.

Green & Tonic (*15c Rye Ridge Plz, Rye Brook; 914.305.4525; www.greenandtonic.com*), a counter-service plant-based eatery serving breakfast and lunch items including toasts, salads, wraps, grain bowls, cold-pressed juices, superfood smoothies, and tinctures and tonics, has opened in the space that once housed Organic Pharmer.

The dishes at **Anar Indo-Mediterranean Restaurant** (*98 E Post Rd, White Plains; 914.437.9596; www.anarwhiteplains.com*) feature the flavors of Southern India, Mediterranean cuisines, and any overlaps. Expect falafel, shawarma, clay-oven specialties, kabobs, curries, and more.

Mount Kisco will be the location of the first **Shaking Crab** (*220 Main St; 914.218.3562; www.shakingcrab.com/mtkisco*) in the county. The chain offers Cajun-style seafood such as lobster, shrimp, mussels, and more, shaken up with myriad spice blends and several sauces. Bib and gloves provided as things can get messy.

Mount Vernon's near 25-year-old bakery **Fleetwood Pastry Shop** (*www.westchestercakes.com*) has opened its second location in the space that previously housed Pleasantville Bakery and Café (*57 Wheeler Ave; 914.773.2014*).

Café Brazil has closed and, in its place, scheduled to open sometime this spring is **Leftovers Artisan Cuisine** (*41 N Main St, Port Chester*).

Salsa Picante Mexican Restaurant in Port Chester (*www.salsapicantemex.com*) is opening a second location in the space that formerly housed Esposito's Ristorante & Pizzeria (*359 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains*).

Westchester County Tourism & Film has launched **Dine On Westchester** (*www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/dining/dine-on*), a county restaurant database searchable by five regions and by service options: takeout, curbside pickup, delivery, outdoor dining, etc. It also enables restaurateurs to highlight health and safety measures. Approximately 50 restaurants had signed up by press time.



Orange County-based cidery **Angry Orchard** (*Walden; 845.713.5180; www.angryorchard.com*) debuted a national delivery Cider Club for 2021, featuring a curated package of 3 small-batch ciders including new or early releases, current/recurring favorites, and vintage offerings. —*JBT*

PHOTO (*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT*) BY JULIÁN ROVAGNATI/ADOBE STOCK; COURTESY OF HAND HELD KITCHEN; COURTESY OF ANGRY ORCHARD

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Eating Lean and Green

Westchester's health-conscious cafés are elevating their offerings from healthy choices to healing sustenance.

BY MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN





PHOTOS (*TOP*) BY MORGAN IONE/COURTESY OF THE GRANOLA BAR; (BOTTOM) COURTESY OF GREEN LIFE

Above: Macro Bowl from The Granola Bar. *Left:* Green Life's zoodles, or zucchini noodles, with turkey meatballs and marinara sauce

The "healthy eating" craze is certainly nothing new, and the veritable health nut wasn't exactly born yesterday. That said, there is an undeniable uptick across the county in eateries crafting menu items that are not only wholesome and nutritious, they're also deeply nourishing and considered "healing" by those manning the blenders and stoves, and by those who indulge in such soothing goodness. We're talking detoxifying juices, energizing smoothies, and bowls overflowing with greens, grains, and thoughtful ingredients intended to make diners feel better from the inside out. In some cases, even meat-filled sandwiches and burgers make the cut. And in all cases, the overarching goal is a mindful menu bursting with restorative possibilities.

Good Choice Kitchen Vegan Café & Culinary Center

Ossining; *www.goodchoicekitchen.com*

Cooking classes, wellness events, and a vegan café compose this well-established addition to the local dining scene, where chef-owner Laurie Gershgorn notes that "every single thing is designed to be balanced and fortifying feel-good food." The menu is both extensive and intriguing for vegans and carnivores alike, and the savory bowls, boasting macro- and micronutrients, are the standouts. Gershgorn suggests the delicately spiced lentil loaf bowl with gold potatoes and mushroom gravy for the fungi's "detoxifying component," with a hearty, seasonal, and raw sesame kale salad on the side.

The Granola Bar

Rye; *www.thegranolabarct.com*

Described as a modern diner at the intersection of healthy (e.g., ground flax and chia seeds) and indulgent (e.g., dark-chocolate chunks and Nutella drizzle), owners Dana Noorily and Julie Mountain serve "foods that simply make you feel better than when you walked in." For the ultimate in satisfying, healthy indulgence, Noorily digs into the vibrantly hued Macro Bowl: sautéed kale and sweet potatoes, roasted beet hummus, whipped goat cheese, and walnuts over roasted cauliflower with spicy tahini vinaigrette. "I always try to eat the rainbow as best I can," she says, "so this would make me feel super-nourished and comforted at the same time."

Green Life

Mamaroneck; *www.greenlifeny.com*

Calling this always-bustling, quick-serve stop a "destination focusing equally on nutrition and taste," the Caligiuri brothers (Anthony, Greg, and Mark) dish up everything from energizing juice tonics and smoothies, to protein-packed and superfood-laced bowls, wild salmon entrées, veggie lasagna, and bison burgers. They are most charged up over their cauliflower pizza crust and the plant-based pasta and rice options they've been working into the menu involving edamame, chickpeas, and black beans. "All of [these] are super-high in fiber and protein and a great pasta alternative," says Greg.

PK Blendz Juice Bar

Peekskill; *www.pkblendzjuicebar.com*

Self-proclaimed "health nut" and licensed personal trainer Rob Scott oversees the perpetually whirring blenders at this predominantly smoothie-and-juice bar where the menu targets all areas of bodily concern and reads like a cleverly penned medical journal. When a customer can't decide between the Brainiac juice or the one called Heart Beat, or if someone is stuck on either a Blood Cleanser or a Bone Builder, Scott

steps in and suggests the Liver Love: a power-packed juice of carrots, spinach, beets, cucumber, apple, lemon, and ginger. "The liver is [among] the most important [organs] in the body," he explains.

Skinny Buddha

Mount Kisco; *www.myskinnybuddha.com*

The brainchild of Peter Kump-trained chef Elyce Jacobson and personal trainer and boxer Shaka the King, this curious and hip downtown destination is part vegan grab 'n' go café, part gym. Offering workout classes, detoxing juice cleanses, and a paralyzing array of healthy and healing vegan vittles (from smoothies to overstuffed sammies), Jacobson says it's the Immunity Booster Soup that's the hottest ticket in town. "We can't make it fast enough." Containing ginger, garlic, shiitake mushrooms, cabbage, carrots, and onions, "it covers all the bases," she says. "It's antibacterial, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and full of antioxidants."

Sweet Grass Grill

Tarrytown; *www.sweetgrassgrill.com*

At this downtown den of all things seasonal and local, where about a dozen nearby farms supply the ingredients, owner David Starkey encourages diners to try a vegan dish every now and then because "whenever I eat vegan, I feel virtuous and energized." He recommends the light and crispy chickpea panisse: roasted heirloom carrot, kale, griddled onion, turmeric- and harissa-spiced coconut yogurt, and chimichurri. And when every last morsel has been cleaned from his plate, "there isn't this heavy pit in my stomach," he says. "Body and planet [are] both winners."

Trailside Café

Yorktown Heights; *www.trailside-cafe.com*

With the goal of providing the freshest ingredients — using nondairy, GF, and vegan selections whenever possible — Yorktowner Justin Fagan runs this mod corner café with wife Ghenya and recommends the Green Protein smoothie for customers craving that "refreshed healthy feeling." Smooth and satisfying, almond milk is swirled with kale, banana, mango, and peanut butter, and, according to Fagan, "It supplies vitamins K, A, C, B6, and several minerals, including calcium, magnesium, and copper." A host of other blended beverages and detoxifying juices grace the menu board, along with açai and pitaya bowls, and organic vegan apple pie, for a health-conscious cheat.

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dining out

BY Michelle Gillan Larkin

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

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
$$$$ Average entrée $28 or more

TOP 32 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 Listings

LE FONTANE RISTORANTE *Italian $$$*
Italian comfort classics and elevated specials are served in welcoming, comfortable surrounds at this family-owned-and-operated neighborhood fave. *137 Somerstown Tpk, Katonah; 914.232.9619; www.lefontanerestaurant.com*

THE TAP HOUSE *Gastropub $$$*
More than 70 craft and premium beers (14 on tap) and handcrafted cocktails wash down Modern American pub fare of braised short-rib sliders, seared-tuna tacos, steak frites, pan-roasted chicken, and a chargrilled burger on a brioche bun with everything fries. *16 Depot Sq, Tuckahoe; 914.337.6941; www.thetaphouseny.com*

Ardsley

LA CATENA *Italian $$$*
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

TOP 32 **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

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.beehive-restaurant.com* Pickup

TOP 32 **FORTINA** *Italian/Pizza $$*
This mini-empire of buzzy wood-fired restaurants (with an additional location in Stamford) serves 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; 10086 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 Tsukiji Fish Market. *454 Main St, Armonk; 914.730.0077; www.kokujapanese.com* Pickup/Delivery

MACELLERIA ARMONK ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE *Italian/Steakhouse $$$$*
Wine bottles adorn the walls and window sills in this new addition where Kitchen 273 once stood, with traditional Italian specialties, pastas, seafood, steaks, and chops, plus a finely curated wine list. (Sister spot in Pelham opened in 2019.) *111 Bedford Rd, Armonk; 914.219.5728; www.macelleriaarmonk.com*

TOP 32 **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 $$$*
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

Briarcliff Manor

105-TEN BAR & GRILL *American $$$*
Like sisters Urban Hamlet in Bronxville and Pleasantville's 105 Seventy Bar & Grill, 105-Ten offers elevated burgers, sandwiches, and salads, with entrées of lobster mac 'n' cheese, braised short ribs, and sesame-crusted ahi tuna tacos in a modern, upscale-pub setting. *127 Woodside Ave, Briarcliff Manor; 914.236.3651; www.105ten.com* Pickup/Delivery

SQUIRE'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

IL BACIO TRATTORIA *Italian $$*
At this longstanding neighborhood gem offering many regional Italian specialties, the standouts include fettuccine with crumbled sausage, shiitake mushrooms, and *ricotta salata*; veal Milanese; pizza; and the ever-popular panzanella salad. *1 Park Pl, Bronxville; 914.337.4100; www.ristorantelucia.com/il-bacio-trattoria* Pickup

ROSIE'S BISTRO ITALIANO *Italian $$$*
This always bustling, family-friendly corner spot serves up traditional Italian favorites with a dash of flair (baked clams with pancetta; short-rib ravs with mascarpone drizzle; prosciutto di Parma-topped pizza) in a refined yet welcoming setting. *10 Palmer Ave, Bronxville; 914.793.2000; www.rosiesbronxville.com* Pickup

Chappaqua

TOP 32 **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 Award-winning wine cellar houses 40,000+ bottles. *11 Kittle Rd, Chappaqua; 914.666.8044; www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com* Pickup

IBIZA KITCHEN *Spanish $ (tapas)/$$ (entrées)*
Food ★★½ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★ (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

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

TOP 32 **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

140 GRAND *American $$*
Expect American cuisine focusing on house-smoked meats, sandwiches of pork belly, brisket, and buttermilk-brined fried chicken, along with burgers that include one topped with fig jam and another smothered in peanut butter. *140 Grand St, Croton-on-Hudson; 914.271.1127; www.140grand.com* Pickup/Delivery

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

TOP 32 **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 32 **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 gluten-free options available. Closed Mon. *23 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.693.8000; www.therarebitdf.com* Pickup/Delivery

Eastchester

TOP 32 **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 $$$$
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 $*
A county institution, this classic pub serves cold pints, ethereal onion rings, and pretty-near-perfect burgers. Kitchen open daily until midnight. *433 White Plains Rd, Eastchester; 914.779.5772; www.piperskilt.com* Pickup

TOP 32 **POLPETTINA** *Italian $$*
On the menu: eggplant chips with wildflower honey, thin-crust and grandma-style 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

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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

THE GREEKISH *Mediterranean $$-$$$*
From Chef Constantine Kalandranis, who has transformed 273 Kitchen (Harrison) and 8 North Broadway (Nyack), come a duo of meze and ouzo bars offering Greek-style tapas, including dips, cheeses, hot and cold vegetables, pita, and more — at an affordable price point. *273 Halstead Ave, Harrison; 914.732.3333; 8 N Broadway, Nyack; 845.353.1200; www.thegreekish.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

O MANDARIN *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 Westchester-winning 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 house-made 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 ★★★ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★ (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

TOP 32 **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 BBQ. 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

TOP 32 **CHUTNEY MASALA** *Indian $$*
The popular Indian bistro from Chef Navjot 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 32 **MIMA VINOTECA** *Italian $$$$*
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* Pickup/Delivery

TOP 32 **MP TAVERNA** *Greek $$$*
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 five-days' notice. *1 Bridge St, Irvington; 914.231.7854; www.michaelpsilakis.com* Pickup/Delivery

SAMBAL *Thai/Malay $$*
Chef-owner Navjot 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 burgers 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 stir-fried 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

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

CHRISTOPHER'S BY CHEF JOE *Steakhouse $$$$*
In the space that local fave La Riserva occupied for more than four decades, dry-aged steaks, chops, and seafood (including two-pound lobsters) are presented with Italian and Japanese influences and pair with handcrafted cocktails or an order from the lengthy wine list. *2382 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont; 914.878.8749; www.christophersbychefjoe.com*

TOP 32 **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.corianderny.com* Pickup

TOP 32 **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.lalataquerialarchmont.com* Pickup/Delivery

VINTAGE 1891 KITCHEN *American $$$*
This 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 lunch. Closed Mon. *576 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck; 914.777.2200; www.ilcastello.com* 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-Day 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 *adjaruli*, 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 *Eclectic $$*
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 $$*
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, Rye; 914.612.4267; www.villagesocialkb.com* Pickup/Delivery

Mount Vernon

TOP 32 **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

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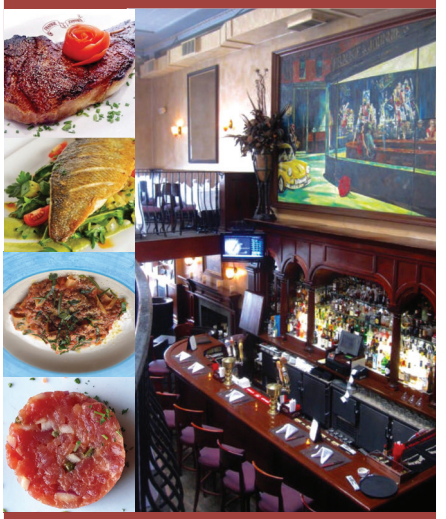
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(Continued from previous page)

MARIA RESTAURANT *Italian $$$*
Food ★★★ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★(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

TOP 32 **ONE TWENTY ONE** *New American $$$$*
This Beck Bolender venue brings a little contemporary 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 $$$$*
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.primaveraitalian.squarespace.com* Pickup/Delivery

TOP 32 **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 ★★★½ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★½ (03/19) Captain 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

TOP 32 **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 *pav bhaji* 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.105twentyrest.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 $$*
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

TOP 32 **CHEF IN RESIDENCE AT STONE BARNS** *New American $$$$*
Dan Barber is stepping away from the stove at the groundbreaking farm-to-table fine-dining establishment Blue Hill at Stone Barns (that was awarded two stars in the 2020 Michelin Guide) to make way for a chef-in-residence program. A collaboration between Blue Hill and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, it will feature a new chef every five weeks, offering a unique take on the farm and the region based on cuisine and personal history. Closed Mon and Tue. *630 Bedford Rd, Pocantico Hills; 914.366.9600; www.bluehillfarm.com* Pickup

Port Chester

TOP 32 **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 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

TOP 32 **SALTAIRE OYSTER BAR AND FISH HOUSE** *Seafood $$$$*
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

TOP 32 **SONORA** *Nuevo Latino $$$*
Fans flock to Chef Rafael Palomino's only Westchester spot for his pan-Latino cuisine. The bar area serves tacos and a vast selection of craft tequila, and the paella is a popular pick in the dining room. 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.tellystaverna.com* Pickup/Delivery

Pound Ridge

TOP 32 **THE INN AT POUND RIDGE BY JEAN-GEORGES** *New American $$$$*
Expect seasonal ingredients (and the occasional Asian flavor) from the kitchen at this 250-seat, special-occasion restaurant from Jean-Georges Vongerichten. *258 Westchester Ave, Pound Ridge; 914.764.1400; www.theinnatpoundridge.com* Pickup/Delivery

Purchase

TREDICI NORTH *Italian $$$*
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, Rye; 914.925.3900; www.frankieandjohnnies.com* Pickup/Delivery

TOP 32 **LA PANETIÈRE** *French $$$$*
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, Rye; 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, Rye, 914.481.8660; www.okokitchen.com* Pickup

RAFELE RYE *Italian $$$*
Food ★★½ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★★(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, Rye; 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 Cajun 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* Pickup/Delivery

Scarsdale

AKAI LOUNGE *Japanese $$$*
In the space formerly occupied by Lange's of Scarsdale, this contemporary restaurant boasts modern, inspired Japanese cuisine with a menu of traditional (sushi, sashimi, teriyaki) and nontraditional offerings (tuna guacamole, lobster pizza, renegade rolls) paired with sake and martinis. *57 Spencer Pl, Scarsdale; 914.722.2022; www.akaiscarsdale.com* Pickup

CAFÉ ALAIA *Italian $$*
Food ★★½ Service ★★★★ Atmosphere ★★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 32 **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

EL BARRIO *Mexican $$*
High-brow Mexican street fare apps of pineapple-cucumber gazpacho and house-made guac with lobster tease entrees like open-faced, brick-oven quesadillas with braised short ribs, roasted chayote tacos, and a tortilla-wrapped burger smothered in fig jam and Oaxaca cheese. *185 Summerfield St, Scarsdale; 914.723.2600; www.elbarriony.com* Pickup/Delivery

SEA FLAME SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE *Steakhouse $$$$*
In an intimate space with 70 seats, this is a big-city style steakhouse featuring dry-aged cuts, beautiful seafood towers, homemade steak sauce and dressings, and an impressive Cali/Italian-centric wine list. *Vernon Place Shops, 709 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale; 914.874.5366; www.seaflamerestaurant.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

901 WOOD BURNING KITCHEN & BAR *Italian $$*
A new name (formerly Novecento), but the same crowd-pleasing wood-burning pizza, plus salads, and mains of pasta, steak, and fish. Closed Mon. *1410 E Main St, Shrub Oak; 914.743.1930; www.901woodburningkitchenbar.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

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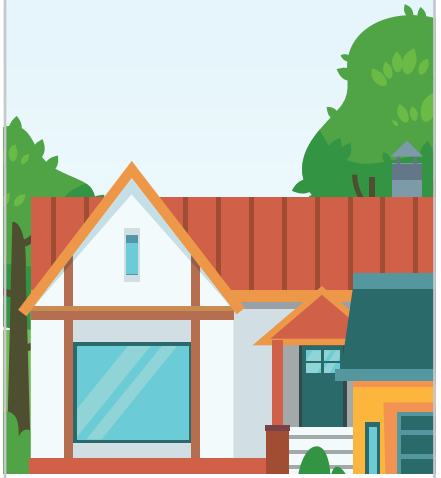

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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

Somers

UNWINED BAR & KITCHEN *Wine Bar $$*
Food ★★★ Service ★★★½ 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, veal, 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. *Tarrytown House Estate, 49 E Sunnyside Ln, Tarrytown; 914.829.5454; www.goosefeatherny.com* Pickup/Delivery

TOP 32 **MINT PREMIUM FOODS** *International $$*
Foodies to the core, Alberta and Hassan Jarane are the owners of this global foods emporium that 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

TOP 32 **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

THE CUBE INN *Cuban $$*
In a cozy, downtown setting, self-taught chef Bebe Gonzalez dishes up empanadas, bocadillos (read: sandwiches), and entrées, like ropa vieja and paella, born from family recipes and a culmination of Spanish, French, African, and Island influences. *22 Main St, Tarrytown; 914.372.7974; www.thecubeinn.net* Pickup

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

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

White Plains

TOP 32 **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

TOP 32 **BLT STEAK** *Steakhouse $$$$*
The White Plains location of this international steakhouse, located in Marriott's The Opus, Westchester (formerly The Ritz-Carlton), offers several different cuts of steak, 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/blt-steak* 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 comfort-food 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 BOTTE RISTORANTE *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

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 veal. 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, biryani, 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.com* Pickup/Delivery

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

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* Pickup/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 bomboloni. *171 E Post Road, White Plains; 914.831.3303; www.paxromanany.com* Pickup/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, poke, and mains like organic basil chicken and sesame tuna. *1086 N Broadway, Yonkers; 914.963.0777; www.isoyonkers.com* Pickup/Delivery

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Divino Cucina Italiana:
Divine in Every Way







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Fabulous food. Spectacular setting. Exciting entertainment. What's not to like?

From start to finish, Divino Cucina Italiana never disappoints. This unique cutting-edge Italian eatery features fresh house-made ingredients from pasta to Italian sausage to mozzarella made daily. If it's true that an Italian restaurant can be judged by its chicken Parmesan, Divino rises to the top with a full chicken breast pounded out wider than the plate on which it's served, topped with homemade pomodoro sauce and Divino's signature fresh mozzarella. Other signature specialties: homemade squid ink linguini topped with whole lobster, gluten-free vegetarian eggplant lasagna; vegan black bean Penne ala Vodka; and a Boozy Brunch.

Set on the edge of a hill on Warburton Avenue Bridge, the three-level restaurant overlooks the Cropsey Mansion surrounded by landscaped gardens, a lake, and waterfall. Beneath the main-level dining room and open kitchen, a lower-level speakeasy bar can be accessed through a secret entrance after hours. Although currently on pause, the speakeasy's theme nights, live jazz, cover bands, and DJ nights will resume when the time is right. On the lowest level, just steps down from the speakeasy, Divino's new outdoor dining deck wows with nature views and soothing waterfall sounds. Divino's unparalleled service keeps patrons returning not only for dining, but for celebrations from a quiet family dinner to birthday party for 50 in a private party room. Experience it for yourself — come for Italian dining at its best and end the evening with cocktails and a game of Music Bingo.

Divino is now fully open on all three levels. It doesn't get better!

DIVINO
CUCINA ITALIANA

524 Warburton Ave
Hastings-On-Hudson
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www.divinohastings.com

dining out

(Continued from previous page)

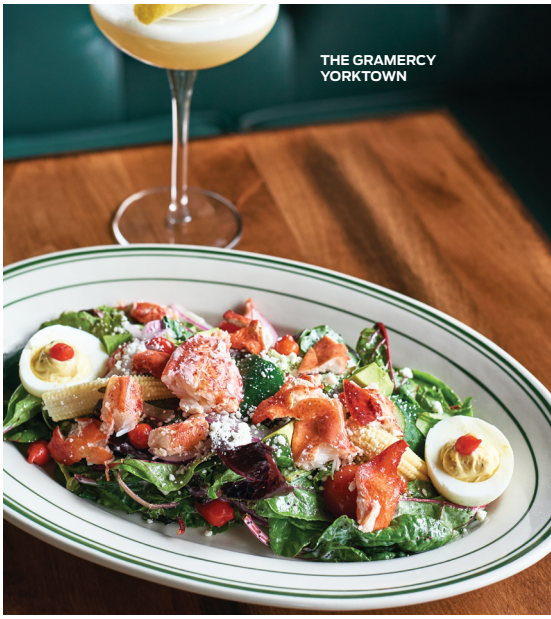

PHOTO BY MARGARITA GARCIA

PUBLIC PIZZA ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR *Italian $$$* Sister to Scarsdale's Pizza & Brew and Via Forno Wood Fired Pizza & Vinoteca, this Ridge Hill addition from the Racanelli family of eateries offers every Italian comfort classic under the Tuscan sun, plus elevated burgers, wings, steak, and inventive salads. *193 Market St, Ridge Hill, Yonkers; 914.652.7611; www.publicpizzaitaliankitchen.com* Pickup/Delivery

SALSA BEMBÉ *Puerto Rican/Latin American $$$* Across three stories and alongside traditional arroz con pollo, ropa vieja, and paella, expect inventive offerings of braised oxtail, guava barbecue ribs, and trifongo: mashed green and sweet plantains with yuca and choice of protein. *811 McLean Ave, Yonkers; 914.294.0096; www.salsabembe.com* Pickup/Delivery

TOP 32 **X2O XAVIARS ON THE HUDSON** *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 top-notch 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★★★½ Service★★★ Atmosphere★★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* Pickup/Delivery





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For updates, visit westchestermagazine.com/winefood.







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PHOTO: KATIE CHARLOTTE AND SHAUN GOTTERBARN

Celebrate the area's most outstanding interior designers, architects, landscape designers and building professionals at *Westchester Home*'s 10th Annual Design Awards!

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—Ken Green, PGA Tour and Ryder Cup veteran

MGA'S MODERN DREAM 18 (2017)

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2021

DENTAL PROFILES



PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Main Street Pediatric Dentistry

115 Main Street • Tuckahoe, NY
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Will your kids love coming to the dentist? If you take them to Dr. Penny (as children refer to Penny Resnick-Graulich, DMD, Main Street Pediatric Dentistry), chances are excellent that they will. "We make it a really fun environment, and the kids like coming here," says Dr. Penny. "We tell them about a procedure, then show them, and then do it," she says of her "tell, show, and do" desensitization process. "Nothing is scary." Dr. Penny and her associates Dr. Emelie, Dr. Danya and Dr. Fatima, do preventative and restorative dentistry. The entire office is designed to help her patients from ages 1 to 22 years, including children with special needs, have a happy experience at the dentist. "We are wheelchair accessible and our staff is trained to provide uncompromising care for every child," Dr. Penny notes. *Voted topDENTISTS* 2009-2020

Pictured, standing, from left: Emelie Preis, DDS, and Penny Resnick-Graulich, DMD
Sitting, from left: Fatima Shtivelman, DDS, and Danya Mermelstein, DMD



ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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Scarsdale Oral Surgery is a comprehensive oral surgery practice led by board certified surgeons Dr. Evan Chafitz and Dr. Timothy Leung. The practice focuses on providing office-based procedures, using state-of-the-art technology to provide implant surgery, bone grafting, dental extractions, wisdom teeth extractions, in-office anesthesia and sedation, and surgically assisted orthodontic procedures for patients receiving braces. To provide the best surgical results, our practice offers the most recent advances in technology that include intraoral 3D scanning, digital 3D X-rays, navigation surgery, and CAD/CAM production of surgical guides and temporary teeth. The practice focuses on providing personalized and efficient patient care six days a week. Our doctors also teach internationally and are on staff at leading academic institutions, including NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Touro College of Dental Medicine. Together, our experienced surgeons, our technology, and our in-house computer-assisted manufacturing capabilities allows us to be at the forefront of dental implant surgery, while keeping our fees reasonable. Voted topDENTISTS 2009-2020

Standing, left to right: Dr. Matthew Lalli, Dr. Evan Chafitz, and Dr. Timothy Leung. Seated: Dr. Heather Fugazy



COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Robert Rioseco, DMD, FAGD, AAACD

THE CENTER FOR COSMETIC DENTISTRY
147 Underhill Avenue • West Harrison, NY
914.761.8229 • www.zendentist.com

For more than 20 years, Dr. Robert Rioseco has been helping patients achieve the straightest, whitest, and healthiest teeth possible. Dr. Rioseco delivers top-level restorative and rehabilitative dentistry efficiently and comfortably. The Center for Cosmetic Dentistry is a destination for patients seeking veneers, full-mouth rehabilitation, and crowns that are computer-milled and installed on-site in about one hour, and for doctors worldwide to learn about innovative procedures. The practice is fully equipped for COVID-19 infection control, with the latest in air purification and vapor control in place and ready to go. An alumnus of Tufts University and Boston College, Dr. Rioseco holds an Academy of General Dentistry fellowship, has completed the Masters Level at the Rosenthal Institute of Aesthetic Dentistry at NYU College of Dentistry, and has trained extensively in CEREC computer-aided dentistry. Dr. Robert Rioseco is Westchester's first accredited member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. *Voted topDENTISTS* 2009-2020

Pictured: Robert Rioseco, DMD, FAGD, AAACD



GENERAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Kenneth S. Magid, DDS, FICD
Sabrina Magid-Katz, DMD

ADVANCED DENTISTRY OF WESTCHESTER
163 Halstead Avenue • Harrison, NY • 914.835.0542 • www.adofw.com

Advanced Dentistry of Westchester is as extraordinary in keeping patients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic as it is in its dental services. Beyond CDC and ADA recommendations, they create surgically clean air, use extra-oral suctions to remove and disinfect aerosols, and fog each room and themselves after every patient. Both Dr. Kenneth S. Magid and Dr. Sabrina Magid-Katz have been named Top Dentists by *Westchester Magazine* and Consumer's Research Council of America and are faculty of Honors Aesthetics at NYU. Dr. Magid is also a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, the highest dentistry honor afforded to only 4% of dentists worldwide, and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, offered to only 2% of U.S. dentists. Dr. Magid-Katz was named one of "Westchester's Rising 40 Stars Under 40" for leadership in treating deaf and hard-of-hearing patients and as a lecturer and Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine member with extensive experience identifying and treating snoring and sleep apnea. Voted *topDENTISTS* 2009-2020

Pictured: Kenneth S. Magid, DDS, FICD and Sabrina Magid-Katz, DMD



FAMILY DENTISTRY

Anthony DeBenedictis, DDS

51 W. Grand Street • Mount Vernon, NY
914.665.1121 • www.debenedictisdds.com

Welcome to the family practice of Dr. Anthony DeBenedictis, known for providing honest and dedicated dental treatment for more than 25 years. Fluent Spanish and Italian are spoken here! In-house specialists, including a prosthodontist, periodontist, and orthodontist staff this bustling practice. The clean modern office features all the latest equipment and technologies — from digital X-rays that emit less radiation, CEREC restorations for single-visit crowns, Zoom whitening, Invisalign clear braces, Implants, service of Solea laser for injection free fillings and much more — yet treatment is always gentle and painless in a relaxed atmosphere. A graduate of NYU College of Dentistry with Honors, and a member of OKU Dental Honor Society, Dr. DeBenedictis has been specialty trained in Prosthodontics at Montefiore Hospital. He has been Prosthodontic Attending at St Barnabas Hospital for 25 years and currently holds a position at Jacobi Medical Center.
Voted topDENTISTS 2009-2020

Pictured: Anthony DeBenedictis, DDS



FAMILY DENTISTRY

Tornatore Family Dental, PC

657 White Plains Road • Eastchester, NY
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Four children, one family dental practice, and 26 years of treating patients and focusing on quality and safety… Meet Drs. Robert and Carla Tornatore, who provide family dentistry in a unique ground-floor home-office setting that keeps patients safe in the current challenging environment. "To reduce the spread of airborne bacteria and viruses, our extremely sterile dental environment includes an air purification system and extraoral dental suction system that removes the aerosol particles produced during dental treatments," Dr. Robert says. As the pediatric dentist, Dr. Carla offers eco-friendly, computerized X-rays for kids, toddlers to college bound. Dr. Robert, who provides top-quality general and cosmetic dentistry, utilizes 3D CEREC/digital imaging for crowns or porcelain veneers in one visit, and a Solea Laser for soft and tooth tissue preparation and drill-less cavity treatment. Tornatore Family Dental will safely guide your family through challenging times to a lifetime of beautiful smiles. *Voted topDENTISTS* 2014-2020

Pictured: Robert Tornatore, DDS, and Carla Tornatore, DDS

2021 FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGERS

Who will be named?

Find out in a **special section** inside the August issue.

To share your opinion, go to
fivestarprofessional.com/wmconsumerfeedback



wunderkinds
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[wuhn-der-kind] -noun. plural. a person who succeeds, especially in business; at a comparatively young age.



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coming attractions

BEST BETS

EDITED BY
Paul Adler



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDIGO GIRLS

Indigo For It

With more than 40 million records sold, top-40 titles on the *Billboard* 200 over four decades, and a Grammy win, this celebrated duo must be doing something right. This month, **The Indigo Girls** will take the stage at The Palace Stamford on April 20, when members Emily Saliers and Amy Ray will undoubtedly demonstrate why they have remained a formidable force in rock since their very first album, in 1989.

Best Bets

Our favorite reasons to get out of the house (or stay in) this month. **BY PAUL ADLER**

Get Hippie

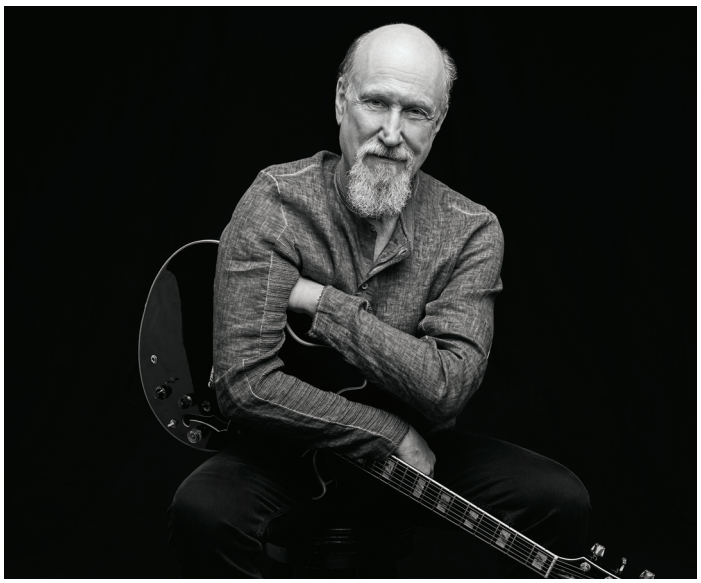
Apr 10

Those wistful for the days of Woodstock will likely find a lot to love in this concert paying tribute to the era of bellbottoms and flower power. During **A Night with Woodstock Greats: Joplin and Santana**, ex-hippies (or those who simply love classic rock) can relive the good ol' days at Peekskill's Paramount Hudson Valley Theater as musician Lisa Polizzi resurrects the sound of Janis Joplin, and JINGO, a renowned, seven-piece, Latin-rock band, performs such Santana hits as "Black Magic Woman," "Smooth," and "Oye Como Va."

Masonry

Ongoing thru May 23

Emily Mason breathed new life into abstract art over her illustrious career. Mason, who passed away in 2019, produced eye-catching creations formed by countless thin layers of brilliant paint superimposed by bold shapes. She also made prized prints that echo the method of legendary surrealist Joan Miró. Drop by Greenwich's recently reopened Bruce Museum to catch **"She Sweeps with Many Colored Blooms": Paintings and Prints by Emily Mason**, which chronicles the astonishing career of this deeply underappreciated artist.



Jazz Man

Apr 13

The winner of three Grammys, the Miles Davis Award, and collaborator with the likes of Davis himself, as well as John Mayer and Herbie Hancock, **John Scofield** is a serious force in the world of jazz-rock. This month, local audiences can catch the recipient of the French government's coveted *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* locally at The Ridgefield Playhouse, where he will take the stage with the signature sound that has made him a figurehead of modern music.



On the Border

Ongoing thru May 9

Two acclaimed artists explore the concept of the Mexican-American border and its human impact in this moving collaboration at Yonkers' Hudson River Museum. ***Border Cantos / Sonic Border*** brings photographer Richard Misrach into creative conversation with sculptor and composer Guillermo Galindo, via a series of photographs by Misrach accompanied by Galindo's eight-instrument composition "Sonic Border." Both reference the humanitarian issues on our southern boundary, as well as the ways in which migration intersects with our shared values.

SCOFIELD PHOTO BY NICK SUTTLE/COURTESY OF RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE; ON THE BORDER PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HUDSON RIVER MUSEUM. ARTIST: GUILLERMO GALINDO, BORN 1960 *EFFIGY*, 2014 EFFIGIE IMMIGRANTS' CLOTHING, WOOD AXIS, AND STRINGS 66 × 22 × 48 IN. (167.6 × 55.9 × 121.9 CM) ART BRIDGES

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2021

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WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE



Rock(well) On!

Norman Rockwell was an unapologetic sentimentalist.

In his 20th-century heyday, Rockwell's harshest critics sniffed that he was overrated, less an artist than a popular commercial illustrator. Folksy depictions of everyday Americans, they said, were mostly a figment of his imagination and out of step with the times.

Rockwell, who died in 1978, at age 84, was no Rothko. His brand of innocent realism was the polar opposite to modernism. As an artist, he was like a poet whose verses always rhyme, an unpardonable sin to the snobs.

Rockwell shrugged it off. "The view of life I communicate in my pictures excludes the sordid and ugly," he once said. "I paint life as I would like it to be."

Those "ideal aspects" of life captured a shared cultural memory — featuring, as Rockwell put it, "foxy grandpas who played baseball with the kids and boys who fished from logs and got up circuses in the backyard."

As such, Rockwell's art was conceived in a spirit of unmitigated kindness; he created mirrors, reflecting small, precious moments meant to be instantly recognized. Ultimately, it was about optimism — perhaps the rarest of human commodities at this crossroads in history, when most Americans despair that the country is simply headed in the wrong direction.

In a national crisis, Rockwell rose to the occasion. During the darkest days of World War II, he raised citizen morale with his classic representations of the *Four Freedoms — Freedom from Want*, *Freedom from Fear*, *Freedom of Worship*, and *Freedom of Speech*. That last "freedom" seems especially under siege in today's unforgiving, internet-driven cancel culture.

Biographically speaking, Westchester owns a piece of Norman Rockwell. Much of his childhood was spent in Mamaroneck, in a five-bedroom house with a broad front porch at 415 Prospect Avenue, not far from Long Island Sound.

Mamaroneck in Rockwell's day was, well, like a Rockwell painting — a semirural idyll. Here, the budding artist liked to draw pictures of pirates, sang in the choir at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and delivered newspapers by bicycle to the rich folks who lived on Orienta Point.

But Rockwell performed poorly in school. In 1909, he entered Mamaroneck High School and began "three years of unremitting academic struggle," according to Deborah Solomon, author of *American Mirror — The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell*.

He failed algebra and dropped out after his junior year. (The class of '65 later gave him an honorary diploma. In return, he gave the district a painting titled *Goin' Fishin*, which was later stolen, recovered and, though it came back damaged, must be worth a small fortune today.)



"Westchester owns a piece of Norman Rockwell. Much of his childhood was spent in Mamaroneck, in a five-bedroom house with a broad front porch..."

Rockwell was an awkward adolescent in Mamaroneck, but he got his footing in New Rochelle, where he launched his career as a popular illustrator of books and magazines. He lived and painted there for 25 years, often employing local residents to serve as models.

Leap forward many decades, to 2013. That year, a Rockwell work, *Saying Grace*, sold at auction for $46 million. Done in 1951, the painting shows a woman and a small boy sitting at a table in a crowded diner, praying over a modest meal. This was quintessential Rockwell — moving and unabashedly sentimental.

It almost goes without saying that everyone in *Saying Grace* was White, which was usually the case with Rockwell's best-known paintings. As the civil rights era dawned, he was criticized for taking refuge in a fantasy world of the past while avoiding uncomfortable social issues, like American racism. Sadly, it's highly predictable that in this present age of division and surly hyperbole, Rockwell would get slammed as a shill for White privilege.

Of course, he wasn't that at all.

Later in life, he embraced social realism, perhaps most notably with the 1964 painting *The Problem We All Live With*, which depicted Ruby Bridges, a brave Black child with book in hand, being escorted by federal agents into a newly integrated elementary school in New Orleans.

That painting was displayed in the White House when Barack Obama was president.

Were he alive today, what would Rockwell paint? Where would he find hope? It's hard to guess.

But we do know he had a tried-and-true formula, which he summed up this way: "If a picture wasn't going very well, I'd put a puppy in it."

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

REISMAN PHOTOGRAPH BY STEFAN RADTKE; ROCKWELL IMAGES ARE PUBLIC DOMAIN/WIKIPEDIA

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