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Mrs. Larkin's scones

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Best Places to Live

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By Cristiana Caruso, Joe Cesarano, and Duke Ratliff

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By Michelle Gillan Larkin

On the cover: 183 Grace Church St, Rye; photo courtesy Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty

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"The sports staff were **sui generis.** *They were colorful, offbeat, and memorable — some of whom were borderline deviants and many of whom were otherwise unemployable."*

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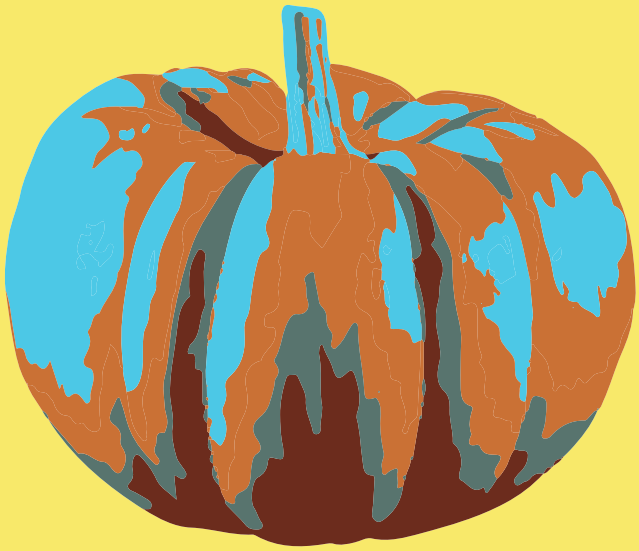
"That was probably the worst day for me in law enforcement. You always remember the bad days more than the good ones."

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"Small breweries that really served the community and where you'd go on a Sunday afternoon; they were gathering places for the town."

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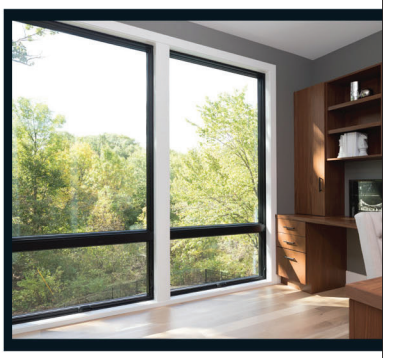
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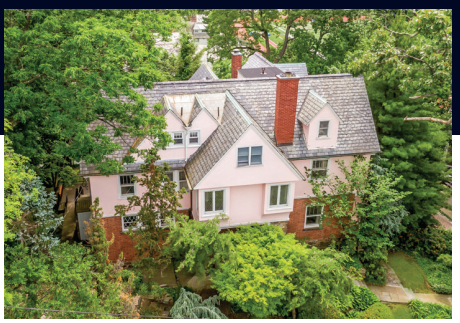
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Having Your Phil?



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My initial consideration for the subject of this memo related to our cover story, "Best Places to Live" (page 66) and the associated chart, "Real Estate by the Numbers" (pages 76-77). I had thoughts on the boffo median-home-sales-price numbers, as well as the percentage of change in those prices (looking especially at you, Lewisboro, North Salem, and Bedford).

That was until the readers' letters started coming.

We received an overwhelming response in our letters-to-the-editor section (Sound Off) to Phil Reisman's September Back Talk column, titled "E Unum Pluribus," which addressed the topic of divisiveness across the country. Reisman's columns typically generate feedback, but this essay generated more than the usual amount and was especially passionate either in praise or condemnation.

So, I decided to devote this Editor's Memo to a mini-Q&A with Reisman himself, our intrepid opinion columnist, who is so loved — yet vilified — by our readership.

WM: Several readers wrote that you were not even-handed in attributing blame for why the country is so divided (basically asserting that it's the progressives/woke types who are responsible). What say you?
Phil Reisman: I scoffed when I saw the reader comment "Leave it to Phil Reisman" to turn a touching story into a "polemic," as if everything I have written over the years for *Westchester Magazine* has been vetted and approved by the producers of Fox News. (Speaking of Fox, I can only assume this particular reader missed a *WM* column I once wrote, calling out the former Fox host Bill O'Reilly for his moral hypocrisy.) It strikes me as funny, too, because most of my Back Talk columns have been anodyne takes on such noncontroversial subjects as UFO sightings, Lou Gehrig's house in New Rochelle, and so on — though it wouldn't surprise me if, say, die-hard Red Sox fans thought the Gehrig piece was a "polemic." We live in a time when offense is so easily taken and anger so easily provoked.
WM: Any other comments on your "E Unum Pluribus" column?
PR: I don't take back anything [I wrote] about the squad or "wokeism." Nor do I take back my stated belief that getting the COVID-19 vaccine is a patriotic gesture, though polls have shown that Republicans have been most resistant to the idea.
WM: Is there a favorite Back Talk you've written for us?
PR: I have a point of view; I expressed it, and I got a lot of reaction, some good and some bad. For that reason, I consider ["E Unum Pluribus"] to be a success — and therefore my favorite column of all the ones I have produced for *WM* going back to 2017.
WM: Do you write your column with a certain reader in mind?
PR: I consider myself middle-of-the-road, which generally means I please no one. I don't write in an echo chamber. That said, it's possible that had I made a more explicit comment about "Trumpism" — which I also abhor — [certain] readers might have been happier… but I doubt it.

It is fitting to remember that any opinion columnist worth his/her keyboard will, and should, get a rise out of readers every now and again. If there's never a reaction, that means there are likely no opinions of value being expressed. And, after all, his last name is *Reisman*.

In this issue, Phil's Back Talk column takes on haunted houses. Hopefully, no ghosts are among our readers, lest they get offended.



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Regarding "E Unum Pluribus" [Back Talk, September]:
I agree with Phil Reisman's article and admire his courage to tell it like it is in the politically correct world we've become. I'm 72 years old and fear for this country. We had all better look within and make the changes in ourselves before it is too late.
—Diane Kelly, Hawthorne

Phil Reisman's recent column ... is full of the very divisiveness that he suggests is rampant in our society. Take notice of the reference to "Squadsters believe we're the bad guys." Where is the unity in that statement?... As much as *Westchester Magazine* has worked towards inclusiveness, your efforts are smacked back by Reisman's stinging words.
—Doris Davis, Hartsdale

It appears that Phil is fed up with political correctness except when it comes to his own somewhat racist views.
—Alan Denzer, Bronxville

Thank you for being brave enough to say what a lot of us are thinking. Bravo!
—Mark Sotsky, Town Withheld

One of the best things I've read in a very long time. I think it really sums up the sentiment felt by many Americans. We are all fortunate to be able to share in the writing talent of Phil Reisman.
—Samuel P., Town Withheld

I am sick and tired of Mr. Reisman's right-wing rants.... [Westchester] is a mostly Democratic district, and every month your magazine has his one-sided opinions. This month, he attacks Rep. Omar but never mentions the filth and antisemitism that comes out of Marjorie Taylor Greene; he attacks President Biden but doesn't mention the attack on the Capitol...and Trump's part in it. Why do you allow this garbage every month? If you are going to have him spew right-wing hatred, then I suggest you have someone to counter him.
—Louise Di Nunzio, Town Withheld

Leave it to Phil Reisman to turn a touching story of Angelica Paradise's love for this country in the aftermath of 9/11 into a one-sided polemic of the kind I'd normally

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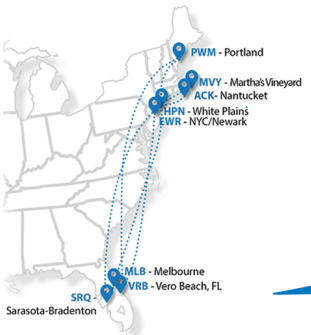
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sound off

expect to hear from Tucker Carlson and his ilk.... As a longtime reader of *Westchester Magazine*, I've come to expect this sort of tripe from Mr. Reisman. But I'm increasingly disappointed by the failure of the editors to offer any counterbalance to Mr. Reisman's political diatribes.

—Louis Sorell, Katonah

Editor's Note

Please see page 16, in which WM *Editor John Turiano interviews Reisman about his "E Unum Pluribus" column.*

FROM SOCIAL MEDIA:

Regarding "The House That Gehrig Built" [Back Talk, August]:

I grew up in New Rochelle and never knew this ... but it's always exciting to read these stories. I used to have a paper route in New Rochelle, delivering the *Standard Star*. That goes way back. [Opera singer] Jan Peerce and Johnny Carson were on my route. Never saw either of them, but I delivered [their] papers.

—Michael Hains, Asheboro, NC

Regarding our article "Mex to the Max!" [Cover, August]:

I want to alert you to a problem that vegetarians have. Many...Mexican restaurants feature either vegetable dishes or vegetarian dishes such as chile relleno, cheese enchilada, and burritos, etc. What the menus don't state is that their rice is usually...made with chicken stock. And their beans are sometimes made with pork. Thus, vegetable dishes or vegetarian dishes are actually not so. I believe that this needs to be investigated.

—Richard Spitz, White Plains

Regarding our online article, "Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Unveils $2.4 Million Patient Welcome Center":

And this is good investment in patient care, cost reduction, etc., how?

—Bob Zahm

Regarding our online article, "Careers by the Numbers: Jobs That Pay Off in Westchester":

What about post-office jobs, police, firemen, security, drivers of buses, trains, and trucks?

—Sandra Harrison

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WED | SEP 22 NEW EVENT!

Party on the Pier at Playland

6:00PM-9:00PM | Rye Playland, Rye, NY
Tickets: **$50 pp** | **$450** Party pack of 10

THU | SEP 23

Burger & Beer Blast

6:00PM-10:00PM
Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, NY
Tickets: **$75 pp** | **$700** Party pack of 10

FRI | SEP 24 NEW EVENT!

Wine Collectors' Dinner

6:30PM-9:30PM
X20 Xaviars on the Hudson, Yonkers, NY
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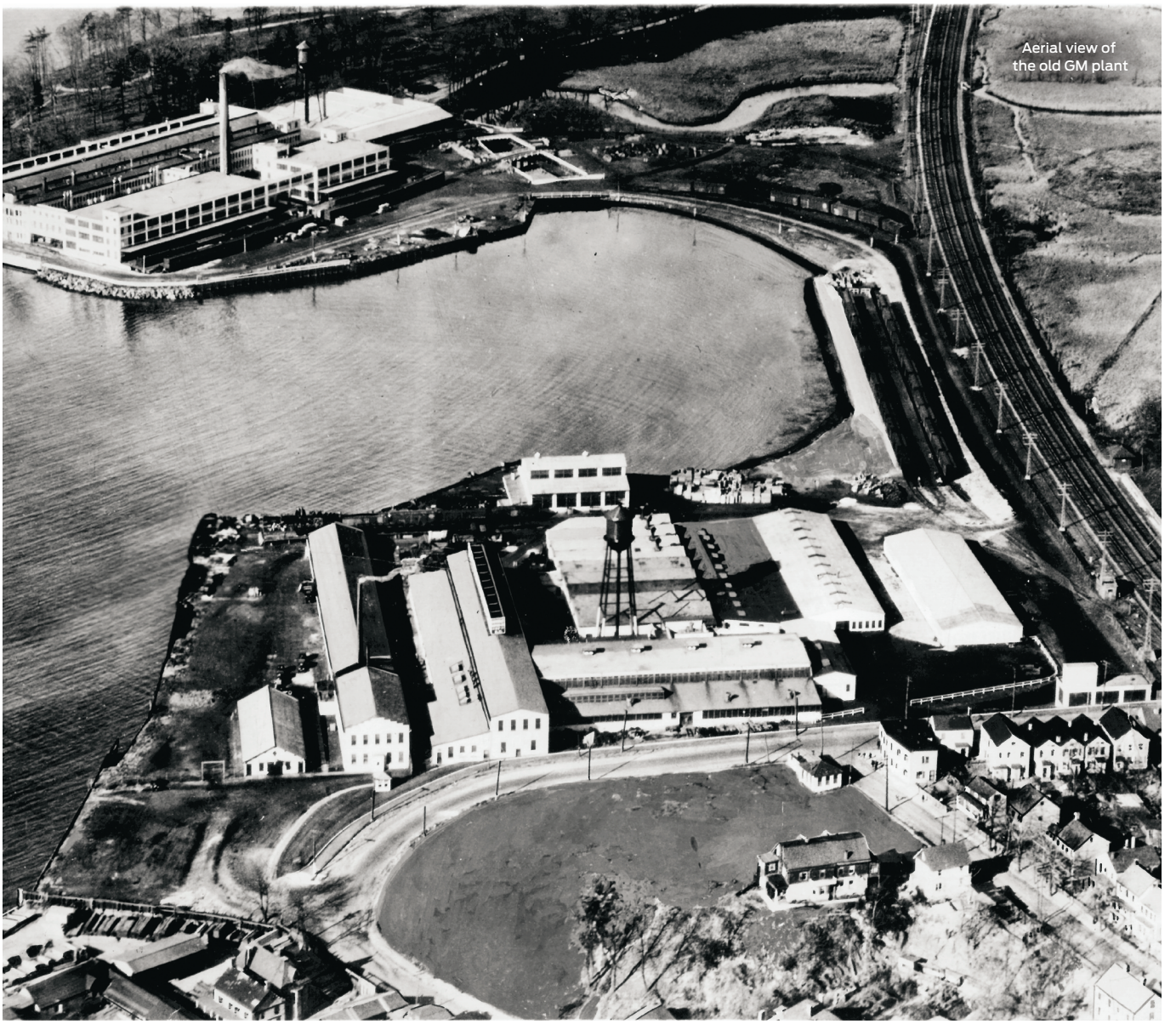
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Aerial view of the old GM plant

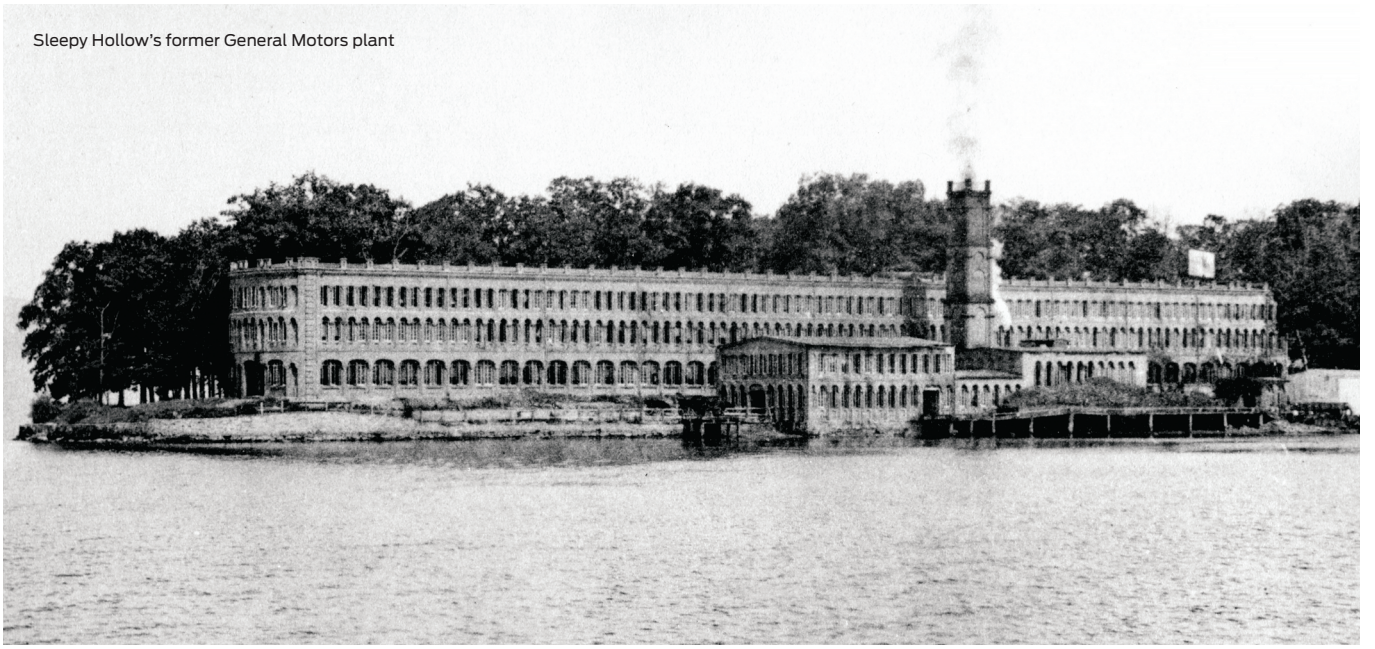
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SERVING SLEEPY HOLLOW AND TARRYTOWN

HISTORY

Auto Biography

25 years has passed since the GM plant shutdown in what was then known as North Tarrytown. Now, Sleepy Hollow is on the road to a comeback.

By Jared McDade



Sleepy Hollow's former General Motors plant

PLANT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SERVING SLEEPY HOLLOW AND TARRYTOWN

HISTORY

End of an Era

25 years after closing, GM's outsized footprint gets new life as a mixed-use mecca. **By Jared McDade**

In many ways, the closing of the General Motors plant in Sleepy Hollow marked the end of an era, both for Westchester and beyond. June 28 of this year marked the 25th anniversary of the plant's shuttering, which back then was followed by all sorts of speculation — much of it dire — about what would happen next.

The site has contributed to the economic life of The Tarrytowns for more than 120 years and has an interesting history. In 1900, in a building designed by prominent society architect Stanford White, the Mobile Company of America began making the Walker Steamer, a steam-powered automobile, which shortly gave way to the production of the Maxwell Briscoe gas-powered car. The first Maxwells rolled off the line in 1904 and continued uninterrupted for the next nine years, establishing The Tarrytowns as a modern manufacturing hub. In 1913, the Maxwell Briscoe Company merged with the United States Motor Company but within eight weeks filed for bankruptcy and sold its Tarrytown plant for $267,000. The buyer was the Chevrolet Motor Company.

In early 1915, the plant began turning out the Chevrolet Model 490, one of many cars influenced by prominent racecar driver and company namesake Louis Chevrolet. Three years on, the firm expanded again, merging with the owner of Pontiac, Buick, Cadillac, and Oldsmobile, changing its name to General Motors Corporation and eventually becoming the biggest car manufacturer in the world. From 1915 to 1996, the plant was the region's largest employer — running three shifts at its peak and fueling the local economy. The plant ultimately churned out more than 11 million cars and trucks. The last vehicle rolled off the line in June 1996, concluding the run of the longest continuously operating manufacturing facility in the GM family.

Since 1996, GM has worked with the Village of Sleepy Hollow to make the site ready for its next chapter. In 2014, Diversified Realty Advisors and SunCal bought the property and broke ground in 2016 for the 70-acre Edge-on-Hudson project. Led by master developers Biddle Real Estate Ventures and PCD Development, the multiphase plan includes construction of 1,200 housing units — ranging from affordable housing to units priced at more than $1 million, with spectacular views of the Hudson River — and retail space for a DeCicco & Sons food market, a pharmacy, and a 140-room hotel. Phase Two of construction has begun but will take several years to complete. In March, the project won the coveted Gold Award as the Multifamily Community of the Year, nationwide, from the National Association of Home Builders.

***Purchase resident Jared McDade was a 28-year employee of General Motors in Tarrytown and author of the book* GM Tarrytown: An Autobiography.**



The townhomes at Edge-on-Hudson. The project won the Gold Award from the National Association of Home Builders in March.

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ART

Mini Masterpiece

Chappaqua's Joanna Fisher assembled dozens of artists to create an incredible dollhouse on its way to The Bruce Museum. **By Paul Adler**

Joanna Fisher is still a bit stunned at how her life changed during the pandemic. "It's really funny, because if someone said to me, 'You are going to be a famous miniatures artist,' I would have replied, 'What are you talking about?'" laughs the Chappaqua-based artist and collector. "I have been commissioned to make pillows for Takashimaya and been around [the art world] for quite a while, but I never thought I would be known for this."

When Fisher says "this," she's referring to a miniature work of art that has been drawing countless heads and plenty of press since its May completion. *The Fisher Dollhouse* is a 10 room, 15th-century-themed mini-masterpiece populated by astounding works of art created by a host of acclaimed artists and Fisher's friends over the pandemic. Participants include the likes of Federico de Francesco, Veronica Gaido, Tatyana Murray, Michele Oka Doner, Antonio Pio Saracino, Dustin Yellin, Rachel Lee Hovnanian, Ryan McGinness, Hunt Slonem, and Darren Waterston.

Palazzo garnered enough buzz to land its own exhibition (from May to September) at New York City's Museum of Arts and Design before moving to the Bruce Museum, where it will be on show beginning this month. Following The Bruce, the work is off to Palermo, Sicily. Some of the priceless pieces found in *Palazzo* include two intricate glass chandeliers by Spanish artists Mariana Grande and Mario Ramos, a detailed bust of Julius Caesar by miniaturist David Castillo, and tiny needlepoint rugs designed by Fisher herself.



PHOTOS BY JENNA BASCOM



"Since it was created during the pandemic, everyone was working in isolation and were thrilled to have this mini project, since there were no art shows, no galleries open, and they had the time," recalls Fisher. "It was a quiet period for them, and they could really think about the palazzo and have fun with it."

Fisher has already begun work on a new miniature, this one bearing a Dutch theme and far more personal elements. "It going to be very different [from *The Fisher Dollhouse*]. It's much more naturalistic," explains Fisher of the new work. "The elements are a little cruder and more handmade looking, and I am using mostly German pieces that are more primitive. Essentially, I am doing a tiny version of my barn here in Chappaqua, so it is a barn within a barn. It's called a Dutch House, and nobody has made one in over 400 years."

EDITORS' OBSESSIONS

We Can't Shut Up About...



Blowing off the day's steam from work or getting your early-morning grind in at **Transform Fitness** in Tuckahoe will leave you feeling sweaty, strong, and superhero-like. A workout at this converted auto repair shop is the best way to shake the seasonal blues. Ask for Frank DiPasquale — he's the best trainer there.

—Cristiana Caruso, Associate Editor



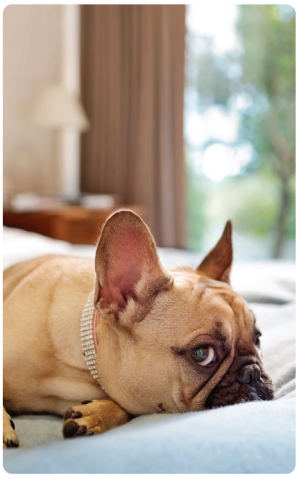
Whether you're embarking on a weekend baking project or simply looking for a super-cool café to while away the day, it is difficult to do better than **Mast Market**. This Mount Kisco gem doles out house-made baked goods (try the almond butter cookies), as well as top-tier coffee, a host of exceptional pantry items, and even artisan marshmallows, for some truly next-level s'mores.

—Paul Adler, Associate Editor

PHOTOS *(LEFT)* BY ADOBESTOCK USER ALEKSEJ; *(RIGHT)* MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN











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HEALTH

The Heart of Innovation

White Plains Hospital adds open-heart surgery to its roster of vital services.

White Plains Hospital (WPH) has been expanding the scope of its cardiac services, and now the award-winning institution is taking a bold step in their long-running heart program. In the coming weeks, WPH will begin offering open-heart surgery, a first for the organization.

According to Dr. Kaare Weber, director of surgery and associate medical director for surgical services at WPH, the new service fills a gap in the hospital's already formidable heart program. "In a little over a decade, White Plains Hospital has made several significant advancements in the level of cardiac care provided to the community," explains Weber, pointing to catheterization labs founded in 2008 and a dynamic cardiac electrophysiology program established over the last three years.

"However, missing from this equation had been cardiac surgery. With our new cardiac surgery





Dr. Kaare Weber

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

program, we will be providing sophisticated cardiac services, including aortic valve surgery, cardiac artery bypass surgery, and mitral valve repair and replacement," says Weber. "To support this program, we continue to transform our operating rooms, ICUs, and inpatient rooms. Included is a hybrid operating room, which will allow us to perform the latest cardiac procedures, including transcatheter aortic valve replacements."

Weber is excited about offering more options when it comes to care. "Currently, nearly 80 percent of patients who need cardiac surgery leave Westchester County for care," he says. "Through our partnership with the Montefiore Health System, White Plains Hospital will soon be at the forefront of cardiac surgery, with internationally renowned surgeons from Montefiore Einstein performing these highly complex procedures in Westchester." —*PA*

Wartburg

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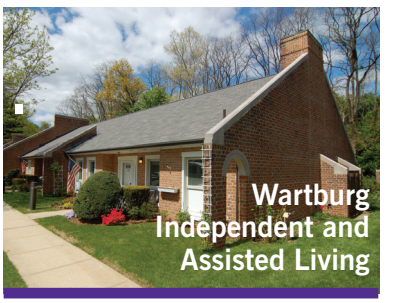
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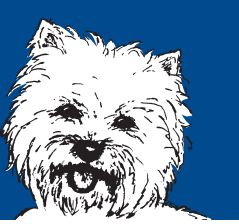
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first things first

EXPRESS LANE

1 The book is finally closed on Westchester's 12-year-long Affordable Housing Settlement, a federal civil rights case involving housing segregation and exclusionary zoning. The U.S. district court ruled the county came into compliance with the order to further fair and affordable housing when it built 750 such units in 31 of the county's least diverse communities.

2 Westchester Medical Center is the first hospital in the Hudson Valley to offer a new brain tumor treatment called GammaTile Therapy, which aims to delay a tumor's progression, spare healthy tissue, and reduce the level of post-surgery radiation.

3 Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) is the top regional hospital in Westchester County, according to *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual ratings survey, which cites excellence in orthopedics, stroke, geriatrics, heart failure, and lung cancer, among other specialties.

4 Right up there with Belize, Tuscany, and Hawaii, *Time* lists the Hudson Valley among its top 100 places to visit, noting Blue Hill at Stone Barns, a crop of new hotels, and LEGOLAND in Goshen as the main draws.



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5 Proving, yet again, that Westchester is the place to live... the 2020 census shows the county is home to a whopping 1,004,457 residents (up from the 2010 count of 949,113), making this the first time the county has surpassed the one-million population threshold.

6 The East 3rd Street bridge, connecting Mount Vernon and Pelham, is being renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and former activist and Pelham native Michael Henry Schwerner, who was killed by the KKK in Mississippi in June 1964.

7 Hold on to your cups, Mountain Dew drinkers... your favorite, citrusy soda will soon pack added punch, as Purchase-based PepsiCo launches a bold and boozy Hard Mtn Dew (in three flavors) early in the new year.

—Michelle Gillan Larkin



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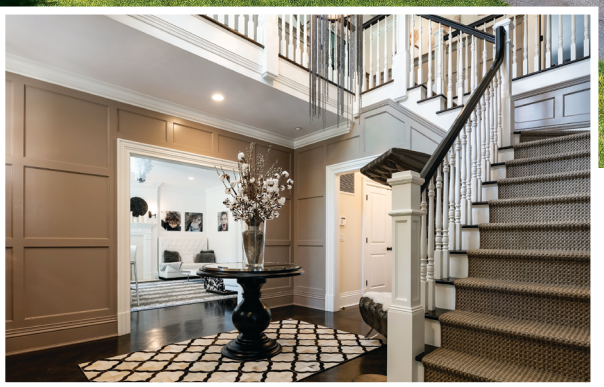
home & property

ON THE MARKET | DECOR | FOR SALE IN | MEDIAN PRICE | EXPERT PANEL | BARGAIN HUNT

EDITED BY *Duke Ratliff*



PHOTOS BY DANIEL MISLTEIN





ON THE MARKET

Contemporary Colonial

$3,695,000

8 Dellwood Farm Way, Armonk | 5 BR, 5.1 BA | 7,023 sq. ft. | 8.59 acres | $52,223 est. taxes

Revel in the fall foliage from the luxury of the gorgeous, private stone patio that connects to a screened-in porch. This stunning Colonial melds an elegant feel with a traditional build. Buyers will love the gourmet kitchen, spacious living room, formal dining room, master suite with fireplace and soaking tub, and swim spa and sports court. *—By Cristiana Caruso*

Listed by Aurora Banaszek, Compass

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

DECOR

Get Cozy

Enjoy your time indoors this season, with these plush accessories.

By Gina Valentino



Mongolian Faux Fur Stool, $229
Pottery Barn
White Plains
potterybarn.com



Lush Velvet Pillow Covers, From $32.50
West Elm, Scarsdale
westelm.com

Faux Fur Snow Leopard Throw $99.95
CB2; *cb2.com*



Yeti Sheepskin Armchair, $2,995
RH; *rh.com*



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FOR SALE IN

Bucolic Bedford

Three homes across the price spectrum that are currently on the market in Bedford.

By Duke Ratliff

Bedford attracts plenty of celebrities and the otherwise well-heeled for good reason: The quaint town's real estate offerings are simply fabulous, combining exquisite homes and plenty of acreage. Below are three properties that exemplify what all the fuss is about.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMPASS REALTY

$3,795,000

11 Piping Brook Ln

5 BR, 3.2 BA; 6,867 sq. ft; 2 acres; $61,600 estimated taxes

Listed by Carine Nowack, Compass Realty

This ultra-modern home was flawlessly renovated in 2018, and it sits on a resort-like private property. The kitchen is the heart of this house, with high-end appliances, Italian cabinetry, and granite peninsular with seating that opens to a den with a fireplace and wet bar. A Fiberon deck stretches the length of the house and features a built-in grill, pizza oven, and refrigerator.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM RAVEIS

$2,775,000

21 Old Logging Road

4 BR, 5.2 BA; 7,143 sq. ft.; 3.2 acres; $60,078 estimated taxes

Listed by Eric S. Rosenfeld, William Raveis

This stone-and-shingle Colonial provides amenities for today's lifestyle, plus offers privacy for outdoor living at its best. A flexible floor plan features a family entertainment room, two large, private home offices, fitness rooms, and more than 1,500 square feet of roof-covered outdoor space. An open country kitchen and large family room with French doors leading to the veranda provide a natural gathering spot.

$949,000

14 Helena Drive

4 BR, 2.2 BA; 3,237 sq. ft.; 2.31 acres; $18,140 est. taxes

Listed by Martha Violante, Houlihan Lawrence

This picturesque, fully remodeled home features large, sun-drenched rooms, including an oversized family room, and an open-concept floor plan. Recent renovations provided a two-story addition, vaulted ceilings, new windows, and refinished floors. In pristine condition, this home is move-in ready.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUILHAN LAWRENCE



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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLDWELL BANKER

MEDIAN PRICE

Stuck in the Middle With You

An unprecedented real estate market has resulted in the drastic increase in home prices.

As County Executive George Latimer said recently, "Westchester County is a desirable place to live." Over the past year, homebuyers and sellers have proved him correct as they continued to push the price of homes through the roof. At press time, the median price for a single-family house in Westchester was a whopping $835,000. Here is an example of what that amount will buy in Dobbs Ferry:

71 Northfield Avenue: $835,000
4 BR, 3.1 BA, 5,192 sq. ft., .12 acres; $22,515 est. taxes

A bright and spacious first floor comes with a fireplace that complements a large living room; an open-concept kitchen features custom cabinetry. Slide doors just off the kitchen lead to a large deck for outdoor fun and entertaining, while the soaking tub in the master bathroom provides the perfect escape.

Listed by Therese Militana Valvano, Coldwell Banker —CC

EXPERT PANEL

Winterize Your Home

Local experts share how to prepare your house for the colder months ahead.

"I love pillows in luxe, soft fabrics, like velvet, cashmere, or sherpa, to make a room feel cozy. Opt for the deep, rich, jewel tones. I love to add stacks of books on the end tables or coffee table — an invitation to curl up and relax. Lit candles add a beautiful dimension. If you enjoy fresh flowers in your home, try a chalky black vase instead of crystal for the fall and winter months. The sharp contrast will make tulips or other seasonal flowers look dynamic and vibrant."

—Debra Funt, Debra Funt Interiors

"With plants being all the rage (fiddle leaf and olive trees), we like to bring in faux foliage to act as seasonal greenery, such as red or yellow branches in the fall or faux-snow-frosted pine cones for a centerpiece. Changing pillows and throws that have more seasonal colors can also prep your home for the change in season. Thick and cozy throws make you want to snuggle up next to a fire with a cup of tea."

—Erin Coren & Lina Galvão, Curated Nest Interiors

"While there are many important decisions to make in preparing one's home for the colder months, if you're not a Bob Villa-type do-it-yourselfer, the most important step would be to have a professional roofer, plumber, and electrician's phone number on speed-dial. Murphy's Law says you're going to need them at the least-convenient time of the winter season."

—Michael Murphy, Murphy Brothers Contracting —GV

BARGAIN HUNT

Picture-Perfect

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

With its North Tarrytown days long in the (GM) rearview mirror, Sleepy Hollow continues to evolve into a sought-after suburban enclave. Leafy, comfortable neighborhoods coexist near a bustling downtown.

Sleepy Hollow Median Home Price:
$855,000 (*June 2021*)

The Bargain: $625,000
123 Van Tassel Ave
5 BR, 3 BA, 2,366 sq. ft.; .08 acres;
$18,609 est. taxes





PHOTO COURTESY OF HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

What You Get:
With an open floor plan, this five-bedroom, three-bath home on a quiet street in Sleepy Hollow offers room for everyone. It features a large family room and living room with a fireplace, an eat-in kitchen with island, and sliding doors to the deck. It's close to the park and public transportation. —*DR*

Listed by Andrea Martone, Houlihan Lawrence





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EDITED BY *Gina Valentino*



PHOTO COURTESY OF LULAAV

BEAUTY

A Win for Skin

A Scarsdale resident creates a clean skincare label. **By Gina Valentino**

Since the start of COVID-19, the focus in the beauty industry has shifted from makeup to skincare. A new product to consider trying is a face serum by Scarsdale resident Shira Tabib, from her new skincare line, **Lulaav** (*lulaav.com*).

Her idea to create a label came about five years ago, when her daughter asked her what cream she used for her face. Tabib then realized that she could not pronounce half the ingredients. She looked for a skincare brand she would feel comfortable with her daughter wearing yet couldn't find one.

"I originally formulated it for my daughter," says Tabib of Lulaav. "If I'm going to put it on her skin, it had to be the cleanest of clean ingredients."

Tabib created a small "laboratory" in her laundry room and tested prototypes of the skincare product she created. She then started getting feedback from friends. "Before I knew it, I had 20 women asking me [about my skincare]."

The current product available in her line is a face serum, which contains all-vegan, cruelty-free ingredients, 26 botanicals, and a bioactive floral complex. It is a product inspired largely by Tabib's roots. "My parents were entrepreneurs, and I wanted to follow in their footsteps. My grandmother in Israel would use [skincare] products that she made herself."

Tabib sources ingredients from all over the world: aloe juice from the USA and South America, plum seed from Turkey, rose flower oil from Bulgaria, geranium from Egypt, and dates from Israel.

The ingredients are high-quality, as Tabib "didn't want to cut any corners." No parabens, phthalates, or synthetic fragrances are used. The product is "all-natural, from Mother Earth, from the planet," Tabib explains. "It absorbs super quick; it's a light formula, not too thick."

While she intends to create more products for her skincare line, she started with the serum, as it's the "foundation of a woman's skincare regimen."

SHOP

The Gift of Comfort

A Briarcliff mom launches a luxe-gift-box biz.

By Dylan Rubinstein



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS GARITO PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF PEACEFUL PICKINGS

Briarcliff-based Peaceful Pickings offers thoughtful, high-end gift boxes.

During a time of difficulty, a simple act of kindness became the inspiration behind Briarcliff resident Dawn Catucci's new business, **Peaceful Pickings** (*peacfulpickings.com*).

When Catucci's son underwent heart surgery at age 15, a family friend gifted him a soft throw blanket. The not-your-typical-flowers-and-well-wishes gift stood out to Catucci and became a source of comfort for her son throughout his experience.

When the pandemic hit, Catucci started creating curated gift boxes to make her loved ones smile, just as her son had when he received that thoughtful blanket years earlier. After Catucci had created her 10th box, she realized her passion project had small-business potential.

"[Our experience with my son's surgery] inspired us to create gift boxes that can serve as symbols of comfort and peace for those who receive them through all of life's ups and downs," Catucci explains.

As an alternative to standard gifts of flowers, balloons, and meals, Peaceful Pickings offers boxes that can include an ultra-soft microfiber throw blanket, handmade essential oil soap, a votive candle, silk eye mask, stainless tumbler, and organic popcorn.

There are specific boxes tailored toward couples, those working from home, and newborns, in addition to general boxes. Mini-boxes are $55 and luxury boxes are $75. Corporate versions are also available. The products available are also for sale a la carte by the biz, and some can be customized.

"Our true wish is that our boxes allow the opportunity for relaxation, rejuvenation… the ability to feel pampered every single day for everyone and certainly for families going through hard times," says Catucci.

Catucci also donates boxes to charities, like the Ronald McDonald House, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, and to families with sick children.

Peaceful Pickings products are available online and at March Boutique in Briarcliff Manor.







PHOTOS BY LUIS RUIZ/LARU STUDIOS, COURTESY OF THRIVE STUDIO

FITNESS

Thrive at Thrive

Pelham barre studio offers an incredible workout.

Whether you're a ballerina or a fitness novice, **Thrive Studio** (*125 Wolfs Ln; thrivestudiony.com*) in Pelham is an excellent choice for a killer workout. The charming studio is inclusive, community-oriented, and the instructors are high-energy and ultra-motivating for their in-studio, virtual, and outdoor classes. In-studio classes include core barre and 305 Fitness. Core barre — 45- or 60-minutes — is a no-impact class that focuses on total-body strength and flexibility and includes concepts from ballet, yoga, and Pilates (a challenging workout). Meanwhile, 305 Fitness is a high-intensity cardio class designed to be a dance party, complete with pumping music. In-person classes require proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Virtual classes include 45- or 60-minute barre classes and private group classes. Outdoor classes include barre-less barre and 305 Fitness. The studio has a small boutique and offers nutrition programs for a holistic health experience. —*GV*



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TRAVEL

Seeing Red

Sedona's iconic red rocks host one of the country's best wellness retreats. **By Samantha Garbarini**

As the highway leads north from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to Sedona, passing through arid landscape scattered with cacti, the red rocks finally appear in the distance. Formed slowly over millions of years, the walls of striated red stone go on for miles, stretching across canyons with almost otherworldly beauty. A natural wonder of the American Southwest, Sedona's red rocks have also carried spiritual significance for centuries.

Today, most people who come to this Northern Arizona resort destination incorporate some form of wellness into their vacations — something sorely needed after the last year and a half. Whether it's hiking, biking, or rock climbing; forest bathing in one of the region's vortexes (where believers say the planet's natural energy is at its apex); or simply whiling away the day at the spa, you'll find it here.

Situated in Boynton Canyon, one of Sedona's most scenic spots, **Enchantment Resort** (*fall rates from $879/night*), boasts all of the above. Easy, self-guided hikes wind up to the iconic Kachina Woman rock formation, leaving from behind Mii amo, the soothing spa complex where you can follow a deep-tissue massage with a prickly-pear butter wrap and guided meditation.* Later, retire to a private casita with cozy Southwestern touches, including gas fireplaces (it gets cold here in the off-season!) and colorful woven blankets. Other resort amenities include tennis clinics, photography classes, and on-property restaurants (get the velvety tortilla soup at Tii Gavo and thank us later) — all taking advantage of the sweeping views.

Even if you're on a health kick, there's one indulgence that's an absolute must: Head to View 180 at golden hour for a margarita to reach peak relaxation as the sun dips slowly behind those luscious red rocks.

*Mii amo is currently closed for renovations until 2022. Spa services offered elsewhere onsite.



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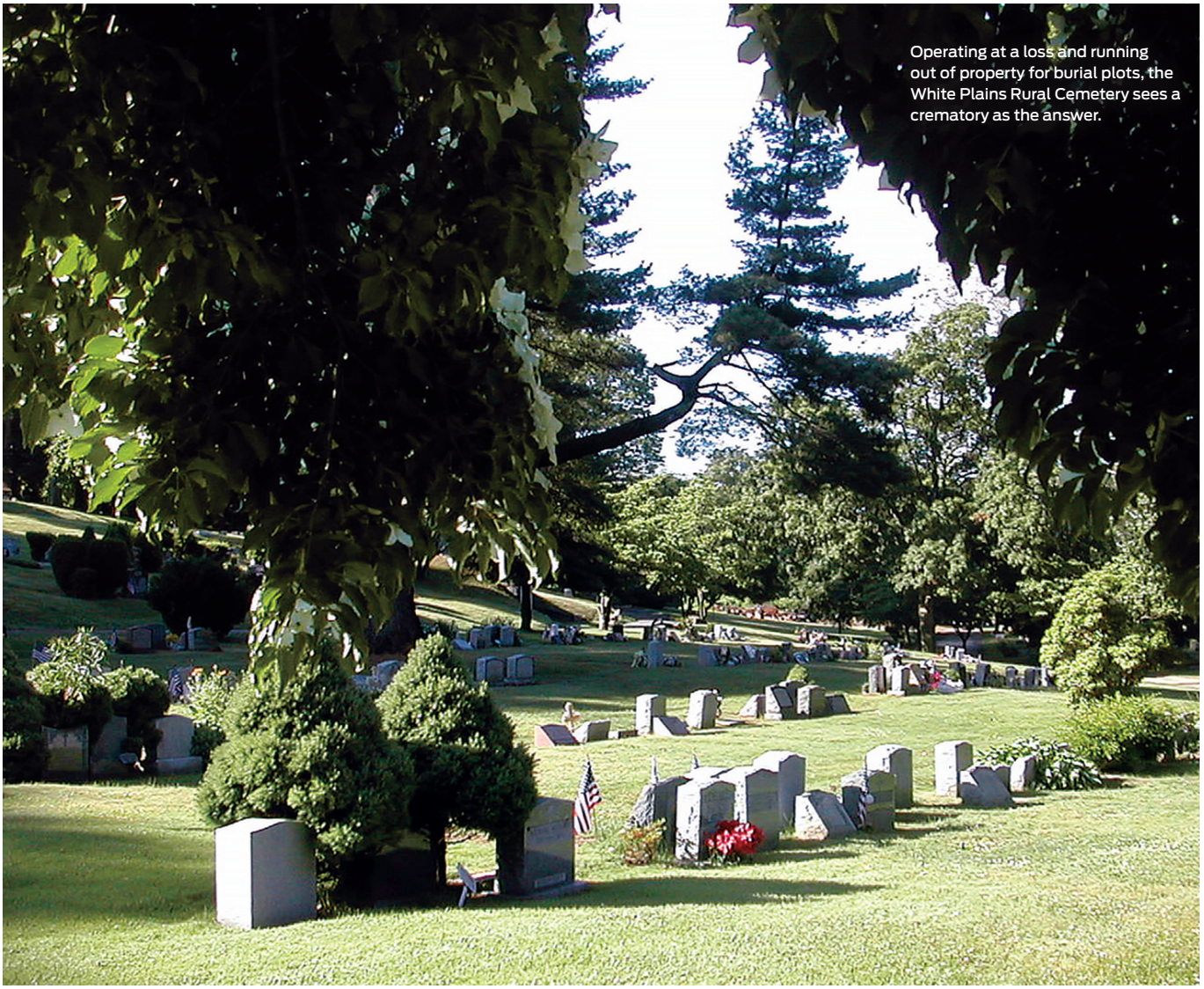
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Operating at a loss and running out of property for burial plots, the White Plains Rural Cemetery sees a crematory as the answer.

PHOTO BY LORRAINE KENNERY

The Last 100 Plots

A 40-year veteran of cemetery management fights to keep the White Plains Rural Cemetery from going under. **BY SARAH DIAMOND**

On a spring day in early April 1984, Lorraine Kennery sat in the middle of her parents' driveway in Mahopac, sifting through a PennySaver, looking for a job when she spied: "Cemetery superintendent needed; house provided as part of compensation."

She had recently left a difficult marriage and moved back home with her 5-year-old son. "When I saw the advertisement for a job that came with a house, I didn't care what else I was doing," she says. "The most important thing was a roof over our heads."

Kennery mailed in her résumé that day and was called in for an interview a week later. She was offered the job with a modest salary of $7,000 her first year, and started as the superintendent of Mount Kisco's Oakwood Cemetery that weekend.

At Oakwood, Kennery was a one-woman show. She mowed the lawn, sold the plots, and dug the graves. If the hillside was steep or the headstones were too close together, she dug graves by hand with a shovel. "I just wanted to make sure I did it right," says Kennery. "I couldn't give them an excuse to let me go." It was 11 years before she took a week off, and it would be a lifetime among the graves.

Twenty-one years later, Kennery had established herself as an experienced cemetery caretaker and took a higher-paying job as the general manager of the 165-year-old White Plains Rural Cemetery. As with Oakwood, the new job came with a house.

Kennery's trajectory as a caretaker was challenged

suddenly when, due to the pandemic, the cemetery started to quickly run out of burial space. "Before COVID," says Kennery, "we were planning on having a few more years of available graves." Now, fewer than 100 plots remain.

In 2020, the cemetery experienced a 111% increase in burials. Meanwhile, funeral directors were turning families away due to the influx in demand and inability to bury the bodies fast enough. Many families chose to cremate instead of waiting.

For New York's population of more than 19 million people, there are only 48 crematories. A state like Oregon, with 4.2 million people, has 66. Brendan Boyle, executive director of the New York State Association of Cemeteries, explains that it is extremely difficult to obtain a permit to build a crematory, as several agencies are required to approve the request on top of stringent regulations from the State Division of Cemeteries. "It's a lot of hoops to jump through," he says.

In the United States as a whole, cremations now account for almost 60% of all body dispositions. J.P. Di Troia, president of Fresh Pond Crematory in Queens, America's oldest crematory, says that they experienced a 30% increase in their typical workload during the pandemic.

Fortunately, Kennery foresaw the cemetery's capacity concerns and in 2013 got the conversation going about building their own crematorium. According to New York State law, once people are buried, they have the right to remain so in perpetuity. That same year, at a special meeting of the cemetery's board, the crematorium was approved.

But it was not so easy to get permission from the City of White Plains. In 2014, the cemetery submitted a permit request to the city's zoning board. After two years of processing, the zoning board denied the cemetery's permit request, saying that a crematorium would "alter the essential character of the neighborhood." Not to be deterred, the cemetery took the matter to the New York State Supreme Court.

There were three public hearings about the crematorium, and many White Plains residents went to object to it. Some feared that their home values would decline. Others worried about air pollution. In White Plains Rural Cemetery Assn. v City of White Plains (2019), the court passed in favor of WPRC, saying that it would be "arbitrary and capricious" for the City of White Plains to stop the cemetery from building a crematorium.

Gaining permission to start building the crematorium is an ongoing struggle due to a shortage of some materials, radically increased costs for others (e.g., steel), and delays from the city. The result is that a construction timeline has yet to be determined. "Everything is riding on this crematory," she says. "It is life or death for the cemetery."

As the industry changes around her, Kennery can envision the White Plains Rural property once the crematorium is operational. It will be bustling with a full-time crematory operator and a new part-time office manager. "I'll be around to ease the transition to the next person when I retire in 2024," says Kennery. "I have a lot emotionally invested in this place."

Kennery is eager for the income from the crematory to also cover the cost of fixing the cracks in the walls that emit small puffs of white plaster when cars and motorcycles hum past on the adjacent highway.

As Kennery sits at her dining-room table, an off-white lace tablecloth peeking out from under her folded hands, it is obvious how much energy and care she has put into her home. Kennery is eager for the income from the crematory to also cover the cost of fixing the cracks in the walls that emit small puffs of white plaster when cars and motorcycles hum past on the adjacent highway. "Not for me," she explains of the repairs. "I'm just one person."

Kennery, as always, is looking toward the future when the property passes into the next pair of capable hands. She hopes that whoever takes her place as the steward of the cemetery will love and nurture it, as she has done for more than two decades.

Sarah Diamond lives in Scarsdale and commutes to Columbia University, where she is pursuing her master's degree in journalism. She is a journalist, documentary filmmaker, and an avid outdoor enthusiast.







PHOTO BY ALEXKICH /ADOBE STOCK

The Newsroom of Yesteryear

The author remembers what it was like working the overnight shift in the sports department of the old *Westchester Rockland Newspapers*. **BY STEVEN CLARK**

They were characters straight out of a Damon Runyon story; to this day, I'm not sure whether the job attracted a certain breed or created them.

Memories of toiling overnight on the sports desk at what was then the *Westchester Rockland Newspapers* (now *The Journal News*) cause my throat to tighten and make me smile.

It was the mid-1970s, and I had just graduated from Syracuse University's School of Communications. My job interview was with Guido Cribari, the newspaper's sports editor, a dapper and fast-talking man who frequently sat in his office with the lights out and typically dressed in plaid or checkered pants, white shoes, an expensive golf shirt and no socks. During my interview, he never asked me about my skills or background, instead boasting that he was the first Italian ever to play golf at a once-restricted country club. My credentials for the job, in fact, were unimportant. No one, it seems, was breaking down Guido's door to work overnight on the sports copy desk.

This was years before desktop computers and electronic filings. Pneumatic tubes transmitted stories from local sports editors throughout the county to the copy desk at the county bureau in Harrison. I would wait nightly, with less-than-eager anticipation, for the arrival of these missiles that would contain the handwritten results of a Briarcliff Manor-Valhalla soccer game, a

preview of the Ossining basketball team, or an exclusive interview with the Croton-on-Hudson wrestling coach. We edited the stories, wrote the headlines, and laid out each local sports section, later marching into the composing room, where the stories, keypunched into cold sheets of copy, would be pasted onto large boards. Would headlines and copy fit? Usually they didn't, which meant that in the early-morning hours, when the rest of the world was turning over for several more hours of sleep, we rewrote "heads" and worked with the composing crew to try to cram eight-inch stories into five-inch holes.

The composers, with names like Duke, Vinnie, and Fast Joe, were survivors of the pressroom transition from hot to cold type. These were lunch-pail guys who would cater to the #MeToo movement like my 10-year-old dog would to obedience training. Any woman brave or naïve enough to enter the room would instantly elicit the comment: "Wouldn't you like some of *that*?"

Angry young men, we would frequently start our nights riled up by disparaging notes left by our daytime superiors. Sugar Bear, the kindest term we used to refer to the newspaper's managing editor, would often castigate us for writing "wooden heads." My friend, John Glascott, who spent less than six months on the sports desk before having the good sense to get an MBA, says he is still waiting for an answer from Sugar Bear — who has long since passed on — on how to write a clever headline for a story on Ursuline beating Maria Regina 2–1 in girls field hockey.

I never got used to the hours nor, most disturbingly, falling asleep regularly in my car on the drive home. I tried unsuccessfully to find a normal regimen, but sleep always proved elusive and sporadic. I lived with a roommate named Bruno in a pre-World War II-built apartment in Mamaroneck. My first night there, I distinctly remember leaving for work after Bruno had made a huge vat of spaghetti sauce for a dinner party he had hosted. His friends were passed out in the living room, while in the kitchen, an army of cockroaches swam the backstroke in the tomato sauce.

The sports staff were *sui generis*. They were colorful, offbeat, and memorable — some of whom were borderline deviants and many of whom were otherwise unemployable. Two of the local sports editors were raging alcoholics. A third had a propensity for "adopting" a high school athlete every year and squiring him around town. He got fired when he ran down from his seat in the bleachers, during the countywide high school wrestling championships, slapping in the face his young friend, who had lost his match.

Guido avoided confrontation and would only pull the plug on those whom management insisted be let go. He just wanted to be left alone to a life of playing golf and palling around with the county's rich and influential. The worst thing you could ever do was to cause a rift with any of the county's prominent country clubs or its members. I created a hailstorm by writing a story about a platform-tennis championship at one of those prominent country clubs, making snide and sophomoric comments about the preppy attire, accents, and attitudes of the members. The complaints that soon poured in left Guido unamused. He went on a lengthy tirade, undoubtedly fearing that he would become the first Italian at the club to *lose* his golfing privileges.

One night, the Mamaroneck sports editor, on the phone with a local high school coach, asked the Mount Vernon sports editor, sitting next to him, to keep quiet. Not getting any response, he put the phone down and jumped atop his colleague, the two of them rolling across the desk.

On Friday nights, the local sports editors joined us in the county bureau to put the paper to bed. One night, the Mamaroneck sports editor, on the phone with a local high school coach, asked the Mount Vernon sports editor, sitting next to him, to keep quiet. Not getting any response, he put the phone down and jumped atop his colleague, the two of them rolling across the desk. Once the fight was broken up, the Mamaroneck sports editor got back on the phone and casually resumed his conversation.

Tom Whelan, one of the few adults in the department, was a bigger-than-life figure. Tommy was the sweetest, most gentle-hearted of men, spread out over more than 300 pounds. With his size,

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back in the day

(Continued from previous page)

wispy, white hair and round, red face (the result of years of drinking), he could have been the prototype for Santa Claus. On several occasions, I left work with Tommy early in the morning, headed to one of his favorite hangouts. Here, his fellow alcoholics (who else frequents a bar at 8 a.m.?) would pepper him with questions on this racehorse or that boxer, buying him drinks and treating him like a deity.

Tommy's nighttime routine called for him to walk into the newsroom about 2 a.m., perhaps after covering a boxing match or countywide awards dinner, usually cradling a greasy Italian dinner. After polishing off his meal, he would doze in his chair (which we would refer to as "Whelanized," because his weight had created a permanent bend in the chair's spine) for several hours before writing his story. I never met a person Tommy didn't like, except for the copy-desk chief — a Napoleonic, tight-assed, and universally detested figure who, rather than taking the time to edit Tommy's long-winded sentences, would indiscriminately slash sections of his stories.

Al Mari was the newspaper's sports columnist, the proverbial big fish in the small pond. A legend in his own mind, Mari would brag about having the home telephone numbers of many of the pro athletes he covered. His credibility was forever tarnished, however, when I overheard him one night calling one of his so-called good friends from an NBA team. "Hey, Mike, it's Al," he started. "Al Mari... Al Mari, *Westchester Rockland Newspapers*."

A trivia buff, Mari would slouch on the newsroom floor, betting that he could name the costar and the year of every movie made by Burt Lancaster (or was it Gregory Peck?). He blustered about his romantic conquests, which one time got my fellow deskman, Tim Gould, to quip, "Hey, Al, that's nothing. I've been laid three times just telling women I edit your copy."

As for me, the ride lasted until I was "shipped out" to work days in Yonkers, eventually becoming a news reporter and then leaving journalism behind to work in public relations. I resisted the move, a little afraid to leave the security of working overnights with my fellow misfits — probably the same feeling a prisoner experiences after being released from jail. It took me awhile to get used to living again on the outside.

Steven Clark is a freelance writer and the president of Andover Communications, a public relations firm. The opinions and beliefs expressed by Steven Clark are his alone and do not necessarily reflect those of Westchester Magazine's editors and publishers. Tell us what you think at edit@westchestermagazine.com



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Sandra DiRuzza exudes calm and confidence in her role as the Village of Mamaroneck's first female police chief.

PHOTOS BY STEFAN RADTKE

True Blue

Sandra DiRuzza never viewed herself as a role model, but as Mamaroneck Village's first female police chief, she strives to be one every day for fellow women — and men — in law enforcement. **BY MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN**

Lifelong Mamaroneck resident Sandra DiRuzza was doing just fine in the business world, working as a project manager at Oxford Health Plans in White Plains, when 9/11 happened. "We were on the 18th floor and could see the smoke from Manhattan," she recalls. In the days that followed, and like so many Americans, DiRuzza reflected on her life and became almost consumed with answering the question: *What can I do to make a difference?*

Although she thought her early 30s was "a little late in life for a career change," she entered the police academy in Valhalla, where she was at least 10 years older than the majority of her classmates. "I hadn't ever thought about being a police officer before, and I don't even have any family in law enforcement," she says.

Yet, upon graduation and entry into the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department in the spring of 2004, she set a definitive goal for herself: "I want to help victims of crime and female victims of domestic violence." That mission was cemented during her third day on patrol, by herself, when she was called to a local park where a victim of domestic violence had been shot multiple times and died on the scene. "That was probably the worst day for me in law enforcement," she says. "You always remember the bad days more than the good ones."

More determined than ever, DiRuzza directed her energy toward creating a domestic violence unit in the department, simultaneously becoming a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer. In just five years, she accomplished the goals she envisioned following 9/11, continuing to rise through the ranks while teaching classes at the academy on how to handle domestic violence situations.

However, there were times early on, she admits, when, "like all women, I put pressure on myself to go the extra mile and overcompensate to be as good as my male counterparts" in a field dominated by men. During such moments of self-doubt, DiRuzza would think back to the rigorous training she received at the academy. "A commanding presence is so important," she notes. "If you carry yourself confidently, you can have the respect of everyone, on the street and in the precinct."

Fast-forward a few ranks and 16 years, and DiRuzza was at the top of her game as a lieutenant, with thoughts of gender in the rearview ("I have a job to do, and I do it"), when her chief announced his retirement. DiRuzza threw her hat into the ring and was chosen as the Village of Mamaroneck's first female police chief — during the height of COVID and as the country's temperature was at a boiling point over the George Floyd case. "It's tough to be a police officer right now," she says. "Police officers are disheartened by the current climate."

As chief, it's on her shoulders to consistently remind her 50-member department that "people need us; we are important in the community, and we just have to roll with the changes." Those changes include former Governor Cuomo's mandate that requires precincts to, among other things: implement a policing reform plan that will maintain public safety while building trust

in the community; train officers on how to intervene, regardless of rank, if they observe a colleague using undue force; and become New York State accredited by instituting 110 standards for police agencies.

"It's important to make small changes, keep things positive, and praise officers when they do a good job," she says. Now more than ever, DiRuzza believes community engagement is key. "People need to meet police officers in a positive environment, not just during a crime or emergency," she adds, looking forward to her



DiRuzza seeks out quiet time for herself and enjoys downtime with her family.

"Anytime I'm able to help somebody or when I can make a connection, that is a good day for me."

department's participation in National Coffee With a Cop Day in October.

DiRuzza is an early bird and is usually at her desk by 7:30 a.m. "I can see the early-morning shift and the rest of the shifts throughout the day," she explains. "And I'm available to anyone who needs me." They'll find her at a standing desk because, as she puts it: "Sitting is the new smoking." It wouldn't be a surprise to even spot the chief out on patrol every so often.

When she's not standing at her desk or out on the street, DiRuzza takes long walks to clear her head, practices deep breathing and meditation to maintain a sense of calm, and enjoys live music, particularly country, with her boyfriend, a retired sergeant.

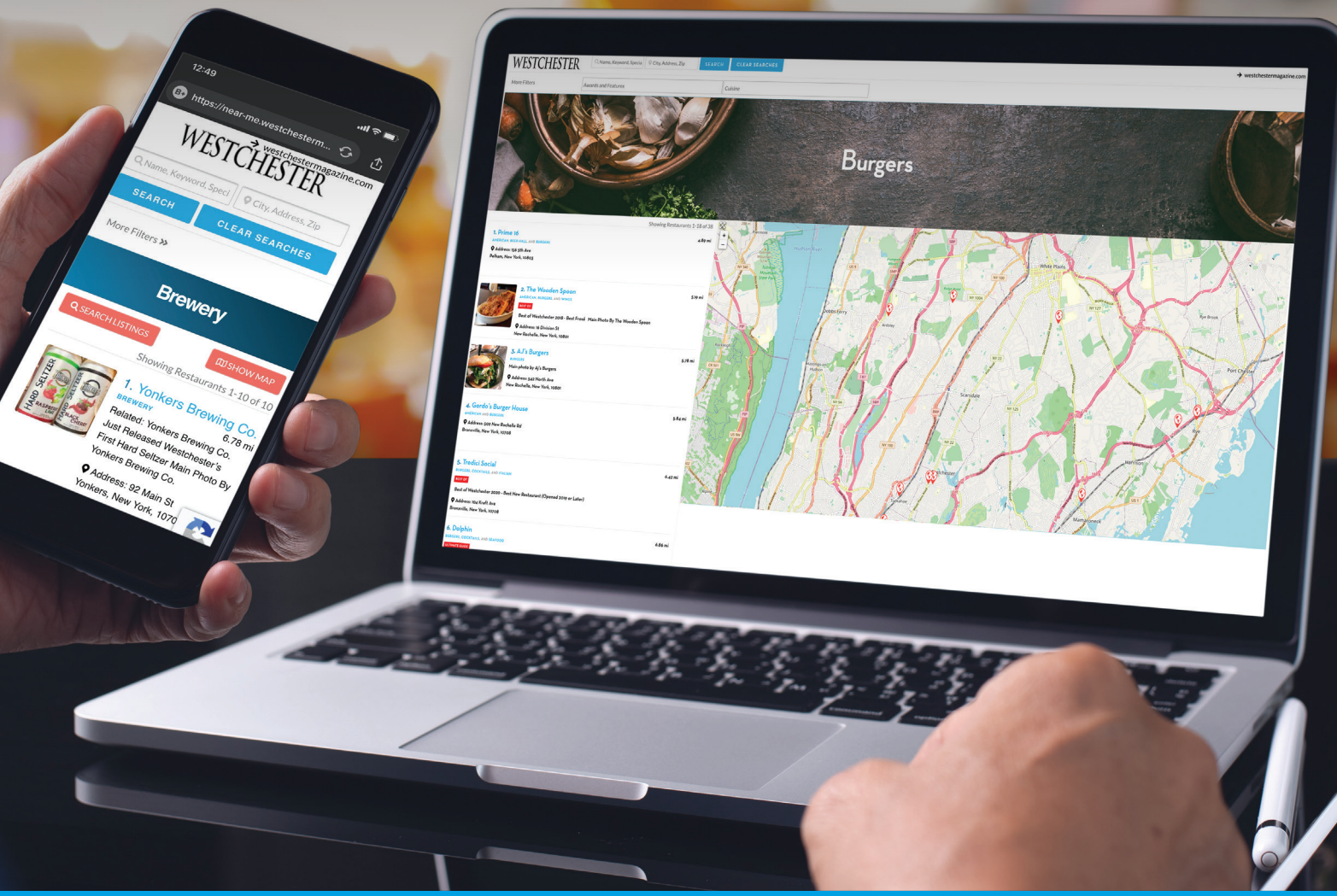
As for what her best day on the job looks like, she says, "anytime I'm able to help somebody or when I can make a connection, that is a good day for me." And while she struggles with the notion that she is, in fact, a role model in both her department and beyond: "If I can inspire more women to get into law enforcement, that's a great thing."





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BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER SUPPORT

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

SUPPORT CONNECTION IS THERE FOR YOU

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

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

A UNIQUE APPROACH

Support Connection is unique because the Peer Counselors on their staff are cancer survivors. They've been through the tests and treatments. They've felt the fear and anxiety. They know what it's like to have your life changed by cancer. Peer Counselors are available by phone and email. There's no limit; reach out as often as you need to. Your counselor will listen to your concerns, offer emotional support, connect you with community resources, and let you know about Support Connection's other valuable services.





PERSONALIZED SERVICES

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

- **Monthly support groups:** A confidential setting where women come together to discuss their concerns and support one another.
- **Educational programs:** Learning opportunities on a variety of topics related to living with cancer, such as nutrition, dealing with side effects, etc.
- **Wellness workshops:** Focus on the needs of mind, body and spirit.
- **Social activities:** Connect with other women with cancer while relaxing or being creative.

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

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

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FROM SUPPORT CONNECTION'S PEER COUNSELORS:

Tips About Dealing with Cancer



PHOTO: MOTORTION/ADOBE STOCK

Learning you have cancer is like having the rug pulled abruptly from under your feet. The world as you knew it is suddenly turned upside down. You find yourself on a path you never expected to travel, without any idea of where it will take you. At every step along the way, you face new challenges.

A cancer diagnosis also has tremendous impact on families and loved ones. You want to be helpful and supportive, to somehow make things easier. But for most people, it's hard to know what to say or what to do.

Support Connection's Peer Counselors, survivors themselves, know how it feels to hear the words "You have cancer." More than that, they speak every day to other people facing their own breast and ovarian cancer diagnoses. They also offer support and guidance to families and loved ones. Each counselor has talked to hundreds of people, helping them sort through their feelings and fears, showing them how to find their own strengths, giving them hope that they'll get through it all.

Based on their own personal experiences, as well as what they've learned along the way from the wisdom of the brave people they talk to every day, Support Connection's Peer Counselors have some suggestions and tips for anyone dealing with breast or ovarian cancer, and for families and friends who want to help:

When You've Been Diagnosed With Breast Or Ovarian Cancer: Finding Ways To Cope

Don't try to do it alone

- Allow yourself to accept support. It's not always easy; most of us are used to doing it all. But you know how good it makes you feel to help someone else. Give others the chance to do that by helping you.
- Say yes to offers of practical help with day-to-day things like cooking, shopping, carpooling, etc. Your family and friends will appreciate this. They're feeling powerless and they want to help you.
- Clearly communicate your needs to anyone who is helping you or offers their support. Also let them know what's not helpful. This is your time to take care of you!
- The emotional rollercoaster can be just as exhausting as the physical journey. There are no right or wrong emotions. Find ways to express your feelings – sharing with others, attending a support group, talking to a counselor, journaling, etc. Holding emotions in can make them larger than life.

Enlist the help of your medical team

- Gather a medical team that gives you a sense of comfort as well as the confidence that your health needs are being addressed the way you feel they should be.
- Make the most of your doctor visits. Prepare a list of questions in advance. Bring someone along, as a second set of ears and for moral support. Let your doctor know as much as you can about you and your life so you can discuss your treatment options in the context of your daily reality.
- Never hesitate to express your questions and vulnerability to your medical team. This is new for you and very scary. Let your medical team know what you're feeling, what your fears are. They need to know in order to treat the whole "you," and they won't know unless you tell them.

Take control of information overload

- Put a pad of paper on your nightstand. When you wake up in the middle of the night and find your head filled with "what if's," write them all down and make a note of who you'll call the next day to get your answer. It will help you rein in the tornado spinning in your head.
- The internet can be a wonderful tool, but it's important to proceed with caution. Always stick to reliable sources. More importantly, remember every person's cancer is different. Online research can lead to statistics and prognostic information that is not relevant to your specific situation.
- Find other ways to keep your mind occupied. Word puzzles, knitting or crocheting, computer games, reading a good book.... anything that will distract you and give you a breather from thinking too much.

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Be good to yourself

- Instead of focusing on what you have ahead of you, try to look at what you've accomplished. Give yourself credit and see your own strength.
- Live in the moment – as often as you can. Worrying about the future does not serve you now or resolve unknown issues down the road. It only robs you of today.
- Try to take a break from cancer when you can. Engage in things that add joy to your day, activities that help you relax and have fun. This will feed your soul and remind you that you're so much more than your cancer.
- Give yourself permission to move "you" to the top of the list. Leave the guilt behind.
- A cancer diagnosis impacts you mentally, physically and emotionally. You are exhausted on many levels. Allow yourself time to process and to heal so you can recover.



PHOTO: MONGKOLCHON/ADOBE STOCK

When A Family Member Or Loved One Has Breast Or Ovarian Cancer: How To Lend A Helping Hand

Stay In Touch

- Check in regularly. Just say hi and ask how she's doing. It tells her you're thinking about her and that you care. You don't always need to "do" something or "say" something to be helpful. Being consistently present is what matters.
- Cards, notes, emails – these are all great ways to let her know she's in your thoughts. They also become lasting messages of love and reassurance she can re-read whenever she needs a boost.
- Give small gifts that offer comfort and make her smile. Lotion... a pair of fuzzy socks... warm pj's or a robe... light reading material to take her mind off what she's going through.
- Say three simple words: "I love you." The most healing words in the universe.
- Keep the communication going. Don't stop because treatment ends. That's when she can finally step off the roller coaster she's been on, look back at where she's been, and wonder where she's headed next. She still needs your support.

Be There

- Be a calm presence, accepting any emotions or fears she needs to express. That can be tough when you have your own fears and emotions.
- Allow her to be human. Most people try their hardest to be strong. It's good to acknowledge her strength, but no one can be strong all the time. Even Superman has to be Clark Kent sometimes. Give her "permission" to take off her cape.
- When she's up for it, visit with her. Thirty minutes over a cup of tea... an outing for lunch or a movie... anything that takes her away from cancer for a bit is invaluable.
- Remember to talk about the everyday things going on in your lives. Don't be afraid to laugh – laughter really is wonderful medicine.

Help Out

- Offer to go with her to appointments. Dealing with cancer and all the decisions and information is overwhelming and exhausting. Offer to: go along to take notes....sit with her while she waits... stay with her during a test or chemo.
- Don't wait for her to ask for help, just do it! It's really hard to ask and she may not have the energy to do so. Here are some ideas:
  - » Call to say you're going to bring over a meal. Tell her what you have in mind and ask if there's something she'd prefer instead.
  - » Mention you're going to the grocery store. Ask what's on her shopping list and offer to pick it up.
  - » Let her know when you're available. Ask what she needs help with during that time.
  - » If she has children, anything you can do to keep life as normal as possible for her children will help her feel better. So, take them for playdates, drive them to activities, etc.

Just Listen

- The musician Alfred Brendel said: "The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'." It's normal to want to solve or fix things, to find the right thing to say. Try to silence your mind and just be in the moment with her.
- Avoid saying things like "You'll be fine" or "It's all behind you now." It's never really over. Instead, ask how she's feeling. When she tells you, offer compassion and support.
- Stay away from offering advice. She's already getting instructions from all directions. Even if you've been through a similar experience, remember, everyone is different.
- Let her set the boundaries. There may be times when she doesn't want to talk, or things she feels are too private. You'll hear this when you listen. •

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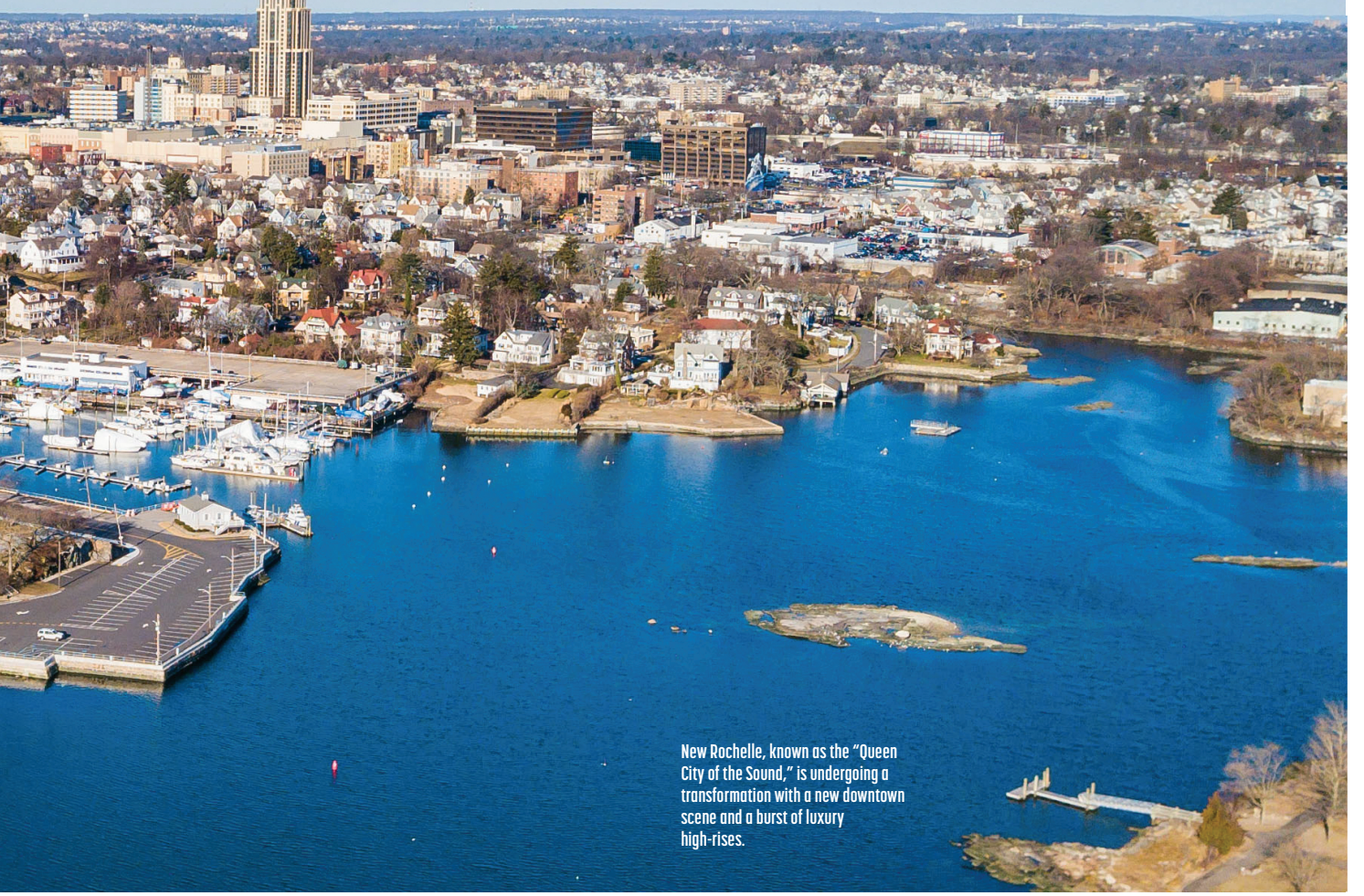
BEST PLACES



TO LIVE

Westchester County has something for every lifestyle. Its residents have the option of taking in bustling downtowns, fine restaurants, beaches, pastoral farms, woodsy parks, and historic river views. Here, *Westchester Magazine*'s annual "Best Places to Live" feature provides the inside scoop to decide which town best suits you.

By Cristiana Caruso, Joe Cesarano & Duke Ratliff



New Rochelle, known as the "Queen City of the Sound," is undergoing a transformation with a new downtown scene and a burst of luxury high-rises.

PHOTO BY LEON718/ADOBE STOCK

SHORE COMMUNITIES

Downtown New Rochelle: On the Rise

An increasingly impressive skyline has materialized in downtown New Rochelle, bringing with it amenities that make this modern city on the Sound more appealing and livable than ever before.

In the past year, eight residential developments were completed, with at least 15 more still creeping toward the sky. Several of these buildings, both rentals and condos, climb as high as 28-stories, including 360 Huguenot, on the former site of the historic Loews Theater. 1 Clinton Park's dual towers offer unparalleled panoramic urban and ocean views. Additional up-and-comers include The Printhouse, Watermark Pointe, and The Standard.

"With more than 30 major projects underway and unprecedented investments in infrastructure and the environment, New Rochelle presents an attractive value proposition to prospective homeowners," says Noam Branson, mayor of New Rochelle. "We're a growth stock."

With resources like CircuitNR, a six-seater electronic bus that's available for free via an app, or the New Downtown Resident Card, which grants access to discounts and offers at featured businesses, New Rochelle is evolving into a more personable, practical mini-version of Manhattan.

"New Rochelle is also creating more open, outdoor space, including a large, new waterfront park adjacent to the downtown and the 'LINC,' which will repurpose portions of Memorial Highway into a linear park with ample recreational, pedestrian, and bike amenities," explains Bramson.

Coupled with the expansion of public transit to parts of the city that were previously nearly impossible to get to without a car and an urban hub that is getting more walkable by the day, New Rochelle has become a pioneer in accessibility and making a community work for all who live there. *—CC*



360 Huguenot, New Rochelle

PHOTO COURTESY OF RXR REALTY

Rye: Old-School Tony Charm

Steeped in rich history and charming neighborhoods, Rye delivers a chic New England harbor-town feel with metropolitan New York conveniences. Home to national historical sites, like the Jay Estate and Playland Amusement Park, there is no shortage of things to do. "Few other communities have a public golf club, municipal boat basin, and great kids' programs," says Judge Joseph Latwin, a 41-year resident of Rye, as well as a volunteer firefighter. "You have all the benefits of having Manhattan close by, with clean air and a seashore."

This old-school garden suburb checks every box on the list: public programs, enriching early-childhood education, a myriad of cuisines, and the Big City right at your fingertips.

An extremely walkable downtown is speckled with trendy restaurants, sophisticated boutiques, and bakeries that spill the smell of freshly baked bread out onto the sidewalk. Offsetting the siren call of baked goods is Rye's impressive number of fitness centers, which run the gamut, from customized personal training to electrifying spin classes.

At the same time, lovers of the outdoors don't need to drive to a hiking trail upstate. "Rye has great nature life," says Latwin. "I can go for a walk in the Marshlands or on the beach behind Playland and see all sorts of different wildlife."

The St. Regis Residences, Rye, which opened in the summer, adds luxury to the condo market. The upscale development (units start at more than $1 million) is loaded with haute amenities, including butler service, valet parking, gated entrances, and manicured gardens. *—CC*

Sleeper: Rye Neck

With its own little piece of coastline, the Rye Neck neighborhood of Mamaroneck is home to gorgeous parks and a community on the rise.

One of the crown jewels of owning a house in Rye Neck is the town's outstanding school system, as the town has gained a reputation for educational excellence. It's currently working to expand science and math offerings, according to Superintendent Dr. Eric Lutinski. "Rye Neck is a small school with big-school resources," he says. "Because of our size, our teachers and support staff personally know each student. This individualized attention and availability of resources fosters a warm and deeply enriching educational environment that sets us apart from other schools." *—CC*

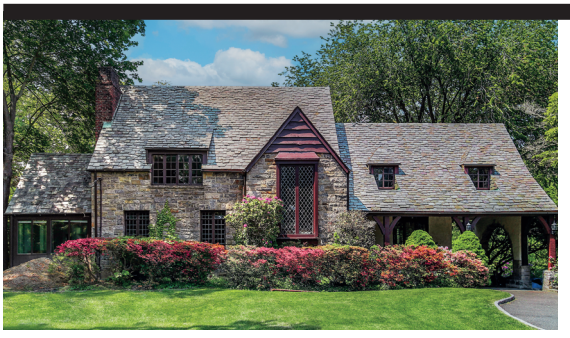


PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA B FEE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

On the Market: $1,995,000

183 Grace Church St, Rye

5 BR; 3.1 BA; 3,024 sq. ft; .61 acres, $37,326 estimated taxes

This 1930s Tudor stuns with its two-floor-length stained-glass windows and hardwood curved staircase. The porte cochere and wraparound driveway offer a feel of luxury. The spacious living room makes for the perfect place to entertain guests, while the reading alcove provides privacy and refuge.

Listed by Siobhan Dolce, Julia B Fee Sotheby's International Realty

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

RIVERTOWNS



River view, Dobbs Ferry

PHOTO BY KP/ADOBE STOCK

Dobbs Ferry: Something for Everyone

Who would want to live in Dobbs Ferry? According to William Ford-Sussman, Coldwell Banker real estate agent and one of the town's biggest fans, the question should be: "Who *wouldn't* want to live in Dobbs Ferry?"

"Strolling down Cedar Street or Main Street just feels like home, even to people who don't live here yet," Ford-Sussman says. "It has a small-town, neighborly feel, yet you can enjoy a variety of eateries."

Dobbs Ferry restaurants include David DiBari's Italian gastropub, The Cookery, plus longtime farm-to-table Mexican fave Tomatillo.

Butcher Girls on Cedar provides fresh organic meat; MOM's Organic Market is filled with healthy treats. The Three Dogs Artisan Collective on Cedar is a creative gallery featuring handmade local arts and crafts with a whimsical flair.

"Three Dogs is just the kind of place that fits here in Dobbs; we have a quirky but rich and beautiful culture here," Ford-Sussman says. "There's just a secret recipe, a special soup that makes people want to live here."

At the same time, the allure of nature is one of Dobbs' biggest draws.

"One visit to Waterfront Park, bordering the majestic Hudson, with views of the Palisades and the Manhattan skyline, will give you a wonderful sense of community," Ford-Sussman says. "Plus, the Croton Aqueduct Trail runs straight through the center of town, bringing nature's recreation and beauty to Dobbs Ferry village residents." *—DR*

PHOTO BY DUKE RATLIFF

Irvington: Laid-Back Charm

It's all downhill in Irvington, literally. The town's quaint, relaxed Main Street, filled with an eclectic selection of shops and restaurants, takes you down a hill toward the picturesque Hudson River, home to well-kept Matthiessen Park, the popular Scenic View Park, plus some drive-worthy restaurants, such as Red Hat on the River, MP Taverna, and Sambal.

"You can see the river the entire time walking or driving down the street, automatically lending the town a relaxed feel, making it hard to believe it's just 40 minutes outside of the big city," says Ilisa Crosby, real estate agent at Douglas Elliman. "The overall feel of Irvington is low-key and laid-back, a quaint village for residents."

There are no strip malls or even supermarkets in Irvington. Older homes, lively streets, friendly people, a sense of community, and an easy commute to Grand Central are now drawing scores of people from New York City.

"Irvington attracted New Yorkers looking to escape the city when the pandemic hit," Crosby says. "Buyers who want a little history and a lot of land come up to Irvington. The residential lots are larger in Irvington than other Hudson River towns, and many of them come with scenic views."

A farmers' market is the center of activity from June through December. Residents come for the food but stay for the vibe, Crosby says. The Irvington Theater, which hosts live performances, children's shows, and film, has been closed since the pandemic but is scheduled to reopen next year. The town is especially known for its diverse dining options, including Korean, Greek, Thai, barbecue, and Indian. *—DR*



Sleeper: Croton-on-Hudson

Once a rare occurrence in Croton-on-Hudson, hipster sightings are becoming a regular happening in what is one of Westchester's smallest and leafiest Rivertowns. In addition to attracting families seeking peace and quiet, plus top-notch schools and plenty of parks, Croton-on-Hudson has slowly developed a significant restaurant-and-bar scene, with Croton Tapsmith as a hub near the town's beloved dummy light. The recent addition of 140 Grand, a meat-lover's paradise, combined with other Croton favorites, including the recently expanded The Tavern, the town has evolved into a low-key weekend destination for discerning fun seekers. *—DR*

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLDWELL BANKER



On the Market: $1,759,000

78 Oliphant Ave, Dobbs Ferry

5 BR; 3.1 BA; 3,871 sq. ft.; .57 acres, $41,077 estimated taxes

This five-bedroom, center-hall Colonial has been well maintained and updated and is in move-in condition. Enter via a covered front portico; formal dining room features hardwood floors and crown moldings. Walk to the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail; 40 minutes to NYC.

Listed by William Boeckelman, Coldwell Banker

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



Main St, Tarrytown

PHOTO BY KEN GABRIELSEN

WALKABLE DOWNTOWNS

Tarrytown: Character, Charm & History

A welcoming Main Street, river views and plenty of mom-and-pop shopping opportunities make Tarrytown an excellent place to live and a destination for homebuyers.

The historic Tarrytown Music Hall anchors a bustling downtown and hosts numerous national touring musicians and comedians. The Jazz Forum Club is the sole venue in Westchester County dedicated to the only American-born musical genre.

Nearby restaurants, many with outdoor dining, offer everything from Mexican at The Taco Project to farm-to-table American dishes at the Sweet Grass Grill. Tarrytown shops offer jewelry, souvenirs, antiques, and gifts.

The Scenic Hudson RiverWalk Park and the Cuomo Bridge walking/biking path are two of the latest draws to the village.

"The charm of Main Street and views of the Hudson River never get old," says Jody Toth, associate broker for William Raveis Legends Realty Group. "Tarrytown is ever-evolving, but character, charm, and history are constants."

The town also hosts a bustling farmers' market on Saturdays at Patriot's Park, the famous site where Revolutionary War spy Major John Andre was captured.

The seasonal summer concert series on the waterfront and the jazz series at Lyndhurst are perfect ways to spend an evening enjoying music, fun, and friends, accompanied by an awesome sunset over the Hudson, Toth says.

She adds that the Tarrytown real estate market is "hot," as low inventory has created a sellers' market.

"We've seen many buyers leaving apartments in the city and Brooklyn, looking for more open space since COVID-19," Toth says. "Well-priced homes in good condition usually sell quickly, often in a weekend, with multiple offers." —DR

White Plains: A Unique Mix

Perhaps no city in Westchester County offers a more winning combination of suburban and urban lifestyles than White Plains, where one of the region's most walkable downtowns coexists with relatively affordable homes on tree-lined streets.

"White Plains is an unusual mix," says Ann Bernstein, associate real estate broker, Houlihan Lawrence. "Residents here are able to blend a vibe of a suburban lifestyle into an urban setting. It's a phenomenal destination because of its walkability, and it attracts a broad spectrum of people."

The city's revamped and ever-evolving downtown has become a destination point for the entire region, with a constant stream of new restaurants and activities. Recent culinary additions to Downtown White Plains include Greca, Chazz Palminteri Italian Restaurant, and Fogo de Chão Brazilian steakhouse, located in the historic Bank of New York Building. The Opus Westchester hotel provides a center for White Plains luxury with BLT Steak, Kanopi (offering views of Manhattan from its location on the 42nd floor), and The Opus Lobby Lounge, with signature cocktails.

The White Plains Business Improvement District sponsors numerous family-friendly activities to beckon folks downtown. White Plainers mark their calendars for JazzFest, Music in Motion, White Plains Cinco de Mayo, and Holiday Market. WPBID's New Year's Eve celebration, with fireworks and a ball drop, has become an annual extravaganza, drawing 20,000-plus revelers from all over the county.

Bernstein describes the White Plains real estate market as "smoking hot": Year to date, single-family home-sales volume is up 34%; condos are up 18%; co-ops are up 29%.

"We have something here that's affordable for everyone, from a studio co-op to a $2 million home," Bernstein says. "We really run the gamut, so we're able to put together a unique blend."

Bernstein adds that the city continues to be a huge commuting town. "We have lots of buildings, many of them new, that are within walking distance of the train station," she says. "It's a 35-minute express train ride to Grand Central. Eventually, we'll go back to commuting, and that's a huge attraction for buyers." —DR



PHOTO BY FRANK ROBERTS

Sleeper: Peekskill

Funky Peekskill continues to be "the little city that could" as it attracts residents looking for an affordable urban lifestyle with world-class river views and artsy amenities. The historic city has added more trendy bars and restaurants, such as Whiskey River, El Rincon Colombiano, and the Pink Iguana; SoHo-type shops (Hello, Bucko!), and family-friendly events. The Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in the downtown district is up and running with top-notch musical acts and comics, and Riverfront Green Park offers one of the loveliest and art-infused strolls of any Rivertown. The new Abbey Inn & Spa welcomes luxury seekers from all around — and beyond — the region. *—DR*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMPSON & BENDER

On the Market: $899,000

329 Fisher Ave, White Plains

5 BR; 2.1 BA; 2,743 sq. ft., .41 acres; $13,206 estimated taxes

This 1924 Colonial Victorian has been lovingly maintained, with an updated kitchen and baths. Features include wood-burning fireplaces in the living room and dining room, a sunroom off the living room, stained-glass windows, and wood moldings. The kitchen includes granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, and a heated ceramic floor.

Listed by Terri Crozier, Michelle Reggio, Toni Chrystal, Houlihan Lawrence

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

STYLISH SUBURBAN NORTH

Chappaqua: Urbane Small Town With Plenty to Do

"Chappaqua has long been considered a jewel of Northern Westchester," says Alicja Bohmrich, a Realtor with Houlihan Lawrence. "It is sophisticated yet has all the charm and peace of the countryside."

Bohmrich added that the hamlet — which is part of the town of New Castle — offers privacy, natural lakes, rolling hills, and parks with playgrounds, picnic areas, and playing fields. It is close to the city by train or car, and the highly rated public school system makes it a very attractive destination for first-time homebuyers.

"Chappaqua offers something for everyone," Bohmrich says, noting that there are more than 150 recreational activities and clubs in town. The local parks-and-recreation commission offers activities for all ages, including an outdoor summer-concert series, and the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center offers a 425-seat theater to area residents. Events such as Chappaqua Community Day and the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival tend to draw large crowds.

The original HQ for *Reader's Digest*, which called Chappaqua home for many years, has been converted to an upscale retail vil-



S Greeley Ave, Chappaqua

PHOTO BY KEN GABRIELSEN

lage, called Chappaqua Crossing, featuring rental units, a Whole Foods Market, and community arts center. Also, the town center was recently renovated, and many new businesses have opened.

"I always describe Chappaqua as either a big small town or a small big town," says Sena Baron, a Realtor with William Raveis. "It offers a nice-size community — not too small and not so big that it's anonymous. There's also a strong sense of community here."

Baron noted that the sense of community has also allowed it to become more diverse in recent years, as the town has proven to be welcoming for families of all ethnic groups, as well as same-sex couples with families. These changes have also made it a more desirable location for city residents to consider as they ponder relocating to the suburbs. —*JC*



Katonah: Old Meets New

If your ideal suburban life combines residential neighborhoods with an energetic downtown, then you will understand the appeal of Katonah. The village — which is technically a hamlet within the town of Bedford — is characterized by its variety of things to do and businesses old and new.

"The strength of our downtown is that it's so vibrant," says Kelly Raneri, a Katonah native who is now the fourth-generation owner of the Charles Department Store. "There are so many shops and places to walk. You can come to Katonah for one hour or an entire day and have no problem filling your time."

Raneri adds that she has seen many city residents jump on the train for a day trip to Katonah, especially last year, during the pandemic. One of the unique things about the village is the longevity of certain businesses, which have become staples in the downtown area. Raneri's Charles Department Store is close to its 97th year in business. Kelloggs and Lawrence, the local hardware store, first opened in 1887. But newer businesses, such as Wild Fig Floral, Rubysue women's shop, and Bijou Fine Jewelry, add to the mix downtown — and the combination of old and new is attractive to buyers.

"Right now, so many people are moving and buying homes here," says Raneri. "They want a vibrant downtown. Usually, they liked where they're moving from, like Brooklyn or the Upper West or Upper East Side. They seem to be pretty invested in wanting to support the town."

Margaret Harrington, a broker at Douglas Ellman, says that the top-ranked school district is another draw and complements Katonah's eclectic vibe. "It has many personalities," says Harrington. "You can have village; you can have country. It's a really beautiful place to land." —*JC*

Sleeper: Briarcliff Manor

Nestled between the mighty Hudson and much smaller Pocantico River, Briarcliff Manor might be smaller than its neighbors in Ossining and Sleepy Hollow, but it has a great deal to offer. With a highly regarded school district and top-notch recreational facilities, the village boasts a wide array of housing types, from older homes to newer condo developments. Law Memorial Park offers residents tennis courts and an outdoor pool, while Scarborough Park is right on the Hudson. —*JC*



On the Market: $2,999,000

11 Green Ln, Chappaqua

5 BR; 6.1 BA; 6,165 sq. ft.; 1.53 acres; $60,569 estimated taxes

This Mediterranean-inspired home in the heart of Chappaqua features a private setting and amenities aplenty, including a gourmet kitchen, luxurious master bedroom suite with sitting room and spa bath, elevator, whole-house generator, salt-water pool, meticulously landscaped grounds, and a two-bay heated garage with Tesla charging stations.

Listed by John Buckley, Douglas Elliman

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUGLAS ELLIMAN **All homes were on the market at press time.*

STYLISH SUBURBAN SOUTH



Pondfield Rd, Bronxville

PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO BY TRXR4KDS, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Bronxville: Small & Personal

Bronxville "is a hometown village," says Jeff Ungvary, president of Strategic Wellness & Investment Management Services and a Bronxville resident since 1997. "Most of the businesses you find here are locally owned and operated. It's consistently committed to local merchants."

Pondfield Road, Bronxville's commercial center, is the location for local caffeine institution Slave to the Grind, iconic bar and restaurant Underhill Crossing, and family-owned Value Drugs. "It's a one-square-mile town," Ungvary says, "but at the same time, dead-center Manhattan is only 12 miles away."

Bordering the collection of mom-and-pop shops is Bronxville High School, which *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the 145th best high school in the country. Along with the academic prowess, Bronxville is also known for its elite sports teams, with many student athletes going on to play to play at the college level. The middle school and elementary school can be found on the same grounds as the high school, making pickup and drop-off a breeze for families with children in different grades.

Ungvary says Bronxville's little slice of Americana offers unparalleled camaraderie and personability. "My office is above Mini's Prime Meats, and my door is right next to Park Place Bagels," he says. "My bagel provider is also my friend, and now he's become my landlord, as well."

The community showed up in a big way during the pandemic, Ungvary explains. "The village and some of its residents put together a fund to assist local merchants who were in need. There were workshops and Zoom meetings; there was tremendous support and a great sense of community."

Scarsdale: Upmarket & Green

Replete with storefronts and restaurants, Scarsdale is a green oasis that feels farther away from the concrete jungle than a mere 35-minute train ride. This little slice of suburbia, which is both a town and a village, is gaining new residents from Manhattan and elsewhere like never before.

Dawn Knief, of Compass Realty, in Scarsdale, attributes the increase of new residents to the excellent school system and the calm and peaceful environment of the village. "This past year, we had a buying frenzy," says Knief. "There were bidding wars on most homes, especially those that were turnkey, and those with home offices, large yards, and swimming pools."

Taking a stroll among the Tudor-style town-square buildings (such as the iconic Harwood Building) that date to the 1920s or catching an outdoor concert at Chase Park is like being in the middle of a classic Hollywood movie set. Surrounding neighborhoods are laden with modern architecture and grand sculptures scattered across meticulously manicured lawns.

Scarsdale is a landing spot, not a steppingstone, explains Knief. "Once people live here, they tend to stay. Even those who grew up here and start their careers and families in the city, very often return."

Additional family attractions include a brand-new, state-of-the-art library and a recreation complex that includes four swimming pools (one of them Olympic-size). *—CC*

Sleeper: Park Hill, Yonkers

Westchester historians know the Park Hill area of Yonkers as one of the nation's first planned neighborhoods, established in 1888, with a wondrous collection of well-maintained Victorian homes. Insiders, especially those who live there, know that the Park Hill is synonymous with the word "community." Neighbors invite neighbors to their backyard parties, play tennis (on clay courts!), racquetball, and bowl at the historic, quaint Park Hill Racquet Club. The Park Hill Residents Association hosts a well-attended garden and walking tour each year to experience this unique Westchester jewel, where everything old is still new and inviting. *—DR*



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMPASS REALTY

On the Market: $2,195,000

2 Hampshire Rd, Bronxville

5 BR; 3.2 BA.; 31,707 sq. ft.; .73 acres; $25,409 estimated taxes

This suburban retreat in the heart of Lawrence Park West offers lush, tiered gardens and a short commute from Manhattan. With a formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, mudroom, and personal library, a life of luxury awaits. Take a lap in the in-ground heated pool or bask in the screened-in sunroom — this house is the ultimate oasis after a long day.

Listed by Elizabeth Yienger, Compass Realty

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

PASTORAL SANCTUARY

North Salem: Open Spaces, Rural Places

"We're a quiet, sleepy town, and that's the way people like it," says Jocko McKean, executive director of the North Salem Open Land Foundation, regarding his hometown. "We pride ourselves on protecting and conserving open space here. People like the rural quality."

The rural feeling also has a practical side. McKean noted that according to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, North Salem — which includes communities like Croton Falls, Grants Corner, Salem Center, and Purdys — features about 50% of the remaining useable farmland in Westchester.

For many residents, North Salem represents horse country, and the town boasts a large amount of bridle trails for the equine-minded to explore. Others are attracted to its wide array of local organizations, which draw hundreds of volunteers each year to various local causes. The town's dedication to preserving open space, which includes about 15 conservation easements within its borders, is also a selling point for some.

"Things change very slowly in North Salem," notes McKean. "We don't have four new developments going in [at any time], and most residents in town like it that way."

Among the town's greatest attractions are Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard, which is a short distance from Interstate 684 and draws many thousands of people each fall for apple picking, hayrides, pumpkin picking, and numerous family activities. Nearby Outhouse Orchards also draws large crowds during apple-picking season. Hayfields, located on the town's border with Connecticut, combines a café, florist, and catering business and has built a dedicated local following. Purdy's Farmer & the Fish is among the top dining destinations in the county.

North Salem also boasts an array of housing options, ranging from old-world farms to newer construction. Most of the town is zoned for four-acre properties, preserving its open-space feel.

Pound Ridge: Small-Town Feel & Privacy

"You can kind of disappear and be a hermit in your house," says Nikki McMann, a Realtor at William Raveis, regarding the Northern Westchester town of Pound Ridge. "It's a very small town. You can kind of get tucked away."

The county's smallest town features no streetlights but lots of wooded areas and hiking trails. According to McMann, it also has one of the most active recreation departments in Westchester and many volunteer organizations that put on a wide variety of community events. "It's really nice in that sense," she adds. "When you go to these events, you really get to know everybody."



PHOTO BY PETER T. MICHAELIS

Purdy's Farmer & the Fish, North Salem

Longtime resident Liz Larkin, who operates her home business, Ms. Larkin's Scones, in town, said what sets Pound Ridge apart is the people. "Everyone is super-friendly," says Larkin. "Neighbors helping neighbors. My favorite part is just the niceness of the people. You feel it when you go somewhere else."

The walkable downtown business district in Scotts Corners is about one block that you can walk in just five minutes. Westchester Avenue, the main street in the business district, has "everything that one might need," according to Larkin, including grocery stores, restaurants, a gas station, hardware store, and a post office. While the commercial district is much busier than it was 10 years ago, the changes in Pound Ridge still haven't disrupted the small-town feel that lures many people to the area.

According to McMann, the real estate market is "busy and hot," with a mix of modern and contemporary homes that are very popular now, as well as custom-built and antique houses. For years, more than 50% of residents were people who owned country homes and would come to stay for the weekend, but there are many more full-time residents today. *—JC*

Sleeper: Lewisboro

Tucked in between Katonah and Ridgefield sits the town of Lewisboro, home to some of Westchester's most impressive parks and natural areas and one of the safest communities in the county. The town, known for its open space, stretches from the Connecticut border across to Interstate 684 and consists of five hamlets: Cross River, South Salem, Waccabuc, Vista, and Goldens Bridge. Located partially in Cross River, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation is Westchester's largest park, covering 4,700 acres of trails, camping areas and a museum. *—JC*



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

On the Market: $1,595,000

35 Autumn Ridge Rd, Pound Ridge

4 BR; 3.1 BA; 5,093 sq. ft.; 5.06 acres; $24,532 estimated taxes

Enter this grand Colonial through a double-height foyer and be greeted by a sweeping staircase and elegant chandelier. A formal living room with fireplace has French doors leading to a large deck, for a seamless flow to the outdoor space. Upstairs features a primary suite with two walk-in closets and a bathroom with double sinks and an overside shower and tub.

Listed by Richard Esman, Douglas Elliman

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

Best Places to Live 2021

OUR ANNUAL CHART: Real Estate By the Numbers

Municipality	Population	Median Household Income	Median Home Sale Price (YTD 2021/YTD 2020)	% Change	Avg # of Days on the Market (2021)	Property Crime Rate
Ardsley	4,512	$160,880	$768,000/$686,000	6	19	16.3
Armonk	4,438	$199,457	$1,220,000/$989,500	23	21	14.5
Bedford	17,803	$129,140	$899,750/$685,000	31	48.5	14
Briarcliff Manor	7,616	$181,125	$907,500/$820,000	11	24	9.1
Bronxville	6,409	$181,286	$2,562,500/$2,157,500	19	25	14.2
Buchanan	2,140	$109,375	$469,594/$396,300	18.5	32	7.3
Chappaqua	1,434	$250,001	$995,000/$850,000	17	15	13.5
Cortlandt	42,426	$115,572	$531,223/$458,350	15	29	26.7
Croton-on-Hudson	8,155	$130,000	$731,000/$589,000	24	32	11
Dobbs Ferry	11,070	$143,462	$771,500/$912,000	-15	29	15.9
Eastchester	19,900	$130,926	$810,000/$756,000	7	28.5	18.7
Elmsford	5,085	$90,823	$560,000/$476,000	18	39	11.5
Greenburgh (unincorporated)	39,888	$166,185	$604,500/$560,000	8	30.5	23
Harrison	28,135	$123,030	$1,485,000/$1,255,000	18	24	13.7
Hartsdale	4,550	$88,235	$632,672/$569,450	11	42	23
Hastings-on-Hudson	7,921	$139,879	$847,500/$727,500	17	27	15.1
Irvington	6,529	$139,917	$1,043,750/$875,000	19	52	10.8
Larchmont	6,096	$215,375	$1,345,482/$1,180,000	14	14	24.1
Lewisboro	12,599	$158,299	$885,500/$589,000	50	19	5.2
Mamaroneck	19,217	$102,138	$1,380,000/$1,105,500	25	25	15.9
Mount Kisco	10,866	$86,654	$608,420/$537,000	13.3	31	18.1
Mount Pleasant	44,970	$120,676	$695,000/$620,000	12	20	26.5
Mount Vernon	67,330	$59,289	$585,000/$475,000	23	39	36.7
New Castle	17,905	$247,090	$1,080,000/$990,360	8.3	17	10.5
New Rochelle	78,568	$74,508	$760,000/$692,500	10	28	25
North Castle	12,235	$186,591	$1,360,000/$1,034,960	23.9	30	23
North Salem	5,167	$141,944	$725,000/$545,500	33	71	18.3
Ossining	25,086	$70,177	$557,500/$490,000	14	28	14
Peekskill	24,075	$57,206	$400,500/$336,667	19	25	16.4
Pelham	6,941	$133,464	$1,080,000/$985,000	10	20	22
Pelham Manor	5,569	$174,688	$1,174,527/$1,030,000	14.3	22	36.7
Pleasantville	7,221	$128,958	$685,000/$709,500	-4	15.5	15.6
Port Chester	29,342	$74,920	$559,000/$516,000	8	28.5	42.7
Pound Ridge	5,177	$204,778	$1,039,610/$880,000	18	56	15.6
Rye Brook	9,487	$141,652	$970,305/$864,800	12.2	27	18.7
Rye City	15,820	$192,688	$1,931,250/$1,850,000	4	22	11.6
Scarsdale	17,837	$250,001	$1,745,500/$1,530,000	14	21	17.3
Sleepy Hollow	10,122	$68,125	$865,336/$768,500	12.6	26	10.2
Somers	21,487	$125,797	$630,000/$566,500	11	25	19.8
Tarrytown	11,436	$124,046	$895,000/$762,000	18	35	13
Tuckahoe	6,584	$90,736	$781,250/$855,000	-9	29	15.5
White Plains	58,137	$90,427	$726,500/$675,000	8	34	28
Yonkers	200,362	$64,916	$599,499/$535,000	12	35	20.9
Yorktown	36,538	$127,763	$568,000/$525,000	8	23	14.7

Most recent Population data and Median Household Income provided by www.censusreporter.org; sources for Median Home Sale Price: Houlihan Lawrence, Zillow.com, Redfin.com; Average # of Days on Market: Redfin.com, via the Real Estate Board of New York; Property and Violent Crime Rate: most recent data from www.bestplaces.net (property crime on a scale of 1 [low crime] to 100 [high crime]. Offenses include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. [U.S. average is 35.4.] Violent crime on a scale from 1 [low crime] to 100 [high crime]. Composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated

Chart research by Mackenzie Tatananni

Violent Crime Rate	Train Commute to GCT (min-max, in mins)*	Train Station	Walkability	Main School District	Public High Schools
7.5	38-59	Dobbs Ferry/Scarsdale/ Hartsdale	69	Ardsley UFSD	Ardsley
6	49-53	North White Plains	62	Byram Hills CSD	Byram Hills
8.1	67-75	Bedford Hills	39	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
7.2	62-70	Scarborough	1	Briarcliff Manor UFSD	Briarcliff
6.6	35-46	Bronxville	87	Bronxville UFSD	Bronxville
6	69	Cortlandt	14	Hendrick Hudson CSD	Hendrick Hudson
5.3	66-68	Chappaqua	65	Chappaqua CSD	Horace Greeley
13.6	69	Cortlandt	54	Hendrick Hudson/Lakeland CSD	Walter Panas, Lakeland
6.9	60-73	Croton-Harmon	46	Croton-Harmon SD	Croton-Harmon
7.6	48-53	Dobbs Ferry	84	Dobbs Ferry UFSD	Dobbs Ferry
6.7	38-48	Tuckahoe	61	Eastchester UFSD	Eastchester
11.8	49-53	North White Plains	80	Elmsford UFSD	Alexander Hamilton
8.2	50-55	Ardsley-on-Hudson	45	Greenburgh CSD	Woodlands
7.2	40-52	Harrison	37	Harrison CSD	Harrison
9.3	42-59	Hartsdale	80	Greenburgh CSD	Woodlands
7.7	46-53	Hastings-on-Hudson	83	Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD	Hastings
7.7	57-60	Irvington	59	Irvington UFSD	Irvington
8.6	35-45	Larchmont	90	Mamaroneck UFSD	Mamaroneck
6	75-87	Goldens Bridge/Katonah	8	Katonah-Lewisboro SD	John Jay
7.3	39-49	Mamaroneck	64	Mamaroneck UFSD	Mamaroneck, Rye Neck
15.1	62-74	Mount Kisco	76	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
13.5	61-62	Hawthorne	24	Mount Pleasant CSD	Westlake, Valhalla
28	32-47	Fleetwood/Mount Vernon East/West	74	Mount Vernon City SD	Nelson Mandela, Mount Vernon, Nellie A. Thornton
6.1	66-68	Chappaqua	5	Chappaqua CSD	Horace Greeley
14.9	42	New Rochelle	65	New Rochelle City CSD	New Rochelle
5.9	49-53	North White Plains	8	Byram Hills CSD	Byram Hills
7.4	91-93	Croton Falls	7	North Salem CSD	North Salem
6.4	64-72	Ossining	61	Ossining UFSD	Ossining
9.5	85-90	Peekskill	61	Peekskill City SD	Peekskill
8.9	38	Pelham	81	Pelham UFSD	Pelham Memorial
9.8	38	Pelham	66	Pelham UFSD	Pelham Memorial
5.9	63-69	Pleasantville	89	Pleasantville UFSD	Pleasantville
35.1	48-60	Port Chester	76	Port Chester-Rye UFSD	Port Chester
8.1	70-82	Katonah/New Canaan, CT	7	Bedford CSD	Fox Lane
5.9	48-60	Port Chester	4	Port Chester-Rye UFSD	Blind Brook
7	45-56	Rye	83	Rye City SD	Rye
7.5	38-55	Scarsdale	40	Scarsdale UFSD	Scarsdale, Edgemont
10	54-63	Tarrytown	78	UFSD of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow
8.1	75-87	Goldens Bridge	39	Somers CSD	Somers
8.5	54-63	Tarrytown	91	UFSD of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow
6.1	38-48	Tuckahoe	86	Tuckahoe UFSD	Tuckahoe
10.3	46-63	White Plains	62	White Plains Public Schools	White Plains
18.6	38-50	Glenwood/Greystone/ Ludlow/Yonkers	70	Yonkers Public Schools	Saunders Trades and Technical, Riverside, Gorton, Lincoln, Palisade Preparatory, Yonkers Middle/High, Roosevelt
8.7	60-73	Croton-Harmon	1	Yorktown CSD	Yorktown

*assault. [The U.S. average is 22.7.]) Train Commute to GCT (via new.mta.info): Where multiple train stations are listed, travel times range from the shortest to the longest, encompassing all stations. *At press time, all trains were off-peak due to COVID. Walkability, a measure from 1 to 100 (low to high) of how friendly an area is to pedestrian activity, was obtained from www.walkscore.com; Main School District and Public High Schools: www.trulia.com. 1=Includes Katonah. Note: Bedford's population represents Bedford town.*



PHOTO BY STEFAN RADTKE

STATE OF INCARCERATION

Most Westchesterites are oblivious of the prison complexes in the county. For those who are imprisoned, have loved ones locked up, or work or volunteer in one, the prison industry is a harsh reality of life.

By Kate Stone Lombardi

Dunasha Payne's first visit to Westchester was in shackles, when she was transported to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. At the time of her arrest, she was a 21-year-old college student, an airline ticket agent, and the mother of a toddler.

She doesn't deny the crime that led her to a sentence of seven years in a maximum-security prison. But Payne does want people on the outside to understand something about the people who live hidden in their midst.

"People think that everyone incarcerated is a monster," she says. "They don't know that a lot of people locked up are just like me. They had children; they had families. Maybe they did one thing wrong. Maybe they are innocent. Maybe they're incarcerated for something that happened to them, like domestic violence, or they

Jermaine Archer (*left*) currently works with the Legal Aid Society, and Charles Moore is now the director of operations for Rehabilitation Through the Arts.

were being molested or abused, and they acted out."

Payne, who was convicted of manslaughter, now works as a teaching artist for The Drama Club, a nonprofit organization providing theater programming to incarcerated young people. Now released, Payne, 30, is reunited with her daughter, who started junior high school this fall.

At any given time, roughly 2,600 people are locked up in Westchester. Under the law, they are considered county residents. New York State's Department of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS) houses three prisons here: Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison for men in Ossining; Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, a maximum-security facility for women; and Taconic Correctional Facility, a medium-security prison for women. Both women's prisons are in Bedford Hills. Additionally, Westchester County runs a jail, in Valhalla, which houses men and women.

The prisons and jail remain largely invisible to most residents. In fact, incarceration in Westchester is a story of one world locked inside another. The enclosed world is made up of the people who live, work, visit, and volunteer in state prisons and the county jail. The surrounding world is most everyone else, who go about their days with no interaction and little consciousness of their imprisoned neighbors.

"People have these institutions in their backyards, and they know nothing about them," says Charles Moore, who was formerly incarcerated at Sing Sing and is now director of operations for Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), a nonprofit program that teaches people in prison life skills through the arts. Before he "made the one poor decision that landed me in prison for 17 years," all Moore knew about Sing Sing was what he'd seen in the movies.

At any given time, roughly 2,600 people are locked up in Westchester. Under the law, they are considered county residents.

Incarceration 101: The Basics

Prisons and jails are not the same thing. Prisons are under the jurisdiction of the state or federal government and house people convicted of crimes with longer sentences. Jails, usually run by a locality, hold those who are newly arrested and awaiting trial and sentencing, as well as those sentenced to serve one year or less.

Step One for someone sentenced to prison in New York is processing at a state reception center.

"It's here that you realize that you're being stripped of everything," says Moore. "You're stripped of all the clothes you came in with, and you're stripped of your name — because it's there that you are given your ID number, which will be used throughout your incarceration."

From the reception centers, people are taken to whatever prison they are assigned to, usually by bus. Sometimes, they don't know which facility they are going to until they arrive. The center is also meant to prepare people for life on the inside. Payne says what struck her most about going to prison was no longer being recognized as an individual.

"It's like you're a newborn baby all over again," she says. "You don't have a voice. You don't have an opinion. You aren't allowed to speak up for yourself. You're told when to go to the bathroom. It's like, 'You have to stand over there; don't move; don't look at me; put your hands on the wall.'"

For incarcerated people, the day is marked by counts, a basic security measure in which the population is literally counted by correction officers. The first is often at 5 a.m. — incarcerated people must stand up inside their cells — and the last is at night. The counts take place throughout the day, including during visiting hours.

Incarcerated people in New York get three meals a day, recreational time, and many have jobs within the prison — in laundry, food services, cleaning, and the like, earning an average of $1.50 a day. Chaplains are available from all major faiths.

Programs

In the afternoon and evening, incarcerated people may attend various programs. The nature of these activities varies by type and facility. First, depending on their crimes, some individuals are mandated by the state to take certain programs. These include antiviolence and anger-management classes, treatment for sex offenders, as well as alcohol-and-substance-abuse treatment.

Non-mandatory programming may be run by the state, by contractors, or by volunteers, though anyone working inside a prison must undergo full security clearance. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is the ultimate authority on any programming inside the prisons, and security in their primary concern.

Among the most well-known programs is "Puppies Behind Bars" at Bedford Hills, which trains incarcerated women to raise puppies as service dogs for wounded war veterans, as well as explosive detection canines for law enforcement.

One of the largest providers of programming is the nonprofit Osborne Association, which provides parenting classes and other therapeutic services to incarcerated and



PHOTO BY STEFAN RADTKE

Charles Moore

released people, as well as to their families. Hour Children, another nonprofit, works directly with incarcerated mothers during and after their time in prison. It also runs a nursery program and children's center at Bedford Hills, as well as a visitation and summer program for children.

"These children are very, very impacted by the loss," says Jane Siflen, director of the Children's Center at Bedford Hills. "For a lot of children, it's shameful, and some will blame themselves, asking, 'What did I do?' The visitation lessens these things, so the child can say, 'My mom didn't abandon me. She got in trouble, and that's why she's gone.' If they feel like their moms are still in their lives, they can start healing."

Many others work within prisons. Not all programs are available at each facility, nor are all people in prison eligible for every program.

Education

Sean Pica was 16 years old and had a ninth-grade education when he was sentenced to 24 years in prison. Today, he has two master's degrees and is the executive director of Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, a nonprofit that provides precollege, college, life skills, and reentry support to incarcerated men and women. Pica, the son of two New York City police officers, served 16 and a half years of his sentence for manslaughter. Initially, he got his high school equivalency in prison. Then he began college classes.

"I wanted to be able to tell my parents I was involved in something positive," Pica says. "I was a teenager, and I was not college material." Pica's story is not a typical one, but educational opportunities are available in the prisons and in the jail. Pica himself was one of the founders of Hudson Link.

Higher education is a challenge in prison, partly because incarcerated people are moved around to different facilities, and, particularly back in the 1980s and 1990s, college programs came and went in prisons. They are not always politically popular.

While sympathetic to victims and their families who balk at various opportunities provided to people in prison, officials point out that almost everyone who is incarcerated will be eventually released.

"They are coming home at some point, and it's our job to do everything in our power to help address those elements that contributed to the

Reprogramming My Potential By Jermaine Archer

I grew up in Brooklyn, in an impoverished neighborhood. Most of my male family members served time in prison. I saw crimes committed daily. Not surprisingly, I ended up incarcerated, albeit for a murder I did not commit. Inside, I realized I had a defective navigational system: I kept finding myself in unfavorable places. In time, I decided to pursue programs, not necessarily believing they would change me but rather to not waste my time.

In prison, *program* connotes "job"; the facility paid us penal-servitude wages to attend school, repair computers, serve meals, et cetera. I took up therapeutic, vocational, and educational programs. As a production manager in Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), I learned the importance of teamwork and leadership, and of working with others to get goals accomplished. More importantly, RTA provided a safe space to release suppressed feelings and emotions not necessarily safe to expose in prison settings. Like a child undeterred by societal pressures, I began having fun in an un-fun environment. I learned to repair refrigerators and air conditioners, picking up a trade along the way. Poignantly, I realized that many problems could be fixed simply by rewiring the circuitry. Through Hudson Link, I earned a Bachelor of Science in behavioral science, the benefits of which are innumerable. Worth noting, I had to stay out of trouble, which helped me create new, positive habits, but more significantly, I learned that the mind is very complicated but can be studied both by others and by oneself.

Merriam-Webster defines *program* as: "To give (a computer) a set of instructions to perform a particular action." I believed my circumstances growing up hardwired or "programmed" me for a criminal lifestyle. Today, I work for The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, implementing programs to mitigate justice-impacted clients' sentences. When clients show reluctance to enrolling in programs, I use my experience to show how programs helped me rewire, or "reprogram," my psyche, leave prison a better person, and secure gainful employment.

Perhaps I was never hardwired after all.

Jermaine Archer resides in White Plains and works with the Legal Aid Society as a sentence-mitigation specialist.



PHOTO BY STEFAN RADTKE

Jermaine Archer

criminal activity to begin with," says Joseph Spano, commissioner of Westchester County Correction. "If we do a good job, everyone wins. The returning citizen wins, and the community wins. It's not a feel-good thing for us; it's an obligation and responsibility."

DOCCS provides an adult basic education program for men and women who test below a sixth-grade level on math, reading, and language arts. The state also provides a High School Equivalency program. There are also ESL classes, as well as a variety of vocational-training certificate programs, ranging from carpentry at Sing Sing to cosmetology at Taconic and Bedford Hills.

Men at Sing Sing can apply for a Mercy College associate's degree or a bachelor's degree through Hudson Link, which also offers a college-readiness program. Union Theological Seminary offers a Master of Divinity degree. All classes take place inside the prison.

Incarcerated individuals are not entitled to a college education, and higher learning for eligible men and women is not funded by the state or taxpayer dollars. What used to be a piecemeal system has become far more organized. Today, Hudson Link is in six sites, with nine college partners serving 680 students. Fundraising remains a challenge.

"We have this program that we know is changing and saving lives every day," says Pica. "We're serving a pretty large segment of the incarcerated population in New York. We know this program is effective: 98 percent of people who've graduated in the last 20 years have not gone back to prison. It shouldn't be this hard to raise money."

For women, The Bedford Hills College Program — a consortium of colleges, including Purchase, Marymount Manhattan, Union Theological Seminary, and Sarah Lawrence — offers higher education. At Taconic, Hudson Link provides precollege programming, as well as higher education through Marymount Manhattan College. The Bard Prison Initiative also offers classes for associate's degrees.

Mothers

According to Hour Children, 62% of women in New York State prisons are mothers with children under 18; half are 9 or younger. (Many incarcerated men are fathers, but in most cases, mothers had been the primary caregivers before their arrests.) Seventy percent of incarcerated women in treatment report being abused as children.

"If you look at what brought many of these women to prison, it's not inherent violence, or there was definitely provocation," says Siflen of Hour Children. "I'm not justifying them, but there are many women who experienced tremendous domestic violence and are impacted with mental-health and substance-abuse issues from sexual trauma."

At the infant nursery in Bedford Hills, mothers can keep their babies until they are 18 months old. While mothers are in school, working, or at mandated programs, the children go to a child-development program, also run by Hour Children. (These programs are supported by grants to Hour Children and New York State.)

Helping older children visit is critical for

Incarceration by the Numbers

The prison population in the county has declined significantly since the late 1990s, a trend that has since surfaced nationwide. In 1999, New York State prisons held 72,773 people; as of June 2021, it was 32,002, a reduction of 56%, according to Thomas Mailey, a spokesman for New York State's Department Of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS). He points to successful criminal justice reforms and a historic decrease in both violent and property crime as causes for the decline.

Advocates for prison reform believe that despite the reduction in many states, the U.S. still has a problem with mass incarceration, with roughly 2.3 million people — about .7% of the population — locked up. (By comparison, China has 1.6 million incarcerated.) The U.S. has less than 5% of the world's population but 20% of all imprisoned people in the world.

Westchester County Jail has also seen steep drops in its numbers. Corrections Commissioner Joseph Spano says that in 2019, the average jail population was 900, but last spring, it got as low as 500. Spano points to bail reform (in 2020, New York State eliminated cash bail for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies) and releases due to the pandemic as reasons for the decline. The jail also used to house 16- and 17-year-olds, but after the "raise the age" law passed in New York, which prohibits teenagers under 18 from being prosecuted as adults, younger offenders are now remanded to Woodfield Cottage, a juvenile-detention center in Valhalla. *-KSL*



Men at Sing Sing can apply for a Mercy College associate's degree or a bachelor's degree through Hudson Link, which also offers a college-readiness program.



"We know this program is effective: 98 percent of people who've graduated in the last 20 years have not gone back to prison." —*Sean Pica*



PHOTOS BY BABITA PATEL FOR HUDSON LINK



John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* was performed at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in 2018.

"When you get involved with self-help programs — whether it be RTA or a parenting program or higher education — and you achieve something, sometimes that's the first thing you've ever achieved in your life." *—Charles Moore*



A production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* was staged at Beacon's Fishkill Correctional Facility in June 2019.

PHOTOS BY PEGGY MCDONNELL/COURTESY OF REHABILITATION THROUGH THE ARTS

bonding, Siflen says, and the logistics of travel and lodging is often insurmountable for families. That said, reunions are not always easy for either mother or child. Children go through the same security checks as adults, passing rolls of barbed wires, removing their shoes, going through metal detectors, having their hands stamped. After the visits, the mothers go through intimate body searches.

Visits can also be emotionally painful. Payne described one with her young daughter.

"She said to the officer, 'Can my mom come with me? I promise you she will not do whatever she did. I'd watch her, and I know she's been doing so good. Can she just come home today?'" Payne recounted. "And the officer says, 'No, she's not able to come. But one day she will.' To watch your kid go through that and not understand... it's just a different dimension of awareness."

A Correction Officer's Perspective

Carolyn Jones worked as a correction officer for 30 years, almost all of them at Bedford Hills. She was also a union representative. The prison environment took getting used to for Jones — especially the sound of all the metal doors clanging shut at once. Early on, Jones earned the nickname Ticketron because she was always writing up infractions.

The job, she says, takes years to learn to do well. Over time, she learned the importance of creating an atmosphere of calm in a unit. But Jones says she always stayed alert, because of the level of untreated mental illness within the prison population and the possibility of a physical attack.

Being a correction officer is not an easy job, though Jones says she enjoyed her career. Many officers cannot afford to live in Westchester, she noted. Bedford Hills has housing for staff, and for a time, some staff at Sing Sing stayed in trailers on the property. Jones says she doesn't see a huge difference between imprisoned people and the people who guard them. In fact, several people she knew growing up ended up inside Bedford Hills.

"Two of them looked at my uniform and said, 'You ain't no better than me,' Jones recalled. "And it's so true. I was hanging out with them when I was on the street. But someone was looking after me. A lot of people just had the luck of the parents who were given, and the lifestyle they were drawn to ended them up in prison."

Community Engagement

If you can adopt a highway, why not a prison? That was one thought behind The Prison Partnership program. Originally founded by the Hudson River Presbytery to engage their churches in prison ministry, it is now an interfaith group, fiscally sponsored by Hour Children. The partnership doesn't work inside the prisons. Instead, it engages the surrounding community as a partner in recognizing the humanity behind bars.

Sharon Ballen, program coordinator, describes the work as "soap to sidewalks," representing the micro and macro of the approach. "Soap" because the partnership collected 40,000 bars of soap during the pandemic for women at Bedford and Taconic. "Sidewalks," because they have been lobbying the state and Town of Bedford to put in a sidewalk between the Bedford train station and the prison, to help visitors and staff navigate safely.

Soon after the new soap began arriving, so, too, did the thank-you notes.

"Thank you very much for thinking of me and my sisters at the Taconic Correctional Facility," one woman wrote. "It's a very welcome and humbling gesture. Often us women are forgotten, so I highly appreciate you. As a college student here at Taconic, I have been low on hope and supplies, and your gesture has cured both things."

The Town of Bedford, which included the request for soap in the supervisor's newsletter, may be the first in the nation to establish a prison advisory board. Representatives include local merchants, advocates, religious leaders, and a correction officer. Ballen emphasizes that the only way the partnership works is with the cooperation of DOCCS.

Many others volunteer to work in prisons. For instance, the Bedford Presbyterian Church runs "Woman 2 Woman," which connects women congregants with incarcerated women who rarely or never get visitors. They correspond and visit, when permitted.

Life After Prison

A host of organizations in the county try to help people after they are released from prison and jail. The transition is not easy. Payne still jumps at the sound of keys and can't get used to not wearing shoes in the shower. Employment remains a challenge. At Hudson Link, nearly 70% of the staff were formerly incarcerated. People like Pica, Payne, and Moore are drawn to working in the kind of programs that once helped them.

"I'm not a bad guy, but I wanted to come home better than I was," says Moore. "When you get involved with self-help programs — whether it be RTA or a parenting program or higher education — and you achieve something, sometimes that's the first thing you've ever achieved in your life. It's a tremendous self-esteem booster and starts a cycle of positivity. And it definitely changes people's worldview and outlook on life."

Kate Stone Lombardi is a journalist, author, and former regional columnist for The New York Times. *She has a special interest in criminal justice and teaches writing in New York State prisons.*

"A lot of people just had the luck of the parents who were given, and the lifestyle they were drawn to ended them up in prison."

—Carolyn Jones



@breakfastatetiffany



@coach_chris_guerrero



@westchesterblogger

THE INFLUENCERS OF WESTCHESTER



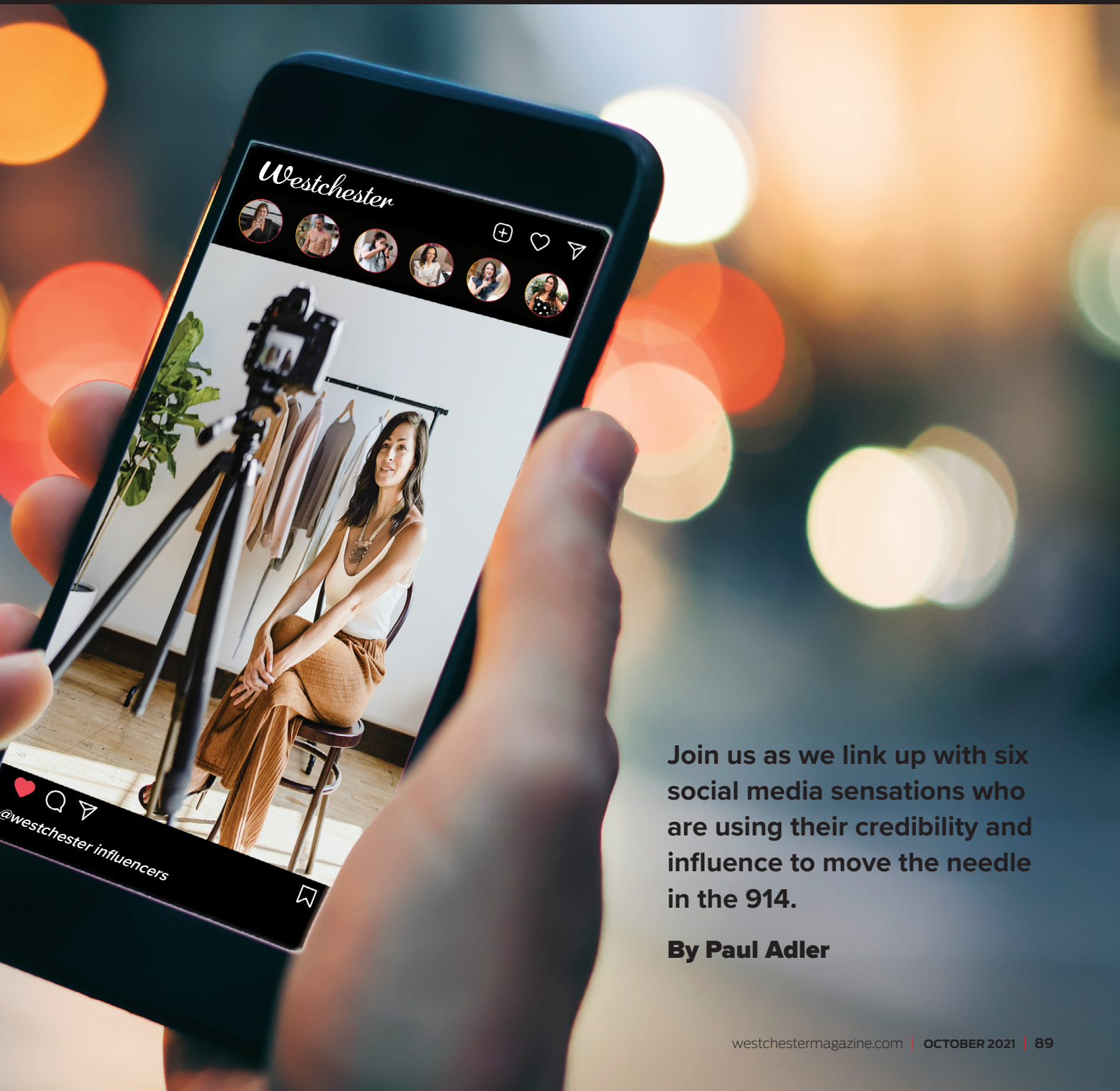
@pamelapekerman
@hustlelikeamom



@intoxikatefoodie



@aheadofthetrendtv



Join us as we link up with six social media sensations who are using their credibility and influence to move the needle in the 914.

By Paul Adler



TIFFANY KEEGAN

@breakfastatetiffany

1,204 Posts

21.9K Followers







Nearly everything that Tiffany Keegan posts to her Instagram account, Breakfast Ate Tiffany, finds its origin in her upbringing. "My family are immigrants from Ireland, and their small business was always a huge part of my life," shares Keegan. "The more I started to work on my Instagram, the more I realized I was passionate about small businesses and helping small businesses get their names out there and be successful."

Since she started her account, roughly seven years ago, Keegan has made Breakfast Ate Tiffany a force for social good, pointing her 21.9K followers toward some of the region's top, locally owned gems. "There are a lot of accounts that are posting, for lack of a better phrase, food porn," notes the Yonkers-based blogger. "It gets you the clicks, but that is not really what I am working for. I am looking for what is really delicious and what has a good story behind it, so you are supporting the right people."

Keegan has worked hard on this mission, especially over the last year and half. "I have couple of friends who are nurses working through the pandemic, and so, at two different times, I held fundraisers to send food to Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx and Danbury Hospital in Connecticut." Keegan also arranged a "Venmo Challenge" through her account, "in which I posted about surprising a server with an extra-big tip," she says. "I did that twice and got to surprise two waitresses each with a $500 tip — one at Piper's Kilt, in Eastchester, and one at Rosie's Bistro, in Bronxville."

> "I am really just here to make the world a better place for the people who are following me."

Keegan humbly chalks up much of the success to her following. "I have tried to put some good out into the world, and my audience has been so incredible," she says. "They donated money for the hospital. They donated money for the Venmo Challenge, and, around Christmastime, I also knew a family with a 3-year-old daughter suffering from cancer, and we raised around $2,000 for that."

Even today, as the pandemic slowly ebbs, Keegan still constantly asks herself how she can serve her followers. "As things have changed in the world, I have begun to speak about other things [that impact] my audience, a lot of whom are women my own age who are going through a lot," explains Keegan, who is 33. "So, I have worked talking about mental health in a little more, which also affects the hospitality industry, as well, and it has gotten a really big response. I am really just here to make the world a better place for the people who are following me."

TOP PHOTO BY TRACY A DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY; OTHERS BY TIFFANY KEEGAN



CHRIS GUERRERO

@coach_chris_guerrero

1,745 Posts **12.7K** Followers

Whether it was shattering his elementary school's sit-up record or spending hours as a child watching his mother work out with a personal trainer, fitness has always been part of Chris Guerrero's life. It may be no surprise, then, that the Instagram account of the former CrossFit Games competitor and founder of Westchester Fit is dedicated to improving the health and mental well-being of his more than 12K followers.

Guerrero had begun a career in finance before dropping by a CrossFit/Strongman gym that would change his life. "I just thought it was so cool. They had all these tires and stones, and everyone was in great shape," shares Guerrero, "I then started training myself in CrossFit." That was 2008, and by March of 2010, Guerrero had quit his job at JP Morgan and opened CrossFit Westchester in White Plains. He rebranded the business to Westchester Fit in 2017.

It was then that Guerrero began to take social media seriously. "In 2018, I realized I probably should have more of a social media presence, so I started to put an emphasis on my own personal page, which I figured would, as a personal brand, be able to bring business and revenue into the gym," he explains. "In the beginning, I was inconsistent with the posting and wasn't really utilizing the platform as it fully could have been used. Slowly, it started to evolve into: Okay, let me highlight some of my own workouts; let me highlight workouts other people can do; and let me throw in some nutrition tips, as well."

> "I am really trying to find a way to provide what people are looking for, to provide an outlet, and get people on a path to living a healthy life."



Guerrero ushered in this new era with his Core 365 project. "I literally posted a core [workout] video every single day for a year," says Guerrero. "It was insane." Nowadays, Guerrero says he tries to post at least five to seven times a week. "The topics vary, but it's usually a workout that I have done that people can try, movements that people can do, nutrition tips, or simple little tidbits that either come to me or in my day-to-day conversations with clients that I feel are really helpful and that I try to then convert into digestible information."

During the pandemic, Guerrero even offered free workouts through a Facebook group and continues to focus on promoting health — both physical and mental — through his Instagram account. "A lot of guys don't talk about mental health, but I have been pretty open about it because I really have being trying to break that stigma," notes Guerrero. "I am really trying to find a way to provide what people are looking for, to provide an outlet, and get people on a path to living a healthy life."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS GUERRERO



ITZEL AGUILERA

@westchesterblogger

1,369 Posts

22.9K Followers







TOP PHOTO BY MEMORIES BY ANA; OTHERS COURTESY OF ITZEL AGUILERA

For Itzel Aguilera, or Westchester Blogger, as she is fondly known by her 22.9K Instagram followers, a life in social media sprung from creative passions. "I went to New York Film Academy, and I used to do photography and videography, including music videos, short films, and weddings, but I wanted to get more into directing," recalls Aguilera. "Then Instagram took off for me as a platform, and I loved featuring local Westchester stuff, as well as food, so that's what I focused on and funneled all my drive to be a filmmaker into Westchester Blogger."

When the coronavirus hit, Aguilera found new purpose in her account and new ways to aid the people of the community. "I was going to restaurants that everybody was afraid to go out to, doing the work and figuring out which restaurants were doing takeout, how they were packaging it, and filming it," shares the Elmsford-based influencer. "I started doing little videos of this, and people weren't afraid to go out anymore because they could see how restaurants had the partitions and were being COVID safe."

This was only the start of Aguilera's mission to lend aid during a trying time. She was soon collecting money and ordering N95 masks for her entire community, offering them free of charge. "I ended up getting 500 masks wholesale and donated 400 of them to nurses, then put it up on my channel that whoever wants could DM [direct message] me and pick it up at my house for no cost," says Aguilera. "People were DMing me like crazy, people who were pregnant or whose parents were sick were telling me they couldn't find a mask or leave the house."

> "I had a desire to support local, small businesses, and I wanted to showcase all that Westchester has to offer..."

Today, Aguilera is still using Westchester Blogger to support the community — that is, when she isn't posting roughly 30 Instagram stories a day or promoting her new line of merchandise. She recently founded The Westchester Plug, a recurring initiative in which influencers descend upon a worthy local business to promote it and gin up business. "I had a desire to support local, small businesses, and I wanted to showcase all that Westchester has to offer," reflects Aguilera. "There is so much here that people just aren't aware is there."



PAMELA PEKERMAN

@pamelapekerman
@hustlelikeamom

1,975 Posts **18.5K** Followers





TOP PHOTO BY PAOLA KAOUD PHOTOGRAPHY; OTHERS COURTESY OF PAMELA PEKERMAN

Pamela Pekerman is not one to let the grass grow under her feet. The Hustle Like a Mom founder, self-styled mompreneur, and media personality balances two separate Instagram accounts — with 18.5K and 1.6K followers, respectively — when she isn't appearing on TV or raising her two children. Pekerman's most popular, and self-named account, is a kaleidoscope of local gems, useful tidbits, and inspiring entrepreneurial posts. No surprise the Scarsdale resident has spent quite a bit of time in front of the camera, working nearly two decades in the entertainment industry and serving as a fashion expert on NBC, HSN, QVC, and *Good Morning America*.

"I am very grateful for that experience because it really helped me sharpen my retail eye and marketing eye, as well as my eye for television and media," says Pekerman of her career. "In the last four years, I have parlayed all of that into Hustle Like a Mom, which, during the pandemic, blew up in ways I could not fathom."

Dedicated to helping mothers attain their entrepreneurial dreams, Hustle Like a Mom and Pekerman's personal account found new relevance and clarity as the coronavirus swept our region. "I used to use my account for campaigns, but I really homed in over the last two years on moms," explains Pekerman, who is a first-generation American born to immigrants from the Soviet Union. "If it's not a mom brand, and it's not going to uplift you or educate or inspire you, there's no point." On her Hustle Like a Mom account, followers can find resources like tips on how to be a better storyteller, how to write a better press release, infographics, or quotes from another mompreneur.

The tactics seem to have worked, as Pekerman has since hosted three Hustle Like a Mom summits and kicked off her own group coaching program, Master Your Messaging. She is currently planning more digital events, as well as two-day destination retreats occurring in 2022. For Pekerman, it is really all about inspiring the women of Westchester. "I want to be the mom who lives up to the pillars I created for Hustle Like a Mom, which is community, growth, shared experience, and accountability," says Pekerman. "Wrapped with that is the fact that we are women who are redefining what it means to be a working mom. I want to be able to show you that, for me, entrepreneurship is the solution and that we can actually make more money than we did in our corporate jobs if we have a strategic plan."

> "I want to be the mom who lives up to the pillars I created for Hustle Like a Mom, which is community, growth, shared experience, and accountability."



KATE SCHLIENTZ

@intoxikatefoodie

1,427 Posts

8.5K Followers







When it comes to featuring Westchester's incredible edibles (the gastronomic kind, as opposed to the Cheech & Chong kind), Kate Schlientz keeps it real. "My mission is to inspire people to dine out in their own backyards, with the most authentic self that I can put out in social media," shares Schlientz. "So, I don't spend a ton of time playing around with taking out backgrounds or photo editing. I really try to present the dish and the environment just as you would see it if you walked into the restaurant."

The founder of CommuniKate Media, Schlientz views @intoxikatefoodie as "purely a passion project, which has really moved into advocacy, in an effort to help restaurants with promotion and to make a really great connection between diners and restaurants," she says. With the dawn of the pandemic, the Yonkers-based blogger found no shortage of local eateries in dire need of her assistance.

First, Schlientz created a live Google document detailing all the local restaurants offering takeout. It was a major resource in early 2020 and was used by this magazine, several other media outlets, and countless area residents. "I loved that getting that information out there became a collaborative effort," says Schlientz. The intrepid influencer then began connecting local hospitals with area restaurants that were in desperate need of work, which could then "put together proposals for the hospitals if they needed lunch or dinner deliveries to help feed staff," she explains. "It was really wonderful to make that connection and help local restaurants."

> "So, we are really using social media to not only promote our local restaurants and support a local charity but also to spread awareness [about hunger]."

Schlientz also recently wrapped IntoxiKate's Eating for Orange campaign, in which participating chefs created an orange-colored or -flavored dish during the month of September that customers could then tag on their social media accounts. "When anybody goes to a participating restaurant and takes a picture of that dish and shares it on social media, I donate a dollar to Feeding Westchester," explains Schlientz. "So, we are really using social media to not only promote our local restaurants and support a local charity but also to spread awareness [about hunger]. It's a collaborative effort, and it is a really wonderful thing."

Aside from her charitable work, Schlientz is also developing a video series in which she asks local chefs four questions about the pandemic's impact on the restaurant industry. For Schlientz, social media is more about lifting up those in need than simply posting selfies. "I am really trying to educate, not entertain," she says. "I never refer to myself as an influencer. I really consider myself an advocate."

TOP PHOTO BY OMAR RAWLINGS; OTHERS BY KATIE SCHLIENTZ

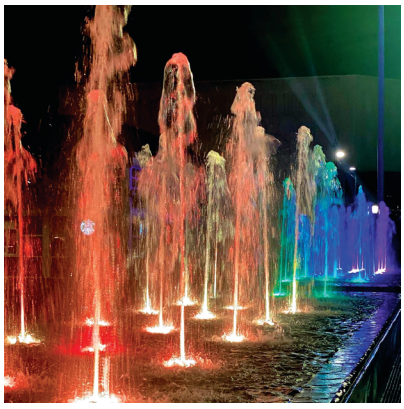


LETICIA REYES-JAMES

@aheadofthetrendtv

250 Posts **3.2K** Followers







TOP PHOTO BY RILEY MCCARTHY; OTHERS COURTESY OF AHEAD OF THE TREND TV

Leticia Reyes-James was a major player in regional media long before she founded her 3.2K-strong Instagram account, Ahead of the Trend TV. A television personality in the early 2000s, Reyes-James hosted what she calls "one of the first Spanglish-bilingual lifestyle-and-entertainment shows in New York City, called *En La Escena*," sang onstage with the likes of Valerie Simpson, and represented White Plains in the ABC reality competition show *The Quest*. However, it wasn't until 2015, at a public event, that Ahead of the Trend TV was born.

"I created my first episode of Ahead of the Trend at *Westchester Magazine*'s 2015 Wine and Food Festival, which I loved so much that it spurred me into exploring everything the county has to offer," recalls Reyes-James. "I realized how incredibly rich the area is, and I don't mean financially. There is history, culture, beauty, and just amazing culinary offerings throughout a bevy of small towns and villages. I thought to myself, *People have to know about this.* So, in 2018, I made my first Instagram post under the name @aheadofthetrendtv, and I have been working ever since to expose people in and around Westchester to everything [this area] has to offer."

According to Reyes-James, Ahead of the Trend TV "aims to help people break out of their norms and routines, to experience something new and different. We are focused mainly on experiences, activities, and travel," she says. Currently, Reyes-James is working on a robust rebrand of Ahead of the Trend TV. "We feel like we are just getting started: We are expanding, and big things are coming," she says.

Yet, no matter what the future holds, Reyes-James knows Westchester is the ideal spot to meet it. "I live in White Plains, and I found myself going to the same places I go to every day. It made me realize a lot of people are drawn into lives of monotony, but there is so much richness here. You can really add to your life and create adventure and fun around you. I think Westchester is the best place to do that because it has a country element; it has a city element; it has these incredible chefs coming to the area to provide you with experiences that are unique to the county; and you are along the Hudson River, so its beauty adds to your experience."

> "We are focused mainly on experiences, activities, and travel. We feel like we are just getting started: We are expanding, and big things are coming."



Debbie Amicucci Naccarato
of Tiny Sweets by Deb



WESTCHESTER'S HOME-BASED BAKERS

A baker's dozen batch of those who do their rolling, kneading, and decorating from the comfort of their own kitchens.

By Michelle Gillan Larkin

Westchester is home to exquisite bakeries and patisseries, but sometimes the occasion (and the craving) calls for a truly homemade treat. That's where the county's home-based bakers come in. Most of them are self-taught, having acquired tips, tricks, and recipes while tugging at the aprons of Mom and Grandma during the formative years; others graduated from top culinary schools. But one thing they have in common is an easy commute — straight to the counters and ovens of their own, private (NYS-certified) kitchens, where they whip up the freshest, most unique cookies, cake, bread, jam, and more for area farmers' markets, restaurants, specialty shops, and for local sweet tooths via special order.

PHOTO BY ANDRE BARANOWSKI









PHOTOS (*TOP LEFT*) BY ANDRE BARANOWSKI; (*COOKIES*) COURTESY OF DEBBIE NACCARATO

TINY SWEETS BY DEB

Yonkers; *tinysweetsbydeb@gmail.com*

"I'm a hundred percent Italian, and there was always cooking and baking in my house," says Debbie Amicucci Naccarato, who was let go from the corporate world a couple of years ago and figured it was a no-brainer to fall back on baking. "I've just always baked." Personalized, logoed, decorative cookies for special-order celebrations of all kinds are her hot ticket, but she also provides traditional almond or walnut Italian biscotti, aka *cantuccini*, to BXVL Coffeehouse in Bronxville and Valhalla's Twisted Branch. "They are really hard and must be dunked to be enjoyed," she notes. Here's a secret: Sample a sundae at BXVL for a bite of Deb's luscious homemade brownies.

BAKED WITH LOVE BY ABIGAIL

Mamaroneck; *bakedwithlovebyabigail.com*

As a kid in Mamaroneck, Abigail Friedman says she was always interested in what was going on in the kitchen. But when she launched a baking blog in middle school, called Aunt Lore's Cakes (after her great-great aunt, a baker in "the Catskills' heyday"), and raced home from class every day to stick her fingers in flour, she began to realize her passion for baking was more like an obsession. So much so that she traded NYU for ICE (Institute of Culinary Education). Today, she's a regular at the Down to Earth farmers' markets in Larchmont and Mamaroneck, with her multiflavored biscotti and secret-sauce babka. "Babka can be a little dry, so I add a cream-cheese mixture to my recipes," she says. Sweet babkas come in cinnamon or brownie, while savory iterations include Gruyère and caramelized onion or the one called Everything Bagel, which Friedman describes as "a punch in the mouth of flavor."





CHOCOLATE CHUNKERS

Bronxville; *chocolatechunkers.com*

When the pandemic canceled Michael Knox's football and lacrosse seasons, the eighth grader (you read that right) hit the kitchen, full of entrepreneurial zeal and the burning desire to create the perfect chocolate chip cookie. The result? A flourishing online and word-of-mouth business involving numerous local deliveries, nationwide shipping, and a cookie aptly called The Whoop Ass Chunker. Stuffed with chocolate chunks, coconut flakes, pretzels, Reese's Pieces, and white chocolate chips, the Whoop Ass is a step beyond Knox's signature, ooey-gooey Chocolate Chunker, but in either case, Knox's tagline applies: "These cookies are the bomb!"

PHOTOS (*TOP*) COURTESY OF ABIGAIL FRIEDMAN; (*BOTTOM*) COURTESY OF MICHAEL KNOX



PHOTO BY DARRIN ONETO

BRITTANY'S UNFORGETTABLE TREATS

South Salem; *amoneto1123@gmail.com*

A longtime teacher's aide in the Katonah-Lewisboro schools, Anna Oneto always loved to cook, but when her pastry-chef daughter — responsible for a dessert at nearby The Horse and Hound — made a career change, Oneto had no choice but to step in and fill her culinary-schooled shoes. Fast-forward five years, and Oneto is still baking the restaurant's signature candy bar pie (peanut-butter cheesecake in a chocolate cookie crust topped with chocolate ganache and Reese's Pieces and PB cups) and stocking a mini-version of it at The Farmer's Grind coffee shop. There, she also sells banana bread and knock-your-socks-off, Best of Westchester crumb cake. "It's my mother-in-law's recipe, and it only comes out right in her old 9-by-13 baking pan." Oneto also specializes in gluten-free chocolate chip cookies, macaroons, brownies, and cake. "I'm gluten-free, and I want to enjoy what I make." Word of mouth keeps her in business, and that award-winning pan has her busy round-the-clock.



STEPH'S SWEETS

Harrison; *stephssweetscookies.com*

One day, back in ninth grade, Stephanie Broderick woke up and announced, "I want to be a pastry chef." It was ambitious and somewhat surprising, considering neither her mother nor her grandmother, for that matter, cooked or baked. But young Broderick wasn't kidding and is today an accomplished, ICE-schooled pastry chef (who worked in catering for Danny Meyer back in the day). "I love to cook, but cookies are my specialty," she says. Special, indeed, with customized crunchers boasting brilliantly colorful images and messages that escort uplifting, happy vibes to parties and celebratory gatherings while decorating the shelves at Longford's ice cream shops and Chocolations in Mamaroneck.







CHESTNUT BAKED GOODS

Pelham; *chestnutbakedgoods.com*

When Lisa Hill-Ries was in college, her roommates were the lucky ones and the envy of the dorm. "We always had chocolate mousse and fresh pies in our fridge," she laughs, remembering how her itch to bake began back then. It was a by-product of working alongside her Italian grandmother as a kid in Boston. "She had so much patience with me and taught me how to maneuver in the kitchen and to be good to the food that you're cooking." Hill-Ries ran a home-based baking business in Brooklyn before her move to Pelham in 2013 and the arrival of twins put everything on hold. "Then the pandemic hit, and I got the itch again," she says. Since then, she's been baking her signature brownies with bourbon caramel and Maldon salt, raspberry shortbread bars, and Southern-style hummingbird cake ("like banana bread meets carrot cake, but without the carrots") and selling them at Pelham's Farmers Market, Café Ammi, also in Pelham, and to customers online.

PHOTOS (*LEFT*) COURTESY OF STEPHANIE BRODERICK; (*RIGHT*) COURTESY OF LISA HILL-REIS



CATHY'S BISCOTTI

White Plains; *cathysbiscotti.com*

Known as the family baker since she was 9 (yes, 9!), Cathy Schauber never received any formal culinary training — unless you count a childhood in the shadow and under the tutelage of an Italian mother and grandmother who "magically transformed flour, sugar, and butter into pure bliss," as she recalls. Although she considers herself a pie-and-tart girl, Schauber began baking biscotti (and selling it wholesale) 15 years ago in celebration of her proud Italian heritage, earning her a pair of Best of Westchester awards and a spot on the shelves of Wegmans in addition to about 30 coffee shops and stores in the 914. For the past two years, she's been baking in her home, offering anything on request, including cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes, and hard-to-resist apple crisp.

BIRDIE'S BATCH

West Nyack; *birdiesbatch.com*

The mother-daughter duo of Vinnie and Sara Cann do all of their baking across the old Tap but are an unmissable, lively presence at the TaSH Farmers Market in Tarrytown. Vinnie grew up in an Italian household and fondly recalls her days "around the kitchen table, with the women of the family, cutting vegetables, shelling beans, and going to the fishmongers, butchers, and vegetable stands" instead of to the supermarket. Sara graduated the French Culinary Institute as valedictorian. Together, they are a force, matched only by their old-fashioned, homespun baked goods, like rugelach (regular and gluten-free), chocolate chip cookies, and their signature jams, fruit butters, and marmalades born in small batches from seasonal, locally sourced, handpicked fruit. Standout jam flavors include strawberry, peach, blueberry, and sugar plum, but in the fall, it's apple butters and jellies, and a jelly made from the neighbor's quince tree. No matter the fruit, each jar contains generous chunks of it.





MUSTARD TREE

Yorktown Heights; *mustardtreellc.wordpress.com*

Operating under the theory that baking is science at its finest, Jennifer and Henrik Loos are a pair of physicists who traded the lab for the kitchen. "My mother ran a baking business out of the home, selling mainly wedding cakes," says Jennifer, while Henrik was captivated by the local bakery, the breads, the smells as a kid growing up near Frankfurt, Germany. As a team, they are a baking machine, churning out thoughtfully conceived, artisan challah breads, sourdough baguettes, pies, and more, fashioned from all-organic ingredients (save the nuts and EVOO) and locally sourced whenever possible. Their baked goods can be found at farm stands and eateries across Northern Westchester, including Hilltop Hanover Farm, Peter Pratt's Inn, and Trailside Café. Committed to customized baking, the Looses are happy to make their seriously sinful cinnamon rolls in the shape of a heart, if desired, and consider their *biscottini* (biscotti requiring just two bites) their best invention to date.

PHOTOS (*TOP*) COURTESY OF CATHY SCHAUBER; (*LEFT*) COURTESY OF SARA CANN; (*RIGHT*) COURTESY OF MUSTARD TREE





LITTLE STAR PASTRY

Croton; *littlestarpastry.com*

No stranger to the stove, Rebecca Turnbull has names like Eataly, Bien Cuit, and SoCo Creamery on her résumé, but the accomplishment that brings her the most pride and joy is her 3-year-old sous chef. This stay-at-home pastry chef says she always loved working in the kitchen and forever dreamed of running her own business. Enter the pandemic, a move to Westchester from Brooklyn, and endless renditions of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" day and night. "My goal is to have a shop, a real family business," she says. In the meantime, her kitchen is a veritable hotbed of what she calls deceptively simple pastries, like tea cakes and almond tarts, featuring seasonal fruit (strawberry rhubarb, peaches, plums, apricots, pears) sourced locally at farm stands and farmers' markets. She rolls puff pastry by hand for traditional elephant ear cookies, creates light and airy croissants (plain or chocolate), and sells her goodies at the Down to Earth Farmers Market in Ossining and online.

PHOTOS (*PORTRAIT*) BY JACOB FISS-HOBART; (*TART*) COURTESY OF REBECCA TURNBULL



PHOTO BY ANDRE BARANOWSKI

MRS. LARKIN'S

Pound Ridge; *mrslarkins.com*



When you grow up in a big, Italian family, it's unlikely you'll be dubbed The Scone Lady later in life. However, "I love carbs, and I got fixated on scones," explains self-taught baker Liz Larkin. "My parents thought I was crazy." Crazy like a fox, perhaps, as this Best of Westchester winner has been turning out superior scones for the past decade, selling them at farmers' markets, Northern Westchester shops, and by special order, in tantalizing blueberry, chocolate chip (that was our BOW pick), cranberry orange, seasonal pumpkin, and the "cinnful" one, which conceals cinnamon streusel in the center. "I fell in love with scones at high teas in New York City," says Larkin. "It's such a refined moment of getting away in the afternoon." Larkin's chocolate chip "chubby" cookies are pretty transcendent, too, along with the ones flavored with molasses and clove.

GLOBAL GOODIES

CROATIAN CONFECTIONS

Mamaroneck; *croatianconfections.com*



Croation Confections
Poppy-seed swirl bread

When the school bell rang in her Croatian village, Vesna Rudelic would drop her bag, race into the garden to gather everything her grandmother needed for the day's cooking and baking, and then, finally, "it was time to play," she remembers. "My grandmother grew poppy seeds; she had walnut and fig trees; her garden was our only store." Rudelic began cooking for her family at age 14, when her mother became ill; she learned some English in school but mostly from listening to Motown. She grew up to be a nurse, but upon arrival in America in 2003, she stood out for her ability to bake for church gatherings of 200 or more. The Down to Earth Farmers Markets of Mamaroneck, Larchmont, Rye, and Ossining were a natural progression and the perfect spot to showcase traditional hazelnut-filled thumbprint cookies, poppy-seed swirl bread, strudels, and authentic, raspberry-filled Croatian peach cookies, called *breskvice*, made with farm-stand ingredients and available by special order.

GAELLE'S FRENCH PASTRIES

New Rochelle; *gaellesfrenchpastries.com*

Growing up outside of Paris, Gaelle Lopez imagined she'd be a marine biologist someday, but when she came to the U.S. in 2012 as an au pair and tasted her first slice of birthday cake, her dreams and destiny took a detour. "It was too sweet — and I love sweets!" She discovered that the French pastries this side of the Seine were no different. *This doesn't work; this is not home*, she thought. Lopez realized that to satisfy her sweet tooth, she'd have to make her own treats. She enrolled in correspondence pastry school, went home to France to take the final exam, and voilà! The rest is history. Today, she's a constant at the farmers' markets in New Rochelle and Rye, with authentic crêpes and macarons, traditional tarts, and multi-fruit pies with smooth vanilla pastry cream, also for sale on her website.

PHOTOS (*TOP*) BY LIZ LARKIN; (*BOTTOM*) COURTESY OF CROATION CONFECTIONS



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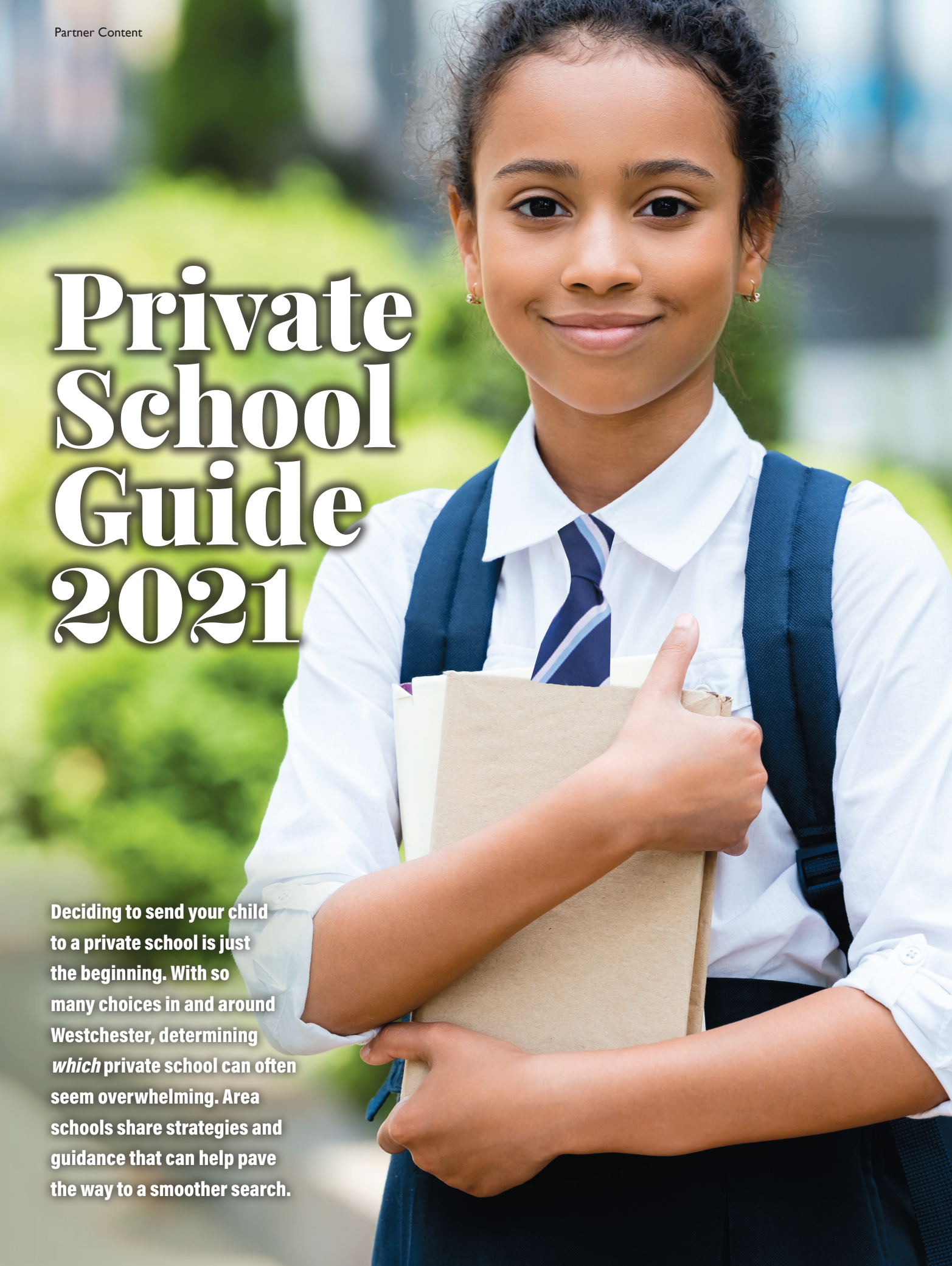
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Private School Guide 2021



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

Each school year, parents face difficult decisions — selecting schools, activities, and support services that are best for their children Over the past year and a half, that process was challenged in countless unexpected ways. By following valuable advice directly from private schools, the schools having the best fit for you and your children will begin to emerge.

DEFINING YOUR PRIORITIES

From the perspective of William Mena, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid for **The Harvey School**, "The most important decision when choosing an independent school is finding an educational environment that not only challenges your child academically, but also defines excellence as readying students to chase what fulfills them and instills a desire for greater knowledge. Simply put, students that are happy thrive. At Harvey, joy matters. We want our students to love school, be engaged in the classroom, form strong relationships with their teachers and peers, and stretch beyond their comfort zone. We personalize each student's educational journey to be as unique as they are. What opens up the floodgates to learning is feeling accepted, respected, and connected to their school community. There's nothing more powerful than a student who believes they can make a difference in the world."

Carol Maoz, interim head of **King School**, advises, "When selecting an independent school it is important to understand if students have a voice. Do teachers listen to students and value their contributions? Does the school place an emphasis on inclusion, ensuring that students feel valued and allowing them to thrive? Are there opportunities for students to pursue and develop their interests and passions? Finally, is there a healthy balance between nurture and challenge? Deeper learning takes place when students are challenged without causing a level of anxiety that interferes with learning at the highest capacity. At King, we are intentional about all of these essential elements."

CONSIDERING LEARNING APPROACH

As Michael Schultz, principal of **The Chapel School** (TCS) notes, "Educational research proves that students learn best when they receive personal, individualized attention; students develop confidence when they have opportunities to safely explore interests outside of the classroom; and, students' world views are healthier when diversity is celebrated, leadership is fostered, and service is valued. TCS has wonderfully diverse average class sizes of 16 students, expanding extracurricular programs and a specific focus on social emotional literacy, service learning, and student leadership."

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

With a "Two Tracks, One Mindset" approach, students at the **French-American School of New York** (FASNY) are offered the opportunity to participate in either the French-American Program or the International Program, which begins in grade 1. Regardless of program choice, at FASNY, the innovative approach is the same, based on values of respect, empathy, and positivity, centered on learning, continuous progress, and the well-being of students. The school culture is based on a critical mindset and development for each and everyone: What is learning? How do we progress? How do we develop academically and personally at school? These are the questions to which the faculty and staff in place give meaning as the pedagogical approaches are thoughtful, age-appropriate, organized, and focused on academic excellence and student development.

Archbishop Stepinac High School is known as the standard bearer in curriculum innovation, providing young men with a highly competitive academic program that leverages collegiate blended learning platforms and inquiry-based learning pedagogy to equip students with skills to become globally competitive. Highlights include The Honors Academy Program, Entrepreneurship Program, Finance Lab with Bloomberg Terminals, College Link Program, AP Capstone Diploma Program, and an award-winning STEAM program. The work in the Stepinac classroom also revolves around the real-world application of academic concepts and ideas. The Stepinac student seeks original solutions to existing local, national, and global problems. Annually, they are awarded National AP Scholar and National Merit Scholar recognitions. Beyond the classroom, Stepinac boasts a championship sports program, an award-winning arts program, and diverse range of extracurricular activities. From robotics to stocks to horticulture and mock trial, there is something for everyone! New for Fall 2021: more state-of-the-art classrooms of the future, a 2,250 square-foot STEAM center, and a Wall Street Lab Classroom.

"Recognizing that a child has a language-based learning disability, like dyslexia, early in their educational experience is extremely important," explains Jamie Williamson, head of **The Windward School**. "Early identification and intervention, rather than waiting for a child to fail to learn to read, will reduce the years of struggling that a child and their family will endure. Parents, pediatricians, and teachers can play an active role in early identification before a child experiences reading failure, even as early as kindergarten."

SAMPLING THE SCHOOL

Erin Johnston, **The Ursuline School**'s director of admissions, stresses the importance of evaluating schools even during the current challenges: "Learning about and applying for high school amid a pandemic is no easy feat! As admissions directors, we want to give you every possible way to get a sense of our school















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community and how learning continues even during this unprecedented time. Here at Ursuline, many in-person and virtual Open House events are planned to include tours of the campus and conversations with our faculty, current students, and our head of school. There will be opportunities to view many different classes, including our new I-Hub maker space and high-tech conference center. Safety is a top priority with all in-person events; we are also available by phone, Zoom, or email."

CHOOSING A FAITH-BASED SCHOOL

"Over my last 40 years in education as a teacher and administrator, I have seen an increasing focus on value proposition. Today **Iona Preparatory** guides families along an educational journey that, from prekindergarten at our Lower School, can last up to 14 years," says Brother Thomas R. Leto, Ed.D., president of Iona Preparatory School PK-12 in New Rochelle. "So, when parents approach the selection process, they should do so like the investment that it is. Look for value in the curriculum and community, as well as future dividends in the form of college scholarships and alumni professional networks."

According to Bradley Serton, director of admissions at **Fordham Prep**, "The best schools are ones that engage their students not only inside the classroom, but outside as well. As prospective students and their parents search for the right private school, they should consider the opportunities afforded students to grow academically, socially, physically, and even spiritually. At Fordham Prep, we offer a rigorous college preparatory academic program that includes 20 Advanced Placement classes and the opportunity to take classes at Fordham University. However, we also invite students to get to know themselves better through our faith formation programs and to develop empathy through our four-year service requirement. By developing all aspects of our students' character, they are prepared to succeed immediately both in college and in the real world. Choose a school that allows you to develop all aspects of your character and the benefits will last you a lifetime."

Anna E. Parra, president of Maria Regina High School explains that since its founding in 1957, **Maria Regina High School** has been a distinguished leader in education for young women, providing a rigorous learning environment and strong social and moral guidance in a faith-based tradition.





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MEASURING A SCHOOL'S SUCCESS

There's no one single way to measure a school's success. "We believe it should come as no surprise that parents who place their children in private college prep schools are focused primarily on getting them into the right colleges," says Fr. Mark Vaillancourt, PhD, President and Principal of **John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School**. "Our metric for success in that area has been, 'how much merit-based scholarship money are the kids receiving?' Our class of 2021 netted over $50 million. The tool we use to achieve that is a rigorous curriculum, as measured by how many we graduate with Advanced Regents Diplomas (94 percent) and SAT scores (an average combined score of 1223)." Learn more about the process at our Open House on October 17 and 20, 2021.

"An all-girls environment allows and even demands that girls take on the mantle of leadership and see themselves as the capable, clever, competent individuals they are in every area of their learning and life," adds **Sacred Heart Greenwich** Head of School Margaret Frazier. Founded in 1848, Sacred Heart Greenwich is an independent, all girls, K through 12 college preparatory school with a coed early childhood education program. Located on a 100-acre campus in Greenwich, CT, its more than 600 students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, inspiring teachers, and a rigorous curriculum complemented by an international network of schools that bridges tradition and values with innovation.

"**Brunswick**'s guiding vision is to be the leading independent school for boys, known for the strength of our academic, arts, athletic, and community-service programs, the clarity of our purpose, and the quality and character of our faculty and students," Head of School Thomas W. Philip shares. "Our collective goal is to prepare our students for successful and meaningful lives after they leave our doors. We believe absolutely that it will be the strength of a given boy's spirit and the depth of his char-

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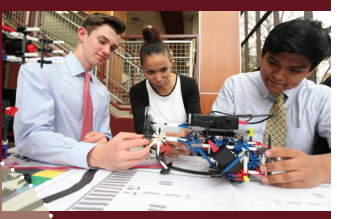
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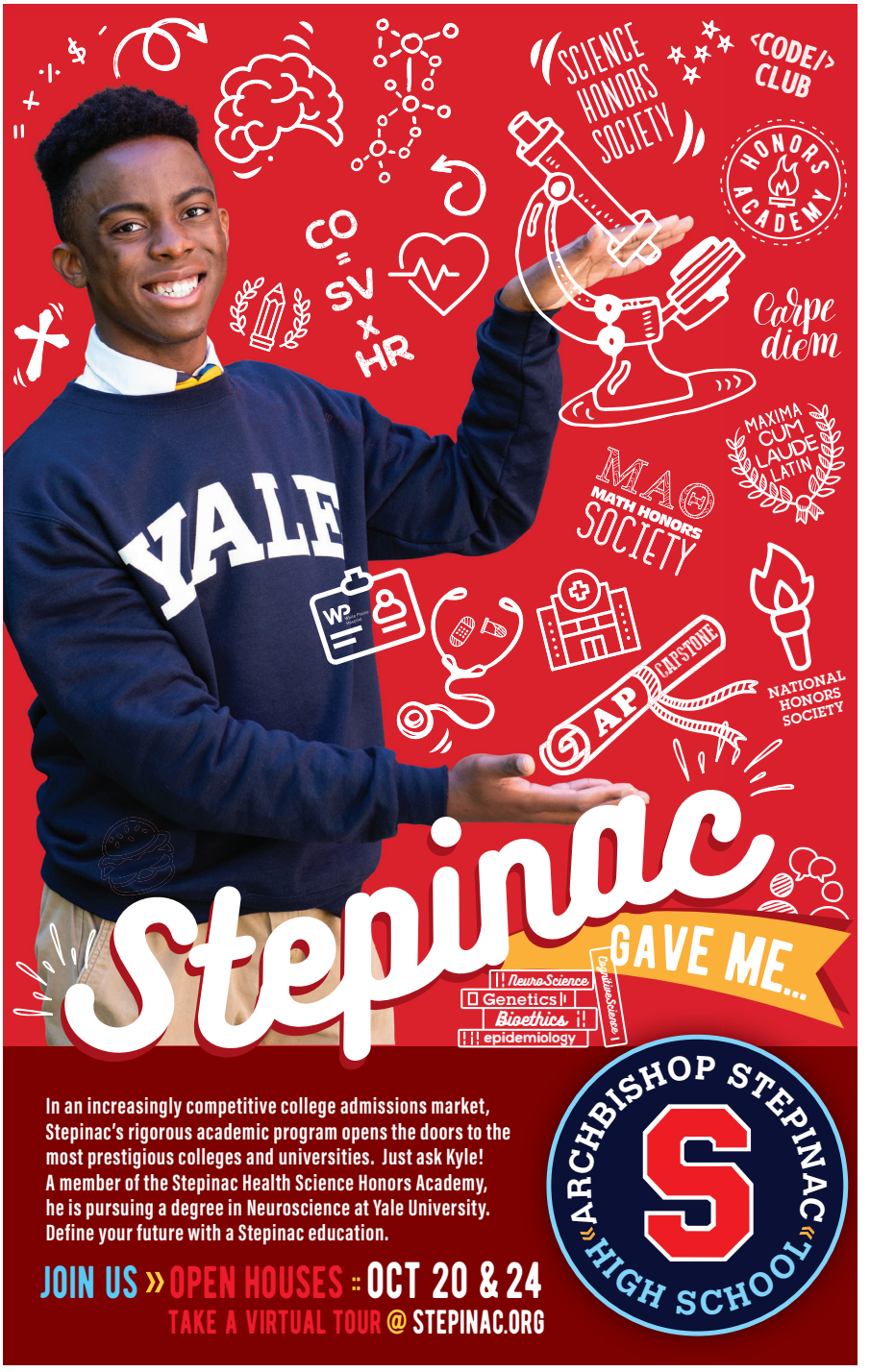
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Many parents are pondering Nanny vs Group Care. Brianna Banahan of **The Nurtury Montessori School**, emphasizes the benefits of socialization through The Nurtury's full-day infant and toddler programs. "Infants and toddlers benefit tremendously from socialization in our small group setting at this young age so that they can master important socialization skills well before they enter a large school setting. Guided by educated and certified Montessori teachers, they learn language and socialization skills such as how to share, wait your turn, follow directions, being patient and kind to friends, work out conflicts, ask for what they need — skills that can only really be developed in a group setting." Banahan adds that interested parents should be aware that The Nurtury currently has limited openings in its new Larchmont program for children 15 months to 3 years old.

ASSESSING A SCHOOL'S CULTURE

Assessing a school's culture can take many forms. **Rye Country Day School**'s Head of School, Scott Nelson, explains, "Independent schools offer a range of missions, cultures, educational philosophies, academic programs, and extracurricular opportunities, which families should consider carefully when trying to find the best fit. I advise families to reach out to academic and administrative leaders at their schools of interest, ask questions, and get to know those educational communities. Independent schools tend to admit the majority of new students in particular entry years — at RCDS, these are Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 4, Grade 6, and Grade 9. Substantial need-based financial aid also may be available — RCDS is awarding $6.3 million in need-based grants in the coming year. Finally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, each school has taken a different approach, which should also be considered. This year, Rye Country Day has prioritized in-person learning for all of our students, which is made possible by extensive safety protocols, including weekly saliva testing. Having invested over $2.5 million dollars in leading-edge technology, safety equipment, and facilities updates, RCDS is prepared to deliver an excellent education in person, online, or as a hybrid of the two."





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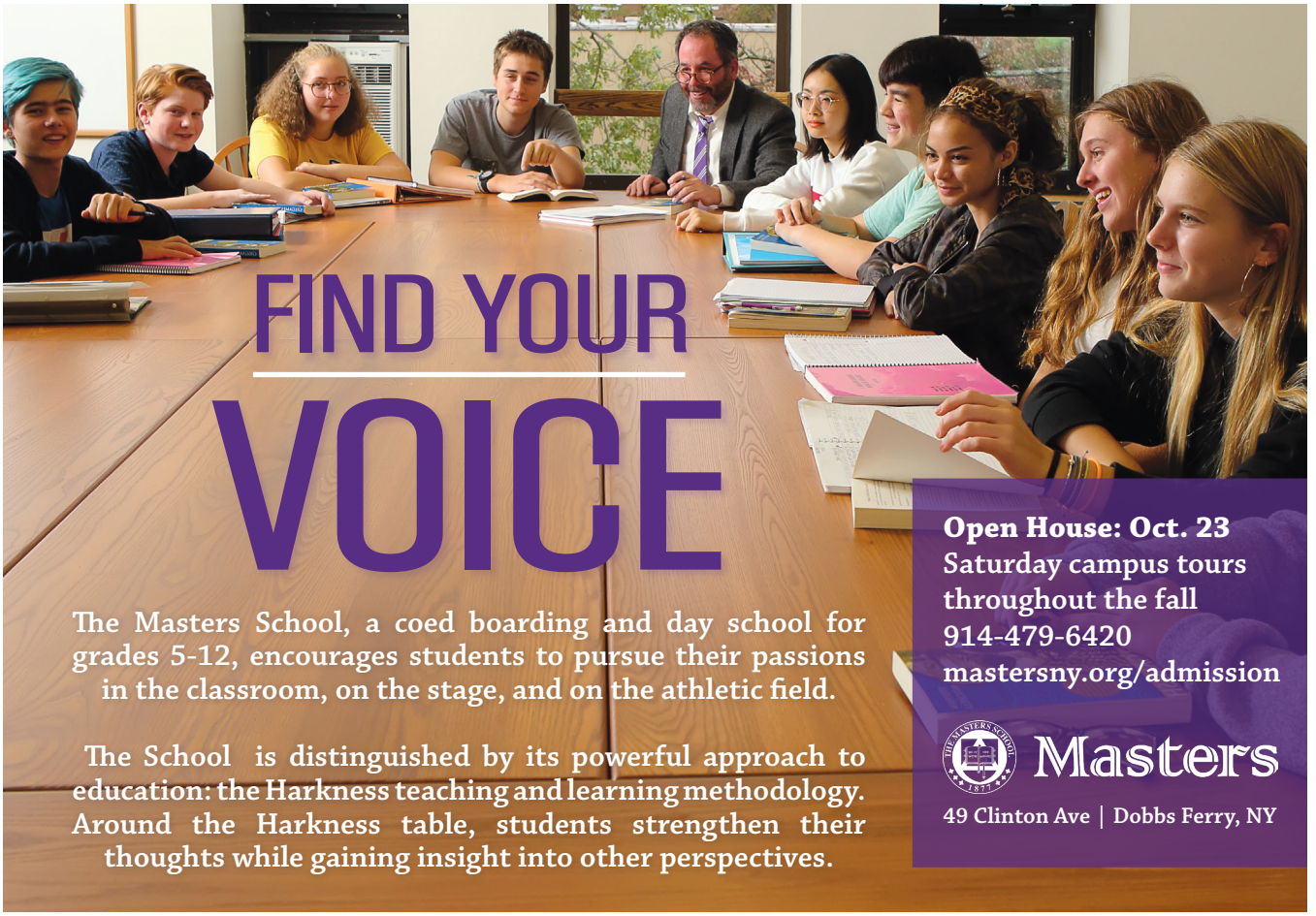
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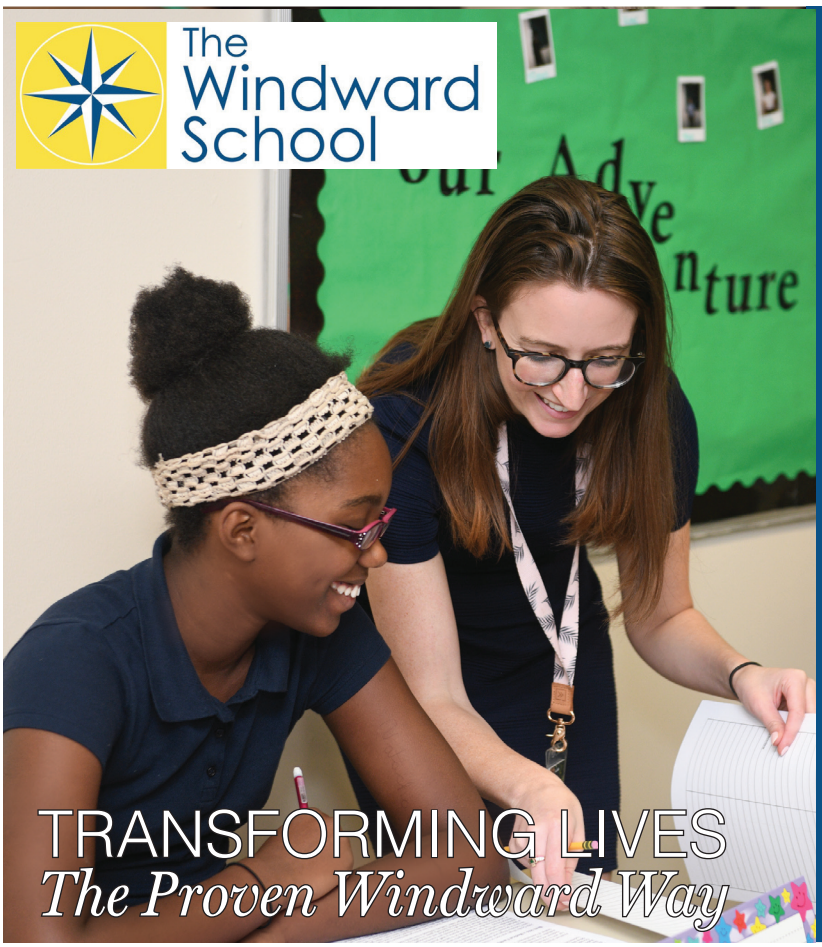
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HOPPY TIMES

Take Flight

Bavarian-style sourdough pretzels paired with flights of house-brewed beer can be had at Pleasantville's Soul Brewing Co. Learn more about this brewpub, which was inspired by small breweries in Belgium and Germany, and how it survived the pandemic after opening in March of 2020.



PREVIEW

Averna Italian Steakhouse

17 Purdy Ave, Rye
914.305.5330
avernasteakhouse.com



Clockwise from top left: the moist, buttery Chilean sea bass; a seafood tower for two; Prime steaks are dry-aged 28 days.

Perusing the menus, nibbling on complimentary olive salad and Italian bread after being seated at the new 80-seat Averna Italian Steakhouse, one is likely to hear, "Is my son taking care of you?" or "Is everything good and everyone happy?" This is co-owner Sami Ametaj, checking in on tables, doing what a restaurateur who's been in the industry for 39 years knows is necessary to be successful: to genuinely care about the customer experience.

A native Albanian who emigrated from Montenegro to America in the early '80s, Ametaj's first restaurant job was as a busboy at the now-defunct La Borsa di Roma in Manhattan. After just three months on the job, he was promoted to waiter. "A year or more was typical for such a move," he says. "But the owner saw I cared about what I was doing." He went on to wait tables at Peter Luger in Brooklyn and co-own restaurants in the Bronx, Mount Kisco, and Greenwich. Averna is his sole place now, which he co-owns with nephew Timmy Ametaj; his son Nick is captain and niece Alisa Kotja is hostess.

To head up the kitchen, Ametaj enlisted Chef Carlos del Cid, previously with the Connecticut-based Blackstones Restaurant Group. "I love the Rye community," says del Cid, a town of Fairfield resident who is originally from Guatemala. "They appreciate quality and are willing to spend for it. When I have specials — swordfish, halibut — they always sell out. And I see a lot of returning customers."

Steaks are from Master Purveyors in Manhattan and dry-aged 28 days. They are not marinated because, del Cid says, "They don't need it. Right on the high heat broiler at 800 to 1,000 degrees."



In addition to tender steaks, there's a raw bar (much of the seafood comes from Norm Bloom & Son based out of Norwalk), five pasta dishes (the rigatoni Bolognese with Prime-aged ground meat is a winner), plus entrées such as pan-seared Chilean sea bass (another standout), grilled Colorado lamb chops, and on-the-bone chicken scarpariello.

There are 200 different wines, mostly Italian and Californian, to pair with your cut and seven signature cocktails (e.g, the Cloudy Manhattan consisting of Bulleit rye, Averna, orange bitters, and tonic). After dinner, order a glass of Averna, the Sicilian liqueur (like amaretto only less bitter) for which the restaurant is named, to toast Ametaj. "If a customer likes the experience. It makes me proud," says Ametaj. "I have a passion for my customers. If I see someone frowning, I make sure to fix what is wrong."

—John Bruno Turiano

PHOTOS BY JOHN BRUNO TURIANO

HOPPY TIMES

Soul Man Brewing

A new brewery in Pleasantville aims to be a European-style community hub via music, trivia, and of course good beer. **By James Reddicliffe**

Soul Brewing Co.
Pleasantville
soulbrewing.com

There were days over the past year when Allen Wallace was something of a one-man show at Soul Brewing Co. in downtown Pleasantville, making his beer and selling cans and growlers at the door.

Soul opened on March 14, 2020, just as the coronavirus turned the world upside down. A ribbon-cutting and party were canceled, although the brewery did begin doing business. "We did the opening and got shut down two days later," Wallace says. Now you can find the brewery buzzing on weekends, with local bands playing and patrons filling tables both indoors and outdoors.

Soul (Wallace says the name comes from his love of soul music, yeast being the soul of a beer, and the brewery being a labor of love) is a dream realized. Wallace says he wanted to open a brewery since he started brewing at home in the late '90s. Soul is modeled on the small breweries he fell in love with in Europe when he visited with his wife, Freya Martens, (whose parents live in Brussels and who helps out at busy times at the brewery) during their honeymoon. "Small breweries that really served the community and where you'd go on a Sunday afternoon; they were gathering places for the town," which is what lit the fire in Wallace to leave his advertising career in New York City.

Wallace created his own Westchester gathering place, and now that customers are returning to bars and restaurants, Soul is hosting trivia nights each week, as well as live music most Sundays. But the appeal of the place starts with the excellent beer.

Current favorites include the West Coast IPA called Sly ("which sells like gangbusters"), the hazy IPA called El Tropical, and a honey blonde ale brewed with honey from Hudson Valley Apiaries, as well as the Empire Pale Ale, made with New York State ingredients. Of course, there are Belgian influences, too, like Platinum Dragon — a dry-hopped triple ale — and Soulstice Dark, a strong ale with figs and cinnamon.

Wallace has plans for a greater brewing capacity and is exploring the potential of a roof deck and garden. The '60s R&B star Brenton Wood once sang, "You've got soul; you've got too much soul." Wallace is betting that his brewery has just the right amount.







Clockwise from top: a trio of Soul's popular brews; owner Allen Wallace; a typical Sunday afternoon at Soul Brewing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUL BREWERY

SPIRITED

A Fresh Sip

Hand-crafted, small-batch sangria that started out as a social-media score is now a staple at farm tables across Westchester.

By Michelle Gillan Larkin

When Bo DiBuono slides a shot-glass-size sample of his Manor Sangria across the table at the farm markets of Morning Glory, Muscoot, Pleasantville, and TaSH, he gets a natural high watching the fast smiles and nodding heads of his customers. It's a vicarious way to enjoy his crisp, crimson creation because, as he admits: "I've never tasted it... I'm allergic to apples and peaches" — fruits that are quintessential to authentic sangria.

The son of a luncheonette and concession-stand owner, DiBuono has an abiding trust in his ability to blend ingredients together. "I'm from a big, Italian family, and food has always been at the center of my life." As a kid in Larchmont, he was "pulled out of bed" on Saturday mornings to go work with his dad. And although he studied finance at Iona, his father's footsteps loomed large; at one point, DiBuono was running the concessions at every club along the Sound in Larchmont and Mamaroneck.

Manor Sangria
Larchmont
manorsangria.com

It was there, on a sultry summer evening, that along with requests for cold beer or a splash of rosé, DiBuono was asked if he had any sangria. "I had never made sangria; I never drank sangria," he says. But, he loves a challenge.

DiBuono went to work, studying this foreign brew, enlisting friends as taste testers and eventually crafting an original recipe he started serving at club events. "The feedback was overwhelming," he says. It was just as positive in a dusty school gym, when he sold 500 jars at a holiday fundraiser — without sand and surf to enhance the urge.

Word of mouth spread through Lower Westchester, and before long, social media was abuzz every time "Sangria Man" came to town with a new batch of Mason jars brimming with this fresh, intoxicatingly delicious beverage.

An entirely one-man operation from start to sip, the foundation of DiBuono's drink is a Pinot Noir from New York, with no added sugar or liqueurs (triple sec and brandy being the usual syrupy suspects). "It's a really clean, elegant sangria," he says. Fruit is hand-selected from local farms, cut into tiny, laser-perfect cubes, then infused for 30 days. "I let the wine and fruit work together, to get that robust yet balanced flavor." The magic happens at his home, a fully licensed winery.



In tune with the seasons, Manor Sangria is offered in a Classic Blend, with crisp apples, oranges, and lemons, and a Holiday Blend, which includes cranberries and the infusion of cinnamon stick. Ripe peaches make an appearance come springtime.

True to his moniker, DiBuono remains the sole sentinel of his successful, crowd-pleasing process. It's a secret, even to his foodie father and his big, Italian family.

TABLE MATTERS

Dining Scene News & Notes

William Mike Harden, the Coast Guard captain and licensed lobster fisherman behind four **LobsterCraft** food trucks, has opened three brick-and-mortar locations, including one in Greenwich (*107 Greenwich Ave; 203.900.1555; lobstercraft.com*). The others are in Norwalk and Fairfield. Harden, who has a lobster boat in Groton, sets his line of deep-water lobster traps east of Montauk in the Atlantic Ocean for fresh meat to fill six lobster roll offerings (e.g, the LBLT, filled with lobster, bacon, lettuce, tomato, and topped with garlic aioli; Surf N Turf, with marinated flank streak and garlic aioli; and the Heat Wave, with serrano-and-habanero-pepper-infused butter). Also on the menu: lobster versions of tacos, sliders, mac 'n' cheese, grilled cheese, pot pie, and bisque.


Lobster roll at LobsterCraft

PHOTO BY JOHN BRUNO TURIANO

Chef Fabian Marquez, owner of the Peruvian/Latin Latusion Food Truck (*latusionfoodtruck.com; @latusionfoodtruck*), has debuted the **Galapagos Food Truck** (*@galapagosfoodtruck*), serving such Ecuadorian fare as maduro loco (sweet plantains topped with cheese, Ecuadorian pulled pork, chorizo, and drizzled with chimichurri aioli), shrimp ceviche, and parrillada (grilled steak, chicken, and chorizo served with crispy fried plantains and drizzled with chimichurri aioli).

Plant-based, counter-service café **Root 2 Rise** (*359 Manville Rd, Pleasantville; 914.769.8460; root2riseny.com*), serving gluten-free, dairy-free, and refined-sugar-free fare, has opened. For breakfast, there's offerings such as toasts, scones, and yogurt with granola; the lunch menu has a beet-and-walnut burger, gluten- and grain-free pizzas, grilled "cheeses," and salads.

In the space that once housed Lalibela is now **Monarca Restaurant & Bar** (*37 S Moger Ave, Mount Kisco; 914.864.0337; toasttab.com/monarca-restaurant-bar/v3*), serving traditional American fare, such as a salmon burger, shrimp scampi, chicken Madeira, and penne in a creamy pesto sauce with shrimp.

Wine Spectator's (*winespectator.com*) **40th Annual Restaurant Awards**, which honor the world's best restaurants for wine were announced in the summer and included Blue Hill at Stone Barns and Crabtree's Kittle House in the Grand Award Winner category (only 103 total winners worldwide) and Alba's Ristorante, BLT Steak, and Morton's, The Steakhouse for the Award of Excellence category (1,673 winners). —*JBT*

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Parked at Salinger's Orchard in Brewster is The Bus by Dave DiBari of The Cookery fame.

COURTESY OF THE BUS AT SALINGER'S

Border Bites

Just outside the confines of the county, a world of culinary adventure awaits Westchesterites who hunger for the occasional change of scene. **BY MICHELLE GILLAN LARKIN**

With so much to offer in the way of food, drinks, cuisine, and sweet treats, there's hardly a reason to wander beyond Westchester's bountiful borders, but every so often the itch to get outta Dodge needs a good scratch. A spontaneous cry of "road trip!" may work for some, but for those who demand a destination or require a reason to get up and go, there are countless, delicious and indulgent excuses for an easy excursion over the county line. From down-home Southern cuisine in Rockland County to house-made ice cream with a view of the Hudson in Putnam, these foodie must-trys are no more than a stone's throw away and an excellent break from the everyday.

Fairfield County

Hoodoo Brown BBQ

Ridgefield; *hoodoobrownbbq.com*

Serving up meat that is wood-smoked, low and slow, for a minimum of 14 hours, coupled with recipes and techniques culled from touring the barbecue pits of Austin, this is the local hot ticket for ribs, pork, and more, including rare-in-these-parts burnt-end deviled eggs, Texas poutine with cheese curds and gravy brisket "debris" over hand-cut fries, and the curious, irresistible *jar* of bacon.

Rye to Ridgefield: 45 minutes

Newbury Gelato

Brookfield; *newburygelato.com*

The old country is a day away, but Italophiles in the know get their fix of fresh, authentic gelato this side of the Arno at this inviting, family-run shop where ingredients are always all-natural, often imported, and crafted daily in-house and in small batches. Two dozen flavors grace the case, from traditional stracciatella to outrageous mascarpone swirled with caramel and chopped pistachios, and the ever-so-comforting milk and cookies, marrying classic vanilla with house-made chocolate chip cookies. (Dairy-free and vegan options abound, as well.)

Bedford to Brookfield: 37 minutes

The Village

Stamford; *thevillagestamford.com*

Truly a site to behold, the Nutmeg State's brand-new, sprawling and sparkling, waterfront office and event space is home to sleek and sexy dining destination, **The Wheel**, where the menu brims with ingredients sourced from upwards of 40 local farmers, fishermen, and purveyors. A hearth oven does the roasting for small plates to entrées and bakes bubbling Neapolitan-style pizzas.

If just a cold one is enough to make a visit feel complete, check out **Cisco Brewers**, which hails from Nantucket and pours coastally inspired craft beer Memorial Day through early fall, with occasional live music.

Scarsdale to Stamford: 30 minutes

LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHEEL; RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWBURY GELATO





(*Left*) The Wheel's lobster roll and fries
(*right*) Newbury Gelato

Putnam County

Hudson Hil's Café
Cold Spring; *hudsonhils.com*
Boasting all-day breakfast and lunchtime standards crafted from fresh, Hudson Valley-sourced ingredients, this sweet charmer hits the spot for those hungering for belly-busting classics, like biscuits and gravy, as well as for palates seeking sophisticated sammies of melted gouda, sliced Granny Smith apples, and fig paste on rustic European bread.

Moo Moo's Creamery
Cold Spring; *moomooscreamery.com*
This family scoop shop at River's edge offers front-and-center liquid vistas from the elongated front porch, paired with creamy, house-made ice cream that's just as showstopping. Swirled fresh daily from a proud family recipe, 16 flavors dot the board and tempt with names like Guinness chocolate pretzel; peanut butter banana marshmallow chip (yes, that's one flavor); and cinnabutter pecan spice.
Chappaqua to Cold Spring: 45 minutes

Salinger's Orchards and The Bus @ Salinger's
Brewster; *salingersorchard.net*
Founded in 1901 and farmed by the Salinger family's fourth generation (Tim Salinger is the current head honcho), this orchard grows a veritable cornucopia of fruits and veggies, with 18 varieties of U-pick apples, plus peaches, pears, plums, and more. The dizzying aroma of freshly baking apple cider donuts draws visitors into the country-style farm stand, where pastries and pies (from apple crumb to pumpkin) force will-power to crumble. For a solid lunch before the sweet feast, Chef David DiBari's permanently parked bus is an on-premise bonus, beckoning with artisan, overstuffed sandwiches, from fried eggplant to the Brewster BEC.
Briarcliff to Brewster: 30 minutes

Rockland County

Art Café
Nyack; *artcafenyack.com*
Close but yet far from run-of-the-mill, this cozy area fave is housed in a picturesque old Victorian and distinctly reminiscent of the bustling cafés of Tel Aviv. It's run by a warm and welcoming Israeli family that serves three squares a day of health-conscious Middle Eastern cuisine (hummus, grape leaves, feta-filled puff pastry) alongside crowd-pleasing light bites, a bevy of baked goods, vegan specialties, and gluten-free bagels.

My Father's House Southern Cuisine
Nyack; *mfhsc.com*
Set out on a Sunday and settle in for a soul-soothing, satisfying Gospel brunch — crafted by the hands of a culinary-schooled chef from the hills of North Carolina — featuring shrimp and grits, chicken and ribs, smothered pork chops, vegan versions of meatloaf and chicken and waffles, plus every side dish under the Southern sun, and luscious, loaded desserts.
New Rochelle to Nyack: 37 minutes

Piermont Creamery
Piermont; *piermontcreamery.com*
Retro-style stolen moments are just over the ol' Tap at this kitschy sweetshop, which evokes an old-timey, parlor feel, with its vintage-style black-and-white tile, fresh, house-made ice cream, and cheerful service. Along with the classics, up-to-the-minute flavors (Strong Coffee, honey ginger, Magical Unicorn, vegan black raspberry) delight palates of all ages and stages.

Sidewalk Bistro
Piermont; *sidewalkbistro.com*
A slice of Paris is a jaunt away, and it doesn't take much to imagine the Hudson as the Seine, when nestled among the sidewalk café tables of this neighborhood gem with a transporting menu of traditional bistro fare. The moules au curry (mussels steeped in coconut milk and curry with diced apples and raisins) is the true raison d'*être*, making this a *journée* to write home about.
Port Chester to Piermont: 26 minutes

The Bronx

City Island Lobster House
City Island; *cilobsterhouse.com*
Known near and far as "the first one on the left," this waterside haven is a seafood lover's must in the summertime and a definite during the fall, when crowds dwindle and the autumn sun ushers new life to the Sound. Old-world velvet-backed booths play host to phenomenal fish fests, featuring sweet, cold-water lobster tails, oversized crab legs, jumbo shrimp, and dry-aged Angus beef for the landlubber. Arrive by boat and drop anchor at the eatery's private marina for a road trip like no other.
Croton-on-Hudson to City Island: 41 minutes

dining out

EDITED BY Michelle Gillan Larkin

KEY TO SYMBOLS
$ Average entrée $14 or less
$$ Average entrée between $15 and $21
$$$ Average entrée between $22 and $27
$$$$ Average entrée $28 or more

TOP 31 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

HUDSON PRIME STEAKHOUSE
Steakhouse $$$$
From the Ardsley couple behind Divino Cucina Italiano (Hastings-on-Hudson) comes this welcome addition to the Rivertown dining scene, boasting an in-house butcher, Prime cuts from Hunt's Point Market (dry-aged in-house), ocean-fresh seafood, house-made desserts, and a big-name, international wine list, all served with downhome Albanian hospitality. *5 N Buckhout St, Irvington; 914.231.6800; hudsonprimesteakhouse.com*

BABY DUKE'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS
Cajun $$$
This Cajun newcomer, housed in the longtime Lum Yen space, offers catfish nuggets, East Coast oysters, seafood boils, surf and turf, smothered pork chops, po' boys, and house-made, Southern-style desserts (pecan pie, Key lime pie, peach cobbler). *100 W Boston Post Rd, Mamaroneck; 914.698.6881; babydukeskitchen.com*

Ardsley

BELLA'S TRATTORIA *Italian $$*
Gourmet and thin-crust pizzas are served alongside traditional down-home Italian classics in a warm, welcoming, family-friendly setting, where the house-made cheesecake is among the best the county has to offer. *473 Ashford Rd, Ardsley; 914.693.9122; bellastrattoria.com*

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; lacatenaardsley.com*

TOP 31 **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; liniziony.com*

THE SHOP ARDSLEY *American $$*
Proffering an innovative hybrid concept, this beloved Ardsley gem serves breakfast and lunch during the day, transforming into a full-service New American restaurant at night, complete with a top-notch bar program. Rotisserie and fried-chicken meals are finger-licking highlights. *711 Saw Mill River Rd, Ardsley; 914.591.4321; theshopardsley*

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; amorearmonk.com*

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; beehive-restaurant.com*

TOP 31 **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; fortinapizza.com*

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; kokujapanese.com*

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; macelleriaarmonk.com*

TOP 31 **MODERNE BARN** *New American $$$$*
Natural, local ingredients are the focus at this New American restaurant with Mediterranean touches from the Livanos Restaurant Group (City Limits Diner). *430 Bedford Rd, Armonk; 914.730.0001; modernebarn.com*

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; bedford234.com*

DINH DINH KITCHEN
Southeast Asian/American $$
Pho, bahn mi, and coconut curries are the quick and easy standouts at this casual eatery with sleek, minimalist decor, but don't miss the handful of entrées, like the short ribs with whipped yams and smoky carrots with lemon zest. *740 N Bedford Rd, Bedford Hills; 914.772.1967; dinhdinhkitchen.com*

Briarcliff Manor

105-TEN BAR & GRILL *American $$$*
Like sister Urban Hamlet in Bronxville, 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; 105ten.com*

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; squiresofbriarcliff.com*

Bronxville

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*

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; rosiesbronxville.com*

Chappaqua

TOP 31 **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; crabtreeskittlehouse.com*

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; ibizakitchen.net*

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; baciotrattoria.com*

Croton-on-Hudson

TOP 31 **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; oceanhouseoysterbar.com*

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; 140grand.com*

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; sushimikes.com*

THE BIT *Gastropub $$$*
With an ethos described as "a bit of everything for everyone," this Rivertown gastropub (formerly The Rare Bit) offers a diverse menu of elevated comfort fare, from popcorn cauliflower bites and burgers, to chicken tikka masala, shrimp tacos, and house-made gnocchi, with vegan and gluten-free options available, and specialty cocktails to wash it all down. Closed Mon. *23 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.693.8000; thebitdf.com*

TOP 31 **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; thecookeryrestaurant.com*

TOP 31 **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; theparlordf.com*

Eastchester

TOP 31 **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; burratapizza.com*

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; giganterestaurant.com*

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; piperskilt.com*

TOP 31 **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; polpettina.com*

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; raasany.com*

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; shirazkitchen.com*

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(Continued from previous page)

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; thegreekish.com/harrison*

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; wellingtonsgrill.com*

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; granitany.com*

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; omandarin.com*

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; pas-tinas.com*

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; vegamexican.com*

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; boro6winebar.com*

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; harvesthudson.com*

TOP 31 **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; saintgeorgebistro.com*

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; sakurahastings.com*


O MANDARIN, HARTSDALE

PHOTO BY DOUG SCHNEIDER

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; threelittlepigsbbqofhawthorne.com*

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; tramontos.com*

Irvington

TOP 31 **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; chutneymasala.com*

TOP 31 **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; mimarestaurant.com*

TOP 31 **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; mptaverna.com*

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; sambalny.com*

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; jaystreetcafe.com*

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; peppinosristorante.com*

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; thewhitlockny.com*

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-doughnuts on the weekends. *112 Myrtle Blvd, Larchmont; 914.909.5289; billyandpetes.com*

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; christophersbychefjoe.com*

TOP 31 **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; corianderny.com*

TOP 31 **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; durianthaifood.com*

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; lalataquerialarchmont.com*

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; vintage1891kitchen.com*

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; ilcastello.us*

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; provencalbistro.com*

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; maplerosecafe.com*

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; modernontherails.com*

NONNA CAROLA *Italian $$$$*
Food★★★ Service★★★½ Atmosphere★★★½ (02/20) This high-class Italian restaurant boasts exemplary service and flavorful dishes, like pappardelle Bolognese and cauliflower *arrosto*. Closed Mon. *211 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck, 914.899.3130; nonnacarola.com*

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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; badageonigeorgiankitchen.com*

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; exit4foodhall.com*

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; localipizzabar.com/mount-kisco-ny*

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; villagesocialkb.com/order-kisco*

Mount Vernon

TOP 31 **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; johnnys1942.com*

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; alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com*

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; marianewrochelle.com*

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; nomasocial.com*

North Salem

TOP 31 **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; 121restaurant.com*

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; primaveraitalian.squarespace.com*

TOP 31 **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; farmerandthefish.com/purdys*

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; cravinjc.com*

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; melikeossining.com*

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; aproposrestaurant.com*

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; finandbrew.com* ***Temporarily closed as of press time.***

Pleasantville

TOP 31 **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*

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; southern-table.com*

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; woodandfirepizza.com*

Pocantico Hills

TOP 31 **CHEF IN RESIDENCE AT STONE BARNS** *New American $$$$* Dan Barber has stepped away from the stove at the groundbreaking farm-to-table fine-dining Blue Hill at Stone Barns (that was awarded two stars in the 2021 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; bluehillfarm.com*



Port Chester

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; albasrestaurant.com*

TOP 31 **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; saltaireoysterbar.com*

SERGIO'S SAW PIT *Italian $$$*
From Sergio Gashi, the chef-owner behind longstanding Tutta Bella (Eastchester) and Sergio's Ristorante (Pelham), comes this new Northern Italian spot where the pasta is house-made, the steaks, chops, chicken, and fish are prepared with precision, and the customer is always first. *25 S Regent St, Port Chester; 914.881.3220; sergiosofportchester.com*

TOP 31 **SONORA** *Nuevo Latino $$$*
Fans flock to Chef Rafael Palomino's only Westchester spot for his pan-Latino cuisine.



BADAGEONI GEORGIAN KITCHEN, MOUNT KISCO

PHOTO BY KEN GABRIELSEN

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; sonorarestaurant.net*

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; tellystaverna.com*

Pound Ridge

TOP 31 **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; theinnatpoundridge.com*

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; tredicinorth.com

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; frankieandjohnnies.com*

TOP 31 **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*

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; okokitchen.com/location/rye*

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*

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; ryeroadhouse.com*





(Continued from previous page)

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; akaiscarsdale.com*

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. *128 Garth Rd, Scarsdale; 914.725.3000; cafealaia.com*

TOP 31 **EASTCHESTER FISH GOURMET** *Seafood $$$$* Owner Robert Pedott sources fresh seafood daily from the Fulton Fish Market for this fine-dining institution, its adjoining market of fresh and prepared marine delights, and his aptly named takeout counter, Go Fish. *837 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale; 914.725.3450; eastchesterfish.com*

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; elbarriony.com*

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; seaflamerestaurant.com*

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; 901woodburningkitchenbar.com*

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; farmerandthefish.com/hudson*

TBOY'S BISTRO *American $$$*
From the couple behind the former, longstanding An American Bistro (Tuckahoe, then Crestwood) comes this casual, cozy spot where the modern take on comfort fare features veal, duck confit, and shiitake-mushroom meatloaf, alongside roasted shrimp and seared scallops over farro, edamame, and grain-mustard scampi sauce, followed by luscious house-made desserts. *31 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow; 914.909.6151; tboysbistro.com*

Somers

UNWINED 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; unwinednewyork.com*

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; thehorseandhoundinn.com*

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; lavistaristorante.com*

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; goosefeatherny.com*

TOP 31 **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*

TOP 31 **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; rivermarketbarkitchen.com*



UNWINED KITCHEN, SOMERS

PHOTO BY ANDRE BARANOWSKI

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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; thecubeinn.net*

Thornwood

GORDO'S NORTH *American $$*
Creative and satisfying American comfort fare of flatbreads, pastas, ribs, hearty salads, sandwiches, and burgers are served with a side of warm and friendly hospitality at this welcoming, women-owned neighborhood gem. *1006 Broadway, Thornwood; 914.579.2610; gordosnorth.com*

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; risotto-restaurant.com*

THE BARLEY HOUSE *American $$*
This popular Thornwood spot serves thoughtful versions of classic sandwiches and bar snacks, plus craft beers and cocktails. *665 Commerce St, Thornwood; 914.495.3333; thebarleyhouseny.com*

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; angelinasoftuckahoe.com*

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; growlersbeerbistro.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; thetaphouseny.com*

White Plains

TOP 31 **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. Closed Tuesdays. *3 Barker Ave, White Plains; 914.288.0188; aberdeenwhiteplains.com*

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; benjaminsteakhouse.com*

TOP 31 **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; bltrestaurants.com/location/blt-steak-white-plains/*

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; citylimitsdiner.com*

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. Dinner only. Closed Mon &Tues. *68 Gedney Way, White Plains; 914.683.3662; emmasalehouse.com*



LA BOTTE, WHITE PLAINS

PHOTO BY JOHN BRUNO TURIANO

FOGO DE CHÃO BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE
Steakhouse $$$$
The architecturally noteworthy former Bank of New York building is the setting for this upscale chain where 16+ cuts of fire-roasted "churrasco" meat (rib-eye, sirloin, lamb chops, spicy sausage, and more) are carved tableside as patrons serve themselves from the Market Table of seasonal soups, salads, vegetables, exotic fruits, imported cheeses, smoked fish, and cured meats. *235 Main St, White Plains; 914.687.8600; fogodechao.com*

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; freebirdkitchenandbar.com*

KANOPI *Fine Dining $$$$*
Atop the Opus Hotel and inspired by his Portuguese heritage, Kanopi is Chef Anthony Goncalves' intimate culinary experience, boasting a la carte and chef-led tasting menus that marry old-world flavors with Hudson Valley farm-fresh ingredients, accompanied by breathtaking views. *1 Renaissance Sq, White Plains; 914.761.4242; kanopievents.com*

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; laboccaristorante.com*

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; labotteristorante.com*

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; mulinosny.com*

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; royalpalacecuisines.com*

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; samsofgedneyway.com*

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; saporiofwhiteplains.com*

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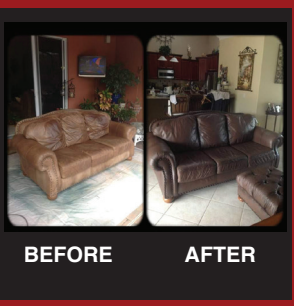


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SUPPORT CONNECTION
Breast & Ovarian Cancer Support

ANNUAL SUPPORT-A-WALK FOR BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Walk With Us, Wherever You Are!

ABOUT THE SUPPORT-A-WALK



Support Connection's Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer is held to bring attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer and to raise funds for the organization's free services. It was founded 27 years ago by Westchester residents who continue to be involved today with this uplifting community event. This year's theme is "Walk With Us, Wherever You Are." Support Connection invites people to walk in their town, city or neighborhood, or even on a treadmill at home. The Walk is more important this year than ever, because cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic.

WHY THE SUPPORT-A-WALK IS IMPORTANT

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP!

This year's Walk is Sunday Oct. 3. Donations are accepted before, during and after the event - by check, cash, and online at the Support Connection website.

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

dining out

(Continued from previous page)

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; treangelina.com*

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; paxromanany.com*

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; dolphinrbl.com*

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; wpublicpizzaitaliankitchen.com*

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; salsabembe.com*

TOP 31 **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; xaviars.com*

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 Main St, Yonkers; 914.376.6500; zupparestaurant.com*

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; jewelofhimalayany.com*

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; the-gramercy.com*

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NEW YORK METRO
WESTCHESTER
2021

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Seated L to R: Alicia A. Tallbe*, Dina L. Hamerman*, Russell M. Yankwitt*, Benjamin R. Allee
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- Selected to Super Lawyers:
  - New York Metro, 2007, 2010-2021
  - Top 100 New York Metro, 2021
  - Top 25 Westchester, 2012-2021
- Affiliate President of NYS Trial Lawyers Association, Westchester Region, 2011-2021
- Dean of NYS Trial Lawyers Institute, 2015-2021
- The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100, Member 2015-2021
- Published in VerdictSearch's "Top NY Verdicts" in 2010 & 2011
- Lecturer/Speaker: NYSTLI 2011-2021; Pace Law School; Westchester County Bar; NYS Bar
- 95% success rate over 30 years in personal injury, medical malpractice and labor law cases
- Published cases: front page of the *New York Law Journal* eight times
- Secured $124+ million in verdicts, awards and client-approved settlements:
  - $11,800,000: Quadriplegia, trip and fall, construction site, labor law (lifetime yield)
  - $6,700,000: Mild traumatic brain injury, car accident (lifetime yield)
  - $5,250,000: Breach of contract
  - $4,103,220: Multiple fractures and surgeries, car accident and dram shop (lifetime yield)
  - $3,500,000: Paraplegia, legal malpractice
  - $3,500,000: Estate dispute, NYS Lottery
  - $3,265,000: Liver damage to two people, nutritional supplement, defective product
  - $1,853,133: Mild traumatic brain injury and fractures, car accident (lifetime yield)
  - $1,820,000: Anoxic brain injury, medical malpractice (policy limit; structure)
  - $1,650,000: Failure to timely diagnose prostate cancer, medical malpractice
  - $1,550,000: Brain injury and fractures, car accident (policy limit/annuity yield)
  - $1,500,000: Fractures of leg with many surgeries, motorcycle accident (policy limit)
  - $1,448,000: Back/knee surgeries, pedestrian knockdown (lifetime yield)
  - $1,400,000: Improper treatment, including erroneous insulin administration, medical malpractice
  - $1,375,000: Hip fractures with many surgeries, defective product
  - $1,350,000: Cervical discectomy with hardware insertion, medical malpractice
  - $1,275,000: Spinal surgery with hardware and shoulder tear, car accident
  - $1,247,500: Pre-existing hydrocephalus, quadriplegia, medical malpractice
  - $1,246,600: Brain injury and fractures, car accident (annuity yield)
  - $1,200,000: Shoulder surgery with hardware insertion and cervical discectomy and fusion, slip and fall
  - $1,100,000: Burst fracture of C-6, car accident
  - $1,100,000: Fractures to hip and pelvis with surgery, scaffold collapse, labor law
  - $1,025,000: Mistreatment of fractures resulting in death, car accident and medical malpractice

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KRAMER KOZEK LLP



BACK ROW: Denise O'Connor*, Georgia D. Kramer*, Neil E. Kozek*
FRONT ROW: Michelle H. Lewis*, Amy Derosa

*SUPER LAWYERS HONOREE

Combining genuine empathy and legal acumen, the attorneys at Kramer Kozek LLP craft individualized, creative and practical solutions for clients who are experiencing the emotional and financial turmoil of divorce. Utilizing sophisticated financial and tax strategies, with a keen sensitivity to protecting the interests of children, Kramer Kozek helps clients restructure their families while advancing their financial interests.

Kramer Kozek has been included in the *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers™* since the firm's inception. The firm's partners are all honored on the Super Lawyers list. This is Georgia Kramer's 14th consecutive year on the list and Neil Kozek's 15th year. They have received numerous other accolades, including Top 25 attorneys in Westchester, Top Ten Leaders in Matrimonial and Divorce Law and the AV® rating from Martindale-Hubbell® as well as inclusion in Rue Ratings' *Best Attorneys of America™*. Kramer, recipient of the 2017 Above the Bar Award for Leading Matrimonial Attorney, has a master's degree in tax law. Her financial acumen is invaluable in cases involving valuation of assets and complex economic solutions. Kozek, a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, is a respected litigator, arbitrator and collaborative attorney, who frequently lectures on myriad family law issues.

The attorneys of Kramer Kozek are pioneers in same-sex family law, including a groundbreaking lesbian stepparent adoption case in 1995. As a co-founder and pioneer of the collaborative law movement in New York, a model for dispute resolution that helps separating and divorcing couples reach agreement without the need for acrimonious litigation, Kozek works with other specially trained attorneys to adopt a team approach to divorce that often involves mental health professionals, such as divorce coaches and child specialists, financial specialists and neutral appraisers.

Kramer and partner Michelle Lewis (a member of the Board of Directors for the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals) are also experienced collaborative attorneys. Kramer, Kozek and Lewis are also seasoned, empathetic and highly effective mediators. Partner Denise O'Connor, a veteran litigator and appellate advocate, along with Amy DeRosa and a team of paralegals round out the firm's litigation practice.

When litigation is necessary, the attorneys of Kramer Kozek bring the integrity, experience, advocacy skills and comprehensive knowledge of family law to the courtroom—advocating for their clients to obtain a fair and equitable distribution of assets and reasonable support and, above all, to ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

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Left to Right: Samantha A. Lyons, Esq.**, Sara Meyers, Esq.* (member), Anthony J. Enea, Esq.* (member), Lauren C. Enea, Esq.**, Stella King, Esq.**

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Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano, LLP is one of New York's premier law firms for elder law, Medicaid planning & applications, guardianships, and wills, trusts & estates. For decades, the firm has fought to protect the life savings of seniors and the disabled from estate taxes and the cost of long-term care.

"Our goal is to ensure that each client receives the highest quality of legal service that is practical, cost-effective and results-oriented," says Anthony J. Enea, managing member.

A leader in the legal community, Enea serves as president of the Westchester County Bar Foundation and chair of the 50+ Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA). Enea is the former chair of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section of the NYSBA, past president of the Westchester County Bar Association (WCBA), and a past president and founding member of the New York chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and a member of the Council of Advanced Practitioners of NAELA. He is a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) as accredited by the American Bar Association.

In addition to his 15 years of Super Lawyers designations, Enea is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for many years and "Best Law Firms" in the New York metropolitan region (fields of elder law and trusts & estates) - *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*®.

Since 2013, member Sara Meyers, Esq. has also been included on the New York Metro Super Lawyers list for her work in elder law. Meyers was named in The Top Women Attorneys in New York for 2021. Meyers is a member of the NYSBA Elder Law and Special Needs Executive Committee. She is the current co-chair of the WCBA Guardianship Committee and a past co-chair of the Elder Law Committee. She is also a past co-chair of the Westchester County Senior Law Day.

Enea also wishes to congratulate firm associates Lauren C. Enea, Esq., Samantha Lyons, Esq. and Stella King, Esq. on being chosen to 2021 Rising Stars. "To have all firm attorneys designated as a Super Lawyers or Rising Stars selectee is truly an honor and privilege and illustrative of our commitment to excellence," says Enea.

MILLER ZEIDERMAN LLP

WESTCHESTER / MANHATTAN



Top Row: Faith G. Miller*, Lisa Zeiderman*
Middle Row: Siobhan T. O'Grady, Tiffany E. Gallo, Jennifer M. Jackman, Emily C. Walsh
Bottom Row: Joel Banuelos, Ashley Kersting**, Kevin P. Connolly**, Michael V. Chiaramonte, Shauna Tesser-Friedman**, Sarah Ross-Benjamin, Laurie Rempp-Vazquez, Kevin C. Brown, Christine Biancaniello

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The attorneys at Miller Zeiderman LLP collectively have over 100 years of experience providing insightful and proactive legal representation in matrimonial and family law cases. We understand the nuances and complexities of such matters, including divorce, child custody, child support, financial issues, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, domestic violence, abuse and neglect, and international child custody.

Divorce and child custody proceedings may be emotionally charged, and we are prepared to provide the support you need and work efficiently and effectively toward the best possible outcome. We work together with our clients throughout New York City, Westchester and surrounding areas to get the possible result while minimizing cost and avoiding unnecessary litigation.

An outstanding team of appraisers, business valuators, private investigators, psychologists and forensic accountants works with us to provide clients with the strongest possible representation.

Active in the legal and local communities, the firm's attorneys have earned the respect of their peers and the courts. Members of the firm are honored again this year on the Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists. Faith Miller and Lisa Zeiderman are founding members of the American Academy for Certified Financial Litigators and are named to Lawyers of Distinction.

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TOP 25 WESTCHESTER

AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF THE LAWYERS WHO RANKED TOP OF THE LIST IN THE **2021 NEW YORK METRO SUPER LAWYERS** NOMINATION, RESEARCH AND BLUE RIBBON REVIEW PROCESS.

Alcott, Daniel R., Dorf & Nelson, Rye

Amoruso, Michael, Amoruso & Amoruso, Rye Brook

Boies, David, Boies Schiller Flexner, Armonk

Braunstein, Lawrence Jay, Braunstein & Zuckerman, White Plains

Carton, Robin D., Carton & Rosoff, White Plains

Enea, Anthony J., Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains

Fontana, Lucille A., Fontana Giannini, White Plains

Frumkin, William D., Frumkin & Hunter Law, White Plains

Giannini, Angela Morcone, Fontana Giannini, White Plains

Goldschmidt, Sylvia, Goldschmidt & Genovese, White Plains

Goldsmith, Jessica Galligan, Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Greenspan, Michael, Greenspan & Greenspan, White Plains

Kaminer, Maggie, Kaminer Kouzi & Associates, Hastings-on-Hudson

Kellman, Nancy D., Law Office of Nancy D. Kellman, White Plains

Kozek, Neil E., Kramer Kozek, White Plains

Krooks, Bernard A., Littman Krooks, White Plains

Meagher, Christopher B., Meagher & Meagher, White Plains

Pantaleo, Frances M., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Pirrotti, Jr., Anthony, Pirrotti & Glatt Law Firm, Scarsdale

Scalise, Deborah A., Scalise & Hamilton, Scarsdale

Schragin, Howard, Sapir | Schragin, White Plains

Steinmetz, David S., Zarin & Steinmetz, White Plains

Stern, Richard, Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

Vigorito, Alfred P., Vigorito Barker Patterson Nichols & Porter, Valhalla

Yankwitt, Russell M., Yankwitt, White Plains

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L TO R: DAVID M. ROSOFF*, ROBIN D. CARTON*, AMANDA C. FRIED
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RESOLVING DISPUTES CREATIVELY

Carton & Rosoff PC serves the matrimonial and family law needs of clients in Westchester County, Putnam County, and New York City. The firm congratulates Robin D. Carton and David M. Rosoff on being selected to 2021 New York Metro Super Lawyers and Ms. Carton on being selected to Top 25 Westchester Super Lawyers.

Family conflicts require personal attention, strong advocacy, and skilled negotiation. Robin D. Carton, David M. Rosoff, and Amanda C. Fried bring their talent and experience to the firm's litigated, mediated, and collaborative cases. Carton & Rosoff PC provides superior legal representation to families in crisis.

ATTORNEYS SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS AND RISING STARS WERE CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESS ON PAGE S-4.

NEW YORK METRO
TOP 100
NEW YORK METRO
TOP 50 WOMEN
RATED BY
Super Lawyers
Sylvia Goldschmidt

WESTCHESTER
TOP 25
RATED BY
Super Lawyers
Sylvia Goldschmidt



Seated L-R:
Dolores Gebhardt*
Hon. Sondra M. Miller

Standing L-R:
Helen Wu
Sylvia Goldschmidt*
Donna M. Genovese*
Kathleen Donelli*

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Sensitive to the uniqueness of each client's matter, Goldschmidt & Genovese (G&G) partners, Sylvia Goldschmidt, Donna M. Genovese, Kathleen Donelli and Dolores Gebhardt along with Chief Counsel, the Hon. Sondra M. Miller (ret.), a preeminent appellate judge, apply their vast knowledge, experience, diverse perspectives and professional creativity to assist their clients in navigating complex matrimonial and family law issues. G&G attorneys, while proficient in zealous traditional representation, are also trained in the mediation and collaborative law processes.

The partners' professional accomplishments are extensive and varied, as reflected in the numerous positions of leadership held by each of them, as well as having been recipients of many professional honors, including recognition to *Best Lawyers*® and *U.S. News – Best Lawyers*® "Best Law Firms." Goldschmidt is a past president of the U.S. Chapter of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, of which Genovese is currently a vice president. Donelli is a member of the Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee and an adjunct professor at Pace Law School. Gebhardt is the president-elect of the Westchester County Bar Association. Miller, Donelli and Gebhardt are past presidents of the Westchester Women's Bar Association. Donelli and Gebhardt are past presidents of the White Plains Bar Association.

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BY PRIMARY AREA OF PRACTICE

The list was finalized as of March 5, 2021. Only attorneys who data verified with Super Lawyers for the current year are included on the list that follows. All current selections and any updates to the list (e.g., status changes or disqualifying events) will be reflected on superlawyers.com.

Names and page numbers in **RED** indicate a profile on the specified page. Phone numbers are included only for attorneys with paid Super Lawyers or Rising Stars print advertisements.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

SUPER LAWYERS

Farber, Eugene I., Farber Pappalardo & Carbonari, White Plains

Feliu, Alfred G., Feliu Neutral Services, New Rochelle

Gutekunst, Claire P., Independent Mediator & Arbitrator, Yonkers

Raisfeld, Ruth D., Ruth D. Raisfeld, White Plains

Rosmarin, Abby P., Berkman Bottger Newman & Schein, White Plains, 914-308-3435

Sussman, Edna, SussmanADR, Scarsdale

ANTITRUST LITIGATION

SUPER LAWYERS

Angland, Joseph, Law Office of Joseph Angland, White Plains

Boies, David, Boies Schiller Flexner, Armonk Pg. S-6

Briganti, Vincent, Lowey Dannenberg, White Plains

St. Phillip, Peter D., Lowey Dannenberg, White Plains

APPELLATE

SUPER LAWYERS

Frankel, Tracy L., Rosenbaum & Taylor, White Plains

Guardaro, Jr., Edward J., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Hasapidis, Annette G., Hasapidis Law Offices, Scarsdale

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE

SUPER LAWYERS

Latto, Douglas A., Speiser Krause, Rye Brook

BANKING

SUPER LAWYERS

Eisler, Nathan M., Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

RISING STARS

Grossman, Genna, Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

BANKRUPTCY: BUSINESS

SUPER LAWYERS

Cuevas, Carlos J., Carlos J. Cuevas Esq., Yonkers

Lewis, Kenneth M., Whiteford Taylor & Preston, Tarrytown

Rubio, Charles M., Parkins Lee & Rubio, White Plains

Stern, Richard, Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains Pg. S-6

RISING STARS

Talesnick, Alex S., Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

BANKRUPTCY: CONSUMER

SUPER LAWYERS

Horowitz, Nathan, Nathan Horowitz Esq., Mount Kisco

BUSINESS LITIGATION

SUPER LAWYERS

Benowich, Leonard Alan, Benowich Law, White Plains

Bieber, Bruce W., Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Bluestein, Lisa M., Law Offices of Lisa M. Bluestein, Scarsdale

Bonner, James P., Fleischman Bonner & Rocco, White Plains

Carton, Jeffrey I., Denlea & Carton, White Plains

Cepler, Craig M., Denlea & Carton, White Plains

Cohen, Brian S., Lachtman Cohen, White Plains

D'Avanzo, Joseph A., Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, Purchase

Davies, Susan M., Fleischman Bonner & Rocco, White Plains

Denlea, James R., Denlea & Carton, White Plains

Feldman, Richard B., Rosenberg Feldman Smith, Tarrytown

Fishman, Benjamin Charles, Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**

Fleischman, Keith M., Fleischman Bonner & Rocco, White Plains

Freudenberg, Michael W., Harrington Ocko & Monk, White Plains

Gottlieb, Lawrence M., Lawrence M. Gottlieb Esq., White Plains

Hamerman, Dina L., Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**

Hollis III, P. Daniel, Hollis Laidlaw & Simon, Mount Kisco

Hornung, Stephan, Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

ATTORNEYS SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS AND RISING STARS WERE CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESS ON PAGE S-4.

Kimerling, Joshua E., Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

Kroleski, Steven L., Attorney at Law, Pelham

Landau, James K., McCarthy Fingar, White Plains

Lubarsky, Richard, Lubarsky Law Firm, White Plains

Luskin, Michael, Luskin Stern & Eisler, White Plains

Nelson, Jonathan B., Dorf & Nelson, Rye

Ohlemeyer, William S., Boies Schiller Flexner, Armonk

Palermo, Christopher C., Harris Beach, White Plains

Pangis, George M., The Pangis Law Firm, White Plains

Rafferty, Robert G., Rafferty & Redlisky, Pelham

Rocco, Patrick L., Fleischman Bonner & Rocco, White Plains

Rowin, Marc, Lynch Rowin, White Plains

Tallbe, Alicia, Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**

Weinstein, Fred D., Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Yankwitt, Russell M., Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**, S-6

RISING STARS

Ayala, Marc, Boies Schiller Flexner, Armonk

Fierro, Lia E., Lachtman Cohen, White Plains

La Marca, Lindsay, Friedman Oster & Tejtel, Bedford Hills

Lipp, Troy D., Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

Malfa, Peter V., Renzulli Law Firm, White Plains

Sorkowitz, Jonathan A., Law Offices of Jonathan A. Sorkowitz, Hawthorne

Vogel, Cassandra M., Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**

Wallace, Amber T., Denlea & Carton, White Plains

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

SUPER LAWYERS

Bierce, William B., Bierce & Kenerson, Mount Kisco

Mautner, Scott A., Harrington Ocko & Monk, White Plains

McGovern, Kyle C., Lyons McGovern, White Plains

Ocko, Robert S., Harrington Ocko & Monk, White Plains

Trokie, Douglas S., McCarthy Fingar, White Plains

RISING STARS

Dempsey, Caitlin Lee, Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Keegan, Caroline I., Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

CIVIL LITIGATION: DEFENSE

SUPER LAWYERS

Beck, Katrine A., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Blaha, Eric P., Smith Buss & Jacobs, Yonkers

Cintron, Melissa, Harrington Ocko & Monk, White Plains

Miller, Stuart A., Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, White Plains

Sklarin, Richard S., Miranda Slone Sklarin Verveniotis, Elmsford

RISING STARS

Berkowski, Brandon, Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Gardner, Justin M., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Gray, Justine R., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Hankin-Wray, Claire M., Goldberg Segalla, White Plains

K. Marjieh, Dana, Black Marjieh & Sanford, Elmsford

CONTINUED ON PAGE S-10

BodnarMilone LLP

**Selected to Super Lawyers*



Peter O. Bodnar*



Lydia A. Milone*



John P. Frucco*


Erik Kristensen


Tamara Mitchel*



Pamela J. Jenson*


Aoife Collins

BodnarMilone LLP offers a unique depth of resources and experience in marital dissolution and post-divorce matters. The firm includes attorneys who are Fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, past chairs of various committees of the Family Law Section of the New York Bar Association, past chairs of the Family Law Section of the Westchester County Bar Association, and current members of their Executive Committees. Six of the firm's attorneys have been recognized by *Best Lawyers®* in 2021 and several attorneys are rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, selected to Super Lawyers and Rising Stars, and included in *Who's Who in American Law*.

The issues addressed in a matrimonial and family practice reflect the most fundamental of concerns, including a person's children, their home, their life savings, possibly a business interest or professional practice, and their financial future. BodnarMilone's practice is devoted to working closely with its clients to resolve these issues, preferably through a negotiated settlement or collaborative divorce, if possible; however, where that is not possible, through vigorous and deft litigation.

BodnarMilone is highly regarded by the Bench and Bar alike for its level of expertise and professionalism, attention to detail, integrity and responsiveness. These qualities are brought to bear in the firm's representation of each client. The firm serves not only as advocates for its clients, but also as counselors at law for them. Clients are counseled as to the 'bigger picture,' so they can better understand the ramifications of different options or actions and thereby make better, more informed choices and avoid unintended consequences which might be born of emotion-based decision-making.

"Our experience allows us to help our clients develop and achieve realistic goals, translating their concerns into concrete solutions," notes Lydia Milone, who has been practicing law for more than three decades. "By approaching each case with ingenuity and integrity, we've been able to make a real difference in people's lives."

"BodnarMilone shepherds its clients through both marital dissolution and post-divorce matters, working with them to achieve results tailored to their unique situations," says Peter Bodnar, who brings 50 years of experience to his practice. Accolades and favorable results aside, Bodnar is proudest of the firm's reputation for outstanding advocacy and making a lasting, positive impact on clients' lives. As one client wrote to Bodnar and the firm: "You remained calm and unshakeable during intense, awkward moments and were incredibly supportive during a most difficult time."

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CIVIL LITIGATION: DEFENSE RISING STARS CONT'D FROM PAGE S-9

Kupferberg, Brian A., Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, White Plains

Lee, Steven J., Goldberg Segalla, White Plains

Salvato, Richard A., Robert A. Peirce & Associates, White Plains

Sauer, Joseph A., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Schreiber, David, Voute Lohrfink McAndrew Meisner + Roberts, White Plains

Sued, Alexandra A., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

CIVIL LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF

SUPER LAWYERS

Lesser, Seth R., Klafter Lesser, Rye Brook

RISING STARS

Welcome, Charles S., Smith Buss & Jacobs, Yonkers

CIVIL RIGHTS

SUPER LAWYERS

Gould, Jane Bilus, Gould & Berg, White Plains

RISING STARS

Schechter, Robert M., Tilem & Associates, White Plains

CLASS ACTION/MASS TORTS

SUPER LAWYERS

Blankinship, D. Greg, Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

Frei-Pearson, Jeremiah, Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

Garber, Todd S., Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

Graifman, Gary S., Kantrowitz Goldhamer & Graifman, Chestnut Ridge

Sardesai-Grant, John, Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

Selinger, John, Selinger Law Group, Cortlandt

Wittels, Steven L., Wittels McInturff Palikovic, Armonk

RISING STARS

Khalil, Chantal, Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

Levis, Christian Paul, Lowey Dannenberg, White Plains

White, Andrew, Finkelstein Blankinship Frei-Pearson & Garber, White Plains

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RISING STARS

Fleming, Corinne, Ford Law Firm, Rye

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Carlucci, Jr., Anthony P., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

Cermele, Mark, Cermele & Wood, White Plains

Fullerton, Eileen R., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Greenblatt, Michael E., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

Rolle, Lisa Marie, Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry, Hawthorne

Ryan, Paul G., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

Sesti, Robert A., Sesti Law Firm, White Plains, 914-428-5000 **Pg. S-18**

Tripodianos, Thomas S., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

Welby, Thomas H., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

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Bannon, II, Robert W., Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

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Geraghty, Rachel Bernadette, Welby Brady & Greenblatt, White Plains

Harrison, Michael J., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

Paslow, Nicholas O., Black Marjieh & Sanford, Elmsford

Ronemus, Victoria L., Fullerton Beck, White Plains

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Schwartz, Michael H., Michael H. Schwartz, White Plains

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Marinaccio, Michael A., Attorney at Law, White Plains

Portale, Richard A., Portale Randazzo, White Plains

Quinn, Andrew C., The Quinn Law Firm, White Plains

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Rubin, Andrew A., Law Office of Andrew Rubin, White Plains

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Tilem, Peter Howard, Tilem & Associates, White Plains

RISING STARS

Calvey, Kenneth M., Portale Randazzo, White Plains

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: WHITE COLLAR

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Mendez, Alfredo F., Law Office of Alfredo F. Mendez, Ossining

Scharf, Jared J., Law Offices of Jared J. Scharf, Rye Brook

Willstatter, Richard D., Green & Willstatter, White Plains

ELDER LAW

SUPER LAWYERS

Amoruso, Michael, Amoruso & Amoruso, Rye Brook, 914-253-9255 **Pg.** S-6, **S-17**

Amoruso, Sreelekha Chakrabarty, Amoruso & Amoruso, Rye Brook

Asher, Jeffrey A., Law Offices of Jeffrey A. Asher, Armonk

Davis, Charles G., Davis and Davis, New City

Di Costanzo, Salvatore M., Maker Fragale & Di Costanzo, Rye

Krooks, Bernard A., Littman Krooks, White Plains, 914-684-2100 **Pg.** S-6, **S-11**

Krooks, Howard S., Amoruso & Amoruso, Rye Brook

Meyers, Sara E., Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains, 914-948-1500 **Pg. S-4**

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Pantaleo, Frances M., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains Pg. S-6

Redlisky, Linda A., Rafferty & Redlisky, Pelham

Rimsky, Neil T., Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

RISING STARS

King, Stella, Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains, 914-948-1500 **Pg. S-4**

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SUPER LAWYERS

Fenster, Jay, Danziger & Markhoff, White Plains

Foley, Brian T., Brian Foley & Co., White Plains

Pasini, Lawrence A., Pasini Law, White Plains

Wolf, William K., Rothman Rocco LaRuffa, Elmsford

EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

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Berg, Kim Patricia, Gould & Berg, White Plains

Corcoran, Susan M., Jackson Lewis, White Plains

Frumkin, William D., Frumkin & Hunter Law, White Plains Pg. S-6

Hunter, Elizabeth E., Frumkin & Hunter Law, White Plains

Kula, Sara D., Kula Law, Mount Kisco

Levy, Tracey I., Levy Employment Law, Rye, 914-338-8023

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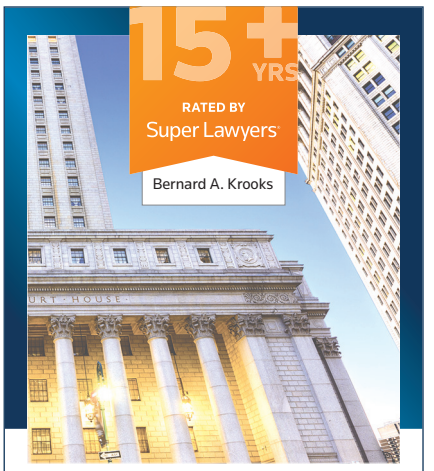
Marks, Andrew P., Dorf & Nelson, Rye

Rocco, Matthew, Rothman Rocco LaRuffa, Elmsford

Sapir, Donald L., Sapir | Schragin, White Plains, 914-328-0366 **Pg. S-15**

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The attorneys at Littman Krooks recognize that every family has a unique set of hopes and challenges. Whether you are planning for yourself, your parents or a family member with a disability, our attorneys can help safeguard your future. Whether your legal needs are in the area of elder law, trusts & estates, special needs planning, special education advocacy or corporate & securities, we look forward to providing you with sophisticated counsel.

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General Litigation
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Warshawsky, Steven M., The Warshawsky Law Firm, Mount Kisco

RISING STARS

Bruno, Kyle, Ronai & Ronai, Port Chester, 800-664-7111

Cigno, John T., Jackson Lewis, White Plains

Petriccione, Thomas L., Jackson Lewis, White Plains

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION: DEFENSE

SUPER LAWYERS

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Dranoff, Eric, Saretsky Katz & Dranoff, Elmsford

Kozak, Jonathan M., Jackson Lewis, White Plains

RISING STARS

Reed, Michael H., Yankwitt, White Plains, 914-686-1500 **Pg. S-1**

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION: PLAINTIFF

RISING STARS

Muller, III, Arthur J., Trivella & Forte, White Plains

Smith, Sam, Kantrowitz Goldhamer & Graifman, Chestnut Ridge

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

SUPER LAWYERS

Bordman, Ethan Y., Ethan Y. Bordman, White Plains

Friedlander, David H., David H. Friedlander Esq., Mount Kisco

Hecker, Elissa D., Law Office of Elissa D. Hecker, Irvington

ENVIRONMENTAL

SUPER LAWYERS

Alexander, Neil J., Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

Manewitz, Mark L., Smith Buss & Jacobs, Yonkers

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

SUPER LAWYERS

Parisi, Matthew G., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Ruskin, William A., Law Office of William A. Ruskin, Rye Brook

RISING STARS

Press, Scott M., Goldberg Segalla, White Plains

ESTATE & TRUST LITIGATION

SUPER LAWYERS

Brooks, Jordan M., Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

Fragale, Costantino, Maker Fragale & Di Costanzo, Rye

MacLean, Ian W., The MacLean Law Firm, White Plains

Manley, Mary Ellen, Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Rudolph, Nancy J., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Streng, Frank W., McCarthy Fingar, White Plains

RISING STARS

Capone, Lisa M., Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Nigro, Anthony, Law Office of Anthony Nigro, Dobbs Ferry

ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE

SUPER LAWYERS

Accetta, Susan Hegquist, Stern Keiser & Panken, White Plains

Amicucci, Paul G., Walsh & Amicucci, White Plains

Baer, Susan Taxin, McCarthy Fingar, White Plains

Blumberg, Lawrence S., Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Bowler, Richard J., Attorney at Law, Croton-on-Hudson

Choi, David, Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains

Enea, Anthony J., Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains, 914-948-1500 **Pg. S-4**, S-6

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Gaynor, Magdalen, Law Offices of Magdalen Gaynor, White Plains

Gilbert, Rita K., Hyman & Gilbert, Larchmont, 914-833-5297 **Pg. S-18**

Glasser, David, Keane & Beane, White Plains

Goldsmith, Jessica Galligan, Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, White Plains Pg. S-6

Keiser, Laurence, Stern Keiser & Panken, White Plains



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ATTORNEYS SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS AND RISING STARS WERE CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESS ON PAGE S-4.

Kutzin, Michael S., McCarthy Fingar, White Plains

Levin, Leslie, Cuddy & Feder, White Plains

Markhoff, Michael S., Danziger & Markhoff, White Plains

Ronan, Daniel S., Attorney at Law, Scarsdale

Schurkman, Steven A., Keane & Beane, White Plains

Silverman, Joan S., Attorney at Law, White Plains

Walsh, Karen J., Walsh & Amicucci, White Plains

RISING STARS

Buschman, Brendan H., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

Conte, Paolo, Law Offices of Paolo Conte, Mount Kisco

Corona, Gianna O., Hollis Laidlaw & Simon, Mount Kisco

Djukic, Artem, The Law Offices of Kevin H. Cohen, White Plains

Enea, Lauren C., Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains, 914-948-1500 **Pg. S-4**

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Kahn, Emily, Walsh & Amicucci, White Plains

Lyons, Samantha A., Enea Scanlan & Sirignano, White Plains, 914-948-1500 **Pg. S-4**

Wong, Kadeen L., Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, White Plains

FAMILY LAW

SUPER LAWYERS

Bavero, Ronald J., The Law Offices of Ronald J. Bavero, White Plains

Bisesto, Patricia, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, White Plains, 914-948-5946 **Pg. S-17**

Bliven, David I., Law Offices of David Bliven, White Plains

Bodnar, Peter O., BodnarMilone, White Plains, 914-997-2500 **Pg. S-9**

Braunstein, Lawrence Jay, Braunstein & Zuckerman, White Plains Pg. S-6

Carton, Robin D., Carton & Rosoff, White Plains, 914-949-6700 **Pg. S-6**

Castrataro, Barbara A., Law Office of Barbara A. Castrataro, Chappaqua

Clark, Margaret A., Attorney at Law, North Salem

Cohen, Mitchell Y., Johnson & Cohen, White Plains

DeThomas, Frances A., Tyre & DeThomas, Rye

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Mr. Amoruso concentrates his practice on Elder Law, Special Needs, Medicaid Planning and Estate Planning. He was President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; Chair of the NYS Bar's Elder Law section; and a member of the NAELA Council of Advanced Practitioners. In 2016, Mr. Amoruso spearheaded the passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act, granting disabled individuals the right to establish their own special needs trusts. He is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, featured in the 2011-2021 Top 25 Westchester Super Lawyers, in the 2017-2021 Top 100 New York Metro, in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2020 for Elder Law and named 2021 *Best Lawyers* "Lawyer of the Year" in Trusts & Estates. Mr. Amoruso also hosts a weekly radio show, Elder Care On The Air™ on The Peak at 107.1 FM.

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Patricia Bisesto has nearly 30 years of experience negotiating and litigating complex custody and financial issues in matrimonial and family court. In every case, Ms. Bisesto partners with her clients to create a detailed plan to accomplish their goals. Ms. Bisesto graduated, *magna cum laude*, from Fordham University, and then attended Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law where she was a senior member of the *Law Review*. She also received the Dean's Award in recognition of being the student "who has made the most outstanding and continued contribution" to the law school. Ms. Bisesto has been recognized as a "Lawyer of Distinction" for the past three years. She has also been named as one of the Top 10 Family Lawyers by both the American Institute of Family Lawyers, and *Attorney and Practice* magazine.

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Daniel S. Braverman is the founder, principal and managing director of Braverman, PLLC. For more than 25 years he has been counseling and representing clients in all aspects of the employment relationship. After having worked for many years at a large national law firm and a boutique Labor and Employment law practice, with some of the finest and most respected attorneys in the nation, Mr. Braverman decided to start his own practice dedicated to the intriguing and challenging practice of Labor and Employment law. Mr. Braverman has successfully represented businesses, ranging from Fortune 100 companies to sole proprietorships, and individuals in federal and state courts throughout the United States, before federal, state, and city administrative agencies, as well as in arbitrations and mediations.

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Rita K. Gilbert was admitted to practice law in 1980. She is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest distinction a lawyer can receive from his or her colleagues. She is licensed to practice in New York, Connecticut, and Florida. Rita received her J.D. from Pace University Law School in 1979, her M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a Fulbright Scholar in International Studies in 1966, and her A.B. from Hunter College in 1963, *cum laude*. Rita is also a published author and former chair of the Westchester Community Foundation and the Benjamin N. Cardozo Society, UJA-Federation. She is currently on the Executive Committee of the Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society.

Selected to Super Lawyers

JAY S. HAUSMAN



HAUSMAN & PENDZICK
440 Mamaroneck Avenue
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Tel: 914-946-3344
Fax: 914-946-9733
jhausman@hptriallaw.com
www.hptriallaw.com

PERSONAL INJURY GENERAL: PLAINTIFF
PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: PLAINTIFF

As the founding partner of Hausman & Pendzick, Mr. Hausman is lead trial counsel and has tried numerous cases in the courts of the State of New York. Mr. Hausman's training and experience has provided him with the ability to prepare and try high-level negligence cases in such areas as labor law, medical malpractice, premises liability, and motor vehicle accidents. Mr. Hausman is a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, American Association for Justice, Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and Bronx County Bar Association. He is admitted to practice in the States of New York and Connecticut. He is also admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

Selected to Super Lawyers

MARIANNE HOFFMAN



LAW OFFICE OF
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FAMILY LAW

Marianne Hoffman devotes her practice to matrimonial and family law including divorce, child custody, prenuptial agreements, litigation, trial practice, negotiation, settlement, collaborative law, mediation, and special needs children. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and has been named to Super Lawyers in the New York Metro Area in Family Law since 2013. Ms. Hoffman serves as the Chairperson of the Westchester County Bar Association Family Law Section. She has lectured on the topics of matrimonial and family law for the New York State Bar Association, the Westchester County Bar Association, the New Rochelle Bar Association and various other professional organizations.

Selected to Super Lawyers

STEVEN RIKER



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BUSINESS/CORPORATE
BUSINESS LITIGATION
REAL ESTATE

Steven Riker, Esq. is an AV-rated lawyer who provides high-quality legal services at cost-effective rates to a diversified clientele throughout New York. Mr. Riker represents businesses and individuals in a wide array of transactional and litigation matters, including entity formation and organization, corporate transactions, business acquisitions and agreements, commercial and business litigation, real estate transactions, commercial leasing, hospitality law, and trusts and estates matters. Mr. Riker's clients include large publicly traded companies, corporate executives, prominent individuals, and family-owned businesses. However, every client, and every project, whether big or small, receives the same level of commitment, diligence, and ingenuity which distinguishes Mr. Riker's practice.

Selected to Super Lawyers

ROBERT A. SESTI



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CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION
REAL ESTATE
BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Robert A. Sesti (Bob) has counseled clients on construction law matters for over three decades. His clientele mainly consists of developers, construction managers, general contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers, ranging in size from large, multinational companies, to smaller, closely held businesses. Bob has extensive experience in complex contract preparation and analytical risk review, contract negotiations and construction claims, including mediation, arbitration, and litigation in state and federal court. He also handles a broad range of real estate and commercial matters, including the purchase and sale of real estate, and business payment disputes. Bob is the senior attorney at Sesti Law Firm PC, a firm he founded, with offices in White Plains, New York.

Selected to Super Lawyers

LESLIE J. SNYDER



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lsnyder@snyderlaw.net
www.snyderlaw.net

REAL ESTATE
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Leslie J. Snyder is the managing partner at Snyder & Snyder, LLP. She is head of the firm's real estate and communications practice. Leslie represents major institutions in the acquisition, sale, leasing, and permitting of properties for medical facilities, retail centers, private schools, telecommunications facilities, data centers and solar farms. She has developed a unique specialty practice facilitating the deployment of utility infrastructure. She is a recipient of the 2021 Above & Beyond award for women from City & State New York. She currently serves as a director of the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation and the New York State Wireless Association. Snyder & Snyder, LLP is certified by WBENC as a Women's Business Enterprise and is a member of NAMWOLF.

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After over 50 years of serving our clients in serious **medical malpractice** and **personal injury** matters, a new generation continues our standard of excellence, integrity and success.

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WESTCHESTER Hudson Valley weddings
2022
Published by Westchester & Hudson Valley Magazines



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

To create their dream-come-true wedding, local brides and grooms turn to *Westchester/Hudson Valley Weddings* magazine for tips, trends and ideas from the experts. The only truly local bridal publication in the region, this annual publication contains area-specific information, resources and content that can't be found anywhere else.

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WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE

WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE

2021 THE HOLIDAY LOOK BOOK

Whether you've got the present everyone is looking for or specialize in unique gifts that are sure to delight, catch the attention of our affluent readers looking for special holiday gifts with *Westchester Magazine*'s annual Holiday Look Book.

- Mailed (polybagged) with the December issue of *Westchester Magazine* to 196,940+ subscribers
- Digital edition will run on WestchesterMagazine.com from November 16–December 31, 2021
- E-blast to *Westchester Magazine*'s VIP list of 31,120+ opt-in subscribers announcing launch of the digital edition



Space Reservation Deadline: OCTOBER 15, 2021
Publication Date: NOVEMBER 16, 2021

For more info call **914.345.0601 ext. 138** or email **sales@westchestermagazine.com**.

2021 WESTCHESTER

FIVE STAR AWARD WINNERS

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

Five Star Professional partnered with *Westchester Magazine* to identify real estate, mortgage and insurance professionals in the Westchester area who deliver outstanding service and client satisfaction. The Five Star Professional research team surveyed homebuyers, home sellers and industry peers, and analyzed online consumer evaluations. Survey respondents rated their service professional on criteria such as overall satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend. The research methodology allows no more than 7% of professionals in each category to receive the award.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING
Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals

RISING STAR AWARD WINNERS

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

RESEARCH — How Our Winners Are Chosen

- The 2021 Five Star Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final lists.
- Each professional is screened against state governing bodies to verify that licenses are current and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent, mortgage professional or insurance professional on the final list should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or *Westchester Magazine*.

Determination of Award Winners

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a 2021 Westchester-area Five Star Real Estate Agent, Five Star Mortgage Professional or Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professional:

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Qualifying rating.

Eligibility Criteria:

2. Holds an active license and employed in their field for a minimum of three years.
3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review.
4. Satisfies minimum production on a one-year and three-year basis.
5. Successful completion of a Blue Ribbon Panel review.

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

The final list of 2021 Westchester-area Five Star award winners is a select group, representing approximately 3% of real estate agents, 1% of mortgage professionals and 1% of home/auto insurance professionals in the area. To see the full list of winners, visit www.fivestarprofessional.com.

FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL
PROPRIETARY RESEARCH PROCESS

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

Evaluation Score
Using our scoring algorithm, each nominee is given an evaluation score based on surveys in our database. High scorers are named candidates.

Candidate Submission of Business Information
Candidates must complete either an online or over-the-phone interview.

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

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

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

☆2021☆
FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL

Mary Stetson

Founder, Owner, Broker



Nine-year winner Mary Stetson, Founder, Broker, Owner

Your Home Is Where Our Heart Is

- **Advantage: Realtors, assistants, marketers and scouts use a collaborative approach that deliver huge experience and insight, benefiting her clients**

BEST WESTCHESTER WINNER 2020 — Westchester Magazine

BEST WESTCHESTER WINNER 2021 — Westchester Magazine

STETSON

565 Alda Road • Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Cell: 914-882-8442 • Office: 914-381-7173
mary@stetsonrealestate.com • stetsonrealestate.com
@_MARYSTETSON_REALESTATE • #THESTETSONADVANTAGE

Mary Stetson founded Stetson Real Estate with a definitive mission: to deliver unsurpassed client service. Her firm's success in sales and recognitions — such as the Five Star Real Estate Agent award and *Westchester Magazine*'s Best Real Estate Firm of 2018, 2019 2020 and 2021 — is a testament to her making good on that mission. The way she has achieved them, however, is what really makes them remarkable. Stetson Real Estate is proudly independent, with each team member bringing an entrepreneurial mindset and specialized skill set to contribute to the collective.

Clients often mention how Stetson provides the resources and expertise of larger firms but delivers the personalized service and flexibility that large firms cannot offer. Stetson's culture of collaboration means clients can tap into the best in industry knowledge, technology and marketing in a client-first environment steeped in local knowledge and delivered with empathy. It's a combination others simply cannot match. As Mary's dad always said, "Take care of your clients, and the rest will fall into place."

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

The Heather Harrison Team



Left to right: Four-year winner Liza Levy; Two-year winner Gina Waldman; Two-year winner Mardi Gross; Ten-year winner Heather Harrision; 2021 winner Christian Portilla; Six-year winner Jodi Josephs, Two-year winner Rebecca Kirschner

We Live Here, We Grew Up Here, We Sell Homes Here.

- **No. 1 team in Westchester County by sales volume (*The Wall Street Journal* and REAL *Trends*, 2015 – 2020)**
- **No. 1 agent in Scarsdale and Westchester County, 2020 (HGMLS)**
- **$1 billion-plus in sales, 725 transactions**

We wanted to thank our clients and friends for selecting us to receive this prestigious award in 2021 and their continued support. It is our mission to make our clients' real estate needs a rewarding, successful and first-rate experience.

The Heather Harrison Team is a dynamic group of trailblazers revolutionizing the business of real estate in Westchester County guided by a deep passion for the area and a firm belief that buying, selling or renting a home should be both successful and enjoyable. With more than $1 billion in sales and 725 transactions, The Heather Harrison Team delivers consistent client success, elite service and abundant creativity.

THE HEATHER HARRISON TEAM | COMPASS

1082 Wilmot Road • Scarsdale, NY 10583
Cell: 917-299-7490 • theheatherharrisonteam@compass.com
@theheatherharrisonteam

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



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

David Calabrese

Licensed Salesperson, ABR®, SFR®

2014 – 2021 Five Star Real Estate Agent

- **Ranked in the top 1% of all Westchester County Realtors (HGAR)**
- **Recipient of Houlihan Lawrence Platinum and Emerald awards, 2009 – 2020**
- **Recipient of Westchester Business Council's Rising Stars 40 Under 40 Award, 2010**

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

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

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

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dcalabrese@houlihanlawrence.com
www.DavidCalabreseHomes.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Left to right: Twelve-year winner Filomena Rosemary Stern, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker;
Eleven-year winner Steven Geiger, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Steven Geiger
Filomena Rosemary Stern

Making Dreams Come True for Buyers and Sellers

- **Commitment is to serve with absolute integrity, compassion and skill**
- **Covering Westchester, surrounding counties and New York City**
- **A top-producing team for the past 19 years**

We thank our clients for choosing and recognizing us for this award. After 20 years, we continue to strive to be part of fulfilling many more dreams. Acting as a trusted advisor, our goal is to always exceed everyone's expectations with passion, unparalleled knowledge and creative thinking. We value the long-term relationships we have built and look forward to forging new ones for years to come and continue growing our circle.

GEIGER STERN TEAM
at WILLIAM RAVEIS

William Raveis • 1 Palmer Avenue • Scarsdale, NY 10583
Rosemary: 914-523-5437 • rosemary.stern@raveis.com • filomenarosemarystern.raveis.com
Steven: 914-263-5275 • steven.geiger@raveis.com • stevengeiger.raveis.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Four-year winner Jocelyn Burton

Jocelyn Hall Burton

Real Estate Salesperson, Lic. 40BU1088802

Ranked in the Top 1% Of All Agents in Westchester (MLS)

- **No. 1 agent in the No. 1 brokerage in New Rochelle**
- **Named to REAL *Trends* America's Best List, 2021**

Jocelyn's listings are selling in just days and for considerably over their asking prices. Now is the time to capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity to secure top dollar for your property.

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

15 Quaker Ridge Road • New Rochelle, NY 10804
Phone: 917-693-3557
jburton@houlihanlawrence.com
www.jocelynburton.houlihanlawrence.com

Source: OKMLS, 2020, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by Houlihan Lawrence agent, New Rochelle school district. One Key MLS, 2020, properties listed by agent that sold in 2020 in the City of New Rochelle compared to all properties sold in City of New Rochelle. Jocelyn ranks in the Top 1% in Westchester County by single family homes sold, total dollar volume, 2020. Source: Real *Trends*.

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Laura Sheppe Miller

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
SINCE 1888

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

Top Producer in the Scarsdale and Edgemont Markets (HGMLS)

- **No. 1 listing agent in Scarsdale/Edgemont, 2019 – 2020**
- **One of the top five agents in Westchester County, single-family homes, 2019 – 2020**
- **REAL *Trends* "America's Best Real Estate Agents", 2015 – 2020**

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

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Noreen Parrell

Lic. 30PA0946755



Eleven-year winner Noreen Parrell; Wayne Kokinda

Expect The Best!

With a commitment to excellence, we search out and provide the information necessary for our clients to make informed decisions about the properties they are buying or selling. From our initial contact to the closing table and beyond with integrity, hard work and dedication, we help our clients navigate the path to a successful transaction. How can we help you?

William Raveis Real Estate

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Phone: 914-245-0460
noreen.parrell@raveis.com
www.everythingrealestate.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Miriam Dunn

Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker



RE/MAX PRIME PROPERTIES

836 Scarsdale Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Office: 914-723-1212
Cell: 914-523-8638
miriamdunn@remax.net
www.miriamdunn.com

9 YEAR WINNER

Call 914-523-8638

- Serving Rye, Scarsdale, White Plains and Westchester
- Handling residential and investment properties
- Working with both buyers and sellers
- Experience counts

Thank you to all of my clients for your support, referrals and this prestigious award. Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest decisions we make. I treat each client the way I would like to be treated. Your needs and wants are always my priority.

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Marilyn J. Krizansky

Licensed Associate Broker



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
SINCE 1888

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

11 YEAR WINNER

Clients Are My No. 1 Priority

- Professional
- Energetic
- Analytical
- Successful
- Hands-on
- Grateful

I am honored to be respected by my clients and to win this award for the past 11 years due to your kind words about my service and professionalism. In this recent year, we have worked together successfully in finding you single-family houses, condominiums, co-ops and residential rentals to move into. And I continue to get your referrals, which I simply love. Thank you once again for remembering me each year and for nominating me for this prestigious award. I look forward to remaining in touch with you in 2022!

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Barbara Bodnar

Associate Real Estate Broker



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

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

12 YEAR WINNER

Diligent. Determined. Dependable.

"Working with Barbara Bodnar has been a very pleasurable experience. She is knowledgeable, honest, extremely professional and handles everything consistently with the highest level of integrity. Barbara is punctual, positive, approachable and always makes us feel as though we are her only client. She manages to do this while handling all her other clients, which is a gift and a talent worth mentioning in this industry. Barbara has a strong understanding of the real estate market, which helped tremendously as we prepared to list our property on the market. Throughout the process, she shared view stats to help us understand how our listing was performing on the MLS, as well as sent immediate follow-ups after every showing with comments from the agents that showed the property and always made herself available for discussions around possible actions we should take to get the right offer. Barbara was a true partner throughout the entire process, and we are certain that we will work with her again in the future." – Jon White

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Tina Valenti

Realtor, Lic. 10401279957



corcoran
LEGENDS REALTY

38 Main Street
Tarrytown, NY 10591
Cell: 914-261-0561
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tinav@corcoranlegends.com
www.tinavalentihomesny.com

Exceptional Agent Turning Houses Into Homes One Client at a Time!

- 2021 Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner
- 2020 Corcoran Legends Bronze award winner

Tina worked in her family's business for most of her professional career. As a result of that experience, she knows what it means to be loyal, work hard and understand the value of providing outstanding service to her clients. She has lived in Westchester for over 20 years with her husband and two children. Tina is an active member of her community, from being a board member at Warner Library to fundraising for the local schools and various sports organizations, just to name a few. In addition, she is also a proud "Sugar Angel" with a non-profit organization, Icing Smiles, which is an amazing organization that makes dream cakes for terminally ill children. Tina is ready to help you start your exciting real estate journey, whether renting, buying or selling a home.

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Joan Mancini

Associate Real Estate Broker, SRES®, CNE, SRS, ASP®, Lic. 30MA0883827



10 YEAR WINNER

MANCINI Realty

358 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589
Phone: 914-276-1010
jnmncn@aol.com
www.mancinirealestate.com

Your Home Is Where Our Heart Is

Joan has been a Realtor since 1998 and manages their independent, family owned real estate office in the heart of Somers with her husband, Rick Mancini. Joan has been involved in real estate for over 30 years, helping clients buying, selling and renting many of their own properties. Joan has repeatedly worked with clients and their families by taking pride in getting the job done right. After all, it is her name that she represents! Joan's passion is to help represent buyers' and sellers' needs daily in the most important decision of their lives.

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Agnes Aliberto



11 YEAR WINNER

RE/MAX PRIME PROPERTIES

836 Scarsdale Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Cell: 914-672-9413
aggiealiberto@remax.net

A Heartfelt Thank You to My Wonderful Clients

- **NYS licensed associate real estate broker**
- **ABR®, e-PRO®, SFR®, SRES®, license: 30AL1022226**
- **State of Connecticut license: RES.0812070**
- **Professional representation for sellers and buyers**

Committed to excellence with 17 years of experience in real estate sales, Aggie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to every real estate transaction. No matter what side of the transaction she represents, Aggie's passion, drive and commitment to providing outstanding service to her clients is evidenced by the high percentage of repeat clients and referrals.

"Thank you for honoring me with this prestigious award. I'm very grateful to be acknowledged."

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Mary Case Friedner

Licensed Broker, Owner, ABR®, CNE



12 YEAR WINNER

corcoran LEGENDS REALTY

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Tarrytown, NY 10591
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Always on the Case!

- **Specializing in the Hudson River Villages and beyond**
- **Over three decades of real estate experience and success**
- **A yearly award-winning, top-producing agent**
- **Co-founded Legends Realty Group in 2007**
- **Affiliated with Corcoran Group on September 1st, 2020**

My ongoing success is 100% due to my loyal clients and supporters who have believed and trusted in my knowledge, expertise, negotiation skills and out-of-the-box thinking. It is also due to those who have seen my passion for the industry and our uniquely exquisite corner of the world, "the land of legends." Thank you, one and all, your repeat business and referrals mean the world to me.

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER

Debra Bravoco

Real Estate Salesperson



2 YEAR WINNER

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

366 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Cell: 914-610-6277
debra.bravoco@cbmoves.com
DebraBravoco.com

Exceeding Expectations ... One Home at a Time!

- **MBA in corporate finance**
- **Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA)**
- **Certified Buyer Representative® (CBR®)**
- **Diamond Society Award winner**

Debra is committed to exceeding her clients' expectations and is focused on providing a highly personalized real estate experience. Well respected among colleagues and industry experts alike, Debra is connected to a powerful nationwide network and armed with the industry's leading technology. Deb's sophisticated and creative marketing strategies set her listings apart from the crowd, ensuring they sell quickly and for top dollar. A sincere commitment to quality service is her trademark.

Licensed in New York and Connecticut

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Eileen Marie Murphy

Licensed Associate Broker, ABR®, SRS, SFR®

- **Believes true customer service is going beyond the expected**
- **Accredited Buyer's Representative and seller representative**

The key to my success is building strong personal relationships with my clients. I take the time to learn what is most important to them and build trust. I make sure my clients understand each step in the process. I use my experience to minimize surprises by identifying and addressing them early.

RE/MAX

273 Columbus Avenue • Tuckahoe, NY 10707
Phone: 914-275-5267
eileentgm@gmail.com • eileensproperties.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Phyllis Lerner

CBR®, CHP, Licensed Real Estate Broker, Owner

- **Service is my No. 1 priority**

Thank you to all my wonderful clients who have nominated me for this recognition. I love working with buyers, finding them just the right home and guiding them through the entire process. I enjoy working with sellers to help them prepare their homes for sale, from staging to photography and multimedia marketing.

corcoran
LEGENDS REALTY

38 Main Street • Tarrytown, NY 10591
Phone: 914-438-7556 • phyllislou@aol.com
www.westchester-real-estate.us

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Michele Lilly

Licensed Associate Realtor

- **20 years of real estate experience thanks to amazing clients**
- **Consistent Houlihan Lawrence Excellence in Sales Awards recipient**

Michele Lilly is amazing. She is responsive to all needs and wants, always willing to go the extra mile to ensure her clients are happy. Having lived here her entire life, she knows the area like the back of her hand. She adds honesty and personality, which are two characteristics not normally seen in real estate.

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
SINCE 1888

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Phone: 914-329-5702
mlilly@houlihanlawrence.com • www.michelelilly.houlihanlawrence.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Marie Ann Egan

Real Estate Salesperson, Lic. 40EG1144094

- **Silver and Gold Award winner — Houlihan Lawrence**

As a licensed real estate salesperson, Marie Ann's goal is to provide world-class service and warm hospitality. Whether you're looking to buy or sell, she intends to exceed your expectations.

Put her passion for real estate to work for you.

MARIE ANN EGAN
AT HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

237 Mamaroneck Avenue • White Plains, NY 10605
Phone: 914-450-6633
megan@houlihanlawrence.com • www.marieegan.houlihanlawrence.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Nancy Towlen Lawton

Realtor, ABR®, Lic. 30LA0436054

- **REAL *Trends* "America's Best Agent" in 2021**
- **Houlihan Lawrence Platinum Award winner for the past 12 years**

Whether buying or selling, downsizing or moving from the city to the suburbs, Nancy's advice is always spot on. She has the ability to understand the unique style and individual needs of each and every client and is an astute problem solver. Nancy listens, negotiates with ease and works tirelessly to ensure that every transaction is stress-free and seamless.

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Elizabeth "Beth" Ritchie

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, Lic. 10401252222

- **2021 Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner**

Beth prides herself on being a calm, trusted advocate, providing a superior level of customer service that is diligently tailored to each and every client's unique situation. She is an accomplished Southern Westchester agent who brings a strategic, personable approach to the homebuying and selling process.

Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty

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FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Shari Weinstein

Real Estate Salesperson, Lic. 40WE0940386

- **2016 - 2021 Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner**

As a lifelong Westchester resident, Shari brings 20 years of real estate experience and local market expertise to her buyers and sellers. Highly regarded by her network of customers and colleagues, she delivers results with a strategic and focused approach and consistently exceeds expectations. Shari provides expert guidance and advocates in the best interests of her clients as they navigate their real estate journey.

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www.shariweinstein.houlihanlawrence.com

FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Al Posillico

Consulting Associate Broker

- **Designations include CDPE and CLHMS**
- **2012, 2015, 2016, 2020 and 2021 Five Star Real Estate Agent**

Al Posillico prides himself on delivering superlative professional service with a personal touch. With 21 years of experience in all areas of the industry, he is committed to making your experience as stress-free as possible. The mantra for his success is *to do what you love, and you will never work a day!*

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J. Philip Faranda

Broker-Owner

- **Charter member of the Zillow Agent Advisory Board**
- **Author of Westchester real estate blog**

I am the broker and owner of J. Philip Real Estate, a growing, independent real estate firm serving Westchester, Putnam and nearby counties. Since 2005, I have grown the firm from a home-based solo practitioner to a team of over 100 licensed professionals. We are committed to providing an excellent client experience by employing the best professionals and technology available.

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Maryanne Durr

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RISING STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD WINNER



Laurence F. Wallace

Real Estate Salesperson, Lic. 10401268399

- **Knowledge**
- **Experience**
- **Passion**

Laurence helps clients feel at ease by closely listening to their needs, goals and challenges. Whether you are looking to buy or sell, Laurence has the knowledge and experience to help you unlock the door to your life's exciting next chapter!

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Robert G. Miller

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Douglas C. Petri

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Patricia I. Madison

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Rye

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Anne Y. Savino · William Raveis Real Estate

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White Plains

Suzanne Lagle · Houlihan Lawrence
Sally Turner-Unruh · Howard Hanna Rand Realty

Yonkers

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Yorktown Heights

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Rising Star Real Estate Agents

All Areas

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Bedford

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Cortlandt Manor

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Mount Kisco

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Peekskill

John Perrone · Coldwell Banker

Scarsdale

Mardi Anne Gross · Compass *Page 3*

Westchester

Gina Waldman · Compass *Page 3*

Yonkers

Shirley Jacobs · Houlihan Lawrence

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Toy Eng · loanDepot
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Biagio Maffettone · RealFi Home Funding
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ON THE SCENE

AUGUST 11, 2021

WESTCHESTER/HUDSON VALLEY WEDDINGS' 2021 UNVEILED: A BOUTIQUE BRIDAL EVENT

Surf Club on the Sound, New Rochelle, NY

More than 150 brides-to-be along with their fiancées, family and friends came together for an unforgettable evening of sipping and sampling with the most prestigious wedding professionals in the area. From flowers and pastries to dresses and music, there was something for every bride and groom-to-be looking to plan the wedding of their dreams.

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Photographs by **TIFFANY MASOTTI and ADAM RAMIREZ, ENORMOUS CREATIVE**



















coming attractions

BEST BETS | SPOTLIGHT | BOOK IT

EDITED BY *Paul Adler*



PHOTO BY TOM NYCZ/COURTESY OF HISTORIC HUDSON VALLEY

Jack Is Back

Ghouls, ghosts, and vampires of all ages are welcome to descend once again upon Croton-on-Hudson's Van Cortlandt Manor for **The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze**. An all-out Halloween extravaganza, this artfully rendered pumpkin landscape features a fully functioning pumpkin carousel, a pumpkin planetarium, a bridge made out of the seasonal produce, and even a Museum of Pumpkin Art decked out with gourds paying tribute to timeless paintings, through November 21.

Best Bets

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



Oct 3 thru Jan 23

Root Work

Americans' incredibly varied origin stories are explored in a captivating exhibit on show at the Katonah Museum of Art. ***Arrivals*** will feature 50 works spanning the 16th century to the present day, focusing on a series of seminal moments, such as the migration to Ellis Island, the Pilgrims, and the Middle Passage, by noted artists, including Vanessa German, Titus Kaphar, Thuan Vu, and Kara Walker.

In the Black

Oct 15 thru Jan 16

Comprising 43 exuberant paintings and sculptures, this energetic exhibit on show at Yonkers' Hudson River Museum presents a welcome celebration of Black life in America. ***African American Art in the 20th Century*** features works drawn from the permanent collection of The Smithsonian American Art Museum, produced by acclaimed artists, including Romare Bearden, Benny Andrews, and Felrath Hines.

Time Warp

Oct 27

Remember the days of crowding into a movie theater to quote along to your favorite cult film? That's okay. But in the spirit of getting back into the swing of things, why not drop by Stamford's Avon Theatre this month, where Tim Curry's inimitable Dr. Frank-N-Furter will introduce a naïve couple to a cast of truly singular characters during this seasonal screening of ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show.***

On the Hunt

Oct 29 thru Dec 11

Widely known for his paintings of bunnies, birds, and butterflies, **Hunt Slonem** will hold his third solo exhibition in Scarsdale at Madelyn Jordon Fine Art beginning this month. The show features a selection of Slonem's recent paintings ensconced in antique frames, as well as a new grouping of glass-blown "bunny sculptures" produced by the artist at Dale Chihuly's Seattle studio.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATONAH MUSEUM



RAUL MIDÓN PHOTO BY SAMUEL PRATHER

Oct 1

Guitar Hero

Stop by Katonah's Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts to experience a guitarist famous for shattering misconceptions and defying expectations. **Raul Midón**, a blind, New Mexican-born singer-songwriter and string king never let anything stand in the way of his rise to prominence, earning a Grammy nomination and releasing 11 studio albums along the way. Catch the musician who has played alongside the likes of Stevie Wonder and Jason Mraz when he takes the stage this month in Caramoor's Music Room.

A Day to Remember

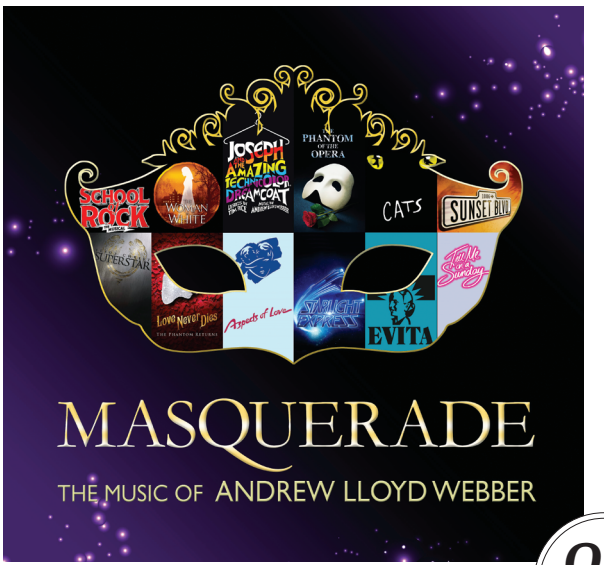
Oct 24

Experience a vibrant Mexican holiday during this family-friendly afternoon event at Katonah's Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts. During **Celebrate Día de Muertos**, families can enjoy traditional and regional dance performances taking place across the venue's verdant grounds, as well as snacks, crafts, and copious music. Held in conjunction with Mexico Beyond Mariachi, the event provides a fun introduction to a holiday dedicated to remembering those who have passed, gathering with family, and celebrating life.

Local Legend

Oct 24

Chazz Palminteri has long been a force in film, earning an Academy Award nomination for his gritty role in *Bullets Over Broadway* and drawing plenty of positive reviews for his appearances in *The Usual Suspects* and *Analyze This*. This month, the Bedford resident will perform a one-man show of *A Bronx Tale* at The Ridgefield Playhouse, a story he wrote about growing up in New York City that would become a famous Broadway play, book, and a feature film starring Robert De Niro.



MASQUERADE PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITE PLAINS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Oct 8-24

Broadway's Boy

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber redefined modern musical theater with iconic works like *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Local audiences can celebrate the British-born genius during the New York premiere of ***Masquerade***, a musical portrait following Webber's decades-long career onstage this month at the White Plains Performing Arts Center. The lighthearted production follows Webber from his bohemian youth and quirky family life to his days in the spotlight crafting some of Broadway's most celebrated works.

book it!

COMPILED BY PAUL ADLER



Oct 24
CELEBRATE DÍA DE MUERTOS
at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Katonah

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEXICO BEYOND MARIACHI

art

Ongoing through December 24

THE RISE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE ARTS OF MEXICO SINCE THE REVOLUTION. This exhibition, featuring a host of works from the permanent collection of the Neuberger Museum of Art, chronicles the enormous ideological shift that took place in Mexico between 1910 and 1920. *Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase (914.251.6100; neuberger.org)*

Ongoing through April 24

TIM PRENTICE: AFTER THE MOBILE – OUTDOOR INSTALLATION. The second half of a two-part solo exhibition by Connecticut-based artist Tim Prentice features five outdoor works, 20 indoor pieces, and a video installation. *The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield (203.438.4519; aldrichart.org)*

October 3–January 23

ARRIVALS. This wide-ranging exhibit explores Americans' varied origin stories through a series of historic arrival moments, such as Ellis Island, the Middle Passage, and the Pilgrims' voyage, with 50 works spanning the 16th century to the present. *Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah (914.767.2969; katonahmuseum.org)*

October 7–October 31

FLOWER POWER. Experience the dazzling photomontages of Janine Menlove, who blends floral motifs with fragmented imagery to disturb common conceptions of time and space. *Upstream Gallery, Hastings-on-Hudson (914.674.8548; upstreamgallery.com)*

October 15–January 16

AFRICAN AMERICAN ART IN THE 20TH CENTURY. Comprising 43 exuberant paintings and sculptures, this exhibit presents a welcome celebration of Black life in America, featuring artists like Romare Bearden and Felrath Hines. *Hudson River Museum, Scarsdale (914.963.4550; hrm.org)*

October 17–May 1

KARLA KNIGHT: NAVIGATOR. Scientific schematics, the occult, surrealism, Native American symbolism, and early-20th-century abstraction all come together in the dazzling work of Karla Knight, featured in this selection of paintings and works on paper. *Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield (203.438.4519; aldrichart.org)*

October 29–December 11

HUNT SLONEM. This show, which is Slonem's third solo exhibition with Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, features a selection of recent paintings and sculptures by the acclaimed Expressionist. *Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, Scarsdale (914.723.8738; madelynjordonfineart.com)*

film

October 27

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW. Revel in the ridiculous plot, timeless music, and over-the-top acting of this beloved cult classic, starring Tim Curry as a truly one-of-a-kind doctor. *The Avon Theatre, Stamford (203.967.3660; avontheatre.org)*

music

Classical & Opera

October 1

RAUL MIDÓN. This blind, Grammy-nominated guitarist has shattered stereotypes and misconceptions over the course of his lengthy career, which spans 11 studio albums. *Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Katonah (914.232.1252; caramoor.org)*

October 30, 31

TACONIC OPERA. The Taconic Opera celebrates its triumphant return with this performance of Puccini's moving *Manon Lescaut*. *Yorktown Stage, Yorktown (855.886.7372; taconicopera.org)*

October 31

EVNIN RISING STARS. Meet the next generation of classical artists when Grammy-winning bassist Edgar Meyer and Caramoor artistic director Pamela Frank perform chamber-music masterworks alongside up-and-coming young musicians they've mentored. *Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Katonah (914.232.1252; caramoor.org)*

music

Jazz, Folk, Rock & Pop

October 10

MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER, MARC COHN, AND SHAWN COLVIN. The recipient of five Grammys and two CMA Awards, Carpenter will be joined onstage by two other noted Grammy winners: Shawn Colvin, known for her hit, "Sunny Came Home," and "Walking in Memphis" singer Marc Cohn. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; tarrytownmusichall.org)*

October 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

PHIL LESH & FRIENDS. Catch the founding bassist of the Grateful Dead at any one of these six rocking evenings onstage in Port Chester. *The Capitol Theatre, Port Chester (914.937.4126; thecapitoltheatre.com)*

October 14

LISA LOEB. The "Stay (I Missed You)" singer, actor, and Grammy-winning musician takes the Mamaroneck stage. *The Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck (914.689.0098; emelin.org)*

October 17

LEO KOTTKE. This steel-string fingerstyle guitarist who has worked alongside bands like Procol Harum and Violent Femmes makes his way to the region for a performance that blends elements of jazz, funk, folk, blues, and rock. *The Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck (914.689.0098; emelin.org)*

October 20

THE MONKEES FAREWELL TOUR. Say so long to the '60s pop group led by Michael Nesmith and Micky Dolenz during this final tour. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; tarrytownmusichall.org)*

October 21

SUZANNE VEGA: AN EVENING OF NEW YORK SONGS AND STORIES. The Grammy winner known for haunting songs like "Luka" and "Tom's Diner" performs several of her hits, as well a few hidden gems bearing a New York City theme. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield (203.438.5795; ridgefieldplayhouse.org)*

October 25 & 26

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS. A rock & roll icon for nearly 40 years, the artist known for megahits like "Alison," "My Aim Is True," and "Oliver's Army" takes the stage for a rare area show. *The Capitol Theatre, Port Chester (914.937.4126; thecapitoltheatre.com)*

October 27

FOREIGNER. Relive the '80s with this British-American supergroup known for infectious hits like "Cold as Ice," "Hot Blooded," and "Juke Box Hero." *The Capitol Theatre, Port Chester (914.937.4126; thecapitoltheatre.com)*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELYN JORDON FINE ART



October 29-December 11
HUNT SLONEM
at Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, Scarsdale

theater

October 8—October 24

MASQUERADE. This musical portrait of Andrew Lloyd Webber follows the iconic composer's decades-long career, from his bohemian youth and quirky family life to his days crafting some of Broadway's most celebrated works. *White Plains Performing Arts Center, White Plains (914.328.1600; wppac.com)*

October 8—23

THE OCTOBER STORM. Catch the world premiere of Juilliard-trained playwright Joshua Allen's newest work, which follows a troubled war veteran entangled with his building's landlady and her 16-year-old granddaughter. *North Castle Public Library, Armonk (914.271.2811, hudsonstage.com)*

family

October 9

IMAGINATION MOVERS. A fixture on SiriusXM's Kids Place Live, this lauded alternative-rock band for young ones has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *The View*, and NPR's *American Routes*. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill (914.739.0039; paramounthudsonvalley.com)*

special events

Ongoing through November 21

THE GREAT JACK O'LANTERN BLAZE. Keep the spirit of fall alive with a stroll through this artfully rendered pumpkin landscape, featuring a fully functioning pumpkin carousel and a Museum of Pumpkin Art decked out with gourds paying tribute to timeless paintings. *Historic Hudson Valley, Croton-on-Hudson (914.631.8200; hudsonvalley.org)*

October 9, 10

POUND RIDGE NURSERY FALL PICNIC. Enjoy freshly prepared picnic food, live music, pony rides, a hay maze, and a host of other fun fall activities at this two-day event. *Pound Ridge Nursery, Pound Ridge (914.764.5781; pounridgenursery.com)*

October 24

CELEBRATE DÍA DE MUERTOS. In conjunction with Mexico Beyond Mariachi, Caramoor presents this family-friendly afternoon of music, dance, crafts, and snacks to celebrate the Day of the Dead. *Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Katonah (914.232.1252; caramoor.org)*

lectures & readings

October 11

DAVID SEDARIS. The reigning king of literary wit descends upon The Ridgefield Playhouse for a reading from his new book, *Best of Me*, to be followed by an audience Q&A. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield (203.438.5795; ridgefieldplayhouse.org)*

comedy

October 2

JAY MOHR. This *SNL* alum has appeared in roughly 25 feature films, including *Jerry Maguire* and *Pay It Forward*, as well as 50 different sitcoms and TV dramas. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill (914.739.0039; paramounthudsonvalley.com)*

October 8, 9

WHITNEY CUMMINGS. The actor, writer, director, and producer known for creating the NBC series *Whitney* will be taking the stage for two nights of her searing standup. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield (203.438.5795; ridgefieldplayhouse.org)*

October 9

ANTHONY RODIA. Laugh along to this Westchester-based comic with more than 700,000 social media followers and 22 million YouTube views of his jokes. *The Palace Theatre, Stamford (203.325.4466; palacestamford.org)*



PHOTO BY JUAN PATINO PHOTOGRAPHY

Perennial Powerhouse

We caught up with Lisa Loeb in advance of an October performance at Mamaroneck's Emelin Theatre for a chat about '90s nostalgia and what lies ahead. **BY PAUL ADLER**

It's easy to label Lisa Loeb a star of the '90s, but the truth is, she hasn't gone anywhere. Currently beaming to television sets in a new GEICO commercial that references her "Stay (I Missed You)" stardom, the Grammy-winning musician, actor, and author has maintained a dizzying schedule balancing her family life, a musical career, acting appearances, an eyewear line, and a host of philanthropic efforts. This month, Loeb will be taking the stage on October 14 at Mamaroneck's Emelin Theatre for her first tour since the pandemic.

"I want to play for people, and I am hoping — like other artists I have seen along the way who have encouraged their fans to wear masks, be vaccinated, and be safe — that my fans will do the same," says Loeb. "I am really excited."

This is, however, not Loeb's most recent interaction with admirers. "I have been doing a multitude of live streams and concert appearances online, so I have really had a chance to connect with my fans virtually and, in some cases, very personally," says Loeb. "But I am looking for-

ward to actually having that energy of people in the room. I have a whole bunch of new songs that came out right before COVID hit, and I am excited to share those with a live audience."

One notable way in which Loeb has been bonding with fans and collaborators alike has been *Together Apart*, a collection of 10 mini-musicals about living through the pandemic that she put together and cowrote with alumni from her alma mater, Brown University. "People are connecting with the musical in so many different ways," shares Loeb. "Some people really see themselves and their own experience in the show and find comfort in that."

Plus, proceeds from the musical go to a good cause. "We have donated over $35,000 so far to, and continue to raise money for, The Actors Fund," she says. "We not only wanted to write a show that we were proud of and that told our stories, but one that also focused on and helped other people who had hard times during the pandemic or who were not able to work — people onstage, on-camera, and behind the scenes."

The pandemic also changed the way Loeb views her own music. "Some of those songs that meant something to me in one way before the pandemic dropped down even deeper when the pandemic hit — messages about not letting small things get in your way, finding the beauty in life, and approaching life with wonder," says Loeb. "But then these messages took on this whole other meaning because the day-to-day struggles were still there, on top of the pandemic, which, in some cases, made them even harder."

Her most recent album, *A Simple Trick to Happiness*, was released in February 2020, just before the coronavirus began sweeping America. "Releasing a record right before the pandemic could have been a disaster except for the fact that everybody was at home, waiting to be entertained, waiting to connect with others," Loeb recalls. "And there I was, with my computer and camera, and my microphone, able to perform really easily and connect with people all over the world."

Ahead, Loeb plans to continue crafting songs that are close to her heart, as well as more of the children's music for which she won a Grammy in 2018. "I have a new kids' record I am in production on right now, although people might not hear it as a kids' record when they listen to it," says Loeb. "Much like my *Lullaby Girl* record, it was initially meant as an album of lullabies for kids but, when you listen to it, it's really a great jazz combo, playing traditional songs with themes like nighttime, tomorrow, and dreams."



PHOTO BY JUAN PATINO PHOTOGRAPHY

"Releasing a record right before the pandemic could have been a disaster except for the fact that everybody was at home, waiting to be entertained, waiting to connect with others."

Despite these achievements, Loeb doesn't blame all those "Stay" devotees. "I love people continuing to connect with the music that they loved from the '90s," she says. "I am a very nostalgic person, so I understand people's nostalgic connections. There are a few things I don't understand people's connections with, though, like why we cut mock turtlenecks and some of the sundresses we wore," she adds with a laugh.

Yet, no matter what the future holds, Loeb is ready to embrace it. "I want to get out there. I've enjoyed my time at home with my family, having much more of a window into their education and their day-to-day lives since they have been at home so much," notes Loeb, who is the mother of two children, Emet Kuli and Lyla Rose. "But I also try to balance that with being able to do what I love and play music on the road. So, I will continue along just trying to make the best decisions I can, depending on what the CDC says and what my family's needs are."

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That's the Spirit

Strange stuff has happened in my Yonkers house. Staunch believers in the paranormal would say it is inhabited by ghosts.

I take the safe position that there are things in this world I simply cannot explain. In other words, I keep an open mind. Anyway, if there *were* such things as ghosts, you would think an old, history-rich Rivertown, like Yonkers, with all its mossy graveyards and Victorian fixer-uppers would be lousy with them.

My house, built in 1906, is a three-story domicile featuring several architectural eccentricities, including winding staircases in the front and rear. It is supposedly haunted by two spirits, an elderly married couple who had previously owned the house and loved it so much, they simply couldn't leave after their natural deaths. This was revealed to me many years ago by a psychic, who, while taking an investigative tour of the premises, sensed that one of the invisible ghosts was mischievously hiding behind the shower curtain in the upstairs bathroom. Holding a candlelit séance, she gently coaxed the couple to complete their journey to "the other side" — or at least claimed she did.

Well, it didn't quite work. Long after the psychic had departed, the strange stuff continued. Like nesting squirrels and wood-eating termites, ghosts are apparently not all that easy to expel.

The odd goings-on are never malevolent but can be loud and a bit startling. Most of the disturbances would be diagnosed as poltergeist activity — proverbial bumps in the night. It should be noted that we've never heard voices, been touched, or physically harmed in any way. Nothing was ever levitated, and no one ever actually saw what could remotely be termed a ghost… except one time.

It happened in the summer of 2009. And yes, it was a dark and stormy night. Adding to the hoary cliché, we lost our electricity just at the stroke of midnight. That's when my son, who was home from college, saw a shadowy figure of a man lurking in the upstairs hallway. He thought it was me. Only it wasn't me, which became evident when I walked out of the bathroom.

After he told us what he had seen, I became convinced my son wasn't kidding. I grabbed a flashlight and a baseball bat and searched the house, looking for an intruder. But I knew I wouldn't find anyone — and I didn't. The shadow man vanished and hasn't been seen since.

I wrote a humorous story about it at the time, which I now realize may have been a mistake that could have easily come back to, well, haunt me. For this Halloween season, I present this as a word to the wise. According to a judge's decision in the 1991 New York court case *Stambovsky v. Ackley*, if I ever decide to sell my house, I must disclose that it is "legally haunted," regardless of whether I believe in ghosts or not. This is troubling because many people are freaked out by haunted houses and won't buy them no matter how much of a price discount is offered.



If I ever decide to sell my house, I must disclose that it is "legally haunted," regardless of whether I believe in ghosts or not.

Oops.

Shelby Green, a professor of law at Pace University in White Plains, told me that *Stambovsky v. Ackley*, popularly referred to as the *Ghostbusters* ruling, is discussed in many first-year property texts and taught in classes on real estate. The case centered on a stately riverfront home in Nyack that was said to be occupied by three ghosts.

"Apparently, the owner had marketed the home as such and gave public tours of it," Green says.

The haunted house was also featured in a *Reader's Digest* story and in several local newspaper articles. It seemed that everybody in Nyack knew about the house and its ghosts. The buyer, Stambovsky, who was from New York City, knew nothing.

When he found out, he sued.

Green said that under the principle of caveat emptor, sellers at that time were not obligated to divulge "defects about the condition" of a property — except in instances when the conditions were created by the seller and might affect the value. In *Stambovsky*, the court — in a decision riddled with ghost puns — noted that the house was reputed to be haunted, a condition that was created by the owner, who joyfully blabbed about it to the press. According to the ruling, that condition needed to be disclosed to the buyer.

Earlier this year, the Nyack house sold for $1,795,000, almost three times the asking price from 30 years ago. Not bad.

Still, there is a lesson to be learned: If you think your house is haunted, save yourself some trouble and keep it to yourself.

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; HOUSE PHOTO BY ZEF ART/ADOBE STOCK; SIGN PHOTO BY DOOMU/ADOBE STOCK

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