

Westchester Magazine

April 2017

**Special
Report**

Middle Class in Westchester

What It Means — And What It Takes to Keep Up

WESTCHESTER

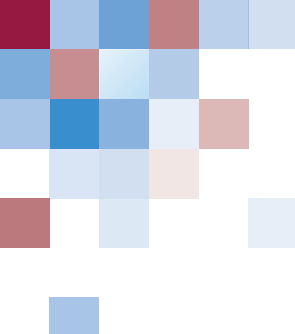
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21 Great Day Trips

Now that spring is (finally) in full bloom, it's time to head out and enjoy a change of scenery. From Woodstock to Mystic to New Hope, we provide you with packed itineraries for day trips you won't want to skip.

Edited By **Samantha Garbarini**

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Middle Class in Westchester: What Does It Mean?

Our county's numerous assets come at a price — literally. We examine Westchester's high cost of living, its stress-inducing impact on middle-class families, and how they're budgeting their way through the financial pressures.

By **Jerry McKinstry**

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Spring Fashion

With winter officially behind us, it's time to refresh your wardrobe with bright florals and cool spring hues that are both sophisticated and eye-catching. See the latest trends from stylist **Kathy Kalafut**.

◀ **boho brings it**

Mixing patterns and textures can be tricky, but the Coachella-esque result is oh-so worth it.

Blank NYC floral motorcycle jacket, \$168, at Lester's; Alexis multicolor lace blouse, \$450, and navy polka-dot wide-legged pants, \$715, at Angela's; L.K.Bennett Eli heels in dark petal suede, \$425, at L.K.Bennett; Emily Amey necklace, \$1,165, and rings, from \$575–\$3,200, available at www.emilyamey.com; Fendi floral bag, \$1,700, at Neiman Marcus.

On the cover: With a breathtaking view of Stockbridge Bowl (aka Lake Mahkeenac), Olivia's Overlook is a great scenic pitstop to make while visiting Stockbridge, MA.

Cover photograph courtesy of Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce. Contents photograph by Marc Kayne



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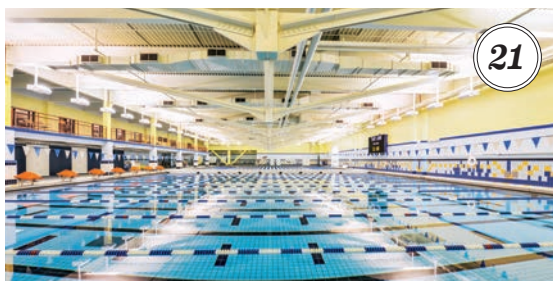
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“It’s an unusual way to spend time, and I think that’s why people enjoy escape rooms so much. It’s a fun alternative to movies or bowling.”

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“Danny and I had an instant click, even though we were so different. He was from Mexico; I was from New Jersey; but there were also some deep similarities.”

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“I have always felt I have written about things that apply to everybody, because I am just one person going through life.”



“Having amassed fame and fortune, Ripley invested in a grand 28-room estate in Mamaroneck to house the curiosities he had brought back from a host of countries.”



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Westchester Magazine is published by Today Media, a Martinelli Holdings LLC, 2 Clinton Avenue, Rye, New York 10580, 914.345.0601

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Mission Statement

To produce a high-quality magazine, website, and other media platforms that inform, entertain, inspire, and help to connect our community.



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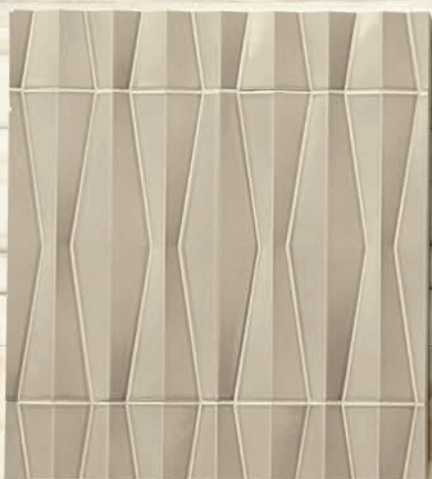
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Westchester Magazine: April 2017, Vol. 41, Number 4.

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A Change of Scenery (and Clothes)

Luckily, for those of us who like to travel, Westchester is so well positioned geographically that it's possible to hop in your car and, a couple hours and a quarter-tank of gas later, enjoy a complete change of scenery (and cultural offerings and culinary pleasures). Fast-forward nine hours, and you're back at home, opening the day's mail and feeding the dog but feeling renewed and invigorated.

This month's cover story recommends 21 such destinations worthy of your exploration, with carefully curated itineraries that will make the most of your precious time. Fair warning: Most of these places will beckon your return, as there are simply too many great things to see, do, and savor in just one trip. Take one of our destinations, Stockbridge, MA (above). The Berkshires, where Stockbridge is located, has been a go-to "happy place" for generations of New Yorkers, dating back to the Gilded Age. In less than two hours (well, depending on who's driving), you can be immersed in a whole different world from Westchester — a world that can swiftly recharge your batteries. Yet with each trip there you can still discover new delights by simply taking a different turn down a back road.

As the weather turns warmer, our thoughts turn not only

to changes of scenery but to changes in wardrobe, as well. In this month's spring fashion preview, our stylist, Kathy Kalafut, presents several of the season's hottest trends, represented by clothing and accessories sourced exclusively from Westchester shops. Kathy summarized the biggest themes emerging from this spring's trends in two words. "Bright colors!" she exclaimed. "For once, there are no sub-themes involving black. Clothing has gotten looser — tight, stretch fabrics are passé. Wide-legged pants and boyfriend jeans have replaced skinnies as the modern cut. Even menswear designers are experimenting with paper-bag waists: pleat front, gathered at the waist, with belt loops a few inches above the top, as seen in our Ferragamo look. Sleeves have shape and volume. Babydoll dresses look young and fresh, with bandage dresses left in the dust — and in the closets of reality-TV housewives."

Behind the scenes at our fashion shoot, the most talked-about trend was the upscale boho look. "All the women in the crew were lusting after it, saying it was the epitome of the rock-star-girlfriend look," says Kathy. "Sophisticated, upscale Westchester women will go for it. It's made of luxury fabric, and the aesthetic is hip and rich."

Whether you prefer travel, shopping, or both, enjoy the new season's offerings — and our new issue.

Robert Schork
Editorial Director

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Scarsdale, NY - Stunning arts and crafts 7 bedroom, 5.1 bath Colonial in Greenacres set on .30 acres of private, level property with 5,352 sf of finished, open and modern floor plan. Featuring a two story entry with cable railing staircase, chef's kitchen, 9' ceilings and lavish master bedroom suite. Walk to all. \$2,825,000
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Larchmont, NY - Stately Center Hall Colonial located in the heart of Larchmont Manor just steps from the Long Island Sound, Manor Park and Beach. This iconic home features high ceilings, large sun-filled rooms, sitting porch and a level yard with mature plantings. Easy commute to NYC. \$1,997,000
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Spring Flings

Spring may have come early this year, but it's not until April that the real sun comes out. Whether it's enjoying a pre-concert picnic on Caramoor's lush grounds or touring magnificent gardens with the Garden Conservancy, check out the outdoor entertainment Westchester has to offer this season. www.westchestermagazine.com/outdoorentertainment

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Singing Their Praises

Stop by our list of Westchester's best karaoke spots in the First Things First section, and head online for even more locations to tune your croon. www.westchestermagazine.com/karaoke



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Spectacular Penthouse in the Sky is a Dream Come True



The home of your dreams is now more than just a dream – it's being offered for purchase exclusively at The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Westchester, the area's most luxurious high-rise condominium.

Located on the 40th floor of the soaring Tower II in downtown White Plains, this spectacular "Dream Home" penthouse in the sky features more than 5,000 square feet of elegant living space and floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall windows with breathtaking 360-degree views of Westchester, the Manhattan skyline and Long Island Sound.

The 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath residence, which was originally designed as the Dream Home feature for Westchester Magazine in 2014, is a one-of-a-kind penthouse home. The spacious and airy living room, complete with fireplace conversation area and perimeter cove lighting, is the perfect setting for entertaining or simply relaxing to enjoy the panoramic views. The oversized master bedroom suite features sitting areas and two walk-in dressing rooms. The luxurious bath has his-and-hers soaking tubs and a double shower with overhead "rainfall" ceiling, waterfall massage, body jets and hand helds as well as custom vanities, decorative lighting and dressing table with lighted mirror.

The state-of-the-art, artfully-designed kitchen is a gourmet cook's dream. The custom European style Artcraft kitchen cabinets are a combination of textured grey and bright white lacquer. The appliances are Gaggenau, a combination of stainless steel and glass induction surfaces. The focal point kitchen island features honed, vein-cut Timber Grey marble with a waterfall finish.

The new owners of this "Dream Home" will enjoy the legendary amenities and services that have made The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, Westchester the standard of excellence in luxury living in Westchester. They include 24-hour concierge service, valet parking, porter, doorman, fitness center, resident lounge with outdoor sun deck, full-service salon and spa, room service and a magnificent atrium topped pool.

As they say when it comes to real estate, it's all about location, location, location. And the "Dream Home" is ideally situated in the heart of downtown White Plains, just steps away from upscale shopping, fine dining, exciting entertainment, and convenient access to the nearby Metro-North train station with Grand Central Station just 30 minutes away.



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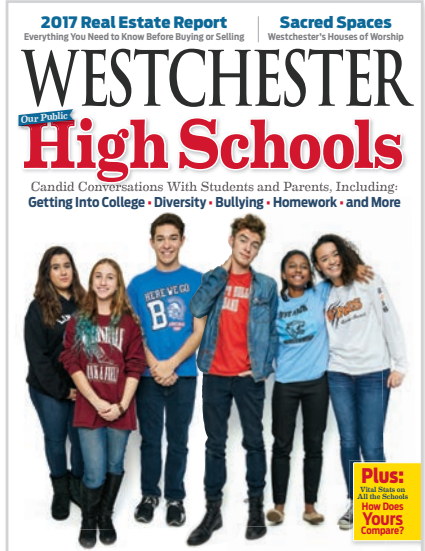
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High School or High Stress?

Your high schools feature ["High School: The Real Deal," March 2017] was so informative, and I can't thank you enough! As a mom of four with my eldest daughter getting ready to start high school in the fall, I have been concerned over how well she will transition from middle school to high school. The roundtable discussions in your magazine provided some much-needed insight into what high school is really like. My daughter was especially interested in reading what the juniors and seniors had to say. Thanks again for alleviating some of our anxieties!

— Rachel Sheinberg, Mamaroneck

Bruce the Boss

In the February 2016 Any Questions? column, you printed a letter asking if Bruce Springsteen ever played Port Chester's Capitol Theatre. You answered that he had never graced the stage. According to Springsteen biographer Dave Marsh's 1979 biography, the Boss did, in fact, play the theater on August 10, 1974.

— Roger Claman, Scarsdale

Writer's Response: Hey, I hate to be one of those guys who just haaaaas to be right, but I checked with Christopher Phillips, publisher and editor of Backstreets Magazine, the definitive Springsteen pub since 1980. He told me that brucebase.wikispaces.com is recognized as the gold standard for all things The Boss. It lists a scheduled Port Chester show on August 10, 1974, but notes that the show and a few others on that tour were canceled around the time of the Born to Run studio sessions. It is likely that Dave Marsh inadvertently left the canceled shows in his book's addendum. — Tom Schreck



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From WestchesterMagazine.com 

Regarding the February 2017 story "The Art of Cannoli":

Furci's Restaurant in Yorktown Heights makes the best [cannoli] I've ever tasted! They make the shells and cream.
— Tina Forenz on [facebook](#)

Regarding the story "Danone North America Is Latest Business to Embrace a Downtown Westchester HQ" on the 914INcoming blog:

I don't blame a business for moving to White Plains. Rent is cheaper than in Manhattan. Attracting and retaining great talent is the tough part.
— Marco Tarantino on [facebook](#)

Regarding the February 2017 feature "Top Bakeries and Bread-Lovers' Guide":

Artuso's has been on McLean Ave in Yonkers for 51 years, yet you chose to ignore it in favor of the other locations. This is just another reason why I would never subscribe to this elitist rag.
— Anna Pierdiluca on [facebook](#)

Regarding the Q1 914INC. feature "Building Company Culture":

While the perks and work/life balance are important...[if] you aren't truly engaged with what you do or aligned with the company's values, research shows that you will not stay long or disengage from work. Hiring people who align with your company values, mission, and vision creates a culture where employees and employers win.
— Kathy D'Agostino on [facebook](#)

From Twitter 

Regarding the February 2016 First Things First story "Divine Inspiration":

I love how [Cathi Locati] uses her art to help [cancer] patients [with] mastectomies! Beautiful work, being able to help people with her talents.
— @sagestudios

Oops!

In the March 2017 "By the Numbers" column (page 23), Byram Hills High School was erroneously listed as being in Chappaqua rather than Armonk.

Join the Conversation

Comment on a story by tweeting @WestchesterMag, commenting at www.facebook.com/westchestermagazine or emailing us at edit@westchestermagazine.com. All feedback will be considered for publication and may be edited for space and clarity.



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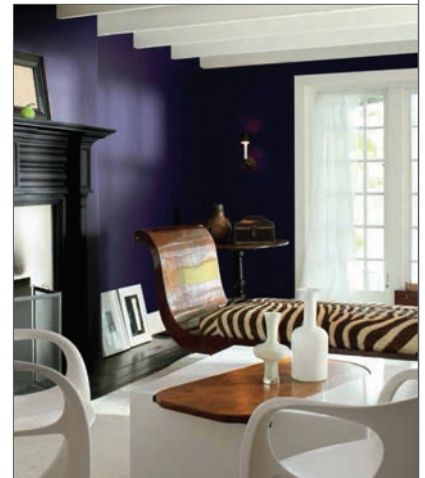
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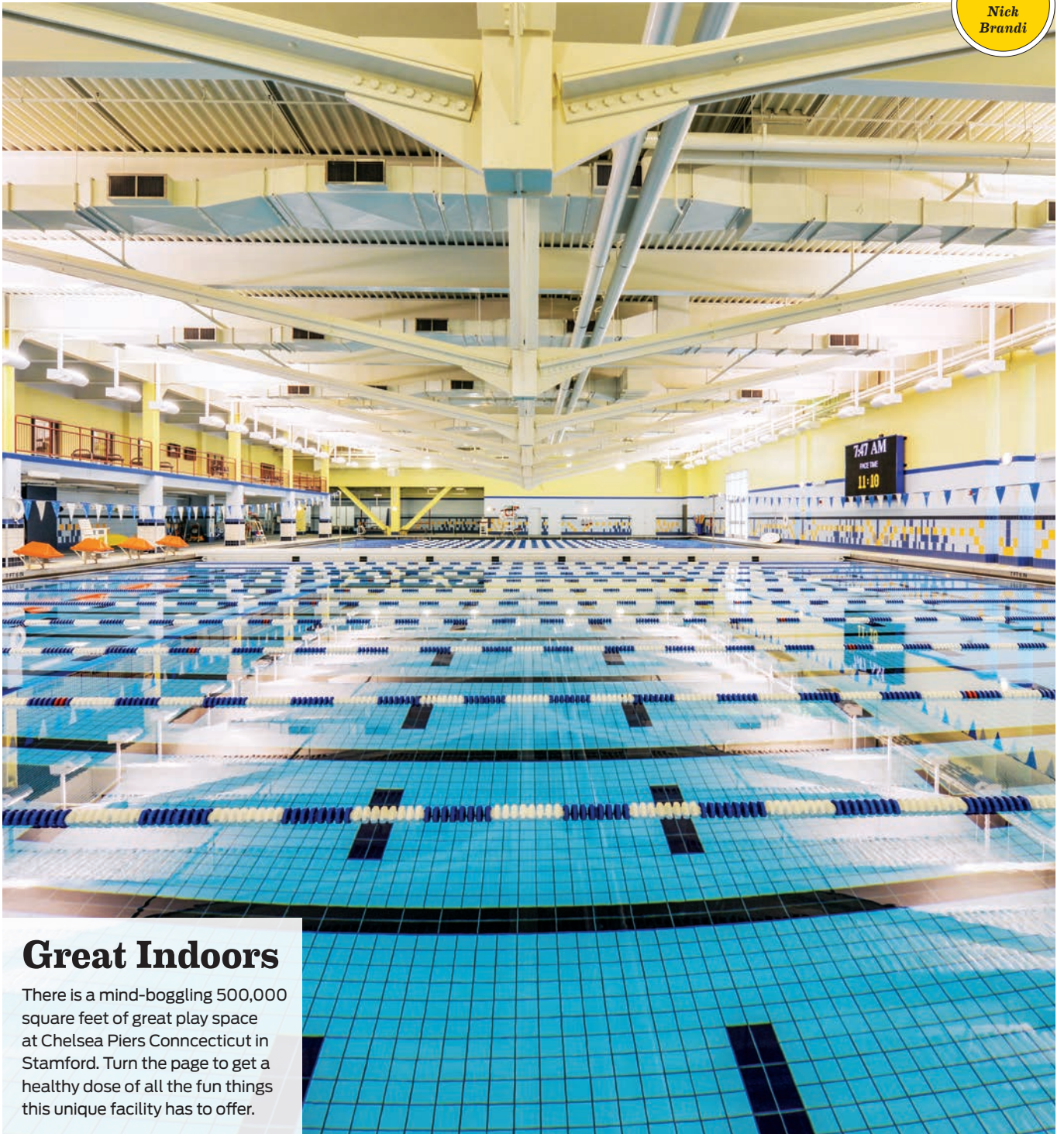
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first things **first**

BORDER CROSSINGS | EDITORS' OBSESSIONS | BY THE NUMBERS | EXPRESS LANE | BOOK CLUB

EDITED BY

*Nick
Brandi*



Great Indoors

There is a mind-boggling 500,000 square feet of great play space at Chelsea Piers Connecticut in Stamford. Turn the page to get a healthy dose of all the fun things this unique facility has to offer.



AMAZING SPACES: With an incredible 500,000 sq ft worth of space, Chelsea Piers Connecticut represents the ultimate playroom north of New York City. The facility can even handle private events for up to 2,000 people.

BORDER CROSSINGS

Pier Pressure

Stamford's epicenter of all things sports, Chelsea Piers Connecticut brings a wealth of fitness fun to Fairfield and beyond.

As warm weather finally arrives in Westchester, a field trip to Connecticut may be just what the doctor ordered. What better place to have fun while getting back into the swing of things than a 500,000 sq ft complex boasting virtually every sport, athletic pastime, and fitness program imaginable?

Behold Chelsea Piers Connecticut, the Stamford-based sports-and-entertainment facility owned by the same people who operate the wildly popular Chelsea Piers Sports Entertainment Complex in Manhattan. At this downtown retreat, guests will find everything from an Olympic-size 50-meter indoor swimming pool and 6,000 sq ft water-play area to a

whopping seven indoor tennis courts and two full-size ice skating rinks.

This doesn't even count the gym facilities, with all the (bar) bells and whistles, as well as a 100-yard turf field and professional-grade gymnastics training center. The Piers also offers camps for kids of varying ages and instructional programs for adults and teens, as well as numerous sports leagues and teams. Private events for 10 to 2,000 people may also be booked in advance.

No membership is necessary, so just waltz on in and partake in the athletic adventures. Chelsea Piers Connecticut does offer a number of membership packages, however, that provide a more cost-effective way to enjoy its expansive offerings. — Paul Adler

Martha Stewart's Lean, Mean, Spring-Clean Routine

The domestic diva springs forward with (clean and tidy) aplomb.

It's that time of year again. You know, spring in the air, butterflies in your stomach, clutter in the closets, and dust bunnies under the beds. Don't be deterred, though: Martha Stewart's got your back. We asked this high-profile Bedford resident to share her best spring-cleaning hacks, and she was all too happy to oblige.

Cut the Clutter. "Make a checklist to review items you'd like to keep or can get rid of. Ask yourself if this item is worthy of taking up precious space in your life. Unless the answer is an absolute yes, let it go. When in doubt, throw it out."

Be a Groupie. "Think in groups. Coordinating containers and storage bins make an organized space more cohesive. It helps to have organizers — like magazine files, trays, and document boxes — throughout your home for quickly filing away bills and correspondence."



PHOTO BY VANESSA LENZ

Keep It Tidy. "Neaten key surfaces in the home — put away remotes and random items, dust coffee tables and counter spaces, and plump up sofa or chair cushions, arranging pillows neatly."

Get on Schedule. "Once you've put your home in order, devise a system to keep it that way. Give yourself a cleaning schedule to stay on track, such as organizing every Tuesday night and Thursday night before bed, to turn your quick clean into a real routine." — Carol Caffin

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Designated Survivors

A fun, new group activity is really capturing the county.

So, you think you and your friends can plan a heist like the *Ocean's Eleven* crew? What about organizing a breakout, a la *The Shawshank Redemption*? Now, thanks to Escape Scarsdale (www.escapescarsdale.com), you and your friends can put your slippery skills of subterfuge and skullduggery to the test.

Escape rooms are a new type of interactive, group-oriented challenge that are popping up across the nation, and Escape Scarsdale — held at the Center @ 862 in Scarsdale — is the first of its kind in Westchester. It offers two 60-minute challenges of varying difficulty. One challenge, Deadline, tasks your party with stealing important documents that could bring down an evil corporation. In Gamers Challenge, a crazy video-game addict has locked your team in a room, and the only way out is to solve his ridiculous video-game-themed puzzles.

"People love the adrenaline rush that comes with entering a themed room with a limited amount of



GREAT ESCAPES:

At Escape Scarsdale, players can choose from various pulse-pounding scenarios designed to test their problem-solving mettle amid the adrenaline rush.

time to find everything you need to be successful," says Program Director Brittney Coleman of The Center @ 862. "It's an unusual way to spend time, and I think that's why people enjoy escape rooms so much. It's a fun alternative to movies or bowling."

Perhaps if you get good enough, you'll become Westchester's answer to 24's Jack Bauer.

— William Dwyer

Singing Their Praises

Westchester's best spots to tune your croon

Did you know that April is home to National Karaoke Week? (Off the record, the *Westchester Magazine* crew has itself been known to mount a sortie or two on local karaoke haunts.) So, in honor of this fun-loving hors d'oeuvre of self-indulgence, we've recommended some of the county's best places to sing your way to 15 minutes of local fame.

Black Bear Sports Bar:

not for the screamish? From February through July, Black Bear hosts a Karaoke Idol elimination competition that awards \$1,000 to the ultimate winner. But Black Bear staffer Niall Scannell says that plenty of vocally challenged folks also jump on the Tuesday-night bandwagon, to belt out some of their most cherished top-40 faves. 166 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.422.3270; www.blackbearsportsbarwp.com

Barney McNabbs:

rock-god karaoke. With its two 8' screens, the show that NightStar DJ & Karaoke puts on here Thursday nights has not only won awards, it may just be the closest you'll come within county limits to feeling like a bona fide rock 'n' roll frontman (*groupies not included*). 600 Tuckahoe Rd, Yonkers; 914.961.8960



duo Tapas Bar & Lounge:

karaoke with a side of pheromones Hosted by Jose Vargas and DJ Megg, this Thursday-night be-there-if-you-dare event is arguably *the* spot for sexy karaoke in the county. In addition to the sultry clientele, there are \$5 apps and mixed drinks, and \$15 beer buckets and hookahs. 748 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers; 914.294.0034; www.duotapasbar.com

PETE'S Saloon:

a minstrel mecca Practically all of Westchester's singing samurai know that Thursday is Spotlight Karaoke night at PETE'S Saloon, which has been a haven for amateur balladeers since 1989. What's their secret? It's Spotlight Entertainment's Nick Moutakas, who really knows how to get 'em up and crooning on PETE'S elevated platform stage. 8 W Main St, Elmsford; 914.592.9849; www.petessaloon.com — Nick Brandi

Civic Pride

White Plains is home to the nation's fourth LGBTQ Lions Club.

Having received their official charter February 22 in a ceremony at the Upstream Gallery in Hastings-on-Hudson, the Westchester Pride Lions Club is the first LGBTQ Lions club in Westchester, second in New York State and one of only four in the nation.

"We're advocates of the community, regardless of gender, sexuality or religion. A lot of our programs focus on helping the LGBTQ community, but we're a humanitarian organization first," says Chapter President Raymond Terone.

In their short time as an



organization, the club has already become known for its positive impact. In less than a year, they've donated 200 pairs of eyeglasses, five boxes of toys to the White Plains Fire Department Toys for Tots program and much-needed supplies to the Children's Village Homeless Shelter.

According to Terone, the homeless youth of Westchester is a group the Pride Lions are particularly concerned with. "Many of the homeless youths in Westchester are part of the LGBTQ community, and we're focusing on ways to meet their needs," he explains. Other future projects include providing support for seniors in the LGBTQ community, people diagnosed with HIV, and a fundraising event for seeing-eye-dog training.

The Westchester Pride Lions Chapter (which is on Facebook) is based out of The LOFT Community Center in White Plains; they meet on the fourth Friday of every month. — WD



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Prized Pupil

Byram Hills' Audrey Saltzman and two other Westchester high school seniors named Regeneron Science Prize finalists.

When the phone rang, Byram Hills High School senior Audrey Saltzman was in the middle of a clarinet lesson, something she's been doing for the past nine of her 17 years. She recalls having had an odd feeling at the time, but she tossed off the incoming call as something that couldn't possibly be life-changing. "But when I heard my parents screaming from the other room," says Saltzman, "I knew I was wrong."

The portentous call was from representatives of Regeneron, who'd called the "speechless" Cum Laude Society student and varsity debate-team captain to inform her that she — along with Blake Hord from Dobbs Ferry High School and Jonathan Chung of Hendrick Hudson High School — was named a Top-40 finalist in the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search. The annual competition scours the country for the brightest high school seniors in the fields of math and science, selecting their finalists "based on scientific rigor and world-changing potential of their research projects." What earned Audrey



her place on the list was the computational model she developed to understand and describe a specific transient neutron star in a low-mass X-ray binary star system within the Milky Way galaxy (yeah, we don't get it either).

The MIT-bound Audrey says that while there is still a disparity between males and females in the sciences, "students and faculty are very aware of it, and things appear to be heading in the right direction. I could see a difference even from last year to this year." — NB

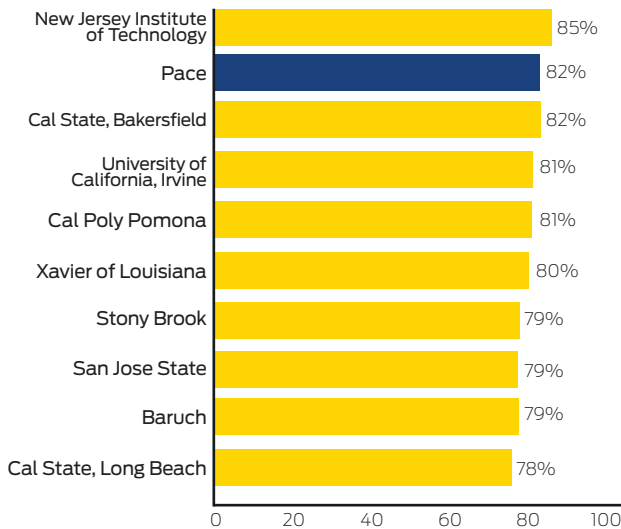


About the Regeneron Science Talent Search

The Regeneron Science Talent Search is the nation's oldest and most prestigious science-and-math competition for high school seniors. Each year, approximately 1,700 students nationwide submit original research in critically important scientific fields of study and are judged by leading experts in their fields.

As part of its 10-year, \$100 million commitment, Regeneron has significantly increased awards, with a total distribution of \$3.1 million annually and a top prize of \$250,000.

For the first 55 years (1942-1997), Westinghouse was the title sponsor of the competition; Intel took over from 1998 to 2016. This year marks Regeneron's debut as competition sponsor. —NB



Movin' on Up!

Pace takes second among US colleges for graduates' upward mobility.

In the most comprehensive study of college graduates yet conducted, Pace University came in an impressive no. 2 in the nation for its graduates' upward mobility. The survey incorporated millions of anonymous tax filings and financial-aid records, tracking students from practically every university in the country (even those who didn't graduate). That data was then analyzed according to where each student's household placed in income distribution when they entered college versus where those same students fall in income distribution as of today.*

For those students having entered college from households in the bottom fifth of income distribution, 82 percent of Pace University students wound up in the top three-fifths of society today. Even more impressive, 55.6 percent of Pace students from the lowest 20 percent of family income found themselves in the top 20 percent of earners as of their early 30s.

"Opportunitas is the university's motto," says Stephen J. Friedman, president of Pace University, "so being identified by the Equality of Opportunity Project as the most effective higher-education institution in New York — and second in the nation — is a huge affirmation of the success of our mission." — NB

*Some data provided by the Equality of Opportunity Project. Colleges ranked by percent of students from the bottom fifth of the income distribution who end up in the top three-fifths. Based on colleges with at least 500 students per class and at least 10 percent of class coming from bottom fifth of the income distribution.

EDITORS' OBSESSIONS

We Can't Shut Up About...

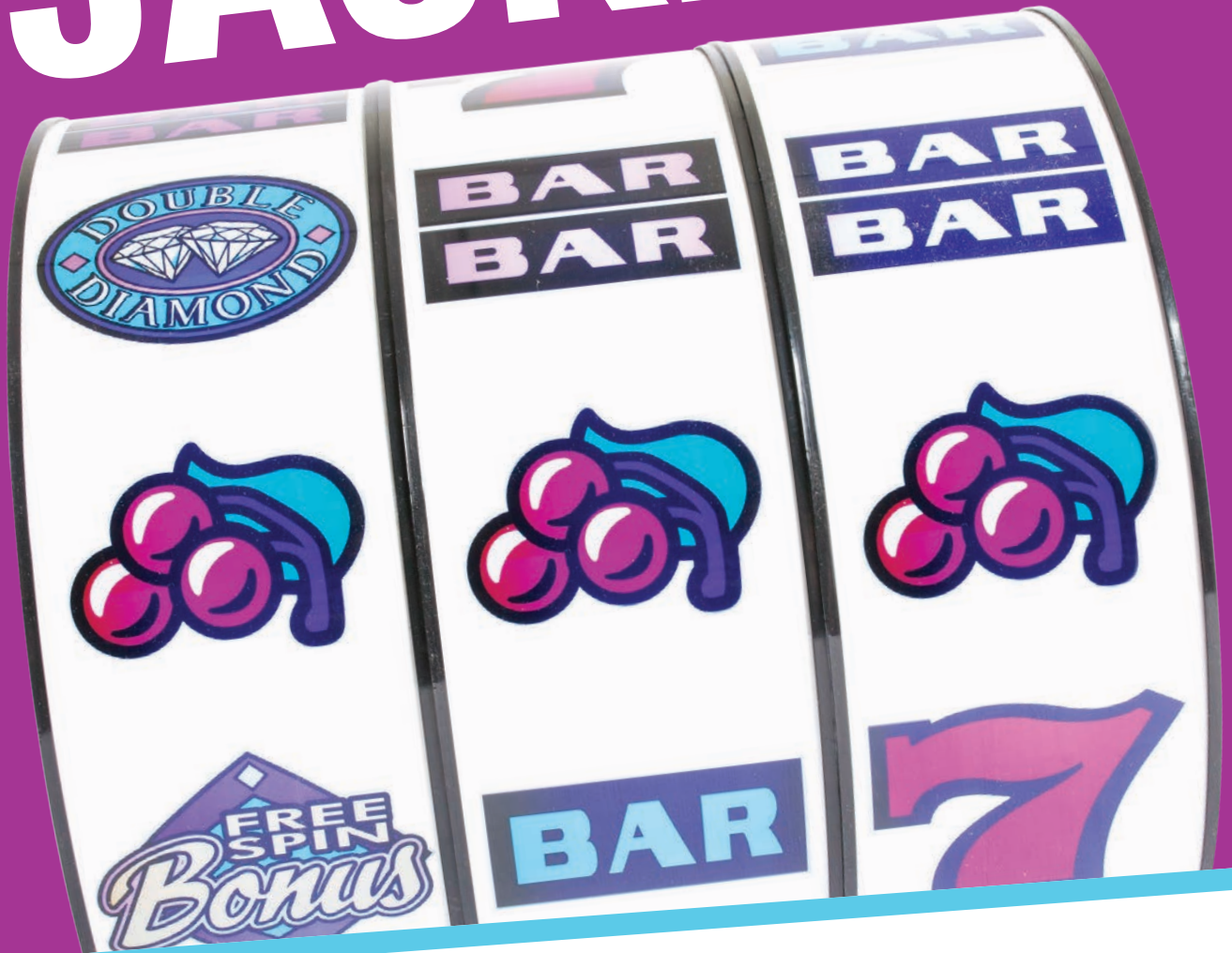


I never knew how much I needed sun-dried peppers in my life until I went to **Casa d'Italia** in Harrison. My favorite way to eat them: On its massive, lasts-for-at-least-two-meals Bronx Tale sandwich with chicken cutlets, fresh mozzarella, hot capicollo, and pesto. Pretty sure they'd be good on just about anything. — *Samantha Garbarini, Assistant Editor*



It doesn't feel like spring to me until the annual **White Plains Cherry Blossom Festival** at Turnure Park. Surrounded by approximately 100 cherry trees, the annual event (typically late April) is a celebration of everything Japanese, from shamisen and taiko drumming performances to a kids' art workshop and food vendors (e.g., ramen, sushi, yakisoba noodles, and more). — *John Bruno Turiano, Senior Editor*

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first things first

EXPRESS LANE

What we've heard, what we're talking about, and what we're anticipating this month

1

RISING TIDE

The Lower Hudson Valley is expected to see a **sea-level rise** of 2 to 10 inches



by the 2020s, the State Department of Environmental Conservation announced recently. The projections are based on peer-reviewed research conducted by scientists at Columbia University, Cornell University, and Hunter College. The anticipation of such a rapid sea-level rise — two times faster than the global average — is vital to the planning of long-term land use and infrastructure.

2

IT'S ABOUT TIME

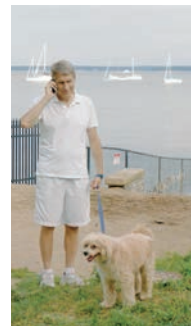
Following decades of driver confusion and frustration, the New York State Department of Transportation is finally installing **new exit signs along the Taconic State Parkway**, to ensure lower blood pressure for motorists. A total of 18

clearly marked signs will be deployed in the Westchester stretch of the Taconic by summertime. Happy motoring!

3

MOVIE MAGIC

Even though the film *Pleasantville* isn't actually about Pleasantville, Ben Zucker's 2016 film **Larchmont** is all about its eponym. In fact, the suburban cynosure is practically a character in the 97-minute film, which showcases such haunts as Le Sirene, Sherwood's, and the library. Starring multi-Tony Award nominee Gregg Edelman, *Larchmont* is a comedy about a recent college grad who has second thoughts about attending medical school. It's available at www.vimeo.com/ondemand/larchmont.



BOOK CLUB

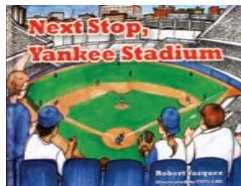
Two Grand Slams

The final word on good reads from local authors **REVIEWS BY PATTY MONAGHAN**

Next Stop, Yankee Stadium

By Robert Vazquez (August 2016)

In his debut picture book, Mount Vernon resident Robert Vazquez tells the exciting story of four friends as they set off on a visit to Yankee Stadium. With pinstriped pages and a navy-and-white color scheme, the pride of the New York Yankees shines through in this delightful children's book. The stunningly vivid illustrations



by TATS CRU, a team of Bronx graffiti artists turned muralists, will get young baseball fans into the spirit of America's classic pastime. Inspired by his own lifelong appreciation of baseball, Vazquez's book is filled with the enthusiastic fun that the beloved sport brings and emphasizes the importance of friendship through making valuable memories.

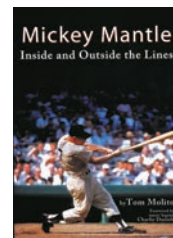
38 pgs, Mascot Books, \$19.95 (hrd)

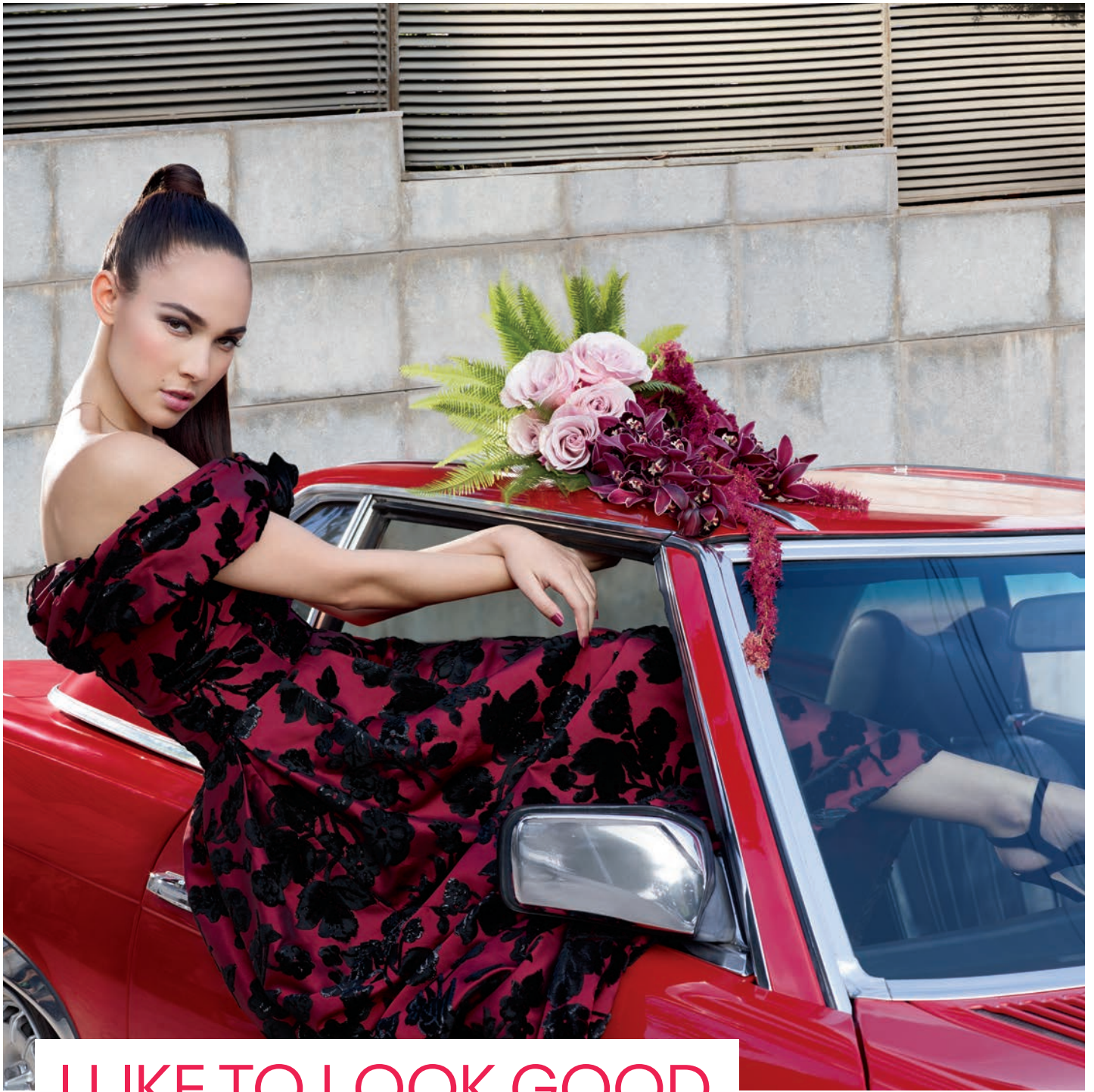
Mickey Mantle: Inside and Outside the Lines

By Tom Molito (April 2016)

As a kid growing up in Yonkers, Tom Molito idolized Mickey Mantle, the legendary Yankee center fielder. His fascinating book, a smooth combination of biography and memoir, delves into Mantle's life, providing a truly unique perspective. Mantle worked on various projects for Molito's company, Cabin Fever Entertainment, in the 1980s, and the two developed a friendship.

Molito, now a Pound Ridge resident, uncovers in his book stories of Mantle's life that have never been told. Informative and insightful, readers will positively lose themselves in Molito's recollections. This book is an out-of-the-park home run, bursting with pride and awe for one of baseball's greatest players. 184 pgs, Black Rose Writing, \$15.95 (pbk)





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first things first

By the Numbers



1933

The year in which Robert Ripley debuted his Odditorium museum, in Chicago (page 162)

500,000

The approximate number of square feet of activity space available at Chelsea Piers Connecticut (page 22)



60+

Types of cupcakes available at Bleu Squid in Mystic, CT (page 60)

\$145,000

Average annual gross taxable income of Westchester County households, with nearly 1 in 5 exceeding \$200K annually (page 76)

ROBERT RIPLEY PHOTO: ©2017 RIPLEY ENTERTAINMENT INC



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IN SEASON

April Showers

Spring forward in style (and dry!) with this pretty see-through bubble umbrella sprinkled with gold dots.

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IN MY BAG

Heather Adessa

We asked local makeup artist Heather Adessa of Glo Beauty Bar in Mamaroneck (www.glo-beautybar.com) to give us a peek inside her makeup bag...



Real Techniques Stippling Brush \$9.99; Kohl's

Too Faced Better Than Sex Mascara \$23; Ulta Beauty

Rimmel London Stay Matte Primer \$4.19; Target

MAC Cosmetics Extended Play Gigablack Mascara \$18; MAC Cosmetics

MAC Cosmetics Studio Fix Fluid \$28; MAC Cosmetics

Too Faced Better Than Sex Mascara

Benefit Gimme Brow Eyebrow Gel \$24; Benefit Cosmetics

ColourPop Ultra Matte Lip, \$6; www.colourpop.com

MAC Cosmetics Mineralize Blush \$28; MAC Cosmetics

Make Up For Ever Blending Blush Brush \$37; Sephora

MAC Cosmetics 187 Duo Fibre Face Brush \$42; MAC Cosmetics

MAC Cosmetics Powder Blush \$23; MAC Cosmetics

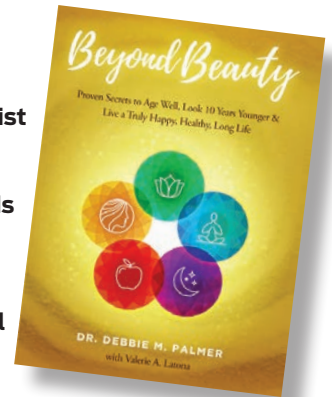
Beautycounter Lip Conditioner, \$17; www.beautycounter.com

Make Up For Ever Pro Finish Powder Foundation \$36; Sephora

EXPERT ADVICE

More Than Skin Deep

In her new book, local dermatologist Dr. Debbie Palmer recommends a more holistic approach for beautiful skin.



Board-certified dermatologist Debbie M. Palmer, D.O., medical director and cofounder of Dermatology Associates of New York in Harrison, has culled advice from her 17 years of experience practicing medical and cosmetic dermatology into a new book, *Beyond Beauty: Proven Secrets to Age Well, Look 10 Years Younger & Live a Truly Happy, Healthy, Long Life*. According to Palmer, who firmly believes that lifestyle habits have a major effect on the skin, "There's no question that changing your diet and your lifestyle can improve the look and health of your skin." She recommends specific strategies in her book, which is available at her office and on Amazon. Palmer says that she has seen "amazing changes" in her patients' skin after they make positive diet and lifestyle changes, including improvement in acne, psoriasis, and eczema.

"We hear so much about [topical products] for better-looking skin, but it's not just what you put on your skin that matters; it's what you put into, and do to, your body that's important, as well."

Beyond Beauty offers research-backed dietary tips, as well as recipes that Palmer makes for her own family. It also offers strategies for developing inner peace, sleep and exercise tips, and skincare advice. Palmer's No. 1 tip for great skin: "Eat a healthy, well-balanced, nutrient-rich diet." Palmer recommends a Mediterranean-style diet and advises patients to swap out processed and artificial foods for natural ones.

For topical care, Palmer advocates antioxidants and sunscreen to prevent premature aging.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Hair: Blown Drybar comes to White Plains

BEFORE BLOWOUT BARS WERE ALL THE rage, stylist Allie Webb had a vision: "No cuts. No color. Just blowouts." So, in 2010, she founded the first Drybar in Brentwood, CA, and almost single-handedly created a mini-industry.

Today, Drybar, whose bright-yellow logo has become virtually ubiquitous, has more than 70 locations, now including its first Westchester shop in White Plains. "We've had such loyal clients in our New York City shops," says Webb, "and we knew that White Plains was the perfect next location."

At the 1,768 sq ft, 11-chair shop, Westchester residents are finding out what all the hoopla is about. "We are quite different from a traditional salon," says Webb, noting that Drybar is "set up like a bar, where women can relax, and enjoy a romantic comedy on our TVs." All blowouts cost \$45, generally last from two to four days, and are all whimsically named after cocktails (the "Dirty Martini" offers a tousled look, while the "Manhattan" is smooth and sleek). What about guys? "We have some amazing male clients," says Webb. "They love a good blowout, too!"



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SPOTLIGHT

LUXE Life

Seeing a need in the market for a combination styling/upscale consignment business, Jessica Moran and Lisa Dorsett decided to open LUXE in Chappaqua last May. Moran and Dorsett, who met six years ago, knew their symbiotic relationship would work well for a consignment business. At LUXE, Moran is the jewelry expert, while Dorsett focuses on high-end



handbags and clothing. They pride themselves on knowing how to match buyers and sellers, and they often hear things like, "I feel like I'm in my best friend's amazing closet" from clients. Their customer base is wide-ranging, as is

their merchandise. High-end brands include Hermès and Chanel, whose bags can range from \$1,500 to \$15,000, while merchandise from lower-priced high-end brands, such as Celine, Valentino, and Louis Vuitton, can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The two treat their clients as friends and will let them know when favorite items arrive.



SARTORIALLY SPEAKING

In the Fray

Frayed jeans are back in style, and you don't have to drop a ton of cash to get the look: Just grab your scissors, an old pair of denims, and start cutting!



1. Start with a straight-leg jean; this is not meant for your inner hippie.
2. Wash and iron them, so you are starting with an accurate length.
3. Try them on and have a friend place a pin on the point in which you'd like your jeans to hit. Just above the anklebone is the perfect length for this style.
4. Take them off and draw a straight chalk line where the pin is placed.
5. Using sharp fabric scissors, cut the chalk line to create a raw edge.
6. Gently pull on the vertically running threads at the bottom of your jeans with tweezers until you reach your desired level of fraying.
7. The jeans will continue to fray as you wash and wear them. If you want to keep them as is, throw them on your sewing machine and run a stitch just along the top of the fray.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Remove Makeup Easily If your liquid makeup rubs off on your shirt, remove it with shaving cream and a washcloth. >



Bag Your Baubles Store your costume jewelry, like this piece from Galaxy Bijoux, in plastic bags to prevent tarnishing and help retain luster.



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MADE IN WESTCHESTER

Fired Up

Peekskill potter Jessica Dubin has always had a yearning to turn materials that were once “nothing” into “something.” She is still as mesmerized as ever that a lump of clay can be transformed into a beautiful, functional work of art and, as director of Peekskill Clay Studios, Dubin creates handmade functional vessels for the home out of porcelain and stoneware. Prices range from \$25 for a cup or soup bowl to \$125 for a tall vase and can be purchased in the gallery at the Peekskill Clay Studios.



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BODY

You, on Booze

7 things that happen to your body when you drink alcohol

By Patty Monaghan

You may toss back a glass of wine or a martini without a second thought, but you might want to know that, even if you don't feel buzzed, alcohol definitely affects you physically. We asked Gary Rogg, MD, a physician at Westchester Medical Center, to give us the details on what happens when alcohol enters your system.

1. Your Brain Gets Fuzzy. "Occasional and moderate drinking may cause difficulty walking, slurring of speech, decreased reaction times, and impaired decision-making."

2. Your Heart Goes Haywire. In addition to a rapid or irregular heartbeat, Rogg says that some people may experience high blood pressure if they consume alcohol regularly.

3. Your Lungs Weaken. Alcohol consumption makes you more susceptible to diseases like pneumonia, according to Rogg, because it reduces your gag and cough reflexes.

4. Your Liver Works Hard. The liver can break down only a certain amount of alcohol per hour. Rogg warns that overloading the liver with too much alcohol can cause "loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain," so it's best to pace yourself.

5. Your Stomach Gets Upset. "Alcohol produces excess stomach acid, which can lead to gastritis and reflux."

6. Your Kidneys Go Kaput. "Alcohol affects the ability of your kidneys to properly filter blood and water, which can cause dehydration," as well as overactive bladder.

7. You're More Prone to Infection. Consuming alcohol "deprives the body of nutrients and vitamins that boost immunity."



MIND

You're Getting Sleepy

Got a habit you can't seem to break?

Consider hypnosis. By Lisa Cesarano

It's only April, and your New Year's resolutions are so far in the rearview mirror, you don't even recognize them. But don't give up: The key to lasting change may lie in your subconscious mind.

According to Harrison-based hypnotist Bob Pargament, hypnosis is an effective way to help break bad habits or establish good new ones. Beyond smoking cessation and weight loss, it can help people overcome fears, open creative blocks, and reduce pain.

Hypnosis "allows us to reprogram the subconscious mind, where habits, patterns, and self-limiting beliefs are stored," and this, says Pargament, can help people achieve lasting results.

Take Briarcliff resident Rosemary Hermann. "In November 2006, I stepped into Bob's office. My mission was to stop smoking after 53 years of addiction. Fast-forward to today, 10 years later: I'm still smoke-free," she says.

When it comes to weight loss, numerous studies have shown that subjects who used hypnotherapy lost more weight than those who did not.

How is hypnosis performed? According to psychiatrist David Aftergood,



MD, of White Plains, a hypnotic trance "is induced through placing attention on a single object, such as the breath." As the clinician deepens this state by giving specific suggestions, "the mind becomes more flexible and open to change."

Certified consulting hypnotist Kristin Prevallet says she "likes to think about hypnosis as a reset button, a jump-start." According to Prevallet, a

good candidate for hypnosis is someone who is self-reflective, motivated, and has tried other things unsuccessfully. Hypnosis, she says, can help people tap into their inner resources, "such as confidence, resilience, strength, clarity, and hope."

Afraid of "losing control" under hypnosis? This notion is a misconception, says Prevallet. "No one does anything they don't want to do."

BRAIN MATTERS

What a Tease

Do puzzles and brainteasers really improve brain function?

NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE BENEFITS OF PUZZLES AND BRAINTEASERS on brain function and cognition, and, while results have been inconclusive, the consensus among the public, as well as the medical, mental-health, and scientific communities seems to be: "It can't hurt." "My feeling is that the brain is like a muscle — you use it, or you lose it," says longtime *New York Times* crossword-puzzle editor Will Shortz, a Pleasantville resident who has also been the "puzzle master" on NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday* for 30 years. "If you want to keep your brain in good working condition, you need to exercise it, just as you need to exercise your body to stay in good physical shape." However, Shortz says that there is no proof that such exercises improve brain function or slow mental decline.

Though a recent study by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor concluded that brain exercises may have a positive effect on fluid intelligence (the ability to reason and solve new problems independent of past knowledge), WESTMED neurologist Billy Yung, MD, says, "The most honest answer is that we don't know."

— Paul Adler

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PHOTO BY LYNDA CURTIS

Neuberger Museum of Art

Opening Reception, Purchase

The Neuberger Museum of Art hosted the opening reception of a new exhibition, titled *Leandro Erlich: Port of Reflections* on Feb 4 in Purchase. More than 200 people were in attendance, some traveling from as far as Buenos Aires. *Top*: Patrice Giasson, curator; Helen Stambler Neuberger



of Cortlandt Manor; featured artist Leandro Erlich; Tracy Fitzpatrick, director of the Neuberger Museum of Art; Jim Neuberger of Cortlandt Manor; and Helaine Posner, chief curator. *Right*: attendees Nigel and Susan Gaines of Scarsdale.



PHOTO BY STAMFORD MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER

Stamford Museum & Nature Center/ Stamford Land Conservation Trust

Presentation, Stamford

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center (SM&NC) and the Stamford Land Conservation Trust (SLCT) co-sponsored a presentation by Ingrid C. Burke, PhD, on conservation at the SM&NC on Feb 15. *Pictured*: Craig Jones, SLCT executive director; Harry Day, president of the SLCT board of directors and vice president of the SM&NC board of directors; Ingrid C. Burke, PhD, dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies; Melissa H. Mulrooney, SM&NC executive director and CEO; and Tim Northrop, director for the Office of Development and Alumni Services at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

Share your event photos by submitting to eventphotos@westchestermagazine.com.

Building One Community

Open House Event, Stamford

Building One Community held an open house event on Jan 22 at its Stamford location to launch its new name and brand identity. *Pictured*: Catherine Smith with Elizabeth Ball, senior communications coordinator and president/creative director of TFI Envision, Inc.



Woman's Club of White Plains

2nd Annual Winter Tea, White Plains

The Woman's Club of White Plains hosted its 2nd Annual Winter Tea fundraiser on Jan 29 at its clubhouse, the C.V. Rich Mansion, in White Plains. *Pictured*: Elaine Darling-Cummings, Woman's Club member; Helen Darling, Woman's Club honoree; and club member Barbara Dannenberg.

44th Annual Art Show: Bedford

Preview Party, Bedford

Bedford's 44th Annual Art Show kicked off with a preview party on Jan 20 at St. Matthew's Church in Bedford. *Pictured*: event Chairwoman Laura Blau of Bedford, with committee member Cynthia Brennan of Katonah.



PHOTO BY NANCY DEXTER



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Saw Mill Club

An Evening With Chazz Palminteri, Mount Kisco

Saw Mill Club hosted an intimate event featuring actor Chazz Palminteri and his wife, Gianna, on the evening of Feb 2 in Mount Kisco. The event raised more than \$8,000 to benefit the Bedford Playhouse. Palminteri also shared stories of his life and career. *Top:* John Farr, founder of the Bedford Playhouse; Gianna & Chazz Palminteri of Bedford. *Right:* Donna Arena, event director of Saw Mill Club, with Kevin Kane, vice president of Saw Mill Club.



NewYork-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital

Heart Health Fair, Bronxville

NewYork-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital held a heart health fair on Feb 3 in honor of National Heart Month and the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" day. Participants enjoyed a lecture, demonstration, and free information and screenings. *Pictured:* Richard Doshier, RD, clinical nutrition manager; cardiologist Anthony Mercado, MD, NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group Westchester; Katie Campbell, RD, outpatient nutrition; Samantha Gitlin, dietetic intern; and Chef Kumar Mitra, NewYork-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital.

Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics (IAHD)

Midwinter Evening of Art, Wine & Jazz, Briarcliff Manor

The IAHD held its first fundraiser of 2017 with the Midwinter Evening of Art, Wine & Jazz at The Briarcliff Manor Restaurant & Catering Hall on Feb 8. The event raised money to benefit the IAHD. *Pictured:* Stanley E. Silverstein, CEO of IAHD, with Perry DiNapoli, president of The Briarcliff Manor Restaurant & Catering Hall.



North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (NSVAC)

Valentine Cookie Competition, North Salem

On Feb 12, the NSVAC held its Valentine Cookie Competition in an effort to raise funds for its services to the North Salem community, hosting 125 attendees. *Pictured:* County Legislator Francis Corcoran with Deputy Supervisor Peter Kamenstein.

Montefiore New Rochelle/ New Rochelle Council on the Arts

Queen City Art Gallery Opening, New Rochelle

On Feb 15, Montefiore New Rochelle, the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, and local members of the community celebrated the opening of the Queen City Art Gallery at Montefiore New Rochelle. *Pictured:* Jodi Moise, art curator at Montefiore Medical Center, with Tony Alfano, vice president and executive director of Montefiore New Rochelle.





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Clockwise from left: The College of New Rochelle finds itself steeped in scandal; Chuck Zito allegedly opened up a can of whoop-ass on a martial-arts film star; author Tom Schreck wears many hats of expertise.



Jean-Claude Van Dumb

Plus, foul balls at CNR and Schreck on-screen BY TOM SCHRECK

Q:

Bloodsport

I just found out that *Sons of Anarchy* star Chuck Zito lives in New Rochelle. There was a story, years ago, that he beat up Jean-Claude Van Damme in a Yonkers disco. True?

—Alex Findley, Ardsley

A: With a résumé that includes amateur boxing, six styles of martial arts, body-guard to the stars, and former president of the New York chapter of Hell's Angels, I want to be careful what I say about the former star of HBO's *Oz* and season-five star of *Sons of Anarchy*.

On February 6, 1998, the *Daily News* reported that Zito was in the Manhattan (not Yonkers) strip club Scores when his friend Mickey Rourke came in with Van Damme. When Jean-Claude went to the men's room, he allegedly said some disparaging things about Zito to a bouncer, who then relayed the diss to Chuck.

Zito confronted Van Damme back at the table,

and it's reported that Jean-Claude uttered another insult, took off his glasses and stepped toward Zito.

Big mistake, Jean-Claude.

It was then that Zito reportedly hit him with a right-hand, left-hook combination that sent Van Damme arse-over-tea-kettle to the floor of Scores. Zito later told Howard Stern that he dished out a few more love taps to the Belgian's flat-topped noggin.

Van Damme claimed in an interview that on the night in question, he had too much champagne, that he "wasn't himself," that "a fight happened" and that "nothing happened to me." He added: "The next day, the gentleman went on [a] radio show and said he fought me and this and that. If he wants to get in the ring with me, it's no problem; I will win that fight in 60 seconds."

There were rumors about such a fight being promoted in Madison Square Garden, but, not surprisingly, it never occurred.

Note to Jean-Claude: It's a bad idea to step up to a man like Zito face-first without your guard up.

Just sayin'.

University Blues

Q: I heard that the College of New Rochelle is enmeshed in some sort of financial crisis involving the mishandling of funds. I know [Yankee great] Mariano Rivera is involved with the college. Does it have anything to do with him?

—Stanley Gardner, *Mamaroneck*

A: It has been a tough year for the College of New Rochelle. Last summer, officials reported that without an immediate influx of millions of dollars, the college would have to be shuttered. Fortunately, the college received enough in donations to keep it afloat; it raised additional funds by auctioning some properties. In December, college officials reported an investigation by the trustees into the college's finances that revealed fabricated budgets. Interim President Dorothy Escribano said, "The information, including the annual budgets supplied to the board, was incorrect and fabricated by the prior controller."

That controller, Keith Borge, and CNR President Judith Huntington have resigned.

College officials have turned over their reports to US Attorney Preet Bharara's office, which had declined to comment on the case as of mid-February, but no one who writes this column would be the least bit surprised to see an official investigation launched before too long.

I'm sure CNR would love to call on the bullpen to make this all go away, but there is only so much even "Mo" can do. In 2014, he and wife Clara established a scholarship with the college for students with high academic achievement and committed social service. That's the extent of their involvement with the college, and nothing has been reported about them having any role whatsoever in the ongoing controversy.

The REELZ Deal

Q: I was watching an episode of *CopyCat Killers* on the REELZ network, about the Carolyn Warmus case. There was a "crime writer" named Tom Schreck featured on that show. Was that you?

—Lizbeth Gowan, *Katonah*

A: Yes, that was indeed me, grabbing my 15 minutes of fame. Awhile back I wrote about the Warmus case for *Westchester Magazine*, and the show's producers called and asked me to be part of the documentary episode they were making on her.

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A Recipe for Success

Robyn Polay and Danny Santiago met and worked at Hartsdale's Villaggio Italiano. Now they're married and own the restaurant's two locations. **BY MEREDITH BERLIN**

In 2004, a 27-year-old Robyn Polay of Scarsdale walked into Hartsdale's Villaggio Italiano to answer a want ad. The tall, blue-eyed and sandy-haired native of New Jersey had worked there previously, as a part-time waitress when she was just 22. This time was different, though. Not only would she work the bar and wait tables, the man who hired her, Danny Santiago, would become her husband seven years later, and together they would end up co-owning the popular Italian eatery and opening a second location.

Villaggio Italiano is located in a busy strip mall along the Hartsdale section of Central Avenue. "I started working here

part-time back in 1999," recalls the 39-year-old Robyn, sitting at one of Villaggio's casual tables on a rainy Tuesday morning as the staff vacuum, set up the bar and ready the kitchen. Danny arrives about an hour later and quickly gets to work behind the bar, inspecting the glassware. He is her opposite in appearance: dark-haired and dark-eyed.

About a year in, Robyn left her part-time job to move to Honolulu ("best decision ever") for some soul-searching. "I wanted to find myself," she explains. "I felt as if life was always 'keeping up with the Joneses,' and I wanted to venture out and see if I could discover more of who I am without the stress of trying to fit in."

After four years, Robyn decided to come home, as she felt it was time to get back to her family. It was then that she saw the want ad and instantly responded. When she showed up, the owners at the time, Maria and Big Lou Scampone, introduced her to then 30-year-old Danny Santiago, a waiter who had worked his way up from dishwasher and the single father of two girls. Danny was already part of the Villaggio family, having worked there for 10 years. "I knew him from my earlier stint, but I had never spoken to him before," shares Robyn.

Danny hired Robyn as a part-time waitress and bartender, and the two became friendly. He often asked her to join him for a drink after work, but Robyn always declined. "Until the one time I said yes," she recalls. That was six months after Danny's first invitation. "Danny and I had an instant click, even though we were so different. He was from Mexico; I was from New Jersey. But there were also some deep similarities."

Robyn had been working double-time. She'd started an all-female public-relations firm, Illumination PR, in Tarrytown. But after five years of running her business and working nights at the restaurant, she decided to devote herself full-time to the firm. Her romance with Danny continued, and six years ago they married. Robyn moved into a ready-made family, close to the restaurant. The Santiago daughters worked at Villaggio, too, and still show up at the restaurant on breaks from college or during especially busy times if they're available.

Two and a half years ago, the Santiagos started talking about the



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– Crestina A., anterior hip replacement patient

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neighbors

(Continued from previous page)

future of Villaggio. Perhaps they could buy it themselves? While the restaurant wasn't up for sale, the Scampones were in their 70s and had owned the restaurant for 38 years. "They created this place, this legacy," she says. "The idea of someone else purchasing it and changing its energy was not what any of us wanted," Robyn says, referring to the tight-knit staff.

The Santiagos had never owned a restaurant before, but they asked their families for help with the purchase. As Robyn recounts the story, Danny looks up from the bar and adds, "Everyone told us to examine the books and reexamine them. But we knew Papa Lou. He couldn't stand debt. He paid everyone immediately. There weren't any outstanding debts to vendors." The sale was made quickly, and the former waiters had become the proud owners. The Santiagos wanted to keep the laid-back working environment they had enjoyed as employees. "Everyone knew what was expected of them.

*"He was from Mexico;
I was from New Jersey;
but there were also
some deep similarities."*

And either Maria or Lou was always here," says Robyn. Both Danny and Robyn believe that helped Villaggio be so successful: Customers and staff had real relationships with the owners. So, the couple committed themselves to keeping that tradition.

The transition was smooth, as the Santiagos opted to retain the entire staff. "Most of them have been here at least 15 years," says Robyn. They added an extra waiter, chef, and busboy. Next came a pizza-delivery service. The restaurant was tweaked and modernized with evening specials and a Happy Hour. They also remained steadfast in their desire to support other local businesses. The olive oil on the table, for example, comes from a local purveyor, The Twisted Branch, in Valhalla. "We have a friend who has a biscotti business in Westchester called BESTcotti, so now we sell her biscotti exclusively," adds Robyn.

According to the couple, Villaggio's customer base has continued to grow. Among the regulars: a couple who drive up four times a week from the city because they can't find Italian food anywhere else that they like as much.



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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: TONY GIAMBONA, FRANK MONTELEONE, NICK COSTELLO, GUY FORGIONE, ANGIE LAPECERELLA, VICTOR RODRIGUEZ, AUGIE DIFEIO (PRESIDENT), AND JOE CURADO

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In the words of a recent customer, Anthony Sgarlata, "The staff was very thorough. I came in and they had what I needed. They had the vehicle I wanted with the equipment I wanted for the price I wanted."

Putting customers first also includes carrying the full range of inventory and helping customers through the complete vehicle-buying process from browsing through a stress-free purchase (thanks to on-premise financial experts) to ongoing service. The dealership, which features all Chrysler brands—Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and Ram—takes particular pride in the customer relationships and meaningful rapport it establishes and maintains that enhances the customer's comfort level.

Adds Service Manager Victor Rodriguez, "As a service manager, it's my job to make sure that my certified trained techs service the vehicle quickly and efficiently."

Anthony Quintano sums up the experience that keeps customers coming back again and again: "My experience at White Plains Chrysler is like buying a car from a friend."

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neighbors

(Continued from previous page)



With the restaurant thriving, the Santiagos took another plunge when they opened a second location on February 16, Villaggio of Dobbs Ferry. Danny says the menus are essentially the same at both restaurants, with slight variations. "We want to accommodate the school kids who come to the Dobbs Ferry location. We made it affordable for them to come in for slices and soda during lunchtime," she says. The portions are also slightly smaller. But all the Italian dishes are made-to-order, with fresh sauces.

Robyn still devotes her days to her PR firm. After turning on the pizza ovens in Dobbs Ferry, she's at her office in Tarrytown by 9 a.m., puts in a full day, then comes to Villaggio at 6 p.m. to manage the front of the house. Meanwhile, Danny has been splitting nearly all his waking hours between the two restaurants.

The Santiagos still try to take Sundays off and always eat out with their daughters. Their go-to restaurant is Buon Amici, just north on Central Avenue. Robyn says the owner, Chris, has been her inspiration. "You go in there, and he asks you what you want to drink while your table is being set up. He knows all his customers by name." Their other passion is Mexican food, and Guadalajara in Briarcliff is a favorite. Could a Mexican restaurant be next? Robyn looks up from her soft drink and flashes a "Who knows?" smile. "There might be a Villaggio's Mexicana in our future."

Meredith Berlin is a writer, editor, and metalsmith. She believes in encore careers.

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Tue
6
JUN

Salute! A Wine Tasting Tour of Italy

Italian Cultural Center
Tuckahoe
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Price: **\$95**

Celebrate the flavors of Italy at a walk-around tasting of fine Italian wines and sweet and savory Italian delicacies. Noted wine expert Kevin Zraly will discuss Italian wines and Tarry Lodge Executive Chef Andy Nusser will demonstrate Italian cooking techniques.



NEW EVENT!

Wed
7
JUN

Taste & Style at Savor Westchester

The Westchester
White Plains
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Price: **\$25** (includes a \$25 Simon Giftcard*, special gift bag & free parking)

A fun-filled evening of food and fashion! Guests will sample flavorful cuisine from Savor Westchester's new restaurants, sip delicious cocktails, check out the newest fashions, and enjoy makeovers, massages, raffles & more!

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NEW EVENT!

Thu
8
JUN

Burger & Beer Blast

Kensico Dam Plaza
Valhalla
6:00PM - 10:00PM

Price: **\$75**

Westchester's hottest block party is an annual sell-out event featuring top local chefs presenting their version of the all-American burger. Guests enjoy music, beer, wine, spirits, food trucks and the County's best burgers as they vote for their top pick of the night.



Tickets on sale now!
www.westchester-magazine.com/winefood

Fri
9
JUN

An Evening with Westchester's Tastemakers

The Ritz-Carlton, Westchester
White Plains
6:00PM - 10:00PM

Price: **\$150** - Individual Tickets
\$1,350 - Table of Ten

Westchester Magazine celebrates 6 trendsetting chefs in Westchester County. The evening begins with a special cocktail hour, followed by a sit-down dinner featuring a signature course from each chef paired with exceptional quality wines specifically selected by top Wine Masters.



Sat
10
JUN

Grand Tasting Village

Kensico Dam Plaza
Valhalla
12:00PM - 5:00PM

Price: **\$85** - General Admission
\$125 - Party Line Connoisseurs
Tent (includes admission to all Grand Tasting Village events)

The signature event of the 2017 **Wine & Food Festival** takes place under the tents at Kensico Dam. Guests enjoy samples from 60+ local restaurants and food trucks, 150+ wines, beers and spirits, plus exciting celebrity chef demonstrations.



Sun
11
JUN

Jr. Chef Experience

The Westchester
White Plains
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Ages 5-10
Price: **\$10**
\$25 for 3 children

A hands-on event for kids to learn basic cooking techniques from working chefs, practice cupcake decorating and have a meet & greet with characters from Nickelodeon's most popular kids shows. Jr. chefs will also receive a complimentary chef's apron.



* All events are 21 and over only, except for the Jr. Chef Experience.

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Chappaqua Tavern
Chutney Masala Indian Bistro
Coals Pizza
Coffee Labs Roasters
Cooper's Mill
Craftsman Ale House
Dan Rooney's
Dolphin Restaurant
DoughNation
Emma's Ale House

Empanada Mania
Fantasy Cuisine
Ichabod's of Sleepy Hollow
Jimmy's Soft Serve
L'Inizio
La Bocca Ristorante
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Peekskill Brewery
Piper's Kilt
Posh Pretzels
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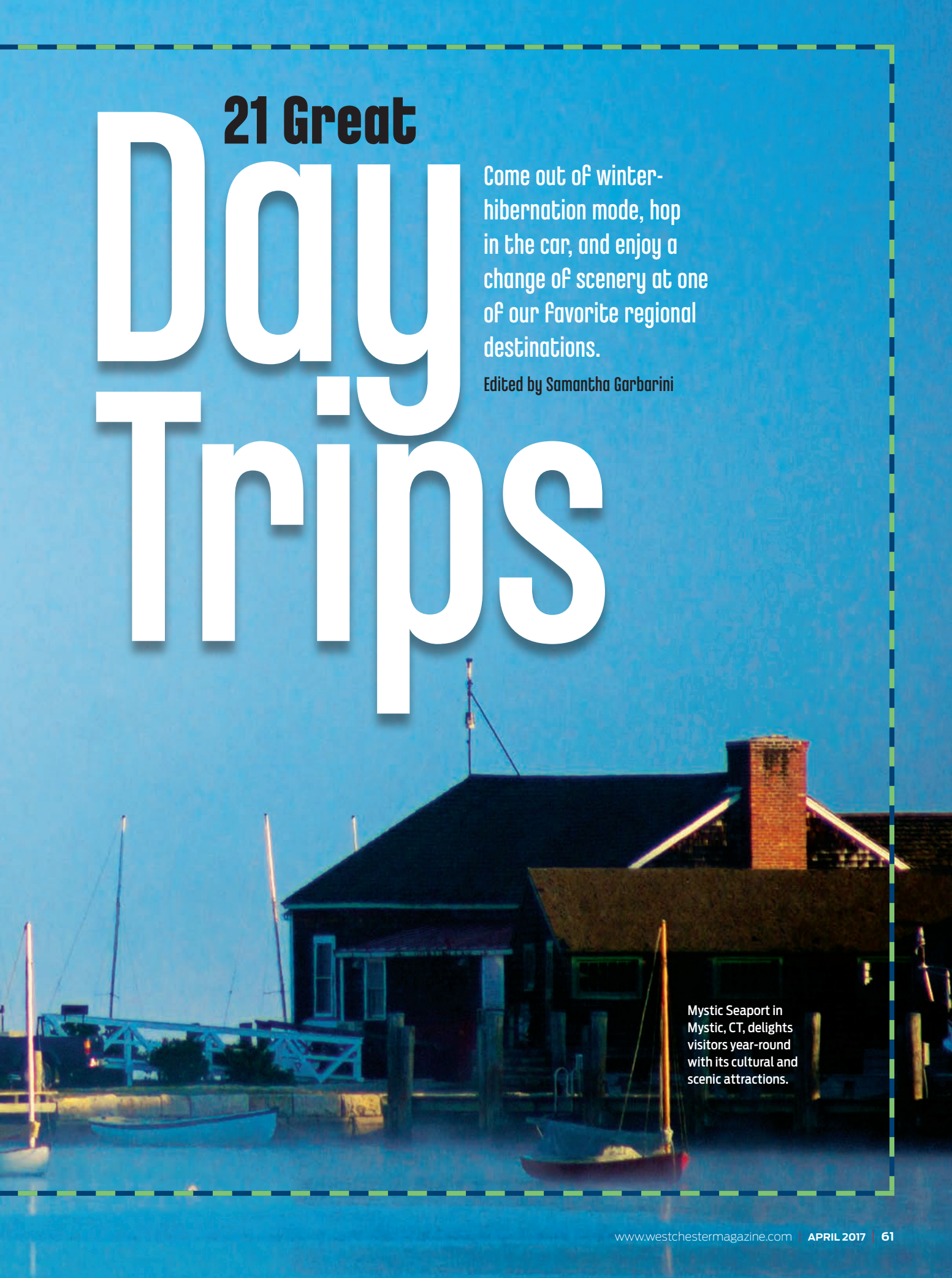
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Edited by Samantha Garbarini



Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT, delights visitors year-round with its cultural and scenic attractions.



Stockbridge, MA

Driving time from White Plains: 2 hours

Unwind amid the bucolic splendor of the Berkshires, birthplace of Norman Rockwell's quintessential New England.

10 a.m. Kick things off with a visit to the **Norman Rockwell Museum** (the iconic painter spent much of his life in Stockbridge). Located on the edge of town, the museum maintains the largest single collection of the artist's works — including every one of his *Saturday Evening Post* covers. Docents deliver an engaging presentation in the main exhibit hall every couple of hours. Afterward, your best bet is to take the self-guided audio tour, which allows you to hear insightful commentary on most of the displayed works at your own pace. Rockwell's studio — which was preserved when he died — was relocated from his Stockbridge home to the museum grounds and is a highlight of the tour.

12:30 p.m. Head back to the center of town for lunch at the **Main Street Café**. The airy, wood-paneled dining room provides an inviting backdrop for hearty, homemade fare. Save room for dessert at the adjacent **Stockbridge General Store**, which serves to-die-for locally made ice cream from **SoCo Creamery**.

1:30 p.m. Walk the Main Street immortalized by Rockwell and check some of the town's retail highlights, including the **Seven Arts Gift Shop** for music and eclectic pop-culture memorabilia, **Williams & Sons Country Store** for vintage and retro toys, games, candy, kitchen gadgets, books, and cards; and **Peace Love and Chocolate** for some sweet treats. Take a photo of the now-defunct **Alice's Restaurant**, made famous by Arlo Guthrie's debut album (and subsequent film). When you're ready for a break, head to the corner of the block and have a drink at the **Red Lion Inn**. Anchoring Stockbridge's Main Street since 1773, the inn has welcomed visitors for more than two centuries. Enjoy your drink by the fire in the inn's parlor or sit outside on the inn's iconic, bustling porch and take in a little people-watching.

2:45 p.m. Around the corner, **Schantz Galleries** on Elm Street, displays a breathtaking collection of glass art by Chihuly, Ries, Tagliapietra, and others. Stop next door at **Nejaime's Wine Cellar**, and have them recommend a bottle or two to take home with you.



Naumkeag

3:15 p.m. Go back in time, in style, by visiting **Naumkeag**, one of the few surviving and best-preserved summer "cottages" from the Berkshires' Gilded Age. Take in the views from Naumkeag's collection of enchanting gardens before touring the 44 rooms of this architectural gem.

5:15 p.m. End your day with dinner at **Once Upon a Table**, a cozy restaurant tucked away in an alley just off of Main Street, or head back to the Red Lion Inn for a traditional New England dinner in its main dining room or adjacent tavern. —Robert Schork

Stockbridge Through the Seasons: Stockbridge makes a wonderful day trip at any time of the year, with botanical gardens and outdoor arts-and-crafts fairs in the warmer months, and a popular harvest festival in October. In December, a living recreation of Rockwell's *Main Street at Christmas* painting is staged, with vintage cars, food, drink, and entertainment.



Red Lion Inn



Schantz Galleries



Norman Rockwell Museum

STOCKBRIDGE PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP); COURTESY OF RED LION INN. SCHANTZ GALLERIES: © CHIHULY STUDIO; PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA VOLLMER PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM; GROSS AND DALEY PHOTOGRAPHY; STORM KING PHOTO: MARK DI SUVERO, FROG LEGS, 2002. LENT BY THE ARTIST AND SPACETIME. C.C., NEW YORK. PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY L. THOMPSON

Storm King Art Center



Quick Picks

More destinations to discover

New Windsor, NY From White Plains: 55 minutes

A trip here offers two guarantees: fresh air and 3D beauty at the **Storm King Art Center**. A mountain of the same name and a larger-than-life interactive art garden (almost two miles long!) are the area's two biggest draws, each replete with plenty of hiking and walking trails cutting swaths through stunning scenery.

Bear Mountain State Park, NY From White Plains: 40 minutes

A day trip here is chock-full of fun. Visit **Trailside Museums & Zoo**; ride the merry-go-round; rent a boat on Hessian Lake; or hike the mountain to its summit. **Bear Mountain Inn** offers indoor dining, while picnic groves dot the park grounds.

Nyack, NY From White Plains: 20 minutes

Nyack's street fairs are the stuff of legend. But indulge your senses anytime: Enjoy restaurants, galleries, and unique shops (ranging from art and fashion at **Maria Luisa** to tarot readings at **Mind Over Matter**) on Main Street and Broadway, silhouetted by the Hudson River.

Ocean Grove, NJ From White Plains: 1 hour 45 minutes

Those seeking a tranquil respite on the Atlantic should set their GPSs for this quaint coastal community. The spacious, uncommercialized **boardwalk** overlooking Ocean Grove's immaculate white-sand beaches features a **fishing pier** for novice and experienced anglers alike, while shops and restaurants housed in charming Victorian buildings are just steps away.

North Fork Long Island, NY From White Plains: 2 hours

New York has come to produce some really respectable – and tasty – wines. The closest place to taste some of the state's finest vintages is along Long Island's North Fork at can't-miss vineyards like **Bedell**, **Shinn Estate**, and **Paumanok**.

Asbury Park, NJ From White Plains: 1 hour 40 minutes

This stretch of Jersey shoreline has pretty much everything you could want: a beachfront **boardwalk**; a cool dining scene; and **The Market at Asbury Park**, a collective of shops, artisans, and designers. Oh, and there's also the **Silverball Museum**, where you can play pinball machines dating back to the 1950s.

Albany, NY

Driving time from White Plains: 2 hours 25 minutes

In addition to its rich history (it's the oldest continuous settlement of the 13 Colonies), our state capital also happens to have thriving arts-and-culture and food-and-drink scenes. And unlike New York City, you won't have to deal with the crowds and parking nightmares.

9 a.m. **Empire State Plaza's** underground concourse has a world-class modern-art collection. Above ground are **The Egg** performing-arts center and 15 memorials, honoring everything from World War II to missing persons.

9:30 a.m. Also at the plaza, the **New York State Museum** is the nation's oldest and largest state museum — and it's free! It's home to such treasures as the Cohoes Mastodon, the original brownstone set from *Sesame Street*, a fully operating Herschell-Spillman Carousel built in 1912, and the World Trade Center Gallery, featuring 9/11 exhibitions.

11 a.m. Tour the recently restored **New York State Capitol** building (weekday tours start at noon). This Classical/Romanesque architectural wonder took more than 25 years to build, at a cost of more than \$25 million. Examples of the opulence include the Great Western Staircase (aka the Million Dollar Staircase) and the senate chambers, which have walls covered with 23K gold leaf.

12:30 p.m. Just a seven-minute walk from the Capitol is **ama cocina**, serving modern Mexican street food in an ultra-cool setting. Its weekend brunch features deliciousness such as jalapeño goat cheese cornbread, blue corn buttermilk pancakes, and churros



New York State Museum



ama cocina

'Mexican' toast. Try one of the more than 100 kinds of tequila and wash it down with cold-brew coffee on tap. For a more traditional lunch, try **Wellington's**, located right outside the capitol at the Renaissance Albany Hotel, which serves small plates, locally sourced American fare, and top-notch craft cocktails.

2 p.m. Across the parking lot from *ama cocina* is the **First Church in Albany**. It features the nation's oldest pulpit, Tiffany windows and was the site of Alexander Hamilton's memorial. Also nearby is the **Palace Theatre**, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and the **Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center**.

3:30 p.m. The **Albany Institute of History and Art** is home to 35,000 works of art and historical objects documenting Hudson Valley history. The museum also has great family programs, an art room, and a children's activity space.

5 p.m. Head over to the **C.H. Evans Brewing Co. at the Albany Pump Station** for some "Albany Ale" before dinner. (The Evans family has been brewing since 1786.) For pub food in a really big and loud setting, stay at the Pump Station. For a more intimate experience, it's just a one-minute walk to **The Olde English Pub**, for fish 'n' chips and a stout in a 1730s brick Colonial. —*Kathryn Walsh*



Empire State Plaza



◀ A Piece of Hamiltonian History

Hamilton fanatics may want to squeeze in a visit to the **Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site**, where Alexander and Eliza were wed. Tours are available seasonally, and the visitor center is open year-round. Be sure to call first: 518.434.0834.

Mystic, CT

Driving time from White Plains: 1 hour 55 minutes

A beloved aquarium, an adorable village, historic ships and a pizza place made famous by one of Julia Roberts' earliest movies are all part of the charm of Mystic. It's a home-run destination for a quick day of family fun.

10 a.m. Start the day at the area's biggest draw, **Mystic Aquarium**, where you'll be blown away by the largest outdoor beluga whale exhibit in the US. Next up: African penguins, seals, sea lions, jellyfish, sharks, and sea turtles. Adding to the fun are interactive displays, like a stingray touch pool and a live sea-lion show in the marine theater.

12:30 p.m. Head across the street to the quaint **Olde Mistick Village** to eat and browse the independent shops. We love **Go Fish** for its large menu (even picky toddlers will find something they like) highlighting fresh seafood. For a quick lunch, try **Bleu Squid**, known for its gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and 60+ types of cupcakes. You can also satisfy a sweets craving at **Mango's Homemade Ice Cream**.

2:30 p.m. A five-minute drive brings you to **Mystic Seaport**, a combo maritime museum/historic seaport and village right on the Mystic River. Climb aboard ships like the *Charles W. Morgan*, a wooden whaling boat from 1841;

cruise on the 1908 steamboat *Sabino* (back this summer after a two-year restoration); watch live reenactments and demonstrations by history interpreters; and check out the recreated 19th-century seafaring village. There's also a children's museum and nautically themed playground perfect for the under-7 set.

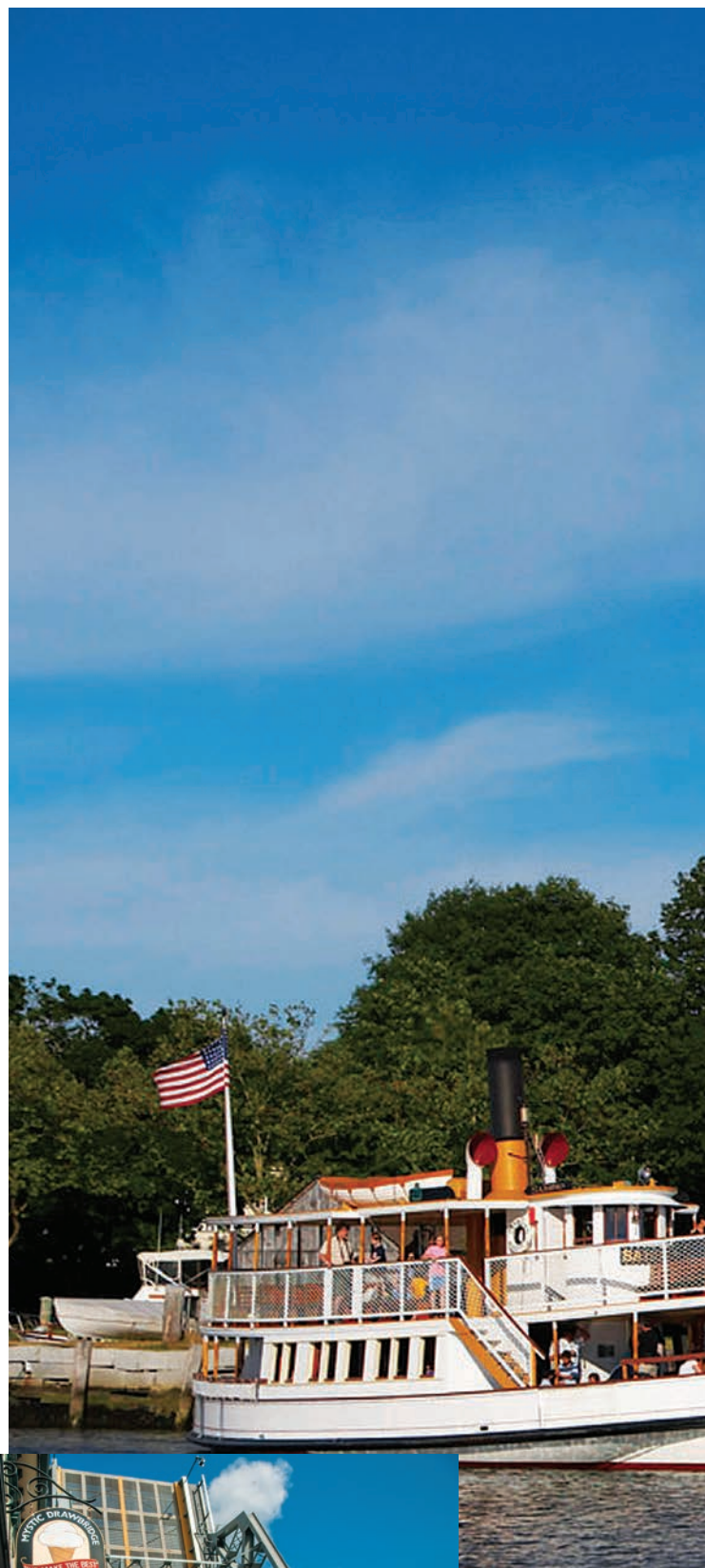
5 p.m. Finish your day in picturesque **Downtown Mystic**. Be sure to get an Instagram-worthy shot of the **Mystic Pizza** sign (where the movie *Mystic Pizza* is set), but opt for dinner at **Oyster Club**: a "boat-to-table" restaurant with a daily-changing menu. In summer months, try Oyster Club's Treehouse — a literal treehouse, with \$1 drinks and oyster specials. Another downtown favorite is **S&P Oyster Club**, a traditional New England seafood restaurant boasting dreamy river and drawbridge views.

7 p.m. Stop by **Bartleby's Café**, a cozy java joint on the main drag, to pick up some caffeine for the ride home.

—Amy R. Partridge

Savings Alert!

Purchase the **Mystic Pass** to snag 15 percent off admission to both Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium. This discounted twofer — available at www.mystic.org — includes special offers from local merchants, hotels, and restaurants.





Mystic Seaport

EDWIN AUSTIN ABBEY
MEMORIAL COLLECTION



Quick Pick

New Haven, CT

From White Plains: 1 hour

Let's make a case for New Haven: The **Yale University Art Gallery** is home to more than 200,000 items, including works by Rubens, Degas, and John Singer Sargent (*left*), to name a few. **New Haven-style pizza**, both traditional and modern, is the city's claim to culinary fame. And every August, some of tennis's biggest names descend on Yale for the **Connecticut Open**.

Hyde Park, NY

Driving time from White Plains: 1 hour 15 minutes

Hyde Park packs a powerful dose of history and culture into one ZIP code. Renowned as the birthplace of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and home to various Vanderbilts (plus The Culinary Institute of America), it's a fun place to watch the past come alive.

9 a.m. Fuel up at **Cranberry's at Tilley Hall** with quality coffees, homemade scones, and stellar omelets — all served up in a grandma-chic atmosphere.

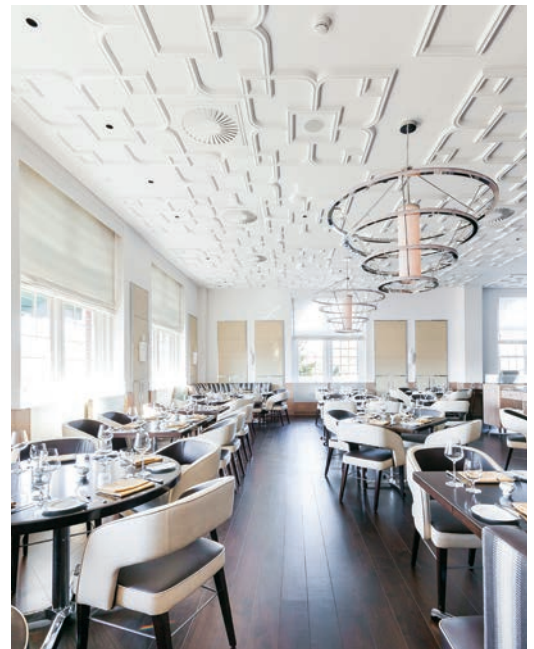
10 a.m. Step back into the Gilded Age at the **Vanderbilt Mansion**. An hour-long guided tour gives a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of one of America's wealthiest families. The stunning grounds include formal gardens, one of the continent's oldest ginkgo trees, and scenic Hudson River views.

1 p.m. **Hyde Park Brewing Company** offers craft beers and a locally sourced menu of beer-centric items, like crispy beer mac 'n' cheese and cheddar-cheese lager soup.

2:30 p.m. Experience the legacy of Hyde Park's most famous resident at the **Roosevelt National Historic Site**. Pair a guided tour of FDR's lifelong

home, **Springwood**, with a self-guided experience at the **FDR Presidential Library & Museum**. Highlights among the museum's 35,000 objects include FDR's Oval Office desk and a recreation of his secret White House Map Room. From May to October, you can also tour Eleanor Roosevelt's home, Val-Kill Cottage, as well as Top Cottage, FDR's "getaway."

6:30 p.m. Start your **Culinary Institute of America (CIA)** experience with a drink at **Post Road Brew House**, a seasonal pop-up restaurant/bar featuring Hudson Valley craft beers, wines, and spirits. For dinner, reserve a kitchen-view table at **The Bocuse Restaurant** and watch CIA students spin out sophisticated modern French fare. (Other on-campus options include American Bounty Restaurant and the Tuscan-style Ristorante Caterina de' Medici.) —ARP



The Bocuse Restaurant at The Culinary Institute of America



FDR Presidential Library and Museum

Getting Here: Don't feel like driving? The National Park Service runs "Roosevelt Ride," a free shuttle between the Poughkeepsie Metro-North station and the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites from May to October.



Vanderbilt Mansion



Hyde Park Brewing Company



Quick Pick

Cold Spring, NY From White Plains: 45 minutes

Known as a Metro-North stop with easy access to **Breakneck Ridge** hiking, this quaint town is also prime for eating and antiquing. **Main Street's** boutique shops promise old-fashioned flair and artisan finds of all sorts, and no visit here is complete without a scoop (or three) at **Moo Moo's Creamery**.

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): PHILIP MANSFIELD/CIA; COURTESY, FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY; COURTESY, HYDE PARK BREWING COMPANY; NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/BILL URBIN; COLD SPRING: KATE WALSH



Tinker Street



Bread Alone



Byrdcliffe Arts Colony

Woodstock, NY

Driving time from White Plains: 1 hour 35 minutes

Were it not for its rich cultural pedigree, and its connection (however tenuous) to the festival of the same name, Woodstock might resemble any other charming Upstate New York town. But, beyond the Village Green, where tourists gather and old hippies still strum guitars, lies a treasure trove of galleries, restaurants, shops, and theaters.

10 a.m. Hippies tend to sleep late and, in Woodstock, though *hipsters* have largely replaced the old guard, the laid-back hippie vibe prevails to this day. So, stop for breakfast before touring the town. At **Bread Alone**, enjoy a hearty breakfast burrito or a tree-hugger's favorite, avocado and sprouts on organic ciabatta.

11 a.m. Walk toward town and check out the shops, like **Candlestock**, which offers a gorgeous selection of beeswax, drip, and handmade candles; **The Freewheel Pottery**, which has a fabulous selection of beautiful, well-priced jewelry, handbags, art, accessories, and more; and **The Golden Notebook**, a town fixture for four decades (we hear it was one of Bowie's favorite shops).

1 p.m. If you're a vegan (or not), you'll enjoy lunch at the bright, cheerful, puppy-loving **Garden Café**,

where you can dine outdoors in (of course) the lovely garden, weather permitting.

3 p.m. Head to **Rock City Road**, which has lots of nooks, crannies, and a smattering of shops, including **Tibetan Arts & Crafts**. Wend your way around to the other side of **Tinker Street** for more shopping, and stop at the Village Green, where you're sure to find some characters — maybe even Allyn Richardson, aka Grandpa Woodstock — hanging out.

5 p.m. Woodstock's arts scene goes beyond music, and galleries abound in the area. Do not leave without visiting the **Byrdcliffe Arts Colony**, the country's oldest (built in 1902) operating Arts and Crafts colony, with 30 unique buildings of the motif, all in a bucolic setting. —*Carol Ciffin*



More to Explore: Woodstock is a hiker's Xanadu, so, if you don't mind rattlesnakes (seriously), consider the **Overlook Mountain Hike**. Also, Bob Dylan's footprints are all over the town, and landmarks are plentiful, among them **Big Pink** (*above*), the house where he and The Band recorded the seminal *Basement Tapes*.

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): DION OGUST; COURTESY OF BREAD ALONE; LES WALKER; JOHNDAN, DANIEL CASE



Quick Pick

Warwick, NY From White Plains: 1 hour

Heading here? Be ready to window-shop and eat. **Main Street** and its surrounds abound with eateries and shops. Venture to nearby **Bellvale Farms Creamery** for the best ice cream. From March through October, the **Warwick Drive-In Theater** shows first-run movies on three screens. In fall, it's one of the best places in New York for apple picking.

New Canaan, Norwalk, & Westport, CT

Driving time from White Plains: 30 minutes

Contemporary art and creative cuisine thrive in this little corner of Connecticut. Three cities — New Canaan, Norwalk, and Westport — make for a doable one-day itinerary with plenty of culture and good eats to make the most of the mileage.

9:45 a.m. Get an early start to be in New Canaan for the first tour of **The Glass House**. Built in 1949 by architect Philip Johnson as his private residence, the striking modern home sits on 49 landscaped acres. Johnson and his partner, David Whitney, were avid art collectors, and the two-hour Glass House + Galleries Tour includes a viewing of their large-scale contemporary-art collection, featuring works by Warhol and Rauschenberg, among others.

12:15 p.m. A 20-minute drive leaves you in the center of Norwalk's diverse dining scene just in time for lunch. **El Segundo's** menu of small plates is divided into geographic regions: The Western Hemisphere, Europe and the Middle East, and the Far East; meaning, you can try Peruvian ceviche, Turkish kofte, Vietnamese spring rolls

and an Antarctica-inspired Spam sandwich all in one meal. Nearby, **Harlan Publick** gets plenty of well-deserved accolades for its namesake burger, dripping with cheddar-ale sauce and bacon-onion jam.

1:15 p.m. Pop into **Galerie Sono**. The 6,000 sq ft space displays works from an array of contemporary artists, including Wolf Kahn and Hunt Slonem, whose pieces are part of permanent collections at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney.

2 p.m. Before you head to Westport, take a slight detour for a stop at **Speedy Donuts** (named one of the nation's top-10 doughnut shops by *Grub Street*), and pray they're not sold out of glazed or old-fashioned jelly sticks.



The Glass House



El Segundo

2:15 p.m. Set your GPS for one of the following courses: Continue your art education at the **Westport Arts Center**, which curates a rotating roster of contemporary-art exhibits, plus interactive workshops, concerts, and events. If you've reached your art-saturation point, chart a course for the coast instead. Admission to **Compo Beach**, the perfect spot for a sandy stroll on the Sound, is free until May 1. From May to September, expect to pay a hefty fee, so opt for nearby **Burying Hill Beach**, which offers a stretch of sand for half the price.

3:45 p.m. Cross Westport's **American-flag-lined bridge** over the Saugatuck River to enter downtown for some serious retail therapy. Main Street is lined with big-name retailers (J.Crew,

Bluemercy, INTERMIX), while Post Road East is home to chic boutiques. Stop into **WEST**, which opened in 2016, for a mix of apparel, jewelry, and accessories from the West Coast and Australia.

6 p.m. Don't even think about leaving before dinner. **Rothbard Ale + Larder** strikes a perfect mix with rare European beers and dishes from Germany and Central Europe (house-made sausages, hot-from-the-oven pretzels, three types of schnitzel). For something completely different, try **Kawa Ni**, Chef Bill Taibe's modern izakaya, where everything from noodle dishes to craft cocktails gets a creative spin.

—Samantha Garbarini



Downtown Westport along the Saugatuck River



◀ Catch a Show

From May through November, make a point to see a show at the **Westport Country Playhouse**. The historic theater often stages works by burgeoning playwrights, and some of the world's great actors — including Paul Newman and James Earl Jones — have graced its stage.

Queens, NY

Commuting time from White Plains: 1 hour

When it comes to the outer boroughs, Brooklyn gets most of the love. But Queens (just one stop on the 7 train from Grand Central) is worthy of a serious second look. If you focus on Long Island City and Astoria — two of the hippest and closest-to-the-city neighborhoods — you can easily put together a food-and-culture-filled day. Bonus: no driving!

11 a.m. Exit the 7 train at Vernon Boulevard and head over one block to **51st Bakery & Cafe** for Intelligentsia coffee and pastries from Manhattan's Balthazar Bakery. Then stroll up 51st Avenue to **Hunter's Point South Park/Gantry Plaza State Park** and soak in the unbelievable views — the Queensboro Bridge, Chrysler Building, Empire State Building, and Freedom Tower in one panorama — while you sip your brew.

11:30 a.m. Get back on the 7 train to Court Square for a visit to the quirky **MoMA PS1** — Long Island City's bastion of contemporary art. Expect strangely beautiful (and just plain strange) boundary-pushing works from emerging artists. The former public school

boasts classroom-sized galleries, lofty ceilings, and a dizzying swirl of stairwells, all of which have you bumping into art at every turn.

1:30 p.m. Try **LIC Market** for lunch. The intimate spot boasts an impressive selection of natural wines and beers, plus menu standouts like ricotta-and-pignoli salad and a frittata of the day. Also in walking distance of PS1 is **Casa Enrique**, a Michelin-starred Mexican restaurant.

3 p.m. Astoria's **Museum of the Moving Image** (take the M train to Steinway Street) is a true gem. Located on the grounds of the



Museum of the Moving Image



Sweet Afton

Kaufman Astoria Studios (where *Orange Is the New Black* is filmed), the museum includes a fascinating permanent collection of historic movie and television artifacts, plus rotating exhibits. An exhibit on Martin Scorsese (through April 23) displays handwritten original film scores, Scorsese's costume notes, items from the iconic director's childhood, and an array of correspondence and photos.

5 p.m. The **Astor Room** is the perfect spot for post-museum drinks. The speakeasy — once the original Kaufman Astoria Studios commissary and rumored to be haunted by the ghost of Mary Pickford — has an Old Hollywood vibe, generous Happy Hour specials (try the Studio Cocktail), and spiced candied bacon served at the bar.

6:30 p.m. Though Astoria is synonymous with Greek food, Middle Eastern is the hood's new specialty. A quick Uber ride will bring you to Little Egypt, where you can try **Mombar**, a homey, art-filled BYOB (cash-only) serving simple but flavorful fare (we love the tagines), always accompanied by a pyramid of couscous.

8:30 p.m. Before heading back to suburbia, enjoy a drink at **Sweet Afton**, a hip local pub. Specialty craft beers, New York State bourbons, and a killer Prosecco (Prima Perla) are among the offerings; in nice weather, the back garden can't be beat.

—ARP



Deciphering Queens Addresses

Queens' trademark hyphenated addresses are actually helpful once you know what they mean. Take 10-41 47th Avenue in Long Island City. The "10" represents the lower street, meaning the address is located between 10th Street and 11th Street at building number 41 on 47th Avenue. Got it?

Gantry Plaza State Park

Quick Pick

Westhampton, NY

From White Plains: 1 hour 45 minutes

The closest of the Hamptons is totally doable for a day trip. Get an early start, and you'll have plenty of time to hit the **beach**, grab a stellar Neapolitan pie at **Pizzetteria Brunetti**, shop **Main Street**, and dine among an impressive collection of Warhol silkscreens at **Starr Boggs**.



Bucks County Playhouse

New Hope, PA

Driving time from White Plains: 2 hours

At only one square mile, this charming Delaware River town boasts a hodgepodge of tempting restaurants, colorful shops, and historic (as well as purportedly haunted) sites dating back to the American Revolution.

9:30 a.m. Stretch those legs with a stroll along the historic **Delaware Canal Towpath**. If you want to see more of the 60-mile path, rent a bike at the **New Hope Cyclery** (a short drive from the Visitors Center), and pedal a loop across the New Hope–Lambertville Bridge, spanning the Delaware River.

11 a.m. Complete your visit to the canal with a stop at the **Locktender's House**, where the *Life at the Lock* exhibit depicts life along the canal and how boats traveled using the lock system.

Noon Soak up the water views with lunch on the riverside terrace at **The Landing**, which has been serving traditional American cuisine for 40 years.

1:30 p.m. Make a left on **Main Street** and explore New Hope's wealth of boutique shops. **Design Pretty** features lovely home décor,

and the sweets are handmade at **County Fair Chocolates**.

3 p.m. Take a 45-minute ride through the picturesque Bucks County countryside on the **New Hope & Ivyland Railroad**, where the trains are pulled by an antique 1925 Baldwin steam locomotive or vintage diesel locomotive.

4:30 p.m. Don't be late: The day's last tour of the Revolutionary-era **Parry Mansion** — home to New Hope's founders — starts now.

5 p.m. For dinner, choose from two historic options. The dining room at the **Logan Inn**, established in 1727 and one of the oldest continually run inns in the US, is full of Old World charm. **Marsha Brown's Restaurant** serves Creole cuisine in a 125-year-old deconsecrated stone church.

—Meaghan Glendon



New Hope & Ivyland Railroad



Main Street



Quick Pick

Delaware Water Gap, NJ & PA

From White Plains: 1 hour 30 minutes

Talk about a never-ending photo op. This stretch of the Delaware River cuts through the Appalachian Mountains, dividing Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The land on both sides comprises the **Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area**, offering myriad scenic drives, hikes, and picnicking, as well as year-round sporting opportunities.

Hudson, NY

Driving time from White Plains: 1 hour 40 minutes

This Rivertown's working-class grit has given way to a progressive artistic spirit. The stroll-worthy main street is laden with antique stores (more than 50!), art galleries, on-trend restaurants, performance spaces, elegantly appointed B&Bs, and historic buildings.

9:30 a.m. Tiny **Bonfiglio & Bread** is the ultimate weekend-retreat bakery/café (an urban yet country vibe, wonderful homemade breads) for carb-loading before a day of exploration along the city's mile-long downtown. Two words: cinnamon buns.

10 a.m. Window shop and gallery hop along Warren Street. Stop at **Red Chair on Warren** for 17th- to 19th-century Swedish, Belgian, and French pieces for your kitchen and dining room, or **George Antiques** for 19th- and 20th-century furniture and decorative items.

11:45 a.m. Give your feet a rest — and admire the town's myriad of architectural styles — at **7th Street Park**, a modest green space dating back to the 1780s, crisscrossed by obsolete train tracks.

Noon A husband-wife team with buzzy Manhattan kitchen pedigrees run **Swoon Kitchenbar**, a pasture-to-plate eatery with earthy pâtés, artisan cheeses, and a robust French-focused wine list (lunch weekends only).

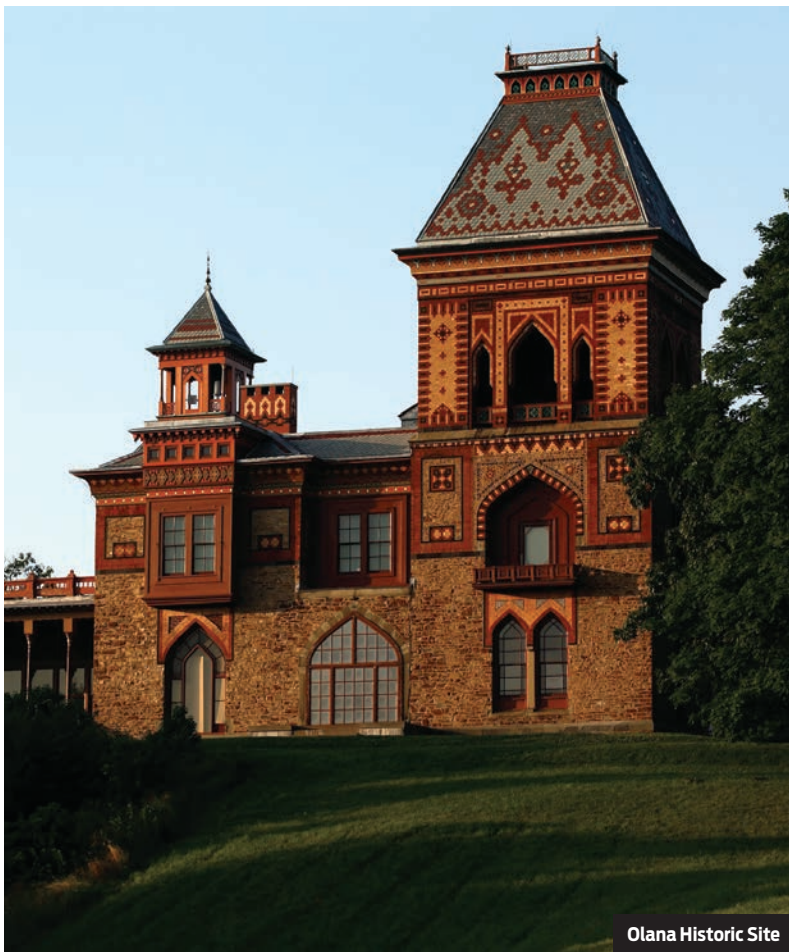
1 p.m. Docked at the base of Warren Street, hop aboard a **Hudson Cruises** charter at Riverfront Park and come to appreciate why there's an artists' school named after this body of water (May through Oct only).

3:30 p.m. A 12-minute drive brings you to **Olana Historic Site**, where you can view the work of Frederic Edwin Church, a master of the aforementioned Hudson River School, and tour his Victorian/Middle Eastern-inspired villa set on 250 incredible acres.

5:30 p.m. End with nose-to-tail dining at **Fish & Game**, a 2016 James Beard Award winner for Best Chef Northeast. Or, **Club Helsinki Hudson** offers regional American (mainly Creole, low-country Carolina) cuisine in an 1860s bus garage.

—John Bruno Turiano

Winter Wonderland: Visit on the first Saturday of December, when the Hudson Opera House's annual **Winter Walk** transforms Warren Street into a holiday playground, with a musical parade, fireworks, jugglers, dancers, and horse-drawn carriages.



Olana Historic Site



Red Chair on Warren



Swoon Kitchenbar



Winter Walk



Quick Pick

Beacon, NY From White Plains: 1 hour

Brick-laced Beacon has a lot going for it these days, thanks to the shops and galleries that have sprung up in the wake of **Dia:Beacon's** opening. But the best part is arguably the dining — most of which is right on Main Street. Don't miss **Kitchen Sink** (left) for globally inspired eats, **Ella's Bellas** bakery, **Beacon Pantry** for gourmet goods, and **Denning's Point** for whiskey. 



Middle Class Westchester

in

What Does It Mean?

A closer look shows that it's all relative.

By Jerry McKinstry

Thiphakoun “Tipi” Vyrasith and her husband, Michael Tuesca, knew they didn’t want to raise their two daughters in Las Vegas, so the couple, who worked in the casino and hospitality industry for nearly 20 years, did a cross-country search: Chicago, Miami, Houston, and New York were all on the table. As chance would have it, they landed jobs in and around New York City and found a comfortable little rental in Greenburgh.

They loved the neighborhood. Check the box. It had good schools, nice neighbors, and they were close to New York City. Check. Check. Check.

A year later, they rolled the dice on a home for sale that opened up across the street. It seemed like a good bet for this middle-class family with solid credit, decent savings, and family members willing to help. They managed to come up with a down payment — not the full freight of nearly \$84,000, or 20 percent, desired by most banks, but enough to qualify for a mortgage they could afford.

They were excited about building their new life here.

Illustration by Morgan Ramberg

High closing costs and a hefty property-tax bill nearly derailed Tipi Vyrasith and Michael Tuesca's family dream of purchasing a home in Greenburgh. Though they pulled it off, they stick to a tight budget in order to get by.



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEFAN RADTKE

Then came a dose of reality. Closing costs, upwards of \$20,000, whereby the bankers, lawyers, and home inspectors all got their cut; property repairs, such as a new roof and electrical system, that didn't come cheap; and a property-tax bill approaching \$19,000 a year busted their budget like a boulder on thin ice.

"It was sticker shock," says 42-year-

dollars from ever getting comfortable in places like, say, a savings account.

Even for families like Tipi and Michael's, who say they have a "comfortable lifestyle" and jobs they enjoy (Tipi is the food & beverage director at Empire City Casino in Yonkers; Michael is the member-services manager at Life Time Fitness in Harrison), the American dream isn't all Champagne wishes and

feel like they are on a financial treadmill that has only one speed — faster.

Why? Because good schools, public services, layers of government, access to public transportation, and a relatively strong real estate market contribute in different ways to the costs and benefits of living here.

Like elsewhere in the country, there are pockets of extreme wealth and poverty here, and strewn throughout is a large segment of the population that is quietly facing serious pressures. Their numbers are shrinking across the country, and those who hope to remain card-carrying members of the middle class must make any number of spending and lifestyle decisions, such as downsizing, forgoing vacations, working two or three jobs, moving in with their parents, living on credit, borrowing from retirement or putting it off altogether, and, in general, tightening their belts.

For them, living here can be a mixed bag of blessings, sacrifices, and choices — not always easy ones.

What Exactly Is 'Middle Class'?

There is little consensus among experts of exactly who falls into the middle, especially when you consider how broad

“We’re always going to need a dual income. We’re just going to be workhorses.” — Tipi Vyrasith

old Tipi, whose daughters are now 6 and 5. “I feel like I need a second mortgage for the taxes.”

While they did in fact borrow more than anticipated for the closing costs and renovations, this isn't a case of buyer's remorse or a house under water as much as it's an eye-opening lesson about living in Westchester County. To state the obvious: It's expensive. Very expensive. Real estate, property taxes, commuting, groceries, childcare, entertainment, and basic needs and amenities — they all combine to prevent those hard-earned

caviar dreams. Far from it.

“In New York, we're more on a beer budget,” says Tipi with a mixed dose of reality and optimism. “We're always going to need a dual income. We're just going to be workhorses.”

Welcome to Westchester County, where even good earners feel the pinch.

The county, with all its suburban charm, great schools, accessibility, public parks, and selling points touted by real estate agents, corporate heads, and those bullish on the county, has a way of making people earning solid incomes

The Price of Life



Average Westchester Home Value:

\$556,900

Median Westchester Property Taxes:

\$13,842

Source: Zillow, 2016

Percentage of Westchester households earning more than:

\$100,000: **45%**

\$200,000: **18%**

Source: U.S. Census

Average annual gross taxable income in Westchester:

\$145,000

Source: New York State Department of Taxation and Finance

Percentage by which cost of living in Westchester exceeds the national average:

50%

Source: Careertrends.com

the spectrum is. Household income is the primary criterion, but so, too, are wealth (inheritance, investments, property, and savings), education levels (college degree), and consumption, such as owning a car, taking vacations, or dining out.

According to a recently published Pew Research Center analysis, for example, US households earning anywhere from \$48,000 to \$145,000 fall into the middle-class category, which is about half of all Americans. But those figures don't hold up in Westchester, where the cost of living is relatively high, and because of that, far too many middle-class people fear they are a job loss, illness, or other bad circumstance away from the poor house... or that they'll never be able to retire. For the middle class, those scenarios and others are like raindrops at a picnic: You hope the downpour never comes.

Nationally, the middle class as a percentage of the general population has been shrinking for decades, says Rakesh Kochhar, associate director of research at the Pew Research Center. The percentage of people in the middle went down nearly 10 percent, with slightly more gains on the top end, says Kochhar. "The middle class is struggling."

Economic declines renewed their

pressure on workers with the arrival of the new millennium. In the years that followed, recessions, financial crashes, and housing bubbles either stymied growth or crushed people altogether. "It was not a good decade for businesses or households," Kochhar says.

As a private music instructor and owner of Musical Munchkins, Eileen Oddo, 57, has felt the shifting currents of the economy directly since starting her own business 33 years ago. The White Plains mother of two children, ages 28 and 22, started to see a drop after 9/11. By 2008, her business was in danger of shuttering, in part because when household budgets are tight, arts and music are among the first expenses to go. "Our business dropped off by 100 students a year for five straight years," Oddo says. "Parents started going back to work, then they went back in droves.... You can't make it here in Westchester unless you have a double income."

As musicians — essentially freelancers — she and husband John, a well-respected music arranger who has worked with the likes of Rosemary Clooney, Tony Bennett, and Michael Bublé, are used to improvising and adapting, so they kept playing through the challenges, living modestly



MIDDLE-CLASS SNAPSHOT:

Balancing the Work/Life Mashup

After living in the Dominican Republic for four years, Jill Singer returned home as a single parent in 2005 with her two sons. Central America was beautiful but not an ideal place to raise a family and grow her graphic-design company that she started in 1985.

Now, the 55-year-old Rye native is raising two boys in college and running her business out of her White Plains home-office. A "solopreneur" and single mother who bought her 1,700 sq ft house for \$712,500 in 2006 — or, as she jokes, "10 minutes south of the market peak" — Singer never lets up. She can't. Her career, family, and obligations are part of what she dubs the "work/life mashup," which can be a mix of challenges and rewards. She wouldn't have it any other way.

"It never stops," Singer says. "I'm in a service business, so even when I'm not working, I try to be available."

Although her grandmother set aside some money for her sons' college educations (one attends the University of Delaware, the other the Culinary Institute of America), she watches her expenses closely. She has to, as it all comes out of the same life/company pot. As a homeowner and parent, there are always bills on the horizon: Roughly \$10K in property taxes, a mortgage on a home that is still worth less than what she paid for it 11 years ago, \$12,000 a year for a high-deductible health-insurance plan, and regular business expenses, not to mention the unforeseeable, like broken boilers, computers, and car repairs. "Every time it looks like I'm getting close to paying something off, something else creeps in," she says. "I dream of the day I don't owe anybody money."

Singer drives a 2011 RAV4 that she purchased used, dines out only occasionally and tries to pay a little extra on her mortgage each month. If she vacations, she's typically on call and available for clients. In what little free time she has, she makes sure to take advantage of Westchester's greatest assets: its nature trails, parks, and proximity to New York City. "You can find things to do that aren't expensive," she says. "I feel like I'm so lucky living here."



MIDDLE-CLASS SNAPSHOT:

Private School v. Retirement

Dwight and Robyn McLeod bought a house in the Chester Heights neighborhood of Mount Vernon in 1994 for \$230,000. Dwight has two grown children from a previous marriage, and together the McLeods have two children: a 19-year-old son who is a sophomore at Trinity College and a 15-year-old daughter attending the Ursuline School in New Rochelle.

Because Mount Vernon public schools have a history of challenges, the McLeods agreed private school was a price worth paying from the onset, even though, like most Westchester residents, a large percentage of their roughly \$16,000 annual tax tab is for the public schools. With college tuition/room-and-board at Trinity reaching \$64,000 a year and Ursuline costing roughly \$18,000 a year, it compounds quickly. "We've been paying two tuitions for a very long time," Dwight says. "It's been a huge sacrifice...that we had to make for the kids."

Following successful corporate careers with solid six-figure salaries (62-year-old Dwight's with Verizon and 56-year-old Robyn's with NYNEX and Deloitte & Touche), each started their own consulting company. Times were good... for a while. Then the economy tanked around 2007, and clients dropped off a cliff as their budgets were squeezed or eliminated entirely. Since then, it's been a "wild ride," Dwight says.

They've dipped into savings, cannibalized their 401Ks and took a pass on discretionary expenses like dental work, the latest gadgets, and dinners out. Past vacations were mostly road trips to visit family, and the grand plan of an early retirement to a home down South is a dream that may border on outright fantasy. While business has improved a bit, that's merely translated to an occasional dinner out, a periodic case of wine, or perhaps a golf outing. They have a lot of catching up to do: "I'm 62, and I don't see retirement in sight," Dwight says, though he is not as laced with regret as one may infer.

"I still love Westchester," he says. "I love the people here."

The Price of Life



Cost of raising a child in the Northeast (does not include college):

\$253,770

Source: US Department of Agriculture

Average annual cost of childcare in Westchester:

\$16,692	\$15,236	\$13,624
(infant)	(toddler)	(pre-school)

Source: Child Care Council of Westchester

Average annual cost of college in the US:

\$45,370	\$35,370	\$20,090
(private)	(public, out-of-state)	(public, in-state)

Source: College Board Annual Survey

and watching where they spent their hard-earned dollars.

Although Oddo's business has stabilized in recent years and John, 63, has a steady clientele, expenses like property taxes (roughly \$18,000 a year) and rising healthcare, liability, disability, and other insurance requirements (nearly \$35K per year) continue to pressure their bottom line. "When you're self-employed, you have to pay for everything" yourself, she says.

Despite those challenges, Oddo's bullish on the economy, her business, and White Plains in particular, because of its diversity and proximity. "It's absolutely turned around. ... I don't feel like [we are] in peril now," she says. "We have the things we need, and we have the things we want."

So, too, can Guy Carpenito attest to these twin challenges of being the head of a middle-class business and household. "Being middle class is like treading water," says the 56-year-old contracting-company owner. "You're always nervous but okay."

Carpenito, who grew up in Mount Vernon, moonlights as a home inspector and part-time building inspector. The extra income has been necessary to keep up with work demands, his family, and paying for the education of his two children, ages 28 and 25, who both have master's degrees.

"That's what it takes to live in Westchester," he says of juggling several jobs along with his company. "I'm a firm believer that you've got to stay diversified."

That philosophy has served Carpenito well over the years, but it hasn't inoculated him against downward spirals in the economy or the shifting burdens of owning a company. Demands and growing

government mandates, like paying liability, disability, workers compensation, health insurance, and any number of other ever-increasing fees, such as licensing and building permits, increase his costs and gobble up roughly 35 percent of his revenues. "Everything adds up," Carpenito says. When coupled together, he feels a constant pressure of working and meeting payroll while competing with less scrupulous contractors who don't always play by the same rules.

He and his wife have a nice life in their Eastchester home, and they try to take two vacations a year, usually somewhere warm. Carpenito isn't exactly sure when he'll retire. He'd like to go south, if he can, but much of that will depend on his savings and where his children settle down.

The Golden Apple

Outsiders generally view Westchester and its nearly one million residents as wealthy — even rich — based on their relatively high incomes when compared with other parts of the country. But even with a comparatively high average gross taxable income of \$145,000, according to state statistics, and the fact that 18 percent of households earn more than \$200,000 annually according to US Census figures, the numbers fail to provide a complete picture of what it's really like to be in the middle.

Researchers from the Pew Research Center estimate that people living in the New York Metropolitan area need to earn roughly 22 percent more than their middle-class counterparts elsewhere in the country. But even that estimate



MIDDLE-CLASS SNAPSHOT:

Part-Time Economy

When Danny Lopriore was growing up in Yonkers, middle class was a simple concept: It meant you had a car, a home, and one working parent. In other words, "You had a nice life," Lopriore says.

Although the 63-year-old, who lives in Hastings-on-Hudson, managed to raise five children working as a journalist (with the help of some real estate investments and his wife's jobs as a nanny), life grew tougher when the newspaper industry imploded and his health deteriorated. Heart problems that required several surgeries forced him to shift his job focus to something less stressful, and after selling some of his family's properties, he and his wife are cobbling together a living on roughly \$60,000 a year, which includes part-time work, freelance assignments, and rental income.

They've downsized to a \$1,600-a-month apartment rental ("a deal," he says, by Westchester standards), and several years ago, his 60-year-old wife, Dianne, between taking care of their grandchildren, went back to get a degree in respiratory therapy, which is something that has always interested her and will provide steady work.

"Right now, if I had to support five kids, I wouldn't be middle class," he says. "It costs \$750,000 for a decent house."

In one of his jobs, Lopriore delivers food to seniors for Meals on Wheels, which at \$12 an hour nourishes his soul more than his savings while giving him a close-up look at how others are struggling. When you look around Westchester, he says, "you'll notice a lot of senior citizens working part-time jobs at places like Food Town, McDonald's, and Walgreens. That was unheard of," years ago.

He's putting off collecting social security until he's 67 so that his monthly payment goes up; he figures that with a little ingenuity, he'll grind it out for a few years. "I consider myself lucky," Lopriore says of being close to retirement age. "If I were 50 or 55, I would be stuck in the middle."

With four kids — two currently in college — the Fitzpatricks of Tuckahoe live frugally. They forgo vacations, dining out, and other splurges in order to keep up with mounting bills. Early retirement is out of the question.

“It doesn’t matter how much we make; we always seem to be about 20 grand light.... There’s always water in the boat.” — *John Fitzpatrick*



MIDDLE-CLASS SNAPSHOT:

Downsizing — and Still Working

Since meeting 25 years ago, Rachel and Ben Rosin have been building a life together, with a steady, workmanlike approach that includes planning, saving, and a positive outlook. “We’ve been lucky,” Rachel says.

At the height of their careers — Rachel, a jewelry expert, and Ben, an attorney who was a partner at a boutique practice — each had earned well, saved for retirement and lived comfortably in Chappaqua. “A lot of money came in, but a lot went out,” Ben says.

After Ben’s four children from his previous marriage graduated from college, the Rosins traded their four-bedroom ranch for a condo in Briarcliff Manor and netted a decent profit while cutting their annual tax burden. That money went straight into a retirement-savings account. They also had long-term healthcare insurance, and Rachel, while in her 20s, took out an annuity and saved heavily in a 401K. “That was the best thing I could do for myself,” Rachel says.

Despite their long-term planning, Ben, 76, and Rachel, 69, still work: Ben puts in three days a week as a foster-care attorney, which is personally rewarding, and Rachel runs her own consulting company, a new career she carved out in her 50s that is far less lucrative but still provides job satisfaction.

Although they aren’t earning what they once did, they aren’t opulent consumers. Working keeps them busy, social, and helps pay for their monthly bills, such as condominium fees, dinners out, and at least once nice trip a year. “Even with investments, a 401K, and an IRA, you’ve got to supplement it,” Ben says.

The key to their success: saving, planning ahead and enjoying their work. “Before you know it, you’ll be in your 60s,” Rachel says. “It’s important to do something you like doing.”

seems low when you consider that the average Westchester home value is approaching \$600,000 or that rents can start at \$3,000 a month or that the median property-tax bill is just south of \$14,000, compared with \$2,132 for the rest of the country. What’s more, it costs about a quarter of a million dollars to raise a child in the Northeast — before college is factored in — or that annual daycare costs for two children in Westchester can cost nearly \$35,000, according to the Childcare Council of Westchester. When all is said and done, *Careertrends.com* claims the cost of living in Westchester County is 50 percent higher than the national average.

Housing is the key driver in the Northeast’s higher cost of living, says Pam Villarreal, a senior fellow at the Dallas-based National Center for Policy Analysis. Referencing a quarterly index of metropolitan areas, Villarreal says prices in this region for food, utilities, transit, and such don’t necessarily jump off the page compared with other cities, but putting a roof over one’s head can average 4.5 times more than other parts of the country, including areas throughout New York State. “It’s really housing that brings up the cost of living,” she says. “There are some huge discrepancies across the state.”

Such realities may have seen locally and have much to do with that old real estate adage: “location, location, location.” One need only look at local real estate ads to know that living in Bronxville, Scarsdale, Rye, or Bedford costs more than living in, say, Yonkers, Tuckahoe,

Bedford Hills, or New Rochelle.

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam, which studies livability and in recent years has been tracking figures on people who are working but unable to afford basic necessities, estimates that a family of four in Westchester needs \$160,000 a year just to get by. Called a sustainability budget, that’s what such a family has to earn to pay for basics like housing, food, transportation, childcare, and healthcare. In other words, it’s not living lavishly, and every community — including some of Westchester’s tonier populations — has its share of people

who are working but unable to keep up.

To meet their needs, many people are working longer hours, two or three jobs, or cutting corners on needs like childcare and healthcare, says Alana Sweeny, president and CEO of the White Plains-based United Way of Westchester and Putnam. “The costs are outpacing people’s abilities to pay for them,” she says.

That’s a scenario that John Fitzpatrick and his wife, Kate, are familiar with. Last year was the first time in over a decade that the union electrician didn’t have to take 10 weeks of furlough, or unpaid time off. That means his pay jumped to roughly \$130,000. But the

added hours, even when combined with Kate’s income from a part-time office job at Bronxville Village Hall, don’t seem to make a dent — not with four kids, including two in college, nor an approximately \$11,000 tax bill that has doubled in less than a decade.

“It doesn’t matter how much we make,” John, 54, says with a laugh. “We always seem to be about 20 grand light.... Basically, there’s always water in the boat.”

To get by, the Fitzpatricks live frugally: They rarely vacation (three years ago, the family went to Rocking Horse

“The costs are outpacing people’s abilities to pay for them.” — Alana Sweeny, president and CEO,

United Way of Westchester and Putnam

Dude Ranch for three days) and dine out only a few times a year (sushi is their preferred splurge); they don’t toss money around on expensive clothing or electronics (their kids have one pair of sneakers, not three, and they have only one TV in the house). Hand-me-downs, simplicity, and value are central tenets of their lives.

In keeping a close eye on finances, Kate cut up their credit cards a few years ago, and they both gave up smoking, which, they say, saves them a few hundred dollars a month. It all helps when you’re on a tight budget.

The Fitzpatricks live modestly in their Tuckahoe home, an ear-

Continued
on page 155

SPRING
FASHION
2017

Spring Eling!

*Shed your winter
inhibitions and get
flirty in spring's
fresh, new styles.*

Photography **MARC KAYNE**

Styling **KATHY KALAFUT**

Creative Direction **HALINA SABATH**

Text **AMY R. PARTRIDGE**

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Location **WESTCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB, RYE**

edgy energy

Kick off your weekend in rocker-chic looks that raise eyebrows — in a good way.

ON HIM: Rodd & Gunn army-green jacket, \$248, and khaki pants, \$128; The Original Retro Brand T-shirt, \$35; and Noah Waxman gray suede sneakers, \$295, all at Rothman's; Herschel Supply Co. gray bag, \$90, at Lester's

ON HER: MadeWorn rock T-shirt, \$175, at House of 29 Lifestyle Boutique; Dries Van Noten nylon-mesh pullover, \$155, and Brunello Cucinelli olive cropped pants, \$945, at Neiman Marcus; Chakarr Byzantine bangle bracelet, \$99, at Clutch; Burberry mini bag, \$1,595, and Kenneth Cole gold Brooke sandals, \$130, at Bloomingdale's



SPRING FASHION 2017



pinkalicious

Who says guys can't wear pink? The vibrant color ruled the men's runways.

BOSS Ceberus jacket, \$745, Onzo knit sweater, \$195, Tessler T-shirt, \$125, Delaware3 jeans, \$175, and Noir Slon Itws slip-ons, \$225, all at HUGO BOSS; Bucks Club gray braided belt, \$95, at Rothman's; Herschel Supply Co. bag, \$90, at Lester's



maximum exposure

Nothing like a cold-shoulder top (paired with the new must-have boyfriend-fit jeans) to heat up a spring weekend.

Victoria Beckham striped blouse, \$530, ribbon-trimmed jeans, \$490, and leather motorcycle jacket, \$1,240; Marni bag, \$1,820; and Nicole Schumann choker, \$500, all at Pamela Robbins; B Brian Atwood denim sandals, \$175, at Lord & Taylor



flower power

No shrinking violets here:
This season, the bold-floral
trend is on point.

Trina Turk floral dress, \$328, at Lord
& Taylor; black flowered bag, \$38, at
Lester's; resin oval-link bracelets, \$28
each, at Clutch



in the trenches

Tuck trendy sorbet brights under a classic spring trench for a sexy, pop-of-color look.

Sandro blue ruffled dress, \$470, khaki trench coat, \$595, and gold belt, \$120, and Loeffler Randall pink shoulder bag, \$425, all at Bloomingdale's; Stuart Weitzman adobe satin Partisan sandals, \$455, at Stuart Weitzman; Prada eyeglasses, \$325 at Raymond Opticians; Lauren K Fine Jewelry aquamarine earrings, \$4,995, and boulder opal cocktail ring with diamond accents, \$4,750, at Vincents Fine Jewelry



volume play

Balloon sleeves blow up this season; pair them with a knit-denim skirt and flowered coat for a fresh take.

Byron Lars coat, \$449, and skirt, \$310, at New York Dolls; blue-and-white striped Petersyn blouse, \$295, at Angela's; Galaxy Bijoux pearl-and-leather floral choker, \$150, at Galaxy Bijoux; Michael Kors Kit Vachetta sandals, \$169, and Mena gold-tone leather floral watch, \$195, at Michael Kors

international intrigue

Stand out from the crowd in globetrotting styles like this Frida Kahlo-inspired look.

ON HER: Giada Forte double-crepe red coat, \$985, red-and-white dress, \$600, green-beaded necklace, \$210, and cloth bag, \$425, and Erin Considine black and beige Porter necklaces, \$160 each, all at m.DRATTELL; Marc Jacobs black satin espadrilles, \$250, at Lord & Taylor

ON HIM: Salvatore Ferragamo navy suit, navy bib shirt, blue studded belt, and navy nylon trainers, price upon request, all at Salvatore Ferragamo



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what you see

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(not so) mellow yellow

It's hard to resist the allure of this citrusy hue — fashion's new favorite shade.

ON HER: Marco De Vincenzo yellow-and-gray silk cutout dress, \$3,300, and Oscar de la Renta vintage brooch on chain, \$575, all at Mary Jane Denzer; Gianvito Rossi chartreuse satin sandals, \$1,045, at Angela's

ON HIM: Brooks Brothers Regent-fit seersucker suit, \$498, Regent-fit Irish linen sport shirt, \$105, and textured knit tie, \$79.50, all at Brooks Brothers; Cole Haan Hamilton Grand penny loafers, \$280, at Cole Haan

sheerly chic

Elevate a classic suit with a touch of sheer linen for a modern — and dapper — date look.

Brooks Brothers Golden Fleece navy Glen-plaid suit, \$2,498, and white linen sport shirt, \$225, at www.brooksbrothers.com; Brooks Brothers black-frame glasses, \$250, at Raymond Opticians



Go to www.westchestermagazine.com/springfashion2017 to see a few more looks, plus behind-the-scenes outtakes from our photo shoot.



The Team at Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge



Matt Benjamin and The Dessertist, Samantha Mittler



David Ekstra, Gary Holsten and Tiffany Reyes from Holsten Jewelers



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Bride & Groom-To-Be Enjoying Strike a Pose Photo Booth

ON THE SCENE

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Westchester/Hudson Valley Weddings Magazine hosted the area's premier wedding event, Unveiled: A Boutique Bridal Brunch, on Sunday, February 26th at the elegant Surf Club on the Sound. Over 250 brides enjoyed an afternoon of stunning bridal fashions, delicious food & beverage and mingling with over 65 of the most prestigious professionals in the wedding industry in hopes of planning their dream wedding.

For a complete list of participants, visit westchestermagazine.com/unveiled.

Photographs by SARA STRAUSS

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For tickets, more information and pictures from last year's event, visit westchestermagazine.com/designawards.

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2017 GUIDE

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TABLE MATTERS

Mighty Meat

The 13th location of the well-regarded Mighty Quinn's, a fast-casual barbecue chainlet, has come to Westchester, specifically *The Westchester*, as part of the mall's upgraded food court. The crispy, spicy chicken sandwich (*pictured top*) is one of its signature offerings. See what other restaurants are new to The Westchester on page 111.

It could be said restaurateur Dave Starkey likes variety.

His ERL Hospitality consists of a Mexican restaurant (Tomatillo in Dobbs Ferry), a New American (Sweet Grass Grill in Tarrytown), and his latest, the modern Italian 40-seat eatery Red Zebra in Sleepy Hollow that opened at the end of November in the space that formerly housed Finalmente Trattoria. (Starkey is also planning to open Grass Roots Kitchen in Tarrytown this spring).

Despite each restaurant focusing on a different cuisine, commonalities abound according to Starkey: “They are all casual, accessible price-wise, and source ingredients locally.”

“A good portion of our customers are fans of my other restaurants,” says the Sleepy Hollow resident. “They come not necessarily because they feel like Italian but because they know it will be locavorian-based, with plenty of fresh ingredients, plus numerous vegan and vegetarian options.”

A list of close to 20 farm partners is displayed prominently on the menu, including produce from Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills and McEnroe Organic Farm in Millerton, dairy from Chasehold Farm in Pine Plains, sustainably raised shrimp from Eco Shrimp Garden in Newburgh, and charcuterie via Campbell Meats in Dobbs Ferry.

Carrying out Red Zebra’s menu is Pleasantville resident Beau Widener, a CIA alumnus whose previous positions include executive chef at farm-to-table Mediterranean restaurant Aurelia in Millbrook.

“Though our food concept is primarily Italian, I like to think we use Italian as a foundation, then introduce what I refer to as a regional cuisine,” explains Widener. “Meaning, the cuisine is heavily influenced by what is available seasonally in the region.”

Expect dishes such as roasted fennel hummus with crispy chickpeas; local Burrata with sliced beets; a grilled pizza topped with figs, Gorgonzola, pine nuts, and prosciutto; and a superb gnocchi with roasted root veggies, forest mushrooms, and crispy kale. Pastas, breads, desserts, and sauces and stocks are all made in-house.

The beverage program is unique, with Italian craft beers, small-batch wines, and original cocktails intended to inspire people to stretch out their taste buds (try the rosemary-scented Evergreen Swizzle with Warwick Gin, Zirbenz Stone Pine Liqueur, and Green Chartreuse). “We have unusual vineyards and varietals people might not know,” says Neil Benson, Starkey’s partner at Red Zebra, who heads up the bar offerings. “We want wines with a taste of a place.” Most bottles are between \$30–\$55.

And about the restaurant’s name? A Red Zebra is a fire-engine red, tartly flavored heirloom tomato with yellow stripes, which, true to the restaurant’s mission statement of seasonality and freshness, will be found only on the summer menu when in season. — *John Bruno Turiano*

PREVIEW
Red Zebra
 31 Beekman Ave
 Sleepy Hollow; 914.909.6151
 www.redzebrasleepyhollow.com



Clockwise from top: tender hand-cut tagliarini with shrimp, garlic, olives, and tomatoes; slices of house-made grilled bread come for dipping with the roasted fennel hummus; the rosemary-scented Evergreen Swizzle

PHOTOS BY JULIE H. CASE

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FARE WELL

Chic(k) Pasta

Love pasta but not all those carbs? Brothers native to Pleasantville have a successful food company based on pasta made from chickpeas.

Pasta is affordable, delicious, and quick — so is it the perfect food? Not quite: Eat too much of the refined carbs and watch your waistline grow. However, Brian and Scott Rudolph, brothers born and raised in Pleasantville, may have perfected penne and refined rotini with Banza Pasta. “I started experimenting with making my own pasta,” says Brian, “and came up with noodles made from chickpeas instead of wheat. With double the protein, four times the fiber, and nearly half the net carbs, it’s pasta you can eat every day and feel good about.”

Banza Pasta has come a long way from two brothers experimenting in the kitchen. *Time* magazine picked it as one of the best inventions of 2015, and the company now has 13 employees; its prod-



Banza Pasta
www.eatbanza.com

ucts are sold in 4,500 stores nationwide. “The hometown love and support has been amazing,” says Brian, noting that you can find Banza Pasta locally in Westchester at various Target, Shop Rite, Whole Foods, and DeCicco & Sons locations. Picky eaters and comfort-food enthusiasts will enjoy Banza’s packaged macaroni and cheese. Foodies can take inspiration from the company’s blog, which suggests pairing chickpea rotini, shells, and spaghetti with everything from roasted Brussels sprouts to lentil-chia meatballs.

— Amanda McCorquodale

SPIRITED

In Good Spirits

Sourcing from New York State, two Westchester entrepreneurs produce small-batch brandy and vodka.

The trend in craft beer is spilling over into spirits, with a rising number of boutique-style distilleries popping up across the country.

Luckily for Westchester residents, Good Shepherd Distillery is now open every Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. for tastings and a peek at the micro-distillery, which currently produces small batches of cherry brandy, grape brandy, and vodka that can be purchased on the premises. The vodka is triple-distilled, super-smooth and clean, while the brandies each have a distinctive flavor and mouth feel.

The space is clean and bright,

stacked with five-gallon American oak barrels that are working their magic. “What started out as a hobby quickly became a passion,” explains owner Vincent Miata, a Port Chester native who studied the distilling process before launching the business with wife Carly last year. “For us, it’s about making a spirit that has outstanding taste. We’re always learning and trying new ways to provide the customer with an exceptional product.” Incidentally, the face of Good Shepherd Distillery is none other than Loki, the Miatas’ beloved German shepherd.

The distillery uses New York State-grown cherries, grapes, and grains in its production. “The agricultural landscape in New York is so rich and diverse,” says Vincent. “We’re proud of our in-state partnerships.”

The passionate entrepreneur plans to release coffee vodka and chili vodka later this spring, and whiskey is in the works. “Here, the experimenting never ends,” Vincent says. With that kind of outlook, we can expect more good-tasting spirits to keep flowing from Good Shepherd Distillery.

— Jennifer Rossano



Good Shepherd Distillery
Mamaroneck
www.goodshepherddistillery.com



HOPPY TIMES

Terminal Sudsations

Where to get your craft beer fix in Grand Central Terminal

You missed your train. You arrived way too early. You’re waiting for your crew. There are a variety of scenarios where you have time to kill in Grand Central Terminal. You could stand in the middle of the annoying foot traffic on the main concourse, or you could find a spot to enjoy liquid craft-beer refreshment.

Grand Central is home to a decent number of restaurants that sell beer, so if you’re blessed with a chunk of free time, you could visit the Grand Central Oyster Bar on the lower level or even Michael Jordan’s in the mezzanine — but neither sport an extensive craft-beer list. A year ago, I would’ve included the Campbell Apartment, but it closed last summer after a management change (insert multiple sad-face emojis). I suppose a Shackmeister Ale — brewed by Brooklyn Brewery — at Shake Shack is a possibility. But none of these are really the answer for craft-beer connoisseurs seeking variety. Heck, even the commissaries and beer carts weren’t selling beer during research for this column, as they have been shut down since mid-December 2016, due to an MTA probe into missing money from booze sales.

If you’ve got time to sit down and savor a good brew, a visit to the Great Northern Food Hall is your best bet. “The Bar” is a cozy, casual area, perfect for a post-work pint indulgence. The beer selection is solid — albeit tap-less, due to historical architectural constraints — and it showcases an ever-changing, varied list of around 15 choices. According to Beverage Manager Jonas Andersen, you should be on the lookout for weekday beer events featuring New York breweries that’ll take place around the time you clock out for the day.

If you’re in a hurry, there’s a tiny store directly across from Track 13 called Beer Table. What it lacks in size (seriously, it’s got just enough standing room for 2 or 3 people) it makes up for with quality products, focusing on small breweries and beers local to NYC. Beer Table also has six draft lines for fresh pints and growlers to-go, and their online tap list is always up-to-date. You’ll pay city prices, but you’ll find some gems here in bottles, can, and bombers. Don’t overlook it. —Andrew Dominick



At the Copacabana: Port Chester's Hot Dining Spot

If only your appetite had no limit. Then you could go on eating at Copacabana Brazilian Steakhouse as long as you wanted. Because the procession of meats on large skewers never stops—14 varieties, including flank steak, pork, and chicken sausages and the perfectly seasoned top sirloin steak. As long as you're ready for more, it all keeps coming. The restaurant calls it a "meat parade."

That's the main attraction at the Brazilian churrascaria—a downtown Port Chester favorite for the past decade.

"We pride ourselves on our service, on the quality of our meats—and on being the best churrascaria in Westchester County," says owner Luiso.

The meal starts with appetizers from the salad bar, including peel-and-eat shrimp and tomatoes with mozzarella cheese. The meat course comes with side dishes—rice, beans, fried bananas, salsa, and yucca flour. If you prefer a single entrée, there's classic Brazilian fare, including moqueca (a fish stew), and for a modern twist, salmon with passion fruit sauce.

For the perfect drink to complement the meal, try a tangy caipirinha, the national drink of Brazil. Copacabana's version was voted Best of Westchester in 2015.

With all that, it may be surprising that people have room for dessert, but they often do, Luiso says. It could be that the various versions of cheesecake, flan, and mousse, all made in-house, are just that irresistible.

Diners enjoy the meals in a lively room with gold-yellow walls. A patio section fills with fun-loving soccer fans for televised games. Luiso plans a tiki bar out back to open next spring. But the restaurant's newest venue is its wine bar, centered around a granite slab on wine barrels.

"This is going to be a big hit," Luiso predicts. When complete, the wine bar will add one more feature that makes Copacabana guests feel like they are, in fact, in Brazil!



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FROM OUR
TEST
KITCHEN

10 INGREDIENTS OR LESS

Slow-Roasted Pork Shoulder

While we love a good glazed ham on the Easter buffet, this fall-apart-tender pork shoulder has a lot more flavor without a lot of extra work. Once you've got the technique down, you can vary the rub to make everything from an herb-laden fall roast to indoor pulled pork, perfect for a rainy-day barbecue. *Serves 8 to 10*

Ingredients:

1 6-lb boneless pork shoulder (Boston butt), skin removed but fat cap intact

1½ tsp whole coriander seeds

¼ cup kosher salt

¼ cup packed brown sugar

3 cloves garlic, grated or very finely minced

Preparation:

1. With a sharp knife, score a ¾"-wide crosshatch pattern into the fat cap of the pork (you want to cut through the fat to expose the meat but not through the meat itself).

2. Coarsely grind the coriander seeds in a mortar and pestle (you can also spread them on a baking sheet and use a heavy-bottomed pot). Combine with garlic, salt, and sugar. Massage the mixture all over the pork. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight, at least 12 hours.

3. Preheat oven to 325°F. Pat pork dry with paper towels and brush off any big clumps of the rub. Place pork (fat cap up) in a V-rack set inside a large baking pan. Add 3 cups water to the bottom pan and roast 3 hours. (If the top is getting too dark, loosely tent with foil).

4. After 3 hours, baste the pork with pan juices and continue cooking, basting every hour, until the meat is fork-tender, approximately 3 more hours (6 hours total). Allow pork to rest at least 20 minutes before serving.

—Samantha Garbarini



PRO TIP

Spring Salad

A rich roast, like pork shoulder, calls for something bright and acidic. Try this: Mix 1 head torn Boston lettuce, 4 sliced or julienned radishes, ¼ cup parsley leaves, and 2 Tbsp chopped chives in a large bowl. Combine 1 tsp Dijon mustard, 2 Tbsp Champagne vinegar, 3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil, and ¾ tsp kosher salt. Toss salad with dressing (you may not need all the dressing) and top with 4 oz goat cheese that's been crumbled with a fork.

TABLE MATTERS

Dining Scene News and Notes

The food courts at malls in the county are full of lowly options. That paradigm will shift substantially when **Savor Westchester** (www.simon.com/the-westchester-savor) debuts this month at The Westchester in White Plains. Manhattan-based burger specialist Whitmans New York (www.whitmansnyc.com); fast-casual, 12-location Mighty Quinn's Barbeque (www.mightyquinnssbbq.com); smoothie maven Juice Generation (www.juiceneration.com); CT-based Tomato & Co Neapolitan Pizzeria (www.tomatoandcompany.com); and Australian artisan coffeemaker Bluestone Lane (www.bluestonelaneny.com) are the five restaurants opening in April. A sixth, Hai Street Kitchen (www.haistreetkitchen.com), a Japanese-casual mini-chain specializing in sushi burritos and poke bowls, follows this summer. The 350-seat food venue includes a dining terrace.

New American restaurant **Vela Kitchen** (14 Washington Ave, Pleasantville; 914.769.2980) is now open, located in the space that previously held McArthur's American Grill. Expect dishes such as pan-seared scallops with cauliflower purée and Australian rack of lamb with spaetzle. Co-owner Michael Madden also runs Vintage 1891 in Larchmont.

The Seafood Grill (465 Main St, Armonk; 914.730.1122; www.theseafoodgrillarmonk.com) opened in February in the space that formerly housed Opus 465 and serves mostly seafood dishes, some with a Japanese influence. Executive Chef Tom McAliney heads up the kitchen.

Expect comfort foods such as chicken pot pie, meatloaf, fish and chips, juicy burgers, and tuna melts at the new **Saw Mill Tavern** (925 Saw Mill River Rd, Ardsley; 914.479.5370; www.smtavern.com). For dessert try the winning Oreo cheesecake. The tavern is in the space that formerly held Pumpnickel.

Japanese/Korean hybrid **GoSu Asian Fusion Restaurant** (50 S Buckhout St, Irvington; 914.479.5898; www.eatgosu.com) opened in late January. Entrées include Korean-style marinated proteins (short rib, pork, rib-eye) served on individual sizzling stone plates as well as myriad ramen.

Rela Café (25 S Regent St, Port Chester; 914.939.7200; www.relacafe.com), open since January in the space where Arrosto was, offers a menu with traditional American favorites, plus pizza from a wood-burning oven and a selection of pastas.

A wood-burning pizza oven, an antipasti bar, and house-made cheese are a few of the highlights at **Centrale Italian Kitchen & Bar** (90 Triangle Ctr, Yorktown; 914.352.6107; www.centrale.us), which opened in December in the space that previously housed Piatto Grill. Short-rib pappardelle, roasted red snapper, and spicy Calabrese mixed seafood soup are dishes to sample.

Opened as of Fall 2016 in the space where Tenampa Restaurant was is **Yuka's Latin Fusion** (2011 Albany Post Rd, Croton-on-Hudson; 914.862.4449; www.yukaslatinfusion.com). Aside from tacos, fajitas, and quesadillas, plated mains include grilled shrimp in a sweet tequila orange sauce and fire-grilled skirt steak. A robust selection of mojitos, Margaritas, and original cocktails are also offered. —JBT



From top: A rendering of Savor Westchester, the revamped food court debuting this month at The Westchester; spare ribs and mac 'n' cheese from Mighty Quinn's, one of the new food options at Savor Westchester; Saw Mill Tavern's signature Oreo cheesecake is hard to resist



Edible Education

We put four niche culinary classes to the test. BY SAMANTHA GARBARINI

I like to think of myself as a curious cook. Working at *Westchester Magazine*, I get lots of opportunities to satiate my curiosity (and my appetite) behind the scenes at some of the area's finest food shops. Fortunately, you don't have to be an editor to get an inside look. Below, four local spots delve deep into their areas of expertise to offer culinary classes for curious foodies countywide.

Bernard Janssen gives a student notes on her chopping technique during knife-skills class at ZWILLING Cooking Studio in Pleasantville.

Blind Wine Tasting

"Congratulations on picking our most difficult class," say Derek and Carol Todd, who are hosting a tasting at **Wine Geeks**, their gas-station-turned-boutique-wine-store with a focus on small-production, organic and biodynamic wines. During the class, we taste eight wines, examining the appearance, aromas, and palate of each before making our best, newly educated guess at the grape.

The first glass tastes of bright citrus and peach. We're encouraged to yell out what we're smelling and tasting, while Derek and Carol give their own leading opinions. There's a lot of back and forth over whether this glass could be Pinot Grigio or Muscadet (a handy sheet lists flavor profiles for each grape). Turns out it's a Spanish Albariño — just a hint of salinity gives it away.

Halfway through the reds, I think I smell... *mushrooms*? Derek doesn't indicate if I'm right or just crazy. Turns out

I'm sane: It's a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, and earthiness, like mushrooms, is a telltale sign.

The affordable (\$35) class, next offered on May 13, attracts wine nerds with different levels of expertise, so there's no *Sideways*-esque pretense. I'm no closer to becoming a master sommelier after one class, but I do have an improved understanding of what I like (minerality in whites, bold spices in reds), which will make shopping for bottles of wine much easier.

Basic Knife Skills

No wine on Saturday morning at **ZWILLING Cooking Studio** in Pleasantville, where instructor Bernard Janssen is teaching the kitchen's most fundamental technique: basic knife skills.

Janssen starts by taking us through a roster of knives and what each is for (paring knives are not for chopping!). Then it's on to practicing different chopping motions as Janssen moves through the class, adjusting grips and giving notes.

I'm already fairly good with a knife, but I quickly notice I'm correcting some of my bad habits. Rest the blade directly against your knuckles and it's *much* easier to slice nearly translucent, super-thin slices. A sharp, flexible knife turns sectioning an orange into a task I wouldn't dread doing at home. Leaning forward, to look past the blade as we cut planks of potato, corrects my lopsided slices.

The \$50 lesson, next offered on April 8, ends with a quick and much-needed lecture on maintaining and sharpening your knives (Spoiler: That steel you use to “sharpen” knives doesn’t actually sharpen them) — and a sizeable discount on ZWILLING’s wares.

Chocolate Making

I’m a kid in a candy store — literally — at **Blue Tulip’s** \$45 chocolate-making class (next offered on April 1). After a brief history of chocolate, we delve into the best part: tasting eight types with increasing levels of cacao. Owner Diane Holland describes how chocolate, like wine, is affected by terroir and technique. Swiss chocolate is ethereally smooth and milky, while a dark chocolate from Venezuela boasts a rich intensity, much like the country’s coffee.


From there, we learn to decorate bars and molds. We used those familiar kindergarten paint brushes to artistically splatter colored chocolate into heart-shaped molds that are filled with Blue Tulip’s blend of French and Belgian dark chocolate. She teaches us how to pipe neat swirls of ganache (it’s all in the way you grip the pastry bag) and how to robe cookies in warm milk chocolate.

It’s an education in the importance of quality ingredients and proper technique. Blue Tulip’s upscale version of Nestlé Crunch snaps crisply into pieces because it’s been properly tempered, and a batch of caramel is flecked with vanilla, not extract. We each go home with a bag of our creations. They’re preservative-free, so the filled ones won’t last forever. Somehow, it’s not a problem.

Craft Butchery

There’s half a hog splayed across the table at **Fleishers Craft Butchery** in Greenwich. Any clichés about butchering (the white, blood-stained coat, the thwack of a cleaver) are quickly set aside. Our evening’s butcher wears chain mail under a simple, dark apron, and most of his work is done with a short, boning knife that has the dexterity to slip between bones and around joints.

You won’t suddenly be a butcher after this \$125 session, but this Pork 101 class, next offered on April 23, is still a lesson in porcine awareness. The heritage breed we’re working with is immaculately healthy, and it’s maybe the first time I’ve seen what cuts *should* look like on a hog that hasn’t been bred to a gargantuan size for industrialized consumption. Fleishers’ butchers emphasize ways to use non-commercialized cuts (pork hanger steak, anyone?), many of which are less expensive and more flavorful than that Tuesday-night tenderloin most of us cook at home.

Before leaving, it’s time to taste seared slices of some of those cuts, and they’re amazingly rich and porky. We’re sent home with hunks of pork, and a new enthusiasm for ethically raised, butcher-bought pork. 

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dining out

BY SAMANTHA GARBARINI

Ardsley

BOW LA CATENA Italian \$\$\$

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

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

Food ★★½ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★ (08/14)

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. Desserts, including a seasonal selection of semifreddo, are a must. 698 Saw Mill River Rd, Ardsley; 914.693.5400; www.linizio.com

Armonk

AMORE PIZZERIA & ITALIAN KITCHEN Italian \$\$

This Italian-tavern-style eatery offers artfully prepared Italian fare — brick-oven-style pizza and traditional pasta dishes — in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere. 1 Kent Pl, Armonk; 914.273.3535; www.amorearmonk.com

BOW 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 Sunday brunch. Outdoor seating available. Open daily for breakfast. 30 Old Rte 22, Armonk; 914.765.0688; www.beehive-restaurant.com

BOW FORTINA Italian/Pizza \$\$\$

Chef Christian Petroni, John Nealon, and Rob Krauss are the guys behind this group of buzzy wood-fired restaurants (with an additional location in Stamford). 17 Maple Ave, Armonk; 914.273.0900; 136 S Ridge St, Rye Brook; 914.937.0900; www.fortinapizza.com ★★★ (10/13)

KOKU Japanese \$\$\$

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

BOW MODERNE BARN New American \$\$\$

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

BOW RESTAURANT NORTH New American \$\$\$

The seasonal menu changes daily at this elegant farm-to-table eatery. Stephen Mancini, previously wine director at Union Square Cafe, is co-owner. Brunch Sat and Sun. 386 Main St, Armonk; 914.273.8686; www.restaurantnorth.com

Bedford

BOW CAMPAGNA Italian \$\$\$\$

Food ★★½ Service ★★ Atmosphere ★★ (02/15)
Under the guidance of acclaimed Manhattan Chef Michael White, the kitchen at the Bedford Post Inn's

flagship dining option serves exceptional crudo, handmade pasta (never dried), and artistically crafted desserts. A warm-weather patio features an outdoor grill. 945 Old Post Rd, Bedford; 914.234.6386; www.campagna-bedford.com

BOW LA CRÉMAILLÈRE French \$\$\$\$

Dinner at this Bedford stalwart features elegant French fare and spectacular soufflés. Visit at lunch (Thurs to Sun) to take advantage of the \$32 prix-fixe menu. Closed Mon. 46 Bedford-Banksville Rd, Bedford; 914.234.9647; www.cremaillere.com

PHO CORNER BISTRO Vietnamese \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★ (01/17)

This 12-seat, family-run restaurant proffers traditional Vietnamese dishes, such as rice-paper rolls, noodle bowls, and its eponymous soup. 740 N Bedford Rd, Bedford Hills; 914.242.1668; www.phocornerbistro.com

TRUCK Mexican \$\$

Among Bedford's myriad fine-dining options, TRUCK serves casual Mexican fare and tacos with an emphasis on organic, locally sourced ingredients. Closed Mon. 391 Old Post Rd, Bedford; 914.234.8900; www.truckrestaurant.com ★★ (06/13)

Briarcliff Manor

105-TEN BAR & GRILL New American \$\$\$

Tucked away in a shopping center in Briarcliff, Chef Eddie Martinez cooks up hearty New American dishes, plus a selection of burgers and indulgent small plates. 127 Woodside Ave, Briarcliff Manor; 914.236.3651; www.105ten.com

Bronxville

BOW KRAFT BISTRO Mediterranean

Though the menu slants Mediterranean, it's worth trying one of the Afghan dishes scattered across the menu at this warmly lit, romantic Bronxville bistro. Closed Sun. 104 Kraft Ave, Bronxville; 914.337.4545; www.kraftbistro.com

Chappaqua

CHAPPAQUA STATION American \$\$

Housed in a 1902 New York Central Railroad depot, this restaurant specializing in homemade breakfast items also serves affordable sandwiches and salads, charcuterie, comforting desserts, and craft

3 THINGS TO EAT IN...

Pound Ridge

Gourmet Grilled Cheese

Where can you find some of the county's best grilled cheese? In a cheese shop, of course. **Plum Plums** (72 Westchester Ave; 914.764.1525; www.plumplumscheese.com) makes six versions including reserve Manchego and Iberico de bellota chorizo, Gouda and caramelized-onion chutney, and Piave with Mast Brothers chocolate. Need we say more?



Plum Plums

Scones

To earn the moniker "The Scone Lady," you've got to be good. Liz Larkin deserves that title for her scones in flavors like classic blueberry and the cinnamon-laden "cinnful," available at the local Sunoco (66 Westchester Ave), The Kitchen Table (see below), or via delivery from **Mrs. Larkin's Scones** (www.mrs.larkins.com).

All-Day Breakfast

Outside of the local greasy spoon, it's hard to find breakfast fare after noon. At **The Kitchen Table** (71 Westchester Ave; 914.764.3773; www.thekitchentablepr.com), you can dine on elevated breakfast classics like croissant French toast, bacon and farm eggs, and organic Hudson Valley yogurt parfaits well into the afternoon.

—Samantha Garbarini



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 — M.H. Reed, *The New York Times*

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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

cocktails. Closed Sun. 1 Station Plz, Chappaqua; 914.861.8001; www.chappaquastation.com

BOW! CRABTREE'S KITTLE HOUSE

New American \$\$\$

Executive Chef Jay Lippin uses locally sourced ingredients both in the formal dining room and on the elevated bar-food menu at the Old World Tap Room. The Grand Award-winning wine cellar houses 60,000 bottles. Call ahead to reserve Sun brunch. 11 Kittle Rd (off Rte 117), Chappaqua; 914.666.8044; www.kittlehouse.com

MARIO'S RESTAURANT Italian \$\$\$

Open for more than 50 years, look for Italian fare with some modern interpretations. A selection of wood-fired pizzas features traditional and creative combos, such as smoked Gouda, caramelized onion, and honey. 13 King St, Chappaqua; 914.238.3858; www.mariosofchappaqua.com

Cortlandt Manor

MONTEVERDE AT OLDSTONE

New American \$\$\$

A popular wedding venue, this 1760 mansion overlooking the Hudson is also a restaurant serving inventive New American cuisine. Outdoor seating in warmer months. Closed Mon and Tues. 28 Bear Mountain Bridge Rd, Cortlandt Manor; 914.737.6500; www.monteverdeatoldstone.com

Croton-on-Hudson

OCEAN HOUSE Seafood \$\$\$

Previously a small diner, self-taught-chef Brian Galvin transformed the space into a tiny (30 seat) dinner-only oyster bar and grill with an emphasis on New England-style seafood dishes. Call the day of starting at 4:30 for a table. Terrace seating in warmer temps. Closed Sun and Mon. 49 N Riverside Ave, Croton-on-Hudson; 914.271.0702; www.oceanhouseoysterbar.com

Dobbs Ferry

BOW! 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 unique specials. Small-plates brunch Sat and Sun; closed Mon. 39 Chestnut St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.305.2336; www.thecookeryrestaurant.com

BOW! THE PARLOR Pizza \$\$

Food ★★½ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★★ (03/14)

The brick-and-mortar incarnation of the popular DoughNation pizza truck, look for a selection of unique pizzas featuring housemade ingredients, plus wood-fired appetizers, wine on tap, and "bottled" cocktails. Closed Mon. 14 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.478.8200; www.theparlordf.com

BOW! SUSHI MIKE'S JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Japanese \$\$\$

Hugely popular for its special sushi rolls (the "Out of Control" is a favorite), this neighborhood Japanese restaurant is often packed. A jazz vocalist entertains every Monday evening. 146 Main St, Dobbs Ferry; 914.591.0054; www.sushimikes.com ★★½ (10/13)

Eastchester

BOW! BURRATA Pizza \$\$

Some of the county's best Neapolitan pies come from this Eastchester pizzeria that's also home to excellent pasta and well-crafted cocktails. 425 White Plains Rd, Eastchester; 914.337.3700; www.burratapizza.com ★★★ (09/12)

BOW! PIPER'S KILT Pub \$\$

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

YEFSI ESTIATORIO Greek \$\$\$

Food ★★½ Service★★★★ Atmosphere ★★ (12/16)

This upscale, 160-seat Greek restaurant (with a second location in Manhattan) serves refined takes on "homestyle Greek cuisine" in a stylish atmosphere. Many ingredients – olive oil, cheeses, herbs – are sourced from Crete, and expect an extensive selection of Greek wines and beers. 219 Main St, Eastchester; 914.779.8988; www.yefsiny.com



MP Taverna

Harrison

273 KITCHEN Mediterranean \$\$

Food ★★½ Service★★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (10/15)

Chef Constantine Kalandranis' (8 North Broadway in Nyack) first Westchester restaurant is this 30-seat, seafood-heavy, small-plates Mediterranean bistro with an often-changing menu. Serves Sunday brunch. 273 Halstead Ave, Harrison; 914.732.3333; www.273kitchen.com

BOW! PORTA NAPOLI Italian/Pizza \$\$

This Southern Italian eatery features Neapolitan-style pizza from the owners of Kesté Pizza & Vino in Manhattan's West Village. More than 20 thin-crust pies from its Stefano Ferrara wood-burning oven are offered including a number of gluten-free selections. 261 Halstead Ave, Harrison; 914.732.3232; www.portanapoliny.com

Hartsdale

BOW! FANTASY CUISINE Chinese \$

Food ★★★ Service ★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (01/15)

Dumplings are the claim to (well-deserved) fame at this Hartsdale spot with a clean, modern design. Also on the menu: traditional Szechuan plates, springy noodle dishes, and a smattering of Chinese takeout classics. 20 N Central Ave, Hartsdale; 914.358.9046; www.fantasycuisine.com

KISHUYA Ramen \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★½ (12/15)

This traditional ramen shop tucked into a shopping center on Central Avenue serves well-executed noodle bowls, including a fiery Tantanmen ramen with ground pork. A unique selection of Japanese beers is available. 163 S Central Ave, Hartsdale; 914.949.0600; www.kishuya.com

Hastings-on-Hudson

BORO6 Wine Bar \$

Inspired by trips to Italy, restaurant vets Paul Molakides and Jennifer Aaronson (formerly an editor for Martha Stewart) opened this Hastings enoteca with more than 30 wines by the glass and light, simple plates. Closed Mon. 549 Warburton Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson; 914.231.9200; www.boro6winebar.com

BREAD & BRINE Seafood \$\$

Chef Alex Sze (Juniper) and Jeremy McLellan (The Mill) run this New England-style seafood restaurant and oyster bar serving bivalves, small plates, and a handful of mains and desserts. Closed Tues. 19 Main St, Hastings-on-Hudson; 914.479.5243; www.breadandbrinehoh.com

BOW! SAINT GEORGE French \$\$\$

In the space that was formerly Buffet de la Gare comes this contemporary French bistro from Chef Chris Vergara (Harper's in Dobbs Ferry, Meritage in Scarsdale). Don't miss the all-French wine list and absinthe fountain. Brunch Sat and Sun; closed Monday. 155 Southside Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson; 914.478.1671; www.saintgeorgebistro.com

Hawthorne

THREE LITTLE PIGS BBQ Barbecue \$\$

Mark 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 Westchester Wild BBQ. Closed Sun. 481 Commerce St, Hawthorne; 914.747.2480; www.threelittlepigsbbqofhawthorne.com

Irvington

BOW! CHUTNEY MASALA Indian \$\$\$

The popular Indian bistro from Chef Navjot Arora may have moved into a new location, but expect the menu to still feature tried-and-true options like a myriad of curries. An Indian-inspired Sunday brunch (\$14.95) is also available. 76 Main St, Irvington; 914.591.5500; www.chutneymasala.com

BOW! 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. Live jazz brunch Sat and Sun. 1 Bridge St, Irvington; 914.231.7854; www.michaelpsilakis.com ★★½ (12/12)

BOW! RED HAT ON THE RIVER

French Bistro \$\$\$

There are stunning Hudson River views — and simple French fare — to be enjoyed at this stylish bistro. Live jazz on Wed nights. Serves Sun brunch. 1 Bridge St, Irvington; 914.591.5888; www.redhatbistro.com

SAMBAL Thai/Malay \$\$

In the space that was Chutney Masala, chef/owner Navjot Arora opened a Southeast Asian restaurant with a handful of Malaysian plates and unobstructed Hudson River views. 4 W Main St, Irvington; 914.478.2700; www.sambalny.com

Katonah

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 eggplant parmigiana. Outdoor dining is available in warmer temps. 116 Katonah Ave, Katonah; 914.232.3212; www.peppinosristorante.com

Larchmont

CORIANDER MODERN INDIAN *Indian* \$\$\$

These stylish restaurants feature locally sourced ingredients and bold Indian flavors, plus craft beer and organic wines. In White Plains, the 15-seat bar showcases an assortment of Indian-style tapas. Closed Mon. 154 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont; 914.235.1306; 74 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.358.4500; www.corianderny.com

BOW DURIAN *Thai* \$\$\$

Named for the pungent Asian fruit, Durian serves authentic Thai cuisine (less sticky sugar, more bright acidity) featuring lesser-known ingredients, such as sweet sticky rice with its namesake fruit. Closed Mon. 147 Chatsworth Ave, Larchmont; 914.833.1900; www.durianthaifood.com
★★★ (07/13)

LENNY'S SEAFOOD AND STEAKHOUSE

Steakhouse \$\$\$\$

Food ★★★½ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★ (04/16)
At Lenny's, all steaks — from the 46-oz porterhouse for four to the 6-oz petit filet — are dry-aged for 21 days. Reservations recommended.
2047 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont; 914.630.7800; www.lennyssteakhouse.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

MODERN ON THE RAILS *Italian* \$\$\$

The owners of Modern in New Rochelle put their own spin on Italian stalwarts (Kobe beef meatballs, chipotle calamari) at this 140-seat restaurant in the space that was formerly Club Car. Serves Sunday brunch. One Station Plz, Mamaroneck; 914.777.9300; www.modernontherails.com

Mohegan Lake

BOW AUGIE'S PRIME CUT *Steakhouse* \$\$\$\$

This 135-seat steakhouse and bar serves dry-aged steaks, seafood entrées, and creatively flavored martinis. Live music on Thurs. Serves Sunday brunch. 3436 Lexington Ave, Mohegan Lake; 914.743.1357; www.augiesprimecut.com

Mount Kisco

251 LEX *Mediterranean* \$\$\$

Constantine Kalandranis (Harrison's 273 Kitchen and 8 North Broadway in Nyack) owns this 135-seat restaurant in an 100-year-old Victorian with an ever-changing menu. Three-course prix-fixe menu for \$45 and a selection of small-production wines and craft beers. 251 Lexington Ave, Mount Kisco; 914.218.8156; www.251lex.com

BOW CAFÉ OF LOVE *New American* \$\$\$

Leslie Lampert, owner of gourmet shop Ladle of Love, owns this 55-seat restaurant showcasing local ingredients. Don't miss the truffled chickpeas. Closed Mon. 38 E Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.242.1002; www.cafeofloveny.com

BOW EXIT 4 FOOD HALL *Eclectic* \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★★½ Atmosphere ★★★ (10/16)
The food-hall trend comes to Mount Kisco with nine stations, serving everything from wood-fired pizzas to barbecue to sushi (plus craft beers and nitro coffee at X4 on Tap). Rustic communal tables made of salvaged and reclaimed



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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

wood constitute the majority of the seating. 153 Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.241.1200; www.exit4foodhall.com

LA CAMELIA Spanish \$\$\$

Open since 1984, chef/owner Antonio Alvarez proffers truly authentic dishes from his native Spain at this romantic restaurant housed in a 200-year-old Colonial-style home. Closed Mon. 234 N Bedford Rd, Mount Kisco; 914.666.2466; www.lacameliarestaurant.net

LEXINGTON SQUARE CAFE New American \$\$\$

Casual New American eatery with an emphasis on seafood dishes, such as braised fish-of-the-day in a green Thai curry. A 60-seat private-party room is popular for showers and christenings. Elaborate birthday cakes are available. 510 Lexington Ave, Mount Kisco; 914.244.3663; www.lexingtonsquarecafe.com

BOW LITTLE DRUNKEN CHEF

Global Tapas \$\$\$

This fifth and largest venture from chef-owner Bonnie Saran serves globally inspired tapas in an eclectic, 84-seat space in Mount Kisco. Expect a popular nightlife scene at the bar, which is open late Thurs to Sat. 36 E Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.242.8800

BOW VILLAGE SOCIAL New American \$\$\$

Chef Mogan Anthony serves creative appetizers, wood-fired pizzas, and well-executed pastas and mains at this buzzed-about eatery. The popular bar scene includes craft cocktails and street-front dining on the patio in warmer weather. Serves Sunday brunch. 251 E Main St, Mount Kisco; 914.864.1255; www.villagesocialkb.com

Mount Vernon

BOW JOHNNY'S PIZZERIA Pizza \$\$

Open since the '40s, Johnny's old-school, thin-crust pies are some of the best pizza north of NYC. No slices; cash only. Closed Sun and Mon. 30 W Lincoln Ave, Mount Vernon; 914.668.1957; www.johnnys1942.com

LINCOLN LOUNGE Italian \$\$

Food ★★½ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★ (03/17)
The Solano family has moved on, but the new Lincoln Lounge still embraces red sauce in all its glory with classic pastas and brick-oven and pan pizza. 209 Stevens Ave, Mount Vernon; 914.664.9747; www.lincolnlounge.com

BOW RIPE Caribbean \$\$

Chef Nigel Spence curates a menu of authentic Caribbean flavors — curried goat, plantains, and the "Big-Ass" jerk rib-eye — in this funky space with live music and an outdoor courtyard perfect for sipping potent rum cocktails. Late-night dining; Closed Mon. 151 W Sandford Blvd, Mount Vernon; 914.665.7689; www.ripestaurant.com

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New Rochelle

BOW ALVIN & FRIENDS Southern/Caribbean \$\$\$

This contemporary spot in downtown New Rochelle serves Southern dishes with a Caribbean flair, including a Best of Westchester-winning fried chicken. Live entertainment several nights a week. Brunch Sun; closed Mon. 14 Memorial Hwy, New Rochelle; 914.654.6549; www.alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com ★★½ (01/12)

BOW MODERN RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Italian \$\$\$

Old-school Italian fare in a contemporary setting. Dishes to order are the chicken parmigiana, pork-chop contadina, and whole-wheat spaghetti puttanesca. A selection of brick-oven pizzas are also offered. 310 Huguenot St, New Rochelle; 914.633.9479; www.modernrestaurant.com

BOW **NOMA SOCIAL** *Tapas* \$\$\$

Chef Bill Rosenberg, formerly of F.I.S.H. and Barcelona, serves a menu of mostly small plates at this 125-seat spot in the lobby of the Radisson Hotel. Late-night dining until 2 am Fri and Sat. 1 Radisson Pl, New Rochelle; 914.576.4141; www.nomasocial.com

BOW **ROC-N-RAMEN** *Ramen* \$\$

Food ★★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★½ (12/15)
This small ramen shop across from New Roc City features classic appetizers and ramen bowls, plus unique fusion flavors (Don't miss a special oxtail-curry ramen when offered). 19 Anderson St, New Rochelle; 914.365.1166; www.rocnramen914.com

North Salem

BOW **ONE TWENTY ONE** *New American* \$\$\$

Having undergone a full redesign in 2014, Chef Beck Bolender 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 Rd, North Salem; 914.669.0121; www.121restaurant.com

BOW **PURDY'S FARMER & THE FISH**

Seafood \$\$\$
Housed in a historic 18th-century farmhouse and surrounded by three acres of terraced farmland that supply the restaurant, Farmer & the Fish serves a seafood-and-produce-heavy menu. Serves Sunday brunch. 100 Titicus Rd, North Salem; 914.617.8380; www.farmerandthefish.com

Ossining

BASTA *Pasta/Pizza* \$\$

If you seek out this hidden gem, you're likely to be rewarded with classic Italian appetizers, pastas, pizzas, and mains, expertly executed with an eye toward simplicity and fresh ingredients. The restaurant does not have a liquor license. Closed Mon. 27 Campwoods Rd, Ossining; 914.236.3400; www.basta27.com

Peekskill

BUNS-N-BOURBON *American* \$

Billed as "a celebration of bun food and brown spirits," this bar and eatery, from the owners of Taco Dive Bar and the Hudson Room, features more than 90 American whiskeys. Closed Sun to Tues. 55 Hudson Ave, Peekskill; 914.788.2867; www.bunsnbourbon.com

BOW **GLEASON'S** *Eclectic* \$\$

Chef Krista Espinal of Birdsall House runs the kitchen at this 60-seat restaurant named for the comic and former Peekskill resident, specializing in artisan flatbread pizzas and specialty cocktails. 911 South St; Peekskill, 914.402.1950; www.gleasonspeekskill.com ★★★ (04/13)

BOW **IRON VINE** *Tapas* \$\$\$

Food ★★ Service ★★½ Atmosphere ★★★½ (08/15)

Owner Gabriel Arango restored this 1863 building using only materials found in Peekskill and the Hudson Valley. The result is a warm, 52-seat restaurant and wine bar serving tapas, a small selection of entrées, and exceptional craft cocktails. Serves Sunday brunch. 992 Main St, Peekskill; 914.930.8506; www.ironvinepeekskill.com

BOW **RAMENESQUE** *Japanese* \$\$

This Japanese restaurant (with a second location in Thornwood) is known for its ramen bowls but also serves appetizers, udon, a vast selection of sushi, and several mains. All dishes are made without MSG. Closed Sun and Mon; Peekskill closed



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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

Tues. 1008 Main St, Peekskill; 914.930.1788; 14 Marble St, Thornwood; 914.741.5100; www.ramenesque.net

Pelham

CANTINA LOBOS Mexican \$\$

A small menu of mostly appetizers and tacos encompasses traditional dishes (house-made guacamole, tequila-lime shrimp, pork asado) and international flavors, such as beef bulgogi tacos. Closed Mon. 217 Wolfs Ln, Pelham; 914.380.8644; www.cantin Lobos.com

JORDAN HALL 10803 Italian \$\$\$ Steaks \$\$\$\$

Eric Mauro is executive chef at this classic Italian steakhouse in the space that previously housed Bistro Rollin. Live piano Fri and Sat in the expanded bar area. Serves Sun brunch. 142 Fifth Ave, Pelham; 914.222.5494; www.jordanhall10803.com

Pleasantville

DAI SUSHI Japanese \$\$\$

Food ★★★★★ ½ Service★★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (11/16)

This hidden gem serves superlative sushi and Japanese dishes such as vegetarian udon bowls, buttery rib-eye with teriyaki sauce, and miso soup. Closed Mon. 8 Pleasantville Rd, Pleasantville; 914.769.0638; www.daisushirestaurant.com

WOOD & FIRE Italian \$\$ (pizza); \$\$\$ (entrées)

Food ★★★★★ Service★★★★ Atmosphere ★★½ (11/15)
Neapolitan cuisine is the name of the game at this family-run establishment with a menu spanning salads, pizzas, small plates, pastas, and mains. Half-off wine Wednesdays. 59 Marble Ave, Pleasantville; 914.747.2611; www.woodandfirepizza.com

Pocantico Hills

BLUE HILL AT STONE BARNs

New American \$\$\$\$

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

Port Chester

APPETIT BISTRO French \$\$\$

Fondue is just one of the classics on the menu at this tiny bistro – the only French restaurant in Port Chester – where Edi Rivera (previously of L'escalade in Greenwich) is executive chef. Serves Sunday brunch. 540A Willett Ave, Port Chester; 914.690.2000; www.appetitbistro.com

COALS Pizza \$\$

Hand-stretched pies made with imported Italian ingredients are grilled at this pizzeria and craft-beer restaurant. The hand-formed beef burger won Best Burger at our 2015 Burger & Beer Blast. 35 N Main St, Port Chester; 914.305.3220; 131 Parkway Rd, Bronxville; 914.337.1901; www.coalspizza.com ★★★★★ (11/12)

PANKA PERUVIAN BISTRO Peruvian \$\$\$

Among Port Chester's multitude of Latin restaurants is Panka, a family-owned Peruvian bistro serving traditional dishes, including five kinds of fresh ceviche bathed in lime juice. 167 Westchester Ave, Port Chester; 914.481.5424; www.pankabistro.com

SONORA Nuevo Latino \$\$\$

Fans flock to Chef Rafael Palomino's only Westchester spot for his pan-Latino cuisine. The bar area serves tacos and a vast selection of craft tequila. Outdoor patio in the summer. Serves Sunday brunch. 179 Rectory St, Port Chester; 914.933.0200; www.sonorarestaurant.net

Pound Ridge

BOW **THE INN AT POUND RIDGE** *New American* \$\$\$\$

Food ★★★★★ Service ★★★★★ Atmosphere ★★★★★ (06/14)

Expect seasonal ingredients (and the occasional Asian flare) from the kitchen at this 250-seat, special-occasion restaurant from Jean-Georges Vongerichten, featuring two dining spaces, an in-kitchen chef's table, and wine cellar available for private dining. Serves Sunday brunch. 258 Westchester Ave, Pound Ridge; 914.764.1400; www.theinnatpoundridge.com

Purchase

BOW **TREDICI NORTH** *Italian* \$\$\$

Food ★★★★★ Service ★★★★★ Atmosphere ★★ (07/16)

Chef Giuseppe Fanelli runs the kitchen at this stylish 68-seat Italian eatery. Expect indulgent dishes like mozzarella-stuffed meatballs and smoked short ribs with balsamic onions and stoneground polenta. Closed Mon. 578 Anderson Hill Rd, Purchase; 914.997.4113; www.tredicnorth.com

Purdys

BOW **BLAZER PUB** *American* \$

Totally untouched by modern restaurant trends, this no-pretense pub is rightly famous for its classic, ground-beef chili, juicy burgers served with thick-cut fries, and old-school, perfect-for-beer-drinking vibe. Cash only. 440 Rte 22, Purdys; 914.277.4424; www.theblazerpub.com

Rye

BOW **FRANKIE & JOHNNIE'S** *Steakhouse* \$\$\$\$

Upscale steakhouse with a posh bar and lounge area. Specialties include porterhouse steak for two, Chilean sea bass, and lobster ravioli. 77 Purchase St, Rye; 914.925.3900; www.frankieandjohnnies.com

BOW **MORGANS FISH HOUSE** *Seafood* \$\$\$

This casual seafood restaurant proffers Portuguese fisherman's stew, sautéed Gulf shrimp, and filet mignon with lobster mashed potatoes. Serves Sunday brunch. 22 Elm Pl, Rye; 914.921.8190; www.morgansfishhouse.net

ROSEMARY AND VINE *Mediterranean* \$\$

Food ★★ ½ Service ★★ ½ Atmosphere ★★ ½ (11/16)

This casual-chic vegetarian spot serves Mediterranean dishes with Middle Eastern touches, including smokey baba ganoush, avocado crostini, and roasted beets with pomegranate molasses and labneh. Closed Sun. 29 Purchase St, Rye; 914.481.8660; www.rosemaryandvine.com

BOW **RUBY'S OYSTER BAR & BISTRO**

Seafood Bistro \$\$\$\$

The dark-wood dining room of this bistro with open windows on Rye's main drag, serves fresh seafood with decidedly French flair. Breakfast daily; brunch on Sun. 45 Purchase St, Rye; 914.921.4166; www.rubysosterbar.com

BOW **RYE GRILL & BAR**

Traditional American \$\$\$\$

Expect unpretentious American fare — burgers, pan-seared scallops, grilled cowboy steak — at this bi-level eatery in Rye's Metro-North parking lot. Serves Sunday brunch. 1 Station Plz, Rye; 914.967.0332; www.ryegrill.com

BOW **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. Discounted specials include half-price burger Tuesdays and a \$12.95 fried chicken on Wednesdays. Late-night dining Fri and Sat until 1 am; brunch on Sun. 12 High St, Rye; 914.925.2668; www.ryeroadhouse.com



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dining out

(Continued from previous page)

Scarsdale

BOW EASTCHESTER FISH GOURMET Seafood \$\$\$

Owner Rick Ross sources the freshest seafood daily from the Fulton Fish Market for this Westchester seafood institution and his adjoining market. \$29.95 lobster dinners on Mon; raw-bar deals on Thurs. Reservations for parties of five or more only. Lunch Thurs and Fri only. 837 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale; 914.725.3450; www.eastchesterfish.com

BOW PETRA Greek \$\$-\$\$\$

This 30-seat eatery serves traditional Greek fare (many entrees are under \$15) under wide wooden beams and wrought-iron chandeliers. Closed Mon. 66 Garth Rd, Scarsdale; 914.874.5674; www.petragreekrestaurant.com

BOW WUJI Chinese \$\$\$

This Chinese-American restaurant with three locations aims to improve the classics with high-quality ingredients (heritage pork, organic vegetables) and stylish plating. 2 Chase Rd, Scarsdale; 914.713.8811; 26 Purchase St, Rye; 914.481.4758; 68 E Putnam Ave, Greenwich; 844.985.4669; www.wujirestaurant.com

Sleepy Hollow

BRIDGE VIEW TAVERN American \$\$

This pub lives up to its name with views of the Tappan Zee Bridge and Hudson River. On the menu: a rotating selection of (sometimes hard-to-find) craft beers and perfect-with-a-pint foods, including several incarnations of wild game (elk burgers, wild boar chorizo chili). 226 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow; 914.332.0078; www.bridgeviewtavern.com

Tarrytown

EQUUS New American \$\$\$\$

Executive Chef Foster Lukas serves refined New American cuisine with white-glove service in this dining room perched above the Hudson River at the Castle Hotel & Spa. Open for breakfast. 400 Benedict Ave, Tarrytown; 914.631.3646; www.castlehotelandspa.com ★★ ½ (08/12)

BOW RIVERMARKET BAR AND KITCHEN

New American \$\$\$\$

Food ★★★★★ Service ★★★★★ Atmosphere ★★★★★ (04/14)

This New American restaurant (with Mediterranean influences) and on-premise farm market from the owners of Crabtree's Kittle House in Chappaqua sources primarily local, sustainable ingredients for its menu, cocktails, and homemade desserts. 127 W Main St, Tarrytown; 914.631.3100; www.rivermarketbarandkitchen.com

Tuckahoe

ANGELINA'S RISTORANTE Southern Italian \$\$

Enjoy authentic Italian fare from Chef Peter DiNardi at this cozy restaurant. The mostly Italian wine list includes about 700 selections. 97 Lake Ave, Tuckahoe; 914.779.7944; www.angelinasoftuckahoe.com

BOW THE TAP HOUSE Gastropub \$\$\$

Gastropub offering dishes like pan-roasted chicken in a lemon white wine sauce; truffle gnocchi; and grilled bratwurst, plus salads and small plates. Serves Sunday brunch. 16 Depot Sq, Tuckahoe; 914.337.6941; www.thetaphouseny.com

White Plains

BOW 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; brunch on Sun. 610 W

Hartsdale Ave, White Plains; 914.428.6868; www.benjaminsteakhouse.com

BOW BLOCKHEADS Mexican \$\$

The first Westchester location of the Manhattan mini-chain serves cheap-but-good San Francisco-style Mexican food (including several vegan options) and margaritas. 40 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.288.8070; www.blockheads.com

BOW CITY LIMITS DINER American \$\$

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

BOW 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. Half-priced bottles of wine on Mon. Brunch Sat and Sun. 68 Gedney Way, White Plains; 914.683.3662; www.emmasalehouse.com

KEE OYSTER HOUSE Seafood \$\$\$\$

Food ★★½ Service ★★★ Atmosphere ★★★★★ (09/16)

Lulzim Rexhepi (formerly of Le Bernardin) is executive chef at this New York-style oyster bar serving seafood and a handful of surf-and-turf options. The bar stocks 40 bourbons and single-malt Scotches. 126-128 E Post Rd, White Plains; 914.437.8535; www.keeoysterhouse.com

LILLY'S Small Plates \$\$\$

A welcome respite from Mamaroneck Avenue's bar scene (though they still offer Happy Hour deals), this White Plains oyster bar and small-plates eatery serves sophisticated cocktails and affordable bottles of wine. 169 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.997.5600; www.lillyswp.com

MEDITERRANEO Mediterranean \$\$\$

A White Plains location is the third outpost (Greenwich, Norwalk) of this high-design restaurant, serving Mediterranean fare with an emphasis on seafood. 189 Main St, White Plains; 914.448.8800; www.zhospotalitygroup.com

BOW SUSHI NANASE Sushi \$\$\$\$

Sushi master Yoshimichi Takeda (Nobu, Masa) and his pristine cuts of fish are the star at this 18-seat spot that feels like a little slice of Japan hidden away in White Plains. The omakase (from \$80 to \$200) is a must-order. Closed Wed. 522 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.285.5351

TRE ANGELINA Northern Italian \$\$\$

This cozy, white-tablecloth Italian joint proffers the flavors of Northern Italy. Closed Sun (except for private parties). 478 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains; 914.686.0617; www.treangelina.com

Yonkers

DOLPHIN RESTAURANT BAR LOUNGE

Seafood \$\$\$

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

BOW FRANK PEPE PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA Pizza \$

This Connecticut import serves award-winning New Haven-style pizza – a famous white clam pie and summer-only fresh tomato pie – plus old-fashioned sodas from New Haven's Foxen Park. 1955 Central Ave, Yonkers; 914.961.8284; www.pepespizzeria.com

BOW X20 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.

Prix-fixe brunch on Sun. Closed Mon. 71 Water Grant St, Yonkers; 914.965.1111; www.xaviars.com

BOV **ZUPPA** Italian \$\$\$

Paskual Dedi is the executive chef at this urbane Italian restaurant serving creative homemade pastas and top-notch entrées. Three private rooms are available for parties. Prix-fixe lunch (\$24) Mon to Fri. 59 Main St, Yonkers; 914.376.6500; www.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; www.enjoyhimalaya.com

Nearby

ELM STREET OYSTER HOUSE Seafood \$\$\$\$

A high-energy seafood restaurant serving such specialties as pan-fried oysters and wasabi-crusted tuna. Serves Sun brunch. Reservations lunch only. 11 W Elm St, Greenwich; 203.629.5795; www.elmstreetoysterhouse.com

MILL STREET BAR & TABLE New American \$\$\$

Food ★★★★★ Service ★★★★★ Atmosphere ★★★★★ (02/17) Geoff Lazlo (formerly of Blue Hill at Stone Barns and Gramercy Tavern) oversees the locally sourced menu (flavorful flatbreads and creative cocktails) at this New American spot on the Port Chester border. Closed Mon. 230 Mill St, Greenwich; 203.813.3323; www.millstreetct.com

MOLYVOS Greek \$\$\$\$

The Livanos Restaurant Group (City Limits, Moderne Barn) also operates this Manhattan restaurant serving authentic Greek cuisine. 871 Seventh Ave, New York; 212.582.7500; www.molyvos.com

OCEANA Seafood \$\$\$\$

Michelin-starred Chef Bill Telepan is shaking up the menu at this seafood-centric restaurant in Midtown from the Livanos Restaurant Group (Moderne Barn, City Limits). Closed Sun. 120 W 49th St, New York; 212.759.5941; www.oceanarestaurant.com 

KEY TO SYMBOLS

UPDATE We note any significant changes.
BOV Best of Westchester winner

- \$ Average entrée \$10 or less
- \$\$ Average entrée between \$11 and \$17
- \$\$\$ Average entrée between \$18 and \$24
- \$\$\$\$ Average entrée above \$25

RESTAURANTS REVIEWED STARTING JANUARY 2014

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

- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Average
- ★ Poor

RESTAURANTS REVIEWED BEFORE JANUARY 2014

- ★★★★ 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.



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Nicole Hoover
Catherine Wilson
Earlene Cox
Maggie Shanus
Amy Shanus
Joanne Kroner

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Stacey Cohen
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BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER

Hall of Fame

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

From left: Valerie Wilson of Valerie Wilson Travel, Yuval Marcus of Leason Ellis; Matt Rand of Better Homes and Gardens/Rand Realty; John DeCicco, Jr. of DeCicco & Sons; Steven Safyer, M.D. of Montefiore Health System; and Ken Furst and Jason Schiciano of Levitt Furst



MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER

As we prepare to celebrate the 15th anniversary of The Business Council of Westchester's Business Hall of Fame Awards, we are so pleased to once again honor an esteemed roster of nominees whose leadership and vision have contributed to Westchester County's vibrant and growing economy.

This year's inductees represent a diverse range of businesses and organizations, including a leading medical institution whose name is synonymous with top quality healthcare; one of the premier real estate firms in the Hudson Valley; a well-respected insurance agency founded by two law school buddies; the largest intellectual property law firm in New York outside of Manhattan; a successful woman entrepreneur whose travel agency has clients around the world and a family-owned supermarket company that is celebrating 40 years in business.

That's quite a lineup and one that truly reflects what the Business Hall of Fame has come to represent over the past 15 years — the very best of Westchester's business community.

In celebration of the 15th anniversary, more than 60 Business Hall of Fame winners from past years are expected to attend the event. It is indeed a very impressive group ranging from "mom & pop" shops to Fortune 500 companies.

Congratulations to this year's inductees!

MARSHA GORDON
*President & CEO,
Business Council
of Westchester*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As Chairman of The Business Council of Westchester, I am truly honored to salute the 2017 Business Hall of Fame inductees. This year's distinguished roster of honorees now join a prestigious group who represent the very finest of our county's business community.

The Business Hall of Fame is more than a celebration. It is a unique opportunity to recognize those whose vision and leadership have contributed to the economic growth of Westchester County and our region.

The Business Council of Westchester is committed to fostering economic development by supporting companies and organizations through our many membership programs and advocacy efforts on behalf of businesses, both large and small.

Congratulations and best wishes to our honorees!



ANTHONY JUSTIC
*Partner, Maier, Markey &
Justic LLP*

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Congratulations to this year's distinguished group of Business Hall of Fame inductees.

We thank them for everything they do to strengthen and support Westchester County.

From start-ups to global corporations, Westchester County is here to be a partner to businesses and to help them succeed. Our Office of Economic Development and the Industrial Development Agency have the tools to help businesses grow, which is why Westchester is the smart spot for business.

I would also like to congratulate the Business Council of Westchester on the 15th anniversary of the Business Hall of Fame. This is one of the most prestigious business events of the year in Westchester and recognizes the great achievements made by our business community.

I applaud The Business Council of Westchester for celebrating the accomplishments of Westchester businesses and for advocating on behalf of business every day.



HON. ROBERT P. ASTORINO
Westchester County Executive

ELIZABETH BRACKEN-THOMPSON
Partner, Thompson & Bender

MESSAGE FROM THE EVENT CO-CHAIRS

We are delighted to serve as co-chairs of the 15th Anniversary Business Hall of Fame Awards program and congratulate our six distinguished honorees. Each of you have achieved excellence in the business world through your leadership, hard work and dedication.

As Westchester's most prestigious and influential business organization, The Business Council of Westchester is

dedicated to fostering an environment where businesses can prosper and grow. We can think of no better way to promote success in business than to celebrate those visionary leaders who help make Westchester such a great place to live, work and play.

So tonight, let us all toast our honorees and congratulate them for all that they have accomplished.



JAMES GIANGRANDE
*Managing Director & Partner,
Altium Wealth Management*



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Carol Greenberg, Concept CARE
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Nancy Ment, Andrus Children's Center
Molly Easo Smith, Manhattanville College

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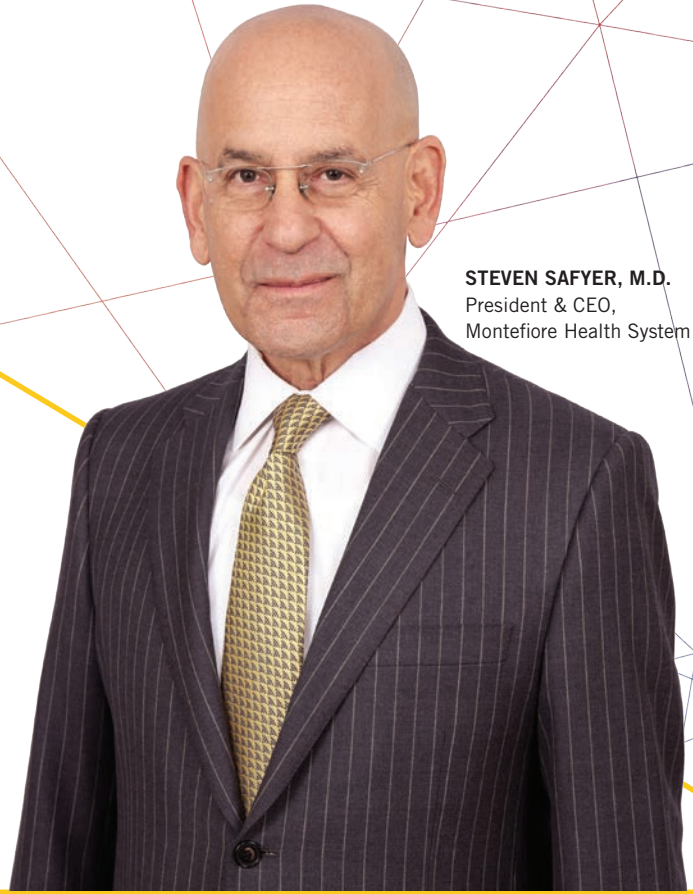
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STEVEN SAFYER, M.D.
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WOMEN IN BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD

VALERIE WILSON

Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc.

After living and traveling internationally, Valerie Ann Wilson decided to open a travel consulting firm to offer what she believed was lacking in the industry... first-hand knowledge and dedicated service. In the past 35+ years, her small consulting firm has flourished and prospered to become one of today's largest private, women-owned, debt free and family managed travel consulting firms in the United States. Headquartered in New York City, with an international client base, the company currently has 15 offices located in the Northeast and Southeast corridors, in the Midwest and on the West Coast.



CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

DECICCO & SONS

John DeCicco, Sr., Joe DeCicco, Sr., and Frank DeCicco, Sr. opened their first supermarket 40 years ago — 1977 — in Pelham based upon providing their customers the best quality foods with impeccable service. Since then, John DeCicco Sr.'s son, John DeCicco, Jr. and Chris DeCicco and Joseph Sr.'s son, Joe DeCicco Jr. have assumed responsibilities of the company's

leadership as President and Vice Presidents, spearheading the opening of its last three stores in Armonk, Larchmont and Millwood while retaining its mission statement of "Quality First" and its core values of superior quality products and services.

JOHN DECICCO, JR.
President, DeCicco & Sons

JOE DECICCO, SR.
DeCicco & Sons

JOE DECICCO, JR.
Vice President, DeCicco & Sons

CHRIS DECICCO
Vice President,
DeCicco & Sons

JOHN DECICCO, SR.
DeCicco & Sons



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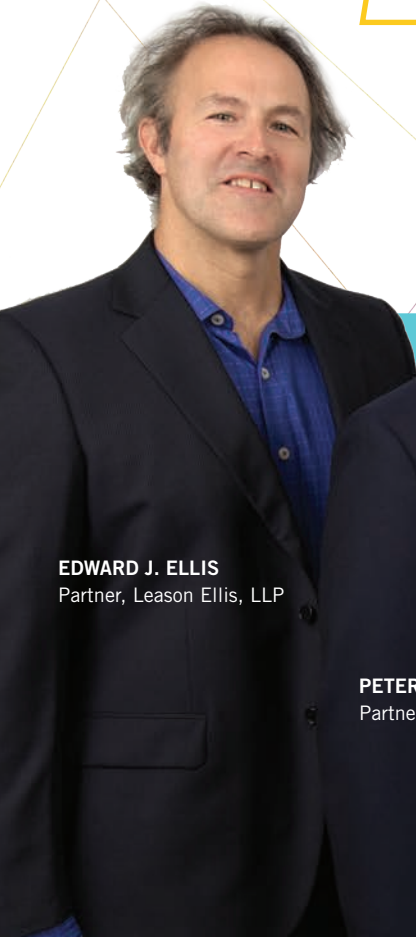


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Rhoda S. Narins, MD, PC

General Dentistry



Nicholas C. Vece, DMD

Nicholas C. Vece, DMD

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The services provided include implants, restorations, crowns, bridges, bonding, dentures, veneers, Zoom whitening, as well as regular cleanings and checkups, which always incorporate an oral cancer screening with Velscope. In addition to these core services, Dr. Vece is especially proud of the cosmetic and reconstructive dentistry aspect of his practice. "There's no better feeling than putting a huge beautiful smile on a patient's face where once there was none," he explains.

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Benjamin Kur, DDS



Left to right: Bruce L. Gordon, MD, PC, FACS; James R. Gordon, MD, PC, FACS; Smitha Voleti, MD; Annmary Abadir, OD; Allen S. Greenbaum, MD, PC, FACS; Neil R. Katz, MD, PC, FAAO; and Seth D. Potash, MD, PC, FAAO.

Ophthalmology

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Founder Dr. Bruce Gordon and his exceptional partners, including Dr. Allen Greenbaum, Dr. Seth Potash, Dr. Neil Katz, and Dr. James Gordon are all board certified and members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. These talented practitioners, along with their newest associate, Smitha Voleti, MD and optometrist, Annmary Abadir, OD, and a team of highly trained ophthalmic technicians share a common goal: to give patients the best care in sight.

The dedicated ophthalmological surgeons use state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and are highly experienced in the most advanced surgical techniques for cataract, glaucoma, refractive

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The practice, which continues to grow, has relocated to a brand new facility in Harrison, featuring considerable more space and comfort, ample parking, and most importantly, advanced leading-edge technology. A new state-of-the-art surgery center is also conveniently located next to the Harrison office. With two offices in Harrison and Yonkers, patients across the region find it easy to access the advanced practice's excellent care. At Westchester Eye Associates, you will have the absolute best eye-care experience. Most major health insurance plans are accepted.

Ophthalmology



From left to right: Dr. Carol Lundin, Dr. Erika Wandel, Dr. Robert Auerbach, Dr. Ameet Goyal, Dr. Mitchell B. Stein, Dr. Mahsa Sohrab, and Dr. Anne Negrin
Not pictured: Dr. Betty Liao

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Cosmetic Dentistry

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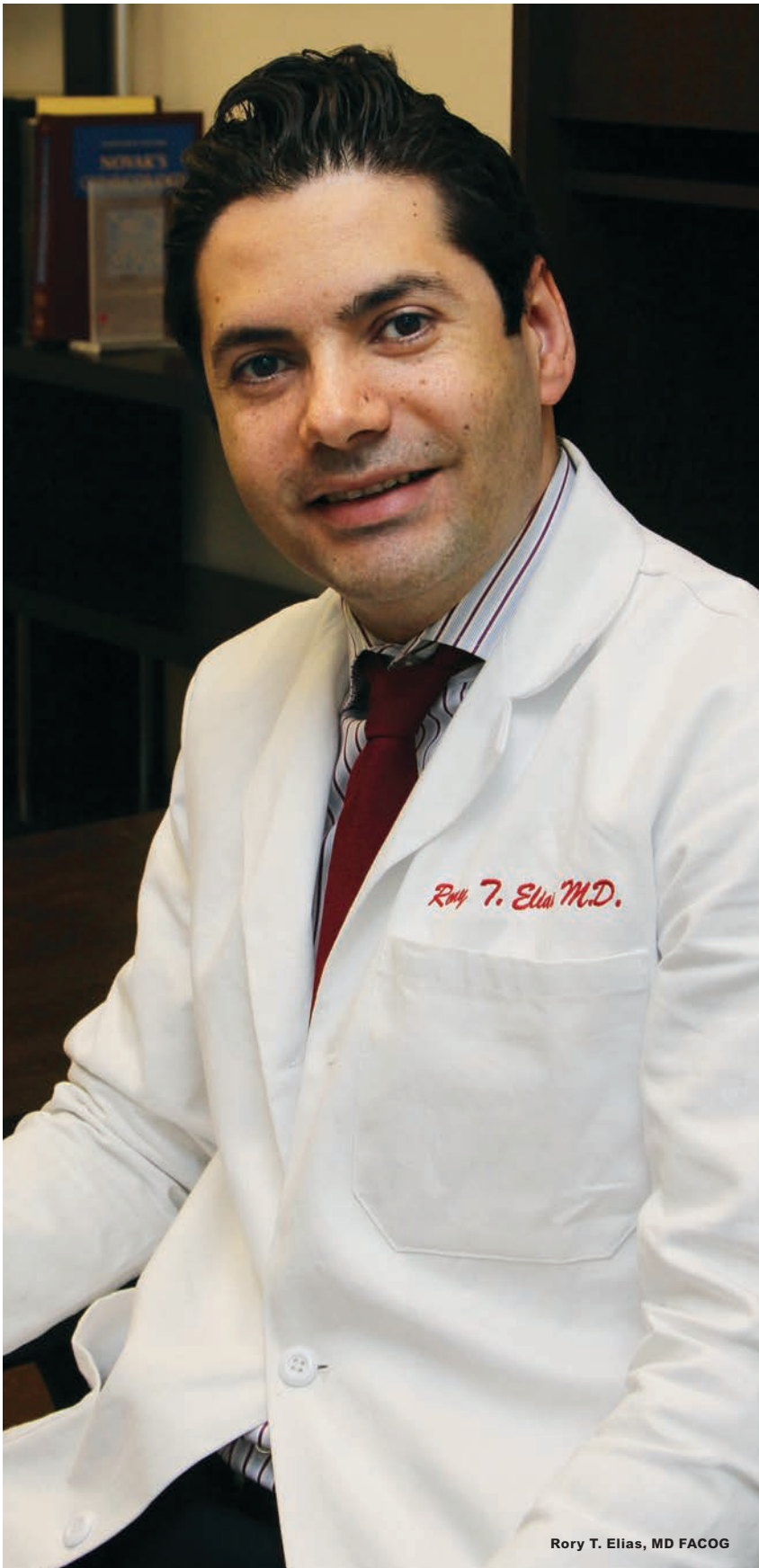
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Robert Rioseco, DMD, FAGD

Infertility



Rory T. Elias, MD FACOG

Rory T. Elias, MD, FACOG
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While Dr. Elias offers the full range of reproductive treatments, including in vitro fertilization (IVF) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), he has a special interest in minimally invasive gynecologic and infertility surgery using laparoscopy, robotic and hysteroscopy, as well as the effects of polycystic ovaries on fertility and egg freezing; both elective and for cancer patients.

Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) involves the use of fiber optic tubes inserted through small incisions, allowing doctors to view the patient's body via television monitors. "Minimally invasive surgery has a variety of patient benefits," explains Dr. Elias, who treats women of all ages, "including less blood loss and pain, a shorter hospital stay, faster recovery time, and a smaller scar.

Dr. Elias' clinical expertise can also be seen in the enormous success of the Center's Donor Egg program. "Our Donor Egg nurses, coordinators, and psychologists work closely with me to ensure an optimal match between donor and recipient as well as to guide patients through the egg donation process."

Dr. Elias performs surgery at Northern Westchester Hospital and The Ambulatory Surgery Center of Westchester, both in Mount Kisco. He also performs robotic surgery as well as conventional hysteroscopy and laparoscopy at New York-Presbyterian Hospital on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Naturopathic Medicine & Acupuncture



Fred Lisanti, ND, LAc

Fred Lisanti, ND, LAc

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Extensively trained, Dr. Lisanti studied at The National University of Natural Medicine, the oldest naturopathic college in North America, and focused on acupuncture, nutrition, and Chinese and Western herbal medicine. In addition to earning a Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine and a Masters of Science degree in Chinese medicine, he completed in-depth research on botanical medicine and traditional healing methods abroad.

Through a combination of naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, hypnosis, bodywork, movement, and lifestyle counseling, Dr. Lisanti focuses on each client's full potential for optimal health. "Our work builds on a philosophy that heart-centered compassion is the source of all forms of healing," he says. "We make sure our clients experience gentle, non-judgmental acceptance the moment they enter our space."

Family Dentistry

Anthony DeBenedictis, DDS

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A graduate of NYU College of Dentistry in 1990 with Honors, and a member of OKU Dental Honor Society, Dr. DeBenedictis has been specialty trained in Prosthodontics at Montefiore Hospital. He has been Prosthodontic Attending at St. Barnabas Hospital for 20 years. Voted *topDENTISTS* 2009-2016



Anthony DeBenedictis, DDS

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

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Named one of America's top dentists by *Westchester Magazine* and the Consumers' Research Council of America, Dr. Magid is an associate professor of esthetics at NYU College of Dentistry and teaches other dentists from around the world the techniques and artistry of creating beautiful smiles. Dr. Magid has also been selected as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, which is the highest honor in dentistry afforded to only 4% of the dentists in the U.S.

Dr. Sabrina Magid-Katz has been named one of "22 people everyone in the county will be talking about" by *Westchester Magazine* and one of "Westchester's Rising 40 Stars Under 40" for her leadership in treating deaf and hard-of-hearing patients and as a lecturer and member of the Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine with extensive experience identifying and treating snoring and sleep apnea. *Voted topDENTISTS 2009-2016*



Dr. Kenneth Magid and Dr. Sabrina Magid-Katz
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Dentistry

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Mark S. Briskin, DDS

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Dentistry

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EDITED BY

**Paul
Adler**



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Picture-Perfect

Love, sensuality, brotherhood, and the bonds of family are laid bare in the Katonah Museum of Art's daring new exhibition, **PICTURING LOVE: PHOTOGRAPHY'S PURSUIT OF INTIMACY**. On show through June 25, this exhibit traces the many forms of intimacy in modern culture, from a mother kissing her child to two lovers embracing in a nightclub. Showcasing the work of such photographers as Louis Faurer and Nan Goldin, this series of sensitive portraits explores the very essence of adoration.

© Estate of Tracey Baran. Courtesy Leslie Tonkonow

Best Bets

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



Harlem Shake

It's no secret that Westchester boasts a boatload of talent right in its own backyard. Exhibit A: the world-renowned **Dance Theatre of Harlem**.

This cutting-edge professional ballet company was founded in 1969 by the monumental African American dancer Arthur Mitchell, who was inspired to influence civil rights through the art of dance after the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. It has grown since then to become one of the most respected dance companies in the country. This month, all those with a little pep in their step should head to the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck, where the company will show off some fancy footwork as part of its Dance Off the Grid series.

Apr
7

Pied Piper

Few children's musicians are quite as entrancing as **Laurie Berkner**. Widely known as the Queen of Children's Music, Berkner is a regular on Nickelodeon Jr.'s *Jack's Big Music Show*, as well as on the Sprout television channel. The songstress, who has seven albums to her name, has even performed at Carnegie Hall and in the 2006 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Now, families can get in on the fun as Berkner takes the stage at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill, where she will perform a fleet of her beloved songs for kids and adults alike.



Apr
8



Apr
1

Heart to Heart

When it comes to influential female rock bands of the '70s, it doesn't get much bigger than Heart. Known for their hits "Barracuda" and "Straight On," the band remained a major presence in rock through the 1990s — spawning several albums as well as a host of imitators. This month, Heart's lead singer, **Ann Wilson**, will be taking the stage at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill. Named one of the Top Heavy Metal Vocalists of All Time by *Hit Parader Magazine*, Wilson has even been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Now, local headbangers can finally see why she remains such a major name in music.

DANCE THEATRE PHOTO BY RACHEL NEVILLE; LAURIE BERKNER PHOTO BY JAYME THORNTON; ANN WILSON PHOTO BY JESS GRIFFIN



Apr
19

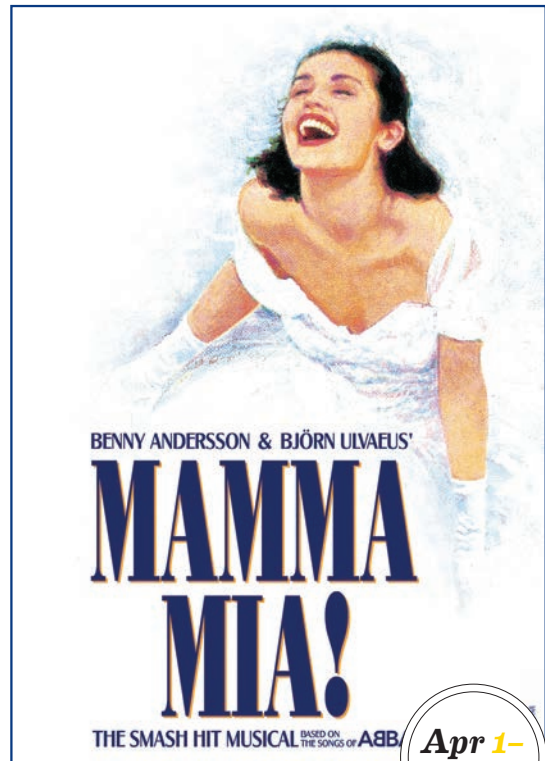
That's Amore

All the sensuality, amorality, and splendor of post-World War II Italy is captured in Michelangelo Antonioni's 1961 masterwork **La Notte**. This award-winning art-house favorite follows a callous novelist, played by a young Marcello Mastroianni, who strays from his wife and into the arms of Monica Vitti's jaded and beautiful Valentina. Through this simple affair, Antonioni touches on subjects including alienation, the existence of love, and the solitude of contemporary life. Stop by the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville for a rare screening of this Italian New Wave wonder.

One Woman Army

This month, the Ridgefield Playhouse hosts one of the funniest women to ever grace the stage. **Kathleen Madigan** has been a force in comedy for nearly three decades, appearing on virtually every late-night program imaginable, from *The Tonight Show* and *Last Comic Standing* to her own HBO and Comedy Central specials. Be sure to catch this monumental funnywoman during this rare stop in the region, where she will likely elicit more than a few laughs.

Apr
28



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Dancing Queens

Whether it's the hit 2008 film adaptation starring Meryl Streep or the beloved songs by '70s sensations ABBA, the musical **Mamma Mia!** occupies a special place in the hearts of many. Following a young woman's struggle to figure out who her father is as she prepares to wed, the lighthearted musical has toured across the world virtually nonstop since its 1999 premier. This month, Elmsford's Westchester Broadway Theatre will stage the celebrated romp for local audiences to enjoy. Having been staged in 40 countries and translated into more than 22 languages, there is a reason this spirited production shows no signs of slowing.



Room With a Vieaux

Winner of the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo, **Jason Vieaux** has been making major waves in the world of classical guitar. A New York native, Vieaux has performed as a soloist alongside nearly 100 orchestras across the world and has headlined countless musical festivals and performances. The youngest winner ever of the Guitar Foundation of America's International Guitar Competition, Vieaux will bring his singular style to the Westport Arts Center this month. Take a seat, and see what cutting-edge classical guitar is all about.

Apr
2

LA NOTTE PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER; KATHLEEN MADIGAN PHOTO BY APA AGENCY; JASON VIEAUX PHOTO BY TYLER BOYE

For more information on these events, plus more listings this month, see *Book It!* on page 148.



Frampton Comes Home

Rock god and former Westchester resident Peter Frampton is once again set to take the county by storm. **BY PAUL ADLER**

When Peter Frampton recalls his many years spent living in Westchester, the first thing that comes to mind is the weather. “Westchester was the first place I lived [in America], and it had seasons, like England — where I came from — just a little more severe, of course,” he says with a laugh. “But the countryside is so beautiful.”

One of the most celebrated guitarists of all time, the British-born musician is widely known for his multiplatinum record *Frampton Comes Alive*, which remains the fourth-best-selling live album in history. First making his name as head of the '60s supergroup Humble Pie, Frampton gained worldwide fame as a solo artist on the tails of such hits as “Baby, I Love Your Way” and “Do You Feel Like We Do.” Today, the celebrated rocker remains an outsize presence in contemporary music with the 2016 release of his 19th full-length album, *Acoustic Classics*.

It is this recent foray into acoustic rock that local audiences will have the rare chance to experience at Peekskill's Paramount Hudson Valley Theater on April 6. According to Frampton, the acoustic tour will still offer fans exactly what they will likely be coming to see. “It's everything,” says Frampton of the show. “I pick from my whole career, since the acoustic classics CD is basically all my main songs. Things like ‘Baby I Love Your Way,’ which I didn't think I would be able to do acoustically because it is not that kind of song — well we turned it into one! I think people would kill me if I didn't attempt it.”

However, the rocker was not immediately excited about playing sans band, and without the talkbox that helped bring him fame. Indeed, the very name Frampton is synonymous with this small electronic device that applies speech-like sounds onto a musical instrument, as heard in his hits “Do You Feel Like We Do” and “Show Me the Way.”

“I was very reticent from nerves, being up there alone with an acoustic guitar and no Marshall amp or Les Paul guitar,” reveals Frampton. “But when I went out last October, the first show was just phenomenal, and it made me realize that although it's a 180-degree different approach, it is just as enjoyable for me because I get to take my time and tell stories about the songs.” Frampton adds that during acoustic shows, his son Julian and writing partner Gordon

Kennedy often join him onstage. "It is completely different from what I do with the band, and that's what I love about it."

This doesn't mean Frampton has completely eschewed his sonic roots. "I think early in my career I was known as the guy who makes those funny noises and looks good," he shares. "I think it has changed now because people value the total guitar playing, but the common denominator of everything is definitely the talkbox. More

For Frampton, getting out on the road and hitting the stage remains one of his most cherished and inspiring musical activities. Indeed, the rocker has been touring the world for nearly 50 years, seemingly nonstop, releasing two albums in just the last three years.

When asked why he tours with such frequency, Frampton is quick to respond. "The main reason is that it is rejuvenating to me, and it is also inspiring musically to




Frampton Comes Alive!

"...although it's a 180-degree different approach, it is just as enjoyable for me because I get to take my time and tell stories about the songs."

people know me for that than anything else. Hey, it's still guitar playing, but I do play without it," he adds with a laugh.


Few are aware of the several years the Grammy-winning rocker was a citizen of two Westchester towns, nor of his abiding fondness for the county. "I moved to America on the first day of 1975 and moved to Westchester because my girlfriend Penny [McCall] lived there," says Frampton. "Men always seem to end up where their partner wants to live, and I stayed in Westchester for 13 or 14 years. I lived in Croton first, and then I moved close to Bedford." It was his second wife, Barbara Gold, with whom Frampton lived near Bedford — later moving to Ohio and then Nashville after the marriage ended.


play in front of an audience and to see how they react to certain things," he says. "When I am playing on the road, my chops get really good, and when I come off the road, I am really excited about doing new stuff."

Beyond hitting the stage and cranking out new albums, Frampton views his life's work as a way to connect with people and let them know that there is a like-minded person out there. "I have always felt I have written about things that apply to everybody, because I am just one person going through life," says Frampton. "We all experience life in different ways, but we all have the same bridges to cross and hurdles to overcome. I write from personal experience, and people really seem to identify with that." 

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EDITED BY CAROL NELSON FALCONE



Ongoing through
May 14

WYETH WONDERLAND
at Hudson River
Museum, Yonkers

art

Ongoing through April 8

A WAY OF SEEING: STREET PORTRAITS OF

CAL SWANSON. For a decade spanning the '70s & '80s, photographer Cal Swanson wandered city streets seeking people who attracted his attention. In this exhibit, each image captures a life story, sharing a powerful and honest glimpse at human expression. *Rye Arts Center, Rye* (914.967.0700; www.ryeartscenter.org)

Ongoing through April 15

COLLECTION - SPRING 2017. This showcase of new, contemporary artwork features emerging and mid-career artists chosen by the gallery director and staff. *Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Larchmont* (914.834.8077; www.kbfa.com)

Ongoing through May 14

WYETH WONDERLAND. Exhibit of French photographer Josephine Douet, inspired by American painter Andrew Wyeth, of a rural-Pennsylvania region. *Hudson River Museum, Yonkers* (914.963.4550; www.hrm.org)

Ongoing through May 21

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS. This inventive exhibition features artists Suzanna Frosch, Polly King, and John Rosis, who share a fierce commitment to formal structure as they collage and layer materials to create space and depth. *Edward Hopper House, Nyack* (845.358.0774; www.edwardhopperhouse.org)

April 5 – October 8

JIM AND JANE HENSON: CREATIVE WORK,

CREATIVE PLAY. Through paintings, objects, puppets, photographs, and film, this exhibition will examine the overlap of the Hensons' family life with their contributions as artists, performers, and parents to the early years of *Sesame Street* and *The Mead School*. *Greenwich Historical Society, Cos Cob* (203.869.6899; www.greenwichhistory.org)

film

Ongoing through April 2

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MYSTERY

MASTERPIECE: THE MOUSETRAP. It's murder and spine-tingling fun when an eclectic group of strangers are stranded in a remote mansion during a terrible snowstorm. This movie was filmed at Lyndhurst Mansion. *Lyndhurst, Tarrytown* (914.631.4481; www.lyndhurst.org)

April 17

SUDDEN FEAR. David Miller directed this 1952 classic film starring Joan Crawford, Jack Palance, and Gloria Grahame. Wealthy playwright Crawford discovers her new husband is planning to kill her. The screening will also feature a talk by guest speaker Richard Barrios, a film historian, author, and guest host on Turner Classic Movies. *Greenwich Classic Film Series, Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, Greenwich* (914.725.0999; www.greenwichclassicfilmseries.com)

April 24

CAROUSEL. This 1956 film starring Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae is based on carousel barker Billy Bigelow, who tries to change for the better when he falls in love. The film features moving characters and timeless Rodgers & Hammerstein songs. The screening will also feature a talk by guest speaker Jack Viertel, a noted Broadway producer and author. *Greenwich Classic Film Series, Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, Greenwich* (914.725.0999; www.greenwichclassicfilmseries.com)

April 28

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES: MUSTANG.

In this 2015 French film set in a village in northern Turkey, Lale and her four sisters are walking home from school, playing innocently with some boys. This sets off a scandal that has unexpected consequences. *Westchester Community College, Davis Auditorium, Valhalla* (914.723.3186; www.sunywcc.edu)

INSIDE LOOK

Westchester Gets Its Laugh On

The county's first new comedy club in more than three decades, HA! is bringing a bevy of belly laughs to Yonkers.

Believe it or not, Westchester didn't even have its own dedicated comedy club until this past July, when Jeff Pichardo brought Manhattan's hit HA! Comedy Club up to Ridge Hill in Yonkers. For manager and standup comic Joseph Conklin, the decision to move north came naturally.

"We are the only comedy club in Westchester and the first new one in 30 years," says Conklin. "There is a need in the area. A lot of people don't have anything to do in Westchester as far as [comedic] entertainment, and they feel almost forced to go into New York City or over the Tappan Zee into Rockland. We have the same quality comedians, as well as a lot of Westchester talent that itself had to go into the city before."

Conklin feels many of Westchester's best comedians, like frequent HA! headliner Nick DiPaolo, are drowned out amid the countless comedians onstage in the Big City. "They got lost in the stream



down there. Now they can come back and show that Westchester has a lot of talented comedians. One of the things HA! finally gives them is a home, so they can perform for their own people in Westchester for once."

The club also has a leg up on the competition, with its cozy atmosphere and carefully selected acts. "We are a smaller, intimate club, seating 85 to 100," explains

Conklin. "There are a lot of comedians who people don't know because they haven't had a Netflix special or haven't been on *Conan* but are so incredibly talented. So, it is our job to mix the people who are being asked for with people who are going to be asked for in the future."

The curious can sate their craving for laughs at Ridge Hill in Yonkers, where famed comedian Vic DiBitetto will be performing April 27. Tickets can be purchased by calling 914.358.9260; all other seating is first come, first served.

— Paul Adler

music *Classical, Jazz & Opera*

April 2

JASON VIEAUX. A precise and soulful classical guitarist, his most recent solo album, *Play*, won the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo. *Westport Arts Center, Westport (203.226.1806; www.westportartscenter.org)*

April 8-9

NORTHERN LIGHTS. The Stamford Symphony Orchestra presents: Sibelius' *Finlandia*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor*, and Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5 in E-flat Major*. Conrad Tao will be playing the piano. *The Palace Theatre, Stamford (203.325.4466; www.palacestamford.org)*

April 9

THE KALICHSTEIN-LAREDO-ROBINSON TRIO. This celebrated trio is currently celebrating their 40-year collaboration. They present the ultimate compositional achievement for trio and orchestra: Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*, Bach's glorious *Brandenburg No. 5*, and Mozart's gorgeous chamber work. *Westchester Philharmonic, White Plains (914.682.3707; www.westchesterphil.org)*

April 14

WHISPER OF A SHADOW: AN HOMAGE TO LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK. French trumpeter and composer Yohan Giaume and New Orleans-based Evan Christopher explore the musical world of Louis Moreau Gottschalk, a 19th-century New Orleans Creole composer and pianist. *Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson (845.758.7900; www.bard.edu)*

April 22

THE MET: TCHAIKOVSKY'S EUGENE ONEGIN. Anna Netrebko reprises one of her most acclaimed roles as Tatiana, the naïve heroine of Tchaikovsky's opera, adapted from Pushkin's classic novel. Peter Mattei stars as the title character, who rejects Tatiana's love until it's too late. *Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield (203.254.4010; quickcenter.fairfield.edu)*

April 23

ALONG A DESERT HIGHWAY. Works inspired by the grandeur, drama, mystery, and danger of the American West. The program features "Red River," by composer Mason Bates, which traces the journey of the Colorado River to its various destinations. Also featured is "Native American Portraits" by David Amram, based on the music of the Cheyenne, Zuni, and Seneca-Cayuga nations. *Copland House at Merestead, Mount Kisco (914.788.4659; www.coplandhouse.org)*

April 29

ALISA WEILERSTEIN & INON BARNATAN, CELLO / PIANO DUO. Pianist Inon Barnatan is widely recognized for refined, communicative, insightful playing. Alisa Weilerstein has attracted attention for playing that combines a natural virtuosic command and technical precision with impassioned musicianship. *The Palace Theatre, Stamford (203.325.4466; www.palacestamford.org)*

music *Folk, Rock, and Pop*

April 1

ANN WILSON OF HEART. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame legend Ann Wilson, known for her force-of-nature vocals on such hits as "Alone," "What About Love," and "Barracuda," comes to Westchester for her 2017 tour. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill (914.739.0039; www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)*



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(Continued from previous page)



April 22
LORETTA LYNN at
Tarrytown Music
Hall, Tarrytown

April 1

MEMORIES OF PATSY: THE PATSY CLINE TRIBUTE SHOW. The legendary Patsy Cline is brought to life in this incredible tribute concert, taking its audience on a trip back in time to the days when the amazing singer graced the stages of America. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusic hall.org)*

April 6

PETER FRAMPTON. Grammy Award-winning guitarist Peter Frampton, one of the most celebrated artists in rock 'n' roll history, plays this unique acoustic tour featuring his new album, *Raw*, with stripped-down versions of his classic hits, including, "Baby, I Love Your Way" and "Show Me the Way." Frampton also welcomes his son, Julian Frampton, to the stage. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill (914.739.0039; www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)*

April 7

MICHAEL JOHNSON, DON HENRY, AND CRAIG BICKHARDT. Gifted songwriters and storytellers in their own right, these three original Bluebird Café veterans have performed and recorded countless hits. *Turning Point, Piermont (845.359.1089; www.turningpointcafe.com)*

April 8

BACK TO THE GARDEN 1969. A group of seasoned musicians whose common bond is a love for the music of the Woodstock era. They perform well-loved favorites of the 1960s and 1970s. *Towne Crier Café, Beacon (845.855.1300; www.townecrier.com)*

April 14

RICHARD THOMPSON SOLO ACOUSTIC. Named by *Rolling Stone* magazine as one of the "Top 20 Guitarists of All Time," Richard Thompson can also be said to be one of the world's most critically acclaimed and prolific songwriters. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusic hall.org)*

April 15

THE ROBERT ROSS BAND FEATURING JOEHAM AND MARK DUNN. This iconic band plays hard driving boogie, hip-grinding soul, burning rock 'n' roll, and down-and-dirty blues. Robert Ross is an incredible bluesman and a two-time winner of the coveted NY Music Award for Best Blues Artist. *Turning Point, Piermont (845.359.1089; www.turningpointcafe.com)*

April 15

GET THE LED OUT. From the bombastic and epic, to the folksy and mystical, this band has

captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage. This Philadelphia-based group consists of six veteran musicians intent on delivering Led Zeppelin live like you've never heard before. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusic hall.org)*

April 20

KELLER WILLIAMS' GRATEFUL GRASS. This lauded artist performs anything-but-traditional bluegrass versions of Grateful Dead favorites. Williams will be joined by Jeff Austin, Andy Hall, Jeremy Garrett, and Danton Boller onstage. *The Capitol Theatre, Port Chester (914.937.4126; www.thecapitoltheatre.com)*

April 21

THE PUSH STARS. This trio of Boston alternative popsters toured with Matchbox 20 and has put out numerous albums to a loyal fanbase. Songwriter/vocalist/guitarist Chris Trapper leads, supported by bassist/keyboardist Dan McLoughlin, and drummer Ryan MacMillan. *Towne Crier Café, Beacon (845.855.1300; www.townecrier.com)*

April 21

THE JAYHAWKS. Their incredible harmonies and distinctive arrangements set them apart from the rest of the Minneapolis music scene that emerged during the 1980s. The group became a driving force and inspiration behind the growing Americana movement. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusic hall.org)*

April 22

MAGIC OF MOTOWN. This dynamic tribute spans more than a decade of classics, with several culture-defining songs. The show features the great harmonies and choreographed dance steps of the era, featuring a seven-piece backup band. *(Westchester Community College, Academic Arts Theatre, Valhalla (914.606.6262; www.sunywcc.edu))*

April 22

THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND. Grammy Award-winning country music star Charlie Daniels, best known for his hit "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," continues an active tour schedule, to the delight of fans of the classic country/rock genre. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill (914.739.0039; www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)*

April 22

LORETTA LYNN. A heralded country music icon for over 55 years, Loretta Lynn has fashioned a body of work that is artistically and commercially successful. Her music has confronted many of the major social issues of her time, and her life story is a rags-to-riches tale familiar to pop, rock, and country fans alike. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusic hall.org)*

April 28

TANNAHILL WEAVERS. One of Scotland's premier traditional bands, they're known for their exuberant performances and outstanding recordings. With a blend of guitar, violin, flute, and bagpipes, their shows are a lively cultural experience. *Towne Crier Café, Beacon (845.855.1300; www.townecrier.com)*

April 29

MAJA & DAVID. These master fiddlers have created a unique sound inspired by the groovy beats, heavy stomping, droning harmonies, and wild tunes shared by Québec and Danish fiddling traditions bringing contemporary folk music to

a whole new level. *Purpl, Hastings-on-Hudson (914.231.9077; www.purpl.org)*

dance

April 7

DANCE OFF THE GRID SERIES: DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM. This company is known for its thrilling performances with cutting-edge contemporary works that use the language of ballet to celebrate African American culture, bringing new life to the art form of classical ballet. *Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck (914.698.0098; www.emelin.org)*

April 21 – 23

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT. This evening of dance features choreography and performances by Bard faculty members. *Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson (845.758.7900; www.bard.edu)*

April 29

DANCING AROUND THE WORLD. This performance, featuring the students and professionals of the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Brewster, will delight and entertain ballroom-dance enthusiasts and newcomers alike. Featured dances include: the cha-cha, samba, mambo, foxtrot, waltz, rumba, West Coast swing, salsa, and many more. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)*



April 7
DANCE OFF THE
GRID SERIES:
DANCE THEATRE
OF HARLEM at
Emelin Theatre,
Mamaroneck

theater

April 1 – June 25

MAMMA MIA! Based on the songs of the Swedish pop group ABBA, this musical follows a young woman who wants to have a traditional wedding and hopes that her father will walk her down the aisle — only problem is that she has no idea who her father is! With help from her mother's journal, she narrows the possibilities down to three men, and hilarity ensues. *Westchester Broadway Theatre, Elmsford (914.592.2222; www.broadwaytheatre.com)*

April 3

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: HEDDA GABLER. Ruth Wilson plays the title role in a new version of this celebrated production. Hedda and Tesman have just returned from their honeymoon, and the relationship is already in trouble. Trapped but determined, Hedda tries to control those around her, only to see her own world unravel. *Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield (203.254.4010; quickcenter.fairfield.edu)*

April 6 – 9

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH BY THORNTON WILDER. This theatrical performance of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, directed by Jordan Fein, asks the question: Is the human race worth saving? Meet the Antrobuses, a modern American family who struggle with just such a question. *Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson (845.758.7900; www.bard.edu)*

April 6, 18

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: TWELFTH NIGHT. This Shakespearean classic opens with a shipwreck in which the young maiden Viola is washed ashore but her twin brother Sebastian is lost. Determined to survive on her own, she steps out to explore a new land. So begins a whirlwind of mistaken identity and unrequited love. *Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville (914.773.7663; www.burnsfilmcenter.org)*

April 21

AFTER THE STORM. During the storm of life, Pat doesn't know which way to turn after her only child dies while giving birth. Pat is dating and living a successful life when her ex-husband, Jack, starts trouble as a host of secrets are revealed. *White Plains Performing Arts Center, White Plains (914.328.1600; www.wppac.com)*

April 23

THE SONG OF MULAN. This noble Chinese folk tale features an extraordinary heroine, authentic costumes and props, and lovely songs presented by the Virginia Repertory Theatre. When Mulan learns that her ailing father is drafted into Khan's army, she protects him by serving in his place. Disguised as a man, she risks everything to maintain family honor and earn the love of her nation. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)*

April 24

SCRIPT-IN-HAND PLAY READING: LUNCH HOUR. This production by Jean Kerr follows Oliver and Carrie as they discover that their spouses are having an affair. They counter by inventing an affair of their own. *Westport Country Playhouse, Westport (203.227.4177; www.westportplayhouse.org)*

April 29 – 30

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH JR. This great stage production is based on one of Roald Dahl's most poignantly quirky stories with a brand new take on this peachy tale. Featuring a wickedly tuneful score and a witty and charming book, this adventurous musical about courage and self-discovery is destined to be a classic. *Irvington Town Hall Theater, Irvington (914.591.6602; www.cloctowerplayers.com)*

April 29 – 30

ALICE IN WONDERLAND. This fairytale favorite is brought to life by The Prince Street Players. Lewis Carroll's unflappable young heroine, Alice, takes a tumble down an enchanted rabbit hole to an off-kilter world of mock turtles, dancing flora, punctual rabbits, and mad tea parties. *Yorktown Stage, Yorktown Heights (914.962.0606; www.yorktownstage.org)*

family

April 1

PETE THE CAT. This lively children's show is based on the popular children's book series, *Pete the Cat*, by James Dean and Kimberly Dean. When this groovy blue cat gets caught rocking out after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn his manners. *Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck (914.698.0098; www.emelin.org)*



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Artist Piero Manrique in front of his Geometric Windows mural at City Center White Plains. (photo courtesy of Kite Realty Group)

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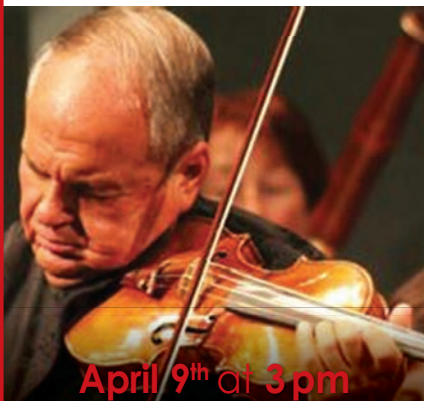
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Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
Beethoven: Triple Concerto

Jaime Laredo, violin soloist-leader
Joseph Kalichstein, piano
Sharon Robinson, cello

Tickets start at \$40. 914-682-3707
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[wuhn-der-kind] -noun. plural.

1. a person who succeeds, especially in business;
at a comparatively young age.



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(Continued from previous page)

April 8

LAURIE BERKNER. Recognized as the queen of children's music, this singer/songwriter, author and performer delights children of all ages. A regular musician on Nickelodeon Jr.'s *Jack's Big Music Show*, she brings her fun stage show to Westchester. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill* (914.739.0039; www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)

April 10–14

SPRING VACATION ADVENTURES FOR AGES

6-12. Kids can keep busy over their spring break with fun explorations of our natural world. Topics and activities differ by day for ages 6 to 8. Ages 9 to 12 do a weeklong "Behind-the-Scenes Science" program. Call to register. *Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk* (203.852.0700; www.maritimeaquarium.org)

April 23

FAMILY FUN SERIES: THE LITTLE PRINCE. This 1943 beloved book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is brought to life with inventive puppets, live actors, original music, and magnificent set design that tells the heart-warming story of the Little Prince who gains rare and unique insights into love, loss, and laughter. *Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield* (203.254.4010; quickcenter.fairfield.edu)

April 24

ARCATTACK: ENERGY & ELECTRICITY. Part rock concert, part science experiment the creators of ArcAttack unveil the science behind the spectacle. Combining their love of music with science, the group invites the audience to explore concepts such as electricity, voltage and current, magnetism, robotics, and lightning through a show that's both entertaining and interactive. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield* (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)

April 29

ONE YEAR BIRTHDAY PARTY. Everyone is invited to this celebration, featuring an interactive play, hands-on activities, storytelling, creative play, and a variety of family entertainment throughout the day. *Westchester Children's Museum, Rye* (914.421.5050; www.discoverwcm.org)

April 29

THE CHAPPAQUA CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL STORY CONCERT: PETER AND THE WOLF. The Chappaqua Orchestra will perform the classic tale of *Peter & the Wolf*, with narration by WQXR's radio host Elliot Forrest, telling the story through small solo sections in the music with projected images on a large screen. *Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, Chappaqua* (845.842.0010; www.chappaquaorchestra.org)

April 29

SEUSSICAL. Many of Dr. Seuss's best-loved stories are brought to life during this unforgettable musical caper. The Cat in the Hat serves as the host and all around mischief-maker in this romp through the Seuss classics. This Broadway adaptation is especially tailored for young audiences. *Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck* (914.698.0098; www.emelin.org)

special events

April 1

PSYCHIC-MEDIUM KIM RUSSO. Join the star of Lifetime Movie Network's hit show *The Haunting of...* as she makes undeniable connections with her audience members, giving them a firsthand glimpse into the world beyond. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield* (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)

April 6

ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS. Rick Thomas performs the most intriguing, innovative, and mind-blowing grand illusions in the world with a style

unlike any other magical entertainer. His stage presence is unmatched as he weaves magic, music, comedy, and dance into a seamless spectacle. *The Palace Theatre, Stamford* (203.325.4466; www.palacestamford.org)

April 15

GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS. This group represents a time-honored Chinese tradition, which combines award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, contemporary music, and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. *Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill* (914.739.0039; www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)

April 29

SHEEP SHEARING FEST Celebrate the arrival of spring with farmers, educators, and a host of farm animals. Observe and talk with our farmers as they shear a flock of sheep, enjoy activities, crafts, live music, and seasonal fare from local vendors. *Stone Barns Center, Pocantico Hills* (914.366.6200; www.stonebarnscenter.org)

April 29-30

SLEEPING WITH WOLVES. This popular nocturnal adventure experience gives guests a chance to camp out overnight with 20-plus wolves. This family event includes a pizza party, evening entertainment, fireside snacks, and light breakfast. Pre-registration required and tents provided. *Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem* (914.763.2373; www.nywolf.org)

lectures & readings

April 11

DESIGN IN MOTION WITH ANTHONY RHOADS. Anthony Rhoads gives an overview of the process of storyboarding and tossing out ideas. Through the medium of computer generation, live action, and hand animation, Rhoads demonstrates how storyboarding influences the final product. *Westchester Community College, Peekskill Extension Center* (914.606.6262; www.sunywcc.edu)

April 19

SPRING GARDEN LECTURE: FOUNDING GARDENERS. A lecture given by Andrea Wulf, this talk explores the revolutionary war generation from the unique perspectives of gardeners, plant collectors, and farmers. *John Jay Homestead, Katonah* (914.232.5651; www.johnjayhomestead.org)

April 20

AN EVENING WITH WALTER ISAACSON. A dinner reception and book signing of *History of the Digital Revolution*, followed by a lecture on how a group of hackers, geniuses, and geeks fomented the digital revolution. *Greenwich Historical Society, Cos Cob* (203.869.6899; www.greenwichhistory.org)

April 25

THE MIND AND MUSIC OF BEETHOVEN. Harvard psychiatrist and concert pianist Dr. Richard Kogan gives a lecture and concert that examines how Beethoven became a greater composer once he became deaf and explores the psychological basis of his creative life. *Caramoor, Katonah* (914.232.5035; www.caramoor.org)

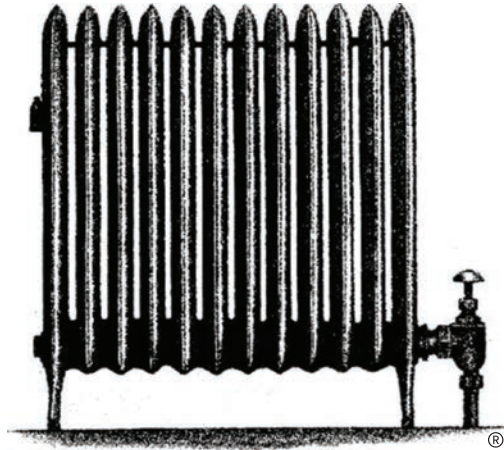
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TIME MACHINE. This clay-making class for children ages 6 to 9 will allow kids to create their own time machine and robot in clay. This fun class enables problem-solving skills, patience, and concentration while creating the future in clay. *Clay Art Center, Port Chester* (914.937.2047; www.clayartcenter.org)



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(Continued from previous page)

April 8

SEED CHOICES: CHOOSING CROPS AND VARIETIES.

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comedy

April 7

CHICAGO CITY LIMITS. This improvisational comedy show is a product of the collective hilarity of both comedians and audiences alike.

The Palace Theatre, Stamford (203.325.4466; www.palacestamford.org)

April 8

VIC DIBITETTO. This Grand Prize winner of TV's *America's Funniest People* performs live onstage, an act that is crazy and manic. DiBitetto is a super-high-energy comedian who's made audiences rock with laughter around the country. *Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown* (914.631.3390; www.tarrytownmusicall.org)

April 8

LADIES OF LAUGHTER. This competition and tour has visited countless theaters and casinos and has discovered some of the funniest women in comedy today. Featuring 2016 National and Newcomer Winners Kelly MacFarland, Jocelyn Chia, and Jane Condon. *Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck* (914.698.0098; www.emelin.org)

April 9

GARY GULMAN. This Boston-based standup comedian shows off his brand of clever, original comedy that has delighted audiences in a number of venues. He's best known for his break-through success on NBC's hit show *Last Comic Standing*. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield* (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)

April 28

KATHLEEN MADIGAN. She's one of the most respected comedians of her generation, performing on nearly every standup and late-night television show ever made. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield* (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org)

galas & benefits

April 16

INSPIRED! ART SHOW FUNDRAISER. This annual spring fundraiser is hosted by the Pelham Art Center. Tables — and possibly some guests — will be decked out in the theme of a great artist. Enjoy a live band, dancing, drinks, dinner, and silent auctions. Held at the Larchmont Yacht Club in Larchmont. *Pelham Art Center, Pelham* (914.738.2525; www.pelhamartcenter.org)

April 22

GREENWICH SYMPHONY SWING. This gala is to benefit the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra and the Young People's Concert. Cocktails, dinner, dancing, and silent auction. Honoree: Marianne Wyman. *Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich* (203.606.1345; www.greenwichsymphony.org)

April 20

ANN'S PLACE FASHION SHOW. Ann's Place, a community-based cancer-support agency, is hosting a fashion show with spring and summer fashions by Audrey Road and AR Kids. Celebrity models will be showcasing new and vintage fashions with beautiful jewelry to spruce up your wardrobe — all for a good cause. *The Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield* (203.438.5795; www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org) 



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Middle Class In Westchester (Continued from page 83)

ly-1900s Victorian they purchased in '98 for \$198,000, and they try to do whatever repairs and maintenance they can themselves. "The day we have more than one bathroom, we've moved up a class," John says lightly. "It's torture."

With two children in college and two more gearing up, paying tuition is — and will be — a challenge, even painful, both Kate and John admit. So they are making sure their kids are contributing, earning scholarships, taking out loans and working campus jobs, to offset college dorm costs. The third and fourth children (ages 13 and 12, respectively) may have to resort to state schools, where tuition is lower.

"We can't pay for everybody," John says. "We need to keep them invested in the game with us."

Disagreements are typically about money, and retirement is a tough conversation altogether; John isn't sure he can keep up the physical demands of his job well into his 60s. But this loving couple approach it the way they've approached the rest of their lives — with perseverance, priorities, and a good sense of humor.

"Tuckahoe is still affordable when compared with other communities," says John, a former village mayor. "There are a lot of positives living here."

Changing Middle Class

The concept of the middle class is changing, says Farrokh Hormozi, a professor of economics at Pace University who has taught there for more than 30 years. While family incomes have gone up — largely because so many households now have two earners — so, too, has the cost of living. Despite the higher incomes, when the higher costs are coupled with a loss of skilled-labor jobs in manufacturing, factories, and technical trades (the closing of the General Motors plant in Tarrytown in 1995 is one example), Westchester, like many other places across the country, is seeing its middle class shrink.

Some people are doing better, but many others who once worked as skilled labor in manufacturing or related jobs are slipping onto the lower rung, he says. "We don't have a middle class as we once did."

The middle class has lost ground in every state from 2000-2013, according to a Pew/Stateline analysis of US Census data. While New York's middle class shrunk by just under 3 percent, the losses were more profound in places like Wisconsin (-5.6 percent), Ohio (-5.2 percent), Nevada (-4.9 percent), Georgia and New Mexico (each at -4.8 percent).

The shrinking middle class is an outgrowth of the changing job market from manufacturing to information, says Villarreal, the policy fellow at NCPA, a nonpartisan group that advocates free-market solutions. Because

there is less demand for lower skilled labor, a greater need for high-tech workers and federal programs are typically one-size-fits-all across all states (and designed to help those in need, not those starting businesses). Local governments can lead the way by encouraging entrepreneurship and small-business ownership while resisting the temptation of over-regulation, she says.

"The economy is evolving," Villarreal says, citing ride-sharing giant Uber, restaurants, and other service industries as classic examples where local laws can make or break a new idea or squash a mom-and-pop altogether. "The key is to have public policies that allow people to adapt to the economy and change."

For sure, Westchester has more than its share of local governments and bureaucracies (6 cities, 19 towns, 23 villages, and 425 governments in all), but unlike many other regions, it is buoyed by newcomers who are escaping New York City and its higher cost of living. It's also somewhat stabilized by older adults who raised families here, choose to stay and are living longer. Both population segments, however, can have a tough time here for varying reasons: Seniors are trying to keep up with rising costs, high taxes and living on far less, while younger people haven't reached their peak earnings yet.

For this reason and others, young professionals find it challenging to afford life here in the county. Take Samantha Diliberti, who, when she graduated college at age 21, had more than \$100,000 in student loans — and a job that paid a pittance. "All of my money went to loan payments," she says of a \$700-\$1,200 monthly bill that, when coupled with rent, left little else.

In the years that followed, she landed better jobs with more pay and occasional bonuses, but even that couldn't reverse the mounting cycle of bills. Though she liked living in Brooklyn, the rent was high (often \$15,000 a year). She also had four roommates.

Diliberti knew the math didn't add up, so she moved back home with her mother in Yonkers, to save for a modest place. Although Mom and daughter get along well, it's a sacrifice for both. "The main reason I'm doing this is that it's the responsible financial choice," Diliberti says.

In moving to the burbs, she bought a car, a used Mitsubishi Mirage, and tries to skimp on other nonessential purchases. She and her mother have had giftless Christmases for the past two years, as she feels no savings is too small. "Because I'm saving to buy, I'm definitely more frugal."

At 26, Diliberti is now debt-free and saving for a co-op in southern Westchester. "It's a happy medium between the city and suburbs," she says. "I definitely can't afford the five boroughs."

Christina Barry, 27, followed a similar

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Middle Class In Westchester

(Continued from previous page)

plan. Her parents, who are small-business owners, taught her the virtues of being debt-free. After graduating from Iona College, she moved home to Brewster, paid off roughly \$50,000 in student loans and socked away the bucks. "I saved every penny I ever made," Barry says.

It paid off. She's mostly debt-free and bought a \$124,000 co-op in Yonkers, which is close to work and close to New York City, where she and her friends like to socialize. Despite her sensible financial planning, frugality, and job stability, Barry is learning that life on her own is indeed expensive. So, too, is she hyper-aware that housing, property taxes, and the cost of living in Westchester could force her and her boyfriend, who also lives in Yonkers, to move elsewhere when they eventually tie the knot. "You have to think about these things," Barry says. "I like the area; we have the best of both worlds, ...but you have to pay a premium here."

Many residents who don't want to pay that premium are fleeing the state altogether for less expensive climes, like Florida, Texas, and just about anywhere the weather is warmer and the taxes lower.

A May 2016 report in the (Rochester) *Democrat & Chronicle* found that New York lost more than \$22 billion in wealth between 2009 and 2014 from people fleeing the state. Of that, three counties in Florida — Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade — gained \$1.2 billion of New York's wealth in a single year. Much of this can be attributed to retirees decamping, but any Westchester resident knows a tale or two of people leaving for a lower cost of living.

The prognosis, however, isn't all bad, says Pace's Hormozi. Changing trends in health-care, growing economic sectors, and the revitalization of many towns and cities with walkable communities could prove to make Westchester a vibrant place for young and old alike — as long as there are pockets of affordability and an education system that not only prepares some students for higher education but others for careers in skilled labor and the trades.

"This type of transformation is necessary," Hormozi says. "Westchester County is part of the social transformation that has always taken place."

What's more, the economics professor adds, one should never discount the middle class, if for no other reason than one key attribute: "Hard work is the defining characteristic of the middle class," she says. **W**

Jerry McKinstry grew up in a middle-class household in Yonkers, where he landed his first job as a paperboy at age 10. A longtime journalist, he is the managing director of The November Team, a Westchester-based public-relations and media-strategy firm, and a frequent contributor to Westchester Magazine.

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Robert Ripley built a career around oddities, including his wildly popular Believe It or Not! syndicated newspaper column (top right). He purchased a Mamaroneck estate (below and right center) to house his collection of curiosities and used a Chinese junk (right bottom) to ferry guests.



Believe It or Not!

Ripley's Westchester History BY DAN ROBBINS

At the end of Taylors Lane in Mamaroneck, an exotic mansion once towered over a small island in Long Island Sound. It was Believe It or Not! ("BION") Island, legendary bachelor pad of entertainer Robert Ripley.

LeRoy Robert Ripley was born in 1890 in California. When a promising sports career ended in injury, Ripley shifted his focus to illustrating game-day promotions. After early success, he changed his first name to what he thought was the more commercially palatable "Robert" and headed east to draw cartoons for *The Globe* and later the *New York Evening Post*.

To prolong his rapid rise, Ripley needed something new. He started *Champs and Chumps*, highlighting peculiar and rare athletic feats. The popular column quickly expanded to feature all sorts of curiosities and oddities, acquiring a new name: *Believe It or Not!*

William Randolph Hearst caught wind of the series and syndicated Ripley's work across his worldwide newspaper network. The audience went global, which helped transform the traveling Ripley into a "modern Marco Polo," as he was often called, uncovering the world's hidden treasures. Having amassed fame and fortune, Ripley invested in a grand 28-room estate in Mamaroneck to house the curiosities he had brought back from a host of countries, ranging from Norway to New Zealand. Like all things Ripley, BION Island boasted entertainment to its core. Celebrities from Babe Ruth to Mae West would come to see the room with the Buddhist prayer wheel, the Aztec masks, the replica of the Taj Mahal, and, of course, the skeletons. Ripley would wear his favorite embroidered mandarin robe and, attended by a fleet of servants, take guests around Long Island Sound on *Mon Lei*, his Chinese junk (vessel).

In many ways, the show made the man. Wild dress and loud bravado became the vehicle through which the quiet

and stropy boy became "Ripley!" Behind the spectacle, authentic curiosity captivated devoted fans. A skilled interviewer, Ripley tapped into a natural fascination with frontiers and the unknown.


This passion belied a strong work ethic and knack for entrepreneurship that propelled his celebrity. In 1930, Ripley's cartoons took to the airwaves with a weekly live radio show, supported by a full-time fact-checking researcher. Ripley launched contests that dispensed regular prizes and showcased his collections at world's fairs. News and oddities could now travel across the globe at speeds only imagined years earlier. He broadcast his radio program from underwater one time and from a falling parachute another.

Ripley took his act a step further by launching Ripley's Odditorium, which brought exotic eccentricities live to cities across America. A few dozen 15-minute movie documentaries made the entertainer into a movie star. By the late 1940s, Ripley, who had been voted the Most Popular Man in America, dove headfirst into the new entertainment medium called television.

"I have traveled in 201 countries, and the strangest thing I saw was man," Robert Ripley once remarked.

In some respects, Ripley's widespread popularity helped this new technology take center stage in American living rooms. His travels to exotic locations laid the foundation for *America's Funniest Home Videos*, reality shows, and *YouTube*. "I have traveled in 201 countries, and the strangest thing I saw was man," Ripley once remarked.

When in Westchester, Ripley focused on his neighborhood, supporting local causes and community organizations from the Mamaroneck Parent Teacher Association to the local Red Cross. During World War II, Ripley drew well-heeled friends to the village for fundraisers.

When Ripley died in 1949, a famous opera singer purchased the mansion on BION Island, which was later replaced with residential developments. However, nearly a century after launching his first *Believe It or Not!* cartoon, the Ripley name lives on in cultures around the world. 

Dan Robbins majored in history and American studies at Cornell University and remains an unabashed history buff, particularly when it comes to his own backyard.



It's Time to Celebrate the BEST!



Results will be published in our annual Best of Westchester® issue in July.

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Glen Island Harbour Club

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from A to Z | ALANA SWEENY

Charitable Offerings

Advancing the common good, attending arts events and dining on the waterfront are all favorite picks for this United Way of Westchester and Putnam president/CEO.

Attending an ArtsWestchester Event, because it helps me realize the talent and vibrant arts community that exists outside of NYC

Boating down the Hudson with the Business Council of Westchester with Hornblower New York

Café of Love in Mount Kisco. This jewel has consistently great food in a charming setting, plus owner Leslie Lampert makes everyone feel like a most valued friend.

Dante's Deli on Central Avenue. Delicious food, like it was made by Mama or Grandma in a traditional Italian household.

Elephant Trunk's fine fashion. Everyone deserves a gorgeous special-occasion dress!

Floating in a boat (or watching others float) at the Glen Island Harbour Club, site of the Best of Westchester party. Not to be missed!

Giving back to others. There are so many opportunities to give back in this community, and not-for-profits could use the volunteers. One favorite is participating in Reading Buddies at the Yonkers Library.

Hobbs, a great new store in The Westchester. Beautiful clothes with a classic design that fit real people and are reasonably priced.

iFLY Westchester at Ridge Hill. It's a lot less scary than jumping out of a plane.



Joining friends [at Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill] to hear world-renowned violinist Daisy Jopling, who plays classical pieces spiced up with gypsy music, Irish folk, tango, and original compositions.

Kara Mac Shoes. This Mount Kisco-based designer's shoes are convertible: one shoe, many looks.

Lyndhurst. Strolling the grounds takes you to another time, when life was so different from today's hustle and bustle.

Meeting Michael Schmutzer, executive chef at Doral Arrowwood. He's a fabulous chef, and it's a perfect venue for the United Way gala (April 6 this year).

Not-for-Profit Leadership Summit. The United Way's event (May 1, 2017, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown) brings together approximately 700 volunteer and professional leaders in the not-for-profit sector.

Observing the planets and stars in the planetarium at the Hudson River Museum.

Piglets at Muscoot Farm, especially on a spring afternoon. Stroll around, bring a picnic lunch and let out your inner child.

Quiet Man Public House in Peekskill. A

great place to go for some Irish music, trivia, and great company.

Red Hat on the River in Irvington. A wonderful menu, a beautiful view, and a restaurant with ambience (and good drinks!).

Stew Leonard's. Stew's not only has the best chocolate milk in town, it also has managed to make grocery-shopping fun.

Traveling via Metro-North train. Relax and work or read a book with none of the hassle of driving. On the Hudson line, the view is spectacular.


Unitng the county to address complex problems with the United Way.

Vowing my undying love to my honey with a special custom-created letter "V" made of chocolate, sea salt, and caramel from Chocolations in Mamaroneck.

Whispering Pines Garden Center in Yorktown Heights. Be transported to the Tropics in their indoor greenhouse.

X-ing over from White Plains to Larchmont to the Music School of Westchester, to hear my favorite 5-year-old in concert, playing the xylophone.

Yelling for baskets by the Westchester Knicks.

Zipping up my coat and walking the North County Trailway in Yorktown. 



FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES WE HELPED POWER THE HUDSON VALLEY.

And now, as part of an agreement with the State, Entergy is working toward an early and orderly shut down of Indian Point by 2021.

Our agreement with New York State will see Indian Point Unit 2 shut down by April 30, 2020, and Unit 3 by April 30, 2021. Until then, Indian Point will continue powering New York safely, securely and reliably with the facility's full staff of nearly 1,000 nuclear industry professionals.

Entergy has owned the two nuclear plants at Indian Point for more than 15 years. Since purchasing the generating units, we've safely delivered hundreds of millions of megawatt hours of virtually emissions-free electricity to the Hudson Valley and New York City, while investing more than \$1.3 billion in new equipment and safety improvements.

Currently, Indian Point provides about 25 percent of the electricity used in New York City and Westchester each year. Indian Point's capacity factor, the ratio of a plant's actual output compared to its potential, has increased under Entergy's ownership from approximately 60 percent to more than 90 percent. The plants at Indian Point have proven to be one of the most reliable generating stations in New York State.

Key considerations in our decision to shut down Indian Point ahead of schedule include sustained low and projected wholesale energy prices, as well as increased operating costs and continuing costs for license renewal beyond the \$200 million already spent. Record low natural gas prices have driven down electricity prices in this area by about 55 percent over the last ten years, to

a record low level. At this current and projected rate, Entergy simply couldn't continue operating Indian Point in a manner that was economically viable.

We fully recognize that this planned shutdown is a significant event for the local economy and for our surrounding communities. Importantly, we will be here for the next four-plus years, producing electricity, providing jobs and wages, paying taxes and making local purchases. In addition, following shutdown Entergy will provide \$15 million in funding as part of our continued commitment to community stakeholders and environmental stewardship. We believe this approach supports an orderly shutdown, and provides time and resources for the state and local communities to transition to new energy and economic opportunities.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety is and will continue to be the top priority of everyone at Indian Point. Based on thousands of hours of inspections each year, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has placed both plants in its top regulatory column for safety. We fully intend to continue this exemplary safety record over the coming years.

We thank all our neighbors here in the Hudson Valley, and especially in the Village of Buchanan, for your support and friendship. It has been an honor to serve you for more than four decades.



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