

**Local Cop  
Charged  
on Duty...  
page 3**



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**Tourney Time for Boys', Girls'  
Hoops...**



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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

**FREE**

February 18 - February 24, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 530



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

## Taking the Plunge to Help Those in Need

Approximately 50 brave souls ran into the icy cold Hudson River in Ossining Saturday for the Third Annual Escape from Sing Sing Polar Plunge to support Gullotta House, a charity organization that helps residents who face financial or other hardships by providing food vouchers and scholarships for education, and aiding community organizations and programs to assist their clients and participants. **For more photos, see page 11.**

## Time Extended for Comments on Indian Pt License Transfer

By Rick Pezzullo

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has agreed to extend the public comment period for the pending license transfer of the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan from Entergy to Holtec Decommissioning International for an additional two months.

Entergy and Holtec submitted a license transfer application to the NRC on November 21, 2019. This would facilitate a change in ownership of the plant from Entergy to Holtec, once Indian Point is completely shut down in 2021. Holtec would then carry out all of the activities to decommission the plant, store the spent nuclear fuel, and restore the site to its original condition.

The NRC last week granted a request made by U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY-17) in a November letter to give residents and other interested parties until March 25 to make their feelings known on the change at Indian Point.

"We made it clear to the NRC that 30 days is simply not enough time for the thousands of Lower Hudson Valley residents, plant employees, union workers, local businesses, elected officials and all other key local stakeholders to carefully review the dense, technical, 300-page license transfer documentation that will prove to be a crucial step in determining how the decommissioning of Indian Point will be executed," Schumer stated. "These stakeholders have had Indian Point in their community for over 50 years and they will be

*Continued on page 2*

## Keon Center in Peekskill Merges with Abbott House

by Abby Luby

The long-awaited merger of two well established organizations who, for decades, have helped disabled and marginalized individuals, was formally celebrated last Thursday.

The Keon Center, located on John Walsh Boulevard in Peekskill, is now part of Abbott House, based in Irvington. Both are non-profit organizations who have served the developmentally disabled since the 1960's.

The merger's new name is Keon Programs of Abbott House.

The two groups' different support systems complement each other. Abbott House mainly provides residential programs in safe and car-

ing homes throughout Westchester and Rockland counties as well as the Bronx with round-the-clock supervision from a highly trained and dedicated staff. They also operate two community-based day habilitation programs and place volunteers at local fire departments, animal shelters and delivering Meals on Wheels.

Keon does not have a residential program but does offer training and support in daily living skills such as cooking, laundry, shopping, money management and how to use community recreational services. They offer essential training for job readiness skills such as reading, math, interpersonal skills, maintenance training, self-advocacy; many are involved in publishing the Keon

Center newsletter. Keon finds jobs for their clients in their own communities.

Now that both Keon and Abbott House have merged, both provide services to disabled adults and run community based programs such as WOW (Without Walls), volunteering, and pre-vocational training at Boscobel, Stonewall Stables, Teatown Reservation, Peekskill Field Library, Spins of the Hudson and more.

"Keon has always had an excellent reputation," said Abbott House CEO James Kaufman. "We were approached by Keon about three years ago and they were interested

*Continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

Celebrating the merger of Keon Center and Abbott House at the Keon Center in Peekskill, the formal ribbon cutting was done by Renee and local officials and program board managers.

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# Time Extended for Comments on Indian Pt. License Transfer

*Continued from page 1*

both directly and indirectly impacted by the NRC's decision on the decommissioning of Indian Point."

"This license transfer will dramatically impact the entire Lower Hudson Valley and change the lives of those living near Indian Point," Lowey said. "It's vital the NRC take their opinions into consideration, and I'm pleased it heeded our call to increase the time for all local officials, residents, and stakeholders to voice their concerns. This

decision is simply far too important to be rushed, and I will continue to make sure local fears and concerns are heard and addressed."

Lawmakers are still awaiting word from the NRC regarding another request for a public hearing to take place before any action is taken to approve transferring the NRC license for Indian Point from Entergy to Holtec.

In January 2017, Entergy, which purchased the Indian Point nuclear power plants more than 16 years ago, announced, to the complete surprise of local leaders, its

plan for the early and orderly shutdown of the Indian Point by April 30, 2021 as part of a settlement with New York State and Riverkeeper. The first unit is set to stop operating this spring.

Meanwhile, Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced last week that Holtec had agreed to attend a forum before the Westchester County Board of Legislators, likely to be held within the next 30 to 45 days.

"There has been a great desire from the general public, and from elected officials

both those in the immediate area of Indian Point and officials from all other communities in the county to know who is Holtec," Latimer said. "[We want to know] what is their vision for the deconstruction of the plant and what is their past experience doing it. We wanted to create a county-wide forum to do that. Our request, and we appreciate the fact that they responded positively right away, will be in the center part of our county because we think the issues involving Indian point are not centralized but rather all over the place."

# Keon Center in Peekskill Merges with Abbott House

*Continued from page 1*

in working with us."

Kaufman said serving the disabled has changed much over the years and now requires a more diverse platform to efficiently serve clients.

"It's also more expensive, especially with Medicaid cuts which makes money tight," he said, adding the merger can also be a key asset in saving many programs.

Among the 50 people who showed up at Keon Center in Peekskill for the ceremonial 'ribbon cutting' was Westchester County Legislator Colin Smith (D/Peekskill), Peekskill Councilwoman Kathleen Talbot, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, Cortlandt Councilman James Creighton, Peekskill City Manager Andrew Stewart, Marianne Oros, the former

Vice President of the Keon Board and Chair of the Keon Programs of Abbott House Advisory Committee, George Oros, Economic Development Consultant for the Town of Cortlandt, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deb Milone and board members for both Abbott House and Keon Center,

"We found the synergy and the right partner. We found Abbott House and they found us," said Marianne Oros. "At the end of last year, the merger was approved by the New York State Attorney General and we have renamed the program the Keon Programs of Abbott House and we are delighted to celebrate that today."

Abbott House Board Chairman Walter Montgomery thanked community organiza-

tions including the Peekskill Business Improvement District, Charles Newman Insurance Agency and Wheelabrator Westchester. Other local businesses and organizations who have supported and partnered with Keon in the Cortlandt-Peekskill area include Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant, Table 9, White Plains Linen, the Peekskill Hat Factory, B.A.S.F., Entergy and the Peekskill Rotary.

"This is such an important day an important organization for our community," said Milone. "So many of our businesses participate in their programs. Now it is bigger and greater. We thank the Abbott House for their commitment to Keon and to keep it growing. The fact that we give disabled people an opportunity to work and to feel good and be a productive member of society is so very important."

Puglisi presented a certificate of certification to board members of Keon and Abbott House.

"I have had the pleasure, privilege and honor of working with Keon and having many members of the Keon Center work in our town government for over 25 years," said Puglisi. "They are the best employees, they are dedicated, they are hard working. This marriage of Keon Center and Abbott House will make it even bigger, stronger and better for all the members of this organization and we are all so blessed to have you here in our community."

The formal ribbon cutting was done by Renee Lewis, who has been in the Keon program for the last four years. Lewis lives in Peekskill with her family.



## Breast Cancer Screening

What you need to know about mammograms & other imaging...

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#### Q: Why is it important to have routine screening mammograms?

**A:** Early detection with a screening mammogram can catch cancer years before it becomes discernible by touch. It is important to catch cancer earlier, because the size of the tumor and its stage influence treatment and prognosis.

#### Q: During what ages should I have annual mammograms?

**A:** Starting at age 40, this screening tool saves the most lives. There is no defined upper age limit to stop mammography. The incidence of breast cancer increases with age: 30 percent of invasive breast cancers occur in women over the age of 70. We recommend that annual screenings continue as long as the patient is in otherwise good health and willing to undertake additional testing if an abnormality is detected.

#### Q: How do I benefit from advanced breast cancer screening technologies?

**A:** The latest mammogram screening technology is the **3-D mammogram** (digital mammogram with tomosynthesis), which lets us see through tissue and find more cancers than does a standard digital

mammogram. Another newer technology is the **supplemental screening ultrasound** for dense breasts, which helps us evaluate dense breast tissue and masses seen on the mammogram by letting us distinguish between solid and cystic tissue. The **breast MRI** can be used to screen women at high risk for breast cancer due to genetic factors, family history or previous high-risk findings, or used as an additional tool to look for further abnormalities in women recently diagnosed with cancer. Advanced imaging technologies are offered at Northern Westchester Hospital's women's imaging sites in Mt. Kisco and Yorktown.

#### Q: Should women with dense breast tissue receive special screenings?

**A:** About 40 to 50 percent of women have dense breast tissue. There are two components of breast tissue: fatty tissue and fibroglandular tissue. Fibroglandular tissue appears white on a standard mammogram, as do tumors, so tumors can be obscured. If you have dense breasts, ask about supplemental screening with a breast ultrasound. This technology increases detection by a rate of approximately four cancers per 1,000 screenings over that achieved by a standard mammogram.



# Police Blotter

## Westchester DA

### Ossining Man Pleads Guilty to Attempted Murder

**February 13** - Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. announced February 13 that Mario Miele, 32, of Ossining, pled guilty February 11 to Attempted Murder and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree in the shooting of another man in Ossining in February 2019. Miele is scheduled for sentencing April 24 before State Supreme Court Justice Barry Warhit.

### Peekskill Police Officer Charged with Crimes

By Rick Pezzullo

A Peekskill police officer was arrested Saturday by his own department for several alleged crimes that occurred while he was on duty.

The Peekskill Police Department reported the arrest of Officer Michael Agovino, 33, on Facebook but didn't disclose the charges. However, News 12 reported Agovino was arrested for alleged sexual abuse, stalking and burglary of a woman he was investigating.

According to News 12, Agovino's accuser alleged he sexually assaulted her twice and visited her home four times last summer while investigating a larceny allegedly perpetrated by the victim.

"The City of Peekskill Police Department is fully cooperating with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office's investigation into these allegations. Officer Agovino has been placed on Administrative Leave until further notice," Peekskill Police stated on Facebook.

Agovino was arraigned Saturday in Peekskill City Court and is being held at the Westchester County Jail on \$100,000 bond.

On February 10, 2019, at approximately 4:45 a.m. on Van Cortlandt Avenue in the Village of Ossining, Miele shot at a man nine times with a semi-automatic pistol multiple times, hitting him at least three times. The victim was taken to a hospital and survived, while Miele fled the scene. The victim suffered from multiple gunshot wounds and as a result, sustained life-altering permanent injuries. The victim and the defendant had known each other for years. Miele surrendered to police February 14, 2019. The 40 caliber Smith and Wesson was found near the crime scene by a civilian. The police were able to match the gun with the shell casings and other recovered bal-

listics evidence.

## State Police

### Police Probe Large Fight with Teens in Cortlandt

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks are investigating a large fight that may have involved more than 30 teenagers on Cardinal Road. Troopers were dispatched to New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital on February 8 just before 9 p.m. on a report of multiple teenagers suffering from wounds consistent with a large me-

lee. One 16-year-old suffered stab wounds considered life-threatening, while four additional victims were also treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

According to a source some of the teenagers involved in the fight attend Lakeland High School. State Police investigators are asking any teenagers involved and their parents to come forward to speak to the State Police. Any with information can contact Investigator Aquile at (914) 769-2600. Refer to SJS# 9420074. All calls will be kept confidential.

*Continued on page 16*



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# Officials Make Appeal for Organ Donors on Valentine's Day

By Abby Luby

Wearing flashing red heart "HERO" pins at the New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt on National Donor Day and Valentine's Day were several local officials and hospital staff encouraging the greater Westchester community to register to be organ donors.

State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-95) was joined by kidney recipient Carolyn Robinson, New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital President Stacey Petrower, LiveOnNY Ali McSherry, County Legislators Catherine Borgia and Colin Smith, Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg and Ossining Village Mayor Victoria Gearity.

Galef offered some sobering numbers about New York State's organ donors. "New York State ranks last in the nation in percent of residents registered as organ donors," she said. "Only 39% of eligible residents in New York are registered donors, while nearly 10,000 New Yorkers are in need of an organ transplant." According to Statista, the states with the highest donor designation rates include Colorado, Michigan, and Arkansas.

In 2019, 1966 transplants were performed from deceased donors in New York State.

Galef, a registered organ donor, worked on statewide legislation making the organ donation registration process easier; the 2017 New York State law allows a 16-year-



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef giving kidney recipient Carolyn Robinson at the Valentine's Day Organ Donor appeal

PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

old to register as an organ donor when applying for a driver's license.

Before the press conference Petrower told The Northern Westchester Examiner that this was the first year New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital publicly supported the effort to encourage people to sign up as organ donors.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to edu-

cate the public. We'd like it to be a yearly event," she said.

New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital is part of the New York-Presbyterian Regional Hospital Network. Petrower, who was dressed in green, the color of organ donor awareness, added, "New York-Presbyterian performs the most solid organ transplants of any hospital in the na-

tion."

Solid organs are liver, spleen, kidneys, adrenals, pancreas, ovaries and uterus. Petrower also stressed transplants are minimally invasive procedures.

Transplant recipient Carolyn Robinson shared her own story on needing a kidney and was put on a backlogged waitlist for a transplant. Fortunately for Robinson, her sister offered her own kidney to save her sister from having to undergo dialysis treatments.

"We are both healthy," Robinson said. "Organ donation is the gift of life and sometimes the only thing that can save lives. Show a little love and register."

All local officials strongly advocated for registering as an organ donor. While polling suggests that a strong majority of people support organ donation, there is still a disconnect between that support and enrollee numbers.

In the United States, more than 100,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ donation this year. The biggest challenge doctors face is finding the perfect match for their patients.

There are numerous ways to register to be an organ donor. Here is a short list:

<https://www.ny.gov/services/become-organ-donor>  
<https://www.liveonny.org/>  
<https://www.donatelife.net/>  
<https://matchingdonors.com/life/>

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# Ossining Dems Endorse Levin, Quezada, White for Nov. Election

By Rick Pezzullo

The Ossining Democratic Committee last week endorsed Village Trustee Rika Levin to run for the mayoral seat in November that is being vacated by Victoria Gearity.

Gearity announced last December that she would not be seeking a fourth two-year term. Levin currently serves as deputy mayor and has been on the Village Board since being appointed in 2015.

Levin, who has lived in Ossining for 27 years, is a graduate of Brandeis University and earned her MBA from the Stern School of Business at NYU. She spent more than 25 years in management, new product development, diversity management, and eventually Chief Marketing Officer in Fortune 100 companies in New York. She is currently in management at a large not-for-profit organization in Westchester.

Democratic district leaders also selected Trustee Manuel Quezada and Village Historian Dana White to run for two available trustee positions and Jeff Gasbarro for Village Justice.

Quezada, an Ossining High School graduate, is running for a second consecutive two-year term. He previously served as a trustee from 2012 to 2017. A married father of three, he works in the architectural field.

White, an Ossining resident since 1991, is a freelance writer and journalist. She is in her sixth year as Ossining Village Historian.



Rika Levin



Dana White

She also serves on the Historic Preservation Commission, a village land use board, and is on the board of the Sing Sing Prison Museum project. She has served on the board of the Ossining Rotary Club and Ossining Matters, a parent support group that raises money for enrichment programs in the school district.

She said a highlight of her volunteerism was being a part of the Ossining Downtown Redevelopment Working Committee, a group of citizens who came together to forge new ideas for revitalizing the downtown. The committee's final report received a 2018 Planning Achievement Award from

the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation.

"I have been thinking about it for a while now," she stated when asked why she decided to throw her hat in the political ring. "I worked on several campaigns and have been a district leader for the Ossining Town Democratic Committee, now in my sixth year. I did a lot of research on the suffrage movement last year and put together a big presentation on the history of women in politics. This was pretty inspiring. I gave a suffrage speech at an event held by State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef last fall at the historical society, and afterwards I asked

for her advice on running for office."

"When Mayor Gearity decided not to run for re-election this year, that opened up a spot on the board of trustees, since deputy mayor Rika Levin will be taking her place. So, I thought, carpe diem. Seize the day. I just turned 59, so what was I waiting for?" she added.

Some of the issues White hopes to focus on include supporting schools and keeping the lines of communication open, attracting more commercial businesses to shoulder the tax burden, and contributing her knowledge of village history to provide context as the village works on a new Comprehensive Plan.

It is unclear if the Ossining Republican Committee plans on running a slate this year.



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# Carlucci, Others Call for Passage of Alyssa’s Law

State Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester), along with Assemblywoman Elle Jaffee (D-Suffern), held a press conference last week in support of installing silent panic alarms in all public schools in New York State.

The call for the school security measure, known as Alyssa’s Law, coincided with the two-year anniversary of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, which left 14 students and three adults dead. The legislation is named after Parkland victim, Alyssa Alhadeff, who was a freshman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and a talented soccer player.

Since Parkland, there has been a school shooting in the U.S., on average, every 12 days, according to CNN.

“Today is a time to honor Alyssa, the victims of Parkland and families impacted by gun violence in schools. In Parkland, there was no silent alarm, and instead a fire alarm went off causing mass confusion,” Carlucci said. “A silent panic alarm in every school in the state is a common-sense safety measure that will allow law enforcement to get to an emergency quickly when seconds are precious. I hope in New York that these alarms are never used, but our educators are now dealing with the prospect that they may need to protect the lives of their students, and this is a simple step to improve safety.”

Alhadeff’s cousins Jadyn Turner and Jordan Turner, who are from Carlucci’s district in Rockland County, brought the

idea for the bill to his attention after Alhadeff’s mother and father helped get the bill signed into law in New Jersey in February 2019. Jadyn, 16, has been advocating for the bill’s passage in New York and at the federal level.

“On Wednesday February 14, 2018, my cousin Alyssa was sitting in her English class at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. In one single moment, everything changed. She took her last breath after being shot 10 times,” Jadyn Turner said. “Never again, would Alyssa attend her English class, kick a soccer ball, or run into the freezing cold ocean. The reality is too common for too many victims of school shootings. This is why we must pass Alyssa’s Law so that I can go to school feeling safe, and not one more child has to run out of the school screaming because they saw a bullet go through a classmate in math class.”

Silent alarms are usually a button on the wall that someone can press to signal law enforcement immediately. They can also be set off through a phone extension an educator dials, depending on the model. The alarm is silent because when an emergency is happening in a school, experts say chaos can ensue, so the idea is to prevent children from running into the hallways in panic.

Right now, the National Center for Education Statistics found only 27 percent of schools across this country report using silent alarms that are connected to local law enforcement. The U.S. has had 1,316

school shootings since 1970 and these numbers are increasing.

Alyssa’s Law is currently in the education committee in both houses.



## New Councilman Appointed

Dwight Douglas was sworn-in by Mayor Andre Rainey last week to fill a vacancy on the Peekskill Common Council. Douglas replaces Colin Smith, who was elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators last November. Douglas’ appointment expires in November.

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## Business of the Week

By Neal Rentz

Ossining native Andre Desa, who currently lives in Montrose, purchased his Anytime Fitness franchise in Ossining in February 2018 to follow his passion, he said last week.

It was a roughly eight-month process to renovate the facility, formerly a Japanese restaurant. His business officially opened on September 11, 2019, Desa noted.

Desa said he previously worked in the family business—a wholesale marketer and distributor of wines, olive oils and honey.

After leaving the family business, Desa said he “went into following my passion and it just so happens this industry is very underserved in Ossining in terms of fitness. That is why I took the risk to put a gym in Ossining.”

“I was a very passionate soccer player for a long time. My ambition was to eventually go pro,” Desa explained. “Like many athletes, they kind of want to go big but it never works out.”

Working out in a gym and helping people gave him the feeling “that closely resembled my soccer passion,” he said. “My passion really is just talking to people. What happens is a gym turns out to be a community on its own. And I think it’s important to treat humans like humans.”

## Anytime Fitness Ossining



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Montrose resident Andre Desa (center) opened Anytime Fitness in Ossining in September, 2019. Also shown above are (left) club manager Chris Picciano and trainer Sebastian Ramos, both of Ossining.

Desa said his employees know 90 percent of their clients by first name. “It’s a big selling point,” he said. “We’re going to treat you like not a number. We’re going to treat you like a person. That’s a big thing

for me.”

Desa said he chose to purchase an Anytime Fitness franchise because “I wanted to do something along the lines of a model that’s already proven. Anytime Fitness is

the number one global fitness franchise in the world right now, there’s almost 5,000 locations around the world. They’re on all seven continents.”

Once a person joins Anytime Fitness the member has access to any of its facilities around the world, he noted.

“The beauty of Anytime Fitness is it’s convenient, it’s for anyone and everyone,” Desa said, noting the facility never closes for holidays. An Anytime Fitness client can work out anytime he or she wants, he said. “That’s the unique selling point for us,” he said.

*Anytime Fitness is located at 281 S. Highland Ave. in the Arcadian Shopping Center in Ossining. For more information, call 914-487-8033. The Anytime Fitness Web site is anytimefitness.com. The business also has a Facebook page.*



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## Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to [rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com](mailto:rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com). The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.



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# Five Tips for a Healthier Heart

By Amy Rosenfeld, MS RD CDN, Registered Dietitian at the Center for Healthy Living at Northern Westchester Hospital

You put your heart into everything – don't break it! Let's keep it beating strong. Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. Your diet, in addition to regular exercise, can help you prevent and even reverse heart disease. Here are five simple steps you can take to lower your blood pressure, cholesterol, and risk for heart disease by eating well. Don't forget to check out heart-healthy events at the Center for Healthy Living all February long! Visit [NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.eventbrite.com](http://NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.eventbrite.com) for a list of all upcoming events.

1. Choose whole grains and add legumes. Whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds all contain healthy doses of fiber, which also have been associated with decreased heart disease risk. In particular, legumes (including beans and lentils), as well as oatmeal, oat bran, barley, nuts, seeds, and some fruits



contain soluble fiber, which attracts water and turns to gel during digestion, helping to reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol.

2. Focus on healthy fats. Oils (such as olive oil), nuts, and seeds all contain healthy doses of monounsaturated fat, the type of fat that can protect you against heart disease. Choose monounsaturated fats in place of foods high in saturated fats, such as cheese, butter, fatty red meats, and avoid trans fats (partially or fully hydrogenated oils) as these fats in high doses can increase LDL cholesterol.

3. Add fish into your diet twice per week. Fish, such as salmon, contain a healthy dose of omega-3 fatty acids. Research shows that adding fish into your diet two times per week can help reduce triglyceride levels. Limit red meats and processed meats and opt for fish and vegetarian proteins (like legumes) more often.

4. Limit salt and sugar. Put down the salt and sugar shakers. Instead, season your food with fresh herbs, make sauces and marinades from scratch, and limit processed foods. Limit total added sugar (such as sweet treats) to 24g of sugar or less per day – be sure to check ingredients lists on labels for hidden sources of sugar.

5. Eat the Rainbow. Fill your plate with colorful fruits and vegetables at each meal and snack. A plant-based diet has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Don't forget to check out heart-healthy events at the Center for Healthy Living all February long! Visit [NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.eventbrite.com](http://NWHCenterForHealthyLiving.eventbrite.com) for a list of all upcoming events.

## Letters to the Editor

# Surprise Medical Bills from Out-of-Network Providers is Outrageous

### To the Editor:

Politicians in Washington need to do the right thing and put an end to surprise medical bills. It is unfathomable that insurance companies force people to use out-of-network providers and deny coverage for vital tests and procedures, then turn around and send patients exorbitant bills. Patients need to be protected from these preposterous acts.

Too many Americans and New Yorkers go to the doctor, get care, then weeks later while recovering from an injury or dealing

with a life-threatening illness, receive bills from their insurance company saying they owe exorbitant amounts of money. Patients need to focus on healing, not hemorrhaging money, to insurance companies.

It's just not right, and this can happen to anyone when you or a loved one goes to a hospital or doctor's office that is in your insurance network but you are treated by an out-of-network provider at the facility. We need Congress to find a balanced approach to ending surprise medical billing that pro-

protects patients first and foremost.

Fortunately, there are those in Washington, like Sen. Chuck Schumer, standing with patients to make sure a solution to surprise billing truly works for the benefit of patients, not insurance companies. He understands that only a balanced approach to resolving these payment disputes will ensure that patients remain protected. It's time for others to follow his lead.

**MARIANNA STOUT**  
Peekskill



PHOTO BY HOWARD COPELAND, SCOTT CAMERA.

## HV Gateway Chamber Honors Five at Dinner

The Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce honored five members for their contributions to the community at the Chamber's annual awards dinner held at Colonial Terrace. (L-R:) Martin Ginsburg, Ginsburg Development Companies received the Business of the Year Award for their development properties built in Peekskill; Barbara DeNoia, accepted the Chairman's Award on behalf of her husband, Larry

DeNoia, a popular Peekskill Rotarian and Chamber Member, who passed away in December; Brian Fassett accepted the Volunteer of the Year Award for his work with the Peekskill Business Improvement District and Peekskill Pride; Jeffrey Cobelli of Good 4 You Productions accepted the Young Professional of the Year Award; Evan Liaskos accepted the Quality of Life Award for Cortlandt Colonial Manor Restaurant's charitable work.



# Obituaries

## Melissa Antunes

Melissa Antunes, a resident of Putnam Valley, died February 9. She was 46.

She was born July 14, 1973 to Patricia (Adams) Antunes and Andrew Antunes. As the youngest of four children she completed the Antunes family. She spent her childhood growing up in Putnam Valley, enjoying life while swimming in the backyard pool, playing with her close friends and loving a variety of pets. As a child, she was always curious and creative, which nurtured a propensity for learning languages. She graduated from Lakeland High School in 1991 and became fluent in Spanish while pursuing her bachelor's degree in education. She graduated from Arizona State University and completed her Master's degree shortly after.



MELISSA  
ANTUNES

While pursuing her education she studied in Spain, and loved traveling through many European countries. One of her favorite places to be was on the family farm located in upstate New York. She spent countless happy moments there, four-wheeling, hiking, swimming in the pond and hanging out with her upstate friends. Since childhood, the farm was her happy place.

She became a Spanish teacher at a private school before becoming part of the Foreign Language Department at Lakeland High School. She was passionate about working with her students and enjoyed immersing her students in the Spanish and Italian languages and cultures. She took her Lakeland students on several trips abroad during her career. Her creative side was very evident in her classroom as its decor was always brimming with color and culture. She loved participating in cultural week at school, adorning herself in the traditional garments of countries from around the globe. She will be remembered as an intelligent, supportive and caring professional whose love of teaching and for her students was paramount.

Although her passion for teaching her students was so important to her, her deepest sense of joy and love came from being a mother to her two children, Noah and Maggie. She loved cooking for her family, traveling with her children, taking them to museums and most importantly sharing laughter with them.

She was predeceased by her beloved mother Patricia in 1985. She is survived by her children Noah and Maggie, her father; Andrew Antunes and stepmother Ada Ereno, a sister; Maxine Antunes-Reiff, a brother and sister-in-law; Andrew and Angela (Graci) Antunes; and a brother Steven Antunes, and several nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. All who love her deeply.

She was a loving, caring person with a heart of gold. She gave of herself freely to everyone that knew her. The family is deeply saddened by her loss and will miss her dearly, but they know that Heaven and her

mother have welcomed her with opened arms.

## Sister Joan Marie Berninger

Sister Joan Marie Berninger, M.M., a Maryknoll Sister for 66 years, died February 10 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in Maryknoll. She was 86.

She was born in LaSalle, IL to Lillian (Funfynn) Berninger and John Berninger. She had two brothers and three sisters: John, Michael, Janet, Lynne, and Sally. She attended high school at the Academy of Our Lady in Peoria, IL from 1947 -1951. She then worked as a secretary and parish organist/piano accompanist before entering the Maryknoll Sisters Novitiate on September 2, 1953 (from St. Bernard Parish, Peoria, IL). She made her First Profession of Vows on March 7, 1956 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, NY and her Final Vows on March 7, 1962, also at the Sisters Center.

In 1958, Sister Joan attended classes at Maryknoll Teachers College (located on the Sisters property in Maryknoll, NY); she received a Bachelor's of Education degree in 1962. She continued her studies at Manhattanville College in Harrison and received a Master's degree in Liberal Studies and Theology in 1967. She then attended New Mexico State University, where she earned a Master's degree in Education in 1987. Other significant studies over the years included Buddhism, Bible as literature, and language study in Portuguese and Spanish.

From 1956-1967, she served at the Sisters Center, Maryknoll, NY working in the administration office and teaching art at Maryknoll Teachers College. Sister Joan was then assigned to St. Anthony School in Wailuku, HI. There, she taught religion, art and served as a student counselor until 1977.

In 1978, she returned to the Maryknoll Sisters Center and was appointed Director of the Maryknoll Sisters Mission Institute until 1981. She was then appointed as Coordinator of the Sisters Center from 1982 -1985.

In 1986, Sister Joan transferred to the Western U.S. Region and taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Las Cruces, New Mexico until 1988, when she was promoted to Principal. She then served as the first Supervisor of Catholic Elementary Schools in the Las Cruces Diocese from 1989-2001.

In 2002, Sister Joan returned to the Maryknoll Sisters Center to serve as Coordinator of Congregational Services until 2012. In 2013, she relocated to Chicago to join the Integration/Formation Community, but returned to the Maryknoll Sisters Center in 2014. She served as a Secretary in the Maryknoll Sisters Nursing Home Care Unit until 2019.

She was a loving, caring person with a heart of gold. She gave of herself freely to everyone that knew her. The family is deeply saddened by her loss and will miss her dearly, but they know that Heaven and her

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mother have welcomed her with opened arms.

## Marilyn Hoferichter

Marilyn Mary Timmins Hoferichter, a longtime resident of Somers, died peacefully February 11 at home. She was 89.

She was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on August 30, 1930. She was a loving mother to Paul Hoferichter of Vernon, NJ, Debbie Zambri of Spring Hill, FL, Susan Hoferichter Travis of Brewster, and Thomas Hoferichter of Hopewell Junction. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Paul and Kaila Hoferichter, Jessica and Corey Travis, Caitlin, T.J. and Karlie Hoferichter, great grandson Brighton Hoferichter, daughter-in-law Karen Hoferichter and son-in-laws Cory Travis and Ronald Zambri. She was predeceased by her grandson, James Hoferichter.

As well as being a loving mother and friend to many, she worked at the Somers Schools and Rippowam Cisca Schools.

## Gertrude Pomart

Gertrude E. Pomart (nee Edge), a resident of Peekskill, died peacefully February 8. She was 98.

She was born in Peekskill on December 27, 1921 to J. Edward Edge and Lillian (Kennedy) Edge. She was a graduate of The Guardian (Assumption) School, Peekskill High School and Wilfred Beauty Academy in NYC. She married John J. Pomart on March 2, 1947 at the Assumption Church, Peekskill. He predeceased her on November 25, 1994. She worked in beauty shops, retail stores and at Fleishman's (Standard Brands) in all departments until she started her family. She was a lifelong Peekskill resident and also resided in Lantana, Florida for 22 years. She was a parishioner of the Assumption Church.

She played basketball in high school. She enjoyed bowling—starting team play just out of high school (locally on the Community Ladies League - winning many trophies) and continued playing into her 80's. Gert and John were wonderful ballroom dancers. She enjoyed tap dancing when young and later in her

60's to 80's continued dancing as part of the Roxettes, performing at her Florida Lantana Cascades Senior Community. She was also a member of their chorus. She was a loyal Mets fan. She was known for always being nicely dressed and very coordinated—even down to her pocketbook. She also enjoyed dressing up for Halloween.

She is survived by her daughters: Geraldine "Gerri" Heesch (Paul), Marilyn Pomart (Steve Hegedus, deceased) both of Peekskill and Regina Pascale (Charles) of Clifton Park, NY. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins and also many friends at Drum Hill Senior Liv-

ing Community where she resided for the last 14 years. She was predeceased by her infant sister, Henrietta, and by her granddaughter, Sara Pascale in 2019.

She was greatly loved and will be dearly missed by all.

## William Harrison, Sr.

William H. Harrison Sr. (Bill), a Korean War veteran and resident of Peekskill, died peacefully February 10. He was 90.

He worked for Peekskill DPW for 40 years before retiring to work in his beloved garden. He was predeceased by his parents Bill and Florence, brother and sister Phil and Joan. Also predeceased by the two loves of his life, his wife Ann and Priscilla, and his sons Billy and Michael. He leaves behind his children Patty, Billy, Donna, Laura, David, Anna, Dan, Cynthia, Michelle, Laurie, and Robert, 33 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

## Robert Hamilton

Robert Alan Hamilton, a resident of Peekskill, died February 10 after a short illness. He was 62.

He was born January 28, 1958 and was predeceased by his parents, Donald T Hamilton, Mary B Hamilton, and sister, Diane Rodriguez. He is survived by his siblings, Donna Hamilton, Thomas Hamilton, and Donald Hamilton. He is also survived by his children Marion Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, and two grandsons, Jeremiah and Philip Hamilton.

## Lionel Allen

Lionel George Allen, a resident of Mohegan Lake, died February 13 after battling a long illness. He was 77.

He was born December 28, 1942 in New York City to Elsie Allen. For more than 40 years he worked in retail for various companies throughout the tristate area where he was often hailed for his hard work ethic.

He married Geraldine Henderson Finely in 1962 and had two beautiful daughters. He later remarried in 1979 to his current wife, Roberta Ann Hughes, had one beautiful daughter, and they eventually moved to northern Westchester County.

Often known for his love of gardening and fixing things around the house Mr. Allen was well known within the Mohegan Lake community he resided in.

He is survived by wife Roberta Hughes Allen, daughters Lorraine Allen, Lisa (Allen) Waters, and Linda Allen, grandchildren: Krystal, Kayla, Richard, Trinity and Tristan, and two great-grandchildren.



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# TOMORROW ALONG THE HUDSON

## WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

**Decades Sooner** — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

**Decommissioning Expertise** — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

**Employee Retention** — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

**Spent Fuel Management** — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

[www.indianpointdecommissioning.com](http://www.indianpointdecommissioning.com)  
[www.holtecinternational.com](http://www.holtecinternational.com)  
[www.hdi-decom.com](http://www.hdi-decom.com)

Indian Point Energy Center





# Annual Gullotta House Polar Plunge Raises \$17,300



PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO



# Orchid Show Extravaganza at the NY Botanical Garden

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

What better way to get away from the winter doldrums than to be surrounded by a magnificent floral burst of color. The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) offers the perfect escape for those that love flowers, their beauty and want to enjoy and explore them in a tranquil and welcoming setting. Now in its 18th year, the popular orchid exhibition at NYBG returns with The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope. Thousands of orchids are on dramatic display in dazzling creations by lifestyle icon and floral designer to the stars Jeff Leatham. On view February 15 through April 19, Leatham's captivating designs and installations transforms each gallery of the exhibition in NYBG's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into a different color experience, like a turn of a kaleidoscope.

## About the Artist

Leatham is the award-winning artistic director of the Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris, with studios also at the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia at Comcast Center and the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. He has been creating a sensation with his floral installations since he began his career in 1995. His work is a combination of his love for flowers and passion for design. Using shape, color, and simplicity, his creations are dramatic, bold, unforgettable statements that are always



PHOTO BY EVELYN J. MOCBEICHEL  
Jeff Leatham spoke at event at New York Botanical Garden.

an integral part of the setting. Leatham has produced spectacular displays in Paris for nearly two decades, and in 2014, he was knighted with the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres—the highest honor for artists and others who have made a significant contribution to French culture. His clients include Cher, Dolly Parton, Tina Turner, Oprah Winfrey, the Kardashians, His Holiness

the Dalai Lama, and many others. His publications—Flowers by Jeff Leatham, Flowers by Design, and Jeff Leatham: Visionary Floral Art and Design—remain best-selling design books worldwide.

During a recent press tour, following welcoming and opening remarks by NYBG President Carrie Rebora Barratt, PhD, Leatham came to the podium to speak before the tour of the exhibit began. In an easy-going style, he related how he got his start in his career and how honored he was to be the guest designer for this year's orchid show. Taking random questions from the audience his enthusiasm for his profession, warm and charismatic style of delivery and friendly demeanor was a delight for all those becoming familiar with him for the first time. He easily conveyed the love of creating designs that are from his own imagination, rather than following in the footsteps of other designers.

Senior Curator of Orchids, Marc Hachadourian, led the tour through the maze of floral presentations through the various settings and areas of the display, explaining about the orchids we saw and background where they were grown. There are more than 30,000 varieties of orchids with 100,000 hybrids! The NYBG has more than 6,000 of their own varieties they grow on site. Leatham accompanied the group on tour and was very approachable to answer questions along the way, explaining how his theme and color scheme for the show evolved for each area we entered.

"Color is the first and most important aspect of my work, always," Leatham said when describing his creations for The Orchid Show. "I want every gallery to be a different color experience for visitors as they move through them, like looking into a kaleidoscope. I loved kaleidoscopes as a child. You start dreaming as you look through one. People have seen the interiors of the Conservatory already, but with this exhibition, I want them to look through them like never before."

A particular creative part of the tour was a section that was basically a tunnel of corrugated metal that has been at the NYBG for many years, connecting one building area to another. Keeping in tune with the "kaleidoscope theme" a light display en-

hanced this normally somewhat bland walkway into a feeling as if guests were literally stepping inside of an elongated kaleidoscope! A rainbow effect of colors repeatedly moved slowly down the tunnel and then started all over again. Kudos to wh ever came up with this inclusion!

## Other Attractions

During Orchid Evenings on select dates throughout the run of The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope, adults 21 and over can experience the exhibition at night with music, cash bars, and light bites. Advance ticket purchase is recommended to guarantee admission to these signature events.

At NYBG Shop, Orchid Show visitors may select from thousands of top-quality orchids, from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners available for purchase, along with orchid products and books.

For more information about The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope and to purchase tickets, visit the Garden's Web site at nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, call 718-817-8700 or visit nybg.org.



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# Happenings

*The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@theexaminernews.com.com.*

## Tuesday, Feb. 18

**Free Medicare Counseling:** Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center Helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/>.

**Senior Benefits Information:** Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic>.

**Healthy Happy Hour:** Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac and another location may be added. Take a 10-day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addictions to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

**Hygeia Programs:** Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: [hyinhealth@gmail.com](mailto:hyinhealth@gmail.com). On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: [hyinhealth@gmail.com](mailto:hyinhealth@gmail.com) or [www.hyinhealth.com](http://www.hyinhealth.com).

## Wednesday, Feb. 19

**Senior Benefits Information:** A Senior Benefits Information Center is available every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somers Library. If you can't visit the library in person, you can leave a message on the SBIC helpline at 914-231-3260 or e-mail us at [SBIC@wlsmail.org](mailto:SBIC@wlsmail.org) with your name, number, and a time to call between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow.

**POUND Program:** POUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses, is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates are available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

**Bingo Wednesdays:** Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914 -739-0500 or [www.firsthebrew.org](http://www.firsthebrew.org).

**Live Performances:** Live ticketed performances are being held at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Tribute, theatrical, cabaret, independent and famous acts perform. Info: 914-455-4272.

## Thursday, Feb. 20

**Yorktown Jewish Center Courses:** Several courses have been scheduled for the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The Talmud class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Sternstein's class meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 11 a.m. Rabbi Urbas's class meets on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. The Rosh Chodesh Class (for ladies only) meets on one Tuesday a month at 2 p.m. This class is for discussion and learning, and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Beginning in February, Rabbi Urbas's class will meet on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://www.yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Poetry Workshop for Adults:** The program is being held on Thursdays through June 25 at the Somers Library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

**Support Connection Mahjong:** Support Connection announces Mahjong, Coffee and Camaraderie will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at its Yorktown offices. The program is open to people who have or have had breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to attend, call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Friday, Feb. 21

**Coloring For Adults:** It's not just for kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Relax, color, and socialize for free. Materials are provided or you may bring your own color pencils and coloring books. Registration is not required. Info: 914 232 5717.

**Job Hunting Help:** Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the

second floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Ext. 315.

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on most Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324.

**Temple Beth Am Services:** A Friday night Shabbat service will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Am. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net/](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net/).

**International Film Festival:** "Roma" will be the February film in the 2019 – 2020 International Film Festival sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. It will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at Maryknoll, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. For more information visit <https://maryknollsociety.org/filmfest> or call 914-941-7590.

## Saturday, Feb. 22

**Putnam Valley Shabbat Service:** Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, call 845-528-2305.

**Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services:** Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush luncheon follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information, visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com).

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring and Market Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry, and eggs, breads, baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit [DowntoEarthMarkets.com](http://DowntoEarthMarkets.com).

**Somers Library Exhibit:** Photographs by Christy Hicks are being exhibit throughout the month of February at the Somers Library. Info: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

## Hebrew Congregation of Somers

**Shabbat Services:** Please join us for a Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 22 and 29. The services will be led by Rabbi Leis and Cantor Ruth Ossher, followed by Lunch & Learn, a discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis. Kiddush luncheon will be served. E-mail questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information. "The Eagle and The Dragon:" The seminar with author Lewis McIntyre will be held at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Rd., Montrose. Registration and breakfast at 10:30 a.m. and the seminar begins at 11 a.m. For more information about the National Maritime Historical Society program, call 914-737-7878 Ext. 0.

**Yoga Program:** Support Connection announces a free program: "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered every Saturday in February at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley from 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. It is open to people who have or have had breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to participate, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Meditation Program:** The Diamond-Dart Meridian Sequence: An Introduction will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Life Energy Art Gallery, 11-13 Main St., Mount Kisco. Info: 914 218-3350 or <https://lifeenergyarts.gallery/the-diamond-dart-meridian-sequence/>.

## Sunday, Feb. 23

**Hart Library February Exhibits:** Lakeland and Walter Panas High Schools art departments - Mixed Media Show is being presented this month at the John C. Hart Memorial Library. Also see artwork from Yorktown art students in the showcases inside the library this month. The library is located at 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak.

**Healing Yoga:** Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010.

## Monday, Feb. 24

**Musical Munchkins:** The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or [www.musical-munchkins.com](http://www.musical-munchkins.com).

**Nutrition Webinar:** Support Connection, Inc. announces a free national webinar Nutrition for People with Breast, Ovarian or Gynecological Cancer, will be offered from 8 to 9 p.m. New York time. It is open to people nationwide who have or have had breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to participate, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.



# I Think I May Know Where to Find Jimmy Hoffa

After almost a half-century of living with my wife Margaret, we frequently like to reminisce about experiences we've shared and keepsakes we've gathered together. That included collectibles of all varieties, whether antiques, such as the 19th century end-of-day glass playing marbles I collected for some years, or new items such as Battersby porcelain boxes that my wife favors.

Sometimes when we sit together, reading or watching television, I'll recall an item that seems to have gone missing and will ask, "Where is that item?" Margaret will reply, "Oh, it's in 'my box,'" referring to a moving box she says was filled with collectibles and important papers in our last move when we downsized from a six-bedroom colonial home to a two-bedroom condo.

But where is that box, labeled "Margaret's box," that may or may not exist? She swears by it, but it hasn't yet turned up anywhere in our condo or in our storage room after we've been in our new location for more than five years. It's even become somewhat of a joke. I'll think of something that's gone missing, and just as I'm about to ask Margaret if she knows where it might be, I stop short and say, "Oh, wait a minute, it's in Margaret's box, right?"

Maybe we all have a Margaret's box for all things that once graced our lives and

now are mysteriously missing. It can happen over time when the memory of where things are stored slowly fades.

There is one memory box I've had since I was a teenager. It's a sturdy box originally containing oranges from Florida that was sent to my family as a Christmas gift. After the oranges were consumed, I appropriated the box for my memorabilia that I've held on to since I was six years old. Only the most important papers are stored there: my Holy Communion certificate, my confirmation certificate, my Selective Service card, my high school and college diplomas, etc.

As I think about these important papers, I wonder whether that's the best system for filing them. It's doubtful.

That brings me to my basic point: Where should we place important papers to save?

One online source suggests:

1. Wallet. You are, obviously, very limited in what you can keep in such a small space.
2. Safe deposit box. You can rent one at your bank or credit union for a small annual fee.
3. Home safe.
4. An attorney's office.
5. Out-of-area friend or relative. (This suggestion begs the question, where

would they place the papers?)

6. Online or digital storage.

If the home option is chosen, where at home should money or important papers be placed? The suggestions I find are:

1. Again, a home safe.
2. Plastic page slips filed in a fireproof filing cabinet.
3. Under the mattress, as many people do with their money.

And speaking of that...

When we lived in a single-family home in Brooklyn Heights, we were once burglarized in the middle of the night by an intruder who had taken our back door from its hinges. It was the most frightening experience of our lives when we woke and Margaret told me that she had a strange dream that a man was standing in our bedroom, looking at us in bed. Thank goodness she stayed in a half-sleep state, or who knows what might have happened.

At any rate, the experience taught me something. For some years, I've maintained a library of rare books that I inherited from an aunt, which have always graced built-in bookshelves in our living room. When I went downstairs the morning after the burglary, I found that each and every book had been rifled through, obviously looking for cash. So is that where people keep their cash at home, I thought? I was also told by the police the next morning that thieves also look in the freezer. Who knew?

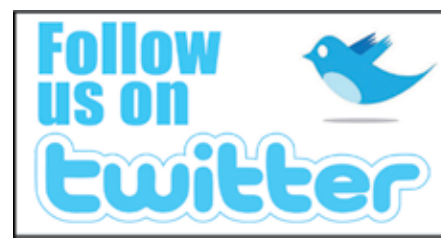
What that thief didn't know was that, young as we were, we were living far beyond our means in a home that we could barely afford. We really had no money, certainly none to hide around the house. The one item the thief stole was my then-three-year-old daughter's piggy bank that probably had less than a few dollars in change.

As I ponder these questions and memories, I marvel at the claim that our most important documents are safely stored in Margaret's box. All I have to do now is find that box. I joke with her that if I ever do find our important documents in it, I'm sure to find Jimmy Hoffa as well.

*Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Clock std.
- 4. Bit of humor
- 7. Put two and two together, say
- 10. GPS recommendation
- 11. Government security agency, abbr.
- 12. Understand
- 13. "Nice!"
- 14. Place for rolls
- 16. Nothing can be finer, than to eat at this mid Westchester diner, goes with 26 across
- 18. Mean
- 19. Tees off
- 22. Young lady
- 23. Ivanovic of tennis
- 24. Smooch in London
- 26. See 16 across
- 28. Like some damages
- 30. Relaxed and tranquil
- 33. Title of respect
- 34. Almond, cashew, etc.
- 35. Uncooked
- 36. Skater, Babilonia

- 37. Atlanta-based channel
- 38. They prosecute perps
- 39. Compass point

DOWN

- 1. Excel feature
- 2. German POW camps
- 3. Iran's capital
- 4. Grind together, as teeth
- 5. Java is in it
- 6. Bouquet \_\_\_\_
- 7. Carolina \_\_\_\_
- 8. In excelsis \_\_\_\_
- 9. Watery film
- 15. Gibraltar
- 17. Slanting
- 20. Enters the service
- 21. Plants of the mint family
- 25. Mobile lock, garage and safe installers located in Somers, All \_\_\_\_ Lock Inc
- 26. Horizons
- 27. Spooky
- 29. School sports org.
- 30. Colonial insect
- 31. Rubber duckie's place
- 32. Liq. measures

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(Solution for puzzle on page 19)

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R	T	E		N	S	A		S	E	E
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Police Blotter



Suspects being sought in connection with a wallet being stolen at ShopRite.

Continued from page 3  
Stolen Wallet from ShopRite Probed

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks are investigating the larceny of a wallet February 12 at ShopRite on Route 6 in Cortlandt. The pictured individuals are wanted for interview regarding suspicious activity at ShopRite. They may be operating a dark colored Kia sports utility vehicle.

If anyone has any information regarding the identity or location of these individuals, they are asked to please contact Trooper Katz of the New York State Police at (914) 769-2600. Please reference case# 9407352.

Teen Arrested for Forcible Touching

On February 13, State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested a 14-year-old for Burglary in the 2nd degree, a class C felony, Forcible Touching, and Unlawful Imprisonment, both class A misdemeanors. An investigation revealed the 14-year-old

forcibly entered the victim’s residence on February 13, then proceeded to forcibly restrain and touch the victim for the purpose of sexual gratification. The defendant was issued a Family Court Appearance Ticket.


Peekskill  
Mom Charged with Stabbing Son

A mother was charged with stabbing her eight-year-old son inside an apartment at 922 Main Street in Peekskill Monday morning.

Police were called to the scene about 7:40 a.m. when a 911 call reported Dayonna Hammonds, 33, was allegedly threatening her son with a knife.

When police arrived they found Hammonds holding a knife to the child, who had already suffered a stab wound to his torso. Officers took Hammonds into custody and rushed the boy to New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

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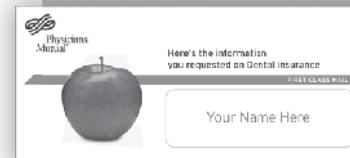
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# The Latest on the Tariff Wars Threatening Wine Imports

"The world we live in is changing. The old order is transitioning; welcome to the new reality."

Whether we are proponents or opponents of the entwined economic, social, technological and political new order of the 21st century, one thing is clear. Each waking day brings new discoveries, economic change and political upheaval around the world.

One of the areas I tend to focus on, perhaps more than others, is the changing world of wine. And recent European Union (EU) political skirmishes have created an uncertain future for the United States wine market over tariffs.

"Who cares about European wines? Buy American," might seem a reasonable response.

If the prices of Italian, French, Spanish, English and German wines increase significantly, won't American wines, typically more expensive than a number of European wines, gain a windfall profit? Won't American wineries benefit from greater profit margins at the expense of their European rivals?

All politics aside (as difficult as that may be in today's hotbed of opposing ideologies around the globe), the economic impact of the recent wine tariffs imposed and/or threatened by the United States is casting a doomsday spell over a wide swath of the domestic wine industry. From producers,

to importers, to distributors, to restaurants, to retail shops and to consumers, the financial impacts threaten the livelihoods of business owners and the wallets of consumers. The magnitude and breadth of the latest round of tariff threats has the potential of causing grievous economic and financial damage to the wine industry in the United States.



By Nick Antonaccio

You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine

The backdrop: In November 2019, the United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on select products, principally wine, exported from select EU countries that historically have been subsidizing Airbus. Affected wines include those under 14 percent alcohol by volume from France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The immediate impact: In the first month the 25 percent tariffs were implemented, French sales to the United States fell by 42 percent compared to the prior November.

Fighting for their economic lives, and to preserve their otherwise unsold wines, French producers turned to new markets. French wine sales to China last November surged 35 percent. Wily French winemakers have found a way to deflect the intended punishment of United States tariffs. Is this a portent of a long-term loss of access to French wine in favor of China, our arch-tariff war adversary?

The economic and financial impact of the November drop in French imports was

exponential.

It is estimated the ultimate cost up and down the import, distribution and retail chain was as much as \$148 million in lost cash profit and taxes. This loss of volume is not readily compensated for by increased sales of United States wines. The supply chain disruption will affect sales by reducing the channels available to American wineries.

In December, the United States tentatively set new tariffs on select goods imported from all 28 EU countries. Unless otherwise withdrawn before a Feb. 17 deadline (after this column was penned), a 100 percent tax will be imposed on all wines, cheeses, olive oil, whiskey and other consumer products.

Enactment of the threatened 100 percent tariffs would further reduce EU imports. Increased costs and reduced imports would cause employee layoffs and even small business closings at each of the layers of American support chains. Restaurants and retail stores would not have American substitutes for a number of their best-selling wines, thereby losing a significant portion of the profit margins that sustain their overall success.

Overall, it is estimated that the wine industry could lose 11,000 to 80,000 jobs as a result of 100 percent tariffs.

The United States has won the World Trade Organization court case, entitling it to \$7.5 billion in tariffs from Airbus and EU countries. It would seem reasonable to col-

lect such tariffs to the minimal detriment of the American economy.

Will the current tariff wars have a short-term effect on the domestic wine industry, or will the fallout of these tariffs have a more lasting, permanent impact? The ability to fully assess this seems to change every hour, day, week and month, as battle lines become clearer and conflict resolution more cogent.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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