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February 27 - March 5, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 547

Lowey Calls on Students, Police to Talk School Safety

By Anna Young

Westchester high school students and local law enforcement joined Rep. Nita Lowey (D-Harrison) for a gun violence forum last Friday in the wake of the Florida high school massacre that killed 17 people.

Lowey invited students to discuss the controversial issue after Blind Brook High School students Kevin O'Neill and Ryan Bachmann reached out to her expressing fear and frustration about gun violence in schools and communities across the nation.

The issue has once again been pushed to the forefront after the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

"This is the headline in every newspaper, in every news program, and I know from my perspective I am tired of standing in Congress for a moment of silence to remember victims," Lowey



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

More than a dozen high school students from around Westchester County and officers from local police departments joined Rep. Nita Lowey in White Plains Feb. 23 for a roundtable discussion on gun violence and how schools can be made safer.

said. "It's time for us to do something about it."

Throughout the hour-long discussion held at the White Plains Public Library,

students discussed the need for practical gun legislation, gun violence prevention, increased school security and whether teachers should carry

firearms.

Joseph Kennedy, a sophomore at Iona Preparatory School, said every student and faculty member must wear an identification card daily and all doors remain locked. He said the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn. in December 2012 forced his school to bolster safety protocols.

Frank Williams, director of the White Plains Youth Bureau, added that the White Plains School District constantly reviews and strengthens its safety measures.

Horace Greeley High School junior Ari Silver said recent events has caused a slight change in the Chappaqua School District. He said he wants more transparency between the student body and administration to address increased security concerns throughout the

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Mount Kisco Democrat Explores Run for 40th State Senate Seat

By Martin Wilbur

A former state Supreme Court and Appellate Division justice is the latest candidate mulling a run against state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) this fall in the 40th Senate District.

Robert Spolzino, 58, a Mount Kisco Democrat, said he will decide in the coming weeks whether to enter the fray in hopes of challenging Murphy, a two-term incumbent. Currently, the only Democrat who has committed to a candidacy for the seat is South Salem resident Robert Kesten.

"I will make up my mind, but I am considering it," Spolzino confirmed on Monday morning.

He did not reveal when he may make his decision, but noted that currently

most county and state Democrats are focused on retaining Westchester County Executive George Latimer's old 37th Senate District seat. Longtime Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) will square off against former Rye city councilwoman Julie Killian in an Apr. 24 special election.

Spolzino said he may run for the seat because the Senate needs a Democratic majority to ensure that the legislature doesn't stand by idly on a host of issues as resources from the Republican-dominated Congress and the Trump Administration are in danger of drying up for states like New York.

"The Republicans are the party of the wealthy and the party of the NRA and I think the public and the voters all

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Classic Car Storage Facility Proposed in Mount Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Pleasant Town Board listened last week to a proposal to convert the site of a former restaurant at 15 Commerce St. into a storage facility for classic and exotic cars.

The proposal was discussed at the Feb. 20 work session by Zappico Real Estate Development's Brian Zappi and his brother, Brandon, both consulting vice presidents of the Hawthorne-based company that owns the property and has pitched the project.

Zappico purchased the site of the former Spadafino's Ristorante, which closed after the firm's acquisition of the parcel. The project, which is currently being reviewed by the Planning Board, would need a zoning text amendment

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NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Zappico Real Estate Development Consulting Vice Presidents Brandon Zappi, left, and Brian Zappi, addressed the Mount Pleasant Town Board on Feb. 20 about a plan to construct a storage facility for classic and exotic cars on Commerce Street.



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Lowey Calls on Students, Police to Talk School Safety

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district. He added that it is too easy for anyone to walk into several entrances at the high school.

"I think there should be change because if we keep it this way I think something could happen," Silver said. "I think we need more security, I think we need IDs and I think we need more checkpoints and I just think we need to be more open and students need to talk to the administration about this."

O'Neill echoed a similar sentiment, stating how an intruder can enter Blind Brook High School if they look like a

teenager.

"The thing that scares me the most is that not much has changed at all," Bachmann said. "The change needs to start with the people buying guns and the school should make changes, but there's not much they can do when someone like that who's so scary and so determined is walking in with such a scary weapon."

Few students felt teachers should be armed. A majority agreed they would feel safer with an increased police presence. Several said that police officers are trained to handle a firearm

and face an active shooter; meanwhile, educators should focus on teaching.

"As law enforcement we know what we sign up for and I know I signed up to protect you guys," New Castle Police Officer Michelle Mazzacchi said. "We are trained yearly, multiple times a year and we signed up to protect, and a teacher signed up to help you guys further your education."

Students felt strongly that there should be stricter background checks and reinstatement of the assault rifle ban.

"That (AR-15) has been a popular choice of gun by most shooters in mass shootings that we've seen recently, and the same gun has been used in our military and is almost identical to the M-16 rifle and that is the most popular gun in our military right now," Pleasantville High School sophomore Ryan Burton said. "How are we letting these weapons of war get into the hands of our civilians and why are we? It's not right. Something has to be done against this."

Lowey said the National Rifle Association (NRA) must collaborate with government officials to help devise sensible gun legislation or face the public's wrath.

White Plains High School junior

Nathaniel Garcia agreed that assault rifles should be removed from society. He acknowledged that most gun owners use AR-15 rifles for recreational use and suggested that shooting ranges make them available for rental so patrons can use them in a controlled environment without owning them.

Pleasantville Police Detective Morgan Cole-Hatchard added that gun owners should have to renew their gun permits. She said after an individual obtains a permit there's no follow up, but circumstances could change during a person's life that should require a renewal process.

Lowey encouraged students to bring their concerns to school officials in their districts to press for change so their focus can remain on their education instead of safety. She said she would bring their suggestions to Washington in an effort to end the nation's gun crisis.

"I am hoping that at least the background checks issue, the assault weapon rifle issue can be dealt with in this Congress and that members will have a backbone and stand up to the NRA because unfortunately money is too powerful a weapon," Lowey said.

Classic Car Storage Facility Proposed in Mount Pleasant

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from the Town Board because the land is zoned half-acre, single-family residential.

"Right now, it's a non-conforming use," Brandon Zappi said.

He said the proposal was made because the town asked the company to come up with a different use for the property.

Zappico, which builds single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes and commercial buildings, is seeking to construct a three-story building containing about 51,000 square feet that

would accommodate about 200 cars, Zappi said. One of the levels would be underground. The company is also planning to plant evergreen trees on the property to provide screening.

The Town Board is required to hold a public hearing before it could vote on a zoning text change.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said he supported the car storage concept.

"It's a good thing for that spot," Fulgenzi said of the proposal.



Taking Care of Shoulder Pain

What you should know about symptoms and treatment options...

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Evan H. Karas, MD, FAAOS
Co-Chief, Orthopedic Surgery
Co-Director, Orthopedic &
Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

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Q: I've been experiencing discomfort when I lift my arm over my head, most often brushing my hair and putting dishes in the cupboard. What could be wrong?

A: Shoulder pain is often because of tendon inflammation or tear, dislocation, arthritis or a broken bone. If you feel pain when you put on your coat or reach into the back seat of the car from the front, you may have a rotator cuff injury. The rotator cuff is a cradle of muscles and tendons that lets you rotate your arm in a full arc. This intricate structure makes it possible for you to do everyday activities like reaching and lifting; you also rely on your rotator cuff while swinging a tennis racquet or golf club or throwing a ball. Injury can result from a fall or lifting something heavy – or it might just be overuse. I often see rotator cuff problems in patients older than 35, as tendons lose elasticity with age.

Q: What should I do?

A: If you're experiencing pain, it's important to see a doctor. A thorough examination is needed to determine the cause of your pain. An orthopedist will check for symptoms such as swelling, weakness, tenderness and any deformities. Additionally, imaging with MRI and X-ray will assist in a diagnosis. Treatment options will

vary. Most often rest, modified activities, and physical therapy will be needed. To reduce inflammation and pain, medication or injections, such as cortisone shots, may be used. Surgery will be required to resolve some shoulder problems.

Q: What can I expect if I need surgery?

A: If there is a tear, I'll recommend surgery to repair it. Using a minimally invasive arthroscopic technique, I'm able to repair a rotator cuff as an outpatient procedure and patients can expect to be home within a few hours. For more serious problems such as severe arthritis, degenerative joint disease, or chronic rotator cuff deficiency, shoulder replacement surgery is often necessary. Patients can expect to leave the hospital after one or two days. Arm movement is limited for about six weeks while the tissue around the new joint heals. Most patients return to normal activities after three months, and shoulder replacements typically last a lifetime.

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Town Contemplates Sponsorship Committee for Mt. Pleasant Day

By Neal Rentz

Town officials may form a committee to organize and sponsor the popular Mount Pleasant Day and have the group determine which organizations would benefit from money raised by the event.

Mount Pleasant Day, which has been held annually in August since 2014, is currently organized by the Hawthorne Fire Company and the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the event are divided between the two organizations with most of the money going to the fire department, said Chamber Vice President Pasquale Palumbo and Tom Milliot, a Board of Directors member.

Palumbo, who was cautious not to criticize the event, said he did not have figures on how much last year's Mount Pleasant Day raised, but the chamber receives only a small portion of that sum.

Planning Mount Pleasant Day should be opened to the other volunteer emergency services in town, Palumbo said. Last summer the chamber met with representatives of the Hawthorne Fire Company and were told that apparatus from the other volunteer departments in town would not be allowed to be showcased at the 2017 event, he said.

Councilman Thomas Sialiano said he had no objection to keeping the Hawthorne Fire Company and the chamber as the sponsors of the event because they jointly started Mount Pleasant Day.

But Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said he was open to the idea of forming a sponsorship committee to help plan and lead the event. Since the town provides

some taxpayer funds, Fulgenzi said he has "an issue" with the fire company receiving most of the money raised.

A committee should have authority on where the money would go, Fulgenzi added, although he stressed that his comments weren't meant to be critical of the volunteer fire department's efforts.

Fulgenzi said he did not have the

information regarding how much the town has paid for police overtime and other expenses related to Mount Pleasant Day.

A meeting will soon be scheduled with Hawthorne Fire Company representatives to discuss the possibility of changes, he said.

A message left for the Hawthorne Fire Company last week was not returned.

Mount Pleasant Library to Review its Planning Process

The Mount Pleasant Public Library has launched a planning process to help it better serve pre-teens, particularly after school.

The process, which is based around community engagement, will look at the challenges and opportunities the library faces due to its proximity to three local schools. In a "walking community" such as Pleasantville, in which schools have limited parking and challenging traffic flow, the library has become a convenient alternative afterschool pick-up spot for parents.

However, this has simultaneously created safety concerns for the library in terms of adequate adult supervision, the dangers of a more active parking lot and

the atmosphere of the library for all patrons during the afterschool time slot.

The planning process will last for about five months and will include a public survey, visits to other public libraries, one-on-one interviews, a series of roundtables and will be capped off with a half-day retreat. The library has engaged a management consulting firm with wide experience in the field of non-profits to



The Mount Pleasant Public Library in Pleasantville.

assist with this process.

This process has been made possible through funding provided by The Friends of the Mount Pleasant Public Library.

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Film on Child Migrants to Be Screened This Thursday in P'ville



Carola Bracco, left, executive director of Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco, will return to participate in a panel discussion this week in Pleasantville following the latest Films on Purpose screening.

Films on Purpose in partnership with Neighbors Link will host a screening of "Which Way Home" on Thursday, Mar. 1 at 6 p.m. at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, located at 400 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

"Which Way Home" shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of child migrants from Central America, who risk everything to make it to the U.S. riding atop freight trains through Mexico.

After the film, Carola Bracco, executive director of Neighbors Link, will lead a discussion with the film's producer, Rebecca Cammisa, about the challenges that unaccompanied minors and their families face. The event will also address

how members of the community can make a difference in the lives of immigrant families.

The free event begins with a reception with food and drink at 6 p.m. with the screening to follow at 7 p.m.

Films on Purpose is a grassroots organization screening documentary films on important contemporary issues that are hosted at venues throughout the community. The group seeks to encourage community engagement by keeping the conversation going after the film and providing avenues for involvement and activism to interested audience members. This is the 10th screening since the organization's inception.

Mount Kisco Democrat Explores Run for 40th State Senate Seat

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understand that," Spolzino said.

While the Democrats do have a majority by party affiliation, eight state Senate Democrats are part of the Independent Democratic Conference and are aligned with the GOP.

Spolzino, an attorney currently practicing with the law firm of Smith, Buss & Jacobs, LLP of Yonkers, was elected in 2001 to a 14-year term to serve on the state Supreme Court. He was elevated by former governor George Pataki in 2004 to the Appellate Division and served in that seat until he resigned in 2009. He said he left the bench for the more lucrative private practice as college expenses for his son approached.

If Spolzino does decide to enter the race, this would be his second candidacy he would run for the state legislature. He ran unsuccessfully as a Republican in 1994 for the state Assembly.

He also served about seven years from the late 1980s into the 1990s as Mount Kisco village attorney and was on the board of Northern Westchester Hospital for 10 years, including four years

as chairman.

Spolzino re-registered as a Democrat in 2008. He said the GOP, which had fought for middle class issues has largely abandoned that role.

Since Kesten announced his candidacy early last fall, he has been holding public forums on various issues throughout the 40th Senate District. Spolzino called Kesten "a good man," but believes his own professional background and community service makes him a stronger candidate. During his time on the bench Spolzino said he ruled on about 4,000 appeals in the Appellate Division and decided on cases as a matrimonial trial justice before that.

"I think I bring more to the table in governmental experience than he does," Spolzino said.

Another Democrat, New Castle Councilman Jeremy Saland, had also flirted with the idea of running for the seat earlier this winter, but decided to abandon a candidacy a couple of weeks ago citing likely scheduling conflicts with family and career.

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New Castle Renews Interest in Scaled-Down Version of ChapLine

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are exploring the possible creation of a walking path from near Chappaqua Crossing to downtown that would follow a similar route to the aborted ChapLine proposal.

Town Administrator Jill Shapiro said the idea has been floated as a way to promote a more pedestrian-friendly town and to increase recreational opportunities. Also, building sidewalks along stretches of Route 117 does not appear feasible.

In 2014, the town had previously talked about developing the ChapLine as an outgrowth of the Comprehensive Plan discussions and public outreach sessions where there was a widespread desire to have a community that was more

walkable. At the time, it had been learned that there was an outline of an existing path that was created about 10 years earlier for construction trucks during the installation of a new sewer line.

Costs and the multiple easements that were needed to be required from private homeowners helped put the kibosh on the ChapLine.

"They want a safe place to walk from Point A to Point B," Shapiro said of many residents who want to exercise or not want to drive for short trips to downtown. "We're looking at all the options on how to get from one end of the town to another."

It could also be beneficial for Horace Greeley High School students. Not only would students be able to walk the path that would be a little more than a mile from Roaring Brook Road to North Greeley Avenue, but it could be a safer alternative for the school's cross-country team, Shapiro said. Currently, the runners can be seen training along Route 117, a busy thoroughfare.

In a recent report to the town, Supervisor Robert Greenstein said a revised plan for a walking path will be considered. The proposed ChapLine was located within two state wetlands and

required an elevated boardwalk, he said.

Instead the town can use the existing county trunk line as a surface for a trail.

Shapiro said the need to increase walkability for that area of town is needed because it has become increasingly likely that new sidewalks along Route 117 will be a long shot. The state Department of Transportation (DOT) is requiring a four- to five-foot snow shelf to store snow in addition to the width of the sidewalk, she said.

That amount of space would infringe on state right of ways and/or private property.

State Funds to Rehab Carriage Roads in Rockefeller State Park

A state-funded capital project to rehabilitate eroded sections of Rockefeller State Park Preserve's historic carriage roads is getting underway. The cost of the project is \$621,417, with \$500,000 derived from the NY Parks 2020 Fund.

The crushed stone trails of Rockefeller State Park Preserve are the carriage roads laid out by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and Jr. in the first half of the 20th century. Today they are popular for walking, riding, jogging and carriage driving through the beautiful landscape of the former Rockefeller estate, most of which

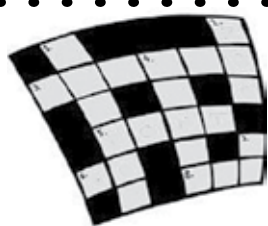
is now owned and managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Nicky Diggs Excavation and Masonry of Katonah will improve the drainage and regrade and resurface sections of several roads on the western side of the preserve, including Big Tree trail, Witch Spring trail, Gory Brook trail, Pocantico River trail and Eagle Hill access. The three magnificent stone arch bridges across the Pocantico River will be repointed.

During construction the trails and bridges will be subject to short-term

closure. Alternate routes may be used while roads are closed. Signs will be posted at the preserve's main office and key entrances to help visitors plan their routes. Up-to-date information can be found at the preserve's Facebook account, www.facebook.com/pg/RockefellerSPP and at www.nysparks.com/parks/59.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's NY Parks 2020 initiative is designed to revitalize the state park system and expand access to outdoor recreation. NY Parks 2020 is a multiyear commitment to leverage \$900 million in private and public funding for state parks from 2011 to 2020.



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Parkinson's Sufferers Find Improved Health, Life With Table Tennis

By Anna Young

The Westchester Table Tennis Center held its first-ever tournament featuring competitors who have been battling Parkinson's disease.

Seven players from throughout the region, and one from Denmark arrived in Pleasantville for the inaugural Winter Championship for Players With Parkinson's on Feb. 17, which allowed their skill level to shine.

The tournament was organized by Croton-on-Hudson resident Nenad Bach, a member of the table tennis center who founded the club's Ping Pong Parkinson's Night last year. The weekly program helps players by raising awareness for the disease and improving the physical and emotional health of those diagnosed.

Bach, who has had Parkinson's for six years, said playing table tennis has significantly reduced his symptoms and has helped him live life more fully. He said that the sport develops or modifies new neurons in the brain. Now, Bach is motivated to bring his findings to an international level to benefit the more than 10 million people who suffer from Parkinson's.

"I love it. For me it's boring to walk or lift weights but playing ping-pong is exciting," said Bach, who finished second in last Saturday's competition. "It's extending my life and I'm living my life."



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

The players who competed in the Feb. 17 Winter Championship for Players With Parkinson's at the Westchester Table Tennis Center in Pleasantville. Also pictured is the table tennis center's owner Will Shortz, far left.

Bach added that table tennis helps players remain agile, focused, coordinated and happy.

"People are here smiling like babies," he said. "We are creating or recreating some new neurons and it's exciting to say the least."

Yorktown resident Helena Rodriguez

said playing table tennis for one hour eases her symptoms for two or three days. Rodriguez, who was diagnosed nine years ago, said she feels a sense of "euphoria" after a session,

World Parkinson Congress ambassador Elisabeth Ildal trekked from Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in

the competition. Ildal travels around the world raising awareness for Parkinson's in hopes of accelerating the discovery of a cure and cultivate best treatment practices. She said table tennis increases the dopamine functions in the brain and improves the physical symptoms associated with the disease.

"We're going to play ping-pong all over the world," she said. "We're going to make this something big."

The tournament championship was captured by Margie Alley. The other players who participated were Arlon Bennett, Jose Ortiz and Bruce Ballard.

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Obituary

William Carey

William Carey of Thornwood passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 23.

He was 69.

Carey was born in White Plains on Sept. 2, 1948, to William F. Carey and Edna J. Carey. He was educated in Mount Pleasant schools and graduated from the University of Houston. He was self-employed in the lawn care industry (Master Lawns of Hawthorne) and was on the board of the New York State Turf and Landscape Association.

Carey was also a member of the Mount Pleasant Board of Education for more than 10 years. He was most recently a Town Board member and avid supporter of the American Legion. He loved his community, country, and most of all, his family.

Carey is survived by his wife, Cynthia; his son, Ryan; his brother, Donald, of Pleasantville; and lots of extended family. He will be greatly missed by them all.

Family and friends are invited to Pleasant Manor Funeral Home, Inc., located at 575 Columbus Ave. in Thornwood, today (Tuesday), Feb. 27



William Carey

from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. for visitation. For all who wish to attend the funeral on Wednesday, Feb. 28, please arrive at Pleasant Manor by 10 a.m. Interment in the family plot will follow at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

Westchester Chordsmen Chorus Offers Free Singing Lessons to Men

Free singing lessons for men in and around Westchester County began Monday, Feb. 26 and will continue for five more Mondays. If you missed the first session, come to the next one.

The six-week program provides coaching and instruction to teach new singers how to sing, and experienced singers how to sing better. The simple curriculum will take you from basic fundamentals to advanced concepts, regardless of your current singing ability.

Men, young and old, who have always wanted to sing, or want to improve their skills, are invited. No prior musical

experience is needed.

The program is free, a community service program from the Westchester Chordsmen Chorus. Materials will be provided.

Keith Harris, with over 20 years of vocal teaching experience, leads the talented and equally experienced music team who will inspire you with great energy and humor.

The program is held Mondays at 6:45 p.m. for 1.5 hours at Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Ave., White Plains.

To register visit www.chordsmen.org to register, or just show up.

Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Feb. 19: Officers responded to a Ridge Road residence at 8:29 a.m. on a report that an 85-year-old man was very ill with flu-like symptoms. He was taken by Westchester EMS to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Feb. 19: A 31-year-old man who reported to police that he is homeless, was arrested at 2:45 p.m. and charged with petty larceny, a misdemeanor, after staff at Rite Aid on South Moger Avenue said he took a 30-pack of beer from the store without paying for it.

Feb. 20: A 31-year-old Lexington Avenue resident was arrested at 6:52 p.m. and charged with second-degree harassment, a violation, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor, following a dispute he had earlier in the day with an East Main Street business owner. The suspect is accused of confronting the store owner and threatening to set fire to the business. The incident occurred in front of the man's wife and child.

Feb. 22: Police responded to Main Street and North Moger Avenue at 12:07 p.m. on a report that an intoxicated man was lying on the sidewalk. The man was taken by Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Feb. 22: Police responded to a gas station on East Main Street at 6:10 p.m. on a report of a dispute between two patrons. Upon arrival, a man told officers that he had gotten into an argument with a woman after they almost collided approaching the gas pumps. He said the woman threatened him with a baseball bat before driving off. He provided officers with a license plate of her car but said he did not wish to pursue the matter further.

Feb. 23: A motorist arrived at the Green Street precinct at 9:43 a.m. to turn in a wallet that he found belonging to a village resident. The motorist said he found the wallet on Route 117 in Pleasantville. An officer was subsequently able to return the wallet to the owner.

Feb. 23: Police responded to the Mount

Kisco Public Library on East Main Street at 12:28 p.m. after staff reported that two men were sleeping in the community room. The men were told they could not sleep on the premises and left the building.

North Castle Police Department

Feb. 16: A Wrights Mill Road resident reported at 4:29 p.m. that she believes her mail was taken and wishes to file a report. A report will follow.

Feb. 17: An officer on patrol reported stopping a vehicle driving the wrong way on Route 22 at 12:02 a.m. The operator of the vehicle was charged with DWI.

Feb. 18: An Old Orchard Street caller reported at 1:06 p.m. that a Husky was running at large in the area. The responding officer returned the animal to its owner.

Feb. 21: A party arrived at headquarters at 11:55 a.m. to report that one license plate is missing from each of five of their company vehicles. The complainant stated that it is unknown when the plates were missing due to the fact that three of the vehicles have been plowing and working at different job sites. Two of the vehicles are trailers that have been sitting on company property for a long time and it is unknown when those plates became missing. The registration and insurance cards were obtained for each vehicle. When the complainant attempted to return the plates at DMV, the agency had instructed her to file a police report.

Pleasantville Police Department

Feb. 22: A 63-year-old Rhinecliff, N.Y. resident was arrested at 11:02 a.m. following a traffic stop on Memorial Plaza. The motorist was charged with driving with a suspended license.

Feb. 23: Two arrests were made at 1:59 a.m. on Marble Avenue following a traffic stop. A 26-year-old Thornwood man was charged with driving with a suspended license and unlawful possession of marijuana and a 24-year-old Pleasantville man was charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

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Public Comment Sought at This Week's Mt. Kisco Comp Plan Meeting

The first of five public workshops on the Mount Kisco Comprehensive Plan update will be held this Thursday, Mar. 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mount Kisco Public Library.

Village officials are requesting residents, property owners, business owners and other interested individuals to attend the workshop and participate in the process.

A design workshop focused on downtown is planned for Saturday, Mar. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the library. It will be an intensive planning session focusing on downtown design.

The village is undertaking its first Comprehensive Plan update since 2000. The is to create a strategic vision for Mount Kisco's future and prioritize actions and strategies to implement that vision.

It will incorporate input from the community to create a vision for commercial vitality; downtown potential; neighborhood character; open space and natural resources; community facilities

and services; and infrastructure needs to support the village.

Mount Kisco has contracted with New York City-based BFJ Planning, a firm with experience in comprehensive planning in Westchester, to lead the update process.

In addition to addressing a broad array of topics, the plan will include a map illustrating desired future development patterns in Mount Kisco and strategies to guide its implementation.

The anticipated year-long process will be guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from village government and staff, boards and commissions and community residents. The committee initially convened in January and will continue to meet regularly.

The dates of future workshops will be announced at a later time.

Visit www.envisionmk.org for more information on the workshops and the Comprehensive Plan update.

Submissions Wanted for Mt. Kisco Nature and Culture Photo Exhibit

The Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), in partnership with the village's Tree Preservation Board, Historical Society and the Arts Council, has announced a call for entries to its upcoming photography exhibition, "Nature & Culture in Mount Kisco," to be held at the Mount Kisco Public Library Apr. 19-27. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, Apr. 19 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Anyone from anywhere, of any age and of any level of photography experience who has taken a photograph in Mount Kisco is encouraged to participate. There is no entry fee. The deadline for submitting entries is Mar. 21.

"Our town has beautiful parks, green space and walking trails, with amazing trees, plants, birds and animals," said Village Trustee Karen Schleimer. "Our residential communities, restaurants and shops represent a rich history and rich cultural backgrounds. This inspires residents and visitors to capture breathtaking and emotional moments in pictures, and we'd like to share these images with everyone in Mount Kisco and all of Westchester and encourage everyone to take even more photographs."

All appropriate photos submitted will be included in a slideshow to be



JOHN RHODES PHOTO

Nature and culture are the categories for entries into the Village of Mount Kisco's photo exhibit coming up in April. Submissions are being sought from the general public now through Mar. 21.

displayed on a digital screen in the library and online. Photographs chosen by the selection committee will be eligible for exhibition in printed form in the library.

All photos submitted should depict nature or culture in Mount Kisco, including plants, birds, animals, scenic views, people and events. The photos should be appropriate for viewing by people of all ages, must be original content and must be the property of the person submitting it for exhibition.

The submission form will be available at www.mountkiscohistoricalsociety.org and at other local sites. For more information, e-mail EarthdayMK@gmail.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Sensible Gun Safety Laws, Violence Protection a Must to Protect Schools

With the Parkland school massacre, we're finally realizing it's no longer possible to think "it won't happen here." And as the Parkland students have demonstrated, acting to address the surge of school violence is within our capability to address, and, our responsibility to do so.

Two simple actions to turn the tide: the enactment of sensible gun safety laws and delivery of programs in schools and communities to help identify the signs of impending violence and ways to effectively intervene before tragedy strikes.

The Sandy Hook Promise, founded by parents of children killed in Newtown,

Pro-Gun Activists Crashing Vigil Was an Outrage

On Feb. 19, I attended a vigil on the steps of the courthouse in Carmel to honor those whose lives were lost in the Parkland, Fla. massacre. A small group of pro-gun demonstrators gathered, some of whom chose to disrupt the gathering. They shouted over the co-organizer of the event, shouted over the clergy and shouted interruptions throughout the short period of time we were there.

One man made his way through part of the crowd, invading people's personal space and yelling. My friend held up her sign to separate herself from this man, and he pushed her.

This was intended to be a peaceful gathering. We heard from, among others, clergy who led us in prayer, Putnam

Conn. in 2012, offers exceptional programs for adults and students to attack the symptoms leading to violence. Among them, "Start with Hello" to make sure no child eats alone and feels isolated at school, and "Say Something" to help recognize signs of potential threat and ways to intervene. Both have already saved lives in numerous communities and received high praise.

Washington is besieged with calls for commonsense gun reform, peaceful rallies are increasing across the country, and families and friends are talking about bringing violence prevention programs to their schools. The movement is growing, but requires continued, constructive

County Sheriff Robert Langley, a school teacher, a representative from Moms Demand Action who read the names of those who had been killed and asked us to repeat their names so they would not be forgotten, and a singer who led us in song by candlelight.

This was not a demonstration, a rally, or a protest. It was a vigil.

Who were these pro-gun activists and how is it they were organized to be in attendance? The event was posted on various Facebook groups and PTA walls. Why was a vigil chosen for their protest, and who directed them there?

**Elise-Ann Konstantin
Cortlandt Manor**

Senator Murphy Shouldn't Be Afraid to Meet and Speak to Constituents

The essence of democracy is the free and open interaction between the citizenry and its representatives. At Town Hall meetings, citizens express their concerns and hopes for the future and officeholders explain their positions and plans. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

But, in New York's 40th Senate District, it's not that simple at all. State Sen. Terrence Murphy has not held such a Town Hall in living memory, and none has been scheduled for the foreseeable future. When asked, his staff can shed no light on when Mr. Murphy might meet with his constituents. Even worse, when questioned about his positions on various issues, his staffers, paid by us taxpayers, either claim ignorance or provide only vague generalizations. Either the staff is hopelessly uninformed about Mr. Murphy's positions or they have been instructed not to provide any information to his constituents.

By contrast, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef held five Town Halls in her district over the recent recess, and Robert Kesten, who is challenging Mr. Murphy this year, has held four such sessions, with more on the schedule.

One can only conclude that either Mr. Murphy feels disdain for his constituents and doesn't care what they think or he lives in dread of meeting with them. Is he hiding something? Does he fear that there is something untoward that will be unearthed in the record that he flaunts in his slick mailings (many paid for by the taxpayers)?

C'mon Mr. Murphy. Sit down and talk with us. Really, your constituents are good people. And, if you meet us, you might actually like us. And we promise not to bite.

**Joel E. Gingold
Croton-on-Hudson**

pressure and action.

In this spirit, I ask you to take two simple steps right away: 1) Call your members of Congress and ask that they support legislation to keep guns out of dangerous hands and 2) Make the promise at www.sandyhookpromise.org and help bring its no-cost, violence prevention programs to our schools and community.

**Naomi Marrow
Chappaqua**

Once Again

Once again and once again
if only once again your eyes
could open, eyes could see
no need for lambs, for lambs
to slaughter, for martyrs
mothers, fathers, teachers
children once again

Do you listen? Can you hear?
Again and once again
do you need the darkness
hardened hearts, helpless
shrugs, no light to shine, no
light to shine once again?

Do you listen? Can you hear?
Once again and once again
they are children, they are ours
they are yours, they are
someone's children once again

Again and never again, never
Columbine, Virginia Tech
Giffords and Aurora, Sandy Hook
Fort Hood, Charleston, Umpqua
San Bernadino, Pulse, Las Vegas
and now Parkland, once again

Once again and once again and
never again, help us, help us
they say, *no more*, but you say
they are only children, ones
who ran, ones who hid

Ones who will not run away
again, once again and again

Do you listen? Can you hear?
Do you feel again the need to run
the need to hide, a nod, a helpless
shrug, *thoughts and prayers*
you say, pretended sympathy
with eyes that do not see
that do not want to see

But your hands are open
eyes are open to money
over lives, power over heart
you run away once again
and again and again and

*Never again, the children say
Never again once again*

**James K. Zimmerman
Pleasantville**

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Local Foundation Helps Researchers Make Headway on Pediatric Tumors

By Martin Wilbur

A local nonprofit that has partnered with two other outfits dedicated to finding a cure for pediatric brain tumors will see the expansion of a clinical trial launched with seed money it raised.

The Chappaqua-based A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation announced that pharmaceutical giant Bristol Myers Squibb has agreed to provide funding for a second phase of the immunotherapy study that started about a year ago. The trial's second phase will include 170 children at 58 centers in 13 countries, up from 36 children that were enrolled for the experimental treatments at six world-renown hospitals and cancer treatment centers.

"For the 170 children who have run out of options this is a huge gift for them, for sure, said Kim Gilman, director of development/family outreach for A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation.

News of the expanded trial comes as the foundation is planning its eighth annual Think Fit for Kids Family Fitness & Fun Festival, which will be held this Sunday, Mar. 4 at Club Fit in Briarcliff Manor from 2 to 4 p.m. About \$1.5 million has been raised through proceeds generated by previous installments of the fun, family-friendly event and other donations.

For the trial's first phase, which tested the safety and efficacy of checkpoint inhibitors in children with brain tumors, the foundation pooled resources with two other area organizations whose mission is also to fight childhood brain tumors – the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation in Carmel and Solving Kids Cancer in Manhattan. The three foundations donated the more than \$180,000 needed to kick off the initial stage.

Money from donations to A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation and Think Fit for Kids were part of those funds.

Researchers were able to make sufficient progress where Bristol Myers Squibb is financing the next stage.

"I have rarely witnessed this kind of momentum and pharmaceutical support behind a children's brain tumor research project in all my career," said Scott Kennedy, executive director of Solving Kids' Cancer. "On behalf of all three nonprofit organizations, we are

so grateful that (Bristol Myers Squibb) shared in our belief in this therapy, which will enable the treatment to reach so many more children around the world."

Gilman, who established A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation after her son was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, said when she planned the inaugural Think Fit for Kids Family Fitness & Fun Festival expectations were low. She hoped that \$5,000 to \$10,000 would be raised. This year's goal has been set at \$250,000, and on Sunday, a week before the event, about \$194,000 had already been pledged.

There will be games, face painting and air brush tattoos, a gaga pit, a DJ, a Zumba class and many other activities. There will also be food and other vendors from the area, including Ben & Jerry's, Mt. Kisco Seafood and Le Jardin, all of whom donate their time, product and services to make the day a success, Gilman said.

"It's unbelievable, and year after year the people say as long as you're doing this I'm doing this," Gilman said.

What may also be hard to believe is that the meaningful research and progress that has been made may not have been possible without A Kids

Brain Tumor Cure Foundation and its two partners in the effort.

"We're extremely, extremely excited and proud of the collaboration with the other foundations and the fact that this is really going to make a difference for kids," Gilman said.

To learn more about A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation, visit www.akidsbraintumorecure.org.

To register for Sunday's Think Fit for Kids Family Fitness & Fun Festival or for more information on the event, visit www.classy.org/event/think-fit-for-kids-2018/e153452.



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Pleasantville's Photo Works to Relocate Next Month

By Anna Young

After spending nearly 15 years as Bedford Road's corner photo lab and retail store, Photo Works' owners George and Lorinda Longobardo are ready to roll film at a new location starting in a few weeks.

The longtime Pleasantville business is moving just up the street to 486 Bedford Rd. starting Mar. 19. The new storefront will be more conducive to the ever-changing industry.

"It's a new beginning and a fresh start," Lorinda Longobardo said. "I'm glad we're going to be staying in the area."

The family business provides movie, photo, video and audio transfers, DVD photo montages, scanning services, camera repairs, VHS repairs and custom printing. Passport, visa and identification photos are provided, along with custom-designed posters, greeting cards, invitations, calendars, books and collages.

Photo Works is equipped with a digital photo café where photos can be printed in minutes from a digital camera, jump drives, CDs, cell phones and photos. The Longobardos will also make house calls for those who want to learn how to burn



Photo Works' owners George and Lorinda Longobardo who are preparing to move their business to a new location in Pleasantville.



Photo Works will soon be moving out of its corner store on Bedford Road and Memorial Plaza.

CDs, e-mail, print, upload images to their computer and organize image files.

They will also buy, sell, trade and rent cameras.

"Being in this business for 40 years you get a much better service and much more experience when you come here," George Longobardo said.

"We hope to continue helping people preserve all their memories, videos and educate them on what the next step in digital is," Lorinda Longobardo said. "If you're in the area stop by and say hello when we open up again."

Photo Works will be closing on Saturday, Mar. 10 in preparation for the relocations and will reopen on Monday, Mar. 19. All services will remain the same. For information, call 914-769-6425 or visit www.photoworkspv.com.



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Protestors Rally Outside Cuomo's House, Demand Pipeline Risk Study

By Anna Young

Environmental activists gathered outside Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Mount Kisco home Sunday afternoon urging him to release a risk assessment study he ordered on the Enbridge/Spectra AIM pipeline project near Indian Point two years ago.

The group of activists, Healing and Protecting Our Land Together: A Call to Prayer, led an interfaith vigil on Bittersweet Lane where more than 100 attendees continued their statewide "Walk the Talk" campaign, calling on Cuomo to stop the buildup of fracked-gas infrastructure.

"We are here for the millions of people whose lives are at risk by a pipeline running by their homes or their children's schools and who have to live in constant fear of a possible accident," said Croton-on-Hudson resident Paola DalleCarbonare, cofounder of Healing and Protecting. "We are here to pray and support the governor in finding the strength and the courage to show leadership today as his father...did when he shut down the Shoreham nuclear plant as it was a danger to his constituents."

With Indian Point projected to close by 2021, activists stressed the importance of understanding the potential risks the high-pressure transmission gas pipeline poses with nearly 2,700 tons of radioactive spent fuel rods stored indefinitely on-site. In the event of an explosion, they fear the release

of radioactivity could threaten more than 20 million people who live within the plant's 50-mile radius.

Dr. Courtney Williams, a Peekskill resident and cancer researcher who has battled Spectra Energy for several years, explained that officials need to address the safety risks of the pipeline before they complete decommissioning plans or a reuse study for the Indian Point property in Buchanan. She added that it's "ludicrous" to have three gas pipelines running under 40 years of radiated spent fuel.

"He's (Cuomo) touting himself as an environmentalist to the press but he's building fracked gas pipelines, fracked gas power plants, all kinds of fossil fuel infrastructure that he's allowing to be built in New York State, and that's where this "Walk the Talk" comes from because on TV he sounds awesome, but I live here 400 feet from a massive gas pipeline he could have stopped," Williams said. "I do want him to walk the talk and I'm sick of raising my family in the blast radius of the gas pipeline."

Sister Bette Ann Jaster, a Dominican Sister of Hope, led the vigil. She requested those who gathered to breathe the air and appreciate the water, sky, trees and ground below them before leading them in prayer for a safe and healthy future.

"We're not the only county that's

experiencing the ravages of pipelines, but we have Indian Point and its nuclear reactors and its spent fuel rods that have been here for a very long time," Jaster said during the vigil held during persistent rain. "We have no risk assessment here. We're calling on the governor to give it us because we're tired of waiting. If it's bad news we need to know what it is to protect ourselves and our children."

"It is of ethical urgency that this report be released so we can move forward working together to protect our neighborhood, our Westchester County, our New York State and our surrounding lands," said Karen Killeen, a member of The Thomas Berry Forum.

Protestors also requested Cuomo halt all fossil fuel infrastructure projects throughout the state, including the Competitive Power Ventures gas power plant, the Atlantic Bridge project, the Cricket Valley gas power plant, The Valley Lateral pipeline, Williams Rockaway pipeline, among others. They also want the entire state shifted to renewable energy by 2030.

Rabbi Glenn Jacob, executive director of New York Interfaith Power and Light, added that there's enough science and technology to save the planet but the lack of political will is preventing action. He said Cuomo has the influence to make



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Sister Bette Ann Jaster addresses a crowd of more than 100 activists outside Gov. Andrew Cuomo's home Sunday appealing to the governor that a risk assessment study be released for the Enbridge/Spectra AIM pipeline running near Indian Point nuclear power plant.

the planet "green and beautiful" for future generations.

Pramilla Malick of Protect Orange County, said her community of Minisink was sacrificed by pay-to-play politics and corruption with the construction of the Competitive Power Ventures plant. She said local groups fought the development, but her community is now being poisoned by the toxic black smoke emitted from the plant. She said she fears what can be inhaled outside.

"We did not know when he (Cuomo) was elected in 2010 that we would be electing a fracked gas power plant but that's exactly what happened," Malick said.



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Why it's Harder to Buy Your Dream Home Today

By personal experience and anecdotally, I have been observing for some months that buyers are encountering challenges in finding and buying their dream home. A poll conducted last month by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) underscores that observation and reveals the reasons behind the challenge.

The NAHB regularly conducts national polls of American adults and homebuyers so that new trends and preferences in the housing market can be better understood. The following findings of the organization's most recent poll were presented at the 2018 International Builders' Show in Orlando, Fla.

That poll revealed that most prospective homebuyers actively involved in a search have been looking for a significant amount of time. In fact, 61 percent have been trying to find a home to buy for at least three months.

Why is it that so many prospective buyers have been unable to find a home?

According to the poll's findings, 42 percent say they can't find a home they can afford; 36 percent can't locate a home with the features they want; 34

percent can't find a home in the neighborhood they want; and 27 percent were able to overcome these obstacles but continue to get outbid whenever they make an offer.

At the same time, especially in our area, home prices are overheating because of limited inventory. Home prices have been rising at a rapid pace in the past year – faster than income growth and inflation.

Two-thirds of buyers are shopping for more than three months before signing a deal, according to the NAHB survey.

Home prices increased in 92 percent of the nation's measured housing markets at the end of last year, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Twenty-six markets (15 percent) saw double-digit increases in prices. That was more than in the third quarter.

Bidding wars are now the rule, not the exception, in most major U.S. markets.

"These consistent, multiyear price gains have certainly been great news for homeowners, and especially for those who were at one time in a negative equity situation," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the NAR. "However, the

shortage of new homes being built over the past decade is really burdening local markets and making home buying less affordable."

Homes today are selling in about 40 days on average, almost two weeks faster than a year ago. But it is taking a lot longer for shoppers to find a home to buy.

"It's the inventory problem that we're having out there that is causing these long delays in pulling the trigger," said Rose Quint, the NAHB's assistant vice president for survey research. "It's lack of affordability, although the other problems are serious as well."

The lack of supply should benefit the homebuilders – and it may be already. Mortgage applications to purchase a newly-built home jumped 18 percent in January compared with a year ago, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA).

"This complements other positive news on U.S. job growth suggesting that economic fundamentals are strong," Lynn Fisher, MBA vice president of research and economics, said in a release. "Based on applications, we estimate that new home sales were running at a pace of 700,000 on a seasonally adjusted annual basis – the highest such estimate in our survey which began in 2013."

The jump in demand is sizable, but

the number of new homes for sale is still below historical averages and far below the number needed to satisfy new and pent-up demand. The largest generation, millennials, are now moving into their homebuying years in force, but clearly not finding what they can afford.

"The whole industry has been clamoring for builders to increase their production, but they're trying," Quint said. "The prices of lumber and labor and land are increasing so fast, they're constrained at the bottom, at how low a price they can really achieve."

The NAHB is predicting a 5 percent increase in new home construction in 2018 compared with 2017. The market could absorb far more, not just in major metropolitan areas, but across the nation.

The good news for sellers is that the current market favors listing their homes now, more so than at any time in the past half dozen years.

With a background as a journalist and publicist, Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

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Susanna Reich Children's Book Author, Briarcliff Manor

By Martin Wilbur

It's understandable that Susanna Reich's latest accomplishment has special meaning for her.

The Briarcliff Manor children's author was recently notified by the School Library Media Specialists of Southeastern New York, a group of school librarians in a seven-county area in the Hudson Valley, that she will be honored with the organization's 2018 Rip Van Winkle Award this spring for outstanding contribution to children's literature.

For Reich, a series of events led to her trying her hand at writing and becoming a children's author. She read books regularly to her daughter when her child was young and takes a tai chi class with her husband, where the instructor is an award-winning illustrator, who gave her encouragement and direction.

It wasn't until she had a conversation with a librarian in a children's section of a local library that Reich had an idea for a book.

"My first couple of attempts were not successful, and then I went into the Ossining Library and I had a conversation

with the then-head of the Children's Room, Sally Dowd," Reich recalled. "I said, 'What kind of books do you need?' and she said 'We need biographies of women.'"

That helped spawn Reich's first book published in 1999, "Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso." Since then, Reich has had seven more books published for elementary school-age children, all non-fiction and mostly exploring people who have a connection to the arts.

She started with picture books, which she acknowledged are the most difficult because of needing to tell a story in few words.

While not all of Reich's subjects profile women, the common thread is focusing on a little-known aspect of their lives or careers that would appeal to children. Reich completes intensive research on her subjects to help her find a fresh perspective. If it's a musician or a performing artist, she'll also listen or watch their work, but she understands that she'll have to care deeply about the subject.

"I know that I am going to be spending a couple of years with these people, if not the rest of my life, because once the book is



out you're going to be talking about it, visits going to signings, going to festivals, so you really have to want to invest yourself in the subject," Reich said.

In 2012, when Reich wrote about Julia Child, she focused less on her career and more about the love she had for her cat, a very child-friendly way of introducing the celebrity chef to children.

Her 2015 work, "Fab Four Friends: The Boys Who Became the Beatles," centered on when John, Paul, George and Ringo were simply four lads from Liverpool.

"(The book) ends with the outbreak of Beatlemania, instead of beginning with it," Reich said.

Her most recent book was "Stand Up and Sing! Pete Seeger, Folk Music and the Path to Justice," which was published last year.

Although Reich was a new author less than 20 years ago, she wasn't new to the arts or writing. After spending most of her childhood in Hastings-on-Hudson, Reich studied dance, first at Bennington College, then transferred to NYU's Tisch

School of the Arts where she earned a bachelor's of fine arts in dance. Reich lived in the city for a couple of years after college dancing professionally before returning to Westchester. Her husband, Gary Golio, has also published picture books and serves as her chief editor.

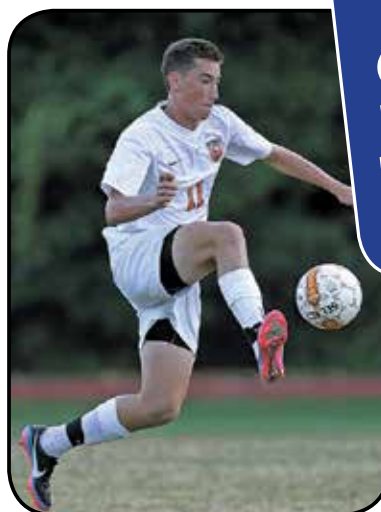
Reich worked at a couple of flower shops before starting her own floral design company, Flowers by Susanna, in the late 1980s. During that time, she prepared arrangements for events, including weddings, and was one of the official florists at Lyndhurst.

In order to promote her business, she wrote for a trade publication about wedding bouquets. Reich explored writing more, particularly in winter when business was slow. She took various writing courses and workshops, and thought about how much she had loved reading to her daughter that she wanted to try children's books.

"As I had more success with the writing I decided not to continue with the floral design," she said.

Reich is looking forward to being honored on May 19 by the school library media specialists. It's something she said she will cherish because her books were recognized by a vote of the rank-and-file membership, not a selection committee.

"I'm excited and I love that it's called the Rip Van Winkle Award because that's like a connection to our local literature and a connection to our history in the Hudson Valley, and that means a lot to me," Reich said.



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Jean-Pierre Melville Series Coming to Jacob Burns Film Center

By Neal Rentz

French film director Jean-Pierre Melville (1917-73) had a passion for American movies, particularly the film noirs of the 1940s and 1950s. In his career, he incorporated his own spin on the genre in many of his films.

Though Melville died prematurely following a stroke, his films have inspired many contemporary directors. That's why his work is being recognized at the Jacob Burns Film Center this week as part of the Retro Revival Presents: Melville at 100 series.

Most of Melville's features focused on characters often resembling Hollywood stars such as Humphrey Bogart in trench coats and fedora hats, who planned elaborate criminal capers, said Burns film programmer Andrew Jupin.

While the Jacob Burns has previously screened some of Melville's works, Jupin said the theater wanted to present a full series to recognize last year's 100th anniversary of the filmmaker's birth. The selected works may be more accessible to American audiences than other respected French directors because of their takes on classic crime films made during Hollywood's golden age of the studio system, Jupin said.

The eight-film series kicks off with screenings of "Bob le Flambeur," which will be screened three times (Mar. 1, 3 and 4).



JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER PHOTOS

"Un Flic," the 1972 film starring Alain Delon and directed by John-Pierre Melville, will be screened on Mar. 5 and 7 at the Jacob Burns Film Center as part of Retro Revival Presents: Melville at 100.

The 1956 movie is the story of an aging gangster (Roger Duchesne), who hopes to make a big score by robbing a casino. Jupin said he chose the film to begin the series because it is the first Melville film of the noir genre and it has been recently restored.

When French New Wave director François Truffaut first viewed "Bob le Flambeur," he said "This is the kind of film that we want to make," according to Jupin.

Another of the many Melville films that have influenced other directors is his 13th and final feature, "Un Flic," starring Alain Delon, Catherine Deneuve and Richard Crenna. The elaborate opening bank robbery sequence resembles the heist in "The Dark Knight," the middle film of the Batman trilogy directed by Christopher Nolan that was released in 2008, Jupin said. "Un Flic" will have afternoon and evening screenings on Mar. 5 and 7.

Other directors who have credited Melville with influencing him include John Woo and Michael Mann.

Not all of Melville's films featured in the series resemble film noirs. "Army of Shadows," (1969) which will be shown on Mar. 5 and 8, is a story of the French Resistance during Germany's occupation of France in World War II. Melville himself was a resistance fighter.

Unlike other respected French



Retro Revival Presents: Melville at 100 will open with screenings of "Bob le Flambeur," the 1955 release starring Roger Duchesne. The series will run from Mar. 1-8 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

directors, Melville's films have had limited releases in the United States, Jupin said. "Army of Shadows" did not receive its American premiere until 2006.

For more information on the Retro Revival Presents: Melville at 100 series, including the schedule and tickets, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.



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Food, Beverages to Be Showcased at Pleasantville Rotary Fundraiser

By Martin Wilbur

There were many good things about the Pleasantville Rotary Club's first-ever Hudson Valley Fermented last March.

Similar to its forerunner, the Westchester Wine Experience, which was held for 16 consecutive years, it brought together outstanding local restaurateurs providing delicious tastings, wineries and live music. It also raised about \$15,000 for several local charities and organizations, said Henry Leyva, Pleasantville Rotary's event chair.

In hopes of freshening the event and opening it to a wider cross section of guests, craft breweries, distilleries and cideries were added in 2017, Leyva said.

On Saturday, Mar. 10, Hudson Valley Fermented returns to its host site, Pace University's Kessel Student Center, where the second year since its rebranding promises to be even better. Not only will there be great food from area establishments, but attendees will sample top-notch adult beverages from throughout the state.

"It is still very much a Hudson Valley, New York State event," Leyva said. "All the wines, spirits and beers will be from New York State and the quality just blows your mind."



Several hundred guests are expected to attend this year's Hudson Valley Fermented, presented by the Pleasantville Rotary Club, on Mar. 10 at Pace University. The event will feature great tasting food, craft beer, spirits and wines while raising money for four area organizations.

A concerted effort was made to ensure that wineries are well represented, Leyva said. Last year with an emphasis on the other types of beverages, there were only two wineries at the event, prompting a few complaints from longtime fans of the Westchester Wine Experience, he said.

That will not be a problem this year. Rotary is partnering with Best Wine Purveyors on Marble Avenue by using its contacts to entice wineries from throughout the state to be on hand.

Leyva said he expects about 10 wineries to attend along with seven distilleries and about a dozen breweries.

An enhanced feature this time will be the ability for visitors who may want to purchase a wine that they have tasted to arrange for a home delivery within a couple of business days, he said.

"That's going to open us up, I think, to a larger audience," Leyva said.

Another great reason to attend is some of the area's most delicious food will be sampled.

"I think it's a great opportunity for local restaurants," Leyva said. "They can introduce themselves to the community. There are so many people from Pleasantville, Chappaqua, Armonk, Briarcliff that are going to be at this event, plus regular customers, and it's an opportunity to have people taste the food before they go to the restaurant."

Last year's musical performers, the Pleasantville-based Back 2 Zero and The Michael Collins Band, have been asked to return for an encore appearance.

Also, with the Pleasantville Music Festival is a main sponsor, there will be a chance to win one of three pairs of tickets to this summer's festival.

Aside from the fun and great tasting food and beverages, Hudson

Valley Fermented is perhaps most significantly about raising money for important causes. This year, there are four organizations that will be the chief beneficiaries: Food Bank for Westchester, the Pleasantville Fund for Learning, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Team Fox for Parkinson's Research.

Dating back to the Westchester Wine Experience, Rotary always made certain the event, its largest fundraiser of the year, gives back to the community, Leyva said.

"What's beautiful about this event is that people step forward and kind of give selflessly, so it's fun, it's fun to be a part of all of that," he said.

Tickets for Hudson Valley Fermented, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m., cost \$55 in advance and \$65 at the door. For those interested in purchasing a limited number of VIP admissions that will get you in by noon, those tickets run \$75 in advance and \$85 at the door. To buy tickets and for more information about the event, including the establishments that will be in attendance, visit www.hvfermented.com or call 914-310-0739.

The Kessel Student Center is located at Pace University's Pleasantville campus.

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Happenings

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 Martin Wilbur at mwilbur@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Opera Ensembles: Lecture/Listening Series. Led by Susan Grunthal, a Taconic Opera member. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2 p.m. Free. Tuesdays through Mar. 27 (except Mar. 13). Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. Beginners at 6:30 p.m. Advanced class at 7 p.m. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Marshmallow Polar Bear Craft. It's International Polar Bear Day. Celebrate by creating a polar bear made out of marshmallows to take home. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Picasso's Pyranees. Get to know the part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the pictures of Frans Hals, Jan Vermeer and Rembrandt von Rijn. Along the way, learn about the Dutch Republic in its 17th century heyday. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Oscar Talk 2018. Join Jacob Burns Film Center Board President Janet Maslin and the uncannily knowledgeable "Oscarologist" and noted film writer Mark Harris – also a board member – for a lively and illuminating awards season discussion. In this year of continual upheaval, both inside and outside of the film world, a year of "Get Out," of "Three Billboards," of "Lady Bird," of #MeToo, of Harvey Weinstein, of Trump, there is an endless array of fascinating and urgent subjects to consider. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave, Chappaqua. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info:

Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

AARP Tax Aide. AARP Tax-Aide IRS-certified volunteers are available to assist taxpayers, especially those with low to moderate incomes and 50 years old and up. No appointment necessary. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Wednesdays through Apr. 11. Info: 914-769-0548 or visit www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Ambassadors for Successful Aging. Are you aware of the benefits available to you as a Westchester County senior? Information can be provided to you on housing, home care, transportation options, counseling options, memory care, nutrition, vision and dental services along with SNAP, HEAP, EPIC and STAR and other programs that can save you money and help you plan for the future. Feel free to discuss a Westchester County "ambassador." No appointment necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Mondays at the North White Plains branch, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. Info: 914-273-3887 or 914-948-6359.

New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

Adult Coloring Club. It's a relaxing, analog stress-reducer that can give you a sense of accomplishment. Coloring also provides a creative outlet to people who may not be trained artists. The library provides colored pencils and intricate mandala patterns, just bring your creativity. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Senior Benefits Information Center.

Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters. This interactive workshop provides information about Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early detection as well as helpful resources for moving forward in the diagnosis process. There is no known cure for Alzheimer's, but early detection provides time for drug therapy that can help mitigate symptoms. It also allows for enrollment in clinical studies and the opportunity to make plans for the future. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining. 11 a.m. Free. Info: 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers. Temple Shaaray Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Bedford. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Bilingual Storytime. Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.com.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Affordable Care Act Navigator. A trained navigator provided by the county Department of Health will be available to help people with choosing and signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and the state health marketplace. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointment required. Info and appointment for Wednesday sessions: 914-336-6026. Info and appointment for Thursday and Saturday sessions: 914-813-5192.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkiscoblibrary.org.

In Conversation. In conjunction with "NEON: Stephen Antonakos: Proscenium + Bending Light: Neon Art 1965 to Now," the Neuberger Museum of Art will present this discussion with Thomas Rinaldi, author of "New York Neon," Jeff Friedman, owner of Let There Be Neon studio, and Sarah Blood, contemporary mixed-media artist. Avis Larson, assistant curator at the museum, will be the moderator. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Neuberger Museum Members and Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. Non-members: \$5. RSVP required. Info: 914-251-6200 or visit www.neuberger.org. RSVP: E-mail: nma_rsvp@purchase.edu.

"Our Last Stand." The Iona Preparatory Human Rights Club will host this screening and Q&A with filmmaker Helma Adde, whose documentary reveals the plight of Assyrians struggling to survive in Iraq and Syria. Light refreshments will be provided. Iona Prep Upper School Heffernan Gymnasium, 255 Wilmot Rd., New Rochelle. 6:30 p.m. Free. RSVP recommended. Info and RSVP: Visit www.ionaprep.org.

Lecture: Five Ways to Wonder. Scott Mason, author of "The Wonder Code" and one of the leading practitioners of English-language haiku, shows how the mindful and pleasurable reading of haiku can help us reconnect with the everyday wonder we may have last experienced as children. Mason is the most highly awarded

continued on page 20

Jazzercise of Westchester Briarcliff Manor

By Martin Wilbur

Virtually everyone is aware of the importance of regular exercise to maintain health and fitness. But for many, membership at a gym may be uncomfortable if not intimidating.

For those who would enjoy a fun, upbeat, music-filled workout with instructors who help motivate students, Jazzercise of Westchester in Briarcliff Manor may be for you.

The area's newest exercise venue opened on Feb. 1 in a space shared with Westchester Ballroom on North State Road. Its most popular class, offered each morning, is the nearly hour-long Dance Mixx, with roughly 40 minutes of cardio-based exercise before it concludes with a period of strength training, said Jazzercise of Westchester franchise owner Elaine Zeitler.

The idea is to build up the pace of the workout to push the heart rate up, then have it reduced in time for the strength training.

"Jazzercise is sort of a mix of cardio and dance and there's a little bit of everything

about, a little bit of kickboxing," Zeitler said. "We don't offer just one type of class."

Dance Mixx is set to a rotating playlist of pulse-pounding Top 40 hits, and the music is changed about every 10 weeks.

Zeitler is one of five certified instructors who share leading the classes that are offered most weekday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and on weekends at 9 a.m. There are also late afternoon classes some weekdays starting at 5:15 and 6:30 p.m.

On Saturdays, immediately following Dance Mixx, Zeitler also offers a Strength 30 class, which uses weight and resistance training that lasts for a half-hour. She said it's a perfect complement to the Dance Mixx class.

So far, the response has been strong from the public.

"There's an energy and there's a happiness," Zeitler said of her classes. "People are happy to be here and they want to work out."

One of Zeitler's instructors, Laurie Persson, said the movement and frequent updating of the music makes for a fun experience. Not only does a full hour of



Jazzercise of Westchester franchise owner Elaine Zeitler, center, with her instructors.

Although Jazzercise was established in 1969, there are many people who are discovering it for the first time. Since a location closed in lower Westchester, Zeitler's location is the only Jazzercise franchise in the county.

The majority of people who have attended are women, but there is a fair share of men who have joined. Typically, the attendees' age ranges from about 35 to 70 years old. Zeitler also offers classes for high school and college-age

students and a class for younger girls.

Zeitler is optimistic that over time she can add additional types of classes and formats.

Everyone is entitled to a free trial class. To continue, membership can go month to month for \$79 a month and a \$30 sign-up fee. A patron who registers can attend as many classes a month as they want. For those who commit to a year, the month-to-month cost is \$59 with a \$20 sign-up.

Jazzercise of Westchester is located 565 N. State Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. For more information, visit jazzerciseofwestchester.com, download the myJazzercise mobile app iOS or Android or call 914-223-9478,

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Happenings

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Haiku poet in America. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: Fernando Botero. This Columbian artist, born in Medellin, is known the world over for his large, lush, exaggerated style known as Boterismo. Part political commentary, such as his work on Columbia drug dealers, part regional humor, his paintings and sculptures are collected the world over. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Separation/Divorce Support Group. A new group for men and women separated, in the process of separating or post-divorce. Establishes a safe place where attendees can deal with the pain and loneliness brought about by the ending of a significant relationship. This nondenominational group will use the 12 Steps to focus on its members and the choices made to cope and adjust. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 15 S. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. \$10. Every Wednesday. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Contact Ilene Amiel at 914-980-0898 or e-mail 12stepdivorcegroup@gmail.com or visit www.meetup.com/Mount-Kisco-12-step-Separation-Divorce-Support-Meetup.

Justice, Faith and Integral Ecology. Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical for Care for Our Common Home, explains integral ecology, illustrating the relationship between consumer choices, ecological impact and social injustice. Kelly Moltzen, of Franciscan Action Network and Bronx Health REACH, will explore local environmental injustices and the relation to social determinants of health. Jackie Mooney-O'Brien, of Education for Sustainability, will discuss systems-thinking tools to help reduce ecological impact and increase sustainable choices. They will share resources to bring Integral Ecology into your house of worship. In partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"Monterrey Pop." It was 1967, the Summer of Love. On a beautiful June weekend, the Monterey International Pop Festival ushered in a new era of rock 'n' roll. With his characteristic vérité style, now-legendary documentarian D. A. Pennebaker captured it all. Relive the memories or experience this seminal event for the first time with this restored 4K high-definition digital transfer. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Thursday, Mar. 1

Pleasantville Garden Club. This month's

topic is mushroom growing and a hands-on workshop with Deb Taft, founding member of Westchester Grower's Alliance. All welcome. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Membership meeting at 9:15 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillegardencub.org.

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Poets and Writers Series: David Amram and Brian Fleming. Amram explores music and the Beat Generation with performance and discussion. A composer, musician and writer, he has worked with Dizzy Gillespie, Jack Kerouac, Langston Hughes and others. Fleming is an accomplished percussionist, producer and storyteller. He has recorded on more than 30 albums and has played internationally with Afro-Irish groups and musicians such as The Chieftains. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6716.

Storytime. For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime with toys and books. Children, parents and caregivers will make new friends and share time together. For children one to four years

old; with a caregiver. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

English for Speakers of Other Languages Classes. Provided in partnership with Southern Westchester BOCES. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. Free. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Mar. 29. Space limited; registration required. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

"Which Way Home." Films on Purpose and Neighbors Link will host a screening of this film which shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of child migrants from Central America, who risk everything to make it to the U.S. riding atop freight trains through Mexico. A post-screening discussion will follow with Carola Bracco, executive director of Neighbors Link, and the film's producer, Rebecca Cammisa, about the challenges that unaccompanied minors and their families face. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Reception (with food and drink) at 6 p.m. Screening at 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.filmsonpurpose.org.

Portrait Painting Demonstration. Watch recognized portrait artist Yuka Imata in action. A unique opportunity to learn about a professional portrait painter's process and thinking when working. The demonstration will explore the portrait process step by step, from drawing the composition in charcoal to a complete lay out in oil paints. As Imata works, she will share her thoughts on light and shadow, colors and paint strokes. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

"Fix It - Healthcare at the Tipping Point." A screening of this documentary which describes one improvement idea for the healthcare system - the single-payer option. Dr. Maria Schmidt, representing Physicians for a National Health Program, will lead a discussion and answer questions following the film. The goal is to begin a community conversation about fixing our healthcare system. Sponsored by CCoHope (Indivisible Croton, Ossining, Peekskill and Cortlandt Manor). Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theatre, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining 7 p.m. Free.

Weird Al Yankovic's The Ridiculously Self-Indulgent Ill-Advised Vanity Tour. Weird Al Yankovic burst onto the scene more

than three decades ago and never looked back. For the first time in his storied career, the world's foremost musical satirist and four-time Grammy Award-winner forgoes his usual high-octane, big production show for an intimate evening for music, focusing on original non-parody songs from his 14-album catalog. A rare opportunity to get up close and personal with this legendary performer. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$58, \$78 and \$88. Premium package: \$279. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Friday, Mar. 2

ZUMBA® With Amy. Fun cardio dance fitness workout, low-impact approach, easy learning environment. This feel-good workout is exercise in disguise. Free trial class available. Addie-Tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, lower level, Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. \$12 drop-in fee. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162 or visit www.amyolin.zumba.com.

Friday Night Cinema: "Funny Face." This 1957 musical, directed by Stanley Dominic and with music by George and Ira Gershwin, stars Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn. It's a peek into social mores six decades ago, as a fashion magazine photographer is captivated by a much younger, and very shy, literary-minded woman. This Oscar-winning film, about the clash between the cerebral and the visual, as exemplified by an older, successful fashion maven and a younger, timid bookstore employee, is threaded together with classic songs, including "S'wonderful" and "Funny Face." Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Country Line Dance. Dancing followed by a complete dinner. All proceeds to go to the scholarship fund at Fox Lane High School and New York Boys' State. Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 7 to 11 p.m. \$15 per person. First Friday of every month. Info: 914-241-0136.

"100 Years." Hudson Stage presents a staged reading of Rick Dresser's new darkly comic play directed by Mark Shanahan. Two couple from different parts of the country meet in a strange planned community in Florida. They share a backyard and eventually much more as they prepare for a secret cutting-edge procedure that will change their lives forever. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. \$10 door donation. Info: 914-271-2811 or visit www.hudsonstage.com.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge Comedy Night. Enjoy great comedy with some of the metropolitan area's best comedic talent. Tonight, Sean Lynch headlines the

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Direct Access to Physical Therapy and Why You Should Care

In the past, patients were required to see a physician to receive a prescription for physical therapy before attending therapy sessions. As of January 2015, all 50 states have adopted direct access in various shapes and forms. Direct access allows patients to see a physical therapist without obtaining a prescription from a physician beforehand.



By James H. Cassell IV

Direct access is a great achievement by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The APTA argued against the medical boards that having the physician visit was an unnecessary and costly step in the health care process. This visit not only delayed treatment for the patient, but added an additional co-pay and the cost of a physician visit on the insurance companies.

The medical boards, obviously, wanted the visit to be required and argued that physical therapists didn't have the education to make a diagnosis.

Nowadays, physical therapy students must attend at least

three years of graduate school, depending on the breakdown of the courses, following four years of a science-based undergraduate program. Upon completion of the curriculum, students graduate with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The students then need to pass an exam in their respective state to become licensed.

The DPT curriculum has progressed significantly over the years. It was originally a bachelor's degree, which progressed to a master's and is now currently offered as a doctorate. The curriculum at each school varies slightly, but all accredited programs are governed by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, ensuring that all programs cover what is necessary to be an entry-level physical therapist. The curriculum includes cadaver dissection, movement analysis, kinesiology, pharmacology, examination and interventions, among other topics. This knowledge

base prepares students to be autonomous practitioners.

New York is typically one of the more stringent states regarding health care law, and it is no different with direct access. New York did not begin allowing direct access until 2006; many states made this change in the 1980s and '90s. Furthermore, New York requires that a physical therapist have a minimum of three years full-time experience before they are allowed to see patients without a referral. Many states have no experience requirement because three years of graduate school more than adequately trains physical therapists to treat patients without further instruction from a physician. Lastly, patients in New York may only be treated for 10 sessions or 30 days, whichever comes first, before they are required to have a prescription.

Patients may be wondering if using direct access will place an extra burden on them financially. Most health insurance companies in New York do not require that a patient have a prescription on file before seeing a physical therapist, and these insurance companies will reimburse for the

visit regardless of whether or not the patient has a prescription on file.

There are a few cases where a prescription is required, mainly through Medicare and workers compensation. Additionally, a small percentage of insurance policies do require a prescription, though it is inconsistent from one insurance company to another. Therefore, it is advised that patients check their benefits prior to attending physical therapy. Some practices, such as ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic, will check health insurance benefits for the patient.

Direct access has been a giant step in the right direction to get patients timely health care and decreasing financial burden on the health care system. As a patient, do not be afraid to seek physical therapy treatment without a prescription, as the time spent waiting could be time spent healing.

Dr. James H. Cassell IV is a physical therapist at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic in Armonk at its new location at 5 North Greenwich Rd. He can be reached at 914-202-0700 or at www.ProClinix.com.

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Happenings

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show. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.nomacomedy.com. Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

L.A. Dance Project. Founded in 2012, this company has made its mark on the dance world with a contemporary approach to art and movement. Their original works are multidisciplinary collaborations with emerging and established visual artists, musicians, designers, film directors and composers contributing to intriguing new platforms for dance. Purchase College's PepsiCo Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$35, \$55 and \$62.50. Also Mar. 3. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Saturday, Mar. 3

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted "Best of Westchester" from 2014 to 2017. The market provides a delicious good time each Saturday. Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Mar. 31. The market will begin its outdoor season on Apr. 7 at Memorial Plaza. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Locally-raised and produced food to the community creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. First Saturday of each month through April. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Children's Art Workshop. The Mamaroneck Artists Guild is hosting a new monthly series of children's art workshops. This month, the workshop will focus on paper mache mask making. Recommended for children 5 to 12 years old; younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 9:30 a.m. \$15 donation. The first Saturday of each month through July. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East. Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info:

917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com.

Open Art Studio. All supplies are provided to create your own artwork. For children four years old and up; with parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

Origami. Join Westchester Origami Workers, a regional group of Origami, USA to share models and techniques. Open to all adults. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. First Saturday of every month. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

Flamenco and La Ida y Vuelta. It's easy to imagine the heat of summer with the spicy rhythms and passionate dance of the group Flamenco Latino. Artists are invited to take advantage of the passion and create flamenco movement drawings. For all others, enjoy the visuals, the footwork, the guitar sounds and learn about this exciting dance. Then once your pulse is up and creativity is flowing, have fun in a workshop where to make a beautiful fan, using colorful papers and creative decorations. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

Humanistic Purim Celebration. The Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism invites participants to enjoy selected readings plus a humorous Purimspiel and hospitality with non-traditional Jewish members and friends. Bring a donation of canned or nonperishable food for the tradition of Shalach Manot, the tradition of giving to the needy. Coffee and tea provided. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 2:30 p.m. Free but bring fruit or some other treat. Info: E-mail info@wchj.org or contact Dmitry at 914-713-8828 after 6 p.m.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge Comedy Night. Enjoy great comedy with some of the metropolitan area's best comedic talent. Tonight, Joselito Da Puppet headlines the show. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6 and 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.nomacomedy.com. Type in the promo code Examiner at the prompt when buying tickets online.

Sloan Wainwright and Stanley Saumelsen in Concert. Defying standard categorization, singer/songwriter Sloan Wainwright consistently demonstrates her easy command of a variety of American musical styles – pop, folk, jazz and blues – held together by the melodious tone of her rich contralto, a unique and soulful hybrid. Saumelsen is a Copenhagen-based award-winning fingerstyle guitarist, composer, singer and songwriter. Since going solo in 1990, he has released eight albums and

sings mainly Faroese, a Nordic language similar to what was spoken by the Vikings. The Schoolhouse Theater and Arts Center, 3 Owen Rd., North Salem. 8 p.m. \$25. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

Sunday, Mar. 4

Purim Carnival and Parade. Festivities for families with young children include songs, a megillah reading, games and a parade. Joshy K will also perform a magic show. All welcome. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. 10 a.m. Magic show at noon. Free admission; cash only for ticket and food purchases. Info: 914-693-4260 or visit www.g-h-c.org.

Maple Sugaring Party. Experience the sweet tradition of maple sugaring. Featured events include sap collection demonstrations, depictions of Native American and Colonial-style sugaring sites, porridge making, maples crafts and treats. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration (before Mar. 4): Members--\$5. Non-members--\$10. Day of event: Members--\$8. Non-members--\$15. Info and registration: Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Viola Day. The Hoff-Barthelson Music School Master Class Series continues with this program that begins with a recital featuring internationally renowned violist Chauncey Patterson and the school's viola faculty member Naomi Graf. The two are joined by faculty members Glen Kirchoff, harpsichord, and Tomoko Uchino, piano. Included on the program are works by Telemann, Schumann and P.D.Q. Bach's "Sonata for Viola Four Hands and Harpsichord." The day culminates with a group play-in of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #6. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Reservations suggested. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or e-mail hb@hbms.org.

Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey. Marvin the mouse wants to be popular. Constantly bullied and picked on by the cool mice, he is labeled as a loser and a geek. To get away from the continuous badgering, he retreats into his science books and a world of fantasy. He longs to have adventures, to be the hero. Join Marvin on the space adventure of a lifetime, a trip to the surface of the moon on his homemade rocket where he meets a strange cast of misfit creatures, learns of infinite peril and awesome beauty. Will Marvin make his dreams come true and bring him the glory and acceptance he craves? White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 2 p.m. \$20 and \$25. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit www.wppac.com.

Saints and Sinners. While cardinal sins appear to have first been articulated by

Pope Gregory in the early sixth century, they seem to have become particularly prominent in our daily news feeds. But fear not. In this zany, affectionate concert, these vices are musically vanquished by the holy virtues. Join us for a rare presentation of William Albright's flamboyant "The Seven Deadly Sins," as well as beloved baritone James Martin performing songs by American masters Samuel Barber, Ned Rorem and Aaron Copland about charity, patience, kindness, humility and the other virtues seemingly in such short supply these days. Merestead, 455 Byram Lake Rd., Mount Kisco. 3 p.m. \$25. Friends of Copland House: \$20. Students (with ID): \$10. Info and tickets: Visit www.coplandhouse.org.

Chamber Music Concert. The program includes the beloved Piano trio in B Flat Major for violin, cello and piano by Schubert and Fauré's passanate Piano Quartet in C Minor for strings and piano. Violinist Christopher Lee, a protégé of Zino Francescatti at 16 years old, returns to perform. He traveled with Francescatti throughout Europe on his final tours and studied violin and composition at Curtis and Juilliard. Lee will be joined by exceptional and internationally esteemed musicians Milan Milisavljević, viola, Andrew Janss, cello, and the Reformed Church of Bronxville's Minister of Music Dr. Sándor Szabó at the piano. The concert is followed by a reception. The Reformed Church of Bronxville, 180 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-337-6776 or visit www.reformedchurch.org.

Argentine Tango Dances. Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Also the third Saturday of each month from 8 p.m. to midnight. \$16. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail sampelayo@optonline.net.

Monday, Mar. 5

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. 719 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills (next to ShopRite). 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Tina Campbell at 914-441-1383 or e-mail tinacampbell@masternetworks.net or just drop in.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. From newborns to school-age children, with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

Matching the Oscar-Nominated Best Picture Contenders With a Wine Theme



By Nick Antonaccio

The 90th Academy Awards show airs this Sunday. This is my ninth year of presenting the Best Picture nominees and creating hypothetical pairings of wine with the top contenders. I've distilled my list to five of the nine nominees.

The Shape of Water: Do you believe in fairy tales come true? Perhaps the ultimate bittersweet love story, this movie depicts love transcending all material aspects of our lives. Eliza, a mute with the lowly job of cleaning labs at a research facility in the 1960s, comes upon an amphibious man-like creature locked in a tank of water. She becomes enthralled in communicating with the creature, blind to the obvious physical features, instead seeking out its inner intellect and emotions.

Just as water takes on many shapes and forms, so too a fine Burgundy. For some consumers it is difficult to appreciate its core essence, seeming thin and austere.

But for those who accept these Pinot Noirs in their most elemental form and build their perception and appreciation of them over time, they create a love affair that surmounts others' superficial perceptions.

Get Out. Certainly not a fairy tale, we must wait until the second half to understand the full, deep-seated meaning of the movie and the clear horror genre it portrays. Rose brings her black boyfriend Chris home to meet her white parents. Slowly, we see the movie degrading into a racially biased story, with a horrific goal.

Fine-aged wines can draw us into an evolving adventure. We open the bottle and head down a path that has multiple twists and turns. I've experienced aged wines that lead me down one path then veers to a finish that I never expected – for better or worse.

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. Can't get the attention you believe is necessary in the

investigation of the rape and death of your daughter? Especially in an insular, backwater small town where everyone knows each other – and their dark secrets? Just put it out there for public consumption. That's exactly what Mildred

Hayes decides to do, with alarming effect, spouting "this time the chick ain't losin'."

Rieslings remind me of Mildred's struggles. For decades its proponents were castigated and subjected to pressure from the establishment. Finally, in the last five years it has been recognized for what it is: a fine wine for pairing with so many foods, from sushi to Asian fusion. And the masses are starting to take notice.

Dunkirk. In an early "Darkest Hour" of World War II (another nominated movie), the Germans have pushed Allied troops to the edge of the sea in Dunkirk, France. With their backs to the sea and no relief in sight, this historic depiction is heading toward a gruesome ending. The little people, local fishermen in their boats, not the superpowers, save the day in grand style.

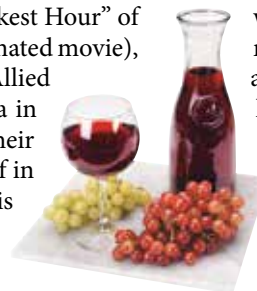
So, too, did small winemakers in France salvage the wine industry after the war, raising it to world acclaim. Individual acts of bravery and patriotism have paid rewards for the legacy of French fishermen and winemakers alike.

Lady Bird. Christine, who proclaims that *Lady Bird* is her given name ("it's given to me, by me"), has an adventurous senior year. She bickers with her mom, falls in love and joins the Drama Club, all fairly typical. But all ends (reasonably)

well in this teenage angst movie. Mother and daughter better understand each other, financial difficulties are placed in context and *Lady Bird* begins to see the world through a crystal-clear lens. Her future is bright.

I remember when I first sampled red blends. They were an amalgam of mostly diverse varietals, at times compatible, other times in constant conflict with each other. By immersing myself in this genre, I soon was able to discern my preferences, learning the nuances of each wine. Now I have an instinctive approach to these blends, appreciating the distinct beauty and personality of each. Which movie will win the coveted Oscar? Sit back on Sunday night with your favorite wine in hand and enjoy the festivities.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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.



You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Rapidly Increasing Daylight as We Close in on Vernal Equinox

I was recently running some afterschool errands with my daughter. In a moment of quiet as we came around a curve in the road, we both noticed a certain house that we pass every time we go down that way. The peeling yellow paint on its siding was just a little yellower, and the glare from the broad windows along its south wall stung a little more. I put my sunglasses on. Maybe you've noticed it where you live, too.

We're coming to the end of the shortest month of the year, and we're already a sixth of the way around the block again. Change is in the air. The days are getting longer; we've picked up over two hours of daylight since the start of winter in December. What was early evening a few weeks ago is afternoon again. The vernal equinox, the start of spring, is about three weeks away, on Mar. 20.

The term vernal equinox comes to us from Latin, as so many English

words do, and means "equal night of spring." Vernal has the same Latin root that reached Spanish as *verano* and Italian as *primavera*. As Earth moves in its orbit around the sun, the most direct sunlight moves northward and southward across Earth's midsection thanks to the tilt of Earth's axis. You can see this happen if you watch the sun set every evening for a few weeks or months. Little by little, it migrates back and forth along the horizon, day after day, year after year.

The equinoxes are the two points each year, in March and September, when that sunlight is right in the middle. It falls on the equator at noon somewhere on Earth. The days and nights are more or less equal, and the sun rises and sets due east. The days will keep getting longer, which means shorter starry nights, all the way out until June's solstice, the first day of summer.

Speaking of the nights, if you've

missed seeing our solar system's planets, Venus has come back from hiding in the sun's glare and is inching into the evenings again. If you can, get a good view of the western horizon just after sunset, especially Mar. 2-4. There, you'll see Venus. It'll be stunning, gorgeous and unmistakably bright. You'll also have a chance to see the smallest and speediest planet, Mercury. The two will be separated by less than the width of a finger held up at arm's length.

Since Mercury is so small and close to the sun, it's often a real challenge to see, even in the best of circumstances. Those nights will give you a chance to use Venus's brilliance to find Mercury. It'll be poking through the glowing orange to Venus's right. The pair will set quickly, so look fast. As March goes on, Mercury will head off on another adventure, but Venus will



By Scott Levine

rise higher and set deeper into the night.

March, like January, has two full moons. The first is on Mar. 1, which means there'll be another blue moon on Mar. 31.

And don't forget to set your clocks ahead overnight on Sunday, Mar. 11 when daylight saving

time begins.

I hope you have a chance to step out and enjoy the skies as winter ends. Clear skies!

Scott Levine has loved astronomy since he was young and now watches and writes about the skies near his Croton-on-Hudson home. You can read Scott's *Sky Watch* astronomy website, with its "Space, taken easy" approach to naked-eye astronomy, at scottastronomy.wordpress.com. You can also find him at astroscott@yahoo.com or on Twitter @scottlevine13.

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