



## White Plains Councilmembers Sworn In, Hunt-Robinson Named Council President

By Neal Rentz

The White Plains Common Council voted unanimously on Jan. 6 to appoint Nadine Hunt-Robinson as its president for the next two years.

Hunt-Robinson took her oath of office at the meeting as did first-term Councilwomen Jennifer Puja and Victoria Presser, who were all elected as a Democratic slate in November.

"It takes a village and I look and I see my village and see how I got here today," Hunt-Robinson said following her appointment. She thanked her family and friends for their help in "making me the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Council for the City of White Plains."

Hunt-Robinson said she was part of "the first all women-slate" to be elected to the city's Common Council.

"I am humbled in the faith that my colleagues have put in me and the citizens of White Plains have put in me to continue to serve the people and to be the council



Nadine Hunt-Robinson was unanimously chosen as president of the White Plains Common Council on Jan. 6. She is shown above being sworn into office as a councilwoman by Mayor Tom Roach, accompanied by her husband, the Rev. Dr. Tyrone Robinson, and their son, Mali.



Jennifer Puja was sworn in as a White Plains councilwoman by Mayor Tom Roach on Jan. 6. Puja was accompanied by her husband, Joe, son, Nicholas, and daughter, Alessia.



Victoria Presser was sworn in as a White Plains councilwoman by Mayor Tom Roach on Jan. 6. She was accompanied by her husband, Barry.

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## Civil Rights Attorney Officially Joins Field for 93rd Assembly Seat

By Martin Wilbur

A White Plains civil rights attorney officially entered the Democratic field of candidates for the 93rd Assembly District last Tuesday pledging to support measures to fight climate change, create more affordable housing and strengthen healthcare coverage.

Jeremiah Frei-Pearson, 41, making his first run for political office, announced his entry into the race surrounded by a legion of White Plains Democrats, including Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin and Mayor Tom Roach. He is one of as many as five Democrats that plan to vie for the party's nomination for the seat to succeed Assemblyman David Buchwald, who is running for the 17th Congressional District seat.

"I am running for this seat because we are at a critical time in our community's history



Jeremiah Frei-Pearson, surrounded by a large gathering of White Plains Democrats, formally announces his candidacy for the 93rd Assembly District seat last week on the steps of White Plains City Hall.

MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

and in our country's history," Frei-Pearson said. "The atmosphere from Washington, D.C. is deplorable. We're being divided. We have the federal government, which isn't working for the people and is targeting the most vulnerable amongst us. We can change that in New York State."

Although this is his first run for office, Frei-Pearson is no stranger to politics. He had considered running for the seat in 2012 when Buchwald was victorious and also weighed challenging a former state senator who opposed marriage equality when he still lived in Queens.

He was appointed by Roach to serve on the Sustainable White Plains Committee and on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. He has served as chair of both committees.

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## White Plains Councilmembers Sworn In, Hunt-Robinson Named Council President

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president," Hunt-Robinson said.

"A wise person knows that there's something to be learned from everyone," Puja said following her oath of office ceremony. "I can honestly say that the people sitting in this room and standing are people I've learned a great deal from. I've learned that, most of all, it takes a village. In our case it takes a city. It takes a city to make change. It takes a city to make a difference. It takes a city to energize and to mobilize and to brainstorm. It takes a city to educate, to empower and to embrace one another and it takes a city to lead."

"I'm so excited at the opportunity to serve all of White Plains," Puja said.

Puja said she has been told that she is one of the youngest women to be elected to the Common Council and she wants to inspire girls and women to run for political office.

"It is a great honor to be called upon to serve in government," Presser said

following her oath of office. "I am grateful to the citizens of White Plains for giving me this opportunity."

Presser said she was dedicating her service in memory of Pauline Oliver, the last Battle Hill resident to serve on the Common Council and her immigrant grandparents and for city residents. "I pledge to give this work everything I've got," she said. "I love White Plains."

"There's a lot of work to do," Presser said. "And if there is one thing we know, it's that complex challenges rarely have easy answers. But we will see the way through."

During the meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve the plan from White Plains Hospital to construct a sky bridge.

The construction of the Longview Sky Bridge is part of the hospital's modernization project.

William Null, a member of the hospital's Board of Directors and an attorney

representing the hospital, told the Common Council on Dec. 2 the bridge would connect the third floor of the Longview Garage with the second story of the hospital office building and the Center for Cancer Care and span Longview Avenue. The bridge would allow pedestrians to not have to go down to the bottom floor and cross the street, Null said.

The bridge will be about 17 feet above the ground, which will allow trucks to pass under it.

The hospital office building is slated to open in June of next year, Null said.

Also at last week's meeting the Council voted unanimously to reduce the issuing of bonds for two capital projects by more than \$800,000 because the city received grants to pay for portions of the projects.

Hunt-Robinson said the Library Plaza reconstruction project received a \$600,000 grant from Westchester County and a

\$135,000 Federal Block Grant.

Hunt-Robinson also noted the Mattison Park reconstruction project received a \$108,500 Federal Block Grant.

Mayor Roach said the Council was de-authorizing previously approved bonds because the city received the grants. With the completion of the Library Plaza project, "We basically added another park to the downtown," he said.

"It's not a common occurrence to de-authorize bonds," Councilwoman Presser said. "It's a tribute to the city's skillful fiscal management in the successful pursuit of grants."

Hunt-Robinson urged city to respond to the upcoming Census count so the federal government receives an accurate count of the White Plains population, which is used for such purposes as providing grants. "We want to make sure everyone is counted," Hunt-Robinson said.

## Civil Rights Attorney Officially Joins Field for 93rd Assembly Seat

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"He's right on the issues, he understands how to work with people and he knows how to make things happen in government," Roach said. "That's what we need in Albany."

Frei-Pearson said he would differentiate himself from the other Democrats by pointing to his record of advocating for social change on a large scale. He said he and his law firm traveled to the southern border to fight for the rights of migrants who were being separated from their children and recovered millions of dollars for workers that had been paid under the minimum wage

by unscrupulous employers.

In Albany, Frei-Pearson said he would also support implementing parts of the Green New Deal to help New York do its share to combat the climate crisis.

He has lived in the district most of his life, having grown up in Mount Kisco and Bedford and graduating from John Jay High School in Cross River.

"There are so many amazing people who have lots of needs, from affordable housing to health care to the kids in this district who live in poverty, from small business

owners, like I am, who want to be free from regulation, and I think I can deliver some real results and make change with that," Frei-Pearson said.

Boykin said his legal work has made Frei-Pearson a champion of those in need.

"He's always working to help those less fortunate," Boykin said. "So we need someone who can be the voice for the voiceless, to be the one who can advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves and to work to make sure we have representative legislation to help us throughout the 93rd

Assembly District."

The White Plains Democratic Committee officially endorsed Frei-Pearson on Dec. 26, even though he had yet to officially declare as a candidate.

Frei-Pearson appears headed to a June 23 primary against at least three other Democrats who have also officially announced – Bedford Supervisor Chris Burdick, Chappaqua attorney Kristen Browde and White Plains resident Alex Roithmyar, who has worked for Buchwald as a community liaison and as chief of staff.

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# Opposing and Combatting Anti-Semitism Discussed at Temple Israel Center, White Plains

By Neal Rentz

Acts of Anti-Semitism have occurred with disturbing regularity in the area in recent weeks.

There was deadly violence at a kosher market in Jersey City in December, a recent Hanukkah attack in Monsey and locally, a menorah was toppled at Veterans' Field as part of a vandalism spree, which included houses of worship, in Yorktown in early January.

Opposing Anti-Semitism was discussed in front of an audience of about 800 residents last week in White Plains.

"Anti-Semitism: What We Face and How We Fight It," a discussion about the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and abroad and Westchester's efforts to combat hatred was held on Jan. 8 at the Temple Israel Center.

The speakers were Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Mark Weitzman, director of government affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Hindy Poupko, deputy chief planning officer at UJA-Federation of New York.

Scarpino discussed the work of his office, including the Westchester Intelligence Center. Scarpino said his office has been collaborating with the Westchester Jewish Council and the UJA "on important initiatives to serve to protect the community."

Scarpino said the Monsey attack "was part of a pattern of Anti-Semitic violence in our region."

The Intelligence Center, which is staffed with analysts and criminal investigators,



"Anti-Semitism: What We Face and How We Fight It," a discussion about the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and abroad, and Westchester's efforts to combat hatred was held on Jan. 8 at the Temple Israel Center in White Plains. The speakers were, from the left, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Hindy Poupko, deputy chief planning officer at UJA-Federation of New York, and Mark Weitzman, director of government affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

immediately contacted the State Police and went on alert after the Monsey attack, Scarpino said. Part of the responsibilities of the Intelligence Center is hate crime and hate speech intelligence gathering, partnering with several federal and state and local departments and agencies, Scarpino said. "Upon request we conduct research into social media and other online sources of information to identify, track and monitor individuals and groups engaged in hate incidents," Scarpino said. "We have established a hate crimes, hate speech database of reported incidents. In

addition, we have mapped the location of all Westchester houses of worship to allow law enforcement to act quickly on threats that may affect more than one location."

Weitzman said he is often asked about Anti-Semitism. "Are we in a period that resembles 1933 Germany? Are we on the verge of having what happened there happen to us here?" he said. The answer to those questions is "a categorical no."

Weitzman said current American Anti-Semitic violence does not resemble what happened in Germany in the 1930's. "We have no heritage in this country of official

state-sponsored violent Anti-Semitism," he said. "Anti-Semitism has always had to compete with other forms of bigotry." In addition, there have been movements throughout American history to fight back against Anti-Semitism and "most Americans retain bitter memories of days past when they or their ancestors were themselves the objects of prejudice and discrimination," he said, adding the United States does not have a formal state-sponsored established religion.

"Anti-Semitism is foreign to American ideals. These ideals have not always been lived up to, but nonetheless the ideals are enshrined in our founding documents," Weitzman said.

"Anti-Semitism has always been present and has always been a part of the fabric of American history. It predates the founding of our country," Weitzman said.

There have been several violent acts of Anti-Semitism in the United States since the 1980's, Weitzman said even though after the Nazi Holocaust Anti-Semitism was repudiated by the mainstream in the United States. "That appears to have changed now," he said. Anti-Semitism has entered the political discourse, including in conspiracy theories, in recent years, he said.

Weitzman discussed how Anti-Semitism should be fought. "First, we have to have a common understanding of what Anti-Semitism is," he said. The National Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition is: "the targeting of Jews just because they

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# Boykin & Williams Re-elected to Lead BOL, Stevens Appointed Chief of Staff

The Westchester County Board of Legislators began the 2020-2021 term, re-electing Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) as board chairman and Alfreda Williams (D-Elmsford) as vice chair.

In a ceremony at the board's chamber last Monday night, all 17 legislators were sworn in, including three new legislators beginning their first terms: Colin D. Smith (D-Peekskill) in District 1, Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown) in District 4, and Ruth Walter (D-Yonkers) in District 15. Also sworn in was Jose I. Alvarado (D-Yonkers) in District 17, who returns to a seat he held from 2001 through 2011.

Outgoing Majority Leader Catherine

Parker (D-Rye) chose not to seek the position. Democrats, who hold a 15-2 majority, selected MaryJane Shimksy (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) as majority leader and Christopher A. Johnson (D-Yonkers) as majority whip.

The minority caucus selected Margaret A. Cunzio (C-Mount Pleasant) as minority leader and David J. Tubiolo (R-Yonkers) as minority



Carolyn B. Stevens has been named Chief of Staff for the Westchester County Board of Legislators. She takes over from current Chief of Staff Dennis Power on Jan. 27.

whip for 2020. "While we achieved a lot in the last term, there is more work to do," Boykin said. "We must fearlessly address challenges and seize opportunities with regard to affordable housing, economic development, infrastructure, the environment and public safety. And in these times, we must make sure that all our residents are safe, secure and welcome, regardless of race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. Hate and

bigotry have no place in this county and acts of hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated. "We look forward to a new term brimming with fresh energy and ideas, building on our record of progressive achievement to ensure a better tomorrow for the people of Westchester. We will be bold, we will act bold and we will implement a bold agenda." Boykin also announced Friday that Chief of Staff Dennis Power is retiring. Replacing Power will be the Honorable Carolyn B. Stevens, former Scarsdale mayor and village trustee. Stevens is an attorney with extensive government experience and a long-time member of the County's Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee.

Power, a former White Plains councilman who had retired from his position as Director of Program Development at Westchester's Department of Environmental Facilities in 2013, returned to County government in 2018 at Boykin's request to serve as chief of staff.

Stevens comes to the Board after 25 years of experience as a litigator and arbitrator. She was Scarsdale mayor from 2009-2011. She served as a village trustee from 2003-2007. She was a consultant to federal court monitor for the Westchester County affordable housing settlement from 2011 to 2017. She has been a member of the County's Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee since 2011.

Stevens currently serves as a member of the Ossining Planning Board, and is the Planning Board's liaison to the Ossining Environmental Action Committee.

Stevens will take over from Power on Jan. 27.

## Opposing and Combatting Anti-Semitism Discussed at Temple Israel Center, White Plains

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are Jews. And Jews just because Israel is a Jewish state," he said, adding criticisms of Israel in ways other countries are criticized, not based on religion, is not Anti-Semitism.

Greater security at Jewish institutions and the assistance of law enforcement is needed to fight violent Anti-Semitism, Weitzman said. The White House should appoint a person to be the center of the efforts to fight Anti-Semitism, he said. "We also need to push the tech companies to live up to their own standards and to ban posts that promote Anti-Semitism, racism and hate," he said. "That effort is not censorship as it involves private contractual obligations and not government regulation."

Poupko said there is Anti-Semitism expressed by both the far right and far left in the United States. The question is how to confront hate in the world, she said.

Poupko said the UJA Federation and its partners are embarking on a multi-million dollar "wholesale upgrade of our community security infrastructure."

People need to show up in communities that feel threatened or have been attacked, Poupko said. "When a Jew is threatened or beaten up or murdered or worse, it's as if we are all threatened," she said, pointing to the large march in New York City the previous weekend. "These persistent attacks must end."

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## White Plains Shelter Resident Charged with Attempted Murder of a Child

La'Quanaya Ward, 29, of White Plains was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury on attempted murder and other charges in the attempted drowning of a child at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains Dec. 3, 2019.

Ward was arraigned before Westchester County Court Judge George Fufidio on charges of attempted murder, unlawful imprisonment, attempted assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

The judge set bail at \$500,000.

The indictment alleges, La'Quanaya Ward tried to drown her toddler in a bathtub and

endangered her other infant son before being stopped by another resident.

Westchester County Police responded to the Coachman Family Center, a County facility, following a report of the alleged incident by other residents. After an investigation into the incident, she was arrested Dec. 11, 2019.

The next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2020.

### SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

## White Plains Hospital Provides 'Stop the Bleed' Kits to School District

As a follow up to Stop the Bleed training provided to White Plains School District teachers, staff, and administrators in 2019, White Plains Hospital recently donated Stop the Bleed kits to the White Plains School District. The kits will be available in White Plains schools throughout the district and will be placed near defibrillator units already commonly available in schools. Stop the Bleed kits include tourniquets and wound packing equipment, and are designed to help save lives in the event of a bleeding emergency. Recognizing this as the next level of school emergency preparedness, White Plains Hospital and the White Plains School District have teamed up to provide ongoing Stop the Bleed training to its staff through simulations using high fidelity mannequins.

L-to-R: Sean Lews, WP School District



Security; Joseph Ricca, WP School District Superintendent; Dr. Erik Larsen, Assistant Director of EMS & Emergency Preparedness at WPH; Ed Tangredi, Director of Emergency Management at WPH; Dr. Farrukh Jafri, Assistant Director of Education and Simulation Emergency Department; Maggie Racioppo, Nurse Coordinator at WP School District; Kate Lopez, Senior Director of Marketing at WPH.

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# Cuomo Spells Out Ambitious Plans for 2020 Session in Address

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo outlined another ambitious legislative session in last week's State of the State address proposing a \$3 billion referendum to combat climate change, a small business tax cut and legalizing recreational marijuana.

His annual address in Albany on Jan. 8 touted continuation of a progressive agenda that was started last year with Democrats dominating both houses of the legislature for the first time in decades along with the start of Cuomo's third term.

"New York at its best is the progressive capital of the nation and we must fulfill that destiny again this year," Cuomo said.

However, the state begins 2020 facing an estimated \$6 billion budget gap, about two-thirds of which is a result of a Medicaid shortfall. While Cuomo did not explain how he was going to close the deficit, he hinted that local governments, who have been held harmless by the state for their Medicaid responsibility for the last six years, may have to contribute more.

Cuomo will deliver a separate address on his proposed 2020-21 budget sometime before the end of the month.

Despite the fiscal challenges that lie ahead, Cuomo had no shortage of ideas. One of the biggest initiatives planned is a \$3 billion proposition on the November ballot – the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act – that will help propel the state to a green economy while protecting its natural resources.

Money from the bond act would pay for various environmental-related projects, including development of infrastructure to achieve those goals, he said.

"We must develop the solutions to the harmful algae blooms before they destroy our water sources, we must restore fisheries and streams and wetlands," Cuomo said. "We must plant more trees, we must filter more drinking water, we must stop the nitrogen runoff and that's what the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act would do."

Although the state's economy has been strong with 36 consecutive quarters of job growth – the first time that's happened in 80 years – Cuomo said small businesses and



SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (center) with State Senate Majority Leaders Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) left, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-New York) before he presented his State of the State address on Jan. 8.

families still need assistance. He proposed cutting the small business tax to 4 percent, down from 6 percent, and to reduce the state income tax rate for households earning up to \$150,000 to 6.09 percent and to 6.41 percent for households earning up to \$300,000 a year.

Cuomo also called on the legislature to work with neighboring states that have passed the recreational use of marijuana to implement a safe and workable law in New York.

The governor said he wants to distribute education funding in a more progressive fashion, trying to help boost the state's poorer districts. The wealthiest districts spend as much as \$36,000 per student while the poorest school systems spend as little as \$13,000, Cuomo said.

Last year, there was about a \$1 billion increase in state education funding, but with the budget shortfall it's not yet known how much more will be available for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

"If we're the progressive capital and we want to beat our chest that we're the progressive capital, then act that way," he said. "Don't play politics with education money. Use state funds to raise those out of the bottom."

Cuomo said he plans to propose the largest amount of funding in the state's history to build affordable housing to help address the rise in homelessness.

Other progressive initiatives include economic justice reforms that will pay independent contractors, such as some livery drivers, a fair wage and guaranteeing comprehensive sick leave of at least five days for employees of small companies and seven days for large corporations' workers.

All state elected officials, including legislators, and state commissioners will be forced to disclose their tax returns under Cuomo's proposed Nothing to Hide Act. Additionally, any local elected official making more than \$100,000 a year would also have to release their returns.

A recurring theme of the address was the number of anti-Semitic and hate incidents that have spiraled in New York and around the country. Cuomo said he would dedicate additional funds for security to protect schools and houses of worship to help defend themselves. He vowed that there is no place for hate in a state as diverse as New York and that there is "an American cancer that is spreading through the nation's body politic."

"The angry winds of fear and frustration

and despair blames one another for our problems rather than inspiring us to come together and resolve them," Cuomo said. He further proposed changing the law to call acts of mass violence motivated by hate Domestic Terrorism.

Local state lawmakers had a mixed to positive reaction to the governor's address, agreeing with many of the initiatives but needing more clarity on the fiscal situation.

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) said he believes that the environmental restoration bond would be very beneficial to the state and the district, particularly if steps are taken to prevent phosphorous from entering the watersheds.

He also likes the small business tax cuts that would help mom-and-pop operations.

Harckham acknowledged that Cuomo needs to spell out how the state was going to close the deficit in his budget address.

"I'm really looking forward to that because as much as we want to do a lot of great things, the deficit casts a pale on everything until we know how we're going to address that," he said.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) said he was pleased that Cuomo addressed a number of issues that the state still needs to make progress on. He said he expects the governor to be much more specific about costs in his budget address.

Buchwald also expects that there will be a much better chance of recreational marijuana use getting approved as stakeholders work to address the concerns of local communities.

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) was more critical of Cuomo's address, saying that it was a well-crafted and inspirational speech but was glaringly short on details.

Additionally, he panned Cuomo for ignoring many of the most vulnerable constituencies, such as the special needs population and those with disabilities.

"He also failed to address how we're going to address the disastrous condition of our roads," Abinanti said. "He talks in terms of infrastructure improvements, but what about the roads and bridges?"

—Pat Casey added reporting to this story.

## Local State Official Calls for More Judicial Discretion in Bail Reform Legislation

By Pat Casey

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) has proposed legislation that aims to restore judicial discretion to judges in relation to requiring bail for criminal defendants who may pose a threat to public safety.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, the new bail law, which went into effect on Jan. 1 in New York eliminates pretrial detention and cash bail as an option in an estimated 90 percent of arrests. For the remaining cases, judges will maintain the option of setting cash bail.

For most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, cash bail is no longer permitted. Judges must release individuals charged with those crimes with no cash bail, either on their own recognizance or with release conditions designed to ensure that the individual returns to court, such as pretrial supervision and text message reminders for court dates.

For those charged with the most

serious crimes, including almost all violent felonies and certain nonviolent felonies, such as sex offenses and witness tampering, very little has changed. In those cases, judges will retain the option to set cash bail.

In addition, the Brennan Center concludes the law has not changed what judges are permitted to consider in setting bail. Judges in New York are not permitted to detain people due to concerns that they will pose a danger to the community if released. This part of the legislation is consistent with longstanding law in New York, which has prohibited the consideration of dangerousness in setting bail since 1971 in order to ensure that those charged with crimes are afforded the presumption of innocence.

On Friday, Assemblywoman Paulin filed Legislation in the New York State Assembly to amend subdivision 1 of section 510.10 of the criminal procedure law to allow a court to make an individualized determination regarding the dangerousness of a

particular defendant, and that in cases such as Domestic Violence and hate crime cases, flight risk of the defendant is not enough to suspend bail.

In addition to the recent mass shooting at a kosher supermarket in Jersey City and a stabbing incident at a Rabbi's home in Monsey, Paulin pointed to an attack in Brooklyn where a 30 year old woman physically attacked three Jewish women while shouting Anti-Semitic epithets. As a result of the new bail reforms, the attacker was released after being charged with attempted assault as a hate crime. Just one day later, the defendant was arrested as the result of a similar unprovoked attack on another woman and again she was released. The judge did not have the discretion to detain the defendant on bail. It wasn't until a third arrest just days later that the serial attacker was remanded pending a psychiatric evaluation.

"With this amendment, we have the opportunity to adjust the critical bail reforms that were enacted last year. Bail

reform needed to happen in the interest of justice and equal treatment of accused individuals but we must balance those objectives against the safety and security of our residents," Paulin said. "The good intentions of the pre-trial reforms that were passed in last year's budget unfortunately have come with some unintended consequences that need to be addressed immediately," said Paulin. "I am particularly concerned that judges have lost the ability to impose bail on violent and potentially violent perpetrators of hate crimes and domestic violence. These types of crimes carry a high incidence of recurrence and escalation in severity. We cannot have a situation where the judiciary is handcuffed and the victims of crimes are left vulnerable and afraid."

Several other versions of bail reform legislation are also in the works and Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently said, "Bail reform is a work in progress," although he did not mention it during his State of the State address last week.



# CARIBBEAN THYME RESTAURANT, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

White Plains resident Horace Bassham explained last week the name of his new business, Caribbean Thyme Restaurant, which is located in the city on Court Street.

Thyme refers to the spice, which is important in Caribbean cooking, Bassham, who opened the eatery in October, said. "It's all about the spice," he said.

Bassham said the previous restaurant he owned for five years was located on Lexington Avenue in White Plains and when his lease expired and his landlord wanted to double the rent, Bassham chose Court Street for the site of his new business. He wanted a place where "people would pass on a regular basis." Bassham said he looked at the 51 Court St. site for three years before it became available. The restaurant has been popular with Westchester County government employees and police and firefighters, he said.

Most of the food is sold in a buffet format at a cost of \$7.99 per pound. It has both dine in and take out options and catering services are available. "People love the idea of choices," Bassham said. "You can pick every meat you want."

Some of the offerings include curry chicken, oxtail, jerk chicken, salmon, shrimp, curry goat, stew peas, cow foot, quinoa with spinach, macaroni and cheese, plantains, rice, collard greens and salads. "You name it, we have it, on a daily basis," Bassham said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

White Plains resident Horace Bassham opened Caribbean Thyme Restaurant in the city in October.

The exception to the buffet format is soup, which is available in \$4 and \$7 sizes.

Oxtail is his customer's favorite item, Bassham said. It takes much effort to properly prepare oxtail, he said. His restaurant's oxtail is cooked and simmered for about two hours. Curry chicken and

jerk chicken are among the other customer favorites, he said.

A key to the popularity of his offerings is the herbs and spices, with most being imported from Jamaica on a monthly basis, Bassham said. The authentic herbs and spices from Jamaica are organic and have

a stronger essence compared to those grown domestically, he said. "When you eat something here you get the real authentic taste of Jamaica," he said.

Bassham said he has no one particular favorite dish from his restaurant. "To be frank with you I enjoy everything because everything is from the heart," he said.

*Caribbean Thyme Restaurant is located at 51 Court St For more information call 914-368-8664. The restaurant is on Facebook and Instagram.*

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## Obituaries

### Lola Geiger

Lola Geiger passed away in Rye on Jan. 7, in her 98th year.

Devoted wife of the late Philip, adored mother of Lawrence (Amy), Martin (Carin), James (Marilyn) and Ricki (Judi). Loving grandmother of Margaret (Hugh), Andrew (Jamie), Caroline, Pamela (John), Philip



(Laura), and Francesca (Robert), and dear great-grandmother of Alexa, Dylan, Evan, Max, Brody, Cameron, Teddy and Lola.

Lola, a long-time resident of her beloved Harrison, was an exceptional athlete who loved playing ball and tennis.

Lola dedicated her life to enriching communities and supporting and inspiring others. In the 1950's, she, along with her

husband Philip Geiger and others, founded the Harrison Little League and the Jewish Community Center of Harrison. President of PTAs in three Harrison Schools, Lola was Chairman of the Harrison High School Feeley Scholarship Fund for over 40 years and Vice-President of the United Way of Harrison for over 20 years.

She was a co-founder and President Emeritus of The Harrison Children's Center and former President of the Friends of the Harrison Public Library and of the Harrison Chapter of The League of Women Voters.

Lola especially valued encouraging and motivating young people during the 15 years she served as a youth employment counselor for the Harrison Youth Council. She was a member of the Interfaith Congregational Layman's Committee of Harrison for 25 years and was elected to the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame in 2003.

Aside from her beloved family and friends, Lola leaves a legacy of decades of volunteer service to the Harrison community that she cherished.

A celebration of her life will be announced shortly. Those inclined are kindly requested to consider donations in her memory to The Harrison Children's Center, 300 Harrison Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528, and the Harrison Public Library Foundation, 2 Bruce Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528.

### Raymond Mastoloni Sr.

Raymond Louis (Ray) Mastoloni passed

away peacefully at 89 years old in the comfort of his home on Jan. 9, embraced by family and surrounded with love. Deeply respected within his community and revered professionally, Ray was a generous man, a successful provider, and a compassionate husband, father, and grandfather.

Ray is survived by his adoring wife of 61 years, Carol Mastronardi, and their four loving children Raymond (Kirsten), Jeanne, Joseph (Laura), and Thomas (Patricia). Ray was also a devoted 'Poppy' to 12 grandchildren, Dana (Brett), Alyssa (Colin), Raymond (Meghan), Joseph, Charles, Victoria, Kyle, Alexandra, Elizabeth, Christopher, Daniel, and Benjamin.

Ray was born in Brooklyn, NY on Jan. 18, 1930, to Adele Paolotti and Frank Mastoloni. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory High School where he played football and went on to St. Bonaventure University.

While Ray was an avid proponent of higher education, he took a leave of absence to serve his country proudly in the Korean War from 1950-1952. Upon his return home, Ray completed his Bachelor of Arts in History in 1954 before going on to St. John's Law School.

On June 28, 1958 Ray married the love of his life, Carol, a strong and beautiful woman who swept him off his feet and held his unwavering adoration for over six decades. This union proved to be the foundation of his future success as a businessman and patriarch of a loving extended family.

Ray began his professional career

while serving in Japan, fostering lifelong relationships, learning the language and laying the foundation of what would become a lucrative and thriving business. He was a partner at Frank Mastoloni and Sons for over 50 years, and alongside his brother, catapulted the company to be one of the largest and respected purveyors of cultured pearls in the country. Ray was a leader in the industry and widely considered to be one of the few true experts on cultured pearls. He served as President of the Cultured Pearl Association of America for a number of terms and continued to share his passion for the business throughout his life. His professional legacy lives on through his son Raymond, and nephews Fran and Edward Mastoloni, all of whom work at the company.

A resident of White Plains for 48 years, Ray was a role model in the community, looked up to by all as a beacon of strength, kindness, and courage. He was a member of Westchester Hills Golf Club and a Centurian member of the New York Athletic Club. Ray's life was based on his family, his company and his friends. We will be thankful for years to come for all he has given us and we will miss him dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Hospital and Cardinal McCloskey Community Services.



*continued on page 8*



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# Enhanced Crosswalks for Bronx River Parkway Could Save Lives

I would like to suggest that Westchester County consider enhancing the crosswalks on the Bronx River Parkway leading to train stations. Among the crosswalk enhancements: the location at the Bronx River Parkway at Fisher Lane where a fatal accident occurred on Jan. 7, cutting short the life of a 57-year-old Greenburgh woman.

The town recently enhanced a crosswalk on Ardsley Road/Edgemont Road. Blinking lights enable pedestrians to cross more safely. Motorists can more easily see the

pedestrians when they are crossing. A few years ago we enhanced a crosswalk with a similar feature on E. Hartsdale Ave. I suggest that the county enhance the lighting at these locations. I drive on the Bronx River Parkway frequently in the evening, and, it's very dark, hard to see pedestrians.

I am not sure if the crosswalk enhancement would have saved Sandra Dekoubia's life. The investigation as to the cause of her tragic death has not been completed. However, I do think that enhanced crosswalks could reduce

the chances of another fatal pedestrian accident occurring and will increase the chances that motorists will be able to see pedestrians who cross the parkway.

Pedestrians need to wear bright clothing, reflectors when walking on busy streets during evening hours. It's very difficult to see pedestrians who wear dark clothing at night.

—Paul Feiner,  
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

## Why the Anti-resident Behavior by Large Developers?

**Dear Mayor and Common Council:** Over the holidays we read that the new owners of the College of New Rochelle property were told by their City Administration to meet with the local neighborhood association before development plans were finalized. We remember past White Plains Administrations getting resident input early on just like what New Rochelle is doing now.

As background, over the past 40 years we have found White Plains a special place to live. However over the last 10 years we have also noticed the growth of anti-resident behavior on the part of large Developers, with FASNY the prime example as their outside advisors in a major blunder from day one started fighting with and disrespecting their new nearby neighbors. Also, the Developer of the old Good Counsel property apparently

was misrepresenting environmental issues to their nearby neighbors, while the Developer of the Esplanade project was trying to dislodge older residents out of their own apartments. While these three Developers are not related, the only common element we found was that the outside advisors for each of the Developers all appear to be from the same firms, and also all this anti-resident behavior occurred under this City Administration's watch.

So we ask our elected officials to do something to end this anti-resident behavior. Our suggestion is to require the Developers of all new large development projects to first sit down with the local neighborhood association where the project is planned for to get preliminary resident input. And if this is not enough, the City

should consider putting Developers and their advisors "under oath" before they discuss their project plans in public meetings. This certainly would have helped with FASNY where Developer misrepresentations and factual inaccuracies were the common theme.

Also we would like to see our City Administration hold off on any backroom deals on zoning changes and concessions for projects until the Developer has a preliminary meeting with the local neighborhood association.

Going forward we believe these changes would save everyone a lot of time, effort and legal costs that burdened the FASNY fiasco, and at the same time treat White Plains residents with more respect.

—Marie and Ron Rhodes, White Plains

## Obituaries

continued from page 7



### Christine Wally

Christine Sutton Wally died peacefully on Jan. 5, surrounded by her children and family.

Christine was born to Glenn and Rita Sutton on Jan. 11, 1951. She was born, raised, and lived in White Plains for the majority of her life.

She is survived by her four children Joseph Nardo, Alexandra Lagos, Jessica

Hidalgo, and Amanda Ruiz, six grandchildren CJ, Ryan, Drew, Zoey, Elijah, Arianna, and a very soon to be seventh grandchild, a baby boy.

Her family loves her, will miss her, and will always hold the memories of her, her love, and her warmth in their hearts.

### Jose Fernandez

Jose Ramon Fernandez, a resident of Tarrytown for over 27 years, formerly of Greenridge Avenue, White Plains, passed away on Jan. 5.

He was born July 15, 1934 in Ribas de Sil, Lugo, Spain to Col. Evaristo Fernandez and Juana Vazquez and lived in LaCoruña, Spain. Jose worked as a construction laborer in Laborer's National Union Local 235 in Elmsford.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Roosa Fernandez, whom he never spent a day apart from in 37 years. He is survived by his step children: Tracy (Anthony) Volpe of Clearwater, FL and Jay (Starla) Heater of Bradenton, FL; and grandchildren Richard, Jennifer, Michelle, Nicole and William; and great-grandchildren Abby and Liam. He is also survived by his sister Amparo Fernandez of Madrid, Spain; his brother, Dictino Fernandez (Maria Elena) of LaCoruna,

Spain; his nieces, Monica (Miguel), Soraya and Maria Fernandez; his nephew, Manuel Fernandez and many cousins in the White Plains area.

A private burial took place at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, White Plains.





# Truth in Package Labeling: On a Wine Bottle?



By Nick Antonaccio

When shopping for the produce and/or meats necessary to prepare an at-home meal, consumers are increasingly aware of the nutritional and health values of unprocessed ingredients. Many products contain nutrition and ingredient information on government-mandated food labels.

But what of the fresh produce and non-shrink-wrapped meats in supermarkets? Current regulations are not always effective in food labeling.

Increasing numbers of consumers are seeking out products grown and raised as they were for centuries before the industrialization of food products, before the era of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and before GMO products and Monsanto corn.

Conscientious consumers have more food information available today than ever before. However, the availability of nutritional and health information still has a few wide gaps.

When consumers prepare a meal of the most healthful foods in the marketplace, they sit at the table proud of their accomplishment. Typically, they will celebrate their meal with a glass of wine. Herein lies the rub. That bottle of wine may be “industrialized” with man-made additives. But how is a discerning consumer able to make an informed decision on the quality of the wines they purchase?

No government regulations exist that require a nutrition or ingredients label on a bottle of wine.

Ironically, there is no lack of verbiage on wine labels today – where the grapes are grown, which grapes were blended together, flowery adjectives describing the bouquet, aroma, flavor, even suggestions for food pairing. All with the implied intent of making a consumer’s decision-making process easier. The more information the better, right?

Maybe. Does nice-to-know trump need-to-know?

In the face of this lack of mandatory ingredients labeling, many consumers might question any need for disclosure. To them, wine is simply fermented grape juice that “contains sulfites.”

The reality is that many wines contain additives introduced during the winemaking process, including several that remain present in the final product. Remember the (unfounded) scare several years ago concerning the levels of (naturally occurring) arsenic in numerous wines? To add to the confusion are the current federal government regulations that list 62 chemical materials that may be legally added to wine – and not disclosed on the bottle label.

In varying degrees and in varying winemakers’ end products, numerous man-made enzymes may be added to enhance the color or balance the flavors or aromas.

Sugar may be added to control alcohol levels, powdered tannins to influence overall quality, citric acid to control pH levels.

Many of these additives have not (yet) been shown to be harmful. However, otherwise natural wines are being adulterated in a significant amount of the wine unaware Americans consume.

The industry has successfully resisted any form of disclosure. However, several pioneering American winemakers have taken the bold step of voluntary disclosure. As one might suspect, these virtuous winemakers have nothing to hide, although several of their specific disclosures might turn heads amongst uninitiated or naïve wine consumers.

Ridge Vineyards, one of California’s most respected wineries, adds a list of ingredients to the back label of several of their wines. Here is the language for the highly regarded and expensive Ridge Monte Bello bottling: “Hand harvested, sustainably grown estate grapes, indigenous yeasts, naturally occurring malolactic bacteria, 2.4% water addition, calcium carbonate, oak from barrel aging, minimum effective SO2.”

This is a very straightforward presentation with a list of ingredients I wouldn’t mind ingesting. “Bacteria?” “Water?” These are natural ingredients many winemakers add to their wines to improve their quality. The harmless bacteria are naturally produced during the fermentation process; a portion

may remain in the wine upon bottling. Water may be added to a wine during its aging process to compensate for overly ripe grapes or to reduce high levels of alcohol.

Informed consumers spend considerable time – and money – seeking out food products that conform to their lifestyle choices. Shouldn’t we be able to scrutinize wine in a similar fashion?

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



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**Crossword by Myles Mellor**

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**Across**  
1. Immeasurably vast  
7. Randy’s skating partner  
10. Kia sedan  
11. Virgil Sollozzo in “The Godfather” or Mt. Kisco restaurant, The \_\_\_\_\_  
12. Dress pieces  
13. First word in a fairy tale  
14. Swiss granola  
16. Baseballer Fielder

19. French film award  
22. Messy people  
23. Susan’s Emmy-winning soap role  
24. Anouk of film  
25. Civil rights organization  
26. VW model  
28. Work detail  
30. Bouquets  
34. Way  
35. Desert illusion  
36. Top card or Mohegan Lake hardware store

a contest  
20. N.C. State is in it  
21. Song from the hood  
27. \_\_\_\_\_ Club  
28. Health resort  
29. Lobbying grp.  
31. He was the subject of a Warhol painting  
32. Years \_\_\_\_\_  
33. One of 100 in D.C.

37. “Already?”

**Down**  
1. Companies, abbr.  
2. Pick  
3. Cellos’ sect.  
4. Dade Co. Fla. city  
5. Urges  
6. Matter for Judge Judy  
7. North African country  
8. Semi-circle  
9. President, for short  
11. They put up with things  
15. Game plan  
16. Historic initials of 1861  
17. Giants’ Manning  
18. Engage in

**Solution on page 12**

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continued from previous page

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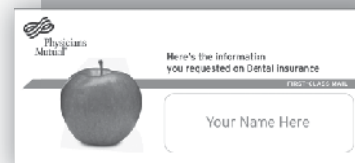
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# Happenings

Tuesday, Jan. 14

**Trove Time.** Trove Time is an early literacy playtime for ages 2-4 with a caregiver. Children and their caregiver will play together, hear stories, and learn about enriching a child's life and increasing their early literacy skills. Tickets will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis beginning 30 minutes prior to the program; 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Story Trove at White Plains Library.

**How Did I Get Here?** Culinary Arts. Come and meet chef Jonathan Kava who will talk about his career in the culinary arts. He will be talking about how he became a chef and his experiences in different fields. Jonathan Kava studied at the French Culinary Institute and has worked in a variety of fields as a Sous Chef, Private Chef for corporations and people, and as an Executive Chef for a catering company. For teens, 4 to 5 p.m. Edge Media Lab, White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Tuesdays@Dorries.** War with Iran? A conversation about the implications of recent developments will be facilitated by Michael Hackett. Weekly table talkers. All are welcome. Food ordering begins at 5:15 p.m. Presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorries Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

## Crossword Solution from page 9

1	C	2	O	3	S	4	M	5	I	6	C	7	T	8	A	9	I
10	O	P	T	I	M	A						11	T	U	R	K	
12	S	T	R	A	P	S						13	O	N	C	E	
							14	M	U	E	15	S	L	I			
16	C	E	C	I	L						19	C	E	S	A	R	
22	S	L	O	B	S						23	E	R	I	C	A	
24	A	I	M	E	E						25	N	A	A	C	P	
						26	P	A	S	27	S	A	T				
28	S	P	E	C						30	A	R	O	M	32	A	33
34	P	A	T	H						35	M	I	R	A	G	E	
36	A	C	E							37	S	O	S	O	O	N	

Wednesday, Jan. 15

**Noonday Getaway Concert.** The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Liuh-Wen Ting, viola, and Barbara Podgurski, piano, play music inspired by Native American culture. Gilbert Galindo: Sonata for Viola and Piano (written for Ms. Ting) and Gabriela Lena Frank: Sueños de Chambi (from Cinco Danzas de Chambi). 30-minute free concert begins at 12:10 p.m. at Grace Church, White Plains. This concert is made possible with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency, White Plains.

**Grow Your Business With GoogleAds.** What is GoogleAds? It is the most powerful marketing tool in history. In this workshop, Jeff Garnett, entrepreneur, digital marketing consultant and owner of Clean Slate Laser Tattoo Removal Centers, will help you examine marketing cycle fundamentals, pay-per-click versus SEO and Google AdWords account structure, components and strategies. SCORE Headquarters at White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.westchester.score.org](http://www.westchester.score.org).

**Which Craft?** Wednesday. Bring your friends and relax with some coloring pages. For students in grades 6 and up on a first-come, first-served basis. 4 to 5 p.m. at the Edge Media Lab, White Plains Library.

**Family Karaoke.** Come join us for a fun filled hour of singing entertainment. 7 to 8 p.m. Galaxy Hall, White Plains Library.

Thursday, Jan. 16

**Regional Workforce Development Summit.** Nationally renowned experts and local stakeholders will address an audience of leaders from business, education, economic development, workforce development, government, nonprofit organizations and foundations to discuss innovative solutions to the region's recruitment and retention issues. Speakers will include Westchester Community College President Dr. Belinda Miles, Joseph Carbone, president and CEO

The Examiner is happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event to [pcasey@theexaminernews.com](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com). For a full listing of the upcoming week's events, visit [www.theexaminernews.com](http://www.theexaminernews.com) and click on Happenings.

of The WorkPlace and Diane Woolley, chief human resources officer at White Plains Hospital. The keynote speaker will be Jason Bram, regional economist officer, Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Opening remarks will be delivered by County Executive George Latimer. Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown. 8 to 11 a.m. Westchester County Association members: \$85. Non-members: \$95. Info and registration: Visit [www.westchester.org](http://www.westchester.org).

**Film Screening: Mildred Pierce.** The 1945 drama Mildred Pierce will be screened at 2:00 p.m. in Galaxy Hall on the second floor of the White Plains Library. The film, which is open to all, concludes the Fall 2019 short story discussion series led by librarian Barbara Wenglin, which explored selections from the anthology, Stories of Motherhood (Everyman's Pocket Classics, 2012).

**Common Ground.** Join us at 6 p.m. for the first of our new Common Ground Community Conversations. This month's topic will be asking the question "What is community?" This program is a collaboration between the League of Women Voters of White Plains, the Library, and the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester. White Plains Library.

**WESPAC Panel on U.S. Crisis with Iran.** Phyllis Bennis directs the New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, focusing on Middle East, U.S. wars and UN issues. She is also a fellow of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam. She works with many anti-war organizations, writing and speaking widely across the U.S. and around the world as part of the global peace movement. Jamash Heidari is a writer and commentator on culture and politics. Sara Flounders is Co-Director of International Action Center and helps coordinate the United National Antiwar Coalition, the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases and the Sanctions Kill Campaign. 7 p.m. at WESPAC, 77 Tarrytown Rd., Suite 2W, White Plains. Free and open to the public. Contributions requested to cover speaker travel costs.



**Phil Vassar: Stripped Down Acoustic Tour.** Country music hitmaker Phil Vassar is a piano-pounding powerhouse on stage who taps into his audiences via social media for song requests throughout his more than 135 shows a year. Vassar's signature songs include 10 Number 1 singles and 26 Top 40 hits, including "Carlene," "Just Another Day in Paradise," "Six-Pack Summer," "When I Love You" and many more. Vassar was racking up hits on the radio long before he began his recording career that has seen the release of six albums, two ASCAP Songwriter of the Year trophies ACM's Top New Male Vocalist and sold-out shows across the country. Vassar's songwriting career blossomed in the mid-'90s when he landed a publishing contract with EMI and penned his hits for Collin Raye, Alan Jackson, Tim McGraw, Jo Dee Messina and Blackhawk. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$38, \$48 and \$58. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

Saturday, Jan. 18

**Miller House Open House.** An afternoon of history and intrigue involving George Washington and the richest single woman in Colonial America, Mary Eliza Philipse. Miller House, 140 Virginia Rd., North White Plains. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

**Feeding Fun.** A hands-on program to learn about the care that goes into feeding the indoor animals as well as the birds of prey and those in the barnyard. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**"The Secret Judaic Origins of the Tarot de Marseille."** This event will focus on Jewish history in Europe and analysis in the cards with Stav Appel helping decode the hidden Jewish content in the cards. Sponsored by the Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 2 p.m. Free; donations welcome. Info: 914-218-8535 or e-mail [info@wchj.org](mailto:info@wchj.org).

## SUNY Film Festival to be Held at Purchase College April 17 to 19

Purchase College, SUNY will host the SUNYWide Film Festival (SWFF) April 17 through April 19. In its 10th year, the festival is one of the top student film festivals in the Northeast. This is the first year it will be held at Purchase College.

The SWFF is now accepting submissions from all SUNY students, including 2019 graduates. New to the festival this year is a competition for screenplays. Those who wish to submit a short film or screenplay are welcome to do so on the online portal before February 15.

All finalists in each category will be notified on March 16. Finalists' films will be shown at the festival, and three screenplays will be selected for a live reading. There are prizes

for all winners.

The screenplays and films will be selected by the SWFF committee and then judged by a panel of industry professionals. The festival will also feature panel discussions and a keynote lecture. The judges, panelists, and keynote will be announced at a later date.

SWFF was launched in 2009 as an opportunity to showcase the cinematic work of students and faculty from the SUNY system. The festival is a result of the vision and dedication of Phil Hastings, Associate Professor of Film and Video Arts at SUNY Fredonia, who founded the festival. Selected films and videos have gone on to garner awards at other regional and national film festivals.

## White Plains Youth Bureau Opens 2nd Teen Lounge on Battle Hill

The White Plains Youth Bureau has opened its second Teen Lounge for middle and high school students on Friday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. Students will have a place to go after school on Fridays to spend time with friends, play ping pong, shoot pool, play air hockey and foosball or simply hang out and even do homework. Ms. Yocasta Jimenez, (aka Miss Yogi) a White Plains High School Social Worker has come on as the Site Coordinator and already has a close relationship with many White Plains students. Although the space is also equipped with big screen TV's

and videogames, Ms. Jimenez says she will engage students with activities like talking circles and cooking since the space also has a full kitchen.

The Youth Bureau is providing van rides home from 7 to 8 p.m. for students who will benefit from the additional transportation. The Teen Lounge space is located at 55 McKinley Avenue. The entrance is around the back of the parking lot next to the door with the green awning. The Teen Lounge on Battle Hill will also be open on Saturdays from 3 to 7 p.m. later in the month.



The **WHITE PLAINS**  
**Examiner**  
**Sports**

# Rubenstein Nets 300th Win, Tigers Top New Rochelle, Rivertown

By Rob DiAntonio

White Plains coach Howie Rubenstein earned his 300th career victory in a 5-2 win over New Rochelle last Saturday night at Hutchinson Ice Arena

“It’s a great feeling to be a part of it and know that I contributed to such a big milestone of his,” Tigers junior captain John Myers said. “He is a great coach, is very dedicated and cares about everyone on the team above himself. He definitely earned all the wins.”



Justin Esposito made 34 saves on his birthday in a 5-2 win over Rivertown last Thursday.



Daniel Cardozo looks to gain control of the puck and head for the net.

ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

White Plains led 3-2 after two periods and scored two insurance goals in the third. The Tigers avenged a 3-2 loss to the Huguenots on Dec. 5.

Myers, Teddy Hauser, Jack Chetti, Trent Munch and Devin Garnett scored a goal each in the win. Hauser had two assists while Myers and Marcello Cappello had one each.

Justin Esposito made 19 saves in net to preserve the victory.

The Tigers registered a 5-2 win over visiting Rivertown last Thursday at Ebersole.

Garnett scored two goals in the first five minutes of the game with the first one coming just 30 seconds in. He later pounced on a rebound after a shot by Daniel Cardozo to make it 2-0.

“We knew this would be a tough game and we had to play hard right off the bat,” Myers said. “We ran a simple breakout that led to a

*continued on page 15*



Devin Garnett, who had two goals and two assists against Rivertown, looks for a teammate.



Jack Chetti gains control of the puck.



Defenseman Jason Monte heads up the ice.



# EXAMINER SPORTS

## Stepinac's R. J. Davis is Westchester High School's All-Time Scoring Leader

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac High School (8-4 overall, 5-1 CHSAA AA) has had a tough time on the basketball court since losing star junior guard Adrian Griffin, Jr. On Jan. 3, Griffin sustained a sprained left knee during the "Crusader Classic" against Iona Prep, at the Westchester County Center. The 6' 7" Duke University commit will be sidelined for two-three weeks.

Stepinac still persevered against their arch rival Iona, 62-54, in the Third Annual "Crusaders Classic" and then went on to beat St. Peter's, 66-52, without Griffin, on Jan. 7. However, the Crusaders were run over by St. Raymond High School, 93-68, on their home court, on Friday, Jan. 10.

On Friday, the St. Raymond contest was a rematch of a game earlier this season, which the Crusaders won, 100-93 in overtime in the PSA Cardinal Prep Showcase, at Mount St. Michael Academy on Dec. 15. The difference in the two games was quite evident, as the Crusaders were no match



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni (center) tries to find a solution to the running and high flying Ravens at Stepinac on Friday. But without the injured Adrian Griffin, Jr. in the lineup there was no solution, as the Crusaders lost their first CHSAA AA game this season to St. Raymond, 93-68.



Crusaders senior R.J. Davis is the All-Time Leading Scorer in Westchester County High School Basketball. Davis has accumulated 2,121 career-points. Davis surpassed Danya Abrams formerly of Greenburgh/Hackley, who held the record for 27 years with 2,119 career-points. Davis is also the sixth All-Time Scorer in the CHSAA. Kenny Anderson formerly of Molloy High School is first with 2,621 career-points.



Crusaders junior guard Adrian Griffin, Jr. (center) would have liked to assist his teammates against St. Raymond in a 25-point loss. But all he could do was watch and support his team from the bench after sustaining a sprained left knee in the "Crusaders Classic" on Jan. 3. Griffin, a Duke University commit, will miss about two more weeks before returning to the court.



Stepinac guard R.J. Davis hits a jumper in the fourth quarter as the Crusaders try and stage a comeback from a 14-point deficit at the end of the third quarter against Rutgers Prep in the Empire Invitational at Mount St. Michael on Sunday. Davis scored 23 second-half points for a total 32 points including 15-for-15 from the foul line but Stepinac lost 81-68.

points.

"A.J. Griffin is such a good player and he is definitely part of the one-two punch with R. J. Davis. Not having him in the game was a difference and we capitalized off of his absence," commented Ravens Head Coach Jorge Lopez.

On Sunday, with only one day of rest, the Crusaders traveled to the Bronx to challenge Rutgers Preparatory School in the Empire Invitational at Mount St. Michael. Davis still seeking to cement his name on top of the Westchester County basketball record books was now 31 points shy of being crowned the County's All-Time High School Leading Scorer.

Once again without the "Big Man" assisting the cause, Davis and Stepinac

struggled in the first half. Davis scored only nine points and the Crusaders were losing to Rutgers, 38-24, at halftime.

But Davis fought hard while scoring 23



Stepinac senior guard R.J. Davis hits a free throw at 1:01 of the fourth quarter against Rutgers Prep in the Empire Invitational for his 2,120 career-point, which makes him the All-Time Leading Scorer in the history of Westchester County High School Basketball.

for the running and highflying Ravens in the rematch without Griffin.

On Friday, Stepinac guard R. J. Davis came into the game chasing a milestone. The University of North Carolina commit was 54 points away from becoming the Westchester County High School Basketball All-Time Leading Scorer.

Nonetheless, Davis struggled in the game as did the Crusaders. Davis scored only two points in the first quarter but did come alive in the second frame while scoring 13 points. However, the Crusaders still huddled at halftime losing by 15 points, 45-30, behind 18 first-half points by Ravens senior guard Luis Kortright.

By the end of the third quarter Davis had scored 23 points but that was as close to achieving the milestone as he would get in this game. The Crusaders star guard did not score in the fourth quarter. St. Raymond certainly appeared to be the better team while comparing the Griffin-less Crusaders. The Ravens went on to defeat the Crusaders, 93-68, with Kortright finishing with 33

points in the second half. With the help of senior guard Luke Fizulich who netted 17 points and the rebounding of junior forward Malcolm Chimezie who grabbed 11 bounds; the Crusaders closed the gap to within seven points, 72-65 with 1:53 left in the game. But Argonauts proved too strong for the Griffin-less Crusaders and pulled away for the win, 81-68.

Nonetheless, Davis and the Crusaders would have their one shining moment in the

game. With 1:01 remaining, Stepinac's star guard approached the foul line for two shots. Davis converted the first free throw, which gave him 2,120 career-points and made him Westchester County's All-Time High School Scoring Leader.

Davis also made the second free throw, which gave him 32 points in the game, including 15-of-15 from the foul line and 2,121 career-points. Davis, a Greenburgh resident, surpassed another Greenburgh

*continued on next page*



# To Add Pizazz to Your Home, Go for Custom Lighting

As a realtor, I'm always looking for ways to enhance homes for listing and sales.

To me, one of the most important elements of showing a home at its best, whether or not for sale, is its interior lighting.

When I was in college, I appeared in a play called "The Madwoman of Chaillot" by Jean Giraudoux starring Linda Lavin, who would later go on to achieve fame in "Alice." The most stunning thing about that production, as I recall, was the amazing effects achieved by its lighting director, on staff in the theater department, who was an incredible talent.

I remember when the curtain rose for the second act, the stage was completely dark and slowly a small pin spotlight illuminated only the face of the madwoman in the center of the stage. Just that lighting effect alone brought applause from the audience.

Every scene of the play was an arresting study in shadow and light as brightness drew the viewer's attention where it needed to be while other areas of the stage receded. I was mesmerized as I observed how light created movement and mood by playing off stationary surfaces.

Many years later I was reminded of my interest in stage lighting when Barry Liebman, director of Yorktown Stage, shared with me his thoughts that a production really doesn't come to life until the lighting director

does his job with a show, going so far to say that seeing a set dramatically lit for the first time has brought him to tears.

His comments convinced me that someday I should have a home where its lighting would be as dramatic as a stage set, which would require a custom designed lighting system. But having always lived in antique homes, my lighting was primarily from traditional lamps.

When I moved five years ago to Trump Park Residences, however, my dream for dramatic lighting presented itself. I arranged with management to have electrical contractors install a system to light my great room, which I had designed basically as an art gallery for my collection of paintings.

The lighting system I planned was to highlight the paintings on three walls: portraits on the living room side, pastorals on the dining room side and a large abstract



By Bill Primavera

on the third wall in between.

At first, I was planning to hire a lighting designer, but I was lucky to find an electrician with sensitivity to my ideas and needs – P&K Electric in Yorktown Heights. Working in tandem with an electric supply company, Mid-County Electrical & Lighting in Mahopac, we all worked wonders together.

There were many technical challenges to overcome working on the fifth-floor condo with 10-foot ceilings, installing high hats in a soffit with insulation material. The casing for the high-hat units I originally wanted turned out to be too large to be accommodated in the soffit, but I had the good fortune to be assigned a job manager named Jimmy from P&K who was as much an artist as he was an electrician.

Jimmy guided me every step of the way in terms of which product to use. We sourced a small LED light at Mid-County whose imprint on the ceiling is only two inches square, as well as the appropriate spacing and angles of light to employ. He cut

such clean holes that nary a speck of spackle was needed for patching the plasterboard.

Now completed, the overhead pin spots illuminate my great room/gallery in a warm and inviting way. Rather than being surrounded by flat walls with two-dimensional shapes on them, the lighted paintings create great depth and richness to our space. While we have other traditional lighting sources in the room, it really requires no light other than that resting on the faces of the portraits and on the landscapes of the pastorals. The effect transports to other acquaintances and distant places beyond the space we occupy.

Whether utilizing standard or custom lighting for our homes, when preparing to list a home for sale, it's good to remember to light it brightly, not only so that all its features can be seen properly, but also to elevate the mood of each room.

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

## Rubenstein Nets 300th Win, Tigers Top New Rochelle, Rivertown

continued from page 13



Daniel Cardozo collects the puck in the Tigers' defensive end.

goal within the first 30 seconds which gave us momentum and getting another gave us even more."

White Plains took a four-minute unreleasable penalty to start the second period and had players in the box throughout the period, but were able to kill the penalty each time.

"We were trying to focus on playing good defense above anything else in order to keep

our lead," Myers said. "We were able to fight off the penalties with good penalty killing and blocked shots from everyone on the ice."

Myers, who finished with three goals and two assists, tipped in a pass from Hauser with 1:54 left in the second period to stretch the lead to 3-0.

Myers added two goals in the third period to put the game away. Garnett notched two assists on top of his two goals. Jason



Jason Manorqui controls the puck.

Monte added an assist.

Esposito, who was celebrating his birthday, stood on his head in net with 34 saves.

"Justin kept us in the game at all times," Myers said. "Even when we made mistakes he was there to back us up and ultimately won the game for us. They had so many shots and chances and he just shut them down."

White Plains (8-4) returns to the ice when

its hosts Mahopac at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. The Tigers travel to Sport-O-Rama to face off with North Rockland the next evening at 9:15 p.m.

"I feel our defense keeps getting better and better and the secondary guys are starting to produce more," Myers said. "If me and our top guys can also produce at the same time as them, and the defense does their job, we will be a dangerous team."

## Stepinac's R. J. Davis is Westchester High School's All-Time Scoring Leader

continued from previous page

basketball legend Danya Abrams formerly of Woodlands/Hackley, who previously held the crown for 27 years with 2,119 career-points.

"It is great honor to break the record. It is

a great individual achievement but obviously we did not get the win and that was the main thing. But I am definitely honored and grateful for the record," stated Davis.

Massaroni, who coached Davis his entire high school career acknowledged. "I am super proud of R.J.'s accomplishments as an individual. But I think his biggest

achievement for us is that he is a winner. I know there is not much to celebrate after a loss but I am proud of him as an individual and how hard he has worked," said Massaroni.



# White Plains Coach Nets 300th Win as Tigers Top New Rochelle



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

White Plains coach Howie Rubenstein earned his 300th career victory in a 5-2 win over New Rochelle last Saturday night at Hutchinson Ice Arena. "It's a great feeling to be a part of it and know that I contributed to such a big milestone of his," Tigers junior captain John Myers said. "He is a great coach, is very dedicated and cares about everyone on the team above himself." Above, Myers sends a pass.