

## Heroes in Education: Westchester-East Putnam PTA Honors Siwanoy School's Farid Johnson and Dave Sparano

Farid Johnson, Siwanoy School Principal, and David Sparano, longtime volunteer at Siwanoy School and PTA Council Delegate, are among the honorees of this year's Westchester-East Putnam PTA "Heroes in Education" Award.

In a ceremony on November 16th recognizing the outstanding contributions made by teachers, administrators, parents and volunteers, and local community members, NY State Senator and Senate Education Chair, Shelley Mayer, presented the awards. The Heroes in Education Awards recognize those who honor through their service the goals of PTA, which include making every child's potential a reality, and engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Appointed as Siwanoy's Principal in 2020, Farid Johnson has been a true partner to the school's PTA, helping them successfully build out new and existing programming for children and families. Some highlights include adding curricular chess and language classes, growing numerous family- and student-oriented events, expanding Siwanoy's diversity committee, and advancing plans to add a new mural and sustainable rain garden this year. Most recently, Principal Johnson established "Siwanoy University," a series of parent education seminars on topics like executive functioning.

David Sparano's many years of service as a PTA volunteer at Siwanoy include leading the Siwanoy Dads Club, organizing festivals and family movie nights, Siwanoy's outdoor garden classroom, and representing Siwanoy on the PTA Council. Mr. Sparano also serves as a member of the Citizen's Nominating Committee, a nonpartisan group that helps identify and interview highly qualified candidates for the Pelham Board of Education.

Join the PTA Council in congratulating Farid Johnson and David Sparano for all they do for Siwanoy School and the Pelham School District's families and children!



David Sparano and Farid Johnson

## Project Community, Charles Fazzino, PMHS Alumnus and PMHS Art Students Create Holiday Card



(Left to right) FRONT ROW: PMHS Art Students: Sydney Paulose, Cararose Vitale, Sophia Greco, and Lark Martin; and PMHS Art Teacher Kayce Chesashore. BACK ROW: PMHS Art Teachers Will Doyle and Jane Wals; Artist Charles Fazzino; PMHS Art Teacher Devon Fallon; Project Community President & Founder Dr. Anne Frost

BY JOE NUNZIATA

Project Community has provided the Pelham community with visionary healthcare programs and workshops for the past 40 years. So it's no surprise that when it came to creating an end-of-year holiday card to be sent to all Pelham residents, this extraordinary charitable organization did something, well, out of the ordinary.

According to Project Community Founder and President Dr. Anne Frost, "We called upon one of our longtime champions and supporters, the internationally acclaimed pop artist Charles Fazzino to help guide and inspire Pelham Memorial High School art students to create a customized holiday card to be sent out to all Pelham residents. The students were given an opportunity for consultation with the art studio

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# Over 300 Attend Pelham Civics Gala to Honor Persons of the Year

BY JOE NUNZIATA

Those who can, do. And those who can do more, volunteer.

On October 27th at the Surf Club in New Rochelle the Pelham community came out to the Pelham Civic Association's Annual Gala & Fundraiser to honor three humanitarians who have volunteered their time, effort and talents in enhancing the quality of life in Pelham: longtime Pelham residents Joe Benefico, and Cindy & Bobby Courtien. They also celebrated and supported the year-long programs of the Pelham Civics - one of New York State's most active volunteer, charitable organizations. This award-winning Association is dedicated to assisting the youth, the elderly, the financially needy, and the mentally and physically challenged.

According to Pelham Civic Fall Gala Chair Maurice Owen-Michaane, "The fundraiser was a huge success as all of our programs, projects and events were fueled with the generosity of our supporters. These programs, essential to the fabric of the Pelham community, range from support services for the disadvantaged to enhancing the opportunities of our students with tutoring, scholarship awards and career workshops... and much more. The funds raised ensures us that we can continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of the individuals and families of Pelham."

The festive evening featured, live entertainment, a gourmet dinner, a silent auction



Left to right: Mike Ming, Pelham Civics President; Tim Case, Pelham Manor Trustee; Dan McLaughlin, Pelham Town Supervisor; Amy Paulin, NYS Assemblymember; Joe Benefico, Pelham Civic Person of the Year; Cindy Courtien, Pelham Civic Person of the Year; Bobby Courtien, Pelham Civic Person of the Year; Rae Szymanski, Pelham Deputy Town Supervisor; Terry Clements, Westchester County Legislator; Nathalia Fernandez, NYS Senator; Jennifer Monachino Lapey, Pelham Manor Mayor; Bridget Bennett, Pelham Manor Trustee; Dr. Michael-Owen Michaane, President Pelham Board of Education; Maurice Owen-Michaane, Pelham Civics Fall Gala Chair, Pelham Manor Trustee. Photo by John Vecchiolla Photography

with items donated by local businesses, and a celebration of the remarkable honorees. Pelham President Michael Ming continued, "I am extremely appreciative of our hard-working mem-

bership, and proud to be a part of this remarkable event as we honored our well-deserved recipients of Persons of the Year: Joe, Cindy and Bobby!"

For more information on how you can contribute to the mission of the Pelham Civics and their upcoming programs and projects, visit [www.pelhamcivics.org](http://www.pelhamcivics.org)



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# Village Clerk Announcements - December BOT Meeting | Website

## December Board of Trustees Meeting

Residents are advised the Village of Pelham Manor Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 8:15 pm. As usual, the meetings will take place at Village Hall (4 Penfield Place, Pelham Manor, NY 10803) in our meeting room on the second floor. You may also view the meetings live on our Facebook page or on Vimeo. The accessible entrance to the second floor of Village Hall, featuring our new elevator, is fully operational. The accessible entrance is located on the side of Village Hall.

## Website

Recently, we carried out a redesign of our municipal website. This has allowed staff to more easily manage the content we provide online. We have the ability to utilize more robust functions, such as the Agendas & Minutes page and calendar feature. There are two overarching sections of navigation, the main global navigation section (comprised of: Village Boards, Departments, Community, and How Do I...) and

the four circle buttons (comprised of: Agendas & Minutes, Communications, Village Code, and Meeting Information). The global navigation section is where we are able to drill down and provide granular detail on specific subject matter in an organized way, while the circle buttons highlight key subject matter.

We encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with our new website. Managing website content is a continuous task, and we remain committed to it's upkeep and maintenance. We ask for your patience as we strive to achieve our content goals. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please feel free to reach out to Lindsey Luft, Village Manager, at 914-738-8820.

The Village Clerk advises residents of a new page on our website dedicated to the Pelham Manor Village Election. This page can be located in the "Community" tab within the global navigation section. The Village Clerk will continue to update this page with information as it becomes available. <https://www.pelhammanor.org/>

# Winter Recreation Programs; Glover Field Entrance Safety Concerns; Garaging the Ambulance Discussed at Town Meeting

BY JOYCE FARRELL

At the November Town of Pelham Board meeting on November 6, Councilwoman McLoughlin stated in her Recreation Report that the van took 26 seniors to medical appointments during October and that there were activities scheduled for the seniors for almost every day of November, including a casino trip and a Thanksgiving party. She also reported that a representative from the Westchester District Attorney's office spoke to the seniors on November 6 about how to manage online and other scams, alerting them what to look out for and how to stay safe.

Speaking about activities for the town's youth, Councilwoman McLoughlin mentioned that the Halloween parade had been very successful with about 100 children participating. Additionally, she announced that the winter brochure, which includes information about after-school and weekend activities, winter break camps, and adult activities is available. Finally, she mentioned that basketball sign-ups were coming up fast and that there would be a special needs holiday party on Dec. 6.

Councilwoman Curtin mentioned that at the beginning of January, there will be a new activity. A company called Bizzy Girls will teach youth of any gender, grades 3-8 (ages 8-13), how to make a business plan, and there will be a pop-up shop at its conclusion. Visit [www.pelhamrecreation.com](http://www.pelhamrecreation.com) for more information.

Reporting on legal matters, Councilwoman Burke said that she spoke with Justice Kagan and Chief Conte who related that there is going to be a scheduled jury trial in town. She also reported that the new court clerk was settling in nicely, is learning a lot, and is great with technology. In response to a Pelham resident's concerns, Supervisor McLaughlin, Councilwoman Burke, and Chief Conte will meet with School Superintendent Champ to discuss the safety issues regarding the entrance to the Glover

Field Complex entrance and to try to come up with a solution by the spring. Although it would be a big project, Councilwoman Burke mentioned that the solution may be to build a footbridge over the Hutch. Lastly, she mentioned that discussions about the potential E.V. (Emergency Vehicle) Ride Share program are ongoing, but it may be better for next year because of the costs involved.

Regarding library matters, Councilwoman Curtin reported that the library held an intro to babysitting class that was filled to capacity. She also announced that the library has obtained a digital scanner, and residents are going to be able to go to the library to scan their photos with the help of a librarian to be saved on a thumb drive or the cloud.

Moving on to new business, Supervisor McLaughlin opened a discussion regarding the possibility of getting a garage for the new ambulance. Fire Captain DeSimone and Supervisor McLaughlin looked at three potential spots for it with an architect from the firm that had been recommended to design it. Since Eastchester wants to keep the fly car and the ambulance together, the architect recommended that the best alternative structurally would be to garage the fly car and the ambulance together, which is preferred by Eastchester. The entrance into the bay would have to be expanded for the ambulance; the bay itself is large enough. The quarters would need to be modified as there would be both men and women working there at the same time. Deputy Supervisor Szymanski is against keeping it in Pelham Manor permanently and expressed the opinion that the ambulance should be garaged somewhere in the center of town to possibly equalize the response time. The board agreed to approve the architect's proposal.

During public comment, it was clarified that the ambulance would not always be garaged but would be parked and visible around town.

The meeting concluded with the board going into executive session for contract negotiations.

# Littman Krooks, LLP Partner Sworn in as President to the BOD of the Special Needs Alliance

Littman Krooks, LLP Partner Amy C. O'Hara, Esq., CELA®, was sworn in as President to the Board of Directors of the Special Needs Alliance, a national invitation-only organization comprised of attorneys dedicated to the practice of special needs planning, disability, and public benefits law on October 21. SNA membership is based on a combination of relevant legal experience in the disability and elder law fields, direct family experience with disability, active participation with national, state, and local disability advocacy organizations, and professional reputation.

O'Hara's practice is focused on the areas of special needs planning, estate and trust planning and administration, elder law, guardianship, and personal injury settlement consulting. She lectures frequently to professional and advocacy organizations and families on the importance of proper planning for families with special needs members, elder law, and trusts and estates.

She is recognized as a Certified Elder Law Attorney® (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF), the only organization approved by the American Bar Association to offer certification in the practice area of elder law.



Amy C. O'Hara, Esq., CELA®

Littman Krooks is the only law firm in Westchester County with three CELA® accredited attorneys.

O'Hara is a member of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), Elder Law and Special Needs Section, where she serves as vice co-chair of the Special Needs Planning Committee; a member of the NYSBA Trusts & Estates Section, a member of the American Bar Association, Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section, where she services as vice chair of the Special Needs Planning Committee; and a member of the Westchester County Bar Association. She also is President of the Board of Directors of Westchester Disabled on the Move, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that aims to improve the quality of life, independence, and the rights of all people with disabilities.

Amy C. O'Hara, Esq. of Littman Krooks is recognized as a Certified Elder Law Attorney® (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF), the only organization approved by the American Bar Association to offer certification in the practice area of elder law. To learn more about her, visit [www.littmankrooks.com/attorneys/amy-c-ohara/](http://www.littmankrooks.com/attorneys/amy-c-ohara/).

# Project Community, Charles Fazzino, PMHS Alumnus and PMHS Art Students Create Holiday Card

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of Charles Fazzino, - who is a resident of Pelham and a proud graduate of Pelham Memorial High School."

The mission: celebratory holiday art that provides our students an opportunity to volunteer their talents to spread our community holiday spirit.

Four very talented students participated, including Lark Martin, Sophia Greco, Sydney Paulose, and Cararose Vitale. On hand were PMHS Art Teachers Will Doyle, Jane Wals, Devon Fallon and Kayce Chesahore. For appreciation of their participation in this new initiative the students and their teachers were invited to the Fazzino Studio in New Rochelle. They were given a tour of the art collection, and an introduction to the development of pop art. The students also had the opportunity to practice the techniques of applying individual details of the art to a canvas. This was followed by an inter-

view with Charles, including a personalized autographed book of his collection for each student and teacher.

Look for this special holiday greetings from Project Community featuring the art of student Lark Martin.

Project Community is Pelham's only volunteer organization that is spearheaded by expert healthcare professionals. Creators of Pelham's popular COLOR RUN, it is dedicated to support family life by providing insights and answers with six innovative and essential programs and workshops: For teens, the issues deal with Binge Drinking, Sexual Assault, Anxiety, and Self Awareness. For the mentally and physically challenged, there's Project CHILDD and YOU&ME. For more information on Project Community, and on how you can support its mission please visit [projectcommunity.us](http://projectcommunity.us)

Photo by Donald B. Smith

# November Village of Pelham Board of Trustees Meeting

At the Village of Pelham’s Board of Trustees meeting on November 14, the high school music students in grades 10-12 who take band, chorus, and orchestra were congratulated for their participation in the area all-state festival, which took place at New Rochelle High School. For more details about the event and the students’ names and to view the entire meeting, visit [www.pelhamgov.com/agendacenter](http://www.pelhamgov.com/agendacenter) and click on the video icon next to the work session for this meeting.

Mayor Mullen announced that he had met with the school district facilities committee on November 9 to give a brief update on the village’s flood mitigation plans. The district is having some flooding issues with Colonial Elementary, and some of the plans would involve work under Julianne’s Playground. The mayor thanked the district for doing its due diligence on that and thanked them for their cooperation. There is likely to be a future meeting involving the village board and the school board about the flood mitigation plans. The village is basically seeking an easement agreement so that it can go in and do the work that needs to be done. He also mentioned that the Junior League is planning some upgrades for Julianne’s playground and that the village is considering the timing of their plans flood mitigation plans, and he thanked them for their support.

The mayor’s final update was about his meeting on November 14 with the Finance Policy Committee for the New York Conference of Mayors, which is gearing up for the legislative session. Pelham is seeking increased state aid and new funding. Every year, school districts across the state have received massive increases in their state aid, but towns and villages have not benefitted since the program began, so Mayor Mullen is advocating for a cost-of-living and inflation adjustment. Additionally, he is seeking capital exclusions. Unlike municipalities, school districts have a capital exclusion when it comes to tax caps. The capital exclusion would allow more money to be invested in capital improvements such as sewers, storm drains, and their facilities. Finally, he is seeking ongoing funding for sewer and water infrastructure.

During public commentary, a resident mentioned that during heavy rains his house and others get flooded with water coming from New Rochelle. He stated that he has 38 years of professional experience working on projects involving sewers and drainage, proposed possible solutions to Pelham’s flooding problems, and would like to meet with the engineers who will be working on it.

Most of the meeting concerned the Site Plan Application at 101 Wolfs Lane (Vertical Community Development, LLC), which would revitalize a vacant site with a five-story, mixed-use building with 73 dwelling units over retail. The developers are also seeking a pedestrian access easement to connect Wolfs Lane to a village-owned parking lot to the west and other easements from the village for access to the property from Sparks Avenue. The revised design was presented at the meeting. It is in keeping with the classical architecture that the board sought, increases the number of parking spaces dedicated to the village, and meets a clear sus-

tainability standard in its design.

The fiscal analysis of the project was also discussed. The building would pay approximately \$233,817 to the village and over a half million dollars to the school district in taxes. The estimated total amount of taxes paid by the building would be \$873,822.00.

Regarding the landscaping, English oaks, a narrow street tree that holds its foliage well, and is hearty and more resilient than the trees currently on the village’s streetscape, were proposed. In the courtyard on the north side of the building, they would use various broad-leaf evergreens, including holly, azaleas, and rhododendrons, which would be flanked by a stone terrace to provide some outdoor space when stepping out of the lobby. On the northwest side, where there is currently paved parking that backs up to the MTA parcel that goes up to the train tracks, they would also like to open up the wooded, overgrown site and introduce some low-level flowering trees, such as American dogwoods, and a lawn area that would be accessible to the residents of the building, and take out the asphalt and replace it with grass to accomplish this. They would plant taller shade trees closer to the MTA building. Since there’s a lot of infrastructure in the ground right behind the building, planting trees may not be feasible. There would be grass, however, and the walkway that wraps the whole

building and goes along the back would have grass going up to the building. The parking lot side would have junipers, sumac, hydrangeas, and other plants. Lastly, on the first two levels of the parking bays, a cable trellis that could grow vines was proposed to “green it up.”

After the landscaping presentation, Mayor Mullen mentioned that the Sustainability Advisory Board has often advised that the village plant native plants and asked if all of the plants were native ones. The landscaper was amenable to changing the choice of plants to all native ones but mentioned that the plants he had chosen were for water reduction and, in the case of the courtyard, shade tolerance. Also, the parking lot would include eight paid parking spaces, as well as two paid curb spaces, for the village.

Regarding the affordable housing rates for the residences, all costs of this approximately \$44 million project were considered. For the development, the developer needs to invest \$11 million of its own funds to acquire the site, start work, and obtain a construction lender for the remaining debt. After reviewing a detailed financial analysis, the rent stated for an eight to nine hundred square foot one-bedroom apartment, which would be about a 40% discount on the market, and there would be four affordable housing units in the building.

Although the board was pleased with the

revised plan, concern about the town’s potential future development of Lot 7 co-existing with this development was expressed, but the developer pointed out that it considered future light and air setbacks in its plan and suggested that it work with the village on a possible Phase 2 development for a garage on Lot 7, which would yield 153 new indoor parking spots, in addition to the 100 spots it currently has there.

Even with this suggestion, several people on the board were still concerned about the easement between the development and the village’s lot. The mayor suggested a meeting about the easement that would include the village’s and the developer’s attorneys before sending the developer to the Architectural Review Board. Because, however, the owner of the property is awaiting an answer as to whether the developer will purchase the property and because the developer needs to get moving on other projects, it would have withdrawn its application if it didn’t get a referral from the board. The board agreed to refer them to the ARB and Planning Boards as long as they’re aware that the easement discussion needs to be had as soon as possible.

At the end of the meeting, a resolution establishing emissions reduction goals and a resolution authorizing a Shared Service Inter-municipal Agreement-NYSDEC Grant for the “Recycling App” were passed.

## Veolia Offers Tips to Help Customers Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Check the water meter periodically. Contact Veolia if you notice any damage.
- If you have had problems in the past, you may want to keep a trickle of water running from the highest faucet during frigid weather. You will be billed for the water used, but this may help prevent costly plumbing repairs that result from broken pipes.

### If you won’t be home

- If you’re going away for an extended period, keep a minimum amount of heat on in the house. This will help protect the pipes in case the temperature drops.
- If you plan to turn the heat off, drain all the water from the pipes, toilets and water heater, and turn off the power source to the water heater.

### If the pipes freeze

- If your pipes freeze, it’s important to clear blockages as soon as possible to minimize damage. It may be best to call a licensed plumber.
- If a water pipe has burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house.
- Open a nearby faucet slightly so the pipe can drain as it thaws.
- Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water.
- Never use hot water or a blowtorch on a frozen pipe or water meter.

About Veolia North America: A subsidiary of Veolia group, Veolia North America (VNA) offers a full spectrum of water, waste and energy management services, including water and wastewater treatment, commercial and hazardous waste collection and disposal, energy consulting and resource recovery. VNA helps commercial, industrial, healthcare, higher education and municipality customers throughout North America. Headquartered in Boston, Mass., Veolia North America has more than 10,000 employees working at more than 350 locations across the continent.

About Veolia Group: Veolia Group aims to become the benchmark company for ecological transformation. Present on five continents with nearly 213,000 employees, the Group designs and deploys useful, practical solutions for the management of water, waste and energy that are contributing to a radical turnaround of the current situation. Through its three complementary activities, Veolia helps to develop access to resources, to preserve available resources and to renew them. In 2022, the Veolia group provided 111 million inhabitants with drinking water and 97 million with sanitation, produced 44 terawatt hours of energy and recovered 61 million tons of waste. Veolia Environnement (Paris Euronext: VIE) achieved consolidated revenue of 42.885 billion euros in 2022. [www.veolia.com](http://www.veolia.com)

## November Pelham Manor Board of Trustees Meeting



Mayor Lapey began the Village of Pelham Manor Board of Trustees meeting on November 28 by mentioning Trustee Case had participated in the Thanksgiving in a Box event at Huguenot Church, which loaded over 1000 boxes to be distributed.

Mayor Lapey spoke about the Pelham Half Marathon, which took place on November 25, Small Business Saturday, had over 900 participants, and was attended by Deputy Mayor Bennett, Trustee Owen-Michaane, and Trustee McLaughlin. She thanked the police and fire chiefs, their staffs, and Village manager Luft for collaborating with the organizers and the Village of Pelham on the event. Mayor Lapey also gave a shout-out to her former Pelham High School classmate of hers, Ruthy Spence, for her participation in the event.

Trustee McLaughlin thanked the Pelham Chamber of Commerce for putting together a fantastic Winter Wonderland event, which took place on included games, face painting, a petting zoo, carriage rides, and a visit from Santa. Many local businesses were set up in the Holiday Market, the Girl Scouts sang carols, and The Pelham Larks helped light the tree.

Mayor Lapey then turned the meeting over to the Village Manager who announced that a new piece of equipment was due to arrive within the next week, a high-pressure sewer jetter, and those using it will be trained by the manufacturer. It will aid in the maintenance of the sanitary and stormwater infrastructure systems.

Because of holiday commitments, the board holds only one meeting in December. Mayor Lapey, therefore, made a motion to hold the only December meeting on December 11; it was approved.

In the between Deputy Mayor/Police Commissioner Bennet and the police chief, the chief spoke about the continual problem of larceny, and Deputy Mayor/Police Commissioner Bennet spoke about being aware of fraud scams,

especially in emails. The chief also reminded people to have a neighbor pick up their packages or to have the delivery service put them behind their homes if they know that they won't be home so that it's not left in the front and possibly stolen.

The police chief announced that the Police Manor Police and the PBA are partnering with the U.S. Marine Corps. Reserve's Toys for Tots campaign. Residents may donate by delivering a new, unwrapped toy to the box inside the police station door now through December 13.

In addition to the adoption of the police and treasurer's reports, a resolution to allow the Village Manager to execute a prisoner transportation zone rate agreement was approved. For more information, visit <https://vimeo.com/888905367>. Also approved was a resolution to move the polling place for the March 19, 2024, village elections, to the meeting room in Village Hall from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. since it is ADA-compliant.

A late addition to the agenda was a routine MOU (Memo of Understanding) that the Westchester County Clerk, Tim Idoni, needs back before the next board meeting, which would allow the village operations staff to research Westchester records online. The motion to participate in it was approved.

A resident who works as an attorney questioned the use of local officials rather than the County Board of Elections for the village's elections, stating that she believed there would be cost savings in using the Board of Elections and less confusion as to where to vote. She stated that most villages in the county now use them and that an off-cycle election, such as the one in March, when the county officials would not be so busy, would be a good time to try it. She and those on the board who responded to her agreed that they would discuss it further at another time.

## Westchester County Board of Legislators Attend Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast Joins with Elected Officials and Community Leaders in Solidarity Against Hate



L-R Leg. Erika Pierce, Board V. C. Nancy Barr, Majority Whip Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, C.E. George Latimer, Leg. Catherine Parker, Board Chair Vedat Gashi, Leg.-Elect Judah Holstein, Leg. Damon Maher

On the morning of November 16, members of the Board of Legislators attended the annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast, co-sponsored by the event founder, American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester/Fairfield, Westchester Jewish Council (WJC), the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates Westchester and Hudson Valley, and Iona University. In addition to the Legislators pictured, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, and Legislator Terry Clements were in attendance.

Iona University hosted the event at their Hynes Athletic Center, where over 400 guests – the largest turnout in the breakfast's 22-year history – came together in solidarity under the theme "Hate Will NOT Divide Us: Celebrating Our Diverse Roots and Shared Values Since September 11, 2001."

The program was kicked off by the Iona University Pipers, and featured invocations and prayers for unity from spiritual leaders across the County, inspirational songs performed by the Iona University Singers, a video message from Governor of New York State Kathy Hochul, and addresses from New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Westchester County Executive George Latimer. Westchester Board of Legislators' Chair Vedat

Gashi participated in the Unity Call and Response Prayer. In addition, there was a call to action from AJC, followed by table discussions before the concluding remarks and benediction.

Among the speakers was Board Chair Vedat Gashi, who noted, "While it's important every year to come together at this event -- to acknowledge and celebrate our differences as well as our commonalities -- it is both necessary and cathartic to do so this year."

Vice Chair Nancy Barr also spoke at the event and remarked, "The dramatic increase in anti-Semitic sentiment, incidents, and crimes since the Hamas massacre of Israeli citizens on October 7 makes it more important than ever for communities of faith and people of diverse backgrounds to unite against hate in all its forms. The unprecedented turnout at this year's Diversity Breakfast is a testament to the strength of Westchester's diverse community and the shared value of celebrating this diversity. I am thankful that I was able to participate, along with so many other community members, to unequivocally stand up against hate."

Additionally, Majority Whip Tyrae Woodson-Samuels said, "As we prepare to give thanks this Thursday, it is meaningful to take time beforehand to give thanks to each other by sharing empathy and understanding our diverse experiences."

# WISHING EVERYONE EVERYWHERE PEACE AND HEALTH NOW AND IN THE NEW YEAR.



For those of you who are home for the holidays,  
The Berkowitz Marrone Team wishes you warmth and  
happiness. For those of you searching for that new home  
for the holidays, we are always here for you. To all of  
you, from our homes to yours ...  
**HAPPY EVERYTHING!**

Owen Berkowitz  
M: 914.819.7622 | O: 914.200.3931  
oberkowitz@christiesrealestategroup.com

Carol Marrone  
M: 914.419.4000 | O: 914.200.3931  
cmarrone@christiesrealestategroup.com



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# Siwanoy 5th Grade Girl Scout Junior Troop #1660 visits Manor Auto Service Center, Inc. at 135 Shore Rd in Pelham Manor

On Friday, November 17th, Siwanoy 5th Grade Girl Scout Junior Troop #1660 with their co-leaders Amy Sparano, Jill Kirby and Loretta Gallo, were hosted at Manor Auto by owner and Siwanoy dad, Chris Ganpat. After introductions and a tour of the shop, which included a lively dialog about the international license plate collection that spans more than half a century, it was time to get down to business. First came some advice about safety. Then, Ganpat taught the scouts how to identify the parts of car and its functions. In order to be responsible future car-owners, he described the process for licensing and inspections. He also taught the scouts how to watch for maintenance needs. To compare and contrast, he put both a late 90's Pontiac GTO and a new BMW up on the lifts together. He, with his team, demonstrated the process of an oil change, tire rotation and how hi-tech diagnostics work in his shop. These Girl Scouts were supremely fortunate to have a hands-on early introduction to car care. This will make them more informed consumers, appreciate the effort by those who service vehicles and may nurture a longer-term interest of automotive engineering and design. The visit was a component to earn their Automotive Design badge.



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984 North Broadway, Suite 306, Yonkers, NY 10701  
914-369-1700



## Pelham Clergy Lead Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service Held



Left to right: Dr. Lillian Reynolds, interim Pastor of Community Church of the Pelhams (Unitarian); Rev. Matthew Mead of Christ Church (Episcopal); Rabbi Benjamin Resnick of Pelham Jewish Center; Msgr. Thomas Petrillo of Our Lady of Perpetual Help-St. Catharine's Church (Roman Catholic); and Rev. Dr. Paul Seelman of Huguenot Memorial Church (Presbyterian).

The Pelham community of all faiths gathered at Christ Church recently for the Pelham Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service led by clergy from the houses of worship.

The Rev. Matthew Mead of Christ Church (Episcopal), noting "We are in a moment of crisis and war," called for prayers for Jews and Muslims in the Holy Land. He also called for the end of anti-semitism world-wide and urged prayers for peace, for the release of the hostages in Gaza, for the victims of hatred and abuse everywhere and "for the middle school and high school students who experienced a bomb threat—even though a hoax—in Pelham today."

Also speaking at the service were Msgr. Thomas Petrillo of Our Lady of Perpetual Help-St. Catharine's Church (Roman Catholic), Rabbi Benjamin Resnick of Pelham Jewish Center and Rev. Dr. Paul Seelman of Huguenot Memorial Church (Presbyterian). Introduced as the new interim pastor at Community Church of the Pelhams (Unitarian) was Dr. Lillian Reynolds,

The service included hymns sung by the congregation and music by the Pelham Larks and members of the Christ Church choir, all accompanied by Christ Church organist Jeffry Hoffman.



*We Wish You a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season  
Love, The Solimine Family*



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**FACT OR FICTION?  
ANXIETY**

One in a series of Project Community articles to provide teens and families with information and programs they need before tragedy strikes.

**Fact:** "Anxiety can be prevented or decreased by 'rebooting' our brain and changing the threatening thoughts that have been programmed as "data".

Using strategies such as F.E.A.R., false emotions appearing real or "Don't believe everything you think", provides an opportunity to STOP and THINK if we are interpreting a situation correctly. This can change false thoughts or false data.

**Fiction:** Anger is not related to anxiety.

Actually anger results when we feel threatened and can't think of a solution. This feeling of being out of control makes us defensive. Anxiety is often a response to self protection. Therefore when someone is responding to you with anger, consider the possibility of their feeling vulnerable. It may allow you to change your response.

- Dr. Anne D. Frost, Ph.D, Founder & CEO

Project Community, Inc. is one of Pelham's leading charitable organizations that has the unique distinction of having expert professionals provide visionary programs and solutions for teens, families and a healthy community. Known for its ever-popular COLOR RUN, its programs and workshops tackle Binge Drinking, Sexual Assault, Anxiety, Self Awareness, and Project CHILDD along with YOU&ME for the mentally & physically challenged. [projectcommunity.us](http://projectcommunity.us)

Chanukah On Fifth  
Monday, December 11, 5:15-6:30pm  
Join for a Glow in the Dark Chanukah spectacular!  
At the Pelham Town House: 20 Fifth Ave Pelham  
5:15PM: Chanukah Activities + latkes & donuts!  
6PM: Performance by Neon Circus followed by the  
Grand Menorah lighting! Visit [chabadpelham.com](http://chabadpelham.com)  
for more information.

EVENTS AT THE PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the  
New World  
Thursday, December 14, 7-8 pm  
How did Jewish settlers come to inhabit—and  
change—the New World? This virtual presentation  
from the New-York Historical Society will explore  
how Jews in colonial America and the young United  
States, while only a tiny fraction of the popula-  
tion, significantly negotiated the freedoms offered  
by the new nation and contributed to the flowering  
of American culture. This program takes place on  
Zoom and registration is required.



Crafty Adults: 3D Paper Snowflakes  
Monday, December 18, 7:15-8:15 pm  
Back by popular demand, we'll be making the per-  
fect decoration for winter: 3D paper snowflakes. All  
supplies will be provided. This event will take place  
in-person at the Library and registration is required.  
To register please click [here](#). Sign up early, as  
space and supplies are limited. Please note: Time  
change to 7:15PM for Crafty Adults classes.

Adult Hybrid Book Clubs  
The After-Dark Book Club will meet on January  
4 at 7:30 pm to discuss The Covenant of Water  
by Abraham Verghese and on February 1 at 7:30  
pm to discuss The Sweetness of Water by Nathan  
Harris. The After-Dark Book Club will be on hiatus  
in December.

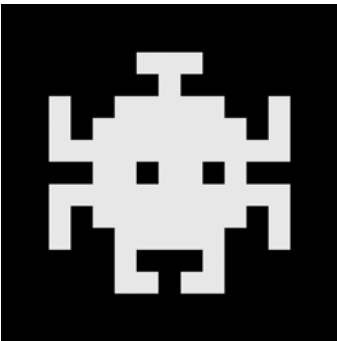
The 2nd-Friday Book Club will meet on December

8 at 10:30 am to discuss The Accidental Tourist  
by Anne Tyler and on February 9 at 10:30 am to dis-  
cuss The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and  
Victoria Christopher Murray. The 2nd-Friday Book  
Club will be on hiatus in January.

Book Clubs are currently meeting both in person at  
the Library and on Zoom. This is subject to change.  
Please check the website for updates.



Do You Want to Build a (Paper) Snowman?  
Through Saturday, December 30  
Do you want to build a snowman (or woman? Or  
dog?) Come to the community craft table to deco-  
rate your snow-person, and either take it home, or  
leave it at the library for us to hang at the circula-  
tion desk! This activity is available during our open  
hours for the month of December.



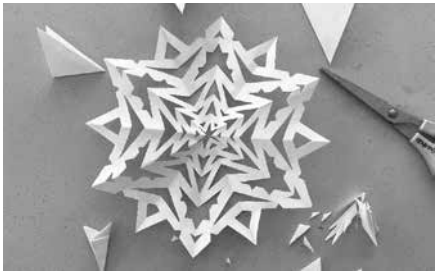
Build Your Own Game: Space Invaders!  
Saturday, December 2, 2:30-4 pm  
Learn how to program with Python by building your  
own version of Space Invaders! This program is for  
children ages seven to 13. Attendees must bring  
their own fully-charged laptop and a charger. This  
program takes place in-person at the Library, and  
registration is required. To register, email Tasha at  
[ngross@wlsmail.org](mailto:ngross@wlsmail.org) with your name, your child's  
name, your child's age, and a phone number where  
you can be reached.



Author Talk and Workshop: Lina's Very Best Worst  
Day Ever: Bird's-Eye View  
Tuesday, December 12, 3:30-4:30 pm  
Join us for an author talk and workshop with art  
therapist, author, illustrator, and Pelham resident,  
Gabrielle Grimaldi. Her book, Lina's Very Best Worst  
Day Ever: Bird's-Eye View visually illustrates the  
power of perspective. This simple story highlights  
that optimism is a choice and that positive thinking  
can change the way you experience the world  
around you. Registration is recommended but walk-  
ins are welcome. This program is for children ages  
four to eight.



Kids' Craft: Cardboard Tube Snowmen  
Wednesday, December 27, 2-3 pm  
Join us to make snowmen out of recycled card-  
board tubes, paper, and fun decorations! This  
program is for children ages six and up, accompa-  
nied by an adult. Registration is not required, but be  
sure to arrive on time, as supplies are limited. First  
come, first served.



Kids' Craft: Snowflakes  
Thursday, December 28, 1-2 pm  
Come learn how to make paper snowflakes at the  
Library! This program is for children ages six and  
up, accompanied by an adult. Registration is not

required, but be sure to arrive on time, as supplies  
are limited. First come, first served.



Kids' Craft: New Year's Eve Bangles  
Friday, December 29, 2-3 pm  
Come make some new jewelry to go with your  
New Year's Eve outfit, or for friends and family! This  
program is for children ages six and up, accompa-  
nied by an adult. Registration is not required, but be  
sure to arrive on time, as supplies are limited. First  
come, first served.

Visit [pelhamlibrary.org](http://pelhamlibrary.org) to register for any of the  
required events listed.

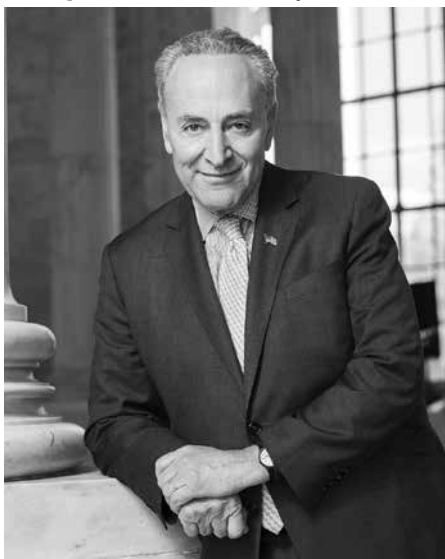
Pelham Art Center Art Boutique 2023  
Through December 22, 2023  
This Holiday Season SHOP LOCAL! The Art Bou-  
tique exhibition features the best in local art and  
handmade gifts.  
-December 14, 2023 (5-7PM): Shop & Sip Event  
\*Members get 10% off the week of December 10-16,  
2023



# Schumer Led Bipartisan Delegation and Personally Met with China's President Xi Last Month to Demand Immediate Action to Stop Fentanyl Coming to America

Following his personal meeting in China with President Xi Jinping last month, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer detailed how the new deal President Biden has struck with China to crack down on the scourge of fentanyl could be a major step forward to curb the opioid crisis in New York, but said now more than ever it is imperative to hold China accountable and ensure there is compliance with their commitments.

"The agreement President Biden has announced with China is a long overdue step which has the potential to help cut off the supply of fentanyl at its source and stop this drug before it ever enters our country and hits the streets of the Bronx, but now it is more vital than ever to hold China accountable for the commitments they have made," said Senator Schumer. "Fentanyl has wreaked havoc in New York and



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer

across America, with this crisis stemming in large part in China, where large chemical companies openly and illicitly sell precursor chemicals to buyers in places like Mexico, where it is manufactured and illegally shipped to our most vulnerable communities here in NY. During my visit to China last month we were pointed and direct with President Xi, I told him the devastating impact I have seen the opioid crisis have on New York families. I am pleased to see China take what could be a major step forward to cut off the flow of fentanyl and I am going to be watching like a hawk for progress."

Specifically, Schumer explained China's has said it will take new action to enforce its own regulations against the companies which make precursor drugs in a major step to potentially cut off the flow of this deadly drug. A similar notice to industry in 2019 led to a drastic reduction in seizures of fentanyl shipments to the United States from China. Schumer said the U.S. also has information that that PRC police have taken law enforcement action against Chinese synthetic drug and chemical precursor suppliers. As a result, certain China-based pharmaceutical companies ceased operations and have had some international payment accounts blocked. This probably represents the first law enforcement action against synthetic drug-related chemical sellers by Chinese authorities since 2017.

In addition, China and the United States will be launching a counter narcotics working

group to bolster law enforcement and information sharing to cut off the flow of precursor drugs and illicit fentanyl. The U.S. and China have both said they will also start working on an ongoing basis at the senior level to directly address this crisis and start working closely together to carry this initiative forward. In conjunction, Schumer said these long overdue

steps have real potential to reduce the flow of these drugs into the United States and places like New York, and ultimately save lives.

Schumer added, "Too many lives have been lost, and too many others are at stake, especially here in New York. Today is a pivotal step forward in a decades long battle and I will be fighting to hold China's feet to the fire and keep them accountable for their commitments to cut off the flow of fentanyl to America. I told President Xi that China taking steps to crack down on the sale of precursor chemicals would be a long overdue step to strengthening the relationship between our two nations and hope to see continued results from China in the near future."

Illicit fentanyl is trafficked into the United States primarily from China and Mexico, and is responsible for the ongoing fentanyl epidemic in New York and across the country. China is the world's largest producer of illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and their immediate precursors. Some officials estimate that China is responsible for over 90 percent of the illicit fentanyl found in the U.S. From China, those substances are shipped primarily through express consignment carriers or international mail directly to the United States, or, alternatively, shipped directly to transnational criminal organizations in other countries like Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean where the drug is then manufactured.

In New York in 2020, 87.9 percent of all overdose deaths involving any opioid involved synthetic opioids, predominantly illicitly manufactured fentanyl like described above. In 2022, New York City saw overdose deaths reach record numbers at over 3,000, predominantly driven by illicit fentanyl. Most recent county by county data on the impact of the opioid crisis in New York can be found here. The additional enforcement and actions announced today will help tackle the spread of fentanyl directly by ensuring the chemicals used to make the illicit drug never reaches its targets, cutting off the manufacturing of the drug before it can reach streets in communities across America.

# County Urges Lithium Ion Battery Safety This Holiday Season



Westchester County is urging residents to give the gift of safety throughout the holiday shopping season when purchasing items that require lithium ion batteries and the charging devices that go with them.

Damaged or poor-quality lithium ion batteries, and aftermarket chargers and cords, have been responsible for multiple deadly fires in New York and across the nation. Residents and businesses can reduce their risk of fire by using the lithium ion batteries and chargers that were designed by the manufacturer for its specific product.

"Mixing and matching lithium ion batteries, chargers or cords is literally a recipe for disaster," County Executive George Latimer said. "Using the correct battery and charging devices is the law in Westchester and essential to keeping our residents safe."

Consumers should purchase products that have been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (such as Underwriters Laboratories).

Commissioner Richard G. Wishnie of the Department of Emergency Services said that lithium ion batteries can be found in a wide range of consumer products. These include items that are likely to be popular this holiday gift-giving season:

- Cell phone portable power banks;
- Drones;
- Ride-on electric toy vehicles;
- E-scooters and E-bikes.

Douglas Stiller, chief of special operations at the Department of Emergency Services, said DES personnel have responded to fires caused by all the devices listed above. Fires have also been caused by batteries in hover boards, cordless vacuums and lawnmowers, vaping devices, laptops and cell phones.

Stiller noted that an online search he recently conducted revealed a growing range of toys that are now powered by lithium ion batteries.

"Due to the larger amounts of energy being stored, these batteries have a lower tolerance for abuse, such as being dropped or stepped on. People should be aware of this, particularly when the toys are being used by younger children," he said.

Latimer noted that Westchester has been a leader in stressing lithium ion battery safety – all with the goal of keeping people safe.

Legislation created by the County Executive, and recently passed into law by the Board of Legislators, requires point-of-sale safety warnings where e-bikes and other electric mo-

bility devices are sold; provides safe disposal options for old/damaged batteries; and enhances firefighter training and public education efforts. Westchester also requires that devices meet UL safety standards, and prohibits the sale of re-assembled or damaged batteries.

DES personnel offered the following lithium ion battery safety tips:

- Do not charge any device under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch or arm chair;
- Keep batteries at room temperature and avoid placing them in direct sunlight or in a hot car;
- Store batteries away from anything flammable;
- Do not leave batteries and devices unattended when charging;
- Only use the battery and charging cord that came with the device.
- Replace and safely dispose of any battery that changes shape, sparks, or emits unusual sounds.

Residents can bring lithium-ion batteries, damaged or otherwise ready for disposal, to the H-MRF in Valhalla. Residents outside the Refuse Disposal District (Bedford, Lewisboro, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and Somers), may incur a fee associated with handling and/or disposal. New York State also offers an extended producer responsibility program for non-mobility batteries under 25 pounds administered by Call2Recycle. Residents can contact Call2Recycle to find a drop-off location near them.

Some manufacturers handle lithium-ion battery disposal directly. Residents may consider contacting the manufacturer of the battery or product for safe disposal options.

Certain brands of lithium-ion batteries used for e-bikes can be brought to a local e-bike retailer for handling.

Other tips:

- When transporting lithium-ion batteries that are damaged, residents should take care to package them for transport and may place them in sand or kitty litter.

- Extra-large lithium-ion batteries, such as those used for electric vehicles, are not accepted at the H-MRF. Residents should contact the manufacturer for safe disposal options of these batteries.

- Residents should contact the local fire department if there is a thermal event (sparking or fire) from a lithium-ion battery. Fire departments are trained to respond to these events and secure the battery to prevent re-ignition of the battery.

# Do You Really Want to Be Trustee of Someone Else's Special Needs Trust?

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,  
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

As you likely know, we help many families plan for a family member with special needs. Special needs planning involves so much more than drafting documents. In order for any estate plan, but especially a special needs estate plan, to work, the trustee must act appropriately and carry out the wishes of the creator of the trust. Without a proper trustee, the estate plan is doomed to fail right from the beginning. It's been more than a decade since a very important New York case was decided regarding fiduciary duty and the importance of selecting the right trustee. We thought it would be a good time to review the lessons learned from this case.

By way of background, Sam was a severely disabled 16-year-old when his mother died. Prior to her passing, Sam's mother moved him into a residential school and prepared a trust for him. The trust would be funded with approximately \$5 million when she died. The trust provided that distributions should be made for Sam's care, comfort, support, and maintenance.

The trustees were a very large NYC bank and the mother's attorney, who drafted the document and held himself out as an expert in planning for individuals with special needs. Unfortunately, despite his multi-million-dollar

trust, Sam was largely forgotten about once his mother died. The trustees of Sam's trust made no distributions for Sam's benefit. No one visited Sam for five years and he continued to live at the residential school, paid for by his government benefits alone. Unfortunately, Sam's quality of life was not as good as it could have been.

At some point, the co-trustees were directed to account for their actions (or lack thereof) and a certified care manager was hired to attend to Sam's needs. Once the care manager was able to get Sam the proper tools and support system he needed (paid for by the trust), Sam's quality of life and functional capacity improved significantly. However, this case raises important questions about the obligations of fiduciaries, including institutional trustees, to beneficiaries with disabilities.

The bottom line: it is not enough to take good care of the money. The beneficiary's well-being is important, and a fiduciary must be (or get) familiar with the beneficiary's needs or there can be a breach of duty. As this case shows, a failure to spend the trust money to improve the quality of life of the special needs beneficiary can be a breach of fiduciary duty. Thus, you should select your fiduciary carefully.

As co-trustees of Sam's trust, both the NYC bank and the attorney were serving as Sam's fiduciaries. Sam's trust gave his trustees

absolute discretion to spend trust funds for the care, comfort, support, and maintenance of Sam. By failing to use the funds in Sam's trust for those purposes outlined in the trust, the trustees breached their fiduciary duties to Sam. Instead of working to improve Sam's quality of life, the trustees focused on managing the funds. The bank trustee proudly noted that they had grown the trust over the years. The attorney trustee pointed out that Mark's basic needs were provided. Meanwhile, both the bank and attorney collected generous fees. No one focused on visits to Sam, hiring caregivers or care managers, or otherwise trying to find good uses of the funds for Sam's benefit.

Sam's mother took great care in planning for her son. She found a place for him to live, found people to take care of him, and set up a trust for him. However, the plan was failing because the trustees were not doing their jobs. It can be hard to tell who a good fit is to be your trustee. What is important is picking someone responsible. You need to be able to trust them to carry out your wishes. This is especially important when planning for a person with special needs who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

A close friend or family member could be a good choice for your fiduciary. They likely care about the person who needs services and may be more attuned to their needs. The downside is that they may not be familiar with fiduciary

work. Your family and friends likely don't know all of the rules surrounding being a trustee. It's also a lot of work to serve as a fiduciary, and not everyone wants to do it. In fact, in Sam's case, his mother originally appointed her sister to serve as trustee and she declined or was unable.

You also can hire a professional to be your fiduciary. Institutions that offer fiduciary services are familiar with the rules and record-keeping required to be a good trustee. Institutions serving as trustees are also generally better at preventing emotional attachments from getting in the way of good decision-making.

Regardless of who you choose, make sure that you trust them, that they are good at record keeping, that they are responsible, and that they, hopefully, won't forget about your beneficiaries.

*Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is a past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at [www.littmankrooks.com](http://www.littmankrooks.com).*

## Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Plan Ahead for the Holiday Train Show at NYBG

The glittering 32ND Holiday Train Show is on track through January 15, at the beautiful New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx near Fordham University. It's been expanded an annual seasonal treat, a must for the young and the young at heart. For details and advanced tickets: [www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show/](http://www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show/) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are easy-to-reach suggestions...

**HOLIDAY DINING AT NYBG** -- There are themed Dining Pavilions throughout the park and near the Enid Haupt Pavilion: the casual Pine Tree Café and farm-to-table Hudson Garden Grill. Open daily. For info: 646-627-7711, or 718-817-8700. [www.nybg.org/visit/dining/](http://www.nybg.org/visit/dining/)

Check out the special Glow Nights and Bar Car Nights featuring curated food & cocktails: Dec. 7 & 14; Jan. 5, 7 pm to 10 pm. For adults 21 and over. Advanced tickets and reservations are advised. [www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show/bar-car-nights/](http://www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show/bar-car-nights/)

**MARIO'S IN NEARBY LITTLE ITALY** -- Arthur Ave. is just a stone's throw from the Garden. Since 1919 five generations of the Migliucci family have worked the front and back of the house making sure patrons are well served at this venerable 'Little Italy' institution. The amiable Regina Migliucci is at the helm. For starters enjoy the palate-pleasing lagniape of marinated carrots, hot peppers, and good crusty Arthur Ave. bread. Great appetizers include Hot Antipasto Platter for 2 and Spiedini alla Romana, a skewered, deep-



**IRISH AMERICAN PIZZAZZ AT JACK'S BAR!**

Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew serve delicious finger foods and generously plated specialties. Out of Chef/partner Brandan Donohoe's modern Irish American kitchen come great burgers, decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese, crusty pizzas out of their woodfired oven; freshly made salads; Buttermilk Chicken Sandwich; Berkshire Pork Chops; Jack's Lamb Shank. Their full Irish Breakfast at brunch is a winner. Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert is a must! Jack's Bar, 219 Main St., Eastchester. 914-652-7650 [www.jackseastchester.com](http://www.jackseastchester.com)

**LIEBMAN'S DELICATESSEN FOR A NOSH!**

Liebman's kosher Jewish delicatessen in Riverdale has been serving their traditional larder since 1953. They are the only kosher deli left in the Bronx where once there were many. For all you corned beef and pastrami mavens, it's just a 20-minute drive from NYBG. Owners Yu-

val Dekel and Craig Weitz have announced they are working on a new deli at Addyman Square in Ardsley. Stand by. Liebman's original deli is located at 552 W. 235 Street, Riverdale, The Bronx. 718-548-4534 [www.liebmandeli.com](http://www.liebmandeli.com)

**QUICK DRIVE TO ARTIE'S STEAK & SEA-FOOD, CITY ISLAND** -- Owner Spiros Chagares and his staff offer patrons an inspired melding of traditional and contemporary dishes served with flair. Sit back in one of several dining areas and enjoy such changing specialties as hearty Seafood Chowders; Smoked Salmon Roll-Ups; Cold Seafood Salad for two; Wood Grilled Jumbo Shrimp and Scallops; hunks of tender Short Rib; a massive Zuppa Di Pesce; tender Oven Roasted Rack of Lamb; Chardonnay Poached Salmon with seafood; and fresh Lobster prepared in a variety of styles. Big combo platters. There's a loaded Lobster Salad Roll at lunch. Craft beers. Check out the bar/lounge most evenings for good networking. Private party facilities. Open 7 days. Free parking. Artie's, 394 City Island Ave., Bronx. 718-885-9885 [www.artiescityisland.com](http://www.artiescityisland.com)

*(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591. E-mail: [gutreactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreactions@optonline.net))*

# Westchester County Hosts Flag Raising on Albanian Independence Day



Westchester County hosted an Albanian Independence Flag Raising ceremony at the County's Michaelian Office Building in White Plains. Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Board of Legislators Vice-Chairwoman Nancy Barr, Westchester County Legislator-elect Emiljana Ulaj and President of the Albanian American Club of Westchester Valon Nikci gave remarks about Albania's history and its connections to Westchester County.

November is a significant month for the Albanian community. Each year, during the month of November, people of Albanian origin celebrate the Albanian Declaration of Independence, which declared Albania an independent sovereign nation on November 28th, 1912.

The ceremony featured the raising of the Albanian flag, symbolizing the country's journey to independence and the enduring spirit of its people.

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# The Pelham Post



**Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher**  
es@shorelinepub.com

**Cynthia Pena, Art Director, Editor**  
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

**Joyce Farrell, Editor**  
joyce.farrell@shorelinepub.com

**Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive**  
levinelaur@gmail.com

**Mary DeYoung, Advertising Account Executive**  
mdeyoung.61@gmail.com

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