Earth Day Festival | 'The Points Kid' | school theater joy |  

1st edition!  

inside 

briarcliff 
& ossining  

THE GREEN MARKET SHINES

THE MAGAZINE FOR BRIARCLIFF & BEYOND | THEINSIDEPRESS.COM | JUNE 2019

Edith Macy Conference Center  
Westchester Collaborative Theater  
Ossining Children's Center
LET CHAPPAQUA LEARNING CENTER’S COMBINED SAT/ACT INTENSIVE BOOT CAMP HELP YOU DECIDE

24 HOURS OF MATH AND SCIENCE – 3 HOURS A DAY FOR 8 DAYS
MONDAY-THURSDAY, JULY 22 – JULY 25 & JULY 29 – AUGUST 1
4:30-7:30

24 HOURS OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR, READING AND ESSAY WORK –
3 HOURS A DAY FOR 8 DAYS
MONDAY-THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 – AUGUST 8 & AUGUST 12 – AUGUST 15
4:30-7:30

HURRY SPACE IS LIMITED!!
For more information or to register
Call:
914-238-0800

Early registration: save $100…ends July 1st.
Can do Math/Science only or English/reading/Essay only
No make-up classes
cover story
11 | A Visit to the Ossining Farmer’s Market
BY MIRIAM LONGOBARDI
PHOTO BY DONNA MUELLER
GREATKEEPSAKES.COM

just between us
2 A Committed Relationship
BY GRACE BENNETT

features
14 ‘The Macy’
Briarcliff’s Hidden Gem
BY DAVID PROPPER

18 Briarcliff ‘Points Kid’
BY DEBRA HAND

20 Inside an Award-Winning Winery
BY STACEY PFEFFER

23 Planetary Love at the 9th Annual Earth Day Festival
BY MADELINE ROSENBERG
PHOTOS BY HANNAH ROSENBERG

28 Beach Bopping ‘Round Westchester
BY SHAUNA LEVY

5 gotta have arts
4 Mary Ellis - So Far: Pop Art to Abstract Expressionism at the Bethany Arts Center

7 Westchester Collaborative Theater: Where New Plays Take Flight
BY ELLA ILAN

31 Ossining Jazz Festival

8 The Benefits of Having a Financial Advisor
BY RICHARD BLOOM

15 Branching Out at the Sheptin Tutoring Group
BY ALAN SHEPTIN

lifestyles with our sponsors
30 March Boutique: On Trend Clothing for Fashionistas
BY STACEY PFEFFER

etcetera
32 The Joy of School Theater
BY JENNIFER SABIN POUX
Publishing in any new town is a little like dating. I’m courting an entire community and it’s impossible to tell exactly how things will turn out. I can just put my best foot forward and hope for the best. But please know I’m looking for a long term, committed (publishing!) relationship right now!

Speaking of dating, about a dozen years ago, I had a first date in a quaint trattoria in beautiful Briarcliff Manor, just far away enough from Chappaqua, my hometown, for my comfort level. I’ve always been aware of all the great shops, eateries and amenities just a stone’s throw from where I live. There have been many workouts at the beloved Club Fit, and quite a few pieces of my wardrobe are from March Boutique, a perfect place to choose an outfit for date, and a local gem spotlighted as a first ‘lifestyles’ feature for this magazine.

Without a doubt too, Briarcliff Manor is also a vibrant community of families deeply committed to their schools, ‘the joy of school theater’ (see our end page ‘etcetera’ essay!), to a healthy and bucolic natural environment (as anyone who has ever visited the Edith Macy Conference Center can attest), fascinating people (like “The Points Kid”) and as I’ll continue to communicate… to so much more!

I have been successfully publishing for 16 years. I’ve always been fortunate to work with a stellar team, talented contributors and continuous merchant support. I decided being empty nest, that it was time to introduce the Inside Press brand a little more widely. So, after launching first Inside Chappaqua, then Inside Armonk, then Inside Pleasantville, this shiny new edition of Inside Briarcliff & Ossining was born.

While I was conceiving it, I met with the head of the Briarcliff Manor Chamber of Commerce, Mike Milano, and we talked about the businesses along North State Road, ‘on the main drag’ on Pleasantville Road, and the challenges small businesses face in a digital age. I’m right in the thick of those challenges myself, and I look forward to working together to help small and medium size business thrive with both our print and online options at theinsidepress.com, and in social media! We aim to keep it fun and interesting, too.

I’m not a stranger to Ossining either. Over the years, I’ve enjoyed several wonderful dining experiences there—whether authentic Spanish fare, or at Ossining’s famous river restaurant, the Boathouse, and most recently, I’ve checked out the newest entry to waterfront dining, the Westerly. I also consumed much coffee at the lovely Village Café, taking breaks from my footsteps in pulling this first issue together! One time, I even discussed the possibility of running a pub together with a friend, who happens to be a karaoke dj. Ossining immediately came to mind. We’d call it Sing Sing, of course. We never pursued it. When I heard that the Sing Sing Kill Brewery had opened, I thought: great minds think alike and trust me that I’m ‘in’ for a night of enjoying karaoke night or open mics as soon as I can create more down time!

Ossining, I must say, is a barrel of Earthy fun, from its fabulous Earth Day festival to its festive and bountiful Farmers Market. I’m also very proud this debut issue spotlights the Ossining Children’s Center, its mission and fundraising goals to create a much needed new home. I also had fun meeting and listening to so many inspiring people at the OCC’s spring gala.

Please also note our ‘Gotta Have Arts’ coverage highlighting the cutting edge Westchester Collaborative Theatre, sharing news of the upcoming Ossining Jazz Festival at the Elks Lodge, and highlighting an upcoming June exhibit at the Bethany Arts Center—a place I’m looking forward to exploring further, too.

In short, I tried my very best to capture various happenings, slices of life—touch of the flavor, if you will—in each of your engaging towns. Feel free to tell me how we did! Let’s solidify our relationship! Please feel free to write to grace@insidepress.com.

P.S. June is my favorite month! It’s my ‘down time’ between late spring and back to school publishing and with all the great weather, I make the most of it! Happy Graduations to all the new graduates; have two fairly recent ones of my own (they are 22 and 27, and I’ll think of them that way till they turn 30!) Happy Father’s Day to all the dads! My own amazing ‘Poppy’ recently passed away at age 96, so it is a first for me without him. I’m going to spend it honoring his memory on a long walk whether in a beautiful preserve, or perhaps now, along the river. Enjoy the edition, and June, too.
Congratulations to Our 2018 Company-wide Leading Sales Professionals in Briarcliff Manor

SUZAN ZEOLLA
Associate Real Estate Broker
Emerald Award

SUSAN STRAWGATE CODE
Associate Real Estate Broker
Top Producer | Emerald Award

JANET BRAND
Associate Real Estate Broker
Platinum Award

TERESA DUGUET
Associate Real Estate Broker (Maria Teresa)
Platinum Award

HILLARY A. LANDAU
Associate Real Estate Broker
Silver Award

DAVID FINK
Associate Real Estate Broker
Gold Award

BONNIE BESNER
Real Estate Salesperson
Gold Award

MADELYN RICCIARDI
Associate Real Estate Broker
Silver Award

SHARON BODNAR BRISKMAN
Associate Real Estate Broker
Silver Award

MARY ANN TIGHE
Real Estate Salesperson
Emerald Award

ELIZABETH (BETSEY) REYLEA
Real Estate Salesperson
Silver Award

Congratulations to our entire team of real estate professionals for making Houlihan Lawrence the number one selling brokerage in Briarcliff Manor – 19 YEARS IN A ROW

Source: HGMLS, 2000 - 2018 each year, all property types sold, total volume sold by office, Briarcliff Manor School District
Exhibit Opening Reception:
Mary Ellis – So Far
Pop Art to Abstract Expressionism

This exhibition represents the fusion of Mary Ellis’ process over a 15 year time span. In her evolution from Pop Art to Abstract Expressionism, Ellis has merged her graphic and Fine Art skills into one expression, a continuous emerging of style, composition and technique.

ABOUT MARY ELLIS

For over 40 years, Mary Ellis has been internationally recognized for her Pop Art icons that appear on thousands of gift products. She is a graphic artist and an Abstract Expressionist painter. Ellis grew up in Croton, and now lives in Briarcliff Manor. She received her BFA degree from Pratt Institute. Having studied under Alex Katz, Richard Linder, Mercedes Matter, and Robert Mallory, Mary developed her own unique style.

A number of years ago products that Mary was making for retail consumption had grown dramatically, taking time away from Ellis’ painting. Something inside told her she needed to return to her passion for painting if she wanted to be happy and fulfilled as an artist. She began painting with intensity, commitment, and discipline, something that had been missing for a long time. This retrospective, Mary Ellis-So Far, represents the fusion of Ellis’ process over a 15 year time span. In her evolution from Pop Art to Abstract Expressionism, Ellis has merged her graphic and Fine Art skills into one expression, a continuous emerging of style, composition and technique.

Exhibit on Display: June 8th to June 30th
Opening Reception: June 8th 6-9pm
Gallery Hours: Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm

Mary is dedicating a generous portion of the proceeds from this show to establish an Art Supply Fund for children at Bethany Arts Community. Contact BAC to help this fund grow.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT ITEMS. AVAILABLE WHILE THEY LAST. SALE ENDS IN ONE MONTH. ALL 750ml UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. IN EVENT OF TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR, LISTED PRICES WILL PREVAIL. WE DO NOT KEEP OUR SALE PRICES SUPER LONG. CASH AND CARRY ON ALL SALE ITEMS.

**DODD’S SUMMER WINE & LIQUOR SALE**

230 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD • MILLWOOD
MILLWOOD SHOPPING CENTER OFF Taconic Pkwy
LIQUOR CITY • 762-5511
www.dodds wineshop.com

**WINE SPECTATORS TOP 100 WINES OF 2016**

- EL ESTOCO MALBEC DON DAVID RESERVE 2015 $45 Rated 96+… 11.99
- BODEGAS BRACA GARNACHA 2015 $30 Rated 95… 13.99
- SCHLOSS GOEBELSBUHL GRÜNER VELTLINER KAMPTAL 2016 $75 Rated 96… 16.99
- CARPNETO VINO NOBLE DI MONTPELUCIANO RESV 2013 $13 Rated 96… 14.99
- CASTELLO DI VOLTAPA CHIANTI RISERVA CLASSICO 2013 Rated 95… 39.99

**DODD’S POPULAR WINE BRAND SALE**

- EXCELSIOR Cabernet Sauvignon… 8.99
- GUGAL Cotes Du Rhone… 11.99
- 14 HANDS Cabernet Sauvignon… 8.99
- FERRARI CARANO Fume Blanc Rated 94 WA… 11.99
- LOS VASCOS Cabernet Sauvignon… 8.99
- KIM CRAWFORD Sauvignon Blanc… 12.99
- RELAX RIESLING… 8.99
- LAYER CAKE Your Choice/ Shiraz or Malbec… 11.99
- OTTER BAY Sauvignon Blanc… 10.99
- ZACCHIGNI Montepulciano D’Abruzzo… 13.99
- CANNONBALL Cabernet Sauvignon… 10.99
- BUTTER Chardonnay… 13.99
- PINE RIDGE Chenin/Viognier Rated 90 WA… 11.99
- DEVOY “Duckhorn” Cabernet Sauvignon… 14.99
- HAHN Cabernet Sauvignon… 11.99
- CLODY BAY Sauvignon Blanc Rated 93 WS… 15.99

**DODD’S CONNOISSEUR’S WINE SELECTION**

Visits a winery or zinfandel sale. If you don’t see a high price, we will special order for you.

- MEZZACORONA PINOT GRIGIO… 11.99
- ROBERT MONDAVI WOODBRIDGE CHARD OR CAB… 11.99
- BAREFOOT (Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio) 50.7 oz Large Size… 11.99
- BOGLE Cabernet Sauvignon… 11.99
- BOTTORF CHIANTI… 15.99
- BEEFEATER Riesling… 15.99
- JANUARY… 19.99
- BOMBAY SAPPHIRE… 19.99
- MALT SCOTCH SALE
  - LA PERLA… 39.99
  - Johnnie Walker Black Label… 39.99
- PINOT GRIGIO
  - SANTA MARGHERITA
    - VEUVE CLIQUOT Brut “Yellow Label”… 39.99
  - CHANDON Brut… 15.99
  - PIPER HEIDSIECK Brut… 34.99
  - MOET Imperial… 39.99
  - HENKELL TROCKEN… 9.99
  - MARTINI & ROSSI Asti Spumante… 12.99
  - PIPER SONOMA Brut… 16.99
  - COOK’S Brut… 7.99
  - FREIXENET Cordon Negro… 9.99
  - HAHN Sauvignon Blanc… 9.99

**MEIOMI**

Pinot Noir… 17.99

- BABICH Sauvignon Blanc… 10.99
- KRIS Pinot Grigio… 10.99

**HIGHLY RATED ITALIAN WINES**

- ANTINORI SANTA CRISTINA… 8.99
- MONTE ANTICO 2012 Rated 92+... 9.99
- ANTINORI TOSCANO ROSSO… 15.99
- SAN FELICE “IL GRIGIO” CHIANTI CLASSICO 2014 Rated 91+... 19.99
- RUFFINO RISERVA DUCALE… 19.99
- RUFFINO MODUS Rated 92+... 19.99
- RUFFINO RISERVA DUCALIE... 19.99
- COLLINA DEI LECCI BRUNETTO 2013 Rated 96+... 19.99

**SPANISH RED WINES RATED 90+**

- ALVAREZ TOLEDO MENCIA ROBLE 2015 Rated 90+... 9.99
- SA RA DA Selección Garnacha 2009 Rated 90+... 9.99
- LA TRIBU 2010 Garnacha, Syrah, Monastrell Rated 90+... 9.99
- CASTANO MONASTRELL 2016 Rated 90+... 9.99
- LAGAR DE ROBLA Mencia 2012 Rated 91+... 9.99
- ANGOSTO Tinto Malbec, Garnacha 2009 Rated 90+... 9.99
- AL GAIKEN 2015 Rated 90+... 9.99
- ALFOS De LA HOYA 2015 Rated 90+... 9.99
- CIMS DEL MONTSAINT 2010 Rated 90+... 9.99
- FLAVIUM SELECCION MACIA 2015 Rated 90+... 9.99
- DON AURELIO TEMPRANILLO CHINAZA 2014 Rated 92+... 9.99

**DODD’S CALIFORNIA CIVITSA SALE**

- KENDALL JACKSON...
  - CLOS DU BOIS... 10.99
  - TOASTED HEAD... 10.99
  - CHATEAU ST. MICHELLE... 10.99

**DODD’S FREE DELIVERY SERVICE**

Too busy at work? Too busy with the kids? We at Dodd’s understand your busy life. Dodd’s delivery service offers customized shopping brought directly to your door. Call us today to place your orders 914-702-5311.
Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision.”

Muhammad Ali

Summer Classes Beginning June 8th

Call 914-941-2939 to reserve a space in class or visit our website: LogreaDance.com

Logrea Dance Academy
2 Dale Ave • Ossining, NY

World Cup Gymnastics

Whether you are a beginner or experienced gymnast, an infant or a teenager, there is a class for you at World Cup Gymnastics.

New York’s Premier Gymnastics Facility
170 Hunts Lane | Chappaqua, NY 10514

Register Now for 2019/2020 school year.
One need not travel to the city to see experimental theater that is cutting-edge. Simply a hop skip and a jump away in neighboring Ossining, the aptly named Westchester Collaborative Theater (“WCT”), a new play development company and performing arts center, is an amazing place where new plays are introduced and collaboration reigns supreme. This intimate “black box” theatre in Ossining, previously housing a cabinet-making factory, has been transformed over the last two years into a cool little theatre with an industrial feel.

At WCT, member playwrights, actors, and directors participate in a workshop process where new plays are read, critiqued, and improved upon. Actors receive scripts in advance, come to the readings with an interpretation of character, and do an unrehearsed reading. Feedback is provided to the playwrights and they are welcome to rewrite and return with new material.

Once a month, through WCT’s Play in the Box program, playwrights are afforded an opportunity to present their plays to the public, followed by a talkback session where the audience provides feedback to the playwright.

WCT also produces fully staged readings of selected works throughout the season, typically for a full weekend of public performances. Besides providing a crew, set design, and lighting, a director is assigned to help advance the work.

The third tier of development is a mainstage production, usually spanning a four weekend run, which receives their full cadre of production behind it in terms of set, lighting, costumes and sound. A “dramaturg” is assigned to work with the writer and director before rehearsals to fine-tune the play. This entire process is geared towards getting plays in front of the public, giving writers a chance to have their works seen and improved upon. WCT has been very successful in launching plays to be produced all over the world.

Last month, WCT presented The Legend by Rick Apicella, an original play about a young boxer ranked a 2018 ‘commended new play’ by the BBC in a multi-lingual international playwriting competition.

The Mission

“We are committed to developing new work and being kind of an incubator for new plays, allowing artists to collaborate together to grow the plays,” explains Founder and Executive Director Alan Lutwin. “We try to create a nurturing atmosphere – not to say we don’t criticize; we do, but it’s in a constructive way to try and further the work.”

Audiences are an integral part of the process. “We have a very loyal following of subscribers,” says Lutwin. “We only do new work so our audience really has to trust us and support our mission. We’ve cultivated that carefully, inviting people who enjoy seeing something new and being involved in the talkback sessions. The audience is actually a collaborator with us in moving the play forward.”
Fostering a strong commitment to being grassroots oriented and giving the community a chance to participate, WCT partners with Ossining, taking advantage of its racial and ethnic diversity, to be a diverse multi-ethnic theater company. They have an ongoing relationship with the school district, working with high school students who want to act or provide technical support in their productions. Partnering with the Ossining Arts Council last year, they presented a series of productions called the Living Art Event, a docent led tour of a gallery where actors appeared and performed plays inspired by works of art displayed at the event.

Further engaging with the community, WCT strives to take every production to senior centers and perform for the residents so they can appreciate the theatre despite being limited in their mobility.

Without a home base for the first seven years, WCT did plays at the village library theater, art galleries, and wherever else they could find a home. They are thrilled to have their current space, which accommodates about fifty seats.

Besides developing new works, WCT runs a jazz series twice a month where they bring in notable artists to perform. Since seating and staging in the theater is portable, the space is easily converted from a theatre into a jazz club with lighting and tablecloths. They also run acting programs and classes.

Between ArtsWestchester grants, private donations, member dues, ticket sales, and an annual fall fundraiser, WCT works hard to maintain a revenue stream.

Playwrights will present their work in upcoming Play in the Box programs on June 21st and July 26th. A ten-minute play workshop process, is scheduled for performances July 19th through July 28th. The upcoming Play in the Box programs on June 21st and July 26th. A ten-minute play workshop process, is scheduled for performances July 19th through July 28th. The upcoming Play in the Box programs on June 21st and July 26th. A ten-minute play workshop process, is scheduled for performances July 19th through July 28th.
NEW classes in Ossining!
Two weeks | July 29 - August 9

**summerdance 2019**

STORY BOOK CAMP: Ages 3-5
DANCE CAMP: Rising grades 1st-5th

A SUMMER EXPERIENCE NOT TO MISS!

Modern ♦ Ballet ♦ Jazz ♦ Musical Theater ♦ Composition

stefinossen.org | (914) 328-1900 | info@stefinossen.org | BAC 40 Somerstown Road, Ossining, NY 10562

| 40-762-4927 | serving the community for over 30 years

www.twscapes.com
New Castle Physical Therapy & Personal Training is dedicated to providing quality healthcare in a professional and compassionate manner. We schedule one client per hour to ensure superior service and optimal results. The clinic has a welcoming atmosphere with state of the art equipment. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff is committed to helping you achieve your rehabilitation and fitness goals.

www.newcastlept.net
Amidst a brisk March wind, vendors at the Down-to-Earth Farmer’s Market in Ossining greet regulars by name, showcase new products and make tailored recommendations. One of the few Farmer’s Markets open outdoors year-round, rain or shine, the rapport between customers and vendors is apparent.

Miriam Haas, the market’s founder, walks around, shopping and chatting with people. In the late 1980s, Haas and a group of women ran a food co-op but wished there was fresh produce more locally available.

After researching local farms and working with the Ossining Chamber of Commerce, the first Farmer’s Market was finally launched. In 1991, on a small patch of lawn in the downtown area in Ossining; two farmers set out their wares and the Down-to-Earth Farmer’s Market opened for business!

The second year there were three vendors, and by year five, Hass received an award from the Chamber of Commerce for bringing people and economic development to the downtown area.

Once their own local market was thriving, Hass began to bring farmer’s markets to other nearby towns such as Pleasantville, Hastings, Pierrmont, Tarrytown and Bronxville, to name a few. Soon ever more towns began reaching out to Haas to help them start their own markets.
“Community markets revitalize downtown areas. People meet and discuss recipes. It’s a very friendly environment,” Haas says. This is evident as she smiles, nods hellos and waves to people while we chat.

Soon communities from outside Westchester County reached out to her and she helped found three markets in Manhattan: Hudson Yards, Chelsea and Morningside Park as well as two each in Brooklyn and Queens. In total she has founded around 14 farmer’s markets. “I guess I’m like the Johnny Appleseed of farmer’s markets,” she jokes.

Dakotah Russo, Director of Marketing for the Down-to-Earth Farmer’s Market, notes that more recently the growth of farmer’s markets trend nationwide has slowed. “There was a time when everyone wanted one in their town,” she notes. “Many towns now have one and the need is not as great.” Still, the markets that are already out there do very well. “Our vendors respond to what people around here want. Different towns want different products. It’s not a bazaar. It is tailored to what people are buying”, Russo reports.

**BEAUTY OF OUTDOORS**

Being outdoors year-round is a big draw as people maintain their shopping routines without driving to a different location. They tried holding the market indoors at one point, but vendors preferred to be outside despite variable weather. It is easy for people to pull up and shop.

During the winter months they still have vegetables, pasteurized meats and fish among other other staples, such as pickle and bread stands. There is often live music in the winter as well. During the summer months, harvests are bigger and the vendor mix expands with upwards of twenty vendors.

The market’s summer season officially kicks off May 11th. The hours are 8:30-1:00. There are café tables, live music or a DJ, and the atmosphere is festive. After 28 years, the Down-to-Earth Market continues to grow and thrive. For information and recipes, please visit their website: downtoeearthmarkets.com

Miriam Longobardi is a freelance writer and middle school teacher in Chappaqua. She has two daughters in college, plays on a local dart team and loves traveling the world and blogging. @writermimilong
THE ULTIMATE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE!

21 UNIQUE PROGRAMS FOR CAMPERS, AGES 4–16
• WEEKLY SESSIONS
• DAILY SWIMMING
• EXPERT COACHES
• STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES
• DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION FROM SELECT AREAS

914.273.8500 | FSCAMPS.COM
PURCHASE | OLD WESTBURY | FARMINGDALE | PATCHOGUE | WESTHAMPTON | SOUTHAMPTON
While Savannah, Georgia might be where the Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low, the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff is considered by many to be the organization’s secondary birthplace. “The Macy,” owned by Girl Scouts of the USA, is a facility filled with a rich past that has evolved into a sought-after conference center attended by people from all over the world. “You’re moved by the history” walking the 400 acre campus, according to Dorothy Forcina, Chief Marketing and Communication Officer of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson. Yet few even know it exists.

**University in the Woods**

The Macy is named for Edith Carpenter Macy, chair of the Girl Scout National Board of Directors from 1919 to 1925. Her husband, V. Everit Macy, purchased and donated land adjacent to an existing Girl Scout camp to build a training headquarters in her memory, said Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society President Karen Smith. Since that time, the property known early on as the “university in the woods” was expanded in 1962 with construction of Camp Edith Macy featuring the Great Hall, and in 1982 a modern building of wood, stone and glass officially opened as the Conference Center. Four years later, the Creedon Education Center, containing meeting spaces and a living area, was added to the complex, which now houses more than 10,000 square feet of meeting space and 52 guest rooms.

“[Edith Macy] was very active in the Girl Scouts movement,” Smith said, “and the international aspect of Girl Scouting. The Great Hall looks like the United Nations inside, with different flags.” Indeed, in 1926, the site hosted the Fourth International Conference on Scouting, the first international Girl Scouting event held on American soil, attended by 56 delegates from 31 countries, according to Girl Scouts USA officials.

There haven’t been many changes to the campus since, but it has remained a consistent draw to corporations and organizations - not just Girl Scouts - for meetings, retreats and events, according to Sherri Hoy, Director of Sales and Conference Planning. The appeal--and credibility--of the Macy is that it is an International Association of Conference Centers (IACC) certified conference center in a retreat setting, she added, awarded the IACC Gold Level of Sustainability in 2009 per its website.

“[Edith Macy] was very active in the Girl Scouts movement,” Smith said, “and the international aspect of Girl Scouting. The Great Hall looks like the United Nations inside, with different flags.” Indeed, in 1926, the site hosted the Fourth International Conference on Scouting, the first international Girl Scouting event held on American soil, attended by 56 delegates from 31 countries, according to Girl Scouts USA officials.

“To have IACC certification on 400 acres of wooded property is a huge draw to Girl Scout training and retreats,” Hoy said, adding that it is an invaluable resource for Scouts locally and around the country.

Hudson Valley Girl Scouts are fortunate to have the Macy so close, Forcina added, noting the hundreds of girls who visit each year. Girl Scouts and organization leaders gain invaluable experience, bird watching, letterboxing, geocaching, and exploring the ponds, getting in touch with nature.
Harnessing the Past, Embracing the Future

The welcoming center fulfills Edith Macy’s dream of an instructional facility staffed and equipped to offer high-quality training and guidance for Girl Scout leaders, according to Bernice Johnson, Vice President of Procurement, Vendor Management and Properties at Girl Scouts USA.

“Being in the space, surrounded by history yet poised to impact the future, I thought to myself Girl Scouts really do ‘make the world a better place,’” Johnson added, quoting a basic tenet of the organization.

The Macy campus is run by Benchmark Resorts and Hotels, a hospitality management company based in Texas. Several longtime employees have been critical to the center’s operations; Peter Stafford has been the Director of Operations since it opened in 1982, and Hoy has been with the center for 21 years.

“I love what I do, love the property, the people that I work with, my customers,” Hoy said. “I think the longevity of the employees says a lot for the property itself. They put their heart into the work that they do and they deliver the customer service that shows how much they care about the property and our guests,” she added.

Yet still many local residents remain unaware of the gem in their backyards. Briarcliff resident and Chamber of Commerce President Mike Milano called the Macy a “hidden secret,” only learning of it when picking up a friend after he had lived in Briarcliff for several years.

“I had no idea it even existed,” Milano said. “When you think of conference centers in this area, they’re upright buildings, not tucked away in the woods. It’s obviously unique in that fashion. It’s got more character.”

Similarly, Briarcliff Village Manager Philip Zegarelli likened the Macy to a cabin in the mountains. He’s attended the conference center several times and always looks forward to it. “It’s just one of those little gems that takes you back to a different era,” he said.

David Propper is a freelance writer who covers Westchester and Putnam counties. He resides in lower Westchester.

‘Ready, Willing and Able’ and Branching Out at the Sheptin Tutoring Group

BY ALAN SHEPTIN

Many of you know me and my company as academic support and test prep experts. I can say that my team is the best in Northern Westchester, bar none. From the Regents to SATs to ACTs to APs, we are ready, willing and able. And, as I write this article, I am planning an SAT program for students in the United Kingdom and opening registration for our well-received finals program for Greeley students.

In my practice, I wear two hats. Yes, Math is my superpower: Mrs. Goldberg, my 7th grade math teacher who recognized this talent, would be proud. But did you know that I have visited over 120 universities and colleges both in the United States and abroad? I am a professional member of the IECA, the premier qualifying organization whose members ethically guide students through all aspects of college planning. Our expertise is peerless. I am proud to be a card-carrying member of the IECA, the premier qualifying organization whose members ethically guide students through all aspects of college planning. Our expertise is peerless.

In my practice, I wear two hats. Yes, Math is my superpower: Mrs. Goldberg, my 7th grade math teacher who recognized this talent, would be proud. But did you know that I have visited over 120 universities and colleges both in the United States and abroad? I am a professional member of the IECA, the premier qualifying organization whose members ethically guide students through all aspects of college planning. Our expertise is peerless. I am proud to be a card-carrying member of the IECA, the premier qualifying organization whose members ethically guide students through all aspects of college planning. Our expertise is peerless.

To wit: a three-year Bachelors Degree at the University of Amsterdam will set you back 30,000 Euros (for all three years!). You can’t even get that inexpensive an education at a SUNY.

While a full international education may not be an option for everyone, think about the advantages of an it, cost aside. Immersing your student in an entirely different culture, especially in our intertwined global economy, shows employers that a student can be independent, open and willing to take calculated risks. In most countries, international students with a student visa can work during the academic year and into the summer. It would make your child unique!

Perhaps the rah-rah of the Saturday football game is not available abroad, and Greek life is not a “thing.” However, every university I have ever visited has robust Student Unions, replete with societies (clubs) for everything imaginable under the sun. From Harry Potter Societies, to Jewish Societies, to Rowing Societies, you can find them all abroad.

So, if you see me, let’s talk about college. Whether you want to explore programs here in the US or abroad, to quote Frances McDormand, “I have something to say.”

Sheptin Tutoring Group, LLC
914-232-3743
alan@sheptin.com

Chappaqua: 175 King St., Chappaqua, NY
Manhattan: 157 E. 86 street, New York, NY
RESTORED 1910 COLONIAL
Briarcliff Manor. Restored 1910 magnificent Colonial on 2.31 beautiful landscaped acres. Estate location.
WEB# BG1496572 · $1,699,500 · Suzan Zeolla

HILLTOP SETTING
Briarcliff Manor. Enjoy fabulous river views from this hilltop Colonial on 1.5 beautiful acres in estate area.
WEB# BG1538570 · $1,499,999 · Elizabeth Relyea

NEWLY RENOVATED
Briarcliff Manor. Large Center Hall Colonial with five bedrooms, gourmet kitchen and gorgeous baths.
WEB# BG1535600 · $1,495,000 · Susan Strawgate Code

STUNNING PRESENCE
Briarcliff Manor. Exquisite Center Hall Colonial on landscaped resort-like property with in-ground pool.
WEB# BG1538451 · $1,345,000 · Vincenza Chapin

A SERENE RETREAT
Briarcliff Manor. 1930’s dramatic stone residence reflects the charm of yesterday with today’s amenities.
WEB# BG1534043 · $1,295,000 · Sharon Bodnar Briskman

HISTORICAL CONVERTED BARN
Briarcliff Manor. 1875 Converted Dairy Barn loaded with style, beauty & charm. A unique historic home.
WEB# BG1546206 · $999,500 · Marilynn Sternschuss

Thank You For Making Us Your Number 1 Choice.

**STATELY AND SPECTACULAR**

*Briarcliff Manor.* Sunny, spacious and exquisite five bedroom Colonial on desirable cul-de-sac. A custom built home which has been meticulously maintained. Professionally landscaped .91 acres. Minutes to station.

WEB# BG1546587 · $1,625,000 · Hillary Landau

---

**ONE LEVEL LIVING**

*Briarcliff Manor.* Beautiful and sun-filled Ranch on one acre of gorgeous property close to Village center.

WEB# BG1543088 · $969,000 · Suzan Zeolla

---

**VILLAGE CHARMER**

*Pleasantville.* Great young Colonial with all luxury amenities and generously sized rooms. Convenient area.

WEB# BG1543184 · $959,000 · Hillary Landau

---

**HIDDEN GEM**

*Briarcliff Manor.* Sprawling expanded Cape with park-like property nestled on a quiet circular street.

WEB# BG1548727 · $799,000 · Mary Ann Tighe

---

**SPACIOUS RAISED RANCH**

*Ossining.* Set on 2.85 wooded acres this home features bright and spacious rooms. Private and serene.

WEB# BG1540523 · $795,900 · Madelyn Ricciardi

---

**THE ROSECLIFF LIFESTYLE**

*Briarcliff Manor.* The benefits of a detached home with all the amenities of a Condominium at Rosecliff.

WEB# BG1547283 · $749,000 · Maria Teresa Duguet

---

**MOVE-IN READY**

*Ossining.* Updated Raised Ranch on one plus acre of gorgeous property with privacy and views.

WEB# BG1530073 · $499,000 · Susan Strawgate Code
V
acation planning isn’t easy. Deciphering the complicat-ed world of frequent flyer miles and credit card points, partner airlines and excursion fares with built-in stopovers seemingly requires an advanced degree. During his Briarcliff High School days, however, it was Rob Karp’s hobby. That hobby became a passion, and that passion turned into a thriving business before he was out of his teens.

On the Runway
Beyond balancing school, standardized tests, varsity soccer and the debate team, Karp (BHS ’15) had another commitment—leveraging airline and credit card points for free travel. He had always loved flying, even as a young child.

“My true passion has always been planes and aviation; when other kids were playing on their XBoxes I was sitting on a computer being a virtual pilot on Microsoft Flight Simulator,” Karp recalled.

Fascinated with all facets of airline business, and aware of “these things called miles” which could be earned and used to pay for flights, he spent middle school Friday afternoons calling airlines’ customer service numbers with questions and poring over online blogs. Karp helped his father research business travel, and with his father’s accumulated miles got his entire family to Israel business class with a multi-day stop-over in another country.

When area airports closed following Hurricane Sandy in late 2012, Karp succeeded in booking his family to Minneapolis for a bar mitzvah by routing them from Westchester County Airport, which opened first, through Atlanta. A relative was impressed and suggested he turn it into a business; three weeks later, a day shy of his 15th birthday, Karp Enterprises LLC was born.

Taking Off
Demand grew quickly as word of his miles and points wizardry spread. Known locally as “the points kid,” Karp’s early success and decision to charge for services was largely due to word of mouth in the Briarcliff Moms and Chappaqua Moms Facebook groups. He spent up to 30 hours every week analyzing customers’ points and miles, intended destinations and dates, researching creative ways to book flights for no or drastically reduced cost. Eventually he used money earned as a soccer referee to hire someone to build a website.

Karp also familiarized himself with credit card “points” programs, offering paid consultations to help clients maximize point-earning potential based on spending habits. And he continued to immerse himself in the aviation business; for his BHS science research project, Karp worked with Delta’s Domestic Revenue Group, analyzing “hub” ramifications of airline mergers and interned for two summers at Delta’s Atlanta headquarters.

Word of the young entrepreneur’s expertise spread. He was featured by Bloomberg TV and Fortune.com, and as a BHS junior was named a “Westchester Wunderkind of 2014,” celebrating the area’s brightest young professionals under 30. By the time Karp graduated from BHS in June, 2015, Karp had worked with 100 customers, all on his own.

Late that first semester, he hired three students part-time who shared his passion for aviation to help him research and book flights. Shifting his focus to luxury travel, in January 2016 Karp partnered with large national agency Valerie Wilson Travel, a member of the Virtuoso network, which provided MilesAhead with access to special airline values and hotel perks. Karp forged his own relationships with travel vendors, his team now having visited roughly 300 properties.

“I saw an opportunity,” Karp said. “Customers whose flights I was booking were booking hotels elsewhere, but said that they would be happy to give me the business if I were to provide it.” Building industry connections allowed him to expand MilesAhead’s offerings to hotels by the start of sophomore year.

Through 2017, his team was mostly Cornell students working part-time; Karp eventually became busy enough to hire a full-time assistant and independent off-campus “contractors,” also aviation enthusiasts, he met via connections. MilesAhead developed a presence on campus, and this past year was the first student owned and operated company to exhibit at the Hotel School Career Fair.

Flying High: Growth and Customer Service
Even during his BHS days, Karp recognized the need to keep clients happy, for example driving out to JFK himself to resolve a ticketing glitch. “That was an early example of my company’s commitment to customer service.”

Spreading His Wings: Expansion during the College Years
Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration ("SHA") was a perfect fit for Karp. After his BHS graduation, he rebranded his company “MilesAhead,” but shut down 90% of his business the first semester.

“I wanted to start college with no strings attached,” he said. “It was one of the best decisions I’ve made, because stepping away made me realize how much I missed the business.”

BY DEBRA HAND

Briarcliff “Points Kid” Jumps Miles Ahead
He wants to make things as easy as possible for clients, and finds that MilesAhead’s use of the AXUS itinerary management app is a “key part of the customer experience.” Clients can download AXUS to their phones and view multiple trips—all flight, hotel and excursion information—and get updates on changes.

Karp has grown his company considerably—this spring about a dozen part-timers—to cover customers’ travel needs before, during and after their trips. MilesAhead is now comprised of Advisors who build trips, the Concierge Team, which finds and books anything from private guides to dinner reservations, and the VIP Team, which deals with logistics such as check-in and boarding passes.

The Sky’s The Limit

As a college student, Karp managed to devote 50-70 hours a week to MilesAhead, but upon his graduation this month is poised to “hit the ground running.” He has secured Manhattan office space and will have six full-time employees, all with the company for over two years, as well as additional part-timers. MilesAhead’s growth has not gone unnoticed; Karp and his company have been featured in or on CBSTV, the Cornell SHA magazine, the New York Times, and Forbes.com.

“I’m a full-time business owner and CEO. But it’s been one of the best learning experiences—being a student, a ‘college kid,’ and business owner all at the same time. I’ve learned to prioritize and what’s important to me,” he said, noting his evolving role. “Now my focus is building, developing and training my team and growth. We’re always looking for awesome new young talent, and have exciting and grandiose plans to keep expanding. We’re still savvy and thrifty,” Karp added, “but with building our luxury services, we have maintained our commitment to keeping that personal touch.”

Longtime Inside Press editor and contributor Debra Hand was an early “points kid” client who has continued to rely on MilesAhead expertise.
Deciding to move cross-country wasn’t an easy decision for the Lennon family. Jody and David Lennon had lived in Chappaqua for 16 years in a lovely house on Pond Hill Road and were busy raising their three sons, Spencer, Jeremy and Ethan. David worked as a commercial litigator in the city and Jody who also had a law degree had decided to take a pause from the work world to focus on raising her sons. They had close friends and strong roots in the community.

David had a client who was based in Oregon and suggested that the family move out there for a simpler life but they were happy staying put. However, with David’s client roster becoming increasingly West Coast-based, the hectic lifestyle was beginning to take its toll. The Lennons would occasionally look at farm properties in Massachusetts and further north in the Hudson Valley as second homes but they never pulled the trigger.

Finally, in 2011 they decided to pack up their belongings and head to Oregon. As Jody says, “we flew across the country and landed on a vineyard.” The vineyard is in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon, an area close to the California border with green valleys producing high-quality wines. Their property contained eight acres of vineyards that had never been harvested before. With the advent of their first harvest they selected the name FENCES Winery, a name that is derived from the fact that they were feeling “fenced in” before their move.

An Education on Viticulture

“Timing is really everything but if you told me we’d be doing this years ago, I would have laughed,” says Jody, a self-proclaimed oenophile (Cabernet Sauvignon is her favorite) who handles a variety of jobs including sales, marketing, warehouse and delivery. David who still practices law focuses more on specific vineyard duties such as mowing, pruning and deciding which trellis system is best for the grapes to grow. “David really immersed himself in learning about the industry by reading viticulture course books from the UC Davis School where many leading vintners graduate from,” explains Jody.

The couple in the beginning also attended monthly barrel tastings. This is where Jody began to discover that winemaking is
“really an art and science.” “It is amazing to me that from the time the grapes are harvested and then put into barrels, the winemakers can pretty much tell how it will taste in two years.” She learned terms such as “barrel program” meaning that the type of barrel that the wine is aged in plays a large factor in the nuances of the wine’s flavor. For example, American oak barrels impart vanilla undertones whereas French oak barrels tend to add more spice, and even the “toast” of the barrel is selected to contribute different attributes to a wine’s flavor. “When we started working with our winemakers, we brought them bottles of wine that we aspired to.”

Ignoring the Naysayers

Besides having to learn everything about the wine industry from scratch, they also had a lot of naysayers who suggested that growing Cabernet Sauvignon was a mistake due to the climate in Oregon and that it would be best grafting over to a different varietal. But Jody exclaims with a chuckle that she was determined to “drink her way to happiness” with Cabernet Sauvignon. The grape is the last to be picked in the valley usually around the third or fourth week in October. Due to climate change, the weather has gotten warmer and they’ve been successful with their grapes.

Seven years later, they just grafted ½ acre to produce Sauvignon Blanc starting next year, and this May they debuted a limited release of 25 cases of Rosé Cabernet Sauvignon. But Jody insists that they will stay focused on Cabernet Sauvignon. “There are wineries here producing 28 varietals and I don’t want to do that. We want to make the best wine we can and doing that requires focus.”

Accolades for Their Wines

And clearly their focus has been paying off. Wine Enthusiast Magazine, a leading authority in the industry just rated their 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon a 90 and listed it as an Editor’s Choice in their upcoming August 2019 issue. Their Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon received a 91 in the same edition.

In addition, their 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded Best of Class at the 2018 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. The 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon received a Silver Medal at the 2018 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, a Gold Medal from SIP’s Best of the NW, and then a Platinum in the Wine Press Northwest Wine Competition, where it was named “one of the Northwest’s top Cabs.”

Despite the success of their small winery, the Lennons still miss Chappaqua dearly. Jody misses simple things like getting lamb chops at the local butcher to more important matters like the strong emphasis on education in our community. While the family enjoys the slower pace of life in Oregon, they still consider Chappaqua their home.

Jody recounts a very proud moment on one of her many trips back to the 10514 she took her cabernet sauvignon to Dodd’s Liquor Shop for a wine tasting. Although their products are only available online at www.fenceswinery.com, the wine buyer at Dodd’s was very impressed with the product and offered her recommendations for distributors who could help get the product into stores. “That was the ultimate compliment!” she exclaims.

Stacey Pfeffer is the Editor of Inside Chappaqua and Inside Armonk. In her spare time, she enjoys drinking wine and hopes to visit the Rogue Valley one day.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN ADDINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY
Painting and Carpentry

Korth and Shannahan
(914) 238-5388

*BEST WESTCHESTER WINNER 2016*

Interior & Exterior Painting,
Power Washing,
Replacement Carpentry,
Custom Cabinets,
Window & Door Installations

Four year warranty
Licensed & Insured

www.KorthPainting.com

The Happy Family Feast

2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
4 (3.5 oz.) Chicken Fried Steaks
All-Beef Meatballs (12 oz. pkg.)
4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
Signature Seasoning Packet

48269JRL |  $249.91* separately

COMBO PRICE  $499.99

Call today to connect with a SENIOR LIVING ADVISOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE

A Place for Mom has helped over a million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There’s no cost to you!
(888) 885-7655

Joan Lunden, journalist, best-selling author, former host of Good Morning America and senior living advocate.

Order now! 1-855-848-7398 ask for 48269JRL
www.OmahaSteaks.com/dinner291


ORDER NOW! 1.855.848.7398 ask for 48269JRL

www.OmahaSteaks.com/dinner291

*We are a fee-only financial planning & investment management firm.
*We are bound by a fiduciary standard, putting your needs and interest above everything else.
*Call for a free consultation.

www.FAMCorporation.com

26 South Greeley Avenue
Chappaqua, NY 10514
TEL: 914-238-8900

295 Madison Avenue, 12th Fl.
New York, NY 10017
TEL: 212-299-7777

Scott M. Kahan, Certified Financial Planner™ Professional

Offering Financial Planning Services Since 1986
Taking Responsibility for our Planet
Ossining’s 9th Annual Earth Day Festival

“Participating in environmental causes has become more important than ever.”

BY MADELINE ROSENBERG

Ossining resident Kathy Puffer adjusted the lid of a solar cooker, preparing the device to transform kale leaves into chips. Even on a cloudy afternoon at Louis Engel Waterfront Park, Puffer said her solar-fueled device offers a more sustainable cooking method.

“These are simple things anyone can do,” Puffer said, a co-founder of Solar CITIES, a non-profit. “Anybody can get a solar cooker and use it to bake a cake, or you could start dinner in it.”

Puffer represented one of more than 100 vendors who promoted sustainability at Green Ossining’s ninth annual Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27. Guitar strums and drumming from the festival’s live performers mixed with the chatter of thousands of visitors who interacted with environmental advocacy groups, local organizations and food vendors. The festival also offered drum and ukulele circles, kid’s activities, and goods from arts and artisan vendors for those who attended this event by the Hudson River.
Suzie Ross, a chairperson and founding member of Green Ossining, said the event’s riverside location, combined with its easy access to Metro-North, is the reason it attracts people from as far as Brooklyn and from neighboring counties.

“Being with community [is people’s favorite part of the event],” Ross said. “It’s a day outside, on the river, and that is the beauty. If we had this at a park, it wouldn’t feel the same way.”

While the Earth Day Festival serves as a community gathering, Ross said the event organizers also try to “sprinkle in educational opportunities” to inform visitors about the environment and sustainable practices. Signs along the waterfront poked through blades of grass that contained facts about the impact of current environmental practices, and organizations also hoped to educate visitors who passed by their stands.

Groups including an Ossining Cub Scouts pack encouraged visitors to develop “zero waste” practices. Mike Pavelchek, a cubmaster of Pack 83 Ossining, displayed trash, recycling and compost bins that he and the cub scouts filled with various types of waste, informing visitors how to properly dispose of items to encourage the reuse of materials.

“We’re here educating people that not everything is garbage,” he said. “Over the last year or two, there has been a real uptick in compostable materials. Things can either be turned into dirt or soil, or they can at least be recycled.”

Teaching attendees that not every item should be thrown away, this group of cub scouts also spreads the same message at the annual Ossining Village Fair in June.

Other organizations also encouraged visitors to adopt more sustainable practices and become more environmentally conscious. Several students from Ossining High School’s Environmental Club attended the festival, advocating to clean up Ossining Beach and to “spread good word about the earth,” sophomore Andrea Doble said.

Representatives from larger organizations also attended the festival, including second-time attendee Donna Sharrett, a Master Gardener Volunteer for Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), which trains volunteers and brings information to communities in each New York county. She displayed handouts at her stand, including information on pesticide-free lawn care and the destructive impact of invasive plants.

“I came because Green Ossining does such great work,” she said. “I want to be a part of helping environmental issues—like creating better habitats and [providing] the best science information to the public.”

And, participating in environmental causes has become more important than ever, so much so that Ross said the event coordinators decided not to include a theme for this year’s festival. While a previous Earth Day Festival celebrated solar, and water became the theme another year, she acknowledged that there are many pressing environmental concerns.

“It’s not just about showing up for Earth Day, being with each other, having food and hanging out with your friends,” Ross said. “It’s really got to be taken seriously. It’s a moral imperative that we all step up and take responsibility for every action, because everything we do affects the planet.”

Madeline Rosenberg is a senior at Horace Greeley High School where she was a section editor for The Greeley Tribune. She will be attending Cornell University in the fall.

PHOTOS BY HANNAH ROSENBERG
Ossining Children’s Center has a keen eye on the future, but they are also celebrating their rich history—a history of women’s empowerment. The Ossining Children’s Center was founded by the women’s association of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in 1895 as the Christ Child Day Nursery and Bethany Home. At that time, Ossining was home to many widowed immigrant women who wanted to work to support their families, but “day care” did not exist.

The story of Ossining Children’s Center began nearly 120 years ago as a response to the needs of working immigrant mothers. It is now a crucial resource for all families, providing nurturing and educational care for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. Through the years, the community has generously supported our mission to keep high quality childcare affordable for working families.

We’ve aimed to support women of every socioeconomic status since our inception and we know that families and mothers have to make difficult choices regarding their careers and we do our best to provide an inclusive environment for all women.

OCC’s Fearless Females & Female Supporters

Edith Baker played a leadership role over the course of 60 years of involvement with OCC, in seeing the Center through difficult times and running pivotal projects in the Center’s history. She served as board president four different times. In 1948, Edith Baker was among the Board members who believed strongly that the childcare program was an important service to the community. Edith, herself, was a working mother and had served as treasurer of her father’s company for many years. When the existence of the child care program was threatened, Edith spearheaded the “Sponsoring Committee” which took over responsibility for running the child care center. A special campaign raised the needed funds, the Board of Education gave the use of space in Park School, and the Ossining Children’s Center was incorporated as a separate entity. Although Edith passed away in 2004, her legacy lives on.

Jessica Yanqui-Zhinin found herself pregnant at 17. She wanted to finish high school and to go college. When she was accepted to SUNY Binghamton, she did not anticipate she would be able to attend, but Jessica didn’t want to be another statistic. Fortunately, she found the Ossining Children’s Center. At OCC, she not only found a village but an extended family. When Jessica dropped her daughter Nube off in morning, she knew Nube was in loving hands. The caring teachers gave Jessica constant support helping with everything. The office door was always open offering more shoulders to lean on. Ossining Children's Center gave Jessica the stability and support to earn dual masters’ degrees. She is now a teacher at Ossining High School.

The Future is Female

Child care is a vital factor in a woman’s ability to be a productive worker, and thereby being able to improve her family’s economic security. For more than 50 years, the Ossining Children’s Center (OCC) has been in the forefront of advocacy for public funding for child care.

Thanks to advocacy by Ossining Children’s Center families who spoke at the Northern Westchester 2019 Budget Hearing, Westchester County recently re-opened the “Title XX” Child Care Subsidy Program, which had been closed to new applicants since 2016. Title XX makes child care

BY HOWARD MILBERT
subsidies available to families who make slightly more than the income ceiling* for the Low-Income Child-Care Subsidy Program.

Currently, two Ossining families have applied for Title XX child care subsidies from the Westchester County Department of Social Services to help them to keep their children enrolled at OCC.

Last month, we announced a $17.8 million capital campaign to build a new child care and education center at 32 State Street. The Center, which has raised $12.8 million to date, is seeking support from the community to reach their campaign goal. This facility will serve an additional 50 children and bring all of the OCC’s programming to one central location. Over 75 of OCC’s Children participated in the choreographed dance in front of a large banner featuring a rendering of the new space. It’s a privilege to work in a town that truly values children and families. If you’d like to learn more about the programs and services offered by the Ossining Children’s Center, visit www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org

*Income ceiling for families seeking a “Low Income” child care subsidy: $50,200 for a family of four.
Income ceiling for Title XX: $55,475 for a family of four.

Howard Milbert, Executive Director of the Ossining Children’s Center, has spent his career advocating for children and parents, especially low-income working parents who are striving to improve their families’ economic situation. He is known throughout New York State as a public policy expert on and advocate for high quality child care.

Dancing for Child Care!

More than 75 children from the Ossining Children’s Center (OCC) joined together on April 24 in a choreographed dance to kick off OCC’s capital campaign to build a new child care and education center.

The festive and exciting kickoff event, which was held at OCC’s current location at 90 South Highland Avenue, was attended by local, county and state officials including Westchester County Executive George Latimer, NYS Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, Ossining Village Mayor Victoria Gearing and friends and supporters of the Ossining Children’s Center.

The campaign, which is titled Our Children. Our Future. The Ossining Children’s Center Campaign, is seeking to raise $17.8 million. To date, OCC has raised approximately $12.9 million. Groundbreaking for the new facility is scheduled for later this spring.

“‘It is a privilege to work in a town that truly values children and families,’” said Howard Milbert, Executive Director, Ossining Children’s Center.

“‘It is so exciting that the children and teachers will have a facility worthy of the high-quality work of the Center,’” said Campaign Co-Chair Rebecca Samberg.

“This new child care and education center will be a game changer for the entire community,” said Campaign Co-Chair Marilyn Wishnie.

Last August, OCC unveiled plans for the construction of a new 27,000-square-foot building that will enable it to consolidate its programs under one roof. Centrally located in downtown at 32 State Street, the new center will replace operations currently housed at two 120-year-old buildings OCC owns on South Highland Avenue, as well as space it rents at a nearby church.

The new 2.5-acre site at 32 State Street was acquired for $1.8 million and donated to OCC by a long-time generous benefactor. An existing building on the site has been removed. The new building will house all of OCC’s current programs while meeting the growing need for infant, toddler, preschool and after-school care in Ossining. The projected enrollment for the new facility is 200-222 children. OCC’s current enrollment is 148.

Designed by KG&D Architects of Mount Kisco, the attractive three-story building will include nine classrooms, five toddler and infant rooms, four outdoor play areas, staff and administrative offices, a multipurpose room, conference room and kitchen. There will be 22 on-site parking spaces for parents, staff and visitors. Additional parking will be secured at a nearby off-site location.

The new facility will make childcare available to all income levels helping parents to maintain steady employment. Having the facility downtown will help anchor the State Street neighborhood, bring increased economic activity, and create job opportunities.

A new modern facility will also attract more families from a wide variety of income levels, allowing children from throughout the community to grow together, and enabling OCC to serve more families in need. For more information about the programs and services offered by the Ossining Children's Center, visit www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org
BY GRACE BENNETT

Tarrytown, NY—When Susan Midgley Komosa, Ossining Children’s Center (OCC) board president, accepted the Center’s Visionary Leader Award, she said that there was one message she wished to leave with attendees of the lively and heartwarming ‘Our Children, Our Future’ spring benefit gala on May 19: “The importance of saying yes.”

“Whatever form your yes takes, it does make a difference,” she told those gathered inside the stately Tappan Hill Mansion to support OCC child care scholarships and future fundraising initiatives.

Susan, to her own credit, “stepped up to leading the board just when we needed her most,” said OCC executive director Howard Milbert, describing Susan’s consensus-building that over three years helped OCC move forward with funding and planning a new and larger facility “specifically designed for our childcare and education programs,” after a new site at 32 State Street was gifted to OCC by Art and Becky Samberg. Susan, he said, “kept every board member engaged and informed… she gives everyone a voice…” The ‘yes’ Susan spoke of was in ample supply at the gala, too. Angel donors matched money pledged by generous gala goers for childcare scholarships. A record $106,000 was pledged during an animated, pre-dinner ‘auction’ led by Vanessa Pairs, OCC board member.

Before the auction, OCC ‘parent’ Deepti Sharma relayed how OCC helped both she and her son thrive in his early childhood years beginning at age two, with vital, quality after school care where he learned English, formed friendships and gained valuable life skills. Eight years later, she described her son as “a good, kind person,” and said, “I would have peace of mind and could concentrate on my job.” Thanks to OCC too, she added, “I have become a better parent and provider for my family.”

Saying yes might well be second nature to the recipient of the Young Leader’s Award, Jasmine Bar, whose “truly remarkable efforts,” said OCC’s Director of Development Shawn Cribari, became the ‘blueprint’ for what turned into five years of ‘Dancing for the Children,’ and its always “financial and artistic success.” Dancing for the Children has raised over $20,000 since Jasmine launched the first event with her then five-member team. “Can you imagine at age 16 creating what has become a philanthropic legacy?” Shawn said of Jasmine, who graciously accepted a gorgeous plaque, hand painted by her aunt, Aggie Shah, owner, A Maze in Pottery in Briarcliff.

Not hard to imagine at OCC, where, as Susan pointed out too, “my fellow board members excel at saying yes.” Prior to dinner, campaign co-chair Marilyn Wishnie, together with Natalie Gorlin, building co-chair, presented “Special Report: The Rumors are True,” which included detailed visual renditions of the plans for OCC’s future headquarters at 32 State Street.

A capital campaign, which has already raised $13 million toward a $17.8 million goal, aims to continue its work to fund the new facility. In the meantime, the staff and volunteers of OCC aim for ever more expressions of ‘yes.’

Grace Bennett is the publisher and editor of the Inside Press.
BY SHAUNA LEVY

As temperatures warm, a migration of sorts occurs as northeasterners are instinctively drawn to the beach after months of deprivation. The need to insert ourselves into a Slim Aarons photograph is almost palpable as throngs of us load our cars with beach supplies for day trips to the waterfront. What many Westchester residents, however, may not realize is that this need can be satisfied in mere minutes by a number of hidden gems within the county lines.

Westchester County Parks Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia said, “With warmer weather here at last, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the beaches when our pre-season begins on Memorial Day weekend. Croton Point Beach is attached to a 500-acre park with everything from a nature center to a full-service campground; Glen Island Beach offers beautiful views of Long Island Sound and of course Playland Beach is part of our iconic Playland Park amusement complex. So there is always a lot to do and see.”

Grab your beach bag, toss in your county park pass or proof of residency and get going! Be sure to go online in advance of your expedition to view specific hours and applicable fees for each location.
Croton Point Park Beach, Croton-on-Hudson

Situated on the Hudson River’s largest peninsula, this 508-acre park boasts stunning views of Haverstraw Bay as sailboats dot the water and low mountains line the horizon. Beachgoers will be thrilled to see that this location offers a wide expanse of sand suitable for spreading out a full service set-up. History buffs may be interested to learn that archeologists confirm that this land was inhabited by Native Americans as early as 7,000 years ago.

1A Croton Point Avenue
Croton-on-Hudson
(914) 862-5290

Glen Island Park, New Rochelle

Among Westchester’s jewels, Glen Island was initially developed as a summer resort in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, Westchester County acquired the property and connected it to New Rochelle by a drawbridge. Today, this 130-acre property features a beautiful crescent-shaped beach with access to the Long Island Sound in addition to picnic pavilions, boat launching, pathways, a restaurant and more.

Weyman Avenue
New Rochelle
(914) 813-6720 or 6721

Stephen E. Johnston Beach, Mamaroneck

Located on Harbor Island Park, known as the “jewel of Mamaroneck,” this lovely 700-foot beach flanks a wide range of amenities. There’s something for everyone including a playground, spray ground, pavilion, showers, marina, boat-launching area, docks, fishing floats, tennis club, ball fields and more!

123 Mamaroneck Avenue
Mamaroneck
(914) 777-7784

Orchard Beach, Bronx

Orchard Beach, located in New York City’s largest park, Pelham Bay Park, is the Bronx’s sole public beach and can be reached by car in approximately 45 minutes. This artificial beach is 6,000 feet long and was created in the 1930s, when it was proclaimed “the Riviera of New York.” The property features a promenade, pavilion, snack bars, food and souvenir carts, two playgrounds, two picnic areas, a large parking lot, and 26 courts for basketball, volleyball, and handball. Overlooking the Long Island Sound, this beach offers calm waters and has earned its designation as an NYC icon.

Bruckner Blvd. & Westchester Avenue
Bronx
(718) 430-1890

Playland Beach, Rye

There is no other beach in Westchester where sun soakers can alternate between dipping their toes in the water and going on the rides at Rye’s Playland amusement park. This stretch of sand offers general-public access to the Long Island Sound and convenient access to Playland’s park and pool and a range of restaurants overlooking the water. And, animal lovers can rejoice - it’s also dog friendly!

100 Playland Parkway
Rye
(914) 813-7010

Shauna Levy is a writer and communications professional. She is currently raising her three boys ages, 9, 7 and 5, alongside her husband in Chappaqua.
Nestled into a corner of downtown Briarcliff Manor’s main thoroughfare, Pleasantville Road, March Boutique offers Westchester fashionistas on-trend apparel and accessories. Whether you are looking to mimic the styles of a model on a Milan runway or looking for a more casual Instagram-worthy outfit, this jewel-sized boutique should be on your radar.

Lynn Puro, the owner and a Briarcliff Manor resident opened the store twelve years ago. Her exquisite taste and style is evident as soon as you step into the store. Puro scouts fashion showrooms in New York, Paris, Milan and Los Angeles and carries lines that you may not be familiar with such as Bailey 44 and Fifteen Twenty plus well-known and beloved labels like Nicole Miller and Joseph Ribkoff.

Everything But the Shoes

Saturday is the store’s busiest day as many customers come in needing something to wear that evening. “We get a lot of last-minute requests and we love helping clients choose an outfit and accessories such as handbags and jewelry. We offer everything but the shoes.” Puro strives to offer many options for customers at different price points.

“Fit is everything” is Puro’s cardinal fashion rule. To that end, she always tries on every product in her store when visiting showrooms. She brings an additional employee to showrooms as well with a different figure to see how the clothing fits before deciding to sell it in her boutique.

On a recent visit, I had fun perusing the racks and checking out spring trends. The store reminded me of a trendy Soho boutique with exposed brick and a copper tin ceiling. Everything was thoughtfully displayed and photos of Puro’s fashion icon Audrey Hepburn adorn the walls.

As a petite person, I’ve been wondering how to embrace the wide-legged pants trend seen all over the spring fashion magazines. “Not to worry,” advises Puro and she pulls out a wide-legged jean made by Just Black Denim which I try on and lo and behold, it actually looks good. Puro and all her employees have a strong sense of style and can immediately size up your silhouette and provide ideas of items to try on. I wonder what shoes to wear with the jeans and Puro offers suggestions. “The number one question we get from customers, is what shoes should I wear with an outfit?”

Next up, I want to try on a floral dress as the fashion magazines are saturated with them for spring. On a small frame, prints can look overwhelming but Puro knows what patterns will work with my figure. The kelly green floral wrap dress by Cupcakes & Cashmere is a winner and best of all, it is not like the dozens of black dresses I have hanging in my closet. With graduations and baby showers on the horizon, I am all sorted with this little number.

Snapworthy Spring Trends

I want to know what other spring trends are blooming and Puro is at the ready with several sartorial suggestions. Flower prints and pastel colors are popular. She also carries several leopard print items. Leopard print is big this spring but if you don’t want a full outfit with it, the store has leopard print hats, scarves and bags. Other trends include cropped and slightly flared jeans or pants and any item in blue. “Blue is the new black this season,” proclaims Puro.

“Fashion should also be fun,” attests Puro. She holds several themed events to coincide with popular television shows that have stylish costumes such as “Downton Abbey” and “Mad Men”.

As Puro wraps up my items (I also purchase a Nicole Miller dress for an upcoming Bar Mitzvah on my visit on the sale rack no less), I notice the lovely tissue paper decorated with delicate dragonflies. It’s no surprise that before opening March, Puro worked in beauty for Estee Lauder. Confidence breeds beauty was one of Lauder’s favorite sayings and as I walk out the door with my fashion-forward items, I feel like a million bucks and can’t wait to wear my new dresses this spring.

March Boutique
1207 Pleasantville Rd
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
Phone: (914) 923-2100
Marchboutique.com

Stacey Pfeffer is the Editor of Inside Chappaqua and Inside Armonk.
The third annual Ossining Jazz Festival will take place on the evenings of Friday and Saturday June 8 and June 9. The event, which will feature four different musical acts performing at the Ossining Elks Lodge, is an excellent opportunity for audiences to enjoy a range of top-notch practitioners of jazz, a.k.a. America's Great Musical Idiom and the Improvisor's Art, in an intimate setting.

This year's Ossining Jazz Festival features a night each of Contemporary and Latin jazz, two crowd-pleasing styles.

Ted Daniel, a renowned jazz trumpeter, Ossining native and Artistic Director of the OJF comments “Ossining has a rich musical heritage, and so it is only fitting that we showcase a spectrum of the artists and sounds that have inspired us. The only way we keep this wonderful musical art alive is by giving audiences a chance to experience it right as often as possible.” Michelle Concha Herko, Executive Director of the OJF adds “Our festival is one way of accomplishing this, and we’re pleased to back for our third year.”

The double bill on Friday, June 7 at the Elks Club, dedicated to hard bop or straight-ahead jazz, will feature the Rory Stuart Quartet at 7:30 PM and drummer Abe Speller and his band at 9 PM. The lineup on Saturday, June 8 includes Michael Tate and 3D Rhythm of Life at 7:30 PM and Nelson Riveros at 9 PM. Tickets are $20 for one band only, $35 for a one-night festival pass and $60 for a two-day festival pass.

The Friday night performances of the Ossining Jazz Festival are sponsored by the Cortlandt School of Performing Arts in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

More information can be found at the festival’s website, ossiningjazzfestival.com
BY JENNIFER SABIN POUX

As the recorded soundtrack kicked in and the curtain opened on the stage at Pocantico Hills School, my eyes welled up. What the hell? I hadn’t had a kid there for four years. Seated in the refurbished auditorium with a friend to watch the middle school production of A Lion King, I surreptitiously dabbed at my eyes. I tended to shed a tear or two whenever my own children took the stage, but I didn’t know 95 percent of the kids in the show. Why was I getting emotional? It took me a few minutes to figure out that I was in the throes of an almost-empty-nester moment, a multi-sensory reminder of where my kids had been, where their love of theater had started, and with one in college and one about to go, it brought up a lot for me.

It was also just weeks since I’d watched my son play Caractacus Potts in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Briarcliff High School, the final three performances of his high school career. I was filled with pride, but also gratitude. The Briarcliff theater department had given my son, my daughter before him, and my family more than any of us could have predicted over the course of seven years. It was difficult to part.

Having enjoyed performing in the musicals at Pocantico under the direction of the wonderful Sheila DePaola, my children sought out theater in high school. And there they discovered much more than an after-school activity. They found their closest friends, their community. And they found passionate teachers and mentors.

Briarcliff’s program, which involves a fall drama, spring musical and a show of one-acts, is devoted as much to theater education as to the production itself. The outstanding director of the program, Ian Driver, loves the process of creation and development, and as a committed child-centered educator, he takes his students on the ride with him, always a great adventure that culminates in an incredibly enriching and collaborative theater experience.

Whether Shakespeare or musical comedy, theater depends on collaboration. A show is the epitome of team effort, and each member must pull his weight and honor her commitment to the whole for the show to come together successfully. With each production, the students gain a broader understanding of storytelling, the power of music, the tension of drama, the satisfaction of problem solving and the magic of performance. And they gain confidence. There is comfort in numbers. Teenagers who have never taken a dance lesson become tap dancers, in an ensemble. Students who have never swung a hammer become carpenters, part of a crew.

The theater welcomes budding divas and other talented young adults, some with beautiful voices, some with an innate gift for acting, some with excellent comic timing. But it also beckons the shy and the disenfranchised, the student who hasn’t enjoyed social acceptance in other spheres of school but finds belonging in building the set, singing in the chorus or playing in the pit. Theater can also bridge socio-economic and racial divides.

At Pocantico, almost every middle school student, regardless of their background, participates in the show, making those differences less apparent. The theater provides a home for those with artistic impulses but no other place to discover or exercise them. It’s a place to develop skills that may lead to a career or just wonderful memories. Ultimately, school theater programs offer students a unique, close-knit, artistic community that embraces differences, something not always found in the prevailing suburban sports culture.

We raise our kids here because of the excellent schools, the beautiful setting, an escape from the stresses of city living. But for some kids, the suburbs can become stifling and one-dimensional by the time they reach high school. Theater offers kids an escape from the mundane, an outlet that reaches beyond the confines of school. It also instills in them a love and reverence for the performing arts, something they can enjoy the rest of their lives.

The first time I teared up in the theater with one of my children was 14 years ago, when I took my daughter to see Beauty and the Beast; she was just seven or so. It was her first Broadway show, and it moved me to watch her react to the spectacle on stage, to remember the shows I saw as a child.

I have been moved by my own kids over the course of their childhoods as they performed in 25 productions and counting. I was moved by the realization that they worked so hard through the hours of repetition and waiting, the frustrations and obstacles, to reach that sweet moment when the orchestra plays the first notes of the overture, the curtain falls away, and they transform into characters inhabiting another time and place. That’s when I always feel a catch in my throat. The artistry and confidence they and their cast mates will exude over the next two or three hours never fails to blow me away. But mostly, I am grateful that they have known what it is to be part of something big and beautiful.

Jennifer Sabin Poux is a freelance journalist and writer who lives in Pocantico Hills. For nearly two decades, she wrote and produced for ABC News. She has written nearly 50 opinion pieces on politics for Huffington Post, and her short stories, essays and articles can be found in Fiction, Kitchen Sink Publishing and The Hook.
Thank You

To Our
First Edition, June 2019 Sponsors:

FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Sincerely,
The Inside Press Team

For sponsorship inquiries in our November 2019 Inside Briarcliff & Ossining, Inside Chappaqua, and/or Inside Armonk editions, or in our upcoming September/October '19 or December '19/January '20 Inside Chappaqua, Inside Armonk and Inside Pleasantville please call 914 238-2600 or write to advertising@insidepress.com

Please send press release or editorial inquires to: grace@insidepress.com
With colon cancer so close to her unborn child, other hospitals couldn’t help them both. But thanks to the precision of robotic surgery and the expertise of her obstetricians, Gina’s care team saved two lives at once.

When you Look North, innovation not only cures, it cares.

Northwell.edu/WestchesterRobotics

Gina’s miracle wasn’t beating colon cancer. It was having a baby at the same time.