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Harrison Residents' Generous Food Pantry Donations Exhibited at Town/Village Board Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Broadcasting remotely, Deputy Supervisor Fred Sciliano convened the Thursday, April 16 Town/Village of Harrison Town/Village Board meeting, documenting donations to the Harrison Food Pantry totaling \$13,470, including an anonymous donation of 2,000 pounds of Free-Bird chicken.

Councilwoman Lauren Leader then made a motion, outlining methods for online Food Pantry donations, including provisions for Town Comptroller to use her discretion for choice of platform; "however, it must allow electronic payments by credit card, debit, e-check." The measure was tabled.

Sciliano pointed to 191 COVID-19/Coronavirus cases in Harrison, reminding residents that Governor Andrew Cuomo has directed that peo-



ple must wear masks outside and Court will be closed until end of May. For further information, contact Court Clerk, Jackie Ricciardi at 914-670-3010.

Leader requested a Mo-

ment of Silence for Coronavirus fatalities and unemployed workers.

Public Hearings regarding Proposed Law Amending Chapter 55, "Ethics, Code of" and continuation regarding

the purpose of determining amount and extent on real property known as Block 31, Lot 52, 226 Fremont Street to be acquired by the Town were continued to the Thursday, May 21st meeting as well as

discussion over Lead Agency designation pursuant to SEQRA for construction of Westchester Joint Water Works Rye Lake Filtration Facility.

The 2019 Year-End Budget Modification to close out the Sewer Maintenance Fund Appropriated Fund Balance and transfer its Fund Balance to new Sewer Rent Fund, amounting to \$55,079, requested by Town Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie was authorized.

In Village Board business, the Board approved Police Chief John Vasta's request to turn Barnes Lane between Purchase Street, Lake Street and entire length of Avondale Road between Calvert Street and West Street into a "Parking prohibited at all times" highway, due to narrow roadways forcing traffic to clear parked cars by going over the double yellow line.



MAUREEN SKRILOW
IT'S YOUR MOVE!

I know these are uncertain times, but one thing is clear: Home has never been more important than now. Please call, text or email me to set up a virtual appointment/consultation to answer any questions. I hope you and your family are safe and healthy!

We are in this **together.**

Pictured: 1 Taylor Lane, Harrison | \$1,749,000

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State Assemblyman David Buchwald's Coronavirus Update (Face Covering Requirement - Telemarketing Calls are Banned!)

BY ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID BUCHWALD

The coronavirus pandemic has taken loved ones and has thrown millions of Americans out of work. In this very trying time, we are witnessing the compassion and caring of healthcare and essential workers and the signs of support they are receiving. Whether it's firefighters heading into work everyday or neighbors applauding healthcare workers at shift change, or a family putting up a sign in their front yard, we get to see the true character of our great country.

Remember, the best place to get answers to coronavirus questions is the New York State coronavirus hotline: (888) 346-3065.

The Westchester County COVID-19 information service can be reached by calling 2-1-1.

The New York State Mental Health Hotline is: (844) 863-9314.

The New York State Domestic Violence Hotline is (800) 942-6906 or click <https://opdv.ny.gov/help/dvhotlines.html>

The New York State Department of Health also regularly updates information at its coronavirus website: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

Face Masks Must be Worn in Public Places Where Social Distancing Cannot Be Maintained

Governor Andrew Cuomo is issuing an Executive Order to put in place a new statewide requirement that a mask or mouth and nose covering be worn when in public and when not maintaining social distancing. Some local-



Assemblyman David Buchwald

ities, including White Plains, have implemented this requirement sooner. Please always remember that social distancing is extremely important.

Telemarketing Calls Banned During Emergencies Thanks to Buchwald

Thanks to legislation I sponsored and enacted in

2019, telemarketing calls are banned in New York State during states of emergency. The measure passed the State Legislature unanimously and was signed by Governor Cuomo in December 2019. With so many New Yorkers staying home to limit the spread of the coronavirus, the telephone is a critical tool to combat isolation. Telemarketing calls are annoying enough in normal times, but in this emergency, they are being used to sell phony coronavirus tests kits and useless vitamins to people, especially seniors. Our priority is to make sure the phone is used to maintain healthy contact with family, friends, and first responders. You can read more here: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/David-Buchwald/story/91896>

Blood Donations Need-

ed from the General Public

There continues to be a shortage of blood due to the coronavirus outbreak. Donations can save lives. To protect donors, New York State is working with blood banks to ensure safe social distancing protocols are followed. To learn how and where you can donate go to: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/node/1546>

Blood Donations Requested from Recovered COVID-19 Patients

The New York Blood Center is asking for donations from those who have recovered from COVID-19. The New York Blood Center will collect blood, process the plasma, and maintain a bank of plasma for infusion to treat patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections.

If you have recovered from COVID-19 and are interested in joining this fight to save lives, please register at: <https://nybc.org>

Expanded Unemployment Benefits

With these expanded benefits more New Yorkers who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic will receive the assistance they need and deserve. The application to file an unemployment insurance claim is available at: <https://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm/>

Share the News

To sign up for these email updates, visit my State Assembly website, <https://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/David-Buchwald/enews>

Or, for anything else we can help with, please call my office in Mount Kisco at (914)244-4450.

American Heart Association Changes Rescheduled Go Red for Women Luncheon to Virtual Event

The Westchester Go Red for Women luncheon, which was originally planned for Friday, April 3 and had been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2020 will now become a **virtual event on May 27**.

As a science-based organization which cares deeply about the health of our communities, the American Heart Association has been closely following the guidance from the CDC and state and local health officials on the corona-

virus (COVID-19). The safety of our guests at our events around the country has been and will continue to be our top priority.

"We would like to thank our incredible team of volunteers who have given so much time and energy to ensure our Westchester Go Red for Women luncheon guests have an amazing experience. And we would also like to thank our sponsors and donors, who have generously given through

the Westchester Go Red for Women luncheon to impact the health of our community.

"The funds we raise going forward are critical to our urgent mission: to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Gifts will be used to fund lifesaving research, support health and education initiatives in our community, improve the quality of care in our hospitals, advocate for healthy policies and so much more."

2020 Census Operational Update

The U.S. 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Over 70 million households have responded to date, representing over 48% of all households in America. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting 2020 Census operations in order to:

Protect the health and safety of the American public and Census Bureau employees.

Implement guidance from

federal, state and local authorities.

Ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities.

The Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps are already being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible following June 1.

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of

the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts.

Under this plan, the Census Bureau would extend the window for field data collection and self-response to October 31, 2020, which will allow for apportionment counts to be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021.

In memory of Bud Blank and Don Cecil

Tracy Fitzpatrick, Director of the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, has announced that in the second week of April, the Museum lost two giants, Bud Blank and Don Cecil. Both Bud and Don served on the Museum's Board of the Friends and Honorary Council for many, many years. Both were great friends and supporters of the Museum.

Susan Dubin, the Friends Board Chair who knew both men well, remarked, "Bud was the epitome of old-world courtli-

ness. He had the sweetest smile, the most gentle manner and just exuded warmth. It really enveloped you when you were with him. He was a great art collector, loved living with it and loved to share it.

"Don was so much fun to be with, always ready to share a laugh. Jim and I had dinner with him regularly. His life



experiences were worthy of a book and his total devotion to improving the lives of the less advantaged through education set an example for us all."

Guide to Absentee Ballot Voting for Westchester County

New York State Primary Elections will be held on June 23, 2020.

Now, if one has concerns about going to the polls to vote because of COVID-19, registered New York State voters can vote via absentee ballot by applying to their County Board of Elections.

The temporary order applies only for the June 23 primary elections, which will include New York's presidential and all federal, state, and local primaries.

To request an absentee



ballot, the Westchester County Board of Elections (WCBOE), is located at 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601.

Telephone number is (914) 995-5700. Fax number is {914}-995-7753.

When requesting an absentee ballot, one can down-

load the form at boe-westabsentee@westchestergov. with your request for the application, including the following information: your name and date of birth; the address where you are registered; an address where the ballot is to be sent; and the reason for the request.

Send via email, fax or mail.

The NYS Election Law is modified to allow for electronic application, with no requirement for in-person signature

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Purchase College's Eric Gottesman Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Purchase College, has announced that Eric Gottesman, assistant professor of art + design, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in the field of Creative Arts. He is among 175 artists, writers, scholars, and scientists chosen this year. Appointed on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise, the candidates were chosen from a group of almost 3,000 applicants in the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 95th competition.

The great variety of backgrounds, fields of study, and accomplishments of Guggenheim Fellows is a unique characteristic of the Fellowship program. In all, 53 scholarly disciplines and artistic fields, 75 different academic institutions, 31 states and the District of Columbia, and 2 Canadian

provinces are represented in this year's class of Fellows, who range in age from 29 to 82. Close to 60 Fellows have no full-time college or university affiliation.

Purchase College Interim President Dennis Craig said, "We congratulate Eric Gottesman on his selection as a recipient for this prestigious award. We're proud of his commitment to exploring social justice through his photography and we are grateful for his dedication to inspiring the next generation of socially engaged artists through his work in the classroom, through his work with his non-profit, For Freedoms, and through our Center for Engagement on campus."

Eric Gottesman makes photographs, videos, writing, installations, and social inter-



Eric Gottesman

ventions; he has never made an artwork alone. Through the medium of collaboration, his work questions accepted notions of authorship and power, engages communities in critical creative expression, and proposes models for repairing structural violence and for promoting community as a form of care. Gottesman's

projects have been shown at health conferences, in government buildings, on indigenous reserves, inside post-war rubble and in museums like MoMA/PS1, the Johannesburg Art Gallery, MFA Boston, Houston Center of Photography, MoCA Cleveland, and the Addison Gallery of American Art. Gottesman is a Creative Capital Artist, a Fulbright Fellow, an Artadia awardee, an Aaron Siskind Foundation Artist and a co-founder of For Freedoms, an initiative for art and civic engagement that won the 2017 ICP-Infinity Award and was named the "largest creative collaboration in United States history" by TIME Magazine. He is an Assistant Professor of Art at Purchase College, SUNY and a

Mentor in the Arab Documentary Photography Program in Beirut, Lebanon.

He will be utilizing the Fellowship to continue work on a film project in Ethiopia and Eritrea that addresses the role art, literature, and culture have played in recent political history.

"It's exceptionally encouraging to be able to share such positive news at this terribly challenging time" said Edward Hirsch, President of the Foundation. "A Guggenheim Fellowship has always offered practical assistance, helping Fellows do their work, but for many of the new Fellows, it may be a lifeline at a time of hardship, a survival tool as well as a creative one. As we grapple with the difficulties of the moment, it is also important to look to the

future. The artists, writers, scholars, and scientific researchers supported by the Fellowship will help us understand and learn from what we are enduring individually and collectively, and it is an honor for the Foundation to help them do their essential work.

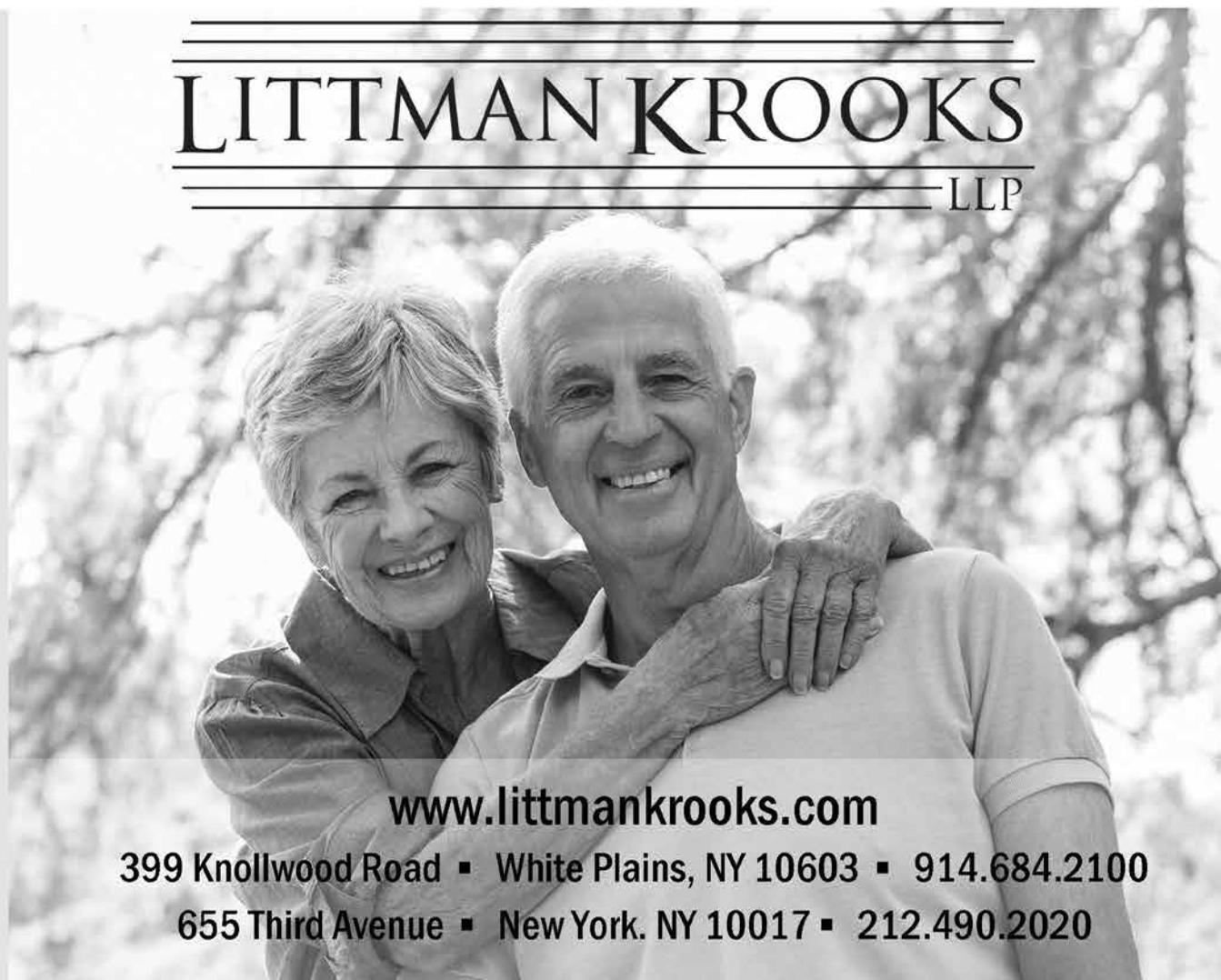
Since its establishment in 1925, the Foundation has granted more than \$375 million in Fellowships to over 18,000 individuals, among whom are scores of Nobel laureates, Fields Medalists, poets laureate, members of the various national academies, and winners of the Pulitzer Prize, Turing Award, National Book Awards, and other important, internationally recognized honors. For more information on the Fellows and their projects, visit the Foundation's website at <http://www.gf.org>.

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NY State Executive Order Allows Westchester to Remove Property Tax Late Fees

On April 21, Westchester County Executive George Latimer received permission from Governor Andrew Cuomo to go forward with his plan to remove late fees for County residents and business for the late payment of their property taxes (New York State Executive Order No. 202.22).

Latimer said, "I want to thank Gov. Cuomo for recognizing the need to help Westchester residents and businesses. I am concerned about the financial pressures that the residents of this County are under. We can, we should - and now, we are - offering them some financial relief by waiving the late Epayments

for the County taxes now due. This is the right thing to do for our constituents."

To provide assistance to the cities and towns that collect these taxes, the Executive Order allows for the County Executive to accept less than 60% of the taxes (along with special ad valorem levies and special assessments) due on May 25 from towns and cities, as long as the municipalities waive residents' late fees for the late payment of property taxes up to July 15, 2020.

To have the fee waived, the resident or business must certify economic hardship caused by COVID-19. The threshold for the certification

requires in part that a resident must have qualified for the STAR exemption, is not paying property taxes through an escrow account and can assert that they have suffered loss of substantial employment income as a result of COVID-19.

Business Council of Westchester Vice President and COO John Ravitz said, "The Business Council of Westchester applauds the County Executive and the Governor for adopting this Executive Order, which will send a strong message, to the residents and the business community in the County, that they will have some well-deserved breath-

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Lowey Announces \$163 Million in Federal Funding to Help New York Child Care Providers Maintain Services

On April 16, Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY17/Rockland-Westchester) announced \$163,636,242 in federal funding to support the New York State Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) through the Health and Human Services (HHS) program funded in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This funding will help child care providers throughout New York State stay open to care for the children of those working on the front line or cover some of the costs associated with reopening following the COVID-19 pandemic.



Congresswoman Nita Lowey

and provide federal funding to businesses and service providers throughout Westchester and Rockland."

The \$163 million in funding to New York is part of \$3.5 billion in federal grants Congresswoman Lowey helped secure in COVID-19 relief for child care providers across the country.

"By caring for the young children of essential workers, Westchester child care programs are playing a brave and unique role during this pandemic," said Kathy Halas, Executive Director of Child Care Council of Westchester. "The CARES Act funding for child care delivers critical and timely support, so that child care businesses can be there for us now and in the future, as our community recovers. We are all deeply grateful to Congresswoman Nita Lowey for leading the fight to secure this critical federal aid for child care. She is truly the all-time champion for

child care and for children."

"Child Care Resources of Rockland is thrilled to know NYS will receive over \$165M to support our child care providers as well as families who may be struggling to afford child care as the economy has halted," said Vicki Caramante, Executive Director of Child Care Resources of Rockland. "As Governor Cuomo and many others, including Congresswoman Lowey have said, child care is essential to everything and everyone in our community, directly and indirectly. Without child care, many of our emergency care workers, first responders, government employees, restaurants, retail, entertainment, and just about every other employment sector would not function, because child care is essential. During this COVID-19 pandemic, the need for child care is stark - something we here at CCRR have known and for which we have advocated since we were founded."

As Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Lowey led the House in negotiations with Senate Republicans and the Trump Administration to secure this funding in addition to tens of billions in federal assistance that will protect New York families, keep small businesses afloat, and stem the spread of COVID-19 so the Lower Hudson Valley can fully recover as quickly as possible.

What To Do When You Have Nothing To Do

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Due to the current pandemic, many of us have much more time on our hands than we are used to. After all, we are not getting up early to go to the gym, not rushing to get to the office or getting stuck in traffic, and not going to whatever evening activities we used to go to. Thus, it's quite possible that more than a few of us have plenty of free time on our hands and perhaps are even getting a little bored (after all, how much Netflix can we actually watch!). So, we thought we would give you some ideas on how to pass the time. Some of these things might have even been on your to-do list for quite some time. While we hope the world never gets shut down like this again, why not take some time to take care of something really important but seems to always get pushed to the backburner: getting your affairs in order. One thing we have learned from recent events is that we have absolutely no control over the future, however, we do have control over whether we are prepared. So, if you have been working on an estate plan, complete it and get organized so that, if/when the time comes, your loved ones know your wishes and can easily carry them out. If you don't yet have an estate plan, then there is no better time than now to cross this off your list. Here are some helpful tips:

1. If you have an estate plan, review your plan to make sure it is up to date and reflects your current wishes. Dust off your documents (hopefully, you know where they are), read them, make sure you understand how they work. Check to ensure that the location of the originals is clearly noted: that your beneficiaries (including charities) and family members are correctly identified; and that signatures and initials (yours, witnesses', and the notary's) are in proper places and can be read. Consider whether you want to make changes. (For instance, does your health-care directive say any-

thing about ventilators or machines that provide breathing assistance? Do you still feel the same way now that you know ventilators are key to Covid-19 treatment?)

2. If you have a trust, make sure it is properly funded. You should review deeds, bank account titles, and beneficiary designations to ensure they are up to date.

3. Understand what assets are covered by your Will and what assets pass by operation of law such as joint bank accounts. Consider whether your estate may require a probate proceeding. Check bank and brokerage titles and beneficiary designations to ensure they are up to date.

4. Make sure your estate plan properly addresses your tangible personal property such as jewelry, art, collectibles, family memorabilia, etc., and other personal property. We have seen many multi-million-dollar estates get hung up in the probate process because brother and sister could not agree on who gets dad's watch and dad did not make his wishes clear in his estate planning documents.

5. Make sure that your funeral/burial wishes are known. If you have purchased a prepaid plan (smart), make sure that the paperwork can be found. This will make things a lot easier for your loved ones when the time comes.

6. Make a list of who you would you want contacted or who might need to be contacted in an emergency or at your death. People who should be on the list might include family, friends, tax preparer, clergy, estate planning attorney, financial advisor, veterinarian, etc.

7. Make sure the people you have appointed to manage your affairs in the event of your incapacity/death are still appropriate and available to serve. Have a conversation with them to make sure that they still want to serve in the capacity that you are requesting.

8. Prepare a list of all financial accounts, credit cards,

insurance policies; income sources, including government benefits; outstanding loans owed to or by you. List the institution, type of account, contact number, approximate balance/amount of income and frequency. If there's online access, make sure to note the username and password. Indicate whether you get statements by email and whether any payments, coming in or going out, are auto-pay.

9. Prepare a list of all non-financial online accounts, including Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, and other social media, including username and passwords. Consider whether the account has a policy regarding death of the account holder and decide whether to act on it.

10. Get rid of all your junk. You do NOT need to retain all bank statements, pay



stubs, utility bills, etc. for your entire lifetime. Do your loved ones a huge favor: purge and shred.

Once you finish with the above list, maybe it will be time to go back to the gym, the office or get stuck in traffic. I, for one, will be ready!

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America for each of the last seven years. He is past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and past President of the New York Chapter of NAELA. Mr. Krooks has also served as chair of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. He has been selected as a "New York Super Lawyer" since 2006. Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.elderlawnewyork.com.

www.harrisonherald.com

The Music Business Taught at Manhattanville College

STAFF REPORT

In these unprecedented times, by pivoting to new technologies and teaching methods, Harvey Rachlin, who runs the Music Business and Music Internship Program at Manhattanville College in Purchase, is getting use to the new normal.

"It's a big adjustment to teach online nowadays. My lectures on the Music Business are the same as what they were in front of a room full of students. Your mindset goes from a classroom to a screen," he explains. "Manhattanville is so great. They send alternatives to what the best approach of teaching online is and they are very supportive. All students

can choose between getting pass/fail or letter grades."

The Larchmont resident started teaching full time at Manhattanville in 2008, though his career began as a writer after he graduated college. He wrote his first book in 1977, called *The Songwriters Handbook*. "I had a street education by working for a music publisher and record producer back then," he says.

From the music business and his love of writing, he branched out and is now the author of 13 books including the newly published *Song and System-The Making of American Pop Music*, published by Rowman and Littlefield and available at Amazon and Barnes and

Noble. "The book weaves the evolution of popular music with the Music business and it has been endorsed by numerous luminaries from the music world."

The award winning author has also written for various magazines and newspapers. "It took 2 years of research and writing to complete my new book," Rachlin mentions. "Tony Orlando, Bobby Rydell and Janis Ian all gave wonderful back cover reviews. I have been very fortunate to have gotten some great endorsements over the years."

Rachlin has even produced a syndicated cartoon, drawn by Steven Duquette, called *The Menschkins*, which dealt with a normal



Harvey Rachlin

Jewish family and ran for 4 years.

Now his agenda includes the writing of 2 new books. First, a non fiction

love story based in the 1700's. As a long time member of Chabad of Larchmont and Mararoneck, the other book will be a young adult story with a Jewish theme. "It's a real coming of age story of a boy who will soon be having his Bar Mitzvah," Rachlin reveals.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from writing. To compose a book, it takes a long time. I become so consumed as I get further into the writing," he adds.

"I am also proud that many of my Music Business majors who graduated from Manhattanville College, have gone on to careers in the Mu-

sic Business including entertainment attorneys and executives at record labels and licensing organizations."

The varied books by Harvey Rachlin include: *Song and System-The Making of American Pop Music*; *The Songwriter's Handbook*; *The Encyclopedia of the Music Business*; *Scandals, Vandals and DaVinci's*; *Jumbo's Hide, Elvis's Ride and the Tooth of Buddha*; *Lucy's Bones, Sacred Stones and Einstein's Brain*; *The Making of a Detective*; *The Songwriter's and Musician's Guide to Making Great Demos*; *The Money Encyclopedia*; *The Kennedy's: A Chronological History*; *The TV and Movie Business*; and *The Making of a Cop*.

NY State Executive Order Allows Westchester to Remove Property Tax Late Fees

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ing room regarding their payments of county taxes. This was simply the right thing to do, as businesses continue to navigate through this crisis."

New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald said, "Governor Andrew Cuomo and County Executive George Latimer deserve great credit for taking action to protect property taxpayers during this pandemic. For weeks I have been advocating to provide relief to taxpayers whose payments are coming due at a time when so many are struggling. As a tax attorney, I have always believed in standing up for taxpayers and this Executive Order helps Westchester residents who have lost their jobs or been forced to shut down their businesses."

Pelham Town Supervisor Dan McLaughlin said, "We believe the authorization to allow the waiver of penalties regarding the late payment of County and Town taxes is a recognition that these are unusual times and require unusual remedies where necessary. If the Town of Pelham has one or more residents that experience significant hardship as a result of COVID-19 and fall under the NY States definition of a hardship as a result of COVID-19 then we would surely support the waiver of penalties for late payment of County and Town



County Legislator Catherine Parker

taxes as outlined in the Governor's Executive order."

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said, "I have been in regular contact with the county on this and appreciate the work of the County Executive and his team to reach this resolution. Many don't realize that although we collect the taxes on behalf of the county they are not city taxes. Additionally, it is important to note that the city must guarantee payment to the county whether the individual taxpayer has made timely payment or not. It was our intent to waive the penalties but needed the legal structure to do so. That has now been provided."

Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker (District 7) said, "This solution by County Executive Latimer and Governor

Cuomo is going to help the people that lost their jobs, had to close their business and still provide relief for town governments. It is critical to those people to eliminate late penalties for being unable to pay taxes due to the COVID-19 crisis."

Westchester County Legislator Terry Clements (District 11) said, "In response to New York State residents who find themselves in circumstances they could never imagine, I am pleased a New Executive Order has been signed. I would like to thank County Executive George Latimer and Governor Andrew Cuomo in amending the Westchester County Tax Law. This Executive Order applies uniformly to all residents, business owners and municipalities providing tax relief during this crisis. I realize going forward, we will continue to face unexpected challenges in Westchester, however this is a welcome partnership between County and State to serve all residents. Thanks again to all the County Legislators, Town Supervisors the County Executive and the Governor for their leadership as we collectively maneuver our current and future challenges as a result of COVID-19."

Guide to Absentee Ballot Voting for Westchester County

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or appearance to be able to access an absentee ballot.

A voter must check the box on the existing application for "temporary illness or physical disability." The request is for "Primary Election only."

Upon completion, the

application or letter of application must be: emailed, faxed or mailed to WCBOE no later than the seventh day before the election (June 6th) or delivered in person no later than the day before the election (June 22).

Upon receipt of your application for an absentee ballot at WCBOE, delivery of absentee ballots to voters will be by mail or in-person, regardless of how the application was submitted. No completed ballots will be accepted via email or fax.

Lawn Signs on Display to Support White Plains Hospital's Healthcare Heroes

The doctors, nurses and entire staff at White Plains Hospital have worked tirelessly to keep the community safe from COVID-19. In response to their heroic efforts, the Friends of White Plains Hospital have spearheaded an initiative to sell lawn signs to members of the community to support the Hospital's efforts against COVID-19.

The blue and white signs with inspirational messages like "Stay Strong" and "We Love You," help to rally the community behind essential healthcare workers and provide much-needed encouragement for those fighting on the front lines.

Lawn signs may be purchased through a tax deductible donation of \$50 or more and all proceeds will directly benefit the WPH COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Those interested in purchasing a lawn sign or donating to the White Plains Hospital COVID-19 Relief Fund can visit <https://www.wphospital.org/>



covid19help

White Plains Hospital is a proud member of the Montefiore Health System, serving as its tertiary hub of advanced care in the Hudson Valley. The Hospital is a 292-bed not-for-profit health care organization with the primary mission of providing exceptional acute and preventive medical care to

all people who live in, work in or visit Westchester County and its surrounding areas. White Plains Hospital has outpatient medical facilities across Westchester, including multispecialty practices in Armonk, New Rochelle, Somers and Yorktown Heights; and Scarsdale Medical Group locations in Harrison and Scarsdale. The Hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission and earned its recognition as a Top Performer for Key Quality Measures® in 2015 and 2013. The Hospital received Magnet® designation in 2012 and 2016 from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In 2014, 2016 and 2018, and 2019, White Plains Hospital received the Outstanding Patient Experience Award from Healthgrades® and in 2019, was the only Hospital in Westchester to be named Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. <http://www.wphospital.org>

Sewing is Two Thirds of a Way Done for Metropolis Sunrise

"One of the most endearing things about the arts is its power to bring people together. That's what we had in mind when we initiated a major public art project that would be sewn by many hands in the community," Janet T. Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester recently noted.

Referring to the monumental work of public art called Metropolis Sunrise being assembled at the ArtsWestchester Building in White Plains, Langsam conveyed that due to social distancing and Covid-19, more



Amanda Browder

time is needed to complete the public art project by artist Amanda Browder.

"While the unveiling of the work was originally scheduled for May 2020, we now need to move the installation date forward to allow time to complete the work. Once it is safe to gather, we will resume sewing sessions. In the meantime, we are considering the feasibility of some "Zoom" sewing sessions," Lansam adds.

"Collectively, we have sewn an incredible 6,500 square-feet of fabric, which means that we are two-thirds

of the way towards completing our goal of sewing 10,000 square-feet! We have rallied a staggering number of volunteers—some 400 individuals—and partners. Metropolis Sunrise is fundamentally, an expression of a community working together to bring beauty and vibrancy to their shared living space. During these times, such connectivity is more important than ever. ArtsWestchester will continue to find ways of connecting around public art-making and placemaking."

Last year, ArtsWestches-

ter commissioned Brooklyn textile artist Amanda Browder to design and fabricate a colorful, quilt like, textile sculpture, to be draped from the top of the 9 story Arts building at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Hoping for a May 2020 unveiling, the project has been pushed back so that the sewing can be completed.

Browder is known for her large scale installations on building exteriors and public sites. "I am in love with the transformative nature of materials and how the combi-

nation of the familiar creates abstract relationships about place," she explains.

"The overarching goal is to involve individuals and groups in the mystery of creation. Volunteerism of local citizens and artists is a segue to creating familiarity in contemporary art as well as individual nature of the neighborhood itself."

The project is made possible with the support of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and The New York State Legislature.

Latest Coronavirus Impact on Real Estate Report

Nearly 3 in 4 Realtors® currently working with sellers during the third week of April, - 74% - ,reported their clients haven't reduced listing prices to attract buyers, according to a new survey from the National Association of Realtors®. This suggests interested home sellers are remaining calm and avoiding panic selling during the uncertain economic environment brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Consumers are mostly abiding by stay-in-shelter directives, and it appears the current decline in buyer and seller activity is only temporary, with a majority ready to hit the market in a couple of months," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "The housing market faced an inventory shortage before the pandemic. Given that there are even fewer new listings during the pandemic, home sellers are taking a calm approach and appear unwilling to lower prices to attract buyers during the temporary disruptions to the economy."

NAR's latest Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted April 19-20, 2020, asked members how the coronavirus outbreak has impacted the residential and commercial real estate markets. Several highlights include:

More than a quarter of Realtors®, 27%, said they were able to complete nearly all as-

pects of transactions while respecting social distancing. The most common technology tools used to communicate with clients are e-signatures, social media, messaging apps and virtual tours.

Residential tenants are facing rent payment issues, but many delayed payment requests are being accommodated. Forty-seven percent of property managers reported being able to accommodate tenants who cannot pay rent, a 6% increase from a week prior. Nearly a quarter of individual landlords, 24%, said the same, unchanged from previous week.

NAR also released its 2020 Animal House: Pets in the Home Buying and Selling Process report, which analyzes Realtor® recommendations and actions taken by home buyers and sellers to best accommodate their pets and present their homes in the best light. Several highlights include:

More than 4 in 10 U.S. households, 43%, would be willing to move to better accommodate their pets, demonstrating that this is a priority among consumers.

Almost 1 in 5 recent home buyers, 18%, said it was very important that their new neighborhood is convenient to a vet or near outdoor space for their pets.

A majority of Realtors® clients, 68%, said a communi-

ty's animal policy influenced their decision to rent or buy.

"As households in the U.S. pursue comfort, companionship, and home entertainment, animal shelters were cleared out in many cities," said Jessica Lautz, NAR vice president of demographics and behavioral insights. "These pet adoptions could lead to future home sales as families seek to accommodate the best living spaces for their four-legged family members."

View NAR's 2020 Animal House: Pets in the Home Buying and Selling Process report here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/research-reports/animal-house-pets-in-the-home-buying-and-selling-process>.

View NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey full report here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/research-reports/nar-flash-survey-economic-pulse>.

View NAR's Weekly Housing Market Monitor here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/weekly-housing-market-monitor>.

The National Association of Realtors® is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

A Takeout Taste of Harrison

The Harrison Public Library is making an effort to support local restaurants.

They are asking residents to order take-out or delivery from a participating restaurant on the Harrison Public Library website, harrisonpl.org, and post a photo to Instagram or Facebook of you and your family enjoying a meal from a participating Harrison restaurant.

Be sure to tag the library on Facebook: @harrisonlibrary or Instagram: @harrisonpubliclibrary and use the hashtag #TakeOutTasteofHarrison.

After you post, you will automatically be entered for a chance to win a weekly prize of



a \$50 gift card to a restaurant of your choice.

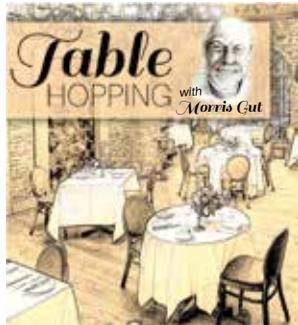
The Gift card is courtesy of the Harrison Public Library

Foundation. For questions call 835-0324 or text 559-2784 on Mondays to Fridays, 9:30 am to 5pm.

At Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Displays New York Tough



On April 23, Governor Cuomo said, "Healthcare professionals and essential workers are the ones on the front lines every day carrying us through this crisis. New Yorkers owe their lives to these true heroes who define what it means to be 'New York Tough,' and remind us that even if it is a long day, love wins - always. On the night of April 23, the windows of the Corning Tower are illuminated with New York Tough in their honor."



dramatically. Earlier in March we were going out to our favorite restaurants and pubs at leisure, mingling with the crowds, and taking in a favorite cocktail and meal.

Suddenly, this all changed. Restaurants, taverns and bars have been mandated by Gov. Cuomo to only remain open for take-out and delivery service if they choose to, until 8 p.m. Wine and liquor included, thanks to a temporary reprieve from the New York State Liquor Authority. While you still may be able to get that favorite dish to take home, many eateries have also had to limit their menus, staff, and hours to save money, inventory, and waste.

The good news is that people are getting back into their home kitchens again in big numbers, sizing up their pantries, and firing up the home stove. The coronavirus crisis has moved us to become better

cooks.

Essential food markets and shops have been working hard to live up to the new health guidelines, and are open within designated hours. Some markets have even instituted special senior shopping times, usually in the early morning, for those of us who are deemed most vulnerable. Markets include: Stop & Shop, CTown, Key Food, Aldi, DeCicco & Sons, Walmart, Costco, Whole Foods, Stew Leonard's, Acme, Trader Joe's, BJ's Warehouse, Fairway and Shop Rite.

In general, it is best to shop during off-peak hours. Some markets maintain in-house delivery service for those who do not wish to venture out. There are also the larger market delivery services like: Peapod, Instacart, and Fresh Direct. Be prepared to wait for a slot, as they are backed up due to increased demand. (Things

are changing quickly right now, so check ahead during these fluid times.)

Dusting off some of the old cookbooks you have sitting on the shelf is a good idea. A refresher, of sorts. While you may have retained some recipes to memory, you might want to take this opportunity to move your culinary knowledge forward. Perhaps get a little more creative. It helps pass the time during isolation. The palatal rewards can be credible. For example, inspired by the recent Julia Child Celebration airing on PBS, we took to preparing her famous French Onion Soup. It was a delight!

There are other resources as well in this age of technology. You can stream thru many culinary/cooking websites offering recipes and cooking tips. Bestselling cookbook authors like Ina Garten, Lidia Bastianich, Martha Stewart, Jacques Pepin, Bobby Flay, Giada DeLaurentis, Pioneer Woman, and Smitten Kitchen, have their own websites filled with tips and videos. There is live streaming on some of

these sites so you can watch how a dish is prepared. Food magazines and newspapers have websites devoted to home cooking. One of the best is the New York Times Cooking website. It is behind a paywall, but if you subscribe there is a whole world of culinary inside. The King Arthur Flour website is great for cooking and baking tips. Chowhound.com maintains a large cooking section. You can weigh in with questions and thoughts on their forums. There are sites for novice cooks as well as the more advanced.

Cooking shows are also found on the Food Network, PBS, Create TV, The Cooking Channel, and Z Living. Two favorites: The Kitchen on the Food Network, Christopher Kimball's Milk Street and America's Test Kitchen on PBS. YouTube offers a great variety of cooking video classes, from home-grown to professional. Look them up according to subject and cuisine. In fact, with just a little extra research online, you can access cooking tips for almost every cuisine.

Most importantly, maintain good hygiene in the kitchen, while at the market and elsewhere. When shopping, do your best to practice social distancing. When you get home, be sure to wash up.

Addendum: If you are an obsessed foodie like I am, use some of your free time to entertain yourself. Watch or re-watch food-themed film classics: Big Night, Chocolat, Babette's Feast, Tampopo, John Favreau's Chef, Julie & Julia, Sideways, The Hundred Foot Journey, Burnt, and one of my favorites, the animated Ratatouille. Throw in Crazy Rich Asians for those dump-ling making scenes.

Stay Safe!

(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. Email: gutreactions@optonline.net)

Home Cooking Makes Big Comeback During Coronavirus Crisis!

Social distancing, stay-home, shelter-in-place, and self-quarantine are the new normal in many areas right now. We have had to change our daily lifestyles in dramatic ways in what seems a very short period of time. Our eating habits have been affected

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Thanks You!

“A **hero** is an ordinary individual who finds **the strength** to persevere and endure in spite of **overwhelming obstacles.**”

Christopher Reeve



Healthcare Workers
Cleaning Crews
Testing Facilities
National Guard
Food Distributors
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