Town Recognizes 2015 National Merit Scholarship Finalist

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Town Supervisor Ron Belmont presented a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of the Town Board to 2015 National Merit Scholarship Finalist Catherine Rocchi at the Board meeting on Thursday, May 7.

“As it has become our custom to recognize the many accomplishments of our young people, I am proud to present a Certificate of Achievement to Catherine Rocchi, a 2015 National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate, a member of the National Honor Society, National Italian Honor Society, achieving many awards for her study of the Italian language.

“In addition, Catherine is a Harrison High School Band Drum Major, member of the HHS Orchestra in many of their musical productions; a three-sport athletic scholar and captain of Cross Country and Track teams. She will be attending Dartmouth College,” Belmont proudly stated.

In other business, the Board honored a request by Library Director Galina Chernykh for funds amounting to $30,000 to be transferred from the Library Fund Balance to the Library Renovation Fund in order to pay for the Children's Room Decor in the Harrison Public Library.

Councillman Fred Sciliano gave an update on the status of the Library. “It is on schedule. The opening is going to be in August. Most of the carpeting is down, with painting, audio-visual and telecommunications wiring being installed,” Sciliano noted.

Next, Building Inspector Robert Fitzsimmons requested authorization to schedule a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 4 in regards to 27 Century Ridge Road, the referenced property and structure having been declared unsafe and dangerous for occupancy.

In Village Board business, the Board approved a Purchase Order amounting to $79,964.16 to obtain refuse containers available for purchase by residents on routes of the new automated garbage pickup equipment.

Westchester Wins Legal Victory against HUD

Westchester County won another legal victory in its battle with the Department of Housing and Urban Development when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted the county an injunction that prohibits the federal agency from reallocating to other communities approximately $10 million in grants that had been designated for Westchester.

The May 1 ruling follows a prior Second Circuit victory for the county in February. County Executive Robert P. Astorino went to court challenging HUD's decision to withhold funds from the county simply on the agency's assertion that the county was not in compliance with the 2009 federal housing settlement, approved by Astorino's predecessor, which calls for developing 750 units of affordable housing in 31 communities by the end of next year.

Astorino contended that the county was in compliance with the settlement and that any contention that it was not is for the courts to decide. The Second Circuit unanimously agreed with Westchester County, saying HUD's actions were subject to "judicial review."

Over the course of the dispute, HUD has reallocated roughly $10 million designated for Westchester for the years 2011 and 2012 to other communities. The decision prohibits HUD from reallocating another $10 million for 2013 and 2014 that it is currently withholding from the county.

“In February, the court said HUD was subject to the law just like everyone else,” said Astorino. “Today it's saying HUD has no right to give away the money at the heart of the court case. Both decisions are victories for Westchester and for the country against an aggressive and overreaching federal government.”

On May 8, the Housing monitor overseeing the settlement said there could still be violations and fines for the county.

Large Crowd Turns Out for Andrew Gurgitano Memorial Baseball Game

Over 500 people turned out to honor Andrew Gurgitano on May 2 as the Harrison Varsity Baseball team hosted the Garnets of Rye in the First Annual Andrew Gurgitano Memorial Game at Silver Lake Park in West Harrison. Gurgitano, a diligent student and a competitive pitcher for the Harrison High School team, passed away from natural causes in November 2014 at the age of 16. A warm, caring, kind-hearted person, known for his easy going spirit, was passionate about his friends, family and his love of baseball.

His positive energy, determination and enthusiasm inspired his teammates and all who knew him. Gurgitano's integrity and sportsmanship on and off the field, made him an outstanding role model in the community.

Recipients of the Andrew Gurgitano Memorial Scholarship were Sam Lubeck of Rye and Michael Pizzutello of Harrison, both seniors.
**Rye, P.O. New York**

Set back behind private gates, this Contemporary 6 BR, 9 Bth estate on 2.2 acres offers grand living in an open floor concept setting. The LR w/fpl leads to a Sun Room, Study and add’l LR all looking over the exquisite gardens, new sunken tennis court, free form pool, hot tub and outdoor pavilion. LL offers 2 workout rooms, FR w/Fpl, billiard and ping pong room, expansive bar with seating for 10. 2 add’l Bths. 3-car garage, 8-zone heat/CAC, electric gates, sound/alarm system. $7,999,000

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**PurCHASE, New York**

Stately Purchase Retreat on .9 private acres with in-ground heated pool and cabana located in prestigious Lincoln Rise, with 24 hour concierge, tennis, within close proximity to the finest Country Clubs Westchester has to offer. This 5 BR, 5 1/2 bath, Custom Colonial offers 7500 sqft of comfortable, modern living with an open floor plan rich in architectural details. This exquisite home is close to transportation, shops, only 35 minutes from NYC. $3,695,000

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**Harrison, New York**

Lushly landscaped and set back from the road, this lovely home offers privacy in a serene setting in the Pleasant Ridge area. Grand entry leads to curved staircase to bedroom level. Formal dining room, Living room and Library/Den offer views of the pool and backyard. Large 3-season porch, Expansive Eat in Kitchen with mudroom, laundry and garage access. Lower level offers a rec room and access to the pool. 5 bedrooms and 4 1/2 baths. $1,349,000

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**Harrison, New York**

Prestigiously located in the heart of Sterling Ridge, this pristine 5 BR, 4 1/2 Bath home sits on 1.13 acres landscaped property. Elegant LR w/fpl leads to a stone deck, FDR & bright expansive EIK lead to stone patio overlooking the beautiful picturesque property. Cozy Den, BR/Bath, 2 BR’s & hall bath complete the second floor. Luxurious MBR Suite includes a dressing room, marble bath with CC, skylight, and whirlpool tub, Exercise/Office and custom walk-in closets. Walk-out lower level has a large FR with floor to ceiling windows, fireplace and wet bar. $1,795,000
From the Mayor’s Office and Town Hall

BY MAYOR RON BELMONT

I would like to take this time to recognize the Harrison Fire Department on their very successful Open House. Recently, the Department hosted this event and I was happy to see many friends and familiar faces enjoying the tours and exhibits. Special “hands-on” learning displays taught children important safety guidelines in preventing fires or evacuating buildings in the event of a fire. It was a very informative presentation and all those in attendance learned about the requirements and rewards that come with being a firefighter.

On Sunday, May 3rd, I had the pleasure of sampling our local chefs’ specialties at the Friends of the Public Library fundraiser, “A Taste of Harrison.” It was a very successful affair, as over 100 people came out to support this very worthwhile event. All proceeds will be used by the Friends of the Public Library, a not for profit organization, to support the Harrison Public Library. Thank you to all volunteers and attendees. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the participating restaurants for their generous contributions.

A special thank you also goes to Joe Marcone for driving the van, allowing for easy and convenient transportation to the participating venues.

One-on-one 45 minute computer help sessions will be available at the West Harrison Library every Tuesday afternoon at 3 pm and 4 pm in June. Topics covered in the sessions include email, Internet searching, Microsoft Office, downloading ebooks and audiobooks, Google Drive, and how to search Ancestry.com.

Also in May, the Harrison-Rye boy’s varsity baseball game was held as a memorial tribute to Andrew Gurgitano, a former student and baseball player who tragically passed away last year. Although Harrison lost to Rye, 3 to 2, the game was a wonderful example of compassion and sportsmanship. Over one thousand spectators attended and donations were collected for the Gurgitano Scholarship Foundation. It was an honor to witness the outpouring of support from both communities.

On Saturday, May 9th, World War II heroes of the Hudson Valley were honored with a special celebration. I would like to take this time to recognize West Harrison resident, Charles Demico who served in the military during World War II. He recently gathered with other regional honorees and traveled to the Westchester County Airport to board the Hudson Valley Honor Flight. From the airport, they flew to Washington DC and spent the day at the National World War II Memorial. It is an honor to pay tribute to these men and to thank them for their commitment to our country.

The Harrison Public Library is making great progress and the library renovation is tracking on schedule. The new front entrance is framed and is waiting for the aluminum and glass enclosure to be installed. All new mechanical, plumbing, fire suppression and electrical systems are completed. The interior is in the finishing stages, lighting, carpet millwork, bathrooms, and finish painting are being completed. The next step is installation of the audio visual and telecom wiring and equipment. New furniture has been ordered and expected delivery is in late June. The transformation is sure to be impressive and I’m eagerly awaiting the finished product.

On May 11, I had the honor of attending this year’s Westchester Government Relations Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the USA-Federation of New York and Westchester Jewish Council, at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison. The Council fosters communication among Jewish organizations and cultivates relationships with other ethnic groups, elected officials and the community at large. New York State Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul gave a very informative presentation on the economic state of Westchester County as well as issues surrounding anti-Semitic hate crimes.

The 2015 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship will be taking place at Westchester Country Club from June 9th to the 14th. On behalf of the residents of the Town/Village of Harrison, I welcomed the tournament to our community. The 2015 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship promises to be an exciting event and it is an honor to have this prestigious golf tournament take place in Harrison. The PGA and LPGA have earned the reputation of being premiere organizations, in the world of professional golf, and I am delighted to welcome them to town.

I am happy to report that Harrison was recently chartered as a new chapter of UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the country. UNICO’s objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, and their Italian heritage and culture, while supporting and assisting various charitable organizations. Each year, UNICO National contributes substantial sums to various charities. I look forward to seeing our local chapter participate in this very important association.

Memorial Day was celebrated this year on Monday, May 25, 2015 and the Town Board, along with our Parade Director, Ben DeFonce, U.S.M.C. Ret., participated in Harrison’s annual parade. We honored the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. The Parade route started from the corner of Halstead Avenue and Thatcher Avenue to Ma Riis Park as Veterans Groups, Harrison Police, Harrison Fire Departments, the Harrison High School Marching Band, the Harrison Ambulance Corps and other civic groups attended.

It was also a privilege to attend this year’s Westchester County Leadership Prayer Breakfast and meet with other local representatives and elected officials. This forum provides an opportunity to strengthen connections while affirming faith and sharing fellowship. It was a very uplifting event that unified all in attendance.
Vote Affirms Purchase Free Library Can Remain in Purchase Community House

On April 29, voting took place about the tenancy of the Purchase Free Library in the Purchase Community House at 3095 Purchase Street. It was a long night after the polls closed and it took a while for the Inspector to finish counting the ballots. The final vote count was 1006 for and 700 against.

The Library has prevailed on both resolutions. As such, the Purchase Community House will, as directed by the Members, negotiate a lease that will allow the Purchase Free Library to remain in the Community House.

The response by the community was extraordinary, with over half of all eligible members casting ballots. Justine Gaeta, President of the Community House's Board of Directors said, "We respect the wishes of the Members and will work with the Library's Board of Directors to negotiate a new lease. This has been a divisive issue, yet I am hopeful that we all can work constructively to reach an acceptable agreement which will benefit all the residents of Purchase."

The Community House and the Library stated that they now look forward to returning to the important task of serving the community. Both organizations thank everyone who voted, volunteered and took the time to discuss this important issue over the past months.

Lowey Announces Federal Actions to Prevent Sexual Assault on College Campuses

On May 5, Congresswoman Nita Lowey (Westchester/Rockland), the Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee – during a roundtable discussion with New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and Pace University administrators and students on Governor Andrew Cuomo's "Enough is Enough" campaign – announced actions she is taking at the federal level to prevent sexual assault among college students.

"No student should have to fear sexual assault on a college campus," said Lowey, "and parents deserve peace of mind that children away at college are as safe as possible. We must work together to make sure that institutions of higher learning have the resources to protect students. I'm proud to join Lt. Governor Hochul in supporting the Governor's 'Enough is Enough' campaign – announced actions she is taking at the federal level to prevent sexual assault among college students.

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Lowey was authorized to work with New York's participating hospital's billing system, copied certain items of personal information from that billing system and disclosed this information to a third party. The MML employee was immediately terminated and the company performed an extensive investigation and review.

The personal information disclosed by this employee included names, dates of birth and social security numbers. There is no indication that any information about medical history or medical treatment/services was disclosed. Those individuals whose personal information may have been disclosed during the employee's tenure with MML (February 2013 to March 2015) are being notified by mail and are being offered identity theft protection services at no cost through Kroll, a global leader in risk mitigation and response solutions. Affected individuals are encouraged to take other precautionary measures to protect their personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and/or Security Freeze on their accounts through a national credit bureau. Individuals should also carefully review all bills and account statements received and report any suspicious activity to the financial institution of the account at issue.

For questions regarding this matter, or to learn whether your personal information may be included in this incident, you may contact the dedicated Kroll call center that has been set up at 1-855-330-6364, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday.

White Plains Hospital Impacted by Data Theft

White Plains Hospital (“Hospital”) is one of several hospitals in New York that has been affected by a recent data breach that occurred via Medical Management, LLC (“MML”), a medical billing company that provides coding and billing services for the emergency department at the Hospital. Individuals who may have had information compromised are being notified by mail in full accordance with the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Breach Notification Rule, which requires HIPAA covered entities and their business associates to provide notification following a breach of personal information.

Federal law enforcement authorities informed MML on March 16, 2015 that a call center employee of MML, who was authorized to work within MML’s billing system, copied certain items of personal information from the billing system and disclosed this information to a third party. The MML employee was immediately terminated and the company performed an extensive investigation and review.

The personal information disclosed by this employee included names, dates of birth and social security numbers. There is no indication that any information about medical history or medical treatment/services was disclosed. Those individuals whose personal information may have been disclosed during the employee’s tenure with MML (February 2013 to March 2015) are being notified by mail and are being offered identity theft protection services at no cost through Kroll, a global leader in risk mitigation and response solutions. Affected individuals are encouraged to take other precautionary measures to protect their personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and/or Security Freeze on their accounts through a national credit bureau. Individuals should also carefully review all bills and account statements received and report any suspicious activity to the financial institution of the account at issue.

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Volunteer Leaders Honored at the 35th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards

Over 600 attendees filled the Westchester Marriott Hotel to have breakfast together on the last day of National Volunteer Month and celebrate the best and brightest volunteers in the community. The 35th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards recognized 8 honorees, including: The Westchester Clubmen, Sven Hoeger, Alison Bergman, Jacqueline Casagnol, RN, MSN, PMC, The Sister-in-Law Accompaniment Program of My Sisters’ Place, Linking Handlebars and Sandra Goldstein Lehnart.

"Every year these awards bring our volunteer, non-profit, and for-profit partners closer together," said Volunteer New York! Executive Director, Alisa H. Kesten.

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Volunteer New York! Board Vice Chair Susan Kushner, 2015 Legacy Award Recipient Mark Rollins, and Volunteer New York! Executive Director, Alisa H. Kesten
Local Author Discusses Work/Life Balance

UJA-Federation of New York's Westchester Women's Philanthropy heard from Susie Orman Schnall, author of On Grace and The Balance Project on Wednesday, May 6th, at Congregation Emanu-El in Rye. More than 50 women came to hear Schnall, who lives in Purchase, discuss work/life balance and the reality about “having it all.” The gathering also had the opportunity to learn about UJA-Federation’s critical and caring work and the 4.5 million people it helps each year. “An umbrella organization like UJA-Federation helps all of us to address all of the issues, and give to all the causes we feel passionate about,” said Karen Sobel, who chaired the event with Staci Friedwald and Allison Wohl, all of Purchase.

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UPCOMING

The West Harrison Library, 2 Madison Street presents the following: Summer Reading Game 2015 – June 29 through July 29; Teen Summer Reading Group every Thursday during the month of July from 2:30 to 3:30pm; and volunteer to read to children (for 13 years and older) to earn community service hours from June 26 through July 30. For complete details call 948-2092 or visit harrisonpl.org

Outdoor Summer Concerts at Memorial Park in Larchmont are as follows: July 6 – Alive N’ Kickin; July 13 – Stax of Soul; July 20 – Back to the Garden 1969; and July 27 – The 70’s Project. All concerts are free and begin at 7pm. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be re-scheduled when possible. Call 381-7865 for updates.

Learn-to-Swim classes will be held at Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains from July 7 through July 31. Visit westchestergov.com/parks for complete details.

The Neuberger Museum of Art in White Plains from July 7 and begin at 7pm. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be re-scheduled when possible. Call 381-7865 for updates.

Learn-to-Swim classes will be held at Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains from July 7 through July 31. Visit westchestergov.com/parks for complete details.

In June, Cultural Heritage Festivals in Westchester County are as follows: African-American on June 28 from noon to 7pm at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla; and Irish-American on June 28 from noon to 6pm at Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale. For more information call 864-PARK or visit parks.westchester.gov

The Manhattanville College’s Castle Conversations speaker series, presented by Mastercard features Dan Rather speaking in a private home on June 24 at 7pm. For details, call 323-1277 or visit castleconversations.org.

On June 14 at 2pm, the Westchester Community College Celebrity Salon Series continues with Randall Lane in a dialogue on the future of the media and how Forbes Magazine tailors all those lists at a postmodern home in Larchmont. RSVP by calling 606-6558.

On June 14 at 5pm, the Westchester Community College Celebrity Salon Series continues with Randall Lane in a dialogue on the future of the media and how Forbes Magazine tailors all those lists at a postmodern home in Larchmont. RSVP by calling 606-6558.

On June 20 at 8:30pm, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts presents the 70th Anniversary Opening Night Performance featuring newly commissioned work by Christopher Theofanidis performed by the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. Visit caramoor.org for details.

On June 14 at 3pm, the Westchester Philharmonic presents Danail Rachev conducting and Joshua Roman on cello in the Concert Hall at the Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase. Call 682-3707 for tickets and information or visit westchestephil.org for details.

On June 20 from 6 to 9pm, the Westchester County Parks will take place on the following dates: June 25 from 6 to 9pm – Super Smash Bros for Wii U Tournament in the Village Center (registration required) and June 17 at 11am or 2:30pm & June 18 at 6:30pm – Larchmont New Movie Matinee: American Sniper at the Village Center. Call 834-2281 or visit larchmontlibrary.org for details.

Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue presents the following: June 25 from 6 to 9pm – Super Smash Bros for Wii U Tournament in the Village Center (registration required) and June 17 at 11am or 2:30pm & June 18 at 6:30pm – Larchmont New Movie Matinee: American Sniper at the Village Center. Call 834-2281 or visit larchmontlibrary.org for details.

Volunteer drivers are needed by At Home on the Sound, the aging-in-place organization serving older adults in Mamaroneck and Larchmont. The drivers take senior citizens to their local appointments, on errands or shopping. For information, call 899-3150 or visit athomeonesthesound.org.

A support group for people who are dealing with retirement, aging, handling free time, family relationships, health and other issues will meet bi-monthly on Mondays from 1 to 2:30pm at the Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 Boston Post Road. Call 834-7774 for details.

The Greater Westchester Orchid Society meets at the Harrison Community Center, 216 Halstead Avenue, Harrison on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Those interested are asked to contact Cordelia Dirlam at 973-420-4966.

At 8pm, the Westchester Symphony Orchestra performs a concert that features a variety of classical music selections. The concert will take place at the Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase. Call 682-3707 for tickets and information or visit westchestephil.org for details.

The Village of Mamaroneck Fireman’s Carnival will be held at Harbor Island Park from June 26 through July 5. The Firemen’s Parade will take place July 1 at 7pm going down Mamaroneck Avenue. For more information, call 777-7784.

The Village of Larchmont Recreation Committee presents the Larchmont Run, “Sprint to Fling Fun Run and 5K” taking place in Fleet Park, Larchmont with a 1-mile fun run beginning at 6pm and the 5K starts at 6:45pm. Register at villageoflarchmont.org

At 3:30pm, The Sound presents the Westchester Winds in a program entitled, “Musical Postcards from Near and Far” at the Larchmont Avenue Church, 60 Forest Park Avenue. Call 630-1873 or 899-3150 for additional information.

At 3:30pm, The Japanese Women’s Chorus Hanamizuki and Ensemble VIVO Concert will be held at the Harrison Presbyterian Church, 181 Harrison Avenue. For details, email hanamizuky@gmail.com

From 7 to 10pm, the Rockland Community College Celebrity Salon Series continues with Randall Lane in a dialogue on the future of the media and how Forbes Magazine tailors all those lists at a postmodern home in Larchmont. RSVP by calling 606-6558.

At 7:30pm, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District Board Meeting will take place in the Tiered Classroom at MHS honoring retirees and presenting the Rockefeller Arts Awards.
Plastic: Art in an Era of Material Innovation Now on View at The Neuberger Museum of Art

In the 1967 film The Graduate, Mr. McGuire dispenses fatherly advice to recent college graduate Benjamin Braddock. “I want to say one word to you, Benjamin. Just one word. Are you listening? Plastics! There’s a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?”

He did. So did many of America’s artists, who, fascinated by the technology, seized on its potential and incorporated the material into their work as technological and commercial developments in plastics flourished.

Plastic was malleable, thin, translucent, lightweight, and could be stretched together or spliced, glued, melted, colored, and molded. For artists and designers, plastic in all its forms promised the possibility of creating unprecedented forms. At the same time, as it became the “material of modernity,” plastic was embraced as a vehicle to comment on ideas about disposability, as society began to use synthetics for everyday objects and then just throw them away.

So, whether encouraged by industry, or responding to behavior, or just excited by plastics’ inherent qualities, artists created works that showcased the medium’s diverse, expressive, and complex qualities.

Now until August 23, 2015, the Neuberger Museum of Art will present Plastic: Art in an Era of Material Innovation, an exhibition drawn from the Museum’s permanent collection of more than thirty works dating from the late 1950s to the early 1970s that were fabricated from, epoxy, Plexiglas, polystyrene, polyurethane, vinyl and other synthetics by approximately 20 artists including Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Louise Nevelson, LeRoy Lamin, and Robert Rauschenberg. The styles range from Conceptualism and Minimalism to Op and Pop Art, and illustrate artists’ fascination with new materials and their desire to comment on its implications.

“Spanning the dominant art movements of the mid-twentieth century, the show demonstrates the unique versatility and dominance of plastic in art at its apex,” explains Grace Converse, exhibition curator and a Neuberger Curatorial Fellow and graduate student in the Purchase College MA Program in Art History, Criticism, and Theory. “While negative connotations about plastic being a cheap medium and the use of it for that very reason are polemical, we want to embrace the negative as part of the conversation.”

During World War II, the push to create new industrial materials encouraged the chemical industry to develop new synthetic materials. “A paradigm for innovation was set: if it could be imagined, it could be created,” notes Converse. “Because artists of the time were not confined by imperatives to make better consumer or military products, they were able to more fully explore the material’s potential and question the ramifications of its use...The fact that plastic was a manifestation of chemical and technological innovation, it [became that much more] appealing to many artists. Working with the material...allowed them to participate in, reflect upon, and actively shape the course of this new technological development.”

By the 1960s, the excitement about using synthetic plastic to make art reached a fevered pitch. As artists experimented with the shapes, colors, textures, dimensions, and luminosities made possible by this medium, exhibitions specifically focused on art and plastic abounded across the United States. And while certain critics hesitated in celebrating the use of synthetic materials, artists explored its exceptional properties and the plastics industry’s inherent qualities, artists actively shape the course of innovation was set: if it could be imagined, it could be created... The plastic was a manifestation of chemical and technological innovation, it [became that much more] appealing to many artists. Working with the material...allowed them to participate in, reflect upon, and actively shape the course of this new technological development.”

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The Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York is the premier museum of modern, African, and contemporary art in the Westchester/Fairfield County area. The Museum is located at 735 Anderson Hill Road in Purchase, Call 914-251-6100 for more information. www.neuberger.org

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Listing Agent: Maria Stilo, 914.393.5318

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Listing Agent: Maria Stilo, 914.393.5318

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$779,000 • MLS: 4516005
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8 Hunter Drive, Rye Brook
$750,000 • MLS: 4516648
Listing Agent: Julia Brasesco, 914.450.8338

33 Talcott Road, Rye Brook
$749,000 • MLS: 4515429
Listing Agent: Carol Labi, 914.980.3833

33 Talcott Road, Rye Brook
$899,000 • MLS: 4519418
Listing Agent: Marcia Rogull, 914.325.3618

11 Valley Ridge Road, Harrison
$2,295,000 • MLS: 4507316
Listing Agent: Christy Murphy, 914.262.7123

60 Haviland Lane, White Plains
$1,695,000 • MLS: 4501999
Listing Agent: Linda Darre, 914.921.9218

23 Shelley Lane, West Harrison
$1,575,000 • MLS: 4502015
Listing Agent: M. Madorsky, 914.649.5682
Listing Agent: G. Bronstein, 914.262.7914

2 Shelley Lane, West Harrison
$2,375,000 • MLS: 4502015
Listing Agent: M. Madorsky, 914.649.5682
Listing Agent: G. Bronstein, 914.262.7914

3 Talcott Road, Rye Brook
$899,000 • MLS: 4519418
Listing Agent: Marcia Rogull, 914.325.3618

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Listing Agent: Marcia Rogull, 914.325.3618

1152 Old White Plains Rd., Mamaroneck
$2,375,000 • MLS: 4524041
Listing Agent: Virginia Leone, 914.374.0318

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Listing Agent: Marcia Rogull, 914.325.3618

1 Valley Ridge Road, Harrison
$2,295,000 • MLS: 4507316
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MILTON HARBOR – Beautiful water vistas and great privacy distinguish this outstanding Milton Point home. Cloistered on 1.2 acres, enjoying significant water frontage and direct water access. WEB# WM1136797 | RYE | $9,900,000

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MILTON POINT JEWEL BOX – Overlooking Rye’s picturesque harbor, this completely renovated 5000 square foot home has it all. Stunning 2-story glass living room, country kitchen, private pool and deck. WEB# WM1143037 | RYE | $4,250,000

IDEAL LOCATION – Prestigious Westchester Country Club grounds. Stately five-bedroom English Tudor set on 1.5 acres. Built with timeless quality and rich architectural details. WEB# WM1131524 | RYE P.O. | $3,600,000

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ON A CUL-DE-SAC – Expansive estate set on 2.39 acres on a cul-de-sac with fenced in-ground pool and pool house. This 6400+ square foot home offers a fabulous floor plan and high ceilings. WEB# WM1141081 | RYE P.O. | $2,395,000

DESIRABLE STERLING RIDGE – Classic Center Hall Colonial set on one beautifully landscaped acre in Sterling Ridge. Elegant formal rooms, four fireplaces, family room and renovated kitchen. WEB# WM1072823 | HARRISON | $1,995,000

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William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby’s International Realty Holds Annual Networking Event

William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby’s International Realty, the premier luxury real estate firm serving Connecticut’s Fairfield County, Litchfield County and Shoreline markets, Berkshire County, Mass., and Westchester County, announced that it recently held its annual company event. All agents company-wide were invited to attend the event, which included networking with fellow associates and key sponsors in the event’s Vendor Alley, and presentations delivered by senior leaders as well as representatives from Neutrino Inc., the innovators behind the design of the firm’s new luxury real estate website.

The theme of the event was “NEXT,” chosen to reflect the company’s confidence in using the unparalleled marketing reach, tools and networking strength of the Sotheby’s International Realty brand to conquer everything that is coming next for the future of real estate.

“NEXT was an inspiring event for our company and our agents,” said Paul Breunich, President and CEO of William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby’s International Realty. “At the Vendor Alley, agents were able to gain referrals and foster connections with future business contacts, while at the same time, meet representatives from some of our key sponsors, where they gained valuable knowledge about new technology and marketing products. The presentations shared positive overviews of the past year, future initiatives, as well as many exciting company updates. When Neutrino came onto the stage, it was thrilling to see and feel all the positive energy surrounding the upcoming launch of our new website. The technology and innovation witnessed during the event was truly amazing, and I am eager and prepared for all that is next for this great brand.”

In Neutrino’s presentation, the creators of the new site themselves walked all attendees through the many features, redesigns, enhanced functions and advantages of the powerful and improved luxury real estate website.

Breunich discussed the current state of the company and the market, recent accomplishments, additions to the team, new initiatives for the coming year and a recap of the extensive progress the firm has made over recent years.

Additional presenters included President of Building and Land Technology (BLT) Paul J. Kuehner, who spoke about BLT’s current projects in Stamford, Conn., and William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby’s International Realty Chief Operating Officer Vin Socci.

“I was pleased to present the launch of our new luxury website alongside the masterminds behind the freshly designed, innovative site,” said Socci. “Responses and feedback were tremendous, further verifying the benefits of holding an annual networking event, where agents and other members of our worldwide affiliate network can come together to share advice, contacts, resources, as well as learn about all that our company has to offer.”

“NEXT” was held on May 5, 2015 at the Hilton Stamford, located at One First Stamford Place in Stamford, Conn.

Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men at Lyndhurst

The great detective Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are on the case at RidleyThorpe Manor (the manor is played by historic Lyndhurst Mansion). The classic mystery is given a special period flavor as it takes place throughout the beautiful Lyndhurst mansion. Performances are June 19 through 28, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Tickets are $35.00 for adults and $20.00 for seniors and children (16 and under) and are available at Lyndhurst.org or by calling 888-71-TICKETS. Group sales available at 914-303-6840.

Sherlock Holmes (Tal Aviezer) and Doctor Watson (Joe Lau reiro) are called upon to solve an odd case. Mr. Hilton Cubitt (Michael Muldoon) is baffled when childish drawings of little dancing men mysteriously appear in and around his beautiful country estate in Darbyshire, terrifying his young American wife (Zoey Rutherford). Are the strange drawings a bizarre prank, or a warning of deadly danger? Join the cast for an original dramatic adaption of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic story as they explore Lyndhurst mansion, a true Gothic revival country house in the heart of the Hudson Valley, for the clues to unravel one of Holmes’ most thrilling adventures.

Lyndhurst, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is a Gothic Revival masterpiece on the banks for the Hudson River in Tarrytown at 635 South Broadway (Route g). For more information about Lyndhurst, visit Lyndhurst.org.
Lieutenant Governor Hochul Guest Speaker at UJA Federation/WJC Legislative Breakfast

By Stephen E. Lipken

Deborah Abrahams Weiner, UJA Federation Westchester Government Relations Chairperson welcomed over 100 citizens from Westchester and outlying Jewish communities to the Annual Westchester Government Relations Legislative Breakfast at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (UCCH) on Friday, May 8, co-sponsored by UJA Federation and Westchester Jewish Council (WJC).

“This breakfast is an opportunity for the Jewish community and its leadership to hear from our elected officials, key decision makers from local, regional and national governments and for them to hear our priorities and concerns,” Weiner said.

“Few things in a democracy are more important than being informed. In this age of ‘Tweeting’ it is nice to hear from those in government who are fast at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (UCCH) and the City of Rye.

With Eliot Engel we are pleased and honored to be present listening to the odd couple because we work so well together and stand united behind U.S.-Israel relations, global security and Israel at the United Nations.

With Eliot Engel we founded a Congressional Task Force for combating anti-Semitism, not only in Europe but on our college campuses,” Lowey stressed.

Engel averred, “Iran has eclipsed the Israel/Palestinian conflict. I believe in a two-state solution with separation for security. The Sunni Arab states had trade relationships with Israel before the Mosaic blew up some terrorist sites and they backed off. But the Iranian ambassador told me, ‘Listen to Israel. Listen to the Egyptians.’ Mentioning Israel means there is a chance for potential agreement.”

Guest speaker Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul warned that terrorists not only stem from our southern border but Canada as well. “There is a Hezbollah threat in Toronto; four bridge crossings could bring them to New York.”

On an optimistic note, Hochul mentioned Economic Development Councils instituted by Governor Andrew Cuomo and Westchester County’s enviable 4.7% unemployment rate. “We want to raise the minimum wage. You cannot raise a family on $16,000 a year,” Hochul added.

Rye Meeting House Receives Award

The Preservation League of New York State has selected Rye Meeting House: Sustainable Preservation, Ecology and Conservation in Westchester County to receive an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League’s statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“The transformation of the once-neglected Rye Meeting House illustrates the importance of history to the citizens of Rye,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “From use as a house of worship by Methodist and Episcopal Congregations and Quaker Meetings, through its decline at the turn of this century, to its rebirth under the stewardship of a local not-for-profit group, this small building has weathered many storms – literally and figuratively. Now, the Rye Meeting House is once again a vibrant community center, and better prepared to withstand the challenges of a changing coastal environment.”

The project team included Walter Sedovic and Jill Gotthelf of Walter Sedovic Architects; Anne Stillman, President, Committee to Save the Bird Homestead; Hon. Frank J. Culross, City Manager; Rye; Edward Stanley, Edward Stanley Engineers; Alison Beall, Marshlands Conservancy; Thomas P. Clemmens, Clemco Construction & Restoration and Vladimir P. Blair, Mace Contracting Corp. The project received public funding and support from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Save America’s Treasures: the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Environmental Protection Funds; and the City of Rye.

Rye Meeting House was built in 1830 as a one-room schoolhouse and was moved to its present location in 1867. In 2002, when the City of Rye took ownership, the building was abandoned and in serious disrepair. Now, the foundation, clapboard siding and windows have been repaired, and the building is painted in its historic colors. The roof and clerestory windows have been restored, and the operable windows at the ceiling now provide relief from summertime heat without electricity. The building provides an object lesson in restoration, sustainability and shoreline resiliency.

“Rye Meeting House embodies the phrase ‘Good things come in small packages,’” said Walter Sedovic, AIA LEED. “Through the process of its restoration, it has grown more vital as a forum for the region’s architecture, natural history and educational communities. Though diminutive, this site resonates with the most profound issues defining preservation today: adaptability, resiliency, sustainability, economy, environmental stewardship and authenticity. It is a jewel, and we are pleased and honored to be associated with it, and with this award.”

The awards were presented at the Preservation League’s Awards Ceremony in New York City on Wednesday, May 13th at the historic New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street.
### Gift Tax Rules for New Yorkers

**BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY**

There is so much misinformation (and misunderstanding) around gift taxes that we thought we would take a few moments and try to straighten out the confusion. For starters, let’s just say that if you live in New York and don’t have more than about $5 million, you probably don’t actually care very much about gift taxes. Now let us explain why New York doesn’t have a gift tax. While we do have an estate tax for those who have more than $3,125,000, that number is scheduled to increase to $5,250,000 in 2017 and to approximately $9,000,000 in 2019. Nevertheless, there is no New York State gift tax no matter how large your estate. Federal law does impose a gift tax on certain transfers; however, there is no such law that you can make a gift of up to $14,000 per year, but anything over that is prohibited.

The magical $14,000 figure is just that—magical. Congress has set as being too small to even bother thinking about. Nonetheless, it has a strong hold on the public imagination—even though the number has only been set at $14,000 since 2013. The “don’t even think about it” number was $3,000 for four decades before rising to $10,000 in 1982; it started increasing in $1,000 increments in 2002 and will probably rise to $15,000 within the next couple of years.

In calculating whether you have made gifts of over $14,000, by the way, the federal government gives you three important additional benefits:

- The $14,000 figure applies to gifts to each person, not the total amount of gifts in a year. Do you have three children you want to make gifts to? No problem. You can give each of them $14,000 this year, for a total of $42,000, without having reached the threshold.
- Are you married? It’s simple to double the numbers—even if you (or your spouse) are actually making the full amount of the gift. A married couple can give away $28,000 without having to do anything more (though if all the money comes from one spouse a gift tax return must be filed—more about that later). Will the gifts be used for medical or educational expenses? The lid just got taken off. So long as you make your gifts by paying directly to the college, or hospital, or president, they are not subject to the $14,000 limit. You can pay your favorite grandchild’s tuition and books directly, and still give her another $14,000 (double that if you’re married) without having to do anything else.

No. That’s just the level below which you don’t have to do anything else but sign a nice card and make a notation in your check register. Want to make a $50,000 gift to your son, or your daughter, or your mailman’s nephew? No problem— you’re just going to have to file a gift tax return.

That sounds scary, but it’s really not. You won’t actually pay any gift tax unless the total amount you give away (over and above the $14,000 + tuition + medical expenses each year) exceeds $5.43 million dollars in your lifetime. And even that number is going up each year. Things can get a little more complicated if you are giving away an interest in your business, or a fraction of a larger asset—you will need to get professional help in such a case. But there’s no rule that says you simply can’t give away more than $14,000, or that you’ll pay any taxes or penalties if you go over that amount.

The bottom line: if you live in New York, don’t own property in a state that imposes a gift tax, and are worth less than about $5 million, you are simply going to be able to give a gift tax free over your entire life, no matter how hard you try.

By the way, there’s a common misconception about other tax effects of gifts, too. There is no income tax deduction or adjustment for your gifts, and the recipient pays no gift tax on receipt of the gift. Of course, if you give away an income-producing asset the future income will be taxed to the new owner, but the only immediate tax effect of a gift in New York is the (almost nonexistent) federal gift tax. Does all this mean we advocate making large gifts? Not necessarily. There are some secondary tax consequences of giving away larger assets especially those that have appreciated in value while you owned them. Before making a gift of real property, or appreciated stocks, get good legal and tax advice. And there are plenty of non-tax reasons you might not want to give away a significant portion of your assets. But the federal gift tax shouldn’t be much of a disincentive for most people.
Dining Out with Dad on Father’s Day!

Here are a few suggestions for Dad’s special day, Sunday, June 21st. It also happens to be the first official day of summer, so enjoy...

Gaucho Grill, One North Broadway, White Plains 914-339-1444

Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, updated the menu at his 120-seat restaurant and bar/lounge offering big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. The staff brings years of experience and a European flair to White Plains. Customizers enter the multi-section dining room thru the inviting bar/lounge with its black industrial ceiling, banquetts and soft lighting. The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths, colorful deVelleneuve impressionist paintings and warming sconces. Mediterranean, colorful banquetts and chairs compliment wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows. There is a season outdoor deck facing North Broadway at the corner of Fisher Ave. Check out such specialties as: Pan Fried Calamari with hot cherry peppers, Linguini alla Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside, classic Veal Parmigiana, grilled Filet Mignon, NY Sirloin Steak, or the Pork Chops. Save room for the house made Tiramisu or Cheesecake. Daily happy hours in the bar/lounge 4 to 7 pm. www.gaucho.grilln.com

Lombardo’s, 1203 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains 914-615-9900

Partners Mario Lombardo and James Romanelli of Lombardo’s have been doing a bustling business since their opening, and there’s something for the whole family on the menu. Try such fresh made dishes as a stacked platter of Zucchini Fritti served with marinara or fra diavolo sauce; Zuppa di Coze, fresh culivated mussels steamed in your choice of white wine garlic and herb broth, or served in a fresh garlic and crushed plum tomato breading; Fried Calamari; Italian Antipasto for two; Spuntino alla Lombardo, goat cheese and flame roasted peppers wrapped in prosciutto, drizzled with balsamic; classic Chicken Parmigiana, and such shareable pizzette as the Vegetarian with spinach, broccoli, flame roasted peppers and mushrooms topped with fresh mozzarella. Lombardo’s is open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Happy Hours. Banquets for up to 20 guests. Catering. Free parking. www.lombardospizzana.com

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Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher
es@shorelinepub.com

Helene Pollack, Editor
hp@shorelinepub.com

Cynthia Pena, Art Director
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

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