

Mayor Announces Holiday Project Donations Total \$18,785

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Mayor/Supervisor Richard Dionisio convened a Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, January 5, 2023, beginning with First of the Year Resolutions including the re-appointments of Trustee/Councilman Fred Sciliano as Deputy Supervisor for 2023; Louis Morano, Deputy Receiver of Taxes; Chelsey Bush, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor; Gina Smoyer, Deputy Town Clerk and Sean O'Connell, Deputy Court Clerk.

Supervisor Dionisio was re-appointed Treasurer of the Public Library, as well as Police Fund Officer, along with Sciliano and Councilwoman Gina Evangelista.

Dionisio announced that 2022 Holiday Project Donations received total \$18,785 to date.

The request by District #2 Fire Chief Ralph Straface to approve and certify the 2022 Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) forms for Fire District #2 was granted, with authorization for each Town Member to sign LOSAP form.

Village Attorney Jonathan D. Kraut requested release of 62 Winfield Avenue Performance Bond for Sanitary Sewer Main Extension, which was approved. Release



Harrison Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Fred Sciliano

of the project was completed to the satisfaction of the Engineering Department.

Comptroller/Treasurer Maureen MacKenzie announced a Late Item, funding a contract with Kel-bray Fire Services in the amount of \$45,500, transferred from Full Timeline to Special Service 407 Line for Edward Ladin to do consulting for Acting Fire Marshall Rocco Germani.

During the Village Board, Councilwoman Lauren Leader asked to set a schedule when Troon would give financial up-

dates on the Harrison Meadows Country Club. She then inquired about the demolition of the Sollazzo Center to make way for the new Recreation Center. Dionisio replied that demolition will take place in the next three and a half months, with stormwater mitigation and geothermal testing well under way.

"Our stormwater will be located on top of our geothermal wells and Recreation Supervisor Gerry Salvo will be operating Recreation facilities in his satellite locations that he rents, with American Legion being one of the main locations," Dionisio stated.

Kraut added that there was outreach and communication with their user groups with testing of underground tanks and asbestos.

HHS Students Qualify to Compete in the NY State DECA Business Competition

Student participation continues to grow at Harrison High School and across New York State, and HHS students succeed at high levels. Most recently, the Harrison High School DECA Business Club earned top spots at the 2023 Regional competition, which includes Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Ulster, and Albany Counties. Harrison High School Students will compete in the New York State DECA Business Competition in March. The top five students in each division, and the top students who submitted Manuals at the Regional level advance to the New York State competition.

Eleanor Gilmore earned 1st place and Ad-dison Valente earned 2nd place in the Principles of Hospitality and Tourism division, and Zakaria Ahmed placed 2nd in the Business Finance division. Six Harrison students earned 3rd place: Andrew Gaffin and Jonathan Lewis (Hospitality Services), Jeremy Xhayet and Chase Ende (Sports & Entertainment Marketing), Lauren Schnapp (Retail Merchandising), Rachel Kindler (Hotel & Lodging Management). Three students placed 4th: Natalie Kaplan (Principles of Finance); Ismail

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Source: OKMLS, 2020, 2021, 2022, individual years, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by agent, Harrison School District.

February Programs at The Harrison Public Library

Many exciting programs are featured this February at The Harrison Public Library. On Monday, February 7, at 7 pm, Online, an Author Talk with Jim Frawley on *Adapting in Motion: Finding Your Place in the New Economy* will take place. Register for the Zoom link at www.harrisonpl.org/events

Author Jim Frawley will discuss his book, *Adapting in Motion: Finding Your Place in the New Economy*. A Q&A session will follow the talk.

On Friday, February 10 at 3:30 pm in the Community Room, join for a Beaded Earrings Workshop. Joan Lloyd will show how to make beautiful, beaded earrings. For each pair you make, you create a second one for donation to a local Women's Shelter. All materials will be provided. Teens are welcome to join for this hands-on workshop!

Registration is required to reserve a spot at www.harrisonpl.org/events

In Honor of Black History Month, Lecturer Toni McKeen will speak on Toni Morrison on Monday, February 13 at 7 pm Online. Seasoned lecturer Toni McKeen will explore the life and work of Black American author Toni Morrison, one of the most celebrated authors in the world. In addition to writing plays, and children's books, Morrison's novels earned her numerous prestigious awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. As the first Black American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Morrison's work has inspired a generation of writers to follow in her footsteps. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link at www.harrisonpl.org/events

A Health & Wellness Series with Dr. Kaushik



speaking on Hypertension and Heart Health will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 7 pm, Online. Register for the Zoom link at www.harrisonpl.org/events

Both western and Ayurvedic medicine agree that there are things you can do to keep your heart healthy – and stabilize blood pressure. Ayurveda, however, views the role of the heart somewhat differently than its western counterpart. In Ayurveda, the heart is the energetic center of the body, effecting and effected by the cells and tissues of every other organ. They are inseparable. The Ayurvedic philosophy of body, mind, spirit, is no more critical to any organ than to the heart, as it influences the whole. Dr. Somesh N. Kaushik is the owner and chief medical practitioner of Dr. Kaushik's Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Clinic in

Cross River.

On Saturday, February 18 at 2 pm in the Community Room, join a Valentine Dance Session with The Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Mamaroneck. Registration is required at www.harrisonpl.org/events

The Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Mamaroneck will lead participants in dance. Wear pink or red to honor February as the month of heart matters. What better way is there to honor Valentine's Day and improve your cardiovascular health simultaneously! No experience or dance partner required. This program is being offered in partnership with the Purchase Free Library. Registration is recommended to reserve a spot.

On Saturday, February 25 at 2 pm in the Community Room, Hirschfeld's Century with David Leopold will feature a Pop-Up Gallery of Signed Limited Edition Hirschfeld Prints at the Harrison Library.

Join author and curator David Leopold as he takes viewers on a tour of the Hirschfeld Century, an 82-year era in which Al Hirschfeld both recorded and defined so much of popular culture, especially through his drawings of productions on Broadway and in Hollywood.

A book signing of *The Hirschfeld Century: Portrait of Artist and His Age and The American Theatre* as seen by Hirschfeld 1962-2002 will follow the presentation. Registration is recommended at www.harrisonpl.org/events

The Harrison Public Library is located at 2 Bruce Avenue, Harrison. Call (914)-835-0324 for more information.

HS Students Qualify to Compete

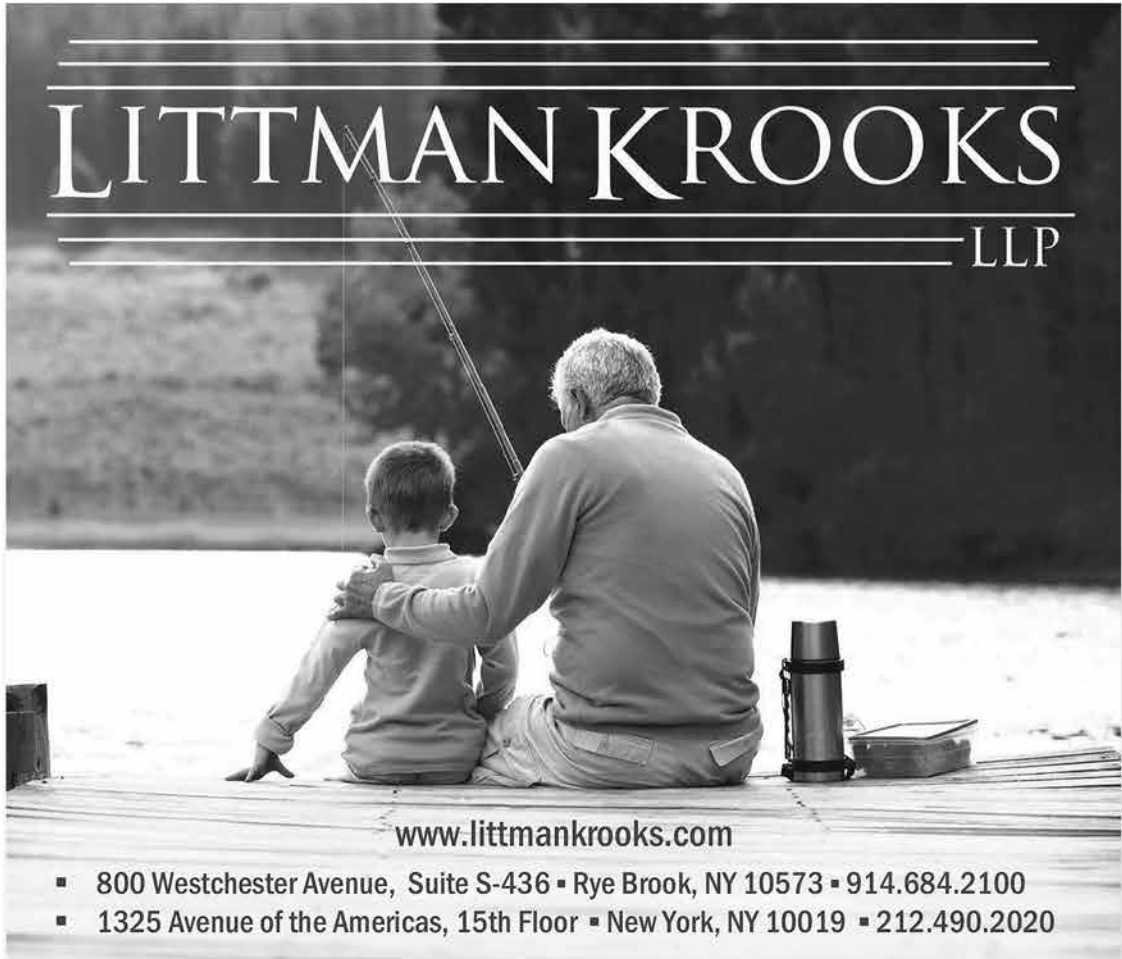
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Kapadia (Human Resource Management); Michael Griff (Sports & Entertainment Marketing); and three students placed 5th: Landsey Solis (Accounting Applications); Bryan Wolfe (Entrepreneurship Series); Riko Suzuki (Principles of Business Management & Administration).

Students also wrote and submitted a Manual (research paper) that in the regionals that qualified for state level of competition: Hospitality & Tourism Operations - Izzy Estroff, Gianna Salvo and Noah Geller, Mathew Marsh; Sports & Entertainment Marketing Operations - Mason Danzig, Andrew Caparelli, Henry Hurvitz; Business Solutions Project - Andrew Pashinin, Valentin Riou; Career Development Project - Shweta Nadagouda; Community Awareness Project - Mia Strazza, Parker Yates, Harper Lapin; Community Giving Project - Eva Popescu, Isabella Cajhancu; Financial Literacy Project - Stella Perini & Cate Ansel; Innovation Plan - Michael Sica, Jacob Oestreicher, Max Johannson; Independent Business Plan - Jordan Lubowitz, Jared Schwartz; Business Growth Plan - Mark Loguidice, Eric Marino; International Business Plan - Aidan Oestreicher Nikhil Sood, Benji Peligri; Start-up Business Plan - Alec Udell, Justin Gilden Brayden Gonzalez; Franchise Business Plan - Joseph McGurk, Jake Marriott; Integrated Marketing Campaign Events (Event, Product or Service) - Gianni Tammaro, Ben Zuchorski, Colin Dempsey, and Stephanie Reed & Alex Paternoster, and Sarah Rodriguez Olivia Minichiello, and Jessica Kritzman, Emma Mazzella, Sydney Friedman, and Jessica Kritzman, Emma Mazzella, Sydney Friedman, and Maya Boraczek, Kyra Repa.

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Harrison High School Debaters Named Academic All Americans



Harrison High School Debate Team members and Academic All Americans: Charles Zenhausern, Coach Mr. Hertzig, Jessie Pein, and Thomas Berg

Jessie Pein, Thomas Berg and Charles Zenhausern were named Academic All Americans by the National Speech & Debate Association. Fewer than 2% of the 141,000 student members of the Association earn this distinguished award which recognizes academic rigor, competitive speech and debate success, and personal excel-

lence. The award recognizes students who have completed at least five semesters of high school; earned the degree of Superior Distinction in the association's Honor Society; achieved rigorous criteria for GPA and/or test score requirements; and demonstrated outstanding character and leadership.

The Sustaining Presence: Stalwarts of African American Contemporary Clay

This February marks the 47th annual Black History Month, a celebration of the achievements and advancements of Black Americans who have contributed to the history of the United States. The Clay Art Center honors Black History Month by providing an online invitational exhibition, "The Sustaining Presence: Stalwarts of African American Contemporary Clay," guest curated by Syd Carpenter, that celebrates Black ceramic artists from across the US, throughout February on view until March 11.

"The African diaspora has influenced globally diverse expressions in music, dance, theatre, literature and the visual arts for more than a century. From the majestic and poetic works of Dave Drake in the 19th century to celebrated works of Simone Leigh in the 21st, Black clay artists have been a consistent community of innovative clay productivity. From pure abstraction to explicit representations of the experience of being Black in America, the presence of Black artists is here represented by notable stalwarts who have continued to creatively enhance the field," states Guest Curator Syd Carpenter.

"Many beginning their careers in the late 60's and early 70's, their work reflects the ongoing vibrancy, technical brilliance and creative insight of this group of artists."

Participating Artists include Earline Green, Winnie Owens Hart, Malcolm Mobutu Smith, Sana Musasama, Bobby Scroggins, Kevin Snipes and Lydia Thompson.

A Virtual Artist Talk about In Conversation: The Sustaining Presence, Moderated



by Syd Carpenter, with Guest Participating Artists from the Exhibition, will be held Wednesday, February 8th, 7pm.

Guest Curator Syd Carpenter lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, James A Michener Museum, Tang

No More Late Fines at the Harrison Public Library

BY GALINA CHERNYKH,
HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR.

The Harrison Public Library has permanently eliminated late fines. Approved unanimously by the Harrison Public Library Board of Trustees, this decision aligns with the Board's commitment to Library services and access to information for all.

As part of the Library's COVID-19 pandemic response, the Harrison Public Library has not

charged late fines to any cardholder since March 2020. The permanent fine-free model started on January 1, 2023.

It's important to note that patrons will still be responsible for returning items and paying for any lost or damaged materials.

This change is part of a growing industry-wide movement, guided by the recommendations of the American Library Association, to increase public access to library services.

Purchase College Professors Awarded Major Grant

Purchase College, SUNY, has announced that Associate Professor of History Leandro Benmergui, Assistant Professor of Language and Culture Alfredo Garcia-Pardo, and Associate Professor of Literature and Director of the School of Humanities Aviva Taubenfeld have been awarded a major grant in the amount of \$150,000 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support Humanities Initiatives for Hispanic Serving Institutions.

The purpose of the grant is to support "Building Community and Belonging Through the Humanities," a three-year language, literature, and oral and urban history project. Focused especially on Spanish heritage-speaker students and their families, this project will include writing an open-source Spanish language digital textbook for heritage speakers, collecting and incorporating local and familial oral histories, building a digital humanities archive, and creating bilingual community events at the Port Chester Library, among other locations.

The central goal of the project is "to enable Purchase College as a Hispanic Service Institution to foster an appreciation for Latinx identity among our students and to work closely and collaboratively with the broader communities surrounding our campus," said Professor Ben-



Purchase College President
Milagros (Milly) Peña, PhD

mergui.

"We hope that by providing students with meaningful resources and community-building opportunities, they will be enticed to delve deeper into study of Hispanic literatures, histories, film, and art—all areas in which Purchase College's faculty have significant expertise," added Professor Taubenfeld.

Purchase College President Dr. Milagros (Milly) Peña said, "I congratulate Drs. Benmergui, Garcia-Pardo, and Taubenfeld on this prestigious grant, and on their dedication to inspiring meaningful research and to fostering a deep

appreciation for Latinx studies through the lens of the Humanities. I believe their work will have a profound impact on our students and help us meet our mission as a proud Hispanic Serving Institution."

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

For more information about the college, visit www.purchase.edu.

Museum of Skidmore College, and Fuller Craft Museum. She is a Professor of Studio Art, at Swarthmore College, PA.

Concepts in Clay (which opened in 2021) features works of celebrated Black ceramic artists from across the US, and brings together a collective voice that speaks about a variety of themes and processes as part of the continuum of artists of color working in clay in the US today. Clay is the vehicle that amplifies these voices, and within this collection, these artists not only share their work with us, but their thoughts on what present-day America means to each of them.

The artists selected here make clay works that are wide ranging in the treatments of surfaces, processes, forms, mate-

rials and subject matter. This collection also investigates a variety of themes unique to the Black experience in America, from human relationships and interactions, identity and image of self, social justice and activism, to the outward expression of inner experiences.

Featured artists include: Adero Willard, Kyle and Kelly Phelps, Morel Doucet, Paul Andrew Wandless, Syd Carpenter, Donte Hayes, Lydia C. Thompson, Nathan Murray, Paul Briggs, and Rich Brown

View the Exhibits online at www.clayart-center.org or <https://www.clayartcenter.org/concepts>

Black Ceramic Artists Talks in the Online Virtual Library at <https://www.clayart-center.org/virtual-library>

Purchase College Announces the Spring 2023 Durst Distinguished Lecture Series

Purchase College, SUNY, has announced that National Book Award winner Susan Choi has been selected to serve as the Spring 2023 Roy and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature. She will offer a reading and conversation on Monday, February 27 at 6pm. Later in the semester she will be in conversation with Professor Rachel Dickstein on Monday, April 3 at 6pm.

Choi's appearances will serve as the centerpiece of the spring's Durst Distinguished Lecture Series, which brings renowned writers to the Westchester community.

All events are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Event details, including registration and location, can be found at purchase.edu/durst.

Other highlighted events in the series include a reading and conversation between author Namwali Serpell and Professor Mariel Rodney on Monday, February 13 at 6pm; a conversation between author Lydia Conklin and Professor Mehdi Okasi on Thursday, March 30 at 6pm; and a conversation between author Anthony Marra and Professor Jason Pine on Monday, April 24 at 6pm.

Purchase College President, Milagros (Milly) Peña, said, "We're proud to celebrate the 10th year of the Durst Distinguished Lecture Series with this wonderful slate of accomplished authors, who are among the most interesting writers publishing today. I look forward to welcoming them to campus for a series of engaging conversations with our faculty members, students, and members of the public. We are sincerely grateful to the Durst family for their continued support which helps enable us to be an important literary and cultural hub for our community."

Anthony Domestico, an associate professor of Literature at Purchase and chair of the Literature Department, added, "We're excited to have a typically stellar slate of writers come to campus this spring, and we look forward to hearing them speak about why and how they create."

Namwali Serpell
In Conversation with Professor Mariel Rodney
Monday, February 13, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Born in Lusaka, Zambia, Namwali Serpell is the author of two novels: *The Old Drift* (2019), winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book prize for fiction, the Arthur C. Clarke Award for science fiction, the Grand Prix des Associations Littéraires Prize for Belles-Lettres, and the LA Times' Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction; and *The Furrows* (2022), named one of the best books of the year by the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and many other publications. She is a tenured full Professor of English at Harvard University and has published two books of criticism: *Seven Modes of Uncertainty* (2014) and *Stranger Faces* (2020), which was long listed for a Believer Book Award for Nonfiction and was a finalist for a National Book



Susan Choi. (c) 2019 Larry D. Moore. Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 Wikimedia Commons

Critics Circle Award for Criticism. Her many honors include a Windham-Campbell Prize and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award.

Susan Choi
Roy and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature
A Reading and Conversation

Monday, February 27, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Susan Choi is the author of five novels, including *American Woman* (2004), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *My Education* (2014), which won a Lammy Award; and, most recently, *Trust Exercise*, winner of the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction and named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, among many other

publications. In 2010, Choi was named the inaugural recipient of the PEN/W. G. Sebald Award. She studied literature at Yale and writing at Cornell and worked for several years as a fact-checker for *The New Yorker*. She teaches in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University and lives in Brooklyn.

Lydia Conklin
In Conversation with Professor Mehdi Okasi
Thursday, March 30, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Lydia Conklin is the author of the story collection *Rainbow Rainbow*, named a best book of the year by NPR, a Debutiful Best Book of the Year, and a *Publishers Weekly* Best Summer Read. They have received a Stegner Fellowship, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, three Pushcart Prizes, a Creative Writing Fulbright in Poland, and fellowships from Emory, MacDowell, Yaddo, Hedgebrook, and Djerassi, among other awards. Their fiction has appeared in *Tin House*, *American Short Fiction*, and *The Paris Review*. They have drawn comics for *The New Yorker*, *The Believer*, *Lenny Letter*, and elsewhere. Previously the Helen Zell Visiting Professor in Fiction at the University of Michigan, they currently serve as an Assistant Professor of Fiction at Vanderbilt University.

Susan Choi
Roy and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature

In Conversation with Professor Rachel Dickstein

Monday, April 3, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Anthony Marra
In Conversation with Professor Jason Pine
Monday, April 24, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Anthony Marra is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Tsar of Love and Techno* and *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize, as well as the Anisfield-Wolf Book prize for fiction. His most recent novel, *Mercury Pictures Presents*, was published in August of 2022.

For more information about the College, visit www.purchase.edu.

Harrison Teen Scientists Selected for Achievements in STEM Innovation and Leadership

On January 10, Society for Science (the Society) announced the top 300 scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2023, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. The 300 scholars will be awarded \$2,000 each and their schools will be awarded \$2,000 for each enrolled scholar.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search scholars were selected from 1,949 applications from 627 high schools across 48 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and four other countries. Scholars were chosen based on their outstanding research, leadership skills, community involvement, commitment to academics, creativity in asking scientific questions and exceptional promise as STEM leaders demonstrated through the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations. The 300 scholars hail from 194 American and international high schools in 35 states and China.

From Harrison High School, Ariella Maia Blackman, 18, and Lauren Davidson, 17 were chosen. Blackman's Project title was Developing a Model in situ Resource Utilization System for Oxygen Sustaining Life Support and Launch Cost Reduction for Mars. Davidson's Project title was The Effect of Copper Sulfate Concentration on Locomotor Ability and Lifespan of Alzheimer's Model *Drosophila melanogaster*.

This year, research projects cover topics from analyzing the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, to developing eco-friendly biofuel, and improving methods used to detect diseases and neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's, bladder cancer, monkeypox, autism and more. Other students chose to focus on social issues, such as exploring ways to reduce social media-induced emotional distress and violence, as well as studying how mask mandates impact how accurately people can recognize emotion on others' faces. With a total of 21 research categories, the top 5 categories among scholars' projects this year include:

Top 5 Category	Scholar Stats
Behavioral and Social Sciences	16%
Medicine and Health	12%
Cellular and Molecular Biology	10%
Neuroscience	8%
Environmental Science	7%

"We celebrate this year's scholars for their exceptional work and unmatched motivation to use the power of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to make a meaningful mark on the world," said Christina Chan, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications & Citizenship at Regeneron. "Through our partnership with the Society for Science, it is our goal that the Regeneron Science Talent Search elevates young scientists and underscores the significance of STEM in solving society's biggest challenges. We commend the scholars' inspirational and thought-provoking projects and look forward to what the future has in store for each of these budding innovators."

On January 24, 40 of the 300 scholars were be named Regeneron Science Talent Search fi-



Ariella Maia Blackman

nalists. Ariella Maia Blackman was named a finalist and will receive \$25,000. The finalists will compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards during a week-long competition in Washington, D.C., taking place March 9-15.

For over eight decades the Science Talent Search has rewarded talented high school seniors who dedicate countless hours to original research projects and present their results in rigorous reports that resemble graduate school theses. Collectively, STS alumni have received millions of dollars in scholarships and gone on to be awarded Nobel Prizes, Fields Medals, MacArthur Fellowships and numerous other accolades.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search, a program of Society for Science since 1942, is the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. Each year, nearly 2,000 student entrants submit original research in critically important scientific fields of study and are judged by leading experts in their fields. Unique among high school competitions in the U.S. and around the world, the Regeneron Science Talent Search focuses on identifying, inspiring and engaging the nation's most promising young scientists who are creating the ideas that could solve society's most urgent challenges.

In 2017, Regeneron became only the third sponsor of the Science Talent Search to help reward and celebrate the best and brightest young minds and encourage them to pursue careers in STEM as a way to positively impact the world. Through its 10-year, \$100 million commitment, Regeneron nearly doubled the overall award distribution to \$3.1 million annually, increasing the top award to \$250,000 and doubling the awards for the top 300 scholars to \$2,000 and their schools to \$2,000 for each enrolled scholar to inspire more young people to engage in science.

Learn more at <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/>.



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Neuberger Museum of Art Presents Hard Return: 9 Experiments for this Moment

On January 11, the National Endowment for the Arts announced that they awarded The Neuberger Museum of Art a \$30,000 grant in support of the new performance art exhibition, *Hard Return: 9 Experiments for this Moment*, on view February 1—May 7, 2023.

Hard Return: 9 Experiments for this Moment is a performance art exhibition featuring a series of nine artists creating dynamic week-long experiences, environments, and interactions live in the Neuberger Museum of Art's galleries.

Over the course of Spring Semester 2023, each of the nine artists will create works that pose fundamental questions about art and life. The projects will experiment with our sense of being alive in this moment, probing the influence of history on our present and proposing different ways of shaping and understanding community—from the intimate experience of one-to-one relationships to attempts to see humanity at planetary scale.

Hard Return promotes modes of artistic activity that the pandemic made impossible for a while and explores the museum as a space of community, reflection, and support.

Participating artists include:

Brendan Fernandes

February 1-5

Fernandes will develop a dance piece in response to African art in the Neuberger collection. Working with vogue expert Jason Rodriguez and a cast of Purchase College students, the artist will consider the transmission of cultural forms and knowledges across time and space and from body to body. This work, which will change and grow over the week, will also consider questions of rest and repose. In addition to developing original choreography, the artist will offer related movement workshops to museum visitors throughout the week.

Alix Pearlstein '88

February 15-19

Exploring a personal archive of objects from previous artworks—props, structures, gestures—with a group of Purchase student actors, Pearlstein's new commission, *Inventory*, blurs the lines between then and now, self and other, live and recorded. Improvisational exercises directed by the artist work to plumb and produce emotional responses to objects or tasks. While the collection is replete with psychological resonance for Pearlstein, the actors encounter it for the first time. As the actions and objects generate new emotional charges, the work will grow in excess of what is visible. This work of *inventory* might change the meaning of Pearlstein's archive and will develop links among the individual collaborators. At the end of each day, a summary performance will be committed to video; each video recursively feeds back into the work, serving as the next day's point of departure for further reflection and creation.

Daniel Bozhkov

February 22-26

Bozhkov's performance investigates the viability



of life on this and other planets through an intensive involvement with soil science and cucumbers. Bozhkov has been working with Cornell University's soil laboratory as they experiment with how to grow vegetables on Mars; in *Hard Return*, he will work with a composer and Purchase faculty and students to develop this process of provisional planting into an operatic libretto. The resulting opera will be performed in the Neuberger by Purchase students, set against the backdrop of some of his experimental produce, hand-painted fresco panels, and an embroidered tapestry that functions as an experimental log. Pushing the science-fictional limits of the present, Bozhkov's work asks us not only to imagine another future, but also to stop and consider what it is that makes our lives livable here and now.

Nao Bustamante

March 8-12

Bustamante will present a series of theatrical set-pieces organized around the all-too-timely theme of the history of optics and tools used in gynecology and how these have interacted with, and informed conceptions of, femininity and womanliness. The work will feature original videos as backdrops to live performances which will feature Purchase students as actors.

Amber Hawk Swanson

March 29 – April 2

Hawk Swanson will film episodes of *The Harmony Show*, a multi-faceted talk show she developed with her collaborator, Davecat, and his partner, Sidore Kuroneko, a life-size silicone doll. Created during the early days of the pandemic as a web-based mode of artistic production foregrounding intellectual inquiry and community-building, *The Harmony Show* explores issues of personhood, desire, race, queerness, dis/ability, and community in two modalities. The first is a seminar in which an invited scholar presents on their work and discusses it with the show's co-hosts. The second is a cooking show, where a less academically-gearred discussion about the same types of issues can unfold as the guest and hosts prepare a meal designed by a recipe developer who specializes in food's healing properties. As a program designed for an online environment, filming in-gallery with a live audience will present new opportunities for considering public engagement and imagining the community created by the show's dissemination.

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UNPARALLELED GLOBAL NETWORK

SHANG HAI to SCARSDALE, HARRISON to BOCA RATON.

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Third Annual Five Towns: One Book to Explore the Life and Work of Writer and Activist, Lorraine Hansberry

The Coalition for Understanding Racism through Education (CURE), in partnership with The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition (LHC) and five Westchester public libraries, will host the third annual "Five Towns: One Book," a series of free events featuring a discussion on February 11th, with Soyica Diggs Colbert author of *Radical Vision, A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry* followed by four events that run from March through April 15th.

Five Towns: One Book draws on the life and work of Lorraine Hansberry. Hansberry was most noted for her play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, about a Black family, which opened on Broadway to great success. It addressed many themes such as Redlining, Afrocentrism and who has access to the American Dream. Hansberry was the first Black playwright and the youngest American to win a New York Critics' Circle award. Throughout her life she was heavily involved in the Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movements as an activist and journalist working side by side with the likes of James Baldwin, W.E.B DuBois and Nina Simone. She was a lesbian in a heterosexual marriage with her soulmate and fellow activist Bob Nemiroff. She died in Croton on Hudson at 34 of pancreatic cancer.

The main event to kick off the series will be an intimate, roundtable discussion with Dr. Colbert about *Radical Vision* moderated by Nicole Alifante from CURE, Lynda Jones from The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition and Tejash Sanchala from the



Soyica Diggs Colbert

Westchester Humans Rights Commission.

Dr. Soyica Diggs Colbert is the Idol Family Professor of African American Studies and Performing Arts at Georgetown University. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a residency at the Schomburg Center, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Stanford University, Mellon Foundation, and the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University. Colbert has also lectured nationally and internationally at universities, high schools, and middle schools as well as for civic and arts organizations.

Colbert's writing has been featured in the *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Public Books*, *Metrograph* and *American Theatre*. She has been interviewed on NPR and commented for the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, and the *Washington Post*. She is an Associate Director at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. She has also served as a Creative Content Producer for The Public Theatre's audio play, *shadow/land*. Her research interests span the 19th-21st centuries, from Harriet Tub-

man to Beyoncé, and from poetics to performance.

In the past, Five Towns One Book was heavily focused on one book, however Soyica Diggs Colbert's biography about Hansberry is such a deep exploration of Hansberry's artistry and activism that it ignited the CURE team to create events exploring the many themes of Hansberry's life centered around artists.

The 5 Towns events will feature five programs with theater artists, visual artists, activists and experts culminating in a theatrical exploration of redlining and other themes from *A Raisin In The Sun*, Hansberry's most famous play and Clybourne

Park, a Raisin spin off by Bruce Norris on April 15th at The Ossie Davis Theater at the New Rochelle public library. Professional actors directed by Kevin R. Free (Mile Square Theater) will read excerpts from each play. They will be joined by redlining expert Gregory Jost (Fordham University).

The schedule of community programming is: (All events will be recorded. 2/11 and 4/15 will be live streamed for audience members who cannot make the event)

Saturday, February 11th at 2pm - Croton Free Library - A roundtable discussion with Dr. Soyica Diggs Colbert moderated by Nicole Alifante of CURE, Lynda Jones of LHC and Tejash Sanchala, Exec. Dir. of The Westchester Human Rights Commission.

Thursday, March 2nd at 7pm - Rye Free Library- Hansberry: Civil Rights and Freedom Practices - A conversation with Elevator Repair Service theater Company from New York City, the recent creators and actors in Buckley and Baldwin at Cambridge (The Public Theater), featuring director John Collins and actors April Matthis and Greig Sargeant.

Saturday, March 18th at 2pm-5pm - Larchmont Library - A Raisin In The Sun, Film Screening and Talk Back - Facilitated by local actor and activist, Larry Albert.

Tuesday, March 28th at 7pm - Harrison Library - Hansberry & Activism in Black Art. A con-

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Westchester's Community News

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Randy Gunnell from Harrison High School Selected as Master Teacher

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the selection of 221 educators to the New York State Master Teacher Program, a professional network of public-school teachers with a passion for inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. These educators will join the network of Master Teachers, created in 2013, bringing the total number of selected NYS Master Teachers across New York State to over 1,600. Governor Hochul also announced the opening of the next round of applications for eligible K-12 STEM teachers and K-12 counselors in all regions.



Randy Gunnell

"Our teachers are the driving force behind New York's leading education system, and continued investment in our world-class teachers is crucial in the development of our State's future leaders," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud to announce the expansion of the Master Teacher network and the open application for the next round of STEM teachers and counselors. New York is home to many talented teachers, and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to educators across our state."

Randy Gunnell of Harrison Central School District was selected again as a Master Teacher. Gunnell teaches Physics and Science research at Harrison High School where he also serves as advisor to the district's Gay Straight Alliance and Student Government organizations. In the evening, he teaches AP Physics at Westchester Hebrew High School. Gunnell works to support his under- rep-

resented students as a board member of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network {GLSEN} local chapter. He recently completed a certificate program in STEM Leadership at Columbia Teachers College and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

The incoming group of Master Teachers includes 156 teachers with multiple teaching certifications, 38 certified in Special Education, and 18 teachers certified in Technology Education who are offering various courses

in Engineering Design & Development, Computer Aided Design, and Automation & Robotics.

All Master Teachers are teacher leaders, serving as curriculum and department leaders or members of district and State level committees, as well as mentor teachers for student and early career teachers. Many new members have been awarded grants for school STEM resources. They are advisors of student enrichment activities including Future Farmers of America, Science Olympiad, afterschool and summer STEM camps, school gardens, FIRST Robotics teams, and Coding Clubs. The Master Teachers hold leadership roles in New York State STEM professional associations and lead professional development workshops for regional and statewide educator conferences. Many of the 221 Master Teachers have been recognized for outstanding service by their peers, local communities, or professional associations.

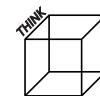


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New DMV Office Opens in White Plains

The new White Plains DMV opened on January 23, on the ground floor of The Source shopping complex, located at 1 Maple Ave., near Whole Foods and The Cheesecake Factory. The NYS Department of Motor Vehicles has been looking for a new White Plains location since 2018 and planning to move to The Source in 2021.

The old White Plains DMV location at the former White Plains Mall closed in March 2022. The mall, which opened in 1972, has been demolished,

and a new development that will include 860 rental apartments is to be built at its former spot. In addition, a DMV location for central Westchester has been in a temporary location in Tarrytown, but it closed its doors January 20.

Hours at the new office will be Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the DMV. Reservations can be made online. Many transactions can now be done online.

The DMV has launched a webpage where cus-

tomers can begin applying for REAL ID or Enhanced ID driver's licenses. The federal government has extended the deadline to May 7, 2025, before travelers need one of the IDs, or a passport, to take a domestic flight. The DMV also has a new "transparency portal" to update New Yorkers about policy changes, deadlines, and more.



New Yorkers Must Protect Themselves From Mail Theft

New York Attorney General Letitia James recently issued a consumer alert to warn New Yorkers about mail theft and to provide recommendations from the United States Postal Service (USPS) to protect themselves from this federal crime. There has been a recent rise in mail theft, especially checks, credit cards, and other financial documents being stolen from mailboxes. In some instances, there have even been reports of individuals stealing mailboxes. Mail theft can lead to identify theft, deed theft, and serious invasions of financial and personal privacy that harm New Yorkers. Attorney General James sent a letter to USPS Postmaster General Louis DeJoy outlining her concerns and urging more resources be used to combat these thefts.

“Stealing mail is a violation of privacy, it is a federal crime, and it causes real problems,” said Attorney General James. “When bad actors steal people’s mail, they have access to personal and financial information that can lead to identity theft, destroyed credit ratings, and serious harm to completely innocent New Yorkers. I urge everyone to remain vigilant, and to protect themselves, their information, and their mail by following our important tips.”

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has received complaints that financial documents — such as checks, credit cards, and banking statements — were stolen from USPS mailboxes. The stealing of documents with personal and financial information can lead to additional crimes, including deed theft. Last month, Attorney General James broke up a deed theft ring that stole three homes worth more than \$1 million in total from elderly, vulnerable homeowners in the Queens neighborhoods of Jamaica and St. Albans. Although USPS has redesigned its mailboxes to be more resistant against theft, recent reports show that thieves have resorted to various schemes, which have included stealing mailboxes outright.

As part of her ongoing efforts to combat theft and protect New Yorkers, Attorney General James recommends the following tips from USPS:

- Always pick up your mail promptly when delivered. Do not leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards, or any other financial items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.



NYS Attorney General Letitia James

- If you did not receive a check or any other valuable mail you were expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, you should immediately notify your respective post office and anyone with whom you do business with via mail.
- Inform your post office when you’ll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.
- Consider signing up for USPS’ Informed Delivery service, which provides email notifications for incoming mail and packages.
- If you suspect your mail was stolen or see a mail theft happening, contact police immediately and then report it to Postal Inspectors by calling (877)-876-2455.

- If you see glue, tape, or any other sticky substances on a mailbox, report it to your post office, Postal Inspectors, or the New York Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). The USPIS can be reached at (212) 330-2400.

Attorney General James urges anyone who believes their personal information may have been compromised to take the following steps:

- Monitor your credit. Credit monitoring services track your credit report and alert you whenever a change is made, such as a new account or a large purchase. Most services will notify you within 24 hours of any change to your credit report.
- Consider placing a free credit freeze on your credit report. Identity thieves will not be able to open a new credit account in your name while the freeze is in place. You can place a credit freeze by contacting each of the three major credit bureaus:
 - Equifax | +1 (888) 766-0008
 - Experian | +1 (888) 397-3742
 - TransUnion | +1 (800) 680-7289
- Place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert tells lenders and creditors to take extra steps to verify your identity before issuing credit. You can place a fraud alert by contacting any one of the three major credit bureaus.
- Additional Resources. If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, contact the Attorney General’s office for help by completing and submitting a complaint with the Bureau of Internet and Technology or calling (800) 771-7755.

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Neuberger Museum of Art Presents Hard Return

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Emily Coates

April 5-9

Coates’ work will interweave a multi-channel video installation with a dance piece featuring original choreography and speaking-role cameos for Purchase College science faculty. The video, dance, and dialogic elements stem from Coates’ research into the long human history of cosmic dances across time and multiple geographies. Exploring attempts to reckon the cosmos in human scale and through the orchestration of human movement and collaboration, the work will feature Purchase College students. Coates will also offer movement workshops related to the themes of the piece to museum visitors.

Autumn Knight

April 12-16

Knight’s sculptural installation and dialogue-based performance work, *Complain/Disappoint*, will feature five performers drawn from the Purchase College community. The performers will interpret and present action scores that include interaction with sculptural objects created by Knight and the recitation of texts featuring the complaints of people who “are not usually allowed to complain or who we do not expect to hear complaining.” The piece explores affective labor, vulnerability, and the extraordinary expectations placed on certain types of workers we ask to shoulder other’s burdens while ignoring that they have their own.

Patty Chang with Astrida Neimanis and Aleksija Neimanis

April 26-30

Chang, Neimanis and Neimanis will present a work exploring intimacy and feeling (as individual physical sensation and as the sense of belonging to a group) through a participatory, immersive environment. Still images culled from virtual reality depicting the action of touching an object will form the visual

backdrop to performers and audience members playing a memory game using cards strewn across the floor. Investigating the seams between vision, touch, and sound, as well as the borders between individual and collective experience. Chang, Neimanis and Neimanis will invite museumgoers to consider the reality of feelings in multiple ways.

Jesus Benavente

May 3-7

Benavente will present a series of installations and interventions in the gallery and across the Purchase College campus on a rotating, irregular schedule. The artist will work with students to produce gatherings that have the aesthetics of protest to investigate what turns a group into a politicized bloc. Large inflatable sculptures will fill the gallery, altering one’s perception of space and transforming the solemn museum into an overstuffed funhouse. Museumgoers will be invited to a dance party with music and lights, all of which will alternate between a celebratory club atmosphere and a surveilled crime scene. Sometimes, a mariachi band will appear. The collection of spatial invitations and interventions will explore the ways our surroundings shape our sense of self and the permissible—what it is OK to do, and what it is not OK to do—and it will offer moments and glimpses of how people can push back on these limitations and expand our sense of the possible.

Hard Return: 9 Experiments for this Moment is organized by the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, SUNY, and co-curved by Purchase College faculty members Kate Gilmore, a renowned performance artist, and Jonah Westerman, an art historian who specializes in performance art.

Funding for this exhibition is provided by the Purchase College Foundation and the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase.

Third Annual Five Towns: One Book to Explore the Life and Work of Writer and Activist, Lorraine Hansberry

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versation with artist Alvin Clayton and panelists TBD.

Saturday, April 15th- 3pm - New Rochelle Library, Ossie Davis Theater - Hansberry: A Theatrical Exploration of Redlining. Directed by Kevin R. Free, with Actors (TBD) and redlining expert Gregory Jost.

All events are in person. To register for these events and learn more go to: <https://www.learnwithcure.com/events>

The five libraries partnering with CURE are Croton Free Library, Harrison Public Library, Larchmont Public Library, New Rochelle Public Library, and Rye Free Reading Room. In addition

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CURE continues to partner with over 50 county organizations who believe in this work. This program is generously funded by the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

Dr. Colbert will sign copies of *Radical Vision* at the Croton library on Feb.11th. Copies are available at By-The-Dam-Book in Croton. You may also borrow the book via local libraries. CURE also recommends local bookseller Otilia Taylor-Tanner of The Humble Bumble who will be curating a list of additional books to complement this program series.

For more information,visit www.learnwithcure.com

Winged Foot Golf Club Selected to Host 2028 U.S. Open



On January 9, The USGA announced that Winged Foot Golf Club (West Course), in Mamaroneck, has been selected as the host site for the 2028 U.S. Open Championship.

“Winged Foot has provided the backdrop for some of the most dramatic moments in the history of our sport, with many of golf’s legendary champions being crowned on the club’s iconic West Course,” said John Bodenhamer, USGA chief championships officer. “We strive to provide players with the greatest stages on which to compete for a national championship, and there are few stages as grand as Winged Foot.”

Located in Mamaroneck, Winged Foot features two 18-hole golf courses – the West and the East – both of which were designed by A.W. Tillinghast and debuted in 1923. The championship will be contested on the West, which was renovated and restored by Gil Hanse in 2018.

“Today is an incredible moment for all of us here at Winged Foot,” said Rob Williams, president of Winged Foot Golf Club. “Our club has a long history of hosting this nation’s greatest men’s and women’s championships and we look forward to helping write another chapter in the story of our great sport in 2028.”

The 128th U.S. Open will mark the seventh time the championship has been held at Winged Foot. It will also be the 14th USGA championship to be hosted by the club. During its 100-year history, the club has been the site of six U.S. Opens, two U.S. Amateurs, two U.S. Women’s Opens, one U.S. Senior Open, one U.S. Amateur Four-Ball and one Walker Cup Match. In addition, Winged Foot hosted the 1997 PGA Championship.

In the first U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 1929, amateur Bob Jones won his third U.S. Open title by defeating Al Espinosa in a 36-hole playoff by a resounding 23 strokes. Thirty years later, Billy Casper claimed the first of his two U.S. Open titles in the first edition of the competition contested over four days. In 1974, Hale Irwin captured the first of his three U.S. Open victories with a 72-hole score of 7-over-par 287.

In 1984, Fuzzy Zoeller won his lone U.S. Open title by defeating Greg Norman in an 18-hole playoff. Geoff Ogilvy posted a dramatic one-stroke victory over Jim Furyk, Phil Mickelson and Colin Montgomerie in 2006. In the most recent U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 2020, Bryson DeChambeau was the only player under par as he registered a six-stroke victory in the first U.S. Open contested in September in 107 years.

In 2028, Winged Foot will match Baltusrol Golf Club, in Springfield, N.J., as the second-most visited U.S. Open host site. Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club has hosted the championship nine times, with its 10th scheduled for 2025. The 128th edition of the U.S. Open will be the 22nd contested in New York, the most of any state.

Matt Fitzpatrick hoisted the U.S. Open Trophy last June after completing a one-stroke victory at The Country Club, in Brookline, Mass., where he also triumphed in the U.S. Amateur nine years earlier. The Englishman joined 18-time major champion Jack Nicklaus as the only golfers to have won the USGA’s two oldest championships at the same venue. To be eligible for the U.S. Open, a competitor must have a Handicap Index® not exceeding 1.4, or be a professional.

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Health Commissioner Urges Families to Schedule a COVID Booster

The Westchester County Department of Health will now offer Bivalent COVID-19 boosters for children ages six months to three years old, in addition to the booster vaccines and flu shots already available for older children and adults.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said, “Now that this COVID-19 booster is available for the youngest children, I strongly urge parents to schedule it right away, with your child’s healthcare provider or with the Health Department. New York State has already reported pediatric deaths from flu and COVID-19, including in otherwise healthy children who were unvaccinated, and there are high rates of hospitalization for other respiratory viruses. Vaccination now will give your family a healthy start to the new year and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to more vulnerable family and friends.”

Flu season is here, and families also can schedule flu vaccines with their healthcare provider or at the Health Department Clinic in White Plains.

The Westchester County Health Department will offer pediatric COVID-19 bivalent boosters to infants six months of age and up, who have completed their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, by appointment, on Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the County Clinic at 134 Court Street, White Plains.

In the U.S., flu activity is usually highest between December and February, but can last into May. One flu vaccine now provides protection all season long and can prevent illness or reduce the severity of flu symptoms. The vaccine becomes fully effective after about two weeks.

Go to www.westchestergov.com/health to book your vaccine visit.

Funding Available to Help Families Pay Water Bills

On January 12, Rockland County Executive Ed Day and Westchester County Executive George Latimer were joined by social services and nonprofit leaders in Nyack for a press conference in recognition of “LIHWAP Awareness Day.”

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program administered by New York State designed to help low-income households reduce the balances on their residential water and wastewater bills. Since January 1, 2023, Rockland and Westchester residents have received over \$2.5 million in LIHWAP funding. LIHWAP Awareness Day is designed to bring greater awareness of this program to families in Rockland and Westchester Counties who may be eligible for relief.

County Executives Day and Latimer each made remarks and presented proclamations recognizing LIHWAP Awareness Day. They were joined by Rockland County Social Services Commissioner Joan Silvestri of Rockland County, Westchester County Social Services Commissioner Leonard Towns, United Way of Westchester and Putnam President & CEO Tom Gabriel, United Way of Rockland President & CEO Steve Papas, and Yudelca Fondeur, a direct recipient of LIHWAP funding who spoke about how this program has helped her and her family. Representatives from Veolia, which provides water services to nearly 500,000 residents in Rockland and Westchester counties, were also in attendance.

In recognition of LIHWAP awareness day, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge was lit yellow – the color of hope – on the evening on January 12, 2023.

“Since the program began accepting applications in December of 2021, more than 1,800 applications have been approved and a total of \$2.3 million dispersed to our Rockland families. That’s



County Executive George Latimer

nearly \$1,300 an application,” said Rockland County Executive Ed Day. “We know these last few years have been difficult for families, but this program is here to help you. I encourage everyone eligible to apply for this assistance.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “Access to running water is essential to daily life - and with rising costs nationwide, securing access to this essential piece of daily life is growing more difficult for families already facing economic challenges. Bringing awareness to this program, through events like this, can help to alleviate some of the pressures facing Westchester and Rockland residents to make ends meet.”

“The last few years have been challenging for people everywhere. Following an unprecedented pandemic, inflation is resulting in rising costs for almost everything,” said Karine Rougé, CEO of Municipal Water for Veolia North America. “This is particularly difficult for working families who may be struggling just to keep up with basic needs like water. Water is an essential resource, and we must do our part to help those who need it most.”

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program administered by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

The program can assist households who have past due bills for water and sewer services and can help prevent water and sewer services from being shut off. LIHWAP is a benefit based on the actual amount of water and/or sewer arrears, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per water or sewer provider, or \$5,000 if water and sewer services are combined, per applicant household.

The OTDA has set up a secure Application Portal for households to apply for LIHWAP online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The program will expire on Dec. 31, 2023.

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What Should You Do if Your Parents are Getting Older



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

As an estate planning and elder law attorney, one of my goals as a professional practicing in this field is to educate others on the importance of planning and to assist them in designing plans that help accomplish their estate planning objectives.

If your parents have not yet taken care of their estate planning, here are some thoughts to help get them started:

1. Have a discussion with them about their long-term care future. While this is not an easy or fun discussion, it can help get the ball rolling. One

effective way to kick off the discussion is to let your parents know that estate planning is so important, that you have just taken care of your own planning! Typically, a good discussion will result in the production of an action list. You can start by asking your parents where they wish to live if they cannot care for themselves and how they will pay for that care. Ask how they would like you to help them if they can no longer make decisions on their own. Ask if they have any insurance about which you should know. Ask where they keep their important papers and if they would feel comfortable with you having copies of key documents now.

2. Discuss the importance of a durable power of attorney. This could be the single most important document your parents can sign. A properly executed power of attorney allows your parents to pick a person (or persons) to make financial decisions for them if they can no longer make those decisions themselves. Please keep in mind that a power of attorney is not simply a form. It is a complex document that requires a significant amount of thought. For example, if your parents select more than one person to be their agents under the

power of attorney, do they want them to be able to act separately or must all decisions be made together? A power of attorney can be as broad or as limited.

4. Consider long-term care insurance. Long-term care insurance can help pay for the cost of long-term care at home, in assisted living or in a nursing home. However, there are vigorous underwriting requirements that must be met to qualify for such insurance. Best to work with a qualified insurance agent who specializes in long-term care policies and who can explain. Also, note that most long-term care policies that are sold today are actually life insurance policies with a long-term care rider. Before buying, it is probably a good idea to have the policy reviewed by a Certified Elder Law Attorney to make sure it is the right policy and that it fits in with your parents' overall estate plan. Also, it is possible that insurance may be unavailable or prohibitively expensive due to your parents' ages. If that is the case, they may need to consider Medicaid planning. The sooner they do this, the better.

5. Probate avoidance. Probate is the legal process by which the validity of a will is proven. If your

parents can structure their estate plan to avoid probate, it will likely mean that you and the other beneficiaries of their estates will receive their inheritance sooner and with less court involvement. The best way to avoid probate is to have a revocable living trust as the cornerstone of your parents' estate plan. If properly drafted, they will be in control of managing their affairs while they are capable, and trust assets will pass to their beneficiaries without having to go through probate.

By taking the steps discussed above, you can help your parents achieve these goals.

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

All Access Healthcare: Regional Life Sciences Outlook

The Westchester County Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Westchester County Association (WCA) will host All Access Healthcare: Regional Life Sciences Outlook on February 2, 2023, in the Auditorium at 360 Hamilton Avenue in White Plains.

The tri-state region leads the nation in recent Life Science activity. Westchester County is home to the largest life sciences cluster in New York State, with over 8,000 jobs, representing over 20% of the State's total (private sector) life sciences employment. Speakers will discuss why the region has become a leading force in the life science sector, as well as the outlook going forward.

The morning event will feature a panel discussion moderated by Mary Howard, Executive Director of FirstXFounder, and OED partner leading the Westchester County Biosciences Accelerator. Panel participants include Rajiv R. Ratan, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director, Burke Neurological Institute; Teresa Leste, Principal, Deloitte Consulting; George Santo, Executive Director, J.P. Morgan Life Sciences Commercial Banking; and Deborah Viola, MBA, Ph.D., Vice President, Office of Research and Grants Administration, Westchester Medical Center.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Life sciences is an integral part of the Westchester County business ecosystem and a linchpin in our economy. Companies at various stages that call Westchester home have been able to adapt, adjust and continue to find success. This event will allow us to take a look at national trends, local innovations and how we can continue to support businesses in the life science industry throughout the region."

Westchester County Director of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons said, "The Office of Economic Development is invested in the continued growth and success of the life sciences in-

dustry and are thrilled to partner with the Westchester County Association to highlight the latest trends and future outlook of this exciting space."

Deborah Novick, Westchester County Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, said, "To maintain our competitive edge as a region, we must continue to have these conversations about the direction and growth of our life sciences economy. By looking at local breakthroughs, national trends and what future technologies can mean for the industry, we are better positioned to continue to not only compete but be leaders in the sector."

Amy Allen, Vice President of WCA, said, "Westchester is home to leading academic medical systems in the region and a burgeoning life sciences industry. That's a powerful combination with great potential for collaborative research between clinicians and nascent biotech firms. Events like this shine a spotlight on Westchester's leading role in biotech innovation, helping to create new opportunities to drive scientific and medical breakthroughs and economic growth."

For more information and to register for the event, visit: <https://www.westchester.org/events/all-access-healthcare-regional-life-sciences-outlook/>.

The Westchester County Office of Economic Development works to improve the County's economic well-being and quality of life. This includes a broad range of activities to attract, create and retain jobs, and to foster a resilient, pro-growth and inclusive economy. For information, visit <https://westchestercatalyst.com/>.

The Westchester County Association is the most influential organization of businesses and non-profits in Westchester and the surrounding region. They unite and mobilize professional leaders to promote issues and lead initiatives that strengthen the regional economy.

Harrison Herald • February 2023 •

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Where to Enjoy Mardi Gras Reveling on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21st

Proprietor Peter Van Cott of The Bayou Restaurant, 580 Gramatan Ave., Mount Vernon, has been serving up the spirited sounds and flavors of Cajun country since 1991, and the place is still funky and enjoyable. So, if you can't make it to New Orleans, this is the

spot to revel to authentic blues and zydeco music while hunkering down to an overstuffed Po' Boy or such house specialties as: Voodoo Wings, overstuffed Muffuletta's, Southern Fried Chicken, Grilled Peppered Catfish, Tender Pork Ribs Smothered in BBQ Sauce, Jazzy Jumpin' Jambalaya, Alligator Sausage, and Crawfish Tails Smothered in rich Creole Gravy. Their 33rd Annual Mardi Gras Bash will be held on Fat Tuesday featuring live entertainment. Reservations are suggested. Phone: 914-668-2634. www.bayourestaurantny.com

Owner Nick Fusco at Freebird Kitchen & Bar, 161 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, serves a Southern-themed menu that includes such specialties as: Shrimp Po-Boy Sandwich; Fried Green Tomatoes; Cajun Pasta; Shrimp & Grits; and a hearty Pimento Cheeseburger. Look for a swarm of artsy flying birds hanging from the ceiling. Open for dinner at 4 p.m. weekdays; from 2 p.m., Fridays; from 11 a.m., Sat. & Sun. Great Happy Hours 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Weekend brunch. Phone: 914-607-2476. www.freebirdkitchenandbar.com

Owners Greg & Jon DeMarco and Kevin Campbell of Rye Roadhouse, 12 High Street, Page 13 • www.harrisonherald.com

Rye, will be marking Fat Tuesday all day. The fun starts with specialty cocktails, authentic New Orleans dishes and traditional Zydeco music. Try their tasty Shrimp Po' Boy or mixed bowl of Jambalaya with meats and seafood including Andouille sausage and craw-



Muffuletta

fish tails. The sweet potato fries served with remoulade are great. Beads and giveaways are also promised. Reservations a must. Phone: 914-925-2668. www.ryeroadhouse.com

Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar, 2375 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, is part of a 70-store chain of eateries espousing the delights of southern seafood. There are Crayfish Boils, Po' Boys. The menu allows you to select your favorite meat, seafood & vegetables and they will prepare a New Orleans-style meal. 914-

355-7739 www.hookreel.com

Holy Crab, 32 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, serves fresh Cajun-style seafood as you would see in New Orleans. It is a long sprawling space with bustling bar/lounge. Open daily 1-9:30 p.m. Check out such specialties as: Lobster Mac & Cheese, Po' Boys, Gumbo, Snow Crab Legs and Jambalaya Shrimp. Phone: 914-948-3888. www.holycrabny.com

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

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Susan's Men on Exhibit at the Harrison Public Library

The Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Avenue presents "Susan's Men" by Susan Obrant on display February 5 to March 3. A meet the artist reception will be held February 12 from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

The artist states, "The concept of this exhibition began because my husband loved my portraits of men. They started when I was a burgeoning illustrator of both Record Albums and Book Jackets. The Albums culminated in a Grammy nomination for album cover design and the first Classical Music nod.

"Some of these portraits were commissions, some were requests, and some just great friendships. Several now are sadly deceased, therefore even more memorable. Their variety is proof of the testosterone! And a salute to men."

Susan Obrant's art, from Grammy nominated record album covers to museum level painting, is in collections worldwide. Her Couture Crochet has costumed the Heidi Latsky Dance Company, the actress Audra McDonald, and Violinist Daisy Jopling (at her Lincoln Center performance) among others. The installation, "A Serious Art Discussion," combining both, appeared at Hudson Valley MOCA Art Museum in Peekskill from 2016 - 2018.

2022 culminated in Address:Earth, where her 25' Epiphany of Paradox oil was the core of the exhibition at West Conn University in Danbury, CT.



For info call 914-835-0324 or see <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/10164741>

Purchase Free Library February Events and News

Register for the following events at www.purchasefreelibrary.org or call (914) 948-0550.

All library programs are free.

The library will be closed on February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Join the PFL Foundation. The library is looking for folks to join the PFL Foundation. Help with fundraising, procuring donations, and securing endowments to enrich print resources, programs, services, and technology.

African Art. Saturday, February 11, 1:00 pm. The Neuberger Museum presents its permanent collection of African art. Take an online "walking tour" of traditional masks, instruments, sculptures, ceremonial headdresses, and textiles representing over thirty cultures in Central Africa. Zoom event. Adults.

Valentine's Dance. Saturday, February 18, 3:30 pm. Stanley and Traci are back from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio! Put on your happiest shade of pink and red, then join for a fun afternoon of music and dance. This jointly hosted event between the Purchase Free Library and the Harrison Public Library will take place in the community room of the Harrison Public Library. In-person event. Children, teens, adults.

The Real Book Club. Thursday, February



Photo Credit: Perry Stein

23, 6:00 pm. The selection for February is *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. "Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves." (Penguin Random House, 2022) Zoom and in-person event. Adults.

The Orchid Show Returns to The New York Botanical Garden for Its 20th Year

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has announced renowned landscape artist Lily Kwong as the guest designer for its 20th annual Orchid Show. Featuring immersive installations of thousands of orchids, Lily Kwong's design of the exhibition will transport guests to ethereal, reverent landscapes inspired by ancient Chinese garden design and artistic principles. The Orchid Show: Natural Heritage will be on view from February 18 through April 23, 2023, in NYBG's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Tickets for the exhibition, which has been called "the most Instagrammable event," are on sale now at nybg.org/orchidtickets.

The Orchid Show: Natural Heritage by Lily Kwong will explore the diversity, adaptability, and worldwide cultural significance of these formidable flowers. Inspired by classic paintings of Chinese mountainscapes passed down through her family from Shanghai, Kwong will utilize an extraordinary array of orchids—including iconic and rare specimens—enveloping visitors in towering mountainous forms that blend ecology, culture, and fantasy. Inspired by Kwong's own heritage, medicinal traditions, and her artistic interpretation of nature as a healing force, the resulting experience will beckon visitors into an immersive world in which humanity and nature coexist peacefully.

Working in collaboration with Kwong to bring her vision to life, horticulturists at NYBG have identified orchids from the Botanical Garden's collections, as well as from



some of the finest growers in the world, with a specific focus on Asian countries. These flowers will be assembled to create dynamic displays that are not only visually dramatic and striking, but emotionally evocative, inspiring visitors to reflect on their own plant heritage and ancestry. The exhibition's varied installations evoking ancient mountainous topographies will invite visitors to experience the boundlessness of nature's creativity and imagine a

future where environmental harmony is restored.

"I am deeply honored by the invitation to be the guest designer of NYBG's historic, 20th annual Orchid Show. The Garden's Conservatory, greenhouses, and educational programs inspired my early career. This exhibition's design is my most autobiographical work to date, and the piece took shape through meditation and exploration of my ancestral roots stretching back generations to Shanghai," said Kwong. "As the first woman of color to step into the role as guest designer, it felt urgent to celebrate an Asian-centered perspective in the midst of this charged and precarious moment," she said. "The piece is meant to offer a bridge of cultural understanding across the valley between us, and act as an invitation to celebrate the diverse lineages that make up our country."



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