Chabad of Pelham “Chanukah on Fifth” Celebrates Festival of Lights

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Chabad of Pelham joyfully lit up the night in front of the Town of Pelham Gazebo, celebrating their Fifth Annual “Chanukah on Fifth” on December 23rd with a six-foot ice Menorah carving; music; Latkes; and a variety of donuts. A spectacular parachute candy drop from atop the boom of Pelham Manor Fire Department Tower Ladder 3 was a highlight for all the children.

A beautiful ice Menorah was created by award-winning sculptor Richard Daly of Ice Memories, Inc. Wooden Dreidels were set out on crafting tables for children to decorate. Another table contained sticks and gumdrops for excited children to create geometric designs and 3-D Dreidels.

New Town of Pelham Supervisor Daniel W. McLaughlin lit the Menorah’s Shamash (serving candle). Chabad of Pelham

continued on page 3

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Governor Signs Two Biaggi Bills and Vetos Another

On December 17th, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation sponsored by State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (S4990A), requiring training with respect to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for daycare providers.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (D-Bronx/Westchester) issued the following statement: “Training in adverse childhood experiences will give daycare providers the important tools to identify trauma in the children they care for daily. Ensuring that a child is surrounded by adults who have an understanding of childhood trauma will make a positive difference for these children in the short-term by nurturing resilience, which will carry over into their adult lives.”

On December 20th, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation sponsored by State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (S4281A), providing for the termination of a residential lease by a survivor of domestic violence. The bill allows tenants to pay rent, pro-rata, up to the lease termination date.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (D-Bronx/Westchester) issued the following statement: “The purpose of this bill is to give survivors of domestic violence the ability to remove themselves from a dangerous living situation without facing legal or financial penalties. It is imperative that we continue to eliminate barriers to seeking safety for survivors of domestic abuse, and expand avenues for these New Yorkers to access permanent housing that can give them the space to rebuild their independence.”

In addition, on December 20th, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo vetoed legislation sponsored by State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (S3465), requiring all public transportation workers to undergo a human-trafficking recognition training program.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (D-Bronx/Westchester) issued the following statement:

“Human-traffickers rely heavily on public transportation to move their victims in plain sight across the country. Providing the necessary training for public transportation workers to recognize the signs of human-trafficking creates an important line of defense to stop it in its tracks. As human-trafficking continues to grow in the Bronx and across the state, we must do everything we can to protect New Yorkers against this egregious exploitation that is inextricably tied up with movement – arming our public transportation workers with essential training is a no brainer.”

 Governor Levi Groner and Todd Rothenberg, New Rochelle lit two other candles.

Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen stated, “I grew up in a small town in southwest Kansas. When I was a child, I did not know anyone who was Jewish. Since that time, I am proud to be Mayor of such a diverse, beautiful community.”

“Unfortunately, over the past year, we have experienced darkness too close to home,” Rabbi Groner stressed. “We may see small candle flames, slowly creating a beautiful light. They may seem small, but together, one at a time they...light up the world.”

McLaughlin observed how wonderful the Chanukah celebration was and wished everyone a very Happy Chanukah.
Pelham Winter Concerts

The PMHS Orchestra, Bands and Chorus delighted audiences all week during their annual winter concerts. The performances began with the orchestra conducted by Dr. Michele Zanky. Selections included “Trio Sonata” (Gallo/Monday), “Symphony #8 in G Major” (Dvorak/Parrish), and a medley “Best of Queen” (Mercury/Zanky).

Next up was the Choral Concert on December 18, conducted by Maria Abeshouse. The Chamber Chorus opened with “Come Again” (John Dowland) as one of its four selections. Performances by the Concert Chorus included a Holiday Medley and a song to honor teacher Tom Roksvold who passed away last summer titled “Precious Gifts” written teacher Eric Katz. The AcaPelicans, a student led group, sang “Cantique de Jean Racine” (Gabriel Faure) and Isaac Black Roksvold who passed away last summer titled “Precious Gifts” written teacher Eric Katz. The concert concluded with PMHS graduates joining in to sing “Hallelujah from Messiah.”

The December 19 Band Concert, directed by Andrew Van Bochove, began with the jazz band performing “Ginger Bread Boy” (Jimmy Heath) as one of its four songs, which also included “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In.” The Concert band then took the stage for four selections including “A Day at the Zoo” (James Curnow) and “Sleigh Ride” (Leroy Anderson), which featured several alums returning to perform with the band.

Pierpont Reports on New County Shared Services Plan

Village of Pelham Manor Jennifer Monachino Lapey convened the December 16th Board of Trustees meeting, mentioning that she attended an excellent Fire Inspection Dinner, hosted by Chief Joseph Ruggiero with many accomplished First Responders on December 6th.

Lapey then called upon Village Manager John Pierpont, who mentioned that he went to a Shared Services Plan meeting on December 16th at the County Center. Pierpont stated that a Portal has been created where cities, villages and towns can look up opportunities to share services and equipment.

“The County is also looking to consolidate waste water treatment districts. Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities Michael Kaplowitz will evaluate the County’s sewage treatment and recycling plants. The County will issue a report on their County-wide Food Scrap Collection Program in January.”

Pierpont added that he spoke to Region 8 DOT Director Lance MacMillan who wants to meet with State Legislators regarding the proposed Monopole location. “Trustees Michelle DeLillo and Joseph Senerchia have spoken about a location one exit down,” Lapey noted.

Lapey then bade a fond farewell to Pelham Plus publisher Maggie Klein, acknowledging that this was her last meeting.

Police Chief Jeffrey Carpenter shared his criticism of a recent arrest and subsequent release of an alleged perpetrator, “who broke into a home while the occupants were there.” Their barking dog alerted them to dial 911.

Chief Carpenter called attention to recent DUI offenses, including a vehicle that flipped on Boston Post Road. The department’s Intoxilizer was helpful in those situations. Carpenter added that a resident sent in a photo of packages torn open on a porch. “The more eyes, the better at this time of year,” he stressed. “Do not hesitate to call us.”

The JFM Group Announces New Leadership for 2020

After 35 years of having founded, raised and grown The JFM Group, a New York-based company that provides overall strategic planning, individualized fundraising campaigns, event and production management to not-for-profit organizations, Joan F. Morgan passed the baton at the end of 2019. She is thrilled to announce that her colleague and friend, Vice President Jessica Marsillo, has become the president and owner of The JFM Group. Morgan will stay involved in the company as Founder and Senior Consultant.

“I call her Jessica “Fabulous” Marsillo -- another JFM! It was difficult to end this amazing 35-year run, but the timing is right. And, I have every confidence in Jessica, with whom I have worked side-by-side for the last 12 years,” said Morgan. “She is passionate, dedicated, and the next generation agent of change. She will bring her own unique skills to the next era of The JFM Group, and she will ensure a seamless transition for our many clients – who I also call dear friends and partners.”

Marsillo, who started as a Project Associate 12 years ago and has since risen through the ranks of JFM, says she has some big shoes to fill by stepping into the role as Owner and President of JFM. “Joan created an extraordinary company that has deep roots in our city’s and world’s nonprofit community. JFM is cutting-edge, ever-evolving and takes on the most challenging projects. As founder and leader, Joan has built an incredible reputation and enormous good will in the industry. I love it with as much heart and soul as she has for 35 years,” said Marsillo.

Moving forward, Marsillo wants to “inspire people the way I have been inspired by Joan, our clients and our colleagues. I want to continue to infuse my own style, energy and vision to expand our team, grow our areas of expertise and make our clients believe that they can make an impact in ways they never knew.”

The JFM Group is a small, powerful company with a specialty of working with not-for-profit organizations to raise their fundraising efforts to align with their mission and level of work; create and implement tailor-made strategic fundraising plans; and create, manage and execute meaningful, educational and inspiring events and programs. They strive to work with organizations that are doing good in the world and are using the money raised in efficient, impactful and successful ways. Whether the money they raise is helping to keep the doors open at an organization, funding medical research or education scholarships for underserved students, the JFM team puts their all into every project.

For more information, visit: thejfmgroup.com
**From the Desk of the Village of Pelham Mayor**

**Good News (and Best Wishes) for the Holidays!**

Dear neighbors,

As we approach the end of another eventful year, I just wanted to share a little bit of news...

As you know, Deputy Mayor Adam Kagan was elected to the Village Board in November and resigned from his role on the Village Board. I’m excited to announce that longtime resident Ciro Greco has agreed to fill his seat as our newest Trustee. You may remember that Ciro previously served on the Village Board from 2004-2008, where he helped draft the Village’s Comprehensive Plan. He has been a member of our planning board since 2017 and had previously served another stint on the planning board from 2002-2004. This is all to say: Ciro will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Village board, and I hope you’ll join us at our Regular Meeting on January 14th when he will be formally sworn in.

Of course, Ciro won’t be alone for the ceremony. Trustee Pete Potocki was confirmed by the Village Board as our new Deputy Mayor and we’ll be sure to spare him a little fanfare as well. Pete has been a trusted advisor to me over these last eight months, and I am grateful he agreed to take on this role. If you see either of them around town over the break, please be sure to thank them for their commitment to our community. We are lucky to have them both.

Thank you all for making the first eight months of my tenure as Mayor so memorable. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year. Here’s to 2020!

Best,

Chance

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**Stressed Gen-Xers are Driving Trips in the Growing Wellness Niche for 2020**

Travelers resolving to improve themselves in 2020 are focusing on wellness of the mind and spirit - even more than the physical. A survey by global luxury travel network Virtuoso® of advisors specializing in the growing wellness niche uncovered that reducing stress and anxiety are paramount with travelers in the New Year. Expert advisors including Barbara Nichuals of Bayside Travel in Bronxville, named meditation and mindfulness as the top wellness travel activity and cited spiritual and mental wellness as significant emerging trends.

The survey revealed that the typical wellness traveler is a Generation-X woman who most frequently goes on trips with a small group of friends or solo. With today's increasingly hectic lifestyles due to work, family and other obligations, travelers are looking to wellness trips to provide a relaxing escape that restores balance and transforms mind, spirit and body.

“In 2020, wellness travelers want to completely unplug from the tensions of daily life, especially the mental pressures that come from balancing their busy lives,” said Nichuals. “During the trip, they want to learn skills to help maintain that calm and support their mental, spiritual and physical health once they return home. The beauty of working with a wellness travel specialist is that we take the stress out of planning and booking travel, so we put their minds at ease even before they leave.”

Asian destinations emerged strongly as favorite wellness settings. Although the U.S. tops the list of wellness travel destinations, Bali and Thailand follow closely behind. Two other Asian locales, Bhutan and Vietnam, appear high on the roster of wellness destinations on the rise. The prevalence of meditation, yoga, spirituality, fresh cuisine, spa treatments and outdoor activities makes Asia compelling for travelers focusing on wellbeing.

Virtuoso specialists including Nichuals report that wellness travel sales are pacing solidly for 2020. Fifty-three percent say sales will be steady from 2019, while 45 percent say they expect sales to increase. The future is even more positive: a powerful 98 percent say the trend will continue to build.

**Key results from the 2020 Virtuoso Wellness Community survey include:**

- The Top Wellness Travel Activities are Stress and anxiety reduction; Rest and relaxation; Body/Mind/Spirit transformation; The Top Wellness Travel Motivations are: Meditation and mindfulness; Spa treatments such as massages; Yoga; The Top Wellness Travel Destinations are the United States, Bali and Thailand; The Top Wellness Travel Destinations on the Rise are Bhutan, Croatia and Vietnam; The Top Emerging Wellness Travel Trends are: Hotels with wellness amenities; Spiritual retreats and Mental wellness.

Travel advisors who are part of Virtuoso’s Wellness Community, including Nichuals, lent their expertise and knowledge to this survey, offering their insights into 2020’s top trends in this growing niche.

With every destination and travel style from the exotic to close-to-home experiences, Bayside Travel advisors are committed to delivering the experience of a lifetime. For more information, visit www.luxurytravelversive.com or call 833-8880.
january calendar

UPCOMING

The Greenburg Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale will hold the following: January 18 from 1 to 2pm – Feeding Fun, a hands-on program to feed indoor animals and birds; January 19 from 1 to 2pm – Creatures of the Night, meeting nocturnal animals to find out why they only come out at night; January 20 from 1 to 2pm – Meet the Animals, an informative program that allows you to get up close and hands-on with live animals; January 25 from 1 to 2pm – Eyes on Owls, getting to know resident owls and uncover the secrets of these mysterious night dwellers; January 26 from 1 to 2pm – Feed Fun (see above); February 1 and 2, from 1 to 2pm – Winter Nature Walk, bring gloves and scarves to head outside and roam the forest trails

SAVE THE DATE: February 2 at 3pm – 6th Beethoven Festival with the Yonkers Philharmonic at Saunders Trades High School, 185 Palmer Road, Yonkers. Admission is free. Visit yonkersphilharmonic.org or call 571-310-7060 for more information.

JANUARY

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From 4 to 5:30pm, a festive celebration of Three Kings Day will take place at the New Rochelle Public Library, One Library Plaza featuring a free live performance by the costumed dancers of the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company and following the performance, samples of locally-baked Rosca de Reyes will be served.

17
From 6:30 to 9pm, Project Community will hold Teen Project C.H.I.L.D.D. at the Darconco Town House, 20 Fifth Avenue, a social event for co-ed teens with developmental disabilities, featuring music, movies, dinner and more, supported by teen mentors, registered professional nurses and community volunteers. Register at projectcommunitycares.org

19
From 2 to 4:30pm, Project Community will hold Project C.H.I.L.D.D. Art Program, a free monthly professional art instruction that helps children with special needs ages 3 to 18 at the Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Avenue. The program supports therapeutic expression and builds self-esteem. Register at projectcommunitycares.org

From 10am to 1pm, UJA-Federation in Westchester: MLK Day of Service -- Sort and Pack Supplies for Disaster Victims will take place at Westchester Reform Temple, 255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale for grades 8 - 12. Register at www.ujafedny.org/volunteer-opportunity/natural-disaster-relief-19. Call 385-2132 for further information.

From 11am to 2:30pm, there will be a “Mean Girls” Audition Technique Workshop at The Manor Club. No audition required. Program is for ages 8-18. For details and to register, call A Class Act at 212-315-3010 or visit AClassActNY.Eventbrite.com
Stepinac High School Crusader Hardwood Club Inducts Six into Hall of Fame

At Stepinac High School's recent annual Crusader Hardwood Club Dinner, six new members were inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of their outstanding contributions as members of the school's varsity basketball team. The new inductees are (l-r): Kevin Hyland (Class of '02) of New York City, formerly White Plains; Billy Palagonia (Class of '90) of Chicago, formerly New Rochelle; Ed Dealy (Class of '06) of Naples, Florida--formerly White Plains; Larry Blucher (Class of '81) of Greenwich, formerly Yonkers; Brian Croughan accepting on behalf of his late brother Jimmy Croughan (Class of '78) of Tuckahoe. Not shown is Michael Hyland (Class of '96) of Stamford, formerly White Plains.

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“And the stockings were hung by the groceries with care...”
Larchmont’s DeCicco & Sons honors their staff in celebrating the holiday spirit!

As usual, you can ordinarily expect the extraordinary when you and your family shop at DeCicco & Sons on Palmer Avenue in Larchmont. While most supermarkets during the holiday season only display their holiday specials like sales on turkeys and hams...cookies and cakes... eggnog and candy canes...family-owned DeCicco & Sons in Larchmont is promoting something special: their employees! In-keeping with the holiday spirit, and long-time holiday tradition, you’ll be amazed at the number of personalized red & white fluffy holiday stockings hung along the store’s second story eatery and bar. Each and every employee has his or her name written on their own stocking... bright, colorful and proud!

Here’s how it all began: DeCicco & Sons held a contest among all their 8 stores to see who can decorate their store with the most original, holiday-festive concept. While all the stores submitted fun and inspiring holiday spirit, the Larchmont store was the winner!

“Our most important ‘product’ is our employees,” said Luisa DeCicco, VP of Personnel, responsible for hiring the over 900 employees throughout DeCicco & Son’s 8 stores. “We have a strong family tradition of making sure that our staff is truly a part of the DeCicco family, as we celebrate not only their talents, but also their character, virtues and genuine caring for others. The Larchmont store captured our brand spirit in a very original way!”

John DeCicco, Jr., President, continued “When our customers see all the holiday stockings hung with all of our employees’ names, they realize how important our staff is to us... and how proud we are of them.”

The actual tradition of hanging holiday stockings originated around 300 AD in Asia Minor by a nobleman named Nicholas (Yes, that St. Nicholas!). He shared his wealth by placing coins in the stockings of impoverished people in his hometown. His generosity served as a glowing example of what the holidays are all about. It’s not coincidental that DeCicco & Sons have a strong sense of benevolence as they have contributed for the past 40 years to the Pelham Civic Association’s Good Neighbor Program – annually providing baskets of full meals to those in need during the holidays.

As one of their employees was overheard saying, “The kindness and respect that the DeCicco’s have for all of their employees...and customers...brings their motto of “Quality First” to life...not only during the holidays, but throughout the entire year!”

You can find the spirit of the holidays at any one of the DeCicco stores located in Ardsley, Armonk, Brewster, Harrison, Larchmont, Millwood, Pelham and Somers. For more information, visit deciccoandsons.com.

Houlihan Lawrence Welcomes Seasoned Real Estate Agent

Houlihan Lawrence welcomes local real estate veteran Alice Horowitz to its New Rochelle brokerage.

A long-time resident of Westchester County with over two decades of experience in real estate, Horowitz currently resides in Larchmont. She joins Houlihan Lawrence from Coldwell Banker, where she successfully represented buyers and sellers of real estate all over the Westchester Sound Shore communities of Larchmont, New Rochelle, Rye, Rye Neck, Harrison and Rye Brook. Horowitz also managed the Better Homes and Garden Realty office in New Rochelle.

“As a former New York City real estate attorney and local real estate office manager, I understand the intricacies of real estate transactions and make certain the process is seamless for buyers and sellers,” said Horowitz. “My high standard of care ensures that all of my clients understand the financial, emotional and legal aspects of their purchase or sale. I am excited to bring this knowledge to the Houlihan Lawrence brokerage.”

Horowitz graduated from Brandeis University in 1985 and Cardozo Law School in 1988. She is a licensed Associate Broker and Juris Doctor. She is also a member of numerous associations including National Association of Realtors, the New York State Association of Realtors, and the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service.

“We are excited to welcome Alice to the Houlihan Lawrence team,” said Michellina Arminio, associate real estate broker and brokerage manager at Houlihan Lawrence. “She brings valuable experience and will be a tremendous asset to Houlihan Lawrence and her clients.”
A Higher LEVEL of Fitness Arrives in Pelham

What do you get when you take one of the most luxurious fitness clubs in the area, add $1.75 million in renovations and sprinkle in large healthy doses of scientifically proven methodology?

Welcome to the new LEVEL Fitness Signature Club—formerly Kinetic Sports Club—on Pelham Parkway in Pelham Manor.

Brought to you by the same ownership that has operated the club since 2012, the LEVEL Signature club will be the only fitness facility in the area with six studios, including the Level Method and After Burn studios, which will host the club’s trademark classes. The workout floor was also expanded to host Queenax Group Strength Training, which offers a personalized platform for functional, strength and suspension training.

The initial LEVEL Fitness club opened in Yorktown last January and was voted Best New Gym in Westchester by Westchester Magazine. Like its initial location, the 50,000-square-foot facility is marked by big, open spaces, high ceilings and natural materials like distressed wood, marble, slate and stone. While LEVEL Signature exudes luxury, its results-oriented classes and unique amenities will be what set it apart.

LEVEL’s cutting-edge concepts and trainer-driven small group workouts are adaptable to all comers, from elite athletes to those new to a workout regimen.

The biggest surprise, however, may be how far your fitness dollar goes at LEVEL.

“Our Signature programs—Level Method and After Burn—combine all different types of training methodologies in the span of a single class, which will produce maximum results,” said Fitness Director Shaun Polera. “These classes provide a relaxing, rejuvenating experience.”

In the Himalayan Salt Room, members simply sit back, unwind and breathe deeply as the micro-particles of pure white salt are dispersed into the air, cleansing and detoxifying their lungs, sinuses and air passages.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER ITS EXTENSIVE GROUP FITNESS SCHEDULE, WHICH INCLUDES CYCLE, BODY PUMP, YOGA, PILATES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE. EACH OF THE STUDIOS WERE CUSTOM BUILT TO HOST ITS SPECIFIC CLASS AGAIN, DELIVERING THE BEST GROUP FITNESS EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE—AND ALL UNDER ONE ROOF.

In keeping with that theme, LEVEL hand-selected Josh Berrier to implement and oversee classes at both local clubs. Josh is an International Master Presenter and a Program Lead for vaunted Les Mills Fitness. “Every class should be an experience,” said the new Group Fitness Director, “and in these studios in this incredible club ... this is group fitness re-imagined.”

 Despite its transformation to a LEVEL Signature, the club remains a full-service destination club for spirited athletes of all ages. The club offers an indoor water park and a lap pool, a regulation-sized basketball court, steam rooms and saunas, personal training, and child care.

“With the way the fitness industry is moving toward programming, the LEVEL brand is destined to grow fast,” added Polera. “The member experience at the Yorktown club was so outstanding and the members achieved such positive results that ownership didn’t hesitate to re-invest in what was already a beautiful club. We’ll call the Pelham location LEVEL Signature, meaning it will always be our flagship club.”

LEVEL tracks the progress of its members with regular body composition assessments, so those who stick to the prescribed programming can expect to reach a higher “level” of fitness in the New Year.

For further information, call (914) 738-4000 or access www.levelfitnessclubs.com.
A secret Pelham resident shared these fabulous photos of their dear friend's Elf on a Shelf adventures. Her friend captured the elves busy jamming to the music and song stylings of Zev... and of course, to keep up their strength and watchful eye, all elves must work out. And what fun to do just that with friends like Barbie. Perhaps the elf had to make a quick get-away so ziplining across the room is highly effective.

We see great things happening in Pelham every day and I say, “cool beans!!”

Send in your cool story ideas, photos and more to shorelineproduction@gmail.com and follow us on Instagram @coolbeanspelhamny

Patty Pops Officially Opens on Fifth Avenue

On December 14, Patty Lambrou along her fiance, Manos Kalognomas and sister Tina Catania (both pictured in the far right photo), officially opened Patty Pops at 321 Fifth Avenue in Pelham.

Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen was on hand to assist Patty with the ribbon cutting. And of course, Santa paid a visit to the cake pop shop.

Patty Pops offers bite-size cake balls, dipped in premium chocolate and topped with sprinkles and creative custom designs. In addition to the yummy pops, you can find a beautiful selection of ready-to-sell cakes, coffee and other delectable desserts. There are also vegan options available. Gluten free selection are coming.

Have your custom pops, tiered cakes, cupcakes and more designed to perfection. There are also treats such as chocolate covered cookies, pretzels and rice krispie treats. Party packages are also available.

Visit pattypops.com and follow them on Instagram and Facebook. Phone: 347-409-3084.

Dubrovnik Hosts Annual Hugh A. Doyle Center Holiday Luncheon

On December 18th, 35 members of the Hugh A. Doyle Senior Center in New Rochelle were treated to a Holiday buffet luncheon at Dubrovnik Restaurant on Main Street, New Rochelle. The full-course buffet included many flavorful specialties from Dubrovnik’s innovative Croatian/Adriatic menu, from soup to dessert. A fun and flavorful time was enjoyed by all. According to Sara Furlong, recreational supervisor at the Doyle Center, construction at the facility had made it impossible to hold the Holiday party there. Dubrovnik proprietor Jerry Tomic started this gathering 4 years ago and was delighted to have the group back again. Dubrovnik, the first Croatian restaurant to open in the metropolitan New York area, has been lauded in the food press. The restaurant was recently awarded a 'Bib Gourmet' designation by the influential Michelin Guide. www.dubrovnikny.com

Left to right: Owner and founder Jerry Tomic of Dubrovnik with Sara Furlong and General Manager Matija Zarak
An Analysis of Hardness in Arthur Miller’s The Crucible

BY LUKAS GLIST

In The Crucible, Arthur Miller uses the motif of hard objects and materials to develop the central idea that inflexible and unmoving attitudes are often inaccurate. Characters and institutions that rely on tradition to make decisions are associated with hard objects and often make decisions that harm others.

The motif of hardness is present in the stage directions, which give insight to a character’s inner feelings and their manners. For example, when Thomas Putnam is introduced, he is said to be a “well-to-do, hard-handed landowner, near fifty” (12). Throughout the play, Putnam tries to gain the land of his neighbors by accusing people and buying up their land. By describing him as “hard-handed,” Miller presents Putnam as a strict and oppressive man. Putnam is also involved in a land dispute with John Proctor concerning an area of land that Proctor cuts trees from. When asked why Putnam believes the land to be his, he claims that his grandfather gave it to him in his will (30). Putnam calls back to his ancestors and the past in this manner to back up his claim, but this is still inaccurate, as the land was never in the ownership of his grandfather. Wool, a hard substance, acts both as a commodity and a symbol for ancestry, as trees can grow for generations before they are harvested. Another character that is described as hard is Judge Danforth. When Proctor brings Mary Warren to court to discredit the girls, he is accused by Parris of attempting to overthrow the court. When Danforth hears of this, he tries to get Proctor to back down, offering that his wife would be spared until she gives birth. When Proctor refuses, Danforth has an “im-perceptible hardness in his voice” (85). When challenged, he begins to harden and become less receptive to change. This is the root problem of these trials, as when evidence that contradicts the testimonies of the girls is presented, it is cast away because the judges see it as an attack on their judgement and their capabilities. It is because of this unwavering nature that these trials proceed and true justice is never reached. An additional character that is associated with stone and hard materials is Giles Corey. When questioned about his accu- sation, Giles refuses to answer, and large stones are put on his chest until he gives birth. When Proctor demands hard proof for why his wife is imprisoned (80). This blind trust in what Abigail and the girls say is what causes many innocent lives to be lost and the power to be held by those with ill intentions. In addition to circumstantial evidence being proclaimed as hard, religion itself is often referred to in similar ways. When Hale enters and speaks of religion and the devil, he notes that, “The devil is precise; the marks of his presence are as definite as stone” (35). To reassure the other characters and establish that he is trustworthy, he approaches religion and the devil like a science. The simple act of treating what is in the Bible as definite and precise is often perverted to bend to the wills of the people. Though Hale fully believes in his religion and theology, declaring it as a fortress, there are still major flaws in his actions (64). He helps condemn innocent people to hang, all while declaring that he is following his faith. Though backed by years of study, his decisions are inaccurate and cause the unnecessary death of many. Even when evidence and religion are said to be hard, the adherence to such values and the girls’ testimony causes harmful decisions to be made.

Ultimately, throughout the play, characters and objects that are associated with hardness are involved in the sentencing and killing of many innocent characters. This motif supports the theme that those that rely on tradition to make decisions are foolish and those decisions often cause unnecessary harm.

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Fostering an Animal and Help Save A Life!

BY LYNN INGRASSIA

At Pet Rescue our team of foster cat and dog parents have consistently grown since we first opened our doors in 1982. As we’ve continued to grow, we have an increasing number of doggies needing temporary homes. We could not continue to save as many lives as we do without the dedication of our fosters. The more fosters we have available to us, the more lives we can save. It’s that simple.

You don’t have to be an animal expert to participate. All you need is a small safe area of your home, a willingness to help, love of animals and Pet Rescue will furnish the rest. All supplies and veterinary care are furnished by Pet Rescue and our foster coordinator is there to support and assist you in every need. Best of all, you get a snuggly little ball of fur to share a journey. There is no better feeling than helping a homeless animal find his way to a loving forever home.

Some common concerns about fostering include space, time, financial responsibility, children, and fostering commitment. Fostering an animal doesn’t require much space. All you need is a small room or an enclosed pen. They require surprisingly little time unless you are bottle feeding a kitten or puppy. As long as you can feed them on a schedule, walk them as needed and be able to take them to meet and greet to see if you are giving them much needed time out of the shelter environment. Love and consistency works wonders. The Pet Rescue Foster program covers all costs, medical care, vaccinations and supplies. Should you need to take a trip, bring them back to us while you are gone.

Children and pets can be mutually magical. With adult supervision, children can help care for foster pets and even receive community service hours.

If you would like to become a foster parent, visit ny-petre.org and fill out a foster application online or contact our foster coordinator directly at tara.rose@ny-petre.org for dogs or june.lewis@ny-petre.org for cats. You can choose to foster for a minimum of 3 weeks, a couple of months or a year.

Lynn Ingrassia is an avid animal lover and a board member at PET RESCUE, in Harrison.
Minis Latin Fusion Bursts with Flavor in New Rochelle

Nicole Pirraglia-Piparo and her husband Michael J. Piparo of City Island have opened Minis Latin Fusion, a charming new restaurant bursting with flavor. Highlighting the walls are Latin-themed artworks and a big bright Minis Latin Fusion logo light at the cozy bar. Nicole had spent years working restaurants along City Island Ave. They want to bring a Latino theme to Westchester and New Rochelle’s emerging restaurant scene.

The starting menu offers such fresh made appetizers as: Sopa di Carne with Serrano sausage; traditional Sancocho Stew; Creamy Garlic Shrimp Toast; Steamed Clams with chorizo Piquillo peppers; Ceviche con Tostada; and Chicharron de Pollo.

Fresh salads include: Caesar Salad in Parm Basket, with crispy tamale croutons; Tomato Avocado Salad, with chipotle orange vinaigrette, & crispy tostones; and Tossed Arcadian Greens, with sherry guava vinaigrette.

Beautifully plated entrées: Latin classics like Mofongo, choice of garlic shrimp, pollo guisado or pulled pernil mojo; Ropa Vieja Taco Taco, served with aji Amarillo sauce & blistered piquillo peppers & Flounder is served over seafood Paella; and a hearty Grilled New York Steak is served with goat cheese garlic creamed spinach & spicy roasted calabaza & chimichurri sauce.

Lunch menu specialties include: Carne Asada, N.Y. strip topped with chimichurri mayo, cheese & caramelized onions; Fish & Chip Sandwich on brioche bun topped with spicy Caribbean tartar sauce; a Minis Burger with pico de gallo, shredded cheddar & pepper jack cheeses; and Tamarind BBQ Pernil, braided pulled pork served on a brioche bun.

There is a leisurely Sunday Brunch served 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Choice are a la carte and include: Empanadas con Picadillo; Classic Caesar Salad; Venezuelan Frittata, eggs, chorizo, plantains, spinach, onion & tomato; Smothered Fried Chicken over Belgian Waffle, red eye gravy and fresh fruit; and Shrimp Scampi over Arroz Blanco, garlic shrimp, white rice with tomato, red onion & avocado salad.

Save your beef for those tasty desserts as: Carrot Cake Bread Pudding with Bustelo cream Anglaise; Café Patron Chocolate Torte with coconut white chocolate macaroons; Tres Leches Cake and Cheese Cake Brulee. If it’s a special occasion, go for the big Maduro Sundae.

Special Hint: Happy Hours offering specially priced cocktails and appetizers is served 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday. Great for the networking crowd.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service is a day intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move everyone closer to Dr. King’s vision of a “Beloved Community.”

MLK Day 2020 will be the 10th year Volunteer New York! has hosted this community-wide action day, which has united thousands of volunteers to serve for shared causes and beliefs, providing tens of thousands of hours of support to local nonprofits and creating countless memories for the families and individuals that have served together in honor of Dr. King.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a Day of Service because legislation was signed in 1983 marking the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a federal holiday. In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that leads service and volunteering, with leading this effort. Each year, on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is observed as a “day on, not a day off.” MLK Day of Service is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers and create solutions to social problems.

The 2020 MLK Day, typically held on the Saturday before the recognized Monday holiday, is one of two signature annual community-wide days of service at Volunteer New York, which has united thousands of volunteers to serve for shared causes and beliefs, supporting dozens of local nonprofits and creating countless memories for families that have served together.

Volunteers are needed to prepare diaper packages for families in need. Volunteers will put a 1-week’s supply into a large zip lock bag then add a package of wipes along with two educational inserts. This opportunity is ideal for families and groups as well as teens looking for community hours. The Westchester County Diaper Bank is formed by the ILCW’s partnership with the Westchester County Executive’s office and the Westchester County Department of Social Services. The Diaper Bank provides diapers at no cost as temporary assistance to struggling families in Westchester County.

(914)Cares and Kids’ Closet is collecting the following items which will be provided free of charge to local families and individuals living in need. Make a difference in the lives of those struggling. Donate some of the following items (all must be new and packages must be closed). The only exception is they will accept open packages of diapers but all other items must be sealed and new. Baby wipes, bar and liquid soap, body wash deodorant, diapers (all sizes), socks (all sizes male and female), shaving cream, Tampons, toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet paper, tissues, underwear (male and female all sizes from 2T to 4T) to adult XXL. You can drop these off at Iona College, Spellman Hall, New Rochelle on January 18.

Volunteers will write inspirational notes and cards for deployed service members. These notes will be sent to deployed service members letting them know someone is thinking of them. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate in this event.

To register to be part of MLK Day 2020 on January 18, 2020 go to volunteernewyork.org, and click on an opportunity, then click sign up to volunteer as an individual, or click sign up with a family, group or team. Call Volunteer New York at 948-4452 to find more ways you can make a difference locally through service throughout the year.
Capacity to Sign Estate Planning Documents

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Every day, more than 10,000 Americans reach the age of 65. Unfortunately, quantity of years does not necessarily equate to quality of life. In fact, the golden years may turn out to be not so golden. As the size of the over-65 population continues to increase, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias will increase. Currently, there are more than 5.8 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2050, that number is expected to triple.

Thus, if you have been waiting for the “right” time to take care of your estate planning, perhaps you should move that up on your list. A certain level of capacity is necessary in order to sign estate planning documents. Once you no longer have the requisite capacity, you will not be able to complete your estate plan. So, the question becomes:

can someone living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia legally sign these documents? Well, the answer is that it depends. While a diagnosis of dementia may indicate some level of diminished capacity, it does not necessarily mean that person cannot sign legal documents such as a will, trust, or power of attorney. There are different stages of dementia and as the disease progresses, the person’s ability to execute legal documents will likely diminish. Here's what I mean:

Someone with a mild cognitive impairment can usually live independently, although there may be memory problems. Nevertheless, this person should be able to sign legal documents. A person with mild dementia is someone who may experience impaired memory and thinking skills. This person may no longer be able to live independently and will probably need assistance with some activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, toileting etc. Fortunately, this person may still have legal capacity. However, someone who needs assistance with most activities of daily living and has more severe memory loss and perhaps difficulty in communicating may or may not have capacity to sign legal documents. At this point, making sure all legal documents are in order is of paramount importance since once the disease progresses to severe dementia, it is very unlikely that the requisite capacity will exist to execute legal documents. This stage of the illness is typically manifested by severe communication problems and inability to perform any activities of living. Unfortunately, this stage may be followed by profound dementia where the person is basically bedridden and certainly cannot execute any legal documents.

Capacity is usually analyzed situationally. That is, the question will be answered differently depending on the nature of the document and the circumstances of the signing. The general rule is:

the signer must have sufficient understanding to know what the document is, and the effect of the signing. Each of those situations, and the dozens of others that might arise, will be judged differently, because the nature and effect of the act will be different.

There are few legal ways to determine capacity in advance. Some argue whether it is a legal or medical determination. Challenges to capacity are almost always initiated after the signing is completed — and often after the signer has died, or becomes completely and undeniably mentally incapacitated. That means that evidence of capacity (or lack of capacity) is often being reconstructed well after the fact.

It’s also important to remember that we are writing here about capacity, and not necessarily about the validity of documents signed by someone with dementia. It is entirely possible that although someone with dementia has capacity to sign a will, that they were unduly influenced by someone else when signing their will. There is a difference between capacity and undue influence.

Dementia might make a given signer incapable of signing a document, or that person’s capacity may be sufficient to sign. That same person might be made more susceptible to undue influence because of their dementia.

So, in the spirit of the new year, take the time to think about your estate plan and execute the necessary documents to make sure that it will be implemented as you envisioned when the time comes. Although Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones once said, “Time is on your side,” that may not be the case when it comes to your estate planning.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP and has been honored as one of the “Best Lawyers” in America for each of the last seven years. He is past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and past President of the New York Chapter of NAELA. Mr. Krooks has also served as chair of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Krooks has also been selected as a “New York Super Lawyer” since 2006. Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914)-684-2000 or by visiting the firm’s website at www.elderlawny.com.
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