

Scarsdale Sentinel



To Our Readership & Advertisers

For the past 25 years, Shoreline Publishing Inc., has published *Westchester Jewish Life*. After much consideration, we have decided to cease publication as of January 2026.

We thank all our loyal readers and advertisers throughout the years.

We will continue to publish our 5 monthly community newspapers and quarterly magazine along with our specialty publications.

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Mayor Arest Commends Trustee Mazer for Heroic Lifesaving Efforts

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest convened the December 9 Board of Trustees meeting, beginning with tabling the Professional Service Agreement Resolution and adding two new Police Officer appointments, Ashley Farewell and Michael Quintana, approved by Roll Call Vote.

Arest then presented a Proclamation to Trustee Kenneth L. Mazer, commending him for saving a fellow wedding reception guest's life by giving her chest compressions and CPR on November 8.

Mazer served as Chairman of the grant-making foundation of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of New York for more than three decades, helping fund programs that address food insecurity, domestic violence, substance



abuse, women's social justice and educational enrichment. He has also been a Scarsdale Volunteer Firefighter with Company 2 for more than 20 years, serving as Lieutenant and President.

During Public Comment, Marian Green said that she was pleased with the

Village's moving forward with sidewalk replacements, saying, "Don't confuse sidewalks and pathways...Sidewalks run along roads and are for pedestrians only. Pathways go through fields and parks. I don't want appropriations in the budget for pathways."

Susan Douglass spoke about using gas-powered leaf blowers to blow leaves into piles, stating "This practice is a failure. Many don't follow the rules and leave the leaves on the roadways—blocking drainage and traffic." She also requested a crosswalk on Crane Road.

Resolutions included instituting a Banner Display Policy, providing clarity on requirements for those wanting to place a banner in Chase Park or Village Hall.

The Board approved a mutual aid agreement with Eastchester and Tuckahoe. According to a memo from the Village, Scarsdale will join Eastchester and Tuckahoe Police Departments to become part of their Emergency Response Team. This team would be called out when a situation develops requiring a higher level of training than a general Police Officer receives.



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JCC Mid-Westchester's Dance School Boldly Reimagines Romeo & Juliet

The Dance School of the Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester (JCCMW) recently welcomed the community to a bold reimagining of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy with R&J, a powerful dance experience that explores the complexities of love and identity.

In this new interpretation, the passion and peril of Verona were retold through a multiplicity of voices and perspectives with three different casts: male/female, male/male, and female/female. Through the universal language of movement, the ballet invited audiences to see themselves reflected in the joy and heart-break of the star-crossed lovers—no matter who they are or whom they love.

With breathtaking choreography, an emotive score from Sergei Prokofiev, and fearless storytelling from the dancers of JCCMW and Hudson Ballet Theatre, this production reclaimed the stage and challenged conventions of classical ballet. It was a true celebration of love in all its forms—achingly beautiful, deeply human, and tragically fleeting.

Aaron Thao, Performing Arts Director of the JCCMW, shared, "Directing and choreographing this bold new Romeo and Juliet was nothing short of historic. Each of our three casts brought their own narratives to the forefront with an honesty and vibrancy that transformed the stage—and the audience. You could feel the theater shift every night as people recognized themselves in these love stories that reached beyond the stage. This production didn't just retell Shakespeare; it redefined what community-centered art can be. It's moments like these that set the JCC Mid-Westchester apart—fearless, inclusive, and willing to make history."



SFCS Seeks New Board Members

Are you interested in joining the Board of Trustees of a non-profit organization in Scarsdale? Are you passionate about supporting families and individuals in the Scarsdale community? The Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service (SFCS) is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals from the Scarsdale/Edgemont community to join its Board of Trustees. Board members play a vital role in guiding and shaping the organization's mission to be a hub for family growth and learning.

SFCS is a voluntary, not-for-profit family counseling agency. With more than a century of service to the Scarsdale community, SFCS has been a cornerstone, offering counseling services, social programs, and crucial initiatives like the Scarsdale Action for Youth (SAY). In addition to counseling services, the Agency provides social service programs for Scarsdale residents across the life cycle from social skills groups for young children to leadership training programs and adventure trips for teens, to facilitated monthly discussion groups for parents with kids in grades 5-12, to aging in place services for older residents.

Benefits of serving on the SFCS Board of Trustees:

- **Make an Impact:** Involvement directly contributes to supporting families at every stage of life.



- **Community Engagement:** Connect with like-minded individuals dedicated to the betterment of Scarsdale and beyond.
- **Personal Growth:** Gain valuable experience and insights in non-profit governance and community leadership.

SFCS welcomes Scarsdale residents with diverse backgrounds, preferably with children attending Scarsdale schools. The organization seeks residents with relevant experiences who are committed to its mission.

Interested in becoming a part of the Board of Trustees?

Apply by February 1, 2026 by sending a short email with the following information to SFCSNominatingCommittee@yahoo.com

1. Volunteer/Professional Background/Key Skills
2. Community Experience in Scarsdale/Edgemont, including ages of children (and schools attending)
3. Experience with SFCS

Nominees Sought for Edgemont School Board

The 2025-2026 Edgemont School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC) will hold its Open Nominating Meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 7 PM at Seely Place Elementary School, Room 110, 51 Seely Place, Scarsdale, to receive nominations for candidates for the Board of Education of the Edgemont School District. (In case of excess snow, the meeting will be online with a link posted at www.edgemontec.org.)

Two vacancies on the Board of Education will be filled at the general election on May 19. These vacancies will be created by the expiration of the second term of office of Jennifer DeMarrais and the expiration of the first term of office of Heather Stern. Incumbent Heather Stern will seek a second three-year term of office; Jennifer DeMarrais will not be seeking a third term.

The SBNC invites and encourages all Edgemont residents to participate in the nominating process by urging qualified residents of our community to seek nomination to the Board of Education and to submit nomination letters for candidates. In the spirit of community volunteerism, members of the Board of Education serve without compensation. Members are required to attend two public meetings per month (and more at budget time), attend executive sessions, attend committee and ad hoc meetings, and undertake appropriate preparation for these functions.

The nomination of a candidate to the Board of Education must be made in an email or physical letter to the SBNC Chair and must be received before January 20. Physical nominating letters may also be presented in person at the Open Nominating Meeting. The letter may be written by any adult resident of the Edgemont School District other than a member (or family member of a member) of the SBNC. In addition to the name and home address of the candidate, the letter must contain a brief biographical sketch of the candidate including the candidate's education, occupation, participation in civic affairs, length of time the resident has lived in the Edgemont School District, the schools and grade levels of any children presently enrolled in school, and the years of attendance of any children who formerly attended Edgemont School District Schools. The letter must also contain a statement that the candidate has been consulted and is willing to serve if recommended and elected. Under SBNC rules, any letter that fails to include these items cannot be accepted. Address nominating letters to Sharyn Lewis, SBNC Chair, 24 Seely Place, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

More Than \$800,000 in Arts Grants Awarded to Westchester Organizations

New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer announced that 37 arts organizations across Senate District 37 have been awarded a share of \$802,578 in state grants through the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). These awards come as part of a broader \$161 million commitment to the arts fund in the FY2026 New York State Budget.

The funds will help the recipient organizations maintain operations, launch new programs and initiatives, and expand public access to the arts. It also builds the NYSCA Reserve Fund to help deliver funding to organizations during financially challenging times.

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am delighted that 37 arts organizations across my district will receive grants from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). This support will help ensure that members of our community will have access to artistic opportunities – through music, the visual arts, dance, and more. Investing in the arts is an investment in our state's future, especially for the young people whose creativity and passion deserve to be nurtured. This funding strengthens our community, encourages young people to explore opportunities, and ensures art is accessible to everyone. I thank NYSCA for these allocations, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for fighting for this funding, and Governor Kathy Hochul for including it in the final New York State budget."

Among the recipients in SD37 are: ArtsWestchester; Ballet des Ameriques School and Company for dance; The Clay Art Center; Concordia Conservatory; Neuberger Museum of Arts; Hoff Barthelson Music School; Jewish Community Central of Mid-Westchester; Music Conservatory of Westchester; New Choral Society of Central Westchester; Rehabilitation Through the Arts; SONGCATCHERS; Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation; The Dial Magazine; The Emelin Theatre for Performing Arts; The Rye Arts Center; Westchester Children's Chorus, Inc.; and Westchester Philharmonic.



NYS Senator Shelley Mayer



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Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Blood Drive

Friday, January 9, 10 AM-4PM
Visit the Scott Room to donate blood with the New York Blood Center. One in three people will need a blood transfusion during their lives. Blood can only be stored for 42 days, so there is a continuous need for blood donations. Donating is easier than you might think. The actual time for the blood donation procedure is only about 15 minutes. Most eligible donors will immediately resume normal activity after having a snack. Walk-ins are possible, but appointments are recommended to ensure a convenient time slot. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/blood-drive-139015>

Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness

Monday, January 12, Noon-1 PM
Outsmart skin cancer! Most cases of skin cancer stem from elevated unprotected exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays, both from the sun and from artificial sources such as tanning beds. Join a speaker from the Dermatology Interest Group at New York Medical College for an informative and practical look at the causes of skin cancer, what you can do to reduce your risk, and the best currently available treatments. There will be time for questions and answers at the end. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/skin-cancer-prevention-and-awareness-137545>

Movie Screening & Discussion—How to Steal a Million (1966)

Friday, January 16, 2 PM-5PM
Join Marcus Renna in the Scott Room for a screening and discussion of the 1966 heist comedy *How to Steal a Million*, directed by William Wyler and starring Audrey Hepburn and Peter O'Toole, was based off the short story *Venus Rising* by George Bradshaw. *How to Steal a Million* is notable both for its twist ending and the elegant costuming, exclusively designed by Givenchy. A delightful romp of a comedy, much parodied and homaged in later films. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/movie-screening-discussion-how-steal-million-1966-138598>

Chinese Movie Matinee—The Nightingale (2013)

Saturday, January 17, 2 PM-4PM
Join us for a family friendly Chinese language film. This program provides Chinese families with an environment where their culture is celebrated and appreciated through films. Each film will be screened in either Mandarin or Cantonese with English subtitles. January's film is *The Nightingale* (2013),

directed by Philippe Muyl and starring Baotian Li, Xiaoran Li, Hao Qin, and Xin Yi Yang. In a heartwarming family drama, a widower is accompanied by his granddaughter and his pet bird as he leaves Beijing to return to his native village in a beautiful trek across China. This monthly event is free, and refreshments will be provided. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/chinese-movie-matinee-nightingale-2013-138599>

Virtual: Cowboys and Skinners: Scarsdale and the American Revolution

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM
2026 marks the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Did you know that at least two Scarsdale residents were present at the ratification of the Declaration that took place in White Plains on July 11, 1776? While no major battles took place in Scarsdale during the Revolution, the War made its presence felt in many ways for the few residents of the rural farming town called Scarsdale. Join Local History Librarian Dan Glauber to learn more about what life was like in Scarsdale during the American Revolution.

This is a virtual program. You may attend this program online using your own device. You will receive an automated confirmation email containing your Zoom link immediately after you register. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/cowboys-and-skinners-scarsdale-and-american-revolution-135347>

AI In Real Life

Friday, January 23, 1 PM-2:30 PM
Join digital innovation executive Lee Huang for a practical look at how artificial intelligence is currently transforming the way we live and work, and some ways that you can use AI to your advantage in your daily life. This session explores both the exciting and the problematic possibilities AI presents as it changes education, work, and entertainment. Lee will give demonstrations of ChatGPT and other popular AI tools, showing how they can be used today to increase productivity and creativity. He will also address pressing questions head-on: Will AI take my job? What are the real dangers of AI? Is AI inherently good or bad—or is that even the right question to ask? Whether you're a curious beginner or a tech-savvy professional, you'll leave with a deeper understanding of AI and some empowering insights into where this technology might be headed next. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/ai-real-life-130733>

Embroidery 101: Hooped Wall Art
Saturday, January 24, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Make a decorative hooped wall art using both machine and hand embroidery. Use the makerspace's embroidery machine to stitch any text you like, then hoop and decorate it using hand embroidery techniques. Materials will be provided. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/embroidery-101-hooped-wall-art-139309>

Author Talk: Backpack, Jacket, Surfboard with Graham Broyd

Tuesday, January 27, 7 PM-8PM
In 1980, Scarsdale resident Graham Broyd did something outrageous—he sold

his scholarship ticket to Washington, DC, bought a one-way flight to Los Angeles, and set off to hitchhike across America. Armed with a red backpack, a surfboard, and a knack for finding himself in both incredible and ridiculous situations, he bummed rides, crashed on beaches, and stumbled into experiences that would shape him forever. Broyd reflects on then and now as, 45 years later, he returns to retrace his steps, revisiting the landscapes, people, and memories that defined his youth. <https://mailchi.mp/scarsdalelibrary/february-programs-for-adults-at-the-spl-749?e=aff646eod7>

Schleifer Honored at AJC Gala

Harriet Schleifer, who held leadership roles at numerous Jewish organizations, was honored for her decades of philanthropic work at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester/Fairfield Fall Gala on November 18.

More than 400 people were at Temple Israel Center in White Plains to fete Schleifer, a former AJC president.

Schleifer also moderated a conversation between CNN commentator Van Jones and AJC CEO Ted Deutch, who presented Jones with a shofar. Jones, long a staunch supporter of Israel, also spoke about how the Black and Jewish communities have more in common than many people might realize, especially when it comes to civil rights and fighting discrimination.



From left to right: AJC CEO Ted Deutch, CNN's Van Jones and honoree Harriet Schleifer. Photo credit: Michael Priest Photography

Pope Leo XIV Meets Scarsdale Tenor Luciano Lamonarca

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV granted a private audience to Italian American tenor Luciano Lamonarca, a Scarsdale resident, who won the "Best Male Singer" award at the Catholic Music Awards 2025 at the Vatican.

The meeting took place in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican on December 18.

Pope Leo commended Lamonarca's recent award and then focused on learning more about the international project "Tu Scendi dalle Stelle" ("From Starry Skies Descending"), one of Italy's most famous Christmas songs. A special rendition of the tenor's performance of the song has been made available free of charge on the official website www.tuscendidallestelle.com, launched on the 270th anniversary of the song's composition.

Pope Leo XIV confirmed to the tenor to know only the Italian version of the song, and gave His blessing to the music project.



Four Receive Westchester Public Health Awards

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and the Westchester County Board of Health presented the 2025 Public Health Awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to public health in Westchester by two individuals and two nonprofit agencies. The award ceremony was held in honor of National Public Health Week, and highlighted the vital role that public health plays to preserve, protect and promote the health of Westchester residents.

Award recipients were: United Community Center of Westchester, Cancer Support Team, Parul Shukla, MD, and Samantha Pfeffer, Edgemont High School senior. Jenkins said: “Today, we honor two individuals and two agencies whose work helps to save and extend the lives of Westchester residents, whether through preventing tobacco use or drowning or through the detection, prevention and treatment of cancer. I want to thank the dedicated staff of our Health Department, Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler, and the volunteers who serve on our Westchester County Board of Health, for their essential service to our community. With their extraordinary concern for others, these volunteers set an example for all of us. I congratulate the winners and encourage other residents to choose this path.”



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Westchester County Legislators Boykin and Parker Receive Distinguished Service Award

The Westchester County Board of Legislators honored two outgoing members with the Westchester County Distinguished Service Award, the highest level of recognition the Board can bestow. The medals are awarded to individuals who have significantly benefited the general welfare and common good of the County through dedicated public service.

The honorees were Legislator Ben Boykin and Legislator Catherine F. Parker, both of whom left office December 31 having reached term limits.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “Transitions on the Board are always bittersweet, but the departure of these two outstanding legislators seems especially poignant.

Boykin’s long service to the public is extraordinary. Serving as NYSAC’s 80th president and completing two terms as Chair of the Board during a period of tremendous change are accomplishments unlikely to be matched. He guided the legislature through the pandemic, ushering in technological



advances that kept the Board’s work moving forward. He also led the first Board with majorities of women and people of color.

Parker dedicated 18 years to public service—six years on Rye City Council followed by six terms steadfastly representing District 7 on the Board. Her legislative leadership on environmental issues set a high standard for the future, improving quality of life for

the Sound Shore towns she represents and all of Westchester—from advancing flood-control measures, to creating a County Office of Sustainability, to stewarding the management of Rye Playland, a cherished County gem.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said, “I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to my friends, Former Chair and Legislator Ben Boykin and Legislator Catherine Parker,

on their well-deserved retirement from the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Their years of dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and commitment to the people of Westchester have left a profound impact on our communities.

During his tenure, both as legislator and Chair of the Board, Legislator Boykin guided his colleagues through

Scarsdale Calendar



Cornell Capa: Father of Concerned Photography
 Sunday, December 7 to Sunday, March 15
 Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, 1 PM to 5 PM
 The Capa Space, 2467 Quaker Church Road, Yorktown Heights
 Capa revolutionized documentary photography when he coined the term “concerned photography” in 1967. The exhibition features more than 35 photographs spanning Capa’s extraordinary career, including his intimate portraits of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy during pivotal moments in American history, his powerful documentation of social conditions in South America, his compelling work on mental health institutions, and his coverage of religious and cultural life across continents. For more information, email thecapaspacespace@gmail.com.



My African Journey: An Exhibition by Martin J. Rosen
 Saturday, January 24 to Tuesday, March 31
 Pound Ridge Library, 271 Westchester Avenue
 Martin J. Rosen, a noted nature and environmental photographer, will showcase revealing photographs taken while on safari in Tanzania and Kenya. These treasured photographs of this unspoiled

portion of the African continent are captivating. Opening reception is Saturday, January 24 from 2 PM to 5 PM. To learn more, call (914) 764-5085.



Warming Winter Drinks
 Wednesday, January 28, 7 PM to 8 PM
 Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
 Break out from the doldrums of January and join librarian Bill Etzel as he demonstrates how to make two classic winter beverages—the ultimate hot chocolate with peppermint schnapps and the classic hot toddy. To register, go to <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/winter-drinks-139144>.



Parsons Dance
 Friday, January 30, 7:30 PM
 The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road
 Known for its energized, athletic, and joyous style, Parsons Dance is renowned for creating and performing contemporary American dance that thrills audiences worldwide. Their bold ensemble work, effortless movement, and stunning dancers have solidified them as one of the world’s leading dance companies. Works, like the iconic Caught, exemplify this company’s innovation and huge audience appeal. For tickets, go to <https://www.artscenter.org/events/parsons-dance/>.

Welcome by Karen Maloof
 Sunday, January 4 to Friday, February 6
 Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Avenue
 Karen Maloof is a photographer turned painter who explores the narrative between light and shadow. Exploring this symbiotic relationship creates a sense of memory of lives lived in quiet corners of

the world. A house becomes a home, a sense of family, its presence and perhaps, its future. For more information, go to karenmalooofartist.com.

Blood Drive
 Friday, January 9, 10 AM to 4 PM
 Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
 Donate blood with the New York Blood Center. Blood can only be stored for 42 days, so there is a continuous need for blood donations. To register, go to https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/331576.

Sunday Brunch with Cary Brown & John Lissauer
 Sunday, January 18, Noon to 2 PM
 Jazz on Main, 37 South Moger Avenue, Mount Kisco
 Cary Brown and his acoustic jazz trio play Brown’s originals and standards both from traditional standard repertoire and more contemporary funky material. John Lissauer produced and arranged the first, iconic recording of Hallelujah, which has become one of the most recorded songs of all time, and recently hit #5 on Billboard’s Top Singles chart. Learn more at jazzonmain.com.

Winter Aqueduct Walk
 Sunday, January 18, 1 PM
 Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers
 Bundle up for a Sunday walk from the Hudson River Museum up to and along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, to explore the urbanized natural landscape and talk ecological history. For more information, email prdept@hrm.org.

The Catskills: Rewinding the Reel
 Sunday, January 25, 3 PM
 Bendheim Performing Arts Center, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale
 With a trove of lost-and-found archival footage and a cast of characters endowed with the gift of gab, The Catskills journeys into the storied mountain getaway north of New York City that served as refuge for Jewish immigrants fleeing poverty as well as a lavish playground for affluent Jewish families. As bungalow colony proprietors, guests, waiters, comedians, hoteliers, and beauticians share colorful tales of Catskills farms, boarding houses, and luxury resorts, they paint a picture of vibrant American Jewish life and culture in the 20th century. Admission is \$20. For tickets, go to <https://operations.daxko.com/online/4072/ProgramsV2/Events.mvc/offering?guid=5932c88e-843f-11fo-99da-00505692171b>

Crane’s Pond Tree Lighting



The Edgemont Community Council hosted the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 7, with hot cocoa, cookies and caroling. From left to right: Greenville Fire Commissioner-Elect Lou Russo, Greenville Volunteer Fire Company Assistant Chief John-Michael DeGennaro, Greenburgh Councilwoman Joy Haber, Edgemont Community Council President Dylan Pyne, and Firefighter Rafael Guida.

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 4:12 PM: Scarsdale High School's athletic director reported that an elderly woman was walking on the school's track and kept changing lanes, creating a disturbance during track team practice. After talking with police, the woman agreed to walk on the grass border of the track, and stay out of the way of the track team.

Friday, November 28, 2025, 9:53 PM: Police stopped a 2005 Nissan Altima without license plates on Post Road and charged the driver, Mario Fernandes, 62, of the Bronx, with driving a vehicle without an interlock device, second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, driving a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

Monday, December 1, 2025, 12:20 AM: A Seneca Road resident told police that a woman wearing a black coat stepped onto his porch and looked through his mailbox. Nothing was reported stolen.

Monday, December 1, 2025, 2:08 PM: A package containing a \$9,800 playing card was delivered opened, with the card missing, a Corell Road resident told police.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 7:32 PM: A 40-year-old Elmsford man was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, driving an uninspected vehicle and a vehicle with broken glass after police stopped his car on Post Road.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 4:54 PM: A Kent Road man told police that he received a VISA and a Discover card in the mail that he did not request. Several banks told him that his personal information was used to apply for credit cards, and the U.S. Post Office notified him that several requests for an address change had been filed.

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 7:25 AM: Police charged a 75-year-old Bronx man with speeding and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after he allegedly drove 57 mph in a 30 mph zone.

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 8:03 PM: A resident of Catherine Road reported that a wallet containing two debit cards was stolen from his home. The debit cards were later used at a Scarsdale business.

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 9:10 PM: A Scarsdale Avenue resident reported that after a breakup with his girlfriend, she returned a box of his belongings, and he found his laptop broken in half.

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 2:28 AM: A Volkswagen van with Florida license plates and a New York registration was found parked in a no-parking

overnight zone on Stratton Road. Police issued citations for a vehicle with no registration and no insurance and impounded the van.

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 10:18 AM: A Carstensen Road resident reported that his 2026 BMW had been stolen overnight.

Monday, December 15, 2025, 1:31 AM: A 34-year-old New Rochelle man told police that the car he was driving skidded on ice and struck a tree on Weaver Street.

Saturday, December 13, 12:06 PM: A resident of Park Road reported

that she mailed a check to pay off her credit card bill on November 13, and received a letter from her credit card company a month later that the bill was not paid. When she checked with her bank, she discovered the check had been stolen, washed and deposited in an unknown bank account.

Sunday, December 14, 9:20 AM: A Ridgecrest East resident told police that he parked his car at the top of his driveway to shovel snow and while he was out of the car, it slid down the driveway and hit his neighbor's tree.

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U.S. Representative George Latimer Creates Citizen Task Forces

U.S. Representative George Latimer (NY-16) announced the creation of seven citizen task forces. Each task force is comprised of residents who live or work in New York's 16th District and chaired by a leader with expertise in the respective issue areas. The task force chairs will oversee organizational meetings with the aim to make recommendations to Rep. Latimer and his staff on legislation, funding, and administration policies that can benefit the residents of the 16th District.

- The task forces will focus on the following seven areas:
- Energy & Environment
 - Infrastructure
 - Intergovernmental
 - Veterans Affairs
 - Foreign Policy & Military Affairs
 - Jobs & Economy



• Social Services
“We are fortunate here in Westchester and the Bronx to have many talented and engaged people whose knowledge and expertise can benefit all our communities. We have assembled seven working groups with diverse professional backgrounds, and we are going to give them a chance to be part of how the sausage gets made in Washington,”

said Rep. Latimer.
“When people think of Washington, they think of a concept in a faraway place that is out of reach and out of touch with everyday Americans. That is not how I have operated in my decades in public service. I have always sought community involvement and spend every day not in Washington meeting with residents in Westchester and the Bronx. Therefore, I am excited to bring the legislative process to my district,” Latimer concluded.

Crane’s Pond Menorah Lighting took place on Sunday, December 14.



Table Hopping with Morris Gut: My Favorite Culinary Encounters of 2025!

I enjoyed many fine culinary experiences this past year. Here is a short list of favorite dishes and dining venues you should try not to miss in 2026! Winter Farmers Markets, too...



HEARTY SUNDAY ROAST DINNER AT JILL'S
Partners Ro Flanagan, Shane Clifford and Chef Brendan Donohue, proprietors of popular Jack's Bar & Kitchen, a popular Irish American tavern in Eastchester, premiered Jill's Bar & Restaurant in Mamaroneck, across from Harbor Island Park. Jill's, a colorful ode to modern Ireland, serves a winning combination of gastropub favorites and modern-American and European specialties along

with a good dose of hospitality. The Fried Chicken Sandwich is a winner. There's also Truffle Parm Fries, Chili Roasted Cauliflower, Lobster Cobb Salad, Braised Beef Short Ribs, Ahi Tuna Bowl. Hearty Sunday Roast. Jill's, 100 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, off the corner of Mamaroneck Ave. Happy Hours. Weekend brunch. Closed Mondays. 914-341-1776 www.jillsbarandrestaurant.com

INDIAN STREET FOODS AT MUMBAI KATTA
Anita Gawde is a dynamo. At one moment she is greeting entering patrons, the next she disappears into the kitchen, the next she is on the dining room floor touting her menu: the tasty street foods of regional India. Anita and her husband Jayant Gawde have been marking their 1st. Anniversary with vibrant specialties plated with pizzazz. We recently feasted on a tasty tour of savory small plates: Samosa Chaat, Sabudana Vada, delectable Chicken Kathi Roll, ending with their delicious Chicken Masala and crispy crusted Shrimp Fry. The Kesar Phirni, their version of rice pudding, was a festive dessert. Anita and her friendly staff will help you with the menu. Mumbai Katta, 227 Westchester Ave., Port Chester. 516-953-3265 www.mumbai-katta.com

ITALIAN OUT OF A DINER AT TRATTORIA VIVOLO
Cited by Forbes Magazine, Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizza; Crostino di Polenta topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola, and tomato sauce; Linguini Nere with bay scallops; Grilled Lamb Chops; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; and wonderful Spaghetti a la Vongole. Fine wine list. Sparkling lights in the evenings. Seasonal outdoor patio. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199 www.trattoriavivolo.com

TENDER BRISKET & BURGERS AT SMOKEHOUSE TAILGATE GRILL
Partners Mike Hoffer and Justin Zeytoonian re-opened their new industrial-designed BBQ restaurant in The Rockwell, a new building along North Ave., New Rochelle, near IONA. It is directly across from the shuttered original which they founded in 2007. The well

edited menu includes a good selection of craft beers along with signature Tacos, BBQ Chicken and Racks of Ribs. Recently, we ordered their popular Brisket, and it was flavorful and tender. The Tomahawk Burger is prepared with Pat LaFrieda beef and is a satisfying winner. The original Smokehouse Tailgate Grill is located at 587 North Ave., New Rochelle, not far from IONA College. (914-813-8686). Their second location: Smokehouse Tailgate Grill, 320 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck. (914-341-1655). www.shtailgate.com



ARTISANAL PIZZA FENICE
In just 3 years, John Gristina, proprietor of Pizza Fenice in Pelham, has become a pizzaioli to be reckoned with. The buzz about his traditional and non-traditional pizzas and

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Disinheriting a Family Member from Your Estate Plan



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED
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SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR: AMY C.
O'HARA, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Disinheriting a family member is a sensitive and often emotional topic. It must be handled carefully. Many people assume that they are entirely free to leave their property to whomever they choose. However, New York law has specific rules that protect spouses and restrict the ability to disinherit them. Understanding who can be disinherited, how to do it properly, and the potential challenges involved can help ensure that your estate plan truly reflects your intentions and is upheld after your passing.

The most important limitation under New York law concerns spouses. A spouse cannot be completely disinherited unless there is a valid prenuptial or postnuptial agreement in which the spouse waives the right to inherit, or they signed a waiver of right of election in line with state law and requirements. Otherwise, even if you write a Will leaving your spouse nothing, New York's "right of election" gives the surviving spouse the legal right to

claim approximately one-third of the estate. This includes probate assets, those that pass under the Will, as well as certain non-probate assets, that pass outside the Will, such as joint accounts, payable-on-death designations, and even certain property transfers made before death if done to intentionally deprive the spouse of inheritance rights. This rule underscores a key principle of New York law: spouses are protected and disinheriting one is legally difficult unless both parties knowingly agreed to it in advance.

Children, on the other hand, do not have the same protections under New York law. Many people are surprised to learn that a parent is legally permitted to disinherit an adult child for any reason, or for no reason at all. The key is clarity: a Will must make it unmistakably clear that the omission was intentional and not accidental. Estate litigation often arises when someone is left out of a Will with no explanation, leading disinherited family members to challenge the document.

When someone decides to disinherit a child or other family member, the Will should directly address the decision. Sometimes a person writes: "I make no provision for my son John, not for lack of affection, but for reasons personal to me." Other times, the document simply states that the individual is intentionally excluded or that they are receiving \$1 to clearly demonstrate awareness and intention. Contrary to popular belief, leaving someone \$1 is not necessary, and in some cases can even be insulting. A well-drafted statement of

intentional omission is usually sufficient and preferable.

It is also important to understand that disinheritance does not automatically prevent legal challenges. A disgruntled family member can still attempt to contest the Will by claiming that the person who created it lacked mental capacity, was unduly influenced, or did not execute the document properly. The more contentious the family dynamics, the greater the risk of post-death litigation. To minimize challenges, individuals should take additional steps, such as executing the Will under attorney supervision (which creates a legal presumption of validity), and adding a "no-contest clause," which states that any beneficiary who challenges the Will risks losing their inheritance. A no-contest clause can deter challenges, but it only works if the person being discouraged has something to lose; if they were already receiving nothing, they have no incentive to refrain from contesting.

Additionally, many people forget that disinheritance in a Will only applies to probate assets. If a family member is named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement account, or as joint owner of a bank account, those assets pass outside the Will. Therefore, part of effective disinheritance is ensuring that

all beneficiary designations, account titles, property deeds, and trust documents consistently reflect the estate plan.

Disinheriting someone is rarely done casually. Whether the motivation is estrangement, financial irresponsibility, lifetime gifts already made, or personal reasons, it is wise to consult with an experienced estate planning attorney to ensure that the wishes are expressed legally and effectively. Outside of spouses, New York law allows individuals broad discretion, but it also provides protections and safeguards to prevent unjust or accidental outcomes. Crafting a careful and thoughtful estate plan not only ensures that your intentions are honored but also reduces the likelihood of painful disputes among those you leave behind.

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.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: My Favorite Culinary Encounters of 2025!

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Italian/American fare have reached across the area often drawing lines of patrons to his cozy take-out pizza shop. (There are a few tables if you can score them.) Our recent indulgence: his Sunday Sausage & Peppers Pizza was an entirely decadent experience loaded with flavor. We finished it over two days. A must try! Pizza Fenice, 304 5th Ave., Pelham. 914-633-3332. www.pizzafenice.com

WINTER FARMERS MARKETS RIGHT NOW

So, winter just started and you miss visiting your favorite farmer's market. Some of our most popular markets operate all winter, and while you may not get all the spring/summer/fall harvest can produce, it's still a good place to pick up a variety of artisanal goods such as meats, cheeses, jams, breads. Here are some markets worth a winter's drive. Check ahead for times and dates. Happy grazing:

Larchmont Winter Farmers Market, Metro-North upper lot, Chatsworth & Myrtle Blvd., Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., year-round. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

Hastings-on-Hudson Winter Farmers' Market, Commuter Parking Lot, across from

Metro-North station. 134 Southside Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.hastingsfarmersmarket.org

Pleasantville Farmers Market, Metro-North Parking Lot, 10 Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12, through March 2026. www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org

Irvington Winter Farmers' Market, Main Street School Auditorium, 110 Main St., Irvington. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org

Gossett's Farm Market, Gossett Brothers Nursery, 1202 Rt. 35, South Salem. Year round. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.gossettbrothers.com

Cold Spring Indoor Farmers Market, Boscobel House and Gardens, 1601 Rt. 9D, Garrison. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.coldspringfarmersmarket.org

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

Family Volunteer Day Events at WJCS

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) hosted its first Family Volunteer Day Event on Veteran's Day, November 11, at its Headquarters, 845 North Broadway, White Plains. Approximately 60 children, parents, families, and local community groups, including Girl Scouts Troops #2190 and #2775 and members of the Young Men's Service League of Westchester, gathered to pack 206 Personal Care Kits, filled with shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste, and Menstrual Kits for adolescents. Donors contributed nearly \$3,000 in much-needed supplies for the hygiene kits that have been distributed to our 11 WJCS Satellite School-based Clinics located in Peekskill, Elmsford, Rye, Eastchester, and Yonkers. Staff from our WJCS Certified Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) spoke about the importance of these kits and shared that many teens don't have regular access to hygiene supplies at home, as their parents struggle to make ends meet and provide food for their families.

The next WJCS Family Volunteer Event will be held on Monday, January 19 in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Families with children of all ages are invited to participate in collecting nonperishable food items for the food-insecure Westchester community and creating "Winter Hug" care packages with soup, hot cocoa, mittens, and hats.

Westchester families need help now more than ever. With the rising cost of everything, and the reduction in support and benefits, families are struggling to buy food. WJCS school-based clinicians report that the most common worry among children this year has been having enough to eat. In response to clients' needs, the WJCS Mary J. Blige Center in Yonkers opened a food pantry to distribute bags of fresh produce and nonperishable items to more than 250 families on the second Tuesday of every month.

Join WJCS on January 19 to pack care packages and collect nonperishable food for the community. Volunteers will also make a special surprise for the children of the families who receive the food donations. Two volunteer shifts will be held (10 AM-11:30 AM and 1 PM-2:30 PM) to accommodate everyone who wants to volunteer. Teens, ages 15-18, can sign up for a leadership role at the event. Volunteers are asked to contribute \$20 to cover the cost of supplies. Space is limited! For more information and to register, go to www.wjcs.com/get-involved/volunteer. To donate to the Food Pantry Drive, go to www.wjcs.com/donate.



Spread the Light: Westchester Reform Temple's Fifth Annual Menorah Project

In a season when light is most needed, Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) launched its fifth annual Menorah Project in December, a heart-felt initiative that brings the radiance and hope of Hanukkah to businesses throughout Scarsdale. Volunteers from across the WRT community delivered menorahs to local storefronts, extending a message of welcome, resilience, and shared community spirit.



Inspired by the Jewish teaching that “a little light drives away much darkness,” the Menorah Project embodies the values that every act of kindness, every gesture of solidarity, adds light to the world. Over five years, this project has grown into a beloved tradition—one that reflects Scarsdale’s warmth, diversity, and commitment to standing together.

“Each menorah we place in a shop window is more than a decoration,” said Rabbi Jonathan Blake of Westchester Reform Temple. “It is a beacon of hope, a reminder that when we bring our lights together, we illuminate not only our village, but one another’s hearts. This project reflects the very best of who we strive to be as a community.”

Led by longtime WRT member Gayle Lob, the Menorah Project engages volunteers of all ages who deliver menorahs throughout the village—sharing joy, strengthening relationships, and bringing Hanukkah’s light to every corner of Scarsdale.

Scarsdale Sentinel



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